

= The FP =

The FP is a 2011 American comedy film written and directed by Brandon and Jason Trost . The film focuses on two gangs ? the 248 and the 245 ? that are fighting for control of Frazier Park (The FP) . The gangs settle their disputes by playing Beat @-@ Beat Revelation , a video game similar to Dance Dance Revolution . Gang member JTRO (Jason Trost) undergoes training to defeat L Dubba E (Lee Valmassy) , the leader of a rival gang . The film also features Caitlyn Folley , Art Hsu , Nick Principe , Dov Tiefenbach , and James DeBello .

Jason Trost conceived The FP when he was 16 years old , and developed it into a short film starring himself , Valmassy , Principe , DeBello , Brandon Barrera , Diane Gaeta , Kris Lemche , and Torry Haynes . After seeing the finished film , Barrera suggested that Trost make a feature @-@ length version . In the expanded production , Gaeta , Lemche , and Haynes were replaced with Folley , Hsu , and Bryan Goddard , respectively . Principal photography took place in Frazier Park , California in September 2008 . Ron Trost ? Brandon and Jason Trost 's father ? served as special effects supervisor and executive producer of the film , and his property was the primary filming location .

The full @-@ length version of The FP premiered at South by Southwest on March 13 , 2011 , and received positive reviews . After its screening at the Fantasia Festival on July 30 that year , Drafthouse Films acquired the film for distribution . It had a limited release in 28 American theaters , beginning on March 16 , 2012 , and was released on home media on June 29 , 2012 . The FP received mixed reviews upon its theatrical release and it failed to recoup its production budget of US \$ 45 @, @ 000 , grossing \$ 40 @, @ 557 in the United States .

= = Plot = =

In a dystopian future , rival gangs the 245 and the 248 fight for control of Frazier Park (the FP) by challenging each other in Beat @-@ Beat Revelation , a dance @-@ fight video game . L Dubba E , the leader of the 245 gang , battles and defeats BTRO , the leader of the 248 gang . BTRO dies as a result . His younger brother JTRO is traumatized and leaves the FP .

One year later , BTRO 's best friend KCDC finds JTRO working as a lumberjack . KCDC convinces JTRO that the FP needs him because L Dubba E has taken control of the local alcohol industry and is refusing to sell alcoholic drinks to everyone . The lack of alcohol has led to an increase in methamphetamine addicts , a decrease in homeless people and , consequently , ducks . Reluctantly , JTRO returns with KCDC ; he meets BLT and reunites with Stacy , an old friend . JTRO and Stacy are interrupted by L Dubba E ? now Stacy 's boyfriend ? who is picking her up to go to a party . JTRO goes to the same party and Stacy drunkenly flirts with him . L Dubba E taunts JTRO then hits him with a baseball bat , rendering him unconscious . JTRO dreams that BTRO tells him to fight back , pushing him to challenge L Dubba E . L Dubba E declines , saying that JTRO lacks sufficient " street cred " . L Dubba E demands that JTRO defeat Triple Decka 1K before he will accept JTRO 's challenge .

JTRO begins a grueling training regime with BLT to regain his former level of skill . Before his match with Triple Decka 1K , BLT gives BTRO 's boots to JTRO . At the match venue , JTRO is tricked into drinking alcohol tainted with methamphetamine . Despite his drug @-@ induced visual impairment , JTRO defeats Triple Decka 1K before vomiting and passing out .

KCDC wakes JTRO , having taken him to the 248 headquarters . After JTRO 's recovery , BLT takes him and KCDC shooting ; they decide to take guns to JTRO 's match against L Dubba E . Stacy tells JTRO that her relationship with L Dubba E began when he spiked her drink with turpentine and raped her . She continued the relationship so she could supply her father with beer to prevent him from turning to drugs . One day , JTRO hears Stacy 's father assaulting her and intervenes . After a brief fight with him , JTRO persuades Stacy to leave . Immediately after their departure , L Dubba E arrives and says that he has been cheating on Stacy . Stacy decides to stay with him , which angers JTRO and causes him to end their friendship .

Later the same day , Stacy , who has been badly beaten , finds JTRO and tells him that she has

ended her relationship with L Dubba E. She apologizes , and they kiss . Meanwhile , L Dubba E tells his gang members to also take guns to the final match . At the venue , JTRO wears BTRO 's outfit and L Dubba E taunts him . When the match begins , L Dubba E defeats JTRO in the first round but JTRO perseveres and wins the second and third rounds . L Dubba E tries to kill JTRO , triggering a lengthy gunfight between the 248 and the 245 .

