



INSURGENT
PICTURES Presents

cut to black

dan eberle jillaine gill beau allulli



Press Notes 2013



cut to black

Written and Directed by

Dan Eberle

Release Date

October 18, 2013 (Cinema Village, NYC)

December 3, 2013 (VOD Nationwide)

Running Time

89 minutes

UNRATED

Official Website

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"The affection for the film noir genre comes through loud and clear in this modern-day re-imagining."

- Hollywood Reporter

"The narrative complexity grows and grows...so will the viewer's appreciation"

- Village Voice

synopsis

cut to black

presented by insurgent pictures

Bill Ivers' life is in ruins. A defrocked NYPD police detective and convicted felon, Bill is tormented by debt collectors, looming alcoholism, and recurring nosebleeds that could point to a serious health problem. Bill's only companion is Sara, the mercurial cheating wife of his hapless landlord.

Out of the blue, Bill is visited by Gunther, a former colleague at the NYPD and savvy political operator. Gunther is there as an envoy to City Councilman John Lord--the former friend and mentor Bill took the fall for years ago. 'The old man's got a job for you Bill. And it pays really good money.'

John Lord makes an emotional appeal to Bill, explaining that at this stage in his life, he needs to make amends for all the trespasses he has committed. Lord reveals that he has an estranged daughter named Jessica--the product of a 20 year old extramarital affair.



Jessica has recently filed a complaint with the 88th Precinct that she is being harassed by a stalker. Knowing the police typically can't help in situations like this, Lord offers to pay Bill an exorbitant amount of money to take on the case, in the hope it can win Lord favor with Jessica and earn him a place in her life again.

In helping Jessica, Bill finds a way to transcend

the corruption of his environs, and hopefully give meaning and worth to his wasted life, before it's all over.

CUT TO BLACK is a story of desperate people living in the wake of bad choices, trying to make the most of what's left of their time in this world.

Shot in lavish black and white tones, CUT TO BLACK is a gorgeous cinematic tribute to classic noir, set against stark, gritty urban modernity. Nobody gets away clean in this tough story of love, loyalty, and the inevitable conclusion we're all headed for.

director's statement

dan eberle

CUT TO BLACK is a parable about not giving up on life.

On the same day Bill Ivers receives \$200,000 as a conciliatory gesture from his former friend and mentor John Lord, Bill learns the nosebleeds he is waking up to every morning are part of a disease that will kill him, presumably very soon.

Lord asks to hire Bill to protect his estranged daughter Jessica, who is being harassed by a stalker. Lord hopes doing this will win him favor with Jessica, who after 20 years of silence and neglect, has nothing but contempt for her father.

Facing his own mortality, Bill wants to help Lord reconcile. Perhaps as a small gesture of redemption.

Initially, Bill is very judgmental of Jessica, her job as an exotic dancer, and particularly her shady boyfriend Duane—who harbors similar prejudice against Bill. However, as Bill becomes more involved with the intricacies of Jessica and Duane's life predica-



ments, notions of right and wrong become increasingly “grey.”

The use of anachronisms like setting a black and white film in modern day, with a score of electronic music, punctuated with traditional Jazz, is an extension of the timeless plot, story, and characters.

In my life, I have frequently felt I've lost loved ones to a culture I didn't understand, and could not see past my own black and white ideas of morality to appreciate how or why. Too often, those people left my life forever. As I get older, I have an increasing sense of my own mortality and the ephemeral nature of life. CUT TO BLACK is my way of trying to reconcile that conflict for myself.

background

Dan Eberle's CUT TO BLACK is a feature-length contemporary crime drama shot in a glorious black and white palette. The aesthetic confluence of hard shadows, high contrast and lush shallow focus cinematography, against a clearly modern world setting, along with a propulsive electronic synthesizer score punctuated with traditional Jazz, transport the audience to a standalone universe that is at once familiar and also brand new.

