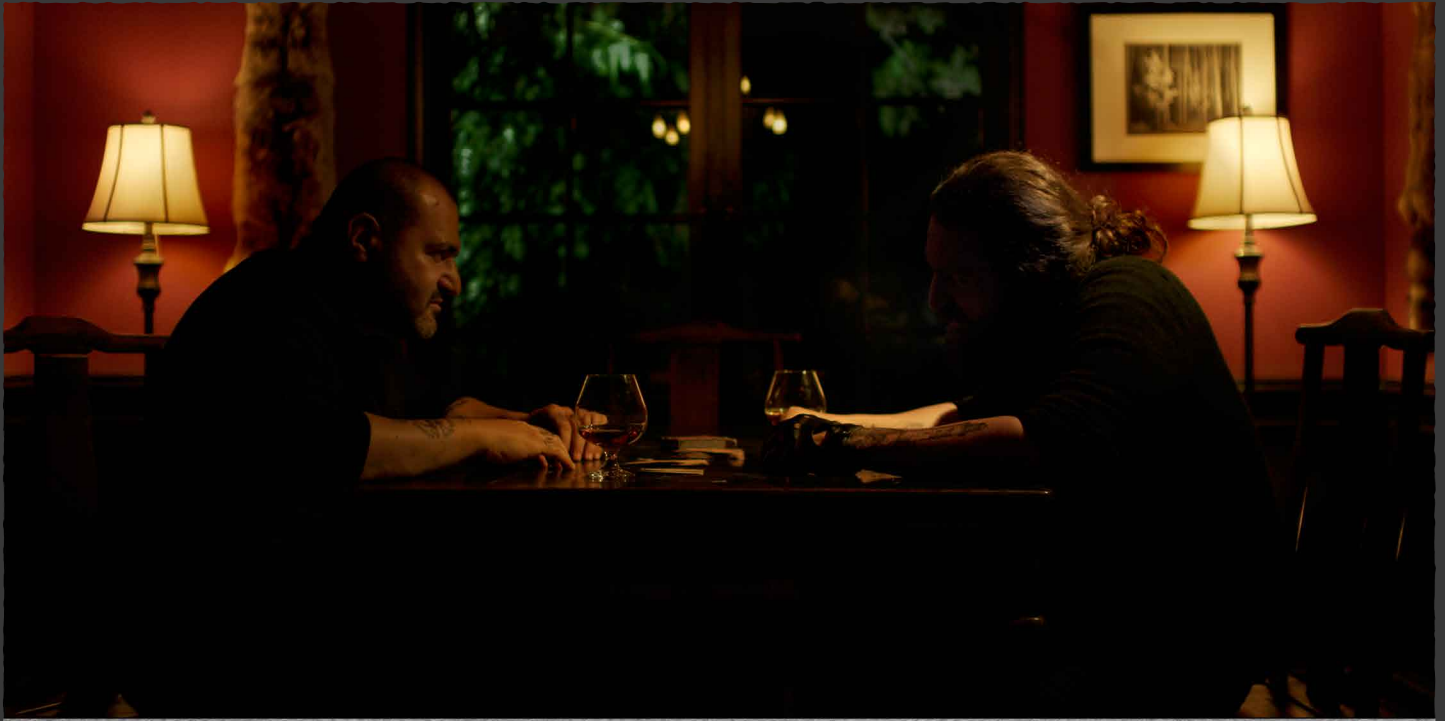




THE HUNTSMAN AND THE HOUND

PRESS NOTES



SYNOPSIS

Things aren't always what they seem in this dark and brooding Russian crime fable. Two contract killers reunite on a job to assassinate another talented murderer. But when the target doesn't arrive, these two old friends must find a way to pass the time while they wait. Stories are told, drinks are had, and truths are uncovered as the two men begin to wonder what each other's intentions really are...



