ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY:

GEORGE VATISTAS

PRODUCED BY:

D. M. NIGHT MAIRE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY:

BOB GIRALDI

STARRING:

ROBERT W. SMITH – The Druggist

DANIEL MITURA – Sangstrom

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LOG LINE:

A seemingly ordinary man seeks out a sagacious druggist in search of an undetectable poison, but winds up getting more than he bargained for.

SYNOPSIS:

In search of an un-detectable poison, Sangstrom, a seemingly ordinary man, seeks out a sagacious druggist at his eerie apothecary. The canny druggist requires him to prove his merit, igniting a cat-and-mouse game that winds up with Sangstrom getting more than he bargained for.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION:

"The Hobbyist" was awarded the Paula Rhodes Memorial Award, presented to George Vatistas by SVA as an Honors Master's Degree Candidate.

The short film is based on the 1961 Short Story by the same title written by Fredric Brown.

"The Hobbyist" was shot in the East Village, Lower East Side and Flatbush neighborhoods of New York City over two and a half days in 2016. It was filmed on the Arri Alexa with Anamorphic lenses to achieve a textured, vintage aesthetic.

The film was edited using Adobe Premiere Pro, and finally completed in early 2017.

"The Hobbyist" is the second short film written and directed by George Vatistas.

The film is George Vatistas' graduate thesis film at the School of Visual Arts' Live Action Short Film Masters program, of which D. M. Night Maire is also an alumnus.

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ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES:

ROBERT W. SMITH
as The Druggist

After retiring from the health department he has once again become involved in acting. In the past seven years he has appeared in four Off-Broadway plays, several staged readings and many films. He has also done voice over work for such productions as Grand Theft Auto V. Robert is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and AEA.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3343383/

DANIEL MITURA
as Sangstom

Daniel Mitura is an actor and writer living in New York City. Originally from Dallas, Texas, he has had several plays produced in New York as well as internationally. He is a graduate of Columbia University with he received his B.A. in Art History & Theater.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3662035/

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KEY CREW BIOGRAPHIES:

BOB GIRALDI
Executive Producer

Bob Giraldi is an American film and television director known for the films “Dinner Rush“ (2000), “Hiding Out” (1987), and the music video for Michael Jackson's song “Beat It.” His work has garnered many accolades, including several London International Awards, Cannes Advertising Awards, NY International Awards, Addy Awards, Chicago Film Festival Awards and hundreds of Clio Awards. He has also been named one of the "101 Stars Behind 100 Years of Advertising." He has produced and directed close to 3000 commercials, music videos and short films with his own production company, Giraldi Media.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0320588/

D. M. NIGHT MAIRE
Producer

Cosmopolitan in nature, Night Maire (David E. Munz Maire) is an alumnus of the prestigious NYU: Tisch School of the Arts, earning his B.A. in Film & T.V. with a focus on Directing, and Minors in Psychology and Producing for Film & T.V. This native Alpine’s passion for directing led him to pursue a Masters in Directing at the School of Visual Arts under famed music video and commercial director Bob Giraldi. David Co-Founded AireBedd, a banner under which he has garnered hundreds of laurels and awards for his various short films and music videos, and produced content for Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy, Red Bull and the Leslie-Lohman Museum amongst others.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4731396/

GEORGE VATISTAS
Writer + Director

George is a Greek-American filmmaker who graduated from the New York College Film School in Athens, Greece. His first short movie “The Weapon” was praised by international self-taught director Pantelis Voulgaris. His passion for directing and cinema led him to New York City where George completed his Masters in Directing at the School of Visual Arts, under Bob Giraldi’s Directing Program.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8584500/

RYAN DE FRANCO

Cinematographer

Ryan grew up in a Volvo 240 along the back roads of Inter State-75. His projects have screened at Cannes FilM Festival and MoMa PS1, and his work has been featured in Interview Magazine, New York Magazine, Huffington Post, W Magazine, the Fader, Esquire, and the New York TimeS. In 2015, Ryan traveled to the front lines of the Iraq/ISIS conflict and across the Rwandan countryside — filminG Jihan and Kagame, two interpersonal documentaries, both currently in Post-Production. At home in New York and Los Angeles, Ryan's commercial clients include L'Oreal, Tourneau, Marriott, Sony, Ferrari S.P.A., Mac Cosmetics, Chandon, and Domaines Barons de Rothschild.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3645884/

