

PRESS KIT

LOGLINE:

Desperate for a "normal" family, Nina goes against her better judgment and accepts help from none other than her bully at school to get it. Together they embark on a night of magical potions and half-baked spells, only to ultimately discover that they may have more in common than they thought.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

Nina, a loner and the only child of a single mom, is constantly bullied by her class's popular girl, Bailey. When Bailey unexpectedly shows up at Nina's house needing help and begging to come in, the two enemies forge a bond as they conduct a spell to rid Nina's mom of a "dangerous curse" that Bailey believes to be the source of both their problems. But when the spell seems to actually work, the girls learn that the situation isn't as black and white as they thought.

LONG SYNOPSIS:

Nina, is a 13 year old loner whose constantly bullied by other females at school. At home, she's left mostly alone while her mom works, her father nowhere to be found. On this particular afternoon, Nina is surprised when the leader of the pack of bullies, Bailey, shows up at her house. At first, not trusting Bailey's intentions, Nina demands that Bailey leave. But Bailey tells Nina that she's scared about the "strange things" that have been happening to her and that only Nina can help. Nina eventually lets her in.

Inside, Bailey reveals the real reason she came: to conduct a spell that will help rid Nina's mom of her "slutty sickness." Terrified to say no to the mean girl making her life hell at school, and wanting more than anything to have a "normal" family life, Nina agrees to help Bailey. Bailey informs Nina that Nina will have to act as he surrogate for her mother and undergo a "cleansing ritual." And so, together they begin down a dark path of magical potions and half-baked spells, desperate for a quick-fix for their problems. The night finally comes to a boil when Bailey tries to convince Nina to dunk her head in a fishtank of magical water - the final step in her "cleansing," but Nina draws a line and refuses. Nina finally stands up for herself, and being challenged for the first time in her life, Bailey finally reveals her true agenda. Turns out, Bailey's father and Nina's mother have been carrying on an affair which Bailey believes is destroying her family. Upon Nina hearing this, Nina feels completely betrayed by her mother for her selfish behavior, and for keeping such a big secret from her. After some hesitation, Nina chooses to complete the ritual. Suddenly, a car pulls up in the driveway: Nina's mom is home, and she's with Bailey father.

The girls watch through the window as Bailey's dad and Nina's mom engage in a fairly physical fight that leaves Nina's mom utterly humiliated and hurt. Through witnessing this, the girls can't help but realize that Nina's mom isn't fully to blame for what has happened. Nina realizes that her mom is doing the best she can, and isn't the villain that Bailey made her out to be. Bailey learns that her dad is not the hero she had always imagined him to be, and that she may have a lot more in common with Nina than she originally thought.

PRINCIPAL TEAM BIOS



J. CASEY MODDERNO

Director

A Los Angeles based writer-director raised on a diet of ghost stories and hardcore music. His past two shorts have both been featured on Vimeo's "Staff Picks" and Short of the Week. He's screened at festivals worldwide, including AFI Fest, Raindance Film Festival, and the Montreal World Film Festival.

A recent graduate of the American Film Institute, he is now entering pre-production on his first feature film.



ASHLEY HALL

Producer

Born in the City of Angels and has managed to stay. She always wanted to work in the arts and is excited to be co-writer and producer on "Fishnet," which is also her thesis film.

She has undergrad degrees in Digital Media & Business, has a small business in marketing and just graduated the prestigious American Film Institute (AFI) Conservatory with her M.F.A. in film producing. She is currently freelancing and working in development and will always be moved by good storytelling from diverse and wacky voices.



SONJA TSY-PIN

Cinematographer

Cinematographer born and raised in New York City and currently based in Los Angeles. Sonja has photographed a variety of award-winning films ranging in form, content, and genre on both digital and analog formats (35mm, 16mm).

Sonja just received her MFA in cinematography at the American Film Institute (AFI) Conservatory, with a 1st place cinematography award from the 2016 international KODAK Student Scholarships for which she was recently featured in an issue of American Cinematographer magazine.

PRINCIPAL TEAM BIOS CONT.



SHAUN LAVERY

Editor

Originally from Chicago, Shaun spent the past ten years working in post-production in Los Angeles. His credits range from working on television shows to editing new media content with companies like ABC and Fine Brothers Entertainment. He has also edited numerous independent short films, music videos and web series.

In 2015, he entered the Editing program at AFI to harness his focus to the narrative medium. While studying, Shaun acted as the finishing editor on the documentary team that produced Franca: Chaos and Creation which had its premiere at the 2016 Venice Film Festival before playing the 2016 AFI Fest and other notable film festivals.



