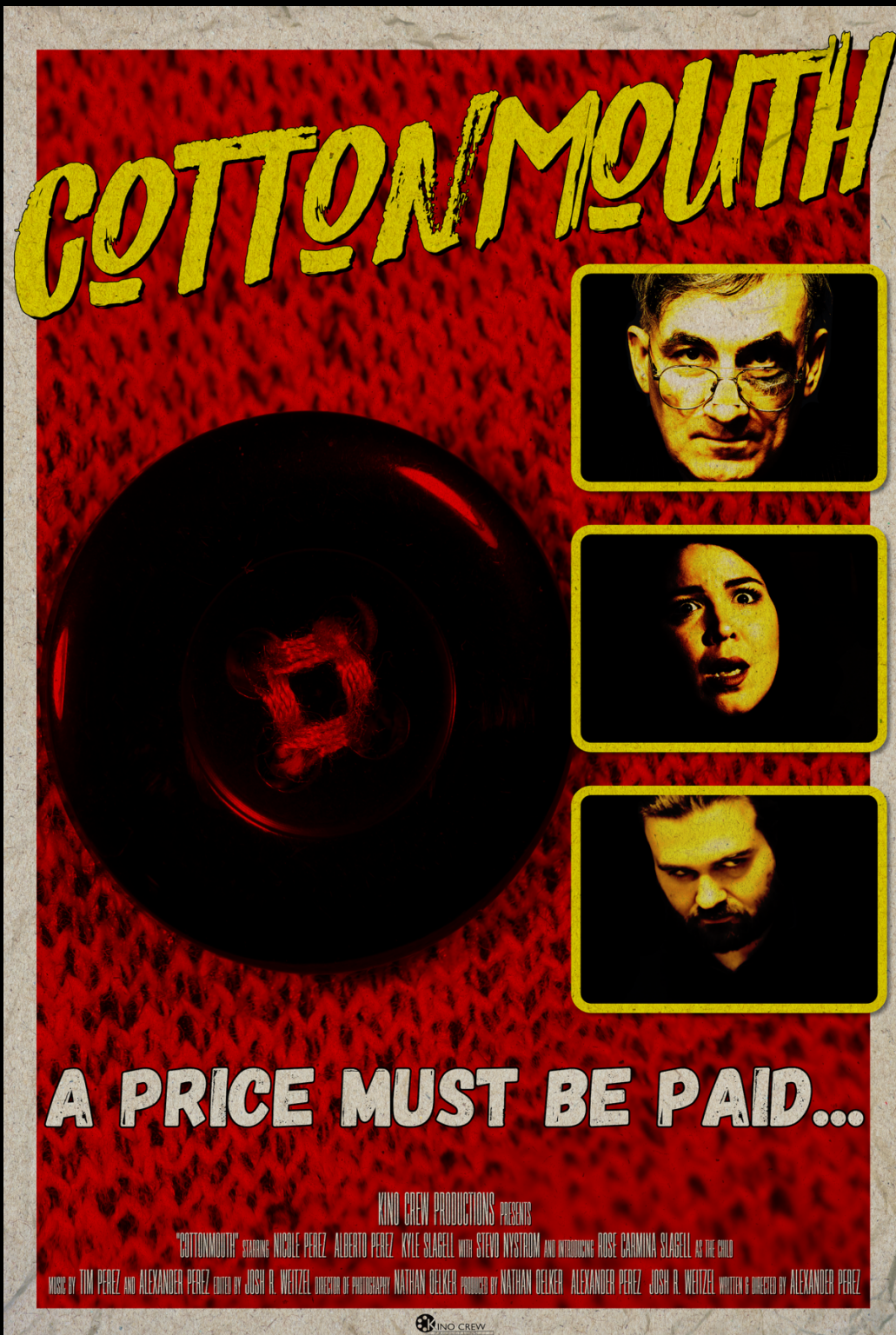


KINO CREW PRODUCTIONS
COTTONMOUTH Digital Press Kit



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FILM INFORMATION

FILM TITLE

Cottonmouth

TAGLINES

A price must be paid.

A young couple. A quiet uncle. An unwelcome guest.

LOGLINE

Cindy and John are expecting their first child. But when John's uncle Avery moves in, the expectant couple must unravel the secret of their guest's demonic companion before it's too late.

