

Return to Start



A FILM BY 908 MEDIA

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Contact: info@908media.com

Official URL: www.returntostart.com

Official Movie Poster by: Ian and Sung Ryen Toledo

Synopsis

Fulfilling a promise to her father, Vera, a children's entertainer, drives from Arizona to New Jersey. She hopes to connect with her roots and reassess her life. Anthony, a bank manager, moves to NJ to be with his girlfriend. After five years together, he wonders if he has settled for life. After a brief exchange at his work, Vera and Anthony discover themselves at a similar crossroads. They begin to find friendship and seek solace in each other.

Director's Statement

After making *Close To Midnight*, I thought that anyone who decides to make an independent film must be crazy. It tests your will, drains your bank account and disrupts your social life. At one point, I was convinced that I would never make another film again.

That was 24 months ago.

Now, I'm finishing post-production on *Return To Start*, my second film. It started out with an idea to write a story based on conversations and experiences shared among friends. Within months, this story became a screenplay and the process started all over again. *Return To Start* was made by a group of talented and dedicated people that shared a collective passion for the arts. This film would not be possible without them.

Ken Castellano
Dec. 2011

Production Notes

Pre-Production:

- The first draft of the script was 80 pages and written in the Fall of 2009.
- Screenplay was copyrighted and registered by the WGA in January 2010.
- Pre-Production took place from January 2010 to May 2010. This included script revisions, casting, rehearsals, location scouting, primary art direction and budget logistics.
- Casting occurred in NYC over two months.
- We began with over 1200 submissions and narrowed them down to 30 for callbacks. We ended casting 2 leads and 10 supporting roles.

Production:

- Principal photography took place from June to August 2010.
- Shoots were organized in three to four day blocks.
- Crew sized varied between 4 and 10.
- We shot a total of 40 hours of footage.
- The shooting draft of the script was 89 pages.
- There were over 100 extras used in the film.
- Food, accommodations and daily stipend were provided to cast.

Post-Production:

- Post took place from September 2010 to November 2011.
- The first cut of the film is 70 minutes.
- The final running time of the film is 60 minutes.
- The principal budget of the film is 10K and is self-financed by 908 Media, LLC.
- Teenage Cool Kids provided the score for the film.

Technology in the film:

- We shot in 1080P using the Canon 5D Mark II and three prime lenses.

Cast Bios

Vi Flaten

Vi was born Christmas Day in Iowa. She dabbled in careers in punk rock, cheerleading, astronomy, and Catholicism before deciding she wanted to play pretend professionally for the rest of her life. Some career highlights include the Off-Broadway show "My First Time" at New World Stages, Law & Order SVU, singing "Untouchable" on Joey Fehrenbach's latest album, and the MTV pilot "I Just Want My Pants Back" directed by Doug Liman. Learn more about her at www.ViFlaten.com. All thanks go to Jesus, for putting up with her.

Michael Anthony Bianco

Michael is originally from the great state of Rhode Island where he began his acting career. Since moving to New York, he has starred in several plays where he created the roles of Dick in "The Coming of Dick" and Danny in "Self and the Pity". He has also starred as Phillip in "Orphans" and Carl in "The Baltimore Waltz". Michael has also starred in several films including "Free Parking" directed by Michael Gunther, as well as his first film with 908 Media, "Close to Midnight" which won Best in Fest at the ReelHeART film festival in Toronto. Michael was nominated for Best Actor for his performance as Chris Ryan. He would like to thank all his family and friends for their continual love and support.

Jen Dees

Since relocating to Brooklyn in 2007, Jenn Dees has performed in galleries, on stages, and on screens large and small. She is currently working on The Loneliness Trilogy with writer/director Gary King.

Jesi Mullins

Jesi made her stage debut at the wee age of three months in her father's arms in her community theatre of rural Minnesota. She gained her BFA in theatrical performance from the University of North Dakota, during which she also studied physical theatre in Arezzo, Italy at Accademia dell'Arte with the acclaimed European troupe Teatro Punto. She has most recently studied with Lorraine Serabian and HB Studios. In November 2010, Jesi was found opening her two-woman cabaret Intimate Portrait: an Evening of Soulful Silhouettes with her performance partner, Julia Hirsch, and Write Act Eastside at the Richmond Shepard Theatre. Favorite roles include Sheila in Hair, Dromio of Ephesus in Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors, Ruth in The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds, and Snoopy in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. Armed with her Snoopy wail and ability to give a land-tour of Alaska, Jesi is currently based out of New York City.

