

"Pushes all the right buttons..."

You are strongly encouraged to feel *'THE ART OF PAIN'*!"



FILMTHREAT.COM



WINNER - AUDIENCE CHOICE
SUNSCREEN FILM FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL SELECTION
DELRAY BEACH FILM FESTIVAL

THE ART OF PAIN

INSPIRE AN ARTIST. RUIN HIS LIFE

UPRESSPLAY PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A ZABBA ZABBA FILM "THE ART OF PAIN" ANDERS ERICKSON JOHN LAFLAMBOY GREG BROOKENS

LAUREN BISHOP JAKE HAMES ARVIN JALANDON LEENA KURISHINGAL ELLIOT FREDLAND JOYCE PORTER LLOYD KAUFFMAN

MUSIC BY STEVE KIEFER

SOUND DESIGN BY BRIAN MAGRUM

PRODUCTION DESIGNER JOHN LAFLAMBOY

LINE PRODUCER CHAD WHEELER

COSTUME DESIGNER VICKY STREI

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DANIEL LEVIN

EDITED BY MATT BROOKENS AND MATTHEW M. JONES

PRODUCED BY MATT BROOKENS MATTHEW M. JONES JOHN LAFLAMBOY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MATT BROOKENS



www.artofpainmovie.com



CONTACT

Matt Brookens (Writer/Director/Producer) 773-653-1984 zabbazabba@gmail.com NTSC 85 min.

THE ART OF PAIN



CAST

Jack	Anders Erickson
Marcus	John LaFlamboy
Nick	Greg Brookens
Sharon	Lauren Bishop
Nobu	Arvin Jalandoon
Charlie	Jake Hames
Stacey	Leena Kurishingal
Rex	Elliot Fredland
Mary	Joyce Porter
George Romano	Lloyd Kauffman
Martha Russell	Danielle Brothers
McCracken (Cop)	John Turk
Mitch	j Scott
Ninja Leader	Wesley Chu

CREW

Writer/Director	Matt Brookens
Producers	John LaFlamboy Matthew M. Jones
Director of Photography	Daniel Kenji Levin
Assistant Camera	Alex Falk
Gaffer	Tim Ryan
1st. Assistant Director	Gregory Gerhard
Lead Effects Makeup	Vicky Strei
Editors	Matt Brookens Matthew M. Jones
Musical Score Composer	Steve Kiefer
Sound Design	Brian Magrum
Color Correction	Michael Dunne
Comic Book Art	Jacob Elijah Hallinen

-85 MINUTES

UNRATED

16X9 ASPECT RATIO

SHOT IN HIGH DEF WITH PANASONIC VARICAM - AVAILABLE IN HD

ART PAIN FILMS LLC

WWW.ARTOFPAINMOVIE.COM

THE ART OF PAIN

DETAILED SYNOPSIS

INSPIRE AN ARTIST, RUIN HIS LIFE –

The peace of the mall movie theater is about to be shattered! Jack, a stagnated painter, must train new theater employee Marcus, a rage filled, motorcycle-riding martial artist. Marcus hits on Jack's actress girlfriend Sharon, and really gets the goat of comic-loving sci-fi geek, Nick. More tensions flare when Jack's boss announces a coveted career launching painting contest.

Turns out that Marcus studies the art of Ninja under the diabolical, pastrami-loving Nobu. After dishing out a nasty kung fu beat down, Nobu decrees that until Marcus can demonstrate his creativity, he will never earn his black belt. With a psychotic need to prove himself boiling up, Marcus latches onto the words of his hero, zombie film maven George Romano: "Great art comes from great pain."

Suddenly, Sharon and Marcus are in bed together and Jack has found some gut wrenching inspiration to paint with. Wowed by his friend's new zest for art, Nick presses Jack to begin illustrating his comic book about sexy women and swamp dwelling ape-men. This deviation from painting burns up Marcus, who believes he is establishing his legacy through Jack's art. Donning ninja garb, Marcus sets out to further "inspire" Jack.

What follows is a bloody trail of betrayal, murder and maiming that only a ninja can inflict. Now, painting in a frenzy, Jack must fight not only for his art, but his life. Be ready for one shocker of an ending!

