

A man with white hair, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt, stands in profile, looking down at a wall covered in numerous small, framed photographs. The wall has a patterned wallpaper. A lamp with a white shade is visible on the right side of the frame.

father by law

directed by maria de sanctis
written by maria de sanctis & geoff mcfarlane
www.mariadesanctis.ca

A father attempts to reconnect with his daughter on her wedding day.

Running Time
18 minutes

Director
Maria De Sanctis
www.mariadesanctis.ca

Writers
Maria De Sanctis
Geoff McFarlane

Screened at 15+ festivals, with nominations & awards, including:



Upcoming Screenings:

Oakville International Film Festival

*Canadian Screen Award Qualifying

Online Screening: June 21, 2020 at 2PM ET

Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival, postponed

Sunscreen Film Festival, postponed

Vaughan International Film Festival, postponed

Philadelphia Independent Film Festival, postponed

Deep Focus Film Festival, postponed



Director's Biography

Maria De Sanctis is a Canadian writer and director, based in both Toronto and Los Angeles. She received her MFA in Film and Television Production from USC's School of Cinematic Arts in Los Angeles. There, Maria was selected to co-direct her first feature film, **Samir**, funded by Warner Bros., and her thesis film, **Father by Law**, was a finalist at Austin Film Festival 2019. Maria also holds a BFA from York University's Film Production program in Toronto, where her thesis film, **Cupid**, was selected by Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) as one of the Top Ten student films of 2016. Maria strives to tell films that are personal and come from the heart. Her childhood, friends, and family define much of who she is and the work she makes, giving a voice to her as a filmmaker and to the wonderful people in her life.

Director's Statement

Every family has their fair share of ups and downs. I truly believe no family is perfect. My family, my sweet family, is one of those families that loves to pretend to be perfect. But of course, like most, we are far from it. We all love each other, but we also love fighting with one another. My brothers and I constantly joke about how terrified we are of family events. We know that someone will probably inappropriately bring up some painful, emotional trauma that will spiral the whole day out of control. You never know what to expect, which can be funny at times, but for the most part is totally terrifying. Regardless of what happens, however, we always find a way to get through it. Somehow there is always growth, for all of us individually and together as a family. So, I decided to make a movie of my worst nightmare. A story about family and its hardships, but with it, love, regret, and forgiveness.

**William Russ, Lead Actor**

William Russ is an American actor and television director from Portsmouth, Virginia. He is best known for his role as Alan Matthews on the series *Boy Meets World*, as Dennis Vinyard in *American History X*, and as Slick Goodlin in *The Right Stuff*.

Annie Clark, Lead Actress

Annie Clark is a Canadian actress from Toronto. She is well known for playing the character of Fiona Coyne in the Canadian teen drama show *Degrassi*. She is also known for her work in *Teen Lust* and *Solo*.

Additional Cast

Andrew Hamrick
Antonia Jones
Mike Bash

Casting Directors

Becky Silverman, CSA & Lisa Zambetti, CSA

Producers

Lauren Quirarte &
Jack Waltermann

Executive Producers

Geoff McFarlane, Scott Morrison,
Alessia Vettese, & Sam Yoannou

Cinematographer

Anthony Mangini

Editors

Steven Markowitz &
Seamus O'Malley Finnegan

Supervising Sound Editor

Charles Moody

Composer

Spencer Creaghan