



RIOT GIRLS

**PRODUCTION NOTES
RUNTIME: 82 MINUTES**

**DIRECTED BY JOVANKA VUCKOVIC
WRITTEN BY KATHERINE COLLINS
PRODUCED BY LAUREN GRANT**

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RIOT GIRLS



LOGLINE

Best friends Nat and Scratch will stop at nothing to save Nat's brother from the despotic jocks who rule half of Potter's Bluff – a town divided since a mysterious disease wiped out all the adults.

SYNOPSIS

After all the adults are wiped out from a mysterious disease, the surviving kids split into two groups: the have not Eastsiders vs. the tyrannical Westside Titans. When one of their own is captured by the Titans, it's up to punk rockers and best friends Nat and Scratch to lead the East side teens on a deadly, high-octane mission that forever alters the future of Potter's Bluff.



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

In 2006, the Canadian Film Centre, the country's most prestigious incubator of screen talent, was soliciting applications to its exclusive Screenwriter's Lab. Each submission was to include three 'elevator pitches' of original films. Among the thousands of submissions the CFC received was one dynamite pitch by a then-unknown young screenwriter named Katherine Collins. This budding and ambitious pitch for a feature film would turn out to be the very first iteration of **RIOT GIRLS** (then titled **HONESTY & CRUELTY**). Impressed with Katherine's writing and intrigued by the originality of her pitch, the CFC accepted Katherine into the program, where she would go on to further develop, workshop, and flesh out her characters and story into a polished screenplay. It was during her tenure at the CFC where she met producer Lauren Grant, who had been accepted into the Producer's Lab. There was an instant creative connection between them. "Ten years later," says Katherine, "Lauren made a real play for the project - which had been stuck in a feedback loop of development that whole time - and I trusted she knew what she was doing so we agreed to give it a go."

The predominantly female creative team behind the film quickly took shape as Lauren sought out genre aficionado, filmmaker, and all around badass Jovanka Vuckovic to helm the project. Jovanka immediately connected with the material, seeing her younger self in the punk teenage girls at the heart of the story. Inspired by the films she grew up with, Jovanka envisioned a fun, adventurous film with female leads that didn't shy away from the violence characteristic of genre films from her youth. Notably, she and the rest of the creatives were excited to tell a story about two queer female leads that isn't entirely focused on their sexuality. The lead characters of Nat and Scratch are groundbreaking simply in the fact they are the leads of their own story, with their own agency and motivations and, ultimately, because they are in love with each other - not the boy from the other side of the tracks. The mission is to rescue Nat's brother who has been captured by the rival Titans.

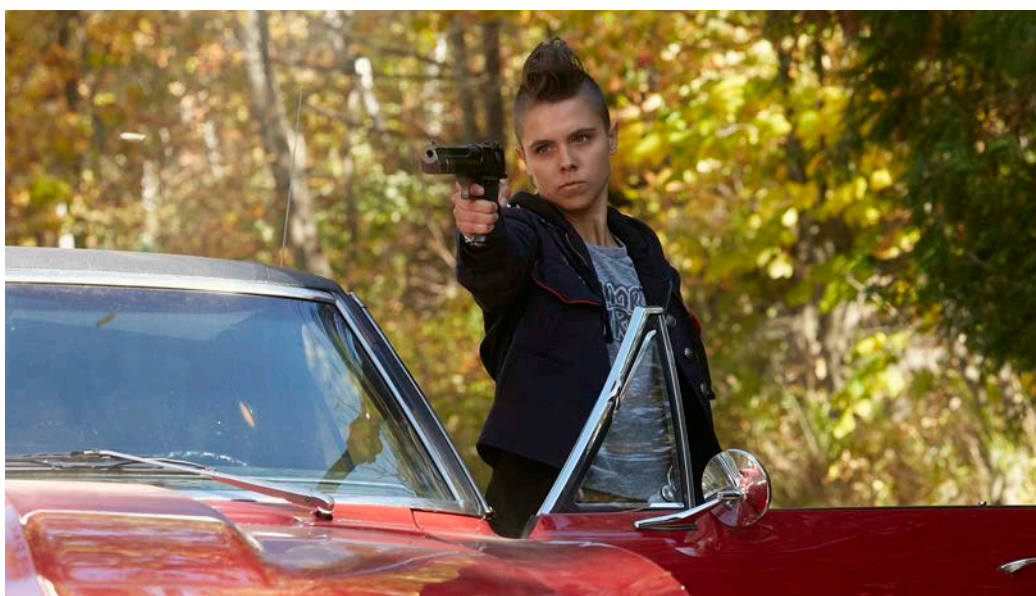
Casting the role of Scratch was made easy when Jovanka sat down to watch Paloma Kwiatkowski's audition tape early on in the casting process. The young Canadian wowed everyone with her boldness and charisma. Jovanka Vuckovic was sold right away, saying "I just knew. It sounds cliché, but I just knew it was her. She was exactly the way we envisioned her and was *totally* cool with us shaving her head into a mohawk!" Casting the role of Nat was not as easy, but after watching the incredibly strong audition of Madison Iseman, the team knew she was right for the role. The two actors had the advantage of spending time together prior to shooting, bonding and developing the chemistry that is evident on screen.