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

INSPIRE AN ARTIST, RUIN HIS LIFE –

Jack works an easy job at the movie theater with his pal Nick, a sci-fi geek, and his aspiring actress girlfriend, Sharon. He used to be a pretty good painter, but there isn't much inspiration in this zombie-like existence. All of that is about to change. Enter Marcus, a pissed off ninja-in-training with something to prove. Fueled by disgust for Jack's apathy and a cruel sensei, Marcus takes it upon himself to teach a brutal lesson: Great art comes from great pain. What follows is a bloody trail of seduction, murder and maiming that only a ninja can inflict. Now, painting in a frenzy, Jack must fight not only for his art, but his life.



FESTIVAL RUN TO DATE

The Art of Pain's Coast to Coast Tour of the U.S. Film Festival Circuit –

In April, 2008, The Art of Pain premiered at the Sunscreen Film Festival in St. Petersburg, Florida. There it was honored with the coveted Audience Award, kicking off what continues to be a successful and energetic festival run. Audiences have warmly received our dark comedy and have formed strong relationships with us. Through Festivals, Myspace, Facebook, Twitter and other websites, our film continues to build an active following of genre fans. Attending these festivals and watching our film play on the big screen before enthusiastic crowds is incredible!



FILM THREAT

truth in entertainment .COM

THE ART OF PAIN

by Eric Campos

(2008-03-28)

2008, Un-rated, 85 minutes

CREDITS

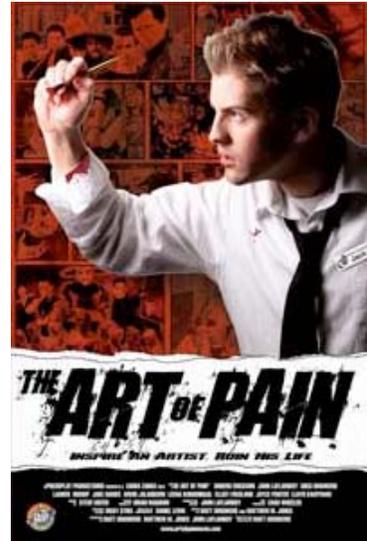


Dem Brookens Boys is back! After introducing the festival world to the legendary [Skunk Ape](#) with their short loosely based on the stinky beast, Matt and Greg Brookens give us their first feature film. If you are unfamiliar with the brothers' work, let me assure you that this is a cause for celebration. Written and directed by Matt Brookens and starring brother Greg, this feature length outing is jam packed with genre geek droolworthiness – zombies, ninjas, comic books, Lloyd Kaufman talking about sticking drugs up his butt, nerd vengeance and a vicious dark comic streak reminiscent of teen suicide comedy "Heathers." "The Art of Pain" has cult classic written all over it.

Jack is an ar-teest. A painter. Well, he would be if he could pick up his paint brush again and get to work. Instead, he's content with his dull gig working at a movie theater along with his aspiring actress girlfriend, Sharon, and his aspiring comic book writer buddy, Nick, played by Greg Brookens. Life is rather pointless and uninspiring hustling popcorn and movie tickets until Marcus is hired at the theater. Marcus is a bad-ass, leather jacket clad ninja in training who is unable to meet his sensei's high expectations, thus keeping him from earning his black belt. Marcus sees himself as a failure, so he devises a fiendish little project, something that he believes he can finally see through. His project is Jack and the lesson he will teach him is that "great art comes from great pain." So Marcus commences toying with Jack's life, starting with little things like turning his parents against him and stealing his girlfriend. It's enough to stir the master artist within Jack and he begins painting once again, this new pain inspired work held in the utmost regard and awe by anyone that sees it. But Marcus isn't satisfied. He needs to push this project further. And so things get homicidal.

"The Art of Pain" pushes all the right buttons almost immediately. What really makes you spread your legs so quickly to happily receive this film is that only seconds after meeting the main characters, you like them, really like them and you're instantly sold. Lovably quirky performances are what draw you to these people as does the overall sharp comedic tone of the film that is oftentimes off-beat and unpredictable, but always hilarious – so much so that you're still laughing when the film turns dark, violent and brutal. Again, much like "Heathers," "The Art of Pain" blends sociopathic behavior with comedy perfectly in that it never pulls more to one side or the other. Both elements compliment each other and make for an entertainingly uncomfortable watch.

