



*Mothers
Milk*



about the film

An unemployed bike messenger, Lucas Blackwell has an ingenious idea to support his girlfriend and newborn son: Marketing locally harvested breastmilk to gourmet foodies.

After yet another sleep-deprived night, exhaustion, curiosity and thirst get the better of Lucas. He sneaks a sip of his baby's leftover breast milk and !BAM! is shocked to discover one of the most delicious (and nostalgic) drinks imaginable.

AN IRREVERENT DIY MOVIE

ABOUT

AN IRREVERENT DIY BUSINESS



Lucas inadvertently slips some of the milk to a gourmand marketing guru named Phil, who loses his mind when he tastes it. Phil wants more milk. Bad. And he's confident that his circle of upscale foodies will want it too -- and drop coin to get it.

So what does a slacker with no marketable skills other than dodging traffic at high speeds, no contacts other than his lactating girlfriend and a bunch of flaky, ne'er-do-well pals do?

What else? Launch a start-up selling the next big thing. It's natural, it's 100% organic, and it takes advantage of the 'Eat Local' movement in a whole new way.

The only hitch? The grand solution soon becomes the grand problem as Lucas struggles to juggle family, foodies, and love.

An irreverent DIY movie about the pursuit of an irreverent DIY business.

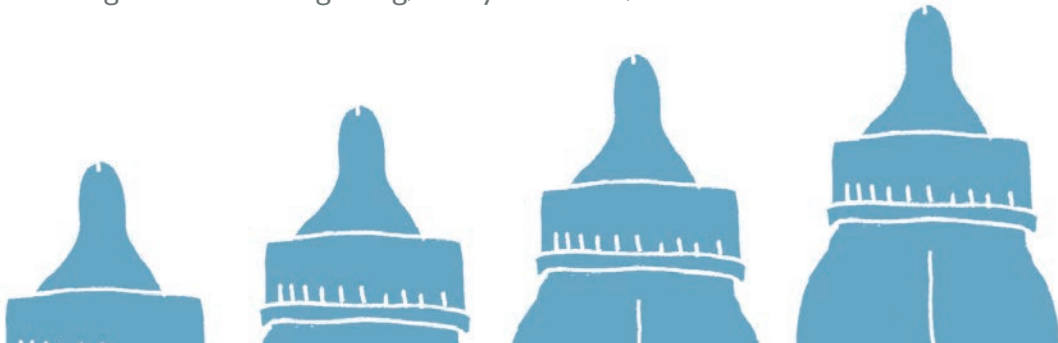
This is **MOTHERS MILK**.

director's statement

My time breastfeeding was a short affair. After a couple months, my mother's concern over my weight loss and her sore body led to me a bottle-fed infancy. While the idea of being raised exclusively on natural breast milk sounds best, I can't judge. My mom did the best she could, and I am grateful.

In a culture full of fleeting trends, a society full of expectations, an unmarried young couple with a baby tries their best to make it work. But this simple goal is not easily achieved as friends, family and finances complicate their journey. The film is set at the center of this serious situation, taking special care to reveal the awkward, absurd and hilarious moments along the way. Occupying this space are characters with deep, genuine opinions, yet layered with pretentious speculation. They might border on the extreme, yet always in the likeness of ourselves.

What's the best way to live our lives? Who are we to judge the choices of others? There's no shortage of opportunities to explore these complex, layered questions. So let's go back to the beginning, if only for a taste, in *MOTHERS MILK*.



Writer's Statement

I'm a sleepwalker. Always have been. Used to walk right out the front door, down the block. Scared the crap out of my mom.

So when my wife and I had our first kid and sleep deprivation became a way of life, it's not that hard to imagine how one night at 3AM, I went from warming a bottle of milk and drinking some water, to drinking a bottle and warming some water.

It wasn't that different than my rice milk, really. Insanely rich -- too sweet to drink straight. But it was super tasty. I started trying it with everything. Cereal, coffee. Best thing ever? White Russians. Seriously.

This became a running joke around the Morgan household. No, I didn't start a breast milk delivery service for gourmet foodies. But, like our protagonist, I did try a lot of crazy things to keep my wife and kids afloat in 'financially challenged' times. And that's what this story is really about.



