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AFTER THE WEDDING

A romantic dramedy about the first year of marriage.

PRESS KIT

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OFFICIAL WEBSITE: www.aftertheweddingmiami.com

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SHORT SUMMARY

Diego Diaz is feeling a little lost. Newly married, and desperate to become a published novelist before his type-A wife, Mariana, gets pregnant, Diego heads down to Miami Beach for a few weeks to finish his latest book, before Mariana is to join him for their friend's August wedding.

But once in Miami, the well meaning, yet easily distracted, Diego finds a diversion in Vanessa, the attractive, live-in-the moment bartender he meets by the pool. And what starts off as an innocent friendship, with lazy days smoking on the beach and partying with her colorful friends, soon becomes a temptation for Diego, as Vanessa makes it clear she is open to more than just friendship. Eventually Diego is made to choose between the girl he barely knows, but promises the adventure he's always secretly yearned for, and his wife whom he loves, but who wants him to settle down into a more traditional life.

Funny, romantic, and honest, *After the Wedding* is an intimate portrait of a young couple navigating their new roles as husband and wife, and contemplates traditional love in a modern age.

LONG SUMMARY

It's August in New York City, and Diego Diaz (NICK PUGA) is depressed. It's his 30th birthday, he has a job in finance that he hates, and he's not pursuing his passion of writing fiction. But things are about to turn around. With the blessing of his more put-together wife Mariana (played by EDY GANEM of Devious Maids), he's about to head to Miami Beach for a few weeks to work on his latest novel, before she is to join him for their friend's wedding. For his birthday she presents him with a copy of Ernest Hemingway's biography. In other words, she is... *supportive*. But her biological clock is ticking and she announces that she's going off birth control as they discussed. This makes him anxious, but he decides to keep it to himself. After all, Mariana runs the show. So if Mariana says it's baby-making time, then that it is.

Upon arrival in Miami Beach, Diego is ready to roll up his sleeves on his novel. But he's quickly distracted when his college friend Dave (DAVID WICHNER) swings by his hotel room, and convinces him to go out partying that night to celebrate his 30th birthday. They have a great time clubbing in trendy South Beach, but not without a price. The next day Diego is a mess.

Hungover and sunburning by the pool, he is rescued by Vanessa (KANDIS FAY), a pretty bohemian-ex-dancer-part-time jewelry-maker-full-time-bartender, who wakes him up and offers him sunblock. Later that afternoon he runs into her at the supermarket. A friendly type, she invites him to a "get together" she's having at her house that evening. Not wanting to give her the wrong idea, Diego makes it clear that he's married. But by the look on her face it won't deter her from trying to get to know him.

Later that evening, staring at a blank screen with writer's block, he decides to attend the dinner party. It's just what he needed to feel inspired again. The dinner party extends to the next morning when along with a group of her friends, they go skinny dipping at dawn. The seemingly melancholy Diego has now been reawakened.

The friendship between Diego and Vanessa continues to deepen over the next few days. Meanwhile, Mariana intuitively feeling Diego up to something, decides to change her ticket and come to Miami earlier than planned. This creates distress for Diego as Vanessa has made it clear that she is open to making their relationship sexual. That night, after partying, Vanessa kisses Diego. He doesn't immediately pull away but does reject her in the end. Even with their problems, he does love Mariana very much.



When Mariana arrives in Miami she is full of energy and completely unaware of the situation. Diego, meanwhile, has retreated back to his own thoughts. Anxious about the kiss that never should have happened, and the impending family that they're about to start, it all is feeling like too much. Mariana urges him to tell her what's wrong. He finally shares that he's unhappy with his current job. This worries Mariana, since they've been down this road before, and are now about to start a family, but she tries to hide it. Instead she suggests they go get happy hour drinks to cheer him up.

Things get interesting when we see that the hotel bar where Mariana wants to get drinks is also the bar where Vanessa works. Diego tries to deter his wife from going inside the bar, but it's no use. When Mariana wants something she gets it. As soon as Mariana, who also happens to be a fashion publicist, sits down at the bar she notices Vanessa's self-made necklace. A conversation is struck between the two, while Vanessa secretly glares at Diego from afar. Diego shrinks in his margarita. His life is over.

Later that evening, Mariana and Diego have friends over their hotel room and Vanessa stops by to bring Mariana jewelry samples. (And also to give some pay back to Diego for rejecting her.) Diego gets concerned that Vanessa can't be trusted. He's afraid Vanessa might say something so enlists his friend Dave to "babysit" Vanessa.

They eventually all go out to a club that evening, but Mariana starts to feel jealous when she spots Diego laughing with Vanessa, which he hasn't done with her in a while. To calm her insecurities she begins drinking (too much). Diego gets concerned about his wife's sudden inebriation, and insists they go back to the hotel.

