

WORLD PREMIERE - FANTASPORTO 2015



# LOG LINE

A high school girl and her bullying peers are terrorized by an escaped psychotic killer who is more than meets the eye.

# **SYNOPSIS**

Tormented and teased at her high school, Emily Hanson's only escape is in her drawing: disturbing sketches that depict a crazed killer on a bloody rampage. In fact, that killer is her father Tom who snapped eight years ago and murdered a dozen people. He has been locked away for all those years in a mental institution and everyone at school thinks Emily should be locked up with him.

Emily's only friend Carrie wishes Emily would just try to fit in. And there is a perfect opportunity for them to do that; Jason and Frank, part of the 'in' crowd, are having a party. But even if Emily wanted to go, she has to stay home and baby-sit her mute brother, Jeremy. Little does Emily know that she is in for a night of unrelenting terror and madness; her father has escaped and is coming home, forcing Emily to confront her demons once and for all.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**



**SUSPENSION** is a movie about the lies we tell in order to maintain our sense of self. It's a movie about how far we're willing to go, *how much of reality we're willing to suspend*, in order to maintain our perception of ourselves as heroes, as fundamentally 'good' people.

As a director, a storyteller and a human being living today, I think this basic realization is critical to the future of our culture, perhaps to the future of humanity itself. I truly cannot think of a more important insight for a storyteller to deliver today than that of our own culpability and our capacity for self-deception. In today's world, we are the monster. We are the life-killers, the culture-annihilators, and we must come to realize this and grapple with our shadow as an extension of who we are.

The way Suspension explores these issues is by delving into the stark good/evil world of the slasher movie. The slasher genre is all about the epitome of evil: an older, depraved man with a sharpened edge; preying on the young, naive, and vulnerable among us, (generally women). There could be no better genre to work within to explore - and subvert - the gulf that appears to separate good from evil. Screenwriter Kevin Mosley and I chose the classic of slasher classics, **HALLOWEEN**, to use as a foundation upon which to build our movie, with the rationale that working from a familiar structure would free us up to take more creative risks with theme and character.

## [SPOILER ALERT]

From these choices, the concept of Suspension emerges almost fully formed. Subverting the innocence of the traditional slasher protagonist led us naturally to the character of Emily, the babysitter who is blind in her victimhood to the fact that she is the killer. This then clarifies my mission as a director: to bring the satisfying ride of an updated classic slasher while at the same time delivering a mysterious package designed to explode in a powerful epiphany at the end of the movie.

CAST	
ELLEN MACNEVIN	EMILY HANSON
TAYLOR RUSSELL	CARRIE HARRIS
STEVE RICHMOND	JASON LEWIS
RUSTIN GRESUIK	FRANK JONES
COURTNEY PAIGE THEROUX	THERESA COLLINS
SAGE BROCKLEBANK	DEPUTY JACOBS
DUNCAN OLLERENSHAW	SHERIFF MITCHUM
CONNOR & OWEN FIELDING	JEREMY HANSON
CHILTON CRANE	VERA MILLER
CHRIS NOWLAND	ALEC MILLER
BARRY NERLING.	TOM HANSON
JOHANNA NEWMARCH	ALICE HANSON
LISA OVIES	PAULA
CRAIG MARCH	GARY
KYLEE BUSH	STACEY
ANNIEBELLIS	BRENDA

# ABOUT THE ACTORS



#### ELLEN MACNEVIN - EMILY HANSON

Ellen has been acting since before she could read, making her theatre debut in an original play by Arts Umbrella in which she was a turtle. Since then, theatre has been a large part of her life. Some of her most memorable roles include Mary Tilford, the manipulative, lying child from *The Children's Hour*, as well as Louise in the post-apocalyptic two man show, *After the End*. For the past a few years, Ellen's primary focus has been film and television. She is currently working on the short film *Opus 35* and you will be seeing her on the TV show *Motive* later this year. Ellen still gets her live audience fix doing improv with Instant Theatre Company.



