

Mongrel Media
presents

love that boy

A film by **Andrea Dorfman**



(Canada, 2003, 85 minutes)

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SYNOPSIS

Love That Boy is the story of Phoebe, a socially inept overachiever, unrecognized in a world run by C students. Phoebe's life is totally dominated by her "To Do Before Graduation" list. When Phoebe's best friend Robin dumps Phoebe two weeks before college graduation, Robin points out that Phoebe's list is missing one essential thing – a boyfriend. Not wanting to be alone at graduation, the most important day of her life, Phoebe begins an ill-fated quest to find a boyfriend. After the demise of her first relationship – her "boyfriend" didn't even know that they were going out – Phoebe inadvertently falls in love. The only problem is, he's fourteen.

CAST & CREW

CAST

Phoebe	Nadia Litz
Frazer	Adrien Dixon
Robin	Nikki Barnett
Suzanna	Ellen Page
Jamie	Dax Ravina
Bugs	Patricia "PJ" Crosby

CREW

Director	Andrea Dorfman
Writers	Andrea Dorfman Jennifer Deyell
Producer	Jan Nathanson
Executive Producers	Christopher Zimmer J. William Ritchie
Director of Photography	Thomas M. Harting, CSC
Costume Designer	Amanda Burt
Production Designer	Marcia Connolly
Editor	Michael Vernon
Composer	Mike O'Neill

BIOGRAPHIES

Nadia Litz

“Phoebe”

After receiving much critical acclaim (including a trip to the 1999 Cannes Film Festival) for her role as Rachel in Jeremy Podeswa’s *The Five Senses*, Nadia Litz has proved to be one of the most sought after young talents in Canada. Featured on the cover of *Macleans Magazine’s* issue “25 Canadians Under 25 to Watch For In The New Millennium”, Nadia has been working diligently at living up to that title.

Starring as playwright Sam Sheppard’s daughter in the CTV/Showtime movie *After The Harvest*, Nadia was nominated as Best Lead Actress in a Dramatic Mini Series at the 2001 Gemini Awards. She followed that performance, starring in the award-winning and universally praised short film by Brad Peyton (whom she met while giving a lecture on acting at the Canadian Film Centre), *Evelyn: The Cutest Little Evil Dead Girl Ever*.

Last year alone, she made five feature films, including *Fear X* starring John Turturro (she was cast by the director on the spot while dining at a Winnipeg restaurant with her Mom), Andrea Dorfman’s *Love That Boy* (her first starring role in a comedy), Aaron Woodley’s *Rhinoceros Eyes* (which won the Discovery Award, decided on by 750 Canadian and International critics, at the 2003 Toronto International Film Festival), Kris Lefcoe’s *Public Domain* (starring as a crystal meth addict teenage pimp, alongside Lindy Booth and Don McKellar) and Gail Harvey’s *Some Things That Stay* (starring as a young Baptist missionary, deeply devoted to God).

During her busy schedule making films, Litz has also studied Film Producing at UCLA, had a weekly DJ spot at a local Toronto lounge, and seen The Strokes almost a dozen times on tour. She hopes to continue making films that challenge and delight her and her audiences.

Adrien Dixon

“Frazer”

Adrien Dixon is 15 years old and lives in Sydney, Nova Scotia. He has been acting professionally since he was 10 years old when he played the younger brother of Mooney Pottie in the feature film *New Waterford Girl*. He then went on to do 10 episodes of *Pit Pony – The Series*. Other film credits include movies of the week *Blessed Stranger*, *Homeless to Harvard* and the mini-series *Halifax: Shattered City*. In ***Love That Boy***, Adrien plays young Frazer, the boy next door.

Nikki Barnett

“Robin”

Nikki Barnett is a Halifax native, whose long list of credits includes starring roles on stage and screen. Theatre audiences will recognize her from Jackie Torrens' *Fables*. Nikki has been in a number of television films, such as *Hunger Point*, *Passion and Prejudice* and most recently, *Blessings*.

