

THE KEYS



THE KEYS

LOOKBOOK



A Note from the Writer

Imagine you come home one late night and you lock your keys and wallet in the car. You check everywhere for a spare key but you find out there is none. You decide to call the only locksmith available in town at the moment only to find out that this locksmith is unable to get the key as well. Now imagine that this locksmith isn't really a locksmith but rather Death himself, and he's here to tell you that you're dying.

The Keys is a surrealist, psychological thriller short film; it's the story of twenty five year old Blake Hennessy, a once promising writer, who after the death of his sister has lost hope in life. Blake finds out from the locksmith (Death) that Blake's mind is struggling to stay alive after an overdose. In other words, we are in the mind of a dying protagonist. Of course, Blake refuses to accept his death and prove that this is all a sick game. However, as Blake soon finds out, wherever he goes, Death is one step ahead of him. Will Blake be able to escape Death? Or will he decide to accept his fate?

The Keys is my confession of some of my own struggles as an aspiring writer. This my honest attempt to reveal the struggles of pursuing your passion in a society that right now can seem daunting. *The Keys* attempts to spread the message of gratitude and appreciating the gift of life itself.

-Giovanni Pugliese

A Note from the Director

My goal with every project I take on is to always allow the script to be the main driving force in what inspires me. That's why it's always important to me to only take on scripts that I feel like I can do the film justice; the ones I can resonate with. When the writer, Giovanni, presented me the opportunity to direct "The Keys", I knew I needed to really resonate with the script. It's a script that is heavily influenced by Gio's style of writing and something I knew I needed to really dissect to fully understand the themes of the story. It eventually came down to me appreciating the story and me believing that I can direct this film in a way that stays true to Gio's writing and also imprints my directing style.

The script tells the story of a dying man who is stuck in limbo and comes face to face with the embodiment of death. He struggles with the concept of dying and even challenges death's own morality when taking people's lives. The film breaks down the inner psyche of our protagonist and we see him essentially re-look at the life he lived.

The script incorporates an initial tone of a thriller film and transitions into a more existential film. Tones and genres I heavily revere. A script that, all in all, gives me the opportunity to really flex my appreciation for psychological thrillers. My overall vision for the film is to really let the principal actors have their moment to express the character's emotions. Both characters go through a sudden growth during this film and I want to make sure the themes are apparent through their actions. As we deal with themes such as guilt and death, I want to make sure I can capture a visual look that fits the entire tone of the film. A look filled with uncertainty and uneasiness.

I've grown a certain rapport with Gio and I know with every script there is intention behind its creation. "The Keys" was written as a way to portray the mental crisis many people go through as they try to figure out what the purpose of their lives are. It's something many people are familiar and a story I believe needs to be told just to showcase that this is something other people are dealing with too.

-Saneesh Feisal

LOGLINE

After locking his keys and wallet in a car, a young man's attempt to retrieve them back becomes a far more sinister journey.



SYNOPSIS

Twenty-five-year-old Blake Hennessy comes home one late night and settles into his small, messy, beachy looking house. When Blake finds out he's missing his wallet, he goes to check in his 2002 Ford Explorer for it. Only then does he find out that his keys are also locked in the car. With no spare car key to get in, Blake attempts to find a way into the truck but with no success. With very limited options, Blake calls the only 24/7 locksmith available.

As Blake waits for the locksmith, he hears some concerning noise upstairs. Not expecting anyone to be home, Blake grabs a knife and inspects the house. As Blake soon realizes, he discovers that there is no one there. Relieved, Blake heads downstairs and is shocked to find Carl, the 24/7 locksmith, sitting on the couch glancing over at an old script of Blakes. After the two of them eventually break the ice, Carl attempts to retrieve the keys.

After multiple failed attempts to unlock the 2002 Ford Explorer, Carl and Blake settle back inside where Carl eventually breaks the news that he's not actually a locksmith and reveals his true identity as Death. Shocked by this revelation, Blake is forced to figure out a way to escape death.

THE KEYS

MAIN CHARACTERS



PROTAGONIST

BLAKE HENNESSEY (25)

Blake Hennessy is your smart and charismatic twenty five year old. Born in Bayville, New Jersey, Blake has lived here all his life and doesn't know much else.

Despite Blake's genius, he is self destructive and often finds himself doubting the value of his work. At times, Blake wanders through life wondering if there is any meaning to what he does. He constantly faces this inner dilemma inside of him on whether or not he should continue pursuing his dreams of being a screenwriter.

On the outside it may appear as if Blake has it all, but inside inside there's a war within. After the death of his sister, Blake lost hope in life and hasn't found much reason to believe in a positive future.



Jake Goldberg

MAJOR SUPPORTING

CARL JOHNSON (70)

At first glance, Carl appears to be your stereotypical locksmith. He comes off as someone who doesn't know much about anything outside of New Jersey.