L Dubba E escapes the event and kidnaps Stacy . JTRO and KCDC pursue him while BLT remains at the venue . L Dubba E abruptly pulls into a gas station , JTRO follows and a fight ensues . JTRO gains the upper hand , beats L Dubba E into submission and forces him to leave the FP . Freedom to buy alcohol is restored and control of the FP is returned to the 248 . JTRO and Stacy go to the pond together as ducks fly over them .

= = Cast = =

Jason Trost as JTRO , a member of the 248 gang who sets out to defeat L Dubba E. Trost wrote JTRO as the straight man and compared him to Rocky Balboa and John Rambo .

Lee Valmassy as L Dubba E , the leader of the 245 , a rival gang to the 248 . Jason Trost said the character is similar to Mr. T and that Valmassy was " so embarrassed ... when he first [played the part] he almost didn 't want to talk to me again " . Valmassy also appears several times as a background extra .

Caitlyn Folley as Stacy , L Dubba E 's girlfriend and JTRO 's old friend .

Art Hsu as KCDC , an energetic member of the 248 and BTRO 's best friend who serves as the emcee for the Beat @-@ Beat Revelation matches . The directors said Hsu needed little direction because he played his character well . Hsu described KCDC as " the sidekick " and " the guy who ... guides people through the FP " . The Trosts originally wrote the character to be more bipolar and feminine but they decided to reduce those elements for the final draft .

Nick Principe as BLT , an abrasive member of the 248 and JTRO 's trainer . Jason met Principe during the production of Laid to Rest (2009) , on which he worked as a costume assistant and as Principe 's body double .

Dov Tiefenbach as Triple Decka 1K , a Russian Beat @-@ Beat Revelation player who faces JTRO . Tiefenbach engaged in method acting by maintaining his Russian accent on- and off @-@ set throughout filming .

James DeBello as Beat Box Busta Bill , a member of the 245 and one of L Dubba E 's henchmen .

Bryan Goddard as Sugga Nigga , a member of the 245 and one of L Dubba E 's henchmen .

Brandon Barrera as BTRO , JTRO 's deceased brother and the leader of the 248 . Barrera appears as an extra in several scenes .

Additional cast members include Mike Sandow as Jody , Rachel Robinson as Lacy , Natalie Minx as Macy , Sean Whalen as Stacy 's father , and Clifton Collins , Jr. as CC Jam . Blayne Weaver makes a cameo appearance as the owner of a gas station KCDC robs , while James Remar narrates the film 's prelude . Dash Mihok played a small role in the cut of the film shown at South by Southwest , but his scenes were removed from the theatrical release . Several of the production crew , including producer Christian Agypt , first assistant director Christopher Holmes , costume designer Sarah Trost , as well as Valmassy 's younger brother Kyle , and several of the Trosts ' friends appear as background extras . Brandon Trost voices a collect call operator .

= = Production = =

= = = Crew = = =

= = = Development and writing = = =

Jason Trost conceived The FP when he was 16 years old and regularly played Dance Dance

Revolution . He noticed people playing the game intensely and thought of treating the gameplay " like some blood sport " . Trost made short films throughout high school before briefly attending film school . After dropping out , he used his tuition money to fund a short film , also titled The FP . The short film was based on the original feature @-@ length script , but only the first ten pages were filmed . The feature film recreated several shots from the short film . Trost said the feature film was inspired by what they imagined a Dance Dance Revolution movie made by producer Jerry Bruckheimer would look like .

The Trost brothers asked producer Brandon Barrera to act in the short film . After seeing their work , Barrera suggested that the brothers expand the premise into a feature film . The filmmakers placed an advertisement in the Mountain Enterprise , the Mountain Communities of the Tejon Pass 's online newspaper , encouraging community members to call if they wanted to help with locations , catering , donations , or by serving as extras or crew members on the film .

The Trost brothers named The FP after Frazier Park , California , where they grew up . Jason Trost said locals started referring to Frazier Park as " the FP " after The O.C. began airing . He also said the film 's story copies that of Rocky " beat for beat " and that there were " near @-@ plagiarism moments " . All the character names were based on his friends . Over 80 percent of the dialogue was based on phrases frequently spoken by several Frazier Park residents . Much of the profanity in the script was taken from conversations overheard by costume designer Sarah Trost at parties , and what the Trost brothers thought of on set . Further inspiration for the dialogue came from Grand Theft Auto : San Andreas and Def Jam : Fight for NY , both of which Jason Trost played alongside Dance Dance Revolution .

