

DUCK DUCK GOOSE

“It’s time to stop rehearsing our deaths and start screaming.”

Chicago Tribune, June 19 2018

Launa Hall, a teacher in Arlington, Va. from The Washington Post

Since Columbine in 1999, the practice of lockdowns in schools across North America has been a regular, and in some schools, monthly practice. Now implemented around the world, these rehearsals deemed necessary for ‘active shooter’ situations, continue to address a phenomenon in its outcome, not its origin.

Many studies have been done on the aftermath of mass shootings; much has been written about the the resulting PTSD in survivors.

Little has been said about the impact of a culture of fear created by preparing children, including those in their very first years of schooling, for a real life horror.

Duck Duck Goose has no answers. It was made from a passion for education, and the need to keep igniting the conversation with questions about how this present reality impacts teachers and children



Duck Duck Goose - a short film by Shelley Thompson

Shot: Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada, June 2018 at St. Mary’s Elementary School

Logline: When hiding for your life becomes a frightening game, an elementary school teacher and children cope with the fear and guilt created by lockdown.

Synopsis: What begins as a happy, comfortable day in Annie's sunny elementary school classroom, becomes tense and frightening when an announcement forces Annie and her young charges to 'hibernate' in the safety of a too-packed closet. Annie is distraught with the fact that one of her young students has been caught in the hall, and the rules of this cruel game mean Annie’s forbidden to open the door for her until the lockdown is over. When finally the door is unlocked, the impact on both teacher and student is apparent - though impossible to measure.

SPECS

DURATION 7.0 Mins w credits, 6.0 Mins w/o credits
COLOUR Colour
ASPECT RATIO 2.35 (SCOPE)
SHOOTING FORMAT Other - shot on **Sony a7S - DSLR**
EXHIBITION FORMAT Various including .MOV (Quicktime)
SCREENER FORMAT Secure Online Screener: <https://vimeo.com/276555128> PW duckduck2018
SOUND Stereo or 5.1

CREDITS

Written and Directed by

Shelley Thompson

Produced by

Sylvia Bell

Executive producer

Shelley Thompson

STARRING

Francine Deschepper as ANNIE

Raigne Umali as SHANDA

With

Charlie Jean Boyle

Ryan Horton

Lucía Vaca -Talbot

Jasmine Jade Aulenback

Cinematographer

Chelsea Innes

Co - DoP

Keith Mitchell

1st AD

Gil Anderson

Script Supervisor

Andrew Mortimer

Production Sound recordist

Sheldon Hachey

Production Sound Assistant

Burton Howell

Gaffer/Grip

Simon Marshall

Data Management

Colin MacDonald

Make-up and Wardrobe Coordinator

Morgan Melnyk

Production Coordinator

Gil Anderson

Set PAs

Amy Trefry, Melanie Mackay, Teddy Thomason

Post Supervisor

Shelley Thompson/ Sylvia Bell

Editor

Colin MacDonald

Online, Colour correction

Doug Woods - 902 Post

Sound design and Mix

Lukas Pearse

Composer

Lukas Pearse

Catering/Craft Coordinator

Christine Latter-Stratton

Craft Assistant

Lily Stratton

Child wrangler/play specialist

Avril Kearns

IMDB

CONTACT DUCK DOWN PRODUCTIONS shelley.a.t@gmail.com.

902 872 1320 - Shelley Thompson or 902 318 0405 - Sylvia Bell

This production was made with the generous support of the membership of ACTRA Maritimes.

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TEAM

Writer/ Director/ co-Producer
SHELLEY THOMPSON

An award-winning performer and 12 season veteran of the hit Canadian series **Trailer Park Boys**, Thompson trained at the UK's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, the Canadian Film Centre (2015), and was one of the eight Women In the Director's Chair - Story & Leadership program (2016/17).

