

# Life After



## Press Kit

Contact: Katsuyuki Ueno (a.k.a Katz)

e-mail: [lifefter@deerstudio.com](mailto:lifefter@deerstudio.com)

web: <http://deerstudio.com/lifefter/>

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## ***Project Detail (as on March 5, 2005)***

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<b>Title:</b>	Life After
<b>Director:</b>	Katsuyuki Ueno (First English film)
<b>Producers:</b>	Katsuyuki Ueno, Glen Diller & Steve Bigler
<b>Screenplay:</b>	Katsuyuki Ueno (First screenplay)
<b>Length:</b>	23min 40sec   26min 5sec (Director's Cut)
<b>Original Format:</b>	NTSC DVCAM (1:1.75)
<b>Language:</b>	English (Japanese subtitle version is available)
<b>Audio:</b>	48KHz, 2-Ch Stereo
<b>Production Date:</b>	April through May 2002 (4.5 days)
<b>Production Group:</b>	deerstudio and associated with Night Owl Productions
<b>Post Completion Date:</b>	July 2003   Director's Cut is done on Aug 16, 2003
<b>World Premiere Date:</b>	March 12, 2004 (Aquapolis Hiroshima Film Festival 2004)
<b>Release Date:</b>	March 12, 2004 (Aquapolis Hiroshima Film Festival 2004)
<b>Distribution:</b>	N/A
<b>Awards:</b>	Aquapolis Hiroshima Film Festival 2004 - Finalist
<b>Festivals:</b>	Aquapolis Hiroshima Film Festival 2004
<b>Official web site:</b>	<a href="http://deerstudio.com/lifeafter/">http://deerstudio.com/lifeafter/</a>

**3-line Synopsis:** Two middle-aged angels are working in heaven for 2 million yrs. This time, their client is a young man who died of drug overdose.

**125-word Synopsis:** According to the research of Heaven’s Section 324, your behavior during the last 24 hours before death reflects your entire-life, and determines your afterlife. If you behaved well, you will go to heaven. If you behaved badly, you will go to hell. Two middle-aged angels, Steve and Guy, have been working in Heaven for two million years since the arrival of human beings. This time, their target is a young man, John, who died of drug overdose, which the angels hate to deal with.

## *Director’s Statement*

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After three years of study in the US away from Japan, I heard news of my maternal grandfather’s death. I couldn’t see him before he died, or attend his funeral.

A week after of his death, I had a weird dream. I was taking a subway, and tried to run away from a scary monster. Suddenly, the subway stopped. Then I heard the familiar voice calling my name. When I looked at the platform, I saw my grandfather looking at me. I knew somehow he was on the way to go to the hospital. He said to me, “good luck.” The subway started moving. He was walking up the stairs. I tried to say something to him before he disappeared but the subway was already in the tunnel.

I woke up and left my apartment for the college. Suddenly the tears started streaming down from my eyes. I couldn’t see him and I couldn’t say “thank you” to my grandfather. His soul came across the Pacific Ocean to see me. Yet I couldn’t even say “thank you” to my grandfather.

After a year incident of the dream, I’ve been thinking of my first English movie. I wanted to make a movie about my grandfather. However I did not want to make a requiem movie.

Then, I came up with this movie, “Life After,” after mixing various ideas. The entire production process was a series of coincidence, especially the actors and crews.

This movie was the most effective production I’ve ever encountered. After working with a couple of independent digital films in the Santa Monica College Film Club, I learned some filmmaking style. Most of all, I’ve met very talented student filmmakers. Glen Diller (Director of Photography and Producer) and I’ve worked for a couple other films with him. Steve Bigler

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(Angel Steve and Producer) helped in my poor English screenplay by going through over 10 meetings. Bitu Shafipour helped the entire production from casting to production. Sylvia Farazmand's production design was more than I've expected. Charlie Slemaker brought excellent sound recording equipment that the student filmmakers would never be able to obtain. And Peter Valentine and Lissette Salazar Napoleoni composed very fascinating music and song. I am very proud of my actors and crews, and feel fortunate that I could make a film in Los Angeles.

I truly believe that the filmmaking is a combination of various artists, now. I couldn't make "Life After" without the help of my actors and crews. Because I met my filmmaking friends, Giacun Caduff, Junya Sakino, Marcus Nobreus, Mieko Koyama, and Ruben Pulido, and worked for their movies, I was able to bring Life After onto the screen.

My personal story became ours (crews' and actors'). Now our movie becomes yours (audiences). I hope you can enjoy the world of afterlife.

Katsuyuki Ueno

### *Cast*

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**David R. Fisher** (starring as John)

David R. Fisher grew up in a little in New Jersey and a little in New York. He studied at the Stella Alder Conservatory in New York. Through several theatre production contacts, David was casted in several movies in New York, two of which were Threat (Kings Mob Productions) and I am Josh Polanski's Brother (directed by Raphael Nadjari). After a few years, he brought his east coast charm to Los Angeles for a change of scenery. He started studying at the Larry Moss studio and with Ivana Chubbuck. The west coast offered him several indie features, most recently in The David Spellman Project.

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**Jerry G. Angelo** (starring as Rick)

Raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico by a mom that speaks seven languages except English because she's from Switzerland. Overseen by a movie father as influential to Greyhound bus driving as John Wayne is to Westerns.

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"My best friend was a weenie dog named Hiedi\*. I can say butterfly in twenty-seven languages. I believe that three types of people walk into our lives. You can ask me later. But as far as being a smart cookie, and the credentials and experience on the National and State levels to show for it, I have come to understand that my calling would send me a little more west of Washington D.C. than I expected. Well, what can you say for those of us that are able to dream, and then act on it."

