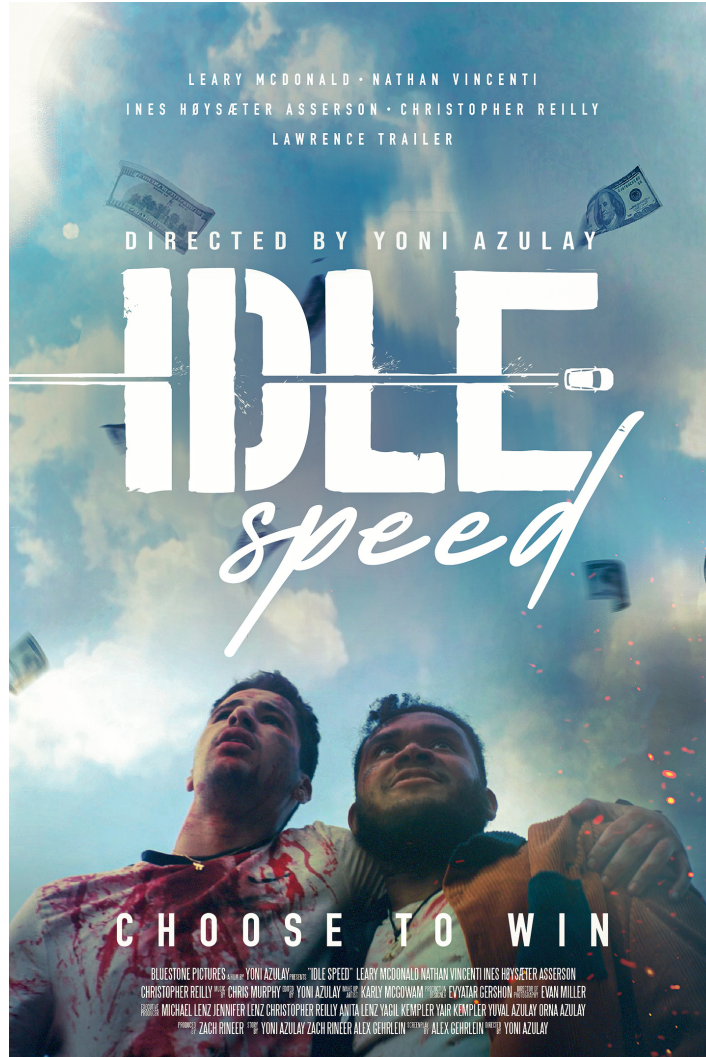


# IDLE SPEED

## Live-Action Short Film



Directed by Yoni Azulay

Written by Alex Gehrlein

Starring Leary McDonald, Nathan Vincenti (*You Can't Run Forever*),  
and Ines Høysæter Asserson (*Royalteen*)

Runtime: 21 minutes

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

### PUBLICITY

publicity@bluestonepictures.com

O: (215)-470-6124

### MEDIA CONTACTS

zachrineer@bluestonepictures.com

C: (215)-870-8821

**Genre:** Thriller

**Runtime:** 21 minutes

**Cast:** Leary McDonald (Duncan)  
Nathan Vincenti (Ray)  
Ines Høysæter Asserson (Monica)  
Christopher Reilly (Shooter)  
Lawrence Trailer (Ed Egan)  
Habib Madison (Valerie)

**Directed by:** Yoni Azulay

**Written by:** Alex Gehrlein

**Produced by:** Zach Rineer , Yoni Azulay

**Executive Producers:** Michael & Jennifer Lenz  
Christopher Reilly  
Anita Lenz  
Yagil Kempler  
Yair Kempler  
Orna & Yuval Azulay

**Associate Producer:** Adam Habib Cisse

**Director of Photography:** Evan Miller

**Editor:** Yoni Azulay

**Music:** Jackson Craig  
Chris Murphy

# SYNOPSIS

IDLE SPEED tells the story of Duncan, a young and indecisive recent graduate, who struggles to follow his instincts after his best friend is shot by a mysterious sniper in the New Mexico desert.

## ARTISTIC STATEMENT

As my final project at New York University, I wanted to push the boundaries of what was possible for a student film. I've always had a love for thrillers and a desire to understand society's obsession with wealth and the unfortunate, desperate lengths people will go to attain it. Within my filmmaking, the techniques that I use are guided by a commitment to morals and a desire to illustrate truth. I trust in the ability of the "real thing" to be most impactful, and therefore knew I had to travel from New York, with my closest collaborators, to capture the beauty of the West in real life. The rolling hills of New Mexico and the color of wildfire against violet smog influenced the palettes of the film. As I met with the welcoming, indigenous representatives of Pueblo de Cochiti, I experienced a great feeling of excitement and eagerness to learn from this opportunity.

