

THE TRUTH

A Film by Ryan Barton-Grimley

starring

John Heard, Brendan Sexton III, Erin Cardillo and Daniel Baldwin

PRESS NOTES

Running Time: 96 minutes

Format: Shot on Red Camera

Projected on: HD Cam or HD Cam SR

Ratio: 2:35

www.TheTruthIsAlwaysComplicated.com

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Logline:

When husband and wife, Jonathan and Dana Davenport are taken hostage in their upscale home by a mysterious intruder named Gabriel, what starts out as a simple home invasion robbery quickly turns into something much more complicated.

Synopsis:

When husband and wife, Jonathan and Dana Davenport are taken hostage in their upscale home by a mysterious intruder named Gabriel, what starts out as a simple home invasion robbery quickly turns into something much more complicated. Dana may, or may not, know the intruder Gabriel. And Gabriel may, or may not, have previously crossed paths with Jonathan. Is Gabriel really there just to rob them? Can Jonathan and Dana survive once they're exposed to each other for who and what they really are? What are they trying to hide from Gabriel and from each other? Is it worth dying for?

Filmmaker Q & A – THE TRUTH

1. Please explain your inspiration and point of view when you first started developing and collaborating on *THE TRUTH* and why you made this film. How or what prompted the idea for your film and how did it evolve?

My inspiration for THE TRUTH was a story that a good friend and ex-writing partner Matt K. Turner told me about a giant searchlight invading his front yard in Venice one night and how his mind ran away with him that night in the wee hours of the morning. What if there was somebody that searchlight was trying to find and what if they were in his house. From there, I got involved and together we thought, what if he was in the house for more than just an escape, and what if... It just goes and goes. Through the writing process of fleshing out an intricate plot that brought back my obsessions with mystery novels as a kid, I realized that in actuality, I was examining people's subjective reality and how they remember what happened to them as well as what they refer to as "THE TRUTH" which is really "their truth". Additionally I wanted to explore the emotional and sexual dynamics of a married couple, how "THE TRUTH" or some version of it is the foundation for the relationship, and how an outsider can invade that and call it all into question without ever really saying anything.

2. What inspired you to become a filmmaker?

Being an immigrant from Zimbabwe that moved here as an almost teenager has always made me feel like an outsider and sort of identity-less. Consequently I am always examining people and life and their stories, trying to figure out how I can fit in better and assimilate. Additionally I am obsessed with art and images and how life is depicted. The melding of the two add up to film.

3. What do you want the audience to ‘take away’ after they have seen the film?

Besides the entertaining roller coaster ride of an experience that only a really twisted Noir can provide, I would like the audience to "take away" a few questions and those questions are: "What is the truth?" "What is my truth?" "How far would I go to protect it?"

4. What is your relationship to the cast of this film?

My relationship to the cast of THE TRUTH is that of a fan and I can't work any other way as a director. After studying acting, working in the theater, and being obsessed with film and television for many many years you become a fan of certain actors. I'm a real fan of all of the actors in THE TRUTH. John Heard since I saw him in Cutter's Way shot in my adopted hometown of Santa Barbara, along with almost everything he's ever done. He's just one of those guys that has done tons of stuff. He's great in everything and always brings a new take to the material. A real journeyman. Brendan Sexton III starred in Welcome to the Dollhouse and Boys Don't Cry, two of my favorite films from the nineties. He just always struck me as hyper-real and edgy, but still with a soul. I met him and he was Gabriel. I saw Daniel Baldwin on Homicide years ago and he was so great, then when casting brought him up, I was lucky enough to catch him in an episode of THE

CLOSER and he was so powerful, electric, I had to work with him. He carries a weight on screen that is so rare these days. For the role of Dana/Christine we set out on discovering somebody new and what we found was somebody that had extensive experience in TV and was just absolutely stunning. Erin Cardillo auditioned against literally hundreds of other actresses and time and time again brought new dimensions to the character and blew us away with her work and her timeless sultry noir look and feel. She was the final piece to fit the puzzle.

5. What is the most important message in this film to you?

You can not escape your "Truth". It is fate. It is fatal.

