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**O**International Film Circuit

Presents

# SHOTGUN STORIES

A film by Jeff Nichols

2007    Running Time- 92 minutes    color    35mm    Aspect Ratio- 2.35 : 1

Starring:

Michael Shannon

Douglas Ligon

Barlow Jacobs

Produced by

David Gordon Green

Lisa Muskat

Jeff Nichols

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# SYNOPSIS

## Short Synopsis

*Shotgun Stories* tracks a feud that erupts between two sets of half brothers following the death of their father. Set against the cotton fields and back roads of Southeast Arkansas, these brothers discover the lengths to which each will go to protect their family.

## Shotgun Stories: Long Synopsis

Son Hayes never speaks of the scars on his back. The shotgun pellets left under his skin make for a sporadic pattern of blue-black dots. The men he works with take bets on how he got them. His brothers, Boy and Kid Hayes, don't discuss it. His past, just like these scars, is never far behind him.

This stands true for the memory of his father, a man that never bothered to give his children proper names. He left the three brothers, Son, Boy and Kid, when they were young. Their last impressions were of a violent drunk who never hesitated to put his own needs ahead of his family. The brothers were left to be raised by their mother, a hateful woman, who to this day blames her children for the life she's been left with and the man she could not keep.

Their father, having left the memory of his children as completely as he left their home, managed to move on and put his life back together. He sobered up, became a devout Christian, married a wonderful woman, and fathered four new sons. All of who received proper names. His life became a model that most would aspire to, a man successful in business, community and family. His only true failing being the sons he turned his back on.

At the beginning of the film, we find Son, Boy and Kid as grown men. The three brothers' lives progress and their futures play out, but their past inevitably comes to claim them. Following a dispute at their father's funeral, a feud begins to simmer between these sons and the new young men their father has raised. It is an anger that has always rested uncomfortably in the background of their lives. However now, it is a thing that will rise up to overtake them all. Set against the cotton fields and back roads of Southeast Arkansas, these brothers discover the lengths to which each will go to protect their family.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

There is no victory in revenge. This is an idea I chose to explore with *Shotgun Stories*, a film tracking a feud that erupts between two sets of half brothers following the death of their father. So often in literature, film, politics and society, revenge, and more importantly the execution of revenge, is considered success. Whether it's Edmund Dantes fulfilling his pledge to ruin Danglars in *The Count of Monte Cristo* or Hans Gruber falling to his death in *Die Hard*, the euphoric feeling we get as an audience watching the villain meet his or her comeuppance is undeniable. With *Shotgun Stories*, I wanted to work against this notion. I wanted revenge to be an awkward thing to exact and a cause not necessarily championed by the audience. Violence is an unusual task for these characters, just as it is for most people. Their anger and emotions are validated, but their reactions to those emotions are not precise. My hope is that *Shotgun Stories* gives an honest portrayal of normal, hard working people responding to the pain and heartbreak they find, and at times create, in their own lives.

We chose to shoot this film in 35mm in the anamorphic 2:35 aspect ratio. When I was fifteen I was fortunate enough to see a re-released print of *Lawrence of Arabia* in the theater. I'll never forget how the landscape helped define that story and the affect that had on me. I've wanted to tell stories in scope ever since. Southeast Arkansas, where our film was shot and where I grew up, is a place filled with breathtaking landscapes of cotton fields and farmland. I wanted audiences to see this place the same way I see it, in scope. Also, this landscape defines our characters. We find these people living in a slow burn South where most everyone sweats for their living. The towns and the people have, for the most part, been left to their own devices. This makes for characters that keep their thoughts and emotions close to their chests. They aren't always comfortable expressing themselves. Their words don't always tell the entire story.

-- Jeff Nichols

## CAST BIOS

**Michael Shannon (Son Hayes)** has appeared in over 30 feature films. These include *Pearl Harbor*, *Eight Mile*, *High Crimes*, *Grand Theft Parsons*, and *The Woodsmen*. Most recently, Shannon portrayed the ex-marine Dave Karnes in Oliver Stone's *World Trade Center*.

Scheduled for release in Spring of 2007, Shannon will star with Ashley Judd in William Friedkin's film adaptation of Tracy Lett's play *Bug. Bug*, a modern day thriller, premiered at Cannes in May of 2006. Roger Ebert writes, "The film has caused a stir at Cannes, not least because its stars, Ashley Judd and Michael Shannon, achieve a kind of manic intensity that's frightening not just in itself but because you fear for the actors." Extra's Sneak Peak states, "the film, slated for release later this year, is already drumming up major Oscar buzz at the Cannes Film Festival." Michael also has roles in Curtis Hanson's upcoming film *Lucky You* and Bob Odenkirk's *Let's Go to Prison*.

