



“BRILLIANT.”

- Brian Sack, *MovieMaker* magazine

“HILARIOUS... I’VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT”

- Suzanne DeLaurentiis, director
Cinema City International Film Festival

“REALLY CREATIVE... REALLY FUNNY.”

- Jonathon McFarlane, Festivus Film Festival

“MIRACLE INVESTIGATORS IS AWESOME... BIG LAUGHS... IT’S A GREAT SHORT.”

- Jacob LeMaster, Little Rock Film Festival

“THE ANSWER TO A LACK OF ACTION IN DEPICTIONS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.”

- DC Shorts Festival Blog

“A FKING FUNNY FILM... GOOD STUFF.”**

- Gary Anthony Williams, actor (Malcolm in the Middle), & director, L.A. Comedy Shorts Fest

“ABSURDLY FUN... DIVINE.”

- Lisa Kennedy, *The Denver Post*

“REALLY FUNNY... A HIGH POINT.”

- Robert Ben Garant, writer/director, co-creator and star of *Reno 911!*

SYNOPSIS:

Veteran miracle investigator Father Dominic and his rookie partner, Father Justin, judge the authenticity of miracles and bust the spiritual criminals who dare disagree—70s cop show style.

Category: narrative comedy short (student produced)

Running Time: 13 min 07 sec

Date Completed: July 2008

Language: English with Latin

Shooting Format: super 16mm

Aspect Ratio: 4:3 letterboxed to 16x9 (1.78)

Available Screening Formats:

Digital Betacam

Beta SP

mini DV

NTSC DVD

others available on request

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THE PRINCIPALS:



Rommel Sulit (Father Justin) reached a milestone in his actor's training at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre, and has since been featured in many film and theatrical productions. His credits include work in the Austin Shakespeare Festival and the Physical Plant Theater's *Not Clown*, which enjoyed a sold out run Off Off Broadway in NYC. In addition to roles in numerous award-winning short films, Rommel has held featured roles on the TV series *Prison Break* and in the feature films *Mr. Brooks*, *Fighting with Anger* with Willie Nelson, and Richard Linklater's *A Scanner Darkly*. Rommel lives in Austin, where when not acting he works as an architect.



Garry Peters (Father Dominic) has appeared in dozens of films as well as in theatrical productions at Austin's Hyde Park Theatre, the Austin Playhouse, and more. His film credits include leading roles in Jeremy Dehn's previous short, "The Grayed Escape"; the award-winning shorts "The Toaster" and "Gay by Dawn"; and the über successful short film "Perils in Nude Modeling," which has been featured in over 100 film festivals and online at Atom Films. Garry has also appeared in featured roles in the feature films *The Life of David Gale*, *The Wendell Baker Story*, and *Screen Door Jesus*.



John Hoff (Cardinal Thomas) has acted professionally in New York at the American Theatre of Actors, in Houston at the Actor's Playhouse and The Stages Repertory Theatre, and in Austin, where he was a company member of the Austin Shakespeare Festival and the Austin Playhouse. His film and television roles are exceptionally varied, from work on numerous shorts, to a role on *As the World Turns*, to stand-in for Charlie Sheen on *The Chase*, to a voice performance for the English version of the anime film *Crystania no Densetsu*. John currently lives in Colorado with his wife and two daughters.



Andrew Rice ("Choppers" the altarboy) began asking how to "get inside" the television from the time he could talk. At age 6, he auditioned for Alan Parker, and was one of 8 kids out of 400 called back for the role. Since then his many credits include "Mercutio" in *Romeo and Juliet* at the Austin Shakespeare Festival summer workshop, a dying kid in a horror film, and geeky "Lewis Gaylord" in *The Cassidy Kids*. Besides being active in the Austin film community, Andrew is currently passionate about playing soccer, the drums, improv, and rolling around with his dogs.



Jeremy Dehn (writer/director) studied Chinese in college and worked as a journalist in Asia before returning to the States and making the switch from print to video. Jeremy's credits include editor on the shorts "Iris Moon" and "The Fish," sound recordist on the feature documentary *Mississippi Chicken*, and assistant editor on the features *Forfeit*, *The Cassidy Kids*, and the IMAX feature *Ride Around the World*. His own films have played in fests on four continents, including the experimental short "Nonspecific Threat," featured at the European Media Art Festival, "Canine Hoop Dreams," which won Best Documentary in its division at the Boulder Media Awards, and "The Grayed Escape," which took 2nd prize in the international division of the Short Film Festival of India. Jeremy graduated with an MFA in film from the University of Texas at Austin in December 2007, with "Miracle Investigators" as his thesis. He is currently at work on a feature length script. Jeremy lives in Colorado with his wife, daughters, and dogs.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

My hope is that “Miracle Investigators” works as a comedy, but it is also a very personal film to me. For all the camp value I’ve attempted to wring out of them, I have very fond memories of 1970s and 80s cop films, playing endlessly on my best friend’s VCR as we grew up. Somewhere in there a Jackie Chan flick entered the rotation, and together with the kung fu lessons I started taking in sixth grade, became the cornerstone for what evolved into a deep love for many varieties of Chinese cinema. Playing with the tropes from these films felt a lot like hanging out with old, lifelong friends.

