

**DESPERATE
WOMAN 39**

When
you want

something

bad

enough...



STORYLINE

STRIPPER IN DESPERATE SEARCH FOR MISSING DAUGHTER REVISITS DARK PAST SURROUNDING EX-HUSBAND AND A SINGING DON WHICH BECOMES A ROAD TRIP TO HER WORST NIGHTMARE.

Mel desperately seeks her lost daughter and is thrust into the spotlight of the mafia and the Federal authorities. Her impulsive rush into danger creates a tangled mess as she tries to retrace her outlaw past and failed marriage to the drug smuggler who has disappeared with her daughter, Jade. Through these reckless efforts she loses incriminating evidence encrypted on a memory device and becomes a fugitive. Mr. P., the singing don who heads up a gang of minor mafiosi, kidnaps her and in the end Mel finds her life hanging in the balance between love and fear. This debut crime series pilot starts a dark journey on the roads of California and Nevada... very survival.



HOW WE GOT HERE...



Rock Bitches and Muscle Cars.

The original idea consisted of a simple model, two women on the road, one a musician, the other hiding a dark past, was to play out on forgotten roads and end some episodes later with a triumphal gig in Baltimore with Joan Jett. This was never to be.

The Indie Disasters.

With a miniscule budget, and little control over talent, locations and muscle cars, the original idea was derailed when the live music was not yielding the needed quality and the promised muscle cars never showed.

New Direction: a woman searches for her daughter.

This prompted a shift of leads to Mel, with her outlaw past producing the noir plot-driven story, a romance-free mash-up of *Thelma and Louise* meet the *Sopranos*. The woman's element strikes a new chord with VO's in place, that makes Mel's struggle to find her daughter From this theme emerged the final hour and a half drama "Desperate Woman 39."

The singing don desperate to cover his tracks sends a thug out to track Mel while a whacked out music agent waves his .357 as his unrequited love drives him crazy. A private detective teams up with a corrupt police detective who owes the mob and is under scrutiny from Secret Service agents who soon learn of secret files compromising to them and the president's son. This back-door-pilot lays the foundation for the following 13 episode season.



JIM'S REASON FOR THE PROJECT

I have always loved serial stories like The Hardy Boys, Tom Swift, Matt Helm, James Bond and Perry Mason among some of my early favorites. Authors who capture me in this way remain in my mind forever. In later years darker themes like Cormac McCarthy's border trilogy have left a strong impression on me.

For the past couple of decades, I have been writing a set of Caribbean thrillers that have developed a knock-about character with deep back-stories in the later books. These stories whetted my appetite to write a series for cable television. Oh yeah, I watched the X-Files, The Sopranos, Deadwood and The Wire, all of them groundbreakers. Another thing that became obvious to me is the power writers have in television and the commensurate respect in the form of a good paycheck, excellent goals for a struggling writer.

Jeff had worked with my brother Bruce in a video company they put together in the San Francisco Bay Area producing short infomercial type ads for regional business districts in the North Bay and airing them on local cable TV channels. At the time we had formed a group to brainstorm a series based in Petaluma, the former egg capital of the US. Some of the members dropped out and Jeff approached me to write and produce this music-based road trip series that brought us to where we are today.



I had done a short movie with my nephew taken from a story I had written trying out character for my Caribbean thrillers. It's a road-noir set in Florida called LOOP, four people on the road at night, 23 minutes TRT. It took a few years for computers to catch up and we edited it with Final Cut on an Apple G-3. I enjoyed doing the editing and scoring, so Jeff's idea for DW 39 really appealed to me. All the problems we had in developing our story seemed easy in comparison to the challenges we now face in marketing our project. We're hoping the writers' strike will open a few opportunities for meetings in the coming months.

