

SCARED NEW WORLD

Presskit

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The Reviews are coming in:

“Solidly in the tradition of pioneer indie pics like Cassavetes' "Shadows" . . . fests looking to showcase new Amerindie talent should take note.” -- **Dennis Harvey**, **Variety**

“yahn soon . . . in cahoots with director and cinematographer Chris Brown have come up with a charming 82 minutes of insight . . . If you agree with me that movies depend on pictures to be a true art form, remember these names. Expanded, their funds will produce masterpieces.” -- **John Stackpole**, **audiencemag.com**

Film Festivals to Date:

Cinequest Film Festival 2006

Omaha Film Festival

Film Arts Festival 2005

Mill Valley Film Festival 2005

John Balquist Productions
In association with Filmsight Productions
Presents

SCARED NEW WORLD

Directed by
Chris Brown

Starring
Lena Zee
yahn soon
Fanny Ara-Herms

Running Time: 80 Minutes

Contact information
yahn soon
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<http://www.scarednewworld.com>

About the Production

The challenge in making “Scared New World” came in the form of what we had to work with.

We had:

A 100-page script

\$5,000

A 10-day shooting schedule

The solution was to feign ignorance and eschew moviemaking rules. Wedding videography paid for most of our meals. **No credit cards were harmed in the production of this movie.** No tripods were panned or tilted. Everybody got along, even if they didn’t always see eye to eye. For the final scenes that were shot in the Sonoma hills, yahn soon had to call the sister-in-law of an ex-girlfriend whom he hadn’t talked to in 3 years to see if he could shoot the scenes there. Luckily she remembered him, and gave him the thumbs up.

Lastly, yahn soon’s wait for word of a world premiere finally came from the offices of the Mill Valley Film Festival on August 11, 2005 – the very day he was getting married. It turned out to be the best wedding present he could have received.

Credits

CAST

Lena Zee Alma
yahn soon Vargas
Fanny Ara-Herms Penny
Zachary Schramm Ricky
Harriet Schiffer-Scott Patricia
Josh Millican Jones
Meng Wei Terence
Charlyn Johnson Angela

CREW

Director Chris Brown
Production Company John Balquist Productions
Producer yahn soon
Screenplay yahn soon
Cinematographer Chris Brown
Editor yahn soon
Sound Kiyash Monsef
Music Kitundu

SYNOPSIS

LOGLINE

When will your world collapse?

125-WORD SYNOPSIS.

Alma, a pot-dealing single mother, coasts through each day with little care and motivation until she meets a cancer patient in need of medical marijuana. Vargas, her roommate and friend for over a decade, works intensely in his room on a literary project that no one has seen and that in his words will 'change literature as we know it.' Moving into their Oakland apartment is Penny, a 19-year-old French foreign exchange student, in love with California and on her own for the first time. Embracing newfound freedoms, she explores her sexuality through two separate relationships -- one with a man, the other with a woman. 'Scared New World' is the story of three people on the cusp of taking their lives into uncomfortable directions.

250-WORD SYNOPSIS.

Alma, 25, is a pot dealer with an 8-year-old son, coasting through each day with little care and motivation. Vargas, her roommate and friend for over a decade, works intensely in his room on a literary project that no one has seen and that in his words will 'change literature as we know it.' He is waiting on news of a grant that would pay him \$40,000 over two years. Moving into their Oakland apartment is Penny, a 19-year-old French foreign exchange student, in love with California and on her own for the first time. Embracing newfound freedoms, she explores her sexuality through two separate relationships -- one with a man, the other with a woman.

Things change for Alma when Patricia, a cancer patient, shows up at her door in need of medical marijuana. Alma offers medicine in exchange for babysitting services, and an initial reluctance on her part turns into friendship as the two women begin to rely on each other. When she decides to try and grow pot on a larger scale, the only space she knows of is a bit of land in the hills of Sonoma that her estranged father is about to lose due to back taxes.

'Scared New World' is the story of three people on the cusp of taking their lives into uncomfortable directions.

About the Director

Chris Brown is a San Francisco independent filmmaker whose award-winning work has screened on television and in festivals nationally and abroad. A fourth-generation Bay Area native, Chris's films have been compared to the works of John Cassavetes and Mike Leigh. His most recent film, *Battleship Contempkin*, won a Bronze Remy at the 2002 WorldFest Houston International Film Festival. Of this short film, *Film Threat* magazine wrote, "Gorgeous . . . you should check this film out if at all possible."

Selected Filmography

Daughters (Color, 75 min., wr: C. Brown) A woman questions her purpose on the eve of her 50th birthday.

Lost Cat (BxW, 27min., wr: C. Brown) A young black woman questions her marriage to a white man.

