

burnt sienna

It's not a pretty color...



COUGARS FILM GROUP PRESENTS

JOHN J. CORNETTA LEWIS ODELL BENTON "BURNT SIENNA" SPENCER G. STEPHENS DAVE CUMMINGS
CASTING BY CHRIS BURNS MUSIC BY MARKLEFORD FRIEDMAN EDITED BY ERIC BOMBA-IRE & DAVE R. WATKINS
CO-PRODUCER ROBERT J. LEE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MUTA ALI MUHAMMAD
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ERIC BOMBA-IRE PRODUCED BY MARTIN KELLEY
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY MICHAEL D FRIEDMAN

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

BURNT SIENNA

© 2004 Cougars Film Group

Contact:

**Michael D Friedman
2550 Akers Mill Rd., #L9
Atlanta, GA 30339**

**Phone: 678-429-0241
E-mail: burntsienna@atlscrip.org**

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Peter Kennedy, a married father and successful lawyer, faces a midlife crisis due to his doubts about his sexuality. As he drifts deeper into a relationship with a young man named Bryce, his doubts become fears, and these fears in turn become tragic actions.

LONG SYNOPSIS

When two men from totally different worlds fall into a relationship, the outcome destroys them both.

Bryce (Lewis Odell Benton) is a young drug dealer who has recently been evicted from his home. Streetwise and smart, Bryce holds a secret beneath his rough exterior – he's a homosexual, who's turning tricks on the side.

Peter Kennedy (John J. Cornetta) is a successful lawyer who's grown bored with his wife-and-two-kids life in the suburbs. As he tries to find purpose in his boring existence, he begins to question his own sexuality and begins to experiment with life on "the other side."

Both men are living two lives at once.

When Pete meets Bryce at a dance club, his interest soon grows into an infatuation. The two begin to form a relationship. Pete is unsure at first, but soon begins to open up to Bryce, who attempts to keep the relationship "just business."

As Pete begins to fall more and more for Bryce, he has problems dealing with his new emotions. He can't be gay? Can he? He attempts to convince himself that this is just a phase, an experiment, a midlife crisis.

Soon Bryce begins to show some feelings for Pete, but by the time he does, Pete has already convinced himself that he can't deal with his affections.

Pete decides that the relationship has to end, but how?

FILMMAKER BIOS

MICHAEL D FRIEDMAN (writer/director) is the co-president and a founder of the Atlanta Screenwriters Group (ASG), one of the largest screenwriting groups in the southeast. Graduating with a degree in English writing from the University of Pittsburgh, Michael first gained an interest in filmmaking through writing, having written six feature-length spec screenplays and many shorts.



Michael's screenplay, "Heaven & Hell, Inc.," was the featured script reading at the 2001 Atlanta Film Festival and finished in the Top 250 of the first *Project: Greenlight* contest. It is currently under option in with a Hollywood producer. His short script for "Burnt Sienna," was voted "Best Short Script" for the 2002 ASG Awards, voted on by the members of the ASG.

After forming the ASG, Michael soon branched into other aspects of filmmaking, such as directing (the shorts *No Clue* and *Blame Society*), producing (2002 WorldFest Houston selection *The Last Day in November* and the 48-hour film project entry *Exclusive*), sound mixing and boom (*Behind the Nine*, and 2003 Atlanta Film Festival selection *The Faith Healer's Manual for the Slightly Inebriated*) and more.

Michael has also broke into acting, starring in the mockumentary short, *Boy@nt!*, a 2001 Atlanta Film Festival selection. After hooking up with PlatoVision Pictures as a camera operator, Michael was added to the cast of the series "Witch Hunters Extraordinaire," playing two characters, Willie the Bum and the Russian Bee. This experience helped him earn a lead role in PlatoVision's supernatural thriller feature *Stragglers*.

He also starred as the "play director" in PlatoVision's 2002 entry in the Atlanta 48 Hour Film Project, *The Final Play*, which won the best acting award for the cast. Michael also starred in the 2003 entry from Cougars Film Group, *Exclusive*, as a detective.

