

FROM AWARD WINNING WRITER/DIRECTOR BRADLEY STRYKER



TO FIND THE TRUTH YOU MUST PLAY ALONG

# LAND OF SMILES

A STRYKE-FORCE FILMS PRODUCTION. ALEXANDRA TRUSHEN, KEENAN HENSON, CAITLIN CROMWELL, BRADLEY STRYKER, AMIE BARSKY, & KRISTA DONARGO  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARKUS E. MULLER. COSTUME DESIGNER SIMON WHEELDON & KYLE CASSIE. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DARREN MORZE, JIM IAN & NICOLE BERNARD, BRADY & SARAH YEAGER, JAYSON MARSHALL,  
NOEL & BEVERLY STRYKER, RUSTIN MATTHEW, TRAZZY ZEE, ROBERT KELLEY, BRADLEY STRYKER, CAITLIN CROMWELL. WRITTEN BY BRADLEY STRYKER

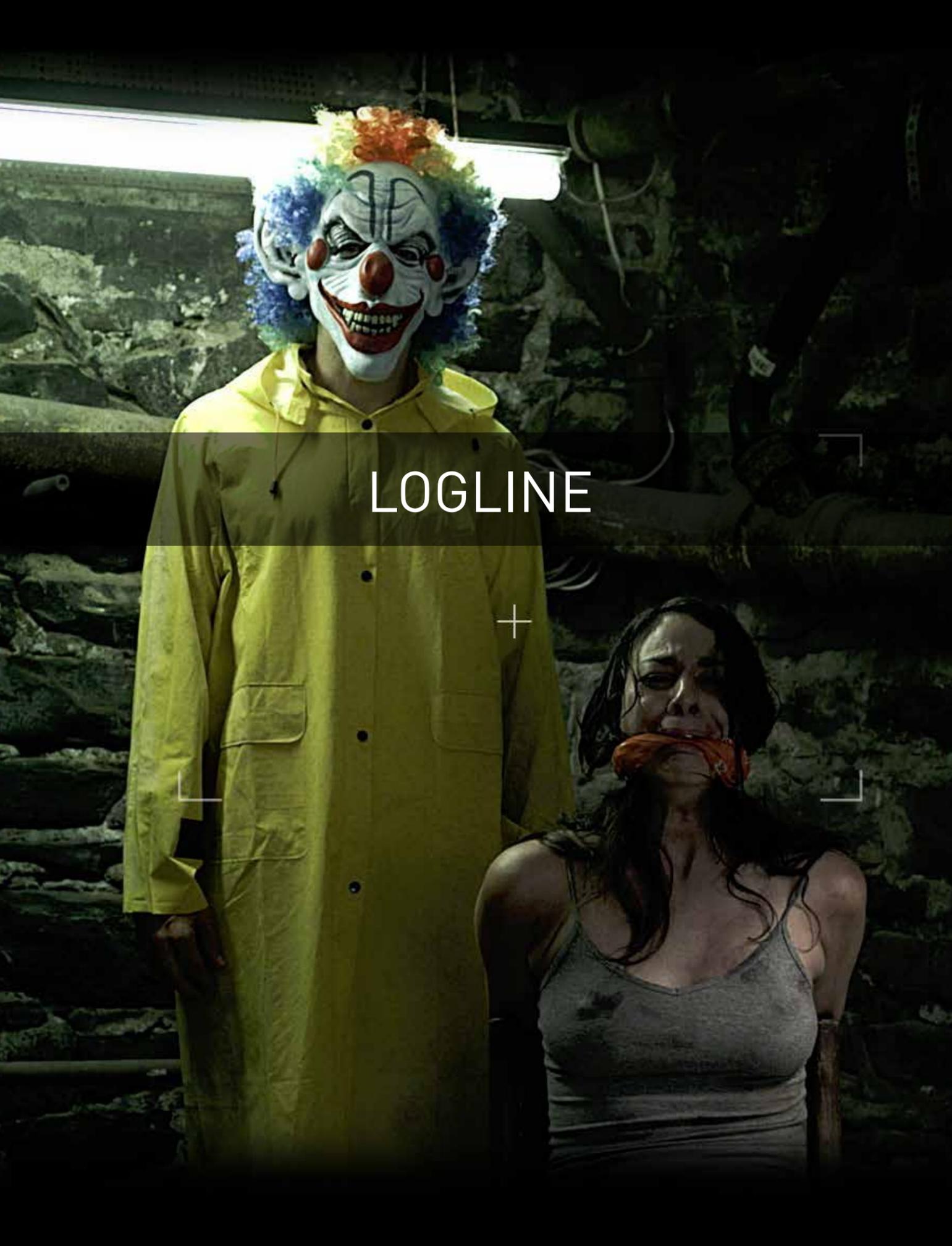
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#LANDOFSMILES





