



FATAL
FUNNEL
FILMS

PRESENTS:

RANGE RUNNERS

DIRECTED BY: PHILIP S. PLOWDEN

WRITTEN BY: DEVON COLWELL

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THE FILM

SYNOPSIS

Mel has made a lifetime of challenging herself. Despite the dozens of marathons and long-distance endurance runs under her belt, her latest endeavor will prove her most daunting run yet: an isolated 2,200 mile-long hiking trail through the mountains. Alone in the woods, Mel pushes herself to the limit on a daily basis, only stopping to replenish her supplies whenever she comes across some semblance of civilization. Now, with her pack freshly restocked with help from her sister, Chloe, Mel finds herself on an eight day stretch, with no support and no way to contact the outside world.

There's nothing to stand in Mel's way... until she encounters two strangers in the woods. Wayland and Jared claim to be day-hikers, but Mel can see that they have been out in the wilderness longer than they claim, with nothing but a half-empty backpack between them. After offering them aid, Mel holds up for the night in a hiking shelter along the trail, and the two men soon find her there.

Her pack is taken, and Mel is left to fend for herself, with no food, a dwindling water supply, and no hope of rescue. Mel must now make a choice: give up on the trail and backtrack to find help, or follow her attackers further into the woods to take back what was stolen from her. Armed with nothing but her wits, her will to survive, and a hardened resolve bestowed upon her in her youth by her over-bearing father, Mel must find a way to push past the physical limitations of her body and persevere in the face of overwhelming odds.



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Fatal Funnel Films is an Illinois-based production company dedicated to the creation of independent feature films. Utilizing the increasingly relevant accessibility of digital filmmaking techniques and technologies, Fatal Funnel Films seeks to push the boundaries of filmmaking in order to tell unique and dramatic stories that will connect with audiences across the globe.

Fatal Funnel is a military breaching term, where a combat fire team must enter into the danger zone through a doorway to dominate the targeted room. The "fatal funnel" is the most dangerous aspect of the breach, where the fire team must rely on their faith in one another to take the plunge and cross the threshold together to complete the mission.

Film is the greatest collaborative art form there is, where creative vision is turned into reality through the hard work of many dedicated individuals who share a passion for storytelling. Like breaching that door, filmmaking is a team-based operation, where creative and logistical minds must converge and collectively take the plunge into the commitment of great storytelling. Fatal Funnel Films aims to cross that threshold into the world of thrilling yet relatable drama, to dominate the landscape of independent film, and to fulfill our inherent desire to pursue our passion through the creation of art.

The journey is yours to take, just across the breach. Welcome to the threshold.

THE TEAM



PHILIP S. PLOWDEN (DIRECTOR / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)



Philip Plowden is no stranger to the importance of well-crafted imagery. A graduate from Columbia College Chicago, he co-produced the award-winning feature film, *Chicago Overcoat*, which received a domestic premiere on Showtime. Philip continues to work on a variety of projects, including 5 seasons of NBC's *Chicago P.D.* He is a member of the Director's Guild of America and recently directed the award-winning short-length film, *Cellar Door*.



DEVON COLWELL (WRITER / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)



Devon Colwell has made storytelling his life's work. Graduating from UIC in 2012 with a BFA in film, he quickly found extensive work in film and television, including credits on *The Wachowski's Jupiter Ascending* and 6 seasons of NBC's *Chicago PD*. Looking to tell stories of his own, Devon co-founded Fatal Funnel Films with Philip Plowden, where he wrote and produced the team's award-winning short film *Cellar Door*, and was awarded 2nd place in the 2017 Scriptapalooza Screenwriting competition for his original screenplay, *The Regulars*.



CHRISTIAN CROCKER (PRODUCER)



A 2014 graduate from Columbia College Chicago's film program. Christian was hired as a script reader for one of Hollywood's premier script competitions. He then found work on The Wachowski's Netflix original series, *Sense8*. In 2016, he served as the lead producer on the company's award-winning, thriller short film, *Cellar Door*. Christian recently finished work as the Travel Coordinator for the Steve McQueen heist thriller, *Widows*.

