

*If you can't
bait 'em, join 'em*



Fishing with Baited Breath

a Nick Schelle short

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Press Kit

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[High-Res Photos](#)

Poster Available Upon Request





Tagline

If you can't bait 'em, join 'em.

Logline

While trying to relax at the river, an impatient fisherman is upstaged by a laid-back, old man.



Synopsis

On a picturesque river, a fisherman (Brendan Taylor) is having no luck. He's joined by an elderly man (Alex Au-Yeung), who quickly begins catching bigger and bigger fish with nothing but an old rod and an empty hook. The fisherman begins to think there may be more to fishing than simply trying to catch a fish.

Told with only music and sound effects, *Fishing With Baited Breath* is a live-action comedy inspired by classic animated shorts. The film relies on visual storytelling, physical comedy and sight gags to tell an entertaining tale about the importance of living in the process and not worrying about the result.



Technical Details

Format: HD, Stereo, 2.40 | Run Time: 5 min 45 sec | Language: English
Country: Canada | Film: Short | Genre: Comedy



The Story of the Film

A Day at the River

The idea for the film came to writer-director Nick Schelle while watching his kids play at a park by a local river. "I noticed a scruffy, old man down by the shore with a bucket and a makeshift fishing pole," recalls Nick. "Using no bait, he cast his rod, settled back and waited. He reminded me of a character from an old cartoon, down on his luck and trying to catch a fish; I half expected him to pull out an old boot!"

To Nick's surprise this fisherman did catch a fish and continued to catch fish almost every time he cast. Never happy with what he pulled out, he would throw the fish back each time. "I kept wondering what he was searching for," Nick remembers, "Then I got the idea that maybe he was trying to catch a boot!" This twist on an old trope was the starting point for the story, and the old man became a foil for an impatient fisherman trying his best and having no luck.





No Talking

Like the cartoons that helped inspire this story, Nick believes the best short films are simple; a character trying to accomplish something mundane while butting up against progressively challenging, over-the-top obstacles. “With minimal exposition and zero dialogue,” Nick explains, “these stories leave room for pure visual storytelling, and that’s what filmmaking is all about.”

Following the classic film rule of showing, not telling, Nick was excited to pair his commercial directing experience - visually telling big stories in a short amount of time - with the comedic skills he learned making award-winning short films and viral comedy sketches, to bring this funny tale to life. “I think the lack of dialogue is one of the things that makes this short so special,” Nick revealed, “Anyone, no matter what language they speak, can understand and enjoy it.”



One Crazy Day

To organize the shoot, Nick and producing partner Mike Southworth had to fight with the unpredictable weather of autumn in North Vancouver, Canada, and in the end just hope for the best. "We ended up being lucky with the weather," Mike remembers. "There was heavy rain the week before and the week after we shot the film."



Not only was the weather unpredictable, it made the location unpredictable as well. "We found a perfect location on the river when we were scouting," Nick recalls, "but when we went back to shoot a few weeks later, the water was way higher and the river bank was completely different."

"To tell a story in a purely visual manner, you end up with a lot of set-ups. You can't rely on dialogue for anything," Nick explains. "We had about 45 shots to get in one day while the sun was still up." The two producers pulled together a team of volunteering professionals to help film the extensive shot list. "I don't know how we pulled it off, but we got our last shot just as the sun was setting and the rain began to fall."



Process and Flow

Nick's main goal with film is to tell whimsical stories that entertain, but also reveal something about the human condition, and this film was no different. "I want audiences to laugh at the gags and be surprised by the new take on an old cliché," Nick explains, "but I also want them to see the deeper truth in the story."

Born with an unrelenting urge to create, Nick believes that living in the flow state, and not dwelling on mistakes or worrying about the outcome, is the key to both creativity and life. "The process of doing is what excites me, not the end result," Nick explains, "The old fisherman that inspired the film reminded me of that. I realized he was throwing back the fish, because his goal was the act of fishing, not the fish itself."





Nick Schelle

Director / Writer / Producer / Editor

Nick Schelle is an award-winning filmmaker based in Vancouver, Canada. His short films have gone viral online, aired on CBC and the Comedy Network and screened at festivals in Canada, New York and Milan.

In 2000, his gifts of creative storytelling and music came together when he co-created the live musical *Circus! The Musical*. The absurdly comedic production premiered at the Victoria Fringe Festival, delighting audiences and critics. He and his creative partners remounted a large-scale production of the musical in 2004 and went on to win the Viewers Choice Award for Overall Creativity & Innovation.

In 2011, he was invited to direct the retrospective short *Terry Fox* as part of a permanent art installation by Douglas Coupland at Terry Fox Plaza at BC Place in Vancouver.

In the last few years he has been directing commercials for one of the largest brands in North America, earning a Hermes award, two Stevie awards and two silver Dolphins from the Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards.

Recently, Nick was awarded a spot in the National Screen Institute's Features First program, with the feature *Reminiscent*, and is currently developing his first feature *Overtime*.



Brendan Taylor

"Fisherman"

Brendan is a seasoned actor of screen and stage, having diligently trained in the theatre. He created a theatre company, and currently works in commercials, TV, film and voice-over. A native West-Coaster, Brendan proudly hails from West Vancouver. Though he loves his many pursuits in the film industry, he still makes time to appear on stage.

Brendan has starred in such TV shows as Fargo, Bates Motel, Arrow, and performed in recurring roles on Supernatural and The Magicians. You can spot him frequently in TV commercials, and in his latest project Firefly Lane coming this fall on Netflix in a supporting role opposite Sarah Chalke and Katherine Heigl. When not involved in the Arts, Brendan is a self-taught mechanic and loves to spend time working on his rare, award-winning Japanese car. If not in the garage, you can find Brendan traveling the world with his camera in hand.

Alex Au-Yeung

"Old Man"

Alex has only been acting since 2018, appearing in a number of commercials in that time. Before that he lived a very different life.

Alex was born in Hong Kong, and moved to the US in 1970 to study Electronics Engineering. He graduated from California State Polytechnic University in 1973 with a BSEE and a MSEE in 1976. Alex moved to Canada in 1979 to work for BCTel and then Telus. He moved to Texas to work for Verizon in 1999 and returned to Canada in 2003. He started a business network group called Vancouver Business Network Forum in 2005. Now he is retired and enjoying life. He has a lovely wife and 3 children. The youngest of his brood, fourteen year-old Asia, is also an actor. In his spare time, Alex is quite active at community centres in Vancouver.



Mike Southworth

Producer / Editor

Mike Southworth is an award winning multidisciplinary content creator working as a Producer, Editor, Director, Composer and Engineer for a variety of Commercial, Music Video and Short Film projects. Mike has worked on commercials for brands including Telus, Chevy, RBC, Mini, Destination Canada and Fairmont, has produced and directed over 50 music videos and has worked on award winning short films 'Grocery Store Action Movie' and 'Project Panda'.

Vince Arvidson

Director of Photography

Enthralled by both documentary and narrative filmmaking cinematographer Vince Arvidson uses one medium to inform the other. The urgency and spontaneity of documentary enlivens dramatic storytelling while patiently crafting cinematic frames elevates documentary photography. From the Canadian Arctic to Kurdish Iraq, from Chiapas Mexico to Acholi Uganda Vince's eye is drawn to patterns in the complex, to stories that illuminate the human condition. No matter the project, collaboration is central to his approach. Vince's work has shown at festivals around the world and won numerous awards including Audience Favorite and Best Cinematography. It has aired on Discovery Channel, Super Channel, Spike TV, MTV, TSN and CityTV.

Ryland Haggis

Music

Ryland Haggis is a musician and composer from Vancouver, BC. After years spent as a touring and session musician, Ryland became an early collaborator with creative studio, Giant Ant, becoming that company's in-house composer, sound designer, and all-around audio producer. During that time, he was part of a team that garnered recognition and numerous awards for their work in marketing. After taking a brief hiatus to complete an MBA at UBC, Ryland — in partnership with Giant Ant — formed a company in 2018 called Playdate: a company dedicated to creating music and sound for picture.

Full Credits

Written and Directed by: Nick Schelle

Produced by: Mike Southworth, Nick Schelle

Director of Photography: Vince Arvidson

Production Designer: Angelyne Martin

Costume Designer: Sarah Danniels

Make-Up: Kathleen Babbitt

Edited by: Nick Schelle, Mike Southworth

Colourist: David Tomiak

Sound Design and Mix by: Matthew Gionet

Music: Ryland Haggis

Casting by: Catherine Falcon, Bim Narine

Cast

Brendan Taylor as the Fisherman

Alex Au-Yeung as the Old Man

Crew

1st Assistant Camera: Sammy Su

2nd Assistant Camera: Gilad McAteer

Gaffers / Grips: Sam Dowdall, Alex Dowdall

Equipment Prep: Mike Hjorth

Assistant Costume Designer: Kelsey Langerud, Brittany Peters

Production Assistant: Chris Antonio

Dobro: Scott Smith

Fiddle: Caleb Chan

Camera and Lighting Equipment provided by: Candela Collective

Post-Production Sound provided by: EarWorm Sound, Nova Studios

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