ROBERTO ELETTO

Composer

Roberto Eletto is a freelance creative professional who has produced music, maps, and writing for a wide variety of media. He is a graduate of The New School and Hunter College, completing an M.A. in Geographic Information Science Technologies at the latter. Mr. Eletto has scored several films for graduates of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, the School of Visual Arts, S.U.N.Y, and Columbia, among others.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4526735/

KATHY RUOPP

Assistant Director

Kathy Ruopp is a filmmaker with experience, skills and good judgment, who delivers effective support of the creative and elevated execution of production. She works in New York City as a Producer, Production Manager and Assistant Director working in television and film, and taught Graduate Production at the School of Visual Arts in Bob Giraldi's Live Action Short Film Program. She is a member of the Director's Guild of America.

IMDB: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0970084/

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ACCOLADES:

WINNER

1. Paula Rhodes Memorial Award – SVA Short Film Fest 2016
2. Best Fantasy – Mediterranean Film Festival 2017
3. Silver Remy Award Shorts - Suspense/Thriller – WorldFest – Houston International Film & Video Festival 2017
4. Best Student Film – Black Cat Picture Show 2017
5. Best Action/Thriller Short Film – GenreBlast Film Festival 2017
6. Best Long Narrative – Gotham Film Festival 2017
7. Best Student Film – Another Hole In the Head 2017
8. Best Narrative Short – College – Garden State Film Festival 2018
9. Best Cinematography – Jim Thorpe Independent Film Festival 2018
10. Best Performances – WildSound Feedback Film & Screenplay Festival 2018
11. Best Cinematography – Liberty Massacre 2018
12. Best Production Design – Wreak Havoc Film Festival 2018
13. 3rd Place Best Suspense Short – Indie Suspense Horror Sci-Fi Film Festival 2018
14. Best Student Film - LIFFT India Filmotsav-World Cine Fest 2018
15. Best Short – Stormy Weather Horror Film Fest 2019
16. Best Actor (Robert W. Smith) – Stormy Weather Horror Film Fest 2019
17. Best Sound / Music – Stormy Weather Horror Film Fest 2019
18. Award Winner – NanoCon International Science-Fiction Film Festival 2019
19. Audience Choice Award – Lit On Film – Strand Books & Nitehawk present the Annual Literary Film Fest 2019
20. Best Cinematography – Video Hackers Film Festival 2019
21. Best NY Student Film – Upstate NY Horror Film Festival 2019
22. Best Actor: University Category – Festival Internacional de Cinema Escolar de Alvorada 2019
23. Best Student Film – Frostbite International Indie Fest 2019
24. Best Original Score – Frostbite International Indie Fest 2019
25. Best Short Horror – Ocean City Film Festival 2020
26. Best Short Film – Noir – Blu-Hill Film Festival 2020
27. Best Sound Design – Maine Student Film Festival 2020
28. Best Student Film – End of Days Film Festival 2021

(as of 30th May 2021)

