

JULIA SCOTT!



A FILM BY
SUSAN SANDLER

FUNNY THAT WAY

A TRANSFORMATIVE COMEDY PRODUCTION JULIA SCOTT! FUNNY THAT WAY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PAUL SZYNOL INDIA BLAKE JOHNSON CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JANE CONDON
EDITED BY MARSHA MOORE MCKEEVER ORIGINAL SCORE BY MATT HUTCHINSON
ANIMATION BY SAM ROTH CONSULTING EDITOR LEWIS ERSKINE, ACE
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY SETH MARGOLIES CONRAD GOLOVAC JAMIE DINICOLA STEPHEN ROLL
CO-PRODUCERS JAMIE DINICOLA MARSHA MOORE MCKEEVER PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY SUSAN SANDLER

JULIA SCOTTI: FUNNY THAT WAY

Publicity Contact

Potent PR - Jonah Blechman
jb@potentpr.com | 917.776.4660



USA | 2020 | 73 minutes

Decades ago, Julia Scotti performed as Rick Scotti, and appeared on bills with Jerry Seinfeld and Chris Rock. Now, the trans comedian returns to the stage as “the crazy old lady of comedy,” in this tender, funny, and triumphant comeback story.

Synopsis

In the comedy boom of the late 1980’s Rick Scotti was a busy guy—working clubs across the country when he came to the dawning realization that nothing felt right. At a time when the words gender dysphoria and gender affirming surgery were rarely heard, Rick’s true awakening at age 47 led to a year of hormonal treatments, surgery, and a new identity as Julia Scotti. And then the doors shut tight. Everyone turned away—former wives, friends, family, comedy world buddies. Most painfully, Julia was shut out from contact with the people she most deeply loved – her children. She reinvented herself, spent a decade teaching, and then several years ago, stepped on stage and began the journey back to the world she loves. In that same period, her children made contact after 15 years of estrangement. The film tracks Julia’s triumphant comeback, the rough life on the comedy circuit, and the return of her children, as comedy becomes a shared language of identity, healing, and joy.



Director & Producer Susan Sandler

Biography

Susan Sandler's screenplays and teleplays include the Golden Globe nominated *Crossing Delancey* and *Friends At Last*, as well as projects for Sony Pictures, Twentieth Century Fox, Disney, TNT, and Columbia. Her work for the stage has been produced in New York, at major theatres across the country, and around the world. Her plays include *Crossing Delancey*, *Under the Bed*, *The Renovation*, *The Moaner*, *If I Were A Train* and *The Find*. Her short *The Burial Society* featured Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara in their final performance on NPR. Sandler's work is published by Smith and Kraus, Vintage Press, and Samuel French. She is a full time professor at NYU Tisch School of the Arts Kanbar Institute of Film & Television, where she also guides the Fusion Film Festival. *Julia Scotti: Funny That Way* won Audience Choice at the Paley Center for New Media Doc Pitch, and is her directing debut.



Director's Statement

I fell in love with Julia Scotti one July night in 2015 after seeing her explosively funny and moving set. Later, huddled in a noisy bar, I began to see around the edges of the private Julia--delicate, vulnerable, and real. As we began to exchange histories, an undeniable link emerged. A sisterhood. We are women of a certain age with an Italian/Jewish earthiness, a shared sensibility for human comedy, and a willingness to always say yes to truth, no matter where it takes us. Julia's story deepens our understanding of not only the transgender experience, but the human experience of longing to be who we truly are, individuated from the voices telling us to be someone different, someone more known, someone who "fits in". And by that example, she invites us to be free.



Julia Scotti Bio

The Italian word *corposo* refers to a rich, full-bodied wine. Rich and full-bodied is also an appropriate descriptor for the life of comedian Julia Scotti.

Since 1980, Julia has been honing her craft in clubs and theaters throughout the United States and Canada, performing for the first 20 years as Rick Scotti, and now, after a ten-year hiatus, as Julia Scotti for the second 20. Her second act has been the very definition of *Corposo*.