With his first feature Matt Brookens has arrived. He clearly understands what it takes to entertain an audience, so if you know what's good for you, you'll let him entertain you someday. You are strongly encouraged to feel "The Art of Pain."



THE ART OF PAIN



DVD VERDICT REVIEW

[HTTP://WWW.DVDVERDICT.COM](http://www.dvdverdict.com)

REVIEWED BY JUDGE ADAM ARSENEAU // OCTOBER 20TH, 2008

The Charge - Inspire an artist. Ruin his life.

Opening Statement - The Art of Pain is a wet dream for geeks that somebody caught with a butterfly net, stuck into a jar, and released onto DVD. Why more filmmakers fail to pair ninjas and zombies together in the same movie is beyond me. Simply put, it's a winning combination.

Facts of the Case - Jack (Anders Erickson) is an aspiring painter stuck at a dead-end job at a movie theater in Chicago. His life is a comfortable rut—he has a girl (Lauren Bishop), a best friend to discuss comics with (Greg Brookens), and enough pocket money to scrape by. He has considerable artistic talent at his fingertips, but inspiration is tough to find.

In stark contrast, a new employee arrives, a leather-clad ninja-in-training named Marcus (John LaFlamboy). Rough, tough, and callous, he is bitter about being expelled from his dojo after failing to impress his sensei. Now excommunicated, Marcus is furious with repressed rage. Already loose and rattling in the common sense department, Marcus gets it into his head that the way to redemption—both personally and from his master—is to inspire Jack to paint—and everyone knows great art comes from great pain. Jack's zombie-like existence is about to get a ninja foot right up in the rear.

The Evidence - A film written by nerds, and filmed and created for nerds, The Art of Pain is a love letter to genre cinema in all its tawdry, glorious trashiness. The best parts of low-budget buffoonery get sandwiched together into a tour-de-force spectacle of micro-budget filmmaking—zombies, martial arts, comics, you name it, this film has it. It's a pretty tall order to deliver, but amazingly, The Art of Pain holds its own, fleshing out the limitations of its tiny purse strings with healthy doses of dark slacker comedy, loving homage, and general wackiness. In short, this is the film you and your friends get drunk and discuss making, but never get around to. Well, these guys did.



Indie director brothers Matt (who directs) and Greg Brookens (who plays the nerdy sidekick of the protagonist) are growing faces on the independent genre circuits, having collaborated on a number of short films in recent years, but The Art Of Pain is a big step forward in production and scope, venturing tantalizingly close to mainstream marketability. The jokes are funny, the special effects are cheap but passable, the cinematography is impressively sophisticated, and the acting is endearingly cheesy. Honestly, I've seen worse films receive much more marketing and distribution. In particular, Anders Erickson, who plays the hapless Jack, does pretty darn well in the role, especially as his life starts to go to pot.

What I love best about the film (beyond its curious obsession with swamp-dwelling ape-men) is how when you subtract the pesky ninjas, the flesh-eating zombies, and the comic book geekery, you still have a fully functioning film. Sure, the zombies and fighting and visceral fun is all nerdy and great, but the most satisfying moments of The Art of Pain come in the form of good old-fashioned comedy. The screenplay is loaded with solid, witty banter and flashes of brilliant dialogue, so when the martial art moves get a bit corny, and the zombie makeup looks worn through, the foundation of The Art Of Pain remains strong, carrying the film through its occasional rough patches.

Ultimately, most people are going to gravitate towards this film because of its fan service to splodgy comic book nerds everywhere. As they should! The Art of Pain delivers in its faithful imitation of the best of Troma, cowboy westerns, drive-in, grindhouse films, and all manner of B-roll cinema, sticking ninjas into a teen comedy, zombies into a ninja film, and science fiction geekery in whatever spots still remain. Fans even get a fantastic cameo by Lloyd Kaufman as zombie director "George Romano," and if that isn't

delicious enough, he says amazing things like, "Sometimes we had drugs up the ass!" This is a hell of a line. I'd see any movie that has that line in it, sight unseen.

