

LEAP 4 YOUR LIFE



ELECTRONIC
PRESS KIT

SYNOPSIS

In the tradition of “Waiting for Guffman” and “Best in Show,” Leap 4 Your Life is a feature film mockumentary about a community dance competition. The story follows a group of colourful teen contestants and their enthusiastic parents as they prepare and compete in the 10th Annual Leap 4 Your Life event. Tensions run high as the studio owner, Maureen, is hungry for the Ultimate Grand Prize and will do whatever it takes to keep her group on top. With twirling, singing, and leaping this is not your average dance competition.



CAST & CREW

April Telek (AMC'S HELL ON WHEELS), Allie Bertram (SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE CANADA), Mackenzie Porter (HORSES OF MCBRIDE), Taylor Hill (WHAT AN IDIOT), Reece Thompson (PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER), Nicole Oliver (SEED), Anne Marie DeLuise (SANCTUARY), Nathalie Therriault (DAVINICI'S INQUEST), Peter Benson (THE KILLING), Dave Collette (LEVEL UP), Julia Benson (SGU STARGATE UNIVERSE), Dalila Bela (DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: DOG DAYS), Vincent Tong (FLASHPOINT), Dan Payne (CABIN IN THE WOODS), John Cassini (CONTINUUM), Christine Chatelain (MOTIVE), Garry Chalk (THE KILLING), Jill Morrison (MEAN GIRLS), Brendan Meyer (MR. YOUNG), Ty Hill (THE TROOP), Alistair Abell (CEDAR COVE), Adam DiMarco (ARCTIC AIR).

DIRECTED BY

Gary Hawes

EDITED BY

Kyle Cassie

WRITTEN BY

Taylor Hill

MUSIC COMPOSED BY

Michael Richard Plowman

STORY BY

Taylor Hill and Barbara Hill

SOUND DESIGN BY

Gregor Phillips

PRODUCED BY

Taylor Hill and Barbara Hill

COLOURIST

Rob Neilson

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY

Jordan Ewan

POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Tyler J. Smart

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY

Russell Frampton

...and many, many more.



LEAP 4 YOUR LIFE

PROD.

ROLL

1A

SCENE

1B

108AB

TAKE

7

DIRECTOR:

GARY HAWES
JORDAN EWAN

CAMERA:

268-2012

DATE:

Filter Day. INT MOS
FPS Nite EXT SYNC

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“Leap 4 Your Life” is exactly the type of film I like to watch. It’s fun, fast, and filled with memorable characters. I have always been a fan of the mockumentary format. I have found it to be an interesting and effective way to tell a story, especially a comedy. It can be an extremely forgiving and yet humbling format for a filmmaker as you must stay true to the documentary style. Conventional coverage is not an option. Shooting handheld with snap zooms and whip pans was a unique way to shoot my first feature film. The script was very tight and funny from the outset, but also allowed for many great moments of improv from our talented ensemble of actors. This made for some tough choices in the editing room, but lots of laughs no doubt. In the end, I believe we have created a funny and unique film that takes a hilarious look inside the crazy world of teen dance competitions.

THE MONEY PET

Writer / Director / Executive Producer
Short / HD / 8min / 2011

Winner of the 2010 Hot Shots Screenwriting Competition (Celluloid Social Club)
Winner of Best Film, Best Screenplay, Audience Choice Award at the 2013 Vancouver Island Short Film Festival
Winner of Best Cinematography and Best Editing at the 2012 Vancouver Short Film Festival
Winner of the Best Emerging Cinematographer Award 2012 – International Cinematographers Guild
Nominated for 1 Leo Award (Best Production Design)
Screened at the Reel 2 Real Film Festival for Youth, Vancouver Short Film Festival, Vancouver Island Short Film Festival, Reel Shorts Film Festival (Grande Prairie), Canadian Film Festival (Port Moody), Ojai Film Festival, Kingston Canadian Film Festival, Irvine International Film Festival
Picked up for Distribution by Out Media
Purchased by Air Canada for inflight screenings
Screened at the Vancouver Art Gallery

CHARLIE DA CLOWN SHOW

Producer / Director
TV Pilot / HD / 22min / 2010

Premiered on funnyordie.com to a 96% funny rating
Over 8,000 views

SWAP

Writer / Director / Producer
Short / 35mm / 13min / 2007

Nominated for 5 Leo Awards (Best Actress, Best Screenplay, Best Production Design, Best Editing, Best Score)
Winner of Best Canadian Short Film at the 2008 Okanagan Film Festival
Produced in association with a Bravo!FACT Grant
Picked up for Distribution by Outat Media
Purchased by Movieola-The Short Film Channel
Purchased by Air Canada for inflight screenings
Screened at the Whistler Film Festival, Seattle Independent Film Festival, Victoria Film & Video Festival, Canadian Film Festival (Port Moody)
Over 100, 000 views on YouTube

