

A FILM BY RILEY THOMAS

ELISABETH NESS
CALI GILMAN

TRIGGER

A DARK PROPHET PRODUCTIONS AND GOOD PORPOISE PRODUCTIONS FILM

A PAINFUL CONNECTION BINDS A REAL ESTATE AGENT AND HER CLIENT.

(Spoiler Alert)

Veronica's brother was murdered in a mass school shooting. The killer shows no remorse. The justice system is delaying the trial. Veronica's only recourse is to take matters into her own hands and exact vengeance.

But will killing the murderer's sister - in the same way that her own brother was killed - provide Veronica the justice she seeks?





WRITER/DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Senseless tragedies have become commonplace. With each passing massacre, we feel less hopeful about preventing the next one. What are we to do with our anger, our sadness, our pain? As one of the characters from Trigger puts it, "What kind of justice - if any - could satisfy the national outrage?"

The Parkland shooting was the final inspiration for this short, but the tracks were laid by Sandy Hook. Once our society accepted the cold-blooded murder of children as "the price for freedom" and didn't respond with immediate, decisive, bold action, it was the beginning of the end as far as I was concerned. Then when Parkland happened and the survivors began to speak up and organize, I was renewed with hope, thinking something might actually come of it. When nothing did, the idea for this film started brewing.

Powerlessness is a thread that runs through most people's reactions to these ongoing normalized tragedies. When anyone experiences a loss, they grapple to regain some kind of control, focus, power. That's ultimately what this film is about: Veronica's desperate attempt to regain her equilibrium.

I don't know if I agree with Veronica's actions. I don't know if I should. But I do know that I'm capable of doing what she does. I imagine many of us are. When we have no outlet for our rage and despair, and no hope for change, what will we be reduced to? We need to be talking about that. That's why I made this.

-Riley

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

The Parkland school shooting on Feb. 14th, 2018, sent many Americans reeling, myself included. Along with the now-all-too-frequent whirl of emotions, many of us felt powerless to prevent further atrocities or find true closure when they occur.

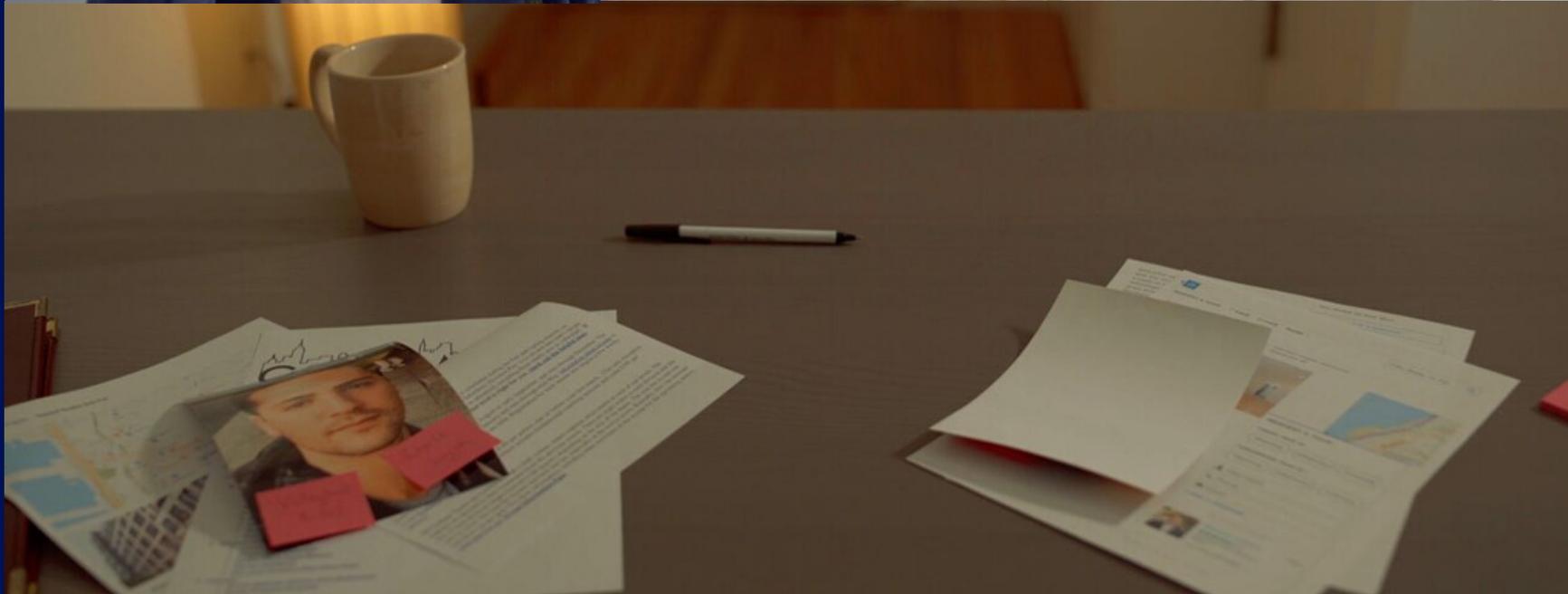
When Riley told me that this horrific tragedy had inspired him to write a script, I jumped at the chance to be a part of it. It seemed, perhaps, the only productive thing we could do with our art in a time of grief, rage, uncertainty, and frustration.

Riley's beautiful work rides that delicate line of presenting an emotional story, and yet letting the audience determine their own reactions for themselves. Instead of taking sides, it leaves the viewer to wonder what they would do, were they in the protagonist's shoes.

