

# IMTA ALUM CHRISTOPHER GORHAM AND A *BOY CALLED PO*

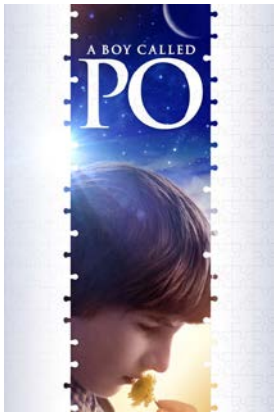
**IMTA Press Release**  
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*A Boy Called Po* opens in limited release Friday, September 1

“They call it the autism spectrum for a reason because it is a wide spectrum of behaviors and abilities...I think this film does a lot to open people’s eyes to the reality of what it’s like to raise a kid like Po.”  
– Christopher Gorham

IMTA alum Christopher Gorham’s 20 year career has included many memorable characters on some of television’s most popular shows, such as “*Ugly Betty*’s” boyfriend Henry Grubstick and “*Covert Affairs*” blind CIA handler Auggie Anderson. He has had starring roles on “*Jake 2.0*,” “*Harper’s Island*” and “*Medical Investigation*,” and many featured appearances on series such as “*The Magicians*,” “*Two Broke Girls*” and “*Once Upon a Time*” among many others. Gorham has also branched out into the other side of the camera, directing several episodes of “*Covert Affairs*,” the short *Gamechangers* comedies, and the recently released *We Love You, Sally Carmichael!* But in the independent feature *A Boy Called Po*, Gorham takes on a role unlike most of his previous work; a role that it is both deeply personal and relatable to his own life.



*A Boy Called Po*, based on a true story, follows a recently widowed engineer struggling to raise his 12-year old autistic son. Patrick, who prefers to be called ‘Po,’ is a gifted but challenged child who was very close to his mother and unable to communicate his own sense of loss. As father and son each begin to withdraw into their own worlds, the growing divide and the challenges of single parenthood of a special needs child threaten to separate David and Po permanently.

“My oldest son is on the autism spectrum,” explained Gorham. “Because I have lived many parts of what David—my character—deals with in this film, it made it such an easy fit.” Gorham said he had an easy childhood without any real challenges where he could draw on an emotional depth. “But this is one area where I’ve got a sea to dive into, and I think it comes through in the film.”

“Bringing this story to life has taken me nine years,” director John Asher said. “I got the script shortly after my [own] son was diagnosed with autism.” He added, “The main message of the film is that kids with autism just want to be treated like typical kids and this becomes easier with a better understanding of autism. I also hope that other families like ours will gain a new perspective on their own struggles and ways to cope.”

During the journey to get the film produced, Asher found that he was not alone in dealing with autism and that many people and companies shared his passion to make a movie about raising an autistic child, including legendary composer Burt Bacharach—who also had an autistic child and, after a chance meeting with Asher on a cross-country flight, offered to score the film.



In addition to Gorham, *A Boy Called Po* stars Julian Feder as Po. Gorham said of his co-star, “It was important that you have an actor who is not on the spectrum to play the character because you have scenes where you go inside Po’s head. It takes a stab at imagining what’s going on in there sometimes, like when the character seems to—from the outside—just ‘check out.’ And in his mind, he’s a typical kid up here [in his head], so you need a young actor who’s able to do both, and he pulls it off in spades.”