

A CONTEST FOR A JOB JUST BECAME A COMPETITION FOR SURVIVAL

DAVID DASTMALCHIAN

PAIGE HOWARD

MICHAEL DELORENZO

MATT WILLIG

KATARINA MIKAILENKO

BILLY ZANE

MALCOLM MCDOWELL

THE EMPLOYER

DIRECTED BY FRANK MERLE PRODUCED BY FRANK MERLE TIAGO MESQUITA ROSS OTTERMAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JENNIFER GRACE FARMER MALCOLM MCDOWELL CHRIS ROE DAVID ALBERT PIERCE
CO-PRODUCERS TAYLOR COURVILLE KEN HEDRICK JUSTIN STEELE VINCENT J. GUASTINI GEORGE FRANGADAKIS
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS SEAN DUBRAVAC MATT ILCZUK JAMES COONEY SAM KIM
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TIAGO MESQUITA EDITORS JON MENDENHALL SEAN LUDAN
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JONATHAN M. HARTMAN PRODUCTION DESIGNER MINH-TRUET "ANTHONY" NGUYEN LAUREN MEYER
CASTING BY CARMEN AIELLO COSTUME DESIGN BY LANA KRISTY SET DESIGN BY GARY SUMPTER ART DIRECTION BY ANTHONY RICO

HYRAX
ENTERTAINMENT

CRAFTED
FILMS

Water
Plywood
Aluminum
Wood

TYPICAL



HYRAX ENTERTAINMENT
& CRAFTED FILMS

PRESENT

THE EMPLOYER

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **FRANK MERLE**

CARCHARIAS


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AGREEMENT**

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THE EMPLOYER is a thriller about a contest for a job and a contest for survival.

SYNOPSIS

Five white-collar corporate executive applicants wake up trapped together in a room. Although strangers, they soon discover there is a connection between them, that they have all recently applied for a job with the mysterious Carcharias Corporation, and each has been subjected to a series of interviews with the company's CEO for the new position.

What they are experiencing is a final test for a coveted strategic analyst position... and the only way they can get out and get the job is if the other four die. This is the Carcharias Method for hiring new

employees, designed to ensure that only the most ruthless of workers join their corporate team. They are a diverse group: Keith possess a clever wit and is experienced in corporate security; Sandra is a thoughtful, mothering type who ran a company with her sister; Billie is an aggressive kind, a recent MBA who undertook extensive research on the Carcharias Corp. for her thesis; James is of a nervous disposition and less confident in corporate maneuvering; Mike is a huge figure with a strong sense of pride and a background in entrepreneurship.

They try and come up with answers— all had been drugged at some point the night before, they don't know anything about each other and none of them have families. A few have hazy memories of their kidnapping, some of them are confused and some are angry. But after searching the room they find one tangible clue, a cell phone inside a vent shaft. With the phone in hand, their interviewer informs them that they have been placed in the room by Carcharias for one reason and one reason only— to find the best candidate for the job.

Attempting to work together, they discover little about the room but much about each other's habits, likes and pet peeves. But as time passes and their personalities ultimately grate on one another, a battle of strength and wits begins. And when they're pushed beyond their limits, how far will they go to get the job?

CARCHARIAS

Director's Statement Frank Merle

I have always been fascinated by the philosophic quandary of whether the human race is inherently prone toward good or evil; whether our abilities to socialize and help each other in times of need are an innate part of our nature, or whether we would be more inclined to tear each other apart if left without societal norms and restrictions? Of course, there is no simple answer to this question, since we are incredibly complex creatures, and so the ageless debate over what's lurking at our core continues.

As an exercise in examining this debate over the essence of human nature, I decided to write a story about five very different strangers trapped together in a room, exploring what they would do as time went by. To create conflict among them, I determined that they should all be applying for the same job, a lucrative one. As I began to sketch out these five characters, whose diverse personalities would lead them to compete for success in very different ways, the story began to take on a cinematic quality. So the story became a screenplay, and the stakes of the competition became life and death as I meditated over the absolute power a potential employer has over an applicant desperate for work.

