



# Earthlings

## ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



LUIS CHÁVEZ

KELVIN HAN YEE

DANIEL EDWARD MORA

TINA HOLMES

JAMES LEGROS

CASTING BY  
MARK BENNETT

MUSIC BY  
AARON MULLAN · CHRIS CORSANO

EDITED BY  
JACOB PANDER

PRODUCTION DESIGNER  
TOBY LISTER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY  
MARC GREENFIELD

LINE PRODUCER  
DAVID BRAME JR.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS  
TODD HAYNES · JONATHAN RAYMOND · LUIS CHÁVEZ

CO-PRODUCER  
ANNA BYVALD

PRODUCED BY  
JACQUELINE GAULT · STEVEN DOUGHTON

BASED ON THE SHORT STORY BY  
JONATHAN RAYMOND

SCREENPLAY BY  
STEVEN DOUGHTON

DIRECTED BY  
STEVEN DOUGHTON

# Earthlings



"Earthlings explores the simplest of American ideas and the most complex—the convergence of class and race and sex—in what begins amid the most innocent circumstances and over the course of an evening descends into a group portrait of dark and disquieting outcomes." Todd Haynes



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## WORLD PREMIERE

International Competition  
Gothenburg Film Festival 2023

Languages:  
American English, Spanish with English subtitles

International sales:  
TBA

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**Earthlings** a feature film by Steven Doughton  
Goteburg Film Festival - Electronic Press Kit - January 2023



## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

Two Mexican day laborers are unexpected guests at their employer's intimate dinner party. The resulting clash of cultures and beliefs takes the evening to new heights - and depths - of desire, hedonism, and conflict.

The story begins with Tom Chen, an affluent Chinese American who decides to celebrate the anniversary of his divorce with a dinner party. When his intended guests cancel, he impulsively invites the two Mexican day laborers, Javier and Diego, who are working in his yard, to join him instead. But as the three men are settling into the evening - finding connections and differences in their respective American stories - two of Tom's original guests show up after all, and the resulting clash of cultures and beliefs takes the evening to new heights - and depths - of desire, hedonism, and conflict.





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“I’ve always been drawn to dialogue-rich movies, in which dramatic shifts in plot or character can hinge on a single thread of conversation. So when I read Jon Raymond’s story *The Suckling Pig*, its cinematic possibilities struck me immediately. In it, a group of people with almost nothing in common spend an intimate evening together which they will never forget. I want to place the audience directly within the disquieting situation of a dinner party among strangers, thereby allowing them to experience the struggles of the characters as they try to relate to one another across a well-appointed table and a vast sea of cultural and political differences. The audience should discover (as the characters themselves do) that these five people have secrets and depths they rarely share with anyone.”

Steven Doughton November 2022

## ABOUT THE WRITER/DIRECTOR

Steven Doughton is a writer and director from Portland, Oregon, whose films have played at MoMA, The Viennale, Anthology Film Archives and Marianne Boesky Gallery in New York. He has directed music videos for Aphex-Twin and Stephen Malkmus and has shot music videos for Iggy Pop, Pavement, Blonde Redhead and Alen Vega. In 1986 Doughton and artist David Wojnarowicz collaborated on the short film "Around Clown." Doughton's films are part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In 2011 he wrote and directed the feature film "Buoy".

