



SOME BEASTS

PneumaCine

In association with Self-Reliant Film and Aware Films

Cameron Bruce Nelson - Writer/Director

USA - 2015 - English - 90 minutes - Color/5.1 Surround - 2.35:1 aspect ratio

www.somebeasts.com

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AUSTIN
FILM
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independent
filmmaker project

usinprogress
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SYNOPSIS:

Working in an insular farming community in Appalachia, Sal Damon, a modern-day Thoreau, seeks solace from a past relationship. After a sudden death in the community and the discovery of a feral child living on the lam, Sal must reconcile his place in a world that lives outside of the law.

SOME BEASTS is the debut feature of Dallas writer/director Cameron Bruce Nelson, and stars Frank Mosley (UPSTREAM COLOR), Lindsay Burdge (A TEACHER), and Heather Kafka (PIT STOP).

This film was made possible with the generous support and partnership of IFP, US-in-Progress, the Austin Film Society, and the Dallas Video Association.

Shot on RED on location in Floyd, Virginia.

QUOTES:

★★★★★ (out of 5) "Some Beasts announces Nelson as a significant, uncompromising new voice in American independent cinema."

—Graham Williamson, [Vérité Film Magazine](#)

"A masterpiece of organic imagery."

—Rachel Gibson Shepherd, [Truth on Cinema](#)

"A must-see."

—Chase Whale, [Dallas Observer](#)





CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Frank Mosley (“SAL”) has appeared in Clay Liford’s *WUSS* (SXSW, AFI Audience Award), James M. Johnston’s *KNIFE* (Sarasota, SXSW), and Eric Steele’s *CORK’S CATTLEBARON* alongside Robert Longstreet. He received a Best Supporting Actor nomination at the AOF Film Festival for his role in Justin D. Hilliard’s *THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE*, which played over 30 U.S. festivals. Of his acting, *VARIETY* says he performs with “a potent dose of sexual schutzpah” and the popular film blog *HAMMER TO NAIL* notes he “underplays perfectly.”

Lindsay Burdge (“ANNA”) starred in the Hannah Fidell film, *A TEACHER*, which premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival and also screened at the 2013 SXSW Film Festival. Lindsay’s performance was highlighted by both IndieWire and *Verge Magazine* as one of “10 Actors to Watch in Park City.” More recently, Lindsay appears in Karyn’s Kusama’s *THE INVITATION* opposite Logan Marshall Green, Michiel Huisman and Tammy Blanchard, as well as *6 YEARS* for Hannah Fidell and Mark Duplass. Both films premiered at SXSW 2015. Other work include recently uncovered 2010 *SUPER SLEUTHS*, with Kate Lyn Sheil, and Sarah Adina Smith’s fest-winner *THE MIDNIGHT SWIM*. Lindsay has also worked on the other side of the camera as a producer and casting director on festival favorites such as *GIMME THE LOOT* and *LILY*.

Heather Kafka (“RENE”) is an Austin, TX, native whose list of credits include commercials and independent feature films as well as roles in mainstream pictures including *THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE*, *WHERE THE HEART IS*, and *IDIOCRACY*. She has also appeared on numerous TV shows, including *ER*, *NIGHT STALKER*, *CSI*, and *FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS*. Her recent independent film work includes roles in the Zellner Brothers’ *KID THING*, Clay Liford’s *WUSS* (AFI Audience Award), Spencer Parson’s *SATURDAY MORNING MASSACRE*, and as “Diana” in *LOVERS OF HATE*, co-starring Chris Doubek and Alex Karpovsky, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival before being acquired by IFC FILMS.

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Cameron Bruce Nelson (writer/director) is a 2014 IFP Narrative Lab Fellow who has written and directed several short films that have screened widely on the U.S. festival circuit. His first feature, *SOME BEASTS* was one of five features selected for U.S. in Progress-Wroclaw and was a recipient of an Austin Film Society post-production grant. He serves as the technical director at the Lone Star Film Festival and as an assistant programmer for Videofest. He lives in Dallas, TX.

Courtney Ware (producer) has worked professionally in the film industry since 2005. She has produced three features including *SOME BEASTS*. As a director, her first short film directorial work, *RASPBERRY JAM* (2012), won the Jury Award at for the Women in Film Dallas Festival and was part of Women in Film and Television International Showcase, featured in over 40 national and international locations. Owner of Aware Films since 2011, Courtney graduated from the University of North Texas with a degree in Radio, Television and Film.

Ashley Maynor (producer) is a Tennessee-based filmmaker whose work as producer includes *SOMETHING, ANYTHING* (a 2015 New York Times Critic's Pick) and *QUICK FEET, SOFT HANDS* (shown nationally on PBS), both written and directed by Paul Harrill. She is a past recipient of the Sundance Institute's Sheila C. Johnson Creative Producing Fellowship and her work has also been supported by the Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP), the Austin Film Society, and the Southern Humanities Media Fund. She is co-founder of Self-Reliant Film, a company that supports regional, DIY, and personal filmmaking.

HutchH (director of photography) is a Dallas, TX, native who has been working on independent films as a DP, camera operator, editor, colorist, and director for the past ten years. He has camera operated on such films as Mye Hoang's *VIETTE*, Clay Liford's *EARTHLING* and David Lowery's "Pioneer", which premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival and won Best Narrative Short at SXSW. Recent productions include *THE ROMANCE OF LONELINESS* featuring Kentucker Audley, James M Johnston's short Gothic revenge tale "Knife" (SXSW 2012), and *PIT STOP* (Sundance 2013) by Yen Tan.