As I explored these characters and their brief, intense time together, both in the writing process and later with the actors who embodied them, I discovered that each one's behavior dictated his or her eventual outcome. The experience of this film, therefore, became about seeing these job candidates interacting with each other and making choices that would dictate their fate. The voyeuristic pleasure of watching the drama play itself out puts myself as the filmmaker, along with the audience, in the same position as Malcolm McDowell's character, the Carcharias Corporation executive who has reached a position of power by becoming an expert on human nature simply through observation.

Yet after all the examination of human nature that came with the journey of making this film, I still haven't found a concise answer to that age old question of good versus evil. But witnessing the dubious outcome of events for our five competitive job candidates, I'm convinced of at least one thing: I'd never want to apply for employment at the Carcharias Corporation.

BLUEPRINTS

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

FRANK MERLE

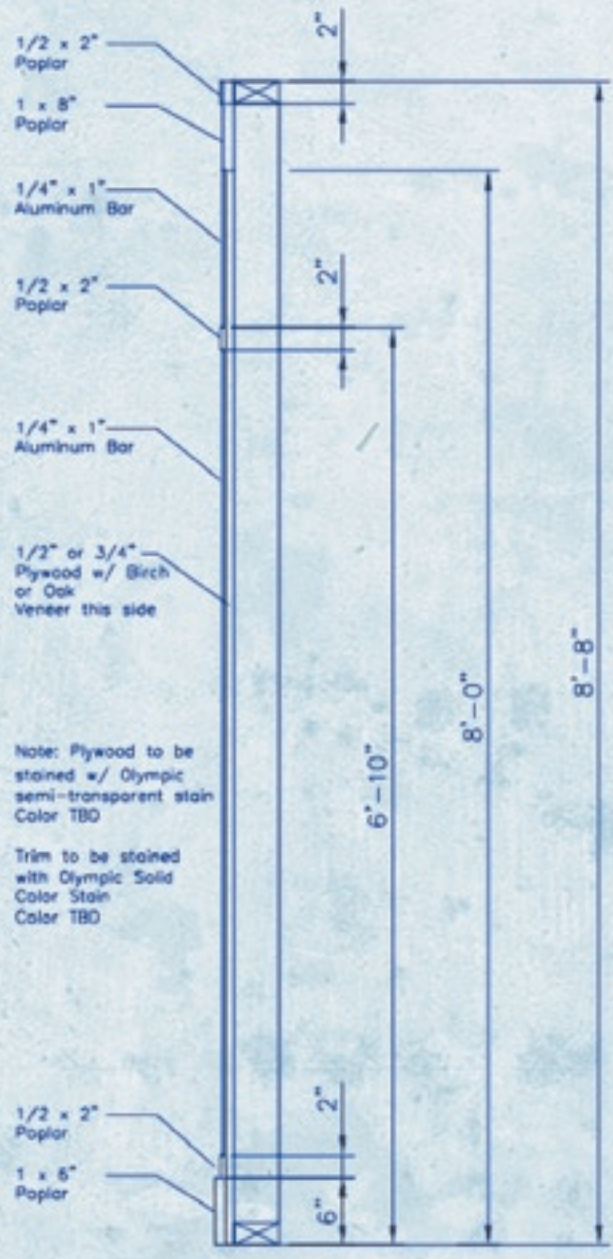
CONTRACTS

CARCHARIAS

CLASSIFIED



WALL DESIGN FOR SIMULATION ROOM - CLASSIFIED MATERIALS
 BUILD-AT-ADDRESS--63527 PARK OAK LANE-ENSGIN HILLS-CA 93904*
 *OMIT ADDRESS FROM REPORT -JN



Note: Plywood to be stained w/ Olympic semi-transparent stain Color TBD

Trim to be stained with Olympic Solid Color Stain Color TBD

Section thru Typ. Wall Panel

CAST
BIOS

Malcolm McDowell

The Employer

Malcolm John Taylor was born on June 13, 1943, in Leeds, England, to working-class parents Charles and Edna Taylor. His father was a publican and an alcoholic. Malcolm hated his parents' ways and fought against it. His father was keen to send his son to private school to give him a good start in life, so Malcolm was packed off to boarding school at 11. He attended the Tunbridge Boarding School and the Cannock House School in Eltham, Kent. Whilst at school, he decided that he wanted to become an actor; it was also around this time that his love for race cars began. He attended the London Academy of Music and Art to study acting. He then had a variety of jobs, from coffee salesman to messenger, before finally scoring in the late 1960s.

