



QUIET FLAME PRODUCTIONS

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EASTBOUND TRAFFIC

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**TITLE:** Eastbound Traffic  
**LENGTH:** Feature  
**GENRE:** Action / Thriller  
**STYLE:** Live Action with Anime cut-ins  
**BUDGET:** \$250,000  
**SHOOT:** October 2022



# PRODUCTION TEAM



## **CHUCK JOHNSON**

- ▶ **Executive Producer**
- ▶ **Writer**
- ▶ **Co-director**
- ▶ **Action Director**

**Chuck is a native of Detroit, Michigan but has been based in Japan for over 20 years. He is the CEO of Quiet Flame Productions with 15 years of experience working in film & television internationally. As a former US national Taekwondo champion Chuck has always kept his focus on action cinema, and he has worked on action-based projects ranging from video games such as Metal Gear Solid V to films such as GI JOE: Origin of Snake Eyes.**

**In 2015, Chuck also wrote and produced Fists of Absinthe, a collaborative film that brought together Google, Toei Studios, and Adidas. It was an official selection at the Urban Action Showcase in New York, and received a nationwide distribution deal from TBS Digital in Japan, despite only being a short made on a \$5000 budget.**



## **Patrick Cunningham**

- ▶ **Consulting Producer**

**Originally from New York, Patrick Cunningham is an American Producer and global entertainment consultant living in Japan. Starting as a Casting Director he worked with greats such as Whopie Goldberg and Will Smith while working his way up the ladder quickly as a producer. His films have won awards at Cannes, Sundance, and many other prestigious festivals. Patrick is working several new and exciting projects on an international scale.**



## **SAMUEL LAUBSCHER**

- ▶ Director of Photography
- ▶ Co-director

Samuel began religiously pursuing the art of the photographic process when he was 15, working solely with 35mm film. He specializes in working with or mimicking natural light and tactile camerawork. His recent work includes The History Channel Special, Return to Roanoke, Discovery ID's Dead Silent and Your Worst Nightmare, a pilot for the Sony Playstation Network, and a series of spots for Amazon Echo featuring Pentatonix. Samuel also worked alongside Chuck as DP for Fists of Absinthe.

Sam has an equally long background in music and sees camera movement and lighting form in a melodic and emotive sense. He sees the set as a sacred place for the director and actors' work, so he makes it a point to always be a calm presence. He believes in diversity and hires a crew who also hold these values dear.



## **BRIAN KOBO**

- ▶ Line Producer

Brian was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. His production career officially started when he moved to Tokyo in 2000. He assisted the launch of MTV Japan as a coordinator and continued to work there as an AD. After leaving MTV, he became a freelance production coordinator/manager on many projects including Lost In Translation, Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift, Inception, and numerous commercials and music videos. In 2013, he became head of the international department at a small Tokyo-based film production company. While there, he produced various international projects and worked with many directors and producers from all over the world.

# STORY

A vibrant, neon-lit Japanese street scene at night, likely a shopping district like Akihabara. The street is filled with people walking, and the buildings are covered in colorful signs and advertisements. The word "STORY" is overlaid in the center in a white, distressed font.

WHAT FORCES DRIVE PEOPLE INTO THE SEX  
INDUSTRY?

WHAT HAPPENS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS IN THE  
DARK UNDERSIDE OF TOKYO?

WHAT DO THE PEOPLE WHO EXIST IN THIS  
WORLD LOOK LIKE? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY  
COLLIDE?

