

5
courses

3
couples

1
night

media kit *Progression*

Written and Directed by Gab Cody and Sam Turich
a Feature Length Comedy in which Everything is on the table!



CONTACT

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Logline:

A zany trio of urbanite couples fumble through love and heartbreak on the night of the annual Lawrenceville progressive dinner in and around the hipster-est neighborhood in Pittsburgh.

Synopsis:

Three couples in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville neighborhood join a raucous comic ensemble at the annual progressive dinner: soup at one house, salad at another, entrée at a third. One couple is falling in love, another is breaking up, and the third is "12 months" pregnant and desperate to induce labor - even if it means getting it on in their unsuspecting hosts' bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens. By the end of one hysterical night, secrets are revealed, true love is conceived or destroyed, and a baby is delivered on the dining room table.

Essential Information:

Writer & Director: Gab Cody & Sam Turich

Starring: Alex Falberg, Hayley Nielsen, James FitzGerald, Jason McCune, Gab Cody, and Sam Turich

Producers: Gab Cody, Sam Turich, Jonathan Joseph, Maya Henry

Director of Photography: Mark Knobil

Total Running Time: 88 minutes

Country of Production: USA

Date of Completion: April 2014

Website: www.progressionmovie.com

Premiere Screening: NewFilmmakers NY Summer Series 2014 at Anthology Film Archives July 9, 2014

Pittsburgh Premiere: Regent Square Theater July 10, 2014



Pictured: Hayley Nielsen (Lauren) and Alex Falberg (Humphrey)

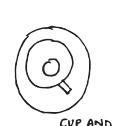
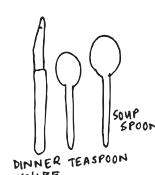
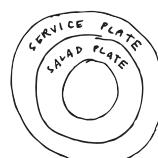
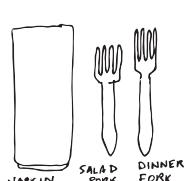




Photo by Kyle Wentzel

About the Film :

Progression is a feature-length narrative film project, set in Lawrenceville, shot in Lawrenceville and about a real-life Lawrenceville institution. This feature-length ensemble comedy follows a group of urban pioneers navigating love and heartbreak on the night of the annual progressive dinner in and around the hipster-est neighborhood in Pittsburgh. Dubbed a gentrification farce, this film features arty young professionals colliding with the fourth-generation locals who watch bemusedly as their neighborhood transforms under their noses.

This film features three soups, two salads, and culminates in a raucous single entrée where secrets are revealed, true love is conceived or destroyed, and a baby is delivered on the dining room table. The tone of the film is urbane and witty, with some slapstick thrown in for good measure. The filmmakers pay stylistic homage to the great screwball comedies of 1930s American cinema, as well as the mannered farces perfected by French auteurs.

Writers/Directors' Statement :

As creative partners we, Gab Cody and Sam Turich, share a vision of what is required to make quality theatre and film. It is our mission to create an independent comedy that both entertains and emancipates the viewer from the preconceived notions of the status quo (socially and cinematically) that are so often reinforced in Hollywood films.

We see it as our responsibility to provoke and engage an audience. We strive to agitate our viewers through fiercely entertaining work. We layer explorations of existential conundrums into plays and films that are funny, engaging and light, to hold the attention of our audience while also making them think. We attack preconceptions with the giddy glee of a sugared-up 6 year old.

Progression has a script that is intelligent, insightful, and unpretentious. There are no car chases, explosions or guns. The characters are all recognizable human beings, with foibles, failings, and the sorts of problems with which any viewer may identify. It explores, with a raucously comic sensibility: sexuality, race, income disparity, marriage equality, gentrification, family, secrets, lies and the truth.

- Gab Cody and Sam Turich





Who are the filmmakers?

When artists Gab Cody and Sam Turich relocated to Pittsburgh from New York City in 2007, they settled in Lawrenceville because of the neighborhood's reputation as a hub for arts and design as well as the affordable housing and strong community.

An unexpected benefit of their newfound home was an invitation to the neighborhood's annual progressive dinner. This is a yearly LUPS (Lawrenceville Urban Pioneer Society) event, when over one hundred denizens of Lawrenceville open their homes to each other for food, wine and laughter. Each participant attends a soup course in one home, a salad in another home and an entrée in a third. Then all the diners convene in one location for dessert. The 27-year-old progressive dinner, which began with about 15 friends, has become a community event with more than 150 participants.

Gab and Sam were inspired by their experience to create an original feature film. They knew the progressive dinner would provide an provocative lens to view changing relationships. They wrote a screenplay for a narrative feature set at the dinner, featuring the denizens of Lawrenceville at their most idiosyncratic and hilarious.



Photo taken on the set of *Progression*.





The Making of Progression:

Sam Turich and Gab Cody shot *Progression* on location in the Lawrenceville neighborhood of Pittsburgh over the summer of 2012. Gab and Sam first met as improvisers in New York City. They carry a spirit of collaborative creation with them through all of their work. *Progression* features performances from over 42 local actors and musicians. Though the film is narrative in nature an infectious spirit of play contaminates every moment. Be duly warned: The fun is contagious.

