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Labor of love: Creating the **ZTV** Universe

In December of 2017, I began writing a feature length screenplay for a film I ended up calling ZTV: The Prezerve. I had written it to be a stripped down, low budget feature, but even after stripping it to bare bones, my producing partner, Marisa Garay (Garbo Films), and I did not have access to enough money to shoot the full feature.

Instead, we decided to shoot a proof of concept Short film/Episodic Pilot that we called ZTV: Sympathy for the Devil which we were fortunate enough to shoot in two parts in January of 2018 and June of 2019. We raised the money through a combination of pooling our own money, gathering a handful of small investors, and Indiegogo contributors. The film wouldn't have been possible without our key collaborators and partners on the project: Margaret Caragan & Tony Aldrich (PandoraFX), Pascal Combes-Knoke (Director of Photography), and Justin Amore (Editor) and our crew. We also had the good fortune to work with some amazing actors, some of whom graciously agreed to appear in the comic book such as MacCallister Byrd (Brad), Molly Ratermann (Karen), and Daniel Sullivan (Biggs). At the time of this writing, we are currently in the final phase of post production, having received our amazing live recorded score from our composers Susan Dibona & Salvatore Sangiovanni (The Villa Studios), with only our sound edit and final mix remaining to complete the film/pilot.

Because funds were extremely limited in post, and being well versed in the immutable law of the Creative triangle: Time, Money, Quality, pick two, I chose Time and Quality and made the best of our two years of post to write out and plan the expanded universe of ZTV. I felt this could be explored, free of the limitations of film budgets, through the creation of the comic book, ZTV Undead Empire.

Believe me when I tell you, the pilot and this first issue of the comic are just the minuscule tip of a massive iceberg. The sheer amount of story, that I have already planned out, will span over dozens of graphic novel volumes to come. So welcome, and stay tuned as we take this journey together and see how humanity fairs in the face of the living dead....

- Jason Ragosta
August 23rd, 2020



THE CREW

13th

AUGUST 10-19

JASON RAGOSTA

WRITER, DIRECTOR, & ILLUSTRATOR

Jason Ragosta was born in Connecticut. He attended the Maryland, Institute, College of Art and started his career working in stop-motion animation at Wreckless Abandon studios as a storyboard artist, prop & set fabricator, and assistant cameraman, before moving to the west coast to work in film. Jason then went on to manage a sound stage for actress Diane Baker (Marnie, Silence of the Lambs) at the Academy of Art, University in San Francisco, before spending a year as a PA in the editorial production office of the Disney film John Carter, directed by Andrew Stanton. From there, Jason spent the next decade working in animation, independent films, commercials, and music videos, before completing his first short film, Boy in the Dark, which premiered at the Dances with Films Festival, and Screened at the Hollyshorts Festival. He has recently completed ZTV: Sympathy for the Devil, a proof of concept short film/Pilot which gives a small glimpse into a much larger universe. He is currently working as the Editorial Manager at Halon Entertainment and is writing and illustrating ZTV: Undead Empire, to expand, and lay out the epic story of the ZTV universe.

Hollyshorts
FESTIVAL



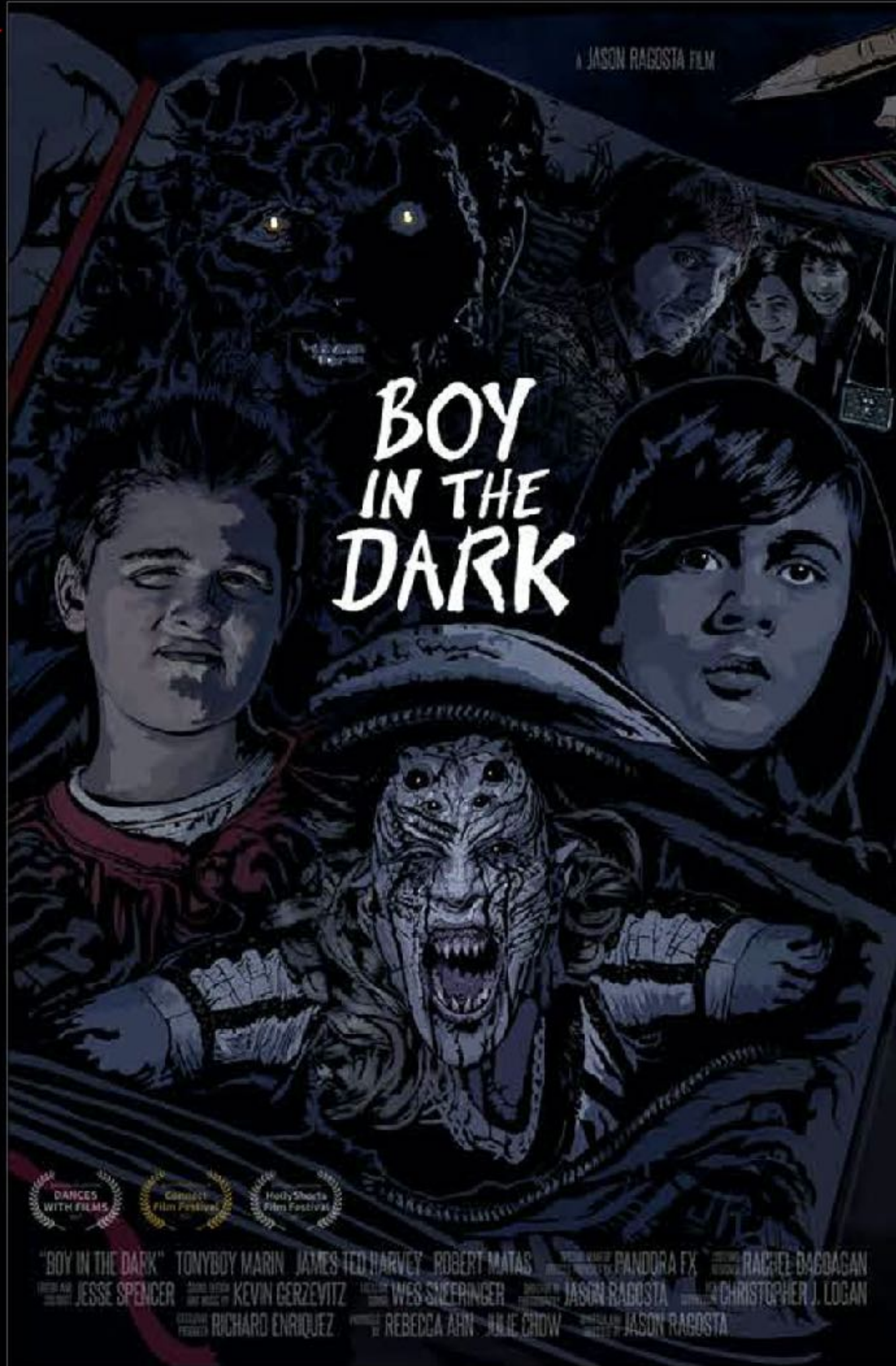
[IMDB LINK](#)

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In 2015, Jason was asked to give a **TEDx** talk on world-building for storytelling in film, games, and virtual reality. In the opening of his talk, Jason told a story from his childhood which served as the inspiration for his short film **BOY IN THE DARK**, his directorial debut, which premiered at the Dances With Films Festival. It was screened at the Hollyshorts Film Festival and won the **Apollo Award** at the Connect Film Festival.



TEDx

TEDx LINK

Constitution Drive

an independently organized TED event



MARISA GARAY

PRODUCER AT GARBO FILMS

Born in New York City and raised in Northern California, Marisa has been fascinated by film from a young age. She pursued a BFA from the Academy of Art, University in San Francisco and spent a summer studying film at Oxford University before fulfilling her life long dream by becoming a film producer. Marisa has spent the last decade producing indie films, commercials, and music videos under the label of her own production company, Garbo Films. Her films, Ditch, Riding Justice, and Hara Kiri each enjoyed limited theatrical releases and are currently available on all major streaming platforms. For the last few years, she has been working closely with her business partner, Jason Ragosta, developing and shooting ZTV content as well as several other Original IPs with screenplays attached that have placed in Screencraft, Cinestory, and other notable screenplay competitions.

