

# CHICKEN HOLLIST



A Film by Jacob French  
Electronic Press Kit



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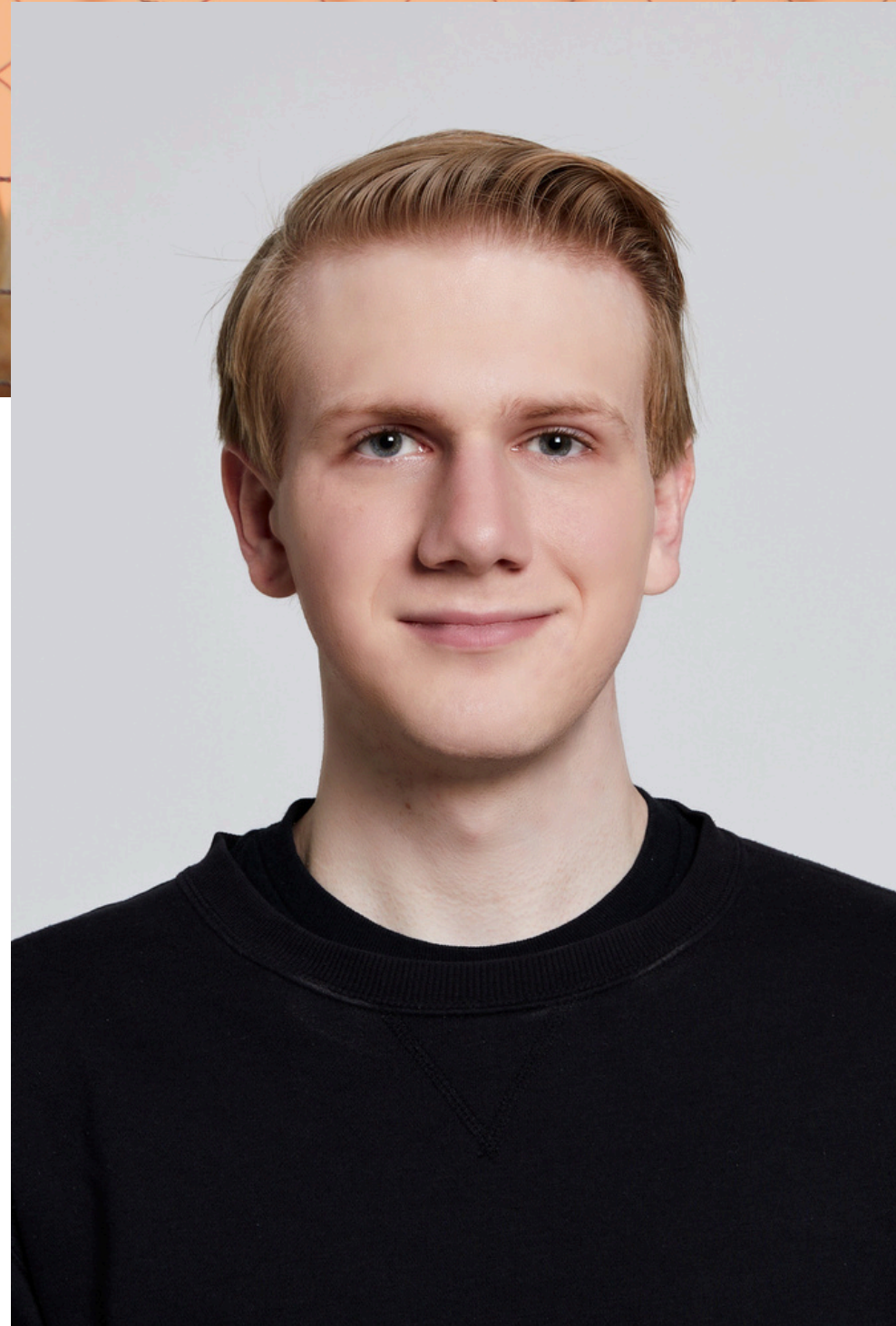
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**Logline:**

A reclusive man moves to the suburbs and starts receiving visits from mysterious strangers... dressed as chickens.

**About the Film:**

*Chicken House* is a short horror/comedy the weird forms grief can take. Writer/Director Jacob French is an award-winning filmmaker who loves tackling emotionally heavy topics through the lens of absurd comedy. *Chicken House* is an eclectic mixture of hard-hitting drama and hilarious comedic moments. It's a story many people will see themselves in and, hopefully, find some comfort in.



### **Director Bio:**

Jacob French (he/him) is an internationally recognized filmmaker with a BFA from the Rochester Institute of Technology School of Film and Animation. With French's films, nothing is what it seems, as he blends tones and genres, crafting absurd stories with deeply felt emotional cores. With a lifelong love of storytelling and filmmaking dating back as early as first grade, he strives to go against the grain and keep audiences on their toes. His films have screened in festivals across several continents, in places such as Time Square, London, and Milan.

Instagram [@thejacobfrench](#)

Email: [jacob@shoestringfilms.net](mailto:jacob@shoestringfilms.net)

Youtube.com/[shoestringfilms](#)

## Director's Statement:

Grief is funny; sure, it's painful, but it's also surprising, varied, and unpredictable. With *Chicken House*, I wanted to depict just how strange the grieving process can be, and how running from grief never leads to closure.

I wanted the severe topics of this film to sneak up on the audience, in the same way grief can unexpectedly rear its head. My goal was to use comedy to disarm the audience, thinking they were in for a silly film about chickens, and then surprise them with the heart that this story has to offer. Finding a way to make these tonal shifts appropriately jarring, while not being too disorienting, was a difficult balance to find. This made the film all the more satisfying to complete, as it felt like a unique piece.

