



# Bill & Betty Build a Pyramid

Directed by Alex Wroten



WELL DANG! PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "BILL & BETTY BUILD A PYRAMID" STARRING: LISA JILL ANDERSON, FRANCIS LLOYD CORBY, CHELSEA GONZALEZ, IAN POAKE AND KAI CHAPMAN DIRECTED BY ALEX WROTEN WRITTEN BY ALEX WROTEN AND LISA JILL ANDERSON MUSIC BY ALEX WROTEN

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## Logline

Two traveling salespeople are thrilled to be the guests of honor at an exclusive work party, but things get weird when their bosses offer them an opportunity to be even more successful.

## Synopsis

It's 1970. Betty Martin and Bill Teller arrive at the glamorous California home of power couple Donald and Dorothy Moore for an exclusive dinner party celebrating the top sellers of the Moores' direct sales company (read: pyramid scheme), and are surprised to discover they're the only guests in attendance. When Donald and Dorothy present Bill and Betty with an unorthodox business opportunity, their morals are put to the test.

## Creator Statement

From Mary Kay cosmetics in the 1960s, to Lu La Roe in the 2010s, it seems that no matter the decade, Americans are enticed by false promises to get rich quick and chase a "life changing opportunity". You'd be hard pressed to encounter someone in this country who doesn't know someone who has fallen pray to one pyramid scheme or another. Having grown up in working class families, we're familiar with the "life changing opportunity" spiel. We grew up in communities where our neighbors and family members hosted and attended Tupperware parties, sold Avon products, BeachBody shakes, DoTerra essential oils, you name it. These direct sales opportunities always led to broken dreams and hundreds of wasted dollars. With Bill & Betty Build a Pyramid we were interested in exploring the predatory aspects of pyramid schemes and putting a wacky sci fi spin on it to highlight the absurdity of what people are willing to agree to when they're enticed by wealth, success, and a sense of belonging.

Alex Wroten (director, writer) & Lisa Jill Anderson (producer, writer)

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## CONTACT

Executive Producer/Co-Creator: Lisa Jill Anderson

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Website: [www.welldangproductions.com](http://www.welldangproductions.com)



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## Technical Details

Title: Bill & Betty Build a Pyramid

Run time: 15 minutes

Aspect Ratio: 2.40

Camera: Panasonic S1H

Lenses: Vazen 1.8x anamorphics (50 mm & 135 mm)

Sound: Stereo

Language: English

Shooting Location: "Glenhaven Googie"

Riverside, CA

Year: 2022



# Cast:



**Lisa Jill Anderson** ("Betty"/Producer/Writer) is an actor, producer, and writer based in NYC. Lisa co-wrote the half-hour comedy pilot *Legit Married*, which was a finalist for the ATX TV Festival Pitch Competition. She also executive produced, co-created and starred in the web series version of *Legit Married*, which won the Audience Choice Award for Best Web Pilot at Dances With Films LA, Best Episodic Pilot at Katra Film Series, Best Web Series at the LA Independent Women Film Awards, & Best of Fest + Best Web Series at Strong Chance Film Festival. Her play *Friends with Amenities*, co-written and co-performed with her creative partner, Ahsan Ali, is the winner of the New Light New Voices Award and will receive its off-Broadway premiere in September of 2023. Select acting credits include "Inventing Anna" (Netflix), "Growing Up" (Disney+), and *Everything is Super Great* (Time Out New York Critics pick). [www.lisajillanderson.com](http://www.lisajillanderson.com)

**Francis Lloyd Corby** ("Bill") has been building a solid reputation for his work since landing in Hollywood, most notably while fictionally romancing Lindy Booth in the new feature film *The Creatress*, written and directed by Jason Cook and also stars Fran Drescher and Peter Bogdanovich. His credits also include notable appearances on several popular television series, including Seth MacFarlane's comedy for FOX *The Orville*, Showtime's award-winning drama *The Affair*, Hugh Laurie led Hulu thriller *Chance*, and FXX's unromantic comedy *You're the Worst*, among others. In addition, Corby has emerged in several indie film projects, including millennial comedy *Daddy Issues* and the leading role in the vengeful comedy *Get You Back*. Upcoming: the indie features *Howl Coyote Howl* and *Maybe people aren't as bad as we think*. [www.franciscorby.com](http://www.franciscorby.com)



