

Fanny, Annie & Danny
a film by Chris Brown

Website

www.fannyannieanddanny.com

Awards

EMERGING FILMMAKER AWARD – 2010 Starz Denver Film Festival
BEST DRAMA – 2011 Breckenridge Film Festival
BEST NARRATIVE (Silver Chris Award) – 2011 Columbus Int'l Film Festival
BEST SCREENPLAY – 2011 BendFilm Festival
BEST FEATURE – 2010 New Jersey Film Festival
BEST FEATURE – 2010 Red Rock Film Festival
BEST ACTRESS (Jill Pixley) – 2011 Breckenridge Film Festival
BEST PERFORMANCE - FEATURE (Jill Pixley) – 2010 San Antonio Film Festival
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS (Colette Keen) – 2011 Breckenridge Film Festival
BEST SCREENPLAY – 2010 Rivers' Edge International Film Festival
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY – 2010 Charlotte Film Festival
BEST ENSEMBLE – 2010 Charlotte Film Festival
BEST U.S. / INTERNATIONAL FEATURE – 2010 Kansas City FilmFest
GRAND JURY AWARD (Runner-Up) – 2011 White Sands Int'l Film Festival
WORLD CINEMA SCREENWRITING AWARD – 2010 Amsterdam Film Festival
SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENTS AWARD – 2010 Fort Lauderdale Int'l Film Festival

Selected Screenings

ReRun Theatre – Brooklyn, NY (week-long run)	Dec 2011
Prescott Film Festival – Prescott, AZ	Nov 2011
Naples Int'l Film Festival – Naples, FL	Nov 2011
Boston University Film Series – Boston, MA	Oct 2011
BendFilm Festival – Bend, OR	Sept 2011
White Sands International Film Festival – Las Cruces, NM	Aug 2010
Breckenridge Film Festival – Breckenridge, CO	June 2011
Mecklenburg/Pomerania Film Festival – Mecklenburg, Germany	May 2011
Florida Film Festival – Maitland, FL	Apr 2011
Independent Film Festival Boston – Boston, MA	Apr 2011
Bradford International Film Festival – Bradford, UK	Mar 2011
San Luis Obispo Int'l Film Festival – San Luis Obispo, CA	Mar 2011
Amelia Island Film Festival – Fernandina Beach, FL	Feb 2011
California Independent Film Festival – Moraga, CA	Jan 2011
Anchorage International Film Festival – Anchorage, AL	Dec 2010
Starz Denver Film Festival – Denver, CO	Nov 2010
Cinema by the Bay Film Festival – San Francisco, CA	Nov 2010
Red Rock Film Festival – St. George, UT	Nov 2010
Daytona Beach Film Festival – Daytona Beach, FL	Nov 2010
Rivers' Edge Int'l Film Festival – Paducah, KY	Nov 2010
Mill Valley Film Festival – Mill Valley, CA	Oct 2010
Fort Lauderdale Int'l Film Festival – Fort Lauderdale, FL	Oct 2010
Tacoma Film Festival – Tacoma, WA	Oct 2010
Carmel Film & Music Festival – Carmel, CA	Oct 2010
New Jersey Film Festival – New Brunswick, NJ	Sep 2010

Twin Cities Film Festival – Minneapolis, MN	Sep 2010
Charlotte Film Festival – Charlotte, NC	Sep 2010
Albuquerque Film Festival – Albuquerque, NM	Aug 2010
San Antonio Film Festival – San Antonio, TX	Jun 2010
Waterfront Film Festival – Saugatuck, MI	Jun 2010
Marfa Film Festival – Marfa, TX	May 2010
Kansas City Film Festival – Kansas City, MO	Apr 2010

Reviews

"(CRITICS' PICK) The acting is fabulous. Under Chris Brown's direction, an ensemble cast of unknowns works the reunited-for-Christmas-dinner theme beautifully."

– Neil Genzlinger, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

"An indie masterpiece filled with tension, loathing, hysteria and laughter...I can't recommend it highly enough."

– George Heymont, *HUFFINGTON POST*

"Funny in a blackly comedic way...Brown and his very good cast nicely ratchet up the gallows-humor tension."

– Dennis Harvey, *VARIETY*

"A host of fine performances distinguish this low-budget drama..."

– *NEW YORK MAGAZINE*

"It's exciting to encounter the work of a filmmaker who isn't afraid to push buttons or challenge viewers but who isn't taking this stance simply to be antagonistic. Yes, I'd bet actual cold, hard cash that *Fanny, Annie & Danny* is more abrasive than anything you've seen in a long time, but it also happens to be a memorable micro-budget achievement that has a tender, excruciatingly funny heart." (*A Hammer To Nail* Pick of the Week)

– Michael Tully, *FILMMAKER MAGAZINE / HAMMER TO NAIL*

"(CRITICS' PICK) Brown channels both Todd Solondz and John Cassavetes with his creepy suburban aesthetic."

