

Table at Luigi's



A Magical Dining Experience

Electronic Press Kit

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“Table at Luigi’s” The Concept

Simply put, in 2009-2010, students and faculty from the University of Central Arkansas’ Departments of Digital Filmmaking, Theatre, and Music made a feature film. This is not at all common in academia, where short films are not just the norm but the rule.

Led by assistant professor of Digital Filmmaking Joe Dull, the film involved over 100 students (including the UCA orchestra) and ten faculty members, along with approximately 50 actors and extras.

The film was made possible by incredible support from the local community of Conway, Arkansas, who donated everything from shooting locations to meals to paint for the sets. The \$4,000 budget was only overshoot when the producers added a wrap party at the end of shooting.

Film programs include plenty of opportunities for students to work on short films with other students, but a feature film (shooting for 26 days) is an entirely different experience. Most student films shoot for a single weekend, or possibly a week, and students only get a chance to wet their feet and barely get comfortable in their positions before the shoot is finished. With a feature film, the students have to truly learn their craft, and get the opportunity to work side-by-side with their professors while doing so.

“Table at Luigi’s” is the first feature film for UCA, and another is planned for 2012, with a new film following every three years.

“Table at Luigi’s” The Summaries

“Table at Luigi’s” 100 word synopsis

“Table at Luigi’s” is a romantic comedy produced by the Feature Filmmaking class at the University of Central Arkansas.

Full of food, fantasy, and romance, “Table at Luigi’s” is a modern-day fairy tale about “Chef,” who creates living dreams through his cooking. Chef has made a small, safe world for his customers inside his restaurant “Luigi’s,” until he falls for Emily, and Chef begins to realize that the dreams he’s been creating have locked him in his own dream world. Can Chef leave the world he’s created? Does he even want to?

“Table at Luigi’s” 50 word synopsis

Full of food, fantasy, and romance, “Table at Luigi’s” is a fairy tale about David, a chef who can cook living dreams. But his dream world breaks apart when he falls in love with Emily, who isn’t affected by his magic.

“Table at Luigi’s” 150 word synopsis

Full of food, fantasy, and romance, “Table at Luigi’s” is a romantic comedy about a Chef (Frank Romeo) who can literally cook up people’s dreams for them. It’s a modern-day fairy tale – “Chef” has been creating dreams and wishes for people his whole life, until he falls in love with Emily (Rebecca Jones), who isn’t affected by his food. This quickly becomes a problem for Chef and everyone around him.

Chef and Stephen (Chris Fritzges) have always run Luigi’s like a well-oiled machine. They cook, they argue, then they cook and they argue. Friends since childhood, they’d have outgrown each other a long time ago, except that they haven’t.

Filmed entirely in Conway, Arkansas, by the Feature Filmmaking class at the University of Central Arkansas, this \$4,000 feature film will make you laugh and cry and wonder what happened to make you grow up.

“Table at Luigi’s” The Numbers

98 page script with 91 scenes & 10 locations, each requiring its own costumes, props, staging (actors and cameras), lighting setups & looks.

Average of 5 shots per scene, 3 takes of each shot, around 1,300-1,400 shots viewed and compiled by 2 editors.

16 hours of footage edited into a 90 minute film, filling 900 GB of hard drive space.

15 Actors (each with their own work schedule), 34 extras who donated time.

29 Production crew members (23 of them UCA students) & 65 Post-production students.

4 months of preproduction to prepare locations, casting, budgeting, scheduling, shot lists, recruiting crew, set design & wardrobe design.

2 weeks of rehearsal –day and evening.

2 weeks set construction to build the Luigi’s dining room plus many days on kitchen and other locations.

11 page schedule (the short form version) covering 24 shooting days & additional set up days in July made possible by a 9-10 hour average on set work day, not counting meetings, paperwork, set up, set dressing & cleanup.

25 meals, 23 donated by 12 local restaurants. 14 other local donors gave locations, materials, or time.

"Table at Luigi's"
The Director's Statement
By Joe Dull

"Table at Luigi's" has been a long time coming for me. Originally written seven years ago in a cabin on top of a mountain while I had the flu, it's grown into a story about staying too long at the fair. While writing and directing this film, I've moved across the country twice, gotten married, had my first child (born two weeks after the film was completed), and have generally learned the true meaning of the film's theme of moving on to the next thing. What started as a questioning of my own lack of forward motion in life has become a testament to what forward momentum can bring. Who knew you had to move from Southern California to Arkansas to make a feature film?

Luigi's is the story of Chef and Stephen, who have been running their restaurant together for too long, neither of them able to move on and grow up. What started as a fun way to bring some joy to their lives and others has become a home to people who have stagnated, returning to Luigi's night after night. Sometimes, it just takes a very special person to show you what you're doing wrong, and that's what happens when Emily steps into the kitchen.

