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THE EARTH
REJECTS HIM

25 minutes | Horror | 2012

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

A young boy discovers a corpse while biking in the woods, and then faces unexpected and macabre consequences when he tries to bury it.

LONG SYNOPSIS

THE Earth Rejects Him, an original horror story written by Jared Skolnick, is a haunting and surreal tale of a young boy who accidentally discovers a corpse while biking in the woods. In a moment of impulsiveness he steals a tooth from the body, and buries it in the ground. His return to the burial site reveals a development he never would have expected.

Influenced by the films of Werner Herzog, Terrence Malick and Guillermo del Toro, as well as the short stories of H.P. Lovecraft, this project promises to be a unique and terrifying experience, an elegant horror film about modern man's relationship with the unknowable powers found in nature.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I am unabashedly a fan of horror films, but often I feel as if the genre has been driving itself into a rut lately, focusing on cheap jump scares and empty fan service instead of embracing its philosophical side. In my mind, the best horror stories were the ones that engage in uncomfortable truths, challenging or mocking the basic assumptions of how we behave in everyday life, reminding us of just how little we know in the grand scheme of things.

It may not seem that way, but we really haven't been here for very long. Even the longest human lifespan is a heartbeat compared to the vast, ancient world around us. Beautiful as nature may be, it is also unaccommodating to our own concerns, indifferent if not hostile to human well-being. What seems serene and peaceful from afar can look much different upon closer inspection.

The Earth Rejects Him is an attempt to create an atmosphere of dread in the serenity of the forest, in the calm of an open field. It's about how we filter the infinite complexities and unknowable mechanisms of the natural world through our own limited perspectives, and how the end of that pursuit won't always be flattering to the ego. It's a lot to chew on for a 25-minute movie, but hey, it's just horror, right?

J A R E D S K O L N I C K
D I R E C T O R / W R I T E R

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



ELLIS GAGE (RAY)

Ellis Gage is a Massachusetts native who has been working in theater and film in the Boston area and New York City for the past several years. Since the age of five, Ellis has known that he wanted to be a performer. Though he has extensive experience in the theater and opera, Ellis is excited to begin exploring the world of film. Recently, Ellis played the role of Marty in an AEA staged reading of "Dani Girl" at the Cherry Lane Theater in NYC. The musical was conceived by Michael Kooman and Chris Dimond, 2010 recipients of the Jonathan Larson Award and directed by Scott Schwartz. He also worked with ten time Tony Award nominated director Graziella Danielle, when cast as James in the world premier of the Benj Pasek & Justin Paul musical "James and the Giant Peach" at Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut.

He has performed principal and feature roles in numerous musicals and operas including King and I (opposite Lorenzo Lamas), Secret Garden, Annie Get Your Gun, Beauty and the Beast, Les Miserables, Pinocchio, Into the Woods, Cinderella, and Once Upon A Mattress, H.M.S. Pinafore, Pirates of Penzance, Marriage of Figaro and Fairy Queen. Ellis has also been a featured soloist at the legendary Apollo Theater in Harlem, NY and was selected by the US Tennis Association to sing "America the Beautiful" at Arthur Ashe Stadium at the quarterfinals of the 2011 US Open. He is a proud member of the Broadway Youth Ensemble.



COLIN ALLEN (MAN)

Colin was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, and has lived most of his life in the small town of Shelburne. He began acting at a young age, making videos with his brothers and his father's camcorder. He has acted in several stage performances, as well as short videos and student and independent films. He has worked several odd jobs, from whitewater raft guiding to land surveying to managing an elementary afterschool program in order to fund his acting career. Aside from acting, Colin enjoys playing music and singing. He plays guitar, bass, and other random stringed instruments. In January 2010, he became a father when his beautiful daughter, Charlotte, was born.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



JACOB MOON (REGGIE)

Jacob has completed 33 films, many of them college and independent films. He has completed five voiceover projects, which were produced in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. Jacob completed a BJ's Wholesale commercial during the summer. He has done six Theater productions, one of which was a production at Assumption College. He has been involved in several Internet projects, including some for CollegeHumor.com. Jacob has also, been involved in a production of a TV Pilot Produced by Kevin Bright. He has been in a production of two music videos, which were produced in NYC and MA. Jacob was involved in the on and off camera production of the TV show Young Views/Real News, which was taped in Worcester, MA. Jacob is currently involved with a vocal coach for lessons to diversify his career with singing.



RJ RAMOS (DARYL)

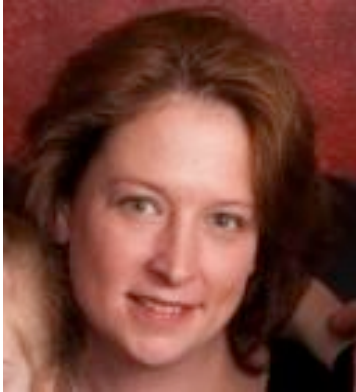
RJ Ramos has been film acting for two years. He has worked in many student and independent films as well as played an extra in the feature films Knight and Day and Grown Ups. He is in eighth grade and currently cast in his schools production of Dude, Do You Hear What I Hear. He is also involved in Chess Club and Robotics at his school. RJ gives back to his community by volunteering at the After School Program as a mentor for younger boys. He plans to attend Monty Tech Vocational School in the fall and to pursue acting in his bright future.



