

The Red

IAF Report - Zac Steele & Jon-Luc d'Lima

The Red began development at the start of 2023. The initial intention from director Zac Steele and producer Jon-Luc d'Lima was to create a three-part psychological thriller with fantasy elements and a human drama at the core. Lore-dense and history rich franchises such as *Dune* & *The Matrix* were a heavy influence in the design of the visuals and character arches. The classic “hero’s journey” was at the forefront of the development process.

Two years and two blocks of filming later, Zac and Jon – Luc realised that to complete this story as intended, a significant financial backing was required. When the first block was in pre-production during 2023, a crowd-funding campaign was utilised to acquire the necessary assets to begin production. In late 2024, director Zac Steele injected his own funds into continuing this project. The goal was to incorporate stills and roughcut scenes from the first two blocks into funding applications for the third and final block.

The creative team were incredibly grateful to receive \$4,954 from the Independent Arts Foundation in May 2025 to complete their original vision for this three-part story.

After months of waiting for cast and crew availability, the initial production dates were pushed back by nearly a year to the 21st – 26th of June 2026. The filming comprised of six days with a mixture of both day and night shoots in Kuitpo Forest. The weather conditions proved harsh and unforgiving, but due to a resilient cast and crew, all principal photography was completed within schedule.

As the editing process has progressed, the story has now been restructured into a single short film incorporating material from all three blocks. *The Red* is aiming for a November – December release in preparation for film festivals in 2026 / 2027.

Zac intends to use the film as a major portfolio piece for upcoming film festivals, demonstrating his ability as visual storyteller. He aims to refine his skills as a director in the future. Using the experiences and lessons learnt in this production, Zac hopes to develop his first feature in the not-so-distant future.

Thank you to the IAF for your continued support of *The Red*.

The following 2 google drive folder links showcase BTS stills and actual screenshots from the footage captured (low resolution proxies).

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qw2TwH0RJvjKdAa_wYhVKxpRrCu7kxJ?usp=sharing

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FWvLNAWFR4oi9AP5oHm-sm7qyEN9VAIw?usp=sharing>

Here are a few examples from the google drive.....



Follow The Red's Instagram page for upcoming updates regarding the film.

https://www.instagram.com/thered_short?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet&igsh=ZDNIZDc0MzIxNw==