The settings in The FP were written using the materials that the Trosts ' father had on his property due to the minimal budget . Jason Trost said he had seen several low @-@ budget films that " try to be something they aren 't " and did not want to feign the production value . When they are defeated in a dance @-@ off , characters in the film die of a " 187 " , which is slang for murder that originated from California Penal Code . The characters ' actual causes of death are unexplained in the film . The Trost brothers found depicting the deaths as ambiguous funnier and believed it would remove doubts about the film being a comedy .

= = = Casting = = =

Jason Trost (JTRO) , Lee Valmassy (L Dubba E) , Brandon Barrera (BTRO) , and James DeBello (Beat Box Busta Bill) reprised their roles from the original short film , while Diane Gaeta (Stacy) , Kris Lemche (KCDC) , and Torry Haynes (Sugga Nigga) were replaced with Caitlyn Folley , Art Hsu , and Bryan Goddard , respectively . Goddard was cast as a " rite of passage " for being a noteworthy resident of Frazier Park . Mike Sandow , who portrays Jody , originally had a larger part in the film but his scenes were almost entirely edited out for pacing reasons .

Most of the cast were friends of the Trosts . James Remar , a friend of the Trosts since childhood , agreed to narrate the film 's opening . The brothers had met Remar on the set of Mortal Kombat : Annihilation , on which their father Ron worked as the special effects supervisor . Brandon Trost knew Hsu and Clifton Collins , Jr. after working with them on Crank : High Voltage (2009) and invited them to join The FP 's cast .

= = = Costume design = = =

Sarah Trost was the costume designer for The FP ; she designed the costumes using fashions local to Frazier Park as her first influence . She was also inspired by the fashions of Elvis Presley , and the films Double Dragon , Rocky , Mad Max , The Warriors , 8 Mile , Escape from New York , X @-@ Men , as well as the works of John Carpenter . Trost based the opposing gangs ' outfits on American military uniforms of the American Civil War era . The 245 's outfits were based on the uniforms of the Confederate Army , while the 248 's outfits were based on those of the Union Army . The flags of the gangs were also based on those of the Confederacy and the Union . Trost designed the 245 costumes to look clean and the 248 costume to appear gritty . Most of the costumes were

made from materials available to the crew ; L Dubba E 's costumes were made from jumpsuits . The boots worn by JTRO and BTRO were snow expedition boots . Most of the base clothing came from thrift stores , Sarah Trost 's fabric storage , and the Trost 's childhood clothing .

Trost designed the costumes to be distinct from one another . JTRO and BTRO wear very similar costumes , the only noticeable difference being a color inversion . Both costumes had American flag @-@ like emblems on the backs of their jackets , further enforcing the identification of the 248 with the Union . At the end of the film , JTRO takes BTRO 's outfit , which required Trost to readjust it for the height difference between Jason Trost and Brandon Barrera , who portray JTRO and BTRO , respectively . As the film progresses , JTRO 's color scheme changes from black and blue to military green to reflect his " becoming one with BLT " . KCDC 's (Art Hsu) costume was designed with ducks , referencing a speech in the film in which he notes the lack of ducks in the FP . Stacy (Caitlyn Folley) and her father (Sean Whalen) are both dressed to be somewhat transsexual , though it is more prominent in her father 's character . Whalen told Trost he would wear anything as long as his nipple was exposed at all times . Stacy also wears an I Love New York shirt , with the words New York covered in duct tape and " The FP " written over it with a marker . CC Jam 's (Clifton Collins , Jr .) costume was designed to be as colorful as possible to emulate rave culture .

= = = Filming = = =

Principal photography took place in Frazier Park , California , with a budget of \$ 45 @,@ 000 . It began in September 2008 and lasted 20 days , most of which were spent on Ron Trost 's property . Scenes set in BLT 's house were filmed at the Trosts ' childhood home , while the look of his basement was designed using the inside of a shipping container . Many set pieces were taken either from items Ron had collected or from other film sets . The Trost brothers split directorial duties between themselves ; Brandon focused on visuals and Jason focused on the performances and story . Valmassy directed a driving scene featuring himself and Folley when the Trosts were briefly unavailable .

