

**"POWERFUL,
IN-YOUR-FACE.
A FASCINATING
PORTRAIT."**

VARIETY



JOHNNY WEIR
**POP STAR
ON ICE**

LIGHTS. CAMERA. AXEL!

RETRIBUTION MEDIA in association with SUNDANCE CHANNEL Presents
A film by DAVID BARBA & JAMES PELLERITO

POP STAR ON ICE

Runtime: 85 minutes | Country: USA | www.popstaronice.com

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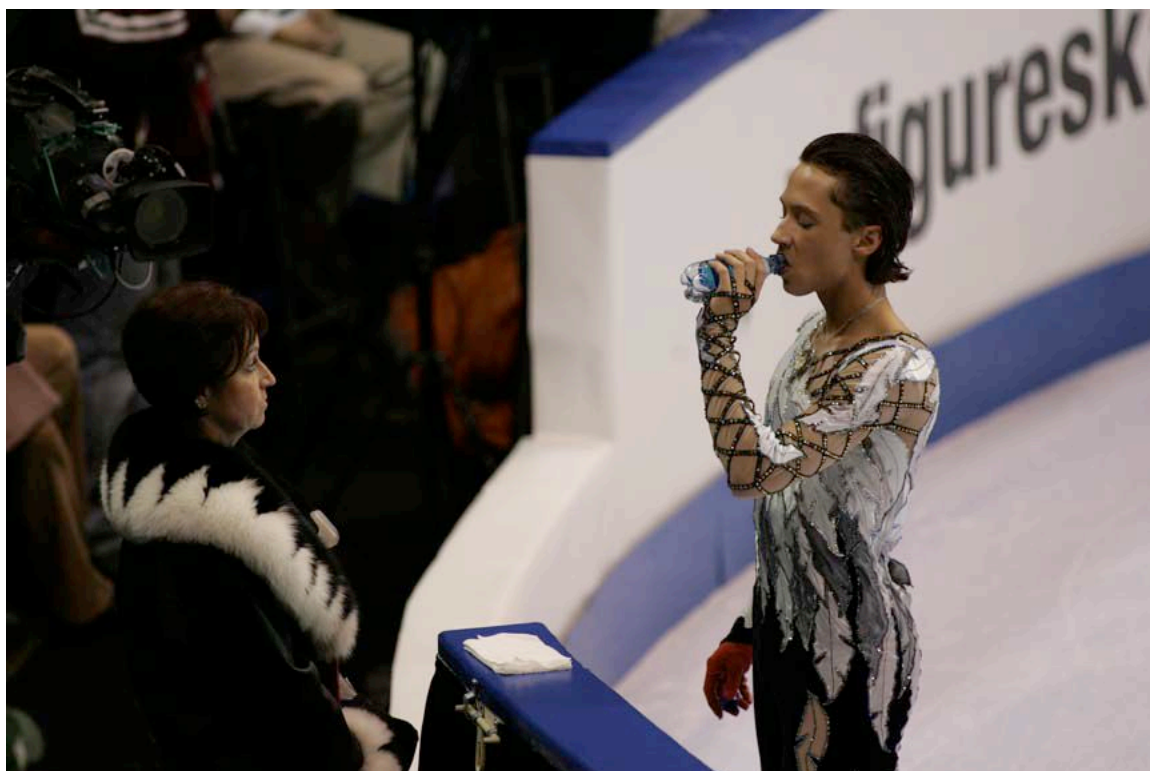
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SYNOPSIS

POP STAR ON ICE is an unprecedented behind-the-scenes portrait of outspoken Olympian and three-time US Figure Skating National Champion Johnny Weir. When Johnny fails to win a medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics, the media turns on him and he feels the backlash. Love him or hate him, Johnny is one of the most talented skaters of all time, but talent alone does not make a champion.

Johnny's complicated relationship with his longtime coach Priscilla Hill and his struggle to reach the top of the sport takes us from small town Delaware – his training home – to competitions, shopping sprees, fashion shows and personal appearances around the world. The inspiration for Jon Heder's character in the box office smash BLADES OF GLORY, Johnny seeks to balance his larger-than-life persona with the constraints of his sport. POP STAR ON ICE uncovers the graceful, athletic, cut-throat and melodramatic sport of figure skating through the prism of its most controversial athlete as he tries to fulfill his potential on the world stage.



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CREW BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID BARBA | WRITER/DIRECTOR/DP/EDITOR/PRODUCER

David was born in Monterrey, Mexico and raised in Mexico City. Half Mexican-half Scottish, he received a BA in Feminist Studies from Stanford University. After working in the film industries in New York, London and Mexico City, David attended Columbia University, receiving an MFA in Film. His short film ADIOS, PARA SIEMPRE (2006 HBO Urbanworld VIBE Best Short Film) shot on location in Mexico City, has screened at festivals worldwide and on television on Showtime in the US and AXN throughout Latin America. POP STAR ON ICE is his first feature.

