

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

KELSEA PAUL

TRIAL

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

JAMIE HEGLUND

STEVE KASAN

TOM PEARSON

ESHANA'S

BRITTANY PERERA

NADY SHEPHERD



WE HOURS PRODUCTIONS & PRESTINE MEDIA INC. IN ASSOCIATION WITH ARCAE FILM GROUP AND STUDIO REEL FILMS PRESENT

AN IDOWU OKENIYI FILM "ESHANA'S TRIAL"

STARRING BRITTANY PERERA STEVE KASAN TOM PEARSON KELSEA PAUL JAMIE HEGLUND AND NADA SHEPHERD  
DIRECTED BY IDOWU OKENIYI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PIOTR SKORONSKI EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALEKS SPURMANIS CO-PRODUCER SARAH STELLA KWAJI EDITOR ANDREA NOVOA MUSIC BY BEN D'CUNHA  
SCREENPLAY BY ALEKS SPURMANIS DANNIELLE D. JAMES DURGA RAJU MYAKALA



# ESHANA'S TRIAL

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

## LOGLINE

In order to resume her life, a young victim of Islamophobic violence must first confront the malevolent entity that imprisons her in her home.

# ESHANA'S TRIVL

GENRE: Psychological horror

RUNTIME: 12 minutes

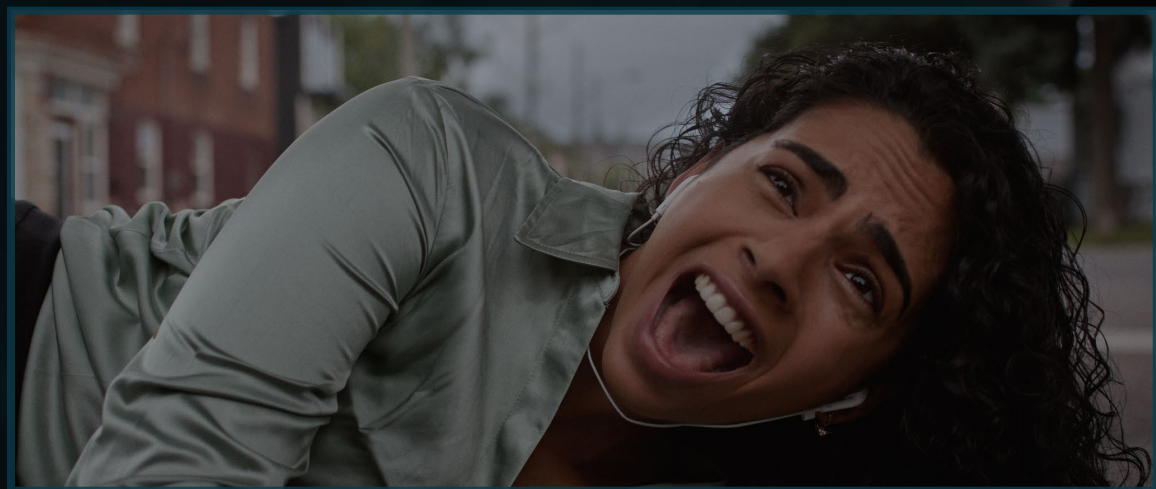
SHOT ON: S35 6K Komodo Red Digital Camera with Cinebloom moment diffusion, density 10%. Focal length 24mm and 35mm FF Cine Primes.

## SYNOPSIS

Times are tough but Eshana Patel and her fiance Latif are helping their community by running a Halal food bank out of their restaurant. Immigration critic John Campbell and his angry supporters are trying to shut down their efforts as a way to pressure expats to leave the city. After being gravely injured when an attempt to intimidate her goes horribly wrong, Eshana finds herself trapped in a surreal and terrifying new reality. Now she must confront Campbell's sinister alter ego, the Hangman, to escape the prison that he has made of her home.



