



STORMCHASER

FORCES THAT DESTROY ALSO CREATE

CULTURE CATALYST IN ASSOCIATION WITH PALIKARI PICTURES PRESENTS "STORMCHASER"

STARRING MARY BIRDSONG STEPHEN PLUNKETT AND DOMINIC RAINS WITH JUSTIN SARGENT CASTING BY JENNIFER PERALTA-AJEMIAN
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY JEFF BERLIN AND ARI ROTHSCHILD EDITED BY EMILY CHAO ORIGINAL SCORE BY 4A STABLES SOUND DESIGN BY DAN GRALICK

PRODUCED BY GRETL CLAGGETT SARAH DONNELLY ETAN HARWAYNE-GIDANSKY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GRETL CLAGGETT PAMELA CEDERQUIST SIMON TAUFIQUE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY GRETL CLAGGETT

Contact Gretl Claggett
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www.stormchaser.film

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culture catalyst
production

EARLY PRAISE

"Great films live on two levels, story and subtext. In *Stormchaser*, they mesh perfectly: there's a storm coming and it's a character test. Gretl Claggett — creator, writer and director — passes her test brilliantly." - Jesse Kornbluth, *Head Butler*

"A film about the inner and outer storms that menace our society, *Stormchaser* threads the needle of the personal and political in every breathtaking frame." - Jacob Krueger, *Jacob Krueger Studio*

SYNOPSIS

All Bonnie Blue ever wanted was to chase tornadoes with her Dad. But dreams die with time. Now, she's become a different kind of storm chaser — hawking storm-doors "door-to-door" for her charismatic boss, Flip Smyth: a cult-like father figure to Bonnie and his tribe of young sales bucks. In the guise of "tough love," Flip relishes publicly shaming Bonnie and his token minority assistant, Don Stuckey, her sole ally.

After hours, Bonnie and Don find comfort in each other's arms, inspiring Bonnie to rekindle her childhood dream and close her first deal. But when Flip pulls a bait-and-switch to avoid paying her commission, she finally challenges him, sending him into a rage as fierce as the funnel cloud that hovers on the horizon. As she realizes Flip's doctrine of "Flip the Switch!" is just a way to exploit customers, a different kind of switch flips inside Bonnie — unleashing an inner and outer storm of violence.

STARRING

[Mary Birdsong](#), [Stephen Plunkett](#) and [Dominic Rains](#)

TECHNICAL + GENERAL INFORMATION

Genres: Dramedy, Social Satire, Action | Running Time: 27:12
Format: Sony VENICE CineAlta 6K & Sigma Cine Lenses | DCP
Aspect Ratio: 4K with a 2.39:1 Anamorphic Mask
Sound: 5.1 Surround & Stereo | Language: English
Country of Production: USA | Production Companies:
Culture Catalyst in association with Palikari Pictures



GRETl CLAGGETT, FILMMAKER
"THAT'S A WRAP!"

WRITER/DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"He's a door-to-door 'door' salesman," my friend said.

"A what...?" I thought I'd misheard what her new boyfriend did for a living.

"He lost his job. Now, he sells storm doors, door-to-door."

Our exchange conjured black-and-white images from the Maysles' documentary, *Salesman*, about door-to-door bible peddlers in the '60s. Surely, this daily grind was a thing of the past. But as I did some digging, I discovered it still exists; and that many contractors targeting weather-torn areas this way are called "storm chasers" — instead of "ambulance chasers" — because of their predatory practices.

This triggered a deep compulsion in me to express my own sardonic commentary on what I've experienced growing up in small-town Tornado Alley, plus selling incentives as the lone woman in an old-boys' club: America's culture of greed, its celebration of bad behavior, and the rise of "disaster capitalism" which preys upon the most vulnerable suffering from man-made and natural catastrophes.

All that gave birth to Bonnie Blue, a down-on-her-luck storm chaser turned naive, door-to-door huckster of roofing, siding and storm doors.