However, in reality, Carl is "Death". He's someone that comes for those that their time is done. We might know him otherwise as the grim reaper.

His latest job - coming for a young man whose death was tragic- is easily the most complicated task of his career.

Carl is fair with his "clients." A man who has seen it all, he's quick on his feet and has a dark, snide sense of humor.

Although Carl has a high level of functionality, he is at the point of his life where the deaths are coming at an alarming increasing rate. For man with such a lack of empathy, the deaths are beginning to take a toll on him.



Len Bellezza

THE KEYS

THEMES & TONE



THEMES

DEATH

Are you prepared to face death?

FACING REALITY

Can you face the truth even if it hurts?

LIFE

Do we take life for granted?

TONE

FANTASY

Think "Jacob's Ladder" meets "The Lighthouse"

SURREALISM

Reality vs. dreams vs. somewhere in between

PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

Enter the chaotic mind of a character dying

THE KEYS

VISUAL INSPIRATIONS



PURGATORY

COLORS: Cold, Isolated, Bleak
INSPIRATION: *The Shining*



Bedroom in the house



Main Hallway in the house



The Shining

REAL WORLD

COLORS: Real, Warm, Earth, Bold
INSPIRATION: Barton Fink



Dining Room of the house



Barton Fink



Kitchen of the house



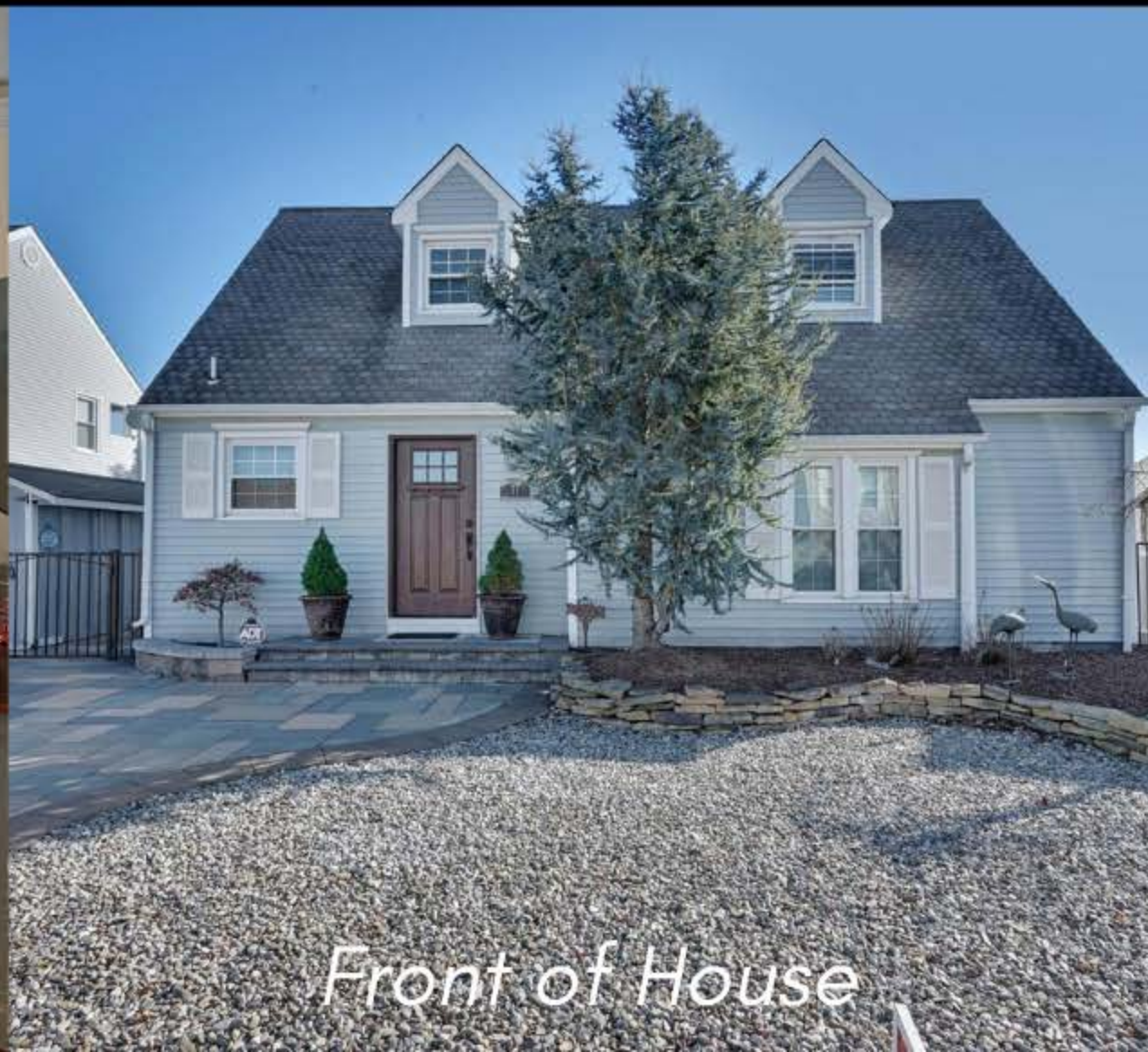
Boardwalk in New Jersey

THE KEYS

LOCATIONS

Note:

The primary location that will be used is a beach house located in Bayville, NJ, and has already been secured for principal photography. The board walk scenes will be shot in Pleasant Beach Boardwalk.



