

# Stuck on Struck

Screenwriter Milena Ferreira Debuts a Short Film About Love at Sdff

Written by Nicole Quiroz



Screenwriter Milena Ferreira will debut *Struck* at the San Diego Film Festival.

What's it like being shot with an arrow and having it lodged inside your chest cavity, and then trying to face the world with your new appendage? Ask Joel, the arrow's victim in the movie *Struck*. As a featured short film at the San Diego Film Festival, 944 spoke to screenwriter Milena Ferreira to try and make her spill the juicy details about the movie, but as you will find out, she's definitely making sure she doesn't spoil any surprises.

#### 944: What is the movie about?

MILENA FERREIRA: It's about a guy who has really given up on going after anything, including women, who gets struck by an arrow and has to learn to live with it despite the torments from life. But I can't say much more as it will give away the story. You [have to wait to] see it at the film festival!

#### Tell us a little bit about the main characters then.

The main character is Joel, played by Bodhi Elfman. He is a middle-aged man swallowed up by corporate America, with no real dreams. Another main character is Joel's roommate Todd, played by Jason Dohring — a very goofy, loveable guy who ends up coming to his friend's aide through the film. And of course the heroine of the story is Amber, played by Beth Riesgraf. I wanted Amber to be someone with an almost angelic quality and she really encompasses that. She is so beautiful and has such a friendly warm glow to her that shows through in her character.

#### This film has a slew of recognizable actors and actresses. Can you name them?

There are so many great characters and actors, and I was very honored to be working with such professionals, like Kelly Preston, Marisol Nichols, Erika Christensen, Jenna Elfman, Nancy Cartwright, Jennifer Aspen and Ethan Suplee.

#### What inspired you to write this movie?

I'm really intrigued by the concept of soul mates and love so I really wanted to explore these in a more modern sense. There are a lot of skeptics about love, and that's how the main character is in *Struck*. I guess my inspiration was finding love myself and all of the things you go through to get to that point.

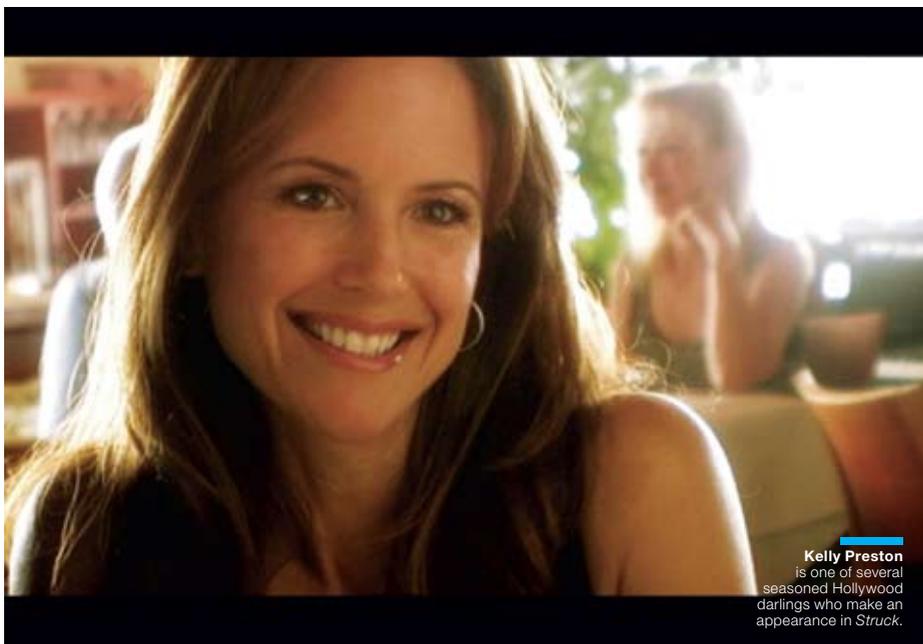
#### Speaking of love, your husband, Nathan Lorch, is the producer of the film. What was it like working closely with him?

It was a lot of fun to collaborate with him and work with him professionally. It made me see him in a new light as a producer, and I was really impressed with him on this project. He is my favorite person to work with.

#### What was the most difficult part about writing this movie and what was the easiest?

The most difficult part was getting the story to be short and sweet. The script went from being 12 pages to five. The director, Taron Lexton, and I had agreed it would make the best impact with fewer pages. The easiest part was when my husband said "I love it, you have to write it," about my film idea. He encouraged me. It was kind of matter-of-fact and so I was like, "okay, I'll do it."

For show times and passes for *Struck*, please visit [www.sdff.org](http://www.sdff.org) and check out [www.struckthefilm.com](http://www.struckthefilm.com) for more background on the movie.



Kelly Preston is one of several seasoned Hollywood darlings who make an appearance in *Struck*.

