

POND

PRESS KIT



BRAND NEW GUY FILMS PRESENTS "POND" A FILM BY TOCHI OSUJI
CRAIG HENRY DALE SAMMS JEFFREY AARLES WAYNE DOWNER JULIAN LEWIS OYIN OLADEJO
PRODUCED BY MICHAEL BITTON WRITTEN BY ELI WEINSTEIN DIRECTED BY LOGAN GREENE EDITED BY MAX WHITE
COSTUME DESIGNER STEVE CUPANI MUSIC BY GREGORY "CHEF" BYER PRODUCED BY DARK STUDIO SOUND COMPANY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JUSTIN BLACK PRODUCED BY GAVIN SEAL WRITTEN BY ALTER EGO POST DIRECTED BY TOCHI OSUJI
WWW.PONDSHORTFILM.COM



Log Line

In this martial arts period film (1800 Upper Canada), two slaves jeopardize their escape to baptize themselves.

Synopsis

In Upper Canada, 1800, Thomas and John are on the run from their master. Their sudden escape is failing: Thomas is badly injured and both have no idea where to go. When Thomas collapses, John prays for a way out. Soon he stumbles onto a pond and believes it to be a sign of salvation. Thomas wants to keep running but John is adamant they should baptize themselves. And their master is fast approaching with his gunmen...

Technical Details

Duration: 6 min 36 sec

Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1 (letterboxed)

Shooting Format: ARRI Amira

Screening Formats: 2K Scope DCP, HD Quicktime
(others available upon request)

Sound: Dolby Digital 5.1 (stereo available)

Contact Details

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Website: www.pondshortfilm.com

Facebook: facebook.com/pondshortfilm

Twitter: twitter.com/pondshortfilm



Director's Statement

The idea for Pond came to me while on a recent trip to Nigeria. I felt constantly bombarded with religion in a country that needs to focus on tangible solutions rather than waste time and resources on such institutions. I wanted to make a film to support nonbelievers especially my Black and Latino people. We are among the hardest hit by religion, which makes our journeys especially challenging.

Ultimately, I have a lot of love for believers. They are my family, friends, etc. I think beliefs shouldn't distract us from resolving essential problems.

Writer / Director / Producer



Tochi Osuji was born in Toronto, Canada in 1984. The son of African immigrants, Tochi grew up between Canada, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia. He has also travelled to several countries in Europe and Asia, which gave him an early fascination with religion and culture. Eventually, he settled in Toronto to attend Ryerson University, where he majored in Radio & Television Arts. "Pond" is Tochi's debut film.

Director of Photography: Justin Black



Justin Black is a Toronto-based director of photography. He is a graduate of Ryerson's RTASchool of Media. He has shot 15 short films including several which have been screened & won awards at film festivals internationally.

Recent films include "Fuck Buddies" (Official Selection @Austin Fantastic Fest and Winner of Toronto After Dark Festival's Silver Medal Canadian Short) and "The Path" (Winner of the Best Female Director at the National Screen Institute Film Festival).



Craig Henry

Craig Henry is an actor and stuntman from Toronto best known for his work on *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones* (2013), *Brick Mansions* (2014) and *11 Blocks* (2015).

Dale Samms

Dale Samms is a Toronto native whose family ties originate in the West Indies. After studying drama and communications at Humber College, Dale spent his early twenties working on a variety of short film projects and major motion picture productions. He has since worked with David Strathairn on *Alphas*, Tatiana Maslany on *Orphan Black*, Hugh Dillon on *Flashpoint* and Anna Silk on *Lost Girl*.



CAST



Jeffrey Aarles

Jeffrey Aarles has been in and out of the acting biz for years, appearing in movies, plays and on TV in both Toronto and Montreal. Favourite theatrical roles include Charles in *Blithe Spirit*, Harpagon in a commedia dell'arte version of *The Miser*, a drunken undertaker in *Canoe Lake*, and a wise-cracking yogic apostle in *You Don't Know The Half of It*.

