

PRESS KIT

# evergreen



Directed by Joe Duca  
Running Time: 96 minutes

Production Contact:  
Marshall Kistner  
Executive Producer  
805.390.0490

Festival Contact:  
Kristin Jones  
Executive Producer  
972.408.7106

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Executive Producer  
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## THE FILM

"Evergreen" is a narrative feature film that takes a hyper-realistic look behind the veil of a contemporary relationship and reveals how the boundaries and barriers which define our conditional love can be stripped down to reveal deeper truths. A romantic drama touching on such sensitive topics as grief, identity, sex, and religion, the film strives for subjective realism and authenticity.



## DETAILS

Country, Language	USA, English
Format	Color, Digital HD
Run Time	96 min
Production Company	Daffy, LLC

[Click here to view the OFFICIAL TRAILER.](#)

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## LOGLINE

Over a romantic Christmas weekend, a young couple retreats to a Colorado cabin, where their relationship is tested by haunted pasts and the sobering present.



## THEMES

The story carries underlying themes of identity, memory, love, and loss, exploring how individuals can conquer external battles and internal grief with the common goal of finding harbor not just within each other, but also themselves.

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## SYNOPSIS

Set against the rustic winter backdrop of the Colorado Western Slope, "Evergreen" is an intimate character study of an interfaith couple's relationship over a tumultuous Christmas weekend. Paul and Gena have been in a committed relationship for over a year and are at a pivotal point in their lives. Paul is a modern day Catholic, whereas Gena is anything but; Paul wants marriage, while Gena needs physical intimacy and to take their relationship to the next level. When expectations clash, the two set aside their prior notions and agree to a brutally honest, no-holds-barred weekend of "question-and-answer," unearthing long-buried secrets and manifestations from relationships past.



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## PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

The initial premise for the film was born from a simple idea: maximizing economy. Lead actor Tanner Kalina and myself had spent years developing stories together as independent filmmakers. In the spring of 2017, we sat down and pitched a series of ideas to each other, all based around practical resources we could leverage to make our first feature film on our own terms.

The main draw to this project was a chance to take what our core team had learned from several years working various jobs in the film industry and execute it in a micro-budget setting. It was exciting for us to collaborate with people we care about on a project we believed in, and the ability to prioritize on-set ethics that are often neglected by independent producers working on tight schedules with little money.



*The producing team celebrates the World Premiere of "Evergreen" at the 52nd Annual WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival*

Lastly, as someone who has never practiced any sort of religion, I've always found discussions of faith fascinating and was very open to making a film that has authentic dialogue about such a sensitive subject. While the film touches on those dramatic notions, I believe the true value of this story comes from the actors' ability to embody such complicated characters to which the universal viewer can relate.

Cheers,  
Marshall Kistner, Producer

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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

With "Evergreen," we wanted to focus on real people and how they really talk and laugh and feel and hurt, not just have some talking heads engaged in an ideological or philosophical tennis match about "big ideas."

So as my creative team and I delved in, we really strove for the kind of authenticity you find with Richard Linklater and The Duplass Brothers.



For this film, it was critical to me personally that we not try to "say anything" or "prove a point" like in a lot of faith-centric work. Speaking from my own spirituality, faith is full of pain, doubt, and hope. We wanted to examine the relationship both characters had with their own beliefs in comparison to their romantic wounds, and understand the ways in which they were haunted by "faithfulness to the times we had faith."

Our goal was to stay neutral and not come out "for" or "against" any particular religion, but rather to present a relatable experience. Since Day 1, we've been striving for an authentic discussion between two people with different points of view who really want to understand and love each other. Because to me, love and empathy are our most profound qualities anyway.

— Joe Duca, Director

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## EXTENDED SYNOPSIS

"Evergreen" is the story of an atypical couple: Paul, a conservative Catholic man, and Gena, a progressive, agnostic woman. The two venture to Paul's family cabin in Colorado for a romantic Christmas getaway. Upon arrival, Paul plans on popping the question, while Gena hopes to physically consummate their relationship (finally). Suffice to say, they have mismatched expectations.

On the couple's first night away, after a few cocktails, their expectations clash. Paul sticks to his strict religious beliefs, ultimately unable to give Gena what she wants. While nursing a hangover the next morning, Gena proposes a wild challenge: to engage in a high-stakes game of question-and-answer while swearing off all physical contact for the weekend. Paul agrees that they must respond to every question the other asks with complete honesty.

What could possibly go wrong?