# LOGLINE

**After years of harboring guilt about her younger sisters disappearance from Russia, a young girl comes to Tokyo in hopes of finding out what happened to her. Ultimately she gets pulled into the same underground world that consumed her sister, and is forced to not just find her way out, but to find her peace along the way.**

# CHARACTERS



## **BARON**



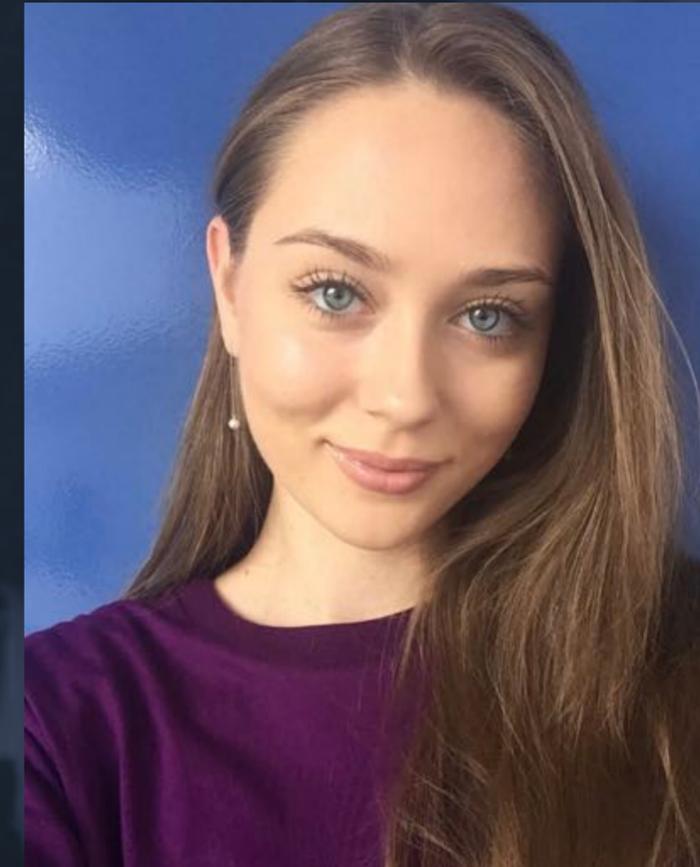
### **PAST:**

Raised by an abusive military father in Okinawa. Accidentally killed him in self defense with a kitchen knife and fled to Tokyo on his own in his teens.

### **PRESENT:**

40s. Owner of a successful girls club in Tokyo. Seeks safety by dominating and controlling everything (and everyone) in his environment. Trusts no one. Uses everyone. Is obsessed with knives and edged weapons and always keeps them near. Violent, ruthless, paranoid, and a deeply lonely alcoholic.

## **DASHA**



### **PAST:**

UK-educated Russian. First person in her family to go to college. The cost of this broke her family's bank, causing her younger sister to fall prey to sex trafficking, and ultimately disappear.

### **PRESENT:**

Harbors deep guilt and blames herself for her sister's disappearance. Comes to Tokyo in an effort to find her or at least find some kind of answers and peace.

## **RYO**



**PAST:**  
Socially disenfranchised Japan-born Korean, Felt rejected by both cultures all of his life. Found success as a sex trafficker of Eastern European women until the death of a girl landed him in jail. This cost him his club and almost everything he owned, and ultimately lead to Baron's success.

**PRESENT:**  
40s. Now, a penniless two-bit con with nothing to show of his previous success but his car. Has the same love of edged weaponry that Baron has, but more as a means of torture than defense. Hates the world and everyone in it and just wants to watch it burn. In particular, has a deep-seated, seething hatred of Baron.

## **ANGEL**



**PAST:**  
Transgender woman from the Philippines. Came to Japan on her own to escape discrimination in the Philippines and start life as a woman. Got into hostessing to pay for her transition. Quickly learned how to play men and the system. Was extremely successful as a hostess and in the after-hours party scene.

**PRESENT:**  
Late 30s. Has largely gotten out of hostessing herself, and now mainly works as the "mama" at Baron's club. Has material wealth, but ultimately wants to be loved. Works for Baron because she believes that deep-down he has a better side.

A silhouette of a person holding an umbrella is positioned on the left side of the frame. The background is a dark, atmospheric scene filled with out-of-focus, colorful bokeh lights in shades of blue, purple, red, and yellow. The overall mood is artistic and evocative.

