

J A C K R A B B I T
H O M E S T E A D





Written & Directed by
KIMBERLEA KRESSAL

Starring
YARA MARTINEZ
with
DECHELLE DAMIEN
BRANDON MORRIS
RANDI BERRY

Director of Photography
ANDRIA CHAMBERLIN

Editor
VIRIDIANA LIEBERMAN

Music
CHRIS RYAN

Produced by
9X13 Pyrex
Wreckio Ensemble

Run Time: 20:34



“A few years ago I was lost in the desert. It was 109 degrees, nothing but dry heat and dust. Then I saw, peppered throughout the desert, these small, dilapidated dwellings -- Jackrabbit Homesteads. I was grieving, and, like me, they were isolated, gutted, and barren. They were sad. They were haunted. And so was I. From that connection, I found the inspiration for a story I'd been aching to tell.”

- Kimberlea Kressal, Writer/Director/Producer



A woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored shirt, is shown in a close-up shot. She is looking off to the side with a serious expression. The background consists of wooden beams, suggesting she is in a structure under construction or a rustic building.

LOGLINE

JACKRABBIT HOMESTEAD is a psychological thriller about a woman seeking forgiveness in the unforgiving desert.



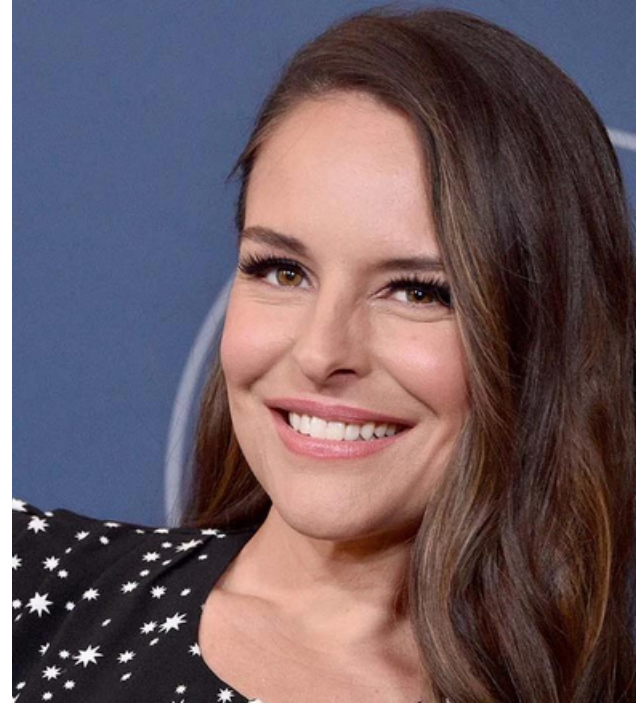
JACKRABBIT HOMESTEAD follows a bereft widow who inherits a 5-acre homestead in the California desert. As she struggles to bury her past and build a new life for herself in this isolating and unrelenting landscape, she starts to believe someone (or something) is tormenting her. Is it the strange locals? Or the ghosts of those who perished on this homestead? Or, most terrifying, is it her own demons?



FLORIDA ROOTS

Making an indie film is a labor of love, so when writer director **Kimberlea Kressal** set out to make *JACKRABBIT HOMESTEAD* she turned to collaborators that she'd known, loved, and created with for decades -- friends she'd met growing up in South Florida.

Jackrabbit Homestead actress **Randi Berry** and Kim met when they were 3-years-old in the "dramatic play area" of their preschool! In 1990, they were accepted into the inaugural class of Dreyfoos School of the Arts (FKA Palm Beach County School of the Arts) where they met *Jackrabbit Homestead* actor **Brandon Morris**. Randi and Brandon then went on to train at New World School of the Arts in Miami with *Jackrabbit Homestead* co-stars **Dechelle Damien** and **Yara Martinez**. In 2000, Randi and Dechelle founded the theatre company Wreckio Ensemble. Around this time Kim also met Miami-based aspiring filmmaker, **Viridiana Lieberman**, now a multi-E Emmy and Sundance Award winning Editor, and the Editor of -- you guessed it -- *Jackrabbit Homestead*. They have all been collaborating together ever since!



YARA MARTINEZ

a s D A Y A C A M P O S

The lead role of Daya Campos is played by film and television star Yara Martinez. Yara currently plays Gloria Perez on *Chicago P.D.* She also recently starred in the feature film *Good Egg* and as Isabella Colón on the CBS series *Bull*. Other career highlights include: playing opposite Stephen Dorff on the FOX series *Deputy*, six seasons as Luisa on *Jane the Virgin*, her villainous role as Ms. Lint on Amazon's *The Tick*, as well as numerous roles on hit TV shows like *This Is Us*, *True Detective*, *Alpha House*, and *Southland* to name only a few.

