

*Willing Suspension Films presents*

# *EULOGY FOR A VAMPIRE*

*106 MINUTES, COLOR, 2009, ENGLISH, 35MM, 1:1.77 SCREEN RATIO*

*SCREENPLAY BY ANDRÉ SALAS*

*PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY PATRICK MCGUINN*

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## LOGLINE

A remote rural monastery is overtaken by a mysterious drifter.

## SYNOPSIS

A remote rural monastery inhabited by the monks of the mysterious Order of Pathicus is the site of a heinous murder, committed by a young novice, Anthony, upon another young novice, Florian, when his affections and sexual desires are not reciprocated. Flash forward twenty-five years – Father Anthony, now the head priest of the monastery, has maintained the secret of the murder, and the hiding place of Florian’s corpse. But all is not well: animal eviscerations, strange sounds in the night, and the presence of a strange “phantom goat” in the dark corridors forebode an evil presence. Add to this, the handsome young drifter, Sebastian who is found unconscious near the monastery. His strong sexual presence unsettles the young novices as well as the other resident priest, Father Lars. One by one, each of the monks unravel by their own obsession with the young man. All but Rafael, who resists the temptations set before him, and escapes the crumbling monastery by the film’s end. Rafael discovers that Sebastian is possessed by the evil spirit of Florian, in order to avenge Florian’s death at the hands of Anthony over two decades ago.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Producer/Director Patrick McGuinn (*Sun Kissed*) teams up with screenwriter André Salas (*Latin Boys Go To Hell*) in this exciting and strange homage to genre classics *Dark Shadows*, Hammer Films of the 1960’s, and Italian 1970’s *giallo* horror films. With the rich cinematography of Nickolas Dylan Rossi (*Sun Kissed*), and a cast of gifted new-comers, McGuinn and Salas deliver a film that is powerful in its supernatural evocations, percolating with a distinctive sexual pulse and a menacing tone, while paying tribute to great horror classics.

Developed as a sequel to a previously-written screenplay by Salas, *Vampire in a Boys’ Dormitory*, McGuinn saw potential in reducing the cast and location scale of that project, re-designing the story with a more remote setting and supernatural influences. Cast with members of the New York independent theatre community, the film boasts some unusual and taut performances.

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **Wilson Hand as FATHER ANTHONY**

Wilson Hand has appeared in John Guare's *The House of Blue Leaves* and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Arrowhead Repertory Theatre in Nantucket, Massachusetts. He also appeared in Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party* and Frank Wedekind's *Spring Awakening* at Princeton University. Wilson studied film production at USC Film School and lives in New York City.

### **David McWeeney as FATHER LARS**

A handful of events in David's younger life helped to prepare him for the role of Father Lars. In no particular order, a few are listed here:

- From the age of fourteen to seventeen, David attended an elite boarding school for Catholic boys that was founded and run by an order of Benedictine monks.
- Starting at the tender age of fifteen, David was recruited by a bible cult that would preoccupy his life for the next five years.
- Much to his astonishment, at the not so tender age of twenty-four, David was cast (in the lead role) of an all-male play, performed by the senior acting company at SUNY College at Purchase. The play, *Billy Budd*, was adapted from the last story ever written by Herman Melville.
- The author, Herman Melville, and David share the same birthday, August 1st.

### **Damacio Ruiz as RAFAEL**

Damacio trained with the San Francisco Mime Troupe, and later joined the avant-garde group Hardcore Thrush. After two successful years of subversive musical theatre and co-producing Thrush TV, a collaborative video project, Damacio relocated to New York City where he has performed in many short films and independent features.

### **Angelo Tursi as SEBASTIAN**

Angelo Tursi is a composer, musician, artist, and former fashion designer living in Brooklyn, NY. He has performed his music in venues large and small across the USA. He makes his acting debut in *Eulogy for a Vampire*.

### **Ryan G. Metzger as FLORIAN**

Ryan is very active in the New York indie theatre scene, having appeared in numerous venues around the city. Some of his stage credits include the title role in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and Frank-n-Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show*. He is also the lead vocalist for the symphonic power metal band Aspire, who are currently recording their third studio album. [www.RyanMetzger.com](http://www.RyanMetzger.com)

### **Craig Philip Lumsden as ERIC**

Craig, a Texas native, has studied acting at HB Studio, and comedy improvisation at Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre. He has appeared in several independent and student films as well as theatre productions. Within the past decade he has developed several theatrical "personalities" to entertain the New York nightlife crowd.

### **Darin Guerrasio as BROTHER MATTHEW**

A native of Stamford, Connecticut, Darin has had the opportunity to work with several New York-based Theatre Companies such as Algonquin Theatre, The Workshop Theater Company, Shotgun Productions, White Plains Performing Arts Center, and Edge Theater Company. His Film credits include: *The J Line to Riches*, *Halloween Face*, *The Corporate Knobs*, and the upcoming short film, "*Bullsh\*t*". Visit Darin's website: [www.DarinGuerrasio.com](http://www.DarinGuerrasio.com)

### **Nate Steinwachs as STEFANO**

Nate is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. He has performed in off-off Broadway theatre and is a figure model at the School of Visual Arts. He can be seen in the *Heaven* web series pilot as Adolf Hitler, viewable at <http://mediaatlarge.net/heaven.php>

### **Shawn Hollenbach as McGee**

Shawn is a New York-based stand-up comedian. He's the host of **here! TV's** *Busted*, featured on **here! TV's** *Hot Gay Comics Live* and the producer of *Closet Cases*, a Critics' Pick from Time Out New York. He's also in *Second Guessing Grandma* with Kathleen Chalfont directed by Bob Giraldi.

