

PugLove Productions and Interface Productions present a film by Nicholas Thurkettle



Samantha is divorced

She's on her first date in awhile

She has a story she's trying not
to tell

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE



CONTENTS

Synopsis	3
Production Notes	4
Director's Statement	6
Credits	8
Bios	9
Honors	12

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

SYNOPSIS



Samantha was married to Ronnie for twelve years. Twelve good years in her mind. Then a strange twist of fate parted them, and she still has no idea how to process the loss. Set up on a date, she tries to see fresh possibilities in front of her – over wine, salad and pasta she jokes, she flirts, she looks at the man in front of her and feels the beginnings of new desire. But raw memories and unresolved feelings take over, and even though she knows she is sabotaging the date, she is helpless but to share the story of herself and Ronnie, because the need to be heard has become far more important than the date. Tonight was just too soon for Samantha.

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

PRODUCTION NOTES (1/2)



Samantha Gets Back Out There is the first film directed by actor/writer Nicholas Thurkettle, and the first to be produced or photographed by his partner Barney Crow, and the goal was to create a project that could execute a moving short within a minimalist production scenario. “We’ve got one location, one actor, one camera setup,” says Thurkettle, “but you can affect an audience with only that if you’ve got an emotionally-resonant idea.”

To bring the story to life, Thurkettle cast Jill Cary Martin, a well-known face within the theater community of Orange County, where Thurkettle first met her when they both performed in a challenging play called *Unrelenting Relaxation*. “What Jill brings to the table is not just the stage-honed discipline to prepare and reliably deliver pages and pages of material under pressure, but an off-the-charts work ethic and daring for exploring characters that are flawed and lost. She was the perfect choice to tell Samantha’s story.”

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

PRODUCTION NOTES (2/2)



Crow persuaded the owner of Papalucci's Italian Restaurant in Long Beach to allow the use of his location for free, on the condition that they be out by 11am so that the restaurant's cooks could begin the day's lunch preparations. This gave the filmmakers only five hours to set up, film, and break down the entire production.

Due to a miscommunication, the cooks arrived early in order to prepare a large catering order, and stood anxiously on the sidewalk as the crew raced to finish before all the noisy restaurant machinery needed to be switched back on. Martin delivered the most challenging segment of the whole film - a climactic unedited shot of 2 1/2 minutes' worth of emotionally devastated monologue - in just two takes.

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (1/2)



They say creativity flourishes under restrictions - in making "Samantha" I wanted to create a simple production scenario to serve as my first turn directing, while challenging myself as a writer to tell a compelling, cinematic story with the most minimal elements .

Samantha is the sort of character I love to write about - a woman who has not sought out drama in her life, thrust into a situation where there is no easy solution, no emotional harbor in a culture of quick-fix advice. But she does her best, and her struggles aren't over when our brief glimpse of her is ended. Lives are filled with drama like this, and I was eager to explore it cinematically, breaking her monologue into a disjointed chronology that suggests the non-linear workings of memory, and plays more compellingly in the edit than it would have worked on a stage.

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (2/2)



A minuscule budget and tiny crew was balanced by fierce dedication on both sides of the camera. It was a mammoth task for actress Jill Cary Martin to perform over six pages of wordy material with a wild emotional trajectory. Our past collaborations on stage gave me total confidence she would tell Samantha's story with poignancy, respect, and heart. My producing partner Barney Crow, a diligent actor in his own right and very talented still photographer, made his debut as a DP and composed a rich, deep frame, then worked tirelessly to process the image into a beautiful monochrome inspired by Gordon Willis's black-and-white Woody Allen films.

At first I was uncertain whether I would take "Samantha" out to festivals or simply use it as an educational experience, but the quality of work delivered by Jill, Barney, and all-around sound wizard Darren Lodwick persuaded me that we could proudly share this with festival audiences.