A micro budget feature, *Progression* was only possible because of the generous support of the local community. Successful Kickstarter and Indiegogo campaigns provided a significant percentage of the budget. Additionally, both the Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation awarded generous grants to the project.

Finally, individual community contributors provided the funds necessary to complete the film.

The local community's support has also been vital. Gab and Sam's neighbors in Lawrenceville opened their homes for a progressive dinner fundraiser on June 16th, 2012, which gave contributors a taste of the magical evening that is the inspiration for *Progression*. In the tradition of the annual Lawrenceville progressive dinner, couples started the evening with a "dance card" that directed them to three different sites around the neighborhood where they enjoyed a soup, then a salad, then an entrée. The night ended with dessert, film screenings and live music at the Arsenal Terminal Courtyard. The beautiful weather, delicious food, and wonderful community of people made the evening a huge success, and helped to raise additional funds for the film.

Supporters in the community also helped by providing locations for filming, acting as extras, preparing meals for the cast and crew, and cheering the whole team on.



Photos on the set of *Progression*





Crew Bios



Gab Cody (Producer/Writer/Director) - Gab's film works include shorts and documentaries that have screened at the Cleveland International Film Festival, NYC Horror Film Fest, San Francisco Independent Film Festival, San Francisco's Disposable Film Fest, the 11/22 International Comedy Short Film Festival in Vienna, Austria, and on WQED-TV. Gab attended the Sewanee Writers' Conference in 2011 as a Tennessee Williams scholar in playwriting. Her new bilingual Franco-English play *Fat Beckett* received a full production in December, 2011 at Quantum Theater in Pittsburgh and was named a top ten production of the year by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Playscripts, Inc. published *Fat Beckett*. Gab has also been the lead writer on the immersive urban adventures STRATA and Ojo. She is currently developing the nontraditional documentary feature *Inside Passage*.



Sam Turich (Producer/Writer/Director) - On screen, Sam has appeared in films with Seth Rogen, Allison Janney, Laura Linney and Joanne Woodward. He worked on *Law & Order*, *Supah Ninjas*, and in various television shows and commercials. Sam's short film, *Mombies*, represents Lawrenceville in the feature film *Greetings from Pittsburgh: Neighborhood Narratives*, which screened to sold-out theatres and recently aired on WQED-TV. *Mombies* is also an official selection of the NYC Horror Film Festival, the San Francisco Independent Film Festival, the Cleveland International Film Festival, and the 11/22 International Comedy Short Film Festival in Vienna. Recent directing credits include *Fat Beckett* at Quantum Theatre (a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette top ten production in 2011), *As You Like It*, *Shakespeare's Lovers & Fighters*, *Tomato Plant Girl* and the world premieres of *Alice* and *Darwin & the Kid*. Sam is a graduate of Columbia University and the British American Drama Academy, and holds an MFA in Film and Digital Technology from Chatham University. He has served on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh and Point Park University's Cinema Department.



Jonathan Joseph (Producer) - Jonathan is a filmmaker and producer who has produced and managed documentary and short narrative films, as well as commercials and industrial videos. A native of Phoenix, AZ, Jonathan moved to Pittsburgh in 2005 to pursue his career in filmmaking. He attended Point Park University as a Cinema and Digital Arts Major with a concentration in Producing. Jonathan was awarded the *Presidential Scholarship*, the University's highest scholarship award, as well as the *Producing Scholarship*, an award given to the most promising student in each concentration in his/her senior year. Jonathan has produced the narrative short films: *10 Pins*, *Synapse*, and most recently *The Director*. *10 Pins* won third prize overall at La Goña International Film Festival in Mexico, and was the only English-language film to place. In the documentary realm, Jonathan produced all of the reenactment scenes for the award-winning feature length documentary: *What Does Trouble Mean? Nate Smith's Revolution*, which recently aired on the local NBC affiliates in Pittsburgh.

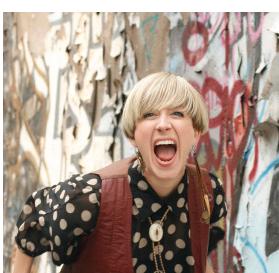




Lisa Ann Goldsmith (Casting Director) - Lisa Ann has been the Resident Casting Director for Tulsa Shakespeare in the Park, Tulsa Repertory Theatre, and Protean Theatre Company in NYC. She was a Casting Associate at Broadhollow Theater of Long Island, and is a Casting Consultant at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. She is currently casting *Origin*, a multi-million dollar feature film. An SDC theatre director, Lisa Ann has numerous New York and regional directing credits. Lisa Ann is also a SAG-AFTRA actress, with credited roles in such films as *The Next Three Days*, *Love and Other Drugs*, *One for the Money*, *The Director*, *Lightweight*, and *Mombies*, and recently premiered at Sundance 2013 in *The Lifeguard* with Kristen Bell. She is a proud member of the Executive Committee for SAG-AFTRA Ohio/Pittsburgh.



