



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2021
FILMFESTIVAL
KITZBÜHEL

HABIT

FREENJOY *BAD HABIT FILMS*

LOGLINE:

A nun's life falls apart after leaving her religious order under mysterious circumstances.

SYNOPSIS:

After leaving her religious order, a young nun moves into a seedy residential hotel on the edge of LA's skid row. While waiting for a mysterious visitor to arrive, her life unravels, and she begins to wonder if she's made a huge and irreparable mistake.

PRODUCTION SPECIFICATIONS:

Running Time: 19 minutes, 50 seconds

Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

Year: 2020

Language: English

Form: Narrative Fiction Short Film

Location: Los Angeles, California

Filmed on a Sony VENICE CineAlta 6K digital cinema camera with Cooke S4 lenses.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

At its heart, this film is a mystery. The first and most obvious mystery: What is a nun doing in a seedy, residential hotel in downtown Los Angeles? Who is she waiting for, and is this person ever going to come?

The second mystery, though less obvious, goes to the heart of what the film is about: Who is this nun now that she is not a nun anymore?

This is a woman who, for much of her adult life, woke up at the exact same time, put on a habit, and followed the same hourly routine, day after day after day. Now she must learn to be someone else.

But who? Who are you without your clothes, without your things, without any certainty of purpose? Who are you when you have no money and no home, and you find yourself, for the first time, completely and utterly alone?

- KWK

HABIT

CREW:

Written and Directed by Kevin W. Koehler
Produced by Jeff Kopchia and Matt Dooley
Executive Produced by Jonathan Craven, Kim Koehler,
Nathan Scherrer, and Ben Piety
Director of Photography Reuben Steinberg
Editor Nick Pezzillo
Original Music and Sound by McKenzie Stubbett
Production Design Krista-Thomas Scott
Costume Designer Lisa Erickson
Casting by Jennifer Brooks, CSA
Key Make-Up and Hair by Sabrina Sweet
1st AC – Joe Cheung
2nd AC – Anthony Hwang
Assistant to Director – Amy Sylvester Reed
Sound Mixer/Boom Operator – Zach Suter
Production Manager – Ben Piety

Creative Operations – Tara Sheree
Gaffer – Jeff Marlowe
Camera PA – Samantha Navarro
Camera/Grip PA – Calvin Dolloso
Art Director – Matthew Hasemeier
On-Set Dresser – Shannon Sweeney
Set Dresser – Jaime Connors
Art Department Assistant – Joseph T. Kramer
Picture Bus – Alfonso Vasquez Jr.
Truck PA – Enree Smith
Stills Photographer – Jose Cabrera
Still Photographer – Ben Briand
Poster & Credit Design – Kim Koehler
Visual Effects Artist – Chance Cole
Featured Cello – Caleigh Drane
Additional Music Performed by Stuart Elliot Rowe and
London Plane

CAST:

Emily Goss as The Sister
Colin McCall as The Tourist
Eve Sigall as The Mother Superior
Charlie Farrell as The Priest
Aaron Kee as The Desk Clerk
Willa Koehler as Girl on Bus
Sarah Choi as Teenage Girl on Bus
Van Stepanian as Teenage Boy on Bus
Kevin W. Koehler as Voice on Phone

HABIT



PRODUCTION NOTES





PRODUCTION NOTES

Filming took place over two days and five separate locations in Los Angeles – four of those in one single day. Much of *Habit* was shot at the Baltimore Hotel, a century-old single room occupancy (SRO) hotel on the edge of Skid Row.

This is, quite literally, the most dangerous neighborhood in America*. More than a third of the residents of these sixteen blocks are the victim of a violent crime every year and live in a level of poverty that almost unfathomable. 80% are unemployed and the median income is less than \$10,000 a year. The film's director first discovered the hotel during an LA crime tour, which certainly says something. Filming here obviously provided challenges, but these obstacles pale in comparison to those faced by the residents of this neighborhood, living in conditions no one should.

At the time of shooting, the hotel was in the process of being renovated by its new owners, the Healthy Housing Foundation, a charitable organization that provides housing to low-income individuals, families, and the homeless. The production is grateful that much of their location budget went to such a great cause.

* <https://www.forbes.com/sites/laurabegle-bloom/2021/01/28/the-10-most-dangerous-neighborhoods-in-america-its-not-where-you-think/?sh=4b95b181341f>

CAST AND CREW BIOS



KEVIN KOEHLER / WRITER AND DIRECTOR

As a screenwriter, Kevin Koehler gained notoriety in 2008 with his unconventional screenplay, *The Phantom Limb*. That script would ultimately be named to the Hollywood Blacklist and chosen by Total Film magazine as one of the top ten unproduced screenplays in Hollywood.

Since that time, Kevin has collaborated with filmmakers like Wim Wenders, Gregg Araki, and the directing team of Cary Murnion and Jon Milott. Shorts he's written have screened at SXSW, BFI London, the Melbourne International Film Festival, Palm Springs ShortFest, and the AFI Directing Workshop for Women.

He currently lives in Los Angeles writing and developing projects for television and cinema.

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JEFF KOPCHIA / PRODUCER

Jeff Kopchia is an LA-based producer who has worked on projects with artists and brands such as The Weeknd, Diplo, Sia, Missy Elliott, ASOS, and MCM Worldwide. His work has been recognized by the MTV VMAs and awarded Video of the Year by the UK MusicVideo-Awards and the Ciclope Festival.

