

**INSURGENT  
PICTURES** Presents

DAN EBERLE

ALEXANDRA HELLQUIST

NICK BIXBY

ALEXANDRA CHELARU

# SOLE PROPRIETOR

Press Notes 2016

# SOLE PROPRIETOR

**Written and Directed by**

Dan Eberle

**Release Date**

Theatrical/VOD: Aug 12th 2016

DVD Blu-ray: December 20th 2016

**Running Time**

91 minutes

**UNRATED**

**Official Website**

[www.insurgentpictures.com/soleproprietor/](http://www.insurgentpictures.com/soleproprietor/)

**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/SoleProprietorMovie/](http://www.facebook.com/SoleProprietorMovie/)

**Twitter**

[www.twitter.com/insurgentpict](http://www.twitter.com/insurgentpict)

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## Short Synopsis

### SOLE PROPRIETOR

Presented by Insurgent Pictures

A former CIA contractor, who has faked his own death, forms an unlikely bond with a self-employed sex worker, while awaiting the arrival of his new identity. She involves him in a deadly conspiracy that puts them both in the cross-hairs of a Russian pimp, a corrupt police detective, and a Honduran drug cartel.



## Synopsis

The sexy, mysterious neo-noir SOLE PROPRIETOR combines a dreamlike narrative with gritty realism, exploring themes of subjugation, loyalty, and the transcendence of love and sacrifice, in a world of cruel nihilism.

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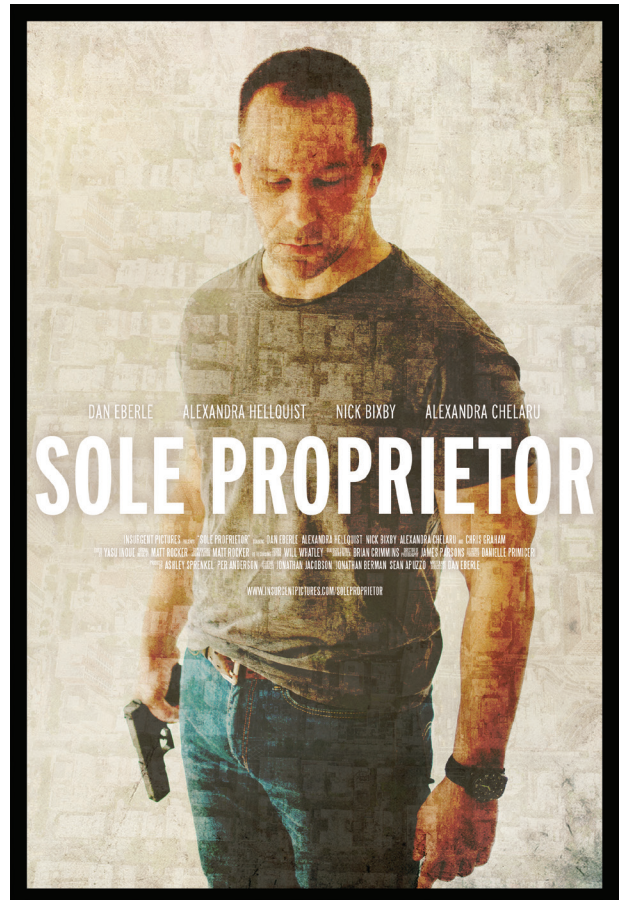
In a desolate, shabbily furnished loft apartment in Chinatown former CIA contractor Crowley arrives from the other side of the world. He has paid a large sum of money to purchase a new identity. He is ready to start over.

However, the Handler explains the terms and the deal has changed. In lieu of money, new credentials will be furnished upon the completion of a task, the parameters of which have yet to be determined or defined. No details, no timeline, no choice.

Days go by so Crowley finds Sophie, a prostitute on the internet. He goes to her and they have something unique. Something unusual, when they are together. Sophie knows she can get to him.

He is exactly the man she needs.

Sophie needs a favor. Someone she cares about is in trouble, and she's willing to risk everything to get



her loose. The authorities are no good, because the authorities are the perpetrators. Sophie knows how to get what she wants. Especially from simple men like Crowley.

SOLE PROPRIETOR is the story of a disparate group of people with no place in the world, struggling to take back their lives from the corrupt authorities that control them.

## Director's Statement

Dan Eberle

I came to New York City back in 2001. I did not visit beforehand. I packed up my belongings and moved here. A part of me knew if I scoped it out first, I would never come. It was the first and only time in my life I successfully anticipated a possible outcome, and took effective countermeasures to avoid it. In this case, countermeasures meant having just enough money to maroon myself in the most expensive city in America.

New York is a harsh city for soft interlopers. It doesn't take long, traversing the streets looking for work, to feel like you are on the wrong planet. People tend to ignore you. What interactions you do have, involve a kind of lowest-common-denominator curt pragmatism, devoid of social nicety.

