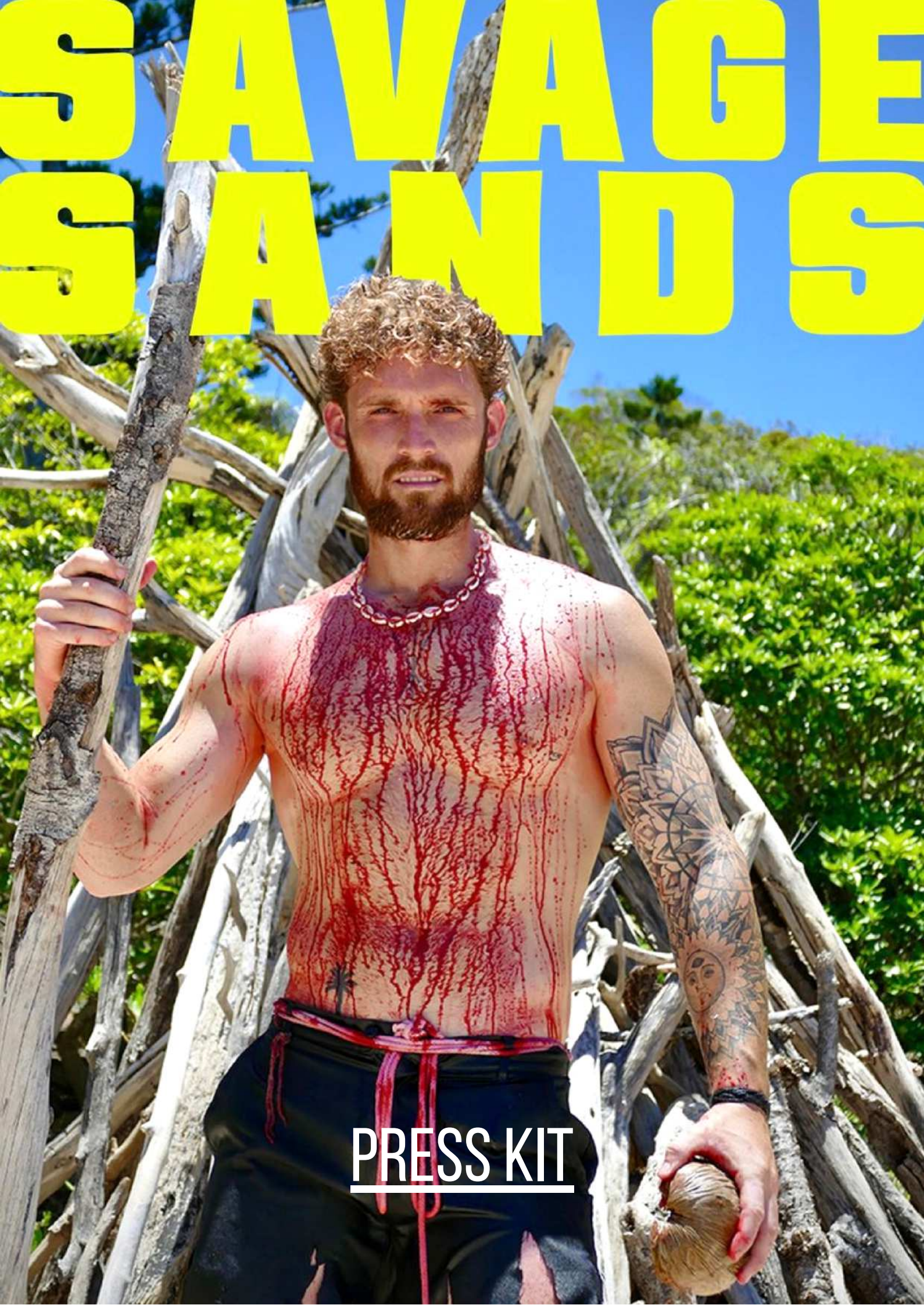


US SAWAGE ISLANDS



PRESS KIT



A scene from *Savage Sands* © 2024

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Eric Kay as Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands* © 2024

TAGLINE

How far would you go to protect your paradise?

