

BY ASSOCIATION

presents

CHUCK & FERN

A SHORT FILM

written & directed by
Henry Alexander Kelly



LOGLINE

Within a fantasy video game, a heroic swordsman and a D-List villain, face an existential crisis but must push past it when a greater purpose calls.

FILM INFO

Genre: Fantasy Comedic-Drama

Length: 15 mins & 21 secs

Format: 16:9

Camera: Arri Alexa Mini LF

CONTACT INFO

✉ Eduardo Ayres Soares

eayresfilm@gmail.com

SUPPORT

This project would not have been possible without the generous support of the following organizations:

CAST & CREW

Writer & Director: Henry Alexander Kelly

Cast: Lorena Jorge, Mateo Mpinduzi-Mott, Adargiza De Los Santos, & Grayson Fox

Producers: Gabe Figueroa, Eduardo Ayres Soares, and Kat Croft

Executive Producers: Harriet Cauthery, Rik Michul, Howard Shur, Jaime Davila, Charlie Rosen

Director of Photography: Adriel Gonzalez

Assistant Director: Luisa Novo

Casting Director: Alan Luna

Production Designer: Georgina Gutierrez

Costume Designer: Elena Flores

Hair and Make-Up: Ruth Torres

Post Production by: Flawless Post

Post Producer: Bill Reilly

Editors: Jacob Mendel & Renee Schwartz

Assistant Editor: Matthew Stubstad

Colorist: Sarah London

VFX Artist: Sean Struble

Animator & Asset Artist: Lizzie Hopwood

Composer: Charlie Rosen (2x Tony Award Winner, 2x Grammy Award Winner)

Music Producer: John Kilgore (3x Grammy Award Winner)

11-Piece Orchestra Recorded live at The Bunker Studio (Brooklyn, NY)

Sound Design by: Swell Sound

Sound Editors: Elad Marish & Alex Doty

BY ASSN.



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SYNOPSIS

From inside their videogame world, Fern and Chuck (Mateo Mpinduzi-Mott and Lorena Jorge, in engaging and moving performances), just want to go about their programmed videogame lives but things change when they find themselves in a fight bigger than their known world!

"Chuck and Fern" deftly demonstrates the beating heart of video games and the power they have to inspire us beyond our screens.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Logline: Within a fantasy video game, a heroic swordsman and a D-List villain, face an existential crisis but must push past it when a greater purpose calls.

“Chuck and Fern” is a live-action, fantasy, comedic, drama short film of epic proportions. The film mixes two realities: the zany, colorful, fantasy world of video games with the dark, grounded, and emotional real world. The film shows how video games are a beacon of light and hope and is produced by “BY ASSOCIATION”, with support from Q Youth Foundation, the Sundance Institute, Justice for My Sister, Flawless Post, and Swell Sound with an 11-piece orchestra composed by two-time Grammy Award winner Charlie Rosen.

This short film is Henry Alexander Kelly’s directorial debut.

“Video games saved my life as a child. They taught me about courage, magic, and hope. It’s an art form that connected my mom and I. This story is for people who use videogames to cope with life and find their inner Hero.” – **Henry Alexander Kelly**

OFFICIAL TRAILER

[Click here for the official "Chuck and Fern" trailer](#)

OFFICIAL POSTER

[Click Here for the Official Poster](#)

[Click Here for the Instagram Square Poster](#)

FILM STILLS

[Click Here for Film Stills](#)

BTS PHOTOS

[Click Here for BTS photos](#)

PORTRAITS

[Click Here for On-Set Cast Portraits by Ellie Stills](#)

ENTIRE CAST & CREW LIST

[Click Here for List of the Entire Cast and Crew](#)

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CAST



Lorena Jorge as Chuck

Lorena Jorge is a William Esper Studio alum, trained under the guidance and teachings of the late Bill Esper. She has graced many New York City stages and screens for over a decade. She is Disney's first AfroLatina Superhero in the series *Ultra Violet and Black Scorpion* starring as Catalina/Cascada. She's been in CW's *Jane The Virgin*, TNT's *The Last Ship*, The Spanish Repertory Theater's "La Gringa," and off-Broadway Productions like David Lamb's "Platanos & Collard Greens." She was Net's Faith Film Festival host for over three seasons and is a prominent Voiceover Artist in Film, TV, and Radio in both Spanish and English Markets. Under her production company, Hidden Root Productions, Lorena has written, produced, and directed three short films and mini series coming to streaming platforms and festivals near you. You can currently listen to her on the Latin Dish Podcast and watch her in the Award Winning film, *First Day Back* at UMC.TV. She is a Native New Yorker with a BA from Fordham University in Criminology and Sociology with a Visual Arts Minor. Lorena Jorge is an interdisciplinary Afro-Latina Dominican Artist and proud first-generation American, who from an early age has lived by the mantra, "With Hard Work Anything is Possible."



