

# THE NEW TWENTY

Written and Directed by Chris Mason Johnson

**Opens May 15, Laemmle Sunset 5**

8000 Sunset Blvd. 90046 (323) 848-3500 [www.laemmle.com](http://www.laemmle.com)



## THE NEW TWENTY

a film by **chris mason johnson**

TEXT IS THE NEW SEX.  
GAY IS THE NEW STRAIGHT.  
FRIENDS ARE THE NEW FAMILY.  
THIRTY ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.

WINNER  
Best Lead Actress  
Nicole Bilderback  
OUTFEST

WINNER  
Best Director  
1st Feature  
FT LAUDERDALE

Closing Night  
Selection  
Image+Nation  
MONTREAL



watch the trailer: [www.thenewtwentymovie.com](http://www.thenewtwentymovie.com)

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THE CAST  
(in order of appearance)

Ben Barr.....	Colin Fickes
Julie Kim.....	Nicole Bilderback
Felix Canavan.....	Thomas Sadoski
Andrew Hatch.....	Ryan Locke
Tony Kim.....	Andrew Wei Lin
Drunk Girl.....	Ryan Templeton
Ben's Internet Date.....	Matt Kerr
Louie Kennick.....	Terry Serpico
Bethany.....	Karen Olivo
Lucy.....	Cordelia Reynolds
Robert Cameron.....	Bill Sage
Waitress.....	Veronica deFrancis
Matt.....	Michael Sirow
Old Cowboy.....	Larry Pine
Nadia.....	Heather Litteer
Vera.....	Larisa Polonsky
Amy.....	Jessalyn Wanlim

THE FILMMAKERS

Director.....	Chris Mason Johnson
Producers.....	Aina Abiodun, Chris Mason Johnson
Screenplay.....	Chris Mason Johnson, Ishmael Chawla
Production Designer.....	Gregory Kenney
Costume Designer.....	Anne Kenney
Editors.....	Todd Holmes, Adam Raponi
Cinematographer.....	David Tumblety
Original Music.....	Jeff Toyne
Music Supervisors.....	Brian Meiler, Adam Raponi
Executive Producers.....	Laura Heberton, Colin Stewart
Co-Producer.....	Andrew Troy

## About the Story

Writer-director Chris Mason Johnson's award-winning first feature (Best Lead Actress, Nicole Bilderback, Outfest; Best Director, First Feature, Ft. Lauderdale) charts the lives of five New Yorkers, a mix of gay and straight best friends about to turn thirty. With emotionally vivid performances and nuanced characters, **THE NEW TWENTY** paints the portrait of a generation living the highs and lows of a Wall Street world destined to disappear overnight.

The year is 2006 and prosperity seems unending: two of the five are investment bankers, another works in advertising, another does freelance database design, and only one of the five might be called a slacker. But they all suffer from, as loner Felix puts it, "a touch of existential malaise courtesy of late capitalism. You know, the usual." So if money isn't the root of their discontent, what is? Whatever they're searching for - love, meaning in work - they won't find it in each other. On TV, friendship lasts forever. In real life, not so much.

# Director's Statement

## **ON THE GAY/STRAIGHT MIX:**

In THE NEW TWENTY I depict gay/straight friendships between young men that are free of the homosexual panic jokes and unrequited love conflicts that usually dominate the screen. The fact is, gay/straight friendships (minus the drama) are more and more common for young adults, especially the urban and educated. We may not have reached a "post-gay" moment yet (Prop 8, anyone?) but we're getting there. The casual attitude toward gay/straight bonding for characters like those in THE NEW TWENTY might be summed up as: what's the big deal?

And yet, despite my insistence on the easy-going nature of this mix, I knew homophobia had to play into my story, since our brave new world does have its share of it. Something that runs so deep must leave a trace, but what kind of trace? The answer came in two ways: first through my antagonist, "Louie," the older venture capitalist who helps young alpha-male "Andrew" launch his new career, and who is blatantly if amusingly homophobic; the second through the more subtle discomfort my male characters express without necessarily knowing it, through humor. In other words, homosexual panic used to lead to violence, now it leads to jokes.

