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PRESENTS



the  
**Dead Rabbits**

## Genre

Urban Horror/Crime/Thriller

## Logline

"In the unforgiving desert borderlands, Jason and Tyler's rabbit hunt takes a dark turn when they stumble upon a cartel smuggler's lifeless body. Their impulsive decision to take the drugs and money sets off a chain of events leading to Tyler's tragic demise at the hands of the vengeful cartel. Now, fueled by grief, Jason becomes a relentless force, transforming the desert into a lethal hunting ground. The cartel members, ensnared in Jason's traps, meet grisly fates. Jason emerges from the desert, both victorious and haunted, using the stolen fortune to create a lasting artistic legacy for his fallen brother.

## Synopsis

In the desolate outskirts of a small rural town along the Mexican border, two impoverished brothers, Jason (19) and Tyler (16), navigate the harsh realities of their poverty-stricken lives. Seeking refuge from their struggles, they embark on rabbit hunting expeditions, with Tyler capturing the essence of their adventures through the lens of his cherished Polaroid camera.

Their destinies take a dark turn when, during a routine hunt, they stumble upon the lifeless body of a drug cartel smuggler, a victim of a heart attack in the merciless desert. Driven by desperation and dreams of a better life, they seize the illicit cargo – a substantial fortune in money and drugs concealed within the deceased trafficker's possession.

As they set out for home, blissfully unaware of the storm brewing behind them, the ruthless Mexican cartel discovers the lifeless smuggler and the missing contraband. A Polaroid snapshot taken by Tyler becomes a damning piece of evidence, capturing the brothers rabbit hunt lying on the ground next to the corpse.

The cartel's pursuit becomes relentless, echoing through the vast desert as the brothers attempt to escape their impending doom. Tragically, Tyler becomes the sacrificial lamb, chased to the edge of a cliff in the unforgiving desert mountains, where he slips and plummets to his demise.

Consumed by grief and driven by an insatiable thirst for revenge, Jason transforms into a lethal force. Drawing on his rabbit hunting skills, he turns the expansive desert into a deathtrap, setting elaborate and gruesome traps that ensnare each member of the pursuing cartel.

As the desert claims its toll, Jason emerges both victorious and broken. Yet, fueled by the spirit of his lost brother, he secretly gives half of the ill-gotten gains to the widow of the dead drug smuggler, that uses it to opening heart hospitals worldwide, saving countless lives. With the remaining money, he transforms Tyler's creative legacy into an international sensation, turning the haunting Polaroids of that fateful day into renowned works of art, fetching millions.

Dead Rabbits is a tale of tragedy, revenge, and redemption set against the backdrop of a merciless landscape. Jason, marked by the scars of the desert, emerges as a tortured hero, reshaping the narrative of his past and crafting a lasting legacy for his fallen brother amidst the shadows of the unforgiving terrain.

## Tone and Style

**Tone:** The tone of "Dead Rabbits" is raw, gritty, and unforgiving. It captures the harsh reality of life in a small rural town on the Mexican border, where poverty and danger coexist. There's an underlying sense of desperation that permeates the atmosphere, reflecting the struggle for survival and the lengths people are willing to go to escape their circumstances. The tone becomes progressively darker as the story unfolds, echoing the tragic events that shape the lives of the two brothers.

**Style:** The film employs a stark and realistic visual style, emphasizing the barren landscapes of the desert and the desolation of the small town. The color palette is muted, reflecting the harshness of the environment and the characters' lives. Cinematography is used to evoke a sense of isolation, with wide shots of the expansive desert and tight close-ups that capture the characters' emotions.

In terms of narrative style, the film utilizes a mix of suspenseful storytelling and poignant moments to keep the audience engaged. The pacing is deliberate, allowing the tension to build gradually as the brothers stumble upon the dead body and make a fateful decision. Flashbacks are skillfully woven into the narrative, providing insight into the brothers' bond and the events leading up to the tragedy.

