

SURGE OF POWER: WHERE THERE'S SMOKE

Format: 4K Aspect ratio: 16:9

Running time: 69 minutes (01:08:52)

Completed: May 2024

Rated: NR (likely PG-13)

www.surgeofpower.org



## CONTACT:

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#### SURGE OF POWER: WHERE THERE'S SMOKE

#### **SYNOPSIS**





Enjoy the latest installment of the Surge of Power indie superhero movie franchise known for having lots of celebrities from the sci-fi and superhero genres! *Where There's Smoke* follows Surge as he teams up with guest superhero, The Smoke (former pro wrestler **Eric Moran**), as they uncover a mysterious plot of the villain group called The Council.

Welcome returning stars, the late **Nichelle Nichols** (Lt. Uhura from *Star Trek*) and **Robert Picardo** (The Doctor from *Star Trek: Voyager*) sharing the Omen role, **Bruce Vilanch** (comedian and award show writer) as Janus, **Shannon Farnon** (Wonder Woman from the *Super Friends* cartoon) as MAVIS, **Michael Gray** (Billy Batson from the *SHAZAM!* TV show) as Will E. Bee, **Joseph Culp** (Doctor Doom from the 1996 *Fantastic Four* movie) returning as Spade, the leader of The Council.

Who is Falling Apple and what is her role in The Council's nefarious scheme? Struggling from a lifetime of trauma, Falling Apple has discarded her civilian life as sweet and innocent Chai Appuru for a gritty life full of anger and resentment as she seeks to exact revenge on those she believes killed her father when she was a child.

After leaving New York from their last adventure, Surge and MAVIS are heading back to Big City when attacked by Janus, crash landing in Philadelphia. With MAVIS out of commission, Surge is on his own to find The Smoke, learning they have starkly divergent crimefighting styles. Forming an uneasy alliance, they learn about Falling Apple and track her to Chicago, curious about the crystals and chemicals she is stealing, wondering about the involvement of The Council, who have been long-time adversaries of Omen. But is Falling Apple's agenda aligned with The Council's goals? Where do her loyalties lie?

Watch as Omen guides Surge in recruiting more "champions" to form a superhero team to face The Council's threat. Can these unlikely champions find any remnant of the endearing Chai left in the dark and hardened Falling Apple before the entire Chicago area is in ruin?

In addition to our returning celebrities, we welcome new stars to the Surge of Power family: **Tim Russ** (Tuvok from *Star Trek: Voyager*) as Mortrigard, **Sam J. Jones** (Flash Gordon from the 1980 *Flash Gordon* movie) as Ace, **John Davey** (Captain Marvel from the *SHAZAM!* TV show) as General Benjamin Washington, **Kevin Caliber** (Superman in season one of the *Supergirl* TV show) as Grok, **Chase Cortese** (Dybsky in the *Play by Play* TV series) as Kid Dynamo and introducing **Stephanie Ahn** as Falling Apple!

Trailer: <a href="https://youtu.be/5qGEaA7Qvy4">https://youtu.be/5qGEaA7Qvy4</a>

Full movie: <a href="https://vimeo.com/918017315">https://vimeo.com/918017315</a> (request password by email)

#### LOOK AT WHAT REVIEWERS ARE SAYING:



"it's a veritable parade of capes, camp, and cosmic conundrums that catapult the genre to dazzling new heights"

-Chris Jones Overly Honest Reviews

"brilliant from start to finish—a well-constructed film that hits all the right notes, ranging from goofy to completely absurd."

-Kyle Bain
Bain's Film Reviews

"There are plenty of cameos in this one, enough to host a viewing party"
-Federico Furzan
Movie Blogger

"It's a fun film that combines cheesy superhero action with themes of trauma, revenge, and inclusivity that is sure to leave you entertained."

