

# THE ZODIAC DATER

TWELVE SIGNS. THIRTEEN WOMEN. A MALE SCORPIO. ONE BIG MESS.



Dumped by his fiancée after an argument about astrology, a complacent witty novelist, sets out to write a book to teach men how to beat the zodiac, by dating 12 women, one of each sign, until one of his dates finds out and turns his life upside down as she vows to stop him from publishing...

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# SYNOPSIS

On Valentine's Day, Adrian Sharp (28), an aspiring novelist, shows off a newly bought home to his fiancée Pearl who's furious that he didn't consult her. They launch into a devastating argument in which she complains about his lack of mutual interest in astrology. Infuriated by his smart-ass comments, she leaves Adrian – a “freaking Scorpio”. The next day, Adrian meets his sister Carman's new employee at her café who unexpectedly scoffs at him when she finds out he's a Scorpio. Now convinced the zodiac affects his life, even if only through others' belief, Adrian calls his agent, Julian, and announces his next book idea: a how-to book for men on using the zodiac to woo and figure out women.

Although still heartbroken, Adrian finds his first date: a Scorpio, Scarlett, who turns out to be a borderline-obsessive fan of his. Pretending to be back on the dating train, he also consults the café's resident psychic Ophia Chus (late 20s). Meanwhile, hoping to benefit from Adrian's research, his nephew Jacob (16) fishes for advice. Ophia reveals her plans to travel to India to deepen her knowledge of astrology.

When Scarlett gets an eyeful of his “research wall”, she flips out and vows to stop his book from publishing. Not enjoying his empty dates and soon-to-follow break-ups, Adrian wants to drop everything and write a novel instead, but Julian refuses. Spying on Adrian, Scarlett rallies his other dates to revolt against his grand scheme. All the while, Ophia and Adrian develop an unexpected bond thanks to their frequent conversations. Adrian, who hates traveling, is suddenly conflicted by his new feelings for Ophia and her fast-approaching departure.

When Adrian picks up Jacob at school, he discovers what a Don Juan he has become. At the café, Jacob shares his discovery of tirades on social media about Adrian and his book. Infuriated, Ophia calls him a “freaking Scorpio” and disappears. In no time, Scarlett has managed to defame his new book, ruin his reputation, and even destroy his laptop and research. Every woman in town knows Adrian's hidden agenda. Just when Adrian has hit rock bottom, Pearl returns. Looking into her eyes, he remembers how she broke his heart. Adrian rushes to Ophia at the café, but instead finds a furious Carman.

Jacob visits his depressed uncle and informs him that Ophia hasn't left yet. Revived, he urges his nephew to quit using astrology as a weapon but to listen to his heart instead. He rushes to Ophia to apologize, only to discover that she's in the middle of a panic attack. More afraid of losing her than the uncertainty of a new destination, Adrian decides to follow her to India: without her, he's an orphan star lost in the sky. She is where he belongs. That's exactly what Ophia – an actual orphan, twice – needed to hear from Adrian. Months later, Adrian sends his new, kinder, book (co-written with Ophia) to all the zodiac girls to make amends. We last see him in India, lovingly rubbing Ophia's protruding belly.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Zodiac Dater is a romantic comedy that deals with astrology, but more precisely with the twelve signs of the zodiac. Astrology is a subject that has become increasingly popular with horoscopes appearing on a daily basis in all types of media: social media, newspapers, television shows, radio, movies and a multitude of apps place various type of astral advice at your fingertips. Nowadays, everyone knows their sign and has likely read their horoscope at least once.

Sure, astrology has been mentioned in many films. Mostly, it is used as a single-joke device or a quick reference. However, in this script astrology is taken seriously. While I understand that not everyone has an interest in astrology, I intend to create a the storyline entertaining for a wide audience. The film's intent is that astrology piques people's interest and that they at least learn a thing or two about its complexity and the difference between astrology and popularized horoscopes through main character's research.

The script has been described as a very strong and unique concept with an original take on the genre. With exploring 13 different romance stories about a complacent heartbroken main character, The Zodiac Dater cannot be described as a typical romantic comedy; rather, it feels more like a coming-into-your-own story told through a skeptical main character. As in any romantic comedy, however, Adrian will find love, it will come unexpectedly and it will provoke a big change in his way of life.

