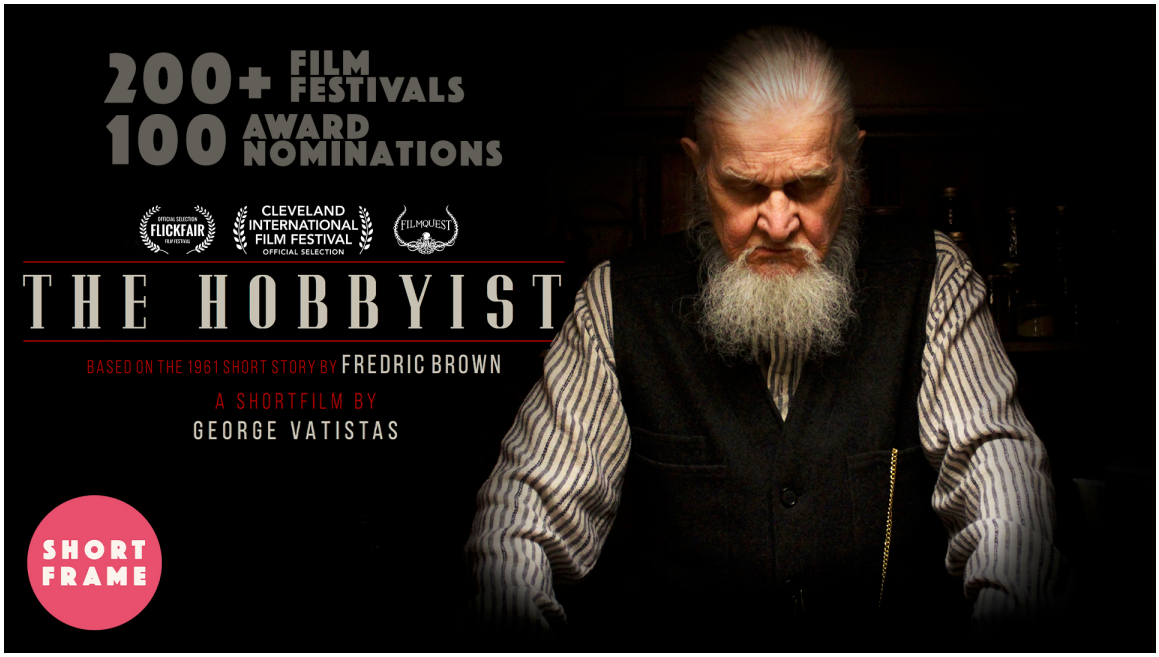
ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



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, the Client

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Log Line	2
Synopsis	2
Genres & Niches	2
About the Production	2
Poster & Banner	3
Reviews	4
Secured Distribution	7
Festival Screening Data	8
Accolades:	
Wins	9
Nominated Finalists	11
Official Selections	13
Director's Statement	16
Actor Biographies	17
Key Crew Biographies	18
Full Crew List	19
Contact	20

www.dmnightmaire.com
dmnightmaire@gmail.com

678 Rugby Road
Brooklyn, NY 11230

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.

GENRES & NICHES:

Short, Drama, Neo Noir, Psychological Thriller, Suspense, Adaptation

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 Hobbyist" 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.