-Tony Asankomah *GH Movie Freak* 

"enjoyable family friendly adventure with a fast pace and short run time that won't test the attention span of younger viewers"

-Jim Morazzini Voices From The Balcony

"a campy take on the genre common places combined with its low budget spirit ends up delivering a warmhearted adventure"

Hoy Sale Cine/Get That Movie

"It's campy, low-budget, and full of life lessons"
-Alan Ng
Film Threat

"another fun installment for cinema's first out and proud superhero." WorldFilmGeek

"a project filled with passion."
-Keith R. Martin

Movie Moxxi

"some really good scenes"
-Emilie Black
Cinema Crazed

#### "WHERE THERE'S SMOKE" WON 17 AWARDS AS OF DECEMBER 2024





#### CELEBRITY PERFORMANCES BY





NICHELLE NICHOLS is best known as Lieutenant Uhura in Star Trek (the original series) but is near and dear to us playing the wise and powerful Omen for 20 years! Nichelle continues her role as the regal Omen in posthumous performances. Omen may seem like she operates behind the scenes, but steps out when necessary to guide Surge, cinema's first out gay superhero, as he finds straight allies.

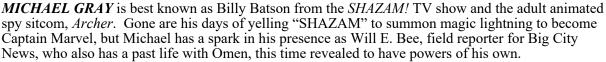
**ROBERT PICARDO**, China Beach, The Wonder Years, is best known as The Doctor, the emergency medical hologram on Star Trek: Voyager. Robert returns, sharing the role of Omen with Nichelle as the male persona of our sage superhero, adding to the complexity of who and what Omen is and "their" history between the superheroes and supervillains of an earlier generation.

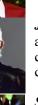


**BRUCE VILANCH**, standup comedian who is best known for his years on *Hollywood Squares* is also a 6-time Emmy Award-winning writer for the Tonys, Grammys and Emmys. Bruce returns as Janus, the snarky artificial intelligence virus and member of The Council that took control of the Surgemobile. This elusive and mischievous electronic virus adds to the chicanery when heroes and villains clash.



**SHANNON FARNON** is best known for her portrayal of Wonder Woman on the Super Friends cartoon from 1974 to 1983, but also has a long career in TV and commercials. Shannon returns as M.A.V.I.S., the spunky yet motherly artificial intelligence of the Surgemobile. Unbeknownst to Surge, MAVIS has a deep connection with Omen that is unwittingly revealed because of Janus' attack.





**JOSEPH CULP** is best known as Doctor Doom from the 1996 Fantastic Four movie. Joseph returns as Spade, rigid leader of The Council, a supervillain community becoming more active, with each confrontation revealing more history between The Council and Omen's former life with a hero team called The Sentries. Spade unwaveringly prods Falling Apple along their plan.



**SAM J. JONES** is best known as Flash Gordon from the 1980 *Flash Gordon* movie and his hilarious performances in the recent Ted movies by Seth McFarland. Sam joins us as Ace, seen for the first time as a member of The Council, stepping out and joining forces with Spade. Ace has been developing Falling Apple as a protégé of The Council, with high hopes Falling Apple will make him proud.



JOHN DAVEY is best known as Captain Marvel from the SHAZAM! TV show having worked side-byside with Michael Gray for two seasons. John joins us as General Benjamin "Benny" Washington, the wise godfather to The Smoke in his alter ego as Corporal Aaron Volpacchio. Benny joined Aaron on the fields of battle in earlier years unwittingly leading to Aaron's start as a superhero.



**TIM RUSS** is best known for his role as Tuvok, the stoic Vulcan bridge member from the TV show Star Trek: Voyager. Tim joins us as a new character, Mortrigard, who also has history with Omen on their former hero team, The Sentries. After eons of conflict, there are but a few Sentries left, with their powers waning, hence enlisting Surge and other new "champions" to join the fight for truth and justice.



**ERIC MORAN** is a former United States Marine known for his years as a professional wrestler and more recently his recognition in the cosplay community as The Smoke. Eric joins us as guest superhero, The Smoke, a tough and charismatic superhero not afraid to kill his adversaries – a trait that causes friction with Surge. Can they overcome their differences to confront The Council?



**KEVIN CALIBER THOMSEN** has many movies under his belt but joins us for portraying Superman during the first season of the recent Supergirl TV show. Kevin portrays Doctor Raymond Richards, the homophobic half-brother of Professor Ronald Richards who assisted Surge in his first adventure. Raymond is clearly perturbed at Surge due to Surge's history with his half-brother, yet Raymond steps in, fashioning his Grok persona.

