



MORE THAN HE KNOWS

MORE THAN HE KNOWS: PRODUCTION DIVERSITY

**76% Cast & Crew
Diversity**

**LGBT, Female,
People of Color,
Military Veterans**

LOGLINE

When a happily married couple go on a routine staycation, the wife demonstrates that she knows her husband better than he knows himself.

PRODUCTION STATS

FILM TYPE: SHORT

GENRE: LBGT, DRAMA

RUNTIME: 13:29

ASPECT RATIO: 16X9



SYNOPSIS

Ryan and Taya have a happy and loving marriage. When they go on a routine staycation, Ryan instantly connects with a man at the hotel pool. Conflicted by this attraction, Ryan explores a part of himself that he has long suppressed. This encounter opens up the chance for a whole new level of honesty between Ryan and Taya, if they are willing to explore bisexuality and an open relationship.

“

Creators Fiona Dawson and Chris McNeany offer a fresh take on queer relationships, reminding us that there are many ways to express love and commitment.

”

-Jeremy Blacklow, Director of Entertainment Media, GLAAD



FESTIVAL AWARDS



TOP 10 FINALIST

ALL VOICES FILM FESTIVAL 2019

AMAZON.COM



BEST SHORT

STAMPED FILM FESTIVAL 2019

PENSACOLA, FL

MORE THAN HE KNOWS

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

BY FIONA DAWSON

CO-DIRECTOR OF TRANSMILITARY, 2018 SXSW AUDIENCE AWARD WINNER



As an openly bisexual woman and LGBTQ advocate, when Writer/Producer Chris McNeany approached me to direct MORE THAN HE KNOWS, although I loved the characters, concept and unique twist, my initial concern was with the portrayal of the bisexual characters in the narrative.

Bisexual people are often portrayed as disingenuous, immoral and promiscuous. We are painted as incapable of having a monogamous relationship; “needing” to have sex with people of more than one gender. Our sexuality is often used as a temporary plot line for drama and we are cast into harmful tropes. Further, in film and television our stories are drastically underrepresented with only 28% of LGBTQ characters on scripted broadcast, cable, and streaming programming counted as bisexual. (1)

However, bisexual people are the invisible majority. We make up 52% of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community (2) , and yet we are afraid to come out. A 2013 Pew Research Center report showed only 28% of bisexuals said most or all of the important people in their lives knew about their sexual orientation, compared to 71% of lesbians and 77% of gay men. (3)

Therefore, I felt it was important that this bisexual story came to life to help represent just one aspect of who we are. After a period of personal introspection I came to embrace and champion the story of MORE THAN HE KNOWS. “Taya,” the lead character & wife, is a powerful and self-aware black woman. The narrative for me became much more than a bisexual story, but also one that challenges the religious patriarchy and traditional models of marriage instilled in our society.

Taya demonstrates that it is possible to love with compersion. We feel jealousy rooted from a possessiveness of our partners. And yet, shouldn't unconditional love include a desire for your partner's joy that stems from their experience of exploring all aspects of their human being? When we stifle ourselves, we deny being truly self-actualized.

The term “compersion” is new to my vocabulary and isn't even yet in the dictionary — unless you count the Urban Dictionary. It essentially means, “A feeling of joy when a loved one invests in and takes pleasure from another romantic or sexual relationship.” (4) This feeling does not come easily, but I wish to question if jealousy is innate or socialized — or maybe both. Through my own personal growth, I am becoming increasingly aware of people of all sexual orientations (including heterosexual) developing their relationships into open models.

My hope is that MORE THAN HE KNOWS will expand into series content sharing the stories of traditional and diverse models of relationships. Many bisexual people happily live in monogamous relationships, and many people of all sexual orientations joyously open up theirs to include other sexual partners. There shouldn't be a moral judgment against any of these scenarios, as essential to achieving a happy life is to feel that we as mortal souls can live with the authenticity of who we are emotionally, intellectually, spiritually and sexually.

