



A NEW MUSICAL SHORT FILM BY FANBOY DESIGN

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SYNOPSIS

A short film musical comedy set between the worlds of fandom and pop culture, PUSH THE POINT follows four online gamers through their squad-based mission. Harder than defeating the red team, however, is sticking together while navigating toxicity, super-fandom, and the futility of having an argument on the Internet.

"Push the point"

[idiom]

- 1.) To annoyingly over-repeat one's opinion or idea, forcing it onto others.
- 2.) In a militaristic video game, capturing the 'control point.'

DIRECTOR'S (SHORT FILM SHORT) STATEMENT

Hey guys!

Bryan Burton here.

While on the surface, PUSH THE POINT is unquestionably a pop/contemporary musical comedy; internally, our film is a new narrative whose main thematic purpose is to push the envelope of conversation around the growing issue of online toxicity (or cyberbullying) in our society right now — particularly in the video gaming community, but also very much throughout the entire online space in general (from pointless Facebook feud fuelers, to YouTube comment thread

h8ers) — via the more accessible, entertaining power of music and the moving image.

Watching this film, my co-creators and I definitely want the audience to have A LOT of fun (after all, it IS a fast-paced, fanboy-cultured musical that feels more like a SNL Digital Short)... while at the very same time, we subtly shine this small (but important) light on the issue at hand. Because in the end, online toxicity compromises our ability to connect and add value to each other, and intensifies the “otherness” of others — an issue that’s already in worryingly-high supply in our world today.

With the goal of shining a small light on the growing amounts of toxicity currently seeping into the overall conversation & experience of our pop culture creations (whose intent for creation was SUPPOSED to be collective enjoyment), PUSH THE POINT is a subtle “call to action” to remember the latter and practice less of the former — while on the surface, however, serving up this message in a more musically entertaining, fast-paced, fun-sized way.

Hope you enjoy!!

Sincerely,
Bryan

“TOXIC FANDOM” IN THE NEWS

1. **USA TODAY:** *“Comic-Con: In an era of toxic fandom, is the geek gathering worth it?”*
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/movies/2018/07/23/comic-con-still-worthwhile-despite-toxic-fandom/818264002/>
2. **CNET:** *“Love, inclusion, hate and toxicity: the state of fandom at Comic-Con 2018”*
<https://www.cnet.com/news/the-state-of-fandom-at-comic-con-2018-love-inclusion-hate-and-toxicity/>
3. **WIRED:** *“Star Wars and the Battle of the Ever-More-Toxic Fan Culture”*
<https://www.wired.com/story/star-wars-toxic-fandom/>

CREATOR BIOS

BRYAN BURTON // DIRECTOR, CO-WRITER AND ACTOR

BRYAN BURTON is a New York City-based actor & director originally from Greensboro, North Carolina, with over 15 years of experience in TV, film, theatre, commercials, voiceover, cat sitting, sketch comedy and comedy improv.

After graduating from a performing arts high school, he continued his training & education at UNC Chapel Hill, in addition to other programs at the American Theatre Wing, ACTeen, and UNC School of the Arts.

Recently, he wrapped principal photography as the lead in **Sundance Film Fest-** alum Kenny Riches’ third feature film, **A NAME WITHOUT A PLACE** opposite

Elizabeth McGovern, Chris Parnell, and Patrick Fugit. Other favorite credits include his recurring role on **HBO's Emmy Award-winning limited series *THE NIGHT OF*** opposite John Turturro, as well as his series regular in **[adult swim]'s live action comedy series *NEON JOE, WEREWOLF HUNTER*** opposite Jon Glaser, Scott Adsit, Steve Little, Stephanie March, Damian Young, & Reg E. Cathy.

He's worked opposite George Clooney and Jack O'Connell in Jodie Foster's **MONEY MONSTER**, Ben Kingsley in Isabel Coixet's **LEARNING TO DRIVE**, Logan Lerman in James Schamus' **INDIGNATION**, Tom Hanks in Steven Spielberg's **THE POST**, and more.

A total improv comedy nerd, he's grateful to have worked alongside such legends of comedy as Tina Fey, Jimmy Fallon, Reggie Watts, Sarah Silverman, the recent casts of SNL and more, on a variety of projects: from episodic viral-content, to national network commercial campaigns. Working frequently in on-camera commercials, some of his favorite past national campaigns include ones for **Liberty Mutual** (bit.ly/BryanLibertyMutualTV), **T-Mobile** (bit.ly/TMobileBryan), **Dunkin** (bit.ly/BryanDunkin), **Apple** (bit.ly/BryanApple), **American Express** (bit.ly/BryanBurtonAMEX), as well as viral content campaigns for **HBO-GO** (bit.ly/HBOGoBryanBurton), **Wal-Mart** (bit.ly/BryanWALMART), **Chipotle** (bit.ly/BryanCHIPOTLE), and **Bud Light** ("Dilly Dilly!" -- bit.ly/BryanBUDLIGHT).

www.Bryan-Burton.com

www.instagram.com/bryanburton



ROBERT CALBIMONTE // CO-WRITER

Robert Calbimonte is a sound recordist and screenwriter who graduated from UNC Chapel Hill for TV and Film Production. Now calling New York City home, he has actively been a part of the NYC independent and commercial film scene over the past two years.