WRITER & PRODUCER

GIOVANNI PUGLIESE

Giovanni is an international award-winning independent filmmaker and a graduate of Cornell University. He has worked as a writer, producer, and director on multiple films and commercials. In 2019, Giovanni wrote and directed the short film *War Cellar*, an Italian period piece that takes place in Rome during the height of World War II.

In 2020, Giovanni followed up with the international award-winning *Tailor Shop*, a story about a tailor that relives the memories of an old love as he prepares to retire and sell the shop that he has once called home.

Giovanni is a member of the Orders Sons of Italy, an Italian American fraternal organization that helped with the production of *Tailor Shop*. Giovanni's work interest revolves around exploring existential, spiritual, and love themes.



DIRECTOR

SANEESH FEISAL

A Hunter College Graduate, Saneesh Feisal has been producing video content since the age of 19. After graduating Hunter, Saneesh and his long time friend, Adam Kostandy, started their production company The Golden Cut. The Golden Cut Productions specializes in creating films, music videos and commercials. A few years into it's life, Saneesh and Adam have already produced several projects for multiple clients throughout the tristate area. Utilizing their production company, Saneesh has continued to write and produce his own projects, including a recently released film titled, "Dear Parents".

This recent project, having been a successfully crowdfunded project, is a testament to Saneesh's commitment to contributing more to diversity and representation in film and television. Moving forward in his career, Saneesh is looking to direct more films that can encapsulate his experiences as a 1st generation Indian-American and also tell the stories he feels are necessary in today's world.



Cinematographer

ADAM KOSTANDY

Adam Kostandy loves filmmaking. However, he didn't learn about this love until later in life. Coming from a suburban town in Staten Island NY, Adam attended Port Richmond High School, and then later in his life, attended SUNY New Paltz. Adam went on to study as a Director of Cinematography at the State University of New Paltz and honed his skills during his college years while working on the sets of Food Network, Comedy Central, WWD, and several commercial business's. After college, it became apparent that he wanted to work on his own company, and co-created The Golden Cut with his long-time friend and fellow director Saneesh Feisal.

Adam has worked with his company as a Director of Photography and independently free-lanced several high-profile gigs. Adam continues to work on his company, and seeks higher, more profound gigs as he continues to work in production



LEAD ACTOR

JAKE GOLDBERG

Jake Goldberg (24) is a former child actor that primarily did on camera and voice over work. He had a few guest star roles on shows like 30 Rock and Law and Order SVU. Jake was the voice of Pablo in the Backyardigans, an animated kids show on Nickelodeon. Jake's most notable role was in Grown Ups and Grown Ups 2 where he played Adam Sandler's older son.



SUPPORTING ACTOR

LEN BELLEZZA

Len's transition to acting is a rather interesting one. A Vietnam-era veteran, Len has overseen numerous management strategy operations, having worked as a Senior Vice-President for Macy Corporation, as head of retail strategy for Deloitte Touche, and as the head of the North American Retail Practice for Tata Consulting and Capgemini.

After years of working in the corporate world, Len decided to finally pursue his passion for acting. In the past two years, Len's determination and work ethic has gotten him opportunities on commercials, plays, short films, and features. His most notable work includes award winning films *The Calling* (2019) and *Tailor Shop* (2020).



FESTIVAL SUCESSSS

A large part of *The Key's* success will be determined by its acceptance into key genre and top rated film festivals. The following are domestic and international film festivals that our current creative team have previously shown work. Being accepted into festivals, further increased the chances for the distribution of any film.



FUNDER INFORMATION

Elon Productions a registered s-corp in New York State, will manage the financing, production, and marketing of *The Keys*.

Elon Productions intends to use all of the contributions to produce the short film entitled *The Keys*. After *The Keys* is completed, Elon Productions will submit *The Keys* to several film festivals with the hopes of seeking a distribution deal with Netflix or Amazon.

THE KEYS

CONTACT INFORMATION

GIOVANNI PUGLIESE

t: 516-864-1089

e: giopug66@gmail.com

www.giovannipugliese.com

LEN BELLZZA

T: 732-939-5512

e: lbellezza@pentamgmt.com

THE KEYS

