

A SHORT FILM THRILLER

Directed by Gene Du Plessis

Produced by Bianca Fortin

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HERRINGBONE



PRESS KIT



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*“...With this film I hope to enlighten viewers
of the unbeknownst cognitive dissonance of their role
in an atrocious system, while at the same time,
both unsettling and entertaining them.”*

- Director, Gene Du Plessis



GENERAL INFORMATION

HERRINGBONE

Director Gene Du Plessis
Producer Bianca Fortin
Executive Producers Nicholas Bohnet / Anton Du Plessis
Genre..... Thriller / Drama
Language..... English
Country of Production USA
Completion Year..... August, 2018
Running Time..... 10 min 10 sec
Camera..... Red Dragon – Digital
Film Ratio..... 2.5:1
Sound Stereo 48KH
Film Location..... Los Angeles, California – USA
Awards/Screenings..... *Winner: Sydney Lift-Off 2018 Online Fest
*Selected: California Intl Film Festival 2018
*Selected: Manchester Lift-Off Fest 2019

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bianca Fortin: (Producer)

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Gene Du Plessis: (Director)

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TAGLINE

Is a moment's pleasure worth their lifelong suffering?

LOGLINE

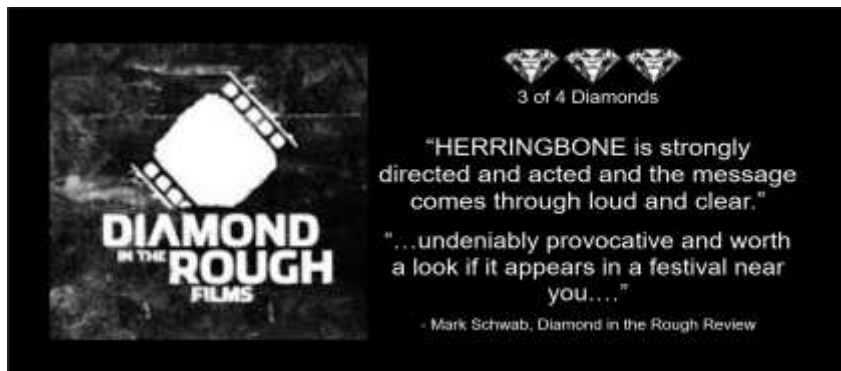
A young imprisoned woman subjugated to unspeakable cruelty discovers the chilling truth that humanity is at the root of her suffering- and perhaps her salvation.

SYNOPSIS

"Herringbone," a 10 minute short thriller, tells the story of Mina, a young woman enslaved alongside several others in a compound facility where they are subjugated to torture and abuse. In her struggle to survive her dire circumstances Mina forms a special bond and friendship with Rhonda, a demented woman in the neighboring cell, who supports Mina throughout her ordeal and helps her understand the shocking truth behind her captivity.

Mina faces her darkest hour when the two things she comes to care about most is violently taken from her - revealing humanity's indifference to an unspeakable cruelty. Will Mina's pleas be enough to finally put a stop to these heinous acts?

REVIEWS



5 STARS

"The script is outstanding, and it's clear both Jordan and Palm have put a lot into this movie: the sense of dread and fear displayed by Jordan's Mina is palpable, and the unhinged, defeated ramblings of Palm's Rhonda are brilliantly delivered and almost prophetic in nature." - Darren Tilby - UK Film Review

<https://www.ukfilmreview.co.uk/blog/herringbone-short-film-review>

4.5 STARS

'Herringbone' asks tough questions and looks audiences unflinchingly in the eye, and though many will look away, these are questions that need to be asked and realities that need to be faced. - Sristi Gayen; Indie Shorts Mag

<https://www.indieshortsmag.com/reviews/2019/03/herringbone-flips-the-spotlight-on-to-the-audience/>

3/4 DIAMONDS

HERRINGBONE tells a grim tale of visual metaphor designed to provoke and surprise... There is also an excellent score by Sergei Stern that powerfully adds to the disturbing imagery. - Mark Schwab; DITR Films

<http://www.ditrfilms.com/herringbone>

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Growing up on a farm in South Africa, I had an affinity for animals, but like most people, I never really questioned where they go or how they're treated. Having been raised vegetarian, I remember one day (I was about six) asking my Father, 'why don't we eat meat?'- to which he replied, "get in the car." He took me to my Uncle's farm where sheep were being corralled onto trucks, bound for slaughter. They were treated like objects rather than living, breathing beings. I remember hearing their cries and my stomach lurched as I saw a sheep being grabbed by its legs and hurled onto a flatbed. I heard its bones snapping in the process. It horrified me. My Dad then explained that he gave up dairy farming because after a while he couldn't stomach taking their calves away; and that's why we were crop farmers. This always stuck with me.

