

## **Canadian Distributor**

Search Engine Films www.searchenginefilms.com

**US** Distribution

108 Media Corp www.108mediacorp.com

## **Producer**

Paul Armstrong armspaul@gmail.com 1.604.727.0253 www.lawrenceandholloman.com

# **LAWRENCE & HOLLOMAN**

A comedy about a pessimist whose plans to kill himself are thwarted when an optimist enters his life.







Based on the highly successful stage play by MORRIS PANYCH, two-time winner of the Canadian Governor General's Award for Drama, Lawrence & Holloman is the debut feature film from director MATTHEW KOWALCHUK, for which he has won Emerging Director (VIFF), Rising Star Filmmaker (EIFF), and Best Director of a Comedy (VTXIFF).

Adapted for the screen by DANIEL ARNOLD & MATTHEW KOWALCHUK, the script has been nominated for "Best Screenplay" (Leo Awards) and "Best Screenplay" (Canadian Comedy Awards), having received story consulting from Academy Award™ nominated DANIEL PETRIE JR (writer of Beverly Hills Cop and The Big Easy) and story editing from KYLE HUNTER & ARIEL SHAFFIR (producers/story editors of 50/50, Goon, and This is the End).

The film stars four-time Leo Award-nominated BEN COTTON (*Battlestar Galactica*, *Stargate*, *The Killing*) who for this role has won Rising Star Actor (EIFF) and Best Comedic Acting (BNFF); Gemini and Leo Award-winning KATHARINE ISABELLE (*American Mary*, *Ginger Snaps*) who was also nominated for a Leo Award for this role; multiple Canadian Comedy Award nominee AMY MATYSIO (*Single White Spenny*, *inSAYSHAble*); and introduces the internationally acclaimed theatre actor DANIEL ARNOLD in his debut starring role in a feature film, for which he has been nominated for "Best Actor" (Leo Awards) and won "Best Actor in a Comedy" (VTXIFF).

Executive Producers MARY ANNE WATERHOUSE & ANDREW CURRIE of Quadrant Motion Pictures have produced numerous features including *Donovan's Echo* starring Danny Glover, *The Thaw* starring Val Kilmer, and *FIDO* starring Carrie Ann Moss, while producer PAUL ARMSTRONG of Ameland Films has produced the multi award-winning features *See Grace Fly, Ill Fated,* and *Moving Malcolm* starring Elizabeth Berkley, and co-producer ROBYN WIENER has co-produced or line produced numerous films including *Amazon Falls, The Wingman,* and *American Mary.* 

Production financed in part by:



Development financed by:







Broadcasters:





# **LAWRENCE & HOLLOMAN**



This guy's obviously happy.



This guy's obviously not.

Which would you rather be?

## **Synopsis**

In this absurdly twisted buddy comedy, Holloman (Daniel Arnold), a nebbish, cynical and suicidal credit collector, is taken under the wing of Lawrence (Ben Cotton), the most joyous and ebullient suit salesman you'll ever meet.

But as Holloman's fortunes slowly improve and he meets his long-time sultry crush Zooey (Katharine Isabelle), Lawrence's happy life takes major turns for the worse: his car is crushed, his dog goes missing, he loses his job, he's dumped by his hot-blooded fiancé Jill (Amy Matysio), and his apartment burns to the ground. And that's just the beginning!

Fate. Luck. Perspective.

Is happiness determined by our outlook on life? Or can our destiny be changed ... by another.



Lawrence finds panties in his pocket.



Holloman dates Zooey. In his dreams.

# **LAWRENCE & HOLLOMAN**

#### Cast

Lawrence Holloman Zooey Jill

Holloman's Mother Sharleen The Cook Lawrence's Manager Burly Guy in Jail Hot Mama with Stroller Crazy Cross-Eyed Woman Cantankerous Caller Ginger the Dog BEN COTTON
DANIEL ARNOLD
KATHARINE ISABELLE
AMY MATYSIO

CHRISTINE WILLES
CANDUS CHURCHILL
SEAN TYSON
TONY ALCANTAR
MARK ACHESON
MEDINA HAHN
MARISA SMITH
ENID-RAYE ADAMS
ZANDER

#### Crew

Director / Co-writer / Producer Co-writer / Producer

Producer
Executive Producer
Executive Producer
Co-producer / Line Producer
Associate Producer

