

# ***thisisstuttering***

**press kit**

RUNNING TIME: **28:37**  
RATING: **UNRATED**  
LANGUAGE: **ENGLISH**  
WEBSITE: **THISISSTUTTERING.COM**



## **introduction**

Hello! My name is Morgan Lott and thisisstuttering is about my own speech therapy that took place during the summer of 2012. After being in therapy for years, this was the last chance I would have to take care of my stutter before I graduated college. My new speech therapist, Alyssa Lukiewski, asked me to record our sessions on my iPod Touch for her own review; she gave me homework and asked me record a vlog via webcam to report on reactions immediately, instead of waiting a week until our next meeting. As these videos were being recorded, I realized half-way through the summer that a movie was being made right before my eyes. We finished the summer out, progressing as we had before, ending with about 16 hours of footage. With my co-editor, Joel Limbauan, we approached thisisstuttering as a "found footage" film and intentionally told the story without any aid of narration, utilizing both Joel's objective voice and my subjective voice to tell a story from a perspective I have never seen before. thisisstuttering has proved to be incredibly therapeutic, serving as the last vulnerable step in my speech therapy. The most surprising aspect to the story? The viewer's reaction. I have been thoroughly amazed at how the average viewer takes a story about a stutter, a problem only 1% of the American populations suffers from, and applies it to their own life, to their own struggles, being led to make changes and accept their issues.

thisisstuttering is not a film about being a stutterer, it is a film about being human.

## **logline**

A college senior seeks to rid himself of his speech impediment, but through therapy, comes to acceptance instead.

## **synopsis**

thisisstuttering is a true story about Morgan Lott, a college student with a stutter. During the summer of 2012, Morgan pursued another round of speech therapy to try to fix his speech impediment for the final time. Through speech therapy sessions, personal reflections, and public assignments, Morgan sought to get a handle on a stutter that has plagued him for years, discovering himself in the process. thisisstuttering invites you to witness a raw, authentic story of a stutterer and his pursuit of self-discovery and healing from the impediment that 1% of the population suffers from.



poster

# *thisisstuttering*

can I tell you about  
something I hate talking  
about?

A HAVACREATIVE PRODUCTION  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ON A LIMB PRODUCTIONS AND BIOLA CINEMA AND MEDIA ARTS  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SAAC SVENSSON PRODUCED BY KATIE AGARTH HANNAH CAPRARA FILM EDITORS JOEL LIMBAUAN MORGAN LOTT DIRECTED BY MORGAN LOTT  
 [www.thisisstuttering.com](http://www.thisisstuttering.com)   



## crew bios

### **Morgan Lott : director/co-editor**



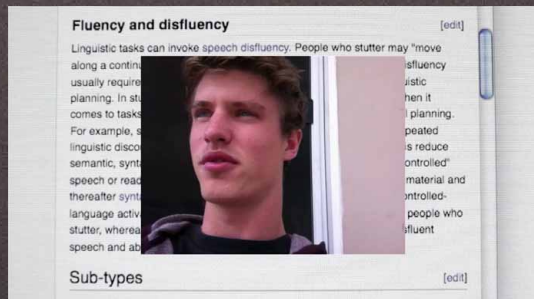
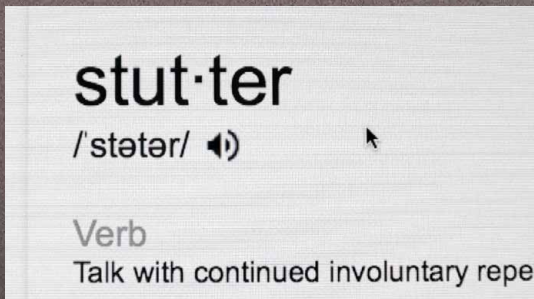
Morgan is a filmmaker from Simi Valley, CA. Early on, he became fascinated with telling real, authentic stories that resonate with the viewer. Graduating Biola University in 2013, Morgan practiced many types of art and thisisstuttering effectively draws from those influences. He sees many mundane, seemingly insignificant aspects of his life come to life in thisisstuttering. thisisstuttering has already drastically changed his life and he hopes the story will encourage and motivate others not only with stutters, but in any difficulty life decides to through our way.