My search for authenticity can be experienced through the performances, as well as through the practical elements. Every spark, flame and bullet hit was produced in real time and on location with trained professionals, earning the distinction of being the only film in NYU Undergraduate Film & TV to receive approval for a practical car explosion. This drive for realness guided my visual decisions, such as carefully calibrating the camera to shoot through a rifle scope, and avoiding digitally rendered effects. It would not feel like we are with Duncan and Ray in the ultimate danger of it all if the terrifying aspects of their predicament were not done practically. It bleeds through.

For me, IDLE SPEED is about stepping into what terrifies you. I chose to direct this film as I was going through a period of immense indecision: I was approaching graduation during a global pandemic with nothing more than dreams that I could only hope would come true. Our protagonist, Duncan, is forced to take the lead amongst the terror of gun violence and greed, choosing to trust his intuition rather than succumb to his doubts. Inspired by the pandemic, I hope to guide viewers into Duncan's mind: a reflection of the uncertainty we've experienced over the past three years. It is my belief that times like these strengthen us and much like the extreme anecdote of Duncan's journey, we can all adapt.

# **ABOUT THE CAST AND CREW**

## **Yoni Azulay -- Director, Producer, Editor**

Yoni Azulay is a Philadelphia native and Israeli-American filmmaker. In 2022, he graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a B.F.A. in Film & TV Production. As a first-generation American, he is interested in stories that juxtapose generational perspectives through the bending of time and personal memory. His short film NO DYE (2021) screened at the Nashville, NFFTY, Philadelphia, and Santa Fe Film Festivals. His short BEYOND CLOSED DOORS (2021) was a semifinalist at both Flicker's Rhode Island and Prague International Film Festival. IDLE SPEED (2023), Yoni's undergraduate thesis project at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, was one of the largest student productions in the school's history. Yoni is also the founder of Bluestone Pictures, who specialize in narrative content and are currently developing their first Feature Film.

## **Leary McDonald -- Duncan**

Leary McDonald is a Philadelphia-based actor with a colorful background that lends itself to his roles. A childhood of reenacting spaghetti westerns and being the class clown allowed him to flourish as a performer. Learning the ways of Stanislavski and studying at Temple University helped him to fine-tune it. Leary recently lent his talents to ONE WAY OUT (2022), an upcoming horror, and scored the lead role of Duncan in IDLE SPEED (2023), a story of grit and survival.

## **Nathan Vincenti -- Ray**

Nathan Claude Dominique Vincenti was born in Paris, France on June 6, 1999, to French-Algerian/Corsican-Jewish parents. The French-American actor sings, dances, writes, & produces. He graduated High School in the US at the age of 16 and went on to attend NYU Tisch School of the Arts where he graduated with a BFA in Acting, Film & Television Production, and Creative Writing (grad' 2021). His collegiate acting training was completed at the world-renowned Stella Adler Studio of Acting and Stonestreet Studios. His most recent work can be seen in the highly-anticipated indie-thriller, YOU CAN'T RUN FOREVER (2022) (directed by Michelle Schumacher, starring J.K. Simmons) and as the lovably-detestable french actor, "Phillipe", in the upcoming series ELISA'S ALMOST THIRTY. Nathan has proved himself a consistently committed performer with great range—collaborating with some of today's most promising filmmakers, and starring in many award-winning short films, including NYU's most expensive thesis film to date, IDLE SPEED (2023).

## **Ines Høysæter Asserson-- Monica**

Ines Høysæter Asserson is an actress from Oslo, Norway. She is based in New York, where she studies at NYU Tisch for Drama. Throughout her career, she's worked both internationally and in Norway, in various scales of productions. Her debut as a lead in a feature film was Vilde in *Harajuku* (2018). Later she went on to participate in the cross-European TV series *Heirs of The Night* (2019-2020), and in an institutional theater in *Oslo on To The Youth* (2020). For the first and the latter, she received multiple nominations and one win in professional Scandinavian award ceremonies. Her latest role was in Netflix's Original *Royalteen* (2022), which ranked #1 internationally on the Netflix platform upon its release.



### **Christopher Reilly -- *The Shooter, Executive Producer***

Christopher Reilly is an NYC-based actor and artist. He studied acting at the Ted Barry Studio and the Barrow Group. He currently stars in “Shadow Society” available on Amazon Prime.

### **Lawrence Trailer -- *Ed Egan***

Lawrence Trailer is an actor and musician who switches effortlessly between comedy and drama. He’s currently preparing to star in Denny Barracuda, a one-act play premiering at Brooklyn’s The Brick theater in September, and he recently wrapped a starring role in the sci-fi feature, The Abaddon Pit. Trailer was trained at the Maggie Flanigan Studio and the Manhattan Film Institute.

