

MOBSTER

Written and Directed by Brian Eric Johnson

TRT: 84 mins.

Distributor: Indican Pictures (323)850-2667

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SYNOPSIS

Mobster is the story of two men - Jacob Hadar, West Coast kingpin of the Israeli Mob, and Special Agent Ron Zarger, the man implanted to bring him down. Equipped with the latest surveillance technology, Zarger, known by his undercover name 'Eli,' has used his wits and his guts to slip into Hadar's inner circle. Hadar, brilliant and ferocious, has focused his attention on a long standing feud with the Baja Cartel, and has failed to see the saboteurs in his midst. Action and intrigue ensue as the Undercover Agent tries to topple a complex international crime syndicate with access to nuclear arms.



Meni Aga as Jacob Hadar, West Coast kingpin of the Israeli mob.

WRITER/DIRECTOR NOTES

When I began writing Mobster, with the intent of directing, I wanted to deliver a fresh take on one of Film's oldest and most revered genres. Everyone loves a gangster movie. My fresh take would involve both the way the film was shot and the depth of power, influence, and potential terror that the modern gangster wields. Drugs, prostitution, gambling are old hat to the organized crime of the 21st Century. Today's syndicates are international. They involve Fortune 500 companies, professional sports leagues, and governments. With the proliferation of conventional and nuclear weapons on the black market, the present day mobster has the attention and fear of the entire world.

Though "found footage" is far from a new idea, I felt that the convention was perfectly suited for this type of film. With today's surveillance technology, covert military operations play out on video like a Hollywood movie. It was my intent to make the viewer feel like they were experiencing the danger right alongside the Undercover Agent.

Although this is merely a movie, a work of fiction designed to entertain an audience, back alley journalism as well as mainstream media confirm much of the film's plot: international crime organizations are currently working in cooperation with one another. The intelligence communities of this nation and others view this as the next front against terror.

- Brian Eric Johnson



BRIAN ERIC JOHNSON

(WRITER/DIRECTOR)

Brian was born and raised in Sacramento, CA. After moving to Los Angeles, he has worked successfully as a writer, producer, and director. Testing his theatre chops in a new city, Brian wrote and produced several plays that were performed in the NOHO arts district. Brian directed the critically acclaimed *That's My Desire*, a harsh prison drama, that became a successful fundraiser for Inner City Youth. As Brian switched his focus to film, he continued to write and produce. Early projects included the 16mm short *Daydream Believer*, and the feature *Rites of Spring*. His most recent film, the 35mm *Ranchero*, co-starring Danny Trejo, was awarded Best of Festival at Indie Fest USA and the Audience Award at S.E.N.E. Film, Music, and Art Festival. Brian also took home the award for Best Screenplay.



Writer/Director Brian Eric Johnson.

DIRECTOR Q&A

Q: How did you and Meni Aga meet?

BRIAN: I met Meni while working as a bouncer at a nightclub in Hollywood. I worked the ropes on the bottle service line and Meni would come up with some friends and buy a table. I remember when we had our first conversation and he introduced himself as “Meni, the Israeli actor.”

Q: What made the two of you decide to make a movie together?

BRIAN: Around the time we met, my film ‘Ranchero’ had just been picked up for distribution. Our mutual friend, Ninef Arsanos, had seen the movie and was impressed. So, he suggested to Meni that he and I work on a project together.

Q: And that project became ‘Mobster.’

BRIAN: Well, actually, no. I pitched some script ideas to Meni and we decided to develop a project called ‘The Blood We Share.’ It’s kind of ‘Donnie Brasco’ meets ‘True Blood.’

Q: Mobsters with Vampires. I like it.

BRIAN: We both liked it too. So, I wrote the script and... well basically, it grew too large. The budget became more than what we wanted to tackle for a first project. So we shelved it.

Q: Is the script for ‘Mobster’ based on fact?

BRIAN: Let’s just say, that according to my research, the relationships between the Russians, the Israelis, and the Mexican Cartels do exist.

Q: What about the nuclear weapons angle?

BRIAN: Again, depending on what information you choose to believe, a lot of nuclear warheads have gone missing since the downfall of the Soviet Union. There’s a lot of research to suggest that organized crime is gaining access to those weapons.

Q: That’s a very scary thought.

BRIAN: It’s terrifying; the idea that nuclear weapons could end up in the hands of the highest bidders.

Q: Wow. Moving on to a lighter note, had you seen Mr. Aga’s acting work before and were you concerned about casting him as the lead in your movie?

BRIAN: Most of Meni’s previous work was done in Israel and I didn’t have access to it. But Meni is a very dynamic personality. And I wrote the script catering to that. I figured my greatest challenge was to control that powerful presence.

Q: Do you think you were successful?