**Barlow Jacobs (Kid Hayes)** was born and raised in Lookout Mountain, TN. Since filming *Shotgun Stories*, Jacobs wrote, produced and starred in the film *Low and Behold*, which recently premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. In addition to this, Jacobs has appeared in two other feature films: Craig Zobel's *Great World of Sound*, which also premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival, and Michael Almereydas *New Orleans, Mon Amour*. Jacobs also has two scripts in pre-production, *Grits 'Til 11* with Sugar Film Productions and *Turkey In The Straw* with Plum Productions. He currently lives in New Orleans, LA.

**Natalie Canerday (Nicole Hayes)** has appeared in more than 12 feature films, including Mike Nichols' *Biloxi Blues*, Carl Franklin's *One False Move*, and her most famous role as Frank's mother Linda in Billy Bob Thornton's *Sling Blade*. Most recently, Canerday appeared with Reese Witherspoon in *Walk the Line*.

## CREW BIOS

**Jeff Nichols (b. 1978)** is a writer and director born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts, School of Filmmaking in 2001. In addition to *Shotgun Stories*, Nichols has written and directed six short films. Since graduating, Nichols has worked on several feature films including Gary Hawkins's, *The Rough South of Larry Brown* and Margaret Brown's *Be Here to Love Me, A Film About Townes Van Zandt*. Nichols currently lives in Austin, Texas. *Shotgun Stories* is his feature directorial debut.

**Adam Stone (Cinematographer)** graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts, School of Filmmaking with a degree in Cinematography. Stone is the co-founder of Mortimer Jones, a production company located in Charlotte, North Carolina. Stone has shot 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit Photography for three of David Gordon Green's feature films: *George Washington*, *All the Real Girls*, and *Undertow*. Since completing filming on *Shotgun Stories*, Stone shot Craig Zobel's feature film *Great World of Sound*, which recently premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival.

**David Gordon Green (Producer)** was raised in Texas. He attended the North Carolina School of the Arts where he studied directing. His first feature, *George Washington* was awarded the New York Film Critics prize for Best First Film, and The Discovery Award at the Toronto Film Festival; it was also named one of the top films of 2000 by Roger Ebert, The New York Times, Time Magazine and many others. Green's other films include *All The Real Girls*, *Undertow*, and most recently *Snow Angels*, which premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival.

**Lisa Muskat (Producer)** came on the scene in 2000 at the Berlin Film Festival, with the world premieres of David Gordon Green's debut feature, *GEORGE WASHINGTON* and Mei Juin Chen's, *THE WORLDS OF MEI LANFANG*. That year, Lisa received the Mark Silverman/Sundance Producing Award. As a producer, Lisa quickly established herself as someone who would discover and nurture exceptional new talent. Lisa went on to produce the next three films directed by Green, *ALL THE REAL GIRLS*, *UNDERTOW*, and most recently *SNOW ANGLES*, starring Sam Rockwell and Kate Beckinsale. Lisa executive produced Ramin Bahrani's debut feature *MAN PUSH CART* and produced with Big Beach (*Little Miss Sunshine*) his second feature *CHOP SHOP*. Lisa was named as one of Variety's "10 Producers to Watch". Prior to producing, Lisa taught at the North Carolina School for the Arts and holds a Master's from the UCLA School of Film and Television.

**Ben Nichols** and his Memphis based band, **Lucero (Original Score)**, have been together since 2000. With seven completed albums, Lucero continues to earn critical acclaim and die-hard fans. Rolling Stone included Lucero's album *Nobody's Darlings* in their "Hot List," calling it, "the country album the Replacements never made." Their latest album, *Rebels, Rogues, and Sworn Brothers*, was released in September of 2006.

**Todd Williams (Executive Producer)** is a co-founder and partner of Upload Films LLC, a production company committed to producing and financing filmmaker-based projects that establish fresh voices and expand the vocabulary of independent film. Previously, he was the Vice President of Creative Affairs for the Yari Film Group, where he served as Co-Producer on comedy THE CHUMSCRUBBER starring Ralph Fiennes and Glenn Close, romantic comedy GRAY MATTERS starring Heather Graham and FIRST SNOW, a thriller starring Guy Pierce which was written and directed by Oscar-nominated screenwriter Mark Fergus.

