

## Behind The Scenes

# The Making of a Faith Based Movie

**By Anna C. Munoz**

It is always fun to go behind the scenes and hear directly from the makers of a movie. Grand Canyon University was the set for the film, Identity Crisis.

Here is what some of the makers of the movie shared about their experience.

*MEET*, Bob Scott, cinematographer, known for his work on the Kendrick Brothers' films. He shared: This is not my first faith-based movie, this is probably my 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>. My first one was Facing the Giants with the Kendrick brothers. Now is a great time for Christian films because they spring curiosity from diverse audiences and because they deal with current issues in society. Like how IDC is doing.

I had worked previously with the amazing Shari Rigby, Director, and I appreciate her so much and the impact she is having on the lives of young women! I read the script and I absolutely loved it; I loved the heart of the story. I especially liked how they portray Madison, how she must find her way and how she feels being out of place. I would describe it as a Christian movie with Disney vibes.

Even though we all struggle to find our way in the world, God created us exactly how we are meant to be. He loves us no matter what. I love the spirit in the cast and crew! This is my first time working with the Boylan Sisters. My first impression of the GCU campus was a really undeniable spirit of youthfulness; I could see that students are aware that their life is ahead of them, and they are not afraid to take risks and do their best. The whole environment of this project has helped me to strengthen my relationship with the Lord.

People watch to be entertained, to see life through other people's eyes. People like to take their mind off their real life. With IDC, they can be entertained while they feed their heart; to get a sense of being uplifted, to be reminded that they are loved, to show them empathy. I am so appreciative of staff and faculty for being open and helpful. And students have been wonderful as well!



**Design by AR**

*MEET*, Erin Mae Miller, Identity Crisis Producer. She shared these reflections on making this film: This is my first time working on a faith-based film. But I always knew I wanted to integrate faith into my work. And from my experience so far, anybody could enjoy it. Alexandra Boylan was friends with Shari Rigby, and she said that Alex and I should meet. We happened to be in the same city at the same time, but we were both really busy. We managed to meet in a parking lot in between meetings for a couple of minutes, and that was enough time for me to realize how wonderful she is and the incredible plans they have for their movies. I found the script really enjoyable, and I shared it with Ben Howard.

Identity Crisis especially caught my attention because there are not that many teen female faith films. *God handpicked and put people together to create this project.* This movie is all about women championing women. It highlights the importance of women in industry and film.

Many women deal with imposter syndrome, and we are less represented. Women prefer to hang back more, to stay in the background. But sometimes we just have to go for it, to be able to try things with less anxiety and insecurity with the help of God. *If my heart is in the right place, I can do it.* He cares more about who we are than about what we do, which ends up tied together anyways.

This project has created more friendships and deepened others. To me, this feels like a productive summer camp: you get to hang around your favorite people, doing something you all love, and creating something unique and wonderful. And the crew from Arizona is fantastic as well. The team as a whole is wonderful.

IDC is a fun movie. It has a pretty good mix with something for everyone: cloning, sci-fi, family entertainment, and faith elements. And it is still truthful. *There is an aesthetical beauty to this film.* The environment that it portrays and where it was created, will surprise people. The cinematography is fantastic. The people involved are effective at their jobs and you will be able to see it in the final product.

*MEET*, Alexandra Boylan, the Identity Crisis writer and producer. She shared where the idea for the movie came from: We saw a lack of teen Christian films in the market, so we decided to change that. We wanted to create something that would not degrade girls, we wanted to raise them up. We created this project with the Merrel twins in mind, but due to some conflicts they were not able to be part of this project. So, we decided to have a country wide search for twins. That's how we found Scout and Sophia! We wanted to show that two people may look the same, but they are different on the inside. It's not about the outside, it's about the inside.

Madison clones herself to create the perfect identity, but she realizes that she had the qualities she wanted all along. We wanted to create a type of Disney movie for Christian girls.

With the pandemic and all the things that came along with it, plenty of kids ended up stuck at home. Many of them watched Switched and we have received testimonies from all over the country of how this film helped them to understand and overcome bullying.



Anna asked, what did you learn about yourself in this writing process? I learned that Andrea and I can write a script without being in the same room, even if it was harder and not as fun. I also learned that when God places something in your heart it is for a reason, you must move to make it happen. *My identity lies in Christ.*

Alexandra believes that people should watch Identity Crisis because, *God sees you; He knows you; He loves you, He created you. You are so precious to the Lord!* This movie shows how failing is just part of the writing process. You must keep trying until you make it.

*MEET*, David Svenson the Identity Crisis Camera Operator. This is Dave's sixth faith based film since 2014. He has worked faithfully with Bob Scott. Dave shares: God has made us perfect; and yet, people feel the need to be perfect, they are never satisfied. You are perfect just the way you are. *It shows girls that they are perfect just the way they are, that there is no need to change.* There are also not enough teen focused faith-based films out there. Getting to work on something Jesus wants us to know and understand better is really awesome. It motivates you to give the best you have.

*MEET*, Sally Kruse the Costume Designer for Identity Crisis. She shares: Yes. I have mainly worked on Christmas movies. I met with another costume designer that was connected with the director. And at the time I was praying about being able to create content that would bring people closer to Him. Social media interrupts the heart. Dressing these girls makes my heart bigger and fuller.

I wanted to step back from this world's definition of beauty. You can be able to love what you are wearing and shine in it, without unnecessary revealing. Daughters needed this message. Be the difference in the world that God wants you to be.

*MEET*, Micah Hanson, Hair and Makeup Designer for Identity Crisis. She shares: It is not my first, but I am usually an actress. I was good friends with the director. I can have real conversations with the actors and get their feedback on how they believe their character would look best. *This is a fun film, but it has an honest heartbeat.* People will enjoy it and get something positive from it.

*MEET*, Skyler the Costume Assistant for Identity Crisis. He shares: When I heard about this project, I was all in. There was an unknown inner passion. *The way in which these people treat each other and others, inspires me.* They are intentional, everyone is always grateful every day. It is evident they focus everything they do around Jesus. This is a film with a good message. This is the type of film I would want my daughters to watch at a slumber party.

*MEET*, Laura Leigh Turner who plays Harper in Identity Crisis. She shares: This is my first feature film and my first Christian project. And I love that the people that I am working with have an incredible attention to detail. When I heard about this project it caught my attention because the current struggle with identity is real, and there are not enough films that explore and make it easier to understand. I am friends with Alexandra Boylan and she told me about it.



I think people should watch Identity Crisis because it shows the foundational human struggle. It shows how no matter how afraid or unsure we are, since the beginning of life we were made in HIS image. And besides all the philosophical and religious themes, it is a film that will provide good laughs and fun movie nights.

*MEET*, Jason the Identity Crisis Dolley Operator. He shared the following: Working with these people who are living their faith while working is something unique and wonderful to see. Their faith motivates them to work harder.