Fiona Dawson, Director



Fiona Dawson is an award winning, director, producer and writer. She directed the Emmy®-nominated short documentary, “Transgender, at War and in Love” commissioned by The New York Times and co-directed the feature length doc “TransMilitary,” which premiered at South by Southwest (SXSW) 2018 and won the Best Feature Documentary Audience Award. In 2015 Fiona was honored by The White House as an LGBT Artist Champion of Change. She was voted Houston's Female Grand Marshal for the 2009 LGBT Pride Parade, has served on the National Board of Directors of the Human Rights Campaign, the Board of Directors for NLGJA - The Association of LGBTQ Journalists and is an IFP Documentary Lab Fellow. Fiona lives in Brooklyn, NY where she is Founder & Director of Free Lion Productions.



Chris McNeany, Writer / Producer (Ryan)

Originally from Massachusetts, Chris developed a love for theatre and movies in college. He graduated Cum Laude from College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA with a B.A. in English. After teaching English in Ecuador for a year, he moved to NYC to pursue theatre. He has performed in musicals and plays in theaters across the U.S., including "West Side Story," "Anything Goes," "Absurd Person Singular," and "Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music." He wrote, directed, produced and acted in his first short film, "Red, Black and Blonde," which premiered at Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival. He wrote, produced, and acted in his second short film, "Classified," which premiered at Action on Film International Film Festival. With his sketch comedy group, Panties on a Budget Comedy, Chris performs on the Comedy Central Stage in Hollywood and writes/produces/acts in sketch videos.

HELENA-ALEXIS SEYMOUR (TAYA)

Helena-Alexis is a Canadian born, 2-time F.A.B.I.O (Faces and Businesses in Ottawa Awards) Best Actress Award Winner and 2015 Black Canadian Award nominee as Best Actress. Known for appearing in xXx: Return of Xander Cage (2017), Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (2014), Beauty and the Beast (2012) and much more. Helena-Alexis received her first acting break at 10 years old as a Lead on U.S. National Commercial for POST Golden Raisin Crisp cereal. As an emerging pre-teen actress with a knack for the screen, Helena-Alexis booked a Principal role to play Vanessa Williams at the age of 15 in the re-occurring VH1 Christmas film, 'Diva's Christmas Carol.' Helena-Alexis is now an established Canadian talent that has become a go-to name for many casting directors, writers and directors alike.

Represented by AMTI: Toronto and with full management in Los Angeles, the sky certainly seems as if it is not the limit for one of Canada's top leading ladies.



JULIAN FLETCHER (JOHN)

Julian just finished work on the Lionsgate Studios feature film 'Honored' with Sasha Pieterse and produced by Zoe Saldana. Classically trained, Julian made his acting debut in "The Sign of the Lizard" directed by the late Broadway producer Robert Whitehead in 1994 while still in college. Since then, he has appeared in over 30 film and theatre productions both here and in London. During his acting career Julian has worked with the likes of Rob Corddry, Mathew Francis and Edward Hall of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

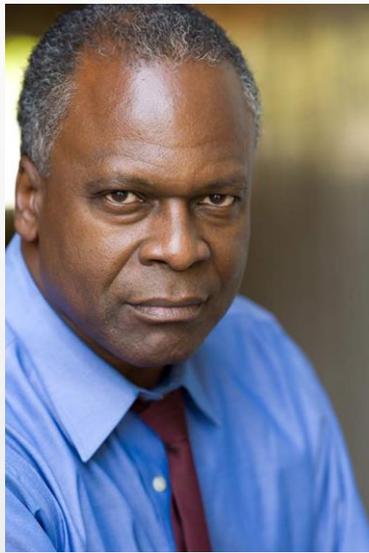
Julian's acting training began in college with the Tony Award Winning Broadway actress Zoe Caldwell. Once in New York, he studied with teachers such as Alan Langdon of Circle in the Square and Sandy Shurin. Since relocating to LA a year and a half ago from New York, Julian has studied with the famed acting coach Lesly Kahn as well graduating from the improv program at iO West. He has a BFA in Theatre from USF in Tampa, Florida

He has appeared in several commercials for companies such as Kellogs, Wendy's and At&T to name a few, as well as many voice over roles from Batman in "Batman-Dark Tomorrow" the video game, to the voice of the Captain in The Captain Morgan commercials.

