

Dark Zodiac

OFFICIAL TERMS:

You (the filmmaker) are agreeing to fund and produce a short film to be included in a feature-length anthology which will be screened in New York City and Los Angeles in Autumn 2016. These shorts should range between 7 to 10 minutes in length. **(Note:** We're flexible! If you feel that your film can't be told in under 15 minutes, or that anything longer than 9 minutes would be overkill, please contact us to discuss it and we'll do our best to accommodate your project's needs.)

There are 12 signs of the zodiac for you to choose from. Each short film *must* somehow incorporate an appropriate theme relating to the sign you have chosen (either from the suggestions below or of your own device). Please let us know which sign appeals to you the most and we'll let you know if it's available.

The only storytelling requirement is that each film somehow establish the main character's sign at the beginning of the story (perhaps by having them read their horoscope in a newspaper or magazine, or by some visual means). This is simply a device to establish which sign your film will focus on. Beyond that...the sky's the limit.

**Some background material for your consideration...
Here are some traits of the Zodiac Signs at their worst.**

Capricorn (Dec. 23 – Jan. 20)

Ambitious, driven workaholics, Capricorns might be willing to forsake or betray those close to them for the sake of advancement. Stubborn, humorless, resentful. Quite possibly willing to try to take over the world, Capricorns rely on determination and perseverance to achieve their goals. Literally translated, "Capricorn" means "Horn of the Goat."

Grudging. Miserly. Pessimistic. Fatalistic.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 – Feb. 20)

Aquarians tend to have a high opinion of themselves, sometimes to the point of megalomania (or at least a serious superiority complex). They also have a tendency to be unrelatable or unapproachable, cold and detached,. Aquarius is the Water-Bearer, so water should figure into this story somehow.

Unemotional. Detached. Unpredictable. Perverse.

Pisces (Feb. 21 - Mar. 21)

Pisces may have low self-esteem and sometimes exercise poor judgment, which could lead to a variety of addictions. They can also be manipulative. Conversely, they can be easily swayed or coerced, given their low opinion of themselves. Pisces who become disillusioned by humanity may become sadistic...or scheme to destroy mankind altogether. Pisces represents the Fish, so a fishy subject or theme would be appropriate. *Secretive. Weak-willed. Escapist.*

Aries (Mar. 22 - Apr. 21)

Aries can be quite selfish and controlling, as well as impulsive and aggressive. They might indulge in foolhardy behavior thanks to their belief in their own infallibility. This, combined with charisma (another Aries trait), could result in domination over a flock of weak-minded followers (a bunch of Pisces, for example). Aries are attracted to conflict...and will create it if there is none to be found. Aries is the Ram. (Perhaps your main character drives a Dodge?) *Impatient. Foolhardy. Daredevil. Quick-tempered.*

Taurus (Apr. 22 - May 22)

Surly and self-indulgent, Taureans tend to be obsessed with the trappings of wealth. They also tend to be extremely possessive and jealous, which makes them risky bedfellows. Lazy and stubborn, a Taurus will often look for a way out of any activity they're not interested in, possibly using passive-aggressive tactics. *Resentful. Inflexible. Greedy.*

Gemini (May 23 - Jun. 22)

The Twins. Jekyll and Hyde. Geminis are two-faced, perhaps so far as having a dual personality; even they don't know exactly who they are. They tend to be untrustworthy and gossipy. Geminis can also be brilliant and flighty. If you put Lex Luthor and Tyler Durden into a Seth Brundle telepod, a Gemini would emerge. (Don't know what a telepod is? We need to talk.) *Unpredictable. Deceitful. Mercurial. Cunning.*

Cancer (Jun. 23 - Jul. 23)

Tendencies to addiction are the curse of Cancer, the Crab. As they are sensitive to the most trivial slight or offense, a Cancer will make a career of vengeance, as they will never forget or forgive an insult. They can be overemotional and maudlin at times, so emotionally injuring a Cancer will earn you an enemy for life. Cancer is ruled by the moon, which changes aspects every 2 ½ days...so you can count on them being swayed by its influence. *Touchy. Clingy. Moody. Obsessive.*

Leo (Jul. 24 – Aug. 23)

The Lion. Leos can be self-absorbed narcissists. Dogmatic and intolerant of opposition, that arrogant asshole spouting political theories at the bar is probably a Leo. Their greatest indulgence? There's a reason a group of lions is called a *pride*. (It goes before a fall, remember.) Leos also tend to be pompous and grandiose. They can also be exceedingly charming...a dangerous combination.

Supercilious. Solipsistic. Patronizing. Interfering.

