

ATTRITION



AN ARDENT PRODUCTIONS FILM

AARON MCBRIDE BRIAN KUBACH JAMES MINCEY SUSAN DZIAMA

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ANTHONY M. JOY WRITTEN BY DANIEL BOYD SCORE BY STEVEN TREECE

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES CORNELIUS CAMERA OPERATOR JASON VIAPIANO

STUNTS BY N.C.C.C. MAKEUP EFFECTS LAUREN SCHEIBER ASST. DIRECTOR DAVE THOMAS

EDITED WITH ADOBE PREMIERE SHOT USING CANON XL1-S DV

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS VICTORIA & TONY JOY + SUSAN & STEVEN TREECE



ardentonline.com/attrition



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SYNOPSIS

We begin by finding a high school student named Jonathon, (Aaron McBride) in a cold and wintered forest, who is bloodied, bruised and fumbles to find a gun that he has stashed away. He loads the gun and begins to walk towards a group of other nearby high school students who are laughing and having fun in a park near school. He takes aim - ready to shoot, when a voice is heard asking him a question. The story then jumps into a scene where Jonathon is talking about his problems to what appears to be a counselor. The story moves through a series of flashbacks and flash-forwards showing Jonathon's life. When Jonathon notices a girl he likes, Jenny, he reinvests into what he thinks could be a happy relation-



ship. However, as he is trying to dodge the bullies, he finds out that Jenny is not so interested in him after all, but is interested in fixing Jonathon up with someone else. With Jonathon's annoyance, he insults this girl as if he were a bully himself. When

Jonathon ventures to talk to his parents, he discovers his mother having intercourse with another man, and now he is basically asked to hide this lie for the greater good of the family. When Jonathon's problems begin to multiply, he attempts to seek revenge, but ends up making the biggest regret of his life. A paranormal twist ending will attempt to make Jonathon realize what he has done is wrong, and give him a chance to regret his decision - or relive it.

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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

The journey of *Attrition* was a long and arduous one. The concept of a high school student being picked on is not a new one, but director Anthony M. Joy wanted to add a different twist onto this story. In the early summer of 2002, Anthony Joy sat down to write what was, at the time, titled 'Regrets'. The writing process was different in that the ending was written first. The ending and the beginning of the film shows a high school student pointing a gun at his classmates in a park in the



dead of winter. The question we always ask ourselves when we hear of a shooting is 'what possibly made them do this?' Therefore, the writer sought out to answer that question by showing the partial ending of the film first. The story was then written backwards attempting to unveil the mysteries of this high school student's life. During October of 2002, Anthony sought out the help of Daniel Boyd, who is in the Creative Writing program at Otterbein College in Columbus, Ohio. Boyd was delighted for the opportunity to co-author the screenplay. After roughly twelve revisions, the script was deemed close enough to being finished to begin pre-production.



Executive Producers Steve and Susan Treece and Victoria and Tony Joy were

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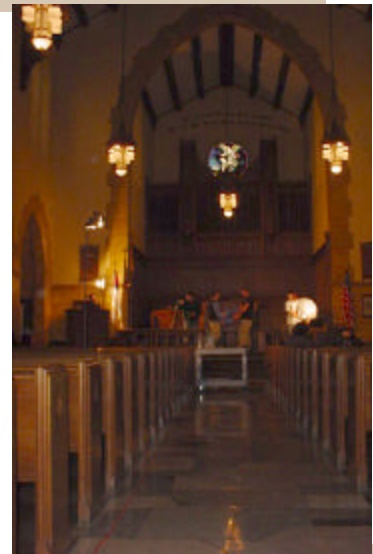
brought on board so the film could receive financing. The crew was assembled and two critical people - James Cornelius, Director of Photography and Dave Thomas, Assistant Director, were chosen. The crew then began planning for cast-



ing auditions as well as immediately beginning to shoot test scenes, all while the script was still being completed. Auditions were held at North Coast Central Casting in Cleve-

land with the help of Ray Szuch. Over seventy five people attended the casting

call and the Casting Directors - Joseph Amschlinger and Dave Thomas - began to search for the best actors they could find. Approximately twenty supporting character roles were soon filled, but the lead character of Jonathon was not easily discovered. Several of the actors had the look of being the '*picked on high school kid*,' but when the casting directors sat down to watch the video of the audi-



tions, Aaron had a great camera presence and acting abilities that were unmatched by any others applying for the role. Some cast members, namely Brian Kubach, who was attending Ohio University in Athens, OH, were still interested in extra traveling just for the shoot.

