



presents

a Cinema Libre Studio/RaisingCain Production



Directed by
Eric Byler

Written by
Kimberly-Rose Wolter & Eric Byler

Produced by
Philippe Diaz

TRT: 88 Minutes
USA, 2007
English
Not Rated

PUBLICITY CONTACT:

Cathy Mouton or Beth Portello
CINEMA LIBRE STUDIO
8328 De Soto Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91304

PH: 818-349-8822

FX: 818-349-9922

cmouton@cinemalibrestudio.com

bportello@cinemalibrestudio.com

PUBLICITY CONTACT:

Sarah Carragher
mPRm PUBLIC RELATIONS
5670 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 2500

Los Angeles, CA 90036

PH: 323-933-3399

ext. 4249

scarragher@mprm.com

DISTRIBUTION CONTACT:

Richard Castro
CINEMA LIBRE STUDIO
8328 De Soto Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91304

PH: 818-349-8822

FX: 818-349-9922

rcastro@cinemalibrestudio.com

www.trethemovie.com

AWARDS & ACCLAIM

"Compelling, polished, sharply realized...performances and script etch the characters in terse, credible, assertive strokes that resist 'explaining all' in terms of personal histories."

--Dennis Harvey, Variety

FESTIVALS

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE – San Francisco Asian American Film Festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION – Denver STARZ Film Festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION – Hawaii International Film Festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION – Salem Film Festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION – Wisconsin Film Festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION – DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Tre arrives unannounced at a secluded mountain home where his friends Gabe and Kakela allow him to crash on their couch. But Kakela becomes increasingly annoyed with Tre when he begins a revenge-fueled sexual affair with her best friend, Nina. As Kakela watches Nina's marriage unravel, she begins to question her devotion to Gabe. Unsure of her motives, she accepts a dare devised by Tre -- a simple 10-second experiment that changes her life forever.

Sexual competition and moral ambiguity are the only constants in Eric Byler's searing follow-up to his critically acclaimed 2003 Independent Spirit Award nominee, "Charlotte Sometimes," the sexy anti-romance celebrated by film critic Roger Ebert as a "breakthrough for Asian American cinema."

SYNOPSIS

Tre (Daniel Cariaga), a slacker, uses his brains, not his brawn, to seduce a woman seeking revenge against her husband. The woman, a brassy but vulnerable actress/waitress named **Nina** (Alix Koromzay), moved out of the house after discovering that her husband had kissed another woman...for ten seconds.

Nina's more stable and responsible friend, **Kakela** (Kimberly-Rose Wolter), plays host and witness to their illicit affair. Seeing Nina fall from grace, Kakela begins to question her own devotion to her fiancé, **Gabe** (Erik McDowell).

It is Tre who proposes the perfect experiment to test Kakela's love for Gabe. The experiment only lasts for ten seconds, but it sparks a chain reaction that would change their lives forever.

In his third feature film, acclaimed writer/director Eric Byler ("Americanese" and "Charlotte Sometimes") explores the relevance of social institutions such as marriage, work, love and family in an era where lies and corruption are rewarded over honesty and the rule of law. Sexual temptation and moral ambiguity are the only constants in Byler's searing sequel to his critically acclaimed, surprise nominee of the 2003 Independent Spirit Awards, "Charlotte Sometimes."

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

TRE was shot during a frenetic period when Eric Byler also directed the upcoming IFC Films release, "Americanese" and the PBS pilot, "My Life Disoriented." It was written by Kimberly-Rose Wolter and Byler as the unofficial sequel to Byler's 2003 debut: the Independent Spirit Awards' double nominee, "Charlotte Sometimes."

"Charlotte Sometimes" was hailed by Roger Ebert as "mysterious and erotic...a relationship story that plays like a romantic thriller." Byler warns of his unofficial sequel, "We're turning things up a notch here. The characters are more aggressive and more confrontational in their psycho-sexual jousting. We actually do cross into the thriller genre for a few agonizing moments toward the end of the film."

