

Washed-Up

A FEATURE FILM BY

MICHAEL CLARK &
CALEB DILLON

ELEVATED HORROR, SATIRE



FILM CROSS





GREEK TRAGEDY FOR MODERN AUDIENCES



LOGLINE

*When a Survival-style reality show turns deadly,
a group of faded stars and C-listers must
overcome their personal demons and each other
to survive a celebrity-worshipping cult.*

synopsis



ON A REMOTE, GRECIAN ISLAND, A DISPARATE GROUP OF C-LIST CELEBRITIES ARE UNWITTING PARTICIPANTS IN WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE THE LATEST SURVIVOR-STYLE REALITY SHOW BUT HAVE BEEN ENSNARED BY A FANATICAL CULT THAT IDOLIZES CELEBRITY, SEEKING TO PURIFY THEM THROUGH SACRIFICE. AS THE GAME KICKS OFF WITH SEEMINGLY INNOCUOUS SURVIVAL CHALLENGES, THE CONTESTANTS SOON FACE A GRUESOME REALITY: THEY ARE PREY IN A MACABRE HUNT ORCHESTRATED BY THE CULT. IN THIS HIGH-STAKES GAME OF SURVIVAL, ALLIANCES ARE FORGED, AND RIVALRIES SIMMER.

THE ONCE SELF-CENTERED AND SUPERFICIAL SANDY GALVANIZES THE CELEBRITIES IN A DESPERATE BID FOR ESCAPE. BUT AMONG THEM LURKS A TRAITOR, MASON, PLAYING A DIFFERENT, MORE SINISTER GAME. IN THE END, SANDY 'WINS' THE GAME AND IS FACED WITH A DEVIL'S BARGAIN: DISMANTLE THE CULT AND RESIGN TO A LIFE OF OBSCURITY, OR ASCEND AS ITS NEW DEITY, BASKING IN THE TWISTED ADORATION OF HER 'FOLLOWERS.' SHE CHOOSES A RETURN TO FAME, AND KILLS THE LAST SURVIVOR, MASON, TO WIN. IN THE CODA, SANDY IS HELPING TO ARRANGE SEASON 2 OF THE SHOW



50s, driven, indignant, ex-movie star

SANDY HAYWOOD

Once a promising young starlet, Sandy's only crime is that she got older, as Hollywood seemingly forgets about women over fifty. Not content to sit on her laurels, she makes moves for herself, but is without resources to capitalize on her ambition.

When presented with the opportunity to join the cast of *Washed-Up*, she is dubious, riddled with doubts but having hit a glass ceiling in her career, she looks at this as a chance to burst through; the risk worth the reward.

Unfortunately she wasn't counting on Mason Thorn, her ex-rocker/ex-husband being among the contestants. Decades prior, he left her to sow his wild oats. But time has a way of healing old wounds, and she wonders if perhaps there is still an ember of passion left for him.



50s, grizzled ex-rocker

MASON THORN

Mason Thorn has been around the world three times and back. He's toured with the Stones, He's seen it all, done it all, fucked it all, and snorted it all. But no matter how much gak he snuffed, he couldn't shake the feeling that he had ruined his life when he gave up the best thing to ever happen for him for a younger model, literally.

Mason's deepest regret is that he choose his music over the woman he loved, his muse, Sandy. Time and substances have left him old, lonely, and bereft. He is hoping to use Washed-Up as a chance to reconnect with Sandy, show her that he isn't the man he used to be... that he's changed. Unfortunately not all changes are for the better, as Sandy will soon learn.



50s, decisive, ambitious, manipulative

Allani

Allani is a woman of mystery. No one quite knows where she came from or how she got here. Possessed of great ambition, her true joy is in bringing catharsis to the masses. Content is the new religion, and she is akin to a high priestess in the Cult of Dionysus. The relics have changed, of course; altars replaced with cameras, parishioners replaced with a TV audience, but the goals are just the same. Appease the Gods through the gift of honorable sacrifice.

Unfortunately, animals are no longer sufficient to this task. Celebrities are walking shrines to hubris, the manifestations of the Gods on Earth. It's her job and privilege to placate her cast, purify them through trial, and then offer them up to the Old Gods. In Sandy she finds a likeminded spirit, and a potential partner for the future.



50s, Survivalist couture, silver fox.

