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PRESENTS

**CORPORATE ANIMALS**



***In Theaters & On-Demand September 20***

Starring: **Demi Moore** (*G.I. Jane, Ghost*), **Jessica Williams** (*Booksmart, Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald)***, Ed Helms** (“The Office”, *The Hangover*), **Karan Soni** (*Pokemon Detective Pikachu, Deadpool)*, **Calum Worthy** (“The Act,” *Bodied*) **Nasim Pedrad** *(”*SNL,”*Aladdin, Despicable Me 2*)

Directed by: **Patrick Brice** (*The Overnight, Creep)*

Written by: **Sam Bain**

Lucy (Demi Moore) is the insufferable CEO of a struggling startup aimed at millennials. In her infinite wisdom, Lucy leads her staff, led by her long-suffering assistants Jess (Jessica Williams) and Freddie (Karan Soni), on a team building retreat in the caves of New Mexico. When disaster strikes, not even their guide Brandon (Ed Helms) can save them.

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**SYNOPSIS**

To amp up the productivity of her apathetic employees, megalomaniacal CEO Lucy Vanderton (Demi Moore) brings the staff of the Incredible Edible Cutlery Company to the New Mexico desert, where a gung-ho guide (Ed Helms) leads the group on a mandatory “No *I* in TEAM” retreat. Yet the line between pulling together and pulling each other limb from limb is a thin one.

After Lucy and her team — a disgruntled ensemble including Jessica Williams, Karan Soni, Dan Bakkedahl, Martha Kelly, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Calum Worthy, Nasim Pedrad, and Jennifer Kim — get trapped in a cave, everyone is pushed to the brink as food starts running out and boundaries are crossed. Friend turns on friend, underlings become overlords, and acquaintances could become dinner. As underlying issues with their office culture rise to the surface, these corporate animals must band together to hang on to their humanity - or not.

From writer Sam Bain (*Peep Show*) and director Patrick Brice (*The Overnight*, *Creep*, *Creep 2*) comes a biting, deeply funny satire of workplace dynamics, office culture, social norms, and oppressive leadership.

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**COMPANY SECRETS, CANNIBALISM, AND GOING CRAZY FROM THE HEAT:**

**A Q&A WITH DIRECTOR PATRICK BRICE**

*Your humor and sensibility fit this conceit so well, and you worked on the script for CORPORATE ANIMALS with British TV writer Sam Bain. How did it all come together?*

BRICE: The project came to me through Ed Helms’ production company, Pacific Electric. It was one of the first meetings I had coming out of Sundance 2015 with *The Overnight*. I met with Ed’s producing partner, Mike Falbo, and it was great because Mike and I found that we were both weird art-school kids who grew up in very sports-heavy communities — Mike in Boulder, Colorado, and me in a northern California town called Grass Valley — and we both always loved David Lynch films and weird comedies, and we both have varied tastes. It was a nice connection, and within a year I got sent a one-page treatment that Sam Bain had written.

*You and Sam also clicked. How much of the story was there in the treatment?*

BRICE: Yeah, we clicked. Sam had seen *The Overnight* and liked it, and he also wanted to break into the American indie filmmaking scene after planting a flag in British TV and writing the film *Four Lions*. And as for me, I’m the biggest fan of his program *Peep Show* — no joke, it’s my favorite television show ever. The one-page outline was essentially, “A small business goes on a corporate team-building retreat, get stuck in a cave, and end up eating each other.” But it could’ve been a blank piece of paper with Sam’s name on it, and I would’ve said yes.

Sam ended up being an ideal collaborator. Outside of my stuff with Mark Duplass and Adam Scott, this is one of the most fruitful collaborations in my life. Sam and I think the same things are funny. Sam would write a draft and we’d change maybe 50 percent of it, and we weren’t afraid of whittling things down to get it right. That’s especially important with comedy, when you really need to go in with a fine-toothed comb to find out what’s funny and what’s not.

*Snoot Entertainment is the other crucial collaborator here, right?*

They meld genres so well, as in *The Guest*, *Anomalisa*, and *You’re Next*. It was great to have creative producers who were so supportive; there was never a moment when we felt we had to tone things down. We could get as weird as we wanted to, and never had to compromise.

*That’s important, because the film works as a biting workplace satire with social commentary.*

BRICE: So many people can relate to feeling powerlessness and being beholden to the attitude of someone who’s in a higher position at work. And we really wanted to tap into the catharsis of rebelling *against* someone like that. It’s wish-fulfilment, but under the worst circumstance possible: You’re stuck with the last person you’d want to be stuck with in a situation where you could all possibly die, but then again, you’re finally on a level playing field, so the boss doesn’t hold as much sway over you. We wanted to delve into the deep psychological toll it takes when you work with someone as domineering as Lucy Vanderton is in this movie. And as for coworkers, those are often people you’ve established a level of friendliness with, where you just say “Hi” or “How’s your day,” if you actually like them at all — but then in a cave, you have no privacy and are afraid of eating each other, so every boundary has broken down.

*It’s a perfect scenario to show the stripping away of the civilized veneer people try to maintain, while just under the surface is a raw viciousness.*

BRICE: That’s why one of the things I find funny about the movie, and also how once they get to the point where they’re considering cannibalism, the level at which they discuss it isn’t too crazy — it’s debated in a very level-headed way, in terms of the practical aspects of how that would happen — right down to carving technique. It’s like they’re discussing how to cook a turkey right before Thanksgiving.

