

THREE FINGERS

THE BATTLE CONTINUES LONG AFTER THE WAR..

A Film By Paul D. Hart

Table of Contents

The Story.....	2
Director's Statement.....	3
Cast & Crew.....	4
Filmmaker Bios.....	5
Anecdotes.....	8

Tagline

the battle continues long after the war...

One-Liner

A young female Marine war veteran navigates her disintegrating life until there is nothing left but to make a choice.

The Story

Three Fingers is an intimate, censorial representation of trauma through the point of view Jesstine, a mother, wife and Marine veteran. Reaching great depths of despondency, her life and her family unravels until the moment she has nothing left but one final choice.

Director's Statement

Twenty-two. That's the number of war veterans that take their own lives every day in the United States. The number of those that are women is steadily increasing. Sometimes a storyteller finds inspiration that leads to and coincides with a subject matter that needs to be told. *Three Fingers*, for me, is that story.

I strove to make a film that is not only artistic and accessible, but at the same time sheds light on major physical and mental illnesses that plague many veterans who have volunteered to serve our country. Dealing with mental illness in my own family, I am cognizant of the need for a better public understanding of mental health and trust that our vision on the screen can be a conduit for raising such awareness. With several active and retired Marines already helping us through outreach and consultation, we are well on our way to achieving this goal.

As the script was very visual in nature, the film relies heavily on the imagery as well as rich immersive soundscapes to tell the story. Our sound designer, Ugo Derouard and Composer Sarah Lipstate (aka Noveller) were integral collaborators to help me realize my vision while accentuating the beautiful footage from our Cinematographer Shawn Grice.

Three Fingers is an intimate story of a very personal struggle. Our lead, Virginia Newcomb, carries a burning subtlety and a visually compelling skill set that brings "Jessie" to life while rooted in a raw realism. As her portrayal of this deeply wounded character elevates the film, her involvement as creative producer firmly grounds the female perspective.

The overwhelmingly positive response we have received throughout the production of *Three Fingers* has been humbling and massively exciting. The group of artists we have compiled to work on the film, thus far, is thrilling and continues to surpass my wildest dreams.

~Paul D. Hart writer/director

Key Cast & Crew

Writer/Director/Editor - Paul D. Hart

Producer - Barrett J. Leigh

Producer - Ben Umstead

Jesstine Brooks/Producer - Virginia Newcomb

Mark - Benjamin Keepers

Jimmy - John Winscher

Marianne - Kim Kendall

Cinematographer - Shawn Grice

Composer - Sarah Lipstate AKA Noveller

Sound Designer - Ugo Derouard

Executive Producer - Victor Shapiro

Filmmaker Bios

Paul. D Hart - Writer/Director/Editor

Born in Louisville, KY, Paul grew up all throughout the southeast before relocating to California. He studied at the **Los Angeles Film School** graduating with honors while attaining an editing major and directing minor. Since that time, Hart has contributed to the indie film-making community as a writer and director, as well as, a skilled gaffer and cinematographer.

Three Fingers is early in its festival run having already garnered multiple **Jury Awards**. His directorial debut in the music video world just yielded him the **Audience Choice Award** for the track *Heavy Dreams* by GT at the Sidewalk Film Festival Scrambled Jam.

Virginia Newcomb - Actor/Producer

Southern native, Virginia can be seen in several feature films alongside talents such as **Ellen Page, Udo Kier, Cillian Murphy, and Susan Sarandon** in addition to TV Shows such as **The Office and CSI**.

Virginia is set for a big year in 2016 with leading roles in feature films **Reparation and Abductee** releasing this fall, while currently filming the **Civil War epic, Union**. She has performed at numerous West Coast theatres and 2014 held her NYC debut in Jay Scheib's live cinema production of **Platonov, or The Disinherited** which simulcast live to **Times Square and BAM**.

Her role as filmmaker continues to expand while seeking bold, evocative artists and thriving in collaborative risk taking projects that portray women honestly and adequately, particularly in nontraditional southern narrative. *Three Fingers* marks her first film as a producer.

Ben Umstead - Producer

As a development specialist Ben has worked on projects with producers from the Sundance winning **Fishing Without Nets and Fruitvale Station**, as well as Paul Solet, the writer/director of the horror film **Grace**.

As a producer, Ben's ongoing collaboration with director/writer Paul D. Hart and actor/producer Virginia Newcomb has resulted in

the short film *Three Fingers*, about a female marine veteran, which has nabbed **3 Jury Awards** to go along with 2 other nominations. In addition, he is prepping the feature film ***Tormenting The Hen***, a metaphysical thriller, with filmmaker Theodore Collatos, to be shot in the Berkshires.

Ben lives in Los Angeles where he is the U.S. Editor for **TwitichFilm.com**, the leading voice in global cinema coverage.

Sarah Lipstate - Composer

Sarah is an Austin/Brooklyn based composer and musician who records and performs under the moniker **Noveller**.

Currently on tour with **Iggy Pop** and fresh off her North American tour supporting **St. Vincent**, Lipstate has wasted no time composing new expansive soundscapes. Her recent film credits include features *The Skeleton Twins*, *Happy Baby*, documentary *The Supreme Price*, and animated short *Seeing The Invisible*.

Her work as Noveller include the critically acclaimed *Fantastic Planet* and *No Dreams*, and a dreamy ambient collaborative LP titled *Reveries* with Montreal's drone master thisquietarmy. Lipstate is also an accomplished filmmaker. Her experimental film work was recently featured in a screening at **NYC's Lincoln Film Center** accompanied by a live musical score by the duo of Noveller and Lee Ranaldo (**Sonic Youth**).

Ugo Derouard - Sound Designer

Ugo is the founder of Ugosound Studios. He is known for his creative approach to sound design and mix, and has been working in Hollywood since 2006.

Ugo has worked with A-List directors and composers on award winning films, TV Shows, commercials and documentaries. He has received several nominations and awards, including the **Peabodies in 2007**, the **AOF in 2009** for the originality and creativity of his sound design, and again in 2010 for the overall quality of his mixing.

Recently, Ugo supervised post audio for ***Life After Beth***, with **Audrey Plaza, John C. Reiley, Dane Dehaan** and **Anna Kendrick**. The post sound and pre-dub was done at his studio in Los Angeles, with the mix being done at Skywalker Sound in Marin County.

Production Anecdotes

- One of the locations in the film is an active VFW (Andrew Jackson, Post 1291, Nashville, TN). The scene includes several veterans as featured background talent.
- The lead character Jesstine's nickname overseas was "Alabama", denoting where she is from. Virginia Newcomb, who plays Jesstine in the film, was also raised in Alabama, spending most of her youth just south of Birmingham.
- Virginia (Alabama) trained with a former Marine turned personal fitness consultant prior to shooting the film. She also received consultation from former members of FET (Female Engagement Team) in Afghanistan, the same unit her character served in prior to the start of the film.
- Hart wrote the film after a conversation with Newcomb about a bar fight scene. In his search for scenarios that might drive a character to such lengths, he found himself writing about a former Marine plagued by her past experiences of the war in Afghanistan. It immediately opened his eyes to, not only the issue of PTSD in our military veterans, but to the role women have been actively playing in combat scenarios both in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- The knife used in the scene in Jesstine's daughter's room is a KA-BAR. It has been a standard issue knife in the Marine Corps since 1942. The knife began using the KA-BAR name in 1923 after receiving a fur trapper's testimonial about the knife saving him from a bear attack. The name stems from "Kill a Bear".