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The cast was set and a cast and crew workshop was scheduled. Ardent Productions strongly believes in this type of pre-production workshop where the actors and crew can meet, tape dry runs of scenes, and work with other technical aspects for the film. At the last minute, two ac-

tors became unavailable for filming. One actor, playing the main character of 'Jenny,' was simply unable to commit to the timeframe, while the actor chosen for Jonathon's father, found the script to be too intense and against his moral values, thus opting out of the production. The director and casting directors then scrambled to fill these roles. Susan Dziama was found for the role of Jenny, who once again displayed a phenomenal presence on screen. Pat Carney was cast to fill the role of the father.

"They knew exactly what they needed to get done, and they made it look so easy."

- AARON MCBRIDE

The cast workshop was held, and all the actors went through a brief screen test, makeup test, and also received information concerning their wardrobe and other matters. The cast received the script and many even came to the workshop knowing a portion of their lines where they were performed in front of the crew while it was taped. Anthony Joy



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promised the cast and crew a fun and safe production and made the comment, "we might make some mistakes, but we'll never make the same mistake twice."



The next step in the making of this film was what seemed like an endless amount of pre-production work. This involved the crew coming to Tiffin, Ohio, where tests were performed on several new pieces of equipment the production received. One specific and expensive piece was a Glidecam, which is basically where the camera is mounted onto a gimble so the camera has smooth shots in rough environments. This would prove beneficial in many 'walking' shots in the high school, among others. The crew also tested the gun and did several 'test' attempts with simulating the shooting of a person with the gun in order to get the special blood effects just right.



Lauren Schieber, the makeup artist, made the fake blood using a special recipe of her own. The crew also practiced their makeshift dolly and track, which was made out of PVC pipe and plywood, constructed by Leonard Reaves III and Bud Kinn. Several shots in 'Attrition' utilize the dolly, with the most popular being the church/funeral scene and the



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kitchen/dinner scene with Jonathon and his parents.

'Attrition' filming was now set for the months of February and March of 2003. The majority of the locations took place in Tiffin, Ohio, which was about one hundred miles away from Cleveland,



"Attrition is not a commentary on Columbine, but the filmmaking team did want its first film to have an edge."

- DAVE THOMAS

where almost all of the actors and some of the crew were located. The caravan from Cleveland started the drive around six a.m. and drove to Tiffin for a starting time of seven thirty a.m. All the cast and crew were ready and excited to perform. The first shots were in a local high school and filming was running smoothly until a problem was noticed where a sound cable was not plugged in, and therefore, no sound was being recorded. The crew was not sure how long this cable was unplugged, so the tape was cautiously reviewed, where it was determined that only one scene was missing sound. Incidentally, this was our first 'mistake' and we took proper precautions to make sure that mistake was never repeated, and it never was. The crew was true to the motto set in the first meeting.

Production went until midnight on this first shoot-



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ing held on a Saturday. The last scene was a long and involved classroom scene that was filmed at Tiffin University. The time we began shooting was roughly around eight p.m. Therefore, in order to make it appear as 'daylight', several effects were employed. Floodlights

were turned on and placed outside the windows which shined through into the classroom. A Tiffen lens filter was used on the camera to simulate florescent and daylight-type lighting. The scene was filmed and after it was reviewed, it was remarkable how many times a crew member forgot that scene had been shot at night. The first day of shooting went well, as did the following Sunday. The first weekend of 'Attrition' was complete and considered a resounding success.



