

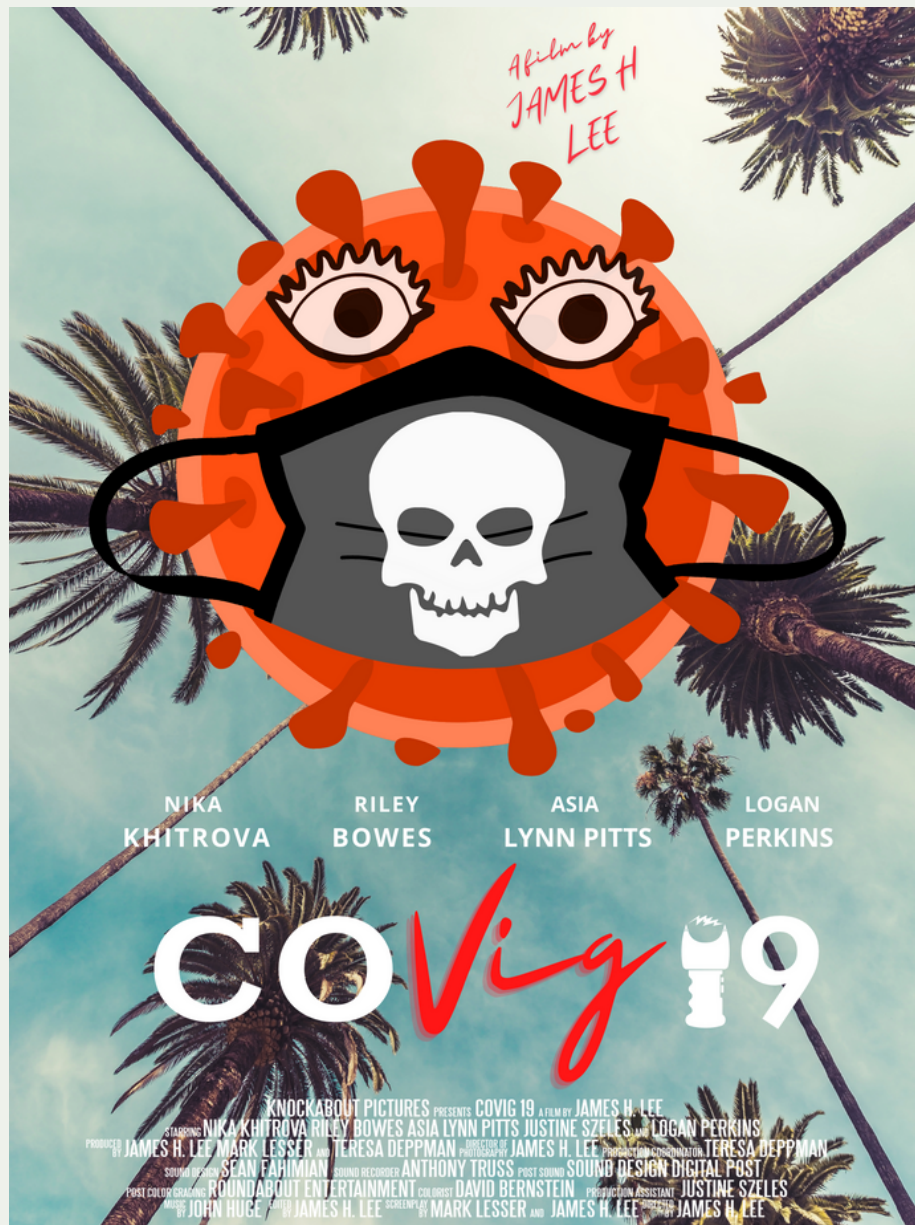


# COVig 19

**KNOCKABOUT PICTURES** PRESENTS **COVIG 19** A FILM BY **JAMES H. LEE**  
STARRING **NIKA KHITROVA RILEY BOWES ASIA LYNN PITTS JUSTINE SZELES AND LOGAN PERKINS**  
PRODUCED BY **JAMES H. LEE MARK LESSER AND TERESA DEPPMAN** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **JAMES H. LEE** PRODUCTION COORDINATOR **TERESA DEPPMAN**  
SOUND DESIGN **SEAN FAHIMIAN** SOUND RECORDER **ANTHONY TRUSS** POST SOUND **SOUND DESIGN DIGITAL POST**  
POST COLOR GRADING **ROUNDAABOUT ENTERTAINMENT** COLORIST **DAVID BERNSTEIN** PRODUCTION ASSISTANT **JUSTINE SZELES**  
MUSIC BY **JOHN HUGE** EDITED BY **JAMES H. LEE** SCREENPLAY BY **MARK LESSER AND JAMES H. LEE** DIRECTED BY **JAMES H. LEE**

[WWW.COVIG19MOVIE.COM](http://WWW.COVIG19MOVIE.COM)

# A Pandemic Comedy Shot Entirely on iPhone 11 Pro



## LOGLINE

At the height of the LA lockdown, a hit woman and rookie are out to collect a debt from a wealthy couple. The only thing that can stop them is the insanity of a global pandemic.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We wanted to make a film highlighting how the pandemic caused people of all backgrounds to act in irrational ways. In 2020, every industry has been hit hard by the pandemic. We imagined even the debt collection business has been heavily impacted by a new set of Covid 19 norms. The hitman characters, Natasha and Art embody two polarizing views about the pandemic's new norms. The film explores how they team up and work through those differences. CoVig 19 was made to make you think about the new reality that now exists in our lives.

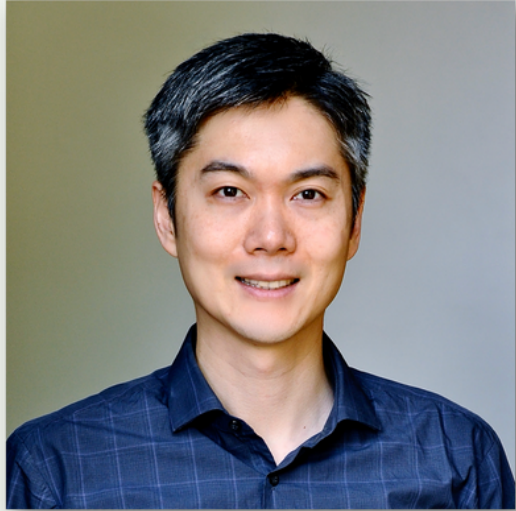