MEL STEPHENS



Mel began acting as a child and hasn't stopped since. A former elementary school teacher, Mel gave it all up to follow her heart and live her dreams as an actor, comedienne and writer. She has starred in several local and national commercials, as well as the films "Happy Life," "Running Errands" and of course, "Desperate Woman 39." She also recently wrote, produced and starred in her original one woman show, "Growing Out My Bangs", which ran for several weeks in the downtown San Francisco theater district, selling out many weekends.

Currently Mel is a head writer and performer with the sketch comedy troupe, the Sugar Cube Tube, and produces and writes for the popular parenting podcast, "Dads on Fire." She is also crafting her next one woman show, a stand-up routine called "Back to School Night" based on her 14 years as a teacher in a very affluent district. Finally, she'll tell folks what teachers really want to say!



Mel has two amazing children and an incredibly supportive and patient husband who says it'll all be worth it when he's walking the red carpet with Mel...and finally gets to meet Angelina Jolie. Visit Mel's website: www.melaubert.com

ROVANNA MAIRE

Rovanna Maire began writing songs as a small child. She began taking music lessons and appearing as a solo artist with her guitar, performing with original bands, jazz bands, country groups, and also performing classic standards and rock 'n roll. Rovanna is a prolific singer/songwriter/guitarist, having written over one hundred songs with many more in development. In addition to her musical talents she has also done modeling work and was the spokes-model for Castrol GTX.

She has appeared in television commercials and acted in a few independent films. She has won several top awards including 1st Place for a performance at the Newport Beach Talent Competition, 1st Place Overall in the Nevada State Song Competition, including 1st Place for Best Pop Song. Her dream has always been to take to the road as a singer and songwriter.

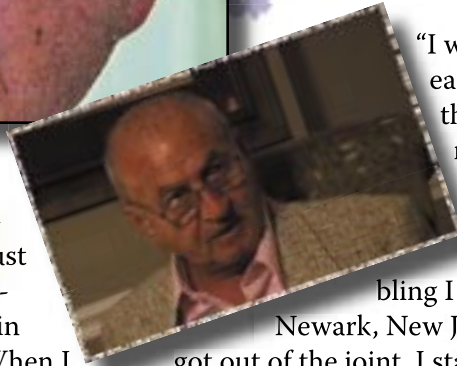


MARIO PICCININI AS MR. P



Mario Piccinini is Jeff's half brother and it was fate that these two should hook up to do this project. They hadn't been in touch for twenty years due to family sensitivities. So when they got together in Las Vegas to shoot some scenes, Mario sang a couple of lines and everybody was amazed at his powerful voice. That motivated Jeff to produce a number of studio sessions to record the songs in the project. Mario will be requested to do some more studio sessions and scenes for us as we continue writing and shooting on our series. It ain't over until the singing don sings. Mario's role as Mr. P. took him back to the days when he was a wiseguy in Newark and South Orange, the same neighborhood as Tony Soprano's crew. We asked Mario for some thoughts about his life and he gave them in his usual no-bull style.

where it would go. I hit Belmont or Meadowlands at night to play the trot-winning or how much I was losing; I just got so bad that to earn money for gambling for a good price. This heist took place in per. I got caught and sent to prison. When I I didn't do any more of that stupid stuff, I kept right on for years, totally caught up in the gambling habit. It cost me more than I was willing to admit for a long time and affected a lot of people close to me.



"I was a degenerate gambler for forty years. I earned a lot in those days. I would go out of the house in the morning knowing how much money I'd have that day and I knew exactly Aqueduct in the day to bet on the nags and terts and the flats. I never thought about had to keep betting. I was out of control. It bling I ripped up a street and sold the cobblestones Newark, New Jersey and was known as the Cobblestone Cagot out of the joint, I started right back in on the horses. Even though

"I wasted many of my talents. My high school teacher told me I was a wise guy, but I had a beautiful voice. I should have listened and done something when I was younger. My dad, Albert Piccinini, played records by Enrico Caruso, Mario Lanza, Tony Bennett, Dean Martin and all those rat-pack guys. To me these guy were real Italian heroes and I wanted to be like them. When I went to parties, I'd sing and goof off. I was always the life of the party. I still gamble, but I control it and I don't ever let it get over on me like it used to."

