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**Thomas Grey's
Rainy Day**

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One Line Synopsis:

A day in the life of a young, white-collar criminal whose decaying integrity and morality invade his every waking thought.

Synopsis:

Thomas Grey is a young entrepreneur who's built a telemarketing empire. Like many businesses founded on deceit, Thomas' success comes only at the cost of his integrity, relationships and personal identity. More concerning, however, is how his guilt continues to flood his dreams...

Rainy Day

Justin L. Smith

Writer/Director Bio

Justin L. Smith, a bona-fide Air Force brat, grew up all over the United States. He graduated from James Madison University with a Bachelor's Degree of Social Work and a minor in Theatre before moving to California to pursue acting. He performed in a variety of roles, including a mentally ill teenager in indie feature "Butterflies Die" and a suave nerd in television pilot "The Up and Comers," before creating Reel Kid Productions as a forum to experiment with various theatrical mediums.

He created and wrote "Ninety %," an animated episodic about a young man who unknowingly 'taps into' the unused 90 percent of the brain, developing unknown and uncontrollable powers. Keeping in the animated vein, he then created and wrote "Agent Minor," a series aimed at children ages 9 through 12. While writing numerous short scripts commissioned for a local theatre group, Smith directed and co-wrote "Restaurant," which ran at the Secret Rose Theatre in North Hollywood and featured two one-acts originally published in "Zoetrope: All Story." "Thomas Grey's Rainy Day" marks Smith's first foray into film directing.

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Production Notes:

When I moved to L.A. to act, like most people who are stupid enough to do that, I wound up working a lot of dead-end jobs. A year before I decided to make this film, I worked as a telemarketer for what I considered to be a pretty shady agency. A lot of the salespeople, myself included, would use fake names on the phone, to separate us from the work. Of course, that's a common 'salesperson' attribute, but the way I figured was; a fake name is called an alias, and an alias is what criminals use. Not a day went by that my conscience didn't bother me, and it bothers me still that I stayed for so long. But like Josh in the film, I was sold pretty easily. This film might be considered my attempt at some cathartic relief, or just my attempt to tell a story I know, but at the end of the day, I'm just glad I don't work there anymore.

Anecdote:

We shot the desert scenes at El Mojave Dry Lake Bed about 50 miles outside of Los Angeles. It was a holiday, the last day of shooting and the money was running pretty thin, so we couldn't afford any mishaps. About two hours into the day, as we were waiting for the sun, the grip truck decided to blow a tire, leaving us with 1. a three-ton vehicle short one tire 2. in the middle of the desert 3. on a holiday and 4. without the "exact" documentation we needed to be there. Needless to say, a pretty dismal situation. We plowed on, however, getting as many shots as possible in the uncooperative sun when our producer, Scott McClain, saved the day by getting one kind soul out to change the tire. The lakebed is some 5 miles in diameter...it took him a few minutes to find us.

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Credit List

Written and Directed byJustin L. Smith

Produced by.....Scott Mclain

Director of Photography.....Bry Thomas Sanders

Edited by.....Michael Porter

Lighting Designer.....Richard Ralston

Lighting Technician.....Greg Jarrett

Sound Design.....Stan Jaros

Boom Operator.....Rob Cunningham

Steadicam Operator.....Dave Grove

1st Assistant Camera.....Paul Wojzack

2nd Assistant Camera.....Charles Bracca

Clapper.....Gil Colunga

Script Supervisor.....Elizabeth Gilman

Assistant Director.....Elek Schor

Assistant to Producer.....Andrew Crandall

Key Grip.....Alfie Underhill

Grips/Electrics.....Jim Cates
Keely Grigel
Yu Karitani
Jeff Seebach
Tim Wattez

Best Boy Electric.....Jon Callesen

Production Designer.....Nathan Morse

Set Dresser.....Scott Gerard

On Set Photography.....Cresta Cavannah

Makeup/Hair.....Anna Branson

Storyboard Artist.....Jeff Reed

Reel Kid Logo Animation.....David Mah

Craft Services.....Joe Caldwell

Production Assistants.....Angela Caldwell
Travis Jameson
Darin Tran

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Cast

Tom Grey.....Justin L. Smith
Dakota.....Nicole Sciacca
Josh Smith.....La Monde Byrd
Jack Merrill.....Rob Powell
Pete.....Steve Maloney
Robert.....Ruben Dario
Applicant #1.....Anthony Cran
Applicant #2.....Alfie Underhill
Office Workers.....Gabriel Edwards
Michelle Moretti
Anna Perilo
Leonard Rodriguez
America Young

Lighting Equipment provided by

Leonetti Company

Camera Dolly provided by

Leonard Chapman

Grip Truck provided by

Eclipse

35mm Camera package provided by

Hollywood Camera

Arri 16 SR3 Package provided by

Camtech

Sound equipment provided by

Location Sound Corp

Sound stage provided by

Studio 12000

Film stock provided by

Edgewise Film and Tape

Film Processing provided by

Foto-Kem

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I think she [Dakota] is very aware of what she's doing. It doesn't bother her as much as Thomas because she's not the one on the phones all day. She's the one who says to herself 'don't ask, don't tell' as she walks in the door. She tries to keep the dirt off her hands, but in a way, I think she's even worse than Thomas...

--Nicole Sciacca

Nicole Sciacca in "Thomas Grey's Rainy Day"

I liked this character because of the singular, life-altering choice he's forced to make at 9:00 in the morning in some guy's office he's never met. I think that, as people, our integrity is bought and sold more often than we care to admit, and I wanted to see if I could put myself there.

--La Monde Byrd



PHOTO BY CRESTA CAVANAUGH

La Monde Byrd in "Thomas Grey's Rainy Day"

I didn't want to tell a story about 'the career criminal who's looking for one last score.' That's been done a million times. But I was interested in the career criminal who's just starting out...that seemed worth exploring.

-- Justin L. Smith



PHOTO BY CRESTA CAVANAUGH

Justin L. Smith in "Thomas Grey's Rainy Day"



PHOTO BY CRESTA CAVANAUGH

There are a million ingredients that go into making a film, but the most important result is that it tells an interesting story. Bottom line. You can have all the effects, all the money, all the big names the screen will hold, but if the story falls flat, so will everything else. Of course, I wouldn't listen to anything I have to say.

-- Justin L. Smith

Justin L. Smith in "Thomas Grey's Rainy Day"

Festivals & Awards

(Updated Dec. 2003)

"Thomas Grey's Rainy Day" is to premiere at the 2004 Cinequest Film Festival

Tech Specs

"Thomas Grey's Rainy Day"

Running Time: 10min.

Shooting Format: Super 16mm, 35mm, color

Aspect Ratio: 1:1:85

Exhibition Format: BetaSP, Digibeta, DVD, VHS

Production Company: Reel Kid Productions

Completed: June 2003

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reel kid productions.

Justin L. Smith
4865 Fulton Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
818.807.7393/justins@peoplepc.com