

**Oneonetwosix Films, Dualist, & Film Exchange
Present**

SANZARU

Written & Directed by Xia Magnus



Runtime: 86 minutes
Country of Origin: USA
Language: English, Tagalog
Genre: Horror, Drama

MEDIA CONTACT:
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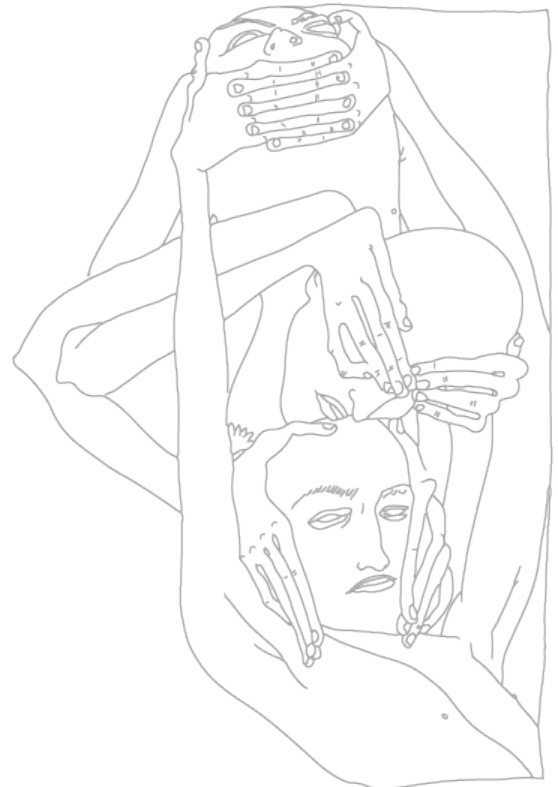
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SYNOPSIS

Evelyn, a young Filipina nurse, is living on an isolated estate while taking care of Dena, the aging matriarch of a Texas family. As Dena slips deeper into dementia, Evelyn begins to sense something ominous lurking behind the walls. Is the house a conduit for supernatural forces? Or is she just hearing things? As Evelyn's paranoia pushes her to uncover her employer's awful past, she may not be prepared for the havoc her curiosity will unlock.

SANZARU is a Gothic tale, a journey to the heart of a haunted house. A house haunted, as much by death, as by secrets.

www.facebook.com/sanzaru/



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Who is Mr. Sanzaru?

The Horror genre is essentially a discourse on trauma, and therefore the Haunted House Story a dialogue about the imprint of historical trauma. More specifically, the long-term effects of violence and death on the family unit.

A haunting is personal, intimate, domestic-- Think Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, Turn of the Screw. And because we inherited many tropes from the Gothic literary tradition, Ghost Stories have the wonderful ability to straddle both the horrific and the melodramatic realm; What it feels like to be a stranger in a strange house, the deep unease that comes with being an outsider. Most importantly they express our anxieties about the impossibility of the nuclear family, the empty promise of familial security, and intergenerational abuse.

In Japanese, 'Sanzaru' means the 'Three Wise Monkeys', who see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil. The monkeys can symbolize balance, in the Buddhist sense of not dwelling on evil thoughts, but they can also signify imbalance, from the denial of unwanted truths.

In the film, Mr. Sanzaru, like so many real life antagonists, tricks his victims into believing that harmony is achieved by repressing past suffering. He torments the Regan family, threatening to unleash their shared secret. A demon, a ghost, or a force-- Mr. Sanzaru could be a Gothic manifestation of the metaphysical horrors of unprocessed trauma. His power over the house and its occupants is predicated on their silence.

It's Evelyn, with the help of her family, who must acknowledge and express her own past trauma before she can escape Mr. Sanzaru's control and restore balance.

- Xia Magnus

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Xia Magnus (writer, director, producer)

The son of two artists, Xia was raised in the vibrant Chicago fringe theater scene, where he was immersed in storytelling from early childhood. In his teen years, Xia transferred his narrative interests into film. He studied experimental storytelling and screenwriting at The New School University in New York and did graduate work in new media and interdisciplinary arts at University of the Arts London.

After the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, he partnered with the Bradshaw-Knight Foundation to document the Sri Lankan reconstruction and in 2014, he was commissioned by the Simultan Association and The Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation to direct a series of documentaries marking the 25th anniversary of the Romanian Revolution. In 2015, he and Alyssa Polk founded Oneonetwosix Films, which has gone on to produce award-winning narrative shorts and features.

Xia's music videos have been featured by Dazed, American Songwriter, Paper Magazine, and exhibited at Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans. His short films have been programmed on Public Television and screened at numerous festivals worldwide. Including HUNTER, which was an official selection of the 2017 Austin Film Festival.

In 2018, Xia's first feature, SANZARU, was selected to participate in the IFP Completion Lab, U.S. in Progress at the Champs-Élysées Film Festival, and the Torino Film Lab Extended program. SANZARU will premiere at Slamdance 2020.

He splits his time between New York and Los Angeles.

Alyssa Polk (creative producer)

Alyssa Polk has worked in all capacities of film for more than fifteen years. Her credits include major studio productions such as the Coen Brothers' TRUE GRIT (2010) and Universal Pictures' ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (2011) as well as countless independent features, shorts and music videos.

