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Starring

Dave Oren Ward, Damon Jones, Aimee Chaffin & Angela Jones

"PARIAH"

Executive Producers

David & Elaine Hill

Editor

Bill Deronde

Director of Photography

Nils Erickson

Music By

Scott Grusin

Producers

Shaun Hill, Dave Bennett

Written and Directed by

Randolph Kret

Press Contact:

Harry Lit - Castro Bear Presents

415-681-3877

or

Running Time: 87 Mins.

"R" Rated

Dan Hill c/o Indican
Pictures

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PARIAH

Synopsis

Inspired by real events close to the director, "Pariah" tells the story of **Steve**(Damon Jones) and **Sam**, an interracial couple attacked by Neo-Nazi Skinheads one unexpected night. The brutal attack has a scarring effect on their lives...although Steve's physical bruises heal, Sam's rape leads to her subsequent suicide, leaving Steve without direction and bent on revenge. He decides to go undercover as a skinhead to learn about these people whose lives have become so entrenched in hate and violence. Steve must learn to act like them, think like them and eventually, to become one of them. With this accomplished, he can then kill them.

Steve abandons his former life to realize this goal of revenge. His enemies include **Crew**(Dave Oren Ward), the leader of the pugnacious pack, who is fresh out of jail and a loyal student of Nazi rhetoric. Crew takes what he wants in a belligerent and manipulating manner. At his side is his girlfriend **Sissy**(Aimee Chaffin), full of self-hate only enflamed with Crew's put downs, she is torn between leaving for a normal life and the security she feels from being part of the pack. Crew's right hand man is **David Lee**(David Lee Wilson), an attack dog whose uncontrollable rage feeds the pack and can explode in bursts of violence at the drop of a hat. Rounding out the gang is the overweight and insecure **Babe**(Ann Zupa), Sissy's retarded brother **Doughboy**(Brandon Slater), the flighty and heroine addicted **Angela**(Angela Jones), as well as nameless other terrorizing accomplices.

Babe is just the hook Steve needs to infiltrate the pack. Her desire for friends is what brought her into the gang and Steve's eagerness to help fill that void is what attracts her to help him gain entrance. As Steve plunges into the depths of the skinhead world, he must prove his loyalty, his commitment and ultimately, his hate, to garner their acceptance and carry out his plan.

In doing so, Steve discovers what personal histories have caused these people to go over the edge, finds himself committing unspeakable crimes and slowly turning into what he intended to destroy. At the pivotal moment he must decide whether a blast to the head is the only form of revenge or if there is another way to combat racism.

"PARIAH"

Production Notes

"Randolph has written several scripts, but one story that he needed to tell was a personal tragedy that had happened to someone close to him," says **Pariah** co-producer Vince Rotonda. **Pariah** tells the story of Steve and Sam, an interracial couple attacked by Neo-Nazi Skinheads one unexpected night. The brutal attack has a scarring effect on their lives...leaving Steve without direction and bent on revenge. Steve decides to go undercover as a skinhead to learn about these people whose lives have become so entrenched in hate and violence. He learns to act like them, think like them and eventually, to become them. With this accomplished he can kill them.

Randolph Kret wrote and directed **Pariah** by combining his personal story with that of Producer Shaun Hill's. "A childhood friend and his girlfriend, who was African-American, were walking back to their car one night when a group of skinheads attacked them. As they raped her, they beat my friend and forced him to watch...." reflects Kret. "I did this film in honor of my friend and anyone else who was the victim of a hate crime. I have seen first hand the detrimental effects these hate mongers can have on a family and I wanted to do something to change what is going on".

Shaun's brother, who is homosexual, has also been the victim of an attack by skinheads. This terrifying incident, which is a regular occurrence in gay communities, prompted her to create a film that would educate the public about this escalating problem. "My brother is gay and lives in San Francisco. He was leaving a club one night with a friend when they became the victims of gay bashing at the hands of a group of skinheads," says Hill.

