

**Spencer List  
Pilar López de Ayala  
Adriana Barraza**

*Somewhere between the films of Larry Clark  
and the novels of Jonathan Safran Foer . . .  
uncomfortable yet tender, droll yet tragic,  
and often at the same time.*

*-- indieWIRE*

**A FILM BY STEVE CLARK**



*The cast is first rate . . .  
the cinematography  
and production design are stellar.*  
*--RogerEbert.com*

# NIGHT HAS SETTLED

BLACK NOTE FILMS in association with OFFHOLLYWOOD presents 'NIGHT HAS SETTLED'  
PILAR LÓPEZ DE AYALA SPENCER LIST ADRIANA BARRAZA  
casting by STEPANIE HOLBROOK, GSA sound designer SEAN CANADA music composer TONY MORALES editor MELODY LONDON  
production designer SOPHIE TABET associate producers ISAAC LEFEVRE and RYAN DEARTH co-producer MILAN CHAKRABORTY  
director of photography ADOLFO DORING  
produced by CARLOS VELAZQUEZ and STEVE CLARK  
written and directed by STEVE CLARK

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**Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/84739847>**

**SoHo Film International Festival Screening**

**Sunday, May 18th at 4pm, Village East Cinemas, 189 2nd Avenue (12th Street)**

**Media Inquiries / Linda Brown, Indie PR / O: 818.753.0700, Cell: 310.995.9956 / [Linda@indie-pr.com](mailto:Linda@indie-pr.com)**

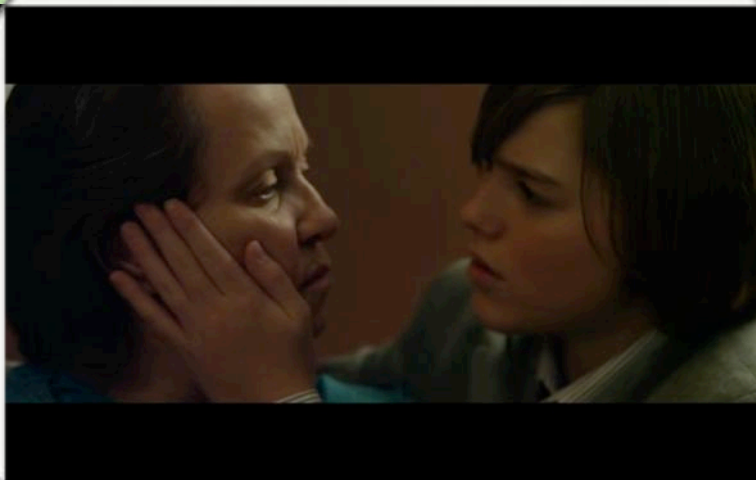
# LOGLINE

Torn between two maternal figures, a thirteen-year-old boy comes to terms with sex, love and death in 1980s New York City.



# SYNOPSIS

In 1983, Oliver Nicholas (**Spencer List**), at thirteen, is well-poised to enter the precocious teenage world of first-sex, vodka and possible-love in New York City when he is traumatized by the stroke of his housekeeper (and only true maternal figure), a sixty-five-year-old, Chilean woman named Aida (**Academy-award nominee Adriana Barraza**). What was supposed to be an exhilarating rite of passage—diving into the fast-paced world of first experiences—quickly becomes skewed by an incomprehensible depression, and a house of interior horrors. Surrounded by women — his mother, Luna (**Goya-Award Winner, Pilar López de Ayala**), an untraditional, Spanish photographer (more interested in the role of confidant than mother), his sister, a comedic, door-slamming tormentor, marked by her parents' divorce; and with Aida, his silver-haired emotional focal point on the verge of death in Lenox Hill Hospital—Oliver struggles to maintain his role as "man of the house" and his sanity. With his best friends, Valerio, a chain-smoking, nunchucking, grandiose artist; and Nick, a cynical, foul-mouthed, jokester; Oliver struggles through attacks of mania, drunkenness, first love, betrayal, migraine-inducing masturbation, virginity, and the loss of an imaginary friend . . . hoping to survive this uniquely-New-York baptism by fire.



# ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

## Writer/Director/Producer - Steve Clark

Born in New York City, Steve Clark attended Trinity College where he won the John Curtis Underwood Prize for Poetry and began painting. A Senior Editor for George Plimpton's *The Paris Review* (1995 to 2002), Clark published fiction in *The Paris Review*, poems in various magazines and translated several books from the Spanish and Catalan. *From the Ashes* (Desde las cenizas), his first bilingual book of poems, along with a series of his "Black Note" paintings, was published to critical acclaim by Huerga y Fierro in Spain, March 2010. His first feature film, *The Last International Playboy*, which he co-wrote, directed and produced premiered at Slamdance in 2008, was released theatrically in the



United States, and has since been sold world-wide and purchased by Showtime in the U.S. Steve's latest feature, *Night Has Settled*, will be followed by his next project, *Marga*, about his great aunt, Marga Gil Roësset, a prodigy artist (Saint-Exupéry cited her as the inspiration for *The Little Prince*) who killed herself at 24, because of her unrequited love for the Spanish Nobel Laureate poet, Juan Ramón Jiménez. His artwork is represented by Aurora Aspen (aurora@steveclark.com), formerly of Haunch of Venison.

