

# alien abduction

A MESSAGE FROM THE CLASS OF 2013

## From Matt Granger – Writer/Director

On April 27<sup>th</sup> 1972, the crew of Apollo 16 sat, strapped into their seats atop the most powerful machine ever created by human kind; the Saturn V booster. In moments, close to eight million pounds of thrust would burn for just one hundred and fifty seconds to propel six million pounds of machinery and a trio of brave astronauts from Cape Kennedy in Florida into deep space and eventually to the moon. As the astronauts sat in their capsule awaiting launch, the work of some four hundred thousand people in the Apollo program was there to ensure that they escaped the relentless grip of the Earth's gravity and safely returned home from the moon, eleven days later.

Early on in the Cinecoup process, I read a quote from Apollo 16's Command Module Pilot, Ken Mattingly that would become my credo for everything we did throughout our Cinecoup run.

*"We're all in this together as a team effort. We're gonna make it work. And I don't know how to make it work. I don't know how to do most of this mission. The many parts that other people are assigned to do. But I do know, and I can assure you, that my piece of it is gonna work. And it won't fail because of me. It won't fail because of me."*

I took this quote to heart and made sure that my personal work on Alien Abduction would be my level best. "It won't fail because of me." As we made our way through the process, it became clear to me that I had surrounded myself with people so dedicated, so full of inspiration, so generous with their talents and time that this quote truly applied to them too. "It won't fail because of me." When our online campaign began and people from all around the world joined our cause and backed our film through views, voting, rating and all those many, many fan missions, they too did their part and put us where we are at this moment. "It won't fail because of me."

As we near the end of the Cinecoup experience, I truly and sincerely want to thank everyone who has lent their considerable skill and talent to making Alien Abduction the amazing project that it has become. I also want to heap endless praise upon the fans, friends and family that responded so positively to our trailer, our online campaign and our weekly missions. You made every bit of difference in the world and because of that our project now awaits launch.

I owe you all a tremendous debt of gratitude. To my partners Kaleena and Mikey for your unstoppable creativity and tireless work, to Patrick and Peter for bringing your

unwavering dedication and considerable talent (and beer) to the table every week, to the vast Alien Abduction support crew of technicians too numerous to list and to our wonderful, dedicated and enthusiastic fans, I send you my undying and sincere gratitude. Alien Abduction is a success...and it's a success because of you.

Thank you.

Matty

#### **From Kaleena Kiff – Producer**

So, I'm not the funny one and I don't have a brother, but I do have pretty much the best support team in Vancouver as far as the indie film community goes. It doesn't matter what I'm shooting nor where, my team always shows up to get 'er done, and they stick around to finish it to boot. They are tireless, supportive, and immeasurably talented. I literally can't make films without them, nor would I want to. Many of them have been working with me since my 35mm short film days, while others are newer partners in crime that are forcing my skill set into the future with their epic ideas.

The CineCoup experience has been a huge opportunity for me to have fun with this team and constantly push myself for solutions to challenges I never saw coming. I'm sure I've exhausted them, as I've leaned on them heavily for help and collaborative input, but I hope they've enjoyed this wild ride as much as I have. I am beyond indebted to them and am continually surprised that they believe in me as much as they claim. They always show up. How lucky am I?

Pulling off *Alien Abduction*'s CineCoup campaign involved a small brigade of professionals. There's my producing partner Galen Fletcher who I haven't made a business decision without in seven years. And he's the only one brave enough to tell me to chill out. The slew of cinematographers who threw their expertise our way was a lifesaver, from new collaborator Dave Tomiak to Chris Kempinski, the hot shot from my *Riese* days, to Bruce Borland, who continues to enthusiastically mentor me in his visual language. My "can-do" everything guy Christopher Livingston saves the day every time he shows up, even as he and his *War Paint* teammates Nadav Santo and Trevor Gemma mounted their own successful and ambitious CineCoup campaign. They still found time to lend a hand to get *Alien Abduction* this far. Tony Wohlgemuth pulled rabbits out of his hat as he production designed our trailer, while Aaron Smedley showed up to take world-class photographs every single time we asked, which was a lot. In the Vancouver indie film scene, we've seen such great support, including our friends at Whites, especially Ed Brando, as well as Paul Armstrong and his Celluloid Social Club. We repeatedly returned to our *Alien Abduction* locations to shoot Mission after Mission, so without Brad Turner's support and encouragement, not to mention his backyard, as well as Luke McGillis and Liz Israel's home, we'd have been out on the street. Seriously, these people were so patient with us and our little, blue man. Finally, there are the editors, who if they hate us for the long nights and constant editorial switch ups, they're hiding it very well. We owe you gents big time. Rehan Khokhar, with his fluency in Granger-speak, and Kirby Jinnah with his golden ears and elegant eyes, managed to turn our big plans into reality, always meeting the tight deadlines.

To say that each CineCoup team is a “power trio” greatly underestimates the village that raised us monkeys thus far. I cannot reiterate how much our team has done for us and how very grateful we are. Let’s keep making stuff together!