Story Editors Story Consultant Writer (stage play)

Cinematographers
Composer
Production Designer
Costume Designer
Editor
Casting

MATTHEW KOWALCHUK DANIEL ARNOLD

PAUL ARMSTRONG
MARY ANNE WATERHOUSE
ANDREW CURRIE
ROBYN WIENER
DON THOMPSON

KYLE HUNTER & ARIEL SHAFFIR DANIEL PETRIE JR. MORRIS PANYCH

GRAHAM TALBOT & NELSON TALBOT DON MACDONALD GUY ROLAND JOJO MACDOWALL DAVID LEGAULT CANDICE ELZINGA



# **LAWRENCE & HOLLOMAN**

### DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY - MATTHEW KOWALCHUK

Bedbugs: a musical love story, short, 2014 Shot on CANNON Vancouver's Crazy 8's Film Festival (English)

## Lawrence & Holloman, feature, 2013

Shot on RED

World Premiere: Vancouver International FF Broadcast after release: Super Channel, OutTV (English)

## Penguins (Are so sensitive to my needs), short, 2012

Shot on RED
Commissioned by Kickstart Arts
Wide Angle Media Disability Festival, Edmonton IFF
(English / Subtitled)

You Make me Ok, music video, 2012 Shot on HD, Canon 5D www.davidblairsongs.com (English)

**Hearing Test**, short, 2011 Shot on 16mm Fortunato FF, MESH, Made in Vancouver FF, Rendez-Vous du Cinema (English / silent)

The Janitors, short, 2006

Shot on 35mm

NSI Film Exchange, Vancouver IFF, Edmonton IFF, Calgary IFF, Whistler Film Festival, interfilm Berlin, Hollywood Film Festival Broadcast: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Italian PayTV Winner of NSI Drama Prize

(English)



Holloman considers ending it all. Lawrence finds this amusing.



He may be down, but he's not out!

# **LAWRENCE** & HOLLOMAN

#### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

"There are people who prefer to say 'Yes,' and there are people who prefer to say 'No'. Those who say 'Yes' are rewarded by the adventures they have, and those who say 'No' are rewarded by the safety they attain." - Keith Johnstone, Impro

I've always tried my best to live on the Yes side of things, believing 100% in the adventure that awaits. Like Lawrence, I expect good things to come my way and I don't apologize for it. And while that attitude has served me well in making Lawrence & Holloman, I'd be nowhere at all without a practical side of thinking to reign in and focus my creative energies. In other words, I'd be nowhere without my writing/producing partner Daniel Arnold, and the incredible team of producers and key creatives on the film, who challenged me to say yes to only the best ideas. Because Yes doesn't mean settling for any old thing; Yes means allowing others in, setting the bar high from the start, and saying, Yes, we can achieve this high level of work, together.

Lawrence and Holloman get along in much the same way. They are two sides of a coin, yin and yang, not merely opposite but delightfully, perfectly, contrary, in every way. They are incomplete without the others perspective on life. Part of the joy of watching them is that while they may be the oddest couple you'll ever meet, they somehow need one another to get along. It is almost as if one cannot *exist* without the other.

The story asks the question, "Can we change who we are?" – pushing further than you'd expect. And I love that about our movie. That, in the name of comedy, we dig in hard and we don't let go. My favourite comedies all take the audience to a point where they can no longer guess what will happen next, because they just can't imagine it going further than it already has — the moment where we can all go, "A-ha! NOW let's go for a ride", and the magic truly begins. It was important to me that we didn't hold back from the moments that truly surprise, shock, or even offend our audience, who in the end I hope will be all giddy on the floor, going, "I can't believe they DID that!!"

As Holloman and Lawrence unknowingly push one another toward the absurd, insane – yet inevitable – end, my hope is that the laughter of the audience resonates on two levels. We laugh at them, and we laugh at ourselves. Not because we'll ever go to quite the lengths that they do, but because we are all either a Lawrence or a Holloman at heart. Do you know which one you are?