*The movie also aims at a number of hot-button topics and is very of-the-moment, including sex and race in the workplace. Freddie even uses the phrase “Weinstein-ing” in regard to inappropriate workplace behavior — and there’s a subtle seriousness in that vein here.*

BRICE: In terms of balancing the line between funny and offensive, Sam and I saw the physical stuff and kind-of gross-out material to be the least potentially offensive aspects, or places where we felt we wouldn’t be stepping on as many landmines. For us, it was how we handled things like race or sex or workplace inequality that was more important — we wanted to get that tone right. We did a lot of rewriting, especially on the revelations that come out about Lucy as a boss and her selfish intentions, and exactly why she hired this diverse group of people. Once we workshopped the script with our actors, we knew we had to find a balance. One of the things we wanted to emphasize is how there really is a generational divide in terms of liberalism and what that means. There’s also a divide between millennials and baby boomers regarding the lessons learned, how dynamics have changed, and that helps explain how a narcissist like Lucy could use liberalism for her own aims.

In terms of “Weinstein-ing,” and in terms of social commentary in general, the film walks a line between using something like the #MeToo movement and heightening it to point out discrepancies. We also wanted a different take: Lucy is a woman in a position of power who is abusing that power. We wanted to use Lucy, and Freddie and how he’s treated, as another way to shine a light on those issues from a different perspective. Hopefully, Karan’s performance as Freddie during the moments when everything is revealed will contrast with how he seems in the first part of the movie. Because Freddie initially seems like a semi-annoying go-getter, but you eventually understand how that is coming out of anxiety because he’s being sexually compromised by Lucy for what he thinks is personal gain. There’s a confidence in him early that kind of stinks, and once everything is revealed, we see why. It’s also a bit of his male ego getting in the way. I’m grateful for Karan’s performance, because you sense a real vulnerability to Freddie even when he’s being annoying. That helps us feel for him even amongst the jokes.

Another thing I'm excited about is how the film handles race as a factor in the workplace. We tried to shine a light on a dynamic that I haven't really seen addressed before. Lucy is the domineering boss taking advantage of her underlings (most of whom are people of color), all the while patting herself on the back for having given them the incredible "opportunity" to work for her. Karan Soni's Freddie and Jessica Williams' Jess are the primary targets for this, both of whom start the film initially pitted against each other before being given the chance to partner up and take down their oppressor. These are both characters who Lucy has put in the box of "model minority" who are able to transcend these stereotypes. I really hope the audience finds a catharsis at the climax when the tables are finally turned.

*The jokes and the commentary co-exist pretty easily in* CORPORATE ANIMALS.

BRICE: We definitely wanted it all to be ingredients in the movie, and we wanted a level of social commentary throughout, but never wanted to overshadow the comedy. We wanted to be clear but not go over the top, and satire is the way to do that. At best it’ll make people laugh, and if there’s a chance to insert some moments of empathy and commentary in there too, we thought, why not go for it? And everyone on the team encouraged that.

*Part of your style has become the limited locations in your films, and* CORPORATE ANIMALS *does up the ante. There are hurdles as well as benefits to that, aren’t there?*

BRICE: On all of my projects, I’ve faced the question of, how do you make a film feel fun and propulsive while having it take place in only one or two locations? This was sort of the next big challenge from that. We had nine actors in one space and needed to track them all. And it needed to feel inclusive, so the audience knows who they all are.

We shot the movie in 18 days in Santa Fe. One of the nice things about doing it there meant we could actually build a giant cave set. An awesome guy named Val Drake was our lead cave designer working for our production designer, David Meyer. Val’s done any big movie that involves giant pieces of rock — *Armageddon, The Core, Iron Man*, the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies, and many more. In three weeks Val carved this magnificent set for us that was big enough to maneuver around in, so the actors wouldn’t go *too* crazy — though they did go a *little* crazy, just because having all these people be in that small space at the same time is nuts. We shot for 15 days inside the cave and then did three days of exteriors, which were shot primarily at Georgia O'Keefe’s Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, an hour and a half from Santa Fe.

*The bite to this film is not unlike* The Overnight, *but it has a more visceral sense of humor, even while being located squarely in the comedy of discomfort and self-revelation.*

BRICE: Billy Wilder’s classic *Ace in the Hole* (1951) and the airline-crash-survivors-face-cannibalism drama *Alive* (1993) were the two movies that initially sparked Sam in terms of thinking a comedy version of it could work. As I try to do with all my films, I hope audiences don’t know what will happen next. Having made documentaries and graduating from CalArts, where I studied conceptual art, I’ve treated each film as its own thing: The *Creep* movies are not all-out horror movies; they're also funny with awkward stuff happening, just like *The Overnight* and *Corporate Animals* are not 100 percent comedies. This film is definitely more comedy-leaning than the others, but it still has elements of surprise.