One crucial element of **Riot Girls** was the division between the Eastsiders and Westsiders – not only in the characters, but also in the landscape. The team found the ideal stand-in for Potter's Bluff in Parry Sound, a popular cottage country destination for residents of Southern Ontario. "We loved that (Parry Sound) is surrounded by water and created a visual barrier between the east and west side," said producer Lauren Grant. "There is a distinction between the old and the new of the town that really captured the feeling and tone of our film." It was the task of Production Designer Jennifer Morden to construct that eastside/westside dichotomy. "The east side would be sort of Bohemian/rundown/graffitied ... all the stores would be pillaged, the streets would have cars broken down in the middle of them," explains Morden. "It was decided that we'd make the west side more pristine, orderly ... you know, all the houses should look somewhat similar to one another. They should all be a little bit bigger. The streets are taken care of and cleaned everything kind of looks a little bit 'Pleasantville' style".

Riot Girls is one of those films you wish you saw when you were sixteen years old. "It's about people who are being brave and it's people who are breaking expectations", says screenwriter Katherine Collins. "It's not often we see two girls save a guy and *genuinely* save him. That is for me what makes this film continually refreshing; putting stories and characters that are normally marginalized in the centre and just starting from there and moving."

"We were often asked where is Jack's heroic moment?" said producer Lauren Grant "but the truth is, he doesn't get one. He isn't the hero of this story and he needs to be rescued. The question really drives home why more films with female characters need to be made – people have a hard time even thinking a man doesn't have to be a hero."

"You know, it's a Juliet and Juliet story and that's really what I found most attractive," echoed director Jovanka Vuckovic. "It's just the opportunity to tell stories from a different perspective than we're used to seeing". "It is exactly the kind of project I want to see and make - a queer coming of age film set in a post-apocalyptic landscape. Kick ass female characters getting their turn to be the heroes of their own stories," says Lauren Grant in closing. "I'm so proud we got this film made."



ABOUT THE CAST

Madison Iseman (Nat)



Madison Iseman, the 21-year-old South Carolina native, has immersed herself in the industry from a presence in television and film to digital content. She discovered her interest in the arts in middle school when she became involved in videography and photography, creating her own short films. There were limited theatrical opportunities in her hometown so Iseman found her own outlets, participating in church choir and learning to play the violin and ukulele. She moved to Los Angeles when she was 16 years old to pursue her craft full time.

Iseman is currently filming the lead in the **Goosebumps** sequel, **Haunted Halloween** and recently hit the big screen as 'Bethany' in Sony/Columbia Picture's **Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle**. Iseman's next projects to be released are the films **Riot Girls**, **The Fox Hunter**, and **Feast of the Seven Fishes**.

Paloma Kwiatkowski (Scratch)

Photo by Ian Redd



Paloma Kwiatkowski is a Canadian actress who made her film debut straight out of high school as 'Thalia Grace' in the Percy Jackson franchise. She has since been seen starring in a variety of feature films and making appearances in several TV shows including "Supernatural", "Travelers" and one of her more notable roles as 'Cody Brennan' in "Bates Motel". You can look out for her upcoming work, as a supporting character opposite Johnny Depp in the feature film *Richard Says Goodbye*, and in the lead role as 'Scratch' in the post-apocalyptic thriller *Riot Girls*. Paloma lives in Vancouver, BC where she spends her free time fueling her passion for the outdoors, venturing on hiking and backpacking expeditions.

