

Looking Glass Entertainment Co.
presents

BLACK MOLD EXPOSURE

Directed by Michael Roland Williams

101 minutes

Production Company:

Looking Glass Entertainment Co.

Michael Roland Williams

Executive Producer

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ABOUT FILM

Black Mold Exposure follows Michael Roland Williams, filmmaker, and Karen Noseff, founder and designer of Fortune Denim, struggling to regain their livelihood and well-being after they were unknowingly exposed to high levels of various molds that had infested Karen's apartment. The entire 264-unit apartment community was evacuated and closed indefinitely. Michael and Karen claim to have developed allergies and sensitivities to virtually everything causing them difficulty in finding "safe" housing as well as numerous other bizarre problems that have continued over the last 5 years.

A growing number of people from all ages and walks of life are claim mold made them ill while physicians, lawmakers, and medical associations dispute the validity of these claims. Most of the symptoms of those claiming illness from mold can be caused by, and diagnosed as, any number of other illnesses. There are no standardized methods to measure what molds, at what exposure levels, over what period of time, might cause any given person to become ill.

BLACK MOLD EXPOSURE explores the bizarre illnesses associated with exposure to toxic mold and the film participants' difficult task of regaining their health and lives in an atmosphere of political and social intolerance and disbelief.

BLACK MOLD EXPOSURE is a first-ever look into the lives of those claiming to be ill from mold and the controversial and volatile climate surrounding it.

MORE

Katie, a former resident of the Dallas apartment community in which Michael and Karen lived, did not get ill. However, she says her infant son Sam was on numerous medications while living at the community, and one night while being fed he stopped breathing and was rushed to the emergency room.

Melinda Ballard, who won a record 32 million dollar judgment against Farmer's Insurance, bulldozed her 10,000 square foot home due to toxic mold growth. Dr. David Straus, a microbiologist from Texas Tech University, says when he entered the home prior to its destruction, he became violently ill with vomiting and hearing loss within half an hour.

Due to health concerns his family believes to be toxic mold related, Colin, a secondary school student, has been unable to return to school. He was unable to return to school without his lip splitting open and bleeding as well as manifesting other symptoms. He's been home-schooled for the past 2 years.

Jonathan moved out of his apartment in order to avoid illness. He's been homeless and living in his car and a tent for over two years.

Two San Diego elementary schools were destroyed and rebuilt after numerous teachers claimed the buildings were making them ill. The school district denies there was ever a mold problem at the schools.

A limited number of physicians are treating illness from mold exposure, while others believe it's impossible to become ill from it. Some are writing position papers for medical associations while at the same time being hired by the defense as expert witnesses in mold litigation cases. Laws that have been passed regarding mold are either unfunded or only refer to structural damage and do not address the health issues. Prior to the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is the US federal authority on health, had very little information on their website about mold.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film was born out of my own illness due to mold exposure. I produced this film because I had a unique story to tell. Nothing more. In the process, I have gathered support from others around the world that have been stricken by illness due to mold. I found that there were hundreds if not thousands of people suffering in the same circumstances. We have been mocked and scorned, and this is our story.

BIOS

Michael Roland Williams (Producer + Director) was born in Dallas, raised in Houston, and went to school at The University of Texas in Austin. He moved back to Dallas after a revelation that he wanted to pursue an acting, but a degree in Economics wasn't going to help him launch his career. He eventually worked in all mediums as a professional actor, and was in the process of writing a script and acquiring the rights to two stories when he recognized "the story" was in the lives of the participants of this film. **BLACK MOLD EXPOSURE** is Michael's directorial debut.

Rory Scholl (Narrator) is an improv comic who resides in New York City. He travels the world performing with the acclaimed improv troupe Chicago City Limits, and plays clubs and cabarets with his two person musical comedy band Pembroke and Lu, which he co-founded. He was the official mascot for American Airlines: Spokeseat 12A, during which he toured the USA opening new terminals and recording radio and television spots. He has been heard on Howard Stern, and most recently Sirius radio. He eats almonds to keep his cholesterol down.

