



Like a
house
on fire



Written and directed by
JESSE NOAH KLEIN

Produced by
**COLONELLE FILMS
& WOODS ENTERTAINMENT**

**TECHNICAL
INFOS**

Genre — **DRAMA**
Country — **CANADA**
Original version — **ENGLISH**
Subtitles — **FRENCH**
Length — **84 MINUTES**
Ratio image — **1:66**
Sound — **STEREO 5.1**
Projection format — **DCP**

LOGLINE

Dara returns home after leaving her husband and infant daughter 2 years before.



SYNOPSIS

Dara returns home to reconnect with her husband and her young daughter, whom she left two years earlier. When she arrives, she discovers that a woman who is seven months pregnant has taken her place and that her daughter no longer recognizes her. LIKE A HOUSE ON FIRE tells the story of a woman's struggle to regain the life she left behind.



TEAM

Written and directed by — JESSE NOAH KLEIN

Produced by — FANNY DREW,
SARAH MANNERING, WILLIAM WOODS

Casting (u.s.) — MICHAEL TESTA & LISA YSTROM

Casting (ca) — JENNY LEWIS & SARAH KAY

Cinematographer — ARIEL MÉTHOT

Set design — MÉLANIE GARROS

Costumes — KELLY-ANNE BONIEUX

Hair & Makeup — JANICK SABOURIN

Sound — PABLO VILLEGAS, SYLVAIN BELLEMARE
& BERNARD GARIÉPY STROBL

Editing — RICHARD COMEAU

Music — CHRISTOPHE LAMARCHE-LEDOUX

CAST

Dara — SARAH SUTHERLAND

Danny — JARED ABRAHAMSON

Jordan — HUBERT LENOIR

Therese — DOMINIQUE PROVOST-CHALKLEY

Isabel — MARGAUX VAILLANCOURT

Audrey — AMANDA BRUGEL

Katherine — SHEILA MCCARTHY

Jack — MICHAEL RILEY



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Coming home is rich terrain for a story. I've lived much of my life in Montreal though left for about six years to study and then teach in the US. Shortly before returning to Montreal I began to think about this story. About a woman coming back to her hometown and seeing those around her have all moved on.

My last film was told entirely from the male perspective and so I think I just naturally gravitated toward a female one. I had seen this story told many times from a man's point of view—the prodigal son—but less from that of a woman. Before the story really began to take shape in my mind there was always the character Dara. She is the movie's anchor, its beating heart.

While this film began to come together, I got married to someone I have known for much of my life and so ideas about family and parenthood were never far off. My siblings and my closest friends have become parents and it's something my wife and I talk about for our future. And while there is a rich and full love that comes with being a mother or father, there is also a terror. Of being inadequate, of making a mistake, of loving the wrong way. All of these ideas circled my mind as I began to put Dara's story together. There is no greater responsibility than bringing a child into this world and with it of course comes joy, but there is also a deep fear. And I wanted to tell a story that oscillates between these two poles as I begin this stage in my own life.



I come from a big family, I'm the youngest of four. Everyone is always talking over each other, fighting to get a word in. I've recently begun a family of my own and so it feels like the family has been the organizing principle of my life.

As it is for anyone, it's not always easy. There are times when it's hard to see eye to eye, at times it can be hard to see the way through to the other side. But, what I have learnt in my family life is not that there is always a solution. Sometimes there isn't. What I have learnt is that as long as there is the will, the effort, to find each other then some new common ground can always be reached.

In Dara's family there is so much that remains unsaid. These things can linger and weigh us down. We can come to spend our whole lives this way. Dara comes to realize over the course of the story that she can't go

along and bite her tongue, that she has to be honest with those she loves most. With her mother and father, with her estranged husband, and finally with her daughter. And while it can be painful, it ultimately brings her a newfound peace that she had never imagined possible.

All I have is my family. Dara too comes to terms with this idea. Family is malleable, it can change, evolve. Dara ends up somewhere very different than she had otherwise hoped but she comes to realize that as long as that will, that effort, is there, then those people will always be her family.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Jesse Noah Klein is a filmmaker from Montréal. He studied film at The University of Texas at Austin and went on to teach in the United States before returning to his native Canada to teach and make films. His first feature *We're Still Together* had its world premiere in competition at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, and went on to play at over 20 festivals worldwide. The film won two ACTRA awards as well as Prix Iris nominations at the Québec Cinéma Gala for outstanding male performance for its two leading actors. It is distributed by AZ Films in Canada and by Strand Releasing in the US and abroad.