AMY AUGUSTINE

Production Designer

Hailing from Las Vegas, Amy Augustine fell into the Art Department at a whim, and never believed she could combine a degree in Graphic Design, and skills from Girl Scouts into one career, but did, and absolutely fell in love with it. She has worked on shows such as, 'Shark Tank' and 'Little Big Shots'; countless commercials, has dabbled into some music videos and short films, and can't wait to see where this crazy design road takes her.

The Music & Esteemed Composer



NICK ZINNER

Composer/Score

We were very lucky to bring Nick on board. Currently touring on a nationwide tour with his longtime band New York-based rock band, "The Yeah, Yeah, Yeahs," he managed to carve out time to lend his impressive musical skills to "Fishnet".

Zinner has an impressive list of credentials. Originally having attended Bard, he studied photography and later created his first band. From there, Zinner formed "The Yeah, Yeah, Yeahs" with his current bandmates Karen O and Brian Chase.

Zinner has many collaborative efforts with such acts as TV on the Radio, Har Mar Superstar, Ronnie Spector[7] The Horrors, and Scarlett Johansson. He contributed guitar and keyboard to several tracks on Bright Eyes' 2005 album Digital Ash in a Digital Urn and went on tour with the band as part of the rotating roster. He recently contributed his talents as a music producer to Santigold's contributions in the the "Hunger Games: Catching Fire" soundtrack.

He has brought an interesting score to "Fishnet" that enhances the story without overpowering it. Each element in his music provided a distinct sound or feel to the scene while celebrating the dark, edgy yet still innocent story that is "Fishnet."



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT-

My older brother and I got into fist-fights constantly growing up. He was a champion baseball player and I never stood a chance squaring off against him, so it didn't take much to bill him as the great villain in my life.

Despite having no religious roots, I'd pray every night before bed that he'd get injured enough to knock him down a peg. One day, a slide to the home base snapped his collarbone in half and he was benched for the season. He never got his footing back in the sport.

Needless to say, I was crippled by guilt and felt that my secret prayers were to blame. I knew I had wrongly vilified him - I just needed to lump all the hard complexities of my life onto one easy target and he was the most obvious. I still feel guilty.

What I found so interesting in Ashley and Sonja's script is the way in which these two girls - who are grappling with their own budding womanhood and the resulting expectations society has placed on them - turn towards witchcraft as a last ditch effort to change their lot. To them, Nina's Mom is the obvious target of their resentment: Nina blames her loneliness and isolation on her mom's decision to start dating again, and Bailey blames the mother for being a home-wrecker. It feels so raw and true to me that, at this time in their lives, their imagination is the last place they actually have agency.

The witchcraft is tied up in so much rage and internalized hatred, like the way in which they slut-shame the mother for just being in the dating pool. We didn't want to create a coming-of-age film that looked down on them or took on an adolescent tone. Rather, we wanted to capture the indignant emotional space they are living in, even if the witchcraft isn't literally real. We treat them as adults, as mature agents, and allow their imagination the same consideration as anything else, because that's where they have control.

But with that control comes responsibility, and the girls are forced to live up to their complicity in slut-shaming and vilifying the mother when the reality is far more complex and achingly delicate.

PRINCIPAL CAST BIOS



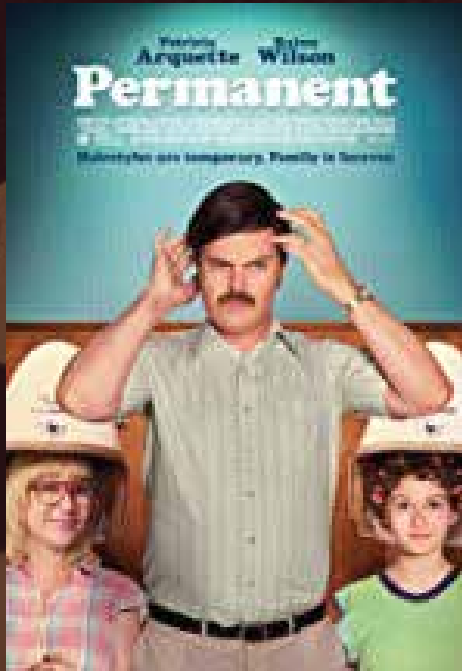
KIRA MCLEAN

Nina

Was born in Clarksville TN. While she's young in years, she's old in soul.