Aubrey G. Young (Composer) hails from the beautiful hills of West Virginia. There he received his Bachelor's degree in Music Composition from West Virginia University where he studied both traditional and electronic music composition as well as guitar - both classical and jazz. He performed three years with the WVU Chamber Guitar Ensemble and many more years as a solo classical guitarist. Aubrey recently made it to the semi-finalist round in the 2007 Turner Classic Movies Young Film Composers Competition, placing him in the top ten of over 800 international contest entries. Aubrey's most recent work has been composing for video games and film.

CAST

FEATURED

Karen Noseff was a law student at Southern Methodist University when she began to get increasingly ill a few weeks after moving into her new apartment. The entire apartment complex was eventually evacuated, but Karen's problems have persisted for over 5 years.

Michael Roland Williams moved into Karen's apartment while waiting for his new apartment to become available. While living in Karen's apartment he began to exhibit the same symptoms and problems that Karen was experiencing. His symptoms have also continued for over 5 years.

Other Players

John Conyers, Jr., US Congressman, 14th District of Michigan.

Colin is a home schooled student who claims to have been made ill by mold exposure while at school. He has been unable to return to school without getting ill.

Melinda Ballard is the president of Policy Holders of America (POA). After bulldozing her 10,000 square foot home due to mold infestation and winning a record 32 million dollar suit against Farmer's Insurance she founded POA.

Susan Brinchman is a former San Diego teacher who claims she was made ill from working in Sherman Elementary School. She is the director and founder of The Center for School Mold Help.

Sharon Kramer is a California real estate agent who has been to Washington numerous times to speak on behalf of the mold issue. When mold was discovered in her home her daughters Cystic Fibrosis became worse, and when she herself began having symptoms she was told by doctors that she was simply stressed.

Deborah Ortiz, California State Senator.

William Rea, MD is the founder of the Environmental Health Center of Dallas that treats environmentally ill patients from all over the world.

Stephen Redd, MD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Geoff Scott, MD, UK physician, Fungal Research Trust, UK.

Ritchie Shoemaker, MD is a Maryland physician who treats biotoxin illnesses.

Snoops is a canine mold inspector.

David Straus, PhD is a researcher and Professor of Microbiology at Texas Tech University.

Jonathan has been homeless and living outside for 2 years to avoid mold exposure.

Nicholas Money, PhD is the author of *Carpet Monsters and Killer Spores* and a Professor of Microbiology at Miami University.

Holly is a young California school teacher who has been unable to return to work because of illness which she and her family believes was due to mold exposure.

Most Frequently asked Questions of Michael Roland Williams During the Making of Black Mold Exposure

How did you finance the film?

I financed it playing online poker. Since our film was a documentary, the production phase lasted well over a year so I was able to play online poker part-time and still produce the film. Once we got to post-production, I knew I wasn't going to have time to play cards so I borrowed what I needed to finish it up.

What were some of the challenges you faced having been a first-time producer and director?

The biggest challenge was getting the actual interviews. I had to really press to get some of the participants. It was a matter of trust. People involved in the mold issue are very careful about allowing someone to interview them. I decided to get the highest profile interview that I knew I could get, and then use that interview to persuade others to participate. Some that said no in the beginning, said yes later on into the production.

What made you choose to do a film on mold?

There are a lot of people who are claiming mold made them ill, but you don't see a lot of these stories in the media. We keep seeing the same generic story in the media about mold being found in schools or buildings, but they don't elaborate on the health issue. There's a huge controversy as to whether molds can make you ill. There have been some high-profile stories like Erin Brockovich and Ed McMahon, but some of the stories in the film are unlike anything that's ever been heard and they're incredible.

You started out as an actor. Did that help you in making this film?