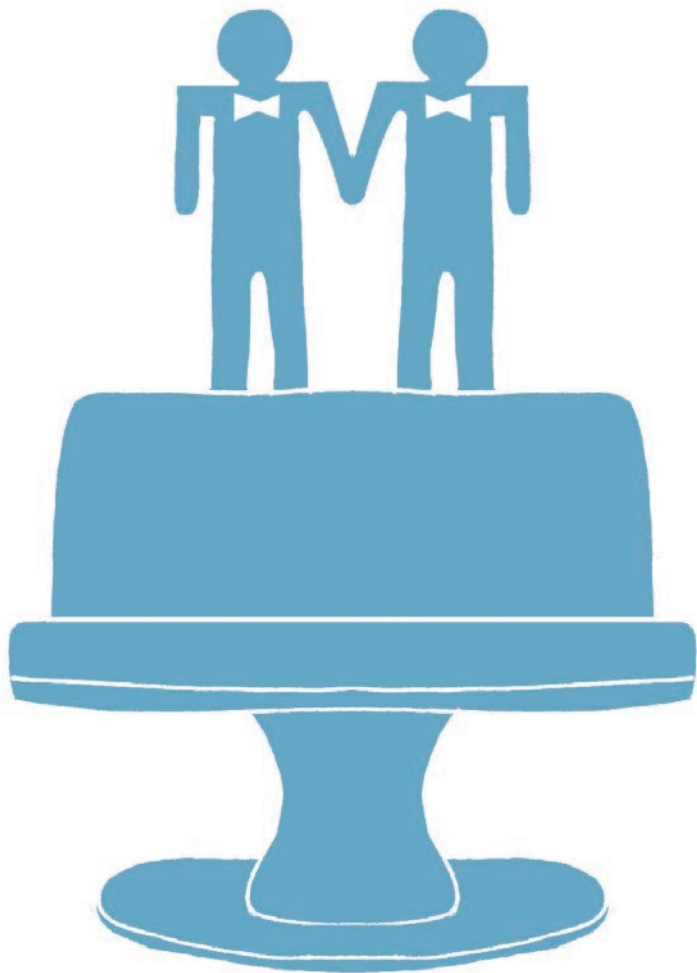
I came of age with a crew of slackers -- people who knew they'd never win the rat race and refused to take themselves (or anything else) too seriously. So, one rare-but-quiet night, White Russian in hand, I was daydreaming and a thought popped in my head: What if one of my slacker homies was in my shoes? Had a family to support instead of flying solo? What would he do?

And thus, MOTHERS MILK was born.

A funny look at a serious situation. What will we do for family? How do we learn to be a team? What do we give up in order to gain? How do we become our best selves...

Hope you enjoy the ride.





TODD

This thing has got potential, Lucas.
Huge potential.

PHIL

Aside from the taste --

TODD

-- which is truly cosmic in every sense
of the word --

PHIL

-- we can make a strong argument, from both a
health and a marketing perspective, that human
milk is just as good for you --

TODD

-- if not better --

PHIL

-- than anything on the market.



Angerer (with Mason and Arabella at their New York home) says his use of Mason's breast milk when cooking is "technical to me. I'm not going to be grossed out by it."



Mason says breast milk (seen in the couple's freezer) "has a sweet taste."

WOULD YOU EAT BREAST MILK CHEESE?

Manhattan chef Daniel Angerer tries a surprising ingredient at home—and stirs up controversy

Daniel Angerer likes to get creative when he cooks. In 2008 he used Pop Rocks to beat Bobby Flay on *Iron Chef America* (he seasoned his shrimp carpaccio with the kiddie candy), and at his downtown Manhattan brasserie Klee, he makes his mac and cheese with spaetzle. But his most daring ingredient? Breast milk, taken from his fiancée, Lori Mason, the mother of his 11-week-old daughter, Arabella, and used to make cheese. "Lori is fortunate to have a lot

of milk, but there was no space in the freezer!" he says. "I was curious."

So were readers of his blog. On Feb. 6 Angerer posted a recipe for breast milk cheese and eventually got 70,000 hits in a week (up from only 800). While reaction has included outrage (one local columnist denounced Angerer for going "too far"), several visitors copied to their own culinary adventures with breast milk, saying they had used it to make pancakes and key lime pie.