Mateo Mpinduzi-Mott as Fern

Mateo Mpinduzi-Mott is a Houston-born Stage/Film/Voice Actor now hanging his hat in Echo Park. Raised in the theatre, Mateo studied acting at the University of Houston before moving to Los Angeles to further pursue his passion. He has gotten to play many parts on stages across the country on all three coasts including *Romeo & Juliet - Romeo* (VSF/SBTS) Tybalt (House of Bards), *Much Ado - Benedick* (AST) Claudio (SBTS), *Merchant of Venice - Lorenzo* (HSF), *Jesus Hopped the A Train - Angel* (4th Wall Theatre), *I Carry My Heart - Josh* (Bootleg Theatre Co), *I and You - Anthony* (Stages Rep. Theatre). He's also provided English dubbing for several anime and live-action series including *Haikyuu!*, and Netflix's *Elite* and appeared on Fox's *Pivoting* and FX's *American Horror Story*. While not treading the boards he works with Creating Creators to help pass the powers of filmmaking and storytelling to a younger generation.

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Adargiza De Los Santos as The Mom

Adargiza de Los Santos is an Afro-Latina of Dominican descent, from Brooklyn, NY. While she hones her filmmaking skills, you can catch her on the latest season of Abbott Elementary. You can also catch her on Grey's Anatomy, This Is Us, Better Things, Castle, Shameless, Bosch, Criminal Minds, I Love That For You, Phil Spector, and many more. As a board member of Open Door Shakespeare Theater Company, she is a passionate advocate for the accessibility of Classical Theater to the LGBTQIA+ and marginalized communities through captivating free performances open to the public.

Grayson Fox as The Boy

Grayson Fox is extremely proud to be joining the cast of Chuck and Fern! Grays has performed in front of his family and friends since the age of three. With a deep passion for art and comedy, he extended his status to theater geek as a performer in the hit production Annie for the Metropolitan Educational Theater Network in 2022. These shows showcased his outstanding acting skills and on-time comedic acting. He is currently in the 4th Grade. When not performing, Grayson is an avid video gamer and likes to play soccer with his team the Gladiators in Northridge California. Grayson would like to thank his Mom, Dad, and sister for their love and support. He also thanks director Henry and the entire cast for allowing him to enjoy this valuable experience. He dedicates his performance to the memory of his late grandparents Abuela Milagros, Papa Piro, and Papa Julio.



KEY CREATIVES



WRITER/DIRECTOR - Henry Alexander Kelly

Henry Alexander Kelly is a venti-caramel (cause he's chubby and brown), Afro-Latino comedic writer and director with San Francisco Bay Area and Nicaraguan roots. Recently he was selected to be a Circle Member for Dan Lin's 2024 Rideback Rise Fellowship. He was an Artist Development Consult for the Sundance Institute's 2022 Uprise Grant Program as well as a recipient of the Uprise Grant in 2021. He was a 2022 Film Independent Project Involve Writing Fellow, 2022 Sundance BIPOC Mentorship Recipient and in 2020 graduated from the National Hispanic Media Coalition's Series Scriptwriters Program sponsored by ABC and NBC. His half-hour adult-animated, mockumentary, comedy, NOW-WHAT?! (NAHUATL), about the Nicarao-Aztecs in the 1400s dealing with an ever-changing world is optioned by Campanario Entertainment. He creates zany, larger-than-life, genre-blending worlds exploring the intersection of cultural identity, interpersonal struggles, and the absurdity of society. www.henryalexanderkelly.com



