



# Ordinary Days

## DIRECTED BY:

Jordan Canning, Kris Booth and Renuka Jeyapalan

## WRITTEN BY:

Ramona Barckert

## PRODUCED BY:

Glenn Cockburn, Brian P. Robertson, Ramona Barckert, Bryce Mitchell

## STARRING:

Jacqueline Byers, Michael Xavier, Torri Higginson, Richard Clarkin and Joris Jarsky

Director of Photography: Mike McLaughlin

Editor: Aren Hanson

Production Designer: Rose LaGace

Costume Designer: Jessica Mary Clayton

Composer: Keegan Jessamy & Bryce Mitchell

## OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

[www.ordinarydaysmovie.com](http://www.ordinarydaysmovie.com)

## SOCIAL MEDIA:

Twitter - @OD\_Movie

Facebook - @OrdinaryDaystheMovie

Instagram - @ordinarydays\_movie

IMDb: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt6115392/>

## FESTIVALS:

FIN: Atlantic Film Festival 2017

Cinefest Sudbury International Film Festival 2017

Calgary International Film Festival 2017

Edmonton International Film Festival 2017

Cucalorus Film Festival 2017

Whistler Film Festival 2017

Kingston Canadian Film Festival (coming in March 2018)

\*High-resolution stills can be downloaded from [www.ordinarydaysmovie.com](http://www.ordinarydaysmovie.com)

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**Ordinary Days** is a suspense drama that features a unique approach to directing, innovative story structure and powerhouse performances.

*“Where is Cara?”*

*Ordinary Days* follows the mysterious disappearance of Cara Cook, a bright, athletic college student over five tense days. Those days play out three times from three different perspectives. First, Cara’s parents Marie and Rich are frustrated when she does not show up for Sunday dinner, but when texts go unanswered and she is not answering her phone they fight with each other and within themselves to keep the panic at bay as the realization starts to settle in that something unthinkable has happened to their daughter. Then, the troubled Detective Jonathan Brightbill, who’s dealing with his pregnant ex-girlfriend and a tenuous relationship with alcohol, struggles to follow the vanishing trail and catches a break in the most unlikely of places. And lastly, Cara’s story is revealed - where she is and what *actually* happened as her will to survive is tested at every turn.

*Ordinary Days* explores the universal themes of family and love using the touchstones of three compelling film genres - drama, mystery and suspense. What happens when ordinary days are interrupted by an extraordinary event? How will you react? When should you panic? How do you move forward afterwards? Taking inspiration from relationship dramas like *In the Bedroom* and *Before Midnight*, slow burn thrillers like *Prisoners* and *Gone Girl* as well as single character-focused films like *Wild* and *127 Hours*, *Ordinary Days* aims for rich and relatable characters, ratcheting tension and an emotional ending that closes the story with a surprising reveal in its final moments.

The film features a cast of seasoned actors in Torri Higginson, Richard Clarkin and Joris Jarsky as well as rising stars Michael Xavier and Kimberly LaFerriere. And we are very excited to introduce the film world to Jacqueline Byers, who gives an extraordinary performance as Cara. Jacqueline started acting only three years ago and has already appeared in many high profile US television projects such as *Roadies*

(HBO) and *Timeless* (NBC) and is a regular on the summer series *Salvation* which has been renewed for season two on CBS. *Ordinary Days* is Jacqueline's first feature film and we are grateful for her dedication and talent. She is definitely a rising star and one to watch out for in the next few years.

With each chapter helmed by a different director; Jordan Canning, Kris Booth and Renuka Jeyapalan created their distinct imprint on the three perspectives while the rest of the creative team (screenwriter Ramona Barckert, cinematographer Mike McLaughlin, production designer Rose LaGace and editor Aren Hansen) helped maintain a consistent overall narrative. We are very proud of our inclusive team both in front and behind the camera, most notably, in our two female directors. With the full support of Telefilm Canada, *Ordinary Days* was filmed in the Greater Toronto Area and Janetville, Ontario in November 2016 and is produced by Barckert, Glenn Cockburn (*Young People F\*cking*), Bryce Mitchell (*At Home By Myself... With You*) and Brian P. Robertson (*Sundowners, Diamond Tongues*).

