



you never know who
you'll run into...

JOY



COLLEGE OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS PRESENTS "JOY" STARRING JENA BROOKS AND ASHLEE WEBER
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY ALEX THIEL EDITED BY MADILYN MACY WITHERSPOON PRODUCTION DESIGNER MADELEINE R. BERRY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AARON KUDJA
PRODUCED BY SHARI PETTI WRITTEN BY GARRETT PLETCHER DIRECTED BY SYDNEY HENDRIX





title	JOY
genre	thriller / drama
length	13:38 TRT
aspect ratio	2.35
color	COLOR
sound	5.1
region	United States
language	english
year	2022

25-word synopsis

Rachel escaped her abusive ex only to find there's plenty more to fear on the open road when she picks up a strange hitchhiking woman.

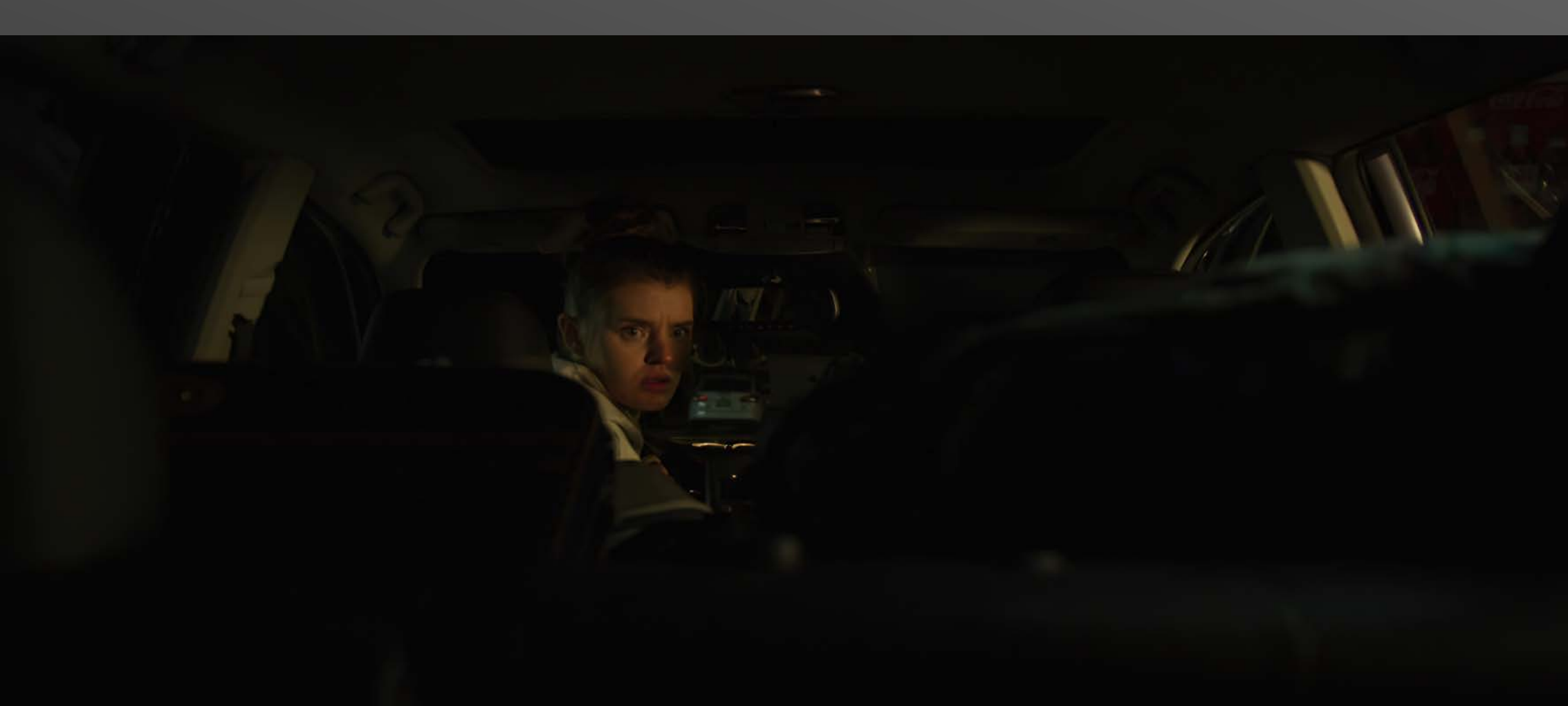
50-word synopsis

JOY is a thriller about two very different women cross paths due to their similar experiences with the men in their lives. While traveling at night, Rachel agrees to give an unnamed woman a ride. As they drive Rachel questions the woman's true intentions and worries for her life.

75-word synopsis

How much trust can you put in a stranger? JOY is a thriller about two very different women cross paths due to their similar experiences with the men in their lives. While traveling at night, Rachel, agrees to give an unnamed woman a ride, but as they drive Rachel questions the woman's true intentions and worries her life may be in danger.





director's statement

At its core, this is a story about two women navigating and trying to make sense of their traumatic experiences with the men in their lives. We're seeing them collide coming from opposite ends of a shared trauma. I aimed to explore the ways in which these two women are reflections of each other.

