



R & R
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FROM IT ALL™

R & R

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PROJECT OVERVIEW



“R&R” is a new short film from writer/actor/filmmaker Nicholas Thurkettle, who after writing and directing award-winning shorts while acting in projects for other filmmakers, is for the first time playing a role in a film of his own. It can best be described as a dangerous love story, about a devoted couple who have come to a cabin in the woods to escape the toxicity and stress of modern life, and work together at their goal to make the world a better place...by very dark and twisted means.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

R&R to me is a story about the power of love; but power can be a dangerous thing. When I think about what fascinates and frightens me about the dark natures people can have, I always come back to this thought that someone's craziest idea is not only utterly normal to them, it's buried at such a fundamental, subterranean level of their being that you might know them for years and not ever have it come up.

I also believe there's a kind of love that gives you the sense of suddenly being tuned into another soul's frequency with an intensity that changes you. At a time like that, when your self is being mingled with another's, a lot of strange ideas can be created. Who even remembers which one came up with them? All that matters is they share it now. *Folie à deux*, they call it in French. A madness of two. Romantic, but like I said, dangerous.

We want this to be a beautiful film. But where that beauty leads...we hope to keep at least a few people up at night after watching it.

FILMMAKER BIO (1/2)



NICHOLAS THURKETTLE

(Editor/Producer/Writer/Director, Cast – “Raymond”)

Nicholas Thurkettle is a writer, actor, and filmmaker. He studied theatre arts and music at Bradley University in Illinois and started 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 Entertainment (*Thank You For Smoking*), and optioned the comedy *Sir Sandy* and the thrillers *7 Red* and *Snowblind* to producers while collaborating with director Antonio Negret (“Arrow”, “Lethal Weapon”) on the action thriller *Under the Knife*. He wrote the teleplay for the action/sci-fi anime pilot *Children of Ether* for the Crunchyroll streaming network, which debuted on over 300 movie screens for Anime Movie Night; and he is co-producer on the hybrid romance/horror feature *A Ghost Waits*.

FILMMAKER BIO (2/2)



Thurkettle is a member of the WGA and the Orange County Playwrights Alliance, a writer/performer with audio drama podcast *Earbud Theater*, author of short story collection *Stages of Sleep*, and co-author of the novels *Seeing by Moonlight* and *A Sickness in Time*. His acting work spans animation/videogame voice-over, on-stage Shakespeare, and the feature films *Cloudy With a Chance of Sunshine*, *Aventura!*, *Afterthought*, and *Revelator*. For *Reclaiming Friendship Park* he was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the Love International Film Festival.

R&R is the fourth short film he has written/directed. Prior shorts have played over 30 festivals such as Phoenix, Durango, Rochester, Dam Short Film, Trenton, Blackbird, Alameda, Bare Bones, Cinema at the Edge, River Bend, North Hollywood Cinefest, and Boomtown, and won awards such as People's Choice – Best Short Film at Borrego Springs, and Best Comedy Short at the Albuquerque Film and Music Experience. His comedy short *The Dinner Scene* landed a distribution deal with the subscription streaming platform *Seed & Spark*, and since *R&R* he directed the short thriller *Anya* and is in pre-production on the sci-fi short *Three Ninety Five*.

PRODUCER BIO

JENNIFER WEATHERUP

(Producer/Art Director/Behind-the-Scenes Photography)

Jennifer Weatherup is an attorney by trade, having earned her J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law after an undergraduate degree in History from Bryn Mawr. But she has always maintained creative pursuits outside her legal work, whether it's creating original, science fiction-themed artwork for the award-winning podcast Earbud Theater, or taking behind-the-scenes pictures on short films directed by long-time friend Nicholas Thurkettle.

For “R&R”, Jennifer stepped into a much larger filmmaking role for the first time. It came with a full portfolio of crucial responsibilities, everything from forms and contracts, to managing transportation logistics, to artificially aging books, painting bowls, designing the film's poster, and creating a fake scotch label.



