

# PRESS KIT

YVONNE CHAPMAN



# DRAGON FRUIT

A J.BROWN FILM

# DRAGON FRUIT



## TECH SPECS

Country of origin:

**CANADA**

Year:

**2023**

Run time:

**27 MINUTES**

Shooting Format:

**4K Blackmagic BRAV 23.976**

Available in:

**2K DCP 24fps with CLOSED CAPTIONS  
and DESCRIPTIVE AUDIO or 2K Stereo .MP4**

Aspect ratio:

**2.39:1**

Sound:

**5.1 or Stereo**

Language

**ENGLISH**

## LINKS

Official Instagram:

**[www.instagram.com/dragonfruitfilm](https://www.instagram.com/dragonfruitfilm)**

Official YouTube:

**[www.youtube.com/@dragonfruitthemovie](https://www.youtube.com/@dragonfruitthemovie)**

IMDB:

**[www.imdb.com/title/tt14623962](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14623962)**

Hashtag:

**[#dragonfruitfilm](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/dragonfruitfilm)**

Official Website:

**[www.dragonfruitthemovie.com](https://www.dragonfruitthemovie.com)**

# DRAGON FRUIT



## CAST

The Mother

The Son

The Neighbor

The Boss

The Cop

The Man

Left Twin

Right Twin

Trigger-happy Cop

Apple Man

TP Kingpin

Ol Fish Face

Big Yellow Taxi

The Veteran

Hose Nose

Furry Tube Face

Buckethead

Soup Can Puppy

The Slowpoke

Metal Head

Chrome Dome

Space Gardener

Mr. Mystery Meats

YVONNE CHAPMAN

AZRIEL DALMAN

NICOLE MUÑOZ

CHRIS GAUTHIER

OMARI NEWTON

KEN LAWSON

JACQUELINE ROBBINS

JOYCE ROBBINS

KRISTOF GILLESE

ANDREW DUNCAN

TANDIA MERCEDES

SARAH CONLISK

KELSEY WAGNER

VESPER SHOUSHOUNOVA-CORMIER

ELLA TOTINO

SHALINA NURLY

ANGELIKA JACKLYNE

BRITTANY WAGNER

KIYANA DARBANDI

RYAN BEGG

FRANCESCO CAMMARDELLA

NASTASSJA DOROTICH

J.BROWN

# DRAGON FRUIT



## CREW

Writer and Director  
Producers

**J.BROWN**  
**J.BROWN**  
**JEN ARAKI**  
**YVONNE CHAPMAN**  
**HENRY HAYHURST-FRANCE**  
**JESS RIVERS**

Executive Producers

**J.BROWN**  
**LORI ZEI**  
**JEN ARAKI**  
**DYLAN PLAYFAIR**

Associate Producers

**LYNETTE GARRISON**  
**LORI ZEI**

Director of Photography  
Editors

**HENRY HAYHURST-FRANCE**  
**J.BROWN**  
**MELANIE SNAGG**

Original Music  
Sound Designer  
Production Designer

**SHAWN PENNER**  
**JEFF DAVIS**  
**J.BROWN**

Costume Designer  
Prop Maker  
Visual Effects Supervisor  
First Assistants Camera

**J.BROWN**  
**J.BROWN**  
**J.BROWN**  
**J.BROWN**  
**JOHN KELLY**  
**NICK TAILLEFER**

Makeup Designer  
Colourist

**KATE ELLIS**  
**HENRY HAYHURST-FRANCE**



## FESTIVALS

The TV Fest  
Tacoma Film Festival  
Astrophobia Science Fiction &  
Horror Film Festival  
Edmonton Short Film Festival  
Kevin Smith's SmodCastle Film  
Festival  
Vancouver Asian Film Festival  
Milton Keynes International Film  
Festival  
Toronto Shorts International Film  
Festival  
Rio Grind Film Festival  
12th Mumbai Shorts International  
Film Festival  
Magnolia Independent Film Festival  
Dam Short Film Festival  
Chicago Southlands International  
Film Festival  
Nevermore International Film  
Festival  
Close-Up International Film Festival  
Phoenix Film Festival  
15th International Kuala Lumpur  
Eco Film Fest