-- James H. Lee

## OFFICIAL TRAILER



<https://vimeo.com/546231204>

# Cast & Crew



## JAMES H. LEE

*Director & Co-Writer*  
*Cinematographer, Editor, Producer*

James is a creator of fantastic, funny films. A native of Los Angeles, he's a graduate of the University of Southern California School of Cinema & TV. His career started in TV production where he was immersed in comedy while working behind the scenes as a post producer on Joan River's Fashion Police series for E! Entertainment. He has since developed a directing style that combines an eye for unique visuals and laugh out loud comedy performances. His films range from a hyper-stylized sizzle, a political farce about misinformation, and an entirely self-shot iPhone pandemic comedy. He sets out to push boundaries and deliver a truly memorable viewing experience.



## MARK LESSER

*Writer & Producer*

Mark Lesser is an artist and screenwriter living in Los Angeles. After attending an artist residency in Morocco, Mark began painting and writing daily. He wrote the comedic short, "A Bathroom on Drake" which won Best Short Film at the 2020 Big Apple Film Festival. "Mumbly Peg" is a completed feature screenplay that is planning for an August 2021 production. Presently, Mark is writing a novel that will be adapted for the screen. Along with writing, Mark has 20 years of film and television production credits to his name, including one of his first credits, "Spaceballs"! Mark has been an exhibited artist & painter for 25 years and has a doctorate in clinical psychology. He is married to Shellie, has an adult daughter Taylor, and a dachshund named Pablo.

