

# Pollywogs

A FILM BY KARL JACOB



*Kjax Films Presents*  
**Pollywogs**

**Directed by**  
*Karl Jacob and T. Arthur Cottam*

**Written and Produced by**  
*Karl Jacob*

**Co-Produced by**  
*Michael Prall*  
*Amanda Pullinger*

**Executive Produced by**  
*Tracy Utley*  
*Vinny Petrosini*

**Cast**  
*Karl Jacob*  
*Larry Mitchell*  
*Jennifer Prediger*  
*Kate Lyn Sheil*

**With**  
*Sophia Takal (voice)*

76 min | Color | HD | 16:9 | Stereo | USA | 2013

[Pollywogsmovie.com](http://Pollywogsmovie.com)

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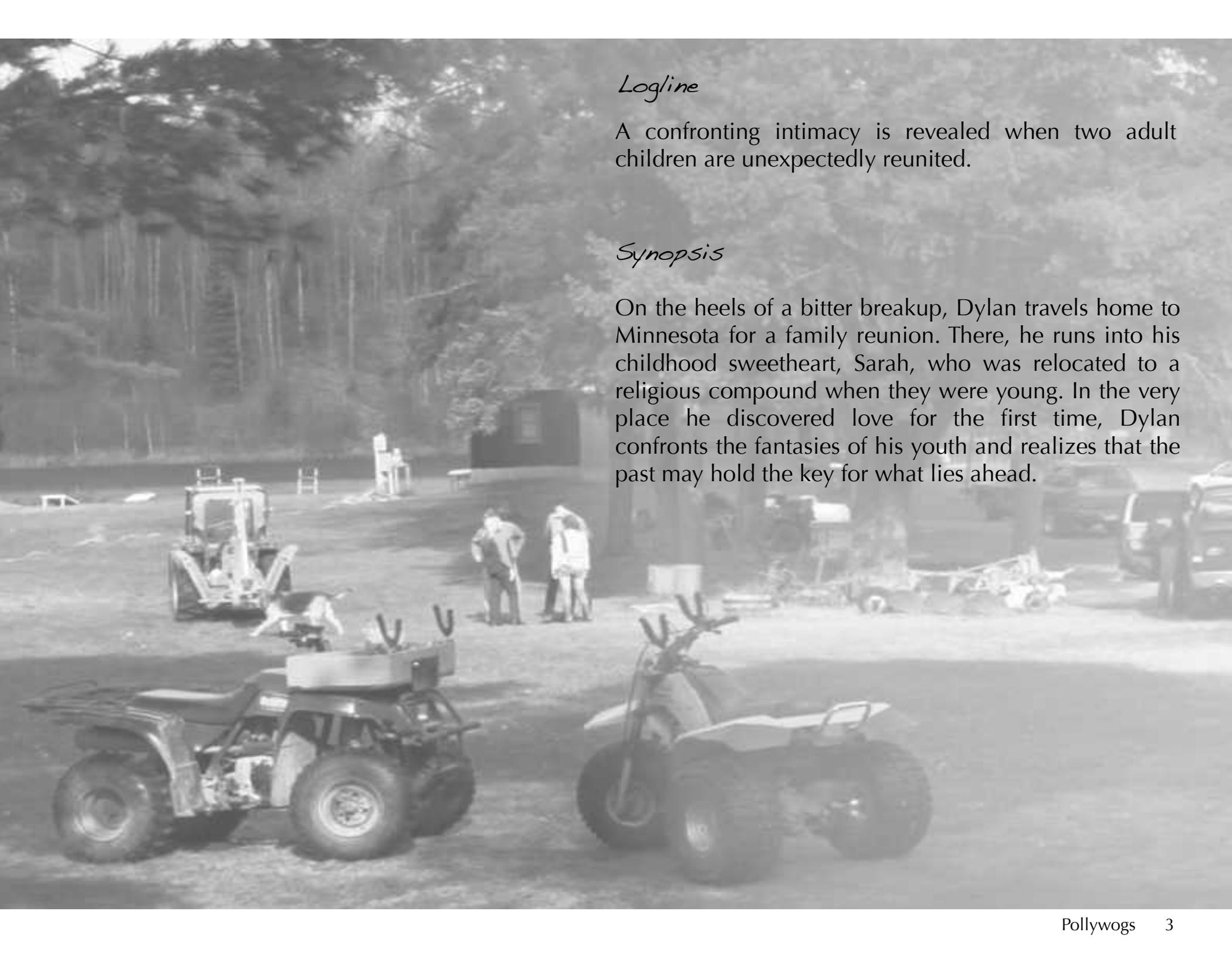
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A black and white photograph of a wooded area. In the foreground, there are two ATVs parked on a dirt path. In the middle ground, a group of people is standing near a small building. The background is filled with tall trees.

## *Logline*

A confronting intimacy is revealed when two adult children are unexpectedly reunited.

