

Misfit Love

A crime film written & directed by Mackenzie Mauro





“There is no control. It’s a vicious circle.
Get used to it.”

The Story

MISFIT LOVE is the story of Eve, a young woman who falls in love with a punk-rock drummer and ex-con, Stanley. Yearning to find a deeper connection with someone and to achieve control in her life, Eve believes her luck has changed when she experiences love at first sight.

After Stanley teaches Eve the upsides of small-time crime, they take their fate into their own hands, creating a new life for themselves. But when vengeance clouds their judgment and their retribution ends in murder, they must skip town and evade the authorities.

With a bounty hunter and police in pursuit, they make their way north, committing small heists along the way. That is until Stanley's friend proposes they bring their spree to a close by hitting a connected poker game in a North-East rust belt city.

As the situation begins to spiral out of control, and Eve's past starts to catch up with her, the cracks in their relationship begin to show. Eve and Stanley expose their true colors, resentment for one another grows and the relationship unravels.

Director's Statement

MISFIT LOVE is the story of two outsiders who experience love at first sight and the downward spiral of that initial attraction. Disillusioned by American life and the seeming inequality of opportunity, Eve, a struggling artist, and Stanley, a punk rock drummer and convicted felon, desire to live outside the bounds of what society demands. Isolated wanderers in New York City, they have a chance encounter and quickly fall under the spell of one another. Before long they take drastic measures in an attempt to control their circumstances and eventually find themselves on the run from police and a relentless bounty hunter.

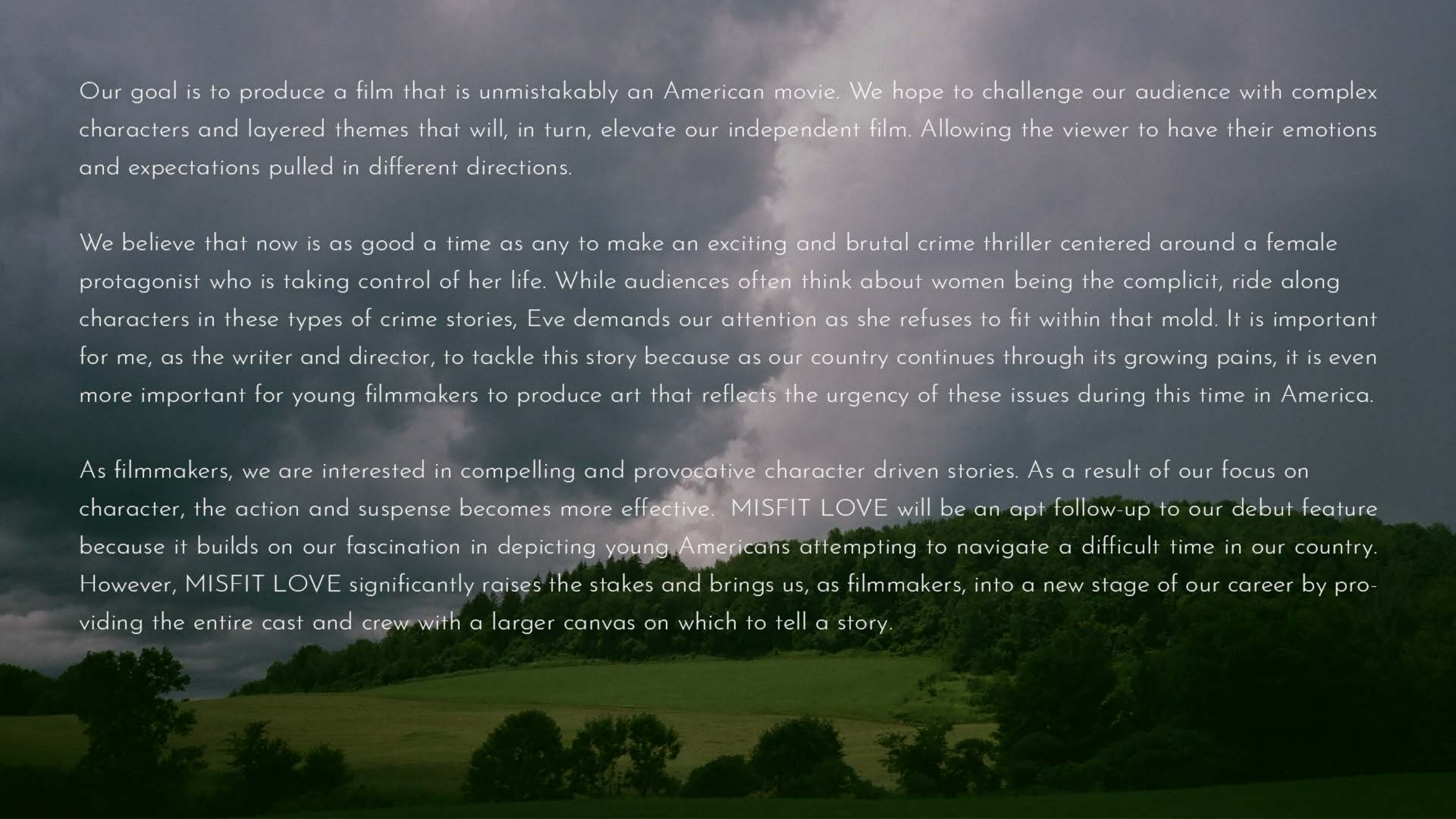
MISFIT LOVE explores issues and themes such as love, relationships and dependency, the American Dream - its economic and social systems, the fragility of family structure, mental illness, self destruction and the evolving concept of women and their place in society. These themes are often fiercely debated and often the focus of daring artist expression. We aim to explore these topics through the story of MISFIT LOVE.

