



JUMBO JOHN

A FILM BY
TOM LOGAN GRUBER





INTRODUCTION

Jumbo John is a short film written and directed by Tom Logan Gruber premiering at Dances with Films film festival in Los Angeles, California on Wednesday June 13, 2018.

SYNOPSIS

A restless chess champ fleeing Manhattan must confront her gatekeeper: John.

CONTACT

website: www.jumbojohnfilm.com
email: hello@jumbojohnfilm.com
trailer: www.vimeo.com/269288896
IMDB: www.imdb.com/title/tt7631160/

BLACK & WHITE

RUNNING TIME:
~14 mins

SYNOPSIS (LONG)

After winning the citywide chess competition, and fed up with Manhattan, **Sophie Venturi** sets off for the destination everyone threatens to move to: Canada!

Except getting out of the city proves difficult.

Navigating the city streets at night, Sophie runs into three eccentric city dwellers who each offer their opinion on the city's unusual situation, and how to deal with it. It becomes clear that something strange has happened to the Big Apple. What is going on?

Meanwhile, Sophie is pursued by **John** who appears on electronic screens and billboards plus along with his flesh-and-blood fanatical **Followers** who are eager to spread his technology and philosophy.

In the climactic scene at the altar of Manhattan — Times Square — Sophie faces the music and experiences John's awesome capabilities. Finally, we learn why everyone has been living in the city whether they want to or not.



FILMMAKER Q&A

Why did you choose to film in black and white?

I've always thought that New York looks beautiful in black and white at night. But I also enjoy how b&w can make a familiar place feel foreign and unusual. I didn't want it to be immediately clear to the audience when and where the film takes place.

What was it like shooting entirely at night in NYC?

Fun, but taxing! We filmed run-and-gun with a skeleton crew driving around in a van, jumping out and filming, then packing back up and heading to the next location. I'll tell you that it's delightful to see all sorts of New Yorkers come out of the woodwork around 4am.



FILMMAKER Q&A (CONT'D)



What's your beef with technology?

I love technology! But, like Elon Musk, Nick Bostrom, and others have warned, I think we need to be careful. Jumbo John explores an AI scenario that may seem silly and exaggerated, but is just a projection of things we're experiencing in the US right now.

How did you achieve the visual effects?

This magician will reveal his tricks: it helped that I shot Jumbo John myself because I knew what to capture to make the VFX process easier. Then I spent a hefty amount of time in Adobe After Effects, Photoshop, and Mocha tracking and compositing the shots.

What's the goal of this short film?

To make a feature version of Jumbo John — there's a much bigger story to explore!





TOM LOGAN GRUBER

WRITER / DIRECTOR

After graduating film school at Emerson College in 2011, Tom moved to NYC and started video agency Gruber Pictures, which is now located in the Flat-iron district. He has directed branded content and commercials for clients like Interjet, Samsung, Adult Swim, and Logitech, and lots more you've probably never even heard of.

Jumbo John is Tom's first "real" short film and thrilled that Dances with Films is his first festival experience.

On a random weekend you'll probably find him at a repertory theater like Metrograph because, for better or worse, movies are all Tom knows. Surprise - he lives in Brooklyn!



MICHAEL MARK

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER / DRIVER

Michael has been friends with Tom since middle school and is a longtime collaborator on his projects.

When he isn't cruising around in a 15-passenger van, operating portable film lights, or negotiating with transit police, he works fulltime as an equity research analyst at PineBridge Investments in midtown Manhattan.

Michael is a graduate of Columbia University with a B.A. in Economics and also lives in Brooklyn.

ANGELA CARBONNE

ACTOR - SOPHIE

A native New Yorker with global passions, Angela Carbone started her film career when she was discovered in Rome, Italy. Her first feature film, Terra (Winner, experimental film at Pesaro Film festival) was directed by duo Marco De Angelis and Antonio di Trapani.

Her latest films, Longing (director Christian Mushenko; best dramatic short Big Apple Film Fest, award of excellence One Reeler, Winner London Independent Film Fest) Shield (director Yijie Mei; Korean American Film Fest), Delay (director Tin Tang; NewFest official selection) and upcoming feature Sugar Land (director Lorenzo Lanzillotti) have cemented her as an international film actress and collaborator.

Angela trained at NYU's Stonestreet studios for screen and Cornell University for theater, where she also holds a degree in Architecture. Angela is a designer, welder, and writer for film and media.

She is a contributing writer for activist Eileen Kelly's Kille-randasweetthang. She just completed her first pilot script, The Labors of Lulu, with former NBC executive Evan Shapiro.



MATTHEW CUTLER

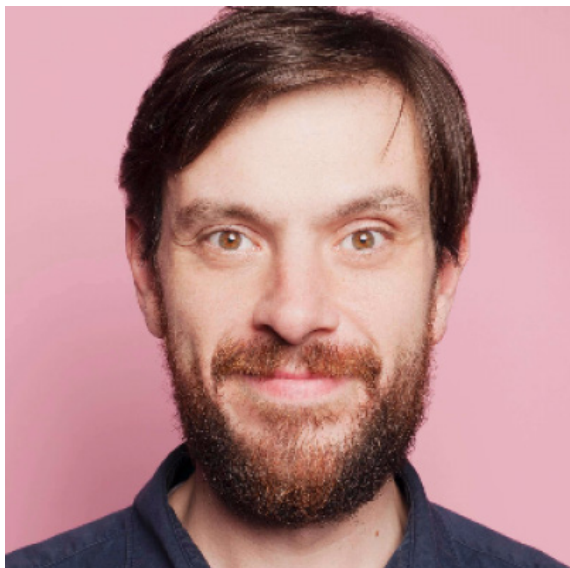
ACTOR - JOHN

Matt Cutler is a writer and performer in New York City. He has studied and performed at the UCB Theatre since 2007. He has performed on Harold Night with Monstro, dybbuk, and currently with Bucky.

Some of Matt's film and TV credits include Batsh*t Bridge, The Place We Live, Consti2tion, and The Chris Gethard Show.

Matt holds a master's degree in theology from Harvard Divinity School, which made John's character 1000% better.

Matt lives in Brooklyn.



CAST

Sophie Venturi	Angela Carbonne
John	Matthew Cutler
Cassidy	Darlene Dues
Swimmer	Gloria Junes
Drunkard	Bill Weeden
Mrs. Rambus	Madalyn McKay
Follower 1	Zack Abramowitz
Follower 2	Hassan Farrow
Follower 3	Remington Moses

CREW

Written and Directed by

Tom Logan Gruber

Produced by

Tom Logan Gruber
Joe Gruber

Executive Produced by

Michael Mark

Cinematography by

Tom Logan Gruber

Edited by

Tom Logan Gruber

Makeup

Aisha Campbell

Sound Recordist

Ryan Collins

Visual Effects

Tom Logan Gruber

Additional Sound Recordist

Ruben Morales

Additional Camera Operator

Kyle Andreas

1st Assistant Camera

Zachary Tidmore

2nd Assistant Camera

Zachary Tidmore

Production Assistants

Vango Jones
Sieu Nguyen

Re-recording Mixer

Adrian Thorstensen
Louis Fisher

Special Thanks to

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Dubway Studios