

Quantity Cinema **AGNES**

# HE THOUGHT HE DIED



**WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ISIAH MEDINA**

**Canada / 2023 / 70 minutes**

OFFICIAL SELECTION

**tiff**

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL 2023

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## SYNOPSIS

A painter stages a heist to steal his paintings back from the vault of a museum. A filmmaker happens to be at the museum on the same day.

Commissioned by the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Isiah Medina's fourth feature *He Thought He Died* was shot on location in Kingston, ON, Toronto, ON, and Montréal, QC from June 2022 to May 2023. The Agnes Etherington Art Centre serves as one of the central locations of the film.

## CREDITS

Kelley Dong as Sam  
Andilib Khan as Loren  
Myles Taylor as August  
Alexandre Galmard as Émile  
Isiah Medina as A Painter

Photographed by Isiah Medina and Kelley Dong  
Edited by Isiah Medina  
Produced by Isiah Medina, Kelley Dong, and Andrei Pora  
Music by Johann Hyobin An and Kieran Daly  
Original paintings by Isiah Medina

## BIOGRAPHY

Isiah Medina (b. 1991) was born in Winnipeg and currently lives in Toronto, where he directs and produces films with his company Quantity Cinema. Having started filmmaking at the age of 11 and screening his films internationally by the age of 18— with his 16mm short *Semi-auto colours* in 2010, a Winnipeg-set silent crime film which subverts the cross-cutting of D.W. Griffith—Medina is a distinctly prodigious and ambitious filmmaker whose oeuvre challenges static notions of cinema’s possibilities.

Medina’s films include the highly influential and cosmically intimate *88:88* and the iconoclastic montage-epic *Inventing the Future*, an adaptation of the best-selling book by Nick Srnicek and Alex Williams. His most recent features, *Night is Limpid* and *He Thought He Died*, continue his interrogation of Canada’s relation to Europe and America, cinema’s relation to other artistic mediums such as painting and music, and the question of what it means to be an artist in the 21st century.

Isiah Medina has been described by Jeonju IFF lead programmer Sung Moon as “Canada’s most secretive and astonishing director.” His films have played at the Locarno Film Festival, New York Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Berlin Critics' Week, Mar del Plata International Film Festival, Jeonju International Film Festival, and the Viennale, among others.

## FILMOGRAPHY

2010 [Semi-auto colours](#)

2015 [88:88](#)

2016 *idizwadidiz*

2020 *log 2*

2020 [Inventing the Future](#)

2022 *Night is Limpid*

2023 *He Thought He Died*