#### CONNOR & OWEN FIELDING - JEREMY HANSON

Connor and Owen are identical twins who started acting at three years old. *Suspension* was their first horror movie, and they enjoyed getting to know the cast and crew, staying up past their bedtime, and learning about horror special effects. Now eight years old, Connor and Owen spend their time practicing gymnastics, trying to avoid detentions, and passing time until they are old enough to watch *Suspension*.



#### BARRY NERLING - TOM HANSON

Born in Oliver, B.C, Canada, and spending most of his life growing up in Vernon, acting was something that Barry always loved but never pursued until he moved to Vancouver in 2001. Cashing in on his unique look, Barry has been acting ever since, as well as stunt performing on pretty much everything filmed in Vancouver. His credits include shows like *Arrow*, *The Flash*, *Supernatural*, *Fringe*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *Stargate*, *Robocop*, *Smallville*, *Mission Impossible 4*, *Pathfinder* and others. Barry has made a career out of playing the bad guy and has loved every minute of it.



#### JOHANNAH NEWMARCH - ALICE HANSON

Johannah was raised in Vancouver and has lived and worked in California, London, and New York, over her 20 years in film, television and stage. In 2012, Johannah was honoured with a Leo Award for Best Supporting Actress for her work as Melissa Dirk, a bitter ex porn-star, in the multiple award winning independent film *Sunflower Hour*. 2014 brought Ms. Newmarch her second Leo Award for her lead on the new sci-fi web series *Polaris*. Johannah has returned to her Leo nominated recurring role on the Hallmark Channel's series, *When Calls The Heart*, produced by Michael Landon Jr. A charming period piece set in a coal mining frontier town on the US/Canadian border, it is now shooting its highly anticipated second season.



#### **COURTNEY PAIGE THEROUX - THERESA**

Born on August 5 in Kelowna, B.C., Canada, Courtney fell utterly in love with acting, and by the age of 11 was performing for the Kelowna Community Theatre Company. As a child growing up, Courtney was always heavily involved with dance, cheerleading, and making movies with friends. Courtney wrote her first short film at the age of 9, and is a self taught horse back trick rider. Courtney moved to Vancouver in 2010 to start training and auditioning professionally. Some of Courtney's credits include roles for the Lifetime Network, Universal, YTV, Discovery Channel, and Movie Central. Courtney also owns her own production company called "Crazy Sunshine Films."



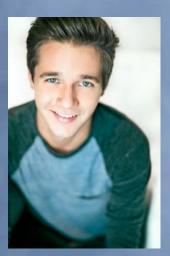
#### TAYLOR RUSSELL - CARRIE

Fresh off the much buzzed about *Saved by the Bell* movie on Lifetime, Taylor has landed a recurring role on TNT's upcoming fifth and final season of *Falling Skies*. In addition, Russell has landed a role on upcoming Canadian series *Strange Empire*. The CBC series, described as a dark 1860s Western, takes place in a Canadian frontier town in which the men have been killed and the women must step up in their absence. Russell is best known by American viewers as the actress who portrayed Lark Voorhies and her on-screen persona, the privileged Lisa Turtle, in Lifetime's *Unauthorized Saved by the Bell Story*. Her other TV credits include The CW's *Emily Owens M.D.*, and the TV pilot *Blink*. She recently wrapped the Disney XD TV movie *Pants on Fire*.



#### STEVE RICHMOND - JASON

Steve is a Vancouver-based film and TV actor. He has performed roles in feature films, such as *Embrace of the Vampire*, and in TV series, such as the widely popular *Supernatural*. Growing up on a farm in Southern Saskatchewan near the small town of Gravelbourg, Richmond naturally had to create his own entertainment and was constantly telling stories and improvising characters and accents for family and friends. As he continues to develop his acting career and is cast in an increasing number of roles, Richmond also dedicates much of his time to writing screenplays in addition to spending time on screen.