## *Synopsis*

On the heels of a bitter breakup, Dylan travels home to Minnesota for a family reunion. There, he runs into his childhood sweetheart, Sarah, who was relocated to a religious compound when they were young. In the very place he discovered love for the first time, Dylan confronts the fantasies of his youth and realizes that the past may hold the key for what lies ahead.



"off the cuff...lived-in feel"  
-- *Los Angeles Times*

"sweet investigation of the cracks in a childhood fantasy...a film about the  
space of possibility"  
-- *Film Pulse*

"a cautionary tale about the demands you can  
make of both fate and someone  
who doesn't owe you a damn thing"  
--*Film Independent*

"something refreshing in a common-place  
subject within indie cinema"  
-- *Filmophilia*

"the utmost level of naturalism"  
--*Smells Like Screen Spirit*

## *Director's Statement*

When I set out to make Pollywogs I was driven by change. The life I thought I had built for myself felt like it had crumbled. An inevitable time of questioning was now upon me, something many of us go through; we assess why we are where we are, and wonder if we're happy with it. Maybe our job is not what we dreamed it would be, maybe our friends are all assholes. Maybe our relationships never end up like we thought they would and, seeking answers, we look back to our upbringing and wonder what happened. Perhaps, despite it all, we are still happy...or perhaps not; either way, we are striving to know if there is something we've missed.

It was March, and I had just landed at South by Southwest, ready to premiere a film I produced called Happy New Year. Making that movie with a pretty big budget, a huge crew and lots of moving parts was fulfilling, but I was already thinking about what I wanted to do next. I wanted to do something more personal--something that told a great story with as few resources as possible. I also wanted to direct. There were a number of talented people I had crossed paths with throughout the years who thrived in this kind of work environment, and I had been waiting for the day that I could call them to collaborate.

I had bought a motorcycle at SXSW because it ended up being cheaper than renting a car for local transportation. I also thought a nice ride from Texas to New York after the festival would be a good time to think about the story I had rolling around in my head, and to get some of it on paper. By the time I finished my journey in NYC, I had my characters fleshed out, I had a story outline and I had key cast and crew members committed to the project. I felt like this was a good start to a movie I could be proud of.

The approach I took in creating and documenting this story is a hybrid style that largely stems from my love of realism. The actors and I rehearsed for 6 months before shooting to prepare them for being dropped into the middle of my actual family reunion. We shot as much as possible with natural light and props found largely at the location. We stuck to a firm story structure as we improvised the dialogue in every scene, and we symbiotically existed within the environment to let the history and nature of northern Minnesota become a character in the movie. It was a beautiful journey with a group of amazingly talented actors and filmmakers, that brought to life the excitement found in the inspiration of change. Pollywogs is a picturesque slice of a fleeting, yet profound moment, as real as the ones we experience every day. I am happy to be sharing this moment with you.

-Karl Jacob



## Cast and Crew Biographies

### **Karl Jacob - Director/Producer/"Dylan"**

Karl Jacob is a New York based actor and filmmaker whose film career began with Ti West/Showtime's cult horror classic, *THE ROOST* in 2005. Collaborating on IFC's series *YOUNG AMERICAN BODIES* for three seasons with Joe Swanberg started his love affair with the stylized improvisation techniques that are propelling a new American film movement. Other acting credits include ABC's *666 PARK AVENUE*, and working with Sascha Baron Cohen and Ben Kinsley in the Paramount Feature *THE DICTATOR*. Karl produced the feature film *HAPPY NEW YEAR*, which premiered in competition at the SXSW Film Festival in Austin in 2011. His latest feature film *POLLYWOGS*, is Karl's directorial debut.

### **T. Arthur Cottam - Co-Director**

NYU graduate T. Arthur Cottam is a filmmaker from Los Angeles. Cottam's award-winning, psyche-testing shorts *PRONOGRAPHIC APATHETIC* and *FILTHY FOOD* have been seen in scores of festivals and art galleries around the world.

### **Benjamin Kasulke - Cinematographer**

Spirit Award nominated Benjamin Kasulke has had a prolific career, having shot many attention-getting indie films of the last 10 years including *HUMPDAY*, *NIGHTS AND WEEKENDS*, *THE OFF HOURS*, *SAFETY NOT GAURANTEED*, *YOUR SISTER'S SISTER*, *THE CATECHISM CATAclysm*, and Guy Madden's *BRAND UPON THE BRAIN*. His work has been screened at multiple film festivals including Toronto, Tribeca, Berlin, Sundance, LAFF and Cannes Film Festival Director's Fortnight. His feature film work has been released by IFC Films, Magnolia Pictures, and The Criterion Collection.

### **Kate Lyn Sheil – "Sarah"**

A graduate of NYU's theatre program, Kate Sheil's Film career started with her breakout roll in The short film *KNIFE POINT*. Her career has been steady since with roles in Lawrence Levine's *GABBI IN THE ROOF IN JULY*, Sophia Takal's *GREEN* and Joe's Swanberg's *SILVER BULLETS*. She also appears in *THE COMEDY'*, *'V/H/S'*, *THE COLOR WHEEL* and *SUN DON'T SHINE*. She is currently working with Alex Ross Perry on a new project for HBO Go.



