

MARTIN STARR DINA SHIHABI PAUL WESLEY

# SAM & AMIRA



We're all here illegally.

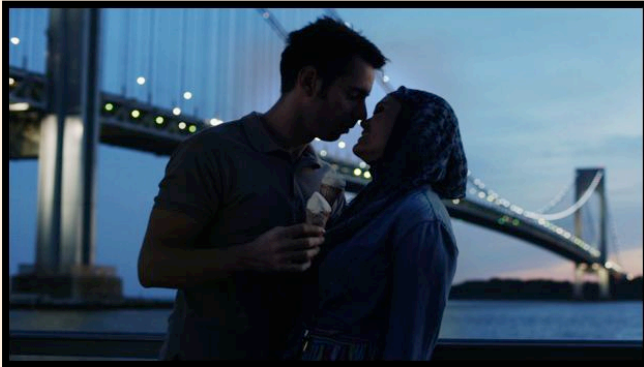
A STRONGMAN / VANISHING ANGLE PICTURE IN ASSOCIATION WITH HOLE IN ONE / 6 A FIVE BY EIGHT PRODUCTION "SAM & AMIRA"  
MARTIN STARR DINA SHIHABI PAUL WESLEY LAITH NAKLI DAVID RASCHE CASTING BY BILLY HOPKINS MUSIC SUPERVISOR ABE BRADSHAW MUSIC BY HEATHER MCINTOSH  
COSTUME DESIGNER DONNA MALONEY PRODUCTION DESIGNER SARA K WHITE EDITED BY JULIAN ROBINSON CINEMATOGRAPHY BY DANIEL VECCHIONE CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PATRICK CALLAHAN FRED SHERRILL  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MEG MONTAGNINO-JARRETT JAMES PONSOLDT PETER SOBILOFF CO-PRODUCERS T.R. BOYCE, JR JULIAN ROBINSON SEAN MULLIN MICHAEL CONNORS  
PRODUCED BY TERRY LEONARD ERICH LOCHNER MATT MILLER WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SEAN MULLIN

WWW.SAMANDAMIRA.COM © 2014 SAM & AMIRA LLC

Jim Dobson INDIE PR /323-896-6006 / jim@indie-pr.com

# LOGLINE

An army veteran attempts to assimilate back into a country he barely recognizes while trying to win the heart of an Iraqi immigrant on the verge of deportation.



# SYNOPSIS

To help adjust to coming home from war, former Green Beret, Sam Seneca (Martin Starr), takes a stab at a life-long dream: stand-up comedy. He also lands a high-paying job working for a Wall Street firm, run by his cousin Charlie (Paul Wesley).

Amira (Dina Shihabi) fled Iraq after her brother was killed by U.S. soldiers. She's an illegal immigrant, living with her uncle Bassam (Laith Nakli), who was Sam's interpreter.

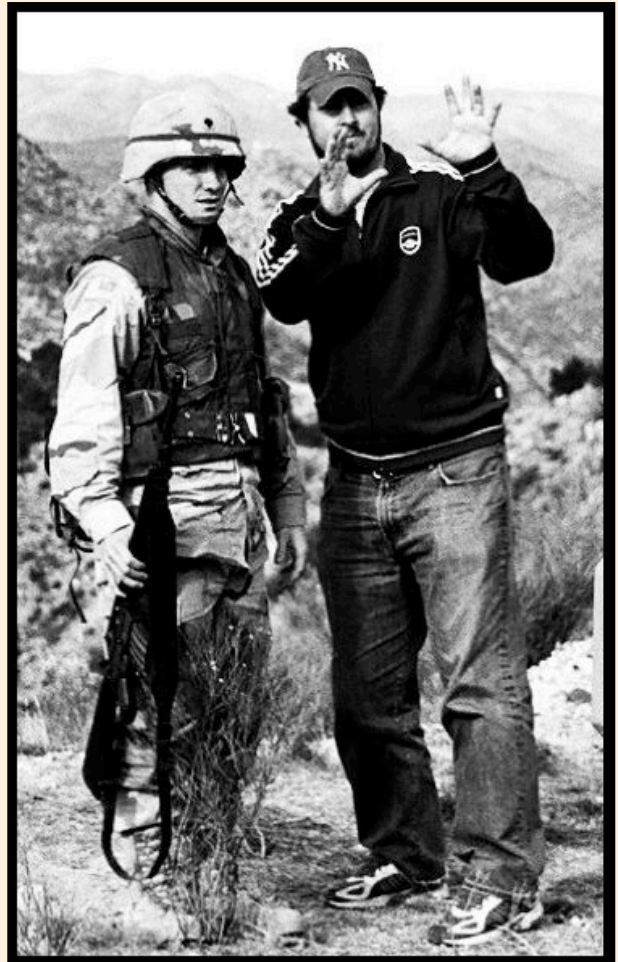
Amira has a run-in with the police and so Sam takes her under his wing. Despite their differences, Sam and Amira share a common bond as outsiders. The more time they spend together, the harder it is for them to combat their feelings for one another. Meanwhile, Sam becomes entangled in Charlie's investment scheme and Amira's trouble with the law escalates to the brink of deportation.