"The skinheads know where the gay clubs are and wait outside for the men to come out, before randomly attacking them. We had to make this film to wake up Americans who know that this goes on, but are apathetic. These hate crimes are always on page 6 or 10 of the papers, while other gangs(Latino or African-American) are always on front page. It is ridiculous to me that so many people do not understand that this is a major problem that is growing in our society."

"His entire life, my brother has been picked on and has had to live in fear of prejudice and bigotry which is exemplified by these types of people. I want all Americans to see the ugly hatred that surrounds us."

SETTING

Keeping the realism that inspired the story was important through out the filming process - from securing a location, to casting and even to the music. Though the beatings referred to in the film took place in San Francisco, the producers felt Hollywood, with all it's glamour would have the strongest effect.

"We set the film in Los Angeles so the film would have a recognizable setting to everyone from Kansas to Japan. Then they would know that racism is everywhere, even in Tinseltown," says Hill.

"This can happen to anyone, anywhere," continues Hill. "Randolph came out of a supermarket in West Hollywood one night and a taxi cab full of people drove by and spit on him as he carried his groceries. Before he could even react, they yelled 'Faggot' and drove off."

"Plus the advantage of Hollywood is that it's a city in decay. This is a community that used to be the envy of the world. Now it's a t-shirt flea market, full of homeless people, drug addicts, burnt out buildings and tourists looking for the old Hollywood," states Kret. "But still I love Hollywood and I wanted to film here even if my valentine to Hollywood is one of burnt hatred."

But, interesting enough, the idea of having skinheads, even actors portraying skinheads, did not settle well within the Hollywood community.

The director remembers at the end of filming on the very first day when the police were called away. "We were filming the opening of the film as David Lee walks through Hollywood Boulevard in his full skinhead attire. Suddenly, a pack of teenagers noticed his swastikas and shaved head and, not realizing he was an actor, verbally and physically assaulted David Lee. Before we could intervene they had beaten him with chains which resulted in a broken nose and a shattered cheek bone for David Lee." This incident shows how deep feelings run regarding this subject matter.

"Even though our film portrays incidents of intense violence, in the determining scene, when Steve is finally in a position to kill his assailants, he chooses non-violence instead of "an eye for an eye." He makes this choice because he realizes that to kill them is become an animal like them. We want to show the negative effects of hate and that we all need to find other ways to combat racism. Violence does not end violence, instead it breeds more."

This decision was crucial, for it sparked the interest of the Martin Luther King Foundation. Because of **Pariah's** ideology, Coretta Scott King, wife of Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., donated one of her late husband's speeches to the film. **Pariah** is one of only a few films in history to which the Foundation has donated a speech. "She would never have granted us use of his speech if we promoted combating violence with violence," says Kret.

CASTING

Regarding casting, the production needed actors who could reflect hatred, but still show that a person exists underneath the stoic outer layer that skinheads project. "Even though Randolph is a whiz behind the camera, without believable performances from the actors, who cares?" commented Hill.

Casting the lead character Steve, who serves as our guide into this world of savagery was complex. "In casting Steve, I needed someone who was a regular guy that people could identify with," explains Kret. "We needed someone who the audience could cheer for one moment, be horrified by the next, and ultimately someone that betrays the audience's trust. Not many actors could pull this off. However, Damon Jones was great."

Damon threw himself into the part by devouring any information available on skinheads. He read books, newspapers, surfed the web and started seeking out their hangouts. "The character's feelings were frightening to me, which as an actor is everything I want in a part. Steve is not only the straight man who holds the story together, but he is also the protagonist and antagonist for the audience, depending on his emotional state," states Jones.

"Casting Crew, who is the leader of the skinheads, was crucial because he has to be the one skinhead that is sick, but also the only skinhead that you see has the potential to be something else," says Kret.

The story speaks of revenge for a crime, but brings to question the idea of revenge. It shows both sides to the story, showing the cruelty of one segment of society, before also showing what leads them to think and act in that way. That even monsters are human.

"What the film makes you think about is what it means for Steve to avenge the crime against him and his girlfriend. Is it merely an eye for an eye, or could it be the excuse for another person to allow the darkness in all of us out...."expresses Kret.

