

A woman with dark hair, wearing a light blue collared shirt, is peering from behind a dark door. The background is a hallway with light blue walls. The number '16' is visible on the wall behind her. The overall lighting is cool and blue-toned.

LEVEL 16

Press Kit

Vancouver International Film Festival Screenings

*** Canadian Premiere ***

Sunday September 30th at 8:45PM at the Rio Theatre
Sunday, October 7th at 3:00PM at International Village 9

ABOUT

Directed and Written by: Danishka Esterhazy

Producers: Judy Holm, Michael McNamara, Stéphanie Chapelle

Executive Producers: Judy Holm, James Weyman

Cast: Katie Douglas, Celina Martin, Sara Canning, Peter Outerbridge

Run Time: 104 minutes

Rating: Not yet rated

Contributing Funders: Telefilm Canada, CBC Films, the Shaw Rocket Fund, Ontario Creates, and the Harold Greenberg Fund.

IMDb: <https://imdb.to/2CneKW1>

Website: www.level16thefilm.com

Facebook: facebook.com/Level16Film/

Twitter: [@level16film](https://twitter.com/level16film)

Instagram: [@level16film](https://www.instagram.com/level16film)

Synopsis: Sixteen-year-old Vivien is trapped in The Vestalis Academy, a prison-like boarding school, keeping to herself and sticking her neck out for no one. Until she is reunited with Sophia -- the former friend who betrayed her. Together the girls embark on a dangerous search to uncover the horrifying truth behind their imprisonment. Soon running for their lives, the girls must save themselves or die trying.

Press Materials: <https://bit.ly/2CnEstv>



SYNOPSIS

In the thematically rich fantasy from Danishka Esterhazy (Black Field; H&G), teenaged Vivien (Katie Douglas) and Sophia's (Celina Martin) rebellious tendencies are only amplified by their surreal existence: locked away in a sterile top secret facility, they're taught the finer points of "feminine virtues" by Miss Brixil (Sara Canning), a Stepford-like headmistress, and left to question what fate awaits them when they age out of the institution. They've been led to believe that all of the intense grooming regimens and strict sleep schedules they've endured have been in the service of making them ideal adoptive daughters for high-society families. However, there's little reason for them to take anything they've been told at face value.

Boasting a delightfully morbid premise and a chilling setup, Level 16 ratchets up the insidious sense of wrongness before unleashing a truly skin-crawling climax. Wedding of-the-moment concerns (think The Handmaid's Tale) to throwback aesthetics (think Joss Whedon's criminally under-appreciated Dollhouse by way of Argento employing a desaturated palette), Esterhazy crafts a sinister allegory that packs a wicked feminist punch.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Like many teenage girls, Danishka Esterhazy felt alienated and disempowered during high school. “When I was a 16, I thought that my high school was trying to kill me, not literally, but I felt that the school system discouraged free thought and rewarded conformity,” she recalls. “That it was trying to forcibly shape me into something I was not.” And, like many teenagers, Esterhazy’s friendships made the high school experience bearable. “I had two best friends who stood up for me. They were my allies when I felt that no-one else understood me.”

“Our teenage years are a time of powerful emotions and great confusion. It is a time when we struggle to create our adult identities and find our place in society. It is a time of intense drama,” explains Esterhazy. “And for girls, it is also a time when the pressure to conform to repressive ideals of femininity can seem crushingly overwhelming. Sometimes, a best friend at 16 is the closest friend a woman will have in her entire life.”

Years later Esterhazy found herself in the Canadian Film Centre’s Directors’ Program and became friends with Stéphanie Chapelle who was enrolled in the Producers’ Program. A shared area of interest was genre films, and soon Esterhazy thought up LEVEL 16 inspired by memories of her high school experience. “Considering how important these friendships are – there are very few films that have captured these relationships with realism and honesty.”

LEVEL 16 is a very female focused film. The film has a female director, two female producers, female production designer, female costume designer, and the lead roles are female. “I always had faith in the project. I knew that if we could just make the film, people would understand it and would be moved by it, and it took a long time to make that happen,” recalls Esterhazy. “So, when we finally stepped onto set for the first time it was an incredible experience. It took my breath away.”

