



SOLITAIRE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ALEX Z. MARTINEZ



JACK CAMPBELL KEN ASHTON

SOLITAIRE

MYZOMI PRODUCTIONS presents "SOLITAIRE" a film by ALEX Z. MARTINEZ
featuring JACK CAMPBELL KEN ASHTON SPENCER VALENZUELA DEBORAH TUCKER MARGARET YORKGITIS JASON WIXOM music by NICK SENA
edited by KATE SHIRALDI production designer GUS OLACHI cinematographer MIKE MOGHADDAM sound designer RODRIGO ANDRADE titles by SCOTT SCHRADER re-recording mixer ARIEL HENRIQUE
graphic designer COREY HOLMS produced by SUNDEE MANUSAKIS ALEX Z. MARTINEZ co-produced by ALICE MARIE AGRAMONTE SHANE GLANDER CHRISTOPHER HILLS EATON
written and directed by ALEX Z. MARTINEZ

SOME DEBTS ARE PAID IN BLOOD

PROJECT TYPE: Short film

GENRE: Crime / Drama

LOGLINE: An ex-con returns to his crumbling hometown to confront the gruff, domineering uncle he suspects of usurping the family business.

SYNOPSIS: A haunting story of family, betrayal, and generational trauma, Solitaire follows Max, an ex-con returning to a ravaged hometown to confront the uncle he suspects of stealing his family's legacy. Gritty, emotional, and steeped in decay, Solitaire explores the shadowy heart of loyalty and loss, and the cost of survival in a broken America.

RUNTIME: 29 minutes, 57 seconds

LANGUAGE: English

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA

SHOOTING FORMAT: Arri Alexa Mini

FILM COLOR: Color

ASPECT RATIO: 2.35:1

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Myzomi Productions



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

With *Solitaire*, I set out to explore the frayed edges of the American Dream. The places where rusted town signs and boarded-up windows stand as relics of once-hopeful communities. Shot in rural Utah with a Utah-based crew and cast, the film is more than a crime drama. It's a story told through the eyes of those left behind to pay the price for a dream that has been hollowed out, franchised, and reduced to a slogan.

In a society addicted to success and terrified of failure, *Solitaire* taps into the darker current of our national psyche. What are we willing to sacrifice to keep the lights on, to stay upright, to maintain the illusion of control? Its themes, grief, power, moral compromise, and survival, mirror the quiet tragedies unfolding in small towns across America.

Narratively, I drew inspiration from *Hamlet*. Like the Prince of Denmark, Max returns to a home he no longer recognizes. His mother is gone, his inheritance hijacked, and his uncle is now in control. But where *Hamlet* explored rot from within, *Solitaire* unfolds in a world already gutted, economically, spiritually, and communally. The setting doesn't just frame the characters' descent, it mirrors it.

Stylistically, the film draws on the influence of John Cassavetes, Abbas Kiarostami, and Wong Kar-wai, among others. From Cassavetes, I learned to find truth in every frame, to capture raw, shifting emotions that can turn on a dime. From Kiarostami, I took the patience to sit with silence, to live fully inside a moment, and allow simplicity to become profound. And from Wong Kar-wai, I borrowed mood. The color, tone, and emotional atmosphere that lingers long after the scene ends.

There's no nostalgia here, only the residue of struggle. *Solitaire* is a meditation on what remains when the dream collapses, and survival is all that's left.

CHARACTERS



Gus (50's): Max's uncle and the tough, no-nonsense owner of one of the town's few remaining businesses, a small convenience store (and a few less lawful businesses). Gus believes he's the only one with the grit and resolve to make the hard choices that hold his family and town together, and he struggles to balance his affection for them with what he sees as the ruthless necessities of survival at the fraying edge of the American dream.



Max (late 20's/early 30's): Lean, hard, reticent, drawn tight like a tensed muscle but with a kind of boyish, quivering hurt that almost seems to quietly vibrate him. Max is a poorly-bandaged open wound of raw emotion--his time in prison and his mother's addiction left rage, sadness, and indignant defiance seething just beneath his haunted face.



