



LOVE LETTER
USC Thesis Film

TRT: 17mins
16x9 Widescreen
24pHD, 5.1 Surround

Classroom Newsletter (The Press Kit)

Love Letter wins "Student Emmy" - see page 6

Short Synopsis

Welcome to planet 7th Grade, where a love letter to the girl of your dreams can ruin your life, salami is the perfect diversion for a crazy janitor, and memorizing Shakespeare makes you a loser, but just might win you the girl.

Based loosely on *As You Like It*, LOVE LETTER is the tale of Henry, a boy who faces humiliation at the hands of the school bullies when he loses the letter written to the girl of his dreams and must survive the perils of seventh grade to win back her heart.

Crew

Director:	Trent Jones
Writer:	Cynthia Jones
Producers:	Borga Dorter & Samantha Reynolds
Cinematographer:	Peter Mishara
Editors:	Franklin Peterson & Joshua Rous & Naveen Singh
Casting Director:	Patrick Baca, CSA
Production Design:	Mark Plutynski
Costume Design:	Rebecca Herron
Original Music:	Andrew Kaiser
Sound Design:	Josh Eckberg
Assistant Director:	R. Steven Suettinger
UPM:	Elan Glasser

Cast

Henry:	Galvin Chapman
Thomas:	AJ Noel
Marisa:	Alynia Phillips
Jack:	Nico Howard
Darrell:	Jordan Moser
Mrs. Alpert:	Sarah Lilly
Custodian:	Brian Tubbert

Long Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Henry has finally found the courage to tell Marisa, the girl of his dreams, how he feels about her in a love letter. But when he accidentally leaves the letter in the boy's bathroom, he and his best friend Thomas must use all of their geeky know-how to get the letter back.

They break into the school at night, crawling through air ducts to get to the letter. With the letter almost in reach, the meanest bullies in school beat them to it. Henry's hope for true love is ruined and total humiliation is guaranteed.

Henry goes to school the next day only to find that the bullies have copied the letter and plastered it all over school. Just when it seems like his chances with Marisa are over, Henry uses Shakespeare to find the words to tell her how he feels. Acting out a scene from *As You Like It* with Marisa, Henry confesses his love for her in front of the whole class and wins her heart.

Tagline

Falling in love was the easy part.



CREW BIOS

Trent Jones (Director)

Trent is a recent graduate of the USC School of Cinema-Television. While at USC he directed ten short films and was named a finalist in the Coca Cola Refreshing Filmmakers Contest for his short, *Wonderdog*. Prior to attending USC, Trent was a professional theatre director based in New York. He has directed new plays, musicals, and Shakespeare both in New York and regionally, and on Broadway he assisted such directors as Harold Prince, Mark Lamos and Frank Langhella. He is an alumnus of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and a recipient of the Phil Killian Directing Fellowship at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Last year, he was selected as the runner up in Esquire Magazine's Celluloid Style Contest for his short, *The Immaculate Reception*. Most recently, his short film *Love Letter* has received a College Television Award in the children's programs category. Trent is currently developing a comedy series aimed at tweens, based on *Love Letter*.

Cynthia Jones (Writer)

Cynthia Jones has a Masters Degree in Creative Writing and is now using her experience in literary fiction to write screenplays. Her short story "Undertow" was published in *Alt Pick Magazine* and her short film scripts, *Box Step*, *Love Letter* and *The Immaculate Reception* have been produced at the University of Southern California. She is currently developing a tween TV series based on *Love Letter* with her husband Trent Jones.



The special FX moon shot from the film

Borga Dorter (Producer)

Borga graduated from the USC School of Cinema-Television with a masters degree in film production. While at USC, he wrote and directed the short film *Thermopylae*, which has recently won the Director's Choice Award for Best Student Film at the 2006 Sedona International Film Festival. After *Love Letter*, Borga and his producing partner Samantha teamed up with Trent & Cindy once again to produce *The Immaculate Reception*, a short mockumentary depicting the hustle and bustle at the residence of Jesus in the hours leading up to midnight on Christmas Eve. Borga currently works as a literary assistant at a major agency. He has finished a screenplay in the thriller genre and is busy writing an original pilot, as well as developing a cartoon series.