6. When did you meet your collaborators? How did those partnerships come about?

I met AJ Gordon our producer years ago while working for his uncle's lighting company. He was a film student and I was a fledgling director, trying to write scripts and direct music videos. We clicked and kind of knew that we'd always work together in some kind of capacity. After I finished a draft of THE TRUTH, I sent it all over town and nobody got it. I tried to raise funding for a while and get people on board, but everyone wanted to change it into some other film or dilute it. Finally I shelved it in favor of more commercial script ideas hoping that by going that route, I'd finally get something made. Months went by and then on a whim A.J. happened to read THE TRUTH and he "got it". He volunteered to produce it. I agreed and went out and raised the money and six months later we were shooting!

Eric Adkins our fantastic Director of Photography I met through AJ. They'd worked on commercials together. I had seen his work on "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow" and I thought he was very talented. Once I met him and saw that he was a mad genius type, like myself, I knew we'd do great stuff together.

Douglas Mueller our Production Designer and I have been friends for years and I've always admired his eye as a designer and also a director in his own right. When I finally had an opportunity to direct my first feature, he was my first call.

Adrien Capozzi, our composer had been a friend for quite some time. He was one half of the band Cosmic Starfish that I directed some music videos for. I also knew of his work as a solo electronic musician and I just had a feeling he'd be able to bring something totally unique to our film from a completely unorthodox point of view.

David C. Hughes was connected to AJ through the Portland Film scene and though an academy award nominated sound designer, was open to working on something more indie and out of the ordinary. He saw the film and jumped at the opportunity to work on something as twisted as our little film is.

7. What made this project come together and be successful?

From the start of getting this script together down to the nuts and bolts of the production, I really just wanted to shoot a small, tight film that pushed boundaries and preconceptions. To do that, I surrounded myself with crew and actors of like mind who were willing to

push themselves into unfamiliar territory and challenge themselves and convention.

8. Please elaborate a bit on your approach to making the film, including your influences (if any).

I want to make films that are professional and sophisticated and yet outside of the studio feel and look.. I can't stand bloated film production, so being small and intimate is my goal with my scripts and the productions. I am equally obsessed with the visuals and the written word. Every frame and every word matters to me. I am influenced by Roman Polansky, Michael Haneke, Martin Scorsese, and John Cassavettes.

9. How did you find your subjects for the film?

I always wanted to make a film with a group of people in a room, like a stageplay where nobody "really" knew anybody else or their intentions. Something that really challenged the audience and also challenged me to keep the audience engaged for a full ninety minutes without the benefit of explosions or car chases, just good old fashioned human stuff.

10. Please address the music in the film. How did these choices come about?

My intention behind the music in THE TRUTH was to create something that harkened back to Michael Mann's early films where he used Tangerine Dream's electronic stuff and also the first Terminator film. However I really wanted to take that cheesy style and make it much grittier and more environmental. I wanted a tonal landscape that was not pushing an emotion, like most film scores, but more creating the space for genuine emotion to occur in the audience. I hate being told what to feel, so I wanted to respect the audience and give them a space to experience. Additionally I wanted to use electronic because I wanted to do something truly modern and I don't feel that traditional scores can do that with traditional instruments.

11. How did you become a filmmaker? Please explain your history in filmmaking.

I became a filmmaker out of being an actor and an artist, so my approach is probably more experiential. Also as a result of coming from a critical art background, having a degree in art history etc..., my approach to my work isn't just that of an entertainer. I am more concerned with raising questions and exploring things. I am also self taught so I embrace the DIY ethic fully. I think there's no better way to learn than picking up a camera and shooting. I learned to write the same way, by doing it. I picked things that interest me, that challenge me and that way my work is truly personal

12. How do you think THE TRUTH fits into your personal growth as a director? How will it affect your future projects?

THE TRUTH was my attempt to do something very tight with confined controlled parameters, something formal and modern, as opposed to most of my music videos that are completely free form and improvisational. Content-wise, THE TRUTH is like my childish, rebellious sub-conscious from my mid to late twenties working itself out right in front of me. I hope to build on the style and the content, by going lighter and looser, but still maintain the critical integrity that make THE TRUTH and all my work slightly more serious.

