

50 WORDS

Kathryn Parks, Producer, Writer, Lead Actor
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50WordsFilm.com



Directed by
Mark Palmer

Written by
Kathryn Parks

Produced by
Kathryn Parks

Associate Producer
Jamie Lee Butrum

Starring
Kathryn Parks, Charles Logan, Craig
Weiskerger

Running time
28:56

Aspect ratio
1.90:1, 2K DCI

Shooting format
Digital- Sony F5

Sound
AAC 48khz stereo LR





Logline & Synopsis

A newly-single actress desperate for ways to meet men rewrites her bio in the theater program as a personal ad and suddenly finds herself swamped with admirers.

After catching her boyfriend and co-star cheating on her, theatrical leading lady Lilly Green writes her 50-word actor bio in the program as a personal ad, seeking her perfect match from the audience each night. Once her literary stunt goes viral, she's faced with many new admirers, including the one she's secretly been pining for. But as the flowers, chocolates, and coffee dates begin to mount, she learns that sometimes the road to love begins with taking one good, long look in the mirror.

Film's Story

Sitting in the movie theater watching shorts in her home town got Kathryn Parks' creative juices flowing. Writer, producer, and star of *50 Words*, Kathryn was born to performing parents and grew up in the Sarasota, Florida theater scene. A small city filled with an array of culture and talented amateur and professional artists, she felt that if given the opportunity, they could compete on a much larger stage. So, she wrote her first screenplay, a short romantic comedy inspired by her musical upbringing, her theatrical experiences as a leading lady, the artistic community and the local dating scene (or lack thereof). She crafted a story where the lead actress of a show writes her bio in the program as a personal ad, seeking her perfect match from the audience each night.

She then partnered with friend, colleague, and director Mark Palmer. Mark's video production company is known for high quality corporate videos and commercials but he was ready to take on a more original, creative project. Kathryn also realized she needed an artistic jack-of-all-trades who knew the scene and how to get things done, so she brought on producer Jamie Lee Butrum and the three of them got to work.



Faced with full-time jobs, actual paying clients, rehearsal schedules, zero funding, toddlers, teenagers, and a pregnancy, Kathryn, Mark and Jamie starting pulling together the cast and crew - many of whom had no experience in front of or behind the camera. 13 shoot days, 35 actors, 20 crew members, 65 extras, a crowd funding campaign, countless kind gestures, and 18 months later, the team accomplished what they'd set out to do.

The resulting film shines the spotlight on the Florida cultural scene while proving that you don't need a full purse or Hollywood credits to "put on a show" silver screen-style.



Director's Statement

"50 Words" is a story of self-discovery and one's own sometimes oblivious journey through life's clues of love.

I read the script and knew I wanted to tell this story. Filming would add that layer that cannot be written in words. So much of relationships deal with how our body language is interpreted. Sometimes subtle clues go unnoticed by people in love. Then sometimes, people searching for love can overlook the smallest clue from a person who might genuinely care for them. I wanted this whole other story that is woven through the pages to be seen visually. As we watch the characters, we see when they are childish, awkward, and even reprehensible. As we follow the heroine's sometimes oblivious journey to find love, *50 Words* ironically becomes all about the unspoken.

Writer/Producer/Lead Actor Q & A

There were over 100 actors and extras involved in *50 Words*, where did you find them?

KP: As a matter of fact, when I wrote the screenplay, I wrote it with certain friends in mind. They were all people I've worked with in the local theatre scene. Craig Weiskerger (Reed) and I played opposite each other in *La Cage aux Folles*. Charles Logan (Derek) and I played opposite each other in *Crazy for You*. And I've been in shows with almost everyone in the cast so I was familiar with their acting skills. We only held one audition - which was for Johannes (played by Michael Rischer).

