



## **TACO MARY**

A Myrrh Films and Luminist Films Co-Production

### **TAGLINE:**

Sometimes it pays to believe.

### **LOGLINE:**

When Rob, an atheist, sees the Virgin Mary in his taco he finds himself struggling with his beliefs, his principles, and his love of tacos.

### **SYNOPSIS:**

When atheist Rob sees the image of the Virgin Mary in his taco, he finds himself in a quandary of whether or not he believes the image is really there and what he should do with the taco. June, the owner, sees nothing wrong with the taco and won't remake the taco or refund his money. Maya, the cook, sees the Virgin Mary and customer Jayson wants to sell it on e-bay. When Rob cuts a deal with June, he finds out that sometimes it pays to believe.

### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:**

It is my hope that "Taco Mary" is not just a comedy about an atheist seeing the Virgin Mary, but provokes some thoughts about faith, beliefs, commerce, the small business owner's struggle in big box America—and the beauty and miracles around us. The film explores some uniquely American issues about spectacle, religion, and money. As a

capitalist society that is also deeply religious, our culture (and the film) often treads the fine line between commercialism and faith, between the sacred and the profane. And I

hope the film feels timely--when the television crew comes to broadcast the miracle, the reporter states "despite the war, the economy, the housing crisis and high gas prices, we are hopeful and ready to believe in a sign from the Heavens". "Taco Mary" was inspired by my Catholic upbringing, my faith and struggle in faith, my husband Nick, and most likely Underpass Mary, a phenomenon in Chicago where the Virgin Mary appeared on a concrete wall under the highway. And from one menu featuring hot dogs and tacos to the obsession with our sports teams, "Taco Mary" is a true blue Chicago story.

**DIRECTOR'S BIO:** Mary Novak has a B.A. in English & Creative Writing from Northeastern Illinois University and an MFA in Film & Video from Columbia College Chicago. She worked several years freelancing, which included writing and producing video segments for educational media. Her recent short film "Highlights" screened in several festivals including Garden State Film Festival (Best Family Short), Salento International Film Festival (Italy), San Diego Women's Film Festival, Gold Lion International Film Festival (Swaziland), Long Island International Expo (Best Art Direction), Canterbury Short Film Festival (New Zealand). Her script "Taco Mary" won Best Screenplay at 2008

D.C. Shorts Film Festival and the film will premiere at 2009 D.C. Shorts.

## ACTORS BIOS:



Desmin Borges' Film and television credits: *Taco Mary*, *Viva El Mariachi*, *Cherry*, *Good People*, *Between Two Suns*, *Evolution* and *True Blood* on HBO. Chicago Theatre credits include: *Boleros for The Disenchanted* (Goodman Theatre), *The Defiant Muse* and *I Sailed with Magellan* (Victory Gardens), *Elliot (A Soldier's Fugue)* (Steppenwolf Garage). Regional credits include: *Esperanza Rising* (The Children's Theatre Co. in Minneapolis). Desmin can be seen this fall in the World Premiere of *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* by Kristoffer Diaz at the Victory Gardens Biograph Theatre. Desmin is an Ensemble Member of Teatro Vista and a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University.