### Filmography

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Buoy 2012

No One Is (As I Are Be) (Music Video) 2011

Circuit (Short) 1999

Delta (Multi-Channel installation) 1997

Ferrum 5000 (Short) 1996

Aphex Twin: Ventolin (Music Video) 1995

Betwixt (Short) 1989

Forming (Short) 1987

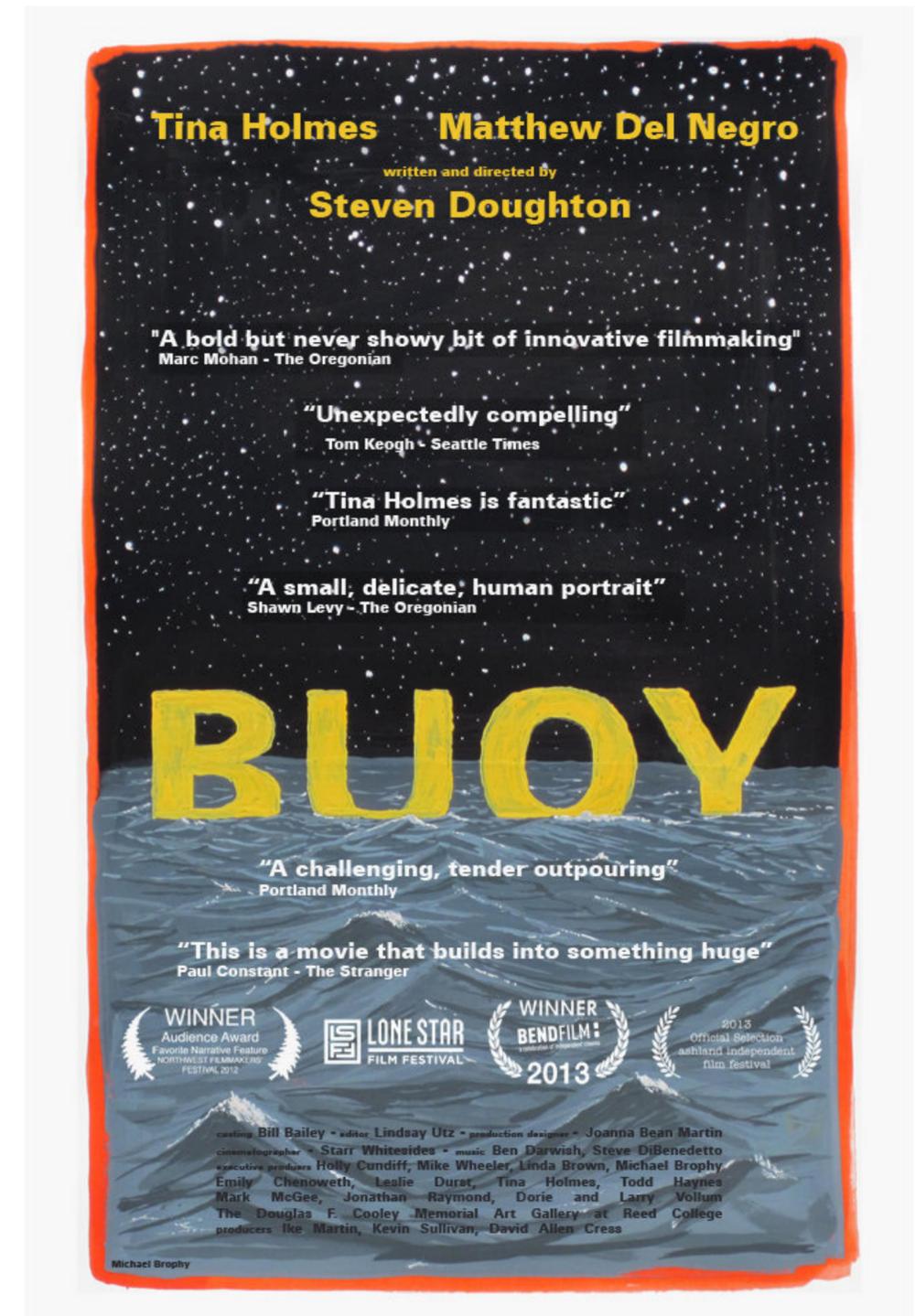
Around Clown (Short) 1987

### Quotes and Links to BUOY Press

["A bold but never showy bit of innovative filmmaking"](#)  
[Marc Mohan - The Oregonian](#)

"Yasujiro Ozu (Tokyo Story) also comes to mind while watching Steven Doughton's unexpectedly compelling "Buoy." The Portland director's understated formalism nicely balances roller-coaster emotions in a story about a depressed mom who receives a surprise phone call from her estranged brother." ~Tom Keogh, Seattle Times

[Buoy gets a pic from Dallas Observer](#)



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## **Novelist and Screenwriter - Jonathan Raymond**

Jonathan Raymond is an American writer living in Portland, Oregon. He is best known for writing the novels “The Half-Life” and “Rain Dragon”, and for writing the short stories and screenplays for the films “Old Joy” and “Wendy and Lucy” (both directed by Kelly Reichardt). He also wrote the screenplays for “Meek’s Cutoff” (2010), “First Cow” (2019) and “Showing Up” (2022) and was nominated for a Primetime Emmy for his teleplay writing on the HBO miniseries, “Mildred Pierce”.



