American Terrorist

A 435 Production Release

Directed By
Ben Sherman

Produced By
Greg Capoccia and Maris Herrington

Written By
Curtis Matzke and Ben Sherman

Script Revisions By
Laura Aughton and Patrick Mack

Starring
Rico Bruce Wade

Copyright 2011 by 435 Productions
DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

From the moment of conception, my writing partner and I wanted to push the limits of what we had done before, and going into the mind of Gary proved to be a daunting challenge.

The film looks at issues such as the weight of consumerism and the trickle effects of political agendas to the individual in modern times. Beyond looking at those broader themes and Gary's weapons manufacturing, it is his relationship with his son and what he represents that is key in the final collapse of Gary. Myles represents the only innocence in his world, untouched by the system Gary has fought against his entire life. Losing his son means losing any hope of truth and a pure world. In the end his delusion brings him to take his final stance.

Exploring ideas and playing off personal perceptions become the objectives of the film, holding something different for every person who watches it. There is no right answer; allowing the audience to question Gary’s actions in order to become him, they can ultimately find reason within themselves.

SYNOPSIS

Gary Stevens, a middle-aged botany professor, has made a living creating and distributing biological weapons. In his youth, Gary believed he had cause to bring down a system he saw unjust. Now he has fallen into a life that represents all the things he once fought against. Gary's world starts to crumble when his estranged wife and the final piece of innocence in his life, his son, leave. Left alone, Gary attempts to prove to himself that he still stands for what he once believed in.

ABOUT 435 PRODUCTIONS

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY FICTION FILM SPECIALIZATION

“The Specialization in Fiction Film Production educates undergraduates at Michigan State University in the history, theory, and production of Fiction Film. The specialization combines practical skills in production with conceptual training in film studies—two disciplinary approaches that are mutually enriching and illuminating. By bringing production and analysis together students can produce theoretically informed work that gives them
a cutting edge understanding of the challenges of creating quality film experiences.” –Telecommunication Information Studies and Media, MSU

435 Productions consists of a small group of Michigan State students who share the love and passion for film. The interests range from casting to screenwriting, from directing to director of photography. The group worked together for a year to make “American Terrorist”, beginning with a blank piece of paper, brainstorming in the classroom and finishing up with a thirty-minute film. 435 Productions have worked hard to make this movie the best they can, with the materials and experience they have to give. Not everyone did the job they specifically are interested in, but learned a great deal in other areas of the film industry, which can hopefully be used in their future occupations and endeavors.

ABOUT THE CAST

RICO BRUCE WADE – Gary Stevens
Rico Bruce Wade is an experienced producer, director, actor and writer. His recent stage roles include David in the Stormfield Theatre production of The Exonerated, Troy Maxon in the CAP production of Fences and Lewis in the Williamston Theatre production of Blue Door. His video work includes the roles of Archie in the Comedy Project television pilot, Fade to Anything and George Lindley in the recently completed pilot “Paid Programming.” He had a long association with The Second City-Detroit as a writer/performer, director and producer. Highlights included the critically acclaimed revue "Greetings from Viagra Falls," and SC-D’s first workshop production, "Blah Blah Sista’ Hood." He was also co-producer of the television series "Film Fest 7 with the Second City."

ISAIAH ROSS-WALKER – Myles
Isaiah is an animated, effervescent and precocious seven year old. He enjoys gymnastics, piano, acting, playing on the computer and any other sport. Never one to shy away from the camera, Isaiah became involved in acting/theater from age 4. His ability to read and memorize material is beyond his years. He enjoys making people laugh and his curious mind keeps him asking lots of questions. Whenever he’s not going to an audition you will find him flipping at Twist Stars, tinkering with the piano keys at Miller Music studios or practicing baseball. He aspires to star alongside Tyler Perry and to be a pro baseball
slugger. He realizes that his talents are God given and is thankful for all the opportunities he has been given to use them.

**ERIKA HOVELAND – Julia**

Canadian actress Erika Hoveland was born in Alberta, Canada. Her start in acting came after neighbors noticed her on the front lawn dancing around in a Wonderwoman costume. By age eight, she believed she would be either a professional tennis player or an actor. She never learned to play tennis.

She entered University to become a doctor, but ended up following her passion for theater. After graduating with honors, she then attended 2 professional acting schools in western Canada.

Erika found an agent and was soon filming on location for the Jerry Zucker film 'Rat Race'. After joining the cast of musical theater for 6 years, she relocated to Michigan with her husband and their family dog Mabel.

For the next six year Erika continued acting locally while she and her husband built and operated a sportswear company. In 2008, the explosive growth of film work in Michigan provided her with the opportunity to re-ignite her lifelong passion. She soon was cast as the lead in the psychological thriller flick, ‘RoadKill, a Love Story’.

Over the next 2 years Erika was cast in a dozen local film productions and live theater roles. In the summer of 2011 she has been cast as a member with the Royal Oak Shakespeare Troupe, reconnecting her with a lifelong passion for the classical acting.

Erika currently resides in Royal Oak, MI with her husband and 2 border collies.

**BARBARA DAVIS – Nana**

Barbara is a Lansing native and a member of Union Missionary Baptist Church. She has starred in various plays such as, Purlie, Purlie Victorious, Raisin in the Sun (as Mama), Amen’s Corner (Woman Minister), What Would Jesus Do (Older Sister), and presently starring in “Living the Dreams of our Ancestors” (First Lady) at the Riverwalk Theater, which nominated for a Pulsar Award by the City Pulse. Barbara has also appeared in television commercials.
Ms. Davis is a member of Union Missionary Baptist Church’s Theatrical ministry and Capital City Performers, Inc. Ms. Davis is employed with Michigan Educational Special Services Association. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Lansing Alumnae Chapter.

