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STONEPARK

STONEPARK PRODUCTIONS

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www.ONEPENNYMOVIE.COM

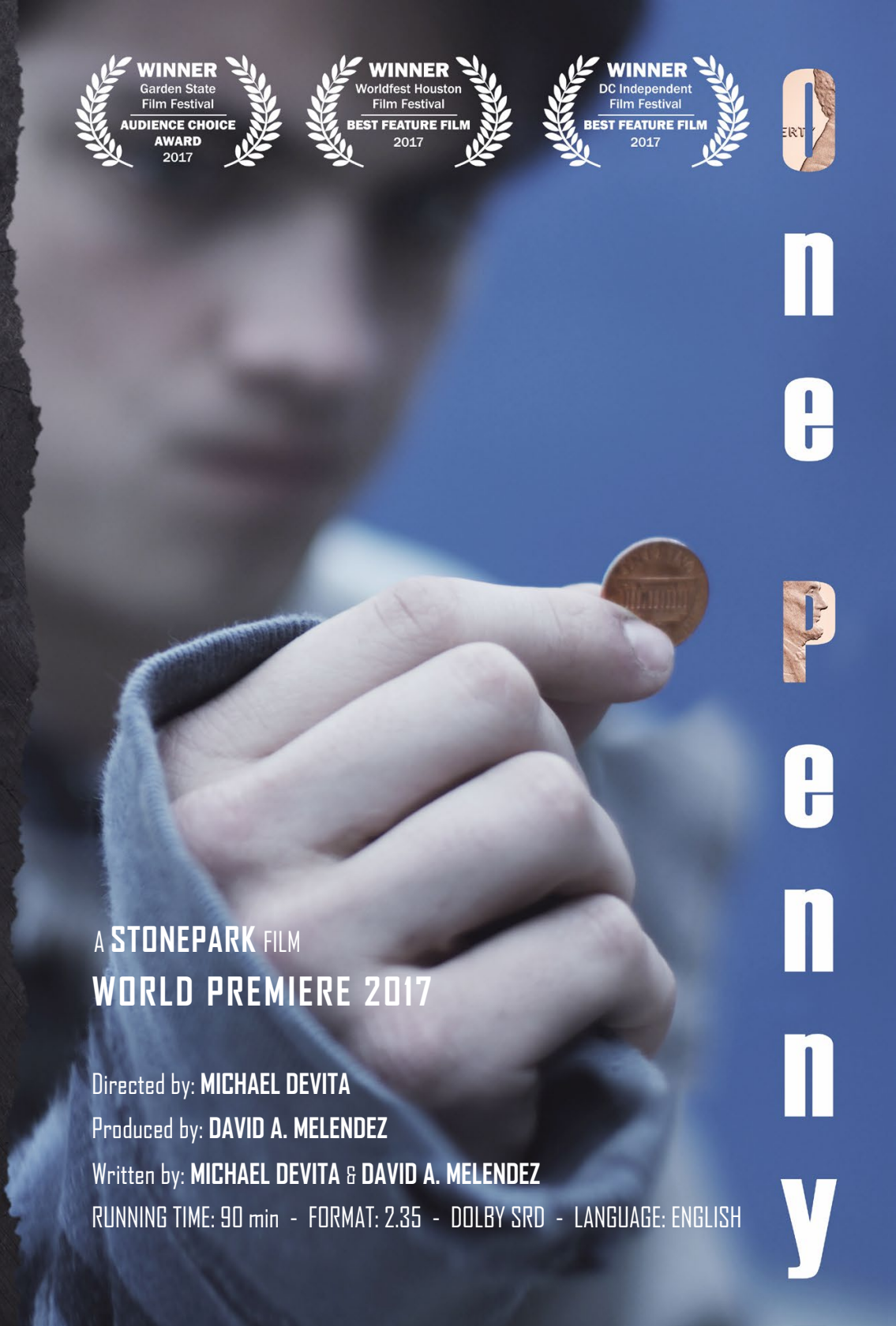
A **STONEPARK** FILM
WORLD PREMIERE 2017

Directed by: **MICHAEL DEVITA**

Produced by: **DAVID A. MELENDEZ**

Written by: **MICHAEL DEVITA & DAVID A. MELENDEZ**

RUNNING TIME: 90 min - FORMAT: 2.35 - DOLBY SRD - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH





THE SHORT STORY

One Penny is the story of Dylan, a young boy who is stripped of his privileged life and forced to live on the streets. He is taken in by a man known as "Professor," who lives in a homeless community called Shepherd's Cove. Flash forward 10 years, Dylan - now an ambitious teen - struggles with being homeless. He devises a plan with his best friend Collin to help the community and get off the streets. They run into problems when Dylan crosses paths with a thug named Tristan. As the story unfolds, we learn that Dylan and Tristan have a past that will connect them forever.