Having spent the last decade producing film projects throughout the U.S., while also studying film and art at Yale University, she recently returned to her hometown of Los Angeles to concentrate on her production company, Oneonetwosix Films. Since incorporating with her creative partner, Xia Magnus, Oneonetwosix Films has completed shorts and video works that have aired on Public Television and screened at film festivals worldwide. Most recently they completed their first feature length film, SANZARU, which was selected to participate in the IFP Completion Lab, U.S. in Progress at the Champs-Élysées Film Festival, and the Torino Film Lab Extended program. SANZARU will premiere at Slamdance 2020.

Anthony Pedone (producer)

Anthony Pedone is a creative producer/director who got his first taste of indie film as an extra on Linklater's DAZED AND CONFUSED while studying music composition at Southwest Texas State. He directed an experimental feature in 2009, and since then has produced and directed over 30 features, shorts and docs.

In 2012 Pedone received a film gear grant from The O'Connor & Hewitt Foundation worth over a half million dollars, and created the Texas Independent Incentive Program (TIIP) to offer the use of the gear to women, LGBTQ and first-time filmmakers. The first project he incentivized was THE STRONGEST MAN (dir. Kenny Riches). THE STRONGEST MAN premiered at Sundance in 2015 and was released by Sundance Global. Through his festival and the grant program Pedone has had the opportunity to work with a host of inspired artist and directors.

In 2015 Pedone directed a semi-autobiographical narrative feature, AN AMERICAN IN TEXAS (Austin Film Fest, Gravitas Ventures), produced SANZARU directed by Xia Magnus (IFP narrative lab, Slamdance) and co-produced director Marc Levin's ONE NATION UNDER STRESS (HBO Docs). Pedone currently resides in Los Angeles, and works out of Royal Studios. He is currently in production on a docu-series, A TOWN CALLED VICTORIA (directed by Li Lu, IFP doc series lab), MY HEART CAN'T BEAT UNLESS YOU TELL IT TO (dir. Jonathon Cuartas), CHASING CHASING AMY (dir. Sav Rogers) and has signed on to direct a documentary about the war on drugs political prisoner, Weldon Angelos.

Natnan Hertz (producer)

Nathan Hertz is a Los Angeles born filmmaker and a graduate of Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He is best known for his work on STARFISH (dir. A.T. White) which premiered in 2018 at Fantastic Fest and is distributed by The Orchard. STARFISH is currently in wide release on Hulu. He recently produced a feature film SANZARU (dir. Xia Magnus) which will premiere at Slamdance in 2020.

Nathan has produced and directed numerous independent films, music videos, corporate videos, commercials and staged performances. He has created branded content (as showrunner, director, and producer) for Mattel, Best Buy, American Eagle, Procter & Gamble, and various other companies. Nathan's work has nearly half a billion views on YouTube.

Mark Khalifé (cinematographer)

Mark Khalifé is a Beirut-based director of photography. A London Film School 2014 graduate, his fiction work includes feature films SANZARU (dir. Xia Magnus), SPEAKING IN TONGUES (dir. Nathan Deming) and AN OPEN ROSE (dir. Ghassan Salhab). His documentary work includes the currently in post-production feature EYE OF THE ARCHITECT (dir. Nadim Mishlawi) and THE DRIFT (dir. Maeve Brennan). He has also shot television commercials for Save the Children, Pepsi, Sling, and Ooredoo among others.

For a comprehensive filmography please visit www.markkhalife.com.

Joshua Raymond Lee (editor)

Joshua's career spans ten years of experience working in post-production on numerous major Hollywood films and independent productions. He has worked with such notable directors as Catherine Hardwicke, Darren Aronofsky, Justin Kelly and Danny Boyle. He has also produced and directed several award-winning short films and has ongoing collaborations with contemporary artists working in video and photography.

Most recently, he was a fellow at the Sundance Institute's Editing Residency in June 2019. He is currently based in New York City.

CREDITS

Evelyn
AINA DUMLAO

Clem
JUSTIN ARNOLD

Dena
JAYNE TAINI

Amos
JON VIKTOR CORPUZ

Susan
TOMORROW SHEA

Mailman
MATTHEW ALBRECHT

written & directed by
XIA MAGNUS

executive producers
MATT WIGHAM
KENNY RICHES
RENEE KNIGHT
JAMES KNIGHT
ALYSSA POLK
ERYNDAE THORVALDSEN

producers
ALYSSA POLK
ANTHONY PEDONE
NATHAN HERTZ

co-producers
AINA DUMLAO
JOSHUA RAYMOND LEE
IAN PETERSON

unit production manager
IAN PETERSON

first assistant director
NATHAN HERTZ

cinematographer
MARK KHALIFE

editor
JOSHUA RAYMOND LEE

production designer
CAITLIN WARD

costumes
RACHEL KINNARD

hair, make-up, and effects
RENEE KNIGHT

dialog editor
EVAN MENAK

Sound designer
MICHAEL CAPUANO

Re Recording Mixers
MICHAEL CAPUANO & EVAN MENAK

Post Production Sound Services and Studios Provided by
ICEMAN AUDIO

color grading
GOSIA GRZYB

vfx
QUINN ELSE
MACIEJ SANKOWSKI

composer
CAROLYN PENNYPACKER RIGGS

ORIGINAL SONGS

“EVELYN’S SONG (EVERYTHING)”

written by CAROLYN PENNYPACKER RIGGS

produced by JASON QUEVER

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performed by CHARMAINE CLAMOR

performed by NEDELLE TORRISE

“WORLD OF BLUE”

written by CAROLYN PENNYPACKER RIGGS

produced by JASON QUEVER

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performed by NEDELLE TORRISE