Several planned filming locations were abandoned due to budget constraints . For thematic reasons , the film 's penultimate fight scene between JTRO and L Dubba E was originally set at Dawn 's Liquor Mart ? a key location in the film . The store 's owners refused permission for filming and the location was changed to a long @-@ abandoned gas station . Bryan Goddard , who portrays Sugga Nigga , acquired permission for the crew to film on the property .

The penultimate dance @-@ off was filmed in three eight @-@ minute long takes and edited down . Brandon Trost would " float around with the camera " while Valmassy and Jason Trost performed the dance @-@ off sequence . While filming a tire training scene , Brandon asked Jason to increase the amount of spins he was performing . Jason broke his ankle and relied on his costume 's snow boots as medical boots .

Director of photography Brandon Trost shot The FP using digital cinematography with Canon XH @-@ A1 cameras , which he had recently used while filming Crank : High Voltage . Using a single @-@ camera setup , he filmed The FP using 35 mm film to evoke the traditional look of films such as The Warriors and Total Recall . Trost ignored camera and lighting errors to make the film " feel genuine " .

= = = Visual effects = = =

Visual effects artist Aaron Juntunen copied the visuals from the Beat @-@ Beat Revelation dance tracks from Dance Dance Revolution by using computer graphics . The tracks were played live , allowing the actors to dance in unison . Visual effects were also used to cover the name of Dawn 's Liquor Mart , as the actual location did not give the production permission to use its name and logo .

= = = Music = = =

George Holdcroft composed the score for The FP . He was invited to a screening of the film by producer Christian Agypt , and asked if he could compose the music for it . Holdcroft , who lived in Chicago at the time , spent 12 hours a day composing the score and e @-@ mailed his compositions to the Trost brothers . To emulate the sound of a choir for one song , Holdcroft sang the same segment more than 200 times using different voices and melodies to achieve the desired result . For another song , he sang in falsetto and altered the pitch of his voice to make himself sound like a woman .

Holdcroft had never played Dance Dance Revolution , though he was familiar with video game music ? specifically the compositions of Koji Kondo , the score of Final Fantasy , and the music of early Nintendo games . The film 's soundtrack consists of 61 songs .

= = Release = =

The FP premiered on March 13 , 2011 , at South by Southwest . It was later screened at several events , including the Fantasia Festival , the Lund International Fantastic Film Festival , the Philadelphia Film Festival , and Cinefamily . The Trosts held a free screening of The FP in Frazier Park , California , as part of the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema 's Rolling Roadshow . The film began its limited theatrical run in the United States on March 16 , 2012 .

= = = Box office = = =

Drafthouse Films acquired distribution rights to The FP on August 1 , 2011 , one day after its premiere at the Fantasia Festival . Tim League , the founder of Drafthouse Films , attended the film 's screening at South by Southwest and " fell in love with it " . It was the second film distributed by Drafthouse Films , following Four Lions . The FP grossed \$ 22 @,@ 571 in 28 North American theaters during its opening week , averaging \$ 806 per theater . The following week , it was shown in nine theaters and grossed \$ 9 @,@ 314 . In the remaining five weeks of its run , the film grossed \$ 7 @,@ 979 , for a total gross of \$ 40 @,@ 557 .

= = = Critical response = = =

The film was met with positive reviews at its festival screenings . Jordan Hoffman , writing for UGO Networks , gave it a B + , compared it to Black Dynamite , and wrote that it " is bursting with idiotic humor and in @-@ your @-@ face stoner wit " . Eric Kohn of Indiewire also gave the film a B + , called it " loud , furious and recklessly funny " , and mentioned the references to The Warriors , RoboCop , and Escape from New York . Scott Weinberg of Twitch Film echoed Hoffman 's comparison to Black Dynamite . Weinberg said he " found quite a lot to enjoy " and praised the performances of Hsu , Valmassy , and Trost . Jacob Hall of Moviefone gave the film a positive review , praising Brandon Trost 's cinematography and mentioned its similarities to Mad Max 2 and A Clockwork Orange . He commended the film 's dedication to its " absolutely ludicrous premise " and called it " the rare ' ready @-@ made cult hit ' that actually works " . Fred Topel of Screen Junkies predicted that the film " will be the Trosts ' calling card " and praised it for being " exactly the kind of the movie [Topel] hope [s] to see at Fantastic Fest , or any film festival " .

