

the Tell-Tale Heart

a short film by Robert Eggers



www.telltaleheartfilm.com

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Logline

A short film adaptation of the Poe classic with tangibly detailed period design and hauntingly lifelike puppetry.

Synopsis (short)

“I became insane with long intervals of horrible sanity.”

- Edgar Allan Poe

Within the mouldering chambers of a desolate house, a solitary manservant tends to his invalid master. Tormented by constant silence and the banality of his duties, the Servant's fears gradually turn to violent obsession. With tangibly detailed period design and hauntingly lifelike puppetry, director/designer Robert Eggers unearths the decaying dreamworld of Poe.

Synopsis (long)

“I became insane with long intervals of horrible sanity.”

- Edgar Allan Poe

Only one Servant remains in the ruins of an old house. He is valet, butler, footman, cook and sick-nurse. The master of the house is a cadaverous invalid whose every function is aided by the earnest, young manservant. He meticulously repeats his duties within the silence of the mouldering chambers - his only company is the vacant stare of the Old Man's blind eye. Time rots away. Tormented by constant silence and the banality of his duties, the Servant's fears gradually turn to violent obsession.

With tangibly detailed period design and hauntingly lifelike puppetry, THE TELL-TALE HEART unearths the decaying dreamworld of Poe. Director/designer Robert Eggers centers the classic tale on the unnerving relationship between Servant and Master. With lyrical movement and a striking performance by Carrington Vilmont, the film quickly lures its viewer into its claustrophobic confines.



The Filmmakers

Robert Eggers (Writer/Director/Designer)

"Robert Eggers is a young artist with his own unique vision of the world. A multi-tasking actor, writer, designer, director and a man totally dedicated to the pursuit of his art."

-- Bob Crowley, 5-time Tony Award winning designer & director

Robert Eggers is the artistic director of Palehorse Productions. He directed and designed the company's New York debut, *OTHELLO*, winning an Innovative Theatre Award for his costumes. Also with Palehorse, Eggers adapted, directed, and designed an expressionist silent short film of *HANSEL & GRETEL* and a commedia dell'arte circus adaptation of *FAUST*.

Eggers has designed sets and costumes for film, television, theatre and ballet, working for *SESAME STREET*, Comedy Central, La MaMa E.T.C., Lincoln Center and others. Most recently, he was the production and creature designer for Victor Varnado's *ROBOTO SUPREMO* with Michel Gondry. From 2001-03 Eggers worked extensively at the Edwin Booth Theatre in New Hampshire as a director, designer and actor. Directorial work at the Booth includes: *ROMEO & JULIET*, *HAMLET* and an original stage adaptation of F.W. Murnau's *NOSFERATU*. www.RobertEggers.com

Carrington Vilmont (The Servant)

Carrington Vilmont is featured in the recent film, *DEATH IN LOVE*, premiering at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. He starred in the short film, *BILL IS MY DOG* and appeared in the short film, *ROMANCE LANGUAGES*. New York theater credits include Raul in the Broadway cast of *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA* as well as productions of the new plays *THE SECOND TOSCA* and *JUBILEE*. A graduate of Northwestern University, he has appeared regionally in *CABARET* at The Pittsburgh Public Theater and *The Telephone* and *The Medium* at Hawaii Opera Theater.

Richard Easton (Voice of the Old Man)

The acclaimed stage career of Richard Easton spans five decades. Since his 1958 Broadway debut in *THE COUNTRY WIFE*, Mr. Easton has appeared in eighteen Broadway plays including *THE CHERRY ORCHARD*, *HAMLET*, *THE MISANTHROPE*, *NOISES OFF*, *HENRY IV* and most recently *THE COAST OF UTOPIA*. In 2001 he won a Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in Tom Stoppard's *THE INVENTION OF LOVE*. With the Royal Shakespeare Company, he acted alongside Kenneth Branagh's *HENRY V*, Roger Rees' *HAMLET* and Jeremy Irons' *RICHARD II*. On television, Mr. Easton played the role of Brian Hammond in the BBC series *THE BROTHERS* as well as the title character in the PBS mini-series *BENJAMIN FRANKLIN*. His film credits include Kenneth Branagh's *HENRY V*, *DEAD AGAIN* and *FINDING FORRESTER*.