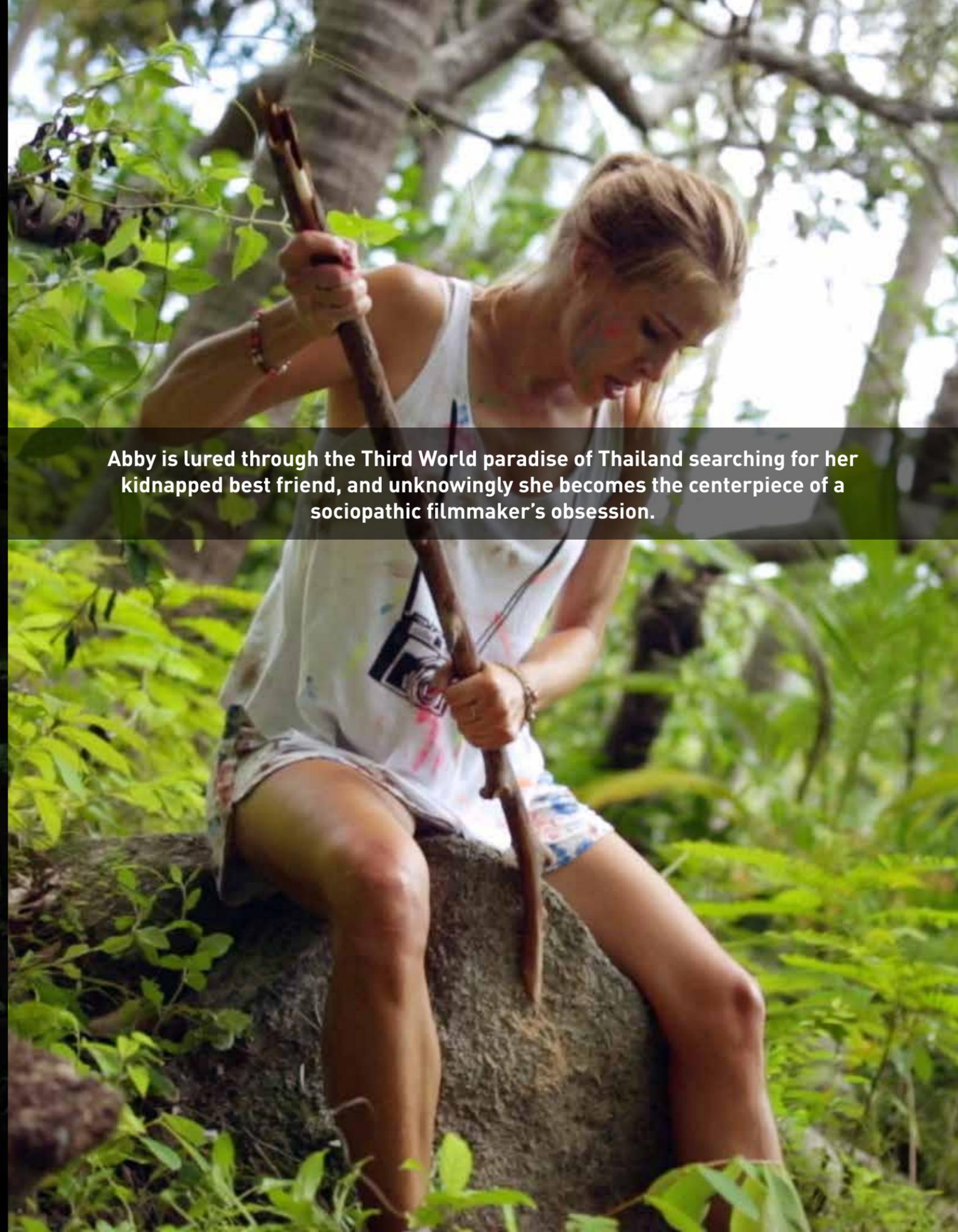
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