The following weekend would turn out to be the hardest and most painful for the entire cast and crew of 'Attrition.' This Saturday included only three scenes, all of which were the most involved, and two which had to be filmed outside in the dead of winter. For the first time all winter, Tiffin's temperature hit below zero, but that did not stop the cast and crew of 'Attrition.' The crew began to setup for the first scene and called out the cast, where



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almost immediately things began to fall apart. A light stand fell and was damaged by the wind, there was a shortage of crew members, the fake blood froze, and there was difficulty getting good sound from the terribly gusty winds that were encountered. These problems happened in the first five minutes of the first scene, and many crew members were cold

and unprepared for this type of weather conditions. Therefore, a break was called and a portable heater brought in, the missing crew members showed up, and our sound technician determined how to best capture the sound. The assistant director and director also prepped cast and crew indoors in a makeshift setup, and made everyone take mandatory breaks every fifteen to twenty minutes in cars that were running nearby between shot setups. After these problems were solved, the shoot ran much more smoothly, but all cast and crew that had to be there on this specific day had the coldest and most difficult time during that one day of production.

The last scene of the day was shot in Findlay, Ohio, which was thirty minutes from Tiffin, and this last scene - the party scene - was shot until midnight. After the hard day, the party scene was 'lightened up a bit' to give the actors an opportunity to perform some adlibbing in their scenes. Aaron and Sue performed a witty and funny scene,



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which was unfortunately not able to be edited into the film. Although all the actors performed well, only one adlibbed party scene made it into the movie. That ad-



libbed scene was performed by Josh Polak, Sora Kim-Johnson and Abigail Lopez.

The following day began early at seven a.m. and a trip to the Tiffin YMCA for a pool scene. One of the scenes involved Aaron getting drowned under water so the crew

brought an aquarium with them. Weights were placed in the bottom of the aquarium and a Sony digital camera was placed inside while the actors performed this scene. Several of these shots are favorites of the cast and crew.

The following weekends were also successful and included many night-for-day shots during scenes involving the son and father in 'Jonathon's' bedroom. Some additional scenes were filmed in Cleveland and Brunswick, Ohio. The last weekend of filming was in Tiffin and involved all of the counselor's



scenes. During these scenes, the cast and crew encountered problems of repeated power outages in the building, which made production run slower than scheduled. These shots in the counselor's office also included the paranormal twist ending. For these, D.P. James Cornelius employed different lighting techniques used from the rest of the film. This included lighting the model ships and walls, while still

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getting ample light on the face for a proper image. This scene also employed the use of different types of glares, fast and slow dolly shots, and some additional makeup constraints. The last weekend of filming occurred in mid-April of 2003 and then the crew quickly moved onto post-production.



The editors were Anthony Joy, Dave Thomas, and John Dolan, all of which worked long hours, importing and splicing the footage together.

Some scenes had so much coverage, it was hard to pick which shots to use. In the end, several scenes that were considered to look technically wonderful and fancy had to be dropped in favor of others that ultimately served and told the story in a more effective way. While editing, it was determined there were several sound related issues. Some were quickly resolved, while others were moved into an ADR file, and three scenes were sent to Chad Kapper of StoneKap Productions in Canton, Ohio. Once the editors received these files back, the scenes were much im-



proved and then the editors held an ADR session involving several of the cast members. These were then edited into the finished product. With less than two months to meet the deadline for film festivals, a rough cut was done and sent to Steven Treece, who had to compose the music in a relatively short time.

Steve, an avid composer and writer, composed the music himself. He also employed the work of his son, who is also a singer, to record some music for the film,

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"Attrition was finished for just under \$8,000 dollars. We were really pleased with that."

- DAVE THOMAS



along with several other members of the music community in Ohio.

Rough cuts were changing almost everyday and the Cedar Lee premiere was coming fast.

The last cut was edited on Saturday, a day before the screening. The premiere was held with a full house at Cedar Lee Theatre in Cleveland Heights, OH. During this showing, the editors and producers took notes of any additional issues with the film. A list of about ten distinct problems were determined and quickly resolved to complete the final cut of the debut film from Ardent Productions - 'Attrition.'

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DIRECTOR ANTHONY M. JOY

Anthony M. Joy began to experiment when he took a Video Production course at Brunswick High School. During this class, he created several news-style broadcasts, and quickly began to make short comedic films. Then in college at Tiffin University, Anthony was put in charge of handling a yearly Information Technology Presentation. In order to more effectively communicate technology concepts to others, he produced and directed some short videos of interviews and situations where he explained some high tech concepts to the crowd. Others began to look forward to these video presentations. Anthony also worked as an actor with the local community theater in a play, 'A Christmas Carol,' under the direction of Jeff Stockner. However, throughout this production, he was more involved watching what went on behind the scenes than in front of them.



