



Searchlight Pictures presents

Mimi Cave's

# FRESH

A Hulu Original



Starring

Daisy Edgar-Jones as Noa  
Jojo T. Gibbs as Mollie  
Dayo Okeniyi as Paul

Sebastian Stan as Steve  
Andrea Bang as Penny  
Charlotte Le Bon as Ann

Directed by Mimi Cave  
Written by Lauryn Kahn  
Produced by Adam McKay and Kevin Messick  
Co-producer by Maeve Cullinane  
Cinematography by Pawel Pogorzelski  
Editing by Martin Pensa  
Production design by Jennifer Morden  
Score by Alex Somers

<https://press.searchlightpictures.com/>

Running Time: 114 mins

Rating: R

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## FRESH

Tired of scrolling through countless apps and sitting through a string of bad dates, a disillusioned Noa (Daisy Edgar-Jones) is caught off guard by the refreshingly straight-forward Steve (Sebastian Stan) during her late-night grocery run. Not expecting to find love in the produce aisle, Noa falls hard for the charms of her attractive new suitor, much to the surprise of her skeptical best friend Mollie (Jojo T. Gibbs). Steve sweeps Noa off her feet and takes her on a weekend getaway, but Noa soon discovers that Steve has been hiding troubling appetites, and her dream weekend quickly turns into a nightmare.

Searchlight Pictures presents **FRESH**, directed by Mimi Cave, with an original screenplay by Lauryn Kahn and produced by Kevin Messick and Adam McKay under their Hyperobject Industries banner. The Legendary film stars Daisy Edgar-Jones, Sebastian Stan, Jojo T. Gibbs, Charlotte Le Bon, Andrea Bang and Dayo Okeniyi.

**FRESH** is an official selection of the Midnight section at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival.

## WHAT FRESH HELL IS THIS?

When it comes to finding love in today's world, it's brutal out there. No one knows this better than the smart, independent Noa (Daisy Edgar-Jones), who spends her evenings swiping through dating apps, dodging unsolicited photos and enduring painfully mediocre dates. When the attractive, witty Steve (Sebastian Stan) strikes up a conversation with her in the produce aisle during a late-night grocery run and asks for her number - a refreshing change to her usual virtual dating routine - she decides to lean into the experience.

Steve and Noa embark on a whirlwind romance and she allows her guard to come down as he opens up about his life and hopes, and assures her he's not into mind games. Though happy that Noa's found a promising paramour, her best friend Mollie (Jojo T. Gibbs) harbors some skepticism about Steve and his absence from social media. When Steve surprises Noa with a weekend getaway to a romantic forest cabin, Noa happily allows him to whisk her away. High on their new romance, when they arrive at Steve's state-of-the-art house, Noa finds that her cell phone is out of service and that he doesn't have any wifi for her to use.

What happens next is a dream romance gone haywire.

**FRESH** marks Mimi Cave's feature directorial debut as she brings Lauryn Kahn's shrewd and acerbic original script to the screen with flair and a knowing zeal, pairing the intoxicating thriller with a soundtrack of retro bangers - from experimental pop and R&B to electronic dance music - highlighting the over-the-top verve. The film spins a twist on the modern romance tale, finding terror in everyday anxiety-inducing events, and weaving an examination of dating culture into a macabre satire.

## From the Director

### MIMI CAVE

Reading Lauryn Kahn's **FRESH** for the first time was a ride. There was so much happening so quickly that I had to force myself to slow down and make sure I was really reading thoroughly – not missing a single, wild beat. The script gave me a lot to play with and so much material to sculpt. Once I was on board to direct, I began to zero in on how to tonally approach everything and how to best keep all the many plates of this movie spinning simultaneously.

On the surface the plot of this movie has some obvious themes and tropes, but I was drawn to the deeper well of meaning below the surface I knew I could distill from the script. I was honestly very lucky to be surrounded by great producers, so I had the freedom to focus on what spoke to me the most, allowing me to dive deeper into building the world of **FRESH**. Some of the bigger themes that I chose to explore in are *consumption, commodification of the female body* and the *power dynamics of love relationships*.