Ajay Friese (Sony)



Ajay Friese hails from Victoria, British Columbia. He landed his first screen role at age 13 in Disney's "Mr. Young" and followed it up with Nickelodeon's "One Crazy Cruise". Recent film and television credits include recurring roles on the Netflix produced series "Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency" and "The Order". He is currently a series regular on "ReBoot: The Guardian Code" and "Lost in Space", also produced by Netflix.

Friese's love of the performing arts is also expressed through music; in 2016 his award-winning band Close The Bombay Doors released its first album This Right Here, for which he penned the lyrics, composed the music, and played guitar and sang lead vocals.

Munro Chambers (Jeremy)



Born and raised in Toronto, Munro Chambers got his start in the entertainment business at the age of seven, booking a national McDonald's commercial. He went on to make his feature film debut in **Godsend** opposite Robert De Niro and Greg Kinnear. Chambers may be best known for his role as "Eli Goldsworthy" on the Emmy-nominated, long running series "Degrassi: The Next Generation". He received a Canadian Screen Award nomination for his work on the series in 2014, in the category of Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Program or Series.

Beyond his acting career, Chambers has worked with international charity and educational partner Free The Children for the past five years and has traveled to India, Haiti, Ghana and Nicaragua to build schools, playgrounds and install water filtration systems with the organization.

When he has down time, he enjoys watching films and playing hockey.

Alexandre Bourgeois (Jack)



Since his recent introduction to the industry, Alexandre Bourgeois has built an impressive list of credits including roles on **The New Romantic**, **Severity** and **Dim the Fluorescents**. He was also cast as Benji McEwan in the French language series shot in Montreal called "Demain des Hommes". A natural athlete, Bourgeois enjoys basketball, football, soccer, ice hockey and downhill skiing. Hailing from New Brunswick, Canada, he is also completely fluent in French.

Jenny Raven (Caine)



Jenny was born and raised in Hong Kong and has been interested in all areas of performance from an early age. In addition to acting she trained in classical ballet for 9 years. Raven began performing on stage at her church and school and booked her first ever audition for the Hong Kong Feature Film **Men Suddenly in Black**, which was spoken entirely in Cantonese - a language she is fluent in.

Raven's various credits include a recurring role on "Designated Survivor", as well as "Jack Ryan", **Flatliners**, "Black Mirror", and "The Girlfriend Experience". She moved to Toronto, Canada to attend the University of Toronto to study Criminology and Psychology. In her free time, Raven likes to do all things related to athletics, dogs and food.

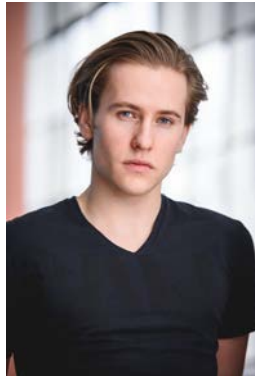
Evan Marsh (Devon)



Born in Woodstock Ontario, Evan Marsh began acting as a young child after his parents introduced him to Woodstock's theatre company, where he quickly rose to the top of casting. By the age of 10 he had performed in dozens of theatrical plays with Theatre Woodstock, starring in a large majority of them. Though Marsh developed a tremendous respect and appreciation for theatre, he knew film and television was his true passion.

After graduating with honours from Humber's Acting for Film and Television program, it wasn't long before Marsh began booking roles. After a few supporting roles he landed his first lead in Amy Jo Johnson's film **The Space Between**. Following that, he booked a role in the biopic **The Journey is the Destination**, which received its premiere at the world-renowned Toronto International Film Festival.

Darren Eisnor (Todd)



Darren is a hot up and coming actor from Toronto who is making waves on both the small screen and the large. With a potent blend of charm, charisma and a deep dedication to the mastery of his craft, he is well on his way to leaving his mark on the entertainment industry for years to come. Recent appearances include the Syfy MOW "Neverknock," feature film **The New Romantic** (opposite Jessica Barden and Camila Mendes), and on CBC/Netflix's hit series "Anne".

