

The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim

Official Press Kit



Cast Myself Studio

The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim — Official Press Kit

Director Bio

Natasha Zoë Dean is an award-winning actor, writer, and filmmaker whose work blends emotional authenticity with a distinct mythic-cinematic visual style. Inspired by the golden age of Hollywood and the classic films she shared with her grandmother, she began acting and directing at age ten, developing an early foundation in performance, storytelling, and visual composition.

Her filmography includes the acclaimed documentary Cary Grant: A Complicated Man and the short films Eight, EXIT, and The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim. Natasha independently writes, directs, produces, and edits her projects, crafting films that explore transformation, resilience, and the metaphysical dimensions of human experience.

With a growing festival presence and a commitment to elevating independent cinema, Natasha continues to refine her voice as an emerging auteur — honoring classic cinematic lineage while pushing boldly into contemporary, imaginative territory.

Director Statement

The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim draws from experiences that shaped me long before I ever picked up a camera. I was raised inside a world that presented itself as loving and righteous, yet operated through control, silence, and fear. The echoes of that environment informed the emotional architecture of this film. The specifics remain off the record — for now — but the emotional truth is woven into every frame.

This story emerged from years of watching people I cared about struggle under systems that demanded devotion while eroding identity. The film's cult is not an abstraction; it is a reflection refracted through fiction. I'm not ready to tell the full story behind it — spoilers — but I can say that the rage, grief, and clarity that shaped this project are real.

My intention was not to recreate events, but to capture the internal experience of awakening inside a closed world: the quiet realizations, the fractures in the façade, the moment when survival becomes an act of defiance. By approaching the material through a mythic-cinematic lens, I could speak to the truth without exposing the people or the details that belong to a larger narrative still in development.

As an independent filmmaker, I write, direct, produce, and edit my work to protect the integrity of its voice. *The Bloodline* is a first step toward a story I will tell in full when the time is right. For now, this film offers a glimpse — a shadow on the wall of a much larger truth.

Tagline A

What if the holiest place you knew was the one devouring you?

Tagline B

The loudest prayers conceal multitudes of horrific sins.

“The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim” Film synopsis

Short Synopsis

In a dystopian society ruled by an authoritarian cult, a middle-aged woman imprisoned for her 'sins' must escape indoctrination and reclaim her voice-only to uncover buried family secrets and a far deeper, more insidious prison.

Long Synopsis

The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim unfolds within a world that masquerades as holy while concealing systemic cruelty. Through ritual, manipulation, constant surveillance, and psychological control, the cult maintains its grip on those who fear divine punishment more than freedom. When the protagonist begins to question the doctrine she once blindly obeyed, her awakening sets off a chain of events and revelations that threaten the entire structure of her world — and her belief.

The film explores the emotional aftermath of spiritual deconstruction after a lifetime of captivity — the rage, grief, and clarity that emerge when faith becomes a weapon. Drawing from lived experiences of spiritual abuse and survival, *The Bloodline* transforms personal truth into cinematic allegory. It is intimate, visceral, and expansive: a story of one woman's rebellion against the machinery of authoritarianism, and a meditation on the cost of reclaiming one's own soul after years of oppression.

Visually, the film merges gothic atmosphere with lore-heavy storytelling, using shadow, candlelight, ritual, and silence to evoke the tension between devotion and inevitable feral defiance. Beneath its haunting imagery lies a universal question: what happens when something once seen as sacred and safe becomes a carnivorous cage?

Cast Bios

Natasha Zoë Dean — “Seraphim / Announcer”

Natasha Zoë Dean is an award-winning actor, writer, and filmmaker whose work blends emotional authenticity with mythic-cinematic storytelling. Beginning her acting and directing journey at ten, she has developed a multidisciplinary approach rooted in depth, precision, and lived experience. Her performance in *The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim* draws from personal history and spiritual deconstruction, bringing visceral truth to the film’s central character. Natasha’s previous work includes the acclaimed documentary *Cary Grant: A Complicated Man* and the short films *EXIT* and *Eight*.