"In Crew's character we see the horror and dilemma of skinheads -that even though they know better, these kids get sucked in and commit unspeakable crimes against humanity."

"The main reason I wanted to do this film was because I admired the script. These filmmakers had the courage to touch a subject that most people are afraid to admit exists," says Dave Oren Ward.

The pivotal role of Angela was given to the talented actress Angela Jones, known as Bruce Willis' cab driver from **Pulp Fiction**.

"For a young actress, Angela has a chameleon quality that allows her to hide within each of her roles," Kret relates.

All it took for Jones to commit to the film was the fact that Randolph was doing it. "When I heard Randy was doing the film, I forced my agents to rearrange my schedule so I could do this. Randy and I have worked together in the past and I strongly admire the passion he puts into his work."

Two other critical roles were Sissy and David Lee and the casting for them was time consuming.

"For the part of David Lee we had just about given up hope when Randy saw **Leaving Las Vegas** and remarked that he liked an actor in it," remembers Hill. "When I saw the rape scene in **Leaving Las Vegas**, I knew we had found our actor...the devilish hatred in his eyes scared me. David Lee has the ability to scare and we needed someone with that much intensity to scare the shit out of America."

For the part of Sissy the crew looked at over two hundred actresses and no one impressed them. On the edge of despair, Producer Shaun Hill caught a break. "One day when I was in Hollywood I saw these street kids hanging out on the corner. I noticed Aimee immediately and, after meeting her I knew we had our Sissy," declares Hill. "Aimee is not only acting, she is reliving some of her life on the screen."

"I am so thankful that Shaun and Randy took a chance on me. I have never been given a chance in life and because of this film I am clean and have found a career. If it wasn't for this film, I would probably still be strung out and living on the streets," states Chaffin.

Rounding out the ensemble are Brandon Slater as Doughboy, Ann Zupa as Babe, Dan Weene as Joey, Anna Padgett as Lex, Chris Jarecki as Tall Guy and Jason Posey as Kevin.

CINEMATOGRAPHY & MUSIC

Finally, Randolph needed exact visual ideas and exact musical pieces to complete the desired effects of the film. The photography on the movie had to convey the energy and spirit of raw hatred.

"The look of the movie is dark and bleak. So we stripped out colors like blue and red except for specific instances," states Erickson. Adds Kret "I didn't want the film to have a cold feel, but a dark, natural feel. Nils played around with the lens choices and made some quick choices that worked beautifully. The film gives you a claustrophobic feel like a hand slowly choking off your air.

For the music, the Randolph needed edgy sounds and lyrics that would complement the rough style and in-your-face message he wanted **Pariah** to convey. The well known punk bands Minor Threat and Social Unrest both agreed to donate their music.

"We don't normally release our music to any commercial films," says Ian MacKaye of Minor Threat, "but I donated our music to **Pariah** because the film is very realistic. It is a hard edged film that is sure to scare people, which is good, because this subject matter is scary."

Nikki Garrett receives numerous requests from filmmakers to use Social Unrest's music, which they rarely permit. "We made an exception for **Pariah** because of the subject. When we used to play in concert, we noticed skinheads beating up some of our audience members. I was glad to see a film that showed them in a realistic light." Rounding out the musical contributions were the co-producer Scott Grusin. "The music in this movie had to be a blend of Techno beats and Western themes mixed with a punk edge," explains Kret.

"This movie scared me, the content scared me, the job they wanted me to do scared me -- it's the best experience I've ever had and I'm very proud of the finished movie," declares Grusin. "It is 'A Clockwork Orange' for the nineties."

Finally we must make special mention of the editing on the picture. "Bill Deronde came aboard the project at the last moment staring a mountain of footage in the face," explains Hill. "The editing on this movie is like a rollercoaster. One minute you are slowly catching your breath and wondering what hit you, when you suddenly scream into the next phase of the movie. Again and again, through the editing, Randy and Bill have created a ride that will never be forgotten."

"I wrote and made this film because I have personally witnessed the terrible destruction that skinheads have wrought upon innocent victims," concludes Randolph. "Since most of America is ignorant to this sickness that threatens to destroy all of our freedom, I wanted to give them a wake up call."

