



Conspicuous Pictures and Verax Films
Present

FLUORESCENT BEAST

Release Date: Summer 2024 in Select Theaters

Producer:
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Synopsis	3
Director's Statement	4
Cast & Crew	5
Performer Biographies	6
Filmmakers Biographies	10
Awards	14

SYNOPSIS

From Conspicuous Pictures and Verax Films comes *FLUORESCENT BEAST*, a surreal black comedy that peers at the modern pressures of “adulting” through a paranoid, conspiratorial lens.

Nelson Shell (John T. Woods) feels trapped by life’s monotony. A mid-level office worker mindlessly shuffling numbers for a faceless corporation, Shell finds all of his time taken up by work, commuting and the banal obligations of every day existence. With a pregnant wife (Meg Cionni) and on the cusp of middle-age, Nelson’s ambition to become a novelist - and any sense of himself - slips further and further away.

Change finally comes when Shell is summoned to a meeting with a mysterious high-level executive known only as Mr. Hayden (Patrick W. Day). Hayden informs Shell that he’s to be sent on an important business trip with an even more important objective but, due to the need for secrecy, declines to inform his subordinate just what that objective is.

Shell soon finds himself in a strange city, his only contact Hayden’s assistant Mr. Smearle (Cameron Jebo). Smearle delivers memos to Shell, each laying out a singular, cryptic task for him to perform. At his hotel Shell meets another guest, Meg (Dawn Brodey), who reveals that she’s been sent there under similar circumstances and, based on the memos she’s received, is on an identical assignment.

Unnerved by the situation, Shell and Meg try to discover the true objective of their mission, and begin to suspect that wherever all of this is heading, it won’t end well for them.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Often in life it can seem we're defined by our obligations. As employees, as taxpayers, as parents, as spouses, as consumers, we are divided up and parsed off to dozens of metaphorical hungry mouths, and feeding these beasts takes up nearly all of our waking existence. We often forget the person we are apart from these distractions, and finding the time to remind ourselves can be difficult.

Now, what if these pressures of "adulting" weren't merely a happenstance of modern living, but instead formed an active conspiracy... targeted at you. Yes, *you*. Specifically. What if every situation you found yourself in was designed to occupy your attention just enough to keep you from forming an original thought? What if the people you encountered were actors placed there to make sure you stayed in line? What if all the information you received was crafted and fed to you so you never questioned anything?

While this idea may be fictional, is it one so hard to believe in our increasingly corporatized society? Where massive companies - themselves subsidiaries of other massive companies - collectively own it all: our employers, the stores we shop in, the farms that feed us, the medicines we take, the tech we use, the banks that hold our money, the media outlets that inform us and the hospitals into which we both enter and exit the world? Wouldn't these entities benefit from making sure we don't carry on our lives so much as individuals, but rather as cogs functioning inside their larger machine?

With healthy doses of paranoia, irony and humor, this is the film we've made. *FLUORESCENT BEAST* is a ground-level view of life's business through questioning eyes. Hopefully it reminds us to savor those moments in between all of our responsibilities, and use them to remember who we truly are.

Paul Osborne
Director, FLUORESCENT BEAST

CAST & CREW

John T. Woods.....	Nelson Shell
Dawn Brodey.....	Meg
Patrick W. Day.....	Mr. Hayden
Cameron Jebo.....	Mr. Smearle
Meg Cionni.....	Beth Shell
Blayne Weaver.....	Mickey Mears
Tara Karsian.....	Ms. Sneed
Leslie Wimmer Osborne.....	Ms. Falstead
Kayden Kross.....	Dream Girl
Eddie Jemison.....	The Keeper
Jim Hanna.....	Fish
Alain Pierre.....	Cody
Jamie Fishback.....	Jorge
Trinitee.....	Ms. Sternwell
Robert Hornak.....	Bartender
Alev Aydin.....	Some Guy

Paul Osborne.....	Director/Writer/Editor/Production Designer
Leslie Wimmer Osborne.....	Producer
Melanie Starks.....	Producer
Robert Hornak.....	Executive Producer
Amy Byer Shainman.....	Executive Producer
Christopher Sharpe.....	Executive Producer
Jonathan Brown.....	Co-Producer/Production Designer
Joe Kraemer.....	Composer
Joseph Fiorillo.....	Sound Mixer
Alina Torrens.....	Costume Designer
Rory Cantwell.....	Colourist
Vincent Colavitti.....	Re-Recording Sound Mixer
Roger Andrews.....	Casting
Paul DeNigris.....	Senior Visual Effects Artist

