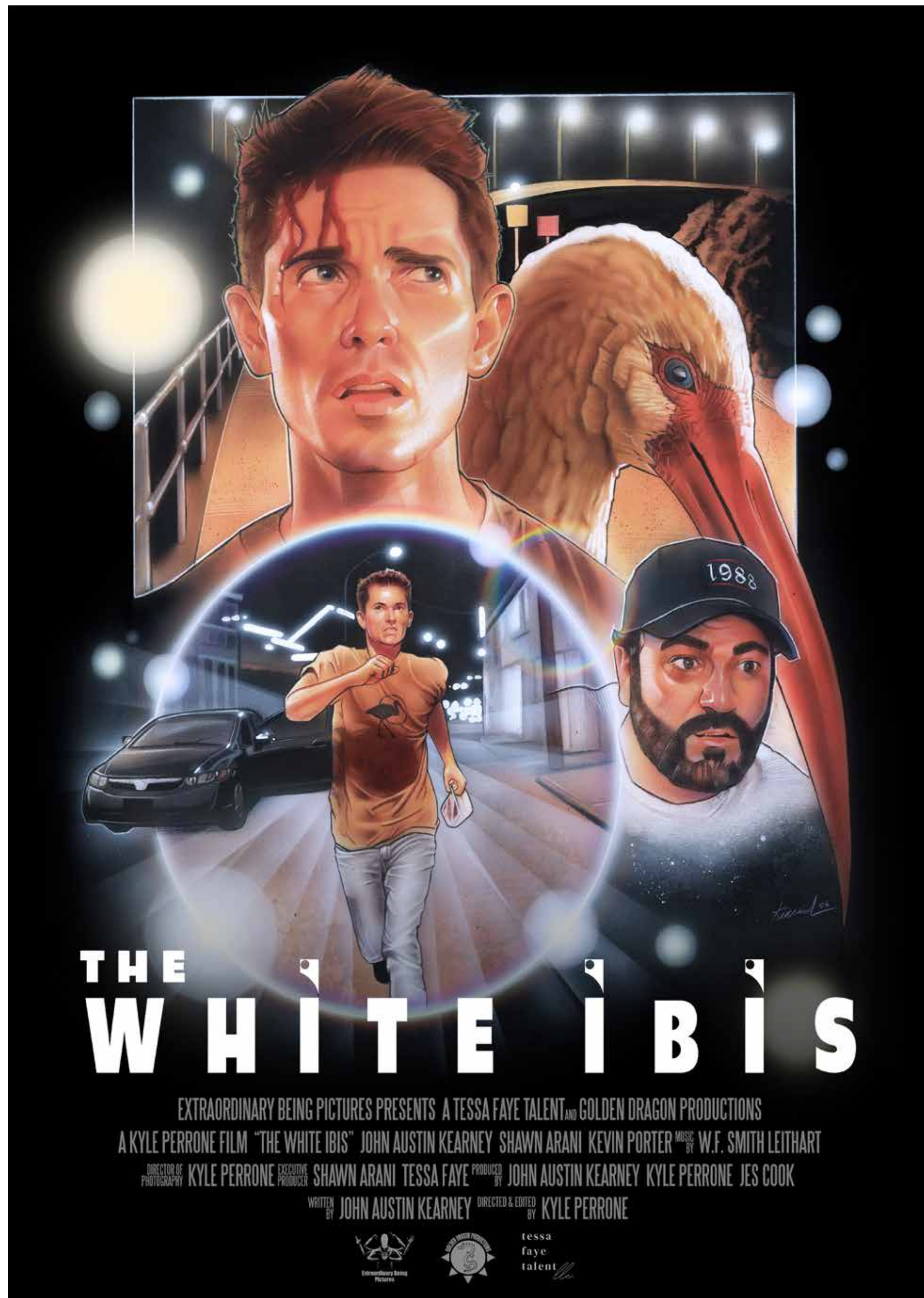


A close-up, artistic photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eyes. The person's eyes are closed, and a small, blue bird is perched inside the left eye. The lighting is dramatic, with one side of the face in shadow and the other highlighted, creating a strong contrast. The skin texture is visible, and the overall mood is mysterious and surreal.