Matthew Kowalchuk



M Kowalchuk & co-writer/star D Arnold



M Kowalchuk wins Emerging Director (VIFF)

# **LAWRENCE & HOLLOMAN**

Shot in and around Vancouver BC Canada, Lawrence & Holloman boasts a supporting cast of busy actors.



THE CRUSH



THE COOK



THE FIANCE



THE CO-WORKER



THE MOTHER

#### KATHARINE ISABELLE (Zooey) Select credits:

American Mary
Cinemanovels
13 Eerie
Another Cinderella Story
Insomnia
Ginger Snaps

### SEAN TYSON

Select credits: Independence Daysaster The Marine: Homefront The L Word Stargate SG-1

### AMY MATYSIO

(Jill)
Select credits:
Single White Spenny
Just Friends
Stranded
inSAYSHAble
Ferocious
Chained

#### **CANDUS CHURCHILL**

Select credits: The King of Fighters Jennifer's Body Firewall Emily Owens MD Da Vinci's Inquest

## CHRISTINE WILLES

Select credits: Red Riding Hood The Wicker Man Emily Owens MD Reaper Dead Like me

### A wicked soundtrack of Canadian and international recording artists.

Casey Shea www.caseysheamusic.com

The Beladeans www.TheBeladeans.com

The October Trio www.theoctobertrio.com Jessica Harvey & Daniel Deorksen www.twoappletobacco.com

Sarah Jane Scouten www.sarahjanescouten.com

The Coalition www.coalitionsound.com

David Blair www.davidblairsongs.com

Aaron Olson www.aaronolson.net

Sasha Dobson www.sashadobson.com

## And a wide array of quiet insanity.



Goth Gone Wild. Zooey arrives for dinner.



Meanwhile, back at the asylum.



Uh ... is that a man with a moustache?

SHOT ON RED by award-winning cinematographer twins GRAHAM & NELSON TALBOT.

# **LAWRENCE & HOLLOMAN**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

"Life Imitates Art" -- In the film, Ben Cotton's character Lawrence endures multiple setbacks including ending up in a walking boot cast. Before reshoots of some pivotal scenes, Ben actually broke his foot in real life, and had to walk around set in a walking boot -- just like his character!

"The Panych Connection" -- Director/co-writer Matthew Kowalchuk directed the Edmonton premiere of Morris Panych's play 7 Stories.

**"Panych on Screen"** -- Playwright Morris Panych, writer of the stage play Lawrence & Holloman, directed a version of his play *The Overcoat* for the screen; it won an honourable mention at the Prix Italia. While he lived in Vancouver, Morris also directed an episode of *The X-Files*.

"Pauloman the Producer" -- Producer Paul Armstrong has some similar qualities to Holloman. In fact, Paul's apartment was used as Holloman's apartment in the film. On set, the crew began calling him "Pauloman".

"Big in China" – Lawrence & Holloman just had three sold out screenings at the Shanghai International Film Festival where director Matthew Kowalchuk and producer Paul Armstrong were stormed with autograph requests. Yes, the movie is big in China.



Having endured some setbacks, Lawrence considers ending it all.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### Matthew Kowalchuk - Director / Co-Writer

Matthew is a graduate of UBC's department of Theatre, Film, and Creative Writing, and he works for the theatre and screen as a director, actor, and writer. He first partnered with Daniel Arnold for their debut short film *The Janitors*, which won the National Screen Institute's Drama Prize, starred William B Davis (Smoking Man from *The X-Files*), and screened at numerous festivals worldwide including VIFF, interFilm Berlin, and the Hollywood Film Festival. *The Janitors* was also broadcast nationally on CBC and Italian PayTV, and is internationally distributed by interFilm Berlin.

Matthew also wrote, directed, and produced the experimental 16mm short film *Hearing Test*, featuring Daniel Arnold, which has played at Fortunato FF, MESH, Made in Vancouver, and the Rendez-Vous du Cinema. He also wrote and directed a music video for David Blair's "You Make Me Ok", and his short film *Penguins* (*Are so sensitive to my needs*), also starring Daniel Arnold, was short-listed for the DGC Kickstart program, and commissioned by Kickstart Arts. Matthew has also written two other short film scripts, *Sparkle Bunny*, which was a finalist for Vancouver's Crazy8s Film Festival, and *Days of Cora Brown*, short-listed for the NSI Drama Prize.