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

JOHN T. WOODS (“Nelson Shell”) – John T. Woods stars as Nelson Shell, an average guy thrust into unusual circumstances, in the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

Originally from Portland, Oregon, John has been working in entertainment in Los Angeles for the last two decades. A busy performer in independent cinema, his film credits include *DEAD BULLET*, *DOWN AND DANGEROUS*, *WEST VIRGINIA*, *V/H/S/2*, *CROSSBREED* and *HAPPIER*, as well as the TV series *CRIMINAL MINDS*, *NCIS*, *HOUSE*, *iCARLY*, *CSI MIAMI* and *24*.

A resident of Burbank, California, he can soon be seen alongside Aaron Eckhart in the upcoming thriller *THE BRICKLAYER*.

DAWN BRODEY (“Meg”) – Dawn Brodey plays Meg, a businesswoman sent on a clandestine business trip, in the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

A Wisconsin native, Dawn has appeared in a variety of independent films including *CRUEL HEARTS*, *I WAS A TEENAGE WERESKUNK*, *CRUSH IT*, *STRANGE DEAL* and *INTO THE VOID*, and on TV shows including *PRETTY LITTLE LIARS* and *SAME SEX*. Dawn is also an accomplished standup comedian and the creator, writer and host of the popular podcast *HISTORY I'D LIKE TO F*CK*.

Dawn attended the University of Minnesota and graduated with a BA in Theater and History. She worked steadily in the Twin Cities theater community for 15 years, racking up over 40 professional stage credits, including a 2-year run in the hit interactive comedy *TONY N TINA'S WEDDING*. Dawn also wrote 4 commissioned and produced plays and hosted a long-running live variety show.

She currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband, filmmaker Andrew Melby, and their daughter.

PATRICK W. DAY ("Mr. Hayden") – Patrick W. Day plays the mysterious corporate executive Mr. Hayden in the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

Patrick has appeared in countless films over his four-decade-long career, including starring roles in the acclaimed *FAVOR*, *CRUEL HEARTS*, *CUT TO THE CHASE*, *HAVE WINE WILL TRAVEL*, *CALICO QUEENS*, *WAITING FOR OPHELIA*, *HUCKLEBERRY FINN* (as Huck opposite legendary actors Geraldine Page, Frederick Forrest and Lillian Gish) and cult favorite *ERNEST GOES TO CAMP*.

His extensive TV work includes Netflix's *DAHMER*, *BOSCH:LEGACY*, *NCIS*, *GREY'S ANATOMY*, *PROMISED LAND*, *9-1-1*, *S.W.A.T.*, *SUGAR*, *WINNING TIME* and his turn as a regular on the Fox series *TRIBES*.

A founding member of L.A.-based comedy group The Mock-Notz, Patrick has directed over 100 plays, including *BELOW THE BELT* and *CYNICS*, which received both *L.A. Weekly's* "Pick of the Week" and "L.A Times Recommends". He also directed every episode of the digital series *H.O.A.R.S.*

An accomplished acting teacher, Patrick is the director of L.A.'s Young Actors Space, an artistic director of the YAS Theatre, and has been a coach for PBS' American Playhouse, the Pasadena Playhouse, and Barbizon International.

Patrick currently resides in Los Angeles.

CAMERON JEBO ("Mr. Smearle") – Cameron Jebo portrays Mr. Smearle, an unsettlingly attentive corporate assistant, in the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

Cameron is perhaps best known as the Orion, the "Silver Ranger", from the TV series *POWER RANGERS: MEGAFORCE*. He has also starred in movies including *TANGLED*, *THE STRANGER SHE BROUGHT HOME*, *REALITY QUEEN*, *A CHRISTMAS PRINCESS* and *THE EXPERIENCE*, and appeared in series such as *KILL IN THE BLANK*, *NCIS*, *AUSTIN & ALLY* and *VICTORIOUS*.

A California native and coffee aficionado, he currently resides in Burbank with his wife Nicole.