BRIAN: I do. I’m very happy with Meni’s work in ‘Mobster.’ And I think that stems from our mutual trust. He had never worked with me as a director before either. He had to trust that I was going guide him to his best possible performance. In the end, I think we were both pleased.

DIRECTOR Q&A (CONTINUED)

Q: There are a lot of big production elements in the movie. Mansions, expensive cars, some big stunts; how did you pull that off on a limited budget?

BRIAN: (laughing) Good producing. Well, without sounding pretentious, that actually is true. But that's far from being just me. My producing partner, Kevin Mangold, did an amazing job at making things happen. And our Production Manager, Cheryl Courtright, found us these spectacular homes at an incredible rate.

Q: How about when the one actor gets burned? That seems like a very expensive and dangerous stunt.

BRIAN: Yes and yes. But fortunately, Kevin is also a stunt coordinator. So he had lots of connections within the stunt community. He brought in burn specialist, John Dixon, who was able to coordinate a safe and exciting stunt without breaking our budget.

Q: The actor who did the stunt, Roger Gutierrez, is he a stunt man?

BRIAN: He is now! No, Roger had never done anything like that before. And I wasn't going to try and talk him into it. But after talking to John, he knew he was in good hands and realized how much more dramatic the shot would be if we could see his face while he was being set on fire.

Q: 'Mobster' also has a very big cast for an indie film? How did you put together such a large and diverse cast?

BRIAN: I owe most of that to Hamzah Saman, the founder of Arab-American Casting. Not only did Hamzah play one of the lead roles in the film, he also worked tirelessly to help me put together what I feel is a very authentic cast of characters.

Q: Who were your stars on the technical side?

BRIAN: There are a bunch. First off, I have to mention my Director of Photography, Michael Bratkowski. Mike was my DP on 'Ranchero' which we shot on 35mm. So when I told him we were going to use a little Cannon 7D for this one, he gave me the strangest look. Actually, we decided on the camera choice together. We felt that the 7D was the best fit for the concept of a hidden camera while still retaining high-def quality. Our tougher decision was deciding what type of rig Mike would use to carry the camera. We felt that a steady-cam was too fluid and unnatural looking, but we didn't want the extreme bumpiness of hand-held. So Mike developed his own apparatus that gave us a realistic feel without causing the audience to get motion sickness.

Q: Where is the camera supposed to be?

BRIAN: It's supposed to be a pinpoint camera hidden in the undercover agent's tie.

MENI AGA

(JACOB HADAR)

Meni Aga was born in a small town in zerbaijan, Russia, but moved to Israel with his family when he was 12. Meni always had a vivid imagination that fed his desire to be an actor. He started taking acting classes when he was 23, and landed roles in the popular Israeli series The Pajama and Criminal Rodes. But in order to truly pursue his dream, Meni moved to the U.S. where he's worked diligently to hone his craft. Meni is fluent in six different languages and continues to look for roles that suit his unique talents.



Meni Aga as Jacob Hadar.

HAMZAH SAMAN

(IDO RAN)

Hamzah Saman was born in Beirut, Lebanon. He came to the U.S. when he was 15, where he attended high school and college. He is currently working on his Master of Fine Arts Degree in Theater Arts. Hamzah has been cast in over twenty short-films and features including Argo and Hancock. His television credits include a feature role on 24. He looks forward to an exciting adventure in the film industry as an actor, writer, and producer. Hamzah is well known in the Arab-American community as the founder of Arab-American Casting, an online casting company with over 20,000 worldwide members.

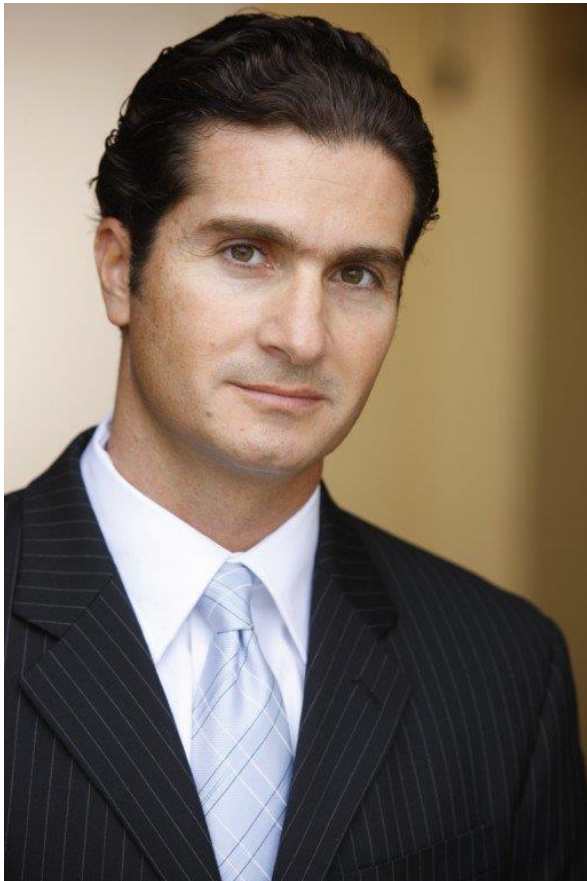


Hamzah Saman as Ido Ran.