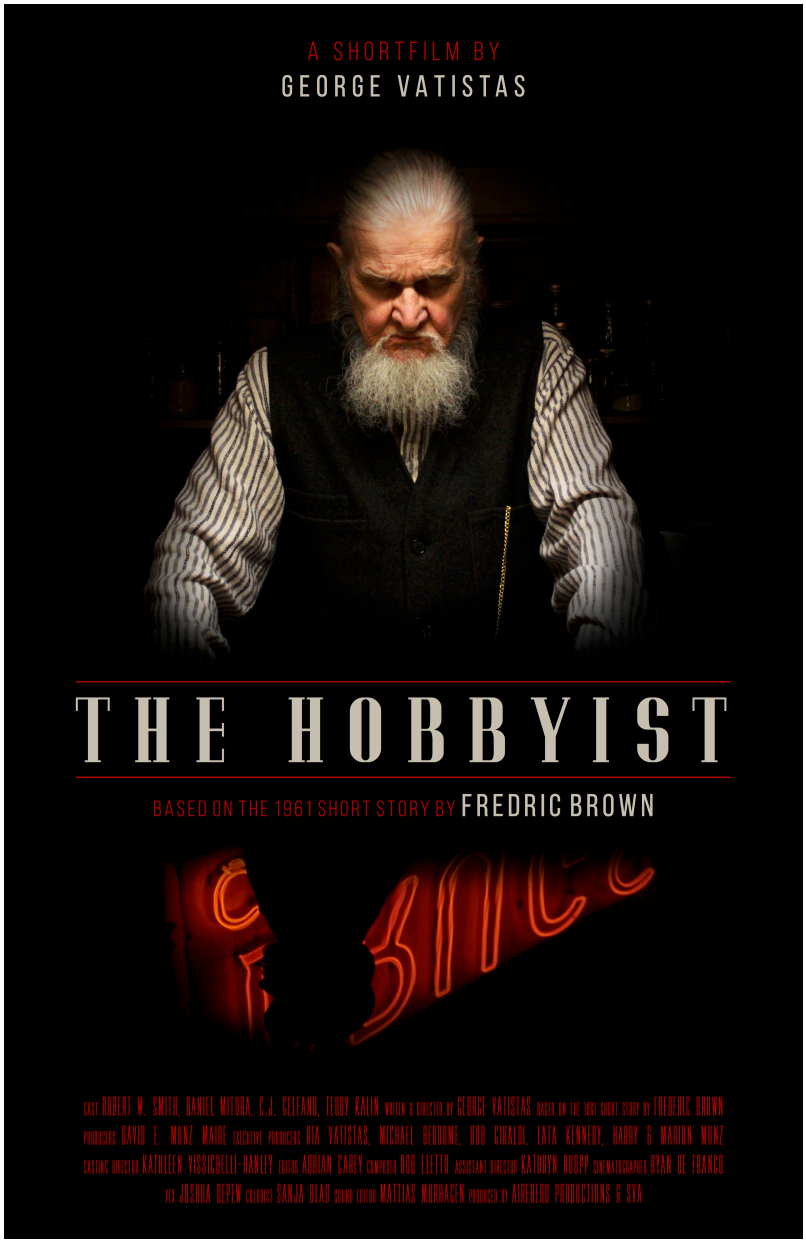
"The Hobbyist" was edited using Adobe Premiere Pro and finally completed in early 2017.

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

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

"The Hobbyist" is available with English closed captioning, as well as French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish subtitles.

POSTER:



BANNER:

www.dmnightmaire.com
dmnightmaire@gmail.com

678 Rugby Road
Brooklyn, NY 11230

REVIEWS:

"A highly stylized short that is really a fun film to watch as the audience is very quickly taken by the mysterious characters and their dubious needs. Actor Robert W. Smith as the Druggist is simply fantastic and immediately pulls viewers into the narrative. The twisted story of poison, murder and deceit is pure entertainment and stands as a testament to [the] creative vision for the film! Definitely a must watch for all!"

- Sam Avery, *Blackbird Film Festival*

www.imdb.com/title/tt6249648/

"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/

"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

"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/

"'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/

"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 Roberto 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

"In under nine minutes, George Vatistas builds an immersive world that's strange, stylish, and completely captivating, with a score that lingers and production design that dazzles."

- Céd Hopkins, *FABA Films Festival*

https://medium.com/@cedhopkins/no-boxes-just-art-why-we-chose-not-to-divide-our-film-festival-awards-by-gender-or-race-cecbc5391951

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

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

"What a gorgeous film. We really enjoyed the story, the premise and the telling of this tale."

- Dr. Lighthouse, *Delirium, Dreams & Nightmares*

"A film that demonstrates the director's unparalleled creative vision, breathing life into a mesmerizing world… The use of visual motifs throughout the film adds a cohesive and visually striking element to the storytelling… The film is a work of art, skillfully blending visuals, sound, and storytelling to create a truly immersive cinematic experience."

- Anonymous Judges, *Student World Impact Film Festival*

"In a word, superb. Wonderfully acted and directed. First class production design, camerawork, edit and sound."