#### **RUSTIN GRESUIK - FRANK**

Rustin was born on March 12, 1995 in Vancouver. He is an actor, known for *Paper Angels*, *Let It Down*, and *Flicka: Country Pride*. Rustin has been a working actor, landing jobs in commercials as well as a TV pilot. At 15, he booked *Running Wilde*, a sitcom starring Will Arnett and Keri Russell. He also played Alex in *Flicka 3*, starring country singer Clint Black and Black's wife Lisa Hartman.



#### **DUNCAN OLLERENSHAW - SHERIFF MITCHUM**

Duncan has spent most of his career in the theatre. He trained at York University in Toronto and has worked in theatres across Canada including four seasons at the Shaw Festival and three seasons with the Stratford Festival in Ontario. His focus shifted to film and television in 2011 when he was cast as Mr. Toole in AMC's *Hell on Wheels*, for which he was awarded two consecutive AMPIA awards for Best Actor. He recently finished shooting the first season of a new CBC dramatic series entitled *Strange Empire* and is awaiting the announcement of a second season which would begin shooting in May of this year.



#### SAGE BROCKLEBANK - DEPUTY JACOBS

Hailing from Langley, B.C., Canada, Sage went to New York City to train at the prestigious Circle in the Square Theatre School. He has an extensive history in television, with appearances on *Once Upon a Time, Supernatural, Smallville, Stargate SG1, The 4400, Fringe, Arctic Air, Sanctuary*, and numerous movies of the week. He is best known for his long-standing role as police officer Buzz McNab for eight seasons on USA Networks comedy-drama *Psych*. In 2010, Sage founded Fulfilling Young Artists (FYA), a non-profit volunteer mentorship program for young actors in Vancouver. When he's not acting or running FYA, Sage can be found producing a piece of film or theatre.



#### **CHRIS NOWLAND - ALEC**

An experienced and versatile actor, Chris has worked in the Vancouver film and television industry for the past twelve years. Some of his credits include *Cult*, *Supernatural*, *The Killing*, *Alcatraz*, *Psych*, *Sucker Punch*, *The Good Wife*, *Stargate*: *Atlantis*, *Smallville* and the co-lead in the Leo nominated web series, *For Your Security*. Chris is also an accomplished musician, playing guitar and singing in bands for more than 25 years. He writes his own material and is currently working on a new project, which he hopes to launch in early 2015.



#### **CHILTON CRANE - VERA**

Chilton is a veteran actor in Vancouver with over a hundred film and TV credits, including guest star appearances on *Supernatural*, 4400, X-Files, and many more. She recently co-starred in the feature Cut Bank with Liam Hemsworth, John Malkovich, Teresa Palmer and Billy Bob Thornton. She is also one of Vancouver's top instructors of Acting for Film and TV and she is currently head of the Acting Dept. at VanArts. She was pleased to work with Jeffery again... although always ends up in a pool of blood!