## **ON TOPICAL RELEVANCE:**

The characters in THE NEW TWENTY are ready to move on and grow up, even if they don't know it yet. As it happens, their ironic and somewhat tortured self-involvement coincides with what we now see as a particularly ugly chapter in America's financial markets history (two of the principal characters are bankers). For quite a while our country has encouraged its best and brightest to go into banking, and that hasn't turned out so well, to say the least. In THE NEW TWENTY my characters struggle with life choices that feel empty or cynical, but they either don't have the courage to make a change or don't realize they need to. Perhaps luckily for them (in their fictional future), the whole financial edifice comes tumbling down just a couple short years after the story ends. A title at the head of the film - "2006" - locates this narrative in the very recent, but very different, past.

## **ON THE ENSEMBLE FORM:**

I've always been drawn to ensemble or multi-protagonist films. For me, stories with a cross-section of characters and multiple viewpoints have a kind of existential poignancy that strikes a nerve. Good ensemble stories suggest how small, how mortal, how interdependent we all are. They contextualize characters more fully within a social reality, and show how they're controlled by environment as much as driven by individual will. THE NEW TWENTY is an ensemble drama about five friends nearing thirty who've remained close since college. Their extended family has outlived its usefulness. It's time to move on. Leaving that first circle of friends is like leaving family. It's not always easy. THE NEW TWENTY is what the title suggests: a rather late coming-of-age (ensemble) story.

## About the Cast

### **NICOLE BILDERBACK “Julie Kim”**

Nicole Bilderback trained at a young age as a dancer and is proficient in jazz, modern, lyrical, ballet, and hip hop techniques as well as kickboxing and various martial arts. She has starred in numerous national commercials and popular television shows including ER, BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, DAWSON'S CREEK, BOSTON LEGAL, HOUSE, WITHOUT A TRACE, HEROES, COLD CASE, and the Kevin Williamson pilot, HIDDEN PALMS. She has had recurring roles on THE FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR, starring Will Smith, and opposite Jessica Alba in DARK ANGEL. Feature film roles include CLUELESS, CAN'T HARDLY WAIT, ALONG FOR THE RIDE, and LEGALLY BLONDE 2, as well as the independent features SEX AND DEATH 101, starring Simon Baker, and THE BOX, starring Gabrielle Union. Nicole is probably best known as the bitchy cheerleader “Whitney” in the blockbuster hit BRING IT ON, starring Kirsten Dunst.

Nicole plays disaffected young investment banker “Julie Kim” in Chris Mason Johnson’s THE NEW TWENTY, for which she won the Best Lead Actress Award at Outfest 2008.

### **COLIN FICKES “Ben Barr”**

Colin’s film credits include character roles in the Tribeca Film Festival winner ROGER DODGER, in Sundance favorites CHRYSTAL and THE GO-GETTER, and in Outfest favorite SUNNY AND SHARE LOVE YOU. He has also appeared in the Coen Brothers’ THE HUDSUCKER PROXY, CHERRY FALLS, TRANSFORMERS and OVER HER DEAD BODY. Colin’s TV credits include playing Piper Laurie’s son in LAW & ORDER: SVU, as well as LAW AND ORDER, DAWSON'S CREEK, WITHOUT A TRACE, BOSTON PUBLIC, and INVASION. He most recently played Jimmy Edwards in the landmark episode of ONE TREE HILL, in which his character holds a school hostage and ultimately takes his own life. Mr. Fickes' stage work includes numerous regional productions on the East Coast, as well as plays in New York, Waterford, CT, and Los Angeles. He is prepped by Stone Manners and Management 101.

Colin plays lovable slacker “Ben Barr” in Chris Mason Johnson’s THE NEW TWENTY.

## **ANDREW WEI LIN “Tony Kim”**

Andrew began his theatrical career in Los Angeles where he has performed in a number of classical and modern stage plays: HAMLET (SummerFest), THE TEMPEST (Morgan-Wixon), THE MERCHANT OF VENICE (The Complex), SOLDIER'S DON'T CRY (Whitmore-Lindley), and A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM (Will & Co.). On TV Andrew has appeared on ALIAS and MOONLIGHT. Feature film roles include THINK TANK and the upcoming TEKKEN.

