

mongrel
MEDIA

Presents

NORMAL

A Film By

CARL BESSAI

Starring

Carrie Anne Moss

Kevin Zegers

Callum Keith Rennie

(2007, Canada)

Distribution

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Log Line:

Three strangers struggle to come to terms with a tragic accident, each searching for closure and connection after their worlds briefly collide.

Short Synopsis:

NORMAL explores the lives of three strangers who are struggling for control, having failed to confront their roles in a tragic accident two years earlier. Catherine is a well-to-do suburban mother who, after the loss of her elder son, has lost the ability to connect on any level with her surgeon husband and twelve-year-old son. Walt is a failed writer and philandering university professor who deals with impending middle age and haunting memories by sabotaging every relationship around him. Jordie is a sensitive teenager who made a wrong choice one night and, although he's paid the price, still can't halt his journey downward.

Long Form Synopsis:

NORMAL is the story of three strangers who avoid coming to grips with a senseless tragedy, its aftermath, and their roles within it. While the accident claimed the life of one young man, it slowly deconstructs the lives of those touched by it.

Catherine, Dale, and their twelve-year-old son, Brady, are a family on the brink of collapse. Since the death of her elder son, star athlete Nicky, two years earlier, Catherine's tightly wound control over her affluent, well-ordered life is slipping. Her surgeon husband has chosen denial, preferring to exist on the surface and move on, losing himself in work and routine. Her remaining child, tiptoeing around his parents and never allowed to really grieve for his brother, is a constant reminder of what is lost. As for Catherine, the shrine of Nicky's untouched room, weekly visits to his roadside cross, alcohol, compulsive cleaning, and endless grocery shopping no longer serve as gatekeepers to her grief and rage.

Walt, a reluctant literature professor, appears to be in the clutch of a midlife crisis. Increasingly apathetic towards life and detached from his wife Abby, his main preoccupations are the routine care he provides for his much-loved high functioning autistic brother Dennis and the ever-present crutch of whisky. After Abby walks out, Walt briefly finds solace in the arms of a student, Sherri, a young television reporter. However, when Sherri brings the past to life by reminding him that they met previously, on the steps of a courthouse two years earlier, Walt realizes that his future depends on facing his haunting memories.

Jordie was Nicky's best friend. After serving time in a juvenile detention centre for car theft, he returns to his affluent childhood home and to the coldness of his domineering psychologist father, Carl. Jordie's mother died several years earlier and, ever since, his relationship with his volatile father has been strained. Carl's recent second marriage to a much younger woman, Elise, who he soon neglects, just adds to the tension in the household. Jordie tries to pick up the threads of his life but his gnawing guilt and sense of worthlessness leave him paralyzed. When Jordie embarks on a taboo affair, it brings his strained relationship with his father to a violent confrontation and frees him to leave the past behind.

Director's Statement:

*"It is interesting that in a world that stresses our freedoms - freedom of movement, freedom of expression, freedom in both physical and virtual terms, we are all still remarkably interdependent, and surprisingly fragile. It is incredible that one event, one accident, can put so many lives together in one place, as if to remind us that we all live in that place, we all breathe the same air, we all share the same fragility. All of the characters in **NORMAL** have lost the ability to express themselves, with their husbands, their wives, their children - and yet their redemption is so carefully tied to this need to communicate with one another. They must find each other and ask forgiveness of one another if they hope to survive."*

NORMAL - THE PRODUCTION:

NORMAL, the latest feature film by acclaimed and prolific Canadian writer/director Carl Bessai (**UNNATURAL AND ACCIDENTAL**, **EMILE**) was created and produced by Submission Films (Andrew Boutilier) and Raven West Films (Bessai). It will be distributed in Canada by Mongrel Media with London-based Bankside Films handling International Sales.

Headlining the all-Canadian cast are Carrie-Anne Moss (**MEMENTO**, **THE MATRIX TRILOGY**, **CHOCOLAT**), Kevin Zegers (**TRANSAMERICA**, **THE STONE ANGEL**), and Callum Keith Rennie (**CASE 39**, **THE INVISIBLE**).

