



# the little Death

**For Details, Contact:**

Laura Lee Bahr  
Direct Phone: 310.927.5706  
Morgan K. Nichols  
Direct Phone: 310.498.9992

1465 S. Shenandoah St. #7  
Los Angeles, CA 90035  
Phone: 310.289.8423  
Email: lbgrl@prodigy.net  
Email: [mrmorgannichols@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmorgannichols@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.thelittledeathmovie.com](http://www.thelittledeathmovie.com)

## *Filmmakers buck the trends in Independent Film – stretch the limits of “Post-Hollywood American Cinema”*

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### ***A slice of cake...***

A small group of talented filmmakers have made a mainstream film in a very non-mainstream way. “*the little Death*”, a psychological, Hitchcockian thriller, was made on a micro-budget in only eight days of shooting. The cast totals 11 performers, and the production crew was well under that. This focused team did not seek to make yet another talky picture about the melodrama of regular life, but something dramatic and dreamy.

Says director Morgan K. Nichols: “So many independent films have such similar subject matter- 20-somethings sorting out their lives and loves and all that. Slices of life. I’m inspired by Hitchcock’s famous saying that he wanted his movies to be ‘slices of CAKE’. Common wisdom suggests that without Hollywood money you can’t make that kind of Hollywood-type film. We wanted to prove that notion wrong. Post-Hollywood Cinema is here to stay - now we want to show that it can do any kind of film.”

### ***No such thing as “a film by...”***

On this crew everyone is a filmmaker. Most days the crew consisted only of the director, cinematographer, sound recordist, costume designer and assistant director. It was known that any one of these people might have the best idea of the day, and all ideas were welcome. On a traditional set, such an open forum is not always encouraged- especially when there is a lot of work to do. This crew shot an astonishing 14 pages a day, and credits their success largely to this open exchange of ideas.

“When everyone is truly participating, not just with labor but with their imagination,” says Nichols, “that’s when truly impossible things can happen.”

### ***A history together...***

Nichols, actor/screenwriter Laura Lee Bahr and cinematographer David S. Danesh created the award-winning feature film “*Jesus Freak*” in 2003, a surreal, controversial teen dramedy that portrayed Jesus Christ as a Spanish-speaking migrant hitchhiker.

While in post production on “*Jesus Freak*”, much of the cast and crew of “*the little Death*” launched a project called lofilm, which saw 17 improvised shorts made on 17 consecutive Saturdays- each one completed by Sunday night. It was this work especially, unplanned and guerilla-style, that prepared this small group of friends to make this new feature with so little resources and time.

“*the little Death*” stands out from the pack of American indies in its very form. It is more dream-like than naturalist, more mysterious than melodramatic, but most of all it stands as a testament that talent, not money, is all that’s required to please a broad audience in the digital age.

Director Morgan K. Nichols, actor/writer Laura Lee Bahr and lead actor Chris Butler are L.A. based, and available for interviews.