

ON AIR

Maxine

a short film by L.E. Bond

Project Overview



MAXINE is a period drama prequel to writer/director L. E. Bond's Milos Forman Fund Award winning feature script, MAX BECKER.

Set in the 1930s and shot in black & white, this short film introduces our leading lady, Maxine - inspired by women like [Margaret Bourke White](#), [Virginia Van Upp](#) and [Anne Hummert](#), women who toughed it out and succeeded in a man's world.

Logline: After choosing motherhood over her career, a spitfire radio producer suffers a tragic loss and must redefine herself in the patriarchal world of the 1930s.



Synopsis

New York City, 1937. Maeve Beckenstein, a spitfire producer, writes the best radio plays at WARC, including her latest pet-project. She leaves her successful career behind to prepare for parenthood with novelist husband Ezra. After four previous miscarriages, Maeve is determined to carry this child to term.

But tragedy strikes, and Maeve's dream of motherhood dies.

Maeve and Ezra bury their still born daughter, Máire Maxine. After months in a depression, Maeve discovers that WARC has bastardized her pet-project. Her motherly instinct repurposed, she meets with her narcissistic, former boss, Ivan Olshansky, to ask for her job back. During the encounter, she recognizes her true value.

Maeve chooses never to work for this man again.

Pondering their future over drinks at the 21 Club, Maeve and Ezra decide to start over in a new town and change their last name to Becker, Ezra's pen name. To honor their daughter, Maeve changes her first name as well. When she suggests adapting Ezra's novel for film, he balks at the idea. However, fate intervenes when the head of a major Hollywood studio, and an old family friend of Maeve, walks in.

She greets him, introducing herself anew as...Maxine.

Why MAXINE Must be Made



This film is not history, although it is informed by it.

This film does not rewrite history, although it should.

This film occurs in 1930s New York City, but for many of us, it could be...
Today and Anywhere.

Generations of women have fought against inequality in the workplace and the culture at large. Without the setbacks and successes of the women who came before, there would be no #MeToo. As women across the United States and around the world watch their rights being eroded, we must remember that the fight for equality does not end or begin with the movement of the day.



Maxine reminds us that as far as we've come...
we still have a long way to go.

Click on an image for more information

The Team

Click on a picture to read a team members bio.



Writer/Director/Producer
L. E. Bond



Executive Producer/Legal Counsel
Anthe Bova



Cinematographer
Rebecca Van der Meulen



Editor
Franny Bernstein



Production Designer
Yi-Hsuan "Ant" Ma



Costume Designer
Imari Pyles



Head of Hair Department
Stacy Gray



Head of Make up Department
Karim Orange

Starring



JESSICA KRUEGER as
"Maeve Beckenstein/Maxine Becker"



JONATHAN HICKS as
"Ezra Beckenstein/Becker"



JOHNNY SPARKS as
"Ivan Olshansky"

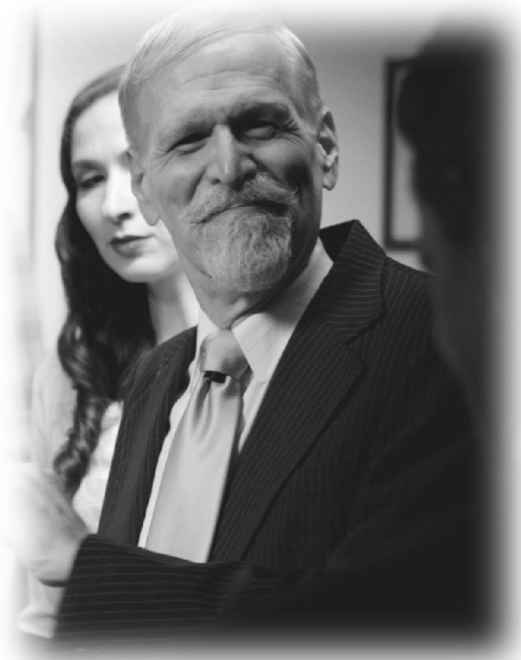
Featuring



Melissa Robinson as
"Prudence Dobson"



Joe Rashbaum as
"Wilbur Wickes"



David Dotterer as "Mr. Woodworth"



Mindy Fox as "Mrs. Rabinowitz"



Hannah Marie Pederson as
"Faith Fuller"

Frank Dinapoli as
"Fergus Dunne"

Project Status & Goals



A
LADY
MACBETH
INITIATIVE

FLIPPING THE PARADIGM
FOR WOMEN IN FILM
ON THE MICRO LEVEL

MAXINE is the inaugural project of A Lady Macbeth Initiative, Inc. (ALMI), a new not-for-profit organization created to provide mentorship, connections and resources for funding to produce short films about women and by women.

