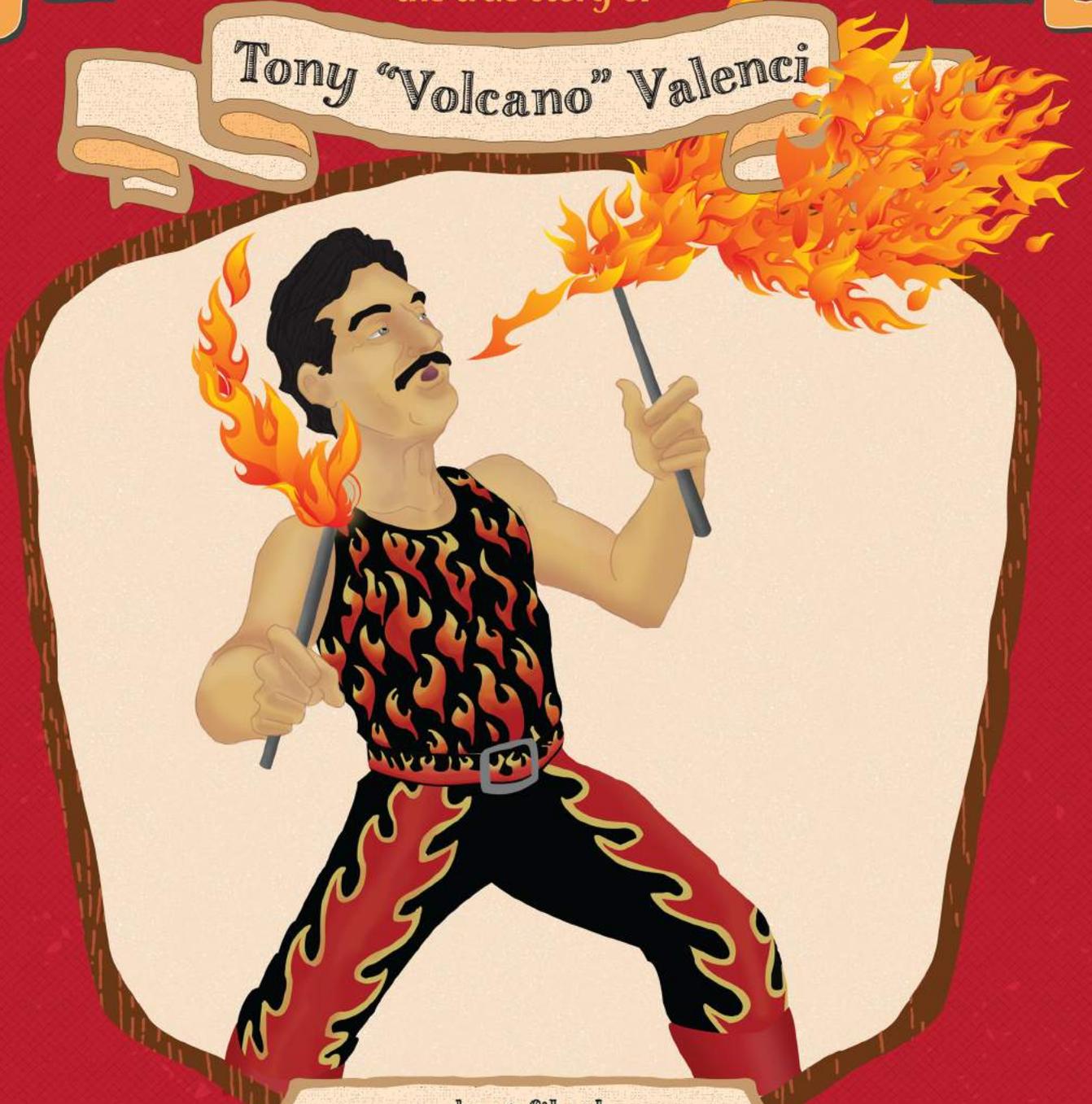


DOWN IN FLAMES

the true story of

Tony "Volcano" Valenci



a short film by
William J. Stribling

ARJAY ENTERTAINMENT & FUNKY PRETTY PICTURES PRESENT A SHORT FILM BY WILLIAM J. STRIBLING STARRING R.J. LEWIS SARAH BLAZE TODD ROBBINS STEPHEN GUICE RICHIE MAGIC
ALEX JENNINGS DR. DAVID "THROWDOWN" ADAMOVICH COLLIN SMITH TYLER HOLLINGER PRODUCED BY R.J. LEWIS & WILLIAM J. STRIBLING MUSIC BY DYLAN GLATHORN FIRST AD DAVID KETTERER
PRODUCTION SOUND BY HAYLEY WAGNER & ANDY STEIN SOUND DESIGN & MIX BY ANDY STEIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER ALEXANDER WHITTENBERG COSTUME, HAIR, & MAKEUP BY ELISE VANDERKLEY
POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR BRENNIA PEREZ GRAPHIC DESIGNER CATHERINE KELLERMANN EDITED BY RAYMOND FRASER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ALEX GALLITANO

WRITTEN BY R.J. LEWIS & WILLIAM J. STRIBLING © MMXIV ARJAY ENTERTAINMENT & WILLIAM J. STRIBLING

DOWN IN FLAMES: the true story of Tony “Volcano” Valenci

Comedy/Mockumentary Narrative Short Film. 29 Min

In 2013, a documentary film crew followed world-famous fire-eater Tony 'Volcano' Valenci for 90 days on his quest to set a world record. This is his story.

Tony 'Volcano' Valenci has spent his life attempting to set a world record. All of his friends and colleagues have world records. Even his ex-wife has a world record. Now it's Tony's turn. Tony is determined to be the first man to blow fire while skydiving, and he won't let anything stand in his way, not even himself.

Through testimonials from Tony's friends and colleagues—such as the world's fastest knife-thrower—his ex-wife, and his skydiving coaches, we piece together Tony's roller coaster ride of a journey to get his name in the record books. But will Tony go down in history, or will he go *down in flames*?

Quick View Facts

- Three *real* world record holders appear in the film
- Film features *real* skydiving, fire blowing, fire eating, glass eating, sword swallowing, and oral cigarette extinguishing
- Award-winning filmmakers and cast
- SAG
- Original score from acclaimed composer Dylan Glatthorn
- Title song “Down in Flames” available on iTunes and Amazon
- Shot on location in New York and New Jersey

Technical Specs

- Shot in HD on Canon 5D Mark iii, Sony EX-3, GoPro, Canon T3i, Sony HDR HC3 miniDV
- Widescreen 16:9 Aspect Ratio
- NTSC
- RT 29:21
- Stereo Sound

Websites

www.downinflamesfilm.com

facebook.com/DowninFlamesFilm

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Director’s Bio