Yara was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in Miami, FL. Before becoming a television star, Yara trained as an actor at New World School of the Arts with all three of her Jackrabbit Homestead co-stars.



DECHELLE DAMIEN

a s M A R I L O P E Z

Dechelle Damien is a NY-based theatre actress, playwright, producer, and Co-Artistic Director of Wreckio Ensemble. In addition to writing and performing in numerous Wreckio productions, she recently starred in the short film *Maternal Instinct* directed by Viridiana Lieberman. Dechelle is originally from Miami, FL.



BRANDON MORRIS

a s T H E M E C H A N I C

Brandon Morris is a stage and screen actor. He has originated roles in the theater for playwrights including Lee Blessing (*Black Sheep*) and Christopher Demos-Brown (*When the Sun Shone Brighter*). On screen he's known for playing no-nonsense figures of authority (*For Life*, *The Flight Attendant*, *Killing It*, *The Act*, and *Veep* to name a few). Brandon is originally from Lake Worth, FL.



RANDI BERRY

a s T H E A R T I S T

Randi Berry is a NY-based theatre actress, producer, and Co-Artistic Director of Wreckio Ensemble. Currently, Randi is the Executive Director of IndieSpace and has created programs resulting in thousands of artists receiving funding and support. Randi grew up in West Palm Beach, FL.



KIMBERLEA KRESSAL

WRITER | DIRECTOR | PRODUCER

Kimberlea Kressal came to film and television following a twenty-year career in New York as a playwright and theatre director. Now an LA-based TV writer, she has sold and developed television projects with UCP, Pariah, Automatik, MGM-Orion, Escape Artists, Danny Rose Media, Dynamic Television, Milojo, and ABC Signature. Kimberlea is also the writer and director of the hit off-Broadway musical *Lesbian Love Octagon* which was optioned for television by DiGa Studios. A queer activist and artist, Kimberlea has twice been named one of Go Magazine's "100 Women We Love." She was the co-host of the podcast "Queer for the Right Reasons: Lesbian Reflections on Bachelor Nation." She is the Founder/Producer of Tisch Represents, a community of NYU Tisch School of the Arts alumni elevating underrepresented voices in television and film. Kimberlea teaches several classes on TV writing and coaches playwrights, TV writers, and screenwriters on developing new work. Kimberlea received her B.F.A. in Drama from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where she later served as a mentor to Directing students. *Jackrabbit Homestead* marks Kimberlea's directorial debut on film. She is originally from West Palm Beach, Florida.



ANDRIA CHAMBERLIN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Andria Chamberlin is a cinematographer with a diverse portfolio that includes documentaries, feature films, short films, and commercials. She began her career filming documentaries in various parts of the world. This experience has informed her narrative style, resulting in an organic, cinematic, and thoughtful aesthetic. With over a decade of experience, Andria is known for her ability to create visually stunning and meaningful images that capture the essence of a story. She has collaborated with many directors and producers, bringing her unique style to projects across various genres, from horror to comedy to fantasy and sci-fi. Her films have been screened and won awards both nationally and internationally. Andria holds degrees in both Film/TV and History from Boston University. She is dedicated to her craft and brings a collaborative spirit to every project she works on.



VIRIDIANA LIEBERMAN

EDITOR | PRODUCER

Viridiana Lieberman is a filmmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. She edited the feature documentaries *The Sentence* (HBO), which won the 2018 Sundance Film Festival US Documentary Audience Award and the 2019 Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking and *I Am Evidence* (HBO) which won the 2019 News & Doc Emmy for Best Documentary and the short documentary, *Through Our Eyes: Apart* (HBO Max) which won the 2021-2022 News & Doc Emmy for Outstanding Short Documentary. She also edited *Love the Sinner* (Tribeca Film Festival), *Special Olympics: 50 Years of Changing the Game* (ABC/ESPN), *Stonewall: The Making of a Monument* (New York Times Op-Docs), *Call Center Blues* (Oscar Shortlisted, 2020), *We Are: The Brooklyn Saints* (Netflix), *Breakaway* (ESPN 30 for 30), *Reopening Night* (HBO) and *Lowndes County and the Road to Black Power* (Peacock). In 2020, she was a highlighted honoree in DOC NYC's 40 Under 40 list and her solo directorial debut, *Born To Play*, premiered on ESPN and ABC. An avid sports fan, Viridiana is also the author of *Sports Heroines on Film: A Critical Study of Cinematic Women Athletes, Coaches and Owners*, published by McFarland. She grew up in Boca Raton, FL and attended film school in Miami.



FAQS

WHERE WAS JACKRABBIT HOMESTEAD SHOT?