As the film builds to a climax, Sam has an epiphany: even though he's the one who went off to war, it's his country that's lost its mind. In order to save Amira from being deported, he's forced to risk everything he fought so hard to defend.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Most "soldier-coming-home-from-war" films deal with a soldier battling PTSD, but I wanted to flip that well-worn premise on its head: What if the soldier who returns is fine, but it's his country that's lost its mind? America was built on the backs of immigrants and protected by the courage of veterans – yet both of these groups have grown increasingly marginalized in today's society. I decided that the best way for me to explore such complex issues in the context of an independent film was to create an intimate love story with universal implications.

The inspiration for this film comes from a very personal place. As an officer in the New York Army National Guard, I was a first-responder on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. I spent almost a year as the Officer in Charge of the soldiers stationed down at Ground Zero – while performing stand-up comedy at night. After witnessing firsthand how our country decided to deal with the attacks – unending warfare, rampant xenophobia, financial deregulation – I felt compelled to set my debut feature film within this world.



Sam M. Stone

# THE CAST



## MARTIN STARR (Sam)

Martin can be seen as a series regular on the Mike Judge HBO show SILICON VALLEY. He recently performed opposite Seth Rogan, Aziz Ansari and James Franco in THIS IS THE END. He is well known for his roles in cult classic TV series, such as FREAKS AND GEEKS, PARTY DOWN and VERONICA MARS. Film roles include ADVENTURELAND, KNOCKED UP, SUPERBAD, WALKHARD, INCREDIBLE HULK and TRUTH ABOUT LYING. Martin is also in the Adult Swim series NTSF:SD:SUV. Film credits include his starring role

A GOOD OLD FASHION ORGY, followed by his lead roles in Sundance darlings SAVE THE DATE and LAWLESS. Recently we can see him in VERONICA MARS the movie, and A MANY SPLINTERED THING.

