

A man with short, light-colored hair is performing on a stage. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored, button-down shirt. He is holding a microphone in his right hand and gesturing with his left hand. The background consists of red curtains. A bright spotlight is shining down on him from the top right. In the bottom right corner, there is a piece of stage equipment, possibly a lamp or amplifier, with a glowing light fixture.

MR. MORTIFYING

A FILM BY ELENA KOVALENKO

SUMMARY

Genre:

Romantic Comedy

Pitch Trailer:

[Pitch Trailer Link](#)

Budget:

\$400,000

Location:

California, USA

Shooting Time:

December, 2025

Logline:

Biological parents embarrass their teenagers simply by breathing, so imagine what happens when introvert Laura Martinez, a twice divorced mother of two teenage girls, becomes serious with extrovert Bruce Mortimer, a never-before married Jewish stand-up comic who seemingly lacks both a filter and awareness.

Proposed Cast:

Bruce: Adam Rose

Laura: Aubrey Plaza

Director:

Elena Kovalenko

Screenwriter:

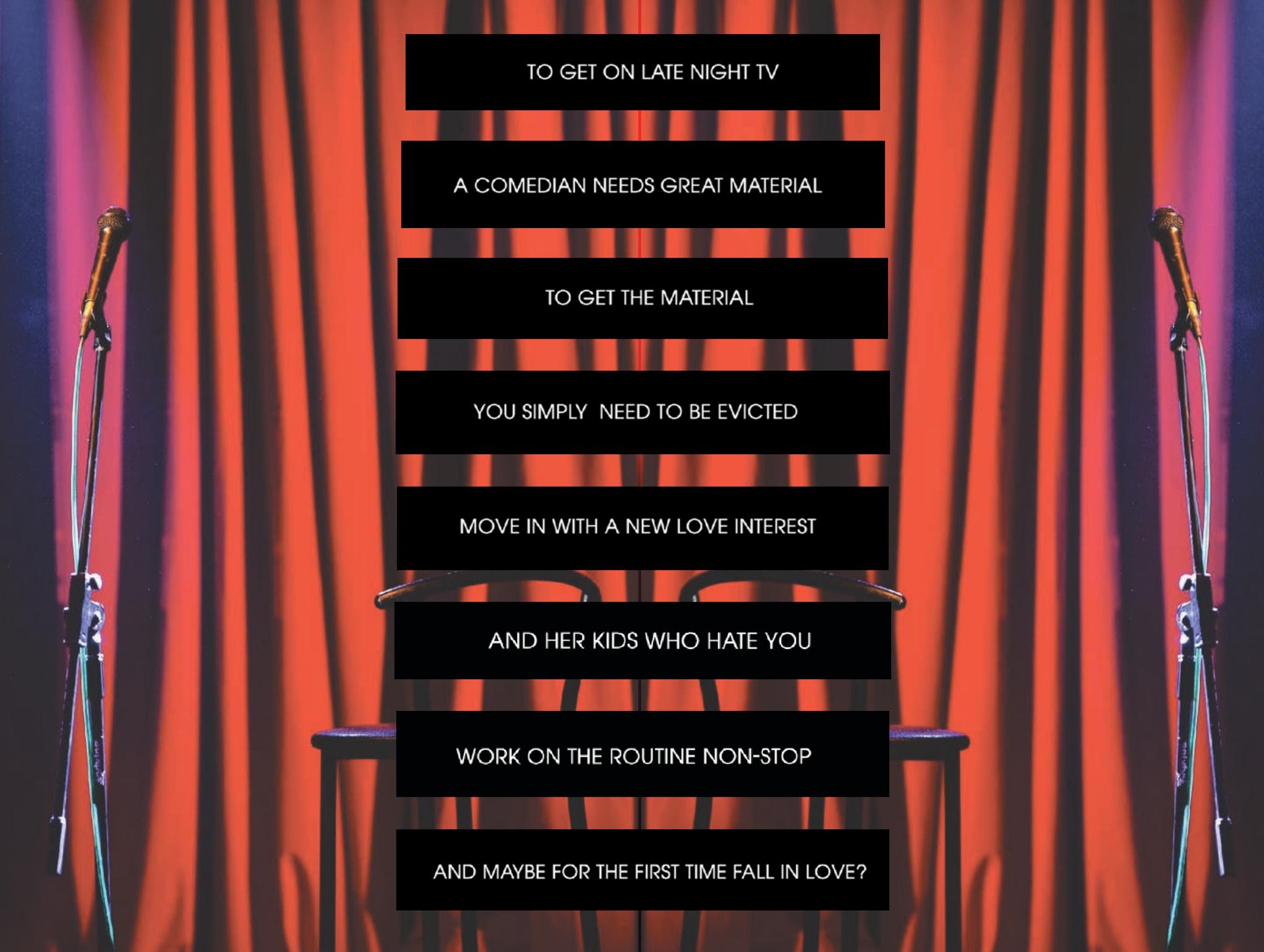
Harrison Lebowitz

Producers:

Randy Charach, Elena Kovalenko, Juan Reinoso

Production Company:

The Films LLC; LookBook Entertainment



TO GET ON LATE NIGHT TV

A COMEDIAN NEEDS GREAT MATERIAL

TO GET THE MATERIAL

YOU SIMPLY NEED TO BE EVICTED

MOVE IN WITH A NEW LOVE INTEREST

AND HER KIDS WHO HATE YOU

WORK ON THE ROUTINE NON-STOP

AND MAYBE FOR THE FIRST TIME FALL IN LOVE?

SYNOPSIS

Bruce Mortimer (49) is a never-before married, Jewish standup comic. **Laura Martinez (45)** is a Mexican-born Spanish teacher, who speaks fluent and flawless English. She has been **married twice** before, both ending in failure. She has two children, Sofia (17), sarcastic and resentful of Laura's divorce from their father, and Cecilia (15), easy-going with a quick laugh. Maximilian, Laura's quirky, **gay brother, Banana**, a high-strung yellow dachshund, and Aroon, an IT geek who boards at Laura's, round out the household.

