

Log Line

'Tis the Season to Eat, Drink and Die Merrily.

Short Synopsis

A troubled young man returns home for Christmas in an attempt to reconcile with his estranged sister. Her alleged boyfriend shows up and turns the holiday dinner into a dark, disturbing night of violence and terror.

Synopsis (250 Words)

It's Christmas time. Roger returns home to reconcile with his younger sister, Brooke, who he hasn't seen in almost three years. He arrives with his new fiancée, Gwen, only to find out that Brooke is nowhere to be seen. To make matters worse, he's greeted by his estranged friend, Charles, and his ex-girlfriend, Kate, who have come to meddle in the evening's festivities. Suspicious of their intentions, Roger tries to keep his volatile temper at bay while everyone waits for Brooke to get home.

Brooke's alleged boyfriend, Marcus, enters the house unexpectedly and assures the group that Brooke will be there shortly. As time passes, and her whereabouts still remain unknown, the night takes a disturbing turn. Roger's unsavory past comes to light as Marcus' true intentions explode into a shocking display of violence and deception.

MARCUS – FULL SYNOPSIS

Marcus is a tense, dramatic thriller that explores the relationships between five people during a one night holiday dinner. With strong performances and a shocking ending that will surely leave audiences disturbed, Marcus delivers a powerful film experience that will not be soon forgotten.

The film begins with Roger traveling to the home of his estranged sister, Brooke, in an effort to reconcile their differences. With the recent deaths of their parents, Roger sees Christmas as the perfect opportunity to end their three year long feud. He brings with him his new fiancée, Gwen, who has an agenda of her own. She hopes to grab a small piece of the family's supposed inheritance to help jump start her new life with Roger. They expect Brooke to pick them up from the bus station, but she never shows up. They decide to take a cab to her house, but instead of Brooke greeting them, they run into Roger's ex-childhood friend, Charles, and his ex-girlfriend, Kate. They have both come to share in the evening's festivities. Obviously uncomfortable, the group ascends the stairs to Brooke's house, where they wait patiently for her to come home.

As the evening progresses, Roger becomes more and more uneasy. No one has heard from Brooke and tension amongst the guests begins to rise. Brooke's alleged boyfriend, Marcus, shows up unexpectedly and assures everyone that Brooke will be there shortly. The group continues to wait as the situation becomes more difficult and claustrophobic.

As the evening continues, with Brooke still nowhere in sight, things start to unravel. Roger's violent temper slowly surfaces as Charles becomes more suspicious of Marcus's true relationship with Brooke. Gwen tries desperately to diffuse the situation, hoping that Brooke will be the answer to her and Roger's financial despair. Kate does everything in her power to create friction between Roger and Gwen.

At dinner, things take a turn for the worse. Marcus continues to manipulate his guests, as Charles gives insight to why Brooke and Roger haven't spoken in three years. More dark secrets are revealed about Roger's past, and the night spirals out of control. Marcus' true intentions finally surface, as he orchestrates his masterpiece of deception, violence, and murder.

Bob Hardison **Co-writer/director**

Bob Hardison was born on November 1st, 1975 in the small rural town of Williamston, North Carolina. He went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1994 before setting his sights on the North Carolina School of the Arts School of Filmmaking in 1996. He graduated with a B.F.A. in Filmmaking in 2000.

In 2002, he traveled across the country to Los Angeles where he actively pursued a career in screenwriting. In early 2004, he began collaboration on his first feature as a co-writer/co-director, Marcus, with fellow NCSA student Rich Robinson. With Marcus now completed, Bob and Rich continue their efforts to further their careers as artists. They are currently working on several scripts, including a couple of horror pieces that they expect to be in production sometime in 2006.

Rich Robinson **Co-writer/director**

Richard S. Robinson is a talented young filmmaker who began his studies at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. While there he was educated in the art of animation and photography. During his studies he produced and directed a digital feature, *Trick Bag*. He four-walled the movie at the Coolidge Corner Theater in Brookline, MA. This led him in a new direction that took him to North Carolina, where he studied directing at the NC School of the Arts. While attending, he wrote and directed a number of shorts.