Principal photography of CUT TO BLACK shot for 40 days, over the course of six months. Locations for the movie included many famous neighborhoods in New York, including the Lower East Side of Manhattan, Williamsburg and Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, as well as parts of Smithtown, Long Island and the town of Craryville in Upstate New York.

Cinematographer, and long-time Eberle collaborator James Parsons, labored to create a hypnotic visual language for CUT TO BLACK: gorgeously lighted images from unique and compelling vantage points.



The stark black and white photography works to show the world of CUT TO BLACK as both gritty and beautiful.

CUT TO BLACK features performances by Dan Eberle (THE LOCAL), Jillaine Gill (PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD), Beau Allulli (THE WEEKEND), Joe Stipek (THE GIRL FROM MONDAY). Dan and Jillaine worked together in 2010's PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD, also written and directed by Eberle.

The musical score for CUT TO BLACK was written and performed by world-class bassist and composer Bob Hart, who also collaborated with Eberle on the score to PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD. The churning electronic soundtrack juxtaposed against the classic noir imagery create a truly unique and compelling cinematic experience.

dan eberle

writer/director/actor/producer

Dan Eberle is an independent film producer, director, writer, and actor. He studied film production under Academy Award nominated filmmaker Steven Bognar (A LION IN THE HOUSE, THE LAST TRUCK). Before his involvement film, Eberle was a professional Jazz guitarist for fifteen years.

Eberle's first feature, the urban drama JAILCITY, centers on two men, their fractured families, and the journey to reconcile the trespasses that tore them apart. JAILCITY earned Best Feature at the 2006 Avignon/New York Film Festival. Eberle was awarded the "21st Century Filmmaker Award" for his directorial achievement.

In 2009, Eberle wrote, directed and starred in THE LOCAL, the story of an indigent drug runner hired to effect the return of a wealthy man's daughter from the lair of her lover, a murderous drug trafficker. An official selection of the Brooklyn International Film Festival, THE LOCAL was released in 2009 by Vanguard Cinema and Boulder Creek International.



Eberle's 2010 film, the award winning PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD, a feature-length contemporary drama, told entirely without dialogue, tells the story of the survivor of a violent crime who is enveloped in a cycle of self-destruction and vengeance. PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD won both Best Feature and Audience Awards at the 2010 Royal Flush Festival. In 2011, VENGEFUL was released worldwide on DVD, Cable Video On Demand, and all major digital platforms.

Dan's fourth film, CUT TO BLACK, a post-noir crime thriller, will make its World Premiere at the 2013 Brooklyn Film Festival, followed by worldwide release later that year.

Dan currently resides in New York. He co-owns the production company Insurgent Pictures, LLC with Tim Guetterman.

danielle primiceri

producer

Danielle Primiceri was born in 1974 in Queens, New York. She is an award-winning creative director and film producer. Her films include the critically heralded and audience favorites *THE LOCAL* (2008), *PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD* (2010) and *CUT TO BLACK* (2013). Danielle has an extensive technical background in graphic design in print, web, and video media. She has designed marketing campaigns for Scholastic, David Bach, and many other national media companies, as well as all print and



digital media marketing for Insurgent Pictures' films. In addition to Danielle's media work, she is also a renowned philanthropist involved in several international charitable initiatives.

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, and the Sundance hit *POLICE BEAT* (2005).

jillaine gill

“jessica”

Jillaine Gill is an actress, director, producer, and performance artist. Credits with Junta Juleil Theatricals (of which she is a founding member) include HOLY CUCKOOS WHAT HAPPENED TO MY LIFE, LAURIE DEACON AND THE NIGHT CALLER, STAGE BLOOD IS NEVER ENOUGH, and the one woman show DREAMS OF THE CLOCKMAKER. Credits with Rachel Klein Productions include the Sean Gill works GO-GO KILLERS!, AENIGMA, and OUR PRISON. She has directed and written pieces for Another Urban Riff and Sticky, as well as being a curator of the monthly residency Psycho Space Laboratory at Bowery Poetry Club. Jillaine was featured as Urchin in Dan Eberle’s critically acclaimed film PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD. She is the leading lady in the Sean Gill films MAKIN’ A MARTINI, MUSTACHE PARTY, THE SLEEPY-TIME CYCLE, ESCAPE FROM



STATEN ISLAND, HE IS COERCED TO LOOK, HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL, THURSDAY NIGHT, CRESCENDO, and LOW LIVES, most of which have appeared in a myriad of festivals.

