



# SCAREMONGER

SCAREMONGER  
Running Time: 22:27  
Production: USA/2013  
Sound: 5.1 Surround Sound  
Aspect Ratio: 1:85:1  
Shooting Format: ARRI Alexa  
Screening Format: HDSR/ HDCAM/ Blu-ray  
Language: English

## FILMMAKERS

Directed by Saša Numić  
Written by Saša Numić & Cesar Turim  
Produced by Tara Joyce Dales  
Cinematography by Johanna Coelho  
Production Design by Nicholas K. Donovan  
Edited by Eirik Andreas Sandaker  
Art Direction by Jason Craig  
Original Score by Nicklas Schmidt  
Sound Design by Paul Hackner

## STARRING

Heather L. Tyler  
Justin Ellings

# SCAREMONGER

## LOGLINE:

Hearing news that her 10-year-old son is being bullied because of his feminine long eyelashes, a single mother descends into a paranoid spiral of nightmares as she tries to protect him by trapping him inside.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS:

With news that her 10-year-old son is being bullied because of his feminine long eyelashes, a single mother tries to protect her son by trapping him at home. After being plagued by a series of escalating nightmares in which a shadow figure creeps closer to her and her son, the mother's fear for her son's safety culminates in a fight about her not allowing him to go to his best's friend birthday party. After she comes home to find him trying to cut off his own eyelashes, she realizes that she cannot protect him by keeping him trapped inside- instead she must teach him to be brave and fight his own battles.

## LONG SYNOPSIS:

After hearing news that her son, VICTOR is being bullied because of his feminine eyelashes, MELISSA, a single mother keeps him trapped inside and away from the neighborhood bully, MICHAEL and his gang. At first she bribes him to stay inside, then she lies to him and tells him he is too sick to go outside. At night, Melissa is plagued by a series of escalating nightmares of a shadow figure armed with a baseball bat, similar to Michael's bat, which creeps closer to her and Victor. After finding Michael's graffiti saying 'Victor Faggot', Melissa tries to stop Victor from going to his best friend's birthday party, which Michael will attend. They fight and Melissa tells Victor that the boys are calling him a faggot. Later, in her apartment's elevator, Melissa attempts to confront Michael's mom about his bullying. After she witnesses Michael's mom slap Michael, a shocked Melissa comes home to find a crying Victor trying to cut off his own eyelashes. Realizing her mistake in trying to protect him by keeping him trapped, Melissa tells Victor a fable about how cavemen with the longest eyelashes were considered the strongest and bravest of their tribe. The next day, Melissa, now certain that she needs to let Victor fight his own battles, watches as he makes his way out of their apartment building to go play on the street below. As he hands over a dropped ball to Michael, Melissa shuts her eyes, letting go.

SCAREMONGER

C/O American Film Institute, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Contact: Tara Dales +1 (323) 383-2126 taradales@gmail.com

[www.scaremongerfilm.com](http://www.scaremongerfilm.com)

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film is based on my own personal story. Growing up, I was not only a feminine kid but also a boy with long eyelashes. This meant that many kids made fun of me. Feeling powerless, my solution, as a 12 year old was to try cut off all my eyelashes. My mom discovered me trying to do so, and forbid me to ever do it again. Desperate, I even tried to blow massive bubblegum bubbles, in the hope that I would get bubble gum stuck on my eyelashes so that she could then cut them off for me.

I have now grown up confidently to become a boy that likes other boys. But coming out (especially in Eastern Europe) is a hard thing for anyone. Like many who had difficulty coming out, I went through fear, anger, humiliation, self-doubt and even suicidal moments. Now, I can say that I am very proud of who I am, as well as for the strength I needed to overcome these obstacles. So much of my strength is due to the people who loved me and supported me. As a filmmaker, I wanted to explore my coming out story through the perspective of one those people, who watched and supported me through it.

Why?

So many coming out stories has been told through the eyes of those directly going through it, however, especially while dealing with it, we forget that other people can be influenced by these changes. So, I called one of them, the closest one - my mom! She told me she has and would unconditionally accept who I was, but her first reaction when I came out to her was: "Fear! I worried someone would beat you up, Sasa. People can be mean. I just wanted to protect you and not see you get hurt."