# Ordinary Days Synopses

**Tagline:** Where is Cara?

**Logline:** A bright, athletic, college student disappears without a trace for five days. The five days play out three times from a trio of perspectives; her spiraling parents, the troubled detective assigned to her case and finally, the student herself.

## **Short Synopsis:**

*Ordinary Days* follows the mysterious disappearance of a bright, athletic college student over five tense days, played from three different perspectives; her spiraling parents, the troubled detective assigned to the case and finally, the young woman herself. What happens when ordinary days are interrupted by an extraordinary event? How do you react? When should you panic? *Ordinary Days* touches on three compelling film genres - drama, mystery and suspense to explore themes of family and love.

## **Long Synopsis:**

*Ordinary Days* follows the mysterious disappearance of Cara Cook, a bright, athletic college student over five tense days, played from three different perspectives. First, her parents Marie and Rich spiral as they wonder what has happened to their daughter and realize they are facing a possible future without her. Then, the troubled Detective Brightbill, who's dealing with his pregnant ex-girlfriend and a tenuous relationship with alcohol, struggles to follow the vanishing trail and catches a break in the most unlikely of places. And lastly, what happened to Cara is revealed - as her will to survive is tested at every turn. What happens when ordinary days are interrupted by an extraordinary event? How do you react? When should you panic? How do you move forward afterwards? *Ordinary Days* touches on three compelling film genres - drama, mystery and suspense to explore themes of family and love.

# Ordinary Days

## Team Q & A

### What was your experience working on Ordinary Days?

**JORDAN, Director of 'Marie':** I actually came on board relatively late in the process. The idea of doing an omnibus film with two other directors was very interesting to me. It seemed like a cool opportunity to try out some new things while also working within a framework dictated by the concept. Marie's section instantly resonated with me when I read it, and I was excited to take on the challenge of what essentially was a claustrophobic two hander confined to the walls of Marie's house. The 'Marie' chapter is the entryway into the story. I was excited to lay the groundwork for the suspense and tensions that would continue to build until the very end of the film.

### What aspect of this film is most interesting to you?

**KRIS, Director of 'Brightbill':** I'm fascinated by how we communicate with people and how we base our actions on that communication... or miscommunication. How that interaction with people changes us and sets us on a path that hopefully shows us who we really are, or can be.

### What were the greatest challenges you faced during the film?

**RENUKA, Director of 'Cara':** I would say one of the biggest challenges was figuring out how to make a self-contained story cinematic and emotional. I directed the third segment of ORDINARY DAYS called "Cara." It was a unique section in that it was a very self-contained story. I don't want to give away any spoilers, but there were many story restrictions in the Cara section and I had to work hard to make sure the story never felt boring, but always kept moving.

### What was the inspiration for the film?

**RAMONA, Screenwriter:** The film was inspired by two separate thoughts about the human experience. The first was about exploring lives in transition; specifically when it comes to parent and child relationships. The natural march of time forces family structures to change but it's always a challenging, messy and sometimes, painful process. In Ordinary Days, we have struggling empty-nesting parents, a father-to-be who can barely take care of himself and a young woman determined to follow her own path alone. The second thought is that we all have these ordinary, normal, boring days: we work, we study, we sleep, we pick up the kids from school, we vacuum, we pay the bills - our time is spent on all this minutiae. But everyone has experienced those moments when suddenly something extraordinary happens - there's a phone call with happy or tragic news, or, as in the film, an unexpected incident occurs and those ordinary days are interrupted and possibly, lives are changed forever. How do we react? Do we panic or stay calm? Can we rise to face the adversity? What happens to us

afterwards? It's always under this type of pressure and stress that we find out who we really are.

### **What was behind the decision to have three directors?**

**BRYCE, Producer:** It's always challenging for directors to find opportunities in today's industry. The tripartite structure of the Ordinary Days script allowed for both an overall experiment with perspective while providing opportunity for three up-and-coming directors to shine, which they have.

