



SCRATCH

press kit



SYNOPSIS

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Scratch is the story of a young, cocky, arrogant, and selfish playboy named Damien. Having just learned that he has the sexually transmitted disease commonly known as herpes, he is freaking out. Instead of fending for himself through this traumatic and scary time, there is a sensitivity to Damien that compels him to do the uncharacteristic... telling his most recent conquests that they might have the disease too, and should get checked out, ASAP!

Over the course of one very eventful, emotional, exhausting, and enlightening day, Damien confronts his three previous sexual partners; Karly, the perceived pure and pristine daughter of evangelists; Ardenn, the hardened S&M wielding bi-product of a broken home; and Ella, the girl next door and Damien's true love. In this self reflective odyssey about trying to do the right thing, Damien ultimately discovers the person inside himself who, moving forward, he is determined to try and be.



POSTER: [click to download poster](#)

TRAILER: [click to download trailer](#)



CAST

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CAMERON LAO GOSNEY (Damien) is a New York based actor who's been working in the film industry as an actor and director since 2013. Though he's been acting since college, it wasn't until he took a class at Stella Adler, to better understand the language of directing, that he promptly developed a passion for the entire process of performing. His body of work includes various narrative short films as well as several commercials. He has a twin brother who is also an actor living in NYC. Cameron graduated from Lehigh University, where he played Division 1 lacrosse and captained the team his senior year. His play continued professionally for 5 years in Major League Lacrosse. He enjoys a nice IPA, people watching, and that moment when dogs meet for the first time.



"Working on SCRATCH was one hell of a ride. I had the pleasure of being around a troupe of unique people who exhibited patience throughout. The production was composed professionally through its entirety and, even amidst a few setbacks, was handled with grace by the cast and crew. We were all also fed extremely well, which is always a very nice touch"

KATHRYN PALMER (Karly McCall) was born and raised in the South, Kathryn began her career in acting when she was 16 with Marsha Doll Models in Tallahassee, FL. In 2016, she went to the Dominican Republic to film MTV's "Are You The One?" as one of their cast members. After the show aired, she moved to NYC to pursue a career in entertainment. Since then, she has hosted television morning shows, live events, and appeared in several short films.



"Working on SCRATCH was a lot of fun. The entire crew was amazing, everyone made me feel comfortable on set. Sam is incredible and knows how to get exactly what he wants out of his actors."

DEANNE STEWART (Ardenn Fluss) an actress and model from Rochester, NY, received her BFA in Musical Theatre from Ithaca College in 2013. Since moving to NYC she has gained extensive experience both on stage and in front of the camera, having been a part of multiple music videos, web series', short films, Off-Broadway plays, performances on Royal Caribbean International cruise ships, and concerts. She has worked with esteemed directors and composers, including two-time Tony Award Nominee and Emmy Winner Andre De Shields and singer-songwriter Stevie Appleton.



"Working on SCRATCH was such an enjoyable experience. The cast and crew were all so talented and professional, not to mention they were enjoyable people to be around!"

CAST

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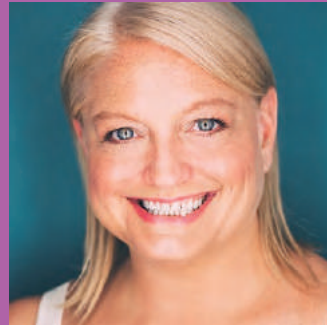
DAX ABRAMS (Ella) is an actress from Clifton, New Jersey. She has acted in both local and off-broadway plays, as well as a web series and several short films. She continues to hone her craft by taking weekly acting classes at MN Acting Studio in Manhattan, New York.

"I had so much fun filming SCRATCH! I was able to bond with such a talented cast and crew and create something beautiful for the world to enjoy and embrace. Sam was a great director and made sure the production was done properly and efficiently, which is much appreciated by me as an actor."



JULIE REIFERS (Mrs. McCall) is an NYC-based actress from Florida. Some of her credits include HULU's "The Path" with Aaron Paul and the feature film "Pickings". She has been in many festival accepted short films including her self-produced film called "Tammy Smoke", based a little on her own life. She is repped by The Carson Kolker Agency in NYC and JHA Management. You can visit her website at www.juliereifers.com.

"Everything from the amazing houses we shot in, which helped my character so much, to the hair and make up and the other cast and crew and Sam's ability to make everyone feel so comfortable on set made for an awesome shoot."