Years later, as a film-maker in L.A., I was looking to write and direct another film. I wanted to write a story that was compelling and one that would challenge me as a director. My wife, Lauren, and I began discussing ideas, and she finally said, "what if humans were treated the same as animals?" Immediately my mind jumped to grotesque horror with blood and gore, recalling images from the documentary, *Earthlings*.

However, once I started writing the story, I realized that I didn't want the film to be the "in your face" gratuitous blood and terror that animals endure every day. I wanted to connect the audience to the victim and offer a lens to a truth in a different way. Remembering my Dad's words, I turned my focus on the dairy industry. I had the idea of showcasing it like human trafficking to give the audience a parallel. We find it morally repulsive to pay for the exploitation of female humans, yet we turn a blind eye to the exploitation of other female animals for a few moments of pleasure on our pallets. I sent the draft to my sister, Bianca Fortin, who readily agreed to sign on as my producer, once again.

We ambitiously set out to put together an all vegan cast. I've always wanted to work with compassionate animal activist and talented actress, Cortney Palm- and it just felt right from the moment we brought her on. We continued casting until we were enthralled by the gripping performance of another talented, vegan actress, Chelsea Jordan. By the time of shooting, we had assembled a full vegan cast, including all our extras, V.O. talent and even the majority of our film crew.

Herringbone was, on one hand, an easy film to write, having seen first-hand the suffering that commercial dairy farm animals endure; but on the other, watching Chelsea and Cortney with their heartfelt performances made it very real for all of us, especially with the arrival of Bean, an actual rescued dairy farm drop-calf, to star in the final scene. Even though Bean, unlike countless other calves, was ensured a good home at a sanctuary afterwards, his brief presence was a sobering reminder of the reasons I wanted to make this film.

In short, I firmly believe that it is our responsibility to care for the well-being of animals, and with this film I hope to enlighten our viewers of the unbeknownst cognitive dissonance of their role in this atrocious system, while at the same time both unsettling and entertaining them.

-Gene Du Plessis

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

DIRECTOR

Gene Du Plessis – Born in South Africa in 1985, Eugene (Gene) Du Plessis sailed across the South Atlantic Ocean on a catamaran with his family at age eight and spent his youth in the Caribbean Islands and Florida. At age thirteen he successfully created a cartoon strip which was published in the BVI Beacon, a local British Virgin Island's newspaper. In the years following he acted in a variety of theater productions and co-starred in Mama Mia's- a television sitcom pilot- which sparked his interest in film-making. Soon afterwards, Gene moved to Australia where, as a teenager, he created short films, documentaries, and animation shorts using whichever cameras he could afford. Having found his calling, he applied to the New York Film Academy, in Los Angeles, California in 2012, where he honed his film making skills and set his sights on directing. Gene co-wrote and directed his first comedy film, "Life and Death" in 2013. Following his graduation from the New York Film Academy, Gene has worked on over fifty-two film projects including short films, features, music videos, and television series. Besides film-making Gene is also an avid artist and animal activist. Proceeds of his art sales are donated to the World Wildlife Foundation and The Cheetah Outreach program in South Africa. Gene presently lives in Los Angeles where he works as a freelance film maker, director, and AC; and uses his love for art, visual effects, special effects make-up to enhance his stories and characters. His latest project, the short film thriller, Herringbone, puts him back in the Director's chair and showcases his fight for animal rights.



PRODUCER

Bianca Fortin - Originally from South Africa, Bianca dove into the arts at a young age. As a child actress she started in theater and commercial television, before relocating with her family to America. In her early 20's she was cast in "Mama Mia's" a TV series pilot produced by DirecTV, a local production company, in Florida – for which she later worked in all areas of production, from pre to post. Within a year Bianca developed a "children's division" and wrote, co-produced, and directed a children's pilot show, followed by a film for television. In 2003, she moved to California and worked as a casting producer on several reality shows including ABC's 'The Bachelor' and ESPN's 'I'd Do Anything.' Switching careers to be with her husband, she trained as a yacht stewardess, but found time to film travel documentaries while working in the mega yacht industry. In 2013, with her unwavering enthusiasm for film and television production, she returned to the industry to produce the short film "Life and Death" for her brother, director Gene Du Plessis and collaborated with him again on "Herringbone, a short thriller released late 2018 which has received several nominations and awards for Best Short Film. Bianca resides in France where she continues to write and produce for film and television.



