

POOLING TO Paradise



Starring: Lynn Chen, Jonathan Lipnicki, Dreama Walker, Jordan Carlos & Taryn Manning.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/419711253>

www.poolingtoparadise.com

Logline: Pooling to Paradise is an indie comedy road movie about a ride share that turns into an unexpected road trip to Paradise, NV for four strangers each at a crossroads in their lives, who find unexpected connection.

Synopsis: Jenny, a mom living in Los Angeles with her husband and three kids is filled with Mommy Angst. She is off to a blogger conference in Vegas to jumpstart her *life after kids* career. Calling a ride-share to the airport, she accidentally chooses “pool” and soon finds herself in a car full of strangers that includes: Kara, a struggling actress feminist; Sean, a tightly wound, heartbroken talent agent; and, Marc, their driver, a hipster anarchist shaman.

As the journey begins, these very different personalities clash. Each wonders if hell truly is other people, and if they can survive the ride together. However, over the course of the trip, each begins to peel away the layers of the onion that is their lives, share vulnerabilities and bond over the challenges of coming of age in today’s world. Full of humor, heart, pathos and a psilocybin drug trip in Death Valley, unexpected connections are forged as each finds their own personal Paradise.

POOLING TO PARADISE



Lynn Chen *Jenny*

Award winning, multi-talented actor Lynn Chen has enjoyed a career spanning over 3-decades with more than 50 film/tv/audiobook/video game and podcast credits. Audiences have come to recognize Chen through films like *Saving Face* (Joan Chen, Michelle Krusiec) and *Go Back to*

China (Anna Akana, Richard Ng), recurring roles in *Shameless* (SHO), *Silicon Valley* (HBO), *Seal Team* (CBS), *Fear The Walking Dead* (AMC) as well as *Call To Duty* (Activision - video game). Chen has continued to expand her audience by writing, producing and starring in the well-received film *I Will Make You Mine* (Yea-Ming Chen, Goh Nakamura, Ayako Fujitani) an Official Selection of SXSW, available on DVD and VOD streaming, the third installment of the *Surrogate Valentine* series. Chen has been a spokesperson for The National Eating Disorders Association since 2012 and continues to lend her voice to blogs and podcasts dedicated to Asian-Americans and eating disorders.



Jonathan Lipnicki

Sean

ele Celebrated actor, Jonathan Lipnicki, entered worldwide audiences' hearts as a child with his breakthrough performance in Cameron Crowe's film *Jerry Maguire* (Tom Cruise, Cuba Gooding Jr., Renee Zellweger). He went on to star in the film franchise adaptations of *Stuart Little* (Michael J. Fox, Geena Davis, Hugh Laurie, Nathan Lane) and *Little Vampire* (Richard E. Grant). He also played a lead role in the comedy-fantasy film *Like Mike* (Lil' Bow Wow, Jesse Plemons, Marie Chestnut). His television credits include series regular roles on *The Jeff Foxworthy Show* and *Meego* as well as guest-starring roles on *Dawson's Creek* (WB), *Monk* (USA), *Family Guy*, (Fox) and *Blowin' Up* (MTV). Lipnicki has shown great versatility moving with ease from dramas like *For the Love of Money* (James Caan, Paul Sorvino) to comedies like *Tag* (Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Scout Taylor-Compton) and, more recently, playing a serial killer in the horror-thriller, *Broil* (Timothy V. Murphy). His starring turn in *When Zachary Came to Town* garnered widespread acclaim and motivated him to develop and produce his own material, most recently the short, *Date*, penned by Theresa Rebeck.



Dreama Walker

ar *Kara*

Dreama Walker broke out as Hazel Williams in *Gossip Girl* (CW) as one of Blair Waldorf's (Leighton Meester) minions and has been working steadily in both television and films ever since. Of note, you can see her as Connie Stevens in Quentin Tarantino's *Once Upon a Time in America*, as Clint Eastwood's grand-daughter in *Gran*

Torino and starring opposite Anne Dowd as Becky in the indie breakout thriller *Compliance* that premiered at Sundance. Her television credits include the comedy *Don't Trust the B in Apt 23* (ABC), the CBS drama *Doubt* (Katherine Heigl, Laverne Cox, Elliott Gould); a recurring role on *The Good Wife* (CBS); and *American Horror Story* (FX); as well as featured guest star roles on *American Dad* (TBS), *A to Z* (NBC), *New Girl* (FOX), and *Law & Order: SVU* (NBC).



