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REFUGE

Cast in Los Angeles and New Mexico | Released In Arizona, Austin, Dallas, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles,
New Mexico, Phoenix, Southwest

SAG Feature Film | Starts: First week in July | Loc: Las Cruces, New Mexico

Producer: Ginger Perkins

Casting Director: Cathy Henderson-Martin

Writer: Mark Medoff

Contract: Modified

Director: Mark Medoff

Electronic Submissions or Cathy Henderson-Martin Casting
Written Submissions to: 201 Five Cities Dr S. 134
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

Note name of project on envelope

Submissions Due By: ASAP

Info for Agents / Managers Only: NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

SUBMIT ALL ETHNICITIES

ALL NON-LEAD ROLES ARE LOCAL HIRES ONLY!

Project Notes: MARK MEDOFF *Writer/Director "REFUGE"* Mark Medoff has authored eleven movies including: CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD (co-screenwriter and Academy Award nominee based on his Tony award-winning play), CLARA'S HEART, OFF BEAT, and CITY OF JOY. He also produced HOMAGE, an independent feature included in the dramatic feature competition in the Sundance Film Festival, which he wrote and which was directed by Ross Marks. SANTA FE, an independent feature he wrote with Andrew Shea, was invited to the 1997 Sundance Film Festival. A theater director for thirty years, he began his film directing career with CHILDREN ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS a feature film based on a Truman Capote short story which won many awards across the country and was released by Artisan and Lions Gate. Mark Medoff is a Tony, Society of West End Theatres, and OBIE Award winning playwright, an Academy Award® and Cable ACE Award nominated screenwriter, the author of twenty-six plays, eleven movies, a novel, an opera, and numerous magazine and newspaper articles. He is currently the Artistic Director of the Creative Media Institute for Film & Digital Arts at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

AMELIA PHILLIPS - Lead / FEMALE / 39 TO 42 / Any Ethnicity

She's attractive, sweet, but a classic Christian co-dependant caught between serving strangers as a hospice nurse and being abused by her husband in private. Her instinct for survival is brought to its ultimate test when she and her abusive husband, Jack, struggle over a gun and she accidentally kills him. Fearing the worst, she does not want to go quietly from this world like her hospice patients and instead chooses to flee. Pulling from deeper reserves than she knew she had, Amelia loads Jack's corpse into her RV with the intent of dumping him somewhere. But while on the road, Darryl Tripp, a man trying to borrow gas for his car, discovers the body. Amelia can't bring herself to kill anyone on purpose and so starts improvising on her nightmare—she cuffs him and takes him with her to Mexico. As the two of them travel together she begins to see that Darryl's life has paralleled hers and decides to trust him enough to let him help her get rid of the body. As their surprising love for each other grows, their desperate journey to get rid of the body grows darker and darker... **PREFER NAME ACTRESS**

DARRYL TRIPP - Lead / MALE / 27 TO 32 / Any Ethnicity

He's 27 to 32 years old, a 'sweet, intelligent, erratic, neurotic, impractical, childishly romantic manchild'. Darryl, a failed novelist, is a local high school English teacher who dresses impeccably, speaks sardonically, and thinks the world is mad. Of all things, he's engaged to an ambitious, hyper-active prosecutor, Helen Kaufman, and subconsciously knows it's a huge mistake. But while taking a passive-aggressive route—riding his motorcycle instead of helping with the engagement party—he runs out of gas and stumbles onto Amelia and her dead husband. At first, he's taken prisoner and handcuffed to Amelia's RV. But as they travel towards Mexico, it dawns on him that she may be the woman he's been looking for his entire life... **PREFER NAME ACTOR**

JACK PHILIPS - Lead / MALE / 40 TO 40 / Any Ethnicity

He's 40 years old, selfish and self-centered, a security guard at the local high school. Jack knows how to put on the charm to get what he wants. He played the Christian card to get Amelia to marry him and now beats her when he's not out getting some somewhere else. After losing a bet which cost Amelia her car, he unwittingly has his last fight with her... **PREFER NAME ACTOR**

