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present

**ROGERS PARK**



[**www.rogersparkfilm.com**](http://rogersparkfilm.com/)

**BY KYLE HENRY**

USA / 87 MINUTES / 2017

Stills: <http://www.fourplayfilm.com/fourplay_press.htm>

Trailer: <http://www.fourplayfilm.com/fourplay_trailers.htm>

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## Reviews

“The screenwriter, Carlos Treviño, crafts frank dialogue and the director, Kyle Henry, films the scenes with an eye for the intimate, dividend-paying gesture.”

—Critic’s Pick, The New York Times

“A compelling drama about relationships in crisis.”

—Village Voice

“Shines with authenticity...Feels like real life, for better or for worse.”

—Los Angeles Times

“Brimming with universal truths about the long-hidden but nevertheless permanent bruises of family tragedies, the changing and sometimes numbing nature of even a truly loving long-term relationship and the slow death of knowing one’s dreams are almost certainly defunct.”

—Chicago Sun-Times

“Distinctive in vision and nuance...bracing moments of emotional nakedness...echoes of Cassavetes’ *A Woman Under the Influence*.”

—RogerEbert.com

“Finely tuned relationship drama...It’s tough not to be impressed at how it depicts even the most critical decisions with wit, maturity, and a reasonable modicum of hope.”

—The Stranger (Seattle)

“So real that most couples who watch this movie together might cringe with memories of very similar fights they’ve had...A movie with heart, about real people, real issues, and very real pain.”

—Film Threat

“The sympathetic performances, understated direction, and thematic emphasis on lower-middle-class unhappiness all reminded me of British filmmaker Mike Leigh, and like him, Henry and Treviño know how to develop narrative momentum through a steady stream of subtle psychological revelation..”

—Chicago Reader

“Poignant realism...deeply rooted in a sense of human connection.”

—Austin Chronicle

## Logline

Two Chicago couples struggle to keep their love alive as secrets and long-simmering resentments rise to the surface.

## Synopsis

In Rogers Park, Chicago's most diverse neighborhood, four intertwined lives begin to buckle under midlife pressures. Zeke and his wife Grace navigate parenthood and a financial reversal of fortune while Grace’s brother Chris, a writer battling depression, and his partner Deena face a personal crisis that threatens to tear them apart. Meanwhile, Grace and Chris each struggle to confront a shared family trauma.

*Rogers Park* is a drama that explores the ties that bind and the midlife forces that shatter relationships over the course of one tumultuous year.

## Creative Process Statement

*Rogers Park* is the product of a unique creation process in which four actors were selected via a race- and gender-blind casting call to participate in a week-long workshop. The only requirement was that each actor be middle-aged, possess excellent improvisational chops and reflect the diversity of the neighborhood in which the film is set. It just so happened that this casting resulted in two interracial couple pairings.

Based on filmmaker research and the workshop’s improvisations, an initial foundation for *Rogers Park*’s characters and relationships was created, inspiring screenwriter Carlos Treviño to craft his story over the course of the next year. Additional workshops included further improvisations and a table reading for the general public, funded in part by an Individual Artists Program Grant from the City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The aim of this process has been to bring greater authenticity to the performances and generate a mid-life crisis story that is organically rooted in community. It’s a process that will be further explored in director Kyle Henry’s next feature film, *Memory Care*, a narrative about the crisis of eldercare in America.

## Key Production Credits

# Filmmakers

***Director*** *Kyle Henry*

***Executive Producers*** *Alan Berg and Louis Black*

***Producers*** *Kyle Henry and Jason Wehling*

***Associate Producers*** *Ross Putman and Haos Film*

***Writer*** *Carlos Treviño*

***Director of Photography*** *Drew Xanthopoulos*

***Editor*** *John Fecile*

# Lead Cast – In Order of Appearance

***Deena*** *Christine Horn*

***Chris*** *Jonny Mars*

***Zeke*** *Antoine McKay*

***Grace*** *Sara Sevigny*

## Filmmaker Statement

How do we navigate middle age in a culture obsessed with youth? What long repressed complexes arise? How do we change during this second coming-of-age? These are the questions that inspired my four-year journey of exploration and collaboration in creating *Rogers Park*.   
  
The film is lensed through the community in which I live, Rogers Park, a Chicago far North Side neighborhood known for its diversity. It was developed with actors who partially generated characters based upon observations and improvisations within the community. Their research inspired screenwriter Carlos Treviño to craft his story under my direction. At one point, the in-progress script was read to the public for feedback.

In the end, the process of making this film mirrors the character’s journeys: we are searching, challenging, changing, colliding against multiple perspectives, trying to navigate this period of life with honest self-reflection and communication. All my work is concerned with characters and communities in crisis, as I find under duress we reveal buried aspects of our true selves.

