

in the bag



a short film
written and directed
by
David Bemis

featuring:
Greg Scarnici
Prudence Heyert
Harri Molese
Nick Raio
Mig Feliciano
Justine Doescher
Edward Furs

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1366396/>



A Faceless FISH Production

Logline

A guy with a bag and a mop meets a girl with a gun and the mob.

Synopsis

While making a bag drop, Charlie impulsively takes the money and runs. Stopping in a laundromat to collect his thoughts, he meets Janet, who is making a decision of her own. Together they are propelled toward an uncertain future.

Director's Statement

I conceived of this story based on my experiences living on the border of Soho and Little Italy in NYC for the past twenty years. In that time, there have been many changes in the neighborhood and serious gentrification has taken place. What used to be a local social club is now a high end hand bag store; what used to be a poultry slaughterhouse is now a supermarket; a store that ground and sold coffee now sells fancy shoes; the old run down loft building we have lived in is now a high end condominium. I didn't grow up in the neighborhood, having moved here while in my thirties, so I am an interloper myself. Still, I have made this place my home. I wanted to tell a story about the neighborhood I love, which has been a source of rejuvenation and inspiration to me. Much of that inspiration comes from the unexpected things that can happen in a city like New York.

"In The Bag" is a story about what might possibly happen to people who are thrown together, when they would normally have passed each other by. One of my early experiences in the neighborhood gave birth to this idea. While walking our dog Frodo one night, I saw a very famous local mob boss coming toward me on the sidewalk. He was decked out in a flashy suit and had two body guards walking a short distance in front of him and two more watching his back. As they came closer, I felt a compelling urge to cross the street, and I did. It was definitely a "we're not in Kansas any more, Frodo" moment. Of course it would be crazy to have tried to talk to this person, and if I had tried, I would have been quickly dispatched in some unpleasant way. But still, it made me think. Here I am living in the neighborhood that a mob boss hangs out in. His social club is right around the corner. Would there ever be a situation where our worlds might come together? Building on that brief encounter and the questions that it raised, I created a group of characters that might just come together in this neighborhood, and who struggle with the concerns of family, obligation, belonging and the urge to break away to start anew. These are the issues that brought me to New York, a place populated by people of varying backgrounds, who often come together in surprising ways while going about their everyday routines.

David Bemis

Production Notes

FIRST DAY

After picking up the vans, picking up snacks and loading the equipment, we made it to the first location (Mulberry Prince and Mott Streets in NYC) on a beautiful sunny morning. By the time we started shooting the light was beautiful and as the day progressed the day became overcast which produced a very even light for the wall sequence. The shots flowed one into another and at the end of the day, we had gotten everything called for. We were off to a good start!

SOME CHALLENGES

When I woke up at 6:00AM on the second day of the shoot, it was pouring rain. I decided to forge ahead. We again picked up the van, got the food and loaded the equipment. When we got to the second day's location, parking in front of the police precinct on east 5th Street in our designated parking spot, it was still pouring down rain. As we sat having coffee, a detective came out and told us we had to move because someone had been shot down the street and the press was going to arrive at any moment. We relocated down the street and just as we got settled, the sun came out! We again shot a full day on the street and everything was going smoothly. Toward the end of the day DP Jason Beasley said the film compartment had popped open, so we had better reshoot the last scene, which we did. As it turned out much of what we shot that day would be flashed, but at the end of the day we were feeling very good about the progress so far.

MOVING INTO THE LAUNDROMAT

On the third day we started shooting at 10PM for an all night shoot in the laundromat. The challenge was to shoot all the shots facing into the laundromat during the night and all the shots facing looking out the picture windows in the day, as the film takes place during the day. AD Jack Bryant did an amazing job coordinating and mapping out a schedule of shots. After shooting all night, we finished around 8AM as the laundromat was opening for business. Everyone went home to get some sleep and be ready to start at the laundromat again that night for the final shoot.