Robert McComas-Wood — “The Patron”

Robert McComas-Wood is a veteran actor who brings a lifetime of real-world experience to his performances. A former police officer, Navy Reserve veteran, and Title IX coordinator, Robert channels his background into grounded, emotionally resonant character work. He approaches each role with research, discipline, and a commitment to authenticity, crafting performances that leave a lasting impression.

Susan Michelle Moore — “The Matron”

Susan Michelle Moore is a podcaster and multi-disciplinary artist with a newly discovered passion for voice acting and filmmaking. *The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim* marks her first cinematic vocal performance. Inspired by artists such as Bob Odenkirk, Roddy McDowall, Douglas Fairbanks Sr. & Jr., and Sam Raimi, Susan brings curiosity, creativity, and a bold willingness to explore new artistic territory.

Jay Cozzini — “Matteo”

Jay Cozzini is an accomplished audio engineer and former radio host whose technical skill and creative intuition make him a standout collaborator in voice-driven storytelling. His background in campus radio shaped his distinctive vocal presence and sharpened his ability to bring characters to life with clarity and emotional nuance. In *The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim*, Jay delivers a grounded, resonant performance as Matteo, blending technical precision with compelling character work.

Ryan Thomas Cloe — “The Messenger”

Ryan Thomas Cloe is a retired teacher and streamer turned dynamic voice actor. He is best known for narrating Preston Norton’s novel *Marrow*, where his performance earned praise for its emotional clarity and character nuance. In *The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim*, Ryan brings a haunting, resonant presence to the role of The Messenger.

Amanda Figurelli — “Sage”

Amanda Figurelli is a mental health therapist and travel advisor. *The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim* marks her first voice-over performance. Amanda brings empathy, intuition, and emotional depth to the role of Sage, grounding the character with sincerity and quiet strength.

Themes at a Glance

- **Spiritual deconstruction** — the emotional aftermath of questioning a lifelong belief system, after the stark realization that what always seemed safe is actually a hungry lion waiting to devour you the moment you stop obeying
- **Authoritarian control** — how systems use fear, stolen rituals, and surveillance to maintain obedience
- **Identity reclamation** — the internal process of reclaiming self after religious abuse and a lifetime of indoctrination and psychological conditioning
- **Survivorship and awakening** — the moment when survival mutates into feral defiance
- **Intergenerational secrets** — the buried truths that reshape a woman’s understanding of her past and help her evolve beyond her chains
- **Queer awakening** — the emergence of identity, desire, and self-truth beyond imposed doctrine
- **Allyship** — the quiet, crucial roles others play in helping someone break free from control
- **The brutality of religious power** — a stark look at how institutions wield fear to preserve authority, and the violence required to maintain the illusion of holiness

Press Angles:

- **Spiritual abuse survival** — transforming lived trauma into cinematic allegory
- **Religious authoritarianism** — exposing how institutions weaponize fear
- **Queer awakening in oppressive systems** — identity emerging in forbidden spaces
- **One-woman filmmaking** — writing, directing, producing, and editing independently
- **Intergenerational secrets** — how buried truths shape belief and rebellion

Talking Points

- **The film is rooted in lived emotional truth** — while the specifics remain off the record, the emotional architecture of the story comes directly from surviving spiritual abuse and authoritarian control.
- **It explores the internal experience of awakening** — not the external events, but the quiet fractures, the cognitive dissonance, and the moment when obedience collapses under the weight of truth.
- **Religious power structures are depicted without euphemism** — the film confronts how institutions weaponize fear, ritual, and “holiness” to maintain control, and the violence required to preserve that illusion.
- **Spiritual deconstruction is portrayed as survival** — leaving a closed world is not rebellion for rebellion’s sake; it’s the instinctive act of someone realizing the lion they were taught to worship is about to eat them.
- **Identity reclamation is central to the narrative** — the protagonist’s journey mirrors the real process of rebuilding selfhood after indoctrination, brainwashing, and generational harm.
- **Queer awakening emerges as truth beyond doctrine** — identity and desire surface in the cracks of authoritarian belief systems, revealing what was always there beneath imposed purity.
- **Allyship is portrayed as quiet, crucial, and often dangerous** — the film honors the people who help others escape systems designed to isolate them.

