

# THE REPUBLIC OF RICK



**A FILM BY MARIO KYPRIANOU**

## **SLAMDANCE FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS**

**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:15pm** – Main Screening Room (\*WORLD PREMIERE\*)

**Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:50pm** – Main Screening Room

[http://slamdance.festivalgenius.com/2014/films/therepublicofrick\\_mariokyprianou\\_slamdance2014](http://slamdance.festivalgenius.com/2014/films/therepublicofrick_mariokyprianou_slamdance2014)

**DIRECTED BY:** Mario Kyprianou

**WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY:** Mario Kyprianou and Becky Leigh

**STARRING:** Dave Abed, Becky Leigh, Ronnie Lee Steadman, John Macey, Darrell Philip, Angie Gregory, Glen Mcdougal, Lori Jean Wilson

**SLAMDANCE CATEGORY:** Narrative Feature

**RUNNING TIME:** 80 minutes

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/TheRepublicOfRick>

**WEBSITE:** [www.therepublicofrick.com](http://www.therepublicofrick.com)

**SALES CONTACT:** Bill Straus: [Bill@BGPFilm.com](mailto:Bill@BGPFilm.com) o: 646-599-3454 c: 310-962-8103

**PRESS CONTACT:** Richard Stafford, Prodigy PR: [rs@prodigypublicrelations.com](mailto:rs@prodigypublicrelations.com) 310-857-2020

**TO DOWNLOAD MATERIALS:** <ftp://corp.prodigypublicrelations.com> (u: prodigyftp - p: prodpr)

# CAST AND CREW

<b>RICK LAUNER</b>	David Abed
<b>TRAVIS WUNDERLICH</b>	Ronnie Lee Steadman
<b>TANDY LAUNER</b>	Becky Leigh
<b>GARY HOBRATCH</b>	John Macey
<b>CHUCK WHITEHEAD</b>	Darrell Phillip
<b>BETH WHITEHEAD</b>	Angie Gregory
<b>BILL MASON</b>	Glenn McDougal
<b>PEARL MASON</b>	Lori Jean Wilson
<b>SHERRIFF RON</b>	Josie Estaban Hoskins
<b>BOBBY T. CONWAY</b>	Paul Whetstone
<b>FRANK</b>	John Riverwood
<b>SALLY</b>	Stephanie Yadon
<b>JIM</b>	Sam Burkett
<b>SUE</b>	Holly White
<b>TYLER</b>	JP Nickel
<b>KURT</b>	Rusty White
<b>POSTAL WORKER #1</b>	Stan Knight
<b>POSTAL WORKER #2</b>	Barbara Ladin
<b>REPORTER ON TV/ANCHOR</b>	
<b>#1</b>	Phillip Cook
<b>REPORTER ON TV/ANCHOR</b>	
<b>#2</b>	Stephanie Roede
<b>MATTIE</b>	Serendipity Lilliana
<b>TAMMY</b>	Kiley Aguinaga
<b>TEXAN ON TV</b>	Timothy Gieco
<b>SANTA ANA</b>	Danny Castro
<b>POWER WALKER #1</b>	Marie Reeves
<b>POWER WALKER #2</b>	Lori Hands
<b>JUDGE CRAWFORD</b>	David Lockhart
<b>FUTURE NEWS ANCHOR</b>	David Stenstrom
<b>CLEANING LADY</b>	Anna Bradley
<b>PRODUCED BY</b>	Mario Kyprianou and Becky Leigh
<b>DIRECTOR OF</b>	
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	Matt Skala
<b>EDITOR</b>	Eric Hendricks
<b>LINE PRODUCER</b>	Keenan Jackson
<b>PRODUCTION DESIGNER</b>	Frank Bonanno
<b>ART DIRECTION</b>	Katie Moest
<b>SET DECORATION</b>	Kim Brunner