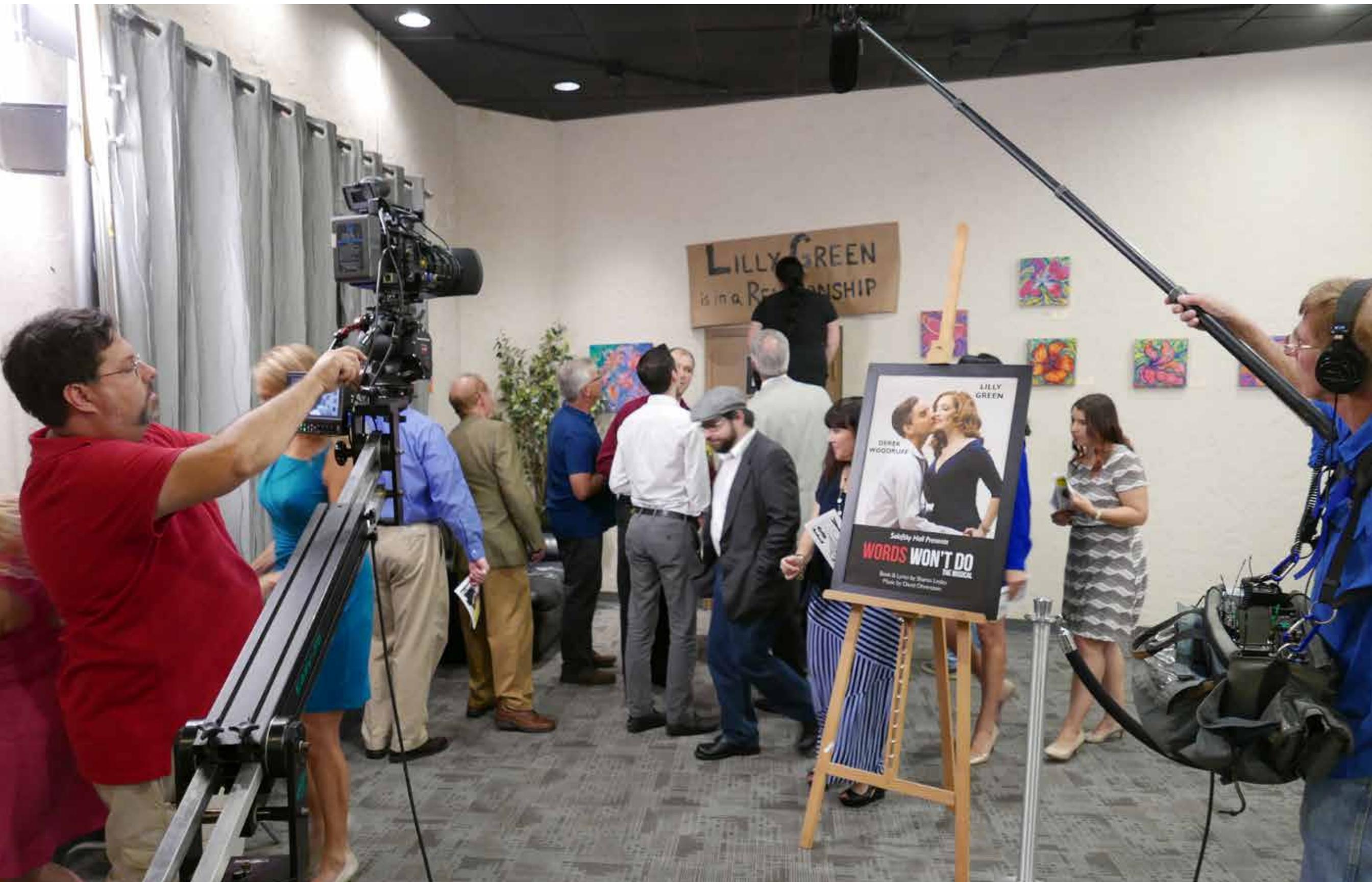
You've never written a screenplay before, let alone produce anything of this magnitude. Why this? Why now?

KP: I've been watching local films at the Sarasota Film Festival every year - mainly because I wanted to be cast as an actor in more movies! I figured it was a great way to meet filmmakers. But the films had almost the opposite effect on me, I realized that if other local artists could make films, perhaps I could too! So, I got the idea for *50 Words* after talking at length with a dear friend who was getting married to a man she met online. It made me wonder (were I not married) how I could creatively meet a man. So I thought I could write my bio in the next show I did as a "want ad". The idea made me

giggle. Concurrently, I'd been doing a lot of video work with Mark Palmer at my day job in video production at Michael Saunders & Company, a real estate brokerage. I hoped I might find a creative partner in him and he was gung-ho as soon as I presented him with the screenplay.

