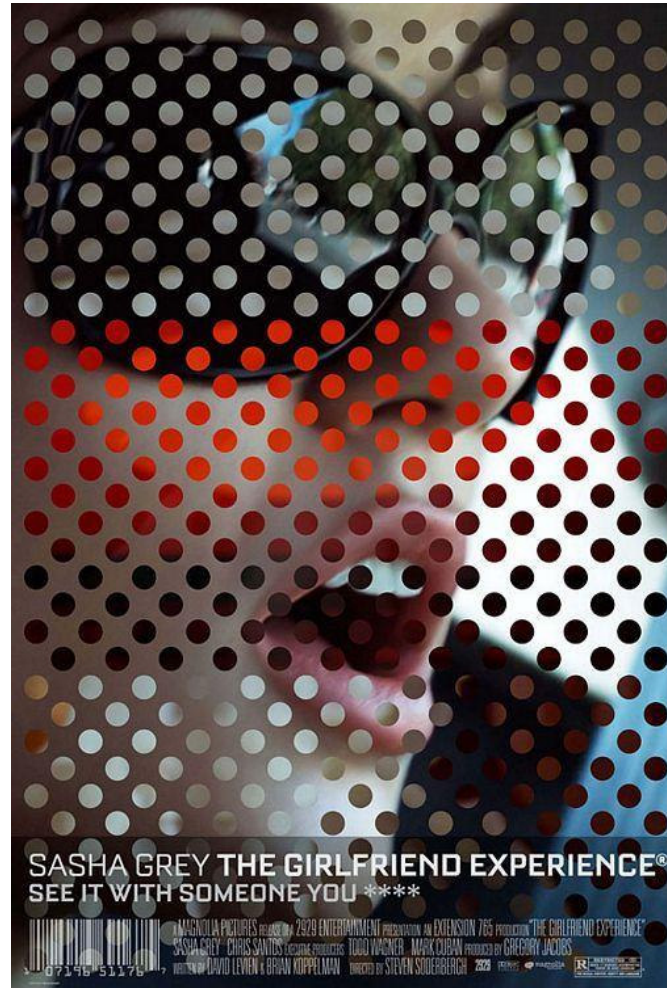




# THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE



**A film by Steven Soderbergh**

**Release date: September 3, 2009**

**Run time: 77 minutes**

**Rating: TBA**

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## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

Set in the weeks leading up to the 2008 presidential election, **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE** is five days in the life of Chelsea (adult film star Sasha Grey in her mainstream film debut), an ultra high-end Manhattan call girl who offers more than sex to her clients, but companionship and conversation – “the girlfriend experience.” Chelsea thinks she has her life totally under control—she feels her future is secure because she runs her own business her own way, makes \$2000 an hour, and has a devoted boyfriend (Chris Santos) who accepts her lifestyle. But when you're in the business of meeting people, you never know who you're going to meet...

The twentieth film from Academy Award-winning director Steven Soderbergh, **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE** is a sexy, gorgeously shot time capsule from the not-too-distant past.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

Chelsea is an upscale Manhattan call girl who provides more than just a sexual encounter; for a price, she'll simulate a complete romantic relationship—a girlfriend “experience.” Despite a wide variety of happy customers, Chelsea wants to expand her business. Her real boyfriend Chris, a personal trainer at a downtown gym, has come to terms with his girlfriend's level of experience, not to mention the posh apartment they share as a result of her success.

But it's October of 2008 and the faltering U.S. economy is on everyone's lips. One of Chelsea's clients, a Hassidic jeweler, advises her against keeping her savings in diamonds—“Diamonds have no value. Keep it in gold.” Meanwhile, she solicits advice from businesspeople (some of whom are clients) on how to achieve growth in a down market. Chelsea goes so far as to visit a sex connoisseur who runs an influential website and who promises Chelsea a favorable review in exchange for a free sample. Meanwhile, Chris finds himself at an impasse in his own career: training wealthy hedge fund managers, he's generating plenty of business for the gym, but little of that lucre is coming back to him. Worse, his relationship with Chelsea has cooled--hardly a girlfriend experience at all.

