



The
Radio Mechanics
Apocalypse of the Dial

Title: The Radio Mechanics
Length: TRT 18:43 - Color
Genre: Sci-fi Short
Format: 24p DV
Aspect Ratio: 1:78 (16x9)
Sound: Dolby Digital
Country: USA
Year: 2005

Log Line:

A scientist must convince a late-night radio talk show host that his broadcast is part of an alien plot to take over the world, before it's too late.

Synopsis, brief:

Late-night radio talk show host Nigel Starr is used to getting outlandish and bizarre phone calls. But a call from Stillman, a frayed research scientist, proves to be the strangest one yet. Armed with only theories about an alien plot to take over the world, Stillman must fight to convince Nigel that his broadcast is the "...kingpin to our very existence" - before it's too late!

Bios:

Director Jonathan Johnson is a graphic designer, accomplished musician, and singer/songwriter. He is one of the principals at Unit 12 Productions, an upstart company that is building a body of work both locally and nationally including the score for this film. Jonathan makes his directorial debut with "The Radio Mechanics."

Co-director Preston Herrick is a Telly award winning producer who has worked in the film and television industry since 1985. He is the owner of Aperture Studios, a film and video production company started in 1989. Preston brings his extensive experience as a producer, cinematographer and editor to this project.

Lance Warlock is a co-producer for The Radio Mechanics and plays the role of an escaped mental patient in the film. He is also a principal at Unit 12 Productions. Lance continues the Warlock legacy in the footsteps of actor brother Billy Warlock, and legendary stuntman father, Dick Warlock, best known for his role as Michael Myers in Halloween II.

About the Production:

Co-director's Jonathan Johnson and Preston Herrick teamed up in the Fall of 2003 and began to adapt Jonathan's short story to a screenplay in their spare time. In May of 2004 they assembled a production team, cast in June, and began principal photography in July, spanning 12 nights and 2 days in 13 locations.

“This was a no-budget production designed to be a calling card when finished,” says writer/director Johnson. “We simply pooled our resources, called in favors, and the rest came out of pocket, which was very little.” The short film was shot in 24p DV to keep costs down.

A graphic designer and accomplished music composer by trade, Johnson is one of the principals in Unit 12 Productions, an upstart company which scored the short film. Herrick handled the bulk of production and post-production chores through his company Aperture Studios, a film and video production company started in 1989.

“The production went surprisingly smooth with only a few tense moments considering the scope and number of locations,” says producer Preston Herrick. “One of our scenes was shot in the conference room of an attorney’s office on the weekend when nobody was there. Things were progressing just fine until the very end when a fog machine we were using set off a smoke alarm. Fortunately, it didn’t summons the fire department. Unfortunately, we discovered the elevator stopped working which was the primary access to their offices. Fortunately, the attorney who loaned us the offices was a good friend and the elevator problem turned out to be a fluke, unrelated to our activities.”

“Our strangest location though had to be the funeral home,” says Johnson. We used an abandoned apartment in the back of an old funeral home. Again, we had a problem with a fire alarm. Only this time a battery was low and emitting “chirp” noises from the basement as we were trying to shoot. I can’t say that I didn’t get a chill when I had to go down there to take care of it. There were some strange vibes there to say the least and finding a small coffin in one of the closets didn’t help. After pulling an all-nighter to get the shots, everyone was glad when the morning came and we wrapped it up.”

Credits:

Story by:

Jonathan Johnson

Produced by:

Preston Herrick & Jonathan Johnson

Screenplay Written & Directed by:

Jonathan Johnson & Preston Herrick

Associate Producers:

Lance Warlock, Jean Larson, Dennis Roberts, Joylene Scott

Director of Photography:

Preston Herrick

Music by:

Jonathan Johnson & Lance Warlock - Unit 12 Productions

Edited By:

Preston Herrick - Aperture Studios

Cast:

Stillman
Nigel

Patrick Murphy
Doug Pelton

Chili-Dog Man/Tycoon	Dan Johnson, Sr.
Laundry Woman/Soldier	Serena Bowman
Old Woman/Bag Lady	Karen Russell
Old Man/Barber	Mike Anderton
Mental Patient	Lance Warlock
Maintenance Man	Jonathan Johnson
Short Order Cook	Josh Fuller
Radio Producer	Dale Roth

Casting by:
Joylene Scott - Dream Alley Studios

Production Design & Graphics:
Dennis Roberts & Jonathan Johnson - J&R Artworks

Hair & Makeup:
Joylene Scott

Craft Services:
Jean Larson

Primary Contact Information:

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