

PRESS KIT

YVONNE CHAPMAN



DRAGON FRUIT

A J.BROWN FILM

DRAGON FRUIT



TECH SPECS

Country of origin:

CANADA

Year:

2023

Run time:

27 MINUTES

Shooting Format:

4K Blackmagic BRAVIA 23.976

Available in:

**2K DCP 24fps with CLOSED CAPTIONS
and DESCRIPTIVE AUDIO or 2K Stereo .MP4**

Aspect ratio:

2.39:1

Sound:

5.1 or Stereo

Language

ENGLISH

LINKS

Official Instagram:

www.instagram.com/dragonfruitfilm

Official YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@dragonfruitthemovie

IMDB:

www.imdb.com/title/tt14623962

Hashtag:

[#dragonfruitfilm](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/dragonfruitfilm)

Official Website:

www.dragonfruitthemovie.com

DRAGON FRUIT



CAST

The Mother

The Son

The Neighbor

The Boss

The Cop

The Man

Left Twin

Right Twin

Trigger-happy Cop

Apple Man

TP Kingpin

Ol Fish Face

Big Yellow Taxi

The Veteran

Hose Nose

Furry Tube Face

Buckethead

Soup Can Puppy

The Slowpoke

Metal Head

Chrome Dome

Space Gardener

Mr. Mystery Meats

YVONNE CHAPMAN

AZRIEL DALMAN

NICOLE MUÑOZ

CHRIS GAUTHIER

OMARI NEWTON

KEN LAWSON

JACQUELINE ROBBINS

JOYCE ROBBINS

KRISTOF GILLESE

ANDREW DUNCAN

TANDIA MERCEDES

SARAH CONLISK

KELSEY WAGNER

VESPER SHOUSHOUNOVA-CORMIER

ELLA TOTINO

SHALINA NURLY

ANGELIKA JACKLYNE

BRITTANY WAGNER

KIYANA DARBANDI

RYAN BEGG

FRANCESCO CAMMARDELLA

NASTASSJA DOROTICH

J.BROWN

DRAGON FRUIT



CREW

Writer and Director
Producers

J.BROWN
J.BROWN
JEN ARAKI
YVONNE CHAPMAN
HENRY HAYHURST-FRANCE
JESS RIVERS

Executive Producers

J.BROWN
LORI ZEI
JEN ARAKI
DYLAN PLAYFAIR

Associate Producers

LYNETTE GARRISON
LORI ZEI

Director of Photography
Editors

HENRY HAYHURST-FRANCE
J.BROWN
MELANIE SNAGG

Original Music
Sound Designer
Production Designer

SHAWN PENNER
JEFF DAVIS
J.BROWN

Costume Designer
Prop Maker
Visual Effects Supervisor
First Assistants Camera

J.BROWN
J.BROWN
J.BROWN
J.BROWN
JOHN KELLY
NICK TAILLEFER

Makeup Designer
Colourist

KATE ELLIS
HENRY HAYHURST-FRANCE

SYNOPSIS

**DRAGON
FRUIT**

LOGLINE: *In a violent, dystopian future, a single mother attempts to grow a dragon fruit sprout so she can one day sell it for cash.*

DRAGON FRUIT stars **Yvonne Chapman** as **The Mother**, a lone woman forced to make ends meet while caring for her son in an awful, dystopian world. Told largely without dialogue, the film follows her as she struggles to grow a small plant sprout into a fully-ripened dragon fruit. If she can sell it for enough money, and if she can survive, she might be able to afford a better life for her and her son...but honestly, at this point, she'd settle for a small vacation.



Inspired by Canada's now-annual record-breaking wildfire seasons, **DRAGON FRUIT** is set in a smoggy, hellish world where the atmosphere itself has become toxic to breathe, and the gap between rich and poor has never been worse. Drinking water is scarce, militarized police roam the streets terrorizing regular people, and greed is the only ideology everyone understands.

Produced through the crucible of the pandemic, **writer-director J.Brown** designed and created nearly all the props, costumes, set pieces and visual effects himself, mostly in his apartment, and mostly on his own. With a boost from creative powerhouse **Crystal Mountain Films**, J.Brown and his company **Rattlesnake Films** were able to stretch a shoestring budget into an epic short film, creating a uniquely bleak portrait of a future that feels all too familiar.

CAST



Yvonne Chapman anchors the cast of *DRAGON FRUIT* as **The Mother**. Relentless, stubborn, and resourceful, she never, ever gives up. The Calgary-born actor, who is also a producer on the film, is known for her roles as the nefarious Zhilan in the CW's reboot of *Kung Fu*, as well as lawyer Mina Lee in CBC's reboot of the legendary series *Street Legal*. Yvonne can be seen as Avatar Kyoshi in Netflix's upcoming live-action adaptation of *Avatar: The Last Airbender*.



**DRAGON
FRUIT**

CAST



Vancouver's **Azriel Dalman** provides the heart of *DRAGON FRUIT* as the lonely, inquisitive **Son**. Not even ten years old, Azriel already sports a lengthy resume with dozens of roles, including Amazon's *Moonfall* and Pixar's *Soul*. Azi plans to "be an actor forever, and work at Subway when I'm not on a project."

