

# DISPOSE

Noun FilmHouse in association with mwfilms Present

A Rachel Cylie Gross & Stanley Swindling Film

**Tagline:** You're never alone.

**Synopsis:** Carol just made her first kill. She hides the body in an industrial warehouse, only to discover she's not the only person here with secrets to bury.

**Genre:** Horror, Thriller

**Runtime:** 14 mins

**Budget:** ~\$5k

**Format:** DCP (also available in ProRes)

**Aspect Ratio:** 2.35:1

**Camera:** Blackmagic Design Cinema Camera 6K Pro

**Sydney Rose Walker – Carol**

**Danny Benavente – Don**

**Producer**

Mitchel Worley

**Production Designer**

Jessica Rosales

**Sound Mix**

A.K. Moore

**Associate Producer**

Anastasia Pavlinskaya Brenman

**Art Assistant**

Alexandria Worley

**Key Gaffer**

Kufre Eyo

**Director of Photography**

Mitchel Worley

**Assistant Camera**

Evan Ressler

**Production Assistant**

Tommy Schomer

**Assistant Director**

Anastasia Pavlinskaya Brenman

**Sound Designer**

George V. Lopez

**Graphic Design / VFX**

Cody Remillard

**Original Score by Paul Odir**

**Featuring the song "SALT" by thatimebefore**

## Directors Statement

Think back to a time when you did something wrong and tried to cover it up (we've all been there.) How long did you spend looking over your shoulder, convinced you wouldn't get away with it? Did you, in fact, get away with it? And if you didn't... who kept your secret?

It's safe to assume Carol didn't kill a man out of sadistic craving - at least, not the first time. Her efforts to obscure the crime are both manic and tactical, the workings of a sane person who committed a momentarily insane act, but doesn't believe her life should be forever altered by it.

Of course, what Carol believes, and what fate has in store for her, are two very different things.

*Dispose*, our first collaborative short film, pays homage to a number of cinematic influences, while creating a chilling atmosphere all its own. We littered the script with endless aisles, ladders standing guard like sentries. We forced our protagonist into a state of constant surveillance, as if every inanimate object was watching, and knew what she did.

Having been born and raised in Florida, we can't help but infuse our work with the grit of the region, the heat and humidity intense enough to drive anyone crazy. We wanted to earn our dark, cathartic ending, so escalating the cat-and-mouse tension by way of woozy dream sequences and a rock-accented step-printing interlude proved essential. The goal is to keep audiences on their toes, never quite being able to predict if (or how) Carol will come out on top.

Is this the worst night of her life? Or is it the start of the rest of her life?

## Directors Bio

Rachel Cylie Gross & Stanley Swindling are a writing-directing team based in Los Angeles, CA. *Dispose* is their first directorial collaboration; its screenplay was a Semifinalist in the 2023 Killer Shorts Contest. Previously, they have written the feature films *How to Exorcise Demons* and *Armadillo*, the latter of which reached the Semifinals in the ScreenCraft Horror Contest, and finished in the top 10% of Academy Nicholls. Rachel currently works as an editor on social media campaigns for film and TV; Stanley is a fiction writer and actor, having appeared in music videos and short films.

## Directors Q&A

### **What compelled you to tell the story of *Dispose*?**

After writing *Armadillo* (our first feature) together, we were driven to continue exploring the story world. We loved one character in particular - Carol, a sweet old lady with a shocking history - so we kept investigating her dark past. From there, an origin story emerged.

### **How did you secure the location?**

[Rachel] Growing up in south Florida, I spent summers helping my family with inventory in a massive supply warehouse. The building always had an ominous energy; it felt like the perfect setting for a horror movie. The next step was finding a story that would maximize the space.

### **What was it like directing Sydney Rose Walker, the lead?**

We wanted Syd for the role of Carol before pre-production had even begun. On set, we strove to let her inhabit the role as freely as time would allow, because we knew she could deliver a miraculous performance. Carol's only line of dialogue, for example, was completely improvised.

### **How did you design the look of the world?**

While we dreamed of shooting on film, we just didn't have the budget for it. Instead, we did our best to emulate that distinctive 70's style in-camera. We shot on vintage lenses, and used a pro mist filter extensively. We only had three days to shoot, but our insanely talented crew worked diligently.

### **What were your biggest film influences?**

[Stan] *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* is always our cinematic North Star, specifically the way it builds dread. We also pulled inspiration from the atmosphere of *Alien*, as well as techniques from some of our favorite filmmakers like David Fincher and Wong Kar-wai.

### **What does the future look like for *Dispose*?**

This short film is a proof-of-concept for the tone and aesthetic of the feature we wrote, *Armadillo*. We are thrilled by this bleak world of killers and danger, and we want to keep living in it - or, better yet, bring audiences along for the ride. After a robust festival run with *Dispose*, we look to gain interest from producers in *Armadillo*, which has also had a successful run at places like ScreenCraft Horror Contest and Nicholls Fellowship.

## Contact Us

### **Official Film Page**

<https://www.instagram.com/disposeshort/>

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