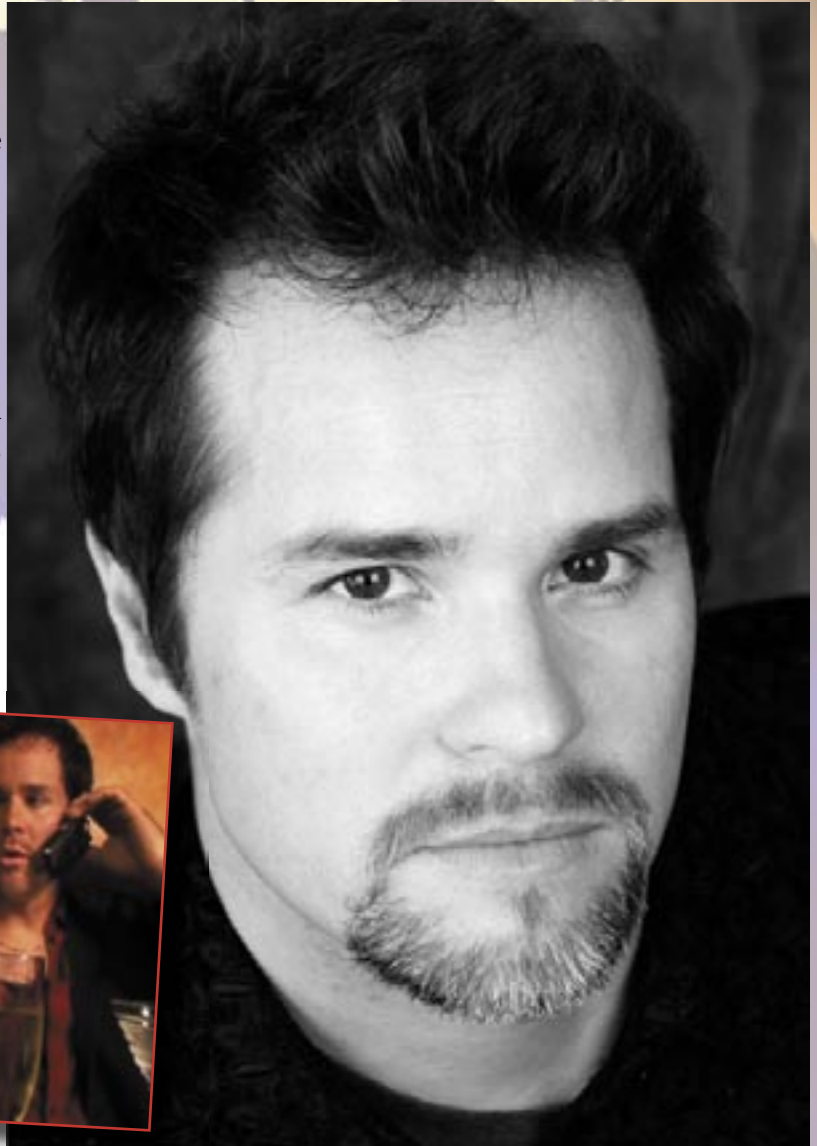
EDWARD MCCLOUD

Edward McCloud has been working in film in theater for the past 15 years. Beginning as a sound designer and actor in theater then moving to film as a sound editor with American Zoetrope and Sound. He is a recent graduate of the Meisner technique School of Acting in San Francisco where he was taught by Jim Jarrett, the last teaching protege of the great Sanford Meisner.

