



the throwback

production notes

written, directed and produced by

MARIO GARCIA

produced by

MICHAEL A. ALFIERI

LOGLINE

A married couple, deep in the trenches of a midlife crisis, find their world thrown into hilarious turmoil when under-appreciated and stressed-out “supermom” suffers a post-traumatic breakdown, causing her to regress to her wild, college-age party-girl self. While she teams up with the neighbor’s 19-year-old daughter to paint the town red, her bewildered husband must navigate the chaos at home.

ABOUT THE FILM

Hold on tight for a midlife rollercoaster like no other in “The Throwback.” Full of fun nostalgia and relevant references, “The Throwback” explores universal themes that will resonate with its intended audience in a hilarious way. “The Throwback” illuminates the poignant realization that while dreams may shift and paths may diverge, the essence of family and the power of love remain steadfast, guiding us through the complexities of growth, self-discovery, and the beautifully messy adventure called life. “The Throwback” boasts a talented, funny and diverse cast with loyal fans. The film is the directorial debut of writer and director, Mario Garcia.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

“The Throwback” follows the hilarious journey of Kate and Matt Morgan, a middle-aged couple caught in the routine of raising their kids while dealing with personal and professional struggles. Their lives take a wild turn when Kate experiences a post-traumatic breakdown, regressing to her college-aged self and erasing 26 years of memories. While Matt steps up to manage home and school duties, Kate grapples with her newfound youth alongside her new BFF, Shea, who happens to be the neighbor’s 19-year-old daughter. As Kate rediscovers herself, Matt undergoes his own transformation, learning

a mom's job is not easy. "The Throwback" is a tale of second chances that proves it's never too late for change.

SYNOPSIS

"The Throwback" hilariously chronicles the lives of Kate and Matt Morgan, a middle-aged couple deeply engrossed in raising their kids, Zach and Jordy, while ensnared in the web of monotonous routines and personal stagnation. Yet, amidst their dead-end careers, scheduled intimacy, health troubles, and midlife challenges, the most unexpected upheaval strikes when Kate experiences a post-traumatic breakdown after a bank robbery, thrusting her back to her college years with no recollection of the past 26.

As Matt steps up to navigate household duties and school volunteering, Kate grapples with the fact she's a 19-year-old in a 45-year-old body, discovering that nostalgic Daisy Duke shorts no longer fit, cardio fails to work its magic, and trading a new minivan for a '92 Mustang convertible is far from a game-changer. Amidst the chaos, Kate's reawakened libido resurrects her and Matt's dormant sexual spark.

Initially enthusiastic, Matt struggles to balance household responsibilities and career pressures. Yet, Kate's transformation isn't merely physical; she contemplates the career in fashion design she never pursued and embraces a companionship with Shea, the neighbor's daughter. A crush on Matt's handsome office rival, Rick Steadman, even finds its way into her revitalized life. But, when an unfortunate incident involving Jordy prompts Kate to question her readiness for motherhood and marriage, she leaves the family to figure things out for herself.

Matt's ensuing depression becomes a catalyst for change as he recognizes his role in Kate's journey and commits to becoming the partner and parent he

aspired to be. Amid Matt's self-improvement efforts and Kate's burgeoning fashion business, a conflicted longing simmers between them. Kate's journey reaches a pinnacle when invited to a beach weekend with Rick and friends and another event unfolds, evoking bittersweet memories that spark her desire to return home. United once more, Matt and Kate pledge to embrace their shared life, support each other's aspirations, and manifest the truest versions of themselves, proving that the path to transformation and appreciation is boundless. After all, the opportunity for change is timeless.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

What began as a lighthearted comedic idea, centered around a husband yearning for the vibrant past with his wife, ultimately transformed into a profound journey of self-discovery for me. As "The Throwback" evolved through different drafts, the process gradually unearthed themes that resonated deeply within me, a middle-aged husband and father coping with a barrage of "what if's." This project became a canvas for exploring the disparity between the dreams we had in our youth and the reality of life as we grow into adulthood and parenthood. It feels like this is a universal theme with many people who live life wondering whether their current life path is all there is, and whether they are truly fulfilled. This project gave me the opportunity to discover my own answers and to recognize my own fulfillments that I may have previously overlooked.