## ACCOLADES

**WINNER:** Best Canadian Film  
Official Selection  
**WINNER:** Best BC Film  
**WINNER:** Best Science Fiction Long Short  
**WINNER:** Best Director, Best Cinematography  
Official Selection  
**WINNER:** Best Cinematography  
Official Selection  
Official Selection  
**WINNER:** Best Editing  
**WINNER:** Best Cinematography  
Official Selection  
**NOMINEE:** Best Professional Short,  
Best International Short, Best Sci-fi Short  
Official Selection  
Official Selection  
Official Selection  
**WINNER:** Best Short Film



## FESTIVALS

**Okanagan Screen Awards  
International Horror & Sci-Fi Film  
Festival  
Juggernaut Sci-fi and Fantasy Film  
Festival  
Northern Virginia International Film  
& Music Festival**

**AtomaCon Film Festival  
European Independent Film Festival  
WorldFest - Houston International  
Film Festival  
Miami International Science Fiction  
Film Festival  
Gen Con Film Festival  
Indie Shorts Mag Film Festival**

**The LEO Awards  
London International Fantastic Film  
Festival  
Africa International Film Festival  
(AFRIFF)**

## ACCOLADES

**WINNER:** Best Canadian Short Film  
Official Selection

Official Selection

**WINNER:** Best Short Film, Best Director, Best  
Actress (Yvonne Chapman), Best Supporting  
Actor (Ken Lawson), Best Supporting Actress  
(Nicole Muñoz), Best Editing, Best Visual  
Effects, Best Sci-fi Film, Best Action Film

Official Selection

Official Selection

**WINNER:** Best Science Fiction Long Short

Official Selection

**WINNER:** Best Short Film

**WINNER:** Best Short Film, Best Editing, Best  
Cinematography

**WINNER:** Best Costume Design

Official Selection

Official Selection

# SYNOPSIS

**DRAGON  
FRUIT**

**LOGLINE:** *In a violent, dystopian future, a single mother attempts to grow a dragon fruit sprout in hopes of one day selling it for cash.*

**DRAGON FRUIT** stars **Yvonne Chapman** as **The Mother**, a lone woman forced to make ends meet while caring for her son in an cruel, barbaric world. Told largely without dialogue, the film follows her as she struggles to grow a small plant sprout into a fully-ripened dragon fruit. If she can sell it for enough money, and if she can survive, she might be able to afford a better life for her and her son...but at this point, she'd settle for a small vacation.



Inspired by North America's record-breaking wildfire seasons, **DRAGON FRUIT** is set in a smoggy, hellish world where the atmosphere is toxic to breathe, and the gap between rich and poor has never been worse. Drinking water is scarce, militarized police roam the streets terrorizing regular people, and greed is the only thing everyone understands.

Produced through the crucible of the pandemic, **writer-director J.Brown** designed and created nearly all the props, costumes, set pieces, and visual effects in his apartment on his own. With a boost from creative powerhouse **Crystal Mountain Films**, J.Brown and his company **Rattlesnake Films** were able to stretch a shoestring budget into an epic short film, creating a uniquely bleak portrait of a future that feels all too familiar.

# CAST



**Yvonne Chapman** anchors the cast of *DRAGON FRUIT* as **The Mother**. Relentless, stubborn, and resourceful, she never, ever gives up. The Calgary-born actor, who is also a producer on the film, is known for her roles as the nefarious Zhilan in the CW's reboot of *Kung Fu*, as well as lawyer Mina Lee in CBC's reboot of the legendary series *Street Legal*. Yvonne can currently be seen as Avatar Kyoshi in Netflix's live-action adaptation of *Avatar: The Last Airbender*.



**DRAGON  
FRUIT**

# CAST



Vancouver's **Azriel Dalman** provides the tender heart of *DRAGON FRUIT* as the lonely, inquisitive **Son**. Only ten years old, Azriel already sports an impressive resume with dozens of roles, including hits like FX's *Shogun*, and *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* on Disney+. Azi plans to "be an actor forever, and work at Subway when I'm not on a project."

**DRAGON  
FRUIT**



# CAST

Vancouver native **Nicole Muñoz** joins the cast of *DRAGON FRUIT* as the super-cool **Neighbor**. An actor since the age of four, Nicole is best known for her roles as Jack in Syfy's *Van Helsing* and as Ellery in CBC's *Diggstown*.



**DRAGON  
FRUIT**



# CAST

DRAGON  
FRUIT

Montreal-born **Omari Newton** brings the long arm of the law to the world of *DRAGON FRUIT* as the enigmatic **Cop**. An accomplished voice actor, playwright, and director, Omari is known for his roles as Larry on *Blue Mountain State* and Lucas on Showcase's *Continuum*.



