



FILM MOVEMENT®

presents

# MEN GO TO BATTLE

Written by Zachary Treitz & Kate Lyn Sheil

Directed by Zachary Treitz

“An instant classic Western.” – Richard Brody, *The New Yorker*



**USA / 2015 / Drama / English**  
**98 min / 1.66:1 / Dolby 5.1**

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## Select Press for *Men Go to Battle*

“This is no ordinary historical drama. Zachary Treitz's quiet, candle-lit directorial debut about a pair of ignorant, awkward and illiterate brothers strips the period film bare.” – Jack Coyle, **AP**

“Treitz persuasively and passionately re-creates a grand panorama on an intimate scale...[he] captures rugged country life at a muscular level. The actors' terse wit, chewy accents, and impulsive gestures suggest great physical force as well as equally great cultural constraints, ambient violence and a fear of God. The production designer, Jacob Heustis, is the film's virtual co-author; the clothing and the furnishings have the aura of simple authenticity, which is reinforced by the cinematographer Brett Jutkiewicz's agile impressionism, illuminated by streaky sunlight, flickering bonfires, and dim lanterns.” – Richard Brody, **The New Yorker**

“*Men Go to Battle* takes us back into the everyday lives of such a troubled time period without feeling heavy-handed or manipulative.” – Meredith Alloway, **Paste**

“A darkly comedic but historically accurate look at two brothers whose escalating pranks are interrupted by the Civil War.” – Jeremy Kay, **Screen Daily**

“At once a witty comedy about arrested development and a deeper rumination on individual experiences during wartime, *Men Go to Battle* is an effective period piece with a contemporary soul.” – Eric Kohn, **Indiewire**

“An emerging talent working in a genre that would scare away most first-timers.” – John DeFore, **The Hollywood Reporter**

“A triumph of resourcefulness.” – David Ehrlich, **Time Out New York**

“*Men Go To Battle* is one of the most quietly convincing period pictures imaginable, a Civil War-set drama that feels uncannily like something captured in the 1860s. Because this small-scale film feels so realistic, it feels epic, from its glimpses of battles to quiet scenes indoors, all of which seem entirely filmed with natural lighting.” – Ryan Vlastelica, **The L Magazine**

“Bringing an independent, DIY approach to period piece filmmaking—a formidable undertaking for any first time feature director—with the help of Sheil and cinematographer Brett Jutkiewicz, Treitz has crafted an inspired and accomplished debut.” – Hillary Weston, **Blackbook**

“There is a gracefulness in the all-encompassing way Treitz, [Kate Lyn] Sheil, and cinematographer Brett Jutkiewicz approach the time period....The film succeeds on both a technical and artistic level...a quietly resonant cinematic experience.” – Nikola Grozdanovic, **The Playlist**

# Full Synopsis

While most Americans predict that the Civil War will end by Christmas, Henry (Tim Morton) and Francis Mellon (David Maloney) are more concerned about braving another winter on their struggling rural Kentucky farm. The brothers have become suffocatingly close. Francis' practical jokes have become more and more aggressive until the night he accidentally injures Henry in a drunken fight. Then, after humiliating himself in front of a daughter (Rachel Korine) of the town's preeminent family, Henry disappears in the night. Only months later does Francis learn that Henry has joined the Union army, and the two are left to find out separately what the approaching war will bring.

# Short Synopsis

Bracing for another winter on their struggling farm in rural Kentucky, brothers Henry and Francis have become suffocatingly close. When a rift forms between them, they are left to find out separately what the approaching Civil War will bring.

# Logline

A historical epic of intimate proportions, *Men Go to Battle* is a tale of fraternal dysfunction amid the backdrop of the Civil War.

# Assets

Trailer: TBD

\*Teaser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFfDespOOjA>

Downloadable hi-res images:

<http://www.filmmovement.com/libraries/index.asp?MerchandiseID=462>

# Credits

## CAST

Henry  
Francis  
Betsy Small  
Josephine Small  
Mr. Small  
Rachel  
Warren Clubb

Tim Morton  
David Maloney  
Rachel Korine  
Kate Lyn Sheil  
Steve Coulter  
Emily McDonnell  
Morgan Raque

## CREW

Director  
Screenwriters  
Producer  
Co-Producers  
Executive Producers  
  
Co-Executive Producer  
Director of Photography  
Editor  
Script Supervisor  
Production Designer

Zachary Treitz  
Kate Lyn Sheil, Zachary Treitz  
Steven Schardt  
Kate Lyn Sheil, Duncan Salot, Brendan McHugh  
Jamie McDonald, Trey Beck, Nancy Black,  
Dashiell Gantner, Vallejo Gantner  
David Nakayama  
Brett Jutkiewicz  
Zachary Treitz  
Gordon Bell  
Jacob Heustis