She started acting only a few years ago and managed to get recognition by the industry very quickly for her amazing acting chops. Her most recent feature, "Permanent," (2017) starring Rainn Wilson and Patricia Arquette, opened last Decemeber to great buzz and solidified her as a comedy sensation. She's also know for her performance and work on the television show, "Angie Tribeca" (2016) and the movie "The Veil" (2016) . She's also cultivated quite the social media following with thousands of views/followers on Instagram, Youtube and Facebook. She's currently up for the lead in a new television series set to air this fall. We were so lucky to have her in "Fishnet" and are looking forward to seeing her career take off in the near future!

In her spare time, she enjoys making music with her friends, going to the beach, skateboarding, roller skating and finding new adventures.



PRINCIPAL CAST CONT.



OLIVIA SHATSKY

Bailey

A sophomore at Los Alamitos High School, she is a member of the award winning drama program and is also exploring the sport of Track and Field. Olivia studies acting in her spare time, along with continuous voice lessons. Olivia has appeared in many recent theater productions including DBA Studios Production of "Blackbird" and currently, "High Expectations" a part of the 2018 Hollywood Fringe Festival. Olivia has spent the past year shooting a pilot as a host for Age of Learning's "ABC Mouse", and had a lead role as Molly in "Maggie Smith Is Gone" for the USC Film School. She was very happy to portray Bailey, and be part of the team for the American Film Institutes short film "Fishnet".



STASHA SURDYKE

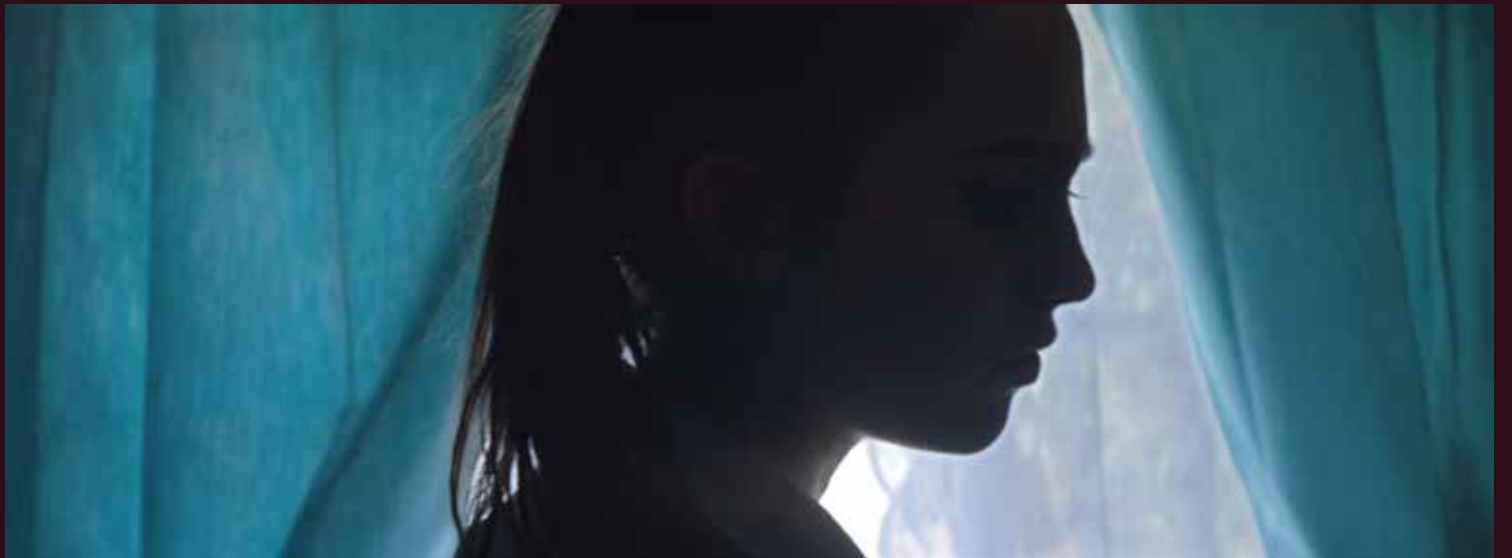
Nina's Mom

Stasha Surdyke (Yara) recently finished filming the title role in a brand new project for Disney Imagineering and Disney Tokyo. Her recent theatrical credits include: Sylvia (Kate) at The Rubicon Theatre, The Tower (Melania Trump), featured in Artists Rise Up LA: E Pluribus Unum, Out of Many One at the El Portal Theatre, The Tragedy of JFK As Told By Wm. Shakespeare (Jaqueline Kennedy), nominated for 7 BroadwayWorldLA Awards at The Skylight Theatre, Her TV/Film credits include: "GLEE", "Reasonable Doubt", "The Perfect Dress", "North Platte", "Fingerpaint", "Not Yet Tomorrow", "Occurrence at Lookout Rock", etc. She is a proud member of Actors Equity and Screen Actors Guild.