### **Alex Gehrlein -- *Writer***

Alex Gehrlein is a New York-based screenwriter born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. When he isn’t pouring over the pages of a script, you can find Alex at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts where he splits his time between majoring in film, minoring in psychology, and editing the school’s accomplished comedy magazine, The Plague. With a fascination born out of his own experience, Alex is dedicated to addressing issues at the intersection of mental health and American culture to advocate for better understanding, placing particular emphasis on genre-based storytelling.

### **Zach Rineer -- *Producer***

Zach Rineer is a Philadelphia-based filmmaker hailing from Delaware roots. Zach has been recognized for his producing and directing work on over 50 productions over the past five years with a passion for telling stories that focus on the human condition from warped perspectives and heightened scenarios. In 2022, Zach graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Directing for Film and Television. Recently, Zach served as lead producer alongside Yoni Azulay on IDLE SPEED (2023), BEYOND CLOSED DOORS (2022), and NO DYE (2021) which has screened at Nashville, Philadelphia, Santa Fe, and NFFTY Film Festivals. Zach's short film, Nobodies (2020), was selected to screen at seven festivals and was the recipient of the Best Jury Award at Red Wood Film Festival 2020.

### **Evan Miller -- *Director of Photography***

Evan Miller is a Director of Photography and NYU Tisch student based in New York City who has worked on over 20 short films, 10 music videos, and multiple commercials and has a passion for telling stories through a visual art form. He first learned the video process while making YouTube sports videos in high school and quickly acquired a dream to be a feature-length director/cinematographer.

### **Evyatar Gershon -- *Production Designer***

Evyatar Gershon is a Production Designer and Director of Photography based in New York City. He loves working on all aspects of the visual language of a film and creating worlds in front of the camera. He is studying Directing and Cinematography at the NYU/FAMU program in Prague in the fall and is looking forward to graduating and working on more independent productions as a full-time filmmaker.

# FILM CREDITS

**Directed by** Yoni Azulay  
**Written by** Alex Gehrlein  
**Produced by:**  
Zach Rineer & Yoni Azulay

**Executive Producers:**  
Michael & Jennifer Lenz  
Christopher Reilly  
Anita Lenz  
Yagil Kempler  
Yair Kempler  
Orna & Yuval Azulay

**Associate Producer:**  
Adam Habib Cisse

**Director of Photography:**  
Evan Miller

**Production Designer:**  
Evyatar Gershon

**Costume Designer:**  
Aline McEntee

**Edited by:**  
Yoni Azulay

**Composed by:**  
Jackson Craig

**Featuring Original Music by:**  
Jackson Craig  
Chris Murphy

## **CAST**

Leary McDonald as Duncan  
Nathan Vincenti as Ray  
Ines Høysæter Asserson as Monica  
Christopher Reilly as The Shooter  
Lawrence Trailer as Ed Egan  
Gerardo Muñoz as Drug Dealer  
Habib Madison as Valerie  
Aline McEntee as Bartender

**Unit Production Manager ....** Crystal Starr  
**First Assistant Director ...** Adam McAlonie

–  
**Production Coordinator ...** Johnathan Swick  
**Locations Manager ...** Bob Godwin  
**Production Accountant ...** Yuval Azulay

**Script Supervisor ...** Hanna Colm  
**Production Sound Mixer ...** Georgina Hahn

**Stunt Coordinator ...** Federico Berte  
–

**First Assistant Camera ...** Luis Romero  
**Second Assistant Camera ...** Ezra Dosela  
**Steadicam Operator ...** Neil Valdez  
**Steadicam Assistant ...** Laura Segura

**Gaffer ...** Trevor Dunnigan  
**Key Grip ...** Ethan Langenau  
**Dolly Grip ...** Jeremy Gutierrez  
**Best Boy Grip & Electric ...** Nick Kasparian  
**Additional Grip ...** Fabian Martinez

**DIT / Loader ...** Steven Kiyabu  
**Visual Effects...Rohaman Sabbir**

**Art Director ...** Aline McEntee  
**Set Designer ...** Malachi Parsons  
**Assistant Art Director ...** Andrei Captan  
**Assistant Art Director ...** Justin Mossa  
**Storyboard Artist ...** Jack Gacek  
**Picture Car Coordinator ...** Bobby Gutierrez

**Graphic Design...Dylan Rhys Watts**  
**Poster Design..Meghan Cavanaugh**

**Key Hair and Makeup ...** Karly McGowan

**Special Effects Coordinator ...** Scott Hastings  
**Effects Shop Foreman ...** Gabe Nowlin  
**Effects Set Foreman ...** Lucas Arguello  
**Effects Tech ...** Jonah Heckler  
**Effects Production Assistant ...** Zerrick Coston  
**Effects Buyer ...** Fagan O'Reilly

Key Set PA ... Angelica McMains  
On-Set Medic / COVID Safety Officer ...  
Jennifer Chace  
Catering Services ... Zoe Franklin, Kai Gilbert