#### LISA OVIES - PAULA

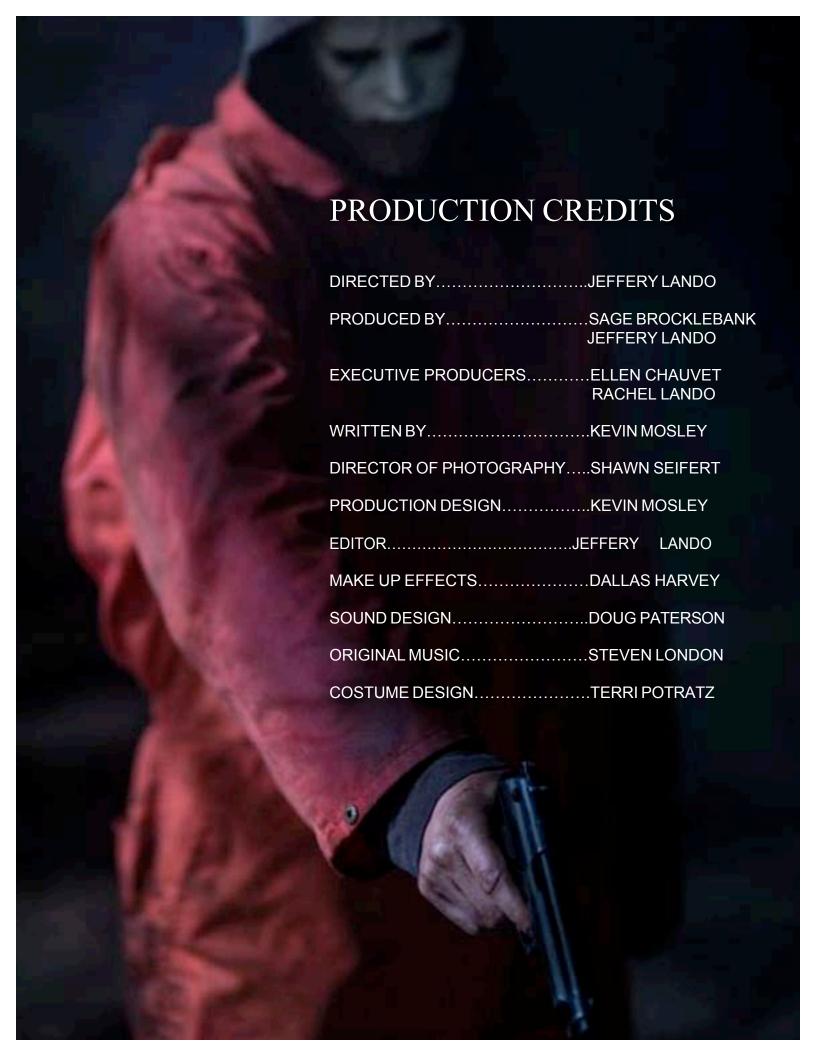
Lisa is an award winning producer, director, actress and writer residing in Vancouver. In 2008 she began pursuing her love of acting by attending the full time program at Vancouver Academy of Dramatic Arts and, in June 2011, she launched the film company I No.Films. 2014 was a ground breaking year for Lisa; she produced an award winning music video, four short films, (two of which were directed by the award winning Soska twins), and her feature film, *Taking My Parents to Burning Man*, took home Audience Choice Awards at the Sonoma International Film Festival, the Newport Beach Film Festival, and the Maui Film Festival. She is set to direct her first feature, the comedic horror film *Puppet Killer*, which she is also producing and co-writing.



#### **CRAIG MARCH - GARY**

Craig has accumulated over 100 film, television and stage credits with appearances on Wayward Pines, The Killing, Alcatraz, and Fringe, with Guest Star roles on the TV series The Dead Zone, Romeo!, DaVinci's Inquest, Cold Squad and The Chris Isaak Show. Lead roles include the made-for-TV movies, Jinnah on Crime: Pizza 911, Fatal Performance and He Sees You When You're Sleeping. Some of his favorite film credits include The Big White, Along Came a Spider, MVP2 and the indie gems, Even Lambs Have Teeth, Suspension, and The Rhino Brothers. His directorial debut, The Beast of Bottomless Lake, for Provost Pictures, garnered Best Feature Film at the Mississauga Independent Film Festival as well as the People's Choice Award at the Okanagan International Film Festival.





## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

## JEFFERY LANDO - PRODUCER/DIRECTOR



Suspension is producer/director Jeffery Lando's 13th feature film. Notable earlier projects include: Savage Island (2003), his debut film and winner of seven awards including taking home the Best Feature Award at Georgia's FrightFest, California's ShockerFest, as well as the Strasbourg International Film Festival; Insecticidal, (2005), winner of Best Creature Feature, Phoenix Festival of Fear; and House Of Bones (2010) which had record-breaking ratings at the SyFy network. As an all-around filmmaker for over twenty years, it is not uncommon for Lando to write, produce, shoot, and/or edit a project as well as direct. French, American, and Canadian, Lando is based in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia.