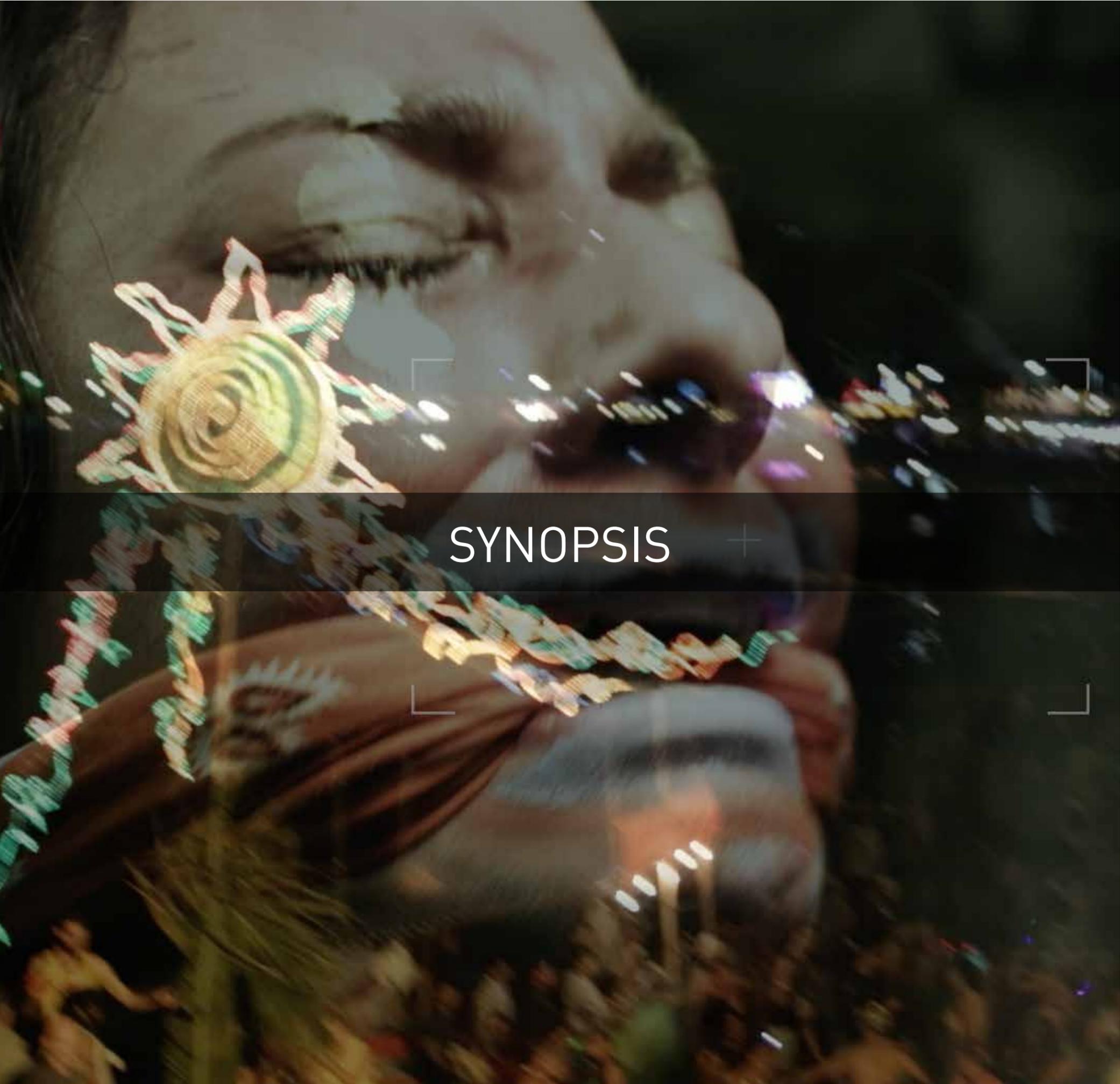
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## LOGLINE

