

## MARKING TIME

Producers on two films, one current and the other upcoming, share their experiences of making the projects that earned them the Producers Mark certification.

*Certification via the Producers Mark indicates that a producer performed a major portion of the producing functions on the motion picture. The full list of Producers Mark certifications can be viewed at [producersguild.org](http://producersguild.org).*

### Single All the Way

Joel Rice, p.g.a.

Desperate to avoid his family's judgment about his perpetually single status, one man convinces his best friend to join him for the holidays and pretend that they're now in a relationship. A wrench gets thrown into the plans when his mother sets him up on a blind date with her handsome trainer. *Currently streaming on Netflix.*

#### THE FILM CONTINUES THE NEW TRADITION OF LGBTQ-CENTERED HOLIDAY STORIES, BUT WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU ENCOUNTERED AND HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO OVERCOME IT?

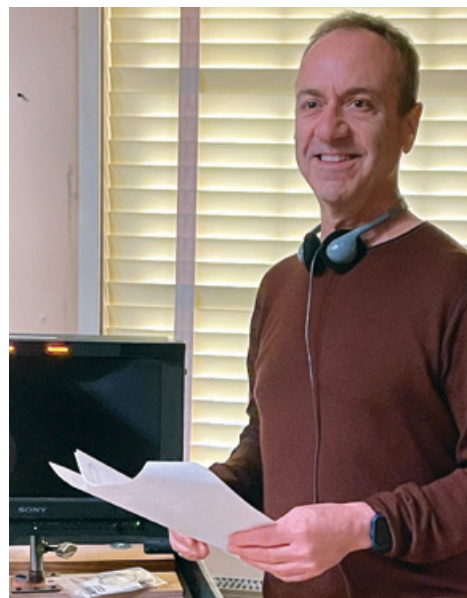
It has always been important to me to tell forward-thinking yet entertaining stories. I'm proud to produce a story about queer adults that explores romance, friendship and family. It is validating to go from the beginning of my producing career—when people in underrepresented communities were not featured in projects in this way—to meeting the challenge by partnering with writer Chad Hodge and Tony-winning director Michael Mayer to deliver a socially relevant, artistically fun, honest, gay romantic comedy that everyone can relate to.

#### HOW DOES THIS STORY RESONATE WITH YOU?

This story resonates for me as a father of two who works to embrace his children for everything they are, but much like the family in our movie, drives them crazy in the process. As an ex-social worker, I have always aimed to create entertainment that is focused on telling inspiring stories in an accessible way. Muse Entertainment has built its brand on authenticity and representation. Our projects have a unique perspective and a foundational sense of hopeful optimism, and feature characters who deserve to be protagonists of their own stories.

#### WHAT SURPRISED YOU THE MOST DURING THE COURSE OF PRODUCING THIS FILM?

Despite producing this during the COVID-19 pandemic, I was struck by how much passion, enthusiasm and connection everyone involved in the project brought to the table. I credit that to the fact that everyone was excited by the material and understood that they were signing on to something that could really have an impact. We are proud to have significant LGBTQ+ representation behind and in front of the camera, and the passion came through. It seems to have already made an impression, given the critics' reception and the audience's heartfelt reactions to the movie. The reach has been amazing, as out of the gate, *Single All the Way* was among the top five streaming movies in the world!



Top: Joel Rice on set

Bottom: Philemon Chambers (left) and Michael Urie in a scene from Netflix's *Single All The Way*



## Scream

William Sherak, p.g.a.

Twenty-five years after a streak of brutal murders shocked the quiet town of Woodsboro, a new killer dons the Ghostface mask and begins targeting a group of teenagers to resurrect secrets from the town's deadly past. Sherak produces alongside James Vanderbilt, p.g.a. and Paul Neinstein, p.g.a. *Out in theaters January 14.*

### HOW BIG A FAN WERE YOU OF THE ORIGINAL SCREAM TRILOGY?

All the *Scream* films have had such a lasting impact on me. Growing up in the '80s and '90s, I was the generation that experienced *Scream* in theaters for the first time. It revolutionized what you could do in the horror genre. What Wes Craven, Kevin Williamson and that original core cast created was pure magic. Being able to add to its legacy has been a joy.

### WHEN YOU WERE APPROACHED TO DO THE REVIVAL, WHAT WERE YOUR INITIAL THOUGHTS?

All of us at Project X and Spyglass knew how much fun it was going to be to reinvigorate such a beloved franchise, but a lot of initial thoughts came to mind. We immediately wanted Kevin (Williamson) to return, and we all knew it would only work if he was part of the team. Having him join as an executive producer was paramount to the film and bringing back the legacy cast to pass the torch to a new generation was something we focused on early as well.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE WITH CONTINUING AN ICONIC FRANCHISE WHILE HONORING ITS LEGACY AND SETTING IT IN A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE THAT IS WILDLY DIFFERENT FROM 1996?

The most obvious challenge in continuing the franchise was the absence of Wes, which was felt by all of us. But Kevin's involvement on the team helped move everything forward. I also can't say enough about the returning cast members. They were our North Star through the making of the film, helping us to honor what Wes created at all times.

As far as the cultural difference between 1996 and today, there are always certain rules to follow in a *Scream* movie. We believed they could be easily adapted to the current landscape and translated for both old and new audiences to enjoy. ■



Above, left to right: producer William Sherak, director Matt Bettinelli, executive producer Kevin Williamson, director Tyler Gillett and executive producer Chad Villella

Right: William Sherak