For years, I barely eked out a living working unconnected odd jobs. Incompetent supervisors held my life in their hands, 13 dollars an hour at a time. A solid ten years with no savings, no healthcare, no job security.



Being rudderless for so long was not all bad. The angst of uncertainly taught me important things: I am entitled to nothing, be grateful for what and who I have, be unperturbed by indifference, and unabashedly go forward and make what I want of this life, at all times and in all ways possible. That is what SOLE PROPRIETOR is about.

## Background

SOLE PROPRIETOR is a modern noir with a hard, gritty narrative, and a soft, dreamlike aesthetic. Leveraging a fractured, non-linear narrative, a misty 7AM glow, and a cast of international characters speaking different languages and proprietary code, the experience of Sole Proprietor is one of deliberate disorientation and disenfranchisement. Each character is autonomous and outside the law, for better and for worse.

Principal photography of Sole Proprietor shot over five weeks in the Summer of 2014. Locations included the Clinton Hill and Fort Greene areas of Brooklyn, New York's Chinatown, and the farms of Pipersville, Pennsylvania.

Cinematographer James Parsons, harnessing the power of natural light sources, stark backlighting, and compelling framing, created a kind of 'reverse film noir', in which the mysterious characters of SOLE PROPRIETOR are literally hiding in broad daylight. This supreme stylization is juxtaposed with an improvisatory cinéma vérité-style camera movement throughout the film.



SOLE PROPRIETOR is scored by Matt Rocker, using a combination of exotic analogue percussion instruments and digital sounds. The unique score integrates seamlessly into SOLE PROPRIETOR'S dramatic sound design, which Matt oversaw directly, pulling double duty as both composer, and audio postproduction supervisor.

Performances in Sole Proprietor include actor/director Dan Eberle (THE LOCAL), Alexandra Hellquist (SHINOBI GIRL), Nick Bixby (WELCOME TO NOWHERE), and Chris Graham (LEATHER). Dan Eberle and Nick Bixby worked together on the 2006 Avignon Film Festival Best Picture winner JAIL CITY. Dan and Chris Graham worked together on Dan's critically acclaimed 2013 film CUT TO BLACK.

## Dan Eberle

Writer/Director/"Crowley"

Dan Eberle is an independent film producer, director, writer, and actor. He studied film production under Academy Award nominated documentary filmmaker Steven Bogner (A LION IN THE HOUSE, THE LAST TRUCK).

Dan's critically acclaimed feature, CUT TO BLACK, which the New York Times called, "an homage to the hard-boiled", and Variety said, "pushes film noir to its subjective extreme" and shows "a high-octane flair for abstraction that transcends time," was released in 2013 around the world.

His previous films include the cult action film THE LOCAL, and the experimental thriller PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD.



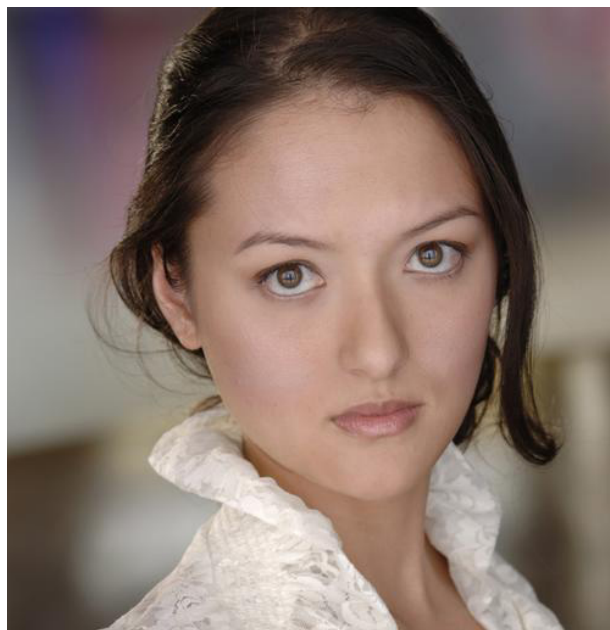
Dan currently resides in New York. He owns the production company Insurgent Pictures with his producing partner, Danielle Primiceri. He continues to work as a writer, producer, director, and performer, in the New York area.

## Alexandra Hellquist

### “Sophie”

An international, ethnically-mixed actor, with a hopelessly nomadic upbringing, Alexandra meandered her way through seven different countries over four continents before arriving in New York. She speaks French and Italian, and loves to twist her tongue around different accents in her work.

Delighting in versatility and hoping to be a bit of a chameleon in her choices, Alexandra nevertheless strives to ground even the most outré, edgy, twisted or fantastical characters in truth and emotional reality.



Her work includes films BOBBY’S GIRL, UPTOWN TRASH, and the upcoming SEED SPRANG!, as well as the titular role in the popular martial arts series SHINOBI GIRL.

## Nick Bixby

### "Greer"

Nick is an actor, artist, and filmmaker based in New York City. His performance career has spanned more than 14 years, and been seen by audiences in theaters around the world. In addition to live performance, he works in both film and television, and also does commercial and online specific work. His experimental YouTube channel has been seen by over 1.6 million viewers.

