



THE RED FRAME

104 mins, Black&White, 2.35:1

by Al M. Hemphill



cast

Al M. Hemphill, Tim Wolfe, James Gordon, Autumn Christensen, Walt Sloan, Bobby Wilhelmson, Connor Zornow, Patrys Jean Destin, A.J. Laird, Terrance McDonald, John McDonnell, Justis Drakes

crew

Director/Scriptwriter/Editor: Al M. Hemphill

Director of Photograpy: Rhett Thompson

Gaffer: Beck Potucek

Sound Mixer: Colin Lenehan

Original Score: Noah Mac

Makeup Artist: Jia Cierra

1st AC: Beth Schaefer

Foley Artist: Meghan Gillotte





synopsis

“The Red Frame,” follows a seemingly ordinary census taker known only as The Man, who lives a quiet life in his worn overalls, trapped in the nostalgia of a bygone era. His routine is upended when he mistakenly receives a mysterious snuff film at his doorstep, igniting a dangerous journey into the underbelly of his seemingly mundane neighborhood. Compelled to uncover the truth behind the chilling footage and the disappearance of his alluring neighbor, The Man enlists the help of his street-smart friend, Scoot. Armed with only his census badge as a disguise for a detective's authority, they navigate a web of political corruption and deceit that threatens not only their lives but the fabric of their own community. As they dig deeper, The Man confronts his own past and the essence of truth, leading to a crescendo of revelations disclosing far more about individuals than mere statistics. “The Red Frame,” weaves a tale of suspense, friendship, and existential reflection.

al m. hemphill as THE MAN

Alexander Michael Hemphill is a multifaceted writer and filmmaker hailing from Arkansas, with deep-rooted artistic beginnings formed in Missouri. His passion for creativity ignited in high school, where he not only acted in theatrical productions but also dazzled audiences with his magic. With a passion for storytelling and a flair for humor, he made the bold move to Chicago to pursue his dreams in comedy and film at Columbia College Chicago. It was here that Al honed his craft, writing and performing in shows at the renowned Second City. Al's talent for crafting compelling narratives was recognized when he became a quarterfinalist at the Austin Film Festival with his original TV pilot, marking a significant milestone in his burgeoning career. Having directed and produced a series of captivating short films, he made strides in 2022 with the commencement of his first feature film, "The Red Frame," marking another chapter in his ever-evolving artistic journey.

tim wolfe as SCOOT HOSKINS

Tim Wolfe was born in 1987 in Warren, Ohio. He fell in love with movies at a young age and spent his adulthood trying to break into the industry as a writer/performer. His script "Dalton" was optioned in 2018 after placing highly in the Final Draft Big Break Contest, and currently he travels the country as a headlining comedian on the Brewery Comedy Tour.

james gordon as CHARLIE RUB

James Gordon is an international award winning author and poet, champion storyteller, and award winning actor. He can be seen on episodes of Chicago Fire, Chicago Med, Southside, The G, and Netflix's Monster. James is the Facilitator of the Talent Cabal titled Act Pack Dark.

walt sloan as ED CANDY

Walt Sloan has appeared in over 100 films and television productions, in several national and regional commercials, and numerous industrial and educational films. He received Best Supporting Actor from the Rome International Movie Awards for his performance in "Fangs Vs Spurs." He has had lead roles in several award-winning short and feature films, including "Civil," winner of a Special Jury Award in the 2018 deadCenter Film Festival, "Day 1," winner of Best Guerrilla Feature at the 2016 Action on Film International Film Festival, "Fate Accompli," winner of Best Thriller Short in the 2014 Illinois International Film Festival, and "Only Thunder," awarded First Place in the short film category at the 2013 Sunset International Film Festival in Los Angeles. He also had a supporting roles in "Return to the Hiding Place," winner of Best Feature and Audience Choice Award at the 2013 San Antonio Christian Film Festival, and "4 and a Half Terrorists," winner of the 2008 Chicago Comedy TV Pilot Competition. As a writer, he received a Best Screenplay Award in 2011 for his religious thriller "The Salus Imperative."



director of photography

RHETT THOMPSON

Film and video have always been a central part of Rhett Thompson's life. Growing up, Rhett was captivated by Disney films, live-action blockbusters like Jurassic Park, and countless other cinematic experiences.

Rhett pursued his love for film by studying broadcasting, theatre, and filmmaking in college. Along the way, he gained hands-on experience shooting stage productions, weddings, commercial, and corporate videos—all while becoming an award-winning director and cinematographer.

