

PRESIDENTIAL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
THE ASSIGNMENT

A SHORT FILM BY JAMES CUNNINGHAM

MEDIA KIT

DAVID KARA

FRANCIS RYAN

*TO CATCH A KILLER,
YOU GOTTA THINK LIKE ONE.*

PRESIDENTIAL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

THE ASSIGNMENT

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JAMES CUNNINGHAM

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DAVID KARA AND FRANCIS RYAN IN "THE ASSIGNMENT" DIRECTOR JAMES CUNNINGHAM

CINEMATOGRAPHER LUKAS YANNOUTSOS ORIGINAL SCORE PEDRO DE PRADA

EDITOR JAPNEET DAHLI WAL PRODUCERS VANESSA ABBOTT AND SLADE PHILLIPS

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Leo (Francis Ryan) and Harrison (David Kara) in a scene from *The Assignment*.

TAGLINE

To catch a killer, you gotta think like one...

LOGLINE

Short film *The Assignment* is a slick thriller delivering a sexy modern twist on the slasher genre with heavy hints of Hitchcock, lashings of Carpenter and Craven, and a pinch of *Dexter*... all on rooftop at sunset.

SYNOPSIS

Harrison (David Kara) and Leo (Francis Ryan) are two friends studying together at university in Melbourne, Australia. They receive a unique assignment as part of their studies in criminal psychology... to explain how, hypothetically, they might commit a perfect murder.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

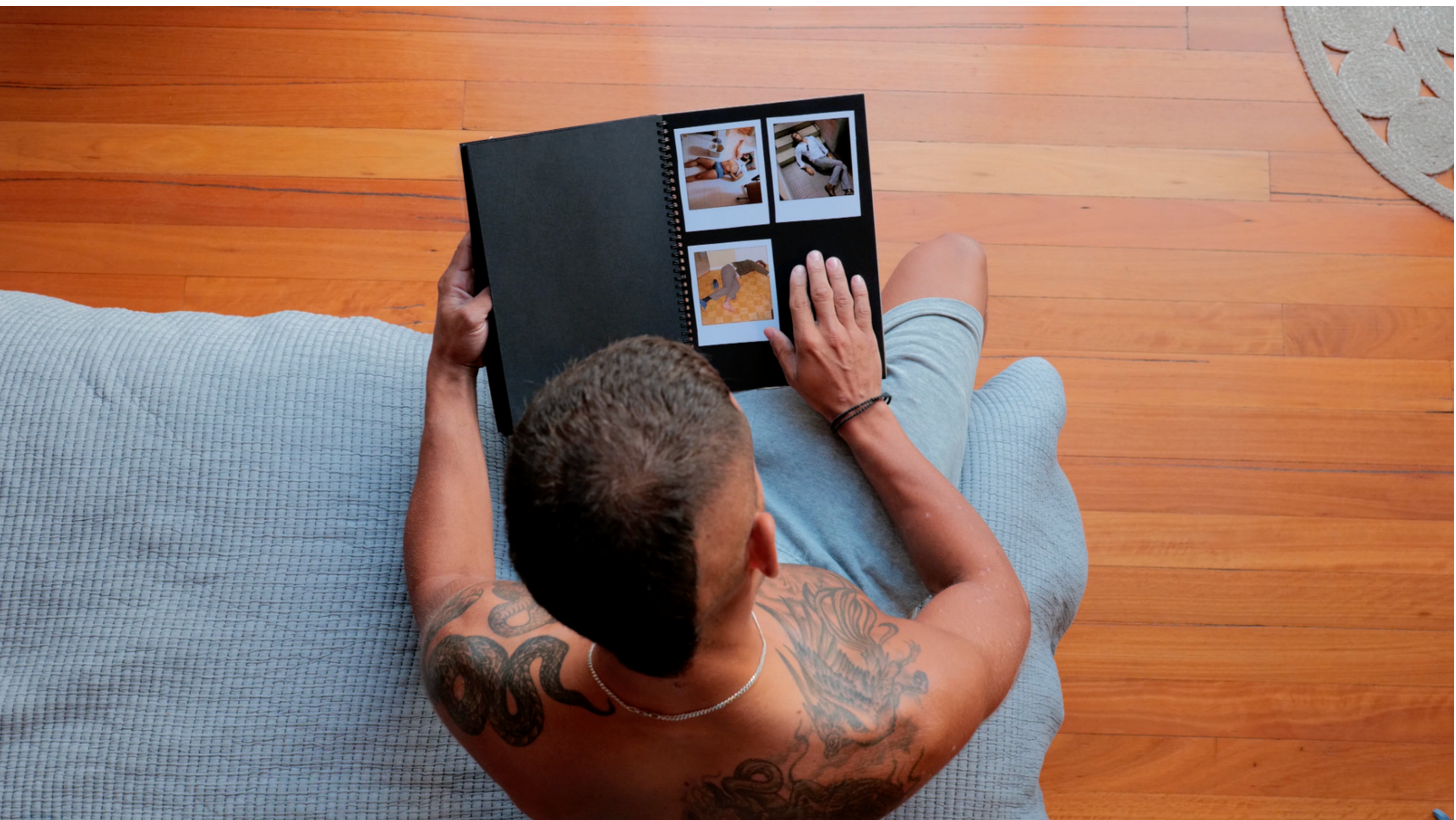
The Assignment is a love letter to the 'slasher genre'.
Written and pre-produced over 19-months of lockdowns
and inspired by watching and researching countless
new and classic horror films, and being drawn specifically to
the slasher as sub-genre of horror generally. The film plays
with stereotypes and clichés in a modern Australian setting.

