

June 2023



MAKE WAY FOR...

STREETS OF COLOUR

EVERY STREET HAS A STORY

DON'T LET IT OUT



FROM THE MIND OF
STEPHEN KING

THE BOOGEYMAN

MUSIC BY PATRICK JONSSON PRODUCED BY SHAWN LEVY DAN LEVINE DAN COHEN BASED UPON THE SHORT STORY BY STEPHEN KING
SCREEN STORY BY SCOTT BECK & BRYAN WOODS SCREENPLAY BY SCOTT BECK & BRYAN WOODS AND MARK HEYMAN
DIRECTED BY ROB SAVAGE

Check the Classification

COMING SOON TO THEATRES

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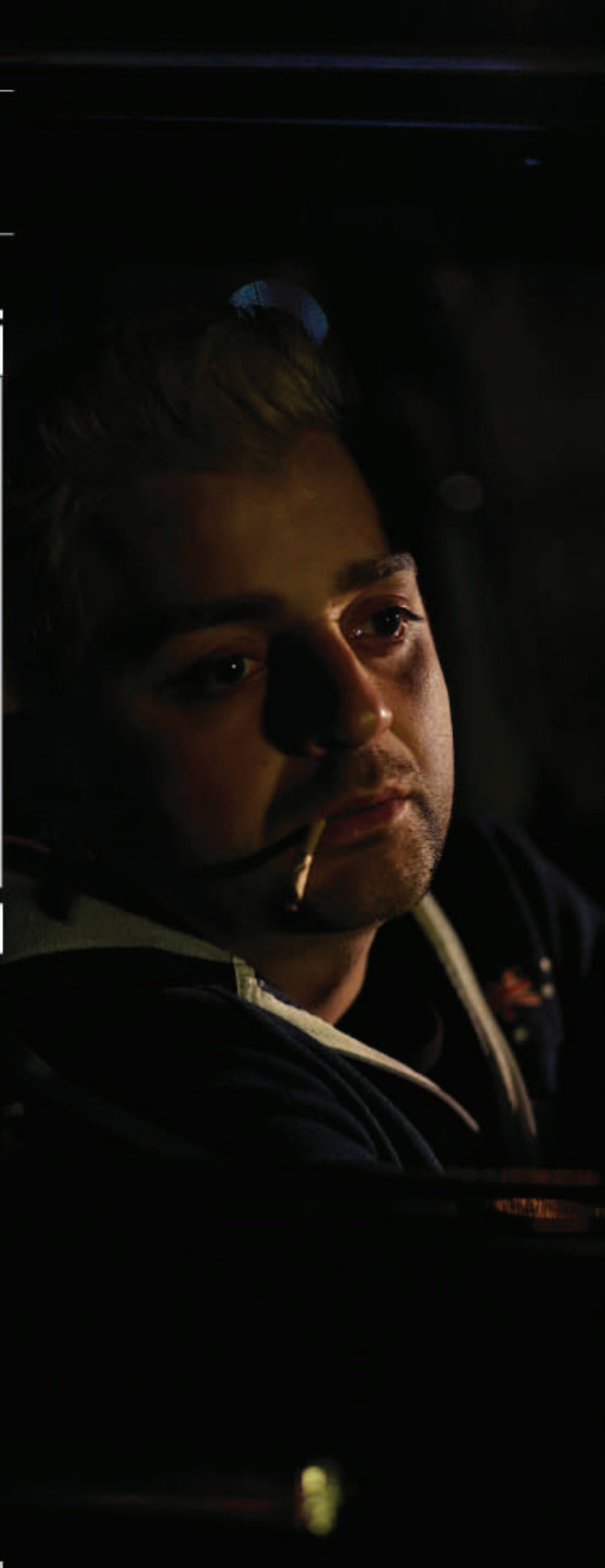
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FILM CENTRAL



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FROM DIRECTORS
DANNY AND MICHAEL PHILIPPOU

TALK TO ME

IN CINEMAS JULY 27

Check for Casts/Shows

AHA

MASLOW

UMBRELLA

A24

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 A full-page photograph of Maria Tran in a black martial arts uniform, performing a high kick or similar movement. She has long dark hair and is looking towards the camera with a focused expression. The background is a bright, abstract pattern of colorful, wavy lines.