The film was made at the University of Central Arkansas to give our students the chance to work on a feature. Film programs include plenty of opportunities for students to work on short films with other students, but a feature film (shooting for 26 days) is an entirely different experience. Most student films shoot for a single weekend, or possibly a week, and students only get a chance to wet their feet and barely get comfortable in their positions before the shoot is finished. With a feature film, the students have to truly learn their craft, and get the opportunity to work side-by-side with their professors while doing so.

"Table at Luigi's" is the first feature film for me and for UCA, and I'm planning another for 2012, with a new film following every three years. The newborns are planned a little less frequently.

“Table at Luigi’s”
The People

Cast:

DAVID “CHEF”
EMILY

Frank Romeo
Rebecca Jones

STEVEN
MELANIE
BEN
TERI

Chris Fritzges
F.E. Mosby
Jordy D. Neill
Rachael Small

UCA FACULTY
UCA ALUMNI
UCA STUDENT
UCA STUDENT

JEREMY
BRENDA
DONALD
AGNES

Len Schlientz
Alanna Newton
Bob May
Dahren White

UCA FACULTY
UCA ALUMNI

JONI
ZACK
CASS
LISA

Rachel Favori
James A. Harris
Michael Dennis
Tammy Kammrath

UCA ALUMNI

Crew:

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Joe Dull
Katiina Dull

UCA FACULTY

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
GAFFER
KEY GRIP
CAMERA OPERATOR
1st ASST CAMERA
2nd ASST CAMERA

Michael Gunter
Avery Moorehead
Bryan Allen
Lyle Arnett, Jr.
Emily Lane
Matt Bates
Danny Bradfield

UCA FACULTY
UCA STUDENT
UCA GRADUATE STUDENT
UCA STUDENT
UCA GRADUATE STUDENT
UCA STUDENT
UCA STUDENT

EDITORS

Jonathan Childs
Jordan Anderson

UCA GRADUATE STUDENT
UCA STUDENT

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| PRODUCER | Lesley Allen | UCA GRADUATE STUDENT |
| PRODUCTION MANAGER | Steve Helms | UCA STUDENT |
| ASST PRODUCER | Scott Fagaly | UCA STUDENT |
| 1st ASSISTANT DIRECTORS | Lesley Allen Sanders Lewis | UCA GRADUATE STUDENT UCA STUDENT |
| SET DESIGNER | Scott Meador | UCA FACULTY |
| SET DRESSER | Justin K. Bauer | UCA GRADUATE STUDENT |
| ASST SET DRESSER | Kerry Loveless | UCA STUDENT |
| COSTUME DESIGNER | Shauna Meador | UCA FACULTY |
| ASST COSTUME DESIGNER | Eriko Terao | UCA STUDENT |
| SCRIPT SUPERVISOR | Dominique D'Autuelli | UCA STUDENT |
| TECHNICAL CONSULTANT | Robert L. Hall, CEC | UCA EXECUTIVE CHEF |
| COMPOSER | Paul Dickinson | UCA FACULTY |
| COLORIST | Steve Nolan | UCA GRADUATE STUDENT |
| PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER | Jason Miller | UCA STUDENT |
| BOOM OPERATORS | Matt Bates Danny Bradfield | UCA STUDENT UCA STUDENT |
| SOUND DESIGNER | Collin Buchanan | UCA GRADUATE STUDENT |
| SOUND EFFECT SPOTTERS | Ben Aaron Kim Risi Reed Choinski | UCA STUDENT UCA STUDENT UCA STUDENT |
| SOUND EDITORS | Jason Miller Randy Randolph | UCA STUDENT UCA STUDENT |
| DIALOGUE EDITOR | Corey Gattin | UCA STUDENT |
| FOLEY ARTIST | Jordan Anderson | UCA STUDENT |
| POST PROD. SUPERVISOR | Jonathan Childs | UCA GRADUATE STUDENT |
| DOCUMENTARY FOOTAGE | Ashley Eaton | UCA STUDENT |
| DOCUMENTARY EDITOR | Allison Hogue | UCA GRADUATE STUDENT |
| VISUAL EFFECTS CONSULTANT AND OPENING CREDITS DESIGN | Scott Meador | UCA FACULTY |
| VISUAL EFFECTS DESIGNER | Lyle Arnett | UCA STUDENT |
| VISUAL EFFECTS TEAM LEADER | Matt Bates | UCA STUDENT |



FRANK ROMEO as David (Chef)

Frank was thrilled to get the invitation to reprise his role as Chef in this iteration of *Table at Luigi's*. Mr. Romeo is a Los Angeles based stage actor who has been treading the boards since the third grade. He received his Musical Theater training at Ithaca College. He has been seen in regional productions of *Ragtime* as Father, *Beauty and the Beast* as Lumiere, and *Damn Yankees* as Joe Hardy. Favorite non-singing rolls include Timothy McVeigh in Rude Guerrilla Theater Company's West-Coast Premiere of *Collateral Damage*, E.K. Hornbeck in *Inherit the Wind*, Duvid Pechenik in *A Shayna Maidel*, and Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*. Off-Broadway, he had the pleasure of slathering himself blue in *Blue Man Group: Tubes* at the Astor Place Theater. Mr. Romeo is happily engaged to L.A. actress Christine Tanabe.



