

A MARK BANNING FILM

JELLYSMOKE

Written and Directed by Mark Banning

Starring
Michael Ealy
Andre Royo
Opal Alladin
Angela Nirvana

Production Notes

Winner
Best Narrative Feature
2005 Los Angeles Film Festival

Nominated
2006 Independent Spirit Awards

Winner
2006 Voice Awards

Winner
2007 Prism Awards

Contacts:

Cliff Charles
Mark Banning
Ph: 917.709.6653

Website: facebook.com/jellysmokethemovie
email: jellysmokethemovie@gmail.com

JELLYSMOKE

The Cast

Jacob	MICHAEL EALY
Paul	ANDRE ROYO
Cindy	OPAL ALLADIN
Mrs. DeSouza	ANGELA NIRVANA
Dr. Lindvall	MARY ROUND
David	HARVEY MOORE
Dr. Borden	WILLIAM MAHONEY
Judine	TIFFANY ADAMS
Melissa	PHYLLIS JOHNSON
Karen	SCHANTELLE CASON
Joshua	JOSHUA ASANTE
April	JOY STYLES
Bambi	KHALIDA OUTLAW
Robbie	RICH CERAULO
Salt Lady	COREY SNEIDER
Everis	MORGAN JAMES
Hospital Guard	GEORGE ROBESON
Carol	SHEILA SPELLER
Security Guard	NADJA CRAWLEY
Hospital Patients	SARAH CARL
	JOHN LEE

The Filmmakers

Written, Directed & Produced by	MARK BANNING
Producer	CLIFF CHARLES
Producer	MAD MATTHEWZ
Producer	NICOLE GILLIAM
Cinematography	CLIFF CHARLES
Production Design	JEFF YEE
Editor	CRAIG B. WEISEMAN
Art Director	LINA MATI
Sound	JACQUES DURAND
First Assistant Director	JOSEPH BRITE
Second Assistant Director	GILES FRANCIS
Additional Photography	MARCELLO DUARTE
Steadicam Operator	GEORGE BIANCHINNI
First Assistant Camera	CHRIS GLEATON

JELLYSMOKE

Gaffer	KEN SHABATA KHAMISI NORWOOD
Key Grip	JONATHAN DAHAN
Swing	NELSON PENA
First Assistant Editor	GERARD FLEURIMA
Second Assistant Editor	PERRY FRANK
Supervising Sound Editor	DAVE B. FLYNCH

###

One line synopsis

After his latest stay in a psychiatric facility, Jacob (Michael Ealy) struggles to prevent his mental health from spiraling out of control, as his manic episodes become increasingly psychotic.

One paragraph synopsis

After his latest stay in a psychiatric facility, Jacob (Michael Ealy) struggles to prevent his mental health from spiraling out of control. Returning home, he finds himself isolated by his mother's refusal to acknowledge his illness and his brother's warning that a relapse will not be tolerated. Jacob soon meets and begins a relationship with a young single mother named Cindy (Opal Alladin) and decides not to tell her he's been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. When Cindy comments that he seems sluggish, Jacob stops taking his prescribed anti-depressants and his condition gradually worsens, as his manic episodes become increasingly psychotic.

About the Cast

MICHAEL EALY (Jacob)

Michael was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for his work on the Showtime series *Sleeper Cell* and has starred in the films *Barbershop*, *Barbershop 2*, *Never Die Alone* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. He is currently starring in the pilot for the dramatic police series, *Suspect*, for ABC.

ANDRE ROYO (Paul)

Andre Royo may currently be seen in the role of Bubbles on season five of HBO's hit series, *The Wire*. His list of film and television credits includes John

JELLYSMOKE

Singleton's Shaft, Chris Cherot's G and Michael Rymer's Perfume and guest appearances on Third Watch, Law and Order and Wonderland.

OPAL ALLADIN (Cindy)

Opal Alladin starred in director Paul Greengrass' United 93 and appeared in the Broadway production of On Golden Pond. Other New York credits include The Public Theater, The Cherry Lane Theater, and Signature Theater. Her film and television credits include Brown Sugar, Hack, Law & Order, Law & Order Criminal Intent and Cosby.