William J. Stribling (director, producer) is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts, with degrees in Film & TV Production and Dramatic Literature. Most recently, William directed the feature film "Lies I Told My Little Sister" starring Lucy Walters (Shame), Donovan Patton (Emmy-nominated star of "Blue's Clues"), Alicia Minshew (Two-time Emmy-nominated star of "All My Children"), and Ellen Foley (Fatal Attraction, Tootsie, Night Court, Meatloaf's "Bat Outta Hell"). "Lies" premiered to a sold-out crowd at the Gasparilla Int'l Film Festival, where it earned the distinction "Best of the Fest," and will spend the next year on the film festival circuit.

"Break A Leg", William's first short film, swept NYU's New Visions and Voices Film Festival, winning craft awards for Directing, Editing, and Producing, as well as First Prize.

William's 2012 short film "Beyond Belief" (starring R.J. Lewis and shot by Alex Gallitano) has been an Official Selection of over 30 film festivals worldwide, winning several awards and many nominations along the way.

A native of St. Petersburg, Florida, William is a graduate of the Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA) at Gibbs High School, where he received the Eikon award in 2008.

In Spring of 2014, William will graduate from Chapman University with his MFA in Screenwriting.

William is currently in pre-production for his next feature film, *Bear with Us*, which will shoot in August of 2014 in Pennsylvania.

Filmography

imdb.com/name/nm4490351/

Director

Bear with Us (2014), feature
Down in Flames: the True Story of Tony
“Volcano” Valenci (2014), short
Lies I Told My Little Sister (2014), feature
Zombielust (2013), short
Beyond Belief (2012), short
Break A Leg (2011), short

Writer

Bear with Us (2014), feature
Down in Flames: the True Story of Tony
“Volcano” Valenci (2014), short
Vampires (2014), short
Laugh Track (2013), short
Beyond Belief (2012), short
Break A Leg (2011), short

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Director’s Statement

Tony “Volcano” Valenci is nothing short of a modern-day Don Quixote. His heart is in the right place and only his own ambitions can keep him from achieving his wildest dreams. (And believe me, they’re wild). It’s easy to laugh at larger-than-life characters like Tony, and I think that’s why we’re able to let our guards down and let Tony into our hearts. If we’re all truly honest with ourselves, there’s a little bit of Tony in each and every one of us.