– *TIME OUT BOSTON*

"If you're sick of the queasy sentiment in those endless holiday replays of *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *The Bishop's Wife* and the like, *Fanny, Annie & Danny* may be just the Christmas movie for you."

– David Noh, *FILM JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL*

"It's not gonna be all smiles this holiday season"

– *TIME OUT NEW YORK*

"The conflicted-family Christmas reunion film to end them all...You'll laugh till you cry or vice versa."

– Colin Covert, *MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE*

"Wonderful, Wonderful, wonderful. The film says something. Something important."

– Ray Carney ("*Cassavetes on Cassavetes*," "*The Films of Mike Leigh*")

"A darkly funny tale of family dysfunction."

– Pam Grady, *SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE*

"Packed with captivating performances...director Chris Brown brings a focus on characters and family dynamics that makes most holiday family squabbles look like a picnic. Find it and see it!"

– Aaron Lafferty, *NBC/WOOD TV8*

"Simply captivating...I was mesmerized. Wow!"

– Ray Read, *KCMO RADIO 710*

"Spectacularly shattering. The film's strength is undoubtedly its cast, especially in drawing the dark humour from a family torn apart by a collective lifetime of disappointment."

– Dan Wakefield, *DIGYORKSHIRE.COM*

"A daft, pitch-black dark comedy. *Fanny, Annie & Danny* will make anybody with a family, the more dysfunctional the better, cringe and grin."

– Roger Moore, *ORLANDO SENTINEL*

"See it with family! If you dare."

– Jonathan Kiefer, *KQED*

"A superb anti-Rockwellian portrait of the American Christmas...It can now be said that Mike Leigh no longer has a monopoly on all tightly woven working-class dramatic films, because here comes Chris Brown."

– Adam Cuttler, *FILMBALAYA.COM*

"Very indie and very good."

– Walter Ryce, *MONTEREY COUNTY WEEKLY*

"Nothing turns out quite as expected in this warped peek into a holiday collision of quirky and unorthodox proportions...A painfully funny tale that isn't what it seems. Evocative and just plain funny."

– Jerry Rapp, *REVIEW MAGAZINE*

"A suspenseful suburban gothic drama."

– ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

"Tautly rendered...the acting throughout is superb. A must see."

– Tom Haines, *THE BIG BEND SENTINEL*

"Cynical, darkly comical, weird, angst-filled, quirky and a complete original. A wondrous discovery. See it!"

– Page Leggett, *THE CHRONIC CRITIC*

Log Line

Everyone's worst fears are realized when three adult siblings are forced by their powerful mother to reunite for a holiday dinner.

Short Synopsis

Fanny is a developmentally disabled 39-year-old living in a home for dependent adults. Her world starts to implode when the candy factory where she works goes bankrupt. The

oldest of three children, Fanny has long been a source of strain and resentment within her family. Her jittery sister Annie has spent her life taking care of her, while their successful but elusive brother Danny has thus far escaped responsibility. When the three siblings are forced by their powerful mother to reunite for a holiday dinner, everyone's worst fears are realized.

Medium Synopsis

Filmmaker Chris Brown has been compared to director John Cassavetes for his ability to peel back the skin of his characters in a way that feels both disturbingly intimate and deeply real. In Brown's latest, finely-crafted feature, *Fanny, Annie & Danny* are three troubled adult siblings brought together by their horrific mother for the Christmas holiday. Like just about everything in Brown's work, what seems commonplace on the surface becomes riveting in the details.

We first meet Fanny, an obsessive-compulsive who lives in a group home and works at a candy factory about to go bankrupt. Fanny brings this secret to the Christmas dinner, where she reconnects with her self-absorbed sister Annie and their too-perfect-to-trust brother Danny. Mother Edie hosts the party with an iron fist, insisting at an ever-increasing pitch that everyone have fun. Their Vietnam vet father may act like his emotions died with his friends on the battlefield, but director Brown continually lets his audience glimpse the last few pulses of compassion the broken man has for those around him.

As with a storm building strength silently offshore, we sense the impending climax without knowing exactly when or where it will hit – or how hard.

