

A FILM BY ALBERTO DIAMANTE

RATTLESNAKE POINT

CRIMINAL FRIENDS
ARE STILL FRIENDS



IN TENEBRIS
PRODUCTIONS

HELLO!

Thank you for considering “Rattlesnake Point.” This film is truly something special, a galvanizing caper with lots of gripping twists and turns. Shocking, insightful, humorous and visually masterful, this film will captivate audiences, entertain them, make them laugh, cringe, cheer and feel a gamut of emotions from beginning to end. As a filmmaker, what motivates me is the desire to write compelling, unique and fascinating characters. I’m averse to convoluted plots, complex twists and turns, or gratuitous endings.

What is most important in a story is characters: do we want to spend 90 minutes with these guys? Do we want to hear their stories? Are they funny? Witty? Charming? Smart? Insightful? If that’s the case, a film can never be dull.

At the same time, I believe that simplicity, realism, humour, and believable characters are the irreplaceable mechanics upon which great storytelling is based.

This film centers on wicked but relatable characters, a dynamic story, and masterful visuals that bring the landscape to life.

Authenticity of place, people and plot is essential to my style. That’s why so many elements in this film are based on real life: the caper, the criminal connections, the minutiae of law enforcement and the clash with the most depraved criminal elements. We want audiences to feel like they are privy to natural environments, believable surprises and unforgettable experiences. Thank you again for your attention and I look forward to working with you.





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PLOT

A group of hardened criminals has just robbed a private home and escaped with a bountiful loot: a cache of jewelry and a million-dollar painting.

The heist, however, was anything but smooth: one of their own died and the house burned down. The boss, Joe, is unhappy, and sends two of his men (Damien and Alan) on a punitive mission.

Meanwhile, the dead man's sister, Sasha, wants to avenge her brother, and actively hunts him down.

Ryan, the caper's mastermind, is already planning to sell the painting for a multi-million dollar payout. Thwarting his plans is Lou, who wants to keep the original and sell copies of the painting, doubling the take.

The prospective buyers are members of the Russian mafia, who are much more sophisticated and savvy than Lou gives them credit for. Ryan warns him of this, telling Lou that he is jeopardizing the entire operation with his unrealistic aspirations.

MAIN CHARACTERS

01



Sasha - A tough, confident woman who associates with criminal elements, but who always looks out for herself first. She is not a mobster, but sometimes does jobs for the mob (killings, extortions, drug trafficking, racketeering, etc.). In her own way, she considers herself a moral person.

02



Ryan - He appears needy, clingy, insecure and paranoid. In reality, he's very creative and versatile. Underneath that delicate persona (which is what we see for most of the story), he is daring, brave and confident. He shows his resourcefulness by opening up new avenues for making money through art.

03



Damien - The smarter of the two criminal partners. Clever, astute; a cunning, forward-thinking planner. He is the one who thinks about going alone, stealing and selling paintings themselves through his foreign contacts.

04



Alan - He is the dumber of the two criminal partners. A follower, someone with little imagination or initiative. He is cynical, combative and resistant to any kind of change. In the end, he mocks Damien for his ambition and attempt at self-realization.

PRINCIPAL CAST

01



Martina Biskupovic (Sasha) - Martina Biskupovic is a dramatic and comedic actress who brings intensity, versatility, humour and raw, unmitigated passion to all her performances. In addition to playing a psychopathic criminal, she can easily transition to a sweet high school girl, a world-weary poker shark, or an intense victim of domestic violence.

02



Joshua David Pivato (Ryan) - Joshua David Pivato is an actor, director and writer who brings a raw dynamism and physical intensity to his performances. He can convincingly walk the fine line between good guy and bad guy with an air of mystery or menace just below the surface. A versatile artist, Joshua is also a powerful vocalist and songwriter.

03



Nick Mirka (Damien) - Nick is an absolute chameleon. Transitioning smoothly between comedy and drama, Nick is as intense in his performances as he is charming in his personal relationships. Having honed his comedic skills in various shorts, Nick has welcomed the opportunity to play a killer with reckless abandon and raw intensity.