MEG CIONNI (“Beth Shell”) - Meg Cionni portrays Beth Shell in the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

An accomplished actress and writer, Meg has appeared on numerous TV series including *GREY’S ANATOMY*, *CASTLE*, *SCANDAL*, *FRANKLIN & BASH* and *MAD MEN*, and in such movies as *THE RENDEZVOUS*, *THE WEDDING PARTY*, *WAKING* and *BUCK WILD*.

When Meg’s not acting, she can usually be found plucking sweet tunes on her uke, singing her guts out to Disney and Broadway showtunes or performing in her band, Yony, headed by her brother, Mike Cionni. Born and bred in Cincinnati, Ohio, she now resides in Los Angeles, CA with her husband and the daughter that, ironically, she got “real” pregnant with immediately after pretending to be pregnant for her role in *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

BLAYNE WEAVER (“Mickey Mears”) – Blayne Weaver plays the mysterious Mickey Mears in the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

Blayne previously wrote, directed and starred in the films *CUT TO THE CHASE*, *6 MONTH RULE* and *OUTSIDE SALES*. He’s also appeared in numerous movies including *FAVOR*, *AMERICAN PIE PRESENTS: GIRLS’ RULES* (which he also wrote), *JUNK*, *DEEP DARK CANYON*, *PRIME OF YOUR LIFE*, and *THE GOOD OLD BOYS*. His extensive TV work includes guest starring roles on such series as *WOLF PACK*, *NCIS*, *THE MIDDLEMAN* and *ER*.

Blayne’s additional feature directing credits include *A CUPID FOR CHRISTMAS*, *GETAWAY*, *SANTA GIRL* and *WEATHER GIRL*. He’s also been Disney’s official voice for Peter Pan since he played the character in the hit film *RETURN TO NEVERLAND*.

A native of Bossier City, Louisiana, Blayne studied acting in New York and at Oxford University, and graduated from UCLA with a degree in English Literature. He currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

TARA KARSIAN (“Ms. Sneed”) – Tara Karsian plays the impenetrable Ms. Sneed in the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

An actress with an extensive resume, Tara is currently a regular on Apple TV’s *THE MORNING SHOW*. She has appeared in series such as *AMERICAN HORROR STORY*, *9-1-1*, *DOUBT*, *MAYOR OF KINGSTOWN*, *DEAD TO ME*, *THE MAGICIANS*, *ANGER MANAGEMENT*, *SHAMELESS* and *THE MENTALIST*, and movies including *MOTHER’S LITTLE HELPERS*, *BEERFEST*, *WIND RIVER*, *SINGLE WHITE FEMALE*, and *THE GPS ZONE*. Tara also co-

wrote, co-produced and co-starred in the award-winning comedy *BFFs*.

The daughter of legendary actress Pat Carroll, Tara's career began with early appearances on *MARRIED WITH CHILDREN*, *WHO'S THE BOSS* and *THE X-FILES*. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

KAYDEN KROSS ("Dream Girl") – Kayden Kross plays the enigmatic "Dream Girl" in the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

Kayden is an award winning director, writer and actor in the adult film industry. She's the founder of production company and website *DEEPER*, one of the top outlets for Vixen Media Group. Kayden has been a Penthouse Pet of the Month and a contract performer for Vivid, Adam & Eve and Digital Playground.

A bookworm in high school, she has contributed regular columns to both Complex and XBiz magazines, and her short story "Plank" appeared in the 2012 short story collection *FORTY STORIES: NEW WRITING FROM HARPER PERENNIAL*. She has appeared in TV series including *THE LEAGUE*, *CSI* and *RULES OF ENGAGEMENT*, and in the movies *DON JOHN*, *BLUE DREAM* and *AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL*.

She currently resides in Southern California with her partner, Manuel Ferrara, and their daughter.

EDDIE JEMISON ("The Keeper") – Eddie Jemison plays the strange, subterranean man known only as "The Keeper" in the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

A New Orleans native, Eddie is a veteran character actor with credits in a vast number of movies and TV shows. Best known for his iconic role as Livingston Dell in *OCEANS 11*, *12* and *13*, he recently recurred on both NBC's *CHICAGO MED* and the CW's *iZOMBIE*, appeared in the films *NOPE*, *CRUEL HEARTS*, *WAR DOGS*, *WAITRESS*, *THE PUNISHER*, *BRUCE ALMIGHTY*, *SCHIZOPOLIS* and *VERONICA MARS*, and was a regular on the HBO series *HUNG*.