The dialogue is terse and authentic, reflecting the characters' socioeconomic background and the tough reality they face. Conversations are laced with regional colloquialisms, grounding the story in its specific setting. As the plot intensifies, the dialogue becomes sparse, heightening the emotional impact of the unfolding tragedy.

The soundtrack complements the tone and style, featuring a mix of haunting melodies and ambient sounds that underscore the bleakness of the brothers' situation. During intense moments, the music rises to a crescendo, enhancing the suspense and emotional weight of the scenes.

Overall, "Dead Rabbits" combines a stark visual style with authentic storytelling and a gripping soundtrack to create a cinematic experience that is both immersive and emotionally charged. The film navigates the thin line between hope and despair, leaving the audience with a lingering sense of the characters' struggles and the harsh realities they face.



## LOCATION & PERIOD

"Location: The desert located on outside of a small rural town near the Mexican border

Time Period: Present day



## THEMES

Theme: In the vast and unforgiving expanse of the desert, where the border between poverty and temptation blurs, "Dead Rabbits" explores the transformative journey of two brothers, Jason and Tyler, as they inadvertently stumble upon a dangerous secret that alters the course of their lives. From the arid landscapes of a small rural town to the treacherous mountains overlooking the Mexican border, the film weaves a tapestry of survival, revenge, and the redemptive power of art.





# The Death Traps







PROPS





## Brothers WARDROBE





## Mexican Cartel WARDROBE



# Casting

## Physical Appearance:

- Age: 30
- Ruthless cartel hitman with a scruffy beard, aviator sunglasses, and snakeskin cowboy boots.

## Personality Traits:

- Ruthless: Merciless and unforgiving, demonstrated through violent actions like kicking a dead body.
- Condescending: Speaks with disdain, especially evident in interactions with the deceased Chilli.
- Calm and Sinister: Switches between a calm demeanor and a sinister tone, adding unpredictability.
- Prideful: Takes pride in his leadership role, demanding respect and displaying an assertive attitude.

## Leadership Style:

- Commands Authority: As the gang leader, he leads with fear and respect.
- Quick to Violence: Doesn't hesitate to resort to violence when betrayed or facing obstacles.

## Motivations:

- Materialistic: Motivated by money and drugs, leading to violent reactions when they are lost.
- Personal Connection: Recognizes someone in a polaroid picture, indicating a personal stake in the situation.

## Relationships:

- Gang Leader: Expects loyalty and results from his cartel subordinates.
- Petro: Faces a brutal demise after failing to secure the money, highlighting Juan's lack of tolerance for failure.

## Character Arc and Development:

- Obsession with Retribution: Driven to retrieve his money and drugs, willing to take extreme measures.
- Unpredictable: Actions create an unpredictable atmosphere, keeping the audience on edge.
- Lack of Empathy: Displays a hardened nature through violent and cold reactions.

## Role in the Story:

- Antagonist: Serves as the main antagonist, driving conflict as the brothers navigate the consequences.
- Catalyst for Conflict: Juan's pursuit sets the stage for a high-stakes chase, propelling the narrative.

**Overall Impression:** Juan is a formidable, complex character, mixing violent tendencies, pride, and personal stakes in a way that significantly contributes to the tension and danger within the story.



Character Breakdown: **Chilli Mendez aka Freddy DJFONZ**

## Casting

**Overview:** Chilli, a kind-hearted, overweight Mexican man aged 52, is central to the film's narrative.

His life revolves around his love for his wife, Carla, and his determination to provide for her, despite the challenges he faces.

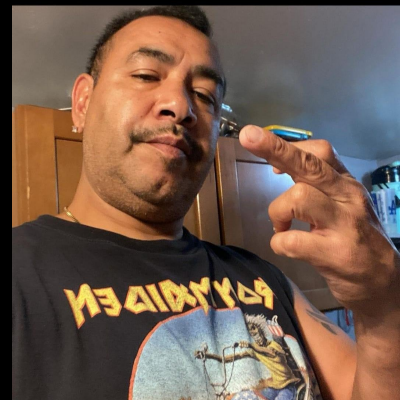
### Traits:

**Kind-hearted:** Chilli's warmth and kindness are evident in his interactions with others, reflecting his genuine nature.

