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META

LOGLINE

Without a body, there is no murder, so an undercover police operation sets out to trap a suspect into confessing by infiltrating their life through a fake criminal organization.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Unbeknownst to many, Canada is pioneer to a ground-breaking undercover police operation used around the globe, unofficially called "Mr. Big", which endeavors to entice a suspect to confess to a crime by ensnaring them in a fake criminal organization built on trust. A polarizing and controversial procedure, this operation has brought hundreds of murderers from the shadows of our communities, out into the light.

In the Pines follows one such suspect and the corresponding undercover operation to bring them to justice. Rather than approach this story from a traditional police procedural, *In the Pines* explores this technique from inside the investigation as it is underway. In this world, we explore the emotional perspectives of a suspect and the undercover officers closest to them, in character and immersed in their fictitious world. The audience won't know who the suspect is or who the officers are. They will be along for the ride of a carefully orchestrated plot that is designed to spin every life out of control that gets caught in its web. In the midst of all this chaos, there is one person who can offer asylum and a way out of the web… the only price is the confession of a crime. In this carefully crafted life preserver scenario, our killer reveals themselves. In turn, those in their life with whom they have come to love and trust… are revealed to be undercover officers.

Inspired by true crimes and deeply researched police procedures, *In the Pines* is a one hour, two camera narrative dramatic thriller that will explore the entirety of a Mr. Big operation in six episodes.

NEFA

CHARACTERS

NEFA

Dan

A recovering alcoholic and quiet man, Dan found purpose in fathering his daughter after his wife disappeared from their lives. In order to provide his daughter the life she deserves, he is willing to step outside the law to make just enough to get ahead. As his choices begin to dismantle his life, he grasps at anything he can to keep his world from crashing down around him and his daughter. Dan is a terrifying reminder to us all that even good people are capable of terrible things.

META

Ryan Robbins

Ryan Robbins is one of Canada's most versatile and accomplished screen talents, with a career spanning more than two decades and a body of work that's reached audiences worldwide. Hailing from Victoria, BC, Robbins first drew international attention with his memorable portrayal of Ladon Radim in *Stargate: Atlantis*, followed by his dual appearances in *Battlestar Galactica*, and his fan-favourite role as Henry Foss in *Sanctuary.* He went on to lead the critically acclaimed CBC drama *Pure* as Noah Funk, earning praise for his layered, deeply human portrayal of a Mennonite pastor drawn into the criminal underworld.

Over the years, Robbins has seamlessly navigated genres; anchoring CTV thrillers, lending emotional weight to independent films, and becoming a familiar face in Vancouver-shot sci-fi staples. He has also brought his charisma and precision to the action genre as Agent Zeke "Zero" Rosenberg in multiple installments of the *Sniper* film series, now streaming on Netflix, cementing his place in one of the longest-running action franchises in the world.

His work has been recognized with multiple Leo Awards, celebrating performances in both dramatic leads and standout guest appearances. From homegrown Canadian productions to global hits, Ryan Robbins has built a career defined by range, commitment, and an unwavering connection with audiences.