Abby is lured through the Third World paradise of Thailand searching for her kidnapped best friend, and unknowingly she becomes the centerpiece of a sociopathic filmmaker's obsession.





## SYNOPSIS +

Abby, is at an early 20's crossroads in her life. She believes it's time to grow up and take her life more seriously. So she abandons her backpacking plans with her best friend and stays home to be with her new boyfriend. A boyfriend who only days later she finds in bed with another woman.

In a spontaneous moment of heart-broken panic, Abby finds herself on a plane heading to Thailand to try and repair her fractured friendship with her best friend, Penny.

Once in Thailand, Abby meets Ben, a documentary filmmaker, and his yogic-hip sidekick, Jewel. As Abby awaits response from Penny — Ben and Jewel convince Abby to join them on a trip to an island paradise.

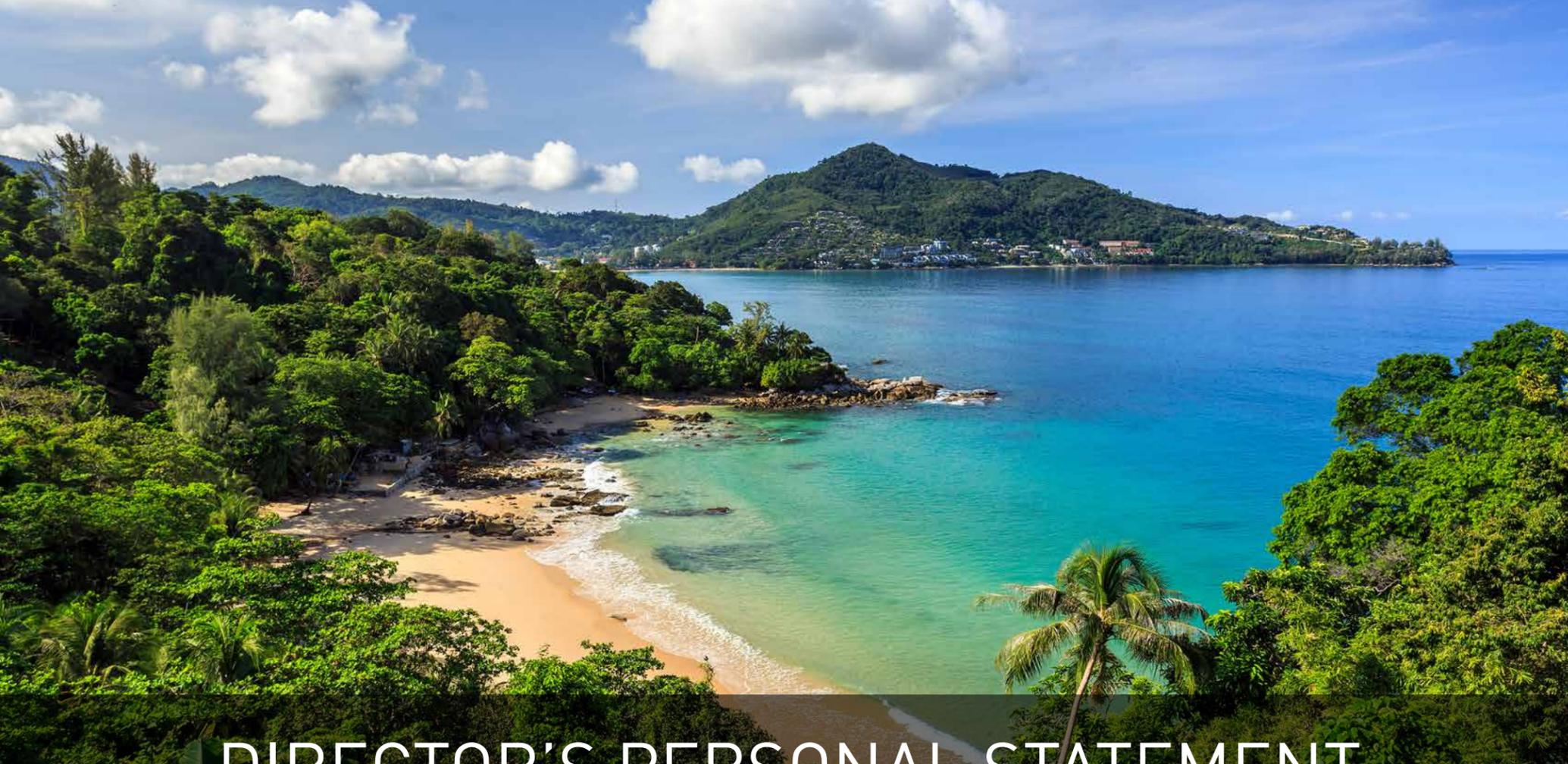
Abby, Ben, and Jewel are happily thrust into a world of beautiful beaches, young adult freedom, and the vibrant backpacking party culture. An exciting new world that comes crashing down around Abby when she finally receives contact from Penny in the form of a video.

**The Video:** Penny is in a dungeon; she's been tied to a chair and gagged; she's seemingly terrified; and a madman in a clown mask gives Abby her first set of instructions, "[Keep having fun with your new friends.](#)"

What is a terrifying visual to Abby, is an amusing game to Ben. He shows Abby similar videos online of loved ones being terrorized and tortured. Staged plots to shock the receiver of the video into remembering what is most important in their life. The exact message Penny was trying to deliver to Abby before she left her behind.

["To Find The Truth You Must Play Along."](#)

What ensues is a thrill-ride adventure through the picturesque beaches, tiny villages, and radiant green jungles of Thailand. Abby, Ben, and Jewel are led on a game of hide and seek in which Penny is used as bait to keep them hunting. A hunt that unbeknownst to them, is being filmed along the way.