I tried to interpret the word *consumption* from lots of angles. It's a theme that hits people in different ways. Visually and in certain scenes, I wanted to pose questions to the audience rather than feed answers. This was the best way (for me) to express this theme: *What and who do you consume? How does what you consume shape who you are? How do you consume Love?*

Signing onto this film was a scary but exciting undertaking. I knew the tonality of the film was going to be a tough line to tow, but that challenge kept me on my toes. Making **FRESH** was like a constant puzzle – every piece had to be placed *just so* otherwise I knew it would never

stand on its feet. Ultimately, I want you to believe in the world I built and believe in Noa. If I couldn't get that right, I knew I would have nothing. So, I felt that grounding the female characters in present day reality was the best way for the audience to enter into the film. The film's dramatic shift was always going to be there and I loved that, it was a matter of *when* I was going to take the audience into Steve's world. I wanted to make a clear delineation for the audience, saying "All right, we're in a different movie now. Come along for the ride".

## FILMMAKER BIOS

### MIMI CAVE (Director)

Mimi Cave was born in Chicago and began her career behind the camera creating music videos for artists such as Sleigh Bells and Vance Joy. From there, she moved on to short films, which earned her critical acclaim at festivals worldwide, most recently with *I'm Happy, I Promise*, a selection of SXSW in 2020. FRESH is her first feature.

### LAURYN KAHN (Writer)

Lauryn Kahn is a writer living in LA although her accent still resides in New Jersey. She started her writing career working in short form comedy writing, acting and directing at the comedy website Funny or Die. She's since sold screenplays to studios that include Sony, Paramount, Fox, Universal and Legendary. Her first screenplay, *He's Fucking Perfect*, was an enormous spec sale after a bidding war between numerous studios and landed on the Blacklist that year.

Her movie *Ibiza* premiered on Netflix at the end of May 2018 and was #1 in over 100 countries the month of its release. She was also lucky enough to be on Forbes 30 under 30 list (when she was under 30 many moons ago), Variety's "10 Screenwriters to Watch" as well as Vulture's "Comedians You Should and Will Know." Her latest film FRESH recently sold to Searchlight Pictures through Legendary and will be released on HULU on March 4th, 2022.

### ADAM MCKAY (Producer)

Academy Award winning writer/director/producer Adam McKay's most recent feature is the Netflix comedy *Don't Look Up*, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Leonardo DiCaprio. *Don't Look Up* tells the story of two low-level astronomers who must go on a giant media tour to warn of an approaching comet that will destroy Earth.

McKay's 2018 feature *Vice*, starring Christian Bale and Amy Adams, went on to receive many accolades including eight Academy Award nominations, six Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations, and a DGA nomination for McKay. The WGA honored McKay with the Paul Selvin Award that recognizes a script that best embodies the spirit of the constitutional and civil rights and liberties. In 2015, McKay and Charles Randolph adapted Michael Lewis's *New York Times* best-selling book, *The Big Short*. Starring Christian Bale, Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling and Brad Pitt, the film went on to receive

much critical acclaim as well as Academy Award, BAFTA and Golden Globe nominations for Best Picture and won the 2016 PGA for Best Picture. McKay earned Academy Award, BAFTA and Golden Globe nominations for Best Director, and he and Randolph won Best Adapted Screenplay at the Academy Awards, BAFTA, WGA and USC Scriptor Awards. Recent film work includes his role as an executive producer on Olivia Wilde's directorial debut *Booksmart* (2019), Netflix's hit show "Dead to Me" (2019), starring Christina Applegate and Linda Cardellini, and writer director Lorene Scafaria's *Hustlers* (2019), starring Jennifer Lopez and Constance Wu. Upcoming film projects include *The Menu*, starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Nicholas Hoult and Ralph Fiennes from director Mark Mylod for Searchlight Pictures; *FRESH*, starring Daisy Edgar-Jones and Sebastian Stan from director Mimi Cave with a screenplay from Lauryn Kahn, also for Searchlight Pictures; and *Bad Blood* for Apple that will tell the story of Theranos' Elizabeth Holmes with Jennifer Lawrence starring.

