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# SHUDDERBUGS



Sam returns to her childhood home in the wake of her mother's mysterious death, spiraling down a rabbit hole of grief, suspicion and isolation.





Johanna Putnam as SAMANTHA COLE



Brennan Brooks as NOAH SHULTAS

## OUR STORY

*Shudderbugs* was born while quarantining in Johanna's childhood farmhouse in spring of 2020. Our frustrations and confusions during this unprecedented time were tempered by throwing ourselves into an incredible challenge. We'd make our own feature, start to finish. With the soaring pandemic in New York came vast limitations. As our locations, crew, on-screen talent, and other key elements of traditional filmmaking were stifled, we replaced those pieces with what we did have: the natural beauty of our isolated environment, time, excessive planning, the three of us, youtube tutorials, cinephilia, and bugs. Lots of bugs.

*Shudderbugs* is our attempt to capture the psychological experience of a woman unraveling, and to portray our minds' abilities to inform and adapt our realities, beyond logic and reason, often by necessity. In equal measure, we were drawn to telling a story of grief: the weird ways we wrestle and wrangle it, and the very different ways we learn to live with it. In the spaces between childhood and adulthood, memory and present, imagination and reality, live all the versions of who we are and how we may behave in the scariest and most difficult of moments.

We hope *Shudderbugs* can offer a voice in our collective portraits and conversations on isolation and grief.

- Johanna, Brennan & Jamie



## ABOUT US

### Johanna Putnam

writer | director | actor | producer

After studying Film and Theater at Dartmouth College, Johanna spent a decade acting in Los Angeles where she played a main character in Project Greenlight's *Feast* trilogy from Dimension Films. Most recently, she can be seen as a lead in the indie coming-of-age drama *July Rising*, now streaming on Amazon Prime.

An indie arthouse nerd beyond, Johanna returned to the east coast, determined to create her own work of independent vision and artistic storytelling. *Shudderbugs* is her first full creation as director, writer, lead actor and producer. Johanna is currently writing and developing her next feature film, *GUS*.



## Brennan Brooks

director of photography | actor | producer

Brennan is an on-set veteran with over a decade of experience as a first AD on features and commercials. Over the years he has stood next to directors and cinematographers behind a monitor, but never directly behind the camera.

When presented with the opportunity to be the director of photography on *Shudderbugs*, Brennan dove head first into a new, yet strangely familiar world of telling a story with a lens. As a producer, Brennan lent his comprehensive skill sets and production knowledge to the vision of *Shudderbugs*.



A serene landscape photograph of a misty lake. The foreground is filled with tall, thin grasses and reeds. The middle ground shows a calm body of water with a light mist rising from its surface. The background is a dense forest of tall trees, some with green leaves and others with yellowing foliage, suggesting an autumn setting. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

## Jamie Unruh

editor | sound mixer | producer

Jamie is an award-winning television and film editor. With over a decade of experience in the post-production industry, Jamie brings passion and creativity to every project she edits. From scripted spots to verité documentary, she is committed to finding compelling stories and crafting them into seamless and entertaining edits. Her portfolio includes work for PBS, Bravo, and A&E, as well as commercial clients including Stella Artois, Budweiser, Hilton Hotels, Puma, Chase and more.

In addition to editing and producing *Shudderbugs*, Jamie recorded production sound, as well as assisting with lighting and camera operation.

## Eric Elterman

composer | sound designer

Eric was classically trained on the viola and his interest in music led to an interest in recording. In 2016 Eric designed and built Boomtown Studio in Brooklyn, where he currently works creating, composing, editing, mixing and designing audio.

His credits span numerous genres and include Grammy-nominated and Grammy Award-winning projects working with the likes of Les Paul, John Zorn, Thurston Moore, and Meshell Ndegeocello, among others. In the television industry he has worked for Emmy-nominated shows like *Tooning Out The News* and the *Dan Patrick Show*.