*All of your films are paced at a distinctive clip, with very little fat on them, as it were.*

BRICE: This is actually the first movie I made that will be longer than 80 minutes! It’s still not too long, but with comedy, 80 minutes is sort of the sweet spot. If it’s plot-based comedy, I don’t need a lot of bloat to it — just give me the good stuff! I’m extremely conscious of not wasting the audience’s time, of keeping the story snappy and everything moving. Also, being aware of the fact that we’re in one spot for the entire movie meant we had to find whatever ways we could to reveal plot elements or change parts of the cave we’re looking at.

I shot with two cameras, as on *The Overnight,* and that’s something I really fine-tuned shooting episodes of the Duplass brothers’ *Room 104* for HBO, which also has one setting and which you have to try and make feel dynamic for half an hour. It was also crucial to have Tarin Anderson, our director of photography, in the mix as well. I’d never worked with her before, but she’s so kind and patient and professional, which was crucial because you can only stare at one piece of a cave wall for so long before you go out of your mind. But we wanted to reflect that in the performances. It’s similar to how I shot *The Overnight* during nighttime; I wanted that delirious feeling you get when you stay up all night, which is there in that movie, in which everyone was actually exhausted. For CORPORATE ANIMALS, everyone was wonderful and patient, but they were also going a little crazy because they were stuck in a cave set. And on the days when we actually *could* go outside, it was 100 degrees. There was no solace anywhere!

*In your films, we see characters caught in a moment, allowing the audience a fly-on-the-wall viewpoint that adds to the raw humor and attitude.*

BRICE: On this film, I was trying out a more observational approach. I also wanted to dig into anxieties about what makes all of these people tick, as I did with *The Overnight*. I also wanted to bring the same naturalistic approach to shooting and performance style, so it’s not just a script with great jokes — we allowed for spontaneity and moments of improv when it felt right.

*The cast is great, with different approaches but they work perfectly together. Having Demi Moore show her comedy chops by playing a control-freak business owner is inspired.*

BRICE: Yeah, the film is like a gumbo of comedy, because everyone has their own style completely, but I really felt like we were all on the same page from the beginning in terms of tone. I had conversations with everybody in terms of how broad was wanted to get. And I agree, Demi is terrific; we were so lucky to have her. In one of the first conversations I had with her, she said, “I’m not a comedian, I don’t consider myself a funny person.” But I told her, “Don’t worry, just play it straight and do what you do and it’ll be funny.” Plus, she has that great, distinctive voice! And she fully commits to whatever she’s doing. Not only was she able to do this role to a T, she’s so thoughtful, and never complained once about a lot of the difficult physical stuff. Everyone was looking to her as an anchor. The whole cast really connected — all nine of the actors are still on a text chain with each other and keep in touch. If I ever have to be stuck in a cave with anyone in real life, Demi’s definitely going to be on the top of the list!

Demi was also so brave to jump into something like this so quickly just by extinct. It’s not a normal project by any means, but her technical skills are amazing. One day we were filming a stunt where she had to fall back and hit her head, and we did three takes with head being flung back in each take. When we were done she came over to the video monitors and said, “The first take was the best.” We thought maybe the third was the best, but then watched and she was right — not because of the stunt, but because she was aware of a move the camera made, a small shake, as she fell. The way she noticed that while still being in the moment was amazing.

*Ed Helms has an essential part as Brandon, the tour guide, and he gives a classic Ed Helms take on a more overtly jerky character than he often plays.*

BRICE: We wanted Brandon to be a guy who really thought he was Bear Grylls, and it helped that Ed had actually done Bear Grylls’ show. There’s that archetype of the overly self-confident outdoorsman, so we wanted Brandon to be that guy who thought *very* highly of himself, but deep down he’s an absolute jackass. That was an easy read for Ed, and having him on board from the get-go as a producer just made it a no-brainer. It plays to all of his strengths. Ed’s got an inherent sweetness to him, but his character is definitely more of a dick in this movie.

*Karan Soni and Jessica Williams have fun repartee as coworkers who don’t trust each other. They play off of each other in such a sharp way and each approach the conflict differently.*

BRICE: I’ve always been a fan of Karan’s, he’s such a solid comedic performer. In everything he’s done, he always has a moment that feels real. I worked with him on *Creep* for only one day, but he was an absolute joy. So bringing him into the mix was great, and it’s a bigger role for him that he hasn't really gotten to do yet, but I was confident that he’d be able to pull off. And Jessica is someone who I'd met some time earlier. We were meeting about another project and during that meeting I said, “I’m making this movie that’s set in a cave that I think you would be perfect for,” and she jumped into the movie fairly quickly, so we were able to tailor the part to her. She’s someone who comes off as extremely likable and believable in all situations; you just want to be friends with her. She’s very smart and fast, and I think because of her years on *The Daily Show*, she has a unique ability to make you feel instantly comfortable.

*On the other end of the comfort spectrum are Dan Bakkedahl and Isiah Whitlock Jr., whose characters don’t exactly react well to being trapped in the cave.*

BRIVE: I’ve been a fan of both of theirs for a long time. I knew from Dan’s work on *Veep* that he would be great and had the ability to play a jackass. We put out a wide swath of calls for that part, but after I saw Dan’s audition tape, I couldn't watch anyone else. And I’ve always wanted to work with Isiah. I’m a huge fan of *Cedar Rapids*, and obviously *The Wire*. I knew he’d be great, but it wasn’t until we got on set that I realized how every line he delivered had a real specialness to them. The way he believes everything he’s saying is the funniest thing.