WENDY LAZARUS (Karly's Grandma) has appeared in many short films one of which, "Reach" won the Critics Choice Award this past fall. She has also performed in over a dozen stage productions since she retired 4 years ago including 2 Off-Broadways runs which include "Daddy Issues" and "A Hanzel and Gretel Christmas". In addition Wendy has her own one woman show "The Best Of Broadway" that she performs for private events and for charities.

"Working with Sam and the entire cast and crew of SCRATCH was a wonderful experience. Everyone was easy going and fun to be with but never lost their air of professionalism."



CREW

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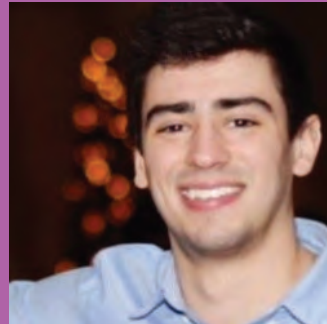
SAM SHAPIRO (Director, Producer) born and raised in Watchung, NJ, is an award winning filmmaker and college senior at Syracuse University, where he majors in Television, Radio, and Film at the S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. His directing credits include *SCISSOR PASS*, *SCRATCH*, and *GAME CHANGER*. Using his film production company, *SES11 Productions*, as the platform, he plans to continue expressing himself through his work, while giving other artists the opportunity to do the same through theirs.

“*SCRATCH* offered me a chance to show range as a director, working with female actors, comedy sequences, and sex scenes. Making the script come alive was an absolute blast! The process did not come without its occasional headaches, but with the dedication and constant professionalism of a very talented and hardworking cast and crew who I truly can not thank enough, we have come away with a product that we are all very proud of and excited about. It has been an absolute honor to have been a part of Team *SCRATCH*!



SPENCER BREINDEL (Writer, Producer) is a senior majoring in Television, Radio and Film at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. In the Spring of 2018, Spencer was studying in Los Angeles and interning at Doug Robinson Productions. This past summer Spencer was a Strategy Intern at A&E Television and during the summer of 2016, he worked as an intern at the Cannes International Film Festival. Spencer loves many aspects of the film and television industry, but the art of storytelling, in particular screenwriting, is his favorite. He hopes *SCRATCH* will be one of his many stories to come.

“When you’re working with your friends and doing what you love, than it doesn’t feel like work at all. Films are a way for people to escape and relate at the same time. My only hope is that *SCRATCH* stays in the mind of the viewers, even if just for a moment.”



ALEX GOLDEN (Producer) is currently completing his Bachelor’s Degree at Syracuse University in the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. He is a Television, Radio, Film major and Sports Analytics minor from Long Island, New York. He has worked for Cumulus Media as a Promotional Associate and for Doug Robinson Productions as a development intern. Alex has been able to produce, write, and direct short films, but also has a love for numbers. He is not only interested by the creative process in entertainment, but also the box office numbers, ratings, etc. that go in and come out of these products. He has a great work ethic and hopes that his passion and love for entertainment can one day turn into content for audiences to think on and use as escapism.

“There was a great level of talent that surrounded this production and working alongside these people was an unforgettable experience... the team that was attached to *SCRATCH* was always able to maintain its composure and move past any obstacle that came in our path. Overall, this was an experience that I would not have traded for anything and was one of the best learning experiences that I have been blessed with in not only filmmaking, but also my life.”



CREW

(Continued)

LIAM PETERSON (Executive Producer, Editor, Colorist, Sound Mixer) is a college senior at the SUNY Buffalo where he is pursuing a degree in Television and Film Arts. With a specialty in post production, Liam's credits include **SCISSOR PASS** and **GAME CHANGER** as a colorist, and **Scratch** as editor, colorist, and sound mixer. He is also an accomplished documentary filmmaker, with **A Generation Rising**, and recently finished directing his first television pilot for the Television and Arts Program at Buffalo State University, **The Last Year**.

"I first met Sam while interning for Killer Films and with a bit of luck he gave me the chance to color his debut short film, **SCISSOR PASS**. It was this project that made me realize Sam was someone I wanted to continue to collaborate with. And luckily enough that opportunity came when he asked me to Edit, Color and Sound Mix **SCRATCH**. Having the creative freedom to transform Sam's directorial choices to the big screen was an honor and such a blast. I created some unforgettable memories with the awesome cast and crew he put together. It was very professional and such a great experience."



LIAM DILLON (Director of Photography) is from Maplewood, NJ, and a third year cinematography student residing at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He enjoys most visual mediums while taking a specific interest in camerawork and lighting techniques. Sam and Liam have worked alongside each other before - with this being their second project together following the 2017 short film **SCISSOR PASS**, directed by Sam, where Liam was a 2nd Unit DP and 1st AC.