STILLS



STILLS CONT.



STILLS CONT.



BEHIND THE SCENES



WHY'S EVERYONE STARING?

The team (sans DP) determining choreography for the "dunk" scene.



WE LOVE WHAT WE DO

We manage to balance fun and work while on set. Here Olivia and Kira share a laugh in between takes.



STUNT WOMEN IN TRAINING

Kira and Olivia work with our Stunt Coordinator to catch the "goo" on film



CONGREGATION

Discussing the next steps for our intense fetal shot



WHO RUN THE WORLD?

Killer woman team. Producer, 1st A.D., costumer and Art Department.



GETTING THE 'TUDE ON

Olivia channels her inner-Bully, Bailey, while getting ready for a tense scene

BEHIND THE SCENES CONT.



TAKING ONE FOR THE TEAM

One of our art PA's boldly stepped up to test the "goo."



THE DP BOSS

Our firecracker cinematographer consults with her film consigliere about our running shot.



Killin' Time

Our two leads goofing around on our costumer's phone in-between takes



TAKIN' A REST

Not really, our lead lays on her mark for our test shot.



DIRECTOR IN HIS NATURAL ELEMENT

Giving direction and asking for his daily fuel: another double chocolate brownie .



KEEPIN' IT CINEMATIC

Our makeup artist on set keeping the actors looking their most camera-ready

CREW LIST

Director:	J. Casey Modderno	Best Boy Electric:	Lej Talens
Producer:	Ashley Hall	Electric:	Nicholas Brazzill
Written By:	Ashley Hall & Sonja Tsypin		Austin Suhr
			Sebastian Nicolau
Unit Production Managers:	Mis Loe	Best Boy Grip:	Rodolfo Martinez
	Javyn Bourgeois	Electric/Grips:	Page Norris
			Jarus Lorenzen
			Amy Austin
1st. A.D.s :	Eva Evans	Production Designer:	Amy Augustine
	Rebekah Jeffery	Art Director:	Toni Gallardo
2nd A.D.	Taylor Townsend	Set Dresser:	Zoe Van't Hof
Production Coordinators:	Patrick Harrison	Props:	Sarah Stern
	Kimberly Kvederis	Art PA's:	Daniel Axeworthy
			Wes Lawson
Production Accountant :	Joyce Liu-Countryman	Editor :	Shaun Lavery
On-Set Accountant :	Shervin Ahdout	Post-Sound:	Barry Weir Jr.
Script Supervisor:	Melissa Pastoriza	Edit Assist/Data Wrangler:	William Connor Jones
Crafty Supervisor :	Patricia Johnson		
	Noel Hall		
Runner :	Holly Grossman		
Set Medic:	Robin Westbrook		
Head Production Assistant :	Terrence Mackey		
Production Assistants:	Martin Elicea		
	Arcelia Martinez		
Location Owner:	Tim Schofiel		
Location Manager :	Terry Ledezma		
Studio Teacher:	Amber York		
	Eileen Sterling		
Stunt Coordinator :	Deven MacNair		
Driver 1:	Guillermo Vidales		
Driver 2:	Mike Hellerstein		
Costume Designer :	Noa Rachel Bricklin		
	Rima Varghese		
Set Costumer:	Breana Hale		
Makeup and Hair:	Michelle Silva		
	Sarah Schmidt-Schreiner		
Sound Mixer/Boom:	Mike Anderson		
	Derrick Brown		
Boom :	Charles Weisse		
Director of Photography + Camera Operator:	Sonja Tsypin		
Second Unit Camera Operator:	Bella Gonzales		
1st A.C. :	Ryan Jackson-Healey		
	Byonghoon Jo		
2nd. A.C. :	Lyle Mouton		
	Chetco Timmins		
Note Taker + BTS:	Harry Feeney-Barrat		
	Trey Anthony-Soto		
Gaffer:	Zilong Liu		
	Dave Auner		
Key Grip:	Robert Nachman		
	Daniel Short		

CONTACT

Ashley Hall
Producer
ahall9813@gmail.com
www.fishnetthefilm.com