

BEACH PARTY
CINDERELLA



SURF'S UP!

JOHN HOOMES' ORIGINAL STAGING TAKES ROSSINI'S CINDERELLA TO THE BEACH

A number of years ago, while directing a show at a summer festival, I was asked to stage scenes from a variety of operas using the company's resident young artists. One of my assignments was the grand finale of Act 1 from Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (*Cinderella*)—a fantastic, extended scene with madcap music, chases, and mistaken identities. As it was summer, we decided to stage the scene in a manner more fitting to the season. So, instead of the traditional setting with ballgowns and castles and, since Rossini intentionally downplayed the magic in his version of *Cinderella*, we shifted the entire scene to the beach, incorporating swimsuits, beachballs, and inflatable pool rafts. We also cranked up the slapstick comedy of the piece, ending up with a cross between an operatic version of a Bugs Bunny cartoon, *Gilligan's Island*, and those colorful *Beach Party* movies of the early 1960s.

The scene was such a huge hit with the audience, I was invited to recreate it again the next summer with a different group of artists. As we were rehearsing the scene and one character was being pelted with beachballs, I remember thinking, "I wonder if it would be possible to do the entire opera like this?" And thus, was spawned the idea for what I like to call *Beach Party Cinderella*.

The pandemic has played havoc with arts groups all over the country. When it comes to programming and scheduling over the past year, I am proud of the way Nashville Opera has worked to stay alive during this challenging time. But at the heart of every opera company is live performance. With that in mind, the staff of Nashville Opera set forth a few months ago trying to figure out how best to make that happen. Just how does one create a live performance while mitigating as much risk as possible for our staff, our singers,

and, of course, our audience! (Who we're finding is hungry to experience a live evening of music and theater!)

Saturday, June 12, after much thought and planning, Nashville Opera will once again offer live performance with a zany, beach-themed production of Rossini's comic opera *Cinderella*. And in yet another surprising pivot, we'll be performing outdoors on the open-air stage at the Ascend Amphitheater in downtown Nashville.

Though already planned to close our 40th Anniversary Season, Rossini's *Cinderella* seems the perfect opera with which to return to live performance. It is hands down one of the most famous fairy tales in the world and, since it's summer and we'll be outdoors, the beach-blanket overlay is even more spot on!

ROSSINI'S VERSION

Innocent Cinderella, neglected and mistreated by her unappreciative family, is the good-hearted girl who winds up marrying the handsome prince in the end. The story we all know today originated with French writer Charles Perrault, who published "Cinderella or The Little Glass Slipper" in 1697. The Brothers Grimm wrote their version in 1812 and Disney gave us its iconic Hollywood animation in 1950. Even though its plot is full of innocent fairy-tale charm, *Cinderella* has a healthy dose of adult longing and many poignant moments.

What better composer than Rossini to write an operatic version? A master of bubbly fast-paced comedies, Rossini was also known for placing touching scenes between the laughs. He called his opera *Cinderella a dramma giocoso*—truly a masterful blend of drama and comedy. Despite its serious side, *Cinderella* is still one of Rossini's funniest operas.

When the show premiered in Rome in 1817, Rossini's *Cinderella* was met with indifference by both the critics and the audience. However, like many other operas that suffered early lukewarm receptions, *Cinderella* quickly caught on throughout Italy and soon after began to be produced all over the world. Its first U.S. production was in New York City in 1826, and for most of the 19th century, Rossini's *Cinderella* was more popular than his *Barber of Seville*. Today *Cinderella* is considered one of the top operatic comedies ever written.

Rossini was only 25 years old when he composed *Cinderella*. The previous year, he had a huge success with *The Barber of Seville*. Always a fast worker, Rossini is said to have written *Cinderella* in three weeks, adding a few plot twists and new comic characters that did not appear in the original fairy tale. One big change Rossini made was to downplay the magical elements of the story, creating a non-magical resolution at the end of the show. In Rossini's opera, Cinderella doesn't depend on a magic pumpkin carriage or cute dancing mice to overcome her troubled situation. In fact, a major theme of the opera is overcoming adversity by drawing on strength and goodness from within.

