

JESSI MELTON

RICHARD KLAUTSCH



# MAKING SENSE

THE NEXT FRONTIER LIES WITHIN

INCLUDEABILITY INC. IN ASSOCIATION WITH JUMP PRESENTS A LOVELYMACHINE PRODUCTION "MAKING SENSE"  
JESSI MELTON RICHARD KLAUTSCH JUSTIN NESS MAKENZIE ELLSWORTH MIGUEL AYALA  
MIKE BARNETT TAYLOR GONZALEZ NYK FRY & BROOKE BURTON CASTING BY CATRINE MCGREGOR, CSA  
MUSIC BY RYAN BAYNE STORY BY DOUG COLE SCREENPLAY BY DOUG COLE & GREGORY BAYNE ASSOCIATE PRODUCER JESSE CORDTZ  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DOUG COLE MICHAEL VICKERMAN PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY GREGORY BAYNE



LOVELYMACHINE



WWW.MAKINGSENSE-FILM.COM

# MAKING SENSE

An Independent Feature Film

## Media Kit

Directed by: **Gregory Bayne**

Starring: **Richard Klautsch & Jessi Melton**

**Media Contact:**

Doug Cole  
(208) 761-8354  
makingsensefilm@gmail.com

**Social Media:**

Instagram: @makingsensefilm  
Twitter: @makingsensefilm  
Facebook: @makingsensethefilm

Aspect Ratio: **1:85**

Running Time: **1:24:16**





## Synopsis

### LOGLINE

An aging neuroscientist teams up with a group of young graduate students to prove his hypothesis that individuals with disabilities hold the key to unlocking a sixth sense before his past catches up with him.

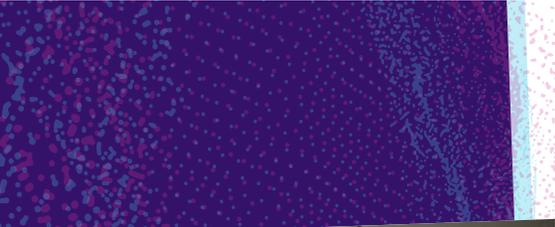
### SYNOPSIS

In an effort to prove his decades-old hypothesis that individuals with disabilities – those he describes as “sensory enlightened” – hold the key to unlocking a sixth sense, aging neuroscientist Dr. Frederik Amberger seeks out a promising graduate student, Jules Christopher. At the risk of alienating her partners in the University lab, and driven by her own complicated past, Jules gets caught up in his quest. When it’s revealed that Amberger has been hiding a secret that has him on the run from the FBI, Jules and team must decide how far they’re willing to go in their pursuit to unlock the next frontier of human sensory experience.

### ENLIGHTENED SENSES

“Making Sense” is based on the science of neuroplasticity – the brain’s ability to re-wire itself to compensate for a missing or diminished sense. One of the early pioneers of this work was Paul Bach-y-Rita who developed the concept of sensory substitution in the 1960s to treat patients with disabilities, often those caused by neurological problems. One of the first applications of sensory substitution he created was a chair which allowed blind people to ‘see’ by using vibrating plates on the user’s back. Today, sensory therapies are used commonly to treat recovering stroke victims to aid in the re-wiring of their brains.

In “Making Sense”, people with disabilities representing the five physical senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell), played roles with their respective diminished senses. The film aims to change the perception of people of disabilities from being “damaged” to those with enlightened senses in other areas.