Andrew plays young advertising exec “Tony Kim” in Chris Mason Johnson’s THE NEW TWENTY.

## **RYAN LOCKE “Andrew Hatch”**

Before training as an actor, Ryan Locke enjoyed a successful modeling career with worldwide campaigns for Gucci, Versace, Ralph Lauren, DKNY, Joop, and Michael Kors. As an actor, Ryan first appeared opposite Minnie Driver and Mimi Rogers in the short film, THE UPGRADE. He won the Rising Star Award at the Hampton's International Film Festival for his first feature film role, playing the young James Coburn in AMERICAN GUN. Ryan has since appeared in SUPERCROSS, IN HARMS WAY, THE GINGERDEAD MAN, WHEN TYSON MET TYRA, and AMERICAN BLACK BEAUTY. On TV, Ryan has appeared as a guest star on WANTED, LIFE, CSI: NY, and LAW & ORDER: CRIMINAL INTENT, on which he played a fictionalized Heath Ledger in a “ripped from the headlines” storyline. He can also be seen opposite Beyoncé in her music video “If I Were a Boy.”

Ryan plays young alpha male investment banker “Andrew Hatch” in Chris Mason Johnson’s THE NEW TWENTY.

## **KAREN OLIVO “Bethany”**

KAREN OLIVO is currently on Broadway in the role of “Anita” in WEST SIDE STORY. Karen created the role of “Vanessa” in the Tony Award winning musical production of IN THE HEIGHTS, both on and off Broadway. Other Broadway credits include RENT and BROOKLYN. TV appearances include LAW & ORDER, LAW & ORDER: SVU, and CONVICTION. Karen has had supporting roles in the feature films ADRIFT IN MANHATAN, SIBLING and TWO LOVERS.

Karen plays sardonic “Bethany” in Chris Mason Johnson’s THE NEW TWENTY.

## **CORDELIA REYNOLDS “Lucy”**

Cordelia studied theatre at Boston University and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art before arriving in New York City. Her TV credits include RESCUE ME, COLD CASE, and THE BLACK DONNELLYS. Her feature film credits include THE GIRL FROM MONDAY, QUARTER LIFE CRISIS, and GREETINGS FROM THE SHORE. She has appeared in numerous short films, including LOLA and Chris Mason Johnson’s DO YOU LOVE ME? Most recently Cordelia starred in Philippe Martinez’s thriller, THE STEAM EXPERIMENT, with Val Kilmer and Eric Roberts, set for release in May ’09.

Cordelia plays beautiful lost soul “Lucy” in Chris Mason Johnson’s THE NEW TWENTY.

## **THOMAS SADOSKI “Felix Canavan”**

A critically acclaimed New York stage actor, Thomas Sadoski is currently on Broadway in Neil LaBute’s REASONS TO BE PRETTY, a role he originated Off-Broadway. On Broadway he has also appeared in RECKLESS (Manhattan Theater Club/Second Stage). Off-Broadway he has also appeared in BECKY SHAW, THIS IS OUR YOUTH, and GEMINI (Second Stage); STAY, WHERE WE’RE BORN (Rattlestick); THE MISTAKES MADELINE MADE (Naked Angels); and JUMP/CUT (The Women’s Project), among many others. Thomas’s regional work includes David Sedaris’ SANTALAND DIARIES and THE WAVERLY GALLERY (Long Wharf); MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS (Alliance Theater); LEFT (New York Stage & Film); and STREET SCENE, THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, HOT L BALTIMORE, RODNEY’S WIFE, and DISSONANCE (Williamstown Theater Festival), among many others. Feature film roles include the lead in Amy Heckerling’s LOSER, and roles in the independent films HAPPY HOUR, COMPANY K and WINTER SOLSTICE. TV appearances include guest roles on UGLY BETTY, AS THE WORLD TURNS, LAW & ORDER, and LAW & ORDER: CRIMINAL INTENT. Thomas is a graduate of Circle In The Square Theater School in New York. He has worked extensively to help develop new works at New Dramatists, The Lark, and the Sundance Institute.

Tommy plays brilliant loner “Felix Canavan” in Chris Mason Johnson’s THE NEW TWENTY.