INTRODUCING Maria Tran

Maria Tran is an award-winning US-based, Vietnamese-Australian actor, filmmaker, and martial artist working across film & TV, stage & performance, and fight action choreography. She is the founder of female-led Phoenix Eye Films (in the US and Australia).

Her international film credits include "Fist of the Dragon," "Death Mist," and "Tracer/Truy Sat." In 2013, she won the Breakout Female Performer award at the International Action on Film Festival, and in 2016, she was awarded Female Action Performer of the Year at MartialCon. She is also the director and producer of "Hit Girls," a female-led action comedy. In Australia, she has appeared on several TV shows, including "My Place," "Maximum Choppage," "Street Smart" and "Fat Pizza."

Maria has also worked as a stunt performer in movies such as Jackie Chan's "Bleeding Steel" and "MEG" in New Zealand. In 2022, five months after moving to the United States, she landed her breakthrough role as Madame Tien on the 10-episode crime drama Paramount series "Last King of the Cross" starring Tim Roth.

Maria has also been involved in stage productions, including as a fight director and performer for Bell Shakespeare's "Macbeth" and her own theater production "Action Star," which premiered at the OzAsia Festival in Adelaide in 2022. She has received the prestigious \$50,000 Create NSW Western Sydney Arts Fellowship award and established Phoenix Eye Films, a female-led film and art collective based in Western Sydney.

Maria is also known for her documentary filmmaking work, including "Once Upon a Time in Cabramatta" and "My Mother, The Action Star," which won the award for Best Film at the WIFT-V Fest Film Festival. Occasionally, she works as an action fight director for films such as "Ayoliti" and "Terror Zone." Her feature action thriller "Echo 8," Australia's first female-led action movie, has currently won several awards, including the Tokyo Film Awards for Best Film, Winner for Best Feature Film – Women's Film at the World Carnival-Singapore Film Festival and will be scheduled for a screening at the Art Gallery of NSW this year. Maria is a trailblazer known for her community, cultural, and development practices in the film, TV, and entertainment industry.

FilmCentral Magazine recently caught up with Maria to discuss her journey in the film industry, and here's what went down:

Can you tell us more about yourself?

I'm a triple threat: an award-winning actor, producer, and director working across film & TV, stage & performance, & fight action choreography. I'm the founder of female-led Phoenix Eye Films (AUS & US) and co-facilitator of Acting for Mindfulness (AFM).

How did you get started in the entertainment industry?

I started on an independent Kung Fu comedy titled "Maximum Choppage" around 20 years ago while studying for a Bachelor of Psychology. I would dabble in a range of creative arts projects that put me both in front and behind the camera, and my transition into my first job was as a Youth Digital Cultures Coordinator and Information & Cultural Exchange (ICE), where I led the development and implementation of screen cultures across Western Sydney's culturally diverse.

What do you like most about acting?

Acting is a tool of empowerment for the individual self as we strive to explore our body, voice, and imagination. I'm very fascinated by human psychology, the choices people from diverse walks of life make, and the opportunity to embark on the creative process of developing a character, bringing it to life on stage or screen and exploring new stories and worlds. It is also a form of self-expression, a way to communicate emotions, ideas, and perspectives to people around us. As an actor, I can bring joy and entertainment to others. On stage and screen, I love the challenge and reward of taking on new characters and taking them on a journey that impacts the audiences that view them.



How different is it to act in a movie and to act in a TV series? And which one do you prefer?

Both movies and TV series offer unique and rewarding experiences for actors. The choice between the two depends on the project; the role offered, and the actor's personal preferences and goals. Movies tend to have shorter and more intense shooting schedules that are more immersive, and I get a chance to really dive into their characters and the story. TV series, on the other hand, often have a more extended production schedule and a more serialized format. This allows for deeper character development and more opportunities for actors to explore different aspects of their characters over time.

What are your weak points when it comes to acting? How do you try to improve them?

My conventional trajectory as an actor originated in creating my independent films over the past 15 years. It has its benefits of wearing multiple hats of director, producer, fight action choreography, etc. however, when I transition into mainstream films and television, I tend to be hyperaware of the film production set. Sometimes I enjoy immersing myself and appreciating the other roles that make a film set seamless that I forget that I should only be fulfilling the role as a performer. Also, because I've had no formal training and am self-taught, I find it challenging to explain how I get into character, and other actors might find me professionally unrelatable. Ways that I've tried to improve this to reverse engineer the field of acting practices, study different techniques, and merge acting into psychology, philosophy, and neuroscience. Ultimately, the key to improving as an actor is a combination of hard work, dedication, and a willingness to learn and grow continuously. Actors who are open to feedback, willing to take risks, and committed to their craft often make the greatest progress and achieve the most success.

