

INSIDE THE RAIN

AARON FISHER

ELLEN TOLAND

ERIC ROBERTS

ROSIE PEREZ



Written and Directed by and Starring Aaron Fisher

**Ellen Toland, Eric Roberts, Paul Schulze
with Catherine Curtin
and Rosie Perez**

90 min. / USA / English

**Executive Producers
Christine Vachon
Danny Fisher
Javier Gonzalez**

**Producer
George LaVoo**

**Presented By
Act 13**

In association with Killer Films

Link to Stills: [INSIDE THE RAIN](#)

Link to Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnipglMA46s>

Official Website: www.insidetherainmovie.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/InsidetheRainMovie>

SYNOPSIS

College film student Benjamin Glass (played by writer-director Aaron Fisher) has it all: ADHD, OCD, borderline personality. And he's also bipolar. But Glass is more than his diagnoses – he prefers the term “recklessly extravagant” -- and he's determined to prove his genius. When a misunderstanding threatens to expel him from college, Glass pushes back; he plans on recreating the incident on video, with the help of a moonlighting sex worker (Ellen Toland), to clear his name. But how will he raise the money for the film, when his parents dismiss the scheme as another manic episode?

Inside the Rain is a wincingly funny rom-com-drama, anchored by off-kilter performances by co-stars Fisher and Toland. The colorful ensemble cast includes Rosie Perez as a tough love shrink, Eric Roberts as an unhinged film producer, and Catherine Curtin and Paul Schulze as the long-suffering parents. The ultimate underdog film and proof that if you believe in yourself, anything is possible.

REVIEW QUOTES

“In this assured, offbeat comedy, a bipolar student gets expelled from college and teams up with a moonlighting stripper to prove his innocence. Director-star Aaron Fisher shines both behind and in front of the camera.” - David Lewis, San Francisco Chronicle

“Insightful and audacious, with terrific cast...raw and heartfelt emotion.” - Westwood One

“‘Inside the Rain’ is a captivating story where the brush strokes of life and the arts blend together beautifully.” - Rick Bentley, Tribune Wire Service

“Genuine and authentic... impressive. You root for Ben, laugh at the right spots.” - Alan Ng, Film Threat

“At its core is a big dorky heart. Aaron Fisher is lovable enough to carry the picture.” - Tynan Yanaga, Film Inquiry

“Takes audiences into an authentic, yet light-hearted and entertaining ride into a world that is rarely seen on the screen.” - Arthur Kade, Reelz Celebrity Page

“A wonderful film debut. Fisher is courageous in his insight and portrayal of life with bipolar disorder. Aaron Fisher directs this very, very moving film with humor, grace and sensitivity.” - George Whipple, Spectrum News NY1

“Films like this are rare and valuable. Aaron Fisher is an unusual and important voice.” - Daily Grinder

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

By Aaron Fisher

I'm 29 years old and have bipolar disorder (it's the more severe type). Although "Inside The Rain" is a work of fiction - - I took the last 10 years of my life and infused some of my experiences into this 90 minute movie.

I've seen dozens of psychiatrists and psychotherapists. Nothing has caused me more misery than my bipolar disorder. Finding the right doctor and the right combination of medication is a continual struggle. People who aren't bipolar take for granted how difficult it is for someone with bipolar to take steps to prevent themselves from getting manic and/or severely depressed. It's a million times harder for me to keep myself mentally healthy - - where I'm not too high or too low, which is how Ben Glass is throughout most of the film.

For some odd reason, I've discovered that many people with bipolar think sex workers are really cool people. I fall into this category. I have good friends who are sex workers - our personalities seem to click. I want to be very clear that I believe sex work is legitimate. I hope my script demonstrates the humanity of Emma Taylor, who works in the sex industry. She's a smart, charismatic and creative person with real wants and desires, just like anyone else. I believe what she does for a living is not immoral.

The title, "Inside The Rain" is about an image I recall from childhood. My friend Sam and I got stuck in a torrential downpour on a spring day and our clothes were completely soaked. It was a little chilly outside, but warm enough to walk through the rain. At first, we tried to run for cover, but it wouldn't stop raining, so eventually we gave up and trudged through the rain. We ended up enjoying it and it was a beautiful walk. Likewise, Ben has to learn how to enjoy the rain, to get over the college judicial hearing that haunts him.

Q & A with Director, Writer and Co-Star of INSIDE THE RAIN, Aaron Fisher

What was the idea behind making INSIDE THE RAIN? Prior to writing the script, did you want to create a more realistic representation of bipolar disorder in this medium?

After seeing Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" for the first time when I was 11, I begged my parents to buy me my first MiniDV camera. Then I made a lot of videos, at least fifty of them, and I edited on software that could barely surf the internet. Fast forward to my twenties — my life was absolutely chaotic and miserable, and I suffered very much ever since I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder when I was 19.