Like my previous fiction features, *Rogers Park* is influenced by my early training as a documentary filmmaker and editor. I try to provide space for expressive performances to incubate, minimally interfered with by stylized camerawork. My focus is on bearing witness to faces: in pain, joy, crisis, questioning, searching, challenging. I strive to collapse distance, to explore psychological interiority where there is no safety in projection, a space where it is difficult to categorize, contain and violently define.

Political, social and cultural struggle is part of the environment in all my films, but it’s in the contextual background and subtext. To live in Rogers Park is to live within a mostly harmonious community that exists within a larger city riven by inequality, struggle and violence. In *Rogers Park,* some characters are politically engaged, some aren’t; some look inward for change, some project outward; some dialogue, others argue, but all are involved in conversation.

What modes of conversation and communication lead to a personal change in consciousness? Which modes result in retrenchment and recrimination? How do we see ourselves clearly? How do we hide, avoid, deflect? What will chart a course for positive change as we reach the pivotal point in our lives where the end is now closer than the beginning?

— Kyle Henry

## Crew Bios

**Kyle Henry • Director/Producer**

Kyle’s feature fiction debut *Room*, a thriller following a working class American woman’s journey to find visionary space, premiered at Sundance Film Festival’s Frontier section and Cannes Film Festival’s Directors’ Fortnight. It was nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards, including the John Cassavetes Award for best low-budget narrative, and received a nationwide theatrical release. Sections of his follow-up feature, *Fourplay* - four short tales of sexual intimacy - also screened at Sundance and Cannes. His feature docs include *University Inc*., about the corporatization of higher education, and *American Cowboy*, about a gay rodeo champ. His many shorts include *N.ew Y.ork Casino*, whichwon Best Experimental film at SXSW and played at museums and gallery spaces worldwide. Kyle is also the editor of the Sundance award-winning fiction feature *Manito* and nine feature docs including: PBS’ *Before You Know It,* Emmy Award winner *Where Soldiers Come From* and Showtime’s *Trinidad*. He received an MFA in Film Production from University of Texas - Austin, and an undergraduate degree in History and Art History from Rice University. He currently is an associate professor of film production at Northwestern University.

**Carlos Treviño • Writer**

Carlos is a screenwriter, theater director, playwright and actor based in Austin and Chicago. Theater directing credits include the U.S. premiere of Wallace Shawn’s *A Thought in Three Parts* and the New York production of his play *Not Clown* at the Soho Repertory Theater (published in Yale’s *Theater* journal). He wrote three sections of Kyle Henry's *Fourplay* film, winning the Outstanding Writing award at the 2013 Libercine Film Festival in Buenos Aires. The script for his Emily Dickinson biopic, *Wild Nights*, was a finalist for the IFP’s Phosphate Prize. He is also a former member of the queer performance group *Christeene.*

**Alan Berg • Executive Producer**

Alan served as the managing Executive Producer on the critically acclaimed documentary *Richard Linklater: Dream is Destiny*, which premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and was acquired by IFC and PBS American Masters. He also was the managing Executive Producer on the 2015 SXSWfilm *Sir Doug and the Genuine Texas Cosmic Groove*. He co-founded Arts+Labor with his wife, Kristin Johansen-Berg. In the last five years, the firm has produced four feature films and three shorts which have premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and more than a dozen features that have premiered at prestigious festivals around the world.

**Louis Black • Executive Producer**

Louis co-founded The Austin Chronicle, where he is editor; South by Southwest, where he is a director; and was a founding Board Member of the Austin Film Society. He has written extensively on film, music and politics. Executive producer of *Be Here to Love Me, A Film About Townes Van Zandt*, he was a producer on the Peabody Award winning *The Order of Myths*. Having produced documentaries and reissues of classic Texas films (Eagle Pennell's *The Whole Shootin' Match* and Tobe Hooper's *Eggshells*), he currently is producing and directing films through his company Production For Use , including the Sundance premiere feature documentary *Dream is Destiny*, about filmmaker Richard Linklater.

**Jason Wehling • Producer**

Jason’s producing credits include the feature documentaries *A Place to Dance* (PBS); *Outside Industry: The Story of SXSW; America’s Parking Lot* (ESPN); *An Unreal Dream: The Michael Morton Story* (CNN); and the fiction narratives *August Evening* (Spirit Award Winner), *The Happy Poet* (SXSW, Venice), *Fourplay* (Sundance, Cannes Director’s Fortnight), *Saturday Morning Massacre* (LA Film Fest), *Good Night* (SXSW) and *The Retrieval* (SXSW Jury Prize Winner).

