

ASK FOR JANE

"THE TRUE AND IRRESISTIBLE STORY... THIS MOVIE SHOULD BE SEEN BY EVERY AMERICAN"
-GLORIA STEINEM



RAPTOR FILMS presents a CAROLINES ENTERTAINMENT and NYEH ENTERTAINMENT production "ASK FOR JANE"
CODY HORN • CAIT CORTELYOU • SARAH STEELE • SARAH RAMOS • CHLOE LEVINE with BEN RAPPAPORT and ALISON WRIGHT
casting by EVE BATTAGLIA, C.S.A. music by TWO TWENTY TWO costume designer JENNIFER ANDERSON editor ULYSSES GUIDOTTI
production designer MARYAM KHOSRAVI director of photography CATLIN MACHAK
executive producers CATHLEEN IHASZ • NICOLE IHASZ producers CAIT CORTELYOU • JOSH FOLAN • CAROLINE HIRSCH
written and directed by RACHEL CAREY

Writer/Director: Rachel Carey

Cast: Megan Channell, Cait Cortelyou, Lilly Englert, Cody Horn, Chloe Levine, Michael Rabe, Sarah Ramos, Ben Rappaport, Saycon Sengbloh, Sarah Steele, Sophie Von Haselberg, Alison Wright

Producers: Cait Cortelyou, Josh Folan, Caroline Hirsch

Executive Producers: Cathleen and Nicole Ihasz, Raptor Films

Consulting Producer: Judith Arcana

Runtime: 108 minutes

Logline: A group of determined Midwestern women begin providing safe but illegal abortions in this 1960s period drama based on a true story.

FILM FESTIVALS

- 2018 Hamptons International Film Festival
- 2018 LA Femme International Film Festival
- 2018 Woodstock Film Festival
- 2018 Napa Valley Film Festival
- 2018 Lone Star Film Festival
- 2018 St. Louis Film Festival
- 2019 Tucson International Jewish Film Festival

Contacts: NYEH Entertainment: [REDACTED]
Josh Folan: [REDACTED]
Carolines Entertainment: [REDACTED]
Caroline Hirsch: [REDACTED]

Synopsis

Ask for Jane is a fictionalized version of the true story of the Jane Collective, a group of young women in 1969 who helped provide over 11,000 safe and illegal abortions in the years before *Roe v. Wade*.

“Jane” operated like a spy network, with blindfolding, multiple locations, and code names (everyone involved in the movement was called “Jane”) and a tense but complicated relationship with the local police.

The movie follows Rose, a “good girl” student at the University of Chicago who breaks out of her safe, middle-class life to help a desperate friend find a safe abortion.

Rose and her more radical counterpart Janice begin providing the doctor’s number to anyone who needs it. After graduating, they decide to build an entire underground network of illegal abortion doctors willing to provide low-cost abortions for women in need.

Her conspirators include women from all walks of life and backgrounds (including wealthy women, rape victims, schoolteachers, and moms). They are also helped by Charlie, an attractive con-man abortion doctor (based on a real person), who eventually trains the young women to do abortions themselves.

The women of Jane were ultimately arrested for their crimes, but in the wake of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, all charges against them were eventually dismissed.



Why This Story Matters Today

Ask for Jane is highly unique both in its representation of women on screen and behind the camera, and its powerful subject matter.

The Geena Davis Institute compiles data every year on the gender disparities of the film industry. They have found that the vast underrepresentation of female characters in film has barely changed in the last half a century.