Part of Bruce's comedic routine involves online dating, but, in fact, Bruce has never tried it. Yet it's the strength of this material that may land him an appearance on a nationally televised talk show long considered **the holy grail for comedians**. So, for research purposes, he decides to join Match.com. Indeed, Bruce's first few **disastrous dates** provide him with just the kind of material he was looking for, but no more disastrous than the dates Laura, a Match.com veteran, has been on. Still, both persevere, and **one fateful night**, the algorithms align, bringing Bruce and Laura together.

Bruce and Laura are still getting to know one another when Bruce receives notice that his **apartment is going condo** and Laura receives notice from Aroon that he will be leaving. With Laura dependent on the income from a boarder and **Bruce having to move**, Bruce approaches Laura with the idea of him **becoming her boarder**. With some trepidation, Laura acquiesces under the condition that they keep their budding relationship not only from her children – she does not want them to know that she is **romantically involved** with their new boarder – but also from her friends in light of her reputation for making mistakes when it comes to men. Unbeknownst to Laura, Bruce has the ulterior **motive of expanding his comedic research** by moving in with his subject à la Jane Goodall.

What can possibly go wrong?



DIRECTOR

Elena Kovalenko (also known as **L'Infini**) is an award-winning filmmaker with over 15 years of experience as a director, producer, and creative force behind more than 450 projects across commercial, narrative, and branded content. Her work has been featured at Sundance, Cannes, and La Jolla, and was recognized by Forbes among the Best Fashion Films of the Year.

In 2017, she founded The Films LLC (thefilms.io), a California- and Dubai-based production company that has delivered work for global brands including Adidas, Marriott, Unilever, Inglot, and Microsoft, among others. In 2021, she launched Filming Locations (filminglocations.io), the leading MENA-based marketplace connecting production houses with unique filming sites.

