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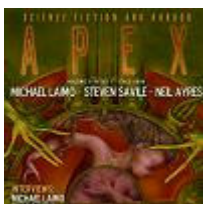
A Writer's Vanity

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Girl With Gun

25th-Nov-2006 12:10 am



You ever sat down on a Sunday afternoon and flipped through the channels and happened upon the Independent Film Channel and stumbled across their occasional showing of short films? Did you watch them? I'm sure most of you can probably answer "No" to that question. That's unfortunate, because there's some real gems to be found.

The hardworking short filmmakers share a most undesirable trait with many short fiction writers: a difficulty in attracting an audience. Certainly, the focus of this blog is to promote the art of short fiction (and Apex!), but sometimes a diversion into a parallel universe is a good way to keep things lively.

Russell Emanuel is an interesting young filmmaker I met via Myspace. I stumbled upon his work via a friend of a friend and was immediately taken with the nifty poster for his short movie *Girl With Gun*. I'm a huge fan of tough-girl action movies and television shows. I'll harbor not-so-secret crushes on Peta Wilson and Jennifer Garner till I'm pushing up the daisies. Russell and I shared some emails, and he was gracious enough to send me a copy of his film even though I run a literary website.

The movie features a tough and beautiful blonde who leads a "normal" life to those who know her, and is a deadly assassin during off-hours. Sure, it's a worn plot-device. But the art is what you do with the plot, not the plot itself.

Having just written the longest lead-in to an interview ever, I encourage you to visit Russell Emanuel's Myspace page at http://www.myspace.com/gwg_girlwithgun and check out what he's got going on.


The interview, as they say, is behind the cut.

1) Tell us a little bit about *Girl With Gun*.

"*Girl With Gun*" is a film about Gwen Hunter, whose best friend Mitzi and on-and-off love Dan thinks she is an ordinary 20-something working woman. In reality, she is the Nightingale, an assassin who helps the innocent when they cannot help themselves. However, her double life leads her to contemplate whether it is worth it, having come so close to death only earlier that morning while on assignment, wondering whether she should just settle down with Dan to lead a normal life like Mitzi's.

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2) The badass female assassin is a popular sub-genre of film. What prompted you to make a film in this milieu?

I've always found the female superhero genre fascinating. I took elements from "Batman" (the double life, the fact that Batman is human with no real superpowers other than his gadgets and technology) and from such films as "Kill Bill" and "The Matrix" for the look and feel of a female superhero (The Bride and Trinity) as well as for the cinematography.

3) Short film has struggled to gain a foothold in the movie-watcher's stream of consciousness. Why do you think this is true?

Because it is a short film. Shorts films most likely won't get distribution and can only deal with a limited narrative (due to time constraints). So in the case of "Girl With Gun", I could only do aggressive self-marketing on such sites as MySpace and Withoutabox in hopes that people like what they see. And if they do, then hopefully someone will be kind enough to invest in a feature version!

4) Do you peruse any popular short fiction magazines, perhaps searching for the inspiration to your next short feature?

I peruse various magazines such as Hollywood Reporter, Variety to see what films are in production, as well as see what's on MySpace to get me in contact with like minded people, to see if we can collaborate. I also go to various film festivals to get a feel for other independent short film and feature productions going on.

5) How did you get into filmmaking?

I've always wanted to get into filmmaking ever since I was young. I remember building medieval lego sets and doing stop motion camera work with the lego figures. By the time I was in High School, I became fond of composer John Williams' music and that got me hooked into doing filmmaking as a career. I began professional filmmaking after graduating from USC with my first short film "Her Knight" in 2003. Presently I am in pre-production on my first feature film called "P.J." which we are shooting this Christmas, a film that wouldn't have

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been possible without "Girl With Gun".

**6) Any plans to make a feature length film?
Perhaps an expansion on Girl With Gun?**

The aforementioned "P.J." is my first attempt at feature filmmaking and I hope people will like it when it's released next year!

7) I thought your lead actress did an exceptional job. She's a nice mix of Natasha Henstridge and Uma Thurman. How did you find Tracy O'Conner?

I cast through Back Stage West and found her that way. She was definitely a pleasure to work with, a trooper, and I wouldn't have cast anyone else in the role.

8) What is the best way for your fans to keep in the loop in regards to the latest Russ Emanuel work?

The "Girl With Gun" MySpace site is a great way to keep up-to-date with any of my latest works or festival schedules, at http://www.myspace.com/gwg_girlwithgun. Otherwise, go to the official Russem Productions website at <http://www.russem.com> to see what's happening!

Thanks Jason for the interview and thanks to everyone for tuning in!

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