JAMES PELLERITO | WRITER/DIRECTOR/DP/EDITOR/PRODUCER

James was born and raised in Vicenza, Italy, near Venice. James moved to New York to attend Columbia and received a BA and MFA in Film as well as an MA in Art History and Cinema Studies from NYU. He worked for many years at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, in the Greek and Roman Art Department. His short film MAREE (TIDES), shot on location in Venice, screened in over one hundred festivals worldwide and won awards at over twenty-five festivals including Berlin, Rhode Island and Cinequest, qualifying it for Academy Award consideration in 2005. POP STAR ON ICE is his first feature.

GIOVANNI SPINELLI | COMPOSER

Giovanni was born in England and raised in London, New York, Stockholm and Florence. He studied classical guitar and piano (under Jean Lloyd-Webber in London) and the diversity of his work for film and theater ranges from chamber to pop music. His orchestral work has been commissioned by the Chamber Dance Project in New York City and performed throughout Italy. He lives, works and performs regularly in New York City as a vocalist and lead guitarist.

BECCA BENDER | CO-PRODUCER/POST-PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Becca was born and raised in Massachusetts and studied film at Vassar College. She was associate producer of CHISHOLM '72: UNBOUGHT AND UNBOSSSED (Sundance 2004, PBS 2005, Peabody Award), TWELVE DISCIPLES OF NELSON MANDELA (Toronto 2005, PBS 2006), co-producer of BEYOND THE STEPS: ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE (PBS 2006) and consulting producer of GARBAGE DREAMS (SXSW 2009).

JENNIFER PELLERITO | CO-PRODUCER

Jennifer was born in Germany and raised in Italy. She studied German and Romance Languages at Colorado College and received her MFA in Film from Columbia University's School of the Arts. She has produced several award winning short films as well as worked on post-production and distribution for ELECTION DAY (SXSW 2007).

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES

JOHNNY WEIR

JOHNNY was born and raised in Coatesville, Pennsylvania and started skating very late for a figure skater, at the age of twelve. Four years later, he was the World Junior Champion. Johnny placed fifth at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino and is a three time National Champion as well as the 2008 World Bronze Medalist. Unlike most figure skaters, Johnny is a clockwise spinner and jumper. He is known for his quick wit, his fashion sense, his 'sparkly onesie' costumes which he designs himself, and his tremendous natural talent and grace on the ice. Jon Heder's character in BLADES OF GLORY was based on Johnny Weir.

PRISCILLA HILL

In 1972, at the age of eleven, Priscilla was the youngest skater ever to compete in the senior lady division of the US Nationals. She went on to become a two-time Nationals medalist and World Championship competitor. In 1975, she became the first woman to land a triple loop in competition. She missed the 1980 Olympics due to injury and after a successful professional career, she became a coach. She coached Johnny Weir from his start in the sport to the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino and was named the 2004 US Figure Skating Association Coach of the year.



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PRODUCTION NOTES

- Filmmakers David Barba and James Pellerito grew up watching the sport of figure skating in the Winter Olympics. During the 2005/2006 Winter Olympic season, a figure skating judge and mutual friend, introduced the filmmakers to Johnny Weir. After filming with Weir on a trial basis and getting to know his coach and his family, the filmmakers began following Johnny exclusively in Fall 2006.
- Except for a few timely loans from family and a personal friend, most of the cost of production was funded by credit cards. Sundance Channel provided generous support in the form of finishing funds.
- The filmmakers did not set out to produce, direct, light, record sound and edit this film but it was the only affordable option. The crew consisted of two people.
- Filming lasted two years taking the filmmakers to three different continents with locations in Delaware, New York, St. Louis, Torino (twice), Calgary, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Moscow (twice), Spokane, St. Paul, St. Petersburg, Harbin and Goteborg.