### **Sal Bardo as YOUNG ANTHONY**

Sal Bardo is an actor, musician and writer from New York City. He studied music at NYU and acting at Herbert Berghof Studio. Sal's recent credits include the premiere of *A Grave for Sister Agatha* at the American Theatre of Actors and the upcoming independent feature *Motel Americana*.

## **ABOUT THE SCREENWRITER**

André Salas is a Brooklyn-born writer/filmmaker based in the NYC area. His first script, *Latin Boys Go To Hell* (based on his novel of the same name) became a hit feature film for Strand Releasing, finding fans both in the U.S. and Europe. Since then, he has continued writing bizarre hybrids that pay homage to cult, erotic and horror cinema, playing with preconceptions of genre storytelling. His directorial debut, the short film *Vampiras*, debuted in the Berlinale's Panaroma section in 2007.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*Eulogy for a Vampire* is a tragic tale of unrequited love leading to destructive consequences. Conformity, corruption and repression are explored within the monastic context. I've long had an admiration for men of the cloth, but have also had an aversion to the high level of sadism wielded by superiors to novices within this hierarchic structure. It's my hope that this supernatural tale reveals the crushed idealism of these lost souls and their diminished, fading world.

From a technical standpoint, I wanted to visualize André's screenplay with the tools of vintage cinema: grainy, faded 16mm color film stock, black & white super-8mm and Kodachrome film stocks. Fuji 500 film stocks were used predominantly for the narrative portion of the story – drawing visual inspiration from such classic horror films as *The Exorcist*, *Rosemary's Baby*, and *The Sentinel*.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Patrick McGuinn was born in Los Angeles in 1966. He began making super-8mm films at age nine. After studying production at NYU Film School, he worked as an assistant film editor on PBS documentaries, and later branched out into independent filmmaking.

## FILMOGRAPHY

2009	<i>EULOGY FOR A VAMPIRE</i> , 35mm, 106 minutes
2007	<i>PINK SHIRT</i> , Super-8mm on video, 4 minutes
2006	<i>SUN KISSED</i> , 35mm, 92 minutes
2005	<i>PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS</i> , Video, 61 min.
2003	<i>SPERM WHALE</i> , 35mm & 16mm, 8 min.
2002	<i>BABY BLUE</i> , 35mm & 16mm, 7 min.
2001	<i>SODA POP</i> , 16mm, 7 min.
1999	<i>KILL ME TOMORROW</i> , 35mm, 80 min.
1997	<i>SPF 2000</i> , 16mm, 10 min.
1996	<i>SUROH: ALIEN HITCHHIKER</i> , Video, 74 min.
1994	<i>DESERT SPIRITS</i> , 16mm, 35 min.
1990	<i>SAY THANK YOU, PLEASE</i> , 16mm, 7 min.
1989	<i>WHEN THE OWLING HAS COME</i> , 16mm, 6 min.
1988	<i>AGNES KEEDAN'S SECRET PLAN</i> , 16mm, 13 min.
1986	<i>TERRENCE BAUM</i> , 16mm, 5 min.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY URL

[www.myspace.com/willingsuspensionfilms](http://www.myspace.com/willingsuspensionfilms)

## MOVIE URL

[WWW.EULOGYforaVAMPIRE.COM](http://WWW.EULOGYforaVAMPIRE.COM)

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

## CAST

Wilson Hand	...	FATHER ANTHONY
David McWeeney	...	FATHER LARS
Damacio Ruiz	...	RAFAEL
Angelo Tursi	...	SEBASTIAN
Ryan G. Metzger	...	FLORIAN
Craig Philip Lumsden	...	ERIC
Darin Guerrasio	...	BROTHER MATTHEW
Nate Steinwachs	...	STEFANO
Sal Bardo	...	YOUNG ANTHONY
Shawn Hollenbach	...	MR. McGEE

## CREW

Producer/Director	Patrick McGuinn
Executive Producer	Peter Perrone
Screenwriter	André Salas
1st AD/Continuity	Robert Ziegler
2 <sup>nd</sup> AD/FX Liaison	BC Furtney
Cinematography	Nickolas Dylan Rossi
Assistant Camera	Nick Morr
Lighting/Grip	Tim O'Connor
Sound Mixer	Charles Mead
Art Direction	Susan Morningstar
Visual Effects	Jesse LeChok

Special Effects Makeup

Sam Kingcaid

Thematic Music

Christian Hawkins

Production Assistance

David Brown, Jonathan Lees

Film Processing

Technicolor, New York

Negative Matching

World Cinevision Services

Sound Mix

Soma Studios, Chicago

35mm Blow-Up

Metropolis Labs, NYC

Title Services

Sal Mallimo

End Credit Song "*The Evidence Remains*"  
Composed and Performed by  
David Brown

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Eleanor Ambos  
Michael Balabuch  
Anthony Chapman  
James Cronk  
Sam Daley  
Vefa Erdem  
Jeremy Hinsdale  
Ron Hunt  
Deborah Kroll  
Serena Kuo  
Wildermania  
Sanjin Sabljak

Eric Luszcz  
Jonathan Lees  
Laura Martin  
Graciano Nunez  
John Ort  
Dan Pane  
Ruth Pinsky  
Eliza Roberto  
Dolores Tickner  
Joey Violante  
C.P. Voigt  
David J. Turan

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