Samantha Reynolds (Producer)

A native of Vancouver, British Columbia, Samantha Reynolds earned a Bachelor of Arts in Film Production at the University of British Columbia. Samantha traveled to New York to study acting at the prestigious Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre. During that time, appeared in the World Premiere Off-Broadway production of Horton Foote's *Talkin' Pictures* at New York's Signature Theatre and was a fill-in host on *The Late Show With David Letterman*. She has lent her voice to leading roles in animation series such as Henry in *Henry's World*, Ikki in the mega-hit *Medabots*, as well as Todd in the new Nickelodeon series *Wayside School*. After many years working as an actor Samantha decided to return to school and graduated in the spring of 2005 with her MFA in film production from the USC School of Cinema-TV. Samantha is currently writing a feature-length comedy and researching a feature documentary. She collaborated with Trent on the award-winning short *The Immaculate Reception*. Her short documentary *Back To Life* recently won the Cine Golden Eagle Award for excellence in filmmaking and took first prize at the Beverly Hills Shorts Festival.

CREW BIOS (cont'd)

Peter Mishara (DP)

A native New Yorker, Peter has spent the past five years working in the LA film industry, shooting award-winning shorts, commercials and music videos. Short format films that he has shot have garnered the DGA award for Asian-American film, won two student Emmys and have been featured at numerous film festivals around the world including Cannes and Sundance. His promotional work has been with such wide-ranging companies as MTV, Audi, Coca-Cola, A&E, G4TV and Sony. He is currently employed as a producer for Ecko TV, the new television venture from the world-renowned clothier. Peter continues to live in LA and looks forward to the film-festival circuit with his own short *Clear Blue Skies* in the upcoming year.

Franklin Peterson (Editor)

Franklin was born and raised in New Orleans and has been editing movies for over a decade. Getting a dual degree at the University of Texas at Austin in film production and liberal arts honors, he's edited over a dozen short films which have screened all over the country at a wide variety of film festivals. *Clothes Lined* (2003) was runner up for the Flicker Film Festival and received the best editing award at Cinematexas. Currently finishing up his MFA at USC, Franklin's edited numerous advanced projects and is in post on his own thesis film based on the work of Sandra Tsing Loh.

Mark Plutynski (Prod Design)

Mark is a production designer and art director living and working in Los Angeles for the past five years. Since he started off as an art PA for the Bill Murray film *With Friends Like These* his career has grown in scope and creativity. He has art directed music videos for Pigeon John, Young Heart attack and Sir Mix-A-Lot, worked on television shows such as *America's Most Wanted*, *The Bachelorette*, *The Contender* and has been the art department head on five feature films. Mark graduated from the USC School of Cinema-TV in 2000 and has been lucky and proud to work with Trent on *Love Letter*.

Patrick Baca, CSA (Casting)

Patrick Baca, CSA brings a unique perspective to his current career as a Casting Director, having previously been an actor, talent agent and talent manager - all in that order. Patrick cast the *L.A. Law* reunion movie starring Bruce Davison (NBC), the Hallmark movie *Gentle Ben* starring Dean Cain, and *Halloween: Resurrection* starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Busta Rhymes (Miramax). Other features include the forthcoming *Mercenary* (Steven Seagal), and indies *Hard Pill*, *Tweek City*, *Defying Gravity* and *Just Can't Get Enough*. Patrick cast the Comedy Central pilot and series *Strip Mall* starring Julie Brown. Other pilots-to-series include 20th Television's upcoming serial dramas *Table for Three* and *Fashion House*, AMC's acclaimed *The Lot* and UPN's *Reunited*. Patrick serves on the Board of Directors of The Casting Society of America.



Rebecca Herron (Costumes)

Rebecca Herron started out in LA working with Ann Closs-Farley in smaller theatres such as the Actor's Gang and the Evidence Room. Together they won several awards from the LA Weekly for their costumes. Rebecca then found work building puppets and features for characters on the hit television series *Crank Yankers*, where she worked for two years. She recently went back to school to get her cosmetology license and now works as a freelance hairstylist.

Andrew Kaiser (Composer)

Andrew Kaiser currently works as a composer writing for film, television, and the concert stage. His recent film credits include scores for the films *Flourish* and *Fast Money*, as well as additional music in the films *Taxi* and *Cheaper by the Dozen*. His music can also be heard on television in several shows, including hit reality series *Survivor* and *The Apprentice*.



CAST BIOS

Galvin Chapman (Henry)

Galvin Chapman is a 13 year old who enjoys and excels in sports such as football, soccer and baseball. He also is in a rock band called "Caskit" where he plays drums. In addition, Galvin takes pride in his work as an actor, a craft that he has been developing since the age of 4 years old. He has appeared in numerous national commercials, *CSI*, *Without A Trace*, *The Practice* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, as well as movies such as *Dude*, *Where's My Car?*, *Waking Up In Reno*, *Quigley* and the Hallmark Movie *Life on Liberty Street*.



