



Those Guys and That Girl Films, LLC (210) 691-9755

www.TGTGFilms.com

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Tax Time!!!

It's that time of the year again and everyone is scrambling to get those W-2's in to calculate how much they'll be getting from or paying back to Uncle Sam.

If you find yourself in the situation where you need more charitable donations to offset some of that income, don't forget, you can make a tax-deductible donation to *7 Tales of Desperation*.

That's right, we take tax deductible gifts too! *7 Tales of Desperation* is a sponsored project of [Fractured Atlas](#), a non-profit arts services organization. Contributions made on behalf of *7 Tales of Desperation* are made payable to 'Fractured Atlas' and are tax-deductible to you!

Be sure to visit our website under the 'funding' section and learn how you can take advantage of this great opportunity to support *7 Tales* and, at the same time, put some money back in your pocket!

Now don't you wish you would have done that in 2006? As always, thanks for your support!

Happy New Year from TGTGF! A New Year and New Developments!

The year 2006 was a year of establishing ourselves as a Company and getting our message out. We collaborated with many incredible artists including Hank Feldman, Raul Abrego, Dan Marks, Teddy Feldman, Lucia Brawley, and David Barrera, just to name a few. We have been knocking on doors to get the word out about the company and traveling to various parts of the United States in order to give everyone a taste of our new film *7 Tales of Desperation*. The opportunities we have created have been immense and exciting — it's only going to be better in 2007.

I am pleased to announce we have started this year with an incredible addition to our film project. After more than a year of searching, we have found the director for *7 Tales of Desperation*. We are extremely honored and excited to have Mr. Miguel Alvarez on board. As a native Texan and an experienced, award winning, gorilla film maker (not to mention he's pretty cool as a person too), we feel we have found the perfect match in order for us to tell a *TALE* worth telling. You can find more of his work (and his so called "bien sexy" headshot too) on his website <http://www.estebandido.com>. In the meantime, check out his BIO below to see what Miguel is all about:



Depending on when found, Miguel Alvarez is an engineer, writer, photographer, graduate student, or award-winning filmmaker. His work has been screened throughout the United States, garnering prizes and gathering critical acclaim along the way. In addition to writing and directing, he has produced short films for New York film artist Raul Castillo and recent Sundance/NHK International Filmmakers Award recipient Cruz Angeles. Currently pursuing an MFA in Film Production, he is the recipient of the Robert Rodriguez/Elizabeth Avellán Award from the University of Texas at Austin.

Impressive, isn't it? We think so too!. Welcome Miguel!

And to our loyal fan base and all our supporters, Happy New Year! Now, let's get to work...

- Creative Director, Michael Ray Escamilla

Funding Opportunity... We Need Your Help!!!

Thanks to the generosity and visionaries of the San Juan Economic Development Corporation and the hard work of San Juan EDC's Project Specialist Miki McCarthy, *THOSE GUYS & THAT GIRL FILMS* has the opportunity to raise \$50,000 for our first feature film *7 Tales of Desperation*. We'll also have an official home base of operations during production in the fall of 2007 - San Juan, TX!

At their meeting on December 18, 2006, the Board of Directors for the San Juan EDC recommended a \$50,000 grant and incentive package - a grant of \$25,000 and \$25,000 worth of incentives to local San Juan businesses that would work with *THOSE GUYS & THAT GIRL FILMS* during the production of *7 Tales*. In exchange for this grant, our Company would shoot a portion of *7 Tales* in San Juan, rent office space in San Juan for our production team and hire San Juan residents to help us with the project during our 6 week visit to the Valley.

The recommendation is currently in a 60-day public petition period. During this time, San Juan residents and businesses can contest this grant, but we wouldn't want that. **How can you help? Well...**

Right now, *THOSE GUYS & THAT GIRL FILMS* is actively lobbying businesses and friends who live in San Juan for their support. If you live in San Juan or have friends, acquaintances or relatives that do - **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please spread the word; write a letter; send an e-mail; and ask friends to do the same! The names of the people that need to know that *THOSE GUYS & THAT GIRL FILMS* will help to create economic growth and civic pride for San Juan, TX are listed on Page 4 of this newsletter.

OR BETTER YET - come with us to the official meeting of the San Juan City Commission on Tuesday, February 27th. The meeting will be held at the Fire Station #2 on 2301 North Raul Longoria Road. That is North of the Expressway and North of Sioux Road. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 PM.