**John Portnoy (Executive Producer)** has been working in post production since his first job, syncing dailies for a Michael Jackson music video in 1991. Since then, he has been an assistant editor, editor, visual effects supervisor, and post supervisor. This broad experience in post was pivotal in his being hired to create and run a post-production department for Yari Film Group. John has served as post supervisor on a wide number of films, including the soon to be released JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB and RESURRECTING THE CHAMP. In 2006, he created the post-production services division of Upload Films, the company he co-founded with Todd Williams and Nick Thurlow.

**Nick Thurlow (Executive Producer)** Spent 12 years in London, New York and Africa working in arbitrage and treasury management for firms such as HSBC, Banker's Trust, and Standard Charter's Bank before moving to California to Serve as CFO of Sonic Magic Studios. In 2004 he was appointed CEO of Sonic Magic and has since expanded the company, adding facilities in London and Louisiana. In 2006, Nick's tireless entrepreneurial spirit led him to partner with John Portnoy and Todd Williams to create Upload Films and co-found Louisiana Media Services with Nu-Images VP of Post-Production Jordan Kessler.

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

Upload Films Presents

In association with Muskat Film Properties

A Lucky Old Sun Production

Shotgun Stories

Written and Directed by  
Jeff Nichols

Produced by  
David Gordon Green  
Lisa Muskat  
Jeff Nichols

Executive Producers  
Todd Williams  
Nick Thurlow  
John Portnoy

Starring  
Michael Shannon  
Douglas Ligon  
Barlow Jacobs

Associate Producers  
Tisha Gribble  
Paul Skidmore

Cinematographer  
Adam Stone

Editor  
Steven Gonzales

Original Music  
Ben Nichols  
Lucero

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

Additional Orchestration and Music  
Pyramid

## Cast

Son Hayes	Michael Shannon
Boy Hayes	Douglas Ligon
Kid Hayes	Barlow Jacobs
Cleaman Hayes	Michael Abbott, Jr.
Mark Hayes	Travis Smith
Stephen Hayes	Lynnsee Provence
John Hayes	David Rhodes
Annie	Glenda Pannell
Shampoo	G. Alan Wilkins
Nicole	Natalie Canerday
Cheryl	Coley Canpany
Carter	Cole Hendrixson
Melissa	Vivian Morrison Norman
Paul	Tucker Prentiss
Kevin	Wyatt Ashton Prentiss
Dess	Cammie McKee
Norman	Cosmo Pfeil
Amos	Mark W. Johnson
Preacher	Dr. Merle Allison Johnson
Roger	Evan Nally
Basketball Kid #1	Walter Moore
Basketball Kid #2	Taylor Williams
Red	Tom Kagy
J.J.	Gary Hawkins
Police Officer	William Duerson
Man at Bar	Brian Sides
Doctor	Jackie Duane Stewart
Fish Farm Owner	Mike Freeze
Nurse	CC Moore
Pawn Shop Owner	Tom Gordon
Fish Farm Workers	Thurman Lee Bush
	Lance Christopher

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

Farm Hands	Luke Hooks Will Hahn Adam Kellim
Funeral Attendees	Mary Vancura Donna Care Hannah Payne H. Louis Payne Holly Hilburn Tyler Fuller
England Basketball Team	Darius Malvin Larry Patterson Richard Woods Matthew Russell Trey Horton Jeremy Ridgle Kyle Drake
Henry	Henry Smackers
Loop group	Heidi Sulzman Scott Presley Lucas Ford Rena Garcia

## Crew

Unit Production Manager	Paul Skidmore
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Director	Cosmo Pfeil
Additional Casting	Sarah Tackett
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Camera	Raul Evirez
2 <sup>nd</sup> AC/Loader	Alex Jones

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

Gaffer	Stephen Olsen
Key Grip	Ryan Nelson
Grip	Brian Sides
Grip	David Briggs
Grip	Justin Nichols
Production Sound	Hayden Jackson
Boom Operators	Gregory Wagnon
	Cody Riggan
Script Supervisor	Neil Rahilly
Wardrobe	Rachel Worthen
Still Photographer	Rachel Worthen
Props/Set Dressing	Lindsey Millar
Make-up Artists	David Weatherly
	Cosmo Pfeil
Property Master	Aubrey Harris
Craft Services	Joan Nichols
Production Assistant	Dacus Thompson
Interns	Gregory Wagnon
	Cody Riggan
	Jamie Rush
	Emily Peresta
	Dana Sargent
	Holly Terry
	Justin Nichols
Cameras Provided by	Joe Dunton and Company International