Rounding out the ensemble cast are Andrew Airlie (**INTELLIGENCE**, **THE SAFETY OF OBJECTS**), Cameron Bright (**BIRTH**, **THANK YOU FOR SMOKING**), and Tygh Runyan (**SNAKES ON A PLANE**, **TWIST**) who starred in two of Bessai's previous features. Michael Riley (**ST. URBAIN'S HORSEMAN**, **RACE TO MARS**), Camille Sullivan (**INTELLIGENCE**, **MOUNT PLEASANT**), Lauren Lee Smith (**LIE WITH ME**), Ben Ratner (**LAST WEDDING**), Hrothgar Mathews (**DA VINCI'S INQUEST**, **DA VINCI'S CITY HALL**), and Gabrielle Rose (**THE SWEET HEREAFTER**) complete the ensemble.

Executive producers are Stephen Hegyes and Shawn Williamson (Brightlight Pictures) with Phil Hunt and Compton Ross (London-based Head Gear Films). The producers are Andrew Boutilier and Carl Bessai. The film, set in Victoria B.C., is made with the participation of Telefilm Canada, The Harold Greenberg Fund, and Movie Central.

THE BEGINNINGS OF NORMAL:

"Every death is a thousand deaths," according to Vancouver-based screenwriter Travis McDonald. He has a personal and profound insight into those devastating ripple effects; while walking beside his best friend one night, a drunk driver killed his best friend. Already an aspiring writer, McDonald poured himself into the first draft of a script that became **NORMAL**.

Producer Andrew Boutilier was Director of Development for Vancouver-based Brightlight Pictures when he came across McDonald and the early script (which won a screenplay competition) at an open actor reading session. He was hooked, *"I really connected with the material and found the characters he had placed within his story riveting."* Boutilier optioned it and, through a happy coincidence that often occurs within the close-knit circles of Canada's indie movie community, brought Bessai on board. *"I met Stephen Hegyes (Brightlight Pictures) at a big party on the beach in Cannes for my film EMILE. He introduced me to Andrew,"* explains Bessai.

Bessai coming on board marked the beginning of a two-year process to focus the script on three main characters: Catherine, Walt, and Jordie. McDonald likens the re-writing process they went through to a tennis match of back-and-forth collaboration. In fact, the two worked so well together that they wrote another script in the interim, which Bessai directed: a horror movie, also shot in Victoria, called **SEVERED**.

Rewriting the script, sourcing financing, and attaching noteworthy, bankable actors took another four years. *"It is a risky film, in the sense that it is an emotional film about the small matters of peoples' lives,"* notes Bessai. Fortunately, during that period the appetite for small emotional dramas, *"actors' movies"* adds Bessai, *"the kind of movies I really like"*, was growing. Adds Boutilier: *"Casting was a long process; these kinds of films live and die on the cast."*

Continues Bessai: *"I knew this had to be an actor's movie, so it was all about the casting, in a way. I think that everyone, even small roles, has been great. There is a subtlety in the lead performers that is really beautiful and I am proud of the fact that we have all Canadian actors".*

THE VENEER OF NORMAL:

NORMAL is set in glorious scenery and restrained upper middle class enclaves of Victoria, British Columbia, which plays itself in the film. Within a very small geographic area, the city offered a marvelous array of locations for the filmmakers to choose from and a community eager to accommodate the strict time constraints and limited budget of a small Canadian feature film.

These tangible settings were all important to the film. Explains Bessai: *"This kind of drama is about finding the truth. To not shoot on location would be a complete mistake. The houses are very symbolic. They set the tone and tell you everything about the characters. It is not just what you see in the frame, the locations also feed the actors really well; they can see that 'this is my house, this is my world'."*

Catherine, Walt, and Brady live in beautiful home in a secluded area, with large pristine gardens and a sweeping driveway. Cool and angular, with muted tones and high ceilings, nothing is out of place, and the interior is as stripped of colour and life as is Catherine's wardrobe. Unable to deal with their loss and unable to comfort each other, the family walks on eggshells amongst one another: around the house and outdoors, which is uncluttered by bikes or any other signs of teenage vitality.

