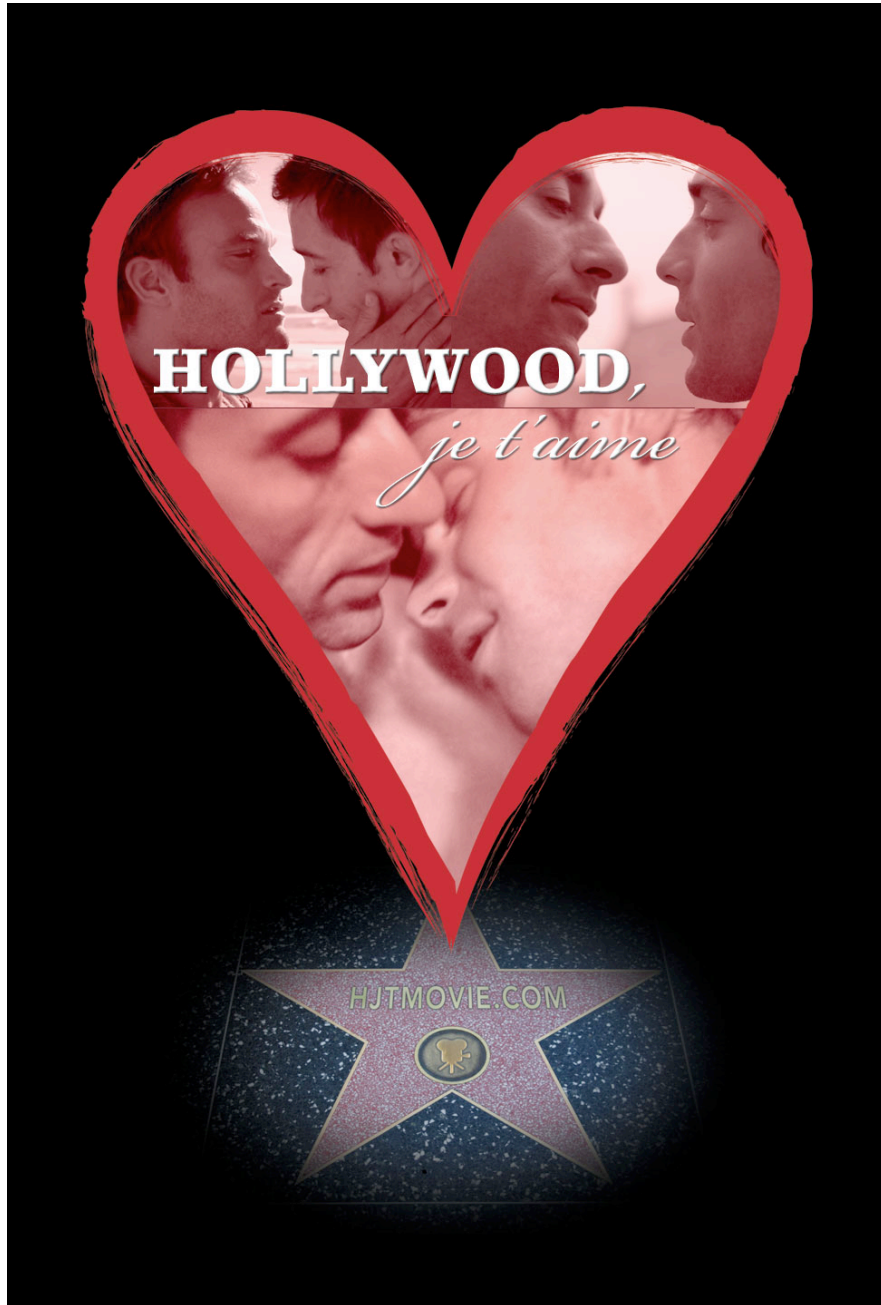


HOLLYWOOD, *je t'aime*



Directed by Jason Bushman
Produced by Charles Herman-Wurmfeld

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Recently broken up and barely enduring a dreary winter, gay Parisian Jerome Beaunez impulsively books a solo Christmas vacation to Los Angeles. While there he meets some colorful locals and pursues a dormant desire to become a movie star - but never can quite put the past behind him. In this meditation on love and narcissism across continents, Jerome goes far in the sun-drenched City of Angels but ultimately arrives at an old Hollywood maxim: there's no place like home. Bright, funny, honest and utterly charming, *Hollywood, je t'aime* is a stunning debut for Jason Bushman. Bushman wrote the lead role for his friend Eric who had always talked of acting but worked in an office job in Paris where Jason spends half the year writing. Eric shines in his own debut as Jerome. His classic look and an amusing ease with his own awkwardness are evocative of Buster Keaton and Marcel Marceau.