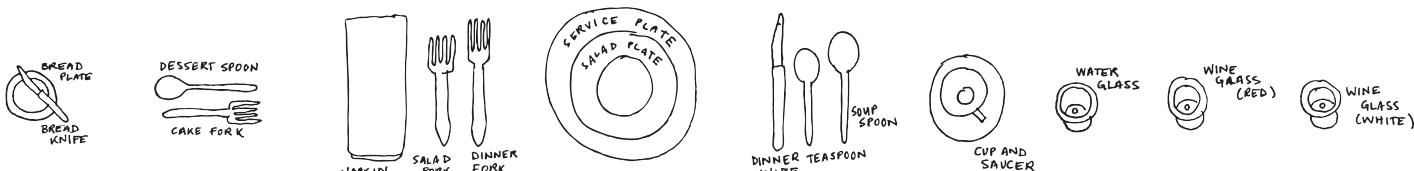
Mark Knobil (Director of Photography) - Mark brings his eclectic experience and veteran expertise to the project via a career spent primarily shooting documentary projects for broadcast on PBS and National Geographic Television. Shooting locations have included: Sulawesi, Cameroon, Seczwani, Saigon, Morocco, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Tanzania, and Dayton, Ohio. He has recently completed photography for PBS NOVA *Rise of the Drones*, PBS NOVA *Secrets of the Viking Swords*, and a music video for the single "Play Nice" by the artist Donora. Other credits include: *Flour Baby* (2011), *Lightweight* (2011), *National Geographic Explorer* (TV series documentary, 2008-2011), *Border Wars* (TV series, 2010), *When the City Sleeps* (2010), *Mombies* (2008), *Nova Science Now* (TV series documentary, 2006), among many more.



Rachel Vallozzi (Costume Design) - Rachel first became active in film during the 2000 production of *Wonder Boys*. She enjoys playing in front of the camera and behind, but has found her career as a stylist and costume designer. Rachel has been the key stylist on over a hundred commercials, done costume consulting with Attack Theatre, designed for the Staycee Pearl Dance Project, and is currently working on a new image for up and coming rapper Beedie. She also works with individual clients doing personal shopping, styling, and closet consulting. Rachel never tires of thrift store treasure hunts and believes that getting dressed in the morning is an opportunity to celebrate each day.



Maya Henry (Producer) - Maya is the Business District Manager for the Lawrenceville Corporation (LC), where she manages activities with Lawrenceville's two business districts. Her responsibilities include marketing and communications, strategic planning, public relations, events management, and community relations. She works directly with business owners to help grow their business and assists them with publicity, advertising, and other promotions. Maya also manages the Main Street program for the LC, whose goal is to improve commercial business districts.





Kellan Andersen (Production Designer) - Kellan received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in set design from the University of South Florida in 2007. There he received the Kimberly Swan Award for Outstanding Scene Design for his work on *The Birthday Party*. After graduating, Kellan attended the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama where he received his Master of Fine Arts degree. There he was awarded the Oren Parker Award in Design for his set design for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Kellan has worked as a scenic artist and design consultant for Carnegie Mellon University as well as a scenic artist and design assistant for Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theater. He currently finished working as an art department assistant for the A&E pilot *Those Who Kill* as well as Production Designing the Jacktar Film short *Immaculate Reception*. Kellan is now production designing the local feature *Serf City*.

For more information visit www.kellanandersen.net.

Cast Bios



Alex Falberg (Humphrey) Alex Falberg is a founding member of the PigPen Theatre Co., an ensemble of artists hailing from Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama. PigPen Theatre Co. writes folkloric tales for the page, stage, and screen. Whether they are crafting shadow puppets or cruising on tour with their fiddles and banjos, they continue to be grateful for their supportive communities in New York and Pittsburgh. Alex recently performed alongside his company members in PigPen's production of *The Old Man and the Old Moon* off-Broadway at the Gym at Judson in lower Manhattan. Alex can also be seen playing the character Nikola Tesla on the History Channel's acclaimed new series, *The Men Who Built America*.



Hayley Nielsen (Lauren) - Hayley is a recent BFA Acting graduate of Point Park University. Since moving to Pittsburgh she has performed with the August Wilson Center, Prime Stage, barebones productions, City Theatre and various play festivals. Her film work includes a multitude of short films through Point Park, industrial/informational videos and independent shorts.



James Fitzgerald (Keith) - James has appeared in Pittsburgh at the Public Theatre, PICT, Bricolage and Quantum Theatre. As a Chicago-based actor James has performed 16 seasons with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, numerous appearances at Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre, Chicago's Second City, ETC., The Royal George and Apple Tree. James is the recipient of two Joseph Jefferson Awards (Best Supporting Actor), a Jeff citation (Best Actor) and Chicago's After Dark Award (Best New Work) as the author of ... *Two for the Show*... James recently completed filming *The Mercury Men*. James holds an MFA in Acting from Point Park University.



Jason McCune (Greg) - Jason's film credits include *She's Out of My League*, *Unstoppable*, *The Sibling*, and *Mafia*. His television appearances include *The Kill Point*, *The West Wing*, *CSI: Miami*, and *The Guardian*. He has appeared at many Pittsburgh theatres including Bricolage, The Playhouse, and barebones. Jason holds an MFA in acting from Point Park University.