- *Most Promising Filmmaker -- Ann Arbor Film Festival*
- *Best Drama -- North Carolina International Film Festival*
- *Best Narrative -- Atlanta Image Film and Video Festival*
- *Most Promising Filmmaker -- Cincinnati Film Festival*
- *Honorable Mention -- Philadelphia International Film Fest*

Roof (BxW, 28 min., co-dir. Dan Gutman) Short narrative based on a story by Doris Lessing

Battleship Contempkin (4 min., wr. Jonathan Drees) A rainy day. An empty room. A man. A woman. A game by Milton Bradley.

- *Bronze Remy Award -- Houston International Film Festival*
- *Best Adaptation -- Digital Visions Film Festival*
- *Best of Fest -- Empire State Film Festival*
- *Best of Fest -- Newport Beach Film Festival*

Office Furniture (16mm, 10 min., wr. Rebecca Salzer) Experimental dance film about a woman job-hunting in San Francisco's financial district

- *Golden Gate Award -- San Francisco International Film Festival*

About the Cast

Lena Zee (ALMA) -- Lena Zee's interest in theatre arts began at the age of 13. Talented in many disciplines, Zee also holds a Bachelors degree from the University of California at Davis in Economics and Biological Sciences. Her background includes several film and television performances, most notably as Isobel, the protagonist in the groundbreaking television pilot **Gunpowder**, and as Karla in **Mango Kiss**, which recently showed in the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

yahn soon (VARGAS) -- yahn soon, a Bay Area native, has been writing all his life. He has had several leading roles in independent features, and was part of an acting ensemble that won the award for Best Screenplay at the Figuero de Foz Film Festival in 2000 -- the entire movie had been improvised.

Fanny Ara-Herms (PENNY) -- Fanny Ara-Herms hails from St. Jean de Luz in the French Basque country. After graduating in Music from the Bayonne School of Art, Fanny travelled to Sevilla, Spain to study flamenco dance. She moved to the United States and quickly immersed herself in the Bay Area dance scene, forming an avant-garde flamenco dance troupe and teaching dance as well. This is her first foray into film.

Zachary Schramm (RICKY) -- Zachary Schramm has spent the last three years falling in love with the craft of acting. At the ripe old age of 11, he has completed 9 independent film projects and 10 theatre productions. His film credits include roles in **Letters** (Industrial Light & Magic), **Flow** (Ken Rosenthal), **The Next Movie** (Lee Miller), and **Asphalt Wars** (New Concorde Films). Zachary is in the 7th grade.

Harriet Schiffer-Scott (PATRICIA) -- Harriet Schiffer-Scott is known to many in the San Francisco Bay Area for her work as a director, writer and theater artist. She was the Artistic Director of Lilith Theater. She has toured her one-woman shows across the United States and Europe throughout her twenty-five year performance career.

About the Writer / Producer

yahn soon, a Bay Area native, has been writing all his life. A graduate of the Creative Writing Program at UC-Santa Cruz in 1995, he has had several leading roles in independent features, and was part of an acting ensemble that won a Special Jury Prize at the Figuero de Foz Film Festival in 2000. The award was given for excellence in writing, even though the entire film had been improvised. *Scared New World* is yahn's second feature that he has written, produced and edited. While he's away from the camera, yahn is a teacher at the Children's Learning Center in Alameda. CLC is a non-profit public school that specializes in children who are emotionally disturbed or have learning disabilities.

Selected Filmography

Learning to Crawl (BxW, 85 mins.) Wandering bookworm drives to Colorado and meets idealistic muse along the way. (yahn soon -- writer, producer, editor)

Lonelines is Soul (Color, 80 mins., dir. Rick Schmidt) Itinerant musician crashes on the couch of two friends and alters the lives of those around him.
(yahn soon -- actor)

Sun and Moon (Color, 80 mins., dir. Rick Schmidt) A man impersonates a new tenant, gaining access to an apartment that's not his, and encounters odd neighbors who think he's "David." (yahn soon -- actor)

About the Composer

Kitundu is a, sound/visual artist, graphic designer, composer and instrument builder. He uses an interdisciplinary approach to develop compositions-installations-instruments that blur the boundaries between media. He has constructed elemental turntables that rely on wood, water, fire and earthquakes for their power and pitch. Kitundu is the creator of a family of Phonoharps, beautifully crafted multi-stringed instruments made from record players. He strives to reconnect the technology of new music to fundamental principles drawn from the natural world.

Kitundu has an ongoing residency at the Exploratorium Museum of science, art and perception in San Francisco. He has recently been in residence at Eagle Rock School in Colorado, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and the Singapore Science Centre. Kitundu is also developing a Geologic Sound Casting project for volcanically active regions and was granted a five week artist residency at Skriduklaustur in Eastern Iceland in September 2004. He was raised in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.