

PRETTY PICKLE: EPK

v1.4 Sept 2022

The film was made possible in part by a 3Arts “Make a Wave” grant and a matching Illinois Arts Council Association IAS grant, with additional in-kind support from Canon, USA and Keslow Camera.

Format: Short / B&W / 6K Red & 16mm / 1.33:1 Aspect Ratio

Total Running Time: 00:12:31

Genre: Horror / Comedy / Romance / WTF / Midnight

Tagline: A modern love turned sour.

Logline: As he spends more time with his new girlfriend, a young man begins to privately dwell upon one of her quirks, leading him to a troubling discovery.

Concept: *Frances Ha* dates *Psycho*.

Synopsis:

Part horror, part comedy of manners, part romance, PRETTY PICKLE is a provocative probe of 21st century dating paranoias and insecurity, and the timeless unpredictability of human secrecy.

It's the story of Sam and Sam—Samuel, a young man, and his new girlfriend, Samantha—during the “honeymoon phase” of their relationship. As Samuel sinks further down an Othellian spiral while privately dwelling on one of Samantha's persisting quirks, he is led to a nightmarish discovery.

Director Biography:

Jim is an award-winning filmmaker whose work frequently explores heartache, longing, liminality, eros, and pathos. As a Filipino-American with immigrant parents, his work also ponders themes of identity, otherness, and alienation.

Jim has been named one of Newcity's FILM 50 of 2016, 2018, and 2020—alongside such production notables as Dick Wolf (LAW & ORDER), The Wachowskis (The MATRIX Saga), and Steve James (HOOP DREAMS). He is a 2021 3Arts “Make a Wave” grantee, and grand award winner of the inaugural NewNarratives Program from NewFilmMakers LA and WarnerMedia OneFifty.

Jim's psychological horror short, VIOLETS, which reframes the genre's more common predator/prey dynamic, received the 22nd Chicago Underground Film Festival's Audience Award. His follow up, LIBRARY HOURS, is a reimagined approach to vintage erotica that favors

empathy over objectification, and stylistic purpose over the male gaze. Reviewing its sold-out West Coast Premiere at HBO's Outfest LA, one critic wrote, "The material in the hands of a lesser writer or director could have been exploitative, sexually gratuitous and even insensitive, but under Jim Vendiola [it] is anything but."

His upcoming, neo-noir crime thriller limited series, ARGUS, is currently in development with WarnerMedia OneFifty.

Festival Tour (Starting June 2022):

- World Premiere / Chattanooga Film Festival (Virtual) / June 23 - 28, 2022
Program: "WTF (Watch These Films) Strange & Magical Shorts Showcase"
<https://chattfilmfest.festivee.com/wtf-watch-these-films---cff-2022-strange--magical-shorts-showcase>
- International Premiere / Fantasia Film Festival (In Person) / July 15, 2022
Program: "Cavalcade of Perversions: A Regular Little Orgy"
<https://fantasiafestival.com/en/program/cavalcade-of-perversions-a-regular-little-orgy>
- Midwest Premiere / Days of the Dead: Indianapolis (In Person) / July 23, 2022
Program: "Family Matters" Dark & Twisted Block
<https://www.daysofthedeath.com/indianapolis/>
- Chicago Premiere / Chicago Underground Film Festival (In Person) / July 28, 2022
Program: "Shorts 2: Somebody's Watching You"
<https://cuff29.eventive.org/schedule/62ab82b524c35800bcbe639c>
- West Coast Premiere / HollyShorts (In Person / Virtual) / August 14, 2022
Program: "Midnight Madness"
<https://hollyshorts2022.eventive.org/schedule/62b48b993c2c070037fee6ee>
- Official Selection / Defy Film Festival (In Person) / August 19, 2022
Program: Horror & Thriller Block
<https://www.defyfilmfestival.com/2022/friday-horror>
- Montana Premiere / Camp Horror Film Festival (In Person) / August 26, 2022
Program: Horror Shorts Block
<https://www.theroxytheater.org/show/camp-horror-shorts-block/>
- Virginia Premiere / GenreBlast Film Fest (In Person) / September 2, 2022
Program: Plays with *Bubblegum* (Feature), *Bedmates* (Short), *Hubbards* (Short)
<https://www.genreblast.com/>

- Australian Premiere / Sydney Underground Film Festival / September 11, 2022 (In Person); September 12 - 25, 2022 (Virtual)
Program: Love/Sick
<https://www.suff.com.au/>
- Washington Premiere / Tacoma Film Festival / October 9, 2022
Program: TBA
<https://www.tacomafilmfestival.com/>
- Rhode Island Premiere / Flickers' Vortex Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror Film Festival / October 15 - 23, 2022
Program: TBA
<http://www.film-festival.org/Vortex.php>
- Utah Premiere / FilmQuest / October 28 - November 5, 2022
Program: TBA
<http://www.filmquestfest.com/>
- New York Premiere / Brooklyn Horror Film Festival / October 13 - 20, 2022
Program: TBA
<https://brooklynhorrorfest.com/>
- Colorado Premiere / Telluride Horror Show / October 14 - 16, 2022
Program: TBA
<https://www.telluridehorrorshow.com/>
- Louisiana Premiere / New Orleans Film Festival / November 3 - 13, 2022
Program: TBA
<https://neworleansfilmsociety.org/how-to-fest/>
- Florida Premiere / Bizarroland Film Festival / December 2 - 11, 2022 (Virtual); December 9 - 11 (In Person)
Program: TBA
<https://bizarrolandfilm.com/>

