

WE ARE ALL VICTIMS OF OUR URGES...



DIRECTED BY QUINN SAUNDERS

CHERRY.

REY VALENTIN

LILI BORDÁN

DAVID CRANE



A FUTURIST APE PRODUCTION "CHERRY" BY VALENTIN DE VERA AND DAVID CRANE CO-WRITERS
"DANIEL JAMES" "CHRISTOPHER BROWN" "JACK ANDERSON" "ROBERT FLEMING" "DAVID CRANE" BY QUINN SAUNDERS
"THE 17" "RENEE" "DANA SANDERS" "JAN WATERS" "JAN LEE" "LORI SANDERS" *Prequel*



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT.

"I've always felt that on some fundamental level, we can never truly know any of the other people in our lives. That may sound a bit pessimistic, but to me, it's also the thing that gives people the pleasant ability to constantly surprise us.

Creatively, this is the thing that's always driven me. On some level, I think it must come from my childhood. I remember as a kid, being very affected by my father's service as a Marine in Vietnam. He served before I was born, but when he came back, he was by all accounts, a changed person, and it ultimately led to my parents' divorce. I was a kid, maybe three years old, and I had no idea where, or even what Vietnam was—all I knew was that is was something bad that my father had been involved in, and that it was causing a lot of chaos in my parents' lives. I think that fired my imagination quite a bit. You can imagine the scenarios a lonely, imaginative only-child might come up with to explain what my dad had been through.

Through high school and college my creativity was encouraged by the many people in my life. I tried painting, writing, poetry and fiction, but it wasn't until I found filmmaking that I really began to get comfortable. I think it makes sense—since what I'm most interested in creatively is deception. I mean, what else is filmmaking but deception? Down to film's core, the idea of 'persistence of vision,'—the perception of motion created by the rapid movement of still images—everything about moviemaking is deceitful.

In the winter of 2000, I was fortunate to begin graduate school in film at the University of Southern California. It was there that I met many of the collaborators I would work with on CHERRY., including Producer Brett Henenberg. It was also at that time that I was first noticed by well-known film director Robert Zemeckis (Forrest Gump, Back to the Future). I had written my thesis project, Fortunate Son, and the chair of the film department thought it might be something that Bob would like, and might be interested in mentoring. So she sent him the script, and next thing I knew I was on the phone with Robert Zemeckis. It was crazy. I'm obviously a huge fan of his work, and to have him mentoring me through this process of creating a film was unbelievably educational. And thus begin this crazy trip with CHERRY."

- Quinn Saunders

CHERRY.**THE CAST.**

Sam	Rey Valentin
Jules	Lili Bordan
Brian Cherry	David Crane

THE CREW.

Director	Quinn Saunders
Producers	Brett Henenberg Quinn Saunders John Nargiso John Lutz
Screenwriters	David Crane Quinn Saunders
Cinematographer	Andrew Russo
Composer	Cody Westheimer

PRODUCTION SPECIFICS.

Running Time	97 minutes
MPAA Rating	Not yet rated
Aspect Ratio	2.40:1
Format	HD

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SEPTEMBER 2011

TO VIEW THE TRAILER & STILLS,
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“Broodingly Memorable.”

— Mark Adams, Chief Critic for **Screen Daily** on *CHERRY*.

CHERRY.

is a hipster “Sex, Lies, and Videotape” about misogyny, male impotence and the darker sides of human nature. When BRIAN CHERRY, a sweet, sensitive young Los Angeleno, falls for the beautiful, electric and damaged JULES, his ideas about women and sex are turned upside-down. Despite the warnings of his best friend SAM, the naïve Brian begins a relationship with the vagabond actress whose impulses change with the wind. As they fall in love, the two debate whether it is possible for one human being to ever really know another and Jules maintains “You can’t ever really know anyone. All you know is who you hope that person is.”

When Jules gets down on her luck, Brian begs Sam to offer her a job at his exclusive Los Angeles club service for wealthy male clients who want to party with beautiful women. Sam begrudgingly gives in, promising to protect the two from the world he knows all too well. Not immune from her charm, Sam is reeled into a love affair with Jules, as he cynically believes “we’re all victims of our urges.” Each struggles with the tangled web of lies they now live in. When Jules eventually leaves Brian for Sam, CHERRY reveals himself in a way that no one could have ever imagined. The shocking climax ends in a confrontation that poses the question:

Can you ever really know another person?

MEET THE CAST.

**Rey Valentin as *Sam*.**

Rey Valentin is best known as Corporal Gabe Garza in the Emmy-nominated HBO miniseries "Generation Kill." Additional starring roles include the Weinstein Company's immigration drama "Crossing Over" opposite Harrison Ford, Ray Liotta, and Ashley Judd and the psychological thriller "Jailhouse" opposite Thomas C. Howell. Rey Valentin had 3 indie films under his belt in 2010 including "Cherry," and "We Are Family," a comedy which stars Monique Coleman (High School Musical), Chyna Lane (Precious) and Law Temple (Domino & Deja Vu). Rey is set to play the lead in the bio pic "Flights of Fancy." On the small screen, Valentin has guest-starred on numerous shows including: "Human Target," Law & Order," "The Bedford Diaries," "Numbers," "CSI: NY," "One Tree Hill," "The Unit," "N.C.I.S.," and "The Mentalist."