Anthony attended a nine week Production and Directing class at the prestigious University of Southern California film school. While there, he was required to make four short five-minute

silent films. The class was modeled after one taken by George Lucas (Star Wars) and Robert Zemeckis (Back to the Future, Forrest Gump). Anthony was taught by Phillip Messina who has worked with Martin Scorsese and Penny Marshall among others in Hollywood. One short five minute film Anthony made at USC, titled 'Higher Education' was actually the premise for 'Attrition.'

Once back from USC, Anthony quickly started 'Ardent Productions.' Ardent created a test film entitled 'Enhanced TV,' where the cast and crew critiqued this film in order to determine strong and weak points. Ardent then produced a trailer, titled Tapestry, which was used to obtain funding for it and future projects. After Tapestry was shown, the same critique process was put into play. A few months later, Anthony, along with writer Daniel Boyd, penned the script 'Attrition,' and the rest is history. Anthony currently is writing and planning to direct several other Ardent Production's projects.

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STARRING AARON MCBRIDE

Aaron McBride auditioned for a role in 'Attrition' on December 1, 2002, at North Coast Central Casting. Aaron was mild mannered, but once the audition tape was reviewed, he had a great screen presence that couldn't be beaten by any of the other actors who auditioned. The casting director, Dave Thomas, called Aaron to offer him the role, and much to the delight of the crew, he accepted. It was not known until late in filming the amount of experience Aaron had in television and filmmaking.

Aaron is a main cast member and writer for the comedy troupe Last Call Cleveland, which originally started at Kent State University. Although Aaron is attempting to get the show on national television, it does appear on several local cable channels, and may soon appear on Cleveland's Channel 43. Aaron and his troupe are also seen on many WUAB "The Block" spots. Aaron has also made short films under the direction of James Renner for some Cleveland shorts. Aaron also assisted recording and edited the test screening of 'Souptnatural.'

Aaron's performance in 'Attrition' is undeniably remarkable. After almost every take or shot, Aaron would ask "Is that OK, do I need to change anything?" It's apparent Aaron has a strong personal involvement in the production and his dedication shows on screen.

Aaron is an extremely creative individual and writes and plays music as one of his hobbies. When asked about working with everyone on 'Attrition,' Aaron said "Everyone was extremely nice and fun to work with. They know exactly what they needed to get done and they made it look so easy." Look for Aaron in future Ardent projects as well as working with other filmmakers in the Cleveland area and beyond.



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DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES CORNELIUS

James Cornelius has vast experience in filmmaking and cinematography. James began building his knowledgebase when he attended a film school in downtown New York City. His first experience was using 16mm cameras where he had to create several shorts, all of which had to be completed within tight budgets and time frames. James also worked as the Director of Photography on a variety of other projects during his stay in New York. He began to experiment with some digital mediums before going back to Tiffin Ohio.



While in Tiffin, he began to write several short stories and pondered moving to Los Angeles California, but found Ardent Productions, where he was quickly enlisted as Director of Photography on 'Attrition.' James has a realistic and unique approach to lighting a scene. Although not having as much equipment as a Hollywood production, James's creativity in lighting scenes was shown almost immediately. Even

with white walls and cramped spaces, James used the most creative setups in order to obtain unique exposures during scenes. During the church dolly shot, James put a light on the track directly next to the cameraman, where as the dolly moved, the light would move in sync with the camera, and hence get exposure on the actors. The most creative lighting was in the counselors office, where the paranormal twist takes place. Here, glares were exposed on the walls, and shadows were created of the models ships on the walls next to the actors. As the movie moves towards the end, the lighting changes to more of a bluish tint, with a harder light on the actors face. This created a much different look then the standard lighting techniques used throughout the film. James is currently in the middle of directing his own project, titled 'The Inspector'.

