

Cyril Electronic Press Kit

Cyril

A feature film from Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company.

Written By **Mark Clayton Southers**

Directed by **Andrew Paul**

A Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company Production

Filmed and Edited by **P.J. Gaynard** / Goat Milk Fudge Productions

Starring:

Dr. Cyril Wecht as himself

David Whalen as Jonathan McKenzie

Sam Lothard as David Evans

Featuring:

Susie McGregor-Laine as Flo, **Jenny Malarkey** & **Cherrita Southers** as autopsy assistants

Contact: Mark Clayton Southers, 412-377-7803, msouthers@pghplaywrights.org

Website: <https://www.cyril-film.com/>

Runtime:: 1 hour 50 minutes

Estimated Completion: January, 2022

Production Budget: \$53,000 USD

Filmed in Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Shooting Format: 4K Blackmagic RAW

Aspect Ratio: 2.40

Film Color: Black & White

Recommended for ages 16 and older.

Synopses

79 word synopsis:

World-renowned forensic pathologist Dr. Cyril Wecht plays himself in this film, offering detailed and contrarian insights on some of America's most brutal and provocative cases, as he's interviewed for a documentary. As he presents his often-controversial views on cases ranging from the JFK assassination to the OJ Simpson case to JonBenet Ramsey's murder, it's the morning after George Floyd's murder, and behind the camera, long-standing disagreements between the conservative white interviewer and liberal Black cameraman threaten to boil over.

45 word synopsis:

World-renowned forensic pathologist Dr. Cyril Wecht plays himself in this film, offering detailed insights on cases from JFK to OJ to JonBenet. But it's the morning after George Floyd's murder, and behind the scenes, discord simmers between a conservative white interviewer and liberal Black cameraman.

34 word synopsis:

Renowned forensic pathologist Dr. Cyril Wecht expounds on cases from JFK to OJ to JonBenet. But it's just after George Floyd's murder, and discord simmers between his conservative white interviewer and liberal Black cameraman.

A note from director Andrew Paul

CYRIL is a rather unique film. It is a docudrama about the great forensic pathologist Dr. Cyril Wecht but it is also so much more. Around Dr. Wecht's amazing insights and testimony about the JFK assassination, the JonBenet Ramsay murder, the O.J. Simpson trial, and others writer Mark Clayton Southers has crafted a drama that captures the frustration and anger that fuels the Black Lives Matter movement. Set on the day after the George Floyd murder, the film juxtaposes a white interviewer and black cameraman on opposite ends of the political spectrum. They are here to interview Dr. Wecht for a new forensics television network series and tensions run high.

The amazing Dr. Wecht plays himself amidst a cast of seasoned professional actors. Shot during a pandemic by cinematographer P.J. Gaynard and myself in just two weeks and in just two locations, CYRIL is guerrilla film-making at its best and a true labor of love.

Biographies

Mark Clayton Southers (screenwriter & producer) and his family reside in Pittsburgh's historic Hill District. He is an award-winning playwright, stage director, scenic designer, photographer and theatrical producer. He is the founder and producing Artistic Director of the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company where he has produced well over 160 full-length and one-act plays, including August Wilson's complete 10 play Pittsburgh Century Cycle.

His very first play *When the Water Turns Clear* was produced at Chicago's ETA Theater. His second play *Ashes to Africa* was a finalist at the 2001 Dayton Playhouse Future Fest. His third play *Ma Noah* was the recipient of the 2004 Theodore Ward prize at Columbia College, Chicago.

He has written over 20 full-length and one-act plays including the poem play *Angry Black Man Poetry* aka *End Angered Species* which had a successful run at Teatr Śląski in Katowice, Poland in 2009 and *Miss Julie, Clarissa and John* which ran at the 2017 National Black Theatre Festival and also had a three week run in 2017 at Scotland's prestigious Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

His current projects include two plays for his 19th Century Cycle, *Wise Art & The Igbo Landing*, as well as *Cyril*, a film about the well-known forensic pathologist Dr. Cyril Wecht.

