

FINDING VIRGINIA



A brutal kidnapper publicly flaunts his victim in a terrifying game,
threatening deadly consequences to strangers and loved ones, as he cruelly tempts her to escape.

SYNOPSIS

From Illinois' quiet cornfields comes a story inspired by true events of suffering and sacrifice. Finding Virginia examines the balance of sight, perception, and truth as a community grapples to discover what led to the disappearance of a sweet, loving member. New light is shed upon the year-old investigation, when an already imprisoned young man gloats to his cellmate of his first-hand involvement. Framed within the context of the prisoner's interrogation room visits, a tragic nightmare reveals itself. Over the course of eighteen hours, kidnapper Nathan Daniels torments and intimidates a young single mother, pushing the very boundaries of her faith. Abducting Virginia Cutler "Ginny" from a crowded parking lot in broad daylight, Nathan coerces her into driving him around town in a wicked game. Threatening deadly consequences to her loved ones and strangers alike, Nathan cruelly tempts Ginny to flee and succumb to her instincts of self-preservation. Through insight into this horrific journey we come to realize the true nature of Virginia's character.



ABOUT THE FILM

Finding Virginia emerged from a pressing desire to both reveal the quiet heroism of a young single mother who disappeared and consider the brutality of the tragic events that brought forward her strength of character. With this mission in hand, we were encouraged by the amazing pool of talented people dedicated to the film, who shared our belief that this story needed to be told. The small budget of \$20,000 created some enormous and unique challenges for the production team. But the dedication of the cast and crew allowed the film to be shot at a lightning pace within 8 days. Most importantly, however, this film would not have been possible without the profoundly giving nature of the local community. To the entire region of central Illinois, including the director's hometown of Decatur, we are eternally grateful and overwhelmingly moved.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The events inspiring *Finding Virginia* took place nearly twenty years ago. The whole community was shocked at the senselessness of this tragic loss, and more shocked that the events had taken place so publicly. It was our goal to build a story of allegorical, fictitious characters to bring to life the brutal sense of discovery, loss and tragedy that we all felt and that has haunted every one close to the events. The characters and events of the film are not intended to be true to life. Instead, they were created to help all of us experience and come to terms with the senselessness of such tragedy.

Filming in my hometown of Decatur, Illinois was essential to me. Like nowhere else, Decatur personifies the now ancient and epic struggle between the raw crudeness of industrialization and the quiet, spiritual nature of farm life. Moreover, while the vast open cornfields of central Illinois allow you to see for miles, it is difficult to have a true clarity of vision of events occurring right in front of you; sight is not the same as understanding. One of the great tragedies of this story was the community's inability to comprehend what was really happening that terrible night. With the help of my co-writer Stephanie Gold, we set out to explore the meaning of those horrific events and find the heroism that defined Ginny's strength of character.

Gus van Sant and David Lynch have always inspired me through their mastery of context, sequencing and repetition. Filmmaking itself is an exercise of these ideas, from the writing of the story to the repeated working of a scene to the process of editing. *Finding Virginia* explores the nature of communication using repetition, sequencing, context and perspective to create and enhance meaning. Accordingly, I shot with three cameras for most of the film. This provided me with the footage to create a sense of altered time and fluctuating perspective thereby conveying the painful process of discovery that rests at the very heart of *Finding Virginia*.



CAST

Jessica Alexandra Green is a Chicago native, now residing in New York City where she uses her double-jointed elbows to flag down taxis and hang on to the bars in crowded subways. The ever-dedicated thespian, Jessica started acting before she even knew her ABCs and eventually graduated with a BA in Theatre from Florida State University. While attending FSU, Jessica frequently appeared in Film School productions; these experiences transformed her love of acting into a true appreciation for all aspects of cinematography. Her passion for on-camera acting ignited, Jessica has since focused on film and commercial work both in Los Angeles and New York. In addition to *Finding Virginia*, Jessica has two other feature films scheduled for release this fall: *The Quiet Room*, an independent comedy, and *Opponent* a sci-fi action film starring Jeremy London and Roddy Piper.