**Reluctant:** He initially hesitates to take his medication due to its side effects, but ultimately complies out of love for Carla.

**Determined:** Chilli's unwavering commitment to providing for Carla drives him forward, even in the face of adversity.

**Loving:** His love for Carla is his guiding force, shaping his actions and decisions throughout the film.



**Character Arc:** Chilli's arc is one of sacrifice and redemption, culminating in his tragic demise in the desert. His journey highlights the consequences of his actions driven by love and desperation.

### Relationships:

**Carla:** Chilli's relationship with Carla is central, portraying their deep love and mutual devotion.

**Cartel Members:** Chilli's involvement with the cartel underscores his desperation to provide for Carla, despite the risks involved.

### Key Scenes:

**Taking Medication:** The scene where Carla urges Chilli to take his medication reveals his internal conflict and love for her.

**Pushing the Corn Cart:** Chilli's interactions on the streets showcase his kindness and selflessness.

**Desert Flashback:** This scene highlights the tragic consequences of Chilli's actions, emphasizing his remorse and plea for forgiveness.

**Conclusion:** Chilli's character embodies themes of love, sacrifice, and redemption, leaving a lasting impact on the audience.





## Casting

### Character Breakdown: **Petro** aka Chris

- **Description:** Petro is one of Juan's loyal henchmen, known for his crude humor and abrasive demeanor. He often serves as comic relief within the gang.
- **Personality Traits:** Petro is brash, outspoken, and lacks a filter. He has a tendency to make inappropriate jokes, even in tense situations, showcasing his disregard for authority.
- **Relationship with Juan:** Petro's relationship with Juan is characterized by a mix of loyalty and insubordination. While he follows Juan's orders, he isn't afraid to challenge or mock him, as seen in their exchange about Tango's wife.
- **Role in the Gang:** Petro fulfills a vital role as both muscle and comic relief within the gang. Despite his crude behavior, he remains fiercely loyal to Juan and the cartel's objectives.
- Dies from Juan the cartel boss stabbing him in the neck



## Casting

### Character Breakdown: **Johnny** aka Long Beach Carlos

- **Description:** Johnny is a member of Juan's gang, characterized by his aggressiveness, short temper and love for cocaine.
- **Role:** Johnny serves as a supporting antagonist within the gang, contributing to their criminal activities and enforcing Juan's authority.
- **Fate:** Johnny meets a grisly end when he falls victim to one of Jason's traps while searching for him in the desert. His demise highlights the dangers of underestimating their adversaries and the ruthlessness of their world.
- Dies from Death Trap 1 (razor noose)



## Casting

### Character Breakdown: **Tango** aka Joseph 2much

- **Description:** Tango is another member of Juan's gang, known for his hot-headed nature and tendency towards violence.
- **Personality Traits:** Tango is aggressive, impulsive, and quick to anger. He often clashes with other gang members, especially Petro, leading to tensions within the group.
- **Conflict with Juan:** Tango's insubordination and disrespectful behavior towards Juan ultimately lead to violent confrontations, highlighting the volatile nature of their relationship.
- **Fatal Mistake:** Tango's inability to control his temper and suspicion towards Jason ultimately results in his demise when he falls victim to one of Jason's traps.
- Dies from death trap 2 (spike pit)



## Casting

### Character Breakdown: Jauta aka Jose Huerta

- **Description:** Jauta is a quieter member of Juan's gang, often observing the actions of his comrades with a sense of detachment.
- **Personality Traits:** Jauta is observant, calculating, and methodical. He rarely engages in confrontations but instead prefers to assess situations before taking action.
- **Moment of Revelation:** Jauta's discovery of the polaroid picture near Chilli's body serves as a crucial turning point in the story, leading Juan to realize the identity of their adversaries.
- **Loyalty to Juan:** Despite his reserved nature, Jauta remains loyal to Juan and the cartel's cause. He follows orders diligently and contributes to the gang's operations in his own understated manner.
- Dies from death trap 3 (noose hanging)

Character Breakdown: **Mac**

Physical Appearance:

- Age: 42
- Strong and tough-looking Black man
- Wears an old black cowboy hat, dusty boots, jeans, and a dirty T-shirt with 2Pac on the front.
- Projects strength and resilience through his appearance.