CHRIS SHANAHAN (RAY'S FATHER)

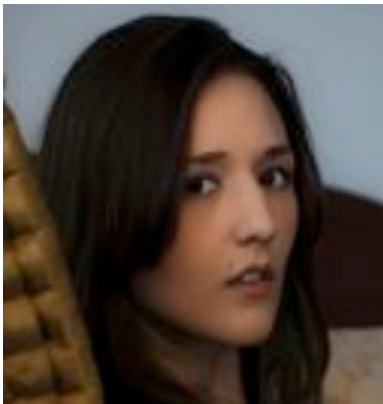
Christopher Shanahan started acting professionally while he was still in high school. He graduated with a BFA in acting from Boston University's School for the Arts. Chris has been a past company member with the Seattle Shakespeare Festival and the Chicago Shakespeare Ensemble. He has appeared in television, film and on stage most recently finishing a very enjoyable run as "Hi-Pockets Duncan" in The Buddy Holly Story. Chris can also often be seen and heard singing songs about Star Trek with his daughter and their band 'Shuttlecraft'

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



CATHRYN SHANNON (RAY'S MOTHER)

Cathryn Shannon attended The Greater Hartford Academy of Performing Arts and has been a member of The Valley Repertory Company since 1989. She lives in MA with her husband of 14 years and 3 children.



KT BALDASSARO (CREATURE)

You may know Kt from her independent film work, modeling career, knitting shop, or high school. Maybe you met her at the bank once; all you need to know is her simple goal: to somehow combine her love of zombies with her love of yarn in a way that no one gets hurt. You can find her work at her website, www.zombie-hunter.com



SAM VANIVRAY (CREATURE)

Sam is an actor living in Cambridge MA. He was born in New Hampshire, where he acted in, wrote, and directed several films in high school. He has a BS from Northeastern University; his day job involves designing robots.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



MORGAN HOYLE-COMBS (CREATURE)

Hey, you're reading Morgan's bio. That means you're interested! And you love him! But in all seriousness, Morgan is a graduate of PVPA (Pioneer Valley Performing Arts), Greenfield Community College with an Associates in Photography and Media Art and has performed in community productions such as Annie, The Sound of Music, London Suite, Cabaret and The Taming of the Shrew. In his free time, he goes out to shoot freelance minimalistic landscapes and objects, watches dozens of surreal, art house films, saves money for cameras, film and his own business and writes the most unusual confusing sentences that puts people in a "confuzzled" state. He hopes to become a stop-motion animator incorporating a large variety of different format photo and movie cameras.*

*He's pretty sure this is the tip of the iceberg



EMILY O'DONNELL (CREATURE)

Emily was born and raised in and around Northampton, MA and attended PVPA (Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public High School). With a concentration in visual arts, she still helped out on set for a movie in 2007, and highly enjoyed her time with the cast and crew of this movie and the experience it gave her. She enjoys reading and writing and hopes to be an author someday.

FILMMAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

JARED SKOLNICK (DIRECTOR, WRITER, CINEMATOGRAPHER, EDITOR)

Jared Skolnick was born in Feeding Hills, MA where he developed a love of film and filmmaking from early childhood, poring over books on famous directors while the other kids were playing soccer. He attended the Williston Northampton High School, and his efforts as a senior created a film program in the curriculum that is growing to this day. He has recently graduated from Fairfield University, where he completed his thesis film, *The Music of Erich Zann*. To date, the film has screened in 16 international film festivals, winning awards in the process. He wishes to have others feel the joy and love that he has for the movies.

ROBERT SAVAGE (PRODUCER)

'In it for the love of Rock n' Roll', a stolen quote by a forgotten author, is the line that Robert uses to convey the reason why he uses all of his valuable vacation time on projects. Co-founder of Dead Henchmen Productions, Robert strives to be involved in as many locally made productions as he can because it's all so much 'fun'.

Robert received his schooling in Audio and Visual Production at Holyoke Community College and the Connecticut School of Broadcasting where he discovered he had a face for radio. Robert's goal in any of these adventures is to entertain. As long as someone somewhere was entertained then it was worth doing.

ALEXANDER KRAKOWER (SOUND DESIGN)

Alex Krakower currently lives in Amherst, MA. He is a recent graduate of Wesleyan University where he studied Government. Alex has always had a strong interest in film and has worked in various capacities on a number of short films, and is looking forward to the release of the feature he worked on, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, in 2012. Alex has had a great time working and reconnecting with Jared on this film and looks forward to further collaboration with him in the future.

ALEX SQUIERS (MAKEUP EFFECTS)

Alex is from Enfield, CT and started dabbling in makeup while working in a Halloween retail store. He is now a 10-year Make Up Artist veteran for Six Flags New England's Halloween and FrightFest attractions. Being self-taught and also learning from peers and those around him has led to work on two local feature length films, and a six-part web series. *The Earth Rejects Him* was a welcome and exciting challenge.

TIMOTHY BALLAN (ORIGINAL SCORE)

Timothy Ballan, was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and graduated from East Longmeadow High School in 2003. He is currently pursuing a degree in philosophy from the University of Massachusetts while working as a piano teacher and youth counselor. In his free time, he writes and publishes neoclassical music, poetry, philosophical essays, and stories of different natures. He currently resides in Northampton, Massachusetts.



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