[IMDB LINK](#)

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A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a denim jacket and white gloves, is applying special makeup to a person's arm. The person is wearing a dark t-shirt with "THE PROTECTOR" visible. The background is a workshop with colorful string lights and other people working.

MARGARET CARAGAN

MAKEUP DEPT. HEAD AT PANDORA FX & PRODUCER

Margaret Caragan is the founder and owner of Pandora FX. She has worked in the Bay Area as a special makeup effects artist for 14 years. Margaret studied fine art at the Academy of Art, University, earning a bachelor's in sculpture, as well as 2 AA's from Napa Valley College. She spends the majority of her time managing Pandora FX teams as a department head, creating highly detailed special makeup designs, and executing them for commercial and independent film clients. She specializes in casualty and character makeups, creation custom prosthetics for creatures, likeness, old age, injuries, and extreme transformations. Her filmography includes: Fruitvale Station, Sorry to Bother You, Lasso, and The Violent Kind.

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PASCAL COMBES-KNOKE

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Pascal is a French-American Cinematographer based in Los Angeles. His dreams and aspirations live in live in telling visual stories that human beings across the world can resonate with. Anyone can point a camera and shoot, but what he loves about the job is creating a camera language and lighting architecture tailored to the world that the Director and Writer establish in our collaborative pursuit in compelling storytelling. Pascal has shot music videos, commercials, and features around the world and loves to explore and continue to push his limits. He's shot feature films starring Dolph Lundgren, Richard Grieco, Margaret O'Brien, Michael Richards, Corbin Bernsen, M Emmet Walsh, Ed Asner, Eric Roberts, and Brent Spiner. He has shot music videos featuring Chris Brown, Migos, T.T., Scott Storch, One Direction, Schoolboy Q, Danny Trejo, The Game, Warren G, Atmosphere, to name a few. Through his studies, at the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania and Chapman University's Dodge College, he's found a balance between theory and instinct in visual storytelling. Pascal has been mentored by Johnny Jensen, A.S.C., Bill Dill A.S.C., and Charlie Lieberman, A.S.C.



[IMDB LINK](#) [WEBSITE LINK](#) [INSTAGRAM LINK](#)

JUSTIN AMORE

EDITOR

Justin Amore started his career working as an assistant editor on commercials for acclaimed editor James Haygood A.C.E. From there, Justin spent eight years as a staff editor at Optimus cutting commercials for Taco Bell, Miller Lite, Nascar, GMC, Chrysler, JEEP, Kellogg's, AAMCO and the United States Marine Corps. After leaving Optimus, Justin was the lead editor on Nickelodeon's web series Chase Champion and edited promotional work for Disney's Teen Beach 2, Make Your Mark and Parks Firsts. Justin is currently working on ZTV: Sympathy For The Devil as well as continuing to edit Commercials and Branded-Content.



[IMDB LINK](#)

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SUSAN DIBONA & SALVATORE SANGIOVANNI

COMPOSERS

The Duo has won 3 Global Music Awards and various Prizes and Honors in the UK and USA for their special composing style which unites their love for old-school scoring and artistic risks. The result is a fresh, new hybrid orchestral sound with an abundance of great melodies as they are seldom heard in today's TV and Cinema. Together, DiBona & Sangiovanni are able to express and execute a virtually unlimited range of musical styles and techniques. Whether using Midi, Chamber Ensemble, or large Symphonic Orchestra.

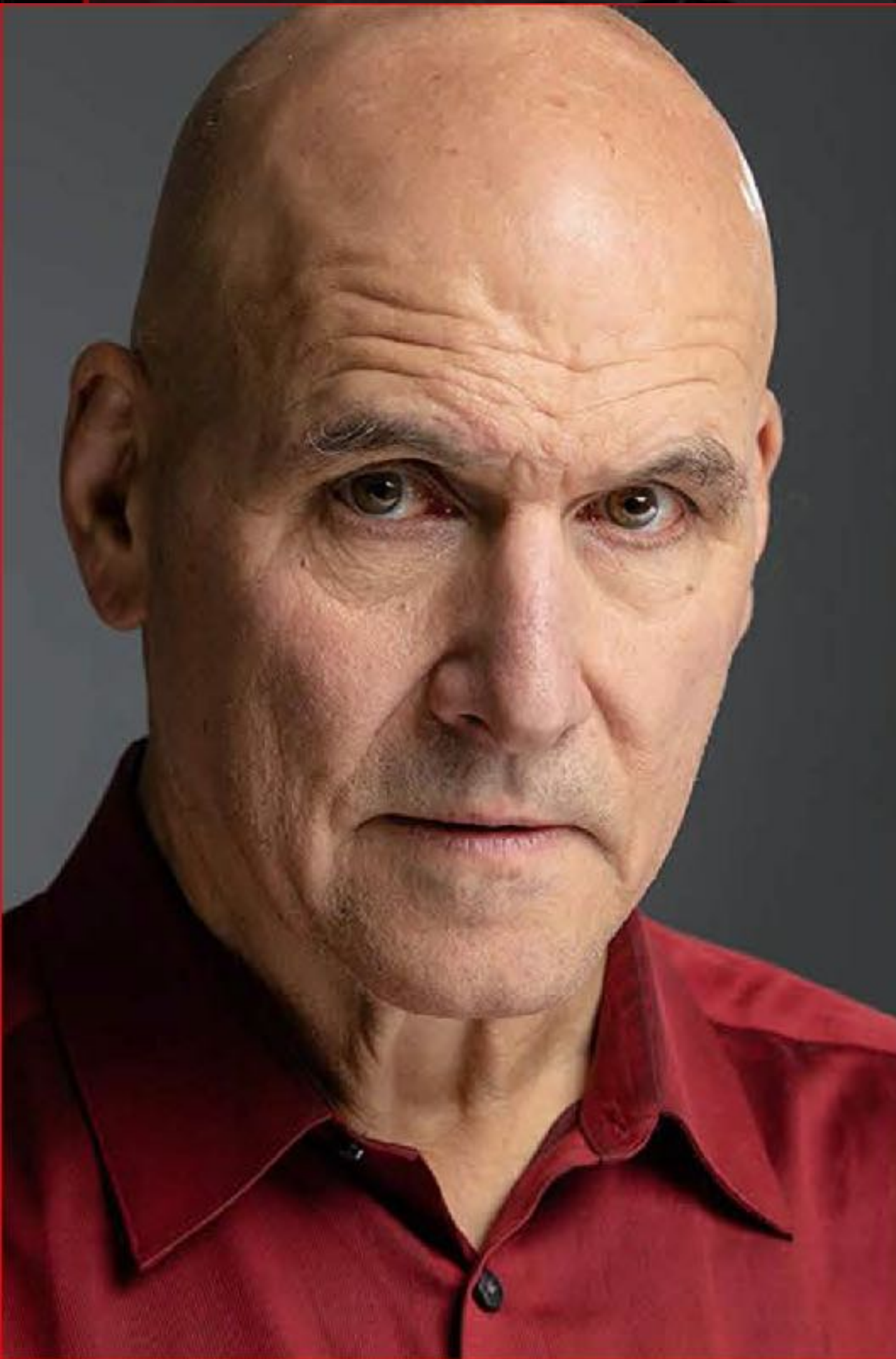
The Duo were nominated in 2017 by the prestigious, Milan-based Colonne Sonore Magazine as Best Italian Composers and for Best Italian Film Music of 2016. Finding themselves honored to be among the ranks of Oscar Winners John Williams, James Horner, Ennio Morricone, and Alexandre Desplat.



[IMDB LINK](#) [WEBSITE LINK](#) [INSTAGRAM LINK](#) [YOUTUBE LINK](#)



THE CAST



THOMAS COKENIAS **IS DOUGLAS SIKES**

A pretty woman asked me to audition for a play her boss was casting. I had never been in a play before, but she asked so I auditioned. I got the lead, Sidney in *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window* by Lorraine Hansberry. I was on stage talking for all but three pages of the play. Many years passed. I had several careers. I started acting again in 2008. I grew up in Greece, Vietnam, Korea, and Washington D.C. To date, I've lived in 32 places. My friend Katy in Salonica taught me to speak Greek. We were three years old. I learned French in Saigon. We left one week before the first attempted coup against the government. I got my Judo blackbelt in Korea when I was 16. No one came to see us off at the airport when we left Korea. Students were rioting in the streets and the roads were closed. No one came to welcome us when we landed in Athens 3 days later. Students were rioting in the streets and the roads were closed.



