



THE SOUL TRADER

RUNNING TIME
12 MINUTES

GENRE
SUPERNATURAL THRILLER

RATING
15+ OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE / SEXUAL MATERIAL

YEAR
2024

LANGUAGE
ENGLISH

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
UNITED STATES

FORMAT
16X9

LINKS
WWW.THESOULTRADER.COM
IMDB: [HTTPS://WWW.IMDB.COM/TITLE/TT29044634](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt29044634)

PRESENTED BY
aberration
f!lms

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STARRING
SHANE WEST
SHAUNA GRACE
DEXTER HOBERT
GABRIELA KOSTADINOVA
SHYHIEM PARKER
with DONNA MILLS

DIRECTED BY
SUSAN DYNNER

WRITTEN BY
MIKE UNDERWOOD

PRODUCED BY
SUSAN DYNNER
LAUREN BANCROFT

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
SHAUNA GRACE

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY
MATHIAS SCHUBERT

EDITED BY
DAVID HOPPER

MUSIC BY
JEFF RUSSO

LOGLINE

An occult hitwoman has cornered the market for selling life-extending souls to the elite. But on her final hit before retirement, deadly competition emerges from the shadows.

SYNOPSIS

Coral Chase (*Shauna Grace*) isn't your typical assassin. She's the only one in the world with the power to steal souls from the young which she sells to elderly elites so they can extend their lives. She's cornered the market for years.

But after a lifetime of servicing the sick whims of the wealthy, Coral is done. One last big hit and she's over and out and able to retire with her 10-year-old son Noah (*Dexter Hobert*) and blend into normality.

With a new target acquired and a hefty price tag agreed, she embarks on her final 'soul tapping' mission. But there's a snag. The target is not alone.

Later, in the darkness of the target's apartment, Coral unfurls from the shadows, eliminates the love interest and settles in to execute her primary objective.

After performing the ancient soul-tapping ritual, physically sucking the life from her targets with a kiss of death, something goes horribly wrong.

Coral isn't the only one in the apartment with murder in mind.



SUSAN DYNNER

Director & Producer



Award-winning Director/Producer/Writer Susan Dynner, a recent Sundance Stories of Change Directing Fellow, and current Blackmagic Studio Feature Directing Fellow just completed directing/producing "The Soul Trader", a short proof of concept for a feature film or series starring Shane West, Shauna Grace and Donna Mills. She is also currently filming her documentary about women in magic (she is a Magician Member of the Magic Castle). Before that, she directed and produced, "Code Blue: A Love Story" starring Andy Dick, for which she was awarded the Sony TV Directing Fellowship. She produced "Free Ride", starring Anna Paquin (she was a Film Independent Producing Fellow), "After Porn Ends", and she produced/directed "Punk's Not Dead", which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, followed by a theatrical worldwide release. She also produced "Brick", winner of the Sundance Film Festival. As a Development Executive, Dynner worked for Charlie Sheen and Nick Cassavetes as a VP, and Wolfgang Petersen. Dynner began her career at Richard Donner Productions and Di Novi Pictures. Prior to that, she was a band photographer at age fifteen. Dynner is a founding member of GenXX, an initiative with the mission to expand opportunities for the generation of women who got lost between sexism and ageism. Aberration Films has many projects in development.

LAUREN BANCROFT

Producer



Lauren Bancroft is a versatile Los Angeles-based producer most known for the documentary *The Making of Happier Than Ever: A Love Letter to Los Angeles with Billie Eilish* (Disney+), and the renowned sketch comedy show *CBS Showcase* 2022, 2023, and 2024 (Paramount). Also, for short films *Mosquito Lady* (BeyondFest 2023, winner of "Best Effects" at Brooklyn Horror 2023), *Bad Rabbit* (Hulu), *Wild Bitch* (SXSW 2022, winner of "Best Thriller" at the Oscar-qualifying Hollyshorts Film Festival 2022), and *Navel Gazers* (winner of "Best Sci-Fi" at the Micheaux Film Festival 2021). She is currently in post-production of her first feature film *Skycrash*, an independent sci-fi fantasy. Lauren's brand is dark humor and desperation. In 2022, Lauren founded Bancrofted Inc., with a commitment to supporting women, and underrepresented voices in all aspects of the storytelling space. Lauren is driven by her love of dark comedy, documentaries, *Doctor Who*, and meticulously folded laundry.