# TRAILER



Click [HERE](#) or on the image to view

# PRODUCTION STILLS



# PRODUCTION STILLS



# IDOWU OKENIYI

is a Nigerian - Ghanaian film director, producer and a co-founder of **Studio Reel Films**. He began his film-making career in 2008 when he shot and directed his first short film with a phone camera and using his roommates as actors. He taught himself everything he knows about filmmaking from practical experience and experimenting with friends.

Idowu's first official film was **"The Special One"**, an adaptation of the book by Samuel Suberu Oluwasegun. It's a story about a deaf girl's struggle with ableism. His other directorial credits include two other short films that deal with societal and psychological issues: **"3 Nights Ago"** and **"Jungle Justice"**. These short films have garnered a number of awards in film festivals.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"All of my previous films deal with difficult and emotionally challenging subjects like ableism, PTSD, vigilantism. I have always taken great care to approach these subjects with empathy and sensitivity for those who have suffered; but I've also never sanitized or sugar coated that suffering either. Eshana's journey is a difficult one filled with many unpleasant twists that may be hard for viewers to watch. I am looking forward to challenging my audience to feel her pain; and feel her resentment and vulnerability. I also plan to comfort them by showing them how she is redeemed by letting go of...of her fear.



I hope that audiences will be able to see their own fears and resentments reflected in the plight of both of our main characters, Eshana and Latif. I hope that it will help them to understand how holding onto these negative emotions keeps us feeling isolated and alone. I also hope that they can see the value of letting them go, even when it seems impossible or futile to do so."

Watch the video **HERE**

# MAIN CAST

## BRITANY PERERA

as ESHANA PATEL



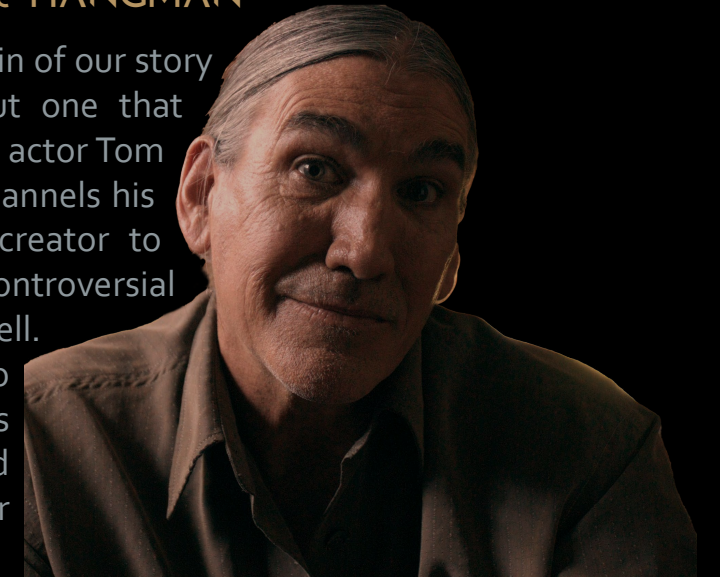
Starring in her breakout role as Eshana Patel, newcomer Brittany Perera delivers a standout performance that is as moving as it is genuine. Brittany is an actress whose career you will want to follow. Her captivating screen presence is sure to garner many accolades and compelling new assignments. Her other acting credits include "The Morning After" (2024) and "Dhillon Hates Dhillon" (in production).

[www.imdb.com/name/nm15084075](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm15084075)

# MAIN CAST

## TOM PEARSON

as the HANGMAN



Portraying the iconic villain of our story may be a tall order, but one that veteran stage and screen actor Tom Pearson is up for. Tom channels his experience as a content creator to portray combative and controversial news personality John Campbell.

As Campbell's sinister alter ego Hangman, Tom combines theatrical physicality and nuanced understatement to create a monster that audiences will dread to see.