THE PRODUCTION

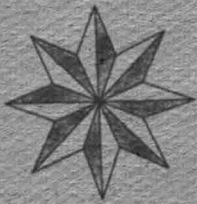
After two years of research, writing, and pre-production; *The Huntsman and the Hound* went into principal photography. The short was filmed over 4 days in Los Angeles from October 3rd - 6th 2020. The most ambitious project yet for director/producer Francisco Ramirez and actor/producer/writer Ryan de Quintal. The goal was to craft a Russian crime fable that was stylized, authentic, and fantastical. A 6 month post-production phase followed to make sure every aspect of color, editing, score, sound design, and visual effects were handled with the utmost of care. The story that was written ended up on the screen down to every last detail, a true testament to the creative team sharing the same vision.



RESEARCH

The Russian criminal tattoo culture was meticulously researched by Ryan de Quintal as he wrote the screenplay. The archives owned and operated by Damon Murray and Fuel Publishing became the most valuable asset in getting all the details right. After reading the script, they gave their support and allowed the use of their playing cards designed after confiscated decks found in Russian prisons. Fuel famously provided the same insight to David Cronenberg and Viggo Mortensen on "Eastern Promises," and their immense history and background provided the necessary foundation for the authenticity the filmmakers were striving for.

TATTOOS



The highest level of authority, a respected Vor. The equivalent of a captain in the Italian mafia.



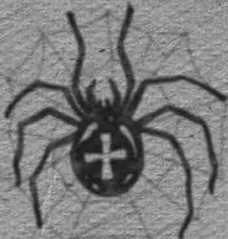
The thief's praying hands.



Represents the owner is a murderer of high rank.



Addiction to alcohol. The text on the bottles reads: "Buzz or High."



An active criminal. The spider is pointed down when the wearer no longer wishes to live a life of crime.



Symbolizes life is short. The text reads: "Fate plays with men."



Represents youth. The text says "Freedom."



The symbol of thieves.



A symbol of authority and strength. The cross means revenge for being crossed.



A symbol for "longing for freedom." Common for wanting out of prison or the criminal life all together.



The virgin Mary symbolizes a criminal since youth. The text reads "Save and Protect."



Represents those that have taken lives. The text reads: "I'm here, and I'm waiting."



The number of towers shows how many times the owner has been in prison. The crosses indicate the bearer served the full sentence. Text reads: "For Sacred Russia."



The acronym "MIR" spells the word for peace and stands for "Only shooting will reform me." The tiger wears the grin of a warrior.

Tattoos inspired by, and playing cards taken from: the Russian Criminal Tattoo Archive, courtesy FUEL Publishing.

TATTOOS & CARDS



The Slavic god Veles.
A god of earth and the underworld, and shepherd of the dead. Known to punish oath-breakers with disease and famine.



Symbol of a murder, the size and location of the tattoo represents the level of the murder committed.

Hand-made by criminals in Soviet prisons during the 1980s. Their unique designs were formed with hand-cut stencils using 'inks' mixed from soot and blood.



Indicates a criminal boss or authority.



The heart card means "Shield."



The wearer is "Available for murder."



"Path through crosses." Spent time in remand. The crown symbolizes conflict with law while being in remand and was a pod boss.



Represents a conviction for armed robbery.



Represents a theft conviction



Owner has been convicted of robbery.



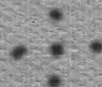
The scarab beetle is a symbol for luck.



Hostility to the police or authorities.



Represents the death of one's parents while incarcerated.



"4 guard towers and me." Symbolizes time spent incarcerated.



Represents two separate convictions.



"Incarcerated in the Crosses." A Saint Petersburg prison.



This means "Was incarcerated."



"One among friends." The owner has been incarcerated.

Tattoos inspired by, and playing cards taken from: the Russian Criminal Tattoo Archive, courtesy FUEL Publishing.



THE VISUAL AESTHETIC

An immense amount of pre-production was spent on designing the look of the film. Every shot was storyboarded by director Francisco Ramirez, and each camera placement and lighting scheme was planned in accordance to story, character, and tone. The goal was to have a minimal but rich color palette that seeped through the darkness.

Director of photography Kenneth Yeung and costume/production designer Dayna Lucas were involved early on in creating the visual language of the film. Given the dark fable aspect of the story, and the two main characters being contract killers, taxidermy and pelts were used as set dressing to drape the main location of the film with death. There was also a deliberate goal to have no technology in the film other than guns. And many of the lighting setups were structured around using as much in camera as possible, such as the fireplace, lanterns, and elegant chandeliers. The creative team wanted a lived-in vintage feel for the film, and to escape the realm of technology so the characters and the story could remain front and center.