## DIRECTOR'S PERSONAL STATEMENT



**The LAND OF SMILES:** The colors are vibrant; the Thai locals are welcoming; the dense jungles, white sand beaches, and rustic beach cabins are visual incarnations of dreams. I visited this country one time and I knew that I had found a cinematic setting that I must find a way to utilize.

It took four different screenplays and five years, but I finally developed the story that did justice to this captivating setting. A story that would juxtapose the beauty of what is out in the open for all to see with the lurking danger that could lay in the hidden corners and dungeon-like basements.

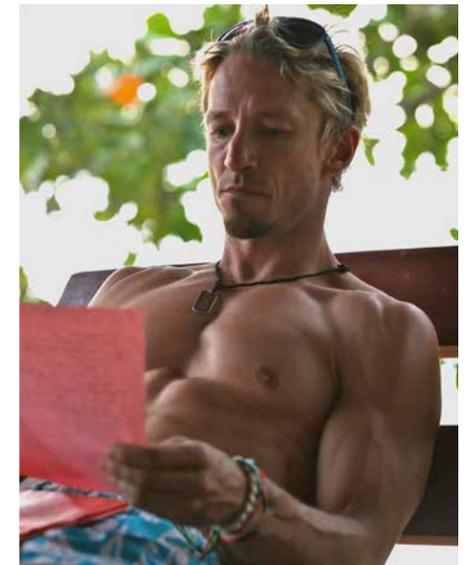
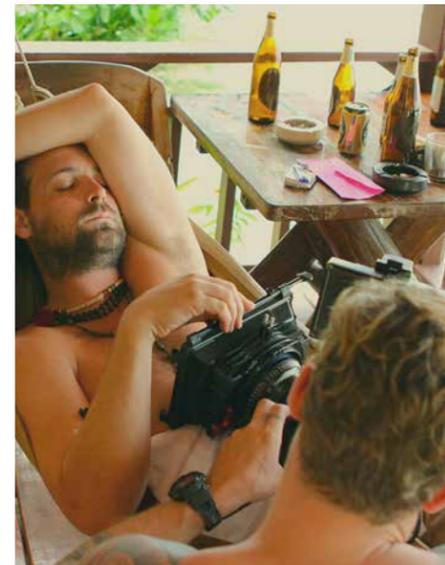
**Cinematic Voice:** I wanted to tell a story in a way that hadn't previously been done. How could we employ the ever-growing wealth of cinematic technology and use it to tell our story in a unique way?

This is where things got fun. This is where we pulled apart genre conventions, took specific elements from each, and then created a hybrid film with its own unique identity.

**Dangerous Stalker Cameras:** Cameras that are not only alive with their unknown operator, but are documenting the characters struggles at peak moments of conflict and in spatially invasive ways. These cameras keep the story moving while heightening this visual brand of antagonism to pull the audience to the edge of their seats.

**LAND OF SMILES** is a Thriller that pushes beyond what has been done. It takes you to a beautiful setting and fills you with wonder – then it thrusts you into the face of danger, and blankets you with questions about how real that danger actually is.

“I wanted to offer my audience a puzzle to play with, a riddle they would have the possibility of solving, and then keep the rug flying out from underneath their feet until the very last frame.”



PRODUCTION STILLS





## FILMMAKER BIOS

**BRADLEY STRYKER**  
Writer/Director  
[Strke-Forcefilms.com](http://Strke-Forcefilms.com)

Bradley is an Award-Winning Director for his work on UNEXPECTED GUEST; and Award-Nominated for FOUND and RANGER CHARLIE. He is also a Final Draft Big Break Top Three Winner for his screenplay SILENT HERO, while ALISON and TWISTED GAMES have placed in numerous other contests

Having been involved in over fifty professional Film and TV productions as an Actor – becoming a full-time Filmmaker has been a seamless transition.

“Fifteen years of studying all aspects of film allows me to push envelopes that others simply aren’t aware of. As an educated filmmaker, my quest is to take what’s been done and expand upon it. It’s within this pursuit to further the art form that truly intriguing films have the possibility of coming to life.”

LAND OF SMILES brought Bradley back to the place where he decided that, in order to live the life he’s always dreamed of, he must follow the impulse to tell stories and adventure behind the camera.

“Directing my first feature film in Thailand completes a circle of life for me. My definitive decision to become a filmmaker happened on Khao San Road in Bangkok, it makes perfect sense that this is the place where my cinematic voice is finally shared with the world on a grander scale.”

**MARKUS E. MUELLER**  
Director of Photography  
[Muco-Pictures.com](http://Muco-Pictures.com)

Markus Emil Mueller, born in Graz, Austria, fell in love with filmmaking at the young age of 18. It was while obtaining a degree in filmmaking at Middlesex University in England that his firm-grasp on storytelling and lighting began to take shape.