LOGLINE

When a man is stranded on a tropical island, he must battle the raw forces of nature as well as confront his own dark instincts in James Cunningham's sun-drenched blood-soaked thriller *Savage Sands*.

SYNOPSIS

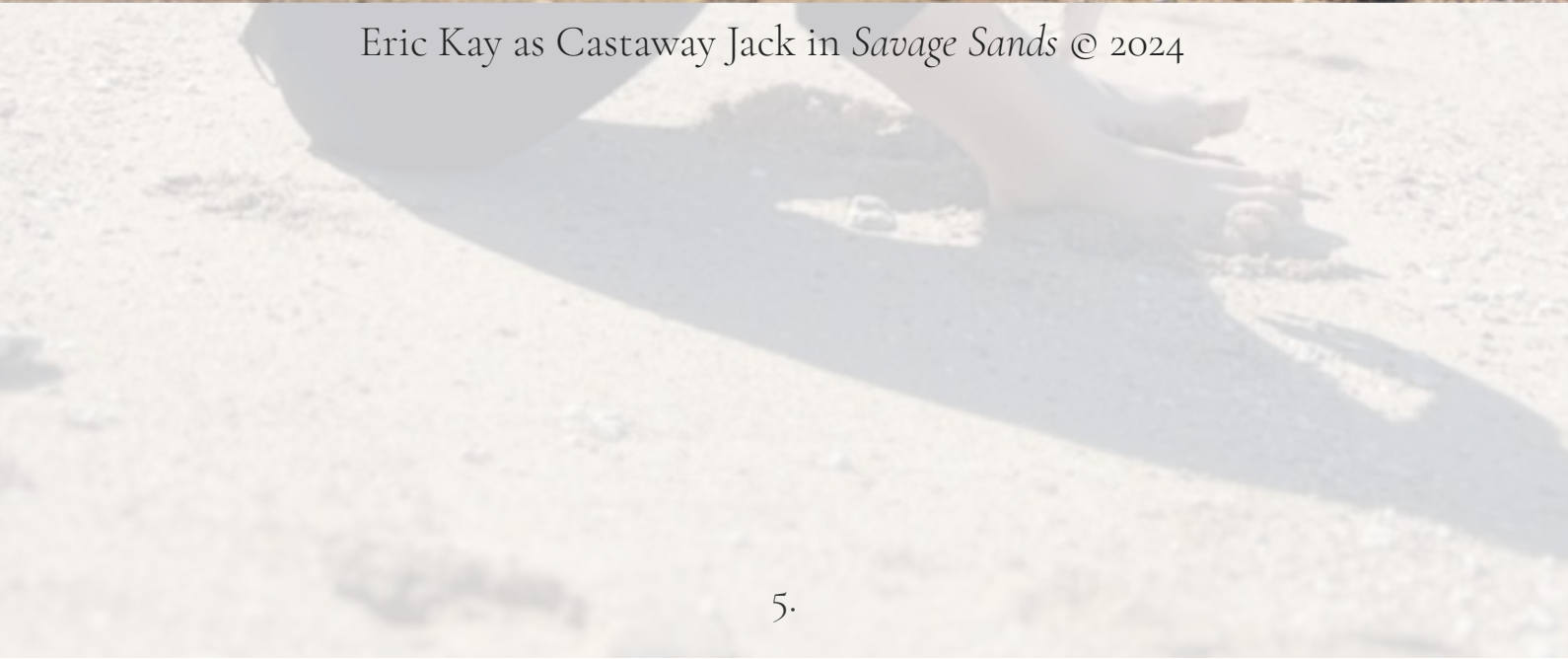
Castaway Jack (Eric Kay) finds himself stranded and alone on a tropical desert island following a ferocious storm, facing a harrowing test of survival.

While grappling with nature's unforgiving forces he also confronts a darkness lurking within, transforming into a fierce guardian of his newfound island paradise, teetering on the brink of madness.

As the scorching sun intensifies, so do the island's rising tensions, leading to a shocking blood-soaked conclusion in *Savage Sands*.