I strive to make films that show people things they’ve never seen before. And so I’m proud to say that I’ve never seen a movie quite like *Down in Flames*. I was lucky to bring on most of the same crew from my previous shorts such as *Beyond Belief* and *Break A Leg*, as well as my first feature film, *Lies I Told My Little Sister*; the “usual suspects,” I’ve come to call them. I don’t think any of us really knew what we were getting ourselves into when we set out to make this film. But by the time my cinematographer Alex Gallitano and I were wearing parachutes and sitting in a plane with no doors to get a shot of the skydiving scene, we knew that we had something special on our hands.

I say this a lot, but I truly believe that if my films are any good, it’s because I’ve been able to surround myself with people who are better at their jobs than I am at mine. And on this film, that was even more true than usual. If you’d told me a year ago that I’d be working with the world’s fastest and most accurate knife thrower, I certainly wouldn’t have believed you.

But now, here we are, with our own little sideshow of sorts, putting on display the weird, exciting, shocking talents of half a dozen artists who have made names for themselves defying reality and doing the impossible every single day. It was truly an inspiring and humbling process from start to finish. Taking this journey with Tony was one of the most gratifying experiences of my life. Having never worked on anything even remotely close to a documentary, I quickly found myself exploring new terrain. But I lived to tell the tale, which is more than I can say for a certain somebody in our troupe...

There will be those that watch this film and ask how much of it is true. To which, the only fitting response is: all of it. Because why would anybody go to such great lengths to make up such a farfetched and ridiculous story? To do such a thing would make me as crazy as Tony “Volcano” Valenci himself.

— William J. Stribling



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Primary Cast (in order of appearance)

**R.J. Lewis
Sarah Blaze
Michael Chaut
Todd Robbins
Stephen Guice
Richie Magic
Alex Jennings
Dr. David “Throwdini” Adaomovich
Tyler Hollinger
Collin Smith
Adam Feldman**

Key Crew

**William J. Stribling.....director/producer/screenwriter
R.J. Lewis.....producer/screenwriter
David Ketterer.....first AD
Alex Gallitano director of photography
Hayley Wagner.....production sound mixer
Andy Stein..... sound designer
Dylan Glatthorn.....composer
Alexander Whittenberg.....production designer
Nathan Avakian.....art director
Elise VanderKley.....wardrobe/hair/make-up artist
Brenna Perez.....post supervisor/color correction
Catherine Kellermann.....graphic designer**

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Featured Cast Bios

Todd Robbins is a New York City based performer that has spent decades specializing in arcane forms of popular entertainment, offbeat amusements, and intriguing deceptions. Todd is renowned for his work with Coney Island and the sideshow, magic, circus, ragtime piano and traditional jazz, medicine shows, and burlesque. Recently, he was seen in the acclaimed off-Broadway show "Play Dead," directed by Teller (of Penn & Teller). Todd is also one of the partners in Magical Nights Inc, the producers of New York's longest running magic show "Monday Night Magic ". He is the author of the cult classic book "The Modern Con Man: How to Get Something for Nothing" and the creator of the companion "Modern Con Man DVD Collection". He is also featured in the celebrated documentary "American Carny: True Tales from the Circus Sideshow".



Richie Magic has lived in New York all his life, and started doing magic at the age of 12. Richie had a career in law enforcement, and completed 30 years of service and commitment. He retired as first VP of the Superior Officers Association, and received several commendations and awards for his work and support in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Since retirement in May 2007, he "lives and breathes magic", whether practicing new illusions, attending magic meetings or lectures, shopping for new magic, collecting vintage magic, teaching magic, or doing shows. He is the past President of S.A.M. - The Society of American Magicians (National).



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Featured Cast Bios (continued)

The Reverend David Adamovich, P.H.D. (aka "The Great Throwdini") is recognized by "Guinness World Records" as the "World's Fastest Knife Thrower." He lives in Freeport New York where he also officiates weddings. He is the only knife thrower to perform The Veiled Double Wheel of Death (2 assistants / paper veil). He is the recipient of magic's highest honor, The Merlin Award (International Magicians Society). He holds 38 World Records Set or Broken, Including 'One of the Top 100 Guinness World Records of All Time'. He has been cartooned by Ripley's Believe it or Not! for catching a bullet, an arrow, and a knife. He is the Most Illustrious President of Parent Assembly #1, Society of American Magicians (2013/14).



