

IMDb Profile: www.imdb.com/title/tt6801580

Festival Contact

Don Swanson, Director

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Tag Line

An impossible wish. A determined volunteer.

Log Line

Sophie, a young volunteer, meets her kindred spirit in Roxie, a girl with a life threatening medical condition and a unique wish to find Bigfoot.

Synopsis

Sophie meets a kindred spirit in Roxie, a young girl with an inoperable brain tumor and the impossible wish to meet Bigfoot. As if the task at hand isn't hard enough, Sophie must contend with meddling from Derrick, a fame-hungry classmate born into privilege from her graduate classes. As time grows short and pressures mount, Sophie must align herself with Derrick in order to see Roxie's wish granted, even if not in the way she may have hoped for. Unknown to everyone is the possibility that there may be magic in the wish of a dying girl, and a truth beyond belief.



Director's Statement

When Aaron Dunbar first came to me it was obvious that he was passionate about turning his book, *A Wish for Giants*, into a movie - and I found his passion to be inspiring. Aside from the potential for the relationship between Sophie and Roxie was the interesting premise of a sick child wishing to find Bigfoot. Perhaps even more alluring was the story of how this project

was coming together, and it was one that I wanted to be a part of - A Wish for Giants was a community effort of passionate, talented, dedicated and local individuals who managed to make a proffesional independent feature on a micro-budget of \$25,000 in the rolling hills of the Western Pennsylvanian landscape. Having been an independent filmmaker for over 15 years, A Wish for Giants is not only my feature directorial debut, but a testament to the spirit of what it means to be an independent filmmaker.

Principal Cast & Crew



Don Swanson – Director/Cinematographer/Editor

Swanson is an internationally screened and reviewed award-winning filmmaker. Beginning under the banner of Spruce Films in 2000, Don has written and directed over a dozen short films and other projects that,

aside from playing and winning festivals, have had hundreds of thousands online viewings, been for sale in unique venues like the Vans Warped Tour and on DVD compilations available on Amazon.com.



Aaron Dunbar – Writer/Producer/Executive Producer

Aaron wrote the original novel for *A Wish for Giants* and acted as Executive Producer and Producer on the project. He also wrote the initial drafts of the script from his novel. This is his first film project.



Naysa Altmeyer - "Sophie"

Naysa is a high school Spanish teacher who's previous credits include a music video for Senor Wooley that was shot in the Chicago area.



Alexa Mechling – "Roxie"

Alexa is a high school Freshman who is just beginning to explore her interest in acting. Her previous credits include <u>Forest Queen</u>, a music video for the band *The New Mutiny*.



Connor McClain - "Derrick"

Connor is a recent high school graduate who has performed in local and school plays for several years. *A Wish for Giants* is his first time acting for the camera.

Additioanl Cast & Crew

J.P. Edwards - "Justin"

Joe Fishel - "Sen. Boehm"

Jerry Pietrala - "Dr. Lundgren"

Cory Hika – Assistant Director

David Damrath – Audio

Noah Crissman – Photography/Assistant Camera

Sadie Dunbar – Makeup

Hannah Walleck – Costume

Chris Garritano – Production Assistant

Hayley Woodside – Junior Production Assistant

Joey Crissman – Junior Production Assistant

Mary Dunbar – Accountant/Executive Producer

Alexandria Sertik - "Alex"

Amber Gonzales - "Amber"

Kennedy Garvin - "Kat"

Monica Sertik - "Dorie"

Bill Rush - "Mr. Davidson"

A.J. Dunbar - "Bogie"

Todd Johns - "Wendell"

Tony Gonzales - "Tom"

Joe Dedon - "Dr. Linche"

Autumn Claypool – Vocals

Mark D'Errico – Composer

Stan Gordon – "Himself"



(BR: Alexa Mechling, Naysa Altmeyer, Connor McClain & Joe Fishel. FR: Aaron Dunbar & Don Swanson)



Writer/Producer Anecdote

A Wish for Giants was a novel I wrote and published in 2015. It was originally written as a fundraiser to help children with life threatening medical conditions get their wishes granted. The story is about a young girl named Roxie Madison with an inoperable brain tumor

and a very unique wish--to FIND Bigfoot! I'd hoped the book would be successful but I had no idea how huge Bigfoot pop culture really was. After meeting a handful of celebrities within the Bigfoot world, who eagerly bought my novel, I was encouraged to make it into a movie. With much contemplation... and prayer...and support from my wife...we began to make this vision a reality. Within three months, we had over THIRTY local talents--from background extras to principal actors--who donated their time and skills. Just as amazing, we met up with Don Swanson of *Spruce Films* who brought in a terrific production crew to put everything on film. As with the novel, the movie will be shown at select locations and ticket sales will also benefit children with life threatening medical conditions who have wishes of their own.

- Aaron Dunbar

Reviews

3.5/5 Stars - IndyRed Reviews

"This is a film that will entertain straight through until the credits."

http://www.indyred.com/a-wish-for-giants-review.html

3/5 Stars - ReelRomp Reviews

"Dunbar's story comes through loud and clear and the titles director, Don Swanson, does a fabulous job with the tools given."

http://www.reelromp.com/a-wish-for-giants.html

3.5/5 Stars - 22 Indie Street Reviews

"On so many levels this film works... This is a film that knows what it is and goes for it." http://www.22indiestreet.com/a-wish-for-giants.html

Production Photos



(First Day of Principal Photography – 10/15/17)



(On Set with Stan Gordon – Day 23)



(Director Don Swanson & A.D. Cory Hika on Set)



(Naysa Altmeyer & Connor McClain on Set)



(Cast & Crew on Last Day of Filming)



(Spruce Films – Editing Suite)

Film Stills



Roxie (Alexa Mechling) & Sophie (Naysa Altmeyer)



Sophie (Naysa Altmeyer)



Roxie (Alexa Mechling)



Derrick (Connor McClain)

www.awishforgiants.com

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