

#thenewsexy

Melissa Bergland

Aaron Poole

Johnathan Sousa

RELATIVE HAPPINESS

There's no recipe for love



a WRECKHOUSE PRODUCTIONS and LADY HAMMOND ENTERTAINMENT production
MELISSA BERGLAND AARON POOLE JOHNATHAN SOUSA SUSAN KENT JOEL THOMAS HYNES ROBB WELLS JONATHAN TORRENS
"RELATIVE HAPPINESS" - CASTING BY NANCY KLOPPER, CSA (U.S. CASTING) SHEILA LANE, CDC (CANADIAN CASTING)
COMPOSER DUANE ANDREWS - COSTUME DESIGN SARAH DUNSWORTH - EDITOR CHRISTOPHER DARLINGTON - PRODUCTION DESIGN JASON CLARKE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTOPHER PORTER - WRITTEN BY LESLEY CREWE and SHERRY WHITE and DEANNE FOLEY & IAIN MACLEOD
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AVI FEDERGREEN - PRODUCED BY JILL KWON GOSSE LYNNE WILSON ALAN COLLINS - DIRECTED BY DEANNE FOLEY



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FILM & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

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When 30 year old LEXIE IVY's romantic view of life is torn apart, she learns that love, however flawed and difficult, does exist.

Plus-sized and 30 years old, LEXIE IVY (Melissa Bergland) is a feisty Bed & Breakfast owner who desperately needs a date to her sister's wedding. In small town Nova Scotia, that's no easy task, especially when the most eligible bachelor is JOSS (Aaron Poole), the rough handyman fixing her roof. When ADRIAN (Johnathan Sousa), a handsome and charming guest, arrives and seems to take an interest in Lexie, she thinks all her problems are solved. But she misreads the situation and is soon reeling, believing her romantic dream has slipped away, maybe forever. After a series of hilarious mishaps and a reality check or two, Lexie opens her heart and eyes to see that love may be a lot closer than she thought.

RELATIVE HAPPINESS is a romantic comedy, every bit as feisty as Lexie herself, starring Australian actress, MELISSA BERGLAND (Winners & Losers) in a break out role, based on the best selling novel by Lesley Crewe and directed by Deanne Foley (Beat Down).



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CAST

MELISSA BERGLAND - Lexie

Adelaide-born actress, Melissa Bergland began her training at Flinders University where she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree. Following her degree, Melissa went onto study at the Victorian College of the Arts. Melissa also spent six months studying in New York where she concentrated on fine tuning her craft. Melissa is best known for her regular starring role as Jenny Gross in the smash hit Australian drama, *Winners & Losers*. Melissa's character Jenny Gross stole Australia's heart from the moment she debuted in 2011. In 2012, Melissa won a Logie Award for 'Most Popular New Female Talent' for her role in *Winners & Losers*. She was also nominated in the same year for a Logie for 'Most Outstanding New Talent'. Melissa is quirky, has outstanding comic timing, and is a true chameleon—in the comic vein of Rebel Wilson meets Ugly Betty. While her character in *Winners & Losers* is socially awkward, Melissa's off-screen persona highlights her ability to transform on-screen. She is an actress with huge potential as she has already shown in her career to date.

AARON POOLE - Joss

A graduate of George Brown Theatre School and with training in the Strasberg and Meisner techniques, Aaron broke out in his defining performance as Johnny, a cracked-out street hustler, in Ed Gass-Donnelly's *This Beautiful City*, a film which also allowed him to step up as producer. Following its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, Aaron's performance met rave reviews. His daring portrayal of the recovering addict garnered him a Canadian film academy award, a Genie nomination for Best Actor—a category he shared with the legendary Christopher Plummer. That same year he won the Best Actor ACTRA Award for the role. Since *This Beautiful City*, Aaron has played a recurring role on TMN's *Z.O.S.: Zone of Separation* and was featured in Atom Egoyan's *Adoration*. The next year he traveled with Egoyan to Armenia to begin shooting an experimental collaboration with the filmmaker. After coming home from another exotic location in Lebanon where he filmed the missing third act to American indie hit, *Circumstance*, Aaron teamed up with Ed Gass-Donnelly and producer Lee Kim once again for the feature *Small Town Murder Songs*, a crime drama also starring Peter Stormare and Jill Hennessy. *Small Town Murder Songs* garnered a "top ten directors to watch for" listing in *Variety* for Ed. Aaron was a recurring character on Showcase's *Crash and Burn*, *Living in Your Car* on HBO Canada, and a regular on the Global series *King* as well as heavily recurring on BBC America's series *Copper* (Tom Fontana). In 2012, Aaron appeared as an assassin without boundaries in Samuel Jackson's self-produced and