Wayne Downer

Wayne Downer was born and raised in Lakehurst (a borough of Buckhorn, ON), and now lives in Toronto. A veteran stuntman, he's best known for his work on *X-Men: Days of Future Past* (2014), *X-Men: The Last Stand* (2006) and *Pacific Rim* (2013).



Julian Lewis

Julian Lewis is a lifelong martial artist and professional stunt man. He is known for his work on *RoboCop* (2014), *Silent Hill: Revelation3D* (2012) and *Cinderella Man* (2005).

Oyin Oladejo

Born and raised in Nigeria, Oyin moved to Canada as a young woman and attended Humber College's Theatre program where she was awarded the Edna Khubyar Acting Award. Upon graduating, Oyin landed the lead role in *In This World* for Roseneath Theatre, for which she won the prestigious Dora Award. Oyin will be returning to the Soulpepper company in the spring to play "Kristine Linde" in *The Doll's House*.



CREDITS

John ... CRAIG HENRY
Thomas ... DALE SAMMS
Master Colden ... JEFFREY AARLES
Gunman 1 ... WAYNE DOWNER
Gunman 2 ... JULIAN LEWIS
Lady ... OYIN OLADEJO

Director of Photography ... JUSTIN BLACK
Production Manager ... MICHAEL BITTON
Assistant Director ... ELI WEINSTEIN
Editor ... GAVIN SEAL
Production Designer ... LOGAN GREENE
Steadicam Operators ... MATT MAREK & ZEFRED ANSALDO
1st Assistant Camera ... MATTHEW BENDO
2nd Assistant Camera ... HOWARD WAN
Gaffer ... ALEX POUTAINIEN
Key Grip ... EVAN BLACKER
Swing ... SIMONA ANALTE
Sound Recordist ... DEREK MASCARENHAS
Makeup ... AYANO KUBO
Stunt Coordinator ... MAX WHITE
Stunt Coordinator ... HUBERT BOORDER
Fight Choreographer ... JONNY CAINES
Stunts ... WAYNE DOWNER & JULIAN LEWIS
Script Consultant ... RUTH ATKINSON
Composer ... STEVE CUPANI
End Score ... REMIX BY GREGORY "CHEF" BYER,
FROM THE ORIGINAL SONG "THE BUTTERFLY PEOPLE" BY AMBIENT ARCTIC
Post-Production Supervisor ... JUSTIN BLACK
Colour & VFX ... ALTER EGO POST
Colourist ... CLINTON HOMUTH
Colour Assistant ... SHAWN ZACCHIGNA
VFX Producers ... CAITLIN SCHOOLEY & JANE GARRAH
VFX Artist ... ERIC PERRELLA
VFX Coordinator ... KENDRA SMITH
Audio Post Facility ... DARK STUDIO SOUND COMPANY
Sound Designer ... ANDY FRECH
Re-Recording Mixer ... GRANT EDMONDS
Transport ... BRETT BACCHUS & RICKY BROWN
Production Assistant ... CHRISTIAN BUNEA
ACTRA TiP Coordinator ... TASSO LAKAS
ACTRA Stewart / IPA Stewart ... CINDY RAMJATTAN
Assistant ACTRA Stewart ... CHRISTOPHER HINVES
Camera & Steadicam Provided By ... RON PIANO PRODUCTIONS INC.
Poster ... MARY ZHAO
Website ... LAURA K. TAYLOR

THANK YOU!

Jack Lami
Elvira Graham
Linda Butler
Anne Harding
Alicia Jeffrey
Kristan Nair
Brian Jagersky
Pat Lau

Kevin Lam at Front Row Insurance

Charles Northcott at AFBS

Carol Anne DaCosta

James Nadler

Donna Morrison

Ellis Orlan

Elena Marchuk

Daniel Duquette

Sonjiah Davis

Madison Paige

Yoav and Rebecca Bales-Kogan

DJ Agile

Davin Bujalski

Jesse Ohtake

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

The Osuji family

Justin Black

Rob Van Wees

a BRAND NEW GUY FILMS production