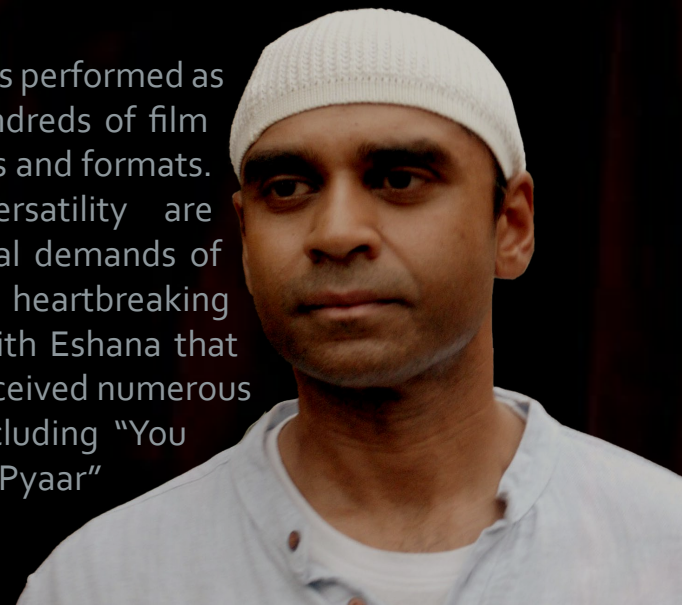
[The Very Useful Theater Company](#)

## STEVE KASAN

as LATIF ATTALAH

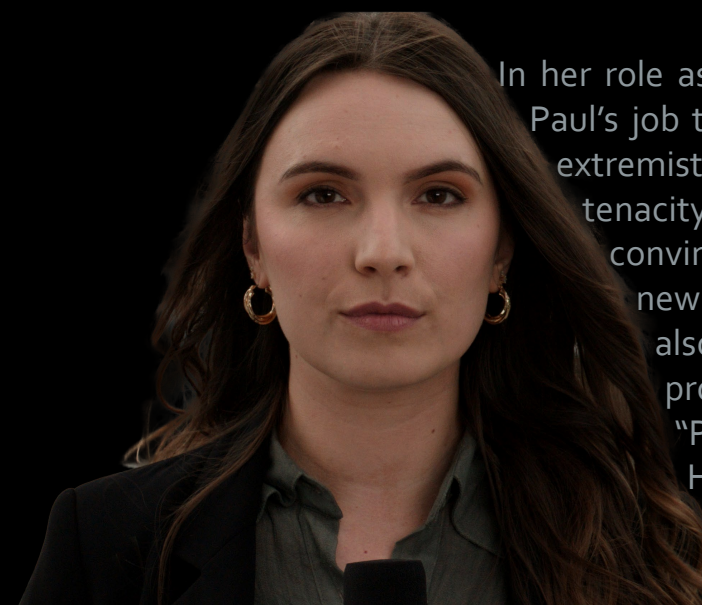
Over the 15+ years that Steve Kasan has performed as a stunt actor, he has appeared in hundreds of film and TV projects that span many genres and formats. While Steve's athleticism and versatility are indispensable for meeting the physical demands of his role as Latif, it is the tenderly heartbreaking moment that this character shares with Eshana that audiences will remember. Steve has received numerous awards for his past performances including "You Don't Own Me" (2021), "The Depth of Pyaar" (2019), and "Actor's Life" (2016).

[www.imdb.com/name/nm3885547](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3885547)



## KELSEA PAUL

as AIDYN GADLING



In her role as news reporter Aidyn Gadling, it is Kelsea Paul's job to confront the controversial world view of extremist John Campbell. Kelsea portrays Aidyn's tenacity and journalistic professionalism so convincingly that it may land her a job with a local news network. This Lewis Baumann alumna also appears in a number of other recent film productions including "The Life Coach" (2024), "Powdered Ink" (in production) and "Our Home" (in production).

[www.imdb.com/name/nm15302618](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm15302618)

# A CONVERSATION WITH CREATOR

# ALEKS SPURMANIS

## When did you start making this film?

We began principal photography in the summer of 2023, but I really started writing the script at the height of the lockdown in 2020.