THE FULL STORY

A young boy – tragically abandoned – gets taken in and raised by a homeless man known as "Professor" (Carson Grant). They live together in a massive tent community called Shepherd's Cove. Ten years later, Dylan (Harrison Samuels), now a teen with big dreams, yearns for more out of life.

While caring for Dylan, Professor teaches him about business and preaches about how to live life honestly. But Professor never discusses his past or how he became homeless. When Professor gets sick, Dylan feels the pressure to provide for his caretaker by any means necessary. Dylan and his sidekick Collin (Will Roland) create get-rich-quick schemes, believing that one great idea can overcome any hurdle.

Tristan (Ben Rezendes) runs a crew of thugs that terrorize the neighborhood. He notices Dylan after watching the homeless teen outsmart one of his dealers. When Tristan catches Dylan talking to his girlfriend, Jordan (Erin O'Brien), he becomes obsessed with demoralizing the teen. Jordan takes a liking to Dylan and offers words of encouragement when he needs them most.

Dylan convinces Collin they must work hard and innovate to make money. They fix up an old generator to bring power to Shepherd's Cove. The plan works, giving the boys newfound pride and income while helping their community.

But Dylan's world is suddenly shattered. Tristan exposes Professor's past to Dylan, making the teen question the man who cared for him all his life. And Tristan holds a secret of his own that will force Dylan to make a deadly decision.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Everything starts with an idea"

One Penny highlights two stories: a teen's journey to become more in life, and a man's attempt to redeem himself. John "Professor" Allen had a choice to report a missing child (Dylan) to authorities, or raise him while homeless. He chooses the latter, which brings major consequences to both characters.

Our vision for *One Penny* was to create a coming-of-age narrative and show the core values that Dylan maintained during his formative years: family, friendship and hope. For co-writer David A. Melendez and myself, those formative years were a time when we felt anything was possible. However, often with age comes responsibilities and a different view of the world. With that in mind, we countered Dylan with Professor, a man with a past, secrets and regret. The movie exposes both characters' flaws differently, as Dylan's mistakes come from immaturity, and Professor's come from selfishness.

We sought to tell a gripping story and shed light on a major social issue. We often forget that the homeless are people with lives, families and dreams. *One Penny* breaks down those notions by showcasing the dreams and potential of a homeless teen.

Everything starts with an idea. Whether good or bad, ideas that spark action become part of us. Some make us prosper, while others bring our downfall. *One Penny* showcases both.

- **Michael DeVita** (Writer/Director)



MEET THE CAST

Through multiple casting calls in New York and Washington, D.C., the filmmakers assembled a solid cast of SAG-AFTRA actors, who brought depth and passion to their roles.

“With such an intriguing script coupled with Michael and David’s passion on getting this project made, I think everyone involved wanted the opportunity to be a part of something special.”

- **Harley Kaplan** (Casting Director)

HARRISON SAMUELS, [Dylan Fisher] (SAG-AFTRA) is an up-and-coming actor, music producer, composer and sound designer. Most recently he scored the Christmas horror short-film *Secret Satan*. Harrison has been acting since the young age of 6 and has appeared on many hit shows, including *Arrested Development*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *The Bernie Mac Show* and *The Nick Cannon Show*.

“Playing Dylan – someone you root for, someone you feel for – was the kind of challenge young actors dream about. I am so honored to have the chance to bring his humility and street smarts to life.”