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

Grip & Lighting Equipment Prov. by	Gear Equipment Rental, Austin, TX
Legal Services Provided by	Glenn Feig Reder & Feig LLP
Production Insurance Provided by	Complex Corporation
Post production Management Provided by	UPLOAD FILMS
Post production Supervisor	Louise Runge
Assistant Editor	Jenn Godin
Sound Post Production and Mixing at Sound Supervisor Dialogue Supervisor & ADR Editor ADR Mixer	LOUISIANA MEDIA SERVICES Jerry Gilbert Dhyana Carlton-Tims Jeremy Balko Richard Kitting Randy Babajtis Shawn London David F. Van Slyke Chad J. Hughes Brent Findley Andrew Morgado Vicki O'Reilly Vandegrift Jason "Frenchie" Gaya Brennan Gerle Richard "Tricky" Kitting Jerry Gilbert
Sound Effects Editors	
Foley Editor Foley Mixer Foley Artist Assistant Sound Editors	
Sound Recordist Re-Recording Mixer	
VFX and Opticals Supervisor	John Portnoy
Telecine Provided by	Fotokem

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

Color Timer	George Chavez
Negative Cutter	Magic Film and Video Works
Optical Soundtrack Negative	NT Audio Nt
Scanning and Recording	IO FILM
Video Mastering	HTV

## “FOR A LITTLE RIDE”

Written by Mark Mangold and Benny Mardones

Performed by Benny Mardones

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## “INTO THE NIGHT”

Written by Benny Mardones

Performed by Benny Mardones

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## “Hold Me Close”

Written by: Ben Nichols

Performed by: Lucero

Courtesy of Liberty & Lament LLC

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## “Frisco”

Written by: Ben Nichols

Performed by: Red 40

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## “The Duel Part II”

Performed by: Lucero

Written by: Ben Nichols

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# PRODUCTION CREDITS

## Very Special Thanks

John and Joan Nichols  
Betty Shanks  
Keo Fish Farm  
Nichols Furniture  
Joe Nichols  
Dr. Merle Allison Johnson  
Matt Hoffine  
Michael Shannon  
Dan and Evon Billmeyer  
Gary Hawkins  
Mike Freeze  
Martha Melkovitz  
And  
Michelle Colbert

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Stephanie Price  
Gary Jones  
Jones Film and Video  
Roller Funeral Homes  
Renata Byler  
Bill Sandage  
Little Rock Zoo  
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Tim Evans  
The City of England, AR  
England Mayor's Office  
England Police Department  
Coach Ed Nally  
Hannah Vogler  
Richard and Dana Lawrence  
Kathy Bradley  
Dairy Freeze #1  
Arkansas Corps of Engineers

# PRODUCTION CREDITS

Mulberry Cemetery  
The City of Scott, AR  
David Slade  
D & D Carwash  
Doug Bryant  
Gator's Barge and Grill  
Whitewater Tavern  
St. Vincent's Hospital North  
Margaret Preston  
Marin's Country Market  
Rose City Shopping Center  
The Hendrixson Family  
Caroline Myers  
Mike and Karen Millar  
Peter Goff  
Lauren and Big Dave Puchowski  
Steve Lightle  
Arkansas State Film Commission  
Bill Asti  
Joe Glass  
Rebecca Green  
Margaret Brown  
Shiny Object  
Paul Reyes  
Bill and Judy Trice  
David Kavanaugh  
Stacy Duckett  
Jim Harris  
Judy Gribble  
Lee and Jane Gordon  
Jim and Susie Henley  
Barbara Steele  
Anthony Norwood  
Tom and Betty Shanks  
The Villa  
Buffalo Grill  
Doug Green

# **PRODUCTION CREDITS**

Corky's BBQ  
Karla and Tommy Hilburn  
Becky Bailey  
Betty Haydon  
Betty Hanson  
Alice Browning  
Paula Johnson  
England Middle School  
Circle C Pawn and Sales  
Naomi May  
Darius Shahmir  
Screen Actors Guild