# Cast & Crew



## NIKA KHITROVA

### *Natasha*

Nika is an LA-based actress and producer. Nika's career started on the London stage when she was an adolescent. She has since worked across the world in film and television. Nika was born in Russia, with half-Lithuanian parentage. Bi-lingual in English and Russian, she moved to the UK as a child she spent her formative years in North London. She recently guest starred on NCIS: Los Angeles for CBS and her indie vampire feature Blood From Stone was released on demand.



## RILEY BOWES

### *Art*

Riley Bowes is a Los Angeles-based, trained actor from Pretoria, South Africa. After graduating from the University of Pretoria with an honors degree in Marketing Management, he moved to LA and began honing his craft at the Michelle Danner Acting Studio in Santa Monica and then at UCLA. Although a versatile and gifted stage performer in every sense, Riley has a passion for film and has been nothing short of impressive on screen in his burgeoning career. He starred in the film *Stuck* (2018), which is featured on Amazon Prime's Discover Indie Film anthology series and he received the Apollo Award at the 2018 Connect Film Festival for this performance. As a self-described cinephile he is interested in all things cinema and is writing his first short film.

# Cast & Crew

## ASIA LYNN PITTS

### *Sam*



Asia Lynn Pitts, a Las Vegas native, majored in both Theatre and Music at the College of Southern Nevada. She completed the two-year Professional Workshop at the prestigious Circle in the Square Theatre School in NYC. Shortly after, Asia decided to make the move to LA after accepting the position as Producer/Company Member of Second Skin Theatre Company. She now holds the position of Associate Artistic Director. Following, Asia took on the lead role as American Sports Executive Effa Manley in the premiere of *Blackballed: The Rise and Fall of Negro League Baseball* by Matthew Robinson, which took home two awards and was nominated for Best Ensemble. Asia is thankful to her Mother for passing down her strength, passion, and ability to endure.

## LOGAN PERKINS

### *Bobby*



Logan Perkins moved from South Carolina to Los Angeles 5 years ago to become a great entertainer. He's a versatile actor who enjoys the process and can tackle challenging characters. If he can stay humble and invest in a character who he can morally support, he's good to go. He recently took a break from his entertainment career to focus on his faith at Calvary Baptist Church in Burbank. He is also known for *All Aboard* (2021), *Dead or Alive* (2017) and *Once Upon a Time in 'Murica* (2020).

## FILM REVIEW

Writer-director James H. Lee and co-writer Mark Lesser design CoVig 19 in a way that highlights the ridiculousness of the pandemic and the ways in which the world has reacted. Their plan to expose their targets is ludicrous but is planned and well-executed... it's beautifully designed to offend and question the world in which we live.

- Kyle Bain FILM THREAT  
Movie Score 7/10

<https://filmthreat.com/reviews/covig-19>



# Why shoot a film on the iPhone about the pandemic?

- We couldn't use a large crew due to the pandemic. So we had to shoot with a small group of friends who were all staying isolated and were down to do a short, creative project. I wasn't entirely sure how the footage would turn out since it was the first time DP'ing my own film but I'd done a few camera tests with the iPhone in different natural lighting situations. I was fairly confident we could produce some great images despite our limited crew.
- Post production was the most difficult part and took approximately 5 weeks to finish because shooting on the iPhone was easy. The hard part was making it all sound and look good. Luckily we had a great sound designer, Sean Fahimian who worked on Robot Chicken and David Bernstein, our colorist who works on Netflix shows. Together they made the images and sound really pop.
- I had seen other filmmakers create compelling films with the iPhone so I watched every tutorial I could find on Youtube about mobile filmmaking for 2 months. I also watched several Steven Soderbergh's features he had shot with the iPhone and was really impressed by the images he created for High Flying Bird and Unsub.
- I was inspired by the way Sean Baker was able to pull off Tangerine on the streets of Hollywood. The iPhone gives you the ability to stay low key and that was part of its allure. I was shocked we were able to run around the famous Hollywood Hills using the multimillion dollar homes as backdrops all without raising an eyebrow.

--JAMES H. LEE  
Director & Co-Writer