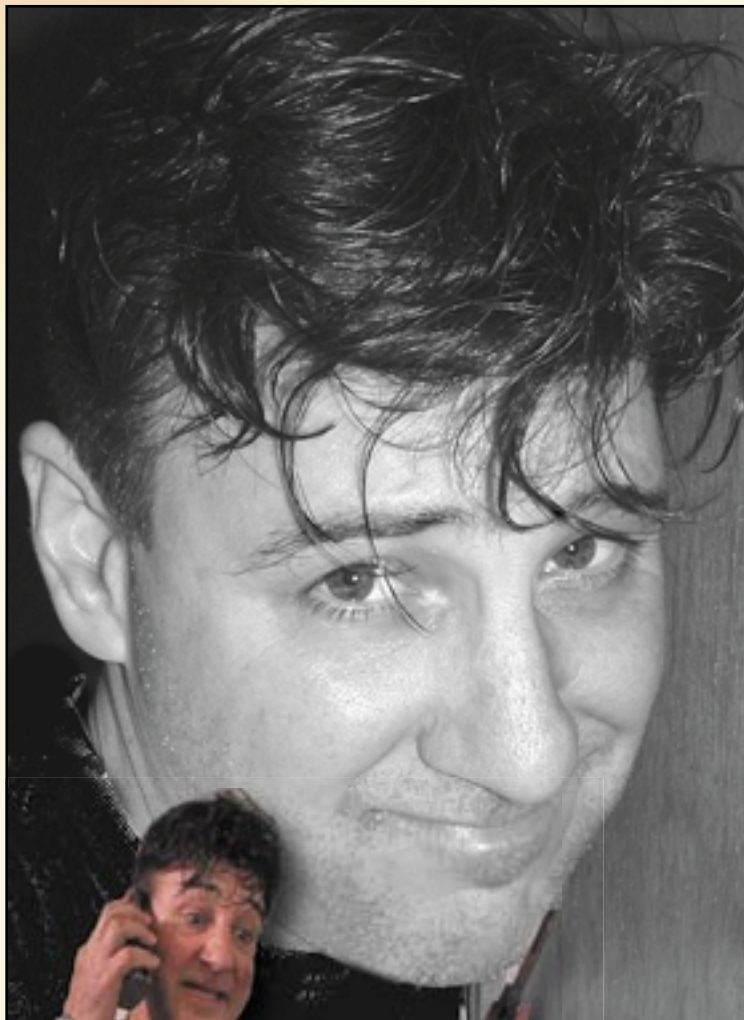
His film and television work as an actor includes numerous performances for the History Channel. Several independent film shorts most notably "Sweet Insanity", "Happy Life", and "Guy Stuff".

Recent stage projects include: Floyd in "The Grapes of Wrath", Micheal in "Two Rooms", and the Weiller in Elliot Fintashel's "Aleph's Legs".

Next up for Edward is a stage production of Sam Shepard's True West, where he will play younger brother Austin. In the fall of 08 he will embark on his 3rd directorial effort a short film entitled Le Rene Institute de Le Menu .



TICE ALLISON AS TONY SERPA



Tice Allison (aka David Tice Allison) has studied with some of the best acting instructors in the business, chief among them Ed Hooks in San Francisco, who now teaches his noted scene study classes in Chicago. He has also studied with the Joanne Baron/D.W. Brown Studio in Los Angeles. Mr. Allison's resume comprises a number of known stage credits: Reckless (The Mainstreet Theater--ensemble roles--Sebastopol, CA) and The Odd Couple (staged reading, playing Oscar Madison, Louis Street Theater) and while living in San Jose he performed regularly with Tangelo Productions, an intrepid theater group specializing in the staging of works by local playwrights.

Tice Allison participated in the 6th Street Playhouse (Santa Rosa, CA) production of "The Grapes of Wrath" in 27, playing the role of Connie Rivers. Tice considers himself a character actor, with a fondness for playing characters that-exist on the periphery of society. In "Desperate Woman 39," directors Jeff Piccinini and Jim Mallon gave Tice carte blanche to develop his own character quirks for the role and to improv much of the dialog and action. The resultant character is something for which Tice is continually gaining praise and attention, though it is a character which Mr. Allison finds a little unnerving. He looks forward to the day when he can embark on a worthy and life-long career in film and stage.