THE LITTLE THINGS

Writer / Director / Producer
Short / 35mm / 2min / 005

Nominated for 1 Leo Award (Best Sound Editing)
Picked up for Distribution by New York-based Angelika Films
Purchased and Packaged into a Celebrity Short Film DVD released in 2007 called "Stories USA" by America Film & Video
Screened at the Vancouver Film Festival, Victoria Film & Video Festival, LA Shorts Festival, Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival,

ROADKILL

Writer / Director / Producer
Short / DV / 10min / 2004

Awarded Zed People's Choice Award for Favourite Film and Best Director at the 2004 ReelFast 48 Hour Film Contest
Awarded Best Comedy at the Sea to Sky Film Festival 2004
Nominated for 1 Leo Award (Best Musical Score)
Purchased by intake.ca for web distribution

PITS

Writer / Director / Producer
Short / 35mm / 8min / 2003

Nominated for 3 Leo Awards (Best Production Design, Best Score, Best Sound)
Winner of the Golden Sheaf for Best Male Performance (Peter Benson) at the 2004 Yorkton Short Film Festival
Nominated for a Golden Sheaf for Best Comedy (Winner-Corner Gas) at 2004 Yorkton Short Film Festival

Selected as a Hollywood Discovery Award Finalist at the 2003 Hollywood Film Festival
Selected for the 2004 Volkswagen Canadian Short Film Showcase by the Toronto International Film Festival Group
Picked up for Distribution by New York-based Angelika Films
Purchased by Air Canada, Atomfilms.com, Intake.ca, and the Comedy Network

TAYLOR HILL

Writer / Producer / Actor

Growing up as an actor and competitive dancer, Taylor was never shy in front of an audience. Having been a fan of Christopher Guest and fascinated with the cultural phenomena of reality television, Taylor always wanted to explore the world of dance competitions in a mockumentary format. Tired of waiting around for someone else to jump start her acting career, Taylor and her Mom started brainstorming characters. Having grown up in the dance world, 'Leap 4 Your Life' seemed to write itself.

Taylor graduated top of her class from Simon Fraser University Degree with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Minor in Fine and Performing Arts. Incorporating both her love of the arts and knowledge of psychology, Taylor utilizes her experiences in her writing and is interested in all forms of storytelling.

In addition to writing and producing, Taylor has also been a successful actor since the age of 7 and is a graduate of Lyric School of Acting. Some of her film and television accomplishments include *The Exorcism of Emily Rose* and *Candyland*. She is most widely known for the recurring character on CTV's *Alice I Think* and Nickelodeon's *The Troop*. You can see her in the upcoming comedy feature *What An Idiot* produced by Peter Benson and Julia Benson.

BARBARA HILL

Story / Producer

Exposed to both the acting and dance world because of her daughter, Barbara was privy to all sorts of hilarious situations which influenced the world of 'Leap 4 Your Life'. Having been her daughter's biggest supporter, she always encouraged Taylor to do her own work and take agency over her career. When Taylor asked her if she would like to 'make a movie', Barbara did not hesitate. Having studied Sciences and Psychology at the University of British Columbia and using her background in business management, Barbara leaped into producing 'Leap 4 Your Life'.

Leap 4 Your Life will be Taylor's first feature film which she wrote / produced / and stars in, and Barbara's first feature film.





Newcomer Taylor Hill emerges as 'real It Girl'

WRITTEN BY MARSHA LEDERMAN



STRESSED OVER WRITING ESSAYS IN HER final year of university, sick with bronchitis and discouraged as the acting gigs – even auditions – were drying up, Taylor Hill had had it. That's it, the 22-year-old told her mom. She was quitting acting. Maybe she would go to law school. Her mother, Barbara Hill, was having none of it. Mrs. Hill, who runs her husband's dental practice, reminded her daughter about that dance competition mockumentary she had been talking about writing.

Within half an hour, they had written an outline.

Not quite two years later, *Leap 4 Your Life* had its world premiere at this year's Vancouver International Film Festival, where it won the Must See BC campaign as the most anticipated B.C. film of the festival. Sure, this is essentially a social media popularity contest, but after screening the film and the credits (story by, screenplay by, produced by, and

starring Taylor Hill), I was left with one big question: Who is Taylor Hill and where did she come from?

