

PRESS KIT

ROUND THE CORNER

A Short Film Directed by Russ Emanuel

Starring Kelli Maroney, Dyanne Mercante, Mercedes Peterson, Hans Hernke,
Janeen Berryman, David F. Borunda



USA: 2026: 4K Digital: Color: Stereo Sound: 4 minutes

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Round-the-Corner-Short-Film-Pilot/6158227323774/>

For further information, contact:
Russ Emanuel (Russem Productions)

ROUND THE CORNER

LOG LINE

Even on the quietest streets, one can find a certain level of excitement, "Round the Corner".

SYNOPSIS

Rockin' the House! In this series pilot, even on the quietest streets, one can find a certain level of excitement, "Round the Corner". A humorous take on dealing with a zombie pandemic and what 2 competing homeowners go through in their daily lives, sometimes involving "cats" and a "chef" son.

STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR

Taking inspiration from "Robocop" with its dramatic A-story interspersed with comedic and satirical commercials, "Round the Corner" is a tie-in to my sixth feature film "Staycation", which began with a prequel film called "Routine", a 5-minute film which was initially a camera test of our new 6K pixel resolution camera package, that we happened to get right before the COVID-19 outbreak. Along with longtime filmmaking partner Emile Haris who passed away in July 2023, we expanded "Routine" into a feature film called "Staycation" as part of a pandemic horror franchise. Not only did our lead actors reprise their roles from "Routine" (Paige Laree Poucel, Bill Victor Arucan, Alan Courtright), but we also cast newcomers Gilles Stricher, Bailey Sorrel, Catherine LaSalle, Lilly Ivring, as well as name actors Olivia d'Abo (Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker, The Wonder Years, Conan the Destroyer), Sean Kenney (Star Trek: The Original Series), Tracee Cocco (Star Trek: The Next Generation, Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Star Trek: First Contact), Eileen Dietz (The Exorcist), Kelli Maroney (Fast Times At Ridgemont High), and Laurene Landon (Maniac Cop 1 and 2). This tie-in features the aforementioned Kelli Maroney, and is one of the funniest moments of "Round the Corner" and a pilot for a potential series I would love to do to explore the world of "Staycation" further. I hope that people who see this film will enjoy the film and perhaps get a laugh or two out of it.

-- Russ Emanuel

ROUND THE CORNER

CREW BIOGRAPHIES



Russ Emanuel

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

Russ Emanuel is an award-winning independent American director and producer, having directed such actors as John Heard, Robert Picardo, Vincent Pastore, Glynnis O'Connor, Hallie Kate Eisenberg, Jeremy London, Ryan Hurst, William Devane, Marina Sirtis, Sean Kenney, Armin Shimerman, and Gary Graham. He grew up in both Japan and the United States and graduated from U.S.C. to study Cinema-Television. He founded Russem Productions in 2002 to promote his films including **GIRL WITH GUN** (2005) and documentary **RESTORATION OF PARADISE** (2014). Presently, **STAYCATION** (2024) marks Emanuel's sixth foray into feature filmmaking, after directing **P.J.** (2007), **CHASING THE GREEN** (2009), **THE LEGENDS OF NETHIAH** (2012), **OCCUPANTS** (2015), and **WISPER** (2020).



Emile Haris

WRITER/DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY/EDITOR

A graduate in both Writing and Film from Long Beach State, Emile Haris, together with fellow filmmaker Yos Park, produced the sci-fi short **FRAKIE DIED** (2000). He next teamed up with University of Southern California graduate Russ Emanuel for the films **HER KNIGHT** (2003), **GIRL WITH GUN** (2005), **P.J.** (2007), **CHASING THE GREEN** (2009), **THE LEGENDS OF NETHIAH** (2012), **OCCUPANTS** (2015), **COLLAR** (2017), **THE ASSASSIN'S APPRENTICE** (2018), and now **WISPER** (2020) and **STAYCATION** (2024) where he is also the Cinematographer. His other Director of Photography credits include **WHISKEY NEAT** (2009) and **HIT LIST** (2011) starring actor Joey Lawrence. Emile unexpectedly passed away in July 2023 and **STAYCATION** is dedicated to him.



