

MERIT BADGES



Logline: A misfit band of girl scouts faces off with a hardened criminal while trying to hustle enough cookies to get to the Jamboree.

Synopsis: MERIT BADGES is a 6-minute short about a motley group of girl scouts who need to sell enough cookies and lemonade to attend the big Polliwog Jamboree. On the hottest day of the year, the Polliwogs set up their cookie stand in a run-down strip mall between a fly-by-night loan store and an adult massage parlor, but no matter how many customers pass by, the girls can't seem to make a sale. Enter one hot ride and two nefarious-looking strangers who, unbeknownst to our heroes, happen to be in the midst of a heist. Choking on exhaust fumes from the bandits' car, the leader of the Polliwogs attempts to move the getaway driver along with an appeal to logic, but soon discovers the imminent danger as she spots a bound and gagged hostage who pleads for help in the back seat of the bandits' car. Realizing his cover is blown and stalling for time until his partner can return with the loot, the Wheelman and the scouts have a standoff over cookies and lemonade.

Director's Statement:

The story for Merit Badges was born out of my desire to do a short, engaging and funny story after working on several challenging and dramatic feature film scripts. I set out to apply my storytelling craft and experiences as a female filmmaker to make a film for my 8 year-old self, to encourage her boldness and to temper her patience. It is a message that I hope to share with every misfit girl out there.

MERIT BADGES

About the Filmmakers:

N.C. JONES

Screenwriter & Filmmaker N.C. Jones was born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina, and her family's history and heritage in the region runs deep. After making plans to attain the most prestigious level of professional buffoonery, fate stepped in when Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College shuttered its doors the year she completed high school, so Jones set aside her greasepaint and shifted gears to study theater, screenwriting and computer science at East Carolina University. Completing her studies, Jones returned to Raleigh and sought to be an active presence in the Triangle-area film community, working on independent film projects in a variety of roles, volunteering at film festivals large and small, and producing several original shorts including the comedic horror *Unspeakable* (2010) and her directorial debut *San Souci Showdown* (2011). And while she's not yet realized the prestige and renown of a prominent circus trouper, she is an Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting Quarterfinalist and Semifinalist and has over 15 years experience in production, marketing, and the controlled chaos and creative magic of independent filmmaking.

KIERAN MOREIRA

A graduate of North Carolina State University's Film Studies program, Kieran started making films as a child in his backyard with his younger brother. In 2012, his debut short film, *The Weaver*, which he directed and edited, screened at the prestigious Cucalorus Film Festival in Wilmington, NC and won "Best Editing" at the Carrboro Film Festival 2012. Kieran's film, *HARBINGER* (2014), started as a passion project during his time at Drawbridge Media. It won "Best Narrative Short Drama" at the 2015 Longleaf Film Festival and the "Excellence in Filmmaking" award at the 2014 Carrboro Film Festival. In February 2018, he launched Negative Split Films, LLC as a platform for himself and other filmmakers to continue to produce indie films. Negative Split Films will release *Merit Badges* and Moreira's sci-fi short film, *Gill*, as its first two projects by the end of 2019.

MERIT BADGES

CAST

Eowyn Blum	Audra
Lilyanna Paige	Miranda
Thai Toben	Callie
Kayla Scott	Jessica
Estes Tarver	The Wheelman
Germain Choffart	The Lanky Man
Paul Kilpatrick	Hostage/Loanshark
Paul Paliyenko	Priest
Ruth Gutierrez	Shopping Lady Extra
Gillian C. Pruteanu	Jamboree Extra
Alicia Cyrus	Jamboree Extra
Ashley Jones	Jamboree Extra
Rene Cyr	Jamboree Extra

MERIT BADGES

CREW

Paul Frateschi	Director of Photography
Monique Velasquez	Assistant Director
Jonathan Serxner	Key Grip
Aravind Ragupathi	Gaffer
Piper Kessler	Sound
Lance Johnson	Grip/Camera Assistant
Ryan Hamlin	AC
Patrick Dunnigan	AC/Grip
John Bosco	AC
Bart Jones	Grip
Jim McQuaid	Grip
Gerry Gutierrez	Grip
Ruth Gutierrez	Grip

MERIT BADGES

Jeremiah David	Production Assistant
Evelyn Putnam	Hair & Makeup
Pierce Rogers	Art Department
Paige Myers	Art Department
Vanita Kalra	Script Supervisor
Carlene Cearley	Location Scout
John Boschini	Legal / Attorney
Casey Hembrick	Graphic Designer / Prop Design
Peggy C. Jones	Seamstress
Ladonna Jones	Craft Services
Marta Salman	Craft Services
David & Nicky Bronson	Car Providers

FILMING LOCATIONS

Gateway Plaza Shopping Center Raleigh, NC
Merry Oaks, NC

MERIT BADGES

Technical Info:

Runtime 6 minutes 12 seconds
Aspect Ratio 2.35 : 1
Camera Red Epic

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/meritbadgesfilm/>

Website: <http://meritbadgesfilm.com/>

Contact Info:

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Negative Split Films

<https://www.negativesplitfilms.com/>

