



MI MADRE,  
MY FATHER

LINA RENNA  
STEPHEN AMELL  
MICHELLE MORGAN  
ROBERT MOLONEY  
BRYAN BRUND  
FIONA VROOM  
SHAYN WALKER

# LOGLINE

Facing neglect and abuse at home, six year old Valentina relies on her street smarts and a compassionate neighbour to survive.



# SYNOPSIS

Based on a true story, *Mi Madre, My Father* presents a day in the life of six-year-old Valentina Nelson. Reared by an abusive, pill-popping mother (*Heartland's* Michelle Morgan) and an absentee playboy father (*Arrow's* Stephen Amell), Valentina must fend for herself. She does what she can to craft the illusion of normalcy, but her neighbor Robert observes that the situation has reached a crisis point. Valentina's tough exterior may not be enough to shield her from the harsh realities of her broken home.

# CAST



**"Valentina" - Lina Renna** is an energetic young actress from Vancouver, B.C. One of her first roles was on the TV series, *Rogue*, from then on, she was completely hooked and has starred in two feature films, appeared on TV series, TV movies, web series, short films and many commercial projects.



**"Hal" - Stephen Amell** rose to fame playing Oliver Queen aka Green Arrow on the series *Arrow* (CW). Early in his career Stephen had a recurring role on *Heartland* (CBC) and later on the series *New Girl* (FOX) and a lead on *Private Practice* (ABC).



**"Anita" - Michelle Morgan** is known to fans as Lou Flemming on the hit drama *Heartland* (CBC). As a Chilean-Canadian she is always looking for opportunities to bring her unique cultural experience to her art. *Mi Madre, My Father* is Michelle's directorial debut.



**"Robert" - Robert Moloney** is an award-winning film, television and theatre actor whose career has taken him across Canada, as far away as Australia and to London's West End. He is currently starring in *You, Me, Her* (HBO), and will be seen in the upcoming Arts Club production of *Jitters*.



**"Freddie" - Bryan Bruno** is an exciting new talent from Maskwacis, a Cree First Nations reserve near Edmonton, Alberta. Freddie has appeared in the series *The Alienist* (TNT) and is thrilled to make his big screen debut.

# PRODUCTION TEAM

**Director- Michelle Morgan** has grown up on film sets. As a teenager she worked with her older sister, television and commercial director Wendy Morgan, as an assistant, wardrobe stylist and performer. Over the 11 seasons she has starred on *Heartland* (CBC), Michelle has shadowed numerous directors such as Bruce McDonald, Dean Bennet and Rachel Leiterman. In 2009 Michelle wrote and produced a pilot, *The Goods*. *Mi Madre, My Father* is Michelle's directorial debut.

**Producer- Madeleine Davis** is a producer and writer based out of Vancouver, BC. Active in both factual and fictional storytelling, she pursues work that pushes boundaries of form and expands the scope of traditional filmmaking while staying true to the timelessness of narrative. She and Michelle hope to develop a series that explores Michelle's Chilean-Canadian perspective.

**Cinematographer- Lindsay George** has worked in many facets of the film and television industry for over 12 years, after a career as a contemporary dancer. Her gravitation towards the camera department has culminated in credits such as cinematography on the web series *True Heroines* and the short film *Beauty Mark* as well as the main camera operator and second unit DOP on *Zoo* (CBS) and *Colony* (USA Network).

**Co-Writer- Daniel J. Patinkin** has authored two nonfiction books: [The Crippler](#) published in 2016, and [The Trigger](#), scheduled for release in 2018. He has also written, directed, and produced three short-films, a major-label CD release, three feature film scripts, and a music documentary. After the success of co-writing *Mi Madre, My Father*- Michelle and Dan are continuing their work together by currently developing two feature films and television series.



# PRODUCTION TEAM cont.



**Producer - Fiona Vroom** was the first person to hop on board and help Produce *Mi Madre*, *My Father*, and her connections and knowledge of the Vancouver film industry proved invaluable. Fiona is an actress, writer and producer. Producer credits include the web series *True Heroines* and *Dancing with the Demon*.

**Editor- Ken Filewych** has over 23 years of experience editing dramatic films, television series, music videos, documentaries, commercials, lifestyle programs, news features and sports events. He is currently the Supervising Picture Editor on *Heartland* (CBC)- the longest running one hour drama in Canadian history - of which he has edited over 100 episodes.

**Original Score- Prince Nifty** is one of the many project names deployed over the years by Toronto's multi-instrumentalist Matt Smith whose mercurial arrangements have always called for explanation by creative writing. Matt has also toured as a musician and sound engineer with the likes of Arcade Fire and Final Fantasy.



## PRODUCTION STORY

*Mi Madre, My Father* was conceived as many films are: late one night over drinks at a Los Angeles bar. New friends Michelle Morgan and Mel Gray were swapping stories when Mel recounted her shocking and painful upbringing. During Mel's childhood, her mother vacillated between neglecting her and inflicting physical and mental abuse. As young as four years old, Mel was forced to fend for herself.

"But how did you survive? Who fed you and looked after you?" Michelle asked.

"My neighbors," Mel replied.

Two generous men who lived across the hall – both flight attendants – looked after Mel, put healthy food in her backpack every day, and did their best to shield her from her violent and destabilizing home environment. They were effectively surrogate parents. Without them, Mel might have gone down a very dark path.

This story shook Michelle to her core. Not only is it a harrowing narrative, it is exceptionally relevant to the advocacy work that Michelle does. For the past twenty years, Michelle has volunteered with several nonprofit organizations that support domestic abuse victims. She immediately recognized that Mel's story would make an powerful and compelling short film. Mel agreed.

# PRODUCTION STORY cont.

Soon thereafter, Daniel Patinkin, Michelle's long-time friend, came on board, and together they crafted the screenplay. Vancouver-based producers Madeleine Davis and Fiona Vroom then joined the team.

When it came time to cast, Michelle knew exactly who she wanted for the complicated role of Hal: her old friend and *Heartland* cast alumna, Stephen Amell. Although he is now a big Hollywood star, Stephen was attracted to the creative opportunity presented by this complex indie drama.

The biggest casting challenge was finding a young female actor who could carry the whole film. But, as soon as Michelle met Lina Renna, she knew she had struck gold. It was clear that Lina embodied both the youthful innocence and the emotional intensity that the role called for.

Inspired by Stephen's success in crowdfunding his feature film *Code 8*, Michelle kicked off an IndieGoGo campaign to fund the production of *Mi Madre, My Father*. She raised over \$20,000 from more than 400 contributors. Production was completed in September of 2017.





# CONTACT



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