Jessica Alexandra
Green as *Virginia
Culter - Ginny*

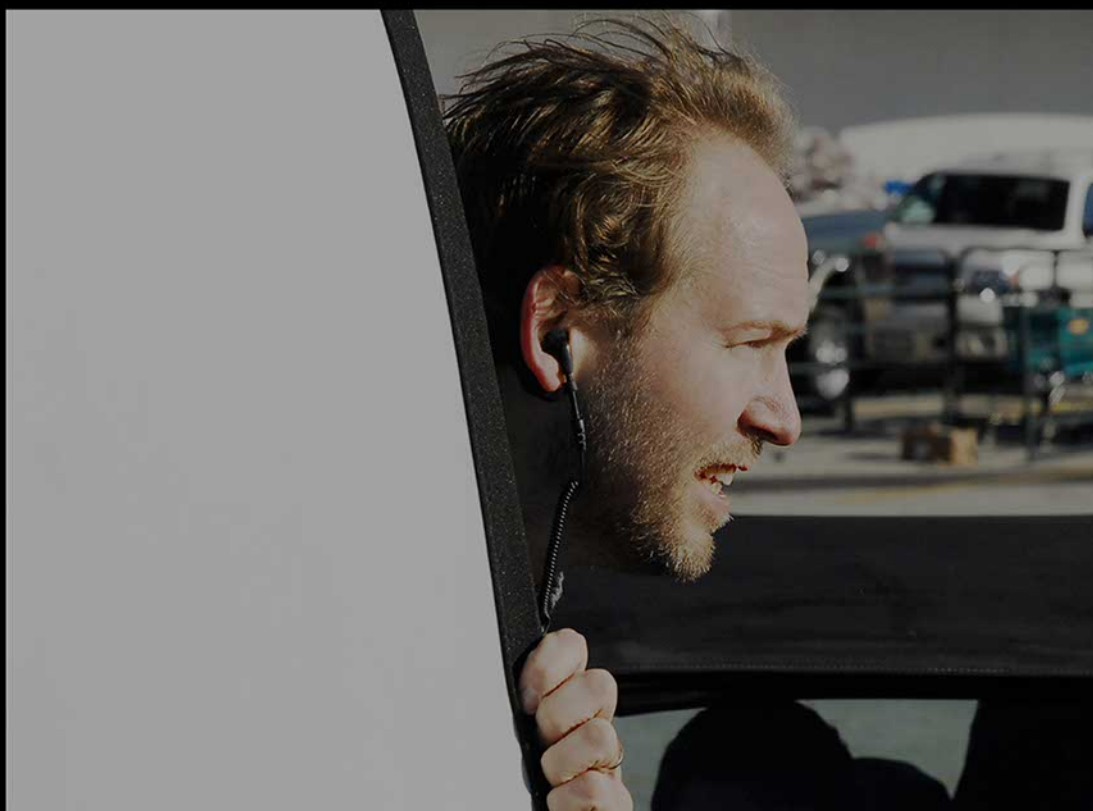


Jeff Kurysz as
Nathan Daniels

Finding Virginia, marks Jeff Kurysz's first ever role in a feature. Having acted in musicals and plays most of his childhood and teenage years, he is currently double majoring in Acting and Exercise Science at Illinois State University. Jeff grew up on the South Side of Chicago. After graduation, he will begin to pave his career in the city. Some favorite stage credits include: Sebastian in *Twelfth Night*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Count Dracula in *Dracula*, Man in *This is How It Goes*, and most recently Jean in *Rhinoceros*. Currently, Jeff is working on a production of *The Armageddon Dance Party* on the North Side of Chicago, which opens in August 2010. Jeff would like to thank Thomas C. Card, Stephanie Gold, Jessica Green, Anthony Cabral, and everyone who was involved with the *Finding Virginia* project.

FILMMAKERS

Thomas C. Card (Writer/ Director/ Producer)



Thomas C. Card was born in Tennessee and raised in the heart of the Midwest. At the age of seventeen, five of Thomas's works were selected out of 250,000 entries to a national art show. Garnering national attention and landing him on CNN, Thomas was awarded a scholarship to attend the fine arts school at Washington University in St. Louis. After graduating with degrees in photography and poetry, Thomas moved to New York City to pursue his passion for photography. Interview magazine launched his career at the age of twenty-three with a double page spread. Thomas now shoots beauty and still life photography in his Chelsea studio for such companies as Barneys New York, Cole Haan, Ferragamo and Versace, and has contributed to numerous international publications including Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, London Sunday Times and The New York Times Magazine.

