

THIS FILM IS NOT BASED ON ACTUAL EVENTS...
THIS FILM IS ACTUAL EVENTS

BAJAXL INTO UNCERTAINTY

AN EXPLORATION OF RISK

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DOCUMENT MAP

01	FILM OVERVIEW / FACT SHEET	03
02	THIS IS NOT A RACING FILM	05
03	SYNOPSIS	06
04	BAJA CONTEXT SHEET	08
05	DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT	10
06	THE WEEKS BEFORE BAJA	12
07	DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY	13
08	PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS / KEY CREW	15
09	PARTICIPANT CINEMA / PRODUCTION APPROACH	16
10	THEMES & CONVERSATION GUIDE	18
11	IMPACT & AUDIENCE OPPORTUNITIES	19
12	SELECTED STILLS	22
13	TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS / CREDITS	26
14	CONTACT / LINKS	27



INTO UNCERTAINTY

AN EXPLORATION OF RISK

FILM OVERVIEW

THEMATIC LOGLINE

“Into Uncertainty begins by asking why people willingly step into danger. It becomes a larger meditation on what happens when certainty becomes the condition for living.”

NARRATIVE LOGLINE

Two emergency-management professionals enter an unsupported, ten-day expedition across Baja to investigate why people voluntarily choose risk - only to discover what uncertainty exposes when their preparation, competence, and control begin to fail.

A real expedition. An embedded camera. No institutional safety net.



FILMED FROM INSIDE THE RISK

The filmmakers were also the participants, crew, and subjects - responsible for the journey and for capturing it as it unfolded.

FILM OVERVIEW

Into Uncertainty is a feature-length nonfiction adventure film created from inside a real, unscripted expedition. Ryan Christen, a former firefighter, and Derek Bays, a geologist, spend their professional lives preparing for disaster and helping others navigate its consequences. Seeking to understand why people voluntarily move toward danger, they enter the 2025 BajaXL - an unsupported expedition rally across the Baja peninsula with no winners, prize money, external film crew, or institutional safety net.

Weeks before departure, both are deployed to support the Los Angeles wildfires, collapsing their preparation schedule. They reach the starting line exhausted, underprepared, and carrying an unfinished production system inside an unfinished expedition vehicle. As mechanical failures, navigation errors, isolation, and fatigue erode their plans, the journey expands beyond its original question, revealing how shared risk alters friendship, vulnerability, grief, presence, and the human need to move forward without guarantees. In the village of San Ignacio, a donation to the local fire department leads to an unexpected act of connection - closing a chapter of Christen's own firefighting career he never got to finish.

Filmed by the participants themselves, the camera never observes the expedition

QUICK FACTS

YEAR	COUNTRY	LANGUAGE	STATUS	RUNTIME
2026	United States	English	Completed	126 min
FORMAT	SOUND	PRODUCTION	GENRE	
4K UHD · 16:9	Stereo	RGC Media Inc.	Feature Documentary / Nonfiction Adventure	

02 THIS IS NOT A RACING FILM

**“THE LANDSCAPE PROVIDES THE SETTING.
THE PEOPLE PROVIDE THE MEANING.”**

BENEATH THE EXPEDITION:

BajaXL is the backdrop, not the subject. At its center, *Into Uncertainty* is a story about grief, friendship, and the quiet decision to keep moving forward without guarantees — themes that reach well past the outdoor and adventure crowd.

03 SYNOPSIS

SPOILER-FREE PRESS COPY



SHORT SYNOPSIS

Two emergency-management professionals who spend their careers preparing for catastrophe enter a ten-day, unsupported expedition across Baja to investigate why people voluntarily choose risk. When wildfire deployments derail their preparation and the journey begins in chaos, mechanical failures, isolation, exhaustion, and the absence of a formal safety net force them to confront the limits of control. Filmed entirely from inside the expedition, *Into Uncertainty* becomes less about conquering a route than about what shared risk reveals - friendship, vulnerability, grief, presence, and the danger of waiting for certainty before fully living.

Designed for festival programs, press listings, digital platforms, and screening guides.

03 EXTENDED SYNOPSIS

THE JOURNEY, WITHOUT REVEALING ITS FINAL RESOLUTION

Ryan Christen, a former firefighter, and Derek Bays, a geologist, have built careers around anticipating danger and reducing its consequences. Yet a question persists beneath their professional lives: why do people willingly move toward risk when safety remains an option? To test that question on themselves, they enter the 2025 BajaXL, a ten-day, unsanctioned expedition rally across the Baja peninsula where there are no winners, prize purses, sponsors, support crews, or guaranteed rescues.

