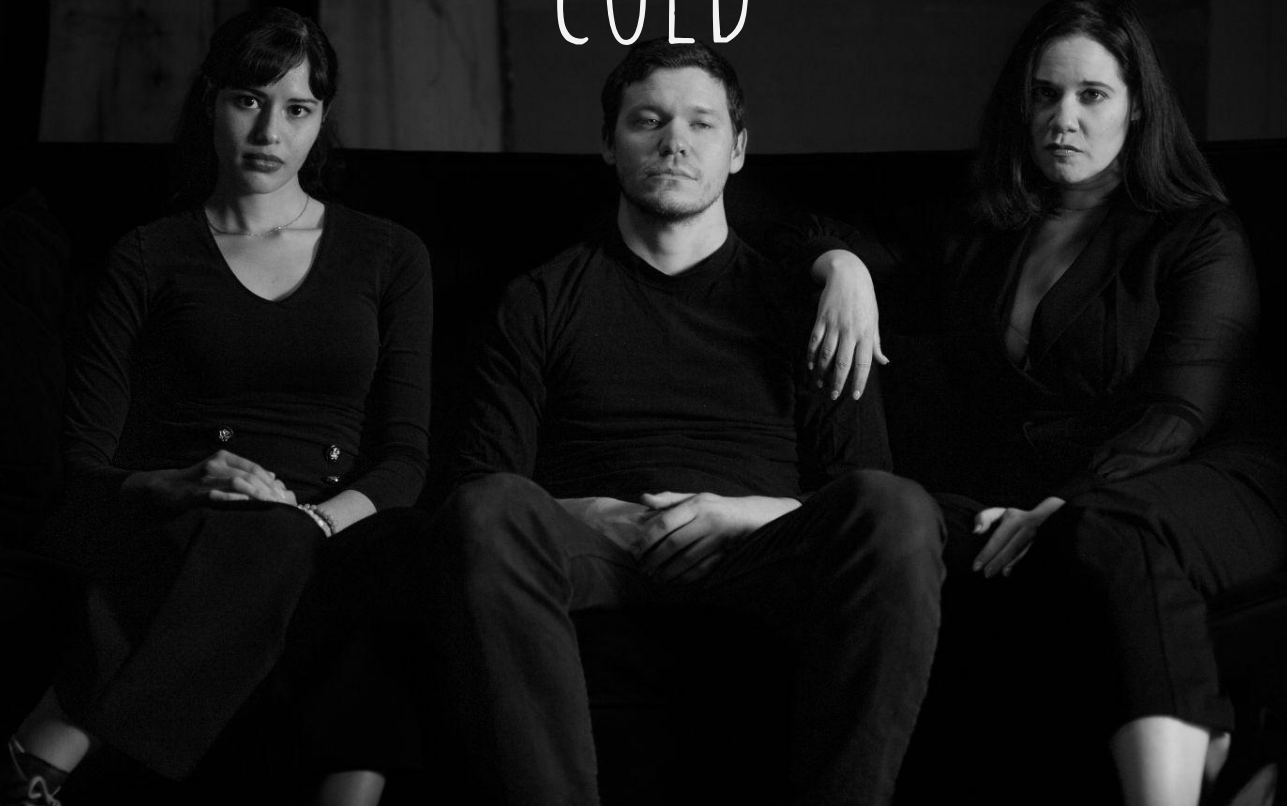


A FILM BY *Greg Poppa*

Sugey Cruz Greg Poppa Rachel Dolan

COLD



written & directed by Greg Poppa

Spanish by Sugey Cruz



COLD

COLD

Running Time: **34 minutes**
Directed & Written By: **Greg Poppa**
Spanish By: **Sugey Cruz**
Produced By: **Sugey Cruz & Greg Poppa**

Production Company: **Roaming Shadow Productions**

Edited by: **Chris Ruppert**
Cinematographers: **Jamie Root, Chris Cole**
Composer: **Richie Devon**



LOGLINE

Cold tells the story of Carmen, who wakes up in a strange house and is given 1,000 days to fix the vehicle in her driveway or spend the rest of her life in purgatory. Throughout the film Carmen must battle her harsh environment, isolation and her rapidly declining mental and physical health.