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COMPOSER/EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVEN & SUSAN TREECE

The executive producers of 'Attrition,' Steven & Susan Treece, are one of Ardent's biggest assets, and a large part of 'Attrition's' success. Once the initial partnership was developed, Susan and Steve came aboard as Executive Producers on Ardent's first project, 'Tapestry.' Although only a trailer was made of Tapestry, the Treece's decided to help out Ardent Productions in a greater capacity. Once the 'Attrition' idea was released, the Treece's jumped on board as Executive Producers.

Steve Treece's background as a musical composer also came into play immediately. Steve has extensive experience in the music industry and he was soon signed on board to compose the music for 'Attrition.' Steve also produced and engineered the LaRocco album in 2002. Besides assisting and teaching music to others, he has written, performed, and produced his own album in 2003. Steve Treece has also played guitar and written songs for almost 40 years.



When asked what gave Steve the inspiration for the music in 'Attrition,' he said "Of course the film was the biggest inspiration, but I had recently watched an old TV mini-series of one of John Le Carre's famous spy novels (Smiley's People) and it featured a very stark string quartet type sound that enhanced the production, so I modeled the sound after that series."

Steve's most difficult scene to film had to be the classroom scene, which had many people talking and different angles. Sound was coming from different directions and was difficult to coordinate. Steve's favorite scene to film was the pool scene, where an aquarium was used and the microphone was placed in the aquarium. Steve Treece is releasing a soundtrack of his own work on 'Attrition,' and also intends to work on future productions from Ardent.

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EDITING, SPECIAL EFFECTS, & STUNTS



Attrition was shot on a Canon XL1-S and a Sony DVX1000 camera. The smooth shots in the movie consisted of a dolly and track constructed by the crew. A Glidecam was also used that had to be configured to allow for the placement of the XL1-S. Although the end result of Attrition would be 16:9, the piece was shot at 4:3 in order to achieve maximum lines of resolution. 'Attrition' was edited on Adobe Premiere 6.5 on a Dell Precision 360 workstation. With the footage imported, two differ-

ent looks were desired - one for the flashbacks/forwards, and one for the counselor's scenes. As such, a film-look filter, color correction and contrast changes were added to the flashbacks/forwards, while the counselors scenes went relatively untouched to maintain a digital feel.

Some special effects were also used, which included a gun shot to an individual's head. A blood recipe was used along with an air compressor to flow the blood from the back of the person's skull to an outer surface. Another special effect incorporated the use of an underwater shot as bullies are attempting to drown the main character Jonathon. An aquarium with weights was used to achieve this phenomenal shot.



Safety on the set of 'Attrition' was a major factor during production. To learn how to safely fall, punch, and kick, the actors were trained under the direction of Ray Szuch and Andy Schofield. During stunt training, the D.P., Assistant Director, and Director observed for the best angles and to determine any changes to the fight sequence. The stunt training helped out considerably as there were no accidents or injuries during filming.

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ARDENT PRODUCTIONS

Upon his return from the prestigious Film Direction and Production program at the University of Southern California in the summer of 2001, Anthony M. Joy founded Ardent Productions. He began to create several short films and then enlisted others to assist him in this venture. The first two individuals were Dave Thomas and Joseph Amschlenger who quickly brought to the table a considerable amount of knowledge in business and filmmaking. During the summer of 2002, Ardent Productions enlisted another individual named John Dolan, who became responsible for financing and accounting of the firm. At this time, Ardent shot a digital trailer entitled 'Tapestry,' and soon began to collaborate with others in the Cleveland area. In November of 2002, Ardent Productions became officially incorporated in the state of Ohio, with the four of them making up the executive team. Ardent Productions is now partnering with individuals and media companies from Cleveland to Chicago to New York and is also currently expanding its video service business.

Ardent Productions assists independent filmmakers in designing and producing their own film works. Ardent is based in Tiffin, Ohio, and serves independent filmmakers everywhere. Current collaborative efforts include independent filmmakers in California, New York, and Ohio. Ardent is currently finding writers, directors, actors, and other talented individuals who are interested in independent filmmaking. Based on innovation, a passionate drive to succeed, and a diverse management background, Ardent Productions looks forward to collaborating with independent filmmakers and creating strategic alliances within the industry. More information on Ardent in its totality can be found at www.ardentonline.com.



