



# STYGGIAN

A SHORT FILM BY  
JOSH GARVIN

PRESS KIT

# CONTENTS

About The Film  
Director's Statement  
Key Crew Bio  
Cast Bio  
Production Stills  
Credits  
Contact Info



STYGIAN

# ABOUT THE FILM

## SYNOPSIS

A grizzled old gunhand must traverse a barren wasteland, wounded from a fall from his dying horse and hunted by a distant figure who is hot on his trail. Alone and haunted by traumatic visions of his past, the old man suffers from exposure, thirst and a growing infection. When he can no longer go on, he must face down his pursuer and the greatest mistake of his life in a confrontation decades in the making. Stygian is a powerful story of sin, guilt, and the price of justice.



## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

TRT: 09:57

Exhibition format: DVD, Blu-Ray, HD CAM, DCP

Aspect Ratio: 2.55:1

Acquisition Format – HD

Color



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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“Stygian” is a short western with no dialogue shot in New Mexico. We shot on location with crew and equipment from Columbia College, New York, Washington, D.C. and Arizona, and cast from Chicago, Texas and New Mexico. The logistical difficulties of shooting out West (transportation, housing costs, etc.) were made abundantly clear during preproduction. But I wanted to make the most of my time at CCC, and for the last film I shot there to stand out from other student films. I wanted to make a bold statement about my talents as a filmmaker. “Go big or go home” was my crew's motto since our initial stages of development.

Little did I know, those preproduction issues would be the least of our problems. Originally, we'd planned on shooting a majority of the film at White Sands National Monument. My crew and I were shocked to learn 2 hours before the company move to White Sands that the park would be closed to us for the duration of our stay...

... because an Air Force drone from the nearby missile-testing base had crashed into it.

To be clear, we hadn't yet finished fundraising for the film at that point, which meant all the costs were on credit cards. Packing up and giving up meant canceling our Kickstarter, being stuck with thousands of dollars of debt for nothing, and wasting an entire year of preparation and work.

Quitting simply wasn't plausible. We had to adapt and find an alternative. I went off alone with my script and storyboards while my production team frantically went over our options. I wondered, “How can I rewrite this? What can I cut and change?”



STYGIAN

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Then it hit me. When my DP and I traveled to New Mexico for our scout, there was another national park that we hadn't gone to see, one filled with volcanic rock: The Valley of Fires. A strange calm came over me then, as I strolled over to my production team to address them, "Valley of Fires. That's where we're going to shoot."

We spent the next few hours running around New Mexico searching for alternative locations, but all the while I knew, somehow, that this would be our final location. Sure enough, a permit process that normally takes 90 days was cut down to three hours by our incredible team. We sped to the location for a quick scout that night and shot there the next day.

All told, an Air Force drone crashing into our primary shooting location only cost us 6 hours of shooting. We made up for it over the next two days.

This film tested me in ways I didn't know were possible. The 'epicness' came from the production, rather than the product. "Stygian" is dedicated to everyone on our team who took on the flaming wreckage of a downed airplane with the proficiency, poise, and intelligence of seasoned professionals. It could not have been completed without the Herculean efforts of the best group of individuals with whom I've ever had the honor of working. What our team did will inspire me for the rest of my life.



STYGIAN

# PRODUCTION STILLS



STYGIAN

# PRODUCTION STILLS



STYGIAN

## KEY CREW BIO



### **Josh Garvin (Writer/Director)**

Raised on John Wayne and Humphrey Bogart, Josh was destined to take a stab at a career in film. He went to American University where he received BA's in Film/Photography and Philosophy. After several years working in the publishing industry, he enrolled at CCC for his MFA in cinema directing. Thanks to his mostly useless background in philosophy and religion, he's quite fascinated by the themes of faith, sin, guilt and redemption - themes at the core of much of his work.

He hopes to one day direct a film that changes someone the way so many films have changed him. After that, maybe he'll retire to the Scottish highlands, wear sweaters all the time, smoke a pipe, and get dragged around the glens by a massive hound.



### **Assya Dimova (Producer)**

Tokyo-born, Sofia-raised, Milano-educated, Berlin-experienced, Chicago-inspired, L.A. - based behind the scenes-struck child, Assya has chosen the Creative Producing path because she wants to find and cultivate relationships with inspirational filmmakers who have individual voice. She sees the role of the Creative Producer as best described by two notorious redheads: the Red Queen from "Through the Looking-Glass": "It takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place.

If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!" and Conan O'Brien: "If you work really hard and you're kind, amazing things will happen." Her ultimate goal is to produce smart and original films that encourage people to think, feel and laugh.