We need to let the San Juan City Commission know that people in the Valley support *THOSE GUYS & THAT GIRL FILMS* and want *7 Tales* to call San Juan home. Anything you could do to help us would be amazing!!

- Executive Producer, Abby Paige Fenton

Meet Executive Producer — René Garza

"The place we came from..."

Those of you who have been reading our newsletters know that we do a profile of each managing member of Those Guys and That Girl Films. How I dreaded writing mine. Not because I don't want you to know about me, but because I feel that I'm an awful writer and, more importantly, would rather be sitting with my wife and kids enjoying our time together. That was until Michael and I had a conversation a week ago discussing *7 Tales* and "the place we came from."

What many of you don't know is that "Those Guys" was started many years ago - twenty years ago this coming fall! It was an association almost by force; actually, there was a lot of force involved. At first, Michael and I really didn't get along. I remember seeing this skinny kid walk past the football field and into this house everyday during my practice. He recalls seeing me on the practice field and thinking a few choice phrases as well. It wasn't until we were paired together by our drama instructor that we realized we shared the same qualities and sense of humor; it was something we would have never seen ourselves if we weren't forced into it. It started with a duet and today is a friendship and business partnership.

Mando, on the other hand, was introduced to me a year earlier. He and Cesar (another good friend of ours) were doing a duet that blew everyone away. It was eighth grade and we were in fierce competition. Mando and I became good friends. We lived in the same city (Alamo), played football together and both liked to act. He was easier to adjust to than Michael; he also shared the same characteristics and humor that we all shared.

And so it began. "Those Guys" formed in a drama classroom; all of us miming to The Nylons song *Kiss Him Goodbye*. Mando showed me how to dance without looking like a robot - sorry Mando, it didn't stick. Michael choreographed movements that wowed the audiences. We all lip synched. Yeah, it was cheesy, we wore tuxedos, but most importantly, we had fun. There were others in the original "Those Guys." They have taken different paths to different places, but from each of them we kept a memory that made us laugh, made us miss them or just plain shocked us. Nonetheless, we love them all.

As time went on, we shared many adventures together - some that can't be mentioned. From climbing balconies and missing spring break to painting the auditorium and saying goodbye, we always made sure that we had fun in what we were doing - otherwise, why do it, right?

After high school, I thought I wanted to go pre-med. I couldn't have been more wrong. After careful consideration, I changed majors. I was back in theatre but soon realized that acting was not my forte; it was design. I graduated from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio with a degree in theatre specializing in design. At that point, I couldn't get enough. I inundated myself in theatre and designed every show I could. It was always a learning process.

I ended up in Dallas working for a aviation company who happened to do some themed entertainment on the side. I enjoyed my time designing sound, engineering and met some life long friends. During my time there, I moonlighted; designing shows for various groups in the Dallas area - Kitchen Dog, Cara Mia, Soul Rep. Michael and I can still recall the outdoor show we worked on together. My favorite line from that show (and it isn't even in the script) is, "I see lightning in the building!" Ask him to tell you the story, it's a good one.

After a little more than a year, I felt there was more for me to do. Maybe it wasn't design; maybe it was on the educational side or possibly the business side. That's when I decided to attend graduate school. After months of searching, I found a graduate school in the Great Northwest that seemed like a good match. I was offered the Graduate Teaching Fellowship at The University of Oregon. Situated in the small town of Eugene, the university was a far change from Texas. As my research continued there, I was informed about a job offer that mixed theatre, business and design; most importantly, it was back home in San Antonio. My wife (fiancée at the time) and I made the trek back to San Antonio along with our dog and cat. Have you ever used the US Postal Service to mail all your possessions home? It was a quick move back but well worth the effort.

Now I design theatres, entertainment venues and the various systems that integrate within them. If it doesn't make sense, that's ok. My parents (whom I love dearly) don't completely understand it either - but they support me now that they know I can make a living doing it.

Five years later, I get the call you have all read about in the previous newsletters. I'll summarize:

Ring-Ring—Mando calls Michael.

Mando: "Let's start."

Ring-Ring—Mando & Michael call René.

René: "I'm in."

And the process started. But being the left-brained person that I am, my business instincts began to kick in. What are we going to call ourselves? Don't we need someone in marketing/development? How are we going to fund this? Is this all feasible?

It's embarrassing to write, but we did a poor job on the first batch of name considerations:

True Works Production Company
 Border Town Productions
 First Draft Production Company
 A Bear Production
 Busted with a Six Pictures
 A Mexi Can Film/ Productions
 Los Abuelos Films
 A Gallon of Water and Hope Productions
 Make Me Productions
 Legend Productions
 I Need Some Money Holmes Productions

Ultimately, when the next call came in with Mando and Michael telling me they had "That Girl" for the development and marketing side, it all came to us at the same time, "Those Guys and That Girl." Sure, it went through a few iterations, but it became what you see today and it's stronger than ever.

I'm not the funny one. I'm not the sensitive one. I'm not the artistic one. I'm the one who wants to get down to business. Why? It's fun. If it wasn't, why should any of us do it?

You now know a little about each of us and may be wondering why you should support Those Guys and That Girl Films. It's simple. We know the place we came from and know where we're going. We're going back home this fall to film our project. We hope you join us on this adventure - and have some fun along the way.

- Executive Producer, René Garza

How to Contact Us

Executive Director - Abby Paige Fenton - 443-803-4722
 abby@tgtgfilms.com

Executive Director - René Garza - 210-317-3214
 rene@tgtgfilms.com

Creative Director - Mando Alvarado - 202-460-3399
 mando@tgtgfilms.com

Creative Director - Michael Ray Escamilla - 646-645-5456
 michael@tgtgfilms.com

General Information: info@tgtgfilms.com

Members of TGTGF Bring THROAT to the Valley

In the first two weeks of December of 2006, three member managers, Rene Garza, Michael Ray Escamilla, and I were involved in mounting the New York production of **Throat** at Cine El Rey. It marks the first time that Michael, Rene and I were able to work together since High School. The experience was amazing and will go down as one of the most memorable moments in my theatrical career.

I wrote the play in April of 2005. We had a staged production in NYC in February of 2006. We had an extremely successful run and our executive producer, Allison Prouty, thought that it would be beneficial for us and the play to go on a tour. With the war still in full motion, she was convinced that the play needed to be heard, but it would also give us the opportunity to further develop the production before we tried to remount it back in NYC. So we put our heads together and came up with our dream cities. Of course, the Valley was my first suggestion. The idea of coming back, doing the show and paying homage to where our creative inspiration was born was not only an exciting idea but a humbling dream come true. So we found a way to come home.

The play follows the story of Cesar Rodriguez, a former Marine who's having trouble adjusting to civilian life after serving in Iraq. Suffering from violent memories of war and the guilt about his unheroic performance, Cesar finds solace in his best friend and love struck pigeons in the park. It leads to an explosive ending in which the truth of his guilt is revealed, allowing him to complete his final order. This play was a way for me to address the war, without delving into the political agenda that so many people in the arts have done. I made the lead character, Cesar, from the Pharr, TX. My home town. I came across an article in USA Today, about three soldiers that came back from Iraq with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. One of these soldiers was originally from the Valley. I came to learn that the valley has a high percentage of servicemen but yet, they don't have a VA hospital in the area. The closest being in San Antonio. I wanted to write about the seriousness of what these soldiers were dealing with. But also deal with it in a way, where you understand that these characters are people, with the same flaws as everyone else who happened to be affected by the current political climate.

Sharing this story, with our hometown audience, gave me a new found respect for what I do and why I do it. So many people came up to us and shared with us their gratitude. Everyone I talked to had someone in Iraq. That blew me away. I hope that the production was able to give them an understanding of some aspect of the psychological damage war can cause. But also, allow the lanes of communication to be open with these veterans that are coming back, our brothers, sisters, sons and daughters, uncles, dads, moms, cousins and sometimes, even our grandparents. I was very proud of the work we did and we hope to do it again soon.

- Creative Director, Mando Alvarado

Voice Your Support!

As mentioned in the 'Funding Opportunity' article in this newsletter, below are names and contact information for the San Juan Economic Development Corporation, Mayor and City Council:

SJ Mayor

San Juanita Sanchez

SJ City Commissioners

Bobby Rodriguez

Pedro Contreras

Claudia R. Gonzalez

SJEDC Officers

Dr. Roel E. Cantu, President

Javier Garza, Vice-President

SJEDC Directors

Ignacio Almaguer, Board Member

Dora A. Garcia, Board Member

Rebecca Gonzales, Board Member

Adriana Salazar, Board Member

Gregorio Trevino, Board Member

Phone: 956.783.3449

Mail: San Juan EDC
430 N. Standard
San Juan, Texas 78589

Please call or write to voice your support for our film project.

As always, thank you for your help!!!