



&

DayDreamer Films

present

DORIAN BLUES

WWW.DORIANBLUES.COM

For Brian Varga
(1960-1991)

National Press Liaison

Lewis Tice
TLA Releasing
T: 215-733-0608 ext 227
F: 215-733-0637
E: ltice@tlareleasing.com

Booking Contact

Jennifer Arndt
TLA Releasing
T: 612-338-2800
F: 612-338-2805
E: jennifera@tlareleasing.com

SYNOPSIS

Anxiety is the main course for young Dorian Lagatos (*Henry*, "What I Like About You") but these are not your average adolescence blues. Not only is he going through high school purgatory but also struggling to move out of the shadow of his star athlete brother while dueling with his domineering, homophobic father.

Dorian, a self-described "stereotypical gay," is so horrified by his father's reaction he enlists his brother to help him "think straight". Acceptance, however, may lie only at the end of his journey through boozy counselors, swing-dancing strippers and sudden emotional discoveries. No one said "coming out" was easy.

With an appealing cast and warm, unpredictable charm, *Dorian Blues* deliciously portrays the pangs and triumphs of staying true to one's true self. Writer/Director Tennyson Bardwell has created a funny, moving, "coming of age" tale about the search for personal happiness, with wit and wisdom to spare. His directorial debut is a delightful comedy for anyone who's ever come apart while "coming of age."

Dorian Blues has received numerous awards around the world including:

2004 Cinequest, San Jose, CA
Emerging Maverick

2004 Cinequest, San Jose, CA
Audience Choice Award

2004 Long Island International Film Expo
Best Feature Film

2004 Outfest - Los Angeles Int'l G & L FF
Best First Feature

2004 Lake Placid Film Festival
Audience Award

2004 NewFest - New York G & L FF
Best Screenplay Award

2004 Philadelphia G & L FF
Audience Award

2004 Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival
Special Jury Award

2005 Bahamas International Film Festival
Torchlight Best Screenplay Award

CAST

Michael McMillian	Dorian Lagatos
Lea Coco	Nicky Lagatos
Steven C. Fletcher	Tom Lagatos
Mo Quigley	Maria Lagatos
John Abele	Ben's Father
Austin Basis	Spooky
Ryan K. Berkowitz	Tiffany
Richard Burke	Muscles
Chris Dallman	Andrew
Carl Dana	Priest
Leslie Elliard	Therapist
Ryan Garrett	Locker Bully
Sian Heder	Ellie
Portia Kamons	Mrs. Polk
Cody Nickell	Ben
Jeff Paul	Social Worker
Michelle Summerlin	Ben's Mother
Frank D'Andrea	Football Coach
Michael Cornish	Dream Guy
Mary Gordon	Dream Girl
Laura Nelson	Club Bartender
Brie Dinsmore	Stripper
Erika Eve	Stripper
Karla Ives	Stripper
Nicole Marquardt	Stripper
Brandy Martin	Stripper
Tony Hastings	Buffer Jones
Daniel A. Jacobs	Tony
Ian McGlocklin Sinclair	Red Zone Challenger
Rick Rodgers	Bully's Buddy #1
Andrew Zox	Bully Buddy #2
Abbie Foster White	Cheerleader
Katherine Zox	Aunt Beth
Melanie Krahmer	Sirsy
Richard Libutti	Sirsy
Michael Steiner	Sirsy
Gregory Nash	Sirsy