Kimberly-Rose Wolter's supporting character from "Charlotte Sometimes" is the central character in "TRE," while "Charlotte Sometimes" co-stars, Michael Idemoto and Matt Westmore each make cameos. Like "Charlotte Sometimes," "TRE" features four central characters, two men and two women, each of whom have sexual designs on at least two of the others. The two films share the same cinematographer (Rob Humphreys) and music composer Michael Brook, who also scored Byler's "Americanese" and the Oscar® winner, "An Inconvenient Truth."

Newcomer, Daniel Cariaga, stars opposite Wolter as the title character, with Alix Korma, Erik McDowell and Teddy Chen Culver rounding out a stellar cast.

"TRE" was produced and will be released theatrically by Cinema Libre Studio.

Byler calls "TRE" the "darkest and most compelling" of his three "anti-romantic" features. "It's also the most likely to cause you to yell at the screen."

Q & A WITH DIRECTOR ERIC BYLER

What inspired you to make this film?

There was a darker place in “Charlotte Sometimes” always lurking around the corner, but we are usually prohibited from seeing it because there was too much hope in the world the actors had created. In “TRE,” there is a kind of obsessive love that causes people to go to those darker places, to hurt people or hurt one’s self as an act of emotional vengeance. Kimberly-Rose and I wrote the script to explore those places, with particular actors in mind for both lead roles. The Tre (Daniel Cariaga) character was dark by design and with Kakela (Kimberly-Rose Wolter), she grew darker as we wrote the film – and even darker when we shot it...even I was surprised at the outcome of her character.

You said there was “too much hope in the world” in “Charlotte Sometimes.” Was there less hope in the world with “TRE?”

In the real world? Yes. “TRE” was shot during a time when the Iraq War seemed endless, more endless than it seems today if there is such a thing as “more endless” because no one questioned the stories we were being told by our leaders.

But in the world of “TRE,” there is hope. Tre has convinced himself that he’s incapable of love. His relationships with women are a series of sexual chess matches. He grew up thinking that love was something one had to compete for, but found it was less risky to compete in the sexual arena. Much like Charlotte in “Charlotte Sometimes,” he throws up walls in relationships to ensure he won’t be loved. He prefers this to the rejection he would feel if he allowed himself to want and pursue love and failed to win it.

Early in the film, we see him seduce Nina (Alix Koromzay), a married woman who basically hates him from the moment they meet. This is a good way to ensure he won’t be loved. You could say she grows to love him in spite of herself, which can complicate a relationship that is supposed to be strictly sexual.

How does “TRE” speak to that 20-something generation trying to figure out who/what they are?

Well, “TRE” and “Charlotte Sometimes” are about the alienation side of the equation. You know it’s time to become an adult, but you look at the world and don’t know where you fit in and don’t even know if you want to fit in. Tre and Kakela are drawn to each other because they are both in that sort of existential crisis. Tre is at peace, or so he thinks, until Kakela’s allure and her fire drag him out of his inertia. Kakela’s crisis begins when she becomes engaged to Gabe (Erik McDowell).

Gabe is gorgeous and sweet, but there isn’t enough conflict between them, there is too much equilibrium for the storm side of her that is screaming to find its way out. During her arguments and her conversations with Tre, she realizes she can’t be happy following the rules and patterns that society has prescribed for her. She wonders if she can be the woman who would marry Gabe, or if this darker, but more liberated woman would be more of an acceptable persona. Tre represents the anarchy that she assumes is on the other side.

What are some of the differences between “Charlotte Sometimes,” “TRE” and making “Americanese?”

It will be more interesting to hear what people think. A film critic in San Francisco told me that he felt like “Americanese” was almost a continuation of “Charlotte Sometimes,” with different characters, but similar stylistic approach. This is true at times, but if you ignore the ethnicity of the characters, I think audiences will find “TRE” is much closer to “Charlotte Sometimes” stylistically. Like “Charlotte,” “TRE” focuses on four characters, each of whom are in love with or sexually obsessed with at least one of the others. In addition to Kimberly-Rose, Matt Westmore and Michael Idemoto from “Charlotte Sometimes” appear in “TRE,” which to me implies that the two stories are part of the same world.

