

KINO LORBER
experience cinema

PRESENTS

CHEF FLYNN

A FILM BY CAMERON YATES



**Opens in Theaters starting November 9th,
Nationwide Expansion to Follow!**



Directed by Cameron Yates

Produced by Laura Coxson

Executive Produced by Philipp Engelhorn

Edited by Hannah Buck

Consulting Editing by Amy Foote, Shannon Kennedy

Cinematography by Paul Yee

Additional Camera by Meg McGarry

Sound Design by Leslie Shatz

Original Music by Holy Ghost!

Featuring Flynn McGarry, Meg McGarry

83 minutes

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

Ten-year-old Flynn transforms his living room into a supper club, using his classmates as line cooks and serving a tasting menu foraged from his neighbors' backyards. With sudden fame, Flynn outgrows his bedroom kitchen and mother's camera, and sets out to challenge the hierarchy of the culinary world.

LONG SYNOPSIS

While many of his peers were still playing with toy cars, Flynn McGarry was creating remarkable gastronomic delights at his home in Studio City, California. Enjoying unwavering support from his mother Meg, an artist who documented every step of his distinctive journey, he devoted himself entirely to his creative passion. Flynn loved to prepare elaborate dinners for friends and family and soon became known as the "Teen Chef," establishing his own supper club at age 12 and being featured in a *New York Times Magazine* cover story at age 15. Before he was 16, he had staged in top restaurants in Los Angeles, New York, and Europe. But critics soon emerged who challenged Flynn's rapid ascent in the culinary world, threatening to distract him from his dream. Pairing Meg's exhaustive home videos with intimate vérité footage, director Cameron Yates (*The Canal Street Madam*) creates a collage of Flynn's singular focus and one-of-a-kind childhood. The result is a uniquely comprehensive portrait of a young star's rise as seen from the inside.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – CAMERON YATES

As a filmmaker and storyteller, I've always been fascinated by untraditional family dynamics. My first documentary was a portrait of a New Orleans madam who ran a brothel alongside her mother and employed her daughter as a prostitute, providing a safe space for her so that she didn't work in the streets. When I initially read about a young kid in a *New Yorker* Talk of the Town piece called "Prodigy," who turned his mother's living room in Los Angeles into a supper club, it was the family around him that drew me in to tell Flynn McGarry's story, along with an impression that he couldn't be running the show alone.

I decided to cold call the McGarry's and see if they would meet with me. They agreed, and I sat down with Flynn and his mother Meg for a meal at a restaurant of Flynn's choosing. He was 13 at the time. The lunch was a fascinating window into their world and their mother/son relationship, but Flynn and Meg were not interested in embarking on a longitudinal documentary, much less a film about anything other than his cooking.

It took over a year of building friendships with the McGarry's before I could turn on my camera. With Meg, I connected as a storyteller, and with Flynn as a rebel defiant of industry rules and hierarchy and passionate about a greater good. Many dinners and lunches and phone calls later, and of course after trying Flynn's signature Beet Wellington, I was invited to film one of his pop-up dinners and seeing Meg and Flynn's relationship unfold on camera made it even more evident this was a film I needed to make.

When I first started filming Flynn, he was an awkward, self-conscious teenager, who was embarrassed by his mom. I was impressed by his knowledge and skills, but I was also attracted to Meg as a character because of what she had to give up to help her child pursue his passion. And an evolution started happening on film. It almost felt as if she was passing the torch and had gotten to a point where she realized she was part of the story as well.

A considerable part of the filmmaking process became showing up to important family events, building trust, filming everything I could, and finally gaining access to their trove of archival footage. Meg would start showing me clips she'd shot one by one, and at some point, she just turned over her hard drives for safe keeping. It was the beginning of discovering that Flynn's story was going to be a story of many lenses, many perspectives, and of the dynamic between a mother's gaze and the media's gaze, performance, and the privacy of the family.

