

PRESS KIT

BELGRADE & CLEVELAND MEDIA GROUP
in association with **AUGIE STARR PICTURES** presents
LUX IN TENEBRIS



And the light
shineth in darkness,
and the darkness
comprehended it not.

Alex Russo
Courtney McLaughlin
Caroline George
Hannah Gourdine
and
Oscar® Nominee Eric Roberts

LUX IN TENEBRIS
a B. R. Tatalović picture

BELGRADE & CLEVELAND MEDIA GROUP in association with AUGIE STARR PICTURES presents an OCHWAT + RUSSO + TATALOVIC motion picture production LUX IN TENEBRIS
ERIC ROBERTS COURTNEY McLAUGHLIN HANNAH GOURDINE ALEX RUSSO CAROLINE GEORGE JENNA KRAMER HAKEEM SHARIF JOE BILLUPS SHELLIE MILLER MARY FAKTOR
B. R. TATALOVIC JASON KLINGENSMITH DANIELA SIMMS TOM POTOMA music by LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN FREDERIC CHOPIN FRANZ LISZT MEGANNE STEPKA PEACH MARTINE
cinematography by J. ANDREW THAMES editor JAMES NEYMAN production designer NATALIE GASPER co-producers SCOTT T. MORRISON MARY FAKTOR
assoc. producers ROD FIELDER ANGELA SYMINGTON HORNER PERRY CHARLES HORNER ANTHONY ROLON TATJANA VIDAK line producer ROBERT GRAZIOSI
produced by DEBORAH OCHWAT ALEX RUSSO B. R. TATALOVIC written by ALEX RUSSO directed by B. R. TATALOVIC

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LUX IN TENEBRIS

Running time100 min
GenreDrama
RatingNR (not rated)
Year2016
LanguageEnglish
Country of OriginUnited States
LinksOfficial Facebook: www.facebook.com/Lux.movie
IMDBsearch: "Lux in Tenebris" (2016)

LOGLINE: The life of Annabelina and Tedandra, two sisters trapped inside the dark world of childhood nightmares and life's challenges.

Synopsis

Cleveland, 1990s. Virginia Kelleraan gets raped by bad cop Jesse, and gives birth to baby Teddy. Her life dramas continue as part of an interracial relationship with a local street thug called DeShawn, who only cares about his drugs, money, and an underground poker game. DeShawn explodes in violent rage – beating up Virginia and abusing her baby Teddy. Despite abuse, Virginia stays with “her man” and nine months later she gives birth to baby Annie. DeShawn’s violent attitude leads to an assault on Pops (his estranged father), and DeShawn ends up in prison. Virginia raises her two girls with the help of Pops and his sister Peg. Years later, DeShawn gets released and tries to “re-connect”, but this unexpected meeting leads to bloody confrontation. Virginia’s girls end up with “new parents”, trying to find their “light in the darkness”. They battle bullies, PTSD, racism... Teddy’s psychological problems prevent her from talking, but the love for music illuminates her “path”, and with Annie’s help – she will reach an eternal spotlight and find her own “Lux in Tenebris”.

Director’s Statement

(by B. R. Tatalovic)

My writer says: "You cannot change how you came into the world, but you can change how you go out." *Lux in Tenebris* is pure hard-edged-in-your-face drama, with an arthouse tone, and spiced up with couple of drops of "hardcore" magical realism. Think: Fassbinder's narrative, with Tarkovsky's abstract approach, and Lars von Trier's shock elements, mixed with one or two drops of Gaspar Noe's twisted tonality. It's an uplifting

story of love and hope - coming out of deep and dark holes of human infernos. The light - coming out of darkness! The birth of "new beginning", out of death, destruction, and Kiferian "morbid tracks".

Confusing? It might be... But that's the idea. This picture is not designed for mainstream theaters, "popcorn auditoriums", and box office numbers. This is the film for all of you - who are willing to engage your brain and your soul, and think, think, think... Think about our world, our society, our mortality, our hatred, our beliefs, our ability to love, or not to love... This is the film that will offend, move, disturb... After all, it is pure reflection of our twisted world; the world we live in, but the one we refuse to see and change. Yes, *Lux in Tenebris* - not just another flickering experience. As my Brazilian friend Paulo Coelho says, "Life moves very fast. It rushes from Heaven to Hell in a matter of seconds". Or about 100 minutes... See you in the movies.

Writer/Producer's Statement

(by Alex Russo)

Lux in Tenebris started in 2013, with the simple idea of making a film about two sisters who are entirely opposite in some way. As time went on, particularly on Father's Day, I was overwhelmingly inspired to expand on my idea, and make the film about a loving father and his two adopted daughters Annie and Teddy. More time went on, and the ideas started flowing and flowing, and the majority of the script was written last summer (2013).

I needed to have the story complete and pitched to Bruno (director B. R. Tatalovic) by November so we could either green light my first screenplay *The Trickster*, or my new screenplay *Freedom Sings*, now titled *Lux in Tenebris*. After Bruno and I read the script together that Friday, in November of 2013, we immediately green-lighted the project, and began pre-production.

