

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

THE DAMNED THING

Horror - Science Fiction

A film by CHRISTOPHER LEWIS

19:14 Minutes - English - English Subs

THE DAMNED THING

Production Type Short Film
Runtime 19:10
Genre Horror/Sci-fi
Completion Date August 2025
Language English (English subtitles)
Country United States
Shooting Format Blackmagic URSA Mini Pro
Cooke Mini S4's
Aspect Ratio 2:1.1
Frame Rate 24 fps
Exhibition Format 2k, 4k DCP
(FLAT Container) 2k Prores, 4k Prores
Sound 5:1, Stereo

ABOUT:

The Damned Thing is a short film adaptation of Ambrose Bierce’s seminal 1893 horror tale, developed with a focus on period authenticity, restrained storytelling, and thematic integrity. The film attempts to bring Bierce’s vision to the screen with respect for the tone, structure, and philosophical undercurrents of the original work.

Made in partnership with:



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More can be found at
<https://www.unosomosfilms.com/projects/the-damned-thing>

ABOUT THE DAMNED THING

LOGLINE:

A coroner's inquest into an inexplicable death uncovers the existence of an enigmatic creature.

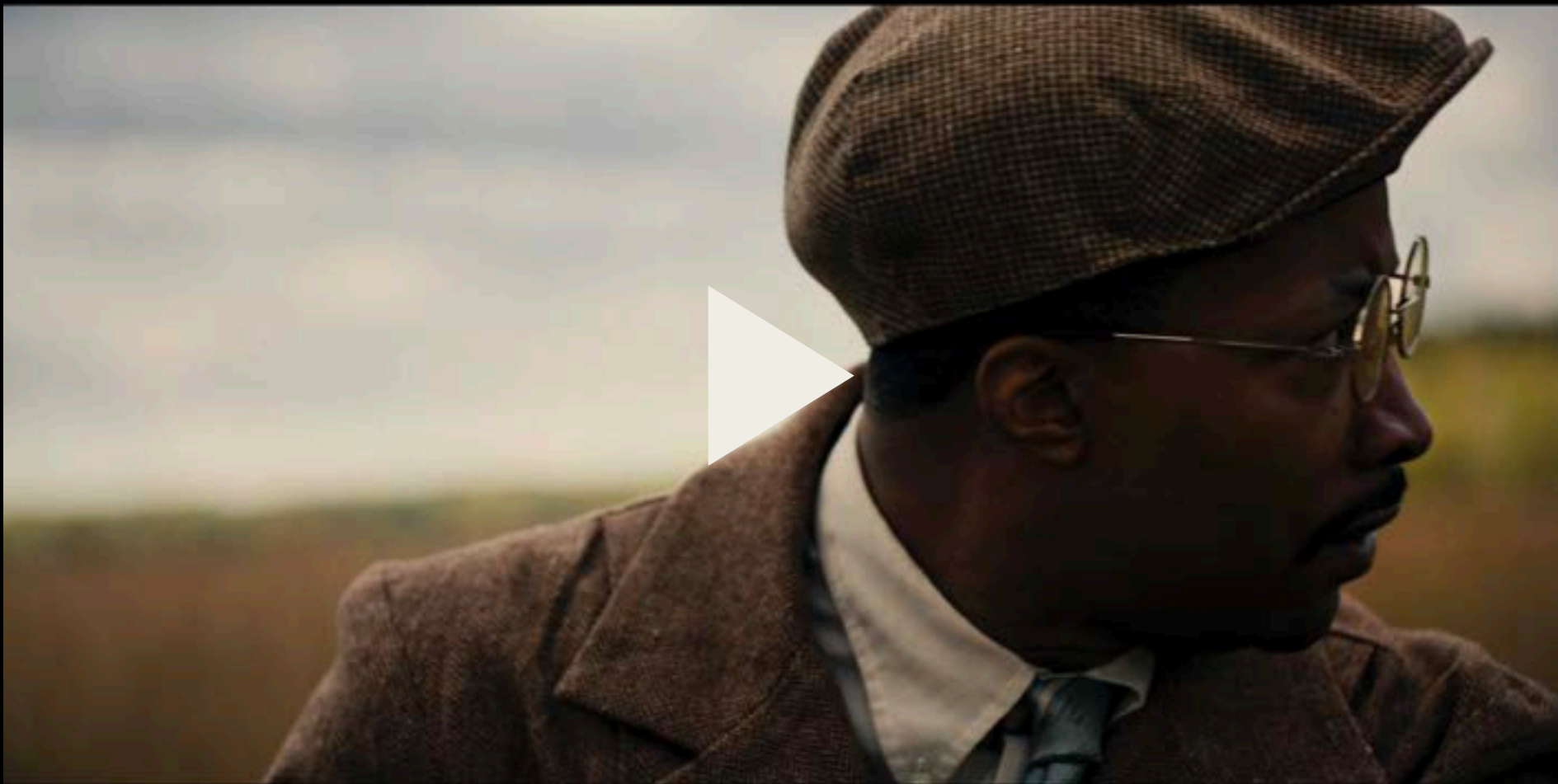
SYNOPSIS:

Ambrose Bierce's short story "The Damned Thing" is about a mysterious and violent encounter with an invisible creature. The story, first published in 1893, explores the limits of human perception and how a rational society grapples with an irrational, terrifying reality.

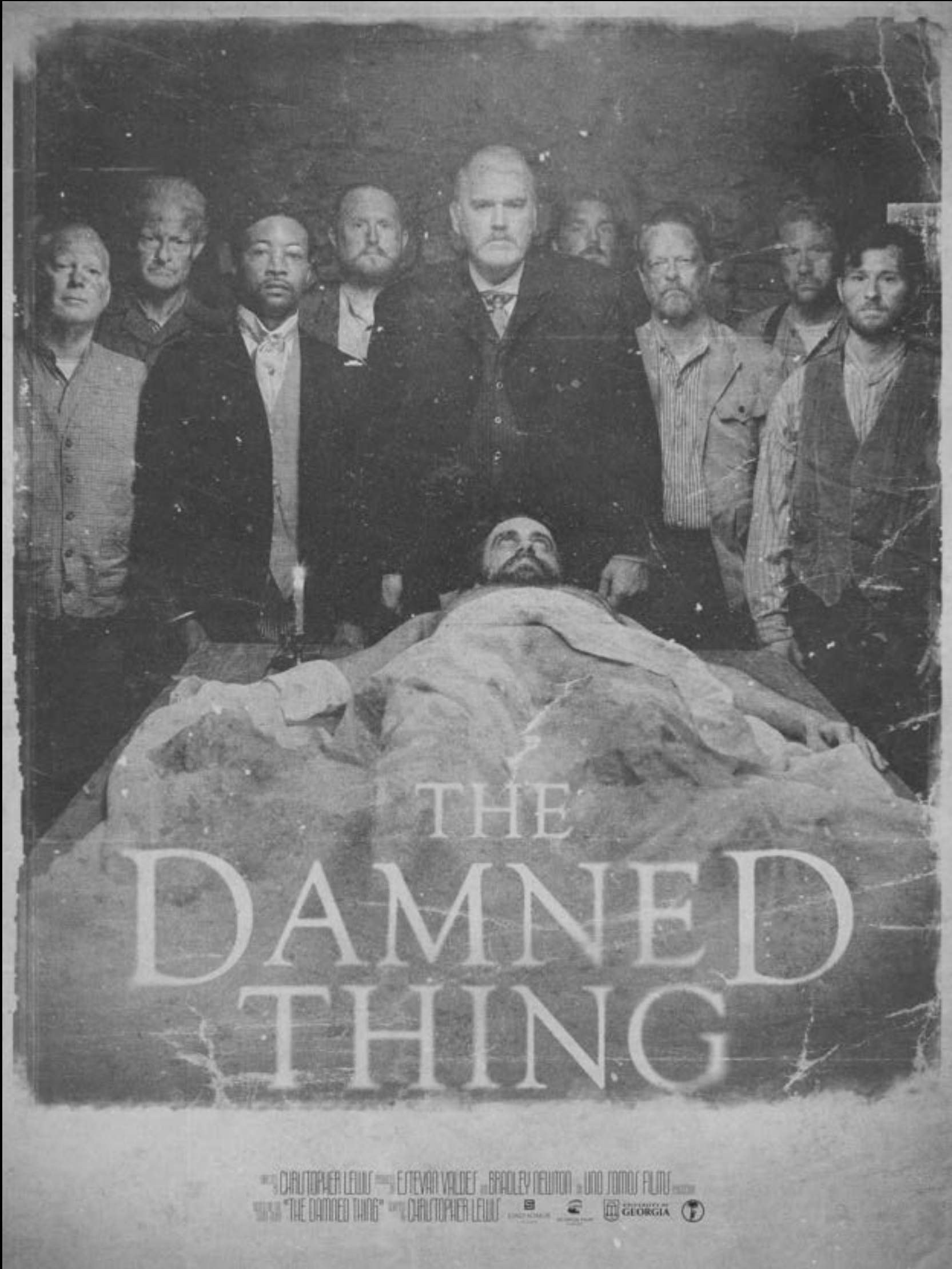
QUOTE

“Who never doubted, never half-believed. Where truth is - doubt is. It is her shadow”
- Ambrose Bierce

Watch the trailer here:



The Damned Thing Official Poster



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ambrose Bierce (1842–circa 1914) was an American writer, journalist, and satirist best known for his darkly cynical wit and pessimistic view of human nature. Born in Meigs County, Ohio, he served in the Union Army during the American Civil War, an experience that deeply influenced much of his later writing. After the war, Bierce settled in San Francisco, where he began his career in journalism, contributing to various newspapers and periodicals with essays, short stories, and satirical pieces.

Bierce's most famous works include *The Devil's Dictionary*, a lexicon of biting and ironic definitions that showcases his acerbic humor, and short stories such as “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge,” widely regarded as one of the greatest American short stories. His fiction often explored themes of death, horror, and the absurdities of war, earning him a place among the pioneers of American Gothic literature.

