



# Man in the Morgue

a short film by Omar Kakar

PRESS KIT







## LOGLINE

A New York City embalmer discovers a renewed sense of life upon the uncovering of a mysterious doppelgänger on his mortuary table.





## SYNOPSIS

Over the course of a cold winter graveyard shift at a New York City morgue, a lonely embalmer discovers a renewed sense of life when he comes face to face with his recently deceased doppelgänger on his mortuary table. Perplexed by the absurdity of the circumstances, the embalmer seeks answers by investigating the decedent's origins which leads him to a grieving widow whom he becomes obsessed with. While some stones are best left unturned, the embalmer encounters an opportunity to face his own demons on his ethereal night journey.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I'm a director of cross-cultural identity; my work naturally reflects a collision of eastern and western worldviews. I'm fascinated by this clash and the possible poetry that may emerge from the cross-pollination. My film participates in this kind of mystic mixture, manifesting into a macabre & voyeuristic character study, following the unreliable narrator attempting to reconcile the paradox of reality and its tension between one's internal subjective experiences against the outside objective world. Ideally, "Man in the Morgue" becomes a brief cinematic meditation on life & death, love, and existence.



## CREDITS

### Cast

Ernie	Brandon DeSpain
Irene	Abbey Dubin
Shirley	C.J. Gelfand
Mary	Kelly Fairbrother
Corpse 1	Peter Carllini
Corpse 2	David Whitman

### Crew

Writer/Director	Omar Kakar
Co-Writer	David Mar Stefansson
Producer	Arlene Fernandez Omar Kakar
Co-Producer	Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Producer	Rhea Prasad
1st Assistant Director	Fernanda Curi
2nd Assistant Director	Lucia Alenar Iglesias
Unit Production Manager	Jennifer Kaiser
Casting Director	Stephanie Falkeis
Location Manager	Anna Bergstresser
Post Production Manager	Barbara Twist
Director of Photography	Andrea Gavazzi
1st Assistant Camera	Alexey Kosorukov
2nd Assistant Camera	Riddhi Talreja Lucy Malhoney
Gaffer	Clemence Therin
Key Grip	Vic Rosas
Grip & Electtic	Kenny Green Andrew Bell Austin Hsieh Amir Royale
Sound	Bane Fakh Sam Harwood Yue Jiang
Best Boy	Waley Yang
Production Assistant	Megan A Harper
Make-up Artist	Jared Balong
Art Assistant	Stephanie Falkeis Amir Royale
Photogrpaher	Ben Martin
DIT	Mikki Crisostomo
VFX	Omar Kakar Robert Bellon
Editor	Omar Kakar

## BIO

### Writer / Director

**Omar Kakar** is a first-generation Afghan-American architect-turned-filmmaker. His cross-cultural upbringing led him into fields of art, design, & cinema. He holds a professional Bachelor of Architecture degree from Woodbury University. Where he was nominated to the A.I.A.S. Vice President position. He exhibited experimental & documentary films, in addition to design work, that were featured on Archdaily and the Arqiteturas Film Festival Lisboa. Omar would go onto earned his MFA in Film from Columbia University as a directing candidate. While there he worked as a Teaching Assistant & Mentor for students in the Directing Fundamental classes under professor & filmmaker Bette Gordon, awarded the Directing Fellowship to assist Ramin Bahrani, and later shadowed established TV directors on episodes of "The Sinner" and "Ramy". His thesis film was recipient of the "Film Collaboration Production Grant Award" from the Jack Larson Foundation, screening his work at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.



## BIO

### Co-Writer

**David Mar Stefansson** is an Icelandic screenwriter based in New York City where he's finishing a Film MFA from Columbia University as a Television Writing Concentrate. As well as having a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Creative Writings from the University of Iceland, David worked as a journalist for Iceland's biggest newspaper for five years before pursuing a career in screenwriting. Chosen by The Television Academy as the Drama Scriptwriting Intern for the year 2017, David spent six months in Los Angeles working closely with the television department at Josephson Entertainment. While finishing his studies at Columbia University, David has been working as a script consultant and a script translator back in his home country as well as developing a project with the Icelandic Film Centre. Most recently, he was hired by a prominent production company in Iceland to write a television show based on three acclaimed Icelandic crime novels.