In the end, for me, it all comes back to Flynn's bedroom kitchen. That's what drew me to this story. To build a place as a ten-year-old, to live, to sleep, to experiment, and to create, all in the same space, was remarkable. And what that says about his mother. No mother is traditional, and I hope the story of Flynn becoming Chef Flynn shows how many different ways there are to raise a child. Meg didn't have anyone else to say no, so she said yes and ended up taking homeschooling to a whole new level.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1998	Flynn is born.
2008	At the age of 10 Flynn realizes he wants to cook, practices knife skills after school, and makes meals for friends and family.
2009	By 11, Flynn is using Thomas Keller's The French Laundry cookbook for inspiration.
2010	At 12, his dinners double in size and the home-restaurant has a name inspired by its street address, EUREKA.
2011	At 13, Flynn is apprenticing at Ray's & Stark Bar at LACMA under chef Kris Morningstar, then went on to stage at Eleven Madison Park under Daniel Humm, as well as at Alinea, Next under Grant Achatz, and Modernist Cuisine in Seattle.
2011	EUREKA becomes a 14-course tasting menu, staff includes some professionals along with friends.
2012	Talk of the Town piece comes out in New Yorker.
2012	Chef John Sedlar of Playa invites Flynn to do a pop-up in his LA restaurant for 120 guests.
2012	EUREKA relocates to BierBeisl in Beverly Hills for a monthly pop-up residency, with the support of chef/owner Bernhard Mairinger.
2013	Flynn works for friend/mentor Ari Taymor at Alma in LA for a year, while continuing EUREKA pop-up in SF, LA, and NYC.
2013	Flynn gives a Kids Kitchen demo at the White House Easter Egg Roll.
2014	Flynn is the cover story for the New York Times Magazine's Food and Drink Issue.
2014	Flynn is the youngest honoree on Zagat's 30 under 30 Los Angeles list.
2014	Time Magazine names Flynn one of the 25 Most Influential Teens.
2015	Flynn travels to Europe to stage at Maemo in Oslo and Geranium in Copenhagen.
Fall 2015	Flynn moves to NYC and opens a 5 month pop-up at Creative Edge Parties in the West Village.
2016	EUREKA residency at Kava Cafe in the West Village for 4 months.
2017	Flynn turns 18! Looking for places to open his own restaurant in NYC.
2018	Flynn opens GEM, garnering a glowing two-star review by restaurant critic Pete Wells of the New York Times.

ABOUT FLYNN MCGARRY

At the age of 10, **Flynn McGarry** knew he wanted to cook. He began practicing his knife skills after school, and soon after started creating dishes for a few of his mother's friends. At 11, came the purchase of Thomas Keller's *The French Laundry* cookbook, then Grant Achatz's *Alinea*. The influence was immediate. Flynn's dishes became more complicated, sous vide cooking was adopted and tweezers were now a must for plating. By 12, the number of courses and guests had doubled at what was now called EUREKA (after the street where he lived), a supper club operating out of his mother's home in Studio City. At 13, Flynn began apprenticing at Ray's and Stark Bar at LACMA under Chef Kris Morningstar, then later went on to stage at Eleven Madison Park under Chef Daniel Humm as well as at *Alinea*, *Next*, and *Modernist Cuisine* in Seattle.

At the same time, Flynn and his small EUREKA staff, made up of family and professionals, were serving 20 guests a tasting menu of 14-courses out of Flynn's kitchen/bedroom. Flynn then became the subject of a *New Yorker* "Talk of the Town" piece, "Prodigy." Chef John Sedlar graciously invited Flynn to serve his expanding mailing list at his restaurant for a night serving 120 guests. At 14, Flynn's supper club EUREKA relocated to pop up monthly at BierBeisl in Beverly Hills with the support of chef/owner Bernhard Mairinger. Flynn worked for a year at Alma under Chef Ari Taymor in Los Angeles and continued to pop-up EUREKA in L.A, S.F, and N.Y.

In 2014, Flynn was the cover story of the Food and Drink Issue of *The New York Times Magazine*, became the youngest honoree on *Zagat Los Angeles*' "30 Under 30" list and was named one of the top 25 most influential teens from *Time* magazine. His culinary experiences and the support from inspirational chefs all over the world (thanks to the internet) have enriched Flynn's talent and ambition. After finishing high school, Flynn traveled to Europe to stage at Maemo in Oslo and Geranium in Copenhagen.

In 2018, Flynn opened his first debut restaurant, Gem, in New York City's Lower East Side. The restaurant features two distinct dining experiences: the "Living Room" and the "Dining Room." The Living Room is an all-day café offering a selection of micro-roaster coffees, rare teas as well as house made pastries and snacks, while the adjoining Dining Room, open Tuesday through Saturday, offers a \$155 per person multi-course tasting menu. The interactive experience is intended to be a reflection of an intimate dinner party among friends. The restaurant recently garnered a glowing two-star review by restaurant critic Pete Wells of the *New York Times*. Additionally, the World Premiere of his namesake documentary *Chef Flynn* took place at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, which is set to be released in theaters nationwide this November.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Cameron Yates (Director/Producer/Cinematographer)

Cameron Yates is a filmmaker and curator. He is the former World Cinema and Documentary Programmer for the Hamptons International Film Festival. Cameron has also worked with Albert Maysles, Zeitgeist Films, Sundance, NewFest LGBT Film Fest, and has been a contributor to indieWIRE. His first film *14 and Payrolled*, a half hour portrait of four teenagers working as pages for the Virginia House of Delegates, premiered on PBS in 2003. The Full Frame Documentary Film Festival awarded Cameron the 2009 Garrett Scott Documentary Grant, given to emerging filmmakers who bring a unique vision to the content and style of contemporary documentary production. His first feature documentary *The Canal Street Madam*, the story of a New Orleans madam who ran a brothel with her mother and daughter until she was busted by the FBI, world premiered at the 2010 SXSW Film Festival.