- Anonymous Judge, *Transparent Film Festival*

"The film was phenomenal… The premise and visual execution are entertaining and have a specific aesthetic. Rich tones and intriguing compositions in the cinematography made this easy to watch!... Certainly, the most admirable aspect of 'The Hobbyist' is its ability to craft a "cinematic tale" … showing no weakness in building a world detached from our present. This film overflows with formal and aesthetic creativity, steadily building a well-structured story that shines through the strength of its world and characters. From its cinematography to a superb production design and outstanding direction, 'The Hobbyist' is a breath of fresh air—familiar yet undeniably renewed by its visual beauty and the director's skillful use of cinematic language."

- Anonymous Judges, *FABA Films Festival*

"'The Hobbyist' is a pitch-perfect neo-noir thriller from start to finish. From the very first moment—the trailer, the opening scene, the score, everything signals a filmmaker in complete control of tone, genre, and style. George Vatistas has crafted something truly exceptional. The direction is assured, the pacing tight, and the mood immersive. This is a filmmaker who clearly understands the language of noir and executes it with sophistication and restraint. The cinematography is moody and elegant, perfectly suited to the period piece setting. The music underscores every moment with the right amount of tension and flair, elevating the film's impact without ever overpowering it. The acting is strong across the board, and the dialogue is delivered with precision and weight. There's an authenticity to the characters and performances that grounds the stylish aesthetic in real emotional stakes. 'The Hobbyist' is a masterfully crafted short. It's atmospheric, intelligent, and thoroughly engaging. This is the kind of work that demands a feature-length follow-up, and I'll be first in line to see it.

- Jae Taylor, *3 Dollar Films*

"'The Hobbyist' exemplified outstanding craftsmanship, compelling storytelling, and a clear artistic vision. The creativity, dedication, and passion evident throughout the work … demonstrate an exceptional level of quality and excellence in independent filmmaking."

- Lisandro "Lasso" Boccacci, *Stay Gold Film Festival*

SECURED DISTRIBUTION:

non-exclusive licensees – content delivery platform (media distribution system) – signatory date

1. Kinolife, LLC – Kino Life Distribution (VOD - OTT) – February 2020
2. Beehler Media, LLC – RoleCall Watch: Roku Channel (VOD - TV App & OTT) – May 2020
3. JIFFA – JIFFA Indian TV Channel: Box Cinema (VOD - TV App & OTT) – October 2020
4. SBCK Cinematic, LLC – Cinema Life (VOD - OTT) – December 2020
5. Bridgwater Digital – Bridgwater TV (VOD - OTT) – July 2021
6. BUEIFF ® – BUEIFF: ProChannel (VOD - OTT) – September 2021
7. Vaulter LTD – paus.TV (VOD - OTT) – December 2021
8. GoreDrome Pictures / The Peacockstale LTD – 3 Steps to Fear (MOD - DVD & Blu-Ray) – December 2021
9. Latest TV & Northern Visions NVTV – Latest Visions & Sheffield Live! (Broadcast TV in U.K. + Ireland & VOD - OTT) – August 2023
10. Latest TV – Indie FilmOnTV (Broadcast TV in U.K.) – January 2024
11. Troma Entertainment, Inc. – Troma NOW (VOD - TV App & OTT) – February 2024
12. Leomark Studios, LLC – Hollywood Horror Fest Presents: Boobs & Blood (MOD - DVD & VOD - OTT) – January 2025
13. Dread Sanctum AB – Dread Sanctum (VOD – OTT) – January 2025
14. Screen Indie – Screen Indie (VOD – OTT) – January 2025
15. Atlanta Film Series – FestFlix TV (VOD – OTT) – April 2025
16. FABA Films – FABA Films Streaming (VOD – OTT) – May 2025
17. Short Frame LTD – Short Frame (VOD - OTT) – June 2025
18. Vamp Rock Productions – Dr. Shock's Asylum of Horror (MOD - DVD & VOD - OTT) – July 2026
19. HorrorHound LTD – HorrorHound TV (VOD – OTT) – July 2026
20. Open Film Zone – Open Film Zone (VOD – OTT) – October 2026
21. Cindee, Inc. – Cindee (VOD – OTT) – October 2026
22. Mactorran Studios LLC – Mullach (VOD – OTT) – October 2026