In our beach-party staging of the opera, that is exactly what happens! Cinderella makes her way from her stepfather's broken-down surf shop to the Prince's tony yacht club, overcoming all obstacles with courage and determination—ever gentle and kind of spirit. To help fill out the missing magic moments, we'll be adding beachballs, a surf-and-sand party, inflatable flamingos, simulated synchronized swimming, and a comic encounter with a shark. We're so glad you're joining us at Ascend Amphitheater for this family-friendly comic adventure!

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Leo Matlien, Cara Schneider



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THE OPERA RETURNS TO LIVE PERFORMANCES
SATURDAY, JUNE 12 WITH BEACH PARTY CINDERELLA

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Ann Marie and Martin McNamara III

In memory of **Clifton McPherson**

Highland Garden Club

In memory of **Lt. Cmdr. Alan A. Patterson, USN**

Teresa and Phillip Patterson

In memory of **William Purcell Sr.**

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Thackston
Nancy Coleman and Andy Valentine

In memory of **Michael Saint**

Nancy Coleman and Andy Valentine

In memory of **Pauline Widelitz**

Nancy and Andy Valentine

IN HONOR

In honor of **Marion Couch**
Elizabeth and Larry Papel

In honor of **Esther Swink**

Tracey Pearson

Gifts through April 15, 2021

BEACH PARTY CINDERELLA

THE ANN & FRANK BUMSTEAD PRODUCTION

Sponsored by

ANN MARIE & MARTIN McNAMARA III



An opera by **Gioachino Rossini**

Libretto by **Jacopo Ferretti**

Premiere January 25, 1817 — Teatro Valle, Rome

Special 90-minute adaptation

Ascend Amphitheater

JUNE 12, 2021

Directed by **John Hoomes**

Conducted by **Dean Williamson**

Featuring the **Nashville Opera Orchestra**

CAST

Cinderella **Emily Fons***

Prince Ramiro **Matthew Grills***

Dandini, *the boat mechanic* **Jonathan Beyer***

Don Magnifico, *Cinderella's stepfather* **Stefano de Peppo***

Alidoro, *Prince Ramiro's advisor* **Christopher Curcuruto†**

Clorinda, *Cinderella's stepsister* **Bryn Holdsworth***

Thisbe, *Cinderella's stepsister* **Emily Cottam†**

Jonas Grumby, *narrator* **Brian Russell**

Lifeguards **Drew Flickinger, Jonathan Thompson**

CREATIVE

Lighting Designer/Assistant Production Manager **Barry Steele**

Costume Designer **June Kingsbury**

Wigs and Makeup Designer **Sondra Nottingham**

Scenic Design **Cara Schneider**

Pianist **Amy Tate Williams**

Propsmaster **Lucious Rhoads**

Supertitles Creator **John Hoomes**

PRODUCTION

Director of Production **Randy Williams**

Production Stage Manager **Emily Barber**

Assistant Stage Manager **Isaac Krispin**

Supertitles Operator **Hannah Marcoe**

Costume Crew **Pam Lisenby, Jayme Locke**

Wigs and Makeup Crew **Alysia Faith, Taylor Martin**

Production Crew **Robert Helvey, Annmarie Mizzoni**

Live Video **MooTV**

Lighting & Audio **Morris Lighting and Sound**

* Nashville Opera Debut

† 2021 Mary Ragland Emerging Artist



SYNOPSIS

THIS SYNOPSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO REFLECT JOHN HOOMES'S BEACH-PARTY STAGING

It's morning in the broken-down surf shop owned by Don Magnifico. Cinderella, known as Angelina, is doing the household chores, as her vain stepsisters Clorinda and Tisbe dance and primp. A knock at the door introduces Alidoro, advisor of Prince Ramiro, disguise as a poor beach bum. Cinderella's stepsisters try to throw him out, but Cinderella sneaks Alidoro some food. Word arrives that on this very evening the prince is holding a fantastic beach party at his exclusive yacht club. And at this beach party, the prince will choose his bride.

The ensuing commotion awakens the girl's father, Don Magnifico. He is angry from being pulled from a splendid dream about a donkey. Clorinda and Tisbe relate the news of the beach party to their father.

