

A vintage car is partially submerged in a swampy forest. The car is the central focus, with its front end and roof above water. The surrounding environment is a dense, misty swamp with tall trees and hanging moss. The lighting is dim and atmospheric, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting. The overall mood is mysterious and ominous.

COLD- BLOODIED ANIMALS

BEACH HOUSE FILMS

NAVAJA PICTURES

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

We are Navaja Pictures and Beach House Films, the two production companies behind Cold-Blooded Animals.

Navaja Pictures, founded by acclaimed filmmaker Ángel Barroeta, has established itself as one of the most respected and promising production companies in Latin American and U.S. independent cinema. Its work has been recognized by top-tier festivals including Cannes, TIFF, Sitges, Miami FF, and Bogoshorts, among many others. With a strong creative identity, technical rigor, and an unwavering commitment to bold artistic storytelling, Navaja Pictures has proven its ability to produce films that resonate, provoke, and endure.

Beach House Films, founded by award-winning screenwriter, actor, and filmmaker Raul Walder, is a rising force in the new wave of auteur-driven cinema. Its latest short film, TLG, was selected at prestigious genre and international festivals such as Scremfest LA, FilmQuest, the Ibero-American Film Festival Miami, and others. Though young, Beach House Films is already recognized for its powerful narrative voice, cinematic ambition, and emotionally resonant aesthetics.

Our collaboration is the result of a shared vision: to create cinema that is visually arresting, emotionally fearless, and internationally relevant. Together, we bring decades of combined experience, a proven track record across global markets, and a deep creative synergy that grounds this project in both craft and purpose. Last year, we took part in the prestigious SANFIC Series LAB with another one of our projects - proving once again the immense potential and reach of our catalogue and collaboration.

With Cold-Blooded Animals, we're building a short film with the artistic ambition and executional strength to make a strong impact on the global festival circuit, while laying the groundwork for future long-form expansion. Backed by a disciplined, passionate, and visionary team, this is a project designed to captivate audiences and stand out as a bold cinematic statement in today's landscape.



BEACH HOUSE
FILMS

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

GENRE: Thriller Drama.

LANGUAGES: English.

FORMAT: 12 min short film.

SHOOTING LOCATION: Miami & Everglades, Florida.

ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$96,100 (\$15,000 - already secured)

ESTIMATED START DATE: Pre-production: 05/11/2026 | Production: 05/22/2026

VISUAL REFERENCES: "Nocturnal Animals" by Tom Ford | "Gone Girl" by David Fincher | "Seven" by David Fincher | "You were never really here" by Lynne Ramsay | True Detective, Season 1 by HBO Max | The Outsider by HBO Max

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LOGLINE

After his missing wife is found dead in a swamp beside a stranger's corpse, a grieving man follows a mysterious woman deep into the Everglades, searching for answers - only to discover that some bodies don't stay buried, and some sins never let go.



*“People here... they come to hide their
sins... ‘cause no one dares to look”.*

-Sheriff Parker



SYNOPSIS

A snake slices through the still waters of the Everglades at dawn. Fog hangs low. The mangroves lean in. This land doesn't forget - it only hides what it's not ready to reveal. Two Miccosukee kids stumble across a car half-submerged in the swamp. Inside: a man and a woman, naked, bloated, and bound in barbed wire. Dead for days.

The woman is quickly identified as Miranda Torres, missing for six months. The man beside her remains a mystery.

Abel Torres, Miranda's husband, arrives at the sheriff's office with nothing but sweat, suspicion, and hollowed-out eyes. The local sheriff and an out-of-town FBI detective try to piece together the case, but they're already playing catch-up. Abel's barely holding it together. Grief is bleeding into rage, and trust is not on the menu.

Abel slips out of town and into the underbelly of the Everglades. At a roadside gas station, he meets Maple, a twitchy sex worker. That night, he ends up in a cheap motel with Maple and another mysterious woman - Alayia. She barely speaks at first, but when she does, her words cut. She watches Abel with the calm of someone who's seen a man destroy himself before.