Personality Traits:

- Protective: Demonstrates a strong sense of protectiveness toward his family, particularly evident when instructing his son, Jason, to go to safety during a potential threat.
- Joyous and Passionate: Expresses joy and passion, especially when reminiscing about Jason's mother and sharing family stories.
- Stern and Strong: Speaks with a stern voice, conveying authority and strength, both physically and emotionally.
- Fearless: Encourages fearlessness in Jason, emphasizing the importance of not being afraid of anything.

Relationships:

- Father: Mac is the father of Jason and Tyler, displaying a loving and protective relationship with his sons.
- Deceased Wife: Mac fondly remembers his wife, highlighting her strength and skill, particularly in hunting.

Skills and Background:

- Hunter: Mac is skilled in handling rifles and has experience in hunting, as evidenced by his cleaning and examining of a rifle.
- Rancher: Owns cattle and a barn, indicating a background in ranching.

Role in the Story:

- Patriarch: Serves as the patriarch of the family, responsible for protecting and guiding his sons.
- Defender: Faces a threat from cattle rustlers and takes immediate action to defend his property and family.
- Tragic Victim: Becomes a tragic victim of violence when shot by one of the rustlers, leading to a heartbreaking moment in the narrative.

Casting



Character Development:

- Protective Instinct: Mac's protective nature is evident from the start, but it becomes a central theme as he sends Jason to safety and confronts the cattle rustlers.
- Tragedy: Experiences a tragic turn of events when shot by a cattle rustler, highlighting the vulnerability of even the strongest characters.

**Overall Impression:** Mac is a complex character who embodies strength, love for his family, and a willingness to face danger head-on. His role as a protector and provider adds depth to the narrative, and the tragic events surrounding him contribute to the emotional impact of the story.

Character Breakdown: **Carla Mendez**

## Casting

**Description:** Carla is a petite Mexican woman in her 50s with a determined gaze, reflecting resilience and love.

### Personality:

**Determined:** Carla is resolute, especially in caring for her husband, Chilli.

**Loving:** Deeply affectionate towards Chilli, she expresses love and concern.

**Resilient:** Despite hardships in a town dominated by the cartel, Carla remains steadfast.

**Compassionate:** Understanding of Chilli's struggles, she offers gentle reassurance.

**Sacrificial:** Carla's selfless love for Chilli is evident in her willingness to make sacrifices for his well-being.

### Role:

**Caregiver:** Carla ensures Chilli's well-being and provides emotional support.

**Anchor:** She offers stability and love amidst challenges.

**Symbol of Love:** Carla's relationship with Chilli symbolizes enduring love.

**Source of Strength:** Despite her own fears, she supports Chilli through adversity.

**Motivation:** Carla's primary motivation is Chilli's well-being and happiness, driven by her love for him and longing for a better life.

### Relationships:

**Chilli Mendez:** Their love shapes the narrative, defining their actions and decisions.

**Character Arc:** Carla's journey revolves around love, sacrifice, and finding peace and closure through her experiences with Chilli.

**Impact:** Carla's character adds emotional depth, highlighting the enduring power of love amidst adversity.

# Casting

Character Breakdown: **Jason**

Background:

19-year-old Jason hails from a struggling rural town in the desert, where economic challenges force him to take on the role of a protector for his younger brother, Tyler. Their shared solace lies in rabbit hunting, a temporary escape from the harsh realities of their lives.

**Description:** Jason is the protagonist of the story, seeking revenge against Juan and his gang for the death of his brother.

**Motivation:** Jason's primary motivation is vengeance, fueled by the loss of his brother at the hands of Juan's gang. He operates with a single-minded determination to dismantle the cartel and avenge his sibling's death.