LEVEL 16 shows the positive and redemptive sides of teen girl friendship. It celebrates the power of friendship, and in particular, the friendship between teenage girls. I wanted to honour that time in my life, that time in many women’s lives.” Chapelle saw the artistic and commercial potential of the story, and commissioned the idea to produce as an independent feature.

ABOUT THE CAST



KATIE DOUGLAS

Emmy nominated actress, KATIE DOUGLAS (Vivien) is known for her work on the TV series “Mary Kills People” starring Caroline Dhavernas, the feature film thriller COMPULSION, for which she starred along with Heather Graham and Carrie-Anne Moss, Netflix's “Spooksville”, Family Channel’s “Raising Expectations”, starring Molly Ringwald and Jason Priestley, and SyFy Network’s “Defiance”.

Her television credits also include a recurring role in USA Network's “Eyewitness”, HBO’s “Less Than Kind”, as well as recurring and guest starring roles on “Alphas”, “Flashpoint”, “Max and Shred” and “Creeped Out”.

Skilled in singing, playing guitar, visual arts and photography, Douglas shows a love of all things creative. Douglas' singing debuted in the feature film COMPULSION as well as in “Defiance”, “Mary Kills People” and “Raising Expectations”.

Douglas goes to school for Film Studies where she practices the art of filmmaking both in front of, and behind the camera.



CELINA MARTIN

CELINA MARTIN (Sophia) was born in Hanoi, Vietnam and raised in Burnaby, British Columbia. Celina attended Byrne Creek Secondary School where she took drama class and performed in various school plays. It was then that she fell in love with the art of acting, which led her to pursue a professional acting career after high school at the age 18. Celina juggled classes at Douglas College, work, and taking acting classes, as she auditioned regularly and participated in a few student film projects.

Shortly after her first US National commercial, she landed a role on the TV mini series “The Adventures of Electra Woman and Dyna Girl”. After that, she booked her first Series Regular role as Morgan on “The Other Kingdom”, a Nickelodeon/DHX TV series created by Tommy Lynch. Once the series wrapped, Celina was quickly back to work booking supporting roles on both the CW series, “iZombie”, and the feature film ADVENTURES IN PUBLIC SCHOOL, which screened at TIFF in 2017.

Aside from acting, Celina loves to travel, and enjoys swimming, dancing, kickboxing and is an avid animal lover.