He caught the attention of director Lindsay Anderson who cast him in the role of a rebellious student in his film *If...* (1968). The film catapulted Malcolm to stardom in Britain but failed everywhere else. He was so enthusiastic about the film's success that he wanted to do another right away. He began writing what would become the semi-autobiographical *O Lucky Man!* (1973). Meanwhile, he starred as the infamous Alex DeLarge in Stanley Kubrick's controversial *A Clockwork Orange* (1971), a role that caused him to be frequently typecast as a manic villain. Around that time, the British film industry collapsed, forcing him to flee to America to continue working. His first American film was *Time After Time* (1979), a leading man role opposite Mary Steenbergen, his future wife. He then did *Britannia Hospital* (1982), the last part of Lindsay Anderson's working-class trilogy that started with *If...* (1968).

The 1990s were good to him as an older, wiser actor. In 1994, he was cast as Dr. Soran, the man who killed Captain Kirk in *Star Trek: Generations* (1994). He was back on the track, playing villains again. He played another in the classic BBC mini-series, *Our Friends in the North* (1996), and in *Gangster #1* (1999) alongside Paul Bettany. Memorable parts in *The Book of Eli* (2010) and in TV's *Entourage* and *Heroes* have kept him busy over the past few years. Today, with more than 100 films under his belt, he is one of the greatest actors in America and likes the no-nonsense American ways. He can currently be seen on TV on *Franklin and Bash* and on screen in the Oscar-Nominated film *The Artist*.



THE EMPLOYER

CAST BIOS



David Dastmalchian James Harris

David Dastmalchian is originally from Kansas. He moved to Chicago to train at The Theatre School, DePaul University, and began working in TV commercials and series in '99. He spent the next several years traveling, writing and living between Kansas City, Alaska, Seattle and other cities. He returned to Chicago and began acting again in 2004. He gained acclaim for his turn as a cop who was really a thug working for The Joker in Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* (2008). The role familiarized him to moviegoers and his interrogation scene with Harvey Dent, played by Aaron Eckhart, is one of the film's most intense moments. Since then he has appeared in more than a dozen film projects.

David has appeared in national television commercials ('Cingular/ AT&T Dropped Calls', 'Nintendo - Cruisin' World', 'Best Buy', 'On the Border', 'Remember November 16' and others). Feature Film credits include *Horsemen* with Dennis Quaid, *The Dark Knight* and *Sushi Girl*.

Paige Howard Sandra Turner

Paige Howard has assembled a number of solid feature and television credits in a short time as an actress. After guest-starring roles on TV shows *Medium* and *90210*, Paige made her feature debut as Sue O'Malley in the 2009 comedy *Adventureland*, which opened to critical praise. She then followed with starring roles in the indie comedies *Virgin Alexander*, *Cheesecake Casserole* and a lead role on the web series *stalkTALK*. She is in development on several films and continues to look at a variety of projects.



THE EMPLOYER

CAST BIOS

Michael DeLorenzo Keith Caverns

Michael DeLorenzo is an American actor, director and musician. He is best known for his portrayal of NYPD Detective Eddie Torres on the Fox Thursday night television series New York Undercover, which aired from 1994–1998. Michael is a veteran of stage and screen with more than twenty-five years in the entertainment spotlight and lead roles on numerous television series. Born and raised in the Bronx, New York, he first began performing at the age of 7 as a dancer with Tina Ramirez’s Ballet Hispanico. At the age of 10, he danced alongside Rudolph Nureyev at the Royal Canadian Ballet. At the age of 14, he performed with Mikhail Baryshnikov and the American Ballet Theater. He went on to attend the famous Manhattan-based Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. Shortly thereafter, he was injured while dancing, thus accelerating his immediate entry into the world of acting. He has appeared in key roles in films such as A Few Good Men, Alive, Somebody to Love and Not Forgotten.

