

# GWG: GIRL WITH GUN

A Film by Russ Emanuel

Production Notes

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RUSSEM PRODUCTIONS

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# GWG: GIRL WITH GUN

## Synopsis

**GWG: 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 who cannot help themselves.

Just as her relationship with Dan is going well, the couple mistakenly meets at a restaurant where she is on assignment to assassinate an underworld Mob Boss. Gwen is distracted and loses focus when Ninja Girl, another astute assassin, successfully comes to the Mob Boss' rescue in a martial arts match of a lifetime.

Her defeat, Dan's rejection of her and Mitzi's perfect, relaxed life leads Gwen to further contemplate the dichotomy that is her own existence. And, as another assignment looms, she must decide what her next move will be . . .

Russem Productions presents a Russ Emanuel film. **GWG: Girl With Gun.** Tracy O'Connor, Michelle Martin, Erick Holloway, Michelle Lee, Matteo Ribaud, David Neff, Dina Kriger, Scott St. Blaze. Director of Photography, Aasulv Wolf Austad. Production Designer, Gladys Rodriguez. Key Make-up Artist, Haruyo Sawada. Production Sound, Mickey McMullen. Second Unit Director, Yim-Chan Tong. Stunt Coordinator / Wirework Coordinator, Jeff Scott. Original Score Composed by Neil Argo. Post Sound, Sean Fahimian. Written and Edited by Emile Haris. Produced by Russ Emanuel, Emile Haris, Lisa O'Dell. Directed by Russ Emanuel.

# GWG: GIRL WITH GUN

## Director's Statement

For me, **GWG: Girl With Gun** is the next logical step in my filmmaking career. Being my sophomore effort, after my first film "Her Knight", I wanted to show that I had grown as a filmmaker, putting together a production that was more intricate and complex.

This included further delving into the characters' psyches, especially Gwen Hunter's, a woman who has to face a major conflict in her life: whether to continue helping innocent people, or settling down and living an ordinary life of her best friend Mitzi. To realize the character, I needed an especially talented actress, whom I found in the form of Tracy O'Connor. With her screen presence, I feel that the audience will be able to confide in Gwen Hunter, feeling her joys and pains.

Her dichotomy hits close to home for me. I too have faced the hard decision whether to pursue the taxing and erratic life of a filmmaker, or the more secure and stable life of a 9 to 5 job. In the film, I make this point apparent when Gwen looks at her watch in the beginning, showing that it's 9am – the time she finishes working. Then, at the end of the film, she goes to work again at 5pm. In essence, the flip life of a regular person.

Further helping the production progress are, a well thought-out story and properly paced edit by Emile Haris, intricate cinematography by Aasulv Wolf Austad, effective sets designed by Gladys Rodriguez, elaborate action sequences created by Yim-Chan Tong, who incorporated Jeff Scott's carefully planned wirework stunts, and finally a well composed part techno / part orchestral score by Neil Argo.

With the collaboration between every cast and crew, **GWG: Girl With Gun** has attained completion. That said, I hope you will enjoy the film as much as I have and continue to do so.

-- Russ Emanuel

# GWG: GIRL WITH GUN

## About the Filmmakers

RUSS EMANUEL (Director, Producer)

Russ Emanuel marks his sophomore film effort with **GWG: Girl With Gun**. He has also produced and directed his directorial debut, *Her Knight* (2003), as well as producing Emile Haris' *Mavet* (2004) and David Covarrubias' *The Diary* (2004). Originally from San Francisco, he grew up in both Japan and the United States, garnering an international viewpoint of the world throughout his childhood. He wrote his first screenplay in 1993. He then went to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles to study Cinema-Television, International Relations and Japanese. More recently, he wrote a 10-part fantasy saga and a science fiction trilogy, worked as the "Assistant to Producer" on *The Failures*, and founded his production company Russem Productions in 2002, *Her Knight*, *Mavet*, and **GWG: Girl With Gun** being the first films under its banner. Currently, he is producing a horror themed film, *A Perfect Red*.

