



SXSW
FILM & TV FESTIVAL 2026
WORLD PREMIERE

MANHOOD

INSIDE THE SECRET BOOMING WORLD OF PENILE ENHANCEMENT

LOGLINE

"Manhood" follows Dallas entrepreneur Bill Moore as he attempts to make penis enlargement as commonplace as Botox. Along the way, an OnlyFans star and a father of five put their bodies — and their insecurities — on the line. Blending dark humor with unexpected empathy, "Manhood" examines shame, addiction, and the fragile myths of American masculinity.

From Oscar-winning Executive Producer Sheila Nevins ("Citizenfour"), World of Wonder ("The Eyes of Tammy Faye"), Penny Lane ("Hail Satan"), Producer Kerry Mack ("Proof of Concept"), and Director Daniel Lombroso ("White Noise").

PRESS QUOTES

“Lombroso finds humanity, humor, and empathy
in the fragility of the male self-esteem”

— **VARIETY**

“A fascinating exposé on the mental and
physical crushes of masculinity”

— **INDIEWIRE**

“Very gnarly and admirably non judgmental”

— **HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**

“Suprising and tender... a hopeful vision of
masculinity”

— **ROGER EBERT**

“A wake-up call to love yourself more”

— **NEXT BEST PICTURE**

“Wise and unexpectedly sympathetic”

— **SPLICED PERSONALITY**

“Fascinating”

— **MOVIEMAKER MAGAZINE**

SYNOPSIS



Patient David Smith

MANHOOD follows Bill Moore, an anti-aging entrepreneur leading what he calls a “cosmetic revolution” in penile enhancement. Operating out of a strip mall in Dallas, Bill isn’t just building a business. He’s at the center of a burgeoning, unregulated medical frontier — one that draws patients like Ruben Ramirez and David Smith to his door.

Ruben Ramirez, a comedian and father of five, is struggling under the weight of financial instability and fatherhood. Right-wing, pro-Trump podcasts like Joe Rogan introduce him to the perfect escape: body modification. He becomes addicted to the subscription model of Bill’s enhancement, describing each treatment as “like heroin,” even as his family’s financial situation spirals further out of control.

Our second patient, David, is a nursing student from Florida who was outed in his Evangelical Christian community as queer and a sex worker. He turned to a dangerous practitioner, Dr. Victoria Loria, who offered permanent penile enlargement with disastrous consequences. David comes to Bill to repair his botched penis, and their relationship becomes unexpectedly romantic. We follow them on a cross-country journey to Indiana, where David undergoes reconstructive surgery.

The journeys of Bill, Ruben, and David, unfolding over two years, shape the arc of the film. Beyond that, we track down Dr. Loria and his many cases of malpractice, exposing him and the industry he represents.

Told with humor and empathy, MANHOOD probes the deeper psychological roots of modern masculinity — an America where men feel dangerously insecure, and desperate to finally be a little bit bigger.



Patient Ruben Ramirez

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KEY ASSETS

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TECH SPECS: 4096 X 2160, 5.1 MIX, 91 MINUTES

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DIRECTOR STATEMENT



I began my career by embedding with neo-Nazis as a journalist at The Atlantic and The New Yorker. Camera in hand, inches away from men shouting “Hail Trump,” I discovered that male insecurity, as much as ideology, was the fuel of extremism.

MANHOOD, my second feature, turns that wound into focus. It follows three men who chose to alter their bodies in pursuit of wholeness: one builds a penis-enlargement empire; another, botched and broken, finds repair; a third, seduced by right-wing radio, keeps growing until his finances collapse. Their stories are absurd, tragic, and deeply human. At their core lies a reckoning: men finally being asked to confront their shame in the way women always have.

This is a distinctly modern American story, rooted in long-form journalism. What might be mistaken for a tabloid subject is approached with the rigor and sophistication of The New Yorker, the magazine I left to make this film.