For more information on ALMI, visit: www.ladymac.org.

◆ PRODUCTION

- ◆ 90% of principal photography completed
- ◆ Additional scenes to be shot August 2023

◆ POST - PRODUCTION

- ◆ Editing has begun on rough cut of the film with current footage
- ◆ For a sneak peak at an early scene, click [here](#).

◆ GOAL: To be on the 2023/2024 Festival Circuit

- ◆ At least one international festival
- ◆ At least two major United States festivals
- ◆ At least two Women-centered festivals

Budget & Fundraising

- ◆ Additional Production Budget: \$10,500
- ◆ Post-Production Budget: \$10,00
- ◆ Fundraising
 - ◆ Thanks to an anonymous donor, we currently have a dollar for dollar match up to \$8000. This matching period lasts until July 31, 2023.
 - ◆ Accepting ongoing donations directly through our website (www.ladymac.org)
- ◆ MAXINE is the inaugural short film of A Lady Macbeth Initiative, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization. All monetary donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by tax laws.

This story originated from two questions: What does it mean to be a mother? and What does it mean to be an artist? And like a camera lens, the answer came into focus: their essence lies in the potential to create and then to nurture.

So, in a society which has inextricably - and unfairly - intertwined motherhood with womanhood, what happens when a woman cannot conceive or does not want to? How does that woman, who wants to create and nurture, navigate an unconventional path to these goals? A path fraught with obstacles designed to discourage and sometimes destroy.

Out of these questions, I gave birth to MAXINE.



Maxine wants what many women want – to have control over her life, without the definitions and restrictions imposed by a patriarchal society. To create and nurture in the way that she chooses, not the way society has chosen for her.

Her dreams. Her choices. Her responsibilities.

MAXINE imagines one woman's struggle to find her place in the world, when the conventional pathway has been closed to her.

This is her story...my story...our story.

Writer/Director/Producer

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www.ladymac.org



www.maxinefilm.com

L.E. Bond (Writer/Director/Producer) is a filmmaker, screenwriter and educator with 25 years of experience in the entertainment industry, including film/tv, music, theatre, and the labor movement. Her screenplays have won awards at various screenwriting competitions, including her feature film, MAX BECKER (recipient of Columbia University's Milos Forman Fund Award and 2nd Rounder in the Austin Film Festival's screenplay competition). She has directed for theatre and film and produced several short film projects as well. She has taught film history/studies and screenwriting since 2003, most recently at Ithaca College. Her academic work has been presented at national and international conferences. She was a guest speaker at the Greenwich Classic Film Series for five years. And while studying at SIU, she was a featured film reviewer for [SIU Reviews](#) on WSIU public radio. She has a B.A. in Philosophy and Theatre from Smith College and an M.F.A. in Film from Columbia University School of the Arts. She is currently writing her dissertation for a PhD in Mass Communication and Media Arts at Southern Illinois University.

She is a member of [NYWIFT](#) and has served on the board of the [Women in the Arts and Media Coalition](#). Find her on [LinkedIn](#).

Anthe Maria Bova (Producer/Legal Counsel) is a non-profit advocate and lawyer with a focus on assisting indigent individuals and propelling forward social justice missions. Anthe is a 2020 Women inPower Fellow through the 92nd Street Y's Belfer Center for Innovation & Social Impact, a 2020 InclusionLabs Fellow, and a 2020-21 Coaching Fellow. Anthe has been a guest on the Law You Should Know and NYCLA Amicus Curiae podcasts, and serves as a mentor to budding attorneys with a focus on helping women and other historically underrepresented groups. Anthe is a graduate of Barnard College and Fordham University School of Law and resides in New York City with her husband and daughter. Find her on [LinkedIn](#).

Rebecca Van der Meulen (Cinematographer) Rebecca van der Meulen is a Brooklyn based filmmaker. Her work mainly focus on real-world stories and issues, looking at topics such as reproductive rights and drug addiction by creating both fiction and documentary films. Before graduating with a Cinema & Photography degree from Ithaca College, she shot and produced a short documentary in West Virginia about the opioid epidemic ravaging the state. The film, titled 'Out of the Pills', was nominated for a Student Emmy Award in 2019. She was also Director of Photography for a short doc about food deserts in Baltimore, MD, which is currently streaming on PBS. Her latest film 'To Wade or Row,' which she wrote and directed, portrays a young woman's visit at a motel's underground abortion clinic in a post-Roe American setting. Rebecca currently works in the lighting and camera departments on a variety of productions, including as DoP on short films and as the Gaffer or electrician with companies such as Vanity Fair, GQ, AppleTV+, Google, and National Geographic. One of her first jobs on set was as an electrician on a narrative feature shot in 2017 with an all-female crew in upstate New York.

