

"I read a lot of screenplays.  
This one is a masterpiece."  
- C. Lytton, Holding Pictures

"A sparkling gem! A prestige  
piece – but skewed toward a  
younger audience. I'm loving  
this!" – B.Bowen, Archstone



"Sexy and Dangerous!"  
- Red Thorn Productions

"I read Midnight Swing and love it.  
You write beautifully. The structure  
is precise, the story compelling, and  
the world so vital." – L. Runge, OneZero Films



# MIDNIGHT SWING



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## GENRE

Music-based drama, LGBTQ+

## FORMAT

Feature with series potential

## COMPS

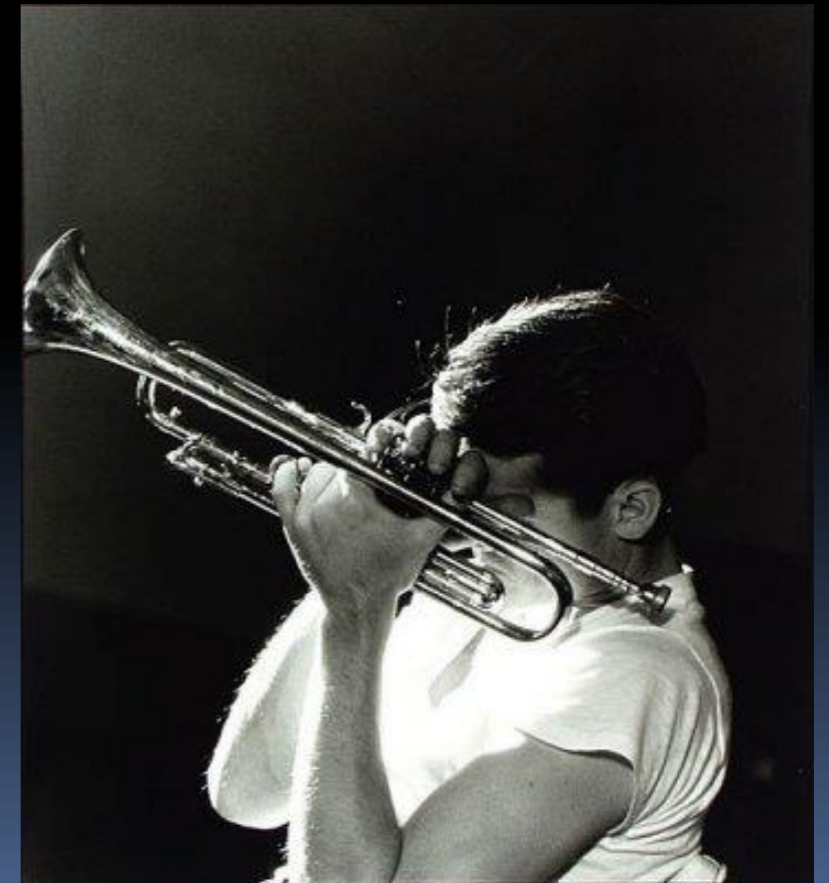
Call Me By Your Name, Sing Street, Almost Famous

## SETTING

It's 1939 – a shimmering time when jazz dazzles, swing is King and dance halls across the nation are hopping. Lording over all of this are the boys in the band.

## LOGLINE

A boy in a small-town swing band confesses his feelings for the 2nd-chair trumpet player – just as the band is about to explode onto the National stage.



## STORY

It's 1939 – Hollywood's most glamorous year. Smoking tea is all the rage and kids as young as fifteen are hitting the road in hopes of becoming the next Benny Goodman.

Charlie is one of those starry-eyed kids. He and his best friend Jack revel in jazz, booze and women while trumpeting with a hot local swing band in Ohio. Charlie and Jack are inseparable, but for Charlie it's different; he's secretly gay and in love with Jack, in a time when that is not something you share.

But Charlie is able to keep it cool – until a photographer from the Big Apple shows up to do a story on small-town swing bands, and sets his sights on Charlie.