In 1913, at the age of 71, Bierce famously disappeared after traveling to Mexico during the Mexican Revolution, reportedly to observe the conflict firsthand. He sent a final letter from Chihuahua, after which no confirmed trace of him was ever found. His mysterious disappearance has fueled decades of speculation and added to the legend of a man whose life and work were defined by irony, darkness, and a sharp disdain for hypocrisy.



AMBROSE BIERCE

ABOUT THE SHORT STORY

The narrative unfolds through a coroner's inquest into the death of a man named Hugh Morgan. The central mystery is presented through three key elements:

The unreliable eyewitness: A reporter named William Harker, Morgan's hunting companion, testifies that an invisible force killed his friend. He describes seeing something large and unseen thrashing through a field before violently attacking Morgan. The jury dismisses his testimony as the delusion of a madman and concludes that a mountain lion was the culprit.

The victim's diary: Morgan's own journal entries reveal his mounting terror and deteriorating sanity in the weeks leading up to his death. He describes his growing awareness of an unseen presence on his land, which he dubs "the damned thing". In his final entry, he theorizes that the creature is not supernatural but simply has a color beyond the human visual spectrum.

The indifferent world: The jury's refusal to accept a supernatural or inexplicable explanation in favor of a rational one (the mountain lion) is a key theme. This reflects a human tendency to impose order on the terrifyingly unknown and exposes the fragility of human intellect when confronted with a truly alien force.

Ultimately, the story suggests that humanity's limited senses and arrogance leave us vulnerable to powerful forces that exist just outside our comprehension.

