



TACO MARY

A Myrrh Films and Luminist Films Co-Production

TAGLINE:

Sometimes it pays to believe.

LOGLINE:

When Rob, an atheist, sees the Virgin Mary in his taco he finds himself struggling with his beliefs, his principles, and his love of tacos.

SYNOPSIS:

When atheist Rob sees the image of the Virgin Mary in his taco, he finds himself in a quandary of whether or not he believes the image is really there and what he should do with the taco. June, the owner, sees nothing wrong with the taco and won't remake the taco or refund his money. Maya, the cook, sees the Virgin Mary and customer Jayson wants to sell it on e-bay. When Rob cuts a deal with June, he finds out that sometimes it pays to believe.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

It is my hope that "Taco Mary" is not just a comedy about an atheist seeing the Virgin Mary, but provokes some thoughts about faith, beliefs, commerce, the small business owner's struggle in big box America—and the beauty and miracles around us. The film explores some uniquely American issues about spectacle, religion, and money. As a

capitalist society that is also deeply religious, our culture (and the film) often tows the fine line between commercialism and faith, between the sacred and the profane. And I

hope the film feels timely--when the television crew comes to broadcast the miracle, the reporter states "despite the war, the economy, the housing crisis and high gas prices, we are hopeful and ready to believe in a sign from the Heavens". "Taco Mary" was inspired by my Catholic upbringing, my faith and struggle in faith, my husband Nick, and most likely Underpass Mary, a phenomenon in Chicago where the Virgin Mary appeared on a concrete wall under the highway. And from one menu featuring hot dogs and tacos to the obsession with our sports teams, "Taco Mary" is a true blue Chicago story.

DIRECTOR'S BIO: Mary Novak has a B.A. in English & Creative Writing from Northeastern Illinois University and an MFA in Film & Video from Columbia College Chicago. She worked several years freelancing, which included writing and producing video segments for educational media. Her recent short film "Highlights" screened in several festivals including Garden State Film Festival (Best Family Short), Salento International Film Festival (Italy), San Diego Women's Film Festival, Gold Lion International Film Festival (Swaziland). Long Island International Expo (Best Art Direction), Canterbury Short Film Festival (New Zealand). Her script "Taco Mary" won Best Screenplay at 2008

D.C. Shorts Film Festival and the film will premiere at 2009 D.C. Shorts.

ACTORS BIOS:



Desmin Borges' Film and television credits: *Taco Mary*, *Viva El Mariachi*, *Cherry*, *Good People*, *Between Two Suns*, *Evolution* and *True Blood* on HBO. Chicago Theatre credits include: *Boleros for The Disenchanted* (Goodman Theatre), *The Defiant Muse* and *I Sailed with Magellan* (Victory Gardens), *Elliot (A Soldier's Fugue)* (Steppenwolf Garage). Regional credits include: *Esperanza Rising* (The Children's Theatre Co. in Minneapolis). Desmin can be seen this fall in the World Premiere of *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* by Kristoffer Diaz at the Victory Gardens Biograph Theatre. Desmin is an Ensemble Member of Teatro Vista and a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University.