POP STAR ON ICE

A Film by DAVID BARBA & JAMES PELLERITO

CREDITS

Written, Directed, Filmed, Edited and Produced by
David Barba & James Pellerito

Co-Producers **Becca Bender & Jennifer Pellerito**
Original Music **Giovanni Spinelli**
Graphics & Visual Effects **Greg Loser**
Supervising Sound Editor **Paul Bercovitch**
Consulting Producer **Angela Tucker**
Story Consultant **Fernanda Rossi**

FEATURING

Johnny Weir
Priscilla Hill
Paris Childers
Patti Weir

AND IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Sasha Cohen
Lindsay DeWall
Christine Brennan
Carson Kressley
Oksana Baiul
Viktor Petrenko
Kurt Browning
Brian Boitano
Scott Hamilton
Ron Hershberger
David Raith
Evan Lysacek
Danuta Wilkos
Richie Rich
Traver Rains
Amanda Lepore
Stephanie Handler
Carolanne Leone
Martin Frank
Stéphane Lambiel
Brian Orser
Sandra Stevenson
Arthur Lookyanov

Marina Anissina
Brian Joubert
Tatiana Tarasova
Roman Zaretski
Sasha Zaretski
James O'Brien
Joel Neff
John Weir
Diane Neff
Tawn Battiste
Roberta Briggs
Lou Tilley
Mark Lund
Casey Dickinson
Kristina Ziegler
Sue Anderson
Nancy Appl
Jo-Ann Barnas
Phil Hersh
Meredith Pipkin
Galina Zmievskaya
Nina Petrenko

POST-PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR	Becca Bender
ADDITIONAL EDITOR	Cinque Northern
POST PRODUCTION FACILITY	Post Logic
ONLINE EDITOR	Eugene Lehnert
COLORIST	Alex Berman
SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR & RE-RECORDING MIXER	Paul Bercovitch
SOUND EFFECTS EDITING	Ezekiel Honig
SOUND MIXING FACILITY	Dig-It Audio
VOICEOVER RECORDING	Eric A. Gitelson
LEGAL COUNSEL	Fernando Ramirez

PRODUCED WITH THE CONSENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

PRODUCED WITH THE CONSENT OF
U.S. FIGURE SKATING

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE COURTESY OF

ABC Sports, Inc.
CN8/StarGames, Inc.
International Skating Union, Lausanne, Switzerland
Ledin Photo & Video
Productions East Video
Skating Club of New York
U.S. Figure Skating

ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF

Leah Adams
Jay Adeff
David Armstrong/Art + Commerce
Gerard Chataigneau
Fred & Joan Dean
Monica Friedlander
Sean Gillis
Ralph & Jean Hill
Priscilla Hill
Diane Neff
Lorrie Parker
George Rossano
Sandra Stevenson
Akiko Tamura
Johnny Weir
Kristina Ziegler

ALL ORIGINAL MUSIC WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND ARRANGED BY
Giovanni Spinelli

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

THE SWAN

Composed by Camille Saint-Saëns
Arranged and performed by Giovanni Spinelli

CHILD OF NAZARETH

Written and performed by Maxime Rodriguez
Courtesy of the author

LOVE IS WAR

Written and performed by Yoav Goren
Courtesy of the author

SHOW IT

Written and arranged by Giovanni Spinelli
Lyrics written by Sneaky Pete and John Wright
Vocals performed by John MackEnflow
Used by arrangement

THIS FILM WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM

Louise Argianas	Terri Levine
Kathleen Bangs	Alicia Loving
Peter Bavaro	Barb MacDonald
Sonia Bianchetti	Jon Marcus
Scottie Bibb	Mary Martin
Peter Bilous	Rocky Marval
Tamera Bransford	Laura Michalchyshyn
Dick Button	Tara Modlin
Katy Chevigny	Stacey Napoleone
Karen Cohen-Prosnitz	James D. Nguyen
Michael Collins	Jennifer Niederhoffer
Tom Collins	Jorlance Nunu
Cassie Cooksey	Katherine Pack
Karen Cover	Dina Panto
Beth Davenport	Lorrie Parker
Liz DeSevo	Alisa Pipkin
Teresa Deskins	Devra Pitt-Getaz
Lindsay DeWall	Lynn Plage
Joe DiPasquale	Jenny Pollack
Mary Catherine Donnelly	Kaori Ponce
Peter Dorazio	Chynna Pope
David Dore	David Raith
Rob Dustin	Mariann Reiss
Charina Espino	Sarah Rinaldi
Daniel Falcone	Ann Rose
Tatiana Flade	Lynn Rutherford
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Ricki Stern
Amy Stetson
Sandra Stevenson
Patricia St. Peter
Akiko Tamura
Ben Tran
Lysee Webb
Gwen Weinstock
Chad Whitman
Ben Wright
Kristina Ziegler

Cathryn David Salon
Endless Summer Tanning Salon
Harbour Trading Co. Victoria
Heatherette
The Ice Vault
Johnny's Angels
Figure Skating in Harlem
Lifetime Entertainment Services
Michael Collins Enterprises
The Pond Ice Arena
Skate Canada
The Skating Club of New York
The Skating Club of Wilmington
Vageen Enterprises
World Figure Skating Museum & Hall of Fame

SPECIAL THANKS

Jon Jackson
The Barba family
The Pellerito family
The Weir family

This movie is dedicated to
JOE & EVLYNN

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