HOLLYWOOD, *je t'aime*

Los Angeles Film Festival 2009. Frameline33.
Outfest 2009. Philadelphia 2009.

Biting Hollywood satire meets a melancholy search for love and acceptance in this sweet and surprising fish-out-of-water film. The story begins in Paris, where our hero Jerome (Eric Debets) is down in the dumps. His ex-boyfriend is sucking face with a new hunk, and Jerome needs to escape from reality. Next stop? The City of Angels.

Before you can say Tinseltown Tourist three times fast, Jerome is checking into a seedy motel and surrounded by a colorful cast of Hollywood misfits. Within his first 24 hours, the friendly French visitor meets a cute stoner at the beach, discovers the meditative effects of a long LA bus ride and shacks up with a transtastic old soul. Of course, before long, the magical lure of fame and fortune becomes too much as Jerome auditions for a music video and a pizza commercial, resulting in some of the funniest satire of low-level show business ever put on film. As Jerome strives to forget his lover back home, he searches for new experiences and connections on the strange, colorful streets of Los Angeles. Fueled by fantastic performances by Debets and gay icon Chad Allen, a profound appreciation of showbiz absurdity and big-hearted charm at every turn, *Hollywood je t'aime* is delightfully funny, hugely entertaining and unlike anything you've ever seen.

— BRENDAN PETERSON
FRAMELINE 33

FULL SYNOPSIS

Recently broken up with his boyfriend and barely enduring a dreary winter, Parisian heartthrob Jerome Beaunez impulsively books a solo Christmas vacation to Los Angeles. He's never been to LA before, and he may have more than just sunshine motivating his trip.

Jerome lands in the touristy underbelly of Hollywood, and very soon thereafter becomes disillusioned. Public transit sucks, his hostel is a dump; and, instead of getting laid, he can't stop thinking about his ex, Gilles.

Jerome perseveres, however, and while shivering at the beach meets a hot marijuana dealer named Ross. They bond instantly, and Jerome reveals to Ross his secret desire to become a movie star. Even though Ross is very much a realist on the subject, he offers to introduce Jerome to one of his clients, a commercial agent. Jerome digs Ross but doesn't stay with him, electing instead to walk back to his hostel from West Hollywood.

And on the way he encounters Kaleesha: beautiful, black, trans – and working the Boulevard for tricks. Through her he meets Norma, a jaded middle-aged drag queen who just happens to have her own place in Silverlake. Considering the late hour, his jet lag, and his being kicked out of his hellhole of a hostel, he accepts Norma's offer to stay there.

The room comes with demons, of course, and Norma's house turns out to be both a haven and a project for Jerome. From here he can feel safe again, in the company of two queens he otherwise wouldn't befriend. From here he can concentrate on his acting career and try to stop dreaming about Gilles – and Gilles' new fuckbuddy Henri – back in Paris.

Jerome learns some tricks to LA's bus system, meets Ross' friend the commercial agent, and tackles his first audition – a nightmare scenario where he must dance like a clown before camera and be straddled by a young actress using his leg as a strip pole. Moving on, this time with the gender of his choice, he meets a hot actor/waiter at an otherwise disappointing bathhouse.

Jerome bonds with Norma and Kaleesha over Christmas dinner, is gifted some of Ross' best bud, and even embarks on a rehabilitation project of his makeshift bedroom. Another audition comes around, this time directly to callback; and Jerome finds himself again having to put his homo desire into a hetero context, this time for the purpose of selling microwave pizza.

And, to everyone's surprise, he gets the gig. Complications ensue, in that he's not exactly legal to work in the States; but Jerome figures out how to swing it and contemplates a permanent move to LA and all that would entail. He takes an under-the-table busboy position at a French restaurant and discovers life on a commercial set is a lot less glamorous than he expected. With the ghost of Gilles still showing up in the most unlikely of places, he finally surrenders his fantasy and uses his return ticket to Paris after all. But not before he says goodbye to all the new friends he made in the City of Angels. He couldn't have had a more successful go of it, but still he chooses to go. Something must be waiting for him – a new year is coming and the enigmatic Gilles is still there – in Paris.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Yesterday, reinforcing an illegal trample of human rights, the U.S. supreme court upheld prop 8. Although I am righteously furious, along with all my separated and unequal peers, I sigh today with despair and redouble my efforts to respond with art.

Gay, lesbian and trans people must now more than ever tell what we know. For this clarity of vision (and gentle reminder) I have Jason Bushman to thank. His work on HJT - and all the scripts he's written to date - has reminded me that our broken world needs queer stories to be acknowledged, in order to heal and transform.

I've been reminded not to capitulate to conformity or to doom and gloom in pursuing my own artistic path. I have remembered that my mission has always been, and is now more than ever, to deliver these queer, radical stories to the screen. I use the word radical to mean inciting fundamental change that comes from the root.