Visit his website at: www.ticeallison.com

DAVID MENASHE AS RODNEY BURNS, P.I.

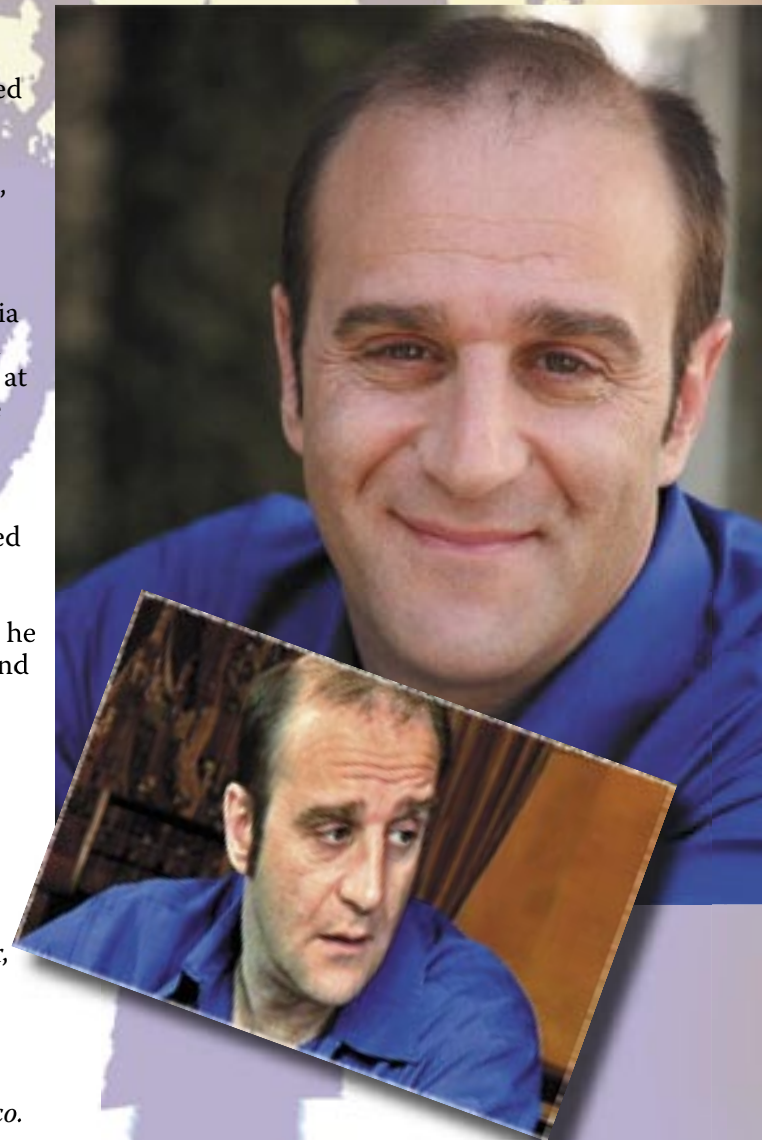
David Menashe has been acting since he was 6 years old. He first appeared on screen in the UK when he was interviewed for his opinions about witches for the popular Saturday late night show, Braden's week. He shot to stardom immediately and was offered a role on England's longest running soap opera, Coronation Street.

He continued to act throughout his early years but at age 11 he needed a break from the constant pressures of the media who were hounding him relentlessly after he was seen leaving a party with Elizabeth Taylor. He performed in a few school plays at William Hulme's Grammar School for boys. Again the pressure was too much and he retired from the business for the second time at age 16.