Stephen Guice, Radio Host

Hooters girls, famous recording artists, actors and actresses, school principals, and even his own boss, Stephen has successfully entertained millions by making them all cry on his morning radio show. Rumor has it he was even responsible for a priest's suicide (allegedly...). Whatever. He's just proud that when it was his turn to burn Tony Valenci and the animal he was wearing as a wig, the cameras were there and rolling to capture all the magic. Stephen didn't even want Tony on his show, but it was a slow news day and the girl that could do vaginal ventriloquism canceled the day before. The consummate professional, Stephen seized the opportunity to ruin Tony's day, and says he wouldn't change a thing. Namaste!



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Featured Cast Bios (continued)

Michael Chaut

A seasoned professional magician, Michael Chaut has captivated audiences for over 20 years at places like Catch a Rising Star, The Rainbow Room, Dangerfield's, The Improvisation, and the famous Greenwich Village cabaret in New York, Mostly Magic. He is a performing member of the prestigious Magic Castle in Los Angeles and is one of the handful of magicians ever to appear at the exclusive Windows On The World atop the World Trade Center in New York



City. Comedy and magic fans are not exclusive to the stage. Michael has performed his miracles on cruise ships and at conventions, trade shows, and corporate events. His television appearances include: FOX-TV, Good Morning New York, NBC's Today Show, and ABC's Good Morning America. His corporate clientele are a veritable "Who's Who" among Fortune 500 Companies including: IBM, Microsoft, American Express, Deloitte & Touche, Ziff-Davis, Swiss Army Brands, Young & Rubicam, and Club Med. His rare blend of comedy and magic make for a good time to be had by all. In addition to his demanding performing schedule all over the United States, Michael is the creator and founding producer of "Monday Night Magic", the longest running Off-Broadway magic show in New York.

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Selected Crew Bios

R.J. Lewis — producer

Starting his career as a street performer in the 1970's, R.J. went on to be part of the hit Broadway show "Barnum" where he did magic, sang, danced, and juggled from 1980-1982. He was invited to perform at the White House in 1982 as part of the "Easter at the White House" festivities. R.J. went on to perform in Atlantic City as the comedy act in a revue show, "Roger Minami's Heatwave" (1983-1985). He successfully directed the "Castle Character" program at Trump's Castle for ten years. He also provided entertainment walk-around stilt-walkers and magicians to the Showboat Casino Hotel. R.J. starred in William J. Stribling's short film "Beyond Belief," for which he won Best Actor in a Short Film at the Los Angeles Comedy Festival and Best Actor in a Short Comedy at the Atlantic City Cinefest. R.J. is currently producing the feature film *Bear with Us*, directed by William J. Stribling, which is slated to begin production in August of 2014.

Alex Gallitano — director of photography

A New York City-based cinematographer, Alex Gallitano graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts with honors, concentrating in cinematography. He also studied at the FAMU Academy in Prague, where he was directly exposed to European styles and techniques. Alex has worked in a variety of mediums, from 35mm film to the latest digital systems. In June of 2012, Alex completed principal photography on the feature film "Lies I Told My Little Sister," which is expected to be released later this year. In 2012, Alex was awarded a Best Cinematography Telly Award for his work on a Coca-Cola commercial. In 2013, he was again awarded a Best Cinematography Telly Award for the Van Cliburn commercial, "Reach". Alex Gallitano has shot dozens of films, commercials, music videos, and documentaries. He brings a unique eye and fresh ideas to every production.

Alexander Whittenberg — production designer

A long-time collaborator with director William J. Stribling, Alexander Whittenberg is in the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at SUNY Purchase where he is working towards a BFA in Scenic Design. His production design credits include the short films "Daisy", "Break A Leg", and "Beyond Belief", as well as the feature film, "Lies I Told My Little Sister". Raised in St. Petersburg, Florida, he is a proud graduate of the Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA) at Gibbs High School where he studied Musical Theatre and Technical Theatre. Alex is a proud co-founder of PCCA's first ever improvisational comedy troupe, The Improse.

