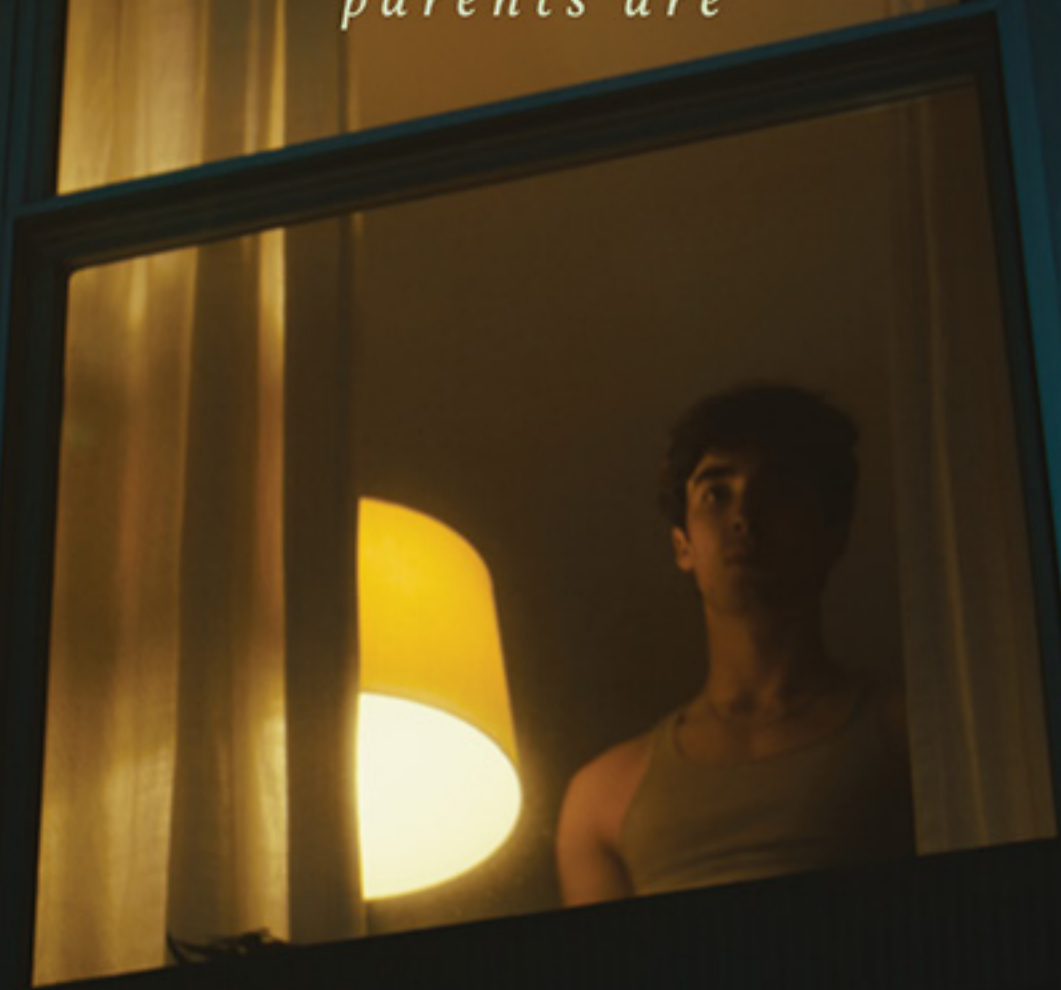


*we don't know who our
parents are*



cycles

..... CHARLIE KOEPP CHARA PADEKA EVAN FRIEDMANN CHARLIE KOEPP TOM OORCIARI CHASE JOHNSON CAMERON TAVAKOLY
..... CHASE JOHNSON NOA MACIAS JOSEPHINE MAVROMATIS CHASE JOHNSON EVAN FRIEDMANN ALEX WEISS MICHAEL J CASPARI
..... CAUSE AND CONTROL MONIKA RATHOD MAHA BARAKAT JOSEPHINE MAVROMATIS ZACH ORLOWSKY CHRISTIAN LAMANTIA EVAN FRIEDMANN
..... CHARLIE KOEPP CHARA PADEKA CHARA PADEKA

Maha Barakat
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Cycles

4 Logline

During the last summer before college, a son's discovery of his father's concealed past sparks a dilemma between justice and tranquility.