MICHEL WAKIM

(ELI GONI/AGENT ZARGER)

Michel Wakim was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon where he starred in a television miniseries at the age of 13. He migrated to the US right after high school. He lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma for ten years where he completed his degree in Business Management from the University of Tulsa. Shortly after, he moved to the greater Los Angeles area in pursuit of a career in acting and music. As a songwriter, Michel ranked as 'Runner-Up' and 'Semi-Finalist' in the Song Of The Year contest in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Michel has been featured in television shows, feature films, as well as doing commercial and voice-over work.



Michel Wakim as Agent Ron Zarger.

NINEF ARSANOS

(YANIV KAFNI)

Ninef had an early introduction to his first instrument, the violin, at the age of five. For years, under a heavily disciplined private Russian music instructor, he found the passion for music to be inseparable from his daily routine. At age of 9, he was introduced to a keyboard. By the age of 13, Ninef was touring the world.

Ninef studied music composition at California State University Stanislaus, where he discovered that his diversity would make his music quite unique. Today, Ninef is known for being a diverse international musician, producer and performer. Current projects include collaborating with EB BAD Productions as 'Ear Monsterz'.



Ninef Arasanos as Yaniv Kafni.

CAST

Jacob Hadar	Meni Aga	Dinner Guest	Mell Flynn
Eli Goni/Ron Zarger ..	Michel Wakim	Pool Party Girl	Tracy Sheldon
Ido Ran	Hamzah Saman	Pillow Party Girl	Brianna Gomez
Yaniv Kafni	Ninef Arsanos	Birthday Girl #1	Dorothy Peterson
Rhanna Zarger	Rogina	Birthday Girl #2	Adriane Hernandez
Guzman Alvarez	Dave Silva	Birthday Girl #3	Karen Peterson
Hugo Vasquez	Roger Gutierrez	Russian Girls:	Leni Rico Nu Valeriya Angles
Viktor Ivanov	Mike Petrone	Alejandro Cortez	David Alvarez
Sergei Mikhailov	Michael Umansky	Peter Vanguard	Montgomery Sheikan
Arms Dealer	Sylver	Servants:	Ozzie Bedar Patricia Healy Rivka Sergio Torres
Associate	Julien Darc	Baja Cartel:	
Teung Wong	Jesse “Jam” Miranda	Roan Gomez	Ramiro Pare
Chen Li	Mingyu Chu	David Rayas	Ray Chavez Jr.
Agent Leftridge	Brian Eric Johnson	Robert Rexx	Richard Salerno
Agent Jones	Christina Woods	Alfredo De Leon, Jr.	Jesus Silva
Trainer	Tommy Phanphairojj	David Fernandez, Jr.	Mateus Pare
Daniel Yahalom	Mark Naji	Russian Commandos:	
Shop Owner	Anthony Montes	Edgar Pevsner	Nikita Bogolyubov
Ron’s Mother	Helen Siff	Daniyar Ainitdinov	Steve Moulton
“Mountain” Ceballos ..	Geoff Gallegos	Danny Frenkel	Brendan C. Kelly
Ivan Novikov	Adi Spektor	Israeli Security:	
Kitten	Jackie Moore	Adam Karst	Peter Shaker
Torch Singer	Cassandra Reed	Ross Tarver	Marad Saif
Himself	Farshid Amin	Rafik Arutunyan	Peter Ghawi
Security Leader	Rafael Zubizarreta	Adel Tarhuni	Gol Balakh
Cartel Messenger	Vince Romo		
Jacob’s Ex	Stephanie Reibel		
Jacob’s Daughters	Maylin Fox Sarah Lynn		
Old Politician	Paul Morgan Fredrix		
Politician’s Date	Dina Simon		
Young Gangster	Chris Brown		

MICHAEL BRATKOWSKI

(DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

During his over 10 years as DP & Camera Operator, Michael Bratkowski has shot features, documentaries, sports, reality programming and red carpet events. He has HDV and SD camera equipment available as well as a flyable Kino-flo documentary lighting kit and some audio gear. He has a current US passport and has worked in 47 states (including Hawaii) Canada, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, St Maarten, the Bahamas and Mexico. His feature work was shot on 35mm and Panavision Genesis. Other formats shot include RED Camera, XDCam, HDCam SR, HDCam and Varicam. In addition to these clients, he's worked for Sony Classic Pictures, Audi Car Company, Elton John AIDS Foundation, Science Channel, San Diego Gas and Electric, Boston Market and the Astronaut Hall of Fame. Reels of his work are available on his website.