## What motivated you to tell this story?

The human suffering that occurred during the pandemic was made even worse by a dramatic escalation in hate crime. I became concerned that the coded messaging of certain opinion leaders was inciting this violence and was compelled to say something about it.

## What did you want to say?

In the aftermath of World War II, Maurice Ogden wrote a poem called "The Hangman" to warn us against allowing fear to control us. Concerned that history could be repeating itself, I felt morally obligated to remind the public about his warning, but I also wanted to leave them with a sense of agency and hope.

## What is "The Hangman" about?

It is about a malevolent authority figure who sows fear and confusion to subjugate the people of a small town while he systematically murders them.

## How is your story different?

The protagonist of Ogden's story is an anti-hero who ultimately reaps the consequence of his moral failings. I wanted to present audiences with a hero that they could empathize with. I also wanted her to be able to stand up to the Hangman where Ogden's narrator failed.

## Why did you choose a woman to be your hero?

My hero needed to have a very high level of emotional intelligence to be able to confront the Hangman. I thought that it would be more appropriate and believable to portray this person as a woman.

## What do you want audiences take away from this film?

Being afraid of danger isn't a moral failing even when that fear can be exploited to control and dominate us. Should we find ourselves in the thrall of a "Hangman", we can regain our agency by reconnecting to our capacity for gratitude and compassion. This can be an extremely difficult thing to do, but is even possible in the aftermath of overwhelming trauma.

## What is the film's connection to Islamophobia?

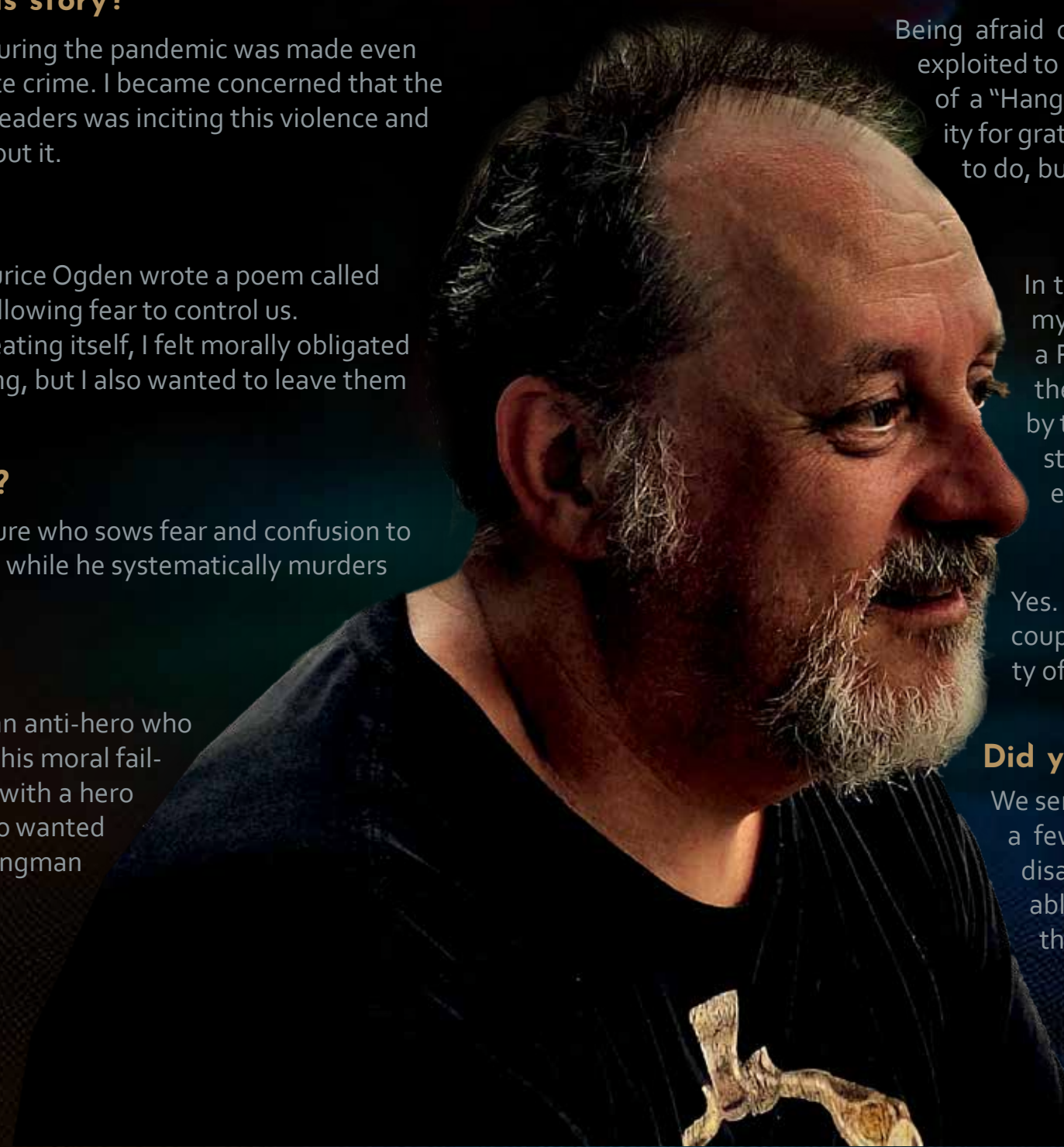
In the summer of 2021, a proudly multicultural community near my home was devastated by the shocking and brutal murder of a Pakistani family. The perpetrator of the crime, who targeted the victims because of their appearance, had been radicalized by the kind of coded messaging that concerned me. I wanted my story to reflect the suffering of the survivors and honor their emotional resilience.

