

# A Patient Man



written & directed by

Kevin Ward

Running Time: 92 minutes  
Drama / USA / Color / English  
[www.apatientman.com](http://www.apatientman.com)

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## Logline

In the aftermath of a terrible car accident, a man tries to make sense of his life and seeks revenge for what he has lost.

## Synopsis

Tom has been in a terrible car accident. After four months of recovering from his injuries, he starts the long process of putting his life back together again. He returns to his job at a logistics company. He goes to a therapist to help deal with the emotional aftermath of the accident, including his inability to get back into a car. He buys a bicycle so that he can commute to work on the train instead.

Tom meets Aaron on the train. Aaron is a handsome and gregarious guy who has a love for connecting with people. The two of them hit it off. They liked each other. It has been a while since Tom has had a friend. It feels good.

Therapy begins to focus on his wife, Beth, who died in the car accident. After her death, Tom discovered that she had been having an affair. Left with grief and resentment, Tom becomes obsessed with finding the man his wife was sleeping with.

Aaron rides the train because he too was recently in a car accident. He had been drinking when he sideswiped a couple at an intersection. The woman was killed. His high priced lawyer got him out of trouble, but couldn't relieve him of his guilt. He didn't get a very good look at the man in the crumpled car, but through the blood in his eyes, Tom got a good look at him. And now Tom knows which train he takes.

Tom and Aaron's meeting was no accident. Tom's been watching and learning about Aaron for a long time. He knows all about him. He knows that Aaron is a lawyer, like his wife Beth was. He also knows that Aaron's wife is a therapist who specializes in helping people after traumatic events, like the therapist he's seeing now.

Beth and Aaron's law firms shared a few clients. They knew the same people. So they must have known each other before the accident.

She was killed right after she tried to end her affair and she knew the man who killed her. How could that be a coincidence?

Could Aaron be the guy? Could the same man that killed Tom's wife also be the man she was sleeping with? Was it an accident or murder? Tom thinks murder. Could he be wrong?

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## Director's Statement

As a kid, I watched just about every episode of *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* on "Nick at Night" with my mom. It was one her favorites. The thing that struck me most about that show was that sometimes the bad guy got away with it. The guy who faked his death to get the insurance money or the woman who killed a cheating husband didn't get caught. Not all the time, but enough for me to notice. Even at an early age, I knew there was something was different about that idea. In every other TV show or movie I watched when I young, the cop got his man and the villain got his comeuppance. But this idea was different.

I kept looking for that idea in other stories. It felt more real to me. Regular people do bad things. People are flawed and complicated; great and terrible. This is the story I set out to tell when I wrote A PATIENT MAN.

When does someone do the worst thing? What would drive a seemingly normal person to take another life? What happens when you play that tape through to the end? If someone were to commit murder, with the intention of getting away with it, how would they do it?

A PATIENT MAN is about loss and revenge. Our protagonist, *Tom*, is trying the figure out what to do with the rest of his life after experiencing a tragedy. He is dealing with the grief of losing someone he loved and the pain of infidelity. He can't seem to reconcile the two. The infidelity clouds the memory of his wife that he is trying to preserve. He chooses to focus on holding someone responsible for her death rather than deal with the part he had to play in their unsuccessful marriage. He starts to see something sinister in her death that may or may not be there. Trying to right what he sees as a wrong is how he avoids feeling his grief and guilt.

This film is an exercise in the idea that people are more than one thing. How well do we really know someone? *Tom* goes through the motions of putting his life back together, but it is a disguise for his real intentions. He is dishonest with everyone we meet in the film. He meets a stranger on a train and though they become friends, they are both dishonest with each other. This new friend is holding on to a pretty dark secret of his own.

No person is all good or all bad. There is a tremendous amount of grey area to a human being.

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## The Genesis Of The Project

Director, KEVIN WARD, began writing the script for A PATIENT MAN while working as an assistant editor on a network TV show in Los Angeles, CA. During many late night hours waiting for producers to weigh in or a cut of an episode to go out, Kevin would write scenes and begin to shape the story. He knew he wanted to write a story on a train. He was interested in the idea of someone seeing the same people over and over again on a daily commute, but not knowing anything about them. What would happen if you got to know one of them? A bad one. The story took off from there. "When I normally hear about ultra low budget projects, the script is usually in bad shape," says actor JONATHAN MANGUM. "I read Kevin's script and right away thought two things: One, this is a great script with an amazing part, and Two, How the hell is he going to pull this off on a micro budget. He did."