Jordie lives in his father's home: a stately old showplace that Carl, a psychologist, insists is kept clean. Beneath the beauty, however, there are dark wood surfaces that absorb light. There are shadowed corners that hint to the undercurrents running between the father, his new wife, who is often regarded by him as simply part of the furniture, and his son. Just back from a year in juvenile detention, Jordie no longer fits into his room as he left it: decorated for a much younger teenager and a more innocent time.

Walt and his art gallery owner wife share a craftsman home full of old and beautiful detail. However, Walt's office is cluttered and somewhat neglected, like his writing career and wife. It's burdened with books and papers that he neither reads nor has the ability to deal with.

KEY CAST BIOS:

CARRIE-ANNE MOSS as CATHERINE

Since her breakout starring role as "Trinity" in the three hugely successful Warner Bros. "Matrix" series (THE MATRIX, THE MATRIX RELOADED, and THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS), Carrie-Anne Moss has become one of the most sought-after actresses in Hollywood.

More challenging starring roles quickly followed in notable feature films including THE CREW, opposite Burt Reynolds and Richard Dreyfuss in the Disney mobster comedy produced by Barry Sonnenfeld and Barry Josephson, the Warner Bros. film RED PLANET produced by Mark Canton starring Val Kilmer, CHOCOLAT opposite Juliette Binoche, Johnny Depp, and Dame Judy Dench in Miramax's Oscar-nominated film for director Lasse Hallstrom and producer David Brown, MEMENTO, the critically acclaimed independent thriller in which she starred with Guy Pearce, and SUSPECT ZERO starring alongside Aaron Eckhart and Sir Ben Kingsley in the Cruise/Wagner produced film for director Eliase Merhige.

Recent projects include the ensemble independent feature film THE CHUMSCRUBBER with Ralph Fiennes, Rita Wilson, and Glenn Close, MINI'S FIRST TIME opposite Alec Baldwin, Luke Wilson, and Nikki Reed, and Marc Evans' touching drama SNOW CAKE with Sigourney Weaver and Alan Rickman. In 2007, audiences saw Carrie-Anne in DISTURBIA, in which she stars alongside Shia LaBeouf, and FIDO, in which she stars opposite Billy Connolly, Dylan Baker, and Tim Blake Nelson for director Andrew Currie. Earlier this spring, Carrie-Anne filmed a starring role opposite Julia Roberts and Ryan Reynolds in FIREFLIES IN THE GARDEN.

For her performance in MEMENTO Moss received an Independent Spirit Award for Best Supporting Female. Her role in SNOW CAKE earned a Genie Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role.

KEVIN ZEGERS as JORDIE

This rising young star began his professional acting career before he was seven years old in the film LIFE WITH MIKEY, playing a younger version of Michael J. Fox's character. His upcoming roles include the starring role of Mike Manadoro in THE NARROWS, directed by Francois Velle and starring Vincent D'Onofrio, Sophia Bush, Eddie Cahill, Monica Keena and Roger Rees.

Since his debut, Zegers has worked continuously, appearing in over 20 films and numerous television movies and series. Recent starring credits include the role of Trey in THE JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB, written and directed by Robin Swicord, and three recent independent movies: Kari Skogland's drama THE STONE ANGEL, in which he plays the role of John alongside Ellen Burstyn and Cole Hauser, as Frank in the upcoming indie release, GARDENS OF THE NIGHT, starring John Malkovich and Jeremy Sisto, and IT'S A BOY GIRL THING for Elton John's Rocket Pictures, playing the lead role of Woody Deane in the hijinx romantic comedy about neighbours who live worlds apart.