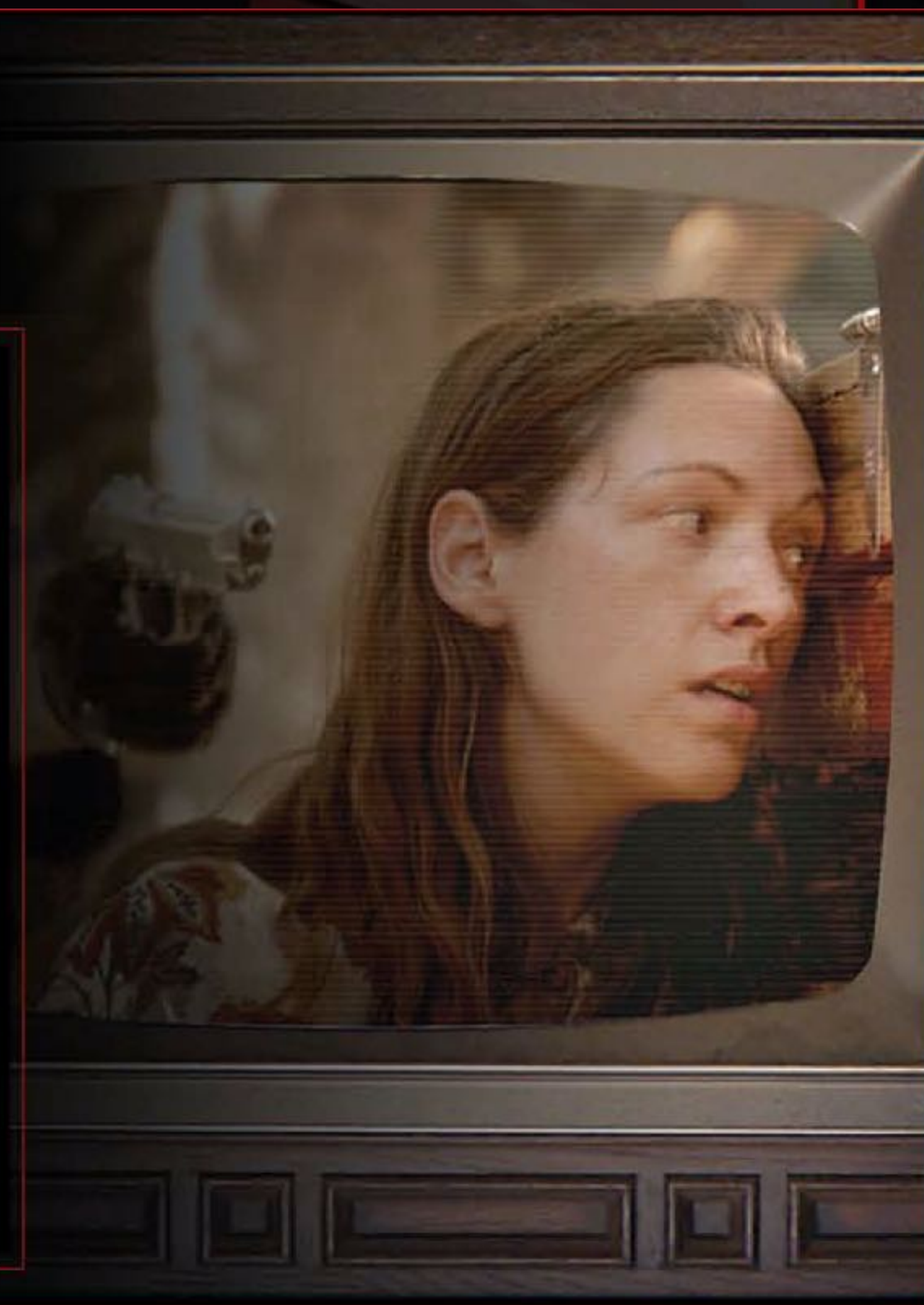
IMDB LINK

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EMILIE GERMAIN IS STEFFIE SIKES

Emilie Germain is a French-American actress. It is not the genre or influence of a film that determines how Emilie Germain picks her roles, but the intensity with which the story challenges her as an actress. She was born and raised near Paris, France where she discovered her love for the stage at the age of seven. She dedicated a great part of her childhood to studying theater, singing, and dancing. After completing her BFA in English, Emilie moved to the U.S. where she was introduced to film acting. She pursued her acting studies and earned a MFA in Motion Picture and Television from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, CA under the wing of Diane Baker where she won the title of Best Actress of the Epidemic Film Festival 2009. She then continued studying and completed her training with Jim Jarrett at the Meisner studio of Acting in 2010 and moved to Los Angeles. Emilie has spent the last several years working on a wide range of feature, short films and plays as an actor but also commercial, print and voice -over artist. She began her career as a producer on the film Parallels which premiered at Cinequest Film Festival. She recently landed the role of Eva in the new Biography channel show My Haunted House as well as the lead role of the thriller feature film Sweet Kitty. She is actively and consistently working as an actress in Los Angeles on films that screen internationally.



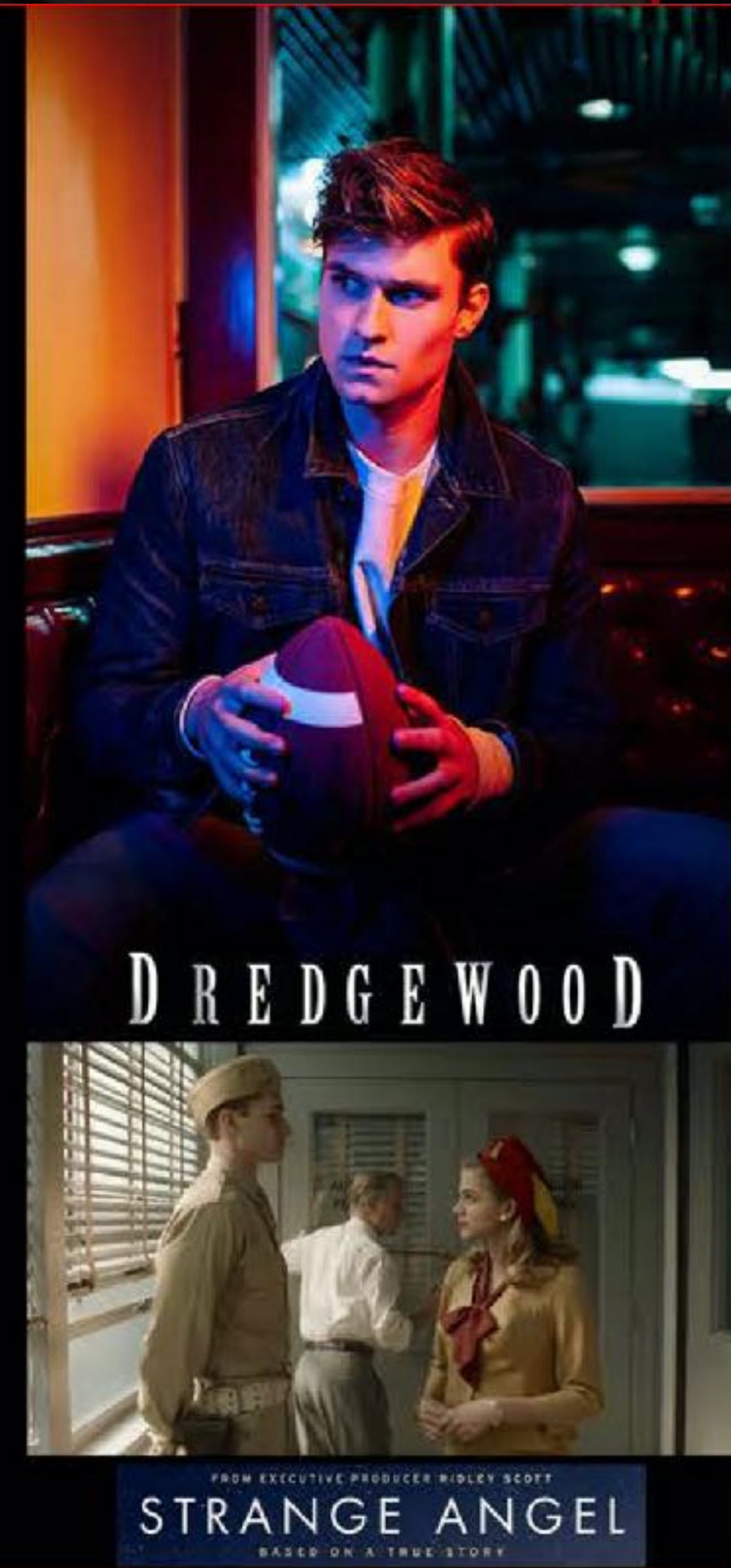
[IMDB LINK](#)