Thomas's personal work, large-scale photographic collages of Midwestern landscapes from multiple perspectives, has most recently been shown at the Sloan Fine Art gallery in New York. His work also has been seen in numerous galleries around the country.

Finding Virginia is Thomas C. Card's first venture into film-making. Closely linked to his fine art photography, the film highlights Thomas's vision of the repeating image as a meaningful commentary. Juxtaposed against the contemporary criticism that the multiplication of an image diminishes the singular meaning, Thomas convinces us that, in fact, reiteration and retelling builds understanding and strengthens meaning.

Stephanie Gold (Writer/ Producer)

Stephanie Gold was raised in Memphis, Tennessee and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with English and drama degrees. She moved to New York and decided to attend law school where she won a medal in Constitutional Law, the Coprus Juris Secundum award in Tort law, several public service awards as well as the National Association of Women Lawyers award. She was also appointed to a New York City task force called the Court Watch Committee. After completing a judicial clerkship in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Stephanie joined Davis Polk & Wardwell, a prominent New York law firm as a litigation associate. As an associate, she was involved in numerous high-profile cases giving her the opportunity to consult with international figures such as Henry Kissinger, the late President Ford and Queen Noor of Jordan among others. Stephanie has published two research articles in peer-reviewed medical journals as well as a law review article relating to a woman's legal rights to equality and informed choice.

Feeling the creative pull that original brought her to New York, Stephanie left the practice of law to launch an international company designing fashion accessories for women. Stephanie's designs have been highlighted as innovative solutions for women and technology. She has been featured on *CNET*, *ABC News Online*, *New York Daily News*, *People Magazine*, *Reuters*, *USA Today* and *PopGadget*, as well as numerous others. Stephanie's designs were sold at Henri Bendel in New York, the Apple franchise in the Philippines among others. Her products received numerous celebrity endorsements including Fergie, Tyra Banks, Mandy Moore and Maria Sharapova.

Stephanie's desire to return to writing and producing led to the formation of Pounded Pavement Productions. Teaming up with brilliant photographer and director, Thomas Card, Stephanie returned to her first and greatest love, writing and storytelling. *Finding Virginia* is Stephanie's first screenplay and film production. She has produced countless photography shoots as well as video and commercial productions.





Steve Christopher is an actor/producer from Peoria, Illinois. He has been involved with more than 200 films and television projects, from New York to Los Angeles, since his reemergence in acting about six years ago. Steve recently saw the release of *The Telling*, a horror anthology produced by Chuck Williams (Bubba Ho Tep) and Bridget Marquardt. The making of the film is featured in Season 5 of the popular E! Channel show, *The Girls Next Door*.

He is currently working on several film projects at various stages of production, including a few with long time friends Chuck Williams and Dan Roebuck (*Lost*, *The Fugitive*, *Matlock*). Most recently, Steve worked on a film called *Night Club*, with Ernest Borgnine, Mickey Rooney, Rance Howard, Paul Sorvino and others.

He has been instrumental in casting many projects such as the feature films *Finding Virginia*, *Satanic Panic*, *Dead Bodies Everywhere* and *My Guaranteed Student Loan*, in addition to several commercials and industrials for clients such as Busey Bank, Eureka vacuums, the State of Illinois, and others.

Steve has been busy pursuing his late-in-life acting career while maintaining a day job as a corporate architect in Bloomington Illinois and raising two very active daughters with his loving wife of more than 20 years.

Steve Christopher (Casting/ Sheriff)

Saunder Stenfert Jurriaans and Daniel Charles Bensi (Original Score)

Stenfert Charles is composing team of Saunder Stenfert Jurriaans and Daniel Charles Bensi. Both multi-instrumentalists and classically trained musicians, they have a vastly diverse range of musical styles from sweeping orchestral scores and cinematic ambient soundscapes, to lyrical songs and modern Classical pieces.

Both Saunder and Daniel have collaborated musically with various NYC composing houses including The Rumor Mill and Pulse Music in a multitude of national commercials and documentaries. Both Daniel and Saunder are founding members of Priestbird (formerly known as Tarantula AD) and Storms — both NYC bands. Priestbird has 5 albums, has toured internationally, and has twice played main support for Pearl Jam. Priestbird's unique sound journeys from dramatic, cinematic instrumental music to epic, psychedelic rock. Storms draws inspiration from American folk, bluegrass and southern rock.

