

Technical information

Shooting format: 2K

Projection format: DCP, Bluray & DVD

Length: 93 minutes

Genre: Dark Comedy, ZomCom

Original version: French

Sub-titles: English

Format: Scope 2.35

Sound: 5.1

Country of production: Canada

Year: 2021



Production - Canada

PALOMAR
812 Gilford
Montreal, QC
H2J 1N9
T +1 514-526-4766
info@palomarfilms.com
www.palomarfilms.com

World Sales

WAZABI FILMS
4200 St-Laurent-office 1200
Montreal, QC
H2W 2R2
T +1 514-827-6428
anickp@wazabifilms.com
www.wazabifilms.ca

Canadian Distribution

FILMOPTION INTERNATIONAL
3401 St-Antoine West
Westmount, QC
H3Z 1X1
T +1 514-931-6190
pcadieux@filmoption.com
www.filmoption.com

SYNOPSIS.

At the beginning of winter, in a posh enclave where leisure and money know no bounds, a golf club hires an unscrupulous Multinational to genetically modify its turf so that it can be open year-round. The water on Peacock Island becomes contaminated with a "revolutionary" fertilizer that melts the snow, but turns its inhabitants into mutants.

Transformed by this intelligent molecule, the mutants' mission is to expand the perfect lawn throughout the island while their bodies decompose into grass. 15 year-old André witnesses the outbreak of the epidemic that leaves him an orphan. Horrified, he fights for his survival and that of his little sister, Annie, when he meets Dan, a 50 year-old security guard and wannabe survivalist. Dan has taken shelter in an upscale grocery store where he hides his infected 20 year-old daughter Patricia in a refrigerator. He is convinced an antidote can be found. In an effort to increase his ratings, a Trash-Radio host encourages the population to be wary of the victims and pushes the government to eliminate them while the occult and sprawling forces of the Multinational seek to erase any trace of its involvement.

As the clock ticks, André and Dan search for answers. In a quest that leads them and their respective protégés from the island's Water Treatment Plant to the Golf Clubhouse - the unlikely quartet will have to face zombies at every corner and face off with mercenary twins sent by the Multinational to eliminate all traces of the cursed fertilizer. But this will not happen without a hitch...

DREGIORSINGENTION

Yes, Brain Freeze revolves around the zombie phenomenon. But you'll find more than just characters trying to escape the traditional flesh-eaters. Here the monsters are not the Zombies (called the "Infected" in the film), but rather those at the source of the infection. The story is built around characters that I hoped would be endearing, who find themselves at the heart of this crisis. I chose to create a reality, just far enough removed from our own, to allow for the suspension of disbelief on the part of the viewer and invite them to enter my world. It is a personal offbeat story, symbolically rich enough to give the film universal scope and appeal. It is indeed a new type of zombie movie.

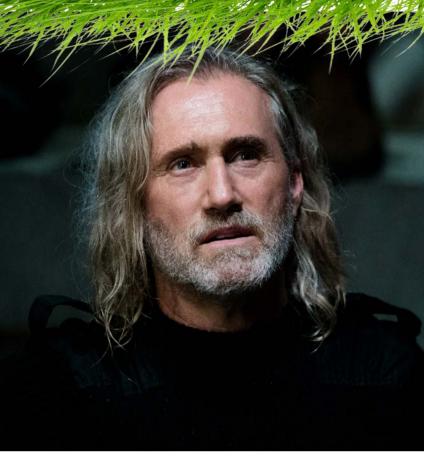
Many of us are inspired by genre cinema; the guilty pleasure in feeling the semi-conscious impulses that arise from our fascination with the monster. The same childhood fear that had us believe in malevolent creatures that sleep under our beds, brings us a certain kind of enjoyment when those stories find themselves on the big screen. It is pure jubilation for me to bring my childhood nightmares to life through the art of cinema.

