



PRESERVATION PRESS KIT

What is PRESERVATION?

Preservation is an Emerson student BFA thesis directed by Calvin Kertzman, produced for Emersons' bachelor of fine arts program. The film, which was made in collaboration with the darrow school and some of its students, is a neo-environmental western set at a boarding school during a summer amidst a conflict between oil criminals and the staff of the school



BTS (all photos featured here taken by Blu Xu)

SYNOPSIS

Elijah (18) finds himself one day thrust from his routine summer job at his boarding school into a violent conflict regarding his boss and mentor, James (27) and goons hired by Carnigan, an oil corporation. Despite the fear of violence looming over the school and area, Elijah finds himself between James, who hopes to defend his home, the local police who cannot do much without evidence, and his own morals regarding violence. It all boils over a single day, as Elijah and company soon find out how far Carnigan and themselves will go to preserve not only the area, but their lives.

Preservation is a short film that seeks to showcase the consequences of one's actions, with a strong emphasis on the idea that "violence only begets more violence".



PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Preservation was filmed in late may, coinciding with Darrows' spring term program, allowing Darrow students to work on this project.

The entire production was less than a week, with the film completed in post in late fall of 2023.

stills from the short itself begin on SLIDE 20.



THE CAST AND CREW OF PRESERVATION

CALVIN KERTZMAN - DIRECTOR, EDITOR

Calvin Kertzman is a current senior at Emerson College, graduating in 2024 with a BFA in Visual Media Arts and a focus in marketing. Calvin is also the director and co-editor of Preservation, having attended the darrow school in high school and acting as an inspiration for the short.



DEBRA KERTZMAN - PRODUCER

Debra Kertzman is Calvin's mom and one of the producers for Preservation. Helping out Davin and Calvin immensely in pre production with costume and prop acquisition. Acting as a great moral support for myself and for the entire cast and crew when on set, this short film and its production owe a huge gratitude to Debra, for which Preservation would not exist without her help and involvement.



DAVIN INTAG, JIANG (BLU) XU - PRODUCERS

Davin Intag and Blu Xu are Emerson alumni, graduating in 2023 with concentrations in Visual Media Arts and Theater/Performance, respectively. Davin and Blu not only produced Preservation, but were the leaders for 2nd unit on set, handling most of the b roll capture, action footage as well as various other scenes and snippets of coverage while filming.



JENNIFER PYTLESKI - EXEC. PRODUCER

The head of the Performing Arts department and Darrow teacher, Jennifer helped Calvin with the logistics and permission to have Preservation be filmed during the schools' spring term with help from its students. Jennifer was an amazing presence on set, and like Debra this short film owes an immense gratitude, as Preservation would not exist without her help and involvement.



NATHAN VITALE - WRITER

Nathan Vitale is a current of Emerson College, attaining a degree of Visual Media Arts. A fellow filmmaker, Nate came on board to assist Calvin in the writing process, helping shape the narrative and story. Nate's contributions made the short what it is now, and his work helped make the concept a much better product than initially planned.

Add photo later

MACKENZI BELLIARD - ELIJAH

Mackenzi Belliard is a local native to the Boston area, with aspirations to continue his acting journey and career at the New York Dramatic Academy. For his first time, Mackenzie went far and beyond on set, helping to assist crew members as well as in other departments.

(fun fact - he played James in the proof of concept pre-BFA!)



JACK 'O HARA - JAMES

Jack 'O Hara is a working actor located in the Boston area. Coming into the Preservation cast and crew on short notice, Jack was not only a phenomenal presence to have on set (constantly bringing energy and good vibes) but helped contribute in associate producing duties. Jack's future (unlike his character James) shines bright, and we can't wait to see where he goes.



ELISABETH WEEKS - CLARISSA

Elisabeth Weeks is a recent graduate from Emerson College, having majored in Theater and Performance. Liz constantly impressed everyone, both with her professionalism and for the short film, but for her impressive work throughout the short and film process. Elisabeth has also acted in various other Emerson productions, where she also shines just as bright.



ERNEST CHANDO - DEPUTY HENDRICKS

Ernest is a graduate of the Ohio Wesleyan University, having majored in Theater and Performance. Like Jack, Ernest came into the production at last minute, but brought a sense of professionalism and care to the production and the role of Deputy Hendricks. We wish Ernest well and hope he continues to act in his hometown of New York, NY.



DAMIAN “OSO” TIBURCIO - MIKE

Like Mackenzie and Jack, Damian “Oso” Tiburcio is a local boston native and aspiring actor. Full of energy and enthusiasm for both life and the craft of acting, Oso was a great presence to work with and be around, constantly contributing to our fun atmosphere and helping out with crew duties when help was needed. Oso will be seen in more of Calvin’s works (hopefully).



CHRISTOPHER OUELLETTE - SHERIFF PETERSON

Christopher Ouellette is a former Darrow School faculty member and partner to Jennifer, who graciously came on board per Calvin's assistance. Being his first time on camera in a role, Chris was not only a blessing to have on set (bringing a lot of fun and energy when things got hectic on set), but knocked it out of the park on his debut. Thank you again Chris for being in Preservation!



THE REST OF OUR CREW!

Spencer Delorenzo - Director
of Photography

Aliza Erickson - Production
Design

Gerry Green - Assistant
Director

Ryan Wells - Stunt
Coordinator

Matthew McGinn - Camera
Operator

Davin Intag - Gaffer

Adrianna Gibson - Key Grip

Marcus Wainwright - Best
Boy Electric/Grip

Collin Wally - Boom
Operator/On Set Mixer

Debra Kertzman - Costumes

Blu Xu - BTS

Caelin Piper - Makeup and
Special Effects

**Gerry Green, William
Kertzman** - Score

Tushar Somkuwar - VFX

Calvin Kertzman - Coloring

**Brodie Curtis, Calvin
Kertzman** - Sound
Editing/Mixing

Special Thanks to Stockade
Works and Berkshire Film &
Media Collab for their help!