*The trio of Nasim Pedrad, Jennifer Kim, and Martha Kelly each bring different nuances as well.*

BRICE: Nasim was really great because her having a background on *Saturday Night Live* makes her an expert at sort of passing the ball around and being able to keep things going. Having her and there was a real asset — I’d say she was the person who probably added the most improv, and we got some really funny moments because of that. And Jennifer was someone I’d loved on *Search Party* and I thought she was also such a solid actor, and like Dan, once we saw her audition, I couldn’t consider anybody else. Her character has a very dry wit, and yet couldn’t be off-putting; she needed a natural likeability. That was the mix we needed. And Martha Kelly is someone who I’m a huge fan of from *Baskets*. She’s such a unique personality and performer and I’m so happy that people have responded to her so well in this; there’s really no one who speaks like her or acts like her. She’s a funny stand-up and storyteller, and her performance here is tied into her real personality — every word that comes out of her mouth I find funny. Her comedic timing is such that you laugh a beat *after* she speaks, after the joke.

*Calum Worthy plays the intern, and like a real intern, her works* very *hard here, doesn’t he?*

BRICE: I remembered seeing Calum play a battle rapper in *Bodied*, and he’s very funny and dark on *American Vandal*. He’s got a perky, peppy likeability, and to see him come into the movie with that optimism and yet be the most physically effected by everything is very funny.

*He starts out very still and watchful, then becomes something else entirely.*

BRICE: His character turns into the film’s lighting source! He basically *becomes* the light in the movie, thanks to a device that Sam wrote about based on a meme, something he thought doesn’t exist: a “wank band” that lights up when used in an up-and-down motion. Then our amazing props person contacted the Pornhub website and found out that Pornhub had actually created a prototype for this “wank band,” and they sent it to us. So that is a *real* “wank band” in the film — it’ll never be available, but it *is* real, and we have it!Calum ended up being a secret weapon. In every scene we were doing coverage for, he’d be in the background doing the wank band for the lighting. Even if he was off-camera, he’d be there, wanking away, till 4 in the morning!

*The amount of cast members in your films keep doubling: Two in* Creep*, four in* The Overnight*, 8 or 9 in* CORPORATE ANIMALS*. Soon it’ll be 16, then 32, like an Altman film on steroids.*

BRICE: As long as they’re not all stuck in one place, I’d be fine with that!

**ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

**Patrick Brice - Director**

Patrick Brice was born and raised Grass Valley, California. He graduated with a BFA from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) School of Film & Video. CREEP, his first feature-film as director/writer/actor (co-starring Mark Duplass) was produced by Blumhouse Productions, premiered at SXSW 2014 and was released through Netflix. His second feature as director/writer, THE OVERNIGHT (with Adam Scott, Taylor Schilling and Jason Schwartzman) premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and was released by The Orchard. He wrote and directed CREEP 2 starring Duplass and Desiree Akhavan was released in 2017 through Netflix. His commercial work includes spots for clients Blizzard and Lyft. His latest film as director, CORPORATE ANIMALS starring Ed Helms and Demi Moore premiered at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. He is currently directing a film called THERE’S SOMEONE INSIDE YOUR HOUSE for Netflix, produced by Shawn Levy and James Wan. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

**Sam Bain – Writer**

Sam Bain co-created and co-wrote nine series of the BAFTA-winning Channel 4 sitcom *Peep Show*, and four series of the RTS Award-winning comedy-drama *Fresh Meat,* both for Channel 4.

Sam co-wrote *Four Lions*, which premiered at Sundance and won a BAFTA, and also co-created *Babylon*, a comedy-drama series for Channel 4 and the Sundance Channel. The pilot was directed by Danny Boyle. His first solo series, three-part comedy thriller *Ill Behaviour,* starring Lizzy Caplan,was broadcast on BBC2 and Showtime in 2017.

His first stage play, *The Retreat*, premiered at The Park theatre in London in 2017, directed by Kathy Burke and starring Adam Deacon.

Sam’s novel, *Yours Truly, Pierre Stone,* was adapted for Radio 4 in 2017.

His first US feature, *Corporate Animals,* starring Demi Moore and Ed Helms and directed by Patrick Brice, will have its world premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. Sam’s second original feature, *The Stand-In*, starring Drew Barrymore and directed by Jamie Babbit, commenced production in New York in January 2019.

**Mike Falbo - Producer**

After spending years as a journalist in New York, Mike Falbo began his entertainment career in the Endeavor mailroom. He then worked as an assistant at Paramount, where he discovered the script that would go on to become the film TAKING CHANCES (2009). Mike's first job as an executive was working under Jason Blum at Blumhouse Pictures, before moving to Miramax. There, he shepherded a number of projects into fruition, including EXTRACT (2009), ADVENTURELAND (2009), THE SWITCH (2010), and DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK (2010). In 2013, he teamed with Ed Helms to start the Pacific Electric Picture Company. Since then, Ed and Mike have produced films THE CLAPPER (2018), CORPORATE ANIMALS (2019), COFFEE & KAREEM (2020) for Netflix, as well as the Comedy Central special, The Fake News with Ted Nelms (2017) and SeeSo's Flulanthropy (2017).  Mike also recently produced movie ODE TO JOY (2019). Pacific Electric also has a number of feature films in development, including MERMAIDS IN PARADISE to be directed by Jonathan Krisel, and a project written by Bret McKenzie, in partnership with Snoot Entertainment and The Henson Company. On the TV side, the company has projects set up at various networks, including Comedy Central, FX, and NBC.