A frequent collaborator of Steven Soderbergh's, Eddie wrote, directed and acted in his own award-winning indie feature *KING OF HERRINGS*, which is currently available on all major VOD platforms and streaming on Prime. Eddie is also a founding member of the band The Lightjackets, sharing lead singer duties with Vance DeGeneres.

FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

PAUL OSBORNE (Writer / Director / Editor / Production Designer) – Paul is the writer, director, editor and one of the production designers of the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

Paul previously wrote and directed the award-winning features *FAVOR* and *CRUEL HEARTS* as well as the acclaimed documentary about film festivals, *OFFICIAL REJECTION*. He also wrote and produced the indie thriller *TEN 'TIL NOON* and is co-president of production company Conspicuous Pictures.

In high school, Paul won Denver's Gates Planetarium statewide science fiction contest where his short script, *THE FINAL EXAM*, was produced and played to the public for four straight weeks. Paul went on to attend the University of Miami, majoring in both screenwriting and English, where each of two of the shorts he wrote and directed won best picture awards at the university's "Canes" film festival. He subsequently graduated Cum Laude.

Paul has also worked as a film editor and written articles for several media outlets including MovieMaker, Film Threat, Hope For Film and SAG Indie. He recently relocated from Los Angeles to London with his wife and business partner, *FLUORESCENT BEAST* producer Leslie Wimmer Osborne, and their son.

LESLIE WIMMER OSBORNE (Producer / "Ms. Falstead") – Leslie Wimmer Osborne is one of the producers of the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*. She also portrays Ms. Falstead in the film.

Leslie previously produced the hit indie feature *FAVOR* as well as the critically acclaimed documentary *OFFICIAL REJECTION*. She was also an executive producer on the thriller *CRUEL HEARTS*.

A graduate of the USC School of Theater, Leslie has worked as an actor on both stage and screen in United States and United Kingdom. She's also held positions at Sony, Disney and an extended post in Theatrical Creative Content at Paramount Pictures.

Leslie is co-president of film and television production company Conspicuous Pictures, and recently relocated from Los Angeles to London with her husband, *FLUORESCENT BEAST* writer and director Paul Osborne, and their son.

MELANIE STARKS (Producer) – Melanie Starks is one of the producers of the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

Melanie previously produced the digital original series *HOARS* and *JUSTINE & REBEL*. She was a co-executive producer on the concert film *ROXY: THE MOVIE* and produced the play *BELOW THE BELT* by Richard Dresser in 2017 at the Whole Theatre in Sherman Oaks, CA.

In the music business, Melanie has been the director/president of production on more than 20 Frank Zappa albums in collaboration with Gail Zappa, the Zappa Trust and Universal Music Enterprises. She has thus far worked on more than 50 posthumous Frank Zappa releases in the past 20 years. Melanie was also instrumental in the launch of the festival *MUSEXPO*, an A&R Worldwide company, in 2005.

A graduate of Central Michigan University (BA in Theatre) and Mills College (MFA in Dance), Melanie currently works as an independent producer, writer and actor via her company Essential Mark.

She resides in the City of Angels.

JONATHAN BROWN (Co-Producer / Production Designer) – Jonathan “J” Brown is the co-producer and one of the production designers of the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

J previously produced the award-winning feature *CRUEL HEARTS*, and has been a location scout manager in the entertainment industry for over 24 years, working primarily in commercials and reality television. His notable credits include *PUNK'D*, *AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL*, *MASTER CHEF*, *BIGGEST LOSER*, and *AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR*. He's traveled across North America, searching for locations to accommodate small and large productions alike.

J is also an avid photographer, his work published in the book *EVERY MONDAY MATTERS* and in print media for the band Virgil. An Air Force brat, he was born in Lakenheath, England, but additionally has called Athens, Greece, North Carolina, Texas, Nebraska, and Oregon home.

He currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife and daughter.

AMY BYER SHAINMAN (Executive Producer) – Amy Byer Shainman is one of the executive producers of the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

Amy is currently producing the film *LADY* and was an executive producer on the hit thriller *FAVOR* and documentaries *PINK AND BLUE* and *THE TWO DOLLAR BILL DOCUMENTARY*.