Who have been the most interesting people you've met so far?

I would say it would have to be Jackie Chan, Nancy Valentine Smith, and Tim Roth.

What have you learned from the directors that you have worked with throughout your career?

I've worked with many amazing directors, including Antony Szeto ('Fist of the Dragon,' 'Death Mist'), Jane Eakin ('Street Smart'), Karen Therese ('Action Star'), Kieran Darcy Smith ('Last King of the Cross'), Adrian Castro ('Tiger Cops') and I have also turned into one myself, and I've learned that they have varied styles, but all have a clear vision. They know how and what scenes look, sound, and feel. I've learned to be able to interpret this for my own performances. Directors offer character insight, motivations, and relationships with other characters, technical aspects of filmmaking, such as lighting, sound, camera angles, and editing. Directing is a collaborative process, and directors work closely with actors, writers, and other members of the production team to bring their vision to life.

What are some of the difficulties of the acting business?

Many actors compete for a limited number of roles, and the competition can be intense. Actors may face a lot of rejection before finding success. Actors need to have thick skin and handle disappointment and setbacks. You may also face stereotypes and typecast based on your looks, accent, or previous roles. Internal challenges include facing insecurities and self-doubt, as the craft is a personal and vulnerable process. In addition, acting is a volatile and unpredictable career with the instability of constantly moving from one project to another, which can be frustrating to someone who can't handle the constant change.

What's challenging about bringing a script to life?

The production process can take anywhere from a few months to a year or more for a small, low-budget film. This can include pre-production activities such as writing the script, securing funding, casting actors, and scouting locations, as well as production activities such as filming and post-production activities such as editing and sound design. Making an independent film is often a long and challenging process that requires patience, persistence, and a deep passion for filmmaking.





SNEAK PEEK: CELEBRITY HOMES UNLOCKED

EMILY BLUNT & JOHN KRASINSKI'S *Hollywood home*

Since their first date in 2008, their 2010 wedding at George Clooney's home in Italy, and first baby in 2014, Emily Blunt and John Krasinski have been one of America's favorite celebrity couples. In addition to their wonderful marriage, Emily and John have owned some equally wonderful homes, including their current home in London, a Brooklyn townhome they sold in 2018, a full-floor apartment they still own at the Standish in Brooklyn, and one of their first homes, a mid-century modern in the Hollywood Hills they sold in 2016 for \$3.5 million. The Hollywood Hills home is back on the market for \$6 million.

Emily and John bought the 3,657-square-foot Hollywood Hills home in 2014 for \$2.57 million and spent the next two years adding their own unique style to the four-bedroom home. Located above Mulholland Drive at the end of a private cul-de-sac and hidden behind tall trees, the home was built in 1965 but looks showroom new. On over a one-third-acre double lot, the lush yard includes a huge partially covered flagstone patio, a fountain and extensive landscape lighting, a gazebo, saltwater pool, beautiful green grass, topiaries, and views of the mountains, canyon and city skyline. Most special are the large-leafy oak and olive trees, some of which appear to pre-date the 58-year-old home.

The inside of the home is just as inviting as the outside with glass walls throughout and motorized skylights and retractable blinds to bring in the bright Southern California sunshine. A brilliant foyer leads into the timeless open-concept floorplan with hardwood floors throughout. The sunken living room with a gas fireplace and beamed ceiling, and dining room replicate the outside views. There is also a courtyard, indoor/outdoor speakers, closed-circuit cameras, a study, and a chef's kitchen with custom cabinets, colorful island, Subzero refrigerator and wine fridge, Wolf range and double Miele dishwasher. There are four bathrooms, including a marble-clad en-suite bath with soaking tub and steam shower.

Hollywood Hills is the ideal location for both visitors and locals near the film studios, Beverly Hills Rodeo Drive, the Los Angeles Zoo, and Griffith Park. Celebrities who have lived or do live in the Hills include Katy Perry, Kevin Costner, Jennifer Aniston, and Justin Timberlake.

The listing agent is Ruben Perez of Compass.