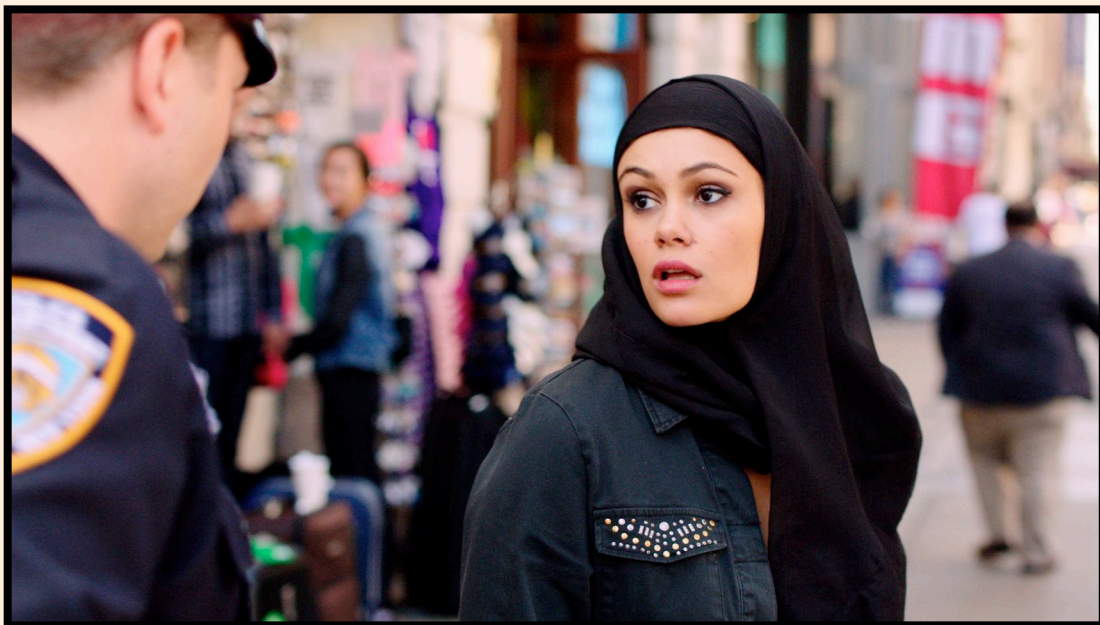


# THE CAST

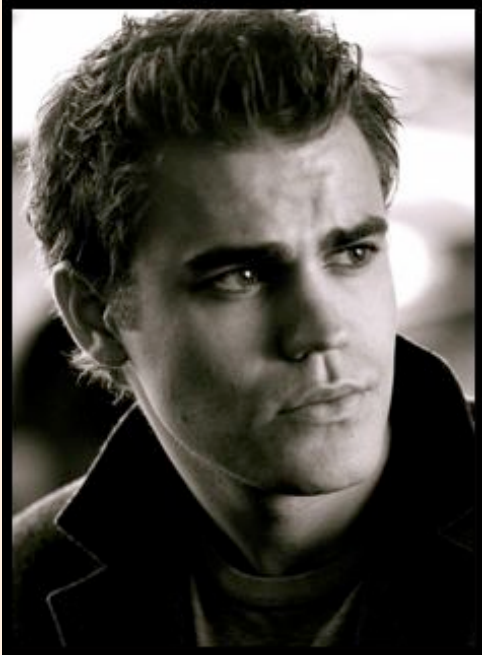


## DINA SHIHABI (Amira)

Prior to SAM & AMIRA, Dina played a supporting role in the independent feature CIGARETTE SOUP. She also starred in the short film, BEN which premiered at Tropfest New York. A trained hip-hop and jazz dancer, she has appeared in a SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE Digital Short featuring Emma Stone and THE DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART. A native of Dubai, she graduated from NYU's prestigious MFA acting program.



# THE CAST



## PAUL WESLEY (Charlie)

In addition to starring in the hit television drama THE VAMPIRE DIARIES and performing in SAM & AMIRA, Paul Wesley recently produced and co-starred in the soon to be released adaptation of CURFEW, which won the Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film in 2012. Wesley's film credits include THE BAYTOWN DISCO opposite Billy Bob Thornton, PEACEFUL WARRIOR, opposite Nick Nolte, and Agnieszka Holland's HBO film SHOT IN THE HEART, among others. Recently, he can be seen in the film BEFORE I DISAPPEAR.



# THE FILMMAKERS

## SEAN MULLIN (Writer / Director)



Sean Mullin is an award-winning filmmaker who holds an MFA in Film Directing from *Columbia University* and a B.S. from *The United States Military Academy at West Point*.

Sean's unique background as a former army officer turned stand-up comedian informs his creative sensibility, which oscillates between comedy and drama. Prior to launching his filmmaking career, Sean was a Captain in the New York Army National Guard – where he was a first responder on September 11th, 2001. For almost a year, he spent his days working as the Officer in Charge of the soldiers down at

Ground Zero, and his nights performing stand-up comedy.

As a writer/director, his short films – *SADIQ*, *MAN IS A BRIDGE*, and *THE 14th MORNING* – have won numerous awards and played at film festivals around the world. *SADIQ* was nominated for an MTV Movie Award for "Best Student Film." *SAM & AMIRA* is his feature-length debut as a writer/director.

As a screenwriter, Sean has been hired to write screenplays for Oscar Nominated Director Henry-Alex Rubin (*MURDERBALL*), as well as pop sensation Britney Spears.

As a producer, he made *ALLEGIANCE*, which was released theatrically in 2012. He is currently a writer/producer on *15 BROTHERS*, a coming-of-age story set within the world of West Point rugby, which is being directed by Oscar-Nominated Director Henry-Alex Rubin, produced by Jules Daley and Executive Produced by Ridley Scott.