I feel like “Americanese” takes place in a different world. There are a dozen characters, not just four. Events take place over the course of three years, with several flashbacks that take you back as many as 35 years. “TRE” and “Charlotte Sometimes” use an objective camera or point-of-view almost exclusively. “Americanese” employs a lot of subjective camera, often showing images that exist in the characters’ minds, not only what they see, but how they see it – visions, dreams and memories.

CAST

Tre DANIEL CARIAGA

Kakela KIMBERLY-ROSE WOLTER

Gabriel ERIK MCDOWELL

Nina ALIX KOROMZAY

Lyle TEDDY CHEN CULVER

Rick ERIK HACKETT

Tre's Mom JACKIE O'BRIAN

MAIN TITLES

Directed by ERIC BYLER

Written by KIMBERLY-ROSE WOLTER
ERIC BYLER

Produced by PHILIPPE DIAZ

Executive Producers KIMBERLY DE BARROS CONNOLLY
RICARDO CONNOLLY

Director of Photography ROB HUMPHREYS

Co-Producers LISA ONODERA
GREG SPENCE

Music by MICHAEL BROOK

Editor TOM MOORE

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

ERIC BYLER, WRITER/DIRECTOR

Chinese American filmmaker Eric Byler graduated from Wesleyan University where his senior thesis film, "Kenji's Faith," went on to be selected for the Sundance Film Festival in 1995, won six film festival awards, and was a regional finalist in the Student Academy Awards.

His first feature film, "Charlotte Sometimes" was nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards in 2003: the John Cassavetes Award for Best Feature under \$500,000, and a Best Supporting Actress award for Jacqueline Kim. The film was called "fascinating and illuminating" by film critic Roger Ebert and won numerous festival awards, including: the Audience Award at South by Southwest Film Festival (SXSW), the Special Jury Prize at the Florida Film Festival and the Best Dramatic Feature at the San Diego Asian Film Festival. The film was distributed theatrically by Visionbox and Small Planet Pictures before being released on DVD.

Byler's second feature is the Charlotte Sometimes quasi-sequel, "TRE" — winner of the Special Jury Award at the 2007 San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival. TRE will be released by Cinema Libre Studio in early 2008.

His third feature, "Americanese," is an adaptation of Shawn Wong's seminal Asian American novel, "American Knees." It won the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature at SXSW, in addition to a Special Jury Prize for Outstanding Ensemble Cast, which includes Joan Chen, Kelly Hu, Ben Shenkman, Autumn Reeser, Chris Tashima, Allison Sie and Michael Paul Chan. The film will be released by IFC First Take in 2008.

Byler also directed the PBS / ITVS Television pilot, "My Life Disoriented." He is currently producing/directing documentaries about Asian Pacific Islander political empowerment. And, he is teaming with filmmakers Annabel Park and Jeff Man on an interactive documentary about the immigration battle in Northern Virginia called "9500 Liberty."

Byler is a member of the Directors Guild of America and the Writers Guild of America.

PHILIPPE DIAZ, PRODUCER

Philippe Diaz is an award winning producer/director ("The Empire in Africa" "Mauvais Sang" "Pierre et Djemila") and has built a reputation as a revolutionary filmmaker with a cinephile's heart. In his native Paris, Diaz produced critically acclaimed films that included: "Mauvais Sang" (Winner of the 1986 Louis Delluc award and nominated for 3 Césars), which launched the careers of Juliette Binoche and Julie Delpy, "Pierre et Djemila" (represented France in the Official Competition at the Cannes Film Festival), "The Bengali Night," which launched the career of director, Nicolas Klotz and featured Hugh Grant in his first leading role.