**Methods:** Jason is cunning and resourceful, employing traps and guile to outsmart his adversaries. He operates with a cold and calculated demeanor, showcasing his willingness to do whatever it takes to achieve his goals.

**Character Growth:** Throughout the film, Jason undergoes a transformation from a grieving sibling to a formidable force capable of taking on the cartel. His journey is one of resilience and determination as he navigates the treacherous world of organized crime.

**Conclusion:** Jason's ultimate victory over Juan symbolizes justice served and closure attained, concluding his arc on a note of triumph and resolution.

Personality Traits:

Protective: Jason's primary motivation is ensuring Tyler's well-being, driving many of his decisions.

Resilient: Life's hardships have toughened Jason, cultivating a resilience vital for survival in the unforgiving desert.

Resourceful: Beyond hunting, Jason's practical mindset proves essential as he faces the threat of a pursuing cartel.

Reserved: Jason internalizes his struggles, making his eventual actions and outbursts more impactful.

Determined: Despite adversity, Jason harbors a quiet determination to break free from the cycle of poverty.

Character Arc:

- **Initiation:** Introduced as a resilient young man navigating life's challenges in the desert town.
- **Conflict and Catalyst:** The discovery of a dead cartel smuggler propels Jason from a struggling brother to a determined avenger.
- **Loss and Grief:** Tyler's tragic death devastates Jason, plunging him into grief and vengeance.
- **Transformation:** Jason's skills as a rabbit hunter take center stage as he systematically eliminates cartel members, fueled by a thirst for justice.
- **Redemption and Legacy:** Supporting the smuggler's widow and creating an artistic legacy for Tyler reveals Jason's compassionate side, showcasing growth beyond vengeance.

## Character Breakdown: **Tyler**

# Casting

### Background:

At 15 years old, Tyler is Jason's younger brother, growing up in the challenging environment of a small rural town in the desert. The absence of stable parental figures places Tyler in the care of his older brother, Jason. Despite the hardships, Tyler finds joy and artistic inspiration in documenting their rabbit hunting adventures through the lens of his Polaroid camera.

### Physical Appearance:

Tyler possesses a youthful innocence, with bright eyes and an earnest expression. His appearance contrasts with the ruggedness of the desert, reflecting a creative spirit in the midst of adversity.

### Personality Traits:

**Creative:** Tyler's artistic soul thrives amidst the arid landscapes, capturing moments of joy and adventure through his Polaroid lens.

**Inquisitive:** Despite the harsh realities, Tyler maintains a curiosity about the world around him, finding beauty even in unexpected places.

**Adventurous:** Rabbit hunting isn't just a necessity for Tyler; it's an adventure that allows him to bond with Jason and explore the vast desert.

**Sensitive:** Tyler's sensitivity is evident in his photographic pursuits, where he captures not only the thrill of the hunt but also the subtle emotions within their challenging lives.

### Character Arc:

- **Introduction:** Introduced as a creative and inquisitive teenager navigating the difficulties of life in a small desert town.
- **Catalyst:** The discovery of the dead cartel smuggler's body becomes a turning point, propelling Tyler and Jason into a dangerous world.
- **Joy and Tragedy:** Tyler experiences moments of joy during the rabbit hunts, but tragedy strikes when the cartel pursues them, leading to his untimely death.
- **Legacy:** Despite his tragic end, Tyler's artistic legacy lives on through the photographs he took, becoming a symbol of beauty in the midst of adversity.

### Conclusion:

Tyler's character in "Desert Shadows" embodies the fragility of youth confronted by the harsh realities of the desert. His creativity and sensitivity leave a lasting impact, turning his tragic demise into a poignant reminder of the power of art to endure beyond the confines of the arid landscape.



# Casting

## Character Breakdown: **Grandpa Buck**

*Description:* Grandpa Buck, 82, is a weathered farmer with a deep understanding of life's lessons. Despite his age, he exudes strength and resilience, imparting wisdom through his actions and teachings.

*Personality:* Wise, patient, resilient, nurturing.

