

PRESS KIT

MOTHS

A FILM BY ANDY FORTENBACHER



A FILM BY ANDY FORTENBACHER BLAINE MALLORY 'MOTHS' BRYAN BURTON BLAKE ROBBINS KIMBERLY HARSH
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CRAIG HARMER PRODUCED BY AARON BANNASCH CREDITS LEAH VUKOVICH CO-PRODUCED BY LISA MUELLER JIM SCHAUB LIZ MERRIMAN
CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CASSIDY BISHER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAN & SUZANNE FORTENBACHER KEVIN & SHELLEY SENEAL ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JAY LIFTON
IN ASSOCIATION WITH DROP DROP STUDIOS SCREENPLAY BY ZAC PAGE PRODUCED BY MADELEINE SHAPIRO DIRECTED BY ANDY FORTENBACHER

DRÖPDRÖP
STUDIOS

www.MothsMovie.com

COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY
FILM

CONTACT: AJFortenbacher@gmail.com --- www.AndyFortenbacher.com

Genre

Drama

Tagline

They only live to give more life.

Logline

While awaiting her father's return from the WW2 front lines, a 9-year-old girl helps the disfigured town outcast secretly nurture a rare breed of moths.

Synopsis

The chills of winter blow through a rural Midwestern community in 1944 and Sam Whitaker, a lonely 9-year-old, awaits her father's return from the World War 2 front lines. One day, Sam has a chance run in with a disfigured older boy named Frank, who is known for his monstrous appearance as the town outcast. Despite the harsh criticism from her peers, Sam befriends Frank, and learns a lesson about true friendship while nurturing a rare breed of moths.



Technical Details

Running Time	22:25
Shooting Format	RED Epic (5K)
Aspect Ratio	2.35:1
Sound	PCM (5.1 Surround) and PCM (Stereo)
Country of Production	USA
Date of Completion	April 2014
Language	English

Principal Crew

Director	Andy Fortenbacher
Story by	Zac Page, Andy Fortenbacher
Screenplay by	Zac Page
Producer	Madeleine Shapiro
Co-Producers	Lisa Mueller, Jim Schaub, Liz Merriman
Executive Producers	Dan & Suzanne Fortenbacher Kevin & Shelley Senecal
Co-Executive Producer	Cassidy Bisher
Associate Producer	Chris Kotcher, Ted Stewart
Director of Photography	Craig Harmer
Production Designer	Aaron Bannasch
Costume Designer	Leah Vukovich
Composer	Jay Lifton

Principal Cast

Sam Whitaker:	Blaine Mallory
Frank Cunningham:	Bryan Burton
Mr. Cunningham:	Blake Robbins
Vera Whitaker:	Kimberly Harsch

Links

Official Site	www.MothsMovie.com
Facebook	www.facebook.com/MothsShortFilm
Twitter	www.twitter.com/MothShortFilm
Trailer	See official site.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Andy Fortenbacher **Director**

ANDY FORTENBACHER is a native of West Michigan and is currently completing his MFA in film directing at Columbia University in New York City. Andy has built a portfolio of films that are rich in story about characters that battle their personal and external difficulties. Fortenbacher is particularly interested in dark dramas and genres such as suspense, thriller, and comedy and his technical proficiency produces a highly visual and auditory style of filmmaking that enhances his ability to tell his stories.

Fortenbacher has directed eight short films and has received numerous awards from film festivals around the world. In addition to his directorial projects, Fortenbacher is a member of the International Cinematographers Guild (IATSE - Local 600) and worked as camera assistant on several feature length films. He has also worked as the Director of Photography on a number short films, commercial productions, and web series in Michigan, New York City, and Los Angeles.

Before becoming a filmmaker, Fortenbacher spent several years working in audio production, which complemented his passion for music. When he is not working behind the camera, he enjoys working as a post-production sound designer and sound mixer.

www.andyfortenbacher.com

Madeleine Shapiro

Producer

MADDIE SHAPIRO has produced over a dozen short films in the three years since she made the move from theatre to film. She is known for her tireless work ethic, passion for story, and strong attention to detail. Maddie has a BA in Dramatic Literature and a BA in Theatre with an Honors in Acting from George Washington University. She will receive her MFA in Creative Producing from Columbia University's Graduate Film Program in 2014. After starting her career as an actor Maddie went on to write and produce independent theatre productions in Philadelphia. She also worked extensively as a production and stage manager.