EMILE HARIS (Writer, Editor, Producer)

A graduate in both Writing and Film from Long Beach State, it's all about making movies for this enthusiastic individual. In an attempt to marry experimental moviemaking with the documentary narrative, Emile Haris, together with Yos Park produced the sci-fi short *Frakie Died*, which they put under their production company, Atomicgum Productions, founded in 2000. Interested in taking a stab at the extremely challenging romantic genre, he teamed up with USC graduate Russ Emanuel and created *Her Knight*. He has since shot several mini documentaries showcasing life in Los Angeles, wrote and edited Russ Emanuel's **GWG: Girl With Gun** and wrote, edited, and directed *Mavet*. Currently, he and Russ Emanuel are working on *A Perfect Red*, which he wrote and will edit.

AASULV WOLF AUSTAD (Director of Photography)

Originally from Norway, Aasulv Wolf Austad came to the United States to pursue Cinematography, already having done commercials in Norway. He started out his Los Angeles career as a camera operator for 2000's *Aquí y ahora* and *The Box*, as well as gaffer on *Truce*. Then, he became Director of Photography on Jennifer Phang's 2000 film, *Love, Ltd.* After **GWG: Girl With Gun**, he would continue to work with Jennifer Phang on *Target Audience 9.1* (2005), and *Half-Life* (2006), having also worked on two other separate films, *A Sentimental Princess* (2003) and *The Cure for a Diseased Life* (2004).

GLADYS RODRIGUEZ (Production Designer)

Gladys Rodriguez was born and educated in Lima, Peru, having studied Interior Design at Toulouse Lautrec Art School. Then, after graduating, she worked several years as an Interior Designer in Peru before going to Madrid, Spain where she received her masters and graduated with honors in Production Design and Theatre at TAI Fine Arts School, having finally discovered her fascination for film. Because of this, she used her knowledge

of design to help bring color to two short films in Spain. It was at this point that she decided to try her luck in Hollywood, moving to Los Angeles to pursue her film career. Since she has been here, she worked on many films including the feature film *Fate* directed by Ace Cruz and now two of Russ Emanuel's films, *Her Knight* and **GWG: Girl With Gun**.

#### YIM-CHAN TONG (Second Unit Director)

Originally from Hong Kong, Yim-Chan Tong began his career as an actor with the 1970 Hong Kong action film *Bo Sau (Kung Fu Vengeance)*. He then teamed up with Jackie Chan, acting as his personal stunt man and action director in the films *The Young Master* (1980), *Dragon Strike* (1982), and *Jackie Chan's Project A* (1983). More recently, he decided to come to Los Angeles, to pursue Hollywood filmmaking. He has attended the UCLA Extension Entertainment Studies program in order to do this, as well as becoming Second Unit Director in 2004 on **GWG: Girl With Gun**.

#### JEFF SCOTT (Stunt Coordinator, Wirework Coordinator)

An accomplished Stunt Coordinator and Stunt Actor for over a decade, Jeff Scott has an impressive resume under his belt. Originally from Northern California, he started his film career with a supporting role on the 1995 feature film *Copycat*. Then he jumped onto *Nash Bridges*, doing recurring stunt roles for that television series for the rest of the 1990s. More recently, he has provided stunt work and coordination on David Covarrubias' *The Diary*. As a stunt man, he has also doubled many actors including Timothy Hutton and Jeremy Sisto. His specialty is full body burns, fights, high falls, stair falls, and wirework stunts. He currently resides in Los Angeles, CA, where he has completed the UCLA Extension Entertainment Studies program to further his pursuit of becoming a Second Unit Director.

#### NEIL ARGO (Composer)

Having received a Masters of Music, Music Theory and Composition from the University of Northern Colorado, Neil Argo's dramatic and provocative scores have been heard all over the world. From *Wild America*, *The New Mission: Impossible*, *Melrose Place* and *Beverly Hills 90210*, to the far reaches of "South African National Geographic" documentaries, he has composed for many noteworthy projects. His awards include a Gold Award for the episode of "Born to Run" from the already mentioned television series *Wild America*, and 2 Emmy Awards for the "Survivors of the Skeleton Coast" National Geographic episode and "A Community of Caring" documentary for the Directors Guild of America. He also wrote the original scores on all three of Russem Productions' films, *Her Knight*, *Mavet*, and more recently **GWG: Girl With Gun**, working closely with Russ Emanuel on each. Currently, he is already signed on for Russ Emanuel's upcoming film, *A Perfect Red*.

