

DERBY



KINGS

A VALERIE BISCHOFF FILM "DERBY KINGS" STARRING TATANKA MEANS JERRY WOLF ART DIRECTOR ANDREW ELLMAKER EDITED BY VALERIE BISCHOFF AND JUDAH LEV DICKSTEIN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY RYAN BAKER CO-PRODUCERS JOHN FOSS AND WINTER CARREIRA PRODUCED BY MAYURAN TIRUCHELVAM WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY VALERIE BISCHOFF WWW.DERBYKINGSMOVIE.COM



Written and Directed by
Valerie Bischoff

Nevada 2012
12min HD (RED One)

Contact:
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OFFHOLLYWOOD



Princess Grace Awards
FOR EMERGING THEATER, DANCE AND FILM ARTISTS IN AMERICA







SYNOPSIS

SHORT

Native American brothers collide as hardworking Jim (Tatanka Means) struggles to bring demolition derby die-hard Ace (Jerry Wolf) to trial. With the derby looming Ace makes a bold move that forces Jim to step far outside of his comfort zone.

LONG

DERBY KINGS is a 2012 short film written and directed by Valerie Bischoff, produced by Mayuran Tiruchelvam, starring Tatanka Means (TIGER EYES, SEDONA) and Jerry Wolf (FOUR WINDS).

The film follows Jim Sundell (Tatanka Means) as he struggles to make sure his younger brother Ace (Jerry Wolf) appears at an impending trial. Ace, a demolition derby diehard, has other plans. With the local demolition derby looming, Ace makes a bold move that forces Jim to step far outside of his comfort zone. Derby Kings gives audiences insight into the struggles two Native American brothers face and explores how the ritual of the derby reinforces strained family bonds.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

After witnessing my first demolition derby at the Nevada State Fair in 2009, I instantly became fascinated by this bizarre American ritual. As I watched the brutal spectacle of crashing cars, multicolored smoke, and a roaring crowd of colorful characters, I was instantly seduced by the inherent drama that was unfolding before my eyes. I became obsessed with the idea of creating a film set in this world. Before I could start writing a script I had to understand the motivations of these drivers. Who would partake in this strange ritual and why? Wanting to fully immerse myself, I started making a small-scale documentary on the subject.

My background is in television news and documentary filmmaking. Incorporating these skills into my approach as a narrative director has been crucial. The work I have done within the community has given me an opportunity build relationships and understand the true motivations of the drivers. In rural and impoverished areas of Nevada where unemployment has risen to 12%, the highest in the nation, the derby serves as a crucial family ritual, reinforcing bonds that are strained by bleak external factors including a poor economy, lack

of education, and high crime rates. This is especially true in American Indian communities where broken treaties and a lack of resources have further broken the family unit. There can be no future without the strength of the family. Derby Kings will give audiences insight into the struggles these two American Indian brothers face and how the love of participating in the demolition derby is their first step towards reconciliation despite overwhelming external factors.

The brother's ability to mend broken relationships in the face of hardship will undoubtedly inspire others. I want audiences to connect with their struggle and ultimately gain an understanding of how ingenuity and pride can sometimes trump the most difficult of circumstances.



CREW BIOS

Valerie Bischoff

Writer/Director Valerie Bischoff hails from Reno, Nevada, a rugged part of the country that continues to inspire her work. She recently graduated with Honors from Columbia University's Graduate Film School where her short film, *Derby Kings* (2012) received the prestigious Princess Grace Graduate Film Scholarship and was selected for Faculty Honors. She was also presented with the Lewis Cole Award for Excellence for her work as a filmmaker and teacher. Her previous short film, *Veterans* (2010) was selected for Faculty Selects and won the Adrienne Shelly Award for Best Female Director. The film has since gone on to screen at festivals across the country. After receiving her B.A. in Film from the University of California at Santa Cruz, Valerie was selected for the Fulbright Grant for Filmmaking in Estonia (2006) where she created a documentary on disappearing Soviet history. Valerie is currently developing her first feature film, a horror/thriller set in the Nevada desert, with Sixgun Pictures.

Mayuran Tiruchelvam

As a Producer and Screenwriter, Mayuran Tiruchelvam recently completed production on his feature length film debut - *The Girl in Trouble* - for Executive Producer Spike Lee and Director Julius Onah. The film is a New York based thriller starring Columbus Short (*Death at a Funeral*), Vilmer Valderrama (*Larry Crowne*, *Awake*, *That 70s Show*), Jesse Spencer (*House, MD*), and Paz de la Huerta (*Boardwalk Empire*). He is currently producing the feature length documentary *Farewell Ferris Wheel*, funded by ITVS and Latino Public Broadcasting, which explores the decline of the American carnival, and an untitled documentary on actor/activist George Takei (*Star Trek*). In New York, he founded the volunteer organization *Regeneracion Childcare NYC* - which provides educational programs and childcare for children and parents involved in social justice movements. As a MFA candidate at Columbia University, Mayuran received the prestigious Arthur Krim Memorial Award for excellence in Producing. He also received the 2009 Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Fred Rogers Memorial Scholarship in recognition of his work with children and media.