This cinematic endeavor was an emotional catharsis, serving as a reminder that our aspirations and longings needn't be bound by time. It underscored the importance of gratitude for our accomplishments and the cherished bonds of family, even amidst our relentless pursuits. Amid the frenzy of chasing dreams, it's easy to lose sight of these fundamentals.

Drawing inspiration from the timeless comedic brilliance of Billy Wilder, Blake Edwards, Neil Simon, and Nora Ephron, I hope my effort with "The Throwback" blends uproarious laughter with poignant life lessons. Collaborating with an immensely talented cast who fully embraced this tone and brought my vision to life was an absolute privilege.

Making "The Throwback" was a personal odyssey, challenging me in ways I hadn't experienced before, yet it proved to be immensely rewarding and exhilarating.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

THE LOCATIONS

The film was shot in and around the Tampa Bay Area of Florida, highlighting the region's best areas like Downtown Tampa, Downtown St. Petersburg, Ybor City and the historic Don Cesar Resort in St. Petersburg Beach.

THE STORY

Writer/Director Mario Garcia worked with Producer Michael Alfieri to craft a story that was funny and inspirational, with universal themes like:

ITS NEVER TOO LATE

It's never too late in life to pursue anything you want to pursue or to make ourselves better.

FAMILY IS ALL YOU NEED

In the pursuit of an external goal, it's important to recognize that the love of your family is achievement enough.

THE CHARACTERS AND CAST

With the help of Casting Director Mia Cusumano (*The Trial of the Chicago 7, She Said*), we were fortunate to get a wonderful cast who brought life to our characters. For the lead character of Kate we needed to find someone who had the perfect blend of comedic timing and heartfelt drama. Kate is a strong character who is fiercely loyal to her family at the expense of her own hopes and dreams. Justina Machado brought a depth and relevance to that character beyond our expectations. The ability to transition from a 45-year-old mom to a 19-year-old party girl and make the audience take that sympathetic journey with her was quite the undertaking, but Justina delivered beautifully.

The character of Matt has hit a rut professionally and in his efforts to stay relevant in a job he doesn't even want, he's often overlooked his family. Will Sasso gave everything we needed to this part in a funny and heartwarming way. Will is known for his comedic work on shows like *MadTV* and movies like *The Three Stooges*, but we're super proud of the range he showed in this role, making Matt a sympathetic figure struggling to find his way while coping with a wife who thinks she's still in college and rethinking her life path.

Will and Justina's chemistry was incredible and every married couple will be able to see themselves in these characters. Rounding out the cast is Charles, Matt's best friend and co-worker, played by the hilarious Bobby Lee, who as the eternal bachelor reminds Matt that he's hit a jackpot, "finding a younger woman....who happens to be his wife." Gregg Sulkin plays Rick Steadman,

Matt's younger office rival who Kate develops a crush on, and finally Michelle Randolph plays Shea, the 19-year-old neighbor's daughter who becomes best friends with the "younger" Kate.

Additionally, the supporting cast delivers funny moments in their own unique ways, supporting the overall theme and adding much entertainment in the process.

THE SHOOT

The shoot took place in the Tampa Bay Area of Florida beginning on May 2, 2022 and wrapping on May 25, 2022. Despite being rainy season in Florida during this time, we consider it a great sign that we had no rain delays in the entire 20 days. Most of the actors had such great senses of humor that many times director Mario Garcia would not cut when the scene was over to let them improvise and create their own magic.

ABOUT THE CAST

JUSTINA MACHADO – “KATE”

Justina Machado is a talented and versatile actress who continues to endear audiences and earn critical acclaim for her work on stage, television and film. Machado will soon be seen in the upcoming Myriad Pictures' feature comedy, *The Throwback*, as the lead. She was most recently seen in the Blumhouse produced, *The Horror of Dolores Roach*, as the title character for Amazon. Machado starred in the hit comedy *One Day at a Time*, earning her first Critics' Choice Television award nomination. She was also awarded two Imagen Foundation Awards for Best Actress and one for Best Voice-Over Actor, and the show won Best Comedy. Machado is also well-known for her role as Vanessa Diaz in HBO's *Six Feet Under*. It ended its five-season run in 2005 with an impressive accumulation of award nominations and wins,

including a Screen Actors Guild award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series. Additionally, Machado appeared in CW's Emmy Award-nominated comedy series *Jane the Virgin* and was a series regular on *Queen of The South*.