Eric Kay as Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands* © 2024



In *Savage Sands*, the story of Castaway Jack isn't simply a tale of survival but a metaphorical reflection of the human condition. Our character's journey powerfully illustrates the fragility of societal norms and the profound human instinct to defend what is cherished.

Through Jack's experience, the film navigates a balance between morality and necessity, civilisation and primal nature. *Savage Sands* is a film that urges introspection, provoking its audience to delve deeper into their own humanity. By presenting a bold and unflinching portrayal of survival set against the stunning backdrop of Australia's own Whitsunday Islands, *Savage Sands* aims to challenge and transcend conventional storytelling, inviting viewers to engage in a thought-provoking exploration of human nature.



Eric Kay as Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands* © 2024

A man with a beard, wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a dark shirt, stands in front of a structure made of wooden poles. The background is a dense thicket of trees and foliage. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white filter.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A slow-burn thriller, *Savage Sands* is a deeply personal exploration of the complex relationship between human nature and the seductive lure of paradise. *Savage Sands* deliberately blurs the lines between beauty and brutality, challenging viewers to consider ‘What would I do?’

The film is intentionally bold and unapologetic, confronting its own ethics whilst pushing audiences to challenge their own expectations.



Eric Kay as Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands* © 2024

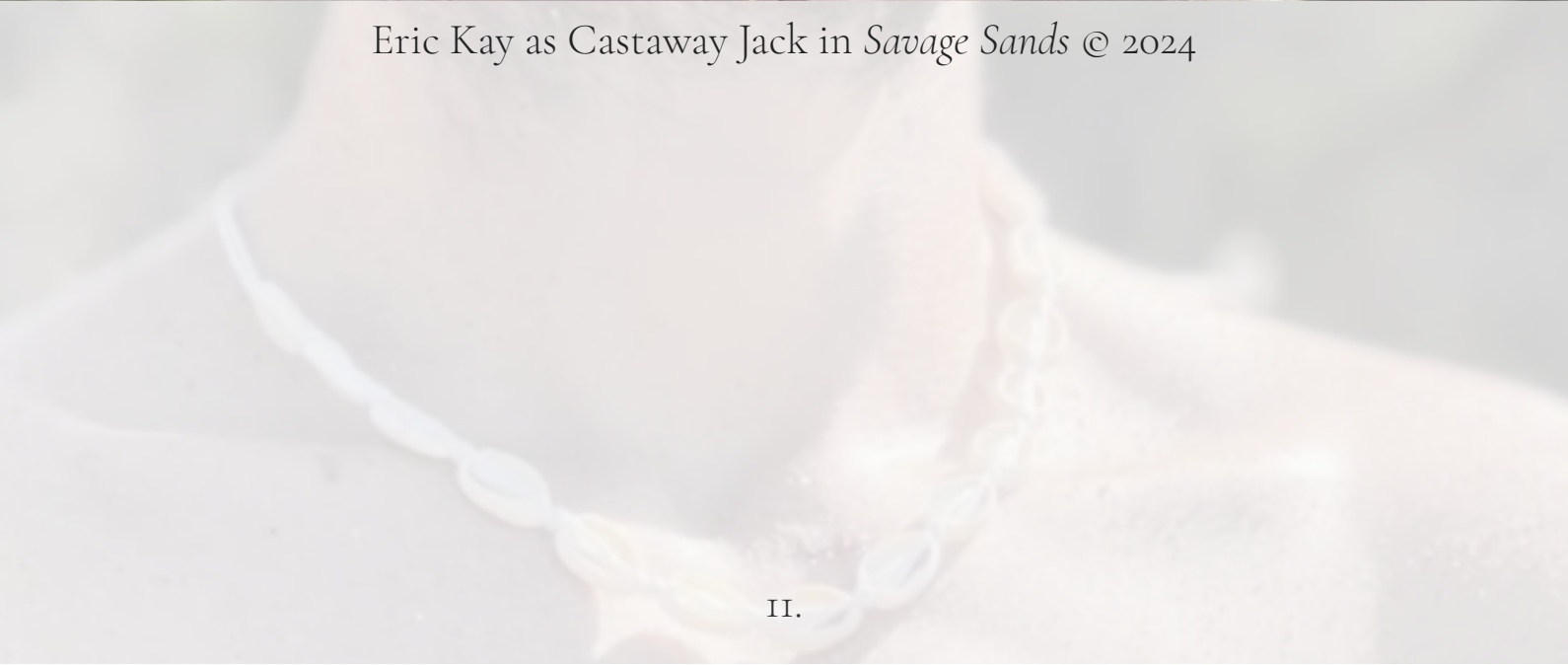
WRITER, DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