13. What are you currently working on?

I am currently working on the pre-production of a film called ELIJAH'S ASHES. It's a film that explores the relationship a set of brothers has with each other and with their deceased father. Basically two estranged brothers reconnect at their father's funeral and end up going on a journey to fulfill his last dying wish. Along the way they get in trouble, get to know each other again, make peace, and even learn some stuff. It's an anti-epic road movie that is very funny and very heartfelt and very real.

14. Share something unique about the film. It can be related to the subject, the title, the making of the film, the vision behind the film, casting, location, script, etc.

The film location was actually my In-Law's house and we had to move every item of furniture out, refurbish the house for the shoot, not destroy the place, tear it all out at the end of the shoot and put their stuff back exactly like it was. It was nuts.

John Heard came into the film, 4 days into production after we had to "get rid" of Tom Sizemore for "motivational" problems.

15. What are some of your favorite films, and what are your other creative influences?

Fine art paintings and photography are my biggest visual influence. I've been to every great museum in the world and live and die by the stuff. One of my favorite films for many years was NAKED by Mike Leigh and I think you can really see it's influence on THE TRUTH. I am a true fan of film, so I can't really point to any one that I live and die for, well except for "Children of Men". I can watch that hundreds of times. It's like a Pink Floyd album, timeless, modern, complex, and brutally lovely.

Filmmaker Bios

Writer/Director

Ryan Barton-Grimley was born in Harare, Zimbabwe. He moved to the US with his family in 1983 and has been battling culture shock and attempting to assimilate ever since. He is a graduate of UCLA in Art History and is an avid writer and painter. After working as an actor in such films as *The Price of Love*, *Now and Never*, and *Tropix*, Ryan discovered his true place in the world, behind the camera. Well known in the Los Angeles indie art and video world for his distinct visual flair and challenging subject matter, it was just a matter of time for Ryan to make the jump into narrative features.

THE TRUTH is Ryan's feature film debut as a writer/director and it explores what we all commonly refer to as "the truth" and how subjective that really is. It combines a slick visual style, an ever-evolving story that keeps twisting until it's "killer" end, and incredible acting performances by John Heard, Brendan Sexton III, Erin Cardillo, and Daniel Baldwin. **THE TRUTH** is inspired by Michael Hanneke's "Funny Games", Roman Polansky's "Death and the Maiden", Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver", and David Lynch's "Blue Velvet." **THE TRUTH** premieres this September at the Boston Film Festival.

Producer

A.J. Gordon was born and raised in Portland, Oregon as a fan of sports, film, the outdoors, film, and movies. A.J. Gordon graduated with a BS in Digital Media Production and quickly moved to LA to pursue his life long dream of becoming a filmmaker. He has worked in every department of every kind of production in his young career and shows no sign of slowing down. His credits include over 30 commercials and feature films such as *Freedom State* and *Four Christmases*. In addition to producing short films, music videos, and regional/international commercials, he currently has 3 feature films in development and holds two awards for flashlight-tag excellence.

CAST BIOS

JOHN HEARD (Johnathan Davenport) - Emmy nominated actor John Heard began his career on the stage, winning multiple awards in both Chicago and New York, including a 1976 -77 Theatre World Award and Obie Awards for his off-Broadway performances in “Othello” and “Split”. John has appeared in over sixty feature films, dozens of television movies, and guest-starred in numerous award-winning dramas on TV. His early screen successes include performances in *Cutters Way*, *Chilly Scenes of Winter*, *Heart Beat*, *Big*, *The Pelican Brief*, *Home Alone*, *In the Line of Fire*, *Pollack* and most recently *The Great Debaters*. John has had recurring roles on *Prison Break*, *CSI: Miami*, as a guest star on *Numbers*, *Southland* and *Entourage*.