Soon thereafter, the prince enters in disguise as his own boat mechanic, Dandini. When the prince and Cinderella see each other, it's love at first sight. But when her father bel-lows, Cinderella rushes out to attend to his needs.

The boat mechanic Dandini arrives (disguised as Prince Ramiro). He is there to escort Don Magnifico's daughters to the beach party. Cinderella asks permission to attend the party too, but Don Magnifico tells her no. Everyone heads to the beach resort, leaving Cinderella behind. Alidoro returns and tells Cinderella that he will help her get to the beach party, but she must go in disguise.

On the private beach of the yacht club, Dandini, continuing his masquerade as the prince, tells Clorinda and Tisbe that he can marry only one young woman, but the other can marry his boat mechanic. The sisters angrily reject this idea.

Alidoro suddenly announces the arrival of a mystery lady to the beach party. Cinderella enters in disguise. When she reveals herself, the sisters feel that this new girl looks too much like their stepsister to be considered any serious competition. Everyone jumps into the surf to swim and frolic.

Near the end of the beach party, Cinderella gives Prince one of her crystal flip flops and tells him to search for the young woman wearing the other flip flop. She tells him that if he can find out who she really is, and still wants to her, she will gladly marry him. Cinderella leaves. Ramiro demotes Dandini and assumes his rightful role as prince, vowing to find his unknown love.

Dandini confesses to Don Magnifico that he is actually the prince's boat mechanic. Dandini then throws the enraged Don Magnifico out of the yacht club.

Don Magnifico, Clorinda, and Tisbe return home and take their anger out on Cinderella. A huge storm blows through, and after it passes, Dandini appears with news that the prince's sports car has broken down outside the surf shop.

Prince Ramiro finds Cinderella, and she suddenly realizes that he is actually the prince! The two go off together, leaving everyone else attempting to make sense of what has just happened.

In the joyous final scene at the prince's yacht club, Cinderella proclaims her happiness. She pardons her stepfather and stepsisters for their treatment of her. Everyone hails Cinderella's beauty and wisdom as goodness is triumphant.



Mezzo-soprano
Emily Fons
heads the cast
of Nashville Opera's
CINDERELLA.



Stage Director

**JOHN
HOOMES**

Nashville Opera
CEO & Artistic Director
1995–Present

Nashville Opera

The Lighthouse
Samson and Delilah
Elmer Gantry
Aida
Don Giovanni
Andrea Chénier
The Fall of the House of Usher
The Girl of the Golden West
The Difficulty of
Crossing a Field
The Man Who Mistook
His Wife for a Hat
Romulus Hunt
Florencia en el Amazonas
Hydrogen Jukebox
Così fan tutte
Glory Denied
Three Way
Maria de Buenos Aires
Tales of Hoffmann
The Cradle Will Rock

Recent

Florencia en el Amazonas
New York City Opera
Pensacola Opera
Elmer Gantry
Don Giovanni
Florentine Opera
Three Way
American Opera Projects
Brooklyn Academy of Music
Turandot
Knoxville Opera
Glory Denied
Opera Birmingham

Hometown

Mobile, Alabama

Residence

Nashville, Tennessee



Conductor

**DEAN
WILLIAMSON**

Nashville Opera
Music Director
2015–Present

Nashville Opera

Romeo and Juliet
Samson and Delilah
The Girl of the Golden West
The Difficulty of
Crossing a Field
Cinderella
The Man Who Mistook
His Wife for a Hat
The Barber of Seville
Romulus Hunt
Florencia en el Amazonas
Hydrogen Jukebox
Three Way
Maria de Buenos Aires
Madame Butterfly

Recent

Florencia en el Amazonas
New York City Opera
La Cenerentola
Arizona Opera
Three Way
American Opera Projects
Brooklyn Academy of Music
Merola Grand Finales Concert
San Francisco Opera

Upcoming

Madama Butterfly
Opera Idaho
Le Nozze di Figaro
Arizona Opera
Hydrogen Jukebox
University of Washington
School of Music