The North Vancouver native started acting at age 7, doing commercial work, and landed her first TV role at 12 in *The New Beachcombers*. More roles followed: *The Exorcism of Emily Rose*, a spot on the TV series *Alice, I Think*. She was also a competitive dancer. But by the time she left high school, the calls from casting agents were dwindling.

And then came that very bad day in November, 2011.

"The moment that my mum was like, 'Stop writing for someone else and be creative and do it yourself,' something clicked," Ms. Hill said in an interview at VIFF this week with her mother and the film's director. "And I'm like, 'I don't want to wait for someone to tell me when I can do this. I can just do it myself.' And it was really liberating, especially in Vancouver [where] you only play the wayward teen or the hot, slutty girl."

After whipping off the outline with her mother, Ms. Hill started writing the script. She began sending the script to actor friends, and to friends of friends, such as April Telek (*Hell on Wheels*) – a fellow North Vancouverite.

"She called me [and] she's like, 'Who the hell do you think you are? I love it,'" Ms. Hill recalls.

Ms. Telek signed on to play the in-your-face coach of a teenage team heading into a community dance competition: the headed-for-stardom Hilary (former So You Think You Can Dance Canada contestant Allie Bertram); the in-her-shadow nemesis Brooke (country singer MacKenzie Porter); the token guy, Matt (Reece Thompson, who flew up from Los Angeles to star in his old friend's film), and the awkward, braces-wearing Molly – the role Ms. Hill chose for herself.

"My mom was like, 'Can't you be, like, a little pretty in the movie?' And I'm, like, no, the dorkier the better, because I just love underdog stories."

Ms. Hill sent the script to director Gary Hawes, who has worked as a second assistant director on big features such as Elysium and Rise of the Planet of the Apes. They went to camera a month later.

"People are told 23-year-olds don't go and make feature films the first time out," Mr. Hawes said, before addressing Ms. Hill. "Maybe people told you that, but you didn't listen and you just went and did it."

The film was financed equally by Ms. Hill and her mother, both credited as producers and who – unlike the dysfunctional mother-daughter relationships portrayed in the film – get along fantastically. Taylor Hill's portion came from her earnings as a child actor.

"It was like, get a car and move out, or make a movie. So I made a movie," says Ms. Hill, who still lives at home. "I know it's super naïve, but it felt really right to do."

The film was shot on a shoestring budget in March and July, 2012. The crew volunteered their services, cast members returned their pay (some also contributed to the film's Indiegogo campaign), North Van neighbours offered their homes as shooting locations, craft service was provided by Taylor Hill's father, Steven, (and his Costco card). Dr. Hill also made Molly's braces. The background performers were the cast's friends and family.

The result is a fun, escapist romp. It's not perfect, but when you realize that the brain behind it was 22 when she wrote it, 23 when she shot it, and now 24, well, wow.

"To me, VIFF has really been the emergence of Taylor Hill," Mr. Hawes says. "She's a real It Girl. I like to call her the young Canadian version of Tina Fey or even Lena Dunham. Being such a triple threat, she really is." Then he turns to his producer/screenwriter/star. "I'm so glad ... you were having that tough year, because ... you have much more talent than just being a great actor."

THE GLOBE AND MAIL*

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Leap 4 Your Life bounces onto the screen

WRITTEN BY ADRIAN MACK



THAT BIG, PURPLE CONTUSION ON CHRISTINE Chatelain's face in *Leap 4 Your Life?* It ain't make-up. The actor took a metal lighting stand right in the kisser during the shooting of the buoyant, Vancouver-lensed comedy, which screens tonight (September 30) and October 10 at VIFF.

"Even when it went wrong, it went right," director Gary Hawes told the Straight, explaining that he and his creative partners simply improvised an onscreen reason for the impossible-to-conceal injury. In the process, they came up with one of the biggest laughs in the picture.

According to the film's producer and screenwriter, Vancouverite Taylor Hill, this was all part of the "tunnel of good energy" that floated the project from its conception two years ago. Already an industry vet at 22-years-old, Hill was finishing up her degree when mom and co-producer

Barbara urged her to write the script she'd been talking about for years.

Set in the world of competitive dance, the Christopher Guest-style mockumentary is premiering at VIFF a mere 24 months later, featuring an impressive cast of locals that includes April Telek, John Cassini, Allie Bertram, and Peter Benson, along with Hill herself as an awkwardly hilarious try-hard in braces called Molly. It's a remarkable achievement.