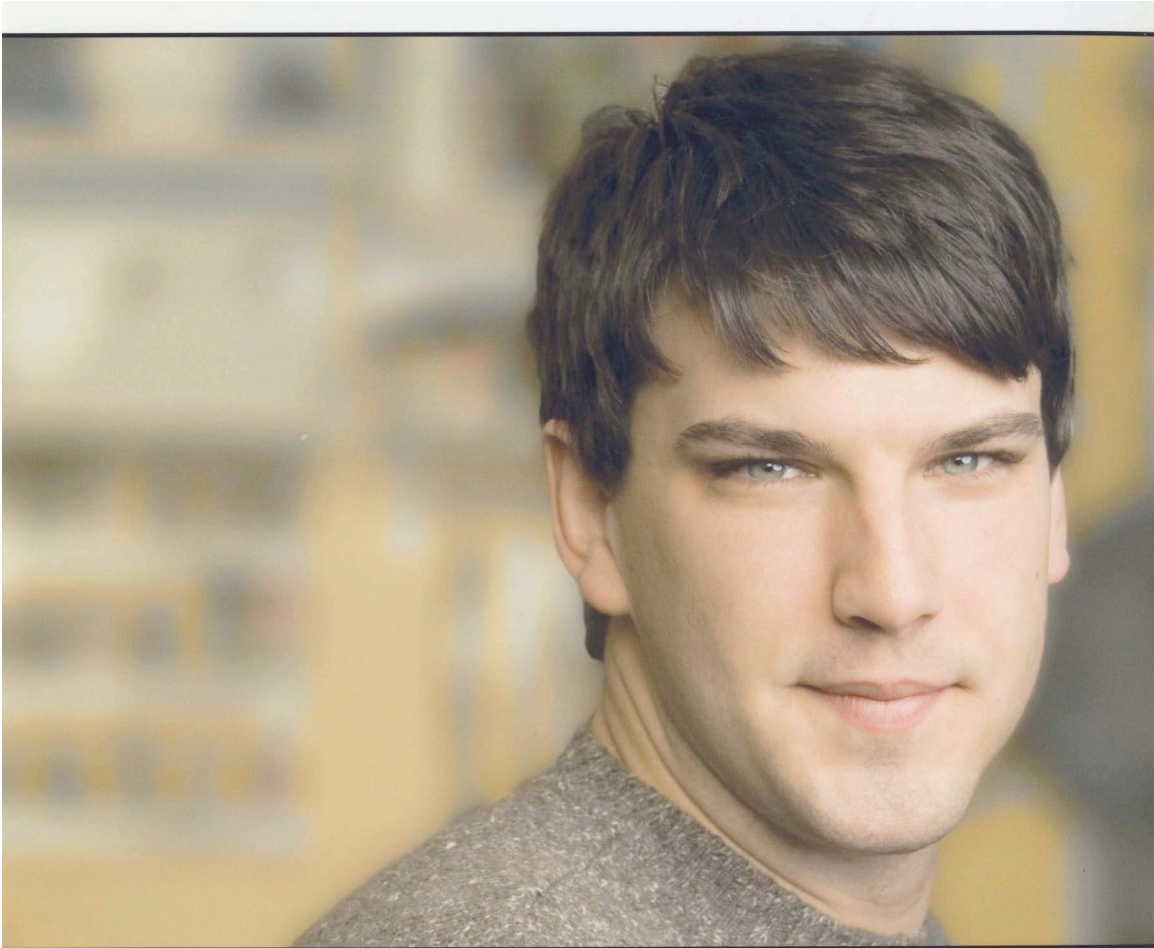
Samantha Garcia is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and has lived and worked all over the world. Since making Chicago her home, she has become a proud company member of both A Reasonable Facsimile Theatre Company, and Bare Boned Theatre. Many thanks to the cast and crew of "Taco Mary" for making this a truly enjoyable experience.



Adam Shalzi is from Chicago and holds a B.F.A. in Acting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Theatre credits include Redmoon Theater, Collaboraction, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Building Chicago, Redtwist Theatre, and more. He has worked on several short films and feature films this past year with the independent film community in Chicago. Adam is in the conservatory program at The Second City and performs improv with KC Redheart at The Playground Theater.



Yunuen Oseguera Pardo was born in Mexico where throughout her teen years she performed in various theatre and dance productions. After a year of studies in Vienna, Austria she moved to Chicago where she began her acting and production studies at Columbia College. She has been in several feature and short films and theatre productions in Chicago such as "Equal Opportunity Offender," a compilation of monologues done by and for the "Leukemia and Lymphoma Society," and "El juego que todos jugamos," played in Spanish. She is currently working on a feature and two short films and a play called "Erendira," an adaptation from a short story by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.



Josh Ryder

Josh Ryder has been performing for imaginary audiences since the tender age of 3. At the age of 7 real people started showing up and paying attention. Josh has worked onstage, behind the stage, under the stage and precariously perched above the stage as well. He has also spent time in front of, behind and just off to the side of the camera. When he can find a spare moment, Josh also works in post production as a compositor and animator with his one man and two cat production company *4029 Designs*. As an avid fan of both Tacos and the Virgin Mary, Josh's experiences working on *Taco Mary* have been both heavenly and high in calories.



Kayce Alltop is pleased to be working with Mary for the second time. Previous to Taco Mary Kayce played a hairdresser in Highlights. Other film credits include Dismembering James Walker and Interview Skills (Fortune Magazine). Kayce also performs with pH Productions, Annoyance Theater and i.O. Theater. Voice Over credits include McDonald's, PGA Gold and the Conduit (Wii Games). Thanks to Mary and Laurie, she hopes to work with them again soon!