The Filmmakers, *continued*

Jarin Blaschke (Motion Photography)

Jarin Blaschke works steadily as a Director of Photography of esteemed shorts and music videos for bands such as Senses Fail and OAR. Last year, three films he photographed - BOMB, BITCH and THE DAWN CHORUS were in dramatic competition at the Sundance Film Festival. He recently shot two feature films, CALLING IT QUILTS and BLOOD NIGHT in the New York area and was invited to shoot two films at this year's Sundance Lab.

Jarin also works as an international photojournalist and lights editorial magazine work for clients such as Vanity Fair, GQ and Allure. He has shot personal portfolios across Africa, winning two awards at the Center for Fine Art Photography and three at the Venice International Photography Contest this year. www.JarinBlaschke.com

Chelsea Carter (Puppet Creation)

Chelsea Carter graduated in 2006 with a Bachelors Degree in Industrial Design from Pratt Institute. She has been working for the Jim Henson Company since 2006, collaborating on projects with such companies as Dreamworks, Sesame Workshop, and Coca Cola. Last year she helped create a twelve-foot silicone witch puppet for Basil Twist's puppet opera, HANSEL & GRETEL. Her main work at the Jim Henson Company has been with SESAME STREET for which she won the 2007 Daytime Emmy Award for Excellence in Costume Design and Styling and has been nominated again this year.

Edouard Langlois (Set Dresser/Costumier)

An award-winning costumer, production designer, playwright, director, actor and sculptor, Langlois has worked throughout the country for over 40 years in theatre, opera and ballet. He is the founder of the Durham Stage Company and The Edwin Booth Theatre, dedicated to creating visually lush, provocative work that transports the audience to another time and place. Currently, Langlois makes figures from found objects and mixed media: striking folk art inspired by his deep passion for the past.

Louise Aldersay (Film Editor)

During her training at The Edit Center in NYC, Louise was additional editor on THE RECRUITER, directed by Oscar-nominated Edet Belzberg; it was an Official Selection at Sundance '08 and will screen as part of the HBO Documentary Film Series this year. She was apprentice editor on A DOG YEAR starring Jeff Bridges (to be released) and also Tamara Jenkins' THE SAVAGES, starring Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Laura Linney, which was nominated for two Oscars in 2008. She quickly advanced to the role of assistant editor, firstly on AGAINST THE CURRENT, starring Joseph Fiennes, Justin Kirk and Mary Tyler Moore, and then KIDDIE RIDE, with James Gandolfini and Famke Janssen. THE TELL-TALE HEART is her first film as editor.



The Filmmakers, *continued*

Damian Volpe (Sound Designer)

Credits as sound editor include: TROUBLE THE WATER (Grand Jury Prize Winner, Sundance '08), BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOUR DEAD, THE NAMESAKE, BILLY THE KID, HAPPINESS, and Matthew Barney's DRAWING RESTRAINT 9. As Foley/ADR Recordist: LOOKING FOR KITTY, SHORTBUS and THE SQUID AND THE WHALE.

Matt Rocker (Sound Designer)

Credits as sound editor and music editor include: Matthew Barney's DE LAMA LAMINA, EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED, AIR GUITAR NATION and THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS.

Tomas Ulrich (Composer/Cellist)

Cellist-composer Tomas Ulrich received music degrees from Boston University and the Manhattan School of Music. After attending a performance by the great Soviet cellist Mstislav Rostropovich at the age of eight, Mr. Ulrich was inspired to begin his musical journey on the cello. In May of 1996, *Jazz Now* characterized him as "the total package... incredible chops, great imagination, and superb pitch... endlessly talented and creative." Jay Collins from *Signal to Noise* wrote that "Tomas Ulrich is surely one of the most accomplished and intriguing cellists in improvised music, with a brilliant technical mastery and the ability to play prickly improv, jazz, classical, film music or pretty much anything he desires." Tomas has written music for theater, film, and instrumental performance and has concertized in Europe, Japan, South America, Canada and throughout the United States. Mr. Ulrich can be heard on over 60 albums of varying style and has recorded with such artists as Anthony Davis, Joe Lovano and Natalie Merchant.

