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Film Information & Press Materials
September 2026
The Modern Samurai
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LOS ANGELES, CA — Noble Act Entertainment presents The Modern Samurai, a contemporary neo-noir action drama written and directed by Michael Jacyna. A violent robbery sends a solitary man on a pursuit across Los Angeles, stirring memories of a woman from his past. As the night unfolds, the pursuit draws him deeper into a world where memory, violence, and his own sense of justice begin to collide. Through restrained visual storytelling, the film invites audiences to discover their own meaning within the story.

Los Angeles serves not simply as a backdrop, but as an integral part of the film's visual language. Rather than relying on traditional establishing shots, the city is revealed through the unfolding action and the characters' geographically coherent journey through streets, tunnels, and industrial spaces. Reflecting Jacyna's long relationship with Los Angeles, the film portrays the city at night as a vast landscape where nocturnal beauty exists alongside isolation.

While grounded in a recognizable contemporary world, The Modern Samurai carries a stylized visual and sonic character. Its nocturnal photography, color palette, image texture, original soundtrack, locations, and the protagonist's 1985 Pontiac Fiero GT evoke subtle echoes of 1980s cinema without recreating the period, giving the film a sense of existing between the present and the memory of another time.

The Modern Samurai grew from a concept that had been in development as a comic book for several years before the decision was made to bring the story to the screen first. Drawing inspiration from Japanese culture, visual aesthetics, traditional philosophies, the samurai ethos, and Jacyna's background in Aikido, the film brings those influences into a contemporary Los Angeles setting.

Filmed throughout Los Angeles and Southern California, the production embraced an independent approach emphasizing flexibility, visual precision, and creative control. Shot using an iPhone, drone cinematography, and a custom-built vehicle camera rig, the film combines minimalist filmmaking techniques with a cinematic visual aesthetic.

The climactic alley fight, choreographed by Jacyna, was conceived as a raw, economical confrontation, favoring realism and directness over spectacle. Rehearsed over five weeks, the fight was designed to unfold in a single uninterrupted take, with performance, timing, and camera movement working as one continuous piece of choreography.

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現代の侍

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

With The Modern Samurai, I wanted to create a film fueled more by emotional atmosphere and internal resonance than by intellectual structure — while still respecting the rhythm and technical foundations necessary to support that experience. Memory has always intrigued me — not simply what we remember, but how our experiences and relationships become memories, and how those memories continue to shape the choices we make long after the moments themselves have passed.

Although shaped by years of exploring Japanese culture, visual aesthetics, traditional philosophies, and the samurai ethos, the film is not defined by those influences alone. Rather, they provided a creative framework through which to explore themes of memory, loss, responsibility, and the quiet moral choices that continue to shape our lives.

I was drawn to the atmosphere of Los Angeles after dark — the isolation, shifting light, silence, and fleeting moments of human connection. Those elements became part of the film's emotional and visual language.

Rather than providing definitive answers, I wanted to leave space for contemplation and personal interpretation, allowing every viewer to discover their own meaning within the film and Arthur's journey.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Michael Jacyna is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker and visual artist whose work explores memory, atmosphere, and the quiet moral choices that shape the human experience. Influenced by Japanese aesthetics and culture, his work emphasizes atmosphere, emotion, and visual language over exposition.

The Modern Samurai marks his directorial debut.

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現代の侍

FILM INFORMATION

Runtime: 13 min 40 sec

Country: United States

Language: English (subtitles available)

Genre: Neo-Noir • Action • Drama • Crime

Completion: May 2026

The Modern Samurai had its World Premiere at the 30th LA Shorts International Film Festival on August 8, 2026. The film is also an Official Selection of the 27th Polish Film Festival Los Angeles and the 14th Urban Action Showcase International Action Film Festival, both taking place in 2026.

ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK

The film features an original motion picture soundtrack created specifically for The Modern Samurai, with music composed from the ground up to accompany its visual and emotional landscape. The soundtrack will also be released as a standalone album.

ABOUT NOBLE ACT ENTERTAINMENT

Noble Act Entertainment is an independent production company focused on narrative, documentary, and commercial projects. The company produced The Modern Samurai, a neo-noir action drama written and directed by Michael Jacyna, and holds the rights to several projects currently in development.

CONTACT

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