self-starring feature, *The Samaritan*, and starred in Rue Morgue Cinema's first feature, *The Last Will and Testament of Rosalind Leigh*, released in 2013. He recently wrapped Jason Priestley's feature *Cas & Dylan*, appearing alongside Richard Dreyfuss and, more recently, Jon Cassar's feature *Forsaken*, starring opposite Kiefer and Donald Sutherland. The closely guarded indie, *The Conspiracy*, produced by and starring Aaron, has now been released to huge critical acclaim in Canada and the US and, in the fall of 2013, was picked up as a pilot by NBC. Aaron is represented by the Gary Goddard agency in Toronto.

JOHNATHAN SOUSA - Adrian

Johnathan Sousa was most recently seen on the big screen in the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival selection, *The Animal Project*, directed by Ingrid Veninger, and in Maxime Desmons' highly anticipated *What We Have*. In 2011, Johnathan was chosen to participate in the Actors Conservatory at the Canadian Film Centre (CFC), where he starred in numerous short films, including *Rattan* and *The Haymaker*, which travelled to 35 festivals. While at the CFC, he wrote, produced, directed, and starred in his first showcase film, *Home*. Johnathan landed his most significant role to date with a principal part in Global Television's hit show *Rookie Blue*. He graduated from the Ryerson Theatre School where he was the recipient of the Louis Taube Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement and Dedication.

SUSAN KENT - Susie

Susan Kent is a writer and actress from Newfoundland. Her television credits include *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, *Hatching Matching and Dispatching*, *Three Chords from the Truth* and *The Kids in the Hall Death Comes to Town*. Film credits include *Grown Up Movie Star*, *Diverted*, and *The Con Artist* (which she was cut out of). Susan is also a member of sketch group *Dance Party of Newfoundland*.

JOEL THOMAS HYNES - Ernie

Actor/Writer/Director/Musician Joel Thomas Hynes, a native of the island of Newfoundland, is the award-winning author of the novels *Down to the Dirt* and *Right Away Monday*, acclaimed stage plays *Say Nothing Saw Wood*, *The Devil You Don't Know*, *Broken Accidents* and *Incinerator Road*, the notoriously cheeky chapbook *God Help Thee: A Manifesto* and a collection of poetic non-fiction called *Straight Razor Days*. Hynes has written and directed two short films, *Clipper Gold* and *Little Man*, and has also performed numerous leading and principal roles for television and film including *Down*

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to the Dirt, Crackie, Hatching Matching and Dispatching, Rabbitown, Republic of Doyle and Re-Genesis. His first novel, *Down to the Dirt*, is available in numerous translations around the globe and has been adapted to stage and the big screen. The movie, directed by Justin Simms, and featuring Hynes in the lead role, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival; it has received many accolades and awards at national festivals and was showcased at Cannes. Hynes' feature film script *CrawlSpace* (based on his novella *Say Nothing Saw Wood*) is currently in post-production. His third novel, *One of the Good Guys*, is due out some time this century.

JONATHAN TORRENS - Richard

2013 was Jonathan Torrens' 25 year anniversary of working in film and television. He started the year off by writing and producing *The Jenny McCarthy Show* for VH-1 before reprising his role as J-Roc in the 3rd *Trailer Park Boys* movie, currently in production. In 2012, in addition to playing Vice-Principal Robert Cheeley on the second season of CBC's *Mr. D.*, he also finished shooting the 4th season of HBO Canada's highly acclaimed *Call Me Fitz*. In 2011, Jonathan hosted *Wipeout Canada* (TVTropolis) and shot the 26-episode third season of TV with TV's Jonathan Torrens (TVTropolis), on which he serves as performer/co-writer/co-producer/director. TV was nominated for a Banff Rockie Award as Best Comedy and Torrens was nominated for a Gemini as Best Host. Before that, Torrens was seen as "Gerald" on Spike TV's popular reality show parody *Joe Schmo 2*. Hosting stints include both *The Kids Are in Charge* (Travel Channel U.S.) and *Popularity Contest* (CMT U.S.), as well as co-anchoring and reporting on *Reality Remix* (Fox Reality Channel's daily flagship show) and making frequent appearances on the E! Network's popular *50 Most...clip* shows. The 2008 theatrical release of *Trailer Park Boys*; *Countdown to Liquor Day* wrapped up a seven season, two feature film Gemini Award nominated run for Jonathan as J-Roc (a culturally-misguided wannabe rapper) on the hit *Showcase* series. In 2007-08, Torrens created, wrote and produced two pilots for VH-1 called *Hollywood Tonight* and *Tested*. Here in Canada, Jonathan's sketch, host and writing work on five seasons (225 episodes) of *Jonovision* earned a total of seven Gemini Award nominations, including Best Individual Performance in a Comedy Series and Best Comedy Series. Prior to that, he starred for seven years on the International Emmy award-winning series *Street Cents*. Jonathan's film work has been screened at the Sundance Film Festival three times; in Jason Eisener's special jury prize-winning *Treevenge*, in Thom Fitzgerald's *Beefcake* and in Jenny McCarthy's award-winning *Dirty Love*. In December 2011, his production company TORRentertainment premiered the doc *A Walk in My Dream* at the TIFF Bell Lightbox as part of the Canadian Folk Music Awards. TORRentertainment also co-pro-