**COSTUME DESIGN** Jennifer May Nickel  
**MAKEUP DEPARTMENT** Caryn Cobilo  
Maria Amezcua  
Lorena Acevedo  
**ASSISTANT TO THE LP** Emma Howard  
Ambor Cottrell  
**1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR** Jorge Luis Rivera  
Larry Litton  
**2ND AD** Kevin Soule  
**2ND 2ND AD** Barnabas Prontnicki  
Dylan Gravley  
Crystal Lee  
Brendan Peterson  
**PRODUCTION DESIGN** Frank Bonanno  
**ART DIRECTOR** Katie Moest  
**ASSISTANT TO THE ART**  
**DEPARTMENT** Kim Brunner  
**COSTUME DESIGN** Jennifer May Nickel  
**WARDROBE DEPARTMENT** Cami Viand  
Mallory Bradley  
**WARDROBE INTERN** Linda Martinez  
Alina Junita  
**SOUND DEPARTMENT** John Maynard  
Zach Johnson  
Dan Klock  
James Hatchet  
**VISUAL EFFECTS** Eric Reinhard  
Keith Tonini  
**ADDITIONAL GFX** Josh Atchley  
**STUNTS** Andrew J. Neis  
**1ST AC** Paulo Uchoa  
Vince Patin  
**KEY GRIP** Juan Pablo Fuentes  
Andy Chin  
**GRIP** John Paul Bennett  
**GAFFER** Danny Sosa  
**SCRIPT SUPERVISOR** Maggie Werning  
**DIT/AE** Walker Forshee  
Bobby Gressle  
Shawn Tira  
**CATERING** Andrew Robles  
**STILLS PHOTOGRAPY** Jorge Luis Rivera  
Angie Gregory



**PA** Maggie Yeah  
**POLICE CAR VENDOR** David Hill  
**TRANSPORTATION** Richard Case  
**ORIGINAL MUSIC BY** Ronnie Lee Steadman  
Mario Kyprianou  
Becky Leigh

**ADDITIONAL CAST**

**TOWN RESIDENTS** Pamela McGee  
Mike Cram  
Don Cuddy  
Donald Eubank  
Barbara Ladin  
Rita Bernards  
Stan Knight  
Ronni Wilde  
Allan Andrews  
Jim Sjoberg  
Lee Dunnavant

**REPUBLIC OF TEXAS CLUB  
MEMBERS**

Mark Wells  
Veronica Strong  
Marge Sklarsky  
Dorothy Sklarsky-Domitz  
William Domitz  
Emily Domitz  
Jason Cerff  
Noah Stags  
Lupe Henighan  
Kat Haas  
Wayne Hellstrom  
Niels Jeppesen  
Susan Freas  
Phyllis Allen  
Sonia Dobrzynski  
Ronnie G. Steeno

**ALAMO REENACTMENT  
SPECTATORS**

Ricky Castro  
Lori Hands  
Marie Reeves

Tristan Leao  
Christy Leao  
Caitlyn Leao

**STANDOFF BYSTANDERS** Bobby Buonanno  
Erica Aguinaga  
Maggie Shields

**ALAMO REENACTORS** Anna Bradley  
Mike Cram  
Stuart Gillies  
Robin Holmes  
Gabriel Alvarez  
Juan Guevora  
Daniel J. Wilson  
Armand Petri  
JP Nickel

**SPECIAL THANKS TO** Linda Miller  
The Town of Frazier Park, CA  
Pine Mountain Club, CA  
The Mountain Enterprise  
Newspaper  
Gary Meyer  
Cat Buckles  
Anna Bradley  
Andra Berkolds  
VFW Post 10040  
Don and Daisy Cuddy  
Basecamp Cafe and Info Lounge  
Ike and Mary Kyprianou  
Alkis Zingas

## **SYNOPSIS**

*-THE REPUBLIC OF RICK is a Texas secession comedy about Rick Launer's quixotic attempt to lead a paranoid militia for Texas's independence in the late 90's.*

Rick Launer loves Texas, the Alamo, and Davy Crockett. As the Ambassador of the Republic of Texas Club, he fights for Texas's independence in the international courts, and Governor George W. Bush is his sworn enemy.

When Rick is kicked out of his beloved club for being jailed for attacking a US mailman, he manipulates a small band of paranoid eccentrics to protect him from the Sheriff's warrant.

Now the President of 'The Republic of Texas,' Rick struggles with the insecurities of his new found role of leader. He manipulates, cajoles, and tricks his followers into submission, as he wreaks havoc on his quaint Texas community.

When Rick's 'Minister of Intelligence' is arrested, Rick begins to suspect his next door neighbors, Bill and Pearl, of being 'spies' for the US government. He retaliates by taking them 'prisoners of war,' as a negotiating tool to get his Minister back. A standoff ensues, and Rick must confront what it takes to be a true leader, as a modern day Alamo unfolds on national television.



## **Q&A WITH DIRECTOR, CO-WRITER, CO-PRODUCER MARIO KYPRIANOU**

### **How did you come across the story?**

My parents are both immigrants from the Republic of Cyprus, and we are close with the family of the country's revolutionary hero. I interviewed his brother and made a short film about a wannabe guerrilla group in Cyprus. It was more of a learning experiment, but I always had the idea in the back of my head of doing the same story in Texas.

I'm from Texas, and secession was a topic of conversation that always came up as I was growing up. After I told some friends about an idea I had for a group to fight to make Texas their own country, I found out it really did happen in 1997 by a group led by Richard (Rick) McLaren.

