

LOGER INC PRESENTS A GREGORI J. MARTIN FILM



Directed by Gregori J. Martin

Co-Directed by Darnell Williams

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SYNOPSIS

Why do we make the choices we make in life? Can we ever explain the unexplained? Are we living in mere coincidence? In a city of 8 million people?

Following the lives of a group of “Manhattanites” as they are faced with life’s changing circumstances and decisions, the film tries to answer these questions and more. The choices they make have far reaching consequences on not only them, but also on people they do not even know.

In the end, will they be happy with the paths they have chosen in their lives??

Filmmaker Gregori J. Martin (*The Intruders*, *Jack Rio*) explores the lives of these characters who meet the travails and challenges of the world with a singular vision not always seeing the big picture in the grand scheme of their lives.

MANHATTANITES is directed by Gregori J. Martin, who also co-wrote with Roger Newcomb. Executive Producers are Roger Newcomb and Lyle Kamenir. The cast includes Ilene Kristen, Forbes March, Lev Gorn, Aiden Turner, Caroline Hay, David Fumero, Gregori J. Martin, Tasha Guevara, Matt Martini, Diana Christabel, Derrell Whitt, Alex McCord, Mike Marino and Monica Bailey.





PRINCIPLE CAST

Marilyn Marsden ILENE KRISTEN
Matt Malone FORBES MARCH
Kyle Carpenter AIDEN TURNER
Blake Whitney LEV GORN
Charlie Dean GREGORI J. MARTIN
Gretchen Styles CAROLINE HAY
Hannah Richards TASHA GUEVARA
Todd Malone MATT MARTINI
Ashley DIANA CHRISTABEL
Lucas Jameson DERRELL WHITT
Juan DAVID FUMERO
Hilda ALEX MCCORD
Rose MONICA BAILEY
Wilson MIKE MARINO
Mrs. Grimm JILL LARSON



CREW

Directed by Gregori J. Martin

Co-Directed by Darnell Williams

Written by Gregori J. Martin
Roger Newcomb

Executive Producers Roger Newcomb
Lyle Kamenir

Associate Producer Joseph Antonio Valle

Director of Photography Gus Sacks

Music Composed by Christy Carew

Line Producer Gregori J. Martin

Costume Designer Shannaine Osbourne

Assistant Costume Designers Rosalind Lott
Shelly Williams

Head of Accessories Tina Alexis-Payne

Casting Gregori J. Martin

First Assistant Director Diana Gonzeles-Jones

Second Assistant Director Lauren K. Wood

Camera Operator Gus Sacks

Second Camera/Gaffer Enrique Williams

Sound Design Alex Taramona

Editor Joseph Antonio Valle



PRODUCTION NOTES

Written by Roger Newcomb
Executive Producer/Writer, *Manhattanites*
Loger Inc
September 2008

In the summer of 2006, Writer-Director Gregori J. Martin and I were working on various screenplay ideas. I have long been inspired by Robert Altman films like *Nashville* and *Kansas City* with a real heart and sense of humor.

After much deliberation, we decided to turn our screenplay into a take-off of the Loger, Inc. radio drama, “Scripts & Scruples” which has been on the air since 2003. We took several of the key characters on the show and took new directions on where their lives could have gone.

With an idea we were both solidly behind, Gregori, Lyle Kamenir and I began to put the pieces together to take the script into production. We were personally involved in the casting, location scouting and all aspects of the production to ensure we had the right look and feel to match our vision.

We shot the film over seven weekends in late 2006. The cast and crew worked tirelessly to ensure we maximized effectiveness in our time on set. We filmed the movie using Panasonic’s DVX100A, with Gus Sacks serving as the Director of Photography.

The film first screened at Tribeca Cinemas on May 20th and 22nd in 2008. We have tremendous faith that our movie will draw much interest from a variety of film buffs around the world.

Taking in MANHATTANITES is, we hope, an escape. Thanks to the cast and crew for sharing your time, your energy, your eyes, ears, and souls with us.