In a motel haze of crack pipes and whiskey, Abel tries to lose himself - but Alayia offers him something else: a path. A place. A way forward - if he's willing to follow.

The next day, Abel and Alayia drive together deep into the Everglades. As the landscape grows more feral, so does the tension between them. Abel confesses that he and Miranda fought before she vanished. That he left. That he cheated. Alayia listens, unmoved. At one point, she asks, "Can you be trusted?" and we're no longer sure if she's talking about the investigation - or his soul.

SYNOPSIS

They encounter an elder Miccosukee chief, standing in the road like an omen. He speaks a warning in his native dialect. But Abel drives on. He's too far gone.

They stop at a swamp overlook as the sun dies behind the mangroves. Abel and Alayia sit on the hood of the car, smoking the last cigarette. No words. Just heat and breath and doom. In the distance, Sheriff Parker and Detective Carson watch from afar - like spectators in a ritual they don't belong to.

And then - everything unravels. Alayia grabs Abel by the throat. He doesn't resist. He presses her hand in deeper. Then comes the kiss - desperate, raw, final. They strip. They collide. But this isn't sex. It's a shedding.

Her skin peels back, slow and wet - like a snake molting... and beneath it, we see Abel.

Two versions of the same man. One that did the damage. One that's still carrying it. The new Abel walks to the swamp. Naked. Hollow. At peace. He steps into the water. Doesn't look back. The swamp takes him in without a ripple.

The wild doesn't need answers. It only demands surrender.



CHARACTERS



ABEL TORRES: A Latino man in his thirties, Abel carries his grief like a disease - silent, corrosive, and contagious. Once a husband, now something less than a man, he walks through the world with hollow eyes and fists clenched at nothing. Abel isn't searching for justice - he's chasing guilt into the swamp, hoping it will kill him or tell him who he really is. His pain is real, but so is his complicity. And the deeper he drives into the Everglades, the closer he comes to the only truth that matters: that what he's running from might not be behind him - but inside him.

ALAYIA: Mysterious. Still. Sharp as broken glass. Alayia appears when Abel needs her most - or when his mind is about to crack. She speaks like she's lived a dozen lifetimes and judges like she's already heard your confession. There's beauty in her, but also something otherworldly. Something feral. Whether she's real, imagined, or summoned by guilt itself, Alayia is a guide, a mirror, and eventually, a vessel - the shape his conscience takes before it devours him.



SHERIFF PARKER: 50s. White. A relic of the old South, Parker's face is leathered by sun and secrets. He doesn't rattle easily - not because he's brave, but because he's already seen the worst in people, and maybe in himself. He knows the Everglades better than most, and he understands one thing deeply: this place doesn't care about the law. It just swallows the unworthy. To Parker, Abel is already a dead man walking. He's not here to save him. He's here to witness yet another fall into the underworld.

CHARACTERS

FBI DETECTIVE CARSON: Younger, sharper-suited, and green behind the eyes, Carson is the outsider trying to play by the book in a place that doesn't have one. He came to Florida for a clean case and found himself in the middle of a swamp that stinks of ritual, rot, and something unspeakable. He's the kind of man who believes in facts - until the facts stop adding up. And by the time he starts asking the right questions, it's already too late.



MAPLE: Late 20s. A haunted husk in the shape of a woman. Her body is a map of bad decisions, faded tattoos, and survival carved into skin. She dances for money, moves through motel rooms like fog, and looks at men like she's already survived worse. She's not cruel - just empty. Like everyone else in this world, she's not selling pleasure. She's selling forgetting. And she sees in Abel the kind of man who's already halfway gone.



MICCOSUKEE CHIEF: 60s. He says little - but his silent presence speaks louder than judgment. An elder of the land, the Miccosukee Chief appears like a warning carved in flesh. He doesn't move when threatened. Doesn't blink when stared down. He's not a mystic cliché - he's a keeper of sacred ground who knows what's festering beneath it.