Hometown

Taipei, Taiwan (birthplace)
Bellevue, Washington

Residence

Bellevue, Washington



Cinderella

**EMILY
FONS ***

mezzo-soprano

Recent

Rosina
Il Barbiere di Siviglia
San Diego Opera
Hänsel
Hänsel und Gretel
Canadian Opera Company
Angelina
La Cenerentola
Atlanta Opera
Laurene Powell Jobs
The [R]evolution of Steve Jobs
Seattle Opera
Lyric Opera of Chicago

Upcoming

Medoro
Orlando
Haymarket Opera
Ariodante
Ariodante
Internationale Händel-
Festspiele Göttingen
Prince Orlofsky
Die Fledermaus
Seiji Ozawa Music Academy
Cherubino
Le Nozze di Figaro
Seattle Opera

Hometown

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Residence

Cudahy, Wisconsin



Prince Ramiro

**MATTHEW
GRILLS ***

tenor

Recent

Ernesto
Don Pasquale
Opera Santa Barbara
First Water
Der Rosenkavalier
Metropolitan Opera

Ramiro

La Cenerentola
Seattle Opera
Pedrillo
Die Entführung
aus dem Serail
Bayerische Staatsoper
Atlanta Opera
New Orleans Opera

Upcoming

Snout
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Santa Fe Opera
Conte Almaviva
Il Barbiere di Siviglia
Utah Opera

Shepherd

Oedipus Rex
Opera Philadelphia

Hometown

Sandy Hook, CT

Residence

Portland, OR

* NASHVILLE OPERA DEBUT



Dandini

**JONATHAN
BEYER ***

baritone

Recent

Danilo

Merry Widow

Hong Kong

Mad King

Maxwell Davies'

Eight Songs for a Mad King

Philadelphia

Marcello

La Bohème

Oper Frankfurt

All Star's Contestant

Worst Cooks in America

Food Network

Upcoming

Teaching

Chautauqua Institution

Chautauqua, New York

Teaching

Curtis Institute of Music

Philadelphia

Teaching

Trentino Music Festival

Italy

Recitals

Philadelphia

Chicago

Hometown

Orland Park, IL

Residence

New York City



Don Magnifico

**STEFANO
DE PEPPA ***

bass

Recent

Gaudenzio

Il Signor Bruschino

Sarasota Opera

Uberto

La Serva Padrona

Sarasota Opera

Bartolo

Il Barbiere di Siviglia

Opera Colorado

Don Pasquale

Don Pasquale

UGA

Upcoming

Dulcamara

Elixir of Love

Opera Maine

Sacristan

Tosca

Opera Colorado

Bartolo

Il Barbiere di Siviglia

Pensacola Opera

Hometown

Milan, Italy

Residence

New York City



Alidoro

**CHRISTOPHER
CURCURUTO †**

bass-baritone

Nashville Opera

2021 Mary Ragland

Emerging Artist

Nashville Opera ON TOUR

Recent

Zweiter Soldat

Salome

Dallas Symphony Orchestra

Gus O'Neill

Later the Same Evening

UNT Opera

Raimondo

Lucia di Lammermoor

UNT Opera

Horace Giddens

Regina

UNT Opera

Fort Worth Opera

Hometown

Sydney, Australia

Residence

Denton, Texas



Clorinda

**BRYN
HOLDSWORTH ***

soprano

Recent

Clorinda

La Cenerentola

Atlanta Opera

Ghost Quartet

Soprano

The Ghosts of Versailles

Opéra de royal de Versailles

Annina

La Traviata

The Glimmerglass Festival

Krysia

Out of Darkness

The Atlanta Opera

Hometown

Stewartsville, NJ

Residence

Atlanta, GA

* NASHVILLE OPERA DEBUT

† 2021 MARY RAGLAND EMERGING ARTIST



Thisbe

EMILY J. COTTAM †

mezzo-soprano

Nashville Opera

2021 Mary Ragland
Emerging Artist

Nashville Opera ON TOUR

Recent

Dora
The Manchurian Candidate
Seagle Festival

Peron's Mistress
Evita
Seagle Festival

Serse
Serse
Arizona State University

Street Singer
Leonard Bernstein's MASS
Arizona State University

Upcoming

Julia Twitchell
Harmony (World Premiere)
Seagle Festival

Soloist
Irving Berlin Revue
Seagle Festival

Hometown

Salt Lake City, Utah

Residence

Salt Lake City, Utah



Jonas Grumby, narrator

BRIAN RUSSELL

actor

Nashville Opera

The Cradle will Rock
Die Fledermaus
The Difficulty of Crossing a Field

Recent

Equinox
Tennessee Playwrights Studio
Patrick Barlow's Christmas Carol
Inherit the Wind
Nashville Repertory Theatre