The technical specs of this DVD are good, but erratic. Keep in mind, this is a low-budget film, so judged on merits of indie cinematography and filmmaking, The Art of Pain is entirely presentable. Black levels are okay, but degrade into grain and digital artifacts pretty easily. Colors are nicely saturated in some scenes, and oddly muted in others. The audio is a simple stereo presentation which is a bit muted and mixed quieter than expected—some volume fiddling is required to keep dialogue clear. It looks a bit rough at times, but I have seen films with bigger budgets with worse DVD presentations.

For a single disc set, extras are comfortably packed. We get six deleted scenes, some blooper outtake reels, a "Mitchumentary" (the cast and crew making a faux documentary about their sound guy), and some product placement for the Brookens brothers: a 12-minute short film, "Son of Roni," and a teaser for "Skunk Ape." Add on some trailers and teasers, and you're good to go. One thing becomes immediately clear: the Brookens brothers managed to land a lot more money to make The Art of Pain than their previous work. Good for them—I hope to see more from these guys.

The Rebuttal Witnesses - One feels a small amount of guilt ragging on a small independent film for flaws well outside its budgetary restraints to correct. The weakest part of The Art of Pain is its numerous martial arts sequences, which are edited so blindingly fast to obscure the lack of proper martial art training by its cast. I'm inclined to cut the film slack on this front. It is hard to find good ninjas these days. The fighting might be a wee bit on the jagged side, but the love is there.

Closing Statement - Great art indeed comes from great pain. While The Art of Pain may not be great art by accepted standards, its unrestrained enthusiasm for corny cinema is nothing short of infectious. Goofy to be sure, but decent production quality, a solid script, and witty repartee elevate The Art of Pain from B-cinema into letter fractions above. Fans of low-budget cinema will definitely approve.

The Verdict - Not guilty by reason of ninja and zombie saturation.





home about articles links contact

Duley Noted.



Critic and Reviewer ::



The Art of Pain

Inspiration is a coy mistress.

Many an artist has grappled with her elusive nature through the ages to achieve greatness. And while muses and narcotics have come to the aid of some struggling for the creative impulse, "The Art of Pain" reveals a more reliable method: absolute devastation, courtesy of a rampant ninja.

Hot off of winning the Audience Award this spring at the Sunscreen Film Festival, Chicagoan writer/director Matt Brookens's "The Art of Pain" follows the mission of Marcus (John LaFlamboy), a greaser ninja desperate to win the approval of his demanding sensei (Arvin Jalandoon) and, consequently, his black belt. Marcus is told he lacks creativity and distinction, which he decides to remedy by exploiting the same qualities in someone else.

After gaining employment at a multiplex, Marcus recognizes his new coworker Jack (Anders Erickson) from high school. Back then, Jack was an avid painter, but Marcus can see that the complacency born of his job and his pretty girlfriend Sharon (Lauren Bishop) are stifling his potential. The combination of an informative run-in with George Romano (actually played by Lloyd Kaufman of the "Toxic Avenger" series), and a drug-fueled trip that brings the zombie metaphor to life, lead Marcus to hatch a pain-inflicting plan.

By systematically destroying Jack's sparse but content existence, Marcus hopes to wrench emotive paintings from him that will land him a contract to produce a mural for a new high rise. Jack's masterpieces would thus make Marcus a winner, apparently in accordance with the distributive property. His first step in releasing Jack's untapped talent is to start tapping his girlfriend, which leads to a hilarious public falling out between the lovers as well as an artistic awakening. And Marcus's tactics only get more brutal from there.

Centering as it does on artistic impulses and the creative brain, "The Art of Pain" intuitively manifests this world in the relationship between Jack and his geeky best friend Nick (Greg Brookens). As the pair brainstorm about a comic they're making together featuring the mythological Skunk Ape, animated characters spill across the screen. Additionally, their shared visualization of the great beyond and even their commonplace conversations teem with the originality that Marcus covets.