*“When I see men like you ‘round here...
makes me wonder if you weren’t built
for this broken world... or if the world
ain’t ready for you”.*

-Alayia



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

From the first page, *Cold-Blooded Animals* gripped me - not just as a filmmaker, but as a human being. It's a story about guilt, grief, and transformation... but more than anything, it's about the parts of ourselves we bury, and the monsters we become when we stop running from them.

I've spent years telling stories rooted in raw emotion and layered in visual tension - both in Latin America and the U.S. - and I immediately recognized in this script a rare opportunity: to make a short film that's not just powerful, but unforgettable. This isn't a genre exercise. This is a psychological descent wrapped in the skin of a Southern Gothic thriller, with a cinematic voice that's unafraid to get dirty, uncomfortable, or deeply human.

The Everglades will be more than a backdrop - they will be a character. I want the camera to feel like it's sinking with Abel. To capture sweat, breath, silence, and rot with the same intimacy we'd give a close-up on a trembling hand. My approach to this film is grounded in atmospheric tension, gritty realism, and a visual language that leans into poetic brutality. Think *Nocturnal Animals*, *Seven*, and *True Detective, Season One*, with the stylistic confidence of *Yorgos Lanthimos*, *Lynne Ramsay*, or early *Aronofsky*.

As a filmmaker, I've worked on international productions that have screened at Cannes, TIFF, Sitges, and beyond. I know how to build a world that feels both elevated and real. I know how to move quickly, with discipline and vision. Most importantly, I know how to collaborate with actors, with story, and with silence.

This short film has the potential to make noise - not just on the festival circuit, but in the hearts and guts of those who see it. It's bold. It's bruised. It doesn't flinch. And that's the kind of cinema I believe in.

My goal is to honor Raul's beautiful, brutal script by turning *Cold-Blooded Animals* into a visceral experience that lingers long after the final frame. With the right support, we will make something that's rare these days: a short film with the ambition and emotional punch of a feature.

Let's go all in.

-Ángel Barroeta

Director

Founder, Navaja Pictures

BIO - ÁNGEL BARROETA

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER - "COLD-BLOODED ANIMALS"

Ángel Barroeta began his career in Venezuela filming skateboarding videos while studying journalism, but it wasn't long before he discovered his true passion: cinematic storytelling. Now based in the United States, Ángel has built a remarkable and far-reaching career - while always maintaining a creative pulse connected to Latin America.

Widely recognized as one of the most prominent Latino cinematographers and filmmakers working today, Ángel's work spans feature films such as *Father of the Bride*, *Dry*, *Bravetown*, *Rock of Ages*, *Aguadilla*, *Cerdo*, *Victoria*, and so many others; as well as television series like *Gravesend*, *Operación Jaque*, and *Generation Hustle* for HBO Max.

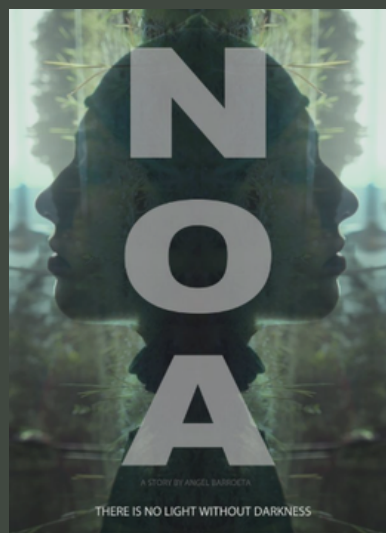
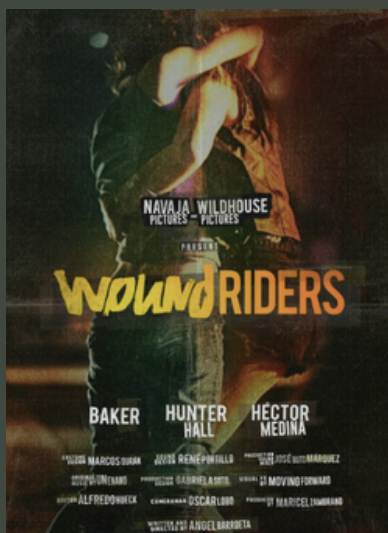
As a director and cinematographer, he has also helmed several award-winning short films - *Diva & Astro*, *Wound Riders*, *Broken*, *NOA*, *Awake Before Dawn*, *Nycto*, among others - which have been screened and honored at top-tier international festivals including TIFF, Cannes, Sitges, BogoShorts, Miami International Film Festival, and many others.