*Role:* Grandpa Buck serves as a mentor figure, guiding his grandson, Jason, with valuable life lessons about patience, respect for nature, and self-reliance.

### *Key Moments:*

**Teaching Patience:** Grandpa Buck shows Jason the importance of patience while setting a rabbit trap, emphasizing respect for the land and its creatures.

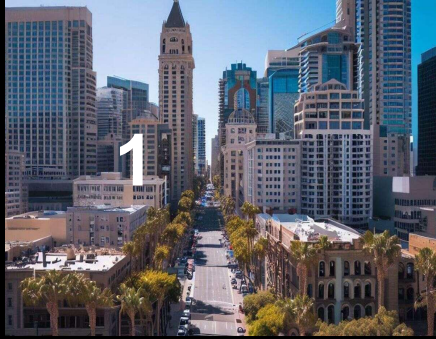
**Instilling Wisdom:** He shares profound insights with Jason, teaching him to see beyond the surface and listen to the unheard.

**Encouraging Independence:** Grandpa Buck fosters Jason's self-reliance, preparing him for life's challenges.

**Expressing Love:** Despite his gruff demeanor, Grandpa Buck's actions and guidance reveal his deep love for Jason.

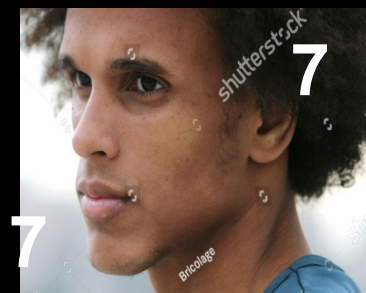
*Impact:* Grandpa Buck's guidance shapes Jason's character, guiding him on his journey of revenge and redemption with lasting lessons.

## Shot list San Diego OPENING SCENE





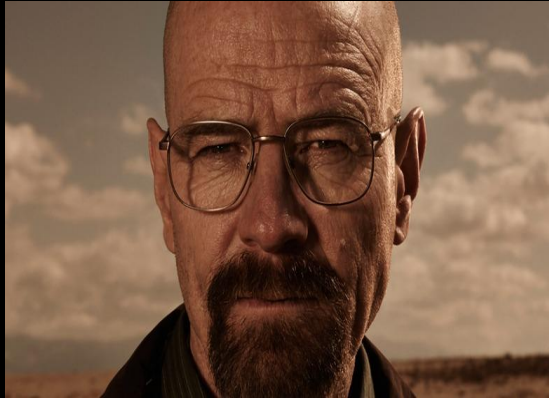
# Shot list Walk to Crip hood San Diego







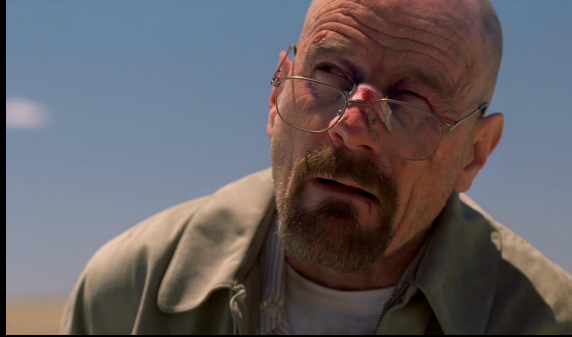
**Shot list** **Intro of the Cartel** **Page.15 continued 1**







**Shot list** **Intro of the Cartel** **Page.15 continued 3**





**Shot list** **Intro of the Cartel** **Page.15 & 16 continued** **4 TANGO joking scene**





Shot list Intro of the Cartel Page.16 Juan madness scene



Shot list Intro of the Cartel Page.16 continued 1





Shot list Intro of the Cartel Page.16 continued 2



Shot list Intro of the Cartel Page.16 continued 3 JAUTA finds picture scene





Shot list Intro of the Cartel Page.16 continued 4 JAUTA finds picture scene



**Shot list** Intro of the Cartel **Page.17** JUAN looks at picture scene





Shot list Intro of the Cartel Page.17 contuned 1 JUAN looks at picture scene

