



The Official Movie Companion

**w e**  
**Ma k e**  
**M O v i e s**

**BEHIND THE SCENES OF**  
Behind the Scenes of  
a Minor Motion Picture





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The Official Movie Companion

we

make

MOVIES

**BEHIND THE SCENES OF**

Behind the Scenes of  
a Minor Motion Picture



## The Official Movie Companion

*or: Behind the Scenes of Behind  
the Scenes of a Minor Motion Picture*

# Contents

4	<b>What's <i>We Make Movies</i>?</b>
6	<b>Foreword by Matt Tory</b>
	<b>Making We Make Movies</b>
8	Inspiration for the Film
9	Casting the Movie
10	On the Set
14	<b>Video Featurettes</b>
	Blooper Reel
	Character Closeups
	Deleted Scenes
15	<b>Real Life Comparisons</b>
18	<b>Cast and Crew</b>

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## **What's *We Make Movies* About?**

In the summer of 2015, cameras were allowed on the set of a local independent film. What they captured was a hilarious and heartfelt look behind the scenes as a group of college kids spend their summer making a movie for their town's Film Festival.

Cameras chronicle the tumultuous ups and downs (mostly downs) as egotistical student Director Stevphen Bixby rounds up his friends – and some bystanders – to help make his masterpiece: a movie that blends together all the greatest films ever made.

**No Budget? No Talent? No Problem.**

Watch the Video Featurette:  
***We Make Movies: What's the Story?***

[youtube.com/watch?v=4qQF8e4\\_PK4&t](https://youtube.com/watch?v=4qQF8e4_PK4&t)



Before you take a closer look behind the scenes... if you haven't seen *We Make Movies* yet, now is the time!

Download or stream at:

[WMMFilm.com](http://WMMFilm.com)

Or watch on:

[Amazon Video](#)

[Google Play](#)



# Foreword

**MAKING** a movie is really tough. It's extremely difficult. It's challenging, and it's frustrating. I don't recommend it.

Unless, of course, you're like Stephen Bixby.

No, I don't mean you should be rude and insult everyone around you and dump a bucket of water on that girl you have a crush on. I don't recommend that either.

But if you can't think of anything else *but* making your movie, and you can't rest until it's made, and you absolutely love every single minute of it despite all the heartache and disappointment it will inevitably bring you, then you should go make your movie. We all have dreams itching to be let loose. I think that's why Stephen and his fictional friends are so close to my heart, and why many viewers have been able to relate to them, despite all their faults. They're dreamers.

*We Make Movies* is the movie I always wanted to make.

It may sound ridiculous to call a silly little comedy such a personal film, but it is. For better or worse, my younger years can be defined by five words: "*making movies with my friends*." It's what we did on weekends. It's what we did after school. Heck, it's what we did *during* school. Shooting stupid little movies in our neighborhoods and bedrooms were some of the greatest times of my life, and I wanted to tell a story that celebrated that, with all the joys and struggles that come with trying to make a movie on your own, with no real resources but your friends.

I wrote *We Make Movies* as a big thank you to my friends, so it was such a thrill to actually have many of those same friends portray the characters they had inspired. And now, a year since *We Make Movies* was released, I still am so impressed with everyone who helped bring this simple little story about friendship and "movie magic" to life.

I laugh every time Jordan Hopewell (*Donny*) is onscreen. He's been my partner in crime ever since we got our first video cameras and shot an *Indiana Jones* spoof in the backyard. Zack Slort (*Leonard*) is always eager to do whatever dangerous stunt will give our movies "production value." Matt Silver's (*Curtis*) cheerful sense of humor always brings out the best in everyone on a movie set. Anne Crockett Moyher (*Jessica*) makes me laugh and cringe in all the best ways. Jonathan Holmes (*Garth*)

is always more than willing to embarrass himself on camera for the sake of art. Josiah Finnerman absolutely kills it as the Kurtis who Stephen comes to hate even more than the other Curtis. And how great is my mom, who plays Stephen's Mom?

They're so good. I'm biased though. But really, wow. I'm still upset Donny didn't win an Oscar for *Schindler's List*.

When *We Make Movies* first came out, I really had no idea what the reaction would be. We just hoped people would like it and that it'd bring them a few laughs. But it's been such a special year, hearing from every one of you who have reached out to let us know how the movie connected with you, or how you convinced your friends to watch it on Amazon Prime, or how it made you laugh or made you appreciate the extra buttons that came with your pants.