## Are Latif and Eshana an interfaith couple?

Yes. I wanted the audience to see them as a loving multicultural couple. I also wanted to open the door to exploring the complexity of their interfaith relationship in a feature-length adaptation.

## Did you reach out to a disabled actor to play Eshana?

We sent out a casting call to disabled actors and corresponded with a few promising candidates. While we were unable to find a disabled actress (who could also realistically portray the able-bodied version of the character) for this film, it is an option that we intend to revisit in a feature-length adaptation.



# BEHIND THE

# SCENES



Photos by Joyce Jiang, Andrea Krepelka, and Nellie Jalalzadeh

click [HERE](#) for BTS video

# KEY CREW



**SARAH KWAJI** COPRODUCER

Sarah began her film career in 2017 as a student at the Toronto Film School and later pursued postgraduate studies in Advanced Film Production at Sheridan College. She works on various projects in the Canadian Film and Television industry, including commercial, scripted, and unscripted productions, in multiple capacities. Her notable production credits include **Out in the Darkness (In production)**, and **Realm 2 (2024)**.  
[www.imdb.com/name/nm11328985](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm11328985)

**BABA AGUNLOYE** ASSITANT DIRECTOR

Having received a diploma in film production in 2020 at the Toronto Film School, Babatunde is building creative capacity as a script writer, producer, director and editor. His love for storytelling has led him to write, produce, direct, edit, and/or participate in a number of short film, documentary and commercial projects including working on-set with notable film director **Jamie Bailey**. His directoral credits include the television miniseries **Realm 2 (2024)**, and short films **Psalm 23 (2022)**, and **Third Scar (2020)**.  
[www.imdb.com/name/nm11383705](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm11383705)



**ALEKS SPURMANIS** PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Aleks began producing films during the pandemic as a way to share stories of compassion and resilience amid our dark and uncertain times. His passion for visual storytelling has lead him into collaborations with like-minded creatives in the independent Ontario film industry. Self-funded with the help of a generous personal loan, Eshana's Trial is Aleks's first production. Having founded the **We Hours Productions** film production company in 2024, his other film projects include **Well, Who Knew? (2023)**.  
<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm15733033>

# KEY CREW

**ANDREA NOVOA**

EDITOR

Transitioning from an extensive background in dance performance and choreography, Andrea's segue into film editing was a natural progression, influenced by her continued dedication to movement and expression. Graduating with honours in 2020 from Canadore College's post-graduate Post-Production program, Andrea's editorial talent can be seen in numerous acclaimed and award winning short films, including the serial documentary **The Dance Connection (2020)** and the neo-noir drama **Bang Bang (2023)**.