## Director of Photography - Adolfo Doring

Adolfo Doring is an award winning filmmaker. He has directed/shot/edited music videos for Sting, Santana, Bon Jovi, The Dixie Chicks, Diana Krall and Savage Garden amongst many others. After the critical success of his dramatic feature film *Metro* (2006), which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival he has gone on to make two more dramatic features *Thinly Veiled* (2009) and *The Price of Dreams* which is a double feature in 4 parts. Adolfo has also made three feature length documentaries, *The Trial of the St. Patrick's Four* (2005), *Got Stem Cells?* (2007) and *Blind Spot* (2009). He is currently in production of a multi-layered documentary series consisting of profiles of extraordinary and eccentric personal friends provisionally titled *Anatomy of my Friends* as well as a documentary of Rose Wylie an extraordinary British painter in her 70's. Adolfo is also in pre-production for *Sierra Madre* a dramatic feature to be shot in Mexico City later



## Producer - Carlos Velazquez



Carlos is a partner of C Plus Pictures, a production company which focuses on character driven independent films with unique stories. Most recently he produced the provocative drama *The Lifeguard* starring Kristen Bell (*Forgetting Sarah Marshall*) and the feature film. In the past year he has also produced *Alter Egos*, a quirky superhero comedy starring Danny Masterson (*That 70's Show*) and *Don Peyote* a comedy about the end of the world starring Dan Fogler (*Balls of Fury/ Take Me Home Tonight*). Previous film credits include *The Last International*

*Playboystarring* Krysten Ritter (*Confessions of a Shopaholic*),

as well as *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Undead* starring Ralph Macchio

(*Karate Kid*) and Jeremy Sisto (*Waitress*), a film influenced by Tom Stoppard's famous play. He was also the 2nd unit producer on *Supporting Characters*, a film written/directed by Daniel Schechter starring Kevin Corrigan (*Pineapple Express*), which premiered at Tribeca Film Festival in 2012.

## Co-Producer - Milan Chakraborty

Milan attended The College of William and Mary, where he graduated with a Business Administration in Accounting degree. He has been a guest lecturer at the USC film school, Loyola Marymount film school, New York Entrepreneur Week, and William and Mary where he is also on the board of the Arts and Entertainment Alumni Council. Milan's 2nd film *Alter Egos* directed by Jordan Galland was picked up Kevin Smith (*Clerks*) for distribution and was a big hit on VOD. Milan's latest film *The Lifeguard* starring Kristen Bell was selected in competition at the 2013 SUNDANCE film festival. It was in theaters in October 2013 and now available on iTunes and on-demand. Most recently, he finished principal photography in late November 2013 of the feature film *Produce* in Louisville KY.



## Editor – Melody London



The first film that Melody London edited, *Stranger Than Paradise*, achieved worldwide success and was awarded the Best Film at the Cannes and New York Film Festivals. Since then she has edited several other award winning films including Rebecca Miller's *Angela*, and Frank Whaley's *Joe the King*, as well as several other films by Jim Jarmusch. Melody has also edited many social issue documentary feature films most notably, *Going Upriver*, *The Long War of John Kerry*, and *In God We Trusted*, the Bernie Madoff story. Melody recently consulted on *The Square* which has entered this year's Academy Award competition. Melody is a

long time collaborator of several Experimental Artists and Musicians including Laurie Anderson, The Wooster Group, and Peter Sellars. Along with teaching at NYU and a program for underprivileged teenagers in North Africa learning filmmaking, Melody is committed to passing on her love of filmmaking to the next generation. She is currently editing a feature film Executive Produced by Martin Scorsese.