**Lili Bordan as *Jules*.**

Lili Bordan studied theater at Sarah Lawrence College and moved to Hungary upon graduation to play the lead in "Kindergarten" (dir. Csaba Szekeres), which took home the prize for Best Film at the 2005 Hungarian National Film Festival. While playing leads on the most reputable stages across Budapest and Prague, Lili continued to film and gained celebrity status in Hungary with her roles in blockbusters like "Just Sex and Nothing Else," and "One Crazy Makes 100," as well as British co-productions like "The Moon and The Stars" opposite Jonathan Pryce and Alfred Molina. Lili also played supporting roles in American productions such as "8mm II" opposite Jonathan Schaech and "The Best Man" opposite Seth Green and Stuart Townsend. Lili's TV credits include guest roles on Law and Order: SVU, ER, and the BBC hit series Robin Hood. In 2009, Lili played the lead in three features including "Cherry." (dir. Quinn Saunders) and "Egill the Last Pagan" (opposite Michael Madsen). She is currently filming the lead in "Kamikaze" with Periscope Entertainment as well as "Battlestar Galactica: Blood and Chrome."

**David Crane as *Brian Cherry*.**

David Crane trained in New York City as the Esper Studio learning the Meisner Technique then later studied character development under Michael Howard at the Michael Howard Studios. During his time in New York City, David was cast in the HBO hit show "Oz," starred in several independent films and fell in love with the Stage. His love for the theater inspired him to create "Clinton's View," an exciting play focusing on the gentrification of New York City's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood. Inspired by the process of creating new work, David wrote the play "One Rainy Night," which later would become the film "Cherry." The play won David acceptance to NYU's prestigious playwriting program taught by Christopher Shinn. Shortly thereafter, David moved to Los Angeles and was quickly cast as a lead in Kevin Tenney's award-winning horror film "Brain Dead." This past year, David has played opposite David Strathairn and Ray Wise in "No God, No Master" and landed lead roles in "Good News, Oklahoma" and "Where Would We Be."

PRODUCTION NOTES.

CHERRY. is a film straight from the skewed heart of filmmaker Quinn Saunders. Its examination of the darker side of human nature and people's constant desire to hide their true nature is a theme that is explored in all of his work. From a production standpoint, *CHERRY.* is a testament to friendship and the ability of talented collaborators to put state-of-the-art digital technology to use in independent filmmaking to create a film which is far more artistically accomplished than its humble budget might indicate.

The screenplay for *CHERRY.* began as a one-act play written by David Crane who plays Brian Cherry in the film. Crane and Saunders have known each other since they were fourteen year-old high school freshmen in Mt. Holly, New Jersey. Crane states, "I started writing the one-act that became *CHERRY.* because I was interested in masculinity. I wanted to write about our society's ideal of manhood and about people who fail to live up to that. As an artist, that's something that's really important to me: accountability."

Crane gave the play to Saunders who saw the potential in expanding it out into a feature, and the two began adapting it to film together. Saunders explains, "It was weird working on something like this with Dave, someone I've known for so long. Our hometown is kind of blue collar. It's not exactly a hotbed for dudes exploring their feelings together. So dealing with extremely sensitive material like this was tricky but ultimately rewarding. Dave is such a talented guy, and we worked quite well together."

Brett Henenberg came on to produce as soon as the script was completed and, with Crane in place to play Cherry, casting began. Rey Valentin, fresh off the HBO series *Generation Kill*, was brought on quickly to play the hyper-macho role of SAM. "After reading *CHERRY.*, I remember shouting: finally a script I can sink my teeth into!" says Valentin. "Hollywood was a major inspiration for me when it came to creating the character of Sam. When I first arrived in LA LA Land, I started to meet lots of people that seemed like passionate dreamers with strong visions of themselves, but as I took a closer look, I realized that most of these people were scared out of their minds."

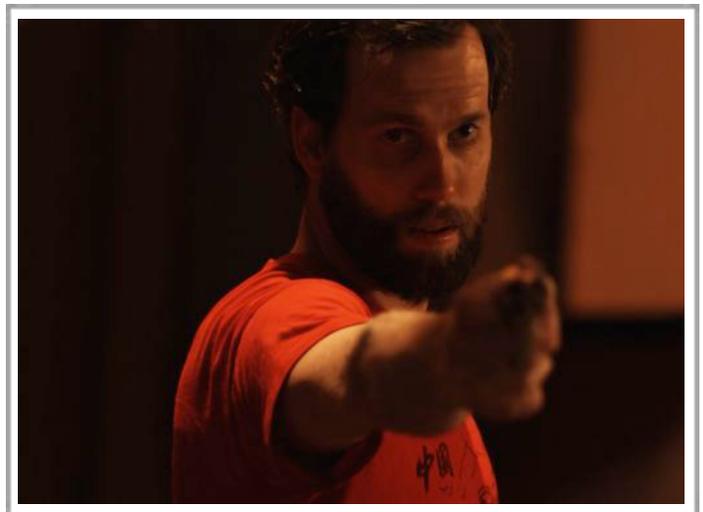
According to Saunders, "Rey was great. We knew he was our Sam from the second we saw him. Our real concern from the start was casting the role of Jules. Finding an actress who was beautiful, smart, and could encapsulate the contradictions of a character that is so vibrant and damaged, well, that was a really tall order. We were casting for weeks and weeks, and then Lili crashed our auditions." Lili is Lili Bordan, a star in her native Hungary who makes her U.S. feature film debut in *CHERRY.* Saunders continues, "During auditions, an actress failed to

