

IT'S TERRIFIC PICTURES

PRESENTS

# THE FRONTIER

DIRECTED BY MATT RABINOWITZ



SXSW Film Festival 2014 World Premiere  
Silver Springs International Film Festival BEST FEATURE  
Barcelona Film Festival EL RAY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DRAMATIC NARRATIVE  
Northern California Film Festival BEST FEATURE  
Amsterdam Film Festival VAN GOGH AWARD: GRAND JURY PRIZE  
Canada International Film Festival RISING STAR AWARD

Running Time: 89 minutes

Unrated

Press Materials: [thefrontierpicture.com](http://thefrontierpicture.com)

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## THE CAST

Sean.....Max Gail  
Tennessee.....Coleman Kelly  
Nina.....Anastassia Sendyk  
Susan.....Katherine Cortez  
Peter.....Oliver Seitz

## THE CREW

Writer.....Matt Rabinowitz  
Co-Writer.....Carlos Colunga  
Producer.....Jeffry A. DeCola  
Associate Producer.....Bonnie Levetin  
Executive Producer.....Elliot Roberts  
Director of Photography.....Adam CK Vollick  
Editor.....Tim Mirkovich  
Production Designer/Costume Designer.....Eleanor White  
Original Music.....Jason Yates  
Re-Recording Mixer.....Paul Ratajczak

## **SYNOPSIS**

Sean, a retired literature professor and civic activist, writes a letter to his estranged son, Tennessee, a ranch hand. Tennessee is uncertain how to respond, but knowing he should see his aging father, he decides to go home. Tennessee arrives just as Nina, Sean's personal trainer fresh off a bad breakup, accepts Sean's offer to move in and help him write his memoirs. The tension between father and son is ever-present. As Sean and Nina work, Tennessee avoids his overbearing father with fix-up projects around the house. One evening after Nina has gone out, Sean and Tennessee find themselves alone in the house for the first time.

## **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

THE FRONTIER is the first narrative feature film from writer and director, Matt Rabinowitz. Rabinowitz's previous directing work includes the feature documentary WEST OF THE WORLD about the band Infanterie, the documentary THE RIDES about the band of the same name, and several music videos.

Rabinowitz is also an actor whose past work include roles in Cameron Crowe's ELIZABETHTOWN (2005), and Jonathan Demme's RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (2008).

Rabinowitz and THE FRONTIER have since been embraced by the support of director Demme, who calls THE FRONTIER a "thrilling project," and describes it as "a story with such vibrant and deep characters and such rich emotional scope." Rabinowitz has also garnered support from Neil Young, whom he worked with as a cameraman on the Kickstarter campaign for Pono Music. About THE FRONTIER, Young says, "Matt's wonderful talents will soon be seen and recognized by many more people."

THE FRONTIER marks the first lead film role in 30 years for Max Gail, who portrays Sean Sullivan, a retired professor seeking to make a connection with his estranged ranch hand son. Gail is a veteran actor who was twice-nominated for an Emmy for his work on the highly-popular ABC TV series *Barney Miller* (1975-1982), and he recently made a winning appearance as Brooklyn Dodgers Manager Burt Shotton, in the Jackie Robinson biopic *42* (2013). Like his character in THE FRONTIER, Gail is a former teacher with a strong interest in social issues. Gail's production company, Full Circle Productions, is committed to producing content related to social and environmental issues and has produced award-winning documentaries about such topics as Agent Orange, nuclear power, and Hopi/Navajo land issues.

THE FRONTIER was shot in Los Angeles in Spring 2013, at the same time that a unique Kickstarter campaign was seeking to raise funds for the film's postproduction costs. In a very rare move, live, streaming access to the set was granted during all working hours of all shooting days to contributors of the Kickstarter. Friends and fans were able to watch as the camera rolled and during all of those moments in-between, creating a very special production experience.

## FILMMAKER'S COMMENTS

THE FRONTIER is a film about communication. Or mostly at times, lack thereof. It's also a film about fathers and sons, young love, disappointments and triumphs. It's a film about life. These are all important themes to me so when it came time to make my first feature I threw everything at the wall to see what would stick. I wrote the film with my friend Carlos Colunga, we were both at similar points in our lives where we were fed up with working on other people's passion projects and wanted something of our own. We gathered in coffee shops and apartments and had long discussions on the human condition, eventually the characters and plotting of THE FRONTIER popped out at us. We didn't really even notice it happen, one day they were just there.

I've known Max Gail since as long as I can remember. I was best friends with his daughter in kindergarten, and Max would drive us home after school. Even at a young age I loved his work, mostly through watching reruns of *Barney Miller* on Nick at Nite. So decades later when it came time to cast the character of Sean, an aging former professor whose opinions and vociferousness can sometimes get him into trouble, I called Max and asked him to please give the script a look. Thankfully, he agreed to join our eager team. Working with Max was great and he brought so much richness and life to the character, I don't know what we would have done without him and his contributions.

Shooting an independent film is of course difficult; shooting one on a shoestring budget seems impossible at times, especially if you've never directed a feature film before. We had 18 days and somehow got everything we wanted, it would have been nice to have more time, but we made use of what we had. Needless to say, I learned a lot.

