



Cabeceo

starring

JENNIFER BERRY CLAUDIO PREDIERI ELLA REBECCA BARTLETT

music by DARREN FUNG choreographers JENNIFER BERRY & CLAUDIO PREDIERI

edited by BARRIE WISE production designer MICHAEL "MICKI" SATTERLUND

costume designer ALINA IVETTE director of photography GEORGE FEUCHT

co-producers JENNIFER BERRY REGIS TERCENIO produced by MATT KEIL

produced, written, and directed by BRIAN JAMES CREWE



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CABECEO

SYNOPSIS

A passionate Argentine Tango dance fantasy featuring a woman exploring the sensual and dangerous possibilities presented by a potential new lover.

WHAT IS “CABECEO”?

“Cabeceo” is a term in Argentine Tango for silently inviting someone to dance. The lead dancer will make eye contact with a potential partner and nod. If the prospective partner nods back, the invitation to dance has been accepted.

THE MAKING OF “CABECEO”

I started my path towards directing CABECEO as a student. I wasn't looking to make a film. I often work as an editor, which frequently involves being alone in room for hours on end. In 2016, I decided learning a new skill that required some human interaction was probably a good idea. So, I signed up for ballroom dance classes, primarily thinking I was going to learn to Swing dance because, you know, that looks cool. My instructor for my first lesson was Jennifer (Jenn) Berry who convinced me to learn not just Swing, but Salsa and Argentine Tango. To my surprise, I fell in love with the language of Tango. As a dance student Jenn suggested I push myself by performing in a few shows with a choreographed routine just a bit outside my skill level as a challenge. This idea gave me horrific childhood flashbacks to sitting through my younger sister's ballet recitals. However, I figured I was committed to the whole experience at this point. Then my storytelling brain took over and I thought, “What if our routine told a story? How would that work?”

I typed up a short story about two people attracted to each other, searching to see if there is a deep connection, and gave it to Jenn. I saw it as a Tango routine, set to Fiona Apple's cover of “Sally's Song” from THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS. Jenn choreographed the dance to match the narrative beats I had outlined. As we rehearsed, I asked myself, “How I would film this dance?” Once that thought happened, making a short film of this story was a fait accompli.

Thankfully, my friend Matt Keil had been contemplating moving from TV producer to film producer. So, I offered him a challenge. Shoot two very different films across a five consecutive day production period in a single location with the same crew. Matt was all in. The first film would be the politically-minded drama FLAT EARTHER and the second would be a Tango dance fantasy called, CABECEO.

Rehearsals began in the fall of 2019. Since Jenn had been my guide into the world of dance it was natural to cast her in the lead role. To play Jack to Jenn's Sally, we both felt Claudio Predieri was perfect, as he brought a deep and authentic knowledge of Argentine Tango and a bit of the Rudolph Valentino smolder.

We also cast actress/dancer Rebecca Bartlett and dancer/singer Ella as two sirens who serve as obstacles for Sally to fight through to get to Jack.

Alas, our NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS homage had to end with the Jack and Sally character names. Original music was needed to make our dance number come to life. I recruited my usual composer Darren Fung, who has worked with me on FAR, UNE LIBÉRATION, and several other projects. However, the unique challenge here was not to provide music to a finished edited film, but to create original music Jenn and Claudio could use to choreograph a dance from scratch. What followed was an intense back and forth process that none of us had been prepared for, as Darren would give us bits of music that Jenn, Claudio, and I could rehearse with and then give notes on. It took four months for this dialog between story, dance, and music to play out. Finally, in January 2020, three weeks before production, Darren recoded his score with an intimate group of Tango musicians.

As I was now rehearsing with the casts of both FLAT EARTHER and CABECEO, Co-producer Regis Ternecio was tasked with finding a filming location for the two films. The solution was the bar Fuego in Pomona. Open to Salsa dancers on Friday and Saturday evenings, the club was closed Sunday-Thursday giving us an ideal window to shoot our two films.

Alina Ivette, whose work I had admired in the feature film CRUEL HEARTS, was brought on to design the costumes. A challenge because while the film starts and ends in a real-world club setting, the middle takes place in a hyper fantasy world, meaning all the main character needed two sets of clothes. Alina expertly acquired and modified store purchases to bring out the personalities of all the players in both worlds. The centerpiece of her work was designing and constructing an original dress for Jenn's fantasy world appearance.

Just as the costumes required multiple looks, I worked with George Feucht and his gaffer Matt Gulley to design the multiple lighting looks required to compliment the various stages of Jack and Sally's relationship represented in the dance sequence. We used an intricate computer-controlled lighting system that was programmed to change colors and tones in sync with our music and choreography.

Production on our two short films began on Sunday February 16, 2020. FLAT EARTHER, which was designed as a single nine-and-a-half-minute shot was completed on the first night, allowing our team the remaining four days to capture the elaborate dance sequences as well as the unique sound and movement montages I had designed to bring us into Sally's fantasy world.