## KEVIN MOSLEY - WRITER/PRODUCTION DESIGNER



Kevin grew up in Merritt, B.C., Canada, where, at an early age, he began writing and directing his own horror movies, starring friends and family. After attending Simon Fraser University's film and theatre program, Kevin began working as a set decorator and art director on independent features and music videos. However, it was screenwriting that was Kevin's passion and he began to pursue a professional career. His first feature film *Savage Island* went on to win seven awards at U.S. and International festivals (see above), establishing Kevin as an "up and coming new writer in the horror genre." *Fangoria Magazine*. Kevin is currently developing several projects, including the horror films *Crimson Falls* and *The Beckoning*. He is also at work on a comedy, *A Redneck Christmas*, loosely based on his childhood growing up in Merritt.

## SAGE BROCKLEBANK - PRODUCER



Sage grew up in Langley, B.C., Canada, and graduated from Langley Fine Arts School - the same school used in *Suspension*. When Kevin Mosley mentioned that his collaboration with Jeffery Lando was in need of another producer he jumped at the opportunity! With over 10 years of experience in front of the camera, *Suspension* provided an immense education of what goes into making a movie. He location managed, transport coordinated, assisted casting, raised finances, and did a little acting on the film. True Indie filmmaking. This is sure to be the first of many films for him, and the memories from this shoot will live on...

## SHAWN SEIFERT - CINEMATOGRAPHER



Shawn's love of film began at an early age, falling in love with the grand stories, spectacle, and temporary escape from reality that Hollywood films offered. Growing up with a passion for the arts and a knack for technology, it was a multimedia program in high school that inspired Shawn. However, it wasn't until he graduated from University that he grabbed that inspiration and set out into the world of film making. From the very beginning, he was drawn to cameras and the art of capturing life one frame at a time. Now well into his career, Shawn has had the privilege of shooting countless projects, including feature films like *Suspension*.

## STEVE LONDON - COMPOSER



Originally an orchestral musician, Steve studied composition and conducting with Canada¹s music elite: John Burge, Marjan Mozetich and Kristi Allik. In 1995, he received a certificate of specialization from the world renowned 'Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television' program at the University of Southern California. The opportunity to study in L.A. with such composers as Elmer Bernstein, Jerry Goldsmith and Christopher Young, was invaluable and integral to his development as a serious composer for film and television. He also gained a great deal of experience working as a score co-ordinator with Christopher Young on such films as *Unforgetable* (MGM), *Head Above Water* (New Line Cinema), and *Copycat* 

(Warner Bros.) Mr. London now lives and works in both Los Angeles and Toronto. He records regularly with European orchestras as a composer for the Munich-based SONOTON music library and has also written music for many feature films including: *That Beautiful Somewhere* starring Roy Dupuis and Jane MacGregor, *Seduced By A Thief*, starring Sean Young and Ron Perlman, and *Shallow Ground* (Universal).





# **DIRECTOR FILMOGRAPHY**



SUSPENSION	. 2015
SUPERCOLLIDER	. 2013
JET STREAM	2012
GHOSTQUAKE	2012
THE BOOGEYMAN	2012
SUPER TANKER	. 2011
GOBLIN	2010
HOUSE OF BONES	2008
THIRST	2008
Leo nominated for Best Actor Leo nominated for Best Score	
<b>DECOYS 2</b>	. 2007
ALIEN INCURSION	. 2006
INSECTICIDAL	. 2005
Best Creature Feature - Phoeni	ix International Horror and Sci-Fi Film Festival
SAVAGE ISLAND	. 2003
Best Horror Film - Modesto Sl	hockerfest 2003

Best Feature Film, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor - Georgia Frightfest 2003

Best Feature Film - Los Angeles Maniafest 2003

Best Actor/Actress - New York City Horrorfest 2003

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

The people involved were very passionate about this film. Despite the fact that the wages were absurdly low, that the Vancouver film industry was insanely busy, and the shoot was in cold rainy March... all nights and lots of mud... the crew stayed intensely loyal to the movie. No one

The twins who played Jeremy were kept far away from anything scary and were never around any violence, nor were they on set with "Tom". However, they were fascinated by the story and their parents ended up telling them everything. Turns out they're horror fans!