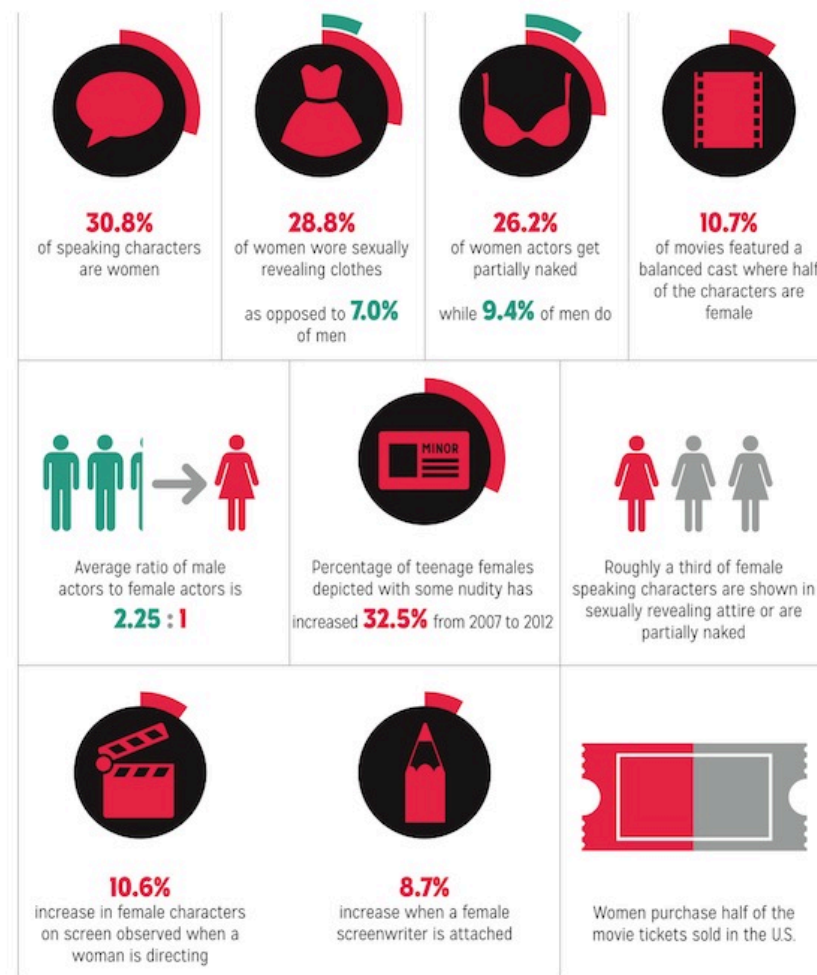
It is groundbreaking to make a film with roughly **three** speaking female characters to every one male, not to mention a female writer, director, and producer. And there's a clear market for films with this kind of representation!

- ***Hidden Figures*** – a period drama about an untold piece of women's history – grossed over 206.1 million USD. That's over an **800% profit** from its initial budget of 25 million.
- ***Obvious Child*** – an independent film about abortion – was filmed for only 1 million and made back 3.3 million, yielding a **300% profit**.
- ***Grandma*** – another female-centric film about abortion – was made for only 600K, and made back 7.1 million. **That's a profit of over 1,000%!**

In our current political climate, the discussion of feminism and women's rights is more prevalent than ever. Abortion access is under direct attack as right wing lawmakers try to control female bodies. Perhaps they don't remember – or never learned – what America looks like without safe and legal access to abortion. *Ask for Jane* shows what women had to go through before *Roe v. Wade*; if we don't learn from our past, how can we ever hope to make progress as a nation?

HOW WOMEN ARE PORTRAYED ON SCREEN IN THE TOP 500 FILMS

2007-2012



Source: New York Film Academ



Letter from the Creator

When I first learned about the Jane Collective and conceived of this project in May of 2016, I had no idea just how relevant it would be today. This was before the election, before the #MeToo movement, before the Kavanaugh hearings... While it is endlessly frustrating that we're now fighting in earnest for the same rights that our grandmothers fought for 50 years ago, it is also heartening that we have this beautiful film to share with a world that now so desperately needs it.

In these times of political upheaval, many of us are looking for ways to help, ways that they can make a difference. One of the many things that I love about Rachel's beautiful screenplay for *Ask for Jane* is the theme of learning how to be an activist, and discovering that you are capable of more than you ever imagined.

I'm so excited to be bringing to life this powerful pro-choice feature film, and to have you be a part of that experience. I am a Barnard alumna, a Planned Parenthood volunteer escort, and a passionate supporter of women's rights, as well as an actor. I knew right away that the story of the Janes would make an incredible film, and that it was the perfect conflation of my work as a filmmaker and as a feminist, an artist and an activist.

Making abortion illegal doesn't mean fewer abortions happen, it just means that more women die as a result of them. *Ask for Jane* can serve as a powerful reminder of what America looks like without safe abortion access. It is ultimately an empowering story of women coming together to help each other when society won't.

If you have any questions about our vision for this film, please do not hesitate to call me at [REDACTED]

Crew Bios



Rachel Carey, Writer/Director

Rachel is an award-winning writer and director. Her recent project **“Takers,”** a 1-hour tv pilot that she wrote and directed, won the award for Best Actress at Seriesfest in 2016 and played at festivals nationwide. The music video **“Stiff Arm”** that she directed for independent artist Lily Finessy was the **winner of Best Music Video** in the 2016 American Movie Awards. Her novel *Debt* was optioned to be turned into a television series by Calamity Jane, **Ellen Pompeo’s** production company. Rachel holds an MFA in film directing from NYU and a BA in English from Yale University



Cait Cortelyou, Creator/Producer/Star

Cait is an actor, an award-winning producer, and an activist with Planned Parenthood and the National Institute for Reproductive Health. As an actor, she can be seen on **“The Knick”** (dir: **Steven Soderbergh**), and **“Bull”** on CBS, among other tv and independent film credits. She has also starred in numerous theatre productions in New York, most notably with *Sleep No More* and at La MaMa. Cait is an alumna of Barnard College where she earned her Bachelor of Arts and graduated with honors a year and a half early. She attended the National Theater Institute at the Tony Award-winning O’Neill Theater Center.



