

CREATIVE TELEVISION. HUMAN STORIES.

NATHAN JOHNSON

CASTING EXECUTIVE | TALENT DISCOVERY | UNSCRIPTED & FEATURE DEVELOPMENT

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Senior casting and development executive with 25+ years of experience identifying unforgettable talent, building cast-driven formats, and translating studio and network mandates into compelling, audience-ready programming. Career spans feature casting, nationwide unscripted casting, talent development, field producing, content creation, dealmaking, and high-touch client relations. Known for instinctive discovery, exacting execution, deep industry relationships, and a consistent ability to make human stories impossible to ignore.

CAREER IMPACT

- Cast 110+ episodes of MTV's MADE during the series' four-E Emmy-winning run, leading nationwide discovery, auditions, field production, and network pitches.
- Identified Henry Cavill as leading talent during Warner Bros. feature-casting work, a discovery connected to the studio's future Man of Steel casting pipeline.
- Helped assemble the original Happy Feet voice cast; core selections carried forward into Happy Feet Two.
- Built and retained the cast for DiGa's Player Gets Played, helping support Oxygen's eight-episode series order.
- Independent casting credit Waiting for Yvette won Audience Favorite at the 2008 Palm Springs International ShortFest.

CORE EXPERTISE

Feature Casting | Unscripted & Non-Fiction Casting | Talent Discovery & Development | Nationwide Search | Format Development | Series Bibles & Pitch Materials | Field Producing & Camera | Audition Direction | Script & Format Evaluation | Network / Studio Relations | Talent Deals & Negotiation | Publicist / Press Coordination

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder | Casting, Development & Production | +ONE LLC

2023-PRESENT

New York, NY | Independent production and development company

- Create, develop, and package character-driven unscripted, reality, and docu-follow concepts under the +ONE banner.
- Lead concept development, casting strategy, talent outreach, series architecture, pitch decks, creative materials, and buyer-facing positioning.
- Current original slate includes Checking In, ROOTED, and Field Tested - formats built around inclusive access, authentic relationships, transformation, and high-stakes human storytelling.
- Partner with networks, studios, producers, talent, and brand stakeholders to move projects from idea through packaging and market readiness.

Co-Founder | Feature & Non-Fiction Casting / Producing | RHINESTONE REVOLVER

OCT 2013-OCT 2023

Manhattan, New York | Self-employed

- Co-founded and operated a New York City production and casting company serving network- and studio-specific demographics.
- Developed original content, uncovered distinctive talent, incubated emerging personalities, and shaped relatable reality and docu-follow formats.
- Built client-facing casting and development strategies designed to deliver fresh, specific, repeatable programming - with an internal mandate to never be boring.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - CONTINUED

Head of Casting & Talent Development | DiGa ENTERTAINMENT

2013

New York, NY | Tony DiSanto and Liz Gateley

- Led casting and talent development for the emerging production company founded by former MTV President Tony DiSanto and executive Liz Gateley.
- Assembled and held together the ensemble for Player Gets Played, helping secure Oxygen's eight-episode commitment.
- Balanced creative casting, talent trust, buyer expectations, and production realities to build a compelling, sustainable ensemble.

Supervising Field Casting Producer | MADE | MTV NETWORKS

SEP 2008-SEP 2013

Nationwide | Project-based casting and field production

- Creatively executed nationwide casting for multiple episodes of MTV's four-time Emmy Award-winning reality series MADE; cast 110+ episodes.
- Designed targeted research and outreach campaigns that expanded applicant volume and diversity at audition locations across the country.
- Conducted on-location auditions, evaluated candidates, edited selects, and determined the talent presented to executive producers and the network.
- Served as field shooter / producer and handled production needs, schedules, releases, logistics, and talent care while traveling.
- Worked within precise show and network guidelines while continually introducing fresh, outside-the-box casting ideas.