STILLS

The Damned Thing - Electronic Press Kit



STILLS

The Damned Thing - Electronic Press Kit



BEHIND THE SCENES

The Damned Thing - Electronic Press Kit



DIRECTOR'S BIO



CHRISTOPHER LEWIS

Christopher Lewis is an Atlanta-based director, writer, and editor, originally from Salt Lake City, UT. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from the University of Alaska Anchorage and recently earned his Master of Fine Arts in Film, Television, and Digital Media from the University of Georgia. Christopher has worked as a production assistant on several films in the Atlanta area, with recent credits including *Elevation*, *Iron Heart*, and *The Haunted Mansion*.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES ON THE DAMNED THING

As a filmmaker, I've always been drawn to films that resist simple explanations and leave room for interpretation, films that make us reflect on our own nature, prompting us to examine our beliefs, judgments, and limitations.

It is for these reasons that I chose to adapt Ambrose Bierce's "The Damned Thing." A landmark in horror fiction, this short story foreshadows the birth of cosmic horror and went on to influence writers like H.P. Lovecraft and modern films such as "The Thing" and "Predator." Bierce, known for his biting satire and dry wit, crafts a tale where everyday people encounter an extraordinary creature that defies rational explanation.

The story delves into themes of paranoia, mistrust, and our cosmic insignificance. It addresses universal fears that remain just as relevant today as they were in Bierce's time. In a culture fixated on certainty and control, "The Damned Thing" reminds us that some truths remain just out of reach, and our confidence in fully understanding the world may be dangerously misplaced.

Adapting Bierce's narrative to the screen was both a challenging and deeply rewarding experience. Working with a diverse team of students and professionals, we consistently had to manage complex logistics and develop creative solutions, all while striving to remain as authentic to the original story as possible. I am proud of how our team collaborated to transform what seems a simple story into a fully realized film, effectively capturing the tension, uncertainty, and enduring relevance of "The Damned Thing."

My hope is that this film leaves you with the same lasting unease I felt when I first read Bierce's story, causing you to question the meaning of existence and our place in it.

PRODUCER NOTES ON THE DAMNED THING

What I cherished most about working on “The Damned Thing” was the meticulous care devoted to every detail, no matter how small.

Chris and I immersed ourselves in the process nearly every day, constantly searching for solutions to the unique challenges of creating a period piece. It wasn’t enough to simply approximate the past—we wanted to inhabit it fully.

Through rigorous research, countless discussions, and persistent trial and error, we uncovered methods that allowed us to sharpen those historical details until they felt both seamless and natural. Every costume choice, prop, and setting element was considered not only for accuracy, but for how it contributed to the atmosphere and authenticity of the story.

That collaborative dedication to craft transformed the project into something more than just a film; it became a living, breathing world whose believability was anchored in the reality of its details.

PRODUCER'S BIO



ESTEVAN VALDES

Son of Cuban and Colombian immigrants focused on telling exciting and unique stories. Focused on telling character-driven stories through natural framing and cinematography, ala John Cassavetes, he has always believed that the power of story through film can be one of the greatest agents of change. He is a filmmakers with skills and experience in all aspects of the process, from creative development to directing, shooting, and editing, every part of their work brings the consideration of every element of the craft. But at the end of the day, he strives with each project to make a distinct piece of content that captivates audiences and leaves you changed for the better.