BRENDAN SEXTON III (Gabriel Doyle) – Brendan debuted in Todd Solondz's *WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE*, in which he played the troubled bully, Brandon. For that performance, Brendan was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award. Brendan went on to play leads in the independent films, *HURRICANE STREETS* and *DESERT BLUE*. His additional credits include the award-winning *BOYS DON'T CRY*, as well as *BLACK HAWK DOWN*, *EMPIRE RECORDS*, *PECKER*, *WINTER OF FROZEN DREAMS*, *THE GIRL IN THE PARK* and *IN MY POCKET*. Upcoming releases include *THE MARCONI BROTHERS* and *THE TRUTH IS ALWAYS COMPLICATED*. Brendan lives in New York and Los Angeles.

ERIN CARDILLO (Dana/Christine) - Erin was born in White Plains, NY, but considers Greenwich, CT where she lived from age 9 through high school her hometown. She attended Northwestern University and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Performance Studies (Magna Cum Laude). She spent her junior year abroad in London, through Marymount College, where she cultivated her great love of Shakespeare. After college Erin moved to New York City. Her leading role in *Hunter for Hunter Green*, by Sam Forman, landed her theatrical representation, and after booking a few jobs in television, Erin decided to move to Los Angeles. Since living in Los Angeles, Erin has appeared in several films, and in guest starring and recurring roles on ABC, NBC, CBS, NIK, FOX, Lifetime, and Disney Channel series. She was cast in a contract role on the daytime soap opera *Passions* where she played the role of Esme Vanderhausen from 2005-2007, and was named "Soap Opera's Digest's Most Entertaining Character of 2007". She can currently be seen as Miss Emma Tutweiller on the Disney Channel series, *The Suite Life On Deck*.

DANIEL BALDWIN (Mr. Doyle) - Daniel who is no stranger to both film and television, recently completed the Emmy nominated HBO production **Grey Gardens** where he plays Julius Krug, the former Secretary of the Interior under President Truman

and secret true love of Little Edie (Drew Barrymore). The film also stars Jessica Lange as Big Edie and is based on the true life of Jackie Kennedy's eccentric aunt and first cousin both named Edith Bouvier Beale aka "Big and Little Edie". Other notable film roles for Daniel have included, Oliver Stone's **Born on the Fourth of July**, **Mulholland Falls**, Steve Buscemi's directorial debut **Trees Lounge**, John Carpenter's **Vampire\$** where he starred with James Woods and **Paparazzi** with Cole Hauser and Dennis Farina. Daniel is well remembered for his role as the marriage-troubled Beau Felton in the hit NBC TV series **Homicide: Life on the Street**. His television appearances include Showtime's critically acclaimed film **Our Fathers**, the Sci-Fi original movie **Anonymous Rex**, CBS's TV movie **Open House** where he starred opposite Christine Lahti and **Killing Moon** with Penelope Ann Miller. Currently on TV, Daniel can be seen in a recurring role on CBS's **COLD CASE**. Born and raised in Massapequa, Long Island, NY, Daniel is one of the many talented Baldwin brothers. Before embarking on an acting career, Daniel was a stand-up comedian. He and his wife, Joanne Smith-Baldwin, have a daughter, Avis Ann and they just gave birth to their second child, Finely Rae.

CREW BIOS

Matt Turner (writer / story credit) is considered the most talented writer of his generation by his mother, Matt K. Turner has been dazzling blood relatives with his masterful prose ever since he first electrified the literary minds of Mrs. Rudig's second grade class with his short story, *Banana, banana, banana in your ear*. Turner rode the momentum of this smash debut to a bachelor's degree in film studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara, widely held as Southern California's fifth most respected film school. Upon graduation, Turner immediately put his film education and a substantial portion of his parent's life savings to use by diving into a career in music. Ten years, three record labels, four day jobs, and one "super awesome" demo later, Turner returned to his true calling; writing. This time around not only did he break into his wife's top twenty list of favorite writers (still living), but the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences honored his feature comedy script, *Kidnapped*, by passing it through the quarter-final round of the 2009 Nicholl Fellowship. *Kidnapped* is currently in pre-production with Footprint Features and slated for a 2010 release.