Vasilis Milesis

COMPOSER

Vasilis Milesis is a multi-awarded film composer and orchestrator. He was accepted with a Scholarship and Assistantship at Berklee College of Music in the "Music for Film, TV and Games" Master Program, where he graduated with Summa cum Laude. He is currently working closely with director Russell Emanuel, composing music for two of three of his feature films, **OCCUPANTS** (2015), **WISPER** (2020), and now **STAYCATION** (2024), as well as two additional shorts including **ROUTINE** (2020), while he is also preparing a project named "Year of Humanity", his first CD with his compositions that were inspired by important facts that occurred from the previous century until now. include **WHISKEY NEAT** (2009) and **HIT LIST** (2011) starring actor Joey Lawrence.



Bill Victor Arucan

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Bill Victor Arucan Award is an independent filmmaker, producer, actor, and writer living in the California San Francisco Bay Area and working in Hollywood with 179 wins, 58 nominations & 32 additional awards. He is best known for his family friendly science fiction adventures titled **ALIEN DANGER 1 & 2**. Bill Victor recently won: "Best Actor in a Feature Film" for **IT WANTS BLOOD!** at the Hong Kong Indie Film Festival. Bill Victor is the CEO of the production company Alien Donut Films, which has 28 credited films including horror films **ARENA WARS**, **NIGHT OF THE TOMMYKNOCKERS**, **BERMUDA ISLAND**, **CLOWN MOTEL 2**, **ROUTINE**, and the upcoming pandemic film **STAYCATION**.

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Kelli Maroney

"CYNTHIA OXFORD"

Kelli Maroney began her career acting and studying at the Guthrie Theater in her native Minneapolis, MN. Two weeks after she arrived in Manhattan, Kelli was cast as evil adolescent "Kimberly Harris" on the daytime soap opera, **RYAN'S HOPE** (1975). Maroney went on to play the vengeful "Tina Clayton Lord Roberts" on **ONE LIFE TO LIVE** (1968). She made her film debut as the 'Spirit Bunny' "Cindy Carr" in the teen comedy classic, **FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH** (1982). Kelli achieved her greatest enduring cult popularity with her delightful turn as the endearingly spunky "Samantha" in the science-fiction end-of-the-world film, **NIGHT OF THE COMET** (1984). Kelli most recently was seen as homemaker "Grace" in the web series, **ROCK & ROLL INC.**, and a

tipsy stage mom-from-hell in **Pop Star**, and psychic Ezmerelda in **HELL'S KITTY**. She also starred in Russ Emanuel's sixth feature film **STAYCATION** and will also star in Russ Emanuel's seventh feature film **ALL FOR TOMORROW**.



Dyanne Mercante

"VANESSA THE CONTESSA"

Currently based in Orlando, Florida, Dyanne Mercante is a veteran actress, having worked with director Russ Emanuel on numerous occasions including the 2013 comedy series **THE MEETING** and Emanuel's sixth feature film **STAYCATION** (2025). She will also star in Russ Emanuel's seventh feature film **ALL FOR TOMORROW**, which will film in February 2026. She has been active in the film industry, contributing to various projects that have garnered attention. Mercante's work in these films showcases her versatility as an actress, allowing her to take on diverse roles that resonate with audiences.



Hans Hernke

"WALT OXFORD"

Residing in Los Angeles, Hans Hernke's journey in the entertainment industry began at a young age in Orlando, Florida. He started acting at the age of 17 and quickly booked his first national commercial. His passion for the industry led him to pursue acting and behind-the-scenes roles such as producing, directing, and casting. Hernke's dedication to his craft and his ability to work on various projects have made him a respected figure in the film and television community. His credits include **ANOTHER PLAN FROM OUTER SPACE**, **WEREWOLVES IN HEAT**, **SKY HIGH**, and **NIGHT OF THE TOMMYKNOCKERS**. He also starred in Russ Emanuel's sixth feature film **STAYCATION**.



Mercedes Peterson

"LAURIE VANDEMAR"

Living in Arizona, Mercedes Peterson is recognized for her role in **ENTOURAGE** and has appeared in various films such as **ARENA WARS** and various television shows. She is known for her distinctive curly locks and long dreads, which have become a signature look. Peterson's ability to take on dark and deep roles, along with her distinctive laughs, has made her a standout performer in the industry. She often works in dramatic roles due to her talent for crying on cue and holding back emotion. She also starred in Russ Emanuel's sixth feature film **STAYCATION**.

