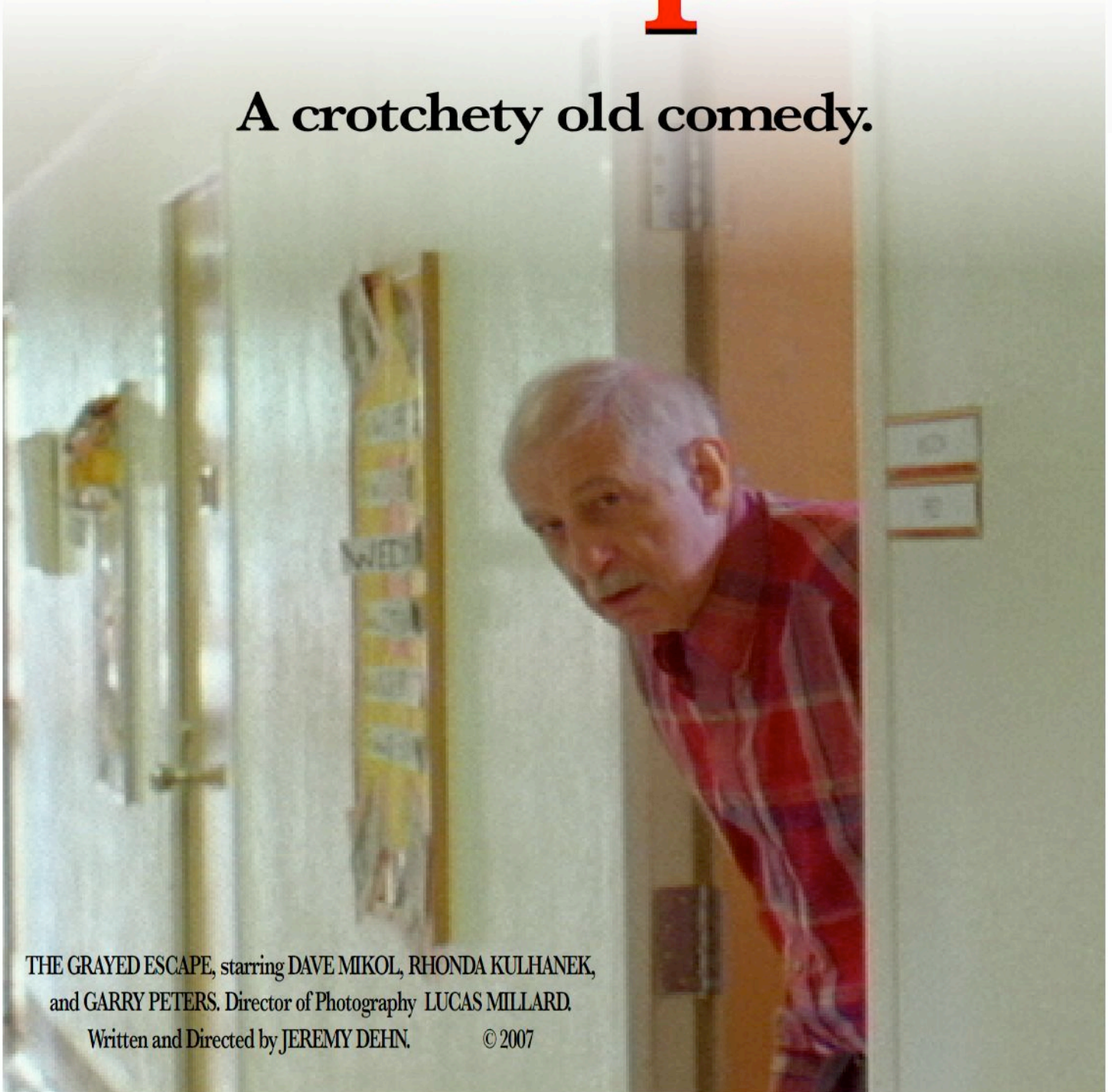


The Grayed Escape

A crotchety old comedy.



THE GRAYED ESCAPE, starring DAVE MIKOL, RHONDA KULHANEK,
and GARRY PETERS. Director of Photography LUCAS MILLARD.

Written and Directed by JEREMY DEHN.

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About the Film:

“The Grayed Escape” is an affectionate comedy about a nursing home resident’s quest for the forbidden fruit of dignity and freedom. Featuring the talents of Student Academy Award nominated cinematographer Lucas Millard, award-winning writer/director Jeremy Dehn, and Austin theatre fixtures Dave Mikol, Rhonda Kulhanek, and Garry Peters, “The Grayed Escape” is a touching and funny look at the value of persistence and dignity.

Log Line (25 wds):

An affectionate comedy about an old man who plots his escape from a dingy nursing home, racing against a callous orderly and his impending mortality



Synopsis (59 wds):

Milton has had enough of the dingy nursing home where he lives. His roommate, Fred, doesn’t understand him, the staff humiliates him, and worst of all, he may be running out of time. So he plots his escape.



But Rhonda, the lead orderly at the home and a formidable opponent, stands firmly between Milton and the doorway to freedom...

Category: narrative comedy short (student produced)

Running Time: 9 min 55 sec

Date Completed: July 2007

Language: English

Shooting Format: super 16mm

Aspect Ratio: 1.66 (4:3 w/ letterbox)

Screening Formats:

Digital Betacam

Beta SP

mini DV

NTSC DVD

others available on request

Contact: Jeremy Dehn, director
303-905-0537
jeremydehn@yahoo.com

Press Photos:
all available uncompressed at
the film’s official website:



Production Notes / Director's Statement:

"The Grayed Escape" started life as a film school exercise, first in a screenwriting class, then again I returned to it in a directing class, and after having spent so much time with it and enjoying the process, it seemed only right to go a few extra steps and make a film of it. I learned plenty about both what to do and what not to do, but I'm happy to say that it seems to have become the little film that could.

Shot in Austin over the course of three days, the film was a truly pleasurable experience to make, even if it languished in post production for longer than I'd care to admit. Whatever successes are there certainly come from the collaboration of an all volunteer cast and crew. I feel truly fortunate to have worked with a group who was present out of a shared desire to learn and create, and I believe the affectionate nature of the comedy reflects the attitudes of those on set for those three days.

That affection is also part of something very specific I was trying to depict tonally. When I was growing up, my father volunteered through our church to visit nursing homes on weekends, and I spent many a Sunday morning with him getting to know the people living and working there. While I didn't personally witness the kind of callous disregard displayed by Rhonda in "The Grayed Escape," I tried to depict in the film what I surmise it probably feels like to many of the residents—that loss of liberty and self-determination, that sense that death hangs depressingly overhead, and the fear that even the most basic dignities have become forbidden fruit.

I felt that a gentle comedy would best capture that sense. Certainly a great deal of comedy contains elements of tragedy, and one of the ways we deal with and overcome sadness is by finding the humor that resides within it. Hopefully that interplay of comedy and pathos makes "The Grayed Escape" both entertaining and touching.

The Principals:

Dave Mikol (Milton) is a former television professional and current actor in numerous Austin-based film and theatrical productions. He has held featured roles in the award-winning shorts "Blackout," and "Checkout" and the lead in the award-winning "The Toaster" (along with fellow Grayed Escaper Garry Peters). Dave has also appeared on television's *Friday Night Lights*, as well as Quentin Tarantino's *Death Proof*, Robert Rodriguez's *Planet Terror*, and the upcoming *Stop Loss*, directed by Kimberly Peirce.

Rhonda Kulhanek (Rhonda) can be seen in a wide variety of Austin productions on both stage and screen. Among many other roles, she has played leads in the shorts "Making Do" and "Script Cops," as well as the independent feature *The Chipotle Diamonds*. Rhonda also frequently writes her own material, including "The Tanqueray Prayer Circle" and her one woman show, *The Mommy Confessions*, which was a finalist at the Frontera Fringe Fest.

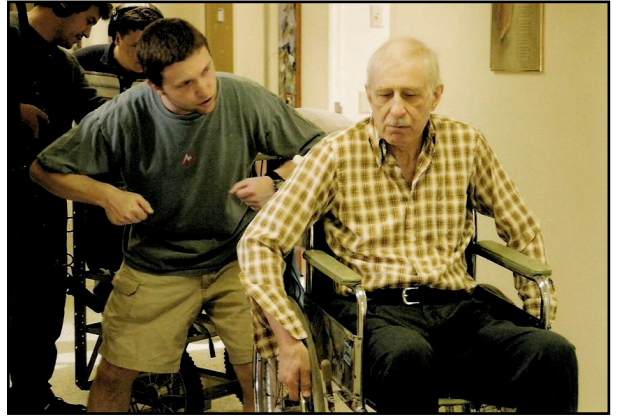


Garry Peters (Fred) has appeared in dozens of films as well as in theatrical productions at Austin's Hyde Park Theatre, the Austin Playhouse, and more. His film credits include leading roles in the award-winning shorts "The Toaster" and "Gay by Dawn"; and the über successful short film "Perils in Nude Modeling," which has been featured in over 100 film festivals and online at Atom Films. Garry has also appeared in the feature films *The Life of David Gale*, *The Wendell Baker Story*, and *Screen Door Jesus*.



Director's Bio:

Jeremy Dehn studied Chinese as an undergraduate, then moved to Asia, where he worked as a journalist. He returned to The States to pursue graduate study in mass communications, when he took a video production elective and was hooked. Since then he has worked on dozens of film projects, and his credits include editor on the shorts "Iris Moon" and "The Fish," and assistant editor on the features *Forfeit*, and *The Cassidy Kids*, as well as the IMAX feature *Ride Around the World*. His own short films have played in festivals on four continents, including the experimental short "Nonspecific Threat," featured at the European Media Art Festival, and "Canine Hoop Dreams," which won "Best Documentary" in its division at the Boulder (CO) media awards. Jeremy graduated with an MFA in film production from the University of Texas at Austin in December 2007. He now lives in Colorado with his wife, daughter, and two dogs.



Principal Crew:

Executive Producer
Maggie Dehn

Produced by
Geoffrey Moskowitz

Written & Directed by
Jeremy Dehn

Director of Photography Lucas Millard

Production Design Chris Babiak
Amy Tam
Shara Lange

Original music written & performed by
Arles Estes

Assistant Director Jenn Garrison
First Asst. Camera June Lee
Toddy Burton

Second Asst. Camera Jason Eitelbach
Miguel Alvarez
Keith Fraase

Gaffer Naiti Gámez
Sound Mixer Kai Ferguson
Boom Operators Aaron Dubrow
Dan Vanzant

Script Supervisor Katja Straub
Key Grip Hoa Mai
Special Assiatance Ya'Ke Smith

Principal Cast:

Milton	Dave Mikol
Rhonda	Rhonda Kulhanek
Fred	Garry Peters
Suzy	Madalyn Marabella
Suzy's Mommy	Carlye Bonner
Suzy's Grandpa	Bob Swaffar
Doctor	Ron Dehn
Morgue Man	Scott Daigle





“The Grayed Escape” Screenings:

- **Chicago International Reel Shorts Festival**
– **WORLD PREMIERE**
Fri, Sept 21, 2007, Chicago, IL
- **Indie Can Film Festival**
– **CANADA PREMIERE**
Fri Oct 5, 2007, Toronto, Canada
- **Golden Lion Film Festival**
– **AFRICA PREMIERE**
Tue Oct. 16, 2007, Mbabane, Kingdom of Swaziland, Africa
- **Big Easy Shorts Festival**
Sun, Nov. 18, 2007, New Orleans, LA
- **Trail Dance Film Festival**
NOMINATED FOR BEST COMEDY
Fri Jan 11 & Sat Jan 12, 2008, Duncan, OK
- **Short Film Festival of India**
– **ASIA PREMIERE**
2nd PRIZE, INTERNATIONAL DIVISION
Jan 2008, Chennai & Guwahati, India
- **Foursite Film Festival**
Thur Mar 6, 2008. Ogden, UT
- **Delray Beach Film Festival**
May 6-11, 2008, Delray Beach, FL
- **Big Island Film Festival**
May 16, 2008, Waikoloa, HI
- **Long Island International Film Expo**
July 14, 2008, Bellmore, NY
- **Daytona Beach Film Festival**
Sept. 18-21, 2008, Daytona Beach, FL
- **Tacoma Film Festival**
Sat, Oct 4 and Wed Oct 8, 2008,
Tacoma, WA
- **Independence Film Festival**
Sun, Sept 28, 2008, Pueblo, CO (special pre-screening in Leadville, CO)
- **Flint Film Festival**
Sat, Oct 18, 2008, Flint, MI
- **Rockport Film Festival**
BEST STUDENT FILM
Nov 6-8, 2008, Rockport, TX
- **Dam Short Film Festival**
Feb 11, 2009, Boulder City, NV
- **Beloit International Film Festival**
Feb. 19-22, 2009, Beloit, WI
- **Film Loop Filmmakers’ Showcase**
– **SNEAK PREVIEW**
Sun March 5, 2006, Austin, TX

