

PRESS KIT

ALLEC MADDA *Baby Daddy*



OVERVIEW

FILM TITLE

ALEC MAPA: BABY DADDY

SYNOPSIS

Actor and comedian Alec Mapa (America's Gaysian Sweetheart) shares hilarious and heartfelt stories about how his life has changed since he and his husband adopted a five year old through the foster care system. No topic is off limits in this raunchy yet moving film of his award-winning one-man show: Alec's sex life, hosting gay porn award shows, midlife crisis, musical theatre, reality television, bodily functions, stage moms vs. baseball dads, and the joys, challenges, and unexpected surprises of fatherhood. Includes behind-the-scenes footage of his family's home life on a busy show day.

CONTACT

Thought Moment Media

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Jamison Hebert | Executive Producer

jamison@thoughtmoment.com

Andrea James | Director

andrea@thoughtmoment.com

TECHNICAL INFO

TRT: 78 minutes

Exhibition Format: DVD, HDCAM

Aspect Ratio: 16:9 or 1.85

Shooting Format: HD

Color, English

BROADCAST & DISTRIBUTION INQUIRIES

For all inquiries, please contact

Aggie Gold

516-223-0034

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FESTIVAL SCREENING INQUIRIES

For all inquiries, please contact

Jamison Hebert

323-380-8662

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KEY CREDITS

Written and Performed by
ALEC MAPA

Directed by
ANDREA JAMES

Executive Producers
JAMISON HEBERT
ALEC MAPA
ANDREA JAMES

Director of Photography
IAN MCGLOCKLIN

Original Music Composed By
MARC JACKSON

Editors
ANDREA JAMES
BRYAN LUKASIK

Assistant Director
PATTY CORNELL

Producers
MARC CHERRY
IAN MCGLOCKLIN

Associate Producers
BRIELLE DIAMOND
YULAUNCZ J. DRAPER
R. MICHAEL FIERRO
CHRISTIAN KOEHLER-JOHANSEN
JIMMY NGUYEN
MARK ROSS-MICHAELS
MICHAEL SCHWARTZ & MARY BETH EVANS
RICHARD SILVER
KAREN TAUSSIG

Sound Mixer and Sound Editor
SABI TULOK

Stage Manager
ERIKA H. SELLIN

Post Production Supervisor
BRYAN LUKASIK

REVIEWS & PRESS

"Funny and touching. *Alec Mapa: Baby Daddy* is so adorable Brad and Angelina are trying to adopt it."
Joan Rivers

"[Mapa's] show has an underlying positive message that gay parenting is just *parenting*."
Frank Lowe, *The Advocate*

"Mapa riffed a lot on the joys and challenges of being a father and managed to be both touching and funny..."
Michael Musto, *The Village Voice*

"Amazing!"
Jim Halterman, *The BackLot*

"It's rare that an evening of comedy can make you laugh hysterically and cry in the same hour."
Suzy Evans, *Backstage*

"Can one man go from stand-up gigs, red carpets, gay cruises, and circuit parties to being a responsible, car pool driving P.T.A. member?"
Broadway World

"It works beautifully and is worth the standing ovation it received. You'll love it."
Mark Blasius, *Edge NY*

"This man is a scream. Such a talent, and that talent is showcased wonderfully in the documentary *Alec Mapa: Baby Daddy* directed by Andrea James."
Greg Hernandez, *Greg in Hollywood*

"The measure of a great storyteller is the ability to have an audience in tears of laughter in one second and in the next have them sighing over a heartbreaking tale."
Dustin Fitzharris, *Cabaret Exchange*

"As a performer, Mapa has an abundance of charm, wit, and style. And as a writer, he knows how to craft his tales for maximum comic mileage."
Dan Bacalzo, *Theatre Mania*



ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



ALEC MAPA

Writer and Performer

Ellen Degeneres has called him “smart, hilarious and funny.” *Variety* has said, “Alec Mapa is a freak. No one should be this talented.” With uproarious live performances and groundbreaking television roles, actor and comedian Alec Mapa has entertained audiences worldwide in every imaginable medium.

Alec is currently starring on ABC Family's *Switched at Birth* as Lea Thompson's mischievous out and proud friend Renzo. Previously series include *Desperate Housewives* and four seasons on the shows *Ugly Betty* and *Half and Half*.

