

# *chicken*

TWO *strangers* ONE *night*

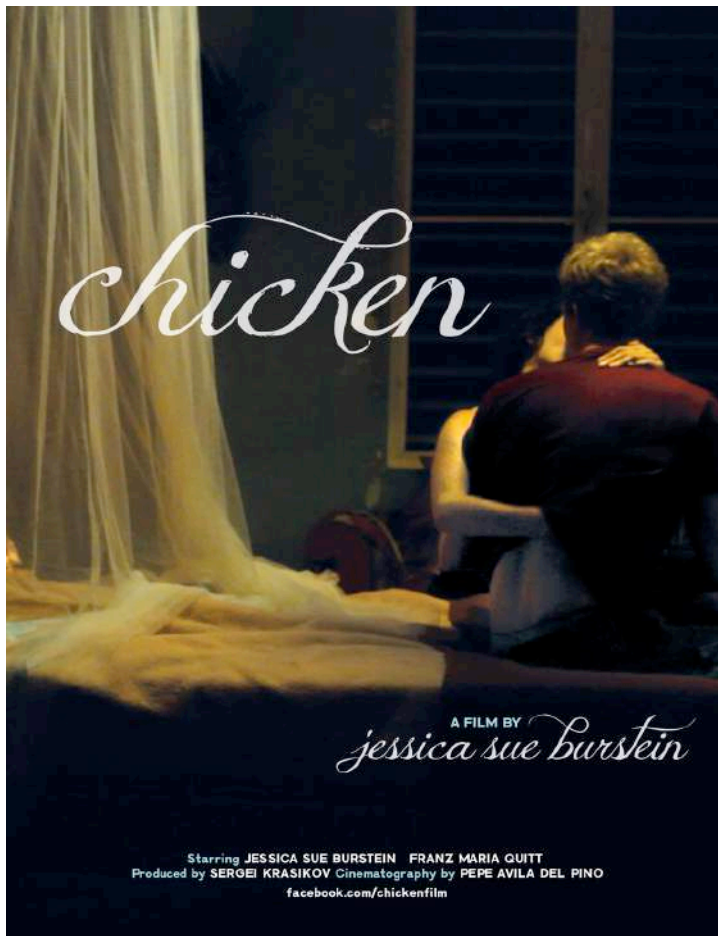


## LOG LINE

A beautiful portrait of temporary intimacy between two strangers that meet traveling abroad.

## SYNOPSIS

In an attempt to save money on her tropical vacation, a savvy New Yorker invites a German tourist to share a cab in search of the perfect ocean view to spend her last night. With the mosquitoes and heat, neither can sleep and end up sharing secrets under the stars: He hasn't kissed a girl in three years. She hasn't slept with anyone since her ex. She proposes a kiss, triggering a long and awkward night of sex. The twosome finally let down their guard and share a moment of true intimacy, only to part the very next day.





## **CHICKEN HD 26 min, 2012**

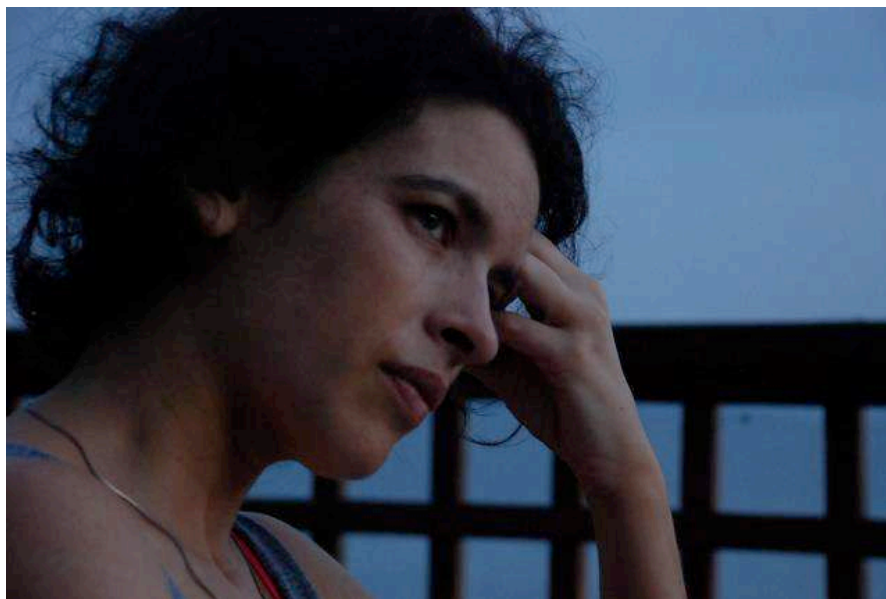
Available **VIDEO ON DEMAND** distributed by [SHORTS HD](#)  
DIRECTV (Channel 568) , AT&T U-Verse (Channel 1789)