Matthew was recognized as one of Canada's Emerging Playwrights by Solo Collective for the stage play version of *Penguins*. He has long been a student of comedy, having first trained as an improvisor in Edmonton, Alberta with Rapid Fire Theatre, and writing weekly sketch comedy for Rapid Fire's *The 11:02 Show* and comedy troupe *Gordon's Big Bald Head*. He also produced and directed Vancouver's live, improvised soap opera, *The Soap Show*. Matthew has directed numerous stage plays across Western Canada, including the Edmonton premiere of Morris Panych's *7 Stories*.

Lawrence & Holloman is his first feature film.

### Daniel Arnold - Co-Writer / HOLLOMAN

Daniel is an award-winning actor and writer in both theatre and screen. For the screen, he has had roles in the TV series' *The Killing, Fringe, Supernatural*, and *The 4400*; Hallmark's *Lies Between Friends*, and played leads in the shorts *The P.I. Experiment, Moonlight Bingo, Still Dreams, Coloring on the Walls*, and Matthew Kowalchuk's *Hearing Test* and *Penguins*. "Holloman" is his debut starring role in a feature film.

As a busy professional theatre actor, he has won an Edmonton Sterling Award for "Outstanding Performance", been nominated for two others, been nominated for four Vancouver Jessie Awards, and was profiled in the Georgia Straight as an "Artist to Watch". He has also written and performed two stage plays, *Tuesdays & Sundays* and *Any Night*, which have been published, toured internationally, and were both listed among the "Best Shows of the Year" across Canada and in New York. He performed *Tuesdays & Sundays* to great acclaim at the world-renowned Edinburgh Festival, and recently performed *Any Night* Off-Broadway.

As a screenwriter, he has written with Matthew Kowalchuk the short film *The Janitors*, winner of the NSI Drama Prize, which screened at numerous festivals, was broadcast on CBC, and is distributed by interfilm Berlin. He also co-wrote the short film *Mayor Mulligan*, winner of "Best Writing" in Vancouver's 24hr Film Contest, and he is currently developing his play *Any Night* into a feature film, with support from Creative BC and Corus Entertainment.

Daniel graduated with Honours and a 'Golden Key' from University of Alberta's BFA Conservatory Acting program, and was a two-time nominee for Edmonton's Mayor Award "Emerging Artist of the Year", is a recipient of Alberta Theatre Projects "Emerging Artist Scholarship", and his mentor Daniel MacIvor honoured him as the protégé recipient of The Siminovitch Prize, Canada's most prestigious theatre award.

# **BIOGRAPHIES** (continued)

## Mary Anne Waterhouse - Executive Producer

Mary Anne is a two time Gemini award-winning producer, with a resume that includes over 50 film and television productions. Her most recent films include *Donovan's Echo* starring Danny Glover and Bruce Greenwood and *The Thaw* starring Val Kilmer. Prior to that, Mary Anne produced the award winning zombie comedy *Fido*. Directed and co-written by Anagram partner Andrew Currie and starring Carrie-Anne Moss, Billy Connolly, Dylan Baker, and Tim Blake Nelson, *Fido* garnered great reviews and played worldwide, including theatrical releases in five countries.

Other feature producing credits include *Desolation Sound*, starring Jennifer Beals. TV credits include the CTV movies 100 Days in the Jungle, shot on location in the jungles of Costa Rica, and *Elijah*. Both projects garnered her Geminis for Best TV Movie. In addition to her work in independent production, Mary Anne has extensive production service credits, most recently Joss Whedon's *Cabin in the Woods* and Neill Blomkamp's *Elysium*.

Mary Anne is currently in pre-production on the comedy feature film *My Asshole Neighbour* as well as developing a slate of comedies for both the big and small screen with her company Quadrant Motion Pictures.