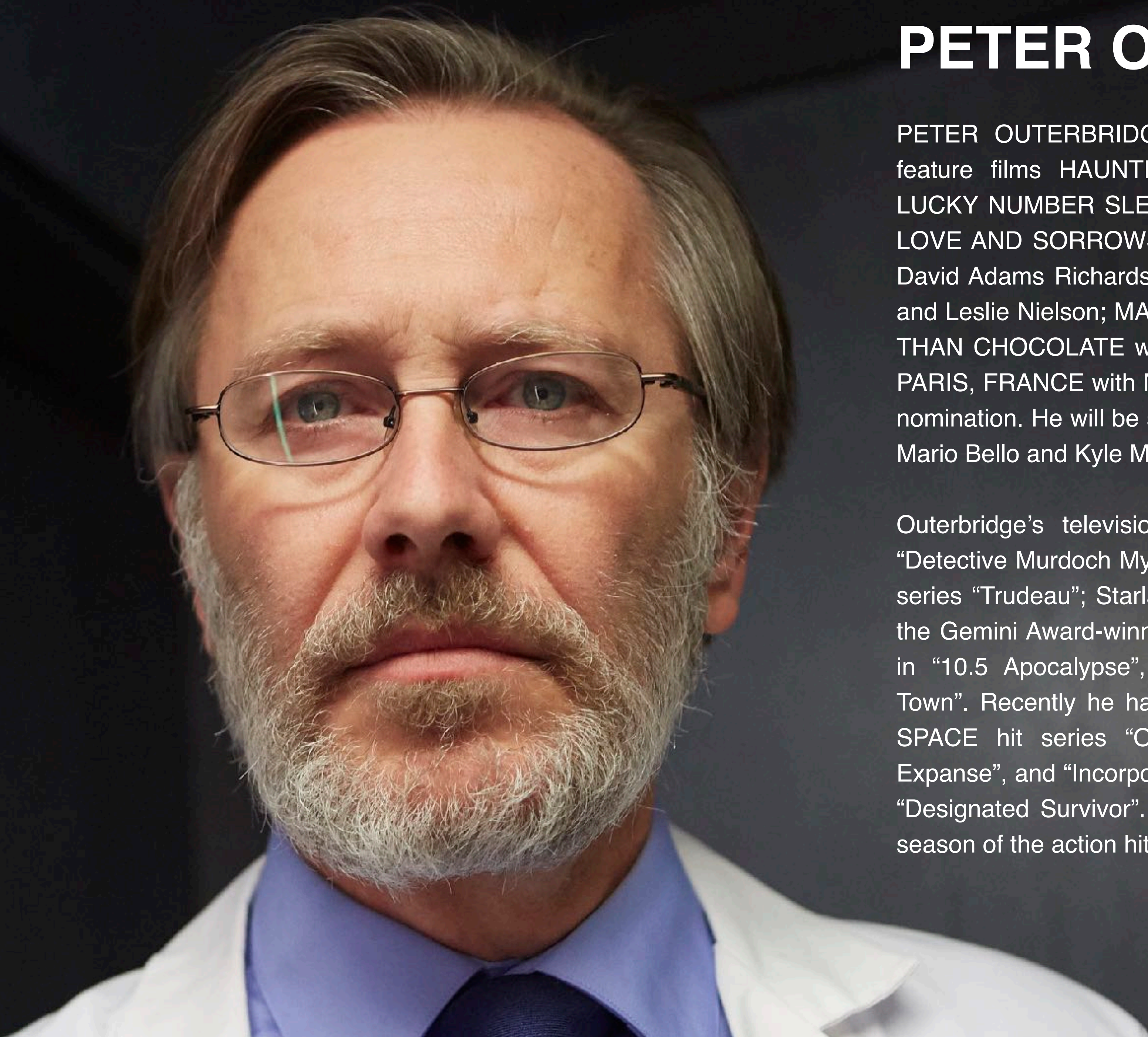
SARA CANNING

SARA CANNING (Miss Brixil) first worked with Danishka Esterhazy on the feature film BLACK FIELD, which received many festival accolades.

Recent film work includes 2017's Blockbuster WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES, two acclaimed festival hits HELLO DESTROYER & EADWEARD, and the notable "On the Farm" (CBC), which focuses on marginalized women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Canning can be seen in her recurring role on "A Series of Unfortunate Events" for Netflix.

Select television credits include two seasons as the beloved Aunt Jenna on "The Vampire Diaries", reoccurring roles on "Republic of Doyle" and "Hell on Wheels" and two seasons as Melissa Conner on "Remedy" (a series for which she won both UBCP and Leo Awards).

Canning was born in Gander, Newfoundland and graduated from the Vancouver Film School in Vancouver, BC.



PETER OUTERBRIDGE

PETER OUTERBRIDGE (Dr. Miro) has starred in the following feature films HAUNTER, SAW VI, BURNING MUSSOLINI and LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN. Other film credits include THE BAY OF LOVE AND SORROWS, based on the novel by Giller Prize winner David Adams Richards; MEN WITH BROOMS, starring Paul Gross and Leslie Nielsen; MARINE LIFE starring Cybil Shepherd; BETTER THAN CHOCOLATE with Wendy Crewson; and early in his career, PARIS, FRANCE with Molly Parker, which earned him his first Genie nomination. He will be seen next in GIANT LITTLE ONES, alongside Mario Bello and Kyle MacLachlan.

Outerbridge's television credits include: the lead role in three "Detective Murdoch Mysteries"; two "Chasing Cain" movies; the mini series "Trudeau"; Starla Gunnerson's "100 Days in the Jungle" and the Gemini Award-winning "ReGenesis". Outerbridge also appeared in "10.5 Apocalypse", "Sanctuary", and the ABC series "Happy Town". Recently he has shot recurring roles on the BBC America/SPACE hit series "Orphan Black", Syfy's "12 Monkeys", "The Expanse", and "Incorporated", in addition to CBC's "Pure" and ABC's "Designated Survivor". He can currently be seen in NBC's second season of the action hit "Taken".

