



LIFE. CREATED.

A FILM BY
GEORGE R. MARTENS II

JUNIPER

A ZEUS PICTURES/MORSEHOUSE FILMS PRODUCTION CHRISTOPHER PICCIONE MANDY EVANS "JUNIPER"
JACK DIAMOND VERA LAM HILDE SKAPPEL KYLE MARK SWARTZLANDER MUSIC BY KEVIN LAWRENCE MERKEL - EDITOR JOSE VENUTOLO
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JILLIAN ISCARO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOSHUA ECHEVARRIA
PRODUCED BY ZEUS KONTOYANNIS & CHRISTOPHER PICCIONE SCREENPLAY BY CHRISTOPHER PICCIONE
DIRECTED BY GEORGE R. MARTENS II



JUNIPER

Narrative Short

Drama/Sci-Fi

Running Time:

21 minutes

Directed By:

George R. Martens

Written By:

Christopher Piccione

Produced By:

Zeus Kontoyannis
Christopher Piccione

Production Company:

Zeus Pictures
MorseHouse Films

Edited by:

José Venutolo

Cinematographer:

Joshua Echevarria

Composer:

Kevin L. Merkel

CONTACTS

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THE STORY

SYNOPSIS

LOGLINE

A farmer struggling with the loss of his wife is offered a chance to get her back.

SYNOPSIS

When Adam's wife goes into a coma after a car accident, he's faced with the most difficult decision of his life...being pressured to pull the plug.

As he struggles to come to terms with his loss, a new option comes to light. Leda Genetics is on the cutting edge of cloning technology. Jenny could come home again.

HOW THE FILM CAME TO BE

Directors Statement

Making this film challenged all of us to consider the things that make us human. Is it our consciousness? Our thoughts and emotions? Or is it our soul?

Juniper explores what those possibilities could mean when someone is tempted to bring back the one person they love the most. One insignificant man in a small town making a god-like decision.

Filming at the directors family farm in East Meredith, NY set the tone of the production. When the idea for the film was first conceived, we knew the farm was the perfect setting for this story.

It was surreal to see the story come to life in such a beautiful place where even the barn is considered an historic structure.

Juniper is a short film produced in NYC, NJ, & Upstate NY. It took several years and countless re-writes until we reached a point where we said to ourselves, "There is so much going on that's trying to stop us. Let's do it now and make it happen no matter what!". And that's exactly what we did...



George R. Martens II is a Jersey City, NJ based film director. He grew up with

American Sign Language being his primary language at home lending him to naturally think in a visual way from a very young age.

After developing a passion for filmmaking in High School, he pursued a B.F.A. in Film Production from Montclair State University, where he served as film club treasurer & equipment cage manager.

Since college, George has directed music videos featured on MTV & BET. His approach to directing has been shaped by multiple acting classes, his extensive experience in camera & electrical departments, as well as ten years of being a youth camp counselor & basketball coach.

After Juniper, George recently directed a fashion film, & is currently working on other projects including several short films and music videos.

Main Cast & Crew

MAIN CAST/CREW

Christopher Piccione

Writer / Producer / "Adam"



Christopher is a NYC based actor, writer, producer, & podcaster. Extensive traveling, backpacking, camping, & hobby photography has always been at his core and helped shape who he has become.

Having been a cinephile from a young age, Christopher is always watching all genres of film as well as taking classes to help further his career.

Lately, he's been venturing into screenwriting and producing short films.

Some recent credits include: Daredevil, Blue Bloods, Master of None, Pickup, Mr. Sam, Broken Badges, & Grave Mysteries

Mandy Evans

"Juniper/Jenny"



Mandy is an Irish/Italian Jersey girl who spent most of her life dancing and dreaming of being on Broadway. After a few decades of intense ballet and jazz training, she landed my first job on the international tour of Fosse, starring Ben Vereen. While on another tour in Europe, she was encouraged by the director to pursue acting when she returned to NYC. She took this advice &, studied Meisner at the Ward Studio and during that time she became a Radio City Rockette after 7 years of auditioning.

Recently, she produced her first short film, Pickup, and won several awards for Best Actress.

Some recent credits include: Pickup, Nicole & OJ, Ceresia, Poison & Wine

Jack Diamond

"Frank"



Jack has been acting for over 30 years on both stage and screen. His favorite parts to play are characters that don't represent the norm whether it's noir or character studies.

Traveling back and forth between NYC & Ohio, he spends his days creating and selling his art in between acting gigs.

Some recent/past credits include: Juniper, Corkman, Beverly Hills 90210, The Twilight Zone

Joshua Echevarria

Director of Photography



Josh is a proudly based in Jersey City, New Jersey but travels globally shooting features, documentaries, shorts, music videos & commercial content - remaining driven, motivated and active in this ever expanding industry. His experience as a gaffer has allowed him to develop a keen sense of lighting while his dedication to the craft has shaped his eye for composition & his understanding of story and character development.