Mark Gil has recently told us our business is in crisis and that we ought to all pack it up and go home; and for those seeking fortune or stardom, as HJT's Norma Desire warns, this may be sage advice. But hearing such talk, I had to take pause and consider why I was making movies?

First off, I had to acknowledge Mark was correct in his analysis that the whole system was tanking – not just conventional Hollywood but conventional America too, it seemed.

Facing a culture not only bankrupt, but which didn't respect the basic tenants of who and what I am, I got onboard with Jason's vision for Hollywood je t'aime – unapologetic, confrontational, dedicated first to queer people at this vulnerable and exposed moment.

Hollywood je t'aime is the first film in a series of projects we are intending: Honest gay stories to serve as radical response to the

oppression of homophobia, homo-sex phobia, and the general drumbeat of conformity & religious fundamentalism worldwide.

I have trained myself to listen with equanimity to the hatred behind prop 8 or the doom and gloom behind an ominous letter to a dying industry – even if movie going was up 14 percent last year. Certainly somewhere, it's true, the sky is always falling.

But producing this movie is a re-declaration of creative independence; a response to oppression with art; a perception of ourselves as gentle storyteller anecdote to a fucked up world; & a strike against innate narcissism.

We will keep making queer movies that take on the status quo.

Hollywood, je t'aime.

— Charles Herman-Wurmfeld
Los Angeles, California

THE FILMMAKERS

Jason Bushman (Writer/Director)

Writer/Director Jason Bushman makes his feature directing debut with *Hollywood je t'aime*. Hailing from the un-homo-friendly deserts of West Texas, Jason has dedicated his work to telling out, queer stories. He is a committed meditator and yogi, combining his personal practice with part time residency in Paris and Los Angeles.

Charlie Herman-Wurmfeld (Producer)

Producer Charles Herman-Wurmfeld hails from New York City. Charles has directed a wide array of theater, documentaries, and narrative films, including *Kissing Jessica Stein*, *Legally Blonde 2*, and *The Hammer*. *Hollywood, je t'aime* is his first producerial role since his 1995 queer directorial debut, *Fanci's Persuasion*.

Phillip J. Bartel (Editor)

Hollywood, je t'aime editor Phillip J. Bartell has worked with a number of established directors, serving as additional editor on *In Her Shoes*, *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, and *Welcome to Collinwood*. He has also edited Robert Cary's *Ira & Abby* and *Save Me, Q*, Allan Brocka's *Boy Culture*, Patrik Ian Polk's TV series *Noah's Arc*, *Say Hello To Stan Talmadge*, and 2008's *Noah's Arc: Jumping the Broom*. Bartell has also directed a feature, *Eating Out 2: Sloppy Seconds*, and two short films, *Crush* and *L.T.R.*, both featured in the theatrically released shorts collections *Boys to Men* and *Boys Life 4*.

Michael Fitzgerald (Production Designer)

Michael Fitzgerald has a background in narrative design starting early in theater in Santa Cruz (Cabrillo Stage & SSC) and leading him to Los Angeles for a degree from UCLA's School of Theater, Film and TV. His list of credits include *NIC & TRISTAN*, *HAPPINESS RUNS*, *I AM BAD* and *WEATHER GIRL*. Current

projects include *A MARINE'S TALE*, *FOUR FACED LIAR*, Aldo Velasco's *TENT CITY*, and Wade Gasque's *HALF TRUTH*.

Timo Chen (Music Composer)

Composer, Music Producer, Songwriter, and Multi-Instrumentalist Timo Chen began studying piano at the age of 5 at the Coburn School of Performing Arts. He studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and upon graduation began playing in top-40 bands across Asia. In the late 90's he began working with producer David Tickle (*Four non-blondes*, *Blondie*, *Split-Enz*). He has worked with Academy-Award winning film maker Chris Tashima on *Day of Independence*. Today his music is used in various iPhone applications, airline safety-videos, television shows (Access Hollywood, ABC News, and various ESPN spots), commercials, and award-winning independent films that have screened at Dubai, Sundance, and Tribeca.

Dan Wilcox (Music Supervisor)

It was evident at an early age that Dan Wilcox had a passion for music – he learned how to use his parent's turntable before he could tie his shoes. For years, Dan was the Music Director of Ten Music, finding licensing opportunities for indie artists in advertising, branding & new media. Now he is a freelance music supervisor working on various film & TV projects. In addition to DJing at clubs and events all over Los Angeles -- including a residency at downtown LA hotspot, The Doheny -- he holds down the Saturday midnight to 3AM shift on influential LA station, KCRW.