Meanwhile, Marcus inhabits a completely different universe from his coworkers. Ample showdowns with his sensei and fellow students take place in Chicago, but they achieve the imperial kung fu vibe. This is mainly thanks to the actors' expert handling of the fight choreography, which often includes authentic weaponry. Marcus's appearance at the mundane movie theatre is thereby initially hard to fathom, but later on, his guerilla attacks profit from his eccentric image.

"The Art of Pain" is built on a sadistic premise, but it's great fun watching it unfold. Characters like Peppito the perverted projectionist (Marshall Bean) and Charlie the effete manager (Jake Hames) pepper the theatre scenes, threatening to steal several of them. Also riotous to behold is the sheer number of ways someone can get his ass kicked; new weapons are literally invented for the cause.

With an alchemized mixture of gore and jest, "The Art of Pain" has the ability to gag, slay, and -- above all -- entertain. The film is currently considering distribution offers and can next be seen at its Chicago Premiere May 24 at the Music Box Theatre. Advance tickets can be found at www.ticketweb.com.



MATT BROOKENS INTERVIEW

THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER – SPRINGFIELD, IL

Posted Sep 25, 2008 @ 12:00 AM

Artistic endeavor: “The Art of Pain” — an independent, feature-length dark-comedy film (with ninjas, zombies and starving artists).

Where you might have seen me or my work (or will soon): Our film is rocking the festival circuit right now. It recently won Best Feature Comedy at the Route 66 Film Festival in Springfield. In October, it'll play the Eerie Horror Film Festival in Erie, Penn., as well as the Thriller! Chiller! Film Fest in Grand Rapids, Mich. Can't make it? You can always get the limited edition DVD at www.artofpainmovie.com.

Day job: Graphic designer — a handy skill set that gets me work in any city and definitely helps with the movie posters and ad campaigns.

Twenty-word description of myself: Male bipedal omnivore, age 32, 6-feet 1-inch, green eyes, brown hair, 190 lbs., known for odd filmmaking behavior and kicking (butt).

Behind-the-scenes interests: Songwriting, drawing crazy cartoons, tortoise husbandry, unicorns and my hot GF.

Family: My younger brother, Greg, stars in “The Art of Pain” and lives in Chicago. Our mom, Connie, and our dad, Ralph, do the Springfield thang.

Time spent in Springfield: You mean time served in Springfield? That's how I felt about the place growing up. When I was 20, I moved to Chicago to attend Columbia College for film. This summer, having completed “The Art of Pain,” an opportunity arose to make the move to Los Angeles — since I heard rumors they do a lot of movie-making out there, I took the plunge. So far, what I love most about Hollywood is the feeling that anything can happen. As the rest of the country enters fall, I realize that I have come to deeply appreciate Springfield. Where else can you get a horseshoe or Vic's Pizza? Springfield is like the Shire from “Lord of the Rings.” Take care of it!

First filmmaking moment: In Springfield, Greg and I were filming a scene in front of that Pink Elephant statue (the one with the glasses and martini glass). The scene involved an insane, rage-filled golfer slaughtering a confused hobo. It was the first of many, many film moments I've had where I stop and think, “My life is freakin' weird!”

Proudest filmmaking moment: When “The Art of Pain” premiered at the Sunscreen Film Festival in Florida this year, we won the Audience Award. The cast and crew (who have become some of my best friends) and my family were there with me. We couldn't have asked for a better kick-off for the film. What a great reward for our hard work!

Most embarrassing filmmaking moment: We shot “The Art of Pain” at a movie theater where I used to work. For a couple scenes, we needed the popcorn machine running. Well, I forgot to turn it off and we burned the whole batch to a crisp. Then, at 6 a.m., after all the cast and crew had left, my old manager made me stay behind to scrub the popper and restock the corn. “Ya missed a spot, Mr. Big Shot Director!”

Something my colleagues don't know about me: I just got a phoenix tattoo on The Learning Channel's show “L.A. Ink,” to commemorate “The Art of Pain.” If I made the cut, it should air late November or early December. Corey Miller free-handed it on my shoulder and it looks freakin' sweet. Please don't tell my dad — he hates tattoos.

Something artistic I'd love to try: Webisodes! Also, I want to make a 3-D movie with dinosaurs.