"It was great working with Sam again as a director - not only did he know what he wanted as far as coverage for the scenes, but he gave me certain artistic liberties as far as shots that warrant some sort of trust between colleagues."



CONNOR SHEFFIELD (Composer) is a senior at Ithaca College where he is studying Integrated Marketing Communications in the Park School of Communications. His initial interest in media stemmed from creating visual stories for his high school's television program in his hometown of Oswego, New York. Having a history of over ten years playing music, he decided to pair the two passions in 2016 when he began to compose soundtracks for short films. Sheffield recently studied in Ithaca College's Los Angeles program where he interned with Miles High Productions, a music public relations firm. He hopes to continue to refine his many interests to better serve the art of storytelling.

"Part of what made it such a great experience was getting to work with a team of wonderful people that was so open to bouncing ideas back and forth. The process really allowed me to hone in on how best to serve the story, and we ended up with music that I'm really proud of."



CREW

(Continued)

DOMINIC ROTONDO (Gaffer) is a recent graduate from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He studied film there for two years after transferring from Ocean County Community College. Dom has worked on multiple films during his time at Fairleigh Dickinson. He has been a part of various student thesis working several jobs such as camera assistant, electric, grip, writer and director. Dom has also worked as a gaffer, assistant director and grip.

"It was a very enjoyable film to be a part of due to the professionalism on set and the relationships between the crew. Everyone contributed their best effort and had their artistic opinions listened to. The director of photography, Liam Dillon, shared a lot of knowledge with me on how to do my job."



VINCENT PALLONE (Key Grip) is a junior at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, NJ studying Communications with a concentration in media. He has two minor degrees in Computer Science and Film Production and hopes to continue learning. Having now worked on many projects in various crew positions, Vin hopes to focus on photography, cinematography, and film scoring.

"...I couldn't have asked for a better experience or better people to work with. Everyday was smooth and even with some minor set backs, everyone remained calm and professional until it was complete."



LUCIE SOREL (Make-Up) is a Brooklyn based artist, makeup artist, and dancer from Ithaca, NY. She got her start in makeup through performing arts and currently specializes in eco friendly and clean beauty. Lucie is currently a dance teacher at a Bushwick, NY elementary school and makeup artist at Credo Beauty in Brooklyn. In her free time Lucie performs with hip hop and house dance groups, sings, and creates henna art.

"Working with the cast and crew of SCRATCH was a very fun experience for me. The group was very professional yet knew how to enjoy themselves on and off set."



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STILLS

(Click on each image to download high res versions)

SCRATCH
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the boy



the first girl



the pensive moment



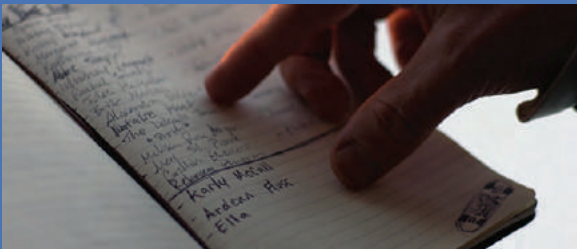
the problem



her family



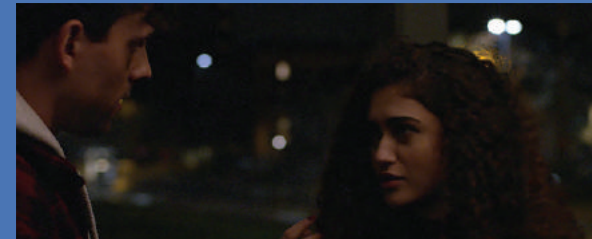
the black eye



the list



the second girl



the third girl

ZIPPED HIGH RES IMAGES: [CLICK HERE](#)

STILLS

(Behind the scenes)

SCRATCH

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director sam shapiro and actor cameron lao gasney discuss a scene



sound recordist jalen thompson makes adjustments



gaffer dominic rondo and digital image tech brendan laird at the ready



sam and some cast members relax between takes



makeup artist lucie sorel



dp liam dillon

PRESS & SCREENINGS

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STAY TUNED

ABOUT SES11

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At SES11 Productions, the focus is storytelling. We look for meaningful stories from artists with fresh voices that need to be heard. We pride ourselves on having an eye for talent and a compelling story, and we are unapologetically comfortable doing whatever it takes to bring the visions of talented individuals to life.



SAM SHAPIRO
Founder & CEO



LIAM PETERSON
COO



106 VAIL LANE
WATCHUNG, NJ 07069
908.477.6505
WWW.SES11PROD.COM