For television, McKay serves as an executive producer on the critically acclaimed HBO show "Succession". McKay directed the pilot for which he won the 2018 DGA Award for Drama Series. The show won the 2019 BAFTA for Best International Series and the 2020 EMMY and Golden Globe for Best Drama Series. Upcoming television projects include the previously announced HBO drama series "Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty" and HBO late night series "Game Theory" with *Bomani Jones*, as well as a limited series based on *Miami Herald* investigative reporter Julie K. Brown's book about Jeffrey Epstein. In addition, McKay and Bong Joon Ho are partnering to develop an HBO limited series inspired by Bong Joon Ho's Academy Award Best Picture *Parasite*.

McKay's production company, Hyperobject Industries, has a wide-ranging focus from comedies, dramas, horror, documentaries, and documentary-series, as well as politically charged and challenging subjects with which McKay has become synonymous. Hyperobject Industries develops original podcasts, including *Death at the Wing* which McKay hosted, and *Broken: Seeking Justice* with Sony Music Entertainment's Three Uncanny Four Productions. McKay also executive produced HBO documentaries *Q: Into the Storm* and *537 VOTES* from Billy Corden and Alfred Spellman as well as *Painting with John*, the unscripted series, created by musician, painter and actor John Lurie.

McKay made his name in the comedy world as a founding member of the Upright Citizens Brigade. In 1995, McKay and Will Ferrell happened to start on the same day at *Saturday Night Live*, where he became Head Writer. McKay and Ferrell's time at SNL led to collaborations that established their unique absurdist style on the now classic *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* (2004) followed by the hit *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby* (2006). McKay has consistently entertained audiences with a string of movies, including *Step Brothers* (2008), *The*

*Other Guys* (2010) and *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues* (2013). He has also produced numerous others including hits *Get Hard* (2015), *Daddy's Home* (2015) and *Daddy's Home 2* (2017), and independent titles such as *Welcome to Me* (2015).

In 2016, McKay joined the Creative Council of Represent.Us, the largest grassroots anti- corruption campaign in the US to pass laws that stop political bribery, end secret money and give voters a stronger voice. McKay is passionate about the climate crisis and is affiliated with a number of climate organizations. He also supports DSA LA, Homeless Health Care LA and Amnesty International.

### **KEVIN MESSICK (Producer)**

Academy Award nominated and Emmy-winning producer Kevin Messick is Adam McKay's long-time producing partner at McKay's Hyperobject Industries, which has a first look television deal with HBO/HBO Max and first look movie deal with Apple. His most recent feature is the Netflix comedy *Don't Look Up*, written and directed by McKay, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Leonardo DiCaprio. *Don't Look Up* tells the story of two low-level astronomers who must go on a giant media tour to warn of an approaching comet that will destroy Earth.

Messick's 2018 feature *Vice*, starring Christian Bale as former Vice President Dick Cheney opposite Amy Adams, Steve Carrell, and Sam Rockwell, received eight Academy Award, six BAFTA, and five Golden Globe nominations. Messick also received a PGA nomination for Outstanding Producer of a Theatrical Motion Picture for *Vice*. In 2015, he served as an executive producer on McKay's *The Big Short*, based on Michael Lewis's New York Times best-selling book about the financial crisis of 2007/2008. Starring Christian Bale, Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling and Brad Pitt, *The Big Short* went on to receive Academy Award, BAFTA, Golden Globe nominations for Best Picture and won the 2016 PGA for Best Picture as well as the Academy Award, Golden Globe, BAFTA and WGA Awards for McKay and his co-writer Charles Randolph's Adapted Screenplay.