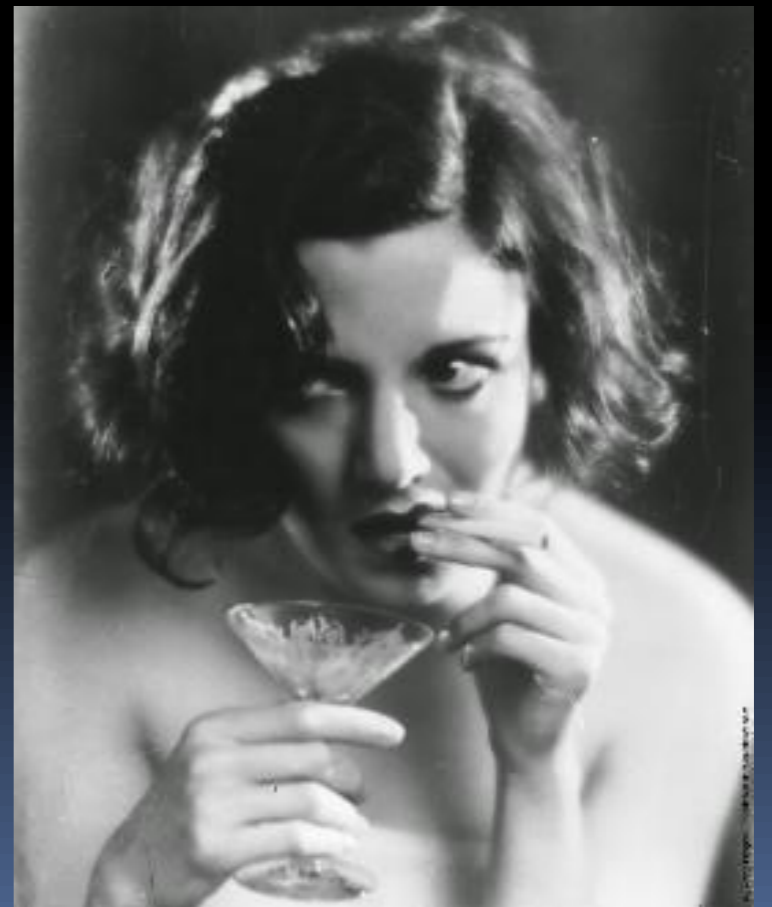
Larry is a tall drink of water, a real smooth talker – and he picks up on Charlie's sexuality.

Larry boasts that he can get Charlie and the band into the pages of Downbeat. After a raucous night of jazz and booze, he invites Charlie back to his hotel room under the guise that he wants to show him some photographs he's taken of famous Big Bands. Starry-eyed and naïve, Charlie accepts the invitation and has his first sensual encounter with another man.

Now, Larry has a way into the band as they prep for the show that will launch their careers. They're one show away from catapulting to a new level of fame, when Charlie confesses his love to best friend and fellow trumpeter, Jack. Once Jack gets over the shock and anger, his feelings are anything but mutual.

Everything and everyone that Charlie has ever loved is unraveling before his eyes – just because he finally came out to the person he trusted the most. Now he must battle to save the band from falling apart and pick up the pieces of his broken heart and identity.

Imagine if *Call Me By Your Name* met *Almost Famous* in the Big Band era. That's the tone and emotion of *Midnight Swing*; exploring that one, brief, beautiful moment we have before we realize we are on the other side of adulthood.



# Casting Considerations

## CHARLIE HATFIELD

Charlie Hatfield, 18, is a young man with a natural talent for music. One of the hottest trumpet players around, he's fortunate to find himself soaking up the limelight on a local level with Teddy Arnold and his Blue Boys Dance Band. Charlie's inner conflict is his evergrowing love for his longtime best friend, Jack DuPree – the second-chair trumpet player – which he fights hard to keep secret.