Photo Credit: One Shot Productions | Source: [TopTenRealEstateDeals.com](https://www.top10realestatedeals.com)





SPOTLIGHT: INTRODUCING Jonathan Sposato

As announced exclusively by Variety earlier this year, GeekWire Chairman and tech veteran Jonathan Sposato has officially launched his multimedia platform JoySauce Network, which has already featured iconic pillars of the AAPI community in their content, including George Takei, and many other disruptors, innovators, and game changers. Most recently, Jonathan and his team released the first episode of their late-night variety series "JoySauce Late Night," which can be viewed here (JoySauce Late Night Ep 1).

Inspired to do better and create a platform for the AAPI community after the lack of representation on screen and in the entertainment industry growing up, Jonathan's JoySauce multimedia platform has been a long time coming with "JoySauce Late Night" as his major platform launch with his late night variety show unlike any other highlighting the Asian-American experience, promoting up and coming talent in the industry and truly shining a light on the AAPI community, their untold stories and much more. Some talent tied to the first season as guests include David Henry Hwang (Showtime's "The Affair"), Miranda Kwok (ABC's "The Cleaning Lady"), and Ed Lu (NASA Astronaut), to name a few.

A serial entrepreneur, Sposato is the Chairman of GeekWire.com, Chairman and Founder of PicMonkey (the world's most popular web photo editor), and WeCount.org, a non-profit using consumer internet technologies to aid the homeless. Along with countless other investments and startups, Jonathan also founded Phatbits, which went on to become Google Gadgets. Prior to Phatbits, Jonathan was a Senior Manager in Microsoft's consumer division, personally delivering the next level of thought on key Microsoft properties to chairman Bill Gates and the company's leadership, as well as driving the development of award-winning software applications, Xbox video games and social communications applications.

FilmCentral Magazine recently caught up with Jonathan to discuss his journey in the industry, and here's what went down:

When did your entrepreneurial flair first reveal itself?

If I am being perfectly honest, it was probably when I was 13 or 14 and wrote my first computer game on the Apple II+ that I understood the rewards (and risks) of entrepreneurship. It was a wonderful realization that one could create something from scratch and have it impact the lives of many people. I won't lie that not having a boss while working on exactly what you want also had a profound impact on how I thought about entrepreneurship.

What did your life look like before beginning your media platform?

Before JoySauce.com, I had already created several other things that I was lucky enough to have scale to large audiences, but none of them were as much a "passion" pursuit as this. I often struggled to find ways that my businesses would be much more mission aligned with doing some social good in the world. Even before AANHPI hate crimes sadly proliferated, the need to raise the visibility of AANHPI's in mainstream media was a huge passion for me. AANHPI's are more than 7% of the U.S. population and in some major cities nearly 20%, yet less than 3% of all speaking roles in movies & TV are AANHPI. I felt strongly that I wanted to help change that. Small or big, doing something meant that I could change it in a "non-zero" way!

As an entrepreneur, what is it that motivates and drives you?

First off, my biggest motivation is in driving change, where meaningful change is a function of being first, big, special, or unique. There has got to be a good reason why people take notice of you. You've got to deliver value out into the world that hopefully inspires and influences how a conversation moves forward. So yeah, my biggest motivator as an entrepreneur is driving change, and in this case, creating a world in JoySauce where AANHPI representation is always powerful, strong, beautiful, inspiring, and positive.





What do you put your success down to?

Certainly, luck is a big component and I never forget that. Sometimes it's simply being at the right place at the right time. But there's an element of increasing your "good luck surface area" whereby you put in place elements that can create more good luck. Sometimes it's deliberately creating a brand that is fun, delightful, and noticeably differentiated from what's come before it. Sometimes it's taking chances on bold ideas that others might not be bold enough to tackle. Often it's being inclusive of marginalized voices (both on-camera and end audience). JoySauce's decisive and clear inclusion of LGBTQ+ AANHPI voices, not as a standalone thing but a wholly and naturally integrated part of JoySauce, is something we're proud of and is resonating with audiences of all kinds.

What would you say are the key elements for starting and running a successful business?

I have to give former Google CEO Eric Schmidt credit for saying this in a meeting, but I agree that greater than 75% of creating a successful business is getting that core 'insight' correct. What key insight do you have about audience or user expectations or a problem that needs to be solved, are you offering the world? In JoySauce's case, it is 100%: "OMG, there is NOT a cool, edgy, unapologetic cross-media platform with a strong POV speaking to people like me."