Originally, the movie was going to shoot in Los Angeles, but producer Sage Brocklebank convinced Jeffery Lando to shoot in Fort Langley B.C., where Sage grew up.

The Director built and operated his own drone for the opening aerial sequence.

Many horror films cast adults to play teenagers. The director wanted actual teens to fulfill the roles and through the casting process, many talented young actors were discovered.

# THE HISTORY OF 'SUSPENSION'

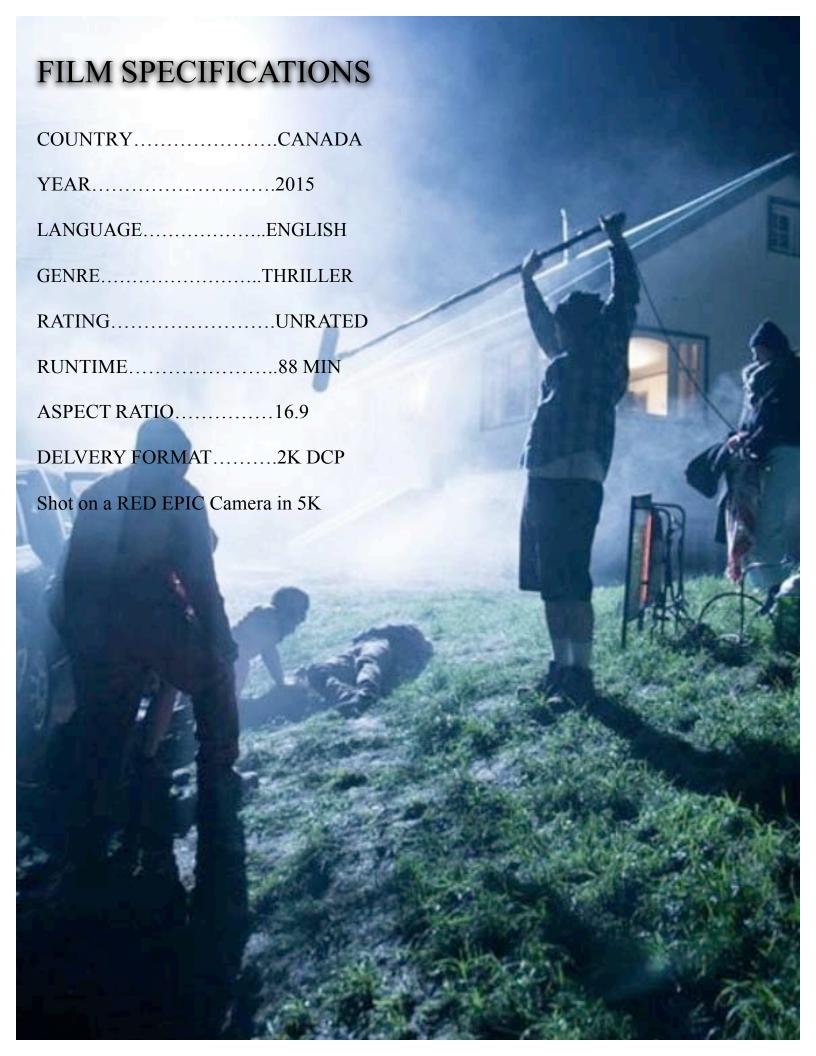
After the success of Jeffery Lando's and Kevin Mosley's first indie feature, *Savage Island*, the two wanted to develop another project together. Having grown up on the slasher films of the 70's and 80's, Kevin wanted to make a film that would leave his mark on the genre he loved. Jeffery was the perfect partner to do that with. They chose *Sitter's Night*, based on a short film Kevin made in Merritt, B.C., Canada, over thirty years earlier. The original version told the story of a teenage girl, babysitting for a family that turns out to be dead, victims of a horrendous murder. "I use to babysit as a teenager," recalls Kevin. "And I always worried there was someone or *something* peering through the living room window."