Tennyson Bardwell	Writer and Director
Portia Kamons	Producer
Frank D'Andrea	Producer
MB Taylor Bardwell	Producer
Tennyson Bardwell Ann Marie	Producer
Lizzi	Editor & Co-Producer
Taylor Morrison	DP
Will Severin	Music Composer
Charles Eble, Jr.	Sound Design
Len X. Clayton	Production Designer
Agnes E. Kapusta	Costumes
Shannon Von Ronne	Production Manager
Neil Benidict	Assistant Director
Jill Malouf	1 st Assistant Camera
Ian McGlocklin Sinclair	Gaffer
Karen Dicey	Key Grip
Dan Mazur	Sound Mixer
Kevin Tierney	Boom Operator
Andy Dorr	Art Director
Pat Van Alsteyne	Art Assistant
Jeff Burns	Script Supervisor
John & Anne Taylor	PopBoon Catering
Anne R. Taylor	Food Stylist
Mary Gordon	Production Assistant
Amy O'Neil	Production Assistant
Alice Tomer	Production Assistant
Ethan Turner	Production Assistant
John Druzba	Choreography Choreography
Caitlin Roben	Choreography
Austin Basis	Dance Consultant
Judith Ann Conte	Sound Design
Charlie Eble	Score Producer
Will Severin	Music Recorder & Mixer
Will Severin	Orchestrator
Chris Cardona	Violin
George Fortune	Drums & Percussion
Paul Othon	Bass
Will Severin	Guitar & Keyboards
Mark Vinci	Saxophone
Will Severin	Programming
Jeanne DaSilva	Music Supervisor
Charles Eble, Jr.	Dialog Editor
Charles Eble, Jr.	ADR Recordist
BJ Ramone	Editor
Charles Eble, Jr.	FoleyArtist
Charles Eble, Jr.	Music Editor
Charles Eble, Jr.	Re-mix engineer
William J. Ramone	Assistant Engineer
Agnes E. Kapusta	Wardrobe Supervisor
Maureen Berkowitz	Tiffany's Costumes
Abbie Foster White	Hair and Makeup
Judi Von Ronne	Assist WardrobeProp

Cody Nickell Extra's Coach
Mary Jean Lizzi Production Assistant
Andrea Lizzi Production Assistant

All Post Production Editing services provided by
Imperatives, Schenectady, NY
All Post Production Sound services provided by 100% Sound
at Woods End Recording Studios, Saratoga Springs, NY

"Permanent Blue Scars"
words and music by Michael Skloff and Ken Straniere
performed by FOUR SIDE LETTER. with Michael Skloff
courtesy of Michael Skloff

"Last Train to Clarksville"
written by BOBBY HART and TOMMY BOYCE
performed by Will Severin, Paul Othon & George Fortune
produced by 100 % Sound
used by permission of SCREEN GEMS-EMI MUSIC INC.

"Kiss Me Here"
written by MELANIE KRAHMER and RICHARD LIBUTTI
performed by Sirsy

"Loverman"
written by ROGER "RAM" RAMIREZ, JIMMY SHERMAN, JAMES E.
DAVIS
performed by Ryan Kelly Berkowitz
courtesy of Universal Music

"Crazy"
written by WILLIE NELSON
performed by Ryan Kelly Berkowitz
courtesy of Sony/ATV Songs LLC
"In the Mood"
written by JOSEPH GARLAND
performed by Glenn Miller
courtesy of ASV Limited
used by permission of Shapiro, Bernstein & CO., Inc.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
arranged by Carla Lothar
performed by Carla Lothar, Dan Rosengard & Ensemble
courtesy of Museum Music
by arrangement with Vault Music Services

"Jingle Bells"
arranged by Dan Rosengard
performed by Dan Rosengard, Carla Lothar & Ensemble
courtesy of Museum Music

by arrangement with Vault Music Services

"We Three Kings"
arranged by Dan Rosengard
performed by Dan Rosengard, Carla Lothar & Ensemble
courtesy of Museum Music
by arrangement with Vault Music Services

"O Christmas Tree"
arranged by Carla Lothar
performed by Carla Lothar, Eugene Ruffolo, Dan Rosengard &
Ensemble
courtesy of Museum Music
by arrangement with Vault Music Services

"Dorian Riff"
written and performed by Cody Nickel
courtesy of Cody Nickel

"Uncomfortable"
written by MELANIE KRAHMER and RICHARD LIBUTTI
performed by Sirsy