DIRECTOR

James Cunningham is an award-winning independent
filmmaker and fringe theatre producer best known for the
Australian tour of his original play *The Sheds* (2013-2014) as
well as his short film *Beneath the Waves* (2018) and others.



WINNER Best Director
James Cunningham for *The Assignment*
Chicago Cinema Awards, 2022



Harrison (David Kara) in a scene from *The Assignment*.



Harrison (David Kara) in a scene from *The Assignment*.

DAVID KARA as HARRISON

David Kara is a 26-year-old actor from Melbourne, Australia.

Before appearing as Harrison in *The Assignment*, Kara featured in award-winning Australian film *Downriver* (2015) as well as a number of short films including *Amissa Anima* (2021).

Kara fully immersed himself into his performance as serial killer Harrison, embodying both the physical strength of the character and bringing a subtle and layered performance as the film's complicated protagonist. When he's not acting, Kara works as a gardener and landscaper in Melbourne.



Harrison (David Kara) in a scene from *The Assignment*.

" This was a challenging role. I knew this was complicated character and I approached the performance with a calm and simmering demeanour. "

- Dave Kara on playing Harrison in *The Assignment*



Leo (Francis Ryan) in a scene from *The Assignment*.

FRANCIS RYAN as LEO

Francis Ryan is a 28-year-old molecular microbiologist and part-time actor from Melbourne, Australia.

Ryan's commitment to the craft of acting is exemplified by his portrayal of the complex and vulnerable Leo in *The Assignment*, his first professional film role, for which he spent months in lockdown rehearsing and refining his performance in collaboration with director James Cunningham.

When he's not acting or making groundbreaking discoveries in the lab, Ryan enjoys scuba diving and weight-lifting.

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Stylistic, naturalistic, lush and moody, clean and crisp; culminating with a Psycho-inspired shower scene filmed on a rooftop during 'golden hour' just before sunset.

Lukas Yannoutsos is a cinematographer and filmmaker from Melbourne, Australia, earning an Advanced Diploma in Film and Television from Swinburne University of Technology.

Yannoutsos works across various roles such as director on his own short film *At The End of the Day* (2021), and as editor on short film *Blue Belt* (2022).

CAMERA & LENS

The Assignment was filmed on a Panasonic Lumix S1 with a Panasonic Lumix S series 24-105mm f/4 lens.



Leo (Francis Ryan) in a scene from *The Assignment*.



A scene from James Cunningham's *The Assignment*.

SCORE

The Assignment features an original score drawing its inspiration from the electronic music of John Carpenter, horror themes of the 1980s, and delivers a respectful nod to Bernard Herrmann's iconic *Psycho* score.

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY

Pedro de Prada is an independent musician and music producer from Argentina. Working on projects locally and internationally, he studied Musical Composition at the National University of La Plata, Argentina. In May 2022, he began working on the music for the short film *The Assignment* for the film's director James Cunningham.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS



WINNER Best Thriller Short Film
James Cunningham's *The Assignment*
Chicago Cinema Awards, 2022



WINNER Best Director
James Cunningham for *The Assignment*
Chicago Cinema Awards, 2022



NOMINATION Best Horror Short
James Cunningham's *The Assignment*
Play Short International Festival 2023



FINALIST Best Short Film
James Cunningham's *The Assignment*
London International Film Festival 2023



FOUR STARS - Independant Review
James Cunningham's *The Assignment*
Short Films Matter



Harrison (David Kara) and Leo (Francis Ryan) in *The Assignment*.



Harrison (David Kara) and Leo (Francis Ryan) in *The Assignment*.

FESTIVALS AND SCREENINGS





Francis Ryan, Kyle Evans, Lukas Yannoutsos,
David Kara and James Cunningham on the set of *The Assignment*.

THE ASSIGNMENT (2022)

Running time - 9:22

Contains coarse language,
violence and nudity.

Harrison - David Kara

Leo - Francis Ryan

Written & Directed - James Cunningham

Cinematography - Lukas Yannoutsos

Original Score - Pedro de Prada

Editing - Japneet Dahliwal

Sound Recordist - Kyle Evans

Produced by - Vanessa Abbott,
James Cunningham and Slade Philips

MMXXII (c) Presidential Productions

Filmed on location in Melbourne, Australia.



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productions.