In 2005, Zegers boldly selected the independent film TRANSAMERICA, from Belladonna Productions, to further challenge his skills. He plays Toby in the acclaimed feature, a drug-addled street hustler who dreams of meeting the father he never knew. In a twist of fate, that man turns out to be Bree, a conservative transsexual (Felicity Huffman) who unknowingly fathered a child when she was still a man. Prior to this, Zegers starred as Terry in DAWN OF THE DEAD, Universal's remake of the 1979 apocalyptic horror classic by George A. Romero, which achieved number one status at the box office in its opening weekend.

Early memorable projects for Zegers include the AIR BUD franchise. Born in Woodstock, Ontario, Zegers now splits his time between LA and his hometown, just outside of Toronto.

CALLUM KEITH RENNIE as WALT

Callum Keith Rennie was born in Sunderland, England, raised in Alberta, Canada, and was first struck with the passion to act while living in Edmonton. Starting out in university radio and working his way to the renowned Shaw Festival, Rennie moved to Vancouver and quickly caught the eye of producers and directors.

Further to his many television appearances, Callum landed his first independent feature film role in director Mina Shum's *DOUBLE HAPPINESS*, for which he garnered a *Best Supporting Actor Genie Nomination*. Other starring roles in numerous Canadian films include *CURTIS'S CHARM*, *MEN WITH GUNS* and Bruce McDonald's critically acclaimed *HARD CORE LOGO*. Concurrently, he starred on several television series including *MY LIFE AS A DOG* (winning a *Best Actor Gemini Award*), *TWITCH CITY*, and *DUE SOUTH*.

Rennie has starred in numerous notable feature films including Christopher Nolan's *MEMENTO*, David Cronenberg's *EXISTENZ*, Lynne Stopkewich's *SUSPICIOUS RIVER*, his second feature film with filmmaker Bruce McDonald, *PICTURE CLAIRE*, and *LAST NIGHT* directed by Don McKellar, which earned Rennie a Best Supporting Actor Genie Award. *FLOWER & GARNET* and *FALLING ANGELS*, starring opposite Miranda Richardson, both received acclaim at the Toronto International Film Festival, as has virtually every Canadian feature film in which Rennie has starred.

Previous projects for Rennie include Daniel MacIvor's *WILBY WONDERFUL*, Stephen King's mini-series *KINGDOM HOSPITAL* directed by Craig R. Baxley, and David Goyer's *BLADE TRINITY*, and the mini-series *FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN* opposite Jon Voight. Rennie worked in South Africa on Harry Hooks' *WHISKEY ECHO*, opposite Ving Rhames and Freddie Prinze Jr., on Keoni Waxman's *SHOOTING GALLERY* shot in New Orleans, and *SNOW CAKE*, with Sigourney Weaver, Alan Rickman and Carrie-Anne Moss. Rennie has five feature films currently set to release in 2007/2008 including the New Line feature *THE CLEANER* opposite Cedric The Entertainer, Lucy Liu and Nicollette Sheridan, David Goyer's *THE INVISIBLE* opposite Marcia Gay Harden for Touchstone and Spyglass Entertainment, *SILK* starring Keira Knightley, *BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL* with Pierce Brosnan, the Paramount Pictures thriller *CASE 39* starring Renee Zellweger, and the mini-series *TIN MAN* for director Nick Willing.

Recent television credits include *MEN IN TREES*, *THE L WORD*, *SUPERNATURAL*, and *SMALLVILLE*, as well as his signature recurring role as the Cylon 'Leobon' in *BATTLESTAR GALACTICA*.

Rennie resides primarily in Vancouver, Canada.

TYGH RUNYAN as DENNIS

Born and raised in Vancouver, Canada, Tygh Runyan, an accomplished musician as well as an actor, first appeared on television in the CBC teen series *NORTHWOOD*.