Upcoming feature film work includes social thriller *FRESH* for Searchlight Pictures, starring Daisy Edgar-Jones and Sebastian Stan from director Mimi Cave with a screenplay from Lauryn Kahn. Messick and McKay are also reteaming with Jennifer Lawrence for her to star as Elizabeth Holmes in an adaptation of John Carreyrou's best-seller *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies* in Silicon Valley for Apple.

For television, Messick is as an executive producer on numerous series, including HBO's EMMY, Golden Globe and BAFTA award-winning "Succession". Messick also won the PGA award for Outstanding Producer of Episodic

Television - Drama for "Succession". He recently worked on Season three of Freeform's "Motherland: Fort Salem", created by Eliot Laurence. Messick serves as executive producer on the much-anticipated HBO drama series "Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty", as well as a limited series based on Miami Herald investigative reporter Julie K. Brown's upcoming book about Jeffrey Epstein. He will serve as an executive producer on HBO's limited series adaptation of Bong Joon Ho's Academy Award-winning Best Picture *Parasite*.

Prior to joining Hyperobject Industries, Messick was a producer at Gary Sanchez Productions where he produced/executive produced alongside McKay and Will Ferrell. His Gary Sanchez Productions credits include *The Other Guys*, directed by McKay and starring Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg; *Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters*, starring Jeremy Renner and Gemma Atherton; *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues*, directed by McKay and re-teaming Will Ferrell, Steve Carell, Paul Rudd and David Koechner; *Tammy* with Melissa McCarthy; *Get Hard*, starring Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart; *The Boss* with Melissa McCarthy and Kristen Bell; *Casa de mi Padre*, starring Will Ferrell, Diego Luna and Gael Garcia Bernal; *Daddy's Home* and *Daddy's Home 2* starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg; and *Ibiza*, starring Gillian Jacobs and Richard Madden.

## CAST BIOS

### DAISY EDGAR-JONES (Noa)

British actor Daisy Edgar-Jones trained with National Youth Theatre before landing her first role at the age of 17 as a series regular in the British Comedy-Drama "Cold Feet" alongside James Nesbitt for ITV.

Most notably, Edgar-Jones was seen playing the lead role of Marianne in the adaptation of the Sally Rooney novel "Normal People", directed by Lenny Abrahamson. The series was met with critical acclaim as was Edgar-Jones' performance, which earned her IMDb's Breakthrough STARMeter Award, a Madame Figaro Rising Star Award, a Rose d'Or Emerging Talent Award - making Daisy the first-ever winner of this award - as well as being named as one of Screen International's 'Stars of Tomorrow' for 2020, Associated Press Breakthrough Entertainer for 2020 and being picked by The Hollywood Reporter for their Next Gen 2020 list. Edgar-Jones also earned a Critics Choice, Golden Globe and BAFTA TV nomination.

Next up, Edgar-Jones will be seen in her feature film debut *Fresh*, directed by Mimi Cave. The Searchlight Pictures film has been selected to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival and will release on Hulu on March 4th, 2022.

In July 2022 Edgar-Jones will star in the film adaptation of Delia Owens' novel *Where the Crawdads Sing*, as the titular role of Kya. The film is written by Lucy Alibar, directed by Olivia Newman and produced by Reese Witherspoon and Lauren Neustadter's Hello Sunshine.

Edgar-Jones has just finished filming her leading role in the FX on Hulu limited series "Under the Banner of Heaven" opposite Andrew Garfield. The series hails from writer Dustin Lance Black and is based on the Jon Krakauer novel of the same name. In the series, a devout detective's faith is tested as he investigates a brutal murder that seems to be connected to an esteemed Utah family's spiral into LDS fundamentalism and their distrust in the government.

In February of 2020 Edgar-Jones appeared as Zara in Mike Barlett's "Albion", at the Almeida Theatre. The play returned following a sell-out run in 2017 and was later dubbed The Telegraph's "Play of the Year". In 2019, she shot an independent coming-of-age feature film *Pond Life* which was directed by Bill Buckhurst and produced by Open Palm Films.