META
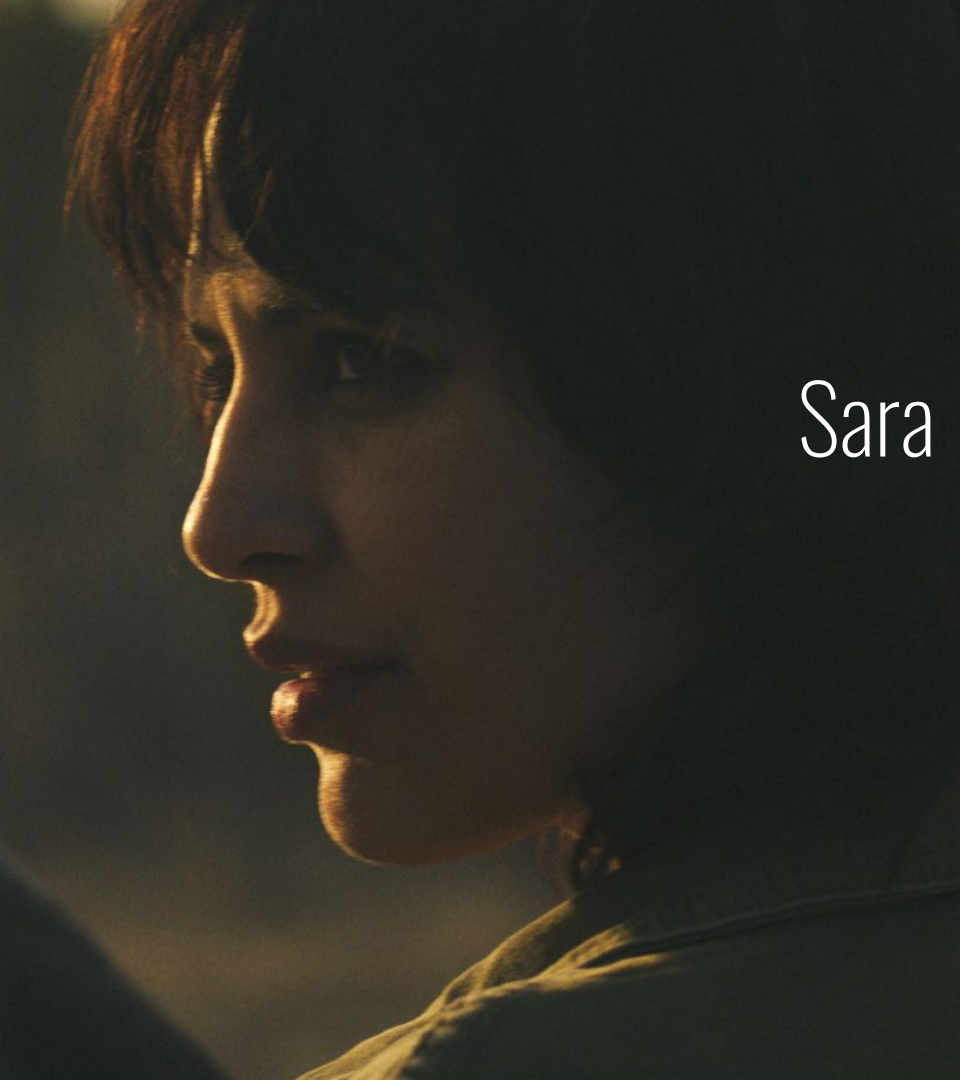
Sara

Sara is a recovering drug addict, usually broke, with a chip on her shoulder from a world that hasn't given her any legs up. She can take on most challenges with more confidence than outright skill, and she usually operates as a lone wolf. However, under her tough exterior, she's got compassion and a quirky sense of humor, and even deeper than that, a longing to belong somewhere safe and stable.

Sara carries a secret and a trauma that is always lingering and is at the route of her self destructive behaviour.

NE FA

Agam Darshi

Agam Darshi is a multi-award-winning Canadian actress, writer, and director whose career reflects a dedication to telling powerful, resonant stories. Born in England, and raised all over Canada, Darshi has brought depth and authenticity to a diverse slate of productions, from her fan-favourite role as Kate Freelander in *Sanctuary* to appearances in *The L-Word, Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency,* and Deepa Mehta's *Funny Boy.* Her work in *Crimes of Mike Recket* earned her a Leo Award, underscoring her ability to captivate audiences with nuanced, emotionally grounded performances.

Beyond acting, she has significantly contributed to Canadian cinema as the co-founder of the Vancouver International South Asian Film Festival. In 2021, Darshi made her feature debut as a writer-director with *Donkeyhead*, a heartfelt family dramedy, was acquired by Netflix ,and went on to win multiple awards for her writing, acting, and direction. Darshi's career is defined by versatility; seamlessly moving between leading roles in Canadian dramas, scene-defining appearances in international projects, and critically acclaimed work behind the camera. Her artistry and advocacy continue to shape the Canadian cultural landscape while resonating with audiences around the globe.

META

Marc

Marc pours himself into his work. His skill set lies in a deep understanding of criminal behaviour and making a living exploiting the cracks in the system. From stolen vehicles to laundering money, Marc is able to survive on the fringes of society.