Fear.

Yes. Fear, irrespective of its source, is a big challenge to all of us. For me, fear for my beautiful and naive niece (to let her go outside, where someone will break her heart), fear for my script (locking it, even if it is not perfect), fear of what others will think ... fear of letting go. And to do that - sometimes you just need to close your eyes.

Saša Numić

SCAREMONGER

C/O American Film Institute, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Contact: Tara Dales +1 (323) 383-2126 taradales@gmail.com

[www.scaremongerfilm.com](http://www.scaremongerfilm.com)

# CAST



## HEATHER L. TYLER

Heather is a classically trained actor (Rhodes) with credits ranging from A Bright New Boise @ Rogue Machine Theatre, to The Threepenny Opera with the hypocrites @ Steppenwolf Garage to the new FX series, "The Bridge." Awards for her on-camera work include: Nom. Best Supporting Actress, top Five Female Performances and Best Actress. She has several independent films and web series premiering this year, and you may recognize her from a few commercials. Follow her career at [HeatherLTyler.com](http://HeatherLTyler.com)



## JUSTIN ELLINGS

Justin is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and lives part time in Los Angeles. Justin participated in IMTA in January 2013 where he won runner up for Pre-Teen Actor of the Year and Most Sought After Talent. Shortly after participating in IMTA he came out to L.A. and booked almost 10 jobs in his first 4 months. Along with starring in SCAREMONGER, he starred in another AFI thesis film and in a "Funny or Die" video. He has also done commercial work; guest starred on the Nickelodeon show "Sam and Cat", co-starred on the web series "Gravity" and filmed a Toby Keith Video. Justin not only loves film, he also loves the theatre and to perform live on stage, two of his favorite roles were playing "Oliver Twist" in "Oliver!" and "Kurt Von Trapp" in "The Sound of Music".

## SCAREMONGER

C/O American Film Institute, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Contact: Tara Dales +1 (323) 383-2126 [taradales@gmail.com](mailto:taradales@gmail.com)

[www.scaremongerfilm.com](http://www.scaremongerfilm.com)

# FILMMAKERS



PRODUCER:

**TARA JOYCE DALES** - South Africa

Tara was raised in South Africa, where she received her undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and a postgraduate degree in International Relations from the University of Cape Town. While a student, she worked as an events coordinator for large-scale concerts in Cape Town as well as for the fundraising arm of the biggest student-run NGO in the Southern Hemisphere. Tara has also spent time at the Central Film School London as well as researching freedom of expression in digital media at the Human Rights Watch, Washington DC office.

Tara is currently completing her MFA in Producing at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles whilst both interning at a number of established feature and television based production companies and developing her first feature length project.



DIRECTOR:

**SAŠA NUMIĆ** - Serbia

Saša studied a BFA in Film Directing at the University of Belgrade. He then completed a degree in graphic design, which led him to become an art director for a number of advertising agencies, including Publicis. When he was 18, he made his first short film FORBIDDEN FRUIT, which was screened at major European LGBT festivals. He recently finished a music video for Zoravera, screened on MTV Europe. Before making the move to Los Angeles, Sasa was a freelance film and music video director and a graphic designer in New York. His design clients in Serbia included Coca Cola, L'oreal and in the USA Mastercard, Nike and Walmart.

Saša graduated with his MFA in Directing at AFI and was a commencement speaker for his graduation 2013. His showreel can be viewed at: [www.needbatt.com](http://www.needbatt.com)



SCREENWRITER:

**CESAR TURIM** - Brazil

Cesar is a screenwriter from Brazil. He first majored in International Relations at the University of Brasilia. He then went on to work for the Brazilian Ministry of Culture at the Public Policies department where he realized he wanted to be on the creative end of culture production. That's when he decided to obtain his second Bachelor's degree, this time majoring in Audiovisual at the University of São Paulo. Cesar is currently completing his MFA in Screenwriting at AFI.

