

FILM - For Roger DIRECTOR - Aaron Bartuska WRITERS - Aaron Bartuska - Gwyn Cutler - Derek Pinchot
CAST - Michael Andrusiewicz - Jenna Gibilisco - Nicholas Paparo - Russell Ranere
PRODUCER - David Sholom EDITOR - Gwyn Cutler DIRECTOR of PHOTOGRAPHY - Joshua Peffley
PRODUCTION DESIGNERS - Sarah Drepaul - Gwyn Cutler ORIGINAL SCORE by Will Dinola

CONTACT - pagethirtyfourproductions@gmail.com - 609-356-2882

for roger

SYNOPSIS

After receiving word of his partner Clara's passing, Roger travels to the desolate family cabin where they would often vacation together. As he pours over the home videos recorded during their trips, Roger begins to realize that someone has been watching them from the woods for years.

The goal when crafting *For Roger* was to make a film that utilizes familiar aspects of the horror genre to grapple with feelings of loss, remorse, and isolation. The film hopes to capture that uncertainty of how one's actions resonate with the people in their life and how those actions can often come back to haunt. By going back through the home videos that capture a collection of intimate moments, Roger begins to see his relationship from an unbiased perspective.

By wedging a camera between himself and his partner, Roger drove himself further away from Clara, and closer to the dangers of the outside world. We hope that our film makes you think back on the moments when you could have listened closer, tried harder, or reached out more. We also hope it makes you look over your shoulder once or twice.

- Aaron Bartuska, the director of *For Roger*



cast



MICHAEL ANDRUSIEWICZ - Roger

Michael Andrusiewicz plays Roger in *For Roger* and hails from Central Jersey. His acting experience comes from high school theater productions, extra work, and making shorts, features, and skits with high school pal and director Aaron Bartuska. The duo have made dozens of films over the course of their time together, with *For Roger* being the latest. Mike wants to thank his family and friends for their support, and the cast and crew for their awesome work on this film.

JENNA GIBILISCO - Clara

Jenna Gibilisco was honored to be asked to play the role of Clara in *For Roger*. Jenna grew up acting, singing, and dancing and continued to study dance at Wagner College, where she graduated with a Bachelors of Science for Business Administration. Currently, she is getting her Masters in Higher Education at Elon University. She hopes to continue acting in films and return to the stage one day. Jenna is unbelievably proud of her very dear friend Aaron for writing and directing this film and can't wait for the next! She would like to thank Aaron, as well as all the producers, crew members, and editors of this film.



NICHOLAS PAPARO - The Watcher

Nick Paparo is a structural engineer and part-time actor from the heart of South Jersey. He fell in love with movies upon meeting director Aaron Bartuska at Drexel University, when together the pair watched no less than 117 movies together in their freshman year. Working on *For Roger* was a highly memorable and fun experience for Nick, as he was able to participate both in front of the camera and in a variety of roles behind it.

crew



AARON BARTUSKA – Director – Writer

Aaron Bartuska is a filmmaker and graduate of Drexel University's film program. He has been making short horror films since he was in sixth grade, when his parents finally let him watch *Halloween* and *The Exorcist*. Since then, he has made multiple short films and low-budget film, *Epilogue*, funded by a grant received on behalf of Drexel University's STAR Scholars Program. His debut feature, *For Roger*, was made with a slightly higher budget and a much larger crew, and is currently looking for distribution. Aaron also hopes to begin producing and funding the projects of his peers in the near future.

GWYN CUTLER – Editor – Art Director – Writer

Gwyn Cutler is a budding editor enamored with the art of portraying emotions through the careful selection and sequencing of media. She refined her trade as a Film Major at Drexel University, minoring in Psychology to represent the human experience as authentically as possible. As one of her most cherished moments at film school, Gwyn assisted on the lively set of *For Roger* as an art director, though she mainly dedicated her time to ingesting and editing the footage. From initial script drafts to final film completion, Gwyn's efforts are ingrained in each stage.



DEREK PINCHOT – Script Supervisor – Writer

Derek Pinchot is a writer and editor working out of the Atlanta area in commercial and series production. Fresh out of the Film & Video program at Drexel University, Derek desires to create atmospheric stories that drag you into the frame and hold you there. He can be found in *For Roger* through the countless writing sessions in the cabin, and on set, stressing about all sorts of things that are not his job. *For Roger* was such an engaging and satisfying experience from start to finish due to each of the dedicated filmmakers who gave their all from pre- to post-production.