# Q&A with DIRECTOR, STEVE CLARK

## Where did this idea come from?

*The film is based on my experiences growing up in the early 1980s in New York. Yes, it's very autobiographical.*

## How did you raise money to make the film?

*It was financed by my production company Black Note Films, the generosity of Offhollywood Pictures, and a ton of in-kind services.*



## How long did the process of making the movie take?

*I finished the first draft of the script Jan 10th, 2003, quickly forgot about it until 2009 when I picked it up again, threw it in the trash, and rewrote the film with a feasible structure and the notion that I'd actually make it. A very different process.... Then financing, casting etc; and finally, the film was shot in eighteen days from November 29th to December 18th, 2011 (with two days of pick-ups in January 2012, and a final re-shoot day in August, 2013).*

## War stories - are there any?

*Well we shot a ninety-five page script in eighteen days which works out to an average of 5 1/3 pages a day. It's a fun pace! Twenty-one locations (including an airplane in-flight), twenty-seven actors, 250 extras, a sawed-open wardrobe truck that lodged itself into the Park Avenue tunnel the day the president was talking at the UN, causing a newsworthy traffic jam (we literally chain-sawed the truck open in front of dumbfounded policemen to remove the wardrobe for the scene), eight 1980s period cars (including a checker), the not-so-allowed Metropolitan Museum's steps fountain-lit at night, countless Bushwickian streets and stolen, Christmas-wreathed doorways—all of this on*

*a micro-budget that pushed the production team's savvy penny-pinching to the edge of criminality. It was all a bit of an attack, but a very enjoyable one.*

### **How did you land cast?**

*Through the excellent casting director Stephanie Holbrook (and a six month audition process).*

### **What did you learn through the process?**

*There is a little triangle they show in film school, and most DPs will show it to you as well. In each corner it has a word: cheap, fast, good. They tell you to pick two. Fast . . . cheap . . . good. "You can't have all three," they say. "You must choose two." If you want it fast and cheap, it won't be good. If you want it good and cheap, it won't be fast, etc. I learned (or rather the DP, Adolfo Doring, taught me) that little triangle is bullshit.*

### **What was your biggest surprise?**

*With a scarlet camera, it's possible to film on a plane for free. . . . And instead of paying 500 to rent a yellow cab for the day, you can hail one and pay the guy twenty bucks.*

### **What do you hope audiences will take away from this film after having seen it?**

*I guess at most a film provides an experience. If that experience is powerful enough it might stay with a viewer for maybe an hour, a day, a month . . . It can become a memory, and, in that way, a tiny part of that singular person's experience of the world. Now of course most will completely forget the film (the way we forget most anything), but perhaps one or two people might recall from the film an expression, an image or a feeling whether it be a day, a month or even months later . . . That would be far more than enough.*



# CAST

## ADRIANA BARRAZA - Aida



Best known for the films *Amores Perros* and *Babel*; the latter garnered her nominations for an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, a Broadcast Film Critics Association Award, a Screen Actors Guild Award, an Online Film Critics Award, and a Chicago Film Critics Circle Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture. She won in this category at the San Francisco Film Critics Circle Awards. The role earned her worldwide acclaim and as well as a nomination for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. Barraza directed *Locura de Amor* (in which she also starred), *Nunca Te Olvidare* and *El Manantial*. She is also a professional acting coach and has worked with actors for a number of movies and television shows, including the American film *Spanglish*.

## PILAR LÓPEZ DE AYALA - Luna

Pilar Lopez de Ayala has won numerous awards for her performances including the Goya Award or Silver Shell of the San Sebastian International Film Festival for Best Leading Actress in *Mad Love*; the New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best Supporting Actress in *Obaba*; the Best Actress award of the Toulouse Film Festival in *Hand in Glove*; the Raimu de la Comedie Award for New Actress in *Comme les Autres* or the Spanish Actors Union for Best Supporting role in *Lope*. She has worked with some renowned filmmakers whose films have competed in the most recognize international film festivals like José Luis Guerín (*In the City of Sylvia*), Manoel de Oliveira (*The Strange case of Angelica*) or Raya Martin (*Buenas Noches, España*). Among her works most recently featured: *Sidewalls*, and *Intruders*.



## SPENCER LIST - Oliver



Spencer List began his career at an early age in various films, television series, and commercials. Spencer recently wrapped the independent dramedy *Hard Sell*, directed by Sean Nalaboff, opposite Kristin Chenoweth and Katrina Bowden. Up next, Spencer can be seen in the Jason Blum produced feature *Mockingbird*, written and directed by Bryan Bertino. Spencer also starred as the title role in Famke Janssen's directorial debut *Bringing Up Bobby*, in which he co-starred opposite Milla Jovovich, Bill Pullman and Marcia Cross. His additional film credits include *Black Dog Red Dog*, for James Franco, and starred opposite his twin sister and fellow actor Peyton List in the indie horror thriller *Bereavement*. On the small screen, Spencer has guest-starred on such hit series as CBS' *CSI: Miami*, Fox's *Fringe*, Nickelodeon's *iCarly*, NBC's *Law & Order: SVU*, *Saturday Night Live* and ABC's *One Life To Live*.