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Nominated Finalist

1. Best Cinematography – Hang Onto Your Shorts Film Festival 2017
2. Best Short Film – LIIFE - Long Island International Film Expo 2017
3. Best Student Film – New Hope Film Festival 2017
4. Best Concept of a Short – Northeast Film Festival 2017
5. Best Short – Northeast Film Festival 2017
6. Best Actor (Robert W. Smith) - Short Film – GenreBlast Film Festival 2017
7. Best Film Award – Middlesbrough International Film Festival 2017
8. Best Fantastic Student Film – FilmQuest 2017
9. Best Student Short – FilmQuest 2017
10. Best Short Film – Edmonton Festival of Fear: Horror, Sci-Fi, Action & Cult Movies 2017
11. Best Actor (Robert W. Smith) – Edmonton Festival of Fear: Horror, Sci-Fi, Action & Cult Movies 2017
12. Best Actor (Daniel Mitura) – Edmonton Festival of Fear: Horror, Sci-Fi, Action & Cult Movies 2017
13. Best Production Design – Jim Thorpe Independent Film Festival 2018
14. Semi-Finalist – Nassau Film Festival 2018
15. Semi-Finalist – San Mauro Torinese International Film Festival 2018
16. Best Picture – L.A. Neo Noir Novel, Film & Script Fest 2018
17. Top 5 – Short Film Slam: Presented by the Madlab Post 2018
18. Best Short Film : Suspense/Horror – Art is Alive Film Festival 2018
19. Best Actor : Male (Robert W. Smith) – Art is Alive Film Festival 2018
20. Honorable Mention Best Student Short Film – The Golden Skull Film Festival 2018
21. Best Drama - The Melbourne Independent Filmmaker's Festival 2018
22. Best Cinematography - The Melbourne Independent Filmmaker's Festival 2018
23. Best Production Design - The Melbourne Independent Filmmaker's Festival 2018
24. Best Bizarre Film – The Optical Theater Horror Film Festival 2018
25. Best Noir Short – Genre Celebration Festival 2018
26. Best Cinematography – Genre Celebration Festival 2018
27. Semi-Finalist – Los Angeles CineFest 2019
28. Best Director – Stormy Weather Horror Film Fest 2019
29. Best Short Horror/Horror Comedy – Take It Easy Film Festival 2019
30. "Strong as Heck" Hammer Award - SBE'S Hamilton (New York) International Film Festival 2019
31. Best Short Student Film – Galata Frame International Film Festival 2019
32. Best Actor (Robert W. Smith) – Galata Frame International Film Festival 2019
33. Ghoul Days: Best Student Film – Spook Screen Film Festival 2019
34. Best Act-Roar (Robert W. Smith) – Spook Screen Film Festival 2019
35. Semi-Finalist – Lisbon Film Rendezvous 2019
36. Finalist – The Annual Mountain Shadow Short Film Competition 2019
37. Best Fiction Short – Zaporizhzhia International Film Festival 2019
38. Finalist – Las Vegas Global Film Convention 2019
39. Best Non-Post Apocalyptic Drama – Wasteland Film Festival 2019
40. Finalist – Southeast Regional Film Festival 2020
41. Semi-Finalist – Realtime International Film Festival 2020
42. Finalist – Longless Film Festival 2020
43. Best Made In NY (Student) Short – Twin Tiers International Film Festival 2020
44. Best Picture – Maine Student Film Festival 2020
45. Semi-Finalist – Mitreo Film Festival 2020
46. Finalist - Delirium, Dreams & Nightmares 2020
47. Semi-Finalist – The Next Level International Film Festival 2021
48. Quarter Finalist - Volterra Fantasy Film Festival 2021

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Official Selections

1. SVA Short Film Fest 2016
2. Twin Rivers Media Festival 2017
3. The Mediterranean Film Festival 2017
4. Cleveland International Film Festival 2017
5. Short to the Point 2017
6. Move Me Productions Belgium – Short Film Festival 2017
7. WorldFest – Houston International Film & Video Festival 2017
8. NYC Independent Film Festival 2017
9. Hang Onto Your Shorts Film Festival 2017
10. Dances With Films 2017
11. Art of Brooklyn Film festival 2017
12. Lighthouse International Film Festival 2017
13. FFOCOL – Film Festival of Columbus 2017
14. Katra Film Series 2017
15. LifeArt Media Festival 2017
16. Cryptshow Festival 2017
17. Atlanta Shortfest 2017
18. LIIFE – The Long Island International Film Expo 2017
19. New Hope Film Festival 2017
20. SAFILM – San Antonio Film Festival 2017
21. The Kew Gardens Festival of Cinema 2017
22. New York Film Screenings 2017
23. Artists & Beers Presented by Dean Street 2017
24. Black Cat Picture Show 2017
25. Burbank International Film Festival 2017
26. GenreBlast Film Festival 2017
27. Northeast Film Festival 2017
28. FilmQuest 2017
29. Middlesbrough International Film Festival 2017
30. Mykonos Biennale 2017
31. Tri-Cities International Film Festival 2017
32. Beacon Independent Film Festival 2017
33. Fargo Fantastic Film Festival 2017
34. Hell's Half Mile Film & Music Festival 2017
35. Lilliputian Film Festival 2017
36. Edmonton Festival of Fear: Horror, Sci-Fi, Action & Cult Movies 2017
37. Shiver International Film Festival 2017
38. Another Hole In the Head 2017
39. The Overkill Festival 2017
40. Blow-Up Arthouse Film Festival 2017
41. Buffalo Dreams Fantastic Film Festival 2017
42. HorrorHaus Film Festival 2017
43. Gotham Film Festival 2017
44. Shivers Film Festival 2017
45. Nevermore Film Festival 2018
46. Garden State Film Festival 2018
47. Red Corner Film Festival 2018
48. Media Film Festival 2018
49. Jim Thorpe Independent Film Festival 2018
50. WILDsound Feedback Film and Screenplay Festival 2018
51. Cefalù Film Festival 2018
52. New Haven International Film Festival 2018
53. Nassau Film Festival 2018
54. San Mauro Torinese International Film Festival 2018
55. L.A. Neo Noir Novel, Film & Script Festival 2018
56. Short Film Slam: Presented by the Madlab Post – Philadelphia, PA 2018
57. Weird Wednesday 0711 2018
58. Bad Film Fest 2018
59. Cape Fear Independent Film Festival 2018
60. Threadbare Mitten Film Festival 2018
61. San Benedetto Film Fest 2018
62. Liberty Massacre – Presented by Average Superstar Films 2018
63. Short Film Slam: Presented by the Madlab Post – Baltimore, MD 2018
64. Something Wicked Film Festival 2018
65. Chain NYC Film Festival 2018
66. Art is Alive Film Festival 2018
67. D.C. Shorts Film Festival and Screenplay Competition 2018
68. Melrose Film Festival 2018
69. Wreak Havoc Horror Film Festival 2018
70. The Golden Skull Film Festival 2018
71. Shriekfest 2018
72. Indie Suspense Horror Sci-Fi Film Festival 2018
73. KisaKes Short Film Festival 2018
74. Orlando Film Festival 2018
75. The Melbourne Independent Filmmaker's Festival 2018
76. HorrorQuest Film Festival 2018
77. Northern Frights Festival 2018
78. Halloween International Film Festival 2018
79. Horror Film Thursdays 2018
80. Miami FearFest 2018
81. The Optical Theater Horror Film Festival 2018
82. Genre Celebration Festival 2018