Audiences first discovered Alec on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning production of *M. Butterfly*. He has guest starred on over 40 television series, including *Alias*, *Friends*, *Roseanne*, *Seinfeld* and *NYPD Blue*. Alec played network television's very first gay Asian series regular role on the CBS sitcom *Some Of My Best Friends*. Film audiences howled at Alec as “N’Cream” in the wildly popular drag queen musical *Connie and Carla*. Other films include *Playing By Heart*, *Marley and Me* and *You Don't Mess with The Zohan*. An accomplished stand-up comic, Alec has had three stand-up comedy specials air on Showtime, LOGO, and HERE! Networks.

Alec has entertained live audiences with Rosie O'Donnell aboard her R Family Cruises and all over the world with Atlantis Cruises. Alec was awarded the prestigious Davidson Valentini GLAAD Award for promoting equal rights for the LGBT community. As an adoptive parent, he is the official spokesperson for Raise A Child, an organization that encourages people to adopt through the foster care system. A tireless fundraiser, Alec has toured the country on behalf of The Human Rights Campaign and The Matthew Shepard foundation earning him the unofficial title of “America's Gaysian Sweetheart.”

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



ANDREA JAMES

Director, Co-Editor, and an Executive Producer

Andrea moved from writing ads to film and TV production, focusing on transgender issues. She co-produced the first all-trans *Vagina Monologues*, featured in the documentary *Beautiful Daughters*. Andrea directed "Casting Pearls," "Transproofed," and numerous instructional films for trans people. Her *Finding Your Female Voice* program led to consulting with Felicity Huffman and appearing in *Transamerica*. Andrea was a producer and on-camera talent for competitive dating show *Transamerican Love Story*. She also produced and directed the series *Disney Geek*, Walt Disney's official news program for fans. She frequently discusses LGBT issues in the media. *Alec Mapa: Baby Daddy* is her documentary feature directorial debut.



JAMISON HEBERT

Executive Producer

Raised in California's San Joaquin Valley, Jamison obtained his degree in Theatre Production and Design from California State University, Fullerton. Shortly after moving to Los Angeles Jamison began acting and costume designing in film and TV. Jamison worked as a Production Coordinator with World of Wonder on *RuPaul's Drag U* before becoming an Associate Producer with Bill Brummel Productions in 2009. There his work included *Bullied: A Student, a School, and a Case That Made History* for the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance educational program. He continued with Bill Brummel producing the short film *Erasing Hate* for MSNBC, which followed a former white supremacist as he distanced himself from his past while enduring countless painful medical procedures to remove numerous racist tattoos from his face. Jamison then produced the short documentary, *Voices of Witness: Out of the Box*, a film that highlights the importance of writing non-discrimination policies for gender identity and gender expression into the Canon Law of the Episcopal Church which led the Bishops of the Episcopal Church to overwhelmingly pass the resolution to become the leading religious organization to protect transgender members and those seeking ordination. Jamison's inaugural film for Thought Moment Media was the children's short film "Family Restaurant" that celebrates families with LGBT parents featuring puppets and drag queen icon Miss Coco Peru. Jamison lives in Los Angeles with his husband actor Alec Mapa and their son Zion.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

IAN MCGLOCKLIN

Director of Photography

Since graduating with honors from Boston's Emerson College film program in 1999, Ian has been honing the cinematography craft for a decade by training his eye, mind and hand via lighting and shooting a wide scope of visual content. His background in gaffing has made him extremely versatile in merging light and composition into an efficient use of time and resources with stunning results. Ian's work on narrative projects such as the independent features *Acts of Worship*, *Out There* and *Corporate Affairs* have traveled globally which included stops at the Sundance and Tribeca film festivals. Flexible across all capture mediums, Ian strives to be well versed with the constantly changing landscape of filmmaking tools. A member of the International Cinematographers Guild, Ian believes in not letting the budget or equipment stand in the way of telling a visually compelling story.

MARC JACKSON

Composer

Marc Jackson is a film composer and songwriter who has created score for feature films, television series and theatrical trailers. He has written songs with co-writer Scott Patton for several artists including Jennifer Nettles (Sugarland) who performed one such song, live on the "CMA Country Christmas Special" on ABC. Founder and composer at MoonLab, he has music supervised on movie marketing campaigns for Warner Bros., Paramount, DreamWorks and more, as well as for network series for HBO. Coming from a musician's background, he has performed live with Sheryl Crow and Roger Daltrey. Marc works and lives in Los Angeles, California.