Can you tell us more about your "JoySauce Late Night" series? What do you hope viewers will take away from it?

Yes! JoySauce Late Night is the very first ALL-American Asian late-night talk show, featuring an AANHPI host, co-host, guests, cast members, musical artists, writers, camera operators, production folks, etc. It features some hilarious writing, and delightful surprises, all centered on a different AANHPI luminary (David Henry Hwang, Miranda Kwok, Ed Lu, Michelle Li, Nancy Yoon, etc.) and the conversations get REAL. It's not just a quick 2 or 3-minute segment typical of current late-night, but a longer format where we go into not just people's careers but how complexities around their Asian identity has impacted them. Thru our skits and musical numbers we clearly underscore the incredible talent and diversity within our American Asian community. We can truly do anything and have a seat at any table. We picked the late-night talk show format on purpose as it is the most canonically "American" of all TV shows. What if we can normalize the world to seeing an ALL



Asian late-night talk show? Wouldn't that move the needle far in terms of acceptance in mainstream media? I very much think so.

What are the three biggest challenges you have faced growing the business and how did you overcome them?

When it comes to JoySauce in particular, the challenges do differentiate from my other ventures in some key ways. One is how fraught the AANHPI space can be at times. What I mean is that we're still in the first few stages of understanding ourselves, who can speak, who should speak less, what words we want to use, how we should partner, etc.... It's like the whole segment is trying to figure it out, and sometimes there's a little more 'defensive driving' than necessary as everyone is trying to figure it out. Hopefully, very soon, we move to the next stage where participants in the segment understand that this is a very large pond, the opportunity HUGE, and that we're actually all better together. It is also my hope, not just with JoySauce but for the good of the whole, that the way many folks dialogue on social media, criticize, tear each other down, and gatekeep... starts to dissolve and ease up over time. It's gotten out of hand. Instead of calling out, let's do more 'calling in,' yeah?

What do you hope to see happen in the near future for small businesses all over the world?

That more folks realize that they need not fear failure. In Samurai folklore, there's a credo along the lines of, "Don't fear dying. Fear not living." And that is how I see entrepreneurship and starting small businesses. Small businesses are the backbone of this country. Without small businesses, we would not have the kind of innovation in our society that we have historically enjoyed, and we need to continue lowering barriers for new entrants. As reported in Forbes magazine, the U.S. Small Business Association (SBA) cited that small businesses of 500 employees or fewer make up 99.9% of all U.S. businesses and 99.7% of firms with paid employees. Of the new jobs created between 1995 and 2020, small businesses accounted for 62%—12.7 million compared to 7.9 million by large enterprises. Further, a 2019 SBA report found that small businesses accounted for 44% of U.S. economic activity. Without small businesses, the American economy and workforce would not be nearly as vibrant, ripe with innovation, or valuable! So let's make more, and in the meantime, please enjoy JoySauce.com!



STREETS OF COLOUR

EVERY STREET HAS A STORY

Excitement is building as the world premiere of the highly anticipated Australian drama, *Streets Of Colour*, draws near. This compelling film is scheduled to make its grand debut on June 26 at the iconic Hayden Orpheum Cinema in Sydney, Australia. Audiences are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to witness this captivating production that promises to leave a lasting impact.

The choice of Hayden Orpheum Cinema as the venue for the world premiere adds to the anticipation surrounding the event. Located in the heart of Sydney, this historic cinema has been a cherished institution since its opening in 1935. Known for its stunning art deco architecture and commitment to showcasing a wide range of films, Hayden Orpheum Cinema provides the perfect backdrop for the unveiling of *Streets Of Colour*.

Experience the gripping journey of Tez in '*Streets of Colour*': a compelling film produced by Yolandi Franken and written and directed by Ronnie S. Riskalla, which explores identity, redemption, and the consequences of choices.

Starring a talented ensemble cast, including Tez, a 25-year-old drug dealer grappling with a cultural identity crisis and drug addiction who tragically loses custody of his son following the death of his best friend in a racially charged street altercation, '*Streets of Colour*' delves into the depths of human emotions and challenges.

This thought-provoking film, produced by SkyCross Entertainment in collaboration with Frankendipity Enterprises and Rishi Raj Films, boasts an esteemed team with Chief Executive Producer Dr. Raj Patankar and Executive Producers Drew Pearson and Nenif David, who bring their expertise to elevate the film's impact.