[INSTAGRAM LINK](#)



MACCALLISTER BYRD IS BRAD MANNINGS

MacCallister Byrd can recently be seen reoccurring in the Ridley Scott's executive produced CBS All Access series STRANGE ANGEL. Previously, he appeared in independent films such as EVAN WOOD, THE WRONG FRIEND and on the CBS Television series NCIS:LOS ANGELES. MacCallister received his degree in Acting at ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY where he starred in a number of theatre productions including WAIORA, NO SUCH THING, and Sam Shepard's FOOL FOR LOVE. He resides in Los Angeles with his beautiful fiancé and their lovable dog. There he continues training and is actively working in LA.



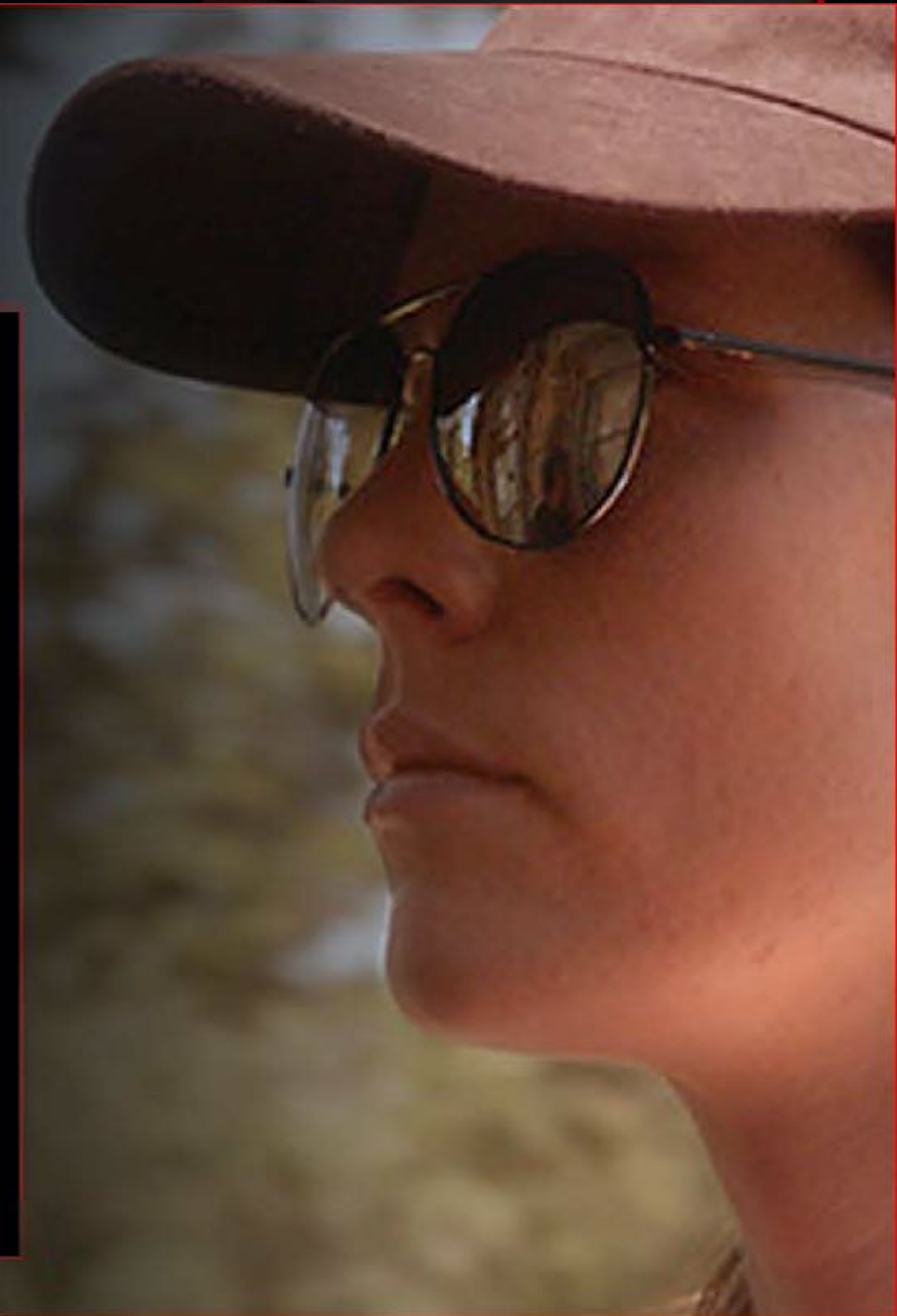
[IMDB LINK](#)

[INSTAGRAM LINK](#)



MOLLY RATERMANN **IS KAREN BILSEN**

Molly Kinsale Ratermann grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her father, George, is an entrepreneur and her mother, Dawn, worked in sales. She has two sisters, Mary and Marie, and a brother, William. She is of Irish, French, and German descent. She first became involved in theater by incident in the 4th grade. She started to pursue her own film career at 13 by getting involved with college level programs such as Academy of Art San Francisco & New York Film Academy where she studied acting for film and even directing. Since then she has gone on to win multiple acting awards at film festivals including the Studio City International Film Festival and the Los Angeles Film Awards.



IMDB LINK

INSTAGRAM LINK



TERESA NAVARRO IS LESLIE CHAN

Teresa Navarro is an award-winning actress & producer. She was awarded the 2016 Humanitarian of the Year Award at the Equality International Film Festival for her volunteer work and efforts in helping survivors of sexual abuse and human trafficking. In addition, she received an award for Best Actress at the 2016 Equality International Film Festival. With her volunteer work and being an advocate, she hopes to utilize her position as an actress & producer to bring more equality, diversity, and awareness on social issues. Currently, Teresa is writing & producing a series, and film. She is slated to star in a coming of age full-length feature dramedy in the Spring of next year. She just wrapped a feature-length film a few weeks ago.



[IMDB LINK](#)

[INSTAGRAM LINK](#)



THE SHORT FILM

WARNING

THE PREZERVE

Interference or destruction
of ZTV personnel or property
will result in: capture,
forced participation in ZTV
programming, zed infection,
and televised execution, pursuant
of war time convictions of capital
crimes, financial delinquency,
and familial association, thereof.



ZTV
SYMPATHY
FOR THE
DEVIL



ZTV
SYMPATHY
FOR THE
DEVIL



ZTV
SYMPATHY
FOR THE
DEVIL



ZTV
SYMPATHY
FOR THE
DEVIL

OPERATOR: KAREN BILSEN

UNIT: ZTV_23716B

+5

+2

0

-2

-5

BATT 



93%

SEARCHING
• UNKNOWN •

PROCESSING

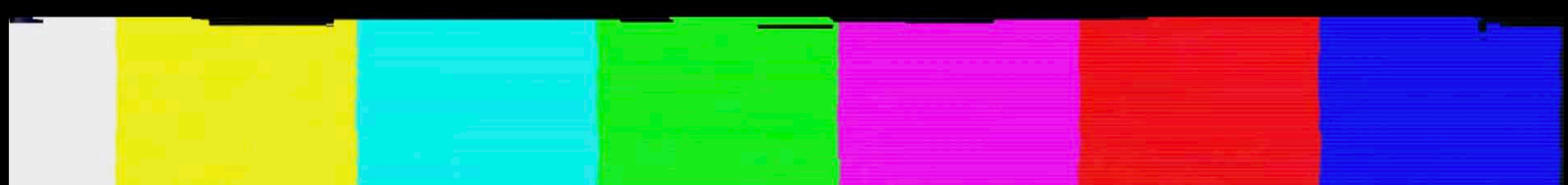
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Auto



ZTV
SYMPATHY
FOR THE
DEVIL



ZATV
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FOR THE DEVIL





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FOR THE
DEVIL



OPERATOR: SANDRA KEENE

UNIT: ZTV_56831X



f 5.6

1/48

Auto



+5
+2
0
-2
-5

BATT A battery level indicator showing four full bars.