The Zodiac Dater is a fun, witty and dynamic film. For each of the distinctive and memorable zodiac lady, the film will provide a slightly new color, a new feeling, a new cinematographic style representing her sign. The story is thought-provoking and informative: it entertains, but it also starts conversations and opens minds. I consider The Zodiac Dater a very precious and personal script. Raised by an astrologer, I learned very young how to use astrology to understand and improve my relationships. I'm writing and directing this film to share the knowledge and to show what assistance this misunderstood science-art of astrology can provide, in a fun, entertaining and accessible way.

# SCRIPT RECOGNITIONS

The Zodiac Dater has had a tremendous success in screenwriting competitions:

**WINNER, 2017 SCRIPTAPALOOZA FELLOWSHIP**

Top 5 Finalist, 2014 Big Star Screenwriting Competition

Finalist, Roy W. Dean Grants, 2014 Summer Film Grant

Finalist, 2014 Summer Britt Penrod Audience Award

Finalist, 2013 Back in the Box Competition

Quarter Finalist, NexTV's 2012 Writing & Pitch Competition

Top 100 Finalist, 2010 The Emerging Screenwriters Screenplay Competition

Quarterfinalist, 2010 Fresh Voices Screenplay Contest

Honorable Mention, Writers Digest's Screenwriting Contest

Finalist, Scr(i)pt Magazine Open Door Contest sponsored by Underground Management

Quarterfinalist, AAA Screenplay Contest sponsored by Creative Screenwriting

And received a recommended coverage by Scriptwriter Central



# ADRIAN SHARP

Since his parents died when he was a teenager, Adrian has wanted nothing more than to find a home again. He cherishes and is inseparable from his sister Carman and her son Jacob – the only family he has left. For him, the current apartment is only temporary, therefore is bare of decorations or any personal touches. It will be different when he moves into his home. He is eager to finally marry his fiancée Pearl and to buy their house, which he does as a Valentine's Day surprise; without ever imagining that can ever turn sour.

Although quite a catch on paper (successful, good family, handsome, funny, etc.), his sign of Scorpio is a deal-breaker to women following the zodiac. His future seems hindered by the stars thanks to a zodiac craze. He quickly learns that Scorpios are known to be manipulating, obsessives, secretive and resentful. Being rejected for something he didn't choose and can't change infuriates him. That's why he decides to utilize this situation for his next book.

Though still heartbroken by his fiancée leaving him, he is forced to engage in serial dating to find and analyze 12 very different women, one of each zodiac sign. Unbeknownst to him, he gains much more from learning about astrology than he had anticipated. He not only gets to embrace his sign, but he finds his home, not within the zodiac circle, but with an orphan also looking for a home.



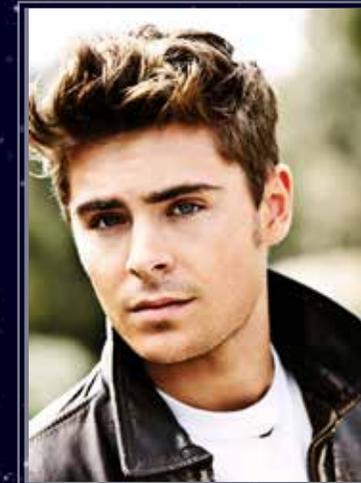
RYAN GOSLING



JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT



JUSTIN CHATWIN



ZAC EFRON

# OPHIA CHUS

Ophia Chus, a wild child with eclectic style and independent spirit, is twice an orphan: first left on the doorsteps of a church in Greece, then losing her adoptive parents at a young age. She spent her teenage years searching for her identity by way of the zodiac, thinking that by figuring out her sign, she could find her identity and maybe even her parents. Unsuccessful in her quest, she renamed herself after the Ophiuchus constellation, because it almost made it into the zodiac: an orphan child like her... Since then, she has been saving black cats, seeing that they are the least adopted type due to all the superstition surrounding them.

A few years back, Carman and Ophia opened their café with the help of some investors, including Adrian. Ophia has always had a crush on him, but he was already in a relationship. She foresaw, in their astrological chart, that the couple was doomed. With Adrian jumping into dating so soon after his break-up, without even noticing her, Ophia decides to no longer wait for him to find his way to her. Instead, she follows a longtime dream and signs up for an advance astrology course with gurus in India. Though quite excited about her new adventure, a part of her still hopes that Adrian will see her as a partner for life.



