



WE ARE THE PROTOTYPES

Running Time: 14:59

Filmmaker: Ayesha Adamo

Press Contact

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Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/270098641>

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“funny and ridiculous (in the right way)”
— Dante James, *Film Threat*

<http://filmthreat.com/reviews/we-are-the-prototypes/>

TAGLINE

Their band was destined for obscurity. Then a cat video introduced them to the world. Meet The Prototypes: the trailblazing founders of I.F.E. (Intelligent Feline Electronica)

SYNOPSIS

Ah-Yes, Hans von Kleinenberg, and Hans Gambino are The Prototypes: the trailblazing founders of I.F.E. (Intelligent Feline Electronica). But they weren't always on top of the world, bringing cat music to the masses. In fact they used to be in a metal band...that didn't speak with German accents...that lost a band member to spontaneous combustion. *We Are The Prototypes* is a deeper look at the band that rose from the rubble of the twenty-first century music industry to achieve cat video fame.

DIRECTOR'S Q&A

What is *We Are The Prototypes*?

Ayesha: *We Are The Prototypes* is a film for people who like music. Do you like music? You might like it.

Did The Prototypes actually write the music in the film?

Ayesha: Yes! Bryce Churchill (who plays Hans von Kleinenberg) and I wrote the main theme song, “Your Song Is Deep But Mine Is Deeper.” Bryce created the instrumental, while I wrote the vocal melody and lyrics. He also created the film’s opening music. Vin Scialla (Hans Gambino) wrote the music for the metal song “Holes in my S.O.C.K.S.” while I wrote the lyrics and vocal melody. Both Vin and Bryce wrote the tracks that appear in other scenes throughout the film.

From some of the references in the film, I gather that Spinal Tap was an influence.

Ayesha: Sure, I like to think of *We Are The Prototypes* as the *Spinal Tap* of the Youtube generation. But this is a much more serious film than *Spinal Tap*. Because there are cats involved.

Tell us about the Jedi Cats.

Ayesha: You mean the most labor-intensive 15 seconds in cinema? In a word, rotoscoping. Bryce Churchill, who also plays Hans von Kleinenberg, was the genius who turned footage of cats avoiding green screens into the dramatic masterpiece that you see in the film. I learned that it's hard directing cats. I also learned that cats don't like green screens. Or wearing capes. And don't even talk to me about cats and cucumbers. According to my research over the course of this film, the whole Youtube phenomenon of cats being afraid of cucumbers is a hoax. I could not find one cat that would jump at the sight of a cucumber.

How long did it take to film *We Are The Prototypes*?

Ayesha: With the exception of a few cat shots, we shot the entire film in one day. I have my wonderful cinematographer, Jacques Lang, and my amazing and tireless crew to thank for that. I also make a real effort to write a script with location and production concerns in mind, and to develop my shot list and schedule meticulously from there.

Do you find it difficult to wear the hats of actor and director simultaneously while on set?

Ayesha: For a film like this one, it wasn't so hard to switch back and forth between the two activities. My multi-task game is strong and as an actor, I tend to channel the character, which allows for a more fluid and swift flow of mojo. That being said, after doing several projects where I wore many hats, having the subsequent opportunity on another film to just be an actor was an hallelujah experience.

Why do you think so many actors are turning to filmmaking these days?

Ayesha: Well, I've always been that person who is way outside the box, that actor that the industry doesn't quite know what to do with, at least at first. And when you don't fit into the box, you've pretty much got to build your own. The best advice I have for people who aren't seeing themselves on TV or the big screen is to pull up on those boot straps, roll up the sleeves, and start being the creator of what you want to see. And it's hard. But there's a deep satisfaction that comes not just from the final product, but from the building itself. And we need more inventors right now. Lately, I think of the 1990's as a renaissance decade for cinema, in the way that the 1970's were for dance, and we could use a little more of that. So it's good to be the inventor against all odds.

How do you feel about being a female filmmaker at this transitional time in the industry?

Ayesha: I really only remember that I'm a specifically female filmmaker roughly every 28 days. But I remember that I'm a filmmaker in general more frequently...like every time I look at my credit card statements. Either way, I'm glad to be a voice of the unique, of the surreal, and of a bright new style that floats right over the top.

