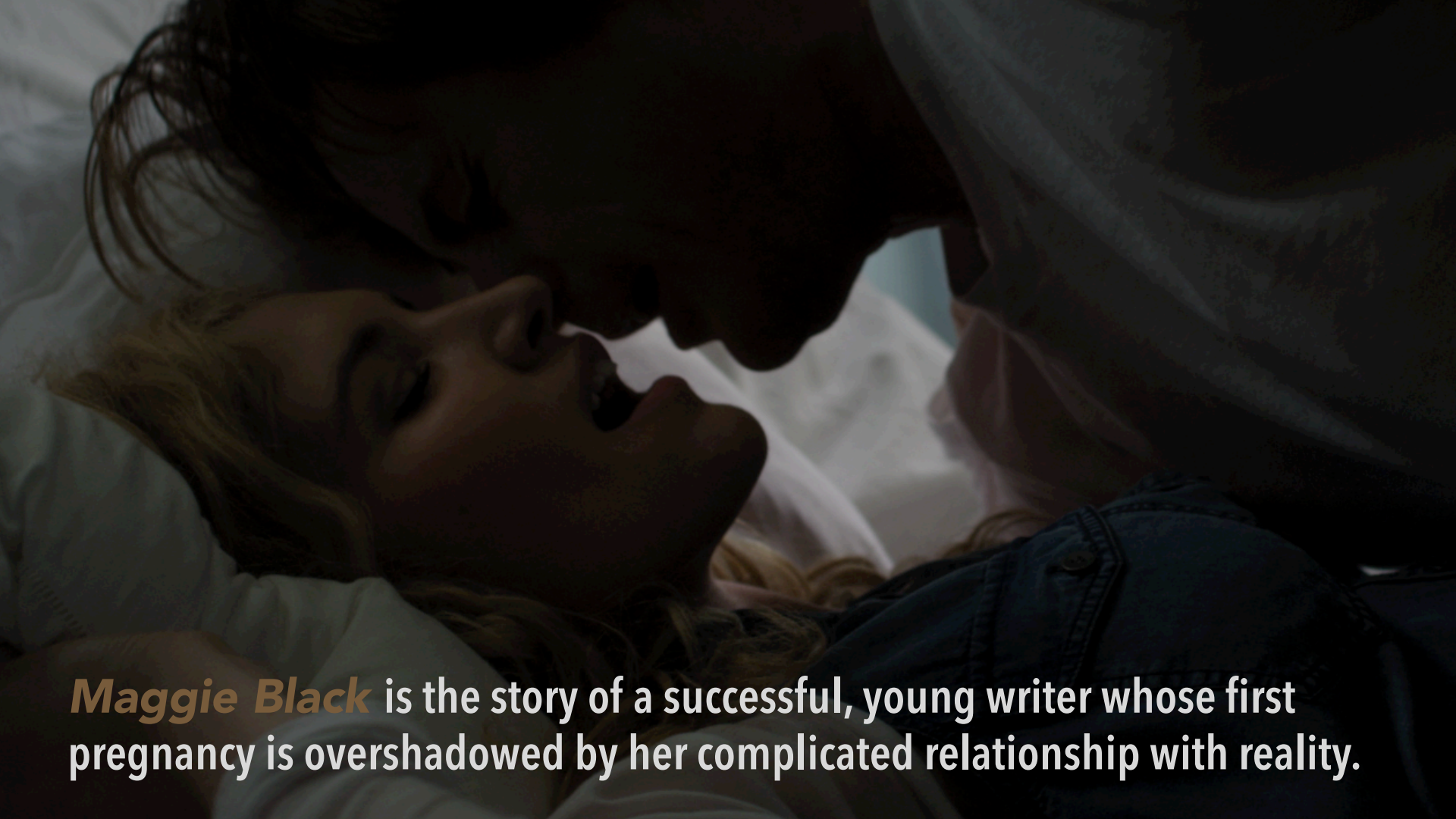




MAGGIE BLACK

A character-driven psychodrama





Maggie Black is the story of a successful, young writer whose first pregnancy is overshadowed by her complicated relationship with reality.

