



*Sometimes,  
A town's most dangerous citizens,  
Are its smallest.*

# The Welcoming

a Louis Affortunato film

TRIPLE ACE PRODUCTIONS presents  
a LOUIS AFFORTUNATO film  
JOE AMATO ELIZABETH PAWLOWSKI PAIGE SIMUNOVICH  
"THE WELCOMING"  
director of photography JOHN T. TRIGONIS  
written, produced and directed by LOUIS AFFORTUNATO

*Based on actual events.*

# Synopsis

Logline - A man moves into a new neighborhood only to discover that sometimes its most dangerous citizens are it's smallest.

Arthur Townsman has just moved into a new apartment in a new neighborhood. Arthur longs for a quiet life outside the city where he can live peacefully and concentrate on his art. The neighborhood is pleasant, serene and very friendly, just perfect for someone like himself. But Arthur's solitude is about to get interrupted when a local group known as the Sunshine Girls comes ringing at his door. The Welcoming is a comedic thriller that proves that sometimes a town's most dangerous citizens are it's smallest.

# Bios - Cast

## Joe Amato: *Arthur Townsman*

Joe Amato is a TV host / anchorman, sports broadcaster, journalist, comedian, MI-6 spy and an actor. He was on the radio when he was fifteen and started on TV when he was twenty-one. Joe has worked down South for eleven years. He interviewed Shaq on his first day at LSU and covered Brett Favre's first college football game. Joe moved on to TV stations in Hartford and New York and was host of the IFBB's Mr. Olympia contest on ESPN and PPV. When someone said, "you look like a cop", he worked on NBC's prime time drama *Third Watch*, which started his work in acting. Since 2005 Joe has appeared in three-dozen short films.

Joe lives in New York City and breaks curfew on most weekends. His favorite spot in NYC is Central Park, where you can find him on his Cannondale F29 bike.

## Elizabeth Pawlowski: *Sales Agent*

Originally from New York City, Elizabeth graduated with a B.A. from Wagner College. She has toured nationally with *The Producers* as Ulla. Some of her other credits include *Chess* (Florence) and *Funny Girl* (Jenny) Broadway Palm West. Most recently, Elizabeth has starred in the touring company of *The Drowsy Chaperone* in the role of Janet Van De Graaf.

## Paige Simunovich: *Little Girl*

Paige Simunovich is an eleven-year-old actress/ singer/ dancer from New York City. She has appeared in many films, television shows, voiceovers, theatrical productions, musical productions, live industrials, commercials, and videos. Currently, Paige is performing in an Off-Broadway play. Most recently, she recorded a voice-over for "Wonder Pets". Paige has just returned from a convention in Washington, D.C. where she performed as the lead vocalist. She also just appeared as "Annie" at Tarrytown Music Hall. Paige just completed filming an animated educational video where she appears as the principal character. She will also be seen in the upcoming "YoYo Lip Gloss" commercial.

Paige thanks her Mom, Dad, sisters, Abrams, Amelia, Janine, Yuka, Vera, Ann and Louis for giving her this amazing opportunity.

# Bios - Crew

## **Louis Affortunato: *Writer, Producer, Director***

Louis Affortunato is a filmmaker who studied film production at Hunter College and The City College of New York. He has written, directed and produced several short films.

Louis became interested in filmmaking while still in high school. His past short films include *The First Page* (2005), which featured an overworked writer terrorized by constant telemarketer calls and *The Evaluation, which* took home the Best Sci-Fi Award at the 2007 Staten Island Film Festival. In addition to writing and directing, Louis has also worked as an editor on the films *Still For Now* (2008) and *The Bronx Balletomane* (2008), which starred Federico Castelluccio (*The Sopranos*). The films have gone on to screen at various film festivals.

*The Welcoming* marks Louis' third film as writer, director.

## **John T. Trigonis: *Director of Photography***

John T. Trigonis is a founding member of Nothingman Productions, a widely published and Pushcart Prize-nominated poet, and an independent filmmaker. His filmography includes *Cunnigula* (2001), *The Coconut*, which screened at the Wildwood by the Sea, Indie Can, and Rockport Film Festivals in 2007, *The Hotel Edwards* (2003), *Perfekt*, which screened at the Indie Spirit and Staten Island Film Festivals in 2008, *Something About Ryan*, a TV pilot, and *Speed Musing* (2009). Trigonis has also directed a controversial version of *Titus Andronicus* and a science fictionalized version of *Antony and Cleopatra* for the Hudson Shakespeare Company, a regional theater troupe based in New York and New Jersey.

When not immersed in the writing of new poems and screenplays or shooting another of his short films, Trigonis keeps busy teaching creative writing and humanities courses at various universities across New Jersey.

# Bios - Crew

## **Darylanna Benavidez: *First Assistant Director / Script Supervisor***

Darylanna Benavidez is new to production. Since May 2008 she has worked on four productions; *Something About Ryan*, *Withdrawal*, *The Welcoming* and *Speed Musing*. She is currently working on a thirty minute short entitled *Passengers of 7D*.

*Something About Ryan* marked Darylanna's foray into the world of film production. Despite not being present for the pre-production and scheduling, she was given the credit of AD due to all of the work she did. *Something About Ryan* opened the door for her and she soon found herself working on other productions such as *The Welcoming*.