No matter the medium Maddie continues to tell strong, character driver stories that reflect the difficulties and triumphs of life. She looks to work on stories that test the strength of the human spirit with directors who have a strong vision and passion for their work.



Zac Page

Writer

ZAC PAGE has established a distinctive voice and progressive vision as a filmmaker yielding a diverse portfolio of short form narratives over the past eight years. Acquiring multiple awards for his screenwriting and directing, Page's body of work has screened at film festivals around the world. Since acquiring his undergrad in 2010 Page has written three feature length scripts and just completed his feature film directorial debut *Burst Theory* that is seeking a festival world premiere, marketing and distribution.

Cassidy Bisher

Co- Executive Producer

CASSIDY BISHER is owner of DropDrop Studios in Grand Rapids Michigan. He has worked with high-profile clients including Verizon, AT&T, CAT and his work is seen on the Discovery Channel, History Channel and various TV commercials.



He operates a high-end production facility energized by a unique core of motivated and talented professionals. His goal is to help unite ideas with emotions through the method of telling compelling stories that capture the heart of the viewer. He is currently working on a few short films and a feature film, which is in the drafting phase.

<http://dropdropstudios.com>



Lisa Mueller

Co-Producer

LISA MUELLER, formerly an Engineer for over ten years, made a significant career move to pursue acting, which had been her long time passion. After moving to the film and television industry successfully, she also turned her attention to producing which fit well with her former career. Lisa got her first chance to produce when, because of her strong business

acumen, she was sought out to produce the short film, *After Visiting Hours*. Since then, Lisa has been a producer on 4 short films and 3 feature films that have garnered her an ever-growing comprehension of the industry. In addition to *Moths* (Co-Producer), Lisa's recent credits include *Devils In The Darkness* (Line

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Producer) and the feature film currently touring the festival circuit *Burst Theory* (Producer), which was her feature film Producing debut.

Jim Schaub
Co-Producer

JIM SCHAUB has been producing films since the early 1990's. One of his first films, *An Interview with Lou Raynor*, resides in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Jim works in a variety of genres from non-profit and corporate work to documentary and narrative features and shorts. His 2009



documentary *Up From the Bottoms: The Search for the American Dream* won 5 festival awards and has been airing on PBS across the country since 2011.

In recent years, Jim has produced and edited 6 projects for Nutrilite, a division of Amway Inc., 5 projects for the Richard M. DeVos Foundation, and is currently in development for a documentary on the life of acting legend, Cicely Tyson. His company, Clear Vision Films, has also produced music instructional DVD's with Regi Wooten, brother and teacher of Victor Wooten (bassist for Bela Fleck and the Flecktones) and Derico Watson, the extraordinary drummer that has played with SMV (Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller & Victor Wooten), George Duke, Larry Carlton and many others.

Jim also teaches courses in special effects and editing at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, specializing in Adobe After Effects, Photoshop and Premiere. He was also a presenter at the 2013 Postapalooza Editing Conference where he taught several sessions on After Effects. Jim spends his free time volunteering in the community at music festivals and playing with his two adorable granddaughters.



Liz Merriman
Co-Producer

LIZ MERRIMAN is a media maven, specializing in producing and production management. She has over 10 years of experience in front of and behind the camera. She is a Compass College of Cinematic Arts alum where she was top of her class, graduating with honors as valedictorian. Liz continues to excel at her craft—successfully producing a number of short films, commercials, and features. She is an active board member of the West Michigan Film and Video Alliance where she serves as the Secretary and is the head of the Social Media outreach.

She is the owner/operator of Happy Hat LLC, a West Michigan based company specializing in producing, production management and photography.