Director's Statement

"*Fanny, Annie & Danny* was a story that more or less grabbed me by the throat and demanded to be told. A couple of years ago, I was working, laboring, on another screenplay, fully intending to shoot it. But a strange thing happened. The very moment I actually finished that script, these other, new characters began talking to me, nagging at me in that weird, semi-schizoid way that characters will speak to a writer. These characters, these people, were raw and beautiful and funny and mean and difficult, like the people I know and love, people who are hemmed in by circumstances, people who have to fight and claw and scratch every day for survival, for love, for stature, for money, for acceptance, for recognition. I know it sounds totally ridiculous, but these characters literally forced me to tell their story, forced me to shove aside this other script and give them life on the page and ultimately on the screen. A few months later we began shooting.

Someone recently remarked that he thought the film was about 'invisible people.' I think that this is a perfect phrase. So many movies are about other movies, known genres, wish-fulfillment, dead forms. Characters in movies are much too often two-dimensional ideas and cliches, props for the plot or excuses for fancy camerawork. The characters in *Fanny, Annie & Danny* are messy and wonderful and devastating and mean and kind and petty and vulnerable — just like us."

– *Filmmaker, Chris Brown*

CREW BIOS

CHRIS BROWN (Writer/Director) has spent the last decade directing a string of award-winning features and shorts. His latest feature, *Fanny Annie & Danny* (2010), has won 16 awards internationally, including BEST FEATURE (New Jersey FF, Red Rock FF, Kansas City FF), BEST DRAMA (Breckenridge FF, Columbus Int'l FF), THE EMERGING FILMMAKER AWARD (Denver Int'l FF) and THE SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENTS AWARD (Fort Lauderdale Int'l FF).

Hailed as "An indie masterpiece" by *THE HUFFINGTON POST*, *Fanny Annie & Danny* was named a "Critics Pick" by *THE NEW YORK TIMES* and *TIME OUT BOSTON*. Iconoclastic author/critic Ray Carney called it "Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. This film says something important."

Brown's previous films include *Daughters* ("Something as genuinely unpretentious as Chris Brown's debut feature seems an anomaly." – *VARIETY*), *Scared New World* ("Solidly in the tradition of pioneer indie pics like Cassavetes' *Shadows*." – *VARIETY*), *Battleship Contempkin* ("Gorgeous...you should check this film out if at all possible." – *FILM THREAT*), *Lost Cat* ("Defies categorization...hilarious." - *SF CHRONICLE*), and the San Francisco Int'l Film Festival Golden Gate Award winner, *Office Furniture*.

The Next Frontier, the PBS documentary Brown co-directed and edited, won a regional EMMY® award for BEST DOCUMENTARY in 2011.

MORGAN SCHMIDT-FENG (Producer) is a Bay Area film industry legend. The son of pioneer indie filmmaker/author Rick Schmidt, Morgan has produced shorts, features, commercials and documentaries in the Bay Area for the last decade. As a commercial cinematographer and producer, he has shot for companies such as Tesla, Cargill/Dow, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, and United Technologies Corporation. Clients like Lucasfilm, Pixar, Columbia Pictures, Interscope Records, Disney, and the Olympic Games have turned to Morgan for compelling behind-the-scenes and documentary-style footage.

Morgan's work was included on the *Star Wars Episode 2* DVD and rapper 50 Cent's music video for the song *Heat*, and is featured on DVD releases of *Star Wars Episode 3*, Columbia Pictures' *Rent*, Disney/Pixar's *Toy Story 10th Anniversary*, and Pixar's *Cars*. His work has screened at film festivals such as Sundance, New Directors/New Films NY, the Berlin International Film Festival, and the Mill Valley Film Festival. *Fanny, Annie & Danny* will be Chris and Morgan's 4th collaboration in 10 years.

ANDRE´ FENLEY (Sound Editor) A member of the Skywalker Sound team since the 1990s, André has worked on the soundtrack to some of the most successful and sonically brilliant films of the past 15 years, including *Iron Man*, *Minority Report*, *Munich*, *AI*, *Fight Club* and *Jurassic Park*. André and Chris have collaborated on many film projects together over the years.