**Ed Helms - Producer / Brandon**

As an actor, writer, and comedian, Ed Helms has established himself as one of Hollywood’s most beloved performers with scene-stealing roles in both film and television. Helms is best known for his work as a correspondent on Comedy Central’s, THE DAILY SHOW WITH JOHN STEWART; his memorable role as Andy Bernard on NBC’s critically acclaimed comedy THE OFFICE, as well as  his leading comedic role in the HANGOVER trilogy. More recently, Helms starred in the Netflix movie COFFEE & KAREEM (2020) which he also produced withMike Falbo, under their production banner, Pacific Electric Picture Co.  Ed and Mike have also produced films THE CLAPPER (2018) and CORPORATE ANIMALS as well as the Comedy Central special, The Fake News with Ted Nelms (2017) and SeeSo's Flulanthropy (2017).

**Keith Calder - Producer**

Keith Calder co-founded Snoot Entertainment in 2004 to develop, finance, and produce films across all genres and media. Keith most recently produced the award-winning film BLINDSPOTTING, which premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival in the “U.S. Dramatic Competition” section and was later released via Lionsgate in July 2018. This dramatic comedy, written by and starring Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal, explores the realities of gentrification, police brutality, and race relations in Oakland, CA. BLINDSPOTTING hit the pulse of the cultural zeitgeist and received rave reviews, including from former President Barack Obama who named it one of his top films of 2018, and *Variety*’s Chief Film Critic Peter Debruge who declared this the best film of the year. Keith previously produced Charlie Kaufman’s Academy Award®-nominated animated film ANOMALISA.

Keith’s film LITTLE MONSTERS, starring Lupita Nyong’o, Josh Gad and Alexander England, and CORPORATE ANIMALS, starring Jessica Williams, Demi Moore, and Ed Helms, premiered in the “Midnight Category” at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

Keith previously experienced success in Sundance’s “Midnight Category” with Adam Wingard's critically praised THE GUEST. Additional Adam Wingard features produced by Keith include the award-winning YOU’RE NEXT; and the horror-thriller BLAIR WITCH. Other recent productions include FAULTS, the dramatic thriller starring Leland Orser and Mary Elizabeth Winstead, which premiered at SXSW Film Festival, as well as the NAACP Image Award-nominated documentary THUNDER SOUL. Keith also premiered Sean Byrne's THE DEVIL’S CANDY at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival. Additionally, Snoot acquired and distributed the dark comedy CHEAP THRILLS in partnership with Drafthouse Films. Keith has produced several features with Occupant Films including ALL THE BOYS LOVE MANDY LANE, THE KEY MAN, PEEP WORLD and Jon Levine’s THE WACKNESS, which won the “Audience Award” at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

Keith is a graduate of the Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California. He currently resides in Los Angeles.

**Jess Wu Calder - Producer**

Jess Wu Calder co-founded Snoot Entertainment in 2004 to develop, finance, and produce films across all genres and media. Jess most recently produced the award-winning, timely film BLINDSPOTTING, which premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival in the “U.S. Dramatic Competition” section and was later released via Lionsgate in July 2018. This dramatic comedy, featuring Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal, explores the realities of gentrification, police brutality, and race relations in Oakland, CA. BLINDSPOTTING hit the pulse of the cultural zeitgeist and received rave reviews, including from former President Barack Obama who named it one of his top films of 2018, and *Variety*’s Chief Film Critic Peter Debruge who declared this the best film of the year. Jess previously produced Charlie Kaufman’s Academy Award®-nominated animated film ANOMALISA.

Up next, Jess’ films LITTLE MONSTERS, starring Lupita Nyong’o, Josh Gad and Alexander England, and CORPORATE ANIMALS, starring Jessica Williams, Demi Moore, and Ed Helms, are set to premiere in the “Midnight Category” at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

Jess previously experienced success in Sundance’s “Midnight Category” with Adam Wingard's critically praised THE GUEST. Additional Adam Wingard features produced by Jess include the award-winning YOU’RE NEXT; and the horror-thriller BLAIR WITCH. Other recent productions include FAULTS, the dramatic thriller starring Leland Orser and Mary Elizabeth Winstead, which premiered at SXSW Film Festival, as well as the NAACP Image Award-nominated documentary THUNDER SOUL. Jess also premiered Sean Byrne's THE DEVIL’S CANDY at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival. Additionally, Snoot acquired and distributed the dark comedy CHEAP THRILLS in partnership with Drafthouse Films.

Jess is a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

**ABOUT THE CAST**

**Demi Moore - Lucy Vanderton**

DEMI MOORE has proven herself to be one of the industry's most accomplished performers, lending her talents to an array of revered films and television both in front of and behind the camera. She was most recently seen in Sony’s ROUGH NIGHT, starring Scarlett Johansson and Kate McKinnon, and Michael Mailer’s BLIND, opposite Alec Baldwin.