Once at the hotel, Diego and Mariana get into a fight but the truth is still hiding. The next morning, Diego goes out to get them food and leaves his phone behind. Mariana, still feeling insecure from the day before, decides to go through his phone. She sees the text message thread between Diego and Vanessa.

When Diego comes back from the store, Mariana has packed her bags and demands the truth. *How long has he known Vanessa?* Diego lies, too scared to tell her the truth. Mariana storms off to her friend Carol's house. Left alone, Diego runs into Vanessa in the hotel lobby, who is headed out of town to visit her brother. They probably won't see each other again. Vanessa has accepted the rejection, and Diego gives her a goodbye hug of sincere friendship.

Diego is devastated over losing Mariana, and over the course of the following week tries to win her back. Finally, Mariana agrees to meet with him, which leads them to finally express their pent up emotions about their marriage, and face the fact that they both have not been honest with one another.

The film ends with Diego and Mariana making up at Carol's wedding. The emotional affair has been a difficult event for both of them, but ultimately leads them to finally be real with each other.

Funny, romantic, and honest, AFTER THE WEDDING is an intimate portrait of a young couple navigating their new roles as husband and wife, and shows us that sometimes perfect love can be born out of imperfect situations.





Director Claudia Cifuentes with Cinematographer Juan Barriga

PRODUCTION DETAILS

COMPLETED:	JULY 2017
LOCATION:	MIAMI BEACH
RUN TIME:	1 HOUR 19 MINUTES
CAMERA:	RED

PRODUCTION DETAILS

After 6 years in the making, *After the Wedding* was finally completed in July of 2017. The film began its journey in 2012 when director Claudia Cifuentes, alongside her two sisters, Lisa and Karina, launched a Kickstarter campaign. The campaign was successful at raising \$40,000, which is the amount used to shoot the film in August of 2012.



Filmed in Miami Beach and New York City, the film has over 15 locations and uses a cinema verite style of shooting along with non-actors and improvisation. The entire making of the film is documented in director Claudia Cifuentes's e-book, "Hurricane Chaser", which details every stage of the making of the film from story inspiration to self-distribution. The booklet also includes tips for launching a successful Kickstarter campaign and a business proposal template. It's great for first-time filmmakers, entrepreneurs or anyone looking for creative inspiration. The booklet is available for purchase through the *After the Wedding* website (<http://www.aftertheweddingmiami.com>).

After the Wedding has since gone on to screen at various high-profile film festivals including the Bahamas International Film Festival, the Big Apple Film Festival and the Bushwick Film Festival.

CAST AND CREW -- BIOS



CLAUDIA CIFUENTES (Writer and Director) is an American screenwriter, film director and producer of Guatemalan descent. She began her career in film assisting Hollywood heavyweights such as Anthony Katagas, Lynda Obst and Michael Mann.

Inspired by Michael Mann's auteur-style of filmmaking, she recently completed her directorial feature film debut, *After the Wedding*, starring Nick Puga and Edy Ganem. The film was shot for \$40k, in Miami Beach, with funds raised successfully, with her two sisters, on Kickstarter.

After the Wedding has since gone on to screen at various high-profile film festivals including the Bahamas International Film Festival, the Big Apple Film Festival and the Bushwick Film Festival. The film is now available on VOD. Her next feature film, *The Wild Ones*, about four women on the cusp of “having it all” while confronting their true desires, is being produced by her production company, Pink Forest Films, and will begin filming next year. A graduate of NYU Film School, she resides in Tribeca with her husband, and very curious toddler son.



LISA MICHELLE CIFUENTES (Producer) has a diverse background in event production, community management and public relations. Her enthusiasm for art, music and storytelling are at the core of what drives her work, as well as seeing positive representation of minorities in media. She's produced music videos, short films, art shows, and all sorts of fun events ranging from parties to product launches. She is currently the Community Manager at CreativeMornings, a free global breakfast lecture series with chapters in over 170 cities. She lives in Brooklyn with her soon-to-be-wife.



KARINA CIFUENTES (Producer) is a writer, director and producer living in Brooklyn, New York. Karina began her career at the early age of 15, working in the costume department of "Bad Boys II", directed by Michael Bay. This led to greater positions working in the music video and commercial industry for award-winning production companies such as Partizan ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind") and Ridley Scott's RSA Films ("American Gangster") where she was inspired to begin her directing career. In the summer of 2010, Karina directed a video lookbook for emerging designer Alexandra Grecco, which has since received nearly 20k views on Vimeo alone.

