



a film by daniel patrick carbone

hide your smiling faces



PRESS KIT

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Credits

Written and Directed By

Daniel Patrick Carbone

Produced By

**Matthew Petock
Zachary Shedd
Daniel Patrick Carbone
Jordan Bailey-Hoover**

Starring

**Ryan Jones
Nathan Varnson**

**Colm O'Leary
Thomas Cruz
Christina Starbuck
Chris Kies**

**Andrew Chamberlain
Ivan Tomic
Clark Middleton
Annaliese Jørgensen-Lockhart**

Director of Photography

Nick Bentgen

Production Designer

Charlotte Royer

Editor

Daniel Patrick Carbone

Original Score

Robert Donne

*Sound Designer and Re-Recording
Mixer*

Chris Foster



Synopsis

An atmospheric exploration of life and death in rural America, as seen through the distorted lens of youth.

Hide Your Smiling Faces vividly depicts the young lives of two brothers as they abruptly come of age through the experience of a friend's mysterious death. The event ripples under the surface of their town, unsettling the brothers and their friends in a way that they can't fully understand. Once familiar interactions begin to take on a macabre tone in light of the tragic accident, leading Eric, 14, and Tommy, 9, to retreat into their wild surroundings. As the two brothers vocally face the questions they have about mortality, they simultaneously hold their own silent debates within their minds that build into seemingly insurmountable moral peaks. *Hide Your Smiling Faces* is a true, headlong glimpse into the raw spirit of youth, as well as the calluses that one often develops as a result of an unfiltered past.

Director's Statement



In some ways, *Hide Your Smiling Faces*, my first feature, has been in pre-production since I was a child. Some of my earliest memories provided inspiration for the events that these characters go through, many dating back almost 20 years. Though these individuals have been created for the sake of a film, a work of fiction, they are products of real life experiences and emotions.

To me, the natural structure for a film like this is like that of a dream – fragmented but always fluid. To enhance the fleeting nature of the chosen moments, some scenes loosely connect to others as a sequence, while others are entirely independent. The film seeks to illuminate how one's formative years are a hastily stitched quilt - a patchwork of thoughts and emotions born of seemingly innocuous circumstances. At first glance, the majority of our daily lives might seem insignificant - moments to pass the time between milestones. It is not until later though, that we realize the importance of these small instances. One throwaway moment could suddenly gain great significance when paired with another - days, months, even years later. My hope was to capture the meaning behind these moments, and to do so in a fresh and honest way building meaningful relationships in a place that feels authentic and lived-in.

While no two upbringings are identical, there will always be shocking, shared similarities amid the vastness of our differences. This is a universal phenomenon, made all the more powerful when seen through the wandering, inventive, often ignored, and at times unreliable perspective of a child. Their lives are not merely made up of the joyful and the life affirming, but also the confusing and miserable. I seek to create real characters – full of faults and good intentions. These are the people I am drawn to, and hopefully the audience will feel the same way.

The intent of *Hide Your Smiling Faces* is to explore not the moments that we are remembered by, but the moments we remember – with equal parts fear and fascination – and our innate ability to project onto even our most sacred environments a home, a maze, or a prison. The world is a strange, confusing, and often-scary place for a young person. It can be difficult to explain the actions of others, or even our own. Love and support today might be cynicism and violence tomorrow. Everything is not always going to be ok. But we learn to adjust and press on at our own pace, and are better for it.

- Daniel Patrick Carbone, January 2013



Biographies

DANIEL PATRICK CARBONE Writer + Director

Daniel Patrick Carbone is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, currently residing in Brooklyn, NYC. In 2008, he received the Warner Bros. Film Award and multiple NYU First Run Film Festival awards for his short, *Feral*, which went on to screen at film festivals internationally. In 2012, he was selected for the IFP Narrative Labs, Emerging Visions program, and the New York Film Festival's Artists Academy for his debut feature film, *Hide Your Smiling Faces*. The film took the top prize at the US-in-Progress section of the American Film Festival in Wroclaw, Poland and will have its world premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2013. He is currently in post-production on *Phantom Cowboys*, a feature-length documentary and Cinereach grantee, which he co-directed and shot. Also a Director of Photography, Daniel shot the independent feature film *A Little Closer* for director Matthew Petock in 2009, and director Rick Alverson's *Rabbit* in 2011. As DP, his work has been showcased at the Sundance Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, and the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, among many others.

MATTHEW PETOCK Producer

Matthew grew up in Richmond, Virginia and moved to New York to pursue film at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. In 2009 he returned to Richmond to shoot his debut feature film, *A Little Closer*, which had its World Premiere at the 2011 International Film Festival Rotterdam and went on to screen at prestigious festivals throughout the world, including the Chicago, São Paulo, Thessaloniki, Moscow and Vienna International Film Festivals, among many others. More recently, the film was screened as a part of the Film Society of Lincoln Center's "Indie Night" screening series, curated by Scott Foundas and Ted Hope. Matthew currently lives in Brooklyn, where he is developing several new projects.

ZACHARY SHEDD Producer

Zachary grew up in San Francisco and graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He began his professional career as a Second Unit Photographer for the Warner Brothers feature film *Rent* in 2005 and went on to a three-year staff position at the commercial production company Park Pictures. Teaming with film school collaborators to form the Brooklyn-based film collective Flies, Shedd produced the independent feature *A Little Closer* (dir. Matthew Petock), which premiered at the 40th International Film Festival Rotterdam and *Hide Your Smiling Faces* (dir. Daniel Patrick Carbone). He also independently produced the feature film *Rabbit* (dir. Rick Alverson), starring Will Oldham. He has directed numerous short films including *Americana* (the loose basis for his upcoming feature directorial debut of the same name), which was featured at the Seattle and Calgary International Film Festivals. He is 27 years old and currently lives in Brooklyn, New York.