BRYAN LUKASIK

Co-Editor and Post Production Supervisor

Bryan Lukasik is a producer, director, writer and editor who has been creating video and digital media content for the past 7 years. He specializes in conceptualization, development, production management, directing and budgeting. Clients include DC Entertainment, The Hub, Hasbro, Sesame Street, Ergobaby, ABC Family, Dog for Dog, Toyota, and Beachbody. He is a graduate of DePaul University's Business school. In front of the camera he has appeared on ABC's *General Hospital*, shot opposite of John Mahoney on NBC's *ER* and played Tori Spelling's brother "Mike" on VH1's *So NoTORIous*. He has shot over 20 national commercials.

PATTY CORNELL

Assistant Director

Patty Cornell is a director, producer, actor and writer who has worked on independent feature films, documentary film, web series, theatre, and yes, Reality TV. In production, projects besides *Alec Mapa: Baby Daddy* include *Micah- The A-hole Ghost* for Hazy Mills Productions, and a found footage style feature, *Unknown Project*. As a director, she's in post on a music video for Flow Field. Patty won Best Commercial at the La Femme Film Fest in Hollywood for a commercial she produced, wrote and directed, *Lassoo*. Patty has written, acted in and produced the short films, *Almost Lou* and *Travel Sickness*, which she also directed. *Lou* is a Tacoma Tortured Artists Festival winner. She has produced and acted in theatre, most recently with Ensemble Studio Theatre- LA.

STATEMENT FROM ALEC MAPA WRITER AND PERFORMER

During the last Presidential election the anti-gay rhetoric seemed particularly pumped up. Nightly my husband and I would listen to homophobic pundits argue against Marriage Equality and often the naysayers would state flat-out that same sex couples were bad for children. Not only was my relationship harmful to society, but our union was harmful to children. As a married couple with a son we adopted out of foster care this was particularly galling. To have complete strangers defame families like ours, ignorant of the thousands of LGBT families across the country where children thrived in safe loving homes, this was too much to take. This was the genesis of bringing my solo stand up show *Alec Mapa: Baby Daddy* to the screen.

Alec Mapa: Baby Daddy is a solo theater piece I've performed around the country since 2011. It's a first hand account of how my husband and I became foster/adopt parents: the emotional journey that lead to our decision to become parents, the process of foster/adoption and the eventual placement of Zion, our son who came to live with us in 2010 when he was five years old. Performing this show nightly, I could feel the truth of my story resonating with audiences. We weren't the monsters hell bent on destroying society we were made out to be. We were the same as any other American couple with a kid. Exhausted, bewildered but ultimately overjoyed to be a family. When Thought Moment Media approached me with the idea of bringing my show to the big screen, I knew this was my chance to reach a much wider audience. Hopefully my story will shed light on foster/adoption and debunk the myths and misperceptions of same-sex married life, in a completely entertaining way.

STATEMENT FROM JAMISON HEBERT

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Alec Mapa is my husband. I know he is hilarious and a great storyteller, and I knew he had a rock solid stage show that we could film, get it in front of audiences, and entertain them. However, what made me really want to move forward with this project was the exposure of our family to the world. In these times of uncertainty when it comes to civil rights for LGBT people, the relationships we build, and the families we grow, I knew it imperative to get the story of our family in front of as many people as possible.

In addition, foster/adoption is something for which I hold a lot of passion. It still amazes me when I hear an LGBT person say that they didn't think agencies would provide them with children simply because of their sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity. While that is currently the case in one state (Nebraska), most government children and family service agencies are welcoming and sometimes even seek out individuals from the LGBT community to become adoptive parents.

The fact that a television show like ABC Family's *The Fosters* can become a huge hit proves that the time to include stories of diverse, same-sex parented families that include foster/adopt children is here. We are happy to tell our unique story in hopes that it too spreads awareness about foster/adoption. I hope our diversity and non-traditional family structure will challenge an audience, move them, and help them realize that we are just another family on the block that happens to have been built just a little differently.

STATEMENT FROM ANDREA JAMES DIRECTOR

Alec Mapa: Baby Daddy is my directorial debut in the documentary feature category. It's also the first feature we've produced through Thought Moment Media, which I co-founded with Jamison Hebert in 2013.