On a different level, “Miracle Investigators” started with a desire to revisit my Catholic upbringing as well. I was taught to admire the Christian-inspired movements for peace, justice, and civil rights, but I feel that much of what passes for Christianity today has moved in the opposite direction, becoming divisive and intolerant. Those voices calling for compassion and humanism, which I always saw at the core of my family’s beliefs, seem to have been largely drowned out. It’s a goof of a film, but it felt right to satirize the idea that someone presumes to dictate to everyone else what “qualifies” as divine. My hope is to convey that this process is subject to manipulation, and that competing versions of divinity should be more open for discussion. Or at least convey that it might be satisfying to take some of those who are so theologically presumptive and smack them around a bit.

To the old cinematic and ideological “friends” from my youth I was fortunate enough to add some newer friends in a very qualified and talented cast and crew. “Miracle Investigators,” like any film, and more than any of my previous films, is a real collaboration of many generous, creative people. We had a great deal of fun making this movie, and I hope it’s as fun to watch. —Jeremy Dehn

PRODUCTION TRIVIA:

- “Miracle Investigators” was shot over the course of nine days, after having brewed as a script for several months. The director and almost all of the crewmembers were students in Radio-TV-Film at the University of Texas at Austin.
- Casting began three months before the production, a longer lead than most student and short films because the four lead actors were scheduled for several weeks of training at the Chinese Martial Arts Academy of Austin to prepare for the climactic fight scene.
- The production was allowed to shoot on the grounds of two of the historic San Antonio Missions, the old *convento* of one serving as the Vatican catacombs, and the exterior of another being the exterior of the church central to the action of “Miracle Investigators.” Jeremy recalls, “The church exterior was one of the most beautiful I’ve ever seen, and perfect for the film. I didn’t want to lose it, but I was compelled to warn the priest that our film was a satire—Catholic guilt I guess. But he was generous enough to allow it anyway without even reading the script.”
- The film was completed some months later, after Jeremy, who also edited, returned to his native Colorado to accept a teaching job. The film was mixed at Boulder’s Coupe Studios, and features original music by Kip Kuepper and Joanna Pane at Coupe as well as by Jeremy’s brother Bryan.

CREDITS:

Father Justin Rommel Sulit
Father Dominic Garry Peters
Cardinal Thomas John Hoff
Choppers Andrew Rice
Father Guzman Frank Barajas
Cardinal Anton Dirk van Allen
Maria Yesenia Garcia
Monk Guard Carl Galante

Fight Choreography & Stunts
David Scott
Chris Latham
Jason Bragg

Written and Directed by
Jeremy Dehn

Produced by
Lindsay Stillman

Executive Producer
Maggie Dehn

Dir. of Photography June Lee
1st Asst. Camera Chris McInroy
2nd Asst. Camera Billy MacCartney
Sound Recordist Taylor Seyer
Boom Operators Adam Fore
Martin Pederson
Gaffers/lighting Alex Salahi
Iskra Valtcheva
Lucas Millard
Key Grip Chris Kaiser

Production Design Katja Straub
Shara Lange
Art Director Sam Avila
Wardrobe Alissa Duquette

Assistant Director Jenn Garrison
Script Supervisor Linde Pederson
Assistant Producer Sam Walker
Craft Services Adam Johnson
Insurance Complex Corp.
Latin Translations David Armstrong

Colorist Louisiana Kreutz
Editor Jeremy Dehn
Sound Mix Edward Kaufman

Maria story
Painted by Sandy Toland
Animated by Amanda Simpson

Original Score
Written and Performed by
Joanna Pane & Kip Kuepper

except "Staff of God (MI theme)"
Written by Bryan Dehn
Performed by Bryan Dehn, Rich Robling, &
Rob Hall
with Joanna Pane

made in concert with the Univ. of Texas at
Austin Department of Radio-TV-Film

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Father Guzman (Frank Barajas) runs, knowing full well that his judgment day is at hand. He never should have messed with the Miracle Investigators...