We shot *STORMCHASER* in a visually epic style with Sony CineAlta VENICE Cameras and Sigma Cine Lenses — the first truly indie team to use this killer combination. Company 3 color-graded the 4K film, and will sponsor a High Dynamic Range (HDR) version. HDR will give us a wider palette to further emphasize the grimy, makeshift, claustrophobic office interiors versus the expansive, weathered, brooding-sky exteriors — merging the story's real and metaphoric storms.

Magical Realism is sparingly interspersed throughout the film to physicalize the characters' internal landscapes. There are scenes in which characters, themselves, become "the storm." These moments — that break free from the more realistic narrative — hopefully engender intimacy with the characters' psychologies, compress and accelerate action, as well as heighten dilemmas so they can be felt personally, politically and universally.

"Tell all the Truth but tell it slant," wrote Emily Dickinson. To me, that means we can more easily face the world's toughest problems when storytelling and performances are not on the nose. Acting was my first passion, and I loved collaborating with this cast. Each of them authentically embodies their characters, skillfully playing that razor's edge between nuanced farce and heartfelt, gritty naturalism.

My intention is for audiences to experience STORMCHASER as entertainment; but process it as a satire of our socio-political system — a darkly funny dramedy with a dash of romance and allegory: Flip Smyth epitomizes the Old 'Merica and culture of entitlement. Don Stuckey, a dark-skinned man in a white man's world, like far too many employees, lives in fear of losing his joyless job. And, Bonnie Blue, our anti-heroine, who really wants to pursue her passion for chasing storms, but — to make ends meet — finds herself preying upon the very vulnerabilities that are preyed upon within her. She, along with Don, represents the changing face and values of a New America struggling to find its way.

One only has to follow the news — global warming, disaster capitalism, Trump, #MeToo, a country divided, shrinking middle class, recession clouds looming — to see the consequences of a violent, predatory society. But STORMCHASER aims to explore these inflammatory issues without becoming a political polemic by looking at both the noble ambitions and dog-eat-dog urges that make people so damn complicated, asking: How do we stop the storm of violence in a culture where we're all complicit — even when we're oppressed by forces that seem so much larger than ourselves?



MARY BIRDSONG AS "BONNIE BLUE" WITH THE "FLIP SIDERS"
DOWNLOAD POSTERS & FILM STILL FROM OUR [GALLERY](#)
WATCH THE [STORMCHASER TRAILER](#)



[GRETl CLAGGETT](#) is a writer and director committed to creating singular stories that reflect current dilemmas but are timeless — stories that entertain and catalyze conversations that can transform cultures.

Her first film [Happy Hour](#) — narrated by Julianne Moore — is based on true events and a poem from her book, [Monsoon Solo: Voices Once Submerged](#). The film screened as an official selection at 17 festivals, winning several awards and garnering praise from Oscar-winning Writer/Director Robert Benton: “*Happy Hour* is a lush, elegiac film about an extremely difficult subject and Ms. Claggett handles it masterfully.”

Happy Hour is now available on [iTunes](#) and [Amazon](#) in association with a nonprofit campaign. All proceeds go to a small group of organizations whose focus is treating and preventing sexual abuse and promoting healthy relationships.

Another passion of Gretl’s is pioneering the use of innovative technologies to shape stories that engage and inspire audiences. She wrote and directed Sony’s first-ever 4K 360° cinematic music video, which premiered at the 2015 Consumer Electronics Show and was featured in Sony’s activation at SXSW. She leads creative on high-profile, tech-forward events, such as Entertainment Weekly’s inaugural festival, PopFest, in Downtown LA, the IBM Amplify Conference on Watson Cognitive Marketing in Las Vegas, and the AT&T Business Summit in Dallas.

One of her specialties is merging live performance with state-of-the-art multimedia. “Cognitive in Motion,” IBM Amplify’s opening experience — which she conceptualized, wrote, directed and produced, incorporating ‘pop & lock’ dancers, [Notch](#) (real-time generated art) and IBM cognitive data visualizations — won two top Telly Awards.

