

THE THINGS YOU THINK I' M THINKING.

(2017)

Director
Sherren Lee

Writer
Jesse LaVercombe

Producers
Charlie Hidalgo
Sherren Lee

Editor
Simone Smith

Director of Photography
Ian Macmillan

Production Designer
Jessica Jerome

Music
Casey Manierka-Quaille

Starring
Prince Amponsah
Jesse LaVercombe



SYNOPSIS.

Logline

A black male burn-survivor and amputee goes on a date with a regularly-abled man.

Short

A black male burn-survivor and amputee goes on a date with a regularly-abled man. After the bar, they go back to his apartment, where he faces his demons as he attempts to experience intimacy for the first time since his accident, ten years ago.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS.

SHERREN LEE | DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Sherren Lee is a Director born in Taiwan, bred in Montreal and currently located in Toronto. She's a 2014 alumna Noman Jewison's Canadian Film Centre *Directors' Lab* and was selected as one of Women In View's *'Five in Focus'* Directors in 2017.

Sherren has directed on Shaftesbury's **Murdoch Mysteries** (CBC) and on Sinking Ship Entertainment's **Odd Squad** (PBS, TVO) and **Dino Dana** (Amazon, TVO & YooPa). She is the director of award-winning short film **Benjamin** (2015) and web series **Someone Not There** (2014). Her latest short film **The Things You Think I'm Thinking** has screened at the 2017 FIN: Atlantic International Film Festival, the 2017 Whistler Film Festival (AWFJ EDA Award Winner), Slamdance 2018, SXSW 2018 and continues its festival tour.

She is currently working towards her first feature film, *With Might and Grace*, and developing *Little Things*, a television series based on her short *Benjamin* with co-creator Kathleen Hepburn.

Sherren was the Associate Producer on the hidden camera comedy series for City, **Meet the Family** with Showrunner Derek Harvie. Her previous experience include working as a Line Producer/Production Manager and 1st AD on various productions, including documentary for TSN, **The 13th Man** by Larry Weinstein, and documentary series for APTN, **Finding Our Talk 3** with Mushkeg Media.

CHARLIE HIDALGO | PRODUCER

Original from Ecuador, Charlie Hidalgo is an independent film and television producer, graduated from the Canadian Film Centre Producers' Lab. She is committed to telling female driven stories that explore human behaviour and social issues. Charlie's production credits include the reality show *Big Brother Pacific*, high-profile sporting events, such as the FIFA World Cup Qualifying, Copa America, the Copa Libertadores, ATP Challenger, and Davis Cup, as well as several TV commercials for multinational corporations. Her short film credits include *THE WHALE*,

HAILSTORM, YOUR MOTHER AND I, SPARTA NORTH, MINE IS YOURS, and her writing/directing debut BATHROOM RULES.

JESSE LAVERCOMBE | WRITER

Jesse LaVercombe's first play, *Preacher Man*, was produced across Canada and in New York, and *Love Me Forever Billy H. Tender* premiered at Videofag in Toronto and received praise at The New York Fringe from The New York Times, Stage Buddy, Time Out, Broadway World, New York Theatre Guide, and more, and continues to tour. Both plays were published by Indie Theatre Now (New York, NY). His short films "Philip" and "Tony" were produced by the Canadian Film Centre. He also writes for *Intermission Magazine*, story edits regularly, and is the 2017 Playwright-in-Residence for Driftwood Theatre, developing the play *Resurrect*.

IAN MACMILLAN | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The work of cinematographer Ian Macmillan has been seen internationally at festivals such as TIFF, BFI, Vienna, Raindance, Tribeca and Cannes. He has photographed dozens of music videos and several award-winning commercials. His portfolio includes myriad short films several features. His latest feature film, *FILTH CITY*, is an action comedy produced by SuperChannel and LaRue Entertainment. He is embarking on his 6th feature length project in the summer of 2017. Other credits include the CBC comedy webseries *The Plateaus*, and digital series for Fox, Global & Showcase. Macmillan also has an extensive documentary and lifestyle television resume including series for VICELAND, Discovery, HGTV, SuperChannel, FOOD Network, YTV, & BRAVO. The OLN documentary series *Illusions of Grandeur* garnered him a 2015 CSC Award nomination.

