

The
OCCULT
SON

LOGLINE

A couple's morning is interrupted when a witch moves in next-door during a solar eclipse.

A SHORT FILM BY PATRICK MURPHY

The OCCULT SON



STARRING

CHRIS MARKLE • NATALIE POLISSON
KRISTEN VAGANOS

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY PATRICK MURPHY

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MASAKI IMAI

PRODUCTION DESIGNER KELBY KNAPP

MUSIC COMPOSED BY CHRIS NEWLIN



About the film

During the summer of 2017, a solar eclipse cut through most of the contiguous United States, including a small river town called Atchison, Kansas. My family roots run deep in this town and I spent a portion of my life growing up there.

When I heard Atchison would be a prime location for eclipse viewing, I decided to head back home for a front row seat. I did not expect to be greeted by a plethora of rumors circulating throughout the tiny town about the unusual and eccentric visitors that would be flocking for a good view. My mother has never been one to gossip, but on this particular occasion she shared with me one of the wildest stories coming from the rumor mill. She told of a group of witches that had come to town and rented a notoriously haunted home (hence why it was vacant and available for their use) for assuredly devilish purposes.

The Occult Son is a film based on those rumors.

Cast Bios



CHRIS MARKLE IS “STEVE”

Actor/writer, CHRIS MARKLE, is from the small town of Millheim, Pennsylvania. His most recent acting credits include American Horror Story 1984, Bulge Bracket, The Crumbs, and Pink Opaque. His latest writing credit is a pilot episode for a dark comedy series called Fraternalings.



NATALIE POLISSON IS “AMY”

NATALIE POLISSON is a versatile professional stage and screen actress from northwest Indiana. This year, Natalie is set to star in two feature films; a Christian feature being shot in Tennessee in May, and the other will be filming this fall, as well as several other short films on the slate. Natalie is an original cast member of SOLVE HQ- an interactive new media crime series and will be wrapping her first TV co-star in December on “Wild West Chronicles”



KRISTEN VAGANOS IS “MARIA”

KRISTEN VAGANOS is a Greek-American actress, originally from Philly. She is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts and performs on the House UCB Improv Team ‘Parliament’. You may have seen her in the Lifetime original movie Obsessed With The Babysitter, in WongFu’s newest romcom series Dating After College, as the titular ‘Lisa’ in I Am Lisa, a revenge thriller which had its world premiere at the UK’s 2020 FrightFest. The film is now available at Redbox and a sequel is in development. She is represented by Burn Entertainment.

Crew Bios

PATRICK MURPHY

Director/Writer

Patrick is a Kansas/Texas native with a love for embarrassing his family with big Hollywood dreams and a frightening interest in the horror-comedy genre. He has earned himself two, count em TWO, awards as a WINNER and as a semifinalist for his previous script work on the short film Mad Love. Patrick has also worked on the set of the smash-hit horror film, Lights Out (2016) and the short horror film The Reaper 3D (2018).

MASAKI IMAI

Director of Photography

Masaki is an LA based Japanese-native cinematographer. After finishing high school, he moved to Los Angeles and quickly began working towards his dream of becoming a filmmaker. He graduated from CSU Northridge with a Bachelor of Arts in Film Production, and since then he has been working on a variety of narratives, documentaries, commercials and MV.

KELBY KNAPP

Production Designer

Kelby is originally from Orange County and has collaborated on a wide variety of projects ranging from period pieces to full blown fantasy flicks, as well as on a number of commercial projects with Orange Coast College. She has worked on multiple award winning pieces and has brought them to life with her ambitious ideas and thorough preparation. Kelby is currently studying film production at Cal State Fullerton as she continues to expand her career and takes productions to the next level with her hardworking attitude.

CHRIS NEWLIN

Composer

Composer, CHRIS NEWLIN, is a Houston born and raised music producer and songwriter with a passion for film scoring. He graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in Music Production, and currently works at Record Plant Recording Studios out in Hollywood. Chris spends most of his days making music, surfing, and training his dog Fiona to not poop on the carpet.

Full Credits

Patrick Murphy Director & Writer

Masaki Imai Director of Photography

Kelby Knapp Production Designer

Chris Newlin Composer

Edwin Meza Assistant Director

Justin D Lin Assistant Camera

Randy Nguyen Gaffer

Wilson Chang Swing

Ashley Aldridge Makeup & Costume

Chris Dowske Castro Production Sound

Tino Joshua Martinez Digital Image Tech.

Bill Sloyer Post Sound Eng.

Alli Gooch Colorist



Director's Statement

The Occult Son is my first film. I wrote the script in 2018 (I'm a writer first) and I honestly thought the script was just going to sit on my desktop for my entire life with the rest of my half-baked scripts. Though, something about this idea really inspired me to get the gears turning on this project. Since college, I've had an obsession with writing horror and trying to make horror into a comedy. This script was a perfect combination of humor and horror and the circumstances were obviously close to home. This being my first film, I really wasn't sure if I could pull it off, but I just kept telling everyone around me that I was going to make a movie and before long I started to actually believe it.

The movie was shot in 2019 and was scheduled for a 2020 release but was delayed till 2021 because of the global pandemic. This new way of life caused various pain points and some serious adjusting in terms of how I was going to manage the project in post. Thankfully, I had an amazing crew, both on production and in post, that worked with me and kept a flexible mindset as the situation progressed. There were times when I really didn't think this project was going to make it out alive, but here we are. Not only was I incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to make this film a reality, but I had the chance to work with some of the most talented and hard working bunch of goofs I've ever met. I don't say this as an empty cliché, but each human being that worked on this film contributed a meaningful part that wouldn't be the same without them. Thanks, Team.



Information

GENRE:
Horror, Comedy

FILM LOCATION:
Los Angeles, CA

LENGTH:
13:16 min

ASPECT RATIO:
1.85

CAMERA:
RED

Contact

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