DAVID SHOLOM – Producer – Assistant Director

David Sholom is an aspiring producer and assistant director with a background in entertainment and arts management. David is currently finishing up his MBA at Drexel University and hopes to continue his career in New York City. He first became interested in pursuing a career in the film industry when he became infatuated with the Marvel Cinematic Universe. David and Aaron became friends early in their college careers. *For Roger* marks their first endeavor together as director and producer. David endlessly thanks the cast and crew for the dedication, passion, and insight they all brought to this project. His girlfriend Kelly was also on set and she did great.



press

"What most impresses me about *For Roger* is [Bartuska]'s willingness to weave common fears and anxieties into the structure. While *For Roger* is set up like a genre thriller, its examination of relationship dynamics -- of who is heard, empowered, or ignored -- elevates the work. I think the film will resonate with those in their early 20s in a way that work made by slightly older filmmakers may not because it is an examination in progress, raising more questions than supposed answers. The low budget of the film is a feature, not a bug -- it puts all emphasis on performance and the intimate dance between young men and women, camera and performer, audience and story."

- Tom Quinn, director of *Colewell*, *The New Year Parade*

"*For Roger* uses the language of slasher flicks and thrillers to mask a contemplative narrative on the nature of loss, love, and apathy. It provides in equal measure looming dread and tear-jerking catharsis, outshined only by the performances of its dual leads and their excellent chemistry. For Aaron Bartuska, this film is another feather in the cap of a promising start to an illustrious career in arts and entertainment. For everyone else, it's a helluva good time."

- Zachary Jones, Drexel alumni and aspiring filmmaker

Horror film shot in Hammonton

By Joseph F. Bertram
Drexel Staff Writer

The town of Hammonton has been used as a locale in television and film, notably in episodes of "Boardwalk Empire" and "Supernatural," and in the 2002 film *Jish Chid*. Similar to the latter, a horror film has once more been filmed in Hammonton. *For Roger*, shot almost exclusively on location at the Blueberry Hill Hunting Club.

Aaron Bartuska -- who directed the film and wrote it with Derek Pascher and Gwyn Carter--said that the idea for the movie began with his first visit to the club.

"The first time I ever went there, I said that there needs to be a horror movie made here. It just had that vibe, isolated in the middle of the woods. I reverse-engineered a film around wanting to film a horror movie there," Bartuska said.

Bartuska, a native of Mercerville, N.J., is a student at Drexel University. *For Roger*, a feature-length film, is his senior project.



Michael Andrusiewicz as Roger and Jenna Gibilisco as Clara in *For Roger*.



The movie poster for *For Roger*, shot in Hammonton and directed by Aaron Bartuska.

"They really wanted me to do a short film, but I wanted to go above and beyond, especially if I had friends who wanted to help out on it. I figured, why not make a feature film if we can?" Bartuska said.

Bartuska said that he took his first film class when he attended Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville, N.J.

"They had a really good film program there when I attended, and that was the first time that I realized that I could do film as a career. Through my connections at Notre Dame, I found that Drexel University had a pretty good film program, so that's where I ended up going," Bartuska said.

It was at Drexel that Bartuska met Hammonton resident Ashley Rancie and became acquainted with the town.

"For the past two-and-a-half years, I had been coming to Hammonton pretty often because of my association with Ashley. I would spend a lot of time there with Frings Four and all that. I loved seeing how the downtown area was becoming more of an artsy area. I thought it was really cool. I loved the town, and I thought this would be the perfect place to do a movie like this -- The reason we filmed at Blueberry Hill was because it's her dad Russell's cabin," Bartuska said.

As a way of expressing gratitude, Bartuska said that Russell Rancie--and his house--made an appearance in *For Roger*.

"We shot the opening scene there. I did give Russell Rancie a camera as the legitimate for everything he let us do at the cabin. He has one or two lines in the first five minutes," Bartuska said.

The film--which starts fellow Notre Dame High School alumni Michael Andrusiewicz as Roger and Jenna Gibilisco as Clara, along with Drexel classmate Nicholas Papano as The Man Outside, with an original score by Will DeNata--utilizes a mix of film media to forward the narrative.