Some recent credits include: Nike, Nike x Footlocker, Years of Living Dangerously, & the documentary feature Colossus.

<http://www.joshuaechevarriadop.com/>

Zeus Kontoyannis

Producer



Zeus has worked at Cinetic Media, trained under legendary Hollywood mega-producer Scott Rudin and veteran indie producer Terry Leonard until the time came to venture out and face the world with his team of like minded imagineer's.

From that stemmed Zeus Pictures which has several various projects in development, pre-production, & post production.

Some recent credits include: Mr. Sam, Saira, Cold Comes the Night, & EXT..

Kevin L. Merkel

Composer



Kevin is a NY based composer who studied Film Scoring at the Seattle Film Institute. Whether it's scoring on his own at his studio or with a full orchestra, he can get it done. Sometimes, his sister Jennifer will help with vocals or guitar to create original songs on projects as well. His favorite films to score are Sci-Fi & Horror.

Some recent credits include: Juniper, Una: A Dark Faerie Tale, Mastic PD, & Okrasend

Full Cast & Crew

FULL PRODUCTION CREDITS
(as they appear at the end of the film)

CAST

Adam	Christopher Piccione
Jenny/Juniper	Mandy Evans
Frank	Jack Diamond
Dr. Chau	Vera Lam
Miss Leda	Hilde Skappel
John Bob	Kyle Swartzlander
Tablet Voice	Verena May

EXTRAS

Natalie Gee, Verena May, Will Crosby,
Jillian Iscaro, Chad Servidio

CREW

Director	George R. Martens
Producer(s)	Zeus Kontoyannis Christopher Piccione
Writer	Christopher Piccione
Executive Producers	Christopher Piccione Zeus Kontoyannis
Director of Photography	Joshua Echevarria
Production Designer	Jillian Iscaro
Editor	José Venutolo
Composer	Kevin L. Merkel
Additional Music	Jennifer Merkel
1st Assistant Director	Natalie Gee
Visual Effects	Adrian Bobb
Compositor	Pranjali Choudhary
Colorist	Monica Kolojej
Set Designer	Penelope Martens
Art Director	Allie Leone
1st Assistant Camera	Monica Kolojej
2nd Assistant Camera	Will Crosby
Steadicam Op	Hajin Rhim
Key Grip	Dave Sikora
Grip	Chad Servidio
Gaffer	Ryan Tetzloff
Sound Recorder	Jon Olson
Hair/Makeup	Jade Daru
D.I.T.	José Venutolo
Production Assistant(s)	Vera Lam Phoebe Kwong
Sound Mix	Spyros Poulos
Graphic Design	Dan Nemirovsky
Poster Design	Eileen Steinbach
Catering	SG Posters Henry Echevarria

Final sound mix recorded at Logic Music Inc.

THE PRODUCERS WISH TO THANK

The Martens Family, Parlay Studios in Jersey City, Handheld Films, Fancy Deli Rentals, Striking NY, CC Rentals, Segarra Production Insurance, Du- All Rentals, The Caulfield Family, Allison Lahikainen, The entire cast & crew for their hard work and dedication to this film.



"Juniper has been a part of my life since its first inception and early renditions over 4 years ago. I approached friend and frequent collaborator, Christopher Piccione, with a loose concept that has evolved into what it is today. It was a short, a feature, a short again and occupied hours, days, weeks and months of our lives.

I could picture the overall look and aesthetic of the film. I knew I wanted to be a part of crafting and shaping the visual elements. My favorite scenes in the films were Adam's quiet moments and the scene at the hospital. It was great to see how much could be conveyed without saying anything. I'm super happy with this film and I see many collaborations with all of these talented filmmakers in the near future."

-JOSHUA ECHEVARRIA
Director of Photography

"Our goal was to create a story about a man's internal and external struggle with a dire decision. Should he let the love of his life die peacefully after a year in a coma? Or should he delve into the world of reincarnation by cloning her? Building this world with Chris was truthfully, one of our toughest challenges. However, in the end, we created a world that we're very proud of and one where we can expand on in the future. Juniper draws you into a world of uncertainty and intrigue with a shocking end result. We hope you enjoy the film!"

-Zeus Kontoyannis
Producer

"From the very beginning when Josh approached me with a loose idea, It felt that it was the smart decision to set this film on a farm. The location we chose translates so well on screen because the juxtaposition of old and new alongside something so complex helped give it a small town vibe coupled with a near future experience. I'm extremely proud of everyone involved who took on something bigger than all of us, who believed in it from the start, and turned it into what you see today."

-Christopher Piccione
Writer



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