AJ Noel (Thomas)

AJ has been working as a professional actor/model since the age of one and a half. He has appeared on television shows such as *Malcolm In The Middle*, *Madd TV*, *The Parkers*, *Gilmore Girls*, and *Strong Medicine*, as well as many national commercials including SBC/Yahoo, Burger King and Lipton Ice Tea. AJ has worked as a voiceover actor on the radio series "Last Chance Detectives," as well as other radio, film, and TV projects. As a print model, AJ has appeared in ads such as KOHL's, Sears, Kenmore, Hanes (with Michael Jordan), JC Penny, and many more.

Alynia Phillips (Marisa)

Alynia is a straight-A home-schooled seventh grader and avid reader who loves to write poems, stories and song lyrics as well as design clothes and jewelry. Alynia has acted in numerous stage shows, most recently in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* at the Old Globe Theater in San Diego. She also appears in national television commercials, including Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal, Cingular Wireless and Jeopardy. After attending college, Alynia wishes to pursue novel and script writing, as well as acting and directing.

Nico Howard (Jack)

Nico is a junior and an honors student at Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, Arizona. Nico has appeared on film and stage, including the sitcom *Yes, Dear*, the film *Childhood Violence*, the stage play *Urbania*, and a national Juicy Fruit gum commercial. Between acting, guitar and piano lessons, Nico is also the lead singer with *Without A Heart*, a local rock band, and plays on his high school's tennis team. Nico hopes to attend college at UCLA so that he can continue his acting career while studying pre-law.

Sarah Lilly (Mrs. Alpert)

Sarah Lilly has appeared in more than 100 plays from Shakespeare to musicals. She trained at Northwestern University (BSC), UCLA (MFA) and the prestigious London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. She has also appeared in numerous TV shows, most recently *The Bernie Mac Show* and *Medium*. In her film appearances you can currently see her in theatres in *Failure to Launch*. If you like cult classics, check her out in *Amazon Women on the Moon* and *The Mangler Reborn*.



PHOTOS



Director Trent Jones



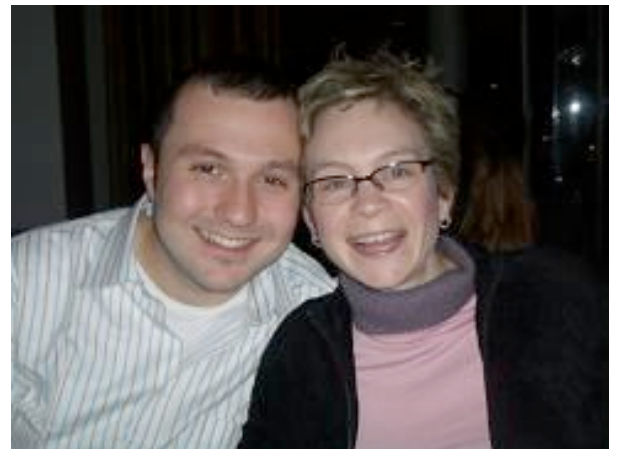
DP Peter Mishara



Writer Cynthia Jones



Henry inside the air duct



Producers Borga Dorter & Samantha Reynolds



A scene from the classroom



Director Trent Jones consults his crew

Director's Comments

There are two things I remember about junior high: falling in love for the first time and discovering Shakespeare. *Love Letter* was my way of bringing those two powerful experiences together. After years of directing Shakespeare for the stage, it was an exciting challenge to bring it to life in the crazy world of seventh grade. My daughter was born as I was finishing *Love Letter*, but it was our plans for her arrival that inspired us to make the movie. When you're a kid it's hard to believe in yourself, especially in the face of daunting peer pressure. My wife and I wanted to create something that would one day inspire her to take risks and believe in herself.

From Storyboard to Screen



Film Facts

Fact #1

The film was shot over a 10 days in Los Angeles, Pasadena and Whittier, CA.

Fact #2

The school that appears in the film's opening is actually Whittier High School, where many scenes from *Back to the Future* were shot.

Fact #3

Over 400 child actors auditioned for the film.

Awards

CASTING SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Love Letter and Casting Director Patrick Baca are nominated for an Artois Award for Best Cast in a Short Film.

ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS AND SCIENCES "STUDENT EMMY"

Love Letter is the 2006 College Television Award (aka "STUDENT EMMY") winner in the children's programming category.

CRESTED BUTTE REEL FEST

BEST STUDENT SHORT

LAKE FOREST FILM FESTIVAL

BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT

Contact Information

For more information or to hear more about other projects in development, please contact:

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