CREDITS & AWARDS

- 2024** **Industry's Number One in the Field of Entertainment Award**
Global Business Symposium (Herald Global & BARC Asia)
- 2023** **Home Alone — Short Film**
Licensed by Cineverse (2023), Future Today and Stash TV (2024)
- 2021** **Seine-river by I am daylight — Music Video**
Winner: Best Music Video by Artgrid
- 2021** **Dubai Summer Story — Short Film**
- 2018** **Akicita: The Battle of the Standing Rock — Documentary**
Film Editor - Official Selection: Sundance Film Festival; Awarded a grant by the Sundance Institute Documentary Fund
- 2017** **Elemental Beauty — Short Film**
Featured in Forbes: 12 Best Fashion Films of the Year
Winner: Best Editing — La Jolla International Film Festival
Nominations: Best Cinematography, Editing, Sound Design, and Creative Concept
Official Selections: Miami Fashion Film Festival, Fashion Film Festival Chicago, Chelsea Fashion & Film Festival, Sharjah Film Platform, Porto Film Festival
- 2016** **Place in Your Shell — Short Film**
Winner: Samsung Short Film Contest (Dubai International Film Festival)
Official Selections: Cannes Short Corner (2017), North Hollywood CineFest (2018)
- 2015** **Underwater — Short Film**
Winner: Best Experimental Short at the Los Angeles Cinema Festival of Hollywood (2016), Best Cinematography & Editing London HotShorts, Best Music Video at London Golden Scout IFF
Official Selections: Orlando Film Festival, Video Art and Experimental Film Festival
- 2011** **Strangers — Short Film**
Official Selections: Warsaw Film Festival, OneCloudFest, Stopudovka, Art Picnic by Slava Frolova; Broadcast on TBI and Robinzon TV

CREDIT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Elemental Beauty (2017)** — Named one of Forbes' 12 Best Fashion Films; Winner: Best Editing, La Jolla International Film Festival
- **Akicita: The Battle of Standing Rock (2018)** — Film Editor, Official Selection, Sundance
- **Home Alone (2020)** — Licensed by Cineverse, Stash TV, and Future Today
- **Underwater (2016)** — Best Experimental Short, LA Cinema Fest; Best Cinematography & Editing, London HotShorts
- **Place in Your Shell (2016)** — Winner, Samsung Short Film Contest at DIFF; Official Selection: Cannes Short Corner

DIRECTOR'S VISION

For me, Mr. Mortifying is a comedy about adult coming-of-age, finding true love, and following your dreams, which I believe are concepts that the inner-child in all of us can relate to. I feel that there is a real lack of good romantic comedies currently on the market. We all want a good light movie that can transport us to another world, reestablish our belief in love and make us laugh at the same time. For these very reasons, I believe that Mr. Mortifying could be the perfect addition to the current film market.

Mr. Mortifying tells the story of a 49-year-old man who has never been in love, has no responsibilities and is finally becoming a man. Despite the film's colorful comedic tone, the story goes beyond the typical dating narrative and explores something universally relatable. Online dating is now part of everyday reality, and the opening scenes reflect the shared experience of searching for a companion online. As we dive deeper into the protagonist's world — his endless attempts at humor, his unfiltered jokes, and the awkward situations he lands in — we begin to understand his true nature: someone who is completely unbothered by how he's perceived. When he finally meets his other half, his reluctance to grow up and acknowledge his feelings—even to himself—threatens his newfound happiness to the point where he almost loses everything.

I envision "Mr. Mortifying" in the tone and style of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" —a bright, witty story that lifts your mood, though set in a modern-day environment. I truly believe this film has strong commercial potential. I know I can bring this script to life, make it genuinely fun, draw out the best performances from actors, and communicate the heart and humor of love to audiences around the world.

With over a decade of experience as a producer and director, I know how to convey this story into a beautiful, vivid experience for everyone. Having already completed a smaller-scale production of the proof of concept, I can visualize in detail how I'll approach the full story — its colors, tone, and emotional atmosphere. I know I can make audiences laugh, and for a few hours, forget about the problems surrounding them as they immerse themselves in the alchemy of cinema. This light, heartfelt love story has the potential to stand out amid the heavy, serious films that currently dominate the market.

The pitch trailer presented below will help you to understand my vision, the overall mood of this movie, and its colors.

[Pitch Trailer Link](#)





PRODUCER

Randy Charach is a Canadian-born film and television producer and actor with over three decades of experience in the entertainment industry. He began his on-screen career in the late 1980s with a role on the original *MacGyver* series, and has since gone on to both produce and act in numerous feature films and television episodes.