STYGIAN

## KEY CREW BIO



### **AJ Young (Director of Photography)**

AJ Young is a freelance cinematographer who wants a great story, location, and talent before choosing a camera. He is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago with a Bachelors Degree in Film Production, with heavy focus on cinematography. AJ has shot three feature films, twenty-two short films, and a numerous events. His work has earned him numerous awards and he was featured on the 85th Academy Awards. Planning. Patience. Persistence. These are the qualities that define AJ's approach to his craft and his dedication to the image.



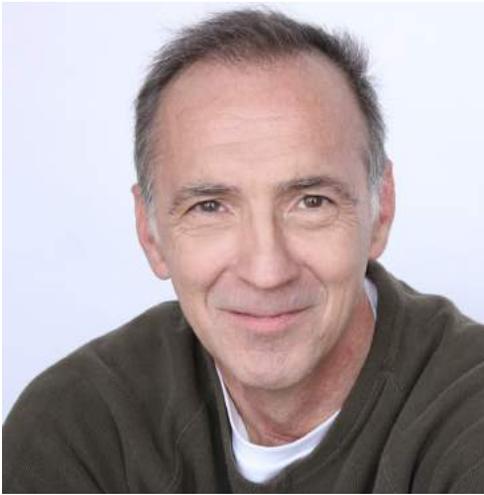
### **Hendrick Onderdonk (Production Designer)**

A Chicago native but a New Mexican at heart. From a theater background came his love of storytelling and emotional connections and from his semesters in architecture school comes a respect and appreciation for details and rules. At Columbia college he was given the opportunity to apply all of these in Production Design. Currently he is planning to find a new home where he can explore and expand his creative horizons.



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## CAST BIO



### **William Kalinak (Old Man)**

A native of Chicago's southwest side, Will has played film roles from dysfunctional father to gypsy king and from homeless senior to cardiologist to compassionate priest to icy mob gunman for hire in independent Chicago land feature length and short films. Will is a non-union actor. "Looking forward to many more years of Chicago film and stage work".



### **Joette Waters (Old Mother)**

Joette grew up in Los Angeles and began acting at the age of fifteen. A month after graduating from Hollywood High School she landed a role in a small touring company and hit the road in a production of "St.Joan" by Shaw and has have been working in the entertainment industry ever since.



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# PRODUCTION STILLS



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# PRODUCTION STILLS



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# CREDITS

## **Old Man**

William Kalinak

## **Old Mother**

Joette Waters

## **Young Man**

Neil Brookshire

## **Young Mother**

Brittany Dunk

## **Boy**

David Gonzalez

## **Written & Directed by**

Josh Garvin

## **Producer**

Assya Dimova

## **Director of Photography**

AJ Young

## **Production Designer**

Hendrick Onderdonk

## **Editor**

Zach Sutton

## **Sound Design**

Eric LaCour

## **Composer**

Alex Fletcher



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# CREDITS

## **Line Producers**

Katie Sponseller  
Andrew Zimmerman

## **1st Assistant Director**

CJ Richter

## **1st Assistant Camera**

Allison Anderson

## **2nd Assistant Camera**

JD Gonzales

## **Gaffer**

Alex C. Miller

## **Key Grip**

Jake Hartin

## **Sound Mixer**

Eric LaCour

## **Prop Master/Stunt Coordinator**

Will Bennett

## **Make-up & Hair Artist**

Jennifer Hickey

## **Still Photographer**

Jennifer Smoose

## **Storyboard Artist**

Somaggi Yang

## **Catering**

Ira Garvin

## **Kickstarter Video**

Kyuisk Gam

## **Post Production Coordinator**

Cooper Justus



STYGIAN

# CREDITS

## **Executive Producer**

Josh Garvin

## **Associate Producer, Marketing**

Wanda Sondiyazi

## **Associate Producers**

Hendrick Onderdonk

CJ Richter

Joi & Ira Garvin

## **Advisors**

Karen loop

Doreen Bartoni

## **Equipment Provided by**

Columbia College Chicago

Daufenbach Camera

Thundergrip Electric

## **Special Thanks**

Craig Turner & Burro St. Bakery – Spruce Cabins

City of Cloudcroft, NM – Oliver Lee State Park

National Park Service NM – Valley of Fires National Monument

Julian Grant – Scott Rosen – Megan Cooper

The filmmakers would like to thank their family and friends for all the support and guidance they provided during the making of this film.



ALBERT P. WEISMAN AWARD



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## CONTACT INFO

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For my father.

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