Gretl is currently at work on treatments to expand [STORMCHASER](#), as well as developing a new feature-length and long-form narrative project, plus an immersive media experience focused on environmental issues.

CREATOR, WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EP

GRETlCLAGGETT@ME.COM

917.685.7539



SARAH DONNELLY is a New York City based SAG-AFTRA actress and professional producer.

Sarah's study at the renowned William Esper Studio and training with Upright Citizens Brigade laid a foundation for her comedic, dramatic, and commercial roles, including her series regular work with ABC's "What Would You Do?", a memorable guest-starring role in "Impractical Jokers", and her award-nominated performance in the short film "The Statement." starring opposite William Sadler and PJ Marshall.

In recent years, she's applied her creative problem-solving talent and experience as an actress and producer in the launch of **Palikari Pictures**, her own independent motion picture production company.

Palikari Pictures continues to fill a growing demand and collaborates with clients both big and small, carefully curating a dynamic slate of quality projects, such as this year's release of **STORMCHASER** with Gretl Claggett and Culture Catalyst.

PRODUCER
SARAH@PALIKARIPICTURES.COM
212.988.2376



MARY BIRDSONG AS “BONNIE BLUE”



STEPHEN PLUNKETT AS “FLIP SMYTH”



DOMINIC RAINS AS “DON STUCKEY”

STARRING

MARY BIRDSONG is a multitalented veteran of Broadway, TV and Film. Credits range from her Broadway debut in "Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me" (2006) — for which she won the prestigious Theatre World Award — to her supporting role in Alexander Payne’s [The Descendants](#) (2011) with George Clooney, to her recurring star-turn in Comedy Central’s [Reno 911!](#) (which still has a large cult following) plus recent guest-star roles on shows such as HBO’s [Succession](#) (2018).

STEPHEN PLUNKETT has deep roots in New York theater as a member of the Obie-winning company, The Civilians. He has performed in many Off-Broadway and Broadway plays. In Film and TV, he’s known for his co-starring role with Josh Lucas in [The Mend](#) (2014) and for [Chained for Life](#) (2018), as well as for his recurring role on [Rise](#) (2018) plus recent guest-star roles on [Murphy Brown](#) (2018), [The Blacklist](#) (2019), [Bull](#) (2019) and [Fosse/Verdon](#) (2019).

DOMINIC RAINS won Tribeca Film Festival’s Best Actor Award for [Burn Country](#) in 2016, in which he starred alongside James Franco. He’s also known for Sundance breakouts, such as [A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night](#) (2014) and [The Taqwacores](#) (2010) plus for [The Mad Whale](#) (2017), also with James Franco, and [A-X-L](#) (2018), as well as his recurring role on the TV series, [Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.](#) (2017-2018).

CORE TEAM

(IMDb Links)

PRODUCERS

[GRETL CLAGGETT](#)

[SARAH DONNELLY](#)

[ETAN HARWAYNE-GIDANSKY](#)

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

[GRETL CLAGGETT](#)

[PAMELA CEDERQUIST](#)

[SIMON TAUFIQUE](#)

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

[JEFF BERLIN](#)

[ARI ROTHSCHILD](#)

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

[TYLER WALLACH](#)

COSTUME DESIGNER

[ANNE STEBBINS](#)

EDITOR

[EMILY CHAO](#)

SOUND DESIGNER

[DAN GRALICK](#)

ORIGINAL SCORE

[4A STABLES](#)

CASTING DIRECTOR

[JENNIFER PERALTA-AJEMIAN](#)

CAST

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

(IMDb Links)