I am honored to collaborate with World of Wonder (“RuPaul’s Drag Race”), Penny Lane (“Hail Satan?”), and Sheila Nevins (“Real Sex”) on our film. Together, we aim to illuminate not just these men’s years-long journey on camera, but the vulnerability that flickers beneath it. MANHOOD has been supported by the New America Foundation, Film Independent, the Gotham, and the Nonfiction Hotlist, highlighting its bonafides in both journalism and film.

In MANHOOD, I want audiences to see in these men not just struggle, but a mirror of our shared wounds. Of an America shaped, often quietly, by male insecurity.

–Daniel Lombroso

**“I CAN FILL YOUR PENIS WITH
FILLER, BUT I CANNOT FILL THE
HOLE IN YOUR HEART”**

-DR. ALEX TATEM

THE FILMMAKERS



DANIEL LOMBROSO DIRECTOR

Daniel Lombroso spent eight years building the Oscar-nominated video departments at The New Yorker and The Atlantic before launching his own premium documentary studio in 2025. His debut feature, *WHITE NOISE*, based on his four years reporting inside the white power movement, premiered in 2020 to critical acclaim. It was named one of the year's top documentaries by Vox and The Boston Globe, and one of the 25 films that explain America by The Guardian. His short, *NINA & IRENA*, Executive Produced by Errol Morris, was one of the most decorated shorts of 2023. Lombroso's work has premiered at Sundance, SXSW, TIFF, and has been recognized with eight Vimeo Staff Picks, two National Magazine Award nominations, two Livingston Award nominations, an IDA nomination, a Critics Choice nomination, an Emmy nomination, and the Forbes 30 Under 30 list. *MANHOOD* is his second feature-length film.



KERRY MACK PRODUCER

Kerry Mack is a Brooklyn-based producer, and the executive producer and co-founder of Outerboro Films. She is producing Daniel Lombroso's feature *MANHOOD* and executive producing his short *SEVEN CONTINENTS*. Experienced across commercial and independent film, she has produced both narrative and documentary projects that have screened worldwide and appeared on Hulu, Netflix, MAX, PBS, and more. Her most recent project, *THE FINAL CUT*, written and directed by Sascha Seinfeld and starring Henry Winkler, premiered at the Aspen ShortsFest 2025.



SHEILA NEVINS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Sheila Nevins is an American television producer and former president of HBO Documentary Films, where she oversaw and produced more than 1,000 documentary films and helped transform HBO into the leading home for nonfiction storytelling. Her credits include landmark projects such as the *PARADISE LOST TRILOGY*, *CITIZENFOUR* and *REAL SEX*. Across her career, projects she has produced or overseen have earned 35 News and Documentary Emmy Awards, 42 Peabody Awards, and 26 Academy Awards. She received the 1998 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Documentary Association and was inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame in 2000.



FENTON BAILEY & RANDY BARBATO EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato are the co-founders of World of Wonder, the Emmy Award-winning media company behind a wide range of acclaimed films, television series, and digital content exploring pop culture and LGBTQ+ history. They are best known as the executive producers of *RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE*. Their documentary work includes *THE EYES OF TAMMY FAYE*, which won the 2000 Sundance Film Festival Directing Award and later inspired the Academy Award-winning narrative film adaptation, as well as *PARTY MONSTER*, *INSIDE DEEP THROAT*, *MAPPLETHORPE: LOOK AT THE PICTURES*, and *MONICA IN BLACK AND WHITE*. Their projects have premiered at Sundance, Tribeca, and other major international festivals.



PENNY LANE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Penny Lane, a 2020 Guggenheim Fellow, has been making innovative nonfiction films for over a decade. In 2018 she was honored with a Chicken & Egg Breakthrough Award, received the Vanguard Award at SF DocFest, and was admitted into the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She has been honored to receive mid-career retrospectives at the Museum of the Moving Image, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, San Francisco DocFest, Open City Documentary Festival and Cinema Moderne. Penny has made six feature-length documentaries, most recently *CONFESSIONS OF A GOOD SAMARITAN* (Special Recognition Jury Prize, SXSW 2023). Previously, she directed *LISTENING TO KENNY G* (Toronto 2021) for HBO, *HAIL SATAN?* (Sundance 2019) for Magnolia Pictures, *THE PAIN OF OTHERS* (Rotterdam 2018), *NUTS!* (Sundance 2016) and *OUR NIXON* (Rotterdam 2013).