#### Andrew Currie – Executive Producer / Director-mentor

A founding partner in Anagram Pictures, Andrew received a film degree from Simon Fraser University, before going on to complete the Director's residency at the Canadian Film Centre. After a series of award winning short films, Andrew's first feature was the acclaimed drama *Mile Zero*, which won top honours around the world, and was one of ten international films selected for Janet Maslin's prestigious Town Hall Film Series in New York. After that he directed and co-wrote the critically applauded zombie comedy, *Fido*, starring Carrie Anne Moss, Billy Connolly and Tim Blake Nelson. *Fido* had theatrical releases in North America (Lionsgate Films), Japan and France, played at prestigious festivals (Toronto International Film Festival, Sitges, Sundance Film Festival 2007), and went on to win numerous awards at festivals around the world.

Other credits include directing Sleep Murder - TV movie for CTV and BVI - starring Jason Priestley and Natar Ungalaag (The Fast Runner); producer on the feature comedy, The Delicate Art of Parking, and directing Twisteeria, a half-hour comedy for YTV which garnered Currie a Gemini Award nomination.

He is currently in pre-production on his R-rated comedy, *My Asshole Neighbour*, developing *Fido* into a TV series with Lionsgate, and is developing several other feature and TV projects with partner Mary Anne Waterhouse, at the newly formed company, Quadrant Motion Pictures.

# **BIOGRAPHIES** (continued)

## Paul Armstrong - Producer

Paul is an award-winning Vancouver film, television and theatre producer. Besides *Lawrence & Holloman*, feature film credits include *Moving Malcolm* by Benjamin Ratner starring Elizabeth Berkley (Showgirls) & John Neville; the Genie Award nominated *See Grace Fly* by Pete McCormack (Facing Ali) and *Ill-Fated* starring Peter Outerbridge, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and in the US at Slamdance. He is currently in production on the documentary *Revolution*, *The Legacy of the Sixties* and in development on various dramatic feature films including *Any Night*, also written by Daniel Arnold.

Short film credits include *Anxious Oswald Greene* by Marshall Axani, *The Money Pet* featuring Alan Cumming, *Monster* & *Everything's Coming up Rosie* starring Jodelle Ferland & Ian Tracey, *The Bar* starring Peter Deluise, *Break a Leg, Rosie* starring Carly Pope & Ian Tracey, and *Mon amour mon parapluie* with cameos by William Gibson & Douglas Coupland.

Paul has also produced TV commercials with Adplay Media, produced music videos for Bif Naked, Jim Byrnes, Jessie Farrell and Jeff Martin of the Tea Party and produced 20 plays, from Shakespeare to Ibsen to Mamet.

Paul is the founder, programmer and producer of The Celluloid Social Club, a monthly screening of short films. Through the Club he operates three film Contests: The Hot Shorts, Bloodshots Horror and Vancouver Film Race. He is also the Vancouver screening event producer for The First Weekend Club, which promotes the release of Canadian feature films. Most recently he joined Crazy8s as the Executive Director.

## Morris Panych – Writer (source material)

Morris is a Canadian playwright, actor, and director and is a major figure in Canadian theatre. He has written twenty plays and adapted half a dozen others, which have received productions all over the world including London's West End, and he also co-wrote/directed both the stage version and film adaptation of *The Overcoat*, which won an honourable mention at the Prix Italia. He has twice won the Governor General Literary Award for Drama, the highest honour for playwriting in Canada.

## Kyle Hunter & Ariel Shaffir – Story Editors

Kyle and Ariel are writers, producers, story editors and writing consultants. Their first script entitled *Camp Sawyer* was optioned and is currently in development with Paramount. Their second script entitled *Sausage Party* was co-written and produced by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg. Kyle and Ariel served as associate producers on the Summit Entertainment and Mandate Pictures film *50/50* starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogen, and they are Executive Producers of Rogen and Goldberg's *This is the End* and *The Interview*. Kyle and Ariel have worked as story editors on many Canadian projects, most notably *Goon*, written by Evan Goldberg and Jay Baruchel, and directed by Michael Dowse. Other Canadian projects on which they have filled the role of story editor include *Sunbeach*, *The Kids are on Fire*, and *The Sex Lives of Pirates*.

## **Daniel Petrie Jr – Script Consultant**

Daniel was nominated for an Academy Award<sup>™</sup> for his screenplay *Beverly Hills Cop.* He has also written *The Big Easy, Deadly Pursuit, Turner & Hooch*, and both written and directed *Toy Soldiers* and *In the Army Now*, and Executive Produced *The 6<sup>th</sup> Day* and *Combat Hospital* among others. He was Matthew Kowalchuk and Daniel Arnold's project mentor on their first short film *The Janitors*.