Since then, the versatile and critically acclaimed young star has developed a reputation for taking creative risks and for portraying a wide range of characters. His lengthy credit list includes numerous independent feature films with recent starring roles in Ross Webber's *MOUNT PLEASANT* and Carl Bessai's *UNNATURAL & ACCIDENTAL* and *EMILE*, opposite Sir Ian McKellen. His performance in *VARIOUS POSITIONS*, which won the Prix de Montreal at the 2003 Montreal Film Festival, garnered Runyan a Vancouver Film Critics Circle Award. He appeared in the Genie award-winning film *TWIST*, directed by Jacob Tierney, *COME TOGETHER*, *MY FATHER'S ANGEL*, and *KITCHEN PARTY*. Runyan has worked on several films with Director Mort Ransen, including *TOUCHED*, co-starring Lynn Redgrave.

In Hollywood features, Runyan played memorable roles in *SNAKES ON A PLANE*, Kathryn Bigelow's *K19: THE WIDOWMAKER* starring Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson, and MGM's *ANTITRUST* with Ryan Phillippe and Tim Robbins. He was a twisted serial killer in the thriller *15*

MINUTES, a New Line film starring Robert De Niro, and a straight-A student with a shady past in DISTURBING BEHAVIOUR with Katie Holmes and Nick Stahl. Runyan has numerous television MOW and guest-starring roles, including a recurring role as Gene Feinberg in Showtime's THE L WORD, as well as a guest-starring role on Showtime's DEAD LIKE ME as a quirky romantic. In 2004 he portrayed a heroic fisherman in USA Networks' drug mini series TRAFFIC.

Runyan, who combines a hectic acting schedule with a music career, plays guitar in the Vancouver indie rock band The Awkward Stage. They performed the song "All Suns" in an episode of THE L WORD. A twice Leo nominated composer; Runyan scored the films VARIOUS POSITIONS, RED DEER, and shorts WHITEOUT and DENTS IN THE SKY. Prior to becoming a full-time actor, he studied art at the Emily Carr College of Art in Vancouver and established a theatre company in the early 1990s. Runyan will soon be seen as a sadistic sergeant in Christian Duguay's film BOOT CAMP, which recently wrapped production, and as a janitor who gives birth to an electric blue fish in the comedy THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF LITTLE DIZZLE by internationally acclaimed animator David Russo.

CAMILLE SULLIVAN as ELISE

Camille Sullivan can be seen on television reprising her role as Francine in INTELLIGENCE, Chris Haddock's acclaimed series about underworld crime. Other recent credits include the feature film MOUNT PLEASANT, written and directed by Ross Webber, a recurring role in 49TH AND MAIN for the CBC, and leading roles in CRIES IN THE DARK for Lifetime and DARK STORM for the Sci-Fi Channel.

Originally from Toronto, Sullivan moved to Vancouver to attend the University of British Columbia. After four years of studying acting for the stage she moved on to film and television.

For three seasons, Sullivan appeared on Haddock's groundbreaking series DA VINCI'S INQUEST as Suki, the former vice cop turned robbery detective. She took a lead role in the Gary Burns film, A PROBLEM WITH FEAR, and had recurring roles on BIG SOUND, REUNION, and the mini-series TAKEN. She has also appeared in episodes of the series FIRST WAVE, DEAD MAN'S GUN, DARK ANGEL, TERMINAL CITY, BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, and COLD SQUAD.

MICHAEL RILEY as CARL

Michael Riley's impressive career includes performances on television, film, and stage which have earned the versatile actor five Gemini Awards and seven nominations. For two consecutive years, he won the Best Actor Award for his role as Brett Parker in the hit series POWER PLAY. Other winning performances include his role as "The Author" in THE HELSINKI ROCCAMATIOS and his three-season recurring role in the CBC series THIS IS WONDERLAND. He received nominations for guest turns on the series THE ASSOCIATES, WIN, AGAIN!, DUE SOUTH, and the award-winning mini-series TO CATCH A KILLER.

Riley also guest-starred in episodes of C.S.I and VERITAS, performed lead roles in the TV movies HOMELESS TO HARVARD: THE LIZ MURRAY STORY, AMERICA'S PRINCE: THE JOHN F. KENNEDY JR. STORY, and 100 DAYS IN THE JUNGLE. Riley recently wrapped production on the mini-series RACE TO MARS and ST. URBAIN'S HORSEMAN.