Maybe this won't be the end for these characters though. Perhaps thirty years or so from now we'll revisit them, when one of the big movie studios gobbles up the sequel rights and demands a "soft reboot" where the gang gets back together again to film a new movie -- but this time, with their kids! (setting up future installments, of course). Watch out for *We Make Movies Too*, coming Summer 2047.

Until then, we hope you enjoy this little glimpse behind the scenes of *We Make Movies*, watching some of the featurettes or the blooper reel (*you can click on any embedded links to watch the videos right from this book! Technology!*), or seeing just how much the events in the movie mirrored our real lives. Thanks for caring about the movie enough to take a look at how we made it. Really. Next time you're in Boehring, California, let me know and we'll grab a corn dog and talk about our favorite movies.

**Matt Tory**

Director, *We Make Movies*



MATT TORY AS STEPHEN BIXBY

## Making *We Make Movies*

“*We Make Movies*’ is the movie I always wanted to make.

Director Matt Tory

### Inspiration for the Film

The week Matt Tory moved in to his college dorm and started classes at Biola University, he began writing the script for what would eventually become *We Make Movies*. Coming off the release of another feature film a month earlier, he had sworn off directing another feature film for a while. The process of writing, directing and editing it had taken over three years. But the itch came back.

“I had been wanting to make a movie about the process of making movies,” Matt Tory says. “But not the ‘*Hollywood*’ process. There’s been enough movies about that... I wanted to tell a story about the ‘grab-a-video-camera-and-your-friends-and-shoot-a-movie-in-the-backyard’ phase of making movies that all budding filmmakers go through before they move on to Hollywood.”

“I imagine making a feature-length film must be what giving birth feels like. I swore I wasn’t going to do it again anytime soon... But then the kid grows up, and you look back on all the good times and want to do it all over again.



ANNE CROCKETT AS JESSICA  
JORDAN HOPEWELL AS DONNY

“Shooting stupid little movies with my friends in our backyards and bedrooms when I was younger were some of the greatest times of my life. I wanted to celebrate that, and tell a story that looked at all the joys and struggles that come with trying to make a movie on your own, with no real resources but your friends.”

So *We Make Movies* was his attempt to assemble all the hilarious behind-the-scenes follies and embarrassing failures from years of making no-budget movies with his friends into a comedy about a group of college kids who don't really know the first thing about making a great movie.

## Casting the Movie

In essence, Matt casted the film before he even wrote it. Since it was a parody of the years they spent making embarrassing movies together, it was important to make the film with a core group of friends he'd already been making movies with since he was a kid. With the cast locked down, he devised a story in which each of them would play highly-exaggerated versions of themselves (with enough differences to keep things interesting).



THE CAST OF *WE MAKE MOVIES*

With this in mind, he wanted to see if he could tell a story where the protagonist was the least likable character. Since he always directed the group's movies growing up, the cast convinced Matt to play the Director in *We Make Movies*. “Stevphen is basically me, without any of the good parts,” Matt Tory jokes. The film shows the character's journey from naïve, cocky and selfish to... well, a slightly more tolerable version of that.

In reality, Jordan Hopewell (DONNY) and Matt are lifelong friends. They share a birthday, and knew from an early age that they both wanted to make movies. While other kids were playing video games after school, they were the ones dressing up like Indiana Jones or James Bond and choreographing fight scenes in their backyards. Likewise in *We Make Movies*, they play lifelong friends who have been making movies together from an early age (and share a birthday).

Zack Slort (LEONARD) has been the lead actor in almost all of the group's previous films, so he was written to play a delusional "method actor" who takes himself way too seriously. Valerie Tory, Matt's mother, plays the role of STEVPHEN'S MOM in a supporting role, and his father Keevin Tory plays the role of KEVIN TROY, a local Film Commissioner. Rounding out the cast, Jonathan Holmes (GARTH), Anne Crockett (JESSICA), Matt Silver (CURTIS), Zack Slort and Matt Tory all went to High School together and have known each other since they were 14.

“This is what I love about making these movies: we gather our friends together, read Tory's rough draft of the script, figure out our characters and ad lib for a while, and then he goes off and writes a final script. Then we start filming and change things all over again. It's a fantastic experience. And so fun.

**Matt Silver (CURTIS)**



## On the Set

For a low-budget comedy, shooting it documentary-style only made sense. "I didn't want it to feel like a regular movie," Matt Tory says. "I just wanted it to feel like a couple people were really following these college kids around with some cameras in a natural, free-flowing way." This allowed the crew, who filmed on weekends over the summer to work around actors' busy schedules, to work quicker with less camera setups, more ability for the actors to improvise, and more freedom to move from scene to scene at a quicker pace.