In 2004 the pair went into pre-production with *Sitter's Night*. But it wasn't meant to be; they lost their lead actress to another production days before going to camera. Deciding to pull the plug, Jeffery and Kevin spent a decade developing the script further while working on other projects. "The story evolved and became much more than just a standard slasher film... it took on a deeper meaning and became something that Jeffery and I are very proud of," said Mosley.

Over 40 drafts of the script led to a title change, *Suspension*, and in 2014 the two began the much anticipated process of finally getting *Suspension* made. It has been a long road, but one definitely worth travelling.

Currently Kevin and Jeffery are in development with their next thriller, *The Beckoning*.





# **FULL CREDITS**

Cast			
Ellen MacNevin	Emily Hanson	2nd Assistant Director	Cooff Wohh
		2nd Assistant Director	
Taylor Russell Courtney Paige Theroux		"A" Camera Operator	
Steve Richmond		"A" Camera 1st Assisitant	
Rustin Gresiuk		"A" Camera 2nd Assistant DIT	
Sage Brocklebank			
Duncan Ollerenshaw		Stills Photographer	
Chilton Crane		Additional Stills	Geon webb
Chris Nowland		Sound Mixer	Anton Thomas
Connor & Owen Fielding		Boom Operator	
Barry Nerling	· ·	Gaffer	
Johanna Newmarch		Best Boy	
Craig March		Genny Operator	
Lisa Ovies		Electric	
Kylee Bush		Key Grip	
Annie Bellis		Best Boy Grip	
Shaelah Matechuk		Best Boy Grip	David Krai
Chacian Matconak	🗀 🗆 🗆	Set Decorator	Zoe liric
Directed by	Jeffery Lando	Illustrations	
Birected by	ochory Larido	Property Master	•
Written by	Kevin Moslev	Set Dresser	
William Sy	to viir ivioolo j	On Set Dresser	
Producers	Sage Brocklebank	Art Department PA	
	Jeffery Lando	7 it Department 7 i	omio Gattilago
	concry Lando	Costumes Supervisor	Brooke Wilcox
Executive Producers	Fllen Chauvet	Costumes Assistant	
	Rachel Lando		ookywa wiaiouzi
		Key Hair and Make-Up	Nell Gagan
Associate Producer	Brvan Anderson	Make-Up Artist	•
		mano op / maommini	raryn Bay
Cinematography	Shawn Seifert	Special Effects	John Sampson
oe		SPX Makeup Prosthetics	
Production Design	Kevin Moslev	Special effects assistant	•
3	,		Kristopher Dietz
Composer	Steven London		1410top1101 210t2
Sound Design		Stunts	Charles Andre
- Source - S	g . ee.e		
Film Editing by	Jefferv Lando	Production Manager	Tiffany Brown Olsen
	,	. reduction managerim	Kate Kroll
Costume Designer	Terri Potratz	Production Co-ordinator	
		Office P.A	
2nd Unit Director	Roger Larry	Locations Manager	
1st Assistant Director	Kate Kroll		Mark Street

Emily Vickerson	Catering	Brandi McLean
Ajay Gopinath	Catering Assistant	Christophe Feeley
Manu Gopinath	Coating Diseates	Lina Ovina
James Head	Casting Director	
Nelson Languedoc	Casting Associate	Lee Snorten
Vincent Oosterhof	Animal Wrangler(Pig)	Victoria Anderson
Christine Joncas	Animal Wrangler(Dog)	
Chris Devos		

Shot on Location at Wild Rose Farm in Fort Langley, British Columbia, Canada.

Production Assistants.....











