



SYNOPSIS

For those of us who live on the West Coast and especially near the beach, the PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY (Interstate Highway 1, or PCH as it is more commonly referred to) holds a certain mystique and fascination. You might even call it an unspoken myth. Stretching from the border of Mexico all the way up the California coastline, it is the most westerly Interstate Highway before you reach the Pacific Ocean – the last great road before the end of the world. Driving down the PCH with the right selection of music comes close to an uplifting religious experience – you start to imagine that you can just keep driving and driving and that the day will never end. Life is born and passes and is resurrected on the PCH.

In my attempt to capture that feeling, we took a page from an old Alan Moore short story, the title of which we pay tribute to, and spent a day driving down our stretch of the PCH to tell the simple story of two people traveling life's journey on a road that never ends.

KELSEY LINK plays the hippie hitchhiker who accepts a ride from LUKE HUBBARD – their journey down PCH is their own personal story of young love, change, continuance, loneliness, and return, set to music from the last highway.



CREDITS



written & directed by
Alan Chan

starring
Kelsey Link
Luke Hubbard

supporting
Bob Cazzell
Lindsey Shockley

crew/camera/everything
Bob Cazzell
Steve Rogers
Lindsey Shockley

Book of Life created by
Dan Katzenberger



PCH Driving Music

“Out of This Town”

written & performed by Keith Foti
from the album “All That Still Remains”
www.keithfoti.com

Powerline Records/Withered Morning Music (BMI)
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“Can’t Escape” and “Standing Strong”
written & performed by Skyler Stonestreet



“The Other Side of My Heart”
written by Gianluca Zanna ASCAP
performed by Ruben Martinez & Simone Sello
NRG Concepts Publishing ASCAP



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Dan Katzenberger and I had a pact – after returning from a shoot in Mexico last year and Dallas the year before (shooting “12 Hot Women”), we decided that we would get together and shoot something at least once a year. Working full-time in the film visual effects industry meant that I don’t typically have a lot of free time to go out and shoot stories as much as we would like. So this past summer, with nothing big on the horizon scheduled, we decided we would just shoot a small little story, just to stay focused and keep my directing chops sharp.

To that end, we eventually settled on a simple story that we could shoot in one weekend – a short piece about a neverending road trip, based on an old ‘Future Shock’ short piece written by Alan Moore for the old comic serial 2000AD. It would take place along the length of the Pacific Coast Highway, mainly because I loved driving down PCH with the radio cranked – what better excuse for us to get lost on the PCH again than to go shoot a short film?

We started out early on a Saturday morning with a script, a few storyboards (primarily for the beginning and ending sequences) and improvised most of the setups. Shooting handheld with a Panasonic AG-DVX100, Steve Rogers and Bob Cazzell bounced DP duties, foregoing tripods on most setups in the interest of time and also for a more verite feel. An icechest packed with drinks and snacks and a pair of walkie talkies for inter-car communication rounded out our little caravan.

Some locations we knew of and had planned for – others, like the La Piedra State Beach, came as a wonderful and beautiful surprise. Our caravan eventually wrapped shooting a short distance past Point Dume (coming from Los Angeles) and we drove on back to Malibu for dinner on the beach.

Back at director Alan Chan’s mission control center/home, the footage was imported as DV avi clips onto a Firewire drive and edited on a PC laptop running Premiere 6.5 – with image processing support from Photoshop and Adobe After Effects. Postproduction took a few months longer than expected, mainly due to schedules at work and on other projects. The lull in editing, however, allowed us to carefully select the right music for Ring Road.

Music plays an important part in the short – we decided very early on to forego any dialogue and allow the music to carry the mood, in part because the act of driving down the Pacific Coast Highway is intensified by the right music. For driving music, we brought together singer-songwriters Keith Foti, Skyler Stonestreet and Gianluca Zanna, who each carry a different mood in their music, corresponding to the different parts of the journey.

Keith performs the opening track “Out Of This Town”, a dark but hopeful vision that profiles Kelsey and Luke’s need to get away from the ratrace. From his album “All That Still Remains”, Keith’s transplanted New Jersey roots make for a lyrical lamentation on change and moving on. As Keith puts it, “I wanted to create a wave of emotion that traveled in sound.”

In contrast, award-winning singer/composer musician Skyler lends her incredible voice to two upbeat tracks, “Can’t Escape” and “Standing Strong”, representing the happy and carefree times in their journey. Skyler has been singing for 7 years, playing piano for 11, and has also learnt to play the guitar. At a mere 18 years old, she is definitely an up-and-coming name to watch for in music.

Gianluca’s “The Other Side of My Heart” rounds out the musical selection with a somber piece to frame Kelsey’s emotions when she is forced to continue on without Luke. Born in Italy, Gianluca has been traveling around the world since the age of 17, and has come to settle in America, where this “Italian Songwriter with an American Heart” has become a successful online business owner in addition to being a songwriter.

BIOS

KELSEY LINK

Kelsey hails from Chicago, but now calls Los Angeles home and is grateful for the complete lack of snow there. Having been trained in acting in Chicago, London and Los Angeles, Kelsey's plans for the future include getting porcelain veneers and "getting by on my charming smile". Her pet peeves include actors, people who lift weights and being watched in her sleep. She has successfully resisted getting a cellphone, but doesn't have many friends anymore. "I don't think the two are related," she says.

LUKE HUBBARD

Luke graduated from Lee University in 2001 and is currently pursuing an MBA at Pepperdine University. He has appeared in numerous short films, some of which he produced himself. He enjoys acting, weight lifting, and watching people sleep. Luke has no patience for people who crochet or who wash their hair more than once a day. Anyone interested in depositing large sums of money directly into Luke's bank account can contact him directly via his website at <http://www.lukehubbard.com>.

ALAN CHAN

During normal work hours, Alan moonlights as a Senior Technical Director at Sony Pictures Imageworks in Culver City, CA. His visual effects career includes such movie flops as James Cameron's "Titanic", "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and the uberflop "Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers" and most recently, "The Polar Express". Alan describes the pinnacle of his career in vfx as having also worked on "Bad Boys II".

BOB CAZZELL

Bob holds a degree in electronic engineering and is the CIO/CTO for REZN8 Productions, Inc., a nine time Emmy Award-winning graphic design, animation, and visual effects studio in Hollywood, CA. Bob was also a co-author of the best selling "Inside LightWave 7" book published by New Riders in 2002. He is active in the independent film community and has worked on numerous productions including Alan Chan's "12 Hot Women", "Hammerfall", and "American Lion". He also freelances as a photographer, graphic artist, animator, and filmmaker.

STEVE ROGERS

Steve began his career as an underwater photographer/videographer which soon expanded into nature and scientific photography. His interest in computers and graphics complements his photographic work and led him to become a producer for a Music Video program on a local television station. Steve is currently pursuing a career in 3D animation and filmmaking.

LINDSEY SHOCKLEY

Lindsey is a second-year graduate student at the University of Southern California's School of Cinema-Television. She is currently directing a short 16mm film "Lucky", a dark comedy about two best friends who are recent amputees.

DAN KATZENBERGER

Dan is an emerging commercial photographer based in Minneapolis with a background in mechanical engineering and a degree in photography. He worked as an engineer for "The Man" for about ten years before realizing the power of the Dark Side. He subsequently retired in 2002 to pursue his artistic endeavors full time. Dank's contribution to "Ring Road" was creation of "The Book of Life" which took less time to create than writing this bio.