ABOUT THE CAST

Ilene Kristen

Ilene Kristen is best known for her long soap career which started as Delia Ryan on “Ryan’s Hope,” when it debuted in 1975. Her current role as Roxanne Balsom on “One Life to Live” garnered her Daytime Emmy nominations for Outstanding Supporting Actress in 2004 and 2005. Outside the soap world, Ms. Kristen made her Broadway debut in *Henry, Sweet, Henry* and then went on to originate the role of Patty Simcox in *Grease*. On Broadway she also appeared as the infamous Leona Helmsley in *Mayor*, based on Ed Koch’s book. Her Off-Broadway credits include *Acts of Providence*, *Trust*, *All that Glitters*, *Light up the Sky*, *The Dolphin Position*, *Cowboy*, *The Gig* and *Marvin’s Room*, at the Helen Hayes Theater in Nyack, NY. She has also performed in *Save Me*, at the Vital Theater, and *Blood Orange*, at the Blue Heron Arts Center. A member of the Ensemble Studio Theatre since 1984, Ms. Kristen has participated in five one-act marathons and the acclaimed comedy revue *Strange Behavior*. Among her other television credits are appearances on “Law & Order,” “Third Watch” and “The Sopranos.”

Forbes March

Forbes March was born in Bristol, England and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He moved to Vancouver to pursue an acting career, and landed the first job he auditioned for — a national campaign for Kenner Toys. Subsequently, he landed a recurring role in the Canadian TV series NORTHWOOD. Next, March was granted a full scholarship from the prestigious Lee Strasberg Institute in New York. In 1999, he landed the role of Scott Chandler on “All My Children.” In 2001, he headed to Toronto to play a leading role, Jesse, in the sci-fi drama “Mutant X.” He has played the role of Nash on “One Life to Live” since 2005.

Aiden Turner

Aiden Turner was born in England and grew up about 25 miles north of London. A love of cooking dinner and desserts led him to attend culinary school. After working as a chef for a couple of years, he taught himself how to mix music and became a nightclub DJ. After saving up, he traveled the world, going from London to Thailand, Malaysia and many other destinations. While living in Australia, he was approached to do some modeling, and pursued it in earnest after returning to London. Turner soon wanted more of a challenge, so he took acting classes. Many small television parts and commercials later, he landed the role of Aidan on “All My Children.” The Emmy nominee now resides in New York City.

Lev Gorn

In addition to his role in MANHATTANITES, Lev Gorn has been featured in a number of films including THE FUNERAL PARTY, KEANE and UNBRIDLED. He has also appeared in many television series including “As The World Turns,” “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” and “The Wire.” Gorn also has seen success as a voiceover artist including a role as the voice of Ivan Bytchkov in the popular video game, *Grand Theft Auto IV*.

Gregori J. Martin

As an actor, MANHATTANITES director/writer can be seen as a terrorist in “PORTRAIT OF COURAGE: THE UNTOLD STORY OF FLIGHT 93” a docudrama available at your local video store and on Netflix, and aired in 2006 on PAX-TV. He also appeared as an inmate in an episode of HBO’s “Oz” and a police officer in several episodes of ABC’s “General Hospital.” Martin has played lead and supporting roles in various Indie Features and Shorts, including the short film NEGRO SPIRITUAL, screened at the Spike Lee Screening room in NYC in 2005 and the romantic comedy, AMBER SUNRISE. He has also made cameo appearances in his self-produced feature films THE INTRUDERS, JACK RIO and MARY, played a supporting role in TAKEN FOR GRANTED, and played lead roles in both SKELETONS IN THE DESERT and MANHATTANITES. He is currently founder of the successful Independent Film Production Company GRUNTWORKS ENTERTAINMENT, where he devotes most of his time as a producer, director, and writer.

Caroline Hay

Originally from South Carolina, Caroline Hay moved to New York to pursue her acting dream. She has appeared in a number of independent films including THE TRIAL OF JACK, ACT AS IF and WHEN STARS FALL. She also plays series regular Gretchen in “Scripts & Scruples,” the radio series in which MANHATTANITES is based upon.