James Cunningham is an award-winning independent filmmaker, dramatist and producer best known for the Australian tour of his original play *The Sheds* (2013-2014) and others, as well as his short films *Beneath the Waves* (2018) and *The Assignment* (2022) which earned Best Thriller and Best Director at the Chicago Cinema Awards in 2023.

His works are wholly not-for-profit and often explore dark themes confronting concepts of masculinity, identity, sexuality and self-expression.



Eric Kay as Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands* © 2024



ERIC KAY as CASTAWAY JACK

Eric Kay is a 24-year-old former lifeguard, Australian Army veteran and actor known for his appearance on reality television series *FBoy Island Australia* (2023).

Eric's commitment to the role of Castaway Jack is commendable, having joined the project during pre-production, the actor participated in test-shoots on location which allowed the actor to begin developing the character early. Eric also filmed different elements of the script months apart, allowing him to transform his physical appearance, growing his beard and body-hair, to fully embody Castaway Jack's transformation. Eric also displayed a remarkable comfort level and unwavering confidence in his grasp of the film's demands concerning the portrayal of nudity.

When he's not acting Eric enjoys physical fitness and maintains an active lifestyle working as a marine crew-member and nautical worker in Australia.

"Taking on this character involved understanding the psychological toll of being isolated and it challenged me to explore the depths of resilience. It pushed my boundaries and taught me valuable lessons about human strength and adaptability."

- Eric Kay on playing Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands*



PRODUCTION

Filmed on location in Australia's tropical Whitsunday Islands, *Savage Sands'* rich visual narrative was a labour of love, with shots, scenes and sequences painstakingly collected across numerous island locations, over many months of production.

The many visual contrasts in the film serve to highlight the precarious balance between paradise and danger. The cinematography behind *Savage Sands* is a testament to the dedication and artistry of the production team and its collaborators, weaving together the complex themes within the remote world of Castaway Jack's paradise/prison location.