Riley's indie feature film debut was in Yves Simoneau's PERFECTLY NORMAL opposite Robbie Coltrane, which opened the 1990 Toronto Film Festival before it began a record-breaking 10-month run. Riley starred in CUBE ZERO, Guy Bennett's PUNCH, and Andrew Currie's MILE ZERO. Other credits include the political thriller DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY, MUSTARD BATH, which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival and received the Gold Prize for Best Dramatic Feature at the 1993 Houston World Film Festival, and BECAUSE WHY, a romantic comedy that premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and earned the Bronze Prize for Best Picture at the Tokyo Film Festival. Big screen credits also include Wendy Ord's BLACK SWAN, Arthur Boorman's cult classic AND GOD SPOKE, Lawrence Kasdan's FRENCH KISS starring Meg Ryan and Kevin Kline,

Steven Spielberg's AMISTAD, PALE SAINTS with Sean Patrick Flannery, and THE PRINCE with Billy Dee Williams.

A native of London, Ontario, Riley studied at the prestigious National Theatre School of Canada. His body of stage work earned Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations for his roles in the Canadian Stage productions of COMEDY OF ERRORS, BLOOD BROTHERS, CentreStage's NOTHING SACRED, and Toronto Free Theatre's THIS SIDE OF THE ROCKIES.

LAUREN LEE SMITH as SHERRI

Lauren Lee Smith was born in Chilliwack, British Columbia. She traveled the world with her family before moving to Los Angeles as a teenager for a modeling career before turning to film and television. At 19, she was cast in a small featured role in the remake of GET CARTER and went on to build a lengthy credit list with projects such as CHRISTY: RETURN TO CUTTER GAP, CHRISTY: A CHANGE OF SEASONS, CHRISTY: A NEW BEGINNING, and MUTANT X, in which she played Emma Delaro. She also guest starred in Season 3 of the series DEAD ZONE and frequently guest stars in the drama series THE L WORD as the sous-chef Lara Perkins.

In 2005, Smith shot to critical acclaim and controversy in Clement Virgo's film, LIE WITH ME, as the character Leila. She starred in the CBC mini-series DRAGON BOYS and currently appears on screen in the dramatic series INTELLIGENCE as an undercover operative. Smith's other films due for upcoming release include a J.J. Abrams project for HBO based on Jerome Groopman's The Anatomy of Hope, PATHOLOGY, which chronicles a group of medical students who devise a deadly game to determine who can commit the perfect murder, and Michael Dougherty's TRICK 'R TREAT playing Anna Paquin's sister.

CAMERON BRIGHT as BRADY

Cameron Bright may only be 14 years old but he has already been nominated for 6 acting awards. Born in British Columbia, Canada, Bright's first acting job was in a commercial for Telus, which was soon followed by a guest appearance on the television series, HIGHER GROUND. Other small roles followed, but his career took off after a supporting part in THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT. His first major role came soon after that in GODSEND, a horror film co-starring Robert De Niro. Shortly thereafter, he starred opposite Nicole Kidman in BIRTH as a ten-year-old boy who claims to be the reincarnation of a woman's deceased husband. Then, Cameron starred in THANK YOU FOR SMOKING opposite Aaron Eckhart. Bright's most recent credits include BOY OF PIGS with Gretchen Mol, the comedy CHRISTMAS IN WONDERLAND, the action-thrillers ULTRAVIOLET, RUNNING SCARED, and X-MEN: THE LAST STAND, where he plays the mutant Leech. Bright is currently in production on the animated feature SPACE CHIMPS.

Production Companies:

SUBMISSION FILMS

Submission Films was created in 2004 to develop, finance and market commercially viable, independent feature films with a focus on emerging talent. Production credits for the Company include PINK LUDOOS, an Indo-Canadian romantic comedy which played to audience acclaim at numerous Asian festivals in North America and abroad. Submission also produced SEVERED, an eco-horror film which has sold in territories throughout the world since its debut at the Marche du Film at Cannes 2005.