ABOUT THE CREW



DANISHKA ESTERHAZY

DIRECTOR & WRITER

Celebrated for her female-driven stories, DANISHKA ESTERHAZY (Director) is a graduate of the Directors' Lab at the Canadian Film Centre, the Talent Lab at the Toronto International Film Festival and the National Screen Institute. Her debut feature, BLACK FIELD, won the Best Feature Drama award at Vancouver's Women in Film Festival and the Best Canadian Feature award at Toronto's Female Eye Film Festival.

Esterhazy's films have screened in festivals and theaters around the world and have been broadcast on CBC, Bravo, Super Channel and Movie Central. She is the recent winner of the inaugural Amazon Video Filmmaker Award at Sundance 2017. Esterhazy splits her time between Canada and California.



MARKHAM STREET FILMS

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Michael McNamara and Judy Holm's award-winning **Markham Street Films Inc.**, creates filmed entertainment for all media, from feature length docs like *David & Me: Search for Justice*, *Celtic Soul*, *Acquainted With the Night* and *100 Films & A Funeral*, to scripted feature films like *Victoria Day*, (2009 Sundance Film Festival), *Hold Fast* (2013, Seoul Youth award) and its most recent production, Danishka Esterhazy's *Level 16*. MSF has also produced over fifty hours of documentaries including science docs for The Nature of Things and *Catwalk: Tales From the Cat Show Circuit* for CBC Docs POV. In 2014 MSF produced and distributed feature film *Big News From Grand Rock*. MSF is currently financing Danishka Esterhazy's next feature, *Jagged Winter* and is in development on features *The Return of The Fabulous 7*, *Heaven is Small* and *Meeting the Sumdees*. McNamara is a Director/Producer/Writer. Holm is a Producer/Writer. They launched Markham Street Films in 2002.



Written and Directed by
DANISHKA ESTERHAZY

Produced with the Participation of
TELEFILM CANADA

Produced with the Participation of
CBC FILMS

Produced with the Financial Participation of the
SHAW ROCKET FUND

Produced with the Participation of
ONTARIO CREATES

a Markham Street Films
Production

Producer
JUDY HOLM

Producer
MICHAEL MCNAMARA

Producer
STEPHANIE CHAPELLE

Executive Producer
JUDY HOLM

Executive Producer
JAMES WEYMAN

Supervising Producer
SARAH JACKSON-INAYEH

CREDITS

Director of Photography
SAM Y INAYEH, CSC

Production Designer
DIANA MAGNUS

Editor
JORGE WEISZ

Original Music by
MENALON

Costume Designer
JENNIFER STROUD

Casting by
JONATHAN OLIVEIRA, CSA

Sound Design by
ADAM STEIN

CAST

Vivien KATIE DOUGLAS
Sophia CELINA MARTIN
Miss Brixil SARA CANNING
Dr. Miro PETER OUTERBRIDGE
Ava ALEXIS WHELAN
Rita AMALIA WILLIAMSON
Olivia JOSETTE HALPERT
Hedy KATE VICKERY
Clara KIANA MADEIRA
Audrey ALEXA ROSE STEELE
Grace SYDNEY MEYER
Veronica JOELLE FARROW
Young Vivien SARAH DASILVA
Young Sophia LORI PHUN
Alex/Limping Guard VLADIMIR TSYGLIAN
Ivan/Bored Guard VAL OVTCHAROV
Mr. Denison JAMES PURCELL
Gang Member VOYTEK SKRZETA
Gang Member 2 JACK VON SPADE
Video Teacher MARIE GLEASON
Greta KAYLEIGH SHIKANAI
May YASMIN LAU
Natalie SHANICE JOHNSON
Sleepy Girl KIANA CHARTRAND
Frightened Girl BIRVA PANDYA
Concerned Girl TRINITY DOUCETTE
Woman Police Officer MARGARET MAYE
Level 10 Guard LEO VERNIK

with a special appearance by
Sheila McCarthy
as Mrs. Denison

CREDITS

CREW

Line Producer SARAH JACKSON-INAYEH
First Assistant Director AURELE GAUDET
Second Assistant Director DANIEL REDENBACH
SHAMSO BIHI