duced a lifestyle pilot for the Slice Network called *Vermin Girls*.

ROBB WELLS - Kenny

Gemini-winning actor and writer Robb Wells hails from the East Coast of Canada. He is best known for his role as 'Ricky' in the award-winning hit TV series *Trailer Park Boys*. Robb co-wrote and starred in the series as well as the *Trailer Park Boys* feature films and live theatre shows. Robb's numerous other credits include roles in the feature films *Virginia's Run*, *A Hole In One*, *Say Goodnight to the Bad Guys*, *Boondock Saints 2*, *Hobo With A Shotgun*, and *Would You Rather*. Robb also co-wrote and starred in two short films: *One Last Shot* and *Cart Boy*. His other credits include hosting and co-writing the East Coast Music Awards in 2006 and 2007, and appearances in the music videos for *The Tragically Hip's "The Darkest One"*, and *Bleeker Ridge's "Small Town Dead"*. Most recently Robb wrote, produced, and starred in the television series *The Drunk and on Drugs Happy Funtime Hour*.

MOLLY DUNSWORTH - Gabby

Molly Dunsworth was born in the spring of 1990 to an enthusiastic family of actors. Her first professional engagement was a Sobeys commercial at age five. Horrified at being asked to eat a bowl of fruit loops, she was accommodated, much to her relief, with a bowl of sliced strawberries. Molly's dedication to acting became clear at age nine on the set of the movie *Deeply*. The little vegetarian had to gut fish for eight hours straight. Molly has acted in a number of local films and series in the past year, including Greg Jackson's *Bunker 6* and Jesse T. Cook's *Septic Man*. Her most memorable role to date was probably "Abby" in Jason Eisener's *Hobo With a Shotgun*. She called it "her dream role." Molly had a lot of fun working on *Relative Happiness*, getting to know the cast and crew, and her character "Gabby."

MARY LEWIS - Cynthia

Mary is the daughter of Dr. John and Noreen Lewis. She was born in Kampala, Uganda and raised in St. John's, Newfoundland. Mary attended the National Theatre School of Canada, Memorial University of Newfoundland, the Canadian Film Centre, and York MFA in Screenwriting. Mary has won many awards, including: 1999 Artist of Year Award in the Province of Newfoundland & Labrador; a Genie Award for Best Dramatic Short film in 1999; a Gemini for Best Dramatic Television show in 2000; a Toronto International Film Festival award for Best Short film; a Vancouver International Film Festival Award for best Animated film; the Vanguard Award from the Laguna Beach Film Festival; Best Drama from the Cinequest Film Festival, California; the People's Choice Award from the Dawson City Film Festival; the Sheaf Award from the Yorkton Film Festival; and Best Screenplay from Flicks International Film Festival.

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CREATIVE TEAM

DEANNE FOLEY - Director/Co-writer

DEANNE FOLEY is a Canadian filmmaker, hailing from St. John's, Newfoundland, who made her mark with award-winning comedic shorts, TROMBONE TROUBLE and THE MAGNIFICENT MOLLY MCBRIDE. BEAT DOWN, her debut feature film, starring MARTHE BERNARD (CBC's REPUBLIC OF DOYLE) & ROBB WELLS (TRAILER PARK BOYS), garnered three Canadian Comedy Award nominations including Best Direction, Best Actor, Best Actress and won five awards at domestic and international film festivals. Distributed by Equinox Films in Canada and Media New Luna internationally, the film sold to The Movie Network (TMN), Movie Central, HBO Canada, and SHAW On Demand. Currently, Deanne's sophomore feature, RELATIVE HAPPINESS, a romantic comedy, based on the best selling novel by Cape Breton writer, LESLEY CREWE, was selected for Telefilm's Perspective Canada CANNES 2014. The film was nominated for the Whistler Film Festival's BORSOS Best Canadian Feature award and lead actress, Melissa Bergland, picked up Best Actress award at the 16th L.A. Comedy Festival. The film is set for theatrical release in Spring 2015. Deanne directed two episodes for CBC's hit one-hour dramedy, REPUBLIC OF DOYLE season six, and was selected for the Toronto International Film Festival's Talent Lab 2014.