Whether writing, shooting, directing, or editing, he approaches every production with dedication and a relentless drive to elevate the story, ensuring each frame is as immersive and cinematic as possible.

gaffer

BECK POTUCEK

Beck Potucek is a gaffer, grip, set electrician, assistant cameraman, and stop-motion animator with four years of experience in the film industry. He works primarily in Chicagoland and central Illinois.

sound mixer

COLIN LENEHAN

Colin has loved music ever since his introduction to piano at the age of 6 and cello at 11. He produced his first album as a high school sophomore in 2002 under the pseudonym "Xolin" (pronounced ZOL-in). Since then, Colin has self-produced 6 additional albums.

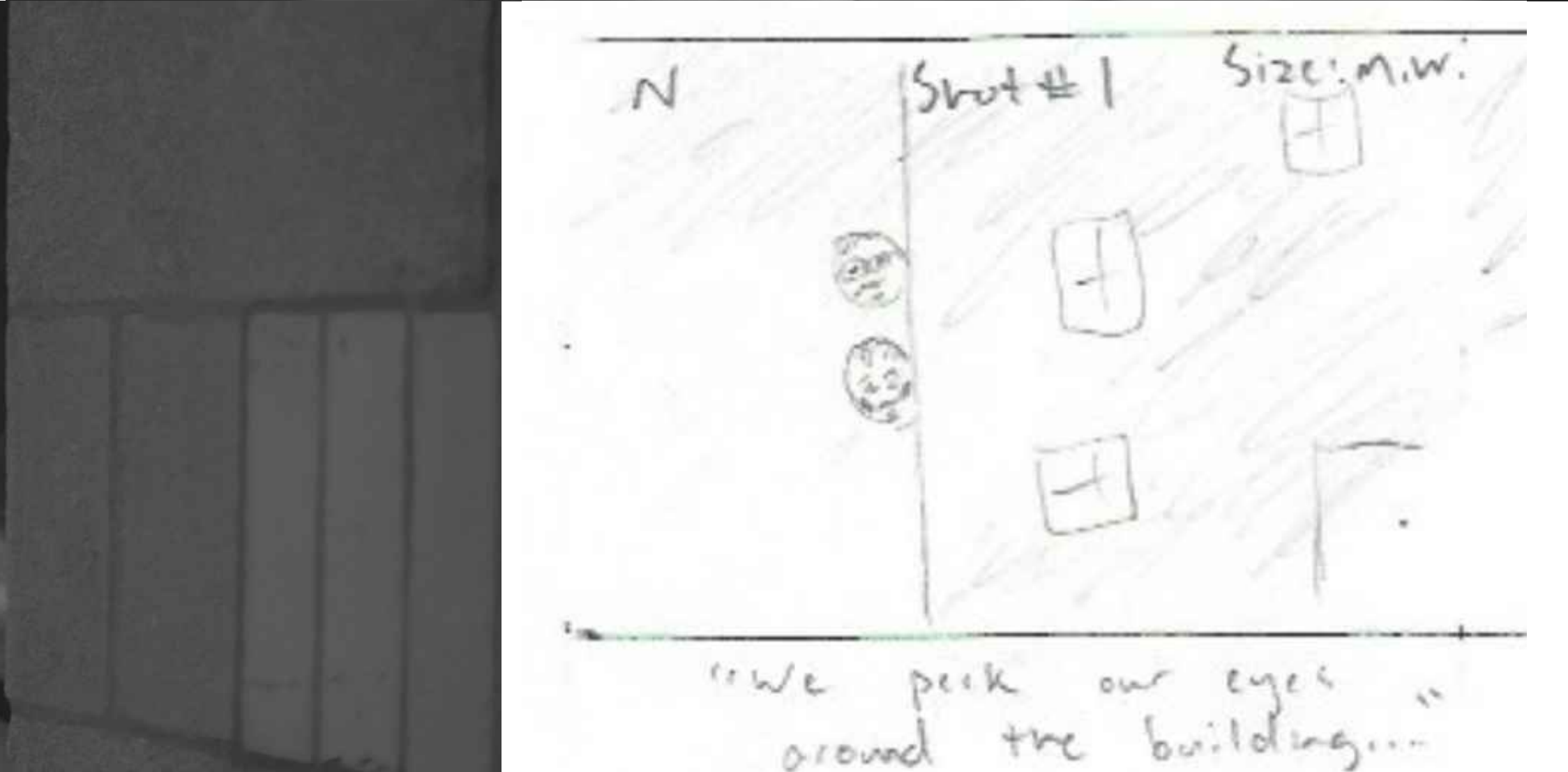
While attending Columbia College Chicago, Colin acquired a myriad of audio skills, including microphone placement and effective music mixing.