SCAREMONGER

C/O American Film Institute, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Contact: Tara Dales +1 (323) 383-2126 taradales@gmail.com

[www.scaremongerfilm.com](http://www.scaremongerfilm.com)



CINEMATOGRAPHER:  
**JOHANNA COELHO** - France

Johanna was born and raised in France where she studied the craft of cinematography at a technical school, followed by filmmaking classes at the University La Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris. Outside of her studies, she has worked as a cinematographer on a number of projects, including short films, music videos, festival interviews and documentaries. In 2010 she won an award for a Safety Road Commercial. Seeking to enrich her European approach with the American perspective, she moved to Los Angeles in 2011 to complete her MFA in Cinematography at the American Film Institute. She has been passionate about creating and experimenting with meaningful images since a very young age. Inspired by the Impressionist and Surrealist movements, she is always trying to find a way to communicate real life ideas in an original way. She loves the challenge of giving life to a story, defined by the resources available. She strongly believes that there is always a solution to every problem and that's when creativity plays at its best.



PRODUCTION DESIGNER:  
**NICHOLAS K. DONOVAN** - USA

Born in the Midwest and raised in the American South, Nicholas draws inspiration for this film from his life experiences and childhood in a conservative, Christian environment. Holding a BFA in Interior Design from SCAD, Donovan has worked for large commercial architecture firms in Atlanta, Georgia designing a wide range of projects- from high-security office buildings to four star hotels. In 2009, Donovan relocated to Los Angeles to pursue a career, which would combine his love for design and architecture with pop culture and entertainment. With this film, he aspires to change the mindset of the conservative rightwing community, and shed new light into the minds of those who still associate negative stereotypes with the GLBT population.

Nicholas is currently completing his MFA in Production Design at AFI and his showreel can be viewed at: <http://nkdonovan.carbonmade.com/>



EDITOR:  
**EIRIK ANDREAS SANDAKER** - Norway

Eirik Andreas is a Fulbright Scholar from Norway. He received a BA in Directing for Television from Lillehammer University College in 2008. His educational background covers both film theory and production and during the last five years he has been editing TV-entertainment in Oslo. He is familiar with the standard industry editing systems Final Cut Pro and AVID Media Composer. His thesis documentary from 2008 THE CHOICE OF LOVE debating Islam and homosexuality won "The Special Mention" prize at the Norwegian Documentary Festival in 2009 and was aired on Norway's national broadcasting channel NRK several times. Subsequently he toured with the film around schools of Norway lecturing students about its topic and the making of such a complex story. Screened on film festivals around the world the film is also distributed by Frameline in USA and can be viewed at:

<http://cart.frameline.org/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=T813>.

Eirik Andreas is currently completing his MFA in film editing at the American Film Institute Conservatory.

## SCAREMONGER

C/O American Film Institute, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Contact: Tara Dales +1 (323) 383-2126 [taradales@gmail.com](mailto:taradales@gmail.com)

[www.scaremongerfilm.com](http://www.scaremongerfilm.com)

# ABOUT AFI

The American Film Institute (AFI) was founded in 1967 as a national arts organization to preserve the legacy of American film heritage and honor the artists and their work. AFI educates the next generation of filmmakers at its world-renowned Conservatory offering a Master of Fine Arts Program (MFA).

The two-year MFA program provides training in six filmmaking disciplines: Cinematography, Directing, Editing, Producing, Production Design and Screenwriting. Mirroring a professional production environment, Fellows collaborate to make more films than any other graduate level program. Admission to AFI Conservatory is highly selective, with a maximum of only 140 graduates per year. Professional faculty member work closely with the AFI fellows through the time honored relationship of master and apprentice.

In the 2nd year of the MFA, students team to create a thesis, a short narrative film. Past thesis films have garnered numerous prestigious awards including the Student Oscar. Traditionally AFI Thesis Films are instrumental in launching Fellow's careers in film.



## AFI NOTABLE ALUMNI:

David Lynch (Dir.)