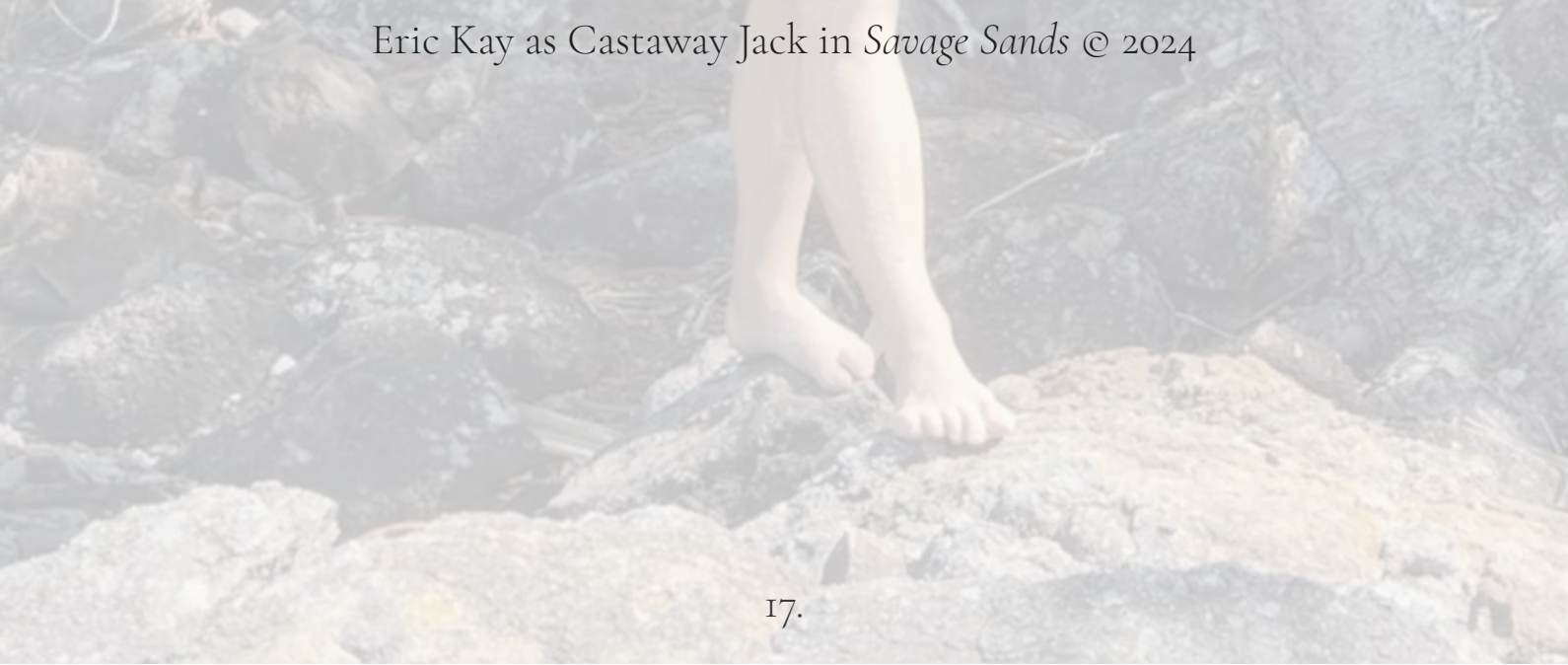
Inspired by iconic films such as *The Genesis Children* (1972), *The Blue Lagoon* (1980), *Castaway* (2000) and *Swept Away* (2002), the film uses sun-soaked visuals to present the raw intensity of both human nature and individual human desires.



Eric Kay as Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands* © 2024



Eric Kay as Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands* © 2024



MUSIC

Composed, performed and produced by multi-talented Scott Walter Roush, as Rhythm Scott, the music of *Savage Sands* is a sonic masterpiece that breathes life into the raw and primal essence of the film's narrative. Used sparingly but poignantly within the film, Roush's music becomes an integral part of the storytelling, immersing the audience right from opening credits.

With a powerful and evocative use of heavy jungle drums, Roush's composition echoes the tribal rhythms of nature, deepening the emotional connection to the film's themes.

COMPOSER

Scott Walter Roush has been composing music and drumming for over twenty years, living and working in Nashville, Tennessee. His work is featured in a wide range of film and television projects such as *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, Netflix's *Formula 1: Drive to Survive*, and *CNN Newsroom*.