A black and white photograph of a person in a white protective suit standing in a room with a tiled wall and a chair. The person is looking to the left. The room appears to be a laboratory or a cleanroom. There is a chair in the foreground and a desk in the background. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows.

**Producer: Jennifer Kaiser** is a freelance Production Coordinator specializing in Unscripted TV. Born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, she began her career in production as an Associate Producer for the PBS Kids series SciGirls at Twin Cities PBS. There, she was part of a team that won an Upper Midwest Daytime Emmy in 2016 and was nominated for a Daytime Emmy in 2019. Over the past five years, she has worked on documentaries and unscripted series for Food Network, TLC, Netflix, HBO, Vice and PBS. She holds an MFA in Creative Producing from Columbia University, where she produced several short films and was nominated for a College Television Award (Student Emmy) in 2020. Jennifer was also the recipient of a U.S. Department of State Fulbright Research Scholarship in 2014 for her study of Turkish language and cinema.

**Producer: Arlene Fernandez**, Nuyorican, has 15 + years of experience as a broadcast producer. Her experience includes working as an Executive Producer for Spike Lee's Ad Agency, SpikeDDB, and as a Senior On-Air Producer for The Cartoon Network. Her first short film, *Shepherds*, screened at various film festivals in the US.

**Executive Producer: Rhea Prasad** graduated from the University of Mumbai, India with a Bachelor and Masters in Business Management and Columbia University's Film MFA Program. During her time in Mumbai, she has worked for various TV commercials, assisting in the directorial department at Apocalypso Filmworks after which she worked in the production department of various independent films in India. She is currently in the Creative Producing concentration and has written/directed and produced various short films during her time at Columbia. She leans towards stories about women.

**Director of Photography: Andrea Gavazzi** is an Italian cinematographer based in New York City shooting narrative films, short films, commercials, music videos and fashion.





## CAST

**Brandon deSpain**, a New York-based actor working in Film, TV, theater, print and commercials. Brandon moved to New York in 2001 from Anchorage, AK. Originally born in Siberia, Russia in a small town of Beregovoy, in the Amur region. The second of 4 siblings, Brandon grew up surrounded by 3 sisters. Always enjoyed performing but seriously started pursuing acting when he moved to NYC. Studied theater at HB Studios and film and TV at Weist Barron Studios and School for Film and Television. In 2003, Brandon was cast in a play "Metamorphosis", an adaptation of Kafka's novel, which ran off-Broadway and allowed me to join AEA. In 2006, Brandon work with Robert DeNiro and Matt Damon on "The Good Shepherd", the film that opened the door to join SAG. Aside from acting, his passions are music, playing the accordion, and traveling over 40 countries, with the goal is to visit 100+ countries in this life time.



