



**presents**

# HARRY AND MAX

**Written and directed by Christopher Munch**



## **CONTACTS**

### **National Press Liaison, New York**

Lewis Tice  
TLA Releasing  
T: 215-733-0608 ext 227  
F: 215-733-0637  
E: [ltice@tlavideo.com](mailto:ltice@tlavideo.com)

### **Booking Agent**

Jennifer Arndt-Johns  
TLA Releasing  
T: 763-780-9932  
F: 763-205-2632  
E: [JenniferA@phillyfests.com](mailto:JenniferA@phillyfests.com)

## ***HARRY AND MAX SYNOPSIS***

Harry (BRYCE JOHNSON), 23, is a former boy band idol who is watching his younger brother Max (COLE WILLIAMS), 16, follow in his footsteps. Harry has detoured on his way to a Japanese concert tour to escort Max on a long-promised camping adventure to the San Gabriel mountains above Los Angeles. Their trip begins on a note of easy camaraderie but quickly turns serious as the boys discuss Harry's contradictory relationship with his family: while his alcoholism and violent temper have estranged him from his parents, they continue to be economically dependent on him. As the trip continues, Max's longing to connect with Harry both physically and emotionally grows. But even more, Max wants to bring stability to Harry's life. In an effort to create a type of alternative family for his brother, Max goads Harry to rekindle his affections for his former girlfriend, Nikki (RAIN PHOENIX).

Back from the weekend, Max realizes that he must redefine his relationship with his brother, and that only by setting boundaries can the boys grow into adulthood together.

## **HARRY AND MAX**

### **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

“Unlike the scripts of most of my past films, the script for *Harry and Max* came about suddenly and with completeness and urgency. Like those other films, it arose out of my concern for a specific type of emotional interaction and people struggling to find their way amidst conflicted beliefs. It was as if the characters wanted their story told.

In the fall of 2000 a barebones, incomplete draft was in place. It was set aside. Two years later, while I was preparing a much larger project that was not moving forward, the two pop brothers came knocking again. This time it seemed prudent to make the film, as my larger project remained in a holding pattern. I completed the script in the fall of 2002 and began casting in early December that year. Joseph Middleton, with whom I had first worked in 1994 on *Color of a Brisk and Leaping Day*, agreed to help me with this difficult task, and it was his patience and care that finally led us to the right two actors, Bryce Johnson and Cole Williams. Though they were cast in February of 2003, owing to their other commitments we did not begin rehearsal until spring.

One of the pleasures of *Harry and Max* was being able to cast my friend Rain Phoenix in the supporting role of Nikki. I had originally asked Rain just to do music for the film, but when she enquired if the role had been filled, I eagerly asked her to read. She could not have been more right, and her ongoing enthusiasm for the project proved to be a great boon. Ditto the other main supporting role of Josiah, assailed by Tom Gilroy, a man of considerable talent (writer-director-actor) whom I am privileged to be friends with. Meanwhile, Roni Deitz agreed to produce the film with me. It was a tall order: 17-day shoot, compact crew, and minuscule budget. But I knew from past experience (Roni had line produced the east coast portions of “The Sleepy Time Gal”) that she would be up to the task. She relocated to California and set up office with her production manager, Mindy Strauss. Together they got everything together for an April start.

The cast and I rehearsed intensively for several weeks, with the script undergoing revision along the way. This was one of the more rewarding professional experiences that I can recall. The further and further we progressed with the text, the more and more convinced I was that Bryce and Cole were the best and only actors to interpret this material. They were co-creators of the film in the most generous and far-reaching sense. Taking place in the Angeles National Forest outside Los Angeles and in locations around the city, production unfolded surprisingly smoothly. Rob Sweeney, my longtime collaborator, agreed to the formidable challenge of shooting the film, assisted by his super-human and lovely camera assistant, Kelly Uchimura. Rob’s enthusiasm and great skill were absolutely essential to the film getting made. In addition to Rob, our key crew consisted of old friends and colleagues: Fred Helm on sound, Doran Meyers as art director, Kristen Anacker as costume designer, Russell Brown as script supervisor, and Brook Dillon as all-around helper. Having all made low-budget films over the years, we were able to bring to the film, I believe, a level of collective experience that enabled us to avoid potential pitfalls and optimize our resources.

