

What Children Do

Narrative feature // 86 minutes // USA // Color

NICOLE
RODENBURG

GRACE
REX



WHAT CHILDREN DO

A FILM BY DEAN PETERSON

A FILM BY DEAN PETERSON NICOLE RODENBURG GRACE REX "WHAT CHILDREN DO" MUSIC BY JARED HIRSH EDITED BY DEAN PETERSON PRODUCTION DESIGNER ANNE HAVICSPARDU
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DARIN QUAN PRODUCED BY ADRIANA JANETAKIS AND LIZ ZWIEBEL PRODUCED BY DEAN PETERSON AND DARIN QUAN SCREENPLAY BY DEAN PETERSON DIRECTED BY DEAN PETERSON

SISTERS TILL THE BITTER END.

Written and Directed by Dean Peterson

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Logline

A comedy about two estranged sisters who are thrust back into each other's lives by the impending death of their grandmother and forced to try to repair their feral relationship.

Synopsis

In the years since sisters Amy and Shannon were little kids you would expect their relationship to have matured. You'd be wrong.

Amy is a failed actress in LA, penniless and miserable, pulling 25 hours a week at a frozen yogurt shop to make ends meet. Her younger sister Shannon lives a stifflingly quiet life as a librarian in a small town where she co-habitates with her boyfriend Pat, a lovable goof who's constantly cobbling together homespun workout routines.

Both sisters return to their small hometown in upstate New York when they find out that their grandmother "Nana" is on the brink of death. They haven't spoken in three years and must attempt to put aside their differences and take care of Nana in her final days. While back at home they encounter old flames, over zealous pastors, and overdue DVDs while attempting to repair their feral relationship and come to terms with the town they grew up in.



Director's Statement

I've always wanted to write a film about the complicated and oftentimes hilarious relationship between sisters. Having grown up the middle child between two girls, I had a firsthand look at the trials and travails, the fights and friendship that can all exist simultaneously between sisters.

The script was heavily influenced by events in my own life. My grandfather's funeral in 2014 was the first time my entire family had all been in the same city in many years, and I was fascinated to see how the many unresolved issues and lingering resentments that had laid dormant for so long were kicked back up as soon as we were all back together again. Petty resentments, decades old gossip, and hushed murmurs about potential inheritances created bizarre, acrid, and oftentimes hilarious disputes that I wanted to try to capture with this film.

Drawing inspiration from films as diverse as PERSONA, 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU, A WOMAN UNDER THE INFLUENCE, and YOU CAN COUNT ON ME I set out to tell a story about death, family, failure, and the difficulty inherent in long term love in a painful, funny and honest way.

Past Screenings

Cinequest Film Festival
Big Muddy Film Festival
RiverRun Film Festival
Hill Country Film Festival
Chattanooga Film Festival
Ridgefield Independent Film Festival - Grand Jury Prize Winner
Lower East Side Film Festival
Film Festival of Columbus
Woods Hole Film Festival - Jury Prize for Best Feature Comedy
Indy Film Fest
Free Range Film Festival
Footcandle Film Festival
Ellensburg Film Festival

Crew Bios

Dean Peterson - Writer/Director/Editor Dean Peterson is a filmmaker from Brooklyn, NY. In 2009 he made his debut feature film INCREDIBLY SMALL which premiered at the Raindance Film Festival in London, and went on to play at over 30 festivals across the US and Europe and has been viewed over 64,000 times online. He's also made the short films VING RHAMES, SEA BEACH LOCAL, STOP TELLING WOMEN TO SMILE, and KILLING BALDACCI.

Ariana Janetakis - Producer Ariana has produced television shows for VH1, Ovation, and TLC.

Liz Zwiebel - Producer Liz is a Los Angeles based producer that works on films and commercials and is one of the founding producers of the Woodstock Comedy Festival. She without hesitation named her dog Joris Joplin.

Darin Quan - Director of Photography Darin has shot the film "Diverge" (2016 Tallgrass Film Festival Best Cinematography) as well as the upcoming "Empathy Inc." His work in commercials includes projects for Google, Chase, BBDO, and HP. Also an accomplished director, he recently completed production on a branded content series for Toyota. Outside of his work in film, Darin is a jazz and blues guitarist who gigs regularly in and around New York.