After a 20 year hiatus (during which he grew bananas, worked in a gym, became a computer nerd, and gave motivational speeches), David returned to the industry to find that the landscape had changed. He was no longer a cute young kid and he couldn't get by on charm alone. He was living in the U.S. now and his old contacts were unable to assist him in finding work.

He dove into classes, studying the Meisner Technique with Sanford Meisner's last protege, Jim Jarrett. Always able to bend his voice in 100 different ways, he decided to pursue Voice Over work. He studied with some of the best teachers in the industry - Elaine Clark of Voice One (with whom he also interned for 4 years), Doug Honorof of Yale School of Drama and Tisch NYU, Sarah Kliban. James Cranna and Tom Chantler, voice of 1001 products. He is constantly working on industrial videos and commercials and is pleased to be back on the big screen. He hopes this leads to working opposite Sean Penn.

David Menashe lives with his wife and large dog in San Francisco.



BUZZ LEER

Buzz Leer, a native of Minneapolis, Minn., earned his bachelor of fine arts/ acting/ directing from the University of North Dakota. He moved west to pursue an acting career in Los Angeles. After a few television commercials and endless auditions, he started a career in sales and marketing and found success in vice president of sales positions for several home furnishings companies. Leer also designed retail stores and restaurants.

His design work led to actual building of Hspaces, where he honed his handyman skills for several years. Leer moved to the San Francisco Bay area, where he continued to work in sales and marketing but never lost his love of performing. He landed several national and local television commercials, radio voice-overs and print modeling work while raising four “awesome” children whom Leer calls the love of his life.

In addition to his role as a “soccer dad,” his hobbies include travel and sports. Leer says hosting House Detective has been a new beginning and a dream come true. He and his family continue to reside in the San Francisco Bay area.



THE NEW JERSEY BOYS



Matthew Mercurio as Matty Martello
New Jersey Business Owner



Steven Todd as Stefano Todano
New Jersey Business Operator



Albert Thayer as Alberto Rossi
New Jersey Business Operator



Bart Speccia as Dimitri Messina
Former business associate of Marcelino



Myles O'Reilly as Smiley MacTuff
Irishman running bars and illegal gambling



Vanae Vidivich as Jade Toscana
Daughter of Mel and Marcelino Toscana



Drawing of Marcelino in
his bad boy days



*Are you Marcelino? Please submit
headshot and resume if you are.*



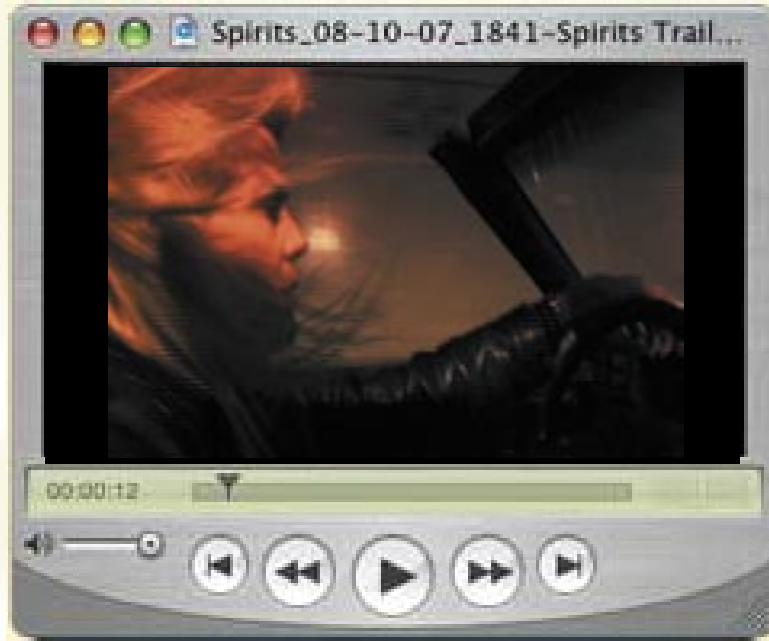
Zalman Sher as Agent Zalman

TRAILER

300 KBS 5.9 MB

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Click Here



THE MUSIC

(Internet Connection Required)