With a script in hand, Kevin went out to form a team and raise money for his first feature film. He shot a teaser trailer over four weekends to help show potential investors his vision for the story. That's where he met cinematographer, HARRISON REYNOLDS. After figuring out how to shoot full dialogue scenes on a moving train without permission, the two became fast friends.

Once production was ready to move forward, Kevin brought on JASON MOYER (a good friend from college in Florida) and KATIE VON TILL to help produce the movie. Together the team would spend many nights and weekends meeting about how to produce an ambitious project on a very limited budget. Kevin and Harrison watched movies at night after their day jobs to help develop a visual style for the film while the four of them scrutinized every detail of production.

## Financing The Film

A PATIENT MAN is a fully independently financed film. It's a daunting task to raise enough money to make a movie. Asking people for money just isn't very fun. But with a successful crowd sourcing campaign and friends and family who wanted to help make a film, enough money was raised to make the movie on a very limited budget.

"You hear about films being done for this budget all the time, but actually being there, and seeing the work and sacrifices Kevin and others had to make was amazing," says actor JONATHAN MANGUM. "It was 22 days of being uncomfortable in every possible way, on the train, eating bad Chinese food...asking people (including cops) to move

because they were in the shot, begging insurers and city planners for permits. That is what it takes. Non-stop, uncomfortable hard work. "

While the downsides of making a film with a small budget are many, there are also important upsides of independently financing a film. One is giving the filmmakers 100% creative control to make the movie they want to make. "The ability to have complete creative control on a movie like this is ultimately what makes it so fulfilling at the end of the day," says Cinematographer and Producer, HARRISON REYNOLDS. "What you see on screen is a movie that we're proud to present."

We are forever indebted to the crew of this film, who worked to truly make this a passion project and whose contributions can be seen on the screen. "Our crew offered such an endless source of energy throughout the shoot. I found it incredible that such a team would be so willing to come along on the journey with us. I know that I couldn't possibly thank them enough," say Reynolds.

## Casting The Film

Casting started with the actors from the original teaser trailer shot to raise money for the film. KELSEY SCOTT and AMIR TALAI, along with director, KEVIN WARD's wife, KATIE F. WARD all returned for the feature film. "I fell in love with the characters. Complex. Flawed. Textured. That's how you populate a story," says Scott.

But in time between shooting the trailer and raising the money for the film, both lead actors from the trailer started families and were unable to commit to the project.

Casting Director, LEAH MANGUM, started looking for the right actor to play the lead role of *Tom*. This character is on screen for the vast majority of the film, so finding the right person was paramount. After going through many potential candidates, Leah realized the answer had literally been staring her in the face. Her husband, JONATHAN MANGUM, had just read the script and was looking for an opportunity to play a role outside the type he was typically cast in. Jonathan is an accomplished comedic actor and improviser, having worked many years with such comedians as Wayne Brady and Drew Carey.

Director, KEVIN WARD was immediately excited by the idea and what he thought Jonathan could bring to the role. "Jonathan is a very likable guy on camera that you want to root for, but he also brings an important darkness to role as well," says Ward. "Jonathan is a great actor and I am very grateful for our collaboration on the film."

Actor and friend TATE ELLINGTON, also joined the cast after reading the script as *Aaron*, the "stranger" *Tom* meets on the train. Tate is an accomplished actor most recently seen on NBC's *THE BRAVE*.

"I got along very well with Tate right away. I felt great chemistry with him. Kelsey was also wonderful to work with. I had also known Amir for years, so acting with him was fun," says actor Jonathan Mangum.

Cinematographer and Producer HARRISON REYNOLDS puts it this way: "I cannot speak highly enough about our cast. Their trust in the process and willingness to do whatever it took to make this movie possible was incredible. They were quite simply 'down.'" "Without question, we wouldn't have been able to make such an incredible movie with a different group of actors!"

## Filming On A Moving Train

Most of A PATIENT MAN was shot in various locations in and around Los Angeles, but five days were spent in Sacramento, filming on the light rail train system there. This was by far a more affordable option than filming on the Metro train in LA and the people at the Regional Transit in Sacramento were very accommodating. But filming on working train is not without it's challenges. "I think that, for me, the most nerve wracking moment of the shoot was the first morning in Sacramento," says Cinematographer and Producer HARRISON REYNOLDS. "Logically, I had known we scouted and worked everything out in our pre-production, but the jury was still out on the question, 'Will this actually work?'"

Production was not able to lock off train cars, so people, going to and from work, were constantly walking onto the film "set". Background performers were bought in to fill seats to prevent as much of this as possible.

"Filming on a moving train while civilians are using the train is darn near impossible," says actor JONATHAN MANGUM. "Scenes probably had to be strung together from dozens and dozens takes, because in reality, no take lasted for more then 10 seconds because of automatic train recordings, stops, and people on their way to work and home. It was tough to act in that situation."