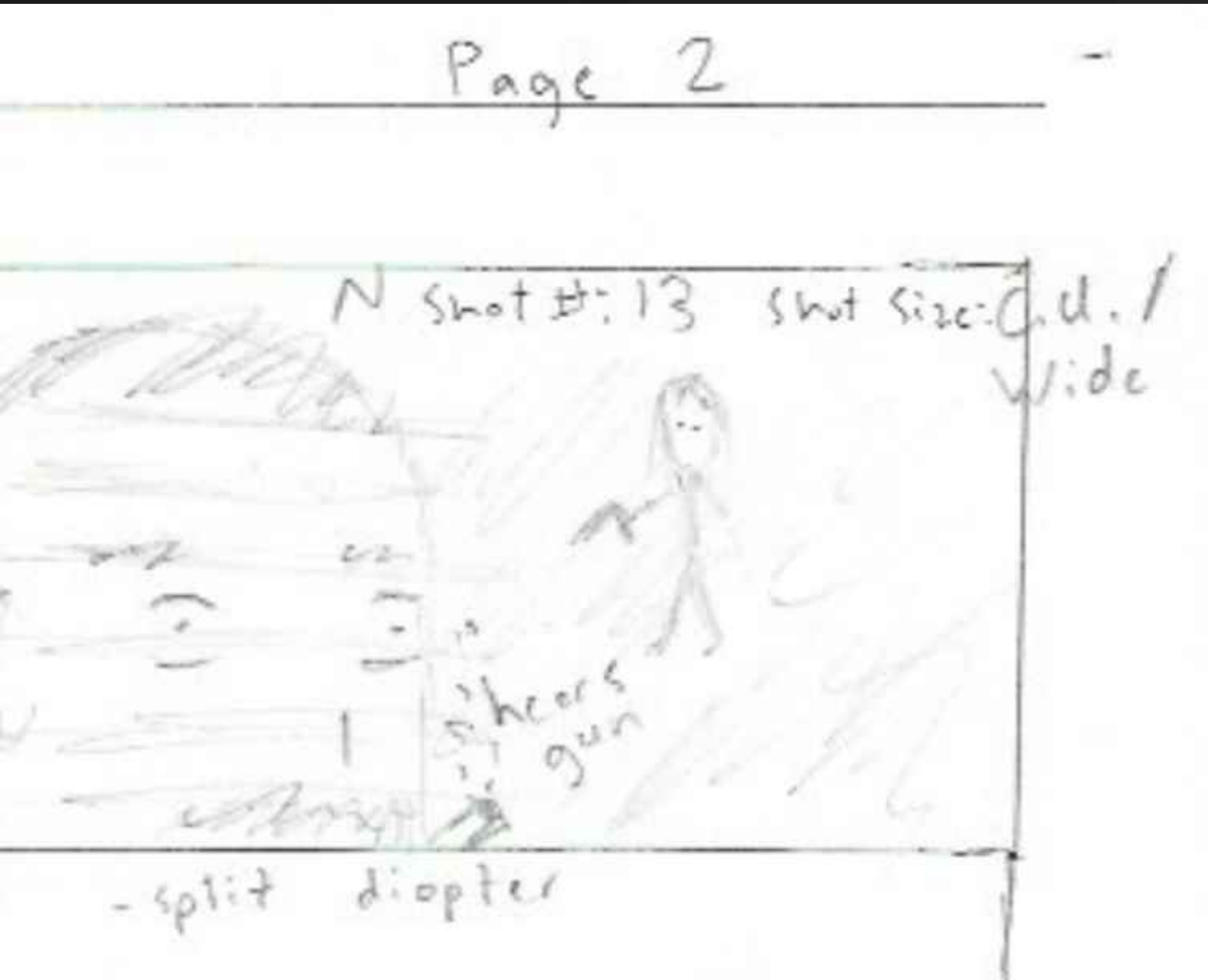
Thanks to a summer internship with a local film company, he also discovered a passion for film sound, both location and post.