Jordan Carlos

Marc

Jordan Carlos is a popular New York alternative comic who has been nominated as Best Male Comic of the Year by Emerging Comedians of New York. He recently appeared on Samantha Bee's *Not The White House Correspondence Dinner* (TBS) and as the 'nerd' from *Guy Code* and *Girl Code*

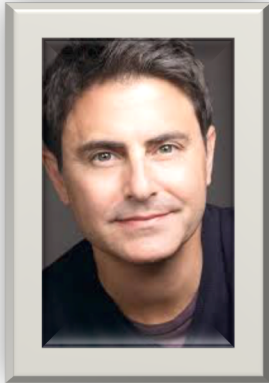
(MTV). Jordan has officially become "that dude from that thing." His other credits include *The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore*, *Live at Gotham*, and *Broad City*, all on Comedy Central, *The Colbert Report* (CBS), *Nurse Jackie* (SHO), *Girls* (HBO), and, Golden-Globe winner, *The Affair* as well as a string of commercials for AOL, Pepsi, and The Washington Post. As College Humor's go-to Obama, Carlos can also be counted on for a presidential impression with over a million YouTube clicks and counting.



Taryn Manning

Dawn

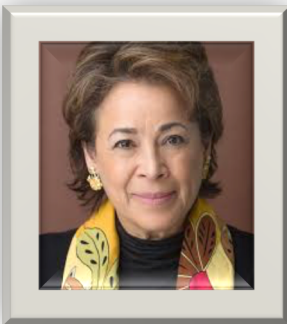
Manning landed her first major role as "Maddy" in *Crazy/Beautiful* (Kirsten Dunst, Jay Hernandez, Bruce Davidson). Her breakthrough role was "Nola", a prostitute in Memphis, Tennessee, in *Hustle & Flow* (Terence Howard, Ludacris, Anthony Andrews) and was nominated by the Washington D.C. Area Film Critics Association Awards for Best Breakthrough Performance. The film also received a SAG award nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Cast. She has worked on the series *Hawaii Five-0* (CBS) and the *Sons of Anarchy* (FX). Her feature credits include *Love Ranch* (Helen Mirren, Joe Pesci), *Cold Mountain* (Jude Law, Nicole Kidman, Renee Zellweger, Eileen Atkins, Philip Seymour Hoffman), *8 Mile* (Eminem, Brittany Murphy, Kim Basinger), *A Lot Like Love* (Ashton Kutcher, Amanda Peet), *White Oleander* (Michelle Pfeiffer, Renee Zellweger, Robin Wright) and *Crossroads* (Britney Spears Anson Mount, Zoe Saldana). Manning is also series regular on *Orange Is the New Black* (Netflix). In addition to acting, Manning is also a fashion designer, singer-songwriter and the vocalist for electronic duo Boomkat. She is also co-owner of the clothing brand "Born Uniqorn".



Bradley White

Peter

Bradley White has been an actor, writer and director in New York and Los Angeles for over 35 years. After graduating from Carnegie- Mellon University with a BFA in acting and directing, Bradley joined New York's prestigious *Naked Angels* theater company, where he cut his teeth on dozens of productions with fellow *Angels* Jon Robin Baitz, Kenneth Lonergan, Lily Taylor, Matthew Broderick and Joe Mantello. As an actor, White has appeared in over four dozen TV shows, pilots and numerous films. He appeared on stage in the original casts of *Between Us* (Manhattan Theater Club), *One Day on Wall Street* (Greenwich Street Theater), *The Substance of Fire* (Long Wharf) and *Gus and Al* (Playwright's Horizons), as well as many original new works at Naked Angels on both coasts.