*Mulholland Drive, Blue Velvet, Eraserhead, Dune*

Amy Heckerling (Dir.)

*Clueless, Fast Times at Ridgemont High*

Terrence Malick (Dir.)

*Days of Heaven, The Thin Red Line, Tree of Life*

Darren Aronofsky (Dir.)

*Requiem for a Dream, The Wrestler, Black Swan*

Steve Golin (Pro.)

*Babel, Being John Malkovich, Eternal Sunshine*

Dana Lustig (Pro.)

*Brick, Dancing at the Blue Iguana, Kill Me Later*

Wally Pfister (Cin.)

*Inception, The Prestige, Memento, Batman Begins*

Robert Richardson (Cin.)

*Kill Bill, The Aviator, Inglorious Basterds*

Janusz Kaminski (Cin.)

*Saving Private Ryan, Schindler's List, Munich*

Matthew Libatique (Cin.)

*Cowboys and Aliens, Black Swan, Iron Man*

Steven Rosenblum (Edit.)

*Braveheart, X-Men, Blood Diamond, Defiance*

Victor Du Bois (Edit.)

*The Last Samurai, Profiler, Roswell*

Susannah Grant (Scr.)

*Erin Brockovich, Unfaithful, Everafter, 28 Days*

Paul Schrader (Scr.)

*Taxi Driver, Raging Bull, Bringing Out The Dead*

Todd Cherniawsky (Des.)

*Avatar, Alice in Wonderland, Armageddon*

Joe Garrity (Des.)

*Sunshine Cleaning, Waiting for Guffman, My Girl*

SCAREMONGER

C/O American Film Institute, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Contact: Tara Dales +1 (323) 383-2126 taradales@gmail.com

[www.scaremongerfilm.com](http://www.scaremongerfilm.com)

## SET STILLS:



VICTOR (Justin Ellings), ANNA (Lauren Reel), MICHAEL (Trevor Gore), ERIC (Jackson Beard), JUSTIN (Jonathan Woolsey) and MAX (Jonny Vasquez) - Victor is bullied by Michael and his gang because of his long eyelashes, while Anna, his best friend tries to defend him.

## BEHIND THE SCENE STILLS:



Director (Saša Numić) and cast members, VICTOR (Justin Ellings) and MELISSA (Heather L. Tyler) discuss the next scene while looking at Sasa's storyboards.



VICTOR (Justin Ellings) - In a nightmare, Melissa sees Victor dancing under falling glitter, then turn and look at her with one eye bleeding, a premonition for things to come.



Key Grip (Daniel Clark) and 1st AC (Taylor Fenno) work out how to create MELISSA's (Heather L. Tyler) shadow on the walls on an elevator.



VICTOR (Justin Ellings) and MELISSA (Heather L. Tyler) - Melissa comforts Victor after he hurts himself while trying to cut off his own eyelashes.



MELISSA (Heather L. Tyler) releases the final scene of the film, for lighting as director (Saša Numić), camera operator (Ava Berkofsky) and 1st AC (Taylor Fenno) watch.

Directed By Saša Numić  
Screenplay By Saša Numić & Cesar Turim  
Produced By Tara Joyce Dales  
Cinematography By Johanna Coelho  
Production Design By Nicholas K. Donovan  
Edited By Eirik Andreas Sandaker

## STARRING

Melissa Heather L. Tyler  
Victor Justin Ellings  
Michael Trevor Gore  
Anna Lauren Reel

## CAST

Kate Kate Danley  
Max Jonny Vasquez  
Eric Jackson Beard  
Justin Jonathan Woolsey  
Cassady Annie Micayla  
Jogger Robert Weiermair  
Shadow Robert Phillips  
Anna's Mom Kelly Stevens