Stenfert Charles has just completed the score to Alistair Banks Griffin's debut feature *Two Gates of Sleep* which premiered at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival on May 18th. They have also recently completed the score for photographer Thomas Card's directorial debut *Finding Virginia*.

Brett Hayes (Producer)

Brett Hays has produced both short and feature length films. In 2007, Brett produced the award winning short film *Sugar*. Since that time, *Sugar* has been an official selection in over 15 film festivals and won such awards as "Best Cinematography," "Best Editing," "Best Short Film" and "The Grand Jury Prize." The film has been viewed over 16,000 times on YouTube and has been seen in festivals around the world and has appeared on the front page of Funny or Die. He also Co-Produced and Managed the award winning dance-musical *Leading Ladies* (Summer 2009) starring Benji Schwimmer, (Season 2 winner of *So You Think You Can Dance*), Melanie LaPatin (choreographer of *The Thomas Crowne Affair*), cinematographer Pete Biagi (*The Company* and *A Prairie Home Companion*) and Tony Award winning costume designer Markas Henry (*Elf*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Beauty and the Beast*). The film recently won the 2010 Showcase Award at the Sonoma International Film Festival.



Anthony E. Cabral (Associate Producer/ 1st AD)

Anthony E. Cabral was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He currently has several films in production. Cabral is a producer of *Hallow Pointe*, which is in pre-production. Most recently, Cabral was the First Assistant Director for the *The Frontier Boys*, *Leading Ladies* as well as *Finding Virginia*. He was the Second Assistant Director of *Joint Body*. Cabral has a long list of film and television credits.

CAST

Virginia Cutler

Nathan Daniels

Sheriff

Travis

Steve

Sarah Cutler

Brad

Matt Sims

Trooper 1

Sylvia Sims

Bobby

Shirley Daniels

Deputy 1

Trooper 2

Booth Attendant

Grandma Cutler

Jim Cutler

Sheryl

Janis

Police on scene

Todd

Deputy 2

JESSICA ALEXANDRA GREEN

JEFF KURYSZ

STEVE CHRISTOPHER

CHARLES E. ANDREWS, JR.

RITO BALDUCCI

EMMA CREVISTON

SCOT ENGLAND

DENNIS FLORINE

SCOTT GADDY

KYMBERLY HARRIS

DAVID A. HOLCOMBE

LISA M. HOWARD

THOMAS A. JACKSON

AARON W. KOONCE

CARISSA LUND

MARYA MANAK

WES MELTON

KIMBERLY PEAVLER

BRIDGETTE RICHARD

RODNEY STANFILL

SHEA VANLANINGHAM

RUSS WOLF

CREW

Production Company
Director
Producers
Also Produced by
Original Screenplay
Story by
Original Score
Editor
Associate Producers
Casting
Scenic Design/Wardrobe/Props
Cinematographer
Line Producer
Unit Production Manager
1st AD
Script Supervisor
Production Sound Mixing
Boom Operator
1st Assistant Camera
2nd Assistant Camera
Animal Handler
2nd AD
Production Coordinators
Key Production Assistant
Production Assistants
Digital Asset Manager
Key Grip
Grip
Gaffer
Locations Manager
Stunt Coordinator
Key Make-up
Additional Make-up

Pounded Pavement Productions
Thomas C. Card
Stephanie Gold and Thomas C. Card
Brett Hays
Thomas C. Card & Stephanie Gold
Thomas C. Card
Saunder Jurriaans and Daniel Bensi
Gabriele Cassia
Anthony Cabral and Jenna Crosby
Steve Christopher and Stephanie Gold
Niki Azevedo
Thomas C. Card
Stephanie Gold
Brett Hays
Anthony Cabral
Charlotte Bradford
Ken Hackney
Curtis Maneno
Russell Bellew
Daniel Clarke
Matt "Otto" Sturm and Tracy Pritchard
Matthew Gowan
Charlotte Bradford and Jenna Crosby
Kevin P. Southworth
Linda McElroy and Kaitlin Dixon
Daniel Petts
Robb McCleary
Ryan H. Jackson
Daniel Clarke
Ralph F. Moran
Ryan H. Jackson
Jillian Erickson
Steffanie Milage

Press Kit

Finding Virginia

A FILM BY THOMAS C. CARD

Run Time: 1:10:54

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