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Selected Crew Bios (continued)

Dylan Glatthorn — composer

An American composer and lyricist residing in New York City, Dylan Glatthorn recently finished scoring "Today We Have The Power", a feature length documentary about the World Trade Organization protests of 1999. Born and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida, Dylan is a graduate of the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School where he received the 2005 Bravo Award, the top award for achievement and talent. His first full length musical, "The Way It Goes", premiered at the Palladium Theatre in 2004. He is a recipient of the 2011 and 2007 Alan Menken Award, Walker's Rising Stars Scholarship, Al Downing Jazz Association Scholarship, and the Mensa Education and Research Foundation's Grosswirth-Salny Scholarship. Dylan is a proud member of both ASCAP and The Dramatists Guild of America, Inc. Glatthorn has scored films for Stribling in the past, including "Beyond Belief" as well as "Break A Leg" and the upcoming feature film, "Lies I Told My Little Sister".

Elise M. VanderKley — costume designer/wardrobe/hair/make-up artist

A graduate of Marymount Manhattan College, Elise VanderKley earned her B.A. in Costume Design and managed the Costume shop for three and a half years. Elise was thrilled to be the Costume Designer, Wardrobe Supervisor, Hair and Makeup artist for "Beyond Belief", as well as joining the team on their newest endeavor. Elise is currently The Costume Shop Manager at the Off-Broadway Pearl Theatre Company where she runs their season-long program along side each of their four show's design teams. She also manages their Costume Rental stock which supplies custom period costumes to non-profit theatre companies in the New York area. In 2012, she designed their final production "This Side of Neverland", two short plays performed in repertory written by J.M. Barrie (Peter Pan) and was awarded a New York Time's Critic Pick! Other Costume Design credits include: "OMG FAST" by Good Karma Productions, "Confessions of a Masturbator" directed by Michael Kinnahn, "Ready Player One", a From Budget Production, along with many other shorts films, plays, and commercials. Elise also owns her own custom corset business.

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Production Still — © Alex Gallitano
additional production stills available upon request



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Film production to begin in Phillipsburg on Aug. 23

Warren Reporter By **Warren Reporter**

on August 07, 2013 at 10:24 AM, updated August 07, 2013 at 10:26 AM



Tony 'Volcano' Valenci

Starting on Aug. 23, a film crew will be showing up in different locations in Phillipsburg. They're shooting a compelling new film, "Down In Flames: The True Story of Tony 'Volcano' Valenci." Tony is a colorful character; a fire-eater trying to find his way into the record books.

This film will combine the talents of director William J. Stribling and R.J. Lewis, a resident of Phillipsburg. The two previously worked together on the award-winning short film, "Beyond Belief." This dark comedy was Stribling's NYU thesis film about a down-on-his-luck magician trying to make his troubles disappear.

"Beyond Belief" has been an Official Selection of more than 22 film festivals across the globe, winning several awards and nominations along the way, including Lewis taking home Best Actor In A Short Film at the Los Angeles Comedy Festival.

The duo are thrilled for the chance work together again. Stribling is directing "Down In Flames" while Lewis is the executive producer through his nonprofit company Arjay Entertainment, Incorporated. Stribling was quoted saying, "Phillipsburg is the ideal location to shoot this film. It has just what we're looking for." Cinematographer Alex Gallitano, who shot "Beyond Belief," will join the crew as director of photography.

The crew will follow the exploits of Tony 'Volcano' Valenci, renowned fire eater, as he takes on increasingly difficult stunts to reach his goal of a world record. Included in the film will be world record holders David "Throwdini" Adamovich, champion knife-thrower; Richie Magic, the "human ashtray;" and Todd Robbins, light bulb-eating champion. These record holders will comment on their association with Tony and how they hope for him to succeed in his quest to get his name in the record books.

"Down in Flames" is a classic story turned on its head, but one that connects with people on a deeper level. We all have a little bit of "Tony" in us; that yearning to push the boundaries and see what we're capable of achieving.

This film is packed full of amazing feats, including fire eating, fire juggling, fire blowing, light bulb eating, sword swallowing, cigarette eating, and even sky diving. Tony's quest for greatness takes him on a wild journey, one that will both inspire and entertain audiences and artists alike.

This film is being shot "documentary-style," so if you see a camera crew on the streets of Phillipsburg, don't be alarmed. It is all part of the creation of a motion picture that will be featured in film festivals around the world.

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