PRODUCER - Gabe Figueroa

Gabe Figueroa is Los Angeles based Director and Producer. Current narrative work in production includes short projects HERO (Director) and Chuck and Fern (Producer). His award-winning short film Cold Winter's Night (Director) was honored in the 'Best Children's Programming' category by the Television Academy. Previously, Gabe led content production at Shots Studios, creating hit short-form videos and music videos as the lead producer of their stars Lele Pons and Juanpa Zurita - including Lele's 'Bloqueo' video, which amassed viral acclaim with its unique "one-take" concept. Cumulatively, he oversaw the creative production of over seventy-five videos, amassing 750+ million views on YouTube. He has collaborated on the producing teams of feature films, commercials and music videos, supporting Artists such as Pink and Alesso, in addition to brands like Lululemon, T-Mobile, and Toyota. He received his training at Chapman University and was subsequently mentored at Cirque du Soleil and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. More info: www.gabefigueroa.com



PRODUCER - Eduardo Ayres Soares

Eduardo Ayres Soares is a Brazilian producer, director and editor living in Los Angeles. He is currently the Head of Post-Production at Anastasia Beverly Hills Studios. He was director for Slamdance TV part of the acclaimed Slamdance Film Festival, has worked with the AFI Film Festival, and was a judge for Film Quest. He's directed six short films, edited TV and web series', and hundreds of corporate and commercial videos. His short film, Chasing the Dragon, received praise worldwide, 13 nominations, and four awards, until reaching distribution through Revry Streaming Service and HereTV. He's taught commercial filmmaking and film production at the university level. He has an MFA in Film Production from the University of Utah and BA in Visual Arts from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. More info: www.eduardoayressoares.com



PRODUCER - Katherine Croft

Kat Croft is honored to be the Head of TV and film Development at By Association, a Global Production Company and Creative Collective. Her day-to-day includes creative development with directors, writers, and fellow producers, as well as handling financial strategizing and growth initiatives. She cares deeply about mentorship and providing opportunities for people to grow, and is proud to mentor students from Tisch, Columbia College, and programs such as Streetlights in Los Angeles. She is a member of Women in Film, Film Independent, and New York Women in Film & Television.

KEY CREATIVES



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - Adriel Gonzalez

Adriel Gonzalez is a highly respected cinematographer, born raised, and based in Los Angeles, CA known for his work in film and television. With a career spanning over a decade, Adriel has a proven track record of creating stunning imagery and telling compelling visual stories. His work has been recognized at many festivals, including AFI, Tribeca, and Outfest. His debut feature-length documentary, *Copwatch*, was nominated for Best Cinematography at Tribeca in 2017. In addition to his work in feature films and television, Adriel has also garnered attention for his music videos and commercial work. He has worked on large-scale campaigns with major brands including; *Apple - Disney+ - Samsung - Starbucks - iRobot Roomba - UGG - SavageXFenty - GUCCI Radical Media - Bad Robot - Columbia Records* From a young age, photography and cameras have always fascinated him; as well as the stories that connect us all. Now his knowledge of theatre and photography aid him in the creation of dynamic visual stories. When not working on film projects, he can be found hiking in the mountains, practicing making pasta from scratch, and making photography. <https://adrielsongalez.com/>



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Luisa Novo

Luisa Novo is a Filmmaker and Assistant Director based in Los Angeles. She was born and raised in Cascavel, Brasil, a small city near the triple frontier with Paraguay and Argentina with many farms and home of Dirceu Rosa and his [finger centric sculptures](#). She has directed a number of short films both in Brasil and the US. She loves coming of age stories and recently directed her first comedy project, the web series pilot *breakLAND*, which takes place behind the scenes of a theme park. In 2019 she was selected as a fellow in the Tomorrow Filmmakers Today program from the Hola Mexico Film Festival, sponsored by HBO and the HFPA. She holds a bachelor's degree in Cinema from the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina in Florianópolis, Brasil, an MFA in Filmmaking from The New York Film Academy and certificates in Producing and Business and Management of Entertainment from UCLA Extension. When she is not writing or directing, she works as an Assistant Director in Film and TV, with projects varying in size and budget. <https://www.luisanovo.com/>



PRODUCTION DESIGNER - Georgina Gutierrez

Georgina Gutierrez is a Mexican Production Designer from Ciudad Juarez. She has an architectural background earning both a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Master of Architecture from California College of the Arts in San Francisco. Now a graduate of the American Film Institute, she hopes that her passion for telling stories through design will fill audiences with emotional pathos. She is a recipient of the AFI AWARDS [Audi USA Scholarship](#) in the name of AFI AWARDS Honoree [Bridgerton Netflix](#). You can experience her wonderful, fantastical production: https://issuu.com/georginagutierrez3/docs/renovado1_0f13ecaa44eea3