Click on poster to watch!
Password: woundriders

Click on poster to watch!
Password: Cristina

Click on poster to watch!
Password: NOA

Click on poster to watch!
Password: onetake



BIO - PABLO BERRON

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - "COLD-BLOODED ANIMALS"

Born and raised in Mexico City, Pablo Berron has established himself as a visionary cinematographer whose work seamlessly bridges the worlds of narrative cinema, music, and high-end commercial storytelling. With a career spanning over two decades, Pablo's distinctive visual style is marked by its boldness, emotional depth, and a keen eye for composition.

Pablo's collaboration with renowned director Robert Rodriguez on the feature film *Hypnotic*, starring Ben Affleck, showcased his ability to craft visually arresting narratives that resonate with audiences. His work on *Happier Than Ever: A Love Letter to Los Angeles*, a concert film featuring Billie Eilish, further exemplifies his versatility and command over diverse visual languages.

In the realm of music videos, Pablo has lensed projects for some of the most influential artists of our time, including Harry Styles' "Late Night Talking," Rosalía's "Aute Cuture," and Lil Nas X's "Long Live Montero."

Pablo's commitment to storytelling through striking imagery makes him an invaluable asset to any production. His involvement in *Cold-Blooded Animals* brings a wealth of experience and a unique visual sensibility that promises to elevate the film's gritty and poetic narrative.



BIO - SOLANGE GONZÁLEZ

LINE PRODUCER - "COLD-BLOODED ANIMALS"

Born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Solange González has forged a dynamic career in film and television production, seamlessly bridging Latin American storytelling with international appeal. Her debut as a producer came with *La Jaula* (The Cage), Venezuela's first science fiction film, which garnered multiple international awards and established her as a formidable force in genre filmmaking.

Solange's portfolio encompasses a diverse array of projects, including the Tribeca-selected short film *Home: The Series*, and features such as *Escobank*, *Unfelt*, and *Her Choices*. Her work has been showcased on major streaming platforms like Apple TV and Amazon Prime, as well as NPR's *Tiny Desk* series. In Miami, she has contributed to high-profile productions featuring artists like Marc Anthony, Rauw Alejandro, Ozuna, Anitta, Wisin, Maluma, Becky G, and appearances on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.

Her recent credits include her participation as producer in the third installment of the franchise *Cash Out* starring John Travolta, the upcoming feature *A Line of Fire* with Cuba Gooding Jr, and the third season of the TV series *Gravesend*; as well as acclaimed short films like *Nycto*, *Wound Riders*, *Diva & Astro*, *NOA*, and *Awake Before Dawn* - many of which have been recognized at top-tier international festivals. As a producer, Solange brings a meticulous eye for detail, a deep understanding of cross-cultural narratives, and a commitment to delivering compelling, high-quality content.



BIO - RAUL WALDER

WRITER, PRODUCER & ACTOR - "COLD-BLOODED ANIMALS"

Originally from Caracas, Venezuela, Raul has built a career that bridges the worlds of performance and screenwriting with a distinctive and powerful voice. A graduate of the University of Miami with a B.A. in Dramatic Arts and a Minor in Film, Raul has worked across Latin America and the United States.