Returning to his political, independent roots in 2003, he founded Cinema Libre Studio in Los Angeles. In 2006, his feature documentary on the civil war in Sierra Leone, "The Empire in Africa," was awarded the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the Slamdance Film Festival.

LISA ONODERA, CO-PRODUCER

Lisa Onodera produced the award-winning IFC Films release (August 2007) "Americanese," based on Shawn Wong's novel, *American Knees*. "Americanese" stars Joan Chen, Kelly Hu, Chris Tashima, Autumn Reeser, Sab Shimono, Ben Shenkman and Michael Paul Chan.

Onodera has produced several notable films including, "Picture Bride," which starred Youki Kudoh, Akira Takayama and Toshiro Mifune. Distributed by Miramax Films, "Picture Bride" won the Audience Award at the 1995 Sundance Film Festival. Onodera also produced "The Debut," which starred Dante Basco. "The Debut" won the Audience Award at the Hawai'i International Film Festival in 2000, the Best Feature Ammy in 2003 and Best Feature at the San Diego Asian American Film Festival in 2002. "The Debut" also broke indie distribution records with a 2 million dollar box office return over the span of its theatrical release in 2003. Other films produced by Onodera include: "Restless," "Day of Independence," and "Farewell to Reskolnikov's."

ROBERT HUMPHREYS, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Zimbabwean-born director of photography, Robert Humphreys' recent project is Jean-Pierre Bekolo's "Les Saignentes." Other films include: "Illusion," winner of the Screenplay Award at the Hamptons International Film Festival, starring Kirk Douglas and Michael Gorrjian; "Charlotte Sometimes" nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards and winner of the Audience Award at South by Southwest; "Dopamine," winner of the Sloane award at Sundance; and "The Invisibles," winner of the Independent Spirit Award at the Oldenburg Festival. His extensive cinematography experience also includes: "Americanese," "My Life Disoriented," "Nora's Hair Salon," "Here Lies Lonely," "Blessed," "Dinner and a Movie," "Riches," "Beatrice," "Surrender," "Ball Lightning," "Dog's Bark," and "The Shooting."

MICHAEL BROOK, COMPOSER

Michael Brook is a Canadian guitarist, inventor, producer and film music composer most famous perhaps for his sonic contribution to U2's multimillion-selling 1987 album *The Joshua Tree* in the form of his invention, the Infinite guitar. He was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1996 for his production work and as a co-artist on Pakistani singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's album *Night Song*. Another notable collaboration was *Sleeps With The Fishes* with Clan Of Xymox member Pieter Nooten (4AD, 1987). In 2006, the solo album *RockPaperScissors* was released, with an ambient version released in January 2007.

He has produced albums for Mary Margaret O'Hara, Julia Fordham, Jane Siberry, U. Srinivas, Youssou N'Dour, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, The Edge, Balloon, The Pogues, Jorane, Hukwe Zawose, and others. Brook has also written for a number of film soundtracks including: "TRE," "Albino Alligator," "Americanese," "Mission: Impossible II," the eco-

documentaries, Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" and "Who Killed the Electric Car?" and Sean Penn's critically acclaimed "Into the Wild," which earned Brook a Golden Globe nomination.

KIMBERLY-ROSE WOLTER, WRITER/ACTRESS

Kimberly-Rose Wolter is the Co-Artistic Director of VS. Theatre Company in Los Angeles, an award-winning company dedicated to producing original works and West Coast Premieres. Kimberly recently played 'Sheila' in "Beggars in the House of Plenty." Prior VS. production roles include: 'Liv' in "Navy Pier" and 'Amelia' in "The Credeaux Canvas." She also produced the American premiere of "Modern Dance for Beginners" garnering Critic's Pick in the *LA Weekly*. A native of Hawai'i, Kimberly played the Eurasian heroine, Sadako Kitabayashi in the premiere of Velina Hasu Houston's, "Cultivated Lives" (later renamed "Ikebana"). As a member of La Halau Hanakeeka, a theater company committed to producing new Hawaiian language plays, she performed in "Kaluaiko'olau," the first stage production to be performed in Hawaiian since the overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy in 1893.