'*Streets of Colour*' aims to captivate audiences worldwide, with plans for distribution and sales in various regions to follow. Prepare to embark on an emotional rollercoaster as Tez confronts his past, battles addiction, and strives to

reclaim his son while attempting to transform his life before it spirals beyond redemption.

In a refreshing departure from the norm, Australian cinema is set to venture into uncharted territory, delving into the captivating world of the outer suburbs. With a tantalizingly brief but promising teaser, anticipation builds as audiences eagerly anticipate the unveiling of this unexplored cinematic landscape.

Leading the charge is the talented Rahel Romahn, a recipient of the prestigious Heath Ledger Scholarship and a recent standout performer alongside Michael Sheen in the acclaimed stage production of "*Amadeus*." With his exceptional skills and undeniable on-screen presence, Romahn takes on the challenging lead role, promising to deliver a performance that will captivate and resonate with viewers.

As the teaser hints at the rich tapestry of stories and experiences waiting to be unveiled, excitement mounts for an authentic exploration of the Australian outer suburbs' lives, struggles, and triumphs. This groundbreaking cinematic endeavour promises to shed light on a world rarely seen on the big screen, offering a fresh perspective and a profound connection to the lives of its characters.

With Rahel Romahn at the helm and a team of talented filmmakers steering this venture, Australian cinema is poised to embark on an exhilarating journey into uncharted territory.

Stay tuned for this compelling film that explores themes of redemption, personal growth, and the consequences of one's choices in a society plagued by racial tensions and personal struggles. '*Streets of Colour*' promises to be an immersive cinematic experience that will leave a lasting impact on viewers worldwide. Buckle up and prepare to be immersed in a cinematic experience that will challenge conventions and offer a compelling glimpse into the unexplored depths of the outer suburbs.



"The idea for the film came from my personal experiences suffering at the hands of racism as a child, all the way through to my adult life. The brutality I witnessed was very confronting and frightening, how people treated me because I looked different. Those haunting images followed me for a long time. It wasn't until it happened to me again in my 30s that I put pen to paper." Streets Of Colour writer/director Ronnie S. Riskalla.

This captivating film brims with raw self-identity and searing anger, while delivering a desperate plea for peace and understanding. With an exceptional lead performance by Rahel Rohman, whose talents have graced films such as The Combination, Shantaram, and Here Out West, this movie radiates an unparalleled authenticity rarely seen in Australian cinema.

Streets Of Colour tackles poignant themes with unflinching honesty, shedding light on the universal struggles of identity, belonging, and the human desire for redemption. Through Riskalla's masterful storytelling, the film delves deep into the heart of contemporary Australian society, challenging preconceived notions and fostering a profound understanding of our complex world.

This powerful film intertwines a deeply personal narrative of struggle and redemption with a broader exploration of a vibrant working-class community devastated by drugs, violence, and cultural conflicts. It fearlessly exposes the complexities of life, showcasing both the beauty and the harsh realities. With an unwavering commitment to truth, Streets Of Colour spotlights the individuals caught amidst the chaos. A strong and impactful work from a passionate filmmaker deeply connected to the pulse of Australia, this film demands the attention it deserves, reflecting the nation's current state.

"We couldn't be more excited about getting this incredible film in front of local audiences," says Dov Kornits, the managing director of distributor Screen Inc. "We're certain that the film will kick-start some very, very interesting conversations. We can't wait for the premiere on June 26."

Further exciting news about the Streets of Colour release coming soon. For interviews or any further information, contact Dov Kornits, dov@screeninc.com.au, 0411559519.

Streets of Colour is distributed in Australia and New Zealand by Screen Inc. The film is produced by SkyCross Entertainment, in association with Frankendipity Enterprises and Rishi Raj Films, with Chief Executive Producer Dr. Raj Patankar and Executive Producers Drew Pearson and Nenif David.



MOVIE REVIEW

AVATAR

THE WAY OF WATER

Director James Cameron's highly anticipated sequel, "Avatar: The Way of Water," took us on another breathtaking adventure in the visually stunning and immersive world of Pandora. Picking up where its predecessor left off, the film delved deeper into the rich mythology and introduced us to new captivating characters and awe-inspiring landscapes. It was a cinematic experience that pushed the boundaries of technology and storytelling.