## **Ordinary Days About the Creative Team**

### **JORDAN CANNING, DIRECTOR of 'MARIE'**

Jordan is a Canadian film director and writer. She has directed over a dozen short films which have screened and at festivals all over the world including the Toronto International Film Festival, TriBeCa Film Festival and Interfilm Berlin. Canning's 2014 feature film "We Were Wolves" screened at the Toronto International Film Festival and is distributed by Unobstructed View. In 2015, Canning was awarded the Women In the Director's Chair Feature Film Award for her second feature film, "Suck It Up", which premiered at the 2017 Slamdance Film Festival.

### **TORRI HIGGINSON/'MARIE COOK'**

Torri, best known for her role as Dr. Elizabeth Weir on Stargate Atlantis, is a long time acclaimed actress for both Film and Stage. Most recently, came off two seasons as the lead in CBC's This Life, as well as a supporting lead in Radu Mihaileanu's The History of Love, recurring for 3 seasons on SYFY's Dark Matter and a supporting lead in the Company Theatre's production of Domesticated, Directed by Philip Riccio and Staring Paul Gross and Martha Burns. She also lead the Web-Series Inhuman Condition from Smokebomb and Shaftesbury Films. She will next be seen in Ordinary Days, Directed by Kris Booth, Jordan Canning & Renuka Jeyapalan.

### **RICHARD CLARKIN/'RICH COOK'**

Richard Clarkin is an established Toronto based actor with film credits in Great, Great, Great, The Drawer Boy, Extracurricular, The Anniversary, Solo, Molly Maxwell, Casino Jack, You are Here, Land of Dead, The Production Office, Finn's Girl and The Third Eye. He plays Gord Ogilvy in Goon and Goon II: Last of the Enforcers. Richard has recurring roles on the television series Burden of Proof and Murdoch Mysteries, and has guest starred on Saving Hope, Rogue, Killjoys, Bitten, The Transporter, Suits, The Firm, Lost Girl, The Listener, Republic of Doyle, Heartland, and Flashpoint. Richard is also established as a stage actor. He is a graduate of The National Theatre School and made his professional acting debut originating the role of Jacob in Salt Water Moon for the Tarragon Theatre, and has appeared in numerous acclaimed theatre productions across Canada. Highlights of Richard's stage career include: Confederation for VideoCab (Soulpepper), Heart of Robin Hood for Mirvish; Festen and A Whistle in the

Dark for Company Theatre; Half- Life and Eco Show for Necessary Angel Theatre; Scar in The Lion King at the Royal Alex for two years; Biff in the Death of a Salesman at the Royal Alex; The War of 1812, The Merchant of Venice and King Lear for the Stratford Festival, several performances at Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre including The Fighting Days, The Price, Beauty Queen of Leenane and Waiting for Godot.

### **KRIS BOOTH, DIRECTOR OF 'BRIGHTBILL'**

Kris' many short films have screened in film festivals all over the world (including Tribeca, Palm Springs, Sprockets (TIFFkids), Giffoni, Iran International, Montreal) winning numerous awards. His award winning feature, "At Home By Myself... With You" (2009) screened in festivals across Canada, and took Kris to Cannes as one of Telefilm's selections for the 2010 Marché du Film. The film is distributed by Mongrel Media. Since 2011 Kris has been keeping busy working in television.

### **MICHAEL XAVIER/'JONATHAN BRIGHTBILL'**

After graduating from high school he enrolled at Humber College intent on a career in acting. He has had no difficulty finding work in numerous Film and Television productions like Rookie Blue, Heartland, and Covert Affairs. He has natural acting versatility and instinctual prowess; he can get a rise out of any audience. His greatest successes so far include a series regular role on Space Channel's Bitten and more recently appearing as the lead in Deadly Inferno. He has recently appeared on Kim's Convenience (CBC), The Bold Type (Freeform) and the feature film A Swingers Weekend.