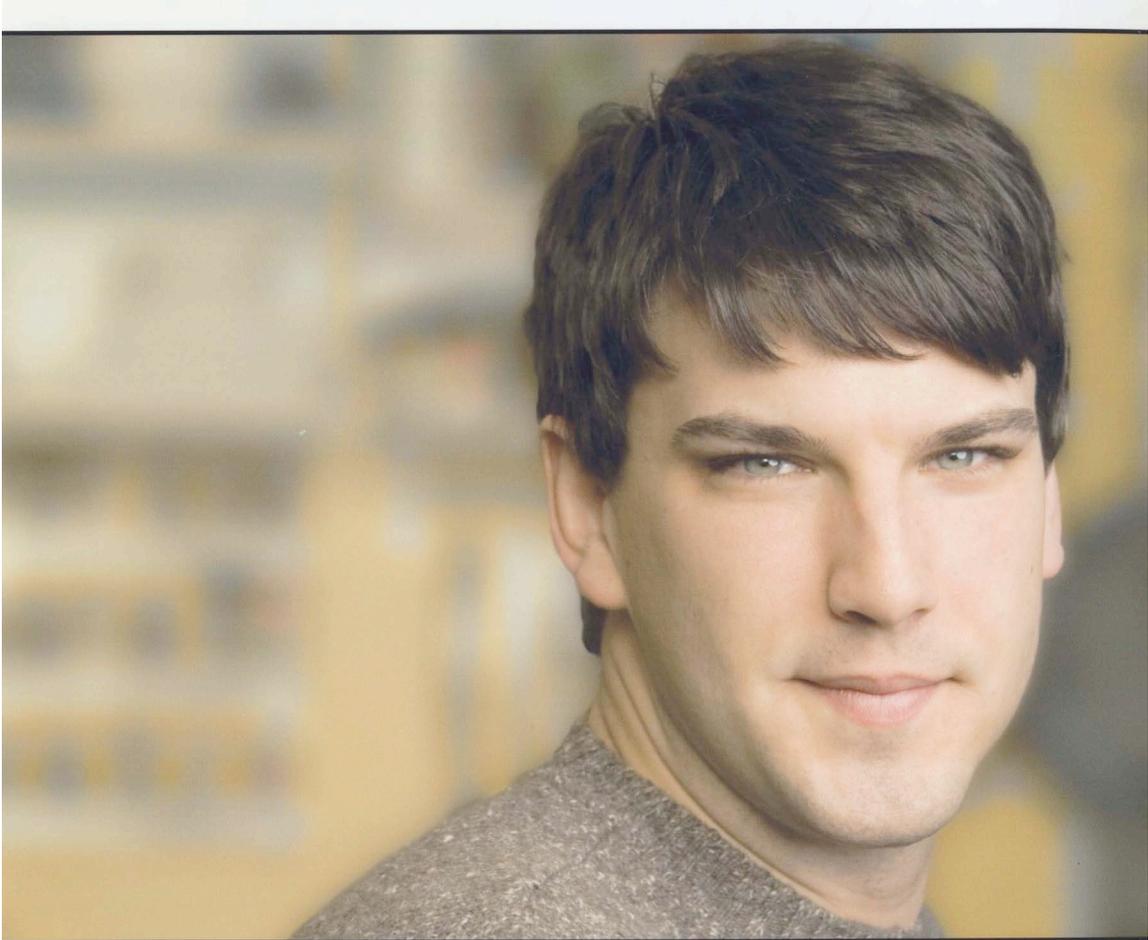
Samantha Garcia is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and has lived and worked all over the world. Since making Chicago her home, she has become a proud company member of both A Reasonable Facsimile Theatre Company, and Bare Boned Theatre. Many thanks to the cast and crew of "Taco Mary" for making this a truly enjoyable experience.



Adam Shalzi is from Chicago and holds a B.F.A. in Acting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Theatre credits include Redmoon Theater, Collaboraction, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Building Chicago, Redtwist Theatre, and more. He has worked on several short films and feature films this past year with the independent film community in Chicago. Adam is in the conservatory program at The Second City and performs improv with KC Redheart at The Playground Theater.



Yunuen Oseguera Pardo was born in Mexico where throughout her teen years she performed in various theatre and dance productions. After a year of studies in Vienna, Austria she moved to Chicago where she began her acting and production studies at Columbia College. She has been in several feature and short films and theatre productions in Chicago such as “Equal Opportunity Offender,” a compilation of monologues done by and for the “Leukemia and Lymphoma Society,” and “El juego que todos jugamos,” played in Spanish. She is currently working on a feature and two short films and a play called "Erendira," an adaptation from a short story by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.



Josh Ryder

Josh Ryder has been performing for imaginary audiences since the tender age of 3. At the age of 7 real people started showing up and paying attention. Josh has worked onstage, behind the stage, under the stage and precariously perched above the stage as well. He has also spent time in front of, behind and just off to the side of the camera. When he can find a spare moment, Josh also works in post production as a compositor and animator with his one man and two cat production company *4029 Designs*. As an avid fan of both Tacos and the Virgin Mary, Josh's experiences working on *Taco Mary* have been both heavenly and high in calories.



Kayce Alltop is pleased to be working with Mary for the second time. Previous to Taco Mary Kayce played a hairdresser in Highlights. Other film credits include Dismembering James Walker and Interview Skills (Fortune Magazine). Kayce also performs with pH Productions, Annoyance Theater and i.O. Theater. Voice Over credits include McDonald's, PGA Gold and the Conduit (Wii Games). Thanks to Mary and Laurie, she hopes to work with them again soon!