Craig Harmer
Director of Photography

CRAIG HARMER is a cinematographer and camera operator with a background in darkroom photography most known for his signature work in the independent feature films *Burst Theory* and *Mother's Milk*, as well as his many television advertising and short film productions which feature his unique perspective on creating powerful, cinematic imagery. During his time as a GVSU film student, he had the opportunity to meet and work with a number of talented filmmakers from diverse backgrounds, many of which he continues to collaborate with today. Recently, Craig has further established his skills in both TV and narrative fiction projects, working on production for national NASCAR television campaigns, and his upcoming third feature film “Residuum” which was produced in Chicago. With several additional films and media projects in development for the



future, Craig hopes to continue pursuing challenging and unusual work, increasing his ever-growing range of influences and experiences, and pushing his abilities to new heights in the years to come.



Jay Lifton **Composer**

JAY LIFTON grew up in the comfortable suburbs of Long Island where he was protected by his parents from anything bad ever happening to him. In the event they ever see this bio he wishes to make them aware that he is thankful for those halcyon days. Jay was a shy but happy youth who spent most of his time playing music, singing in choirs and avoiding sports.

Having been afraid to do anything truly risky in his childhood, he now spends his creative time seeking projects containing the very subject matter from which he was sheltered, including but not limited to: Drug use/addiction, prostitution, shoplifting, adultery, revenge, domestic abuse, money problems, the mentally ill, bullying, and/or throwing food from high buildings. He is also interested in quirky, eclectic projects full of non-sequiturs, and music for plays. He can usually be seen composing alongside a glass of iced tea and some cookies. Ironically, his favorite non-composing activity has become recreational boxing. When not busy with his two small boys, he shoots micro films on whatever camera is around at the time.

His music is heard somewhere on a daily basis, whether in films, independent theater, or national television commercials. This past year, he has composed music for *5 to 7*, Starring Anton Yelchin and Olivia Thirlby, *Chlorine*, starring Vincent D'Onofrio and Kyra Sedgwick, *Beneath the Sheets*, Starring Noah Bean, and *We Cause Scenes*, a documentary about performing arts group Improv Everywhere. Non-film projects include the scores to fifteen IBM commercials for the 2014 Golf Masters, and he recently won a silver London International Award for his score to the Huggies "Jeans" commercial. He is also an occasional columnist for Tape Op. Jay holds a B.A. in music from Tufts University, Medford MA, and an M.M. in Jazz Studies from The New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, MA. He lives in the non-hip part of Brooklyn with his wife and two sons.

Enos Desjardins

Sound Designer

ENOS DESJARDINS is a Finnish /Canadian sound designer and sound effects editor based in London working on feature films and video games. With a background in music recording and location sound Enos now spends significant time recording and acquiring proprietary sound effects for his projects.



His credits include films like *The Sweeney* (Ray Winstone, Damian Lewis) featuring big car chases and gun shootouts, *A Single Shot* (Sam Rockwell, William H. Macy) as well as a few *Need for Speed* video game titles. After completing his studies in Audio Engineering in 2009 he started working in film sound initially both on location and in post-production. A strong attention to detail and love of sonic textures combined with an understanding of storytelling through sound gives him the skills to weave detailed and unique sonic moments for every location and moment in a film or video game supporting each character and the story being told.



Aaron Bannasch

Production Designer

AARON BANNASCH is a production designer based in West Michigan. Since age seven he has been practicing the craft of motion pictures, inspired by his exposure to the films *Hook*, *Jurassic Park*, *Dazed and Confused*, *The Lion King*, and *Forrest Gump* during his formative years. He developed an appreciation for engineering and design growing up near Detroit; his parents and many of his extended family work in the auto industry. Summers were spent as a child laborer in the wilderness of the Upper Peninsula where he learned construction and outdoor survival skills. His interest in designing and building things manually, combined with a passion for visual arts and

communication, has led to a diverse career in multimedia storytelling. His role on Moths afforded Aaron the opportunity to work in both studio and practical locations to create period accurate spaces for the film to live in. Aaron has a BA and an MS in Communications from Grand Valley State University. He currently resides in Grand Rapids with his girlfriend, together they have a cat and some exotic houseplants. Someday, he intends to get a real job, but until then will continue working on crazy projects with other like-minded riffraff.

