

# I Got This

a short film by Erik Bork



FUNCLUB UNLIMITED Presents I GOT THIS  
JACK DE SENA ROME SHADANLOO ALEXIA JOANNA TARTA  
LAIRD MACINTOSH ANIL MARGSAHAYAM ROSS MCCALL  
THOM RIVERA Original Music by ALEXANDER TAYLOR  
Associate Producer KATIE COLQUITT Editor FRANK GEIST  
Director of Photography COLE PISANO  
Produced by CHRISTOPHER TUNG Written & Directed by ERIK BORK

## Logline:

A young couple schemes to get DNA samples from three men who could be the father of the daughter he has been helping to raise, believing she was his.

## Synopsis:

Doting dad Chris learns that the three-year-old girl he's been helping to raise isn't his. Not only that, but her mother doesn't want to marry him, and might move out of town with the child, feeling she has no better options. He convinces her to try to figure out who the real father is, in hopes of a child support settlement that will allow them to stay. So they stalk three men who she slept with during the month before she got pregnant, and find inventive way to get samples of their DNA.



**Erik Bork (Writer-Director)** is best known for his work as a writer-producer on the HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers* and *From the Earth to the Moon*. He worked as an assistant to actor-producer Tom Hanks from 1993-95, at which time Mr. Hanks read some of his sitcom spec scripts, and offered him a promotion, which led to his work on these two miniseries, both of which led to him receiving Emmy and Golden Globe Awards as part of the producing team. Mr. Bork has worked extensively as a screenwriter in Los Angeles, selling original series ideas to NBC and Fox Broadcasting, working on staff on primetime drama series, and writing feature films and miniseries on assignment. This is his first film as a director since his student work at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, where he earned a BFA in motion picture production.





**Jack De Sena** got his start on the long-running Nickelodeon sketch comedy series *All That*, for which he received a Young Artist Award. He plays Mr. Roberts on the series *100 Things to Do Before High School*, was recently featured on Showtime's *House of Lies* and HBO's *Veep*, and was a series regular on the Hulu original series *Battleground*. As a voice actor, he has worked on the series *King of the Hill* and *Avatar: The Last Airbender*.



**Rome Shadanloo** has guest starred on such series as *How I Met Your Mother*, *Dollhouse*, *Entourage* and *Private Practice*, and the multiple Film Festival, Critic Circle, and Independent Spirit Award-nominated film *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*. Her other credits include films featuring Dax Shepard, Ashton Kutcher, Bradley Cooper, and David Arquette.



**Laird Macintosh** performs in the main company of the legendary Groundlings sketch comedy troupe, and has appeared in comedic and dramatic roles in countless series, such as *Modern Family*, *Key and Peele*, *Hot in Cleveland*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* and *The Tonight Show*. He also worked as both military advisor and actor in *Band of Brothers* and Oliver Stone's *Alexander*.



**Anil Margsaym's** television credits include *Grey's Anatomy*, *The Big Bang Theory*, *Silicon Valley*, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, *Dr. Ken*, *Speechless* and *The Brink* as well as the films *Feeding Mr. Baldwin*, and *Like a Racehorse*. Theatre highlights include the National Broadway Tour of *Bombay Dreams*, as well as *All's Well That Ends Well* at CalShakes and *Twelfth Night* at New Theatre House.



The Scottish actor **Ross McCall** known in the U.S. after his work as Cpl. Joseph Liebgott in the HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers* for Executive Producers Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks. McCall has starred in feature films such as *Green Street Hooligans*, and on many series, including two seasons of the critically acclaimed Starz series *Crash*, a recurring role as Matthew Keller on *White Collar*, and episodes of *CSI: NY*, *Bones*, *Ghost Whisperer*, *Luther*, *Castle* and *Fear the Walking Dead*.



**Thom Rivera** is a classically trained television, film, theatre & voice actor who has worked in Los Angeles and New York. He has toured nationally and performed at regional theatres throughout the US. He has performed Shakespeare with The Acting Company, Yale Repertory and festivals in Alabama, Colorado, Washington DC, and 3 seasons with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. TV highlights include *The Mindy Project*, *Zoo*, Eva Longoria's *Telenovela* and a recurring role on *New Girl*.