# MOOD & STYLE

## **TONE:**

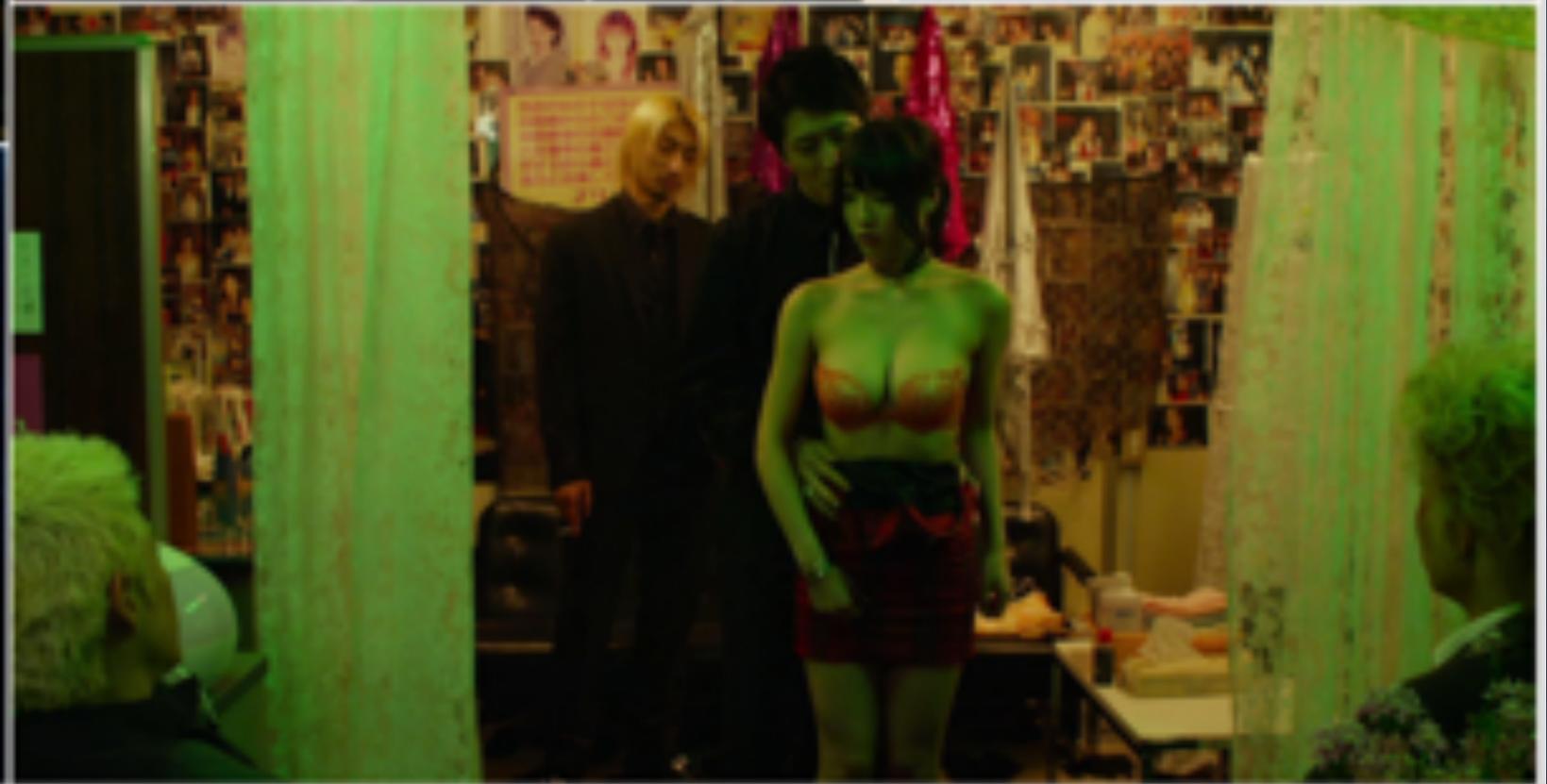
**Due to the serious subject matter of the film, the tone will be dark, with the crisp and vibrant lights of the city acting as a facade to the smearing colored glows in the street puddles. This is to act as a metaphor to the dark underbelly of Tokyo Vibrant night life, with a sense of dreamlike wonder thinly masking underlying danger. Dark and Shadowy figures are used to evoke a feel of hidden danger.**