Mark is a member of the Dramatist Guild of America, and the former Artistic Director of both the August Wilson African-American Cultural Center in Pittsburgh PA and the Short North Stage August Wilson Festival in Columbus Ohio.

Andrew Paul (director) – Cyril is Andrew's 1st feature film. He is the founder and producing director of Kinetic Theatre Company in Pittsburgh, PA, where he has directed *Scapino* by Jeffrey Binder after Moliere, *The Speckled Band* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *An Octoroon* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, *The Father* by Florian Zeller, *The Liar* by David Ives after Corneille, *The Christians* by Lucas Hnath, *Three Days in the Country* by Patrick Marber after Turgenev (US Premiere), *Love, Love, Love* (US Regional premiere), *Cock* by Mike Bartlett, *Romance* by David Mamet, and Strindberg's *The Dance of Death* (in a new version by Conor McPherson).

He previously co-founded the acclaimed Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre (PICT) and served as the company's producing artistic director from 1996 to 2013. Under his leadership, PICT produced more than a hundred plays, festivals devoted to the plays of Samuel Beckett, John Millington Synge, Harold Pinter, and Anton Chekhov, and two successful international tours. In 2008, he directed and collaborated with David Hare on the non-English language premier of his play *Stuff Happens* at the Slaski Theatre in Katowice, Poland.

In Las Vegas, he directed *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and Richard Greenberg's *Take Me Out* for Nevada Conservatory Theatre and George Brant's *Grounded*, Mike Bartlett's *Love, Love, Love*, and Jeffrey Hatcher's *Holmes and Watson* for Vegas Theatre Company. Andrew's production of *Three Days in the Country* received its West Coast premiere at the Antaeus Theatre (L.A. Times Critics Pick) in 2017.

He has taught acting at Duquesne University, directing at Carnegie Mellon University, and has served as a panelist for Theatre Communications Group and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. In 2010, Andrew was a featured speaker at the World Theatre Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. He lives in Nevada with his wife, Maria, and children, Cristina and Alex.

P.J. Gaynard (cinematographer & editor) is a Pittsburgh-based filmmaker, educator, and showman. He creates material as Goat Milk Fudge Productions, along with help from many other filmmakers.

Starting in 1995, he has lived/worked in Rochester NY, Boston MA, Los Angeles CA, and currently Pittsburgh PA. Along with directing and producing work, PJ is an accomplished director of photography whose work has been displayed internationally in theaters and on-demand. He was ranked #23 in the book, "The Top 100 Indie Filmmakers In The World Part II".

He has a BFA in Film, Video, and Animation from Rochester Institute of Technology and an MA in Humanities/Humanistic Studies from CalState Northridge. He is a member of IBEW 5, IATSE 489, and an honorably withdrawn member of IATSE 728.

From 2016-2020 he was the lead instructor and program coordinator of the Film Technician Program at The Community College of Allegheny County. Lately his work has included a strong bend toward community filmmaking.

Cast Biographies

Cyril H. Wecht (as himself) received his M.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh and his J.D. Degree from the University of Maryland. He is certified by the American Board of Pathology, the American Board of Disaster Medicine, and the American Board of Legal Medicine.

Dr. Wecht is actively involved as a medical-legal and forensic science consultant, author, and lecturer, and was the elected Coroner of Allegheny County for 20 years. He has performed approximately 21,000 autopsies, and reviewed or been consulted on approximately 40,000 additional post-mortem examinations, including cases in several foreign countries.

Dr. Wecht holds several professorial faculty positions at the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne and Carlow Universities. He is the author or co-author of more than 620 professional publications, and editor or co-editor of 46 books.