THE TEAM



ROSEMARY PRODONOVICH (PRODUCER / LINE PRODUCER)

IMDb

After finding success in the theater world, RoseMary worked on feature films such as: *Little Fockers*, *Contagion*, and *The Dilemma*—rising to become Production Coordinator for network television shows including FOX's, *Empire* and Amazon's, *Patriot*. In 2016, she served as Producer/Unit Production Manager on the company's award-winning, thriller short film, *Cellar Door*. Most recently, she worked as the Production Coordinator on Steve McQueen's heist-drama, *Widows*.



CHRISTOPHER GANZE (PRODUCER)

IMDb

Christopher started his career in photography and would later transition to film and television, working on his first show, *Burn Notice*. He then found work on large-scale projects such as: *Marley and Me*, *Dolphin Tale*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-Wrecked*, *Tomorrowland*, *Chef*, *Americas Most Wanted*, *The Glades*, and *Graceland*. In 2014 Christopher was hired by rap mogul Rick Ross to co-write the feature film, *GABOS*. He has since been working as an assistant to a producer on Dick Wolf's *Chicago P.D.*



DARRYL MILLER (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

IMDb

Darryl strives to create visuals that are specific to each story - all with a feeling of honesty and emotion. Darryl has worked in various Camera department positions for studio feature films including, *Wanted*, *Source Code*, and *Divergent*. He also worked as a Camera Operator on several network television shows including, NBC's *Chicago P.D.*, *Chicago Fire*, and *Chicago Justice* as well as FOX's, *Empire* and *APB*. In 2016, he served as the Director of Photography for Fatal Funnel Films' award-winning, thriller short film, *Cellar Door*. Most recently, Darryl worked as the "B" Camera Operator on *The Chi*.

THE TEAM



AARON CRIPPEN (STUNT COORDINATOR)



Aaron Crippen's love for stunt work and action films began when he was a kid watching Lee Majors in *The Fall Guy*. This passion drove him to sharpen and build his skills as an individual. After spending 9 years as an Army Ranger, working several deployments overseas as a squad leader, Aaron was able to hone his skills and fluidly transfer them into the high-pressure situations of stunt coordination. For the past 15 years, his experience has grown considerably while working on a variety of studio, independent and television projects, both domestically and abroad. Shows such as *The Dark Knight*, *Superman: Man of Steel*, and *Transformers* have allowed Aaron to create a high standard of quality, pride and integrity with his work.



CAITLIN MALDONADO (PRODUCTION DESIGNER)



Caitlin grew up drawing the world around her and rearranging furniture with her mom. She graduated from Montana State University with a B.S. in Film and Photography. There she fell in love with the all-encompassing world of Production Design. Throughout the years in between working on shows such as Netflix's *Sense8* and Showtime's *The Chi*, she honed her skills in woodworking, graphic design and set design. She has shown those skills off on Fatal Funnel's short film *Cellar Door* and *Range Runners*.



MICHAEL JAMES (EDITOR)



Michael Thomas James (the T, Signature Move) is a Chicago-based editor cutting at Periscope Post & Audio. Stemming from an education at Columbia College Chicago and a background of broadcast commercial design and animation, Michael shifted his artistic focus onto compelling character-driven narratives. Michael approaches each project with a sense of organization, attention to detail, and passion of collaborative storytelling. After working on the editorial-award-winning short *Cellar Door* with Fatal Funnel Films, Michael is thrilled to be back creating with the Range Runners team.

THE TEAM



PERISCOPE POST & AUDIO POST-PRODUCTION

The Company has strong ties with Periscope Post & Audio, an all-inclusive, fully bonded, post-production company based in Chicago that specializes in editing/color correction, sound design, audio mixing, and ADR voice-overs. Periscope has serviced several productions including, FOX's *Empire & New Girl*, CBS' *Person of Interest*, Chicago-based *Southside With You*, and Fatal Funnel Films' indie-short film, *Cellar Door*. (periscopepa.com)



PASKAL RUDNICKE CASTING

Founded in the late 1990s by Mickie Paskal and Jennifer Rudnicke, PR Casting has been a leader in the Chicago film and theatre community for the past 20 years. Our casting strategy was a proactive and diverse one. PR Casting lead the way by tapping into the bevy of local talent in the Chicago film, television and theatre scenes to find our leading roles. (prcasting.com)

THE CAST



CELESTE M. COOPER AS MEL



The youngest of four children, Celeste M. Cooper was born and raised in Joliet, Illinois, where her father was the warden of Joliet Correctional Center. Celeste ran track for over ten years before she ditched practice one day during her senior year of high school to audition for the play *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Celeste went on to study acting at Tennessee State University, followed by DePaul University The Theatre School, where she received her MFA in Acting in 2012. In 2014, Celeste received the "Most Promising Actress" award from the Black Theatre Alliance Awards. Since then, Celeste has worked prolifically, appearing both on stage and on film.



