

ADRIAN MARTINEZ

PRESS KIT

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BIO

Adrian Martinez has over 100+ television and film credits including several standout sidekick roles including “Focus” opposite Will Smith and Margot Robbie, “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” opposite Ben Stiller, “Casa de mi Padre” opposite ‘Mexican’ Will Ferrell and “I Feel Pretty,” as Amy Schumer’s office buddy, ‘Mason’.

Martinez most recently starred on the Cobie Smulders-led ABC series “Stumptown” based on the graphic novel by the same name. On the film front, he also most recently played the role of the dog-catching villain ‘Elliot,’ in the live-action/CG hybrid update of the animated classic, “Lady and the Tramp,” on Disney+ earning him a “Best Actor – Feature Film” nomination for the 2020 Imagen Awards. Next up, Martinez will release his directorial debut, “iGilbert,” a drama feature he wrote starring himself, Dascha Polanco (“Orange is the New Black”) and Raul Castillo (“Looking”).

Martinez is also known for series regular roles on television shows such as the CBS All Access comedy, “No Activity” produced by Will Ferrell and Funny or Die, as well as the computer hacker, ‘Dumont’ in the NBC spin-off, “The Blacklist: Redemption” opposite Famke Janssen and Ryan Eggold.

When he isn’t filming his current television show in LA, Mr. Martinez resides in a Whole Foods in New York City. LOL.

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DEADLINE

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Adrian Martinez, 'Stumptown' Regular, Signs With Innovative Artists

By Bruce Haring

October 22, 2020 4:12pm



[Innovative Artists](#)

[Innovative Artists](#) has announced the signing of [Adrian Martinez](#) to its roster. Martinez was most recently a series regular on ABC's *Stumptown*.

Other TV credits include heavy recurs on CBS All Access' *No Activity* and NBC's *The Blacklist: Redemption*.

In films, Martinez will soon be seen in Disney+ *Lady and the Tramp*, in Jamie Babbit's *The Stand-In* opposite Drew Barrymore, and in Jordan Galland's *Leave Not One Alive* opposite Bella Thorne.

He also had a major leading role in the feature film *Focus* starring Will Smith and Margot Robbie.

Martinez continues to be repped by Vault Entertainment and Sarna & Associates.

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Back to One

A podcast about acting -- just the work. - by Peter Rinaldi

Back to One, Episode 92: Adrian Martinez



by [Peter Rinaldi](#)
 in [Columns](#)
 on Jan 14, 2020

[Acting, Adrian Martinez, Back to One](#)

He's been called the "sidekick to the stars," but a more apt, yet slightly less elegant description of Adrian Martinez is "scene-stealer from the stars." Some recent thefts occur in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *Focus*, and *Casa De Mi Padre*. You can also see him in the hit ABC show *Stumptown*. Now he wrote, produced, directed and stars in the brilliant, timely, and deeply impacting new film *iGilbert*. On this episode, he talks about going "all in" to make that labor of love, how the psychological gesture plays a big part in his craft, the work ethic Philip Seymour Hoffman instilled in him that he still thinks about when the curtain goes up, and he gives us a *Sesame Street*-like lesson in the importance of the letter 'R' in acting: Reveal, Relax, Remember, Rip, and Risk. Plus much more!



BACK TO ONE
Adrian Martinez

30m

00:00:00

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Adrian Martinez talks about 'Stumptown' and 'Lady and the Tramp' SPECIAL

BY MARKOS PAPADATOS NOV 18, 2019 IN ENTERTAINMENT

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Actor Adrian Martinez chatted with Digital Journal about working on ABC's new crime drama series "Stumptown," "Lady and the Tramp" on Disney+ and his upcoming film "iGilbert."



In the crime drama series, *Stumptown*, Martinez stars alongside Cobie Smulders, Jake Johnson, and Michael Ealy, which airs on Wednesday Nights. "It's going great. I couldn't be happier. The show is doing well and we got picked up for a full season and I am very excited," he said. "Keep watching *Stumptown* since it's going to get crazy. There will be a lot of surprises that will blow the audience away and I am looking forward to that."