NATHAN SCHERRER / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Nathan Scherrer is a Grammy award-winning producer and the founder of the production company Freenjoy. Nathan has produced music videos for a range of musical artists including Beyonce (Formation and Lemonade), Ariana Grande, The Weeknd, Justin Timberlake, Travis Scott, Kendrick Lamar, and Harry Styles. His work has been awarded Grammys, the Cannes Grand Prix, the Cannes Bronze Lion, the SXSW Jury Award, MTV VMAs and EMAs, and the BET Video of the Year.

JONATHAN CRAVEN / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Working in entertainment for 25 years, Jonathan Craven has collaborated with artists like Rihanna, Justin Timberlake, Selena Gomez, and Usher as well as brands like Beats by Dre, Live Nation, and Budweiser. He has produced multiple acclaimed feature films, including the horror hit The Last House on the Left (Universal/Relativity) and Random Acts of Violence (Netflix). He was partner, executive producer, and head of content for LA production company The Uprising Creative.

MATT DOOLEY / PRODUCER

Matt Dooley has worked across several disciplines within film and television - editing, music composition, writing and directing. He has produced several award-winning pieces including the acclaimed Australian shorts Apricot and Blood Pulls a Gun, as well as the feature What Lola Wants. He is currently developing projects for television and cinema.

BEN PIETY / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Since 2006, Ben Piety has been writing, directing, producing on all scales of projects for reality, music videos, and scripted television. He has produced videos for musical artists like P!nk and Green Day, and currently oversees production for Freenjoy, a creative home for artists.

KIM KOEHLER / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Kim Koehler has been working in the entertainment industry for the past two decades. She has worked in development, casting, acting, and the art department. In addition to producing, she works as a freelance creative director and designer. Also an author, she is currently expanding her short story collection into a memoir.

HABIT



EMILY GOSS / THE SISTER

Emily Goss received her BA in Theatre from the USC School of Dramatic Art and MA in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). Her feature film credits include Shook, Jane and Emma, The House on Pine Street (for which she won 3 Best Actress awards), and Snapshots (for which she won 4 Best Actress awards). Her television credits include guest stars on Criminal Minds, L.A.'s Finest, Castle, and Future Man.

COLIN MCCALLA / THE TOURIST

Originally from Queens, NY, Colin McCalla currently stars as River on Tyler Perry's Ruthless, the #1 show on BET+. After originally moving to California to study Applied Mathematics, he made the shift to acting while training at Stan Kirsch Studios and Lesly Kahn & Co. in LA. Additional credits include SWAT on CBS, 911 on FX, The Prom on Netflix and the upcoming movie The Class, a Breakfast Club-inspired film produced by Anthony Michael Hall.

REUBEN STEINBERG / DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Originally from New York City, Reuben Steinberg attended film school at the prestigious Art Center College of Design. After lensing a variety of commercial projects for ESPN, Nike, Ford, Best Buy and Disney, Reuben has recently wrapped several films. This includes Mickey Kelley (starring Dennis Quaid), RIDE (starring Ludacris) and American Wrestler (starring Jon Voight and William Fichtner), with other feature projects making their theatrical and Netflix debuts in the summer/fall of 2020.

NICK PEZZILLO / EDITOR

Nick Pezzillo has been an editor in Los Angeles since 2002. He's worked on many award-winning projects in short form media, including short films like Your Lucky Day, Edgewood, and There is No Gravity. He has also edited music videos for the likes of Portugal, The Man, Arctic Monkeys, Wiz Khalifa, Odesza and others.

KRISTA THOMAS-SCOTT / PRODUCTION DESIGN

Krista Thomas-Scott is an LA-based production designer and set decorator. Trained in New York City, she worked as a theatrical costume and set designer between stints at the Juilliard School and the UN. Recent features include And Then There Was Eve and Be the Light. She has also designed music videos for bands including BUSH, Galantis, Crimson Apple, and Echosmith, as well as decorated commercials for Jack in the Box, J.Crew, Old El Paso, and Dos Equis.

MCKENZIE STUBBERT / ORIGINAL MUSIC AND SOUND

McKenzie Stubbett is an Emmy-nominated and AMP Award-winning composer based in Los Angeles. He has scored pioneering and award-winning VR films for Chris Milk, Annapurna Pictures, National Geographic, and the UN. The Displaced, created for The New York Times, won the 2016 Cannes Lion. He scored the 2017 documentary Elián, produced by Alex Gibney and CNN Films, and the 2018 documentary short The Girl and the Picture for Academy Award winner Vanessa Roth.

JENNIFER BROOKS, CSA / CASTING

Jennifer Brooks has worked in casting for over a decade, starting her career at the famed L.A. Theatre Works. She has been steadily working in television and film, ranging from horror to comedy to drama. Selected credits include American Horror Story, 9-1-1, and Underground.



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"HABIT"

FREENJOY PRESENTS A BAD HABIT FILMS PRODUCTION "HABIT" STARRING EMILY GOSS
DIRECTED BY REUBEN STEINBERG EDITOR NICK PEZZILLO PRODUCTION DESIGNER MCKENZIE STUBBERT
PRODUCTION DESIGNER KRISTA THOMAS SCOTT COSTUME DESIGNER LISA ERICKSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCER KENNIFER BROOKS, CSA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JONATHAN CRAVEN PRODUCED BY KEVIN W. KOEHLER
PRODUCED BY JEFF KOPCHIA, MATT DOOLEY
WRITTEN BY KEVIN W. KOEHLER

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HabitShortFilm.com

FESTIVAL LIST



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FILMFESTIVAL
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Filmfestival Kitzbühel
August 23rd - 29th, 2021
In Competition



LA Shorts International
Film Festival
July 1st- 31st, 2021
In Competition



CONTACT INFORMATION

Official website: www.habitshortfilm.com

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