## Facts on disability representation in entertainment

Several reports show the lack of disability representation in TV and cinema:

- Approximately 20% of Americans have a visible or invisible disability.  
*Source: Ruderman Family Foundation*
- According to the latest Census Bureau disability report, 56.7 million people in the United States had a disability in 2010. People with a disability are defined as a person having a physical or mental impairment that affects one or more major life activities, such as walking, bathing, dressing, eating etc.
- Only 2.7 percent of characters in the 100 highest-earning movies of 2016 were depicted with a disability.  
*Source: University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, 2017*
- Among regular characters on primetime TV in the 2018-2019 season, only 2.1 percent had disabilities.  
*Source: GLAAD, 2018*
- Among disabled characters in the top 10 TV shows of March 2016, only 4.8 percent were played by actors who had that disability in real life. And, only 5% of those characters with disabilities are played by actual actors with disabilities. Among streaming shows that year, the figure was slightly higher at 12.6 percent of characters with disabilities played by actors with those disabilities.  
*Source: Ruderman Family Foundation, 2017*
- In the history of the Academy Awards, among the 61 Oscar nominees and 27 winners playing characters with a disability, only two were authentically portrayed by an actor with disability.  
*Source: Ruderman Family Foundation, 2019*
- 95 percent of top show characters with disabilities on TV are played by actors without disabilities.  
*Source: Ruderman Family Foundation, 2019*
- About half of US households support accurate portrayals of disabled characters and would sign up for a content distributor committed to disabled actors. Their spending power is estimated at \$10.4 billion per month for US households.  
*Source: Ruderman Family Foundation, 2019*

## **A note from the writer/executive producer** Doug Cole

I created MAKING SENSE to provide the spark of a movement towards changing the perception of people with disabilities. The idea for the film began when I was confronted by disability with three impactful people in my life in span of a few years; my nephew Noah born with Spina Bfida, a family friend's son with Down Syndrome and a neighbor, Tom, who was instantly paralyzed. Tom's world was forever changed in the blink of an eye and he told me, "I went from looking away when I saw someone in a wheelchair to being the person who other people couldn't stand to look at - I was dehumanized overnight." That statement struck a chord with me and I set out to write a script and create a film that provided another perception of people with disabilities - one of enhanced opposite senses through the phenomenon of neuroplasticity. Research has shown that the brain can reprogram itself after trauma through necessity and often times, senses are actually heightened. It became an interesting story arc to figure out what would happen if five people - each lacking a physical sense - were in the same room together. In effect, it would create a superhuman. I wrote the script, started a foundation, raised the funding, hired a notable director/producer and worked with a casting director to hold open auditions to find five remarkable actors with disabilities. The result is a fast-paced and poignant story of the magic that can happen when people become aware of heightened senses.

## **A note from the director/writer** Gregory Bayne

When Doug approached me to consider the MAKING SENSE project, I was immediately drawn to the endeavor. It was an intriguing story, a creative challenge, and Doug's vision for an inclusive, community-based project was something I could really get behind. That, and it was an opportunity step out of my usual wheelhouse and pay homage to some of the films of my youth - TRON, WARGAMES, BACK TO THE FUTURE - in a fresh and interesting way. In the end I believe we've created something fun and entertaining that helps turn the disability equation on its head. Instead of focusing on disability, the film exemplifies the unique abilities our diverse cast brings to the table. It's not every film that feels as if you're part of something special, this one certainly does.



## Director

**GREGORY BAYNE** is a filmmaker with work spanning features, shorts, documentaries, and digital series.

In 2010 he produced and directed the acclaimed, fan-funded documentary JENS PULVER | DRIVEN, about the legendary mixed-martial-arts fighter. The project was one of the earliest Kickstarter success stories, raising \$27,210 in just 20 days. He followed that up with BLOODSWORTH-AN INNOCENT MAN, which chronicled the remarkable true story of Kirk Noble Bloodsworth, the 1st death row inmate exonerated by DNA evidence in the United States. In 2014 he co-created (with Christian Lybrook), and directed the pilot for the award winning series ZERO POINT, which was developed through the IFP Screen Forward Lab, and premiered in the 2015 Tribeca N.O.W. program.