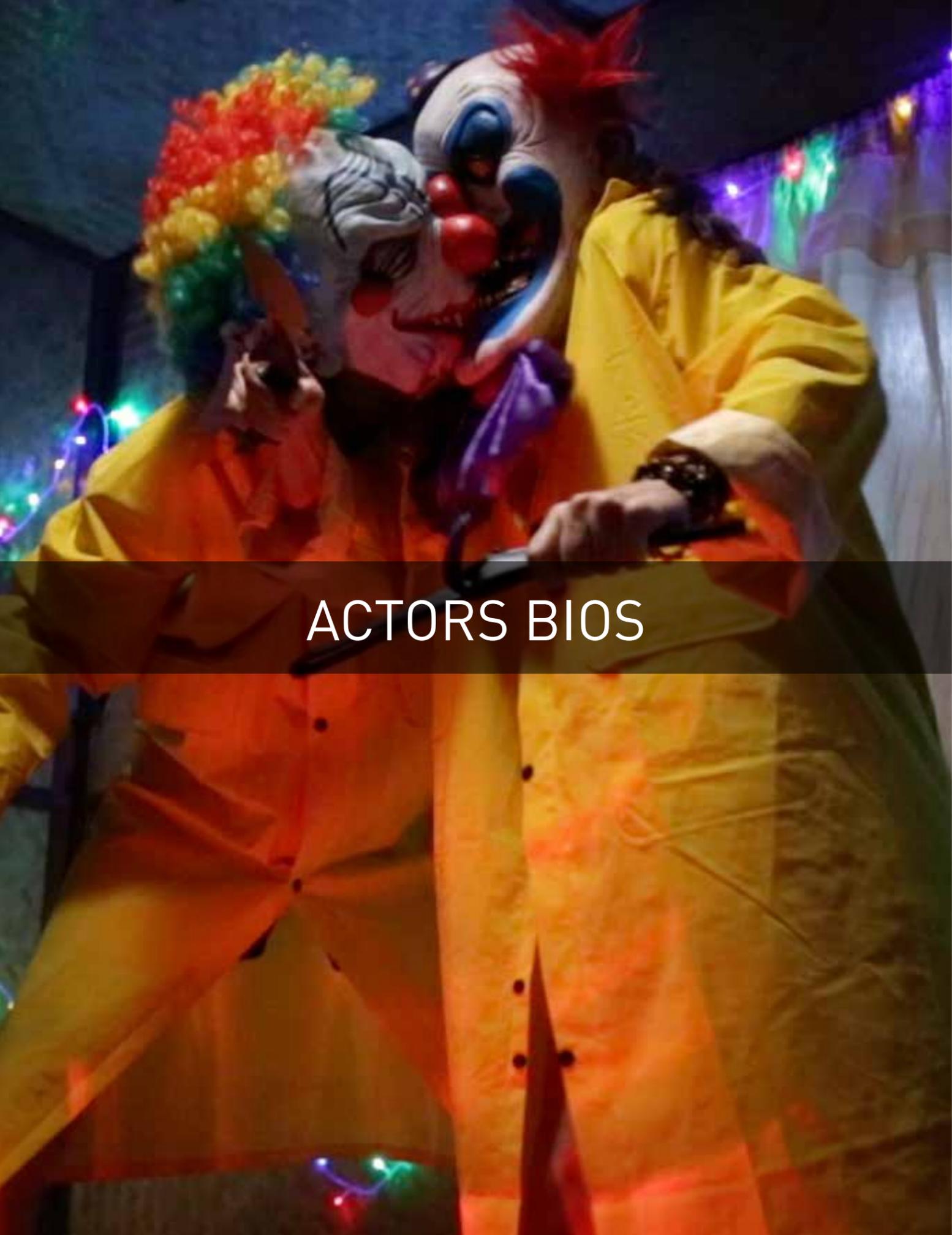
He soon after found himself in New York City expanding and deepening his knowledge of Cinematography at the acclaimed New York Film Academy.

Today, Markus is an Award-Winning Director of Photography who has embraced the power that lighting and the art of camera movement have within the creative outlet of storytelling.

“At a young age I became familiar with the ability a cinematographer can have in regards to evoking emotion in its audience. I relish in that responsibility and have been hooked ever since.”

Over the years Markus has developed his own unique visual brand that has begun to create buzz within the world of independent film. He attributes his influences to great European painters of the Art Nouveau, Romanticism, and Impressionism.

“There is a lot to learn from these masters of art in terms of seduction. It’s my goal to use their influences to develop a visual style that always leaves my audience hungry for more.”



