

# MAVET

A Film by Emile Haris

Production Notes

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RUSSEM PRODUCTIONS

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# MAVET

## Synopsis

**Mavet** is a film about a seemingly ordinary game of chess that takes place in a darkened room between an overconfident younger man in old man's clothes and a middle-aged man with overwhelming anxiety.

However, is it really a darkened room? Is it really a younger man playing against a middle-aged man?

Looks can be deceiving, for one wrong move in this game can mean life or death . . .

Russem Productions presents an Emile Haris film. **Mavet**. Yim Chan Tong, Yair Milanov. Director of Photography, Yossi Sasson. Original Score Composed by Neil Argo. Producer, Music Supervisor, Russ Emanuel. Written, Edited, and Directed by Emile Haris.

## Director's Statement

For me, **Mavet** is a re-imagination of Ingmar Bergman's "The Seventh Seal" in a more intimate context, particularly the pivotal chess game between Max von Sydow and the Death character. I wanted to do a short that takes place within one setting, with little or no dialogue. The emphasis is with character expressions, concise editing including a flowing montage sequence to deliver the narrative flow.

Furthermore, to emphasize the aforementioned character expressions and editing, there is no reliance on dialogue, with the music and the echoing sounds taking its place, thereby adding an ethereal and supernatural element to this ultimate game of chess.

All of this makes **Mavet** what it is – a chess game that ultimately leads to life or death.

-- Emile Haris

# MAVET

## About the Filmmakers

EMILE HARIS (Writer, Editor, Director)

A graduate in both Writing and Film from Long Beach State, it's all about making movies for this enthusiastic individual. In an attempt to marry experimental moviemaking with the documentary narrative, Emile Haris, together with Yos Park produced the sci-fi short *Frakie Died*, which they put under their production company, Atomicgum Productions, founded in 2000. Interested in taking a stab at the extremely challenging romantic genre, he teamed up with USC graduate Russ Emanuel and created *Her Knight*. He has since shot several mini documentaries showcasing life in Los Angeles, wrote and edited Russ Emanuel's *GWG: Girl With Gun* and directed **Mavet**.

RUSS EMANUEL (Producer, Music Supervisor)

Russ Emanuel marks his professional film directorial debut with *Her Knight* and *GWG: Girl With Gun*. Originally from San Francisco, he grew up in both Japan and the United States, garnering an international viewpoint of the world throughout his childhood. He wrote his first screenplay in 1993. He then went to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles to study Cinema-Television, International Relations and Japanese. More recently, he wrote a 10-part fantasy saga and a science fiction trilogy, worked as the "Assistant to the Producer" on *The Failures*, and founded his production company Russem Productions in 2002, *Her Knight*, **Mavet**, and *GWG: Girl With Gun* being the first films under its banner.

NEIL ARGO (Composer)

Having received a Masters of Music, Music Theory and Composition from the University of Northern Colorado, Neil Argo's dramatic and provocative scores have been heard all over the world. From *The New Mission: Impossible*, *Wild America*, *Melrose Place* and *Beverly Hills 90210*, to the far reaches of "South African National Geographic" documentaries, he has composed for many noteworthy projects. His awards include a Gold Award for the episode of "Born to Run" from the television series "Wild America", and 2 Emmy Awards for the "Survivors of the Skeleton Coast" National Geographic episode and "A Community of Caring" documentary for the Directors Guild of America. More recently, he composed and conducted the music on *Her Knight*, **Mavet**, as well as currently *GWG: Girl With Gun*.

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## About the Cast

YIM CHAN TONG (Middle-Aged Man)

Originally from Hong Kong, Yim Chan Tong began his career as an actor with the 1970 Hong Kong action film *Bo Sau (Kung Fu Vengeance)*. He then teamed up with Jackie Chan, acting as his personal stunt man and action director in the films *The Young Master* (1980), *Dragon Strike* (1982), and *Jackie Chan's Project A* (1983). More recently, he decided to come to Los Angeles, to pursue Hollywood filmmaking. He has attended the UCLA Extension Entertainment Studies program in order to do this, as well as becoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit Director in 2004 on Russ Emanuel's *GWG: Girl With Gun*, a Russem Productions film.

YAIR MILANOV (Younger Man)

A native of Israel, Yair Milanov came to Los Angeles to attend the UCLA Extension Entertainment Studies program, majoring in Acting. He has future plans of returning to Israel, taking with him the skills he learned from Hollywood.

# MAVET

## The Cast

Middle-Aged Man	Yim Chan Tong
Younger Man	Yair Milanov

## The Crew

Writer/Editor/Director	Emile Haris
Producer/Music Supervisor	Russ Emanuel
Composer	Neil Argo
Director of Photography	Yossi Sasson
Co-Producer	Annika Leichtweiss

English-language

Aspect Ratio: 1:85/1 [Flat]

Running Time: 4 minutes

Analog Surround 2.0

A Russem Productions Film



**PAGE 1** Top: YAIR MILANOV in Emile Haris' **MAVET**, a Russem Productions film.  
Bottom: YAIR MILANOV and YIM CHAN TONG star in Emile Haris' **MAVET**, a Russem Productions film.

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**PAGE 2** Top: YAIR MILANOV and YIM CHAN TONG star in Emile Haris' **MAVET**, a Russem Productions film. Bottom: Director EMILE HARIS, YIM CHAN TONG, and YAIR MILANOV star in Emile Haris' **MAVET**, a Russem Productions film.

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