Each, and I repeat EACH character in this film is STRIKINGLY unique in his or her own way. As you know, this film is a drama with a sad ending. It is a tragedy more or less, but it is an incredibly hopeful and inspiring story. One that our audience will remember and cherish. It's not an easy screenplay to read, and you really have to think, but it's REALISM. It is not a remake of some Hollywood film or a story that has been made 100 times over. It is an original work... No promises can be made as to where it will go, but we are reaching for the stars!

Director's Bio: B. R. Tatalovic

B. R. Tatalovic is an award winning independent film artist; a native of Belgrade, Serbia who immigrated to the U.S. in 1988, worked variety of factory jobs, while studying mass communication, media, and film. His motion picture credits include a wide range of projects, such as the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (ATAS Emmy Foundation) award winning short film *Fiasco* (2009); the film played at over 30 festivals and won additional awards, such as Golden Ace Jury Prize at 2010 Las Vegas IFF. In addition, Tatalovic produced/directed rock documentary *B.A.T.: Balkan Rock Nostalgia* (2008), and award winning *Dying 2 Meet U* (2012), an independent film produced on next-to-zero budget (won Best Ohio Cinematography award at 2013 Indie Gathering IFF, and an Official Selection of 2013 Scare-a-Conn Horror & Pop Culture Fan Convention). Tatalovic holds an MFA in Film Producing from Chapman University's Dodge Conservatory (studied under Oscar nominated mentors Alex Rose and David S. Ward). He is experienced in every aspect of motion picture process – from writing to cinematography, directing, and producing. In addition, he is SAG-AFTRA qualified screen actor, and tenured professor of film and media at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio.

Writer/Producer: Alex Russo

Alex Russo was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She started performing in her toddler years. Russo has appeared in numerous independent short and feature films, most notably: *Dying 2 Meet U*, *Scarred*, *A Man Possessed*, *Moonshine Kingdom*, *Cleanland*, *The Demon's Odyssey*, as well as *Lux in Tenebris* (which she wrote and co-produced). She has also worked on numerous commercials, print ads, music videos and print editorials. Apart from producing, writing and acting, Russo is recording her first album, and pursuing doctoral degree in psychology.

Producer: Deborah Ochwat

Ochwat has a business management background with over 20 years of experience in the post-secondary education sector working at Sanford Brown College located in Ohio. Her expertise is in finance and human resources. Deborah won Leadership Award in 2011 from Career Education Corporation for the eastern region, as well as additional awards for compliance and training company-wide. In 2014 she entered film-producing business as co-producer of *Lux in Tenebris* feature film, starring Oscar nominee Eric Roberts (currently in post-production; scheduled to be released in late 2015). Deborah's parents and two brothers were survivors of slave labor camps in Nazi occupied Poland during World War II, before being liberated and immigrating to the United States.

CAST

Eric Roberts

One of Hollywood's edgier, more intriguing characters running around and about for decades, Eric Roberts started life in Biloxi, Mississippi. He made his NY stage debut in *Rebel Women* in 1976 at age 20. After appearing in daytime soaps, his career began to shift fast forward when he copped a leading role in *King of the Gypsies* (1978), winning his first Golden Globe nomination. He topped his prolific period off with an Academy Award nomination as a young prison escapee in *Runaway Train* (1985). Roberts is known as “true indie friendly” actor, appearing in numerous lower budget features every year, and guest-starring in Hollywood blockbusters, such as *The Dark Knight* (2008).

Hakeem Sharif

Sharif is an up and coming movie star from Cleveland, Ohio. His “in-your-face” delivery and very charismatic personae projects memorable lines, and paints strong characters. Sharif is in high demand within independent film community, with several starring and supporting roles under his belt.

Caroline George

Caroline George, an Australian screen actress, did variety of commercial, voiceover, and narrative fiction work in her native Australia, as well as U.K., and the U.S. Her unique background, looks, and ability to adapt to various roles - is an extra asset to every production.

Joe Billups

Billups is an actor who started his career at a young age performing in his church and school acting in various productions. While in high school, he got involved with the radio and TV club. Throughout his adult life, Billups worked as police officer at the Cleveland Police Department. His love for performing arts led to rebirth of his acting career, and he landed a co-lead role in *Lux in Tenebris*.

Mary Faktor

Mary Faktor was born in Chicago, and began acting locally at the age of 33 as background talent in several major films. Mary trained at The Second City of Chicago and after graduating, joined the Improv troupe, General Eclectic. During this time, Mary wrote, produced and began touring with her original one-woman comedy show, *The Six Ages of Woman*, which she continues to perform nationwide.