Their plan is meant to be meticulous. They design custom camera mounts, prepare a truck to serve as both expedition vehicle and rolling film set, and intend to document the experience without an outside crew. Then, weeks before departure, both are deployed to support the Los Angeles wildfires. Their preparation collapses into sleepless nights, improvised equipment, unfinished systems, and a

Across thousands of miles of remote desert, mountains, coast, and broken routes, the journey tests more than the vehicle. Navigation mistakes consume daylight. Mechanical problems compound. Fatigue erodes judgment. Professional instincts built around controlling risk collide with the personal desire to keep moving. As informal networks of participants repair, guide, wait, laugh, and make space for one another, shared vulnerability begins to create connections that conventional life rarely allows.

What begins as an investigation into voluntary danger becomes a larger meditation on grief, friendship, unfinished endings, and the ways certainty can become a condition for living. Filmed by the people taking the risks, Into Uncertainty remains inside the decisions and consequences as they happen - not as spectacle, but as a search for what becomes visible when control fails and



THE SCALE OF THE JOURNEY



INSIDE THE COCKPIT



CONNECTION BEYOND THE ROUTE

04 BAJA CONTEXT SHEET

WHAT BAJAXL IS, AND WHY IT MATTERS

The BajaXL is a ten-day, unsanctioned expedition rally that runs the length of the Baja California peninsula — nearly 2,500 miles of unpaved desert, mountain, and coastal terrain. There are no winners, no prize purses, no sponsors, and no external film crew. Success is measured only by attempting it.

Unlike organized motorsport, BajaXL rejects institutional safety nets. Participants travel remote routes without official support vehicles, on-call emergency services, or guaranteed rescue. Every team is responsible for its own preparation, mechanical repairs, navigation, and recovery.

What emerges in place of formal infrastructure is a grassroots community — mechanics, drivers, and overlanders who show up without sponsors or media scripts, and who repair, guide, wait, and make space for one another as vehicles fail and teams get lost. It is a rare, unbranded counterpoint to heavily produced expedition culture.

For Into Uncertainty, BajaXL is the laboratory rather than the subject: an environment built around genuine uncertainty, where the absence of a safety net turns ordinary decisions into consequential ones — and turns strangers into an informal support network no institution could replicate. In San Ignacio, that spirit took tangible form: a donation to the local fire department became an unplanned bridge between the expedition and Christen's own firefighting past.