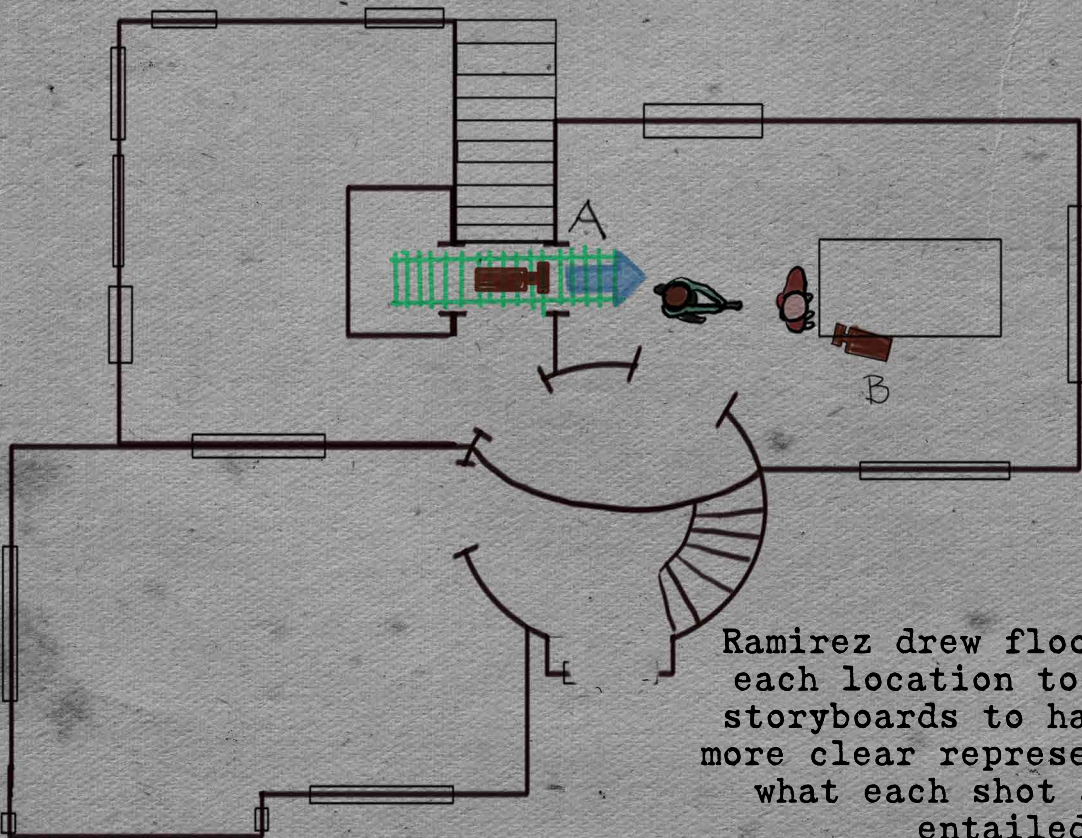
STORYBOARDS

Board to shot comparison



STORYBOARDS

Boards with floor plan



Ramirez drew floor plans of each location to match the storyboards to have an even more clear representation for what each shot and setup entailed.



SCORE & SOUND DESIGN

For the original music, de Quintal wanted to create a dark and malevolent atmosphere to match the strong visuals. The film score was heavily influenced by the various works of Volker Bertelmann, as well as Max Richter's score for *Taboo*. The music needed to be the fifth character in the piece, and yet subtle enough to not overwhelm the storytelling. The fable quality was important musically as well, which is why the majority of the score is traditional and obscure stringed instruments with very little use of synthetic sounds. Sound designer Johnny Martini had the task of creating the sonic environment for the film. Director Francisco Ramirez wanted the sound of the house to be a prominent piece of the audio experience for the audience. The groans of the old castle-like manor settling in were a key touchstone for the sound design as well as the crackling of the fire for the fable scene. Martini was also the production sound mixer on the film so he was able to approach his onset mixing with an ear toward what he would want to craft it into in post.