Film credits include Eric Byler's short, "Kealoha," and his feature, "Charlotte Sometimes." Additional theater credits include: 'Carol' in David Mamet's "Oleanna," 'Desdemona' in "Goodnight Desdemona, Good morning Juliet," 'Jennifer' in "Night Sky" performed at the Odyssey Theatre, 'Molly' in "The Mouse Trap" at Conejo Players and 'Donna' in "Hurly Burly."

ABOUT THE CAST

KIMBERLY-ROSE WOLTER – “Kakela”

See Bio under Filmmakers

DANIEL CARIAGA – “Tre”

Daniel Cariaga began acting and writing plays in 1997. His full-length plays include: “Wasted,” “Sensitivity Training for Men” and “Sleepwalk,” which was a finalist for the PEN USA West Literary Award in 2001 and was produced by Playwrights Arena in association with A.S.K. Theatre Projects in Los Angeles. Daniel was also a Playwrights Center Jerome Fellow for 2000-2001. His acting credits include plays: “Two Sisters and a Piano” by Nilo Cruz, “Abraham Lincoln’s Dog” by Julie Hebert, “Leon & Clark” by Lucy J. Kim; television credits include: “Crimestrike,” and industrial films: “Home Savings,” and “New Horizons.” Films include: “Sign of the Cross,” and “Just Shoot.” Daniel has also worked with East West Players, Moving Arts Theatre Company and A.S.K. Theatre Projects.

ALIX KOROMZAY – “Nina”

Born and raised in Washington DC, Alix won her first award in regional theater at sixteen. After moving to New York, she studied at Circle in the Square and has worked steadily in television and film since she relocated to Los Angeles. Alix has been sliced and diced in horrors, walked many a street in episodics, flashed police IDs, pulled out pistols, sat in courtrooms and laid in hospital beds -- dying, recovering, birthing. She's begged for, done and died of heroin. Chameleon-like, Alix is barely recognizable from role to role and her work continues to win critical recognition. Her feature credits include: “Blood Work,” “The Haunting,” “Mimic,” “Mimic2,” “Nightwatch,” “Children of the Corn 666,” “Network,” “The Pornographer” and “Kindergarten Cop.”

ERIK McDOWELL – “Gabe”

Over the past six months, Erik McDowell has portrayed a filmmaker dying of bone cancer, a lover betrayed by those closest to him and a young man suffering from AIDS. “Gabe” in “TRE” marks his second starring role in a feature following the independent film “In Memoriam,” directed by Amanda Gusack, which premiered at the Hamptons International Film Festival.

Erik began his career on the New York stage where he quickly segued into film, starring in such independent shorts as the award winning “So, What Do You Think?” directed by Darren Goldberg.

He has since relocated to Los Angeles where he continues to build his film and television repertoire, first as a guest star on “Cold Case” and on subsequent award-winning independents such as “Wide Awake in Nothing,” directed by Paul Lingas.

COMPLETE CREDITS

Directed by **ERIC BYLER**
Written by **KIMBERLY-ROSE WOLTER & ERIC BYLER**
Produced by **PHILIPPE DIAZ**
Co-Producers **LISA ONODERA & GREG SPENCE**
Executive Producers **KIMBERLY DE BARROS CONNOLLY & RICARDO CONNOLLY**

Director of Photography **ROB HUMPHREYS**
Music by **MICHAEL BROOK**
Editor **TOM MOORE**
VP of Production **NICOLE BAVILLIAN**
Line Producers **JENNIFER BYRNE & LU CIEN HIOE**
1st Assistant Directors **REGGIE HUNTER & KEN WADA**
2nd Assistant Director **CHAD STEINER**
2nd 2nd Assistant Director **ANDREA EDMONDSON**
Production Coordinator **AMY H. TUNG**
Assistant to Line Producer **PABLO MIRALLES**