Eric Adkins (cinematographer) a specialist in the world of digital photography and special effects, Eric is well known for his work on *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*, *Mars Attacks*, *We Own the Night*, *House MD*, *The PJs*. With over twenty years of feature, episodic television, documentary and commercial experience, Eric brings a powerful mix of creative imagery and craftsmanship infused with advanced and emerging technologies to the table. Eric's live action, visual effects and animation experience as Director of Photography has allowed him to participate in the creation of environments where the characters interact in their real and imaginative worlds.

Carlos Gutiérrez Bustillo (editor) has thirteen years of experience editing in television and film. *THE TRUTH* is his first feature film with Ryan Barton-Grimley, but his fifth collaboration following their work on several music videos. Displaying a brilliant storytelling talent, Carlos Gutiérrez Bustillo, a declared iconoclast, is spring-boarding in the footsteps of his influences, cinema's trailblazers of the likes of Oscar Micheaux, Luis Buñuel, and John Cassavetes."

Adrien Capozzi (composer) is known world wide as electronic musician ADRIEN 75. *THE TRUTH* is Adrien's first score for a feature film. Adrien75 has been making electronic music since 1993 (when he was introduced to the magic of MIDI by HYPERLINK "<http://tripform.com/>"Tripform). Before that he was making low-fi instrumentals with various borrowed instruments and 4-Track recorders. Before that he was just sort of humming and making strange clicking sounds. From 1996 - 2000, Adrien had a hand in the HYPERLINK "<http://carpetbomb.net/>"Carpet Bomb debacle and was, and possibly is, a member of Unagi Patrol and Microstudio. In 2006 Adrien produced the debut HYPERLINK "<http://cosmicstarfish.net/>"Cosmic Starfish album for

singer/songwriter Jeffrey Randall Snyder. Since 2007 I've been contributing mixes to the HYPERLINK "<http://upwithit.com/radio>"UpWithIt Radio Hour.

David C. Hughes (sound designer) a four time Academy Award nominee, David has worked on such well known films as Fight Club, Cast Away, Panic Room, Polar Express, and Zodiac

Cosmic Starfish aka Jeffrey Randall Snyder (Songwriter) writes damn good songs. Whether in the guise of psychedelic synth pop, flowery folk ballads or agro indie rock, his music will embrace you like a hug from a big furry Muppet monster. His first concert was a cover of "La Bamba" at the age of eleven in front of his Hebrew School. It was the most useful thing he ever learned there. Soon after, Jeffrey started the band Video Sex Pope with his middle school pals, sang in front of a bunch of girls, and never looked back. Between then and now, Jeffrey has recorded and toured with numerous bands, usually as the primary singer/songwriter. He has contributed music to movies "The Truth" and "You, Only Better" as well as the Irish television show, "I'm An Adult, Get Me Out Of Here". In addition, Jeffrey has self-released two critically acclaimed albums "Cosmic Starfish" and "Tonight's Favors", both of which continue to be played on college radio. His current project is that of sensitive solo artist. You can catch Cosmic Starfish every Sunday afternoon at Café Muse in Hollywood, playing without a set list, sort of like life.

Douglas Mueller (production designer) is an artist and filmmaker. He earned his B.A. studying film at California State University Monterey Bay. In school, he developed The BBC; 2002, a documentary which won local awards for regional pertinence. His graduating capstone was Crazy Flakes a short film which screened at the Antelope Valley Independent Film Festival in 2003. Since June 2004, he's served as production manager for the Carmel Bach Festival. His relationship with the Carmel Bach Festival has inspired Intermezzo 1, a short documentary about the festival's keyboard tuner, Carey Beebe. In 2005 Douglas completed Four Corners a film he directed and co-produced. The film screened around the United States, including Newport Beach Film Festival, Sidewalk Film Festival and the Science Fiction Short Film Festival, at the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in Seattle, WA., where it took second place. Early 2006 Douglas co-founded a media production company, Gulf Coast Premier Media, LLC., specializing in regional commercial production. In 2007 he also began producing short web-films for Chamber Music Monterey Bay. Recently Mueller was Production Designer for the feature film The Truth and Co-Producer of the feature film Prairie Love. Douglas Mueller continues to develop scripts for feature films. He's also completing production on a few short documentary film about Kristallnacht. In between productions Douglas enjoys painting, drawing and making photo essays and web videos.