She also had a reoccurring role on CBC's Emmy award-winning *Street Cents*. In her spare time, Nikki operates a dressmaking business, Angel Thredz.

Ellen Page

“Suzanna”

A film set is becoming home to 16-year-old Ellen Page. Not that she is complaining – she lives for film. And not that it's a surprise to anyone in the business – at age 10 Ellen first graced us with her breakout, leading role of Maggie MacLean in the *Pit Pony* Movie of the Week. The MOW spun into an award-winning series by the same name, running for three years and airing in almost 80 countries worldwide. The series garnered Ellen a Gemini nomination for Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Program or Series and a Young Artist Awards nominee out of Los Angeles for Best Performance in a TV Drama Series.

In two short years Ellen has shot nine more films and MOWs. These included two short films destined for festival success and Wiebke von Carolsfeld's *Marion Bridge*, which won the Best First Canadian Feature at the 2002 Toronto International Festival. For her supporting role as Molly Parker's daughter, Ellen won the prestigious ACTRA Maritimes award for Outstanding Performance – Female, by unanimous decision (unfortunately she could not attend – she was shooting in Montreal).

This year alone would make most actors tired. Ellen shot the MOW *Mrs Ashboro's Cat* in Prince Edward Island, in minus-30-degree weather. She then rolled into Montreal for *Going for Broke*. This August Ellen wrapped Daniel MacIvor's latest film *Wilby Wonderful*; she is part of an impressive ensemble cast. Ellen leaves the following day for Lisbon, Portugal, where she rehearses *Mouth to Mouth*, to shoot two months in London, then Lisbon and finally in Berlin.

For a year Ellen has been waiting for this picture, produced by *Russian Arc* producers Egoli Tossell Film AG. In the lead role, based on a true story, Ellen shaves her head, joins a European cult, and has a love relationship with the cult

leader, played by U.S. actor Eric Thal (*Law and Order*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *Six Degrees of Separation*).

What is next for Ellen Page? She is moving to Toronto this November to finish school. She says the move will give her time to fit more films into her schedule!

Dax Ravina

“Jamie”

Dax always had a love for acting but hadn't fully explored his talents until he won the role of Stanley Kowalski in a university play. He attended Ryerson Theatre School in Toronto to train. After returning to his native Halifax for the summer, he landed his first role in a feature as Phoebe's "boyfriend" Jamie in Andrea Dorfman's film *Love That Boy*. Dax also plays thrill-seeking Cameron in the award-winning short *Backjumping*, and this fall will play the lead in a feature directed by Jay Dahl. Dax currently resides in Toronto.

Patricia “PJ” Crosby

“Bugs”

Patricia Crosby is 12 years old and lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. She has been acting professionally since she was four years old. Bugs is her first major role. Playing the role of Bugs was an amazing experience. Andrea Dorfman has a unique sensitivity to children, and the crew became an extended family.

PJ is an entrepreneur by nature and is highly self-motivated. This past school year she published a kid's magazine called *KIDZ BIZ*. Along with her two best friends, she edited, sold and distributed *KIDZ BIZ* on a monthly basis.

PJ has a wide range of interests; she loves to read, she is a puppeteer, plays violin and clarinet, and sings in choirs. In September she will enter French Immersion in grade 7.

Andrea Dorfman
WRITER/DIRECTOR

Andrea Dorfman is a multi-talented award winning filmmaker whose films have been shown around the world. After graduating from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 1994, Andrea got her start in the film industry as a camera assistant, and quickly rose through the ranks to cinematographer. Alternating between working in camera and being a filmmaker, she wrote, directed, shot and edited her own films, beginning with a series of experimental shorts titled *Under a Bridge* (1994), *Outside Inside Out* (1995), *I Love You This Much* (1996) and *Letter to Helen* (1997).

