

Celebration Day

"THE FOLLOWING IS BASED ON A TRUE STORY...
ONLY THE NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED... TO PROTECT THE GUILTY."

-**BON SCOTT** (ACDC)

True to the film's setting, Principal Photography for *Celebration Day* is set in suburban Houston, TX. The backdrop (Buffalo Bayou) and central locale (House of Debauchery) are key elements in transporting the audience back to the early 1990's, anti-everything, Grunge Era.

Grayson Berry has been Writing, Directing, and Producing Passion-Projects with the help of his phenomenal crew for over 10 years. Their resume includes genres ranging from Horror and Medieval Fantasy to gritty Westerns and Indy Comedies.

The group is currently acquiring Distribution for their latest feature, *Vortex: A Film Anthology* – in the vein of *Black Mirror* and *The Twilight Zone*.

Celebration Day Synopsis:

Dazed and Confused meets *American Beauty*, *Celebration Day* is a dark comedy that follows a tight-knit group of early 1990's teens as they navigate: an LSD trip gone horribly wrong, small-time law enforcement, nosy neighbors, and a predator (alligator) in their own backyard – while simultaneously delivering an epic keg party and deceiving their respective parental units.

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Why Celebration Day?

The colorful characters in *Celebration Day* (all based on actual people), like many other Gen X'ers, experienced first-hand what could very well be the last truly glorious and free, albeit destructive, era in adolescent American history. Pre-Internet. Pre-Cell Phone. Soundgarden, Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Alice In Chains were our Religion and the message was clear: 'Everything and everyone is bullshit until proven otherwise.'

Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant once famously said, "...that may have been America's Punk Rock era." Similar to the one that swept Britain a few decades earlier.

This particular story needs telling to remind us:

1. We are truly the sum of our experiences, no matter how traumatic, and we need to embrace the dysfunction that made us who we are.
2. We could all use a little rebellion back in our lives, especially during this homogenized, 24-hour-news cycle, follow-the-leader day and age.

KEY CHARACTERS:

BRADEN BOYD (Reluctant Hero): 18, 5'8, reluctantly handsome, long blonde hair, our host for the day/evening. BRADEN'S parents have unwittingly left him in charge while they depart for a family ski trip. BRADEN loves two things: his best friends and his girlfriend, Sarah. Conflicted with decisions about college, and the more immediate crisis of his next-door-neighbor from hell, and friend's LSD overdose, BRADEN is both the chronicler and participant in the night to end all nights.

CHARLIE BUNKER (The Everyman): 18, 6'1, good-looking, and the most adult-looking of our core group. CHARLIE went through puberty at 12 years old, and is the designated beer buyer, when duty calls. CHARLIE is tasked with consummating a marijuana deal in a shady part of town, before our party begins, under the influence of a healthy dose of LSD.

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KEY CHARACTERS (cont.):

ANDRE BARCHUS (The Jester): 18, 6'0, lanky and wild-eyed, ANDRE is the friend that accepts any and all dares. In this instance, ANDRE decides to take the better part of a sheet of LSD, or close to 100 tabs. Unfortunately, the rest of the group is also on LSD, so the assistance he receives is unorthodox to say the least. Ironically, ANDRE ends up picking up the phone and talking with BRADEN'S mom, who gives him what amounts to free therapy, and, in return, ANDRE does his best to report the evening's events.

MASAKAZU YOSHI (The Explorer): 18, 5'6, jet black long hair, lean. MASA, as he's affectionately known, is the first to find ANDRE on the heels of his overdose. A loyal wingman and risk-taker, MASA later finds himself an unwilling participant in a "gator hunt" and must find his way back to the gang.

JASON DEVLIN (The Realist): 18, 5'10, long brown hair, lean and strong. JASON provides the transportation for much of the film via his 1990 Toyota Celica. JASON is BRADEN'S closest friend, though they never verbalize it. If there is a "steadying" influence among the LSD-impaired group, JASON would fit the bill.