END TITLES/CAST and CREW:

Dedicated with loving memory to my Mom,
Virginia Mary Novak

TACO MARY
Starring Desmin Borges

Writer/Director
Mary Novak

Producers/Production Designers
Laurie Little and Mary Novak

Director of Photography
Hunter Scott Whalen

Editor
Melissa Lawrenz

Visual Effects
Rachel Oftedahl

Composer
Petter Wahlback

CAST

ROB	Desmin Borges
STEVEN	Adam Shalzi
JUNE	Samantha Garcia
MAYA	Yunuen Oseguera Pardo
JAYSON	<u>Joshua Ryder</u>

MS. BUMP BUTT	Larissa Sims
MOM IN BOOTH	Deborah Keegan
BOY IN BOOTH	Timmy Keegan
CRANKY LADY	Susan Dowd-Strong
T.V. REPORTER	Allie Long
MR. HEARTBURN	Alex Kazhinsky
MS. MOCHA	Kayce Alltop

SKATEBOARD STUNTS Nick Keay

Exterior Extras	Vahan Artin
	Elizabeth Avelar

Dylan Bailey
Caity Barillas
Mary Black
Jason Cocking
Jennifer Cohen
Candice Lee Conner
Cynthia De Jesus
Emelen De Jesus
Walter Delgado
Rachel Eisler
Colleen Halloran
Jeanine Henry
Andrew Jorgensen
Chris Kellner
Thomas Kennedy
Craig Kirsch
Ginger Lane
Annie Lynch
Sean Morgan
Diana Moya-James
Chris Nelson
Damien Przybranowski
Erin Scheffler
William Shermach
Joan Shermach
Larissa Sims
Lisbeth Silva
Susan Strong-Dowd
Betty Ware
Vicki White

INTERIOR EXTRAS

James Baptist
Simona Ciarlo
Debbi Dickinson
Vijay Masani
Adel Eletr
Toya George
Andrew Jorgensen
Chris Kellner
Michelle Mongello
Diana Moya-James
Cynthia Scheffler
Erin Scheffler
Shayna X Cramer
Kevin Durkin

VOICEOVERS:

Maria Abraham
Sara Hill
Thavary Krouch
Jim Moore

1st Assistant Director

Anu Rana

2nd 1st Assistant Director

Randy Caspersen

Script Supervisor

Maria Abraham

Production Managers

Maria Abraham
Randy Caspersen
Katie Mahalic

Production Coordinator

Jennifer Cohen

Production Design

Laurie Little
Mary Novak

Art Director

Laurie Little

Set Design

Caity Birmingham

Signs & Print

David Guy
Tom Kennedy
Priscilla Maisch
Mike Bell
Vijay Masani

Art Assistants

Candice Lee Conner
Rachel Eisler

Wardrobe

Mary Novak

Casting

Lisa Formosa-Parmigiano
Craig Kirsch
Laurie Little
Mary Novak

Production Assistants

Jason Cocking
Jennifer Cohen
Andrew Jorgensen
Sean Morgan

Director of Photography

Hunter Whalen

1st Assistant Camera

Justin Watson

2nd Assistant Camera

Nicole Crivlare

Steadicam Operator

Carl Wiedemann

Gaffer

Jon Arturi

Digital Assist Technicians

Ben Rogerson
Chris Nelson

Key Grips

Arnika Jusko
Eon Mora

Grips

Burt Bilharz
Steven Szuret

Location Sound Mixer

Chris Puente

Boom Operator

Mason Thorne

Editing	Melissa Lawrenz
Score	Petter Wahlback
Vocals	My Damn Butterfly
Visual Effects	Rachel Oftedahl
Color Correcting	Nolo Digital
Sound Design	Veronica Morales
Post Recording Engineers	Veronica Morales
	William Cox
<u>Title & End Credits</u>	<u>Rachel Oftedahl</u>

Thank you
Bob Schwartz of Vienna Beef
Columbia College
Color Image Inc.
Maria Abraham
Jack Hewings
Derrick Kelly

Special thanks
Laurie Little
Jon Gann and D.C. Shorts Film Festival
Tom Fraterrigo
Melissa Lawrenz
And my Nick and Sophia Keay

**Huge thanks to Chris Christou, owner of POOCHIES
Home of the Char Cheddar Burger
3832 Dempster, Skokie, Illinois**

As winner of Best Screenplay at D.C. Shorts Film Festival 2008, this film was partially funded by D.C. Shorts Film Festival.

Cubs win?

Myrrh Films
Luminist Films
2010

POSTCARD FRONT:



Sometimes it pays to believe...

TACO MARY



Written and Directed
by MARY NOVAK



A MYRRH PRODUCTIONS AND LUMINIST FILMS Co-Production

Starring

DESMIN BORGES SAMANTHA GARCIA ADAM SHALZI YUNUEN OSEGUERA PARDO JOSH RYDER

Director of Photography HUNTER WHALEN Production Design by LAURIE LITTLE and MARY NOVAK

Original Score by PETTER WAHLBACK with vocals by MY DAMN BUTTERFLY Editor MELISSA LAWRENZ

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