Sticks (30's): Gus's muscle and a glib, callous enforcer with a gleeful mean streak who'll do anything for the right price, and do it with a smile.



Rayette: The seasoned, steady presence at Gus's store. Sharp-eyed and quietly compassionate, she fondly remembers Max as a child but worries what new trouble his return might bring if he's not able to leave the past behind him.

MAIN CAST



JACK CAMPBELL as GUS: Jack is best known for his role of Dr Steve Taylor in Australia's number one medical drama, "Allsaints" for Network Seven and his portrayal of infamous gangster Big Jim Divine in the Nine Network top rating drama series, "Underbelly Razor" based on the criminal underworld of Sydney, 1920's.



KEN ASHTON as MAX: Ken was born and raised outside of Philadelphia, PA., where his passion for storytelling started at a very young age. He has lived in Los Angeles since 2014 where he has built a resume ranging from acting in a number of indie productions to producing music videos for major artists. He has trained with Margie Haber and at Upright Citizens Brigade.



SPENCER VALENZUELA as STICKS: Spencer is an American stage, film and TV actor who was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. Spencer studied under Elizabeth Mestnik learning the Meisner technique. His most recent roles include co-starring roles on 'Lincoln Lawyer' for Netflix and 'Your Honor' for Showtime.



DEBORAH LYNN TUCKER as RAYETTE: Deborah was born in Evanston, IL and grew up in the Chicago area. She graduated from Boston University with a bachelor degree in Broadcasting and Film. And after a hiatus to raise a family she is back to acting and travelling the world. Her latest role is in the feature film comedy, "Days Like This".



