



A FILM BY JOSHUA KAUFMAN

SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

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GENRE Drama

DURATION 25 min 46 sec (1 hr 5 min alternate version)

RATING Mature Audiences

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN United States

LANGUAGE English

SCREENING FORMAT Digital

ASPECT RATIO 17:9

FRAME RATE 24 FPS

PRODUCTION COMPANY Joshua Kaufman Production Co.

FILMING LOCATION New York, NY

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Joshua Kaufman Production Co.

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OUTLINE

LOGLINE

A diverse group of student actors gather in an empty townhouse for an amateur improv class. Their interactions, whether genuine or performed, become all-encompassing in the small world they create.

SYNOPSIS

SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES follows six characters over the course of an evening-long improv class. The students—performed by Lillian Bornstein, Carlo Fiorletta, Javan Nelson, Hannah Schmitt, and Michael Way—are amateur actors, who are otherwise strangers to one another.

The class is facilitated by Dexter (Dexter Strong) in his parents' now-vacant home, which is stripped of furniture and punctuated by decaying faux-wood wall panels. Dexter encourages the students to allow this environment to inform their work, but the stark setting causes them to be self-conscious and standoffish.

Dexter challenges the students to notice how their bodies carry and respond to imagined conditions, inviting them to observe and respond to one another's movements. Michael (Michael Way), a new student who is eager to do well, discloses feeling disoriented during one exercise, having not been provided a clear objective.

Perspective remains fixed for long periods at a time, providing intimate glimpses into each student's experience. At the same time, the overall picture remains incomplete as only half of the students present are actually visible, requiring sensory cues to trace voices and bodies as they move in and out of the frame. Almost every exercise is followed by a conversational pause in which the students debrief their experience of the activity. Pulling in and out of the imaginary realm creates tension for the characters and viewer.

Awkwardness and trepidation follows each student as they each undertake this intimate creative process with strangers. Michael, in particular, struggles as his unfamiliarity with the established jargon and culture is exposed. All of their interactions, whether genuine or performed, become all-encompassing in the small world they create.



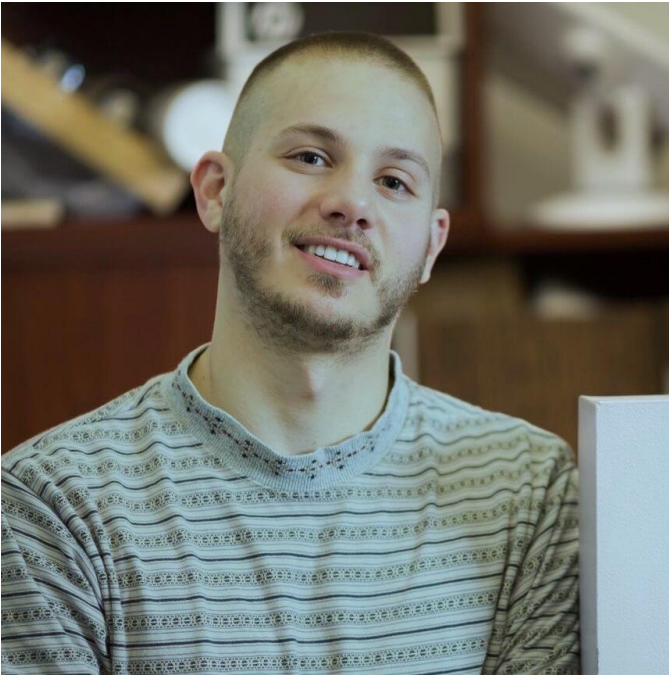
DIRECTOR STATEMENT

The characters in *SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES* delicately walk the line between fully exposing themselves and retreating into unknowability. For example, new student Michael makes tentative attempts to follow the other actors, self-conscious that his ability to intuit has its limits. The other students offer idle chit-chat about their own lives only after making connections in the realm of imagination. The events of the film exposes the awkwardness of distilling the study of human behavior in the container of an academic environment, while its structure and cinematography force the viewer to similarly reflect on the arbitrariness of how bodies, situations, and circumstances inform each other.

The film obscures the scenes its characters perform, often framing them as they enter and exit rooms, or begin and complete acting exercises. Its true focus is on what they learn both about each other and human behavior during the exercises, scene preparations, and follow-up conversations. The result is an emotionally-detailed meditation on the balancing act of human connection.



BIOGRAPHIES



Joshua Kaufman is a filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist based in New York City.

His recent work includes a short film RESERVATIONS; and two plays: BACKWARD PEOPLE, and UNCHILDING.

joshua-kaufman.com



Matthew Kyle Levine is a filmmaker and cinematographer based in New York City.

His short films have won awards and played at numerous film festivals throughout North America, including the Williamsburg Independent Film Festival and the Canada Shorts Film Festival, most notably for his short film MISS FREELANCE. Matthew is currently working on four short films that will be released in 2022.

Matthew directs, shoots, and edits films, music videos, commercials, and documentaries for a variety of clients and artists.

vimeo.com/matthewkylelevine

IG: @matthewkylelevine

CAST & CREW

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Dexter Dexter Strong

Michael Michael Way

Hannah Hannah Schmitt

Carlo Carlo Fiorletta

Lillian Lillian Bornstein

Javan Javan Nelson

CREW

Written and Directed by Joshua Kaufman

Director Of Photography Matthew Kyle Levine

Sound and Original Score Shea Glasheen

Edited By Matthew Kyle Levine

Facilitator For Performers Allie Marotta

Intimacy Coordinator Tina Horn

Wardrobe Dakota Stevens

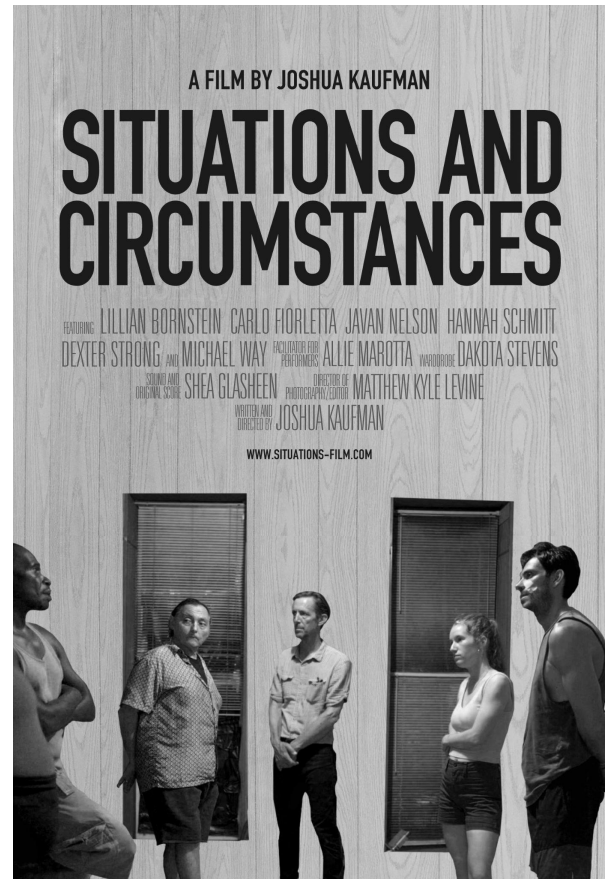
Carpentry Cristian Schmaller

Creative Consultant Kyle Kucharski

Graphic Design Julian Leon

Production Assistance Maddie Coronato

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



For additional production shots,
theatrical poster please visit

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19uYiBOiMB4sGv8XdqkH-o5Cy2plpkqX>