CAST



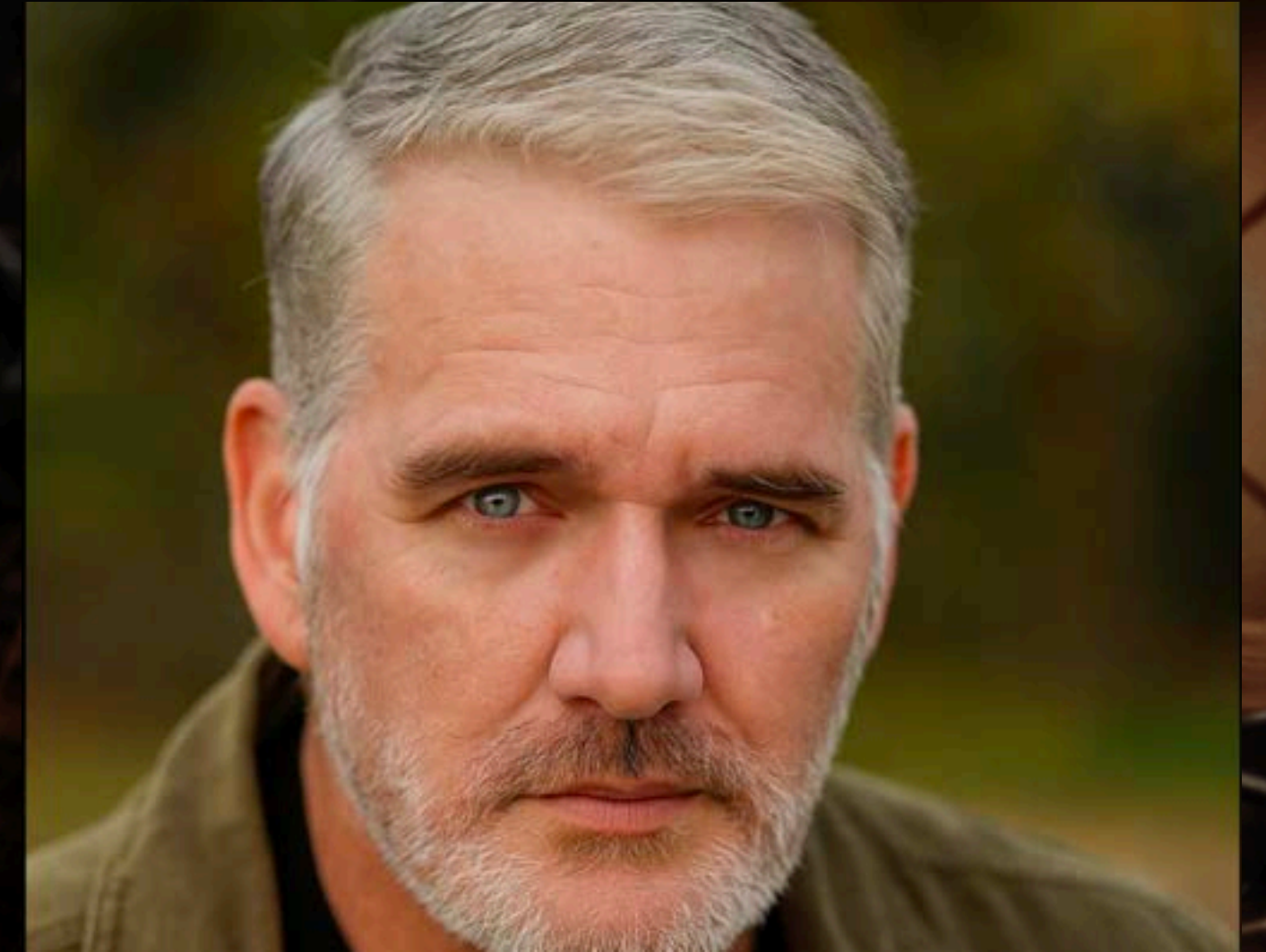
MICHAEL SILBERBLATT (*Hugh Morgan*)

Michael Silberblatt is an American actor who, at age 17, was selected as a National YoungArts Winner in Theater and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, honored in person by U.S. President Barack Obama at the White House. Michael received a scholarship to attend Northwestern University and graduated from its prestigious acting program in 2014, performing as Edmund in Chicago Shakespeare Theater's production of "King Lear" after graduation. Michael lives in Atlanta GA and is represented by Formation Talent



RON LANCE THOMAS (*William Harker*)

Calm and steady blended with a passionate, social nature! I'm an Atlanta, GA based actor. I'm a student of Anthony Abeson Studio in NYC where I'm trained extensively in body and voice prep, improvisation, script comprehension, character development, and on-camera auditioning. I enjoy collaborating with my fellow artists and I welcome the opportunity to make a truthful, interesting, and meaningful contribution to your cast and project!



PAUL VAN SCOTT (*The Coroner*)

Paul Van Scott is an award winning distinguished American actor celebrated for his exceptional versatility and captivating vocal prowess. Born to a pair of dedicated schoolteachers, his formative years were spent in the vibrant surroundings of the Washington DC area, where he honed his passion for the world of film, television, and broadcasting.

