

# Pickings

THEY MESSED WITH THE **WRONG** FAMILY



**IN THEATERS**  
**03.02.2018**

[WWW.PICKINGSFILM.COM](http://WWW.PICKINGSFILM.COM)

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DIGITAL MAGIC ENTERTAINMENT AND DARK PASSAGE FILMS PRESENTS A FEATURE FILM BY USHER MORGAN FEATURING ELYSE PRICE KATIE VINCENT JOEL BERNARD  
JOE TROMBINO EMIL FERZOLA TASSO MIKROULIS YARON URBAS MICHAEL GENTILE SAMANTHA ZAIANO CHRISTOPHER LIAM GENTRY AND BILL TURNER AS YATES MUSIC BY KATIE VINCENT  
PRODUCED BY USHER MORGAN KATIE VINCENT LOUIS ORIOHA WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND EDITED BY USHER MORGAN CINEMATOGRAPHY BY LOUIS ORIOHA DISTRIBUTED BY DARK PASSAGE FILMS

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

"PICKINGS"

Cast: Elyse Price, Joel Bernard, Katie Vincent, Emil Ferzola, Yaron Urbas, Joe Trombino, Taso Mikroulis, Samantha Zaino, Christopher Liam Gentry

Written and Directed by: Usher Morgan

Produced by: Usher Morgan, Katie Vincent, Louis Obioha

Visual Effects, Editing and Post: Usher Morgan, Katie Vincent

Cinematographer: Louis Obioha

Gaffer: Tom Festo

Grip: Mike Mazzilli, Taso Zouroudis, Olatomiwa Adaramola

Sound Mixer: Maximilian Clark, Braulio Lin

Original Music by: Katie Vincent

SFX Makeup by: Tiffanylee Adorno, Catrina Grieco

Production Manager(s): Neeka Billotte, Katie Vincent

Assistant Director: Taso Zouroudis, Marlene Rudy

Art Designer: Neeka Billotte

Costume Designer: Neeka Billotte, Katie Vincent, Elyse Price

Stunts: Joel Bernard

MPAA Rating: "R"

Running Time: 102 Minutes

Aspect Ratio: 1.85

Budget: \$350,000

Theatrical Release Date: 03.02.2018

VOD Release Date: 08.03.2018

DVD/Blu-Ray Release Date: 08.10.2018

Written, Directed, and Produced by  
USHER MORGAN

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# FROM SCRIPT TO SCREEN

After completing his award-winning short film, *Prego*; writer, director, and producer Usher Morgan teamed up with cinematographer Louis Obioha and actors Elyse Price, Katie Vincent, and Joel Bernard to bring to life an exciting new feature film, entitled "Pickings."

An intoxicating, yet toilsome, year-long practice in indie filmmaking took this project from concept to reality, and finally, after two industrious years, *Pickings* was ready to be unleashed. This neo-noir meets Spaghetti Western crime drama pushes the boundaries of style and takes the viewers on a thrilling ride into the story of Jo Lee Haywood - a single mother and neighborhood bar owner who spent years trying to escape her violent past. But when a local mobster and his gang of thugs come knocking on her door, Jo is forced to embrace her inner demons and confront her deadly history in order to protect her family and property. Still waters run deep in this stylistic, neo-noir crime saga.

As pre-production commenced in January of 2016, Morgan and cinematographer Louis Obioha decided to film *Pickings* on the Red Epic camera, with additional night shots filmed on the Sony A7S II, using old vintage lenses. Principle photography began in March of 2016 under a shooting budget of \$350,000. The film was shot in Yonkers, New York City, Southampton Village, and Staten Island for a total of 35 days, and post production was concluded in November of 2017.

The film's ensemble cast includes Elyse Price, Joel Bernard, Katie Vincent (who also served as the film's associate producer and music supervisor), Joe Trombino, Emil Ferzola, Yaron Urbas, Michael Gentile, Christopher Liam Gentry, and Samantha Zaino, among others. Morgan turned to his frequent collaborator, Katie Vincent, to write, compose, and perform many of the film's original songs. Dark Passage Films will handle the release and distribution of the film's original soundtrack.