JORDAN BAILEY-HOOVER Producer

Jordan is from Atlanta, GA and moved to New York in 2004. She graduated from the Gallatin School of Individualized Studies at New York University in 2007. While at NYU, she assisted on Daniel Patrick Carbone's thesis film, *Feral*. From 2007-2009, she worked in advocacy and public programming for an international human rights organization in New York. In 2009, she was unit production manager on *A Little Closer*, which had its international premiere at the 2011 International Film Festival Rotterdam. Since 2011, she has worked for NYU Abu Dhabi, both in Abu Dhabi and in New York. Jordan is also currently pursuing her Master's at the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at NYU. She lives in Brooklyn..

Biographies *continued*

NICK BENTGEN Director of Photography

Nick Bentgen is a Brooklyn-based director / cinematographer. As a DP, Nick lensed Matt Wolf's new documentary, *Teenage*, and Daniel Carbone's feature narrative, *Hide Your Smiling Faces*. Nick has directed commercials (Swarovski), music videos (Small Black, Pitchfork's Juan's Basement), and contributed to installations (Matt Keegan, I [Apple] NY). He recently directed seven short documentaries for the New York City Ballet, and he has photographed spots for Google, Friends of the Highline, American Express, and Apple. Nick was selected for IFP & Film Society of Lincoln Center's 2011 Emerging Visions Program for his upcoming feature directorial debut, *Northern Light*.

RYAN JONES Character, Tommy

Ryan Jones was born in New York City. Currently he lives in Darien, Connecticut where he attends school. He is the oldest of four children. At the age of 9, Ryan began his training as an actor. He made his acting debut in the short film *Kephir* one year later. Since then, he has been the lead actor in over 20 short films, as well as featured in television and theater productions. Most recently, Ryan made his stage debut in New York City in *And a Child Shall Lead*, a coming of age play about children in Terezin during the Holocaust. Most notably, Ryan's first lead role in a feature film is *Hide Your Smiling Faces*, where he played the role of Tommy. This experience, under the direction of Daniel Patrick Carbone, has been instrumental in cementing Ryan's passion for acting. When he is not acting Ryan is an avid sportsman. He enjoys participating in sailboat racing, lacrosse, baseball, tennis and basketball. Ryan is represented by Barry Kolker of the Carson-Kolker Agency in New York City.

NATHAN VARNSON Character, Eric

Nathan Varnson was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and is the third of six children. Nathan's first press notice came at the age of 5-months, when he and his mom appeared together for a fashion spread in *Glamour* magazine. Nathan got his start in modeling and has always been at ease with acting and credits his soft spot for his older sister Taylor, who is autistic and mentally impaired, as the source for his ability to relate with a character. "Sometimes you have to be able to connect with a person emotionally, nonverbally," he says. "I just imagine Tay Tay and the emotions come pouring out." While Nathan has enjoyed several opportunities to hone his skills on stage and in front of the camera, his greatest blessing to date has been *Hide Your Smiling Faces* and working with Daniel Patrick Carbone. These days Nathan splits his time between auditions, high school studies, football practice, and girls.

ROBERT DONNE Composer

Robert (Bobby) Donne (b. 1967) is a musician, composer and carpenter from Richmond VA. He has been a member of Labradford, Cristal, Gregor Samsa and Spokane, among other bands and has scored films by Rick Alverson (*New Jerusalem*) and Daniel Carbone (*Hide Your Smiling Faces*).

Press



'Smiling Faces,' 'Cold Lands' to premiere in Berlin

Generation youth section announces 15 selections

By ED MEZA

BERLIN -- Daniel Patrick Carbone's "Hide Your Smiling Faces" and Tom Gilroy's "The Cold Lands" are among three U.S. films selected for the Berlin Film Festival's youth showcase, Generation.

Screening as world premieres in the older skewing Generation 14plus section, all three pics deal with tough subject-matter: in Carbone's drama, two young brothers struggle with the loss of a friend, while in "Cold Lands," an 11-year-old boy tries to survive in the forests of upstate New York following his mother's sudden death.



"Hide Your Smiling Faces"

In their documentary "Tough Bond," Austin Peck and Anneliese Vandenberg examine the plight of homeless children in Kenya who escape their reality by sniffing glue.

Other 14plus screeners include Louis Sutherland and Mark Albiston's New Zealand family drama "Shopping," about two half-Samoan brothers dealing with the influence of gangs and domestic troubles; from Poland, Kasia Roslaniec's "Baby Blues," about a teenage mother; Ryota Nakano's Japanese work "Capturing Dad"; Shin Suwon's South Korean production "Pluto," about dangerously ambitious students; and "Touch of the Light," by Taiwanese filmmaker Chang Jung-Chi, about a young blind man who moves to the city to study piano.

Among the 15 titles announced Monday, seven will screen in the Generation Kplus children's section, among them two Australian productions: Catriona McKenzie's "Satellite Boy," about an Aboriginal boy who embarks on a journey to save his home; and "The Rocket," Kim Mordaunt's drama about a family in war-torn Laos searching for a new place to live.

Also unspooling is Vincent Bal's Dutch-Belgian drama "The Zigzag Kid," starring Isabella Rossellini; and, from Germany, Bernd Sahling's "Upsidedown," about a troubled 10-year-old, and Anne Kodura's documentary "Wasteland: So That No One Becomes Aware of It."

Others include Janis Nords' "Mother, I Love You," from Latvia, and Jonas d'Adesky's Belgian selection "Three Kids," about Haitian street children trying to survive in the devastated capital Port au Prince.

The Berlinale runs Feb. 7-17.

Contact Ed Meza at staff@variety.com

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