On the heels of a nasty web review from the sex connoisseur, Chelsea meets Philip, a new client from out of town who listens to her as she unloads her career anxieties to him. In Philip, Chelsea finally sees the promise of a real relationship—a real girlfriend experience—not just another transaction.

From Academy Award-winning director Steven Soderbergh comes **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE**, a drama about the fraught relationship between our professional lives and our personal lives in the age of post-crisis capitalism. **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE** stars Sasha Grey, the legendary 21-year-old adult film star making her feature film debut. The film was written by Brian Koppelman & David Levien (*The Illusionist*, *Rounders*, *Ocean's 13*), produced by Gregory Jacobs (*Che*, *Ocean's 13*), and executive-produced by Todd Wagner and Mark Cuban (*Good Night and Good Luck*; *We Own the Night*).

## ABOUT THE ACTORS

### **SASHA GREY – Chelsea / Christine**

Sasha Grey, born March 14, 1988, in Sacramento, California is an American actor, writer, photographer, porn star, transgressive artist and experimental musician. She has a strong interest in the films of the French New Wave and before deciding on her present stage name, she toyed with the name of Jean-Luc Godard's ex-wife Anna Karina. In interviews she has stated that the name Grey represents two things: Oscar Wilde's Dorian Grey and the Kinsey scale of sexuality (homosexual to heterosexual, a grey scale in-between).

Sasha began college in August of 2005, balancing school and work seven days a week, and soon after moved to LA to pursue a career as a porn star. Around this time she started thinking about pornography as a career opportunity. Sasha has a huge appetite for sex and self-exploration.

Sasha is a genuinely smart, funny, ambitious, and daring person. She does the work she does because she wants to — because she not only enjoys the sex in all its myriad forms but also because she likes doing, as she calls it, performance art.

Accolades: Star of more than 80 porn films, Grey was featured in the November 2006 edition of Los Angeles Magazine, which flagged her as a potential major star, the next Jenna Jameson. Grey was chosen as Penthouse Pet of The Month for July 2007; the spread is considered to be a radical change for the magazine as it was photographed by the fashion photographer Terry Richardson. In 2008, she won Female Performer of the Year at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual AVN awards. She is also featured as part of the art work for The Smashing Pumpkins 2007 album Zeitgeist, has modelled for American Apparel and Richard Kern for Vice Magazine, and made the 2009 Rolling Stone Magazine Hot List. Sasha starred in Lee Demarbre's horror film, SMASH CUT, which will be out Spring of 2009, and she recently wrapped filming the lead role in Steven Soderbergh's **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE**.

**CHRIS SANTOS – Chris**

Chris Santos is making his feature film debut in Steven Soderbergh's **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE** opening May 22, 2009. He calls on his athletic experience as a trainer and triathlete for the lead role of 'Chris,' a trainer whose high-end escort girlfriend provides the titular experience for her clients.

Santos was born on May 21, 1978 in Long Island, NY, and moved to Los Angeles in 2007.

**MARK JACOBSON – Interviewer**

Mark Jacobson has been a journalist for over thirty-five years. He has written for New York Magazine, National Geographic, Rolling Stone, the Village Voice, esquire, the New York Times Magazine and many others. Jacobson's articles have been adapted into the classic TV series, "Taxi" and the feature film AMERICAN GANGSTER. He authored the screenplay for the upcoming film LOVE RANCH, starring Helen Mirren and Joe Pesci, directed by Taylor Hackford. Jacobson is also the author of a number of novels including the cult favorite, *Gorjira*.

**GLENN KENNY – The Erotic Connoisseur**

Glenn Kenny was the senior editor and chief film critic for Premiere magazine from 1996 to 2007. His writing has appeared in The Village Voice, The New York Times, The New York Daily News, Film Comment, the DGA Quarterly, Rolling Stone and other publications. In 2002 he edited and wrote the introduction to "A Galaxy Not So Far Away: Writers and Artists on 25 Years of Star Wars" (Owl Books). He is married, lives in Brooklyn, and showers regularly.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### **STEVEN SODERBERGH – Director**

Director Steven Soderbergh won an Academy Award for Best Director for his 2000 ensemble drama *Traffic*. He had earned dual Best Director Oscar nominations that year, also receiving one for *Erin Brockovich*, starring Julia Roberts in her Oscar-winning performance. Soderbergh had earlier gained an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay for *sex, lies, and videotape*, which marked his feature film directorial debut. The film also won the Palme d'Or at the 1989 Cannes Film Festival.