# Cast:



**Chelsea Gonzalez** ("Dorothy") was named Most Powerful Voice by Blackbird film festival for her first short film *SUSANNE AND THE MAN* – a title that defines the work she hopes to create. She recently won Dances with Films Best Pilot award for *LEGIT MARRIED*, a series she directed. Her films have been Official Selections at over 75 film festivals around the globe including Sarasota, Portland, and Academy Award qualifying DeadCenter Film Festival. Chelsea's love of filmmaking began on the other side of the camera. Most recently, Franka Potente – famous to American audiences as the title character in *RUN LOLA RUN* – selected Chelsea to appear in her feature film *HOME* starring Kathy Bates. She can be seen on television in *THE MINDY PROJECT*, *CRIMINAL MINDS*, *CASTLE* and *THE JINX*. She also had the honor of being chained to a stone slab and tortured in the Universal/Blumhouse feature *OUIJA: ORIGIN OF EVIL*. Chelsea has been murdered on screen 7 times and hopes for many more in her future -but she particularly enjoys playing characters who are alive. She is a graduate of Syracuse University, a student at the Sundance Institute, and lives in Los Angeles. [www.chelseagonzalez.com](http://www.chelseagonzalez.com)

**Ian Poake** ("Don") is a NYC based actor. Select credits include *An American Pickle* (HBO Max), "Succession" (HBO), "The Punisher" (Marvel/Netflix), "Law & Order Organized Crime", and "FBI". Most recently, Ian starred in the short film *Jolie* (directed by six time Emmy award winner Haley Geffen) and was awarded Best Actor at the PAMA Film Festival in France. Ian earned his BFA in acting at Hofstra University. [www.ianpoake.com](http://www.ianpoake.com)



**Kai Chapman** ("Dr. Hansen"). With Well Dang! Productions: the web series "Ozone", "Nixone", and "Ape Zone" and the short films *Subliminal* and *Trinket*. Other select credits include the tv series "The Mismanagement of Medwin Monroe" and "Togetherness" (HBO).

# Key Crew:



**Alex Wroten (Producer, Director, Co-creator, Composer)** is a North Carolina & Los Angeles-based, award-winning writer-director-composer.

Alex owns and operates Well Dang! Productions, serving as creator and producer on documentary and fiction shorts, features, and web series. The full-service production company's films have been screened in festivals across the globe.

Alex's most recent short film, *Endangered*, featuring Cheri Oteri and Camryn Manheim, is currently playing the film festival circuit and has been an official selection in 40 film festivals (and counting).

As a composer, Alex's expertise spans various styles, instruments, outboard gear and creative technology platforms. The New York Times called his "Mosaic" percussion duet, which was commissioned and performed by Meehan/Perkins Duo at Constellation Chicago in 2016, an "absorbing premiere" that "glistens as it seems to rotate, less developing than slowly revealing more of its secrets." Alex earned a Master's in Digital Musics from Dartmouth College on a full scholarship, as well as a Bachelor's in Music Composition from the University of South Carolina. Alex earned a Master's in Digital Musics from Dartmouth College on a full scholarship.

**Andy Rolfe (Director of Photography)** is a bi-coastal cinematographer who studied who film at the University of South Carolina. As the resident cinematographer of Well Dang! Productions, he has worked on countless web series and short films. Select credits include: *The Girl From Carolina*, *Teammates*, *Nixon/Ozone*, *Beach Claw*, *Snowflake*, *He Comes Highly Recommended*, *The Mismanagement of Medwin Monroe*, *Flannel Recluse*, *Phubbed*, *Lizard Pirate*, and *Brunch on What Grounds*.



**Sander Roth (Editor)** is the resident editor of Well Dang! Productions where they have edited over twenty short films, the web series *The Girl From Carolina*, and the satirical feature films *Godbless New Dixie* and *The Gospel of Ted*.



**Well Dang! Productions (production company)** is a full-service boutique video production company specializing in superior storytelling through high quality video and sound. We draw on years of experience in broadcast television and independent film production to bring projects to life, from pre-production to the final stages of post production. Most recently, their feature film *The Gospel of Ted* was the winner of Beast Feature at Reedy Reels Film Festival and and the North Carolina Film Festival. [www.welldang.com](http://www.welldang.com)

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## Additional Credits

### Crew

1st Assistant Camera/Key Grip: A.R. BRYAN

Audio Mixing: Axel Towner

Production Design: Belinda Winter @Glenhavengoogle

Hair & Makeup Artists: Itze de Jesus & Elisa Lara

Production Assistant: Nicole Myung

Key art: Lexi Dripps