Over the summer of 2003 I cut the film; during the fall of 2003 I recut it with the occasional help of Annette Davey and James Lyons, both of whose expertise proved to be invaluable. Fred Helm oversaw sound editing, and the very capable Mark Rozett mixed the film on an impossibly tight schedule in Los Angeles just days before its Sundance premiere. Original instrumental music is by Michael Tubbs, with songs by papercranes (Rain Phoenix’s band), the California-based boyband Frequency 5, pop artist Gregory Scott, and Jamie Laboz of Jamie’s Boombox fame.” -- Christopher Munch

**HARRY AND MAX**  
**CAST (In order of appearance)**

**NIKKI**

Rain Phoenix

**MAX**

Cole Williams

**HARRY**

Bryce Johnson

**MAX, aged 9**

Max Picioneri

**HARRY, aged 15**

Mark L. Young

**BRANDI**

Kate Ellis

**ROXANNE**

Roni Deitz

**JOSIAH**

Tom Gilroy

**MOTHER**

Michelle Phillips

**JORDAN**

Justin Zachary

# **HARRY AND MAX CREW**

**Written, edited and directed by**

Christopher Munch

**Produced by**

Roni Deitz

Christopher Munch

**Director of Photography**

Rob Sweeney

**Art Director**

Doran Meyers

**Costume Designer**

Kristen Anacker

**Production Sound & Supervising Editor**

Frederick W. Helm

**Original Music**

Michael Tubbs

**Songs performed by**

Frequency 5

papercranes

Gregory Scott

Jamie Laboz

**Casting Director**

Joseph Middleton CSA

**Developed with the Kind Participation of**

Russell Brown

**Additional Editing**

Annette Davey

James Lyons

**Production Manager**

Mindy Strauss

**First Assistant Camera**

Kelly Uchimura

**Production Associate**

Amy Jelenko

**Production Assistant**

Eloy Mendez

**Grip**

Michael J. Mastantuono, III

**Second Assistant Camera**

Jed Seus

Nick Critser

**Additional Production Sound**

Jon K. Oh

Randy Lawson

**Graphic Designer**

John Waxel

The Ant Farm

**Main Title**

Matthew Goldman

Kimberly Sayess-Fazio

**Paintings**

Andrew Campbell

**Proofsheet Photos**

Dan George

**Title and Insert Camera**

Ken Rudolph

**Sound Effects Editor & Foley Recordist**

Matt Mondrick

**Re-recording Mixer**

Mark Rozett CAS

**Foley provided by**

Blue Cat Foley & Sound

**Audio Services**

Cyclops Pictures & Sound

**Laboratory Services**

Digipost T.V.

**Dailies Telecine**

Ascent Media

**Flamenco Guitarist**

Entertainment Post

**Dancers**

Dino D'Auri

Angelita Macias

Alfredo Aja

**Singer**

Miguel de Malaga

**“Under a Spell”**

Performed by Frequency 5  
Produced by Danny MacArthur and Johnny Lee  
Published by Zoo Zene Music (BMI)

**“Mamba for Jake”**

Written, played and produced by  
Jamie Laboz

**“Harry and Max Theme”**

Written and performed by Michael Tubbs

**“The Rest”**

Performed by papercranes  
Written by Rain Phoenix and Michael Perfitt

**“Let Me”**

Performed by Gregory Scott  
Written by Gregory Scott and Jim DeCicco  
Produced and arranged by Gregory Scott and Jim  
DeCicco for Pyram-Axis Music/Masked Rider Publishing

**With Special Thanks to**

Alex Blatt  
Russel Brown  
Ruth Charny  
Jim Dobson  
Alberto Garcia  
James Herbert  
Anne Macdonald

***HARRY AND MAX***  
**USA 2004, 74 Minutes, 35mm Color**

## **HARRY AND MAX**

### **ABOUT THE CAST**

**BRYCE JOHNSON (Harry)** Bryce Johnson was born on April 18, 1977 and raised in Sioux City, Iowa, where he lived with his mother and two brothers. For a short time his family lived in Denver, Colorado, during his high school years, which is where his dream to become an actor came to life. Johnson was also captain of the varsity soccer team and co-captain of the school's golf team, and was also elected class president of both his junior and senior years.

Soon after graduating high school in 1995, Bryce packed his belongings into the back of his car and headed for Los Angeles. There he trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He quickly landed a starring role in The WB pilot "Saving Graces" but when that series didn't make the schedule, he was tapped for "Popular". He also appeared in five episodes of the MTV comedy "Undressed." Currently residing in Hollywood, Bryce is making a name for himself on television. After the cancellation of "Popular" he went on to make a few more projects, such as the independent film *Puzzled* and the made-for-television movie *Unfinished Business*.