Production Coordinator DAVID BERTRAND

Assistant Production Coordinator ERIKA TY
MATT DA SILVA

Third Assistant Director KEVIN BLACK
BILLY GRIDLEY

Stunt Coordinator WAYNE WELLS
DON GOUGH
FLINT EAGLE

Stunt Performer/Double 'Alex' ILAN ROSENBERG
Stunt Safety DYLAN RAMPULLA
Stunt Rigger DILLON JAGERSKY

Location Manager CHRIS MARTIN
WILHELM MOLL
Assistant Location Manager JOHN CRILLY

Daily Set PA
JEFFREY HOULE
KRISTEN CALIBABA
JOE GOLD
JENNINE GASKIN
MICHAEL PAVIA
LESLEY BUTLER
REGAN GILLESPIE

Story Editor KATHARINE MONTAGU
Story Consultant KEN CHUBB

Script Supervisor NIKKI FILIPPELLI

First Assistant Art Director GEORGE PARTRIDGE
Set Decorator THEA HOLLATZ
Set Dresser JACOB SAUVE
Set Dresser Daily BRADLEY CHOWACE
STEFAN HARHAY
NIALL MCHUGH
TANNER JACKSON
BRENDEN NERFA
ANSEL ANON
ESHAAN GUPTA
TOBY PIKELIN

Props Master PATRICK CHARLEBOIS-DOWNES
Props Master Daily LEA CRESTOT

Construction Coordinator THOMAS RACZKA
Key Scenic TANIS FREITAS
Assistant Scenic JOHN FREITAS
Scenic Carpenter JOHANN J. TEBRAKE
Set Carpenter MAX REIMER

First Assistant Camera MARK ZANIN
Second Assistant Camera DAN ADLAM
Digital Imaging Technician JEFF PENTTILA
Camera Trainee JESSICA SALTER

Stills Photographer SOPHIE GIRAUD
Lighting & Technical Specialist, Gallery Shoot JOHN CURRID

Key Grip NABIL MILNE
Best Boy Grip NATALINO LATTANZIO
MARTIN KENJI
Daily Grip BRADLEY SELIGMAN

Gaffer RYAN HERNANDEZ
Best Boy Electric MATT RICHARDSON
RYAN SEIFERT
KIEL CAMPBELL
Electric/Grip Swing KAY GROSPE
ROHAN PAINTER
LIAM GUAY

Package Truck Driver/Genny Operator RYAN HARRIS

Production Sound Mixer TREVOR GOULET
Boom Operator MATT FARRIER
MICHAEL TAYLOR

Key Grip NABIL MILNE
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Package Truck Driver/Genny Operator RYAN HARRIS

Production Sound Mixer TREVOR GOULET
Boom Operator MATT FARRIER
MICHAEL TAYLOR

CREDITS

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Set Costumer FIONA CLEARY
Wardrobe Daily KAREN KNOX
GWEN CUMYN

Key Make-up Artist EVA CONDOULOUX
Assistant Make-Up and Hair CINDY CHIANG
Special Make-Up Effects KAYLA DOBILAS
Special Effects Lab Technician STEVE NEWBURN
Sculptor NEIL MORRILL

Key Hair Stylist JUSTINE SLY
Daily Hair/Make-Up Swing KELLY DAVIDSON
SHAWNA DOWNING
Daily Hair Assistant JORDAN SILVA
NATASHA APOSTOLIDIS

Ms. Canning's Hair Colour by CHRISTOPHER MARTIN, SHAGG SALON

Special FX MAX FX
Special FX Key ALESSANDRO BENINATI
Daily FX Personnel MERON GAUDET
HOLLIE MAY-BAMBROUGH
JONATHAN CHOI
JOSHUA PAYNE SMITH

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Second Assistant Accountant VIRINDERPAUL SINGH
Post Production Accounting COMPLETE PRODUCTION SOLUTIONS LTD.

