

MAIN SQUEEZE



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LOGLINE

A couple in an open relationship have their holiday slumber shattered by the unexpected arrival of a secondary partner, who is drunk and on an ill-conceived mission to establish her romantic dominance.

SYNOPSIS

On a peaceful holiday night, Kiersey and Benji-- a couple in an ethical non-monogamous relationship-- are awoken by an errant dildo that shatters their bedroom window. The perpetrator outside is Jacqui, Kiersey's secondary partner, who is drunk and on an ill-conceived mission to establish her romantic dominance. In the spirit of the season, Kiersey and Benji take pity on Jacqui and invite her inside to sleep things off on the couch, and are forced to deal with a series of inebriated confrontations and revelations that challenge the status of their relationship.



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FILMMAKER STATEMENT

Main Squeeze is a film about the tension between two equally genuine but diametrically opposed kinds of love, and the corollary internal struggle to be faithful to conflicting but equally authentic parts of the self. In our story, Kiersey is caught in an outlandish situation that requires her to bring peace to two contrasting partners, and is forced to confront the damage they both do to one another when occupying the same space. Ultimately, she is a character dealing with the unfortunate emotional consequences of expressing herself as a bisexual, polyamorous woman. It's not fair, but as Jacqui likes to say... "loving ain't easy".

I was motivated to make this film because recently, in my own life, I've been trying to reconcile different parts of myself that always seem to be subverting one another and jostle endlessly for primacy. Like Kiersey, I get frustrated and exhausted by this never-ending balancing act, and want desperately to find some harmony. To survive, I think we both try to accept the natural contradictions of who we are, and embrace conflict as the inevitable by-product of complexity. But, everyday is filled with unpredictable moments—painful, tender, and hilarious—like this holiday night shared between Kiersey, Benji, and Jacqui.

Inspired by this personal experience, Main Squeeze is a positive story about the resilience it takes to maintain loving relationships, and the challenge of finding stability within them. Non-monogamy in cinema is too often the impetus for destruction, and we relished the opportunity to reveal its potential strength and durability in the face of provocation. I like to think that, like the Christmas season itself, our film radiates with an overabundance of love—within a unique dynamic of people not usually altogether, and in a whirlwind period of time. The movie's palpable warmth I credit to my intimate team of friends and collaborators, especially our trio of earnest and talented actors—Keshia Palm, Shane McLean, and Jennifer Ferris. Working in a DIY fashion like I do has its benefits, and one of them is the emotional investment and familiarity of everyone who works together, and I am so grateful to this team for their generosity.

We hope you discover something in each one of these characters that endears you to them, and makes you laugh. As flawed as all three of them are, they're each doing their best in difficult circumstances to love and be loved. And, let's be honest, that's difficult at the best of times. Can you imagine how hard it is when it's Christmas, you're drunk, or when a huge dildo just came through your bedroom window?

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FILM DETAILS

GENRE: *Comedy*

SUBGENRE: *Drama, Queer/LGBTQ, Romance, Holiday/Christmas*

RUNNING TIME: *16 minutes, 30 seconds*

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: *Canada*

SHOOTING LOCATION: *Leslieville neighbourhood, Toronto, Ontario*

PRODUCTION DATES: *February 2019*

COMPLETION DATE: *July 2019*

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

PICTURE: *Colour / AR: 2.39.1 / 24fps*

SOUND: *5.1 Surround Sound*

CAMERA: *Sony FS7, 4k*

BUDGET: *\$3000 CAN, self-financed*

PRESENTATION FORMATS:

- *ProRes 422HQ (2k or 1080p, 5.1 Surround or Stereo)*
- *H.264 (2k or 1080p, 5.1 Surround or Stereo)*
- *Blu-Ray (1080p, 5.1 Surround or Stereo)*
- *DCP Available Upon Request*

CONTACT

Brendan Prost – Director, Writer, Producer

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LINKS

WEBSITE: <http://brendanprost.com/main-squeeze>

ONLINE SCREENER: <https://vimeo.com/bprost/mainsqueeze> (password: xmas)

STILLS: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gf42vnnz4x58fru/AAA_WHzt4jp64ANDjIjggVboa?dl=0

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10413578/>

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FILMMAKER BIOS

BRENDAN PROST (Director, Writer, Producer)

Brendan Prost is a dogged and unabashedly personal filmmaker from Calgary, currently based in Toronto. He is best known as the creator of four DIY feature films and an eclectic mix of short films and music videos. Most recently his queer character drama, *Loretta's Flowers*, was part of Telefilm Canada's *Not Short on Talent* showcase at Cannes before premiering at the Edinburgh and Vancouver International Film Festivals, as well as *Inside Out* in Toronto. In 2019, Brendan directed three new short films, as well as a music video for Nashville-based artist German Error Message. His latest short film, the lyrical Pacific Northwest drama, *Bellingham*, had its World Premiere at the Rhode Island International Film Festival. Brendan graduated with distinction from Simon Fraser University's School for the Contemporary Arts, and is an alumnus of the Directors' Lab at the Canadian Film Centre.