# CAST (in order of appearance)



Akira Appuru

Young Chicchai "Chai" Appuru

Martha

Surge / Gavin Lucas

**MAVIS** 

Janus / SIRIUS

The Smoke / Aaron Volpacchio

Killr (Thug #1) Jenko (Thug #2) Vyper (Thug #3)

Falling Apple / Chicchai Appuru

Omen

Raymond Richards / Grok

Will E. Bee Big City Mayor Military Soldier #1 Military Soldier #2

General Benjamin "Benny" Washington

Military Soldier #3 Young Gavin Lucas Evelyn Lucas

Bouncer / Security Guard

Drag Queen 1 – Lydia Chlamydia Drag Queen 2 – Kitty Kitty Meow

Cody Brewer Gunman Bartender Drew

Kid Dynamo / Kyle Donovan

Ace Spade

Lucy Donovan

Young Kyle Donovan Omen (Male Persona) City Councilwoman

Infectia – Protégé of The Council Mercha – Protégé of The Council

Summit Chairman

Dr. Wong
Dr. Anthony
Dr. Ukanda
Dr. Scott
Metal Master
Ace Body Double
Spade Body Double

Omen Body Double

Mortrigard

Mortrigard Body Double

Sentry (Omen stand in)

Dark Huntress Knight Seeker Duy Beck

Angela Mananquil Lindsey Hawkes Vincent J. Roth Shannon Farnon Bruce Vilanch Eric Moran Ray Acevedo Jenko Childs Sean McNabb Stephanie Ahn Nichelle Nichols

Kevin Caliber Thomsen

Michael Gray Jeff Rector Rocio Ibara Justin Vancho John Davey

Aleksei Romanov Cade Ziolkowski Pamela Beheshti Damarr Jones KJ Leuthauser Nathan Smedley Michael Bajor Shane Morrisun Jason Ruffoni Chase Cortese Sam J. Jones Joseph Culp Josie Hawkes

Jagger Woolstenhulme

Robert Picardo
Jane Doe
Tempast Wulf
Abraham Justice

John Henry (Jay) Richardson

Lily Patel

John Lambertson Clynell Jackson Cie Allman John Venturini David Turner Justin Vancho Chris Spinelli

Anthony Ray Morales

Tim Russ Jordan Michael Jamie Knight Mason

Eric Cooper

#### **CAST Continued**



Voice of COMPASS Ace Redfire

Understudy for Cody Brewer **Professor Ronald Richards** 

Young Man Dawn Blackout

Andy Mangels Michael Mason Shane Dorriz Robert Hurt Joey Bourgeouis Victoria Amber Michelle Bernard

