



ANGELS

*We all need to Die a few Times
to Live a Good Life.*

NEAR

DEATH

DIRECTED BY **HUNGYU KUO**

2025 | Dark Comedy | 72 min | 2.59:1 | Color | Digital | USA

“Angels Near Death” is a love letter to the cinema that raised me, and a quiet cry to those who still believe in its power. I came to Hollywood with a dream: to tell a story bold enough to mark its time, something that might echo the way Star Wars once did. But as the world grew more fragile, I felt my imagination dim. Before my student visa expired, I made this film—not as a goodbye, but as a gift. A gentle reminder that cinema still matters. And if it finds its way into someone else’s heart, I hope they walk away with this truth: dreaming is not a luxury—it’s the light we carry through the dark.



CAST

Bryan Scamman, Llana Barron, Kaitlin Sanders,
Sébastien Louis, Andy Gates, Jessica Lee, Lulu Miller

CREW

Director & Screenwriter: Hungyu Kuo
Producer: Hungyu Kuo, Bethanie Ackerman, Polly Lau,
Yijia Sun, Makenna Tuttle
Cinematographer: Abhinay Pandit
Production Designer: Yijia Sun
Costume Designer: Mara Knight
Makeup & Hair: Cherilynn Wheeler, Emily Rice-Slothower
Sound Engineer: Dennis Grzesik
Sound Designer & Re-recording Mixer: Lenny Jones
Composer: Solo Wang
Editor: Yian Ian Chen
First Assistant Director: Jassy Yuan
Casting Director: Hungyu Kuo

PRODUCTION

An Angels Near Death LLC Production
8605 Santa Monica Blvd. #304043
West Hollywood, CA 90069
United States





LOGLINE

In the City of Angels, six eccentric strangers cross paths after near-death experiences, interweaving the journey of love, death, and the human spirit.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

In the City of Angels, **Oscar**, a filmmaker who takes his own life to reunite with his lost love, and **Alice**, a journalist killed by a photographer, cross paths with others equally lost in a spectral realm where dreams fade and souls linger. Together, they embark on a daring journey to reclaim their bodies and resurrect the beautiful lives they were meant to live.

LONG SYNOPSIS

“Angels Near Death” is a dark comedy with interconnected stories that come together to form the tapestry of life, or intertwined lives, like many strings woven to create a hangman's noose. In the City of Angels, **Oscar**, a set dresser lost in the machinery of cinema, works tirelessly with blood, sweat, and tears until spilling his own blood transforms his life in ways he never expected. His girlfriend, **Victoria**, a dedicated actress who plays a sinister spirit in the horror film “The Mother's Bed,” blurs the line between performance and reality after work, turning their apartment into her personal haunted ground. **Alice**, once a novelist, leaves fiction behind to report for “The Hollywood Disaster,” only to discover that life itself often surpasses even the wildest stories. Her fiancé, **Henry**, switches from avant-garde filmmaking to nursing, convinced that while art can inspire, only hands and bandages can truly heal a human wound. **Art**, a photographer obsessed with capturing death through photo montage, follows his subjects to their final moments only to realize that his own passing becomes his greatest masterpiece. **Cher**, directing the outrageous slasher “Chopsticks,” in which a Chinese girl wields kung-fu against scumbags, soon realizes that the chaos on screen is spilling into the real world. Six eccentric strangers meet on body and soul in the spiritual world, where dreams go to die, embarking on an expedition to resurrect themselves and live beautiful lives again.



A CONVERSATION WITH HUNGYU KUO

Let's start with the title: what does "Angels Near Death" refer to?

"Angels Near Death" refers to Los Angeles, once the beating heart of Hollywood and a symbol of boundless dreams, but it no longer feels like the place of hope it once was. It's a city in decline, breathing its last breath. Yet within that breath lies the potential for revival. I believe the city can be restored if we return to what made it magical: belief in dreams, imagination, and originality.

