

FILMMAKER BIOS, 2008

Aneel Ahmad, *Boot Polish*

Aneel Ahmad was born and raised from a working class family within the poverty-stricken, inner city suburbs of Manchester, Longsight, England. He has no formal training or any academic qualifications and is completely self-taught. His role models are the (late) Stanley Kubrick, Sir David Lean, Satyajit Ray and documentary filmmaker Peter Watkins. In 2003 Aneel made his first short film with North West Vision, *A Man's World*, as part of the Lottery-funded Virgin Shorts scheme. In 2004, Aneel progressed to the UK Film Council, Digital Shorts scheme and made his second film in association with North West Vision, *Waiting for Sunrise*. Aneel Ahmad's film won the UNICEF UK AWARD at Sheffield in 2005. It was short-listed for one of the film world's most distinguished awards - the Grierson Awards for documentary. Aneel has also won critical acclaim and praise for his work from some of the top industry professionals and directors such as Ridley Scott, Mike Leigh and Quentin Tarantino. Aneel's third film *Boot Polish* was shot in Lahore, Pakistan and has just been selected by the British Council for Film & Arts to be screened worldwide in 2007. Aneel is currently developing two British feature films and another short film to be shot in the UK in 2007/08.

Chris Ahrens, *D.O.P.E. (Death or Prison Eventually)*

Chris Ahrens, director, remembers seeing Bruce Logan bomb Black Hill at 40 miles per hour in the mid-1970s and watched the rise and fall of world-champion skateboarders over the years. His documentary shows how drugs wasted the best years of their lives, resulting in death for some and prison for many. The conclusion shows the stars of the movie clean and sober, skating with their children. Narrated by Danny Trejo, the film was sponsored by the twin charities, Boat Angel and Car Angel.

Adrian Belic, *Beyond the Call*

Born in America of Czechoslovakian and Yugoslavian parents, Adrian grew up in Chicago, but spent many summers behind the "Iron Curtain" in Eastern Europe speaking the languages and living with family and friends. This unique cross-cultural upbringing sparked his curiosity about the way people view each other and the world around them. Listening late into the night to captivating stories from remarkable people both in the States and overseas drew him into the art of storytelling.

He began making films in elementary school with his childhood friend Christopher Nolan (writer/director *Memento*, (2001), *Insomnia* (2002), *Batman* (2005)) and his brother Roko Belic. During their second year of filmmaking (at the age of 8) *Star Wars* exploded on the film scene and their once-quiet films grew into 3-minute Super 8 'epics' with ping-pong tables shrouded in cooking flour for planetary stop-action battles, continuing to live-action scenes in the snow-covered backyards of Chicago, all punctuated with fireworks and film frames scratched by hand for "laser" effects.

Adrian graduated from University of Southern California in 1993 with a BS degree in Political Science and a minor in International Relations. While in college and after college Adrian traveled around the world and across America. He worked with various producers -- co-producing, shooting video and film, recording sound, and story development. He served as the director of an environmental information center in Los Angeles for a year before a childhood fascination with a little known country in southern Siberia called Tuva resurrected itself. Adrian and his brother, Roko, formed Wadi Rum Productions in 1995 and embarked on their first production, *Genghis Blues*, winner of the 1999 Sundance Audience Award, as well as many domestic and international film festival awards, and a 2000 Academy Award Nomination for Best Feature Documentary. Adrian continues to speak and write about filmmaking and following one's passion, as well as teaching and serving on film festival juries.

Christopher Bessette, *Yai Wanonabalewa: The Enemy God*

Christopher Bessette's career in film began in 1983, a year before he completed film school. He worked as a cinematographer on a documentary film that took him 3000 miles with his film crew across the U.S. in a 1970's Parisienne (that was prone to breakdowns). The next summer he shot the Telefest Award-winning documentary film, *Long Point: A Diamond in the Rough*. When family illness struck, Christopher decided to momentarily forego career aspiration and stay close to home to help in the chronic care of his father. A couple of years passed but after receiving inquiries of his whereabouts based on his previous films, he began working freelance for Toronto and Montreal production companies. His talents

continued to blossom as he continued writing, directing, producing and shooting for film and television. Since then, his career has taken him to the Amazon, Russia, throughout Europe, Canada and most of the United States, allowing Christopher to acquire the sensitivity and experience with various cultures, actors and crews, honing his storytelling gift and his ability to deliver impacting films. Today Christopher focuses his talents in writing and directing for motion pictures and television. Christopher makes his home on United Empire Loyalist land deeded to his family by the Crown of England before the war of 1812. He lives outside of Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada in the town of Fonthill, with his wife Toni and their two children, Rachel and Michael.

Simon Bovey, *The Un-Gone*

Writer/director Simon Bovey's work covers a diverse range of fields from radio to award-winning films. His most recent, *The Un-Gone*, has so far screened in over 50 international festivals and on its way has picked up six awards. He currently has two feature film scripts under option, and two features which he co-wrote are starting production this year. He also works as a script doctor and analyst for a number of independent film companies both in Great Britain and America.