I'm 31 now, but I wanted desperately to tell the story of my twenties. I felt like if I didn't tell my story I would die. I started writing the script when I was 27 - I was still going through painful times. Real life is more complex than a movie and doesn't have three acts, so I had to fictionalize everything to make it work as a ninety-minute story. I wanted to create a realistic representation of bipolar disorder, but I didn't want to write a story *about* "bipolar disorder" - I wanted the main character to happen to be bipolar. I think the film captures the essence of my twenties, and I hope that audiences will relate in some way, even if they don't have a mental illness.

Did you make Ben in your own image or is Ben a version of yourself? And with this in mind, did you use your disorder as an asset in making the film?

While Benjamin Glass is a fictional character, we share a lot in common. Like Ben, I have also been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, ADHD, OCD, borderline personality disorder (and the list goes on). I have also been hospitalized for mental health reasons. But I always saw Ben as "me" in an alternate universe. Ben does things I've never done. He says things I've never said. I think it was very important in both the writing, directing, and acting to think of him as a different person than me.

I did use my disorder as an asset. It gave me things I needed to know about how bipolar disorder works. It was part of my research. In the

writing, directing, and acting, I was confident that I was accurately portraying a person with bipolar, having gone through manic highs, only to sink into major depression, or have a mixed state where I'm feeling both manic and depressed at once.

Is there a particular scene that best describes from your own experience the reality of living with bipolar disorder?

Yes, the sequence where Ben steals all of his parents' coins worth thousands of dollars in the wee hours of the morning, and then essentially hijacks the LYFT driver's car screaming "I WANT JUSTICE!" It is based on a real experience and I believe it accurately depicts a manic episode.

Are there any films you believe have successfully portrayed mental illnesses and/or bipolar disorder? How is INSIDE THE RAIN different from or the same as those?

I love "Silver Linings Playbook" and "Girl, Interrupted." I believe these films portrayed different mental illnesses in an authentic way. I think "Silver Linings Playbook" was an accurate portrayal of bipolar disorder and is a great love story with both funny moments and sad moments - I wanted INSIDE THE RAIN to shift between funny and sad tones.

Acting, directing and writing a film is quite impressive. Just carrying out one of these talents/skills is quite a feat. What was the most challenging aspect you faced while filming? How were you able to, as your first feature film, juggle these three sets of skills?

I feel more comfortable behind the camera than in front of the camera - yet I'm in virtually every scene of the movie. And when the camera is rolling and you're acting, you cannot be assessing your own performance or the performance of the other actors in the scene. The moment you start to analyze performances you're no longer acting, you're no longer really listening to the other actors. So that's a real challenge.

When I'm directing, I'm thinking of how to tell the story visually, shot by shot, and working with the producer, George LaVoo, and the cinematographer, Josh Fisher (who happens to be my older brother and

he deserves a lot of credit and I couldn't have done it without him!). I'm talking about shots I want, the lenses to use, what kind of lighting or mood I want, discussing themes in the film, how we light certain characters. When directing, you're using different parts of your brain than when you're acting. And I think you need experience with both acting and directing to be able to pull it off.

What do you want the audience to take away from INSIDE THE RAIN?

My main theme revolves around the climax scene and title. It's the image of being "inside the rain," where it can either be terrible or it can be amazing fun, depending on how you feel. The theme is tied in with bipolar disorder as well, because people suffering from bipolar depression are depressed even if nothing in their life is going badly. People who are concerned ask, "what's wrong?" There isn't really anything going wrong except for chemical imbalances in the brain. Being stuck inside the rain felt like a metaphor for that. I also saw the individual rain droplets as being the tears you wish you could cry when you're so depressed. I hope that audiences can relate to the film and find meaning in it in all different kinds of ways. I think everyone at some point in their life has felt like they needed validation, but then learn to move on and focus on the future.

In the film, Ben falls in love with a sex worker. How important does this situation tie in to the film? Would the film play the same if the love interest was not a sex worker?

I wanted to write a love story that happened to center around a sex worker. I wanted to show Emma's humanity, and create a character who was complex. I think Ben and Emma connect because they are both outsiders craving validation of some kind. Emma wants "to be taken seriously," and Ben wants "justice" from the school that's kicking him out. Saying sex work is illegitimate completely dehumanizes the sex worker. They are human, too. They have the same dreams and wants and needs. I really loved creating the Emma Taylor character. In the process, I found some discoveries about her - and myself too.