One of the standout aspects of "Avatar: The Way of Water" was its visual splendor. The film transported us to the depths of Pandora's oceans, where bioluminescent creatures and vibrant coral reefs came to life with remarkable detail. The intricate CGI work seamlessly blended with live-action sequences, creating a mesmerizing spectacle that engulfs the audience. From the tranquil beauty of underwater vistas to the heart-pounding action sequences, every frame is a testament to the dedication and artistry of the visual effects team.

The story follows the continued journey of Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), who was then fully integrated into the Na'vi tribe as a warrior and protector of Pandora. When a new threat materialised, Jake and Neytiri (Zoe Saldana) had to navigate treacherous waters to save their world from destruction. Along the way, they encountered a diverse cast of characters, both human and Na'vi, each with their own motivations and agendas. The film explored themes of environmentalism, spirituality, and the precarious balance between human advancement and preservation.

While the plot may feel somewhat familiar, "Avatar: The Way of Water" compensates with its strong character development and emotional depth. Sam Worthington delivered a solid performance as Jake Sully, showcasing his growth as a warrior and his conflicted loyalties. Zoe Saldana's portrayal of Neytiri remained captivating, exuding strength and grace. The chemistry between the two leads was palpable, drawing us deeper into their world and the challenges they faced.

The film also introduced new faces to the franchise, including Kate Winslet as Ronal, a marine biologist and Stephen Lang as Miles Quaritch, a colonel with his own motivations. Winslet brought a grounded and compassionate presence to her role while Lang adds a layer of intrigue and mystery. The ensemble cast worked together seamlessly, creating a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose.

In addition to its impressive visuals and strong performances, "Avatar: The Way of Water" boasted an evocative musical score by Simon Franglen, which perfectly complements the film's epic scale and emotional beats. The score's haunting melodies and soaring orchestrations further immerse us in the film's world, enhancing the overall cinematic experience.

However, the film's runtime may be a slight drawback, with some sequences feeling overly long and drawn out. While the breathtaking visuals and immersive world keep us engaged, there are moments when the pacing could have been tightened to maintain a more consistent momentum.

Overall, "Avatar: The Way of Water" delivers on its promises as a visual spectacle and a continuation of the beloved franchise. James Cameron's visionary direction, coupled with the outstanding performances and groundbreaking visual effects, transported us to a world beyond our wildest imaginations. It served as a reminder of the power of cinema to transport us to new realms and ignite our sense of wonder.



GET TO KNOW Peter Jang

A true multi-hyphenate and journeyman through many aspects of the film industry, including acting, writing, directing, producing, and stunt work, Peter Jang is the up-and-coming talent to watch in 2023.

Coming off a big win for his award-winning short film MASK, which he starred in and directed, at the 2022 Marina Del Rey Film Festival for 'Best Narrative,' Peter is now ready to tackle his next slew of projects, including his recently wrapped production of SHADOW FORCE directed by Joe Carnahan and starring Kerry Washington, a feature film that is currently in development, as well as a screenplay titled SIMULATION. Along with his current projects, Peter will most recently be a featured panelist at this year's Los Angeles Comic Con for their "The Art of Action – AKA How to be a Badass in Film" special panel.

Peter moved to California from Columbus, Ohio, to pursue his BA in Economics from UC San Diego. Once finishing his time at university, Peter moved to Los Angeles and began pursuing a career in acting/stunt work and absorbing as much information about the industry as possible while getting started. With a background in Taekwondo as a junior Olympian fighter with 5 US National Taekwondo Championship medals and 3 Ohio State Champion titles, Peter was naturally drawn to stunt work as a fight specialist. Peter also excels in wirework, high falls, parkour, air rams, and weapons training (firearms and blades), to name a few. Over his time in the industry, Peter has acted and performed stunt work on multiple big-name projects, including THE SUICIDE SQUAD, THE FOREVER PURGE, BAD TIMES AT THE EL ROYALE, "NCIS: Hawaii," "General Hospital," and "American Horror Stories," to name a few.

FilmCentral Magazine recently caught up with Peter to discuss his journey in the entertainment industry, and here's what went down:

Can you tell us more about yourself? How did you get started in the entertainment industry?

I was born in Columbus, OH, and grew up in rural Delaware, OH. While earning my BA in Economics from The University of California, San Diego, a friend of mine showed me a casting call for extras on a TV pilot being shot in Ocean Beach. I ended up working on the show and had a great time, but I still did not quite understand the industry and that there are real career paths within it.