FESTIVAL SCREENING DATA:

Number of Continents Screened On: **6x**

Events Screened at Per Continent:

8x	Africa	60x	Europe	3x	Oceania
15x	Asia	151x	North America	8x	South America

Number of Countries Screened In: **39x**

Events Screened at Per Country:

143x	U.S.A.	2x	Argentina	1x	Greece
16x	Italy	2x	Chile	1x	Kenya
9x	England	2x	Denmark	1x	Malaysia
7x	India	2x	Ireland	1x	Netherlands
6x	Turkey	2x	Japan	1x	Norway
5x	Canada	2x	Morocco	1x	Poland
4x	Brazil	2x	Portugal	1x	Scotland
3x	Australia	2x	Romania	1x	South Africa
3x	France	2x	Russia	1x	Sweden
3x	Germany	1x	Bangladesh	1x	Thailand
3x	Mexico	1x	Belgium	1x	Ukraine
3x	Nigeria	1x	Egypt	8x*	Virtual/ Online
3x	Spain	1x	Finland		
3x	South Korea	1x	Georgia		

U.S. States Screened In (Washington D.C. included**):** **31x**

Events Screened at Per U.S. State:

31x	New York	4x	Maryland	1x	Massachusetts
24x	California	4x	Wisconsin	1x	Minnesota
8x	Florida	3x	Connecticut	1x	Missouri
7x	Michigan	3x	Ohio	1x	Nevada
7x	North Carolina	2x	Kentucky	1x	New Mexico
7x	Pennsylvania	2x	Oregon	1x	North Dakota
6x	Georgia	2x	Utah	1x	Oklahoma
6x	New Jersey	1x	Alabama	1x	Virginia
5x	Texas	1x	Colorado	1x	Washington D.C.
5x	Washington	1x	Indiana		
4x	Illinois	1x	Maine		

City with Highest Number of Screenings: New York City **22x**

City with the 2nd Highest Number of Screenings: Los Angeles **16x**

ACCOLADES:

Award 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 Horror – Down East Flick Fest 2020
28. Best Sound Design – Maine Student Film Festival 2020
29. Best Student Film – End of Days Film Festival 2021
30. Best of the Fest - YellowHammer Film Fest 2021
31. Best Cinematography - YellowHammer Film Fest 2021
32. 3rd Prize Best Fiction Film - Sakarya International Short Film Festival 2021
33. Best Short Film – The Thing in the Basement Horror Fest 2021
34. Best Score – Hardcore Horror Fest 2021
35. Best Cinematography – Chainsaw Game & Music Festival 2021
36. Viewer's Favorite – The Fear Faire Film Festival 2022
37. Judge's Choice – The Fear Faire Film Festival 2022
38. Best Director of Student Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
39. Best Actor of Student Film (Robert W. Smith) – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
40. Best Editing of Student Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022

41. Best Production Design – Sugar Loaf Film Festival 2022
42. Best International Film – Brejning Film Festival 2022
43. Best Actor (Robert W. Smith) – Brejning Film Festival 2022
44. Mucky Award for Best Film Twist – 573 Short Film Festival 2022
45. Best Director – Short Film – Ipê Amarelo Film Festival 2022
46. Best Lead Actor (Robert W. Smith) – Short Film – Ipê Amarelo Film Festival 2022
47. Best Cinematography – Short Film – Ipê Amarelo Film Festival 2022
48. Best Production Design – Short Film – Ipê Amarelo Film Festival 2022
49. Best Horror/Thriller – David Film Festival 2023
50. Best Actor/Actress (Robert W. Smith) – David Film Festival 2023
51. Best Cinematography – David Film Festival 2023
52. Best Thriller Film – Aasha International Film Festival 2023
53. Best Production Design – Electric Film Festival 2024
54. Jury Award – Best Spoopy Short – Kinda Spoopy 2024
55. Best Short Film – Southeast Asia International Film Festival 2024
56. Best Original Score – FABA Films Festival 2025
57. Best Production Design – FABA Films Festival 2025
58. Golden Standard Award – Stay Gold Film Festival 2026
59. Best Film Short Award of Excellence Special Mention – The IndieFEST Film Awards 2026
60. Award of Excellence Special Mention: Best Film Short – The Best Shorts Competition 2026
61. Award of Excellence: Actor: Leading (Robert W. Smith as The Druggist) – The Best Shorts Competition 2026
62. Award of Merit Special Mention: Actor: Leading (Daniel Mitura as Sangstrom) – The Best Shorts Competition 2026
63. Best Edition – Literature in Cinema 2026