Our first night on CABECEO saw a thirty-person crew running two cameras along with our four leads, and an additional thirty extras to fill the club space. By the last day of production, we were down to only Jenn and Claudio. That night, starting at 9pm and running to 6am they performed the complete three plus minute dance sequence nineteen times, plus inserts so I could capture every angle I had planned out. It was a marathon. The result is a tribute to their talent and athleticism.

As post-production began in March 2020, the world came to a halt. To edit the film, I looked to my friend and former University of Southern California classmate Barrie Wise. Together we embarked on a unique editing process that was done entirely by remote with Barrie sharing cuts with me on-line and feedback happening via phone chats and text messages. I would never want to edit a film that way again but thanks my long friendship with Barrie we were able to make it work.

One lovely bit of unexpected synergy that happened as we finished editing the film was when co-star Ella contributing her song “Don’t Tease” to the final club sequence and we used it to play over our closing credits.

Final sound work was handled by another USC friend, D.J. Lynch at his Sound Rebels facility in Burbank.

Producer Matt Keil and I were determined that CABECEO premiere at an in-person film festival when it was safe and not at one of the many on-line festivals that happened during quarantine. CABECEO is a celebration of music, light, and dance designed for a big screen. We are tremendously excited that the time has come to share the film with audiences. I started this process as a student, and I have learned more than I could possibly imagined.

-Brian James Crewe, March 2022

CAST BIOS

JENNIFER BERRY - Actor, Choreographer, Co-Producer

Jennifer Berry is a Choreographer, and Performer in the Los Angeles area. She is now a dance instructor in the Los Angeles area as well as a Talent Manager at Morse Artists and Development Associate at Imagine LA, ending family poverty and homelessness. Jennifer is originally from Medford, OR, and started her own company, Jenn4dancing, in Oregon after a 6-month dance tour with the Utah Ballroom Dance Company (utahbdc.com). With the Utah BDC, Jennifer travelled up and down the West Coast performing in the productions; Hollywood: A Tribute to Ballroom Dance and Dancing with Your Stars. During the 2014 tour, she performed in over 60 shows.

Since her time in the Los Angeles area, she has been on a Colombian salsa team, Fuego Y Sabor Latino, a tango team, the Tango Association of LA, a Latin hustle company, Soho Dance Co. and a salsa/bachata team., JK Dance Co. Jennifer also had the opportunity to perform as a dancer in EDC Las Vegas 2019. She has been enjoying teaching people of all ages, competing with students, and performing in many events around LA!

CLAUDIO PREDIERI - Actor, Choreographer

Claudio Predieri has been studying, teaching, and performing as a professional Tango dancer in the Los Angeles and Orange County area since the beginning of 2015. He has taken part in numerous theatrical shows such as Miriam and Leonardo's "In Tango Tales" and GD Tango's "Once Upon A Tango."

ELLA - Actor, end credit song 'Don't Tease' performer

Sultry, sharp edged, neon-lit, power. ELLA is an electric mix of spirituality, gritty realism and harnessing the power within to play by your own rules. Sculpted by experiencing grim realities early in life, ELLA rose above and defiantly pursued her music on her own terms.

In 2015 ELLA teamed up with Audio Technica to create a video showcasing herself as a singer / songwriter, and how she shares her musical dream with the world. ELLA released her much anticipated single and music video for her song 'Child's Play' in 2016. which she wrote and was produced by Taylor Sparks. She also produced a high-quality music video to accompany the release. In 2018 she released her single 'Revolution' and directed the accompanying music video. 2019 saw ELLA embarked on an international tour of the United Kingdom, which received rave reviews from adoring British fans.

2020 brought the release her full-length album 'Hitchhike to Heaven', written and produced by ELLA and Julian Feifel. The album is a contemporary work contain 8 chart worthy songs showcasing both ELLA's innate signwriting ability and her incredible vocal range. She also released several other singles that year. ELLA's music lights the way forward in sheer darkness. Dripping with her incredible lyrical flair and undeniably beautiful visual presence.

REBECCA MICHELLE BARTLETT - Actor

Rebecca Michelle Bartlett is an actress, producer, and dancer. She has produced and starred in feature films, music videos, and stage productions including academy qualified and award-winning short film "Dame", "The Entity", and "Out of Exile".

In addition to acting and film production Rebecca choreographs and performs in music videos for talent such Kerry Hart and Nathan Harrington. As a classically trained dancer for more than 10 years, Rebecca specializes in Ballroom and Latin with a passion for salsa and tango.

Rebecca is originally from Colorado Springs CO and is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Peggy Dow Helmrich School of Drama.

CREW BIOS

BRIAN JAMES CREWE - Director, Writer, Producer

Brian has directed numerous projects including the award-winning short films CABECEO, UNE LIBÉRATION, and FAR as well as commercials for Princess Cruises.

Brian co-produced the zombie cult classic DANCE OF THE DEAD, which was released by Sam Raimi's Ghost House Underground through Lions Gate Films. He produced and edited the feature films FATHER VS. SON, a Christmas comedy which won the Houston Critics Society's Award for Best Premiere at Houston WorldFest and the thriller GOLDEN EARRINGS, winner of the Audience Award for Best Feature at ShockerFest and IndieSpirit Film Festivals.