SIMONE SMITH | EDITOR

Simone Smith is a Toronto-based film editor. She got her start in commercial post-production on campaigns for large national clients. In 2013, Smith edited her first feature, *EVERYDAY IS LIKE SUNDAY* (Pavan Moondi, director). In 2014 she attended the Canadian Film Centre's Editor's Lab. Since then, she edited multiple short films, including *NEVER STEADY, NEVER STILL*, TIFF 2015, *Canada's Top Ten 2015* (Charlieleen Hepburn, director) and *BENJAMIN*, TIFF 2015 (Sherren Lee, director). In 2016 she edited the feature length version of *NEVER STEADY, NEVER STILL*, and *SUCK IT UP*, Slamdance 2017 (Jordan Canning, director).

CASEY MANIERKA-QUAILE | COMPOSER

Toronto's pianist/vocalist/guitarist Casey MQ - real name Casey Manierka-Quaile - switches between melancholic soul and neo-orchestral movements, groove-laden electronic pop and piano-based ballads dripping with sadness and drama. Beyond his solo work, he has spent time as a songwriter-in-residence at the Canadian Film Centre, where he has composed original music for a number of films. A classically trained pianist, he began learning his craft at the age of eight. Last year he was a resident at the Red Bull Music Academy in Montreal.

CAST BIOS.

PRINCE AMPONSAH | SEAN

The Things You Think I'm Thinking marks Prince's debut into short film. He is an actor situated in Toronto. His most recent credits include KILLJOYS (SYFY/SPACE), SHEETS (Veritas), The Changeling: A Grand Guignol for A Glorious Time (Desiderata), and Hangman (Scapegoat Collective).

JESSE LAVERCOMBE | CALEB

Jesse LaVercombe is an award-winning, Toronto-based actor and writer originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has performed across Canada and in New Orleans and New York; Selected Stage Credits: Sequence (Tarragon, Toronto) The Bakkhai (Marigny Opera House, New Orleans), A Presence of Monster (PuSh, Vancouver), The Ark: Ibsen on Fogo Island (National Arts Centre), Mistatim (Red Sky, Canadian Tour), Hacked (Caravan Stage Company, U.S. Tour); TV: American Gods (STARZ), The Detail (CTV/eOne), Salvation (CBS), Mayday (Discovery), Save Me (CBC); Feature Films: Mary Goes Round, The Telephone Game, In Clamatore. Training: The National Theatre School of Canada, Canadian Film Centre Actors' Conservatory.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES.

In this narrative, Sean approaches romantic intimacy for the first time since his accident, and I want to carry the audience into his world for this specific, difficult step in hopes of inspiring more complex empathy from the viewer.

The voices of burn survivors and amputees are not often heard or seen, and it's important to me to not reduce this character to an object of pity, nor a simple source of inspiration. It's very difficult to genuinely relate to what our protagonist (and lead actor, Prince Amponsah) has gone through, but I want to shine a light on this distinct character, his flaws, anger, compassion and yearning, and allow the viewer to see themselves in someone whose eyes they might not meet, to realize that while the demons he's fighting are gnawing and deep, they are also human and universal.

It is easy to see our protagonist's limitations; in fact, it's impossible to ignore his burn scars and his missing limbs. However, while his barriers are obvious, others' aren't. We're all trapped inside our own minds and bodies, and have our own set of insecurities that may not be so easily perceived by the people around us. In this piece, Sean's barriers are a physical representation of something we all must work towards: to get past our baggage in order to connect with one another in a meaningful way.

TECH SPECS.

14:17 mins / ARRI ALEXA SXT / Colour / 2017 / 2.35:1 / 5.1 Surround / DCP, DIGITAL FILE

CONTACT INFO.

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