Dr. Wecht has appeared as a frequent guest on numerous national TV and radio shows, discussing famous cases, many of which are discussed in his books, *Cause of Death*, *Grave Secrets*, *Who Killed JonBenet Ramsey?*, *Mortal Evidence*, *Tales from the Morgue*, *From Crime Scene to Courtroom*, *A Question of Murder*, *Final Exams*, *The Life and Deaths of Cyril Wecht: Memoirs of America's Most Controversial Forensic Pathologist*.

Technical Consultant:

Films: *JFK*, *Concussion*

David Whalen (as Jonathan McKenzie) is thrilled to be a part of *Cyril*. Recently, he played George Washington in the upcoming film *The American Constitution*, and the Secretary of State in *Child Warfare*. Other representative film & TV credits: *The Loudest Voice*, *American Pastoral*, *Southpaw*, *The Last Witch Hunter*, *The Fault In Our Stars*, *Jack Reacher*, *Unsinkable*, *Checkmate*, *The First Seal*, *61**, *The Christmas Tree*, *Black Dahlia*, *My Bloody Valentine*, *Indictment: The McMartin Trial*, *Without Warning*, *Three Rivers*, *Pensacola*, *Silk Stalkings*, *Diagnosis: Murder*, among others.

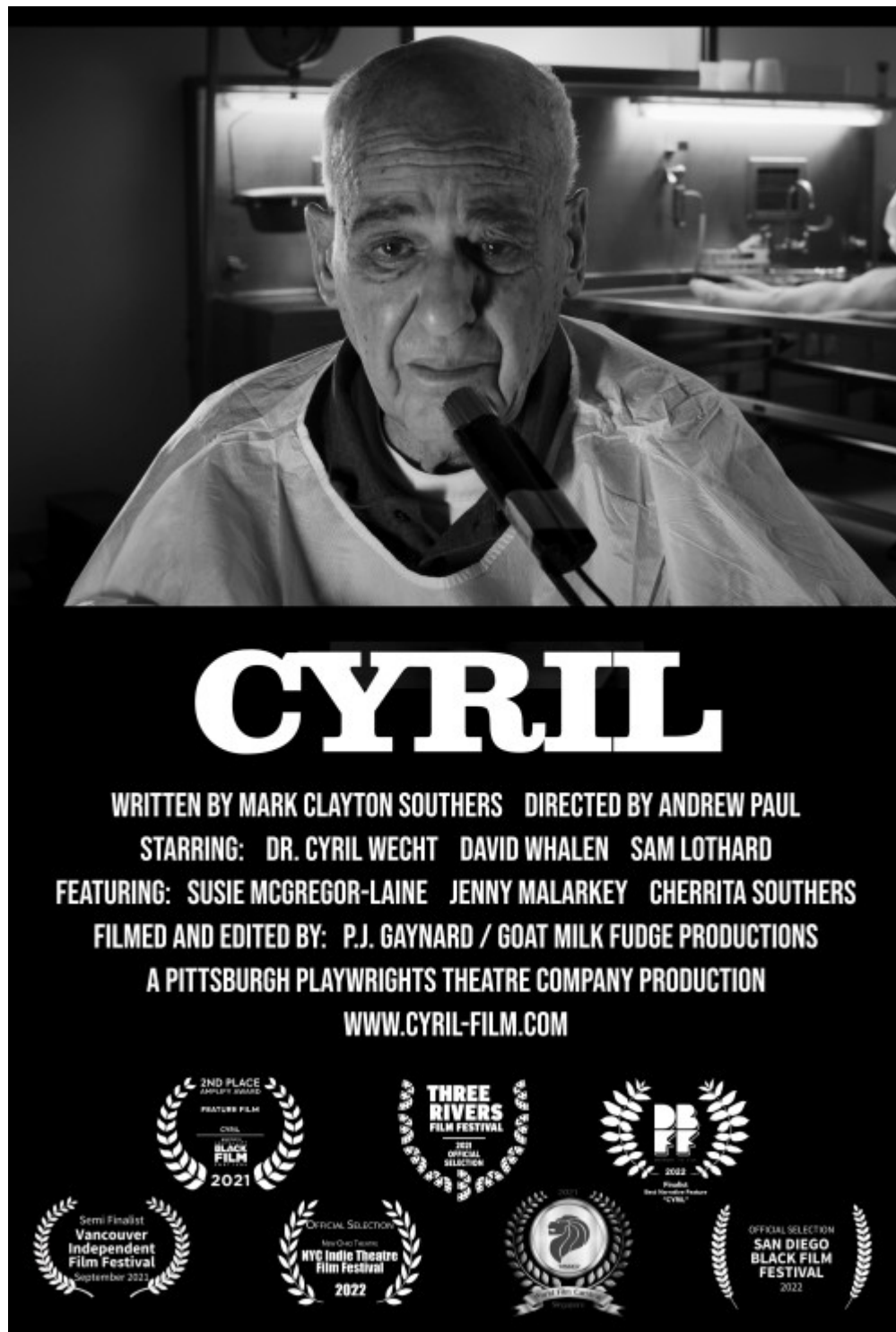
He has performed in over 100 theatrical productions across the country, including over a dozen World & American Premieres. Some of the theatres he has worked at include: The Guthrie, Roundabout Theatre, South Coast Rep (10 productions), Alley Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theater (11 productions), Philadelphia Theatre Company, Center Stage in Baltimore, Arden Theatre, Folger Theatre, Hartford Stage, Everyman Theatre, Roundhouse Theatre, Huntington Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, McCarter Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Cincinnati Playhouse in the park (5 productions), Venice's Biennale Festival, Playmakers Rep, City Theatre Company (7 productions), Kinetic Theatre (9 productions), among others.