The new and improved Julia has been described by colleagues and press as, among other things, “a force of nature”, and “a comedy chainsaw flying through the room”.



As Julia says, her comedy always has to be “fearless and honest”, and America can feel both in her performances. Since coming back to comedy in 2011, she has been named one of the Top Five Transgender Comedians in the Country by Advocate Magazine, and has performed at LGBTQ events across the country, and was one of the winners of the Laughlin Laugh Festival in Nevada. But she wasn’t done yet.

Simon Cowell said that “you genuinely made me laugh” as she introduced herself to a national audience on Season 11 of *America’s Got Talent*. She was the first transgender comedian to appear on national television and was a quarter-finalist on the show.

Not content to sit on her laurels, Julia went on to record her first, best-selling comedy CD entitled, “Hello Boys I’m Back!” and is gearing up to record her second one. This year, she is being featured on the Showtime Television Network Special, “More Funny Women of a Certain Age.”

Julia Scotti: Funny that Way directed by Susan Sandler premieres at Nantucket Film Festival 2020. Julia suggested that the film have “Part I” added to the title, because she’s only just begun. If Julia were a wine, she’d be aged just right. And she’d definitely be *molto Corposo*.



Crew Bios

Executive Producer - Paul Szynol

A filmmaker and an attorney, for the last decade and a half, Szynol has concentrated his practice on intellectual property matters (particularly media and technology), and has advised filmmakers, artists, start-ups, and multinationals on a wide range of transactions. His documentary films have been featured on the New York Times Op-Docs, the New Yorker, and the Atlantic, and his films and photos have been shown at festivals and galleries internationally

Executive Producer - India Blake Johnson

India Blake Johnson is an award-winning photographer and poet. Her naturalist photography and portraiture is exhibited in galleries throughout the US and Europe with an upcoming show at Grounds for Sculpture. Her books include *Before the Curtain Goes Up*, a photographic journey behind the scenes of small town theatres across the USA, and Indie Excellence Award winner, *Captured*, a collection of her poetry and images.

Editor & Co-Producer - Marsha MooreMcKeever

A Sentence of Their Own, HBO; *Wallowitch and Ross: This Moment*, short-listed for an Academy Award and was recently given a home in the Academy's Permanent Film Archive.

Composer - Matt Hutchinson

Award winning film, TV, and commercial composer. TV & Film: *Mysteries of Love* (NBC), *The Sage Brush Sea* (PBS), *The Grid* (TNT) *Elizabeth Smart: Autobiography* and *Mike Tyson: Autobiography* with Joey Newman (A&E.) Commercial clients include NBCUniversal, Sony, and Amazon.



Animator - Sam Roth

Sea Team, award winner: First Run FF. Worked under Bill Plympton on his Cop Dog and Simpsons "The Artiste" shorts. Currently in development: Roth's half hour series "Manrattan."

Consulting Editor - Lewis Erskine, ACE

PBS: *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool*, Projects with Michael Moore, Ken Burns, Shola Lynch, Bill Moyers, and Stanley Nelson. Favorite projects include *The MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour*, *Faith and Reason*, *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners*, *The Black Press: Soldiers without Swords* and *Freedom Riders*. Emmy and an ACE Eddie for *Freedom Riders*.

Co Producer - Jamie Stephan DiNicola

Jamie DiNicola is an activist, writer, and filmmaker utilizing his skills to tell the stories that must be told. As a queer transgender man, Jamie has made storytelling the cornerstone of his queer & trans activist work. He is the co-founder of the trans-owned production company, [TransWave Films](#) which promotes trans and queer storytelling and storytellers. Jamie wrote, directed, and produced the short