It is from this perspective that I wrote a film that I consider both personal and universal. It's a politically engaged film, in tune with the times, which conveys a message of hope and openness towards others. My zombies are collateral damage, deprived of their humanity, the result of human greed. The question we have to ask ourselves is this. Are they the threat or simply victims needing our help? It's also about the global mistrust of large conglomerates, suspected of having a stranglehold on the economy and the climate. With the representation of the "M" logo (a nod to a certain well-known agricultural biotechnical corporation!) I wanted to denounce the dehumanization and their food-for-profit attitude controlling the fate of our planet. Generations have been sacrificed in this society built on overconsumption and the never ending power struggle between the haves and have nots. Despite the constant increase of voices denouncing this gap, the rift gets bigger and bigger. This oppressive feeling that, year in year out, the "puppeteers" are taking control of our society. Believing they are above the law, they prefer to erase all signs of what might incriminate them rather than find viable solutions for the planet. In numerous works, Zombies are often a representation of the current state of the world. That was my premise for making a film that I hope will be entertaining all the while carrying what I truly believe to be an essential message.





BOGRAPHICAL NOTES



Roy Dupuis - Dan

An actor with an exceptional charismatic presence, Roy Dupuis has been able to charm, surprise and touch us in his 35-year career in film, television and on the stage. His popularity has spread around the world since the American series *Nikita* was broadcast in over 60 countries.

He left his mark on the collective imagination with his unforgettable interpretation of Ovila in *Les Filles de Caleb*, and has played a series of leading roles in series such as *Scoop*, *Les Jumelles Dionne*, *Le dernier chapitre* and *Les Rescapés*. Currently, he plays the character of Christophe in *Toute la vie* on Radio-Canada with great empathy and profound humanity.

His most important film roles include Being at Home with Claude, Les États-Unis d'Albert, Un homme et son pêché, Manners of Dying, Mémoires affectives, Maurice Richard, Shake Hands with the Devil, Ceci n'est pas un polar, Coteau Rouge, Pieds nus dans l'aube and most recently, Les fleurs oubliées. He has received numerous Quebec, Canadian and International awards for his talent throughout his career.

Brain Freeze is his 50th film.

Iani Bédard - André

Iani Bédard made his film debut at the age of 8, in the film *Arwad* by Samer Najari. In 2018, Adib Alkhalidey and Julien Lacroix offered him the role of Esteban in the feature film *Mon ami Walid*, a landmark experience. In 2019, he got the lead role in the short film *Jason*, an INIS production, directed by Mikhaïl-Amadeus Plante, winning the audience award at the Rencontres Ciné-Québec in 2020.

Iani has had great visibility on television as co-host of the show *Le P'tit Cabaret I, II, III, IV* from 2016 to 2019. This earned him a nomination at the 2018 Gemini Awards in the category of Best Youth Show - Animation. He also plays the role of Napoleon in *Fil d'attente I-II*. In 2019, he was cast in the series *District 31* (Marius Touchette), *Discussion avec mes parents* (Gulien) and *L'effet secondaire* (Xavier).

Iani Bédard is passionate about acting and is a member of the competitive Improv team at school and has been taking acting classes with Philippe Boutin (Acte 1 Productions) since 2016. Iani played the role of a young Rachid Badouri in the Opening number of the Just for Laughs Gala in 2017.



BOGRAPHICALNOTES



Marianne Fortier - Patricia

Marianne Fortier, who holds a Bachelor's degree in cinema from UQÀM, began her career at a very early age with the memorable role of Aurore in the eponymous film directed by Luc Dionne in 2004. She then appeared on the big screen in *Maman est chez le coiffeur* by Léa Pool, which earned her the Best Actress Award from the Vancouver Film Critics Circle in 2009, *Premier amour* by Guillaume Sylvestre (2012) and *Pieds nus dans l'aube* by Francis Leclerc (2017). It is on television that the public discovered her in numerous popular series such as *Trauma*, *Les rescapés II*, *La galère II* to *V*, *Pour Sarah* (nominated for a Gemini Award and won the Best Actress Award at the 2016 Artis Gala), *Victor Lessard II*, *Demain des hommes*, *Jérémie III* and *IV* and *L'Académie I*, *II* and *III* as well as *La faille* which was programmed on Illico in the winter of 2019/20 and has set ratings records.

