

RICHARD CORSO BIO

Richard Corso, born December 2nd, 1994 is an American film director, producer and writer. He is a contributor to the Denver Film Society and the Colorado Film and Video Association, helping the industry in Colorado build its local indie film scene. Although known for his genre bending stories, often dark and humorous, Corso regularly explores themes such as pointless and sadistic chaos, the pursuit of destiny or purpose, with characters often finding very little, and settings around political or social satire. The subjects of his work are often based around simple archetypes: con artists, salesmen, cops and robbers, writers, detectives, jesters and fools, overall outcasts of the social spectrum.

In 2013, Corso's first short film, *Rabbit Bones* (2013), was released and accepted into The Denver Film Festival winning both the Best Director and Best Film category for Corso at the age of 18. *Rabbit Bones* was followed up that same year by both *The Grey Gentlemen* (2013) and *Who's Bruce Flynn?* (2013), the latter receiving a sequel in 2018.

Corso's second award-winning short film, *Monkey* (2014), was awarded Best Short Film, Best Up And Coming Director and Best Sound Editing at the Seattle International Film Festival.

In 2016, with the collaboration with Director of Photography, Nick Bruso, Corso wrote and directed the Neo-Noir crime film *Fish* (2017), which also gathered a Best Cinematography and Best Film and also nomination for Best Directing, Best Actor at the Frostbite International Indie Fest.

He has established a long filmography involving repeat collaborations with actors and film technicians, including seven films made with actor Cody Dermon and four films made with Cinematographer Brekon Baxter both of whom worked with Corso on the [Bruce Flynn] sequel, *The Salesman* (2018) the award-winning dark comedy about a traveling salesman (played by Brent Podosek), where both Podosek and Dermon were nominated for their performances. The film was also awarded Best Film in the New York Film Awards, as well as a Best Film nomination in the Colorado Film Awards.

In 2019, Corso was approached to direct *The New World Order* (2019) an adaptation of Harold Pinter's Satirical play of the

same name. The film stars Haydn Winston and [Cody] Dermon, another collaboration between them, as a pair of bumbling and violent British gangsters, arguing the semantics of language while interrogating a blind folded man in a chair. Although set in a very small boiler room, this game of riddled dialogue between the films leads to visually stunning photography from Baxter, and top notch blocking. Corso drew inspiration from one of his filmmaker idols, Stanley Kubrick. (An interview about the making of this film can be seen on Corso's Vimeo page).

Around this time, (fellow Denver filmmaker) Kareem Kamahl Taylor and Corso embarked on a long and grueling production titled *Cassidy Blues* (2020), a nod to the French New Wave films of the 60s and the high octane cop dramas of the 70s. The story of two detectives chasing a Bonnie & Clyde pair with their only lead being a pack of cigarettes called Cassidy Blues. Starring singer/songwriter Mandy Groves and another Corso alumni, Gabe Combs, *Cassidy Blues* was proven to be a high risk, high reward project for both Taylor and Corso, gathering half a dozen awards including Best Film and Best Actress at the MCA Awards, and Best Original Score at the Beyond The Curve Film Festival in Paris. Take 2 Film Magazine called it "A time machine to a cops and robbers story...a love letter to a bygone era".

Corso would spend the better part of 2019 engaged in various projects with writer, and former classmate, Gregory Ferbrache. Both scripts, the Pulp Adventure story, Three, To Cairo and the dark Neo-Western, A Yeti Met A Mammoth, would prove to be too expensive to produce at the present time. Although placed on the shelf, Corso is still dedicated to making these two stories come to life on the screen.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, as most filmmakers took the year and half off, Corso decided to pursue two script adaptations of Ferbrache's work: the medieval satirical piece, *Picnic Under A Gibbet* (2021) and a one location surreal thriller, *The Switcheroo Room* (2022). "[Picnic is] utterly dark, utterly clever. A timely piece of film from the COVID Era" (Indie Film Spotlight). The film is currently in festivals this fall and will make its first public screening at the Horsetooth International Film Festival.

The Switcheroo Room, based on the short story, You Little Etcetera, You by Ferbrache, is now in post production, with a release attached to February 2022. The film stars Jain Barrett,

Ryan Lee, Haleigh Burckley, Emma Moody and Aletheia Matthews as the film's leads.

As of 2021, now splitting time between Denver, Colorado and Atlanta, Georgia, Corso is embarking on a new step in his career; *Funeral Singers*, co-written by [Switcheroo] and [Picnic] writer, Gregory Ferbrache, will mark Corso's first feature film. A dark road trip comedy around brothers Prince and Hank Gravely en route through an Americana wasteland with their deceased father and a pet goldfish in their 1950's Cadillac hearse. Drawing influence from The Coen Brothers, Wim Wenders, and pictures such as *The Blues Brothers* and *Easy Rider*, the project is being produced by Adam S. Ford, Sterling J. Cook and Sterling Miller and is currently seeking financial backing.

Richard Corso's Filmography

- Rabbit Bones (2013) *[Best Short & Best Director]*
- The Grey Gentlemen (2013) *[Best Screenplay]*
- Who's Bruce Flynn? (2013) *[Best Screenplay]*
- Monkey (2014) *[Best Director, Best Sound, Best Film]*
- Unfiltered Coffee: A Series (2015-2016)
- Perfect Day For A Pancake (2015)
- Revolver For The Romantic (2015)
- Fish (2017) *[Best Cinematography & Best Film; Nominated Best Actor, Best Director]*
- Late Nights: A Series (2017-2018)
- The Salesman (2018) *[Best Film & Best Actor, Nominated Best Supporting Actor]*
- The New World Order (2019)
- Cassidy Blues (2020) *[Best Actress, Best Film, Best Score]*
- Picnic Under A Gibbet (2021)
- The Switcheroo Room (2022)

In Development

- Funeral Singers

You can see Richard Corso's work at www.vimeo.com/richardcorso and follow him on instagram at [@richthereptilianplant](https://www.instagram.com/richthereptilianplant).