ALEX KOCEJA // CO-WRITER AND SONG LYRICIST

Alex Koceja is a writer and lyricist based in New York City. Alex received a bachelor's degree in Dramatic Art from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's in musical theatre writing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. His newest musical, HEIST! ran off-Broadway in 2018 and much of his work has been featured as part of the Broadway's Future Songbook series, as well as in the New York Musical Festival.

EDISON HONG // SONG COMPOSER

Edison Hong (composer) is a research fellow with STAGE, an interdisciplinary program that combines theatre and science at the University of Chicago. He is a proud recipient of the Richie Jackson Fellowship in 2016, and has also been chosen for Apples and Oranges Theatre Accelerator Class of 2018, New Musicals Inc.'s 2017 New Voices Project, Prospect Theatre's Fall 2015 Musical Theatre Lab and the National Asian Artists Project's 2015 Discover Series. He is also an alumna of NYU's Graduate Research Initiative Fellowship based in Prague, Czech Republic. He has participated in residencies at SPACE at Ryder Farm, Catwalk Residency, Goodspeed Opera House, Two River Theater in Red Bank, NJ, and the Barnett Residency in Rush, NY. His compositions have been performed at venues such as Joe's Pub, Sardi's, Barrington Stage, The Laurie Beechman Theatre, and 54 Below. He received his MFA at the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at New York University and had three 29-hour readings for his full-length shows. In early 2016, Lady Grey Theatrical produced a sold-out stage reading of "The Last Berplonza", and "Nice Meeting You" received an additional reading with NYU's New Studio on Broadway in November 2016.

CAST BIOS

BRYAN BURTON // ACTOR

@JASON JAY

Also the film's Director. See bio above in "Creators" section.

MORGAN KEENE // ACTOR

@DARK VENOM



Morgan Keene is an actress and singer in New York City, originally from Atlanta, Georgia, who has been performing for 11 over years.

Currently, she's the Soprano in Disney Music Group's new contemporary a cappella group, D CAPPELLA (created by Deke Sharon, the contemporary a cappella pioneer arranger behind the PITCH PERFECT movies and more). In the past year alone, they've completed their first North American tour, their first Japan tour in partnership with Universal Music Group Japan, performed at the Hollywood Bowl, on American Idol, during the ABC Christmas Special on Freeform, and

more. Check out their albums and singles on Spotify/Apple Music/etc!!

Before D CAPPELLA, Morgan was on the 1st National Tour of Disney Theatrical's NEWSIES! for 1.5 years, where she played the romantic female lead Katherine Plumber. Another favorite moment from over the past couple years was playing the role of Stina in the world premier production of MIDWESTERN GOTHIC, a new musical thriller, at Washington D.C.'s critically acclaimed Signature Theatre. She performs at 54 BELOW often, and has performed alongside many Broadway stars in a number of shows in New York, including many AEA workshops for new upcoming Broadway productions.

www.MorganKeene.com

www.Instagram.com/keenemorgan

NICK RASHAD BURROUGHS // ACTOR

@DILLY DILLEN



Nick Rashad Burroughs is currently on Broadway in the new Tina Turner biographical musical TINA: THE MUSICAL. Other recent Broadway credits include KINKY BOOTS, KING KONG Alive on Broadway, and the Broadway National Tour of SOMETHING ROTTEN. He also recorded the single "Ordinary Day" on Todrick Hall's #1 pop album "Forbidden".

Nick received a Broadway World Award for his portrayal of Judas in Jesus Christ Superstar, and his other favorite credits include James Brown in James Brown Live at the Apollo Music Cafe, Shrek the Musical (Donkey), Ragtime (Coalhouse), Company (Robert).

www.Instagram.com/nickrburroughs

STEPHEN MICHAEL LANGTON // ACTOR

@AARON BARON BAGEL



Stephen Michael Langton is an actor/writer/gamer living in NYC. After graduating from Pace University, Stephen toured the country with Disney's NEWSIES! playing the role of Davey.

When not ruining a match of Overwatch, he can be found DMing his D&D campaign or maybe singing in a cabaret.