CAST/CREW

AARON FISHER (Director / Writer/ “Ben Glass”) is a recent graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York City. He has written and directed the short films *Love Out of Mind*, and *The Hospital Visit*. Of his film *The Hospital Visit*, two-time Academy Award-winning director Barbara Kopple said, “With a powerful vision on the effects of mental illness, Aaron Fisher directs ‘The Hospital Visit’ with utter authenticity, providing an intimate look at the brutal fragility of those suffering emotional disorders. Beautifully acted.” Aaron’s short film, *Love Out of Mind*, has been an official selection of numerous festivals, including the Big Apple Film Festival and the Max Ophuls Prize Film Festival in Germany. Aaron’s first feature film is the recently completed *INSIDE THE RAIN*, co-starring Academy Award nominees Rosie Perez and Eric Roberts.

ELLEN TOLAND (“Emma Taylor”)

INSIDE THE RAIN marks Ellen Toland's debut as a female lead. A native Texan turned New Yorker, Ellen received her BFA in Acting from Pace University. She went on to train at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and has since continued to study with some of the top acting coaches/studios in the business. Ellen's passion for the craft, coupled by her beauty and ethereal essence, has presented her the opportunity to work on projects that live in worlds ranging from period pieces to new age millennial. Ellen can currently be seen in supporting roles in Michael Engler's *The Chaperone* (in select theaters and now on PBS) and in Rachel Carey's *Ask For Jane*. On the television side, Ellen can be seen as a series regular on Amazon's millennial cult limited series *Doomsday*. She also recently appeared as a guest star on CBS' *Bull*.

ROSIE PEREZ (“Dr. Holloway”) is an Academy Award, Golden Globe and Emmy-nominated actress and choreographer. Rosie Perez has been a cultural mainstay since her breakout performances in such classic films as Spike Lee’s *Do the Right Thing*, Ron Shelton’s *White Men Can’t Jump* and Peter Weir’s *Fearless*.

Perez will next be seen in *The Last Thing He Wanted*, opposite Anne Hathaway and Ben Affleck for Netflix, and *Birds of Prey*, opposite Margot Robbie for Warner Brothers.

Her other film credits include: *It Could Happen to You*, *Untamed Heart* and *The Take*, in which she was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award.

Perez has also made her mark on the stage. She received strong reviews for her performance in *The Ritz* and made her Broadway debut in the hit revival of Terence McNally's *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. Perez returned to Broadway in 2015 for the highly successful *Fish in the Dark* with Larry David.

Throughout her career, Perez has been a vocal activist for a number of causes and serves as the Artistic Board Chair for Urban Arts Partnership. She details her childhood upbringing and career in her book, *Handbook for an Unpredictable Life: How I Survived Sister Renata and My Crazy Mother, and Still Came Out Smiling (with Great Hair)*.

ERIC ROBERTS (“Montgomery (Monty) Pennington”)

Eric Roberts is an Academy Award nominee (*Runaway Train*) and three-time Golden Globe Nominee for his roles in *Runaway Train*, *Star 80*, and *King of the Gypsies*. In addition, Roberts received acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival for his roles in *A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints* and *It's My Party*. He also starred in *La Cucaracha*, which won Best Film at the Austin Film Festival, and for which Roberts won Best Actor at the New York Independent Film Festival that same year.

Other notable performances include his roles in *The Dark Knight*, *Final Analysis*, and Paul Thomas Anderson's *Inherent Vice* for Warner Bros., Millennium Films' *Lovelace* and *The Expendables* for Lionsgate.

On television, Roberts' memorable recurring roles include USA's *Suits*, *CSI* and *Code Black* for CBS, NBC's *Heroes*, and *Crash* for Starz. He has appeared in guest star roles on ABC's *Grey's Anatomy*, NBC's *Will & Grace*, Fox's *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, CBS' *Hawaii Five-O*, HBO's *Entourage*, and so much more. Upcoming, Roberts plays Matt Dillon's doctor in *Head Full of Honey*, a Warner Bros. Germany production that is directed

by Til Schweiger. Emily Mortimer and Nick Nolte also star. He also has a supporting role in the independent *Hard Luck Love Song* directed by Justin Corsbie. Roberts will play “Skip”, a grizzled doorman whom offers advice to characters played by Michael Dorman and Sophia Bush. The film also stars Dermott Mulroney, and American rapper, RZA.

Finally, Roberts is set to recur as DEA boss “Erick Sheldonin” in *La Reina del Sur* for Telemundo Global Studio and Netflix.

Roberts was born in Biloxi, Mississippi, and grew up in and around the Atlanta area. He began his career in theatre in New York City where he won the Theatre World Award for his role on Broadway in *Burn This*.

CATHERINE CURTIN (“Nancy Glass”) was born in New York City. She is an actress most recently known for her role in Showtime’s *The Loudest Voice*. Curtin is also known for her roles in *Stranger Things*, *Insecure*, *Orange Is The New Black*, *Homeland* and *Surveillance*. She is winner of the SAG Award for Best Ensemble 2015 and 2016, OITNB and nominated Best Ensemble, *Stranger Things*.

