

A FILM BY James Andrew Fraser

DUST
DIAMONDS

Henrick Sewczak

Gabriel O'Neal

Senatha Mara Rubin

Daniel Owen



Two Polish brothers navigating the edges of street-level crime take on a simple delivery job — until a betrayal within their circle forces them to choose between blood and loyalty.

Two brothers navigating the edges of street-level crime agree to run a delivery for a local boss in pursuit of credibility and quick money. A volatile older sibling and a guarded younger brother, they operate by an unspoken code — loyalty above all. But when a close friend secretly tampers with the job for his own gain, cracks begin to form within their circle. As suspicion spreads and their younger sister becomes entangled in the fallout, pride and control eclipse reason. What begins as a minor transgression tightens into a confrontation none of them can undo.



Dust & Diamonds was created during my time at an acting conservatory as part of a year-long exploration of film history — from silent cinema through modern film movements. Immersing myself in those eras sharpened my understanding of how performance and camera language shape tension. When it came time to create my own piece, I was drawn to the moral ambiguity and kinetic energy of 1970s auteur-driven crime films.

When a fellow actor — a first-generation Polish-American with a volatile and magnetic presence — volunteered to collaborate, I knew the film had to be built around that specificity. His cultural identity and intensity became foundational to the story's world. The script was written with him in mind and expanded around the conservatory ensemble, each role shaped by the actors who committed to the project.

With no budget and borrowed locations, the process became deeply performance-driven. We rehearsed extensively, then shot in fluid handheld takes on a shoulder rig, allowing moments of imperfection to remain. I approached each sequence almost like theater — following the actors and prioritizing emotional momentum over polish.

Serving as writer, director, cinematographer, and editor forced me to trust my instincts in a way I hadn't before. Throughout production — behind the camera, moving with the actors, shaping performances in real time — I felt a clarity and momentum that told me the film was working. There's a distinct energy that surfaces when you stop second-guessing and allow intuition to lead; this project marked one of the first times I fully experienced that creative flow throughout the whole filmmaking process.

Revisiting the film now — reshaping its sonic landscape to share it beyond the conservatory — feels like completing a creative circle. Dust & Diamonds represents a turning point in my filmmaking: a moment where constraint clarified my voice rather than limited it.

— James Andrew Fraser





I love you brother.



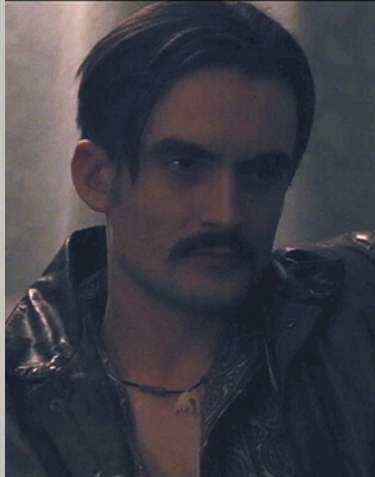




Henrick Sawczak is a first-generation Polish-American actor whose work centers on complex, high-stakes characters. In *Dust & Diamonds*, he delivers a commanding performance as the older brother, grounding the film in cultural specificity and moral tension. His presence fuels the escalating conflict at the story's core.



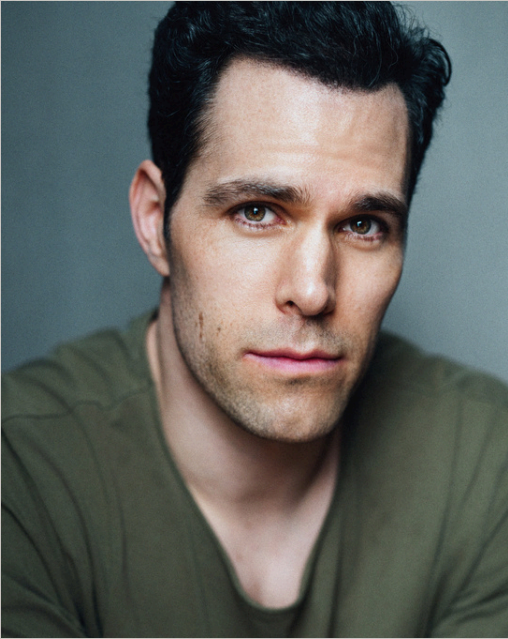
Gabriel O'Neal brings measured control to the role of the younger brother, serving as the emotional counterweight to his sibling's volatility. His restrained performance grounds the ensemble, revealing quiet resolve beneath composure. Through stillness rather than spectacle, he embodies the tension of someone caught between loyalty and self-preservation.



Daniel Owen delivers a sharply calibrated performance as the ambitious friend whose charm conceals calculation. Confident and persuasive, he grounds the character's moral ambiguity in believable human desire. His portrayal captures the dangerous optimism of someone convinced he can reshape loyalty to serve his own ends.



Samantha Mara Rubin delivers a raw and instinctive performance as the younger sister, moving fluidly between youthful openness and mounting disillusionment. Her performance captures the fragile space between autonomy and control, giving the film its most human perspective. In her final moments, everything shifts.



James Andrew Fraser is an award-winning actor, writer, and filmmaker whose work bridges intimate independent storytelling and ensemble-driven narratives. As an actor, he has appeared on NBC's *The Enemy Within*, CBS's *Bull*, and starred in *Gabriel's Inferno*, the nine-film adaptation of the New York Times bestselling novels, streaming on Passionflix. He recently starred in *Family Hug* opposite Oscar nominee Eric Roberts and appears in the ensemble drama *Tuesday's Flu*, which premiered at the Austin Film Festival and features a cast including Jackie Earle Haley, Jon Gries, Ross Marquand, and Daniel Roebuck. His performance in *Buffalo* earned Best Actor nominations at the Madrid International Film Festival and Prague International Indie Film Festival, the film also screened at Cannes, and was nominated for the Iris Prize.

As a director, Fraser's early work includes *A Night Out*, a self-funded semi-autobiographical film, and *Trafford Road*, created under the constraints of a timed filmmaking challenge. Through conservatory training, he expanded his work across multiple forms and styles, refining his instincts as both a visual and performance-driven storyteller. *Dust & Diamonds* became a pivotal moment — sharpening his approach to momentum and collaboration, and helping define his voice within grounded, character-driven narrative.

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