Matt Brookens, *The Art of Pain*

Matt Brookens hails from the land of Lincoln and corndogs, Springfield, Illinois. It was here that he and his younger Greg began cooking up movie ideas to kill the boredom of living in perhaps the most normal city in the country. Even as "tweens" the Brookens brothers were writing, directing, shooting and editing their comically twisted movies about murder, drugs and monkeys. Unsatisfied with the fine art degree he was pursuing in Springfield, Matt moved to Chicago to attend Columbia College, where he earned his B.A. in film in 1999. Together, the Brookens brothers have completed scads of short films and won heaps of awards. Films like *Roni vs. Lincoln*, *Of Bass and Men*, and *Skunkape!?* (all former Route 66 winners) have garnered awards and praise on the festival circuit. *Skunkape!?* achieved distribution through Troma Entertainment in 2004 after winning Best of Tromadance. The Brookens brothers have several new films in the works.

Burundi Film Center, *Kivumvu: Basket Boy*

In the summer of 2007, with no funding and borrowed equipment, the Burundi Film Center trained 36 students aged 18-25 the basics of film theory and production, in an attempt to translate the students' stories to the screen. *Basket Boy* is one of the five films that is both universal to the human condition and unique to this tiny war-ravaged East African nation of Burundi. The story was inspired by the writer and lead actor's true life experience. A four-day-old infant in the maternity ward was rented for three dollars during the shooting.

Alejandro Cano, *Minotauro*

Alejandro Cano, writer/director/co-producer, was born in Merida, Mexico in 1974 and moved to the United States in 1993 to pursue a film career. He graduated cum laude from the Film Production and English Literature programs at the University of Miami. He has written and directed two short films, *That Good Night* and *Promise You'll Remember*, and his first feature *Minotauro*. He resides in Miami, FL and divides his time between Mexico and the U.S. pursuing new projects, finishing two new screenplays and a novel *De Propios y Extranos*.

Ronnie Cramer, *Mugs*

Artist/musician/filmmaker Ronnie Cramer has been active in the arts community for over 30 years. His paintings have been exhibited in galleries and other venues across the country, his music has achieved airplay on over 100 radio stations nationwide and his award-winning films have been screened at festivals around the world. He has also been featured as a guest lecturer on art and media at numerous museums and universities.

Luke Ewing, *Waking Up Alone*

Luke Ewing was born in Africa and has lived in New York, England and Chicago. He began showing an interest in film at a young age and acquired his first camera at age 11. While his passion is for narrative film, Luke has been hired to produce over 50 video projects shooting in locations such as Africa and England. He has directed many films ranging from award-winning music videos and shorts to a feature-length film made for his school. He studied film for a semester in Bristol, England at Filton College and is currently in Chicago pursuing a bachelor's in communications with a video emphasis.

Zhou "Joe" Fang, *Crazy Old Woman, Food for the Gods*

Joe Fang was born and grew up in Beijing, China. The son of a well known Chinese cinematographer, Fang has directed, produced, and served as director of photography for films on both sides of the Pacific. In China, Joe wrote and directed the sensual thriller *The Man in the Black Shirt*. In Canada, Fang directed the super-natural thriller, *Crazy Old Woman*, written by H. Scott Hughes, with whom he would work again as art director of *Milos* and later as producer of *Food for the Gods*. Joe also served as director of photography on *See Through Me*, written and directed by Jonathon Corbiere. Additionally, he directed the highly praised maritime documentary *Angles by the Ocean*. In 2007, Joe graduated from the Film Production Program of Vancouver Film School in British Columbia. He also recently produced a music video directed by another VFS alum Matt Hicks. Fang has returned to China to pursue the family business of filmmaking. He is currently working in the Chinese television industry in Beijing.

Ian Fischer, *Magritte Moment*

Ian Fischer graduated with a BA from Tufts University and received his MFA in Film Directing from Columbia University. He was a story analyst for October Films and their genre subdivision Rogue. He also worked at Mira-max and TWI. In addition to film and television, he has worked for Internet entertainment companies Pseudo and Urban Box Office as a screenwriter and director. His early short film *Foet* has played in 21 film festivals, such as Cannes, New York City Horror Film Festival, Boston Underground, and Tromadance. He is in post production on his latest short film *The Wonder of See-Saws*, which will be included in the feature film *Wonder* and is in pre-production for a feature documentary on a comic book artist. Ian currently works as a freelance producer/ director and film instructor in New York City.

Erik Gernand, *The Kindness of Neighbors*

Erik Gernand is a graduate of Ball State University in Muncie, IN and is currently working toward an MFA in writing for the screen and stage at Northwestern University. His short films have screened at more than 20 festivals around the country and received multiple "best of" and audience awards in competition. His writing has appeared on stage at Donny's Skybox Theatre at Second City Chicago in sketch comedy revues including his most recent show, "Mantabulous!" which TimeOut Chicago named a "#1 Don't Miss." He works as a video producer and director creating documentary projects for non-profit organizations with his company, The Media Bunch, Inc.

Kent Hagen, *Stars and Their Guitars*

Kent Hagen was born in Oakland California, where he graduated from Piedmont High. For years he was active in the entertainment industry, before going back to school to get his BA in Motion Picture Video Production from Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara. He has collaborated on numerous documentaries including, *King: A Man of Peace in a Time of War*, *Brian Epstein: Inside the Fifth Beatle*, and *The Rolling Stones: Just for the Record*. He currently resides in Los Angeles.