Tormented by his violent past, a failed 2nd marriage, and no visitation rights with his son, Marc has quietly accepted that he does not deserve the peace and happiness he so desperately longs for.

META

Juan Riedinger

Juan Riedinger has built a celebrated career as one of Canada's most magnetic and versatile actors, with a body of work that spans critically acclaimed Canadian productions, as well as internationally renowned television hits. Born and raised in Banff, Alberta, Riedinger is a three-time Leo Award winner whose performances have anchored some of the most compelling series' of the past decade. He is known for bringing depth and complexity to roles such as Joe in *Claws,* Teo in *Good Behavior*, Dodger in *Riverdale*, and Carlos Lehder in Netflix's global phenomenon *Narcos*. His lead performance as Rufus Decker in CBC's *The Romeo Section* demonstrated his ability to command a series, while his supporting roles in films like *Grave Encounters* and *Heaven Down Here* showcase his adaptability across genres.

Across two decades, Riedinger has moved effortlessly between complex leading roles and riveting supporting characters. His work both on and off camera has proved time and again that he isn't just a fixture of Canadian screen talent; he is a force shaping it. His work radiates with the spirit of his Albertan roots, while continuously impacting audiences around the globe.

META

Dale

Please allow me to introduce Dale, he's a man of wealth and taste. He is a puppet master with a deep understanding of psychology and how to manipulate people to serve his own means. He values trust above all else.

Dale is a ghost who knows how to disappear… or make someone else disappear. When he is finished with you, if you survive, you'll be left standing in the middle of the shattered rubble that used to be your life.

Steven Ogg

Steven Ogg is an award-winning Canadian actor whose commanding screen presence and versatility have made him an internationally recognized talent. He is best known for unforgettable roles including Simon in AMC's *The Walking Dead*, Rebus in HBO's *Westworld*, Sobchak in AMC's *Better Call Saul*, Pike in TNT's *Snowpiercer*, and Captain Howard in Apple TV's *Emancipation*.

Originally from Calgary, Alberta, Ogg first captured global attention with his groundbreaking performance as Trevor Phillips in *Rockstar Games' Grand Theft Auto V*, where his voice and motion capture work created one of gaming's most iconic characters.

He can currently be seen in the BBC's critically acclaimed series *Boiling Point* alongside Stephen Graham, as well as SyFy's *Revival*. Most recently, Ogg wrapped the Janus Metz–directed Netflix film *Unabom*, starring opposite Russell Crowe, Shailene Woodley, and Jacob Tremblay.

Ogg's ability to embody characters that are both larger-than-life and deeply human has made him a sought-after actor across film, television, and gaming. His career reflects not only his extraordinary range but also the enduring impact of Canadian talent on the global stage.

NETA

KC

KC has her guard up, as any teenage girl abandoned by her mother would. She doesn't trust many people, and she meets the world with a sardonic air of being 'above it all'. Though they didn't always have the best relationship, KC has a fiercely loyal connection to her dad, as he helped her through the toughest part of her mother leaving.

She can be goofy, teasing, confident, and even brash. Her stability with her dad has allowed her to become a bit of a risk taker.

META

Marin Almasi

Marin Almasi is one of Canada's most promising young actors, whose captivating presence and early start in performance have positioned her as a standout talent. Born in Calgary, Alberta, she has quickly earned a reputation for delivering emotionally authentic work that combines dramatic depth with subtle comic timing. Her range has often drawn comparisons to a young Jodie Foster, highlighting her ability to portray characters across a broad spectrum.

Almasi expanded her screen career with a noteworthy role in the feature adaptation of *All My Puny Sorrows* (2021), which premiered at TIFF and received critical recognition, featuring prominently in "Canada's Top Ten".

On television, she appeared as Meredith in the episode "Wet Hot American Bummer" of *DC's Legends of Tomorrow* (2018), and brought authenticity to her performance as Ashley Barnes in the TV movie *Global Meltdown* (2017). Almasi's early and and varied filmography showcase her range across genres and formats. Her trajectory reflects both early achievement and the promise of creative growth, making her a compelling voice in Canadian screen storytelling.