Stunt Coordinator Deven MacNair

Background Performer Rhoda Pell

# CREW

Unit Production Managers Edouard De Lachomette  
Julian Quanes

First Assistant Director Kelly Stevens

Second Assistant Director Thomas Saunders

Composer Nicklas Schmidt

Casting Director M'saada Nia

Art Director Jason Craig

Set Decorator Marie Hanson

Assistant Art Director Dana Bolton

Camera Operator Ava Berkofsky

First Assistant Camera Taylor Fenno

Second Assistants Camera Jessyca Harrison

Mike Shea

Second Second Assistants Camera Erick Aguilar

Christopher Herr

DIT Guy Pooles

Camera Assistant Josh Lobo

Still Photographers Alex Lombardi

Sara Ross Samko

Script Supervisor Taylor Chen

Production Coordinators Cassandra Clark

Shelly Yo

Accountant Alvaro Baquero

Gaffers Gareth Paul Cox

Colin Oh

Best Boy Electric Justin Newhouse

Electricians Justin Westfall

Sam Krump Johnson

Jonathan Stromberg

Mike Faust

Ed Wu

Key Grips Daniel Clarke

Carolina Costa

Best Boy Grip Edouardo Zamora

Grips Sal Mousavi

Ben Hardwicke

Andrew Schwartz

Rene Yescas

Connor O'Brien

Carlos Chavez

Edmund Kwan

Swings Mike Solidium  
Vadim Putimtsev  
Justin Kane  
Peter Koocheradis

2nd Second Assistant Director Erika M.Ewing

Sound Designer Paul Hackner  
Dialogue and Sound FX Editor Angela Hackner  
Backgrounds Editor Dylan Jordan  
Foley Editor Jithu Aravamudhan

Production Sound Mixers Fred Schultz  
Alan Morales  
Boom Operator Aaron Brown

Costume Designer Gianna Lucca  
Assistant Costumer Jake Avila  
Make-up and Hair Stylists Amy Rodriguez  
Jennifer Cabezas

Construction Coordinator Tiana Amo  
Construction PA Rainer Weinbrenner

Transportation Captain Sean Cyphers  
Driver Michael Hellerstein

Casting Assistants Carolina De Leon  
Danielle Greene

Key Set PA Evan Robert Pugh

Production Assistants Alexander Moran  
Henry Arres  
Robert Powell  
Paul Madariaga  
Bryan Hwang  
Carlos Garza  
Aaron Gomaz  
Katie Dulleakellegrew  
Kevin Strickland

Runner Goran Stanković

Background Performer Casting Virva Aryan  
Catering Impecable Taste Catering  
First Aid Lindie Kuzmich  
Site Reps Jonathan Enyati  
Steve Pompili

Studio Teachers Paul Alkofer  
Guy Flint  
Frank Gieb  
Edie Weeks  
Libby Cannon  
Website Designers Emal Saifi  
Goran Cvijetic

## "BREAK UP VICTORIA"

Written and Performed by: ZoraVera  
Courtesy of: Nataša Stanković

## THE FILMMAKERS WISH TO THANK:

### PARTNERS

APP Productions  
Anne and Jean-Louis Coelho  
Rose Coelho  
Steve and Dena Donovan  
Ingrid Sandaker Dymbe  
Cheri Fulginiti  
Ichikowitz Family Foundation  
Mike and Bonnie Newbold  
Marko Prljević  
Jim and Dianne Smith  
Syncora Guarantee Services Inc.  
Petar and Selena Talijancić

### BENEFACTORS

Joy Dales  
Nicholas Dickey  
Anders Faaberg  
Damjan Ćosić and Dragan Rakocević  
Arne Sandaker

### PATRONS

Brendon Canavan  
Carlo Giuliano  
Céline Marteau  
The Outdoor Lights - Chris and Tracy Wakefield  
Sal and Diane Pella

## SPONSORS

Maurice Ball  
Guilhem Bellamy  
Francis and Nicole Bellamy  
Serge Bellamy  
Aleksandra Bogdanović  
Clark and Terri Chandler  
Suzanne Coelho  
Aurelie Coelho  
Jan Dalchow  
François and Anne De Planchard  
Clay and Angie Estes  
Franck et Vivi Felix  
Terry and Charlotte Gill  
Ashley Green  
Solange Guillotin  
Gudrun Jevne  
Knut Knutsen  
Gérard Lagarde