Development projects include STAY, a Canada-Ireland co-production by writer/director Wiebke von Carolsfeld adapted from the Canadian novel published by Raincoast Books, BARDO, a psychological thriller by writer/director Gaurav Seth based on the Tibetan Book of the Dead, YOUNG LOVE, an adaptation of highly acclaimed short stories by Vancouver author Nancy Lee, and ANTI-DIVA, a feature film and companion documentary which chronicles Toronto's 80s art and music scene through the eyes of Canadian rock icon Carole Pope and her band, Rough Trade. The projects have been invited to various co-production markets including IFP No Borders, Cinemart and the Berlinale Coproduction Market.

Company president Andrew Boutilier is the former Director of Development for Vancouver based Brightlight Pictures, where he managed and developed a slate of over a dozen feature film and television projects since the inception of the company in 2001. During his tenure, he was involved in a variety of produced feature film and television projects including GOING THE DISTANCE distributed by Odeon Films, the series ALIENATED for Space: The Imagination Station, and MOB PRINCESS for Corus.

Submission Films is based in Vancouver, Canada.

RAVEN WEST FILMS LTD

Raven West Films Ltd. is a boutique motion picture production company established in 1999 to develop feature films for the domestic and international market.

Through a festival platform and strong critical response, each project has enjoyed wide international sales and consistent critical success. Feature films to date include UNNATURAL AND ACCIDENTAL (2006), which premiered in New York at the prestigious MOMA before its launch at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival. The film won nominations and prizes at the 2006 American Indian Film Festival, the Vancouver International Film Festival, the 2007 Genie Awards, and the 2007 Leo Awards. In 2003 the feature EMILE, starring Sir Ian McKellen, launched at the Toronto International Film Festival, and went on to theatrical releases in the United States, the UK, and Australia/New Zealand. In 2002, LOLA premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, the Berlin Film Festival, and the Toronto International Film Festival. The company's debut feature in 1999 was JOHNNY, which won a special jury prize at the Toronto International Film Festival, and went on to commercial and critical acclaim in both Europe and North America.

NORMAL, due out in the fall of 2007, marks the company's sixth feature production. They are currently in development on a screen adaptation of Jane Urquhart's award-winning novel, THE UNDERPAINTER and the cyber-thriller EMERGENCE.

FILMMAKER BIOS:

Producer - Andrew Boutilier

Andrew Boutilier is an independent producer based in Vancouver, Canada. Since forming the company in 2004, Andrew has produced a number of features including PINK LUDOOS, an Indo-Canadian romantic comedy which has played to audience acclaim at numerous Asian festivals in North America and abroad. He also produced SEVERED, an eco-horror film described by Variety magazine as "pushing the zombie movie in a direction even George Romero would envy." The film has sold throughout the world since its debut at the Marche du Film at Cannes 2005. NORMAL is the second film produced in collaboration with director Carl Bessai and Raven West Films.

Development projects include STAY, a Canada-Ireland co-production by writer/director Wiebke von Carolsfeld adapted from the Canadian novel published by Raincoast Books, BARDO, a psychological thriller by writer/director Gaurav Seth based on the Tibetan Book of the Dead, YOUNG LOVE, an adaptation of highly acclaimed short stories by Vancouver author Nancy Lee, and ANTI-DIVA, a feature film and companion documentary which chronicles Toronto's 80s art and music scene through the eyes of Canadian rock icon Carole Pope and her band, Rough Trade. The projects have been invited to various co-production markets including IFFM No Borders, Cinemart, and the Berlinale Coproduction Market.

Submission Films is committed to producing independent feature films with a focus on emerging talent.

Co-Writer, Director, Producer, and Director of Photography - Carl Bessai

An acclaimed Canadian director, Carl's debut feature film JOHNNY (producer, writer, director) premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 1999, where it received a special jury citation. It went on to travel internationally, receiving a Golden Alexander Nomination (Thessaloniki) before it released theatrically.