## TERRY LEONARD (Producer)

Terry Leonard has produced over 20+ feature films in his 12-year career. Film highlights include VIRGIN, PARTICLES OF TRUTH, DREAM BOY, BACKSEAT, SORDID THINGS, HOUNDDOG, STEPHANIE DALEY, and THE LAST INTERNATIONAL PLAYBOY. These films have won awards and acclaims from the Director Guild of America, the Sundance film festival and the Independent Spirit Awards.

He recently wrapped two features helmed by Academy Award winners: Shawn Christensen's CURFEW and William Monahan's MOJAVE. Leonard recently sold his feature HOW TO BE A MAN with Fox Digital Studios at the Sundance Next Film festival and THE FORGOTTEN KINGDOM, which has now won over 8 awards at numerous different film festivals around the world. Five recently released features include Revenge For JOLLY, Allegiance, Away From Here, The Moment and A Case of You.

When Leonard is not working on features he also produces commercials, with his production company Strongman. Leonard graduated from *Emerson College* with a BFA in Film. He is also an active member of the PGA and the DGA, where he mentors up-and-coming filmmakers, and also teaches a producing class at NYU. Leonard splits his time between New York City and Los Angeles.

## ERICH LOCHNER (Producer)

Erich's brings a unique perspective that bridges the creative and business sides of filmmaking. After receiving his Master's degree from *DePaul University* in Philosophy, Erich began his producing career on the independent feature NOT SINCE YOU in 2007 for which he helped raise \$1.4MM. Soon after principal photography, Erich moved to Los Angeles with the film's post-production where he went to work for producers Danny Halstead (GARDEN STATE, THE VIRGIN SUICIDES) and Houston King (FUNNY HA HA, MUTUAL APPRECIATION).



In 2010 Erich Lochner and Matt Miller teamed up to create the production company Vanishing Angle. In the company's first years, the two filmmakers produced numerous commercials and industrials so as to build the infrastructure they would need to be able to turn their attention toward the ultimate goal of feature films. Launching down the feature path in 2013, VA produced 3 feature films including SAM & AMIRA.

## MATT MILLER (Producer)

Matt Miller has worked on over 80 film and television productions on both the studio and independent levels in addition to over 30 commercials and music videos. He has directed award winning short films and will be helming his first feature film (NIGHT SWIMMING) in the spring of 2015.

During his time at *Temple University's* film program, Matt worked in the development office at Paramount studios and crewed on independent and studio films in Los Angeles. Upon graduation, Matt relocated to Los Angeles where he worked for several years in production, giving him the chance to learn first hand from some of his favorite filmmakers such as Sean Penn, Gus Van Sant, Christopher Nolan, Gore Verbinski, Mark Ruffalo and Clint Eastwood.

In 2010, Matt co-founded the independent film and commercial production company Vanishing Angle.

## DANNY VECCHIONE (Cinematographer)

Danny has extensive training in the visual arts. After graduating from *Virginia Commonwealth University* with a major in Communication Arts and Design, he moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in film. He established himself as a production designer, winning critical acclaim for the indie hit BUBBA HO-TEP.

Danny holds an M.F.A from the prestigious Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, where he focused in cinematography. While there, he shot over forty short films, winning the Wasserman Award for cinematography an unprecedented eleven times. The projects that he has worked on have been shown in every major film festival across the world.

Over the past several years, he has served as D.P. in every format, including feature films, branded entertainment, television, commercials, music videos, and documentaries. He recently shot the feature film WILLIAM VINCENT, directed by Jay Anania and starring James Franco, Julianne Nicholson, Martin Donovan, and Josh Lucas, which was an official selection of the 2010 Tribeca Film Festival. HOMEWRECKER, directed by the Barnes Brothers, won the "Best of Next" category at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. KINYARWANDA, directed by Alrick Brown, won the World Dramatic Audience award at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival.

## SARA K WHITE (Production Designer)

A trained interior designer, Sara K White worked at Studios Architecture on a series of award-winning projects before making the leap to film. She has found her passion in film, working with directors and actors to create spaces that support and develop depth and history in characters.

Her credits in production design showcase a number of recent independent features. Projects of note include Tom Gilroy's THE COLD LANDS (Berlin International Film Festival); Neil Drumming's BIG WORDS (Slamdance); J.P. Chan's A PICTURE OF YOU (BendFilm Festival); Sam Fleischner's STAND CLEAR OF THE CLOSING DOORS (Winner of a Special Jury Prize at the Tribeca Film Festival), and recently wrapped Gillian Robespierre's OBVIOUS CHILD and Anthony Edward's MY DEAD BOYFRIEND. She acted as Art Director in residence at the 2010-2012 Sundance Director's Lab.