### **JORIS JARSKY/ 'WARD ANDERSON'**

Joris is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada. Upon graduation Joris was cast in Tarragon Theater's Production of "The Awakening" for which he was nominated for a Dora Award. Since then he has acted in over 70 film and television productions and worked across the globe. His films have played at festivals all over the world including the opening night of the Cannes Film Festival. In 2009 Joris had 3 films in the Toronto International Film Festival... one of which "Toronto Stories" garnered him an Actra Award nomination. He has starred along side Mark Ruffalo in "Blindness", Edward Norton in "The Incredible Hulk", Catherine Deneuve "Nearest To Heaven", Lauren Bacall " The Limit" and Ryan Reynolds in "FoolProof" to name a few. He created, wrote, produced, and starred in the pilot "The Joseph Michael Joseph Show" which was picked up by 11Television Entertainment, a division of 3Arts Entertainment. In 2016 Joris was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for his performance in the Incendo film, First Response. Most recently he can be seen in major Recurring or guest star roles in the series Wynona Earp (SyFy), Art of More (Crackle), the critically acclaimed miniseries Bad Blood (City), and Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D for ABC.

### **RENUKA JEYAPALAN, DIRECTOR of 'CARA'**

Renuka is a Toronto-based filmmaker and a graduate of the Canadian Film Centre's Director's Lab. Her short film "Big Girl" premiered at the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival where it was awarded the ShortCuts Canada Best Short Film Award. Since then, "Big Girl" has screened at over thirty-five film festivals around the world—including



the Berlin International Film Festival, the TriBeCa Film Festival and the San Francisco International Film Festival.

### **JACQUELINE BYERS/'CARA COOK'**

Actress Jacqueline Byers grew up outside of Toronto in Mississauga and received her B.A. in Acting from Queen's University in Ontario, Canada. On stage, she has performed in "Here" at Toronto Fringe Festival, "Spelling Bee" for Collective Productions, "Chess" at Theater Aquarius, and both "Annie" and "Peter Pan" at Oakville Centre for Performing Arts. Her first starring role was on Syfy's *Ascension* as Nora Bryce. She has since appeared on *Roadies* (HBO) and *Timeless* (NBC) and is currently starring on the hit summer series *Salvation*, which has just been renewed for season 2 on CBS. She also will star in the upcoming feature film *Bad Samaritan* with David Tennant, directed by Dean Devlin.

### **RAMONA BARCKERT, SCREENWRITER & PRODUCER**

Ramona is currently developing a limited series adaptation of the true crime book, *Death in the Family* for CBC with Pier 21 and writing the feature film *Girlfriend* through the NSI/Corus Script to Screen program. She has written for season 1 and 2 of *Wynonna Earp* (Syfy/Space) and was the showrunner and Executive Producer of *Open Heart* (YTV/TeenNick) in 2014. Ramona staffed on *Degrassi* where her episodes generated a 2012 Primetime Emmy nomination for the series and she won the 2014 Canadian Screen Award for Best Writing in a Children's or Youth series. In 2010, Ramona co-wrote *At Home By Myself ... With You*, which premiered at the Vancouver Film Festival and was selected to participate at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival as part of Telefilm's Perspective Canada series. Her other experience includes working on Family Channel's *Wingin' It*, for which she received a WGC Screenwriting Award nomination.

### **MIKE MCLAUGHLIN, CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Known for creating fresh and engaging images, Mike McLaughlin has worked as a cinematographer on numerous films, documentaries, and commercials over the past ten years. He is especially known for working with celluloid and vintage film cameras to create unique aesthetics. In 2012, he received a Canadian Screen Award nomination for his cinematography on *The Perfect Runner*, an episode of *The Nature of Things*. Other notable credits include Trevor Anderson's *The Man That Got Away*—winner of the DAAD short film prize at the Berlinale in 2012, and Kyle Thomas' feature-length debut, *The Valley Below*—World Premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2014. He lives and works out of Toronto, Ontario.