ZTV
THE PREZERVE





ZTV
THE PREZERVE



ZTV
THE PREZERVE

The background of the entire image is a blurred American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a soft, out-of-focus manner.

the PREZERVE

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THE PREZERVE



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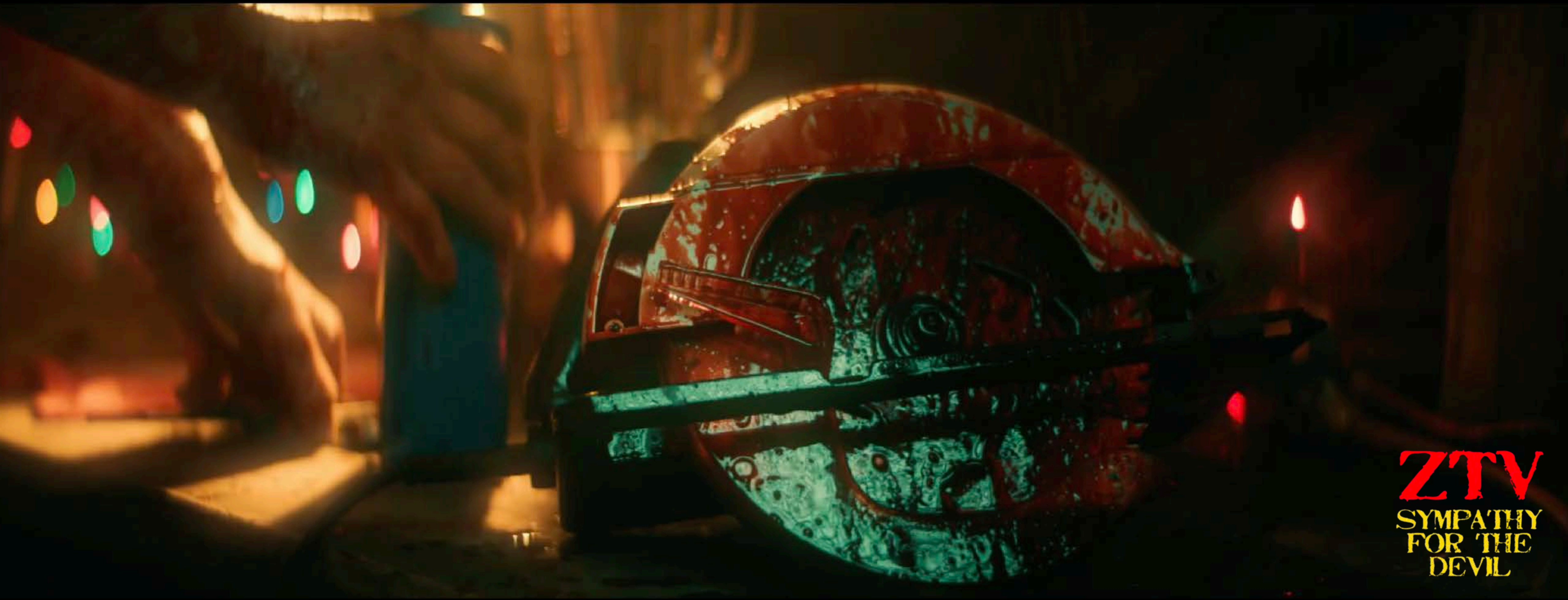


ZTIMER
:30

ZTV
THE PREZERVE



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FOR THE
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REWIND ◀◀

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THE PREZERVE





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FOR THE
DEVIL



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ZTV
SYMPATHY
FOR THE
DEVIL



Pandora FX is a company of special makeup effects artists run by Margaret Caragan. We serve productions throughout the San Francisco Bay Area (aka Hollywood North) providing services for a broad spectrum of practical effects, special makeup effects, and makeup artistry.

Our work on set(s) ranges from horror, medical conditions/realistic injuries, body painting, beauty/hair, and full creatures to specialty costumes, concept art and everything else it takes to bring the wildest characters to life. Fabrication work includes lifecasting, sculpting, moldmaking, and custom prosthetics..

Our list of credits include Sundance world premeired films, international prodcutions, video game commercials, and viral marketing youtube videos with over 52 million views. Several of our team members have been featured contestants on the SYFY Channel's special makeup effects reality series FACE OFF.

Pandora FX partered with Garbo films to produce ZTV: Sympathy for the Devil and created all of the special makeup and blood effects for the project, working closely with longtime collaborator Jason Ragosta and producer Marisa Garay to develop all of the special rigs and effects from the screenplay stage.



ZTV
SYMPATHY
FOR THE
DEVIL

WEBSITE LINK

Pandora FX film credits include FRUITVALE STATION, LASSO, THE VIOLENT KIND, and SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