She's played leading roles at the UK's Royal National Theatre, in London's West End and British regional theatres; at the Shaw Festival and across Canada at major theatres. Her plentiful on-screen work, including Jim Henson's **Labyrinth**, and recent award-winning performances in Michael Melski's **The Child Remains** and Tho Fitzgerald's **Splinters** makes her transition to screenwriter/director a logical next step for someone dedicated to the craft of finding the absolute truth of a character.

Her short films **Dawg**, **Bats** and **Pearls** have been included in festivals across North America and Europe. **Pearls**, about a trans teenager leaving their rural NS home, is a 'prequel' to Thompson's first feature **Dawn, Her Dad & the Tractor**. **Pearls** has played worldwide at over 30 festivals, winning awards and nominations. Her most recent short, **Duck Duck Goose**, which includes 35 actors under 13, addresses the culture of fear perpetrated by school lockdowns and won Best Atlantic Short at FIN 2018. Duck Duck Goose will be one of ten shorts selected by Telefilm Canada for their Not Short On Talent Program at Clermont-Ferrand 2019. Thompson will be the 2018 recipient of the WIDC's Feature Film Award for her script **Dawn, Her Dad & the Tractor**, planned for production in the summer of 2019.

Producer
SYLVIA BELL

Sylvia Bell has been working in the Nova Scotia arts community for the last 15 years. She is a stage manager, production manager, tour coordinator, sorter of details. Focusing on creation theatre, Sylvia has seen 16 new scripts through development and into production, and has gone on to tour many of these shows across Canada and the USA. Sylvia toured the USA for 9 consecutive months, facilitated tours in China and Singapore, has worked in Event and Festival Operations and Planning, has spent time in the film industry as production secretary, APC and on set PA. Currently Sylvia is moving in new directions working on films as a producer: Grace, with Afro-Viking Pictures, and Duck Duck Goose.

Cinematographer
CHELSEA INNES

Chelsea is a multi-talented artist of colour; Writer, Director, Cinematographer, and Musician/Composer. Her first film, Little Keys (2016), won several Canadian awards including Best LGBT Award at Toronto Independent Film Festival. Her Thesis Film, WO|LF (2017), has already received international recognition having been screened in France, India, as well as in Toronto, Montreal and Halifax, Canada

Composer/Sound Design
LUKAS PEARSE

Multi-faceted sound designer / musician / composer / media artist Lukas Pearse (b1971) from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada) works with basses, sound, image and technology in many ways, using acoustic, electric and electronic instruments; mechanical, analogue and digital sound recordings, sound diffusion techniques for installation, modern dance and concert performance. He works as a film sound designer, Foley artist and film composer, with credits including Black Cop (2017) Trailer Park Boys Season 10 (2016) North Mountain (2015) as well as many, many short films and documentaries.

Lukas studied intermedia art at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, is a professional member of the Screen Composer's Guild of Canada and of Screen Nova Scotia, and is the Artistic Director of Upstream Music Association.

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CAST

Annie

FRANCINE DESCHEPPER

Francine Deschepper is a Halifax based actor who has worked both nationally and internationally. She has been nominated for seven Robert Merritt Awards for outstanding performance in theatre and two ACTRA Maritimes Awards for film and TV. Credits include the features *Hopeless Romantic* and *Weirdos*; and for television *The Mist* (Spike), *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* (CBC), *You And Me* (CBC), *Sex & Violence* (Out TV), *Seed* (City TV), *Call Me Fitz* (HBO Canada), and *Haven* (SyFy).

Shanda

RAIGNE UMALI

Raigne was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia but is also proud of her Filipino heritage. She started acting when she was 7 when she landed a spot on a national commercial for *Rogers*, and then with *Brita* and *Efficency Nova Scotia*.

Duck Duck Goose was her first speaking role at the age of 8 and she was very fortunate to be mentored by Shelley Thompson for her special role. Recently she's been cast in the last season of *Mr.D*.

When she is not acting, she plays the ukulele and trains for intensive ballet, tap and jazz. She loves to hike, fish, camp and travel.