THE DARROW CREW (in no particular order):

JESSE THOMPSON • JAMES STENSON • ALLIE ARDEHALI

Z ASSI • CHARLIE GORDON • AZA JOHNSON • GRAY KATZ

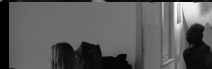
CLARA YOUNG • SHAYNA TARR •

WHY PRESERVATION AT YOUR FESTIVAL?

Not only was Preservation a collaboration between various Emerson folks, Boston/New York filmmakers and the Darrow School, but a rewarding short film experience for all involved. The experience itself has led to talks of a future collaboration between the filmmakers and the darrow school, as well as invigorating current darrow students with making film in a similar passion that Calvin once had while he was a student.

As for the film, Preservation is meant to both thrill audiences, but let them question the actions of the characters and how conflict is handled. The main goal in this short was to showcase how violence ultimately begets more violence, and how morality and our own problems become much worse when not properly handled.

We hope you enjoy our short film as well as this press kit.



PRESERVATION STILLS

COLOR GRADE BY CALVIN KERTZMAN,
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY SPENCER DELORENZO
(ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIANG XU)



IN PHOTO: ELISABETH WEEKS, JACK 'O HARA



IN PHOTO: JACK 'O HARA



IN PHOTO: MACKENZIE BELLIARD,
ELISABETH WEEKS, DAMIAN “OSO” TIBURCIO



IN PHOTO: MACKENZIE BELLARD,
ELISABETH WEEKS, DAMIAN "OSO" TIBURCIO



IN PHOTO: MACKENZIE BELLIARD



IN PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER OUELLETTE



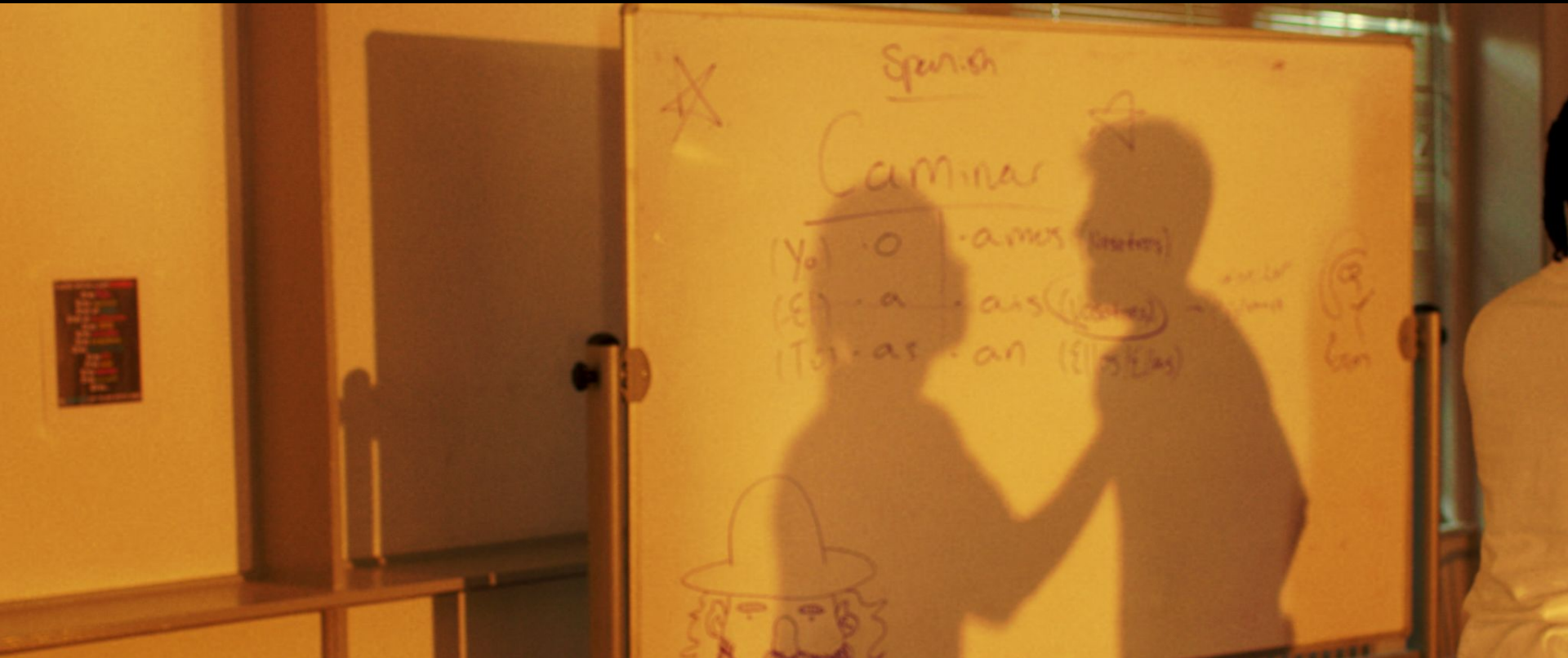
IN PHOTO: MACKENZIE BELLIARD, JACK 'O HARA



IN PHOTO: MACKENZIE BELLiard, JACK 'O HARA



IN PHOTO: JACK O' HARA, ERNEST CHANDO



IN PHOTO: MACKENZIE BELLIARD, JACK O' HARA



IN PHOTO: MACKENZIE BELLIARD, JACK O' HARA, ERNEST CHANDO