When you're shooting a movie with no money, and rely on volunteer work, you make do with what you have. Matt Silver's apartment doubled as his character Curtis' apartment. Zack Slort's house doubled as his character Leonard's house. Matt Tory's house and backyard doubled as his character Stevphen's house. Even his childhood bedroom was restaged as Stevphen's bedroom for the film. Matt Tory's Uncle's Barn doubled as Stevphen's Uncles Barn (and his Uncle had a few lines as Stevphen's Uncle).

“I love seeing how talented my friends are while they are acting or filming or directing. It's such a neat experience to watch one of my close friends act out a scene and be genuinely moved by their performance.

**Zack Slort (LEONARD)**

“I was laughing out loud so many times as I read the screenplay, I really couldn't wait to see it come to life.

**Daniel Beresford (Producer)**



They used the props and costumes they had at their disposal, and used bedroom lamps to light scenes. Even though they were poking fun at themselves for making movies with no real resources when they were younger, they were still making *We Make Movies* in very much the same way.

Matt Silver remembers one day of shooting in particular: “the scene where Stephen accidentally tells Donny he destroyed his acceptance letter to accounting camp was super intense on set. Tory and Hopewell got really into character. I started feeling uncomfortable because of the seemingly real anger and tension in the room. I almost couldn’t watch it. Although there were laughs between takes, it was gravely serious while the camera was rolling.”



““ At the end of the day, I’m not an actor. Filming this turned out to be one of the most exciting, albeit unusual summers of my life.

Anne Crockett (JESSICA)

““ There is always so much laughter on set. It’s amazing they ever get anything finished.

Valerie Tory (STEPHEN’S MOM)



“I wasn’t expecting the set to be so easy going and open to improvising lines,” Anne Crockett remembers. “I think every time someone asked Matt what he thought about changing a line or adding a new moment to the scene, he’d laugh and tell us to try it out. It really made every day just feel like a fun time with friends. I think the hardest part was just keeping a straight face.”

“*The film captures the joys of telling stories and working with friends, but also the heartbreak of watching lofty dreams fall apart.*

**Robert Carlson (Animator)**

“*What I love is that this is a movie about young adults made by young adults. But it doesn't have any sex scenes, nudity, or inappropriate language. That makes it a rare gem of grown-up humor that you can watch with your toddler and your grandma.*

**Anne Crockett (JESSICA)**

“This movie is a lot more autobiographical than I’d like to admit,” Matt Tory says, smiling. “I’ve been just like Stephen at many points in my life. And we all made so many dumb movies through the years. But for me, this movie is really a big thank you to my friends.”

“During the course of *We Make Movies*, Stephen has the realization that the friends he’s making the movie with are more important than the movie itself. I think we all get so caught up in what we’re trying to achieve all the time that we lose sight of the people in our lives, the ones who are often making those dreams possible.”

“I wouldn’t be where I am making movies today if it weren’t for all my friends who joined in and helped me make my short movies when we were growing up. This is for them... Having a movie you made is great. But the memories of making the movie together are often what I treasure even more.”



THE CAST AND CREW OF **WE MAKE MOVIES** AT THE WORLD PREMIERE DURING THE 2016 COLUMBIA GORGE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, WHERE IT WENT ON TO WIN THE **TRIANGLE AWARD**.



**WE MAKE MOVIES** ALSO WENT ON WIN THE **BEST YOUNG FILMMAKER AWARD** AT THE DAVIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, AND BE RELEASED THROUGH INDIE RIGHTS STUDIO ON FEB 14, 2017.

## Watch the Blooper Reel!



Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QSWwAUh68s>

Take a closer look at the characters of *We Make Movies* and the actors behind them by watching these *Character Closeup* Featurettes:

### Character Closeup: Stephen

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_nQ0fT8ZCc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_nQ0fT8ZCc)

### Character Closeup: Donny

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJMOlr0PrDQ>

### Character Closeup: Garth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOiYXE6r3mQ>

### Character Closeup: Jessica

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrB8VqvD4XU>

### Character Closeup: Leonard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBQCNIrpLwU>

### Watch Deleted Interview Scenes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdQtOaTN7U4>



## ***Real Life Comparison: Stevphen and Donny***

- Just like their characters, Matt Tory (STEVPHEN) and Jordan Hopewell (DONNY) are childhood best friends who grew up making movies together.
- They really DO share the same birthday: April 12.
- Just like in *We Make Movies*, they loved to make parodies of their favorite movies when they were younger. Their own versions of *Indiana Jones*, *Star Wars* and *James Bond* exist (as evidenced during the end credits of *We Make Movies*).
- The old picture of Stevphen and Donny in matching outfits on their birthday? That's a real photo of Matt Tory and Jordan Hopewell (on their birthday in 1993).