## ERIC NELSEN - Valerio

In 2013 alone Eric worked on six films including Universal Pictures' *A Walk Among The Tombstones* acting alongside Liam Neeson and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox animated feature *Epic*. In addition Eric recently wrapped production on his producing debut film *Running On Empty* with wife Sainty Nelsen and *Night Has Settled* co-star Courtney Baxter, Nelsen stars in the film as well. He also stars as the title character in the upcoming feature *Happy Baby*, based on the award-winning novel of the same name. Aside from film, Eric can be seen starring on TV in the newly revamped soap: *All My Children* playing AJ Chandler and recurring in Robert DeNiro's *NYC:22* on CBS. Notable theatre credits include the Broadway musical, *13* and *The Good Mother* starring along side Gretchen Mol.



## HEATHER BRAVERMAN - Lila



Heather's TV/Film credits include: *Law & Order: SVU*, *Law & Order: CI*, *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*, and national AT&T U-Verse commercial.

Check out Heather's music and more at [www.heatherbraverman.com](http://www.heatherbraverman.com). Currently working on first solo album! Her theater credits include: *Gettin' the Band Back Together* (Director John Rando), *American Girl's Circle of Friends*, *Hip Hop High* (Fringe Festival), *Wallenberg* (NYMTF), *New Kid*, *People Garden*, *The Crucible* (as Abigail at French Woods Festival) Much love and thanks to the Brave clan, Elissa, Victoria, Katie, Julia, and the incredible team of *Night Has Settled*.

## TOMMY NELSON - Nick

Tommy's acting career began at the young age of seven, when he was cast in Robert De Niro's *The Good Shepherd* (2006). Tommy has acted in several feature films over the years, including *Meek's Cutoff* with Michelle Williams and most recently Wes Anderson's *Moonrise Kingdom*. Noted television credits include *Law and Order CI*, *Rescue Me*, and HBO's *Mildred Pierce*. Local theatre credits include *The Music Man* (Professor Harold Hill), *The Wedding Singer* (Robbie Hart), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (The Dentist). Tommy also enjoys playing his guitar and skateboarding.



## COURTNEY BAXTER - Adriana



Courtney Baxter is from West Chester, PA and joined both SAG and AFTRA at age 11 - commuting to NYC and LA from that point forward. At 16, Courtney became an Executive Producer/lead in the drama *Reco* which garnered many festival nominations and wins. As an 18 year old, she Executive Produced and starred as Eve in the horror feature film *Hallow's Eve* which was released on DVD and Amazon in October 2013. 2012 brought other feature and short film acting and producing opportunities in films such as *ImagiGARY*, and *Parallax*. She has received widespread recognition for her character *Meghan Cleary* on

the Onion New Network, leading her to become the backstage host at the 2011 Teen Choice Awards. She also appeared in television shows such as *Gossip Girl*, *30 Rock*, and *Criminal Minds*. Most recently, Courtney appeared as "Serena" in this season of *All My Children* alongside *Night Has Settled* co-star, Eric Nelsen. Courtney and Eric also co-produced and starred in the feature *Running On Empty* which was shot in October 2013 and features Steve Schirripa, Adam Lefevre, and Blanche Baker. Courtney is currently 20 years old and resides in Manhattan where she attends Pace University and acts full time.

## EMMETT RAHN-OAKES - Billy B

Emmett Rahn-Oakes graduated last Spring from the Lycée Français de New York, a French high-school in New York City, where he co-directed a student theater troupe for three years for which he also co-wrote the plays. He has most notably performed at the Goodspeed Opera House (Stevie Longstreet in *High Button Shoes*) and appeared in the short film *Ísland* as a blind boy named Thom alongside Ingvar E. Sigurdsson and Alison Pill. He is currently working as an apprentice winemaker on a vineyard outside of Bordeaux, in the south-west of France, while on a sabbatical year before attending Brown University next fall.



## MARLEE ROBERTS - Annabel

Roberts is best known for her roles as Felicity, Kirsten, and Kit in New York's original cast of *The American Girls Revue*. Most recently, she plays alongside Julianne Moore, Greg Kinnear, and Lily Collins in the theatrically-released feature film *The English Teacher*. Roberts is also the current cover model for the character "Rachel" in the relaunch of Scholastic's *Animorphs* book series. TV credits include *One Life to Live* (ABC), *Totally for Teens* (Adult Swim), and *What Would You Do* (ABC). Upon acceptance into NYU Tisch School of the Arts for film and television production, Roberts stepped into filmmaking waters, producing over twenty projects since 2010, including *Justice in D Minor* which premiered at Cannes Film Festival (2013). Roberts is in post-production for her feature-length directorial debut *Little Miss Perfect*. For more info, visit [www.marleeroberts.com](http://www.marleeroberts.com).