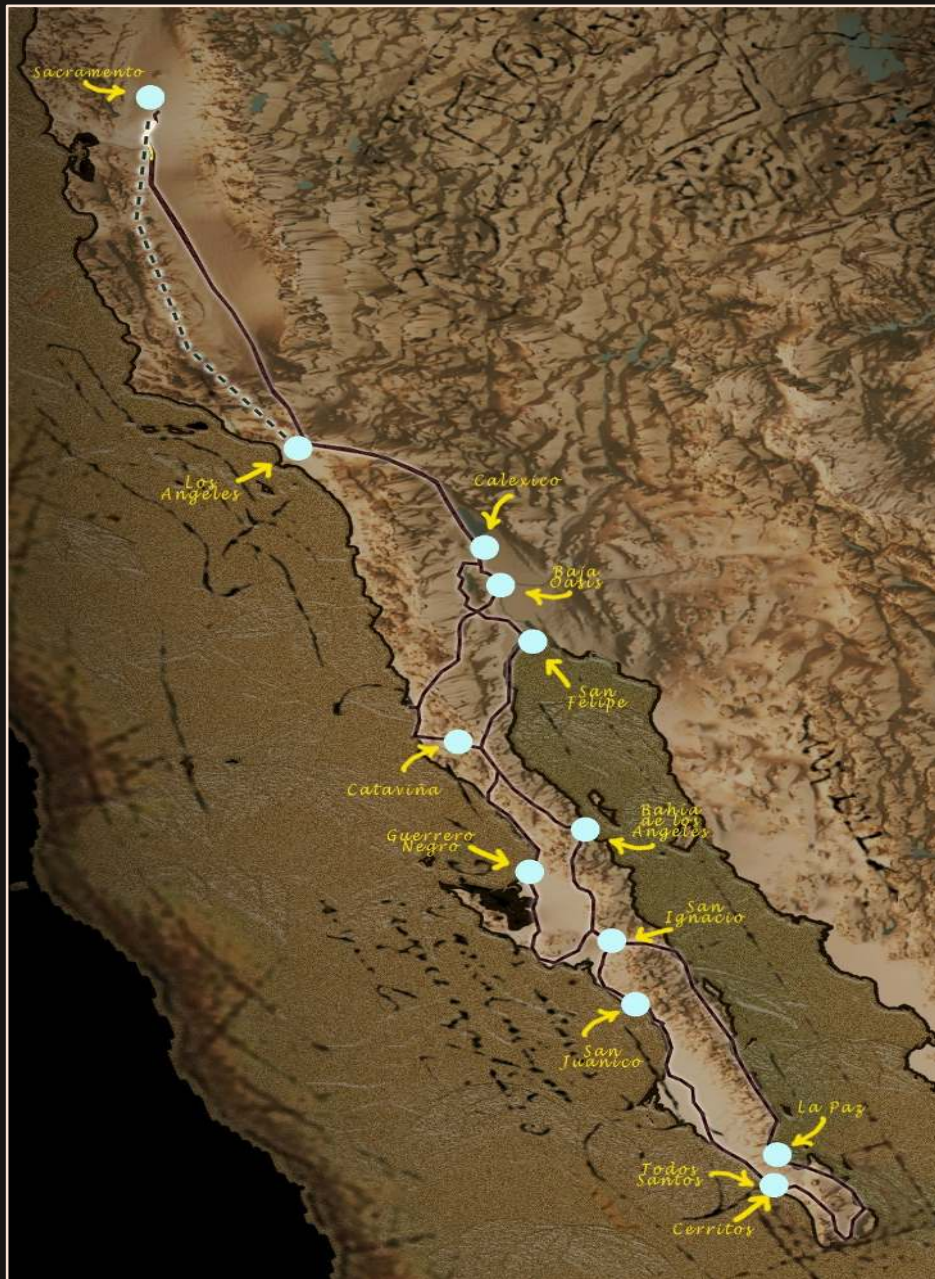
THE ROUTE



CLOSE CALLS WITH NO OUTSIDE SUPPORT



THE BAJA COMMUNITY



THE ROUTE

SACRAMENTO, CA → CABO SAN LUCAS, MX

“2,500 miles through Baja, nearly 4,000 miles, door to door — ten days with no support vehicles and no guaranteed rescue.”

Ryan and Derek’s journey ran nearly 4,000 miles door to door — from Sacramento, California, south through the border crossing at Calexico, the length of the Baja California peninsula, and back.

At its center is the BajaXL itself: a roughly 4,000-kilometer (2,500-mile), unsanctioned crossing of the peninsula with no winners, no support vehicles, and no guaranteed rescue.

12 WAYPOINTS ACROSS THE PENINSULA

05 DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“THE QUESTION WAS NEVER PURELY PHILOSOPHICAL.”

A filmmaker trained to manage risk steps inside the question he can no longer answer from a distance.

RYAN G. CHRISTEN • DIRECTOR

05 DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

WHY THE QUESTION OF RISK BECAME PERSONAL



In a small village called San Ignacio, a stranger handed me back a piece of my life I thought was gone for good. That wasn't a story I set out to tell. It became one that I hadn't realized I needed.

The question at the heart of Into Uncertainty was never purely philosophical for me. I have spent much of my life working in environments where risk is something to be anticipated, managed, and reduced. But over time, I began to wonder whether a life built around controlling uncertainty can also become a way of avoiding the parts of ourselves that cannot be managed so neatly.

That question became deeply personal: how much of our fear is protecting us, and how much of it is quietly keeping us from becoming who we might otherwise be? Just weeks before we left for Baja, our plans were interrupted by the Los Angeles wildfires and the work of supporting one of the most devastating disasters we had ever encountered. We left knowing how fortunate we were to step into uncertainty by choice while so many others had just had uncertainty forced upon them.

We went to Baja expecting to find answers about courage, risk, and why people willingly move toward the unknown. Instead, the experience complicated nearly every assumption we carried into it. What we found was less about conquering fear than learning to live honestly beside it.

That truth arrived clearest in San Ignacio, where a donation meant for the local fire department turned into an invitation to ride again - the ride I never got to finish years earlier, on the day an injury ended my firefighter career without warning. I didn't expect Baja to give that back.