## CAST

**Luis Chávez** got his start in acting in the late 1990s, when he appeared as a guest in an episode of the short-lived medical drama "L.A. Doctors". In 1999, he made his film debut, playing a supporting role in the independent drama release "Bellyfruit". Most of his work is in television, with guest roles in programs such as "Angel", "Monk", "Malcolm in the Middle", "ER", "Sleeper Cell", "Weeds" and most recently, "Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles", where he played the recurring role of Morris, the high school best friend of John Connor (Thomas Dekker).

Chávez has also starred in several high-profile films. He played two roles in the crime thriller "Ocean's Thirteen", appears alongside Willem Dafoe and Christoph Waltz in "Dead For A Dollar" as well as Larry the Cable Guy in the war comedy "Delta Farce" and in the Kim Basinger indie thriller "While She Was Out". His work in the short film "A Day's Work" earned him several awards, including Best Actor honors at the Gen Art Film Festival in 2008. His first regular television role is in the ensemble drama "Crash", a remake of the Oscar-winning film of the same name. There, he plays the role of Cesar Uman, a poor Guatemalan who attempts to break in (illegally) to the United States through its border with Mexico.



**Kelvin Han Yee** is an American actor of Asian descent whose career spans over 30 years of film, television and theater. He was discovered by the American Conservatory Theatre working as a bouncer but then went on to act at regional theaters like Oregon Shakespeare Festival at Ashland, Berkeley Repertory Theater and The Huntington Theater. In 1985 he was cast in the first American movie shot in the People's Republic of China, as the all-American-Chinese teenager in "A Great Wall", and has appeared in many films including "Milk", "Lucky You", "The Island", "Copycat", and "True Crime". On television he continues to demonstrate a great range of characters on shows like "Chicago PD", "Hawaii Five-0", "The Mentalist", "Lie To Me", "Criminal Minds", "Prison Break", "24", "Chuck", "Entourage", "Accidentally On Purpose", "Curb Your Enthusiasm", "Nash Bridges" and in Soap Operas. He has used his background to help others by mentoring incarcerated youths, bringing arts education to public schools and youth advocacy. He plays the guitar loudly and badly. He is passionate about food and enjoys cooking for his wife and his best friend; a rescued 60lb English Bulldog named Louie who is also an actor. Kelvin appears in the upcoming film "May December" directed by Todd Haynes.



**Daniel Edward Mora** is an actor known for his work in the multiple Oscar-winning Disney film "Coco," a recurring role in the Peabody Award-winning FX Network series "The Bridge," and another regular part in the web series "Sin Verguenza," which earned him a nomination to the Imagen Award to best actor in a series. A native of Los Angeles who was raised in San Diego, Mora joined the Army after graduating from high school. After spending three years as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg North Carolina, he studied business administration at San Diego State University. Rediscovering a love for acting which had been planted in elementary school and later rekindled in a community college, Mora moved to Los Angeles to try his luck in the movie business. And lucky he has been. His movie and television credits also include "Fresh Off The Boat," "Avenge The Crows," "9-1-1," "The Mentalist," and "Filly Brown," a movie favorite that screened at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival. Along with his acting, Mora is a proud Army veteran who is currently an active member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Reserve.