Ryan Baker

Cinematographer Ryan Baker has been telling stories through the lens for the past twenty years. After his studies at Indiana University, he moved to Tahoe to pursue his passion of photography by shooting skate and snowboarding films. Ryan has shot countless documentaries, studio commercials and award winning short and feature films. His most recent feature *Happily Never After* (2012) won jury awards at the Las Vegas Film Festival and Boston Underground Film Festival. Ryan continues to create powerful images and run his production company Sixgun Pictures with his wife Charity Baker.

Andrew Ellmaker

Andrew Ellmaker was born in Portland, Oregon. After studying film and photography at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston he went on to create work that showed in the Oregon Biennial, SXSW film festival, and the Northwest Film and Video Festival. Ellmaker is currently an MFA candidate at Columbia University Film School and is planning to spend the next year developing a feature length script, working on an IFC television show, and collaborating as cinematographer and production designer on three short films.

Winter Carrera

Winter Carrera is a Native American (Northern Paiute) producer and photographer. She received her B.A. in Anthropology and the special related field of Videography at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Experience garnered as a student directing and organizing various documentaries and short films at UNR led to projects in the documentary film world. Including National Geographic TV's Naked Science: Earthquake Swarm/Ancient Sea Monsters (camera and production assistant), Discovery Studios' Curiosity (lighting pa) and the Travel Channel's Food Wars (associate field producer). She continues to gain production experience as a producer for the upcoming documentary about premier archaeological cave site: Hidden Cave (The Hidden Cave Video Project; tentative title) while serving as temp-faculty at UNR.

John Foss

John Foss is a New York based producer, writer and director. Most recently Foss produced and directed the award winning short film *Kofi*, which was a finalist in the 2011 Cannes Film Festival Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at the American Pavilion and an official selection in the 2011 Heartland Film Festival. Foss studied filmmaking in the renown graduate film division at Columbia University in New York City. While there he was

selected for a two-year student membership in the Producers Guild of America. He has also studied at the Colorado Film School and the University of Utah, graduating with a B.A. in film studies and a B.S. in communications. He has participated in the Sundance

Directors Lab as an actor and holds other acting credits in various independent features, projects and television spots. John currently lives in New York City with his wife and two adorable children.





