

My Sixteenth Summer:
Press Kit

ali degan

noel howell

ben lamm

my
sixteenth
summer

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One summer can change everything... **and nothing at all.**



JUNAM'S PICTUREHOUSE PRESENTS

A SAVVY LORESTANI FILM ALI DEGAN NOEL HOWELL BEN LAMM "MY *SIXTEENTH* SUMMER" LANNIE WALKER CLAY SEYMOUR
MEG REDMOND WITH SARA SAIDY AND ZOYA LORESTANI EDITED BY BRIDGET SNAPP DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BRANDON THOMPSON
PRODUCED BY SAVVY LORESTANI DON MANDRIK AND CHARLOTTE LORESTANI WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SAVVY LORESTANI

WINNER
MAVERICK AWARD
The Method Fest
2009

NOMINEE
INTERNATIONAL
INDIE FEATURE FILM
Okanagan International
Film Festival
2009

My Sixteenth Summer: Synopsis

Samir's summer is looking pretty bleak. His spoiled sister is back from med school, his fresh-off-the-boat parents get more foreign every day and it looks like he's about to lose the girl of his dreams...to his best friend.

In response, Samir ditches his high school friends and starts hanging out with a couple of twenty-somethings.

But as Samir exchanges his adolescent woes for a look at the quarter-life, he starts to see that the other side of twenty isn't all its cracked up to be...and that maybe being sixteen isn't so bad.

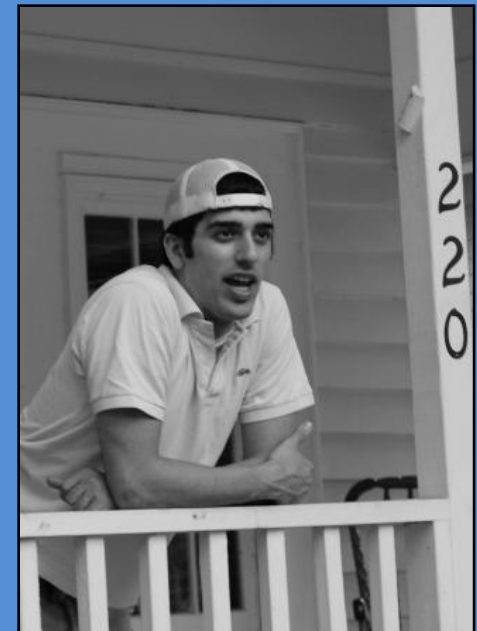


My Sixteenth Summer: Production Notes

My Sixteenth Summer was filmed in and around metro-Atlanta in just 21 days. The three-person crew included Savvy Lorestani, Brandon Thompson and Erika Eades. The film was shot on a DVX 100 with a 35 MM Adapter and cost approximately \$1,000 - - the cost of food.

Savvy relied heavily on friends and family to provide him with locations, props and talent. In fact, the majority of the film was shot at his best friend Phil's house and was decorated completely with his parents' furniture. His family and friends also played several roles in the film, including his mother and father. The cast members consistently helped fill production gaps - it was common to see an actor perform in one scene and hold a boom-pole in the next.

Though the film had limited resources, it had the support of an amazing community of talented and passionate people. *My Sixteenth Summer* started as a pet film project for Savvy and turned into a community production.



My Sixteenth Summer: Cast & Crew

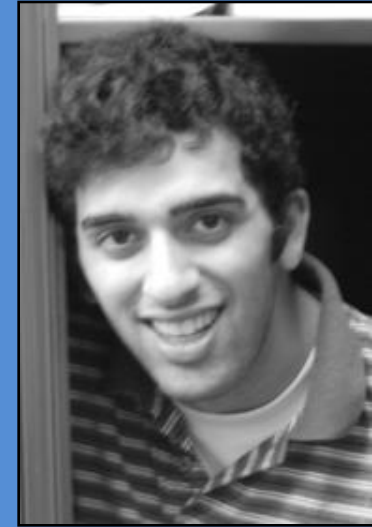
Samir:	Ali Degan
Chrystal:	Noel Howell
Karl:	Ben Lamm
Adam:	Clay Seymour
Samir's Mother:	Zoya Lorestani
Shully:	Sara Saidy
Brandi:	Lannie Walker
Jamie:	Meg Redmond
Samir's Father:	Saad Lorestani
Customer:	Brooke Snapp
Classroom Kid:	Rob Tiffin
Customer's Son:	Devin Snapp
Erin:	Melanie Thomas
Teacher:	Bridget Snapp



Written And Directed By: Savvy Lorestani
Produced By: Savvy Lorestani & Don Mandrick
Co-Executive Producers: Charlotte Lorestani & Vijaay Sehkon
Edited By: Bridget Snapp
Director Of Photography: Brandon Thompson
Assistant Director: Erika Eades
Sound Engineer: Ron Wiles



Ali Degan developed an interest in electronic media classes as a teenager and filmed multiple projects for his school. He currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia and attends Georgia State University. He is a Political Science major with a minor in Journalism and will be graduating in the Fall of 2009. While attending Georgia State University he has worked on projects for campus film fest and on various short films. *My Sixteenth Summer* was his first role in a feature film. He currently works for a local radio station as an on-air personality and in the promotions department.