**Abbey Dubin**



**C.J. Gelfand**



**Kelly Fairbrother**



# S P E C I F I C A T I O N S

Title: *Man in the Morgue*

Country: USA

Language: English

Time: 14:44 minutes

Year: 2022

Form: Narrative Short Film

Genre: Drama, Mystery, Gothic-Noir

Production Location: New York City

Shooting Format: Digital Black & White

Camera: ARRI AMIRA

Apect Ratio: 2.39:1

Sound: Stereo

Made Possible by

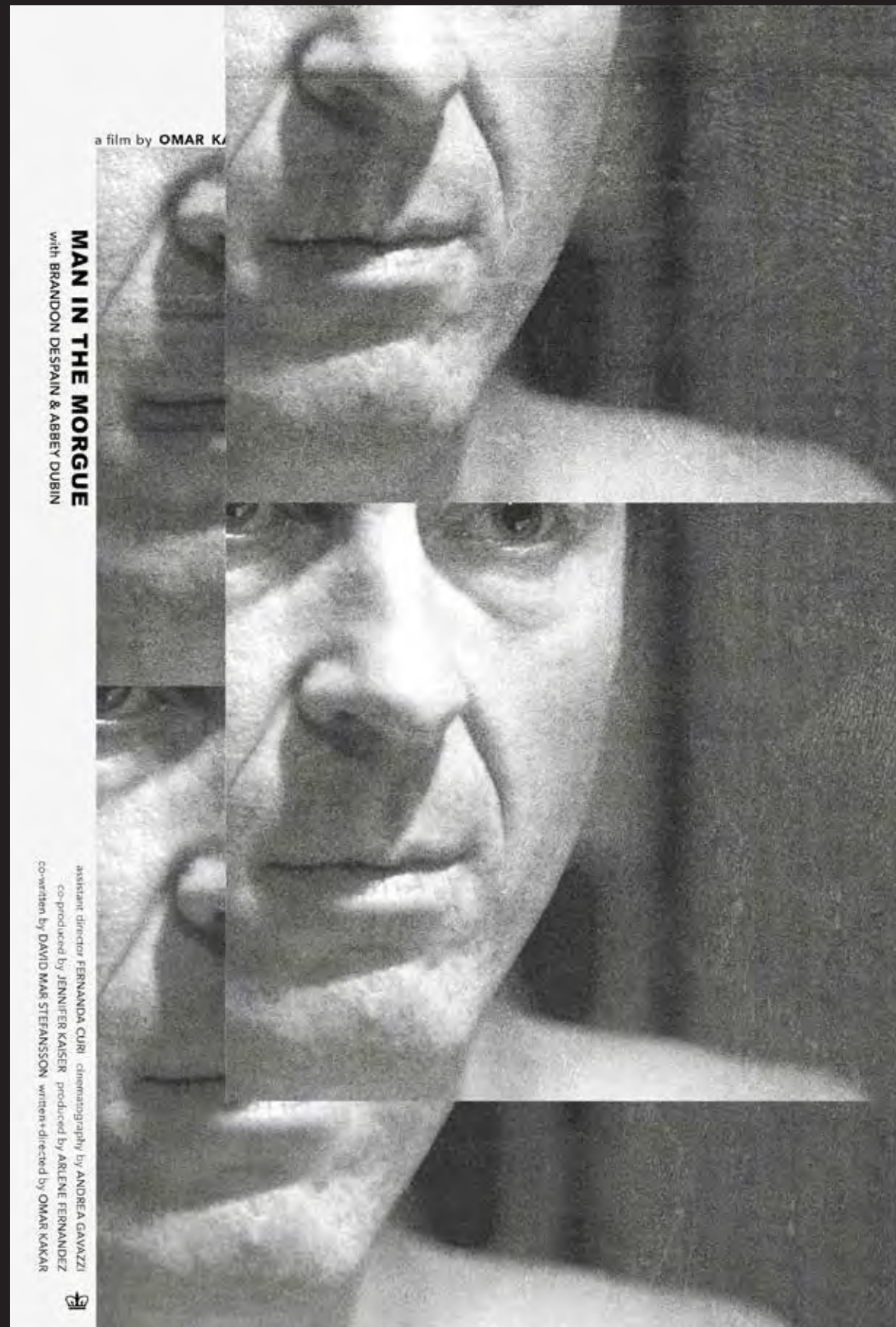
The Jack Larson Award for Collaboration Grant

in association with

Columbia University Film MFA Program

Contact:

[cinematecture@gmail.com](mailto:cinematecture@gmail.com)



a film by OMAR KAKAR

**MAN IN THE MORGUE**  
with BRANDON DESPAIN & ABBEY DUBIN

assistant director FERNANDA CURI | cinematography by ANDREA GAVAZZI  
co-produced by JENNIFER KAISER | produced by ARIENE FERNANDEZ  
co-written by DAVID MAR STEFANSSON | written+directed by OMAR KAKAR