EPISODE CONCEPTS

EPISODE CONCEPTS

EPISODE 1:

A body, rolled up in a sheet, is buried in the pines, soon to be covered up by natural growth and seasons change. Who this is and what happened here will drive our narrative. We meet Sara, a recovering alcoholic drowning in debt and wrestling with past trauma, who is recruited by single father, Dan, to run a quick low-level crime for cash. The crime gets out of hand, resulting in Dan witnessing the murder of several criminals at Sara's hands.

EPISODE 2:

The aftermath of episode 1 triggers Dan, and we are thrown into the memory of his first day as a single parent. We are shown how Dan and Marc first meet: both at rock bottom in police custody. In an effort to help Dan we see him introduced into Marc's car theft operation. In the present, Marc is attacked by masked assailants and critically wounded.

EPISODE 3:

Bleeding out on the floor, Marc harkens back to memories of his inner turmoil and brash nature. We are introduced to Dale, the head of a local organized crime syndicate, who can help make the murders "go away" and protect Dan and Sara. Dale agrees to help them under one condition - they now work for him.

EPISODE 4:

Dan and Sara, still reeling from the chaos, find unexpected solace in each other. As they prepare to open Dan's mechanic shop as a legitimate business, their bond deepens beyond survival - moving into something tender and real. Dale proves himself a formidable master at making murders disappear. At the end of the episode, we reveal a missing persons poster: Dan's ex wife.

EPISODE 5:

In an unlikely crew, an unexpected character is revealed as Marc's shooter. Marc wakes up in the hospital healing from his gunshot wound, with a threat from Dale on breaking his trust. Marc, fearful of Dale and the path Dan is on, encourages him to burn the operation and set up in a new town together, but Dan stays for KC and Sara. Dale reveals to Dan they have a new problem: the missing person poster of his ex wife.

EPISODE 6:

We flashback to a domestic argument between Dan and his wife. The argument gets out of control and we reveal that Dan killed her in a fit of rage. Dan confesses this to Dale, in hopes of having another murder "taken care of" by his new boss. Dan walks him to the body that was buried in episode one, revealing his true crime… in the process, Sara, Marc, and Dale are all revealed as undercover officers.

META

STYLE & TONE

META

TONE

While this is an undercover operation, that is just the arena we play in. At its core, *In the Pines* is about the duality of human interaction and the complexities of connection. Who we are vs who we are pretending to be.

It is about our past and our traumas hunting us down and forcing us to face judgment for our actions.

It is set in a hard world with hard people trying to survive and find their way.

The visual style will emulate the look and feel of blue collar movies like *Out of the furnace* & *Blue Valentine.*

Every ending of every episode will ratchet up the tension and inch us closer to identifying the killer. By the end of our series, every character will have lost their sense of self and purpose… the price that is required to uncover the truth and bring a killer to justice.

IN THE PINES

TRAILER

META

SHOW COMPARABLES

TRUE DETECTIVE

MEETS

THE STRANGER

MEETS

RILEY KEOUGH   LILY GLADSTONE

UNDER THE BRIDGE

BASED ON SHOCKING TRUE EVENTS

May 8   Disney+
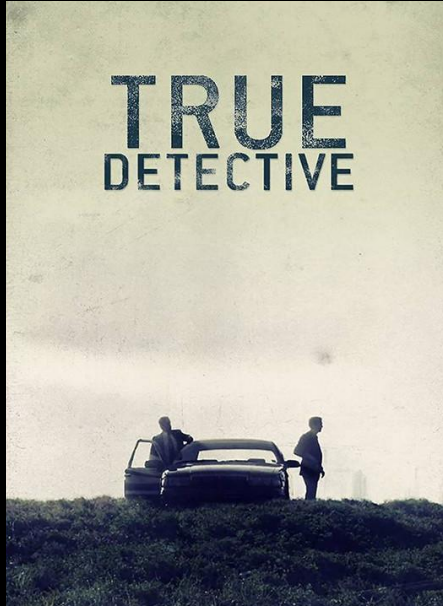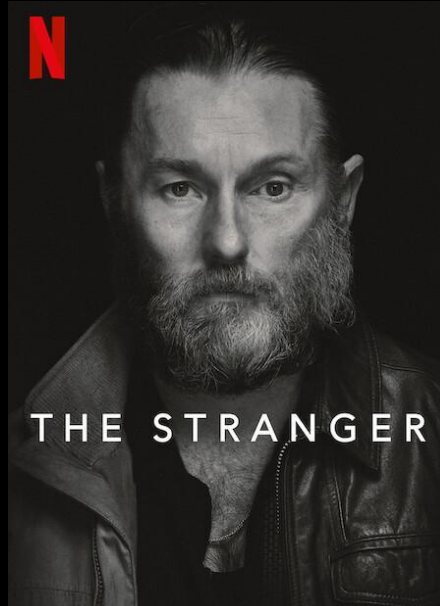
META