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

CREDITS

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

USA, Black-and-White, runtime 7'02"

Produced by Barney Crow and Nicholas Thurkettle

Starring Jill Cary Martin as Samantha

Featuring Jonathan Rodriguez and Alexsia Cano as Diners

Art direction/Editor/Writer/Director

Nicholas Thurkettle

Director of Photography/Post Production Supervisor/Color Correction

Barney Crow

Production Sound Mixer/Boom Operator/

Darren T. Lodwick

Post Production Sound Mixer/Sound Editor

Script Supervisor/Set Decorator

Amanda Zarr

Lighting Assistant

Jon Rodriguez

Production Assistant

Alexsia Cano

Behind the Scenes Photography

Jennifer Weatherup

Filmed on location at Papalucci's in Belmont Shore, California

Shot on Canon, Edited on Adobe

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

BIOS (1/3)

NICHOLAS THURKETTLE (Editor/Writer/Director/Producer)



Nicholas Thurkettle studied theatre arts and music at Bradley University in Illinois before getting his start in the film business as a script reader then development executive for independent film producer J. Todd Harris (*The Kids are All Right*, *Piranha 3D*.) He sold his comedy screenplay “Queen Lara” to Room 9 Productions (*Thank You For Smoking*), and has optioned the thrillers “7 Red” and “Snowblind” to producers while collaborating with director Antonio Negret (“Arrow”, “The 100”) on the action thriller “Under the Knife”, currently in development.

He is a member of the WGA, a producer, writer, and performer with the award-winning audio drama podcast *Earbud Theater*, author of the short story collection *Stages of Sleep* and co-author of the thriller novels *Seeing by Moonlight* and *A Sickness in Time*. As a playwright, his work has appeared throughout California and on regional stages in Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. He is also a SAG-AFTRA Eligible actor, with an extensive resume of on-stage Shakespeare as well as roles in the upcoming independent features *Cloudy With a Chance of Sunshine*, *Reclaiming Friendship Park*, and *Aventura*.

“Samantha Gets Back Out There” is his first project as a filmmaker.

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

BIOS (2/3)

BARNEY CROW (DP/Post Supervisor/Producer)



Barney Crow began his love of film and storytelling in his native London where he worked in corporate training and marketing motivation. After his move to Los Angeles, he studied acting and improv and performed in local theater. He received kudos for his performance in *Dracula* at the Long Beach Playhouse, playing a diabolical mental asylum attendant whose most troublesome patient, Renfield, was played by his future filmmaking partner-in-crime Nicholas Thurkettle.

Extensive work as background talent in numerous films and television shows provided valuable training in the ins-and-outs of staging as well as the workings of a film set. A lover of dogs, Crow's still photography business specializes in unique dog portraits. He has also produced the short film "Naboo's Mini Adventure," about a dog who overcomes his fears. New adventures for Naboo are in the planning stages. He continues to pursue acting, producing, and many other aspects of the cinematic process that interest him.

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

BIOS (3/3)



JILL CARY MARTIN (Samantha)

Jill Cary Martin is an award-winning actress, and has appeared in many stage productions in and around the OC and LA, most recently as the enigmatic Mrs. Pascal in *The House of Yes*, Gertrude in a critically acclaimed promenade presentation of *Hamlet: Slings and Arrows*, and as the sympathetic and witty Mrs. Kendal in *The Elephant Man*. Other theatre work includes roles in *The Comedy of Errors* and *Hamlet* for Shakespeare-by-the-Sea; *Macbeth*, *Private Lives*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Doubt*, *Sideman*, *Frozen*, *The Visit*, *Medea*, *A View from the Bridge*, *Heartbreak House*, *Talley's Folly*, *The Crucible*, *Hedda Gabler*, *The Lady's Not for Burning*, and the titular character of *Molly Sweeney*.

She can be seen in the independent short films *Norm*, and the soon to be released, *Snuff*. She has also completed numerous voice-over projects including a couple of meaty roles for the science fiction themed podcast *Earbud Theater*.

She has directed projects for Rude Guerrilla, Vanguard Theatre Ensemble, Long Beach Playhouse New Works Festival, and South Coast Repertory's Young Conservatory. She holds a Master's in Theatre from Cal State University, Fullerton and is a graduate of South Coast Repertory's Professional Conservatory.

SAMANTHA GETS BACK OUT THERE

HONORS



OFFICIAL SELECTION

2015 Laughlin International Film Festival



OFFICIAL SELECTION

2015 IndieFest USA Film and Music Festival

*Honorable Mention

*Finalist – Best Comedy



OFFICIAL SELECTION

2016 Southeastern International Film Festival



OFFICIAL SELECTION

2016 Las Vegas Online Lift-Off Film Festival



Press inquiries and bookings, contact Nicholas Thurkettle: nt@nicholasthurkettle.com
All behind-the-scenes photographs by Jennifer Weatherup