Most recently, he directed *The Informant*, starring Matt Damon. A true story, the movie is based on the FBI's investigation of price-fixing at Archer Daniels Midland, one of the largest agri-businesses in the world. Among his other credits are *Che*, *Ocean's Thirteen*, *The Good German*, *Bubble*, *Ocean's Twelve*, *Solaris*, *Full Frontal*, *Ocean's Eleven*, *The Limey*, *Out of Sight*, *Gray's Anatomy*, *Schizopolis*, *The Underneath*, *King of the Hill* and *Kafka*.

He also wrote, directed, photographed and edited "Equilibrium," starring Alan Arkin, Robert Downey, Jr. and Ele Keats, which was one of a trio of short eroticism-themed films released as *Eros*. Michelangelo Antonioni and Wong Kar-wai directed the other two segments. The film had its premiere at the 2004 Venice Film Festival.

In addition, Soderbergh has produced or executive produced a wide range of features. Most recently he produced *Solitary Man*, directed by Brian Koppelman and David Levien and executive produced *I'm Not There*, directed by Todd Haynes and starring Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger and Ben Whishaw; *Michael Clayton*, directed by Tony Gilroy and starring George Clooney and the documentary *Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired*, directed by Marina Zenovich.

Other producer or executive producer credits include Gregory Jacobs' films *Wind Chill* and *Criminal*; George Clooney's *Good Night and Good Luck* and *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*; *A Scanner Darkly*, directed by Richard Linklater; *Rumor Has It...* directed by Rob Reiner; *Syriana*, directed by Stephen Gaghan; Lodge Kerrigan's *Keane*, which played at the Telluride, Toronto and New York Film Festivals; John Maybury's *The Jacket*; *Far From Heaven*, directed by Todd Haynes; *Insomnia*, directed by Christopher Nolan; Anthony and Joseph Russo's *Welcome to Collinwood*; Gary Ross' *Pleasantville* and Greg Mottola's *The Daytrippers*.

**GREGORY JACOBS – Producer**

Gregory Jacobs most recently produced *THE INFORMANT*, directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Matt Damon. It was a continuation of his collaboration with Soderbergh for whom he also produced *THE GOOD GERMAN* starring George Clooney, Cate Blanchett and Tobey Maguire; *FULL FRONTAL* starring Julia Roberts, David Duchovny and Catherine Keener, which had its premiere at the 2002 Venice Film Festival; and *BUBBLE* starring only non-actors, which had its premiere at the 2005 Venice Film Festival before being screened at the Toronto and New York Film Festivals. Previously, he produced *EQUILIBRIUM*, Soderbergh's segment of a trio of short films released together as *EROS*. Michaelangelo Antonioni and Wong Kar-wai directed the other two segments. *EROS* was premiered at the 2004 Venice Film Festival before being screened at the Toronto Film Festival.

Jacobs is the executive producer on Soderbergh's Spanish-language films *CHE: PART ONE* and *CHE: PART TWO* starring Benicio Del Toro as Che Guevara. The films had their debut at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival where Del Toro received the Best Actor Award.

Jacobs and Soderbergh began their association in 1992 when Jacobs was first assistant director on *KING OF THE HILL*. He has collaborated with the director on nine additional films, including *OCEAN'S THIRTEEN* and *OCEAN'S TWELVE* (on which he served as executive producer); *OCEAN'S ELEVEN*, *SOLARIS* (on which he served as executive producer), the Academy Award-winning *TRAFFIC*, *ERIN BROCKOVICH* (nominated for an Academy Award), *THE LIMEY*, *OUT OF SIGHT*, and *THE UNDERNEATH*.

Jacobs directed the horror/thriller *WIND CHILL* starring Emily Blunt, Ashton Holmes and Martin Donovan, which was released in 2007.

Jacobs made his writing and directorial debut on *CRIMINAL* starring John C. Reilly, Diego Luna and Maggie Gyllenhaal. Prior to its September 2004 release, the film was shown at the Venice, Deauville and London Film Festivals.