"I think everyone's a little in shock at Taylor's talent," said first-time director Hawes. "I like to call her a young, Canadian version of Tina Fey. I think everyone just went, 'Wow, she's really doing this?'" Hill, meanwhile, puts her success down to something a little more concrete. "I just didn't take no for an answer from anyone, basically," she said.

THE GEORGIA
straight
VANCOUVER'S NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

VANCOUVER — The Georgia Straight

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Review: Leap 4 Your Life

WRITTEN BY MARSHA LEDERMAN

★★★☆

A mockumentary which owes much to Christopher Guest, *Leap 4 Your Life* follows a dysfunctional teenage dance team to the big annual community dance competition. Hilary (Allie Bertram) is the can-do-no-wrong team star; Brooke (Mackenzie Porter) is her talented and much nicer perpetual runner-up; Molly (Taylor Hill), who also wrote the screenplay and is a producer on the film) is the team's weak link; Matt (Reece Thompson) is the token guy, with big troubles at home; and Maureen (April Telek) is the take-no-prisoners coach. While some of the situations and dialogue are eye-rollingly cliché ("not only is she a talented dancer but she'll also make a wonderful trophy wife one day"), this Vancouver-shot feature is great fun with some solid performances (Ms. Porter is particularly strong, as is Peter Benson as Matt's too-nice dad) and hilarious songs that you'd be best not to sing on your way out of the theatre. Beyond some solid escapism, this project announces Taylor Hill as a talent to watch.

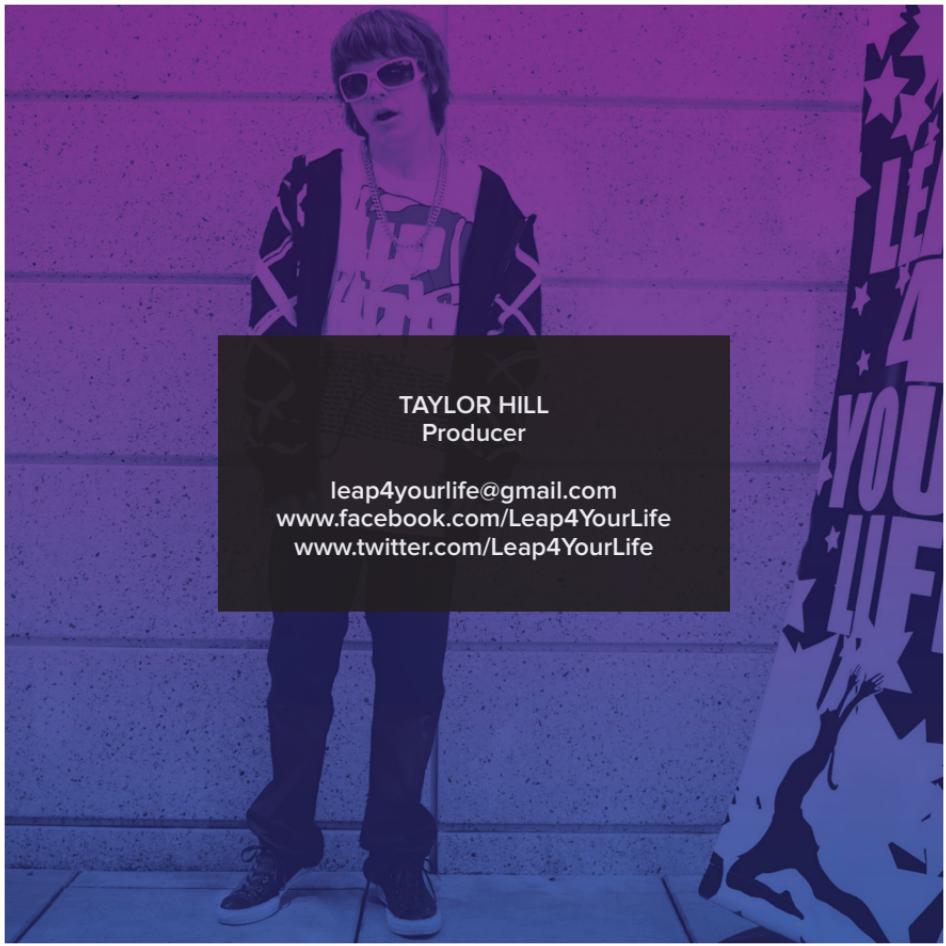
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