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Logline

Wayne, an amateur method actor, inherits the city's last adult cinema from his estranged father and descends into a dark pornographic underworld as he struggles to resolve the traumas from his youth and find reconcilement with the father he barely knew.

Synopsis

Wayne, a struggling method actor, inherits the city's last porno cinema from his estranged father Al. Seeing this as an unconventional opportunity to find reconcilement, Wayne absorbs himself in the underworld of the pornography business.

While running the cinema Wayne meets a cast of characters including Ralf, Al's business partner, Julia, a close companion and part time lover of Al's, and Athar, an immigrant boy who lives in the upstairs apartments. Each character acts as a piece of a puzzle in helping Wayne rediscover the father he barely knew.

Seeing much of himself in Athar, Wayne slowly becomes somewhat of a father figure to him. But Wayne struggles to find his own voice as a father and instead draws upon Al's parenting skills.

But the old cinema turns out to be more than Wayne anticipated. Between the community's pressure to have it closed and the antics of the devoted patrons, unresolved traumatic experiences from his youth bubble their way to the surface.

Landing his first lead role in a film, Wayne can't help but recognize the similarities between this fictional character and his father. Wayne slowly takes on Al's persona in preparation of filming, but begins to lose his own identity in the process and eventually his grasp on reality.

As Wayne lives and breathes everything Al, he finds himself in a much darker place than anything he ever could have imagined. No longer just a character study, Wayne painfully reconstructs his traumatic experiences using Athar in the role of himself as a child.

But Wayne goes too far and ends up on the wrong side of his memory. It's only then that he realizes the errors of his ways. He must now find reconcilement with the people he has affected along the way and embrace his own identity.



Project Grerview

ADULTS

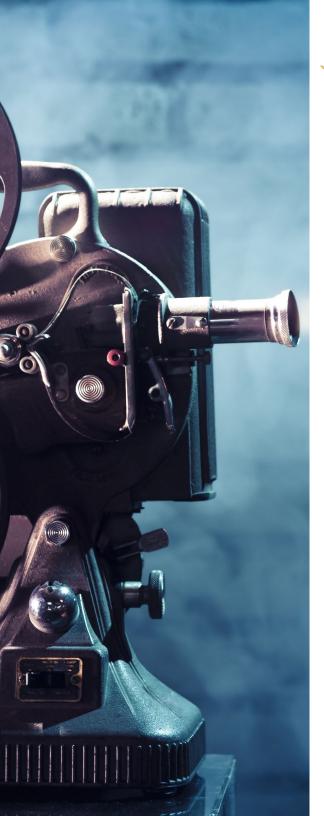
The Last Porno Show is a film that deals with identity, grief, reconciliation and finding closure. At its core is a unique perspective on the traditional father and son story. Taking inspiration from films like **Bicycle Thieves** (1948) and **The Godfather** (1972), **The Last Porno Show** focuses on a son coming to terms with his estranged father and upbringing.

What makes the film unique and important is how we incorporate themes of identity in the father/son work frame. The film is an exploration on how we separate ourselves from the previous generations and the people who raise us. Do we become our parents? This is a question everybody asks themselves at same point in their lives. Some struggle with this question. Specifically, first generation citizens with immigrant parents can identify with this. "Do I hold onto their roots and traditions or do I start my own path?"

Coupled with the father/son dynamic, this film explores the world of method acting, (Stanislavski, Strasberg, Adler and Meisner) or, more specifically, actors who take the method approach too far. There is something to be said about actors who believe that living the character is enough to pull off a great performance while overlooking other acting techniques and fundamentals. This film explores how a method actor would approach a father and son relationship as someone who never had a nurturing family to begin with.

This film not only looks at a pornified culture, but also how gentrification affects it. During the golden age of pornography, adult cinemas could be found in every major city and they received positive attention. There is a certain romanticism surrounding this era with films like **Deep Throat** (1972) or **Behind The Green Door** (1972). Forty years later that is no longer the case, as adult cinemas are now associated with dirty old men in raincoats. The Metro Cinema, the last adult cinema in Toronto, closed its doors in 2012. Part of this is due to how we view pornography and part is due to gentrification. But how does this affect the colour, fabric, and identity of a neighbourhood? The adult cinema represents that last bit of colour and grittiness, in many metropolitan cities that are redefining its purpose and values.

HOW FAR DOES A GIRL HAVE TO UNTANGLE HER TINGLE?



Director's Statement:

Like all my previous films, **The Last Porno Show** incorporates non-traditional characters, situations, and themes in a character driven storytelling style. I'm very much drawn to stories that focus on outsider protagonists or people on the fringe. I feel they are a demographic who get easily overlooked and aren't given a voice within the arts. I was raised on the films of John Waters and Harmony Korine. Storytellers who embrace eccentrics. More recently I've been influenced by the films of Giuseppe Andrews, who has worked with the same cast of characters for the last 15 years. I've always been drawn to real life characters. A lot of this stems from my own upbringing. I was fortunate enough to grow up in a mixed neighbourhood that was full of all walks of life. With this film I wanted to assemble some of Toronto's most notorious and colourful characters and put all under one umbrella. This includes apple juice baron turned auteur filmmaker Frank D'Angelo, King of late night TV and self proclaimed "Prince of Love" David Bronstein, and East End Sensation street busker Wayne Larabee. I wanted to make a "Toronto" film but not in the traditional sense (ie. shots of the CN, people wearing Maple Leafs jerseys, etc). Instead I wanted to showcase Toronto through its eccentrics.