Something artistic I'd never try: Remaking a classic film that I love. Oh wait, that's not artistic!

Filmmakers I look up to the most: Joe Swanberg. That guy can make an entertaining, creative film with no money.

Favorite filmmakers: My brother, Greg Brookens, the Coen brothers, David Lynch, Judd Apatow and, yeah, Steven Spielberg (though he's so “uncool” now).

Influences: The Internet, Apple computers, high definition, industry trends, cheap beer, my friends, pop culture and science.

Dream project: When I'm more seasoned, I am dying to do an epic fantasy/sci-fi trilogy in the vein of “Lord of the Rings.” If Peter Jackson can start with “Bad Taste,” I have hope.

Most important lesson learned: Swallow your pride, set the ego aside and remember, “It's who ya know!”

Advice for those who'd like to do what I do: Be like the phoenix and rise from the ashes. CAW CAAAWW!!! Also, think marathon, not sprint.

Why I do it: Watch my film, “The Art of Pain” — it's all there!



THE ART OF PAIN

CREW:



MATT BROOKENS: WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR

Matt Brookens hails from the land of Lincoln and corn dogs, Springfield, Illinois. It was here that Brookens and younger brother, Greg, began cooking up movie ideas to kill the boredom of living in perhaps the most normal city in the country. Even as “tweens” the Brookens brothers were writing, directing, shooting and editing their comically twisted movies about murder, drugs and monkeys.

Looking for more than the fine art degree he was pursuing in Springfield, Matt moved to Chicago to attend Columbia College, where he earned his BA in film in 1999. Together, the Brookens brothers have completed scads of short films and won heaps of awards. Films like Roni vs. Lincoln, Of Bass and Men, and perhaps most noticeably Skunk Ape!? have all garnered awards and praise on the festival circuit. Skunk Ape!? achieved distribution through Troma Entertainment in 2004 after winning “Best of Tromadance.”

With his first completed feature, The Art of Pain in hand, Matt recently moved to Hollywood, California, where he is working on the development of his next film. Matt is a senior level graphic designer by day and is something of a wiz at Photoshop. Matt enjoys pad thai and watching weird indie films. The Brookens brothers have several new films in the works.



MATTHEW M. JONES: PRODUCER/EDITOR

Matthew was born and raised in the southern suburbs of Detroit. Woodhaven, Michigan to be exact. He spent his days drawing comic book characters, creating haunted house tours through his friends basements and acting in the Woodhaven High School's theater program. Matthew moved to East Lansing and graduated from Michigan State University with a B.A. in Advertising. Where he concentrated on graphic design and marketing. After graduation Matthew moved to Chicago, where he worked as a print and web designer.

In 1999, he entered the Film and Video Program at Columbia College, Chicago, where he graduated with honors. Developed and released uPressplay Online Entertainment Network in 2001. uPressplay also produced many original titles including, Stay Dead, Two Days in Limbo, Palooka, Roscoe Village, Back to Reality, Soldier, Terrorvision and music videos from Marazene, Lexceone and Court Jester.

uPressplay has been awarded 15 Official Film Festival Selections and winning Best Dramatic Short at the Michigan Independent and NY International Film Festivals.



JOHN LALAMBOY: PRODUCER/MARCUS

John received his B.A. at Southern Illinois University and finished his advanced acting studies at the Hague School of the Arts in Holland. Recently, John has been performing improv and sketch comedy in Chicago. Also, he is a co-host on “The Odds Squad”, a sports television show. Some of his favorite stage roles were; Joe Pitt in Angels in America and Scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz.

In 1998 he created The Foundation Theatre Group, and is presently the Artistic Director. Although acting is his first love, John has taken on the roles of producer, designer, and director of Chicago's #1 Haunted House, Statesville Haunted Prison.

THE ART OF PAIN



DANIEL KENJI LEVIN: CINEMATOGRAPHER

Born and raised in downtown Chicago, Daniel K. Levin started his college career studying studio art. After two years of experimental painting and photography, he moved onto filmmaking by studying at NYU and USC. He recently graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a concentration in cinematography. He now works as a freelance DP and steadicam operator on independent films and corporate videos.



