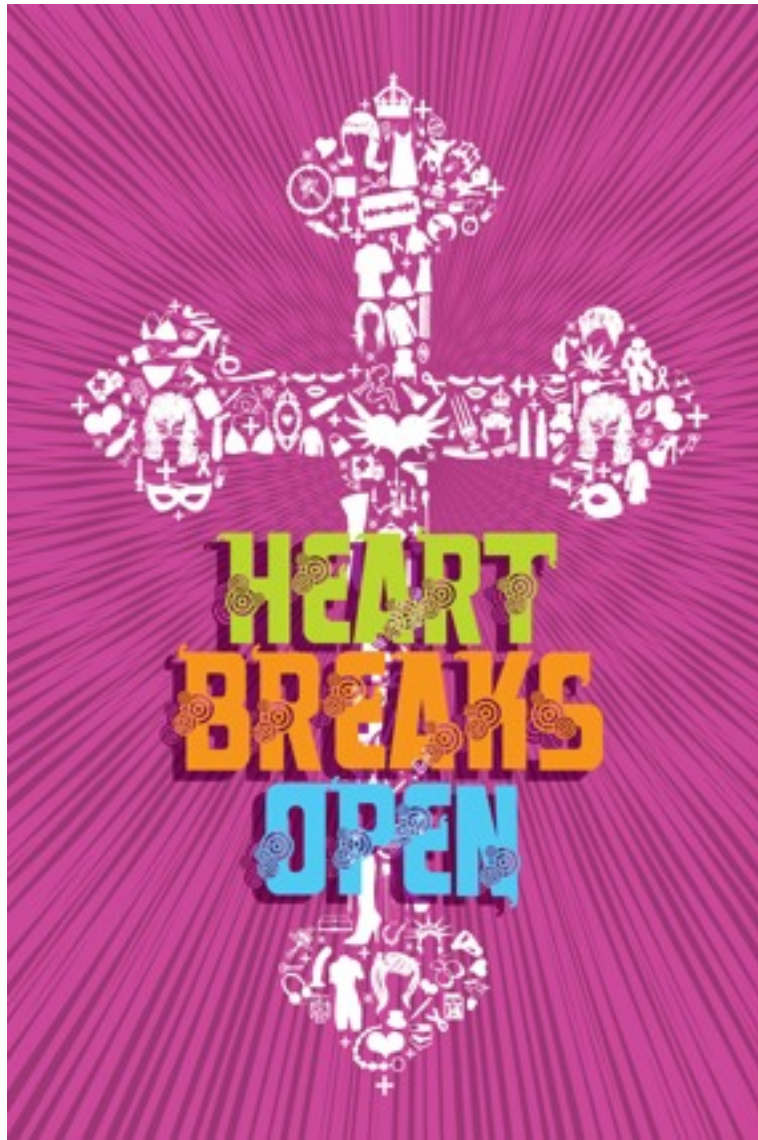


a dual power production



2011 | 81 minutes

directed by billie rain | produced by Basil Shadid | edited by John Boucher
featuring: Maximillian Davis | Brian Peters | Samonte Cruz

SYNOPSIS

Model queer activist and poet, Jesus (Maximillian Davis) prides himself in his work with the Seattle LGBT community. At the same time, Jesus is having unprotected sex and cheating on Johnny, his long-time partner (Samonte Cruz). Jesus's world implodes when he discovers that he is HIV positive, forcing him to confront his innermost fears, his relationship with his ex-boyfriend, and a future living with HIV. Faced with the unknown, Jesus is pulled from the brink of self-destruction by Sister Alysa Trailer (Brian Peters), a [drag] nun who leads him down a path of self-discovery.

'heart breaks open' is a feature film about the freakout after testing positive and the fallout from a broken heart. Queer life, public health and community accountability are the main themes that run throughout the films 81 minutes. Through ungrounded actions, Jesus breaks from the ethics of his work as an advocate for LGBT survivors of domestic abuse. He finds himself on the opposite end of the table, needing support to heal himself and the personal relationships that he's broken. Jesus's struggle with his own ego pushes him to the edge where he finally finds the answer to his question, "If you want to know God, what?"

In a nuanced and subtle way, 'heart breaks open' comments on the notion of a 'second coming' of the Christian Jesus Christ. The film deviates from the traditional 3-act story structure, commonly used in fiction film, and follows the path of the Christian 'Stations of the Cross'. Instead of a cross, HIV is our Jesus's burden to bear. Instead of the daughters of Jerusalem, Jesus is met by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, "an order of 21st Century [drag] nuns dedicated to the promulgation of universal joy and the expiation of stigmatic guilt."

'heart breaks open' strives to provoke. Who would Jesus be if s/he were with us today? What would be the cross to bear? How do we crucify our own or ourselves?

HEART BREAKS OPEN STILLS

http://www.heartbreaksopen.com/press/hbo_01.jpg

http://www.heartbreaksopen.com/press/hbo_02.jpg

http://www.heartbreaksopen.com/press/hbo_03.jpg

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

billie rain was born in Fall River, Massachusetts in 1973. She grew up in the Washington DC area, spending her youth being active in movements for social change, including Positive Force, ACT-UP and Riot Grrrl. Through the early to mid-90s, billie toured the United States performing spoken word and playing music in punk rock bands. She used the settlement money from a car accident to start Riot Grrrl Press, a pre-internet distribution service for self-published magazines (zines) focusing on young women's and queer issues.

In 1996, billie began dealing with a chronic pain and rare tumor condition that eventually moved her out of the performance world. She spent the next ten years learning to love herself as she is. Her public art consisted of writings on healing, disability and undoing oppression. In that time, she also settled in the pacific northwest where she continues to build accessible and healing community.

2006 marked her directorial debut with the release of the short experimental film *To Be A Heart*, a unique exploration of gender featuring the poetry of Hafiz. It played at festivals in Canada, Lebanon and the United States.

In 2009, a few short months after her third major tumor surgery, billie began working with producing partner Basil Shadid on the second installment of her heart trilogy. *Heart Breaks Open* took 14 months to complete and was created in a way that would be accessible to her disability needs.

2011 marks the release of *Heart Breaks Open* and the beginning of development on *Love Like A Heart Attack*, her third heart film.

High Res Photo: <http://www.heartbreaksopen.com/press/billierain.jpg>

FILMOGRAPHY

To Be A Heart, 2006

Heart Breaks Open, 2010

TECHNICAL NOTES

HEART BREAKS OPEN was filmed on the Canon T2i and Canon 7D in 1080p at 23.98 frames per second. Sound was recorded digitally on a separate sound recorder.

Each film scene had between 2 and 3 camera operators and 1 sound engineer.

The original script was a 4 page outline. Actors improvised scenes in real locations around Seattle, Washington with the staff and passerby's in each location. 117 hours of material were recorded between March and July 2010.

The film was edited by John Boucher using Final Cut Pro software running on Apple Macintosh computers.

The film was color corrected at Modern Digital in Seattle.

Sound mixing took place at Clatter and Din studios in Seattle.

The final project was laid to HDcam at Modern Digital in Seattle.

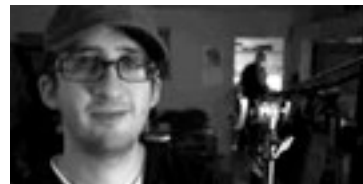
CAST AND CREW (PRINCIPAL)

basil shadid

producer, story, director of photography

Basil was the Post-Coordinator on the Academy Award nominated documentary Iraq In Fragments. He has been working in film since 2003. Based in Seattle, Washington, Basil works internationally. Previous projects have taken him through Asia, the Middle East, Europe, North America and South America. He has also traveled thousands of miles on freight trains throughout the US. His Masters in Mental Health Counseling, background in popular education, yearning for adventure, and years of experience in production give him a unique perspective on story.

High Res Photo: <http://www.heartbreaksopen.com/press/basilshadid.jpg>



billie rain

director, story

billie is a disabled writer, activist and filmmaker. years of chronic illness and a rare tumor condition have given her an amazing sense of groundedness, connection and self-advocacy that fuel her passion to bring truth, in all it's pain and glory, to audiences everywhere.

High Res Photo: <http://www.heartbreaksopen.com/press/billierain.jpg>



john boucher

editor

John is a screenwriter, director, editor, musician and poet. He holds two film degrees and is proud to have worked for several years as an assistant to screenwriting legend Stewart Stern (Rebel Without A Cause). As co-founder of Seattle-based writing collective Les Sardines, he co-produces and contributes to the group's entirely hand-made literary publication Les Sar'zine. heart breaks open marks John's debut feature-length editorial effort.



maximillian davis

cast: jesus

Max began his work in collaborative arts as a performer and facilitator for Project Outreach for Secondary School Education at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. He went on to study theatre at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. Upon graduating, he became a starting member of Ripple Productions, originating the roles of Marty in Innocent When You Dream (Backstage 2004 off-broadway production of the year), Bes in The Wheat and the Moon,



and Kenji in Sweet Pushes, Tangy Pulls. In Seattle, Max has performed for the Intiman Theatre's Living History program, and collaborated for two years with local performance group Circus Contraption. heart breaks open marks his feature film debut.