**BRIAN KOPPELMAN/DAVID LEVIEN - Screenwriters**

Brian Koppelman and David Levien met, as teenagers, at John F. Kennedy International Airport and instantly became friends.

A Tufts University graduate, Koppelman distinguished himself during his college years by discovering the award winning singer-songwriter Tracy Chapman. Upon graduation, he went on to develop a career in the music business and earned a law degree from Fordham University at night.

Levien graduated from the University of Michigan, where he published short stories in the undergraduate literary magazine. After graduation, he spent three years in Los Angeles, where he worked in the film business and began writing screenplays and fiction, including the novel *Wormwood*, published in 1999 by Hyperion-Miramax. His latest novel, a crime thriller, *City of the Sun* was released to critical acclaim by Doubleday in early 2008. The sequel, *Where the Dead Lay*, will come out in 2009.

Koppelman and Levien had conspired for years about writing and directing movies together. In October of 1996, they began writing the screenplay *ROUNDERS*. In the interest of creating a script that was as authentic as it was entertaining, Koppelman and Levien entered the dangerous world of underground poker halls. (Thorough research has become a trademark for the pair.) Purchased by Miramax Films in March of 1997, the film was produced the following winter, with notable filmmaker John Dahl (*LAST SEDUCTION*, *RED ROCK WEST*) as the director and starring Matt Damon, Edward Norton, John Malkovich, John Turturro, and Martin Landau. The captivating film about a law student who not only gambles away his tuition money, but his girlfriend, his law degree and nearly his life, opened number one at the box office.

After the release of *ROUNDERS*, the pair wrote, directed and produced the film, *KNOCKAROUND GUYS*, a story about life as the son of a gangster. The movie follows four of these scions as they lose and try to regain a bag of the mob's money in a small Montana town ruled by a corrupt sheriff. Part gangster film, part modern western, *KNOCKAROUND GUYS* stars Barry Pepper, Vin Diesel, Seth Green, Dennis Hopper, and John Malkovich,. Produced by Lawrence Bender (*PULP FICTION*, *GOOD WILL HUNTING*, *RESERVOIR DOGS*), the film was released by New Line Cinema in October 2002.

In addition, Koppelman and Levien produced Neil Burger's, *INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSASSIN*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival to glowing reviews. The film was released by Magnolia Pictures in November 2002 and garnered three Independent Spirit Award nominations as well as numerous festival prizes.

In 2003 Koppelman and Levien co-wrote the screenplay for *RUNAWAY JURY*, based on John Grisham's novel, which stars John Cusack, Gene Hackman, and Dustin Hoffman.. Levien's second novel *Swagbelly, A Novel for Today's Gentleman* was also released in 2003. In 2004 the pair co-wrote the screenplay for *WALKING TALL*, starring the Rock.

In 2005 they created the acclaimed television series "Tilt" for ESPN, for which they wrote and directed the pilot. In features they produced the surprise hit, *THE ILLUSIONIST*, starring Edward Norton and Paul Giamatti. The film was released in August 2006, to sterling reviews, including an IFP nomination (Best Screenplay), an Academy Award nomination (Best Cinematography) and was called 'the box office story of the year' by Box Office Mojo.com.

In 2006 the pair also wrote the screenplay *OCEAN'S 13*, for director Steven Soderbergh, producer Jerry Weintraub and Warner Brothers. Released in June 2007, the film opened number one at the box office and grossed over \$300 million worldwide. In a second collaboration with Soderbergh, the pair wrote *THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE*, which Soderbergh lensed in October 2008, and will be released by Magnolia Pictures in May 2009.

Most recently the pair directed *SOLITARY MAN*, written by Koppelman, and starring Michael Douglas, Danny DeVito, Susan Sarandon, Mary Louise Parker, Jenna Fisher, Jesse Eisenberg and Imogen Poots, and produced by Paul Schiff and Steven Soderbergh.

Levien and Koppelman work in New York.