My hope is that audiences recognize something of themselves in the struggle - not necessarily in Baja or in an extreme expedition, but in the quieter moments when life asks us to move forward without certainty, without guarantees, and sometimes without knowing whether we are ready. Into Uncertainty is ultimately about that choice, and about the possibility that the life waiting beyond fear may begin with simply taking the next step.

06 THE WEEKS BEFORE BAJA

A WILDFIRE DEPLOYMENT, WEEKS BEFORE DEPARTURE

In January 2025, days before departing for Baja, Christen and Bays were activated to help organize and lead the recovery operations for the Los Angeles wildfire response — one of the most destructive fire events in California history.

The deployment compressed an already tight preparation window and left almost no time to recover before the expedition began — an unplanned prologue to the film, the same instinct to move toward danger that defines Christen's career, tested once more before BajaXL even started.

“The same instinct that pulls him toward danger — tested once more before BajaXL even began.”



ON DEPLOYMENT



WHAT REMAINED



A MONUMENTAL RECOVERY OPERATION



RYAN G. CHRISTEN

**DIRECTOR · FILMMAKER · FORMER
FIREFIGHTER**

“An experienced visual storyteller making his feature directorial debut with a story only his unusual background could have produced.”

Ryan G. Christen is a filmmaker, former firefighter, and emergency management professional whose career has unfolded in places defined by consequence, crisis, and human resilience. Throughout more than two decades in emergency response and disaster recovery across 27 states, he continually returned to media production - using film to create training, tell stories, and teach firefighters and law-enforcement professionals. A career-ending injury had cut his firefighting career short years earlier - a loss that found an unexpected resolution during production, in a small Baja village called San Ignacio. Into Uncertainty marks Christen's feature-length directorial debut.

**FEATURE-LENGTH DIRECTORIAL
DEBUT**

INTO UNCERTAINTY

THE CAMERA BECAME A WAY TO STEP INSIDE THE EXPERIENCE - AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IT REVEALED.

His relationship with filmmaking began long before his professional career. Growing up on Florida's Gulf Coast, Christen used a family VHS camera to document things like family trips and hurricanes. He later produced shorts through his high school media club (Viking Television - VTV). He went on to establish a media company (while working as a firefighter), creating commercial projects, public-safety training films, immersive simulations, and documentary-style content while continuing to work in emergency services and disaster operations. Across both careers, the camera became a tool for examining human behavior under pressure and translating difficult experiences into



THE PREP BEFORE BAJA

That convergence of experience shaped Into Uncertainty. After spending much of his life anticipating danger, planning for worst-case scenarios, and helping others navigate catastrophe, Christen became increasingly interested in why people voluntarily move toward uncertainty when they have the option to remain safe. Rather than approach the question from a distance, he entered the BajaXL as both participant and filmmaker - serving throughout the expedition as driver, navigator, camera operator, technician, narrator, and one of the film's central subjects.



A CAREER ECHOED IN BAJA

Filmed without an external crew, Into Uncertainty reflects Christen's preference for experiential storytelling: placing the camera within the event, accepting imperfection, and allowing meaning to emerge before it can be controlled or polished. What began as an exploration of risk expanded into a story about friendship, fear, grief, vulnerability, presence, and the discoveries that become possible when certainty is no longer a prerequisite for moving forward.

Through the film, Christen brings together the two defining threads of his life: confronting the unknown and using visual storytelling to understand what it reveals.



FILMMAKER INSIDE THE EXPEDITION

08 PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS / KEY CREW

THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE JOURNEY



RYAN G. CHRISTEN

Director · Producer · Narrator

Team #11: Participant · Navigator · Relief Driver

Former firefighter and emergency-management professional. Christen served as one of the film's two-person production team while also driving, navigating, operating cameras, managing technical systems, and appearing as a central subject.

DEREK BAYS

Associate Producer · Participant · Geologist

Team #11: Participant · Driver (Vehicle Owner)

A geologist and California state emergency management professional, Bays grew up with Dave as family — not by blood, but by choice: when Derek was a child, Dave became his step uncle. When Derek was only 11, his stepfather passed, yet Dave never stopped showing up for him. The BajaXL was a chance to return to something Dave had given him since boyhood — being pushed past his comfort zone and meeting it head-on. Bays served as driver, navigator, production partner, and one of the film's central subjects, leaving behind his wife and two young daughters for the ten days he was gone.