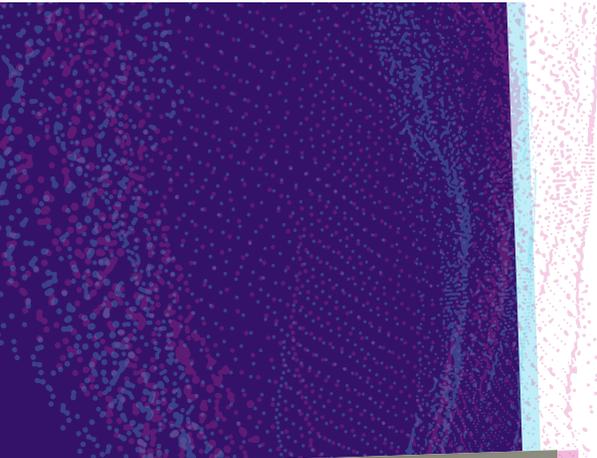
A 2012 Sundance New Frontier Storytelling Fellow, and 2015 IFP Screen Forward Lab fellow, Gregory has been a guest speaker discussing the evolving landscape of film, media, crowdfunding, and digital distribution at Columbia University, the Los Angeles Film Festival, Lone Star Film Festival, and London Film School, and has written for Filmmaker Magazine, WorkbookProject.com, and NoFilmShool.com.

Most recently, Gregory managed the release of his debut feature as a writer/director, 6 DYNAMIC LAWS FOR SUCCESS (IN LIFE, LOVE & MONEY), which the Hollywood Reporter called "A fresh, enjoyable, stylish, neo-noir."



## Executive producer and writer

**DOUG COLE** served in strategic marketing communication leadership positions for the Hewlett-Packard Company for nearly fourteen years and is currently a science communicator for the J.R. Simplot Company. Under his tenure, HP launched its branded entertainment program with high-profile relationships including DreamWorks Animation, the Sundance Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, MTV, and Gwen Stefani. Doug teamed with Academy-Award winning documentary director Ben Shedd on a Make-A-Wish film titled STAR WAITERS which won the 2009 Make-A-Wish National Foundation Infinite Award for being the best wish out of 13,200 wishes granted. He is an advocate for inclusion for those with disabilities and serves as Volunteer Vice President and Co-Founder of IncludeAbility Inc, a 501(c)3 charity.



## Actors

### **RICHARD KLAUTSCH**

Richard Klautsch (Dr. Frederik Amberger) has been a professor of theatre arts for twenty-one years at Boise State and chair of the department for fifteen. He has been a professional actor in Boise since 1992. He has worked for eight seasons at Boise Contemporary Theater and for 21 seasons at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival. At BCT, Richard has appeared in *TRUE WEST*, *THE CHERRY ORCHARD*, *THE UNDERPANTS*, *THE MEMORY OF WATER*, *THE PILLOWMAN*, and most recently in *I HAVE BEFORE ME A REMARKABLE DOCUMENT GIVEN TO ME BY A YOUNG LADY FROM RWANDA*. He also directed BCT's *LOBBY HERO* and *A NUMBER*. At ISF, he appeared most recently as Dogberry in *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* and as Rev. David Lee in *THE FOREIGNER*. Richard has performed at Primary Stages in New York City, the Attic and Detroit Repertory Theaters in Detroit, the Shakespeare Society Theatre in Los Angeles, and in Jeff Daniels' original play *SHOE MAN* at the film actor's Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Michigan.

### **JESSI MELTON**

Jessi Melton (Jules) is an actress based in Boise, Idaho with a considerable presence in the flourishing local film scene. She has starred in several short, independent films including *SAVAGE HARVEST* (2014), Ice Cream Entertainment's award-winning short *THE HERO* (2015), *FOREVER HOME* (2019) as well as a local commercial called *DRUNK TEXT* (2016). She has studied acting with Lance Williams (Professional Actors Workshop), April Matson (Platform) and has had professional training in classes and workshops taught by Catrine McGregor, CSA and Jeff Johnson, CSA. Jessi's training and experience recently landed her notable representation in Salt Lake City, Utah.



## **Actors with disabilities**

### **MIKE BARNETT (BLIND)**

Mike Barnett (Toby) is a retired Navy veteran who gradually became blind due to aggressive onset of macular degeneration in 2019. Not one to be limited, Mike is an active jujitsu practitioner and golfer. He regularly participates in improv comedy in the Boise area. MAKING SENSE is Mike's first feature film.