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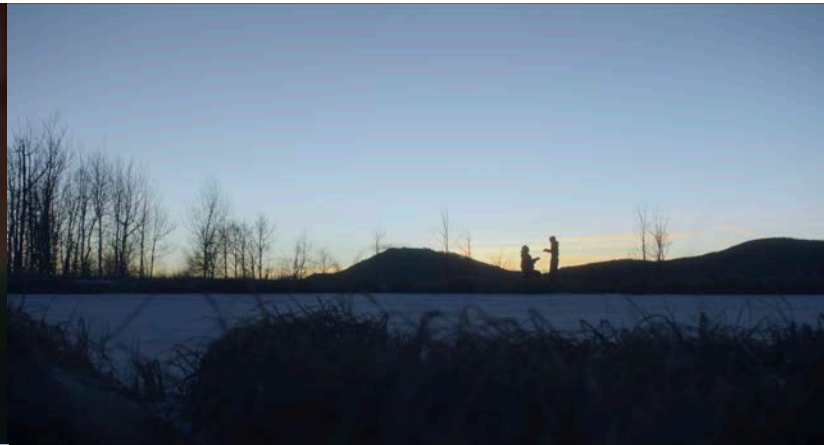
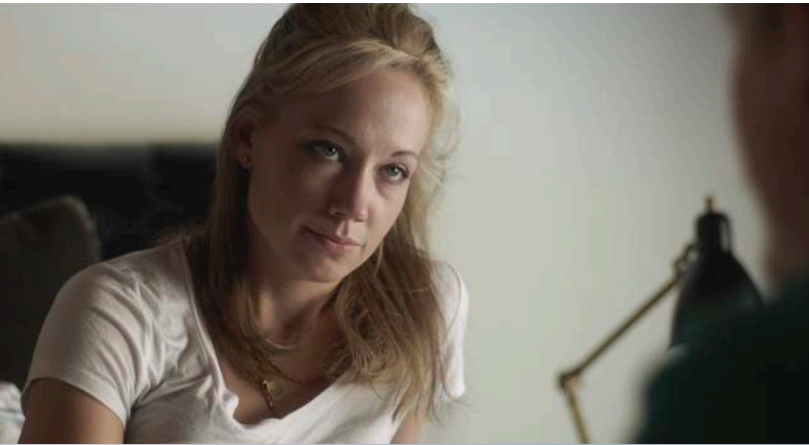
## EXTENDED SYNOPSIS (CONTINUED)

As the weekend progresses, Paul becomes increasingly haunted by moments of his past, particularly involving a mysterious trauma related to his ex-wife, Cassie.

Meanwhile, Gena contemplates her current relationship through imagined conversations with her own ex-lover, Dylan, fruitlessly attempting to convince him (or her subconscious) that she and Paul belong together.

Their isolation leads to paranoia, and the tension ultimately culminates when Gena accidentally finds the engagement ring, ruining Paul's surprise proposal.

When Paul and Gena's questions finally begin to unearth their deepest insecurities, the two discover that the best thing for themselves might not be the best thing for their relationship. Ultimately, they must decide the fate of their relationship as Christmas draws near.





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## AWARDS



### Houston Broadcast Film Critics Association

WINNER, Best Picture

WINNER, Best Actress (Amanda Maddox)

WINNER, Best Supporting Actress (Olivia Grace Applegate)

### WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival

WINNER, Gold Remi Award

### Hunter Mountain Film Festival

WINNER, Best Director (Joe Duca)

### Fort Worth Indie Film Showcase

WINNER, Best Foreign Drama

WINNER, Audience Choice - Best Feature

NOMINATED, Best Overall Feature

### Colorado International Film Festival

WINNER, Colorado Film Award - Bronze

### Northeast Mountain Film Festival

FINALIST, Best Feature Film

FINALIST, Best Actress (Amanda Maddox)

### The 2019 Independent Film Awards

Hosted by "The Movie Buff"

WINNER, Best Full-Length Film

WINNER, Best Actress (Amanda Maddox)

WINNER, Best Supporting Actress (Olivia Grace Applegate)

HONORABLE MENTION, Best Supporting Actor (David Bianchi)

### Las Cruces International Film Festival

NOMINEE, Best Narrative Feature

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## OFFICIAL SELECTION

WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival — *World Premiere*

Vero Beach Wine + Film Festival — *Florida Premiere*

Hunter Mountain Film Festival — *New York Premiere*

NorthEast Mountain Film Festival — *Georgia Premiere*

Fort Worth Indie Film Showcase — *North Texas Premiere*

Colorado International Film Festival — *Colorado Premiere*

Skyline Indie Film Festival — *Virginia Premiere*

Louisville's International Festival of Film — *Kentucky Premiere*

Ojai Film Festival — *California Premiere*

St. Cloud Film Festival — *Minnesota Premiere*

Las Cruces International Film Festival — *New Mexico Premiere*



"Evergreen" cast and crew cleans house at the 52nd WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival Awards Gala, taking home Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, and the Gold Remi award.