It did help me with the production. Being familiar with filmmaking in general, I had a comfort level there. It wasn't as if I was getting into completely unfamiliar territory, but I was oblivious to the post-production and distribution process.

If you could tell someone one thing about mold, what would you tell them?

It's funny, because many people who worked on the film started checking their homes and telling me about their water leaks. I'm not a mold expert, but I do know that we know very little about mold and what they can do to the human body. I look at it the same as I do smoking. We know a few illnesses that you are more likely to get if you smoke, but to be safe, stay away from it. Same with mold. Don't let water leaks go without repair, and if you see mold, then you need to find the source and eliminate it.

What did you set out to do when you made this film? What were your expectations?

Well, first and foremost I wanted to make a film that was going to be entertaining. That was the goal above all other things, because ultimately people watch films to be entertained. I wanted to tell a great story and in the process shed some light on the mold issue. It's a lot bigger issue than people realize. I think a lot of it has to do with the controversy over the health issues. We made a film that can be enjoyed by anyone while at the same time saying, "Hey, you don't know about this, but this is what's going on."

Why has mold become so popular in the media over the last few years? Hasn't it always been around?

Well, I think that's the million dollar question, and I've considered it quite a bit. One theory that I have, is that only in the last 10 or 12 years has information become so readily available. Prior to that if you told someone mold was making you ill, that was probably the end of that conversation, and if you told your doctor, he told you that it wasn't possible. Now, we have the internet where people with similar problems, however strange, can get together and talk about it. It gathers momentum, and eventually there's an awareness that starts to snowball. The people have more power over their health now than ever before, because they don't have to take what the doctor says as law. They can research and find out for themselves to see if someone else has a different opinion.

CREDITS

written, produced, and directed by

Michael Roland Williams

narrator and host

Rory Scholl

original music by

Aubrey G. Young

editor

Michael Roland Williams

assistant editor

Christopher "Basil" Tilleman

camera

Ryan Wigzell
Jimmy Allen
Andy Marko
Tom Cooper
David Gridley
Miles Hargrove
Tara Tersigni
Jordan Bolinger
Jason Stoddard
Grace Hall
Renee Noseff
Natalie Bentley
Daniel Ingram
George Burroughs
Sam Clemans
Matthew Pebler
Andy Cockrum
Bob Hamilton
Benjamin Steeples
Terry Higgins

production assistants

Jessica Ingram
Charles Lunsford
Sean Jackson
Reid Nixon
Clinton Yates
Matthew Kuborn

“Tim Badler” animation

animator

Eric Wiley

director

Michael Roland Williams

cast

tim badler – Larry Jack Dotson
fat man – Robert F. Peacock
woman in garden – Louis Hysette
woman with baby – Christina Baker
baby – Crystal Rose Baker
boyfriend #1 and #2 – Curt Hendrix

technical consultant

Tom Lehman

Al Mead

graphic artist

Ashley Long

visual effects artist

Debbie Dunning

photographer

Nauman Sahgir

assistant photographer

Peter Marsh

sound design and mix

Vince Reynolds

Harmonicdistortion.biz

narration sound facility

MaxiMedia Studios

sound engineer

Seth Falkner

transcription

Charlie Palmer

Grace Hall

translation

Tina Noseff

Karen Noseff

“Struck Dead” font

S. John Ross

driver

Elies Lewis

featuring – in order of appearance

Rory Scholl

the people of New York

Naked Cowboy

Karen Noseff

Theresa Lee

Renee Noseff

Michael Roland Williams

Jesse Williams
Lottie Williams
David Straus PhD
Jared Martin
Nicholas P. Money PhD
Stephen C. Redd MD
Geoff Scott MD
Katie Vrana
Sam Vrana
Melinda Ballard
Ted Cartwright
Tara Tersigni
Stephen Barrett MD
Danny Lozano
Jimmy Lozano
Art Lozano
Victor Lozano
Ritchie Shoemaker MD
Angela Revels
Christina Davis
Joyce Harper
Debbie Waidner
Carol Anderson
Sharon Kramer
Jonathan Wright
Tina Noseff
Lee Hsin
Yang Yen-Ju Lee
William Rea MD

and

Mai Cearley
Jack Hutson
Susan Brinchman
Tom Mitchell
Colin Albert
Cheryl Albert
Frank Albert
Kerri Albert
Holly Key
Annette Shillinger
Angela Page
Jessica Ericson
Jeff Corn
Rohry Terhune
Vickie Smith