Production Assistants **CATHERINE LO, DONALD CHU, DAVID CORONA, TONY SHAYNE, MELISSA LOW, CINDY FANG, LIZ MEAS, SHARON RUPPAR, MICHAEL IDAMOTO, LIZ CORTEZ, ROBERTO LEWIS, HANAN ABDELAAL, JASON DELANE, BRANDON FLYNN, MARK GARZA, JOSEPH GIARDINA COURTNEY GRAHAM, MIKE HNATH, JOSH HSIEH, MICHAEL KELLEHER, DANIEL KELLS, JARED LEONG, SARAH LOCKE, ROGERS MARQUESS, QUYNH NGUYEN, ANTHONY PASSANITI, LUSHUN QUON, MYCHAL REITMAN, TYME RISON, JON SCHAEFFER, YUKA SHIRASUNA, ZINNIA SU, ANDREW VEEDER ROBIN WYAT**

Cinema Libre Studio CFO **KINDRA RUOCCO**
Production Designer **ROBERT SHINSO**
Art Director **AMIRA LOPEZ**
Co-Art Director **CHRISTIAN BANZ**
Art Department Assistant **ERIC SENCHUK**

Construction Designer **DEREK BJORNSEN**
1st Assistant Camera **ROB MUTHAMIA**
2nd Camera Operators **CHRISTINA CHRISTENSEN & JOHN LAZEAR**
2nd Camera 1st A.C. **CRISTINA ARMISEN**
Camera Production Assistants **NAOE MORITZ & FABIO TREUE**

Craft Services **RACHEL SCHWARTZ**
Gaffer **MICHAEL LEE**
Electric **ALEX MARKLE, BILL RUSSELL, DAVID STEINMETZ, GRANT SMITH**

Best Boy Electric **GRANT SMITH**
Swing **ANTHONY FOWLER & LEO MALSIN**
Grip **CHRIS KIDDER**
Best Boy Grip **ANTHONY FOWLER**

Grip Truck Driver	JESSE AYALA
Grip/Electric Production Assistant	EARL ROBERT GRANGER & DARREN NG
Location Manager	BERNARD LEE
Key MakeUp Artists	JESS WAUGH & LINDA WHANG
Assistant MakeUp Artist	CARA MACCIANTI
Hair Stylist	MICHELLE MUNGAL
Script Supervisor	CECILIA TSAI
Sound Mixers	DANA KOPETZKY & MARK PATINO
Boom Operators	SCOTT CORNISH & BARRY SHEA
Additional Boom Operator	EARL ROBERT GRANGER
Additional Boom Operator	TONY SHAYNE
Costume Designers	RENNE SHIMADA & IVY CHOU
Assistant Costume Designer	BRANDON BOULDIN
Stunt Coordinator	BRETT DAVIDSON

ABOUT RAISING CAIN PRODUCTIONS

Raising Cain Productions was formed in 2004 by producers, Ricardo De Barros and Kimberly De Barros. TRE is the company's first production. Other projects in active development include the aptly named rock-n-roll love story, "Raisin' Kane," which will include an all-star soundtrack by the likes of Skid Row and members of Guns N' Roses and Def Leppard.

ABOUT CINEMA LIBRE STUDIO

Cinema Libre Studio is a haven for independent filmmakers with views, offering one-stop shopping for production, co-production, distribution, foreign sales, marketing, and post-production services. The company is best known for distributing socially conscious documentaries and working with up-and-coming talent on narrative features. Headquartered in Los Angeles, the company is known for distributing in theaters and on DVD titles that include: "Outfoxed," "Uncovered," Tim Robbins' "Embedded Live," "Desert Bayou" and ESPN's "Through the Fire." Several Cinema Libre Studio productions have recently won awards on the festival circuit including: "Conventioneers," "The Empire in Africa," "Giuliani Time," and Participant Productions' "Angels in the Dust." Principles are in production on a feature length documentary about the roots of poverty, tentatively titled "Access Denied." For more information, visit www.cinemalibrestudio.com.