## ACTORS BIOS



**ALEXANDRA TURSHEN**  
www.AlexandraTurshen.com  
Instagram/Twitter: @AlexTursh



**KEENAN HENSON**  
www.KeenanHenson.com  
Instagram: @donniedingus

Alexandra is currently a series regular on Steven Soderbergh's, RED OAKS. The first season premiered in October 2015. Alexandra is also a multiple time Award-Winning actor for her work in MALADJUSTED and BOY MEETS GIRL.

Recent press on Alexandra for her performance in the thriller BODY:

*"Alexandra Turshen is phenomenal... her moments of rage and resolve are simultaneously frightening and fierce."* (Fangoria).

*"It's Turshen's performance as Cali which keeps the momentum of the story going. She is bold and feisty... she sets the screen alight and certainly seems like a keen new participant for future scream queen."* (Front Row Reviews)

The New York Times called Alexandra a "Properly Dewy Ingenue", for her work on Tom Duzick's, DON'T TALK TO ACTORS.

*"I became an actor to challenge my mind, body, and spirit – why else do this for a living?"*

### **TWO QUESTIONS:**

**Tell us about something about you that we would never guess.** "I'm a former ballerina turned ice hockey goalie. Fourteen years of intense ballet training served me well between the pipes."

**If not clowns, what Halloween character are you scared of?** "Doctors. The only people I want to see dressed up as anything doctory (in any context mind you) are actual medical professionals with multiple degrees."

Keenan Henson was born and raised in the small Midwestern town of Farmington, Missouri. This is where his passion for acting first reared its head in local church plays. As a basketball player, his talent carried him to the collegiate level, but it was the call to the stage that won out in the end.

Keenan's recent credits include: WHIPLASH (Academy Award Nominated for Best Picture/Sundance Winner), THE MINDY PROJECT, CASTLE, BLING RING, MAD MEN, TRUE BLOOD, NCIS, and THE MENTALIST.

Keenan started out earning his stripes on the stage and received great reviews and praise from *Variety* in a production of, ANGRY YOUNG WOMEN IN LOW RISE JEANS WITH HIGH CLASS ISSUES.

Keenan is currently in pre-production to Produce and star in a modern day western titled, THE MASTIFF REVOLVER.

*"You get paid to go on imaginary adventures, live out imaginary circumstances, and dive deep into the reality of imaginary characters. Essentially I think I became an actor so that I would never have to grow up."*

### **TWO QUESTIONS:**

**What are your interests outside of acting?** "I took up photography as a hobby, taught myself to use a DSLR, and I've recently had some of my photography published."

**Are clowns scary?** "Are you kidding me? Have you not seen IT or AMERICAN HORROR STORY -- this is a silly question."



**CAITLIN CROMWELL**

www.caitlincromwell.wordpress.com  
Instagram: @thepurpleiciousdragon



**BRADLEY STRYKER**

www.BradleyStryker.com  
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**AMIE BARSKY**

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**KRISTA DONARGO**

www.KristaDonargo.com  
Twitter: @KristaDonargo13

Caitlin grew up as a railroad brat, never living in any one city for longer than two years. So befitting to her shy but fearless personality, she decided to try out for a school play. She braved the audition room and was cast as the dancing flower. The adrenaline rush of being on stage has had her hooked ever since.

As a total science fiction/fantasy nerd she feels blessed to have worked on: CONTINUUM (recurring — two seasons), SUPERNATURAL, and FALLINGS SKIES. She views the filming of LAND OF SMILES as the ultimate acting adventure!

She went on to spend her youth as a full-blown ballerina and fashion model. Two things she enjoyed, but ultimately found that they didn't hold her interest.

Today, Caitlin finds herself in the midst of a whole new challenge as a children's book writer. THE TINSELTREES, is due out Christmas of 2016, with other titles to follow.

"I'm naturally incredibly shy, but ironically my defense mechanism for being shy is to become incredibly stoic and confident. It's definitely a bit bi-polar, but in the acting world it seems to work rather well."

**TWO QUESTIONS:**

**What is the most thrilling adventure you've ever been on?**

"The first time I went to South East Asia I went alone. I spent one month in Bali and one month in Thailand. I had no plan except where I was going to stay on the first night. I spent that first night crying in my hotel room before I found the humor in the situation and proceeded to have the trip of a lifetime."

**What are you scared of?** "Ghosts. No question about it."

Bradley is a multiple time Award-Recognized Actor for his work in: A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER, UNEXPECTED GUEST, and ARCTIC AIR. He has more than fifty professional Film/TV acting credits to his resume.