THE CAST



Nick Gracer as Viktor

Born in Lithuania and raised in Los Angeles, Nick Gracer has been building a solid reputation in the industry for years. Often cast as a lovable-but-scary Teddy bear type, Gracer has garnered numerous network television credits.

Among them are: Barry, Curb Your Enthusiasm, FBI, Seal Team, Madam Secretary, NCIS: New Orleans, S.W.A.T., Lethal Weapon, Shooter, Ray Donovan, The Mentalist and many more. He has also hit the big screen, appearing in The Fate of the Furious, Oh Lucy!, Victor and Taken among others. When Gracer's not acting, he spends his time collecting and restoring 80's muscle cars, such as Camaro Irocs and Grand Nationals.

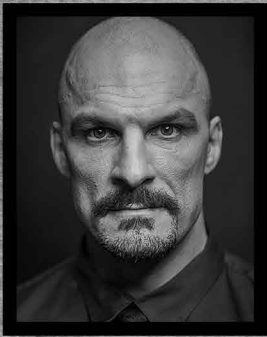


Ryan de Quintal as Aleksandr

Ryan began his acting career in 2005 while attending California State University Fullerton. He received his BA from CSUF in Radio, Television, & Film. He trained in the Meisner technique with veteran actor and actors studio member

Robert Miano. Ryan's past theatre work includes playing Eddie in Fool For Love, Carter in The Dogs Pond, George in Of Mice and Men, and Austin in True West. His recent television credits include roles on Brooklyn Nine-Nine and The Good Place for NBC, Dave for FX, LA to Vegas for FOX, and Now Apocalypse for Starz. His recent feature film work includes cockroaches, which Ryan co-wrote and produced as well as Unwholly Moments which premiered at the Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival. www.ryandequintal.com

THE CAST



Fred Mancuso as Boris

Veteran actor Fred Mancuso was born in Massena, NY and grew up in Pittsburgh, PA. Mentored by Morgan Sheppard and Patrick Gorman, Fred has always brought a dedication and passion to every role he inhabits. His stage credits include;

Vinnie in *Simpatico*, Bergsey in *The Dog's Pond*, Lennie in *Of Mice and Men*, Lee in *True West*, Antony in *Antony and Cleopatra*, and Richard in *The Lion in Winter*. Fred's film work includes roles in *Cockroaches*, *Sudden Death*, and *Made in America*. On television he has played a variety of interesting, funny, and ruthless characters on *No Good Nick*, *Lethal Weapon*, *Lucifer*, *Grace & Frankie*, *S.W.A.T.*, *Colony*, and *Escape the Night*. He also played Randy on *Dangerous Women*. www.fredmancuso.net



Leena Kurishungal as Kate

Leena Kurishungal hails from Chicago with a degree in filmmaking and over a decade of stage and screen performance. Credits include NBC's *Chicago Fire/PD/Med*, EPIX's *Get Shorty*, FOX's *APB*, and AMAZON's *The Giant Beast That Is The Global Economy*,

as a nutcracker that arrests Jason Sudeikis. Moving to LA, she embraced the comedy scene, earning a scholarship at The Upright Citizens Brigade. She has performed with the character sketch group Soul Sista Comedy and guest performed on the UCB Mainstage, Comedy Central Stage, Tao Comedy, Pack, and more. Her writing work has been selected by the LA Female Playwrights Initiative as well as the live lit series, *Tartle At The Duke*.