CAST

Fanny Jill Pixley
Annie Carlye Pollack
Danny Jonathan Leveck
Edie Colette Keen
Ronnie George Killingsworth
Todd Nick Frangione
Mrs. Keller Anne Darragh
Carmen Suzanna Aguayo
Stacy Nancy Carlin
Dr. Bob Don Schwartz
Sheila Esther Mamet
Alan Sean Theriault
Emily Jessica Kitchens
Patient Cory Bytof
Clerk Russell Ramos
Band T.O.F.U.
Musicians Nicholas Falcon
Kara Hinman
Ely Levy
Ian Rogers

Factory Workers Mary Jane Barnes
Shelley Craft
Susan Karl
Andrea Luna
Iliana Mendoza
Elaine Supremo-Estoque

Runners Amir Aghababa
Derek Fukumori
Myles Jones
Hilton Kam
Sam Lubin
Javier Panzar
Dario Salvato
Andrew Yun

Waiting Room Brittney Banaei
Rivkah Beth Medow
Kyla Butlar
Xania Wallace Bytof
Dinna Davis
David Feiten
Willow McDonough
Michael Schwartz
Jill Symons
Margaret Wallace
Cristina Wilson

CREW

Writer/Director/Editor Chris Brown
Producer..... Morgan Schmidt-Feng
Supervising Sound Editor.. André Fenley
Cinematographer Chris Brown
Lighting & Grip Atlas Productions
Location Sound Ryan Agostino
Dan Diaz
Scott Stoneback
John Balquist
Omid Amjadi
Roddy Belloch
Adriano Bravo
Nick Bertoni
Location Manager Russell Ramos
Gaffer David Feiten
Set Decorators Judy Brown
Audrey Jackson
Casting Consultant Jessica Heidt
Craft Services Christopher's Fine Catering
Dialogue Supervisor Marilyn McCoppen
Asst. Dialogue Editor Dan Scolari
Dialogue Mixer Chris Manning
Sound Recordist Ron Roumas
Re-Recording Mixer Tony Sereno
Production Consultant Robert Hawk
Production Assistants Marcy Hignight
Rivkah Beth Medow
Donna Stone
Frances DeNisco
Larry Reuter
Sean Theriault
Cory Bytof
Margaret Wallace
Executive Producers Chris Brown
Ray Brown
Judy Brown
Audrey Jackson
Jeff Baker

MUSIC

“I Do”
written by Chris Brown
performed by T.O.F.U.

“Happy Horse”
written & performed by Jill Pixley

“Faceplant”
“Rusty Nail”
“Scaling Down”
“Full Throttle”
courtesy of Digital Juice, Inc.

“It’s Christmastime”
“Reindeer Rock”
“My First Christmas”
written by Chris Brown
performed by Jonathan Leveck,
Carlye Pollack, Colette Keen

SPECIAL THANKS

Suzanna Aguayo
Annabelle Candy Company, Inc.
Atlas Production Services
Best Western Luxury Inn, Tracy CA
Chater Camera, Inc.
John Chater
Lindsey Combs
Jessica Cowan
Jonathan Dees
Fabric County, Hamilton MT
Jay Farrington
Jim Goldner
Marcy Hignight
Todd Horrisberger
John Kabasakalis
Ethan Karl
Susan Karl
Conor Kellicutt
Jim Macintire

Brad Marshland
Natividad Moser
Emiko Omori
Mark Rachel
Daniel Robin
Jonathan Sanford
Michael Schwartz
Screen Actors Guild
Skywalker Sound
Cauleen Smith
Doreen Spinney
Donna Stone
Sharon Stone
Jill Symons
Alana Theriault
Steve Torres
Diane Tran
The Weisbach-Gertler Family

SPECS

Genre..... Feature, Drama
Running Time..... 82 min.
Language..... English
Country of origin..... USA
Format..... HDCAM
Sound..... Stereo
Copyright Ownership..... CB Films
Music Rights..... CB Films (Worldwide License Secured)

CONTACT:

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Jill Pixley as Fanny in Chris Brown's "Fanny, Annie & Danny" ©2010 CB Films



The family at picture-time in "Fanny, Annie & Danny" ©2010 CB Films



Director Chris Brown on the set of “Fanny, Annie & Danny” (photo courtesy of Dan Diaz ©2010)

“A darkly funny tale of family dysfunction.”
– SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

“An indie masterpiece.”
– HUFFINGTON POST

“Find it and see it!”
– NBC / WOOD TV8

“Blackly comedic.”
– VARIETY



Fanny, Annie & Danny

a film by chris brown

a CHRIS BROWN FILM starring JILL PIXLEY CARLYE POLLACK JONATHAN LEVECK COLETTE KEEN GEORGE KILLINGSWORTH & NICK FRANGIONE
director of photography GORDON HALL production designer JUDITH JACKSON consultant ROBERT HAWK production support ATLAS PRODUCTION SERVICES
editor ELLEN MIRSCH sound editor ANDRÉ FENLEY music by APRIL CAMPBELL executive producers RAYMOND BROWN JUDY BROWN AUDREY JACKSON JEFF BAKER
produced by MORGAN SCHMIDT-FENG written & directed by CHRIS BROWN ©2010 CB FILMS