A woman with long, wavy blonde hair is shown in a close-up shot, looking off-camera with a concerned expression. She is in a dimly lit room, possibly a bedroom, with a window and blinds visible in the background. The lighting is soft and warm, creating a moody atmosphere.

SYNOPSIS

The story revolves around a successful, young writer's first pregnancy, the excitement of which is overshadowed by her complicated relationship with reality. Haunted by her past but determined to do what she thinks is best for the baby Maggie secretly stops taking her medications. As she and her husband try to prepare their new home for a child, Maggie descends into a nightmare of her own making.



MAGGIE BLACK

ASSEMBLY OF GODS PRODUCTIONS and BELLAMORE PICTURES PRESENT "MAGGIE BLACK" JESSALYN MASGORE CHRIS DE FEM JOHN TOSCANI
CAROLYN MACORANEY PRODUCED BY JUDY HENDERSON WRITTEN BY JERRY GARY GUNN DIRECTED BY STANLEY BRIDE COSTUME DESIGNER JESSALYN MASGORE
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JUDITH BRISAN HARRIS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANDREW WYLE & KELLEY PRODUCED BY JESSALYN MASGORE STANLEY BRIDE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SARAH BRENNAN KOLB PRODUCED BY JESSALYN MASGORE DIRECTED BY STANLEY BRIDE

TRAILER



Maggie Black Trailer



Running Time: 84 minutes
Directed By: Stanley Brode
Written By: Jessalyn Maguire
Produced By: Sarah Brennan Kolb
Director of Photography: Kyle I. Kelley
Casting by: Judy Henderson
Composer: Gary Gunn



According to Dr. Ian Jones of Cardiff University, the intersection of bipolar disorder and pregnancy can lead to the “most severe episodes of illness in psychiatric practice.” My first thought upon hearing this was: How is this not already a movie? Why is no one talking about this? So I decided to tackle it.

I am interested in stories about the female experience and also think at length about my responsibility to create work that does not perpetuate stigmas or marginalize. Yet at the same time, I want to tell compelling stories—ones in which characters sometimes have to behave in ways that create conflict. It was straddling that fine line between art and commerce, social responsibility and engaging storytelling, truth in representation and imagination that *Maggie Black* was created.

Not only did I research the topic thoroughly, but I also deal with my own chronic depression and anxiety issues. So I tried to draw on both for Maggie. I wanted to make her as close to a “real person” as possible. To portray someone who makes a series of well-intentioned, but ultimately bad choices that force her down a disastrous path. She is not inept, dangerous, childlike, or possessed. Nor does she perpetuate the sweeping generalizations about people diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder. We see the world from her perspective, fall into the traps that she does, understand her anger with her husband, and, like Maggie, we don’t realize how bad it’s gotten until it’s too late. While Maggie is certainly not a poster child for being bipolar and pregnant I hope that we’ve given voice to this particular struggle by telling her story.

JESSALYN'S NOTE
(Writer, Actor, Exec. Producer)

When the Chief of Service at John's Hopkins Medical saw *Maggie Black* she said "every doctor in the country should see this film." She appreciated its medical accuracy, but more importantly the insight it gave into the life of someone living with a mental illness. It is not a film about a disease but about a family and how they deal with the relationship mental illness forms in their unit. Maggie and Tom's marriage consists of the relationship between themselves as a couple, between Maggie and her illness, and between Tom and Maggie's illness. When Maggie lies about staying on her meds to avoid conflict she sees as inevitable due to Tom's biased fears about her judgment it reverberates throughout their marriage. The lie spreads and the consequences compound as Tom ignores warning signs and engages in his own self-deception.

This web of interconnectedness heightened by lies and hiding is a reflection of the current mental health situation in America. People living with mental illnesses often do not seek help when they need it for fear of losing credibility and freedom: One in five Americans experiences a mental health condition every year but only half receive treatment. Tom's desire to ignore the problem mirrors society's current inertia. People living with mental illness have seen vastly increased rates of homelessness, interactions with police leading to deadly force, and incarceration over the last thirty years. Yet efforts to alleviate these problems are not coming quickly enough, if at all. Instead depression, anxiety, drug abuse, and suicide are on the rise.