**THE**  
**WHITE IBIS**



## Logline

At an illustrious restaurant, a disrespected new employee must deliver a prized sandwich on foot to keep their job and test their mettle.

## Synopsis

Assigned by his intense boss, the “New Guy” has to deliver an expensive sandwich, “The White Ibis,” to a customer across town promptly or face his boss’s wrath. His troubles begin when the only car available breaks down. He races against the clock, jumping over numerous hurdles: a bird cage, a cruel French restaurant, and a hit-and-run. Late to the delivery, he staggers to the customer’s house. The customer tosses him a lousy tip before heading off to enjoy his long-awaited sandwich. With his job on the line, then “New Guy” finds unexpected comfort in a white ibis bird.

Length: 15 minutes

Contact:

[jes@goldendragonproductions.com](mailto:jes@goldendragonproductions.com)

# *Director's Statement*

While directing THE WHITE IBIS, my number one priority was to translate the script into something visual and tangible. When communicating with everyone on set, I wasn't barking orders from a chair. With all the physicality involved in the story and the fact that I was holding the camera, I used my proximity to the action to work with the actors. When they were running, I was running with them. When they were rolling around on the ground, I was there too. I was used to this approach on other projects, but here it was significantly more crucial for the outcome of the final product. I was focused on tapping into the cast and crew's willpower. Everyone had to push themselves to achieve the action and the vision.

THE WHITE IBIS is a film showcasing the visual style found in an individual's willpower. The camera rewards the audience when the main character overcomes a challenge. Brow sweat glows after a long sprint, flares dance as the character rises up after a tumble. There is a visual beauty in overcoming the odds. And that is a concept I never really thought of until this project.

There were certainly a few challenges we had to overcome to get this film across the finish line. But it's here now, and it's beautiful. This was possible because of the combined willpower behind John Austin Kearney's words, Jes Cook's coordination, Tessa Faye's casting, Shawn Arani's executive producing, and the talent of our amazing cast and crew. Thanks to them, I will always have fond memories of making this film and I hope the audience walks away with something after watching it.

# Cast

New Guy - John Austin Kearney  
Rowan - Shawn Arani  
Customer - Kevin Porter  
Taylor - Guy Whitney  
Cameron - Dustin Buller  
Alix - Tessa Faye  
Manon the Maitre D - Sayfay Beard  
Chef - Annie Grant  
Extra Chef - Samuel Sawney

# Crew

**Director, Producer, Director of Photography, and Editor:** Kyle Perrone  
**Writer and Producer:** John Austin Kearney  
**Producer and Production Manager:** Jes Cook  
**Executive Producers:** Tessa Faye and Shawn Arani  
**Composer:** W.F. Smith Leithart  
**VFX, Gaffer, and Safety Coordinator:** Landon Rother  
**Casting Director:** Tessa Faye Talent, LLC  
**Assistant Director:** Rachael Cook  
**Sound Operator:** Matt Vigo  
**Location Sound Recordist:** Jessica Lloyd  
**Foley Artist and Makeup Artist:** Hannah Pierce  
**Various Costume Design & Construction:** Holly Grace  
**BTS Photographer:** Heather Blackwell  
**Production Assistant:** Samuel Sawney  
**Title Designer:** Kara Walter  
**Poster Designer:** Jason Kincaid

# *Stills*





# KYLE PERRONE

Kyle Perrone is an award-winning filmmaker based in Jacksonville, Florida. After years of stop motion projects and studying production at Flagler College, he has gone on to make short films and do commercial projects. He has made several award-winning short films for the Jacksonville 48 hour film competition including **THE METHOD MAN**, **THE PAWN**, and **I WILL INVESTIGATE**.



# JOHN AUSTIN KEARNEY

John Austin Kearney is an actor, writer, and producer based in central Florida. With a background in theatre, John has performed in over 20 theatrical productions from the community and professional levels (**SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET** and **THE LATE HENRY MOSS**). John will have 2 feature film debuts in 2026 with **THE TWELVEMILE** and **TANGLED ILLUSIONS**, as well as continuing work on other short films and commercial work. After his debut short screenplay for **THE WHITE IBIS**, John ventures deeper into writing with currently 2 screenplays in development.