EMMA STONE



MILA KUNIS



ZOOEY DESCHANEL



KATE MICUCCI



# SCARLETT WEBB

Scarlett Webb represents the epitome of everything a Scorpio is: intriguing, sensual, mysterious, almost predator in her sexuality, and very vengeful. Already a fan of Adrian's work, she's overjoyed about their date and quickly fancies them becoming a couple. To seal the deal, she concocts different strategies: asks him for help with her book, knocks at his door in a sexy outfit to seduce him, and even steals his key in order to surprise him with breakfast on a later day. Just as she plans to move their relationship to the next level, she instead finds out that she's just a pawn in his grand scheme. Devastated, her vengeful instinct takes over. A born stalker, Scarlett, can find out everything there is to know about Adrian, and thus always has the upper hand in her war against him.



TIFFANY HADDISH



OLIVIA WILDE



CHRISTINA RICCI



# CARMAN SHARP

Adrian's sister, Carman, just went through a nasty divorce after finding her husband with a mistress. Thankfully, she is discovering her true self with the help of a beautiful woman and artist, Topaz Flores, with whom she now shares her life. Still somewhat uncomfortable with the new-to-her label and society's stigma attached to it, she's having a hard time coming out to her family, as her girlfriend lets Carman know that she can't handle them staying in the closet for much longer. When their parents died, Adrian was only a teenager and Carman had to take care of him. Although Adrian's now all grown up and successful, she still sees him as the little brother she needs to watch over. She loves him dearly, but often wishes he would fly on his own. Carman is quite a workaholic. Before she met Topaz, Carman worked day and night in her 13th Sky Café, sparing herself the expense and extra headaches of hiring a large number of employees. Now that she's in a loving relationship, she tries to delegate and has hired more help.



**JULIA LOUIS-DREYFUS**



**JUDY GREER**



**KATHRYN HAHN**



# JACOB GREEN

Carman's son, Jacob, shy, disheveled and lanky, is at the peak of teen hormones and the all-knowing attitude of a 16-year-old. Jacob feels cast aside ever since his parents divorced. Although more of an introvert, he craves attention and longs to become more popular at school. While pining for the girl of his dreams, Jacob tests his secretly acquired zodiac knowledge on the girls at school and soon finds his popularity increasing. Girls love him thinking he understands them while guys envy him for all the attention from the opposite sex. He soon becomes the school's go-to guy for advice. Jacob is enjoying his new status, but fears it's pushing him away from the girl he likes.



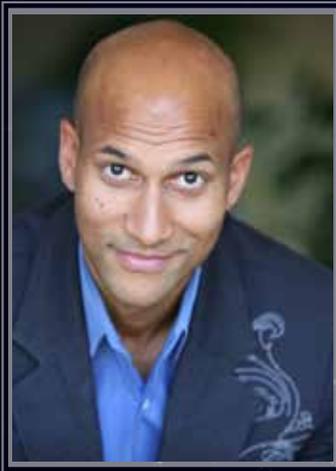
**JAKE T. AUSTIN**



**ANTHONY THERRIEN**

# JULIAN MCMURRAY

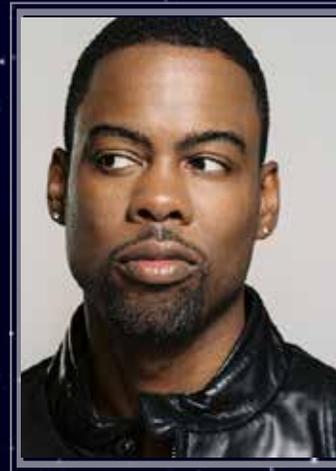
Dapper, hyperactive and narcissistic, Julian, Adrian's literary agent and friend, is married to the eccentric Aquila, an art agent. Once again this year, Julian is on the short list for the Best Best-Seller Literary Agent Award. He has won four years in a row and believes he will be made a partner at his agency if he wins again this year. All he needs is a little help from his clients, including Adrian, practically a guaranteed best-selling writer. This is why, when Adrian calls him with a new book idea (instead of moving forward with his planned sabbatical), Julian agrees to whatever it is and pretty much whatever Adrian wants, except the time frame - it has to become a best-seller before the end of the award season. This ambition of his affects their friendship when crunch time comes. Being a narcissist takes a lot of TLC and oh so much hard work, which is why he constantly visits nail salons, barbers, and spas.