Matt Willig Mike Drake

Matthew Willig is a former football player who played offensive tackle in the National Football League for 14 seasons. He stands 6 feet, 8 inches and played college football at USC. Matt portrayed Special Agent Simon Cade in season eight of the long-running NCIS. In 2012 he appears as The Indian in the actioner Guns, Girls and Gambling opposite Christian Slater and Gary Oldman. In 2009 he had a supporting role as a brutish caveman tormenting Jack Black and Michael Cera in the motion picture Year One. He also appeared as a gang member on the Showtime series Dexter. Matt has acted in numerous national commercial campaigns, including a Capital One spot with David Spade, a Bud Light spot, and as an action hero in a Halls commercial. He also appeared in a season 7 episode of Malcolm In the Middle, as Crash, a recovering alcoholic.

Nicki Aycox Maggie Jordan

Aycox began performing at a young age in Oklahoma, playing the piano and singing in beauty pageants as a child. Some of her early roles include Syl on the series Dark Angel, and Stella Vessey on the dramedy Ed. She had a 12-episode arc on the series Cold Case, plus a run on Over There and a recurring role as Meg Masters in the first season of the series Supernatural. One of her notable film roles was as a psychic cheerleader in the horror hit Jeepers Creepers 2. In 2009 she was cast as a lead as an undercover LAPD police officer in the TNT action/drama series Dark Blue.



THE EMPLOYER

CAST BIOS

Katarina Mikailenko Billie Lewis
 Katerina Mikailenko grew up in a small town outside of Portland, Oregon. As a child and teenager, she dabbled in modeling, appearing in campaigns for Adidas and Nike. She also fervently studied ballet and modern dance, spending time in a semi-professional dance troupe. After moving to Southern California she booked guest star appearances on *The Protector*, *CSI: Miami* and *Without a Trace*. She can also be seen in movies including *Crazy, Stupid, Love* and *Burlesque*.

Billy Zane Alan
 William George Zane Jr., better known as Billy Zane, was born on February 24, 1966, in Chicago, Illinois. In his early teens, he attended Harand Camp of the Theater Arts in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Later he attended the American School in Switzerland and Francis Parker High School in Chicago, Illinois. Soon after graduating high school, Billy ventured to California. Within three weeks, he won his very first big screen role in *Back to the Future* (1985), playing the part of Match, one of Biff's thugs. He would later reprise that role for the sequel. Then after a small role in the film *Critters* (1986), he landed starring roles in several television films. In 1989, Billy filmed the thriller *Dead Calm* (1989). Even bigger roles came in 1996, as Billy starred in *The Phantom* and in 1997 playing Caledon Hockley in the hugely successful *Titanic*. In 1999, he starred in the television movie *Cleopatra* and has continued to work steadily for the past decade. In 2011 he starred in *Sniper: Reloaded*, the fourth in that series of actions films.



THE EMPLOYER

FILM-MAKER BIOS

Frank Merle

Director

Frank Merle graduated first in his class with Highest Honors from the Goodman School of Drama conservatory in 2001. He then co-founded Chicago's Keyhole Theatre Company, where he served as Artistic Director for five years, garnering critical acclaim and a loyal box office following for his productions. During that time, he also worked as a freelance writer, director and producer in and around Chicago, responsible for over thirty stage productions. Since making the switch to film in 2006, he has written, directed and produced nine short films. His film Morgan's Last Call won best short film at the Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival. Another short film, What Joan Knows, received a special jury award at the Geneva Film Festival, and his films Gnaw and Art Room both won Best Horror Short at the Illinois International Film Festival in 2008 and 2009, respectively. For his debut feature, The Employer, Merle wrote the original screenplay and developed the production from its beginning.

Ross Otterman

Producer

Ross Otterman is a Los Angeles based producer with a number of recent producing credits. In 2011, he produced The Employer, a psychological thriller starring Malcolm McDowell, David Dastmalchian, Paige Howard and Billy Zane. His next project was the horror-drama Excision, a Sundance 2012 selection, starring a diverse cast including AnnaLynne McCord, Traci Lords, Ariel Winter, Roger Bart, Jeremy Sumpter and John Waters. Most recently, he produced the ensemble action comedy In Security starring Ethan Embry, Michael Gladis, Clea DuVall, Cary Elwes, Adam Arkin, Ving Rhames, and Vinnie Jones.