I became kind of obsessed with the story, and read everything I could. I was able to interview the hostage, the Captain of the Texas Rangers, and I became pen pals with Richard McLaren from prison. That is, until he started trying to get me to run some errands and meet different people for him. Then I kind of backed off, and started writing.

### **Why was it shot on beta?**

Rick's attorney happened to live in my hometown, and he gave me all these videos of the Republic of Texas group that were used as evidence in Rick's trial. There were also other conspiracy videos mixed in the batch that these underground groups passed around, all shot on beta. So it helped give this paranoid feeling to the world of the story I wanted.

### **Are you pro-secession or anti-secession?**

Hahaha. I don't live in Texas anymore, so doesn't really matter to me.

### **Are you trying to make fun of the people that want to secede or are you trying to gain empathy for them? What was your goal with the film?**

I love these characters, so I am not making fun of them. I thought Rick was a modern day Don Quixote and I connected with that, because that's how I felt trying to become a director. Becky Leigh (my fiancée/co-writer/producer/Tandy) and I have been living in a one room studio for the past five years, and going at this for ten years, so it's been a long journey. When you tell people back home what you're trying to do with your life, you usually get the kind of looks that I think Don Quixote was getting.

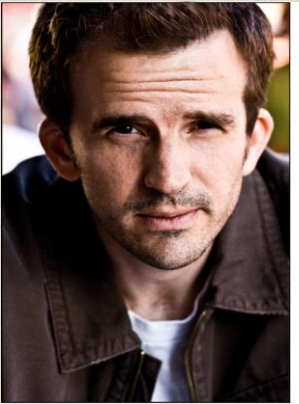
I just found their world fascinating, and I connected to the blind faith they had to have to keep going. I thought it was a great way to express my own struggles with independent filmmaking.

## CAST BIOS



### **Dave Abed - "RICK LAUNER"**

David is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a BFA in Theatre Performance. His LA credits include independent films, television and numerous commercials. He also spent last summer performing Off-Broadway with the Blue Man Group. David loves comedy and has studied with UCB, IO West and Groundlings. You can often find him performing improv around town or sneaking into an open mic to do stand-up.



### **Ronnie Lee Steadman - "TRAVIS WUNDERLICH"**

Ronnie Lee Steadman hails from the great state of Alabama and is thrilled to have had the opportunity to play Travis Wunderlich. Ronnie has been involved in numerous projects in film, television, and commercials.



### **Becky Leigh - "TANDY LAUNER", WRITER, PRODUCER**

Becky Leigh is an actor and writer living in Los Angeles. She has studied at IO West, UCB, and the Groundlings. Her sketches have appeared at the LA Web Series Festival, Iron Mule Short Comedy Festival, and the IO Comedy Network.





### **John Macey - "GARY HOBRATCH"**

A classically trained actor with a diverse background covering everything from Shakespeare to musical theatre to improv comedy, John Macey is perhaps best known for his role as the sleeping guy in the viral short film "The Mistake," a finalist at Tropfest 2012, which has scored over 3.4 million views and been featured on Reddit and BuzzFeed. Along with his appearance as Gary in "Republic of Rick," John's feature film credits include "Thinking With Richard," "R.A.D.I.C.A.L.S.," and "Any Day" starring Sean Bean and Eva Longoria. On television, John has guest starred on TruTV's "Operation Repo" and Spike's "1000 Ways to Die." In 2014, look for his co-starring role on an upcoming episode of Comedy Central's "Workaholics." In his spare time, John likes to hang out and listen to vinyl with his awesome wife, play harmonica, read graphic novels and write poetry, short stories, and screenplays.



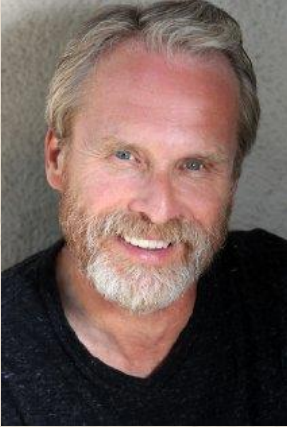
### **Darrell Phillip - "MINISTER CHUCK WHITEHEAD"**

*Darrell Phillip* was born and raised in Texas where he started acting by forcing his babysitters to watch him put on shows. He was a TV news producer and reporter in Texas before moving to Los Angeles. On stage he has been seen as Cyrano in *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Neil Simon's *California Suite*, Noel Coward's *Blythe Spirit*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, and Robey Theatre Company's *Pity The Proud Ones*, and *Bronzeville*. He has studied at the Groundlings with Kathy Griffin, also with Ivana Chubbuck, and Jordana Capra. He has recently been seen on a new series on Discovery I.D. called "Dead of Night," and on B.E.T.'s "Asylum." He can be seen in the forthcoming films *The Algerian*, *The Mulatto*, and *Saving Grace*.