Her current films include: *Bad Ed*, *First One In*, *What Breaks The Ice*, *The Half Of It*, *What Is Life Worth*, *Imaginary Order*, *Mad*, *Beauty Mark*, *Goldstar*, *The Light Of The Moon*, *Crazy Famous* and *Breaking Brooklyn*. Curtin’s theatre credits include: *Burning* (St. Clements), *Consent* (Steinberg Center), *The Lady From Dubuque* (Signature), *Aunt Dan N Lemon* (The New Group), *So Help Me God* (Lucille Lortel) and *Love, Janis* (Off-Broadway) for which she received a Best Actress - Joseph Jefferson nomination for her role playing the iconic singer/songwriter.

Other Film/Television: *Wolf of Wall Street*, *Bourne Supremacy*, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, *Revolutionary Road*, *Bull*, *Mindhunter*, *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *The Leftovers*, *Blue Bloods*, *Law & Order/CI*, *The Naked Brother’s Band*.

PAUL SCHULZE (Dave Glass) is most notably known as the eccentric pharmacist and illicit love interest, Eddie Walzer, on Showtime’s Emmy Award winning hit *Nurse Jackie*. He can be seen most recently in Marvel’s *The Punisher* in a season-long arc as super villain William Rawlins, and will be recurring in the upcoming fourth season of *The*

Expanse on Amazon Prime. A true New Yorker, Schulze was raised on the East Side and attended S.U.N.Y. Purchase in Westchester County where he was exposed to theatre. Not long after graduating, he landed his first feature film role in the critically acclaimed independent film *Laws Of Gravity*, which co-starred fellow S.U.N.Y. Purchase alum Edie Falco. Schulze went on to star in acclaimed television series including *The Sopranos*, where he played "Father Phil Intintola", a priest with an arguably inappropriate fondness for Falco's "Carmela Soprano." He also appeared for three seasons in the hugely successful series *24* as CTU director "Ryan Chappelle" before his character's unexpected and controversial demise.

Schulze has also had notable performances in films such as *Panic Room*, where he played the rookie cop opposite Jodie Foster in one of the film's most memorable and intense scenes, and *Rambo*, the latest installment in the franchise, where he played missionary "Michael Burnett," who continually butts heads with Sylvester Stallone's character. Schulze continues to be a staple in the television landscape; other credits include appearances on USA's *Suits*, NBC's *Chicago PD*, TNT's *Rizzoli & Isles* and TNT's *Major Crimes*. The veteran actor splits his time between New York and Los Angeles, where he is helping to raise his beautiful daughter Lena. When not working he can be found on a golf course with friends or spending time with his family.

GEORGE LAVOO (Producer) is a film director, producer, and screenwriter. *Real Women Have Curves*, for which he was both producer and screenwriter, won the 2002 Sundance Film Festival Dramatic Audience Award and numerous other awards at festivals around the world. In 2006, he wrote *Blood Monkey* for the SYFY Channel, and his 2008 film *A Dog Year* premiered on HBO and star Jeff Bridges was nominated for an Emmy for Best Actor. Most recently, George directed a micro-budget feature film, *Juvie*, and he was the director and producer of the web series *We Speak New York*, winner of a 2019 New York Emmy Award. He was named one of the "Ten Producers to Watch" by Variety. George also teaches filmmaking at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

JOSH FISHER (Director of Photography)

Josh Fisher was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He studied

cinematography at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. While earning an MFA in cinematography from The American Film Institute Conservatory (AFI), he was awarded the Panavision Grant and the Tom Yoda Scholarship. Josh's AFI thesis film, *Pet Rituals*, was selected as a Vimeo Staff Pick, Short of the Week and was an official selection of the Raindance Film Festival and AFI Fest. Additionally, AFI held a screening of *Pet Rituals* at Camera Image. Josh's popular *Hello-Flo* webisodes have hundreds of millions of views across numerous digital platforms and his *First Moon Party* won a Silver Lion at Cannes.

CREDITS

An Act 13 presentation in association with Killer Films

INSIDE THE RAIN

Written and Directed By
AARON FISHER

Produced By
GEORGE LAVOO

Executive Producers
CHRISTINE VACHON
DANNY FISHER
JAVIER GONZALEZ

Director of Photography
JOSH FISHER

Production Designer
SALLY LEVI

Edited by
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ESTEBAN URIBE

Casting by

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MARIA E. NELSON
ORPHEUS CASTING GROUP

Music Supervisors
ANNIE PEARLMAN
MELISSA CHAPMAN
GROOVE GARDEN

Cast
AARON FISHER
ELLEN TOLAND
ERIC ROBERTS
PAUL SCHULZE
With
CATHERINE CURTIN
And
ROSIE PEREZ