



BRING ME AN AVOCADO

SAD CLOWN FILMS PRESENTS A FILM BY MARIA MEALLA "BRING ME AN AVOCADO" SARAH BURKHALTER, BERNARDO PENA, MOLLY RATERMANN, CANDACE ROBERTS WITH CALIFORNIA POPPY SANCHEZ AND MICHAELA ROBLES MUSIC BY FRANCISCO AGUILAR EDITED BY ANNA ROTTKE PRODUCTION DESIGN BY MELANIE LEANDRO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GAVIN MURRAY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER NATALIE CONNEELY PRODUCED BY BJANCA BEYROUTI CO-PRODUCED BY ALEX MALLONEE AND NATASHA CHEE WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARIA MEALLA

BRING ME AN AVOCADO

LOGLINE

When a violent encounter leaves Robin in a coma, her family ventures to maintain normalcy for her children while managing their own grief.

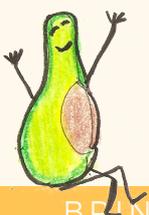
SYNOPSIS

Robin and George are young parents to two vivacious little girls, Isabel and Matilda. They are a loving and playful couple, full of faults yet supportive of each other and willing to learn as they go.

In a fateful event, Robin crosses paths with a panicky teenager who attempts to rob her at gunpoint. The violent encounter leaves Robin in a coma and her family in shock.

Her sister Greece and best friend Jada step in to help George maintain a sense of normalcy for his daughters; Jada with the intention of bringing distraction and Greece committed to providing structure.

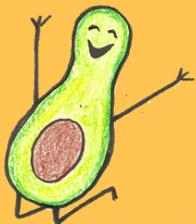
As they adapt to their new roles they find themselves in a vacation state packed with fun, family activities that coat the shock of Robin's absence. But as time passes and Robin's coma continues, they are forced to face their grief and trauma in an overbearing routine that reveals the worst in all of them.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I think about tragedy a lot more often than your average 30 year old human, or at least a lot more often than anyone else is willing to share out loud. I put myself through hundreds of tragic "what if" scenarios in a day. It was through one of these "what if" scenarios that Robin's accident came to me. And from that accident I let all of my characters grow, creating individuals that were rich with faults and weaknesses, yet lovable and worthy of their relationships with my heroine. Once I had a good idea of who these people were, I began to explore who they would become post-Robin, in the face of tragedy.

As individuals we're quick to assert our morality in hypothetical situations; we're quick to judge, firm in our beliefs that we would make the right choice in another's place. I catch myself doing it all the time, and feel amused by it. Tragedy doesn't reflect our moral selves. Whether an unexpected death, disease, a disabling accident, tragedy is a surprise that derails our expectations of a fulfilling life. What happens next is unpredictable. Through the characters in Bring me an Avocado, I want to explore the awakening of fear, rage, sorrow, desperation, lust... emotions that take us a lifetime to restrain.



THE TEAM

Maria Mealla Writer/ Director

A Bolivian filmmaker based out of San Francisco, CA, Maria began her filmmaking career in 2010. She has since written, produced and directed the feature film *Women and Cigarettes*, a collection of romantic short films titled *Business Affairs*, and a collection of short films addressing the lower middle-class conflicts of millennials. She is an active member of *Scary Cow*, a Bay Area film co-op that allows filmmakers to share their skills to complete passion projects through work-trade, and the *Shorts/Web Series* chapter leader of the *SF Cinefemme*, a non-profit and community that supports female filmmakers nationwide.



Natalie Conneely Executive Producer

Natalie has produced and acted in several Bay Area and LA based short films. In 2009 she helped to launch CNN International's first Middle Eastern hub in Abu Dhabi while working with Turner Commercial Productions based in London. Natalie moved to San Francisco in 2011 to work as Director of Partnerships & Advancement with Dalai Lama Fellows, a global leadership development program to reimagine leadership. In 2014 she co-founded *Changing Stories*, a production platform that highlights social stories from around the world to impact and benefit society. Natalie is currently a working actress based in Los Angeles, CA.



Bianca Beyrouti Producer

Bianca is a Bay Area-based filmmaker who has worked extensively as a producer, assistant director and script supervisor for the last decade. She is a longtime active member of the filmmaking collective *Scary Cow*, where she has had the great fortune of collaborating with local filmmaking talent - including Maria Mealla. In addition to *Bring Me an Avocado* and a slew of other narrative works, she also associate produces the award-winning documentary series *Independent Lens*.

