

*meddle media presents*

AWARD WINNER  
**Hong Kong  
Indie Film  
Festival**  
July 2021

AWARD WINNER  
**Hong Kong  
Indie Film  
Festival**  
July 2021

AWARD WINNER  
**Golden State  
Festival**

Best Editing in a  
Feature Film

Best Cinematography

Best Editing in a  
Narrative Feature

**ONIRIS**  
FILM AWARDS  
*New York*

AWARD WINNER  
Best First Time  
Director

AWARD WINNER  
**New York  
International  
Women Festival**  
September 2021

Best Producer

Best Feature Film

**Vegas**  
MOVIE AWARDS

AWARD OF MERIT  
2021  
Best Indie Feature

MOA AWARD WINNER  
**MLC  
AWARDS**

Achievement

BEST OF THE YEAR  
WINNER  
**MLC  
AWARD**  
mlcawards.com

★  
Best Fantasy / VFX  
/ Adventure

**85 MIN / U.S.A. / COLOR / 2021 / ENGLISH**

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## Synopsis

Being reunited after sometime, four friends in southern California plot and execute a heist in the backdrop of a vaporwave music festival. Unbeknownst to them, Jesse, a new security guard working within the festival already has his eyes on the money. As the festival unfolds around them, circumstances become more complex, and the money must leave with someone.

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“guaranteed to be a  
cult classic”  
- Liberty Skrollz



- Skyforest Film Board

“a slow burn with a finish  
you won’t stop thinking about.”  
- Roy’s World NLC

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Yucca Fest is the world’s first vaporwave feature film. What does that mean? It means meddle media has combined aesthetics and other elements from the electronic music microgenre with more traditional elements of independent filmmaking. The result is a unique visual library that embraces it’s “mediumness”. The aesthetics intertwine, dancing with the soundtrack produced by vaporwave artist

Yucca Fest is a low budget/high concept modern take on a heist film, finding a unique balance between it’s slow burn story and unique approach to storytelling. Mostly filmed in the Mojave wilderness, where the unique yucca plants and mountain scenery serve as a lonesome departure from the urban world of cheap consumerism and throwaway culture, an invitation awaits...

Escape the city, experience Yucca Fest, and find out who you are.

This film is dedicated to the  
memory of Walter Scott Roseboro III





## The Story of Yucca Fest



Clear direction  
Don't always stick  
to the script  
Take your time  
and be  
efficient  
Find a clear way  
to communicate  
Your goal  
Spend time  
wisely  
Avoid Fights  
on set  
Stay hydrated  
Respect and  
Take Care of  
Your Team

Written by Sunshine Green and produced by meddle media, Yucca Fest is the definition of low budget/high concept independent filmmaking. Originally intended to be directed by Walt Roseboro III, the production faced tragedy early on when the filmmaker was murdered by his roommate in Philadelphia. "It was only a few days before his flight to come work on pre-production with me," said Brady Trainor, producer of Yucca Fest and long time friend of Walt. "Walt was the best man at my wedding. He was my college roommate. For a while after his death I was debating if I should even go through with the film or not." Ultimately it was decided to continue production, and dedicate the finished movie to Walt's memory.

The decision was made to make Yucca Fest casting director Chelsea Murphy the film's director. "When she did casting reads with everyone, I could tell she sincerely understood these character's motivations," said Brady. "I felt like it was important to be someone he knew, too. Someone who may be able to ask themselves how Walt would have handled it." Filmed in May of 2019, mostly in the Mojave desert, the cast and crew braved Santa Ana winds, mountain snow storms, and the desert sun to bring this story to life. Edited throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Yucca Fest is the exact experience right now needs. Vaporwave themes are present throughout the movie. From the aesthetics to the sound design, no detail has been overlooked to bring out the "mediumness" of Yucca Fest.



# Yucca Fest



Best Feature Film



Best Editing in a Narrative Feature



Outstanding Achievement Award



Best Fantasy / VFX / Adventure



Award Winner  
Best First Time Director



Award Winner  
Best Indie Feature



Best Indie Feature



Award Winner  
Best First Time Producer



Best Editing in a Feature Film



Best Cinematography in a Feature Film



Best Producer

# Feel Like A Winner

Yucca Fest saw an impressive festival run from 2021-2022, snatching up ten official selections and eleven unique awards, including best editing, best cinematography, best first time director, and best feature film.