Only a small portion of the rail system could be used. To keep lighting consistent and the sun in the correct place from shot to shot, filming could only happen when the train was traveling either east or west. "There was a pretty steep learning curve. After some trial and error, we soon realized that we had to complete full scenes while traveling in one direction or the continuity was total mess," says director KEVIN WARD.

Sound was also a challenge. Ambient train and passenger noise made it hard for the on set sound mixer to capture clean audio and for the postproduction sound editor to blend the variety of sounds from cut to cut in the picture.

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## About The Cast



**JONATHAN MANGUM** (*Tom*) is a frequent collaborator of Drew Carey and Wayne Brady, Jonathan has toured the world performing in improv shows.

Currently, Jonathan can be seen as the co-host of Let's Make A Deal on CBS. Mangum was a series regular on Comedy Central's Stripmall, The Wayne Brady Show (ABC), The Drew Carey Show (ABC), Trust Us With Your Life (ABC), Drew Carey's Greenscreen Show (WB), and Drew Carey's Improv-a-ganza (GSN). He has made notable appearances on Reno 911, Pushing Daisies, The Sarah Silverman Program, and NCIS.

Working with Rob Reiner, Jonathan appeared with Jack Nicholson in The Bucket List and soon after appeared with Eddie Murphy in Imagine That.

Mangum was born in Charleston, S.C., but spent most of his youth in Mobile, Alabama. He currently lives in Los Angeles with his wife Leah, a casting director, and their two sons.



**TATE ELLINGTON** (*Aaron*) has most recently been seen as a series regular in the NBC action/drama The Brave. Previously, Tate was a series regular on Quantico (ABC). He appeared in the acclaimed feature film Straight Outta Compton, as well as the sequel to the blockbuster horror film Sinister, and The Endless which premiered at The Tribeca Film Festival in 2017.

In 2015 alone, Tate appeared in two major recurring roles playing a friend and colleague to Mindy Kaling on the series The Mindy Project, as well as one of the leaders of Terminus in The Walking Dead.

Ellington's first major film role was as Robert Pattinson's best friend, Aiden, in the Remember Me opposite Pierce Brosnan and Chris Cooper. He won a Best Actor award at the Brooklyn International Film Festival for his portrayal as Oliver Hunt in The Elephant King also starring Ellen Burstyn.

Additional film and TV credits include Big Bang Theory, Parenthood, Castle, The Good Wife, Don't Trust the B in Apartment 23, and NCIS: Los Angeles, RED, independent features such as Northeast and Descent, and Ricky Gervais's The Invention of Lying.



**KELSEY SCOTT** (*Therapist*) is best known for her role as Anne Northup in Steve McQueen's Academy Award winning *12 Years A Slave* and her harrowing arc as Wes Gibbins' mother, Rose, on *How to Get Away With Murder*. In 2017, Kelsey earned an Emmy Nomination for her portrayal of Sierra in *Fear of the Walking Dead: Passage*.

Her television appearances include *NCIS*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *True Detective*, *Army Wives* and Lifetime TV's *Courage to Soar: The Simone Biles Story*. You can see her next in HBO's upcoming season of *Insecure*.

Kelsey began her career as a child actor in Atlanta's theatre scene. Proud to be a self-professed "Theatre Baby", she often returns to those roots - sometimes showcasing her work as a vocalist, with productions like *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Wiz*, and a touring company of *Dreamgirls*.

Kelsey chooses to give back through organizations like *Kids in the Spotlight* and *WriteGirl* - which encourage artistic expression in young people, as an avenue to personal and educational growth.



**AMIR TALAI** (*Rami*) is a household face if not a household name. Depending on your age and lifestyle, you've definitely seen him before. If you are a woman who likes uncomplicated comedies, you saw him as one of the dads opposite J Lo and Chris Rock in *What To Expect When You're Expecting*. If you like to get high, you saw him host the bottomless party in *Harold and Kumar 2*. If you are a girl younger than 25, you saw him on *Hannah Montana* and *Wizards of Waverly Place*. If you watch sports you've seen him in one of his many TV commercials. Amir has most recently appeared

in FOX's *LA to Vegas* opposite Dylan McDermott. His theatre credits include *Guys and Dolls* at the Hollywood Bowl and *CanCan* at Pasadena Playhouse (Ovation nom). He is proud to be actively involved in various charitable and philanthropic ventures, and serves on the board of *The Story of Stuff*. He is ubiquitous on social media. Find him and say hi.