Martinez stars as the dog catcher Elliot in the upcoming CGI and live-action reimagining of Disney's *Lady and the Tramp*, which was released on November 12, 2019, on the brand new streaming service Disney+. "That was a lot of fun," he admitted. "It is popular and it is trending. I was running around chasing dogs in Savannah, Georgia, for three months in the summer last year wearing a corduroy suit. I thought I was going to die but I'm glad I made it," he said with a laugh.

"*Lady and the Tramp* is the perfect family movie, especially with all of these holidays coming up," he said. "This is the type of movie you put on your big screen and watch it after dinner and really enjoy it. It's a classic love story and we need it in today's world. It is really good down the line."

He stars in the lead role in the upcoming film *iGilbert*, which he also wrote and directed. "*iGilbert* is my baby," he said. "Dascha Polanco from *Orange is the New Black* is in it, and it's really good. I just submitted it to festivals and I am excited about the movie. I hope people respond to it," he said.

On being an actor in the digital age, he said, "For the actor, it doesn't really make a difference. My job is the same thing: trying to provide 3-dimensional characters to an audience to be moved by the story. The actor's approach doesn't change. What has changed is where people see their content. Nothing stays the same. I am open to it."

Regarding the impact of streaming services on the entertainment business, he said, "I think it is all going to work itself out. The audience is going to want them packaged together at a reasonable price, otherwise, they will say 'forget it.' I feel that is going to come soon. They don't want to lose their audience."

For young and aspiring actors, he encouraged them to "persevere." "Show up every single day and make sure that you keep going despite all the people that say 'no.' There are thousands that say 'no.' Give it 10 years. You need to put in the time. That's the answer," he explained.

Martinez listed Robert DeNiro and Anthony Hopkins as his dream acting partners.

[View online here](#)



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Bella Hadid Bares All In Gorgeous New Photos While 'Recharging' In Paris



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

NOVEMBER 12, 2019 4:41PM EST

Adrian Martinez Reveals Why It Was 'Time' For 'Lady & The Tramp' Remake: It's A 'Whole New Dynamic'



Paige Kindlick



Avery Thompson

ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTOR



Adrian Martinez is one busy man. He's starring in 'Lady & the Tramp,' 'Stumptown,' and pulled triple duty with 'iGilbert.' He spoke with HL about all three projects in our EXCLUSIVE interview.

Adrian Martinez has a lot going on at the moment. First off, he stars in the live-action remake of *Lady & The Tramp*, which was released Nov. 12 with the launch of Disney+. He plays Elliott, the dog catcher. “My goal is to just absolutely inflict discipline amongst the city that’s gone crazy with dogs,” Adrian told **HollywoodLife** EXCLUSIVELY during a recent sit-down interview. “But he really believes that, so I try to play it straight and I was happy to see I made the cut. You need a bad guy. When you think of the original animated version, the dog catcher’s in it a little, but now with the live-action movie, you need an antagonist throughout the piece. So I’m very blessed that I’m the guy that Disney trusted with that.”



The live-action remake comes over 60 years after the original animated movie. “I feel it’s time,” Adrian said about Disney doing the live-action remake. “We’ve done so many versions of Hamlet and nobody complains. This one gives the audience that’s already seen the animated version an opportunity to re-experience it in live-action with a whole new dynamic and amazing special effects. You’re actually going to see the dogs do things you just don’t typically see them do. And now with actual actors, you get to see all these plot points manifested with real human emotion. I found this version much more impactful and moving than the animated one. That may sound blasphemous, but I feel like people need to see it and they’ll get what I mean. The ending really packs a punch and I wasn’t expecting it when I read the script.”



The actor also stars as Tookie on the new ABC series *Stumptown*, which airs Wednesdays at 10 p.m. Over the course of the first few episodes, Tookie has started to bond with Cosgrove. Tookie also had a close connection to Dex. “I think it’s one that I really connect to because we all have someone that we’re worried about or that we kind of need to watch over,” Adrian explained. “And for me, that’s Dex because Dex is kind of a loose cannon. She’s out there, she has PTSD, and now she’s gone out to become this PI. Tookie is kind of like her guardian angel. He’s looking out for her. I certainly could have used that when I was in college.”