Meanwhile, at Klee, "the phone has

been ringing off the hook," says Angerer, 37, with people wanting to try breast milk cheese. But while the chef has allowed about a dozen private citizens to sample the goods outside the restaurant, he insists he has no plans to serve it there. (Not that he'd be allowed to: A New York City Health Department spokeswoman says, "Breast milk is not intended for adults or for wide public consumption.") Instead the couple plan to donate the rest of Mason's extra milk to a milk bank in North Carolina and focus on opening a second restaurant. Says Angerer: "I'm on to spring vegetables!"

By Liza Hamer

Photograph by MARK PETERSON

March 29, 2010 PEOPLE

Weird?
Sure
 Gross?
Maybe
 Hilarious?
Definitely

Truth is stranger than fiction.

From *People Magazine* to *The New York Times* to the interwebs, breast milk is on people's minds.

MOTHERS MILK is a compelling human story about a young, working-class couple trying to raise a child in a difficult economy.

It's not "about" breast milk. (It's the relationship, stupid.)

But we fully intend to exploit the milk hook to drive marketing and distribution efforts.



John says:

November 10, 2011 at 6:01 am

I am writing about ****Natures Sleep Aid**** a wonderful woman from Michigan – we had several emails and I decided to buy from her because I felt comfortable with her – I purchased 25-4 oz bags and the package arrived via 2 day FedEx yesterday, 11-9-11 and she followed all packing directions and all contents were intact – Her milk is rich and creamy with a great smooth taste – I will be buying from her again

Thanks

jeffholb says:

November 14, 2011 at 7:59 pm

I found this site searching for breast milk to buy for human consumption. To some it might seem odd but, it's been the best thing for my health and if I could afford it I would stop drinking dairy milk all together. If stored, sold, shipped and purchased correctly you should have no problems. The biggest thing as with anything in life is to do your homework. Do the research. I've purchased from four mothers on this site and they have all provided paperwork where their milk was tested to be drug and disease free. The benefit to them and their family is that they get an extra 2-400 dollars extra income a month. I've had milk shipped overnight and recently just drove and picked up my last purchase locally. I now have a local supplier and I've met her and her husband and the transaction is strictly business. The money I provide to them helps because they are on a tight budget. I've paid as high as 1.75 an ounce but when I buy in bulk I can usually pay around 1.40 an ounce. If I buy 300 ounces that's an extra \$420 a month. The site has been great in finding reputable people to buy from. For the skeptics, yes there are those people that should not be allowed to buy or sell breast milk but, the majority of those looking to buy and or sell are reputable people. Just remember to do your homework. Don't take risk and most of all enjoy what mother nature has provided in one of the greatest liquids on the planet whether it be



LUCAS

But we always said you'd stay home with Jamie until he's in school.

SARA

It was a fantasy, Luke. Nobody stays home with the kids anymore. Not people like us, anyway.

LUCAS

Who cares what everybody else does?

SARA

We're using credit cards to pay our credit card bills!

LUCAS

How's your grandpa's heart?
(off Sara's look)
You're still in his will right?

Sara stares at Lucas in disbelief.

DIRECTOR *Zach Voss*

Zach Voss has won numerous awards and accolades for his short films. His most recent film, MANDRAKE ESTATE, premiered at the Sun Valley Film Festival in 2013. After winning the Gold Rockies Award for his 2013 ROAD TO TREEFORT series, Zach continued to expand his skill set by making his first foray into stop-motion animation. His 2014 SKYSHIP series, which captures the quirky spirit of the enormously popular

Treefort Music Festival, reflects Zach's whimsical directorial style.

Zach is an avid member of the Boise bicycle community. Every August, Zach steps out from behind the camera and into the spotlight when New Belgium's widely attended Tour de Fat rolls into town. One of the crowning events of the festival is the Slow Ride contest, where the objective is to be the last person across the finish line. Keeping a bike

barely moving without falling requires some very skilled bike riding, a great deal of perseverance, and a cool head under pressure. It's no small feat to win once, but Zach is the only rider in the country to have won this event three times.

The qualities that have led Zach to film accolades (and three Slow Ride titles) are the same ones that make him a great visionary – he brings grit, talent, and a brilliant dash of personality to his work. And he's got an entire community ready to follow him. Whether that journey is on a bike or through the lens of his camera, it'll be one hell of a ride.