Margaret McFarlane  
Claude and Huguette Monferme  
Rose Mary Newbold  
Bill and Mary O'Meara  
Cherise Pascual  
Douglas Patt  
Sanja Pećaranin  
Pamela Petersen  
Etienne and Virginie Pichat  
Jean Pichat  
Jean-Philippe, Evelyne, Laurent and Orianne Poibeau-Bierge  
Alexandre Prod'homme  
Anja Stojanović  
Antoine Trespaille  
Cyndi Trissel  
Lionel Vandenbil  
Skeiv Verden Trondheim  
Milica Vlahović

## FRIENDS

Bojana Andrić  
Emmanuelle Bard  
Marie Beaurepaire  
Bernard and Nathalie Besnier  
James Blakely  
Pauline Bolignano  
Julien Coelho  
Laura Coelho  
Jordan Cosic  
Elena Cozlovschi  
Filip Cvetković  
Auriane Demoisy  
Zeljko Djurić  
Pauline Drapeau  
Anne-Laure Enjolras  
Berenice Eveno  
Brian and Wanda Glover  
Elodie Hatton  
Camille Henry

Maja Ilić  
Matthieu Jolivet  
Svetiana Jović  
Danijela and Jeff Kelly  
Camille Kielty  
Marija Pavšćić-Kostić  
Camille Lagarde  
Julie Lagarde  
Marion Lagarde  
Branko Lalić  
Vanja Krstić  
Mladen Lijesnić  
Ivan Mandić  
Zeljko Napijalo  
Kim-Hoang Nguyen  
Jack Noonan  
Dragana Pajić  
Pierre and Héléne Paternault

Gareth Paul Cox  
Vladimir Petrović  
Kevin Phillips  
Laure Pichat  
Laura Piel  
Haroun Saifi  
Nicklas Schmidt  
Henry Scott  
Dragana Stjepanović  
Ivana Stjepanović  
Nada Stjepanović  
Mélanie Teixeira  
Anne-Pauline Thivilliers  
Renate Wejset  
Robert Weiermair  
Amy Whittenberger  
Pauline Worbe  
World Genesis Inc.  
Moises Zamora

# SPECIAL THANKS

Liska Ostojčić  
Carolina Costa  
Dunbar, Hesta and Natasha Dales  
Haley Ho  
Unni Adele Johansen  
Lene Merethe Johanson  
Patrick Levy  
Nataša, Maxa and Marija  
Artwork by Mural  
Paintings by Zabat Pucket

# LOCATIONS

Studios 60-Jonathan Enyati

# VENDORS

Anarchy Post  
Castex Rentals  
Cinerep International  
Enterprise Truck Rental  
Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising  
Hollywood Honeywagon  
Impecable Taste Catering  
NBC Universal Studios Property Department  
Rock Bottom Rentals  
Rosco Laboratories  
Wooden Nickel Lighting

FILMED WITH  
  
CAMERAS & LENSES







Edited on Avid Symphony

HD equipment courtesy of Sony Corporation of America.

Camera equipment courtesy of Panavision

The characters and events depicted in this motion picture are fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

This motion picture is the property of the American Film Institute and is protected under the copyright laws of the United States and other countries. Unauthorized duplication, distribution or exhibition may result in civil liability and criminal prosecution.

Produced at the AFI Conservatory in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Fine Arts Degree or Certificate of Completion.

Johanna Coelho, AFI Cinematography Fellow  
Tara Joyce Dales, AFI Producing Fellow  
Nicholas K. Donovan, AFI Production Design Fellow  
Saša Numić, AFI Directing Fellow  
Eirik Andreas Sandaker, AFI Editing Fellow  
Cesar Turim, AFI Screenwriting Fellow



© copyright MMXIII  
American Film Institute

# SCAREMONGER

C/O American Film Institute, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Contact:

Producer - Tara Dales +1 (323) 383-2126 taradales@gmail.com  
Director - Saša Numić +1 (646) 715-2321 sasa.numeric@gmail.com  
[www.scaremongerfilm.com](http://www.scaremongerfilm.com)