(as of 01st August 2026)

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
49. Semi-Finalist – Best Cinematography – The Thing in the Basement Horror Fest 2021

50. Best Director – Hardcore Horror Fest 2021
51. Best Screenplay – Hardcore Horror Fest 2021
52. Best Actor (Robert W. Smith) – Hardcore Horror Fest 2021
53. Best Cinematography – Hardcore Horror Fest 2021
54. Best Editing – Hardcore Horror Fest 2021
55. Honorable Mention - Sanctuary International Film Festival 2021
56. Best Short Film – Derby Film Festival 2021
57. Quarter-Finalist – Aporia International Village Film Festival 2021
58. Best Student Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
59. Best Screenplay of Student Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
60. Best Sound Design of Student Film– Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
61. Best Cinematography of Student Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
62. Best Production Design of Student Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
63. Best Supporting Actor of Short Film (Daniel Mitura) – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
64. Best Poster – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
65. Best Trailer – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
66. Bester Post-Production – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
67. Best Thriller/ Sci-Fi Film – Bridgeport Film Fest 2022
68. Best Cinematography – Bridgeport Film Fest 2022
69. Semi-Finalist – The Independent Film and Art Festival 2022
70. Semi-Finalist – Festival del Cinema di Cefalù 2022
71. Honorable Mention – Film Night On Fulton 2022
72. Finalist – Best Film – Brejning Film Festival 2022
73. Finalist – Best Drama – Brejning Film Festival 2022
74. Quarter Finalist – Lil' Spooky Fest 2022
75. Finalist – Horror Island 2022
76. Best Film – The Black Country Horror Shorts Film Festival 2022
77. Best Short Film – TopShot International Film Festival 2022
78. Student Film – TopShot International Film Festival 2022
79. Best Thriller – TopShot International Film Festival 2022
80. Best Actor (Robert W. Smith) – Busan New Wave Short Film Festival 2023
81. Best Cinematography – Korea International Short Film Festival 2023
82. Creative Individuality Award – Framing the Needle Film Festival 2023
83. Best Editing – Framing the Needle Film Festival 2023
84. Best NYC Film – Transparent Film Festival 2023
85. Best Short Film Award – Student World Impact Film Festival 2023
86. Finalist – Best Short Film – The FilmJoint 2023
87. Finalist – Best Short Film - Student – Los Angeles CINEVERSE Film Fest 2023
88. Best Short Film – A Royal Chance Film Festival 2024
89. Best Suspense Thriller Film Award – Austin Short Film Festival 2024
90. Semi-Finalist – Best Short Film – Kalaburagi International Film Festival 2024
91. Honorable Mention & Quarter-Finalist – Best Short Film – WideScreen Film & Music Video Festival 2024
92. Finalist – Best Student Film – Twelve Lions Film Festival 2024
93. Empire State Award – Wicked Realm Film Festival 2024
94. Quarter-Finalist – Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival 2025

(as of 01st September 2025)

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
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 film festival 2021
158. YellowHammer Film Fest 2021
159. Smiles Film Festival 2021
160. Anatolia International Film Festival 2021
161. Four Corners Film Festival 2021
162. Buenos Aires International Film Festival 2021
163. Sakarya International Short Film Festival 2021
164. Alumbra. Festival de Cortometrajes "Ciudad de Hellín" 2021
165. Sacalacalaca Interdimensional Horror & Sci-Fi Festival 2021
166. Heroes International Film Festival 2021
167. The Thing in the Basement Horror Fest 2021
168. Hardcore Horror Fest 2021
169. Sanctuary International Film Festival 2021
170. Derby Film Festival 2021
171. Aporia International Village Film Festival 2021
172. Chainsaw Game & Music Festival 2021