CAST BIO



REBECCA SHOULTZ
(Cast – “Robin”)

Rebecca Ann Shoultz was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Her family moved to Waco, Texas when she was very young, so she considers herself an honorary Texan. She began acting in theatre as a child, but turned her focus to music when she reached high school. She briefly attended the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas with the intent of becoming a professional opera singer. But acting was her true calling. In 2014, she began studying acting at the Vancouver Film School in Vancouver, British Columbia. Rebecca now resides in Los Angeles, where she can be seen in the upcoming T.V. movie *C.A.K.E.* as well as the web series *Girls Gone Geek*.

PRODUCTION NOTES (1/3)



The story of *R&R* starts a year before filmmaker Nicholas Thurkettle even conceived its script; when he took a five-day holiday/writing retreat at a beautiful cabin in Cedar Glen, just outside Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains. After a productive and restorative stay, he found himself contriving possible excuses to make a return visit, as well as imagining how the property and surrounding landscape might look on the cinematic screen.

It was on a road trip to the Phoenix Film Festival in support of a previous film that he first started working out the idea. “It honestly started as this thought exercise – how many people could we bunk at that cabin? Would it be enough to make a movie worthy of such a great location?” Settling on a total cast and production crew of just seven people all sleeping and working under the same roof, Thurkettle set to work imagining a story that would take maximum advantage of both the setting and the artistic talents of his carefully-cultivated team.

PRODUCTION NOTES (2/3)



While Thurkettle cast prior shorts from his own network of colleagues, he opened the casting for *R&R* up to find the best candidate for the leading role of Robin. Attracting over 700 submissions, the process finally brought Rebecca Shoultz into the fold. “Rebecca made an impression right away,” Thurkettle says, “She had this tremendous mix of groundedness and curiosity, and instantly got the vibe of what we wanted to accomplish. If the relationship between the two characters isn’t convincing and compelling, nothing else matters. Rebecca created a sense of the relationship from the first read.”

Shoultz was thrilled to dig into a character with such a wide and varied emotional landscape. “A story like this one that centers around a relationship really is an actor’s playground!” she says, “I had such fun playing Robin, and working with this amazing crew who are beyond impressive.”

PRODUCTION NOTES (3/3)

The filmmakers had a grand total of 44 hours at the cabin to capture the entire 11-page script, while still hoping to get two nights' sleep. "Even when the whole crew was resting," Thurkettle says, "J. (Van Auken, cinematographer) might be slipping away to capture some scenery."

In order to emphasize the bond between the two characters, Thurkettle worked with Van Auken to capture many scenes in long, carefully-choreographed single shots. Thurkettle and Shoultz's extensive stage training was key to their execution.



The climactic shot, nearly three minutes long and requiring the entire crew working in concert, was captured on the second full take the first night of production. Thurkettle describes it as "the single craziest thing ever attempted on any project of mine." The experience and rapport built up among his team over multiple projects, he believes, was the secret to the shoot's success.

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"R&R" (2018, USA, 13'13")

Rebecca Shoultz as ROBIN

Nicholas Thurkettle Editor, Producer,
Writer, Director
Jennifer Weatherup Producer, Art Director,
Behind-the-Scenes
Photography
Amanda Zarr Co-Producer
Jenaha McLearn 1st Assistant Director
Elizabeth Susanne 2nd Assistant Director
J. Van Auken Cinematographer, Colorist,
Post-Production Supervisor

Nicholas Thurkettle as RAYMOND

Darren T. Lodwick Production Sound, Original
Musical Score
Nikki Nina Nguyen Makeup & Hair, Wardrobe
Supervisor, SFX Makeup
Craig Good Post-Production Sound
Mixing/Editing
James Dunovan Visual Effects Artist
Lark Arrowood Art Department
Assistant/Carving Double

Shot on RED. Edited on Adobe. Filmed in Cedar Glen, CA

SCREENINGS/HONORS

As of- 11.8.2018

“R&R” had its World Premiere screening at the Jerome Indie Film and Music Festival in Jerome, Arizona, on Sept. 30th, and is under consideration for further festivals through summer 2019. For the latest news on festival bookings and awards, visit filmmaker Nicholas Thurkettle at www.nicholasthurkettle.com, or follow @NThurkettle on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Vimeo.



Contact: Nicholas Thurkettle (Filmmaker) nt@nicholasthurkettle.com
Behind-the-Scenes Photos by Jennifer Weatherup