

# RHODE TRIP PICTURES

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## “JIMMY AND CAROLYN”

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY CANNES LIONS AWARD JWINNER  
JAMES ANDREW WALSH (*THE EXTINCTION OF FIREFLIES*)

STARRING TV/STAGE STAR AND TWO-TIME TONY NOMINEE  
MARY BETH PEIL AND TV/STAGE STAR GREGORY HARRISON

FEATURES THE SONG “*FORGIVENESS’ EMBRACE*” MUSIC AND LYRICS BY OSCAR, GRAMMY,  
AND EMMY WINNER STEPHEN SCHWARTZ  
(*WICKED, PIPPIN, GODSPELL, ENCHANTED, THE PRINCE OF EGYPT*)

FEATURES AN ORIGINAL SCORE BY BARCELONA COMPOSERS  
OMAR MORA AND DAVID FRACTAL

INTRODUCING SINGER-SONGWRITER BRADY LYONS’ LATEST RELEASE,  
“*DROWNING*”, NOW AVAILABLE ON SPOTIFY AND APPLE MUSIC

### AWARDS

Independent Spirit Award / Best Picture - Rhode island Film Festival

Best Picture Nominee - Burbank Film Festival

Best Original Screenplay - Out at the Movies Intl. Film Festiva

Best Supporting Actor - Mary Beth Peil - Out at the Movies Intl. Film Festival

Festival Favorite - Cinema Diverse / Palm Springs LGBTQ Film Festival

Director’s Choice - Cinema Diverse / Palm Springs LGBTQ Film Festival

”**Jimmy and Carolyn**” centers on the deviant Walker clan: Jimmy Walker (**Gregory Harrison**), a retired auto body repairman, recently diagnosed with cancer, and his wife Carolyn (**Mary Beth Peil**), a former homemaker who married as high school sweethearts in 1959. On a whim, to celebrate Jimmy’s 75th birthday, the rebel without a cause and his Italian-American beauty queen drive up from Florida to coastal Rhode Island to surprise their gay son, James (**Mark H. Dold**), and his life partner of twenty years, William (**Alberto Bonilla**) a Latino gardener from Costa Rica. But the bigger surprise that awaits them is the emotional crisis threatening to destroy James and William’s twenty-year relationship.

”**Jimmy and Carolyn**” is executive produced by **Kimberly Chesser** for Rhode Trip Pictures, director of photography **Joseph P. Lavallee**, art director **Kristen Vallow**, with associate producers **Heidi Stevens**, **Miles Holland**, and **Spencer Emanuel**. Produced by **Emily Emanuel**, **Lisa Raiche**, **Denise Gautreau**, **Vijay Jethway**, **Brendan Sabatelli**, **Heidi and Hardie Stevens**.

”**Jimmy and Carolyn**” is the prequel to Walsh’s award-winning “**The Extinction of Fireflies**” starring **Michael Urie** (*Ugly Betty*, *Jingle All The Way*), Two-Time Olivier Award Winner **Tracie Bennett** (*Follies*, *End of The Rainbow*, *Coronation Street*), and **Drew Droege** (*Bob’s Burgers*), now available on AppleTV, Amazon Prime, and other major cable and streaming services.

## **WRITER/DIRECTOR**



**James Andrew Walsh** is a 2019 Cannes Lions Award winner for his co-creation and direction of the immersive theatre piece "As Much As I Can" at the Public Theater in NYC, and the Grand Prize recipient at the Rhode Island Film Festival for his teleplay, "The Gods of Newport". Walsh directed the soon to be released three-part documentary series, "Newport: The Artful City", and recently wrapped London production on "My Friend Oscar", a contemporary *fo*pumentary that retraces Oscar Wilde's coast-to-coast tour of America in 1882, starring West End star, Oscar Conlon-Morrey. James is a proud resident of The Ocean State.

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## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

"Jimmy and Carolyn" is the prequel to my last film, "The Extinction of Fireflies", the first feature produced by Rhode Trip Pictures that garnered recognition and awards during its 2021 festival run and is now available on most cable and streaming platforms. Both films are semi-autobiographical, filmed on location during the pandemic in my home and environs in seaside Shelter Harbor, Rhode Island.