[www.imdb.com/name/nm9573256](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm9573256)

**PIOTR SKOWRONSKI**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

With a broad portfolio ranging from narrative films, documentaries, music videos and commercial projects, Piotr's extensive experience along with his passion for lighting, composition and visual storytelling drive his ambition for creating strong, meaningful and compelling imagery on screen. As a leading member of the **Arcane Film Group** he has helped transform low budget filmmaking into an avenue for innovation. His other projects include the feature length drama **The Discarded (2019)** and the short neo-noir drama **Bang Bang (2023)**.

[www.imdb.com/name/nm2128183](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2128183)

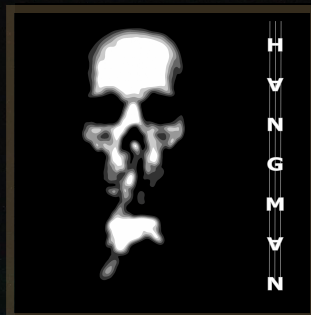


# PRODUCTION



Director **Idowu Okeniyi** and DOP **Piotr Skowronski** developed the ambitious shotlist that allowed us to attain the high quality of cinematography that we achieved in this production. Given the unenviable task of keeping our cast and crew on a very demanding shooting schedule, Assistant Director **Babatunde Agunloye** still found time to deflect on-set tension with some timely humor.

When the first Assistant Director that we hired left the project mere weeks before principal photography, co-producer **Sarah Kwaji** used her industry connections to quickly find us a trusted and capable replacement in the form of **Babatunde Agunloye**.



Inspired by the iconic villain that Maurice Ogden penned in 1951, this film was originally titled **The Hangman**. As we approached the film's release date however, we discovered no less than 18 previous releases with the same title. While we renamed our production to **Eshana's Trial** as a way to differentiate it, we also feel that the new title better reflects our film's aspirational messaging.

Photos by Joyce Jiang, Andrea Krepelka, Rashik Uddin, and Jessa Le Carre

# CHALLENGES

Some supporting crew members chose to back out participating in our production at the last moment. While co-producer **Sarah Kwaji** helped us recruit other talent, Executive Producer **Aleks Spurmanis** and his wife, Head Hairstylist **Dominique Spurmanis**, were forced to backfill several supporting roles. Fighting exhaustion, they succeeded in keeping our production schedule on track.



Due to our budget constraints, **Brittany Perera**, **Tom Pearson** and **Steve Kasan** all performed their own stunts. While Steve is a trained and seasoned stunt actor, both Tom and Brittany needed to learn some challenging new skills with the help of our knowledgeable stunt coordinator Paul Stafford.

EDM artist **Jessa Le Carre** fell in love with the concept of our film and wanted to be part of our production even though we didn't have the budget to fly her in from her home in Washington DC. Having arranged her own lodging and transport, our intrepid superfan arrived on-set prepared to play not just one but two background roles in our film!