**CARMEN CUBA – Casting Director**

Carmen Cuba casts scripted, experimental, documentary and generally uniquely innovative projects. Having started as a journalist working in Spanish-language television and then as an associate with directors Frank Oz (**BOWFINGER**), Ted Demme (**LIFE**), Terry Gilliam (**FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS**), Richard LeGravenese (**LIVING OUT LOUD**) and Steven Soderbergh (**ERIN BROCKOVICH**), her perspective as a Casting Director is a combination of curiosity in the truth about people, her respect for actors, and a love of the storytelling through the use of both. She has found non-actors to portray fictionalized characters in fictionalized stories (Steven Soderbergh's **BUBBLE** and **THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE**, Larry Clark's **KEN PARK**, little-known talent to play leading roles in studio and independent features (Steven Soderbergh's **THE INFORMANT**, Larry Clark's **BULLY**), and ordinary people to participate in socially challenging documentary programming (Morgan Spurlock's "30 Days," "What Would Jesus Buy?" and the upcoming HBO's "Youth Knows No Pain"), and in all situations is simply an interpreter with an objective and fully invested point of view.

**CREDITS**

Directed by  
STEVEN SODERBERGH

Produced by  
GREGORY JACOBS

Written by  
BRIAN KOPPELMAN & DAVID LEVIEN

Executive Producers  
TODD WAGNER  
MARC CUBAN

Director of Photography  
PETER ANDREWS

Art Director  
CARLOS MOORE

Editor  
MARY ANN BERNARD

Music by  
ROSS GODFREY

Costume Designer  
CHRISTOPHER PETERSON

Unit Production Manager  
ROBIN LE CHANU

First Assistant Director  
GREGORY JACOBS

Second Assistant Director  
JODY SPILKOMAN

Casting by  
CARMEN CUBA

CAST  
(In Order of Appearance)

Chelsea / Christine	SASHA GREY
Chris	CHRIS SANTOS
Phillip	PHILIP EYTAN
Waiter	T. COLBY TRANE
Zizzo	PETER ZIZZO
Vegas Buddy #1	RON STEIN
Vegas Buddy #2	MARSHALL GILMAN
Vegas Buddy #3	MICHAEL ROBERTS
Chelsea's Driver	VINCENT DELLACERRA
Art Gallery Owner	JIM KEMPNER
David	DAVID LEVIEN

Interviewer	MARK JACOBSON
Pete	ALAN MILSTEIN
Chris & Chelsea's Super	SUKHDEV SINGH
Chatty "John"	TED JESSUP
Sporting Goods Store President	STUART LEVINE
Sporting Goods Store Vice President	MARVIN STEIN
Dennis	DENNIS SHIELDS
Web Designer	STEVE KLAPPER
The Erotic Connoisseur	GLENN KENNY
Accountant	BEN FINKELSTEIN
"Sugar"	MICHAEL SUGAR
Tara	CAITLIN LYON
Dan	DAN ALGRANT
Ken	KENNY BLUNT
Club H Gym Owner	SMOKEY WEST
Hype Gym Owner	WILLIAM HOLT
Phone Store Salesman	ADAM AWAIZ YAQUB
Chelsea's Girlfriend	CHRISTINA NADEAU
Tim	TIMOTHY DAVIS
Yoga Client	DEBORAH FINEMAN BOZIK
Female Trainer	JENEL STEVENS
Furniture Store Owner	HOWARD I. JOSEPHS
Street Drummer	SHAKERLEG
Chelsea's Trainer	GALYA VIDAL
Monte Verde Receptionist	ERIKA PARYS
Street Musicians	FREEDOM TICKLER
craftsteak Maitre D'	KENNETH MYERS
Jewelry Shop Owner	ELON DERSHOWITZ