Imaginary Invalid
University of N. Colorado

Henry V
Dalton, Georgia

King Lear
Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival

Hamlet
Nashville Shakespeare Festival

HBO Max
Tropical Cop Tales

Upcoming

Two Gentleman of Verona
Conasauga Shakespeare

Hometown

Elizabethtown, KY

Residence

Nashville, TN



Pianist

AMY TATE WILLIAMS

Nashville Opera
1998–Present

Founder
Randomwill Music

Opera Director
Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts
2003–present

Nashville Opera
Music Director:
Amahl and the Night Visitors
Hansel and Gretel
The Cradle Will Rock

World Premieres:
Elmer Gantry
Surrender Road
Three Way

Pianist/Chorusmaster:
Glory Denied
Romulus Hunt
The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat
The Difficulty of Crossing a Field
The Fall of the House of Usher
Hydrogen Jukebox
The Lighthouse
Turandot
La Fanciulla del West
La Bohème
Madama Butterfly
Salome
Der Rosenkavalier
Samson et Dalila
Romeo et Juliette
Andrea Chénier
Maria de Buenos Aires
Tales of Hoffmann

Hometown
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Residence
Nashville, Tennessee



Lighting Designer
Asst. Production Manager

BARRY STEELE

Nashville Opera

Der Rosenkavalier
The Lighthouse
La Voix Humaine
Lucia di Lammermoor
Faust, Salome
Surrender Road
Turandot, 2006, 2015
Romeo and Juliet
Madame Butterfly
Samson and Delilah
The Fall of the House of Usher
Andrea Chénier
The Girl of the Golden West
The Difficulty of Crossing a Field
The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat
The Magic Flute
La Bohème, 2014
Romulus Hunt
Florencia en el Amazonas
Hydrogen Jukebox
Don Giovanni
Glory Denied
Three Way
Carmen, Tosca, Otello
Maria de Buenos Aires
Susannah
Tales of Hoffmann
The Cradle Will Rock

Recent

Don Giovanni
Edmonton Opera
Die Fledermaus
Flight
Des Moines Metro Opera

Ring of Fire
Capital Repertory Theatre

Hometown
St. Petersburg, Florida

Residence
Brooklyn, New York

† 2021 MARY RAGLAND EMERGING ARTIST



Costume Designer

**JUNE
KINGSBURY**

**Resident Costume Designer
Lipscomb Theatre Department**

Recent

Nashville Shakespeare Festival
Nashville Repertory Theater
People's Branch Theater
Belmont University Theater
Actors Bridge Theatre
Vanderbilt University Opera
Nashville Children's Theatre
Nashville Ballet

Costumes for the band
Here Come the Mummies

Video shoots
Alan Jackson and Jewel

Album cover shoots
Ben Folds: Way to Normal

Film
The Identical

Magazine cover shoots
Vanity Fair: Nicole Kidman
InStyle: Nicole Kidman
Glamour: Carrie Underwood

TV shows
"Nashville Star"
"Gone Country"

Taylor Swift
Speak Now Tour

Hometown
Nashville, Tennessee

Residence
Nashville, Tennessee



Wigs & Makeup Designer

**SONDRA
NOTTINGHAM**

Nashville Opera
Florencia en el Amazonas
Salome

Elmer Gantry
Il Trovatore
The Student Prince
The Fall of the House of Usher
Rigoletto
The Girl of the Golden West
Madame Butterfly
*The Difficulty of
Crossing a Field*
*The Man Who Mistook
His Wife for a Hat*
Romulus Hunt
Glory Denied
Tales of Hoffmann

Recent
Abduction from the Seraglio
Ariadne auf Naxos
St. Petersburg Opera

Das Rheingold
La Traviata
North Carolina Opera

Turandot
Dead Man Walking
Shreveport Opera

Witches of Venice
(World Premiere)