ERIC BOMBA-IRE (director of photography/editor) always knew he wanted to be involved in movies. He aspired to be an actor, but it was while acting in a play in high school that Eric discovered that he enjoyed being on the other side of the stage.



After graduating from high school in France, Eric went on to earn a baccalaureate in Art, Literature and Philosophy. Moving to the United States, Eric graduated with a degree in film/video production from the Art Institute of Atlanta, and has since gained over four years of experience in the Atlanta film and video industry.

In addition to directing Music Video for local R&B singer Amanda and Hip Hop group Mass Comm, he served on the crew of many independent films.

In 1998, Eric formed his own production company, PlatoVision Pictures. Under the PlatoVision banner, Eric has served as producer, DP and editor for several productions, including the features *Stragglers*, *Invisible Kitchen* and the local TV series "Witch Hunters Extraordinaire".

Other credits include, the shorts *No Clue*, where he assumed the positions of producer, director of photography and editor; *Amora: The Inquisition*, in post-production and two shorts for the 48 Hour Film Project, *The Final Play* (in which he was also part of the cast which won the Best Acting award for Atlanta) and *Exclusive*.

Eric has also worked as a freelance cameraman for NBC's World Series coverage and Disney.

MARTIN KELLEY (producer) Martin has a diverse background in independent film. After graduation from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, he started two independent record labels and worked as a music journalist before writing screenplays.

He is an original founder and the Co-President of the Atlanta Screenwriters Group, which is one of the largest screenwriter organizations in the Southeast. He has written screenplays that are in various states of production for several producers including Kingpin Productions (the recently released *Vicious*), Mischief Films ("Open Season"), and Troy Ashford Films ("Black Silver").



Most recently, he directed the HD feature *Behind The Nine* from a script that he co-wrote. The feature has played at several film festivals, including the MEIC Film Festival in Lexington, KY and Saints & Sinners IV in St. Petersburg, FL. His short film, *Boy@nt!* was selected for the 25th Annual Atlanta Film and Video Festival in 2001 as well as the 2002 Pine Lake Film Festival.

MUTA'ALI MUHAMMAD (executive producer) began his filmmaking career with stop motion animation in 1993. His animated shorts include a peace called *Caesar* and a cinematic interpretation of the famous novel "Farenheight 451"

He created his first short film, entitled *The Bad Guy*, in 1998 at the New York Film Academy. His first musical short was also completed that year. The following year, he completed work on his first feature length screenplay entitled "Suburban".



Since then he has earned his membership to the Writers Guild of America and completed a re-write of "Purlie's Summer", a feature length movie set to be in production in the spring of 2004 and executive produced by Spike Lee.

Muta'Ali specialized in Interactive Narratives during his studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology and focused his masters thesis on interactive feature length movies. His work at IBM Research focused on the interactive capabilities of a video technology called MPEG-4, which may bring us interactive television.

He has produced and directed his first feature, *Amora: The Inquisition*, which is currently in post production; on which he worked with director of photography, Eric Bomba-Ire.

Muta'Ali acted and was the assistant cameraman for *Exclusive*, a short submitted as part of the annual 48-Hour Film Festival. In addition, he has directed a music video for an Atlanta based rock band Firehazard, for recording company Music's Power, Inc.

CAST BIOS

LEWIS ODELL BENTON (Bryce) studied acting in the Midwest before moving to Atlanta, earning his bachelor's in stage acting performance from Evangel University in Springfield, MO and his post-graduate studies at Wayne State College in Nebraska.

At Wayne State, Benton worked on several television productions and short films, including serving as the anchorman for the Wayne State News.

Upon moving to Atlanta, Lewis has earned lead roles in several films, including *If By Chance*, *A Girl's Tale* and *Burnt Sienna*. He's also performed as a member of the Sketchworks comedy troupe.

Recently, Lewis has taken on four roles for films currently in production, including a lead role in the SAG experimental film *Veneer* and supporting roles in *Disturbing Consequences* and *The Jury*, where he co-stars again with John J. Cornetta. Benton will again work with the Cougars Film Group on the upcoming short, *Spleen*, directed by Eric Bomba-Ire.