# CAST



*DRAGON FRUIT'S* villainous **Boss** is played by BC's **Chris Gauthier**. Chris has been in everything from Zack Snyder's *Watchmen* to ABC's *Once Upon A Time*. J.Brown met Chris 20 years ago at a karaoke night neither of them can remember. Reconnecting years later, they were excited to finally work together, with the role of the Boss written specifically for Chris—a first of many future collaborations. Sadly, in February 2024, at the age of 48, Chris passed away. He is survived by his wife Erin and two sons, Ben and Seb.

He is greatly missed by all of us.

**DRAGON  
FRUIT**



# CAST



Ken Lawson is The Man.

**DRAGON  
FRUIT**



# DIRECTOR

DRAGON  
FRUIT



**J. Brown** is a director, producer, and animator based out of Vancouver, BC. He has nearly 20 years of experience working in television, feature film, and video games, on titles like *Stranger Things*, *The Mandalorian*, and *The Avengers*. He created all costumes, props, and visual effects for *DRAGON FRUIT* in his apartment on his own, which saved him a lot of money, and gave him something to do in off-hours during the pandemic. This led to him building two sets, acting as locations manager, and playing the role of **Mr. Mystery Meats**, because after all this work, there's no way he wasn't gonna be in this thing. Identifying marks include a rattlesnake tattoo on his arm and a beard on his face. So far, he is bald.

## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

*"Dragon Fruit started with the simple premise of having an idea and seeing it through, whatever the cost. But along the way, it became something more: an epic poem about the grind of modern life. This film is about how it felt to make it."*



# CREW

**DRAGON  
FRUIT**



**Director of Photography Henry Hayhurst-France** first met with director J.Brown in a Vancouver coffee shop in June of 2020. Newly arrived from the UK, Henry was not only unphased by making a film of this scale during a pandemic, he had his own camera, which was good news for the budget. Filming on a Blackmagic Pocket adapted with vintage lenses, Henry brought J.Brown's storyboards to brilliant life, color graded every shot himself, and was so instrumental throughout production that he earned himself a battle-field promotion to producer.

**Music Composer Shawn Penner** was six years old when he met director J.Brown in a tree at a church picnic. J.Brown was four, and credits his love of violent movies to Shawn's terrible influence growing up. Having previously collaborated with J.Brown on multiple small videos and fan films, Shawn was keen to tackle a film where the music was so instrumental to the story. In a twenty-seven minute film with almost no dialogue, what he achieved is truly remarkable, and worth the price of admission alone.



# CREW

**DRAGON  
FRUIT**



**Producer Jen Araki** and director J.Brown grew up together, attending the same elementary school in West Kelowna, BC. After a successful modeling career, Jen moved from LA to Vancouver, and immediately began making plans to make movies. Already an actor, director, and producer under her **Crystal Mountain Films** banner, she was able to draw on her vast network to get *DRAGON FRUIT* off the ground.

**Executive producer and Crystal Mountain Films co-founder Dylan Playfair** is most recognizable as Reilly on Crave/Hulu's hit series *Letterkenny*. The hockey player turned award-winning actor has built a diverse resume that also includes directing, producing, and executive producing. In *DRAGON FRUIT*, he found a rich, thrilling drama that is both personal and universal, contained in a package that could only come from the unique mind of director J.Brown.



# CREW



**Creative Producer Jess Rivers** is J.Brown's best friend and was the very first producer attached to *DRAGON FRUIT* in 2019. The first pitch for the film failed and she promptly left Vancouver to open a bakery in beautiful Victoria, BC with her partner Adam. Located in the heart of Victoria's Rock Bay, **Working Culture Bread** is open Thursday to Sunday and bakes organic sourdough bread from scratch. They also have really good coffee, sandwiches and pastries. Personally, I love their cinnamon buns the most.



## DRAGON FRUIT



**Dan Mangan** is a two-time JUNO Award-winning and two-time Polaris Music Prize-nominated musician and songwriter. Based in Vancouver, BC, Dan has toured extensively in North America and Europe, with stops at Glastonbury and Jimmy Kimmel Live. Dan agreed to bless *DRAGON FRUIT* with a cover of a classic Bob Dylan song to close out the film. Pulling together a group of local musicians for one day only, they recorded it live off the floor in one take. What song? Sorry, friend. Watch *DRAGON FRUIT*.