As a screenwriter, Raul's voice is raw, poetic, and socially grounded. His feature screenplay *Kapüy* was awarded "Best International Screenplay" at the New York Script Awards and won the 'Wave D'Ore Award' for "Best Feature Screenplay" at the 2023 Bondi Screenplay Competition. His project *Los Lobos Blanco* (aka: *The White Wolves*), which was selected as "Project of the Month" by Filmarket Hub in 2023, and was a semifinalist and quarterfinalist in top-tier contests such as ScreenCraft Drama Screenplay Competition and the Santa Barbara International Screenplay Awards.

In 2025, *Los Lobos Blanco* was also selected to participate in the prestigious SANFIC Series Lab. Likewise, Raul was also admitted to be a part in the highly acclaimed Stowe Story Screenwriting Lab in 2026.

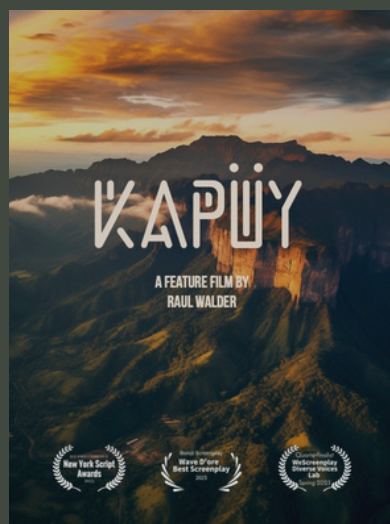
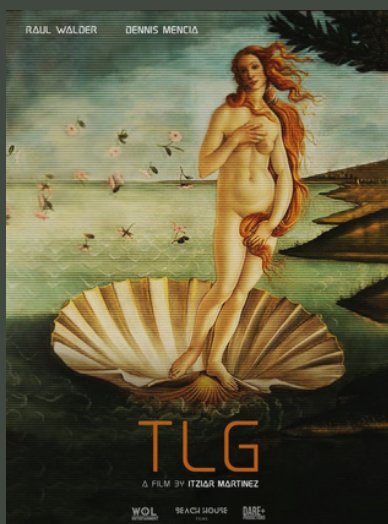
As an actor, his films have premiered at major film festivals around the world, like *Screamfest LA*, *HBO New York Film Festival*, *Sitges*, *LALIFF*; and have also been released in theaters in more than 20 countries worldwide, including the UK and the US. His most recent credits include the TV series "Second Chances", now available on *Tubi*, and the award-winning feature film "Between the Aisles" by director Anthony Lucero.

Click on poster to watch!

Click on poster to watch!
Password: loslobosblanco

Click on poster to watch!
Password: Cristina

Click on poster to watch!
Password: trailer



BIO - CASTLE

MUSIC DIRECTOR - "COLD-BLOODED ANIMALS"

CASTLE is a globally recognized songwriter and composer whose work has helped shape some of the most successful pop records of the past decade. His songwriting credits include collaborations with artists such as Joji, V of BTS, David Guetta, Kane Brown, Demi Lovato, Jonas Brothers, John Legend, and Marshmello. His work includes the global hit *Glimpse of Us*, with songs collectively amassing billions of streams worldwide and reaching audiences across multiple continents. His contributions to chart-topping releases and globally streamed records have established him as a sought-after collaborator in contemporary pop music.

Known for crafting emotionally resonant and atmospheric music, CASTLE's songwriting blends modern pop sensibilities with a cinematic approach to storytelling. His work often centers on powerful emotional narratives, pairing evocative melodies with immersive sonic textures that translate seamlessly between music and visual media.

Drawing on years of experience creating music that connects with global audiences, CASTLE brings a strong narrative instinct and sonic sophistication to his collaborations. As Music Director for *Cold-Blooded Animals*, he will oversee the film's musical direction and help shape its sonic identity, creating a soundscape that deepens the emotional tension and psychological atmosphere of the story.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN!