**Drew Xanthopoulos • Director of Photography**

Drew was nominated for the American Society of Cinematographers’ Student Heritage Award and works regularly as a documentary, narrative, and commercial cinematographer. He most recently shot Travis Mathews’ fiction feature *Discreet* (Berlinale, 2017), contributed footage for Terrence Malick’s *Voyage of Time* and has DP’d shorts that have premiered at Berlinale, Sundance, SXSW, Edinburgh International Film Festival, and AFI Docs, among others.

**Ross Putman • Associate Producer**

Ross is an award-winning producer and the co-founder of PSH Collective. He produced the Sundance "Best of NEXT" winner *First Girl I Loved*, The LA Film Festival audience award-winner *The Young Kieslowski*, and the upcoming Emma Roberts vehicle *In a Relationship*.

**Editor • John Fecile**

John Fecile works in both documentary film and radio. He was a field producer and sound recordist for Al Jazeera America’s documentary miniseries *Hard Earned*, which won the 2015 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award. His hour-long audio documentary *Blink Once for Yes* aired on PRX’s *Love + Radio* and NPR’s *Snap Judgment*, and also won the 2017 Whicker’s World Foundation Audio Recognition Award and a 2017 Third Coast Award. He is currently based in Chicago, Illinois. Cast Bios (in order of appearance)

**Christine Horn • Deena**

With over 20 years of professional theater experience, Christine has graced stages across the U.S. with Disney’s *The Lion King* and has performed for the president at the White House. On screen, she has acted alongside Hollywood stars including Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore, Jon Voight, and Tyler Perry. She has also appeared in a variety of television shows, including *Ray Donovan*, *Greenleaf*, *The Originals*, *Rectify*, *Complications* and can be seen as a recurring guest star in Season 3 of Ryan Murphy’s *American Crime Story*.

**Jonny Mars • Chris**

After appearing in a record seven features and shorts playing at SXSW in 2013, *Indiewire* wrote the article “Jonny Mars is the Texas Film Star You Probably Never Heard Of.” Later that year Nic Cage beat him up in David Gordon Green’s  *Joe*. Jonny has appeared in the Sundance screened *Hellion* (the short), *Pit Stop*, *Blackmetal*, *Computer Chess*, *A Teacher*, and *Dig*. Next up, look for Mars in A24’s *A Ghost Story*, alongside *Arrow’s* Katie Cassidy in Sony Pictures’ mystery *Cover Versions*, and in *Support The Girls* with Regina Hall from *Girls Trip*.

**Antoine McKay • Zeke**

Antoine can be seen in Lee Daniels’ Fox series *Empire*, Netflix's *Sense8* and is a core member of Comedy Central’s *Review*. He’s also appeared the TV shows *Boss*, M*ind Games*, *Detroit 1-8-7*, *Prison Break* and *Sports Action Team*. He was a touring company member of Chicago’s famed *Second City* improv comedy group and studied acting with the world-famous coach Uta Hagen.

**Sara Sevigny • Grace**

Chicago-based Sara has worked with Lyric Opera, Paramount, Broadway Playhouse, Timeline, The Hypocrites, and is a proud ensemble member of The Factory Theater. She received a Jeff Award for best supporting actress in a musical in Porchlight Music Theatre’s production of *Assassins* and was a part of Strawdog Theater Company’s Best Ensemble award-winning *Marathon ’33*. TV credits include *Empire* (recurring-Fox), *The Gabriels* (Fox), ABC's *Mindgames*, and the YouTube series *Get In The Car* with her writing partner, Corrbette Pasko.