### **Angie Gregory - "BETH WHITEHEAD"**

Angie Gregory (Beth Whitehead) lives in Los Angeles and has appeared in several TV shows and films. Most recently, she was seen in the Season 13 finale episode of *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, "Skin in the Game" and in the lead role of BIO Channel's pilot, *I'll Haunt You When I'm Dead*. Angie will also be featured in photographer Mark Seliger's Ray-Ban campaign in 2014. In addition to acting, Angie writes Southern fiction with an emphasis on social change in the American South. She is originally from Paducah, Kentucky.



### **Glen McDougal - "BILL MASON"**

In a sixth-grade talent assembly, in Louisville Ohio, Glen tried to sing "Try to Remember" but forgot. To overcome this debilitating stage fright, he sought an audience at every opportunity. Speech, choir, trumpet and theatre dominated his academic career. After a stint at theatre arts in Minnesota, he flipped a coin and moved to Los Angeles. While studying, he paid for his acting habit as a furniture mover, milk man, fork lift driver, carpenter, theme park monster, movie extra, Tarot card reader and balloon twister. He prefers acting. To see his resume, go to [IMDB.com](http://IMDB.com) and for a reel of his other work (sans beard) go to [YouTube.com/glenmcdougal](http://YouTube.com/glenmcdougal).



### **Lori Jean Wilson - "PEARL MASON"**

Lori Jean Wilson (Pearl Mason) is from Possum Trot, Kentucky. She moved to Los Angeles in 2004 to pursue a career in TV & film. She was cast in numerous projects, including roles on NBC's "Passions" and TLC's "Untold Stories of the ER." In 2010, Lori took a hiatus from acting to earn a Master's degree in History from the University of Louisville and graduated with honors. In 2013, she returned to L.A. and has already been cast in several film and TV roles as well as in rapper Brooke Candy's upcoming music video "Together." Lori can also be seen in photographer and filmmaker Alex Prager's *Face in the Crowd* exhibit which was recently featured in *Vogue*, *W*, and *Time*.



## CREW BIOS



### **Mario Kyprianou - DIRECTOR, WRITER, PRODUCER**

Mario Kyprianou, originally from Dallas, Texas, is a graduate of UCLA film school for screenwriting. His sketches have appeared at the LA Web Series Festival, Iron Mule Short Comedy Festival, the IO Comedy Network, and the cover of FunnyorDie. Mario's feature, *The Republic of Rick*, received honorable mention at UCLA's screenwriting contest.



### **Matthew Skala - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Matthew Skala is a dedicated and experienced artist with over 50 cinematographer credits including four feature films. He studied still photography at the San Francisco Academy of Art College and has a BFA in Cinematography from the UNC School of the Arts. Much of his work has been in festivals and won awards, including "No Vacancy", a short film selection at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival and the short thriller "Behind You" which won Best Film at the 2012 Carnival of Darkness festival over a Guillermo Del Toro executive produced short. Matthew is completely committed to collaboration and serving the story and director with the most expressive images possible. He is based in Los Angeles, travels domestically and abroad.



### **Eric Hendricks - EDITOR**

As an editor, Eric has worked on all manner of projects including the tv series *Bar Karma* and *Sesame Street*, the short films "Sheldon" and "15 Waffles", the documentary series *Food for Thought*, the feature film *The Forgotten* (as an additional editor) and more silly web videos than he can count. His work has appeared on Comedy Central, AMC, PBS and Nickelodeon. He also wrote and produced the award-winning short film, "Sirens of the Past".



### **Frank Bonanno - PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

Originally from New York, Frank went to the school for fine arts at SUNY Albany. He graduated with a bachelors, then floated around trying to find his calling. He spent time working as a blacksmith, a tattoo artist and a prospective art teacher before packing up and moving to California in pursuit of production design. Has been working successfully and happily in the field for the past 3 years.





### **Jennifer May Nickel- COSTUME DESIGNER**

Jennifer May Nickel is an award winning Costume Designer for Film, Television, Web and Theater. In 2013 alone Jennifer costume designed pilots for Relativity TV (Tribe of the Wild), E! (I'm Not A DJ) and Nickelodeon (Junior Eye), as well as films for ROR Productions (Republic of Rick), Mirror Corps (Beating) and Selander Films (Natural Insemination). A full list of Jennifer's credits, as well as examples of her work can be found at [JenniferMayDesigns](http://JenniferMayDesigns)