More can be found at
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CREW HIGHLIGHTS



BRADLEY NEWTON

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:

Bradley Newton is a cinematographer and photographer whose experiences have transcended continents and mediums. Having filmed in over 20 countries and 32 states, Bradley has a well-cultured outlook and draws from years of unique experiences. An award-winning cinematographer, he continues to focus on learning every chance he gets, honing his craft while offering advice to others.



COURTLYN MCCAIN

COSTUME DESIGNER:

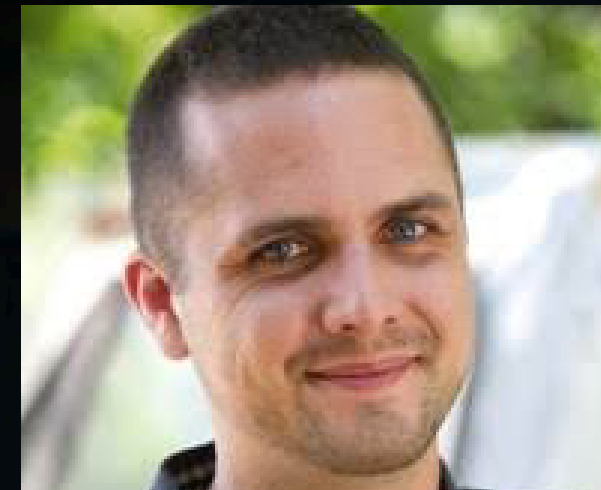
Courtlyn McCain has been a costumer since 2014. She graduated from University of Georgia with her MFA in Costume design in 2025 and from Western Kentucky University with a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology in 2017. She has worked as a universtiy costumer helping to build many productions, as well as completing several costume designs. She also worked in the wardrobe department at the Colorado Ballet and was the Resident Costume Designer at Performing Arts Academy Colorado.



SHANE MORTON

SPECIAL EFFECTS MAKEUP ARTIST:

Shane Morton is the mad scientist behind The Silver Scream Spook Show, which has been scaring and entertaining Atlanta and national movie audiences. With over three decades as a professional in the film industry, and horror business, Shane has worked with favorites such as Henry Zebrowski, Panos Cosmatos, Dan Fogler, and Rob Zombie. You can see some of his favorite film work in the indie hits Bad Candy, Dear God No!, and Mandy (he is the creator of the infamous Cheddar Goblin), on television with Adult Swim's Your Pretty Face Is Going To Hell.



MICAH EL MARTINEZ

VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR:

Jack of all trades with extensive experience in almost all areas of film & video production including as director, editor, cinematographer, producer, and visual effects compositor on dozens of TV shows, corporate videos, music videos, short/feature films, documentaries, and hundreds of TV commercials. I relocated to Atlanta in 2018 after working 10 years in Los Angeles with prior work in Las Vegas, Nevada and Fairbanks, Alaska.



CLIFTON GUTERMAN

CASTING DIRECTOR:

Clifton Guterman is an Atlanta casting director, acting coach, and director. Founder of Clifton Guterman Casting, he formerly served as the Tony Award-winning Alliance Theatre's Artistic Assistant, as Casting Director at Actor's Express, and as Casting Director for eight seasons at Atlanta's Theatrical Outfit. He holds a BA in Drama from the University of Georgia and an MFA in Performing Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design.



ALEXANDER ARNTZEN

COMPOSER:

Alexander Arntzen is a prolific Film Composer & Singer/Songwriter of multiple genres, styles, and mediums. Some career highlights include original music for Last Man Down (Netflix Top 10 Movies), Follow Her (Paramount+), HERD (Shudder), Initiation(SXSW), Unmothered (Max) & Stalled (Slamdance/Fantasia). A graduate of Berklee's College of Music and recipient of multiple academic awards, To date he has scored 19 features, 11 pilots and series, and over 130 short films and videos.