Declan Ford

For Declan, there is no greater testament to life than 'The Hunt'. Big game, small game, he's traveled the world seeking honorable sport. While ostensibly similar to other TV nature guides like Bear Grylls, Declan has a quiet intensity that can be unsettling at times. Declan has spent years living off grid, inducted into aboriginal tribes, wrestled with tigers, or at least so he has said. Separating fact from fiction is Declan's stock and trade.

While filming a season of Outback Survivor, he was approached by Allani with a most unusual proposition. While he doesn't care for the cults frolicking, he understands the need for ritual.

Declan acts as a sort of Master of Ceremonies, ensuring the various challenges proceed on schedule. Unlike Allani, Declan isn't known for his patient or forgiveness. Cross him and he will remember you...

meet the contestants



JACKIE

Played a geeky sidekick on a high school sitcom, but never quit escaped the shadow of his teenage years. Now works as a comic to support himself.



KENZIE

Twin sister to the star of a reality TV show, Kenzie grew up in her sisters shadow, and has struggled to find her own identity in the spotlight of the paparazzi



KYLE

An All American football star that only played two seasons before a major injury forced him to retire early. Now works schlocky commercials for car dealerships.



IRIS

A sex worker and influencer, Iris is a goth cam-girl that wants to remove the stigma around sex work. Aliented from her mother because of her job.



DWAYNE

A marine before becoming a mixed MMA fighter, Dwayne is a rising star in the violent world of reality TV, seeking to expand his brand. A born leader and survivor.



CATHARSIS...

Means to cleanse or purge. In Greek tragedy, this relates to the purgation of emotion, where a person is able to express or purify emotions like pity and fear, leading to a sense of renewal.

Greeks were also renowned for the violence of their sacrifices - crucifixion, the Brazen Bull, the rack, all originated in Greek culture. Like many ancient cultures, Greeks made offerings to the Gods for good fortune, and plentiful harvest.

Using this as a jumping off point, we imagined a modern cult of Dionysus, Greek God of Madness, and a return to 'the old ways,' celebrating and worshipping through dance, feasting, and song on a remote island. The cult has identified celebrities as the newest incarnation of Gods of earth, and through a series of challenge framed as a reality TV show, they test these contestants, purging them of all impurity before being ritually sacrificed.

STYLE/TONE







Accolades & Praise

[Click Here to View Sizzle Reel](#)

"IT'S HARD TO BALANCE AN ENSEMBLE CAST IN ANY GENRE, LET ALONE ONE THAT BLENDS HORROR AND COMEDY. YET YOU MANAGED TO MAKE EACH VOICE HEARD WHILE MAINTAINING THE RHYTHMS OF STORY AND PUNCHLINES."

"THE SCRIPT'S STRONGEST ASSET IS ITS THEMATIC DRIVE. THERE'S A LOT OF SMART SATIRE AND CARICATURE IN THE STORY THAT YOU DON'T ALWAYS FIND IN HORROR-COMEDY. YOU CLEARLY HAVE A LOT TO SAY ABOUT THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY AND ITS CONSUMPTION AND I THINK YOU'RE ABLE TO DELIVER A LOT OF THAT SEAMLESSLY IN YOUR NARRATIVE AND DIALOGUE. THE ANALOGIES/SYMBOLISM OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY WITH MODERN DAY IDOLS IS BOTH COMPELLING AND FUN, SO I WAS ON BOARD FOR ALL OF IT."

About Us

CALEB AND MICHAEL MET WHILE TAKING SCREENWRITING COURSES AT UCLA EXTENSION. THEY BOTH SHARE A LOVE OF TABETOP RPGS, HORROR, AND BLACK HUMOR TO MATCH THEIR BLACK HEARTS.

Why Us?

MICHAEL AND CALEB SHARE THE SAME DARK, TWISTED, MACABRE SENSE OF HUMOR AND FASCINATION WITH REALITY TV. DURING A WORKSHOP, THEY DISCOVERED THEY WERE DEVELOPING SIMILAR ADAPTATIONS AND COMBINED THEIR EFFORTS.

Why Now?

THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME ENTERED THE PUBLIC DOMAIN IN 2020, A WELL-ESTABLISHED AND COMPLETELY FREE IP. SQUID GAME WAS A WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON; THERE IS MASSIVE POTENTIAL IN THE SURVIVAL HORROR SPACE.



Washed-Up



contact

MICHAEL CALEB	Phone : 619-208-1820 919-645-7735	Email : toplocker@gmail.com calebfilm@yahoo.com
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