END TITLES/CAST and CREW:

Dedicated with loving memory to my Mom,  
Virginia Mary Novak

TACO MARY  
Starring Desmin Borges

Writer/Director  
Mary Novak

Producers/Production Designers  
Laurie Little and Mary Novak

Director of Photography  
Hunter Scott Whalen

Editor  
Melissa Lawrenz

Visual Effects  
Rachel Oftedahl

Composer  
Petter Wahlback

CAST

ROB	Desmin Borges
STEVEN	Adam Shalzi
JUNE	Samantha Garcia
MAYA	Yunuen Oseguera Pardo
<u>LAYSON</u>	<u>Joshua Ryder</u>

MS. BUMP BUTT	Larissa Sims
MOM IN BOOTH	Deborah Keegan
BOY IN BOOTH	Timmy Keegan
CRANKY LADY	Susan Dowd-Strong
T.V. REPORTER	Allie Long
MR. HEARTBURN	Alex Kazhinsky
MS. MOCHA	Kayce Alltop

SKATEBOARD STUNTS     Nick Keay

Exterior Extras	Vahan Artin
	Elizabeth Avelar

Dylan Bailey  
Caity Barillas  
Mary Black  
Jason Cocking  
Jennifer Cohen  
Candice Lee Conner  
Cynthia De Jesus  
Emelen De Jesus  
Walter Delgado  
Rachel Eisler  
Colleen Halloran  
Jeanine Henry  
Andrew Jorgensen  
Chris Kellner  
Thomas Kennedy  
Craig Kirsch  
Ginger Lane  
Annie Lynch  
Sean Morgan  
Diana Moya-James  
Chris Nelson  
Damien Przybranowski  
Erin Scheffler  
William Shermach  
Joan Shermach  
Larissa Sims  
Lisbeth Silva  
Susan Strong-Dowd  
Betty Ware  
Vicki White

INTERIOR EXTRAS

James Baptist  
Simona Ciarlo  
Debbi Dickinson  
Vijay Masani  
Adel Eletr  
Toya George  
Andrew Jorgensen  
Chris Kellner  
Michelle Mongello  
Diana Moya-James  
Cynthia Scheffler  
Erin Scheffler  
Shayna X Cramer  
Kevin Durkin

VOICEOVERS: Maria Abraham  
Sara Hill  
Thavary Krouch  
Jim Moore

1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director Anu Rana  
2<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director Randy Caspersen  
Script Supervisor Maria Abraham  
Production Managers Maria Abraham  
Randy Caspersen  
Katie Mahalic  
Production Coordinator Jennifer Cohen  
Production Design Laurie Little  
Mary Novak  
Art Director Laurie Little  
Set Design Caity Birmingham  
Signs & Print David Guy  
Tom Kennedy  
Priscilla Maisch  
Mike Bell  
Vijay Masani  
Art Assistants Candice Lee Conner  
Rachel Eisler  
Wardrobe Mary Novak  
Casting Lisa Formosa-Parmigiano  
Craig Kirsch  
Laurie Little  
Mary Novak  
Production Assistants Jason Cocking  
Jennifer Cohen  
Andrew Jorgensen  
Sean Morgan  
Director of Photography Hunter Whalen  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Camera Justin Watson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Camera Nicole Crivlare  
Steadicam Operator Carl Wiedemann  
Gaffer Jon Arturi  
Digital Assist Technicians Ben Rogerson  
Chris Nelson  
Key Grips Arnika Jusko  
Eon Mora  
Grips Burt Bilharz  
Steven Szuret  
Location Sound Mixer Chris Puente  
Boom Operator Mason Thorne

Editing	Melissa Lawrenz
Score	Petter Wahlback
Vocals	My Damn Butterfly
Visual Effects	Rachel Oftedahl
Color Correcting	Nolo Digital
Sound Design	Veronica Morales
Post Recording Engineers	Veronica Morales William Cox
<u>Title &amp; End Credits</u>	<u>Rachel Oftedahl</u>

Thank you  
Bob Schwartz of Vienna Beef  
Columbia College  
Color Image Inc.  
Maria Abraham  
Jack Hewings  
Derrick Kelly

Special thanks  
Laurie Little  
Jon Gann and D.C. Shorts Film Festival  
Tom Fraterrigo  
Melissa Lawrenz  
And my Nick and Sophia Keay

**Huge thanks to Chris Christou, owner of POOCHIES  
Home of the Char Cheddar Burger  
3832 Dempster, Skokie, Illinois**

As winner of Best Screenplay at D.C. Shorts Film Festival 2008, this film was partially funded by D.C. Shorts Film Festival.

Cubs win?

Myrrh Films  
Luminist Films  
2010

POSTCARD FRONT:



*Sometimes it pays to believe...*

# TACO MARY



Written and Directed  
by MARY NOVAK



A MYRRH PRODUCTIONS AND LUMINIST FILMS Co-Production

Starring

DESMIN BORGES SAMANTHA GARCIA ADAM SHALZI YUNUEN OSEGUERA PARDO JOSH RYDER

Director of Photography HUNTER WHALEN Production Design by LAURIE LITTLE and MARY NOVAK

Original Score by PETTER WAHLBACK with vocals by MY DAMN BUTTERFLY Editor MELISSA LAWRENZ

[WWW.TACOMARY.COM](http://WWW.TACOMARY.COM)