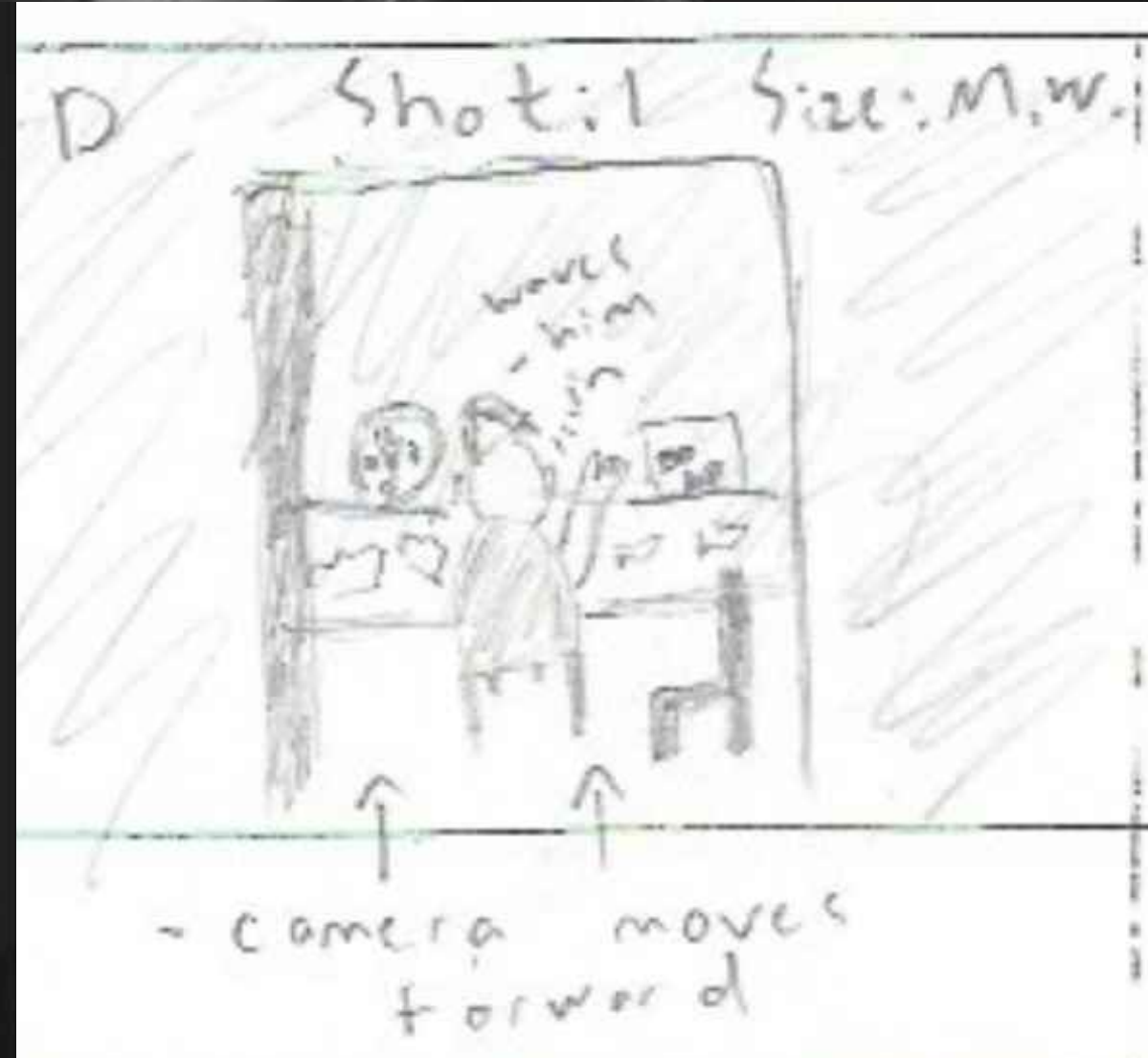
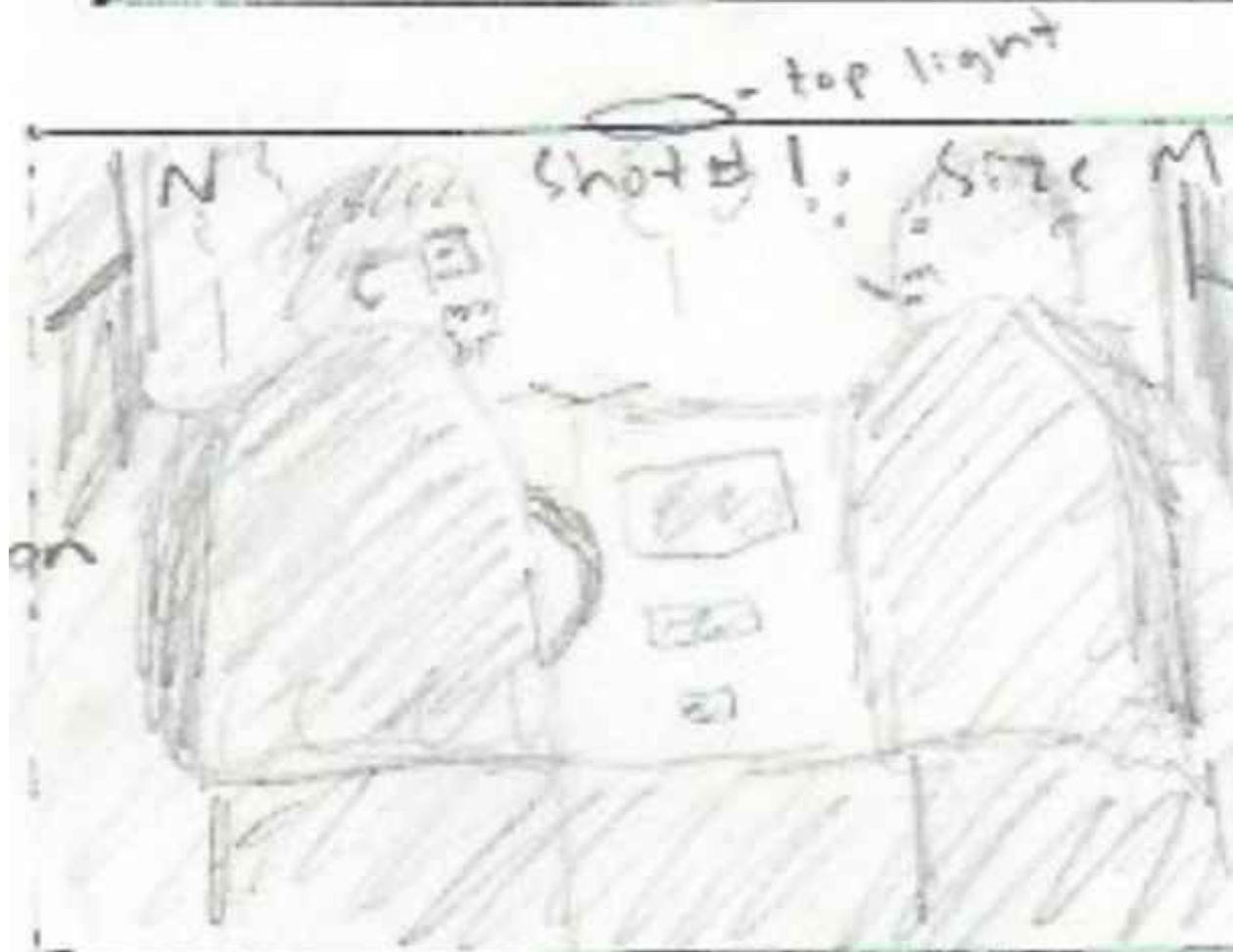
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from storyboard to film









