



**GOOD  
BAD  
THINGS**



# GOOD BAD THINGS

A FILM BY SHANE D. STANGER

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE**

**OFFICIAL STILLS**

95 mins. / Drama / United States / English / 2024

## CONTACT

### NATIONAL PUBLICITY

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# LOGLINE

Danny, a young man with muscular dystrophy, steps out of his comfort zone and into the world of online dating. An unexpected match with dynamic photographer Madi challenges him to open up and sparks a profound journey of self-acceptance.

# SYNOPSIS

Danny (newcomer Danny Kurtzman) and Jason (Brett Dier) do everything together: they're best friends, business partners, and even roommates. Danny, who lives with muscular dystrophy, is disillusioned by past relationships and still hurting over a recent breakup. Despite having supportive friends and family, he still feels like something is missing and hopes to open himself up to love again. As luck would have it, Danny and Jason's design firm is up for a contract with a dating app - which Danny insists he will download for research purposes only. An unexpected match with Madi (Jessica Parker Kennedy), an enigmatic photographer, challenges him to be vulnerable and sparks a profound journey of self-acceptance, as he discovers and shares the extraordinary beauty of his unique body. Executive produced by Steve Way (from Hulu's *Ramy*), this Slamdance-award winning love story will move and inspire audiences of all kinds and shine a light on an authentic reflection of living with a disability.







## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

When I set out to make GOOD BAD THINGS, I had quite a simple goal: direct my first feature film with my childhood best friend Danny Kurtzman as the lead actor. Our relationship is unique enough that we knew we had a story to tell in a way only we could. Through Danny's perspective, we explore love, friendship, finding the courage to take risks, and the impact of perception on our realities. We saw an opportunity to shed light on an aspect of living with a disability that is too seldom portrayed in the media: ordinary life. Danny's journey speaks to the heart of what it means to be human, and I know all audiences will see themselves in him.

## **LETTER FROM LEAD ACTOR DANNY KURTZMAN**

For most of my life, I innocently inherited stories of my disability that weren't mine. Stories that caused me to feel constantly inadequate. GOOD BAD THINGS attests that, as disabled individuals, we can trust our feelings and write our own stories. This film redefines what it means to have a disability and makes it powerful.

My lifelong friend and talented director Shane and I pooled 25 years of memories to bring my experience living with a physical disability to the screen. This film is a testament to that friendship, and a unique portrayal of disability, which I hope all audiences will connect with.

Thank you so much for joining us to bring this film to the world! After 6 months of film festivals, we have received such amazing validation within the disabled community that this story needs to not only be told, but reach people all across the world with our message of love and self-worth.

So much love!!







# CAST

**Danny:** Danny Kurtzman

**Jason:** Brett Dier

**Madi:** Jessica Parker Kennedy

**Natalie:** Ryan Whitney

**Mia:** Lish Bliss

**Ashley:** Jessica Kemeiuk

**Sam:** Lydia Bielen

**Riley:** Morgan Bradley

**Cody:** Sean Crampton

**Gabe:** Max Adler

**Gale:** Gale Hansen

**Marco:** Timothy Granaderos

**Lexi:** Aneisha Hughes

**Charlotte:** Samantha Robinson

**Bianca:** Katie Lee

**Brett:** Gabriel Grier

**Perry:** Drew Lipson

**Vic:** Maxwell Almono

# CREW

**Directed by:** Shane Stanger

**Produced by:** Mel McGinnis, Sean Crampton, Manuel Gonzalez

**Director of Photography:** Nathan Haugaard

**Executive Producers:** Steve Way, Marlene Stanger,  
Debbie Magee, Eli Sokhn, Max Hacker

**Composer:** Matt O'Connor

**Production Designer:** Sam Sanders IV

**Art Department:** Jordan Wisely

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

A Southern California native, Shane Stanger is an award-winning filmmaker and entrepreneur whose career began in 2009 in the ICM mailroom before spending two years as an assistant to an agent in the motion picture department. Shane went on to associate produce BERNIE, directed by Richard Linklater, starring Jack Black and Matthew McConaughey. The success of BERNIE paved the way for Shane's role as the lead producer for the independent feature PRETTY PERFECT.

In May 2013, Shane founded and launched The Baked Bear, a dessert concept out of San Diego specializing in ice cream sandwiches. In 2016 Shane was a recipient of the Forbes 30 Under 30 Award. By 2021, Shane had opened over 35 Baked Bear locations across 12 states and decided to return to his true passion: filmmaking. Shane enrolled in the prestigious Peter Stark Producing Program at USC's School of Cinematic Arts and received his MFA in May 2023. GOOD BAD THINGS is Stanger's writing and directing debut. He premiered at the 2024 Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, where he won both Grand Jury and Audience awards.









We are honored to earn the GAMUT Seal of Approval™! This means that we have done the work in an authentic way to bring entertainment to life with and for people with disabilities. GOOD BAD THINGS has met the high standards of the Seal. Our production believes in inclusion inside and out. And we have created something that has the power to change lives.



# ABOUT MUSIC BOX FILMS

Music Box Films is the prestigious North American distributor of acclaimed international, independent, and documentary feature films. Recent releases include *Mountains*, the debut feature from Monica Sorelle, who took home the Independent Spirit Awards “Someone to Watch” Award, and *In the Summers*, Alessandra Lacorazza’s heartfelt and subtly powerful coming-of-age directorial debut that won the two top prizes in the U.S. Dramatic Competition at Sundance. Upcoming releases include the Cannes Directors’ Fortnight baseball comedy *Eephus* by Carson Lund, and *Ghost Trail*, Jonathan Millet’s tense and haunting revenge thriller that premiered at Cannes Film Festival.

Since its formation in 2007, Music Box Films has distributed award-winning films and art-house favorites that include Academy Award winner *Ida*, *Meru* (from Oscar-winning filmmakers Jimmy Chin and E. Chai Vaserhelyi), Christian Petzold’s *Transit*, the popular Swedish comedy *A Man Called Ove*, and the original *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Music Box Films is independently owned and operated by the Southport Music Box Corporation, which also owns and operates the Music Box Theatre, Chicago’s premier venue for independent and foreign films. For more information, visit [www.musicboxfilms.com](http://www.musicboxfilms.com).

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