



## *CONTACT INFO:*

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# LOG LINE

When loose cannon Detective Dick Murdock is called to investigate another all-too-familiar murder, he embarks on a path toward redemption and bloodshed. In his quest to find the cantankerous Shoestring Slasher, there are no rules except his rules. But he doesn't follow the rules.

# DIRECTOR STATEMENT

I'm a fraud. I don't care for film noir. However I am a fan of low budget films that use style and creativity to make up for depravity. Roger Corman, *Alrugo Entertainment* and *Red Letter Media* didn't have a good script and definitely didn't have the money, yet they put what little resources that had into a project that was riddled with problems but inspired ingenuity. Without resources, they can attract a cult following and trust — all without a budget. Sometimes even without a filming permit.

The character of Detective Dick Murdock is a fusion of Ryan Gosling in *Drive* (2011), main characters from *Sin City* (2005) and Clint Eastwood in general. This fusion can create only one kind of character in noir: utterly cliched. Along with writing and directing, I knew I must star in it too. And while I was at it, I played every character down to the arm of Murdock's dead wife.

Murdock is not only a jab at the "tough cop", but he is also the wannabe auteur filmmaker who writes his name a dozen times in the opening credits, playing the cool, Tarantino-like character found in film classrooms and even my own past work. This film encompasses all that: the cliched characters, the writer/director/actor, the negligent budget, and absolutely everything you've already seen before. This film has it all — or it

has nothing – depending on how you look at it.

The difficulty with parodying bad films is trying avoid making one in the process. Similar to Leslie Nielsen in *The Naked Gun* films, the comedy occurs when nobody reacts to the bizarre world. No matter how stupid or ridiculous a movie gets, the characters never notice they're in one.

This movie takes place in a comically anachronistic world where everyone looks the same. They talk and dress like typical 40's noir, but they have cell phones and cars from the 90's, all while referencing Richard Nixon and the Vietnam War. Time has no meaning in this world. Proof of that: they nonsensically smoke cigarettes without lighting them.

I take back that I don't like noir films. I admit that I liked *Brick* (2006). It may be neo noir but it counts.

## ***CREW BIOS***

### **STEFAN PEREZ**

*Director, Writer, Actor, Producer*

Stefan Perez received his first rejection at the age of six when he auditioned to act in a Toys R Us commercial. Since then, Stefan has had two shows canceled (one radio, one television), death threats, and less than 100 likes on Facebook for his production company, Flat Quack Films. Stefan is masterfully bad. But his mother loves him and so does his production crew at least.

### **JACKSON ROSENFELD**

*Cinematographer, Film Score*

Musician Jackson Rosenfeld is known for danceable, melodic pop tunes, so naturally

he was first in line to create Tough Case's 40s-inspired jazz. Having exhibited his workaholicism early, the team decided to make Jackson cinematographer too (all while never reading the script). And in case you're worried about labor laws, Jackson was compensated well with a spoiled tuna sandwich several months after the shoot wrapped.

## **ADAM CARRA**

*Editor, Animator, Stunt Double*

When spirits were low, Adam was there to point out that things were actually worse. He wasn't always right. When he was stunt double for the Shoestring Slasher, he thought he was going to die. He was sure happy he didn't. By the end of production when we were glad to be done with it, Adam still had five months ahead of him to be alone in a tiny dark editing room to make a cohesive plot out of one actor.

## **MILES LEVIN**

*Executive Producer, Camera Operator*

Miles' biggest contribution to the team was lending the Flat Pack his sound and lighting equipment. Without him, our night scenes would be black screens without sound. Essentially, that means we'd have nothing.

## **MIRANDA LIMONCZENKO**

*Executive Producer, Sound Mixer*

In this case, "executive producer" is only a glamorous term for "girlfriend". Miranda Limonczenko is master at putting up with Stefan's antics, criticising his scripts, holding sound equipment, and even placing the Herring Winery sticker on the wine bottle. Miranda's talents include web design and copywriting -- none of which were used during the production of this film.

## **CECIL DIXON**

*Executive Producer*

Once called "vrlo interesantno" by Croatian film critics for his limited released sci-fi sex

romp, *MothWomen of Cancun* (1967), Cecil's mentorship has brought veteran low budget filmmaking skills to the production of "Tough Case". His biggest contribution being that his wheelchair be used as a dolly. Only on loan of course.

## **JULIAN BROTSCHI**

*Associate Producer*

Well known for his hit local television program, *Julian's Junction* (2008-2010) and self-published novel *Triby*, Julian was stunned to find out that his novel was to be adapted into a short film. When we say "novel" we mean he hasn't written it yet, but when he does it'll be cool.

## **CHIP RIO NIDO**

*Art Director*

Chip is a Los Angeles native. Working in San Fernando Valley during the late 90's as "hired talent" on dozens of entertainment videos, he gained a knack for costume design, set dressing and many areas of production design. Luckily our team noticed his talent on many videos online and had to have him.

# **CREW**

**WRITTEN & DIRECTED** - Stefan Perez

**BASED ON THE NOVEL "TRILBY"** - Julian Brotschi

**PRODUCER** - Stefan Perez, Adam Carra, Jackson Rosenfeld

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER** - Miles Levin, Cecil Dixon, Miranda Limonczenko

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY** - Jackson Rosenfeld

**EDITOR** - Adam Carra

**MUSIC** - Jackson Rosenfeld & The Flat Quack Quartet

**ASSOCIATE PRODUCER** - Julian Brotschi

**1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA** - Dale Rio Nido

**ASSISTANT CAMERA** - Mario Bosanac

**SOUND MIXER** - Miranda Limonczenko

**ART DIRECTOR** - Chip Rio Nido

**DANCE CHOREOGRAPHER** - Anthony Ridley

## ***SONG***

**"TOUGH CASE"**

**MUSIC** - Jackson Rosenfeld

**LYRICS** - Jackson Rosenfeld

**PERFORMED** - Anthony Guzman and The Flat Quack Quartet

## ***CAST***

**STEFAN PEREZ**

**RUSSELL** - Stella