



Jonathan Silverman and Marianne Jean-Baptiste in a scene from Craig Serling's "Jam." Photo provided by the filmmakers

## Production Report: "Anomaly," "I Believe in America," "In A Dark Place...," "Jam," "Tonight at Noon"

by Jason Guerraio (October 4, 2005)

### "Jam"

Set on a rural mountain road, five groups of travelers have their lives interrupted when a massive traffic accident traps them on the road during a sweltering Father's Day afternoon.

Thinking up of projects that would work as a low budget feature for his first film, writer-director **Craig Serling**, and writing partner Nicole Lonner, came up with the idea for "Jam" three years ago while stuck in traffic. The film involves five interweaving stories, all related to fatherhood; occurring in the span of a few hours on a long, hot slab of pavement. "I drew up a lot of my own personal experiences to write about," says Serling (cousin of "The Twilight Zone" creator Rod Serling). "I grew up in a single family household and when you decide to go to the wall on your first project you really want to go with material that you're passionate about and I think that is one of the reasons I felt so compelled to make this film."

Hoping to draw people to the project, Serling decided to extract one of the stories and reshape it into a short film. He showed it at festivals in 2003 and sparked interest from financiers and actors like, **Marianne Jean-Baptiste** ("Secrets & Lies"), **Amanda Foreman** ("Happy Endings"), **Jonathan Silverman** and **William Forsythe**.

Recently wrapped on a 15-day shoot in Los Angeles, it was shot on Super 16 mm by **Jeff Venditti**. Budgeted under \$700,000, it's produced through **Dianne Burnett's** (TV's "Survivor") **Burnett Entertainment** in association with Serling's Thanksgiving Films.

[For more information, please visit [the film's website](#).]

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