SYNOPSIS

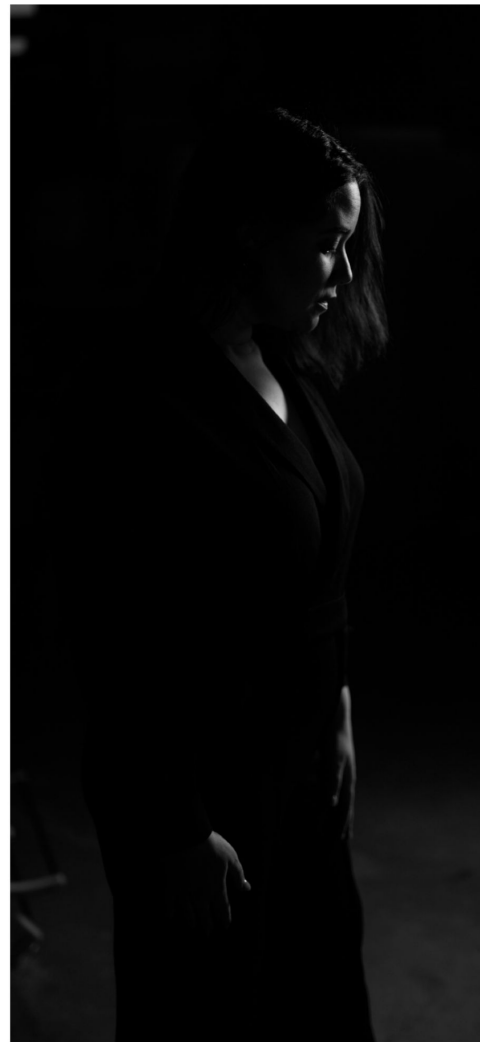
“Cold”, written and directed by Greg Poppa and starring Sugey Cruz, delves into the surreal story of Carmen, a woman who awakens in purgatory with a daunting challenge: repair the broken vehicle in her driveway within 1,000 days or face eternal oblivion. Battling against a relentless environment, isolation, and the decline of her mental and physical health, Carmen’s story is a harrowing exploration of determination and despair. Magical realism and body horror intertwine to create a visually stunning and emotionally charged experience, with moments of lightness brought by an endearing pit-bull mix named Armando, symbolizing the unattainable connections and loss Carmen faces.

OUR STORY

In "Cold," we venture into the raw and often unspoken territories of grief, depression, and the quest for self-acceptance. This film is not just a narrative; it's an experience designed to immerse the audience into Carmen's world—a world where every day is a battle against the remnants of the past and the elusive hope for a future. Through Carmen's eyes, we witness the profound impact of loss and the relentless grip of trauma. It is a story that demands to be told, shedding light on the darkest corners of human suffering and the resilience needed to face another day.

Roaming Shadow Productions

In 2024, Greg Poppa and Sugey Cruz started their production company Roaming Shadow Productions. where we look to tell stories about people up close and personal, looking at the ugly and beautiful in great detail. We hope to inspire in our audience a sense of belonging and community, so that they can reach out and practically touch the characters they see.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2023, while attending the Sundance Film Festival, when a film I was in, "Weapons and Their Names" was selected to be a part of the program, Sugey Cruz and I were driving into Park City when I saw a house at the top of a snow capped mountain and I thought "I wonder who lives up there and why? What is their life like? Why do they choose to be up there?" I originally imagined the film as a ghost story where a man living in isolation is visited by ghosts. After we got home from Sundance Sugey and I began writing sessions and I quickly shifted to story to a woman living in purgatory being haunted by her past. I was inspired by art works such as Hieronymus Bosch's "Garden of Earthly Delights", Nine Inch Nails' "With Teeth" album, but most of all I was inspired by Sugey's life. Hearing her talk to her mother while they grocery shopped or made dinner as we worked out kinks to the story added a new and integral layer to the story that wouldn't have been possible otherwise.

With "Cold" I wanted to put the audience in Carmen's shoes from the beginning of the film onwards. I wanted them to feel up close and personal with her struggle and connect with her in a relatively short amount of time. I also really needed some humor in the film, otherwise a film like this could really drag, fortunately we got a great performance from Ronin who played Carmen's companion "Armando".





Sugey Cruz as *Carmen*

Carmen is a single, Latina mother whose whole world comes crashing down when her only child, Daniella commits suicide. “Cold” is a metaphor for her journey through a purgatory full of isolation and depression. She must find a way out or be lost to her grief forever.



Greg Poppa as *Samuel*

Samuel is Carmen’s guide in purgatory. He has been lost in this world for a long time watching many others like Carmen try and fail to leave. Without a soul to save, he can’t leave and go onto the next step in the journey. He desperately needs Carmen to figure things out so they can move forward.