Josh Folan, Producer

Josh is a writer/director/editor/producer/actor that began professionally making things people watch on screens in 2005, prior to which he studied finance at Ohio State University. He is the founder of NYEH Entertainment, and author of *Filmmaking, the Hard Way*. Filmmaking highlights include the 2017 SXSW Audience Award Winner *The Light of the Moon*, 2015 Slamdance selection *BODY*, 2015 Raindance selection *The Lives of Hamilton Fish*, and 2016 SOHO International selection *catch 22: based on the unwritten story by seanie sugrue*.



Caroline Hirsch, Producer

Caroline is the founder and owner of the New York comedy club Carolines on Broadway and the New York Comedy Festival. She serves as a board member of the Creative Coalition, the Times Square Alliance, NYC & Company, and Count Me In. She formerly sat on the board of the Ms. Foundation for Women, during which time she created the successful **“Take Our Daughters to Work”** initiative. In 2007, Caroline created **“Stand Up for Heroes”** to benefit the Bob Woodruff Foundation – which has raised more than \$40 million to date.

Cast

Unlike the vast majority of films made these days, *Ask for Jane* boasts a large cast almost entirely comprised of **women!** It passes the Bechdel Test in nearly every scene, and presents all the female characters as three-dimensional human beings (not just sex objects)*



Alison Wright

Emmy Award nominee:
"The Americans"



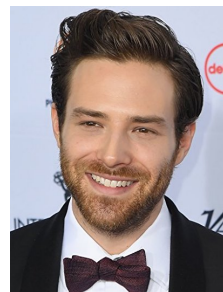
Cody Horn

Magic Mike



Sarah Steele

"The Good Fight"



Ben Rappaport

"For the People"



Sarah Ramos

"Parenthood"



Chloe Levine

"The Defenders"



Saycon Sengbloh

Tony Award nominee:
Eclipsed



Cait Cortelyou

"The Knick"



Lilly Englert

A Midsummer Night's Dream



Sophie von Haselberg

Irrational Man

* To pass the Bechdel Test, a film must fulfill 2 criteria:

- Two or more women talk to each other
- About something other than a man

Press

"...the true and irresistible story of women who dared to help other women exercise their human but illegal right to decide the fate of their own bodies... **this movie should be seen by every American.**"

– **Gloria Steinem, renowned activist**

"...enlightening but also truly absorbing... **Cody Horn fulfills a potential here that Hollywood has so far failed to utilize.** I have always felt she had exactly the level of charisma & appeal & ability demonstrated here with a real screen presence and star quality to match. To watch her gifts employed in such an interesting and entertaining way amped up my enjoyment of the movie... better than 90% of the 200+ movies I see every year as a critic. That is not hyperbole. I really found watching *Ask For Jane* to be a highly, satisfying experience, and my job would be even better were more films this good and this special & unique... when it comes to putting my critic's hat back on, I have to tell you again: ***Ask For Jane* is a WINNER!**" – **Sandy Kenyon, movie critic for ABC**

"**Ask for Jane is a riveting independent film...** With quiet characterizations and convincing dialogue, Sarah Ramos, Cody Horn and Sarah Steele recreate that long-ago time when nice girls did not talk about certain situations and were forced to make decisions with no counseling and few choices. Gloria Steinem has said "this movie should be seen by every American." If you have an opinion on this subject, and nearly everyone has, this film should be required viewing." – **Jeanne Powell, Stark Insider**

"A packed screening... truly timely commentary on women's rights... I hope this film receives wider distribution, because **it's a film every woman should see.**" – **Megan McLachlan, Awards Daily**



Napa Valley Film Festival Announces Narrative, Documentary Feature Selections, by Christi Carras



'Ask For Jane': Competing Underground Abortion Project Underway, by Anita Busch



2 films to focus on Jane Collective, Chicago's underground network for abortion access, by Tracy Swartz



Hollywood tackles abortion as the fight gears up in Washington, by Luchina Fisher via GMA



Everyone's Trying to Make a Movie About Jane, the Illegal Abortion Collective From the '70s, by Hazel Cills



Q&A: Cait Cortelyou and Judith Arcana on Abortion in Media and Making *Ask for Jane*, by Jacklynn Blanchard



Abortion Under 45 Harkens Back to the Jane Era, by Jacklynn Blanchard



Rachel Carey's Film About Chicago's Underground Abortion Network Goes into Production, by Alice Thorpe



The *Ask for Jane* Filmmakers on Telling a Little-Known Story from Women's History



Ask for Jane a riveting independent film based on true events, by Jeanne Powell

Contact Us!

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information.
Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions!

Rachel Carey, Writer/Director:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cait Cortelyou, Creator/Producer/Star:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Josh Folan, Producer:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

