

LIFE SENTENCE

an independent feature film

"The pen is a double-edged sword."

About the Project

Life Sentence is an independent 35mm feature film produced and shot in Chicago. It is a psychological thriller chronicling the turbulent and deadly relationship of a washed-up editor who attempts to resurrect the career of a once-brilliant young writer with a secret. The story is loosely based on the life of a young Chicago writer who in the early 90s self-published a critically acclaimed novel and then vanished without a trace.

Dramatic films which center around artistic characters, their struggles with success and failure, and the mysterious connection of creativity to both genius and madness (examples include Barton Fink, Wonder Boys, Three Colors: Blue, Shine, Basquiat, Finding Forrester, Fool, and High Art) have been and continue to be popular in specialty theaters, foreign markets and home video release. Life Sentence delivers an innovative and intelligent variation on this theme wrapped within a psychological thriller.

Life Sentence is a clever and engaging high-quality project with a first-rate cast, standout edgy soundtrack, and exceptional production values. All rights for representation and distribution are currently available.

Awards/Reviews

GOLD AWARD - SUSPENSE/THRILLER FEATURE FILM
Worldfest - Houston

"[Life Sentence] grabs attention with an intriguing premise and a palpable sense of foreboding...promising pic" - VARIETY

"A twisted tale...intriguingly dark"
- HOUSTON CHRONICLE

"Well-directed and well-written film. [Mariann Mayberry] offers a compelling and rich performance." - CINEBLAST!

The Cast

Patrick Clear (Richard Barrow)

Patrick's film and television credits include: *Losing Isaiah*, *The Babe*, *In the Best Interest of the Children*, *Logan's War*, *Bound by Honor*, *Graceland*, *Early Edition* and the TV series *The Untouchables*. The majority of his career, however, has been spent on the stage. He appeared on Broadway as Garry Lejuene in *Noises Off* and shared the 1984 Drama Desk Award for Ensemble Performance. Patrick is a member of the Chicago Shakespeare Repertory Theatre.

Andrew Rothenberg (B.Rian Garrity)

Originally from Los Angeles, Andrew has been doing film, TV, and theater work in Chicago for the past nine years. He has worked on the long-running hit *Hellcab* and appears in the film version *Chicago Cab*. Andrew worked opposite Mel Gibson on *Payback* (although his part was cut) and has appeared in numerous independent films in Chicago and Los Angeles. He guest-starred on *E.R.* and *Judging Amy* last season and played a recurring role on the short-lived Ken Olin series *E.Z. Streets*. Other TV series appearances include *Early Edition*, *Turks and Missing Persons*.

Mariann Mayberry (Maddie Alton)

Mariann is a Steppenwolf Theatre Ensemble Member and is currently appearing on Broadway in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* with Gary Sinise. Mariann was recently named the "Best Actress in Chicago" by Chicago Magazine. She starred in *Hysteria*, directed by John Malkovich, and as Athena in Mary Zimmerman's production of *The Odyssey* at the Goodman Theatre. Film credits include *Since You've Been Gone* (directed by David Schwimmer), *Hole in the Wall*, *Conflicts of Interest*, and the TV movie *Dillinger*.

Louise Lampion (Celeste Kern)

Life Sentence is Louise's second feature film. She has appeared in numerous commercials and short films but her passion is theater. She is currently touring with Mary Zimmerman's production of *Metamorphoses*. Louise recently appeared in *The Odyssey* at the Goodman Theatre also directed by Mary Zimmerman and participated in the 1997 Edinburgh Fringe Festival with Great Jones Theatre's *Boys' Life*. She is a graduate of Northwestern University with a degree in Performance Studies.

Shanisia Williams (Beth Austin)

Shanisia Williams is a regular on the CBS primetime television series *Early Edition* (currently airing on the Fox Family network). Motion picture credits included *Chicago Cab*, *With Honors*, and *Backdraft*. She appeared in the acclaimed Goodman Theatre productions of *Black Star Line* and *Ties that Bind* and is a graduate of DePaul University's Goodman School of Drama.

Natalie West (Louise)

For seven seasons Natalie played series regular *Crystal Conner* on the hit sit-com *Roseanne*

The Story

With a jolt, Richard Barrow, an enigmatic and washed-up literary critic finds himself sucked into the turbulence of a disarming and chaotic young writer named B.Rian Garrity. Four years after writing a celebrated first novel, B.Rian seems to have dropped off the face of the earth. His only occupation now is indulging in the low life, catered by Celeste Kern, a cagey street urchin who brings out the worst in him. In the meantime, B.Rian's live-in girlfriend, Maddie Alton, is getting tired of always picking up the pieces and putting her dreams of being a photographer on hold.