**ELAINE LOH** (*Maya*) is an award-winning actor, producer, and writer who enjoys being on both sides of the camera. Her recent short film just won the Grand Prize and Audience Award at New Filmmakers LA. Other short films have screened and won awards at the Academy-qualifying LA Shorts, NoHo Cinefest, HollyShorts, and the NBCUni/YOMYOM Interpretations contest. Her scripts have placed in the Top Ten of the Final Draft Big Break Competition (over 9000 entries), and various rounds of the PAGE Awards, Austin Film Festival, and Scriptapalooza. Her television acting credits include: Jane the Virgin, NCIS: LA, Superstore, S.W.A.T., Last Man Standing, Californication, It's Always Sunny..., Curb Your Enthusiasm, Chuck, The New Adventures of Old Christine, and All My Children (Recurring). Elaine serves on the SAG-AFTRA Los Angeles Local Board of Directors and the Diversity, Women's, and Low Budget Committees. Her goal in filmmaking is to tell more inclusive stories with greater representation both in front of and behind the camera.



**KATIE F. WARD** (*Beth*) grew up mostly in Orlando, FL and began her acting career as a child. She attended the University of Mississippi where she double majored in Theatre Arts and Broadcast Journalism. During her 15 years in Los Angeles, she's appeared in more than 50 commercials, on stage (*Sacred Fools*, *Comedysportz*), and on television (*CSI: Miami*, *Monk*, *Attack Of The Show*). She was a founding member and head writer for the acclaimed sketch comedy troupe, *One Hott Mess*. You'll see Katie next on TruTV's first scripted comedy series, *Those Who Can't*. Her best gig is being a wife and mom.

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### About The Filmmakers



**KEVIN WARD** (Director / Screenwriter) is a filmmaker and editor originally from Jacksonville, Florida. He is currently an editor on FOX's *Gotham*.

After earning a Bachelor's degree in Theatre from the University of Central Florida, he moved to Los Angeles where has worked as an editor and assistant editor on such TV shows as *CSI: Miami* (CBS), *Extant* (CBS), *Almost Human* (FOX), and *Vegas* (CBS).

Kevin has directed a variety of short films and web pieces such award winning short film Taco! and Firsts: The Series (Web series).

A PATIENT MAN is Kevin's first feature film.



**HARRISON REYNOLDS** (Cinematographer / Producer) is a producer and cinematographer based out of Los Angeles, California. Born in Texas, later attending The University of Texas – Austin and then finally moving to California, he has risen through the ranks of the camera department on features and TV shows such as Todd Phillips' War Dogs, Zach Braff's Wish I Was Here, and HBO's series True Blood.

His cinematography work includes PSAs for The LA River Revitalization Project, music videos, various shorts, and commercials.

His producing credits include short film Granite and upcoming feature The Deceivers.

A PATIENT MAN is the first feature collaboration between Harrison and Kevin.



**JASON MOYER** (Producer) is a producer and performer who has worked in theatre, new media, and film. He was a producer and also the Associate Artistic Director for Celebration Theatre, Development Associate for Mythgarden Films, an award winning-playwright and produces independent theater and events in Los Angeles. His adaptation of Oscar Wilde's Ballad of the Reading Gaol won Best of Festival at the Orlando International Fringe Festival. His adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol ran seasonally

for five years in Los Angeles and received accolades from The Los Angeles Times and LA Weekly.



**KATIE VON TILL** (Producer / Rachel) holds the distinction of being the 4th official voice of Disney's Snow White since the inception of the character in 1937. She voices the princess for toys, video games, theme parks, and animated programs. No stranger to on-camera work, Katie has appeared on TV shows such as Young Sheldon, The Middle, Anger Management (recurring), How I Met Your Mother, and Community (recurring). You've also likely seen her on CONAN as a recurring comedy sketch player. Her most

recent film work was as the ghost in The Hunted starring Josh Stewart. She was seen in film festival darling Zombie Prom, the feature film TiMER, and worked with director

Jon M. Chu in *When the Kids Are Away*.

A Patient Man is Katie's third foray into producing, having cut her teeth on the web series "Claire and Greg" and the comedy pilot "Not Moms." Katie serves on the SAG-AFTRA Los Angeles Local Board of Directors.