With this film, we want to explore the notion of love at first sight and dissect the idea of an immediate and profound connection with someone that can ultimately end in heartbreak, or, in this particular story, tragedy. Today's pressures to find a partner who makes you happy, settle down and start a family could prevent two people from forming a deep connection. Even if we're lucky enough to find that deep connection, are we ever able to fully know or understand someone? In Eve's case, it's her past trauma that irrevocably reemerges and wedges its way between her and Stanley. In Stanley's case, it's his selfish pursuit of his goal and a predilection for violence that ultimately seals his fate. The film explores Eve and Stanley's flawed connection, how their relationship quickly devolves when they face catastrophe.

Now more than ever, young adults seem hellbent to stand out and break the mold of traditional society. The "American Dream" has undoubtedly changed over the years and the increase of social connection and the need to promote oneself has caused people to believe that there are shortcuts to achieving their goals. One could turn cynical when they see others getting results in achieving this "dream", but not seeing it in their own lives. In Eve and Stanley's case, their perceived lack of opportunity and equal treatment in society has made them disillusioned with the American Dream.

The family structure in America and the perception of what that typically looks like has also taken a radical shift during my lifetime. A family looks a lot different than it did 30, 20 or even 10 years ago. Eve and her experiences with her biological mother are an attempt to tackle the perception of feeling unwanted. Her mother, conflicted and contradictory in her actions, was not prepared for motherhood and as a result, her shortcomings, be it fiscally, socially or mentally, have been passed onto Eve. As much as Eve tries to steer clear of falling into the same traps of her mother, she is destined to become a victim to it. With recent women's reproductive health issues swirling through the public discourse, I wanted to represent Eve as a repercussion of decisions that marginalized parents have to make.