PRACTICAL MAKEUP FX BY PANDORA FX



ZTV
THE PREZERVE

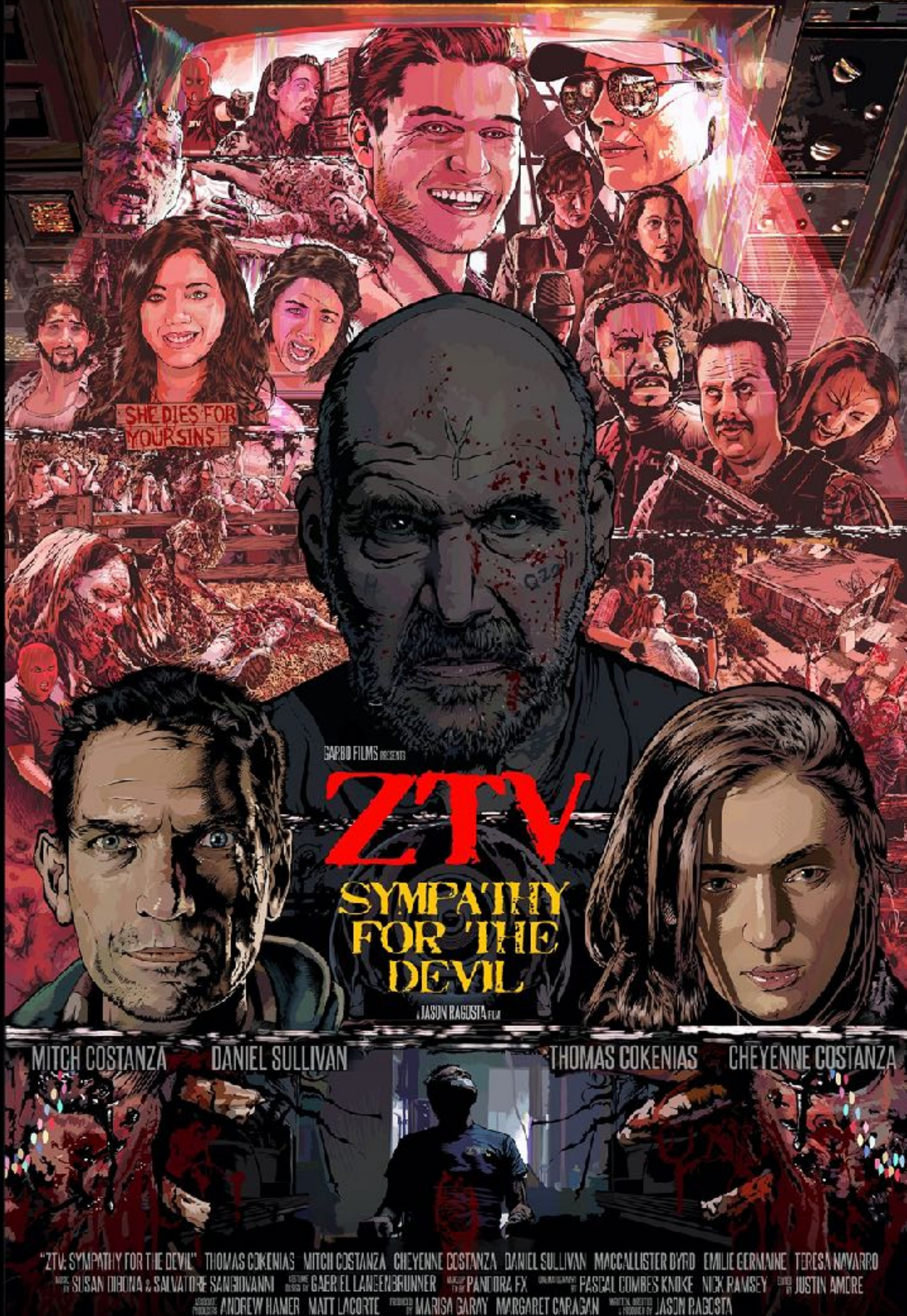
PRACTICAL MAKEUP FX

BY

PANDORA FX

WEBSITE LINK

MACCALLISTER BYRD EMILIE GERMAIN TERESA NAVARRO COLLEEN CAREY MOLLY KINSALE RATERMANN



DREAD CENTRAL

NEWS
SHORT FILM ZTV SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL LAUNCHES CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN: EXCLUSIVE HAND DRAWN POSTER REVEALED
BY KIMBERLY HARRAN / SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

NEWS
CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH WITH PRIDE-THEMED BLU-RAY FOR THE BABADOOK
BY JOSH MELICAN / JUNE 4, 2019

NEWS
SHORT FILM ZTV SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL LAUNCHES CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN: EXCLUSIVE HAND DRAWN POSTER REVEALED

NEWS
HOW THE LATEST TERMINATOR: DARK FATE TRAILER CONFIRMS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PLOT LEAKS
Earlier this Summer, we got wind of some major plot leaks from the upcoming Terminator: Dark Fate (long before we...
BY JOSH MELICAN / SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

PR BY CORY BANEY PUBLICITY

EARLY PRESS COVERAGE

OFFICIAL POSTER ILLUSTRATED BY WRITER, DIRECTOR JASON RAGOSTA AS SEEN IN THE LAUNCH ARTICLE ON DREAD CENTRAL.

FILM DAILY

Home News Obsessions Craft Shows Vote now

Trending News > Currently Crowdfunding: 'ZTV: Sympathy for the Devil'

Currently Crowdfunding: 'ZTV: Sympathy for the Devil'

For those looking for something unique, director Jason Ragosta has the project for you. Ragosta is currently crowdfunding his latest short film ZTV: Sympathy for the Devil. The short film is a horror film for his full-length debut ZTV: The Rescue, which explores the post-apocalyptic world of ZTV that he created. If the support for ZTV: The Rescue is successful, which would fund the film and the short.

The movie is set in the immediate aftermath of the event. ZTV: Sympathy for the Devil, but the whole world is in a state of chaos. It's a horror film that's a bit different from the norm. It's a horror film that's a bit different from the norm. It's a horror film that's a bit different from the norm.

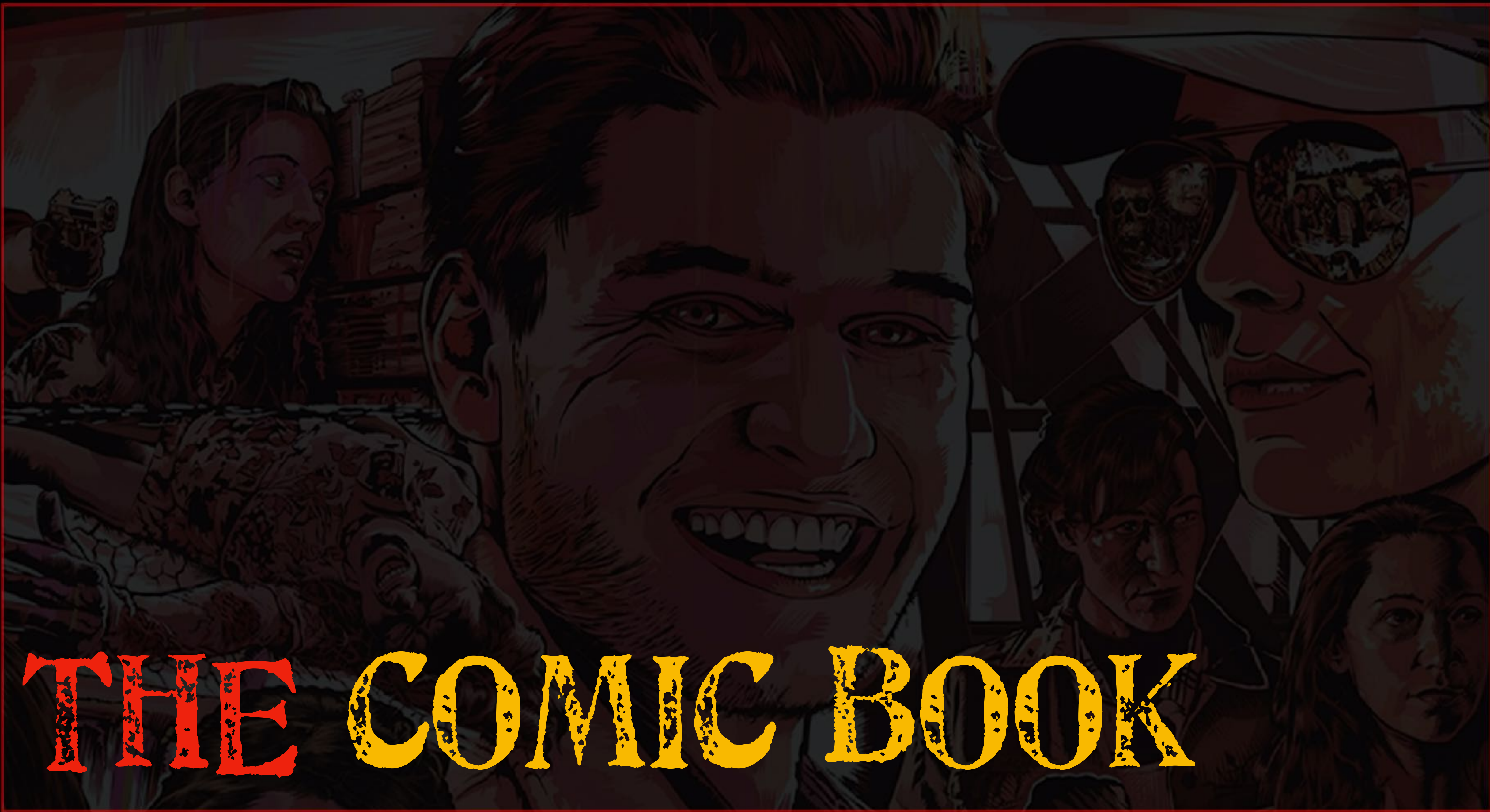
Short film ZTV: Sympathy for the Devil is currently in post-production, so the money donated will help fund the film and the short.

ZTV: Sympathy for the Devil is a horror film that's a bit different from the norm. It's a horror film that's a bit different from the norm. It's a horror film that's a bit different from the norm.