Tasha Guevara

Tasha Guevara has been featured in a number of films including STREET REVENGE, THE BIRTHDAY GIRLS and PEOPLE ARE DEAD. She has made a number of television appearances and starred in the pilot, “Waterfront.” In her spare time, she enjoyed DJing under the name DJ Tabu.

Alex McCord

Alex McCord is best known as one of the ‘housewives’ on “The Real Housewives of New York” on Bravo where she appears with her husband, Simon van Kempen. She has appeared in a number of films including THE ARCHITECT, TOLLBOOTH and BLACK WIDOW. In addition to “Housewives,” her numerous television appearances include shows such as “Cyberchase” and “One Life to Live.”

Matt Martini

Matt Martini has appeared in a variety of independent and student films as a lead actor, as well as a voice over narrator. His film credits include WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS, LYMELIFE and LIFE IN FLIGHT. He has also been featured on television shows “Sex and the City,” “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” “30 Rock” and “7Sins.” Martini studied acting at New York City’s HB Studio.

Diana Christabel

Born in Hollywood, California, Diana has starred in several films, playing leading and supporting roles in various shorts and feature films. In April of 2006 she met director/actor/writer Gregori J. Martin while working on a short FLESH & BONES, directed by Anthony Bellisario (Grandson of Donald Bellisario Quantum Leap, JAG, NCIS). She later played a lead role in the feature film MARY (based on the urban legend, Bloody Mary), before landing her roles in MANHATTANITES, both directed by Gregori J. Martin. Diana has appeared in THE CLOSER on TNT, and ABC’s THE GEORGE LOPEZ SHOW. Other film work includes indie films, WILLOUGHBY, and DOWN IN THE VALLEY with Edward Norton.

David Fumero

David Fumero joined ABC-TV’s “One Life To Live” as street-smart Cristian Vega in June 1998. He has played the popular character on and off ever since. He was born in Havana, Cuba, and raised in Miami. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps and later traveled the world as a model, also studying at the International Actors Studio in Paris. Music fans will remember Mr. Fumero from the Mariah Carey video, “Honey.” He starred in the 2008 film, GREETINGS FROM THE JERSEY SHORE.

Derrell Whitt

Native New Yorker and now Los Angeles based actor, Derrell Whitt, has been cast as lead characters in several upcoming feature films. He stars as Malcolm in the Indie horror films, MARY, based on the Urban legend Bloody Mary, and SKELETONS IN THE DESERT, both written and directed by Gregori J. Martin. Derrell made his feature film debut in the romantic comedy Amber Sunrise, directed by Joseph Antonio Valle, and his latest film is the feature psychological drama THE INTRUDERS starring Steven Bauer (Scarface/Primal Fear). He also starred in several shorts, and has appeared in an episode of ABC’s “General Hospital”. He is a graduate of the World Famous Hollywood High School on Hollywood & Highland in Hollywood, California and studied several years with director, Gregori J. Martin.

Monica Bailey

Monica Bailey appeared as a contestant on the second season of CBS-TV’s “Big Brother” in 2002. Since then, she has made a number of television appearances and had a starring role on the radio drama, “Rockland County.” She has also appeared in a number of theater productions and served as a host at various celebrity events.

Mike Marino

Mike Marino has appeared in a number of films including THE MEETING, SLEEPLESS NIGHTS and THE CONTRACT. He has also appeared on television on shows like “100 Centre Street” and “Deadline.”

Jill Larson

Jill Larson is best known as the wild, wacky and flamboyant Opal Gardner Purdy Cortlandt on “All My Children,” a role she has played since 1989. Her performance earned her two Daytime Emmy Award nominations (1991 and 1993) as Outstanding Supporting Actress. Her other television credits include “Kate & Allie,” “The Equalizer” and “Law & Order: Criminal Intent”. She has also appeared in the feature films WERE THE WORLD MINE, WISE GUYS and THE LIVING WAKE.