WILL SASSO - "MATT"

Will Sasso is a versatile Canadian actor, comedian and podcaster. He will soon be seen in Myriad Pictures' feature comedy, *The Throwback*, as the male lead. He currently appears in the Apple+ series, *Acapulco*, and previously on the Audience Network series, *Loudermilk*. Will starred for five seasons on FOX's hit sketch comedy series *Mad TV*. Moviegoers know Sasso from his roles in more than twenty-five feature films including *Boss Level*, *The Three Stooges*, *Best in Show*, *Beverly Hills Ninja*, *The Hot Chick* and *Happy Gilmore*. Will currently co-hosts the popular comedy podcast, *Dudesy*, with Chad Kutlgen. The first ever AI controlled entertainment podcast.

BOBBY LEE - "CHARLES"

Bobby Lee is best known for his numerous years as a cast member on *Mad TV* and his hit podcasts, *Bad Friends* and *Tiger Belly*, two of the top comedy podcasts in the world. A true embodiment of the term 'multi-hyphenate', Bobby's reach extends into the worlds of TV, Film, Stand-Up, Podcasting and more. Bobby currently can be seen on *And Just Like That*, *Magnum PI* and *Reservation Dogs*. He has toured the country year-round with his hilariously unpredictable stand-up. In his past TV endeavors, Lee has appeared in *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *DVDASA* and Netflix's *Love*. Lee's film credits include *The Wrong Missy*, *The Dictator*, *Pineapple Express* and *Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle*. With many projects currently in development, Bobby continues to thrill audiences with his immense talent.

GREGG SULKIN - "RICK"

Gregg Sulkin is an actor/producer who was born in London, England. He most recently starred as Abram David in Netflix' upcoming World War Two Drama, *Six Triple Eight*, directed by Tyler Perry. Sulkin also stars in the

upcoming BBC One drama, *World on Fire*. Previously, Sulkin starred as Chase Stein in the Marvel television series, *Marvel's Runaways*, and as Grant in the Netflix multi-cam comedy, *Pretty Smart*. He boasts an impressive eight million followers across on his social media platforms.

MICHELLE RANDOLPH - "SHEA"

Michelle Randolph is an American actress known for her role in *1923*, starring along side Helen Mirren and Harrison Ford. She also starred in *The Resort* and *A Snow White Christmas*. Most recently Michelle was cast as the lead in Taylor Sheridan's new television series, *Landman*, opposite Billy Bob Thornton.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

MARIO GARCIA - WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Mario's journey into writing and filmmaking started as an assistant for Golden Globe winning producer, Jill Marti, helping develop made-for -television movies. This experience was a springboard to write several feature-films which have been optioned, including the screenplay for his short UNREAD, which was featured in Royal Stag Barrel Select Large Short Films. After taking some time away from film to build and sell an internet company, Mario resumed his writing career. THE THROWBACK is his directorial debut, after the script placed in the top 10 of Stage 32's Comedy Writing contest. Mario is represented by Bob Sobhani of Magnet Management.

MICHAEL A. ALFIERI - PRODUCER

With Micheal's Creative Writing degree from the University of South Florida, he arrived in Hollywood and quickly established his taste and a keen eye for compelling stories by landing a position as a Development Associate for

Oscar-nominated film producer, David Permut. Michael then went to Miramax Films where he worked on Academy-Award winning and nominated films. He is currently in development on a variety of Feature Films, a TV Limited-Series, Unscripted Projects and a Documentary. The Throwback is the first feature produced by Alfieri's Miantri Films.