ADDITIONAL KEY CREDITS

Dave Moore · Wilson Craig · 2025 BajaXL
Participants · Post-Production by Ryan G. Christen

09 PARTICIPANT CINEMA

THE CAMERA DOES NOT OBSERVE THE RISK FROM SAFETY.

It is carried by the people making the decisions, absorbing the consequences, and trying to keep moving.

PRODUCTION APPROACH

09 PRODUCTION APPROACH

FILMMAKERS, PARTICIPANTS, CREW, AND SUBJECTS

01 INSIDE THE EVENT

No external crew followed the expedition. Christen and Bays were responsible for both completing the route and documenting it, making the production inseparable from the decisions and consequences onscreen.

02 CUSTOM-BUILT SYSTEMS

The truck became a rolling film set. Camera mounts, power, data, communications, navigation, and storage systems were designed to survive vibration, dust, heat, fatigue, and constant movement.

03 UNSCRIPTED CONDITIONS

There were no staged failures, recreated conversations, or controlled resets. Mechanical breakdowns, wrong turns, exhaustion, conflict, humor, and connection were captured as they occurred.

04 IMPERFECTION AS EVIDENCE

The visual and sonic imperfections are not presented as flaws to hide, but as evidence of participation - the camera is affected by the same conditions as the people carrying it.



10 THEMES & CONVERSATION GUIDE

FOR FESTIVAL MODERATORS, PANELS & COMMUNITY SCREENINGS

01

UNCERTAINTY & CONTROL

The film asks what happens when a life built around managing risk collides with genuine uncertainty.

Discussion: where does your own life quietly optimize for certainty, and what might that cost?

02

EXPOSURE & VULNERABILITY

Shared risk strips away performance, allowing forms of honesty ordinary life rarely permits.

Discussion: how do cultures of stability make vulnerability harder to access?

03

GRIEF & PERMISSION TO MOVE FORWARD

A memorial inside the expedition becomes a turning point: letting go without leaving behind.

Discussion: what unfinished endings are you still carrying?

04

FRIENDSHIP & CROSS-BORDER COMMUNITY

Mutual reliance among strangers replaces formal safety infrastructure.

Discussion: what does the film suggest about trust between people who owe each other nothing?



11 IMPACT & AUDIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

NATURAL SCREENING PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY AUDIENCES

01

ADVENTURE, OUTDOOR & DOC AUDIENCES

Festival and theatrical audiences drawn to nonfiction adventure, expedition filmmaking, and character-driven documentary storytelling.



02

LIVES BUILT AROUND RISK & RESPONSIBILITY

Communities whose professional lives are built around managing danger, control, and consequence — the film's central tension.



03

GRIEF, RESILIENCE & MENTAL HEALTH

Peer-support and resilience organizations working with grief, vulnerability, and the cultures of endurance the film examines.



04

PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY & PERSONAL GROWTH

Audiences drawn to introspection, philosophy or self-development spaces exploring what it means to move forward through life.

11 COMMUNITY IMPACT

THE CHARITABLE COMPONENT OF BAJAXL, AND ITS PERSONAL WEIGHT

"That ride on that old rig brought me healing I didn't even know I needed. A random village in Mexico, with a proud brother firefighter I had just met, became one of my favorite moments. On day 8, in San Ignacio, on the BajaXL, I got my last ride."

— FROM THE FILM'S NARRATION

BajaXL's community ethos extends beyond the route itself. During the 2025 expedition, participants organized a donation of backpacks and school supplies for roughly 120 children across three schools in San Ignacio, followed by a further donation to the village's volunteer fire department.

What began as logistics became something more personal for director Ryan Christen, a former firefighter whose own career had ended abruptly, years earlier, without the chance for a proper final call.

COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

San Ignacio's Mayor, Efrain Lastra Salvatierra, and the fire department's Sub Commander, Juan M. Berrelleza Castro, recorded video messages thanking BajaXL participants for the donations.

These reflect the community's response to the expedition's presence, not a critical or press review of the film. Video excerpts are available as supplementary press material upon request.



THE DONATION



SAN IGNACIO VISIT



COMMUNITY THANK YOU

11 A TRIBUTE ALONG THE WAY

AN UNPLANNED DETOUR THAT BECAME ONE OF THE EXPEDITION'S DEFINING MOMENTS

"This wasn't a moment defined by loss. It was a tribute — a salute to one of their own, and to a way of living that chooses to chase life rather than simply pass through it."