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83. InShort Film Festival 2018
84. LIFFT India Filmotsav-World Cine Fest 2018
85. Horror-on-Sea 2019
86. Green Bay Film Festival 2019
87. Los Angeles CineFest 2019
88. Winter Film Awards 2019
89. Cleveland Concoction 2019
90. Stormy Weather Horror Film Fest 2019
91. NanoCon International Science-Fiction Film Festival 2019
92. Third Eye Film Festival 2019
93. Boston International Film Festival 2019
94. Capital City Film Festival 2019
95. LiftOff: First-Time Filmmaker Sessions 2019
96. International University Festival Cine-Literature of Agadir 2019
97. Take It Easy Film Festival 2019
98. MayDay Film Festival 2019
99. The Chaffey Review Film Festival 2019
100. Calgary Horror Con 2019
101. SBE'S Hamilton (New York) International Film Festival 2019
102. Galata Frame International Film Festival 2019
103. Lit On Film – Strand Books & Nitehawk present the Annual Literary Film Fest 2019
104. Slum Film Festival 2019
105. Spookscreen Film Festival 2019
106. Lisbon Film Rendezvous 2019
107. The Annual Mountain Shadow Short Film Competition 2019
108. Zaporizhzhia International Film Festival 2019
109. Video Hackers Film festival 2019
110. Las Vegas Global Film Convention 2019
111. Wasteland Film Festival 2019
112. BAM! Festival 2019
113. Local Haunts: Horror Short Film Showcase 2019
114. Upstate NY Horror Film Festival 2019
115. The Fatherhood Image Film Festival 2019
116. Southeast Michigan Film Festival 2019
117. Festival Internacional de Cinema Escolar de Alvorada 2019
118. Caminhos Film Festival 2019
119. Frostbite International Indie Fest 2019
120. International Short & Independent Film Festival, Dhaka 2019
121. Dunedin International Film Festival 2020
122. Cortokino 2020
123. Ocean City Film Festival 2020
124. Southeast Regional Film Festival 2020
125. FLICKFAIR 2020
126. Ufa Youth Short Film Festival 2020
127. Realtime International Film Festival 2020
128. Speculative Film Fest 2020
129. RoleCall 2020
130. Desertscape International Film Festival 2020
131. Ravenheart International Film Festival 2020
132. Longless Film Festival 2020
133. Portobello Film Festival 2020
134. Twin Tiers International Film Festival 2020
135. Friends of Oshkosh Film Festival 2020
136. Blu-Hill Film Festival 2020
137. Down East Flick Fest 2020
138. Milwaukee Twisted Dreams Film Festival 2020
139. Jharkhand International Film Festival & Awards 2020
140. Maine Student Film Festival 2020
141. Highlands Film Fest 2020
142. Sit Down Shutup and Watch Film & New Media Festival 2020
143. Dead in Decatur presents: the Art of Fear 2020
144. Mitreo Film Festival 2020
145. Bleedingham Horror Film Festival 2020
146. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Film Festival 2020
147. Delirium, Dreams & Nightmares 2020
148. Reel Horror Fest 2020
149. Reel East Texas Film Festival 2020
150. The Next Level International Film Festival 2021
151. McMinnville Short Film Festival 2021
152. Scream It Off Screen 2021
153. End of Days Film Festival 2021
154. Volterra Fantasy Film Festival 2021
155. AmiCorti Film Festival 2021
156. Blackbird Film Festival 2021
157. Bridgwater TV – online & annual film festival 2021