If our government allows the proliferation of guns to continue, will massacre victims' loved ones start taking it upon themselves to enact vengeance? What other innocents will end up caught in the crossfire in such a quest for justice and closure?

I'm grateful that Riley has given us an opportunity to reflect on these and other important questions, as America grapples with this serious issue.

- Elisabeth





RILEY THOMAS

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER

Riley Thomas is the co-screenwriter of *Stuck*, a feature film starring Ashanti, Giancarlo Esposito, and Amy Madigan -- which premieres nationwide at select AMC theaters April 19th, 2019. His short film *Beast or Raven* was a hit on the film festival circuit, winning Best Short Film at the Milan International Film Festival, and Best Screenplay Nominations from the Berlin International Film Festival and the London International Film Festival. His musicals *Stuck* and *Wearing Black* collectively garnered five awards at the New York Musical Theatre Festival (NYMF). *Wearing Black* continues its development after an invited industry reading starring Constantine Maroulis at Playwrights Horizons. His newest musical based on the book *Open: An Adoption Story in Three Voices* was commissioned by Carthage College in Kenosha, WI and will debut in 2019. He has also penned and/or directed multiple web series and short films.

ELISABETH NESS

ACTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR

Elisabeth Ness is an award-winning performer, producer, and creative entrepreneur. The Yale alumna has been named one of Take the Lead's "50 Women Can Change the World in Entertainment & Media." She co-founded Good Porpoise Productions, which makes socially-conscious non-fiction and narrative fiction -- including the digital comedy *Redheads Anonymous*, which has received over 170,000 views, and has been featured in *USA Today*, *Huffington Post*, and *Tubefilter*.



Elisabeth's acting work has been called "razor-sharp" (*Washington Post*), "especially funny" (*NY Times*), and "hilarious" (*Times Herald-Record*, *Catskill Chronicle*, and her mom). She was awarded 'Best Actress in a Sitcom' (Rome Web Awards), and nominated for the 'Raindance Discovery Award' (London), 'Best Lead Actress' (Blackbird Film Fest), and 'Best Actress Award' (Miami Web Fest), among others.

She has appeared as Sara in *Bull* (CBS), Rose in *Like Father* (Netflix, with Kelsey Grammer and Kristen Bell), *Daredevil* (Marvel), *FBI* (CBS), *Going Public* (SOHO Int'l Film Fest), *Tobi* (Tribeca), and *Cerise* (Cannes Select). She has performed onstage at Atlantic Theater, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Lincoln Center, Ars Nova, Inwood Shakespeare, and Signature Theatre; and as a voice for Rockstar Games, YMCA, and Bud Light.

Elisabeth runs a monthly 'salon' for women entrepreneurs in the entertainment industry.



CALI GILMAN ACTOR

Cali stars as Dr. Sharon Chase in the popular online soap opera *Triangle* on BRTBTV.com. She has guest-starred on such digital series as *Binge*, *Dark Horse*, and *Davenport Diaries*.

She originated the lead role of Tatiana in *Lured* at Theater for the New City, and will be traveling with the play to Rome, Italy in 2019. It is a timely piece about the persecution of LGBT in Russia, and Cali's work as the lead character was reviewed as "a force to be reckoned with."

She has been studying with Michael Luggio, and recently won the Best Actress award at the New York Theater Summerfest for her role in *Five Women*. Cali is also a voice-over artist, and has recorded the spooky and suspenseful sci-fi radio drama *Cerberus Rex*. It can be found at sci-fi.com.

ED NESBOT

CINEMATOGRAPHER/COLORIST

Ed is the co-founder of Good Porpoise Productions, and the head of Ventana Productions' New York office.

In more than a decade of shooting, editing, and producing video, Ed has helped Dr. Oz tackle his fear of heights 800 ft. above NYC; experienced Zero Gravity aboard the “Vomit Comet”; fought the paparazzi on the red carpet with stars such as Scarlett Johansson, Mark Wahlberg, and Steve Carell; made visual music with Joshua Bell, Marvin Hamlisch, and Wycleff Jean; discussed the future of Extra-Terrestrial Tourism with Sir Richard Branson; covered international relations at the United Nations; trekked along the Moroccan coastline; and even scrubbed in for brain surgery.

He is the Director of Photography for *Redheads Anonymous*, which has received festival and international recognition, including winning the Audience Awards at Katra Film Series and the NY Comedy Shorts Film Festival. Ed has garnered five Telly Awards, three Aurora Awards, and numerous Videographer, Aegis, Clarion, and New York Festival awards for his video journalism and editing work – but the awards he’s most proud of are the ones he won as part of his Metro Soccer co-ed championship team, and pub trivia team!



"TRIGGER" Presented By DARK PROPHET PRODUCTIONS & GOOD PORPOISE PRODUCTIONS

CREDITS



For media inquires, please contact:
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(323) 422-3107

Written & Directed By - Riley Thomas
Produced By - Riley Thomas & Elisabeth Ness
Director of Photography - Ed Nescot
Editor - Elisabeth Ness
Composer - Mike Sayre

CAST

Veronica - Elisabeth Ness
Jenny - Cali Gilman
Newscaster - Jen Anaya
Attorney - Dominic Paolillo

Location Sound - James Daniel Hall
Production Assistant - John Ashe Say
Creative Consultant - Kevin Sebastian

Color Grading - Ed Nescot
Post-Production Sound - Jay Pellizzi
Visual Effects - Dan Melius
Credits Sequence - Ed Nescot

SPECIAL THANKS

Ken Barrows
Erik Heitz
Tim Ehrlich
Marcus Goldbas