He was recently a series regular on an eight-episode limited TV series, THE LIZZIE BORDEN CHRONICLES (2015), opposite Christina Ricci, Clea Duvall, and Cole Hauser, among others.

Bradley went to Southeast Asia for the first time in 2009 with no purpose except to see a part of the world he knew nothing about. What started out as a simple adventure, ended up as a life changing epiphany that led him into the world that lives behind the camera.

"I think some of the best training an actor can have is getting out in the world and experiencing new things. Every new country I step foot in changes my perspective. It broadens my view of the world. In fact, now that I say it out loud, I think travel should be required for anybody who wants to portray other human beings for a living."

**TWO QUESTIONS:**

**Do you possess any special skills?** "A ridiculous amount of energy that can be very beneficial when used constructively."

**What Halloween Character are you scared of?** "I'm scared of the Unknown -- of what could possibly be lurking around the corner. I'm talking about my nice neighbor with a head in his freezer. But I guess dressing up as your nice neighbor for Halloween would kind of be a cheat, so I'm not sure if I really answered the question, did I?"

Amie grew up in Atco, NJ, a small town with dirt roads, and known for its dune buggy racetracks and the famous Pine Barrens. A humble beginning that she spent "tomboying around": climbing trees, riding dirt bikes, and catching crabs in the local lagoons.

As a child she was a competitive gymnast, which led her to studying dance and acting, which eventually led her to a BFA from the University for the Arts in Philadelphia.

In her career as an actor, she's had the opportunity to work with many talented peers including the legendary Jane Fonda, the iconic Jennifer Lopez, and the hilarious Mike Myers, to name a few.

Amie was also part of the multiple Emmy Award Winning show, THE AMAZING RACE. Something she had been preparing for since childhood as she traveled the globe as a professional dancer.

"If I could pick up and go anywhere in the world today, I'd go straight to a developing country. Once I got there, I would teach reading, writing, meditation, and yoga. All things that have had a profound influence on my life."

**TWO QUESTIONS:**

**What is your secret dream adventure?** "An African Safari with Kevin Richardson the lion whisperer, so I can cuddle with a tribe of lions and he can teach me the magic of his lion language."

**What is your favorite food?** "A giant warm chewy brownie with 3 scoops of Breyer's Mint Oreo Cookie Ice Cream topped with melted marshmallows, caramel sauce, and tons of rainbow jimmies."

Krista Donargo was born and raised in New York City. She began her creative career as a fine artist and slowly fused her creative mind, quick New York wit, and emotional disposition into an acting career.

Krista enjoys travel and exotic culture, which is a good thing being that she's been asked to travel quite a bit as an actor. To date, she's shot films in Armenia, Beijing, and Prague. A list she would love to keep expanding upon.

More personally she loves animals, and hopes to one day make a big difference in environmental restoration and animal rights.

"If I could pick up and go anywhere today it would be Barcelona. I have been obsessed with Spanish culture ever since my first Pedro Almodovar film. And I not so secretly want to be Scarlet Johansson in Vicky Christina Barcelona — a torrid love affair with Penelope and Javier? Yes, Please!"

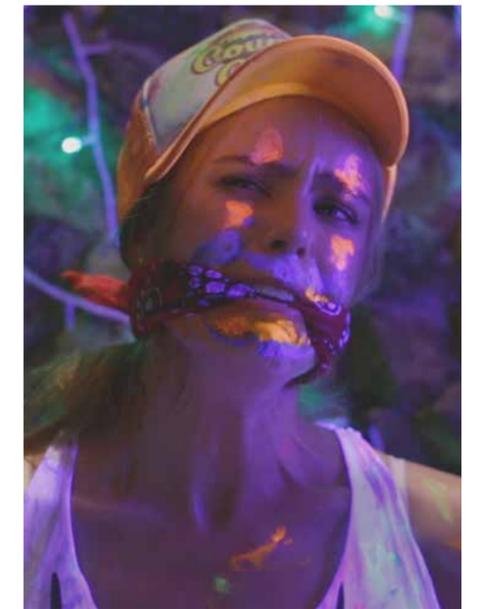
**TWO QUESTIONS:**

**Do you have a special skill?** "I collect jokes – and have been known to break them out when you least expect it. I can also name all fifty states in alphabetical order... wow, I sound pretty lame, don't I?"

**What is your most thrilling life adventure?** "I went to a tiny island in Mexico with some friends. There was a local guy who immediately took a liking to me and wouldn't stop following me around. After shooting down his repeated attempts to go out with him, I was finally charmed into an afternoon together. We hit it off. Well, more than that I guess. A few weeks later (after only knowing him for two days) I moved down to Mexico to live with him."



MOVIE SNAPSHOTS





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