Alma Martinez

Elena

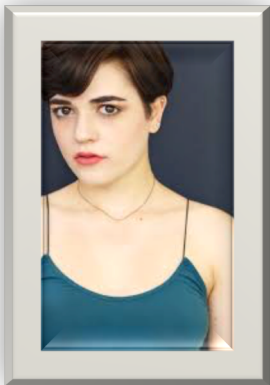
“Humanity, humor and gravitas” best describes what Martinez brings to each role. She credits her ability and good fortune to continually work across all media to the education and scholarships afforded to her when she immigrated as a one year old with her family from Mexico to the U.S. Her career, and that of many other LatinX actors, was launched in 1978 with Luis Valdez’s groundbreaking stage play and film *ZOOT SUIT*. Most recent films include *Clemency*, winner of the 2019 Sundance Film Festival *Grand Jury Award*, and *Ms. Purple*, 2019 Sundance Film Festival “*Nominee*”, *Grand Jury Award*. Other favorite film roles include *Cake*, *Zoot Suit*, *Born in East LA*, *Barbarosa*, *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* and *Under Fire*. Current tv/streaming credits include a recurring Guest Star turn as Lupe on the Netflix series *Gentefied*, just renewed for Season 2; AMC’s limited series *The Terror Infamy*; and F/X’s series *The Bridge*, winner of a Peabody Award for Season 1. Other favorite roles include characters on *Queen Sugar*, *I Love Dick*, *Princess of Avalor* (VO – *Lady Yolanda*), *MacGyver*, *Grey’s Anatomy*, *The People v. O. J. Simpson: American Crime Story*, *Good Behavior*, and Luis Valdez’s *Corridos: Tales of Passion & Revolution*, winner of a Peabody Award.



Claire Kniaz

Samantha

Claire Kniaz is an accomplished musician who sings and plays violin, French Horn, piano, organ and flute. She has performed throughout Australia, United Kingdom and Europe. Her acting career formally began when she booked a recurring role on the popular Nickelodeon series Dance Academy. Ms. Kniaz is also prominently featured as Britney Spears' assistant in *Britney Ever After* (Lifetime) and as Lorena in *A Royal Christmas Ball* (Tara Reid).



Shaina Krashin

Lila

Shaina Krashin is known for *Painter* (Casey Deidrick, Eric Ladin, Susan Anton) and *Suicide Roadtrip* (Eli Goree, Steve-O, Felipe Esparza)



Matt Moore Montenegro

Rigo

Matt Moore is an actor, comic and writer known for *Hold the Line* (Eliana Alexander, John Nitikin) and the web series *Teenage Mountain Lion* (Chris Reinacher, Jordan Dunn, Julie Alexander).



Caytha Jentis

Writer/Producer

Caytha Jentis has written, directed and produced features, an online series, and an award-winning stage play that has been turned into a musical. She has several projects in various stages of development, and has an MFA in Screenwriting from UCLA and a BS in TV/Film from Syracuse University. She began her career as a literary agent in New York and was profiled by the

Writers Guild as well as Screenwriter Magazine. She is a member of the Writers Guild, Film Fatales and the Producers Guild. Her credits include: *The Other F Word*, an online comedy series that streamed on Amazon. It was one of their top series four months in a row and now streams on The Girlfriend, AARP Gen X platform. It features: Steve Guttenberg, Judy Gold, Alysia Reiner and Gilbert Gottfried. *Bad Parents*, she wrote/produced and directed the film, which was licensed to Cinedigm and Relativity Media and currently streams on HBO, Hulu and Starz. It had previously streamed on Netflix and made Redbox and iTunes top 20 comedy lists. The cast includes: Janeane Garofalo, Cheri Oteri, Christopher Titus and Kristen Johnston. *And Then Came Love*, a romantic comedy feature, licensed to Warner Brothers, reached net profits and played in heavy tv rotation. It now streams on Amazon. Its cast includes: Vanessa Williams, Eartha Kitt, Anna Camp and Ben Vereen. , (2009) a feature film drama distributed by TLA Releasing and wrote the thriller feature film *Exposed*. She also wrote the award winning stage play "It's All About the Kids." A stage play version of "Pooling to Paradise" has been selected to be part of NYC's Emerging Artists New Works Series in the Fall.