"Paper Moon"
written by MELANIE KRAHMER and RICHARD LIBUTTI & MICHAEL
STEINER
performed by Sirsy

"Soon"
written by MELANIE KRAHMER and RICHARD LIBUTTI
performed by Sirsy

"Perfect World"
written by Flavio Lichtenthal
performed by Tara Angell
courtesy of Flavio Lichtenthal

"Run for Your Life"
written by K. HENDERSON - CASSIDY
performed by Antigone Rising

In Loving Memory of Anne Robinson Taylor
(Our Sweet Boonie)
February 9, 1935 - November 14, 2001

Year: 2004

Technical Specifications: 35mm, Color

Running Time: 88 minutes

Country: United States **Language:** English

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

"Until I went to college I thought homosexuality was a myth. I never meet anyone who admitted to being gay. Then, first weekend at Carnegie-Mellon, I met Brian Varga who was openly gay. I couldn't believe it! It was like this unicorn sitting across from me," says writer/director Tennyson Bardwell, about the inspiration for his first film, a coming out, coming of age comedy, *Dorian Blues*.

And although Varga's family was totally supportive of his homosexuality, unlike Dorian in the film, Varga became, in spirit, the essence of the film's character; as Bardwell became the essence of Nicky, the straight jock brother. "I was very protective of Brian in our early relationship, would have knocked anyone into a wall who messed with him, and yet, before college was up he became more the protector of me. He turned out to be this tower of strength." Varga died of AIDS in 1991.

DORIAN BLUES is a comedy/drama about a young gay man's struggle to come out of the closet to his star athlete brother and his homophobic father.

For the screenplay Bardwell chose a two-act structure with the first act being mostly comedy and the second more pathos. "I needed to pull people in. I wanted this film to be as accessible to straights as gays and thought comedy and pace to start would hook them and then, after we had them caring for the brothers, allow the second half to get more real."

Finding financing was the usual indie nightmare. "I had no idea where to look but vowed to myself I would look somewhere three hours a day." Before long Bardwell had resorted to going through the yellow pages (multi cities) and calling businesses with large display ads, such as Plastic Surgeons and Car Dealership Owners. "Someone had told me they'd found investors this way. I did not."

Then, by fortune, he reconnected with theatrical producer Portia Kamons, who, ironically, had been Brian's best friend and roommate in the post college years in New York. She was even with him, nursing him, at the time of his early death from AIDS in 1991. "She dug and scraped for the money. She just doesn't give up."

Going non-union meant finding a cast without experience and often that means lesser talent. But Tennyson producer Mary-Beth Taylor, were convinced there was superb talent to be found - they just had to look real hard. So Taylor called every drama school, every agent, every casting director, every regional theatre, in the North East. "My wife was nursing newly born twin boys along with taking care of our four year old son, while on the phone a hundred times a day!"

For the parts of the two brothers "We went to Carnegie-Mellon and asked acting professors (Bardwell and Kamons are Alumni) who were the hot young graduating actors that year," says Taylor. "We auditioned Lee Coco on their recommendation and he just blew us away!." Lee Coco makes a stunning debut in Dorian Blues. That, with his brilliantly received regional stage work, have him being compared to a young Paul Newman. "He's got a big future." Bardwell predicts.

As for the lead of Dorian the search went right down to the wire. Michael McMillian was just beginning his junior summer at Carnegie and therefore, by school precedent, was not yet available for filmwork, "So no one would even mention his name even though they knew he'd be perfect for the part," Bardwell recalls. "He was this incredibly guarded secret."

Finally, through a fellow student McMillian was sent their way. "Panic had almost set in and in walks this great looking kid from Kansas; talented as hell and funnier than anyone you'll ever meet."

Michael McMillian is now starring on the hit WB sitcom "What I like about You", where he plays Amanda Bynes' boyfriend Henry. "We're all very proud of him. We watch every week. It's a very charming, funny show."