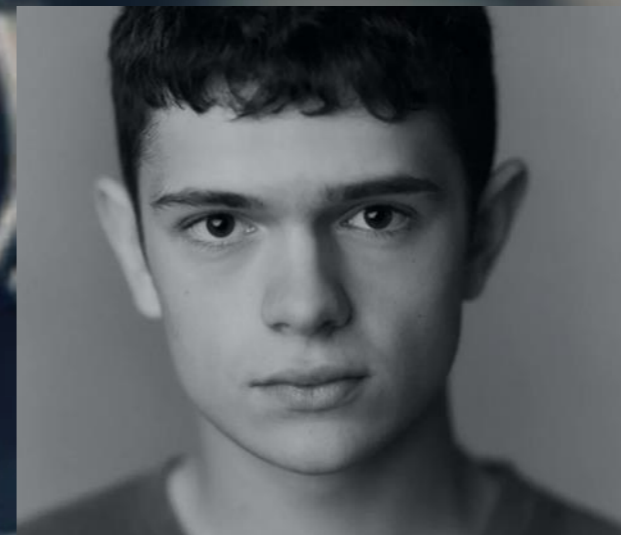
Maxwell Jenkins  
*Lost in Space*



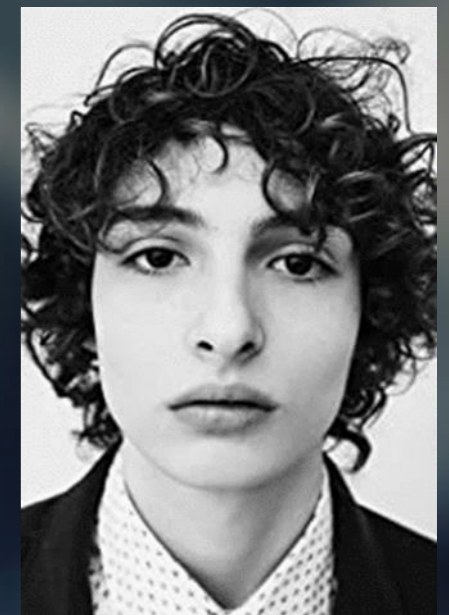
Inaki Godoy  
Netflix's *One Piece*

## JACK DUPREE

Jack Dupree, 19, is not the brightest crayon in the box, but he's showy and daring and a real piece of eye candy for all the ladies – not to mention Charlie. Jack is a little rough around the edges having had to take care of his emotionally immature mother for most of his life. Without a father figure to bring him up he leans toward his bandleader, Teddy, for approval and praise. Jack has a lust for attention and will take it from anyone but finds his best audience in Charlie.



Noah Jupe  
*A Quiet Place*



Finn Wolfhard  
*Stranger Things*

## TEDDY ARNOLD

Teddy Arnold, 50+, is the desperate bandleader. Not the most confident of fellows, and lacking certain skills when it comes to women, he relies on his young musicians to pull in the crowd. A sad sack most of the time, Teddy really only comes alive when he's onstage with his boys. With no other skills to rely on he pours all his focus into making the band a topnotch, celebrated entity. But he has a distraction; Jack's single mother, Mary.



Brad Pitt



Ewan McGregor



Steve Buscemi



Paul Giamatti



Hugh Jackman



John C. Reilly



Jon Osbeck



## LARRY EVANS

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Larry Evans (35-40) is a dashing, young photographer from the Big Apple who is working his way up the ranks. His photos have appeared in Metronome, Melody Maker and Downbeat, among many other venues. He loves bands – and is especially drawn to Teddy Arnold and his Blue Boys – a small outfit he comes across while on assignment for a story on little club swing bands of the Midwest. Though he has a wife in NY, Larry falls hard for Charlie.



Jeremy Irvine



Austin Butler



Joe Alwyn



Nicholas Galitzine

## MARY DUPREE

Mary Dupree, late 40s, is a single woman whose world is centered around herself. Strikingly beautiful, she relies on her looks to get her through life. Working is just too hard for her to handle. It's much easier to bat an eye at a drooling man to get her rent paid, her groceries bought and whatever else she desires. And that sad-sack drip of a bandleader, Teddy, is a great little meal ticket.



