

The Florida State University Graduate Film Conservatory
presents



THE BOARDER

Press Kit

8 minutes
horror/thriller
color | 1.85:1 aspect ratio
originated on Super 16mm
35mm print from digital intermediate
Dolby SR stereo



Florida State University School of Motion Picture Arts
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Kathy Barber, film festival coordinator
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100 word

Charlie Parker is your ordinary 12-year-old baseball fanatic and curious kid. With his father away fighting World War II, his mother is forced to rent rooms out to make ends meet. But the latest boarder rouses Charlie's suspicions and he tries to warn his mother to no avail. Snooping around the boarder's room, he finds a satchel full of jars filled with souls. Caught by the boarder, Charlie is frightened to learn that this soul collector may be targeting his mother. And he must do everything he can to protect her, even if it means risking his own soul in the process.

50 word

Charlie Parker is an ordinary 12-year-old, but he knows when something sinister walks in the front door. His father away at war, Charlie's mother takes in boarders to make ends meet. But all Charlie wants is to learn the new boarder's secret and he'll do anything to find out, even if it means risking his own soul.

25 word

Charlie suspects the boarder renting a room in his house has a sinister secret, which might just be much more than he bargained for.

screenings

Screamfest LA, Oct. 2005

International Horror & Sci-Fi Film Festival, Phoenix, Oct. 2005

Winner: Best College Short

International Festival of Horror, Cincinnati, Oct. 2005

Danville Children's International film Festival, Calif., May 2006

Winner: Best Mini-Short

Damah Film Festival, Culver City, CA, May 2006

FirstGlance Philadelphia, June 2006

Shriekfest, Los Angeles, September 2006

Chicago International Children's Film Festival, October 2006

Shockerfest, Modesto, CA, October 2006

Nominated: Best Sci-Fi Mini-Short

H. P. Lovecraft Film Festival, Portland, Oregon, October 2006

a directing III project

The Boarder was produced as one of 23 Directing III class projects shot on Super 16mm film in the fall semester of 2004 at Florida State University Graduate Film School. The MFA program at FSU requires that all students work on each other's films in every crew position (producer, DP, editor, designer, sound mixer, gaffer, etc.), so juggling various responsibilities during the semester becomes a monumental task.

The initial idea for *The Boarder* was pitched in late summer before a short semester break. Work on the script commenced in August 2004, followed by **3 days of filming** at a private residence in Monticello, Florida over the weekend of October 10th (which, coincidentally, is the director's birthday). The film was **edited in 6 days** on an Avid DV Xpress, followed by 6 more days of sound design and a half-day re-recording mix.

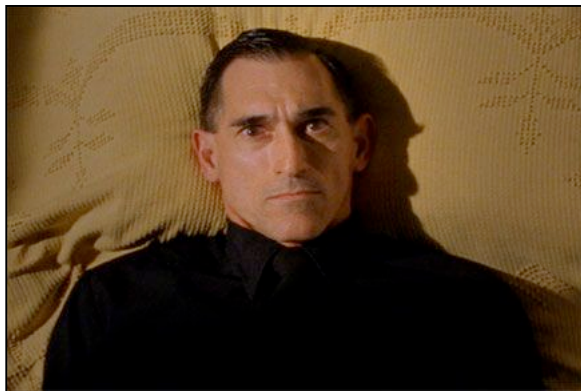
As luck would have it, *The Boarder* was destined to become the first FSU film to undergo the digital intermediate process, an advanced color timing and image enhancement session. Director Susan Bell and DP Greg Jardin traveled to Miami to supervise the DI process, which allows precise color correction and shading of the image. Here the many digital visual effects that were created in post were combined with the original photography and all were then output back to 35mm film.

director's statement

I have a taste for the macabre, a fear of what lives under the bed and an undying love of things that go bump in the night. I am a big scaredy cat at heart, and I like working in the horror/thriller genre because I get to see (and be!) the woman behind the curtain frightening other people. *The Boarder* is my third short film in this genre and the most reliant on visual effects. It was an adventure learning about this new realm and I hope to bring my knowledge to bear in future film projects. My entire production team did a fabulous job bringing the 1940's to life over a span of three days in October 2004, and I hope Charlie's quest to learn the boarder's secret keeps you on the edge of your seat.