CAST

“GUS” - Jack Campbellz

“MAX” - Ken Ashton

“STICKS” - Spencer Valenzuela

“RAYETTE” - Deborah Tucker

“SARAH” - Margaret Yorkgitis

“FIGETY MAN” - Jason Wixom

“MARCI” - Jennifer Hopper

CREW

WRITER / DIRECTOR - Alex Z. Martinez

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - Sundee Manusakis

CINEMATOGRAPHER - Michael Moghaddam

EDITOR - Kate Shiraldi

PRODUCTION DESIGNER - Gus Olachi

COMPOSER - Nick Sena

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Alicia Marie Agramonte

SOUND DESIGNER - Rodrigo Andrade

TITLES and VFX - Scott Schrader

FIRST ASSIST CAMERA - Isaac Dowell

SECOND ASSIST CAMERA - Armen Der Sahakian

GAFFER - Jesse Arnold

SOUND MIXER - Andrew Cier

RE-RECORDING MIXER - Ariel Henrique

FOLEY EDITOR - Christian Skolimovski

GRAPHIC DESIGNER - Corey Holms

HMU and SFX - Kelly Porter

WARDROBE - Shelly Reidy

PROP MASTER - Shane Glander

TRANSPORTATION - Budd Fraley

GRIP and ELECTRIC
Israel Bonilla

Tyson Whitney

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Breann Carpenter

Briana Franco

Caleb Lockwood

PRODUCER - Sundee Manusakis

PRODUCER - Alex Martinez

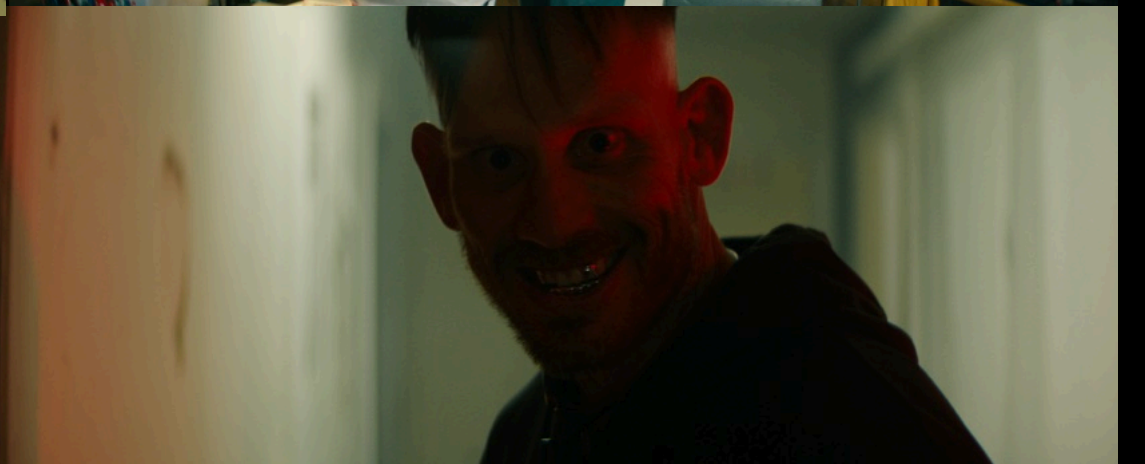
CO - PRODUCERS

Alicia Marie Agramonte

Shane Glander

Christopher Hills Eaton

STILLS



BTS / PUBLICITY STILLS



DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER BIOS



ALEX Z. MARTINEZ

ALEX Z. MARTINEZ is a 3-time Emmy-winning producer, writer, director, and founder of MYZOMI Productions. Based in Los Angeles, he is known for emotionally raw, character-driven films that reflect the grit and honesty of American independent cinema, often focusing on the struggles of overlooked communities and fractured families. His latest project, *Solitaire*, which he wrote and directed, explores themes of addiction, legacy, and redemption in a crumbling post-pandemic America. His previous project, *Spanky*, a dark comedy about a struggling actor chasing sobriety, won multiple awards, including the Audience Award at Dances With Films and Best Actor at the Official Latino Film Festival sponsored by HBO. Also an accomplished actor with deep roots in storytelling, Alex brings a vérité sensibility and a fierce commitment to authenticity in every frame.



SUNDEE MANUSAKIS

SUNDEE MANUSAKIS is an Emmy-nominated producer and creative force whose career spans unscripted television, documentary, and independent film. Best known as the Showrunner and Executive Producer behind Netflix's global hit *Selling Sunset*, Sundee has been at the forefront of crafting groundbreaking reality formats and culturally resonant content. Her portfolio includes acclaimed series such as *Selling the OC*, *Botched*, David Tutera's *Celebrations*, and *Breaking Pointe*, where she served in critical producing roles.



ABOUT US

MYZOMI Productions, founded by writer-director Alex Martinez and producer Sundee Manusakis, is a gritty, no-frills indie company committed to bold, character-driven storytelling. Grounded in emotional honesty and an unflinching eye for the overlooked, MYZOMI champions voices and narratives often pushed to the fringe—because that’s where the truth lives.

SIGNATURE PROJECTS

SPANKY 2022

SHORT-FORM SERIES | DRAMA | FESTIVAL DARLING

Spanky is a lean, bruised, and darkly human series exploring the survivalist logic of a hustler on the edge of American society. Shot with stark realism and anchored by a riveting lead performance by Spencer Valenzuela, Spanky won the Audience Award at Dances With Films and Best Actor at the Official Latino Film Festival sponsored by HBO. Raw. Bleak. Funny. Human.

SOLITAIRE 2026

SHORT FILM | CRIME DRAMA | PRODUCTION WRAPPED

A haunting story of family, betrayal, and generational trauma, Solitaire follows an ex-con returning to a ravaged hometown to confront the uncle he suspects of stealing his family's legacy. Written and directed by Alex Martinez, with performances by Jack Campbell and Ken Ashton, Solitaire is a meditation on masculinity, memory, and the cost of holding it together in a broken America. It’s not about going back—it’s about the ghosts that follow you forward.

WHO WE ARE

ALEX Z. MARTINEZ

WRITER | DIRECTOR | ACTOR | PRODUCER

SUNDEE MANUSAKIS

PRODUCER | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER | FESTIVAL STRATEGIST

CONTACTS, WEBSITE, LINKS

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PHOTOS, POSTERS, STILLS, HEADSHOTS

[SOLITAIRE IMAGES](#)



SCAN ME