Based in Vancouver, Carl has since produced, written, and directed multiple feature films, such as EMILE, starring Sir Ian McKellan and Deborah Kara Unger. He wrote and directed SEVERED, his first foray into the horror genre.

Carl's most recently released feature was the harrowing UNNATURAL AND ACCIDENTAL (Producer, Director), an adaptation of the acclaimed stage play by Marie Clements, released theatrically by Alliance Atlantis in 2006. The film premiered at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and at the Toronto International Film Festival (2006), before earning awards and nominations at the American Indian Film Festival, the Vancouver International Film Festival, the British Columbia film Awards (Leos), and the 2007 Genie Awards.

Additionally Carl directed the award winning documentary for IFC INDIE TRUTH and the Marshall McLuhan biography OUT OF ORBIT.

Carl is currently Chair of the First Weekend Club, on the board of the Whistler International Film Festival, a member of the Director's Guild of Canada, the Writer's Guild of Canada, and the Canadian Film and Television Producer's Association.

NORMAL is Carl's sixth feature film.

Co-Producer - Rajvinder Uppal

Born and raised in England, Rajvinder graduated from the University of Lancaster. She began working in the television and film industry on a BBC Television children's drama series.

She stayed with the series for three seasons, working her way up to assistant floor manager. She continued to work in that capacity for numerous shows across the UK for both the BBC and Granada Television. After immigrating to Vancouver in 2003, Rajvinder has worked as an assistant director on several projects.

For two years, Rajvinder was an intern producer with Reunion Pictures on the Showtime TV series MASTERS OF HORROR. Following that, she joined Carl Bessai at Raven West Films on a BC Film Producer internship. Independently, Rajvinder has produced three short films; in 2006 her solo producer short film DAMNATION was invited to Screampfest LA 2006 and BIFF 2007.

Rajvinder recently completed her training at Raven West Films and currently runs her own production company, At The End of the Day Productions, which has several projects in development.

Original Screenplay and Co-Writer - Travis McDonald

Born in Vancouver, Travis started writing screenplays in high school after discovering the films of John Cassavettes, Jim Jarmusch, and Hal Hartley.

His screenplay for NORMAL, inspired by a tragedy that touched him closely, earned him a fellowship at the Praxis Centre for Screenwriters and an invitation to the Summer Workshop with Actors.

Other writing credits include episodes of the comedy series ALIENATED and SEVERED, a horror film by Carl Bessai. He is currently developing the feature film, BUDS, a thriller set in the Lower Mainland's thriving marijuana grow-op industry and is a writer and story editor on Lifetime's original series BLOOD TIES.

KEY CAST

Catherine	Carrie-Anne Moss
Jordie	Kevin Zegers
Walt	Callum Keith Rennie
Dale	Andrew Airlie
Dennis	Tygh Runyan
Elise	Camille Sullivan
Sherri	Lauren Lee Smith
Carl	Michael Riley
Melissa	Britt Irvin
Abby	Allison Hossack
Brady	Cameron Bright
Sylvie	Tara Frederick
Tim	Ben Ratner
Bob the Social Worker	Zak Santiago
Jerry	Hrothgar Mathews
Connie	Gabrielle Rose
Peter	Dan Shea
Young Catherine	Talia Notte
Young Nicky	Tal Notte
Babysitter	Elyse Levesque
Young Man	Adam Dodds

KEY CREW

Director	Carl Bessai
Story by	Travis McDonald
Screenplay by	Travis McDonald & Carl Bessai
Producer	Andrew Boutilier
Producer	Carl Bessai
Executive Producers	Stephen Hegyes & Shawn Williamson
Executive Producers	Phil Hunt & Compton Ross
Co-Producer	Rajvinder Uppal
Line Producer	Drew Locke
Associate Producer	Judi Babcock
Director of Photography	Carl Bessai
Editor	Lisa Binkley
Production Designer	Nancy Mossop
Costume Designer	Michele Maillet
Music by	Clinton Shorter
Casting by	Susan Brouse C.S.A.
Additional casting by	Billy Hopkins, Suzanne Smith & Kerry Barden