Amy Cerullo

Amy Cerullo, a proud graduate of Michigan State University, has been living in New York City for the past 3 years, and feels so lucky to be here! Amy has booked commercial voice over work, and is currently concentrating heavily on voice overs. Amy has been seen on "All My Children", "One Life to Live", and "Guiding Light". She can also be seen in Industrial film for Pampered Chef, and has appeared in student films for Aldephi University. Most recently, she booked a holiday caroling and dancing live project which was shot for the Internet. She is thankful for the constant support of her family, and Eric. "Return to Start" was such a great project, with amazing, talented people. Many thanks to 908 Media for this fantastic opportunity.

Cast Bios

Gretchen Ferris

Gretchen Ferris is an actor/director/casting director working out of New York City. Acting credits include: "As I Am Fully Known" (Fringe NYC), "No Sex Please, We're British"; "Call Waiting" (Phare Play Productions), "The Diary of Anne Frank", "The Matchmaker" (Triad Stage), "Quilters" (Great Plains Theatre), "Morticians in Love" (Theatre 232), and "Ruth" (Blue Shift Theatre Ensemble), as well as work on various commercials and web spots. She holds theatre degrees from Lenoir-Rhyne College, Florida State University and the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

Hank Morris

Hank Morris' film credits include Tootsie in 'Tips', the 2009 comedic short, and a drug-addled prostitute in the 2008 dramatic short 'Apartment 309'. She most recently appeared on stage as la Marquise de Merteuil in Les Liaisons Dangereuse at the Attic Ensemble's Barrow Mansion stage in Jersey City.

Matt Cheplic

Matt Cheplic, who last appeared in the 908 Media feature "Close to Midnight," has wrote and acted in several shorts. He is also a recording artist with two releases to his name and a journalist and essayist whose work has appeared in Variety, Salon.com, The Huffington Post, someecards.com, and numerous others.

Filmmakers

Ken Castellano: Writer-Director

A native of NJ, Ken studied English at the University of Notre Dame. He then spent three years as a high school English teacher. After teaching, he enrolled in NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where he was awarded his Masters Degree in the Interactive Telecommunications Program. Ken has been interested in film, his life's passion, and explored emerging digital media at ITP. His first film, *Close To Midnight*, won several awards at independent film festivals. Ken is a first generation Filipino American and *Return To Start* is his second film.

Joachim Castellano: Producer

Producer, educator, and media specialist living near Tokyo, Japan. Joachim has worked for EdLab at Teachers College Columbia University and Apple.

Nicholas Laskowski: Director of Photography

When he's not shooting and editing for 908 Media, Nicholas is pursuing his doctorate in philosophy at the University of Southern California.

Film Stills



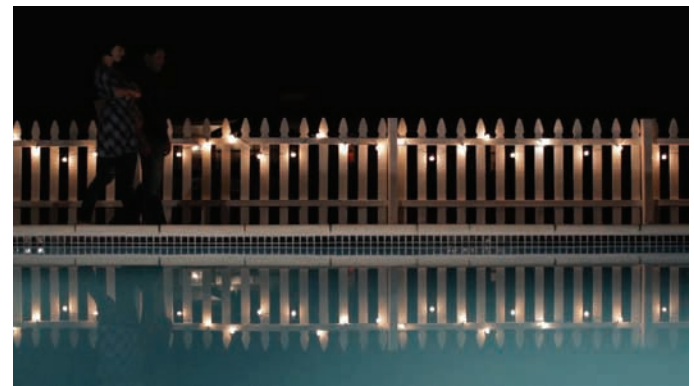
Vera arrives at a children's party as Fancy the Fairy.



Anthony and Shelley grab some fresh air on a deck.