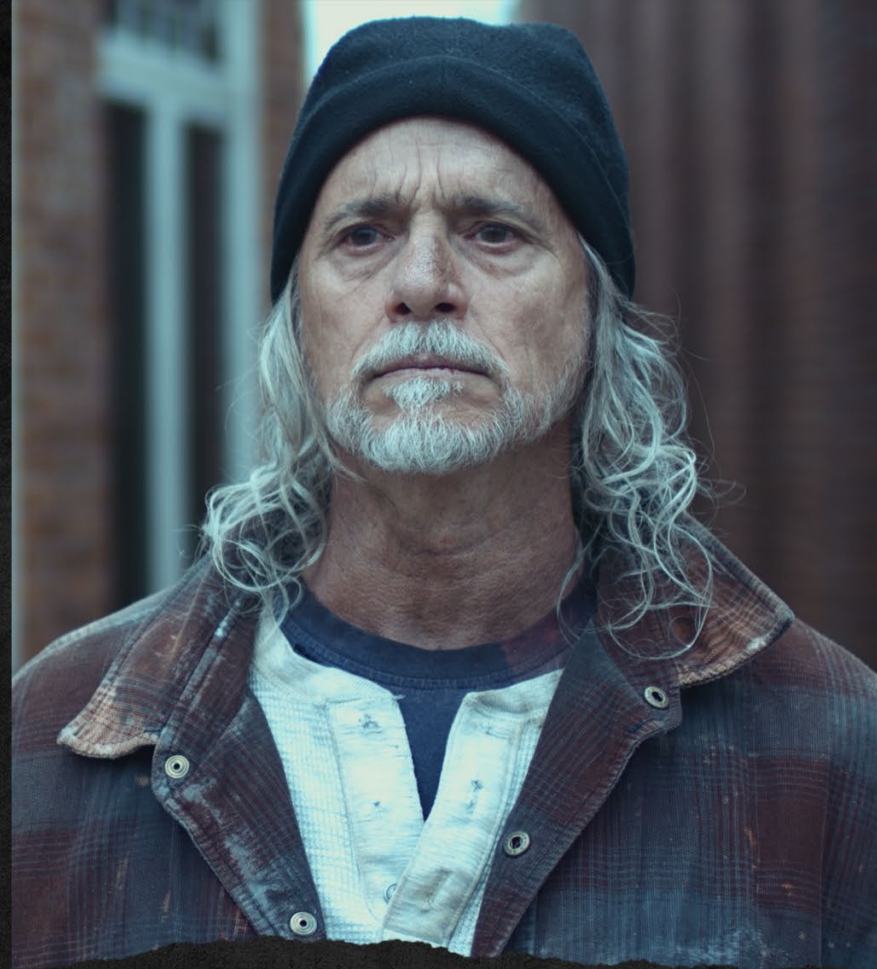
- **Harrison Samuels** (Dylan Fisher)



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WILL ROLAND, [Collin] (SAG-AFTRA) is currently making his Broadway debut as Jared Kleinman in *Dear Evan Hansen*. His off-Broadway and regional theater appearances include *Dear Evan Hansen* (Second Stage and Arena Stage), *The Black Suits* (Center Theatre Group and Barrington Stage), *The Bus* (59E59), *LoserSongs* (Don't Tell Mama), *Academia Nuts!* (NYMF). His TV credits include *Mysteries of Laura* (NBC) and *Red Oaks* (Amazon). He is passionate about new work, including plays and musicals developed with Second Stage, La Jolla, Arena, CAP21, Don't Tell Mama, NYMF and others.



CARSON GRANT, [John "Professor" Allen] (SAG-AFTRA, AEA, GIAA), an actor and singer, received New York Times recognition for his role as Agamemnon in Nathan Currier's composition, *Tomorrow, Agamemnon*, and *The Day Before November 21, 1963*, performed at Symphony Space, NYC, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination. In 2015, Carson sang the lead role of *Utanapishti* in the original musical *Gilgamesh* by Ian Wehrle at the Connelly Theater. In 2016, Carson portrayed *Chief Detective Wasserman* in the original play *Second Seat*, staged at the Hudson Guild Theater. Carson is a well-established character actor in more than 300 indie films and television productions, including Woody Allen's *Anything Else*, *The Chris Rock Show*, *Broad City* on Comedy Central and *Law & Order: SVU*.



ERIN O'BRIEN, [Jordan] (SAG-AFTRA) is a Los Angeles-based actress, originally from New Jersey. Erin studied acting at the prestigious William Esper Studio in New York City. She has starred in several films that have premiered on Showtime and Netflix, as well as theatrically released films. Her latest film, *Fight Valley*, is available worldwide and stars some of the most well-known female fighters in the UFC. Her film credits also include *Code of Honor*, *Weaponized*, *Killing Joan*, *4Got10*, *Jailbait*, *Boyz of Summer* and *Revenants*.

BEN REZENDES, [Tristan] (SAG-AFTRA) is a New York-based actor and stunt performer. He got his start in classical theater and is a graduate of the Stella Adler Studio of Acting, in New York City. With his physical background in fighting and stunts, as well as his ability as an actor, he is often hired for roles that require both. He has been featured in TV shows such as *Vinyl*, *Blue Bloods* and *The Punisher*, as well as independent films such as *Fight Valley*, *Hard Sell* and *When I'm With You*.