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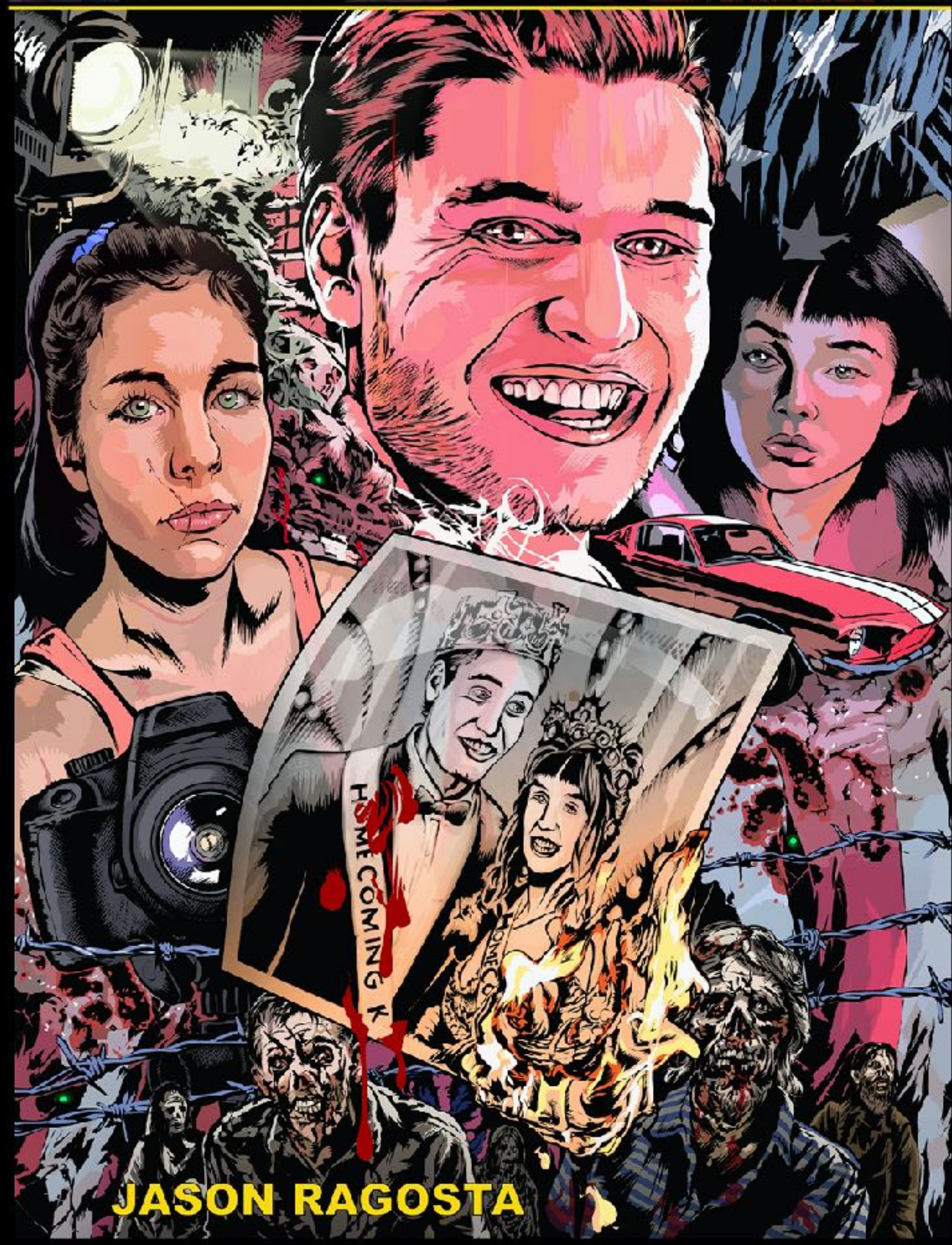
1 Film Daily



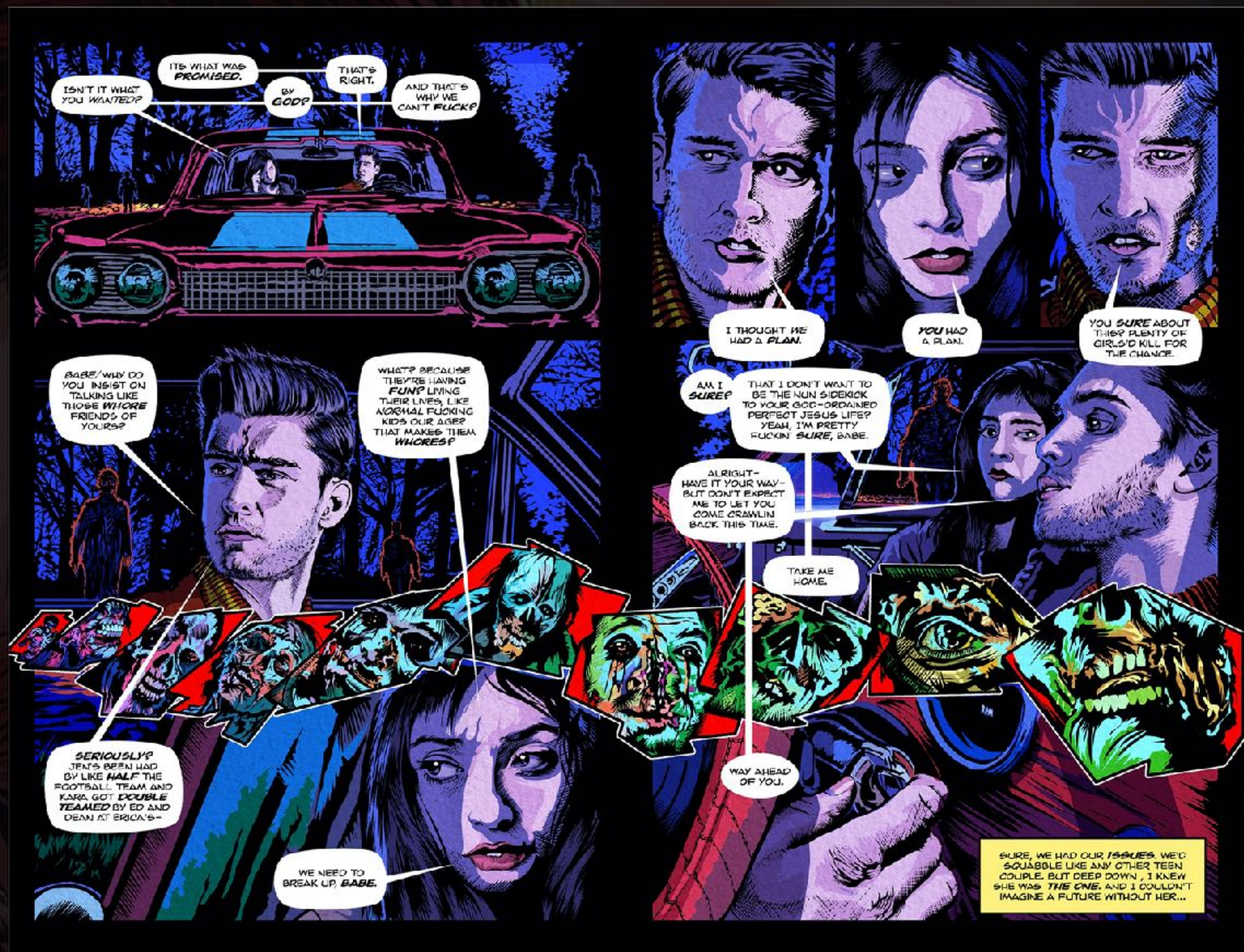
THE COMIC BOOK

ZTV UNDEAD EMPIRE

ISSUE #0



JASON RAGOSTA



ISN'T IT WHAT YOU WANTED?
IT'S WHAT WAS PROMISED.
BY GODS?
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T FUCK?

BABE/WHY DO YOU INSIST ON TALKING LIKE THOSE WHORE FRIENDS OF YOURS?
WHAT? BECAUSE THEY'RE HAVING FUN? LIVING THEIR LIVES, LIKE NORMAL FUCKING KIDS OUR AGE? THAT MAKES THEM WHORES?

I THOUGHT WE HAD A PLAN.
YOU HAD A PLAN.
YOU SURE ABOUT THEM? PLENTY OF GIRLS'D KILL FOR THE CHANCE.

AM I SURE?
THAT I DON'T WANT TO BE THE NUN SIDEKICK TO YOUR GOD-ORDAINED PERFECT JESUS LIFE? YEAH, I'M PRETTY FUCKIN' SURE, BABE.

ALRIGHT-HAVE IT YOUR WAY-BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO LET YOU COME CRAWLIN' BACK THIS TIME.

TAKE ME HOME.