Tim Mirkovich is our amazing editor; he opened my eyes in so many different ways to the magic of editing. Whether it was recontextualizing scenes or simplifying scenes that didn't need quite so much exposition, Tim was a master at work and watching him do his thing was an absolute pleasure.

Making a film is one of the most rewarding, invigorating, confusing, dispiriting, euphoric, exhausting, gleeful experiences I've had so far in life, and hopefully all that is captured in THE FRONTIER. I can't wait to do it all again.

-Matt Rabinowitz

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

### **MATT RABINOWITZ**

#### **Director/Co-Writer**

Matt Rabinowitz is co-owner of It's Terrific Pictures. His directing experience includes the documentaries WEST OF THE WORLD on the band Infanterie, and THE RIDES about the titular rock group, plus music videos for several bands including Infanterie and Everest.

His work as a cinematographer includes Neil Young's Kickstarter campaign for Pono Music for which he interviewed Steve Martin, Jack White, T Bone Burnett, Marcus Mumford, Mo Ostin and the Foo Fighters.

Rabinowitz is also a working actor with upcoming roles in Paul Thomas Anderson's INHERENT VICE and an untitled Cameron Crowe feature opening Christmas Day 2014. His past acting work includes roles in Jonathan Demme's RACHEL GETTING MARRIED and Cameron Crowe's ELIZABETHTOWN. He attended The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in Los Angeles.

He is currently in pre-production on his second feature film, THE SELLOUTS.

### **JEFFRY A. DECOLA**

#### **Producer**

Jeffry DeCola is co-owner of It's Terrific Pictures, which has produced several music videos, short films, national commercials and one documentary. DeCola attended The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, and he has been involved with many theater productions in LA. He co-produced *Fences* at the Tiffany Theatre, and more recently he co-produced *Speed-The-Plow* for The Actors Studio. DeCola also produced a two-day seminar on acting, directing and writing for Academy Award-winning actor Martin Landau, Academy-nominated director Mark Rydell, and award-winning playwright Lyle Kessler.

### **ADAM CK VOLLUCK**

#### **Director of Photography**

Adam CK Vollick is a kid who fell in love with making pictures at the age of 6. His love has led him to a unique form of guerrilla filmmaking and experimental art. A photo project with record producer Daniel Lanois in 2005 led to a continuing

collaboration that has resulted in many musical film projects - most notably *HERE IS WHAT IS* and *LE NOISE*, a muse project with Neil Young. Recently he collaborated with Jonathan Demme on *NEIL YOUNG: JOURNEYS* and he has also been working with Young on the documentary *LINCVOLT* about Young's quest to convert his 1950s Cadillac into a fully electric car.

## ABOUT THE CAST

### MAX GAIL

#### “Sean”

Max Gail is best known for his role as Detective Stan "Wojo" Wojciehowicz on the monster hit television series *Barney Miller* (1975-82), a role for which he was twice-nominated for a Primetime Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actor. Later, he went on to recurring roles in the television series *Whiz Kids* (1983-1984), *Normal Life* (1990), and *Sons & Daughters* (2006-2007). Gail is also remembered for his performance as Babe Ruth in the one-man Broadway production *The Babe*, which was recorded and broadcasted on PBS in 1984. His more recent credits include episodes of *Cold Case*, *NCIS*, *Criminal Minds*, and *Psych*, as well as a winning performance as Brooklyn Dodgers Manager Burt Shotton in the 2013 Jackie Robinson biopic *42*. *THE FRONTIER* marks Gail's return to the silver screen, with his first lead role in almost thirty years. Gail's upcoming films include *UNDERDOGS* and *I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS*.

### COLEMAN KELLY

#### “Tennessee”

Coleman Kelly was born and raised in Los Angeles. As a child he studied at The Young Actor's Studio in Studio City, CA. After a stint at an auto shop and as a bike messenger in San Francisco, Kelly returned to Los Angeles to study at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute for four years. Since then, Kelly has appeared in a number of theater productions including Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie*, *One Arm* directed by Betty Santag, Lee Thuna's *Fugue* and *Games*, both directed by Kamile Haque.

### ANASTASSIA SENDYK

#### “Nina”

Originally from Moscow, at age 4, Anastassia Sendyk moved to Los Angeles where her passion for acting and modeling grew. At age 16, she began attending The Young Actors Program at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute and also began modeling professionally. Sendyk continues to attend The Lee Strasberg Institute and just celebrated her first major billboard for TAGS Clothing Boutique in Los Angeles. *THE FRONTIER* marks her big-screen debut.



**KATHERINE CORTEZ****“Susan”**

Katherine Cortez is an associate member of the Dramatists Guild, Ensemble Studio Theatre and The Actors Studio as both an actor and a playwright. Her film credits include *Sticky Fingers*, *Stanley & Iris* with Jane Fonda and Robert DeNiro, and the soon to be released *Micky and Laura*. She has also appeared on the television series *thirtysomething*, *L.A. Law*, *Cop Rock*, and *The Equalizer*.

**OLIVER SEITZ****“Peter”**

Oliver Seitz is originally from Augsburg, Germany, where he began his acting work in the theater. After landing an agent and manager, Seitz made the move from Germany to Los Angeles in 2009. He is currently a student at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in Los Angeles.