

# CONTROL

## PRESS KIT

**DIRECTOR**

Brad Crowe  
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**PRODUCER**

Nabila Lester  
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# CONTROL

## TAG LINE

For Jason Conner, it's not just another day at the office...

## LOG LINE

An aspiring artist stuck in an office day-job discovers the darker side of human nature, as he strives to take control of his life.

## SYNOPSIS

*Control* is a story about a man who feels that he has no control over his life, but soon realizes that the only person responsible for his dead-end job is himself. Jason Conner works as an accountant who is constantly ridiculed by his boss Simpson. He would rather be doing anything than filing taxes and is especially passionate about drawing. One day at work, when he simply cannot take it anymore, his drawings materialize into the real world and his angst towards his boss comes to life. *Control* explores the concept of power. Who has it? Who acts on it? And who indulges in its destructive capabilities?



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## FILMMAKERS' STATEMENT

“My biggest fear in life is waking up every morning and dreading my job. That is why I made *Control*. In addition to that, I have always been fascinated with the emotional connection the viewer has with a character on screen. In *Control*, I wanted to explore this by setting up a sympathetic ‘victim’ [Jason Conner], whom the audience roots for, until he goes violently overboard, which subverts him into somewhat of an antagonist. Ultimately he learns from this and is a better person for it. Nobody is ‘good’ or ‘evil.’ There is duality in humanity. Everyone has the capability of being Mother Theresa or Saddam Hussein. We just don’t like to admit it.”

- Brad Crowe, *Writer/Director*

"Having a shitty job is something most people can relate to. We are taught to believe we have little control in our occupations much less our destinies. I can relate to this world of isolation, blame and bitterness, oftentimes created when I ignore the pursuit of my craft. I became a part of this project because I believed *Control* is an innovative narration of the internal struggle that many artists go through. *Control* delivers a vision of hope and possibility. It is my hope that it relates a theme I strongly stand behind: All people have a talent to offer the world. Therefore, we are all artists fully capable of controlling the happiness we create for ourselves and for others."

- Nabila Lester, *Producer*

## POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The painting featured in the film (on the wall in the office and multiplied by the hundreds on the floor) is “The Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog” (1817) by Caspar David Friedrich.
2. The office scene was filmed at a Jackson Hewitt Tax Service office in the San Fernando Valley. The office workers in the background are actual employees of the firm.
3. The dome shaped chair the boss sits in during the ‘animated reality’ scene was actually made in the 1960’s and was graciously donated by Boo Radley’s Antique Shop on Melrose Ave.
4. Rick Almada (the corporate boss) is actually about 2 feet shorter than Shaughn Buchholz. To make Rick appear more intimidating and sinister, the two are never seen standing up together and were always shot with low angles and high angles respectively.
5. The score was completed during one 14 hour session at James Guymon’s studio in downtown Los Angeles. It is one theme that is repeated in different keys.
6. The rough cut was over 16 minutes long. The final version is six minutes, including credits.

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## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Format - HDCAM

Running Time - 6:00 mins

Sound - Stereo

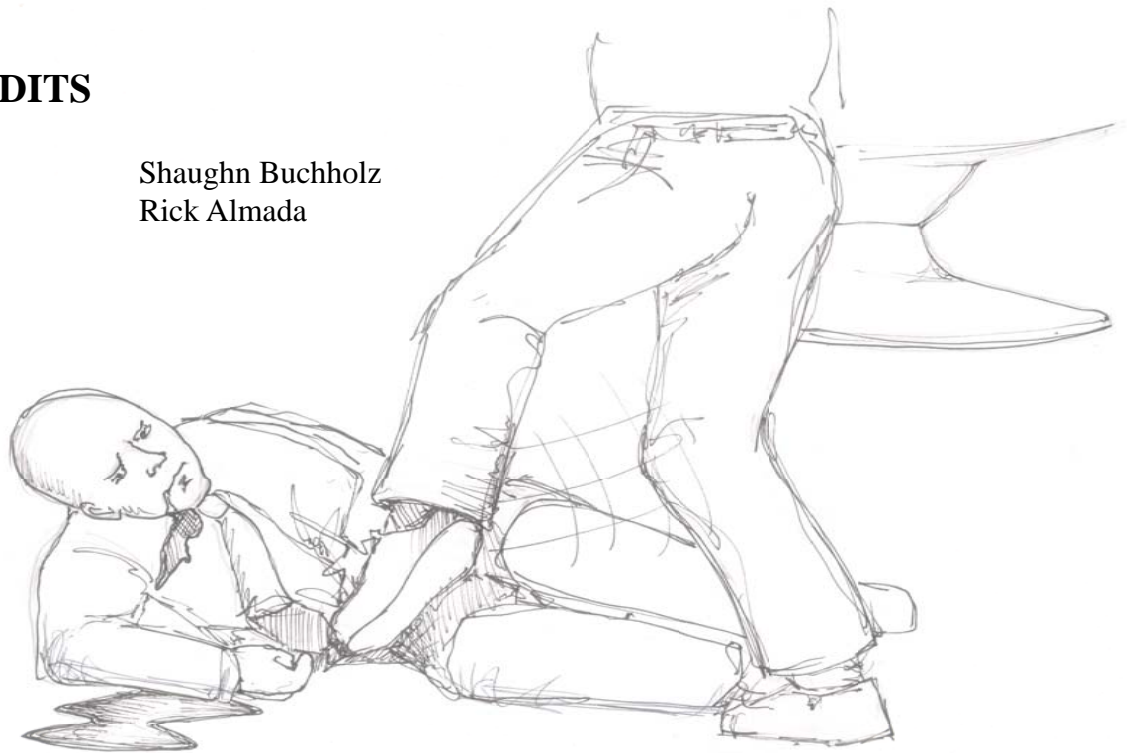
Aspect Ratio - 4:3 (with embedded 16:9 matte)