# GWG: GIRL WITH GUN

## About the Cast

TRACY O'CONNOR (Gwen Hunter)

Originally from Orange County, Tracy O'Connor has always wanted to be an actress. Majoring in English at the University of California, Santa Barbara, at the same time she began her acting in the theater arts. She performed in various plays including Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* playing Olivia for the Theatre Group Studio as well as *Macbeth* playing Hecate for Estancia Productions. Her acting training includes UCSB Dramatic Arts and Barbara Von Holt of the Estancia Theatre. She is also actively involved in martial arts, obtaining a fifth degree black belt from Jun Chong. Her theatrical background combined with her martial arts experience made her the ideal candidate to play the action-packed superhero assassin Gwen Hunter, in **GWG: Girl With Gun**.

MICHELLE MARTIN (Mitzi Oppenheimer)

Michelle Martin has starred in a wide range of films including lead roles in *333 Perdition Place* and *Afterbar*, supporting characters in *L.A./Masselin House* and *Baker's Commodities*, as well as playing a dancer in *Beyond Honor*, an official selection of the 2004 Palm Springs International and Newport Beach Film Festivals. But that's not all for this wide-ranging actress, having also done theatre, including playing lead characters, Nathalie, in *Friends Like These* and Jenny/Claudia in *Jenny Keeps Talking*. Her education/training ranges from an Acting Apprenticeship at the Actors Theatre of Louisville to On-Camera Techniques taught by Eric Stephan Kline, Robert D'Avanzo, and Carolyn Pickman. Her special skills include modern dance, ballet, yoga, and singing.

ERICK HOLLOWAY (Dan Winters)

Erick Holloway began his acting career in Iowa where he received his bachelors in Theater from St. Ambrose University. After college, he decided to pursue professional acting by moving to Los Angeles in 2002. Since arriving here, he has starred in many films including the lead roles in *Breathe, Love Thy Neighbor*, and *Scammers*. His theatrical experience ranges from roles in *Buried Child*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *Biloxi Blues*. Besides acting, he also has a true passion in music, having sung for the independent rock band Blue Ash Ink, touring with them directly after college. More recently, he starred in and produced the successful play, *Private Eyes*.

MICHELLE LEE (Ninja Girl)

A versatile actress, she has starred in many films including a starring role in *Big in Europe*, a CSUN student film, and a supporting role in the independent film, *Chicks With Sticks*. She was also featured in several television series including *Seventh Heaven* and *Pacific Blue*, as well as in theatre, including the UCLA student production, *Heaven and Peace*, playing the role Ling-Xia. Her acting training consists of the Meisner/Stella Adler Technique through Piero Dusa Acting Conservatory, UCLA Theatre courses, among other

classes. She is also very learned in martial arts, knowing Wushu, Kung Fu, and Kick-boxing. She also has a B.A. in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.

#### MATTEO RIBAUDO (Alfonse Abrams)

An Italian-American, Matteo Ribaudo has acted in film, television, as well as providing voice overs. Regarding film, he has starred in *Pickles* as the Mob Boss, *Up and Coming* as Percival Collins/Master, and *Boeing* as the Military Commander. In theatre, he played the lead characters Bob in *Sure Thing*, and Russ Aladdin in *Electric Roses Aladdin*. His education and instruction include Film Technique at the Aaron Speiser Acting Workshop and Scene Study at Peaceful Warrior. Recently, he finished his directorial debut, *In The Name of My Father*, a short film shot in 16mm. He is also a certified strength and conditioning specialist, having trained Tracy O'Connor for her role as Gwen Hunter in **GWG: Girl With Gun**.

#### DAVID NEFF (Mob Boss)

A veteran of acting, David Neff has appeared in numerous film, television, and theatrical roles. These include roles for the films, *Time Riders*, *Bad Boys From Brazil*, and *Chameleon*. His theatrical roles include Mr. Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You* and John Phillips in *Dream a Little Dream For Me*. However, he is most famous for his television roles which consist of the recurring role of Mob Boss Kurt in *General Hospital*, Dr. Philbin in *Days of Our Lives*, among many others. He also has a deep interest in college football, rooting for his favorite team, the University of Southern California Trojans.