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## Credits

(OPENING CREDITS)

Jonathan Mangum

Tate Ellington

Kelsey Scott

Amir Talai  
Katie F. Ward

Music by  
Rob Houle

Costume Designer  
Jennifer Christina DeRosa

Production Designer  
Annie Van Hulzen  
Ashley Codd

Director of Photography  
Harrison Reynolds

Executive Producer  
Bryan Lowe  
Kevin Ward

Produced by  
Kevin Ward  
Harrison Reynolds  
Jason Moyer  
Katie Von Till

Written & Directed by  
Kevin Ward

A Patient Man

(END CREDITS)

Cast  
(In Order of Appearance)

Tom Alexander	Jonathan Mangum
Old Lady	Sheilah Morrison
George	David Jahn
Aaron Clarke	Tate Ellington
Linda	Judy Louise Johnson
Rachel	Katie Von Till
Rami	Amir Talai
Roger	Harvey J. Alperin
Jeff Pine	Ryan Scharoun
Therapist	Kelsey Scott
Paramedic	John Crickellas
Redneck	Rob Nelson
Redneck's Buddy	Justin Skinner
Maya	Elaine Loh
Little Girl	Evie Ward
Beth Alexander	Katie F. Ward
Randy	Philip Willcox

Edited by	Kevin Ward
Casting Directors	Leah Mangum Katie Von Till
Art Director	Ashley Codd
Additional Cinematography	Celine Tricart
2nd Assistant Director	Katie Von Till
1st Assistant Editor	Danielle Statuto
2nd Assistant Editors	Ashley Crow Syd Reyes
"B" Camera Operators	Grace Thomas Luis Gomez
Key Makeup Artist	Rebecca Hurwitz
Makeup Artist	Kate Frey
Production Sound Mixers	Chris Dowske Phillip E. Le Gault
Casting Associates	Anna Rocio Mendoza Shey Lyn Zanotti

Key Grip	Chris McMillan
Grip	Brendan Lyons
Catering & Craft Services	Barbara Byndon
	James Byndon
Production Assistants	Brendan Lyons
	Nick Correa
	Dollys Correa
	Kai Sampadian
	Taylor Lockwood
	Ashley Crow
	Syd Reyes
	L Hercules
Supervising Sound Editor	Matt Soule
Social Media Director	Kate Arpke

#### Background Performers

Physical Therapist	Jody Stevenson
Nurse	Betsy Reisz

#### Office Workers

J.Bailey Parks	Christina Evans
Jay Tapaoan	Daysha Britt
William Pappas	Lisa Fredrickson
Michael Wajacs	Daniel Plom
Saladin Florence	Victor George
Catherine Le Blanc	Tyrone Tyler
Anthony T. Li	Ronald Nery
Kateland Cunningham	Maris Malejs
Deven Streeton	David Kang
Tish Arana	Ashley Adler

#### Train Passengers

Daniel Olson	Sarah Anarna
Eli Lindstrom	Cassie Hendry
Neil O'Neill	Riz Gross
Dana MacPherson	Jessica Gross
Justin Beau Miller	Jade Dahlstrom
Oscar O. Bejarano	Fel Phillip Abello

Jane Stillwater  
Cynthia Drumbor  
Jan Butler  
Pamm Baker  
Linda Ostrofsky  
Barnaby Falls  
Joseph F. Camilleri

John Leong  
Alysia Lembkey  
Greg Yee  
Analee LaPreziosa  
Sedrick Cabrera  
Monisha Harmon  
Kalaine Lee

#### Night Riders

Spencer Sims  
Matthew Betz  
Jeancarlo Rafael-Lara  
Brandon Elias  
Steven Ramirez

Kevin Escamilla  
Jonathan Mendoza  
Yuri Ochoa  
Napoleon Moore  
Andy Hernandez

#### Bar Patron and Employees

Heather Milam  
Stephanie Wetherbee  
Romee Stephens  
Jennifer Christina DeRosa  
Ayddo Mershan

Mikaela Moody  
Michael Zimmerman  
Claire Liz Phillips  
Emily Coupe  
Fahad Belayn

#### Special Thanks

Brian Bradley, Craig Brown, Ann Caldwell, Bob DeRosa, Bob Ehrenfeld, Mickey Fisher, Emily Furlong, Larry Furlong, Mary Furlong, Sheila Harper, Nora Hipolito, Audrey Kearns, John Koenig, Lauren Koenig, Mark Lasman, Robert Magness, Joel Maxson, Marnie Maxson, Hunter Mayers, Dave Palmer, Queen Bee's Delightful Catering, Radical Auto Deals, Rex Reynold, Ben Rock, Sacramento Region Transit, Angela Sandler, Jocelyn Scharoun, Joey Slamon, Steve Smith, Frank Stasio, Joel Svendsen, Tanya Swerling, Eric Ward, Jeanene Ward, Jeffrey Ward, Kerkoria Ward, Thomas Ward, Mary Wilson, Barrie Wise, Greg Wolf

COUNTRY OF FIRST PUBLICATION: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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