Laura Coxson (Producer)

Laura Coxson is an NYC-based documentary producer. Her most recent film, *Iris* (2015), premiered at the 2014 New York Film Festival, was released by Magnolia Pictures and has grossed almost \$2 million theatrically. She was an archival producer for a 2016 National Geographic TV series “I Am Rebel” Executive Produced by Doug Liman. Coxson produced *The Love We Make* (2012) with Paul McCartney for Showtime; *Muhammad and Larry* (2009) for ESPN’s 30 for 30 series; and a Documentary Yearbook piece for the 81st Academy Awards. She previously worked for Janus films, notably on the theatrical release of *The Great Beauty* (2013 Academy Award Winner- Foreign Language Film) as well as a July 4, 2014 re-release of *A Hard Day’s Night*. In 2010, the IFC’s “Stranger than Fiction” chose her as one of the “Top 20 People Under 40” working in Film.

Philipp Engelhorn (Executive Producer)

Philipp Engelhorn founded and currently serves as the Executive Director of Cinereach, an independent film company dedicated to vital, artful filmmaking. The company’s original productions, which Phil has Executive Produced, include Eliza Hittman’s *Beach Rats*, which won the US Dramatic Directing Award at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival, and Benh Zeitlin’s *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, which was nominated for four Academy Awards including Best Picture. Cinereach’s co-productions include Viktor Jakovleski’s documentary, *Brimstone & Glory*, and the upcoming narrative feature *Sorry to Bother You*, by Boots Riley. The Florida Project, *Strong Island*, *Last Men in Aleppo*, *The Fits*, and the Academy Award-nominated films *I Am Not Your Negro*, *Cutie and the Boxer*, and *Citizenfour* (Best Documentary, 2015), are among over 200 Cinereach grantees across the globe. Phil also serves on the boards of the Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP), Cinema Conservancy, Court 13 Arts, Synergos, and is a Trustee of the Sundance Institute. Originally from Germany, Philipp attended NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts and is currently based in New York.

Hannah Buck (Editor)

Hannah Buck is a New York-based editor who received her BA in Media Arts from the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia. She has worked as an editor on the award-winning feature *An Oversimplification of Her Beauty* (Sundance, 2012), the impressionistic documentary *Triptych* (PBS, 2015), and *195 Lewis* (Rotterdam International Film Festival, 2016). In 2014 she was

awarded a MacDowell Colony Residency Fellowship to edit *Memories of a Penitent Heart* and in 2015 was a fellow at the Sundance Edit and Story Lab.

Holy Ghost! (Composers)

The electro-pop duo Holy Ghost! consists of lifelong New Yorkers Nick Millhiser and Alex Frankel, who met in elementary, started making music together in high school, and joined the DFA label after James Murphy heard their hip-hop group Automato play. They closely collaborated with us on the score, identifying their own musical prodigy background with Flynn's.

“The duo may be methodical in their output—shimmering bursts of disco, synth-pop, and lingering grooves—but that doesn't mean Holy Ghost! is not prodigious. Over nearly a decade, they have gone from being DFA's rising sons to triple threats. They are indefatigable DJs. They're producers frequently recruited to remix new life into tracks like Cut Copy's “Hearts on Fire,” LCD Soundsystem's “Drunk Girls,” and even Katy Perry's “Birthday.” And they're inventive musicians who've released countless original singles (such as 2010's critically lauded “Hold On”) and albums (beginning with 2010's *Static on the Wire* EP). They are once again adding to their thinking-man's dance repertoire with the vibrant *Crime Cutz* EP (out April 29th, DFA Records). The objective, Nick says, was singular: “Aesthetically, Alex and I were musically, melodically trying to do something that felt like fun.”