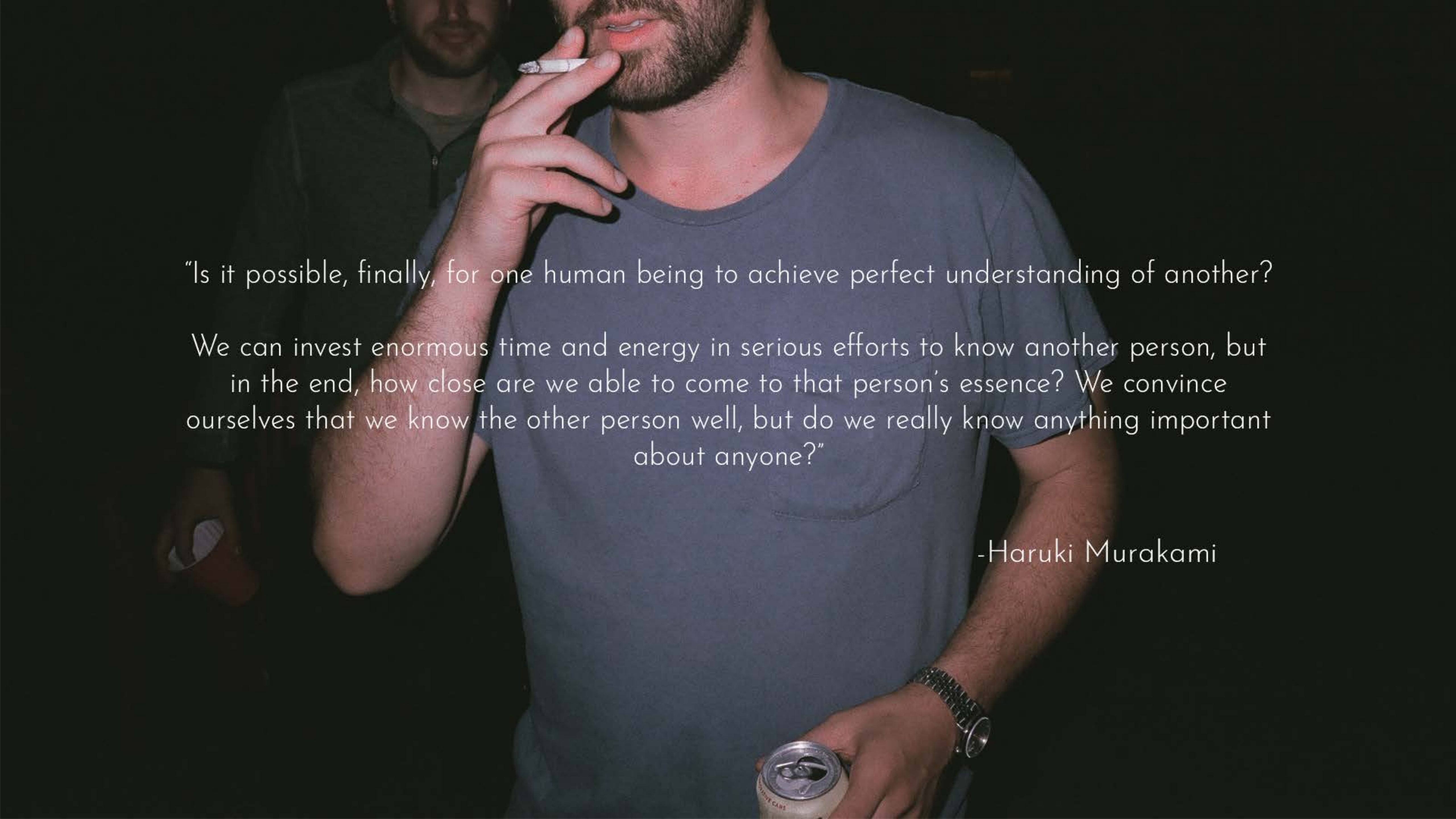
With these themes in mind, we wanted to craft a narrative that reflected the uncertainty and angst of our times, our fear of commitment and the slippery slope towards madness. We were fascinated by the risks of 'new love' combined with a 'Bonnie and Clyde'/'True Romance' story, set during an election year in a contemporary American rust belt city. Films like 'Badlands', 'True Romance', and 'Pierrot le Fou' have all served as influences in the writing and pre-production of this film.

The background of the text is a landscape photograph. The top half of the image shows a dark, heavy sky with a bright, vertical light source, possibly a sun or moon, breaking through the clouds. The bottom half shows a green, rolling field with several dark, silhouetted trees in the foreground and middle ground.

Our goal is to produce a film that is unmistakably an American movie. We hope to challenge our audience with complex characters and layered themes that will, in turn, elevate our independent film. Allowing the viewer to have their emotions and expectations pulled in different directions.

We believe that now is as good a time as any to make an exciting and brutal crime thriller centered around a female protagonist who is taking control of her life. While audiences often think about women being the complicit, ride along characters in these types of crime stories, Eve demands our attention as she refuses to fit within that mold. It is important for me, as the writer and director, to tackle this story because as our country continues through its growing pains, it is even more important for young filmmakers to produce art that reflects the urgency of these issues during this time in America.

As filmmakers, we are interested in compelling and provocative character driven stories. As a result of our focus on character, the action and suspense becomes more effective. MISFIT LOVE will be an apt follow-up to our debut feature because it builds on our fascination in depicting young Americans attempting to navigate a difficult time in our country. However, MISFIT LOVE significantly raises the stakes and brings us, as filmmakers, into a new stage of our career by providing the entire cast and crew with a larger canvas on which to tell a story.