ABOUT THE ACTORS

ANGELA JONES -- Angela

Babe: Angela, you just stood there while they kicked our asses.

Angela: Cheeto?

Most of the world remembers Angela Jones as Esmeralda, the violence obsessed Cuban cab driver who picks up Bruce Willis in Quentin Tarantino's **Pulp Fiction**. Now in Randolph Kret's **Pariah**, Jones plays Angela, a flighty drug addicted wanderer.

Jones began studying acting at the age of fifteen. She went to Carnegie Mellon's acting conservatory. Later she attended the prestigious Florida Acting Conservatory at Florida State University for her graduate work. It was here that she was approached to play a woman obsessed with death in the short film **Curdled**, which would eventually grab the attention of Tarantino at a film festival in Italy. Quentin was so intrigued by her role in the short that he created a similar character for her in **Pulp Fiction**. Tarantino went on to executive produce a feature version of **Curdled** in which Jones co-starred with Billy Baldwin.

Jones has kept herself busy by appearing on television's "E.R.," as well as the feature films **Blind Fear**, **Underworld** with Dennis Leary, **Morella**, **Children of the Corn V** as well as Jim Carrey's **Man on the Moon** and **The Time Machine**.

DAMON JONES -- Steve

Kelly: Steve? Do you and Sam want to go to bible study tonight?

Steve: Uh....no. We would, but ...we're going to a party tonight.

Damon Jones plays Steve, the "normal guy" turned vengeful victim who serves as our guide into **Pariah's** world of hate and retaliation.

"This is the part of a lifetime and the character's feelings were frightening to me, which as an actor is everything I look for in a part," says Jones of his part in **Pariah**.

A native of Texas, Jones went on to attend Florida State University where he would first meet **Pariah** co-star Angela Jones. A rising star in television and film, Jones has had recurring guest roles on television's "Seinfeld", "Fortune Hunter" Steven Spielberg's "Sea Quest," "Jenny" and most recently "Frasier". In addition, Damon has appeared in over 15 national commercials and recently starred in the cult favorite short film **Fallen Arches**.

Jones film credits include **The Walking Dead and Breaking Waves** starring Mickey Rooney.

DAVID LEE WILSON -- David Lee

Mom: What is your problem?

David Lee: I hate niggers!

David Lee Wilson plays David Lee, a psychotic skinhead who feeds on hate. "He is supposed to scare the shit out of America," says director Kret of David Lee's role in **Pariah**. Scaring America is not new territory for David Lee Wilson who played the young jock who raped Elizabeth Shue in **Leaving Las Vegas**.

Wilson's film credits include the controversial **Boxing Helena**, **Subway Stories** with Abel Ferrara, **The Boxer** with Daniel Day Lewis and he can be currently seen in **Autumn Heart** with Alley Sheedy and Tyne Daly. Among other roles, Wilson has been featured in music videos including two award winners. TSOL's "Lillian" and "Lightning Crashes," by the band Live.

DAVE OREN WARD -- Crew

Crew's Dad: I'm sick of you, why don't you show me some respect?

Crew: You got a couple of bucks?

"While meeting with the producer's in Bob's Big Boy one night, they asked me to get up on a table and sing 'I heard it through the grapevine' at the top of my lungs in front of a crowd of strangers. I had to prove I had the guts to play the part," says Ward of his part as Crew, the leader of skinhead pack in **Pariah**.

Already a successful print model with campaigns for Levis, The Gap and Benetton under his belt, Ward is now a rising star in film and television. Ward starred in the CBS shows "Moloney", "Nash Bridges" and Bo Derek's short lived "**Wind on Water**". Dave had small parts in **Bio-Dome**, **Birdcage** and **Mood Indigo** with Craig Wasson. Most recently, Ward was cast as in two major films. One with Drew Barrymore and the other with Radha Mitchell and Vin Diesel in **Pitch Black**. **UNFORTUNATELY, Dave Oren Ward** was murdered in April of 2000 before he could complete these projects. In March of 2002 his killer was sentenced to 5 years in a state prison for murdering Dave in a case of road rage.