Synopsis

Amidst what is supposed to be the last fun-fueled Brooklyn summer before college, Owen finds himself grappling with his father Mitchell's unspoken past. Owen receives guidance from his best friend Elliot, but after ignoring his advice, decides to dig deeper. Yet, when Owen finds what he's looking for, he must decide if finding justice for his father is worth jeopardizing the two's contentment.



we don't know who our parents are

Directors' Statement

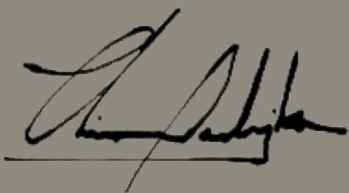
Raised blocks away from each other in Brooklyn, we sought to revisit summer's bliss. Like Owen's bike ride through brownstone streets, we roamed our minds for a story which would bring us back. The photograph, a motif of the past, became our vehicle. A moment that cannot be recaptured. A tangible piece of history. A reminder of dreams we forgot we had or versions of ourselves we desperately want buried. A lens that could be distorted.

We shot our little story in Cobble Hill and Tribeca. Crossing the Brooklyn bridge between sets, our eyes saw the city rise before dawn and twinkle after dusk. That summer is a shimmering memory now, but in remembering those mystical hours of crossing, we realized our film is very much the tale of a bridge. One that connects us between high school and college, childhood and adulthood, father and son.

Cycles is ultimately about the tether between generations. Owen floats comfortably until he finds out his dad's hidden trauma. When confronted with how his father dealt with it, Owen's naive sense of justice is thrown into a spiral. But the choice to accept the past with optimism or cynicism is his alone. When we recognize that our parents are real people, we grow up.

Thank you to all who made our film possible.

We are indebted to our backers, an incredible crew, cast, friends, and the Brooklyn community.



Chiara Padejka
Director



Charlie Koepp
Writer



Technical Details

Run Time: 20 Minutes

Website: cyclesfilm.com

Shooting Format: Digital

Vimeo Link
(Password Upon
Request):

<https://vimeo.com/888508347>

Aspect Ratio: 2.35

Audio Format Stereo

Press Contact: Maha Barakat

Original Language: English

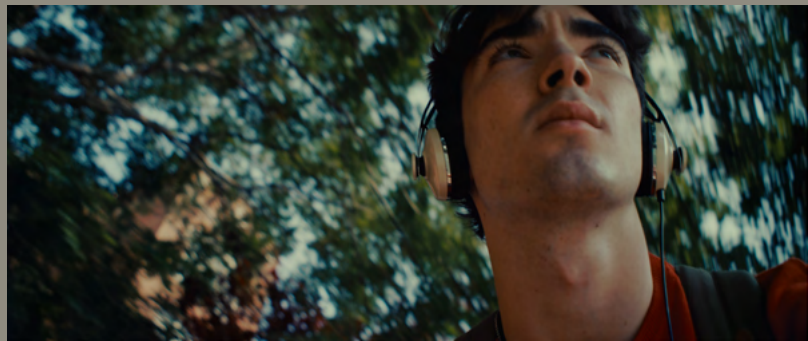
mahabarakat68@outlook.com

(754) - 232 - 0048



Crew

Director:	Chiara Padejka
Writer(s):	Charlie Koepp Chiara Padejka
Producer:	Charlie Koepp Chiara Padejka Evan Friedmann
Director(s) of Photography:	Chase Johnson Cameron Tavakoly
Editor/ Colorist:	Chase Johnson
Score/Music Supervisor:	Michael J. Gaspari
Assistant Director:	Josephine Mavromatis
Assistant Camera:	Evan Friedmann
Sound Designer(s):	Evan Friedmann Alex Weiss
Production Designer(s):	Noa Macias Josephine Mavromatis
Production Assistant(s):	Zach Orlowsky Christian Lamantia
Musical Artist:	Cause and Control