### **ROSE LAGACE, PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

Rose Lagacé is a production designer and aspiring filmmaker based in Toronto, Canada. Rose made the choice to pursue filmmaking at the age of fourteen and later graduated from Niagara College of Applied Arts & Technology having studied film theory and art history before moving to Toronto. Dipping her toes onto various film and television productions as a production assistant and set dresser allowed Rose to find her calling in production design. Since then, Rose has had the opportunity to design several feature films including the Canadian indie gem *At Home By Myself... With You*,

the Canadian Film Centre's Old Stock, TIFF 2014 Official Selection Wet Bum, and Almost Adults, which is now available worldwide on Vimeo and Netflix.

### **AREN HANSEN, EDITOR**

Aren grew up in Vancouver in the 80s, spending his time making music and the worst VHS movies with his friends. He moved to Toronto in 2006 to attend the Canadian Film Centre's Editors' Lab. Aren went on to edit a number of feature films including Stella Meghie's Jean of the Joneses (TIFF, SXSW) and Modra (TIFF, SXSW). This past year, Aren edited the CSA winning and Emmy Nominated series The Amazing Gayle Pile, two films based on the beloved MacDonald Hall books by Gordan Korman and CBC's smash hit Kim's Convenience. He was also nominated for a CSA for editing the CBC pilot Humantown. When Aren's not editing, you can find him in a float tank recovering.

### **GLENN COCKBURN, PRODUCER**

Glenn Cockburn is the founder of Meridian Artists. Along with the rest of the Meridian Artists team, Glenn currently represents a select roster of some of Canada's most talented writers, directors and producers. Glenn's career started in 1996 when he began working as script reader for New Line Cinema and Innovative Artists Agency. From 1997 through 1999, Glenn worked as a Creative Executive at Templeton Production's first look deal with New Line Cinema. In 1999, Glenn returned to Toronto and joined The Characters Talent Agency where he ran the Packaging Department. Glenn also acted as Executive Producer on the feature film, Young People Fucking, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2007 and became one of the most successful and highest grossing Canadian comedies of all time. Glenn's other professional activities include teaching the course, The Business of Film and Television, at Sheridan College as well as being a board member for the Humber Comedy program. Glenn has a B.F.A. Honours in Film and Television Production, from York University and a M.B.A. from the Ivey School of Business.

### **BRIAN ROBERTSON, PRODUCER**

Brian is a Toronto-based producer who co-founded the production banner Seedaylight in 2012. Past work includes Pavan Moondi's 2013 directorial debut Everyday Is Like Sunday, 2015's Diamond Tongues (Robertson's second collaboration with Pavan Moondi with which he co-directed and premiered at the Slamdance Film Festival in Park City), 2017's vacation-gone-awry indie comedy Sundowners, and 2017's independent dramatic mystery Ordinary Days concerning the the tense five day ordeal surrounding the disappearance of a college student told over three different perspectives. Projects in production include Tenzin, a dramatic feature set in Toronto's Parkdale neighbourhood concerning the lives of a small group of Tibetan refugees, and TRAMPS!, a feature documentary set in East London, England examining three decades of UK LGBTQ art and fashion icons who each came up in one of the poorest neighbourhoods in England. Projects in development include Paper Noises, written/directed by Toronto/Los Angeles artist Michel Moon; The Saviours a Canada/Ireland dramatic feature co-production; and Restore Point, a science fiction film co-produced between Canada and Czech Republic.

## **BRYCE MITCHELL, PRODUCER & COMPOSER**

Bryce is a graduate of Ryerson Polytechnic University Image Arts - Film Studies program and the Canadian Film Centre's Producer Lab. He has worked in production with Shoes Full of Feet Inc. where he produced the Genie-nominated *At Home By Myself... With You*, as well as other notable companies such as Victorious Films (*Twist*, *Century Hotel*), Northwood Productions (*Cake*, *Wild Roses*) and Serendipity Point Films (*Barney's Version*, *Men With Brooms*). Bryce joined the Meridian team in 2009 as Development Manager under Glenn Cockburn and subsequently took on the role of Agent in 2010. In 2014 he spear-headed the formation of Meridian Artist's Kids and Animation division, now the pre-emanate destination for directing and literary talent within the sector throughout Canada.