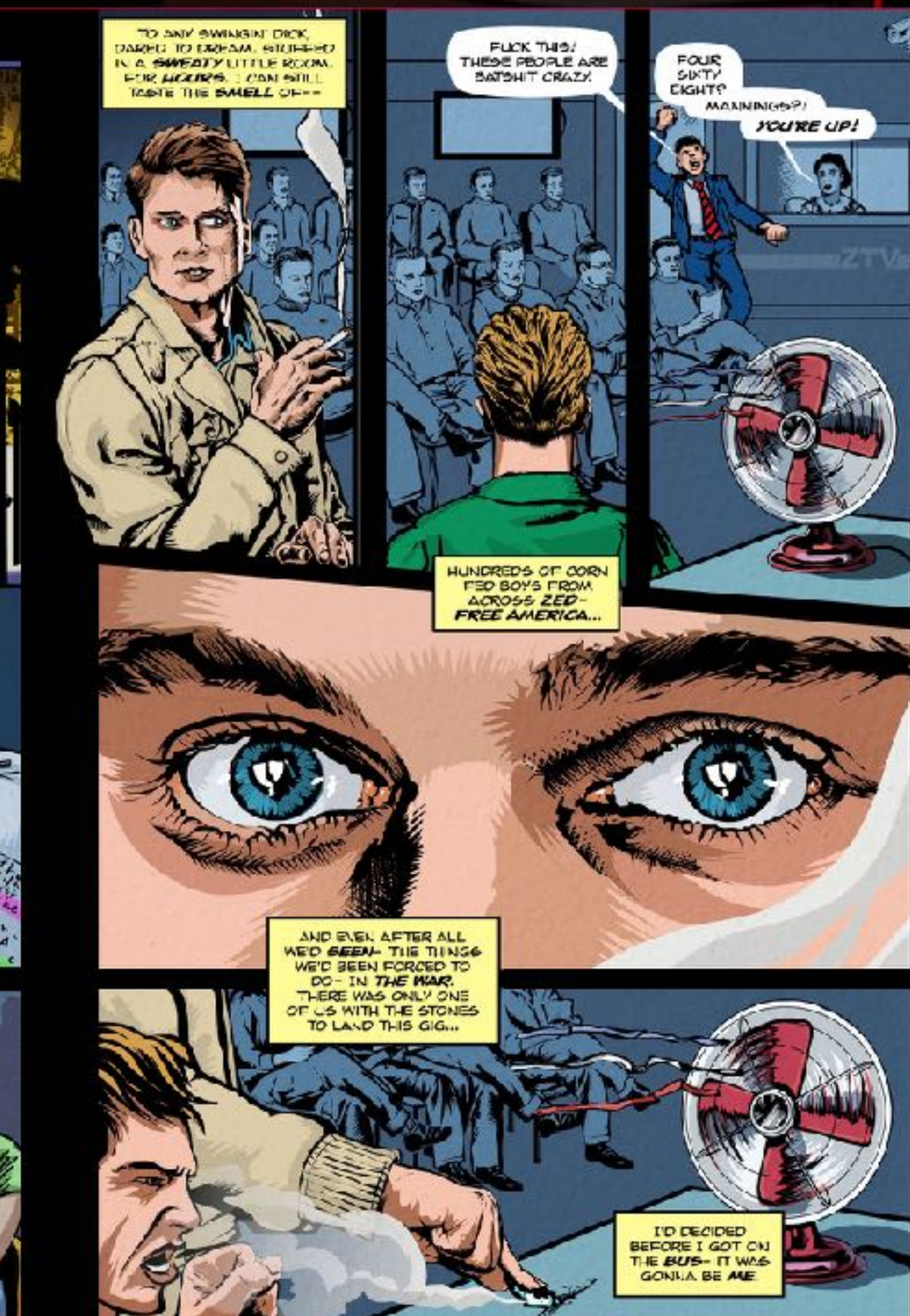
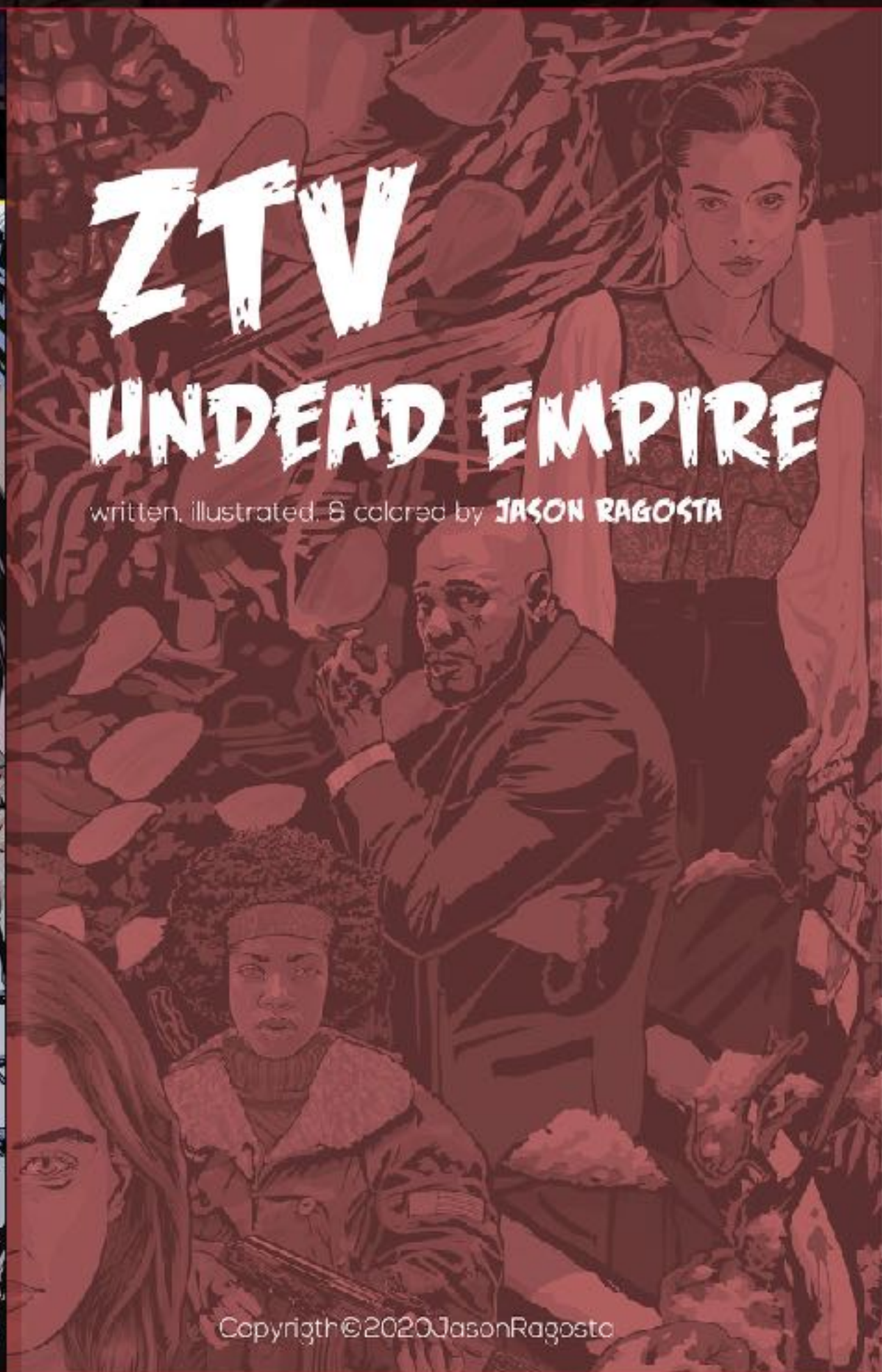
WAY AHEAD OF YOU.

SERIOUSLY? JEN'S BEEN HAD BY LIKE HALF THE FOOTBALL TEAM AND KARA GOT DOUBLE TEAMED BY ED AND DEAN AT ERICA'S-

WE NEED TO BREAK UP, BABE.

SURE, WE HAD OUR ISSUES. WE'D SQUABBLE LIKE ANY OTHER TEEN COUPLE. BUT DEEP DOWN, I KNEW SHE WAS THE ONE. AND I COULDN'T IMAGINE A FUTURE WITHOUT HER...

EXPANDED UNIVERSE COMIC BOOK



INSTAGRAM LINK

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