The title also evokes near-death experiences: deeply transformative moments of detachment, clarity, and personal awakening. In the film, each character confronts their near-death moment, leading them to rediscover who they truly are. For me, that reflects the experience of watching or making a film—something inside us changes, and we come out the other side just a little more alive.

What sparked the idea of the film?

The idea stemmed from my uncertainty and insecurity as a newcomer pursuing filmmaking in Hollywood. I imagined who I might become in the near future and wrote those possibilities into six characters. Oscar is a filmmaker stuck on low-budget sets, never given the chance to tell his own story, yet he refuses to give up despite a lifetime of struggle and disappointment.

Alice, once a fiction writer, is now a journalist who no longer believes in imagination and writes only about real life, convinced that reality is more absurd than fiction. Victoria is an actress so deeply immersed in her roles that she begins to lose the ability to separate performance from reality. Henry gave up filmmaking to become a nurse. Once driven by the belief that cinema could make a difference, he now seeks to help people in more practical ways. Art is a successful photographer who misuses his influence and manipulates others for personal gain. Cher is a young, ambitious filmmaker working her way up in the industry. I placed these six characters in the arena of Hollywood, where dreams, identity, and ambition collide to see how they would transform and, in turn, reflect different parts of myself.

What challenges did you face during production?

The biggest challenge was believing in myself and continuing forward despite every obstacle. Producing and shooting a feature film as an international student in Los Angeles is no small feat. From navigating the legal complexities of starting an LLC, launching a crowdfunding campaign, and securing SAG contracts, to assembling a dedicated cast and crew and filming in just ten days with a single camera and a twenty-person team, there were moments when it all felt impossible.

During the hiring process, many producers and crew members questioned how I would pull it off. The truth is, I didn't have all the answers. I broke down more than once, but after wiping away the tears, I returned to work. Because this is what I love. Filmmaking is my passion. Looking back, I realize I made it through because of two things: my unwavering love for cinema, and the steadfast support of my girlfriend, Cher, who believed in me through it all, just as Ang Lee's wife believed in him at the beginning of his journey.

Which filmmakers or films influenced this project?

With budget constraints limiting me to two-character conversations, I found inspiration in Jim Jarmusch, whose films show that dialogue-driven storytelling can be visually captivating and emotionally resonant. The film's surreal tone is influenced by my greatest inspiration—David Lynch, particularly his work, “Mulholland Drive.”

What's next?

I plan to create a groundbreaking slasher film that revitalizes the horror genre and sets a new standard for modern horror.





BRYAN SCAMMAN

is Oscar White

Bryan Scamman first gained traction in Hollywood by showcasing his remarkable physicality as a creature actor alongside Doug Jones. He has stepped into more prominent roles under layers of glue and prosthetics since those early days, including Ryan Murphy's ABC drama "Doctor Odyssey." Bryan is best known for his award-winning performance as Lazer Griffin in "The Box," which earned him Best Actor honors at the LA Crime and Horror Film Festival. His leading roles continue in films such as "Timeline," "Life of Sunshine," and "Behold!."

LLANA BARRON

is Alice Booker

Llana Barron is an award-winning actress, producer, and screenwriter who was celebrated for her work in "Curse of Aurore" and "Izzy Lyon: The Unspun Truth." She has earned Best Actress accolades at the Ravenheart Film Festival and the Boston Film Festival. As a talented voice actor, Llana is known for her role as Elle Holloway in "Silent Hill: Homecoming." Her credits as an award-winning composer and sound designer span film and video games.





KAITLIN SANDERS

is Victoria Young

Kaitlin Sanders is a Los Angeles-based actress and storyteller originally from Manhattan Beach, California. With a background in theater, violin, singing, and dance, she developed a passion for performance and storytelling early on. Her recent screen credits include “Nobody Leaves ‘til Jesus Comes” and “Project Child: Perfect Knight.”

SÉBASTIEN LOUIS

is Henry Todd

Sébastien Louis is an American, Haitian, and French-Canadian actor. He was born in New York and spent part of his early childhood in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, before relocating to Montreal, Canada, at six. After completing high school in Canada, he studied acting in New York and Los Angeles, training under renowned coach Harry Louis Mastrogeorge, who mentored actors such as Ray Liotta.