- **Intergenerational secrets shape the protagonist's awakening** — the past becomes both a warning and a map, revealing the lineage of harm and the possibility of breaking it.
- **The film uses gothic atmosphere to mirror psychological captivity** — shadow, candlelight, ritual, and silence become visual metaphors for control, fear, and the slow ignition of defiance.
- **This short is the first glimpse of a larger narrative universe** — *The Bloodline* is the opening chapter of a story that will be told in full when the time is right.

Why This Film Now

The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim arrives at a moment when conversations about spiritual abuse, authoritarian control, and identity reclamation are breaking into the mainstream. Documentaries like *Shiny Happy People* and *Let Us Prey* are bringing long-buried truths to light, while films and series such as *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Testaments*, *Pleasantville*, and *Animal Farm* explore the mechanics of control through allegory and dystopian storytelling.

Against this cultural backdrop, *The Bloodline* offers a visceral, unflinching look at the emotional cost of leaving a closed world that has inflicted generations of nearly irreparable harm — and the courage required to reclaim one's voice. It speaks to anyone who has ever questioned the structures that shaped and wounded them, and dared to escape.

Key Stills for *The Bloodline: Ascension of Seraphim*



1. The Blessed Chronicle — A sacred text illuminated by candlelight, foreshadowing the film's spiritual inheritance.



2. The Garments of Control — The white corset laid out on a white bedspread and crimson sheets beside a crimson dressing gown; a visual metaphor for purity and constraint.



3. Facing the Veil — Seraphim before the floral curtain, poised between concealment and exposure. The unseen eye watches as she laces herself into regency short stays that mirror her oppression.



4. The Obedience Loop — Seraphim asleep beneath soft morning light, suspended between the liminal and the physical.



5. **The Study Hour** — Seraphim turns the hourglass to mark four hours of study. A single deviation invites starvation as punishment.



6. **The Book of the Venerant** — A moment of exposure: the unseen eye watches Seraphim in blind obedience, ensuring her devotion as she reads her assigned pages.



7. Witnessing the Breakdown — Seraphim lies in tears of terror as vaguely familiar voices call to her from the radio. Who are these voices, and what do they want?

Technical Production Notes — *The Bloodline*

Camera & Format

- **Camera:** iPhone 14
- **Resolution:** 1280 × 720
- **Frame Rate:** 30 fps
- **Primary Setup:**
 - Static tripod shots for the main narrative scenes, creating stability, tension, and a grounded visual foundation
 - Handheld cutaway shots for emotional emphasis, symbolic moments, and dreamlike transitions
- **Approach:** Minimal gear, intentional framing, and a blend of controlled and expressive camera movement

Lighting Approach

- Natural daylight for softness and realism
- Battery-operated candles as warm, flickering atmospheric counterbalance
- **Intent:** Create a liminal, ritualistic mood using accessible, practical sources

Visual Style & DIY Techniques

- **DIY Optical Filter:** A single sunglass lens was used for cutaway shots, functioning as:
 - A natural warmth enhancer
 - A subtle ND filter
 - A highlight softener
 - A built-in color-grading tool
- **Aesthetic Goal:** Gothic, voyeuristic, symbolic — blending realism with surveillance style visual cues

