



## Thoughts from Fred Miller, director of "Chase: Cut Short":

The production of this short film was a valuable and rewarding experience for me. I learned a lot and it has helped me to grow as a filmmaker.

It all began with the auditioning process where we tried to find the best actors for the roles that we needed. We had many people who were willing to give of their time and talent to participate in this project. I was upset that we weren't able to involve all who auditioned for us that day, but that's part of the process.

I'll have to say the actual physical production was tough for me. I had to battle with the fact that many times I felt unprepared and in way over my head. I was blessed with a great crew which included Michael Gardenias, Scott Elia, Eric Melendez (who also did double duty as corpse Charlie Oaks), Cooper Coleman doing makeup and hair styling, and Jon Edwards. Jon's determination, as well as his great script and producing skills, made it a lot easier.

We were also extremely fortunate to work with a gifted cast. John Zacchino performed admirably under adverse conditions in the role of Jesse Bustillos. In the role of Mad House Jim was James T. Locascio, who even scared me a few times playing the expert called in to finish the job. Darron Johnson was able to bring his own flair to the pivotal role of Drake's friend Monk. This project couldn't have been completed without our two main characters, Drake played by Paul Christino and Lauren played by Natalie Janssen. Natalie endured two long shooting days in a wedding dress, which I'm sure must have been uncomfortable at times. She never complained though and delivered a performance that brought more depth to the character than we ever expected. Paul was a trooper doing exactly what was asked of him. He managed to endure two long shooting days driving cars 95% of the time as well as delivering his lines and having a gun held to his neck. I give them all a lot of credit for working as a true team and bringing this production to the next level.

The production involved multiple shooting days and plenty of obstacles. We managed to endure even though I lost count as to how many days we shot. We all also continued to work our full time jobs in the process.

The editing process was long, monotonous and extremely rewarding all at the same time. I was able to learn the complex program Final Cut Pro, which is what we used to edit CHASE. I also stocked up on RAM and an extra hard drive for my iMac, which was our editing machine. A great computer in my book. It was here where I felt all the hard work paying off.

By completing this project I was able to gain a lot of confidence in my skills as a filmmaker. I know that this experience will help propel me to a new level as a director, writer and producer.



Fred directs at the restaurant, "I said nachos, man, plenty of nachos. Oh! And some mean salsa, bro!"

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