Virgo (Aug. 24 – Sep. 23)

Domineering perfectionists, Virgos are utterly implacable. Nothing is ever good enough to appease them; they are incredibly fussy and quick to point out the flaws in anything, especially when it pertains to their well-being or comfort. Virgos can also be worrywarts and/or hypochondriacs. Virgo is, of course, the sign of the Virgin.

Conservative. Critical. Pessimistic.

Libra (Sep. 24 – Oct. 22)

Indecision is the hallmark of the Libra, which is represented by the Scales of Justice. A true Libra will put off making a choice until the very last second. Theoretically, they're weighing all the options before making a hasty decision; alternatively, they just can't decide upon anything within a reasonable span of time. They are indeed fair and just, but they may also operate within the parameters of the law to achieve their own ends. Manipulation may be a factor.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 22)

The Scorpion. Scorpios are lethal if crossed and tend to be emotionally unstable (or at least incredibly arrogant and self-centered). Scorpios are also highly ambitious and imaginative and will gladly suffer or invent elaborate schemes to meet their goals or avenge a slight. Paranoia is a Scorpio trait...but being paranoid doesn't mean they're not out to get you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 – Dec. 22)

The Archer (usually depicted as a centaur), a Sagittarius may be inventive and devious in the interest of self-preservation or personal gain. Even more notoriously self-centered than Gemini or Scorpios, Sagittarians tend to be absolutely certain of their own superiority and righteousness. To them, everyone else is an enemy to be vanquished or surpassed. They are overachievers who frequently bite off more than they can chew or accomplish in a reasonable amount of time.

Film Project Parameters and Legalities

- 1.) By signing the proposed agreement, you are essentially granting the rights for your film to be included in the *Dark Zodiac* anthology feature film, in perpetuity. However, you are not releasing the individual rights to your project. Artists will maintain the individual rights to their films and may continue to promote, exhibit and or release their short films independently of the anthology construct. Cryptic Pictures, LLC will only retain the rights to your film as "part of the *Dark Zodiac* anthology" for screening purposes, distribution purposes (via DVD or digital platforms) or for film festivals exhibition as part of the anthology, but not as any individual entity. All expenses related to screening, distributing and/or a film festival run would be paid for by Cryptic Pictures, LLC. Ownership of the *Dark Zodiac* movie itself will be retained by Cryptic Pictures LLC.

- 2.) Your film project would need to be completed and submitted by **October 31, 2015.**

The final film would need to be mailed to us on a thumb drive as an uncompressed video file MPEG 2 or MPEG 4 codec, progressive not interlaced, with an aspect ratio of 16:9 - resolution of 1280x720 or greater (1.85, 2.35, 1:77:1 also acceptable). Preferred format would be AppleProRes HQ 444 in 1920x1080 format or Avid DNxHD if possible, but not required.)

Please Note No: letterboxed or pillarboxed video, anamorphic (squeezed pixels), URLs or promo links of any kind (e.g. film website, Facebook page, available to download etc.) anywhere in the film or trailer, including end credits, interlaced picture, bars, slate, test tone, pre-roll, post-roll, titles or captions outside of title safe area. Max 10 seconds black before and after the film

- 3.) Audio should be in Stereo PCM single stream (16 Bit or 24 Bit, up to 48kHz).
- 4.) List of full credits in word doc format. (Please do not include the credits in the version you send to us).
- 5.) Proper location and talent release forms as well as IPR or Chain of Title documents (basic paperwork showing that you or your production company are the owners of the submitted material) must be secured and copies provided upon submission of your final film. By signing the agreement you and your talent agree to the release of your biographical information, image and likeness for the sole purpose of promoting the anthology series. By submitting your finished film, you also agree that and that to your knowledge you have not violate any rights of any persons within your project.
- 6.) Indemnity: You hereby agree to defend, indemnify and hold Cryptic Pictures LLC harmless of any loss, cost, or expense (including attorneys' fees), due to any claim by you or any other parties relating to the inclusion of your film in the Anthology series.
- 7.) Further Actions: You agree to execute any and all documents and take any other actions reasonably required to effectuate the purposes of these Terms and Conditions. You grant us a power of attorney for such purposes (it being acknowledged that such appointment is irrevocable and coupled with an

interest) with full power of substitution and delegation if you fail to do so within five (5) business days of our written request.

- 8.) Governing Law: These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of the state of Maryland.
- 9.) Entire Agreement: These Terms and Conditions and the other items referred to herein represent the complete agreement of the parties relating to the subject matter hereof.
- 10.) Amendments: Cryptic Pictures LLC reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions at any time with at least 30 days written notice and only with the agreement of all parties involved. Upon agreement of all parties, the amended Terms and Conditions and the other items referred to herein shall represent the complete agreement of the parties relating to the subject matter hereof.