**DIRECTOR'S
FILMOGRAPHY**

We're Still Together (2017)

**AWARDS
AND
SELECTIONS**

Grand Jury Prize New Hampshire Film Festival 2016
ACTRA Montreal Award Outstanding Male Performance — Jesse Camacho (Chris)
ACTRA Toronto Award Outstanding Male Performance — Joey Klein (Bobby)
Prix Iris Nomination for Outstanding Male Lead Performance — Jesse Camacho (Chris)
Prix Iris Nomination for Outstanding Male Lead Performance — Joey Klein (Bobby)

Karlovy Vary Film Festival
Calgary International Film Festival
Festival du Nouveau Cinema
New Hampshire Film Festival
Lone Star Film Festival
Cucalorus Film Festival
Anchorage International Film Festival
Pune International Film Festival
Praxis Film Festival
Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois

River Run Film Festival
Sarasota Film Festival
BAFICI
Oxford Film Festival
Giffoni Film Festival
Guanajuato International Film Festival
Footcandle Film Festival
Seoul International Youth Film Festival
Quebecine MX



ACTORS BIOGRAPHIES

SARAH SUTHERLAND

Upon graduating from New York University's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts, Sutherland was cast alongside Julia Louis-Dreyfus as her daughter in HBO's critically acclaimed and award-winning comedy series "Veep". The political satire follows the life of former Senator Selina Meyer (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) and all that entails being the Vice President of the United States. Sutherland and the cast have been nominated 3 times in the category of Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series. Up next Sutherland has a leading role in the indie film "Like a House on Fire" and will co-star with Adam Brody in "Kid Detective."

Other credits include the features "Chronic" opposite Tim Roth, "What They Had" with Michael Shannon and Hilary Swank, and television appearances in HBO's "The Newsroom" and "Tim and Eric's Bedtime Stories" on Adult Swim.



ACTORS BIOGRAPHIES

JARED ABRAHAMSON

For a self proclaimed "blue collar fighter," Jared Abrahamson certainly has an interesting story. Hailing from Flin Flon MB. a northern Canadian mining town known for its rugged atmosphere and harsh weather conditions. Jared spent his time working hard in the mines and training mixed martial arts with other homegrown fighters. At the age of 20 he decided to pack his bags and head west to chase another dream. He was going to be an actor. Jared graduated from Vancouver Film School, followed by numerous workshops and classes at other Vancouver based schools such as the Actors Foundry.

His first professional role was a lead in the Hallmark Movie "Finding a Family" where he played an emancipated teenager struggling to find a foster family while studying hard to be accepted into Harvard.

Along with acting, Jared continues to train mixed martial arts and has a Professional MMA record of 1-1-0 and a Muay Thai Kickboxing record of 2-0-0, where he fights under the name Wolfblood Abrahamson, a homage to his northern roots.



ACTORS BIOGRAPHIES

MARGAUX VAILLANCOURT

Margaux is a very smart 5 years-old who made her camera debut at 2 in the super cute Cashmere commercial. She was only 3 years old when she made her first audio recording for the Children's Dream Foundation. The same year, she was the youngest mocap performer in the world for the video game *The Division 2*. It is therefore no surprise that she got the role of Isabel in *Like a house on fire* at only 4 years old. Since then, we saw her in *District 31* and *Le guide de la famille parfaite*.



ACTORS BIOGRAPHIES

HUBERT LENOIR

Hubert Lenoir is a 24 year old singer-songwriter with good intentions. He grew up in Beauport, a suburban town of Quebec City.

As a kid, he quickly takes a liking to pop culture through television and video games. When he isn't glued to the small screen, he wears his mother's jewelry in secret.

In school, Hubert's classmates dub him as a "freak" and as "queer", although he prefers to see himself as a wandering soul. Then one day, he meets two freaks just like him. Together, they discover Donovan, Brian Eno, Elton John, and encourage each others to wear women's clothing to class. All the while, melodies start popping up in his head.

Hubert then drops out of school and works odd jobs, including one in an assembly-line for a window factory. He sometimes sings in the streets as a public entertainer.

When he turns 17, he enlists his brother and two friends to start a band. In 2014, The Seasons release their first record, *Pulp*, to much commercial and critical praise. They then embark on a two-year world tour, gracing the stage in Berlin, Los Angeles and their native Quebec. Despite The Seasons' success, Hubert still gives explosive performances on the public square.

Coming home after another tour, he spends a year filled with turmoils, insomnia, fast food and blockbusters, in which he pens and records *Darlène*, a concept album accompanied by a novel written by Noémie D. Leclerc, his best friend and lover. *Darlène* is entirely dreamed up in Quebec City, where Hubert musters his R&B, glam rock, psychedelic, jazz and prog rock influences to create eclectic, volatile and bold pop music.

Darlène is a post-modern opera about a generation coming of age. It gained critical et popular acclaim across Canada, as well as in France, Belgium and Switzerland, he won lost of prize and did shows around the globe, from Texas to Tokyo. He's now working on his second album (but it's really its first).

His role in LIKE A HOUSE ON FIRE is his first appearance on screen.



ACTORS BIOGRAPHIES

DOMINIQUE PROVOST- CHALKLEY

Born in Bristol, South West England, Dominique began dancing at the age of 4 and after quickly discovering her passion for all performing arts trained in acting, singing and all genres of dance to become as versatile a performer as possible. At 16 years old Dominique went on to train for 3 years at Laine Theatre Arts and prior to graduating managed to secure a part in the West End's hit Musical Dirty Dancing where she played the Alternate Baby Houseman at only 19 years old. Whilst starring in Dirty Dancing Dominique discovered her real passion for straight acting. She then went on to feature in E4's comedy series The Midnight Beast.