Serge Denoncourt entrusted her with the role of Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* which he directed at the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde in 2016. The following year, she played in *Le chat botté - Le bal des enfants* by the OSM directed by Charles Dauphinais with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

Simon Olivier Fecteau - Patrick Nault

Since his childhood in Victoriaville, Simon Olivier Fecteau has always been attracted to film. It was with the comedy group Les Chick'n Swell that his hobby took a professional turn in 2001. He co-wrote and co-directed the series with the two other members of the group. Les Chick'n Swell had a three-season run on Radio-Canada.

In February 2006, he decided to devote himself to personal projects ranging from film and television direction and acting. That same year, the album *Victor Power* by Chick'n Swell, received the Félix Trophy for the Album of the Year - Humour Category, at the ADISQ gala. Simon-Olivier Fecteau then directed the *Bye Bye* of RBO in 2006 and 2007. In 2010, he launched the web series *En audition avec Simon*, a resounding success.

In February 2014, Simon Olivier Fecteau starred in the series *Ces gars-là* with his good friend Sugar Sammy on V. The comedy was a huge success and went on to be renewed for three seasons. Author India Desjardins collaborated on the series as well.

Since 2016, Simon Olivier Fecteau has been part of the writing team and has directed Radio-Canada's *Bye Bye* and in 2018, began a new series of comedy capsules with *En audition avec Simon*.



BOCRAPHICALNOTES



Anne-Élisabeth Bossé – Josée

A graduate of the Conservatoire d'Art Dramatique de Montréal in 2007, Anne-Élisabeth Bossé had her first film role in 2009 in Xavier Dolan's Les amours imaginaires, which was followed by Laurence anyways. She was also in the comedy Le sens de l'humour by Émile Gaudreault. In 2014, Léa Pool entrusted her with the role of Sister Huguette in La passion d'Augustine (Best Film Award at the 2016 Gala du cinéma québécois). In 2019, she reunited with Émile Gaudreault for Menteur, the most popular film of the year, and she is the heroine of La femme de mon frère by director Monia Chokri, which won the jury's Coup de Coeur Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

She became known on television in 30 vies on Radio-Canada. She then appeared in Toute la vérité (TVA), and then in Les appendices (Télé-Québec), where her comic potential was revealed. Her interpretation of Charlène in Série noire in 2014 is particularly noticed. She then held one of the leading roles in the television series Les Simone (2016-2018). She played the role of Caroline Malterre in five seasons of the series Les pays d'en haut, broadcast on Radio-Canada from 2015 to 2019. She can also be seen on TVA in the series En tout cas I, II and III.

Claudia Ferri - Camila

Claudia's career took a major turn in 1996 when she got her first major film role alongside Donald Sutherland and Aidan Quinn in Christian Duguay's *The Assignment*. In 2003, Émile Gaudreault cast her as Anna Barberini in the hit film Mambo *Italiano*, which earned her a nomination for Best Supporting Actress at the Jutra Awards and the Canadian Comedy Awards. In 2005, she won an ACTRA Award for Outstanding Performance by an Actress in Film or Television for her performance as Elena Batista in *Ciao Bella*. In 2009, she played in the film *Dédé* à *travers les brumes* directed by Jean-Philippe Duval.

In 2011 and 2012, she could be seen in the role of the native chef Nicole Jackson, in the popular series *The Killing* on AMC. In the first season of *Rogue* on Direct TV, she played the role of Lieutenant Sophia Hernandez, alongside Thandie Newton and Marton Csokas.

In 2014, Claudia played the title role in the miniseries *La Marraine*, inspired by the true story of Inès Barbosa-Hernandez, who was the head of a drug trafficking and money laundering ring in Montreal in the 1990s. This role earned her a nomination at the Gemini Awards for Best Lead Actress in a Drama Series. Since then, we have seen Claudia in *Unité* 9 as Marie's (Guylaine Tremblay) protective prisoner, in season two of the series *Queen of the South*, broadcast on Séries+ and in season two of *Faits Divers* on Radio-Canada. She plays the lead role in Maryanne Zéhil's film *La face cachée du baklava*, scheduled for release in 2021.



BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



Stéphane Crête - Michel

Actor, author, host and director, Stéphane Crête has been the spokesperson for Clown sans frontières and Vice-Rector of the Université de Foulosophie since 2009. He was the Honorary President of the Festival du Jamais Lu in 2012. Well known for his television and film appearances, he also wrote, hosted and directed *L'industrie de la mort et moi*, a documentary on funeral rites in Quebec.

Of his many roles on the big screen, we can remember Atomik saké by Louise Archambault, La moitié gauche du frigo by Philippe Falardeau, Dans une galaxie près de chez vous (nominated for a Jutra award as Best Supporting Role), Endorphine by André Turpin and Jeune Juliette by Anne Émond. His presence on television has led him to appear in such outstanding series as Un gars une fille, Dans une galaxie près de chez vous (Gemini Award for Best Supporting Role), Music-Hall, Smash, Minuit le soir, Étoiles filantes (Gemini Award for Best Lead Actor twice for this series - in 2007 and 2009), Tactic, 30 vies, Fugueuse and Toute la vie. For Radio-Canada, Stéphane Crête directed the 13th evening of Les Masques in 2006.

Mylène Mackay - The Protocol

A 2011 graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Mylène quickly carved out a place for herself in the Quebec cultural scene. She began her career with the role of Marilou in the web series *Les Judas* by Ziad Touma, a role for which she was nominated for a Gemini Award in the category of Best Performance for an Original Series - New Media (2012). She was then nominated twice for her interpretation of Amélie in the

popular series L'âge adulte by François Jaros in 2017 and 2020.

On TV, we have seen Mylène in more than a dozen series including *Les beaux malaises* by Francis Leclerc, *Unité 9* by Jean-Philippe Duval, *Victor Lessard* by Patrice Sauvé and François Gingras, *Ruptures* by Mariloup Wolfe, *Mensonges* by Sylvain Archambault as well as *Faits divers* by Stéphane Lapointe, a series for which she was nominated for a Gemini for Best Supporting Female Role in 2018. In 2021, she joined the cast of *Escouade 99*, a new series by Patrick Huard.

On the big screen, she played the title role in the film *Nelly* by Anne Émond. Her portrayal of the iconic Quebec author earned her the award for Best Performance - Leading Actress at the Gala Québec Cinéma in 2017. She played the role of Simone in *Endorphine*, André Turpin's feature film earning her a nomination at the Canadian Screen Awards in 2016 for Best Female Performance in a Supporting ole. Mylène can be seen in the films Pauvre Georges by Claire Devers, Genèse by Philippe Lesage as well as in the two most recent films by André Forcier: Embrasse-moi comme tu m'aimes and The Forgotten Flowers. Recently she was seen in Mafia Inc. by Podz and Sam by Yan England. Brain Freeze (2021) is her first collaboration with Julien Knafo.



BIOGRAPHICALIOTES



Louis-Georges Girard - Marcel

Louis-Georges Girard is a graduate of the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec. From 1985 to 1997, he was a member of the Ligue nationale d'improvisation and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008.

In 1984, Louis-Georges began his career on Radio-Canada in *Le crime d'Ovide Plouffe* directed by Gilles Carle. For numerous seasons, he played the character of Guy Drouin in the series *Lance et compte* from 1986 to 2012. He was present in many notable small screen gems such as *Watatatow*, *Cormoran*, *René Lévesque*, *Scoop*, *Radio Enfer*, *Caserne 24*, *Bouscotte*, *Smash* (for which he was a finalist for the Gemini Award for Best Performance, by a Leading Actor), *Mirador*, *Destinées* and *District 31*, just to name a few.

On the big screen, Louis-Georges was seen for the first time in "Bach et Bottine" directed by André Melançon. Robert Morin entrusted him with the role of Mike Di Palma in his film Requiem pour un beau sans cœur. He was also in Station Nord by Jean-Claude Lord. Director Marc Bisaillon casted

him in three of his feature films: C'est pas moi c'est l'autre, La lâcheté and La vérité. Recently he was in the film Merci pour tout by Louise Archambault and Mafia Inc. by Podz. On stage, Louis-Georges has participated in over forty productions with the Théâtre du Trident, La Bordée, the Théâtre du Rideau Vert and the TNM.