**DIRECTOR**

Johanna Putnam

**WRITER**

Johanna Putnam

**PRODUCERS**Johanna Putnam  
Brennan Brooks  
Jamie Unruh**CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Brennan Brooks

**EDITOR**

Jamie Unruh

**COMPOSER**

Eric Elterman

**SOUND DESIGNER**

Eric Elterman

**CAST**

SAMANTHA COLE	Johanna Putnam
NOAH SHULTAS	Brennan Brooks
PAMELA	Tricia Merrick
JANE	Rachel Tiemann
BRENDA	Liv Rooth
DOCTOR SANTOS	Ellen Williams
ELIZA COLE	Beverly Cole Putnam
CLERK	Joe Feldman-Barros
JO	Jamie Unruh
WILLIS COLE	Douglas V. Putnam
YOUNG SAM	Ella Wren Elterman
BERNARD	Oscar (the cat)
CLEMENTINE	Lydia (the dog)

**CAMERA**Brennan Brooks  
Jamie Unruh**LIGHTING**Brennan Brooks  
Jamie Unruh**SOUND RECORDING**

Jamie Unruh

**SOUND MIX**

Eric Elterman

**ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE  
RECORDING**

Eric Elterman

**PRODUCTION DESIGN**

Johanna Putnam

**HAIR, MAKEUP & WARDROBE**

Johanna Putnam

**VISUAL EFFECTS EDITOR**

Milton Ladd

**DIGITAL COMPOSITOR**

Dan Bollwerk

**DIGITAL ARTIST**

Dave Conte

**COLOR GRADING**

Final Frame Post

**COLORIST**

SJ Rogers Smith



## Naples Int'l Film Festival

World Premiere  
October 27-30  
**Indie Spirit Award**  
**Rising Star Award**  
Naples, FL

## Durango Independent Film Festival

March 1-5  
Durango, CO

## Sarasota Film Festival

Independent Vision Competition  
March 24-April 2  
Sarasota, FL

## Lighthouse Int'l Film Festival

June 7-11  
Long Beach Island, NJ

## Richmond Film Festival

September 26-October 1  
Richmond, VA

## Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival

January 25-February 1  
**Festival Director's Choice Award**  
Lafayette, LA

## Idyllwild Int'l Festival of Cinema

March 7-12  
**Best Director**  
**Best Screenplay**  
Idyllwild, CA

## Kansas City FilmFest International

March 26-29  
**Best Actress**  
Kansas City, MO

## Deep in the Heart Film Festival

July 20-23  
**Best Performance**  
Waco, TX

## Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival

August 23-27  
**Ralph Steiner Prize for Poetic Cinema**  
Middlebury, VT

## Oxford Film Festival

March 1-5  
**Special Jury Mention for Microbudget Savvy**  
Oxford, MI

## Phoenix Film Festival

March 23-April 2  
Phoenix, AZ

## Bare Bones Int'l Film & Music Festival

April 26-30  
**Indie Auteur of the Year**  
**Best Original Score**  
Muskogee, OK

## Macon Film Festival

August 17-20  
Macon, GA

## Eastern Oregon Film Festival

October 19-22  
La Grande, OR

# FESTIVAL AWARDS





SHUDDERBUGS ORIGINAL MUSIC SCORE  
by Eric Elterman

# IndieWire

Want to Catch Up on This Year's Sundance Titles?  
The Sarasota Film Festival Has You Covered

[Read on IndieWire](#)

*"Shudderbugs is a meditative and well-acted film focused on a woman's pursuit of the mysteries that abound in her childhood home after her mother suddenly dies."*

## SMITH'S VERDICT

*"A remarkably moving and wonderfully made meditation of grief, remorse, and recovery."*

[Read Review](#)

## Cyclops at the Cinema

[Read Review](#)

*"Shudderbugs is a stunning, multi-layered film that bravely explores the strange places that grief can lead us."*



Oxford Film Festival  
2023 & Selig Film News

[Watch](#)

*Filmmakers Jamie Unruh & Johanna Putnam sit down with Gadi Elkon at the 2023 Oxford Film Festival to talk about their feature film Shudderbugs.*



That's a Wrap on the 20th Oxford  
Film Festival!

[Read on Hammer to Nail](#)

*"The whole room was transfixed by Putnam and Unruh's lecture which featured info on the pre-production, production, and post-production processes on a shoestring budget that would be useful to any budding filmmaker."*



IIFC 2023 & The  
Stephen Savage Show

*Savage speaks with Spotlight Director Johanna Putnam, who took home the BEST DIRECTOR and BEST SCREENPLAY Awards at IIFC 2023 for her film Shudderbugs.*

[Listen](#)

MIDDLEBURY  
NEW FILMMAKERS  
FESTIVAL

[Read Interview](#)

**Shudderbugs: A Talk  
with the Cast and Crew**

## Production Stills



## Film Stills



## Festivals





**TEASER**



**TRAILER**





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**IMDb**