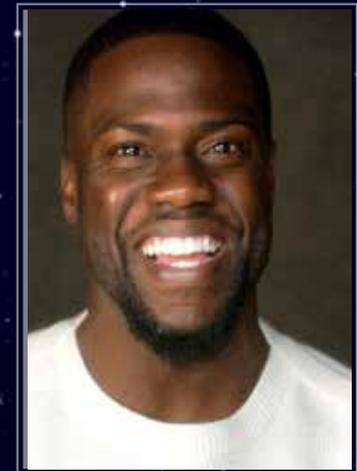
**KÉEGAN-MICHAEL KEY**



**J. B. SMOOVE**



**CHRIS ROCK**



**KEVIN HART**



# PEARL FISHMAN

Pearl, the Pisces and Adrian's fiancée, is an award-winning photographer known for her striking images of natural disasters. She looks like the girl with whom every guy falls in love: she's beautiful, altruistic, compassionate, and creative. They have been dating for three years, and engaged for two, while pushing their wedding date with an excuse of being too busy with their daily lives. Pearl has realized she didn't want to settle down, she wanted to see the world. Instead, she owns a photography studio where she reluctantly takes portraits. She did that to comply with Adrian's hatred for traveling and his need of being close to his sister and nephew.

But now, Pearl can no longer resist the need for adventure. So when her old boss calls her for a photography gig, she can't say no. She just needs to announce it to Adrian... Once she understood that he wanted much more than she did, she realized she just wants out. After a few weeks in Africa however, she regrets her decision of leaving him. She decides to drop everything and try to win him back. Hopefully he has learned and thing or two since their breakup and maybe changed a little for the best.



**MALIN AKERMAN**



**ELISHA CUTHBERT**



**TAYLOR SWIFT**



**TERESA PALMER**

# TEAM



## PRODUCER - NENE NWOKO

Nene Nwoko is an actress, producer and founder of Bufine Productions. She began her career in the entertainment industry as an actress and a model. Prior to getting into acting, Nene worked in the retail e-Commerce sector as a Web Producer and as e-Commerce Marketing Manager. With a combined 17 years experience in both industries, she decided to get behind the scenes and start producing films and shows that entertains, informs the mind and speaks to the heart. Nene is known for films and TV shows like Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, The Penitent Thief, A Man Called Jon, Day 5, Your Worst Nightmare, The Sky Princess and many more. Nene is also a producing partner on the TV Show entitled On This Site. A TV show about the Historical Markers of Texas.

Films that Nene played the Lead Actress in won awards in various festivals. 2009's "The Okra Principle," received an AMAA nomination for "Best Film by an African Filmmaker in Diaspora," 2011's "Mystery of Birds" won an AMAA for "Best Film by an African Living Abroad," and 2014's "Take The Spotlight" won "Best Filmmaker" at the 9th Annual Peachtree Village International Film Festival in Atlanta, Georgia. "I Am More," a documentary film project for the Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative (T.O.R.I), received a Lone Star Emmy Award in 2014.

[www.imdb.me/nenenwoko](http://www.imdb.me/nenenwoko)

# TEAM



## WRITER/DIRECTOR - NATASHA PARIS

At 12 years old, she created her first in a series of action-adventure comic books. Writing 30 feature screenplays served as a practice run until she became old enough to study screenwriting at the university. After graduating, her goal was clearer than ever: gathering as much cinematographic experience as possible so that one day she could direct her own feature film. Thus, Natasha worked as an actor, assistant to producer, first assistant director, script supervisor, production coordinator, and more.

In 2001, she wrote, directed and produced her first short film SOLITUDE, which screened at more than 6 festivals. In 2003, Natasha worked for BBR Productions, a Montreal-based production company specializing in feature films and TV series, including EMOTIONAL ARITHMETIC (starring Susan Sarandon, Max Von Sydow, Gabriel Byrne, and Christopher Plummer). All of the films Natasha wrote and directed have been screened in various festivals, including her second short film, ROXY SOLO (e.g. Czech Republic's Brno 16) followed by COMPULSION 1897 (e.g. Clermont-Ferrand Film Market and Cannes' Short Corner Film Market), as well as EMPTY CALORIES (Winner of WorldFest 2013 Bronze Remi Award), and finally MARGARITAS ON THE ROAD, a short sponsored by the Cirque du Soleil. She also directed the first 3 episodes of the web series THE ROSES. Most recently, Natasha wrote, directed and produced a 2017 Dallas 48 Hour Film Project, SOMETHING BORROWED, SOMEONE BLUE, which won Best Film, Best Writing as well as Best Cinematography. She also won the SCRIPTAPALOOZA FELLOWSHIP with THE ZODIAC DATER.

[www.imdb.me/natashaparis](http://www.imdb.me/natashaparis)

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