## ASHLEY REYES - Daisy

Ashley is a film, theatre and television actor with recurring role as Vicki on Nickelodeon's *Home Court* (2010), *As The World Turns*(2009), *Family Values*(Theresa Gladdings). She was also cast in the final season of *The Osbournes* and appeared on MTV (2007). Film credits include *Clicking with Caution: tnydncr* (2009), *Where God Left His Shoes* (2008). Ashley has also been involved in a number of Regional theatre productions including *Spring Awakening*(Wendla, 2011), *Dora the Explorer Live*, *The Pirate Adventure* (*Dora*, 2010, 2011), *Summer of '42* (*Gloria*, 2009), *Grey Gardens* (*Jackie*, 2009) and the touring production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, (*Scout*, 2008-2010). Ashley was cast as Belle in a staged version of *Beauty & the Beast* that was performed in 2012. She now lives in London and studies at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.



## MARGO COVONE - Tessa



Margo began her career as an actor by making regular appearances on various shows on Nickelodeon, most notably as the voice of Little Bo Peep on *Blue's Clues*. She performed on *Conan O'Brien*, and featured in a number of commercials including *Clorox*, *Zest Soap*, *Disney Cruises*, *Campbells Soup* and *Wendy's*. She is involved in local theater, starring in *Willie Wonka* (2004), *Seussical* (2007), *Oliver* (2009), *Spelling Bee* (2009) and *Working* (2010). Margo continues to study with a variety of acting coaches and is an accomplished singer/guitar player.

## ADAM LeFEVRE - Kimo

Adam LeFevre has performed in over 35 films, and has appeared on numerous television shows and onstage in the theatre since beginning his acting career. He is also a playwright and poet, and holds graduate degrees from both the Iowa Playwrights Workshop and Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. Some of his notable film credits include *You Can Count on Me* (2000), *Heart of Atlantis* (2001), *Fools Gold* (2009) and *She's Out of My League* (2010).



# CREDITS

**Production Company**

BLACK NOTE FILMS

**Written, Directed and Produced by**

STEVE CLARK

**Produced by**

CARLOS VELAZQUEZ

**Co-Producer**

MILAN CHAKRABORTY

**Associate Producers**

ISAAC LEFEVRE

RYAN DEARTH

**Director of Photography**

ADOLFO DORING

**Editor**

MELODY LONDON

**Casting by**

STEPHANIE HOLBROOK, CSA

**Production Designer**

SOPHIE TABET

**Costume Designer**

NIKIA NELSON

**Music by**

TONY MORALES

**Unit Production Manager**

ISAAC LEFEVRE

**1st Assistant Director**

RYAN DEARTH

**Line Producer**

MILAN CHAKRABORTY

## CAST

Luna Nicholas	PILAR LÓPEZ DE AYALA
Oliver Nicholas	SPENCER LIST
Aida	ADRIANA BARRAZA
Valerio	ERIC NELSON
Adriana Nicholas	COURTNEY BAXTER
Nick	TOMMY NELSON
Lila	HEATHER BRAVERMAN
Billy B	EMMET RALM-OAKES
Annabel	MARLEE ROBERTS
Daisy	ASHLEY REYES
Tessa	MARGO COVONNE
Kimo	ADAM LEFEVRE
Dr. Root	GREGG EDELMAN
Mr. Canwell	TERRENCE MONTGOMERY
Lester	TAKEO LEE WONG
Herbert	LEE WILKOF
Mr. Witness	STEVE AXELROD
Young Priest	CARLOS VELAZQUEZ
Mr. Bryan	MIKE LANDRY
Mr. Parseman	JOHN QUILTY
Veronica	SUSAN BAKER
Nurse Lulu	LULU ROCHE
Principal	DAN MASON
Janet	ZEN SEVASTYANOVA
Jack Fable	JAMES LUKENS
Miss Catwick	SAKIA MILLER
Spike	PHOENIX LIST
Tesoro	STEVE CLARK

## CREW

Additional Editors	DANIEL HAHN DANIEL SCHECHTER
Assistant Editor	BEN ABRAMS
2nd Assistant Director	DON MATTHEWS
2nd 2nd Assistant Director	ADAM PIOTROWICZ

