

Young Artist Academy™ 2026 Awards

Nominee Written Interview

Gordon Rocks

Project: Griffin in Summer

Trailer Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqY2wgW0bPg>

Directed by: Nicholas Colia

Social Media Handles

IG: @gordon.rocks.official

YouTube: @gordon.rocks.official

IMDb: www.imdb.me/gordonrocks

Film IG: @griffininsummerfilm

How would you describe the plot of this project?

Griffin in Summer is a coming-of-age comedy about Griffin Nafly, a kid who tries to be more adult than he is but fails gracefully. He's an unapologetic narcissist for most of the film and is willing to use any and all of what is available to him in order to become a famous playwright, including his own friends. I happen to be playing one of those "friends" that he attempts to use to achieve his dreams, with Griffin never asking and simply **giving** my costars and I unpaid labor to do for him as actors. The film's also about Griffin's slow maturing, his own self-discovery, his love, and the realization that he can't have everything in the end, but it's never too somber for too long and makes good spacing for both comedy and drama.

What was your fondest memory from working on the project?

The memory of our shooting that burned best in my mind, and I still remember vividly after all these years, was during the scene that comes last in the film, where everybody's throwing a laid-back pool party to celebrate their play going well. Similar to

the script, we too had been toiling for most of that day and were exhausted as well, so that sort of "letting loose" was all real and we were, genuinely, just enjoying time with one another! At least, I know I was.

Were there any cool locations or sets that were fun, different, or strange?

Speaking of the in-movie play, getting up on stage with loads of makeup and dated costumes felt a lot different than most other scenes. Nothing different was really done in the shooting of it itself, cameras and lighting were still close-up so I didn't necessarily have any practical need to put on "theatre" acting, but the overall legitimacy of the set and what I was wearing somehow made me feel I had to really play up the part and try even harder, both as myself and as 'Tyler', if that makes sense.

What do you love most about the Entertainment Industry? What do you wish could be better?

What I really love about acting and movies and just the entire circle of the entertainment industry is that there's a niche for everyone: there will be stoic strongmen in life, there'll be ugly folk in life, there'll be the mundane in life, and since art imitates it, anybody who exists in life could exist in an acting role, too! Of course, there's much to be desired with how typecasting is an issue, but it seems like the kind of issue that's intrinsic with the industry and why people cast specific actors, hence even if I were to wish it away, I can't really say how that would realistically be achieved.

Thank you to the Young Artist Academy™ for this nomination.