Awards:

- Best Short Narrative // Chicago Underground Film Festival (July 2022)
- Best Midnight/WTF Short // GenreBlast (Sept 2022)

Nominations:

- Best Villain (Whitney Masters); Best Special Effects (Kacy Tatus & Lawrence Gant) // Days of the Dead: Indianapolis (July 2022)
- Best Director (Jim Vendiola); Best Song ("In Yer Room" by Kal Madsen) // GenreBlast (Sept 2022)

Teaser Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/jimvendiola/pretty-pickle>

Images (Stills, Poster):

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n7acw0ttzm9vwxc/AADmxRjogY9_1pfOOTy6dLRqa?dl=0

Images (BTS, if used please credit Gracie Hagen / @graciehagen):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I9gydTdBk0gCKd-KI-GA8jEBW2DRCXrd?usp=sharing>

Social Media (Filmmaker):

- Instagram: <https://instagram.com/jimvendiola>
- Facebook: <https://facebook.com/jim.vendiola>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/jimvendiola>
- Website: <http://jimvendiola.com/>
- Clubhouse: <https://www.clubhouse.com/@jimvendiola>
- IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2343868/>
- Letterboxd: <https://boxd.it/2RY2B>

Social Media (Project):

- IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt16606430>
- Website: <https://www.jimvendiola.com/pretty-pickle>
- Letterboxd: <https://letterboxd.com/film/pretty-pickle/>
- FilmFreeway (accessible to festivals only): <https://filmfreeway.com/PrettyPickle>

Credits (Crew):

- Writer, Director, Editor: Jim Vendiola
 - Previous Credits: Library Hours, Violets
- Producer: Sam George
 - Previous Credits: Brooklyn 45, The Chi, Empire
- Cinematographer: Christopher Rejano
 - Previous Credits: Night's End, Candyman (2021), Knives and Skin, Lovecraft Country
- Executive Producer: The Joinery
 - Previous Credits: Library Hours
- Executive Producer: Nate Gilbert

- Previous Credits: The Last Blockbuster, Sink
- Associate Producer: Curtis Matzke
 - Previous Credits: Sink, First Feature, The Orchestra
- Intimacy Coordinator: Meghan Corvino
 - Widows, Chicago Med
- Special Effects Makeup: Kacy Tatus
 - Rebel Moon, Candyman (2022), Shining Girls
- Composer: Aaron Green
- Motion Graphics: Jake Myers

Credits (Cast):

- “Samuel” - Brennan Urbi / Lead
 - (film debut)
- “Samantha” - Whitney Masters / Lead
 - Easy, The Alien Report, The Pink Chateau
- “Patrice” - Nadja Simmonds / Supporting
 - (film debut)
- “Mother” - Jamie Newell / Supporting
 - For Prophet, Alexis Ronan, Contagion
- “Larry” - Captain Pancakes / Special Appearance (Cat Photos)
 - Library Hours
- “Christy” - Aim Lopatin / Special Appearance (Telephone Voice)

Featured Music:

- BAR SONG / “The Furnace” - Written and Performed by BARBARA
 - BARBARA is: Jonathan Drake, Michael Slovenkay, Tom David
- CREDITS SONG / “In Yer Room” - Written and Performed by Kal Madsen
 - Fun Fact: *Kal Madsen is the son of actor Michael Madsen*

News & Reviews

- “Filmmaker Vendiola guides his audience brilliantly with his meticulous revelations that lead to the surprising end.”

[Film Threat](#) / Alan Ng (June 15, 2022)

- “Jim Vendiola’s *Pretty Pickle* whips out a great surprise toward the end of its black-and-white Chicago love story.”
[RogerEbert.com](#) / Nick Allen (July 16, 2022)
- “[PRETTY PICKLE] is exactly the kind of film for which I love Fantasia so much.”
[Le Petit Septième](#) / Francois Grondin (July 17, 2022)
- “Vendiola mines modern dating for all the horror and humor it’s worth.”
[Cine-File](#) / Marilyn Ferdinand (July 22, 2022)
- ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ “Holds a clear love of horror and satisfyingly blends it with comedy to create something just the right amount of absurd.”
[Film Carnage](#) / Rebecca Cherry (August 11, 2022)
- “It’s a romantic dramatic horror that also made me laugh. I’m not sure what you call that, but I unquestionably call it an absolute winner of a short film.”
[The Independent Critic](#) / Richard Propes (August 14, 2022)
- “If you have a dark sense of humor, *Pretty Pickle* is a short horror film you won’t want to miss.”
[The Blogging Banshee](#) / Molly Henery (August 27, 2022)
- PRETTY PICKLE on [Letterboxd](#).