WRITER/PRODUCER *Benjamin Morgan*

Benjamin Morgan was born into a commune in the heyday of the Haight-Ashbury. After witnessing a heroin overdose, three divorces, and a melee with the Hells Angels, his mother threw him in a U-Haul and moved to Hollywood to pursue a life of fame and glamour. Mom's acting career was short-lived and she ended up in casting. Benjamin scored some bit parts in commercials, TV shows, and features. But before long, his mom's infatuation with white powder sent her to rehab and him back to San Francisco to live with his father.

Benjamin dove headlong into graffiti and break-dancing. His crew, Fantastic Fource, held down the Bay Area from 1984-86. Following an arrest for graffiti, his father (who had replaced sex, drugs, and rock & roll with a PhD in Engineering from Cal Berkeley) placed him in an academic school and got him on college track. Benjamin went on to major in Psychology and work with at-risk kids in juvenile hall and residential treatment programs.

Morgan's first feature film, QUALITY OF LIFE, premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival where it won a prestigious Jury Award. The film played festivals around the world, winning more awards along the way. It was released theatrically in New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other major markets, and received home video distribution via Universal Studios Home Entertainment. It is currently available on Netflix and Showtime. Morgan teaches screenwriting at Eastern Oregon University, and jointly programs two burgeoning film festivals, Eastern Oregon Film Festival and Treefort Film Fest.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER *Peggy Rajski*



Peggy Rajski is an Oscar winning filmmaker whose films have garnered over 40 major award nominations including wins at the Independent Spirit Awards and Academy Awards. Peggy's producing credits include: Jodie Foster's directing debut *LITTLE MAN TATE*; *HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS* starring Robert Downey Jr.; *TOWELHEAD* written and directed by Oscar winner Alan Ball; Stephen Frears' *THE GRIFTERS* starring Annette Bening, Anjelica Huston and John Cusack; and several films with writer-director John Sayles including *MATEWAN* and *EIGHT MEN OUT*.

Peggy received an Oscar for directing *TREVOR*, which was the launching pad for The Trevor Project, a pioneering nonprofit organization she founded whose humanitarian work has a 16-year record of life-saving success.

A member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Science, Rajski twice served on the Academy's Best Foreign Film Shortlist Committee. She's also been a judge for over a decade for the Nicholls Fellowships, the Academy's premiere industry competition for emerging screenwriting talent. She served on the board of the Independent Feature Project for 3 terms and has received numerous awards for her professional work including New York Women In Film and Television's Muse Award for outstanding vision and achievement in the entertainment industry.

A Wisconsin native (and dairy expert), Peggy resides in New York City and is the Producing Area Head at NYU's Graduate Film Program.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER *John Michael Schert*

John Michael is an artist, producer and social entrepreneur who believes fervently in the utility of the creative process. Making his home in Boise, but working in cities across the U.S., he champions the roles of creatives and creative endeavors in a multitude of ways.

Schert began his career as a dancer with American Ballet Theatre and Alonzo King LINES Ballet. In 2004 he co-founded Trey McIntyre Project (TMP) serving as the company's Executive Director and a dancer for nine years. During this time, he gained a unique insight into the process and product of art-making. In 2013, he was appointed the first Visiting Artist and Social Entrepreneur at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.



During his tenure at TMP, John Michael led the company in building a national support base with Board Members and funders from more than 40 states and helped establish TMP as the first ever City of Boise Economic Development Cultural Ambassador. Under his leadership, TMP's groundbreaking engagement and creative placemaking methods were recognized and awarded by highly-publicized grants such as ArtPlace. The company was profiled in *The New York Times*, by *PBS NewsHour*, and was named one of "5 Nonprofit Innovators to Watch in 2013" by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

John Michael now ponders how creatives can gain greater social relevance and how a film like *MOTHERS MILK* can serve as a paragon for the Boise community.

**MUSIC SUPERVISOR/
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER** *Eric Gilbert*

The keyboardist/vocalist of one of the more celebrated touring bands to come out of Idaho since Built to Spill, Eric Gilbert is also talent manager and co-founder of Duck Club Presents and its spawn, Treefort Music Fest. Gilbert's passion and relentless energy has made an indelible impact on the Boise music scene.