### **CAST**

American Tourist: Jessica Sue Burstein  
German Tourist: Franz Maria Quitt

### **CREW**

Written and Directed by Jessica Sue Burstein  
Produced by Sergei Krasikov and Jessica Sue Burstein  
Cinematography by Pepe Avila Del Pino  
Production Design by Lauren Nikrooz  
Wardrobe by Lauren Nikrooz  
Assistant Camera by Michael E. Wood  
Assistant Director and Script Supervisor by Jennifer Suhr  
Gaffer by Kirsten Tan  
Location Sound by Heather Fink  
Editor by Alexandra Robson  
Additional Editing by Jessica Sue Burstein, Kevan Tucker, Daniel Shaw  
Sound Design & Re-recording Mix by Ryan Billia  
Colorist by Mishel Hassidim  
Original Song "Do You Call This Love" written & performed by [Jenn Grauer](#), Chris Merkley, Gabe Cummins, Anderson East



### **JESSICA SUE BURSTEIN WRITER/DIRECTOR/ACTRESS**

Jessica Sue Burstein is an award-winning writer/director with extensive experience in commercial, film and television production. She co-wrote/directed the award-winning short film, *ABBIE CANCELLED* (Official selection of Sundance FF and Best Short Film, Big Apple FF) and co-wrote the feature version based on the short which is currently in development. She wrote one of the story lines for the upcoming ensemble feature film *MUTUAL FRIENDS* starring Michael Stahl-David and Caitlin Fitzgerald.

Jessica wrote, directed, produced and starred in her award-winning MFA thesis film, *VERONIKA'S BIRTHDAY* (Best Direction/Performance Arizona Int. Film Festival and Best Student Film New Jersey Int. Film Festival). She is a former Co-President of CineWomen NY and has her MFA from the School of

Visual Arts. While on staff at MTV On-Air Promos for four years, Jessica won Promax awards and special recognition in Digital Arts Magazine. After MTV, Jessica worked as a Sr. Writer/Producer/Director at Blue Room, a creative services agency in New York City. Her commercial credits include MTV, Maybelline NY,

T-mobile, Sunkist, Time Warner Cable, Domino's, Animal Planet, History Channel and USA. She is currently a Sr. Writer/Director for Syfy at NBC Universal and is writing her third feature film based on her new short *CHICKEN*. When she's not making media she can be found practicing yoga, dancing, writing poetry and loving her cat, Lilly Anne.

### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

Unemployed for a year, I traveled abroad and experienced very intense brief connections with strangers. I think these temporary experiences of intimacy are as valid and life changing as my longer term relations and friendships. *CHICKEN* is based on a true intimate encounter I had with a 26-year-old German I met while traveling through Bali. I chose to act in the film because I wanted to experience temporary intimacy on the visceral level. *CHICKEN* explores a very real connection between two strangers at different places in their lives who both deeply fear intimacy. I wanted to flip the archetypal story of a woman losing her virginity or a man de-virginizing a woman and tell the story of a woman who gets to experience the ritual act of de-virginizing a man. The film is shot with very little camera movement to emphasize the static and shame of the characters' interior worlds. Towards the end when the tourists leave their room and go to the beach I switched to hand held camera movement to accentuate their release and freedom. I purposefully choose a location that could be any tropical beach resort past it's hey day in South America/Central America to allow for the viewer to insert his or her own private experiences of travel when watching the film. I didn't name the characters beyond American tourist and German tourist to further emphasize the transference and the romantic fairytale aspect of the film. Opening and closing the film with one song with both female and male vocals mimics the opening and closing of a fairytale, similar to how a Greek chorus comments on a play.