Cast Bio's

Nicole Rodenburg “Amy” Nicole has appeared in many plays, and was most recently seen off-Broadway in Annie Baker's Pulitzer Prize winning play, *The Flick*. Her film and TV credits include *Inside Amy Schumer*, *Good News for Modern Man*, *The Girl's Guide to Depravity*, and *Amish Witches*. She lives in Queens, NY with her cat named Simon and met Dean on Twitter.

Grace Rex “Shannon” Grace Rex's film credits include *Contagion*, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *The Dilemma*, *The Comedy*, *Song One*, and *Five Flights Up*. Her TV credits include *Master of None*, *Mindhunter* (Netflix), *The Good Wife*, *Elementary* (CBS) *Boardwalk Empire* (HBO), *ER*, *Blindspot* (NBC) and *Underemployed* (MTV). She studied musical theatre at Ball State University. When she isn't acting in other people's movies, Grace makes her own.

Josh Ruben “Pat” Josh is a Webby and Telly-award winning actor, writer, and director. Between his time at CollegeHumor and as one half of directing duo Josh + Vince, he's created over 2,000 original shorts with combined viewerships in the millions for clients ranging from Save the Children to Lucky Charms. He is the creator of the Mindhouse Podcast on Jake & Amir's Headgum network and one of the founding producers of the Woodstock Comedy Festival.

Alex Rennie “Ted” Alex Rennie was born in Oswego, New York in 1984. After a failed boxing career in Europe and being expelled from six universities in the United States, he was discovered while bartending by Todd Sklar and asked to appear in the feature comedy, *BOX ELDER* in 2008. Since then he and Todd have collaborated on numerous film and television projects, including the award winning short '92 *SKYBOX ALONZO MOURNING ROOKIE CARD* and its feature length adaptation *AWFUL NICE*.

John Early “Pastor Wes” John Early is a comedian and actor. He has appeared on *30 Rock* as Jenna Maroney's son, and in the independent film *Fort Tilden*. He stars in TBS' *Search Party* and as well as Netflix's *Wet Hot American Summer: First Day of Camp*. In 2016 he wrote and starred in his own 30-minute episode of the sketch show *Netflix Presents: The Characters*.

Mary Loram “Nana” Mary has been acting in New York since 2000 and has starred in *Orange is the New Black*, *Jessica Jones*, and *Billions*.

End Credits

Written & Directed by
DEAN PETERSON

Produced by
ARIANA JANETAKIS
LIZ ZWIEBEL

Producers
DEAN PETERSON
DARIN QUAN

Amy
NICOLE RODENBURG

Shannon
GRACE REX

Pat
JOSH RUBEN

Ted
ALEX RENNIE

Pastor Wes
JOHN EARLY

Nana
MARY LOORAM

Director of Photography
DARIN QUAN

Production Designer
MIKE HATGISTAVROU

Editor
DEAN PETERSON

Music Composed by
JARED HORNE

CAST

Amy
NICOLE RODENBURG

Shannon
GRACE REX

Pat
JOSH RUBEN

Ted
ALEX RENNIE

Pastor Wes
JOHN EARLY

Nana
MARY LOORAM

The Doctor
JESSICA FREY

The Nurse
NANCY SUN

The Taxi Driver
DAN GRGAS

Rachel
JANNA EMIG

Kevin
ALEX WATT

Brian
JAMES BENSON

Emily
JOANNA JANETAKIS

Kate
KATE HOFFMAN

Terry
ARIEL KAVOUSSI

Fred
BRIAN STURGILL

Dave the Agent
DEAN PETERSON

Assistant Camera/Gaffer
NOAH FOWLER

Location Sound
NICK BOHUN

Hair and Makeup
ERICA PEARCE

Security
JEFF PETERSON

Supervising Sound Editor/Rerecording Mixer
JAY PELLIZZI

Dialogue Editor
DAN GLUSZAK

Sound Editor
ROMAN CHIMIENTI

Colorist
JENNY MONTGOMERY

Catering
SARAH CHIANESE
MANGIA AND ENJOY!

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