"Jimmy and Carolyn" is first and foremost a traditional family comedy-drama. It examines the struggles of a longterm gay relationship within the framework of the traditional American family that developed during the Post-World War II era in Eisenhower's United States.

It's a new way to look at aging and family, and how parents with gay children are they themselves de facto members of our ever-diversifying LGBTQ community. The film also examines the LGBTQ immigrant experience as reflected in the longterm relationship of James and his partner William, who comes to terms with the cultural and spiritual sacrifices he's made to live the American Dream as a Latino man in an openly gay relationship.

We live in a time when the liberal values that make my LGBTQ rights and freedoms possible are under assault around the world--there's no denying that. With this film, I am facing down the Rainbow Scare upon us and striving to enlighten and to broaden society's understanding of my lifestyle choices in the context of a traditional multi- generational story, one that resonates beyond my community in an entertaining, educational way.

I cast Gregory Harrison and Mary Beth Peil because I knew their core audiences have never seen these stars in indie films with this subject matter. As a storyteller, I'm always looking for new ways to seat more people around the campfire.

With "Jimmy and Carolyn", Rhode Trip Pictures continues its efforts to employ American veteran TV/stage stars like Gregory Harrison and Mary Beth Peil in the choicest roles of their careers, roles that are less and less available in mainstream Hollywood moviemaking. The film gave Gregory and Mary Beth meaningful, challenging work at a time in their careers when leading roles are few and far between. That fact is in and of itself a victory, for the industry and me as a storyteller; what I learned collaborating with these veterans is the greatest gift of my filmmaking career to date. Thank you for considering my film "Jimmy and Carolyn" starring TV/stage veterans Gregory Harrison and Mary Beth Peil.

## CAST



**Mary Beth Peil (Carolyn)** was most recently seen in HALSTON opposite Ewan McGregor for Netflix. Prior to that she has appeared in major recurring roles in *Katy Keene*, *The Good Wife*, *Dawson's Creek*. Mary Beth's film credits include *The Song of Sway Lake*, *Here and Now*, *Collateral Beauty*, *Mirrors*, *The List*, *Flags of Our Fathers*, *Stepford Wives*, and *The Odd Couple*. A Broadway veteran nominated for a Tony, Drama Desk, and an Outer Critics Award for *Anastasia*, her credits include *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Visit*, *Follies*, *Women on the Verge...*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Nine*; and the 1985 production of *The King and I* in which she played Anna opposite Yul Brynner, for which she received her first TONY nomination.



**Gregory Harrison (Jimmy)** Gregory's five-decade career spans television, film, and theater. He has appeared in over 60 network TV movies, two dozen network mini-series, and starred in three Broadway musicals. Gregory has guest-starred on dozens of network TV series and starred in *Logan's Run*, *Falcon Crest*, *Trapper John, M.D.*, *One Tree Hill*, *Judging Amy*, *Joey*, *Ringer*, and *Reckless*. Gregory recurs on FOX TV's *9-1-1*, in Hallmark Channel's *Chesapeake Shores* and *Signed, Sealed, Delivered* series, and on the long-running soap *General Hospital*. On the big screen, Harrison has appeared in countless feature films, including the current hit *The Vanished*.



**Mark H. Dold (James)** TV credits include *Person of Interest*, *Chicago P.D.*, *Law and Order*, *Suits*, *Gossip Girl*. Mark has shared the stage with Meryl Streep, David Strathairn, Marsha Mason, Kevin Kline, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Hal Holbrook and Laura Linney. Most recently, Mark appeared in the multiple Tony Award award winning Broadway production of *The Inheritance*.



**Alberto Bonilla (William)** Film/TV credits include: *WuTang Clan: an American Saga*, *FBI*, *The God Committee*, *Last Week tonight with John Oliver*, *Russian Doll*, *Iron Fist*, *Blue Bloods*, *Cop Out*, *My Best Friends Girl*, *Person of Interest*, *Sleep Walk with Me*, *Law and Order: CSI (recurring)*, *The Sopranos* and *All My Children*. Alberto recently appeared on Broadway in the Roundabout Theatre's production of *Marvin's Room*.