Awards: Performer of the Year by the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, nominated and/or received: Kevin Kline, Barrymore, & Helen Hayes Awards. More at www.davidwhalenactor.net

Sam Lothard (as David Evans) was born in Youngstown Ohio and now resides in Pittsburgh PA. He has written, directed, and performed plays for over ten years, most recently as Dukem in **Savior Samuel**. Some of his favorite acting credits include: August Wilson's **Ma Rainey's Black Bottom** and **King Hedley II**; Dr Maya Angelou's **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**; Sherri Lynn's **The Bold and the Sanctified**; as well as **Findings, Lights Out**, and **Hercules Didn't Wade in the Water**, all at Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company; Monteze Freeland's **Kalopsia**; and Dr. Tameka Cage Conley's opera **A Gathering of Sons**.

Susie McGregor-Laine (as Flo) has appeared four times on the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre stage, most recently as Mother Superior in **Savior Samuel**. Susie started her theatrical career in 1967 with the Hong Kong Stage Club where she lived prior to coming to the USA in 1968. Susie has had the opportunity to work with numerous theatre companies in the area since 1968: Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse, Quantum Theatre, Kinetic Theatre, Open Stage, barebones productions, Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre (now PICT Classic Theatre), Little Lake Theatre, Red Masquers Theatre & Apple Hill Playhouse. Susie was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2014 by Pittsburgh New Works Festival.

Poster



Link to high-resolution poster:

<https://www.pghplaywrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/cyril-poster-10.png>

Cover image – 960x380



Download link:

https://www.cyril-film.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/cyril_cover-960x380-1.jpg

Virtual Festival Image - 1920x1080



Download link:

<https://www.cyril-film.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/virtual-festival-image-1920x1080-1.jpg>

Photos



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David_3.2.1.jpg



david_jonathan_1.64.1.jpg



David2_1.231.1.jpg



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Link to collection of all high-resolution images:

<https://www.cyril-film.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/cyril-photos.zip>

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Link to collection of all high-resolution images:

<https://www.cyril-film.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/cyril-photos.zip>

Head Shots of Cast and Crew

<https://www.cyril-film.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/cyril-headshots.zip>