brian peters

associate producer

cast: michael/sister alysa trailer



Brian has been in and around the theater world since he was 5 years old, working in small community theaters as well as the Opera Idaho Company. He took some time off to explore himself and found a new calling in life. He found his partner of 9 years and joined the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence™, the Abbey of St. Joan, as Sister Stella Standing. He discovered that community outreach and activism spoke to his soul. Brian is also a person living with HIV for over 10 years and has made it his personal goal to reach people like him and lend a hand whenever needed. heart breaks open marks Brian's debut in a full-length feature film.

samonte cruz

cast: johnny



Samonte is a mixed-gender, mixed-race Pilipino educator, organizer, singer/songwriter, audio engineer, and video editor. He has performed at various arts festivals in Canada and the US, including the Anti-Beauty Pageant, Seattle WA and Roots, Rhymes and Resistance, Vancouver BC. He believes that music and new media serve as powerful forms of expression, resistance and education — especially for individuals and communities with under-represented perspectives. Samonte is very grateful that he is able to be part of heart breaks open and has enjoyed working with the visionary masterminds behind the project.

eric goetz

composer



Award-winning composer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist Eric Goetz prides himself on his diverse background and flexibility as a composer. Eric started composing at a very early age, writing video game music on his TI-99 computer in BASIC. Eric has scored several feature films and numerous shorts, including Seattle In Color, Greensleeves, Bookie , Black Coffee, Beyond Greenaway, and Photobooth. Eric also performs with numerous groups including Central Services and serves on the board of the Seattle Composers Alliance.

CAST AND CREW (ADDITIONAL)

ADDITIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHERS

James Longley
Alex Walsh

SOUND ENGINEERS

Chad Findlay
Eric Goetz
Dennis Schweitzer
Matt Sheldon

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Alix Kolar

WRITERS

Basil Shadid
billie rain
Maximillion Davis
Brian Peters
Samonte Cruz
Qwo-Li Driskill

AUDIO POST PRODUCTION

Brendan Hogan

ASSISTANT CAMERA

Terrence Dai

CAMERA OPERATORS

Craig Downing
billie rain
Alix Kolar
Shaun Michael Farmer

“Dream” SCENE SET DECORATOR

Indus Alelia

COLORIST

Tim Maffia at Modern Digital

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Sunny Kim
Justin Minich

FILMED ON LOCATION IN SEATTLE, WA AT

Cal Anderson Park
 The Cuff Complex
 Denny Blaine Beach
 The Fleur De Lis
 Gay City Health Project
 Joey Ray Apartments
 Lifelong AIDS Alliance
 The Lookout
 Mom's Pharmacy
 The PolyClinic
 PURR Cocktail Lounge
 The Vera Project

ADDITIONAL CAST

Jenn Bowman (Survivor's Alliance Community Advocate)
 Basil Shadid (Survivor's Alliance Caller)
 Trenton Garris (John)
 Luis Viquez (Gay City Testing Clinic Counselor)
 Christopher Reicks (The Cuff Make Out Boy)
 Dan "Puppy" Daniels (The Cuff Bartender)
 Michael Pierce (Mom's Pharmacy Front Desk)
 Brad Mott (Mom's Pharmacy Pharmacist)
 William David Borden Mazas (Lifelong AIDS Alliance Counselor)
 Sister Babylon Anon (Sister of Perpetual Indulgence)
 Sister Daya Reckoning (Sister of Perpetual Indulgence)
 Sister VixXxen (Sister of Perpetual Indulgence)
 Novice Sister Coochie Von Beaverhausen (Sister of Perpetual Indulgence)
 Sister Flora Maldehyde (Sister of Perpetual Indulgence)
 Sister Karma Za Betch (Sister of Perpetual Indulgence)
 Sister Lotus A Bowl (Sister of Perpetual Indulgence)
 Sister Sunshine Ospi (Sister of Perpetual Indulgence)
 Status Apparatus (DiSH! DJ)
 Alix Kolar (Taylor)
 Shane Desynadinos (Friend at Purr)
 Shaun Michael Farmer (Friend at Purr)
 DJ Klaudt (Friend at Purr)
 Nicole Laverty (Friend at Purr)
 Andrew Morgan (Friend at Purr)
 Bionda Nanlohy (Friend at Purr)
 Qwo-Li Driskill (Johnny's Friend Tsiya)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Producer / Sales:

Basil Shadid
Dual Power Productions
PO Box 22441
Seattle, WA 98122. USA.

Phone: +1 (206) 925-3163

Fax: +1 (206) 905-0862

Website: <http://www.heartbreaksopen.com>

Production: <http://www.dualpowerproductions.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/heartbreaksopen>

IMDb: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1798164/>