Behind-the-Scenes Services by Bleep Media  
Eric Barragan  
Keziah Anderson  
Keara Anderson

Cochiti De Pueblo Tribal Site Rep...Jayson A.  
Romero, Everett Herrera  
Capitol Bar Site Rep ... Joanna DeBrine  
CNM Ingenuity Inc. Site Rep ... Zach Tubb ,  
Mark Duran  
Location Equipment...Wayne Elliot  
—

Post Production Sound by... Pipoca Sound  
Re-recording Mixer ... Luis Rodrigues  
Sound Effects Editor ... João Paulo Lacerda  
Foley ... Beethoven Marques  
Dialogue Editor... Eduardo Keller

Additional Post Production Sound by RED  
Diamond Studios  
Foley Artist & Sound Designer.... Fabian  
Buitrago  
Foley Artist & Audio Editor... Silvia Gil  
Foley Artist & Audio Editor... Carolina Nieto  
Sound Designer & Mixer... Julian Buitrago

Color by... Company 3  
Finishing Colorist... Justin White  
Color Assist... Elijah Howard  
Finishing Producers... Scott Salamon ,  
Tatiana Torne

## MUSIC

“Speed of Light”  
Written and performed by Jackson Craig

“5 in the Morning”  
Written and performed by Jackson Craig

“Stolen”  
Written and performed by Chris Murphy

“Lay Lady Lay”  
Written by Bob Dylan  
Performed by The Live Show  
Arrangement by Breaker Novogratz, Chris  
Murphy, and Jacob Lourie

“Let Me Dream”  
Written and performed by Max Hixon  
Courtesy of Artlist LTD

## SPECIAL THANKS

Orna & Yuval Azulay  
Christine & Glenn Rineer  
Tamar Azulay  
Dylan Rhys Watts  
Ted Wachs  
Janet Grillo  
Michael Liebowitz  
Matthew Ahl  
AAA Pumping Services  
Wayne Elliot & Elliot Location Equipment  
Central New Mexico Community College  
Andrea Vestrand & Production Resource  
Group LLC  
Serious Grippage and Electric  
Cinelease  
Cyndy McCrossen  
New Mexico Film Commission  
Albuquerque Film Office  
Ed Duran and Reaction Inc.  
Jayson A. Romero

Special Thanks to Yona Wiesenthal  
—

Filmed in New Mexico: Thanks to Pueblo  
de Cochiti  
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**Lawrence Traylor as Ed Egan**



**IDLE SPEED (2023)**



**Nathan Vincenti (*You Can't Run Forever*) as Ray**

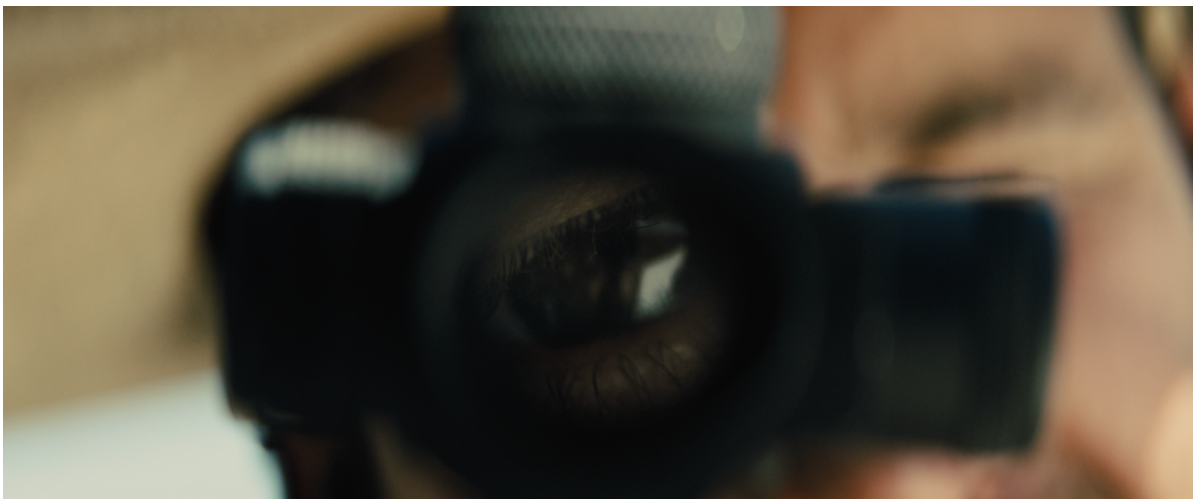




**Ines Høysæter Asserson (*Royalteen*) as Monica**



**Leary McDonald as Duncan**



**IDLE SPEED (2023)**



**Habib Madison (*Cry Macho*) as Valerie**



**Christopher Reilly as The Shooter**