STEVE KIEFER: COMPOSER

Studied Music at University of Illinois and graduated from Columbia College with a degree in sound engineering.

Has done the music for several Brookens brothers movies--The Magical Talking Burrito, The Rubber Pool Movie, Of Bass and Men, Mookalooka, Skunkape, Roni Versus Lincoln and Son of Roni.

Steve has done music for ten other short films and student movies along with two corporate Presentations, music for an Internet Horror movie and a documentary on Midwestern barns. Current Projects include Bloody Mary Worth, a full length horror film, and of course the Art of Pain.

CAST:



ANDERS ERICKSON: JACK

Born in Wisconsin, improv training brought Anders to Chicago. After taking classes at The Second City, IO (formerly Improv Olympic), and most recently the Annoyance Theatre, he's put his primary focus on film. The Art of Pain is his fourth feature length filmed in town. Past film credits include Stand Alone, Umlaut: Around the Sound, and Lost Along the Way. Anders loved his time with the Art of Pain cast and crew, and looks forward to working with all of them somewhere down the line.



LAUREN BISHOP: SHARON

Lauren Ashley Bishop is an actress, writer, and standup comedian and who currently resides in Chicago, IL. She is originally from Little Rock, AR, and a graduate of Northwestern University where she earned a Bachelor of Speech in Theatre. She also trained at Improv Olympic and the Annoyance, and then went on to perform with ComedySportz Chicago for 4 years, on the mainstage and as part of the national touring company. She was then cast in the 1st National Tour of Scrooge the Musical, which starred Richard Chamberlain. Since then she has pursued work on the stage, screen, and in the studio, appearing in productions such as Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues and Second City's Romeo and Juliet Musical at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre.

As a comedian, she is regularly seen at The Chicago Improv and Zanies, and has performed at Gotham Comedy Club in New York as well as numerous other clubs across the Midwest. She is the host of Chicago NBC's Prepchannel.com, and guest contributor for the comedy site Blerds.com, and has appeared in national campaigns for KFC and Quaker Oats. She is also a professional voice over actress, heard on TV and radio commercials for countless clients over the years.



GREG BROOKENS: NICK

Greg Brookens is the brother of the director and the other half of Zabba Zabba Productions. When not working out Greg likes to...ummm...actually he's always working out. Perhaps you've noticed his rippling six pack, and firm muscular buttocks. He's got this, like, charisma that I totally can't describe. His natural musk smells like steak mixed with onions, but in a sexy way. When he's on top of you he's powerful yet gentle. If I were a beautiful woman I'd definitely want to date Greg Brookens.

He also plays Nick. He helped punch up the script, and did a bit of assistant editing. In the past he's co-written and co-directed such masterpieces of cinema as Skunk Ape!?, Of Bass and Men, and Roni vs. Lincoln. His new movie Son of Roni is, um, new. Oh, and he plays accordion in the band Dr. Killbot.

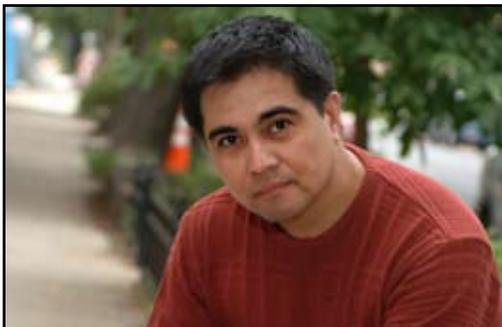


JAKE HAMES: CHARLIE

Midwest native, Jake Hames first stepped into acting at the University of Wisconsin, Stout. There he appeared in several plays including Woody Allen's "God" as Diabetes and Stephen Sondheim's "Assassins" as Charles Guitea.

Jake then transferred schools to the University of Minnesota, Duluth in order to focus strictly on acting. His first play at UMD was an original piece that chronicled the events of the Holocaust called "Dear Finder" which was selected at the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) in 1999.