Working in both narrative and documentary I wanted to use this film, more than previous ones, to blend the two worlds. This includes using non-actors, improvisation, and embracing unexpected/unscripted moments. Although I spent years on the script, going into this film, it was used more as a blue print or jumping off point. Also, because many of the cast are non or first time actors, taking a more traditional approach to directing wasn't conducive to getting the performances I wanted. Much of what you see on screen is a product of experimentation and improv.

The Last Porno Show, more than my past works, is the most polarizing film to date. It was an extremely hard film to get made. We were turned down by all major Canadian film institutes. They didn't understand it. It was produced through Arts Council grants, crowdfunding, and personal savings. It's important to push the envelope, whether it's through form, story, or technical advancements. Film should take audiences to a place they haven't been before and sometimes that means taking them on an emotional rollercoaster. Although there have been numerous films that revolve around the porn industry I've never seen one that weaves pornography into a traditional story like ours. Many people are going to get hung up on our use of hardcore pornography, but at the end of the day this film has a lot of heart and that's what I'm most proud of.







Nathanael Chadwick - Wayne

NATHANAEL CHADWICK is a Toronto based Actor. He studied acting for Film and Television at Humber College.

The Last Porno Show is his first lead role in a feature.

Mickey Skin – Julia

MICKEY SKIN is a Toronto singer, actress, and all round performer. Her punk band The Curse, were the first all female punk band in Canada and their 1st EP (Sunshine Boy) is one of the most sought after Canadian singles from that period.

The Last Porno Show is Mickey's first lead role in a feature film.



Victoria Dunsmore - AShley

VICTORIA DUNSMORE is a Toronto actress originally from Kamloops, BC. Having come from an extensive theatre background, she began expanding her breadth of work in 2018, making numerous indie short and feature films.

She became a regular in many of Toronto's various acting studios, including The Dirt Underneath (John Gordon), Pro Actors Lab (Andrea Runge), RAW Studio (Sophie Ann Rooney) and Unit 102 Actor's Studio (David LaFontaine).

Credits include "Mirror", which had it's World Premiere at the Toronto After Dark Film Festival. and "Millennials Anonymous."

The Last Porno Show is her first large supporting role in a feature film.

David Gronstein – Real Estate Agent

DAVID BRONSTEIN was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. From his late teens until his early adult years Bronstein worked as part of the comedy team 'Bronstein and Jack', an act paralleling the likes of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis. He has performed in the top comedy Clubs including LA's Comedy Store, Improv and major resorts in the Catskill Mountains. In 1987 David moved to Toronto.

In the 90's Bronstein became the Guru of late night television with his Dial-A-Date late night informercials.

Bronstein's credits include USA networks hit sitcom Dog House, CBC's Toronto After Hours, CHCH TV's Hollywood Camera.

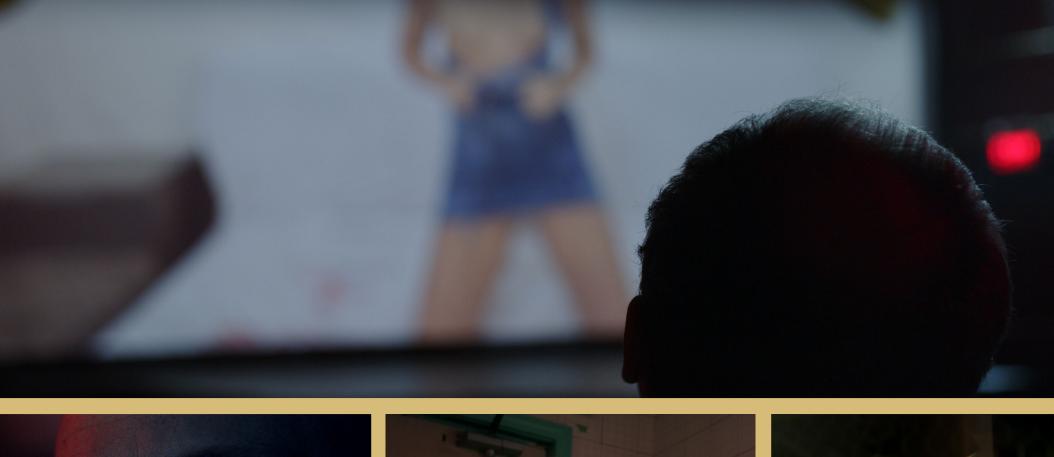
Frank D'Angelo - Acting Teacher

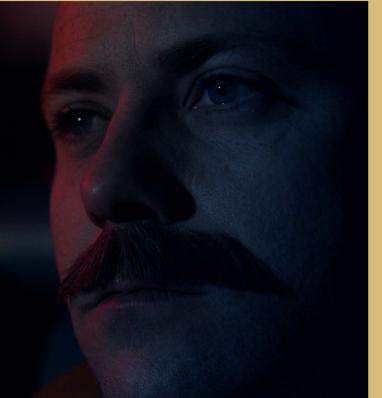
FRANK D'ANGELO is a multifaceted artist who has not only achieved success as a performer, but also as a businessman, philanthropist and humanitarian.

He currently hosts his own hit late night chat and entertainment variety show "Being Frank" on CHCH TV in Canada. Past guests include Al Pacino, Paul Newman, Tony Bennett, Graham Greene, and Kim Coates.

One of Canada's most exciting filmmakers, Frank has written, produced, directed, starred, and composed an impressive 9 films in 6 years.

































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