director statement

Like many of us in the worldwide pandemic, I set stationed in my home trying to determine what to do with this bleak, unforeseeable future I had on my hands. It was inside this blank slate of time, I discovered crime fiction and two of my favorite authors of all time. These two I'd come to consider as the grandfathers of the hard-boiled genre as we know it: Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler.

In this insurmountable time I could also watch their mostly lackluster film adaptations. In the moment I felt like I found an untapped resource. As I read and watched, I realized I had never seen a film that quite captured the essence and experience in one of these books. An experience which clouded my own waking life at the time. For example their lives felt muddled, always bleak. They might solve a case by the end, but it almost never guaranteed a happy ending. Their future came at the roll of a dice. Atmosphere and character came over plot. The entire story blossomed from the central character's P.O.V.. We never left their side. I didn't believe any film had come close to capturing all of these elements at once or the true spirit of this genre from the masters who coined it.





facts and figures

pre-production: 4 months

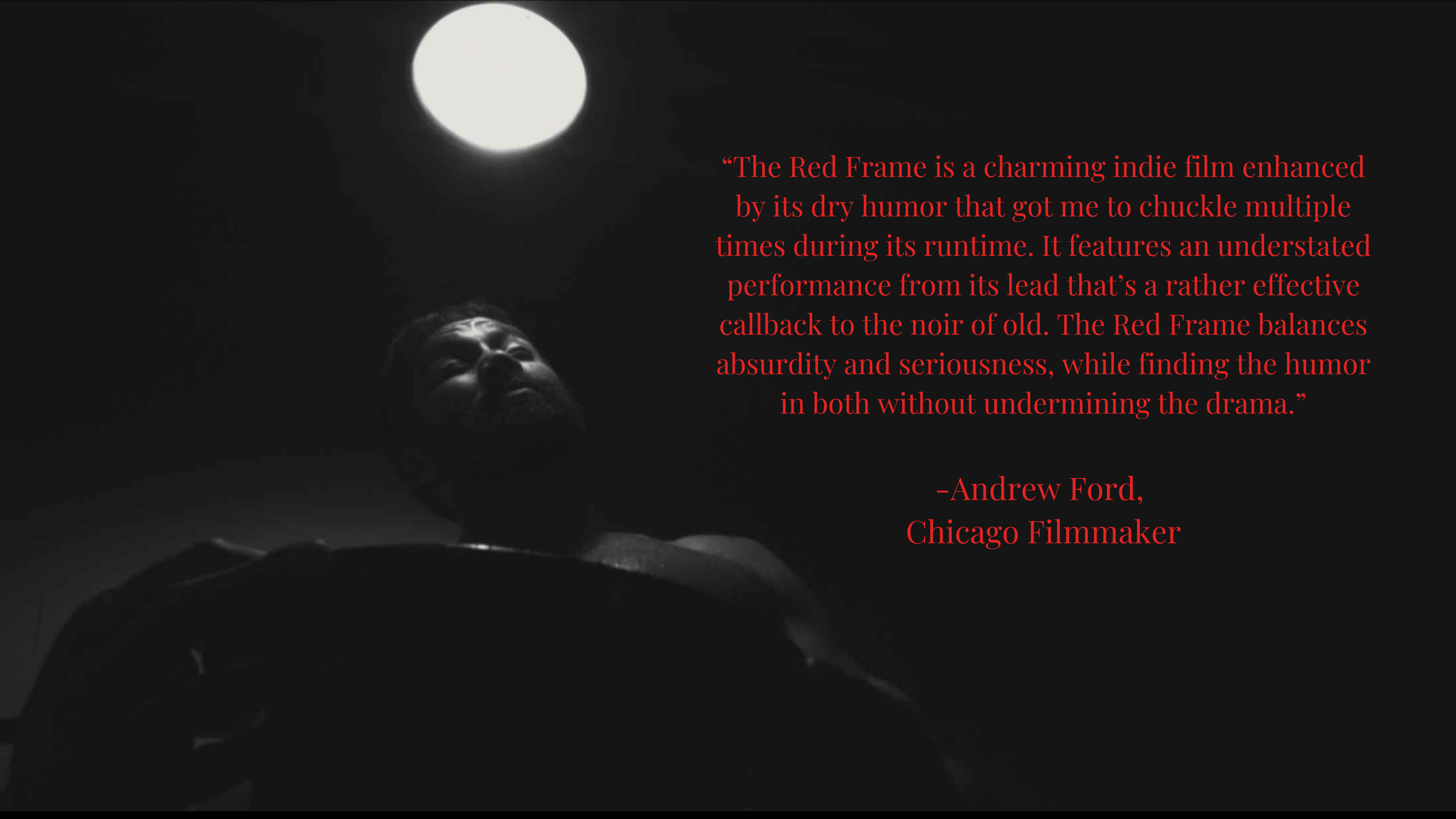
shooting days: 12

post-production: 29 months

One of the unique aspects of this film is that there are two sequences entirely shot on Standard 8mm Film, a format that dates back to the 1930s, and has nearly become extinct. Additionally, there is a scene in which this format is projected from a working dual 8mm projector built in the 1970s.



reviews



“The Red Frame is a charming indie film enhanced by its dry humor that got me to chuckle multiple times during its runtime. It features an understated performance from its lead that’s a rather effective callback to the noir of old. The Red Frame balances absurdity and seriousness, while finding the humor in both without undermining the drama.”

-Andrew Ford,
Chicago Filmmaker

“Terrific film! A
future cult
classic.”

-John Joseph Dunn,
Executive Producer of FANG



alhemphillemail@gmail.com

773-619-3840

Chicago, IL

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