FINISHING UP

Everyone was pretty blurry eyed at the start of the last night of shooting. This was the most ambitious of the four days, because we had to deal with the laundromat night/day issue, we had stunts to work out, a (non firing) gun with police supervision and two special effects shots. It started out a bit shaky as the prop person's permit had expired for the gun. After running around looking for a poster that had been misplaced, director David Bemis came back and somehow convinced the officer to let us use the gun as it was not being fired. We plowed through and despite being tired got some of the best work of the shoot that night. We reshot some final scenes from the second day in the morning, which turned out to save the day for the flashed footage. We wrapped at about 10AM and went off to catch up on well deserved sleep.

About The Cast

GREG SCARNICI - Charlie

Greg is a comedic writer/director/actor who is probably best known for his viral music video parodies, featured on Fox News, "Best Week Ever" and in "Entertainment Weekly." He has also been featured on "30 Rock", "Nick Cannon: Short Circuitz", "Straight Plan For The Gay Man", and "Saturday Night Live", where he has also contributed jokes and promos. Other TV writing credits include The 2007 Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular. Film credits include writing and directing the award-winning indie, "Glam-Trash" as well as numerous shorts that have played at festivals around the country.

PRUDENCE HEYERT - Janet

Prudence is an actress living in New York City. She has appeared in numerous film and stage productions. Her film credits include, "Neal Cassady," directed by Noah Buschel, and "Liars," which won Best Comedic Feature in the Staten Island Film Festival 2008. Prudence's film, "Say That You Love Me," received the Silver Medal at the Park City Music and Film Festival and was an official selection at the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival. As a stage actress, Prudence is proud to have worked on various projects and staged readings with The Women's Project, St. Ann's Warehouse, and Manhattan Theater Source. She can also be seen in national ad campaigns, directed by M. Night Shyamalan and Jim Sheridan. Prudence's producing and writing credits include a variety cabaret, "Prudence and Lindsay's Favorite Things," and Eve Ensler's VDAY: Until The Violence Stops: Women's Film Festival. Prudence is a graduate of Skidmore College and has also trained with the British American Dramatic Academy and the William Esper Studio.

HARRI MOLESE - Ellen

Harri has acted in Film, TV, Theatre and commercials. Past film projects include "Timeless" "For Never" and "Sushi Prince." TV show include "Most Evil" on the Discovery Time Channel and "LOve Monkey" on CBS. Theatre work includes Follies and Godspell in regional theatre. Harri was featured in (Old People News) which just won first place over 8 others at the Iron Mule Short Comedy Screening Series at the 92ndY in Tribeca.

NICK RAIIO - Frankie

Nick is a New York based actor / writer and member of SAG, AEA, AFTRA and the Dramatists Guild who has worked in all mediums. Nick will be on the Season 5 premier of Rescue Me as the AA group leader. His other TV credits include The Sopranos, Law & Order: C.I., America's Most Wanted, numerous soap operas and commercials. Films presently available on DVD include the Town That Banned Christmas, One-Third, Invitation to a Suicide, Mob Queen and Unsavory Characters. His recent leading stage roles include Clemenza in Clemenza and Tessio are Dead at the Broadway Comedy Club and Cal in Through November Moonlight and Phillip Bradley in Hong Kong, for Blueberry Pond, Ossining, NY's 2006 and 2007 seasons. Nick is frequently cast as law enforcement or a gangster but is also very adept at comedy. He is Nick of Nick's Commercials and Guile in Street Fighter :The Later Years on the College Humor website.

MIG FELICIANO - Eddie

Mig is active in film and theatre productions. Recent films include "Hell" (Jay Mansfield -lead) for NYFA, "Dreams the Color Red"(Paulo) for NYU Film School, "Dreams Interred" (Ronnie-lead) for NYU Film School. Theatre work includes "Angels in America" (Joe Pitt -lead) for Backseat Productions,"Tight Race (Jake the Janitor-lead) for the Growden Theatre Co., "City of Champions" (Professor Hymendinger) for LLP Theatre Co. and "Tooth and Claw (Tito, Jorge) - for the Arden Theatre Co.

JUSTIN DOESCHER - Alex

Justin has worked in film, TV, commercials and modeling. Recent film work include "Burn After Reading" Coen Brothers, "The International" Tom Tykwer, "The Happening" M. Night Shyamalan, "Body of Lies" Ridley Scott, "Sex and the City" Michael Patrick King, "He's Just Not That Into You" Ken Kwapis. Television work includes "The Wire" HBO, "Law and Order: Criminal Intent" Wolf Films, Inc., "24" @0th Century Fox, "Lipstick Jungle" NBC Universal.