KESHIA PALM (Kiersey)

Keshia Palm is an Asian-Canadian theatre artist from Treaty 6 Territory. She is a University of Victoria alumni with a BFA: Theatre specializing in Performance. This short is her second collaboration with Brendan Prost, following *The Morning After*. Theatre credits include *The Cherry Orchard* (Modern Times), *Persephone* (Pencil Kit Productions) and *Lieutenant Nun* (Theatre SKAM, SNAFU, Puente Theatre). She is also the co-creator/director/designer of *Shadow Girls* alongside Claren Grosz (Rhubarb Festival, Pencil Kit Productions) and the Online Content Producer for ArtistProducerResource.com.

SHANE McLEAN (Benji)

Shane McLean is an actor/improvise based out of Toronto. As an improviser, Shane has played festivals all over North America and is a co-founder of award winning improv group, Little Mountain Improv. He is also an understudy for The Second City's Touring Company. He has appeared on shows such as *Man in the High Castle* and *The Girlfriend's Guide to Divorce*, and the feature film *Love Me*. He previously worked with Brendan on the short film *In The Shadow of the Mountain*.

JENNIFER FERRIS (Jacqui)

Jennifer is a maritime-raised, Toronto-based actor that works in both film and theatre. With a strong background in improvisational theatre, a multimedia degree from UNB and a theatre performance degree from Humber College, she loves to jump right into the unknown and experiments. She performs and produces regularly shows across Toronto and is a Regional Producer and Camp Coordinator for the Canadian Improv Games. She has worked on a number of sets, the most recent projects include *Haunted Hospitals*, *#Connected*, *A Christmas Village*, and *New Kid*.

ANDREW LAU (Director of Photography)

Andrew Lau is an award-winning Canadian cinematographer and filmmaker currently based in Asia working on commercials, documentaries, short films, and music videos. He is drawn to character-driven narratives and vérité style filmmaking that seek to tell intimate and distinct stories. With a passion for travel, Andrew has filmed in

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locations across Canada, the United States, Mexico, Korea, and Hong Kong. His work has screened internationally at numerous festivals and exhibitions.

JAMES TRACEY (Editor)

James Tracey is a picture editor based in Toronto, with a background in narrative fiction and multi-camera television. His work has been featured in numerous film festivals around the world, including most notably the Edinburgh International Film Festival, Inside Out Toronto and the Vancouver International Film Festival. Notable works include *Samanthology*, *Loretta's Flowers*, *Soft Spot*, and the upcoming second season of *Anaana's Tent*.

P.H. BERGERON (Production Designer)

P.H. Bergeron is a Toronto-based filmmaker who's enjoyed working as Production Designer on three of Brendan's films, applying his passion for architecture, photography and everything urban. He is also co-director of the feature film *White Night*, and has written and directed his own short films and documentaries.

CHRIS REINECK (Composer)

Chris Reineck is composer, sound designer and music producer based in Toronto. He has nearly a decade's experience writing music for commercials, film, television, and experiential. Chris completed the Canadian Film Centre's prestigious Slight Music Residency program in 2016 and since then has worked as an assistant to Lesley Barber on the films *Nappily Ever After*, *Late Night*, and the upcoming Hulu series *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (produced by Mindy Kaling). Chris also wrote the score for the Bell-funded series *Tokens*, as well as the upcoming PBS children's series *Glowbies*. Chris is also a sound designer and composer for the Muse 2 meditation app and associated products, which uses EEG, brainwaves, heart rate and breath to create custom sonic experiences to aid in mindfulness and meditation.

BRENDAN WHELTON (Assistant Director/Associate Producer)

Brendan Whelton is a Toronto-based filmmaker and alumnus of the Reykjavik International Film Festival Talent Lab. His production credits include several features and short films, with his most recent feature, *Sebastian*, released by Wolfe Video, the world's oldest LGBTQ+ distributor. Whelton's extensive short film work includes *Vertical Lines* (Best Men's Short, Boston Wicked Queer Film Festival) and *The Indestructible* (Best Canadian Short, Fright Night Theatre Film Festival). He is currently a resident at the Canadian Film Center Producer's Lab.

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CAST LIST

KESHIA PALM – Kiersey

SHANE McLEAN – Benji

JENNIFER FERRIS – Jacqui

CREW LIST

BRENDAN PROST – Director, Writer, Producer, Sound Designer, Colourist

BRENDAN WHELTON – Assistant Director, Associate Producer

ANDREW LAU – Director of Photography, Camera Operator

P.H. BERGERON – Production Designer

JAMES TRACEY – Editor

CHRIS REINECK – Composer

JULIA KOZLOWSKI – Camera Assistant

GORJAN VELETIC – Location Sound

AARON McCOURT – Sound Mixer

SCOTT KIDD – Gaffer

KRISTOPHER CALANZA – Key Grip

NIGIL VAZQUEZ – Grip

RAE GALUTIRA – Hair and Makeup Artist

LIAM PROST – Stills Photographer