A cast and crew of 25 shot the film over four very long June days on location in Wonder Valley, California!

WHAT WAS IT LIKE SHOOTING IN THE DESERT?

There was very little infrastructure and lots of creepy crawly wildlife. No wifi. No bathrooms. Few road signs. But beautiful sunsets and generous locals! Many times in prep -- when the complications of shooting in the desert kept growing (and along with them, the film's budget) -- folks questioned why Kim didn't write something that could be shot in a studio. But once we arrived, everyone felt the magic that drew her to this place and this story.

"Arriving on set the first day, I was completely struck by the desert landscape, the energy it had was overwhelming. From the moment I stepped outside, I felt the spirit of the desert and knew we were meant to be there, telling this story that was meant to be told." - Actress/Producer, Randi Berry



Left: Gaffer Axel Johannsson and Grip Seth Price go the extra mile to protect the desert. Right: Producer and Head of Craft Services, Annie McVey, and Actress/Producer Dechelle Damien share a laugh near the production RV.

One of the challenges of shooting a film in the middle of the desert, is that when something breaks or doesn't work, you can't just run back to the prop house or hardware store. It was also important to us that we respected the land we were shooting on and that often meant carrying heavy equipment that normally would have been rolled or dragged. Keeping everyone fed, hydrated, and occasionally in the shade was no easy task, but Producers Annie McVey and Sharon Freedman, and a team of Jackrabbits-of-all-Trades (PAs) built, broke down, and rebuilt the infrastructure that kept us happy (and alive)!

"Never underestimate the power of a slice of watermelon!"

- Producer, Annie McVey

HOW DID YOU FUND THE FILM?

Shooting in the desert came with unique and costly challenges, but thanks to over 200 people who donated to the film via our crowdfunding campaign and several large donations from foundations and individuals -- we were able to raise 100% of our budget.



Left: Crew set up at our main location, The Owen Hill House. Right: The cast and crew celebrate after the final shot of the film.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE FILM'S UNIQUE LOCATIONS?

It wasn't easy. A bit of luck, mixed with the generosity of locals, helped us secure our locations. Kim (Director) was location scouting when Sharon (Producer) called to tell her to check out a possible homestead she'd found. That location wasn't right, but en route Kim passed a small green homestead and took a picture -- it was exactly what she had been imagining for Daya's homestead! Later that day, Kim showed the photo to a local bartender, who happened to know the owner! It belonged to a third generation homesteader. When the Small Tract Act gifted Americans these 5-acre plots of land back in the 40s, his family were some of the first to stake their claim. He was thrilled to help us make the film! He educated us about the desert, helped us find more locations, was our on-location snake wrangler, and has become a dear friend.

WHAT'S A FAVORITE MOMENT FROM THE SHOOT?

Yara's favorite moment was a difficult shot that required everyone to pitch in with creative and fast solutions -- the prop dust was too heavy, the wind wasn't blowing when we needed it to, and we were losing light fast! One person ran for an extension cord, another for a fan, when that didn't work someone else bolted across the desert, over a sand dune, and into the RV for a blowdryer. Everyone CHEERED as we got the shot in one take just as the sun set!

CAST & CREW INSTAGRAM HANDLES

CAST

YARA MARTINEZ @YARITAFRITA
DECHELLE DAMIEN @DECDAM77
BRANDON MORRIS @OGBRANDONMORRIS
RANDI BERRY @RANDIB1234

DIRECTOR/WRITER

KIMBERLEA KRESSAL @KKRESSAL

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

ANDRIA CHAMBERLIN @ANDRIACHAMBERLIN

EDITOR

VIRIDIANA LIEBERMAN @RIGHTEOUSCINEMA

MUSIC

CHRIS RYAN @CHRISRYANMUSIC

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

REKA VIVIEN SZABO @REKAVIVIEN

COSTUME DESIGNER

LENA SANDS @LENAMISA

HAIR & MAKEUP

TERESA AGUILERA @TERESAAGUILERAMUA

BTS PHOTOGRAPHY:

BRANDON MORRIS
@MORRISPHOTOGRAPHYSTUDIO

PRODUCERS:

9 X 13 PYREX @9X13PYREX
WRECKIO ENSEMBLE
KIMBERLEA KRESSAL @KKRESSAL
SHARON FREEDMAN @SHARONONSCREEN
ANNIE MCVEY @ANNIEGIRL_74
DECHELLE DAMIEN @DECDAM77
RANDI BERRY @RANDIB1234
VIRIDIANA LIEBERMAN @RIGHTEOUSCINEMA

WWW.9X13PYREX.COM
9X13PYREX@GMAIL.COM
347-870-4848