Andrea made her dramatic film debut with *Swerve* (1998), the story of an all-girl love triangle taking place on a road trip, and *Nine* (1998), a docu-drama exploring a year in the life of a nine-year-old girl diagnosed with separation anxiety. These films showed at festivals internationally and won her the Most Promising New Director award at the 1998 Atlantic Film Festival; Best Canadian Lesbian Short at the Inside Out Festival (1999); the Marian McMahon Award at the Images Festival (1999) and a nomination for best short at the Hot Docs Festival (1999). Both *Swerve* and *Nine* have been broadcast on CBC and TMN.

Andrea's first full-length film *Parsley Days* premiered at the Toronto Film Festival (2000) with much critical acclaim. It went on to win Best First Feature at the Sudbury Film Festival, Best Cinematography and Best Actress at the Atlantic Film Festival and was runner up to Best Film at the Avanca Film Festival in Portugal. The film also screened at the Vancouver, Palm Springs, Hawaii and Seattle International Film Festivals. The film was voted to the Toronto International Film Festival Group's Canada's Top Ten 2001 list. *Parsley Days* was released theatrically in Canada by Mongrel Media.

Andrea is a highly sought after cinematographer and director who has worked on countless independent short films and music videos. She has directed two seasons (2000, 2001) on the internationally award-winning CBC show *Street Cents*.

Jennifer Deyell
WRITER

Jennifer Deyell received her BA and MA in political theory from Hampshire College (Massachusetts) and the University of Toronto. She was an Alliance Atlantis Writer Resident at the Canadian Film Centre in Fall 2000 and participated in the Professional Screenwriting Program for Winter 2001. Her first feature film is ***Love That Boy***, co-written with director Andrea Dorfman. It is produced as part of the *Seats 3a & 3c* anthology of digital features produced by imX Communications in Halifax. She has written two original feature-length comedies *Mr. Pfister* and *Starring Autumn Otto*. Jennifer has also co-written a feature teen comedy *The Crème de la Crème* with Andrea Dorfman and they are developing a third project called *MO!* Recently, she has been a reader in the Development department at Odeon Films.

Jan Nathanson
PRODUCER

Jan Nathanson spent seven years at Alliance Atlantis in international acquisitions and in development and production of Canadian and U.S. independent films. She was integrally involved with the acquisition of Neil LaBute's *In the Company of Men* (Sony Pictures Classics), Alison Mclean's *Jesus' Son* (Lions Gate) and Ed Harris' Academy Award-nominated *Pollock* (Sony Pictures Classics). At Alliance Atlantis, she also developed a number of films, including bringing Canadian comedian Gavin Crawford and writing partner Kyle Tingley into Alliance Atlantis for a film based on their punk rocker wanna-be character Red Ronny Rocker.

In 2001, Jan independently produced a one-hour documentary on mercurial San Francisco drummer Jerry Granelli, with director Colin MacKenzie. The film was broadcast by VisionTV and CBC, and will air on CLT and SCN. ***Love That Boy*** is Jan's first independent feature as producer since returning home to Nova Scotia.

Christopher Zimmer
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Since the establishment of Imagex in 1985, Chris Zimmer has become one of Canada's most respected experts in the field of feature film and international co-production, building his reputation on bringing provocative, intelligent work to movie screens. Past projects include the award-winning films *Love and Death on Long Island* (John Hurt, Jason Priestley), *Margaret's Museum* (Helena Bonham Carter, Kate Nelligan) and *New Waterford Girl* (Andrew McCarthy, Cathy Moriarty).

Under Chris's leadership, Imagex has expanded into the multi-faceted imX communications, active in television, animation and new media development. In 2000/2001, Chris co-produced *Weight of Water* (Sean Penn, Elizabeth Hurley) with Miracle Pictures, *My Little Eye* with WT2, *The Pilot's Wife* (Christine Lahti) with Lions Gate and *Una Casa con Vista al Mar* (Gabriel Arcand, Imanol Arias) with Intercartel in Spain and Cinema Sur in Venezuela. In 2002, Chris was executive producer of *Julie Walking Home* (Miranda Otto, William Fichtner and Lothaire Bluteau). Directed by Agnieszka Holland, *Julie Walking Home* is a Canadian, German, Polish co-production.