Alec and I first collaborated in 2008, and our senses of humor are nearly identical. I have seen first-hand how his life has changed, first as a foster parent, then as an adoptive parent. Having blocked out the shots and spent many weeks editing, I have come to appreciate how thoughtfully the show is structured, looping back to earlier themes. At first, it seems like a silly and juvenile set, but that's just the disarming way to get into some some pretty deep and highly personal material.

Because of the structure of the show, the camera slowly pushes in as the show progresses. This was done to emphasize the way the show itself works: it starts very broad and boisterous, but it continues to get more and more intimate as the subject gets more and more serious.

When Alec was ready to commit his award-winning live show to film, I suggested we frame it with some day-in-the-life footage. Many current depictions of gay dads present them as "network safe," and I wanted to show a gay comedian who can work blue and still be a wonderful loving father, something straight comedians do all the time without anyone raising an eyebrow.

The timely topic of LGBT adoption has special significance to me as an adoptee myself. Every child deserves a family and a home. I hope this film helps change laws and helps open a few hearts and minds, so the long list of children waiting to be adopted might get a little shorter. To deny a child a home and family because of prejudice against LGBT people is a disgraceful, hateful thing to do to children in need.

As an activist, I hope this film makes a difference, but as a dirty joke connoisseur, I hope it makes everyone laugh out loud.

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

What did you want to accomplish by making this film?

We wanted to share the unique story of our family -a tri-racial, gay parented, adoptive family so that LGBT people can see the possibility of building their own families using the foster care system.

What was the inspiration for this film?

It seems the more gains the LGBT community achieves, the louder the dissenting voices become. Anti-gay initiatives have been popping up in several states aimed to legalize discrimination against same sex couples. Now more than ever we have to tell stories about families like ours to combat ignorance. By putting our family on film, we cease to be nameless, faceless people easy to discriminate against, easy to dismiss. Further, while there is more and more representation of LGBT parents in media, these families tend to be mostly white, a lot involve surrogacy, and the same-sex parents of these families are largely asexual. Our family is diverse. My husband and I have an authentic relationship. We felt our story is unique and has yet to be seen in any media.

What did you learn while making this film?

We learned it takes a whole lot of money and an even larger amount of wonderful, hard-working people to put something like this together. We are forever grateful for everyone who helped create *Alec Mapa: Baby Daddy*. We also learned that Zion has the acting bug.

What has been going on in your lives since you filmed?

Our son has turned nine and is currently in the third grade. I'm on an ABC Family show called *Switched at Birth*. My husband is currently developing future projects for his production company Thought Moment Media.

When and where did you film?

We filmed both at our home and at the Renberg Theatre at The Village @ Ed Gould Plaza, part of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, on July 20, 2013.

How long did I take to finish?

We started pre-production in February 2013 and finished the film in December 2013.

How did you finance the film?

Most of the funds, about 60%, came as the result of a successful Kickstarter campaign. Additional capital came as a mix of private gifts and private investments.

FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS (continued)

Is foster and/or adoption by gay or lesbian parents legal in all states?

At press time, no state except Nebraska specifically denies LGBT people from fostering or adopting children by law. However, there are certain laws set in place that makes it difficult. For example, in Utah you must be a legally married cohabitating couple in order to foster or adopt a child, and since the legalization of same-sex marriage is currently on hold, LGBT persons are unable to adopt at this time. These laws are all changing very quickly.

What is the fostering process like?

Like bringing any new child into your home there is an adjustment period. This can include fatigue, emotional stress, and general anxieties. Different things will need to be addressed depending on the child's age and previous experiences. Luckily, more and more LGBT people are fostering and adopting children, building support groups where they live.

How many kids in the U.S. need homes?

There are roughly 400,000 kids in the foster system nationwide. 100,000 of these children are available to be put in an adoptive home immediately.

What are common misconceptions about foster children?

People assume that kids that have been in foster care are damaged, have too many issues, or are unadoptable. While there may be many things you have to process from previous trauma to abandonment you will come to realize that when given love, time, and room to express and process their emotions, foster children are resilient individuals capable of overcoming extraordinary odds, able to attach, and become a wonderful addition to any family.

Where can LGBT people go if they want more information on foster/adoption?

We had a wonderful experience with Raise A Child, and we recommend them as your first place for research:

raiseachild.us

PRODUCTION STILLS

FOR HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES, PLEASE CONTACT

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