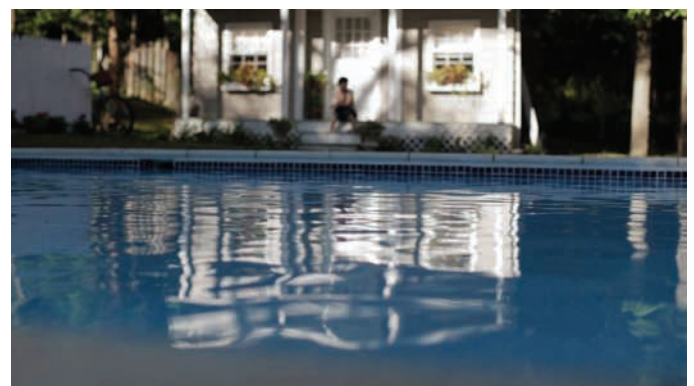
Anthony opens the bank vault.



Anthony and Vera walk along the side of a pool.

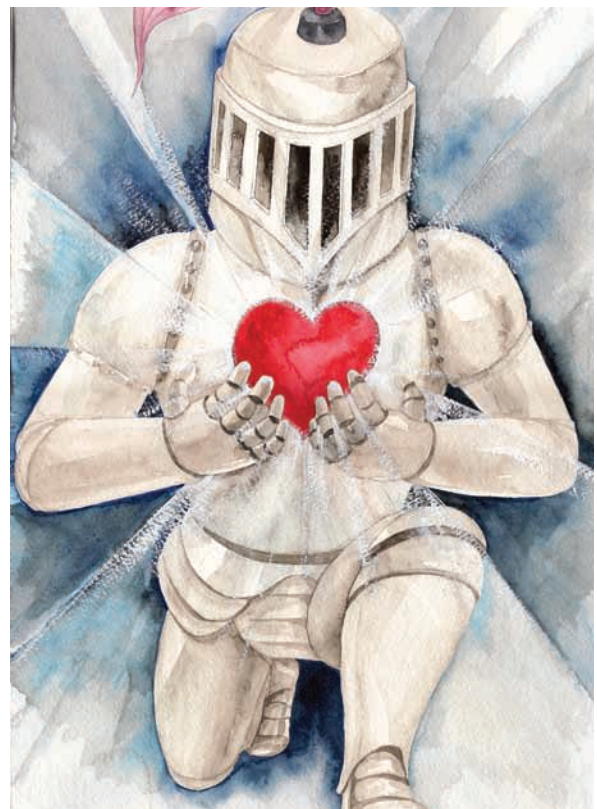
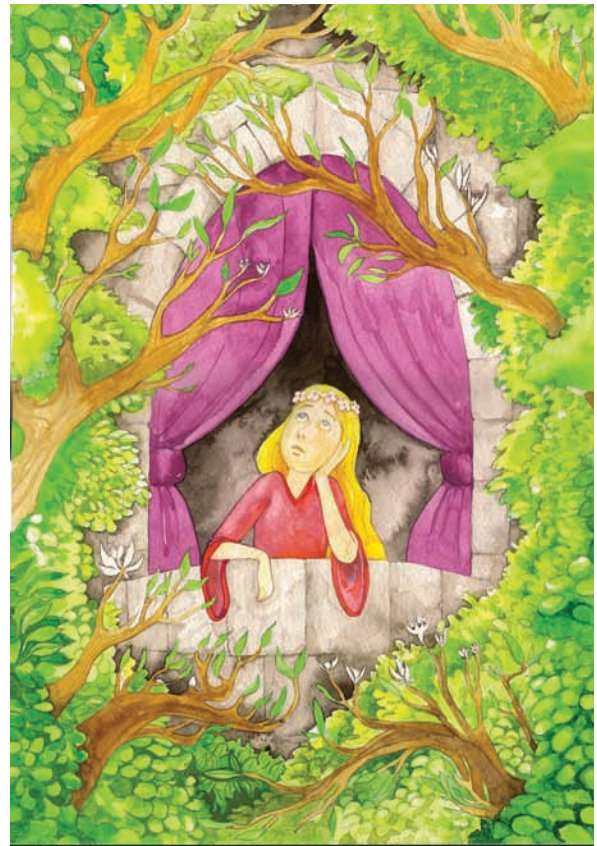
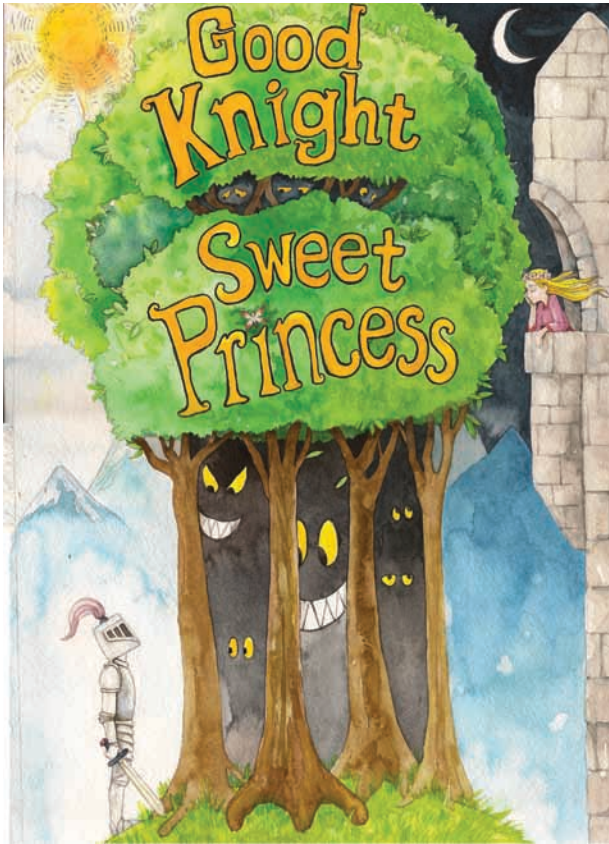