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Jovanka Vuckovic - Director

Jovanka Vuckovic is an award-winning filmmaker and writer. Her first short film **The Captured Bird** was executive produced by Guillermo del Toro and played over 60 festivals across the globe, earning four Best Short Film awards. In the past two decades, she has worked as a visual effects artist, earning a Gemini Award, cemented a reputation as a genre film authority, and was twice named one of the most important women in the history of the horror. In 2014 she joined the Directors Guild of America after directing part of **XX**, the first ever all-female horror anthology from Magnolia Pictures, which had its World Premiere at Sundance 2017. She recently completed the sci-fi action film **Riot Girls** and is set up to direct the art house thriller **All My Heroes Are Dead** from her own script next. Vuckovic is an alumnus of Berlinale Talents, TIFF Talent Lab, and a proud member of The Directors Guild of Canada as well as the Film Fatales Toronto Chapter.

Katherine Collins - Writer

A screenwriting graduate of UBC, York University and the Canadian Film Centre, Katherine Collins spent those early years developing original material while simultaneously working at one of Canada's largest private investigation companies.

Collins then went on to be involved in a number of projects including writing and producing for seasons one and two of the crime-procedural "Motive", story editing Jacob Tierney's feature comedy, **Preggoland** and the CBC drama series, "21 Thunder".

In 2015, Collins was a staff writer on NBC's breakout hit, "Blindspot" and is currently a producer and writer on the Netflix series, "Lost in Space". She is also partnered with Legendary, developing her own series, the crime drama "Nightvision". Collins' first feature film, the post-apocalyptic thriller **Riot Girls**, produced by Lauren Grant and directed by Jovanka Vuckovic, is currently in post-production.

She lives in Los Angeles with her beautiful wife and their two children.

Lauren Grant - Producer

Lauren Grant is the owner of award-winning Clique Pictures, a vibrant film and television production company with a focus on working with female creative talent both in front and behind the camera. Clique Pictures recently completed the feature **Riot Girls** and the feature documentary **Metamorphosis**. Principal Lauren Grant has produced the feature film **Wet Bum** (TIFF 2014), **Picture Day** (TIFF 2012) starring Tatiana Maslany and co-produced **Giant Little Ones** (TIFF 2018) and **The Parting Glass** (Karlovy Vary 2018). She is currently developing the television series "Blackbirds" based on the novel by Chuck Wendig along with television adaptations of two podcasts. The Hollywood Reporter named Lauren one of 15 Talents to Watch in their Next Gen Canada 2014 edition. Lauren is alumna of Trans Atlantic Partners, TIFF Studio, Producers Lab at TIFF, Rotterdam Lab and Berlinale Talent Campus.

Bonnie Sutherland - Costume Designer

Born and raised in Toronto, Bonnie Sutherland started off studying Architecture and Art History at Carleton University, followed by an art-based program at Central Tech before graduating from a fashion design degree program at Ryerson, thus providing a diverse base to her career in costume design.

Coming from a mixed ethnic background of a Japanese Canadian Mom and a Scottish and German Dad, Sutherland has drawn inspiration from all of these cultures. She has designed for both television and features, ranging from comedy (**I, Martin Short Goes Home** and "Man Seeking Woman"), to love stories (**Pretend We're Kissing** and **Love of My Life**), to gritty realism (**22 Chaser**, "Cardinal", and **Riot Girls**).

Jennifer Morden - Production Designer

Jennifer Morden is a Production Designer based in Toronto, Canada. She is a member of the DGC and represented by WPA. She spent time working as a photographer itching to design constructed spaces for her models to live in. This led her to begin a career in film in 2012 upon the completion of a Certificate in Design for Arts and Entertainment from Ryerson University. Morden's passion for design lies in the feature film and television world, but she supplements her work with shorts stints in commercials designing for clients such as Ford, Maple Leaf, Rogers, BMO, Koodo and Tim Horton's, to name a few. In addition to Production Design, she is beginning to create large-scale experiential design installations for various clients.

Celiana Cárdenas - Director of Photography

Celiana Cárdenas was born in México City and attained her Bachelor's Degree in Cinematography from El Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica (CCC). She traveled for 3 years shooting the TV series "Sweating Bullets" (México, Israel, South Africa) before settling down in Los Angeles in 2001, where she earned a Masters Degree from UCLA's "Painting with Light" program. Cárdenas shot her first feature film in 1995. She has worked with such artists from the New Mexican Cinema as Emmanuel Lubezki A.M.C., A.S.C., Rodrigo Prieto A.M.C., A.S.C., Xavier Pérez Grobet A.M.C., A.S.C. among others. In 2010 Celiana moved to Toronto. Since then she has shot 9 Canadian Features films and 3 short films, while continuing her career in Latin America. Previous film credits include **Unless, Picture Day, and Portrait of a Serial Monogamist.**

Maureen Grant - Editor

Maureen Grant is an editor who brings exceptional creativity and thought to her craft. Since her 2013 residency at the Canadian Film Centre, her work has garnered four Canadian Cinema Editors Awards nominations in three different categories; short film, feature film, and web series.