Eric Kay as Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands* © 2024

VIOLENCE & NUDITY

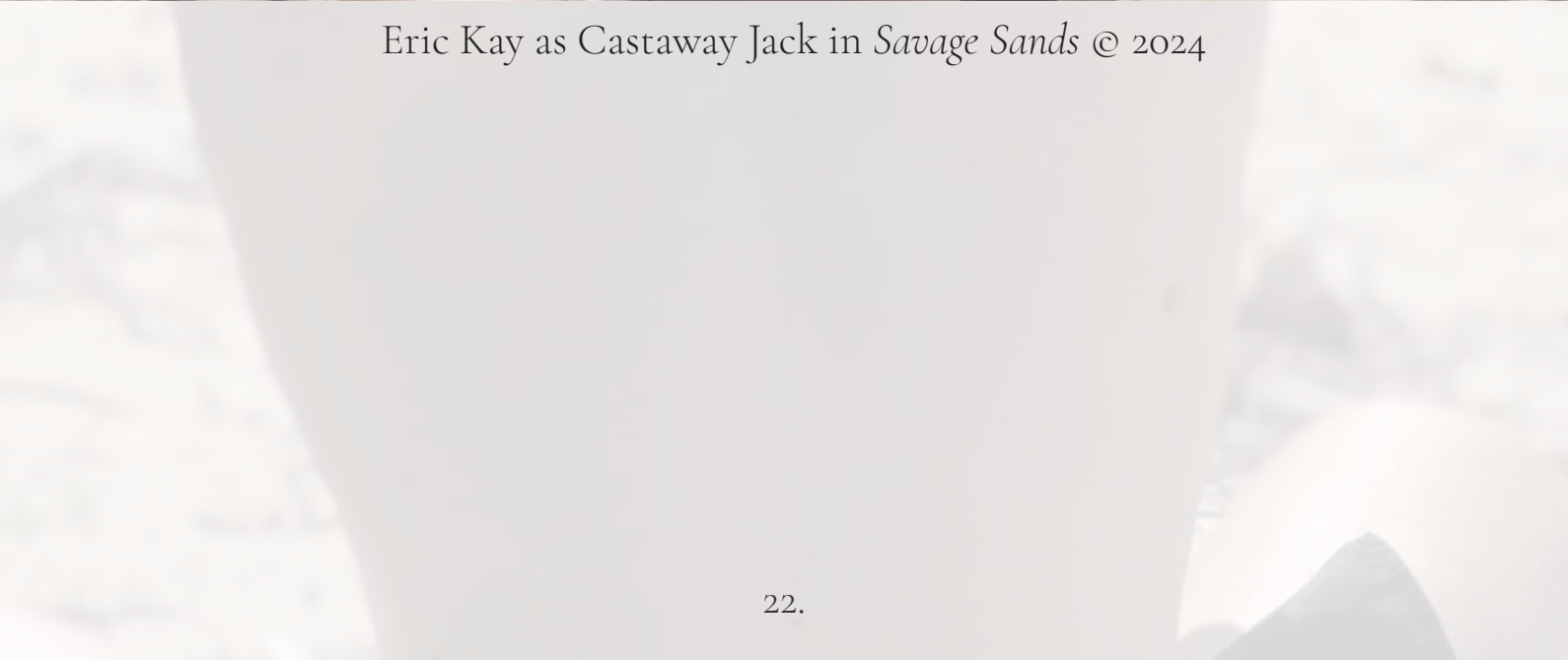
Savage Sands employs violence as a storytelling tool, not for sensationalism, but to authentically depict the harsh conditions and internal struggles of the protagonist, adding layers of intensity and realism to the narrative.

By illustrating the savage reality that Castaway Jack confronts, the film's final scene is artfully choreographed to enhance the film's exploration of survival and resilience awakened in the face of adversity.

Unabashed nudity is celebrated in *Savage Sands* and serves more just an aesthetic choice; it becomes a component of the film's narrative, key to the character's physical portrayal and a symbol of freedom.