# CAST

## PRINCIPAL

Eshana Patel BRITTANY PERERA  
Latif Attalah STEVE KASAN  
John Campbell/ Hangman TOM PEARSON  
Aidyn Gadling KELSEA PAUL

## SUPPORTING

Wyatt Byrd JAMIE HEGLAND  
Adira Patel NADA SHEPHERD

## BACKGROUND

Female bystander (street) JESSA LE CARRE  
Male bystander (street) RASHIK UDDIN  
Truck Driver PAUL STAFFORD  
SOC gang members JAMIE HEGLAND  
IVO C. PEREIRA  
Ghosts NELLIE JALALZADEH  
IVANA KHADDAJ  
RACHA ANN SOLIMAN  
JESSA LE CARRE  
DEEPA KUNWAR  
DOMINIQUE SPURMANIS

# CREW

## PRODUCTION

Director IDOWU OKENIYI  
Assistant Director BABATUNDE AGUNLOYE  
Producers ALEKS SPURMANIS  
SARAH STELLA KWAJI  
Production Coordinator DANNIELLE D. JAMES  
Script Supervisor SOPHIE NATION

## WRITING TEAM

Screenplay ALEKS SPURMANIS  
DANNIELLE D. JAMES  
DURGA RAJU MYAKALA

## TECHNICAL

Cinematographer PIOTR SKOWROŃSKI  
1st AC AKSHAY NAIK  
2nd AC KHOA TRAN ANH  
DARIAN LOOHUIZEN  
SAMIR TAHIR KHAN  
Gaffer TOBIAS WIENEKE  
Key Grip ADITYA JAGATH  
Best Boy KHOA TRAN ANH  
Grip RICARDO CASTILLHO  
Sound Recordist JEAN-MARC HAMILTON

## STUNTS

Stunt Coordinator PAUL STAFFORD  
Riggers KIRA TROMBLEY  
DERRICK RABETHGE

## ORIGINAL SCORE

Composed and recorded by BEN D'CUNHA  
© 2025 Ben D'Cunha Music and We Hours Productions

## ART DEPARTMENT

Production Designer ALEKS SPURMANIS  
Art Director SAM WOLTER  
Head of Wardrobe PRADA FARAJI  
Head of Makeup THALIA ZENGILLI  
Head Hairstylist DOMINIQUE SPURMANIS  
Makeup Artists ELISA SABATINO  
ELEVAZ

## PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Key PA ANDREA KREPELKA  
PAs MICHAEL MACLENNAN  
NELLIE JALALZADEH  
JANIS SPURMANIS  
Craft /Catering DOMINIQUE SPURMANIS  
BTS Photography JOYCE JIANG  
RASHIK UDDIN  
ANDREA KREPELKA

## POST-PRODUCTION

Video & Sound Editing ANDREA NOVOA  
Color Grading PIOTR SKOWROŃSKI  
Sound Design ANDREA NOVOA  
ALEKS SPURMANIS  
Visual Effects ALEKS SPURMANIS

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Financing for this project was made possible with the support of **SA'I MOHAMMED** and **RICARDO PHILIP** of RCA. "All involved with RCA are able to create intergenerational wealth, peace of mind, and do what they love."

The producers would like to thank the following people for their invaluable support and encouragement.

TYLER CAMPBELL (Phase 3AV)  
ALAN VEGOTSKY (Phase 3AV)  
MATT GHANEY (Sobey's)  
LISA SITU and the staff at Su-Good  
AIJA MAZSILLIS & DANIEL KLINCK  
META BAZE (Latvian Center)  
CAZI MEHEK (Inspired Image)  
DANNY BUI (Origin Films)  
MARIA THORBURN  
ALBERTS VITOLS  
BĂNG THỊ BẾ  
PUJITA VERMA

## IN LOVING MEMORY

**MICHAEL PINSONNEAULT (1954 - 2023)**

Thank you for teaching me how to find hope in the darkness.



# CONNECT WITH US

[info@wehours productions](mailto:info@wehours productions)

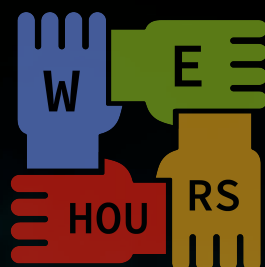
## FOLLOW ESHANA'S TRIAL

[www.eshanastrial.com](http://www.eshanastrial.com)



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PRODUCTIONS