Music is an integral part of the film. How did you accomplish the many musical elements?

KP: All the music very easily fell into place! My parents, Sharon and David Ohrenstein, (who also have cameos in the film) have written a number of musicals. So when it was time to incorporate little moments from this musical within the film, *Words Won't Do*, I had my pick of songs! In fact, my mother used an existing song from their musical *Golden Roads* about the life of Golda Meir and rewrote the lyrics to suit our purposes. Then, I knew I wanted a performing-style dream sequence to go with the coffee dates so I asked my mom if she knew of anything appropriate. Right away, she thought of a song written by her friend and musician, Lynne Bernfield called *Sweet Single Life*. It suited the style of the film perfectly and Lynne graciously granted us the rights. Finally, Bobby Brader, our film's composer, used to be a music director in Sarasota before he moved out to California where he's been orchestrator on films such as *Trolls* and *The LEGO Ninjago Movie*. He was amazing to work with and it was great fun for him to see all the people he knew in the Sarasota theatre scene on the screen before him!







Kathryn Parks | Writer, Producer, Lead Actor

Kathryn was born to performing parents and graduated with a BA in Theatre Arts from University of Miami. On Florida stages, she's performed professionally in shows, concerts, and cabarets. On camera, she's appeared in *The Glades* and *Killroy Was Here*, a new short from Kevin Smith. Kathryn has produced hundreds of videos for a real estate brokerage but *50 Words* is her first screenplay and short film. kathrynparks.com



Mark Palmer | Director, Director of Photography

Mark is an award-winning photographer, cinematographer, director and producer who has been working behind the camera for more than fourteen years. With his own production company based in Sarasota, Florida, MarsVision Productions, credits include various regional corporate projects as well as grand prize winner in Viral Film Project, "Best Story Award" for *Devotion* in 48-Hour Guerrilla Film Challenge and award-winning PBS documentary series, *Diamonds Along the Highway*. marsvisionproductions.com

Jamie Lee Butrum | Co-Producer, Production Designer

Jamie holds an AA in Theatre Arts and a BA in English. She has worked on and off stage in the Sarasota theatre scene for 20 years. A true Jill-of-all-trades, she is experienced with all the technical elements of theatre as well as having a diverse background in acting and cabaret performance. *50 Words* has been a unique and gratifying first experience in film-making.



Joey Durango | Editor

Joey is a director, cinematographer, editor, and independent filmmaker. His portfolio ranges from short films to music videos and has worked with the bands Boyce Avenue, Markari, Dyne Side, and Speech Patterns.

Main Cast and Crew

Lilly Green	Kathryn Parks
Derek Woodruff	Charles Logan
Reed	Craig Weiskerger
Kelley	Shelley Whiteside
Stage Manager	Alyssa Goudy
Johannes	Michael Rischer
Dylan Jones	Himself
Talk Show Hosts	Eve Caballero
	Kirsten Sponseller
	Jaszy McAllister
Sid Marshall	Jay Handelman
Jessica	Samantha Centerbar
Drunk Date	Matthew Ryder
Hippie Date	Jeffery Kin
Johannes's Mom	Barbara Williams-Bostic
Skyler	Daniel Ohrenstein
Waiter Eddie	Kelly Leissler
Rude Stranger	Nik Warren
Mean Girls	Lauren Ward
	Geena Ravella
Kayla	Elicia Sacco
Donald	Dan Higgs
Audience Men	Tom Aposporos
	Ryan K. Fitts

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Director of Photography	Mark Palmer
Editors	Joey Durango
	Mark Palmer
	Kathryn Parks
Sound Designer	Mark Palmer
Casting Director	Kathryn Parks
Assistant Director	Danae Deshazer

Press Links

Suncoast View: [Writer, Actress & Producer Kathryn Parks Talks Making “50 Words” Community Grind with the Clever Cup](#)

Sarasota Herald-Tribune: [Behind the Scenes: Film debut reveals some lessons](#)

Sarasota Magazine: [Behind the Scenes of 50 Words, a New All-Local Short Film](#)

Late Nite Orlando Talk Show: [Why Not Tonight](#)

At the Movies with Gus Mollasis: [The Best of Kathryn Parks](#)