Dwight Campbell (gaffer) known industry wide as the inventor of the "cyan night look", Dwight worked on The Abyss, Alien 3, Out of Sight, Kiss The Girls, Hard Rain, and About Schmidt.

CAST & CREW LIST

Written and Directed by.....Ryan Barton-Grimley
Produced byA.J. Gordon
Executive Producer..... Joel M. Schneider
Story by.....Ryan Barton-Grimley & Matt K. Turner
Jonathan DavenportJohn Heard
Gabriel Doyle.....Brendan Sexton III
Dana Davenport/ Christine..... Erin Cardillo
Gabriel's Father..... Daniel Baldwin
Gabriel's Mother..... Erica Shaffer
Young JonathanCarter MacIntyre
Young GabrielJacob Ochsner
Veteran CopChic Daniel
Rookie CopAaron Schneider
SecretaryJenna Brighton
Jogger #1..... Zoe Taylor
Jogger #2Joel M. Schneider
Valet Attendant..... A.J. Gordon

Production Coordinator..... Marcella Taylor
First Assistant DirectorKeith A.C. Jones
First A.D. Second UnitCory Johnson
Script SupervisorHeather "Casper" Casterlin
Director of Photography..... Eric Adkins
1st Assistant CameramanAlexander Yellen
2nd Assistant Cameraman..... Jesse Scott
Data Manager/ DITErin McKenzie Poole
Stills PhotographerJesse Scott
Stills Photographer..... Eric Bertholet
Production Sound Mixer.....Tom Boykin
Boom OperatorKyle Cowgill
Makeup/FXClare Layendecker
Makeup/Hair StylistVivien Sainz
Hair StylistDerrith Mitchell
Wardrobe StylistVania Ouzounova
Wardrobe AssistantSavannah Johnson
GafferDwight D. Campbell
Best Boy Electric..... Sebastian "C Bass" Amiri
1st ElectricianFrancisco Bulgarelli
ElectricNghia Khuu
ElectricMike Jones
ElectricAndrew Aiello

ElectricJoseph Turrentine
Electric ...;.....George Velesko
Key GripKevin Shipley
Best Boy GripDavid E. Duet
Grip.....Chris Coats
Production Designer.....Douglas Mueller
Art Director..... Lily Pahlow
Propmaster..... Doug Randall
Prop Assistant..... Sean Kirkpatrick
Web DesignerJoel M. Schneider
Edited ByCarlos Bustillo Gutiérrez
Sound DesignerDavid C. Hughes
CastingDream Big Casting
Sherry Henderson
Dan Velez
Stand Ins..... Jennifer Rettig
Ryan Jorgensen
Andrew Porras
Stunt Coordinator..... Bobby King
Production Legal ServicesMark Litwak and Assoc.
Set Production AssistantsAndrew Porras
Jennifer Rettig
Ken Barnhart
Sarmad Khan
Ryan Jorgensen
Nick Beard
Office Production Assistant Jessica Levy
Assistant to Ms. Carillo..... Jennifer Rettig
Assistant to Mr. SextonRyan Jorgenson
Studio TeachersJan Citron
Nancy Pyne-Hapke
Marsha Craig
Set Security.....Advance Guards and Patrol Services Inc.
Production Catering..... 24 Production Catering
Craft Service..... 24 Production Catering
Assistant Craft Service..... Megan Lane
Assistant Sound Editor..... Shane Sattler
Original Score By..... Adrien Capozzi
Video ClipCompliments of RBG Films
Girl's Name
Camera Provided by..... HD Camera Rentals
Casting by..... Dream Big Casting
Catering Provided by..... 24HR Production Catering

Dolly Provided byJ.L. Fisher
Generator Provided by..... SMS Generator
Grip and Lighting Equipment by..... Concept Lighting
Insurance Provided byFilm Emporium
Payroll ServiceEntertainment Partners
Trucking Provided by..... Galpin

Studio Services

Walkies Provided by J. Dolan Communications

Special Thanks Arrowhead

All American Softy

Home Depot

Feature This!

City National Bank

Andy Gump

PODS

Cruise America

Camy McGilvray