Ben Hicks, *Square Pegs*

After graduating from Columbia College Chicago, Ben Hicks co-founded Elephant Dreams Pictures with business partner Jon Pauss. This unique production company self-finances and screens its films while distributing exclusively through its website and through local businesses across the United States. In 2007 Elephant Dreams Pictures released its first two short films both written and directed by Ben Hicks; the award winning *Square Pegs* and *pea vs. carrot*. Ben currently lives in Tokyo and is doing pre-production for his first feature film, *Kids Go Free to Fun Fun Time*, which will begin shooting in 2009.

Philip Hodges and Jonah D. Ansell, *First Bass*

Philip Hodges (director), 26, was born and raised in Washington D.C. As a child he played a wide variety of characters in operas at the Kennedy Center. After a summer at the Yale Drama program, he left for Harvard College. There he acted in the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, illustrated for the Harvard Lampoon humor magazine, rowed crew, and played rugby. Taking a year off school to work on a ranch in Wyoming, he continued his artistic pursuits when he moved to New York to work in music video production. He has since directed award-winning music videos, produced several shorts, and found his voice as a film director. Philip is passionate about directing comedies that have heart, and can entertain an

audience of all ages. He is based out of Los Angeles, where he studies film at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. He has 17 cats.

Jonah D. Ansell (writer-producer), 26, was born and raised in Chicago. Currently an award-winning screen-writing MFA candidate at USC's School of Cinematic Arts, he graduated magna cum laude from Amherst College in 2003, with a degree in political science. At Amherst, Jonah served as a starting pitcher on Amherst's NCAA baseball team and as editor-in-chief of *The Hamster*, a collegiate satire magazine. His first foray into the arts came in a 7th grade production of "West Side Story" when he played Unnamed Shark #8 and had exactly one line of dialogue. He used his mother's brown eyebrow pencil to fashion himself sideburns and a half-believable mustache. Formerly a disgruntled child cellist, he would record himself practicing, close the door to his room and play back the cello music on a handy cassette player to dupe his mother – thus, the inspiration for the film *First Bass*. He is focused on writing feature-length comedies with a strong emotional core. Jonah currently serves as founder/CEO for Rivalfish, Inc., an NCAA sports apparel company, and as producer of the company's National Lampoon-affiliated online humor magazine. His work has been featured in "Sports Illustrated," "USA Today," the "Chicago Tribune," "Entrepreneur Magazine," "ADWeek" and "PR Week."

H. Scott Hughes, *Food for the Gods, Crazy Old Woman*

H. Scott Hughes earned his Bachelor of Music from Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi and spent the next several years as a professional vocalist and composer, as well as teaching music in Texas public schools. An avid writer, Hughes also studied script writing at Sam Houston State University. In 2006, Hughes relocated from Texas to Canada to study film production at Vancouver Film School. Hughes was the only member of his VFS class to pitch three films and have all three films produced: including the paranormal thriller, *Crazy Old Woman*, and *Food for the Gods*, a science fiction romantic drama which he wrote and directed. In May, 2008, *Food for the Gods* was selected by the Vancouver-based Asian heritage organization, ExplorASIAN, and Canadian cable channel SMC (Shaw Multicultural Channel) for a world television premiere and was broadcasted as a segment of SMC's "Filmmakers Showcase." That same weekend, *Food for the Gods* screened at the New Asia Film Festival in Richmond, British Columbia, where festival panelists compared the film to Wong Kar-wai's *2046*. Hughes also wrote and produced the RCMP documentary *Duty*, which premiered in August, 2008 at the Bayou City Inspirational Film Festival in Houston, Texas. Hughes scored *Duty* and co-composed the Asian-inspired soundtrack for *Food for the Gods*, which features performances by Yvette Lu, Beverly Wu, and Chinese erhu master Xu Qian.

Blandine Huk and Frederic Cousseau, *Un dimanche a Pripiat/A Sunday in Pripiat*

Born in 1969 in Mulhouse, France, Blandine Huk has been a journalist specializing in central and oriental Europe. She worked with Frederic Cousseau on the feature-length film *Sakhalin* (2006) as assistant director and has just completed *Rouge nowa huta* (2008).

Frederic Cousseau was born in 1963 in Paris. After being a rock/punk musician, he began to direct films in the late 1980s. His films include *Des pieds et des mains* (1989), *Bartolin* (1991), *La fatigue* (1999), *Le 17 au soir* (2005), *Sakhalin* (2006), *Un dimanche à Pripiat* (2006), and *Rouge nowa huta* (2008).

Shih-Ting Hung, *Viola: The Traveling Rooms of a Little Giant*

As a Student Academy Award winner®, Shih-Ting Hung just completed her MFA from USC Animation & Digital Arts and is known as a music video director with her distinguishable visual style. Born and raised on a fisherman's island, Pescadores, Hung went onto her fine art study at National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, which she considers her favorite city in the world. Aside from her 2008 Student Oscar winning film

Viola: the Traveling Rooms of a Little Giant and several music video awards in Taiwan, she has also been broadly involved in numerous film productions as a production designer and an art director.