#### DINA KRIGER (Lucy Oppenheimer)

A talented child actress, Dina Kriger began acting since she was 2 years old. Originally from Russia, she came to the United States along with her parents and brother and sister (also child actors) to pursue acting in Hollywood. She has acted in many films including the following: *Overqualified* playing Annemarie, *Garbage Ties* playing Samantha, and Lucy Oppenheimer in **GWG: Girl With Gun**. She has also acted in two music videos: *Obtuse* and *Live, Love, Dream*. More recently, she appeared on the cover of the October 2004 issue of "Actor & Actress Magazine".

#### SCOTT ST. BLAZE (Kevin Oppenheimer)

An actor who brings the true meaning out of the term "actor", Scott St. Blaze has starred in everything from Film and Television to Theatre. He has starred in such television shows as *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* playing the Fullerton Man, to the theatrical performance in *The Tavern* as Joshua, to such films as *Without a Trace* playing The Suspect, and more recently in David Covarrubias' *The Diary*, starring as Billy, one of the lead roles. It was here he met Russ Emanuel, who was one of the producers on that film, who would later remember his memorable performance and cast him as Kevin Oppenheimer in **GWG: Girl With Gun**.

# GWG: GIRL WITH GUN

## The Cast

Gwen Hunter	Tracy O'Connor
Mitzi Oppenheimer	Michelle Martin
Dan Winters	Erick Holloway
Ninja Girl	Michelle Lee
Alfonse Abrams	Matteo Ribauda
Mob Boss	David Neff
Lucy Oppenheimer	Dina Kriger
Kevin Oppenheimer	Scott St. Blaze

## The Crew

Director / Producer	Russ Emanuel
Writer / Editor / Producer	Emile Haris
Producer	Lisa O'Dell
Co-Producer /	
Unit Production Manager	Phil Miller
Composer	Neil Argo
Production Sound	Mickey McMullen
Production Designer	Gladys Rodriguez
Key Make-up Artist	Haruyo Sawada
Director of Photography	Aasulv Wolf Austad
Second Unit Director	Yim-Chan Tong
Stunt Coordinator /	
Wirework Coordinator	Jeff Scott

English-language

Aspect Ratio: 1:85/1 [Flat]

Running Time: 14 minutes

Analog Surround 2.0

A Russem Productions Film



PAGE 1 Top Left: TRACY O'CONNOR stars as Gwen Hunter in Russ Emanuel's GWG: GIRL WITH GUN, a Russem Productions film.

Top Right: TRACY O'CONNOR (left) and MICHELLE LEE (right) star in Russ Emanuel's GWG: GIRL WITH GUN, a Russem Productions film.

Bottom: TRACY O'CONNOR stars in Russ Emanuel's GWG: GIRL WITH GUN, a Russem Productions film.





PAGE 2 Top Left: ERICK HOLLOWAY (left) and TRACY O'CONNOR (right) star in Russ Emanuel's GWG: GIRL WITH GUN, a Russem Productions film.  
Top Right: TRACY O'CONNOR (left) and MICHELLE MARTIN (right) star in Russ Emanuel's GWG: GIRL WITH GUN, a Russem Productions film.  
Bottom Left: DINA KRIGER (left), SCOTT ST. BLAZE (center) and MICHELLE MARTIN (right) star in Russ Emanuel's GWG: GIRL WITH GUN, a Russem Productions film.  
Bottom Right: TRACY O'CONNOR stars in Russ Emanuel's GWG: GIRL WITH GUN, a Russem Productions film.





PAGE 3 Top Left: TRACY O'CONNOR (left), DAVID NEFF (center) and MICHELLE LEE (right) star in Russ Emanuel's GWG: GIRL WITH GUN, a Russem Productions film.  
Top Right: MATTEO RIBAUDO stars in Russ Emanuel's GWG: GIRL WITH GUN, a Russem Productions film.  
Bottom: RUSS EMANUEL, director of GWG: GIRL WITH GUN, a Russem Productions film.

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