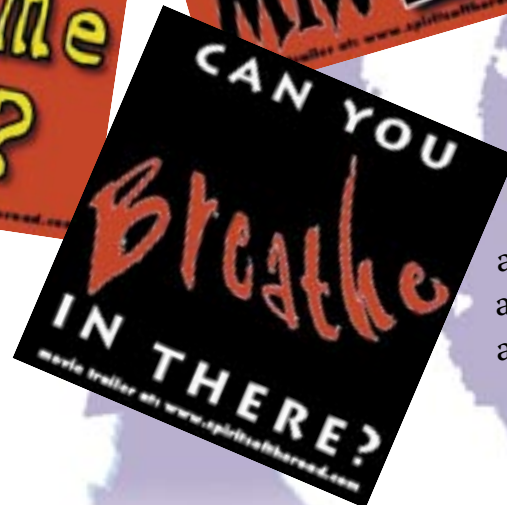
- ADRENDALINE JUNKY (708 KB)
- SADOMASOCHISTIC LOVE (590 KB)
- HEAVEN (596 KB)
- LOVE SCENE (592 KB)
- THAT'S LIFE (592 KB)
- SPIRITS OF THE ROAD (592 KB)

COMING SOON

*Purple Raven
Music publishing
company, and
soon to be
record label, to
release an EP by
Stormtrooper,
Rovanna and
the Ravens, The
Merciful, The
Smart and Mr. P.*

ROVANNA
and the **RAVENS**

GRAFFITI CAMPAIGN



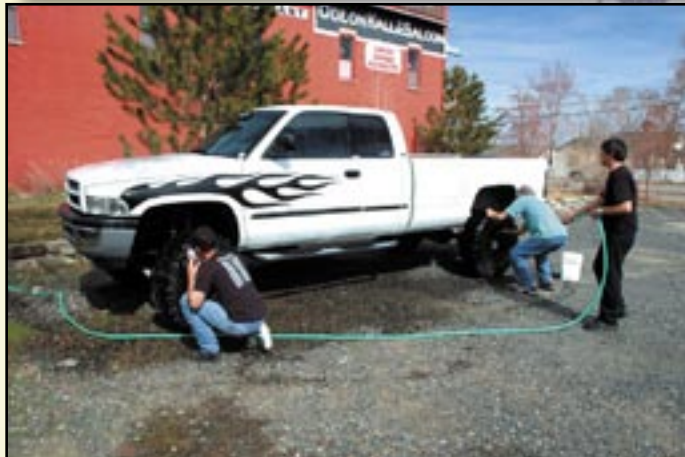
Jim and I decided that a good old fashioned graffiti campaign was in order. We had Tice design a number of 5"x5" square stickers (with mild adhesive) featuring various catch phrases from the movie, which we plastered around various areas with great aplomb while at a film festival in Santa Monica.