Anthony takes part in a weekly Writer's Group.



Vera enjoys some poolside time.

Original Artwork



Original Artwork by Ian and Sung Ryen Toledo.
These paintings appear in a children's book used in the film.

Original Artwork



Credits

A

Ken Castellano
Film

Producers

Joachim Castellano, Ken Castellano and Rob Ryan

Director of Photography

Nicholas Laskowski

Sound Designers

Matthew Schimkowitz
Pat Driscoll

Set Direction

Tom Driscoll

Art Direction

Ian Toledo

Score

Teenage Cool Kids

Assistant Director of Photography

Christian Mazza

Motion Graphics

Josh Anderson
Skye MacLeod

Original Artwork

Ian Toledo
Sung Ryen Toledo

Cast

Vera	Vi Flaten
Anthony	Michael Anthony Bianco
Morgan	Jenn Dees
Shelley	Jesi Mullins
Charlotte	Amy Cerullo
Emily	Gretchen Ferris
Dorothy	Hank Morris
Joseph	Matt Cheplic
Kathy	Ashley Bloom
Sarah	Krista Giffin
Charlie	Eric D'Entrone
Paul	David Cooper

Extras

Gabrielle Castellano	Pei Pei Lin	Norma McGuire	John Sameth
Ramone Cabrera	Jessica Castellano	Frederika Valian	Casey Benderoth
Tom Driscoll	Kate McMorrow	Patrick Benderoth	Brianna Benes
Drew Rielly	Jennifer Lack	Samantha Benes	Kacie Donohue
Anthony Cosenza	Kimberly Castellano	Kaitlyn Donohue	Olivia Donohue
Angelica DeStefano	Patrick Daly	Patrick Donohue Jr.	Sarah LaBrutto
Noah Porter	Edward Bernier	Mathew Maggio	Nathan Maggio
Sophia Elkhoury	Caitlyn Fallon	Sophia Pardal	Isabella Stoto
Rob Schrupp	Robert Burt	Aimee Swisher	Debra Bianco
Linda Gould-Elichko	Sally Hanford	Laura Brunton	Paul DiGiano
Maura Hoey	Frances Houston	Elizabeth Hurban	Samantha Hurban
Annmarie Klimowicz	Henry Koehler	George McDonough	Morgan McDonough
Catherine Wendel	Chris Wendel	Robert Peters	Joanie Reilly
Armando Andre	Dan Curran	Patrick Reilly	James Trotter
Jacqueline Curran	Ed Eyring	Peter Yuschak	Atreyie Jamison Bray
Jeff Schumacher	Mary K. Schumacher	Tyler Duane	Anika Mehia
Matt Schumacher	Zach Schumacher	Paige Peneno	Zuri Pryor
Christine Bennett	Gina Ciaramella	Kristian Titre	Kimberly Bedharz
Jennifer Dengel	Jessica DiGregorio	Jane Ann Carvalho	Tim McKann
Deborah Ferrao	Morgan Fitzpatrick	Robert O'Donnell	Daniel Sullivan
Amanda Yu	Allison Harty	James Sweeney	Ellen Chaiken
Jay Legaspi	Jennifer Buccino	Joy Elmore	Sara Bowyer
Laurie Feinberg	Emily Horowitz	Lori Hilsheimer	Viviana Calderon
Joan Horowitz	Maggie Kosciolk	Matthew Annunziata	Heather Leckart
Elizabeth M. Brown	Carole Peyton	Kim Somerville	Michael Dietrich
Caroline Raba	Jenn Raba	Wing	Stormy
Lanlen San Rafael	Maria San Rafael		
Audrey Yankielun	Lori Dziuba		
Blake Goydic	James Goydic		
Judy Huang	Patricia Johns		