Moore’s acting career took off in the 1980’s when she starred in ST. ELMO’S FIRE. She then went on to star in such iconic films as A FEW GOOD MEN, GHOST, INDECENT PROPOSAL, DISCLOSURE, and G.I. JANE, to name a few. She earned a Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Performance by an Actress in a Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television for her role as a single woman seeking a back-alley abortion in the 1950s-set miniseries “If These Walls Could Talk”. The miniseries, which she also produced, also received an Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Made for Television Movie.

Following a brief hiatus away from Hollywood taken to raise her three daughters, Moore returned to the screen and starred in such films as CHARLIE’S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE, BOBBY, FLAWLESS HAPPY TEARS, and THE JONESES. She followed those with the 2011 financial thriller, MARGIN CALL, which received the Robert Altman Independent Spirit Award for Best Ensemble Cast, in which she gave what New York Magazine called “the performance of her life,” as well as the drama ANOTHER HAPPY DAY opposite Ellen Barkin. In 2012, Moore directed the acclaimed Lifetime original movie FIVE, an anthology of five short films exploring the impact of breast cancer on people’s lives. The film landed her a Director’s Guild Nomination.

**Jessica Williams - Jess**

Jessica Williams is a talented comedian, writer and performer who has garnered the attention of television audiences with her influential voice, perspective, and wit around pop culture conversations in media.

In April 2016, Williams launched a podcast, “2 Dope Queens,” with her fellow comedian Phoebe Robinson. Based on their live comedy show in Brooklyn, the podcast tackled the struggles of two twenty-something women shaking things up as they discuss everything from sex to romance to hair issues and of course living in NYC. The podcast came to HBO this past February for a series of four hour-long specials and will return to HBO in February for season 2.

Upcoming, she will star in Patrick Brice’s comedy “Corporate Animals” opposite Demi Moore and Ed Helms which will make its world premiere at the 2019 Sundance film festival. She will also appear in Olivia Wilde’s directorial debut “Booksmart,” alongside Jason Sudeikis, Lisa Kudrow and Will Forte.

Next up, Williams will reunite with Strouse on a comedy series for Showtime. Williams will star, write and executive produce the comedy, which tells the story of an African-American aspiring science fiction writer (Williams) who comes of age in Brooklyn.

Williams was most recently seen in the highly-anticipated “Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald.” Written by J.K. Rowling, it will serve as the second film installment in the Fantastic Beasts series and the tenth overall in Rowling's Wizarding World, the franchise that began with the Harry Potter series. The Warner Bros. film was released on November 16, 2018.

Last summer, Williams starred in “The Incredible Jessica James,” opposite Chris O'Dowd. Written and directed by Jim Strouse, the film centers on an aspiring playwright (Williams) in New York who strikes up a friendship with a guy (O’Dowd) while on the rebound from a break-up. It premiered at the closing night of the Sundance Film Festival—Williams received rave reviews, with Variety calling her a “force of nature” and The Wrap proclaiming “a movie star is born.” It was released by Netflix on July 28, 2017.

In 2015, Williams starred opposite Jermaine Clement and Regina Hall in the Sundance Film Festival selection, “People Places Things.” The comedy centers on the story of Will Henry, a graphic novelist who struggles to raise his two young daughters in the wake of a recent breakup. In the film, Williams plays the role of ‘Kat,’ one of Will’s art students who works to play matchmaker between her mother and teacher.

In 2012 Williams joined the cast of Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show” as the first African-American woman and youngest correspondent to date. Williams led numerous comedic yet thought-provoking segments on hot button topics such as police brutality, transgender rights, sexism in politics and race. While on the show, she brought a candid and thoughtful approach to satirical news programming and secured a powerful voice in comedy. Williams announced her departure from the show in June 2016 after four years with the late-night series.

Williams’ other television credits include HBO’s hit series “Girls,” where she starred as ‘Karen,’ Hannah Horvath’s work friend in season three. In 2006, Williams made her television debut as series regular ‘Vida Atwood’ on the Nickelodeon comedy-drama “Just for Kicks,” which follows a young girls’ soccer team in New York City. Prior to her success on “The Daily Show,” Williams gained experience as a writer and performer with the Los Angeles Upright Citizens Brigade. Honing her craft for stand-up and improv, she was honored to be featured on Variety’s annual “Top 10 Comics to Watch” list in 2012.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Williams attended California State University Long Beach and graduated in 2012. She currently resides in Brooklyn, NY.

**Karan Soni - Freddie**

KARAN SONI was born and raised in New Delhi, India before emigrating to Los Angeles, California to pursue an education and career in film and theater. After his feature debut in Colin Trevorrow’s SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED, Soni appeared in DEADPOOL and DEADPOOL 2 as ‘Dopinder’, GHOSTBUSTERS as ‘Benny’, OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY, UNICORN STORE, OFFICE UPRISING, B-ROLL, MONUMENTAL, GOOSEBUMPS, AND THEN THERE WAS EVE and ROUGH NIGHT. On television, Soni appears in SILICON VALLEY, ROOM 104, THE GOLDBERGS, BLUNT TALK, OTHER SPACE, and BETAS.