SAMPLE PRODUCTION STILLS:

(downloadable versions available at MiracleInvestigators.com,
additional stills available by E-mailing jeremydehn@yahoo.com)



Father Justin (Rommel Sulit) and Father Dominic (Garry Peters), miracle investigators in action.



Father Dominic (Garry Peters) zooms in on the action: "You have the right to remain penitent"



Maria Salinas (Yesenia Garcia), the mysterious woman whose legend lies at the heart of Dominic and Justin's toughest case yet.



Cardinal Thomas (John Hoff) and his faithful protégé, "Choppers" (Andrew Rice) in their Vatican office. "I got the pope all over my ass, and you just screwed up!"



"Father Justin (Rommel Sulit) squaring off with a villain. "False witness is a serious offense—one of the big ten. And now you're about to pay..."



Cardinal Anton (Dirk van Allen) and his driver (also 2nd AC Billy MacCartney) cleaning up the mess left after this latest case. Someone's doing some penance now...

SCREENINGS AND AWARDS:

- Rome Int'l Film Festival – **WORLD PREMIERE** Sat Sept. 6, 2008, Rome, GA
- Chicago Int'l REEL Shorts Festival – **WINNER, AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD** Sept. 13, 2008, Chicago, IL
- Daytona Beach Film Festival – **WINNER, BEST STUDENT FILM** Sept. 18-21, 2008, Daytona Beach, FL
- Cinema City International Film Festival – **WINNER, AUDIENCE AWARD** Tue Sept. 30, 2008, Universal City, CA
- Austin Film Festival – **WINNER, AUDIENCE AWARD** Oct. 16-23, 2008, Austin, TX
- WT Os International Film Festival – **INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE** Nov. 5-9, 2008, Os, Norway
- Big Easy Shorts Festival Nov. 16, 2008, New Orleans, LA
- Show off Your Shorts Film Festival Feb. 7, 2009, Beverly Hills, CA
- L.A. Comedy Shorts Festival March 5-8, 2009, Los Angeles, CA
- World of Comedy Film Festival – **CANADA PREMIERE** Feb 27, 2009, Toronto, Canada
- Method Fest March 26-April 2, 2009, Calabasas, CA
- Southeast New England Film, Music & Arts Festival April 2-5, 2009, Providence, RI
- Vail Film Festival April 2-5, 2009, Vail, CO
- Dawson City Int'l Short Film Festival April 9-12, 2009, Dawson City, Canada
- Little Rock Film Festival May, 13-17, 2009, Little Rock, AR
- deadCENTER Film Festival June 10-14, 2009, Oklahoma City, OK
- 11/22 International Comedy Short Film Festival – **AUSTRIA PREMIERE** June 16-20, 2009, Vienna, Austria
- DC Shorts Film Festival Sept 10-17, 2009, Washington, DC
- SoCal Film Festival Sept 14-23, 2009, Huntington Beach, CA
- Friars Club Comedy Film Festival Sept 24-27, 2009, New York, NY
- Bend Film Festival Oct 8-11, 2009, Bend, OR
- Festivus Film Festival – **OPENING NIGHT SELECTION** Jan 14-18, 2010, Denver, CO
- Trail Dance Film Festival – **FINALIST, BEST NARRATIVE SHORT** Jan 22-24, 2010, Duncan, OK
- Byron Bay Film Festival – **AUSTRALIA PREMIERE** March 5-13, 2010, Byron Bay, Australia
- Faux Film Festival – **WINNER, AUDIENCE AWARD** April 2-4, 2010, Portland, OR
- Nashville Film Festival April 15-22, 2010, Nashville, TN
- Indie Spirit Film Festival April 23-25, 2010, Colorado Springs, CO
- Los Angeles Comedy Festival May 6-23, 2010, Los Angeles, CA
- San Francisco United Film Festival June 11-17, 2010, San Francisco, CA
- Plymouth Rock Comedy Festival – **SECOND PLACE, BEST SHORT** July 3-10, 2010, Plymouth, MA
- Tulsa United Film Festival July 29-August 2, 2010, Tulsa, OK
- Prescott Film Festival August 6-8, 2010, Prescott, AZ
- Chicago United Film Festival September 10-16, 2010, Chicago, IL
- Philadelphia Film & Music Festival September 23-26, 2010, Philadelphia, Pa
- Williamsburg International Film Festival September 23-26, 2010, New York, NY
- New York United Film Festival October 22-28, 2010, New York, NY