Deanne has also directed documentaries, lifestyle & doc series for networks including CTV, GLOBAL and SHOWCASE. She spent her early years working as a field-producer/ video-journalist for numerous national CBC shows including the International Emmy award-winning shows STREET CENTS and the critically acclaimed late night arts show, ZeD.

Deanne is a member of the Directors Guild of Canada, Writers Guild of Canada and WIFT-Atlantic.

LESLEY CREWE - Novelist/Co-Writer

Lesley Crewe is from Montreal, but raised her family in Cape Breton. She was a columnist and featured writer with The Cape Bretoner Magazine, from 2000-2005. She also had a column in the on-line magazine Cahoots. Her first novel, Relative Happiness (2005) was short-listed for the Margaret and John Savage First Book Award and was adapted as a feature film with Lesley as one of the scriptwriters. Her subsequent novels are Shoot Me (2006), Ava Comes Home (2007), Hit & Mrs. (2008), Her Mother's Daughter (2010), and Kin (2012). Her seventh novel, Chloe Sparrow will be released in August, 2014.

JILL KNOX GOSSE - Producer

Producer, Jill Knox-Gosse lives in Newfoundland and has extensive experience in film production. Her most recent feature Grown up Movie Star, a 2010 Official Selection and Winner of a Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, was nominated for three Genie Awards. She is currently developing several feature projects including The Colony of Unrequited Dreams based on the bestselling novel by Wayne Johnston, Shoot Me based on Lesley Crewe's novel, and So It Was, a feature docu-drama with Danish filmmaker Annett Wolf. Jill recently released the documentary Don Jamieson: Just Himself and is currently in pre-production with feature comedy Castle Bay, a Scotland/Canada international co-production. She is a member of the Newfoundland Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (NIFCO), Producers Association of Newfoundland (PAN), and the Canadian Film and Television Producers Association (CMPA).

LYNNE WILSON - Producer

Lynne Wilson started her filmmaking career in St. John's, Canada, producing Mary Walsh's directorial debut Young Triffie, a comedy starring Remy Girard and Andrea Martin, and John N. Smith's historical romance Love & Savagery starring Alan Hawco. In 2009, she relocated to Melbourne, Australia joining Director/Producer Stephen Amis, in developing a slate of films including Aussie comedy The BBQ and real life UFO thriller, Skydoor. Their latest feature, sci-fi mash-up The 25th Reich sold into more than a dozen territories worldwide and was nominated for Score of the Year at the 2013 APRA Screen Music Awards. Wilson continues to work with her Canadian producing partner, Jill Knox-Gosse, currently adapting novels The Colony of Unrequited Dreams and Shoot Me for the screen, and producing romantic comedy Relative Happiness which has won several awards on the festival circuit and is scheduled for release in Mar 2015. In 2012, Wilson partnered with well-known distributor, Tait Brady (Lantana, Chopper), and Stephen Amis to form Australian distribution company, Label. Label's recent releases include James Cameron's feature documentary Deepsea Challenge 3D, critically acclaimed documentary The Pervert's Guide To Ideology directed by Sophie Fiennes featuring Slavoj Žižek, and romantic comedy The Wedding Party directed by Amanda Jane starring Josh Lawson and Isabel Lucas.

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ALAN COLLINS - Producer

Alan Collins is currently a producer with Lady Hammond Entertainment, Halifax. After graduating from Bristol University in England, he emigrated to Toronto in 1968 where he worked as an assistant editor on TV commercials. In 1973, he moved to Los Angeles where he began a three year association with producer Roger Corman. He edited his first feature, Von Richthofen and Brown, a World War 1 flying epic, directed by Roger Corman in 1973. Since returning to Canada in 1976 he has edited ten Canadian features. In 1979, he won Best Director Award at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco for The Beauty of my People. In 1989, he was co-director of the acclaimed documentary on singer-songwriter Stan Rogers, One Warm Line, shown on CBC Television's Adrienne Clarkson Presents. During the 1980s, he worked as producer, director and editor on a series of multicultural documentaries. From 2000 to 2006, he taught Digital Editing and Film Production at Ryerson University and Centennial College in Toronto. In 2005, he produced an independent feature film, The Poet, written and directed by Michael Rothecker with a crew of Ryerson film students working alongside industry professionals. Alan currently teaches at the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design University and is a member of the Atlantic Film Cooperative in Halifax.