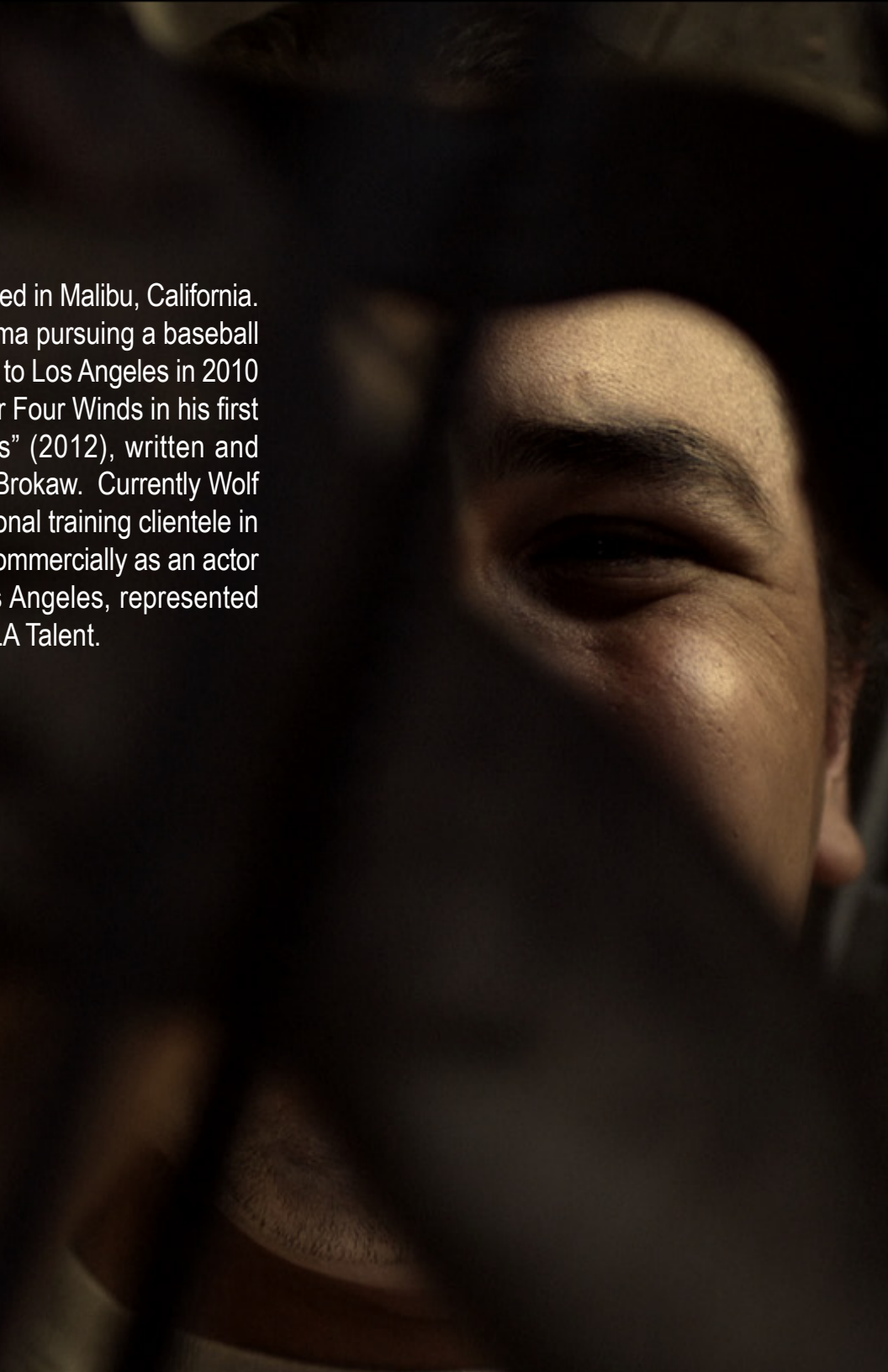
CAST BIOS

Tatanka Means

Tatanka Means is an accomplished actor, motivational speaker and stand-up comedian from Chinle Arizona. His most recent film credits include leading roles in the newly released films Sedona, The Host and Tiger Eyes based on the adaptation by author, Judy Blume. Means is also one of the youngest Native American comedians performing today and has been sharing his comedy all over North America and is a member of the popular comedy group, 49 Laughs Comedy. Tatanka's ambition and perseverance has taken him from his home on the reservation to traveling across the country sharing laughter and spreading inspiration. He has become a much-needed positive role model for all American Indian and First Nations youth.

Jerry Wolf

Jerry Wolf was and raised in Malibu, California. Wolf moved to Oklahoma pursuing a baseball career before returning to Los Angeles in 2010 to portray the character Four Winds in his first short film "Four Winds" (2012), written and produced by Nicholas Brokaw. Currently Wolf maintains a small personal training clientele in Malibu while working commercially as an actor and print model in Los Angeles, represented by Ford Models and JLA Talent.



CREDITS

Jim
Ace
Megaphone Woman
Announcer

TATANKA MEANS
JERRY WOLF
JANE STILLWATER
VERNELL TRULSON

Written & Directed by
Produced by
Co-Producers

VALERIE BISCHOFF
MAYURAN TIRUCHELVAM
JOHN FOSS
WINTER CARRERA
RYAN BAKER
ANDREW ELLMAKER
VALERIE BISCHOFF
JUDAH-LEV DICKSTEIN

Production Manager
First Assistant Director
Casting By
2nd Assistant Directors

WINTER CARRERA
MAYURAN TIRUCHELVAM
TARA J. RYAN
NICK BROKAW

Key Production Assistants

KELLY CZARNIK
ANGELINE QUINTILLA
MICHAEL JOHN LAPID

Location Production Assistant
Production Assistants

ERIC BISCHOFF
JEFFREY PESNER
PAUL HUTCHINSON
ROBERT AKER

Animal Handler
1st Assistant Camera
Gaffer
Key Grip

MIKE BURKE
LAWRENCE COLEMAN III
TYLER MCPHERRON
ISAAC BROOKS

Grips

Steadicam Operator
Digital Downloader
Still Photographer
B Unit DP
B Unit 1st Assistant Camera
B Unit 1st Assistant Director
Additional 1st Assistant Director
Production Sound Mixer
Additional Sound Mixer
Stunt Coordinator
Stunt Drivers

Picture Car
Chevy Biscayne
Hair and Makeup
Assistant Hair and Makeup
Costumer
Craft Services

Sound Designer
Composer/Musician
Musician
Music Recordist
VFX Supervisor
DI Editor/Colorist
DI Producer

THOMAS GUYER
BRIAN SIZER
AUSTIN PRATT
DOMINIC LÓPEZ,
TIM GAER
NINO PATERNOSTRO
JESSICA LOPEZ
KYLE WALKER AKINS
CHRIS CARNEL
ANDREW ELLMAKER
DOMINIC LÓPEZ
NICK BROKAW
KALEB TEMPLE
WIL MASISAK
STEPHEN ZIDECK
JASON MITCHELL
JASON MITCHELL
MIKE MUELLER
BARRY MITCHELL AND FAMILY
JOHN ZIEGLER
EDIN CARPENTER
REESE CONWAY
ARIKA DOMANICK
VICKI BISCHOFF
GREG BISCHOFF
BRIAN LANGMAN
JOHN LUDWICK
JAWSH DEAN HAGEMAN
JUSTIN MORALES
LUIS DE LEON
TJ SEILLER
BEN LAFFIN

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