DOUG FOX – PRODUCER

Doug Fox began his career in Los Angeles producing and directing commercials for Toyota and Mastercard. He later founded Local Hero Post (Pitch Perfect, Frankenstein). Fox also produced the feature film Room 105 and managed Another Film Fund. Most recently Fox produced The Throwback with Miantri Films which is set for a 2024 release.

STERLING MACER – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Sterling Macer Jr is an established, versatile veteran of film and television. Macer wrote, produced and directed the feature film "Park Day", starring the late Brock Peters, Hill Harper and Sydney Tamiia Poitier. A critical success, "Park Day" received the "Audience Choice Award" at the "Urban World" film festival in New York, at the time the largest African American film festival in the world. Throughout, Macer has managed to maintain a successful acting career, co-starring in feature films as well as series regular roles in multiple television shows over the years. Currently, along with "Double Down," an independent feature which he wrote, produced and directed, Sterling also has produced "BAB," a feature film in which he also stars.

NIIV CONTI – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Niav Conty's is an active freelance director, cinematographer, screenwriter, and editor in New York City. Niav started her film career in France, where she studied with Boris Lehman and Pedro Costa, and worked closely for many

years with Oscar-winning maverick director Joseph Strick (1923–2010). She returned to New York in 2010 to study with avant-garde filmmaker Chantal Akerman (1950–2015) and complete her M.F.A. at City College. Her award winning films have travelled to festivals worldwide. She is a recipient of the Kodak Award for cinematography, and the Princess Grace Award. *Small Time*, her 2020 feature shot in rural Pennsylvania over five years has won 9 awards, including the Spirit of Freedom Award, the EDA award for best female directed feature, and Best Feature and Best Director several times over.

JOHN M. VITALE – EDITOR

John Vitale's editorial career spans 29 years. The Evanston, Illinois native started his film journey as an apprentice editor for the legendary comedic film director, John Hughes. He continued to work as an Assistant Editor on movies filmed in Chicago until he moved to Los Angeles to finish working on the comedy blockbuster, *My Best Friend's Wedding* starring Julia Roberts and Cameron Diaz. After working on numerous successful films, he segued to television where he began cutting for the smash hit, *CSI Miami* and followed that up with editing on one of CBS's long-standing TV shows, *SEAL Team*. His current film work includes, *The Comeback Trail* starring Robert DeNiro, Morgan Freeman and Tommy Lee Jones and Myriad Pictures' comedy, *The Throwback* written and directed by Mario Garcia. John currently resides in Los Angeles.

DYLAN GLATTHORN – COMPOSER

Dylan is a Brooklyn-based composer and lyricist. He has worked with Grammy- and Tony-winning performers and producers, and his music has been described by the New York Times as "assured" with the "steaminess and

the throwback

drive of Janacek” and the “harmonic allure” of Debussy. Dylan has written music for nine feature films, Vimeo Staff Pick-ed shorts, and done commercial work for brands like Lindt, Nickelodeon, Oakley, Red Bull, Alessi, and PBS. For his work in film, he has been awarded the Clive Davis Award for Excellence in Music in Film and Best Original Score at the First Run Film Festival. Dylan is also a part of the *Shipwrecked Comedy* family — writing everything from scores for beloved web series like *Edgar Allan Poe's Murder Mystery Dinner Party* to original standalone songs like "Friends 'til the End."

JOE RANGEL – MUSIC SUPERVISOR

Joe Rangel is enjoying a unique and dynamic career as a Music Supervisor, Soundtrack Producer, and media music executive for major record labels and publishers, and as an independent entrepreneur in the entertainment soundtrack placement space. After successful stints in the music divisions at Miramax Films, Capitol Records, Virgin Records, and EMI Music Publishing, Joe started his own company, Hitcher, which he developed into a successful multi-tiered independent music licensing venture with partners PULSE, placing music in countless films and series including featured placements in *Black-ish*, *Empire*, *Power*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Billions* and *Fast and Furious 8*.

ELLIS BURMAN – SOUND DESIGNER

Ellis Burman is an award winning Re-Recording mixer with over 25 years experience in the industry. He owns and operates Burman Sound Inc, a boutique 5.1 and Dolby Atmos capable mixing studio.