Mahée Paiement - Maud

An icon in the world of Quebec celebrities, Mahée Paiement made a dazzling entrance into the film world at the age of 10, when she starred in the cult film *Bach et Bottine* by André Melançon and has never looked back since.

She is known throughout Quebec for her roles in Un gars une fille, Caméra Café, Les Boys, Destinée, Les 3 p'tits cochons and the list goes on and on. Her energy, humour and authenticity are what keep her at the top of everyone's list.

Mahée wears many different hats – she is as a radio and television host and created one of the top perfumes to come out of Quebec.

Mother of three beautiful children, Mahée made a comeback in the series *Ruptures* playing the role of Christelle and in the shows *1res fois*, *Bijoux de famille*, *On va se dire*, *Les Enfants de la télé* and *LOL*. She recently joined the cast of *Brain Freeze* and can now tick "zombie" off her bucket list.



BOGRAPHICALROTES

Julien Knafo - Director, Writer and Composer

Julien Knafo is a multidisciplinary artist who began his career as a composer on Jean Chabot's medium-length film Sans raison apparente, starring novelist, playwright and essayist Nancy Houston. A graduate of Concordia University's School of Cinema, Julien Knafo composed original soundtracks for the shorts his fellow directors were making, all the while continuing to develop his own signature style of filmmaking. Julien Knafo composed the music for director Kim Nguyen's first two feature films Le marais (2003) and Truffe (2006). In 2008, he composed the soundtrack for the Canada Pavilion at the Aichi World Exposition in Japan, under the direction of Pierre-Daniel Rhéault. In 2010, he launched the feature film Lucidité passagère, which he co-directed with three other filmmakers and for which he composed the music. The soundtrack of Lucidité Passagère, starring Mario Saint-Amand, Maxim Roy and Hélène Florent, was nominated for the Best Music Award at the 2011 Jutra Awards.



Barbara Shrier - Producer

An accomplished producer and well-known in the Montreal industry, Barbara Shrier has over 20 years of experience. She has collaborated with renowned filmmakers such as Louis Malle (*Atlantic City*, 1980), Jean-Jacques Annaud (*Quest for Fire*, 1981) and Alan Rudolph (*The Moderns*, 1987). She honed her skills working on Quebec feature films such as Jacques W. Benoit's *Comment faire l'amour avec un nègre sans se fatiguer* (1988), François Girard's *Cargo* (1989), Gabriel Pelletier's *Automne Sauvage* (1991) and Georges Mihalka's *L'homme idéal* (1995).

In 1996-1997, she supervised the development and production of François Girard's *The Red Violin*, shot in five languages and five countries, and praised internationally by critics and audiences alike.



From 2001-2007 Barbara Shrier produced Francis Leclerc's three feature films: *Une jeune fille à la fenêtre (A Girl at the Window)*, *Mémoires affectives (Looking for Alexander)* winner of 4 Jutras including Best Film and 3 Genies and *Un été sans point ni coup sûr (A No-Hit, No-Run Summer)*.

In 2009, returning to the international scene, she co-produced with Belgium's Dragons Films, Frédéric Dumont's first feature *Un Ange à la mer (Angel at Sea)* winner of the Crystal Globe for Best Film at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival.

In 2011, Barbara Shrier made her foray into the English-language film world with Tara Johns' first feature entitled *The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom*.

Her commitment to solid, auteur-driven work continues with the production of *Brain Freeze* Julien Knafo's first solo work and *Out Late* a romantic comedy written by Thomas Michael and Paolo Mancini and directed by Tara Johns.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Marc Simpson-Threlford - Director of Photography

Marc Simpson-Threlford has enjoyed drawing and constructing objects since childhood: looking at shapes, lines, colors, then reproducing them by varying the points of view. Photography, a natural extension of his drawing, gave him the depth he needed to pursue the cinematographic art, with all the nuances of light and shadow. With a Bachelor's Degree in Film Production from Concordia University and 20 years as a cinematographer, he still has the same passion for creating images and all the technical tools that make it possible. He appreciates participating in a collective work, discovering each time a new story, new characters and collaborators in a new environment. Not surprising that he has traveled so much, soaking in the pleasure and shock of the unexpected, the unusual in Africa, Asia, Europe and America. In each country, leaning in towards others, learning how they live, discovering their environment, admiring the landscapes, and of course, photographing relentlessly to capture the moment and solidify the memories.