Julian speaks conversational Spanish and has traveled extensively through out Central and South America as well Europe and Russia. He just celebrated his fifth wedding anniversary with his beautiful wife Inga. They have two wonderful little boys, Jakob and Aaron.



Kim Estes (Mitch)



Estes was born and raised in Los Angeles (Jefferson Park/Crenshaw district) and attended college at CSU, Cal Maritime Academy in Vallejo, CA and post-graduate work at the University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business. He joined the US Merchant Marines and the US Navy upon graduation. After sailing for 14 years, he became a Chief Engineer on ocean going vessels. Estes also worked as the corporate head of the Environmental, Health, Safety and Sustainability group for a major fortune 500 company. He has served as a consultant and special investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board and has worked on Environmental & Safety disasters across the globe to help make the world a better place.

Elizabeth Barber (Elizabeth)



Elizabeth is an actress and our POAB choreographer (for one sketch). Fingers crossed someone green lights her music video idea dedicated to Lady Gaga or Madonna or Britney. She clearly loves pop music and dancing at weddings by herself. Its imperative people give this girl some space on the dance floor for safety reasons. She hails from Ohio, where your vote actually matters. What up swing states! additionally to speaking in multiple accents throughout any given conversations, she enjoys wine, emoticons/emojis, learning how to pipe the shit out of cupcakes, and talking about the Shih Tzu she shares joint custody of with her sister named Bogart (or Bogie for short). He just won a costume contest. She'd also prefer Bogie gain more IG followers that she have.

MATTHEW LYNN CINEMATOGRAPHER

Matthew is an award-winning narrative Cinematographer from Chattanooga, Tennessee whose work has been accepted into Cannes, Tribeca, Frameline, Outfest and more film festivals and received both Gotham and Queerty award nominations. After attending the American Film Institute Conservatory's MFA Cinematography program Matthew has traveled around the world working as the Director of Photography on many projects including feature and short films, documentaries, music videos and web series and has been the cinematographer on projects with James Cameron, Arnold Schwarzenegger, YouTube stars Davey Wavey and Brian Jordan Alvarez. Matthew is well versed in both film and digital photography.



FABIO BERTAGNOLLI

COMPOSER



Fabio Bertagnolli is a New York City based composer of concert music and music for film and multimedia. Born in a little town in Northern Italy, Fabio had his first brush with music when, as a teenager, he started playing trombone in the local community band. Then, he decided that music would be the driving force in his life.

Fabio completed his musical education earning an Italian Conservatory Diploma in classical piano at the "F.A. Bonporti Conservatory" in Trento, Italy. While teaching piano as a private teacher, he kept playing trombone in various ensembles (big bands, brass bands, wind bands and classical orchestras) with famous conductors such as Jan Cober, Felix Hauswirth, Thomas Doss, Frank Ticheli, Josè Rafael Pasqual Vilaplana (just to name some).

Fabio's music ranges over different styles and genres, and it is infused with a great sensitivity connected to his native Italian culture.

Michelle Sam

First Assistant Director / Script Supervisor



Michelle Sam is a writer, filmmaker, actress, and social justice activist whose work focuses on the ongoing themes of race, sexuality, class, and gender. You can catch Michelle performing with the Women of Color Anonymous (WOCA) sketch/improv comedy group at UCB Sunset and WCCW feminist space in Los Angeles. She enjoys late nights, sunshine, dry wit, and last minute adventures.

CONTACT

- **Chris McNeany**

- **323-540-0735**

- **cmcneany@gmail.com**

- Social Media

Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce9hnMJhymA>

- WWW.MORETHANHEKNOWS.COM

- [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MTHKFILM/](https://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MTHKFILM/)

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