She received a Bachelor’s in Social Psychology and her Certification in Aerobic and Zumba, and Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness. Ms. Davis is most proud of her grandson, Lawrence, her daughter, Dionne. Although gone from this life, her daughter Kheri will always remain in her heart. Barbara is most thankful for her relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For although we are sometimes “faithless”, He remains “faithful”.

GARRETT CLINARD – Robert Johnson

Started acting way back at age 5 in the early 60's, with several child roles in community theater in Corona, CA, one of the Lost Boys in Peter Pan circa 3rd grade in New Hampshire, Hamlet in 5th grade and Dracula - senior year in High School, as well as two years of summer theater barnstorming Dracula throughout New England.

Most recent acting has involved roles in local, community theater in Lansing, MI for Riverwalk Theater, Lansing Civic Players, Sunsets With Shakespeare and Shakespeare On The Grand, several MSU Film Studies projects, and a few local, independent film productions, as well as one, National Geographic TV special. Currently working on a local production of a full-length, feature murder mystery as lead actor and primary Director/Executive Producer - Murdered Ink to be released late Fall/early Winter of 2011.

Garrett has spent many years of his life as a race car driver, starting in quarter-midgets at just 6 years old through go-karts, and SCCA Formula series, Sports Cars, motorcycles and finally in IndyCars and Super Modifieds. Also, spent several years as a competitive snow skier. Holds degrees in Process Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Astronomy.

Work: Garrett has never been much of a 'career-oriented' person and has worked as: a carpenter, leather craftsman, race car driver, cook, chef, machinist, computer programmer and repair technician, DJ, bartender, newspaper and magazine columnist, retail sales, professional pool player, tech vendor rep, cemetery services salesperson, mortician assistant, Boston taxi cab driver, route driver, job racker, dog trainer and now, independent business owner. as well as film producer in independent film.

Started acting way back at age 5 in the early 60's, with child roles in Corona, CA,
one of the Lost Boys in Peter Pan circa 3rd grade, Hamlet in 5th grade and Dracula - senior year in High School, as well as two years of summer theater barnstorming Dracula throughout New England.

Most recent acting has involved local community theater in Lansing, MI for Riverwalk Theater, Lansing Civic Players, Sunsets With Shakespeare and Shakespeare On The Grand, several MSU Film Studies projects, and a few local, independent film productions, as well as one, National Geographic TV special. Currently working on a local production of a full-length, feature murder mystery - Murdered Ink to be released late Fall/early Winter of 2011.

Garrett is also the proud owner and trainer of his dog Jetzon, who also took part in the film.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

BEN SHERMAN – DIRECTOR AND WRITER
A recent graduate of Michigan State University, Ben is interested in independent filmmaking and screenwriting. Ben was a member of the inaugural Michigan Creative Film Alliance that produced the film, ‘Appleville’ between MSU, Wayne State and University of Michigan in a collaborative effort. He has been involved in several local and student productions in region. He is available to work on your next film.

CURTIS MATZKE – WRITER AND DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Curtis is a Media Arts Masters student at Michigan State with a B.A in Media Arts and Technology, as well as specializations in Design and Fiction Film. Curtis is interested in all aspects of filmmaking, particularly writing, cinematography, and directing. He has worked on several media projects and films, including larger student productions, such as the 2010 Creative Film Alliance, as well as many professional films that have come to Michigan in recent years. His work has been screened and recognized at many film festivals.

KRIS SUNDBERG – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Kris Sundberg is a senior at Michigan State University majoring in Media Arts and Technology with a focus in fiction film production, and has been working on films for several years as a professional, student, and independent filmmaker. His experience ranges across multiple forms of media in different departments, include PA work for motion pictures and television, consulting for Funny or Die, Inc and Mosaic Media Group in Los Angeles, directing and filming independent shorts, and more. Kris hopes to one day become a major motion picture director.
GREG CAPOCCIA – PRODUCER
Greg Capoccia is a senior at Michigan State University, where he pursues a dual major in English-Film Studies with the Fiction Film Specialization and in Pre-medical Physiology through Lyman Briggs. In addition to his studies, Greg interned with the Michigan Film Office during his sophomore and junior years doing everything from location scouting to script coverage. During the summer of 2009, he received his first true film industry experience as an additional office production assistant on the yet to be released "Red Dawn." The following summer, Greg worked on "Machine Gun Preacher" as the production assistant to director Marc Forster in Detroit and South Africa, where he learned a great deal about the industry at all levels of production. Greg returned to Michigan State for his senior year to help produce "American Terrorist" for the MSU fiction film specialization capstone. The film blends a mature and challenging narrative with commercial appeal, a combination that interests him most as producer. After wrapping "American Terrorist" in late February, Greg interned on the set of the George Clooney-directed "The Ides of March." This summer, he will be working as producers' assistant on Gary Ross's "The Hunger Games" in North Carolina. He will return to MSU this fall to finish his degree and graduate with both majors.

MARIS HERRINGTON – PRODUCER
Maris Herrington is a recent graduate of Michigan State University with a BA in Media Arts and Technology and a specialization in Fiction Film Studies. She worked as a producer on this film and in the future hopes to work on many more, filling various positions working in the production phase of filmmaking.

RICO BRUCE WADE

“AMERICAN TERRORIST”

RICO BRUCE WADE
ISAIAH ROSS-WALKER
ERIKA HOVELAND
BARBARA DAVIS
AND
GARRETT CLINARD

Casting Directors
KELSEY HANSEN and MICHAEL SAMSKY

Make-Up and Hair Design
BETH KOLONGOWSKI

Copyright 2011 by 435 Productions
For additional information about the film, please contact:

PATRICK MACK
mackpatr@gmail.com

Or visit our website at:
http://americanterroristthemovie.blogspot.com/
Or on Facebook: