

SOLIFILM PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A SOLIFILM PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH REDLEG FILMS PRODUCTION KYLE PATRICK "SUBSURFACE"
PRODUCED BY KYLE PATRICK J. MICHAEL WRIGHT HARRY BELDEN PATRICK BRESNAHAN JOSHUA SCHILLING EDITED BY DANIEL JOHN HARRIS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER KYLE PATRICK MUSIC BY LESLIE WICKHAM VISUAL EFFECTS DEVON FORD SOUND DESIGN PATRICK IGNATIUK DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS MURPHY
PRODUCTION DESIGNER WILLIAM BOLES WRITTEN BY KYLE PATRICK DIRECTED BY DANIEL JOHN HARRIS

"A HAUNTING
FILM EXPERIENCE"
HEADLINER CHICAGO

"A SLICK
SHORT FILM"
GROSS MOVIE REVIEWS



A SOLIFILM PRODUCTIONS PICTURE

SUBSURFACE

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LOGLINE, SYNOPSES, & TRAILER

LOGLINE

Trapped and alone, a young man must confront the pain he's endured when he finds himself face-to-face with consequence.

SYNOPSES

Short

Finding himself bound, alone, and desperate to escape the waking nightmare surrounding him, Jared is forced to confront himself on an otherwise perfectly normal day.

Medium

Awaking to find himself bound and alone, Jared desperately struggles to escape from the waking nightmare surrounding him. Discovering home lies merely on the other side of a wall, he attempts to break free; quickly realizing escape may not be so simple, Jared is forced to confront himself and the pain he's endured on an otherwise perfectly normal day.

Long

When Jared awakens to find himself bound and alone, he desperately tries to find an escape from the waking nightmare surrounding him. Having no guide but himself, Jared soon discovers that home lies merely on the other side of a wall. However, when his attempt to break through proves unsuccessful, he quickly realizes escape may not be quite so simple, Panicking as freedom vanishes before his very eyes, Jared is forced to confront himself and the pain he's endured on an otherwise perfectly normal day.

TRAILER

<https://www.solifilm.com/subsurfacetrailer>



ABOUT THE PROJECT

"Subsurface," first and foremost, is carefully constructed to bring attention to the topic of mental health; it does this by specifically focusing on what mental illness **feels** like, rather than what it **is**, a strategy that makes an intangible concept more visceral for its viewers. To accomplish this, the primary setting of the film is also constructed to function as the primary antagonist. By fusing the antagonist with the most visually present component of the piece, viewers are forced to experience the emotions, thoughts, and confusion alongside its protagonist rather than simply observing them.

To ground the film, "Subsurface" utilizes a stark juxtaposition of setting to contrast tone, color, and mood -- this quickly pulls us out of the metaphorical, antagonistic space and into a world more identifiable to the viewer. By doing this, "Subsurface" demonstrates to its viewers the public and private faces of mental illness, as well as just how closely (and often silently) intertwined those are.



FILMMAKERS' STATEMENTS



DANIEL JOHN HARRIS

(DIRECTOR)

When making a film that is experimental in nature, one must walk a fine line between effectively communicating the message of that film, and beating your audience over the head with it. Tie the line to loose, and it will unravel. Too tight, and it will snap. That is to say, not communicating enough will leave an audience scratching their heads. Too much, and they'll be rolling their eyes. Whether or not I've successfully walked that fine line, or which side of the line I landed on, will ultimately not be for me to judge.

But if I'm going to falter as a filmmaker, I'd much rather leave the majority of the audience confused. I find it to be the lesser of evils, and ultimately will lead to the goal of this movie: discussion. Because, after all, it is discussion that is the first step when dealing with depression or mental illness. Whether it be with a friend, a therapist, or even with yourself, just talking can open a door. If four friends see this short and three of them say, "I don't get it," but the fourth says, "it's about depression," I would hope that the next question asked is, "how do you know?"
(cont.)



KYLE PATRICK

(WRITER / KEY PRODUCER)

"With data indicating that suicide rates are at their highest since 1942 (an issue only further exacerbated by the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic), the prevalence of mental illness is staggering, and the reluctance to discuss the subject is incredibly dangerous. Though the current research and statistics on mental illness certainly fueled my belief in this story's importance, it was ultimately my own mental health journey that inspired 'Subsurface' (a piece I have frequently called a 'love letter to my mental health'). Adapted from my personal journals, this story was born of scribbles, notes, and inconsequential reminders I wrote to myself, a collection of letters gently strung together to fashion a vulnerable narrative. Vulnerability is, after all, this film's greatest ally.

While writing, I strove to push the viewer to navigate the experience alongside the protagonist – to force the audience to engage through the more unified lens of empathy, rather than mere sympathy. I wrote 'Subsurface' to show the experience – the emotions – behind mental illness, rather
(cont.)

FILMMAKERS' STATEMENTS (CONT.)



If this only happens once, mission accomplished. Just one person, one discussion, one step is enough. I can't ask for more.



than trying to explain it. Primarily, I achieved this by constructing two different contrasting 'worlds': one which exists exclusively in the protagonist's mind, and another which exists in the realm of reality. Given the former is influenced by the latter, creating a relationship of disjointedness without complete disconnectedness was delicate. I knew that the connected but contrasting relationship between these realms would be heavily reliant on the skills of the rest of the team – an accomplishment artfully achieved with incredible collaboration and mutual trust.

'Subsurface' is, at its core, a story of pain. A story of humanity and of the harsh honesty that lies below its surface. A story of the specters plaguing the deepest recesses of our souls until they've outgrown the corners to which we've confined them. It is the story of your best friend quietly suffering from depression, of your grandfather enduring post-traumatic stress disorder, of your sister who tragically lost to what no one imagined raged inside her, or of your partner's debilitating anxiety and all the dreams lost to it. It is the story of your neighbor, your co-worker, your cousins, lovers long forgotten, and strangers unencountered.

'Subsurface' is certainly my story; it may, perhaps, even be yours."

PRINCIPAL CREW BIOS



DANIEL JOHN HARRIS  
(DIRECTOR)

Daniel John Harris is an award-winning filmmaker and co-founder of Redleg Films. After serving six years as an artilleryman with the IL Army National Guard, he traded his cannon for a Canon to begin his career as a filmmaker and photographer.

To see more of his work, visit <https://danieljohnharris.com>



KYLE PATRICK    
(EXECUTIVE PRODUCER / PRODUCER / WRITER)

As an award-winning actor, Kyle Patrick founded SoliFilm Productions so he could develop his skills across the filmmaking gamut. Having an extensive background in scientific research and analysis, his expertise facilitates the production process both creatively and logistically. With over a decade's worth of experience in the arts (with recent credits in projects like YOU'RE OUT! [Stay The Course Productions], CHICAGO MED [NBC], as well as THE BOYS IN THE BAND [Windy City Playhouse]),

Kyle leverages a multi-disciplinary approach to his work, perfectly suited for work in film production. To see his upcoming production work, access www.solifilm.com.



CHRIS MURPHY  
(DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

BIO COMING SOON!

PRINCIPAL CREW BIOS (CONT.)

WILLIAM BOLES (PRODUCTION DESIGNER)

William Boles is a multidisciplinary artist based in Chicago whose work bridges Scenic Design and Landscape Architecture. In 2020 William founded The Future Future Parks, a studio that designs parks on abandoned lots engaging a conversation about co-defined safe space in communities across America. As a Scenic Designer in Theater, Opera and Film, William's work has been seen on Broadway and Regional Theaters and he continually engages young designers with the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. William's work often engages a story of transformation and reconciliation through imagination. William has a BFA in Theater Design and Technology from The University of Central Florida, an MFA in Stage Design from Northwestern University and is an adjunct faculty member at Depaul University. William is represented by Abrams Artists Agency. See his work at: <https://wbdesigns.carbonmade.com>



LESLIE WICKHAM (COMPOSER)

Leslie is a pianist, composer, and music director, holding an M.F.A. in Music Direction from UC Irvine. Recent composition work – “Tartuffe” at Chapman University, “Silent Sky” at UC Irvine, “Love’s Best Habit” (independent short), and “Canvases” (self-released EP). Theater credits include “Bunkerville” by Mark Sonnenblick (assoc.), “Homegrown - A Cabaret Project” (PCPA), “A Little Night Music” (PCPA), as well as “Hair” (Heights Players). Current: Keyboards on Anastasia National Tour.



PATRICK IGNATIUK (SOUND DESIGNER)

Patrick Ignatiuk is an audio editor, sound designer, music composer, and all things audio enthusiast. For the past few years he has worked at the legendary Chicago Recording Company as well as a freelancer. He's had the privilege of working with Grammy nominated recording artists, household name brands, and some of the most creative individuals in the entertainment industry. He has always had a true passion for audio and it drives him to craft high end projects.



CAST BIOS



KYLE PATRICK    
(JARED)

An award-winning actor, Kyle Patrick is credited with projects such as: **Film/TV:** YOU'RE OUT! (Stay the Course Productions), LACY'S CHRISTMAS DO-OVER (Atomic Imaging, Inc.), A BENNETT SONG HOLIDAY (Painted Creek Productions), Chicago Med (NBC); et cetera. **Theatre:** SONS OF HOLLYWOOD and THE BOYS IN THE BAND (Windy City Playhouse), A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre), NOW OR LATER (Intrinsic Theatre Company), INTO THE WOODS (Stagecrafter's), ANTIGONE (The Barbican / Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg), DUNSINANE (The National Theatre of Scotland / Royal Shakespeare Company); et cetera. For more info, visit <https://kylepatrickacting.wixsite.com/website> or find him on social media!



JORDAN ARRASMITH   
(CALEB)

Jordan is a Chicago-based actor from the small town of Paris, IL. Following his training at Columbia College Chicago, Jordan has performed in MAMMA MIA (Titusville Playhouse), NEWSIES (Skylight Music Theatre), WEST SIDE STORY (South Bend Civic Theatre), GHOST: THE MUSICAL (Winnepesaukee Playhouse), and others. Jordan is grateful for the chance to be a part of "Subsurface" and its message. For more of Jordan's work, access his website or social media pages.



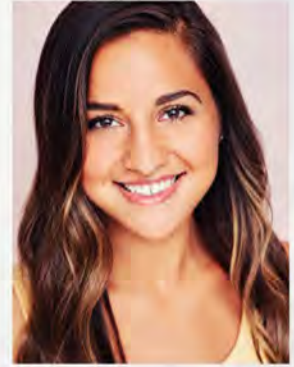
MARVIN MALONE II  
(AARON)

Marvin is an actor originally from Cleveland, Ohio and currently located in Chicago, Illinois. Trained at Columbia College Chicago, he received his BFA in Musical Theatre & Business. Marvin has been seen on EMPIRE (FOX), and will be a part of the cast of 61ST STREET (AMC), in the spring of 2022. Other favorite credits include 1968: A MUSICAL FILM, as well as UPSTAIRS: THE WEBSERIES. Marvin is incredibly proud to be a part of "Subsurface" and its powerful message. He continually sends his love to his parents and agents (DDO Artists Agency) for their unending support. For more of Marvin's work, visit his website at www.MarvinMalone.com or his Instagram (@MarvinMaloneii).

CAST BIOS (CONT.)

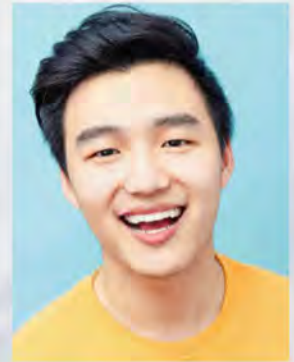
 **ERICA MENDEZ**
(LEXI)

Erica Mendez is a classically trained actor currently acting for a new Amazon Prime film, *THE GRAY GIRL*. Some of her more recent credits include the film *DELIVER ME* and the stage production *LETTER'S HOME* (Griffin Theatre). Erica can also be seen in several commercials, with brands like Rust-Oleum, T-Mobile, and WAHL. She is beyond honored to be a part of "Subsurface" as it enhances awareness of mental illness and portrays it in a raw, relevant, and relatable light.



 **BRIAN SEUNGHEON KIM**
(ZACH)

Brian Seungheon Kim is a Korean American actor, poet, singer, and recent BFA Acting graduate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Brian mainly has credits in theatre, having performed at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, and UIUC's Illinois Theatre. Brian is grateful for his time with the talented "Subsurface" cast and crew and is excited for viewers to experience this masterfully creative look into the trials of living with mental illness.



1) WHY THE TITLE "SUBSURFACE"?

We wanted a title which would imply depth and "the unknown," one with mystery and a tinge of darkness. We tossed around numerous options (hundreds of them!), but ultimately the mention of the word "surface" was what inspired us. Given mental illness is an invisible condition, we discussed how it hides "beneath the surface," which morphed into "below the surface," and eventually...we used the power of the prefix to give us "Subsurface."

BONUS: Early options included "Abyss," "Headspace," and "Skin Deep;" we finalized "Subsurface" at 7:19 pm CST on 08/30/2020.

2) WHAT WAS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE DURING THE MAKING OF "SUBSURFACE"?

"Subsurface" deals with an incredibly sensitive and emotional topic, one which is universally familiar, but also rooted in personal experience. Finding the balance between specificity and universality was extremely difficult, and involved meticulous deliberation. For example, during development the team consulted mental health professionals to see how "Subsurface" contributed to mental health awareness -- we refused to create a project which could cause harm to a community already battling stigmatization. In the end, the constant attention to the balance between the personal and the universal is precisely what allowed the film to bloom.

...oh and also the tornado that touched down a couple miles away, that gave us a good scare!

FAQ (CONT.)

3) WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE "SUBSURFACE"?

Originally mere scribbles and journal entries of his, Kyle Patrick (writer of "Subsurface") eventually pieced these into a narrative which was eventually developed into the final story -- he frequently refers to the project as "a love letter to his mental health."

At the same time, Kyle was involved in a different project alongside J. Michael Wright (friend and, eventually, a producer on "Subsurface").

When they both decided to leave the project over safety issues, they later discussed how many far less qualified individuals were creating content; J. Michael questioned, "why not us?" and Kyle responded with, "you know...you're right! F*ck it!" and so "Subsurface" began!



4) SO IS THIS THE FIRST FILM YOU'VE EVER MADE?

Yes! The "Subsurface" team was filled with both highly seasoned professionals and first-time filmmakers. Produced by SoliFilm Productions in association with Redleg Films, both teams discussed and understood the unique chance they had to provide young filmmakers with the opportunity to work in completely new production roles alongside trained, working professionals. Using this setup, we could provide a safe and educational job opportunity while also guaranteeing a beautiful final product.

FAQ (CONT.)

5) HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO FINISH "SUBSURFACE"?

We started project development in early August of 2020, which then lasted until we locked a script on September 9th, 2020 (approximately 40 days). Pre-production then lasted until June 23rd, 2021 (287 days), after which we moved onto production, which was on June 24th - 25th and July 25th, 2021 (3 days of active shooting across 30 days). Following our final day of production, we then transitioned into post-production which completed on November 21st, 2022 (484 days)



In total, **that's ~842 days!**

6) ANY NOTABLE STORIES FROM SET?

We faced plenty of hilarious difficulties! The weekend we shot the weather was horribly rainy, so we had to reschedule our outdoor section for a month later. It got so bad that there was even a tornado that touched down!

We had a leak in the tarp that held the water, but we were, fortunately, able to patch that very quickly.

Our lead actor, Kyle Patrick, lost his voice during filming and had to nurse his voice throughout the rest of the shoot -- it was tough but he made it through!

FAQ (CONT.)

7) DO YOU PLAN TO CONTINUE PRODUCING FILMS?

Yes! In fact, there may or may not be something currently in development! For more information on future projects, feel free to access the SoliIFilm Productions website (www.solifilm.com) or social media (@solifilms).

8) HOW MUCH WATER DID IT TAKE TO FILL THE SET?

The water component of the set, which we filled twice, was 25' x 25' x 1.5". After some quick math, that tallies out to approximately 4,424.50 L or 1,168.83 gal.



That's ~27.83 bathtubs worth of water!

9) WHAT DO YOU HOPE VIEWERS OF "SUBSURFACE" CAN UNDERSTAND FROM VIEWING THE FILM?

It's easy to believe that mental illness is negligible simply because it is intangible; however, mental illness is very real. It is invisible, it is painful, and it can be dangerous. Creating a narrative which would highlight this was very important to the team, and as Margaret Hensley (a marriage and family therapist) said after reading the script: "'Subsurface' helps to narrate...that mental illness is often not wrapped up with a beautiful bow."

SELECTED PRESS

APEX

 IndieMR

HEADLINER
CHICAGO

GROSS
Movie
Reviews

Indie
FILM
REVIEW

TECHNICAL SPECS & CONTACT INFO

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Running Time: 00:07:39

Language: English

Location: Chicago, IL (USA)

Shooting Format: Digital

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Audio Format: 5.1

Year: 2022

MPAA Rating: Unrated (Recommended: R)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Press Inquiries / General Questions:

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Additional Media and Information Available at:

www.solifilm.com/subsurface

   : @subsurfacefilm