

PUBLIC RECORD

CASTING

WE THE ANIMALS

Based on a book by Justin Torres

Director : Jeremiah Zagar

Producers : Jeremy Yaches & Christina King

Writers : Dan Kitrosser & Jeremiah Zagar

Street-casting : Marlena Skrobe

Contact: casting@thepublicrecord.tv

INFORMATION ON FILM & AUDITION

We are casting *We the Animals*, an independent film that will shoot in Utica, New York this summer. We'd love to open this opportunity up to as many members of the community as possible. The roles we are looking for are listed on the following page.

The film, based on the best-selling novel *We The Animals* by Justin Torres, tells the story of the harsh yet loving dynamic of a mixed-race, working class family, seen through the eyes of the youngest son as he discovers his artistic identity.

We The Animals is a passion project for the Emmy-nominated director, Jeremiah Zagar, a well-known documentary filmmaker who has been developing this film for several years with the support of the Sundance Institute and the Independent Filmmaker Project.

You do not need any acting experience or training to audition for these roles! Below is the information on the audition:

CASTING CALL

SATURDAY, MAY 28th

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

CITY HALL

1 KENNEDY PLAZA, UTICA, NEW YORK 13502

**Contact -
casting@thepublicrecord.tv
if you have any questions!**

ROLES

Dustin - Ages 12-14, Caucasian male, a skinny quirky kid who lives with his grandfather on a farm not far from Ma and the kids. He's an outsider and inwardly lacks confidence, but puts on a bit of bravado to cover it up.

Pregnant Woman - Mid 20's to mid 30's, female, 7-8 months pregnant by August.

Old Man - Ages 60-80 years old, Caucasian male, interesting character face, a farmer in upstate New York, Dustin's grandfather, practical and unsentimental, not unkind but quick to run the kids off his land when they make trouble.

George - Late 40s to early 60s, a large bulky Caucasian male, at least 6'2" - preferably taller, he's the security guard whose shift follows Paps' night shift at the factory where they both work.

Town Woman - 20's to 30's, female. Resident in town.

Concerned Citizen- 40's - 60's. A nice small lady. Concerned for the boys' well-being after she almost hits them in her Minivan when they are playing in the street.

School Boys - 3-4 Caucasian boys. Ages 12-14. Tough kids from school. Group of friends welcome!

Haggard Man - 30's - 70's, male. Dirty hair. Quirky. Is collecting change with a cat on his lap when the boys walk by.

Kevin - Ages 25-55 male. Owner of a drug store in town.

If you have questions about the roles please e-mail:

casting@thepublicrecord.tv

Please include the role you are interested in in the subject line!

BIOGRAPHIES

Jeremiah Zagar (director & co-writer) is the co-founder of Public Record. He grew up in Philadelphia as a latchkey kid, spending most afternoons in a dark movie theater or wandering the aisles of his local TLA video store.

On trips home from college, he started filming his parents and after seven years premiered the resulting documentary “In a Dream” at the SXSW Film Festival. The movie screened theatrically across the United States and in film festivals around the world. It was broadcast on HBO, shortlisted for an Academy Award and received two Emmy nominations, including for Best Documentary.

His newest feature-length documentary “Captivated: The Trials of Pamela Smart” premiered in competition at the Sundance Film Festival and aired on HBO to much fanfare in August of 2014.

Other notable work includes the pilot episode for 7 Deadly Sins—a new series for Showtime and a three spot campaign for GE Capital which premiered during the 2014 Kentucky Derby, both of which he co-directed with Nathan Caswell.

Jeremiah’s next project is the feature film “We the Animals”, for which he was selected as a Sundance Directing & Screenwriting Lab fellow. When he’s not making movies and commercials, he spends his time swimming in New York City’s finest public pools.

Dan Kitrosser (co-writer) is a playwright, screenwriter and storyteller, working in the independent and Off-Broadway theatre world for the last eight years.

His play “Tar Baby,” which he co-wrote with Desiree Burch, played Off-Broadway at The Daryl Roth Theatre in 2013 and is currently on a national tour. “Tar Baby” was nominated for a 2013 New York Innovative Theatre Award and was hailed by The New Yorker as “smart, funny, and maybe even necessary.”

He wrote the screenplay for “The Night Witch,” a short animated film about female Russian Fighter Pilot Nadja Popova, directed by Alison Klayman. The film was produced by New York Time’s “The Lives they Lived” series and will play for ten weeks at the IFC Center in New York.

Dan is also a children’s storyteller, and has been the resident storyteller for both Central Park and Bryant Park. In May of 2014, he will complete his MFA in Playwriting at the New School for Drama, where he studies under Jon Robin Baitz, Christopher Shinn and Michael Weller and is the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Fellow.

Jeremy Yaches (producer) is an Emmy-nominated producer and co-founder of Public Record, a production company that specializes in film, TV, branded content, and commercials. He produced the award-winning documentary “In a Dream” which has screened all over the world and was broadcast on HBO.

Jeremy’s short films include Heart Stop Beating which premiered at Sundance, Remains at SXSW & El Último Hielero at Tribeca. “Always a Fire”, a short documentary which he produced and released straight to the web, was a viral sensation, racking up over a million views in its first week.

More recently, Jeremy produced the pilot episode for “7 Deadly Sins”, which premiered on Showtime this summer, and he is currently producing an adaptation of Justin Torres’ best-selling novel “We the Animals.”



BOOK PRESS

“First-time novelist Justin Torres unleashes *We the Animals*, a gorgeous, howling coming-of-age novel that will devour your heart.”

—Vanity Fair

“*We the Animals* is a dark jewel of a book. It’s heartbreaking. It’s beautiful. It resembles no other book I’ve read. We should all be grateful for Justin Torres, a brilliant, ferocious new voice.”

—Michael Cunningham

“A novel so honest, poetic, and tough that it makes you reexamine what it means to love and to hurt. In stark prose, Torres shows us how one family grapples with a dangerous and chaotic love for each other, as well as what it means to become a man.”

—O, the Oprah Magazine

DIRECTOR PRESS

Sundance Institute Announces 12 Projects for Screenwriters Lab

Filmmakermagazine.com — by Michael Murie — December 17, 2013

This afternoon the Sundance Institute unveiled the 12 projects that will be participating next month in its Screenwriters Lab. Among the filmmakers whose scripts were chosen are documentarian Jeremiah Zagar (*In a Dream*), whose first narrative script *We the Animals* (based on a book by Justin Torres) was also in IFP’s Emerging Storytellers, while another alum of that program (from 2011) selected here is Ryan Koo, with his project *Manchild*. Other notable participants this year include Jordana Spiro, the former TV actress whose short *Skin* played at Sundance 2012; uber inventive and wacky pop promo directors Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, who are better known as DANIELS; Orlagh George, the daughter of veteran Irish director Terry George, who won an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short last year for producing *The Shore*, helmed by her father; and Marcella Said, the Chilean writer/director whose debut feature *The Summer of Flying Fish* premiered in the Directors’ Fortnight at Cannes this year.

[Excerpt]