Art Director	KEITH GARVEY
Property Master	GEORGIA STOCKWELL
Set Designer	ZEN SVASTYANOVA
Art Decortors	SARA NEWMAN JULIETTE SEYDOUX
Valerio's Original Artwork	ZAN SVASTYANOVA
Luna Nicholas' Artwork	MARGA CLARK
Oliver Nicholas' Artwork	STEVE CLARK
Graffiti Artist	EZO WIPPLER
Consulting Editors	ADOLFO DORING PAVEL RUMINOV
Graphic Designer	EMILY SOBER
Camera A Operator	ADOLFO DORING
Camera B Operator	MATT MITCHELL
1'st Assistant Camera	MICHAEL PATTI
2nd Assistant Cameras	ANTHONY DELEO MATT GARLAND ALEX PURIFOY
D.I.T.	FLEMMIING LAURSEN
Camera Interns	CHRISTOPHER O'CONNELL AMANDA DALY
Script Supervisor	ERIKA SANZ
Productions Sound Mixer	CLAYTON CASTELLANOS
Boom Operator	NATHANIEL WEST
Sound Utility	THOMAS DELUCA ANDREW PETIT
Digital Intermediate by	LIGHT IRON
Digital Intermediate Colorist	SEAN DUNCKLEY
DI Producer	MEGAN MARQUIS
Conform EditorDI Producer	RYAN MCKEAGUE



DI Assist	KEVIN KAIM
Light Iron Management	MICHAEL CIONO PETER CIONI
CTO	CHRIS PEARISO
Administration	DUNA BLUMBERG DANNY KEEFE
For Original "spaz cut"	
Digital Intermediate Colorist	MILAN CONCICH
DI Producer	BEN LAFFIN
Conform Editor	T.J. SEILER
Post Sound Mix	SEAN CANADA
Audio Post Facility	SANDBLAST PRODUCTIONS
Original ADR	MATTHEW POLIS
California ADR	JONATHAN LEALY
Score Produced by	TONY MORALES
Score Editor	DAVID MILNE
Score Recorder and Mixer	WIL HAMPTON
Additional Score Arrangements	JORDAN SEIGEL
Music Editors	MELODY LONDON BEN ABRAMS
Music Consultant	PETER BRADLEY ADAMS
Wardrobe Supervisor	KELLY MCGRATH
Wardrobe Assistant	KAT BLANCHARD CHANDA YOUNG ALEX BARNES AGNES TRAYE INGRID CAMPOS
Gaffer	DAN BOYAR
Best Boy Electric	SAM JONES
Key Grip / Dolly Grip	ADAM LORDI JIM TRIPP
Art Intern	SANNE STASSIJINS
Location Manager	RYAN PIOTROWICZ
Assistant Location Manager	FELIPE A. DIEPPA

Hair and Make-up  
Department Head  
Additional Make-up

MIA BAUMAN  
KATHLEEN JOHNSON  
JAMMIE GLENN  
JUSTYNA AUGUSTYNSKA  
LAUREN DUROJAIYE  
MONICA SERVA  
CHRISTINA DREVIS  
MARISSA BATI

Stunt Coordinator

ZACH ROBERTS

Production Coordinator  
Assistant Office Coordinator  
Office Production Assistants

CHRISTOPHER PEJOVICH  
REBECCA BROWN  
NONA SCHAMUS  
LOUISA WARD

Key Production Assistant  
Set Production Assistants

ALEX TAYLOR  
PHIL SALVAGGIONE  
IAN SAMPLIN  
MICHAEL TAYLOR  
PETE HOLEVAS  
JOE ROBERMAN

Editor Assistant  
Set Intern

JOHN LAWLOR  
JEF ROSANO

Production Accountant  
Payroll Accountant

MILAN CHAKRABORTY  
INDEPENDENT FILM PRODUCTION  
CONSULTANTS, INC.  
CHS BUSINESS CONSULTANTS, INC.

Business Management

CAROLYN SPECHT  
JANE FELIX

Music Clearances

STEVE GORDON, ESQ.

Visual FX

LIGHT IRON  
UVPFACTORY  
SVEINN INGIMUNDARSON

Catering Provided by

ANDY TINEO

On Set Tutors

JOHN RUSSO  
MERLY FINGER

## SONGS

"LET'S DANCE"  
written and performed by DAVID  
BOWIE  
courtesy of RZO MUSIC

"WOLVES"  
written, performed and produced by  
PETER BRADLEY ADAMS  
and CAITLIN CANTY

"LA ESCULTRA"  
and "MADRESELVA"  
written and performed by MAYA SOLOVEY  
produced by BASSY BOB BOCKMANN  
and MAYA SOLOVEY  
courtesy of WOMB ROOM MUSIC

## SBIFF Review: Tragicomic 'Night Has Settled' Confronts Icky Adolescence Head-On

BY RYAN LATTANZIO

FESTIVAL FEBRUARY 3, 2014 11:47 AM

0 COMMENTS

Like 300



'Night Has Settled'

Oliver is the baby of the family. But you wouldn't know it from the way the thirteen-year-old boy smokes, drinks and wisecracks his way through Steve Clark's visually assured sophomore feature "Night Has Settled," which world-premiered this weekend at the Santa Barbara Film Festival.