HAROLD DAVIS (The Villain): 47, 5'10, stocky and uptight. The next-door-neighbor-from-hell, HAROLD has an on-going hatred of BRADEN, his friends, and their entire way of life. Likewise, HAROLD is raising a couple of young boys, and feels BRADEN and his pals set the worst example imaginable. HAROLD goes to great lengths to shut down BRADEN and co's shindig (including the installation of an overly sensitive motion detector).

SARAH LANGDON (The Lover): 19, 5'7, beautiful brunette. SARAH is in an intense adolescent love affair with BRADEN. Currently separated, she and her friends find themselves at BRADEN'S party, setting the stage for an epic showdown. It's easy to confuse SARAH as the "psycho ex-girlfriend", but the truth is that they are madly in love, and just don't know how to handle it. They say there's nothing like that first love? Well, this is it.

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Note From The Producer: Thomas Ryan Ward

" **CELEBRATION DAY** IS TRULY AN INSTANT CULT CLASSIC!"

It's often said that trauma plus time equals comedy. *Dazed and Confused*, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *American Graffiti*, *Detroit Rock City*, *American Pie*...the list of great coming-of-age dramedies goes on. But there's one major difference that sets *Celebration Day* apart– it all actually happened–and without the gloss and convenience of the aforementioned.

Think of it as free therapy without the cost. Experience the electricity of your first love, the undeniable feelings of loyalty to your tribe, your first (or last) LSD trip, your first fist fight, and your first (or last) police run-in...from a safe distance.

Celebration Day Scene Sample:

EXT. BOYD'S DOCK - NIGHT

NIKO, MASA, and CHARLIE finish the last of a joint.

Beyond them, a smallish horseshoe LAKE, surrounded by woods.

An inflatable POOL raft, plastic OAR, tackle box, fishing rod, and SLEDGE HAMMER, nearby.

CHARLIE
(exhaling)

This is a terrible idea.

NIKO readies the raft, preparing the launch.

MASA

Is this Braden's pool raft?

No reaction.

MASA (CONT.)

We're going to catch an alligator in a plastic pool raft?

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Celebration Day Scene Sample (cont.):

NIKO

We're gonna knock it out first.
Jesus!?

MASA

Uh-huh.

Alternating AERIAL view- DRONE

NIKO PADDLES the group to the middle of the LAKE.

FROM across the shore, we spot NIKO'S SPELUNKING headlight.

NIKO secures the oar, and the group FLOATS silently ahead.

After several awkward beats.

CHARLIE

(loudly)

What now!?

NIKO

Shhhhhh....

The headlight scans the shoreline.

A SPLASH startles the group---just a BULLFROG.

INT. NEIGHBOR HERBERT JOHANSEN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

HERBERT, our Alligator-loving NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC neighbor, and possible owner of said predator, looks on. WHAT'S THIS???

HERBERT looks around for a phone book.

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Celebration Day: Visual Feel

We will shoot this in 2:35:1 using Anamorphic Prime Lenses to feature all the vivid imagery of our tale. Soft Reds and Greens for our more rural landscapes and exteriors. Orange and Blue will be used to contrast our central character conflicts. Discordant colors to shift focus—for Example: from Police, to our heroes, neighbors, and parents.

Framing will be specific, and run the gamut, always against a light source: from super tights, to long shots, and cowboys, to accentuate a characters' power.

The Camera will be an active participant for each protagonist. From POV, to slider-establishing shots, *Celebration Day's* cinematic feel will stay with our audience long after closing credits.

Celebration Day: Visuals



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A few words from the Director, Grayson Berry

"THIS STORY IS 27 YEARS IN THE MAKING."

What I refer to as my "Dark Period" has become more informative and colorful as years have passed. A coming-of-age comedy at its core, *Celebration Day* is really a tale of forgiveness. The audience gets a front row ticket to our adolescent angst—devoid of real-world responsibilities and left to our own devices, these stories have to be seen to be believed.

Seeing the "face of God" as a teen while on large doses of LSD may not have been the best mental health regimen, but it was the one we chose...and had I not been the agent in this reality, I wouldn't have believed it myself.

About Grayson Berry Productions:

GBP specializes in the creation and development of Passion Projects

We have several outstanding projects currently under our umbrella for investment development and distribution.

Everyone deserves to have their music heard.

Contact us at: contact@graysonberryproductions.com