Glenn Berman - Editor

Glenn Berman is a Montreal-based film editor. From the Grammy Award-winning *Peter Gabriel's Secret World* to the Oscar nominee *Prisoner of Paradise*, Glenn has collaborated on a diverse array of film projects. His work in feature films, television and documentaries spans four decades and has been recognized by multiple nominations. In 2005, Glenn received the Prix Jutra for *Mémoires affectives* and in 2018, a Canadian Screen Award for *Real Detective*.

<u>Christian Rivest - Sound Design</u>

Christian's journey into the world of sound design began in 1994. His beginnings as an assistant sound editor allowed him to learn the rudiments of the trade with several of the best sound editors/mixers on the Montreal scene. He quickly distinguished himself with the sound design of his first feature film *Mon Petit Diable (1999)*. His passion for sound and music has always guided him in his career, leading him in 2011 to win a Primetime Emmy Award for Best Sound Editing for his work on the TV series *Pillars of the Earth*. Since then, Christian has accumulated several nominations/awards, and has now founded his own sound design company. He continues to oversee several feature film, TV series and documentary projects, as well as doing sound design with his team. His work can be recognized in projects such as: *Bon Cop Bad Cop*, *Polytechnique*, *Surviving Progress*, *Apocalypse: World War One*, *D-DAY: Normandy 1944*, *Les 3 petits cochons*, *What if*, *Henri-Henri*, *X500*, *La petite reine*, *Jouliks*, *Target Number One*, *14 jours 12 nuits*, *Transplant*, *Bad Blood*, *La guerre des tuques 3D* and most recently *Brain Freeze* by Julien Knafo!

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Gavin Fernandes CAS - Sound Mix

Gavin Fernandes is a re-recording mixer working with the major sound facilities in Montreal, Toronto and L.A. (Technicolor, Mel's, Premium, Formosa, Red Lab, etc.). For the past few years he has been mixing mostly feature films, IMAX and long-format TV.

Gavin started in the industry in 1988 working on television series as an editor/mixer by day and recording albums by night, eventually graduating to films in 1995. Recent works include: Coffee & Kareem (Netflix), IMAX Train Time and Secrets of the Universe, The Bold Type I,III,IV (NBC/Universal), Big Little Lies II (HBO), Sharp Objects (HBO), Escouade 99 (TVA), Blood & Treasure I&II (CBS), ...and the beat goes on.

In 2017, he was nominated for an Emmy award for his work on HBO's *Big Little Lies*. He has been nominated for dozens of Giant Screen, Canadian Screen awards (Genies, Gemini), Gemeaux, and Quebec Film awards, including wins for *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* (2007), *Volcanoes of the Deep Sea*, *Journey to Mecca*, *Fighter Pilot* (Best Sound IMAX), *Le Dernier Tunnel* (2005), *Babine* (2008) and *Pillars of the Earth* (2011).

He has spoken at conferences & events for AES, SPARS, Concordia & McGill University and AVID. He was a guest faculty member at the Banff Centre from 2001-2015. Gavin is an active member of the Cinema Audio Society in Los Angeles, the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, as well as the US Television Academy.

He has volunteered for many West Island churches, performing arts groups and Community charities, serving on their boards and foundations or helping at events. He is chairman of the Teresa Dellar Community Foundation, which runs fundraisers and offers scholarships. He also spends as much time as possible volunteering at the Teresa Dellar Palliative Care residence, a full care hospice named after his late wife.

<u>David Pelletier - Production Design</u>

For over 20 years, David Pelletier has worked in film, television and advertising as an art director/designer. In the theater, he is a set designer and designer. He has worked on nearly 30 feature films and several dozen other productions for television and advertising.

In addition to his professional work, he paints, writes and does interior and event design.

He has traveled extensively, most notably to the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, Spain, France, Switzerland, Turkey and Morocco.

In addition, he has had several experiences filming abroad; in Argentina, Cuba, Uruguay, Thailand, Holland and the United States.