### **Joel Limbauan : co-editor**



Joel is an editor from Norristown, Pennsylvania who loves reading really old books, watching any and all Philly sports, and drinking plenty of coffee. He's excited about this film because it is using an incredibly unique method to tell a story that usually is left untold and is bringing into the open something that is usually purposefully hidden. As someone who has never had a stutter, he is hoping that this film will help people like him have a greater awareness of and ultimately more understanding for people who stutter.

## stills





## director bio



Morgan Lott grew up using his parents' miniDV video camera to film random videos ranging from parody to extreme croquet. Little did he know that these videos would serve as an initial spark. Fast forward to his senior year in high school, Morgan was only interested in graphic design. However, he decided to take a "video production" elective that would successfully change his life path. Diving right into the world of storytelling, Morgan became passionate about filmmaking. The class influenced many films, but more importantly got Morgan shooting. A lot. He filmed everything that might be somewhat interesting, creating some surprisingly fun "lifestyle" videos. This style would become one of Morgan's trademarks.

In the fall of 2009, Morgan began attending Biola University in La Mirada, CA. Majoring in film and minoring in graphic design, Morgan fused together the two disciplines and sought out ways to integrate the two. Through four years of university, Morgan began to develop his own style, focusing in on authentic storytelling and using every single aspect, from the camera type to titling, to tell the story.

Being a film major at Biola, a senior thesis film is a requirement. Halfway through my final summer of speech therapy during the summer of 2012, I realized I was making my senior thesis film without even realizing it. It was a story that had to be told. Using influences from my entire life, even drawing from my videos as a kid, thisisstuttering began to take shape. As I look at the completed film, I am astonished at the culmination of EVERYTHING I have been intentionally and unintentionally practicing for my whole life: filmmaking, graphic design, blogging, photography. thisisstuttering has completely rocked my world and is great testament to the complexity and importance of media in society.

thisisstuttering has served as the final step in my speech therapy. What is the absolute most vulnerable act you can complete? Be 100% honest and open to a camera and release for a world full of strangers to see.

We're just getting started.



"In years past, there has been disappointment that keynote speakers were often people who "used to stutter" and didn't actually stutter when speaking to us. So this [year's National Stuttering Association conference] was special, in that hundreds of stutters got to hear inspiring speeches and stories from Trumain, Katherine, Cameron and Morgan, among others, who stuttered openly and with confidence.

We got what we needed. People who stutter – especially young people who stutter – need successful role models who actually stutter to help us normalize the experience."

<http://stutterrockstar.com/2013/07/19/we-got-what-we-needed/>

"It was really raw...he showed his ugly stuttering faces which a lot of people would be scared to videotape themselves and show it. He was really open and honest, I haven't seen a video like that before... I was inspired by him."

Nadia Alobaid – StutterTalk Ep. 410 – <http://stuttertalk.com/feeling-loved-at-the-nsa-410-stuttering/>

"I had to open up about my biggest weakness, [stuttering]. I had to talk about the thing that I have avoided thinking about since I started high school– my worst enemy, my destruction, my antagonist....The most shocking part of the film, for me, was that it started off with the question, "How do I get rid of this awful thing?" and ended with, "This is me. This is who I am. I hate it so much. But I thank God for it because it has made me who I am. I hate it. But I thank God for it."...Accepting my stutter... a film of acceptance. He reminded me that my entire life, speech therapy has been, "How do we get rid of this awful thing – or at least HIDE it?" as opposed to "How do I learn to cope with this – how do I have confidence despite this?" ... It was an amazing gateway for an awful summer of stuttering. I could not have made it through this summer without that hope – not hope for my stutter to disappear, but hope that I could accept it and explain it to people... hope that I can embrace my speech habit instead of cry myself asleep because of it."