CREW BIOGRAPHIES

DIRECTOR of PHOTOGRAPHY

Egor Povolotskiy -. A cinematographer with a Masters Degree from MEPHI (Moscow Engineering and Physics Institute) in Artificial Intelligence, and a Master of Fine Arts in Cinematography from The New York Film Academy; Egor Povolotskiy uses his experience and creativity to showcase his talents as acknowledged by American Cinematographer Magazine in 2017. He started his career as a Photo Journalist for Russia's largest news agency, ITAR -TASS in Moscow; then later worked as a celebrity photographer. Once Egor relocated to California he quickly moved up the ranks to Director of Photography at Assembly Line Entertainment, and then Black Drone Media in Los Angeles. Egor has achieved three awards at the Rochester International and Voya Film Festivals plus another four nominations for his short film "We Are Enemies."



COMPOSER

Sergei Stern - Originating from Russia, Sergei started playing classical piano at the age of three. He earned a BMus in classical music Composition and Conducting from Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, while simultaneously playing in a rock band. Deciding to combine his songwriting, contemporary multimedia music composition, classical orchestration techniques and performance abilities with his other passion – cinema – he moved to the USA. After graduating with an MFA in Music Composition for Screen from Columbia College – Chicago, he assisted Danny Elfman and Steve Bartek, before taking an independent route. Since then Sergei has scored more than 80 films including documentaries, animations, short films, features, musicals, video games, and commercials which have earned him six 'Best Original Score'



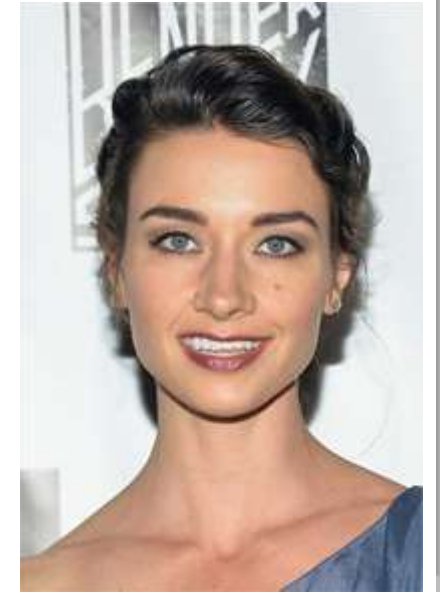
MAIN CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Cortney Palm – “RHONDA”

Theatrically trained, Cortney has played roles from Moliere to Lillian Hellman while in her undergrad at California Lutheran University. She quickly gained acclaim in the film industry with her titular role in Sushi Girl catapulting her into other memorable roles such as Maria who gets thrown into a wood chipper by a deranged Santa Claus in Silent Night and lead roles such as Daniela in Tourbillon and Zoe in the comedy-horror (with a viral trailer) Zombeavers. Cortney is also known for her appearance in The Purge: Anarchy.

During her undergrad, Cortney studied classical theater from around the globe on up to film acting techniques with Joshua Finkle and Michael Caine. She was nominated for an Irene Ryan Award for her performance in the Black Box production of Tape and was awarded Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress by her peers for her performances during school. Once out of school she trained under Yonda Davis at the Ivana Chubbuck acting studio, and Rick Walters at Theatercraft Playhouse.

When Cortney is not acting she is known for flipping on her trampoline or taking her three dogs outside for a walk. She loves vegan food and can be found eating an entire pint of coconut cream ice cream when she isn't downing a horribly-made green drink in her Vitamix.



Chelsea Jordan – “MINA”

Frisco, Texas native, Chelsea Jordan found her way into acting in the simplest way possible – through her love for telling stories since she was a child. This love led her to study film at the University of Texas at Austin. Upon graduating, she made the move to Los Angeles, California; where, after a year working as an assistant editor at a film trailer house, she left to turn her focus on her acting career in 2016.