In 2009, Nick began working with internationally renowned theater company Temporary Distortion. He joined their touring production of WELCOME TO NOWHERE (BULLET HOLE ROAD), which traveled to France and Hungary. In 2010, he filmed a feature length film based on the stage show, which was accepted into film festivals all over the country.

In 2011, Nick worked with Temporary Distortion again, to develop their new show NEWYORKLAND. The show premiered to critical acclaim in Canada, at On the Boards in Seattle, and at NYC's Baryshnikov Arts Center as a part of Performance Space 122's



COIL festival, in January 2012. In the New York Times review of the show, Jason Zinnoman wrote "Nick Bixby is particularly affecting as a weary police officer whose work puts a strain on his marriage..."

Nick most recently completed work on Dan Eberle's latest film SOLE PROPRIETOR. Other unreleased feature film work include William Cusick's POP MEETS THE VOID, Micki Mihich's SHIP HAPPENS, and Kazumi Sunada's EDIBLE SOULS.

## Danielle Primiceri

### Executive Producer

New York native Danielle Primiceri is a producer, graphic designer, and philanthropist. She served as executive producer on the films PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD, CUT TO BLACK, and SOLE PROPRIETOR.

Danielle owns the independent film production company Insurgent Pictures, where she is a managing partner, producer, and creative director for feature films, and all related promotional and ancillary content.

In addition to her film work, Danielle makes her living as a design director for an education



technology company, specializing in the concept, production and design of engaging online and offline experiences.

## Per Anderson

### Producer

Per Anderson was born in La Mesa, California. He graduated from the VCA School of Film and Television at the University of Melbourne, Australia. His previous film credits include directing and producing duties on the Mike Birbiglia starrer, STANLEY CUBA (2007), which played the Milan, Santa Barbara and Brooklyn International Film Festivals, the Sundance hit POLICE BEAT (2005), and Dan Eberle's critically acclaimed indie noir CUT TO BLACK (2013).

Per lives in New York City, where he works in technology, and producing independent film and new media.

## James Parsons

### Cinematographer

James Parsons's previous collaborations with Dan Eberle feature 2013 Brooklyn Film Festival Audience Award Winner CUT TO BLACK, plus PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD (2010), and THE LOCAL (2008). As a member of the International Cinematographer's Guild since 2012, his credits include Netflix's DAREDEVIL and FX's SEX&DRUGS&ROCK&ROLL.

James Parsons is a graduate of Northwestern University. Before breaking into the film business in 2005, he was a New York City public high school English teacher. James lives in Brooklyn, New York.

## Matt Rocker

### Music / Sound Editing Supervisor

Matt Rocker is a musician, composer and sound engineer working out of Underground Audio studios in Manhattan, which he owns and operates. He holds a Masters of Music degree from NYU where he concentrated in music for film and music technology.

As a sound and music editor he contributed to Oscar nominated films WINTERS BONE and the LORD OF THE RINGS trilogy.

In addition to his numerous musical compositions for film and television, he's recorded six albums of original music, conducted an original score at Lincoln Center, and is the only contemporary songwriter to be covered by Grammy winner Brian Setzer of the Stray Cats.

He has created music, sound, and interactive design for choreographer Mei Yin Ng which has been performed across the U.S., Spain, Italy, and the U.K.

He contributed to the world renowned CREMASTER CYCLE of films, as well as the retrospective Guggenheim museum installation with artist Matthew Barney, and recently completed the entirety of sound design and mixing at the 9/11 memorial museum in NYC.

This is his second collaboration with Dan Eberle.

## Yasu Inoue

### Editor

SOLE PROPRIETOR marks Yasu Inoue's first collaboration with Dan Eberle. His broad skill set and ability won him over the industry recognitions in narrative (Independent Spirit Award - MAN FROM RENO), documentary (DOC NYC - NEWMAN), and trailers (The Golden Trailer Award - numerous films). His television credits include RISING: REBUILDING GROUND ZERO (Discovery, Executive Produced by Steven Spielberg) and DARKNET (Showtime).

Yasu Inoue is a native of Japan and currently resides in New York City. He is a graduate of City College of New York.

## Credits

Presented by Insurgent Pictures

### SOLE PROPRIETOR

#### **Starring**

Alexandra Hellquist, Dan Eberle, Nick Bixby,  
Alexandra Chelaru, and Chris Graham

#### **Produced by**

Ashley Sprenkel, Per Anderson, Omar Jackson

#### **Associate Producer**

Jonathan Berman, Jonathan Jacobson

#### **Executive Producer**

Danielle Primiceri

#### **Director of Photography**

James Parsons



#### **Original Music by**

Matt Rocker

#### **Sound Design**

Underground Audio, NYC

#### **Edited by**

Yasu Inoue

#### **Written and Directed by**

Dan Eberle