# SHAWN ARANI

An award-winning producer on Broadway (CABARET, COMPANY, A CHRISTMAS CAROL), Off-Broadway (ABNORMAL, PIEDMONT POINTE), and in film (KILLINGTON, VIAL, RETREAT!), Shawn is the EP of the upcoming LA vampire short 15 TO SUNRISE, and on the producing team of THE FLORIST (starring Carla Gugino, as Vivien Leigh), currently in pre-production. He is featured in America's Next Top Model winner Sophie Sumner's film DAY ONE, which debuted in NYC this Spring. Shawn is a celebrated watch collector & supporter of the arts in Dallas, NYC, and LA.



# TESSA FAYE

An award-winning actress and producer, Tessa Faye is a graduate of The University of Michigan's esteemed Musical Theatre department, and has been seen on television, national commercials, and in theaters across the country. She founded her company, Tessa Faye Talent, in 2015, with a focus on producing short films, live theatre, and American-made documentaries, animation, podcasts, and new media that reflect the of the artistic individuals she coaches privately. Recent collaborations & contributions include HBO's Emmy-winning series THE JINX PART 2 and Broadway's Tony-winning revival of CABARET. Tessa is on the creative teams of AS SEEN ON (w/ Mark Duplass), SANTA CON: THE WAR ON CHRISTMAS (w/ Catherine Curtin), and VIAL (w/ Hank Azaria).