The shoot was a very difficult 22 days. "Partly cause I was such a novice," admits Bardwell, "It took me four days to learn how to yell 'cut'!" The days were long, some as long as 21 hours. "Like the day we shot in this gay bar where the owner provided free beer to any extras who'd come sit through it and by midnight we had a hundred gay men yelling "THAT'S A WRAP" after every take!" Two of the gay men, essential extras in a background shot had a spat and one wanted to leave in the middle, which would have been a nightmare for continuity. "So we're desperately trying to get them to make up so we don't screw up the film," says Taylor.

"And then when we shot the strip club scene," chuckles Bardwell, "And we used real strippers. But we needed them not to undress because of our PG-13 rating, and one of them could not get this concept and kept taking off too much. And we'd tell her and she'd just look at us like a deer in the headlights and not understand we wanted her take off less!"

"It was the greatest experience," says Bardwell, "I can't wait to do it again. And we're going to, in the fall, with a supernatural thriller."

PRINCIPAL CAST

Michael McMillian (Dorian Lagatos) played Henry on the WB's "What I Like About You" with Amanda Bynes on the WB channel on Friday nights. A graduate of Carnegie-Mellon's school of Drama and now represented by Innovative Talent Agency in Los Angeles. Michael is also an accomplished writer and artist.

Lea Coco (Nicky Lagatos) Upon completing Dorian Blues Coco, an award winning graduate of Carnegie-Mellon's school of Drama, was cast as Blue Man in the international sensation "BLUE MAN GROUP", where his talents as a drummer and actor marveled audiences. He next gained a recurring role as Special Agent Jack Lansky on Guiding Light while traveling to Louisville, Kentucky to originate the role of Gideon in "The Lively Lad" with the premier American new play event: the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Lea has been working primarily in classical theatre with the Immediate Theatre Company in New York, and at Actors Theatre as Orlando in "As You Like It." He is now working on two screenplays and attempting to get his play Inferno produced.

Steven Charles Fletcher (Tom Lagatos) has directed and acted in many regional stage productions throughout the northeast; most recently George in Edward Albee's "Who's afraid of Virginia Wolfe" in Saratoga, NY.

Maureen Quigley (Maria Lagatos) Since her graduation from Carnegie-Mellon University's Acting program in 1983, Maureen has accumulated a multitude of acting credits both regionally and in New York City, including Cavale in Sam Sheppard's "Cowboy Mouth", Arlene in "Getting Out", Nancy in "Angel Street", Lulu in "The Birthday Party", and Mistress Quickley in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" at the Sterling Renaissance Faire, where she also performed as Winifred Wheeler for the Bless the Mark Players

Austin Basis (Spooky) Austin Basis is a life-time member of The Actors Studio, where he has appeared in Brecht's THE ROUNDHEADS & THE POINTHEADS, ROOM SERVICE, and BETRAYAL (directed by Estelle Parsons); and readings of MASTER CLASS, with Faye Dunaway, and SALOME, with Al Pacino. Since receiving an MFA from the Actors Studio Drama School, Austin has acted in many films including SKIPS, HAZARD, FULL SERVICE, SINK, EVIL IS..., and the Comedy Central movie PORN 'N' CHICKEN. Last year, he wrote and performed in a sketch/improv comedy variety show called Mmm...COMEDY, which ran for 7 months. He is presently writing a pilot for NYC cable access with the same troupe. Austin has an MFA from the Actors Studio Drama School.

Ryan Kelly Berkowitz (Tiffany) A recent graduate of Carnegie-Mellon's school of drama - musical theatre department, this triple threat was a finalist in last year's Miss New York pageant, and is currently working on her own Cabaret Show.