Soon after, Jake moved to Chicago, where he continues to enjoy acting in original material including Thomas Doyle Piwnicki and Joe Else's Zombie comedy, "Stay Dead" as Russell and Dan Pico's World War II Drama, "Two Days in Limbo" as Al. Jake will next be seen in Boathouse Studios and Compost Productions feature length horror film, "Stump the Band".



ARVIN JALANDOON: NOBU

Arvin has been acting for over 20 years in the Chicago area. Training at Act One Studios under Jan Radcliff and Grant Stokes. He has been in numerous theater production as Hermocrates in "Triumph of Love", Thomas Putnam in "The Crucible" and Lefty in "The Adventures of Nac Martinez."

Recently Arvin has been cast in independent films. As Calvin Hobbes in "Pivot Point" and the Neurotic Director in "Between Takes." He is also active in commercials and print ads for regional and national campaigns.



LEENA KURISHINGAL: STACEY

Leena grew up in the Chicagoland area of Illinois and attended Columbia College, where she received her Bachelor of the Arts in Film/Video. After a year or so of giving crew work a go, she decided to make the transition to where her heart has always lain; in acting. Roles portrayed range from the classic girl-next-door, to the harlot down the street, to the badass detective who does the eventual crackdown. All of this occurs in a variety of shorts and festival pieces, as well as the occasional commercial or print ad. Sprinkled in has also been a theatre project or two along the way. Currently Ms. Kurishungal is focusing on honing her craft through more formal training and auditioning, when not working for the Man, every night and day...

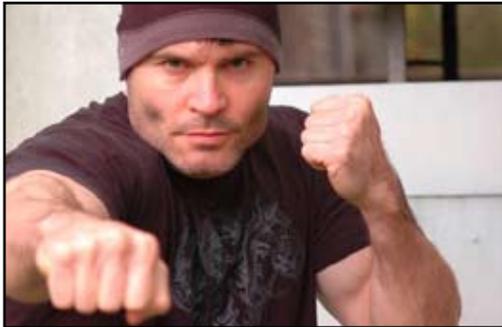
THE ART OF PAIN



LLOYD KAUFMAN: GEORGE ROMANO

Stanley Lloyd Kaufman never really wanted to make movies, but wanted to work in Broadway musicals. During his years in Yale, though, he got introduced to "B" pictures and the works of Roger Corman. Lloyd later got the opportunity to executive-produce a short movie made by a fellow student. The film, called "Rappacini", got him even more interested in movies. He bought his own camera and took it with him to Chad, Africa, where he spent his summer. There he shot a 15-minute film of a pig being slaughtered. That was his first movie, and was the birth of what was later to become known as Troma Films.

Lloyd Kaufman and Troma have become icons in the cult-movie world, and Troma has distributed over 1000 films. Lloyd has continued his career as a director in addition to producing, and Troma has turned out such films as *Monster in the Closet* (1987), *Class of Nuke 'Em High* (1986), *Combat Shock* (1986), *Troma's War* (1988), and *Fortress of Amerikkka* (1989). Lloyd himself is working on *Poultrygeist: Night of the Chicken Dead* (2006), which follows an army of undead chickens as they seek revenge on a fast food palace.



JOHN TURK: EATZ MCKRACKEN. POLICE INVESTIGATOR

John played Sub-Zero and many of the Ninjas in the *Mortal Kombat* video game series. He also recently appeared in *Batman, The Dark Knight* as a Chechen Bodyguard. John has been a personal trainer in Chicago for 20 years. He has appeared on the cover of such magazines as *Muscle & Fitness*, *Physical* and *Planet Muscle*.

THE ART OF PAIN HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED!

- * All of our rights are cleared.
- * The film was shot in HD and looks beautiful.
- * Our sound was professionally recorded and mixed as was our top notch original sound track.
- * SAG actors were hired and are receiving praise. Lloyd Kaufman, head of Troma Entertainment and a huge name in underground cult cinema delivers a knock out performance.
- * The Art of Pain has an IMDB profile, website, myspace and email list.
- * Tons of artwork, photography and extras to facilitate promotion.

The Art of Pain is a property that your company will find easy to sell. Did we mention it's got ninjas and zombies?



TRAILERS, POSTERS AND DIGITAL MEDIA ARE AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE ANY SCREENING OF THIS FILM.