Edgar-Jones' further TV credits include "Silent Witness" (BBC), "Outnumbered: Christmas Special" (BBC), "Gentleman Jack" (HBO/BBC). In 2019, she was seen in "War of the Worlds" (CANAL PLUS) opposite Gabriel Byrne and Elizabeth McGovern with the highly anticipated second season releasing in 2021, and the third season confirmed.

## SEBASTIAN STAN (Steve)

Sebastian Stan has recently reprised his role as Bucky Barnes / The Winter Soldier in the highly successful Disney+ and Marvel mini-series, *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, alongside Anthony Mackie, which premiered on March 19th on Disney+.

Stan has also portrayed the role of Bucky in seven of the 15+ billion-dollar Avengers franchise films, including *Avengers: Endgame*, *Ant-Man*, *Black Panther*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, and three installations of Marvel's Captain America: *Captain America: Civil War* (2016), *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* (2014), and *Captain America: The First Avenger* (2011).

Stan can currently be seen in Simon Kinberg's ensemble spy thriller, *The 355*, alongside Jessica Chastain, which was released by Universal.

Stan will next be seen in Craig Gillespie's limited 8-episode series for Hulu, "Pam & Tommy", in which he will portray Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee and stars alongside Lily James as Pamela Anderson. Hulu will release the series, produced by Seth Rogan and Megan Ellison at Annapurna on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In March, he can be seen in the film *Fresh*, directed by Mimi Cave, starring alongside Daisy Edgar-Jones, and produced by Adam McKay. The Searchlight Pictures film was selected for the Sundance Film Festival and will be released on Hulu.

Stan recently completed production on Apple Original Film and A24's *SHARPER*, alongside Julianne Moore.

Stan's work in independent films has included some of his most celebrated performances. In 2019, he starred in Drake Doremus' critically-acclaimed film, *Endings, Beginnings* alongside Jamie Dornan and Shailene Woodley, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival; he starred opposite Nicole Kidman in Karyn Kusama's critically-acclaimed drama, *Destroyer*, which premiered at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival and released in theaters that December; and in 2017, he portrayed Jeff Gillooly in Craig Gillespie's Golden Globe, Gotham and New York Film Critics nominated *I, Tonya*, alongside Margot Robbie and Allison Janney.

In 2015, Stan starred in Ridley Scott's Academy Award-nominated film *The Martian*, which generated over \$629 million worldwide. That same year, he also starred in Sony Pictures Classics' dark comedy *The Bronze*, directed by Bryan Buckley and alongside Melissa Rauch.

Stan's additional film credits include Argyris Papadimitropoulos Greek drama, *Monday*, the Antonio Campos directed Netflix film, *The Devil All the Time*, and Todd Robinson's *The Last Full Measure*. Additionally, Steven Soderbergh's *Logan Lucky*, Jonathan Demme's *Ricki and the Flash* alongside Meryl Streep, *Gone with Amanda Seyfried*, Darren Aronofsky's *Black Swan* with Natalie Portman, *Rachel Getting Married* with Anne Hathaway, *Spread* with Ashton Kutcher, *Hot Tub Time Machine*, director Fred Durst's *The Education of Charlie Banks*, *The Architect* with Anthony LaPaglia, and Isabella Rossellini's *The Covenant*.

Stan's television credits include "Gossip Girl," "Once Upon A Time," and Greg Berlanti's critically acclaimed mini-series "Political Animals," for which he was nominated for a TCA Award for his performance as T.J. Hammond.

In 2007, Stan made his Broadway debut opposite Liev Schreiber in Eric Bogosian's Tony-nominated revival "Talk Radio." He also starred alongside Maggie Grace and Ellen Burstyn in the 2013 revival of William Inge's "Picnic."