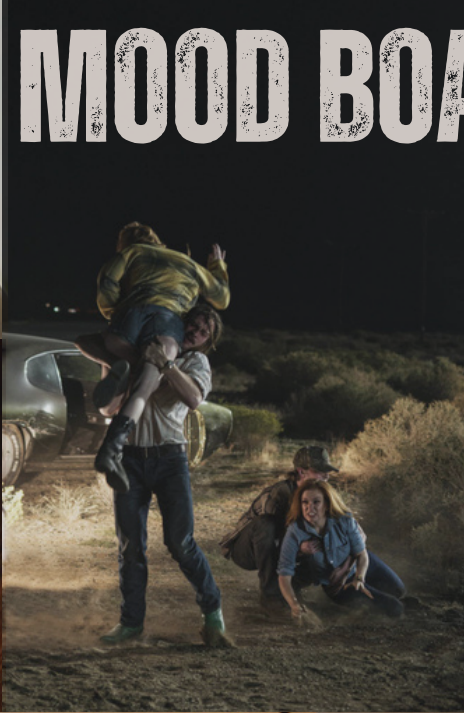
As an Executive Producer, you will play a key role in bringing this film to life while supporting a team of emerging and established artists committed to creating powerful cinematic work.

Executive Producers will receive on-screen credit and will be invited to participate in key moments of the project's journey — from production updates and behind-the-scenes access, to festival premieres and industry events as the film enters the international festival circuit.

Beyond this film, we view this collaboration as the beginning of a long-term creative partnership between Navaja Pictures, Beach House Films, and the talented team behind the project. Early supporters will be part of our creative journey as we continue developing future films and series.

Additionally, the film industry in Florida has experienced significant growth in recent years, with increasing production activity and expanding opportunities for independent filmmakers. By supporting this project, our Executive Producer will also contribute to the continued development of a vibrant and evolving filmmaking ecosystem in the region.





BUDGET & FINANCIAL PLAN

Budget Section	Total	Notes
Director	\$1,500	
Cast	\$5,600	
Total Above-the-Line	\$7,100	
Extra Talent	\$450	
Production Staff	\$9,350	
Script Development & Rights	\$5,000	Provided In-Kind by Beach House Films
Production Film & Lab	\$500	
Camera Staff	\$5,900	
Camera Rentals	\$10,000	Provided In-Kind by Navaja Pictures
Wardrobe	\$1,500	
Makeup & Hairdressing	\$2,100	
Set Dressing	\$2,500	
Props	\$2,700	
Art Department	\$1,000	
DIT- Video	\$1,000	
Sound Recording	\$2,100	
Set Lighting	\$3,800	
Set Operation	\$3,900	
Travel & Lodging	\$2,500	
Catering	\$3,700	
Locations	\$5,500	
Transportation	\$5,000	
Total Production	\$68,500	
All in - Post Production	\$1,000	
VFX / CGI	\$4,000	
Music	\$2,000	
Marketing & PR	\$6,000	
Total Post-Production	\$13,000	
Insurance	\$2,500	
Contingency	\$5,000	
Total Other	\$7,500	
Total Above-the-Line	\$7,100	
Total Below-the-Line	\$89,000	
Grand Total	\$96,100	
Financing Secured	\$15,000	
Financing Sought	\$81,100	

** FULL BUDGET BREAKDOWN AVAILABLE PER REQUEST **

PREP AMOUNT: 10 Days.

PREP ESTIMATED START DATE: 05/11/2026

SHOOT AMOUNT: 3 Days.

SHOOT ESTIMATED START DATE: 05/22/2026

SHOOTING LOCATIONS: 5 Locations.

DISTRIBUTION PLAN

1. Festival Roadmap

We aim to launch Cold-Blooded Animals at one of the world's most prestigious and strategically relevant festivals for short films - targeting Sundance, Cannes (Short Film Corner or La Cinef), Venice, Clermont-Ferrand, Tribeca, SXSW, Palm Springs ShortFest, TIFF, and Telluride. These festivals are not only premiere platforms but gateways to distribution, awards qualification, and global industry recognition. We will also prioritize festivals with strong media markets (such as Berlinale, Cannes Marché du Film, and TIFF Industry) to begin actively pitching the feature adaptation and to identify a distributor with a proven track record in positioning short films for maximum success.