Franny Bernstein (Editor) is a film editor residing in New York City. She grew up in the Boston area, starting a love for post production at age eight. She graduated from Ithaca College Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Cinema Production.

She works at Florentine Films as an apprentice editor, where she just completed MUHAMMAD ALI, directed by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns, and Dave McMahon, and is now working on upcoming documentaries about Benjamin Franklin, the Holocaust, and Leonardo da Vinci. Franny has also been the editor for independent narrative films, promotional material, and event videos. She loves nothing more than telling a compelling story through creative editing and is excited to be on board as the editor for MAXINE. Find her on [LinkedIn](#).

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Yi-Hsuan “Ant” Ma (Production Designer) is a Taiwanese scenic and production designer. Coming from a different culture and a background in literature, her approach to design is interdisciplinary and inclusive. Some of her credits include: Samuel @ The Tank, written by Alexis Roblan and directed by Dara Malina, Mover and Shaker directed by Brandon Dirden, Piglet Piglet by Tsung-Yen Lin and Heir To The Throne by Pepe Cuart.

Find her at: yihuanma.wixsite.com/ant-setdesign.

Imari Pyles (Costume Designer) is an emerging costume designer based in the Baltimore/ Washington area. She has always loved the language of clothing and the power it has to tell our stories without words. Through her work she strives to tell the stories of people like herself who have been underrepresented in the theatre world. She is excited to be a part of the growing social movement that is giving voices to not only women and people of color, but to all groups that have had their voices silenced for far too long. She received her B.A in Theatre Production and Design with a concentration in costuming at Salisbury University, as well as a B.A in Theatre Performance. She is beyond excited to join forces with this amazing group of people to tell the story of Maxine!

Find her at: <https://sites.google.com/view/imaripyles/about> and on Instagram [@designsbyimari](https://www.instagram.com/designsbyimari)

Stacy Gray (Hair) For nearly a decade, Hair & Makeup artist Stacy Gray has been summoned by an impressive mix of TV and music industry clientele such as: Beyonce, Alicia Keys, Sza, Sting, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Nas, Jill Scott, Angela Davis, Pharrell, Jay Z, Taraji P. Henson, Ced the Entertainer, Rick Ross and Kanye West to name a few. She's worked on countless commercials and television shows, such as Mercedes Benz, Oral B, Major League Baseball, NBA, Empire and Saturday Night Live (SNL).

Ms. Gray has worked with top photographers and publications such as IN STYLE, Vogue, Interview Magazine, Rolling Stone and Essence and she is now being called upon to work on feature films.

Find her at: thestacygray.com

Karim Orange (Make-up) is an Emmy nominated Emmy nominated makeup artist with over 20 years in production. She is a pioneer in clean beauty, and the change for ingredient transparency. She is a seasoned beauty and lifestyle writer contributing to publications such as Huff Po, Organic Spa Magazine, World Bride Magazine, Lucky & Hello Giggles. She is also a urban farmer who travels the world as a digital nomad.

Find her at: [LinkedIn](#)

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Jessica Krueger ("Maeve Beckenstein/Maxine Becker") Jessica Krueger is an actor-dancer-acrobat-puppeteer. As a live performer, she's tread the boards of many NYC theaters, from The Metropolitan Opera House to the Hudson Yards' subway station, and toured North America and Japan. She can also be seen on FBI (CBS), Dead of Winter (Discovery ID), and The Last Days... (History Channel). A native of Detroit, Jessica holds a bachelors in Anthropology and a professional degree from Circle in the Square Theatre School. www.jessicakrueger.com

Jonathan Hicks ("Ezra Beckenstein/Becker") Jonathan Hicks (AEA) is a New York actor for the stage, screen and voice over. His career has taken him to Chicago, Los Angeles, Europe, and everywhere in between. Jonathan currently resides in Queens with his amazing wife and two fantastically magical children. Jonathan is very humbled to be able to collaborate on such a beautifully important story.

Johnny Sparks ("Ivan Olshansky") Theater: Yale Rep, Vineyard Playhouse, New York Classical Theater. TV: Law & Order, Person of Interest. Film: Julie & Julia, Rising Lotus, See/Him. Find him on Instagram: @johnnysparks and [Facebook](#).

Melissa B. Robinson ("Prudence Dobson") Melissa B. Robinson is Washington, DC-based journalist, author, and professional actor & director. Acting credits include Bonnie in the 2022 world premiere of the Irish-American gothic drama, Twigs and Bone, at Nu Sass; A Woman of No Importance (Lady Hunstanton/Scena Theatre); Cymbeline (The Queen/Baltimore Shakespeare Factory); `night, Mother (Thelma Cates/The Highwood Theatre); and Other Desert Cities (Silda Grauman/Highwood). Last fall, Melissa co-directed a hit production of the WWII prison drama Panerac 45 for DC's ExPats Theatre. Film credits include I Like Me available on Amazon Prime. Melissa trained in classical and contemporary acting, movement, & voice at DC's Studio Theatre. Look for Melissa's thriller, Catch & Kill, to be published by LA-based Level 4 Press in 2024.

Judith Feingold ("Patience Dobson") Judith Feingold is a classically trained Meisner actor, hailing from Shakespeare & Company, The Actors Movement Studio, and from the John DeSotelle Studio, where she now serves as faculty. She is an acting company member, designer, and director for Nuance Theatre Company, and is best known for her work in Not On This Night (Stage Wright Films, 2021 Regional Emmy Award), The Manhattan Front, Chamber Music (Broadwayworld Award nomination), Proof (Innovative Theatre Award nomination), and Danny And The Deep Blue Sea (River Rep Arts Center).

Joe Rashbaum ("Wilbur Wickes") Joe Rashbaum grew up and attended Kindergarten thru College in the very same Brooklyn neighborhood in which we shot "MAXINE". Joe brings his lifelong passion for radio and pop-culture history to the role of announcer "Wilbur Wickes", following a radio career that began when he sold and wrote his first spot for iconic NYC All News Station "1010 WINS" at age 19. A veteran contestant of 6 game shows including CBS' "THE AMAZING RACE", Joe's acting career has included principal roles in 12 commercials to date for such advertisers as SHAKE SHACK & COMCAST, a co-starring role in upcoming feature film "IN THE PINES", numerous short films, web series and many corporate industrial projects.

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David Dotterer (“Mr. Woodworth”) David Dotterer is thrilled to be a part of the inaugural production from ALMI. Since pursuing film/video in 2017, he has been cast in 170+ projects, of which Maxine is now a treasured member of the list! My heartfelt gratitude to all involved!

Mindy Fox (“Mrs. Rabinowitz”) Mindy Fox trained for over 20 years with Doug Taylor (Sanford Meisner’s student at the Neighborhood Playhouse) and more recently with teachers at MN Acting Studio in NYC, including Matt Newton, Bryan Davis and Karen Summerton. She holds a degree in the History of Art & Architecture from Brown University, where she also played four years of varsity soccer. When not acting, Mindy can be found volunteering at a local charter school and other community-based organizations or in her studio, where she hand-fabricates fine jewelry.

Frank DiNapoli (“Fergus Dunne”) Frank Di Napoli is a New York City based actor in film and television. Frank’s credits include appearances in the feature films “Moving in 2008” and “Penance”, the short films “Tit For Tat” and “Classic Punk”, as well as in a variety of roles in several Investigation Discovery Channel series, including “Evil Lives Here”, “A Crime to Remember”, “The Perfect Murder” and “Grave Secrets”. Frank also appeared in several episodes of the web series “Camp Get Right”. Frank can be seen in the upcoming short film “The Visitor” and feature film “Dress Code”.

Hannah Marie Pederson (“Faith Fuller”) Hannah Marie Pederson (she/her) is an NYC-based actor and theatre director. She is currently earning her BFA in Drama and MA in Arts Management at The New School. You can see her in the second and third seasons of I Put The Bi In Bitter on Tello Films and YouTube!

Additional Cast (not shown on cast slides)

Johnny Lorenz (“WARC Engineer”) Jonny is a professionally trained actor residing in NYC. He has studied at The Lee Strasberg School, The Barrow Group under Seth Barrish and Lee Brock, and at T. Schreiber. As a history lover and extroverted story teller, he loves how films can blend these two interests and looks forward to furthering his exposure to great projects like Maxine!

Ellen Green Johnson (“the Nurse”) Ellen Green Johnson is a New York based actress and model.

Dan Berkey (“the Doctor”) Daniel Berkey became a professional in 1983. He’s done 243 plays and 186 film/TV gigs thus far. He’s still here

Patrick Feeney (“the Waiter”)

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