**DRAGON
FRUIT**

Nicole Muñoz joins the cast of *DRAGON FRUIT* as the supercool **Neighbor**. An actor since the age of four, Nicole is best known for her roles as Jack in Syfy's *Van Helsing* and as Ellery in CBC's *Diggstown*.



CAST



DRAGON FRUIT's villainous **Boss** is brought to life by BC's own **Chris Gauthier**. Chris has been in everything from Zack Snyder's *Watchmen* to ABC's *Once Upon A Time*. Director J. Brown met Chris while singing karaoke at a pub on a night neither of them can remember. He can currently be seen on *Joe Pickett* for Paramount+.

**DRAGON
FRUIT**

Omari Newton brings the long arm of the law to the world of *DRAGON FRUIT* as the enigmatic **Cop**. An accomplished voice actor, playwright, and director, Omari is also known for his roles as Larry on *Blue Mountain State* and Lucas on Showcase's *Continuum*.



CAST



Ken Lawson is The Man.

**DRAGON
FRUIT**



DIRECTOR

**DRAGON
FRUIT**



J. Brown is a director, producer, and animator based out of Vancouver, BC. He has nearly 20 years of experience working in television, feature film, and video games, working on titles like *Stranger Things*, *The Mandalorian*, and *The Avengers*. He created all costumes, props, and visual effects for *DRAGON FRUIT* in his apartment on his own—partly to save money, and partly because there was a pandemic and he had nothing else to do. He also built two sets, acted as locations manager, and played the character of **Mr. Mystery Meats**, because after all this work, there's no way he wasn't gonna be in this thing. Identifying marks include a rattlesnake tattoo on his arm and a beard on his face. So far, he is bald.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

*"You get an idea you're so excited about, you feel like running. But then it's harder than you think. There's a pandemic. And a miscarriage. You lose your job. But you're still alive, so you work harder. You get other jobs. You turn 40. You keep making things, you work so hard. You work all the time, you're so tired. You have to see it through—the only way out is through. The work never ends. You turn 41. You've tried your best. You're nearly done! You feel alive! You don't know what it cost you, but you feel it. In your back. In your heart. You wonder if it was worth it, but that's not up to you. You feel silly. It's only a short film. Whatever. You lose your job again, but now you don't know if you can stand another. **Dragon Fruit** is about being consumed by your side hustle during a terrible time. This film is about how it felt to make it."*



CREW

DRAGON
FRUIT



Director of Photography Henry Hayhurst-France first met with director J.Brown in a Vancouver coffee shop in June of 2020. Newly arrived from the UK, Henry was not only unphased by making a film of this scale during a pandemic, he had his own camera, which was good news for the budget. Filming on a Blackmagic Pocket adapted with vintage lenses, Henry brought J.Brown's storyboards to brilliant life, color graded every shot himself, and was so instrumental throughout production that he earned himself a battle-field promotion to producer.

Music Composer Shawn Penner was six years old when he met director J.Brown in a tree at a church picnic. J.Brown was four, and credits his love of violent movies to Shawn's terrible influence growing up. Having previously collaborated with J.Brown on multiple small videos and fan films, Shawn was keen to tackle a film where the music was so instrumental to the story. In a twenty-seven minute film with almost no dialogue, what he achieved is truly remarkable, and worth the price of admission alone.



CREW

**DRAGON
FRUIT**



Producer Jen Araki and director J.Brown grew up together, attending the same elementary school in West Kelowna, BC. After a successful modeling career, Jen moved from LA to Vancouver, and immediately began making plans to make movies. Already an actor, director, and producer under her **Crystal Mountain Films** banner, she was able to draw on her vast network to get *DRAGON FRUIT* off the ground.

Executive producer and **Crystal Mountain Films** co-founder **Dylan Playfair** is most recognizable as Reilly on Crave/Hulu's hit series *Letterkenny*. The hockey player turned award-winning actor has built a diverse resume that also includes directing, producing, and executive producing. In *DRAGON FRUIT*, he found a rich, thrilling drama that is both personal and universal, contained in a package that could only come from the unique mind of director J.Brown.



CREW



Creative Producer Jess Rivers is J.Brown's best friend and was the very first producer attached to *DRAGON FRUIT* in 2019. The first pitch for the film failed and she promptly left Vancouver to open a bakery in beautiful Victoria, BC with her partner Adam. Located in the heart of Victoria's Rock Bay, **Working Culture Bread** is open Thursday to Sunday and bakes organic sourdough bread from scratch. They also have really good coffee, sandwiches and pastries. Personally, I love their cinnamon buns the most.



DRAGON FRUIT



Dan Mangan is a two-time JUNO Award-winning and two-time Polaris Music Prize-nominated musician and songwriter. Based in Vancouver, BC, Dan has toured extensively in North America and Europe, with stops at Glastonbury and Jimmy Kimmel Live. Dan agreed to bless *DRAGON FRUIT* with a cover of a classic Bob Dylan song to close out the film. Pulling together a group of local musicians for one day only, they recorded it live off the floor in one take. What song? Sorry, friend. Watch *DRAGON FRUIT*.





**DRAGON
FRUIT**