FULL CREDITS



CAST

Hugh Morgan MICHAEL SILBERBLATT
William Harker RON LANCE THOMAS
The Coroner PAUL VAN SCOTT
The Foreman MARK WAYNE LOLLEY
The Jurors JR HOLTER
AARON LUKE
JOSHUA LEWIS
JEFFREY MORELAND
CHRISTOPHER ROBERT JUMP
JESSE SCALES
The Dog "DIRTY DAN"

CREW

Director/Writer.....CHRISTOPHER LEWIS
Producer ESTEVAN VALDES
Co-Producer ELIZABETH GRACE MITCHELL

Cinematographer BRADLEY NEWTON
Editors CHRISTOPHER LEWIS
ESTEVAN VALDES
Production Designer CHRISTOPHER LEWIS
Costume Designer COURTLYN MCCAIN
Visual Effects Supervisor RAY XUE
Composer ALEXANDER ARNTZEN
Casting Director CLIFTON GUTERMAN, CSA

Unit Production Manager ESTEVAN VALDES
Asst. Unit Prod. Manager SAVANNAH BIGGERS

1st Assistant Director..... ANDREW SLOTH
Script Supervisor..... SIDNEY STEVENS
2nd Assistant Director..... DELAIRE GACKLE
2nd 2nd Asst. Director..... SAVANNAH BIGGERS

1st Assistant Camera CASEY MULL
2nd Assistant Camera..... LUKE ROBINSON
Additional Camera..... EDUARDO NOVELO
MATTHEW CORREA
Stills Photographer BRITTANY BARRETT

Prod. Sound Mixer NATHANAEL BOARDWELL
Boom Operators LILY MURPHY
DERRICK GRIFFIN

CREDITS CONTINUED

Gaffer RICKY SELPH
Best Boy Electric AIDAN TREMPER
Electricians BRIANNA FONGCHOY
JAMES MCMILLIAN

Key Grip VICTOR LE
Best Boy Grip ALEX PILOTZI
Dolly Grip KIARA SANFORD
Grips LUIS COLLANTES
SANTIAGO SIMMS
Grip/Electric Swing TESS ALEXANDER

Story Board Artist BRIANNA EVANS
Set Decorator KEENAN MERINO
Leadperson MAGGIE FREEMAN COLLETTE
Set Dressers AMAYAH ECHOLS
CESAR M. ESCALANTE

Property Master KAYCEE KENDRICK
Prop. Fabricator BOB ROBERTS

Key Costumer..... KACY CALDWELL
Costumers..... TONY COLLINS
ADDISON FEAGIN

Key Hair/Makeup Artist LANA NGUYEN

Special Effects Makeup Artist SHANE MORTON
Creature Effects Fabricator KYLE STOCKTON
Special Effects Technicians JOHN BAKER
BRIAN HUDALE

Stunt Coordintor BRIAN KRAINSON
Armorers GORDON BURROWS
WARREN FRANKS
Set Medic DANA DICKERSON

Caterers MADELYN FAY COOTZ
EMMA VANDOREN

Key Set Production Assistant DYLAN MILLER
Set Production Assistants ERIC WALTERS
ZACH CALHOUN
BARBARA JEFFERSON
REBECCA SLODYSKO

Colorist ELIAS NEMER
Sound Designer/Mixer STEVE BORNE
Addtl. Visual Effects JONATHAN ZESBAUGH

Univ. of Georgia Faculty SANGHOON LEE
NEIL LANDAU
LEANDRO TADASHI
HEIDI J. CHOI
ASHLYNN HENDERSON

Georgia Film Academy Staff BRYAN KRASS
MITCH MARTINEZ
BRITTANY BARRETT



THE DAMNED THING

PRESS KIT LINK

CLICK TO VIEW



CONTACT

FILM FESTIVALS:

We'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to **Estevan Valdes** to inquire about programming and/or showing our movie.

DISTRIBUTORS:

Interested in the distribution of The Damned Thing ? Please reach out to:

UNO SOMOS FILMS

Email: estevan@valdesfla.com
Phone: 561) 568-8365

More can be found at
<https://www.unosomosfilms.com/projects/the-damned-thing>