Although she received her Bachelors in Writing, film has always been a passion of hers. Darylanna is in the process of writing her first screenplay for a short she hopes to shoot within the next year.

## **Gregory Colletti: *Production Manager, Executive Producer***

Gregory Colletti is a founding member of Triple ACE Productions, a camera operator and also a teacher. His background is multifarious. He attended Babson College, a business school with a strong focus on entrepreneurship. While studying at Babson, Greg began working for the Media Services department where he recorded live interviews with CEOs such as Jack Welch and Arthur Blank. He also learned the ins and outs of the technical side of live production, running lights and sound for many events. In addition Greg has provided video services for Vera Wang, Sting and Marshall Tucker Band.

Overall Greg has over five years experience in managing and running productions. Recently, he has been working with the District Attorney's office trying to impart that knowledge to high school students. This young group is aptly named the DA Producers. Currently, they are in pre-production on a Public Service Announcement about Drinking and Driving.

## **Juan Loney: *Casting Director***

Juan Loney is a native of St. Louis, Missouri. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater from Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, and a Master of Fine Arts in Film, Media & Communications from City College of New York, New York City. He also attended a one year film workshop with Third World News Reel, which is based in New York City. He has produced and directed numerous stage plays such as *Brilliant Traces*, *God Is A Puerto Rican*, *The Lonely Hearts Club*, and the one-woman show, *Trudy*. He also written and directed two short films: *6 Past Midnight* and *Falling To Heaven*. His producing credits include *Virgins*, *Still For Now*, and the documentary *Athena*. Also Juan, alongside with his co-business partner Jonathan Chan, has recently started a multi-medium production company, *Thousand Mile Journey Entertainment, Inc.* As of now, he has a project in development that is based on the life of Billie Holiday.

# Cast

*Arthur Townsman* - Joe Amato

*Sales Agent* - Elizabeth Pawlowski

*Little Girl* - Paige Simunovich

*The Sunshine Girls* - Alyxandria J. Batty  
Catherine Fernandez  
Britta Gigliotti  
Lauren Perry  
Angela Sanchez  
Amanda Sprecher

*Mr. Lombard* - Chris Pisano

# Crew

*Writer, Producer, Director* - Louis Affortunato

*Director of Photography* - John T. Trigonis

*Production Manager* - Greg Colletti

*First AD / Script Supervisor* - Darylanna Benavidez

*Casting* - Juan Loney

*Sound Recordist* - Greg Colletti

*Foley Artist* - Orestes Anastasiou

*Editor* - Louis Affortunato

*Executive Producers* - Louis Affortunato & Greg Colletti

## Contact Information

### **Director/Producer**

Louis Affortunato

**Tele:** (917) 327-3787

**Email:** Laffort84@aol.com

## Film Reviews: The Welcoming (2009) - By Josh Samford

RogueCinema.com

---

There's an old saying that when it comes to casting your movie, keep far away from kids or pets - as you really have no control over either of them. Director Louis Affortunato actually comes straight out of the box and disproves that myth in obliterating fashion, with this fun 18-minute comedic horror. Showing that not only are there kids who can act, but they can also perfect comedic timing and work as the glue holding a film together! Although that's getting a little ahead of myself, but I can say that *The Welcoming* starts off with one concept but switches it up on you so successfully, that you can never really tell where it's going.

Arthur Townsman (Joe Amato) is moving into a new neighborhood. After some haggling with his realtor that goes nowhere, he is forced to take an apartment the size of a shoebox. However, he decides he can live with it just as long as he gets to make his paintings in private. As soon as he gets his painting utensils out and ready though, there's a knock at the door. It's a Sunshine girl selling chocolate bars. Not wanting to be rude, Arthur agrees to one. However, this little girl won't take no for an answer and pressures him into buying four bars all together. Arthur obliges, takes his candy and sits back down to work. As soon as he gets back involved with his painting - there is the doorbell. This little girl demands more, but what secret horrors are hiding behind the Sunshine girls?

Although I think all three main leads are good in their respective roles here, the one bit of casting that really makes the short is that of Paige Simunovich as the Sunshine girl. She and Joe Amato play so well off of each other, and her ability to go from conniving intent to "hurt little girl" is impressive. She's a darling, but is able to pull off the ice-cold stares required. The back and forth that she and Amato have during the majority of the short are the real gold moments and are what really keep the story interesting. The bargaining back and forth followed by

the threats and bold accusations. I won't spoil it, but it's a really fun bit of casting that just seemed to work.

The look of the short is equally well done, and although you can imagine the 'set' is the director or a friend's apartment, it doesn't come across as an extremely low budget affair. Overall, The Welcoming is a fun little flick that really delivers in its ability to play on your expectations and has one quality 'twist' at the end.

Definitely check this one out if you're given the opportunity. The official site can be found at [3acevideo.com/thewelcoming](http://3acevideo.com/thewelcoming) and I suggest everyone take a look for themselves!

---

# Screenings

-Official Selection 2009 SINY Film Festival - Staten Island, NY

-New Vision Cinema Series - Brooklyn, NY

-Official Selection 2009 Queens International Film Festival - Queens, NY



Joe Amato



Elizabeth Pawlowski



Paige Simunovich



Joe and Elizabeth



Joe and Paige



Joe Braces Himself



Louis Affortunato - Director / Producer



John T. Trigonis - Director of Photography



Darylanna Benavidez - First Assistant Director / Script Supervisor