FILMMAKERS

Gregori J. Martin
Writer/Director

Gregori J. Martin has been producing, directing, and writing independent film and television projects for almost ten years. Besides MANHATTANITES, some of his most recent other projects include the independent feature motion pictures, THE INTRUDERS starring Steven Bauer (Scarface / Primal Fear), JACK RIO starring Matthew Borlenghi (Days of Our Lives), and SKELETONS IN THE DESERT starring Ezra Buzzington (Mirrors / The Hills Have Eyes). In 2006, Mr. Martin directed, wrote, and produced 3 feature films, including "MARY" a horror film based on the urban legend Bloody Mary, shot on location in Los Angeles County. He then relocated to the East Coast and immediately began working on "TAKEN FOR GRANTED", another horror film shot on location in New London, CT, and then began production on "MANHATTANITES". In 2007, Mr. Martin moved back to Los Angeles, where he wrote/produced/directed "SKELETONS IN THE DESERT" and "JACK RIO" shot on location in and around LA County under his current Indie Production Company GRUNTWORKS ENTERTAINMENT. This year, under GruntWorks Entertainment, he wrote/produced/directed "THE INTRUDERS" and is currently in pre-production on another feature (name withheld).

Some of Gregori's earlier projects included an indie TV-Pilot, "CHALLENGES" followed by "DELIVER US FROM EVIL, an Indie Sci-fi Hoaxed Documentary, promoted at Madison Square Garden through the New York International Film & Video Festival. And Mr. Martin was pleased to collaborate as producer/writer in an all-star cast and crew of the ABC, NBC, and CBS Daytime Dramas in a SAG experimental project "WATERFRONT" that was filmed on location in his hometown, Yonkers, NY. A segment of the pilot was featured on SOAPNet's Soap Center in 2003 and 2004. In the spring of 2005 he made his directorial debut for the stage with "CRUCIFY!" a self-written original play following the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. (See Gregori's Acting Bio above).

Roger Newcomb and Lyle Kamenir
Executive Producers

Roger Newcomb and Lyle Kamenir formed Loger, Inc. in 2002. In 2003, they began production on the popular radio drama, "Scripts & Scruples." That show lead to a spin-off series, "Rockland County" in early 2005. Newcomb served as the writer and producer on both series. Loger, Inc. has also produced a number of other radio shows including "The Big Apple Meets Tinseltown" and "The Barbara Bruce Show." Newcomb produced a number of student films in college, but MANHATTANITES is the first full-length feature in which he has served as Executive Producer.



Q & A WITH GREGORI J. MARTIN

Q: What inspired you to write this story about this group of Manhattanites?

GJM: Roger Newcomb inspired me! The radio show I was a part of for several years grew very close to my heart. It was a pleasure helping Roger turn his radio series into a feature film script and watching these characters come to life on screen!

Q: When you were writing the script, were you aware of any of the common threads or common themes?

GJM: Oh, very much so. With a couple of additional characters, the film is almost entirely based on the radio show!

Q: What is it about a film composed of many short stories, many vignettes that appeals to you?

GJM: Life isn't only about one person's story. Most of my scripts follow several characters lives. It's just so much more interesting! The world doesn't revolve around one person, despite what some people may think! (wink, wink)

Q: How did you find just the right balance of comedy and drama?

GJM: I'm not sure how Roger would answer this, but for me, I would say it was very simple. Life can be very comedic and very dramatic at the same time. I think we (Roger and I) have very different humor at times and that had a lot to do with creating a balance. It's a very conversational piece. These characters are very New York. New Yorkers are naturally comedic and dramatic at the same time!

Q: What are your influences as a writer and filmmaker?

GJM: Growing up with three sisters, soaps were always playing on the television, and nothing else, so as a kid I grew up watching All My Children, One Life to Live, and Santa Barbara, later becoming a fan of Another World and General Hospital. As I got older, and had my own TV and VCR in my bedroom I became a big fan of Stephen King and Wes Craven and when I began to pursue a career as a writer/director my films/screenplays were all horrors or psychological thrillers. When Roger asked me to help turn his dramatic series into a feature it was a real pleasure. I tapped into my childhood memories and my soap upbringing came in handy! It really helped me help Roger create this screenplay. Anything dark in the film is totally me! For me, Kubrik, Friedkin, and Fincher, are very inspiring directors, though I can't say they were in my mind much when directing this.