Brian is originally from Minneapolis MN, and is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts.

MATT KEIL - Producer

Matt has written and produced countless videogame-related video segments, shows, and specials over the last 20 years. In his twelve years at the cable networks TechTV and G4, he produced over 1300 episodes of the popular review show X-PLAY, which he also co-created. He has been a producer and editorial consultant for many other videogame productions, including pioneering live coverage of the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) for many years.

A lifelong movie fan, Matt has now taken the opportunity to move into film production with CABECEO and FLAT EARTHER. He's excited to see where this new path leads him. Matt is originally from San Francisco, CA, and is currently based in Los Angeles.

DARREN FUNG - Composer

A two-time Canadian Screen Award winner and International Film Music Critics Association Award nominee with over 100 composition credits to his name, Darren Fung is a highly influential composer who is well-respected in the TV and Film scoring worlds. His work on Niobe Thompson's *The Great Human Odyssey* and *Equus: Story of the Horse* has received widespread critical acclaim in Canada and abroad, winning the 2016 and 2019 Canadian Screen Awards for Best Non-Fiction Music. He has led orchestras across Canada in highly acclaimed concert performances of both mini-series. His diverse credits include a recreation of Canada's beloved Hockey Theme for CTV and TSN and the theme music for CTV's flagship morning news show *Canada AM*. Darren's film scores have been heard at prestigious film festivals around the world, including Toronto, Cannes, and Sundance. In addition to composing full time, Darren serves on the Board after recently stepping down as the Second Vice President of the Screen Composers Guild of Canada. He also acts as a Program Advisor for the Canadian Film Centre's Slight Music Residency and serves on the Board of the public policy leadership development program *Action Canada*. When not composing, he wakes up way too early rowing with the Los Angeles Rowing Club and stays up way too late playing hockey.

BARRIE WISE - Editor

Barrie's editing career began on the original *CSI*. He edited over 60 episodes of the Emmy winning series and returned to help launch the first season of *CSI VEGAS*. Barrie was an editor on the Batman origin show *GOTHAM* and DC Comic spin-off *PENNYWORTH*. Currently, Barrie is hard at work on the new *NATIONAL TREASURE* series for Disney+.

He is a graduate of the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts and lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two sons.

GEORGE FEUCHT - Director of Photography

George has been looking through camera viewfinders for as long as he can remember. After making short films and working as a photojournalist as a teen, he found himself in the production program at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. George hit the ground running out of film school by serving as director of photography on numerous films and television shows. George was Cinematographer on Lions Gate's *DANCE OF THE DEAD*, Magnolia Pictures' *V/H/S VIRAL*, Artist View Entertainment's *FATHER VS. SON*, and 77 Entertainment's *WAKING*. His television credits include *JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE*, *AN AMERICAN HAUNTING*, as well as many other shows. George has been honored with the prestigious International Cinematographers Guild 2014 Emerging Cinematographer Award for the film *UNE LIBÉRATION*, a Telly Award for his cinematography on 2012's *THE BIRDS OF ANGER* for G4-TV, the Best Cinematography Award from the Wild Rose Film Festival for the film *FAR*, as well as being tapped for membership in The Society of Camera Operators. George is based in Los Angeles.

ALINA IVETTE - Costume Designer

Alina Ivette Torrens was born on May 11, 1985 in Irving, Texas, to Nitza Lugo Ramirez and William Torrens, both Puerto Rican. She moved to Los Angeles, California and received her bachelors in Fashion Design. While attending college, Alina also took acting classes at a theatre company where she was given the opportunity to be the costume designer for a production of The Heiress. Since then she has worked on various short and feature length films.

REGIS TERCICIO - Co-Producer

Regis is an award-winning actor and film producer. He was awarded Microsoft 'Case of Success' and met with Bill Gates to present the educational show he created in 2008. His international experience has led him to work in a diversity of projects in several countries around the world. Among his most recent work are the sci-fi feature THE ABANDON and the show WHOLE HEARTED.

D.J. LYNCH - Re-Recording Mixer

Emmy and three-time Golden Reel Award Winner D.J. Lynch is originally from suburban Chicago. He moved to L.A. to attend USC's School of Cinematic Arts. His breakthrough in post audio came when he landed the job as post sound mixer on FOX's TV show COPS. His work can regularly be heard on FAST & FURIOUS: SPY RACERS, JURASSIC WORLD: CAMP CRETACEOUS, SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS, and BABY SHARK'S BIG SHOW! Other credits include BOB'S BURGERS for FOX, BEN10: OMNIVERSE for Cartoon Network, and JAKE AND THE NEVERLAND PIRATES for Disney. Lynch made his directing debut with the superhero feature MISSY AND THE MAXINATOR and is the co-owner of the post-production audio facility Sound Rebels in Burbank, California.