Keely Hawes



Juliette Lewis



Michelle Monaghan



Carla Gugino



Lauren Graham

## DAISY POPP

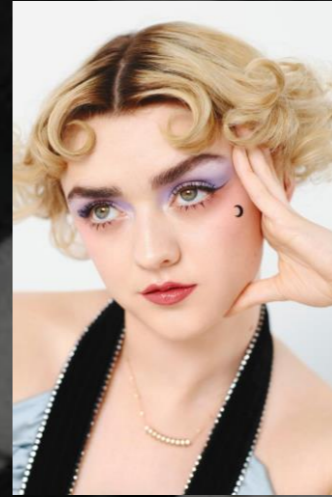
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Daisy Popp (a young Debbie Reynolds type), 18, is Charlie's best gal. Vivacious and bubbly, she is the envy of all the other girls because Charlie picked her. Daisy's big dream is to one day marry Charlie and become a famous dancer for all those big MGM movies that she can't get enough of. In the meantime, she has to find a dancing partner because her boyfriend is always up on the stage playing.

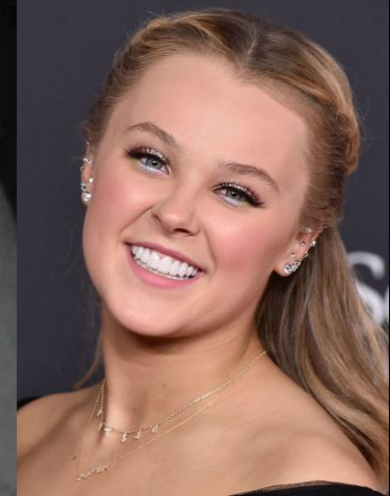
## DINAH

Dinah is Daisy's best friend in the whole world. These two are inseparable. Where Daisy is a flash of color and energy, Dinah is the more collected one.

She's beautiful, calm and smart – but her heart belongs to bad boy Jack DuPree.



Maisie Williams



JoJo Siwa



Taylor Richardson



Sadie Sink



Isobela Idovec



Mackenzie Foy

## MARTHA HATFIELD

Martha Hatfield (45+) is Charlie's good-hearted mother. Because her husband works third shift at the steel mill she's often left alone. Jack DuPree, though years younger, is often able to convince her to step outside of her boredom which appeals to her girlish heart. Because of Jack sweet-talking her out of the house, she can occasionally be seen hitting the dance floor while Teddy's band plays. And her husband need never know a thing.



Larisa Oleynik



Missi Pyle



Donna Lynne Champlin



Drew Barrymore





## DANCE

Midnight Swing is lush with dance numbers and stylized movement. The big dance numbers include a raucous night at the Starlight, a **waltz under the stars** and a **drunken tap dance** in the rain. Sprinkled throughout the story are moments with stylized blocking that will include choreography for our fictional band, Teddy Arnold and his Blue Boys. Dance is hot in America and around the globe. One of the highest rated and longest-running shows on TV is Dancing with the Stars.

Did you know?

There are over **15,700 swing dance societies** around the globe including (but not limited to) the UK, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Russia, Canada, Eastern Europe, the Netherlands, Australia, France, Germany and the US. (Maps and stats available through the World Swing Dance Council.)



# Music

We plan to take a page right out of the Big Band swing-era by using **Public Domain** songs that are ingrained into the American conscience. (This will also keep our music budget much more affordable.)

With its roots in **red hot jazz**, the music of Midnight Swing will sizzle and swing in the early part of the story to match the enthusiasm of our youthful and hopeful characters. By the end of the story, the music will take a more somber and **bluesy tone** to match the arc of our characters who are now more road-worn and much less innocent. More music details with youtube audio samples are available as part of our e-package.



Visit  
[Midnight Swing Music Files](#)



# CONTACT

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