### **FRANZ MARIA QUITT ACTOR**

Franz Maria Quitt is from Vienna, Austria. In his early teens, he was involved in adapted versions of musicals, such as, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Bugsy Melone* and *Peter Pan*. Although he is a bearable singer and loves to dance, it was acting that brought him to New York. (He's no triple threat by any means.) At the age of 19, he attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where he graduated as a Company member in February 2010. Since then, he's been in diverse projects, such as, Timothy Haskell's Haunted House event *Nightmare: Superstitions*, Craig Posposil's *The Dunes* at The Gallery Players, Center Mass Studios' potential French/American T.V. Series *Les Enfants Du Ciel*, and Kat Rohrer's *Walking in their Footsteps* at the Museum of Tolerance, which was part of Freedom Week amplifying awareness about Human Trafficking. When Franz isn't acting, he enjoys exploring what food the world has to offer, skiing (with a helmet), yoga, and catching up with his family and friends back at home.

### **SERGEI KRASIKOV PRODUCER**

Born in Belarus, Sergei Krasikov began his career in storytelling as a journalist for his nation's largest independent newspaper, since crushed by the regime. Upon moving to US in 2000, Sergei apprenticed to a German filmmaker Karola Ritter, regular contributor to Maysles and Pennebecker films, and worked extensively with civil rights legend Bob Zellner. Setting shop in Brooklyn in 2004, Sergei became full time independent filmmaker concentrating on producing challenging documentary and narrative films, non-fiction cinematography and regular collaborations with dance & theater groups, conceptual video artists and performers. Most of Sergei's creative interest lay with topics that concern Environment, Social Justice and Art. Recent projects include "Saturday Night" for director James Franco and "Bigger Than The Beatles" by Charles Krezell. Sergei is currently working on the release of "Cultures of Resistance", a travelogue documentary directed by Iara Lee about the power of art to address violence and social injustice shot in 26 countries around the world, finishing a feature doc Bloom City. Avid hiker and skier, Sergei hits the slopes and trails when not making films.

### **PEPE AVILA DEL PINO CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Pepe is a director and cinematographer born and raised in Mexico City. After studying Communication (UIA) and Philosophy (UNAM) Pepe worked in different areas of film production as advertising and documentary. His short films *Kukatko* (Prague, 2005) and *Breve cuento sobre la aparición espontánea de un árbol imaginario* were screened and awarded in festivals around the world. In 2008 with the support of the FONCA and The Tisch School of the Arts Fellowship, Pepe enrolled in the NYU Graduate Film program.





**PRESS**

"One of Flavorpill's favorites..."

—[Flavorpill, NYC](#)

"Features brave performances by Ms. Burstein and Franz Maria Quitt. The actors shed more than just their clothes in portraying these characters who are lost in the world and in search of intimacy."

- [The Princeton Packet, NJ](#)

"Refreshingly authentic, with all the awkwardness and guardedness that actually takes place in real life"

—[Movie Reviews from a Spiritual Perspective, Tucson AZ](#)

"A film filled with sexual tension and two very strong performances by its two leads."

—[Reel Salazars, NYC](#)

[WCTC Radio Interview Central Jersey](#)

[KXCI Radio Interview, Tucson AZ](#)

[Encore, Wilmington NC](#)

[Star News, Wilmington NC](#)





### FESTIVALS

BEST SHORT FILM Cape Fear Independent Film Festival, NC 2013

AWARD OF MERIT Women's Independent Film Festival, CA 2013

FINALIST HollyShorts Film Festival, CA 2013

HONORABLE MENTION New Jersey International Film Festival, NJ 2013

Arizona International Film Festival, AZ 2013

Rincon International Film Festival, PR 2013

Evolution Film Festival, Palma De Mallorca Spain 2013

La Femme Film Festival, Hollywood, CA 2012

Big Apple Film Festival, Tribeca Cinemas, NYC 2012

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Jess  
ica Sue Burstein and Jenn Grauer talk intimacy and CHICKEN at Festival In The Schools at Arizona Int. Film Festival.