

STRAND RELEASING AND LD ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT  
A LIDDELL ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION  
A FILM BY MARCO CALVANI

# HIGH TIDE

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Strand Releasing and LD Entertainment will release “High Tide” in  
New York on Friday, October 18 and expand to Los Angeles on Friday, October 25  
and select cities in November.

Official Selection of SXSW 2024 - Narrative Spotlight  
Official Selection Provincetown International Film Festival 2024  
Official Selection Frameline 48 San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival 2024

Rated R. Running Time: 101 Minutes.

## SYNOPSIS

Lourenço (Marco Pigossi), a Brazilian immigrant whose visa is nearing the end, finds himself heartbroken and adrift when his American boyfriend unexpectedly leaves him alone in Provincetown with fleeting promises of his return. Enveloped by the beauty and magic of the seaside community, he grows distressed by the day as his once hopeful future has dimmed into an emotional and physical state of limbo. When he meets Maurice (James Bland), a kind nurse on holiday with friends who too feels out of place, they form an unexpected connection. Together, they begin to find acceptance with each other while they struggle to reconcile their uncertain futures.

Making his feature film directorial debut with “High Tide,” acclaimed writer/director Marco Calvani centers his intimate and engaging exploration of belonging, acceptance, and the many iterations of love in today’s America. “High Tide” stars Brazil’s leading actor, Marco Pigossi, in a nuanced and powerful performance that marks his first starring role in an English language feature film. Rounding out the superb cast in supporting roles are James Bland (“Giants”), Marisa Tomei, Bill Irwin and Mya Taylor (“Tangerine”).

Strand Releasing and LD Entertainment Present, a Liddell Entertainment Production. A Film by Marco Calvani. Starring Marco Pigossi, James Bland, Mya Taylor, with Marisa Tomei, and Bill Irwin. Written and Directed by Marco Calvani. Produced by Mickey Liddell, p.g.a, Pete Shilaimon, p.g.a., Marco Calvani, p.g.a. The Executive Producers are Marco Pigossi, Marisa Tomei, Jacob Yakob, Joseph Yakob, Beau Ward. The Line Producer is Edgar Rosa. The Director of Photography is Oscar Ignacio Jiménez. The Production Designer is Michael C. Stone. Edited by Anisha Acharya. The Costume Designer is Nicole Schott. Music by Sebastian Plano. The Music Supervisor is Liz Gallacher. Casting by David Caparelliotis and Kate Reed.

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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

By Marco Calvani

I started to envision HIGH TIDE in the summer of 2020, at the height of the pandemic. Everything felt so suspended and uncertain, the past was as blurry as the future, while paradoxically the present felt full of possibilities. While being “stuck” in this country, I knew I was given time and space to reflect on things differently. The practical impossibility of movement became the greatest opportunity for pushing past my comfort zones and diving deeper within me.

I've been a gay man all my life and a storyteller for most of it, and yet I had never put queer characters at the center of my stories. While HIGH TIDE is not necessarily autobiographical, I know Lourenço's inner turmoil so well: his broken heart, his faded dreams, his journey towards sexual and emotional independence, his quest to be free in mind, body and spirit. Bringing his story to life somehow ended up healing me from my own internalized homophobia. I was born and raised in a very catholic country and conservative family, and I'd been carrying it with me for so long without even knowing.

In retrospect, I see that I was asked by the universe to write a story that celebrates the truth of who I am. Little did I know back then that by doing so I would end up making a film that is a celebration of love and connection, loneliness and newfound intimacy, honesty and tenderness; all values that are rarely promoted and defended in our patriarchally structured societies and communities.

I invite the audience to join along on this young man's journey with no compromises; and for everything that Lourenço doesn't say, to fill in the space with contemplation; to feel, weigh, identify. It doesn't matter if they're queer or straight, Americans or immigrants... Ultimately, HIGH TIDE is a universal tale about self-acceptance and belonging. To a country, to a community, to someone else, to one-self.

## BIOS

### **Marco Calvani (Writer/Director/Producer)**

Marco Calvani is an award-winning writer, director, producer and actor. Over the course of his twenty-year career as a theatermaker, he has received commissions from the Phoenix Theatre of London, Kunsthaus Tacheles of Berlin, Théâtre de la Ville of Paris, Grec Fundació of Barcelone and La MaMa Theatre of New York, among others.

His first short film, "The View From Up Here," starring Oscar®-winner Melissa Leo and César-winner Leïla Bekhti, was originally a play commissioned by The Actors Studio in 2016 and directed by Oscar®-winner Estelle Parsons. His second short film, "A Better Half," was named Best Short of 2022 by the British Film Magazine *Close-Up*.