PRODUCTION NOTES

Separately, as director and producer, we have chosen to live our lives and make our work in the states of America that fall between the US film epicenters of New York and Los Angeles, the two cities that are more often than not the setting for American films.

As independent filmmakers, we are also committed to telling uncommon stories about the kinds of people rarely seen onscreen and presenting a fresh look on life in America for both national and international audiences. With *SOME BEASTS*, we hope to give a glimpse into the rich communities of the contemporary small-scale American farmer.

Writer/director Cameron Nelson drew upon his own experiences as a former farmer and homesteader in Southwest Virginia to develop the scenario for *SOME BEASTS*. His directorial style was further informed by his undergraduate studies in anthropology; many of the people depicted in the film are the residents Cameron lived and worked with during his time there. He chose to combine aspects of narrative filmmaking with ethnographic documentary techniques to achieve realistic performances from these non-actors. His unique approach is intended to faithfully render the rich and deep culture of contemporary Appalachia on screen.

Though much of the world lives outside of urban areas, the depictions of life in rural settings are rare and often littered with stereotypes or oversimplifications of that people and culture.

We aim for *SOME BEASTS* to be a modest antidote to this gap in cinema not just for US audiences but for a global community that equally faces the issues and controversies underneath the film's narrative. Some of these universal dilemmas include the phenomenon of youth "brain drain" (young people leaving rural or economically depressed areas for bigger cities); questions surrounding modern agricultural practices and food engineering; and the resurgence of alternative lifestyles in opposition to a global consumerist culture.

The film also speaks to the concept of the American dream and how that is being redefined in the post-modern era. In this way, the film works as an elegy, not only to a fading generation, but to A'court Bason, who appears as himself in the film. A'court passed away seven days after we wrapped principal photography and both cast and crew became very close to him over the nine months we shot on his land. He was so inspired by our efforts that he asked to keep and be buried in the coffin that appears in the film. In turn, he inspired us to continue on his legacy. In our hearts, the film serves as a living memorial to A'court and the ideals that he lived his life to preserve.

We hope *SOME BEASTS* will be a truly cinematic experience that will capture audiences with its breathtaking scenery, subtle performances, and timeless story about one man's choice between his dreams and his responsibilities.

—Cameron Nelson & Ashley Maynor





KEY CREDITS

Cast

Sal	Frank Mosley
Anna	Lindsay Burdge
Rene	Heather Kafka

Crew

Writer/Director/Editor	Cameron Bruce Nelson
Producers	Courtney Ware, Ashley Maynor
Executive Producers	Ben LeClair, Walker Deibel
Original Music by	Stars of the Lid and Curtis Heath
Director of Photography	Hutch
Sound Design	Johnny Marshall

SCREENINGS & AWARDS

Dallas International Film Festival - Dallas, Texas - April 9-19, 2015 CO-WORLD PREMIERE
Winner – Special Jury Award for Cinematography

Nashville Film Festival - Nashville, Tennessee - April 16-25, 2015 CO-WORLD PREMIERE

Sidewalk Film Festival - Birmingham, Alabama - August 27-30, 2015

Knoxville Film Festival - Knoxville, Tennessee - September 17-20, 2015
Winner – Jury Award for Narrative Feature

FilmSlang - Lexington, Kentucky - October 10, 2015

IndieMemphis - Memphis, Tennessee - November 3-10, 2015
Winner – Ron Tibbett Excellence in Filmmaking Award
Winner – Best Poster Design

Virginia Film Festival - Charlottesville, Virginia - November 5-8, 2015
Winner – Programmer's Award for Best Narrative Feature

Columbus International Film and Video Festival - November 5-14, 2015

Micro-Wave Cinema Series - Madison, Wisconsin - February 21, 2016

Grandin Theatre Filmmaker Showcase - Roanoke, Virginia - March 21, 2016

Sarasota Film Festival - Sarasota, Florida - April 1-10, 2016



MORE PRESS & REVIEWS

"An immense film whose ideas and images resonate long after it's been watched, *Some Beasts* announces Nelson as a significant, uncompromising new voice in American independent cinema, taking on national obsessions fearlessly and finding something new to say about a subject that has obsessed so many filmmakers recently."

—Graham Williamson, [Vérité Film Magazine](#)

"...Regional films with this sort of depth and artistry are a welcome addition to the canon of American independent cinema, and in a culture where everything is in danger of being co-opted, sorely needed."

—Michael McWay, [Hammer to Nail](#)

"A masterpiece of organic imagery, passionate performances and deeply felt grace ... Cameron Nelson has given us a thing a beauty, a pure form of the medium. There is not another film like this in the world, and no other voice like Nelson's."

—Rachel Gibson Shepherd, [Truth on Cinema](#)

"A realistic look at the life of a modern-day organic farmer including all its beauty as well as its many tribulations...*Some Beasts* cinematically showcases the breathtaking landscape of rural America...the land itself becomes as much a character as the people who inhabit it."

—Jessica Tomberlin, [Dallas CultureMap](#)

"*Some Beasts* has a spirit and heartbeat that make it very special...Mosley gives an award worthy performance."

—Matt Mungle, [The Mungle on Movies](#)

"A quiet film which audiences can study and walk away reflecting their own life...rich and thought-provoking."

—Preston Barta, [Freshfiction.tv](#)

"With his complex turn in *Some Beasts*, DFW-based actor/writer/director Mosley continues his long history with DIFF's Texas-made films...the cinematography is truly amazing..shot in the beautiful style that Texas-based viewers have come to recognize as the signature work of Hutch."

—Bridgette Poe, [Dallas International Film Festival](#)