Additional credits for art direction include WAITING FOR THE BACKLOT, awarded the 2010 Warner Bros. Film Award; PARIAH, which won the Excellence in Cinematography Award at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival; RETURN, featured in Directors Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival; Abel Ferrara's 4:44 - LAST DAY ON EARTH (Venice Film Festival); and Lance Edmund's BLUEBIRD (Tribeca Film Festival). She has also designed several commercials and music videos.

## DONNA MALONEY (Costume Designer)

After graduating from *Penn State* with a degree in theology, Donna worked in the clothing business in New York City. Eager for more excitement in her career, she pursued working in the film business. Her first film took her to Belize as a film runner for MOSQUITO COAST. She took 52 flights between Belize and Miami. On her next film, she traveled to Paris, France where she met her friend and mentor, Oscar winning, Ann Roth, with whom she continues to work with to this day, some 27 years later.

Over the past 20 years, Donna has worked on over 45 films and was nominated for an Emmy for outstanding costumes for ANGELS IN AMERICA. Her numerous film and TV credits have taken her to Georgia, California, DC, Virginia, Connecticut and New York. International credits include the UK, Italy, France, Germany, Canada, Iceland, Belize, Poland and Switzerland. Some of her credits include Darren Aronofsky's NOAH, THE READER, HBO's MILDRED PIERCE, THE GOOD SHEPHERD and BAD COMPANY, a film she holds dear because it is where she met her husband, producer TR Boyce.

Donna currently splits her time between NYC and a two acre farm in PA and is the proud mother of a 23 year old art school graduate who followed her into the costume world. Having grown up in rural Pennsylvania as one of six children, Donna's film life has successfully fulfilled a childhood dream of traveling and following her passion.

**Written and Directed by**

Sean Mullin

**Produced by**

Terry Leonard

Erich Lochner

Matt Miller

**Co-Producers**

Michael Connors

Sean Mullin

T.R. Boyce Jr.

Julian Robinson

**Executive Producers**

Meg Montagnino-Jarrett

James Ponsoldt

Peter Sobiloff

**Co-Executive Producers**

Patrick Callahan

Fred Sherrill

**Casting by**

Billy Hopkins

**Cinematographer**

Daniel Vecchione

**Production Designer**

Sara K White

**Costume Designer**

Donna Maloney

**Editor**

Julian Robinson

**Music by**

Heather McIntosh

## **Music Supervisor**

Abe Bradshaw

## **Associate Producers**

Laith Nakli

Jamie Fiddes

John Patrick Boyle

John J. Sisto

## **CAST**

Sam	Martin Starr
Erik	Ben Ryan Cole
Burke	Daniel Fox
Kara	Alexis Hughes
Jen	Alexandra O'Halleran
Amira	Dina Shihabi
Veiled Woman	Rasha Zamamiri
Bassam	Laith Nakli
Stand-Up Comedian	Sean Mullin
VA Administrator	Meg Gibson
Chief Rowenski	Robert C. Kirk
Charlie	Paul Wesley
Greg	Ross Marquand
Donnie	James Chen
Officer O'Rourke	Christian A. Paluck
Jack	David Rasche
Security Guard	Christopher Stadulis
Karl Royce	John Leslie Wolf
Claire	Taylor Wilcox
Simone	Claire Byrne
Rita Bechdel	Jolie Mullin
Nicolas	Mark Elliot Wilson
Officer Valez	Teddy Cañez
Officer Lynch	Bruce Davis
Police Clerk	Melissa Navia
Waitress	Elizabeth Vereshko

Stunt Coordinator Manny Siverio  
Stunt Double Greg Harvey

Consulting Producers Mark Kotasek  
Brian Reidy  
Jen Sall

## CREW

Production Supervisor T.R. Boyce Jr.  
Production Coordinator Nate Cohen  
Assistant Production Office Coordinator Monica Brady  
Product Placement and Clearances Ciara Lacy  
Publicist Jim Dobson

Art Director Kendall Fleisher  
Prop Master Roland Trafton  
Art Swings Garrett Kilewer  
Dylan Hummel  
Will Maxwell-Lunney