## Full Production Credits

# CAST (in order of appearance)

**Deena**

Christine Horn

**Chief**

Fred Zimmerman

**Chris**

Jonny Mars

**Boss**

Allison Howard

**Zeke**

Antoine McKay

**Husband**

Brian King

**Wife**

Maura Kidwell

**Grace**

Sara Sevigny

**Paula**

Charin Alvarez

**Carmen**

Jaida Matos

**Benjy**

Michael Byrne

**Party Guest**

La Donna Tittle

**Sweetie**

Amy Johnson

**Max**

Cedric Young

**Vee**

Deanna Reed-Foster

**DeShawn**

D’Wayne Taylor

**Lepanto**

Carlos Treviño

**Tariq**

Demetrios Troy

**Bookstore Clerk**

DeRon Powell

**Tasha**

Lily Mojekwu

**Ruby**

Lyric Ross

**News Announcer #1**

Taryn Galbreath

**News Announcer #2**

Kevin Joseph

**Plumber**

Patrick Zielinski

**Carpenter**

Michael Brunlieb

**News Announcer #3**

Melika Bass

**Debt Collector #1**

Brandon Fogel

**Debt Collector #2**

Jessica Hedrick

**Intern**

Paige Collins

**Nurse**

Gabrielle Lott-Rogers

**Security Guard**

Torey Adkins

**Accountant**

Carlo Garcia

**Credit Lawyer**

Mark Collins

**Young Husband**

Ben Kass

**Young Husband’s Husband**

Brian Kash

# CREW

**Director**

**Kyle Henry**

**Screenwriter**

**Carlos Treviño**

**Additional Character Research**

Sara Sevigny

Antoine McKay

Jonny Mars

Penelope Walker

Ira Amyx

Juan Villa

**Producers**

Kyle Henry

Jason Wehling

**Executive Producers**

Alan Berg

Louis Black

**Associate Producers**

Ross Putman

Haos Film

**Production Manager**

Madison Ginsberg

**Casting**

PR Casting

**Production Designer**

Suzannah Linnekin

**Art Director**

Michelle Fogle

**Additional Art Direction**

Linda Wyatt

**Prop Builder**

Harrison Ornelas

**Special FX Makeup**

Georgia Bouziotis

**Director of Photography**

Drew Xanthopoulos

**2nd Camera Operators**

Deborah Libby

Mark Davis

**Additional Camera Operators**

Todd Lillethun

Carlos Cova

Justin Reifert

**Location Sound**

John Fecile

**Additional Sound Recording**

Cody Wallace

**Editor**

John Fecile

**Assistant Editors**

Terence Yoon

Madeline Plumley

Philippine Merolle

Zoe Pressman

Mina Fitzpatrick

**Assistant Director**

Jonathan Moeller

**Additional Assistant Director**

Ethan Senser

**2nd Assistant Director/Set PA**

Daniel Farber

**Additional 2nd Assistant Director**

Thomas Molash

**Locations Manager + Additional Production Manager**

Grace Hahn

**Locations Assistant**

Cesar Almeida

**Production Assistants**

Zach Weil

Troy Lewis

Justin Reifert

Tony Castellon

J. Wheeler White

**Production Office Interns**

Leila Sherbini

Jess Zeidman

**Sound Design**

Eric Friend

**Sound Re-Recording Mixer**

Eric Friend

**Sound Editor**

Andy Sharp

**ADR Mixer**

Ralph Loza

**ADR Facility**

Experimental Sound Studio

**Additional Sound Design**

Justin Hennard

Eric Friend

**Composer**

Curtis Heath

**Music Rights Clearance**

Roanna Gillespie

**Color Correction**

Joe Malina

**Composite Artist**

John Doe

**Additional Graphics**

Jeremy Le

Jack Wensel

# Music

#### Original Music Recording Artists

**Cello** – Shawna Hamilton

**Piano, Guitar** – Curtis Heath

**Percussion** – Bobka Lotfipour

**Flute** – Saloni Gandhi

**Viola** – Annika Donnen

**Violin** – Tamara Brown

**Clarinet** – Brent Buemi

#### Other Music

**“When I Knew You”**

Composer Samuel C (Sam) Wolsk

Published by ASCAP

Courtesy of Samuel C (Sam) Wolsk

**“Return Trip”**

Composer Samuel C (Sam) Wolsk

Published by ASCAP

Courtesy of Samuel C (Sam) Wolsk

**“Prelude, Op 28 No 2 in A-Minor Lento”**

Composer Frédéric Chopin

Performed by Robert Edwards

**“Nawlins Rocky”**

Written by Curtis Heath

Published by Nothing Too Much Music ASCAP

Performed by Curtis Heath

Courtesy of Curtis Heath

**“Spy Tango”**

Composer Dale Herr

Courtesy of Manhattan Production Music,

a division of Chesky Productions, Inc.

**“Prelude, Op 28 No 4 in E-Minor”**

Composer Frédéric Chopin

Performed by Robert Edwards

**“All Day Inside the Sun”**

Written and performed by Mitch Greer

Published by BMI (publisher)

Courtesy of Mitch Greer

**“El Chupacava”**

Written by Curtis Heath

Published by Nothing Too Much Music ASCAP

Courtesy of Christmas Mountains Records

**“Feelin Kinda Red”**

Written, published and performed by

Pablo and the Hemphill 7

Courtesy of Curtis Heath at

Eagle Audio in Fort Worth

**“Variation on an Original Theme, Op. 36: Enigma”**

Composer Edward Elgar

Performed by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, George Hurst

Courtesy of Naxos of America

**“Going to the Well”**

Written by David Comeau, Geoff Lasch & Paul Mitchell

Performed by Militant Babies

Published by How Can You Say That We Do Not Rock (ASCAP)