Il Postino
Figaro
The Long Walk
Opera Saratoga

Carmen
Un Ballo in Maschera
Opera Tampa

Three Way
American Opera Projects
Brooklyn Academy of Music

Hometown
Hardinsburg, Kentucky

Residence
Nashville, Tennessee



Scenic Designer

**CARA
SCHNEIDER**

Nashville Opera
Creative Director
1995–Present

Nashville Opera
Glory Denied
Florencia en el Amazonas
Romulus Hunt
*The Difficulty of
Crossing a Field*
The Cradle Will Rock

Nashville Opera
ON TOUR
The Brothers Grimm
Sid the Serpent
*Little Red's Most
Unusual Day*
Billy Goats Gruff
Jack and the Beanstalk
*Goldilocks and the
Three Singing Bears*
The Three Little Pigs

Recent
Florencia en el Amazonas
New York City Opera
Pensacola Opera

Glory Denied
Opera Birmingham
The Brothers Grimm
Lyric Opera of Chicago
"Opera in Our
Neighborhoods" Tour

Hometown
Harrodsburg, Kentucky

Residence
Nashville, Tennessee

THE NASHVILLE OPERA ORCHESTRA

Dean Williamson, music director
Anne Dickson Rogers, contractor

FIRST VIOLIN

Christina McGann,
concert master

Ching-Yi Lin
Josh Holritz
Anna Lisa Hoepfinger
Deidre Fominaya Bacco
Chuck Callahan

SECOND VIOLIN

Stephen Miahky
Zoya Leybin
Eliza Cho
Amy Helman

VIOLA

Charles Dixon
Carl Larson
Simona Rusu
Michael Holub

CELLO

Michael Samis
Sari Reist
Sarah Berry

BASS

Craig E. Nelson
Tiffany Freeman

FLUTE PICCOLO

Deanna Little
Kristen Holritz

OBOE

Jared Hauser
Nicholas Thompson

CLARINET

Todd Waldecker
Mark J. Cramer

BASSOON

James A. Lotz
Laura A. Hauser

FRENCH HORN

Jennifer Kummer
Harry Ditzel

TRUMPET

Joel Treybig
Preston Bailey

TROMBONE

David Loucky

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An aerial photograph of a sandy beach. Several colorful beach umbrellas are scattered across the sand, along with lounge chairs and small blue objects. The umbrellas have various patterns, including blue and white stripes, red and white stripes, and solid colors. The shadows of the umbrellas and chairs are cast onto the sand. The bottom of the image shows the edge of the ocean with gentle waves washing onto the shore.

Need a Beach Party brush-up?

In 1963, American International Pictures released *Beach Party* starring Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello, and with it a genre was born. Seven more *Beach Party* movies followed from the studio, as it quickly became one of the most successful cinematic trends of all time. Low-budget and easily produced, beach-party films were profitable and developed their own cult fandom. Their appeal lay in their fantastic escapism, simple themes, and the idea of good clean fun.

Dancing, surfing, teen rebellion, motorcycles, and summer love were de rigeur in movies like *Beach Party*, *Beach Blanket Bingo* (1965), *Where the Boys Are* (1960), and *Bikini Beach* (1964). Music was another key element, and beach-party films featured major artists such as Stevie Wonder, the Animals, the Beach Boys, Little Richard, and the Supremes. During the 60s, beach-party films fueled the popularity of surfing and exploded U.S. bikini sales by 3000%. (Ironically many were filmed during the winter with actors in full body makeup!)

One of the genre's most beloved stars was Annette Funicello, who appeared in at least five *Beach Party* films. Her show-business career began as a Mouseketeer on *The Mickey Mouse Club* and grew immensely throughout the 1950s and 60s. Annette's mentor, Walt Disney, insisted she wear a one-piece bathing suit in *Beach Party* films in order to maintain a modest public image. (No bikinis?!) Other actors known for their roles in *Beach Party* films included Linda Evans, Don Rickles, and Elizabeth Montgomery.

Years later, audiences would demand a more realistic portrayal of the young-adult experience. In 1987, genre royalty Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello were featured in *Back to the Beach* which parodied their previous wholesome films.