Angela Sostre (Line Producer)

Angela Sostre's passion for producing began at the UCLA Professional Program's Producing -Summer Workshop. Angela received an MFA from UCLA's Directing Program. In 2005 she won a Student Emmy for her producing work while at UCLA. Angela now works as a freelance Line Producer. She line produced

the critically acclaimed independent film, JOURNEY FROM THE FALL, which premiered at the 2006 SUNDANCE Film Festival. She was an Associate Producer on Justin Lin's 2007 SUNDANCE hit feature, FINISHING THE GAME. Recently she produced the well received Indie hit, A QUIET LITTLE MARRIAGE which one Best Narrative at the 2009 Slamdance Film Festival. Currently her producing projects include HOLLYWOOD JE T'AIME, DYING DAYS, and DISPATCH.

Jeremy Gordon (Casting Director)

Jeremy started his career as a Casting Director and Producer after 7 years teaching 1st and 7th grade. He began his career with Full Moon Features, casting and producing horror films for legendary filmmaker Charles Band. Jeremy also started a production company, *Shoot Productions*, with Joe Dain. Jeremy currently works as an Independent Casting Director and Producer at his own company, *Lucky Number 24*. He is the creator of the Facebook group, *Casting Directors for Actors*, which currently has over 17,000 world-wide members and exists to bridge the gap between Actors and Casting Directors. The group has gained attention from industry professionals all over the world. Jeremy is taking his Facebook group to the next level by creating the entertainment industry's first cell phone based application – a fully comprehensive resource for actors. Most recently he worked on the TV show “V” for WB/ABC, starring Elizabeth Mitchell, Scott Wolf, and Morris Chestnut, and a feature film, “Devolved”, starring Chris Kattan.

THE CAST

Eric Debets

Lead Actor Eric Debets was born and raised in Paris. The 2006 short film, *Serene Hunter*, was his first acting role. After it screened at Slamdance, Outfest, and gay film festivals around the world, Eric quit his office job, enrolled in class, and began pursuing acting full-time. *Hollywood, je t'aime* is his debut role in a feature film.

Jonathan Blanc

Jonathan Blanc is the belle of his hometown of Gap, France. There he is an assistant teacher and actor at large. An avid fan of movies, Jonathan dedicates his work in *Hollywood, je t'aime* to Catherine Deneuve.

Diarra Kilpatrick

Diarra Kilpatrick is a native Detroiter. She attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she majored in drama. Her one woman show, *The Devil is Beating his Wife*, garnered her an NAACP Theater Award nomination for Best Playwright in 2008. She recently received rave reviews for her performance in the world premier of the play, *Laws of Sympathy*, at Playwrights Arena. Television credits include, *The Game*, *Private Practice*, and *House*.

CAST
(in order of appearance)

Jérôme Beaunez Eric Debets
Béatrice..... Véronique Mérilhou
Surfer Guy.....Jake Olson
Gilles..... Jonathan Blanc
Henri Donovan McGrath
Old Neighbor Gisele Scherer
Immigration Officer Matt Cates
Hostel Manager.....Akiko Shima
Bartender.....Robert Douglas Purcell
Trick from Spotlight Bar Cesar Arambula
Ross Chad Allen
SUV Driver William Vega
Kaleesha's Girlfriend..... Barbie Q
Kaleesha Diarra Kilpatrick
Hotel Receptionist #1 Beth Leckbee
Hotel Receptionist #2 Lita Lopez
Hotel Receptionist #3 Shannon Shepherd
Norma Desire Michael Airington
John from Spotlight Bar Mark Tomesek
Bus Advocate..... Terence Leclere
Sarah Ker'in Hayden
Tiffani Schein Leah Rachel
Music Video Casting Director Kelly Ebsary
Casting Cameraman Joe Smith
Amber Sparks..... Sarah Domin
Steve Jaspers Randall Bacon
Kenny the Waiter..... Scott Romstadt
Commercial Casting Assistant..... Jason Boegh
Commercial Casting Director Mell Flynn
Thom..... Charles Herman-Wurmfeld
Lise Delot Audrey Fiorini
Dale from New Jersey William Popp
Jen..... Lizzie Peet
Actress from Pizza Commercial Pamela J. Morgan
Eugenio..... Omar Leyva
Crazy Customer Hale

HOLLYWOOD, *je t'aime*

written and directed by Jason Bushman

produced by Charles Herman-Wurmfeld

director of photography Alison Kelly

production design by Michael Fitzgerald

edited by Phillip J. Bartell

costume design by Kari Cassellius

music composed by Timo Chen

music supervisor Dan Wilcox

line producers Angela Sostre & Benjamin Cassou

casting by Jeremy Gordon

2009 • USA • 95min • Color/B&W • English
Digital • Aspect Ratio: HD 16x9

High res photos are available for download at:

<http://www.hjtmovie.com/industry.html>