THE FILMMAKERS



DAVID A. MELENDEZ & MICHAEL DEVITA are longtime friends who in their teenage years discovered an interest in filmmaking. They spent endless days shooting short films in their backyards on a camcorder. The duo learned the basics of filmmaking and developed a passion for the art. Having no formal education in film production made it challenging to secure financing for their projects. It wasn't until Michael suggested they buy and flip a house that a true partnership was formed. At the ages of 19 and 21, the duo purchased, renovated and sold their first property. This was the beginning of a successful real estate development company.

In 2011, Michael and David decided to scale down their work in real estate to pursue their dream in filmmaking. They formed their company, StonePark Productions. The duo's passion for editing and visual effects ultimately led to the creation of StonePark Studios, a post-production house, and allowed them to retain full artistic license over their content.

In early 2015, the duo picked one of their original scripts and began pre-production. *One Penny* was financed, shot, directed, produced and edited by Michael and David. The duo supports the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, where they live and work, and intend to produce additional projects from likeminded individuals and organizations to make StonePark a staple production house on the east coast.

While promoting *One Penny* on the independent film festival circuit, Michael and David continue to work on the development of four new stories: *Men and Mountains*, *The Janitor*, *Deor* and *Aristotle 41*.

HARLEY KAPLAN & BRANDON POWERS are a casting duo that go under the name *Powers | Kaplan*. Films that they have previously cast include, *The Comedy*, which was shown in competition at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, and *Blue Ruin*, which was distributed by Radius – The Weinstein Company. Brandon has also served as an executive producer on many films, including *Marshall*, starring Dan Stevens and Kate Hudson, and *Wakefield*, starring Bryan Cranston and Jennifer Garner.

DANNY GRAY is an internationally awarded composer of film, television, concert and multimedia music. In 2016 he scored the documentary feature film *Standing in the Stars: The Peter Mayhew Story*, a behind-the-scenes look at the life of the actor best known for portraying Chewbacca in the *Star Wars* films. Prior to this, his music was featured in the 2013 viral comedy short *Hell No*, and in the award-winning short film *My Day* starring Judith Roberts. His film scores have been heard at festivals including South by Southwest, FanTasia, the Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival, and many others. Danny is an ongoing contributor of original music to television shows such as *American Pickers*, *NBC Dateline*, *20/20*, *What Would You Do*, *NY Med*, and *On The Case with Paula Zahn*. He has composed music for over 600 episodes of television.

THE PRODUCTION

Michael and David's goal with *One Penny* was to take an ultra-low budget and create a high-quality production. Using all of their resources, they shot the film in 40 days in the spring of 2015. Determined to not rely on just a few locations, *One Penny* showcased over 30 locations, spanning Washington, D.C., and Maryland, using a mix of city and suburbs.

The Shepherd's Cove set started with a quick sketch by Michael, consisting of hundreds of shanty-style homes. Michael and David knew they couldn't afford such an expansive set, so they decided on a combination of physical structures and Computer Generated Imagery (CGI).

In a secluded location, they built 200 makeshift homes to create Shepherd's Cove.

"It was a huge undertaking, but well worth it. It was our most prized location and the characters thrived off of it. The build included three fully decorated units. They were used as the set homes of Dylan, Collin and Mrs. Gimmel."

- **David A. Melendez** (Writer/Producer)