## FILMMAKER CREDITS

Director	Brad Crowe
Writer	Brad Crowe
Producer	Nabila Lester
Director of Photography	Nabila Lester
Composer	James Guymon
Sound Mixer	Gentry Smith
Sound Designer	Brad Crowe
Editor	Nabila Lester

## TALENT CREDITS

"Jason Conner"	Shaughn Buchholz
"Simpson"	Rick Almada

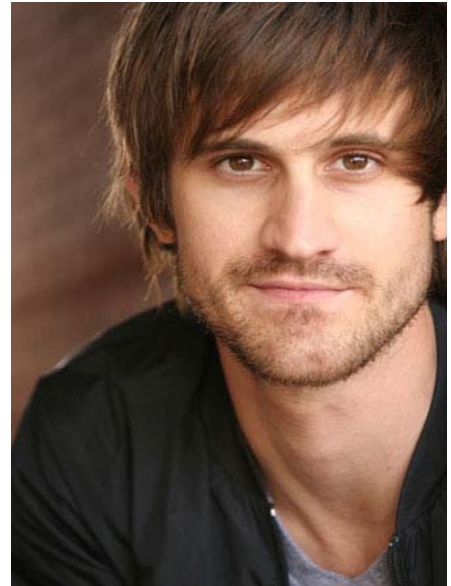


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## TALENT BIOGRAPHIES

### **SHAUGHN BUCHHOLZ - "JASON CONNER"**

Shaughn received his BFA from the California Institute of the Arts and has been working steadily in commercials, television and film since graduation. For the past two years, Shaughn has been recurring on the hit television show "SCRUBS" as "Cabbage". In August 2006, he played Orpheus in the new opera "Orpheus Crawling" at REDCAT in the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Other television credits include "Joey" and "I'm With Her." He is also seen in the recently released film *Analog Days* as Derek.



### **RICK ALMADA - "SIMPSON"**

Rick is originally from Chicago where he was a member of several Theatre companies. He trained at the 2nd City Training Center in Chicago as well as the Improv Olympic and Scene Study at the Ivanna Chubbuck Studio in Los Angeles. He performed his one man show "The Paradox of Insanity...I Mean Humanity!" at the Edingburgh Festival Fringe in 1997 and was a crooked congressman Eskimo in a premier of John Guare's play "Moon Under Miami". He has appeared in low budget independent feature-length films as well as multiple short films. Other credits include voice over in radio commercials, the cop who said "Drop the Chalupa" in a Taco Bell commercial and a co-star on "ER" as a man dressed as a rowdy leprechaun. Recently, he was also a part of Theatre 68's production of "Eyes For Consuela" and he is in production on his Independent project, a dark comedy titled *Papa Zeus* as a Nobel peace prize wannabe.



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## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **BRAD CROWE - WRITER / DIRECTOR**

The son of an airline pilot, Brad Crowe grew up overseas in Singapore and was exposed at an early age to the world of theater, music, and politics. An avid singer/saxophone player, actor/director, and student politician, Brad learned the importance of a social conscience in the arts. After fulfilling a BA with a double major in film production and film studies at the University of British Columbia, Canada on a full scholarship, Brad is attending the University of Southern California, completing an MFA in film production with an emphasis on Producing and Directing. He has just received the Thomas B. Bush Memorial Scholarship for excellence in Cinematography.



### **NABILA LESTER - PRODUCER / CINEMATOGRAPHER / EDITOR**

Nabila was born in Harlem, NYC to an operatic mother and actor father. Her first debut in entertainment took place on stage where she performed as an actor and dancer for fifteen years. After finishing high school, she attended UC Berkeley, graduating with honors in American Studies. After graduating from UC Berkeley Nabila worked in the Los Angeles film industry as a 1st Assistant Director where she learned production management. Currently, Nabila is in her second year at USC on a Courtney Ross Scholarship majoring in Producing and Directing. In the future, Nabila plans to be an inspiring Producer, Director and film production professor.



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## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **JAMES GUYMON - COMPOSER**

James Guymon studied composition with Robert Ian Winstin, New Mexican composer Michael Mauldin, and commercial composer Ben Carson. After moving to Los Angeles, James was mentored by film industry veteran Christopher Young. Guymon has written for films, commercials, video games, and for concert stage. His orchestral concert work *Dawn of the Iron Horse* (an excerpt from *Human Sorcery Suite*) won the 2006 Masterworks Prize from ERM Media and will be included on a CD release of the critically acclaimed classical music series *Masterworks of the New Era*. His films have played film festivals such as Sundance, London, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Claremont Ferrand, and have been the recipient of several awards, such as a Grand Prix du Jury and a BAFTA. James Guymon is happily married to Amber Guymon and resides in Long Beach, California.