COSTUME DESIGNER - Elena Flores

Elena Flores skills as a seamstress and tailor were honed as an Allen Lee Hughes Fellow at Arena Stage in Washington, DC and her rendering and presentation skills were sharpened during her time acquiring a Master's of Fine Arts at CSU, Long Beach. Whether it be designing, constructing, or altering garments - Elena's passion for storytelling through costume shines through. She has worked on countless TV/Films/Short films ranging from NETFLIX to COMEDY CENTRAL and countless stage shows. <https://www.elenafloresdesign.com/>

KEY CREATIVES



HAIR & MAKE-UP - Ruth Torres

Ruth Torres aka [RuthInTruth](#) is a multidisciplinary artist with over ten years of Hair and Make-Up experience. She has been the HMU lead for art-centered campaigns across a diverse range of industries, including film and fashion. Through an approach that is committed to authenticity and emotional safety, Ruth has excelled in leading sets and environments that encourage artists to step into their full power and creativity. [Ruth In Truth | Makeup](#)



CASTING DIRECTOR - Alan Luna

Alan Luna is a casting director and producer for TV, film & animation. He's a partner with [@ablcasting](#), a casting office founded by him and fellow casting directors Michelle Adams & Natalie Ballesteros. With over a decade of casting and development experience, Alan has collaborated on a number of projects with Netflix, HBO Max, Disney, Nickelodeon, Marvel Studios, Amazon, and various others. Recently, he's collaborated on Aristotle & Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe (TIFF '22; produced by Lin Manuel Miranda), Jenni a biopic about Jenni Rivera, The Long Game (SXSW '23) based on the autobiography The Mustang Miracle, Marvel's Dr. Strange in the Multiverse of Madness, Netflix Selena: the Series, Gentefied, The Chosen One, and many others. www.imdb.com/name/nm11575912/



COMPOSER - Charlie Rosen (2x Tony Award Winner, 2x Grammy Award Winner)

Charlie Rosen is an American musician, composer, arranger, orchestrator, musical director, and music producer. Recently, as a co-orchestrator for the Broadway musical "Some Like It Hot" he won the 2024 Grammy for Best Musical Theater Album. He was also the Music Producer for the 2023 feature-film "Wonka!" He won the 2023 Tony Award for Best Orchestrations for "Some Like it Hot" as well as the 2020 Tony Award for Best Orchestrations for "Moulin Rouge!" He is the leader of The 8-Bit Big Band, a jazz orchestra specializing in video game music that won a Grammy in 2022 for Best Arrangement for a cover of "Meta Knight's Revenge" (from Kirby Superstar). He is best known for his work on Broadway, where he worked on Be More Chill, Prince of Broadway, American Psycho, and A Strange Loop. <http://www.charlierosen.com/>



ANIMATOR & ASSET ARTIST - Lizzie Hopwood

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Hopwood is a 2D animator and freelance character designer currently based in Los Angeles. She earned her BFA in Animation from DePaul University and has since worked for several small and mid-sized studios. Her most recent credit was as an animator on Ten Year Old Tom for HBO Max. For more information visit: www.lizziehopwood.com

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POST PRODUCTION

EDITING, COLOR & VFX by Flawless Post

Flawless Post is a lead post-production house in Los Angeles that works with huge name brands in narrative and commercials all across the globe. <https://flawlesspost.com/>

FLAWLESS
POST

Executive Producers: Rik Michul & Howard Shur

Post Producer: Bill Reilly

Editors: Jacob Mendel & Renee Schwartz

Assistant Editor: Matthew Stubstand

Colorist: Sarah London

VFX Artist: Sean Struble

SOUND DESIGN by Swell Sound

Swell Sound is a music, sound design, and audio post house based in San Francisco and Los Angeles. We provide music and sound for film, TV, web, and multimedia. Swell's tracks and mix can be found on commercials (Nike, Uber, Golden State Warriors, Apple, Smartwater) and on music videos for artists such as Beyonce, Pitbull and DJ Khaled. swellmusicsound.com

swell
music + sound

Sound Editors: Elad Marish & Alex Doty



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