About the Filmmakers

MARK BANNING (Writer, Director, Producer)

Mark Banning received a BFA in film production from SUNY Purchase and has directed several music video and commercial projects. Jellysmoke is his first feature length film.

CLIFF CHARLES (Director of Photography, Producer)

Cliff Charles' feature credits includes his Emmy nominated work for Spike Lee's When the Levees Broke and If God Is Willing And Da Creek Don't Rise, Shottas and Planet Brooklyn. He has lensed numerous music video and commercial projects for artists including, Britney Spears, P.Diddy, Busta Rhymes and Michael Jordan. www.cliffcharles.com

While building his reel, Cliff Charles would serve as both DP and Producer on several indie projects including Jellysmoke which earned both him and Mark Spirit Award Nominations in 2006. The two also served as Producers along side Mad Matthewz on his film, Planet Brooklyn.

MAD MATTHEWZ (Producer)

Mad Matthewz received a BFA in film production from SUNY Purchase and has directed several award winning short films including Groupie, The Lush Life, and Big Bank Take Little Bank. Mad's first feature length film, Planet Brooklyn was released on DVD by Screen Media Films. www.mad24fps.com.

NICOLE GILLIAM (Producer)

Nicole Gilliam received her BFA in FILM from SUNY Purchase. She has produced several film and television projects.

JELLYSMOKE

CRAIG B. WEISEMAN (Editor)

In addition to his numerous commercial credits, Craig has served as an editor on the television series Without A Trace as well as several narrative and documentary projects. www.weiseman.com

PETER CALANDRA (Composer)

Peter Calandra is a New York City based composer and keyboard player. He has scored 8 movies including *Jellysmoke*, *Unknown Soldier* (Winner 2004 Los Angeles and Philadelphia Film Festivals, Nominee 2005 Independent Spirit Award), *Union*, *Down At The Track*, *13th Child* and *Between 2 Worlds*. He has also written over 800 compositions for television shows including *Hope And Faith*, *Good Morning America*, *All My Children*, *The Today Show*, *Access Hollywood*, *The Bachelor* and *America's Most Wanted* and numerous programs for ABC, NBC, FOX, Showtime, MTV and CNN. Peter has also scored over 20 industrial videos for corporations including Pfizer, Pepsi, NYNEX and Kodak. www.pecamusic.com

Press Quotes

LA Weekly

By Chuck Wilson

In this debut feature from writer-director Mark Banning, Michael Ealy gives an achingly sensitive performance as Jacob, a young mentally ill New Yorker who stops taking his personality-dulling meds in order to charm a beautiful woman. There's an affecting solemnity to the sight of Jacob sitting alone in his room, staring at the ceiling, watching madness come.

Filmmaker Magazine

By Jason Sanders

One man's battle with bipolar disorder formed the backbone of *Jellysmoke*, but the film's charm wasn't so much in the plot as in its rhythm and atmosphere. Like rising smoke, *Jellysmoke* is strangely hypnotic as it unspools, able to tune its audience in to the medicated dazes and bipolar crazes of its hero (rivetingly played by Michael Ealy), a man unmoored and unloved in contemporary Brooklyn. At first glance reminiscent of the early films of Spike Lee, *Jellysmoke*

JELLYSMOKE

has a gentle naturalism that seems expansive enough to include the Parisian mileaus of Rohmer or a more mellow, deeply medicated Cassavetes, yet its strength of atmosphere seems culled from a Brooklyn all its own, one shot with obvious affection by cinematographer Cliff Charles.

LA Splash Magazine

By Demita Usher

Mental instability is no laughing matter and the power of mental illness can be overwhelming. In the world premiere of the film, Jellysmoke, written, directed, and produced by Mark Banning, he takes us inside the world of a man named Jacob who struggles with a bi-polar disorder and the effect it has on his relationships with friends and family. The film stars Michel Ealy (Barbershop, Barbershop 2, Their Eyes Were Watching God) as Jacob with a talented supporting cast.

The movie's candid approach will help you to see the devastating effects a mental illness can have on people and their loved ones. Mark Banning commented before the screening that a real friend who struggles with a bi-polar disorder inspired the movie and he wanted to use his film as a means to express the reality of the struggle with mental illness.