FILM FACTS

Year	2022
Running Time	13 minutes
Genres	Short • Comedy • Horror
Country	USA
Language	English
Color	Color
Sound Mix	Stereo
Aspect Ratio	1.78:1
Production Company	Kino Crew Productions, LLC

SYNOPSIS

Cindy and John are expecting their first child. In need of extra cash, John's uncle Avery begins lodging in the attic. However, Uncle Avery has a strange companion: A Sock Puppet who acts independently of him. The Sock presents itself as a friendly fellow to John, but as a sinister presence to Cindy.

Avery proves to be the perfect tenant. John is pleased but Cindy is skeptical. One day, while blending a smoothie, she hears mysterious sounds from the attic. When sneaking up to investigate, Cindy overhears alarming comments from the Sock, including the puppet hissing: "A price must be paid." She realizes that her unborn child may be in danger.



Cindy's concern rises as John and the Sock grow closer. One night, events take a terrible turn when the Sock attacks Avery, Cindy goes into labor, and she gives birth to the Sock. Cindy jolts awake – just a nightmare. Wiping the sweat from her brow, Cindy sees the Sock is now on *her* hand! The Sock attacks Cindy, but she fights back, biting down hard – then wakes up from another nightmare to find that she's been biting John's hand.

At dinner the next night, Cindy tries to convince Avery to fight back against the Sock. Avery, in denial, leaves the table. Late that night, Cindy and John are woken up by more strange sounds from the attic. They find Avery lying on the attic floor, beaten and bloody with the blender. After a final look, Avery jams his hand into the whirring blender, sacrificing himself and destroying the evil Sock Puppet.

On their front steps, John comforts a shell-shocked Cindy as first responders arrive. John rises to speak with a police officer. Left alone, in the aftermath of Avery's demise, Cindy sees that the Sock is truly now on her hand. The price has been paid. Cindy smiles.

ABOUT COTTONMOUTH

Cottonmouth was conceived by Kino Crew Productions member and horror movie aficionado, Alexander Perez. It was originally written as a trailer to be filmed in early 2020. However, as many things were, its production was delayed by the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Returning to the long-dormant project in the spring of 2022 with renewed energy and focus, Alex, Josh, and Nathan expanded the three-page trailer script into a ten-page screenplay. Pre-production officially began in May 2022, filming occurred over five days spread between June 11 and July 7, post-production occupied the rest of summer and beginning of fall, the social media marketing campaign began on September 1, and the finished film made its online debut on Saturday, October 1, 2022, just in time for Spooky Season.

Due to its casting and collaborators, the production of *Cottonmouth* became a full-fledged Perez family affair. Alex's sister Nicole and brother-in-law Kyle (Nicole's real-life husband) were cast as married couple Cindy and John, and his uncle Alberto (aka, Uncle Tico) was cast as Uncle Avery. Additionally, Alex's brother Tim collaborated on the score, most of the movie was filmed at his sister Jackie's house, and Nicole's real-life pregnancy was written into the script, with Baby Rose making her debut on September 8, 2022 and receiving an on-screen credit.



Inspired by classic suspense and horror movies such as *Shadow of a Doubt*, *Rosemary's Baby*, and *Hereditary*, Kino Crew Productions is excited to submit *Cottonmouth* to the festival circuit, and we hope that the collaborative nature of its production comes through to inspire other independent filmmakers.

ABOUT KINO CREW PRODUCTIONS

"Kino (kee-no) 1. adj., Excellent, superb, of the highest quality; 2. n., The highest tier of motion pictures." (Urban Dictionary)

The story of Kino Crew Productions began in 2014. Alexander (Alex) Perez and Josh R. Weitzel were film students at Columbia College Chicago, Nathan Oelker was an English major and filmmaker at the University of Illinois Chicago, and the three met through a mutual friend.

Bonding over a shared passion for cinema and filmmaking, they soon began collaborating on each other's productions, films ranging from comedic shorts to client video jobs. After eight years and nearly 80 projects together, Alex, Josh, and Nathan pooled their energies and ambitions to form Kino Crew Productions, LLC in 2022.

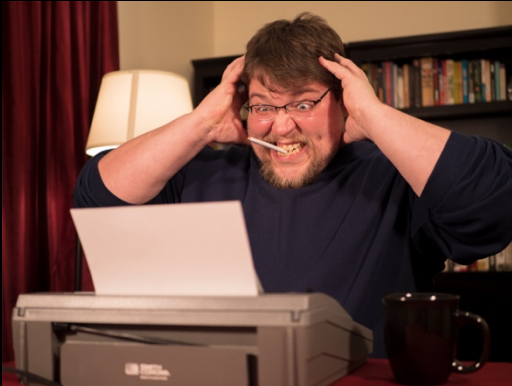


The members of Kino Crew Productions (L to R) Alexander Perez, Josh R. Weitzel, Nathan Oelker

Kino Crew Productions is the culmination of our combined creative and production skills. To us, there are few experiences more enjoyable than watching a fun movie with your friends. We believe in cinema's ability to bring people together, and we strive to produce "pure kino" free of bloated pretense that will engage and entertain audiences hungry for something different.