CREW

Tennyson Bardwell (Writer/Director/Producer)

hasn't done much of anything with his life. The one real achievement he can claim (and this is documented) is he once successfully predicted the correct "Showcase Showdown" winner on "The Price is Right" eleven days in a row. The probability of this being attributed merely to chance is 2,056-1 against. And it was with this streak people began to take notice and urge Tennyson to do something more with his life than wander from job to job, so he's trying: Casino Dealer, US Census Taker, waiter, bartender, Telemarketer, Mortgage loan officer, Corporate sales manager, Fashion magazine subscription manager, Ticket Master operator, NYC messenger, New York State Bill drafting proof reader, Road crew worker, old house refurbisher, NYS Abandoned Property department manager, commercial copy writer, actor in Japanese sitcom opposite chimpanzee, all night convenient store clerk, lifeguard, pizza delivery guy, condo superintendent, Film PA, Off Broadway actor, Dating Service sales representative, headhunter, typist, speechwriter, political pollster, high school tutor, Tennis Coach, NYC Chess club instructor, and lab guinea pig!

Portia Kamons (Producer) has worked for nearly 20 years as an independent theatre producer. She has worked for The Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and for the OBIE award winning site-specific theatre company En Garde Arts. She is currently working to develop a newly commissioned opera by composer Michelle DiBucci.

Mary-Beth Taylor (Producer) Ms. Taylor's second feature "The Skeptic", a supernatural psychological thriller, is currently in pre-production with a third feature, an untitled male bonding comedy, scheduled to film in the Spring of 2006.

She is currently producing and directing a feature documentary, *Are You Going To Stand On the Sidelines and Cheer Men on Your Whole Life?*, about cheerleading in America and its effect on young children.

Ms. Taylor is also an established, award winning painter and sculptor, with her work regularly seen at Chrysalis

Gallery in Southampton, New York. Her paintings are also featured in the film, *Dorian Blues*.

Frank D'Andrea (Producer) produced HBO's "Actual Jokes" with Altar Rock Films. Frank wrote, directed and produced the short film "waste of candy", which has been featured at nine international film festivals including The Cleveland International Film Festival where it won a Humanitarian Award.

Ann Marie Lizzi (Co-Producer and Editor) has won numerous awards, including the New York State Emmy. She is currently production manager at Time Warner Cable in Albany and on the National Board of AWRT (American Women in Radio and Television).

Taylor Morrison (Cinematographer) Emmy Award winner has worked as a Cinematographer for commercials, industrials, documentaries and independent features since 1991. Taylor shot "Entering Oblivion", "The Only One", and "Disoriented".

Will Severin (Music Composer) classically trained, Will is adept at a wide range of musical styles from classical to country. He has composed for stage productions including "Sherlock's Secret Life" and the award-winning musical "A Tale of Cinderella". Will has written music for television programs, commercials, industrials, short films and documentaries, including the 1998 Telly Award winner "New York to London and Return - A Theatrical Adventure" for PBS. He received a 1999 Audie Award nomination for "A Little Princess" and a 2000 Audie Award nomination for "Zoe Caldwell Reads Oscar Wilde Fairy Tales" for Family Classic Audio Books.

Len X. Clayton (Production Designer) has been the Production Designer on such films as: "Terrorist", "The Station Agent", "This Thing Of Ours", "American Desi", "Zoo", and "Advising Michael", and has worked with music video artists such as: D'Angelo, Type O Negative, Missy Elliot, DMX, Shania Twain, Big Pun, Shaggy, Brian McKnight, and The Firm. He has also done the OBIE Awards Show Presentations, "Jesus Christ Superstar" Broadway Show, "Reefer Madness" the Off-Broadway Show, and the HBO/Cinemax "Interview With" series with such stars as Angelina Jolie, Michael Douglas, Tim Robbins, Robin Williams, Halle Berry and Jennifer Aniston. Also writer/director on "Shadow of a Man" and "Your Country on Bush".

Michael Skloff (Grammy Award winning Song Writer) has composed music for film, theatre and TV, including the hit theme song from TV series *Friends*, "I'll Be There for You". Also music for the films "Boy's Life 3", and "The Love Master"; the TV series "Veronica's Closet", and "Jesse": and the off Broadway musical, "A...My Name is Alice". With his own record label in LA, he is currently developing and recording the work of rising talents in the music industry.