Casting Director | Talent, PR & Client Relations | DIGITAL KITCHEN

AUG 2006-AUG 2008

Los Angeles, CA | Full-time | Hybrid

- Cast and produced Travel & Entertainment segments for AT&T U-verse's launch-era barker channel and original-content platform.
- Secured credentials and access for hosts and crews at events, red carpets, festivals, junkets, parties, and celebrity interview opportunities.
- Acted as liaison among AT&T, publicists, actors, interviewees, production teams, and clients; coordinated talent and high-touch client relationships.
- Built and maintained an industry contact database, continually expanding relationships that enabled stronger access and execution.
- Cast talent, prepared deal terms, negotiated contracts, developed content ideas, attended junkets, and conducted on-camera interviews for original programming.

Casting Director - Independent | NATHAN JOHNSON CASTING

AUG 2006-AUG 2007

Los Angeles Metropolitan Area | Freelance | Hybrid

- Led independent casting for Waiting for Yvette, winner of the Audience Favorite award at the 2008 Palm Springs International ShortFest.
- Managed talent search, audition evaluation, director collaboration, and final casting recommendations for the award-winning short film.

STUDIO FEATURE CASTING

Feature Casting - Progressive Leadership Roles | WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT

AUG 1999-AUG 2006

Burbank, CA | Full-time | On-site

Progression: Intern, Office of the SVP Feature Casting | Casting Assistant, Office of the SVP & VP Feature Casting | Associate Casting Director | Director of Feature Casting

- Coordinated the casting needs of the Senior Vice President and Vice President of Feature Casting for Warner Bros. feature films.
- Supported all day-to-day casting demands and played an instrumental role in launching and conducting casting processes and related business affairs.
- Established audition logistics and schedules; evaluated scripts against production needs; prepared lists, research, reads, and decision materials.
- Developed trusted relationships with studio heads, production executives, directors, producers, production staff, representatives, and talent in fast-paced, high-pressure environments.
- Maintained entertainment-industry intelligence and databases; monitored trades and screened films at festivals to identify new and existing talent.
- Worked closely with A-list actors and representatives across major studio features, balancing creative vision, commercial strategy, availability, and deal realities.
- Identified Henry Cavill as leading talent during studio casting work; contributed to the early talent discovery path associated with Man of Steel.
- Helped put together the Happy Feet voice ensemble, selections from which were subsequently used in Happy Feet Two.
- Served as Associate Casting Director under Roger Mussenden on Spring Breakdown, directed by Ryan Shiraki for Warner Bros.

SELECTED FEATURE SLATE

Superman Returns | Man of Steel | 300 | The Dukes of Hazzard | Poseidon | Happy Feet | Happy Feet Two | The Departed | Syriana | V for Vendetta | The Invasion | The Reaping | ATL | Batman Begins | House of Wax | Kiss Kiss Bang Bang | Constantine | North Country | The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford | Catwoman | Swordfish | Spring Breakdown

SELECTED +ONE DEVELOPMENT SLATE

- Checking In - An inclusive luxury-travel format exploring accessibility, hospitality, independence, and the emotional power of being fully welcomed.
- ROOTED - A relationship-driven reality docuseries following five mothers in Rockwall, Texas as family, friendship, identity, and personal reinvention collide.
- Field Tested - A high-stakes unscripted skills format built around elite training, resilience, teamwork, and performance under pressure.

RECOGNITION & SIGNATURE STRENGTHS

- Four-Emmy run: Member of MTV's MADE casting and field-producing team during a four-Emmy-winning period.
- Audience recognition: Waiting for Yvette - Audience Favorite, 2008 Palm Springs International ShortFest.
- Signature advantage: An instinct for uncovering charismatic, unexpected talent and converting real human experience into castable, market-ready stories.
- Leadership style: Direct, collaborative, detail-driven, talent-sensitive, and creatively fearless across studio, network, field, and entrepreneurial environments.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES

Casting Strategy | Targeted Outreach | Audition Producing | Field Logistics | Talent Releases & Diligence | Camera / Shooter-Producing | Celebrity Interviews | Red Carpet & Junket Access | Publicist Relations | Contact Database Development | Talent Negotiation | Client Service | Creative Ideation | Pitch & Packaging Support