Paul Yee (Cinematographer)

Paul Yee is a cinematographer based in New York City. He recently lensed *The Fits* (Venice 2015, Sundance 2016), Anna Holmer's acclaimed debut feature, that the New York Times describes as “a dreamy, beautifully syncopated coming-of-age tale.” Directors he has worked with include Matt Wolf, Jeremy Saulnier, Chioke Nasser, Kristen Schaal, and Tom Scharpling. He has worked on Jonathan Yi's award-winning HBO series *East of Main Street* since its inception in 2010, a documentary that examines the state of being Asian in America. He has shot music videos for artists ranging from Aimee Mann to ZZ Top which have gone on to screen at film festivals such as SXSW and the LA Film Festival. Paul has also shot short-form documentaries for the Whitney Museum, MOMA, and the New Museum and worked on a variety of commercial projects for clients such as L'Oreal, DIRECTV, AARP, the New York Times, and Clear Channel. He is an avid cook and food photographer- you can find his culinary work at [PHIN](#).

Amy Foote (Consulting Editor)

Amy Foote is a freelance documentary editor and co-producer based in Brooklyn, NY. Her editing credits include; 2017 SXSW Grand Jury Prize winning documentary *The Work, Mavis!, 1964* (PBS American Experience) the Emmy-nominated film, *A Matter of Taste: Serving Up Paul Liebrandt* (HBO, BBC); *For Once In My Life*, (PBS Independent Lens, SXSW Audience Award 2010, IDA Best Music Documentary); *The Least of These: Family Detention In America* (SXSW/Snag Films); and the Emmy-nominated film, *Finishing Heaven* (HBO). Her co-production credits include *A Matter Of Taste* and *Flying: Confessions of a Free Woman*.

Shannon Kennedy (Consulting Editor)

Shannon Kennedy is an award-winning documentary film editor, whose credits include *A Walk into the Sea*, which won the Teddy Award at the 2007 Berlin Film Festival and *The Trials of Daryl Hunt*, an official selection of the 2006 Documentary Competition at the Sundance Film Festival

and a recipient of the DuPont Award. She also edited, along with director Kimberly Reed, *Prodigal Sons*, which has won numerous best documentary awards at festivals internationally. Shannon was also an Additional Editor on *El General*, which won Natalia Almada the Documentary Directing Award at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival, and *Life 2.0*, which premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival.

CREDITS

Featuring

Flynn McGarry
Meg McGarry

With

Peggy Daniels
Paris McGarry
Will McGarry

Directed by

Cameron Yates

Produced by

Laura Coxson

Executive Produced by

Philipp Engelhorn

Edited by

Hannah Buck

Consulting Editing by

Amy Foote
Shannon Kennedy

Cinematography by

Paul Yee

Original Music by

Holy Ghost!

Camera by

Meg McGarry
Cameron Yates

Additional Camera by

Philipp Engelhorn
Paris McGarry
Will McGarry
Mike Park
Nelson Walker
Sam Wootton

Producer

Cameron Yates

Additional Editing

Matthew C. Levy

Post Production Supervisor

Jean Lane

Assistant Editors

Claire Ave'Lallemant

Hajer Salem

Titles & Graphics

Teddy Blanks, CHIPS

Post Production Video Services

Prime Focus Technologies

Online Editor

Eugene Lehnert

Colorist

Alexander Berman

Post Producers

Elizabeth Niles

Veronica Ponce

Post Production Sound Services

RDR Studios

Sound Designer/Re-Recording Mixer

Leslie Shatz

Sound Editor

Pam Demetruiis-Thomas

Foley Mixer

Nick Seaman

Foley Artists

Leslie Bloome

Joanna Fang

Foley Recorded At
Alchemy Post Sound

Audio Post Production
Gigantic Post

Mix Technician
Kevin Peters

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Kava Cafe
Playa

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Josh Graves

Robert Arnold-Starr
Dominique Crenn
Jesse Escobar
Will Guidara
Danielle Haxton

Daniel Humm
Bernhard Mairinger
Matthew Mako
Jonathan Michael McClune
Christopher Moreno
Kris Morningstar
Huy Nguyen
Vidal Nuñez
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Roberto Romero
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Carla Ruben
John Sedlar
Bryce Shuman
Estevan Silva
Nestor Silva
Ari Taymor
Rafael Valdez
Susanne Von Euw

Archival Materials

CBS Evening News
Fox 5 News
Larry King Now / Ora TV
MasterChef Australia / Network Ten
NBC Nightly News
NBC Late Night with Jimmy Fallon
WNYW News

Tommy Andresen
Benjamin R. Nathan/ Footage Films
Bitten
The Culinary Institute of America
Milken Institute
New Rules Podcast
The New York Times Magazine
The New Yorker
Peden & Munk
Regent Taipei

Chef Flynn Extended Family

Pat & Monroe Baisden
Cinereach
Anna Engelhorn
Julie Engelhorn
Charlotte Farrell

Alex Frankel
JR
Nick Millhiser
Prune Nourry
Jake Perlin
Gabrielle Russomagno
Greg & Liz Yates

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