Director of Photography, Michael Bratkowski.

KEVIN MANGOLD

(PRODUCER)

Kevin Mangold was an actor prior to a successful career racing thoroughbreds. He has appeared on Broadway, in television sit-coms, commercials, music videos, and in the Oscar winning theatrical release, “Seabiscuit.”

Mangold attended the USC Film School in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program before amassing a string of stage, television, and film credits. At the age of 34, Mangold put it all behind him and set his mind on becoming a professional Thoroughbred jockey and soon found himself racing against the best jockeys in the world at prestigious Santa Anita Park.

Having owned and operated an IT computer consulting firm, with clients such as Capitol Records, Hughes Aircraft and McDonnell Douglas, Mangold has years of corporate experience and continued working relationships on which to draw.

Mangold’s IMDB credits include Producer, Stunt Coordinator, Visual Effects Supervisor, Actor, Stunt Double, Editor, Director and Writer.



Producer, Kevin Mangold.

BRIAN ERIC JOHNSON

(PRODUCER)

Brian was born and raised in Sacramento, CA. After moving to Los Angeles, he has worked successfully as a writer, producer, and director. Testing his theatre chops in a new city, Brian wrote and produced several plays that were performed in the NOHO arts district. Brian directed the critically acclaimed *That's My Desire*, a harsh prison drama, that became a successful fundraiser for Inner City Youth. As Brian switched his focus to film, he continued to write and produce. Early projects included the 16mm short *Daydream Believer*, and the feature *Rites of Spring*. His most recent film, the 35mm *Ranchero*, co-starring Danny Trejo, was awarded Best of Festival at Indie Fest USA and the Audience Award at S.E.N.E. Film, Music, and Art Festival. Brian also took home the award for Best Screenplay.

Producer, Brian Eric Johnson.

CREW

Executive Producer	Meni Aga	Additional Effects	Armando D. Munoz
Producer	Brian Eric Johnson	Property Master	Danny Frenkel
Producer	Kevin Mangold	Costume Designer	Amali Lebbos
Writer/Director.....	Brian Eric Johnson	Assistant Wardrobe	Liz Bernal
Unit Production Mgr	Chris JC Black	Key Make Up	Alex Perrone
Composer	Ninef Arsanos	Assistant Make Up	Lauren Coffey
1st Assistant Director	Cheryl Courtright	Gaffers:	Tim Otholt
2nd Assistant Directors:	Shannon Jones		Doug Cragoe
	Gary Nicholson	Best Boy	Johnny Silvia
Script Supervisors:	Carly Romberg	Key Grips:	Dave Hoffman
	Shannon Volkenant		Matthew Phroper
.....	Heather Casterlin	Best Boy Grip	Dana Michelle Hill
Director of Photography	Michael Bratkowski	Grip	Brandon Pride
First Assistant Camera: .	Chris Garcia	Sound Mixer	Marc Wielage
	John Graham	Boom Operators:	Steven Deichen
	Marshall Rao		Brandon Griffith
	David Weinreb	Key Production Assistant ..	Meghan Cirillo
Assistant Camera:	Drew Suppa	Production Assistants:	Cole Wade
.....	Sal Coniglio		Zack Laws
Digital Image Tech:	J.K. Realms		Blake Pierson
	Max King		David Vincent
2nd Unit DP.	William S. Looper	Craft Service	Benjamin Bailey
Burn Coordinator	John Dixon	Production Accountant	Sherry Hammond
Stunt Coordinator	Kevin Mangold	Payroll:	Erin Ray
Stunt Utility	Paul E. Short		Ann Amis
Pyrotechnician	Frank Ceglia	Post Production Supervisor	Marc Wielage
Still Photographers:	Chris Fitzgerald	Editor	Mike Clark
	Roger Gutierrez	Visual Effects	Dogpile Productions
	Gary Nicholson	Sound Editor	Brandon Griffith
Production Designers: ...	Elana Farley	Color Timer	Marc Wielage
	Liz Garner	Website Design	Kevin Mangold
Art Director	Jacob Esquivel	Publicity Coordinator	Jeremy Meyer
Special Effects	Jeff Farley		

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Produced by Lamppost Productions & Dogpile Productions
311 N. Robertson Blvd. #722, Beverly Hills, CA 90211



Distributed by Indican Pictures
1041 North Formosa Avenue, Formosa Building, Suite 221A
West Hollywood, CA 90046
ph: 323.850.2667 email: contact@indicanpictures.com

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Runtime: 87 minutes
- Color
- Frame: 1920 x 1080
- Aspect ratio: (16x9)
- FPS: 24
- Audio: 5.1 Surround