James Kerwin and Chase Masterson, *Yesterday Was a Lie*

For two consecutive years, James Kerwin (writer, director, executive producer) was honored for his innovative directing style by "Back Stage Magazine" critic Paul Birchall. His films have earned distinctions including the Panavision New Filmmakers Grant, the Telly, the Axiem, the R.C. Norris Screenwriting Award, and several festival grand jury prizes. Kerwin has instructed cinematography labs

at Texas Christian U., served as a guest artist at Univ. of Texas-Austin, and spoken on filmmaking in numerous other venues, from the Hudson Valley Film Festival to San Francisco WonderCon to Space Camp. His live theatre credits include critically acclaimed adaptations of the rare Shakespeare pieces "Venus and Adonis" and "Cardenio," the world premiere of Amber Benson's "Albert Hall," and David Ives' "Seven Menus" and "Mere Mortals." Kerwin's directorial work is studied in the curriculum of universities across the country (including SUNY Binghamton) and has been analyzed by scholarly organizations and journals such as the Shakespeare Association of America and "Shakespeare Newsletter." He has been profiled in "Entertainment Today" and was pictured among the "Faces to Watch" of 2004 by the "Los Angeles Times."

Recently named one of the "50 Sexiest Women of the Year" by *Femme Fatales Magazine*, Chase Masterson (producer, lead actor) first became known for her break-out role on "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine." Other series regular, recurring, guest star, and hosting credits include "General Hospital," "E.R.," "Presidio Med," "Sci-Fi Vortex," "Sliders," "Live Shot," "Sweet Justice," "The Romeos," "Acapulco Heat," "Sci-Fi Entertainment," "Showtime: Nighttime," and "Saturday Night at the Movies." Her film credits include *Robotech: The Shadow Chronicles*, Stephen King's *Sometimes They Come Back For More*, *Marina*, *Robin Hood: Men In Tights*, *Trekkies* and many more. Chase's recent producing credits include the documentary *Through Your Eyes* with Michael Madsen and David Carradine (featured twice on "Dr. Phil"), and the short *L.A. Actors* with Tony Shalhoub and Brandon Routh. She released and gained international recognition with her debut CD "Thrill of the Chase," her follow-up EP "Ad Astra," and the limited edition "Crystal Anniversary: Songs from the Holosuite" (in honor of "Deep Space Nine" 15th anniversary). She is currently working on her next album. Chase hosted her own weekly internet radio show on TheFandom.com, and has been singing in USO Tours for the Navy and the Marine Corps. She was named one of the "Hot Leading Ladies" of film by Film Fetish for her role in *Yesterday Was a Lie*.

Chris Lukeman, *The Transient*

Hailing from Jacksonville Illinois, Chris Lukeman has been making independent films in the area since high school. He graduated with an advertising degree from the University of Illinois in 2006 where he was president of the campus film club, Illini Film and Video. While at college, he directed a feature-length musical horror-comedy *The University of Illinois -vs- A Mummy*, as well as worked on dozens of short projects. He is currently pursuing a law degree at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale while promoting *The Transient* and working on other increasingly ridiculous filmmaking ventures. Any questions about the film can be directed to him in person or through email at transientmovie@gmail.com.

Dan Masucci, *The Last Round*

Dan Masucci is a stay-at-home father living in New York. Called an "indie iron man" by Film Threat, he made it into the top 1% of more than 12,000 directors competing for a place on the FOX Reality show, "On the Lot". Dan has been a "visiting expert" and panel speaker at national film festivals and other media-related events. At the 2007 Route 66 Film Festival his film, *Letting Go* was awarded "Audience Favorite Drama." *Letting Go* has screened at more than 50 film festivals worldwide.

Mark and Heath Mensher, *He's My Dad*

The Mensher Brothers have been writing and producing original plays for over 12 years in New York City, including original works at the John Houseman Theater and The New York City Fringe Festival. Their first film, *Seder!*, was an Official Selection of several NYC Film Festivals, winning honors in The Pioneer Theater Short Film Festival, The Subterfuge Film Festival, and The Freight Festival, and receiving awards for Best Screenplay, Best Original Song, and Best Actress in The Arlene's Grocery Picture Show. Their works have appeared in various comedy clubs throughout New York City, including The New York Comedy Club and Caroline's on Broadway. Their new film, *He's My Dad*, a heart-warming tale of love and redemption, as a formerly institutionalized serial killer is united with the sassy, eleven-year-old daughter he never knew he had, is making the Festival rounds. Visit www.oobermensh.com for information.

Phil Messerer, *Thicker Than Water: The Vampire Diaries, Part 1*

Phil Messerer is a self-taught, self-financed filmmaker who brings new meaning to the word, independent. He shoots, edits, writes, directs and produces his own material. He is originally from Russia but grew up in New York. *Thicker Than Water* is his first narrative feature. His other films are the

documentaries, *Wabenaki Braves* about a summer camp for kids from the projects and *Hollywood Hustle*, a comic look at trying to “make it” in Hollywood. He is currently working as lead editor on the show, “Model Latina.”

