

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

www.jellysmoke.com

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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
Co-Producer	CLIFF CHARLES
Associate Producer	MAD MATTHEWZ
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
Gaffer	KEN SHABATA

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	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

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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 has starred in the films Barbershop, Barbershop 2, Never Die Alone and Their Eyes Were Watching God. He is currently beginning work on Showtime's new one hour dramatic series, The Cell.

ANDRE ROYO (Paul)

Andre Royo may currently be seen in the role of Bubbles on HBO's hit series, The Wire. His list of film and television credits includes John Singleton's Shaft, Chris Cherot's G and Michael Rymer's Perfume and guest appearances on Third Watch, Law and Order and Wonderland. He has also appeared in numerous national ad campaigns including spots for Volkswagen, Bass Ale,

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Keyspan Energy and IAM.COM.

OPAL ALLADIN (Cindy)

Ms. Alladin may currently be seen in the Broadway production of On Golden Pond. Her film and television credits include Brown Sugar, Hack, Law and Order and Cosby. She has appeared Off-Broadway at The Public Theater, The Cherry Lane Theater and Signature Theater. Ms. Alladin is a graduate of the Julliard School.

About the Filmmakers

MARK BANNING (Writer, Director, Producer)

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

CLIFF CHARLES (Director of Photography, Producer)

Cliff Charles has lensed numerous music video and commercial projects for artists including, Britney Spears, P.Diddy, Busta Rhymes and Michael Jordan. His feature credits include Love Goggles, 30 Years to Life, Shottas and Men Without Jobs. Cliff recently served as the Director of Photography on the MTV produced six part mini series, Miracle's Boys, which featured directors Spike Lee, Bill Duke, Ernest Dickerson, Neema Barnette and LeVar Burton. In addition to his work as a cinematographer, Mr. Charles has also produced numerous music video and commercial projects. www.cliffcharles.com

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, Men Without Jobs was an official selection of the 2004 Tribeca.Film Festival and the 2004 Los Angeles Film Festival. www.mad24fps.com.

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 documenatry projects. www.weiseman.com

JELLYSMOKE

Press Quotes

LA Weekly

By Chuck Wilson

In this debut feature from writer-director Mark Banning, Michael Ealy gives an aching 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* 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.