**COLE WILLIAMS (Max)** Cole Williams is an up-and-coming actor who can currently be seen in ABC's "8 Simple Rules", in the recurring role of Anthony, the cool kid in school who is a "wannabe" gangster. Exposed to acting all his life, Cole decided to attend boarding school in New Hampshire where he passionately and seriously studied theater. He later attended a conservatory for acting and was accepted at the age of 17 to SUNY Purchase College. While attending undergrad, Cole realized he wanted to be a working actor and returned immediately to Los Angeles where he landed supporting roles in such independent films and TV as *The Urban Chaos Theory*, *Bittersweet*, NBC's "Scrubs", *I Witness*, and *Ferris Jude*. He recently played the lead in the independent feature *Held Together*.

Being in the public eye is not new for Cole. Born on July 28, 1981 to accomplished singer/songwriter/actor Paul Williams and his wife Katie, his acting career was almost instinctive and at the ripe age of six found himself on stage where he felt at home with the art.

**RAIN PHOENIX (Nikki)** Rain was recently seen co-starring with Jason London in the comedy-drama, *Spent*, which was directed by Gil Cates Jr. She is also featured in Dimension Film's *O*, a modern-day adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, "Othello," directed by Tim Blake Nelson. In the film, which stars Josh Hartnett, Mekhi Phifer and Julia Stiles, she portrays Emily (Emilia), best friend and confidante to Desi (Desdemona). Prior to *O*, Rain Phoenix was cast in the prison drama *Stranger Inside*, directed and written by Cheryl Dunye. The film was produced by Jim McKay and Michael Stipe (R.E.M). Phoenix "starred as Kit, a tough prisoner with a history of drug addiction, shot entirely in a women's prison facility. In addition to these cinematic projects, Rain can also be seen in two of Gus Van Sant's films: *To Die For* starring her equally talented brother Joaquin Phoenix and Nicole Kidman, as well as the film *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*.

**TOM GILROY (Josiah)** Tom Gilroy is an actor-writer-director from New York. As an actor he has worked with Ken Loach, Jim McKay, Christopher Munch, Sidney Lumet, Lodge Kerrigan, Jean-Luc Godard, Rob Tregenza, Robert Longo, Tom Kalin, Lisanne Skyler, and Leslie McLeave. He is the writer-director of the award-winning short *Touch Base* (IFC, w/Lili Taylor), and the feature *Spring Forward* (IFC, w/ Ned Beatty, Liev Shreiber and Campbell Scott). His last theatre production was "Hamlet," starring Richard Harris, Jared Harris, and Lili Taylor. He has wrapped up shooting his new film *Location* with Aidan Quinn in March 2004.

**JUSTIN ZACHARY (Jordan)** Born and raised in Bakersfield, California, Justin has been interested in the entertainment business since his early teens. After a move to Los Angeles in 2002, Justin quickly landed the leading role of Mark Renton in the west-coast production of the play "Trainspotting". The show opened to tremendous acclaim, receiving nominations for "Best Ensemble" by the *L.A. Weekly* and selected by the *Los Angeles Times* as one of the top ten shows of the year. Justin was singled out for his performance, receiving a nomination for "best actor in a leading role" by the Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle, and was named New Discovery of 2002 by *Entertainment Today* magazine. The success of the play brought Justin much attention from a number of filmmakers and at the completion of "Trainspotting" he landed the leading role of "Tommy" in the soon-to-be-released feature film, *Youthanasia*. Some of Justin's other feature film credits include *Held Together* and the recently released *The Haunted Mansion*, starring Eddie Murphy and Terrance Stamp.

**MICHELLE PHILLIPS (Mother)** Singer/actress Michelle Phillips was Holly Michelle Gilliam when she arrived in New York in 1962 to become a model. The 17-year-old ex-California girl met and fell in love with Greenwich Village folksinger John Phillips ten years her senior. After Michelle and John were married, she devoted her time to raising MacKenzie, John's daughter from an earlier marriage, and occasionally singing in John's group, the Journeymen. Upon that group's breakup in 1963, John and Michelle teamed with Cass Elliot and Denny Doherty both formerly of the defunct group The Mugwumps and the result was The Mamas and The Papas. This new singing aggregation was a success from its first 1965 release, "California Dreamin'," onward. Other hits followed: "Monday, Monday," "I Call Your Name," "Do You Wanna Dance," and on and on. In 1966, Michelle and John broke up; by 1967 Michelle was living with Dennis Hopper, and within three years the Phillips were divorced. The Mamas and The Papas also dissolved around this time, with "Mama" Cass Elliot opting for a solo career. The group's individual successes (including John's briefly best-selling songs) were ethereal, however, and in 1971 The Mamas and The Papas – including Michelle, -- reunited. As an actress Phillips has appeared in numerous projects including starring in the hit television series; "Popular", "Knots Landing," "Beverly Hills 90210" and more.