My Sixteenth Summer: Cast Bios

Born in Florida, **Noël Howell** was raised overseas, growing up in Grenada, Jamaica, Haiti, Thailand and Vietnam. In 2005, she was working on the set of her first feature film, *Downtime*, and was later cast as the female lead. She has also completed a number of other projects including *The Angel Project*, *Detour* and *A Cockroach Named Henry*. Noël enjoys reading, movies and belly dancing in her spare time. Noël lives in Georgia with her husband Jim and 2 dogs.



Clay Seymour enjoys acting, in film and onstage, more than anything else. Other recent film credits include *Green Peace* and *Special Affects*, both completing later this year. Onstage, Clay has portrayed Odell in *Sordid Lives*, Hugo Taney in *God's Man in Texas* and Duane Wilson in *Harvey*. Clay studied the Stanislavski / Strasberg Method of Acting under Sandra Ellenburg Dorsey. Outside of acting, Clay develops fundraising strategies for non-profit and political initiatives. He enjoys nature, advocacy, philanthropy, politics and, of course, arts.



My Sixteenth Summer: Cast Bios

Ben Lamm is a 24-year-old actor currently living in the suburbs of Atlanta with his parents. Ben recently finished work on his second and third features, *Flowers for the Devil* and *A Cockroach Named Henry*, both releasing in 2009. He is also finishing up work as the lead in his fourth feature, *The Empty Chair*. Ben co-wrote, produced and starred in the short film *Strangers with Faces*, which is currently out to festivals. When Ben isn't acting, he is watching movies and basketball, reading, surfing the internet or talking to himself.



My Sixteenth Summer: Director's Bio

Savvy Lorestani started his film career on the wrong side of the camera. After a year of failing as an actor, Savvy started learning about the production side of things and eventually moved into directing.

After completing *My Sixteenth Summer*, Savvy was approached to produce and direct a live action trilogy based on the international comic book series, *Paula Peril*. The first film, *Paula Peril and the Mystery of the Crystal Falcon* will be released in April 2009.

Savvy is currently in pre-production for his next two feature films, *Media Room* and *Bloom*. His dream is to one day direct film adaptations of *The Little Prince*, *Captain Planet* and *The Legend of Zelda*.

Savvy earned his B.A. in English from Emory University and an M.B.A. from Georgia State University. When not making films, Savvy works as an organizational development consultant, specializing in professional development and team building.



My Sixteenth Summer: EInsiders.com Review

Review Highlights:

"Savvy Lorenstani's intimate and no doubt personal *My Sixteenth Summer* feels very much like the work of a young master--parts early Linklater and Lucas (remember before *Star Wars*, George Lucas gave us *American Graffiti*)."

"*My Sixteenth Summer* is the kind of independent feature that fans of the work of filmmaker Andrew Bujalski will appreciate. Bujalski found success with *Funny Ha Ha* a film that captured our youthful imagination."

"Nothing seems contrived in Lorestani's little film. Permitting his camera to pause upon his subjects long enough for the right emotion to find its way to his actors' faces, Lorestani has an eye for the moment."

Review By Jonathan W. Hickman



[Visit the Website](http://www.mysixteenthsummer.com/)



[View the Blog](http://www.mysixteenthsummer.com/blog.php)

[Read the Full Review](http://www.mysixteenthsummer.com/blog.php)

My Sixteenth Summer: Paste Magazine Review

Review Highlights:

"Subtly funny and alternately heartwarming and heartbreaking, *My Sixteenth Summer* is a classic coming-of-age tale. First-time director Lorestani has a knack for understated realism, and imbuing potentially mundane, everyday moments with a quiet, honest beauty and irresistible charm."

Review By Steve LaBate, Associate Editor

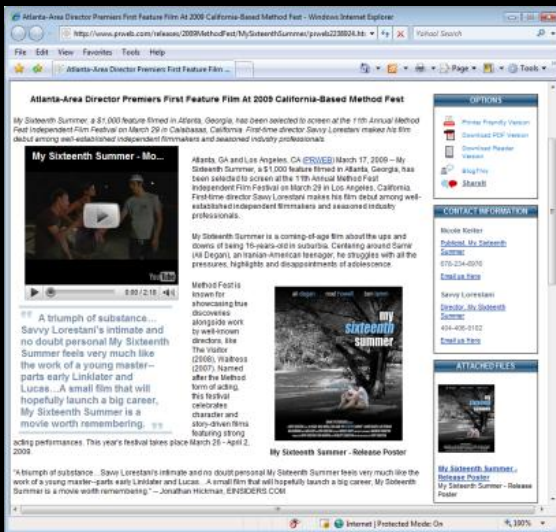
My Sixteenth Summer - Movie Trailer



Watch the Trailer



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My Sixteenth Summer: Film Festivals



*The Method Fest 2009:
March 26 – April 2
Calabasas, California*



*Okanagan International:
April 22 – April 26
Kelowna, British Columbia*