"I had this cool idea, because I love dual formats. I love film

program there when I attended, and that was the first time that I realized that I could do film as a career. Through my connections at Notre Dame, I found that Drexel University had a pretty good film program, so that's where I ended up going," Bartuska said.

It was at Drexel that Bartuska met Hammonton resident Ashley Rancie and became acquainted with the town.

"For the past two-and-a-half years, I had been coming to Hammonton pretty often because of my association with Ashley. I would spend a lot of time there with Frings Four and all that. I loved seeing how the downtown area was becoming more of an artsy area. I thought it was really cool. I loved the town, and I thought this would be the perfect place to do a movie like this --

The reason we filmed at Blueberry Hill was because it's her dad Russell's cabin," Bartuska said.

As a way of expressing gratitude, Bartuska said that Russell Rancie--and his house--made an appearance in *For Roger*.

"We shot the opening scene there. I did give Russell Rancie a camera as the legitimate for everything he let us do at the cabin. He has one or two lines in the first five minutes," Bartuska said.



Director Aaron Bartuska (left) instructs actor Michael Andrusiewicz during a shoot in October 2019.

and old MiniDV tapes. I love the look of home videos. I wanted to see if we could make a movie that is practically half home video, and the other half is taking place in real time, shot on an industry standard camera, to see what the back-and-forth of those two formats would look like," he said.

According to the film's description, "After receiving word of his partner Clara's passing, Roger travels to the desolate family cabin where they would often vacation together. As he pores over the home videos recorded during their trips, Roger begins to realize that someone has been watching them from the woods for years."

"We shot half of it in July of 2019 on the MiniDV camera, it was a Canon GL2, which is a 2-

per-old, early 2000s camera, right when they were figuring out how to make tapes small. We shot the rest of the film in October and November of 2019, and that's the main segments of the film where the main character, Roger, is watching those tapes. It was interesting to film those at one point, and then have them actually be dated, even if our minds, when we filmed the over-arching narrative. It's a back-and-forth of what he's actually going through," Bartuska said.

Bartuska said that the film is not a conventional, straightforward horror film.

"It is also half about a deteriorating relationship and gaslighting. This guy's watching his old home videos of his relationship,

See FILM, Page 46

For Roger shot at Blueberry Hill

FILM from Page 43

and seeing his relationship from an unbiased lens. It's interesting a line of actual horror--there's a guy outside, and that's scary--and the interior horror of a toxic relationship. It's closer to psychological horror than slasher, but it has slasher roots," Bartuska said.

Bartuska noted that Blueberry Hill made for an ideal filming location.

"It was great to get a 20-person crew out there. We all slept there, when we'd wake up, we were already on set. We could start at noon and go until midnight, and get a

12-hour turnover, then get right back at it, it provided a cool atmosphere, too, because we didn't have to wrangle for the day, then go anywhere, like back to a hotel or anything. We were just where we were going to be. We could relax, we could de-stress and get ready for the next day," he said.

Bartuska noted that he was unsure as to when the film will be officially promoted, but he is exploring options to screen it locally.

"It's pretty tough to find a place to premiere right now with all the social distanc-

HPD raise money for Cancer Foundation



The Hammonton Police Department's "Pink Ribbon" raised \$640 for the



Crews shot at night at Blueberry Hill Hunting Club in 2019.

ing and everything going on -- I don't want to premiere it when it's getting too cold out, if we can't get it out there by mid-November we might just do an online premiere," he said.

However, because he is planning to submit *For Roger* to film festivals, Bartuska noted that he has to be judicious with the release.

"I can't really put it out anywhere publicly, because a lot of festivals won't even consider showing it at that point. If it were to be a premiere, it would either be a one-time, in-person thing or a one-time online event so that I can make sure to submit it."


to festivals, most of those would inform me by about April or May if they wanted to screen it. Then, it would have a premiere and go from there onto distributors," he said.

Making *For Roger*, Bartuska said, was the culmination of a lifelong love of the genre.

"I remember seeing Halloween on the TV when I was 3-years-old, and being freaked out of my mind, it was on the background. I think that played into me becoming obsessed with the genre later on in my life, because it was ingrained ... It was a lot of fun to make," he said.

Courtesy Photo

Courtesy Photo



for roger
dir. aaron bartuska

digital
4:3
stereo
89 minutes
english

we hope you enjoy our film