META

META Films Inc. is an Emmy award winning full service production studio and post production house with over 40 years of combined experience executing high level content and award winning production work. From broadcast television to nationally televised commercials, our team thrives in strong story driven production work with beautiful cinematography supported by an in house start to finish production pipeline.

AWARDS

- 2024 - Emmy Nomination
- 2023 - Emmy Nomination
- 2022 - Clio Award - Bronze
- 2022 - Emmy Nomination
- 2022 - AMPIA Best Corp Production
- 2021 - AMPIA Best Cinematography
- 2021 - Anvil Best TV/Cinema Series

- 2021 - Anvil Non-Broadcast Single
- 2021 - Telly Awards 4x Gold 4x Silver
- 2020 - AMPIA Best Commercial
- 2020 - AMPIA Best VFX & Editing
- 2019 – AMPIA Best commercial
- 2018 – Telly Award - Gold, 2 x Bronze

- 2017 – One Show
- 2017 – AMPIA - 2 Wins
- 2017 – Ad Rodeo - 4 Wins
- 2017 - Telly Awards - 2 x Silver, 3 x Bronze
- 2016 – Ad Rodeo - 2 Wins
- 2013 – Emmy Award

NETFLIX   HBO   ESPN

CHRISTOPHER PETRY - Creator/Writer/Executive Producer/Director

As a member of the Directors Guild of Canada, with over 20 years of experience in the film and television industry, Chris has taken home numerous awards and nominations as a Director, Writer, and Producer of multiple True Crime films. After serving as a Producer in a creative role of over 40 episodes of television and rotating director on the Warner Brothers series "Smallville", Chris started META Films with his partner in Alberta and has since helped grow the company into one of the premiere production houses in the province, garnering multiple international and local awards.

JOHN CAMERON - Director/Executive Producer

John Cameron is an award winning Director and Visual Effects Artist with over 20 years of experience in the film and television industry. John has received international recognition including an Emmy Award for his work with ESPN for Global X Games and was nominated for Best Director in 2019 for Direct Energy's - New Moms. John has a multitude of experience executing compelling creative in both long and short form productions including the television series with HBO's Last of US, MGM's Fargo, Netflix's Black Summer, Apple TV's The Morning Show and HBO's Big Little Lies amongst others.

MISSY VENAAS - Producer

With over 20 years of experience in the film and television industry, Missy has overseen many national campaigns, managing large crews and demanding timelines. Missy takes on any project with a sense of ownership, fighting for the best results for clients, crew and cast. Having lengthy industry experience, she knows how to approach productions from a place of problem solving while ensuring the value is on the screen at the end of day. As an award winning producer, Missy is a strong asset for any client as much as she is for META.

Unapologetically Canadian

With shooting locations in both Calgary Alberta, and Trail BC, *In The Pines* is gritty, heartfelt, and full of the kind of storytelling only the True North can deliver. Developed in collaboration with retired Calgary Police Service officers who worked undercover in Mr. Big sting operations, the series pulls back the curtain on the high-stakes world of covert investigations with an authenticity you can't fake. Anchored by homegrown talent like Ryan Robbins, Agam Darshi, Juan Riedinger, and Steven Ogg, the series blends high-stakes drama with sharp wit and authentic emotion. With a soundtrack featuring iconic Canadian artists like The Tragically Hip, Timber Timbre, and City and Colour, the show pulses with the soul and grit of a true Canadian community. From small-town streets to sweeping city skylines, this is a show that wears its Canadian roots proudly while delivering stories with global resonance.