KINO CREW MEMBER BIOS (p. 1/2)

ALEXANDER PEREZ



Alexander (Alex) Perez went from filming backyard shorts with his friends to being enrolled in Marwen art foundation's video production classes. Eventually, he attended Columbia College Chicago's Cinema Art and Science program, during which he wore many hats, including director, writer, editor, assistant director, cinematographer, and script supervisor, to name a few. Alex has created over 30 of his own projects, labored as crew on countless others, and worked as a longtime collaborator with production company, The Rust Belt Productions, for which he participated as cast or crew for over 65 short films and client projects.

Alex brings his love of genre movies to Kino Crew Productions, developing countless stories and screenplays, creating the production design concepts in which to stage them, and spearheading the company's makeup and special effects efforts. Alex, along with the rest of Kino Crew, intends to deliver quality, affordable thrills devoid of navel-gazing nonsense for viewers weary of critic-driven taste. Movies are the most democratic art form, so let audiences decide.

Alex's favorite movies include *Creepshow*, *Dead Alive*, and *Freddy Got Fingered*.

JOSH R. WEITZEL



From an early age, Josh R. Weitzel loved to immerse himself in creative projects. As a kid, he wrote countless stories, in the forms of scripts, comics, and short stories. He made his first film in 7th grade for a class project (it didn't go well). In high school, when instructed to write an essay about a "great American artist," he decided to write about Steven Spielberg, because "All I have to do is watch movies." After watching Spielberg's work, he couldn't stop himself from watching every movie he could get his hands on.

Smitten with cinema, Josh threw himself into its arms and has never looked back.

Josh wrote his first screenplay at 17. Without bothering to look up proper formatting, he wrote the entire thing in a notebook. In pencil. Using stage formatting. Josh finally learned proper formatting at Columbia College Chicago, where he studied film. Initially wanting to be a director, he quickly learned that competing with everyone else's egos wasn't worth the headache, so he stuck to his roots and found an enjoyable place in screenwriting. (cont'd)

KINO CREW MEMBER BIOS (p. 2/2)

JOSH R. WEITZEL (cont'd)

When it comes to Kino Crew Productions, Josh does a little bit of everything. By day, he works at a digital marketing agency as the head of the video production department, where he oversees every aspect from conception to delivery. For Kino Crew, he specializes in writing, editing, visual effects, color correction, and color grading.

Josh is wildly excited to be a co-founder of Kino Crew Productions. He prefers the “teamwork first” approach to filmmaking, having his closest friends by his side makes the entire process much more enjoyable, and working on these projects has given him a new lease on life and art.

Some of Josh’s favorite films include *Dr. Strangelove*, *A Serious Man*, and *Freddy Got Fingered*.

NATHAN OELKER



Nathan Oelker has been making movies since the age of 11, learning the process by filming with mini-DV cameras, editing with Windows Movie Maker, and subjecting himself to difficult situations. Since that time, he has honed his skills by producing over 500 projects of varying length and complexity, including comedic shorts, client media, live event videography, and a plethora of marketing content.

Nathan acts as Kino Crew’s primary producer and business administrator. When he is not preparing paperwork, organizing shooting schedules, or writing to-do lists, he can be found updating spreadsheets, drafting meeting documents, or maintaining financial records. Always keen to work with cameras, he is also the company’s resident cinematographer, videographer, and stills photographer.

It is Nathan’s long-sought dream to be working in a collaboration as cohesive as Kino Crew Productions, where every member has distinct and complimentary skills, the work is shared equally, and burnout is prevented. He is grateful every day that he gets to work on Kino Crew tasks, no matter how routine or mundane.

Nathan’s favorite movies include *About Schmidt*, *Dog Day Afternoon*, and *Freddy Got Fingered*.

COTTONMOUTH CAST BIOS (p. 1/3)

NICOLE PEREZ – Cindy



Nicole Perez is a Chicago-born professional actor, improviser, and full-time voiceover artist.