Karan next appears opposite Daniel Radcliffe and Steve Buscemi as God’s right hand man in the TBS comedy series, MIRACLE WORKERS (February 2019), created by Simon Rich; opposite Tiffany Haddish, Rose Byrne, and Salma Hayek in the Paramount feature film, LIMITED PARTNERS (2019); in POKÉMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU; in SUPERINTELLIGENCE; in ALWAYS BE MY MAYBE; in BETTER START RUNNING; and in TROLLS WORLD TOUR. On television, Karan next appears in BROOKLYN 99; MIRA; ROYAL DETECTIVE; and CORPORATE ANIMALS.

**CREDITS**

Snoot Entertainment

Pacific Electric Picture Co.

Directed By

PATRICK BRICE

Written By

SAM BAIN

Produced By

MIKE FALBO

ED HELMS

Produced By

JESS WU CALDER

KEITH CALDER

JESSICA WILLIAMS

KARAN SONI

ISIAH WHITLOCK JR.

MARTHA KELLY

DAN BAKKEDAHL

CALUM WORTHY

JENNIFER KIM

NASIM PEDRAD

WITH

ED HELMS

AND

DEMI MOORE

Executive Producer

PAUL O. DAVIS

Co-Producer

CHRIS HARDING

Director of Photography

TARIN ANDERSON

Production Designer

DAVID MEYER

Costume Designer

STACY ELLEN RICH

Edited By

CHRIS DONLON

Music By

MICHAEL YEZERSKI

Casting By

JUSTINE ARTETA, C.S.A and

KIM DAVIS-WAGNER, C.S.A

a PACIFIC ELECTRIC PICTURE CO.

and SNOOT ENTERTAINMENT production

Unit Production Manager

PAUL O. DAVIS

First Assistant Director

MARK KELLY

Second Assistant Director

AMANDA LUCE

Associate Producer

BRETT HARRIS

CAST

In Order of Appearance

Lucy DEMI MOORE

Jess JESSICA WILLIAMS

Brandon ED HELMS

Freddie KARAN SONI

Billy DAN BAKKEDAHL

Derek ISIAH WHITLOCK JR.

May JENNIFER KIM

Gloria MARTHA KELLY

Aidan CALUM WORTHY

Suzy NASIM PEDRAD

Pegasus Gary JIM MESKIMEN

Rescue Team Leader LELAND ORSER

Bobby Skylar CHRIS HARDING

Victoria WENDY MEREDITH

Ian FRANK BOND

Olivia COURTNEY CUNNINGHAM

BRITNEY SPEARS as herself

Psychedelic Dream Creatures

THE B-52’s

KATE PIERSON

FRED SCHNEIDER

KEITH STRICKLAND

CINDY WILSON

Additional Psychedelic Dream Creatures

MEL MEL SUKEKAWA-MOORING

Stunt Coordinator

AL GOTO

Stunt Double (Lucy)

NATALIE PADILLA

Stunt Double (Brandon)