# **LAWRENCE & HOLLOMAN**



Ah, Holloman. Even when he tries to stand out, he still blends in.

If your life is bad, find someone whose life is worse.
You'll feel better.

## For interviews please contact:

## **Publicist**

Lesley Diana @ The Promotion People lesley@thepromotionpeople.ca 1.604.726.5575 www.thepromotionpeople.ca

Link to: Website Facebook Twitter IMDB

**Producer** 

Paul Armstrong armspaul@gmail.com 1.604.727.0253 www.lawrenceandholloman.com

## **REVIEWS**

**EIFF** 

"A MUST-SEE. ... the sleeper hit of the whole festival. (Make sure to stay for the end of the credits.)"

- Scott Hayes (St. Albert Gazette) FULL REVIEW HERE

"The unlikeliest best buds in the history of buddy comedy ... Lawrence & Holloman cranks the hoary old vaudeville joke set-up one notch at a time, into a kind of comic apocalypse."

Liz Nicholls (Edmonton Journal)
 FULL ARTICLE HERE

#### **VIFF**

### "Best BC Films at VIFF" List

Vancouver Magazine
 FULL REVIEW HERE

### "Top Canadian Films to see at VIFF"

Huffington Post

"Rich humor ... appealing performances ... and something remarkable happens amidst the chaos: the story starts to resonate in your heart -- and when the dust settles this richly dark film may very well force you to re-examine your perspective."

- VancouverPresents.com FULL REVIEW HERE

"Pitch-perfect characterizations ... assured lensing ... hideously (and hilariously) real. Thrilling is how you might describe the chemistry between Cotton and Arnold ... a beautifully judged comic two-hander."

- The Georgia Straight FULL REVIEW HERE

"Clever, witty, and playful ... This film is just dark enough that I feel a bit guilty about having enjoyed it as much as I did ..."

- Allan MacInnis (AlienatedinVancouver)
FULL REVIEW HERE

"Enjoyable to anyone ... this film will please. It could also inspire you to choose to be optimistic and happy!"

- ReelLife, Vancouver FULL REVIEW HERE

"Debuted to waves of laughter ... a darkly funny, sometimes insane buddy comedy."

- YVRshoots FULL REVIEW HERE

"Dark, twisted, and really very funny ... a multi-dimensional screamer. One of the events top flicks ... ready for the big-time."

- The Province, Vancouver FULL REVIEW HERE

CINEQUEST "The laughs just kept coming in this **must see dark comedy**. Perfectly cast ... so well written ... audiences are going to love it. Put it on your calendars and **get ready for those belly laughs!**"

- Cinequest Film Review, San Jose CA
- FULL REVIEW HERE

## **MEDIA ATTENTION -** Click on hyperlinks.

THE PROVINCE, Vancouver BC - front cover of Entertainment section

SHAW TV'S "THE RUSH", Vancouver BC - interview with Ben Cotton and Daniel Arnold

GLOBAL TV NEWS, Edmonton AB - interview with Matthew Kowalchuk

NOVUS TV, Vancouver BC - Red Carpet interview with D Arnold, M Kowalchuk, P Armstrong

VANCOUVERSCAPE.COM - pictures and coverage

24 HOURS MAGAZINE, Vancouver BC - "Red Carpet laid out for VIFF"

PITCH PAGE.COM, Vancouver BC - video interview with D Arnold and M Kowalchuk

THE PROVINCE, Vancouver BC - VIFF and EIFF awards coverage

FIRST WEEKEND CLUB, Canada - interview with Matthew Kowalchuk and Daniel Arnold

EDMONTON FILM FEST- interview with Daniel Arnold and Matthew Kowalchuk

MISS604.COM – Leo Awards red carpet

VANCOUVER SUN – Leo Awards coverage

CANNES SCREENING, The Province – <u>interview with actor/writer Daniel Arnold</u>

CANNES SCREENING, The Straight – <u>interview with actor/writer Daniel Arnold</u>