**James Le Gros** appeared as Rick in Gus Van Sant's 1989 "Drugstore Cowboy". One of his best known roles was in "Living in Oblivion" (directed by Tom DiCillo, also starring Steve Buscemi and Catherine Keener). Le Gros played Chad Palomino, an acting divo with endless "a-list" star demands for a "b-movie" director and crew. Le Gros appeared on Showtime's "Sleeper Cell" (as Special Agent Ray Fuller) and on "Law & Order". He was also a cast member on the television series "Ally McBeal" and guest-starred on "Roseanne", "Punky Brewster", "The Outer Limits", and "Friends". He portrayed Dr. Dan Harris on the NBC series "Mercy". Le Gros portrayed Peter Gray in the Dark Sky thriller "Bitter Feast". He is the first actor to appear on TV as Deputy United States Marshal Raylan Givens in the TV film "Pronto", based on a book by Elmore Leonard. Le Gros also appeared on the TV series "Justified" (which centers on the character Raylan Givens) as antagonist Wade Messer.



**Tina Holmes** grew up in New York City and Connecticut. An Ivy League girl, she attended Yale University for two years followed by a move to Paris, France studying French literature at the Sorbonne. After returning to the U.S., Holmes entered Brown University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Comparative Literature. After graduating from Brown, Holmes returned to Paris to serve as a research assistant on a documentary on famed novelist, poet, and playwright Jean Genet. She also spent time at the Federal University of Pernambuco in Brazil. Holmes began her film acting career with “Edge of Seventeen” in 1998 playing the starring role of Maggie. She followed that with “30 Days” and “Prince of Central Park” in 2000. She has been featured in several present day television series such as “24”, “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit”, “Invasion”, “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation”, “Third Watch” and in a recurring role as Maggie Sibley on the HBO original series “Six Feet Under” during the fifth and final season.

## **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - TODD HAYNES**

Todd Haynes was born in Los Angeles and grew up in nearby Encino. Haynes attended Brown university and majored in art and semiotics. Haynes has directed numerous feature films and the recent documentary *The Velvet Underground*. He widely is considered one of the best American directors of the past thirty years. His films include *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story* (1987) *Poison* (1991) *Safe* (1995) *Far From Heaven* (2002) *I'm Not There* (2007) and *The Velvet Underground* (2021) His films have received four Academy Award nominations.

## **PRODUCER - JACQUELINE GAULT**

After 15 years in marketing and advertising, Jacqueline made the switch to narrative filmmaking in 2009. Her debut project "Sack Lunch" screened at the Austin Film Festival, SAG Short Film Showcase, and Women in Film & Television International Short Film Showcase, thereby securing her fate and she never looked back. From developing a kernel of a concept into a steampunk-inspired world with a strong female role model to acquiring the rights to novels and scripts from award-winning and much sought-after writers, Jacqueline thrives in "development hell" - the world where everything (and nothing) is possible. Her live-action family sci-fi drama series, "Tess the Inventor" with co-creator Larry Starke, is currently set up with Moonrise Pictures in Madrid and MMC Studios in Germany with interest from a major streamer. She is currently developing the horror-romance novella "Stacking Doll" by Carlton Mellick III as a feature film with Starke and director Michael Medaglia. Jacqueline is a member of the Producer's Guild of America and the Oregon Media Production Association, having served three terms on the Board of Directors and one term as Board President. "Earthlings" marks her feature film producing debut.

## **SWEDISH CO-PRODUCER - ANNA BYVALD**

Anna Byvald is a Swedish filmmaker whose films as a producer have screened at International film festival Rotterdam, Toronto International Film Festival, Busan, Mar del Plata, SXSW and CPH DOX. As a Director her films has been screened at Röda Sten, Filmform and other art galleries. In 2005 she founded the production company Silver films based in Gothenburg, Sweden. The company produces and co-produces feature films for an international and national audience. As a Producer, her most notable credits include Ester Martin Bergsmark & Mark Hammarberg feature hybrid film *Maggie in Wonderland*, co-produced with director Lukas Moodysson awarded an Guldbagge for Best Documentary in Sweden, *Dance Music Now*, by Johan Jonason awarded an Guldbagge for Best Short fiction in Sweden. More recently she is involved in a number of upcoming films currently filming as a producer and a co-producer; *Lust* by Ralitza Petrova, *How to say Goodbye* by Vangelis Kollias and *Earthlings* by Steven Doughton and a number of upcoming projects. Byvald is an alumnus of Eave Producers Workshop, Sources mentoring Screenwriters.

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