(as of 30th May 2021)

Reviews:

"A short film that packs a big punch, blending the perfect mix of creepy and pleasing to match its dark yet purposeful message... with cinematically beautiful shots and a soundtrack that will keep you on the edge of your seat."

- Melanie Davis, *New Hope Film Festival*
http://newhopefilmfest.blogspot.com/2017/05/the-hobbyist.html

"Bold and immediately catches one's interest. ... Clever, well-timed. ... Tense yet enjoyable. Robert W. Smith captivates as the character of the Druggist. His performance lends a feel of mystery and fable to the entire film, and is inspired. Casting Director Kathleen Hanley... deserves kudos for finding such an adept actor to bring this role to life. Smith expertly paces his lines, never rushing, which aids in the film's delivery of suspense. Daniel Mitura also does a great job as Sangstrom, conveying shifting emotions under the ever-changing circumstances. … The pacing of the film is spot-on. … The production design is well-executed and enhances the story. ... It's a very entertaining short film and makes me want to see what's next for AireBedd."

- Samantha Kolesnik, *DecayMag*
http://decaymag.com/movies/reviews/hobbyist-george-vatistas/24068/

"Robert W. Smith provides a creepy performance as the druggist in the film. His ominous voice really sells every line… Daniel Mitura also does a wonderful job in the role of Sangstrom. He expertly conveys the desperation of his character… This short has a great cinematic look. The warm lighting and rich color make it a pleasure to watch. The old-fashioned drug store setting is also of note. 'The Hobbyist' is suspenseful and engaging in an artistic way."

– John Migliore, *Indie Horror Online*
https://indiehorroronline.wordpress.com/2018/11/15/the-hobbyist-2016/

"'The Hobbyist' serves as Vatistas's debut short film and it's an impressive one at that. Cinematographer, Ryan De Franco has built quite a career in short filmmaking and his vast skillset is well and truly on display here. Everything is nicely framed and the shot choices are simple but productive. The audio track is controlled and Robert Eletto's score is something entirely new. He invokes a sort of magical essence to the sound of keys and adds what sounds like individually plucked notes on a harp. Mitura and Smith's performances are lively. … The camera work is slick, the audio is clean, and Eletto's score is one of the standout features. … All in all, this is a great little film!"

- Adam Paul Weber, *Adam The Movie God*
https://adamthemoviegod.com/the-hobbyist-review-be-careful-what-you-wish-for/

"An excellent film all the way through the story, technical and performance aspects."

- Nicole Ayers, *Short Film Slam presented by Madlab Post*

"Fantastic performance by [Robert W. Smith]… Best performance of the night… Very well thought out… It has power… Timeless and chilling, but really fascinating!"

- Audience Members, *WildSound Feedback Film & Screenplay Festival 2018*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQSYkKVyqhk

"Equally, if not more so, haunting than the story it's based off of. The short stars a convincing Daniel Mitura playing Sangstrom. Alongside him stars Robert W. Smith who plays the unnerving Druggist. Between the two of them, their chemistry is undeniable. … Truly eye-catching. … The use of dark greens and dark browns absolutely sell the vintage drug store … [and] the entire environment in which the story is set in. Also, complimenting the entire environment is the director of photography Ryan De Franco and composer Robert Eletto. Coupling the way the camera moves with eerie score helps in your mind's commitment to the story, the characters, and surroundings. … All involved have a bright future in filmmaking."

- Sean Ellis, *Crypt Teaze*
https://www.crypt-teaze.com/single-post/2019/01/28/ReviewPodcast-George-Vatistas-Short-Film-The-Hobbyist

"Impressive with its powerfully packed, hearty plot... From the lighting to the set design, each element is appealing to the eye... fiendishly noble."

- Michelle MIDI Peifer, *House of Tortured Souls*
https://houseoftorturedsouls.com/an-introduction-to-airebedd-productions/

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