

THE MERGER



SYNOPSIS

The Merger is a dark comedy featuring two wealthy and competitive corporate CEOs who meet to discuss a merger between their companies. What starts out as a simple disagreement about branding becomes something more sinister — friendly barbs turn to cutting jabs, and sportsmanlike sparring devolves into a shocking display of savagery.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Nick Anderson and Skyler Henry are childhood friends who have been telling stories together since they met in 3rd grade. Over the years, they've teamed up to create graphic novels, plays, songs, music videos, skits, and short films.

Nick Anderson attended film school at Chapman University and also worked in development at Warner Bros before moving back to Sacramento. In 2017 Nick founded Bright Coast Productions and enlisted Skyler Henry's talents as a video editor.

Their first short film was *The Change*, an ambitious sci-fi/horror short featuring an all-child cast. Written and directed by Nick, Skyler came on board in post to edit and design sound for the short film. After *The Change* saw a fair amount of success in the festival circuit, Nick and Skyler teamed back up for a sophomore effort, *The Merger*. Unlike *The Change*, *The Merger* is a joint venture from the ground up, and was co-written, co-directed, and co-produced by both Nick and Skyler.

Shot during the pandemic, *The Merger* is finally ready to make its debut and Nick and Skyler are thrilled to bring it to a screen near you.



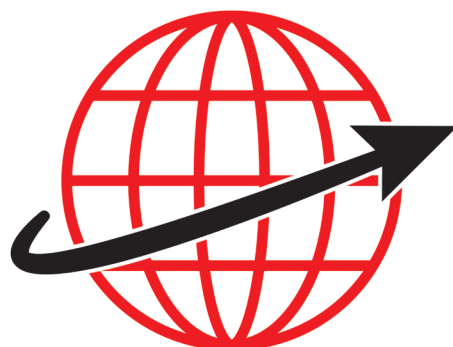
Henry(L) and Anderson

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Merger is an exploration of unfettered capitalism reaching its inevitable conclusion. We wanted to delve into the absurdity, as well as the brutality, of glorifying the unending competition that permeates modern society. Enter Gary and Wally. As our characters race towards the bottom, courtesy turns to hostility, thinly-veiled annoyance to uncontrollable rage—culminating in a shocking display of primal dominance. When we allow greed to guide us, violence is the only possible destination.

PROPOSED MERGER LOGO

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY



SYNERGIZEDGLOBAL

SOLUTIONCORP

THE MERGER CAST



Edward Hightower

Edward has been acting since the late 20th Century and has the facial hair to prove it. Honing his craft on-stage for much of that time, his first on-camera work was in 1989, improvising award-winning sketch comedy on glamorous SF Bay Area Cable Access. Which he inserts wherever possible. Recent film endeavors include Hassan Said's *This Is Your Song*, Nick Anderson & Skyler Henry's *The Merger*, and Michael Allen Hennesy's *Critic*. Skilled in the reading of Tarot, Edward is happiest with his best role to date: fatherhood. He wrote this bio in third person.



Will Springhorn Jr.

Will is a Bay Area based Actor and Fight choreographer. Will can be seen in the Mark Andrews live action short *circle of stone* and Peter Hsieh's debut feature *Drive all Night*. Will teaches at West Valley College and Diablo Valley College. www.will-springhornjr.com



Courtney Conklin

Courtney has a vast background in film and theatre production, in front and behind the scenes. She is known for work with Burn Baby Burn productions, working on films and short films alike including *Where Sleeping Dogs Lie* written by Josh Pierson. Courtney Conklin is also the founder, Artistic Director, and President of Rise Up Theatre Company.

THE MERGER CREW

James Marsh (Director of Photography)

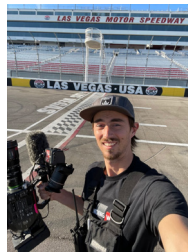
James uses devices and materials to produce and form photons of light. Creating the realistic illusion of an alternate universe that can be viewed through windows of liquid crystals and frosted silver screens. Creating a reality forming experience that makes you question what is real or not.

Corey Nuss (Assistant Camera)

Corey's first time ever on set was as an AC for an online series with CBS Sports and fell in love with set life. He still works freelance in the industry and enjoys working as a DP, Movi Operator or AC.

Rain Williamson (Makeup and FX)

Rain is skilled in sfx makeup, sculpting, and practical effects. Rain's passion for film started at a young age. She is inspired by H.R Giger, Rob Bottin, and David Gaider. Over the course of her career Rain has worked on music videos for Excision, Mike Strong and a video intro for Svdden Death. When she isn't on set you can find her at home breathing life into her creepy creations. Rain is commonly known as Rain Factor FX in the Sacramento area.



Corey Nuss

Austin Slayton (Sound)

Austin developed his career in sound mixing after receiving his degree in Film, Video, & Animation from UW-Milwaukee in 2017. He began as a boom operator on a feature film, and has since collaborated with various production companies throughout the country, creating multiple award-winning short films, feature documentaries, and broadcast television shows.



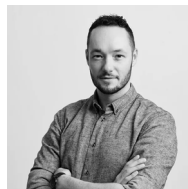
Austin Slayton

Dónal Rafferty

Dónal Rafferty is an award-winning Irish-born composer now based in Los Angeles. He holds music degrees from National University of Ireland Maynooth and King's College London. He has focused on composing music for media (especially film and TV) since 2019.

Dónal has written music for all kinds of musical ensembles - including orchestra, chamber groups, and choir. His chamber quintet *Aquastrata* was awarded the 2010 IMRO Award for Chamber Ensemble composition. His music has been performed by the Hollywood Studio Symphony, performed in Europe and the USA, and used in commercial content by Google.

Dónal has been a featured composer at Film Independent's 'IndieLink' workshop, is a prize-winner of the 2020 Indie Film Music Contest, and is a Fellow of the 2021 Los Angeles Film Conducting Intensive Workshop. Dónal is a member of ASCAP and The SCL.



Dónal Rafferty

STORIES FROM THE SET

Covid Production

After a year of covid a lot of the team were excited to be on set again. They had to try and plan a safe shoot and thus wrote the entire short based around two actors in one location. A lot of effort was taken to try and make sure despite its limitations in production value, the short stands on its own as a concise story with a clear beginning middle and end in addition to a core message/theme.

One and Done

Being an off year for our team we had to keep the budget tight on any effects. So for the shot near the end (which would take a while to reset) we could only do two takes. The first take Edward Hightower (Wally) turned in was close to what the directors had imagined they decided it was all they needed.

Don't Bite Off More Than You Can Chew

The writer/directors Skyler Henry and Nick Anderson wrote in a long take involving a bite on screen without actually knowing how they would do it. They turned to none than Rain Williamson, renowned Sacramento FX artists. Skyler and Nick assumed they either needed a fake arm or to have the actor hide the action, but Rain just smiled. No, they can have a wound the actor can bite, the actor can tear, and... it will bleed. To see just how well it's pulled off you'll have to check out The Merger for yourself.