Upon its theatrical release , The FP received mixed reviews from critics . The review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes reported a 48 % approval rating , with an average rating of 5 @. 2 / 10 based on 23 reviews . On Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 based on reviews from critics , the film has a score of 48 based on 11 reviews , which is considered to be " mixed or average reviews " .

Mick LaSalle of the San Francisco Chronicle gave the film a positive review , calling it " deadpan hilarious , a shameless satire of every teen gang , future @-@ shock dystopian nightmare movie ? combined with a brutal send @-@ up of 8 Mile " . Tom Keogh of The Seattle Times gave the film 2 ½ stars out of 4 ; he praised its novelty and criticized its lack of " outright laughs " . Marc Savlov of The Austin Chronicle gave the film 3 stars out of 5 , saying it was " awash in silliness " and calling it

a " potential cult @-@ movie masterpiece " . Angela Watercutter of Wired called it an " instant cult classic " and also compared it to 8 Mile , Rocky , and The Karate Kid . Shawn Anthony Levy , writing for The Oregonian , gave the film a B ; he praised its eccentricity and said , " It 's very hard not to admire its zealous commitment to its ethos " . In a mixed review , Peter Debruge of Variety praised Brandon Trost 's cinematography but said the film " plays its boilerplate premise with endearing earnestness , but runs thin in no time " . Matt Hawkins of Kotaku called it a " legit goofball comedy " and said it " speaks to gamers without flat @-@ out insulting them " . Michael Phillips , writing for the Chicago Tribune , gave the film 2 stars out of 4 , praising its premise and filming technique while criticizing its " sometimes funny execution " .

Conversely , Andy Webster of The New York Times said , " Its bargain @-@ basement production values and lack of wit unexpectedly prove a greater liability than an asset " . Robert Abele of the Los Angeles Times criticized its characters , costumes , and dialogue ; he said it " so desperately wants to be cultishly admired ... that it forgets to be genuinely offbeat or funny " . Scott Tobias of The A.V. Club gave the film a C + , mentioning the influences of John Carpenter , The Warriors , Mad Max 2 , and A Clockwork Orange , and criticizing Jason Trost 's performance . He said the film was " a junky , disposable lark , created for a midnight audience to swallow , belch , and forget about the next morning " . Nick Schager of Slant Magazine gave it 1 ½ stars out of 4 , and called it a " humorless void " and a " wannabe cult hit " . Eric Hynes of The Village Voice said , " the film 's charm fades fast " and , " [t] he problem with paying such dogged homage to shitty movies is that integrity is best achieved by producing a shitty movie in turn . Mission accomplished , for whatever that 's worth . " Ethan Gilsdorf of The Boston Globe gave the film 1 star out of 4 , saying it was not " obviously dreadful enough to be ' so bad it 's good ' " . Christy Lemire of the Associated Press echoed this opinion , giving it 1 star out of 4 ; she said the film is " just plain bad ? and boring , and repetitive " and that " as comedy , it just feels numbing " . Max Nicholson of IGN said the film " is by no means the worst thing I 've ever seen " , but that it " should have been a three @-@ minute sketch on Funny or Die " .

= = = Home media = = =

Image Entertainment released The FP on DVD , Blu @-@ ray Disc , video on demand , and digital download on June 19 , 2012 . The feature was accompanied by a making @-@ of featurette , interviews with costume designer Sarah Trost and composer George Holdcroft , audio commentary by the Trost brothers , and a special edition collectors ' booklet with introductions by Rob Zombie , Brian Taylor , and Mark Neveldine . Four special editions were made available for purchase on Drafthouse Films ' website , all of which contain Holdcroft 's soundtrack and a 720p HD digital download . Additional items sold include a Blu @-@ ray or DVD copy of the film , a poster signed by the Trost brothers , a model of L Dubba E 's grill , and a tampon in a glass tube signed by the Trost brothers .

= = Possible sequels = =

According to Jason Trost , two sequels to The FP have been planned , the first of which would involve going to Hong Kong . He said the first sequel would take place five years after the original and would feature more dancing and a Beat @-@ Beat Revelation tournament . He also compared the film 's plot to that of Escape from L.A. Trost also teased the possibility of a fourth film to come when he was older , comparing it to Rocky Balboa . In August 2013 , Trost said that both he and the film 's investors had not received any money from The FP , and " probably never will " . He further stated that it was challenging " to figure out a way to get people to fund a sequel to a movie that recouped zero dollars " . In February 2016 , the teaser trailer to the sequel was released known as Beats of Rage : The FP Part 2 .