ANN ZUPA -- Babe

Steve: My name's Steve and yours....

Babe: My name's Anna, but everyone calls me Babe. You know, like the movie?

Ann Zupa portrays the comedic, yet tragic Babe. Babe is an overweight and insecure girl in search of friends who finds acceptance in the skinhead clan.

A favorite on the festival circuit, Zupa can be seen in the hits **Jawbreaker**, **Sparkler**, **Stephen the Troll** and **Boys Life**. She has also been featured in HBO's **Weapons of Mass Distraction** starring Gabriel Byrne and also stars in the George Clooney/Steven Soderbergh produced -- **Welcome to Collinwood!**

Aimee Chaffin -- Sissy

Sissy: "...Now you had your piece of pussy and you don't need me anymore?"

Steve: "I hate you."

After searching past hundreds of actresses for the part of Sissy, Aimee Chaffin caught the eye of producer Shaun Hill while hanging out with her friends on the streets of Hollywood.

"She had the realistic roughness and lost innocence we were looking for to complete our cast of skinheads," explains Kret. "We are happy to have brought a real talent out."

After completing work on **Pariah**, Chaffin has landed an agent, shot two music videos and just finished a starring role in a USC Grad Film.

BRANDON SLATER -- Doughboy

Joey: If you know so much where's your brain, moron?

Doughboy: Why don't you eat out my butt?

Brandon Slater plays Doughboy, Sissy's innocent autistic brother who remains a part of the skinhead crew out of her dedication to him and because he knows no other way to live.

"Brandon brings a texture to each scene that he appears in. He is an actor who is always working and if you listen to him in each scene, you will catch a lot of innuendos," says Kret.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

RANDOLPH KRET

Pariah is Randolph's first feature. Randolph worked as a writer in Hollywood working on scripts for Fries Entertainment, Nu Image and others while compiling an impressive director's resume of 15 music videos and 7 commercials. Additionally, Randolph co-directed a film with Conan Lee called "CARJACK", an action martial arts film. Most recently Randolph has directed two short films **Vagabond Train** and **Anytown USA**.

On the producing side, Randolph has produced several feature films including “**A Little Crazy**” by Jordan Ellis, **Survivors Exposed** by Doug Hoffman and is currently the executive behind “**Shaye & Kiki**” the life and times of a disfigured model by Eric Fournier.

Music Video credits include: Cake, TSOL, LA Dream Team, Eazy E & JT Harding.
Commercials include: Honda, Fosters Beer, BMW, Heineken & Chunky Candy.

SHAUN HILL & VINCE ROTONDA

Pariah is the first feature production for this duo. Shaun got her start as an ice-skater before an accident forced her retirement. Shaun turned to filmmaking while attending Los Angeles City College and did several short films of her own, including the award winning Spoo and Fangula. Additionally, Shaun has produced the urban drama -- “Fight for Glory”, the T&A parody – “Survivors Exposed” and the short film, “Anytown USA”.

Vince got his degree from the University of Wisconsin plus a Masters from Pepperdine before hitting the entertainment trail. Vince has worked in television on "Diagnosis Murder" and more recently on **Party of Five** at Fox. In Vince's spare time he has produced several short films before deciding to take the full-length splurge with **Pariah**. Vince is prepping his second feature with the Producer's of **Party of Five**.

SCOTT GRUSIN

Scott Grusin is a chip off the old block because this man is headed for Academy Awards as well. He has done music for everything from "The World's Greatest Stunts" to the recent Dreamworks dramatic series "High Incident".

Scott has scored or provided music to every kind of feature film imagined. Projects range from **Dream a Little Dream, Relentless, Natural Born Killers, Booze Can** and has done work on Adam Sandler’s last three features -- “Little Nicky”, Waterboy” etc.

Scott is also the man responsible for producing his father Dave Grusin's soundtrack albums for the movies **Mulholland Falls, The Cure** and **Selena**. In addition, Scott has worked as a music editor on literally over one hundred films!!