Robert Milazzo & Vincent Insalaco, *War Eagle, Arkansas*

Robert Milazzo has been a writer/filmmaker, instructor of acting, directing, and screenwriting at institutions such as Columbia University, Parsons School of Design, Breakthrough Studios (New York), Rutgers University, Stanford University, and the Lee Strasberg Institute for Film and Theater. He produced the music video "Almost Always" marking the directing debut for actor Mike Myers and produced and directed the stage show "The Guru Pitka's Four Laws of Happiness" starring Mike Myers at various venues in New York City. Writer/director of David Mamet's Project Associate he has worked with William H. Macy, Mike Nichols and Sidney Lumet on various film and television projects. Robert recently served as the assistant to the co-executive producer for NBC's "Law and Order: Criminal Intent." This film is from an inspiring script by young screenwriter Graham Gordy (co-writer to Mike Myers' *The Love Guru*). The boys are based on the lives of producer Vincent Insalaco's son and his best friend. Insalaco appropriately calls the film "a love letter to the state of Arkansas" especially since much of the film's creative team comes from the state, including newcomer Will Churchill who did the music.

Roshan Murthy and Sam Copeland, *Samara: “Jeff”*

Sam and Roshan are natives of the great state of Illinois, coming from the sleepy little towns of Rushville and Peoria, respectively. They both are recent graduates from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. Sam obtained a degree in Graphic Design, while Roshan has a fairly useless degree in Integrative Biology. Both are currently jobless, but not hopeless as they attempt to pursue a career in filmmaking to entertain themselves and possibly others around them.

Blake Mycoskie, *NPW (No Polo Widow)*

Blake Mycoskie is a dynamic entrepreneur who continually challenges the traditional fundamentals of business. Before his 30th birthday, he had created six successful businesses from the ground up, including a door-to-door laundry business, an outdoor advertising company, a driving school that featured hybrid cars, and a marketing firm. In 2002 he teamed up with his sister, Paige, to compete on the second season of CBS' *The Amazing Race*, arriving only 4 minutes late to the win. In 2006, Blake took a break from his rigorous schedule to learn the game of polo and do some volunteering in Argentina. What he encountered were fleets of children who suffered from foot infection and disease simply because they could not afford shoes. He spent the next few months with a shoemaker, and returned to the States with a duffle bag full of shoes and a simple plan: For every pair of shoes he sold, he would bring a pair back to Argentina and place them on a child's feet. After selling 10,000 pairs of shoes from his apartment in Venice, Blake returned to Argentina with friends, family and the TOMS crew to hand-deliver 10,000 pairs of shoes to kids in need. The trip was filmed by filmmaker Ken Kokin (*Usual Suspects*). Since the Argentine Shoe Drop, TOMS has moved from Blake's studio in Venice to a 6,000 square foot studio in Santa Monica. The company includes a growing family of full-time employees and a stellar intern class of dedicated students from around the country.

Dylan Narang, *Final Prayers*

Dylan K. Narang grew up in Northern Virginia and attended the University of Virginia for his bachelor's degree in finance. Following his degree, he joined the US Army. His service was interrupted when he was permitted to attend Georgetown University where he earned an MBA and a commission as an infantry officer. He now attends Chapman University to earn an MFA in Film Production with emphasis in directing and is currently a reserve infantry officer in the US Army.

Bryan Nest, *The Vaudevillian*

Bryan Nest is from Portland, Oregon and has a degree in communication from Oregon State University, where he produced and directed a live television talk show and made music videos for the college television station. He has worked in news television for several years and recently began graduate school at Chapman University to study film directing. His first film *'Til Death Do Us Part* played at several festivals around the country and won the Audience Award for Best Short Film at the Delray Beach Film

Festival. *The Vaudevillian*, his second student film, has won numerous awards and has screened at festivals around the world.

Bunthivy Nou, *The Lion's Tale*

Bunthivy Nou is an emerging Canadian independent filmmaker based in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Born in a refugee camp on the borders of Thailand and Cambodia, she immigrated to Canada at the age of four. She graduated from the University of New Brunswick in 2003 with a B.A. in Multimedia Studies and Certificate in Film Production. Trained in directing at the Summer Institute of Film and Television, the New Brunswick Filmmakers' Co-op, and the Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative, she has worked on over 10 short films and one feature film production. She is currently president of the New Brunswick Film Co-op. Her first film was made with a short Film Venture grant from NB Film.

Kyoung "Kay" Park, *Manny*

Kyoung "Kay" Park was born at Pusan, South Korea in 1981. Her family and she moved to Gainesville, FL in 1993 for academic purposes. She attended the University of Florida as a computer science major in 1999, then went to Pratt Institute, NY for her master's degree in computer graphics. Currently, she's working on Virgin Media UK 3D animation project in New York.

Damien Patrik, *First and Last*

A member of the Screen Actors Guild and AFTRA, Damien Patrik worked in film and television production for many years on everything from network television specials to corporate videos. His last 10 years in Los Angeles were spent as a casting director. He also taught and produced voiceover workshops. *First and Last* represents his first effort as a director.