Today, Chelsea is no stranger to acting alongside established performers. Her natural talent and fresh approach to her character portrayals has landed her roles in several film projects and more recently she can be seen in “On-Site” and in “As Long as I’m Famous”- Directed by Bruce Reisman. In a topic close to her heart, Chelsea takes on the starring role in “Herringbone” – opposite Cortney Palm. A truly immersive talent, Chelsea’s naturalism and relentless preparation bring a realism to her performances that is simply remarkable.

Residing in Los Angeles, California, Chelsea is also a passionate animal lover and has been vegan since 2014. She enjoys singing, playing the piano, painting, and hiking with, Saint, her seven-year old German Shepard-Border Collie mix.



SUPPORTING CAST

CAST

Mina..... Chelsea Jordan
Rhonda..... Cortney Palm
Bean the Calf..... as Himself

EXTRAS

Girl 1..... Zoe Simpson Dean
Girl 2..... Camille Collins
Girl 3..... Lauren Moscatel
Girl 4..... Allison Tenold
Farmer..... Burns Burns
Russian Captor..... Alexander Babaev
French Captor..... Mark Furze
Spanish Captor..... Daniele La Leggia
Voice of Spanish Captor..... Isaac Para-Azocar
Voice Over - Afrikaans Gene Du Plessis



Zoe Simpson Dean



Camille Collins



Lauren Moscatel



Burns Burns



Alex Babaev



Mark Furze



Daniele La Leggia



Isaac Para - Azocar



Bean the Calf

CREW LIST

Directed / Written by..... Gene Du Plessis
Produced / Screenplay..... Bianca Fortin
Executive Producer..... Nicholas Bohnet / Anton Du Plessis
Director of Photography..... Egor Povolotskiy
Editor..... Alexander Babaev
Music Composed by..... Sergei Stern
Sound Design by..... Kelly Singer
Casting..... Bianca Fortin
1st Assistant Director..... Alexander Babaev
1st AC..... Majd Mazin
2nd AC..... Liam Ark
Gaffer..... Ilya Chegodar
Key Grip..... Sye Conteh
Grips..... Jourdain Smith/Falk Mattern/Bobby Baldanza
Digital Image Tech..... Ferid Hasbun
Electric Technician..... Ara Thomas
Sound Mixer..... Justin Lee Dixon
Visual Effects..... Stormwalker LLC: Art Miroshin / Alex Koenig
Set Designer / Art Director.... Burns Burns
Set Dresser..... Levi Duncan
Leadman Eric Liebrecht
Script Supervisor..... Carolina Sandoval
Production Coordinator..... Rita Du Plessis
Producer Assistant..... Lauren Moscatel
Set Photographers..... Feli Yang
Wardrobe / Prop Master..... Viktoria Babaeva
Make-Up..... Stephanie Rodriguez
Catering..... Xenia Ocean / Veggie Grill

CREDITS

FILM SUPPORT

United Agencies Inc – Talisa Sanchez
Space Station Casting Studios, Hollywood, CA

EQUIPMENT

Wooden Nickel Lighting Inc.

PROPS

Gene Du Plessis

CAST SUPPORT

SAG / AFTRA

ANIMAL HANDLER / SUPERVISOR

Scott Davis

Special thanks to:
Nicholas Bohnet

CREDIT IMAGES

Mercy For Animals
Special thanks to Rachel Faulkner

PERMITS

Film LA * City of Los Angeles

LOCATIONS

Special thanks to:
Lacity.org - Karen Arevalo

Filmed on location at South Los Angeles Wetlands, California

Director Q & A

Q: What makes this film different from your last film?

A: I wanted to use a thriller film genre as a compelling approach to showcase an otherwise repulsive subject matter and maybe give a voice to animal victims. Compared to my last projects, this film was very personal, and I felt emotionally attached to the story based on what I've witnessed and because we had so many like-minded people on this project, there was a kind of camaraderie.

Q: Why did you decide to use an all vegan cast?

A: Having a vegan cast was an important part of the film because I knew they would be familiar and passionate about the subject matter. We approached Cortney Palm from the beginning as I'd had her in mind while still in the writing phase, and then casting in Los Angeles made it a lot easier as we were impressed at how many talented people today have made life changes in order to support animal rights. Our main cast, Cortney Palm and Chelsea Jordan, were amazing to work with and really brought stirring insight to their characters.

Q: How and where did you find Bean, the calf, that appeared in your film?