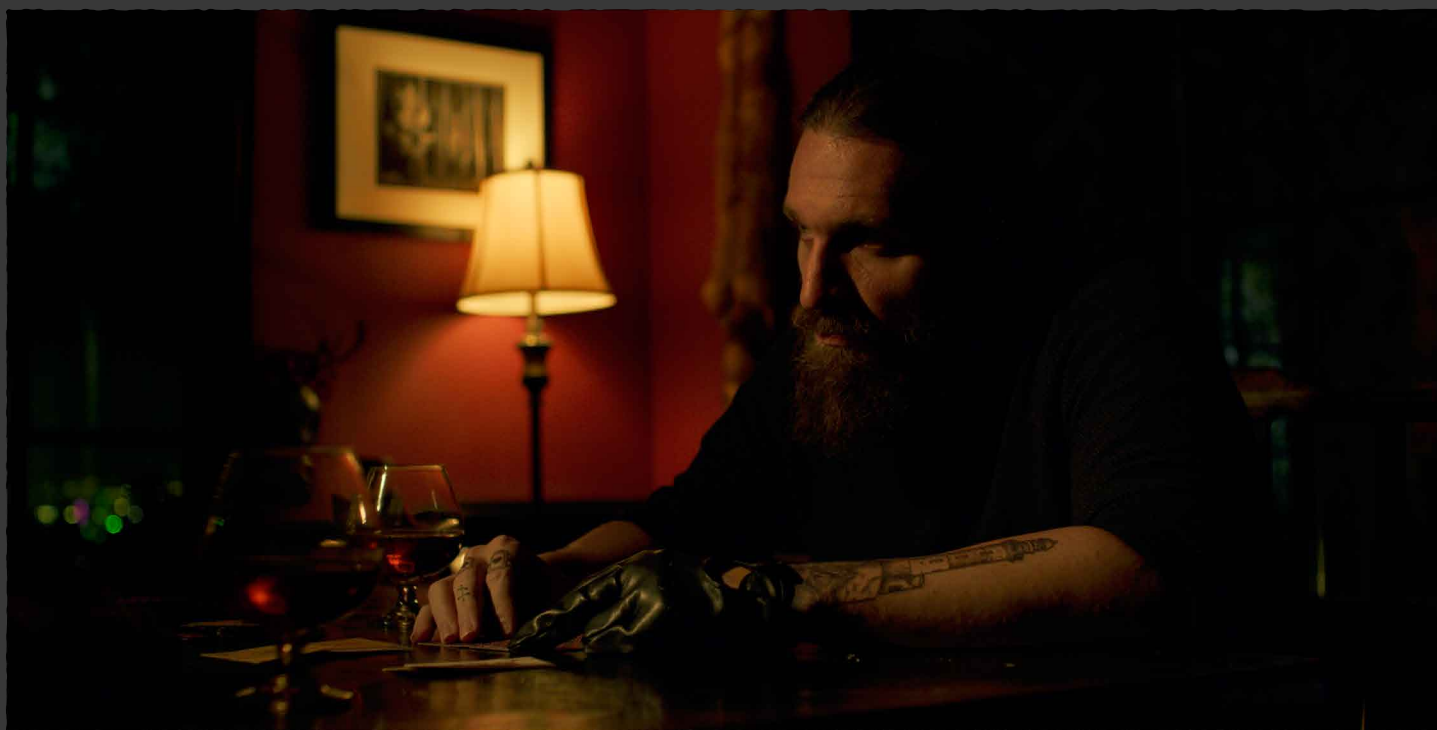
www.leenakurishungal.com



THE FILMMAKERS

Francisco Ramirez: director/producer

Mexican born, Francisco Ramirez, adds *The Huntsman* and *the Hound* to his list of director credits. Born in the outskirts of Guadalajara, Mexico, and raised in Southern California, only Francisco can add his unique perspective to his stories. Growing up in two distinct locations with their own personalities, Francisco has been able to tap into the working class psyche and tell honest stories. He explains, "The story dictates where it wants you to go, and me, as the director, I have to follow. I become the bridge between the story and the audience, I ultimately leave it up to them to cross." Ramirez has explored the gambit of genres and styles: from horror to drama and even documentary. He is a big believer of allowing the narrative to determine where the camera needs to be, and how it needs to move. "Some times you need the raw movement of handheld instead of steady cam to reflect the emotions," Francisco explains. One of the tools he finds very beneficial in directing is drawing. His love for the art of storyboarding helps realize his vision, "It is always better to show my perspective with my storyboards than to try and explain it."



Kenneth Yeung: director of photography

Kenneth began his career in Toronto, Canada where his work was recognized by Kodak Canada, the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television and the Canadian Society of Cinematographers. He is a graduate of the American Film Institute's MFA cinematography program, and has been featured in a 4-page article in American Cinematographer. Yeung has worked as a cinematographer on countless commercials and short films. Recent feature film credits include cockroaches, Elevate, and Baby Steps. He also worked on the television miniseries The Artists.