As an actor, Calvani will be featured as a series regular in the upcoming Netflix series, "The Four Seasons." Based on the 1981 film, the anticipated upcoming series from Universal Television and Tina Fey's production company, Little Stranger, Inc. will star Fey, Steve Carell, Colman Domingo, Kerri Kenney-Silver, Erika Henningsen, Will Forte and Calvani. The series will begin production this Fall.

Based in Los Angeles, Calvani was born and raised in Italy. "High Tide" marks his first feature film.

### **Mickey Liddell & Pete Shilaimon (Producers / LD Entertainment)**

LD Entertainment is an independent studio that finances the development and production of elevated and thoughtful films, television and Broadway stage productions. Led by producers Mickey Liddell and Pete Shilaimon, LD has produced more than forty feature films. The company was a key player in producing and distributing such heralded films as "Judy," "Jackie," "Ben is Back," "The Zookeeper's Wife," "Risen," "The Grey," "Killer Joe," "Albert Nobbs," the Academy Award® nominated "Beautiful," and the award-

winning documentary “Biggest Little Farm.” LD’s most recent productions include the critically acclaimed, “National Anthem,” the thriller “I.S.S.,” the acclaimed documentaries “Introducing Selma Blair” and “Mama’s Boy”; the Sundance breakout “The Cursed,” written and directed by Sean Ellis; and the family action-adventure, “The Sleepover,” for Netflix. Other credits include “Anthropoid,” starring Cillian Murphy and Jamie Dornan, “Megan Leavey,” starring Kate Mara; and the box office hits “I Can Only Imagine” and “Forever My Girl.”

### **Marco Pigossi (Lourenço / Executive Producer)**

Marco Pigossi is one of Brazil’s most talented and sought after actors of his generation. Most recently, he appeared in the Amazon hit “Gen V,” the spin-off of the smash hit series “The Boys.” For Netflix, he starred in three international shows: “Tidelands,” “High Seas,” and “Invisible City” created by Oscar-nominated Carlos Saldanha, which recently returned for a second season.

Upcoming features from Pigossi include starring in the comedy-horror film “Bone Lake,” directed by Mercedes Bryce-Morgan, and in Ann Marie Allison’s feature debut, “You’re Dating a Narcissist.” He stars in Marco Calvani’s “High Tide,” which he also executive produced, opposite Academy Award®-winner Marisa Tomei and Tony-winner Bill Irwin. In Brazil, Pigossi starred in numerous series for Rede Globo and films, including “492: A Man Called Death,” for which he received a Best Actor nomination at the Rio Film Festival.

In 2022, he produced the documentary “Corpolitica (Political Bodies)” directed by Pedro França, which follows four queer candidates running for the municipal elections in 2020. The film became an international sensation garnering multiple awards including Best Film Montreal Film Fest, Premio Felix Rio Film Festival, Best Doc MixBrasil, Best Script Brasilia Film Fest, Audience Award QueerLisboa, and Best Film OutFestPeru.

## **James Bland (Maurice)**

Best known for creating and starring in the Emmy Award-winning drama series, "Giants," James Bland is a towering figure in the world of storytelling and a multi-hyphenate creative whose thumbprint is on cultural touchstones cherished by millions. His acting credits include "Insecure" (HBO), "Always a Bridesmaid" (Netflix), and "Unsolved: The Murders of Tupac & The Notorious B.I.G." (USA).

As a director and producer, he helmed the HBO documentary special, "Insecure: The End," which takes an intimate behind-the-scenes look at the last season's making and the cultural impact of Issa Rae's hit comedy series "Insecure." As a writer, he co-wrote the final episode of "The Best Man: The Final Chapters," which holds the distinction of being Peacock's biggest-ever original series debut. Both projects received an NAACP Image Award nomination. Recently, Bland wrote for the second season of "Uncoupled" for Showtime.

## **Mya Taylor (Crystal)**

Trailblazing actress and singer Mya Taylor is best known for her role in Sean Baker's acclaimed 2015 film "Tangerine," for which she won the Gotham Award for Breakthrough Actor and the Independent Spirit Award for Best Supporting Female -- making her the first openly transgender woman to win a Gotham or Indie Spirit Award. Together with her co-star Kitana Kiki Rodriguez, Taylor also made history that year by anchoring the first Academy Award® campaign for an openly transgender actress. Taylor proudly comes from a background in sex work. She was discovered by Baker for "Tangerine," and her real-life experiences in the field continue to inform her work as an actor.