# Other Real Life Comparisons



MEETING LEONARD AT THE BOEHRING CINEMA

*Just a few of the ways We Make Movies mirrored the real lives of those who made it...*

- Just like his character LEONARD, Zack Slort really does work at a movie theater. In fact, the scenes that take place at the local Boehring Cinema where Leonard works, were filmed at the very theater where Zack Slort worked as a manager during production.
- That barn really DID belong to Matt Tory (STEVPHEN)'s Uncle. Matt's Uncle, Craig Landreth, plays Stephen's Uncle in the film.

"STEVPHEN'S FRONT YARD" (TOP)  
"LEONARD'S HOUSE" (BOTTOM)



- All the characters' houses were the actors' real homes, including Stephen's house, Leonard's house, and Garth and Curtis' apartment.
- During filming, Jonathan Holmes (GARTH) and Matt Silver (CURTIS) were really roommates.
- Austin Duncan, the real cameraman behind most of *We Make Movies*, makes a cameo in the film as THE CAMERAMAN who interviews Donny and Stephen.
- Most of the scenes are based on actual events that happened to Matt and his friends while making movies as kids. For example: while they were never chased off someone's property with a tranquilizer gun, they *were* once surrounded by police at gunpoint for filming a scene with a fake gun during high school... They learned their lesson.

- Matt Tory (STEPHEN), Zack Slort (LEONARD), Jonathan Holmes (GARTH), and Matt Silver (CURTIS) all went to High School together, where they started making movies after school. Many of their High School friends play small roles in *We Make Movies*. Matt Tory was always the Director, while Zack Slort was always the main character (a fact lampooned in the characters they play in *We Make Movies*).



- Anne Crockett (JESSICA) went to the same High School, but was a late-comer in joining her movie-making pals. Just like her character, this was her first movie acting alongside her friends who had been making movies together for years.



- Corn dogs were the main "craft services" on many of their previous films.



- Just like Leonard, Zack Slort really did break his arm in High School by jumping over a fence (he was playing tag with Matt Tory and Matt Silver).

- The character of Anna (Stephen's childhood "girlfriend") is played by Matt Tory's childhood friend Hanna.



- Just like his character Stephen, Matt's favorite Directors are Steven Spielberg and Christopher Nolan.

- Matt Tory's mom Valerie Tory plays Stephen's Mom in *We Make Movies*. His friends have a tradition that she plays a small part in every one of their movies.



# Cast and Crew



**Matt Tory**  
as STEVPHEN

MATT TORY is a Writer and Director from Sacramento, California. He graduated with a degree in Cinema Arts/Screenwriting from Biola University, and grew up making stupid short movies in the backyard with his friends after school (many of whom he had the pleasure of making *We Make Movies* with years later). *We Make Movies* is his third feature film. He puts on his pants one leg at a time, and hopes to one day father a child named Phillip – so that when people ask him what he does, he can say “I’m a Filmmaker and a Phil-maker.”



**Zack Slort**  
as LEONARD

ZACK SLORT is a human who enjoys watching and making movies so much that he’s worked at a movie theater for over seven years. He is a college dropout who hated school so deeply that he once failed a class that was graded on an A for effort basis. His hobbies include hiking, backpacking, kayaking, and nerdy things like building computers and reading about artificial intelligence. His previous credits include “*The Family*” and “*Out of the Blue.*”



**Jordan Hopewell**  
as DONNY

JORDAN HOPEWELL is a good ol’ boy raised in Boise, Idaho. At 21, he ventured out to California to seek an education in film. Unlike his character of Donny, Jordan does know how to ride a bike. In fact, he works as a bicycle mechanic and salesman. He continues his love for movies by specializing in audio design for various film projects.



**Anne Crockett**  
as JESSICA

ANNE CROCKETT (now MOYHER) is a California native who currently lives in Sacramento with her husband (who proposed while *We Make Movies* was in production) and kitten. She is a huge fan of *Twin Peaks*, Fleet Foxes, and coffee. Anne works with children on the autism spectrum and is pursuing a career in speech and language pathology. She spends a lot of time at Disneyland.