A: Bean, is a rescued drop calf from a dairy farm in central California that was scheduled for slaughter. To me, the final scene was the most important scene in the film where the human baby is finally revealed as being a calf, and to do so we needed it to be authentic, meaning, 'find a calf' – not an easy task in Los Angeles. We refused to buy one from an auction, so after weeks of phone calls, meetings, and emails, we found the resources to actually rescue one. This was a bitter-sweet thing for us. At four days old, Bean showed up on set with his handler, Scott, who he had strongly bonded with in just a couple of days. He was so trusting and just wanted affection all the time from everyone he saw. His very brief presence was a reminder to me (and all of us on set) why this film was being made. Knowing that Bean was going to a safe home where he would have a good life was worth all the money we had to put up for his post care and medical costs. He was the film's ambassador, and ultimately stole the show and everyone's hearts.

Q: What were the most challenging things about making this film?

A: It was heart-wrenching to watch Cortney and Chelsea being put through the physical and emotional strains that were demanded by their characters. They really took this to heart because of the subject matter they both felt so strongly about, and we provided post-shoot support for them each day.

Q: Your sister, Bianca produced your film. What was it like working with a family member in a director – producer relationship?

A: It was an easy decision to call Bianca to produce my film. We've worked together before, both as actors and later when she produced my first short film. For this film, I needed an organized producer to pull it off in our time frame and budget, but more importantly, I needed someone who would really get the theme and understand the vision of this film. Sure, we occasionally butt heads as brother and sister, but as director and producer we collaborate beautifully. She would say something like - "That scene (that stunt) is not reasonable Gene, we've got to change it." I would answer, "Stop messing with my vision, man." Then we would laugh and find a solution. (laughs)

Q: What are your ultimate goals for the film?

A: My ultimate goal would be to turn it into a feature film which explores and focusses on the theoretical concept of humans being treated the same way we treat animals in factory farming, which would more thoroughly showcase the cycle of abuse and exploitation that occurs in animal agriculture as a whole.

FILM STILLS



Mina in her cell.



Rhonda's doll, "Mina"



Captor grabs the girls.



Mina - "Uggghhh!"



Rhonda - In chains for the "Milking Scene."



Rhonda falls- "Carry on without me. Go!"



Mina - "Who are you?"

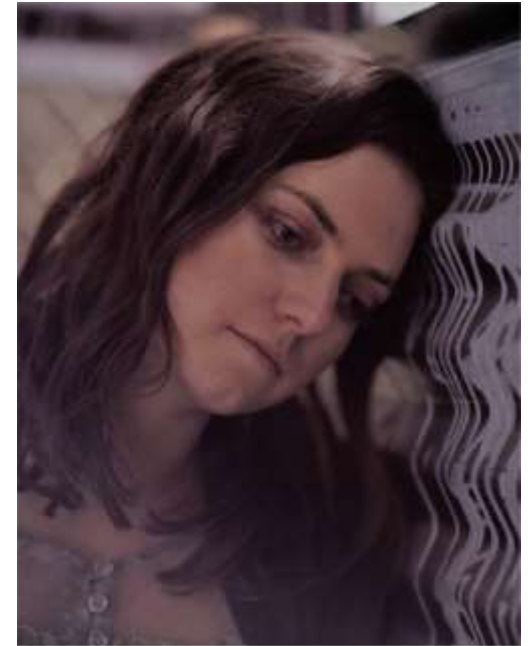
FILM STILLs



Mina – There is no escape.



Rhonda – Getting put down.



Mina – The nightmare continues.



Rhonda – “There’s something happening here...”



Mina- “There has to be a way to escape these monsters.”



Rhonda tells Mina the truth.