### **Jennifer Prediger – "Julie"**

An NYU drama graduate, Jennifer Prediger established her career as Umbra Fisk, the lovable toxin-conscious redhead who keeps the literary hip up-to-speed with the latest lifestyle trends on *Grist.com*. Jennifer's feature debut in Joe Swanberg's *UNCLE KENT* at the Sundance Film Festival attracted the attention of many filmmakers and critics in 2011. Since then she has appeared in *A TEACHER*, *RICHARD'S WEDDING* and Alex Karpovsky's *RED FLAG*. Jennifer lives in New York City.

### **Larry Mitchell – "Bo"**

Larry Mitchell's established NYC stage career has spanned 10 years and is most recognizable through is versatile characters developed and showcased at The Barrow Group Theatre. Mitchell's film and TV credits include *LAW AND ORDER:SVU*, *THE DEPARTED*, *AMERICAN GANGSTER*, *QUEENS SUPREME*, *GUIDING LIGHT*, *PERSON OF INTEREST* and *HAPPY NEW YEAR*. Larry lives in Brooklyn, NY.

**Dustin Guy Defa – Editor**

Dustin Guy Defa is a talented and accomplished filmmaker who's shorts LOST TURTLE and JITTERBUG were festival darlings in 2008 and 2009. His feature 'BAD FEVER' Premiered at SXSW 2011, and his short FAMILY NIGHTMARE at Sundance 2012. Defa Also appears in RICHARD'S WEDDING, COMPUTER CHESS and Alex Karpovsky's RED FLAG. Dustin lives in Brooklyn, NY.

**Arone Dyer – Composer**

Arone Dyer is a Minnesota native living in New York where she makes music with her bandmate Aron Sanchez in group called Buke and Gase. Officially forming in 2008, they self-released their debut EP +/- in late 2009 which is now available digitally via BandCamp and as a hand-stamped limited edition CD. Their latest album GENERAL DOME was just released in the spring of 2013, and they are currently on a world tour to support the album.

**Tracy Utley – Executive Producer**

Tracy Utley began her film career at Northwestern University, soon after establishing herself as a Script Supervisor, Assistant Director and Producer. With 32 films under her belt, her expertise has lent itself to many successful films including FORGED, FLOWERS FOR NORMA, and HAPPY NEW YEAR. Tracy lives in Brooklyn, NY

**Michael Prall – Co-Producer**

Michael Prall is a Drama graduate from Syracuse. In addition to Pollywogs, Prall is currently producing *Love After Love* with writer/director Russell Harbaugh, a 2013 Sundance Screenwriters Lab project, based on the short film "Rolling on the Floor Laughing," which screened at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. He has most recently worked as a line producer on *A Little Game*, directed by Evan Oppenheimer, and as a 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director on *Untitled Cosby Documentary*. Prall's other projects include Sundance 2009's CHILDREN OF INVENTION, and HAPPY NEW YEAR, which screened at the Hamptons and SXSW film fests, and won the audience award at the 2011 Oldenburg Film Festival. In 2012, Prall produced a series of short documentaries for The Climate Reality Project, which was awarded a Cannes Silver Lion for Film and Branded Content. Michael lives in Brooklyn, NY.

**Jessica Bergren - Associate Producer**

Jessica Bergren is a Screenwriting graduate with a BA from Metro State University. In addition to POLLYWOGS, which is her first feature, Bergren is also working on completing the feature documentary THE DINKYTOWN UPRISING with Al Milgrom--founder of the Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival--where she served as Hospitality coordinator in 2012. In 2013 Bergren joined Strange and Distant Pictures where she is producing music videos and developing a narrative feature to be shot spring 2014. Jessica live in Minneapolis, MN.

**Arin Crumley – Consulting Producer**

Spirit Award Nominated Arin Crumley has inspired a generation of filmmakers with his insights and tools to help micro-budget productions quickly and effectively monetize their movies independently. With the success of his own film, FOUR EYED MOSTERS, he gained respect as a crucial voice in the future of low-budget film making.

## Cast

### Starring

Karl Jacob  
Larry Mitchell  
Jennifer Prediger  
Kate Lyn Sheil

### With

Sophia Takal  
Hana Wiiliainen  
Rhonda Wiiliainen  
Ron Wiiliainen  
Lindsey Petersen  
Hope Renskers

## Crew

**Written, Produced and Co-Directed by** Karl Jacob  
**Co-Directed by** T. Arthur Cottam  
**Executive produced by** Tracy Utley and Vincent Petrosini  
**Co-Produced by** Michael Prall, Amanda Pullinger, and T. Arthur Cottam  
**Associate Produced by** Jessica Bergren and Troy Bakewell

**Director of Photography** Benjamin Kasulke  
**Editor** Dustin Guy Defa  
**Composer** Arone Dyer  
**Location Sound** Hans Yaeggy  
**Location Sound Assistant** Paul Ditty  
**Sound Mixer** Timothy Korn  
**Colorist** Nick Smith  
**Title Design** Susan Buice