Dayna Lucas: costume/production designer

Dayna Lucas is a Fashion Design graduate from FIDM in Los Angeles, CA. Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Dayna moved to LA to pursue a career in costume design. She earned her Bachelors in Communications from the University of Michigan. Dayna was a Wardrobe Supervisor on the Netflix film Bilal's Stand and Key Costumer for Shadowland productions. She has worked in costume for film and theatre for the last seven years. Her work on the Noise Within stage production of Argonautika received a best costume design nomination at the Ovation awards.



David Ethan Sanders: producer

An award winning director, cinematographer, and producer. Upon graduating from UCSC with a BA in Film Television and New Media, David moved to Hollywood where he would spend years working for MTV Networks and pursuing camera work in LA. David received his MFA in directing and cinematography from the prestigious Art Center College of Design in Pasadena California. His camera career would then span extensive work internationally. Line producing his own camera departments led David to open DSP LLC, a production service company where as producer he has served clients including NASA, Fox Sports, Ebay, Toyota, Sony, LE, EA Sports, AT&T, Emaar, Wynn Resorts, MGM Mirage and State Farm Insurance. David is currently shifting focus from the commercial market back to narrative feature production with a focus on international project development and finance.

Johnny Martini: production sound mixer/sound designer

Johnny Martini is an award-winning sound designer and comedic actor. He spent a decade mixing sound before transitioning into roles in front of the camera. His credits include 12 Round Gun, Leverage, & Grimm. For Johnny, sound design is all about serving the story. Sound is 50% of the moviegoing experience, when you do a great job in sound, no one notices. He hopes that his contribution to the craft can help bring more attention to the artistry of sound artists within the industry. In other words, it is Johnny's sincerest hope that everyone notices how unnoticeable his work is.



Chris Corpus: co-producer

Producer Chris Corpus began his career as a journalist in Chicago. He eventually moved to Los Angeles, transitioning into scripted film and television, joining SAG-AFTRA in 2004. He later returned to documentary storytelling as the head of production for the Aquarium of the Pacific. Chris now produces both narrative and documentary films, with a particular interest in stories that reveal humans' impact on each other and the world around them.

Ryan de Quintal: composer/editor/producer/writer

On the other side of the camera, Ryan has been writing, producing, composing, and editing for all of his passion projects that he nurtures from the ground up with his production company Paper Street Studios. His past works include co-writing and producing the feature film cockroaches, producing the feature film Unwholly Moments, and producing and composing for the short film Grave.

Fred Mancuso: producer

Fred joined the producing team of this film with his production company Preatorean. He has experience in producing and directing stage productions at the Whitefire Theatre. Past productions include, directing and producing Of Mice and Men, True West, and Fool for Love. Mancuso also produced the equity production of Simpatico as well as the world premiere of The Dogs Pond. He also co-wrote and produced the short film Blind Faith.

CREDITS

Nick Gracer.....Viktor
 Ryan de Quintal.....Aleksandr
 Fred Mancuso.....Boris
 Leena Kurishingal.....Kate

Francisco Ramirez.....Director/Producer
 Ryan de Quintal.....Composer/Editor/Producer/Writer
 Fred Mancuso.....Producer
 David Ethan Sanders.....Producer
 Chris Corpus.....Co-Producer
 Kenneth Yeung.....Director of Photography
 Dayna Lucas.....Costume/Production Designer
 Johnny Martini.....Production Sound Mixer/Sound Designer
 Christopher John Karr.....First Assistant Director
 Brittany Moody.....Key Makeup Artist/Prosthetics
 Marissa Torres.....Makeup Artist/Prosthetics
 Gionatan Tecle.....Gaffer
 Leo Sfeir.....Gaffer
 Rene Salguero.....Key Grip
 Tom Leduc.....Swing
 Dana Burk.....Health Safety Supervisor
 Daria Molchanova.....Russian Language Instructor
 Luke Gelineau.....Insurance Provided By



**Dark
 Princess
 Films**

951-818-2729

paperststudios@gmail.com