A photograph of a man with a beard, wearing a blue t-shirt, smoking a cigarette and holding a can. Another person is visible in the background.

"Is it possible, finally, for one human being to achieve perfect understanding of another?

We can invest enormous time and energy in serious efforts to know another person, but in the end, how close are we able to come to that person's essence? We convince ourselves that we know the other person well, but do we really know anything important about anyone?"

-Haruki Murakami

Comparable Films

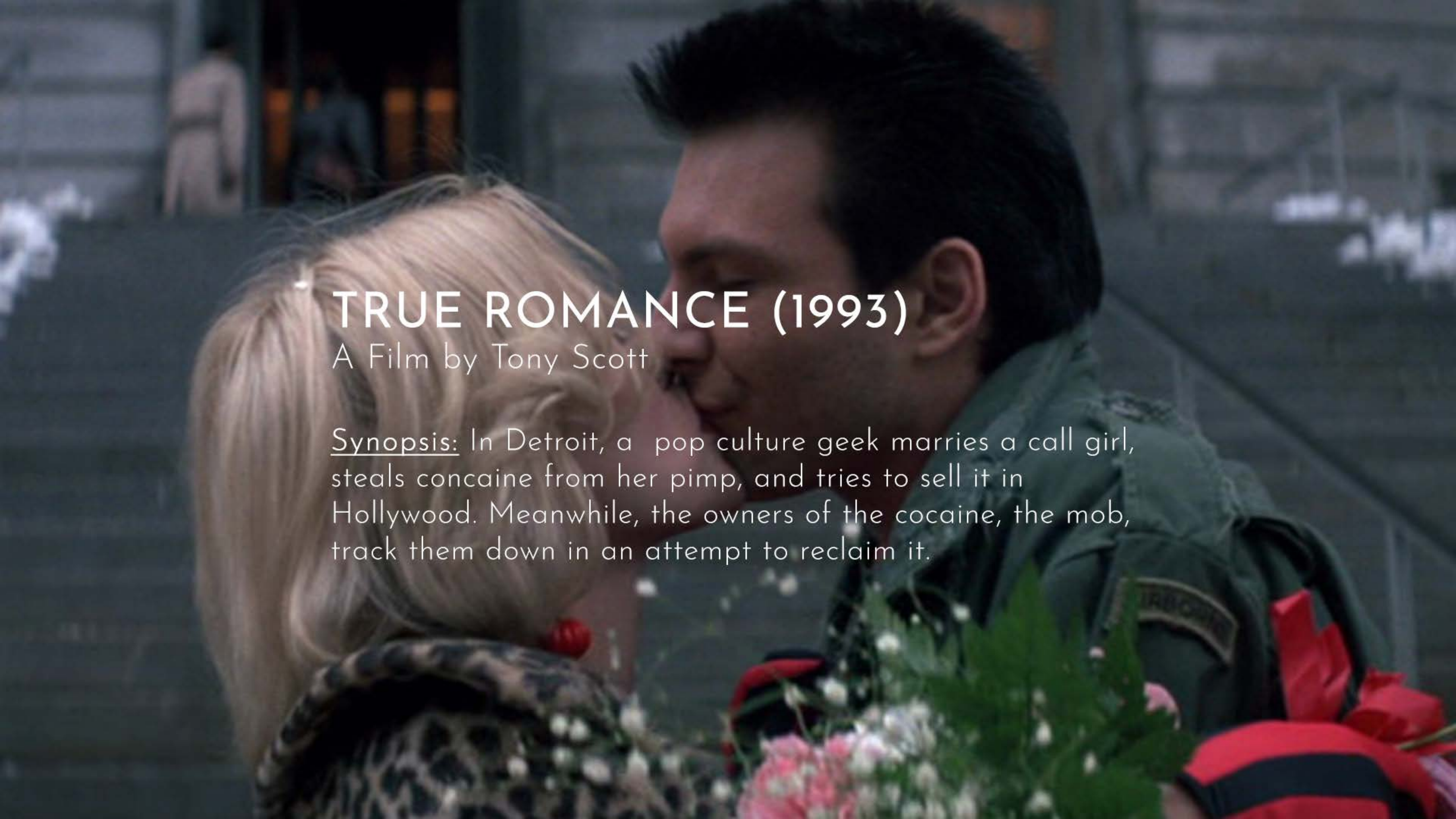


A still from the movie "Badlands" showing a teenage couple being escorted by police officers in a line. The couple is in the center, flanked by officers in uniform and helmets. The scene is set outdoors in a rural, arid landscape.