### **TAYLOR GONZALEZ (DEAF)**

Taylor Gonzalez (Dana) grew up in Pocatello, Idaho and is a college student attending the College of Southern Idaho. Deaf since birth, Taylor has always been interested in the energy of music. While attending the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind, she became interested in theatre arts and performed in school performances. MAKING SENSE is Taylor's first feature film.



### **MAKENZIE ELLSWORTH (TOUCH)**

Makenzie Ellsworth (Sam) had her life forever altered when she was paralyzed in a car crash in 2006 at age 15. Despite the physical challenges of being a paraplegic, Makenzie has excelled at wheelchair tennis and is an avid Cross Fit participant. She volunteered to be in the MAKING SENSE trailer in the summer of 2018 which led to the financing of the production and subsequent filming in 2019. Makenzie serves as a program coordinator at St. Luke's Health System. MAKING SENSE is Makenzie's first feature film.



### **MIGUEL AYALA (TASTE)**

Miguel Ayala (Max) has always had an interest in the arts. He's a graduate of Boise State University and runs his own graphic arts business. Miguel was born prematurely with Cerebral Palsy in Mexico and his family emigrated to the U.S. while he was a young child. Miguel has been a strong advocate for the inclusion of people with disabilities and founded a blog "Down with Disability" to provide inspiration to others. Due to his infectious personality and fearless attitude, Miguel was encouraged to attend an open audition workshop for the film and was subsequently cast. MAKING SENSE is Miguel's first feature film.



### **NYK FRY (SMELL)**

Nyk Fry (Stevie) is a walking production studio. He's served as a producer, editor, musician, sound engineer, photographer and videographer on various film and television productions. Since his teenage years, Nyk has lost the ability to smell, but to his chagrin, still has an appetite for junk food. He's served as an actor in several film productions, including REFLECTIONS IN THE MUD and PARANORMAL PRISON. Recently, Nyk directed Air Supply's 30th Anniversary DVD, THE SINGER AND THE SONG, as well as music videos for Brandie Frampton, Vanton, and PVH Project.

## **A Q&A with executive producer and writer Doug Cole**

### **Q: WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THE FILM?**

A: It would be great if people who saw the film looked at people with disabilities as not being “damaged”, but instead as people with remarkable challenges that sometimes lead to enlightened senses.

### **Q: WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE FILM?**

A: I was inspired by a few close friends and family members who felt diminished as a result of their disabilities, but actually had amazing gifts such as heightened senses. My friend Tom Magnuson and nephew Noah Goolden both are in wheelchairs yet experience proprioception which is heightened personal space. I thought it would be important to spread awareness of the remarkable abilities that people with “disabilities” often exhibit.

### **Q: HOW DID YOU RAISE THE FUNDING?**

A: Several years ago, I co-created a charity, IncludeAbility Inc. which includes children with disabilities in mainstream sports and arts events. I convinced the Board that an independent film would raise awareness and I sent out grant requests and received foundation and personal contributions.

### **Q: HOW DID THE FILM COME TOGETHER?**

A: After raising the funding with foundation and personal contributions, I reached out to one of Idaho’s most critically acclaimed producer/directors, Gregory Bayne, and he agreed to take on the project. I urged him to consider Idaho-only actors and locations and made the requirement that only people with disabilities be hired to play the disabled roles. He was enthusiastically supportive. With the help of Boise’s creative empowerment center, JUMP, we held open auditions and subsequently filmed the movie in September, 2019 in McCall and Boise.

### **Q: WERE THERE ANY SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS MADE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ON SET?**

A: We provided ASL interpreters for the scenes involving deaf actress Taylor Gonzalez and several of the cast and crew also learned ASL. We also provided coaching and rehearsals for the talent with disabilities since none of them had any significant acting experience. The crew also created special ramps at both of the primary set locations.