THE CAST



SEAN PATRICK LEONARD AS WAYLAND



Sean has been a professional actor for the past 20 years. With roots in Chicago's theatre community, Sean has acted in ten feature films and over thirty short films, including his most recent award-winning short film, *Rockabye*, which he wrote, produced, and starred in. Sean's television and film credits include *Chicago Justice* (NBC), *Chicago Fire* (NBC) and the Marc Forster crime drama, *Machine Gun Preacher*.



THE CAST



MICHAEL B. WOODS AS JARED



Michael is a Chicago-based actor and has appeared in numerous film, TV and theatrical productions across the nation. He has starred in the ABC docu-drama series, *In an Instant* and performed in reoccurring roles on NBC's *Chicago P.D.* and FOX's *Empire*. Michael has also appeared Showtime's *Shameless* and the Blumhouse film, *Sinister 2*. He is a founding member of Eclectic Full Contact Theatre and his performance in their production of *The Seagull* earned him a nomination for a Jeff Award. Michael also won himself a Jeff Award for the BoHo Theater's production of *Cyrano*.



THE CAST



TIFFANY RENEE JOHNSON AS CHLOE



Tiffany Renee Johnson was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago. In 2007, Tiffany was accepted into Howard University and its Theatre Arts program. She was recently in the productions of *Vanya* with Rasaka Theatre, *Race* at Next Act Theatre and *Coming Home* with Erasing The Distance. Tiffany has also been an actress in several short films and commercials and has had the honor of recently landing roles on television including *APB*, *Embeds*, *Chicago Fire*, and *Chicago P.D.*



SARAH CHARIPAR AS NAOMI



Chicago theatre credits include the world premiere of *The Revel* (The House Theatre), *A True History of the Johnstown Flood* (The Goodman Theatre), *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Fall to Earth*, *Mizlansky/Zilinsky*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago, London, Broadway). Television credits include *Detroit 1-8-7* (ABC), *Leverage* (TNT), and recurring roles as "Dr. Deidre Grant" on *Chicago Med* (NBC) and *Empire* (FOX) as "Theresa Clare". She has also been seen in Steven Soderbergh's, *Contagion* and was also featured in *Resurrecting McGuinn(s)* as "Dir. Vince Gaffney."



CARL CLEMONS-HOPKINS AS HOWARD



Carl Clemons-Hopkins is an actor, writer, and producer. Theatrical credits include *Hamilton*, *Macbeth*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *Ragtime*, *Time is On Our Side*, and *Richard III*. Film and television credits include, *The Chi*, *Canal Street*, and *Chicago P.D.* Carl recently released his first book, "Tijabab: A Fable for Grownups," a book about fear and freedom.



MARIAH SYDNEI GORDON AS YOUNG MEL



Mariah Sydnei Gordon is full of energy, fun loving, articulate, and has a big personality. She has been acting since she was 4 and is best known for her recurring co-star role as "Andrea" in Showtime's drama series, *The Chi*. She has also performed in theatre productions across Chicago at the Goodman Theatre, Theatre at the Center, The Griffin Theatre, and The Gift Theatre. In addition to her love for acting, Mariah enjoys singing, writing fiction, participating in sports including: basketball, soccer, volleyball and track and field.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Principal Photography took place in Southern Illinois near Carbondale. Various locations within the Shawnee National Forest offer unique topographical settings for the story and were chosen by the Director.



PROMO STILLS



Mariah Sydney Gordon as Young Mel.



Carl Clemons-Hopkins as Howard.



Tiffany Renee Johnson as Chloe.

PROMO STILLS



Mel checks her surroundings while camping at an isolated shelter.



A tense confrontation, Wayland intimidates Jared.



While off-trail, Mel finds a creek and refills her water bladder.

PROMO STILLS



Mel screams out in pain after a dangerous encounter.



Wayland and Jared hide out in the woods.



A determined Mel searches the woods to take back what was stolen from her.

BEHIND THE SCENES



RANGE RUNNERS



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