show up. We were sitting around doing nothing, waiting for the next actress, when Lili pokes her head in and says she had read the signs in the hall and wanted to know if she could audition. My first impulse was to say no, but we really didn't have anything to lose and she definitely looked the part. To put it simply, she blew us away. She was perfect."

Production took place over 18 days in Los Angeles during January 2009. Because the story takes place in and around the hipster neighborhoods on the east side of Los Angeles, the production had to look no further than friends and family for locations. "We shot in my apartment, Dave's apartment and actually, Cherry's apartment in the movie was the apartment of one of our P.A.s!" laughs Saunders. "We definitely made the most of what we had in order to achieve the right look for the film. The most important thing to me was to truly place the film IN the city of Los Angeles. Los Angeles is an incredible place but rarely gets a chance to play itself on film. It's always pretending to be somewhere else."

Creating this sense of place even extended to the use of music, which mostly consists of small indie bands. "Quinn wanted to use the type of music that these characters would actually be listening to...bands that they might be friends with in Los Angeles," says Producer Henenberg. "So, in a lot of instances, we leaned on bands that we ARE friends with, such as the Whiskey Saints and Pink & Noseworthy who are both friends with Quinn. The indie spirit of the music he used captures the very essence of the film."

CHERRY. ends on a shocking and ambiguous note. "Because the ending is such a twist and so shocking, it was important to me that it be earned," Saunders says. "Tone was everything in this movie; if any one element was out of balance with the rest, the whole thing could easily fall apart. We definitely achieved what we wanted to. Overall, *CHERRY.* is a powerful, suspenseful film that gets people thinking about who people really are to each other."



MEET THE CREW.

Quinn Saunders

Director, Producer, Writer

Quinn Saunders is an award-winning motion picture writer and director. His short film "Fortunate Son," a thesis project in the graduate film program at U.S.C., has appeared in over 20 festivals around the world, winning 2 awards for Best Short Film. While in school, Quinn was one of a few students ever selected for mentorship by Director Robert Zemeckis (Forrest Gump, Back to the Future); their relationship is ongoing. As a writer, his screenplay "The Armoires" was a Semi-Finalist in the prestigious Nicholl Fellowship and was optioned by the producers of "Strangers with Candy." "Scott & Zelda," his most recent screenplay, was a finalist in the Scr(i)pt Magazine Open Door Screenwriting Contest. Quinn is a professor of film and television production at CSU-Northridge and has been the Director of the hit CBS TV series "Big Brother" for the past 5 seasons.

Brett Henenberg

Producer

Brett Henenberg has been a Producer and Executive Producer for 2 different production companies - Public Interest Productions and X-UP, Inc. Both companies produced national advertising campaigns, national still photography advertising, as well as new media and internet marketing, and has won numerous advertising awards including two EMMYs. Brett has been a freelance producer on all forms of media from music videos for labels such as Sony and Universal Music Group as well as independent feature films. In addition, his company has conceptualized, shot and produced "100 Young Americans," a book released in all major book stores through Harper Collins Publishers. The book includes stories and photographs of teenagers across all 50 states.

Andrew Russo

Cinematographer

Andrew Russo received his undergraduate degree in International Relations with a Foreign Policy and Economics minor from the University of Wisconsin - Madison where he graduated with honors with distinction. He then moved to California to attend film school. Andrew holds an MFA in Film Production from the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Andrew has received Honorable Mention for the American Society of Cinematographers Burton Stone Heritage Award for outstanding achievement in student filmmaking. He also shot the TV pilot "Cost of Living" which received a Student Emmy Award for Best Comedy. Andrew recently collaborated with award-winning Sundance Director Jeff Feuerzeig on his new bio pic about boxer Chuck Wepner who is the inspiration for the "Rocky" films.

Cody Westheimer

Composer

At just 30 years of age, Cody Westheimer's music has been featured in over two dozen feature films, primetime television series, commercials, video games and A-list film trailers. Known as a "chameleon" composer, his adaptability to customize the sound of each score has proven to be an invaluable tool for his filmmaker collaborators. Westheimer owns and operates New West Studios in Los Angeles, CA with his wife, composer Julia Newmann.



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PRODUCTIONS

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Brett Henenberg
John S. Nargiso
Will Abbate
Erika Seward

Producer
Producer
Producer
Advisor
Marketing & PR

Futurist Ape Productions, LLC. is a film and television financing and production company based in Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.futuristape.com.