



PUNTER

A FILM BY JASON ADAM MASELLE



Locarno Film Festival

PARDI DI DOMANI
OFFICIAL SELECTION

SYNOPSIS

YOUNG BRETT MUST NAVIGATE
THE UNDERBELLY OF THE
JOHANNESBURG GAMBLING
WORLD AS A SEEMINGLY
HARMLESS HORSE RACING BET
JEOPARDIZES THE SURPRISE
HE'S PREPARED FOR HIS
FATHER'S BIRTHDAY



JASON ADAM MASELLE IS A FILMMAKER FROM JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA CURRENTLY BASED IN NEW YORK CITY.

HIS WORK IS DRIVEN BY HIS PASSION TO SHARE MORALLY COMPLEX AND CHARACTER RICH SOUTH AFRICAN STORIES, WHILE ALSO PURSUING UNIVERSAL THEMES SUCH AS UNREQUITED LOVE, GRIEF AND THE SPECIAL FEELING YOU GET IN YOUR CHEST WHEN SOMETHING TAKES YOUR BREATH AWAY.

HIS WORK HAS SCREENED ON HBO MAX, SPORTSNET NEW YORK AND AT NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL AND OSCAR QUALIFYING FILM FESTIVALS.

JASON RECEIVED HIS MFA IN FILMMAKING FROM NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S TISCH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS. HE IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE MAURICE KANBAR SCHOLARSHIP AND THE PETER R. GOULD SCHOLARSHIP. HE IS A BLACK FAMILY PRIZE WINNER AND A RIESE POST-PRODUCTION AWARD GRANTEE. HE WAS A FINALIST FOR THE ARRI VOLKER BAHNEMANN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CINEMATOGRAPHY.

HIS LATEST FILM 'PUNTER' IS EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY SPIKE LEE. THE FILM WON FIRST PRIZE AT NYU'S FIRST RUN FILM COMPETITION. THE FILM IS ONE OF 3 FINALISTS FOR A STUDENT BAFTA.

HE MISSES GOING TO THE MOVIES WITH HIS DAD.




DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

AS I TRY TO RECONCILE THE BEST AND WORST PARTS OF MY FATHER, I FIND MYSELF RE-EVALUATING MY CHILDHOOD PERCEPTION OF MY HOME. AS A "BORN FREE" - A CHILD BORN AFTER APARTHEID FELL - I WAS RAISED ON THE HOPES & DREAMS OF WHAT THE 'NEW' SOUTH AFRICA COULD BECOME. NOW, AS I START TO RECONCILE THE BROKEN PROMISES OF THOSE DREAMS, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF MY DAD.

PUNTER IS MY CINEMATIC ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT AND CELEBRATE THE COMPLICATED LOVE I HAVE FOR MY FATHER AND MY COUNTRY. IT IS ME FINALLY FACING AN EXISTENTIAL CONTRADICTION THAT LIES AT THE HEART OF THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE: SOMETIMES THE BEST PARTS OF OURSELVES CAN LEAD TO OUR DOWNFALL. IT'S MY LOVE FOR MY FATHER, IT'S MY FATHER'S UNDYING HOPE IN HIS COSMIC CHANCES - IT'S SOUTH AFRICA'S AMBITION FOR A TRULY EQUAL SOCIETY. ALL PROFOUNDLY NOBLE INTENTIONS THAT LEAD TO SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECIES IN WHICH WE ALL BECOME THE ARCHITECTS OF OUR OWN DEMISE.

THE ACT OF GAMBLING IS THE PERFECT PERSONIFICATION OF THIS TRUTH. GAMBLING ITSELF IS ABOUT SELLING DREAMS - AND SOUTH AFRICA IS A COUNTRY BUILT ON SOLD DREAMS.

PUNTER IS MY GAMBLE - IT'S ME CONFRONTING THE HARSH TRUTHS AND BROKEN PIECES OF ALL MY LOVE AND DREAMS, AND HOPING THAT BY PEERING INTO ALL THAT DARKNESS, I CAN FIND THE LIGHT OF THE LOVE THAT MY FATHER AND COUNTRY LEFT FOR ME.

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a man's face, focusing on his eyes and nose. He has a mustache and is looking slightly to the right. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights.

OFFICIAL SELECTION:
LOCARNO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

RUNNING TIME: 13:53

GENRE: DRAMA

YEAR: 2024

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH, AFRIKAANS,
ISIXHOSA

SUBTITLES: ENGLISH

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: SOUTH AFRICA/ USA

SCREENING FORMAT: DCP / PRORES;
STEREO / 5.1

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SOCIAL MEDIA: @PUNTER_FILM /
@JASONMASELLE

CAST + CREW

BRETT / TIAGO MARQUES
HARRIS / BOUWER BOSCH
PETRUS / NYANISO DZEDZE

DIRECTOR & WRITER: JASON ADAM MASELLE

PRODUCERS: NOAM ARGOV,
JASON ADAM MASELLE, RETHABILE MOTHOB

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: SPIKE LEE

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:
WILLIAM DOUGLAS

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: DANIELLA DAGNIN

CASTING: MVELISI MVANDABA

EDIT: JASON ADAM MASELLE & NAY TABBARA

SOUND: DANIEL TIMMONS



PRESS & SCREENER
ACCESS:

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