As an actor and improviser, Nicole has performed digital sketches with the iO Comedy Network team Happy 2B Here, musical improv with MiNT at The Annoyance Theatre, long-form improv with Generation LatinX, and starred in the long-running show *Wishin' Control* at The Comedy Clubhouse, a PerformInk Critics' Picks selection. Nicole is also a proud founding member of Las Tinas Improv, performing fully improvised telenovelas on stages throughout Chicago, including The Annoyance Theatre, Laugh Factory, The iO Theater, The Second City, The Comedy Clubhouse, the Chicago Women's Funny Festival, and at Just The Funny in Miami.

As a voiceover artist, Nicole has worked in web and TV commercials, industrial films, and print. She can be heard on local and national advertisements, video games, eLearning modules, medical and corporate narrations, and more. Her clients include McDonald's, NBC, Nature Valley, Discovery Education, Citibank, Keyword Studios, Spotify, Radisson, and GraphicAudio.

Nicole trained at Acting Studio Chicago and Vagabond School of the Arts, and she holds a Master of Education from the University of Illinois Chicago.

Agent Representation: NV Talent, Debby Kotzen; debby@nvtalent.com, (312) 563-0136

KYLE SLAGELL – John



Kyle Slagell is a Chicago-based improviser, artistic director, and coach.

As an improviser, Kyle has performed comedy at venues throughout Chicago, including The Second City, The iO Theater, The Athenaeum Theatre, and The Comedy Clubhouse. At The Comedy Clubhouse, where he also served as the theatre's Associate Artistic Director, the Assistant Director for the Maintage Improv Ensemble, and the improv coach for several house teams, Kyle performed on the mainstage two-person team, Tricky Mickey, and starred in the long-running, full-length mainstage theatrical *Wishin' Control*, a PerformInk Critics' Picks selection.

(cont'd)

COTTONMOUTH CAST BIOS (p. 2/3)

KYLE SLAGELL (cont'd)

As a coach, Kyle has been the proud Artistic Director of Las Tinas, a Chicago-based Latinx comedy group that performs improvised telenovelas, since their conception in 2017. In this role, he coaches Las Tinas' rehearsals and performances as they cultivate their original improvisational form. Additionally, as a corporate trainer, Kyle instructs, designs, and implements training programs, combining his passion for comedy and teaching in the professional corporate setting.

Kyle is a graduate of The Second City Conservatory Program, and formally trained in acting at Acting School Chicago and Vagabond School of the Arts.

Agent Representation: The Talent Networks; rep@chicagotalentnetwork.com, (312) 869-2457

ALBERTO PEREZ – Avery



Alberto Perez is relatively new to acting, beginning only five years ago by playing bit parts in comedic shorts created by the members of Kino Crew Productions, in the years leading up to the group's official formation.

Despite his growing résumé, Alberto has already played a wide variety of characters, ranging from monster attack victims to leprechauns.

Cottonmouth is only Alberto's fourth production and his biggest role yet. He has enthusiastically embraced acting and is excited for many more projects.

STEVO NYSTROM – The Sock



Stevo Nystrom (aka, Nystrodamus) is a Chicago-based improviser, writer, and front man of the Chicago metal band, Nystrodamus.

During his fifteen-year career in music, Stevo has played and collaborated with many Chicagoland acts and bands, and performed at venues across the city and suburbs, including The Congress Theater, The Portage Theater, The Cubby Bear, and The Forge.

Touring the East Coast and the Midwest, Stevo's high energy and showmanship is a rock 'n' roll contagion (in the best way). He is currently in a solo project, "Nystrodamus," playing heavier music, a style he always wanted to pursue.

(cont'd)

COTTONMOUTH CAST BIOS (p. 3/3)

STEVO NYSTROM (cont'd)

As an improviser, Stevo began by taking classes through After School Matters during his freshman year of high school. He was instructed by some of Chicago's very best, who also inspired him to perform and teach. Stevo has performed improv at The Second City, The iO Theater, ComedySportz Chicago, The Annoyance Theatre, and The Playground Theater. After taking a step back from performing, he began teaching improv at his alma mater, Carl Schurz High School, where he was first introduced to the art form that changed his life. Stevo is currently teaching children's improv classes with the Chicago Park District.

Stevo is a graduate of The iO Theater Training Center and The ComedySportz Training Center.

ROSE CARMINA SLAGELL – The Child



Rose Carmina Slagell made her acting debut in *Cottonmouth* while still in the womb. She was born on September 8, 2022 and is excited to have achieved this early start to her career.

PRODUCTION STILLS (p. 1/8)



Cindy is suspicious of the new guest and his strange companion.



John becomes chummy with the new guest and his strange companion.

PRODUCTION STILLS (p. 2/8)



Uncle Avery with his strange companion.