Rachel Dolan as *Daniella*

Daniella is Carmen’s only child. She was Carmen’s world until she left for College. Daniella calls to check in on her mother from time to time. College wasn’t all that it was cracked up to be for Daniella and after some unfortunate events, Daniella takes her life, leaving Carmen heartbroken.



Ronin as *Armando*

The comic relief of the film, Armando is Carmen’s companion. Despite his humor and cuteness, Carmen is so distraught, she is still unable to connect with him.

DIRECTOR, Greg Poppa

Greg began his career as an actor and writer in 2016, working on several shorts and features before moving to NYC in 2020. During Covid, he moved back home and wrote, directed, acted, and produced his first film "Foxes" a story about two Mesolithic hunter-gatherers struggling to survive. In 2021, he worked with M. Night Shyamalan on his Apple+ show "Servant" as well as 2023 Sundance best short nominee "Weapons and Their Names" and 2023 Locarno International Film Festival selected feature film "Falling Stars".

In 2022, he met Sugey on the set of "Transient" and they made a quick creative duo. Since then, they've worked on numerous projects both in front and behind the camera, "Cold" being their biggest to date. They recently launched their production company "Roaming Shadow Productions".



PRODUCER, Sugey Cruz

Sugey Cruz is an actress and filmmaker, whose collaborations have included Universal Pictures, Blinding Edge Films, and Phi Phen Studios. Sugey's expertise spans a variety of crucial positions on both film and commercial sets, including acting, serving as a continuity supervisor, all aspects of production, as well as Health and Safety/Covid Compliance. Sugey began her filmmaking career as a documentary film producer for the Oscar-qualifying film, "The US of Autism". Other projects of note have included "The Old Way" and "Butcher's Crossing" starring Nicholas Cage; "Hellbent on Boogie" starring Shiloh Fernandez; "Coup!" starring Peter Saragaard and the Apple TV+ show "Servant" and feature film "Knock at the Cabin" from Director M. Night Shyamalan.

She recently successfully sold the sci-fi, thriller film "Transient" which Sugey Produced and starred in, where she met her creative partner, Greg Poppa. Together they founded Roaming Shadow Productions, a Pennsylvania-based production company.





PRAISE & DETAILS

Awards:

2023 Best Short Script (Platinum) - Independent Short Awards

2023 Finalist Best Screenplay - Philadelphia Unnamed Film Festival

2023 Quarter Finalist Best Screenplay - Big Apple Film Festival & Screenplay Competition

2023 Final 3 Screenplays - Rome Prisma Awards

2024 Current Nominee Best Screenplay - London Director Awards

Key Production Details:

Title: Cold

Genre: Drama/Body Horror/Magical Realism

Length: 34 minutes

Production Company: Roaming Shadow Productions

Shooting Location(s): Wyalusing, PA and Philadelphia, PA

Languages: English and Spanish

Noteworthy Scenes

One scene that uses the camera to great emotional effect is during Carmen's "meltdown sequence". In the scene Carmen finds a radio that allows her to listen to a song that transports her back to a time when she still felt human, a time of love and warmth. The camera circles Carmen as she dances with a past lover only for her to realize none of it is real. Carmen, humiliated and despondent, destroys the radio and takes her fury out on herself. We track Carmen again, with the camera going opposite of Carmen's movement, showing Carmen "circling the drain" before falling to the ground and smashing her head against a table gashing her forehead open.

After living day in and day out toiling in the harshness of purgatory, Carmen falls into a trance where she is brought to a sunflower field. Carmen is seen enjoying life and warmth, bees pollinate the sunflowers while Carmen feels like she's floating through the field. Carmen is woken by the voice of her daughter once again reminding her of her reality and the task at hand.

Throughout the film Carmen's only food choice is chickpeas and tuna fish, provided to her in the basement. In the basement there is darkness, a darkness that calls to Carmen to enter. At first Carmen is terrified of the darkness but as the film progresses her terror turns into curiosity. As her fear fades away the darkness is shown to be a portal that transports Carmen to the one place she wants to be more than anywhere, at home with her daughter, to put her to bed one last time.

All three of these scenes use dynamic movement and magical realism to put the viewer into Carmen's state of mind and give glimpses of who Carmen was before "Cold".



At the heart of "Cold" lies the evocative and visually arresting cinematography that not only captures the essence of the narrative but also amplifies the emotional depth and atmospheric tension of Carmen's story. Our cinematography team, included three cinematographers who helped with three aspects of the story to bring it to life. Together the team has masterfully crafted each frame to immerse the audience in the stark, unforgiving landscape that mirrors Carmen's internal turmoil and the desolation of her circumstances. Incorporating multiple magical realism dream sequences into the film, "Cold" presents a unique opportunity to visually and emotionally distinguish these moments from the rest of the narrative.