HELEN KAUFMAN - Lead / FEMALE / 27 TO 27 / Any Ethnicity

She's beautiful, aggressive, ambitious, hyper-active, a native of Brooklyn and a prosecuting attorney. Whether out of ambition or emotional ambivalence, Helen is having an affair with Rivera while engaged to marry Darryl. But once she's figured out Darryl has gone missing, she's determined to find him sets off a statewide hunt for him. When she finally catches up to Darryl and Amelia, she finds herself at gunpoint, which cues her brilliant ability to negotiate...

MELODIE SEMPLE - Lead / FEMALE / 29 TO 29 / Any Ethnicity

She's attractive, quirky, a girl whose work and life are not made from the common mold. She works at the local mortuary, plays the Christian card, but, in fact, wears a necklace made of the rings and bracelets she takes off the bodies of the freshly dead. She sells pot to cops on the side and cooks popcorn while cremating bodies. Amelia and Darryl show up and get her to turn Jack into ashes at gunpoint, even threaten her with blackmail if she says anything. But they needn't have worried. Melodie grows to like them because in some weird way they have so much in common...

OFFICER GUMMY - MALE / 30 TO 30 / Any Ethnicity

He's huge, eats Gummy Worms addictively while on patrol. He stops at the mortuary to score some pot off of Melodie and gets so stoned he doesn't recognize Amelia and Darryl when he sees them. **LOCAL HIRE ONLY**

FEMALE DISPATCHER - FEMALE / 50 TO 50 / Any Ethnicity

She does needle-point portraits of her odd-looking grandchildren to pass the time. She gives regular updates on the search for the missing Darryl Tripp, and becomes caught up in the case as it grows more and more bizarre... **ROLE IS MOSTLY VOICE-OVER. LOCAL HIRE ONLY**

CAMILLE PORTILLO - FEMALE / 26 TO 26 / Any Ethnicity

She's attractive, fit, the gym teacher at the high school. She's having an affair with Jack, brazenly giving him a ride home after work, laughing as plays with her as she drives. **LOCAL HIRE ONLY**

RIVERA - MALE / 40 TO 49 / Latin

He's the local mayor running for Congress. He's having an affair with Helen and Darryl spots them necking, which could prove to be a problem... **LOCAL HIRE ONLY**

GOAT RANCHER - MALE / 60 TO 60 / Any Ethnicity

He's local, has a truck full of goats. He stumbles on Amelia swapping license plates. An old hand at negotiating deals, he's willing to not say anything if she's willing to do a few sexual things for him. Of course, he wasn't planning on her pointing a gun at his groin. **LOCAL HIRE ONLY**

FEMALE STUDENT - FEMALE / 18 TO 18 / Any Ethnicity

She's cute, tries to leave the premises to see her gynecologist, but is stopped by Jack... **LOCAL HIRE ONLY**

MRS. MENDEZ - FEMALE / 40 TO 59 / Any Ethnicity

She's a cynical vet of the educational system. She thinks Darryl is a fool and needs some lessons in reality. **LOCAL HIRE ONLY**

HUSTLER #3 - MALE / 20 TO 29 / Any Ethnicity

He's fit, one of three basketball hustlers. He thinks he's going to take Darryl for \$200, but it turns out to be the reverse. **LOCAL HIRE ONLY**

SINGING WOMAN - FEMALE / 30 TO 39 / Any Ethnicity

She's singing "Nessun Dorma" to herself in a used bookstore. She also recognizes Amelia as her late father's nurse while coaching her 7 year old daughter in the alphabet. **LOCAL HIRE ONLY**

Story Line: AMELIA PHILIPS is a good woman in a bad marriage that just got worse—or better, depending on your point of view. She accidentally kills her husband and decides to take a road trip in her RV to get rid of the body. When DARRYL TRIPP, an English teacher, stumbles onto the situation, he's made her prisoner, until it dawns on him she may be his soulmate...

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