Anthony M. Joy
President



Dave D. Thomas
VP, Business



Joseph Amschlenger
VP, Sales



John Dolan
VP, Finance

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FULL PRODUCTION CREDITTS

Directed by	Anthony M. Joy
Screenplay by	Daniel Boyd & Anthony M. Joy
Executive Producers	Steven & Susan Treece Tony & Victoria Joy
Produced by	John Dolan
Produced by	Joseph Amschlinger & Dave Thomas
Director of Photography	James Cornelius
Jonathon	Aaron McBride
Older Jonathon	Ted Wodoslawsky
Brian	Nick Radu
Eric	Brian Kubach
Mike	James Mincey
Jenny	Susan Dziama
Father	Pat Carney
Mother	Kim Hendrickson
Stacey	Sora Kim-Johnson
Thug	Josh Polak
Teacher 1	James Dickens
Teacher 2	Ubu Zurab
Natalie	Ryan-Marie Carney
Carrie	Tracy DeForde
Samantha	Abigail Lopez
Gym Teacher	Darby Roggow
Priest	Bill Fletcher
Teacher 3	Joseph Amschlinger
Nerd 1	Michael Wos
Nerd 2	Tyler Merry
Natalie's Mother	Jennifer J. Inks
Natalie's Father	Richard Covell
Samantha's Mom	Christina Distel
Samantha's Dad	Urb Schelk
Mike's Father	Michael Schoeppner
Mike's Mother	Janet Frankforther
Brian's Mom	Kay Derr
Brian's Father	Andy Schofield
Jenny's Father	Lewis Derr
Jonathon's Wife	Melanie Hauer
Stunt Coordinators	North Coast Central Stunts Ray Szuch Andy Schofield

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Special Effects	Leonard Reaves III Steven Treece
Assistant Director	Dave Thomas
Camera Operator Glidecam Operator	Jason Viaipano Jason Viapiano
Head Makeup/Hair Artist Asst. Makeup/Hair Artist Wardrobe	Lauren Scheiber Erin Linehan Lauren Scheiber
Boom Operator	Jeff Sealey
Gaffer	John Dolan Mitchell Treece
Dolly Grip	Jeff Sealey John Dolan
Key Grip	Mitchell Treece Joseph Amschlinger
Accountant	John Dolan
Publicist	Dave Thomas
Sound Technician	Steve Treece Alex Treece Mitchell Treece
Food Services	Victoria & Tony Joy Susan & Steven Treece
Casting by	North Coast Central Casting
Casting Directors	Dave Thomas Joseph Amschlinger
'Attrition' Theme Music	Written & Performed By Steve Treece

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Funeral Theme Written & Performed
By Chad Perkins

Darker Days Written & Performed
By David LaRocco

Adobe Premiere Editors Anthony Joy
Dave Thomas
John Dolan

Edited at Ardent Productions
Editing Suites

Additional Editing by StoneKap Productions
Canton, Ohio

Lens & Cameras by Canon

Filmed on location at Tiffin, Ohio
Cleveland, Ohio
Brunswick, Ohio
Findlay, Ohio

Story by Anthony M. Joy

Screenplay by Daniel Boyd
Anthony M. Joy

Extras

Jody Boyles
Amy Meadows
Elizabeth McDuffe
Lindsey Darnell
Rebecca Howe
Sarah Witt
Christine Demin

ATTRITION

Amanda Smith
Amanda Newhall
Sarah Warsing
Becky Montgomery
Natalie Thurston
Lindsey Darnell
Megan Arthur
Jamie Bickel
Shannon Deardurff
Patrick Volpe
Jelani Connally
Liz McDuffie
Dave Thomas
Sarah Dasher
Lauren Scheiber
Erin Linehan
Emilio Medina
Daniel Boyd
Hope Wells

Special Thanks To

Chad Kapper
Susan Treece
Jennifer Enks
Matt Glick
Alex Treece
Kathy Peltier
Michael Wos
Brian Smith
Jeff Stockner
Mike Perzel
Dave Shurmer

American Image
StoneKap Productions
Columbia High School
North Coast Central Casting
Pioneer Mill and Tinkers Dam
Ritz Theater
Tiffin Developmental Center
Tiffin Parks and Recreation Department
Tiffin University
YMCA of Tiffin

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