CAST



Blaine Mallory
as “Samantha Whitaker”

BLAINE MALLORY is an actress from Long Island, NY, raised in Chicago, IL born in 2003. Her career began at an early age of 6 months old as a child model for many national campaigns including American Girl, Ralph Lauren and Kohl’s. Blaine made her acting debut in the student film *Maternity* (2009) and has since worked on a variety of projects including student, short and feature films, as well as television, music video and commercial projects.

In her free time, she enjoys reading, tumbling, dance and playing kickball with friends. She has two younger brothers, Ryan and Flynn, as well as a dog named Lucky.

To learn more about Blaine, please visit www.BlaineMallory.com or her IMDB page at <http://www.imdb.me/blainemallory>

Bryan Burton
as “Frank Cunningham”

BRYAN BURTON is a New York-based young actor that was born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina (as he says “born and raised” in an overly caricatured Southern accent). After studying at a performing arts high school in Greensboro, he continued his training & education at UNC-Chapel Hill, in addition to other programs at the American Theatre Wing and UNC School of the Arts.



With over 12 years experience as an actor on-camera, on stage, and behind the mic in the voiceover booth, his most recent film/on-camera projects are *Learning to Drive* (opposite Ben Kingsley), *I Smile Back* (opposite Sarah Silverman), *Teach* (opposite comedian Reggie Watts), and *Mainland* (a new psychological thriller now hitting the festival circuit – www.MainlandFilm.com). When he’s not on set, Bryan’s also a graphic & web designer at his own design start-up for filmmakers and performers, FANBOY DESIGN.

Beyond the drama genre of stories like MOTHS, he loves very cerebral, sometimes fast-paced, and (often) awkward/uncomfortable situational comedy. He has a great sense of humor, with extensive physical and improv comedy experience, and he enjoys putting those skills to work in voiceover and on-camera commercials (Spring 2014 national campaigns for HBO-Go and American Express, with Tina Fey — www.bit.ly/HBOGoBryan, www.bit.ly/TinaFey30 and www.bit.ly/TinaFey60).

www.Bryan-Burton.com
[www.Facebook.com/BryanBurtonActor](https://www.facebook.com/BryanBurtonActor)
[www.Twitter.com/bryan_burton](https://www.twitter.com/bryan_burton)



Blake Robbins
as “Mr. Cunningham”

BLAKE ROBBINS is a successful film, theatre, and television actor & director best known for playing Tom Halpert on the hit NBC show *The Office*, for his role as C.O. Dave Brass on the critically acclaimed HBO series *OZ*, and most recently as Mitch Glender on FX’s *Sons of Anarchy*.

Recent film credits include *Jayhawkers* (2014) dir. Kevin Willmott, *Rubber* (2010) (Cannes Film Festival), *The Ugly Truth* (2009) (opposite Gerard Butler), *The Only Good Indian* (2009) (Sundance Film Festival), and *The Lull Breaker* (2013) (Toronto Film Festival). Other television appearances include recurring on *Flashforward*, *The O.C.*, *Firefly* (Joss Whedon), and the pilot episode of *Monday Mornings* (playing Dr. David Martin, aka 007) for creator David E. Kelley. Blake has an extensive theater background, and spent almost ten years acting in New York City. He made his Broadway debut in Arthur Miller’s *The Man Who Had All The Luck* opposite Chris O’Donnell, directed by Scott Ellis. His over sixty theatrical productions include *Tape* with the Naked Angels, *Joe Fearless* at the Atlantic Theater Company, *Hard Times* at the Evidence Room, *Hedda Gabler* at the Odyssey Theater, *Broadward* and *Placement* at the Black Dahlia Theater. He received an LA Weekly award for Best Performance for his work in *Placement*.

His feature film writing and directing debut, *The Sublime And Beautiful*, was selected as one of ten films to premiere in the narrative feature competition category of the 2014 Slamdance Film Festival. *Sublime* won the Heartland Award at the Kansas City FILMFEST, and is nominated for 7 Leonardo Da Vinci Golden Horse Awards from the Milan International Film Festival. It’s played at Cleveland International Film Festival, Atlanta Film Festival, Charleston International Film Festival and most recently at the Newport Beach Film Festival.

He resides in the Los Angeles area with his wife Karen, daughters Molly and Emma and son Cooper.

www.blakerobbins.com

www.imdb.com/name/nm1083077