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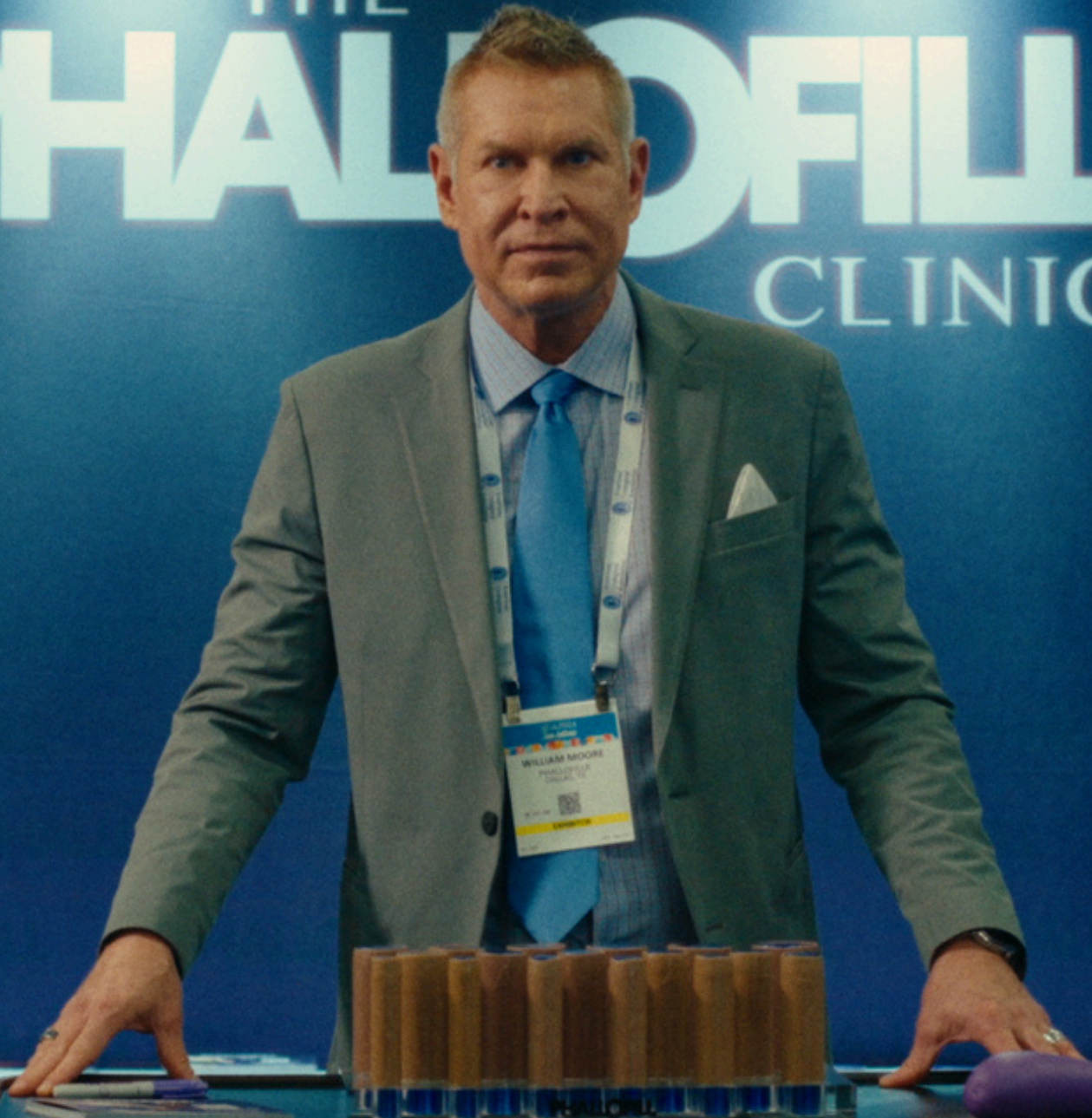
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