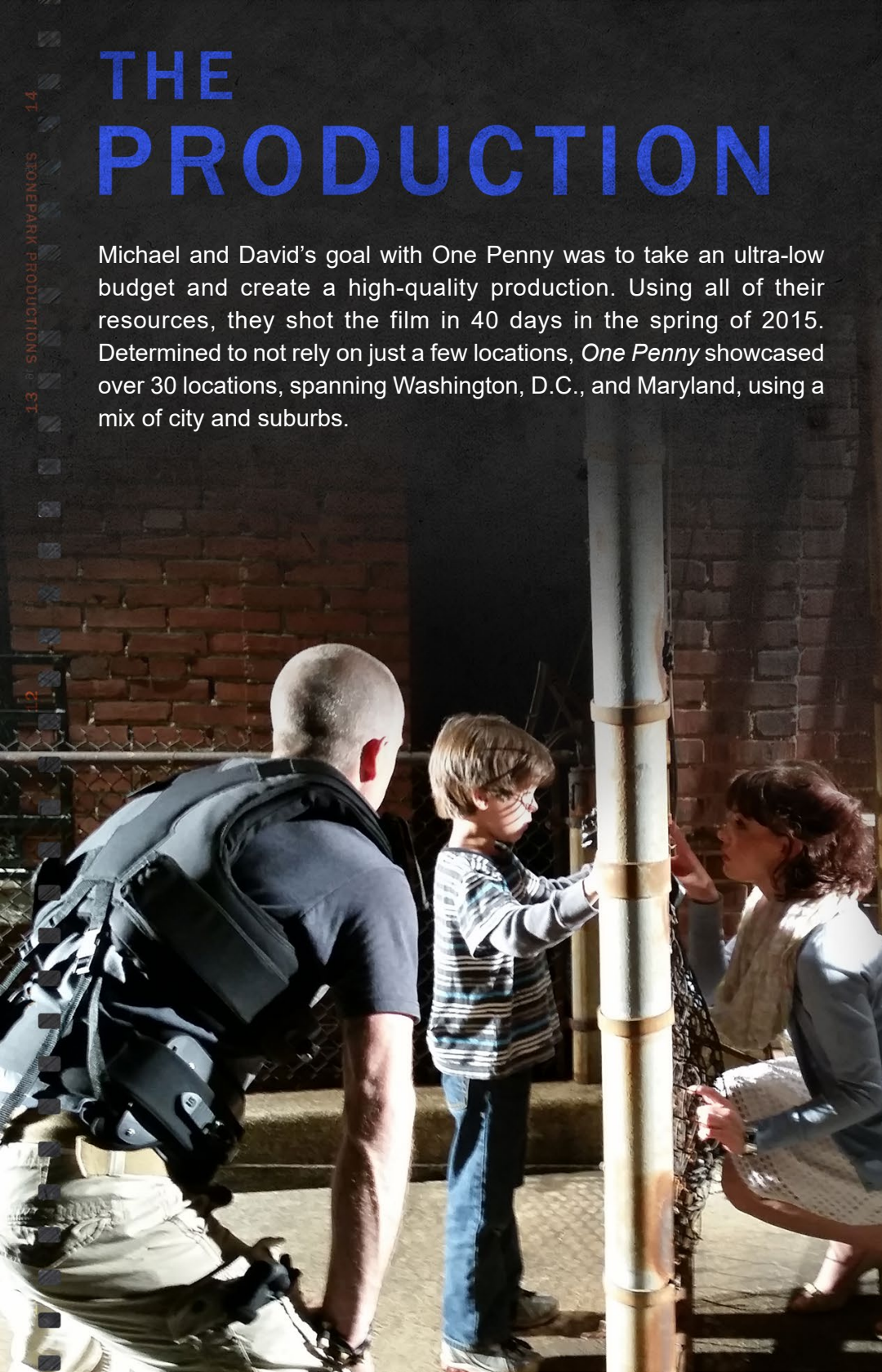
"It gives us all a sense of realism. When I read the script I was excited to see what the set would look like. I was very impressed. The Cove was huge! It is almost a character within itself."

- **Harrison Samuels** (Dylan Fisher)

In post-production, StonePark Studios expanded the set, giving it a sense of wear and scale. The visual effects company also added value to many scenes, including Tristan's shootout with police, the cityscape seen when young Dylan runs off and various other scenes where CGI could help intensify a moment.

"When CGI started to become more prominent in the film industry, it really opened up the realm of possibility. Audiences are accustomed to seeing tangible things. When you combine those tangible set elements with CGI, the results can be amazing. Our job as story-tellers is to blur the lines. If someone watches the movie without noticing what's real and what's computer generated, it means we did our job."

- **Michael DeVita** (Writer/Director)





ORIGINAL PLATE



COMPOSITE PLATE



STONEPARK PRODUCTIONS presents
in association with STONEPARK STUDIOS

a STONEPARK film
HARRISON SAMUELS "ONE PENNY" CARSON GRANT
WILL ROLAND - BEN REZENDES - ERIN O'BRIEN
with LAWRENCE P. BERON - JESSICA INZED and KYLE PRADO
casting by HARLEY KAPLAN - BRANDON POWERS
costume designer LISA DEVITA
music by DANNY GRAY
sound design EVAN DEVITA
edited by MICHAEL DEVITA
written by MICHAEL DEVITA - DAVID A. MELENDEZ
produced by DAVID A. MELENDEZ
directed by MICHAEL DEVITA

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