JOHN J. CORNETTA (Peter Kennedy) was born in Nyack, New York and moved to Boca Raton Florida at 13 years of age. For the next few years he traveled back and forth from Boca Raton to Piermont, New York. The son of an Italian father and an Irish mother, John began his acting career at a play house in Piermont. In South Florida he worked with Burt Reynolds and studied with Boca Talent. In 1990, John moved to Atlanta where he started many successful businesses. He became a self-made millionaire by age 28.

The acting bug bit John again and he renewed his career in 2001 by training, training and training. He got ahold of any script he could to dissect it and hone his craft. He went back to school, taking workshop after workshop.

John is continuing to train and reading for as many parts as he can and has earned many roles in just the past few months, including a character role in Edford Baniel's made for Showtime film, *Land of the Free*, which airs on this February. Other roles have included the lead in the short *Just Asking for It*, as well as a principal role in the locally produced *The Jury*. He also played a role in *Performance Anxiety*, an official selection of the 2003 Anchorage Film Festival, which he also executive produced.

John has continued to expand on his filmmaking by starting First Cinema, a production company co-founded with writer/director/producer Scott Stamper.



CAST

Pete	John J. Cornetta
Bryce	Lewis Odell Benton
Hampton	Spencer G. Stephens
Gailen	David Cummings
Teacher	Dorothy Edwards
Young Bryce	Christopher Tavarez
Karma Bartender	Jesse Garcia
Gas Station Attendant	Charles C. Kelley
Cashier	Sondra Kelley
Kathy/Wife on Phone	Amy Holt
Fluid Bartender	Brian Dorcey
Class Bully	David Ecker
Dancing Couple	Gabriel 'Billy' Eliassaint
	Chris Vizzini
Classroom Children	Amie Anderson
	Kassie Brown
	Kody Brown
	Natalie Ecker
	Paige Ireland
	Emmonds Thompson III
Club Goers	Jason Amerson
	Chris Burns
	Kyle Hudson
	J. Scott Jones
	Kat King
	Therese Lambert
	Robert J. Lee
	Amen Rodriguez
	Scott Stamper
	James Williams
Radio Announcer	Michael D Friedman

CREW

Written & Directed by	Michael D Friedman
Producer	Martin Kelley
Executive Producer	Muta'Ali Mohammed
Co-Producer	Robert J. Lee
Director of Photography	Eric Bomba-Ire
1 st Camera Assistant	Muta'Ali Mohammed
Edited by	Eric Bomba-Ire
	Dave R. Watkins
Make-up	Dave R. Watkins
Music	Markleford Friedman
Gaffer	Hilton Garret
Casting Director	Chris Burns
Grips	Jason Amerson
	Robert J. Lee
	Scott Stamper
	Dave R. Watkins
ADR Engineer	Eddie D. Singleton Jr.
Location Assistance	Lewis Benton
	G.A. Brodka
	Chris Burns
	Peter Chevallier
	John J. Cornetta
	Jill Eschliman
	Charles C. Kelley
	Robert J. Lee

MUSIC

“Losing”

Performed by Donkey Tugger
Music by David Whitehead
© 2003 David Whitehead

“Infatuate”

Performed by Reign of Terror
Produced by Legendary
© 2004 ROTc

“Fluidity”

Performed by Reign of Terror
Produced by Legendary
© 2004 ROTc

“Ash Thursday”

Performed by Reign of Terror
Produced by Legendary
© 2004 ROTc

SPECIAL THANKS

The Atlanta Screenwriters Group
Lab 601, Inc.
Pete Ballard
Claudia Goodwin-Cummings
Wyndam Garden Hotels
Jill Eschliman
Fluid Lounge and Night Club
G.A. Brodka
Fred A. Toomer Elementary School
Principal Gerald Nelson
Mount Paran Country Store
Pete Chevallier
Chris Burns
J.R. Francis
Yvette Tavarez
Toni Ecker
Dawn Anderson
Vicki Ireland
David Brown
Timothy Greene
Actorsphere.com
Atlantafilms.com