— FROM THE FILM'S NARRATION

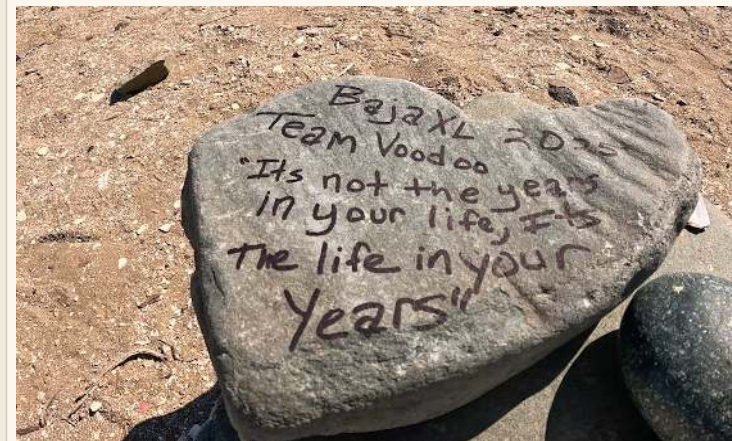
During BajaXL, one crew detoured to honor a friend who could not join, carrying his ashes to a place he had hoped to revisit. The stop became a quiet celebration and a clear expression of the rally's close-knit support.



THE DETOUR



THE TRIBUTE



THE MEMORIAL

12 THE VISUAL RECORD

THESE ARE THE MOMENTS THE FILM IS BUILT FROM.

Every image on the following pages is a frame from the film itself, captured in the field by the people living the story.

SELECTED STILL

12 SELECTED STILLS



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12 **SELECTED STILLS**

HUMOR, SCALE, CONNECTION, AND PRESENCE



PRESENCE



SCALE



PARTNERSHIP



IMPROVISATION



THE EDGE



THE PEOPLE OF BAJA

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12 SELECTED STILLS

PLACE, PARTNERSHIP, AND THE PERSONAL COST



OVERLOOK



REFLECTION



MISIÓN SAN IGNACIO



THE TERRAIN



INEXPERIENCE IN ACTION



AN UNFINISHED ENDING

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13 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS / CREDITS

FORMAT, DELIVERY & ABBREVIATED CREDITS

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

RUNTIME	126 minutes
YEAR	2026
COUNTRY	United States
LANGUAGE	English
GENRE	Feature Documentary / Nonfiction Adventure
RESOLUTION	4K UHD
ASPECT RATIO	16:9
SOUND	Stereo
CAPTIONS	Planned — not yet started
EXHIBITION	H.264 master (screener-ready) · DCP pending

ABBREVIATED CREDITS

DIRECTED BY
RYAN G. CHRISTEN

WRITTEN BY
RYAN G. CHRISTEN AND DEREK BAYS

PRODUCED BY
RYAN G. CHRISTEN

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
DEREK BAYS

EDITED · SOUND DESIGN · COLOR · MUSIC SUPERVISION
RYAN G. CHRISTEN

FEATURING
DAVE MOORE · WILSON CRAIG · EMMA MOORE · 2025 BAJAXL
PARTICIPANTS

PRODUCTION COMPANY
RGC MEDIA INC.

A ONE-PERSON POST-PRODUCTION — EDITING, SOUND, COLOR,
GRAPHICS, AND VISUAL EFFECTS ALL COMPLETED BY THE DIRECTOR.
LICENSED MUSIC VIA ISTOCK / TRIPLE SCOOP MUSIC.

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14 CONTACT / LINKS

INTO UNCERTAINTY

AN EXPLORATION OF RISK

WEBSITE	IntoUncertainty.com
TRAILERS	IntoUncertainty.com
IMDb	IntoUncertainty.com/imdb
SOCIAL	@BajaXLfilm (IG) · @IU_Film (X)
YOUTUBE	youtube.com/@IntoUncertaintyFilm
FILMFREEWAY	filmfreeway.com/IntoUncertainty
PRESS / SALES	rchristen@intouncertainty.com
PRIVATE SCREENER	Available upon request

PRESS ASSETS AVAILABLE

POSTERS
DIRECTOR HEADSHOTS
HIGH-RESOLUTION STILL
TRAILERS AND PRESS CLIPS
FULL CREDITS
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
SCREENING LINK

**43-PHOTO DOWNLOADABLE PRESS ASSET
FOLDER AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**