## CONTRIBUTING BANDS

**Frequency5** Johnny Lee, Jason Layden, and Jhoven Ortanez make up this talented young group of boy band singers who combine their influences to form their own distinct sound. They have appeared on the Disney Channel and Nickelodeon, and in *Pop Star Magazine*. Frequency5 has long been working with choreographer Cruz and songwriter/producer Daniel Macarthur.

**papercranes** are Michael Perfitt, Rain Phoenix, Summer Phoenix and Michael Tubbs. They began making music in 2001. Currently they are taking a break from their live shows to finish work on their upcoming debut record. More on the papercranes at [papercranesmusic.com](http://papercranesmusic.com).

**Michael Tubbs** was born in Merritt Island Florida in 1971. He studied English at the University of Florida. He is grateful his mother insisted on piano lessons.

**Gregory Scott** in 2003 had two Top-40 singles, "Spark" and "Closing In", playing on more than 50 pop stations across the country. With pop success and a series of shows with Radio Disney, Scott became a familiar face in the teen magazines, landing in *Pop Star*, *J14*, *Twist*, *Teen Voice*, and more than 40 popular e-zines. The success of his debut album, "The Waking Hour," was matched by critical acclaim and three Los Angeles Music Awards.

**Jamie Laboz** A veteran of the underground NYC rock scene and member of such bands as Frankenorange, Moonshine Messiahs, Cabbage UK and the Sewer Doves, Jamie Laboz is now a solo composer trying to get his Electro-Rock sound out to the masses. His music regularly appears on 5 MTV programs including the new smash hit "Wildboyz" and "Punk'D" as well as a few great indie films that made it to Sundance.

## HARRY AND MAX ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

**CHRISTOPHER MUNCH (Director, Writer, Editor)** Christopher Munch has written and directed the feature films *The Sleepy Time Gal*, about a dying mother's search for a daughter put up for adoption at birth, starring Jacqueline Bisset, Martha Plimpton, Nick Stahl and Seymour Cassel which was featured in the Sundance Dramatic Competition and released theatrically in 2002, *Color of a Brisk and Leaping Day*, an historical drama about the Yosemite Valley Railroad that received the Best Cinematography prize at Sundance, and was featured in the 1997 Whitney Biennial; *The Hours and Times*, based on the friendship of Brian Epstein and John Lennon, which received prizes at Berlin and Sundance and a Spirit Award, and appeared on numerous "10 Best" and "Best of the Decade" lists. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and recipient of the Swatch Someone to Watch Award.

**RONI DEITZ (Producer)** Roni Deitz attended NYU studying literature before following her lifelong dream of producing films. She began work in the film industry as a production assistant on several studio films before discovering her passion for the independent world. She quickly moved on to being a production manager and then line producer for several short films before producing the feature films *Big Monday*, directed by and starring Michael T. Rehfield, which has won awards throughout the festival circuit and is currently viewing on the Independent Film Channel." Another recent project was *Who's the Top?*, directed by Jennie Livingston, best known for the acclaimed *Paris is Burning*. It was through *The Sleepy Time Gal* that Deitz met director Christopher Munch who brought her aboard once again for *Harry and Max*. Deitz is currently producing the feature film *Held Together* in New York.

**ROB SWEENEY (Director of Photography)** Cinematographer Rob Sweeney has been widely recognized for his work on numerous independent films. His contribution to Christopher Munch's *Color of a Brisk and Leaping Day* garnered a Sundance Cinematography Award and an Independent Spirit Award nomination. He also collaborated with Munch on the Sundance entry *The Sleepy Time Gal*. His other feature credits include Tom Bezucha's *Big Eden*, Bruce Wagner's *I'm Losing You*, and Matthew Modine's *If, Dog, Rabbit...* More recently he worked on Joe Camp's *Abilene*, and Karen Moncrieff's *Blue Car*.