YOUNG BONNIE BLUE	KAITLYND COLLINS
BONNIE'S FATHER	PAUL NOONAN
BONNIE BLUE	MARY BIRDSONG
SHOTGUN SAM	CHRISTIAN KOHN
COUSIN "SLICK" RICK	JUSTIN SARGENT
DANNY DUH BOY	DANIEL KRSTYEN
WILDMAN WILLY	WILLIAM T. DONOVAN
SELLIN' SETH	SETH CLAYTON
NATE NET X	NATE RICHMAN
STRONG ARM SEAN	SEAN-MICHAEL WILKINSON
POPS	JACK SHEA
FLIP SMYTH	STEPHEN PLUNKETT
DON STUCKEY	DOMINIC RAINS
MR. JOHNSON	KEVIN MURRAY
ROSY, THE HOUSEWIFE	ROSEMARY HOWARD
WODDY, THE COOK	CHRISTOPHER PASI
DOTTY, THE WAITRESS	PAMELA JAYNE MORGAN
REPORTER	SONIA DEBRECZENI
RADIO/TV ANNOUNCERS, EVANGELIST	DWAYNE HILL, V.O.
SHEEP	FIONA, ROISIN & CLODAGH
TRUCK	BLUE BELLE

CREW

(IMDb Links)

PRODUCTION MANAGER	AGATHA GIGI BOYLE
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	ETAN HARWAYNE-GIDANSKY
2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	DANIEL RAMIREZ
CO-PRODUCER	PHILIP GILPIN, JR.
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER	JEFF BERLIN
LINE PRODUCER	ISAAC WILKINS
ART DIRECTOR	CHRISTOPHER PASI
A-CAM 1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA	CHRIS PARENTE
A-CAM 2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA	LUCAS RUDERMAN
B-CAM 1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA	ZACK AURON
B-CAM 2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA	ADAM SCHICKLING
D.I.T.	SANDRA STAKIC
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR	DIANA SHOYKHET
SOUND MIXER	TREVOR HOAR
GAFFER	BEN HEALD
BEST BOY ELECTRIC	JULIAN LOWENTHAL
KEY GRIP	RYAN MCCLUNEY
SWING	ETHAN HACKER
SET DRESSER	CHRISTIAN KOHN
HAILSTONES	JASON CLEMENT
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR	TAYLOR WHITE
KEY HAIR/MAKEUP ARTIST	ANGEL YU
MAKEUP ARTIST	JOSEPH DROBEZKO II
LOCATIONS COORDINATOR	DEBORAH SHELDON
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	JANELLE COLEMAN
CATERERS	DEBORAH SHELDON & DAIRY CENTER ENTERPRISES
ADDITIONAL GAFFER	BLAINE CHOU
ADDITIONAL GRIP	WALEY WANG
ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	NATALIE SHAHEEN
ADDITIONAL EDITOR	PETER ZIELYK
ADDITIONAL SOUND ENGINEERS	TOM CONWAY, RICK SABO
SOUND MIXER, 5.1 SURROUND	DAVE CHMELA, FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY
TORNADO FOOTAGE & CONSULTANT	SKIP TALBOT
TORNADO PHOTOGRAPHY & CONSULTANT	JENNIFER BRINDLEY
VFX ARTISTS	ANDREW HOGDEN, FANI VASSIADI, DAVE YOUNG
CONSULTING ART DIRECTOR, POST	ISABEL CLAVO, INTERAKTIKA STUDIO
COLORIST	DUSTIN WADSWORTH, COMPANY 3

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

TALIA MILITARY, ELOUISE MONTGOMERY, KASH C. ZIEMBA, GABBY CECALA, ABIGAIL MURPHY,
CLAUDIA MURPHY, ZANE PAPPAS, VALENTINA RADON ENRIQUEZ, JOHN BOARD,
IZZY SHAPERO, CEDRIC JAKOB, SABRINA ATHENA, ALEX SANSALONE, MAJOR KERR

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

“FLIP SIDING JINGLE”

YANKEE DOODLE DANDY BY GEORGE M. COHAN
LYRICS BY GRETL CLAGGETT
PIANO TRACK BY LOUIS LANDON
PERFORMED BY GRETL CLAGGETT

“THE UNIVERSE IS INFINITE”

MUSIC & LYRICS BY JAN ROSS
ARRANGED & PRODUCED BY DAN GRALICK
HARMONICA BY ROB PAPAROZZI
PERFORMED BY MARY BIRDSONG

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