Credits

Production Assistant

Toby Castellano

Still Photography

Rob Ryan
Wendy Castellano

ADR Recording

Matt Messenger
Chris Marinaccio

RTS Website

Josh Anderson
Mike Pfirrmann

Media Consultant

Gonzalo Obelleiro

Craft Services

Priscilla and Jose Castellano
Kathy Driscoll

Film Editors

Nicholas Laskowski
Ken Castellano

Locations

Great Falls of Paterson
Lun Wah, Roselle
Quigley's Service Center, Roselle
Park Car Wash, Roselle Park
Rockn' Joe Coffeehouse and Bistro, Cranford
Joanie's Café, Cranford
Little Scoops, Cranford
Cranford Public Library
Frenchy's, Roselle Park
The Guillotine Salon and Spa, Westfield
Sadie, Westfield
The Flowerzone, Westfield
Two River Community Bank, Fanwood
Bright Beginnings Child Development Center, Cranford
Jumbo Wash Laundry, Garwood
Coffee Beanery, Garwood
The Goddard School, Fanwood
Carvel Store #2243, Elizabeth
Various Stuffed Animals
Township of Cranford, New Jersey
Township of Westfield, New Jersey
Township of Fanwood, New Jersey
Township of Roselle, New Jersey

Score

"Awkward Type Of Girl"	"Sleeper Hold"
"Reasons Why"	"Excursion Into Philosophy"
"Write Back Soon"	"Crowd Aggravation"
"Self Abuse"	"Prose"
"Total Babe"	"Tryna Decide"
"Reservoir Feelings"	"Tilting At Windmills"
"Exile In La Mancha"	"Foreign Lands"
"Crossing The Desert"	"Speaking In Tongues"
"Poison Sermons"	"Half-Eaten Cake"
"Art School Anarchist"	"Calm Me Down"
"Skinny Girls"	"Animal Sounds"
"Clumsy Anthems"	"Kachina Doll"
"No Fragments Reach"	"Beyond The Grasp of Guilt"

Written and performed by Teenage Cool Kids
Under license from Protagonist Music and Dull Tools

"Landra's Dream"	"Feel Good Feel"
"Acoustic 2"	"Mall Walker"
"Smooth Sailing"	"Sideways Samba"
"Skinny Girls"	"Animal Sounds"
"Words"	

Written and performed by Jason Shaw
Under license from audionautix.com

Special Thanks

Priscilla and Jose Castellano	Gerard and Donna Castellano
Maryrose Castellano	Wendy Castellano
Winchester Roberts	Isabel R. Katigbak
Lynne Fitzpatrick	Meredith Hofmann
Khadijah A. Green	Brandon Bernier
Eddie Bernier	Fran Bernier
Billy Carvalho	Kelly Jane Carvalho
Jane Ann Carvalho	Thomas Carvalho
Justina Eng	Caitlyn Fallon
Jackie Ferrentino	David Ferrao
Deborah Ferrao	Lindsey Fitzpatrick
Portoff Family	Lambert and Callahan Family
Morgan Fitzpatrick	John V. Crisafulli
Roseann Mango	John Malar
Jennifer Lack	Scott Edmonds
Regina St. Lifer	Joe Quigley
David Driscoll	Keith Bailey
John Marinko	Patti Caffrey
David Mambach	Erik LaPointe
Tricia Ferrara	Tracy Brace
Big Blue Meenie Studio	Simple Studios
Tisch School of the Arts - NYU	

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