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MICHAEL WILLIAMS
DAVID GIBSON
TAMAS LAZAR
CHRISTOPHER MUISE
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Publicist KAREN TYRELL
E.P.K. BENJAMIN MARTIN-COCHER

Catering BLAZING KITCHEN (RANCHO RELAXO)
Key Craft MARIA CERDA

Production Intern JOSHUA PAYNE SMITH
TAVISH GUDGEON
KAT FEDEROVA
JOSH TURPIN

Technical Supervisor AARON HANCOX

Assistant Picture Editor CRAIG SCORGIE
Technical Coordinator DAVID BERTRAND

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Picture Operations Manager BRUCE REES
Picture Facility Technician JON MORRISON
Operations Manager ROBERTA BRATTI
Dailies Operator OREN EDENSON
Shipping ERICA PASCALIDES
Assistant Online Editor RICHARD DOMAN

Colourist JIM FLEMING
Online Editor ROUBEN BOUDAGIAN

Visual Effects by CRAIG SCORGIE

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VFX On-set Supervisor BEAU PARSONS
Digital Compositor GUDRUN HEINZE
CG Artist DAVID ALEXANDER

Sound Post Production Facility URBAN POST PRODUCTION
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Supervising Sound Editor ADAM STEIN
Dialogue Editor DERMAIN FINLAYSON

Foley Artist KAYLEIGH BELL
Foley Recordist CHELSEA BODY
COTLIN SPARKS
Foley recorded at URBAN POST PRODUCTION

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Re-Recording Mixer JEREMY FONG
Re-Recording Assistant ELLA MELANSON

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Visual Researcher ELIZABETH KLINCK
Music Clearances MATT DA SILVA

Insurance Brokers FRONT ROW INSURANCE BROKERS

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WILLIAM F. WHITE INTERNATIONAL INC.
Camera Equipment provided by HABIBI FILMS

Music

“I Said My Pajamas (And Put On My Pray’rs)”
Written by Edward ‘Eddie’ Pola, George Wyle
Performed by Doris Day
Courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment
Published by Universal Music Publishing Canada on behalf
of Universal Music Corp.
By arrangement with Sony Music Entertainment Canada Inc.

Additional Music

Audio Network
Envato Market
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GRANT BURNS KELSEY KLIPPENSTEIN
CASSANDRA CABRAL HANNA KREHLING
DIANA CABRERA CAYLA MACCORMACK
MICHAEL CHIN EMILY MANCUSO
BLANKA CHOJNOWSKA STEVE MCDONALD
SOPHIE CINO SHANNON MILLER
TED DATES MARK MUNRO
JANEAL DAVY PATTIE OSBORNE
MEG DION SAMANTHA PARKINSON
NATASHA FRANCHESCHINI SAMANTHA PAVIDIS
SAMANTHA GUTIERREZ VERONICA PEREZ
SHANNON HERRON CEANA SORES
EDANE TOBIAS EMILIA KALINOWSKI
SHERRY HUANG JESSICA WHITE
NICOLE HUFF JULIA WHITE
COURAGE HUNTER JAYLI WOLF
HARMONY IRWIN DORA YUDEIKIN
BROOKLYN HERD

Stand-In for Ms. Canning MEGAN MANE
Stand-In for Mr. Outerbridge MATTHEW BINKLEY

Background Casting ROISIN MCGILLY
Child Coordinator JANE POWER

Special Thanks

ERIC JENSEN
FILM OFFICE, CITY OF TORONTO
LINDA SEGER
BILL BOYLE
PILAR ALESSANDRA
CAROLE VIVIER
LOUISE O'BRIEN-MORAN

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PHYLLIS LAING GEORGE MONKLAND
KIM TODD AMY DOTSON
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ASHLEY HIRT MARS HORODYSKI
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CAROL WHITEMAN JASON LAPEYRE
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WIFT GOSIA BAWOLSKA
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TAMARA RAE BIEBRICH ADAM SMOLUK
JULIA FRITTAION JOSEPH MANSOURIAN
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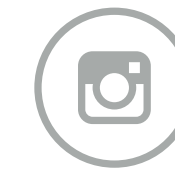
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