

Confessions
of a
Late Bloomer

Press Kit

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Confessions of a **Late Bloomer**

Logline

Confessions of a Late Bloomer is the story of Donny, a pre-pubescent 15 year-old boy who desperately tries to become a man by the high school pool party at the end of the week in order to win Sheila, the love of his life, away from Cal, the school thug.

Synopsis

For 15 year-old Donny, high school sucks. He's the smallest in the class and is only ever noticed when he's the butt of someone's joke.

But this week it's all about to change – forever.

To escape the pummeling of his life, Donny accepts the school bully's challenge to kiss Sheila, the girl of Donny's dreams, by the end of the week.

Now, Donny must stumble along an absurd journey to manhood – while proving to the world that manless is just a state of mind... and a little fake body hair.

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Reviews

KTLA loved *Confessions of a Late Bloomer!*

“One of the best shorts I've seen in years. Charming, witty and brilliantly shot!”

- Ross King, Entertainment Anchor KTLA

Film Threat gives *Confessions of a Late Bloomer* Three Stars!

“*Late Bloomer* harkens back to *Angus* and shows like *Freaks and Geeks*”

“McGowan’s enthusiastic direction is bright and very pleasing to look at”

“*Late Bloomer* is a fun fifteen minutes”

“Funny!”

“*Late Bloomer* is ultimately an accurate and comedic depiction of the woes of high school life.”

- Felix Vasquez Jr., Film Threat

Entertainment Insiders gives *Confessions of a Late Bloomer* Three Stars!

“Jen McGowan's insightful and entertaining short film *Confessions of a Late Bloomer* is a pint sized teenage comedy that hones in smartly on one kid's high school struggle.”

“Tyler Chase is very good” as Donny whose “experimentation is a hoot”

“The direction is energetic! I loved it!”

“tight, brisk” and “funny”

“*Confessions of a Late Bloomer* will likely remind you that high school might suck, but without those youthful experiences and struggles, adulthood would suck more.”

- Jonathan Hickman, Entertainment Insiders

Fanboy Planet calls *Confessions of a Late Bloomer*...

“A clever premise...brutally, embarrassingly honest”

“Director McGowan clearly has a light touch with her actors” and

“though clever with the camera, she always keeps the story at the fore”

“The creators have a keen insight into the rough world of being an underdeveloped fifteen-year-old boy”

- Derek McCaw, Fanboy Planet

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Distinctions

Awards

Winner, Zoom In Award for Best Editing

Winner, Remi Award for Creative Excellence, World Fest Houston

Winner, Best Student Film, Living Proof Music & Arts Festival

Best of the Fest, Rhode Island International Film Festival

Finalist, Best Short Film, San Fernando Valley International Film Festival

Finalist, Best Short Film, Riverside International Film Festival

Finalist, Best Short Film, Moondance International Film Festival

Finalist, The Caucus Foundation Award for Best Student Film

Official Selection of...

Tribeca Film Festival

Rhode Island International Film Festival

Breckenridge Film Festival

Newport Beach Film Festival

Palm Beach Int'l Film Festival

Big Bear Lake International Film Festival

Cinema Festa Internazionale di Roma

Cairo International Film Festival for Children

Temecula Valley Film & Music Festival

The Other Venice Film Festival

Cleveland International Film Festival

Lake County Film Festival

Swansea Bay Film Festival

North Fork Film Festival

Living Proof Music & Arts Festival

Riverside Multicultural Youth Festival

Baytowne Film Festival

Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente de Ourense

Cannes Short Film Corner

San Diego Film Festival

Rochester International Film Festival

Munich International Festival of Film

Beverly Hills Short Film Festival

Williamstown Film Festival

Queens International Film Festival

First Look Film Festival

Riverside International Film Festival

Worldfest Independent Film Festival

Moondance International Film Festival

Sunday Filmmaker's Rendezvous

The Café Shorts Series

Los Angeles Int'l Short Film Festival

Ohio Independent Film Festival

Kim Ann's Independent Short Film Series

San Fernando Valley Int'l Film Festival

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Director Statement

When I first began searching for the story I wanted to tell for this project I was looking for a small, lyrical piece that could be done on a shoestring budget. I knew I wanted to collaborate with a writer so I searched through piles upon piles of scripts. But I didn't find anything that I really connected to.

And then I read *Confessions of a Late Bloomer*. With eleven locations, child actors, tons of extras and a script that demanded to be shot on 35mm, this was definitely not what I was searching for in terms of production. But, I fell in love with the lead character and his story and, as much as I tried to move on, I knew I had be the one to bring this wonderful little film to life. However, it was quite a risk because the funds available for the production did not grow to meet this project's demands. Instead, my amazing cast and crew rose to meet them.

Donny Lowenstein is the type of character that drives me to make movies. He's a beautiful loner who just doesn't yet realize his greatness. He's tossed around in a bright, slick world full of beautiful people that he desperately wants to be a part of but has absolutely no good idea of how to make it happen. All the while he moves forward with every ounce of himself, sincerely, his determination ever strengthened. His is a story that everyone can relate to on some level, one that everyone involved in the production responded to in a personal way.

To me Donny Lowenstein's story is fun, vibrant and larger than life. Donny Lowenstein brought a smile to my face and I'm glad to have been able to help him do the same for his larger audiences.

I'm thrilled to see audiences enjoy the film at festivals. All the while, eager to start production on my debut feature film *The Missing Children's Club*, a magical coming of age story about a terminally ill boy and his best friend who embark on one final adventure.

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Credits

Crew

Director	Jen McGowan
Writer	Stuart C. Paul
Producers	Philip Lott Amitabh Klemm
Cinematographer	Emily Topper
Editors	David Hopper Jeremy Phillips
Music by	Stephen Barton
Sound Designer	Gabriel J. Serrano

Cast

Donny	Tylor Chase
Sheila	Christina Stacey
Cal	D'Angelo Jones

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Director Bio

Jen McGowan, born in Washington DC and raised in Fairfax, VA, began her career as a filmmaker in 1997 when she received her BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. There, she trained as an actor at the Atlantic Theater Company and studied with such renowned artists as David Mamet, William H. Macy & Sam Shepard.

After graduating, Jen made the move from acting to directing with her award winning short film *She Never*, which she also wrote. During this period, Jen worked in production with some of New York's top producers at companies such as RSA/Black Dog, A Band Apart, Killer Films, and Propaganda. She was fortunate to work on many independent feature films including the Oscar winning *Boys Don't Cry*.

After the reception of her first film, she was hired to direct a promo for the National AIDS Marathon on location in San Francisco, a project she is very proud of.

In 2002 Jen gained a place to study film in the MFA program at the University of Southern California. In 2004 Jen directed her first music video, *Chelsea Hotel*, for artist Karen Ramos, and began production on her graduate thesis film, *Confessions of a Late Bloomer*. Jen was honored with a grant from The Caucus Foundation for her work on *Late Bloomer* as well as a scholarship from Women in Film recognizing outstanding young female filmmakers.

Confessions of a Late Bloomer has just begun its festival run at the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival. Some honors for the film include: Zoom In Award for Best Editing, Remi Award for Creative Excellence, Best Short Film at Living Proof Music & Art Festival, Best of the Fest at Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Jen is eager to start production on her next project, her debut feature film *The Missing Children's Club*. Collaborating with her producer, Philip Lott, she is also actively working with two writers on the films *The Perfect Match* and *La Maison du P p  (The Grandfather's House)*.