Paul Hyett's 'The Seasoning House' (2013) was Dominique's first feature film which was a huge success premiering as FrightFest's opening night movie and making cinema release. Dominique then starred in the West End's hit musical Viva Forever based on the songs of the Spice Girls. In 2015, Dominique filmed Marvel's 'The Avengers - Age of Ultron' where she gained invaluable experience. Other TV and film credits include 12 Monkeys, Murdoch Mysteries and Buckout Road. Dominique's favourite project to date was filming Wynonna Earp in Calgary, Canada - where she plays Wynonna's younger sister Waverly. She is very much looking forward to filming it's 4th Season in 2020.



PRODUCTION COMPANY'S PROFILE

COLONELLE FILMS

Colonelle films is a Montreal-based production company supporting talented emerging filmmakers. They have produced over 20 author-driven films of all formats (shorts & features, documentaries & fiction) that were recognized by important film festivals such as Sundance, Berlin, Rotterdam, Tiff, Locarno, Hot Docs, etc. Their first short film *THE CUT* (2014) won *Best International Short* in Sundance, their first documentary *WELCOME TO F.L.* (2015) premiered at TIFF and their first feature drama *UNE COLONIE* (2018) won a dozen of awards, including a *Crystal Bear* at the Berlinale and the *Best Motion Picture* award at the Canadian Screen Awards.

Colonelle producers Fanny Drew and Sarah Mannering also took part to many development programs such as EAVE, the Berlinale Talent Campus, the Rotterdam Producers Lab, Cannes Producers Workshop, HOT DOCS Doc Accelerator Lab, in addition to winning the *Emerging Filmmakers* award at HOT DOCS 2018 and the *Emerging Producers* award 2019 by the AQPM, Québec's producers union.

LIKE A HOUSE ON FIRE is their second feature drama.



**CO-PRODUCTION
COMPANY'S
PROFILE**

**WOODS
ENTERTAINMENT**

William Woods is a Toronto based Producer with a focus on feature films that have both commercial and philosophical merit. He began his career with the thriller *MEAN DREAMS* (2016), starring Sophie Nélisse, Josh Wiggins, Colm Feore and Bill Paxton, which premiered in the Directors Fortnight at Cannes and had its' North American premiere at TIFF. Woods has just completed three feature films, *CASTLE IN THE GROUND* (2020), starring Alex Wolff, Imogen Poots, Neve Campbell, Keir Gilchrist, and Tom Cullen, which recently premiered at TIFF and SXSW; *SPINSTER* (2019) starring Chelsea Peretti; *HAMMER* (2019) starring Will Patton and Mark O'Brien. He is also in post-production on *LIKE A HOUSE ON FIRE* starring Sarah Sutherland *THE KID DETECTIVE* starring Adam Brody and Sophie Nélisse, which is the debut feature film from Evan Morgan.

Woods graduated from York University with his Masters in environmental ethics. He also completed the Canadian Film Center's Producer's Lab, The Rotterdam Producers Lab and Trans Atlantic Partners co-production incubator. He has recently launched *GAME THEORY FILMS*, a boutique distribution company in Canada and *LINE 200* a film finance fund with 2.5 million in equity.



CANADIAN DISTRIBUTOR

ENTRACT FILMS

MONTREAL-BASED BANNER ACTING AS A CANADIAN DISTRIBUTOR AND PRODUCER

Since September 2016, Entract Films is a new banner in the Quebec film-industry with a business model combining distribution of quality and varied feature films, as well as development and production of original content with its sister-company Entract Studios.

Based in Montreal, Entract Films is one of the most active Quebec distributors with a combined box-office of nearly \$20 million since it started operating in September 2016. Nominated for the People's Choice Award at the Québec Cinéma Gala, Entract have seen its films being awarded with numerous international awards including the Best Picture Oscar. Entract is also representing a catalogue which includes films from acclaimed directors such as Xavier Dolan, Jean-Marc Vallée and Denis Villeneuve.

Entract is looking forward to produce, acquire and distribute a varied selection of quality films for the Quebec audience.

CONTACTS

PRODUCERS

COLONELLE FILMS
Sarah Mannering
sarah@colonellefilms.com
+1 (514) 823 4496
Colonellefilms.com
[Facebook.com/colonellefilms](https://www.facebook.com/colonellefilms)

WOODS ENTERTAINMENT
William Woods
Will@woodsentertainment.com
+1 (416) 892 5400
woodsentertainment.co

CANADIAN DISTRIBUTOR

ENTRACT FILMS
Tim Ringuette
tringuette@entractfilms.com
+1 (514) 847 1136
entractfilms.com



WITH THE FINANCIAL
PARTICIPATION OF



PRODUCED IN
ASSOCIATION WITH



MADE WITH
THE SUPPORT OF



DEVELOPED WITH
THE ASSISTANCE OF