173. Festival Internacional De Cine De Terror Valparaiso 2021
174. The Paus Premieres Festival 2021
175. Festival RENUAC 2022
176. Golden Bridge İstanbul Short Film Festival 2022
177. Festival RNAB 2022
178. The Fear Faire Film Festival 2022
179. Brazil International Monthly Film Festival 2022
180. Bridgeport Film Fest 2022
181. The Independent Film and Art Festival 2022
182. Festival del Cinema di Cefalù 2022
183. Tournadeau Music and Film Festival 2022
184. Techirghiol Art Festival 2022
185. Sugar Loaf Film Festival 2022
186. Film Night on Fulton 2022
187. Brejning Film Festival 2022
188. 573 International Short Film Festival 2022
189. Midwest Sci-Fi Short Film Festival 2022
190. Lil' Spooky Fest 2022
191. Horror Island 2022
192. Skiptown Playhouse International Film Festival 2022
193. The Black Country Horror Shorts Film Festival 2022
194. The Flint Short Film Freakout 2022
195. TopShot International Film Festival 2022
196. Ipê Amarelo Film Festival 2022
197. Busan New Wave Short Film Festival 2023
198. Korea International Short Film Festival 2023
199. RapidLion - The South African International Film Festival 2023
200. Allentown Film Festival 2023
201. Meihodo International Youth Visual Media Festival 2023
202. Framing the Needle Film Festival 2023
203. Transparent Film Festival 2023
204. Bloody Hats Film Festival 2023
205. Student World Impact Film Festival 2023
206. The FilmJoint 2023
207. International Short & Symbolic Art Film Festival 2023
208. Los Angeles CINEVERSE Film Fest 2023
209. Villammare Festival Film & Friends 2023
210. Bay Area Cinema 2023
211. Student Live Film Festival 2023
212. Animal Film Fest 2023
213. Latest Visions presents: Halloween Special 2023
214. Copenhagen Short Film Festival 2023
215. East Lansing Film Festival 2023
216. David Film Festival 2023
217. Kixta Fest 2023
218. Aasha International Film Festival 2023
219. A Royal Chance Film Festival 2024
220. Austin Short Film Festival 2024
221. DaVinci International Film Festival 2024
222. Rising Tide Film Festival 2024
223. Kalaburagi International Film Festival 2024
224. Cine RO - Rondônia Film Festival 2024
225. Electric Film Festival 2024
226. WideScreen Film & Music Video Festival 2024
227. Twelve Lions Film Festival 2024
228. That Film Festival 2024
229. Kinda Spoopy 2024
230. Wicked Realm Film Festival 2024
231. British University International Students Film Festival 2024
232. Valle D'Itria Film Festival - Festival per la Pace 2024
233. Southeast Asia International Film Festival 2024
234. Court-Métrages Scène Ouverte 2025
235. Ahmedabad International Film Festival 2025
236. Monteatro e Dintorni d'Arte 2025
237. Balticon Sunday Short Science Fiction Film Festival 2025
238. FABA Films Festival 2025
239. Rencontres de Cinéma de Mirepeisset 2025
240. Short Frame 2025
241. Festival Angaelica 2025
242. Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival 2025
243. Port of Fear Film Festival 2025
244. Kuala Lumpur International Film Academy Awards 2025
245. Stay Gold Film Festival 2026
246. The IndieFEST Film Awards 2026
247. Ouarzazate International University Film Festival 2026
248. Famagusta Film Festival 2026
249. VisiOn Festival 2026
250. The Best Shorts Competition 2026
251. Literature in Cinema 2026
252. Hell Gate Film Society Short Film Festival 2026
253. Open Film Zone 2026

(as of 04th October 2026)

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

At its core, filmmaking is an art that thrives on the perpetual dance between the legacy of the past and the innovation of the present. My journey with "The Hobbyist," which stands as the requisite graduate thesis for my Master's in Directing, is a vivid testament to this delicate interplay.