Rachel has just ended her relationship and set out on the road to distance herself from her emotionally abusive boyfriend. Cutting these ties leaves her floating through through the world— with no particular direction other than away. This brings her to THE WOMAN. This strange woman, reeking of menthols and mountain dew, is on the other end of a similar journey. She trying to get home to see her father one last time before he dies. It's not clear what her history is with her father, but it's clear it lead her here begging for a ride at a gas station on the side of an interstate.

about the director

Homegrown on a row crop in southeastern North Carolina, Sydney Hendrix has been peddling tall tales as far back as she can remember. Her love for film all started when she stumbled upon TCM while home sick flipping through channels. Since that fateful afternoon, she's been honing her voice as a writer and a director with a primary interest in genre films and sharp dialogue. Influenced by Greta Gerwig, David Fincher, The Coen Brothers, Clint Eastwood, and Paul Schraeder just to name a few – Sydney Hendrix is currently a second year directing specialist in the MFA program at FSU College of Motion Picture Arts.



about the writer

Garrett Pletcher is a writer from a small town in North Florida, where you could drive ten minutes down the road to the annual Possum Festival. He was a preacher's kid who spent most of his time with his nose in a book and, at 8 years old, wrote his first story. It was then that he decided to forego financial stability and become a writer. His stories often center queer characters, and he loves horror, great dialogue, and anything soapy. He currently lives in Los Angeles.



KEY CREATIVES



producer

Shari Petti is a Trinidadian filmmaker who has worked on numerous film productions in her country and abroad. Her film "Sorf Hair," which explores the natural hair experience in Trinidad and Tobago, has screened at several film festivals across the globe, including the Pan African Film Festival, and was nominated for and won several awards. She currently curates the platform "Scene" (@scenepresents) which produces contemporary Caribbean video content focused on youth culture. She has most recently received an MFA in film production at Florida State University under the Fulbright exchange program.



director of photography

Aaron Kudja was born and raised in South Florida and started his interest in the visual medium at a young age after shooting his first film with his friend's mom's video camera. After his first few films, Aaron picked up still photography which led him farther down the path to being an image creator. He found his way to Florida State University's College of Motion Picture Arts where he continues this journey as a student of cinematography.



production designer

Madeleine R. Berry is heading for the Art Department as a recent graduate of Florida State University's Motion Picture Arts Program where she received an MFA in Film Production, with a specialization in Production Design. She's taken her childhood passion for the grotesque to a new level by making it her life goal to spread her love and appreciation of practical effects to audiences around the world as she finds her way in the industry.



editor

Madilyn Macy Witherspoon, a Saginaw, Michigan native, developed her interest in filmmaking in middle school and began editing video for the online platform Vine in high school. She cemented her desire to become a filmmaker after completing the short film "Camille" at Saginaw Valley State University, where she graduated with a B.B.A. in Marketing and Communications. She is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in Production at Florida State University's College of Motion Picture Arts.

cast

“I was raised in Iowa, and even though I have that Midwestern charm and overuse the word "ope," my subtle Iowan accent stays under the radar (just don't ask me to say 'milk'). When I was three years old, I took my first ballet class. I fell so in love with it that I secretly slept in my ballet slippers for a whole year! I've been hooked on the performing arts as a whole ever since, branching out into all different forms of expression. Though maintaining a rigorous dance schedule, I started dabbling with theatre in high school. A few years later, I attended UNCSCA's Summer Drama Intensive, which happened to be the only three weeks of formal training I received before being accepted into Florida State University's prestigious BFA Acting Program. My education at FSU transformed me into a quick-thinking, detail-oriented actress. The most important lesson college taught me, however, was how to be a strong, genuine, driven, and independent woman. I found my value as a human being.”



Jena Brooks as “RACHEL”

Based in Tallahassee, Ashlee Weber is a working actor with experience in both theatre and film. Her recent film work includes *Rose, Joy, Shooting Blanks* and *Restore*. With her roots in theatre, she recently wrapped a three month stint as Jean McCormack in *Plaza Suite* with prior theatre credits in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Joseph* and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and *Annie Warbucks*.



Ashlee Weber as “THE WOMAN”

full crew

director	sydney hendrix
writer	garrett pletcher
producer	shari petti
director of photography	aaron kudja
editor	madilyn macy witherspoon
sound designer	robert burns
production designer	madeleine r. berry
original score	alex thiel
1st assistant director	shannon m. sutherland
2nd assistant director	gabrielle chapman
1st assistant camera	morgan miller
2nd assistant camera	jim shashaty
sound mixer / boom operator	kennisa ragland
gaffer	madilyn macy witherspoon
best electric	xavier serrano
key grip	ryan lillenfield
script supervisor	raven carter
assistant editor	lisette delgado

additional cast

the man
worker

**david leonard
 garrett pletcher**





for more information:

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