Brad Pattullo, *24 Frames*

Brad Pattullo was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan and has been doing freelance illustration since middle school. He received a B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1995, and a M.F.A. from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2002. His first animation job was working for Will Vinton Studios on the critically acclaimed, but short-lived "Gary and Mike" TV series. He has since worked on several animated television programs, including "The PJs," "Celebrity Deathmatch," "Phantom Investigators," and "A Little Curious," as well as several commercials and music videos. His independent films have been screened in such venues as Sundance Film Festival, Kalamazoo Animation Festival International, Siggraph's Electronic Theater, Brooklyn International Film Festival, Tehran International Film Festival, and the G4 television network. Brad is beginning his fourth year as an instructor, and his first year as the Cinema Area chair in the Art Department of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Previously, he taught for two years in the Department of Animation and Digital Media at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan. He continues to teach workshops and special programs relating to film, animation, and drawing throughout Pennsylvania and the Midwest.

Joseph D. Reitman, *Leo*

Joseph D. Reitman started gearing up for a career in Hollywood while attending Brookline High School in Massachusetts. Joe's first audition was for a theater company set to perform at the Newham International Festival for Theater in England. Joe not only made the company, but also became the main writer of "One Way," the original play they performed. After its premier at the festival, "One Way" toured the English countryside for two weeks before the company returned to the states. Upon his return, Joe was asked to join a theater troupe in Boston which focused on current events and issues for high school students. Joe was one of the head writers and performed and toured with the company in the Boston area for 2 years. Joe went on to hone his craft at Pitzer and Pomona colleges in Claremont, California, where he majored in theater performance and directing, and minored in film. Over the years he has acted in over 50 TV episodes including recurring roles on "Married with Children," "Charmed," "The Shield" and "Hudson Street" and guest starring roles on "The Drew Carey Show," "The Pretender," "CSI Miami," "CSI Las Vegas," "Sleeper Cell," and "Close to Home." Joe has also acted in over 20 feature films including *The Perfect Storm*, *Tomcats*, *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, *American Pie 2*, *Bandidas*, M. Night Shyamalan's *Lady in the Water* and the upcoming film *Game*. Joe has written and directed plays, music videos and films and has been working as a segment director and field producer for "The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson" where he has been creating comedy pieces such as "Prince Charles in LA :Keeping It Royal" and directing commercials for Absolute Poker. He also is currently developing a

feature-length horror film in association with My Two Centences Production Company and a comedy in association with Red Wagon.

Norm Sanders, *Berlin*

With a love for films dating back to childhood, Norm Sanders officially caught the bug in 1995 after a chance encounter on the set during the filming of *Maverick* starring Mel Gibson and Jodie Foster. Starting out with an interest in acting, which later gravitated into writing, and eventually producing, Norm found that he loved all aspects of filmmaking. He made his first short film with some friends & family and placed reasonably well in a festival, which made him want to do "bigger & better." He partnered up with another local filmmaker for his next endeavor. This venture proved to be a success, placing in the top 10% of the films entered in the respective festival and solidified the beginning of Norm's journey as a director/producer, with each successive project typically working with a larger cast & crew. From the local success he achieved from his short film, *Where Silence Falls*, he was able to move on to his most notable achievement yet, the 1940 period short film *Berlin*, where he worked with a cast and crew of over 70 people. His hope is that *Berlin* will attract the attention and recognition desired to be able to fund his first feature film, *Trinity River*.

Collin Souter, *Break-up Date*

Collin Souter, 35, graduated with a film/video degree from Columbia College in Chicago. He made his first documentary *Meet the Monkeys* in 2005, which dealt with arts education in the climate of No Child Left Behind, using the Chicago-based arts organization Barrel of Monkeys as its primary subject. Collin also teaches with Barrel of Monkeys and currently lives in Prospect Heights, IL. His second film *Break-Up, Date* was completed in 2007.

Cody Stokes, *The Loneliest Place on Earth*

Cody Stokes is a filmmaker and graduate of Webster University, in St. Louis with a self-designed major in Independent Film Production and Management. He was first recognized for his talent in high school when a commercial he made won Tommy Hilfiger's national competition: Earn Your Stripes and Be a Star. Later, Cody was the recipient of the prestigious Princess Grace Film Award, with which he made a short film in Ghana with native filmmakers (*The Loneliest Place on Earth*). He subsequently shot an alternative version in America, which won "Best in Fest" at the St. Louis Filmmaker's Showcase and "Best Short Film" at the Hardacre Film Festival. In the fall of 2007, Cody traveled to Rwanda to work with the Tiziano Project shooting a collaborative documentary with Rwandan journalists chronicling the reintegration and lives of the guerilla soldiers that ended the 1994 genocide. Upon returning to the United States, Cody co-founded the Fortnight Film Project, a group of filmmakers that meet every two weeks to write and produce a short film. This led to the creation of "All The Young Dudes," a collection of bi-weekly Internet webisodes, in which Cody starred, co-wrote, and co-directed. He is currently in pre-production on his first feature film *Orangeburg*, a narrative film about the shooting of 30 unarmed African American students by state police on the campus of South Carolina State University in 1968.