## **BILL SAGE “Robert Cameron”**

An actor of theatre, film, and television, Bill Sage’s career has mainly consisted of New York independent film. He has worked with Hal Hartley on SIMPLE MEN and FLIRT, with Mary Harron on THE GIRL FROM MONDAY and AMERICAN PSYCHO, and with Michael Mann on THE INSIDER, among many others. Recently,

Mr. Sage worked with Greg Araki on MYSTERIOUS SKIN and the upcoming PUSH, with Lee Daniels, to name a few. His recent television appearances include recurring roles on CASHMERE MAFIA, NUMB3RS and THIRD WATCH.

Bill plays shy professor “Robert Cameron” in Chris Mason Johnson’s THE NEW TWENTY.

### **TERRY SERPICO “Louie Kennick”**

Terry Serpico’s current role on the hit TV show, ARMY WIVES, is one of many memorable television appearances he has made throughout his career, including recurring roles on RESCUE ME, CSI MIAMI and LAW & ORDER. Terry has also been in over twenty films. Since his breakthrough role in DONNIE BRASCO, Terry has appeared in hit films alongside well-known actors such as Nicole Kidman in THE INTERPRETER, and Joaquin Phoenix and John Travolta in LADDER 49. He was most recently and memorably in MICHAEL CLAYTON, where he played opposite George Clooney, and in RIGHTEOUS KILL, opposite Robert de Niro and Al Pacino.

Terry plays wily venture capitalist “Louie Kennick” in Chris Mason Johnson’s THE NEW TWENTY.



## **About the Filmmakers**

### **CHRIS MASON JOHNSON - Writer, Director, Producer**

Chris began his career as a dancer: he was a soloist with the Frankfurt Ballet in Germany, a member of the Feld Ballet and Lar Lubovitch Dance Companies, and performed alongside Mikhail Baryshnikov in the White Oak Dance Project. Chris then attended Amherst College where he graduated summa cum laude with a degree in Film and Video studies. While at Amherst he created a series of experimental videos (MICHAEL'S DANCE, LETTER TO TENNESSEE) that drew on his dance background and screened at festivals nationwide. He also studied acting at the HB Studio in New York and performed Off-Broadway and in sketch comedy improv at the original Upright Citizens Brigade Theater.

Chris went on to work as Head of Development at Open City Films in New York (THREE SEASONS, CHUCK & BUCK, LOVELY AND AMAZING), and as a Script Editor and Analyst for Miramax, Dimension, Disney, ABC Family and Fine Line Features. He wrote, directed and edited the short film DO YOU LOVE ME? He then co-wrote, produced, directed and co-edited (under the pseudonym "Adam Raponi") his award-winning first feature, THE NEW TWENTY, which will be released theatrically in March 2009, on DVD through Wolfe Video in June 2009, and will have a broadcast debut on MTV Logo in fall 2009. Chris's second feature, SKIRT, a comedy about gay marriage that he co-wrote with former screenwriting student Kate Stayman-London, is currently in development. Chris has taught dance at UCLA and screenwriting at Amherst College and Rutgers University. He currently lives in Los Angeles.

### **ISHMAEL CHAWLA - Writer**

Ishmael was born in California and raised in India. He graduated from Amherst College in 1995 with a double major in Russian Literature and Computer Science. He wrote his honors thesis on representations of acceleration in film and poetry, focusing on works from Eisenstein and Pushkin. After some years in corporate New York City, Ishmael now lives with his family in New Delhi. THE NEW TWENTY is his first screenplay, which he co-wrote with Chris Mason Johnson.

### **AINA ABIODUN – Producer**

Aina Abiodun was born and raised in Nigeria. She attended Amherst College in Massachusetts where she received a BA in English, and subsequently spent a number of years working in New York as a writer and public arts curator and media

executive. As an MFA student of Film Production at UCLA, Aina was the recipient of numerous awards for her writing, directing and producing. Her short film, *THE BEGINNING OF TIME*, was selected as one of six national finalists for the Student Academy Award. Aina has also produced a number of award-winning short films and currently works as a freelance producer of film, television and new media content in Los Angeles. *THE NEW TWENTY* is her first feature film.