## Meet the Cast



### Monroe Cline

Monroe grew up in Austin, Texas, where she began taking ballet class at the age of 3. Appearing in numerous commercials and music videos, Monroe has also worked with world-renowned brands like Gucci, Chanel and SK-II. She has starred in several feature films and short films, and finds acting to be a great outlet in addition to her abounding dance pursuits.

### Jey Reynolds

A California native, Jey Reynolds is known for his work in Shelter in Place (2020) and Un-Dateable Britt.

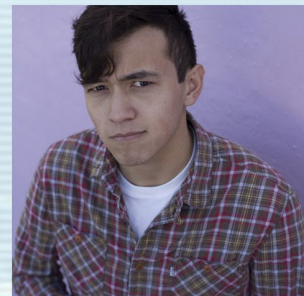


### Nicholas Harsin

Nicholas is best known for his role as Albert Marshall on S.W.A.T. (CBS) and Sean Wallace on Criminal Minds (CBS). From Tucson Arizona, Nicholas studied theatre at the University of Glasgow. He plays jazz trumpet and has a legitimate Le Croix problem. Tangerine. "I hope my work triggers your imagination. I hope my work leaves the world a bit more radiant than it was before."

### Dale Van Slyke

Dale Van Slyke is a rising actor in Los Angeles, California. Originally from Virginia, Dale is a trained theater actor, having studied the art form for well over 5 years. His previous experiences include equity work with Virginia Stage Company in productions of Oliver Twist and A Streetcar Named Desire among work with various theaters in both Virginia and LA.



### Zachary Zarvos

At a young age Zarvos began appearing in television commercials. Zachary has since immersed himself in several disciplines, taught from the Second City Conservatory, the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre & the legendary Playhouse West Repertory Theater in Los Angeles California, founded by Robert Carnegie and Jeff Goldblum in 1981.



# Yucca Fest



## Meet the Director

Chelsea Murphy may be new to the world behind the camera, but she's no stranger in front of it. Murphy attended the Renaissance School of Arts before moving to New York to study at the New York Film Academy. Chelsea then moved to Los Angeles and studied at Playhouse West School of Meisner and Repertoire, where she also took a film labs course. She wrote and starred in her first short "Itanglish", which had a successful festival run, including screenings in Japan and Italy. Yucca Fest will mark Murphy's directorial debut.

## Meet the Producer

Brady Trainor is a storyteller. Born in the midwest, Trainor began working with skate footage before migrating to a more narrative structure of filmmaking. In high school, Brady found an environmental outlet for narrative and PSA-style work. Trainor's emphasis on story, irregular structure, and character development set him apart from other filmmakers, and keeps audiences guessing throughout his films.



## Meet the DP

Robert Heinrich is a veteran of the United States Navy. Now based in Las Vegas, NV, Rob is originally from Florida, where he received his education in film, before moving west to Arizona and eventually settling in Nevada. Along the way, Rob honed skills, adopting a practical style and a flare for desert time-lapses in his works. Yucca Fest will be Rob's first feature film as director of photography, but his decades of experience made sure Yucca Fest's production was in good hands.





interview by Roy Chalkevski

Making a movie these days is tough business. Indie movies feel this more than anyone. With tiny budgets that can get completely zapped by the time filming concludes, and oftentimes leaving very little for marketing, it seems as if some great indie films are destined to fly under the radar, or to swim in a sea of other indie flicks on streaming services, that is if they get made at all. So what can we do? Personally, if I see friends in need for their artistic pursuits, and I believe in them, I give to their Kickstarters. That's exactly how I became an associate producer of Yucca Fest, the world's first vaporwave feature film.

A micro-genre of electronic synth music, vaporwave has spawned an entire aesthetic loosely based on Roman architecture, the 1980s, palm trees, and pastel neon color palettes. Vaporwave is about the "mediumness" in which it's delivered, the texture of the VHS, the skip of the CD, the dust in the air illuminated by the projector at the theatre. Vaporwave emerged from the early 2010s, and has evolved from music, to aesthetic, to internet subculture, but it has never made a full fledged jump to a feature film format. That is, until now.

Screening nationally in New York, Milwaukee, Las Vegas, Yucca Valley, and at the Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, CA, and internationally in London, Berlin, and Hong Kong, Yucca Fest captivated audiences both in person and online as festivals slowly returned to normal after the coronavirus pandemic. I sat down with director Chelsea Murphy, director of photography Rob Heinrich, and producer Brady Trainor to see how exactly Yucca Fest became the artistic feature it is.