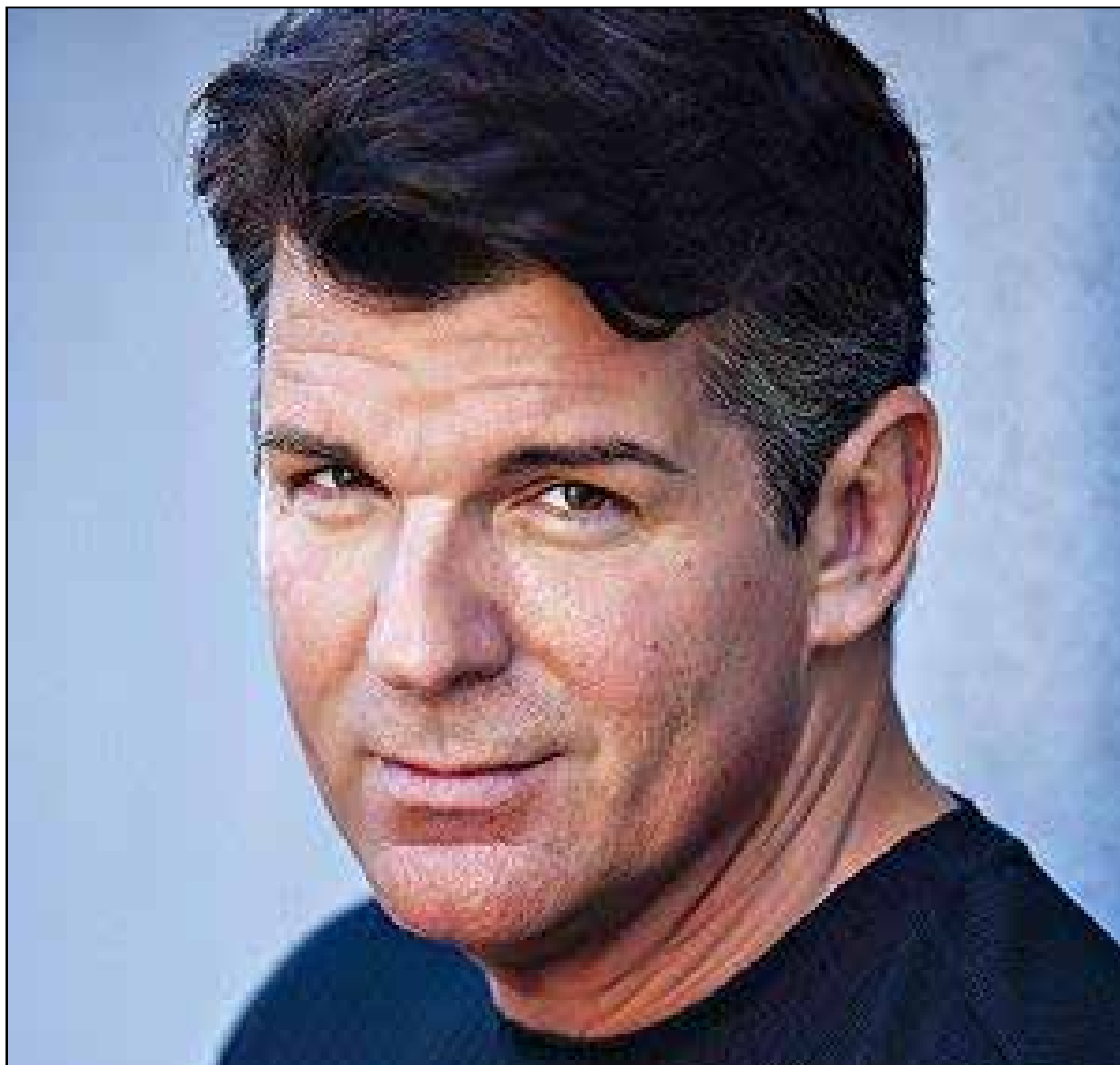
## JES COOK

Jes Cook is an emerging producer and assistant director in the independent film scene. Her most notable works include the Swiss-American film *NO SLEEP TILL*, which premiered at the 2024 Venice Film Festival, and the experimental short film *SUNFLOWER*, winner of the “Audience Choice Award” at the Splice Film Festival. The latter shaped the avant-garde elements for her own multimedia production company, Golden Dragon Productions. For her continuation as an assistant director, she is set to take on her first theatrical feature-length film, *THE PIT VIPER*.



## W.F. SMITH LEIHART

W.F. Smith Leithart is a composer for film and TV who is quickly making a splash in the Hollywood film music scene. Since moving to Los Angeles in 2020, he has worked with composers Lorne Balfe, Max Aruj, Natalie Holt, and others, contributing to projects such as *MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – THE FINAL RECKONING*, *MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – DEAD RECKONING*, *BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE*, and Disney+'s *OBI-WAN KENOBI*. In the independent film space, he won the “Best Score” award at the Assurdo Film Festival in 2021 for the short film, *UNORTHODOX*. Since then, he scored a collection of shorts, video games, and more. His most recent release is *DINNER TO DIE FOR*, a feature-length psychological thriller.



## KEVIN PORTER

Kevin Porter stepped foot in the industry in the '90s and later gained a devoted fanbase through his portrayal of Batman on the YouTube channel, *batinthesun's* SUPERPOWER BEATDOWN series. Acting as the iconic superhero, he starred in SHADOW OF THE BATMAN, DYING IS EASY, and CITY OF SCARS. Before his well-known portrayal as Gotham City's protector, Kevin plays one of Ben Stiller's dodgeball henchmen in DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY and in LEGEND OF THE WHITE DRAGON.

# Behind the Scenes



Sayfay Beard as "Manon the Maitre D" and Annie Grant as "Chef"



The famous White Ibis sandwich



The cast and crew rehearsing a stunt



Tessa Faye as Alix



Kyle Perrone directing the French restaurant running scene



John Austin Kearney

# FAQS

## **1. What was the plan for filming the running montage?**

We filmed the running montage by running around St. Augustine late at night for a couple of nights. We did not storyboard it, we just shot what looked interesting at the time and shot more on other days to compensate for what we were missing. There was a lot left on the cutting room floor.

## **2. How did you film the bridge scene?**

We filmed the bridge scene late at night and used radios to communicate. We followed John in the car as he ran a stretch of it.

## **3. How many months were you filming with John Austin Kearney?**

Technically, we filmed a total of 12 days spread over 5 months. Most of the film was shot over 4 days, but many of the montage and running shots with John were done over 8 nights.

## **4. What program did you use to create the CGI White Ibis at the end of the film?**

Blender! Landon Rother used it throughout the entire process of making the bird, from modeling to texturing, animation and final render.

## **5. What does the White Ibis bird symbolize?**

The White Ibis serves as an innocent parallel to the main character. The animal has brown feathers in adolescence and eventually changes to white in adulthood. The ending is that our main character finally rests and comes face to face with this imagery that is representative of maturity, hardiness, and growth.