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## CAST

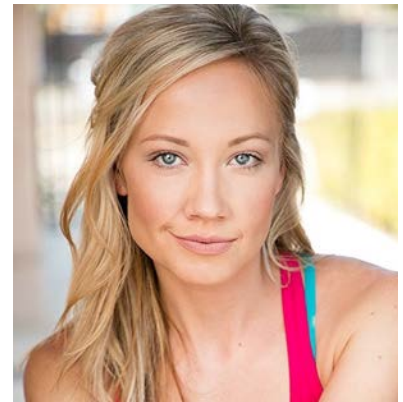


### Tanner Kalina

Born and raised in Dallas, TX, Tanner Kalina's breakout performance came in **Richard Linklater's** studio hit *Everybody Wants Some!!* He has since starred in multiple independent feature films and is currently on tap for **Danielle Karagannis'** upcoming *INSOMNIA!* He is represented by CAA and Margrit Polak Management.

### Amanda Maddox

Amanda Maddox is an actor from Paducah, KY. She died on the hit CBS TV show *Criminal Minds*. She also died in *Stalked By A Reality Star* on **Lifetime**. Producers finally wised up and spared her life in *A Bride's Revenge*, also on **Lifetime**. Her short film, *The Other Place* (Cannes), was shot on 35mm film. Maddox will appear on the show *Moonbase 8* starring John C. Reilly and Fred Armisen; as well as *The L Word: Generation Q* on **Showtime** later this year.



### Olivia Grace Applegate

Olivia Grace Applegate is an award-winning actress and singer originally from Houston, TX. Acclaimed for her breakout roles in *Krishna* (SXSW Grand Jury Prize, Cannes) and **Terrence Malick's** *Song to Song*, she has since starred in several television series including HBO's *Euphoria* and **Bravo's** *Dirty John*. With an upcoming jazz performance with Hugh Laurie, Applegate is a multifaceted star on the rise.



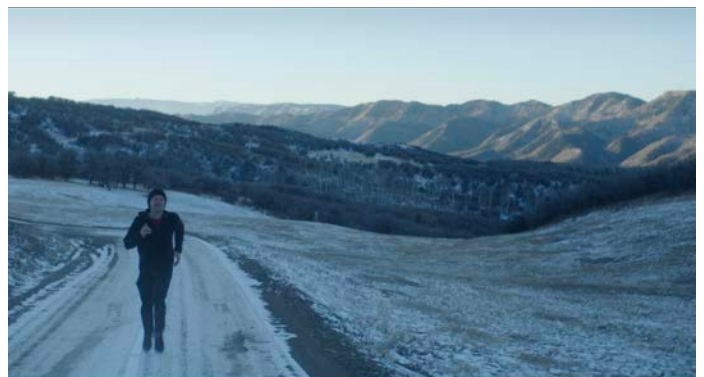
### David Bianchi

With almost 100 IMDb credits to his name, David Bianchi can be seen in studio films such as *Birds of Prey* opposite Ewan McGregor and numerous indie films. Currently, he's a major recur in Season 4 of **USA's** *Queen of the South* while recurring in Season 2 of *Insatiable* for **Netflix** with TV appearance on hit shows including HBO's *Westworld*, *MacGyver*, *Animal Kingdom*, *Shooter*, *The Last Ship*, and many more.



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## SELECTED PRODUCTION STILLS



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## FULL CREDITS

### CAST

Paul	Tanner Kalina
Gena	Amanda Maddox
Cassie	Olivia Grace Applegate
Dylan	David Bianchi

### CREW

Directed and Screenplay by	Joe Duca
Story by	Tanner Kalina Marshall Kistner
Produced by	Joe Duca Marshall Kistner Justin Graver Kristin Jones Savvas Yiannoulou
Executive Producers	Marshall Kistner Justin Graver Tanner Kalina Kristin Jones Mary J. Davis
Co-Producers	Anna Donella Joe Duca Olivia Grace Applegate
Director of Photography	Matthew Plaxco
Production Designer	Oliver Johnson
Editor	Justin Graver
Original Music by	Maverick Dugger

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## FULL CREDITS (CONTINUED)