My affinity for Fredric Brown's storytelling was kindled with a previous short film, "The Weapon," which marked my initial foray into the rich narrative universe of this celebrated author. I have always been captivated by Brown's ability to weave the ordinary with the extraordinary, to ensnare the mind with compelling twists and resonant human themes. Thus, when the opportunity arose to delve into another of his creations for my thesis, it felt like a natural progression—a chance to deepen the relationship between adapter and source material.

"The Hobbyist" is more than an adaptation; it is a re-imagining, a conduit through which Brown's narrative brilliance is both honored and revitalized. The story beckoned me with its latent aesthetic potential—a potential I sought to fully realize through the medium of film. My vision was to craft a cinematic experience that encapsulates the suspense and the subtext of Brown's work, to create a piece that is as visually arresting as it is narratively compelling.

I am profoundly proud to present "The Hobbyist" to a global audience of like-minded individuals who share a passion for stories that challenge, entertain, and endure. This film is a labor of love, a tribute to the timeless allure of good storytelling, and a showcase of the artistic growth I have undergone during my tenure at the School of Visual Arts.

As you watch "The Hobbyist," I invite you to immerse yourself in the world I have envisioned, to find yourself lost in the layers of intrigue, and to appreciate the subtle threads that bind us to the craft of storytelling. It is a story that transcends the confines of its pages, taking on a new life in the realm of the visual, and it is my hope that it resonates with you, as it did with me.

Thank you for accompanying me on this cinematic journey.

- George Vatistas

www.dmnightmaire.com
dmnightmaire@gmail.com

678 Rugby Road
Brooklyn, NY 11230

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/

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/

FULL CREW LIST:

Written & Directed by George Vatistas

Based on the 1961 short story by Frederic Brown

Producers: David M. Night Maire

Executive Producer: Ria Vatistas, Michael Beddome, Bob Giraldi, Lata Kennedy, Harry & Marion Munz

Casting Director: Kathleen Vissichelli-Hanley

Editor: Adrian Carey

Composer: Rob Eletto

Assistant Director: Kathryn Ruopp

Cinematographer: Ryan de Franco

1st A.C.: Emma Hing
1st A.C.: Colton Huynh
2nd A.C.: Kelly Wurtz
D.I.T.: Adrian Carey

Gaffer: Konstantin Lyubimov
Key Grip: Ivannoff Santos
Best Boy Grip: Ryan Henry
Best Boy Electric: Stephanie Guzman

Sound Mixer: Naleeka Dennis

Production Designer: Kristina Palmer
Art Director: Jake Folsom
Set Decorator: Anastasia Baker

Prop Master: Emma Verner

Key Hair & Make Up Artist: Drishty Empire

VFX: Joshua Depew
Colorist: Sanja Blau
Sound Editor: Mattias Murhagen

Set Photographer: Joe Zakko
Graphic Designer: Alejandro Moyano

Key P.A.: Zach Hasselbring
P.A.: Luke Graglia

Catering: Rias Vatistas & Allyssa S. Rivera-Cabrero

Special Thanks: JoAnna Beckson, Alexander Dinelaris, Thomas Gall, Anelisa Garfunkel, Sharon Greytak, Sean Heilingoetter, Megan Hessenthaler, Laurence Kardish, Destiny Lilly, Barry N. Malzberg, Matthew Myslinski, Georgia Sakellariou, Richard Pepperman, Francesco Portinari, Phoebe Violet Greenberg, Sofia Sondervan, Epistimi Vatistas, Robert Vatistas, Caserta Eye, Handheld Films Inc., Eastern District Camera, Flower Power Herbs & Roots Inc., and JDC Wilmington Camera Service Inc.

Produced by AireBedd Productions & SVA MPS: Directing

CONTACT INFO:

SHORT FILM:
"The Hobbyist"
webpage : www.dmnightmaire.com/the-hobbyist
Short Frame screener : www.youtube.com/watch?v=cu8zv8vgr7E
Facebook : www.facebook.com/thehobbyistmovie
IMDb : www.imdb.com/title/tt6249648/

PRODUCER:
D. M. Night Maire
e-mail : dmnightmaire@gmail.com
cell : +1 (347) 366-1916
website : www.dmnightmaire.com
IMDb : www.imdb.com/name/nm4731396/
Insta : @dmnightmaire