Find him @stephenmlangton or 1v1 him in a game, if you ain't chicken.

www.Instagram.com/stephenmlangton

BRITTNEY RAE // ACTOR AND PRODUCTION DESIGNER

@BRITTNEY JAY



Brittney Rae is an actor, improviser, standup comedian, writer and filmmaker in NYC, originally from Miami, FL.

Two recent short films she's written/directed/starred in are entitled KIN and PROXIMITY, and she wants you to see them!! When she's not writing, performing or producing the crazy content that has materialized from the crazy voices inside her head, she's probably making OTHER funny/weird videos via Instagram and training Muay thai.

She originally met PTP director, Bryan, via a number of mutual Miami-based friends after she stalked him on Instagram in 2017, forging a best-friendship that led to creating a sketch comedy web series together, numerous sleepovers, uncontrollable twitching, and now this musical motion picture, PUSH THE POINT.

www.instagram.com/brittneyraeallday

FESTIVAL SELECTIONS & AWARDS

AWARDS

1. Jury Award for "Best Music Video" – 37th annual Oscar-qualifying Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival.
2. Jury Award for "Outstanding Sound" – 10th annual AoBFF - Art of Brooklyn Film Festival.
3. Jury Award for "Best Gamer Film" – 10th annual GEN CON Film Festival (at the 53rd annual Gen-Con celebration).

SCREENINGS

1. 50th annual SDCC's "Comic-Con International - Independent Film Festival"
 - a. San Diego, CA, United States
 - b. July 20, 2019
 - c. World Premiere
 - d. Official Selection



2. 37th annual Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival
 - a. Providence, RI, United States
 - b. August 10, 2019
 - c. East Coast Premiere
 - d. **Jury Award for "Best Music Video"** // Official Selection



3. 22nd annual Indie Memphis Film Festival
 - a. Memphis, TN, United States
 - b. November 2, 2019
 - c. Tennessee Premiere
 - d. Official Selection



4. 25th annual Cucalorus Film Festival
 - a. Wilmington, NC, United States
 - b. November 14th & 16th, 2019
 - c. North Carolina premiere
 - d. Official Selection



5. 22nd annual SF IndieFest (San Francisco Independent Film Festival)
- a. San Francisco, CA, United States
 - b. February 8th & 12th, 2020.
 - c. San Francisco & Northern California premiere.
 - d. Official Selection



6. 37th annual Miami Film Festival
- a. Miami, FL, United States
 - b. March 6th - 15th, 2020.
 - c. Florida premiere.
 - d. Official Selection



7. 10th annual Art of Brooklyn Film Festival
- a. Brooklyn, NY, United States
 - b. June 1-10th, 2020.
 - c. NYC premiere.
 - d. **Jury Award for "Outstanding Sound"** // Official Selection



8. 7th annual GeekFest Film Festival
- Traveling film festival to regional Comic-Cons across the U.S.
 - January-December, 2020.
 - Official Selection



9. 9th annual Victoria TX Independent Film Festival
- Victoria, TX, United States
 - New dates 2020 TBD (due to COVID-19).
 - Texas premiere.
 - Official Selection



10. 53rd annual GEN CON's "Gen-Con Film Festival"
- Indianapolis, IN, United States
 - July 31st - Aug. 2nd, 2020.
 - Indianapolis premiere.
 - Jury Award for "Best Gamer Film"** // Official Selection



11. 23rd annual LIFF - Long Island International Film Expo
- a. Bellmore, NY, United States
 - b. September 30th – October 8th, 2020.
 - c. Long Island premiere.
 - d. Official Selection



12. 5th annual Monmouth Film Festival
- e. Red Bank, NJ, United States
 - f. August 14th - 16th, 2020.
 - g. New Jersey premiere.
 - h. Official Selection



MORE ACCEPTANCES HAVE BEEN MADE, YET WE'RE UNABLE TO PUBLICALLY ANNOUNCE THEM AT THIS TIME. However, we excitedly look forward to being able to do so soon, and will certainly update the list on FilmFreeway.com and the laurels on our own website once allowed!



PUSH THE POINT



FANBOY DESIGN PRESENTS A FILM BY BRYAN BURTON "PUSH THE POINT" MORGAN KEENE NICK R. BORROUGHS STEPHEN M. LANGTON BRITTNEY RAE
 MUSIC BY ALEX KOCEJA & EDISON HONG EDITOR NADINE MUELLER PRODUCTION DESIGNER BRYAN BURTON BRITTNEY RAE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES RESLIER-WELLS
 CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BRYAN BURTON ROBERT CALBIMONTE EDISON HONG ALEX KOCEJA STORY BY BRYAN BURTON ROBERT CALBIMONTE ALEX KOCEJA
 SCREENPLAY BY BRYAN BURTON ROBERT CALBIMONTE ALEX KOCEJA DIRECTED BY BRYAN BURTON **PUSHTHEPOINT.COM**



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