MIKE UNDERWOOD

Writer



Mike is from Nottingham, United Kingdom, and has been writing professionally since 1999 when he embarked on a career in journalism. As an award-winning hard news reporter for more than a decade, Mike covered politics, crime, health and education in England, Scotland and the United States before working in public sector communications.

He started his screenwriting career in 2017 and has so far sold features and shorts to production companies in the United States and India. Mike has also been a finalist in several global screenwriting competitions including Screencraft's Short Screenplay competition and The Script Lab's Free Screenplay Contest. Mike lives near Nottingham with his wife, two sons and dog. Mike wrote *The Soul Trader* to explore how, in a world where your health data, browsing history and even your sexual preferences can be commodified, what would happen if the human soul could be bought and sold?

MATTHIAS SCHUBERT

Cinematographer



Matthias, an enthusiastic cinematographer residing in Los Angeles, boasts a prolific career spanning over 40 feature films. His versatile talent transcends genre boundaries, allowing him to seamlessly navigate diverse cinematic landscapes. Collaborating with revered directors like Ryuhei Kitamura, Alejandro Bruges, Kyle Newman and Zalman King, Schubert crafts visually captivating narratives that leave a lasting impact on audiences.

Beyond the realm of fiction, Schubert's keen eye for storytelling extends to the documentary sphere. Notably, he lent his expertise to "*Selena Gomez: My Mind and Me*," a poignant project for Apple+ TV, providing an intimate portrayal of the renowned artist's journey. Additionally, his work on a Billie Eilish documentary for Disney+ underscores his ability to capture the essence of celebrated personalities while immersing viewers in their compelling narratives.

As an active member of the International Cinematographer's Guild, Schubert continues to shape his cinematic language, bringing an educated, passionate eye and effortless collaboration to each project he undertakes.

SHAUNA GRACE

Coral Chase & Executive Producer



Shauna Grace is an American actress and has now also delved into the realm of Executive Producer. Yet, her love of filmmaking and performance has fueled her since the age of five. She grew up immersed in dance training, acting classes, and musical performance. She graduated Cum Laude from Cornish College of the Arts with a B.F.A in Theatre with an emphasis in Original Works. She has written and performed several one-woman shows, and has been cast in numerous regional musical productions in the Pacific Northwest. With her work in the metaphysical industries, Shauna's reputation has also landed her within the unscripted section of Television. Shauna Grace has appeared on "The Real Housewives Orange County" and "Vanderpump Rules" on Bravo! TV Network. Grace is also known as an Expert on Empaths and Extra Sensory Perception, as is seen on the series, "Proof," produced by HopLight Productions and streaming on Amazon Prime. Shauna Grace has proven to be a woman of many talents.

SHANE WEST

Damien



Where to begin with Shane West?! Shane is a Louisiana native and got his big break in ABC's *Once and Again* (1999). He went on to make his mark on the screen with films such as *Liberty Heights* (1999) and *Whatever It Takes* (2000). He starred opposite Mandy Moore in the hit teen romance *A Walk to Remember* (2002), played Tom Sawyer in the action film *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* (2003), and then depicted the short life of musician Darby Crash in the biopic *What We Do Is Secret* (2007). He is also a star of the small screen, appearing as Dr Ray Barnett in 70 episodes of *ER*; portrayed Michael in 73 episodes of *Nikita* and starred as John Alden in 36 episodes of *Salem*.

DONNA MILLS

Erica Claessen



Donna Mills is Hollywood royalty. She's best known for her role as Abby Cunningham Ewing on the primetime soap opera *Knots Landing*. After playing Clint Eastwood's imperiled girlfriend in the cult thriller *Play Misty for Me* (1971), Mills guest-starred on numerous top-rated series and carved a niche for herself in made-for-TV movies, usually typecast as a damsel in distress. On the big screen, she scored another coup when she acted with Don Stroud in *Murph the Surf* (1975). Donna forever altered her on-screen image from trembling helplessness to calculating truculence in the role of Abby Cunningham Ewing, second wife of Dallas (1978) "black sheep" Gary Ewing (Ted Shackelford), in the nighttime serial *Knots Landing* (1979); coincidentally, Mills had co-starred with J. R. Ewing himself (aka Larry Hagman) on the short-lived sitcom *The Good Life* (1971). Three times she won the Soap Opera Digest Award for Outstanding Villainess: 1986, '88, and '89. She also earned a Soap Opera Digest nomination for Outstanding Actress in a Leading Role on a Prime Time Serial. Mills has gone on to star in multiple TV movies and series.

DEXTER HOBERT

Noah



Dexter Hobart is a star of the future who is quickly building an impressive TV and movie resume as a child actor. Since 2017, Dexter has appeared in TV shows including *General Hospital*, *Westworld*, *Driven* and *Animal Kingdom* and has also brought to life animated characters by providing his voice to shows such as *We Bare Bears* and *Summer Camp Island*. He's one to watch!

PRESS RELEASE

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Shane West, Shauna Grace and Donna Mills Star in Susan Dynner's New Supernatural Thriller *The Soul Trader*, Screening at The American Pavilion in Cannes May 18

Cannes, France (April 30, 2024)—The Soul Trader is a twelve-minute short directed by Susan Dynner (Brick, Punk's Not Dead, Code Blue: A Love Story) and starring Shane West (A Walk to Remember, ER, The Dirty South), Donna Mills (Knots Landing, Nope, Origin), and newcomer Shauna Grace. The film will screen at The American Pavilion during the 77th Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, May 18 at 1530h (3:30PM) CEST, followed by a cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception at the American Pavilion Terrace. RSVP is required.

The Soul Trader is directed and produced by Dynner, written by newcomer Mike Underwood, photographed by Matthias Schubert (The Door Man, Selena Gomez: My Mind & Me, Shelter in Solitude), produced by Lauren Bancroft (The Making of Happier Than Ever: A Love Letter to Los Angeles, Wild Bitch, Bite Size Halloween), edited by David Hopper (God Bless America, In Between Songs, Rust Creek), and executive produced by Shauna Grace, with music composed by Jeff Russo (Fargo, Ripley, Star Trek: Discovery). The film has been produced by Dynner's Los Angeles-based production company Aberration Films as both festival fare as well as proof of concept for a feature or TV series.

The Soul Trader follows the story of Coral Chase (Shauna Grace), an occult hitwoman who has the power to steal life-extending souls, which she then sells to vain, wealthy elites like Erica Claessen (Donna Mills), who clings to the crumbs of youth. She's flanked by stoic bodyguard Damien (Shane West), who ultimately emerges from the shadows as her rival when she's about to carry out a money-spinning hit at a target's home and realizes she's not the only one with murder in mind.

Dynner says, "The Soul Trader introduces a new breed of complex heroine to our screens. On one hand, she's a devoted single mom trying to make ends meet for her ten-year-old son. On the other, she's a cold, contract killer with occult powers and now rivals want to learn her secrets. It's a sexy and provocative short with a killer twist, but I think this is only the beginning. Our short is a proof of concept for something much bigger and we can't wait to let Coral loose on the world. We were so lucky to pull together an incredibly talented team of actors and crew who brought so much to the shoot and the production."

West adds, "Working on The Soul Trader was great fun. It's good to flex your Machiavellian muscles every now and again and I got to do that playing Damien. It's a short that packs a big punch and has huge potential."

Press materials are available at www.thesoultrader.com and by contacting Platform Media Group.



THE SOUL TRADER | GALLERY





PROD THE SOUL TRADER

ROLL
A001
B002

SCENE
11B

TAKE
3 PK

DIRECTOR SUSAN DYNNER

CAMERA MATTHIAS SCHUBERT

DATE 11/6/23























Camera operator and crew member operating a rig over the actress.

Person in a black and red outfit standing by the bedside.

Side table with a laptop and other items.

Side table with a water bottle and a lamp.







THE SOUL TRADER

WWW.THESOULTRADER.COM

HOW MUCH IS
YOUR SOUL WORTH?

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