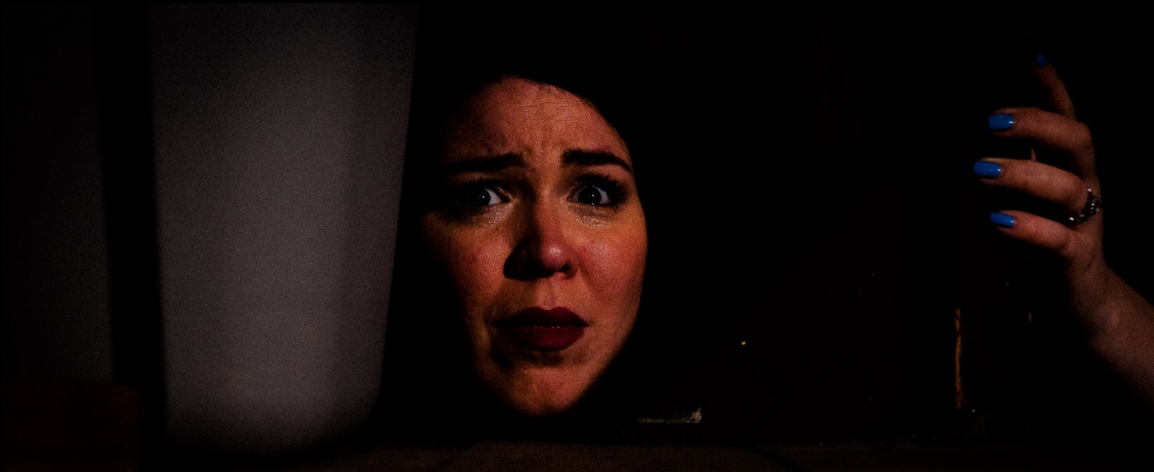


Uncle Avery's companion, a mysterious Sock Puppet.

PRODUCTION STILLS (p. 3/8)



John reassures Cindy about Uncle Avery and his Sock Puppet companion.



Cindy investigates Uncle Avery and his Sock Puppet companion.

PRODUCTION STILLS (p. 4/8)



The Sock threatens Uncle Avery, revealing its evil plan.



The Sock threatens Uncle Avery, revealing its evil plan.

PRODUCTION STILLS (p. 5/8)



The Sock keeps its button eyes on Cindy.



The Sock keeps its button eyes on Cindy.

PRODUCTION STILLS (p. 6/8)



Cindy spurns John's affections, uncomfortable with his friendliness with The Sock.



The Sock sneaks up on Cindy.

PRODUCTION STILLS (p. 7/8)



The Sock tries to intimidate Uncle Avery.



John is frightened by the results of Cindy's labor.

PRODUCTION STILLS (p. 8/8)



Cindy grasps with the result of her labor.



John's demented reaction to Cindy's labor.

FULL CREDITS (p. 1/2)

Written and Directed by	ALEXANDER PEREZ	
Produced by	NATHAN OELKER ALEXANDER PEREZ JOSH R. WEITZEL	
Co-Producers	ANDY GELETKA NATE HARTMANN JACKIE PEREZ	
Starring	NICOLE PEREZ ALBERTO PEREZ KYLE SLAGELL	Cindy Avery John
With	STEVO NYSTROM	The Sock
And Introducing	ROSE CARMINA SLAGELL	The Child
Production Designer Pre-Visualization Supervisor	ALEXANDER PEREZ	
Film Editor and Colorist Visual Effects Supervisor	JOSH R. WEITZEL	
Director of Photography Sound Editor and Designer	NATHAN OELKER	
Music by	TIM PEREZ ALEXANDER PEREZ	
Production Sound Mixer Boom Operator	ADAM MIZNER	
Assistant Camera Key Grip Best Boy	LIAM ERST	

FULL CREDITS (p. 2/2)

Makeup and Hairstyling
ADR Recordist

NICOLE PEREZ

Co-Location Manager
Craft Services

JACKIE PEREZ

Co-Location Manager
Dog Wrangler

ANDY GELETKA

Logo Designer
Graphic Design Consultant

SARAH MICHELE SZESZOL

Casting Director
Location Scout
Storyboard Artist

ALEXANDER PEREZ

Assistant Director
Script Supervisor
Transportation Director

JOSH R. WEITZEL

Camera Operator
Still Photographer
Set Decorator

NATHAN OELKER

Special Thanks

JACKIE PEREZ
ANDY GELETKA
NATE HARTMANN
NAOMI WEITZEL
MARTY WEITZEL
SARAH MICHELE SZESZOL

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