kade coates, "charlie parker"

Kade Coates is a 13-year-old, straight-A student who is in the eighth grade at Deerlake Middle School in Tallahassee. The highlight of Kade's acting career was playing 4-year-old Truman in the feature film *The Truman Show*, starring Jim Carrey. He has since acted in 17 FSU student films including *Ants* and *Kosher*, which won first and second place Emmys, respectively, in the college student comedy division from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Kade has also been seen in several local and regional commercials. In addition to acting, Kade enjoys playing video games, sports, skateboarding, paintball, and entertaining his two younger brothers, 9-year-old Kelden and 7-year-old Keaton.

**henry tisdale, "the boarder"**

Encouraged by his wife Lygia, Henry Tisdale first auditioned for the FSU Film School almost two years ago. Henry credits his acting ability to his twenty years of military service working with new recruits as well as experienced soldiers. He says, "There is nothing like a cold hard look with a tough voice to motivate a soldier." Besides his villainous role in *The Boarder*, he has appeared in the music video *Fix Me* and the film *Revolver*, among several other projects. Henry attended college at Southern Union Junior College and Auburn University in Alabama and currently works for the Florida Department of Financial Services in Tallahassee.

felicia leborgne, "mother"

Felicia Leborgne has starred in several Florida State University films as well as independent features, including the FSU short *Charm*, recently awarded a Bronze Academy Award for best narrative student film. Felicia graduated from Davidson College with a major in French and concentration in International Relations, speaks three languages and is active in her local theatre community. She is an attorney with Akerman Senterfitt in Florida.



susan bell, writer & director

A native Texan and December 2005 MFA graduate of the Florida State University Film School, Susan has been working to hone her filmmaking skills for the past ten years. She holds a telecommunication degree from Baylor University, worked for an international documentary company for five years, and freelanced on various productions shot in Texas. She independently wrote, produced and directed the 35mm children's horror short *The Patchwork Monkey*, which played at 17 festivals, won several awards and was licensed by IFC for cable broadcast in 2003. Her filmography as a writer/director includes three additional short films, including her FSU master's thesis *The Resurrectionist*, for which she won the DGA women's student award honorable mention. Susan also served as the UPM and associate producer on *Fields of Mudan*, a 2004 FSU thesis film about young Chinese girls in the sex trade and the winner of several major festival awards. In September 2005, she was honored to be chosen as a participant in the Telluride Film Festival Student Symposium. Susan's writing skills have earned her recognition as a Chesterfield semi-finalist and Sundance finalist, and she is currently at work on a feature script for a supernatural thriller. She currently lives in Los Angeles and is pursuing a writing and directing career within the horror genre.

marc carlini, producer

Growing up in the Washington DC area, Marc was fascinated by movies at an early age. After graduating from Georgetown University, he took the plunge by enrolling in film workshops and summer classes. The first time he saw an audience reacting to his film he was hooked for good and applied to the FSU Film School, where his skills as a director and editor have only grown. THE BOARDER is Marc's third collaboration with Susan Bell.

greg jardin, director of photography

Greg Jardin was born and raised in the Washington D.C. area before getting his bachelor degree in both Film and Computer Science at Elon University in North Carolina. After working as a production assistant on several feature films and television shows in New York City, Jardin made his first short film, *The Cure for Happiness*, while attending an eight-week stint at the New York Film Academy. Jardin then went on to work as a graphic designer/flash animator in both New York City then in Washington, DC. In August of 2003, Jardin moved to Tallahassee, FL to begin work on his master's degree at the Florida State University Film School, where he has since acted as the cinematographer on four films, including the award-winning 2005 Coca-Cola Refreshing Filmmaker's film *The Line Starts Here*. He recently completed his 20-minute thesis film, *The Problem With Fiber Optics*, where he worked as the writer/director.

shannon gregory, production designer

Shannon grew up in Chicago and Memphis, TN. In high school, she began working for a small television news station where she edited news stories and worked as a technical director for the nightly news broadcasts. Shannon went on to earn a degree in Communications with a concentration in film production from the University of Memphis. There she made a number of short films that culminated with her final project, *Blended Lives*, a documentary about the adult children of divorced parents. A year later she was accepted at Florida State University film school, where she wrote and directed several short films and produced the thesis film *The Problem with Fiber Optics*. After graduating in August 2005, Shannon plans on moving to Los Angeles to pursue her interests in directing and editing.