Previously, Ross produced Death and Cremation, which premiered at Screampfest in 2010, overseeing the project's development, casting and production. He has line produced the features the Privateer and June Cabin, and has freelanced as a production consultant. From 2006-2007, he spent two years at Santa Monica-based post house Filmworks/FX as an editor and in-house producer. Afterwards he worked as Sound Post Coordinator on the animated IMAX 3D film Quantum Quest.



THE EMPLOYER

FILM-MAKER BIOS

Tiago Mesquita

Director of Photography/ Producer

Tiago Mesquita currently manages the production company Crafted Films in Brussels, Belgium, specializing in feature films and commercials. Tiago has directed, produced and shot dozens of film projects, commercials and television in various locations throughout the world. In 2011, he completed five feature films as Director of Photography and Second Unit Director, two of which were filmed in Los Angeles: *The Employer*, and the action comedy *In Security*. Before that he was Second Unit Director/DP and Co-Producer on the dark comedy-horror *Death and Cremation*.

After having graduated with honors from the Los Angeles Film School in 2003, Tiago worked in teaching film directing and cinematography. He ultimately won "Cinequest", a feature film directing competition, in 2004. Aside from his extensive training in film, Tiago holds a Masters degree in Law and a music degree from the Conservatory of Music in piano and guitar.

Jonathan Hartman

Composer

Jonathan Hartman began his career as a jazz saxophonist. He lived and performed primarily in New York City, with some additional touring in the US and internationally. Hartman attended the graduate Film Scoring Program at New York University, where he studied Film Scoring with noted film composer Ira Newborn. Following school, Hartman moved to Los Angeles and began working for composer John Ottman (*Superman Returns*, *Valkyrie*).



THE EMPLOYER

HVAC SUPPLY GRILLE

METAL DUCT

BASE TRIM
PROFILE TBD

FINISH GRADE
PLYWOOD PANELS
STAIN COLOR TBD

1/4" X 1"
ALUMINUM BARS

TYPICAL PLYWOOD SHEET

FINISH GRADE

2" X 4"
WOOD STUDS

Plywood Sheets - 30

THE EMPLOYER

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FRANK MERLE

PRODUCED BY
FRANK MERLE TIAGO MESQUITA ROSS OTTERMAN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
JENNIFER GRACE FARMER MALCOLM MCDOWELL
CHRIS ROE DAVID ALBERT PIERCE

CO-PRODUCERS
TAYLOR COURVILLE KEN HEDRICK JUSTIN STEELE
VINCENT J. GUASTINI GEORGE FRANGADAKIS

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS
SEAN DUBRAVAC MATT ILCZUK JAMES COONEY SAM KIM

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
TIAGO MESQUITA

EDITORS
JON MENDENHALL SEAN LUDAN

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY
JONATHAN M. HARTMAN

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
MINH-TRIEU "ANTHONY" NGUYEN LAUREN MEYER

CASTING BY
CARMEN AJELLO

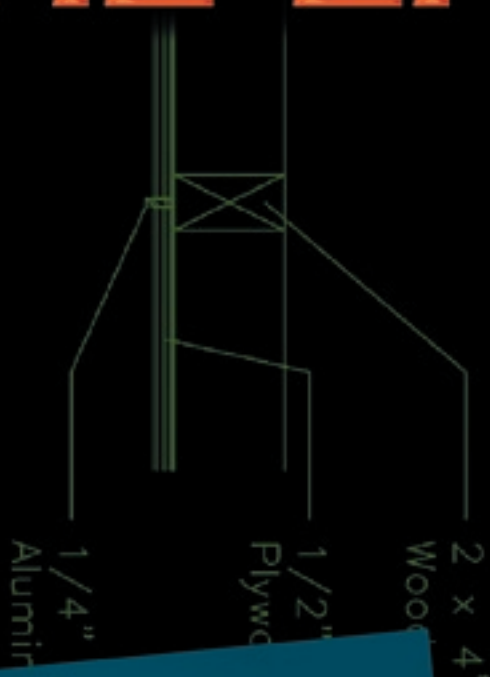
COSTUME DESIGN BY
LANA KRISTY

SET DESIGN BY
GARY SUMPTER

ART DIRECTION BY
ANTHONY RICO

EPK designed by BILL JONAS jonasartstudio@gmail.com

Down thru Alum. Rod at



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