Set in 1983 New York, the indie drama sits somewhere between the films of Larry Clark and the novels of Jonathan Safran Foer on the scale of adolescent coming-of-age ickiness. It's uncomfortable yet tender, droll yet tragic, and often at the same time.

In a cramped flat, Oliver (Spencer List) lives with his single mom Luna (Pilar Lopez de Ayala), his older sister (Courtney Baxter) and live-in nanny Aida (Adriana Barraza, Oscar-nominated for playing another nanny in "Babel"). Oliver rolls with a rough crowd of smoking, drinking, oversexed kids well into their teens. His Bohemian artist mother isn't around much and when she is, they share frank discussions of sex and relationships that are, at first, startling. Hopelessly attached to Aida, he regards her as his true mother while keeping Luna at a distance, addressing her by her first name.

After Aida suffers a stroke, which writer/director Clark foreshadows, Oliver slips into a fugue state of more drinking, more drugs, more sex and more acting out. It's hard to watch him tumble through life, but young List carries the role bravely, embodying all the fury, confusion and quixotism of being 13. (Think Owen Kline's early bloomer in "The Squid and the Whale," another dysfunctional New York family film that comes to mind here.)

Where "Night Has Settled" succeeds best is in the language, the left-unsaid and what-might-have-beens between characters, and in the disquieting textures of a too-close mother/son relationship. Clark, with a background in literature as a former editor of *The Paris Review*, never overwrites the film's most emotional scenes, even if he overplays them via slow-motion montage and a portentous score.

Well-acted and evocative of early-1980s New York, "Night Has Settled" should enjoy a healthy life on the festival circuit, and with enough word-of-mouth and known quantity Barraza, could find an openminded audience. It is seeking distribution.

>>SBIFF 2014 >>Filmmaker Interviews



Night Has Settled

Courtesy Photo

## Night Has Settled

Director Steve Clark

Wednesday, January 29, 2014  
 by MATT KETTMANN (CONTACT)

This narrative look at the sex-, booze-, and drug-filled lives of kids raised in early 1980s New York City is touching, if at times disturbing, in its portrayal of a lost generation raised by nannies and hooked on activities that shouldn't be explored until later in life.

### How much is this story from your personal life?

Most of it is from my personal experiences growing up in the 1980s in New York City. I wrote the first version of the script 10 years ago and set it aside until a couple years ago when I tossed the first draft, and rewrote it from scratch.

### More specifically, did you have a Chilean nanny, an imaginary friend, a permissive mom, or steal coke from your brother while growing up?

I had a Chilean housekeeper named Aida who was a very important maternal figure for me, and a mother who was more friend/confidante than maternal figure. My best friend in eighth grade, a talented artist/writer, had an imaginary friend who was always up to things, like spray-painting trains upside down or seducing unsuspecting pre-school teachers in chapel, etc. This same friend also managed to steal some coke from his older brother when he was 13 or so, which he showed to me in school. So yes, it's quite autobiographical.

### How much do you think this situation, where the hired help is really raising the kids, happens in New York, or America at large? Is that a good thing?

I'm sure it's not rare, and I have no judgment as to whether it's good or bad. Like in any situation, it depends on the individuals.

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### For being relatively young, the actors are very powerful. Did that come naturally for them, or was it a challenge to tease out these strong performances?

I was lucky to have two weeks of rehearsal with the young actors. Though they were all extremely talented and natural, they had to handle some intense material, so I was happy to have some time to acclimate them to that precocious-coming-of-age-very-New-York-1980s world. Some needed less coaxing than others!

During the shoot, Spencer (Oliver) was 13, the same age as the character he was portraying so that was exciting — to watch him grow up on-and-off camera simultaneously. I was impressed he was able to portray/embody feelings and experiences that were perhaps beyond his 13 years. After the shoot — and exposing Spencer to beer guzzling, unsnapping bras, three-way kisses, drugs, etc. — I was very happy when his father (who was a marvelous/comforting force on set) sent me a picture of Spencer goofing around in an amusement park eating cotton candy, saying, "I have my kid back!"

### The film is somewhat risqué, in that it deals with sexual topics as discussed by teenagers. Was anyone apprehensive about that, or do you get any backlash because of that?

No backlash — or, rather, not yet. I think it's an authentic portrayal of my experiences growing up in NYC in the 1980s. It might be different now, it might not. I do know that some of the young actors were excited about the script precisely for the way the kids spoke and behaved. Apparently it seemed true to them. It's interesting — I asked a friend who grew up with me in NYC (and has kids that age who are growing up there now) if he thinks his children are doing what we did. My friend looked at me horrified, "No way!" I thought, "Really?" Maybe we rewrite our past when we become parents.