Medical professionals and people who have firsthand experience with mental illness have proved to be the film's most passionate supporters. But we've also heard viewers without direct exposure to mental conditions talk about how the film helped them to empathize with people living with mental illness and invited them to ask tough questions about what society's role in this arena ought to be.

I believe that people living with mental illness deserve to get the treatment they need when they need it and to live in a society where they are accepted as they are without shame and my hope is that *Maggie Black* will contribute positively towards building that future.



STANLEY'S NOTE
(Director and Exec. Producer)



FEATURED CAST



JESSALYN MAGUIRE (Maggie) Has starred in dramatic and comedic films, webseries, and pilots as well as plays in New York City, up and down the East Coast, and in London. Most recently she created a political, satirical character.



CHRIS BEETEM (Tom) is known for his roles in films such as *Black Hawk Down*, *Every Day* and *Mr. Popper's Penguins* as well as his work on popular television shows like *Inside Amy Shumer*, *JAG*, *Royal Pains*, *The Following*, *Blindspot*, and *Pan Am*.



CAROLYN McCORMICK (Elizabeth) frequently appears on Broadway, but is best know for her longstanding role as Dr. Olivet in the Law and Order franchise. Other credits include: *Nights in Rodanthe*, *Judging Amy*, *The Practice*, Woody Allen's *Whatever Works*, and you can hear her narrating the audio books of *The Hunger Games* Trilogy.

CATHERINE CURTIN (Dr. Leitman) is a series regular on the hit Netflix show *Orange Is the New Black*. She is also known for her roles in *Revolutionary Road*, *30 Rock*, *Pan Am*, *Sex and the City*, and *The Wolf of Wall Street*.



JOHN FUGELSANG (Paul) is an actor and comedian. He has appeared in diverse projects as an actor, ranging from *CSI* and *Providence* to *Coyote Ugly*. Fugelsang is also a political commentator and has been featured on CNN, Fox News, Dennis Miller, The Young Turks, Air America, CNBC, MSNBC and is the host of his own SiriusXM show: "Tell Me Everything."



LAURA GOMEZ (Kim) currently plays the role of Blanca Flores on *Orange Is the New Black* and was most recently in HBO's stunning miniseries: *Show Me A Hero*. She is also a member of Spanish Repertory Theater, where she has participated in critically acclaimed plays such as *Doña Flor* and *Her Two Husbands* and *The House of the Spirits*, adapted by Obie Award playwright Caridad Svich.





PRODUCTION TEAM

STANLEY BRODE (Director, Exec. Producer) Stanley Brode is a Co-founder of Assemblage of Nouns Productions, a theatre and film production company. "You There?" a dark, comedic short film loosely based on Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* was featured on Short of the Week among other publications and festivals. Stanley trained as an actor before directing plays and short films on both coasts, as well as working in a Broadway producer's office, and in the Literary Department at the La Jolla Playhouse. *Maggie Black* is his first feature.

JESSALYN MAGUIRE (Writer, Exec. Producer) the other half of Assemblage of Nouns Productions. She is a writer, actor, editor, and filmmaker interested primarily in exploring women's issues—especially ones that have historically been marginalized. Most recently, she wrote, produced, and starred in the feature film: *Maggie Black*. Jessalyn has worked as the Head of Video Content for Accenture's Health Practice for over five years directing, producing, and editing award winning work. She is also a published poet. Currently, she is producing a feature documentary and writing her next film.

SARAH BRENNAN KOLB (Producer) is a producer and director. Her producing credits include the upcoming features *Little Woods*, *Major Arcana* and *Maggie Black*. Past short films include *Lost Pines* (LA Shorts Fest, Palm Springs International, DeadCenter Film Festival), and *Skunk* (Cannes Film Festival Grand Prize in Cinnefondacion, Oscar 2016 Qualified). Sarah splits her time between Brooklyn, New York and Kenedy, Texas shooting her upcoming feature documentary *GOOD 'OL GIRL* (Fork Films & Austin Film Society Fellows).

