



ACTRESS KIRSTEN VANGSNES RELEASES ANIMATED SHORT FILM, *CURTAINS*

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – Feb. 24, 2020 – Kirsten Vangsness (CBS, *Criminal Minds* actor and writer) makes her directorial debut in this animated short adapted from her own personal essay about a feral cat who stars on a network procedural drama, takes ballroom dance lessons, and has an encounter with a predatory tow truck driver. It explores the idea of vulnerability as a source of power and the emotional "curtains" we lay over our essential selves.

"I wanted to create a short film that makes the viewer hyper-focused on the power dynamic more feminine people get put into and how we can sometimes, by accident, participate in that power dynamic," said Vangsness. "It explores how I see toxic femininity and toxic masculinity and how all of us have perfectly good reasons for behaving the way that we're behaving – even if the way that we're behaving is sometimes reprehensible. Ultimately, it's a story about me taking responsibility for my experiences, and it's about having hope."

Curtains is set for its global premiere at the Americana Film Fest on March 3 in Barcelona, Spain, followed by its American premiere at NewFilmMakers LA (March 14). The film has also been selected to screen at Bermuda Intl (March 20) and NYCIFF (March 23), Underexposed Film Festival (March 25), Phoenix Film Festival (March 26) and Vail Film Festival (March 26).

WRITER / DIRECTOR / NARRATOR

Kirsten Vangsness is a Los Angeles-based performer and playwright, best known for her portrayal of Penelope Garcia on the CBS hit drama series *Criminal Minds*. *Curtains* marks her directorial debut, based on a personal essay she wrote from

a real life encounter. Two of her plays performed in rep at Assembly Rooms as part of the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival: the critically-acclaimed "Cleo, Theo and Wu" and her autobiographical-magical-realism-church camp-quantum physics play "Mess" (which fantasy author Neil Gaiman has called his "favorite one person show"). Kirsten has also co-written four episodes of the CBS drama "Criminal Minds", including the series finale which aired this month, as well as several pilots for ABC. Off screen, she has been published in the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* and in "*Airmail: Taking Women of Letters Around the World*" and hosted innumerable charity events and speaking engagements around the world.

PRODUCER

Brendan Bradley is a multi-award winning creator with over 100 IMDb film and television credits and over 50 million online views. He has successfully produced independent micro-budget stories for over 20 years in almost every entertainment medium and established a Lab at New York University to foster innovation of new technology in live performance.

ORIGINAL SCORE

Queertet is a group of classically trained musicians who are known for smashing the stereotype of the stuffy string quartet with our rainbow masks and arrangements of pop songs, but we can also serve understated elegance and traditional classical repertoire. Whether you dream of waltzing to Tchaikovsky or Beyonce, we will create a customized set list for your wedding, party, or event.

ANIMATION

Jagriti Khirwar is an animator and illustrator whose work has been featured in film, television, social media and print. Her short film, Kabir, received an honorable mention from the Southeast Student EMMY Awards. Originally from New Delhi, India and a graduate of SCAD, she resides in sunny Los Angeles where she is part of a collective of female animators, Punanimation.

ORIGINAL SCORE MIXER - LORI CASTRO

SOUND DESIGN - DAVID BEADLE

FINAL SOUND MIX - FRANK MORRONE

SPECIAL THANKS

WENDI WEST

CALLIE MILLER

ERIC EMERY

DIANA WYENN

PHINNY KIYOMURA

KEVIN EDELMAN

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EPK [here](#)

Clips:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tbsx10eammi0b04/AAC_py1rH1GBkGJGSrNuhG1Ua/Clips?dl=0&subfolder_nav_tracking=1

Stills:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tbsx10eammi0b04/AACf8XMPU3D74iM3jMP5uVVza/Stills?dl=0&subfolder_nav_tracking=1

C O N T A C T S

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