stephen roberts, editor

Stephen Roberts hails from Black Mountain, NC, and has a wide range of experience with photography, computer programming, and the theatrical arts. He graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a BS in Mathematical Sciences and worked in Washington, DC, Durham, NC, and Berkeley, CA, prior to attending the graduate program at the Florida State University Film School. Before receiving his MFA from the Film School in August 2005, Stephen contributed to more than 50 short films, including the quirky comedies *Roger's Little Problem* and *Chain of Fools*, both of which he wrote and directed. He also co-produced *The Sky is Falling*, which won a 2005 College Television Award, and edited *The Line Starts Here*, which won the 2005 Coca-Cola Refreshing Filmmaker's Award. Known to his peers for his ability to solve any on-set problem by using the Pythagorean theorem, Stephen is currently on staff at the Film School and plans a career in cinematography.

breaking the jar of souls

The 3rd day of production dawned and the crew was clustered in the kitchen of the location. A false floor had been assembled and lights hung over the leather bag sitting on it. Above, Susan held a jar filled with a special concoction of "soul liquid," including glow stick fluid and oil. The crew readied themselves.....

The idea was to drop the jar and have it break, thus making one of several visual effect plates necessary to produce the illusion of the soul turning into smoke. Previous tests with Mason jars had proven that they were unbreakable under the present conditions, so production designer Shannon Gregory had substituted a mayonnaise jar. But there were still doubts about this jar breaking upon contact, so the director decided to drop it herself, with a bit of force.

Everyone nonessential cleared from the area, Susan told the AD she was ready. The camera rolled and she SLAMMED down the jar. In hindsight, it was a bit more force than necessary. The jar shattered spectacularly upon impact and oily liquid flew everywhere. The crew's clothes were ruined and the kitchen was covered in glowing oil. Shards of glass were all over the floor. But luckily no one was hurt and the camera caught it all behind a protective clear filter, which was now a bit on the oily side. Good thing it only took one take, because it was a mess to clean up.

Preferred Press Image

Caption:
Charlie Parker, played by Kade Coates, learns the boarder's secret in the short film *The Boarder*, written and directed by Susan Bell.

Files:
Charlie_jar_300ppi.jpg
Charlie_jar_72ppi.jpg



Logo

Files:
White_letters_300ppi.jpg
White_letters_72ppi.gif
Black_letters_300ppi.jpg
Black_letters_72ppi.gif

THE BOARDER

Additional Image

Caption:
Charlie Parker (Kade Coates) searches the dark house for the evil lurking within. From the short film *The Boarder*, written and directed by Susan Bell.

Files:
Charlie_nite_300ppi.jpg
Charlie_nite_72ppi.jpg



Note: The three cast images are also available for use. Images are also available for download at www.the-boarder.com if a CD is not included with this document. Please contact Susan Bell at susan@seebunny.com if you need additional formats or file sizes.

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cast

Charlie
The Boarder (Mr. Kegan)
Mother

Kade Coates
Henry Tisdale
Felicia Leborgne

crew

Written and directed by
Produced by
Director of photography
Production designer
Editor
Visual effects by

Susan Bell
Marc Carlini
Greg Jardin
Shannon Gregory
Stephen Roberts
Derick Dressel

Stunts
1st assistant director
2nd assistant director
Camera operator
1st assistant camera
2nd assistant camera
Sound mixer
Boom operator
Script supervisor
Gaffer
Best boy electric
Key grip
Production assistants

Travis Herndon
Mitch Fowler
Jacob Huberman
Matthew Ireland Beans
Matthew Pope
Jennifer Braddock
Nathaniel C. Freeman
Bryan K. Yokomi
Sharon W. Jacobs
Tristan Higgs
Nina Juliano
Elizabeth Brandon
Dylan Correll
Brian Hendrick
Sherwin Lau
Carlos Rivera
Eric Rodriguez
Zachary Sease
Gillian Zwick
Erika Bagnarello-Arguello

Wardrobe
Assistant editor