

SYNOPSIS

As he does every weekday morning, Jeffrey Miller awakes to get ready for work. His routine is calculated and peculiar. Everything needs to be done in a particular way including leaving the apartment on the moment of an exact new hour. Unfortunately, this morning is not going quite as planned, as he is unable to leave at the self-mandated time. He must repeat his morning ritual until it is completed correctly in order to calm the inner demon he possesses. The situation escalates, as repeatedly he cannot comply with his own rule, leaving him increasingly off mark with each passing attempt. An interrupted routine, which at first seems amusing, suddenly reveals the sad darkness that lies in the troubled mind of Jeffrey Miller.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Russell Costanzo (Director/Writer)

Russell attended Monmouth University and New York University where he wrote and directed the Hi-8 short "Natural One" as well as the low budget DV film "Cold Call." After working at VH1, he wrote and directed the hilarious short film entitled "The Wedding Bout," starring FOX Sports anchor Max Kellerman, which made its debut at the Palm Beach International Film Festival. He has also worked as a Script Reader for USA Films and Lion's Gate Films. He has written several screenplays, one, entitled "Crasher," was optioned. His last short film was the urban drama "The Tested." It took home the Top Prize at the prestigious Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, which made it eligible for an Academy Award nomination. "The Tested" also made its television broadcast debut on BET last year.

Russell is currently in development on his feature film debut, "The Strange Effect of Everett Singer", starring Brandon Routh ("Superman Returns") and John Mahoney (NBC's "Frasier").

Michael Neithardt (Producer/Actor)

Michael began his career as the assistant to former Miramax Films' co-chairman Bob Weinstein, where he worked closely with the independent film icon during the production and release of many acclaimed films, including Academy Award-winners "Shakespeare in Love" and "Good Will Hunting." Michael went on to produce an independent horror feature entitled "Harwood." He then went on to take production management posts at MTV, VH1 and Time Warner, all the while honing his acting technique at HB Studios and the Stella Adler Conservatory.

In 2003, he established Palmy Inn Productions, his own creative production company, where he wrote, produced and directed commercials, music videos, TV shows and promotional packages for SonyBMG, AOL, Time Warner and a variety of other clientele. During this time he also starred in an Off-Off Broadway Production of Jonathan Marc Sherman's "Veins and Thumbtacks" as well as producing and starring in the Off-Off Broadway production of Stephen Belber's "Tape." He then went on to run the New York office of the award-winning design company Stardust Studios;

overseeing and producing over 50 commercials. Currently, Michael is working on another short film entitled "Thursday" that will be going into production next year, as well as another Off-Off Broadway production for early next year. He is also a student at the highly acclaimed Circle in the Square Theater and Upright Citizen's Brigade.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Russell Costanzo

No, I do not have Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. Having written and directed this film, I've learned to pre-empt the most obvious question. But in the fairness of full disclosure, I will admit to being absurdly superstitious at times -I was raised Italian-Catholic after all!

I remember clearly being tormented by my older sister who would watch me as I carefully lined up the TV Guide in the exact middle of the coffee table and then moments later she'd nudge it out of position, just to get a rise out of me. Then there was a period of, oh about 8 years, where I used to line up two combs on either sides of the bathroom sink before I'd get in the shower - so they'd be ready for me when I got out, of course.

Everyone has some kind of ritual throughout the day. That's what inspired me to tell this story. Sure, there are many different names for it. Routines. Idiosyncrasies. Ticks. Hang-ups. Superstitions, even. Whatever gets you through it, I guess. But on some level, aren't they all a variation of OCD? It's really not too far of a road from washing your hands a couple times a day - to, say, Howard Hughes.

I know there will be people who think Jeffrey is nuts, but even more so, I know that most people will see a little bit of themselves in him.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

The Origin/Production

Having been friends and colleagues for over eight years, Russell Costanzo and Michael Neithardt had had that "we got to shoot something together" conversation one too many times. In mid-July 2006, they had lunch to discuss some of their ideas. Russell talked about his fascination with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and how he'd always wanted to do a short that touched on the disease. Michael was intrigued at the idea of playing the character Russell described. Not a week later, Russell had written a script and pitched it to Michael as a "me, you and your 24p" kind of shoot. One conversation lead to the next and the idea began to grow into something

much larger. Seven weeks after that initial lunch, it had turned into a Super 16mm shoot with a 17 person crew. The film was shot over two days on Kodak 7218 stock. Having shot 16 hours the first day and 19 the next, Russell orchestrated 65 set-ups encompassing 118 shots. It seems the “me, you and your 24p” just wasn’t enough to capture the true essence of “Jeffrey.”

Post Production

“Jeffrey” was transferred with a best light transfer to Digi-Beta. It was then edited in Final Cut Pro HD. After locking picture, the film was scanned at HD resolution to create DPX files which were then color corrected and brought back in to After Effects for some final clean-up.

CREDITS

written, edited and directed by
russell costanzo

produced by
michael neithardt

associate producers
vanessa neithardt
melissa b. miller

director of photography
john dreyer

music by
michael damon

visual effects and titles
douglas purver

palmy inn
presents

in association with
shoebox pictures

“jeffrey”

jeffrey miller

michael neithardt

ricky
dean barker
annette
phillip

clyde baldo
russell costanzo
eileen doherty
john delvecchio

assistant director
1st assistant camera
2nd assistant camera
script supervisor
still photographer

logan wolfe
nick rivera
jesse chertoff
jason foulke
vanessa lenz

gaffer
key grip
best boy grip

derek gross
adam benlifer
john laboy

production designer
art department assistant
make-up artist
production sound mixer

melissa b. miller
colton bates
lauzanne nel
brad shirmer

key production assistant
truck production assistant
sound design by
additional sound design

steve rubenstein
spidey wright
michael damon
brad shirmer

colorist
di operations manager
additional editorial

dave francis
tif luckenbill
david shulman

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