As a founding partner and producer at The Wonderfilm Media Corporation, Randy has played a key role in the production of over 300 films, collectively exceeding \$1.5 billion in production value. His work spans a wide range of genres and formats, collaborating with international talent and distribution partners.

In addition to his film and acting career, Randy is also an accomplished entrepreneur, published author, and media personality, with appearances on major outlets including CNN.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2238551/>

CREDIT HIGHLIGHTS (PRODUCING)

- 2025** **Vanished** – Executive Producer, Producer
- 2024** **Camp Blood: Clown Shark** – Executive Producer
A Killer in the House – Executive Producer
- 2023** **Camp Blood X: Animated** – Executive Producer
Hunting Games – Executive Producer, Producer
Texas Nightmare – Executive Producer, Producer
Clutch – Producer
- 2020** **The 2nd** – Producer
The Call – Producer
- 2019** **Beyond the Law** – Producer
The Fanatic – Producer
- 2018** **Kickboxer: Retaliation** – Producer
Christmas Cupid's Arrow – Producer

CREDIT HIGHLIGHTS (ACTING)

- 2023** **Breakout** – Lead Role: Kirk
Starring: Brian Krause, Louis Mandylor
- 2022** **The Most Dangerous Game** – Lead Role: Rex Alan
A Tale of Two Guns – Lead Role: Ben Mirkwood
- 2020** **The Call** – Role: Mr. Johnson
With: Lin Shaye, Tobin Bell
The 2nd - Role: Justice Walton
With: Ryan Phillippe, Casper Van Dien
- 2019** **Beyond the Law** – Role: Fitzy
With: Steven Seagal, DMX
Zombie Tidal Wave – Role: Marty Driscoll
Unspeakable – TV Mini-Series – Role: Commons Chair (1 episode)
- 2018** **Christmas Cupid's Arrow** – Role: Professor
Kickboxer: Retaliation – Role: Drake
With: Jean-Claude Van Damme, Mike Tyson



WRITER

Besides ***Mr. Mortifying***, Harrison Lebowitz has other optioned screenplays that are in various stages of development. In addition, Harrison was also a contributing writer to the PBS Emmy award-winning series, ***Venturing***, the co-author of the best-seller, ***Connected To Goodness***, and wrote the book and lyrics and co-wrote the music for ***Special Deliveries***, which was first produced in NYC and directed by Obie award-winning and Tony nominee Robert Livingston and had in its cast, among others, Tony nominee Marsha Mitzman. He is currently in post-production for one docuseries and in production for a second docuseries, both with New World Distribution, the latter featuring talent including Jason Momoa. For seventeen years, he also ran a business in an industry he created and has experience as both a litigator and in-house counsel.

CAST

Bruce

JEWISH AMERICAN, 49



Adam Rose

Laura

MEXICAN, 45



Aubrey Plaza

Marc

BRUCE'S
MANAGER, 45

Maximillian

MEXICAN,
LAURA'S BROTHER, 50

Producer

LATE NIGHT
SHOW, 45

Tenant

IT GUY, 35



Randy Charach



Oscar Nuñez



Jimmy Fallon



Aziz Ansari

Stand-up Comedians



Bobby Lee



Russel Peters



Dane Cook



Kevin Hart



Amy Schumer



Bill Burr



Pauly Shore



Sarah Silverman

Stand-up Comedians



Jeff Ross



Caroline Rhea



Hannibal Buress



Wayne Brady



Rob Riggle



Nikki Glaser



Ron Funches



Lil Rel Howery

BUDGET

\$400,000

COMPARABLE FILMS

Movie Title	Budget (US Dollars)	Worldwide Gross (US Dollars)
Another Earth	\$100,000	\$ 1.9M
Fruitvale Station	\$900,000	\$ 17.4M
Brick	\$450,000	\$3.9M
Bronson	\$230,000	\$2.3M
Safety Not Guaranteed	\$750,000	\$4.4M
Submarine	\$1.5M	\$4.6M



CONTACT

The Films LLC

Elena Kovalenko

elena@thefilms.io

+1(424) 902 0170

thefilms.io