Seeing a chance to salvage his own languishing career, Richard devotes himself to reforming B.Rian's life and molding him back into the writer he once was. Richard is convinced that under his strict tutelage B.Rian will create his next work of genius. B.Rian, however, is not so sure and locks himself into his apartment to escape the pressure. Maddie finds herself forced to stay with Richard who is secretly scheming more drastic measures. Slowly Richard reveals his true duplicitous and controlling nature as he begins to manipulate all aspects of the unwitting writer's life while becoming B.Rian's only conduit to the outside world.

B.Rian finally gives in and begins to write. And the writing is brilliant. To much acclaim, Richard publishes the new book, chapter by chapter, exploiting his newfound celebrity as editor and exclusive connection to this rising star. Even Maddie finds herself enamored with the man who seems to be raising B.Rian Garrity from the dead.

But soon reality creeps back in. Richard catches Celeste sneaking out of B.Rian's apartment. And Maddie has taken up her camera again, keeping a curious eye on Richard and B.Rian's progress from the street below. Back at Richard's place, Maddie stumbles across traces of his hidden past which raise many questions in her mind about the man with whom she thought she was falling in love.

Nearing the completion of the book, Richard confronts B.Rian and discovers that B.Rian is not whom he thought he was. Stricken with the fear that his well-ordered world might come crashing down, Richard strikes out at B.Rian in a moment of rage, killing the young pretender. When he encounters several of Maddie's photos developing in his apartment, Richard is left to wonder what she has witnessed through her lens.

As Richard becomes completely entangled in his own web of paranoia, he runs into Maddie at a gallery exhibition of her haunting documentary-style photographs. In a moment of reckoning Richard is forced to face Maddie as the layers of his deceptions are stripped away by the seemingly incriminating images surrounding him, rendering him a victim of his own hidden darkness.

Set amid the shadows of Chicago's urban landscape, *Life Sentence* is equal parts psychological thriller and darkly comic character study, combining the themes of *Barton Fink* with the tone and energy of *Shallow Grave*. *Life Sentence* explores the nightmares we will endure for a chance to realize our dreams.



wandering eye

motion pictures

The Company

WANDERING EYE MOTION PICTURES, LLC is Andy Graydon, C. Webb Young, and Scott Edelstein. The trio met at the prestigious Northwestern University while completing the Masters of Fine Arts degree in the Department of Radio/TV/Film. To date the members of the team have worked together on several successful independent and commercial collaborations. Additionally, each filmmaker has an acclaimed individual track record.

ANDY GRAYDON (Writer/Director)

Andy first started making films in Seattle where he formed his own production group and developed a taste for darkly comic stories and brooding, often surreal imagery. During this time he made more than seven films in four years. After moving to Chicago he produced acclaimed work both as a screenwriter and director while teaching film and video production at Northwestern University. His film, *Locus Solarius*, won the "Best Experimental Film" award at Flicker Festival. Andy currently resides in New York City where he continues to work as a filmmaker and experimental audio artist. He is the recipient of a grant from the Princess Grace Foundation for his first feature film *Life Sentence*.

C. CHRISTOPHER WEBB YOUNG (Producer)

C. Webb Young is the award-winning producer and director of the film *The Devolution of Ethan Chadwick* which was seen at a dozen film festivals. For the last five years C. Webb has been producing and directing for a variety of media. Recent projects include the indie feature films *Stray Dogs* and *Pop Life*, the television series *Discovering the Internet* for the Discovery Channel, and the interactive multimedia narrative *As American as Apple Pie*. He received his undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

SCOTT EDELSTEIN (Director of Photography)

Scott has worked as a professional gaffer and cinematographer on over 100 commercials and more than twice as many music videos. As a Director of Photography, Scott has shot nearly 40 short films, dozens of commercials, and three independent features, proving himself adaptable to many film styles. Scott is based in LA and is the recent recipient of an Eastman-Kodak award for young cinematographers.

For additional information - PH: 646.246.7975 FAX: 718.504.5395 www.wanderingeyefilms.com info@wanderingeyefilms.com