Roy: Hi guys, hope you're all doing well. So Yucca Fest made it through its festival run, how was that experience?

Chelsea: It was a really incredible experience, and very humbling to see how well we did. One award we won in particular, best first time director, that one was really cool to win. It was unfortunate it was during covid so most festivals were online, but some of the cast and crew got to go to the Chinese Theatre as part of the Golden State Film Festival for an in-person premiere, and of course our last festival was in my hometown, which was very special. Seeing that it's tangible, that there's an audience and an energy, and not just on a computer. It was very cool.

Brady: Yeah, seeing it in the theatre is like night and day. It's a great energy. I hope cinema can get back to where it was before the pandemic soon.

Chelsea: Yeah seeing people react, like, "you did laugh at that joke, okay cool, that was supposed to be funny. Mission accomplished." And being able to do a Q&A for an audience at the MLC Awards in front of an actual audience that had just watched and have questions was really cool. It definitely makes it feel real.

Roy: You were the sole representative for Yucca Fest at the MLC Awards, how did all that go?

Chelsea: Yeah, unfortunately the speech wasn't filmed, but I did give this really cool speech which I was dying to do because I wanted to honor everyone who put in all this hard work. Special shout out to Zachary Zarvos who came in literally at the last second and saved the production's first day, and to Walter who was supposed to direct the whole movie, of course. We almost didn't go ahead with making it when we lost Walt, but we decided to make it in memory of him. So I really was excited to thank everyone and talk about how much hard work everyone put in.





# Jucca Fest

**Roy:** Talk about the desert as a character in the movie, how was that accomplished?

**Rob:** I think that location scouting was a huge part of it. I do a lot of time-lapse stuff in the Mojave. It's such a huge place, and each place has its own look, but you know you're in the Mojave. I think we're all raised on that. So much stuff was shot out there that when you think of a desert you think of the Mojave. So a lot of that character comes from film history, and how much stuff has been done out there. It's a beautiful place man, truly unique.

**Brady:** Yeah, and at the time, I was living in the Morongo Basin. We were right next to the west end of Joshua Tree Park. When you live in it, you get to know its best and worst angles. You get to see how it shines and which parts look- we'll say not so cinematic. So I think a part of it too was letting the desert sort of tell us how it wanted to be shot.

**Roy:** You can tell. All the desert shots just work so well, and so does your cast and their chemistry. How did this group of actors come together?

**Chelsea:** Thank you! As the casting director I worked really hard to not just find the right people but to do chemistry reads to make sure everyone would mesh together well. These characters have been friends since high school and it's hard to fake those kinds of bonds. And then when I became the director it was really important to me to set up rehearsals kind of how a play would do it rather than a film to get the kids familiar with each other and that was successful, they went rogue and started going out on their own, going bowling and stuff.

**Roy:** That's good they all liked each other. I'm sure it makes working together way easier. So you get your cast, you get them all out to the desert. Now what?

**Brady:** Now all that scheduling I did comes in handy while also going right out the window. We had a fairly big supporting role drop out the day of, which wouldn't have been such a big deal if all three scenes we weren't shooting that day weren't all his. That's where Zarvos came in and saved the day.

**Roy:** So the desert wasn't the only contender you had to deal with. Apart from the human errors, what was the experience like actually shooting a movie in the desert?

**Rob:** The biggest challenge going into the desert was definitely the elements. It's never forgiving. It can get hot obviously, but expect to get cold, too. There's usually a 25-35 degree difference between day and night. It can be calm one minute and have near-hurricane force winds the next day, it's very unpredictable and can be tough. We got to experience it all.

**Brady:** Yeah, and then we went from the desert straight up to the mountains for a day to shoot some scenes too. That was a huge temperature change. It's crazy how much difference there is in just two hours of driving in Southern California.

**Rob:** All the snow on the mountains. One of those things about SoCal, one thing you're in the desert the next you're in the mountains skiing. Fortunately enough we shot inside when it started snowing. To go from the dry desert to that is always a shock to my system.



# Yucca Fest

**Roy:** You go from the desert, to the mountains, to the city, and then to an awesome vaporwave themed music fest. I know you guys filmed in May 2019, but can you give me a basic timeline of how the movie ended up getting made?