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CREW LIST

Russ Emanuel	Producer/Director
Emile Haris	Director of Photography/Writer/Editor
Mark Brenes, Angela Joseph, Charles Mesa	Producers
Bill Victor Arucan, John Harlan Brady,	Executive Producers
Q Fortier, Hans Hernke, Paul Hickman,	
Jenny Ho, Eric Kask, Drew Martyn, Ed Mower,	
Kyosuke Mukai, Oscar Pereida, Suda Suebsang	
Janeen Berryman, Timothy Lee Conley,	Co-Producers
Kelli Maroney	
Gladys Rodriguez	Production Designer
Robert Poe	Art Director
Alisha L. Baijounas	Key Makeup Artist
Christopher Osorio	Special Makeup Effects Artist
Clayton Turnage	First Assistant Director
Jorge Hernandez	Key Gaffer
Alexandria Sanders	Script Supervisor
Vasilis Milesis	Composer
Sean Fahimian	Sound Designer
Emile Haris, Brian Barsuglia	Visual Effects Supervisors

CAST LIST

Kelli Maroney	Cynthia Oxford
Mercedes Peterson	Laurie Vandemar
Dyanne Mercante	Vanessa the Contessa
Hans Hernke	Walt Oxford

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PRODUCTION NOTES & ANECDOTES

"INDIEGOGO CAMPAIGN"

Although we raised money through private investment for the original 23-page **STAYCATION** script, we decided to do an Indiegogo Campaign to expand the story. We ended up with an extremely successful campaign, raising 202% of what we wanted, thereby allowing us to film multiple additional actors as per the original plan to turn the script into a feature film. The 23-page script was therefore expanded to a whopping 58 pages including being able to film the **ROUND THE CORNER** pilot!

"GIRL WITH GUN & QUARANTINE & ROUND THE CORNER TIE-INS & PANDEMIC FRANCHISE"

One of Russ Emanuel's very first films **GIRL WITH GUN** (2005) as well as the short film tie-in **QUARANTINE** (2025) (consecutively shot with **STAYCATION**), both have a very concrete tie-in to **STAYCATION** (2024), with the casting of Erick Holloway, who played a major role in both **GIRL WITH GUN** and **STAYCATION** as the very same character 'Dan Winters'. This therefore makes **GIRL WITH GUN** a direct prequel to **STAYCATION**! This also means that **STAYCATION** is now the 'third film' in the pandemic franchise, after **GIRL WITH GUN** and **ROUTINE** and now also **QUARANTINE** and **ROUND THE CORNER**.

"FILM FESTIVALS"

01. Zed Fest Film Festival & Screenplay Competition (November 11, 2025) – Super Short Film Category: "Outstanding Acting Performance" (Kelli Maroney, Dyanne Mercante, Hans Hernke), Outstanding Directing, Outstanding Producing, Outstanding Screen Story" Winner
02. Killer Valley Comedy Film Festival (December 6 & 7, 2025)
03. Culver City Film Festival (December 7, 2025) – "Best Director – Pilot/Webisode/Web Series" Winner
04. San Francisco's Another Hole in the Head (December 7, 2025)
05. Zepstone International Film & Music Festival (December 18, 2025) – "Best TV/Web Series" Honorable Mention
06. UK Film Awards (December 21, 2025) – "Best Comedy, Best Comedy Drama" Nominations
07. The Brightside Film Festival (February 28 to March 1, 2026)
08. Golden State Film Festival (March 3, 2026)
09. Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival (March 4-14, 2026)
10. Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema (March 6 & 7, 2026)
11. Bare Bones International Film & Music Festival (March 20-30, 2026)
12. International Horror & Sci-Fi Film Festival (April 9-19, 2026)
13. Beyond Hollywood International Film Festival (April 23-26, 2026) – "Quarter-Finalist"
14. Jersey Shore Film Festival (June 4-28, 2026)
15. Star City Film Festival (September 24-27, 2026)

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PRODUCTION STILLS