Chris Felicijan
Theresa Westmoreland
Andy Kirkland
Representative John Conyers, Jr.
Representative Gary Miller
CA State Senator Deborah Ortiz
Scott Key
Ryan Wigzell
Michelle De King
Anna Sovereign
Charlie Palmer
Tom Mayfield
Snoops
Lisa Caughlin
Alyssa Champman
Rachael Poole
Katie Newcom
Cliff Lee
George Burroughs

music

“Motionless”

Music and lyrics by Giorgio Moresi
Performed by Grindwall

“Dance with Me”

Lyrics by Karen Noseff, Chris Billick,
Paul L. Washington II
Music by Chris Billick, Karen Noseff,
Paul L. Washington
Performed by Karen Noseff

“Black Mold Song”

Lyrics by Michael Roland Williams
Music by Andy Wigzell, Eric Cordell
Michael Roland Williams
Performed by Andy Wigzell and Eric Cordell

“It’s a New Day”

Lyrics by Michael Roland Williams
Music by Eric Cordell, Andy Wigzell,
Michael Roland Williams
Performed by Eric Cordell

“The One”

Music and Lyrics by Jared Seastrand

Performed by Jared Seastrand

additional footage courtesy of

The Texas Crew
Footagefirm.com
Revostock.com
CDC
WFAA ABC 8
KXAS NBC 5
US Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Corn
Cartoon Network, Inc
Prelinger Archives

US Capitol photograph

courtesy of Kevin McCoy

stills courtesy of

Mayo Clinic
Oxford University Press, Inc.
Fungal Research Trust
Time, Inc.
The Center for School Mold Help
Susan Brinchman
Mark Blade
Brian Guilliaux
Visible Earth image by NASA
Ted Cartwright
Katie Vrana
Saratoga Springs Apartments
IHST
RCI Environmental
Tina Noseff
Melinda Ballard
Michael Roland Williams
Karen Noseff
Parliament of South Australia
Dallas Morning News
The State of Florida

and

Times Herald – Record
Quackwatch, Inc.
Virginia Lozano
CDC
AAAAI

ACOEM
Wall Street Journal
Manhattan Institute for Policy Research
Charlie Palmer
The C.V. Mosby Company
Prometheus Books
United States Dept. of Justice
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U.S. Department of Labor – OSHA

stills courtesy of

Kary Wallace
Jessica Ericson
John Webber
H.W. Page
Chris Felicijan
J. Kelly Mowry
Miranda Hardy
Rohry Terhune
Brian Guilliaux

child artwork courtesy of

Andrew Smith

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Miami University
CDC
Fungal Research Trust
The Vrana Family
Policy Holders of America
Stephen Barrett MD
Duct Doctors

Environmental Health Center of Dallas
American Environmental Health Foundation
The Center for School Mold Help
The Albert Family
The Texas Film Commission
Saratoga Springs, NY Chamber of Commerce
MovieMaker Magazine
IndieSlate Magazine
Diamond Lawn Company
Kira Johnson
Bill and Peggy Simpkin
The Key Family
24 Hour Fitness
Congressman John Conyers' office
The Dallas Cowboys
The National Football League
Ted Cartwright
The Wigzell Family
Fortune Denim
DFW Intl. Airport
US Dept. of Commerce
Joshua Sommer
Simone Sommer
City of Halifax, CA
Councilman Steve Streach
KC
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