Taylor was a regular on AMC's "Dietland" and has starred in short films including Reina Gosset and Sasha Wortzel's 2016 "Happy Birthday, Marsha!" and "Diane from the Moon" (2016).

## **Marisa Tomei (Miriam / Executive Producer)**

Marisa Tomei continues to bridge the gap between rich, dramatic performances and smart, comedic turns. Tomei received an Academy Award® for her role as Mona Lisa Vito in "My Cousin Vinny." Tomei subsequently earned Academy Award® nominations for her performances in "In the Bedroom" and "The Wrestler."

In Fall 2024, Tomei will star in the play "Babe," written by Jessica Goldberg and directed by Scott Elliott, at the Pershing Square Signature Center.

Tomei can be seen in Rebecca Miller's "She Came To Me" alongside Peter Dinklage, which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival, and "Upgraded," directed by Carlson Young for Amazon. She also executive produced "High Tide," directed by Marco Calvani, which premiered at SXSW in 2024. Tomei also recently wrapped production on "You're Dating a Narcissist!," directed by Ann Marie Allison.

In the non-fiction world, Tomei executive produced the documentary film, "Lakota Nation vs. United States," and "SEED: The Untold Story."

Tomei has been in four installments of Sony Entertainment and Marvel Studios' "Spider-Man: No Way Home," playing the role of May Parker. The film is the highest-grossing film released by Sony Pictures, and the sixth-highest-grossing film of all time.

Tomei took on LIVE television for ABC's live special of "Live In Front of a Studio Audience: Norman Lear's All In The Family & The Jeffersons," playing Edith Bunker. She starred alongside Woody Harrelson, Jamie Foxx and Wanda Sykes. The one-night only event aired live on ABC and has garnered three Emmy Award nominations, and received the award for Outstanding Variety Special (Live).

Tomei reunited with Ira Sachs alongside Isabelle Huppert for the independent drama, "Frankie," which had its World Premiere In Competition at the Cannes International Film Festival. Her other notable film credits include "The King of Staten Island," "The Big Short," "Love is Strange," "Crazy, Stupid, Love," "Ides of March," "Loitering with Intent" "Before the Devil Knows You're Dead," "What Women Want," "Happy Accidents," and "Slums of Beverly Hills." She also

appeared on television in Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," and FOX's "Empire," among others.

Tomei has appeared on Broadway numerous times. Her credits include Frederick Nott's "Wait Until Dark," Will Eno's "The Realistic Joneses" (2014 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance), Caryl Churchill's "Top Girls" (Drama Desk Award nomination), and most recently Tennessee Williams's "The Rose Tattoo" at the Roundabout Theatre Company.

Other theater performances include Sarah Ruhl's "How To Transcend a Happy Marriage" at Lincoln Center, "Oh! The Humanity and Other Good Intentions," "Marie and Bruce," "Design for Living," "We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!," "Waiting for Lefty," "Rocket to the Moon," "Demonology," "Dark Rapture," "Slavs!," "The Comedy of Errors," and "The Summer Winds," among others, appearing on the stages of The Public Theater, MTC, MCC, The Second Stage, NYTW, Williamstown, and Shakespeare in the Park, among many others. Tomei is a founding member of the Naked Angels Theater Company in New York City.

Her charitable work include: One Billion Rising, a global campaign founded by Eve Ensler to end rape and sexual violence against women; The People Speak – Howard Zinn's organization highlighting the history of underrepresented voices; The National YoungArts Foundation – one of the only organizations in the U.S. supporting young artists pursuing a life in the arts; Project ALS; Equality Now, which holds governments responsible for their international obligation to prohibit all forms of violence and discrimination against women

### **Bill Irwin (Scott)**

Bill Irwin is an actor, director, writer, and clown. His original works include "The Regard Of Flight," "Largely New York," "Fool Moon," "Old Hats," "The Happiness Lecture," among others. His theater credits as an actor include "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," "The Goat," "Waiting for Godot," "Endgame," and "On Beckett," an evening of passages from Samuel Beckett's work.



In television, Irwin can be seen in character roles including Mr. Noodle on "Elmo's World," Nate Haskell, serial killer on "CSI," and Peter Lindstrom, psychiatrist on "Law and Order/SVU."

His film credits include "Rachel Getting Married," "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," "Eight Men Out," "Stepping Out," "Interstellar," "Spoiler Alert" and "Rustin."

Irwin gratefully acknowledges the awards and fellowships that have allowed him to continue explore work in the theater.

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