Kaleena

**From Mikey Granger – Writer/Director**

It was only few years ago when my brother Matt and I first came up with the idea for Alien Abduction. At the time, we had a huge laugh at the clever twist on the alien abduction phenomenon but stashed the idea away with the hundreds of other crazy ideas we had come up with over the years. Then, a few years and a few projects later, I heard about this new disruptive film model from something called Cinecoup. Their slogan: Be Brave.

Being the two guys who took Dracula to Spring Break to recapture his youth and had a clown stuff a dead, Hollywood starlet into a wood chipper, this brave, disruptive model sounded right up our alley but we had NO idea what to expect.

Well, the last few months have been a little crazy. Our lives seemed to revolve around those Monday nights when the new missions were given out. With our regular lives and jobs on top of that, we were jammed packed. But now it's all coming to a close and we made it out alive! We sincerely could not have done any of this without the amazing people who believed in this crazy idea.

To Matt and Kaleena, I am blessed to have both of you talented and wonderful people beside me through these uncharted, Cinecoup waters. You had the strength and experience we needed to pull through this thing. Thank you.

To Patrick and Peter, you have brought so much life into this project. Not just with the characters you have made your own, but with your guidance and friendship throughout, you have kept the fun of the project vibrantly alive. Thank you.

To the amazing and talented people we have met and worked with along the way. If it weren't for the crewmembers, the filmmakers and the artists we have been lucky enough to collaborate with on the trailer, the missions and Alien Abduction on the whole, this project would not have been as awesome as it is today.

And of course, to all of you reading this. From the unwavering support of our amazing families and friends to the unbelievable devotion from the fans around the world, you have blown us away. Without you we wouldn't be where we are today. You've kept us going and kept us believing in ourselves. Thank you just doesn't seem to cover the effect you've had on all of us.

So, as our Cinecoup campaign comes to an end, I'll leave you with the wise words of Sly and the family Stone. “Thank you falettinme be mice elf.”

Mikey

### **From Peter New – “The Alien”**

Alien Abduction is a labour of love and wouldn’t be happening at all if it weren’t for the faith and dedication of a small (but truly international) group of people. From the Grangers who wrote and directed, to Kaleena the producer, to the other actors (except Patrick, who’s needy. If I thank him once, I’ll have to thank him every day for a year.) to the crew, the editors, the audiences and the fans. Without all of these elements working in harmony, the thing would have ground to a halt ages ago.

Lastly I want to thank Cinecoup, not just because of the tremendous opportunity they’ve provided to filmmakers across this country, but because I want acting jobs in the future and I’m pretty sure they’re going to take over the world.

So. If you skipped to the end, I pretty much just said thank you to everyone on the planet. The kicker? I meant it. You are the glue. Without you my macaroni art is just some kid’s crappy lunch. Thanks for sticking with me. I’m looking forward to our next adventure together.

Cheers.  
Peter

### **From Patrick Gilmore –“Dave Duberinski”**

Look, I don’t wanna get all mushy on you, partly because of my stone heart, but mostly because I’m exhausted from laughing since January, when we started this intense Cinecoup journey. Getting sentimental now would be like saying I love you when I haven’t even unclasped your bra yet. That being said, I wouldn’t be in this sexy braless situation if it weren’t for these people...

#### Cinecoup

My thanks begin at the beginning. Cinecoup’s enthusiasm for the creative spirit is the reason we’ve all been given this opportunity. If we’re tired, can you imagine the wives, husbands, etc. of the Cinecoup crew? The future is exciting for the ‘coup. I’m honored to be a part of this first year and look forward to see what’s next for them.

#### The AA Crew

Since I’ve been involved with Alien Abduction there have been so many crewmembers, I couldn’t possibly begin to list them all. The Riese crew, the RHOV folk & our War Paint gang, so many friends who’ve showed up selflessly to hang a light, paint a face, fluff my junk, tweet for us, feed us...it’s endless.

#### Peter New

I’ve been lucky enough to play opposite Peter New a few times. I use the term “play” for a good reason. It’s never acting with Peter. It’s a game of make believe & catch up. Every time you’re in front of the camera with Peter it’s as if you’re a dog being taken on a walk & damned if you aren’t wagging your tail with anticipation of where it’ll end up.

Although in that analogy Peter one day acts me into a doctor's office where I'm sedated and murdered.

#### Kaleena Kiff

My sweet girl. My connection to Alien Abduction began with Kaleena Kiff who has been a long time dear friend. I enjoy working with Kaleena so much because she's in her element and exudes such strength and confidence, I'm always a little star struck when we just hang out as friends. I'm a lucky guy with her in my corner.

#### The Grangers

Matt & Mikey, who thought of me & made me witness to their talents of coloring with great joy outside the lines. Mere days into AA the three of us asked each other, with all sincerity, why we hadn't been best friends already. And now that we are, I'd jump at the chance to be a part of any of their projects, but mostly I'm excited to sit on their couch, drunk, and argue things like "What's the saddest song ever?"

#### The Fans

This is where I wanted to start and to end. No matter how good a project is, no matter how hard the team works, they get nowhere without the support of the fans. Without our Facebook & Twitter friends we would be done. It's these wonderful enthusiasts that encourage us & move us forward. To the fans: I want you to know that this is all fueled by you.

Thank you!

Patrick Gilmore