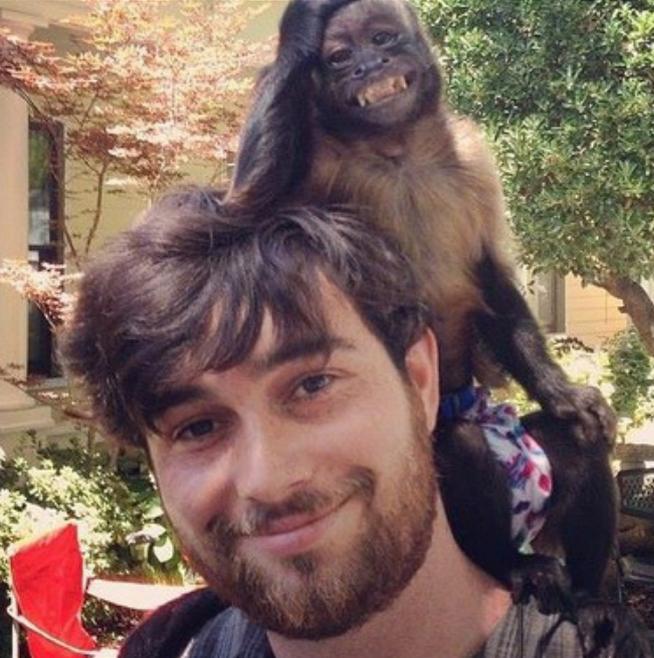


THE TEAM



Alex Mallonee Co-Producer

From an early age, Alex has always had a desire to make films. Perhaps it was his parent's refusal to pay for broadcast or cable television as a child that backfired and led him to pursue a career in the film industry. Alex attended UC Santa Cruz and graduated with a degree in Film and Digital Media. He has recently embraced a nomadic lifestyle and bounces between Brooklyn and Oakland working as a freelance director, producer, and occasional actor while creating his own short films and music videos.



Gavin Murray Director of Photography

Gavin was born in San Francisco, CA to artist parents. He didn't have a chance. Falling in love with film in high school, Gavin has gone on to work on commercials, features, shorts and music videos. So far his work has taken him across the world, shooting in Tokyo, London, Shanghai, and Idaho. In *Bring Me an Avocado*, Gavin latched on to the very human qualities of the characters and their specific yet relatable struggle in drawing strength from a small community.



Natasha Chee Co-Producer, Attorney

Natasha Chee is from the Bay Area, and works in both SF and LA. Her Indonesian mother and Trinidadian father, both fashion designers, honed her sense of creativity and artistic eye. Natasha earned a B.S. from UCLA in Biochemistry with a Minor in French, and a J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law. Natasha is an entertainment lawyer, working with filmmakers, music producers, and other artists to help protect and fulfill their creative visions. Natasha is the Attorney, Music Supervisor and Post-Production Supervisor for the films *Best F(r)iends Volumes 1 + 2*, the cinematic reunion of Tommy Wiseau and Greg Sestero of the cult film *The Room*. As William Shakespeare put it, "And though she be but little, she is fierce."

CAST



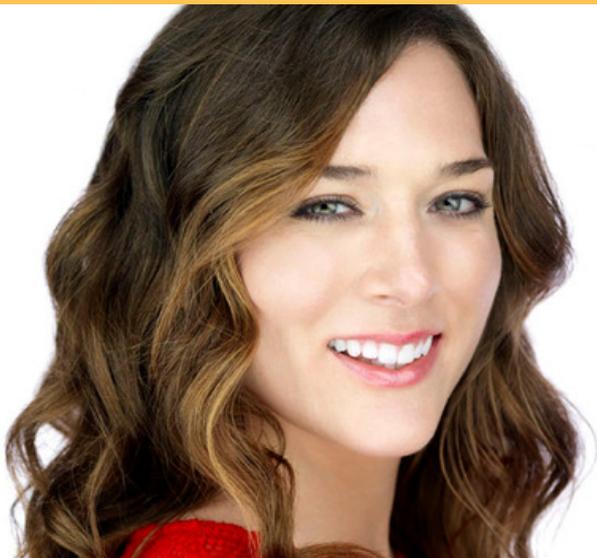
Molly Ratermann **Greece**

Originally from San Francisco, CA, Molly Ratermann is a young, multi-award winning actor with recognition in the United States as well as the U.K. She is most known for her role as Carson in the independent film *Suicide* in which the Los Angeles Film Awards said, "Raterman's performance is immediately humorous and lovable... 10/10". Molly is slated to star in feature films *The Waiting* directed by Jason Ragosta (John Carter) and *ZTV: The Preserve* directed by F. C. Rabbath, both going into production in the Spring of 2019.