## FULL CAST & CREW

### CAST:

JULES • **JESSI MELTON**

DR. AMBERGER • **RICHARD KLAUTSCH**

NOAH • **JUSTIN NESS**

SAM • **MAKENZIE ELLSWORTH**

TOBY • **MIKE BARNETT**

DANA • **TAYLOR GONZALEZ**

STEVIE • **NYK FRY**

MAX • **MIGUEL AYALA**

PROFESSOR JOHNSTON • **BRIAN TELESTAI**

HILDA • **BROOKE BURTON**

AGENT FULLER • **JIM QUINN**

AGENT NICHOLS • **LILY YASUDA**

MANUEL • **BRANDON JUAREZ**

MAN AT PODIUM • **AHNAH SELENE**

QUINN • **TARA ADAMS**

TED • **JON RAVENHOLT**

DIANE • **KATY REBERRY**

KATHY • **CHERIE JULANDER**

BOB • **TRAVIS SWARTZ**

1985 LAB TECH #1 • **WILLIAM H. PARKER JR.**

1985 LABE TECH #2 • **MALLORIE NOEL LAMB**

1985 LAB TECH #3 • **SCOTT BEALS**

SARAH • **SARAH C. PATTERSON**

ANTHONY • **ANTHONY DANDREA**

DONNA • **YVONNE JUAREZ**

JEREMY • **NOAH GOOLDEN**

ALAN • **JEREMY CRAM**

ELLEN • **DAVINA SNOW**

CONCERNED YOUNG WOMAN • **CHRISTELLE PATIENCE**

POLICE OFFICER #1 • **KELLY LYNNAE**

POLICE OFFICER #2 • **TRAVIS TORONJO**

MILITARY BRASS • **KEVIN FALK**

GOVERNMENT SUIT • **PHILLIP CEARLY**



# MAKING SENSE PRESS KIT

SOLDIER • **AUSTIN VON JOHNSON**

YOUNG NOAH • **WILL COX**

VICKY • **MARAGARET LeMAY**

RECEPTIONIST • **ALEXSANDRIA RAVELLA**

## CREW:

PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY • **GREGORY BAYNE**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER • **DOUG COLE**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER • **MICHAEL VICKERMAN**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER • **JESSE CORDTZ**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER • **CHRISTIAN LYBROOK**

STORY BY • **DOUG COLE**

SCREENPLAY BY • **DOUG COLE & GREGORY BAYNE**

EDITING & CINEMATOGRAPHY • **GREGORY BAYNE**

CASTING BY • **CATRINE MCGREGOR, CSA**

MUSIC • **RYAN BAYNE**

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR • **OLIVIA CLAIRE TRIPP**

2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR • **ANDREA CARRIZALES**

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT • **KELSEY WILSON**

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT • **NOVA TIDINGS**

1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA • **DYLAN PFAFFENBERGER**

2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA • **ALEXSANDRIA RAVELLA**

SOUND DESIGN & POST PRODUCTION MIXING

**MARK DOUBLEDAY**

PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER/BOOM OPERATOR

**SEAN McNEAMEY**

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER

**MARK DOUBLEDAY**

KEY MAKE-UP & HAIR • **BRANDY HUNTER**

MAKE-UP & HAIR/SPECIAL FX MAKE-UP

**DANYALE COOK**

ART DIRECTION/SET CONSTRUCTION

**CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON**

PROPERTY MASTER/SONAR SUIT DESIGN

**MARK FRECKLETON**

SONAR SUIT PROGRAMMING • **JESSE CORDTZ**

SET DRESSER • **LORENA DAVIS**

AMBERGER'S NOTEBOOK/ADDITIONAL PROP DESIGN

**NINA LEARY**



# MAKING SENSE PRESS KIT

1985 LAB PROPS • **JOHN LEARY**

ON SCREEN GRAPHICS • **ANDREA CARRIZALES**

CUSTOMING & WARDROBE • **AMANDA FITCH**

GAFFER • **BRIAN SPLAWN**

KEY GRIP • **BILL ZUEHL**

GRIP • **GEORGE HYSMITH**

CASTING ASSISTANT

**MADALYN VANVALKENBURGH**