narrative film *Spot*, which was created with an entirely transgender cast playing non-transgender specific roles. *Spot* is an official selection of the 2017 Twist: Seattle Queer Film Festival, San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, and the winner of “Best Short Screenplay” at Westfield International Film Festival. *Spot* was featured in [Huffington Post Queer Voices](#). Jamie is also the writer and director of the short films, “Will I Say So,” and “Fratello,” official selections of the Toronto Inside Out Film Festival and the Monmouth Film Festival. Jamie co-directed and produced, [“Venture Out,”](#) a short documentary about The Venture Out Project, which was sponsored by REI. “Venture Out” has been selected as a Best of the Month Vimeo Staff Pick. Jamie is the producer of the doc-series, [“Trans in Trumpland,”](#) and is executive produced by [Trace Lysette](#), [Miss Major](#), and [Chella Man](#). Jamie was featured in Huffington Post’s [“10 Trans Filmmakers You Should Know”](#) and in Vice’s article, [“The A-Z of Trans Representation in Film.”](#) To learn more, visit [JamieDiNicola.com](#)

JULIA SCOTTI: FUNNY THAT WAY

Credits

Produced and Directed by

Susan Sandler

Executive Producers

Paul Szynol

India Blake Johnson

Co-Executive Producer

Jane Condon

Edited by

Marsha Moore McKeever

Original Score by

Matt Hutchinson

Animation by

Sam Roth

Consulting Editor

Lewis Erskine, ACE

Co-Producers

Jamie DiNicola

Marsha Moore McKeever

Cinematography by

Seth Margolies

Conrad Golovac

Jamie DiNicola

Stephen Roll

Jacob White

Production Coordinator

Nicole Quintero Ochoa

Main Title Design

Declan Zimmermann

Visual Effects

Perpetual Motion Graphics

Additional Visual Effects

Jenny Liu

Additional Editing

Dow McKeever

Assistant Editor

Denise Zhou

Re-Recording Mixers

Benny Mouthon, CAS

Brian Bracken

Supervising Sound Editor

Benny Mouthon, CAS

Sound Editor

Eric DiStefano

Audio Post Facility

String & Can

Post Production Picture Services provided by

Goldcrest Post Productions New York

DI Colorist / Post Finishing Editor

Evan Anthony, CSI

Still Photographer

Anne Burlock Lawver

Consulting Archive Producer

Prudence Arndt

Archival Consultant

Emily Harrold

Archival Restoration

Benjamin P. Moskowitz

Archival Still Restoration

Katelyn Rebelo

Archival Digital Transfers

Nayla Davis

Location Consultant

Roberta Morris

Transcription

Kristin Jones

Grace Plante

Accounting Services

Steinberg Shebairo, LLP

Legal Services

Paul Szynol, FilmLawGroup.com

Karen Shatzkin

Robert J. Reicher

Fiscal Sponsor

Women Make Movies

End Titles created with

Endcrawl.com

ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE

Human Rights Campaign

Fremantle Media

North America/SYCO

"Wildwoods By the Sea" Documentary

Prelinger Archives, LL

Julia Scotti private collection

WABC "The Morning Show"

Rascal's Comedy Hour

Showtime

Mitchell's Comedy Tonight

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

"Pimento" Composer: Mat Andasun PRS Audio Network PRS

"Takedown" Composer: Tom Player PRS Position Music Publishing, ASCAP

"Fated Breath"

Composer: Mike Beever Extreme Production Music USA, ASCAP

"CCAIE Sunshine Girls" Composer Brian Wayy, BMI Publisher: Score Keepers Music BMI"

SPECIAL THANKS

Julia Scotti

Dan Gagliardi

Emma Gagliardi

Cathy Caldwell

Kate Rubin

ORGANIZATIONS THANKS

Carolines on Broadway

Catch a Rising Star

Friars Club

Gotham Comedy Club

Human Rights Campaign
The Kraine Theatre
Omnipop
PFLAG
Stand Up New York
The Stress Factory

MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM:

The India Blake Johnson Foundation
NYU Tisch School Of The Arts
The Cecelia Joyce and Seward Johnson Foundation, Inc.
The Atlantic Foundation

PRODUCTION COMPANY: **Transformative Comedy**