



BERGER BROS ENTERTAINMENT

2176 Ridgemoor Dr. Los Angeles, CA 90046 (424) 703-3456 www.bergerbrosent.com



PRESS PACKAGE



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Synopsis

This film explores the difficult reality of hate crimes that people still face today in 2012. Jew is about an infiltration of Anti-Semitism on an Orthodox Jewish family, and a young man's struggles to victory over hate and oppression. The main character digs deep within himself, and his faith, for incredible physical and emotional strength. We learn that change starts with one person's choice.

Director's Note

When doing research last year, before I decided to shoot this film, I was stunned to find so many current crimes of hate and acts of violence attributed to racism. We hear about the high-profile cases on the news but many other tragic events fall through the cracks. I felt guilty and became really motivated to shine light on some of these stories. Unfortunately, with the current senseless and murderous acts in Aurora and Milwaukee, our film has become even more relevant.

Format/ Specs

Runtime	38 min: 20 sec
Shooting Format	The Red Epic/ Red Extreme (Color)
Aspect Ratios	1.85 (USA)
Sound	Dolby Digital EX
Preview Format	1080/25p - HDCAM, .mov, DVD – Region 0,1

Additional Comments

30% of all winnings and proceeds will be donated to the Jewish Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Los Angeles.





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Michael Carney – Director/Writer/Producer:



A multifaceted talent with an extensive background in music, video and performance, Michael moved to Los Angeles in 1998 from Nashville, TN and formed a full service production and management company. His producing and songwriting ability enabled him to secure deals through his production company with Warner Brothers, Sony, BMG, Arista, RCA, Wind Up, MCA, and eventually landing his own label deal with Universal/ Interscope/ Geffen Records.

Even though his career in music had taken off he never forgot about his first and true love. The marriage of both film and music. Surrounded by aspiring musicians, Carney found himself drawn to shooting and editing their music videos. The very beautiful and cinematic videos he directed began getting played on MTV, VH1, FUSE and all major video channels and outlets. He has also directed and produced commercial and corporate spots for clients from Tiger Woods to Crystal Geysler.

Michael's expensive film taste and eye for details drive his passion as a filmmaker. He has made a quick and seamless transition from music to film and recently signed with agency powerhouse CAA as a writer/director. He and his partner, Alex Foard, now have multiple feature film projects in the pipeline including two with director/producer DJ Caruso. They also were hired to adapt the New York Times bestseller "Odd Man Out" and just wrapped the adaptation of "American Junkie" for Meathouse Productions.





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Josh Berger – Writer/Producer/Actor:



Josh Berger is the President of Berger Bros Entertainment. He began acting at the age of 8 years old in theater and radio. He has studied with some of the top teachers in the Los Angeles, and currently studies with Howard Fine at the Howard Fine Acting Studio. He has starred in numerous plays and participated in several films. Josh looked for ways to expand his creativity and found poetry. He has continued to develop his craft with music and spoken word. He now brings poetry into High Schools to show the youth their voice.

Josh started a company called Berger Bros Entertainment, which is a comprehensive multi-media Production company. They are committed to providing audiences with impressive, innovative and risk-taking film from the best filmmakers the world has to offer, accomplished and on the rise.

Josh Berger is a force to be reckoned with in the young actors and filmmakers of Hollywood.

Dean Anello – Writer:



Dino started his career as an actor (Unlawful Entry, Melrose Place, ER). Through the guidance of his mentor Emmy Award winning Director Jonathan Kaplan (Love Field, The Accused, ER) he was inspired to indulge in screenplay writing.

Dino has multiple scripts that are being shopped; one is titled “Hollow ground,” based on a true story, which is in negotiations as we speak.





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Brent Johnson – Producer:



Brent Johnson is currently the Vice President of production and business development for Wolfiskin Productions, he's also a co-founder of Knowledge Tree Films.

Since childhood Brent has always had an interest in entertainment, whether it was on stage in a theatrical play or making videos with his friends, he was always creating. This passion to create and entertain coupled with his love for films led to a career that blended his interests.