# Story Origins

“The project first started as a family story about a part of my family's history in Kentucky. These people had come from South Carolina in the early 1800s and started a farm, which grew into a town and then became a prosperous area of rural Kentucky. But it was middle-class prosperity—it wasn't *Gone with the Wind*. During the Civil War, so the story went, they were decimated. They had a lot of trading ties with the then North but they sided with the South. This was the beginning of my story—we wanted to find out what was true and what was apocryphal. Kate and I started to do research in various public and private archives in the South; there's an especially good one in Louisville, where I'm from, and then we got lost in these Civil War-era diaries and letters that weren't from my family directly, but from other families—unpublished, first-hand accounts from the 1850s and '60s.” – *Zachary Treitz*

## Bios

### **Zachary Treitz**, Writer & Director

Treitz was born in Louisville, Kentucky. He produced *The Pleasure of Being Robbed* (Cannes 2008) and co-produced *Daddy Longlegs* (Cannes 2009, Sundance 2010). He wrote and directed the award-winning short “We're Leaving” (Sundance 2011). *Men Go to Battle* is the first feature he has directed.



*Zachary Treitz and Kate Lyn Sheil*

### **Kate Lyn Sheil**, Writer & Co-Producer

Sheil has acted in a number of independent films including Sophia Takal's *Green* (SXSW 2011), Joe Swanberg's *Silver Bullets* (SXSW 2011), Alex Ross Perry's *The Color Wheel*, Rick Alverson's *The Comedy* (Sundance 2012), Adam Wingard's *You're Next* (Toronto 2011), the horror anthology *V/H/S* (Sundance 2012), Bob Byington's *Somebody Up There Likes Me* (Locarno 2012), and Amy Seimetz's *Sun Don't Shine* (Edinburgh 2012) and Ty West's *The Sacrament* (Venice 2013). She has appeared most recently in Netflix's “House of Cards,” and will appear in the forthcoming Starz series “The Girlfriend Experience” and “Outcast,” a new Cinemax series by the creators of “The Walking Dead.” *Men Go to Battle* is her first feature-length screenplay.

**Steven Schardt (Producer)** is an independent producer whose credits include *Humpday* (Sundance 2009, Cannes Directors' Fortnight 2009), *The Oregonian* (Sundance 2011), *Your Sister's Sister* (Toronto 2011, Sundance 2012), and *Touchy Feely* (Sundance 2013). He also served as editor on Josephine Decker's *Thou Wast Mild and Lovely* (Berlinale, 2014), and wrote and directed the short film *Cavalier* (SXSW 2013). Steven, a native Kentuckian, lives in Louisville.

**Brett Jutkiewicz (Director of Photography)** is a New York City-based director of photography whose feature film credits include *The Pleasure of Being Robbed* (Cannes 2008), *Daddy Longlegs* (Cannes 2009, Sundance 2010), *Lily* (Tribeca 2013), and *Towheads* (New Directors/New Films 2013). Brett's other cinematography work includes over a dozen short films as well as features, music videos and commercials.

**Tim Morton** (“Henry”) is a Louisville, KY native, filmmaker, actor, shape-note singer, old-time musician and park worker. He is a self-proclaimed graduate of the un-accredited MeDiA Co-Op in Memphis, TN. Early on Timothy co-created several DIY films with collaborators like Kentucker Audley, Lena Dunham, Greta Gerwig, and Joe Swanberg. He has since premiered in a leading role at SXSW for *Pilgrim Song* and within an ensemble cast of music greats Aimee Mann, John Doe, and Loudon Wainwright III in *Pleased to Meet Me*.

**David Maloney** (“Francis”) has appeared in *We’re Leaving* and Kentucker Audley’s *Holy Land*. He works at a horse farm in Virginia.

**Rachel Korine** (“Betsy Small”) has appeared in Harmony Korine’s *Mister Lonely* (Toronto 2007), *Trash Humpers* (Toronto 2009), and *Spring Breakers* (Venice 2012). Most recently she has appeared in the Steven Soderbergh series *The Knick*.



## Awards & Selected Festivals

2015 Tribeca Film Festival – World Narrative Competition (World Premiere)  
2015 Tribeca Film Festival - Winner, Best New Director: Zachary Treitz  
2015 Nantucket Film Festival  
2015 Rooftop Film Festival  
2015 Vancouver International Film Festival  
2015 Denver Film Festival  
2015 AFI Fest  
2015 Virginia Film Festival

## About Film Movement

Launched in 2002, Film Movement is a full-service North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films, based in New York City. Film Movement has released more than 250 feature films and shorts from 50 countries on six continents, including top prize winners from Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, Tribeca and other prestigious festivals. Film Movement releases its films through numerous distribution channels, including thousands of art-house cinemas, universities and libraries; home video; television outlets; Cable Video on Demand; In-flight Entertainment; and broadband outlets. For more information, please visit [www.filmmovement.com](http://www.filmmovement.com).