First Assistant Director	Garrett Forbes
Associate Producer	Phong Dang
1st Assistant Camera	Ai Dang
Gaffer	Tanner Nichols
Key Grip	Jimmy Moreno
Grip	Dan Duca
Sound Mixer	Will Harrell
Still Photographer	Oliver Johnson
Art Assistant	Ian Mantel
Set Production Assistant	Frederick Duca
Site Representatives	Tim Bane
	Amy Bane
Catering By	Guillermina Gutierrez
Sound Designer/Re-recording Mixer	Colin Lechner, M.P.S.E
Supervising Sound Editor	Marinna Guzy
Music Supervisor	Aubrey Caswell
Score Produced by	Maverick Dugger
Original Compositions by	Alex Roldan
	Chris Caswell
Session Artists	Baxter Bailey
	Sara Bailey
	Matthew Justmann
	John Paul Lefebvre
Re-recording Audio Engineer	Steve Horner
VFX Producer	Nathalie Fortunel
VFX Supervisor	Kalyan Sura
VFX Artist	Amelia Nista
Colorist	Jimmy Moreno
Title Design by	Jonathan Pope

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## MUSIC

### **"Christmas Kiss"**

Produced by Chris Caswell  
Written & Performed by Aubrey Caswell

### **"Leave It To Ellie"**

Written by Chris Caswell  
Arranged by Maverick Dugger  
Performed by Sara Bailey, Baxter Bailey,  
and Matthew Justmann

### **"Silent Night"**

Composed by Franz Xaver Gruber  
Written by Joseph Mohr  
Performed by Ryan Holmberg

### **"Top Man"**

Written by De'Wayne Jackson and Andre Plaxton  
Published by BLK MTN (ASCAP)  
Performed by De'Wayne Jackson  
Courtesy of BLK MTN

### **"Something On Your Mind"**

Written by Joe Duca  
Performed by Olivia Grace Applegate and  
Tanner Kalina

### **"Reminders"**

Written by Paige Chaplin  
Performed by Paige Chaplin

### **"Golden Days"**

Produced by Lydia Luce  
Mixed by Jordan Lehning  
Written & Performed by Lydia Luce

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## SELECTED PRESS

CLICK ANY HEADLINE FOR A LINK TO THE ARTICLE:



### Evergreen: "A Spellbinding Experience"

By Andrew Emerson



### Evergreen Movie Review (2019) — Grade: A

By Mark Ziobro

### Exclusive Interview: The Cast of 'Evergreen' Talks Filmmaking, Critical Reception, and their Story

By Mark Ziobro



### Indie Film "EVERGREEN" Takes Top Prize at 52nd WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival

By Michael Ford



### Case Study: The Making of Evergreen

By Oladipo Bamidele

*Blessed is She*

### BIS Reviews Evergreen: Expectations Defied

By Beth Williby

**Carrollton**Leader

### Carrollton, Plano natives produce award-winning film

By Victoria Atterberry



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## STOCKING STUFFERS

- \* The story began with a single logline and was developed into a 25-page outline prepared by Marshall Kistner (Producer) and Tanner Kalina ("Paul"). The script's first draft was written by Joe Duca (Director), with many subsequent revisions based on an intensive, month-long rehearsal process with the four lead actors. The shooting script locked mere days before the team departed for Colorado.
- \* Lead character Gena Ryan's name was inspired by legendary actresses and feminist icons Gena Rowlands and Geena Davis. The character Paul Owen was named after Saint Paul the Apostle.
- \* A skeleton crew comprised of only 14 crew members traveled to Meeker, Colorado, from Los Angeles, Austin, and Richmond.
- \* Filming during the month of December in wintry Colorado resulted in snowy conditions and some rather cold shoot days. One evening was so frigid, the camera sensor froze (despite being wrapped in hand-warmers), and footage from that scene had to be re-shot the next day.
- \* The film's 88-page script was filmed in just 10 shoot days, including a 21-page day accomplished in 13 hours.
- \* A Kickstarter campaign was launched with the goal of raising \$6,000 to complete a 'barebones' post production. After hitting that goal on the first day, the grassroots campaign went on to raise over \$15,000.
- \* The film's original score was composed by Maverick Dugger, incorporating compositions from ambient artist Alex Roldan. In addition, two original Christmas songs were written and recorded for the film, one by Nashville-based singer/songwriter Lydia Luce, and one by Grammy Award-winning musician Chris Caswell.
- \* Coincidentally, many elements of the film's natural sound design — created by Raconteur Sound — were recorded in the same area of Colorado where the film was shot... at about the same time!
- \* Three feedback screenings were held for test audiences, where extended verbal discussions and detailed hand-written surveys provided crucial feedback. The film's first rough cut ran 2 hours and 37 minutes, while the final cut runs 1 hour 36 minutes in length.

## TIMELINE

<b>Spring 2017</b>	Story Conception and Development
<b>Winter 2017</b>	Physical Production
<b>Fall 2018</b>	Final Cut Delivered
<b>Spring 2019</b>	Film Festival Run Begins
<b>Fall 2020</b>	Distribution and Exhibition

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## EXTERNAL LINKS

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## CONTACT

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