KYLE I. KELLEY (Director of Photography) is a Brooklyn based DP, producer, editor, and director. With his colleagues at BullMoose Pictures, he has worked on many fiction and non-fiction pieces including the feature: *Uncle Peck*, the award winning shorts "Worlds We Created," as well as the JASH comedy series: "The Perfect Week." Kyle's credits also include several PBS shows including *The American Experience* and *CONSTITUTION USA* with Peter Sagal. Kyle is currently directing the feature documentary *Jeff Golub: Train Keeps A Rolling*.

JUDY HENDERSON (Casting Director) named one of the top 20 US Film Casting Directors by The Ross Reports. Highlights include: Emmy Award–Outstanding Casting in a Drama Series. 2 Emmy nominations–Outstanding Casting in a Drama Series. 4 Artios Awards–Outstanding Achievement TV Series and Theatre Drama Casting. Artios nomination for Independent Film Feature Casting, and 8 Artios nominations for Off Broadway Theatre Drama Casting. Select TV credits include *Homeland*– (Emmy Award and 2 Artios Awards - Showtime Series), *Love And Betrayal: The Mia Farrow Story* (Fox), and *Land of Little Rain* (PBS). Broadway credits include *Barefoot In The Park*, and *Anna Karenina* (4 Tony Nominations). Off-Broadway credits *Invasion* (Obie Award), *Lie of The Mind* (Artios Award), *The Kid* (5 Drama Desk Nominations) and *Hurlyburly* (Artios Award).

GARY GUNN (Composer) is an acclaimed composer and music producer/curator noted for his genre-defying musical aesthetic & forward-thinking application of sound. In 2016, Oprah personally selected him for her inaugural Super Soul 100 list, honoring "the world's biggest trailblazers, innovators, & visionaries." Gunn has collaborated on cutting-edge, interactive installations at TED, SXSW, Moogfest, & Palais de Tokyo. He has also composed original music for brands such as Sonos, Nike, Puma, Google, & Dell. Gunn has scored award-winning films—including official selections at Sundance, Tribeca, and Cannes film festivals—and has created original music for TV series, including Showtime's Emmy-nominated *Sleeper Cell* and AMC's *Fear the Walking Dead*. He is also a pioneering music curator, as profiled in The Wall Street Journal's *The Search For The Perfect Playlist*, having provided soundtracks to millions through various outlets including Songza, RISD Museum, Google Play, and Darden Group.



ASSEMBLAGE OF NOUNS PRODUCTIONS

presents

In association with
BULLMOOSE PICTURES

Directed by
STANLEY BRODE

Written by
JESSALYN MAGUIRE

Director of Photography
KYLE I. KELLEY

Original Music by
GARY GUNN

Produced by
SARAH BRENNAN KOLB

Casting by
JUDY HENDERSON, C.S.A.

Executive Producers
STANLEY BRODE
JESSALYN MAGUIRE

CAST

Maggie

Tom

Yvonne

Paul

Elizabeth

Jeremy

Young Maggie

Dr. Ambrose

Dr. Leitman

Chris

Diane

Kim

Jack

Kelly

Officer Callahan

Officer Rose

JESSALYN MAGUIRE

CHRIS BEETEM

CHRISTINA PUMARIEGA

JOHN FUGELSANG

CAROLYN McCORMICK

JOSEPH ADAMS

PAIGE PUGH-WEISS

PETER BRADBURY

CATHERINE CURTIN

TODD ALAN CRAIN

DEBBIE CAMPBELL

LAURA GÓMEZ

SETH JAMES

FLOR DE LIZ PEREZ

JOHN AUSTIN WIGGINS

ROSE IEBBA



Assistant Camera: AMY OBARSKI

Gaffer: JUSTIN NEWHOUSE

Production Sound Mixer: KYLE PORTER

Art Director: JANE JI

Sound Re-recording Mixer: JOSH BERGER

Supervising Sound Editor: IAN GAFFNEY-ROSENFELD

Digital Intermediate by Harbor Picture Company

Colorist: ROMAN HANKEWYCZ

Junior Colorist: DYLAN BALL

Digital Intermediate Producer: MATT CARUSO

Director of Picture Post Production: KEVIN VALE

Visual Effects: MARK NICKELSBURG

Police Advisor: PAUL NIELSEN

Mental Health Consultant: DAN V. IOSIFESCU, M.D.,
M.Sc., Director, Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program,
Mount Sinai

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