Steadicam Operator David Isern  
First Assistant Camera Jaxon Woods  
Second Assistant Camera Dan Cameron  
Still Photographers Andy Culp  
James John Jetel

Data Manager/Digital Imaging Technician Jaime Chapin  
2nd Unit Director Of Photography Kenneth F. Wales  
Additional Photography John Schmidt  
Behind The Scenes Photography Martyna Starosta

Script Supervisor Elizabeth Vereshko

Location Sound Mixer Michael Weinstein  
Gaffer Chad Dougherty  
Key Grip Stratton Bailey  
Swing Paul Trujillo

Swing Volunteer	Taylor Dietz
Swing Volunteer	Ian Ridley
Additional Key Grips	Justin Derry
	AJ DeSimone
	Connor Sullivan
Assistant Costume Designer	Tsigie White
Set Costumer	Bryan Czerniawski
Additional Set Cosumer	Lucy Cobbs
Key Hair Stylist and Makeup Artist	Sasha Grossman
Additional Makeup Artist	Nina Sokoler
Location Manager	Mike Sobiloff
Location Scout	Xavier Cardiche
Location Volunteers	Kenny Langer
	Danielle Conquy
Production Accountant	Lauren Silver
Assistant Accountant	Christina Choe
Accountant Volunteer	Katie Cordeal
Casting Associate	Ashley Ingram
Background Casting	Melissa Braun
	Riley Fee
	Allison Hall
Military Advisor	Brian Anthony
2nd Assistant Director	Alexis Hughes
Additional 2nd Assistant Director	Samantha Light
Key Set Production Assistant	Lee Silver
Set Production Assistants	Michael Olivares
	Douglas Pfeifer
	John Tjarjalis
	Axel Tonconogy
Background Production Assistants	Ean M. Gately
	James McKenzie

Production Assistants Cameron Armstrong  
Catherine Brown  
Tracey Burgess  
Megan Campbell  
Kevin Donaldson  
Andrew Hartmann  
Charles Hayes IV  
Kenny Langer  
Assistant to the Director Elizabeth Vereshko

Catering Rob DelBalzo / Nuttin To It Catering

### **POST PRODUCTION**

Re-recording Mixer Vicki Lemar

ADR Mixers Greg Crawford  
Amanda Rose Smith  
Charles de Montebello

Foley Mixer Kyle Billingsley  
Foley Artist Noel Vought  
Foley Supervisor Nick Neutra  
Foley Recorded at Post Creations

Sound Effects Editor Rachel Corrales  
Steve Lederer

Music Engineered by Heather McIntosh  
Griffin Rodriguez  
Cello, Bass, Guitar, Piano, Electronics Heather McIntosh  
Trumpet Charlie Estes  
Electric Guitar Dave Moylan  
Percussion Dylan Ryan

Colorist Alexander Berman

Visual Effects Artist Eugene Lehnert

Filmed on the Arri Alexa



Camera & Lenses Handheld Films  
Payroll Services Provided by Entertainment Partners  
Grip & Electric Equipment Handheld Films  
Insurance Broker John Hart Insurance  
Production Bank Chase Bank

Production Counsel  
Gary Krauss Stratford Des Rochers  
LLP  
André Des Rochers, Esq.  
Anita Surendran, Esq.

## SONGS

"Wider Synth Rider"  
Performed by The Like Thes  
Written by Jared Gutstadt and Miles  
Kennedy  
Under License from Jingle Punks  
Music

"Never Comin Down"  
Performed by Divine Love Mission  
Written by Ford  
Under License from FORD  
Productions

"Slippin"  
Performed by Sami Freeman and  
Jad Lee from Twiggy Lashes  
Written by Sami Freeman and Jad  
Lee  
Under License from Twiggy Lashes

"Elevator Song"  
Performed by Lady Mary  
Written by Meghan Toohey  
Under License from Supertiny  
Music

"The Two of Us"  
Performed by Kelly Rossum  
Written by Kelly Rossum  
Under License from 612Sides LLC

"Take It"  
Performed by Bang Alter  
Written by Samantha Dee  
Freeman, Adam Berg and Matt  
Seigel  
Under License from Manifest

"Millipedes"  
Performed by Robbie Crowell  
Written by Robbie Crowell  
Under License from Robbie Crowell

"Havre de Grace"  
Performed by Zerobridge  
Written by Mubashir Mohi-ud-Din  
Under License from Mubashir  
Mohi-ud-Din