DIRECTOR'S BIO



Ayesha Adamo is an actor and recording artist turned filmmaker. *We Are The Prototypes* is her directorial debut. Little is known of Ayesha's childhood on the Jersey Shore, though it is believed that she once rocked a spiral perm, air bangs, braces, and a well-worn copy of the seminal work of literature, "Getting Boys This Easy Isn't Fair." She studied music at Barnard College, Columbia University, and acting at William Esper Studios and with Wynn Handman. Despite her training, Ayesha has never appeared on television in the United States, though if she did it would be in an hour-long drama because Ayesha is a very serious person. Ayesha can neither confirm nor deny that she was in a Spice-Girls-like pop group in Asia. She can, however, confirm that directing cats in a green screen environment is a character-building experience. Much like "Ah-Yes," who she plays in *We Are The Prototypes*, Ayesha is effortlessly "more ironic than Alanis." And of course, as she never fails to remind us, more is more.

WHO'S WHO

Main Cast: Ayesha Adamo, Bryce Churchill, Vin Scialla, J.J. Phillips, Dana Marisa Schoenfeld, Jessica Sherr

Director: Ayesha Adamo

Cinematographer: Jacques Lang

Production Designer: Ayesha Adamo

Screenplay: Ayesha Adamo

Story: Ayesha Adamo and Vin Scialla

Music: Bryce Churchill, Vin Scialla, and Ayesha Adamo

Editor: Ayesha Adamo

Producers: Ayesha Adamo and Vin Scialla

END CREDITS

Directed by Ayesha Adamo

Screenplay by Ayesha Adamo

Story and Produced by Ayesha Adamo and Vin Scialla

Director of Photography: Jacques Lang

Music by Bryce Churchill, Ayesha Adamo and Vin Scialla

Cast (in order of appearance)

Ah-Yes - Ayesha Adamo

Hans von Kleinenberg - Bryce Churchill

Hans Gambino - Vin Scialla

Javier Anderson - J.J. Phillips

Leslie Taylor - Dana Marisa Schoenfeld

Hawkman - Rob Matrianni

Mandy Mickelson - Jessica Sherr

Sound Guy - Matt Whyte

First Assistant Director: Amber Sherman

First Assistant Camera: J.S. Ali

Sound Operator: Michael B. Keane

Lighting Technician: Nick Kral

Hair and Makeup: Cindi Harrow

Production Assistants: Michael Berman, William Lee

Editor: Ayesha Adamo

VFX and Audio Engineer: Bryce Churchill

Colorist: Mickey Micklos

Sound Designer: Will Ogilvie

Re-recording Mixer: Matt Miller

Associate Producers: Bryce Churchill, J.J. Phillips,

Dana Marisa Schoenfeld, Jessica Sherr

Special Thanks to

Holie Barker

Sir Chunky of the House of Tiger

Connie and Joseph Adamo

Winston the Cat

Greg Cuoco and Victoria Dyadyukh

Crosby and Huxley

David Garfinkel

Chipotle Mexican Grill

Filmed on location in New York City

Special Thanks to SAG-AFTRA

Newroz Creative Productions & Liftoff Music

Crosby and Huxley

David Garfinkel

Chipotle Mexican Grill

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FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

Dances With Films - DWF:LA, Hollywood, CA (WORLD PREMIERE), 2018

Dragon Con Independent Film Festival, Atlanta, GA (OPENING FILM, SPIRIT OF DRAGON CON AWARD), 2019

Thin Line Fest, Denton, TX, 2020

Gen Con Film Festival, Indianapolis, IN, 2020

GenreBlast Film Festival, Winchester, VA (BEST SONG), 2020

Corti in Cortile - Il Cinema in Breve, Catania, Italy, 2020

Blow-Up International Arthouse Filmfest, Chicago, IL, 2020

KaPow Intergalactic Film Festival, Hollywood, CA (BEST MOCKUMENTARY), 2021

Garden State Film Festival, Asbury Park, NJ, 2021