"Cold" transcends the ordinary through its poignant narrative and visually arresting moments, many of which owe their impact to the film's talented Special Effects (SFX) team. Led by Diego Brazzo, the SFX team has masterfully created effects that enhance the film's themes of isolation, despair, and surrealism, seamlessly blending reality with the ethereal quality of Carmen's dream and body horror sequences and the stark, haunting environment that surrounds her.

The SFX, HMUA and Costuming team's work in "Cold" involved a sophisticated blend of practical effects designed to amplify the film's emotional depth and visual aesthetic, to reflect Carmen's inner turmoil. The team's efforts have been pivotal in realizing the director's vision.

In "Cold," the auditory experience is as pivotal as the visual, creating an immersive atmosphere that draws the viewer deeper into Carmen's story. The intricate sound design, coupled with the evocative score composed by Richie Devon, plays a critical role in navigating the film's complex emotional terrain, from the depths of despair to fleeting moments of hope.

The sound design in "Cold," is led by the talented Michael Mowen and is a masterclass in auditory storytelling. Through a meticulous layering of ambient sounds and foley, the sound design constructs a rich, immersive world that reflects Carmen's psychological state and the stark environment she inhabits. The use of silence is equally powerful, punctuating the narrative with moments of tension and introspection.



In "Cold," the Visual Effects (VFX) team, led by James Hanna, plays a key role in bridging the gap between the film's ambitious narrative and its on-screen realization. James' expertise has been instrumental in creating seamless visuals that enrich the storytelling, allowing audiences to fully immerse themselves in Carmen's harrowing journey through both the harsh realities of her world and the surreal aspects of her dream sequences.

The VFX team excels in creating atmospheric effects that significantly contribute to the film's mood and tone. Facing the challenge of depicting the film's more abstract concepts, James Hanna devised creative solutions that visually represent Carmen's internal struggle and the film's exploration of themes like isolation, despair, and hope. Their innovative approach to visual storytelling allows for a rich, multi-layered cinematic experience.

In "Cold," the meticulous editing by Chris Ruppert of BMN Films and nuanced color grading by Thomas Proffitt of Profitable Productions are pivotal in shaping the film's compelling narrative and atmospheric depth. Together, their work fine-tunes the film's pacing, mood, and visual coherence, ensuring that every frame contributes to the overarching themes of isolation and despair.

Chris Ruppert's editing is instrumental in weaving together the complex layers of Carmen's story, balancing the film's narrative flow with its emotional rhythm. The editor's keen sense of timing and narrative structure brings clarity to the film's dual realities, merging the harshness of Carmen's physical world with the fluidity of her inner psychological landscape.

The color grading, crafted by Thomas Proffitt, is a key element in establishing the film's visual tone and atmosphere. Through subtle shifts in color and contrast, the colorist accentuates the emotional weight of each scene, enriching the film's aesthetic and thematic depth. As the film plays on the color is slowly drained from the world just as it has for Carmen.

The combined efforts of Ruppert and Proffitt in editing and color grading are essential to the storytelling magic of "Cold." Their work not only enhances the visual beauty and narrative clarity of the film but also deepens the emotional resonance, drawing audiences into Carmen's world with greater intensity. Through their artistry, the film achieves a harmonious balance between form and content, making "Cold" a visually stunning and emotionally captivating cinematic experience.



CREDITS

Directed by:

Greg Poppa

Written by:

Greg Poppa, Spanish by Sughey Cruz

Produced by:

Sughey Cruz

Director of Photography

JFR Media & Dynamic Motion Pictures

Production Designers

Greg Poppa & Sughey Cruz

Editor

Chris Ruppert

Costume Designer

Crescentia Volz

SFX Supervisor

Diego Brazzo

Hair & Make-up Artist

Liz Teaman (Camera Ready Solutions)

Music by

Richie Devon

Production Sound Recordists

Austin Greene & Gabriel Magloire

Gaffer and Coloris

Thomas Proffitt

Sound Design

Michael Mowen

VFX

James Hanna



CONTACTS

Contact Information

For inquiries, screenings, and interviews, please contact:

roamingshadowproductions@gmail.com

PR Contact: Sugey Cruz

Email: me@sugeycruz.com

Phone: (717) 283-7920