**Chelsea:** We casted principle cast pretty far in advance, maybe six months out. We did a couple weeks of rehearsals in April. Then got everyone to the desert maybe a day before we started filming. We filmed for just about three weeks out there. It was supposed to be a really nice relaxing shoot, but between actor issues and weather... We had one day that was just completely wasted. The wind brought down our tent set, so we had to build the entire thing again inside a garage. And then, there were a couple pick up shots, mostly just festival inserts and that cool miniature shot! Then when covid hit, we were really able to take our time in the edit because there was no rush, which was a little bit of a bummer with the delay, but it did take some pressure off.

**Roy:** And Chelsea, you weren't originally the director of the movie, right?

**Chelsea:** Walt Roseboro III was the original director. I was casting director, and we lost Walt to gun violence. Brady asked me, after deciding to go ahead with the film which was a big decision on it's own- to direct the movie, saying he wanted someone who knew Walt and someone who was part of the process from the beginning, and someone who understood the story, and he liked what I did with casting the actors. Being an actor myself I know how to speak a lot of different actor languages, so I found it very easy to get what I was wanting out of actors. I was concerned because I had never directed before but luckily we had an amazing DP so I got to handle a lot of the hands-on moments with the actors because things like the shot list were already pretty solid at that point. And Walt was still a part of it at the step as well, so we got to keep a lot of the early shots he really wanted.

**Brady:** Walt was a good friend of mine. He was my college roommate. He was the best man at my wedding. And he was my first choice to direct this movie. When he died, I spent maybe three weeks or so just sitting around, debating if we should even go through with it. In the end, I'm glad we still got to make it, and got to dedicate it to Walt. I'll never not miss my friend, but at least now it feels like I've done something to help keep his memory alive.



A still from Yucca Fest shows Jesse observing at the festival



Another still from the film shows the LA skyline under an electric feedback sky





# Jucca Fest

SUMMER.....Monroe Cline  
PETE.....Jey Reynolds  
ZACH.....Nicholas Harsin  
KEVIN.....Dale Van Slyke  
JESSE.....Zachary Zarvos  
JOSE.....Enrique Oseguera  
HAYWARD.....Cazimir Milostan  
RILEY.....Chelsea Murphy  
RITA.....Vanessa Conlon  
SAMMY G.....Michael Gambino  
REDNECK 1.....Jacob Peacock  
REDNECK 2.....Blake Byrum  
CORY.....Talyor LeBaugh  
@ITHASTOBEANGELA...Denise Khumalo  
@SOCALDAZE.....Lena Escandon  
POLICE OFFICER.....Glenda Suggs  
SARAH.....Nika Balina  
ACID BUYER 1.....David Snow  
ACID BUYER 2.....Humphrey Orlando  
SECURITY GUARD.....Malique Guinn  
JESSE'S MOM.....Carly Danielson  
KYLE.....Anthony R. Risen  
SLOTH.....George Robert III  
CALM PALM CLERK...Tamrah Chasteen  
JOSE'S FRIEND.....Adam Smith

PRODUCTION MANAGER..Brady Trainor  
EXEC PRODUCER..Michael Huffington  
PRODUCER.....Brady Trainor  
.....Walt Roseboro III  
.....Grand Morris  
.....Jey Reynolds  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER...Alec Waldoch  
.....Chris Bella Joiner  
.....Roy Chalkevski  
.....Titi Marisol  
WRITER.....Sunshine Green  
DIRECTOR.....Chelsea Murphy  
CINEMATOGRAPHY.....Robert Heinrich  
CAM OPERATOR.....Brady Trainor  
.....Alec Waldoch  
CAM ASSISTANT.....Anthony R. Risen  
.....Eli Beers-Altman  
GAFFER.....Jeff Trainor  
SOUND REC.....Adam Smith  
EDITOR.....Brady Trainor  
ORIGINAL MUSIC.....Matt Waldner  
MAKE UP.....Izzy Granack  
HAIR STYLIST.....Lindsey Hatcher  
JEWELRY DESIGN.....LunaSavita  
CASTING DIRECTOR...Chelsea Murphy  
CASTING ASSISTANT....Ekin Dedeoglu  
GRIP.....Bradley Trainor  
.....Zachary Zarvos  
.....Jonathan Ashton