Outside of the program, he pursued an independent project called *Sharing Joy and Sorrow*, an anthology of horrific fables and disturbing legends of a small town narrated by an old miser. With this project in tow along with a television pilot and a handful of scripts he made the trek cross country to Los Angeles. Since arriving he currently has *Sharing Joy and Sorrow* in development at Taurus Entertainment with Joseph Zito attached as a director and George A. Romero as presenter. In 2004 he co-wrote a script entitled *Marcus* with fellow filmmaker Bob Hardison. Together they raised the money and got it in the can by the end of the year. He is now currently shopping the completed film to various festivals.

Damon Chang Producer

Damon Chang is a rising producer who continues to seek out interesting and provocative stories within the medium of film. He was born and raised in Taiwan until his family immigrated to the United States during his early elementary years. This started him on a bi-cultural understanding and outlook on the world. His production company SUBTITLED FILMS (www.subtitledfilms.com) produces commercials, documentaries, narrative shorts and features. Last fall he produced MARCUS, a classic suspense thriller from the old days of Hitchcock and Polanski.

Other notable credits for Damon include co-producing the 28th Annual Mrs. America Pageant on the WE (WomenUs Entertainment Network). Film achievements include a 1st runner up finish out of 270 teams in the 2003 NYC Midnight Movie Making Madness and entries into the 2004 Cinequest Film Festival (Elegy), 2004 SXSW (Visions), 2004 DAMAH Film Festival (Elegy), BEST STUDENT SHORT FILM WINNER at the 2004 Screampfest LA festival (The Taking) and BEST OF FEST 2005 AVIFF Festival (The Taking). Feature Credits include Line Producer roles for MIRIAM (WWII Period Piece) and CAKE (wedding comedy directed by Will Wallace of THE THIN RED LINE). Notable short projects include Bunny & Clydo (16mm) shot at The Austin Studios, Except For Danny for 20th Century FOX, and The Ride of Lucky and The Navigator (Viper Camera) for LA post house Digital Domain). Damon and his projects have also been covered by NBC (KXAN), FOX (FOX-7), The New York Daily, Wired Magazine, and Moviemaker Magazine.

George Shaw Music Composer

George Shaw has scored over 30 independent films, including THE KIDNAPPING OF INGRID BATTANCOURT, winner of the Best Feature Award at Slamdance Film Festival 2003, and THE TAKING, winner of the Best Student Film Award at Screamfest LA 2004.

In addition to composing, George has orchestrated and conducted on a number of films, including DARWING AWARDS (starring Winona Ryder, Joseph Feinnes), KISS, KISS, BANG, BANG (starring Val Kilmer and Robert Downey, Jr.), and CHASING GHOSTS (starring Michael Madsen). George's string arrangement can also be heard on Nural's debut album *The Weight of the World* from Hopeless Records.

George studied composition and film scoring at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, taking part in its world-class Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television program. In 2004, he was selected out of hundreds to be one of fifteen to attend the exclusive ASCAP Film Scoring Workshop where he worked alongside A-list composers, orchestrators, and musicians.

Nelson Cragg Director of Photography

Nelson Cragg holds an M.F.A. from the USC Graduate School of Cinema-Television, where he studied cinematography under esteemed professors Woody Omens, ASC, and Judy Irola, ASC. Before attending film school he received a B.A. in English Literature at James Madison University in Virginia.

Nelson has shot numerous award winning films, on 35mm film and Hi-Definition video. Recently Nelson was honored to receive the prestigious American Society of Cinematographers Conrad L. Hall Heritage Award for his black and white camerawork on *Running in Tall Grasses* (Dir. Howard Duy Vu) His feature film credits include *Confession*, Starring Chris Pine and Special starring Mike Rapaport.

Samantha Shelton Kate

Samantha Shelton is from Los Angeles, California and studied acting at the LA High School for the Arts and the North Carolina School of the Arts. She has appeared in such films as *Sorority Boys*, *White Oleander*, and the festival favorite *Between Us* (where she co-starred with sister Marlie Shelton and was directed by father, Christopher Shelton). She is currently in Walt Disney Pictures, *Shop Girl*.