Bernardo Peña **George**

Bernardo Peña is a Bolivian actor based out of Los Angeles, CA. He started his acting career on stage in Sacramento, back in 1997. He's been active in Television and film, since moving to Los Angeles back in 1999. Memorable starring roles and guest appearances include *The Young & The Restless*, *Law & Order*, *Numb3rs*, *Olvidados*, and *Vengeance: A Love Story*. He is currently back in the motherland, in production for *La Entrega*, a Spanish-language crime drama addressing the trafficking crisis in South America.

CAST



Sarah Burkhalter Robin

Sarah Burkhalter was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas and decided at age eleven that she was going to dedicate her life to performing. Her pursuit led her to St. Edward's University where she earned a B.F.A. in Theatre with an emphasis in performance. Moving to New York City, her credits include Silence by Tyler Rivenbark at Dixon Place Theater and the film Fort Tilden, directed by Charles Rogers and Sarah-Violet Bliss.



Candace Roberts Jada

Candace grew up in San Bernardino, CA, but feels like the Bay Area raised her. After a few years of working in corporate event planning, Candace began working for nonprofits that fought against critical ailments like HIV/AIDS, cancer, hunger, and child exploitation. In Spring 2019 she will be launching a campaign encouraging people to speak up against child exploitation.



Poppy Sanchez Isabel

California Poppy Sanchez was born in San Francisco. Everyone calls her Poppy. She makes her feature film debut in Bring Me An Avocado, and celebrated her 7th birthday on set with the cast and crew.

Michaela Robles Matilda

Michaela has always loved entertaining others. She began acting in a production of Cinderella at age eleven, at which point Michaela decided to pursue a career in acting. Bring Me an Avocado was her second audition ever.

PRODUCTION STILLS



PRESS & ACCOLADES

PRESS

"While death is final and loved ones can grieve and move on, when a loved one is physically unavailable, life comes to a grinding halt with no resolution in sight."

"Writer/director Maria Mealla does an admirable job exploring the family's plight."

- Film Threat



"Mealla's work, getting a world premiere at Cinequest, is confident and on the mark."

"Set and shot in Oakland, Bay Area filmmaker Maria Mealla's compelling first full-length feature takes an insightful approach to a grim story about how family and friends cope after a horrific shooting puts a mother (Sarah Burkhalter) in a coma."

-Mercury News

"Maria Mealla es una cineasta de origen boliviano... Es una fiel defensora de la diversidad y sus proyectos suelen estar impregnados de elementos propios de la identidad latina."

(Maria Mealla is a filmmaker of Bolivian origin... A loyal advocate for diversity and her projects tend to be impregnated with elements of Latin identity.)

"Bring Me an Avocado, es una historia familiar que va más allá: una película sobre el ser humano, sus debilidades, su gran capacidad de lidiar con el dolor y, sobre todo, su gran capacidad de sacar lo mejor en los peores momentos."

(BMAA, is a familiar story that pushes the envelop: a film about human beings, our weaknesses, and our great capacity to deal with pain, and above all, our great capacity to perservere and make the best of difficult times.)

- Cocalecas



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ACCOLADES AND RECOGNITIONS

AWARDS

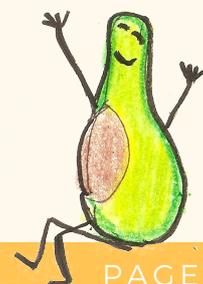
Audience Award -Best Drama
Cinequest Film Festival

Best Narrative Film
Covellite Film Festival

NOMINATIONS

Best Actress - Sarah Burkhalter
Best Director
Best Editing

Covellite Film Festival



SPECS AND SOCIAL

SPECS

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| GENRE | Drama |
| RUNTIME | 100 Minutes |
| LANGUAGE | English |
| ASPECT | 4k, 16:9, fps 24 |
| SOUND | Dolby 5.1 |



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