Roxy Shih

Director

Award winning, Daytime Emmy nominated Taiwanese-American director Roxy Shih applies a distinct perspective to all her creative endeavors. She is recognized for her versatility, which has enabled her to cross genres as well as international borders when it comes to filmmaking. Her work has been shown at a host of prestigious film

festivals including The LA Film Festival, Cannes, SXSW, Dances with Films, and the LA Asian Pacific Film Festival. Shih's directorial debut, *The Tribe* (Empress Road Pictures) starred Jessica Rothe (*Happy Death Day*, *LA LA LAND*), Anne Winters (*Mom & Dad*, *13 Reasons Why*) and Michael Nardelli (*The Collection*, *Circle*) won awards at the Nice International Film Festival, The Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto, and the Other Worlds Austin Film Festival. She recently helmed episodes of the sci-fi anthology series *Dark/Web*, released on Amazon Prime. Her second feature, *Painkillers*, was released on Hulu and, she recently wrapped production on *Heart to Heart*. Shih believes in giving back to her community and serves as the current Festival Director for the Taiwanese American Film Festival in Los Angeles.



Angela Pedraza

Producer

Angela Pedraza is an artist, story creator, director, writer, producer and philosopher. She earned a Bachelors of Science in Philosophy from The University of Southern

California, an Associate of Arts in Film Production from Los Angeles City College and obtained a civilisation certificate at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France.

She began her film career in the camera department after her early mentors, Russel Griffith and Charles Haine planted in her a deep love for cinematography. In 2017 she ventured on to make her first narrative short film "It's Lawr-uh Not Laura" which she directed, co-wrote, and co-produced. "It's Lawr-uh Not Laura" tells the story of a young Latinx teen who is ashamed of her identity and the empowering moment when family, love and photography help her find the treasure that lies within her. After three years of many film festival rejections "It's Law-ruh, not Laura" finally got its world premiere at the 2020 Paris Lift-Off Film Festival in late October where it was awarded *Best International Production*.

Angela's passion for storytelling goes beyond the traditional narrative form. Her earlier academic experimental short film, "Mistaken Identity" elucidates the internal and individual journey one goes through in an attempt to find one's place in a larger interconnected society. In this piece, Pedraza utilizes a philosophical narration as a bounding element that creates a metaphorical arena to host an interpretative battle between man and the light/darkness within him.

Most recently, Pedraza co-produced and Line Produced the comedy feature film "Pooling To Paradise" alongside New York producer Caytha Jentis. "Pooling to Paradise" is currently on its festival run and it has already secured a distribution deal. Pedraza also co-produced "Joyride" for PBS' Latino Public Broadcasting which went on to win most popular short film at the 2020 PBS Short Film Festival and other prestigious awards like the 2021 LOLA Award at the Philadelphia Latino Film Festival.



Jih-E Peng

Director of Photography

Jih-E Peng is a Taiwanese cinematographer based in the United States. Selected credits include THE LIGHT AND THE LITTLE GIRL (Toronto International Film Festival, BAM, BFI Future Film,

Short of the Week), TOURISTS (Montclair Film Festival, Nantucket Film Festival, CAAM Film Festival), GOING PLACES (pilot selected

for the 2017 Sundance New Voices Lab), and FAMILY GATHERING, starring Sharon Omi (Modern Family, Chicago Hope), Ken Narasaki (The Young and the Restless, Hawaii Five-O), and Keiko Agena (Gilmore Girls). Nonfiction credits include a feature length film entitled THE LIGHT OF THE SETTING SUN (in post-production, a finalist for the SFFILM/Catapult Doc Development Fund and nominated for Sundance Docs in Development), and New York Times documentary 'I Just Simply Did What He Wanted' (front page of the Times July 2018, 2019 Winner World Press Photo Awards). Commercial and music video credits include work for Lake Street Dive, Roseanne Cash, Ally Bank, Thom Browne, Hewlett-Packard, Marriott, Advil, and more. She graduated from the American Film Institute's MFA program in cinematography and is a member of the ICFC and NYWIFT.