Jillaine has studied with Anthony Abeson and is currently studying Committed Impulse with Josh Pais. She appears in ad campaigns worldwide, as well as starring in the recent video GLOWING MOUTH for the band Milagres.

beau allulli

“gunther”

Born in Hammond, Louisiana in 1976, Beau is graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University majoring in Theater. He specializes in movement technique, and co-founded a New York based performance laboratory dedicated to physical performance exploration.

Beau has been a presence in the New York City theater community for many years, including work with the heralded International WOW Group. Beau's film work includes standout performances in JAILCITY (2006), THE WEEKEND (2007), Josh Fox's MEMORIAL DAY (2008), THE LOCAL (2008), and PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD (2010).



joe stipek

“duane”

Joe Stipek is a veteran New York actor. His work includes the Off Broadway play THE NIGHT HERON (Atlantic Theater Co.), WEEKEND AT AN ENGLISH COUNTRY ESTATE, THREE SISTERS (Algonquin Theater, dir. Nancy Gabor), 365 PLAYS (Public Theater via The TEAM), and SAY HELLO CHILDREN (dir. Rachel Chavkin). Joe has done five collaborations with Disgraced Productions, having acted in TEX AND THE KING, ALL KINDS OF SHIFTY VIL-LAINS,AND WE ALL WORE LEATHER PANTS, THE BUTTERFIELD TONES, Joe also directed KANSAS CITY OR ALONG THE WAY for the 2008 NYC Fringe Festival which was extended as part of the Access Theater’s Spotlight Series.



Joe’s film and TV work include, NOW HERE (2010), THE LOCAL (2008), THE GIRL FROM MONDAY (2005), and Darren Aronofsky’s Montana Meth Project (2007). Joe is a graduate of the Atlantic Theater Company, BFA from NYU.

leah rudick

“liz”

Leah Rudick is an actress living in New York City. Film credits include LOST CHILDREN (Desperate Comfort Prod., IFP Lab Selection), BLOODY MARY (Sci-fi channel), KIDS GO TO THE WOODS, KIDS GET DEAD (Darkstar Entertainment), and PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD (Insurgent Pictures). Most recently she appeared in Katja Blichfeld and Ben Sinclair’s critically acclaimed web series HIGH MAINTENANCE and is a regular guest actress on the award winning youtube channel BARELY POLITICAL. She has performed in New York with Elevator Repair Service Theater, Black Moon Theatre and International WOW. She performs comedy all over NYC with her sketch duo Skinny Bitch Jesus Meeting (Edinburgh Fringe, The PIT, UCBT, NY Fringe Fest).



james parsons

director of photography

James Parsons is a member of the International Cinematographer's Guild (IATSE Local 600). He has worked in film and television since 2005. CUT TO BLACK is his fourth collaboration with filmmaker Dan Eberle. James' previous work include the independent films JAILCITY (2006), THE LOCAL (2008), PRAYER TO A VENGEFUL GOD (2010) and '79 PARTS (2013), as well as working on countless major Hollywood pictures and television shows.

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.

credits

insurgent pictures presents
cut to black

Starring

Dan Eberle, Jillaine Gill, Beau Allulli, Joe Stipek,
James Alba and Leah Rudick

Produced by

Danielle Primiceri
Dan Eberle
Per Anderson

Associate Producer

Tim Miller
Tommy Shull
John McCloskey

Executive Producers

Beau Allulli
Tim Guetterman

Director of Photography

James Parsons



Original Music by

Bob Hart

Sound Design by

Scott Smitelli
Matt Rocker
William Whatley

Edited by

Timothy McGonagle

Written and Directed by

Dan Eberle