I'd also be remiss to not mention just how hand-made and deeply collaborative every aspect of this film is. I truly had the best cast, department heads, and crew on this project, and it would not have been the same without each one of them. You're rarely lucky enough to work on a film that is so deeply fulfilling both personally and professionally, and I'm so happy that *Chicken House* has proved to be just that. I hope you enjoy the film!



## Fun Facts:



The flashback scenes were filmed on Atlas Anamorphic Lenses, which have also been used to shoot films such as *Anora* and TV series such as *Andor*.

All of the chicken costumes in the film (with the exception of one rubber mask) were homemade by a team of 6 people. They were made to look hand-crafted and not uniform, to match the personalities of the people wearing them.



There's a scene where two characters watch an 80s movie, which was filmed on actual 16mm film. The monstrous chickens in this scene were created practically with stop motion animation hand-made puppets, to mimic special effects technology of the 1980s.

John Bolton, who plays Frank, is primarily known as a theatre performer, having starred in 13 Broadway shows, as well as national tours and off-Broadway productions. For his role in *A Christmas Story: the Musical*, he was nominated for the Drama Desk Awards. His film and TV credits are also extensive; he filmed an episode of *The Equalizer* opposite Queen Latifah a week after wrapping on *Chicken House*.



Written & Directed by  
JACOB FRENCH

Director of Photography  
NASH SNYDER

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Producer            | JENNA BLAKESLEE  |
| Sound Designer      | CARINA CHRISTMAN |
| Colorist            | NATHAN BLADER    |
| Production Designer | CAMERON PEREIRA  |
| Original Score      | JOSEPH JANOVER   |



JOHN BOLTON  
GABRIELA RIVERA ARAUJO

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Lead Chicken         | JESSI OPETT      |
| Lead Chicken (voice) | SADIE ROLLE-KNOX |
| 911 Operator         | NELLY BRYCE      |
| Ella                 | KIT PRELEWITZ    |
| Sam                  | RON DUFORT       |
| Nurse                | ESTHER WINTER    |
| Daughter             | ANNA WYATT       |

Chickens

BENJAMIN CARLSON · ELLA CHITAPHONG · GIOVANNI DeFIORE · ADRIAN DOWD-PETTINGIL  
MATTHEW FEIDLER · BRYAN FRENCH · MARION FRENCH · NOAH FRENCH · REECE GURELL · SEBASTIAN LaVINE  
ELIJAH “BIG BACKY” LEDERMAN · LEIGH LeFEVRE · DECLAN McHALE · KATELYN PARK · CAMERON PEREIRA  
MIA PEREIRA · ISAAC POST · LYDIA SAYERS · MIKAYLA STOLARSKY

Additional Chicken Voices

ELLA CHITAPHONG · MATTHEW FIEDLER · JACOB FRENCH · REECE GURELL  
ELIJAH “BIG BACKY” LEDERMAN · LEIGH LeFEVRE · SADIE ROLLE-KNOX  
CAMERON PEREIRA · NASH SNYDER



First Assistant Director  
Second Assistant Director

JESSI OPETT  
JENNA BLAKESLEE

Camera Team

JACK BARRY  
NATHAN BLADER  
MARGARET GARDELLA  
TK JAMES

Steadicam Operator  
Jib Operators

PARKER LONG  
PARKER LONG  
JACK BARRY  
PARKER LONG

Boom Operator  
Additional Production Sound  
Grip and Electric

COLIN O'BRIEN  
NURIYA MAY  
NATHAN BLADER  
AIDAN CLARK  
KATIE COBOS  
MAGGIE LUCY  
NURIYA MAY

Art

COLIN O'BRIEN  
ANDREA POLLOCK  
ANDREW SCHLGEL  
ADRIAN DOWN-PETTINGIL  
LEIGHT LeFEVRE  
VICTORIA EMIKO PENDZICK  
MIA PEREIRA

Props Loaned By

JCC CENTERSTAGE  
RIT PLAYERS

Digital Image Technican  
Foley Team

AMBER PINTARICH  
SOFIA CARRERA  
CARINA CHRISTMAN

Film Developed By  
Visual Effects  
Lead Animator/Fabrector  
Assistant Fabricator  
"Chickening" Concept Art

KODAK FILM LAB ATLANTA  
JACOB FRENCH  
KAUALANI CEBERANO  
LOU DUCHIN  
STEPHEN BURTON  
KAUALANI CEBERANO

Title Design  
Animal Coordinator/Wrangler  
Catering Provided By

CAMERON PEREIRA  
STEVEN FRENCH  
CHIPOTLE  
THE TAP IT BAR AND GRILL  
WEGMANS

Craft Services

JENNA BLAKESLEE  
BRIAN FRENCH  
MARION FRENCH

ASL Interpreters

JESSICA SANDERS  
HEATHER YU

Captstone Advisors

AMY ADRIAN  
FRANKLIN DEESE

Equipment Provided By

RIT SOFA CAGE  
MAGIC SPELL STUDIOS  
EXPRESSWAY CINEMA RENTALS



Chicken Costumes  
ADRIAN DOWD-PETTINGIL  
JACOB FRENCH  
MARGARET KLAVER  
ORION KLAVER  
CAMERON PEREIRA  
MIA PEREIRA

BTS Photography  
ADRIAN DOWD-PETTINGIL  
LEIGH LeFEVRE  
CAMERON PEREIRA  
MIA PEREIRA  
GABRIEL "GABO" PONTE-FLEARY  
CHARLOTTE YOUNG