### Do you think that more films should directly address this critical period of our lives?

I don't think films should do anything except come from an authentic place from the filmmakers. Not meaning autobiographical but just true. Whatever their subject/genre may be. When people start making films because they "should" or to fill gaps in certain perceived cultural lacunae, the audience is going to roll over and snore because it will be fake. Also, what a drag for the filmmaker. For me, films should at least come from an authentic place and strive to find a human truth within those parameters — whether it be cartoon or abstract art film — they wish to explore.

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## Night Has Settled (2014) Movie Synopsis, Plot and Review

**Synopsis:** This is the coming-of-age tale of a 13-years-old troubled boy whose life centers around shoplifting, booze, sex and angst. This is a true description of 1980's era of New York.

**Movie Plot/Story:** Oliver (Spencer List) is a 13-years-old boy who has an estranged father, a permissive mother Luna (Pilar Lopez de Ayala), an older sister (Courtney Baxter) and a Chilean sit-in Nanny Aida (Adriana Barraza) whom he loves the most. His mother is a Bohemian artist and a free-spirited woman. Oliver keeps her at a distance and loves Aida more than her mother. However their relations are not tense. They both talk frankly even about sex-related issues.

He addresses his mom with her first name and for him Aida is a respectable motherly figure. He is an imprisoned-in-himself sort of boy and his life revolves around, drinking, sex, shoplifting and anger. He has a friend who has befriended a mysterious imaginary entity who is capable of doing everything. Oliver's life goes more miserable when Aida suffers a stroke and goes to a hospital where she has little chances of returning to life. Depressed boy involves himself in more booze, sex, partying and drugs. The already dysfunctional family scatters more rapidly.

**Review:** The movie is about the problems of teenage in 1983 New York and depicts a rational picture of the age. The young actors have performed brilliantly. This is an emotional drama and there are many tense situations where even a professional actor would falter, but Spencer List has accomplished the task quite superbly. There are frank discussions about sex between Oliver and his mother which irritate sometimes. Also this looks a bit weird to watch a 13 years old boy involved in sex or masterbations. It would have been better to hint at these activities that would have conveyed the message. Still this is a very well written and directed indie film that should be loved by the viewers.

### Cast & Crew

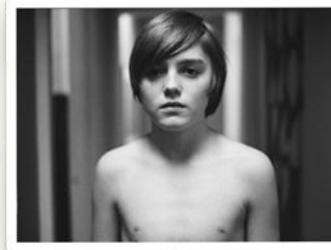
**Director:** Steve Clark

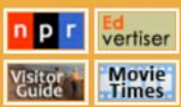
**Writer :** Steve Clark

**Stars:** Spencer List, Pilar López de Ayala, Adriana Barraza

**Genres:** Drama

**Release Date:** February 2014





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**Night Has Settled**  
updated: Jan 31, 2014, 9:00 AM

By the Dedicated Staff of edhat.com



(Photo Courtesy of Indie PR)

Night Has Settled is a coming of age story. The cast of characters includes a 13-year old boy, his artistic, loving, but free-spirited mom, his self-absorbed angry older teenaged sister, and their beloved elderly Chilean housekeeper. As is expected with coming of age stories, there is angst, alcohol, some coke and petty shoplifting, masturbation and sex. There is trouble between the mom and the sister, but we don't know why. There is an estranged father. There is a creative best friend who is struggling. There is some symbolism. It's all in there. And it's a little implausible.

That said, while sometimes stories of adolescence can be harsh and uncomfortable, Night Has Settled is not unpleasant to watch and it is kind. Best summed up by the final line of the poem from which the film takes its name, "no one was ever hurt by being loved too much". SF

Re-Elect **Janet Wolf**  
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The Winehound

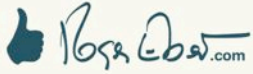


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Roger Ebert became film critic of the Chicago Sun-Times in 1967. He is the only film critic with a star on Hollywood Walk of Fame and was



## THE SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2014: NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT

by Anath White February 21, 2014 | 1

"Night Has Settled" (Steve Clark, writer/director), set in NYC in 1983, is about a precocious 13-year-old boy named Oliver, living in Manhattan with his divorced mom, teenaged sister and Chilean nanny, and apparently based on Clark's own experiences. The cast is first rate, especially Spencer List in the lead; the cinematography and production design are stellar. For me, the script is a little thin, relying too much on the look of the picture; I needed more story. But there's enough to make me interested in what Clark does next.

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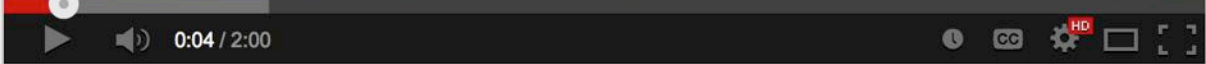
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Published on Feb 8, 2014

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