AVI FEDERGREEN - Executive Producer

Federgreen's co-production credits are impressive and varied. They include I'm Yours produced with Jennifer Jonas and Mallary Davenport of New Real Films, directed by Leonard Farlinger; the feature film One Week, written and directed by Michael McGowan, which was named Best Canadian Film in the 2008 Calgary and Edmonton film festivals, and was an official gala screening at TIFF that year. High Life, produced by Triptych Media and directed by Gary Yates, premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival and was featured at TIFF 2009. Leslie, My Name Is Evil, directed by Reginald Harkema and produced by New Real Films also screened at TIFF 2009; and the nationally acclaimed TV mini-series It's Me...Gerald, (Showcase). In November 2011, Federgreen opened his own film distribution company Indiecan Entertainment. The company services not just up-and-coming Canadian filmmakers, but also those indie filmmakers in a lower budget bracket who have otherwise virtually no chance to shine in a market of big studios, distributors and exhibitors.

CHRISTOPHER PORTER - Director of Photography

Christopher Porter is a highly regarded gaffer known for his work on films such as Brokeback Mountain, The Man in the Iron Mask, Breaking the Waves, and Down By Law. Recently, Porter has turned his hand and eye to cinematography as the DOP on films like Just Buried; ZedCrew, which screened at the Cannes Film Festival; and Whirligig.

JASON CLARKE - Production Designer

After training in St. John's in graphic art and design, Jason practiced the dark arts of advertising for a few years. He then moved to Halifax and began working in the film industry — there was no going back. Since then he's worked on numerous projects in Halifax, Toronto and St. John's, and has amassed an impressive and diverse design resume that includes no-budget short projects, auteur indie films and big budget fare. Some career highlights, so far...CBC Trudeau mini-series (2002); Assistant Art Director on David Gordon Greene's Snow Angels (2007); Production Designer: Original Pilot Episode, Republic of Doyle (2008); Assistant Art Director: Outlander (2008); Set Designer/Assistant Art Director on Mike Barker's epics Sea Wolf (2009) and Moby Dick (2010); member of the Art Directors Guild of America award winning team for Excellence in Production Design and Emmy award-winning art department of HBO's Grey Gardens (2009); Production Designer for Chaz Thorne's Whirligig (2010); Production Designer for Rolletown (2012); Production Designer for the Picnicface (2011) series on the Comedy Network; Production Designer for Gia Milani's All The Wrong Reasons (2013); Production Designer for Thom Fitzgerald's Sex and Violence (2013).

CHRISTOPHER DARLINGTON - Editor

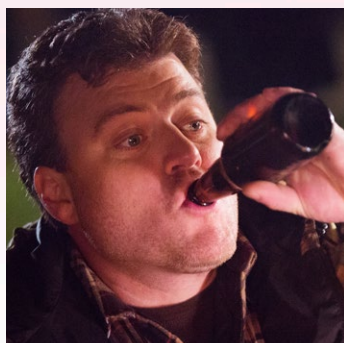
With over two decades in the film industry, Chris Darlington works as an editor, and an animation and effects artist. In addition to Relative Happiness, Chris' recent editing credits include the films Crackie, directed by Sherry White; Hold Fast, directed by Justin Simms; The Slattery Street Croakers, directed by Kenneth J. Harvey; My Ancestors Were Rogues and Murderers, directed by Anne Troake; Chocolate Farmer's Daughter, directed by Rohan Fernando; and the short documentary Safe Home, directed by Rosemary House.

DUANE ANDREWS - Composer

Established as an award winning composer for film and television the music of Duane Andrews is the product of a great ear, an adventurous collaborative spirit and a love of music that is beyond category. As a versatile composer he sharpened his skills at the Conservatoire International de Paris and the CNR in Marseilles, France and has scored a variety of projects which have screened at events such as the Cannes and Toronto Film Festivals and aired on channels such as CBC and Bravo.

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"A JOYFUL ROMANTIC COMEDY."

THE CHRONICLE HERALD

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THE MIND REELS

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