



ESCAPING FREEDOM

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

LOGLINE An estranged brother and sister attempt to reconnect after choosing very different paths in life.

WRITER-DIRECTOR Edd Blott

CAST Patrick D. Green, Kelly Godell, Jonathan Daniel Miles, Brian Adrian Koch, Laura Welsh

PRODUCERS Edd Blott and Patrick D. Green

EXEC. PRODUCERS Heather Yokom, Randy Kovach, Neal Hamil, Shari Gilevich

RUNTIME: 139 minutes

GENRES: Drama, LGBTQ+

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TO DOWNLOAD MATERIALS: EscapingFreedom.net

SYNOPSIS

Foster siblings Vincent and Krystal have been estranged for many years. When they are forced to reunite, their polar opposite paths in life lead to an explosive outcome where each is made to come to terms with their own faults. Vincent is a pastor of a small church struggling with religious doubts and a burgeoning desire for another male pastor. Krystal, on the other hand, has devoted her life to full on exploration and hedonism through the arts yet struggles with the labels placed on her as a result. As each other's closest confidant as well as biggest critic, Vincent and Krystal attract and repel like magnets. When the siblings reunite, everything comes to a head, both within their relationship and within each of their individual lives.



DIRECTOR STATEMENT

I was a few weeks from my thirtieth birthday when it all came crashing down. Until that point, I lived within a conservative, religious environment. Everything about me was shaped and molded by those beliefs. Every job I ever had was within the ministry in one way or another. I married young to a kind woman who dreamed of becoming a missionary, and I had two beautiful daughters partially because that's what I was supposed to do. Questioning myself, my beliefs, and considering my same sex desires was simply never an option. But then, in the fall of 2013, I simply could not ignore it any longer. I was defined completely by others' views and living that lie was tearing me up inside. It almost cost me my life. This is ultimately where *Escaping Freedom* was born.

I didn't set out to write a film about doubting my faith or learning to accept that I didn't fit the heterosexual label I was supposed to claim. I simply wanted to make another film. Yet nothing I wrote ever felt truthful. Everything was in some way a lie, and I had enough of lying in my life. As I learned through tears of happiness and sadness to accept myself, my surrounding struggles evolved into something that would completely change my life. I couldn't ignore the impact they would leave on whatever story I would tell. So instead of trying to ignore them, I finally let the words flow onto the page no matter how pretty or ugly they appeared. I began to find myself inside every character. Every strength and weakness was in some way my own. The characters longed for one thing: to be the most honest version of themselves.

Escaping Freedom is about two very different people. Vincent, a pastor who struggles with who he is supposed to be while carrying the burden of hiding his same sex desire, and Krystal, his foster sister who lives life without boundaries but holds secret her shame of accepting the labels a hedonistic lifestyle puts on a person. This pressure boils over and we watch as they fight to maintain their sense of identity no matter the cost. They can see the apparent faults in the other while completely ignoring their own. How long can this dance last without failing? On the surface these two are polar opposites, but when you look a little deeper, they are truly two sides of the same coin.

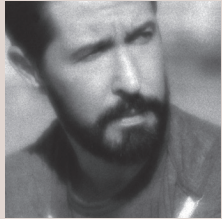
It's the same for all of us. We are neither Vincent nor Krystal. We are all BOTH Vincent and Krystal. That is ultimately what *Escaping Freedom* is about. We are complex creatures with the capacity to love, feel pain and deep fears, and exude incredible strength. When the credits roll, I hope you see a bit more clearly that you and the person sitting next to you are in this world together. Both are worthy of being loved, by others and, maybe even more importantly, by his/her/their own self.