#### **JONICA "JOJO" T. GIBBS (Millie)**

Jonica "Jojo" T. Gibbs can next be seen starring opposite Daisy Edgar-Jones, Sebastian Stan & Charlotte Le Bon in the Adam McKay produced Legendary film *Fresh*. Prior to that, Jojo most recently made history as the first actress to portray a masculine-presenting, openly gay character as the lead of a network series. She stars in Lena Waithe's comedy series "Twenties", which premiered on BET on March 4, 2020.

Gibbs portrays a queer African-American woman trying to make it big in Hollywood on the show, which also marks the first BET series to center around a black lesbian protagonist. The first two episodes of "Twenties" were screened at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, where Gibbs received accolades for her performance. Additionally, Gibbs is currently producing and starring in her digital series "No More Comics in LA". She has opened for Dave Chapelle at The Comedy Store and has performed on many stages across Los Angeles. Previously, she appeared in several episodes of the hit Freeform series "Good Trouble". She shot *Past Lives* for A24 opposite Greta Lee, Teo Yoo and John Magaro for director, Celine Song.

#### **ANREA BANG (Penny)**

Andrea Bang was born and raised in Burnaby, B.C. She is best known for playing Janet on CBC's "Kim's Convenience", which has earned her multiple Canadian Screen Award nominations for Best Lead Actress in a Comedy. Her other credits include recurring guest stars in "Running with Violet", and ABC's "A Million Little Things".

In film, Andrea plays Penny in the thriller *FRESH*, opposite Daisy Edgar-Jones and Sebastian Stan. She recently wrapped the leading role of Waverly in the Lionsgate feature *Float*, with Robbie Amell, and stars alongside Augustus Prew in *Dear David*. Her other film credits include *Luce*, which premiered at Sundance in 2019, and *Stay the Night*.

Aside from acting, Andrea continues to write, make videos, and watch way too much TV. She is represented by The Characters Talent Agency, and Authentic Talent and Literary Management.

### **DAYO OKENIYI (TBC)**

Dayo Okeniyi will next star in the Disney+ feature *Rise*, based on the life of Giannis Antetokounmpo from director Akin Omotoso. He also has Mimi Cave's Legendary Entertainment film *Fresh* from Adam McKay opposite Daisy Edgar-Jones and Sebastian Stan set to premiere at Sundance 2022. He just wrapped production on the Robert Rodriguez feature *Hypnotic* opposite Ben Affleck.

Okeniyi can be seen in the AGC Studios/STX Films *Queenpins* opposite Kristen Bell, Paul Walter Hauser and Vince Vaughn for Aron Gaudet and Gita Pullapilly.

Additionally, he is set to reprise his role in season 2 of Steven Knight's hit Apple TV+ series "See" with Jason Momoa.

Okeniyi currently stars in Mark Amin's *Emperor* for which he was nominated for Breakthrough Actor for the NAACP Awards, and can also be seen with Ella Balinska and Pilou Asbek in Shana Feste's *Run Sweetheart Run*.

He was previously in the Paramount/Skydance tentpole *Terminator: Genesys* opposite Jason Clarke, Emilia Clarke and Jai Courtney. DAYO can also be seen in the hit-series "Shades of Blue" opposite Jennifer Lopez and Ray Liotta.

### **CHARLOTTE LE BON (Ann)**

Charlotte Le Bon was introduced in the film, *Yves Saint Laurent*, where she was nominated for a César Award for Best Supporting Actress. Her first English speaking film was *The Hundred Foot Journey* where she starred

opposite Helen Mirren and then went on to work with Robert Zemekis and Joseph Gordon-Levitt in *The Walk*. She recently starred in *Anthropoid* opposite Jamie Dornan and Cillian Murphy, *Bastille Day (The Take)* opposite Idris Elba, *In the Shadow of Iris* for director, Jalil Lespert, and *The Promise* opposite Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac as the female lead. She will next be seen in *Warning*, the feature adaptation of several famous short stories. She also wrote, directed and produced *Judith Hotel*, which premiered last year at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival.

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