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### **Julie Dorris** (starring as Natasha)

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Julie's career dream was to write the Great American Novel, have it made into a movie and star in the movie. Realizing that she can't have everything all at once, she is happy to be pursuing her acting and writing dreams in Los Angeles. She has appeared in a number of independent films including the features "Paper Dolls," directed by Christy Pesicka, and most recently, "Taos," directed by Brandon Scott Schmidt. She has been a student at Playhouse West Repertory for two years.

### ***Filmmakers***

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#### **Katsuyuki "Katz" Ueno** (Director, Producer, Writer, Editor, and etc)

Katsuyuki Ueno (also as Katz) was born and raised in Japan. According to his family, he first took the super-8 footage when he was 3 years old. Thanks to his father and grandfather's hobbies, he had access to video camera, and made his first film when he was 13 years old. He moved to Los Angeles soon after he graduated from high school to pursue his goal to be a filmmaker. Since then, he has been working for dozens of independent short films, and has skills of almost every aspect of filmmaking. "Life After" is his first English film. It was first time for him to write in English and shoot in English.

Katsuyuki also designs web sites and take pictures as a photographer. His pictures received a couple of awards. He is currently studying at California State University, Long Beach, Film and Electronic Arts Department. His web site is <http://deerstudio.com>

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#### **Glen Diller** (Director of Photography and Producer)

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Glen Diller was born and raised in the East San Francisco Bay Area. After realizing his life's calling was not, as he had believed since he was eight, to be an animator or syndicated newspaper cartoonist, he moved to Los Angeles. There he got an Associates in Cinema at Santa Monica College. It was here that he became the two-time president of the Santa Monica College Filmmaker's Association, where he wrote and directed three short films, produced several others, and directed the photography on upwards of twenty others, including "Life After." He now lives in Minneapolis Minnesota, where he is putting the finishing touches on over a dozen unfinished projects, including short films, a website, scripts, and various other visual and written media. Glen would just like to say that it was a pleasure working with Katz and the entire "Life After" crew, and that he hates doing bios for himself in the third person. "Life After" is the fifth short film produced under his NightOwl productions company.

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**Neon Venus** (music composer and original theme song "He's dead")

Neon Venus is a band that gets their audiences dancing with great songs in the style of Latin Alternative Rock. Neon Venus now has their own LA cable access TV show.

Neon Venus songs have been part of two national compilations released by Boom!, a top Latin Rock magazine in the US, and sponsored by Spanish MTV, Nissan, Terra and BMI. In 2002 Neon Venus licensed their music to "Adrenalina", a show on Mun2 (Telemundo Cable). The LA Music Awards 2000 nominated Neon Venus for Best Alternative Latin Rock Band. That same year, Neon Venus licensed their music to Oprah Winfrey and partners' new television network, 'Oxygen'.

Neon Venus first recording, "The Birth of Neon Venus", received airplay in stations in many South American countries and US states. Neon Venus is in two other compilation CDs, one for students in NYC and another for the Latin American high tech magazine 'Users'.

## ***Credit***

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<b>Cast:</b>	as John	David R. Fisher
	as Rick	Jerry G. Angelo
	as Natasha	Julie Dorris

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as Angel Steve	Steve Bigler
as Angel Guy	Guy Manson
as Mike	Marc A. Chenail
as Mike's wife	Karyne Steben
	Etc.

<b>Crew:</b>	Director	Katsuyuki Ueno
	Producers	Katsuyuki Ueno Glen Diller (Night Owl Productions)
	Co-producer	Steve Bigler
	Director of photography	Glen Diller (Night Owl Productions)
	Assistant director	Bitra Shafipour
	Production designer	Sylvia Farazmand
	Sound mixer	Charlie E. Slemaker (Beyond Bound Productions)
	Boom mike operator	J. K. Ko
	Script supervisor	Avital Shalev
	Assistant camera	Mohammad Nazarizadeh
	Still photographer	Kotaro Shibazaki
	Make-up	Chisato Akiyama
	Story development by	Steve Bigler Giacun Caduff Glen Diller Robert Schweitzer Peter Valentine Lisette Salazar Napoleoni Roxanne Reaver
	Edited by	Katsuyuki Ueno
	Visual Effects by	Katsuyuki Ueno
	Production assistants	Shinichi Usui Jason Payne Phillip Calderon

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	John Chui
Sound Effects by	Roger Hilmer
Angel Costume by	Roderick Alexander
Music scores by	Neon Venus (Peter Valentine & Lissette Salazar Napoleoni)
Main theme song	“He’s Dead” lyrics by Lissette Salazar Napoleoni & Peter Valentine composed by Peter Valentine
	Etc.

### ***Production Notes***

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- Main production was held on April 27<sup>th</sup> (Sat) on 2002 through May 11<sup>th</sup>. Entire production took 4.5 days.
- “Life After” was shot on DVCAM. Sony DSR-300 was used.
- All actors were non-union at the time of the production.
- Editing starts at the end of Aug 2002 and completed in July 2003. Post-production took almost a year because of the director’s “so-called” busy schedule (or laziness).
- At the time of the production, Katsuyuki and the most of the crews were belong to Students’ Filmmakers Association at Santa Monica College, California, USA. It is student-organized club. Katsuyuki was the president of the club at that time.
- The editing system was Canopus DVREx.
- All of the visual effects were done by Adobe AfterEffects and Premiere.
- The rough cut was done by Dec 2002. Neon Venus started composing the original music. Then completed in July 2003.
- Since Katsuyuki was not good at English language, he re-wrote the script over 10 times with the help of his friends.
- Life After has two different versions. One is regular version, and another is director’s cut. The director’s cut is little bit longer, and has the specialized end credit.