#### **CORE CREW**



**Executive Producer** 

Directors

Director, Principal Unit

Producer

**Associate Producers** 

**Casting Director** 

Director of Photography **Production Designer** 

Editor

Post-Production Supervisor and Assistant Editor

Original Music Composed and Mixed by

Music Supervisor Sound Design by Visual Effects

Visual Effect Supervisor Additional footage by

Music selections courtesy of

Additional sound effects by

Vincent J. Roth

Mario DeAngelis

Vincent J. Roth

Jeff Rector

Vincent J. Roth

Mario DeAngelis

Jeff Rector James Ward

Jeff Rector

William Greenberg

Mark Fenlason

Kinetic Video Productions, LLC

**Devin Hamilton** Penka Kouneva Vincent J. Roth

**Bill Corkery Productions** 

BFX Imageworks

Charlie X Steven D'Alo Jason Falasco

Kinetic Video Productions, LLC

Vincent J. Roth

Vimeo Artlist.io

FREESOUND.ORG

Matias Romero

Timbre Dr. Zhnn

JGR Zinich

Pitched Senses

Nacht Mahr TV Blake Casselman

Vincent J. Roth

**Enoch Scott** 

Screenplay

Additional Dialogue by

#### CORE CREW continued



Story by

Special Consultant to Executive Producer **Creative Consultants** 

Director of Pre-Production

Pre-Production Planning for Cinematography

Custom Leather Jacket for Grok by Ryder Gear, LLC

Specialty Masks for Kid Dynamo

Custom Surge Emblem Earring for Surge

Specialty Props for Janus

**Custom Wigs** 

Script Supervisor

Art Department Lead

Master Artist

Concept art for Kid Dynamo, Falling Apple and Grok

Web Design

Web Host Provider

Graphic Designer

Office Administrator / Paralegal

Administrative Assistant

**Accounting Services** 

Legal Counsel

Insurance

Vincent J. Roth

Mario DeAngelis

James Ward

Jordan Michael

John Lyons

**Enoch Scott** 

Michael Hicks

Jeff Hall

James Ward

Russel Stepan

Gary Ahmed

Tony Bracalente

Chris Hanson

Diamonds Forever

Terry Grossman

David Tapia

Alexandria Sanders

Richard Hernandez

Joe Phillips

**Enoch Scott** 

Joe Anderson, ClickOnPC

Mike Michalik, Cirrhus9

Kostedt Design & Marketing

John Venturini

Natalie Larimer

Ardagnas Tax & Bookkeeping

Law Offices of Vincent J. Roth, Esq.

Supple-Merrill & Driscoll, Inc.



#### ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



#### **VINCENT J. ROTH** (Executive Producer / Producer)

Apart from his penchant for the superhero genre, Vincent is a business attorney with a big creative side expressed in writing scripts, designing costumes, making props, acting, and managing all aspects of film production and distribution including SAG productions. Since 2004, he has applied his business acumen and creativity to the entertainment industry through Surge of Power Enterprises. Vincent managed 125 cast and crew, including 20 celebrities, to produce and distribute our first feature film, *Surge of Power: The Stuff of Heroes*, which enjoyed a limited theatrical release, home video, DVD and streaming distribution. He ambitiously managed 271 cast and crew, including 50 stars, to bring our anticipated sequel to the big screen, *Surge of Power: Revenge of the Sequel*, which also enjoyed a limited theatrical release followed by distribution in 2018.

Vincent has continued to expand the star-studded Surge of Power universe with the *Surge of Dawn* and *Doctor Who Tribute* films and ongoing web programs, *Big City Chronicles* and *Code of Heroes*, with dozens more celebrities joining the Surge of Power family. With the help of 250 cast and crew, Vincent is proud to present *Surge of Power: Where There's Smoke* bringing even more of his creations to life.

#### **MARIO DEANGELIS** (Director)

Mario has been a producer, director and cinematographer since 2001 out of Salt Lake City. Mario's experience has come from years of producing feature films, music videos, short films and commercials, particularly three feature length documentaries about SWAG. He has been a film instructor at East Hollywood High School, Broadview Entertainment Arts University and Salt Lake Community College. Mario currently makes film projects under the production company Tiny Giant Pictures and will have multiple world premieres in 2024. Mario wore several hats on *Surge of Power: Revenge of the Sequel* including director of photography, sound, gaffer and post-production supervisor. Mario stepped up even further on *Where There's Smoke* as the director and produced on some of the production, also shot some of the film during pick up shoots to help us complete our best Surge of Power movie yet.

#### **JEFF RECTOR** (Director, LA Unit; Casting Director; Associate Producer)

Jeff Rector is an award-winning writer, director, producer, and working actor that has appeared in over 150 hit television shows, feature films, and commercials. As a communications major, Jeff honed his talent as a writer, director, producer, and editor of his own video productions, which now serves him as a multi award-winning filmmaker. Jeff produced and Hosted *SFN: Science Fiction News*, a popular news/entertainment series on PBS which led to producing and hosting his own Podcast, *Out There* with Jeff Rector. Jeff is also a proud member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

#### PENKA KOUNEVA (Music Composer)

Penka Kouneva is a composer of "exquisite talent" (NPR) who began her career in film and television in 2000. She had a big break scoring video games as a co-composer for Steve Jablonksy on *Prince of Persia*, *Transformers, Gears of War 2, 3* games. Penka has released two award-winning orchestral albums, *The Woman Astronaut* (on Universal Music Group) and *A Warrior's Odyssey* (on Sumthing Else) which have received 5-star national press ("luminous, original, innovative, groundbreaking, fantastic.") Classically trained, Penka was born and raised in Bulgaria, and is a winner of Sundance Composers Lab, Game Audio Recognition Award and many other awards. Her most recent scoring was for the US Astronaut Hall of Fame exhibit complex at the Kennedy Space Center. Her indie feature credits include the breakout films for Chloe Moretz (*The Third Nail*) and Josh Duhamel (*Dorian Gray*), the cult horror film *Midnight Movie* and *Surge of Power: Revenge of the Sequel*. Penka was also the first woman Lead Orchestrator (since Shirley Walker) on studio blockbusters and biggest game franchises (*Ninja Turtles 2, Elysium, Ender's Game; Overwatch, World of Warcraft, StarCraft II, Sims*).

#### KISHMERE ALI CARTER (Costumer / Seamster)

Kish's mother, Oloerua Bebbie Dozier, was a costumer for theatre. His father, Roger Lee Carter, was a record label owner and music producer. Kish began sewing at 8 years old, attended art and sewing programs throughout childhood, and went to the prestigious Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City on a scholarship. While in college, he was a fashion fit model for many small designer clothing brands. Kish interned for many designers who worked for Diesel jeans, the Lion King, the Grammys and Tommy Hilfiger. In 2000, Kish got the opportunity of a life time to design clothing for band members of Prince. Kish designed and sewn clothing for WWE, NBA stars, ABC television, Foundation for a Better Life commercials, NIKE, The Bill Gates Foundation, Disney, Flava Flav, Danny Trejo and others. Kish won 8 design awards in New York, LA, Utah and other cities. Kish works in music videos, movies, commercials, ballroom, theatre, ballet and is currently designing clothing for touring music bands.

### **BFX IMAGEWORKS** (Visual Effects Designers)

Founded in 2001, BFX Imageworks provides Big Look, high-quality special visual effects solutions for Producers who are coping with today's budgets that continue to tighten. From full-blown creature effects to rig removals, from web series to indie films, from book trailers to features, our scalable services mean that no project is too big or too small. BFX Imageworks won the prestigious Telly Award in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Telly Awards Competition and the Award Of Excellence in the 2004 Videographer Awards. One of the owners of BFX Imageworks is a member of the Television Academy in the Special Visual Effects Peer Group and the Visual Effects Society. BFX Imageworks has a long list of satisfied, repeat clients!

### **CHARLIE X** (Visual Effects Designer)

Charlie X studied visual effects design at UCLA, AFI and landed a VFX internship on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine*. He then joined Flat Earth Productions doing wire removal and then 2D compositing for the television shows *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys, Xena: Warrior Princess*, and *Time Cop*. He likes zapping and blowing things up and continued with feature films such as *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Mr. Deeds, Spider-Man 2, Behind Enemy Lines, Scary Movie 2* and *S.W.A.T.* He then decided to enhance his skills in production, cinematography, editorial and authoring digital media. Charlie X later came onboard with the cool kids on a fun project called *Surge of Power: Revenge of the Sequel*, giving his assigned shots a sense of over-the-top flare and comic book humor in the Surge multi-verse. He fully supports what Surge represents within the LBGTQ community and how Surge is a warning to all those diabolical villains still at large.

#### **STEVEN D'ALO** (Visual Effects Designer)

As a graduate from California State University, Long Beach, Steven D'Alo has demonstrated a wealth of experience through his work at Trailer Park (One of the industry's top advertising agencies), Comen VFX, and Osiris Entertainment. His experience in cinematography, advertising, visual effects, post-production, and distribution have proven to be an asset. He has earned credits in such films as *Gods Of Egypt, Hot Pursuit*, and *Twice The Dream*.

#### JASON FALASCO (Visual Effects Designer)

Jason Falasco is a director and cinematographer who studied at the Art Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah. Jason has been working in the independent film world since 2009 and made his directorial debut with the feature length film *Friend Request* in 2012. He is also an accomplished photographer, having his photos published in such magazines as Train and FINE.

#### **DEVIN HAMILTON** (Editor)

Devin Hamilton was born in Charlotte, NC and attended film school at UNC-Greensboro. His passion for film and entertainment led him to work in video stores and distribution and Redbox until he got his break to make movies. With Full Moon Pictures, he wrote and directed three horror movies. In addition, he has been doing post-production work for Hallmark, Lifetime, Tubi and other streaming networks. In the LGBT space, he directed Shut Up and Kiss Me and has been contacted by many people over the years as that film had helped them to accept themselves.

## **OMEN**





Nichelle Nichols (1932-2022) has been playing Omen in the Surge of Power movies since 2004. She appears in all Surge of Power projects. While she has an iconic legacy as Lt. Uhura in the Star Trek franchise, she now has two decades in her superhero persona as the mysterious and magical Omen.

Nichelle was always a delight on set, gracious to the crew and other cast members and happy to be part of our projects. Just as she was pioneering in her Uhura role on the bridge of the Enterprise as a black woman respected on the ship's crew, Nichelle appreciated our endeavor to bring cinema's first out gay superhero to the big screen, hence her continuing to reprise her role as Omen with us.

Please enjoy a posthumous performance by Nichelle Nichols in *Surge of Power: Where There's Smoke*. Despite her passing, Nichelle will appear again as Omen one more time in our next adventure.

## INDIE HERO-VERSE

While we have our own Surge of Power characters, we welcomed other independent creators to link their universes with ours, creating a cinematic "Indie Hero-Verse, which began in *Surge of Power: Revenge of the Sequel*, when Nichelle's Omen viewed other potential "champions": Knight Seeker from Seeker Entertainment, The Smoke from XMoore Studios, Photon from Alpha Dog Productions, and Pink Hammer from Baker Comics.





We took our next big step with the crossover event, *Surge of Dawn*, where the magical vampire, Dawn, from the award-winning web series, *Alex Fernandez's Dawn* by Pajarito Productions, joins MAVIS and Surge to fight another protégé of The Council, crossing many characters from Pajarito Productions into the Surge of Power world.

We further our Indie Hero-Verse in *Where There's Smoke* with The Smoke returning, a cameo from Knight Seeker, and characters joining from the Cinemason *WhiteFire* universe – Dark Huntress and Ace Redfire.







#### A LITTLE ABOUT OUR PREVIOUS MOVIES





#### SURGE OF POWER: THE STUFF OF HEROES

- Light-hearted, all-ages superhero comedy that spoofs the superhero genre
- Cinema's first out gay superhero!
- Feature film (85 minutes) shot on 35mm film wide screen cinemascope
- SAG signatory (low budget)
- Rated PG-13
- <u>20 celebrities</u> from the sci-fi, genre: Nichelle Nichols (*Uhura* from Star Trek), Lou Ferrigno (*The Incredible Hulk*), Noel Neill (Lois Lane, *Adventures of Superman*) and many more.
- Screened at film festivals and comic conventions 2004-2005
- Limited theatrical release 2006; home video/DVD release 2006-2009



## SURGE OF POWER: REVENGE OF THE SEQUEL

- Similar light-hearted, all-ages humor as the first movie
- Feature film (running time 90 minutes). High Definition (1080p)
- SAG signatory (low budget)
- Rated PG-13
- <u>50 celebrities</u> in the sequel!
- Screened at film festivals and comic conventions 2016-2017 and won 4 awards!
   Best Comedy
   Best Villain
   Best Special Effects
   Most Inspirational Lead Character
- Distributed by Indie Rights Movies;
- Released January 2018 with limited theatrical release, then home video and streaming.



## **SURGE OF DAWN**

- Crossover Event with award-winning web series, "Alex Fernandez's Dawn"
- Short film (running time 45 minutes). Shot in 4K
- <u>Multiple celebrities</u> from the sci-fi, genre returning: Nichelle Nichols (*Uhura* from Star Trek), Lou Ferrigno (*The Incredible Hulk*), Joseph Culp (*Doctor Doom* from Roger Corman's "Fantastic Four") and more.
- Screened at film festivals and comic conventions 2019-2022 and won an award for Best Visual Effects!



#### SURGE OF POWER: DOCTOR WHO TRIBUTE

- Parody celebrating over 50 years of the Doctor Who television show
- Short film (running time 29 minutes). High Definition (1080p)
- 30 Doctor Who actors!
- Screened at comic conventions 2018-2023
- Released November 2022

## LOOK AT ALL THIS FUN...