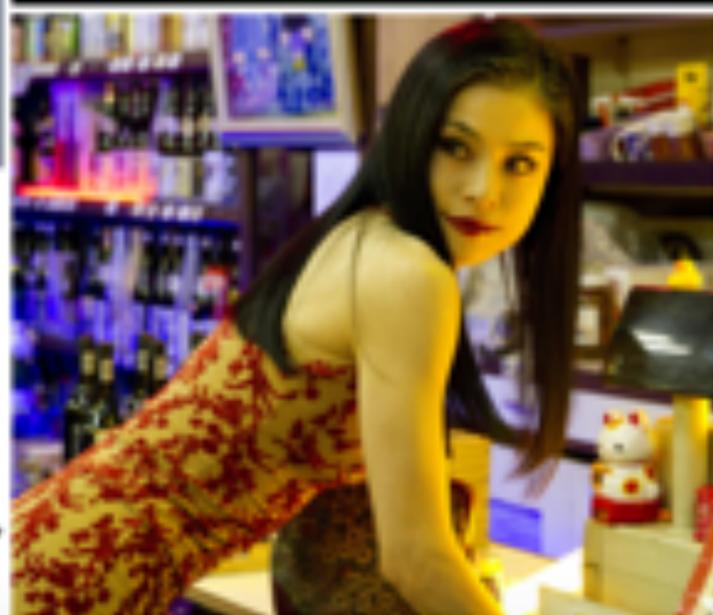
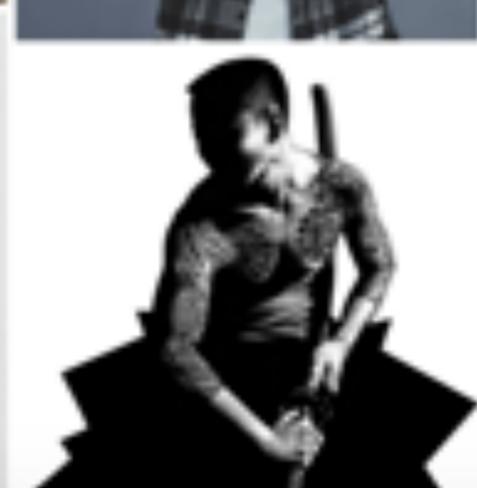
## **COLOR PALETTE:**

**The color palette of the film will utilize a cool base tone to match the somber nature of the subject matter, contrasting with the brightness of the ever-glowing neon lights. There will be three main color palettes that will shift according to the mood, with primary colors becoming more vivid and red as violence takes the stage. Wardrobe, sets and locations will also be closely tied into these palettes.**



# MOOD BOARDS





## STORY-TELLING:

Following the theme of this world containing more than just the narrative of the victim, the story of Eastbound Traffic will be told from the prospective of all 4 of its main characters, allowing the audience to see firsthand that every story has multiple sides and that sometimes the perpetrators of terrible things are also victims themselves.

In addition to using live action, in order to keep the multiple storylines palatable by viewers, flashbacks will be done as animated sequences. Each character's flashbacks will be done in a slightly different style, all while still matching the overall tone and feel of the film.