Eric Kay as Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands* © 2024

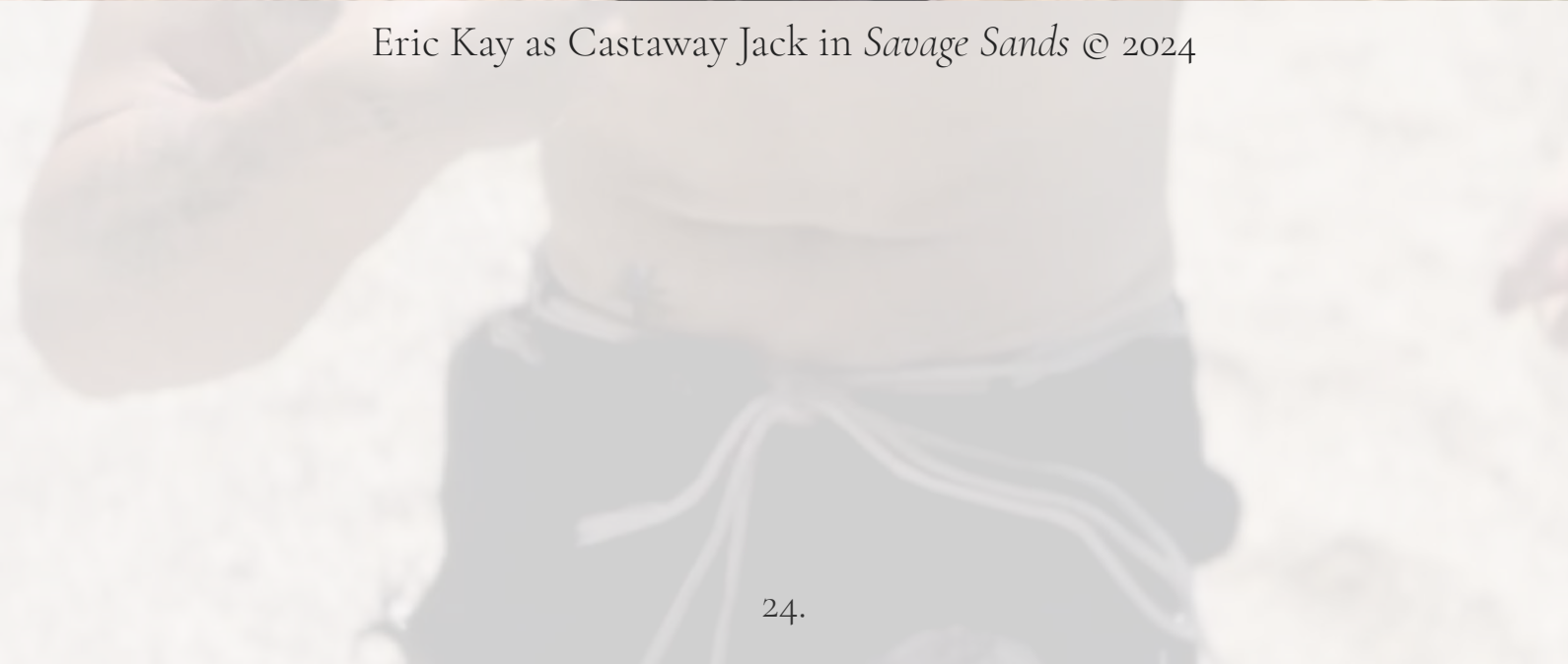


"Savage Sands *deliberately blurs the lines
between beauty and brutality.*"

- James Cunningham on *Savage Sands*



Eric Kay as Castaway Jack in *Savage Sands* © 2024





PRESIDENTIAL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS 'SAVAGE SANDS' JAMES CUNNINGHAM FILM
FEATURING ERIC KAY AS 'CASTAWAY JACK' MUSIC BY SCOTT WALTER ROUSH
PRODUCED BY VANESSA ABBOTT AND JAMES CUNNINGHAM AND SLADE PHILLIPS
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY JAMES CUNNINGHAM

WWW.PRESPRODUCTIONS.CO.COM

Promotional poster for *Savage Sands* © 2024

SAVAGE SANDS (2024)

Running time - 25:00

Contains mature themes, violence and nudity.

Featuring Eric Kay as 'Castaway Jack'.

Mathis Conjat as 'Man on the Sand'.

Written and directed by James Cunningham.

Produced by Vanessa Abbott and Slade Phillips.

Additional Footage by Tilo Kuehnast and Mikhail Linnikov,
with Monster Filmmakers. Storm Footage by Mark Tipple.

Visual Effects Support by Ramy Morgan and ActionVFX.

Music by Scott Walter Roush as Rhythm Scott.

Additional Sound by Craig Cooper and Lucas Tvrdon,
with Selkor Studio and Soundholder.

Special Thanks to Royce Butler, Garth Cecil, Linda Cunningham,
Nathan Davis-Dempsey, Adam Heaton, Fabio Ignacio Junior, Matt James,
Ron Johanson OAM ACS, Andres Laso, Peleg Levi, Moritz Liederscheidt,
Jorge Morún, Dante Pragier, Nathaniel Savy, Ben Simpson, Sean Stuart,
Aidan Thatcher, Peter Unicomb and Dash Wilson.

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