Brent graduated with a B.A. in motion picture production from Brooks Institute in 2005 with an exceptional creative eye for the cinematic arts. Afterward, he experienced several years of success in cinematography before shifting his focus into producing.

From 2006-2007 he was an integral part of the beginning stages in the formation of Radical Studios and has since continued producing content for all media working with many different companies and filmmakers alike.

Jesse Berger – Executive Producer:

Mr. Berger is a co-founder of Radical Studios and has served as Executive Vice President since 2007. He has managed the company's business affairs including structuring the intellectual property deals behind Radical's Portfolio as well as \$10 million in motion picture licensing deals on behalf of the company with Universal Pictures, Spyglass Entertainment/MGM, New Regency, Warner Bros., Rogue Pictures, Fox, Relativity Media and Walt Disney Pictures. Prior to Radical, Mr. Berger received a B.A. degree in Film and Video Production at Brooks Institute of Photography.

Luisa Iskin – Executive Producer:



Wolfiskin is an independent production studio owned and operated by two up and coming young women: Luisa Iskin, 28, and Jessica Watters, 26. The company was founded in 2010 focusing on music videos, but has since expanded its interests to film, television, commercials and event coverage.

Luisa Iskin arrived from Brazil to pursue her dreams in entertainment in 2005. After attending film school in New York, she moved to Los Angeles where she began producing narrative trailers for feature films, spec commercials and music videos. In 2007, she met Jessica Watters who was signed as an artist to Reprise/Warner Bros. Records as Jessi Malay. Jessica left Warner Bros. in 2009 to finish school at UCLA while Luisa was in the midst of producing independent content for both music and motion pictures. While Jessica was finishing her undergrad, they decided to join forces and create a production company, Wolfiskin.



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The provocatively titled short film, ‘Jew’

Posted by Naomi Pfefferman of The Jewish Journal

OCTOBER 11, 2012

The short film, “Jew,” has one of the bolder titles to cross my desk in recent years. It’s downright provocative, which was filmmaker Josh Berger’s intention, he told me at the premiere of the 38-minute movie for some 200 viewers at the El Portal Theatre in North Hollywood recently.

The drama revolves around a modern Orthodox boxer (played by Berger) who encounters anti-Semitism at the gym and in his neighborhood. The harassment gets so bad that his younger brother – who has just become bar mitzvah – questions whether it would be easier to be non-Jewish. Meanwhile, a racist youth – just out of jail and down on his luck – targets the brothers’ synagogue for a hate crime, with tragic results.

So why did Berger title the film, “Jew?” Dressed all in black at the premiere, he began by describing his trip to concentration camps and to Israel on the Birthright Israel March of the Living program some years ago. There, Berger was startled to learn that anti-Semitism is still alive and well in parts of Eastern Europe.

Back in Los Angeles, he had been overhearing anti-Semitic remarks by people who assumed he was not Jewish. (Actually Berger grew up in a Reform home in Santa Cruz before moving to L.A. to become an actor.) “Don’t be such a Jew” seemed to be a common slur to mean “don’t be cheap.”

“Used by the wrong person, ‘Jew’ becomes a derogatory word,” Berger explained. “But I wanted to make a movie that would inform people about what the word really means.”

And so he brought his idea to the film’s co-writers, Dean Anello and Michael Carney, who also directed the movie, which was shot over four days with a \$50,000 budget. To write the drama, the team drew on hate crime incidents that had been reported across the country – including a game called “beat the Jew” allegedly invented by students at a high school outside Los Angeles, Berger said.

“I wasn’t interested in making another ‘American History X,’” Carney, who grew up in a fundamentalist Christian home in the South, recalled at the Q&A after the screening.

“But when Josh talked about his research [including speaking to an official at the Simon Wiesenthal Center], I was shocked that these kinds of hate crimes are still occurring. This stuff is very real. For me it was a chance to sink my teeth into something that hadn’t even been on my radar before.”