<http://jaymieallover.com/2013/09/01/summer-of-stuttering>

"It showed a very raw look at stuttering. My favorite part was looking around in the audience when he would talk about certain things..., like the way other people treat him or like how he felt alone at times. It was cool to look around the room and see everybody nodding their heads or like "yes, that is exactly what I feel as well." Even a bunch of people tearing up because it hit home so well."

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/nsa-family-radio/2013/08/20/reliving-the-heat-from-arizona>

"It was...a video diary format where he shared with you EXACTLY how it feels to stutter. Very well done."

<http://stutteringiscool.com/podcast/stuttering-nsa-conference-2013-not-about-stuttering-its-about-life/>

"Morgan Lott shares his frustrations along with his successes and lets his friends honestly weigh in on his speech and its impact. It's definitely not to be missed! "

<http://www.westutter.org/what-is-stuttering/extra-extra-read-all-about-stuttering/>



*The Chimes Newspaper* - <http://chimes.biola.edu/story/2013/may/07/thisisstuttering-awareness-speech/>

Stuttering is seldom talked about. At best it is avoided; at worst it is looked down upon. Media has shed a negative light on those with speech impediments, like when Adam Sandler made fun of a student with a stutter in "Billy Madison" with the famous line, "T-t-t-today Junior!" According to the Stuttering Foundation, more than 3 million Americans are affected by stuttering and senior film major Morgan Lott is one of them. However, Lott decided that he would no longer suffer; he would embrace his speech impediment. "Thisisstuttering" is the product of that decision.

### **LOTT CHOOSES TO TELL HIS OWN STORY**

"Thisisstuttering" is Lott's senior thesis film project, but it started off as a series of video journals he was making for speech therapy. The film is a compilation of video diaries, hidden camera work, interviews and an all-around observation of Lott's life.

After he had collected hours and hours of footage, he realized that this was bigger than just therapy — it was going to be his senior thesis, and it was going to influence people. This documentary-style film follows Lott's life as he tries to implement speech therapy, but also as he comes to the realization that stuttering is not something that is going to go away. It is something that he is going to struggle with for the rest of his life, and he is okay with that. In his eyes, stuttering is something that God gave him to accomplish a bigger purpose, even if that may not be obvious to him right now.

"Hopefully when somebody watches this they see part of themselves in this," Lott said. "It's not just a stutter; it's a problem, and we all have problems. It's important to really come to a realization of what that problem is and how to go forward and ... take the necessary steps to come to terms with our issues."

### **PREMIERE DRAWS DIVERSE AUDIENCE**

The approximately 300 people who attended the premiere on Thursday night took Lott's film and its message to heart. The crowd contained an assortment of film majors, communication disorder majors, Lott's friends, family and even fellow stutterers. Looking around the room, there were more than a few people whose eyes were welling up as they watched Lott battle this impediment and the inner turmoil that came with it. His stuttering has affected many people, one of whom is his own sister, Melanie.

Melanie is a junior, majoring in communication disorders. While she said she did not pursue communication disorders solely because of her brother, when she was choosing a major, she found herself curious about the topic because of him. Morgan Lott's story inspired people by appealing to their emotions as well as their intellect, while simultaneously calling attention to a silent issue. "Thisisstuttering" is important because it is a thread in the fabric of a bigger, ongoing story.

### **"IT'S GOING TO BE A WILD RIDE"**

"God's got big plans for this," Lott said. "In some sense, if this is just for me and my own therapy and coming to terms with it ... then that's great and that's a big deal. If this is for a wider audience, so be it. I don't know what God's got in store, but I'm buckling up because it's going to be a wild ride."

The next step for the film and its production crew is to send it out to film festivals so that it may have an even wider influence. Lott cannot release the video online for the broader audience because of its film festival potential, he said, but he can share the video with anyone who is willing to watch, if they want to email him.