Also known as the BRCA Responder, Amy is an advocate and author providing support and education surrounding BRCA and other hereditary cancer syndromes. She is a BRCA1 gene mutation carrier and a “previvor” (a survivor of a predisposition to cancer). In 2010 she had two prophylactic surgeries to reduce her cancer risk; a nipple-sparing, skin-sparing mastectomy with reconstruction and oophorectomy with a hysterectomy.

Her 2018 medical memoir *RESURRECTION LILY* has won 14 literary awards and was a 2020 book club selection of the National Library of Medicine. She has also appeared on numerous television and radio segments nationwide, and published articles in *The American Journal of Managed Care*, *Jupiter Magazine*, and *Oncology Nursing News*.

ROBERT HORNAK (Executive Producer) – Robert Hornak is one of the executive producers of the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

Robert is the founder and president of Verax Films, which produces documentaries, narrative features and shorts. His recent titles include *HOLLYWOOD BULLDOGS: THE RISE AND FALLS OF THE GREAT BRITISH STUNTMAN*, *CRICKET*, *CRUEL HEARTS*, *A SHOT IN THE DARK*, *GHOSTHEADS*, *ELSTREE 1976*, and the highly acclaimed post-combat military PTSD documentary *SOLDIER*, which took home five Best Short awards in 2022. Verax Films is also developing a baseball documentary series with Robert set to direct.

A native of Milwaukee, Robert grew up in Charleston, South Carolina and first began his foray into making movies as a kid with an 8mm *STAR WARS* fan film. He graduated from The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, and detailed his experiences there in the co-authored screenplay *KNOB YEAR*. Acting still remains one of Robert’s avocations, and he has appeared in movies including *MAJOR LEAGUE II*, *42* and *THE BANKER*. He started Verax Films after completing his production internship on *KILLING THEM SOFTLY*, where he worked with Academy Award winning producer Anthony Katagas.

Robert currently resides in Birmingham, Alabama, with his wife Bentley. They have twin boys, Cade and Davis, and a daughter, EB.

CHRISTOPHER SHARPE (Executive Producer) – Christopher Sharpe is one of the executive producers of the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*.

Christopher is the producer and co-creator of the YouTube channel *YOGA WITH ADRIENE*, founded in 2012 with his friend Adriene Mishler. The most popular yoga channel on Youtube, it now has over 11 million subscribers and over 1 billion views.

A freelance filmmaker based in Los Angeles, Christopher has produced a wide variety of content for clients such as Tastemade, YouTube, and Scripps Networks. He has also worked on several feature films, including writing and directing the award-winning action thriller *SEX MACHINE* in 2005.

JOE KRAEMER (Composer) – Joe Kraemer composed the musical score for the surreal black comedy *FLUORESCENT BEAST*, as well as provided the song for the opening credits, “Slow Motion”.

Joe has created music for over 100 feature films in a variety of genres, including the Tom Cruise blockbusters *MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: ROGUE NATION* and *JACK REACHER*, and countless TV movies and series such *COMERADE DETECTIVE* and *CREEPED OUT*. Other credits include *OLD MAN*, *THE MAN WHO KILLED HITLER AND THEN THE BIGFOOT*, *KING COHEN: THE WILD WORLD OF FILMMAKER LARRY COHEN*, *FAVOR*, *WAY OF THE GUN*, *OFFICIAL REJECTION*, *WE RUN SH*T* and *TEN ‘TIL NOON*.

Joe has been scoring movies since the age of 15, when he composed the soundtrack for his high school classmate Scott Storm’s *THE CHIMING HOUR*, a feature-length film shot on Super 8. After attending Berklee College of Music in Boston to study film composition, he scored the NBC/Warner Brothers pilot *THE UNDERWORLD* with veteran television director Rod Holcomb. Though the series was not picked up, the pilot was ultimately repurposed as a TV movie and has since gained a cult following.

In addition to his composing work, Kraemer frequently teaches masterclasses in composition for various colleges and organizations, including The Hollywood Music Workshop, ASMAC, Columbia College Chicago, and Media Sound Hamburg.

AWARDS

Best Feature Film

Glendale International Film Festival 2023

Spirit of Independents Award

Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, 2023

Best Independent Feature Film

Central Michigan International Film Festival, 2024