After the screening, a number of viewers remarked that the film could well apply to all kinds of racism today. “You definitely hit the target,” an African-American man said at the Q&A. “The film is very timely to all the things that are still going on now. This story is not an old story, and unfortunately will never be.”

http://www.jewishjournal.com/the_ticket/item/the_provocatively_titled_short_film_jew



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Michigan State Student Brutally Beaten in Alleged Anti-Semitic Attack

AUGUST 28, 2012



A violent anti-Semitic hate crime took place early Sunday in East Lansing, Michigan when 19 year old Zachary Tennen was beaten unconscious and then had his mouth stapled by two men, according to his family.

Tennen, a sophomore at Michigan State University, was approached by the men at a party early on Sunday and asked if he was Jewish, his mother said. The men proceeded to raise their right arms in a Nazi salute and said “Heil Hitler”, before beating Tennen

unconscious. According to Tennen’s mother, 20 people watched while her son had his mouth stapled by the two suspects.

“It’s an awful hate crime, and what he’s gone through emotionally and physically, it’s scary to put it into words,” Tina Tennen told the Indianapolis Star. “Hopefully the worst is behind us. It’s going to be hopefully not too rough.”

Following the attack, Tennen took a cab to a nearby hospital and would eventually receive surgery to have his jaw wired shut in Detroit.

“I hope that they get prosecuted, go to jail,” Tina Tennen told The Star. “You hear about it in the news, but I guess it’s something that you think never will happen to you.”

Michigan State has approximately 3,000 Jewish undergraduate students on campus, according to Hillel, while Oakland County, where Tennen’s family lives, has a Jewish population near 80,000, nearly 7% of the county’s overall number. Tennen’s mother said her family has spoken with the school and they have been responsive.

“The school’s been involved; we’ve been in touch with them. They’ve outreached to us. But we’re still trying to find them (the attackers). The job isn’t done.”

<http://www.algemeiner.com/2012/08/28/michigan-state-student-brutally-beaten-in-anti-semitic-attack/>



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4 Killed at Jewish School in Southwestern France

MARCH 19, 2012



TOULOUSE, France — The French authorities were searching on Monday for a man suspected in a string of methodical killings that have terrorized this city and the surrounding area in southwestern France, after an attack outside a Jewish school on Monday morning that killed four people, including three young children.

It was the third murderous attack on unarmed people in the region in little over a week, and the most deadly attack against Jews in France since a 1982 assault on a Paris kosher restaurant. The police said that the same gun, a .45-caliber automatic pistol, was used in all three shootings, the one Monday and two earlier attacks on French paratroopers, and that the modus operandi was the same — a man on a powerful motorbike, also the same in each instance, who shot and then fled.

The local prosecutor, Michel Valet, said that a religious instructor, his two children and another child, the daughter of the school's director, were killed in Monday's attack and that a 17-year-old boy was seriously wounded. The killer "shot at everything he could see, children and adults, and some children were chased into the school," Mr. Valet said.

The suspect pursued his last victim, an 8-year-old girl, into the concrete courtyard, seizing and stopping her by her hair, said Nicole Yardeni, who leads the regional branch of the Crif, France's most prominent Jewish association, and who viewed video surveillance footage of the killing.

His gun appeared to jam at that point, Ms. Yardeni said. Still holding the girl, the killer then changed weapons, from what police have identified as a 9 millimeter pistol to the .45-caliber. He shot her in the head and left, never removing his motorcycle helmet.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/20/world/europe/gunman-kills-3-at-a-jewish-school-in-france.html?_r=0



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BERGER BROS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
A WOLFISKIN AND ONE OCTOBER PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH KNOWLEDGE TREE FILMS DIRECTED BY MICHAEL CARNEY WRITTEN BY DEAN ANELLO, JOSH BERGER, MICHAEL CARNEY
PRODUCED BY BRENT JOHNSON, JOSH BERGER, MICHAEL CARNEY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JESSE BERGER, LUISA ISKIN, MICHAEL POJANOWSKI SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ISDANER FAMILY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AMERIC MONTOUCHET
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JOHN PAISANO CASTING BY PIXIE MONROE COSTUME DESIGNER MARSSA RICHTMYER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BLAKE JOHNSON
SOUTHWEST COORDINATOR JUSTIN FORTUNE ART DIRECTOR RICO RICARDO PRODUCTION DESIGNER RICK BICARDO
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