ESTABLISHED ELEMENTS

# SIMULTANEOUS MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVE STORYTELLING ( GAME OF THRONES )



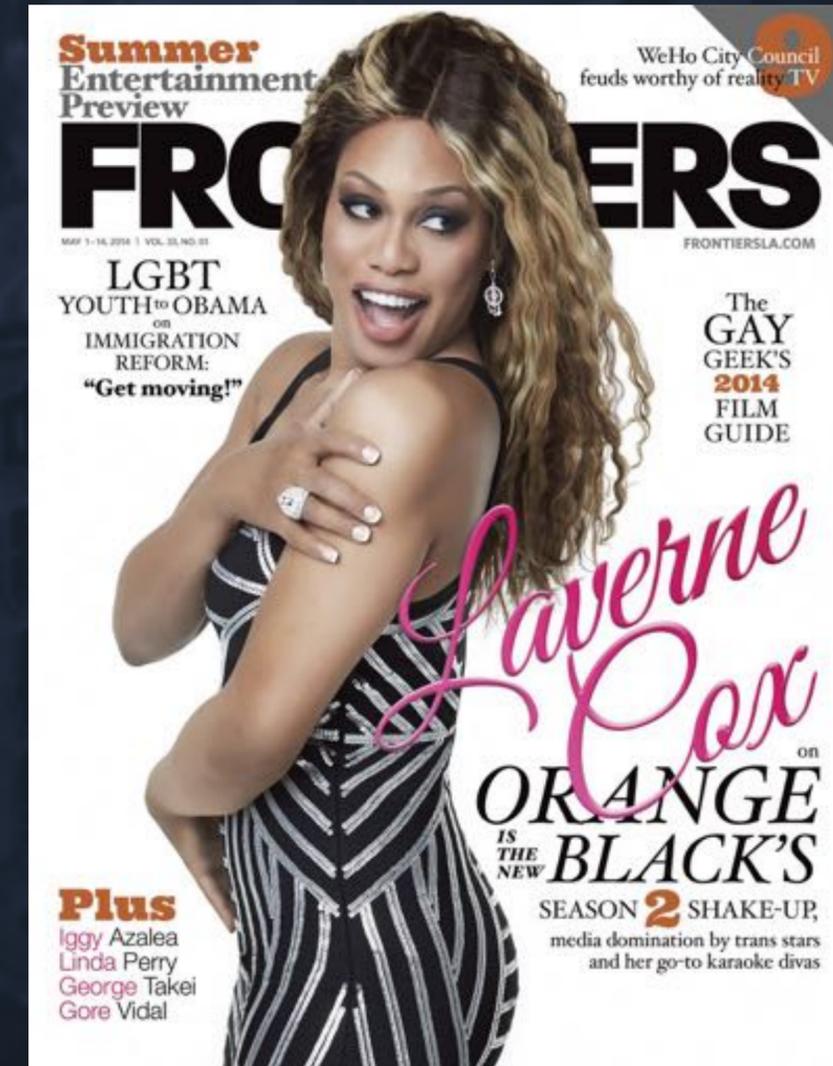
# ANIME STYLE FLASHBACKS/CUT-INS ( KILL BILL )



## EARNINGS:

- \$80 Million in the US & Canada
- \$110.9 Million Internationally
- ( \$180.9 Million Total)

# SOCIAL COMMENTARY ON LGBT ISSUES ( ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK )



## SUCCESS:

- Most viewed show on Netflix
- Voted by Time Magazine as "The Most Important Show of the Decade".

<https://shadowandact.com/marvel-reportedly-puts-out-casting-call-for-transgender-character-of-any-ethnicity-possibly-for-thor-4>

# NICHE DEMOGRAPHIC



## **BLACK FILMS**

- ▶ **\$1.5 Billion Gross Revenue in 2018**

## **ACTION FILMS**

- ▶ **Second most popular film genre from 1995–2020 after adventure films**
- ▶ **\$47.72 Billion Dollars Gross Revenue**

## **LGBT-INCLUSIVE**

- ▶ **In the US in 2018, 74% of LGBT viewers watched programming that was LGBT-inclusive**

## **JAPAN-INTERESTED**

- ▶ **Over 15 Million anime fans worldwide**
- ▶ **Over 10 Million manga fans worldwide**
- ▶ **Japan ranks 4th out of 141 countries as a place people are interested in**

# FILM FESTIVALS

## BLACK FILM FESTIVALS



## LGBT-INTEREST FESTIVALS



## ACTION FILM FESTIVALS



## JAPAN FILM FESTIVALS





END

(Short & long treatments available upon request)