Films like Whiplash (Sundance), The Present (Oscar-nominated), and Skin (Oscar-winner) are prime examples of shorts that parlayed this strategy into awards runs, critical acclaim, and feature development deals.

2. Online Release & Emerging Platforms

Following the festival circuit, we will pursue a curated hybrid release, including premiere placement on high-profile short film platforms such as Short of the Week, NOWNESS, Alter, and Vimeo Staff Picks. Additionally, we will target innovative platforms like Stubios, where audiences vote on shorts to help greenlight feature films - a powerful tool for building buzz, fan engagement, and financing momentum.

3. Awards Qualification & Distribution Partnership

With the right festival placements, we will pursue Oscar, BAFTA, and Goya qualification, leveraging an experienced distributor to navigate the process and extend the film's reach. Our goal is to align with a distributor that understands the specific mechanics of short film positioning and award campaigning - in the spirit of companies that supported successful shorts like The Silent Child and Two Distant Strangers.

4. Marketing, PR & Social Media

Parallel to the release, we will deploy a robust marketing, social media, and PR campaign to elevate the film's visibility, amplify our audience reach, and build a community around the story. We will engage film outlets, critics, and genre communities, while also crafting a behind-the-scenes rollout that showcases the world, themes, and talent behind the film.

INVESTMENT & RECOUPMENT

While short films are primarily produced as artistic and strategic projects designed for festival exposure, industry recognition, and career advancement, they can occasionally generate revenue through distribution, licensing, streaming platforms, educational sales, or online exhibition.

Although financial returns from short films are not guaranteed and historically uncommon, our team remains committed to pursuing all viable opportunities for distribution and monetization as the film moves through the festival and marketplace circuit.

All revenue generated from the sale, licensing, or distribution of the film will first be applied toward recouping the initial investment made by the Executive Producer(s), proportionally to their respective share of the total investment.

Once the original investment has been fully recouped, any additional net proceeds will be distributed 50% to the Executive Producer(s) and 50% to the producing team, in accordance with the terms outlined in the final investment agreement.



WHY SHORT FILMS MATTER

Short films have long served as powerful calling cards within the global film industry, allowing filmmakers to showcase their voice, craft, and storytelling ability at the highest level. Many of today's most celebrated directors and storytellers first gained recognition through short films that premiered at major festivals and later led to feature films, television series, and studio partnerships.

The international festival circuit — including renowned events such as the Sundance Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, and SXSW Film Festival — continues to spotlight short films as an essential gateway for discovering new cinematic voices.

Several prominent filmmakers first broke through with short films before launching successful careers. Directors such as Damien Chazelle, Taika Waititi, and Neill Blomkamp gained industry attention through early short-form work that ultimately helped lead to major studio projects.

In some cases, short films have even served as the foundation for successful feature films and global franchises. For example, the short film *Laura Hasn't Slept* by filmmaker Parker Finn evolved into the hit horror feature *Smile*, which went on to become a worldwide box office success and launch an expanding film franchise.

For investors and supporters, participating in a short film offers the opportunity to:

- Support emerging filmmakers and meaningful storytelling
- Become part of a project that may travel to prestigious international festivals
- Establish early relationships with filmmakers whose careers may continue to grow
- Contribute to the cultural and creative development of the film industry

For our team, this short film represents not only a self-contained artistic work, but also a strategic step toward the development of future feature films and television projects.

By supporting this film, our Executive Producers are not simply financing a short film — they are helping launch the next chapter of a creative journey.



COLD-BLOODED ANIMALS

FOR MORE INFO:

WWW.BEACHHOUSEFILMS.COM

WWW.NAVAJA PICTURES.COM