Cast

Owen	Charlie Koepp
Mitch	Tom Ciorciari
Elliot	Coltrane Gilman
Melanie	Francine Bianco Tax
Earl	Jon Lonoff



Crew

Chiara Padejka

Writer/Director/Producer



 @youfoundchiara

Writer and Director Chiara Padejka is from Brooklyn, New York. She is an alum of the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, U.K, FAMU in Prague, CZ and GoodCapp Arts in NY. With her Shakespearean background, Chiara's films focus on unraveling relationships and identities in intimate narratives. With an affinity for pushing creative boundaries, Chiara is a filmmaker drawn to craft-driven projects that illuminate contemporary themes including loss of innocence, hypocrisy, the destructive nature of addiction, love, and temptation through an explorative approach. She is a member of NYWIFT.

Charlie Koepp

Writer/Producer/Actor: Owen



 @charlie.x.k

Charlie Koepp is a writer and director based out of Brooklyn, New York. He attends the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he studies film and psychology. His stories focus on self-destruction and absurdity through a psychological lens. Film debut.

Evan Friedmann

Producer/Sound Design/AC



 @efriedy

Born and raised in Manhattan, New York, Evan Friedmann is a writer, director, and cinematographer who combines creative vision and technical prowess. He is proficient in AVID Media, Davinci Resolve, ProTools, Adobe Premiere Studio, After Effects, and Illustrator. A jack-of-all-trades, he has worked numerous positions on sets at nearly every level of the industry. In his free time, Evan is an avid adventurer whose extreme travels include desert survival, sailing the South Pacific, and skydiving. His stories explore the psychological impact of human isolation.

Chase Johnson

Director of Photography/Editor/Colorist



 @chasetheremix

Chase Johnson is a motion picture editor, cinematographer, and digital colorist with a degree in Motion Pictures Production from the University of Miami School of Communication. Chase has a passion for creative storytelling specializing in narrative dramatic filmmaking. Chase Johnson also has worked as a four-year camera operator for the ACC Network ESPN, a post-production intern for Sorrentino Media in NYC and a creative development intern for Grey Matter Productions in Los Angeles, California. As a filmmaker of six years, he has also worked commercially with brands such as Integrow, Google, CFI Partners, NCAA and Capitol Records.

Cameron Tavakoly

Director of Photography

 @ctavakoly

Cameron Tavakoly is a cinematographer and digital colorist based in New York City who works to create engaging images for both professional and personal projects. Beginning from as early as the third grade to eventually graduating with a degree in Motion Pictures Production from the University of Miami, Cameron strives to always be able to tell intimate stories, ideally with his close friends and colleagues.



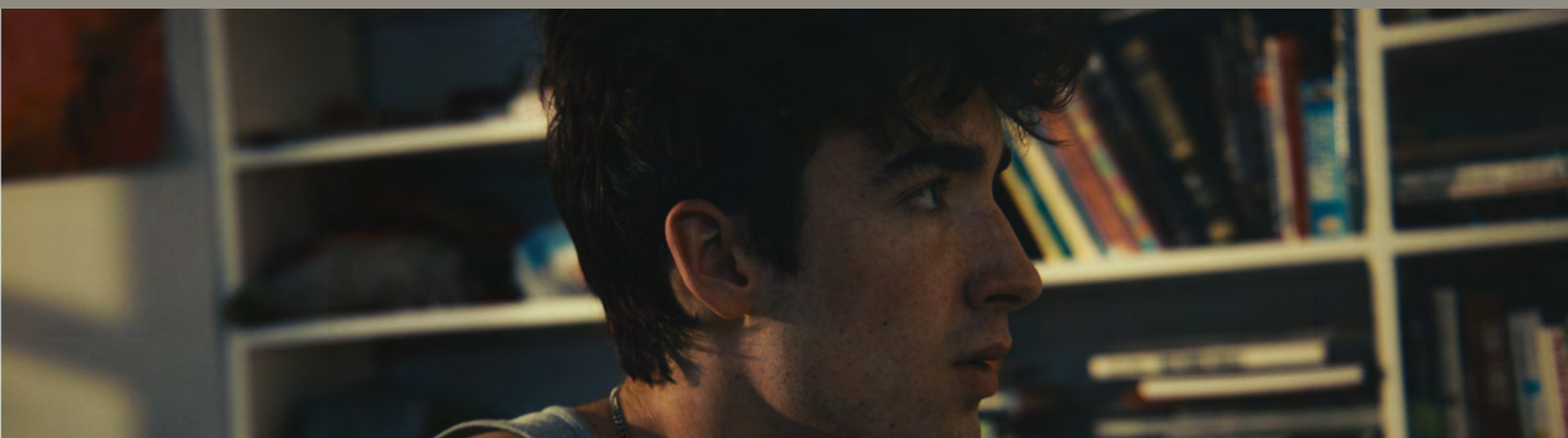
Noa Macias

Production Designer



 @n0vaking

Noa Macias grew up experiencing the diversity of their home town in Brooklyn, which later influenced their career aspirations. After deciding to attend the University of Miami, they chose to study under a BFA for Costume Design and a Motion Pictures minor; Credits: Assistant Costume Designer for “The Importance of Being Earnest”, “A Lie of the Mind” at the Jerry Herman Ring Theatre. In their free time you can find them sewing, sketching portraits, and running a clothing line. Noa hopes to go back to their roots in NYC after graduating in the Spring of 2025.



Michael J. Gaspari

Composer

 @michaeltgasparimusic

Michael Gaspari is a composer, producer, pianist, and synth player from Robbinsville, NJ. They attended Oberlin Conservatory as a composition and TIMARA major and are continuing their education at the Media Scoring and Production program at the University of Miami, Frost School of Music. Michael has released 3 full length albums on Spotify and Apple Music. Their music focuses on topics regarding their identity with autism and how that has affected them. They have also worked on many short films for students at various schools and programs. Their most recent project was for a feature length horror/thriller film titled Art of Diversion. Currently, Michael is working on their fourth full length album called Redemption, which is in a progressive pop/metal genre, and focuses on topics regarding different types of relationships with people.





Cast

Tom Ciorciari

Mitch

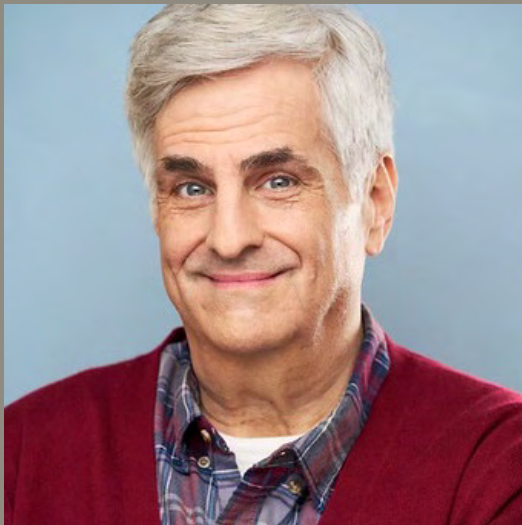
 @tciorciari60

Tom Ciorciari is a NY-based actor and musician. He has performed extensively in regional theater, including "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui", "Tartuffe", "The Shadow Box", "Orphans", "Much Ado About Nothing", "God Of Carnage", "The Laramie Project", "Anna In The Tropics" (also dir.), "Richard III", "As You Like It", "Indecent" and "Doubt", and will be seen in the title role of "King Lear" in February 2024 at South Shore Theatre on Long Island. Film credits include the shorts "Deceivers", "Every Good Piece", "How I've Met God" and "Saint Harlow", and the features "The Girl In The Straw Hat" and "Menagerie". Training: HB Studio, The Actor's Studio, Take 2 Actor's Studio (Huntington, NY), and the Huntington, NY Performing Arts Foundation (P.A.F.) theater intern program.



Jon Lonoff

Earl



 @jonmichaellonoff

Jon Lonoff has an extensive theater background and an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. "Cycles" stands out as one of the eight compelling independent films in which Jon has showcased his talent this year. His diverse roles include a bumbling father navigating a funeral in "Burying Bubby," an eccentric bohemian who befriends a shy teenage poet in "Isles of Loneliness," a poignant portrayal of a dying father who tries to connect with his estranged son in "Lapsed," and a goofy New Yorker harassing comedian Isabel Hagen's "On a String."






Coltrane Gilman

Elliot



 @caly3rcoltrane

Coltrane Gilman is an actor and post-production specialist from Brooklyn, New York. He has studied acting for over a decade and has performed lead roles in a variety of productions, from musicals to plays to feature films. He most notably starred in the Off-Broadway production “Round Went the Wheel” and performed in the film “The Pill”.

Francine Bianco Tax

Melanie

 @fbianco_tax

Francine Bianco Tax is an actress, writer, journalist, and singer known for various award-winning shorts and as a guest host on QVC TV. Feature credits include “Color” and “All Hail Mary”. She graduated from Adelphi University’s B.F.A theater division with friend Jonathan Larson “Rent”. TV: “Law and Order” SVU, Discovery Channel Training: Meisner Technique, Phil Black Studio, Henry Le Tang Studio. She recently completed writing her second feature film.



Stories

Where did the story for *Cycles* originate from?

We knew that we wanted to create a story that examined the unknown in familial relationships, and what happens when one decides to venture into that unknown. When Owen and Elliot decide to sit on the stoop to talk about college, they stumble upon a dilemma between curiosity and apprehensiveness. Owen's decision to probe into his father's past falls in direct conflict with Elliot's advice, and the decision to remain blissful by the generations that came before him. At surface level, their conversation is quite juvenile, yet representative of this entire "cycle" Owen is breaking, whether he knows it or not.

Are there plans for a feature film?

Our film began as a feature film concept. A love letter to Brooklyn, the story follows four friends in their last summer before college. Each kid wrestles with a unique obstacle involving a parental figure. With cycles we got to explore Owen's chapter, and introduced our audience to Elliot. Throughout their journeys, the group attempts to have a fun vacation, whilst grappling with individual insecurities about moving past childhood. Ultimately, each discovers that their parent's personal dilemmas inform them of the world they are about to enter

Why did you choose to shoot in a bustling city like New York?

Shooting on location is always special. Brooklyn is an essential character in our story. In order to capture as much of the environment as possible, our film is shot in a widescreen format. Raised in Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill, we sought to portray a slice of our childhood. The audience gets to spend twenty minutes in a part of the city they may not have seen on screen. When one pictures New York, its skyscrapers. Here we traverse 1800s brownstone lined streets. It's tranquil and energetic, rather than overbearing and cutthroat. These neighborhoods are extremely popular now, but they used to be hidden gems.

What challenges did the team face during production?

In Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*, we're constantly reminded of Brooklyn's oppressive heat wave, and this heat becomes a character itself throughout the movie. While we didn't choose to capture the heat as a character in our film, we definitely felt it behind the scenes. This, along with some heckling from pedestrians and a tight shooting schedule made filming especially tough. Scaling these obstacles while trying to keep our narrative goals in mind made production especially tricky at times, but nothing we weren't able to overcome.

Can you describe the visual aesthetic of the film?

Summer in Brooklyn retains qualities of calm, but also chaos. Dreamy and mystical, the imagery creates the vibrant warmth in Owen's comfortable life. In direct contrast to this visual coziness, the story paints an unsettling picture. The film's primary color palette represents Owen's childish naivete, while sparks of orange signal discovery, and ultimately maturity.



Credits

We would like to extend a very special thanks to:

The Koepp Family,
Kozirog LLC,
Alex Gu,
Out of Control Vintage,
and
Peter Gurl.



Shot on Location in: New York City, New York

Official Website: cyclesfilm.com

Instagram: [@cyclesfilmshort](https://www.instagram.com/cyclesfilmshort)

Feature Development

Now seeking partners, producers, and financiers in pursuit of the feature length development of **Cycles**.

To learn more please contact mahabarakat68@outlook.com.