Years later, I moved to Los Angeles to work at a market research firm, doing extra work and music videos on the side for fun. I started taking acting classes and eventually earned my SAG card by doing extra work. With that, I earned more per hour than my Market Research job and learned I had a passion for acting and filmmaking, so I took the plunge and became an extra full-time.

While on set, I took them as learning experiences, carefully watching every position from lighting to directing, how the crew talked to each other, and how the director talked to the department heads and actors. I fell deeper in love with performing and filmmaking in general. I got to work on everything from no-budget short films to 200 million dollar blockbusters, in every position, from Production Assistant on a fitness video to standing in for months on huge films by JJ Abrams and Michael Mann. In my acting school, I also got to take seminars and Masterclasses from greats like David Mamet and Jim Belushi, as well as winning international screenwriting contests, to which a prize was a screenwriting seminar from Robert McKee. But my largest break in the industry has been through the amazing stunt community. As I started working on bigger and bigger projects, I've had the honor of working with amazing talents within the stunt industry and found a family through blood and bruises.

Finally, I have become a filmmaker myself, and since 2016 I founded and am CEO of Simplicity Pictures, Inc. With four short films and my first feature film on the way, I am just getting started.



What do you like most about acting?

Oddly enough, I see acting as the last leg of my martial arts training. People tend to look at the physical side of martial arts as what defines it, but for me, the way of life, philosophy, and system for self-improvement and enlightenment defines it. I have been a martial artist since eight and have even achieved five national championship wins in Taekwondo. What I love about martial arts is that it has taught me mental toughness, discipline, hard work, and control over mind and body. But what martial arts, and really nothing else I have found, can teach is emotional control. With acting, I love pushing the boundaries of my psychology and emotions and coming back to the center. While entertainment for audiences can inform and change perceptions, it can be transformative and enlightening for the actor, allowing us to embody another person's psychology, learning about our own. I love acting because it allows me to learn about myself and the world through another's eyes.

Can you tell us about your role in Mask?

I play the role of Nick, a combat veteran who suffers from severe PTSD. We find Nick in the boxing gym trying to escape his symptoms by working out while being on hold with the VA and avoiding calls from his wife due to his shame. As the story progresses, we see that Nick's mental illness is causing him to have fits of crying and rage and that he is suicidal. When a mysterious man in the gym confronts him, his worst fears are brought to the forefront, and we watch him struggle with his inner demons.

What sort of person is going to relate this character?

Anyone that has experienced trauma in their life will relate to this character. The human tendency to withdraw and isolate ourselves when we deal with trauma and put on a mask to our friends and family to not be a burden is an experience that most people share, and this piece emphasizes that we should not choose to suffer in silence, and even the strongest of us need help sometimes. The deepest hope of this piece is to let people know that they are not alone and that their lives are worthwhile.

What's the biggest challenge to taking on this role?

Directing and acting on this project was the most challenging aspect since it was so emotionally charged. Going from a complete emotional breakdown, taking off my actor's hat, calming down, and then asking to see and critique the shot was an exercise in emotional control that I love. I live for these kinds of challenges.

What has been the most memorable experience of your career?

Writing, directing, and starring my own films has the most rewarding experience of my life. It has allowed me to explore the inner workings of my mind, objectively craft those explorations into emotional experiences for my audience and play them out on set while collaborating with artists that expand my perspective. The combination of catharsis and teamwork is addictive, and I am so humbled to be able to commit my career to something I am truly passionate about.

What are your future plans? Inside your career or out of it.

I'm looking forward to shooting my first feature film this year, as well as publicly releasing Mask and entering an action short film called Boss Uzi into festivals. Beyond this year, I look forward to further developing my production company Simplicity Pictures, and continuing to make the library of films I have and will write. I hope my work will help change how people see the world and inspire positive change. Aside from my own projects, I am excited to see what opportunities will arise as an actor and stuntman in the years to come. This year, I will appear in three TV shows, one feature film as an actor, and one feature film stunt doubling. I'm looking forward to expanding myself as an artist and look forward to continuing to collaborate with amazing artists around the globe.

Outside of my work, taking care of and creating memories with my parents, sisters, and friends as best I can, travelling around the world, learning at least one other language fluently, getting married, and starting a family are the goals I have for my life. We only get one life, and I plan to live mine to the fullest!



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