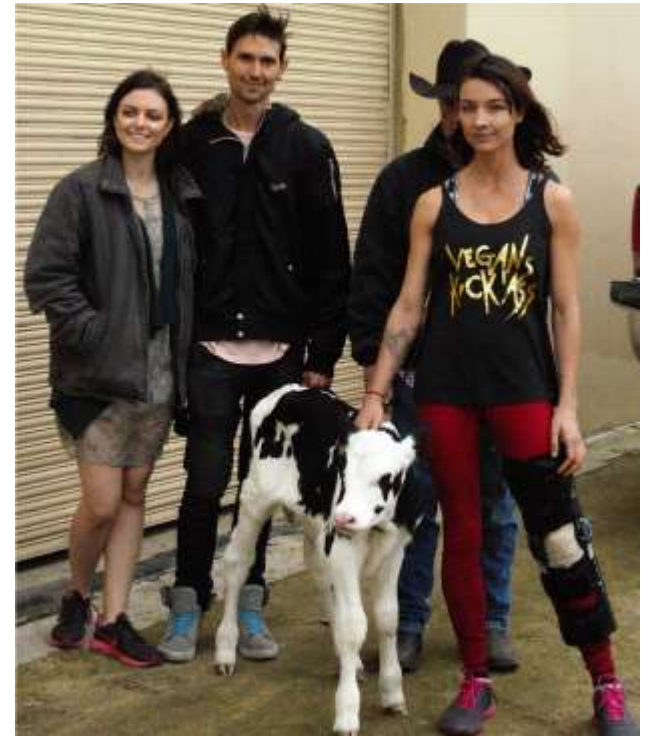
BEHIND THE SCENE STILLS



Director Gene stops to give Bean some love before his scene.



Director Gene goes for another take.



Chelsea, Gene, & Cortney say good-bye to co-star Bean.



Bean tucked away in his comfy new home after his scene.



DP- Egor sets up the final shot.



"And, Action!" Bean looking comfortable with his co-star, Burns Burns







PPOSTCARD FRONT

HERRINGBONE

Is a moment's pleasure worth their lifelong suffering?

CHELSEA JORDAN

CORTNEY PALM

A young imprisoned woman subjugated to unspeakable cruelty discovers the chilling truth that humanity is at the root of her suffering - and perhaps her salvation.

Directed by
Gene Du Plessis

A Short Film Thriller

Produced by
Bianca Fortin

POSTCARD BACK

HERRINGBONE

Now Showing

www.facebook.com/geneduplessis.film
www.geneduplessis.com/herringbonefilm

"Herringbone," a 10 minute short thriller, tells the story of Mina, a young woman enslaved alongside several others in a compound where they are subjugated to torture and abuse. In her struggle to survive her dire circumstances, Mina forms a special friendship with Rhonda, a demented woman in the neighboring cell, who supports Mina and helps her understand the shocking truth behind her captivity. In Mina's darkest hour she faces humanity's indifference to this unspeakable cruelty. Will Mina's pleas be enough to finally put a stop to these heinous acts?

Directed by GENE DU PLESSIS Produced by BIANCA FORTIN "HERRINGBONE" Starring CHELSEA JORDAN and CORTNEY PALM
Director of Photography EIGH POVOLOVSKY Music SEIGEL STERN Editor ALEXANDER BARABEV Sound Design KELLY SINGER Production Designer BURNS BURNS
Visual Effects STUDIOWALKER LLC Art MISHKIN Written by GENE DU PLESSIS Screenplay GENE DU PLESSIS and BIANCA FORTIN
Executive Producers ANTON DU PLESSIS and NICHOLAS BOHNET Filmed on location in LOS ANGELES, CA copyright 2018



WINNER
BEST SHORT FILM
SYDNEY
2018

WINNER
OFFICIAL SELECTION
L.I.M.P.A.
2018

WINNER
OFFICIAL SELECTION
California Women's
Film Festival
2019

WINNER
GLOBAL SHORTS
2019

OFFICIAL SELECTION
ARFF AMSTERDAM
2019

WINNER
London Independent
Film Awards
2018

WINNER
NICE
2019

NOMINATED
Best Screenplay
for a Short Film
NICE INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2019

NOMINATED
Best Short Film
NICE INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2019

OFFICIAL SELECTION
P.S. 125 FESTIVAL
2019

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Manchester
2019

HERRINGBONE



Is a moment's pleasure worth their lifelong suffering?



CHELSEA JORDAN ★★★★★ CORTNEY PALM

"An intelligent and poignant piece of work." - UK Film Review

Directed by GENE DU PLESSIS Produced by BIANCA FORTIN "HERRINGBONE" Starring CHELSEA JORDAN and CORTNEY PALM
 Director of Photography EGOR POVOLOTSKIY Music by SERGEI STERN Edited by ALEXANDER BABAEV Sound Design by KELLY SINGER
 Visual Effects by STORMWALKER LLC Art Miroshin Written by GENE DU PLESSIS Production Designer BURNS BURNS
 Screenplay by GENE DU PLESSIS and BIANCA FORTIN Executive Producers ANTON DU PLESSIS and NICHOLAS BOHNET
 Filmed on location in LOS ANGELES, CA copyright 2018



HERRINGBONE

WEBSITE

www.geneduplessis.com/herringbone-short-film



HERRINGBONE

SOCIAL MEDIA