Her work has depth and range; from Ingrid Veninger's road trip portrayal of grief **He Heated Pigeons**, to the dark comedy **Nobody Famous** by Writer/Director duo Sarah Rotella and Adrianna DiLorenzo. Recent work includes Canadian horror director Adam MacDonald's **Pyewacket** and **Riot Girls**, a post-apocalyptic coming of age thriller directed by Jovanka Vuckovic and produced by Lauren Grant of Clique Pictures.

Andrea Higgins - Music Supervisor

Andrea Higgins is Head of Music Supervision at ARPIX Media. She has music supervised hundreds of episodes of TV including "Wynonna Earp", "Killjoys", "Workin' Moms", "Frankie Drake", "Flashpoint" and over 150 episodes of "Heartland". Higgins is a Gemini Award winner (Sound), was once named NOW Magazine's "Best Drummer", as well as "1 of 1000 Creative & Inspiring Women of Toronto" (Luminato).

Peter Chapman - Composer

Peter Chapman (AKA Coins, AKA Peter Project) has one of the most impressive portfolios of any Canadian composer. His work on "Wynonna Earp" garnered a 2017 Canadian Screen Award nomination for Best Original Music Score alongside co-composer Robert Carli ("Murdoch Mysteries"), and he has providing original music for CBC's hit show "Workin' Moms". Chapman has scored two seasons and the finale film for the period drama "Bomb Girls", two seasons of "Durham County", seven seasons of HGTV's hit show "Leave it to Bryan", and two seasons of "Gaming Show (In My Parent's Garage)".

Chapman's music has been featured in ads for Aeropostale, M&Ms, Dodge, Petro Canada, Clorox, Saturn, Volkswagen, Tim Hortons and RBC, and his self-produced solo work has charted in the top 5 on several Canadian charts. Having spent his 20s performing and touring with The Midways, The Bicycles, Dead Celebrity Status, he can now be found writing, recording, remixing some of Canada's most exciting artists such as Rich Aucoin, The Darcys, Maylee Todd and Tom Green. He can also be found DJing regularly throughout Toronto. In October 2010, he took first place in Toronto's first live Hip-Hop production battle Sound Battle Royale in which he beat out 32 of the city's best Hip-Hop producers.

END CREDITS

DIRECTED BY

JOVANKA VUCKOVIC

WRITTEN BY

KATHERINE COLLINS

PRODUCED BY

LAUREN GRANT

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

BRIAN KAVANAUGH-JONES

CHRIS FERGUSON

PHIL HUNT

COMPTON ROSS

JOHN BAIN

MARK GINGRAS

JOHN LAING

JOVANKA VUCKOVIC

KATHERINE COLLINS

MICHAEL ROBAN

CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

SANDRA YEE LING

CINEMATOGRAPHER

CELIANA CÁRDENAS A.M.C.

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

JENNIFER MORDEN

EDITOR

MAUREEN GRANT

COMPOSER

PETER CHAPMAN

MUSIC SUPERVISOR

ANDREA HIGGINS

COSTUME DESIGNER

BONNIE SUTHERLAND

ILLUSTRATOR

JENN WOODALL

CASTING

JOHN BUCHAN, CSA

JASON KNIGHT, CSA

STARRING

MADISON ISEMAN

PALOMA KWIATKOWSKI

AJAY FRIESE

MUNRO CHAMBERS

ALEXANDRE BOURGEOIS

JENNY RAVEN

EVAN MARSH

DARREN EISNOR

JAKE SIM

ATTICUS MITCHELL

PRODUCED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

TELEFILM CANADA

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

HEAD GEAR FILMS

METROL TECHNOLOGY

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND CORPORATION

PRODUCED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

ONTARIO MEDIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

VIGILANTE PRODUCTIONS

ODDFELLOWS ENTERTAINMENT

ARPIX MEDIA