Samantha has made numerous guest appearances on such television shows as *CSI: Miami*, *Charmed*, *Roswell*, *One Tree Hill*, *Freaks & Geeks*, *Gilmore Girls*, and currently has a recurring role on *Judging Amy*.

Her future projects include the indie thriller, *Marcus*, *Ellie Parker* (produced by Naomi Watts), and *Rise* (co-starring with Lucy Liu and directed by Sebastian Gutierrez). She is currently the co-lead singer for the hit caberet group, Pretty Babies, with Zooey Deschanel.

Samantha is represented by Untitled Entertainment and UTA.

Scot McNairy Charles

Scot McNairy's birth place is Cooper, Texas. He started acting in Austin, Texas where he landed his first feature film, *Wrong Numbers*, which went on to win the audience award at the South by Southwest film festival. The following year he starred in the indie film, *Sexless*, this was the first film ever to win both the audience award and the grand jury prize at the South by Southwest film festival. His recent credits include, *Art School Confidential* with John Malkovich, *The Perfect Lie* with David Boreaniz, *Six Feet Under*, *Close to Home*, *Bobby* directed by Emilio Estevez, the indie thriller *Marcus*, and *Rock Point* slated to begin shooting in February 2006.

Marc Rose Roger

Marc Rose grew up in Brooklyn, New York and started acting in commercials and print jobs at the age of twelve. Marc worked with Joesph Papp at the Lincoln Center for two years on a Shakespeare program for young people where he played Caliban in *The Tempest* and Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*. He graduated from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU where he won the Tisch School of the Arts drama award. Marc also studied at The Lee Strasberg Theater Institute in NYC under the tutelage of Anna Strasberg and Geoffrey Horne.

Marc has worked on many television shows including a pilot for UPN called *Martian Law*, *Melrose Place*, *Angel*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *Friends*. Marc has worked on such films as *Bullet*, *Four Faces of God*, *Spin Cycle*, and the indie thriller *Marcus*. He is currently represented by Schumacher Management and Innovative Artists.

Jade Dornfeld Gwen

Marcus is Jade Dornfeld's first feature film. She has recently wrapped the feature film, *These Days*, and is currently shooting *Fury*, a live action Japan-anime psychological thriller set in Death Valley. Jade was part of the first repertory company at the Actor's Circle Theater in Los Angeles. She has also performed at the Elephant theater. Jade found working with Rich, Bob, and the entire cast and crew of *Marcus* to be a pleasure.

Frankie Ingrassia Brooke

Frankie Ingrassia starred along side Holly Hunter at the age of thirteen in a HBO original film *The Positively True Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleading Murdering Mom*. She played the daughter of an extremely passionate stage mom. Unlike her own mother, who decided education was more important, Frankie went to an all girl boarding school, and took a hiatus from the industry. Over summer breaks there were commercials and other movies of the week, but, it had to be put on hold most of the year.

It wasn't until after high school that she was able to dedicate herself fully to her acting career. She went on to work with Reese Witherspoon and Matthew Broderick in Alexander Payne's *Election*. She has studied her craft with coaches such as Ivanna Chubbick, Andrew Magarian, and John Homa. Improv with the Improv Olympics, Comedy Sportz, and the Groundlings. As well as doing cartoon voices and plays on the side.

Frankie recently appeared on such shows as *Monk*, *X-Files* and *Malcolm in the Middle*. As of March she will be seen on a new ABC show, *In Justice*, where she will be playing along side Kyle MacLachlan as a teenage junky who kills her father.

Ross Kurt Marcus

Ross Kurt was born and raised in St. Bernard Parish, and eastern suburb of New Orleans. Ross attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge before moving to Los Angeles. Growing up in New Orleans, Ross took acting classes at Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre, one of the French Quarter's most historic and prestigious theaters. Ross appeared in numerous theatrical productions including *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. At LSU, Ross appeared as Daniel Woolfe in *Closer*, and John Proctor in *The Crucible*. Since moving to Los Angeles, Ross has appeared in national and regional commercials, as well as several independent films and festival shorts. Ross can be seen in the upcoming features *Marcus* and *Love, Fear, and Rabbits*. He is currently represented commercially by Sutton, Barth, and Vennari Talent Agency.