EDWARD FURS - Ernesto

Edward (.AEA,SAG,AFTRA) has been acting professionally for over 30 years. He remains active in film,voiceovers,TV and the theatre. Most recent work includes: the Polish "DOGGY BOUNCE" rapper on HBO's FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS,Gus the Griller on LOWES.COM all the LAW and ORDERS, the last season of THE SOPRANOS, MICHAEL CLAYTON, MTV/TRL LIVE and the CHARMIN BEAR in the video loop at the seasonal Charmin restrooms on Broadway. He has worked regionally at Luna Stage, East Lynne Co., The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival,The Alabama Shakespeare Festival,Florence Griswold Museum Theatre in Connecticut,Ruth Forman Theatre in Miami,has toured Europe with The American Drama Group and as simultaneous translator with The Stary Teatr of Krakow,Poland. Most notable Off-Broadway credit as SMIEDNIK in the critically acclaimed "THE PRIMARY ENGLISH CLASS" directed by Gerald Gutierrez. He is a member of The New Jersey Repertory Theatre in Long Branch, New Jersey. ""STO LAT i DO ZOBACZENIA" ...E2

About The Filmmakers

DAVID BEMIS - Director, Editor, Writer, Producer

David's first film, "My Imagination," won a bronze award for experimental video/mixed media at the 1999 Worldfest Houston Film & Video Festival. It was also accepted into the 13th Annual Dallas Video Festival in March 2000 shown in the Video Lounge. It was also screened at the Knitting Factory in NYC at a 1999 Video Lounge presentation. The film was accepted into the Ifilm website in the experimental section. David Bemis' second film, "Death of an Industrialist: A Family History," premiered at the Silver Lake Film Festival in Los Angeles in 2002 and was shown at the Dallas Video Festival in 2003. "In The Bag" is the third film by David Bemis and his first narrative short. "In The Bag" is screening at the Hoboken International Film Festival and NewFilmmakers NYC Summer Series in 2009, as well as being selected to compete online for potential broadcast on Reel 13 Shorts, June 6, 2009 WNET/Thirteen. David Bemis works as a freelance editor and runs Faceless Fish Productions, a DV production company in New York City.

JASON BEASLEY - Cinematographer/DP

Jason has worked on several independent features and shorts since receiving both a BA and MFA in film production from the University of Memphis and Boston University, respectively. Recent films include "Disowning Claire" (feature) directed by A.C. Abbott, "Just Like It Was" (short) directed by Will Lautzenheiser, and "Seizing the Sword" (short) directed by Jack Bryant. Jason's reel is available at www.jasonbeasley.com.

JOSH HEINEMAN - Composer

Josh's TV music credits include: All Kinds of Families for Lifetime, The Marty Povitch Show, Petite Journal (Canada), New Attitudes and Wires for Lifetime. He has done sound design for MTV, Cartoon Network, Planet 10 Post, The Smithsonian Institute, and Hit and Run Films. TV spots include: Espn 2, Toys R Us, MinuteMaid, Nathans, and Martini & Rossi.

Crew Credits

1st assistant director	Jack Bryant
script supervisor	Ian Ogden
director of photography	Jason Beasely
1st assistant camera person	Lindsay Stewart
2nd assistant camera person	Sammy Leonard
sound recordist	Leana Siochi
boom operators	Chris Bruno Paul Francis
wardrobe	Christina Foster
makeup	Jessi Butterfield
still photographer	Josh Dick
stunt supervisor	Teel James Glenn
prop master	Stephen F. Bodi
production assistants	Burton Lewis Mike Represa Banya Kim John Frederick Christina Figueroa
location consultant	Larry Horodner

Film Screenings

Hoboken International Film Festival
June 1, 2009

NewFilmmakers NY Summer Series
July 29, 2009

Reel 13 Shorts
Selected for website competition (three films) for
June 6, 2009 Broadcast on WNET/Thirteen
Winner_Aired on WNET/Thirteen

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