**Jonathan Holmes**  
as GARTH

JONATHAN HOLMES is an actor and producer who works as an internal auditor at a casino near Sacramento. He’s a great friend who will laugh at your jokes even if they’re not funny, and is always willing to embarrass himself on camera for the sake of “art.” His previous credits include “*Out of the Blue*” and “*Distant Aidenn.*”

# Cast and Crew

## Matt Silver as CURTIS

MATT SILVER needs no introduction. He's pretty lazy, and doesn't really know what to say about himself. He's a drummer, musician, and Loan Officer up in Sacramento, and enjoys acting in any project his friends rope him into.

## Valerie Tory as STEPHEN'S MOM

VALERIE TORY always loves being in her son's films. She works as a Travel Agent and is known for her infectious laugh. Since she feels her most rewarding job is being a mother, playing "Stephen's Mom" was a particular joy. It's almost as if the role was written specifically for her.

## PRODUCER

### Daniel Beresford

DANIEL BERESFORD is a Certified Public Accountant from Calabasas, California. A long-time friend of several members of the *We Make Movies* cast and crew, Daniel's keen interest in film originates from memorable weekends spent at the movies with his late father. He hopes to transition into a career in the film industry using his expertise in finance. His favorite color is blue.

## CINEMATOGRAPHY

### Austin Duncan

AUSTIN DUNCAN is a filmmaker who went to the Art Institute of California in Sacramento. He works as a gaffer and sound mixer on short films, and is a licensed drone videographer. His previous credits include "Decisions" and "The Wing Man."

## ANIMATION

### Robert Carlson

ROBERT CARLSON is a filmmaker and YouTuber who recently graduated from the Cinema and Media Arts program at Biola University. He has helped create a number of videos with Zach King, and currently makes videos for his successful YouTube channel 5MadMovieMakers. Robert spends his spare time playing with toys and riding roller coasters.

## Featuring Music by THE FREAK FANDANGO ORCHESTRA

The Freak Fandango Orchestra is an international ensemble formed in Barcelona, Spain in 2006. Their music is a cocktail of energy that mixes folk, polka, gypsy music and punk-rock. They have been guests at the New York Gypsy Festival, and their two EP's, "Love, Death and a Drunken Monkey" and "Tales of a Dead Fish" have been met with widespread acclaim.



## Cast and Crew

<b>Stephen</b>	<b>Matt Tory</b>
<b>Donny</b>	<b>Jordan Hopewell</b>
<b>Leonard</b>	<b>Zack Slort</b>
<b>Garth</b>	<b>Jonathan Holmes</b>
<b>Jessica</b>	<b>Anne Crockett</b>
<b>Curtis</b>	<b>Matt Silver</b>
<b>Kurtis</b>	<b>Josiah Finnamore</b>
<b>Stephen's Mom</b>	<b>Valerie Tory</b>
<b>Kevin Troy</b>	<b>Keevin Tory</b>
<b>Uncle Jed</b>	<b>Craig Landreth</b>
<b>Belinda</b>	<b>Donna Erie</b>
<b>Cameraman</b>	<b>Austin Duncan</b>
<b>Anna</b>	<b>Hanna Hughes</b>

<b>Written and Directed by</b>	<b>Matt Tory</b>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<b>Austin Duncan</b>
<b>Produced by</b>	<b>Daniel Beresford and Matt Tory</b>
<b>Music by</b>	<b>The Freak Fandango Orchestra</b>
	<b>Ross Bugden</b>
	<b>Kevin Macleod</b>
	<b>David Mumford</b>
<b>Animation</b>	<b>Robert Carlson</b>
<b>Audio Technician</b>	<b>Jon Medley</b>
<b>Post-Production Consultants</b>	<b>JJ Carroll</b>
	<b>Charlie Hamedany</b>
	<b>Keevin Tory</b>
	<b>Robert Carlson</b>
<b>Key Grip</b>	<b>Aaron McClanahan</b>
<b>Grips</b>	<b>Chelsea Clinard</b>
	<b>Raleigh Moyher</b>
<b>Stunt Coordinator</b>	<b>Zack Slort</b>
<b>Visual Effects</b>	<b>Daniel Beresford</b>
<b>Associate Producers</b>	<b>Keevin Tory</b>
	<b>Valerie Tory</b>
	<b>Virginia Pelton</b>
	<b>Margie Hopewell</b>
	<b>Jude Fox</b>
	<b>Bob and Angie Surridge</b>
	<b>Dan and Laurie Freeman</b>
	<b>Bryce and Elaine Tory</b>
	<b>Mike and Sheri Parker</b>
	<b>June Holmes</b>