04



Jason Verma (Alan) - Jason Verma is an actor, writer and filmmaker based in Toronto. As an actor, Jason has worked for many big brands including, TD Bank, Cheerios and Ford. He has also done TV and Film work for companies such as Hallmark. Jason is an alumnus of the Millennial X program, aimed at helping BIPOC talent break into production side of the industry.

STYLE

The style of "Rattlesnake Point" is subtly influenced by a number of extraordinary films that have made the history of world cinema.

Films like Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Conformist" (with wide angles, strong architectural lines and sharp geometries that bring the story to life with a quiet elegance and panache); Martin Scorsese's "Raging Bull," with its black and white cinematography, strong chiaroscuro, deep shadows and gritty street soundscapes; Quentin Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs," the narrative keystone of the film, with its criminal elements, caper story and street-wise, uncensored dialogue; Alain Resnais' "Last Year at Marienbad," with its monolithic cement buildings, white surfaces, gardens and water, particularly in the scene at the Aga Khan Museum; Michelangelo Antonioni's "L'Eclisse" and "La Notte," with their long shots of people filmed to underscore the infinitesimal nature of human suffering in the unbounded space of life.

Overall, the effect of these stylistic choices is an homage to great cinema, with recurring echoes of some of history's greatest films without losing the thread of the current story.

These two antipodal elements: the sophisticated elegance of the locations versus the gritty naturalism of criminal life blend in a fluid admixture of highbrow and lowbrow, reinforcing each other and reverberating with naturalism and historical precision.





LOCATIONS

Given the raw, authentic nature of the story, for “Rattlesnake Point,” we have chosen a style that is equally rooted in reality and the historical heritage of our land, Ontario. For this reason, we have filmed in some of the most exotic and picturesque places around.

We filmed in places like:

- Tobermory, with its famous grotto and the relics of its sunken ships, a reminder of deadly ancient journeys;
- The German Mill, now in ruins lying at the bottom of a delicate stream nestled within a thick forest, in a small town named Brant;
- The Aga Khan Museum, a magnificent marble structure reminiscent of ancient Middle Eastern temples and mosques;
- The Royal Ontario Museum, a magnificent structure revived by Daniel Liebeskind, combining ancient stone architecture with modern elements of steel and glass;

LOCATIONS II

- The Scarborough Bluffs, a splendid natural structure of ancient stone plunging into emerald waters;

- The R.C. Harris Water purification plant: one of the most splendid examples of Art Deco in Toronto,

- An abandoned factory: where the film begins: a dilapidated, graffiti-strewn shell of a building, framing the story within the confines of skid row and the criminal underworld;

-Nathan Phillips Square: the center of Toronto's urban life. In our story, a place where criminals feel safe from the grips of law enforcement, where they are unlikely to be followed and wiretapped;

-The David Dunlap Planetarium; a refuge of science and civility; in our story, it represents the background for the hope of leaving the criminal life and pursue more edifying goals;

-Webster Falls, Hamilton: a splendid example of nature's beauty in the Niagara Escarpment;



LOCATIONS III

The Petro Canada Clarkson Refinery in Mississauga: a symbol of industrial grandeur and inanimate majesty;

-The Sherbourne Wind Farm: a splendid marriage of technology and nature, reminiscent of Don Quixote fighting the windmills. Delusions of grandeur, futility of pursuit, humorous incidents and pathetic failures;

-The Ontario Cinesphere: currently defunct, once a thriving center of family entertainment, joy and unbridled optimism.

-The Cheltenham Badlands: one of the most spectacular and breathtaking views in all of Ontario; arid land symbolizing the tragic end to dreams and ambitions;

-The Distillery: another iconic location in Ontario. A national heritage site, oozing with history, tales of illicit sales, gambling, lust, debauchery and danger;



THE WRITER-DIRECTOR



Alberto Diamante is an award-winning writer-director. Born in Italy and raised in the Middle East and Canada, he identifies as Italian-Canadian. His films include *Ulysses*, *Love...and other reasons to panic*, and *The Bookstore*. His screenplay for the film "Skin" garnered worldwide awards and accolades, and was made into a \$2M feature film produced by famed Italian-Canadian filmmaker Carlo Liconti. *Rattlesnake Point* is his fourth feature film.

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