Over the past several years, Gilbert's dynamic and energetic indie rock trio Finn Riggins has toured the country and developed a strong, loyal following. His music was featured on television ads in a national GoPro commercial, and a national NBA commercial featuring the Chicago Bulls. Since the release of their debut album on Portland's beloved mom-and-pop label Tender Loving Empire, they averaged close to 200 shows a year in 43 states from 2007-2011. Gilbert played three different support tours with fellow Idahoans Built To Spill while supporting his sophomore album Vs Wilderness. Since 2011, the band has cut back on their tour schedule and Gilbert has directed more of his energy to the developing music scene in Boise (and helping raise his newborn daughter). During that time, he helped develop Treefort Music Fest.



Gilbert's vision for MOTHERS MILK is to elevate the local filmmaking community, much like Treefort has for the music scene. Gilbert will help shepherd the project from start to finish. He will also collaborate with Zach Voss to create an epic cutting edge soundtrack.

CO-PRODUCER *Kev Robertson*

Kev Robertson grew up in Aberdeen in the frozen North of Scotland. He began his career as a commercial photographer before joining the BBC in London as a documentary cameraman.

Kev was the DP and a key collaborator on QUALITY OF LIFE, where he and producer, Benjamin Morgan pioneered the "Graffiti Model" for indie filmmaking. Kev went on to shoot FLIGHT 93, a critically acclaimed film that received an Emmy nomination and an audience of over 25 million people.



His next film, the controversial BLACK AUGUST, a gripping biopic about Black Panther George Jackson, was released internationally by Warner Brothers. This was followed by BUTTERFLY DREAMING, winner of the Best Thriller Award at the Santa Monica International Film Festival.

His most recent feature, the coming of age surf film BEAUTIFUL WAVE, starring Aimee Teegarden (FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS) and Lance Henriksen (ALIEN), was distributed by Anchor Bay Entertainment.

Why Boise?

We love Boise!

But we love Cancun too, so why not shoot there?

Aside from the core team's connection to the area, Boise provides a fertile ground for MOTHERS MILK. It's a small burgeoning city with strong locavore, creative and cycling communities. From a production standpoint, Boise is a much easier place to shoot than NYC, LA or SF -- no permit fees, significant parking issues or competition for locations.



“Boise is a destination to watch in the independent film world. I can’t imagine this vibrant arts community staying a secret for long.” – Mark Lukenbill, Hammer to Nail (2014)

It is our hope that MOTHERS MILK can serve as a representation of Boise in 2014, depicting the culture and entrepreneurial spirit of this community in perpetuity. No other feature film has represented Boise in this manner. We are honored to assume this responsibility.

Production Methodology



Zach Voss will work with a slim, highly skilled and experienced crew. This will allow them to work quickly and cheaply, and focus on performances. Zach will rehearse with principal cast a week before production to shape tone and performances. We will shoot digital (multi-cam when appropriate) and cut an assembly edit during production, which will allow us to hit the post-production ground running as soon as we wrap.

MOTHERS MILK is a story about a guy who starts a DIY business out of his living room. The production methodology will reflect this ethos.

Return on Investment

Many indie film proposals offer lists of comparables to demonstrate the viability of film investment. However, most of these claims don't pass the straight face test. Investing in independent film is a very speculative endeavor. Yes, PARANORMAL ACTIVITY happens. MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING happens. NAPOLEON DYNAMITE happens (in Idaho, no less). But these films are aberrations. Numerous moderately profitable independent films are released every year. And we are optimistic that MOTHERS MILK will be one of them. But we are wise enough not to plan on best case scenarios.

Our goal is to:

- **MAKE A GREAT MOVIE**
- **KEEP PRODUCTION COSTS LOW**
- **CONNECT DIRECTLY WITH OUR AUDIENCE**
- **INVEST IN THE BOISE FILMMAKING COMMUNITY**
- **ENGAGE CUTTING EDGE DIVERSIFIED DISTRIBUTION METHODS TO MAXIMIZE ROI**

Distribution Strategy

By applying to prominent film festivals, we will position the film to secure a distribution deal from a distributor. However, we are not betting the farm on this outcome. The niche and micro-budget nature of the film makes MOTHERS MILK a prime candidate for a hybrid distribution strategy. Barring the best case scenario (i.e. sizeable advance from a distributor), we will execute a customized strategy that avoids cross-collateralization and allows each revenue stream to be well exploited. Even with a distribution deal, we can retain all direct sales rights -- the right to screen the film theatrically, and to sell DVDs and downloads from our website. This will yield much higher profit margins and faster returns.





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