**Christopher Tung (Producer)**

Originally from Dayton, Ohio Chris moved to Los Angeles in 2012 after graduating from Wright State University. He has produced five shorts (two of them starring *The Middle* actor Charlie McDermott) and a commercial starring Martin Sheen. He currently works as a Junior Production Finance Executive at Netflix in the Original Films division.



**Cole Pisano (Director of Photography)**

An alumni of Wright State University's award winning Motion-Picture Production program, Cole has worked on numerous short & feature films, music videos and commercials in the camera and lighting departments. His work as a Director of Photography has ranged from ultra minimalist to highly expressive, stylized narratives.



**Frank Geist (Editor)**

Originally from the Detroit area and a Michigan State University graduate, Frank is a Local 700 union Assistant Editor who works in the television industry. He has worked on several shows for CBS, NBC, TV Land, & Disney Channel. Currently, he works on an upcoming show titled *Alexa & Katie*, a multi-camera sitcom for Netflix.



**Alexander Taylor (Composer)**

is a music composer/producer for film and television based in North Hollywood. He is currently the lead composer at Wondergrove Animation Studios. Alexander was recently offered an internship at Remote Control Productions, a music studio owned by renowned film composer Hans Zimmer, beginning March, 2018.

## Q & A with Writer-Director Erik Bork

- 1. You've worked on big Hollywood projects like HBO's *Band of Brothers*, which you helped write and produce, with Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. What made you decide to direct a short film?** I always wanted to write and direct my own original material – to see something produced that I came up with on my own, which represented my particular taste and vision. I've lately focused on writing screenplays with that in mind. It seemed a smart first step to adapt one of them into a short.
- 2. The work you're known for is mostly dramatic and historical, whereas *I Got This* is a quirky comedy. Are you equally interested in both genres, or does one come more naturally to you?** Smart comedies with heart are definitely what I have always responded to most, and which come naturally to me. I was actually writing sitcom spec scripts (original samples of shows like *Friends* and *Mad About You*) when Tom Hanks first read some of my material. I was one of his assistants at the time. He then gave me the amazing opportunity to help him write and produce *From the Earth to the Moon*, and, later, *Band of Brothers*.
- 3. What were the key elements to being able to make this film?** I was blessed to get to know a few recent L.A.-based alumni of the film program I graduated from – Wright State University in Ohio – who were able to fill key crew positions within my very limited budget, starting with producer Chris Tung and Director of Photography Cole Pisano. I also had some actor friends from *Band of Brothers* who helped me in front of the camera.
- 4. How did you find your lead actor, Jack De Sena?** So randomly, but as a product of my own brand of research. On IMDB, you can search for people born in a certain year, which I sometimes use for fantasy casting models for stuff I'm writing. I was looking for someone around a certain age, and scrolled through hundred of thumbnail photos that came up, from big celebrities down to anyone with a single acting credit. When I saw Jack's photo, something clicked, and I researched further, finding some video clips on line, as well as his credits. Then a casting director friend (another *Band of Brothers* colleague) was willing to contact his agent on my behalf so I would look somewhat legit. (All the other actors I found through people I knew.) She was willing to get him the script and he liked it, thank God.
- 5. What was the original inspiration for the film?** A feature I was working on had its struggles due to primary characters that people deemed less than sympathetic. I vowed to write something next with a main character that was almost Forrest Gump-level endearing. At the same time, I'd always thought the idea of someone having to find and get DNA samples from a series of past sexual partners to determine paternity seemed like a fun comedic situation. And a plot began to emerge that focused on an unlikely couple doing that together. I wrote it as a feature (which I'd still like to make), then adapted it into a short. As a divorced dad, I'm sure underlying themes regarding child custody and trying to do right by your kids were at play, as well.



6. **You've worked a lot with Tom Hanks. What is he really like? How did you end up getting your start with him?** Amazingly generous, good-natured, funny, sharp, and magnetic. He is everything you'd expect him to be, and you're as in awe of him as you might expect to be. He elevated me from a temporary "second assistant" position at his burgeoning production company in the 90's to a role that allowed me to write multiple projects for him, and to help write and produce two big HBO miniseries. I'm forever grateful.
7. **When I Google your name, I find a lot of advice and a blog for aspiring writers. What's that all about?** At a certain point in my career I started getting asked to speak at writer's groups, read scripts from aspiring writers, and mentor people. I started to realize I had a facility for it, and could codify what I've learned in my career and apply it to others' work, and teach it. And I found that it also helped me in my own work to do this. It's great to be able to use one's life skills, experience and knowledge in service to eager, grateful writers who are a lot like I once was (and in many ways, still am) – and it's helped me weather the ups and downs of a Hollywood career, and my decision to start over with a more indie, writer-director focus.
8. **What's your favorite memory of shooting *I Got This*? And the most challenging?** One favorite memory was on the first day when my lead actress asked me if I ever acted, because my directing seemed to point to some experience in that area. I can't tell you how gratifying that was, after all the studying I did, in trying to become an effective actor's director. As far as challenging, the hardest part was truly all the prep work in the last couple weeks before shooting – trying to juggle all the logistics and wear so many hats as an indie filmmaker. Once we were shooting, it was such a relief that things actually went really smoothly.
9. **What influenced this work?** Growing up, most of my favorite filmmakers were writer-directors like John Hughes, James L. Brooks, Woody Allen and Cameron Crowe. I always wanted to make personal, heartfelt movies that would make you laugh and possibly also touch you.
10. **What are you working on next?** I have a few feature scripts in various stages of readiness, all comedies of one sort or another that I would like to direct at an indie-level budget, perhaps \$500,00–\$1,000,000. There's a feature version of *I Got This*, and a script about a young man who meets his father for the first time, and realizes he's something of a Donald Trump type. There's also one about a struggling screenwriter who has to do some things he really doesn't want to do to make good on his one connection with a powerful gay producer (which I swear is not as dark and bleak as it sounds – it's a comedy!).

## Credits

Written & Directed by	Erik Bork
Produced by	Christopher Tung
Director of Photography	Cole Pisano
Edited by	Frank Geist
Associate Producer	Katie Cocquyt
Music by	Alexander Taylor
Production Coordinator	Peter Young
1 <sup>st</sup> Camera Assistant	Nick Doll
	Nick Matthews
Gaffer	Max Schwartz
Sound Mixer	Sean Byrnes
Boom Operators	Shannon Wells
	Ethan Molomut
Make-up	Audri Cole
Storyboarded by	J. Todd Anderson
Studio Teacher	Nora Gaffin Shore
Production Insurance	MovieInsure.com, Inc.

Chris	Jack De Sena
Jennifer	Rome Shadanloo
Mira	Alexia Joanna Tarta
Kirk	Laird Macintosh
Vijay	Anil Margsayam
Alexander	Ross McCall
Goran	Thom Rivera
Store Employee	John Sadaka

### “Blow N’ Smoke”

Written by Kirk Hulshoff and Ron Broad

Performed by Zombie Shaker Box

### “Summer Time Today”

Written by Alexander Taylor

Performed by Audrianna Cole and Alexander Taylor

### Special Thanks:

Steve Bognar	Leslie Martinelli	Heather Hale
Karri O’Reilly	Angela Terry	Francis Stokes
Ross McCall	Margaret Owens	Nick Rollins
Gina To	Geoff Patterson	Quest Couture
Rachel Bork	Talia Asseraf	Mimi Cocquyt
Lee Page	Sophia Berryhill	Judith Weston
Alex Maxwell	Bridget Laifman	Jill Hessick
Robert Gold	Dr. Steven Iceland	Mary Amirian
John Sadaka	Mark Aaron Bolton	Lylene Sheets
Scully Cloete	Devorah Cutler-Rubenstein	SAG-AFTRA



## **Technical Details**

Running time: 22 minutes, 28 seconds  
Camera: Blackmagic Cinema Camera  
Aspect ratio: 16x9  
Shooting format: 1920x1080 Digital  
Screening format: DCP NTSC  
Sound: Stereo, Sample rate 48000/24 bit  
Country of origin: USA  
Language: English  
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## **Contact Info**

Erik Bork  
[ebork@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ebork@sbcglobal.net)

Watch the trailer at [www.vimeo.com/254151775](http://www.vimeo.com/254151775)

Watch the film at [www.vimeo.com/358539978](http://www.vimeo.com/358539978)