

Not all families come in a perfect package.

Annabelle & Bear

A junkie.
A rebel.
An innocent little girl.

A RADISH CREATIVE GROUP PRODUCTION AN AMY S. WEBER FILM "ANNABELLE & BEAR"

OLIVIA WALBY CURT MASSOF KIMBERLY CRUCHON BROOKS RUBY HARRIS JASON MYRES DAL BOUEY AND COLE COREY

COSTUME DESIGNER TINA WEBER EDITED BY JUSTIN C. HYNIOUS PRODUCTION DESIGNER DANIEL TELLO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PETER SENSOR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AMY S. WEBER

STORY BY AMY S. WEBER SCREENPLAY BY AMY S. WEBER AND TRACEY D. SIMS PRODUCED BY AMY S. WEBER AND TINA WEBER DIRECTED BY AMY S. WEBER

Annabelle & Bear

SYNOPSIS

***Annabelle & Bear* is the dramatic, tender story of a man who finds himself suddenly thrust into fatherhood, and the unexpected journey that leads him to discover the life-altering love found in the heart of his little girl.**

There are moments in life that can change a person forever. For a biker named Bear, there have been too many of those moments. The moment his father died and he lost his best friend. The moment his mother married a family friend, just two months after the death of his father. The moment his longtime love Annie, chose drugs over her family. And the moment he realized he would never have the chance to be a father to his newborn daughter.

Our hero, Bear (Michael Spillman), is an introverted and rebellious soul, tinkering with engines and emotionally disconnecting from everyone and everything, including his past. Until one day, that past shows up at his front door.

Annie, Bear's ex-girlfriend, stands before him, clearly strung out, two years after abandoning him. And she is not alone. Next to her stands the tiny and innocent Annabelle, their 2-year-old daughter who Bear has never had the opportunity to know. Before he can refuse Annie's demands to take Annabelle off of her hands, Annie disappears, leaving Annabelle behind. Suddenly thrust into fatherhood, Bear finds his life in disarray. He struggles to manage his new responsibilities and concludes that the only solution is to turn to his estranged mother, Grace, whom he has not spoken to in five years. After a brief discussion, Grace agrees to raise Annabelle.

Trading in his motorcycle for an old Cadillac and a used car seat, Annabelle & Bear head off to Grace's house, traveling from Michigan to Maine. A journey that will not only take them halfway across the country, but one that will change a man forever, through the healing power of one little girl's unconditional love.

A raw and relevant film about forgiveness and redemption, love and loss, Annabelle & Bear will open your heart and have you rooting for the most unlikely of heroes.



Annabelle & Bear

THE STORY

Annabelle & Bear: The Story Behind the Making of the Film

It all began with a quiet breakfast meeting that Director Amy S. Weber had with a local aspiring filmmaker. A simple moment between two filmmakers with similar passions, discussing the industry and sharing their dreams for the future. But it was something that her breakfast companion said that resonated and wedged itself into Amy's thoughts. "Make your film," he said. Amy began to think of it as a mantra. Make your film, make your film, make your film... but what film? She'd had plenty of ideas for screenplays in the past, even one written. But she was still searching for that [ONE IDEA](#).

Then came the idea. That same day, as she drove down I-96 toward her parent's home for a family dinner with her spouse and 2 small daughters, a rugged, tough guy riding past them on his motorcycle caught her attention. Amy wondered what his story was all about. She thought of her own 2-year-old daughter in the backseat, and suddenly it struck her. What if that big, burly biker had a 2-year-old girl strapped to the back of that bike? What would his story be then? At that moment, the story began to come to life as she continued to drive, sharing with her family each scene in detail, from beginning to end. By the time she arrived at her parent's home, the story was conceived.

Amy placed a call to Tracey D. Sims, her frequent collaborator and co-writer. Amy began to animatedly reel off her story to Tracey, and only after a few minutes, Tracey was hooked and ready to begin. It was the first of many long phone calls, emails and drafts that would eventually lead them to the poignant, moving tale of a little girl named Annabelle and her estranged father, Bear.

More than 27 drafts of the script were written over the following eight months. When the final touches were delicately placed into the final draft, Amy, and the amazing staff at her company, Radish Creative Group, Inc., forged ahead, making her filmmaking dream into a reality. But she didn't run to Hollywood for financing or try to sell the script. She decided to make the film the way SHE wanted to: with a group of talented, like-minded people who wanted to work hard and tell a good story. She turned to those she trusted the most, the talented players whom she repeatedly works with on most of her commercial productions, including her extraordinary Director of Photography, Peter Sensor. Amy was now well on her way. What she didn't yet realize was that the journey she was igniting would soon take on a life of its own.

With the enactment of the Michigan Film Production Credit in 2008, the Detroit area suddenly became a hotbed of filmmaking. The state was filled with gifted, eager people from all walks of life who after watching Amy on a Fox 2 News report announcing her plans for the film to be 100% Michigan-made, came out of the woodwork, ready to be a part of something big. Open casting and crewing auditions unearthed hundreds of amazing people who came to assist her, not only with the look and feel, but also the soul of the film itself.



Annabelle & Bear

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Brief History: Director, Amy S. Weber – Radish Creative Group, Inc.

BACKGROUND

Amy Weber's journey to film-making has taken some interesting twists and turns. Like many directors, Amy's path began in commercial production, serving as agency producer for advertising agencies DDB Needham Worldwide and BBDO Worldwide for several years.

A dreamer at heart, Amy's path took an unexpected turn; she left behind the producer's life to pursue a master's degree while teaching at the college level. As an educator, Amy was inspired to bring the worlds of education and film production together to serve a greater purpose.... so Radish Creative Group was formed to produce some of the most respected educational programs for youth around the globe, which caught the attention of MTV, The CW, HBO and Nickelodeon, as well as numerous prestigious awards. What began as a one-woman production house with a focus on educational documentaries and commercials, has now turned into a passionate conglomerate for commercial, television and film projects.

Amy's peers consider her one of the most gifted talent directors in the industry, especially due to her ability to work with young children and first time actors. Her commercial work has been recognized by the Emmys twice as well as Best in Show at Mobius and her educational documentaries have earned over 50 Telly nods. Amy's first short film, *The Intruder*, which she wrote and directed, was well-received at the CinemaSports Film competition. The natural next step for Amy was a feature, but she opted to take a less traditional path in order to make it happen. She called upon some of her most talented and resourceful friends in the local industry to help make her vision, *Annabelle & Bear*, into a reality, even with less financial support than most low budget independents. They answered her call in a way she could have never imagined. Hundreds of people reached out, asking to be part of the experience and offering to help in anyway she needed. Amy's passion for developing the film became a media sensation, starting with the open crewing and casting calls to the exciting music competition held for the film's 100% Michigan made soundtrack. Her story quickly became a beacon of hope for many Michiganders facing challenging times, hailing her as an inspiration. The making of *Annabelle & Bear* marks Amy's proudest career moment to date.

Over the past 10 years, Amy has developed numerous television programs that have ignited relationships with The N, Noggin and BET, positioning her and Radish as a recognized development and production house. Amy and her team have conceptualized and penned over 20 series, including reality series such as *Breakin' the Nation* and *Detention*, the highly anticipated dramedy, *A Brogan Life* and the drama, *The Ohio Football Project*.

Amy hopes to continue her development of quality films and programs and to collaborate with creative minds that share her vision and passion for making a positive impact in the world.

AWARDS

EMMYS • TELLYS • MOBIUS BEST OF SHOW • GLOBALS AEGIS • AURORA NY GOLDEN CASSETTE GOLD • MERCURY



Annabelle & Bear

THE CAST

CURT MASSOF

Weaned on monster movies, punk rock and fueled by a vivid imagination in suburban Detroit, Curt has been pursuing a creative career from the time he was 13 years old. During high school, Curt cut his teeth working as a lighting tech, soundman, make-up artist, camera assistant or whatever else was needed. After graduation, he decided to put his art skills to work and followed his childhood dream of making monsters. He moved to Los Angeles in 1986 and found work as a special make-up effects artist on such films as Terminator 2, Edward Scissorhands and Predator 2. In 1992, Curt returned to Michigan and got into commercial and television video production. He is married and the father of two teenage daughters. Portraying the lead role in “Annabelle & Bear” has been the opportunity of a lifetime; just what Curt needed to begin a journey on a new creative path.



OLIVIA LORRAINE WALBY

Olivia Lorraine Walby was born in October of 2006 in Royal Oak to parents who are Michigan natives. It was obvious to everyone involved in this project how much Olivia truly loved the filmmaking process when she began to ask director Amy Weber, “When do I get to do a scene, Amy?” From the very start of auditions to her last day of filming, 2-year-old Olivia delighted in pretending to be Annabelle. She surprised everyone on set with her joyful attitude, patience and ability to improvise beautifully scene after scene. Although “Annabelle & Bear” is Olivia’s very first foray into acting, we can only hope it won’t be her last.



RUBY HARRIS

Ruby Harris was born and raised in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. She left the Detroit area for the likes of San Francisco and Prague, but the pull of family and her Michigan roots soon brought her home. She began her career as a stage actor in various Michigan theatres, appearing in performances at the Purple Rose Theatre and Performance Network. She has also appeared in numerous commercials. Ruby says her character Annie in “Annabelle & Bear” has been “the most challenging and rewarding role to date as an actor... a role like Annie doesn’t come around often enough whether you’re an actor in Michigan, NY, or LA for that matter.” Ruby’s most important life-role is one as a mom to her beautiful twins, Ani and Gerzon, and as a partner to her loving husband Ulrich.



KIMBERLY CRUCHON BROOKS

Kim has performed onstage in Michigan since the age of 15. She moved to Los Angeles in 1981, where she appeared in numerous stage productions, including the national stage premiere of the film “All About Eve”, in the Bette Davis role of Margo Crane. She relocated to Michigan in 1993 to marry her childhood sweetheart. Since returning to Michigan she has taught children’s acting classes at the Marquis Theater in Northville, and has been a member of the Detroit cast of “Tony and Tina’s Wedding” for the past 10 years. Now a veteran of over 100 stage productions nationwide, she’s also appeared in countless commercials, industrials and films including “You Are Here”, “Fantasy Football - The Movie” and “Demoted” (with Sean Astin and Michael Vartan). On her role as Bear’s mother Grace, Kim says, “Grace was so well-rounded and faceted that stepping into her sensible shoes was made all the more easier. It’s all about the story; and we actors are merely storytellers.”



Annabelle & Bear

THE CAST CONT.

DAL BOUEY

Dal Bouey was born in northern Michigan, where her vocal talent was discovered at the tender age of 15. She soon began touring the United States and Asia. It was love at first sight and sound when Dal hit Detroit. She quickly became known as Detroit's 'Queen of Hearts'. Dal Bouey's dazzling performances can be seen regularly at the MGM Grand Casino, Motor City Casino, and Greektown Casino. Dal has tried her hand at performing, choreographing, composing, and modeling and has now set her sights on acting. "While singing and dancing in my own show, acting has always been a huge part of my performance. So when the opportunity came to take the role as Trisha, it was simply a natural wonderful segue," Dal says. She believes that Trisha "...was very much a character that lives within me... a strong, secure woman."



JASON MYERS

Jason Myres was born and raised in Detroit. From a young age, Jason was a bit of a troublemaker and prankster who loved to entertain people. It came as a bit of a surprise to his family when he made the decision to join the US Army as a Combat Engineer dealing with heavy demolitions and explosives. Jason became a part of the initial invasion of Iraq with the 1st Armored Division. During his second tour of duty with the 101st Airborne Division, Jason sustained injuries that would result in medical retirement. While transitioning back to civilian life, he attended Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts, initially focusing on a career in radio broadcasting. But once the Michigan filmmaking boon came along, he became determined to step in front of the camera. The character Goldie, Bear's loyal best friend, is Jason's first major role. He is thrilled that he has "...been given an opportunity to play a character so much like myself." He now lives in Roseville, Michigan with his wife and two daughters.



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THE MOVIE

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WATCH THE TRAILER

Annabelle & Bear

is the dramatic, tender story of a man who finds himself suddenly thrust into fatherhood, and the unexpected journey that leads him to discover the life-altering love found in the heart of his little girl.



"Rarely have I seen the disease of addiction portrayed in all its horror, with such accuracy in its depiction of the damage it inflicts on those who love them and rely on them. This is a very powerful film for addicts and their families to see!"

Denise Bertin-Epp, President
Brighton Hospital, Addiction Treatment Facility

AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION

www.annabelleandbear.com

If interested in a DVD screener, please contact Tina Weber
tina@radishgroup.com or by phone at 248.504.7864

Annabelle & Bear was completed in February 2010.