DAVID PINTER

A PACIFIC ELECTRIC PICTURE CO. and SNOOT ENTERTAINMENT production

A Camera / Steadicam Operator

JUERGEN HEINEMANN

A Camera 1st Assistant Canera

KINGSLEA BUELTEL

A Camera 2nd Assistant Camera

DANIEL BAAS

ARLEN COOKE

B Camera 1st Assistant Camera

LANE LUPER

B Camera 2nd Assistant Camera

DANIEL MAESTAS

C Camera Operator

ERIK CASTILLO

C Camera 1st Assistant Camera

STEVE BANISTER

C Camera 2nd Assistant Camera

ARTU ARIN

DIT

LUKE MULLEN

Drone Pilot

JAMES SYKES

Drone Camera Operator

JOSH HILL

Still Photographers

JOHN GOLDEN BRITT

URSULA COYOTE

Art Director

AJA KAI ROWLEY

Set Decorator

SPENCER STAIR

Leadman

LOUIE MARTINEZ

On-Set Dresser

TARA SEIBER

Set Dresser

JOSH SWANSON

Construction Coordinator

MARK GUTIERREZ

Prop Master

ANDREA CANTRELL

Assistant Prop Master

MARIO GIRARD

Additional Assistant Prop Master

IAN TROY

Props Assistant

CHAD TRAVIS

Lead Sculptor

VAL DRAKE

Sculptors

KIRK LeBLANC

GERARD O’HALLORAN

Prop Maker-Gang Boss

WAYNE ARAGON

Prop Makers

NATHAN CARPENTER

LONNIE CLARK

Lead Scenic

MIGUEL GURULE

Paint Gang Boss

YHVH BANTISTA

Standby Painter

NIGEL CONWAY

Plaster Foreman

SERGIO MORELLO

Labor Foreman

DAVID COATS

Utility Tech

WILLIAM WOLFSBLOOD

Art Department Coordinator

STEPHNIE BALLARD

Graphic Designer

AMY HULSE

Art Department Production Assistant

MIKE GARCIA

Assistant Costume Designer

KRISTIN INGRAM

Costume Supervisor

PAULA ROGERS

Key Costumer

CHRISTINE FARNAND

Additional Set Costumer

MALLORIE McCONNELL

Costume Production Assistants

SAM KOZLOWKSI

SEAN HANLEY

Department Head Make Up

GALAXY SAN JUAN

Key Make Up

JENNIFER QUINTEROS

Additional Makeup Artist

JIJI HISE

Department Head Hair

MARVA STOKES

Key Hair Stylist

NICOLE GABALDON

Additional Hair Stylist

ANDREYA JOSEPHSON

Production Supervisor

ELISSA KANNON

Production Coordinator

KIERAN SEQUOIA

Assistant Production Coordinator

BRYAN BENNING

Key Office Production Assistant

MIRABELLA ANGEL

Office Production Assistant

ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ

Assistant to Mr. Brice

ALEXANDRA EPSTEIN

Video Assistant

ADAM BARTH

Video Assist Production Assistant

CLAYTON BARTH

Script Supervisor

JENNIFER JOSEPHSON

Production Accountant

MOLLY MURRAY-BUNNER

Assistant Production Accountant

JESSICA STONE

Payroll Accountant

TROY TRIP

Production Sound Mixer

ANDREJS PROKOPENKO

Boom Operator

DANIEL DUERRE

Sound Utility

ANDREW CHAVEZ

Gaffer

RAY ORTEGA

Best Boy Electric

LOUIS NELSON

Dimmer Board Operator

JASON LINEBAUGH

Set Electricians

MYLES BRINK

FRANK SOTOMAYOR

Additional Set Electrician

AUSTIN MANCHON

Key Grip

HANK HERRERA

Best Boy Grips

DAVID HIGGINS

Dolly Grips

HARLAND ESPESET

MATTHEW HIGGINS

Company Grips

BENITO BANCERAS

TYLER SHEREK

Additional Grips

ANTONIO CORDOVA

LEONARD LOVATO

MAURICE MUHAMMED

TREVOR ROGERS

Key Rigging Grip

JEFF LOMAGLIO

Crane Operator

CURTIS SMITH

Casting Director - New Mexico

KATHRYN BRINK

Extras Casting

SANDE ALESSI CASTING

Extras Casting Director

SHAYNE HARTIGAN

Transportation Captain

JEFF MANN

Drivers

GRAHAM ELLIOT

JEREMY McCLAIN

JOHN PROCTOR

JULIO RIVERA

BOOTS SOUTHERLAND

JEREMIAH HAUSER

MARCO MORALES

ERIC RIVERA

MIKE RUSSELL

JAY VIGIL

Location Manager

CHEE HO

Assistant Location Manager

GILLIAN LUHMAN

Craft Service

KHALIC NANCE

Additional Craft Service

JEFFORD HERNDON

VICTORIA THOMPSON

Set Medic

DANILO OLIVAS

Additional Set Medic

CHRIS OLGUIN

Construction Medic

SCOTT MARTIN

Special Effects Supervisor

WERNER HAHNLEIN

Special Effects Coordinator

JUSTIN “HOOSTY” GONZALEZ

Special Effects Technicians

SERVERINO GONZALEZ

TYSON RATLIFF

2nd 2nd Assistant Director

ANDREW AGUILAR

Additional 2nd 2nd Assistant Director

JESS RICHEY

Key Set Production Assistant

IAN KELLY

Set Production Assistants

ARMANDO GONZALEZ

ERIK MOLINA

SETH THOMAS

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Snake Wrangler

DUSTY WEBB

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MARCO MORALES

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Lost Angeles Unit

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PAUL SILVER

Second Second Assistant Director

CODY GALLO

Line Producer

BRUCE WAYNE GILLIES

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Clerk

MIMI GILLIES

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AK DEL LA DOHR

JOE IANNIELLO

Office Production Assistants

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YUTACK KANG

Camera / Steadicam Operator

BRIAN FRESSH

1st Assistant Camera

IAN T. BARBELLA

2nd Assistant Camera

JOE DIBARTOLOMEO

Loader

JANE FLECK

Chief Lighting Technician

ERIC FAHY

Assistant Chief Lighting Technician

DAVID NAKAMURA

Key Grip

ROBERT EXNER

Best Boy

RANDY CRISCO

Company Grips

KYLE KOENIG

CHRIS PHELPS

JOHN A SILVIS JR

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MARISSA BERGMAN

Production Sound Mixer

JOSH BISSETT

Boom Operator

JOHN WASSEL

Video Assist

BOB MILLS

Transportation Captain

JUAN PINEDA

Transportation Coordinator

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Drivers

BRIAN EASTVELD

MARCO MOJICA

MAURICIO SILVA

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ANDY HAY, CAS

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PILOT LIGHT VFX

Visual Effects Supervisor

JOHNNY HAN

Visual Effects Producer

JOHNNY HAN

CG Supervisor

MARKO POST

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Compositing

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THE CITY OF PRAGUE PHILHARMONIC

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Engineered by

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Orchestral Contractor

JAMES FITZPATRICK

Guitars Performed by

OREN YAACOBY

Vocals by

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Orchestrators

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GRAHAM FOOTE

JULIAN LANGDON

JESSICA WELLS

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JIGSAW MUSIC

Produced, Arranged, and Mixed by

MICHAEL YEZERSKI

“TOXIC”

Written by

CATHY DENNIS

HENRIK JONBACK

CHRISTIAN LARS KARLSSON

PONTUS JOHAN WINNBERG

Performed by

BRITNEY SPEARS

Courtesy of

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Written by

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DAVE HAMILTON

CHICO JONES

VELMA TOLBERT

Performed by

SUGAR BILLY GARNER

Published by

ROCKIN’ MUSIC USA

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