



MARK WEBBER

MADELINE BREWER

CHERI HONKALA

FLESH AND BLOOD



A FILM BY MARK WEBBER

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LOGLINE

Mixing fiction and reality, filmmaker Mark Webber captures the story of a man who returns home from prison and attempts to rebuild his life in his impoverished Philadelphia neighborhood.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Based on a real family, *Flesh and Blood* blurs the line between narrative and documentary, with characters played by their real-life counterparts. Writer and director Mark Webber (*Green Room*, *The End of Love*) stars as a man who has just been released from prison and returns home to his impoverished neighborhood in Philadelphia. Mark attempts to rebuild his life and reintegrate into the community, but he struggles with staying sober, forging a bond with his half-brother Guillermo, and mending a strained relationship with his mother, who is played by Cheri Honkala, Webber's real-life mother and the Green Party's nominee for Vice President in the 2012 U.S. election. Hoping to move beyond the mistakes of his past, Mark seeks out his estranged, real-life father, who he meets for the first time in over 30 years. Will Mark's life remain defined by his own flesh and blood?

TECH SPECS

Run Time: 88 min

Aspect Ratio: 2:39:1

Genre: Drama

Country: USA

Language: English



MARK WEBBER - MARK

Director, Producer, Actor

Mark Webber has appeared in over 40 films as an actor, working with such notable directors as Woody Allen, Todd Solondz, Jim Jarmusch, Thomas Vinterberg, Lars Von Trier, and Edgar Wright. He began his acting career in 1998 and was immediately noticed for his roles in *Drive Me Crazy* and *Snowday*.

His career extended off screen to theatre when he appeared opposite William H. Macy and Philip Baker Hall in David Mamet's *American Buffalo* for the Atlantic Theater Company. Most recently, Mark had pivotal roles in *Green Room*, directed by Jeremy Saulnier, and *Antibirth*, opposite Natasha Lyonne and Chloe Sevigny. He is currently filming an acting role in Gus Van Sant's *Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot* opposite Joaquin Phoenix and Jonah Hill.

His first film as a director, *Explicit Ills*, won Webber the Audience Award at the 2008

SXSW. Webber followed this success with *The End of Love*, which was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. For his third film, *The Ever After*, Webber took a big leap into what he sees as the future of independent film and successfully self-distributed the film after it's nomination for the LA Muse Award at the LA Film Festival. He is currently filming Gus Van Sant's highly anticipated *Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot*. His fourth feature as a writer/director, *Flesh and Blood*, is his latest and most personal film which fearlessly redefines authenticity in independent filmmaking. The film world premiered at the 2017 SXSW Film Festival.

A man with a beard, wearing a dark beanie and a heavy green winter jacket, stands in a snowy field. He is looking upwards and to the right, with his mouth slightly open. The background shows a line of bare trees and a forest under a cloudy, blue-tinted sky.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Flesh and Blood is what I like to call “reality cinema”, which is a method of filmmaking I’ve experimented with and refined over the years. As an actor I’ve always been obsessed with realism in film and strived to make the characters I portray seem real. And so when I began my journey as a director I wanted to find a way to create the ideal filmmaking environment for realism. With my first feature, *Explicit Ills*, I discovered that by stripping away many of the bells and whistles found on a traditional film set it allowed a certain sense of authenticity to seep in. However, it was in my second feature, *The End of Love*, that my process really started to crystalize when I found the key element to my films: using real life relationships from my personal life to investigate my greater purpose as an artist. When making the film I cast my own two-year-old son Isaac as the lead and built the entire script around our actual father-son dynamic as a way to put real love, pain, humor and vulnerability on screen.

Now, with *Flesh and Blood*, this filmmaking process of striving for authenticity has reached its greatest heights by casting the film with my actual mother, brother, my brother’s father, and my biological father (who I meet onscreen for only the second time in over 30 years). I wanted to make a film about a family that blurs the line between reality and fiction and immerses the audience in a way they’ve never experienced before. My hope with *Flesh and Blood* is that audiences will feel something different, have a more visceral experience, reflect on their own lives, and in turn feel more connected to the world. I think it’s worth noting that *Flesh and Blood* was made by a crew of six people: my cinematographer, my editor, a sound person, an additional cinematographer (who also happens to be my producer, colorist, and sound mixer), along with my investor (who was also our AC, grip, PA, and craft services).

CAST



CHERI HONKALA - *CHERI*

For almost 30 years, Cheri Honkala has been a committed activist and co-founder of multiple poverty-rights organizations. Her experiences as a homeless single mother caring for her son, writer/director/actor Mark Webber, served as a lightning rod that ignited a 30-year crusade as an anti-poverty activist. In the 2012 U.S. presidential election, Honkala was the Green Party's vice presidential candidate alongside Dr. Jill Stein. In November 2016, Honkala ran in a special election to be the Pennsylvania State Representative for the 197th District.



GUILLERMO SANTOS - *GUILLERMO*

Guillermo Santos, Mark Webber's younger half-brother and Cheri Honkala's youngest child, makes his acting debut in *Flesh and Blood* as Guillermo, a character heavily based on himself. Growing up with Asperger's Syndrome, Santos has admitted in the past to dealing with feelings of suicide, but has begun giving talks to help and encourage others that are going through similar problems to live their life to its fullest. As with his movie counterpart, Santos is heavily interested in film and resides in Philadelphia.



MADELINE BREWER - *MADDY*

Madeline Brewer is one to watch on both the big and small screen. Next, she stars alongside Elizabeth Moss in Hulu's series *The Handmaid's Tale* based on the best-selling novel by Margaret Atwood. Additionally, she stars in *Hedgehog* with Ann Dowd, which will premiere at the 2017 Cinequest Film and VR Festival.

Most recently, Brewer starred in Netflix's critically acclaimed series *Black Mirror* in an episode titled "Men Against Fire". She made her television debut as "Tricia Miller" in the Netflix original comedy-drama series *Orange Is the New Black*. She then played "Miranda Cates" in Eli Roth's *Hemlock Grove* also for Netflix. Last year, Brewer starred in Bret Easton Ellis's series *The Deleted* for Fullscreen. She has also guest starred on *Grimm* and *Stalker*.

CREW



DUSTIN HUGHES - *PRODUCER*

Dustin Hughes is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who spent the first part of his career in narrative film and television as a producer, writer, and development executive, working with industry veterans including Robert Zemeckis, Jane Anderson, Laura Dern, Woody Harrelson, and Julianne Moore. With the advent of digital cinema technology Hughes discovered genuine creative freedom and turned his attention toward independent filmmaking.



TERESA PALMER - *PRODUCER*

Born and raised in Australia, Teresa Palmer is perhaps best known for her leading roles in *Warm Bodies* and *Hacksaw Ridge*. Her breakthrough role came with the 2006 film *2:37*, an Official Selection at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival. Her recent film *Berlin Syndrome* world premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival.



SVEN PAPE - *EDITOR*

Sven Pape, an A.C.E. Award nominee, cut for James Cameron, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and James Franco. He also has a YouTube channel focused on film editing with over 40,000 subscribers.