Currently, Chris is executive producer of *Seats 3a&3c* (directors: Tricia Fish, Thom Fitzgerald, Daniel MacIvor and Andrea Dorfman), a package of four feature films shot on DV to be released on 35mm. This year's projects include a Canada/France/Belgium French feature titled *Folle Embellie* by director Dominique Cabrera and the feature *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones* written and directed by David Sutherland.

Mike O'Neill
MUSIC

Mike O'Neill first came to prominence as half of the twice Juno-nominated bass and drums duo *The Inbreds*. After the band's demise in 1998, he continued to demonstrate his talent as a performer and songwriter with his critically acclaimed 2000 album, *What Happens Now?* He is currently working on his album *Bad Luck Changes To Good*, which will feature many of the songs from ***Love That Boy***. Mike's music has been featured in a number of independent films, including Andrea Dorfman's celebrated *Parsley Days*. ***Love That Boy*** features his first full-length soundtrack.

Thomas M. Harting, CSC
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Based in Vancouver, B.C. and Los Angeles, California, Thomas M. Harting, CSC has been a Director of Photography specializing in independent features and television since 1989. His international resumé includes features lensed in Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, and of course, the U.S. and Canada. His work has been seen at the Sundance, Toronto, Berlin, San Francisco, Los Angeles, South By Southwest, and Seattle film festivals, and he has earned over 20 awards, including an Emmy. He is a full member of the highly respected Canadian Society of Cinematographers (CSC).

Recent feature work has included four features for Canadian director Thom Fitzgerald: *Three Needles* starring Chloe Sevigny and lensed in South Africa and Asia; *The Event*, starring Olympia Dukakis, Sarah Polley, Parker Posey, and Jane Leeves; *The Wild Dogs*, starring Alberta Watson and photographed in Bucharest, Romania; and *Beefcake*. In addition, Tom has lensed two features for Gil Cates Jr.: *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, starring Jason London, Andrew Keegan, and Carrie Fisher as well as the '50s melodrama *The Mesmerist*, starring Neil Patrick Harris and Jessica Capshaw. He also shot John Ayres' dark thriller *Ripper: Letter From Hell*, starring Jurgen Prochnow, A.J. Cook, and Bruce Payne. *Ripper* was released by Lions Gate Entertainment and was Blockbuster's top horror rental that year.

Tom lensed the highly acclaimed PBS documentary *Blink*, whose director, Elizabeth Thompson, won best new documentary director last year at the London International Film Festival. It tells the story of former white supremacist Gregory Withrow and his continued struggle with hate.

Tom has also shot and directed commercials and corporate projects through his Lionheart Pictures production company. Clients have included Joe Boxer, KRON-4, Sega, The Gap, 24 Hour Fitness, Seagate and KaiserPermanente.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Early January 2002, Jennifer Deyell, my co-writer, and I were holed up in a rented cabin near Algonquin Park. The task at hand was to come up with a feature film script involving two people who meet on an airplane. The outcome of this meeting is that their lives are forever changed. Fueled by endless cups of tea and hot chocolate and with the howling, northern wind blowing outside, we began to brainstorm.

CUT TO: six months later. I am on a film set in a leafy residential enclave in Halifax, Nova Scotia on a beautiful summer day. I am directing ***Love That Boy***, the story of an over-achieving university graduate who has never had a relationship and inadvertently falls for the teenager who mows her lawn. We are a small crew filming in a typical low budget fashion where we begin to shoot enormous scenes as the sun is about to set and, miraculously, we get the scene just as the sun dips behind the trees. Such are the gifts granted to low budget filmmakers.

CUT TO: six months later and it's early January and I am in a cozy sound studio while a snowstorm rages outside on the streets of Halifax. We are making the final adjustments to the music and I can't help but think this was the fastest turn-around in the history of feature filmmaking. Making ***Love That Boy*** was a wonderful experience made with an extraordinary group of people. The film is a tribute to that time of life when, at twenty-one, you go from thinking that you know everything to falling in love and discovering that you know nothing at all.

FUNDERS:

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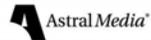
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