### **LAURA HEBERTON - Executive Producer**

Laura is a writer of fiction, poetry and nonfiction and has been published in many journals and periodicals. She holds an MFA from NYU's Creative Writing Program and has worked as an editor and reporter at several newspapers and glossy magazines, including *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Details*. With James Ivory, Laura produced the short, *LOVE AND ROADKILL* (John David Allen, director, 2008), currently showing at festivals around the country. As a producer and screenwriter, she is developing several independent feature films and plays. *THE NEW TWENTY* is her first feature as Executive Producer. Laura divides her time between London and New York.

### **ANDREW TROY - Co-Producer**

Andrew Troy is currently the owner and founder of the Santa Monica based company The Park Entertainment and TDB Studios, a Production and Post-Production facility. He has worked and performed in the Los Angeles area for the past two decades in a career that spans music, television and feature films. He has worked as a musician/composer, producer, post-production supervisor, recording and mixing engineer, sound supervisor and theatrical/dubbing stage mixer.

Andrew made his transition to feature films in 1999 through his music career, where he was the guitarist for the seminal LA electronic rock group, Polarbear. In 2000 he was introduced to Wim Wenders and assisted in the making of the Beck segment of *SOUL OF A MAN*. He then transitioned his company to cater to post-production and worked with The Polish Brothers on the film *NORTHFORK* in 2001 and Adam Goldberg on the film *I LOVE YOUR WORK* in 2002. Andrew's Producer and Post-Production credits include: *THE LAST MIMZY*, *HAIRSPRAY*, *RESIDENT EVIL 3*, *THE LIFE AND DEATH OF BOBBY Z*, *KARMA CALLING*, *THE DEVIL AND DANIEL JOHNSON*, *DIVA 51: THE EDDIE IZZARD DOCUMENTARY*, *RUSH TO WAR*, *AL ROACH: PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR*, *LOCO COMEDY JAM*, *THE BAD BOYS OF COMEDY*, *THE COMEBACK*, *DEADWOOD*, and *THE SOPRANOS*, among others.

## **DAVID TUMBLETY - Director of Photography**

David Tumblety has been the cinematographer on over twelve feature films and many shorts. In the fall of 2006 the film SWEET LAND was released theatrically and received much critical praise in addition to an Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature. BROOKLYN LOBSTER was released in theaters in 2005 after debuting at the Toronto International Film Festival. GOSPEL HILL, directed by Giancarlo Esposito, was released on DVD by Fox Searchlight in December 2008. He has also been the cinematographer on the feature films BITTERSWEET PLACE, RED BETSY, HIT AND RUNWAY, and Chris Mason Johnson's THE NEW TWENTY, which has a 2009 theatrical and DVD release from Wolfe Releasing. David recently completed production on the feature 7 TO THE PALACE.

## **TODD HOLMES - Editor**

Todd Holmes has a wide variety of experience editing narrative films, television and documentaries. His most recent projects include: FASHIONALITY, a reality show pilot for Bravo; a currently untitled documentary about Kevin Clash, the puppeteer who created the Elmo character on SESAME STREET; and Chris Mason Johnson's THE NEW TWENTY, which premiered at Outfest 2008 in Los Angeles, where it won the Best Lead Actress Award for Nicole Bilderback. Todd's previous editing credits include Steve Barron's 2006 Gotham Award winner CHOKING MAN and Mystelle Brabbee's award-winning documentary HIGHWAY COURTESANS. In addition to his editing work Holmes occasionally writes and directs his own projects, including the 2005 Slamdance Screenplay competition winner PREETI GIRL, and his first short film RATANA, which played the festival circuit in 2007.

## **ANNE KENNEY - Costume Design**

Anne is a freelance costume designer and stylist in NYC. Credits include THE SHOVEL, a short film featuring James Strathairn and Tim Guinee; UPHEAVAL, with Frances McDormand; various promos and commercials; and recently a pilot for Comedy Central called MICHAEL AND MICHAEL HAVE ISSUES. Anne's theater credits include RABBIT HOLE at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre and URINETOWN THE MUSICAL at the Repertory Theatre of St Louis, which earned her a Kevin Kline Award for Outstanding Costume Design. She also designed costumes for Mikel Rouse's THE END OF CINEMATICS, seen at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival 2006.