Michael Neal (Producer)

A cofounder of Palehorse Productions, Michael has collaborated with Eggers on theatre and film projects for over ten years. With Palehorse, he produced HANSEL & GRETEL, co-produced OTHELLO (in which he also played Roderigo), and played the title character in FAUST. Michael is currently working with Zeitgeist Films on their releases, TROUBLE THE WATER (2008 Sundance Grand Jury Prize) and Gonzalo Arijon's STRANDED. He also freelances with MLB.com and on film shoots around the New York area.

Maura Anderson (Producer)

A founding member and administrative manager of Palehorse Productions, Anderson studied at the School for Film and went on to work for Gigantic Pictures (FLANNEL PAJAMAS, YEAR OF THE FISH). She now freelances and recently completed work as Production Coordinator for DARE starring Emmy Rossum, Alan Cumming and Zach Gilford. Previous to that she worked as Assistant Production Coordinator for AGAINST THE CURRENT starring Joseph Fiennes, Justin Kirk and Elizabeth Reaser. Other credits include Casting for GOODBYE SOLO, starring Red West, Souleymane Sy Savane and directed by Ramin Bahrani. She also did Rights and Clearances for GOODBYE BABY and THE DOORMAN. www.MauraAnderson.com



About Palehorse Productions

Palehorse Productions, a non-profit theatre and film company based in New York, presents classic and important stories to a modern audience through visual spectacle, simple straw-to-gold magic and a deeply rooted love for texts. The company was founded in 2004 by a group of young people who have been collaborating in theatre since childhood.

In creating our work, it is important for us to maintain the earnestness and carefree passion that we had as children. At the same time, we continue to evolve, discovering new techniques and styles for every story, for each demands a different approach. It is through this combination that old stories become vital and new again and we may find the timelessness in modern works.

All our work strives to articulate moments of "magic." We define magic as the unexplainable truth inherent in the ecstasy of dreams, religion, art, science, nature, love... As we grow older we lose the ability to see the magic around us and forget its essential value. By revisiting the images, dreams, fairy tales, ghost stories and classic literature that our culture is built on, we hope to share this sometimes forgotten magic with a broad audience.

Palehorse Production's debut production of Shakespeare's OTHELLO played at The Kraine Theater to sold-out crowds. OTHELLO won an Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Costumes and received acclaim from *The Village Voice* and other NY publications. In 2005, Palehorse produced their first film, HANSEL & GRETEL, a silent, expressionist adaptation of the tale by the Brothers Grimm. The most recent Palehorse production was an original adaptation of FAUST. The piece stole from Goethe, Marlowe, the traditions of English morality plays, Eastern European and German puppet-FAUST farces and even Punch and Judy. Performed under the guise of Maestro Mephistopheles' Teatro-Zirkus-Show, this bizarre commedia dell'arte circus played all over the streets and parks of New York City.

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the Tell-Tale Heart

Inspired by the work of E.A. Poe

Adapted & Directed by Robert Eggers

Produced by Michael Neal & Maura Anderson

CAST

Carrington Vilmont (*The Servant*)

Dan Charlton (*Detective Inspector*)

Dan Murphy (*Officer*)

Nathan Allison (*Officer*)

with

*the Old Man performed by Anita Rundles
and featuring the voice of Richard Easton*

Motion Photography: Jarin Blaschke

Film Editor: Louise Aldersay

Puppet Creation: Chelsea Carter

Costume & Production Design: Robert Eggers

Sound Design: Damian Volpe & Matt Rocker

Music: Tomas Ulrich

TRT: 21:06

**USA • 2008 • Color • 1.33:1 • Mono • In English
Negative format: 16mm • Exhibition formats: HDCam & DigiBeta**

PALEHORSE PRODUCTIONS

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Carrington Vilmont as The Servant