Todd Tinkham, *Alan and Suja*

Todd Tinkham worked with at-risk teenagers and incarcerated men for 15 years before making his first short film in 2005. Since then, Todd has made more than 20 short films that have screened at more than 200 film festivals around the world, including Slamdance, the Rhode Island International, the Vienna International, the Tirana International (Albania), the Golden Lion (Africa), the Heart of Gold (Australia) and the Short Film Festival of India, winning dozens of awards. He lives and works in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Emily W. & Erik Chubb, *The Purrfect Girl*

Emily W. is a fourth-year psychiatry resident in Chicago. She has previously published works of fiction and nonfiction in "The Rambler," "R.K.V.R.Y" and "JAMA." She and her husband have made short films parodying medical school and residency for years, but this is their first film festival submission.

Erik Chubb is an engineer, currently in graduate school at Northwestern, and has a particular interest in sustainability/environment. His most recent after-hours project has been finding a route to get onto the coveted apartment rooftop to enjoy the Chicago wind and sky.

Calvert J. Waller III, Heather Carpini, Karabo Legwaila, Shaun Foster, *Raccoon and Crawfish*

From Verona New York, Calvert J. Waller III has an MFA in computer animation, a BFA in illustration and art history from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a Graphic Design / Graphic Illustration Associates from Mohawk Valley Community College. Before coming to 4D, Cal worked doing video and editing for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Cal specializes in 3D modeling and character design. He has been with 4D Productions since May 2005.

From Newport News, Virginia, Heather Carpini has a BFA in computer animation from Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota Florida. She has worked as a character animator on three straight to video children's films and has previous experience in graphic design. She has worked with 4D Productions as a character animator since February 2004.

From Gaborone, Botswana, Karabo Legwaila is finishing his MFA in computer animation from the Rochester Institute of Technology and he also has a BA in computer science and business from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. With a broad range of skills, Karabo specializes in the technical aspects of 3D animation including scripting and rigging as well as doing modeling and lighting. Karabo joined 4D Productions in June 2006.

From Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Shaun Foster has an MFA from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a BBA in marketing management and specialization in international business from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Shaun worked three years in finance before pursuing his interest in filmmaking and animation. He specialized in visual effects, compositing and multimedia design. He has been with 4D Productions since August 2002.

Henry Warnakulasuriya, *Endless Journey*

Henry Warnakulasuriya is a known creative writer in Sri Lanka. He is an author of books in the fields of short stories, children's stories, novels, translations and film criticism. Henry is a film critic and was the assistant director of the internationally awarded feature film *This is My Moon*. He has directed a number of educational video programs and documentaries. He was the supervision director of a short film *Mid Sun Shadows* produced by a group of youths in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka. He holds a master's in communication from the University of Kelaniya and a BS from the University of Peradeniya.

Abraham Ward, *Abe Lincoln's Life*

Eureka, Missouri resident Abraham Ward spent time on his summer vacation writing and filming a movie on one of his favorite historical figures, Abraham Lincoln. He got his mom, dad and grandfather to speak the roles of President Lincoln, Mary Todd, Robert E Lee, Ulysses S Grant, even John Wilkes Booth. An avid fan of history, Abraham heard about the Route 66 Film Festival in Springfield, Illinois, and that one of the categories was based on Springfield former resident, Abraham Lincoln. He got to work on his film immediately and finished his four and a half minute documentary in time for the deadline. "I went to museums in Forest Park, Missouri, and Springfield, Illinois," Abraham said. "I got pictures and shot some of them, but I didn't use the ones I shot. I have permission from all the pictures I used in the film. I made this film by using my dad's [Apple](#) Computer and Final Cut Express. It took me and my dad two days to edit." Abraham has already begun research on his next documentary – a Civil War film.

Sandor Weiner, *Delivery*

Sandor Weiner is a playwright, filmmaker and teacher living in New York City. His full-length plays include "The Killing Book" and "1 Michael, 2 Michael, 3", a finalist for the O'Neill festival (2004). In addition to his short film *Delivery*, he has also made a dance film, *Sirens* with his wife, Aviva Geismar, a choreographer and modern dancer.

Boris Wexler, *The Bath*

Born in Paris, France, Boris Wexler moved to the U.S. in 1995 and earned a degree in Computer Science from Washington University in St. Louis. At 22, he returned to France and became the founder and president of Evatek, an I.T. services company. In 2002, he moved to Chicago where he opened a retail store specializing in Asian art and handicrafts. He launched his film career in 2005 and has since produced and directed several short films. His first professional short, *The Bath*, has been an official

selection at juried festivals around the world. Boris just completed two more short films, *The Arab* and *The Group*, and is also in the initial stages of preparation on *Roundabout American*, a full-length feature film he wrote and will be directing next year. Boris continues to travel extensively and is an avid photographer. He currently works at a trader on the stock market and still calls Chicago his home.

Brian Wimer, *Season of the Clown, Hardboiled*

Brian Wimer studied drama at Yale ... but that was a long time ago. Fast forward to 2000. After working on two indie features in NY (*Twisted*, *Circus Lives*), Brian found himself in a Virginia log cabin writing screenplays for a productive year – eight in all. Desiring to understand his characters more, he joined an acting studio in Charlottesville, VA and had a supporting role in an indie feature *Deer Baby*. Still not satisfied, he bought a Panasonic DVX100B and began shooting his own films and formed Amoeba Films. He has since created a dozen shorts and a feature – a zombie musical titled *Eat Me!* He has won three audience awards, a jury award and the Hampton Roads Film Office Award. Currently, he is in post-production on a documentary about Virginia preschools and in pre-production on a documentary about U.S. trade commitments to China.