Camera Operator  
MARK SCHMIDT

A Camera First Assistant  
STEVEN MEIZLER

B Camera First Assistant  
HEATHER MACDONALD NORTON

Production Sound Mixer  
DENNIS TOWNS

Boom Operator  
THOMAS W. JORDAN

Production Accountant  
JOAN ALTMAN

Location Manager  
ROBERT T. STRIEM

Property Master	THEO SENA
Art Staff Assistant	FRANCIS MAIORINO
A Camera Second Assistant	ALEXIS VAN KERSEN LI
Digital Loader	JEFF PINETTE
Chief Lighting Technician	WILLIAM NEWELL
Assistant Chief Lighting Technician	ANDREW B. HANSEN
Key Grip	JEREMY W. SCHROEDER
Best Boy Grip	RANDY M. SALO
Second 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director	DEREK WIMBLE
Set Staff Assistants	BRENDAN LEE STEVEN OPPENHEIM JEREMY ADLER
Post-Production Supervisor	DAVID KIRCHNER
Assistant Editors	JASON BARNES COREY BAYES
Editorial Assistant	AMY MCGRATH
Post-Production Staff Assistant	ANGELICA REYNOSO
Costume Supervisor	AMY TEETS
Assistant Location Manager	EVAN GABRIELE
First Assistant Accountant	ADAM WOLENSKI
Production Coordinator	KIMBERLY HADEN
Production Secretary	FRANCESCA MANNIX
Production Staff Assistant	JOHN SESUMI
Casting Staff Assistant	BREEZY BOZIK
Extras Casting	GARNT WILFLEY CASTING
Extras Casting Associate	MELISSA BRAUN
Assistant to Mr. Soderbergh	HOLLY KANG
Assistant to Mr. Jacobs	ELAINE MONGEON
Construction Coordinator	RICHARD HEBRANK
Legal Services	KEN MEYER

Script Clearance Research	INDIECLEAR CAROL A. COMPTON
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Transportation Captain Drivers	JIM F. KELLY RICHARD MARINO JOHN LALOR
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Parking Coordinator	DEREK PASTURES
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Catering	DAVID DREISHPOON'S GOURMET CATERING
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Craft Service	CHERYL BOHLIN
---------------	---------------

Costume Intern	KELLY KINGSTON
Art Department Intern	PHILIP MARKOWITZ
Location Intern	EHUD MARCUS

#### LAS VEGAS UNIT

Second 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director	DAVID M. BERNSTEIN
A Camera Second Assistant	PAUL TOOMEY
Chief Lighting Technician	PETER WALTS
Key Grip	JOHN JOSEPH MINARDI
Location Manager	KEN LAVET
Extras Casting	RICH KING CASTING
Transportation Coordinator	SHANE GREEDY
Local Captain	SCOTT JIMERSON
Driver	LESLIE SLAUGHTER

Supervising Sound Editor  
Re-Recording Mixer  
LARRY BLAKE

Sound Editor	MATT COBY
Assistant Sound Editor	BILLY THERIOT

Foley by	ALICIA STEVENSON DAWN FINTOR
Foley Mixer	DAVID BETANCOURT
Foley Recorded at	TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Music Editor	DANIEL LERNER
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Post-Production Sound Services      SWELLTONE LABS/NEW ORLEANS  
Cutting Continuity                      MASTERWORDS

Digital Intermediate and Prints by TECHNICOLOR®

DI Colorist      TIM STIPAN  
DI Engineer     MICHAEL P. WHIPPLE  
DI Producer     RALPH COSTANZA

DI Editor       NAT JENCKS

THIS FILM WAS RE-RECORDED IN A SWELLTONE THEATER

“Bad Timing”

Written and produced by David Holmes  
Courtesy of Universal Songs of Polygram International Inc.

“Man in Back”

Written and performed by Shakerleg  
Courtesy of Bleeding Hands Music

“Come Shot”

Written and produced by David Holmes  
Courtesy of Universal Songs of Polygram International Inc.

“Re-Work”

Written and produced by David Holmes  
Courtesy of Universal Songs of Polygram International Inc.

“Rubber Ring”

Written and produced by David Holmes  
Courtesy of Universal Songs of Polygram International Inc.

“Freak Show”

Written and performed by Shakerleg  
Courtesy of Bleeding Hands Music

“Hot Tub”

Written by Cody Hoover and Meriam Benezra  
Performed by Freedom Tickler

THE PRODUCERS WISH TO THANK

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Jay Kelly

Joe Prieboy

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"Fire Rock" Limited Edition Photograph  
Provided courtesy of Peter Lik FineArt Photography  
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Blue Girls  
Provided courtesy of Audrey Kawasaki

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Provided courtesy of Ellsworth Kelly and Gemini GEL, LLC

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