BADLANDS (1973)

A Film by Terrence Malick

Synopsis: An impressionable teenage girl from a dead-end town and her older greaser boyfriend embark on a killing spree in the South Dakota badlands.

A man and a woman are shown in a close-up, intimate moment, kissing. The man, on the right, has dark hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The woman, on the left, has blonde hair and is wearing a leopard-print top. They are holding a bouquet of pink and white flowers. The background is a blurred city street at night, with a person walking in the distance.

TRUE ROMANCE (1993)

A Film by Tony Scott

Synopsis: In Detroit, a pop culture geek marries a call girl, steals concaine from her pimp, and tries to sell it in Hollywood. Meanwhile, the owners of the cocaine, the mob, track them down in an attempt to reclaim it.

A color photograph from the film 'Pierrot le Fou' showing a man and a woman in a car. The man, on the left, is wearing a grey jacket over a red shirt and is leaning towards the woman. The woman, on the right, is wearing a white t-shirt and is leaning back, looking at the man. They are about to kiss. The car is red and has a black steering wheel. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with trees and a building.

PIERROT LE FOU (1965)

A Film by Jean-Luc Godard

Synopsis: Pierrot escapes his boring society and travels from Paris to the Mediterranean Sea with Marianne, a girl chased by hit-men from Algeria. They lead an unorthodox life, always on the run.

Production Approach

MISFIT LOVE is the follow-up to our critically acclaimed debut feature film EXPOSURE 36. As multi-disciplined filmmakers, we are driven to produce and deliver content as economically as possible, all while maintaining high-end production value, by taking control in every stage of development, prep, production, post, delivery and marketing. Establishing ourselves as independent filmmakers has provided us with the drive and desire to tell a story successfully, no matter the constraints.

Additionally, we will use a highly skilled cast and crew, with whom we have long standing relationships, both above and below the line, in order to achieve efficient workflow on set. Crew members include, but are not limited to, veteran producers and director of photography, gaffer, sound engineers, production designers, hair & makeup and assistant directors. To round out the production, and perhaps most importantly, we will cast in demand young actors to raise the profile of the film while also providing them with complex roles that every actor dreams about inhabiting.

Our first feature, the aforementioned EXPOSURE 36, was acquired by Gravitas Ventures for North American distribution. In July 2022, the New York Times named it one of the "Five Sci-Fi Movies to Stream Now". In March 2023, it was named by online magazine - Video Librarian - as one of "The Best Narrative Films of 2022" We are currently working with an international sales agent to secure distribution in territories around the globe.





MACKENZIE G. MAURO

Screenwriter/Producer/Director/Editor

Writer, director, producer & editor currently based out of New York. In 2013, he wrote and directed a science-fiction short film DURATION OF STAY. In 2015, he co-wrote and directed DAN'S PLAN. In 2016, No2Mauro Productions released a digital web-series, "The Show" (written and directed by Montgomery Mauro.) In that same year, he completed his third short film RED MOSQUITO. In 2017, he wrote and directed MAKING ALL LOCAL STOPS.

He currently works as an editor at Friend or Foe Edit and has edited on campaigns for Progressive, Toyota, State Farm, Etsy, ExxonMobil, Nissan, Ford, Maybelline, and La Mer, to name a few. During that time he has formed relationships with agencies including, but not limited to, Saatchi, BBDO, Droga5, TBWA, DDB, Grey, Gotham, and Arnold.

In 2019, he produced his debut feature film EXPOSURE 36. Released in 2022, it has been critically acclaimed and was named one of "Five Sci-Fi Movies to Stream Now" by the New York Times and one of the "Best Narrative Films of 2022" by VideoLibrarian.com

“The reality of this system is that whoever has the upper hand, can transform their lives into something new. But, the system no longer works for people like us. We need to work outside of that structure. There are other ways of gaining leverage.”



THANK YOU



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