REBECCA JONES as Emily

Rebecca graduated from Lyon College with a BA in Theatre & has since been in over thirty theatrical productions. She has an interest in film, starting out as an extra in *White River*, & then moving into smaller, independent projects. She helped produce & was the female lead in "insomniac", a small independent feature out of Little Rock, AR. She also started producing & directing a few short movies. Rebecca has a great appreciation for independent film and was very excited to be the lead in *Table at Luigi's*, where she feels she learned a great deal.



CHRIS FRITZGES as Stephen

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Chris Fritzges received his Bachelor of Arts from Bethany College, in West Virginia, and his Masters of Fine Arts in Drama from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He has been a full-time educator since 2000 and is currently a tenured Assistant Professor of Theatre at the University of Central Arkansas. Trained as an actor, Chris has been performing for audiences for close to twenty years. Recent credits include performing in the first two seasons of the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, as well as acting in various independent film projects in the area. He is also a director, having won a number of awards from the Kennedy Center / American College Theatre Festival. Some of his favorite shows to direct have been *Getting Out*, *The Pillowman*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, and *Proof*.



JOE DULL, Writer & Director

UCA, Undergraduate Coordinator, Assistant Professor of Digital Filmmaking

"Table at Luigi's" has been a dream of Joe's for seven years. He's been making award-winning films for 20 years in Southern California and New York, but it took moving to Arkansas before Joe directed his first feature film.

Teaching for five years at Chapman University in Orange, CA, and now at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Joe is proud to bring his love of film and his love of teaching together by involving his students in "Table at Luigi's."



MIKE GUNTER, Director of Photography

UCA Facilities Director, Assistant Professor of Digital Filmmaking.

Mike is a Director of Photography, Editor, and Writer. He has worked on a variety of film and video projects and is currently a lecturer teaching Digital Filmmaking in the Department of Mass Communication and Theatre at the University of Central Arkansas. Prior to coming to UCA

Mike was the Director of Production for the Digital Arts and Entertainment Lab (DAEL) in the Mass Communication Department at Georgia State University. He also served as the Technical and Facilities Manager for Oldfather Studios in the Department of Theatre and Film at the University of Kansas.



SCOTT MEADOR, Production Designer & Special Effects

UCA Assistant Professor of Digital Filmmaking

Scott's education & experience is in traditional art & design disciplines as well as high-end computer graphics. His professional work includes film & broadcast animation, design visualization, & mixing computer graphics with traditional events-oriented productions using scenic

design, large-scale imagery, motion capture, & show control technologies. With over eight years of full time teaching experience, being an educator remains an important aspect of Scott's professional life.



SHAUNA COLCLASURE MEADOR, Costume Designer

UCA Assistant Professor of Theatre, Costume Design and Technology

Shauna is an Assistant Professor at the University of Central Arkansas, where she teaches costume design and technology. She has recently designed for the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, TheatreSquared in Fayetteville, Arkansas. *Table at Luigi's* was her first film! A native of Conway, Arkansas, Shauna received her B.A. from the University of Central Arkansas and her M.F.A. from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where she also served as the costume shop manager after graduation. Other professional credits include working at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and the Texas Shakespeare Festival. Shauna lives in Conway, Arkansas with her husband, Scott, and three dogs.



PAUL DICKINSON, Composer

UCA Associate Professor - Music Theory, Composition

Composer Paul Dickinson is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music & Northwestern University, & has received awards from the Fromm Music Foundation, Arkansas Arts Council, DAAD, & BMI. His music has been performed throughout North America, Europe & China, & is recorded on Capstone Records. Listen to examples of his work at



Katiina Dull, Executive Producer

A graduate from California State University, Long Beach with a Bachelors of Science in Business and life filled with dance and theatre, Katiina has been able to carve out a career that combines her passion for the arts with her business skills. Prior to "table at Luigi's", Katiina has produced multiple national and international music outreach tours, live concert performances, and a documentary film for The Young Americans in addition to serving as the Business and Operations Manager for the company for 8 years.