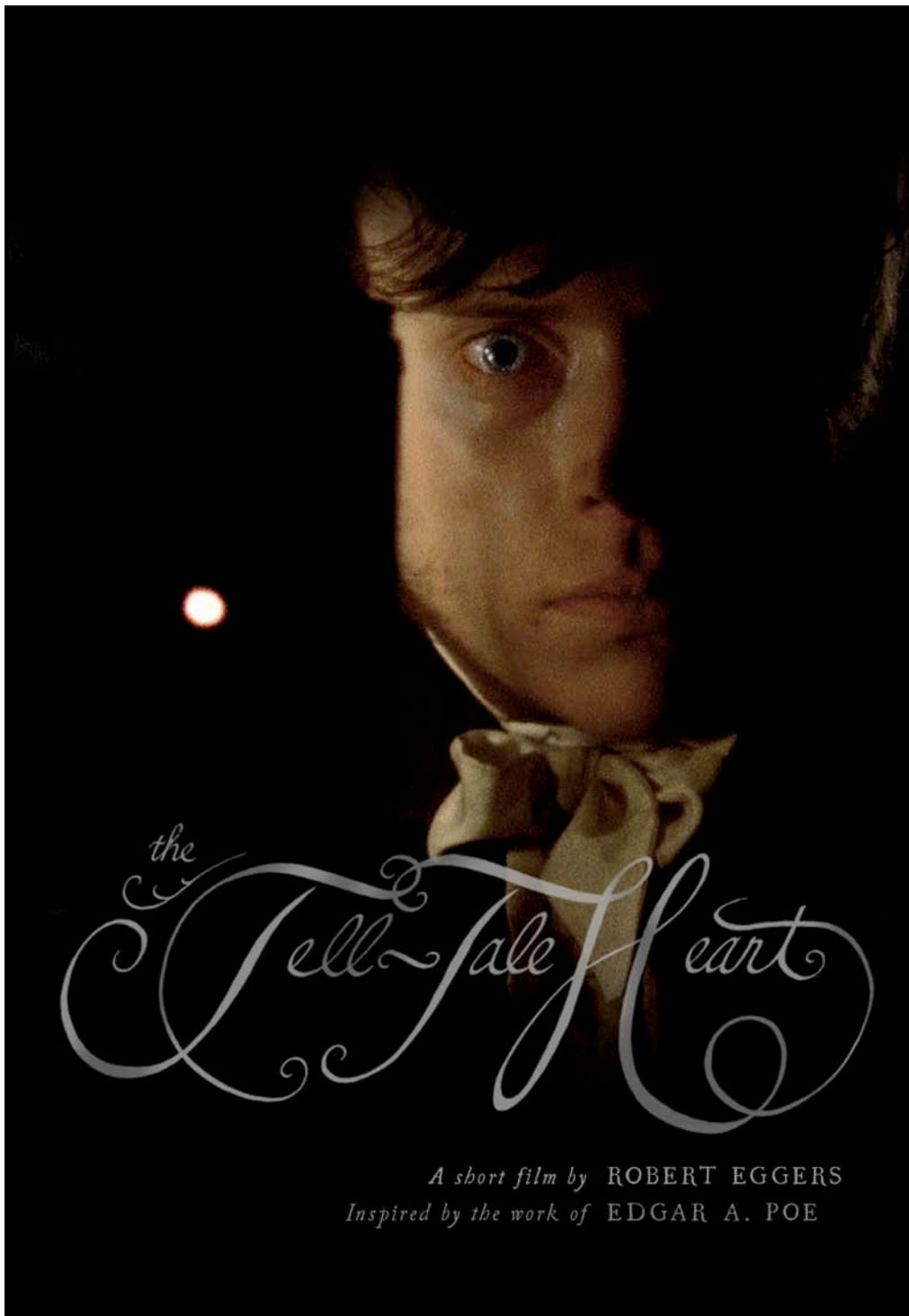
The Servant ascends the front stairwell.



The Servant and his Master at breakfast.



Director Robert Eggers blocks a scene.



THE TELL-TALE HEART
one-sheet art