For additional information concerning the film's theatrical release schedule, and a list of theaters, cities, and general release information, please visit our website, [www.PickingsFilm.com](http://www.PickingsFilm.com), or follow the film on Facebook @ [www.Facebook.com/PickingsFilm](https://www.facebook.com/PickingsFilm). You may also follow the filmmakers on Instagram @ushermorgan, @kitkat2290, @iamcleverchimp





# AWARDS WON

*As of May 1st, 2018*



## Sunny Side Up Film Festival

*Best Feature Film*

*Best Director (Usher Morgan)*

## Tampa Bay Underground Film Festival

*Best Leading Actress (Elyse Price)*

*Best Cinematography (Louis Obioha)*

*Best Feature Film Director (Usher Morgan)*

## Greenpoint Film Festival

*Best Feature Narrative Film*

## New Filmmakers NYC

*Best Narrative Feature Film*

## Midwest Weirdfest

*Best Feature Film*



*"The visually arresting, wickedly entertaining crime drama "Pickings" marks an impressive narrative feature directing debut by Usher Morgan, who also wrote, edited and produced. He's a talent to watch."*

Gary Goldstein  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

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*"It immediately hearkens back to classic film noir or, more recently, the films of the Coen Brothers. The dialogue, meanwhile, with its tongue-in-cheek references, is somewhere closer to a Tarantino film. Even the main character herself, who we soon come to learn is named Jo, is somewhat reminiscent of Uma Thurman's Bride from the Kill Bill series."*

David Fontana  
FILM INQUIRY

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*"What writer-director-producer-cinematographer Usher Morgan's Pickings has by the boatload is visual pizzazz of the Sin City variety—from the neon-drenched shadows to live-action images that morph into graphic-novel-style panels and back again, it's dazzling and all the more impressive because it was executed on an incredibly low budget."*

Maitland McDonagh  
FILM JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL

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*"I'd be lying if I said that I didn't think this film was an absolute blast to watch, from start to finish. It's slick, unique, incredibly confident in its presentation and just so entertaining to watch."*

Wesley Lara  
HIDDEN REMOTE

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# THEATRICAL RELEASE

Following a red carpet world premiere on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the prestigious AMC Loews Lincoln Square in New York City's Lincoln Square - *Pickings* opened to 10 theaters in 6 major cities on March 2nd, 2018.



# FILMMAKER'S BIO

USHER MORGAN  
WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER



Usher Morgan is an award-winning screenwriter, film director, producer and studio executive residing in New York City. Morgan started his career in book publishing and later became involved with film production and distribution. He produced his first documentary film *The Thought Exchange* starring David Friedman and Lucie Arnaz in 2012, followed by his directorial debut, the award-winning short film *Prego*.

Morgan's first feature film, *Pickings* was released to AMC theaters on March 2nd, 2018 and will be making its way to VOD in August of 2018. His directing style is influenced primarily by film-noir and spaghetti westerns. The Los Angeles Times calls Usher Morgan, "a talent to watch".





## ELYSE PRICE

JO LEE-HAYWOOD



Classically trained, Elyse Price has played roles from Shakespeare to Tennessee Williams, performing in major American repertory theaters, the Moscow Art Theatre and Theatre Calgary. Most recently Elyse performed in Shaw's *Major Barbara* (A.C.T.) and *Pygmalion* (California Shakespeare Theater), the original cast of *Steve Yocky's Very Still and Hard to See*, and the American premiere of *Phantom Pains* by Vasily Sigarev. Elyse received her MFA from the American Conservatory and her BA from Queens College in 2010.

## KATIE VINCENT

SCARLET LEE-HAYWOOD / PRODUCER / MUSIC SUPERVISOR



Katie Vincent is an NYC-Based actor, writer, producer, musician and all around maker of stuff. Past film credits include: *Prego* (Usher Morgan), *Death (and Disco Fries)* (Dennis Cahlo), *Before The Snow* (Manmade Productions), *Hotel* (Manmade), *BadPuss: A Popumentary* (Emily Weist), among other titles. She has also appeared in theatre pieces with Columbia University's MFA Drama Program, Playhouse On Park, Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, and more. She received her BFA in Drama from Tisch NYU.

## JOEL BERNARD

BOONE



Joel is an American actor, voice artist, and co-artistic director of Benefit of the Doubt Theatre Company. Film and TV credits include *Law and Order: SVU*, *Silent Hill: Downpour*, *Fine Dining*, and the upcoming feature film *Mouse*. Theatre credits include The Strand Theater's inaugural production of Caryl Churchill's *Love and Information*, Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and *Niagara Falls* by Steve Yocky. Joel trained at LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts, The Moscow Art Theater, received a BA from Queens College, and an MFA from the American Conservatory Theater.

## YARON URBAS

SAM "HOLLYWOOD" BARONE



A versatile and talented actor, Yaron Urbas has played everything from working class hero, soldier, mobster to cultured entrepreneur in various roles for feature films and Television. He is known best for his appearance in *Orange is the New Black*, *Gotham*, *The Blacklist* and the *Jim Gaffigan Show*, among others.

# CONTACTS



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Writer, Director, Producer

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