Sound

- **Recording:** Captured on multiple devices over Zoom with the cast; Natasha's audio recorded on a Shure MV7 mic setup
- **Editing & Mixing:** Cleaned and edited in Audacity; mastered in Adobe Audition
- **Sound Design:** Atmospheric, claustrophobic, religious-adjacent

Editing

- **Software:** Adobe Premiere Pro
- **Style:** Emotional pacing, symbolic cutaways, and a gothic aesthetic

Location

Filmed in New Jersey, primarily in Natasha's childhood bedroom

Approach: Everyday spaces transformed into symbolic environments through framing, candles, and carefully curated props

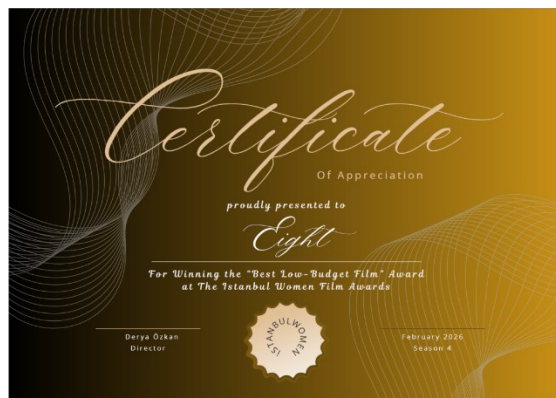
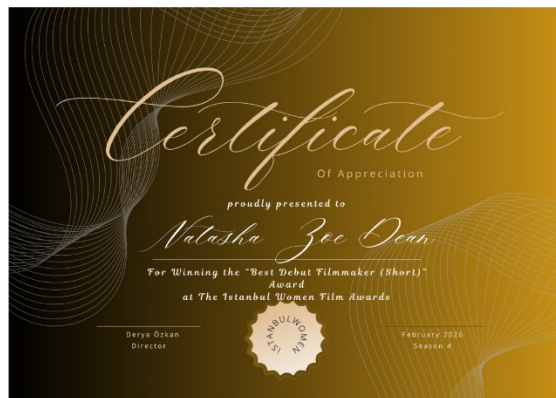
Production Philosophy

- Minimal gear, maximal intention
- Resourceful, intuitive, story-driven filmmaking
- Aesthetic built through creativity, not budget

Awards & Media

Film	Award	Festival	Year
<i>EXIT</i>	Best Actress – Short Film	London Women Film Festival	2026
<i>EXIT</i>	Best Debut Filmmaker (Short)	Istanbul Women Film Awards	2026
<i>EXIT</i>	Best Low Budget Film	Berlin Short Film Awards	2026
<i>EXIT</i>	Honorable Mention – Best First-Time Filmmaker	Berlin Short Film Awards	2026
<i>Eight</i>	Best Low Budget Film	Istanbul Women Film Awards	2026
<i>EXIT & Eight</i>	Semi-Finalist	Paris Women CineFest	2025
<i>EXIT & Eight</i>	Semi-Finalist	California Women Film Festival	2026
<i>EXIT & Eight</i>	Special Mention – Winner	One Reeler Short Film Competition	2025–2026
<i>EXIT & Eight</i>	Special Mention – Winner	Global Shorts	2025





MEDIA & INTERVIEWS

Guest Appearance — *The Uncomfortable Talk Show with Susan Moore* (2026) Natasha Zoë Dean discusses her creative process, the making of *The Bloodline*, and her journey through the festival circuit.

- 678+ views
- 133+ subscriber conversions
- [IMDb-verified credit](#)

Watch the full interview: [Here](#)



Official posters for Natasha Zoë Dean's award-winning short films: EXIT, Eight, and The Bloodline.

CONTACT

Natasha Zoë Dean Actress • Writer • Director • Producer • Editor

Direct Inquiries (Production & Casting Only): Available via [IMDbPro](#)

Press Email: nzdeanproductions@gmail.com

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@NashaDean>

Instagram: [@natasha_zoe_dean/](#)

Location: New Jersey, USA