ANDY GATES

is Art Cash

Andy Gates is an American actor with training from Emerson College, American Conservatory Theatre, and The Actors Workshop in Boston. He has also studied with Cliff Osmond, Michelle Danner, Ron Max, Rick Pagano, and Susie Landau. Andy's first film role was in "The Cleaning Lady." His stage debut was in 1990 with ACT's "A Christmas Carol." Known for his boy-next-door charm, Andy's true passion lies in horror films. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, daughter, and, likely, a dog.

JESSICA LEE

is Cher Sun

Jessica Lee is a trilingual actress based in Los Angeles and New York. She began her career in comedy in Hong Kong before transitioning to dramatic roles in the U.S. Jessica made her feature film debut in "My Heavenly City." She has since appeared in the TV shows "Modern Love" and "Awkwafina Is Nora from Queens."





HUNGYU KUO

PRODUCER / WRITER / DIRECTOR

Hungyu Kuo is a Taiwanese film and theater producer based in Burbank, California. His musical “Overact” premiered at the Kaohsiung Cultural Center in 2019. In 2024, Kuo founded his film company with plans to present his directorial debut, “Angels Near Death,” to the world and make new waves in contemporary cinema.

BETHANIE ACKERMAN

PRODUCER

Bethanie Ackerman is a film producer from Indiana with a deep passion for filmmaking’s energy and creativity. A lifelong fan of horror and all things eerie, she is committed to crafting bold, unforgettable stories that thrill, unsettle, and captivate audiences worldwide.



POLLY LAU

PRODUCER

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Polly Lau moved to Los Angeles in 2021 to study Screenwriting at Loyola Marymount University. As a writer-producer, she has produced two short films, “Love Shy” and “Drunk Driving.” Polly is currently writing her first feature script, “Time Auction.”





YIJIA SUN

PRODUCER / PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Yijia Sun is a filmmaker from Jiangsu, China. After earning degrees in Management and Economics, she pursued her passion for storytelling at the New York Film Academy. She produced, wrote, and directed three short films, “Flowers,” “Eggs,” and “Kill Gal,” symbolizing the beginning of her professional career in filmmaking.

MAKENNA TUTTLE

PRODUCER

Makenna Tuttle is an emerging producer based in Los Angeles who aims to amplify the voices of individuals with disabilities in the film industry. After graduating from Ohio University in 2022, she quickly transitioned into professional production. She has produced commercials, award-winning short films, and a feature film, “Séance,” directed by Vivian Kerr.



ABHINAY PANDIT

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Abhinay Pandit is a Mumbai-based cinematographer. He trained under Tony Richmond, ASC, BSC, and others and was named one of NFDC’s 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow. His film “ODH” won Best Film at IFFI GOA 2023 and screened at MIFF and UKAFF 2024. His “Big Dawgs” music video went viral globally. He recently worked with Salman Khan for Netflix’s “Sikander” and shot for Coke Studio Bharat.





SOLO WANG

COMPOSER

Solo Wang is a Taiwan-born, Los Angeles-based composer renowned for his work in film and television. His compositions have helped define the sound of numerous projects, including “Mad Doctor,” “Us Without Sex,” and “I Am Married...But!” With a passion for storytelling through music, Solo brings a distinct voice to every project, blending rich orchestral sounds with modern sensibilities.

YIAN IAN CHEN

EDITOR

Ian Chen is an aspiring film editor from Taiwan based in Canada. A graduate of the Filmmaking program at Taipei National University of the Arts, he is currently studying Special Effects Makeup at Sheridan College. Ian is passionate about exploring filmmaking from various perspectives to broaden his skill set.



JASSY YUAN

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Jassy Yuan, a writer-director from Beijing, China, explores the abstract universe and the depths of human emotion through film. Her works, including “Eunoia” and “Dreamatic,” reflect a spirit of connection with global audiences. Skilled across all stages of production, she brings a comprehensive vision to every project.









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