Matthew Wolfe and Todd H. Wolfe, *Left/Right*

Matthew Wolfe grew up with brother, Todd, in central Pennsylvania and attended Danville Area High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Lycoming College (Williamsport, PA) and devoted the last 10 years to sales career, living in Atlanta, GA and Fayetteville, AR. Matthew fulfilled a personal commitment to write his first screenplay by age 30, completing *Left/Right* in April, 2006. He obtained financing, developed the cast, and secured filming locations in two months and began principle photography of *Left/Right* on June 23, 2006. *Left/Right* is his debut as writer, actor, producer, and director.

Todd H. Wolfe earned a degree in music & video business from The Art Institute of Philadelphia and worked in the music industry for 8 years with the likes of Lauryn Hill, The Fugees, Wyclef Jean, and Cypress Hill. He transitioned from music video production to feature filmmaking and has worked for the last 5 years as an independent producer, director and editor. Todd spent a year and a half of nights and weekends editing *Left/Right*. He lives in Philadelphia with his wife and daughter.

Nicholas Wong, *My Dad Ralph*

Born in 1986, Nicholas was raised in Toronto where he quickly developed a strong fascination for films and storytelling. As a child, experimenting with stop-motion and traditional cell animation, Nicholas immediately received acknowledgement and encouragement throughout his elementary and secondary school career. He completed his first two short animated films in high school and screened at the eminent Auburn International Film and Video Festival for Children and Young Adults in 2003. In 2004, Nicholas was accepted at Toronto's Ryerson University where his works continued to excel. One of his short media projects entitled, *Element* won acclaim at the Ryerson Gallery show, while his short film, *Idle Conversation* was well received at the Reel Teens Film Festival, the Niagara Indie Film Fest, and the popular Young Cuts festival in Toronto. Currently, Nicholas works part-time for Epitome Pictures Inc., assisting in post production, publicity, casting sessions and recording dialogue and voice-overs for shows such as "Degrassi: The Next Generation" and "Instant Star." In addition to designing the company website, Nicholas has also gained an array of experience filming and editing the popular webisode series, "Degrassi: On The Set." In his final year at Ryerson, Nicholas remains active in the film industry doing work for the Toronto International Film Festival as well as producing and directing short films. In August 2007 he traveled to Kenya to film a documentary with Free The Children and the cast of "Degrassi: The Next Generation." Nicholas has also worked as an assistant editor for The Ron James Show, a pilot for the CBC.

Michael Zhao, *eDump*

A recent graduate from UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, Michael Zhao studied multimedia reporting while working on his master's thesis about electronic waste dumping. He finished his journalism education in May 2007 with a multimedia site about e-waste and soon after produced his first documentary film, entitled *eDump*, which he published on his own site. Michael now works at Asia Society Center on US-China Relations in New York as a multimedia producer, creating a website that showcases great documentary/ multimedia projects about China's environmental issues, including global

warming and energy. Before graduate school in California, he worked as a reporting assistant for the New York Times Beijing Bureau and a program officer for the Chinese Academy of Sciences Bureau of International Cooperation. He earned his bachelor's degree in English from Beijing Language & Culture University in 2000.

MUSIC

Music played between screenings is from the soundtrack of *Buster*. The original score is by Bjorn Dixgard & Gustaf Noren of Mando Diao, a New York band. For more information, see www.busterfilm.com or e-mail lovisa@governessfilms.com.

HONORABLE MENTION FILMS

Because of the huge number of entries this year, we did not have time to show all of the films we would have liked. We would like to recognize the following outstanding films that we could not fit onto our schedule.

Animation

Dear Fatty by Hsin-I Tseng - Taiwan

Tickle Me Silly by Miguel Martinez-Joffre - New Jersey

Comedies

Big Pharma by David (Andy) Shaw – Canada

Chiles by Tyrone HuFF – California

If You See Something, Say Something by Clyde Folley – Alaska

The Lost Films of Hedda Redair and Noodles Nilsen by Phoebe Brown – Georgia

Oh Baby! by Steven Rothblatt – California

Sombrero by Nathaniel Atcheson – California

Debut Films

Dolphins by Mark Jay - United Kingdom

Fat Stupid Rabbit by Slava Ross – Russian Federation

Keys by Christopher Babers – California

The Red Line by Joshua Shain – California

The Road by Owen Thomas – California

Wherever You Are by Rob Margolies – New Jersey

Documentaries

Pocket Change by Nat Dinga – California

Superpower by Barbara-Anne Steegmuller – North Carolina

Dramas

Alicja Wonderland by Martin Gauvreau – Poland, United Kingdom

The Cookie Thief by Adam Davis – California

Lady Masquerade by Daric Gates – California

The Line by Kent Bassett – California

The System of Dr. Tarr and Professor Fether by Michael Johnston – Pennsylvania

Vanaja by Rajnesh Domalpalli – India, USA