PRODUCTION STILLS



















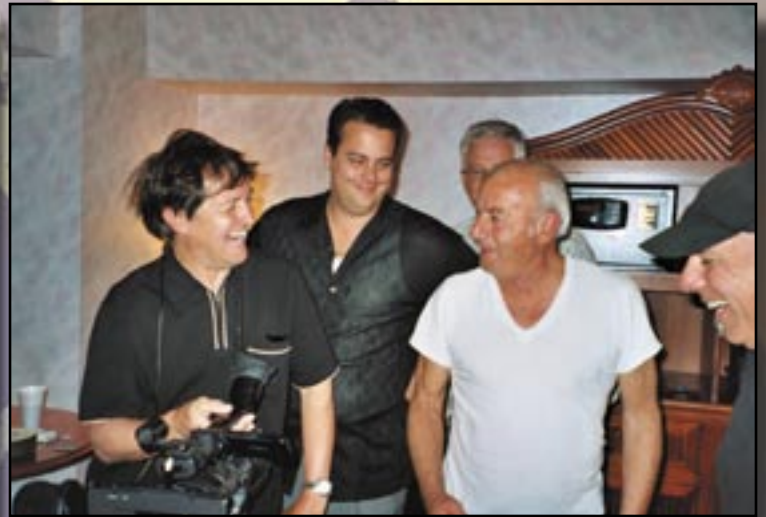
TONY SHOOT

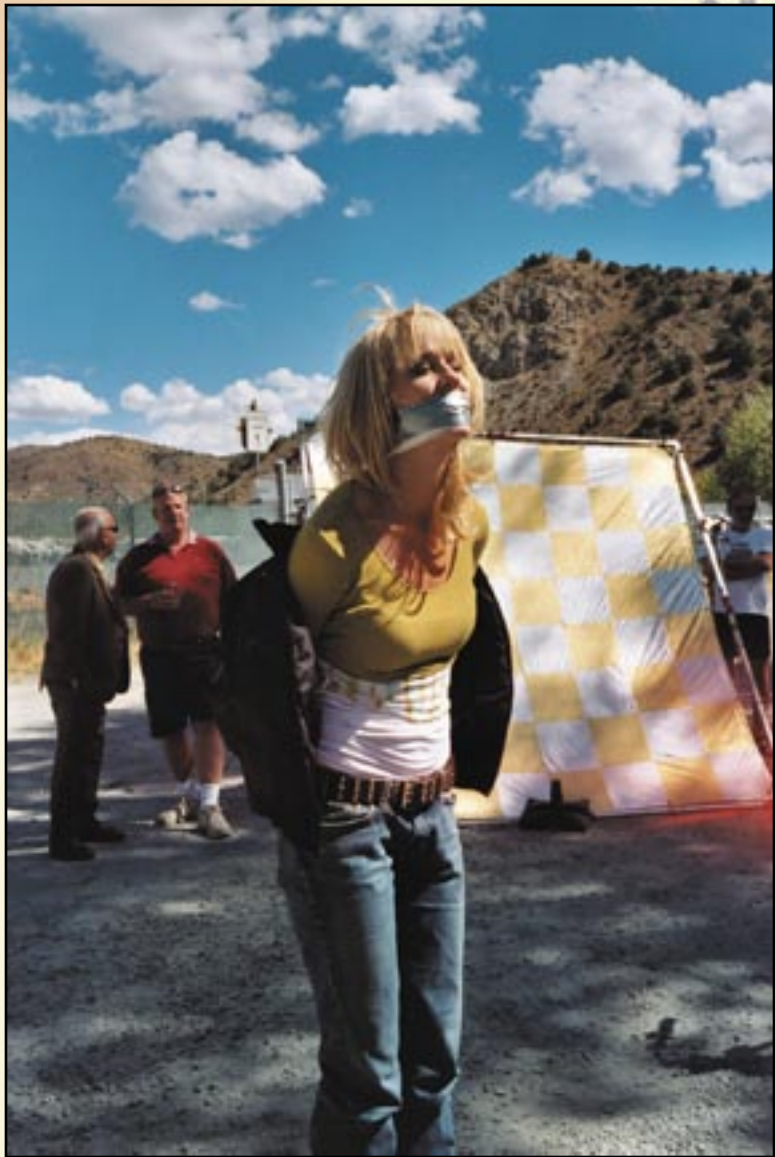




DESERT SHOOT











THE RENO GROUP

Back Row: Jeff Piccinini, Dolly Piccinini, Mario Piccinini, Matthew Mercurio, Rosario Todd, Corrine Mercurio, Mel Stephens, Albert Thayer.
Front Row: John Horton, Mark Kasserman, James M. Mallon, Steven Todd, Tiffany Todd



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