RIC VON MAUR (Executive Producer) was hooked on film the moment he picked up a Super 8 camera as a boy, but it was many years later when he decided to make a career in independent filmmaking. He began writing in 2008 and completed his first independent film, "Wind Jammers," in 2010. "Wind Jammers" is a family comedy about an American family who relocates to the Bahamas. Ric co-wrote, co-produced and co-directed the film which was shot entirely on location in the Bahamas. Ric read "After the Wedding" and fell in love with the Latin vibes, colorful characters and it's love story. Ric continues to look for opportunities in interesting independent film projects. He is currently writing his next feature, which he hopes to film in 2013. He lives with his wife, Doreen, and their children in Nassau, Bahamas.

ALEX MARTINEZ (Executive Producer) is an independent filmmaker living in Downtown Los Angeles. After graduating from the prestigious Art Center College of Design in 2003, he has gone on to produce several of the highest rated reality shows for networks such as CBS, NBC, FOX, and PBS. Some of his credits include "Deal or No Deal", "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader", "Judge Judy", and the Peabody award winning "A Place Of Our Own". Alex is currently in post-production on "The Mentor", a feature length documentary he wrote and directed about film historian and itinerant projectionist, Joe Rinaudo.

JUAN BARRIGA (Cinematographer) is already one of the most sought-after cinematographers within the Miami independent film community at only 23. With over 50 credits to his name, including the award-winning documentary Fuerzas Comando, he continues to push boundaries in both his shooting style and unique perspective of telling traditional stories with a fresh point of view.

TIM QUACKENBUSH (Editor) is currently a full-time assistant editor at White House Post in New York City. When he's not helping bring the latest high-profile commercials to life, he enjoys cutting feature films and playing music. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.



NICK PUGA ("DIEGO")

Chilean-American actor/writer/producer, Nick Puga, was raised in Miami, FL where he began his career starring in commercials while studying at Florida International University. Nick's first break came shortly after moving to Los Angeles, when after a nationwide search, he was cast to co-star with Christina Aguilera in a bilingual Coca-Cola campaign. He then turned heads with his dramatic portrayal of Tommy in the award-winning short *Eating*, which premiered at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival. His film credits include Steven Spielberg's *The Terminal* and Steven Soderbergh's *Oceans 13*, and he has appeared on hit television shows such as CBS's *NCIS*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, Fox's *House*, ABC's *Apartment 23* and CW's *Veronica Mars*. *After the Wedding*'s Diego Diaz is Nick's debut starring role in a feature film. <http://nickpuga.com/>



EDY GANEM ("MARIANA")

Recently nominated for a 2017 Imagen Award for Best Actress, Edy Ganem is an American film actress born in Modesto, California. She is of Mexican and Lebanese descent and has two brothers. Edy's humble beginning as an actress started with small roles with independent features and short films, such as *Black Limousine* (2000), *Like Crazy* (2011), *Ghost Maker* (2000), *Las Angeles* (2010) and *The Loneliest Road in America* (2010).

Edy eventually landed a lead role with *After the Wedding* (2017), and had several other lead roles with short films such as *Lucha* (2011), *Laptop* (2011), *Ojalá* (2012), *Violeta* (2014) and *Salvador* (2011). She was most recently booked to be a guest star on *Rob* (2012)

and acquired a VO role for *The Cleveland Show* (2009). She is best known for her lead role of "Valentina Diaz" for *Devious Maids* (2013) on Lifetime TV.



KANDIS FAY (“VANESSA”)

Kandis Fay was born on February 16, 1985 in Redwood City, California, USA as Kandis Jewel Erickson. She is an actress and producer, known for *Farah Goes Bang* (2013), *Séance* (2006) and *I Am Not a Hipster* (2012).



MILLIONYOUNG (COMPOSER)

As the pseudonym for Miami, FL native Mike Diaz, Millionyoung blends bright electronic synths, with layered guitars and vocals, to create lush tropical soundscapes. Since his first release, 2009’s Sunndream EP, Mike has toured internationally, and released several LPs, EPs, and remixes to much acclaim. The last two years have found Diaz performing his music live at festivals such as Ill Points, House of Creatives, and FM Festival.

He previously has collaborated with Academy-Award winning director, Barry Jenkins. *After the Wedding* is his first feature film composition collaboration.

MAIN CAST AND CREW CREDITS

CAST

Nick Puga
Edy Ganem
Kandis Fay

Diego Diaz
Mariana Diaz
Vanessa

CREW

Claudia Cifuentes
Lisa Michelle Cifuentes
Karina Cifuentes
Ric Von Maur
Alejandro Filippa
Anna Bosco
Juan Barriga
Tim Quackenbush
Mike Diaz

Writer & Director
Producer
Producer
Executive Producer
Executive Producer
Associate Producer
Director of Photography
Editor
Composer

FILM WEBSITE

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PRESS SCREENER REQUESTS

Please email press@pinkforestfilms.com with the subject line “**Press Screener Request**” and a press screener link will be emailed to you along with a copy of “Hurricane Chaser”, the e-book by director Claudia Cifuentes.

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