CAST

Eric Roberts – Pokerboss Dean Deus

Courtney McLaughlin – Child Tedandra Kelleran

Hannah Gourdine – Child Annabelina Kelleran

Alex Russo – Tedandra Kelleran

Caroline George – Annabelina Kelleran

Jenna Kramer – Virginia Kelleran

Hakeem Sharif – Deshawn Mansfield

Joe Billups – Clarence Mansfield

Shellie Miller – Margaret 'Auntie Peg' Mansfield

Mary Faktor – Mrs. B

Branislav R. Tatalovic – Crowny

Jason Klingensmith – Jesse Jr & Sr McArthur

Tom Potoma – Caleb

Peach Martine – Pop Star Peach

Daniela Simms – Ms. Rockrogen

Denny Castiglione – Preacher

Giovanni Castiglione – Markie

Braz Durso – Brasileiro

Rod Fielder – Larry

Evette France – Louisa Mansfield

Carmen Gangale – Doctor Columbo

Robert Graziosi – Pokerman Vinnie Marzano

Vernard Adams – Pokerman Biggie Black

Evie Neal – Pokerlady Dee Ringer

Arthur Chu – Pokerman Len Lee

Christopher Mele – Pokerman Wolf White

Greg Steele – Pokerman Tex Wesson



Jessica Shay – Dancer Kitty Kat

Nicholas Balzer – Cop

Zachary Davis Brown – Child Jesse McArthur

Jason Botsford – Gay Bartender

Danan Robinson II – Child DeShawn Mansfield

Mary Rosenberg – Ruth

Amena Choudhury – Hospital staff

Danielle Nungesser – Nurse McManus

Mary Corbett – EMT girl

Richard Deda – Conner

Bryce Dials – Joshua

Kevin Winstead – Todd

Aaron Green – Young Clarence Mansfield

Ashley Balas – Akeyra Diamonds

B.J. Halsall – Security Dude

Ray Hodge – EMT guy

Julie Holiday – Kim McArthur

Visit [IMDb](#) to see full cast list.

CREW CREDITS

DIRECTOR

Branislav R. Tatalovic Director

WRITER

Alex Russo Writer

PRODUCERS

Mary Faktor Co-Producer

Rod Fielder Associate Producer

Robert Graziosi Line Producer

Angela Symington Horner Associate Producer

Perry Charles Horner Associate Producer

Scott T. Morrison Associate Producer

Deborah Ochwat Producer

Anthony Rolon Associate Producer

Alex Russo Producer

Branislav R. Tatalovic Producer

Tatjana Vidak Associate Producer

CINEMATOGRAPHER

J. Andrew Thames Cinematographer

EDITOR

James Neyman Editor

ART DIRECTOR

Natalie Gasper Art Director

MAKEUP DEPARTMENT

Marianna Alacchi Makeup Department Head

Arrey Lee Makeup Artist: Second Unit

Briana Magglo Key Hair Stylist

Molly Miller Assistant Makeup Artist

PRODUCTION MANAGERS

Robert Graziosi Unit Production Manager

Deborah Ochwat Production Accountant

Diane Rinaldi Assistant Unit Manager

SECOND UNIT DIRECTORS OR ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Ian Cameron First Assistant Director (second unit)

James Neyman First Assistant Director

Alex Russo Second Assistant Director

ART DEPARTMENT

Lawrence DeMassimo Art Design: 3D Artwork

Cheryl Gorick Consultant: Medical Artwork

Christine A. Yohn Props

SOUND DEPARTMENT

Jordan Greytak Sound

Tyler McKellar Sound Recordist



CAMERA AND ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

Max Elinsky Rigging Grip

Nick Gryniewicz Grip

Matt Haltuch Key Grip

Janet Imrick Second Assistant Camera

Vimalraj Jayaseelan Rigging Grip: Lighting Effects

Walter A. Martin Electrician

Scott T. Morrison Gaffer, Still Photographer

James Neyman Assistant Camera

David Nguyen Grip Electric

J. Andrew Thames Camera Operator

Joe Yost Company Grip

CASTING DEPARTMENT

Mary Faktor Casting Associate

Kristina Michelle Casting Coordinator

Christian Taylor Casting Videographer

Christine A. Yohn Casting Assistant

COSTUME AND WARDROBE DEPARTMENT

Grace Barnard Costume Assistant: Uniforms

Jennifer Downey Costumer: Ms. Faktor

Mary Faktor Costume Assistant

Natalie Gasper Costume Assistant

Michele Gourdlne Wardrobe Assistant

Donn R. Nottage Costumer: Mr. Roberts

Visit [IMDb](https://www.imdb.com) to see entire crew credit list.

Lux in Tenebris is an independent self-and-crowd funded film. The total cost is within SAG-AFTRA ultra-low-budget level. Thanks to generous donations from ordinary people, as well as producers' own savings, the film was able to begin pre-production process in 2014. It was shot on several locations in Cleveland, Ohio (USA) area, using revolutionary Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera, and featuring local talent and several guest stars from around the world. The music tracks were licensed from Cleveland's indie musicians, as well as several recording artists from Canada and Europe.

Thanks to help from locations' owners in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and volunteer based production assistance, the filmmakers were able to save a lot of money, despite numerous obstacles facing this type of independent producing. Nothing could stop this labor-of-love. Fifty actors, 15 locations, babies, animals, and 3 time periods within this story...

Two years later (2016) the film was completed. Another proof that American true-independent cinema is alive and flickering! See you in the movies!