ABOUT THE TEAM

When Producers Edd Blott and Patrick Green began discussing the leap of expanding from the tiny, typically 3-person shoots of the prequel web-series *Letters* to a full-blown feature length film, they knew they wanted to maintain as small a crew as possible, while ensuring all the most necessary jobs were filled. The idea was to keep an atmosphere that allowed for a familial, intimate set where actors could fully focus on performance, and bring the script to life in a way that allowed them to explore and play naturally. Green had worked with Aileen Sheedy, Evan Gandy and Jeffrey Stillwell on several prior projects and knew they were all amazing at not only their specific job title but at being flexible, and the type of people who go above and beyond in order to make things happen. Chloe Huckins was recommended as Production Assistant and rounded out the team perfectly. As for casting, Blott and Green spread the word far and wide for the main roles of Krystal, Marcus and Rene. Auditions began with self-taped scenes. From those, Blott and Green met with top choices to get a feel for them as people and to get a sense of chemistry between the principals as well as the Director. Other roles were filled first from those initial video auditions where folks seemed to fit naturally. Alejandro Villanueva Medina came on in post production as our amazing composer, who has also scored a prior film Green co-produced. The team would be remiss if it did not make clear that all of this was made possible by the incredible folks who supported our Seed & Spark crowdfunding effort. A hearty “thank you!” to each and every member of our exceptional team!

MEET THE CAST



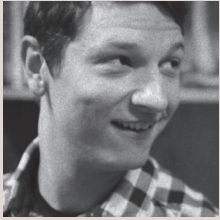
PATRICK D. GREEN (“Vincent”)/Producer)

Patrick D. Green has been working in theatre, film and television for over 15 years. He has had the distinct pleasure of working with talent such as Constantine Makris (NBC’s *Grimm*), M. Blash (Austra music video), and Kelly Reichardt (*First Cow*). Prior to *Escaping Freedom*, Green co-produced and starred in *Crazy Right*, for which he received glowing reviews and won top honors at several film festivals. Up next, Green will be seen in lead roles in the independent feature films *Contactee*, *Tune Out*, and a remake of the cult classic *The Brain That Wouldn’t Die*.



KELLY GODELL (“Krystal”)

Kelly Godell is an American Film, television and theater actor hailing from Portland, Oregon. She has most recently appeared on NBC’s *GRIMM* as Allie Stevens under the direction of the fiercely bad ass/veteran TV director Janice Cooke. Other credits include *Leverage* (TNT), *Portlandia*(IFC), *Breaking the Box*, *Summer Snapshot* (TriBeCa Film Festival Jury Award Nominee), Portland Center Stage at the Armory and Artists Repertory Theater.



JONATHAN DANIEL MILES (“Marcus”)

Jonathan Miles has been acting in Portland area Film, Television and Theatre since 2014. His first feature film, *More Than Only*, won Best LGBTQ film in the Oregon Independent Film Festival. His other films have been honored by the Portland Film Festival, the Oregon Coast Film Festival and the Bohemian Film Festival. Jonathan is proud to have had the opportunity to work with incredible directors such as Dawn Jones Redstone, Joshua Rivera and Jerry Moawad. Jonathan is currently studying French for a role in Season Two of the Prime Original: *One Strange Happy* and is also looking forward to reprising his role as Shep on the new web series: *Gabby Antonio Smashes the Imperialist, White Supremacist, Capitalist Patriarchy*.



BRIAN ADRIAN KOCH (“René”)

Brian Adrian Koch is a Portland based multi-disciplinary artist. He is an actor, writer, musician, occasional director and next year will celebrate 20 years with indie-rock band Blitzen Trapper. He received his BA in Theater Arts at Portland State University and has been performing for the last 16 years in Theater, Film and Music while also dabbling in stand up and sketch comedy as well as storytelling. He’s been seen as a guest star on NBC’s *Grimm*, TNT’s *The Librarians* and most recently TBS’s *Angie Tribeca*. Prior to *Escaping Freedom*, recent film credits include *Pendulum*, *My Right To You* and *North & Nowhere*.

MEET THE DIRECTOR



EDD BLOTT (Writer/Director)

Born in Spokane, Washington, Edd Blott spent his entire childhood telling stories and spending time with his grandfather, a painter, who was instrumental in crafting Edd’s love for the arts. In high school, his artistic focus shifted to cinema when he was first exposed to Jean Renoir’s *Grand Illusion*. A newly born cinephile at that moment, he began studying world cinema from all eras and experimenting on his own with whatever camera he could get his hands on. His credits include writing and directing the award winning social issues feature film *A Tale of Delight*, which can now be viewed online for free under a Creative Commons License and music videos for the Grammy Award winning hip-hop artist Lecrae.











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