To top it all off, Adrian wrote, directed, and stars in the indie film *iGilbert* with *Orange Is The New Black* star **Dascha Polanco**. Adrian revealed the inspiration behind the film. “There was the guy sitting on the subway in New York here,” Adrian said. “He was sitting opposite an attractive woman and he got up and he just started taking photos inches from her face with a cell phone, just like anonymously cold and just dead, you know? And she’s like, what the hell are you doing? And then he just, in a very cold way, got off the train and I thought to myself, who is that guy? How does that even happen? And where are we going as a culture where this kind of thing, where it’s all about the phone, has actually made this guy almost dehumanized to another human being? And then I have a kid. She just turned 13 and she’s all about the phone. I’m just wondering where it’s all going. So I decided to write a story about a guy who only can connect with people through the phone, by taking pictures of them until he reaches a point where he meets someone that really moves him and now he has to choose between the real and the digital one. It’s an allegory for our time because we have to figure out where we’re going with all this and how to have balance.”

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#Stumptown #Procedural #Crime

Adrian Martinez guests on Stumptown Season 1 Episode 6 "Dex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll" | AfterBuzz TV

1,672 views • Streamed live on Nov 6, 2019

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Join Chae Jones, Oliver Drennan, and special guest Adrian Martinez to break down episode 6 of Stumptown!





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NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Adrian Martinez talks live-action 'Lady and the Tramp' with Deco



There are two types of people in this world — ladies and tramps. Same goes for dogs. The stars of the live-action "Lady and the Tramp" hit up So Flo Monday. Deco's very good boy Alex Miranda is here with the story. Yes he is, a good boy! Oh, yes he is!

Two dogs. One spaghetti plate. Pure cinematic excellence.

It has been 64 years since the upper-class American Cocker Spaniel and streetwise stray locked lips in "Lady and the Tramp," so Disney is updating the classic for a new generation, exclusively on Disney Plus.

The love wasn't only between the pups during my interview with star Adrian Martinez.

Alex Miranda: "So, how are you? (Dog playing Tramp approaches) Hahaha."

What can I say? Animals love me, and Martinez, who plays a dog-catcher in the live-action/CGI hybrid.

Alex Miranda: "Are you a pet person?"

Adrian Martinez: "Yes. We had Milo, who died this year, but he lived 14 amazing years. He was a pug. I love dogs. They represent what I'm trying to be as a person."



Alex Miranda: "Which is what?"

Adrian Martinez: "Authentic, honest, faithful."

Alex Miranda: "How do you feel about cats?"

Peggy Lee (as Si and Am, voices of): (singing) "We are Siamese if you please. We are Siamese if you don't please."

Adrian Martinez: "Cats? I don't understand cats."

Alex Miranda: "I love cats."

Adrian Martinez: "Why?"

Alex Miranda: "It's a masochistic relationship. I mean. I understand that they don't love us the way that dogs love us, but it's just kind of funny the way that they're so evil."

Tessa Thompson (as Lady, voice of): Don't, don't. Please don't."

(Cat pushes porcelain figurine to floor, where it smashes.)

Kiersey Clemons (as Darling): "Lady!"

Alex Miranda: "I was just thinking about the spaghetti scene. Do you find any food particularly romantic? I mean, strawberries, for example, are the kind of food that people think about. Is there anything that comes to mind?"

Adrian Martinez: "I mean, everything. Look at me. Let's just be honest about it. I feel you can find romance in any food, if you dig deep enough."

[View online here](#)



Spotlight Television TV

Adrian Martinez The Guardian Angel In ABC's Stumptown

October 31, 2019 jmartinez ABC, adrian Martinez, Disney, Lady and the Tramp, Stumptown, Tookie

Adrian Martinez is feeling quite positive about his acting career. Having wrapped filming the role of dog-catching villain, 'Elliot,' in the upcoming live-action/CG hybrid update of the animated classic, *Lady and the Tramp*, slated to stream on Disney+ this November, he is now filming the ninth episode of ABC's new series *Stumptown*, inhabiting the role of "Tookie," opposite Cobie Smulders' lead character, Dex Parios.

Based on the series of graphic novels by the same name, *Stumptown* follows Dex Parios, an Army veteran who has a complicated love life, gambling debt and a brother to take care of in Portland, OR. "I play a taco truck owner who is a mentor/former boss to Cobie's character, Dex," says Martinez. "Tookie acts as sort of her guardian angel. He really knows what's goin' on in the city."

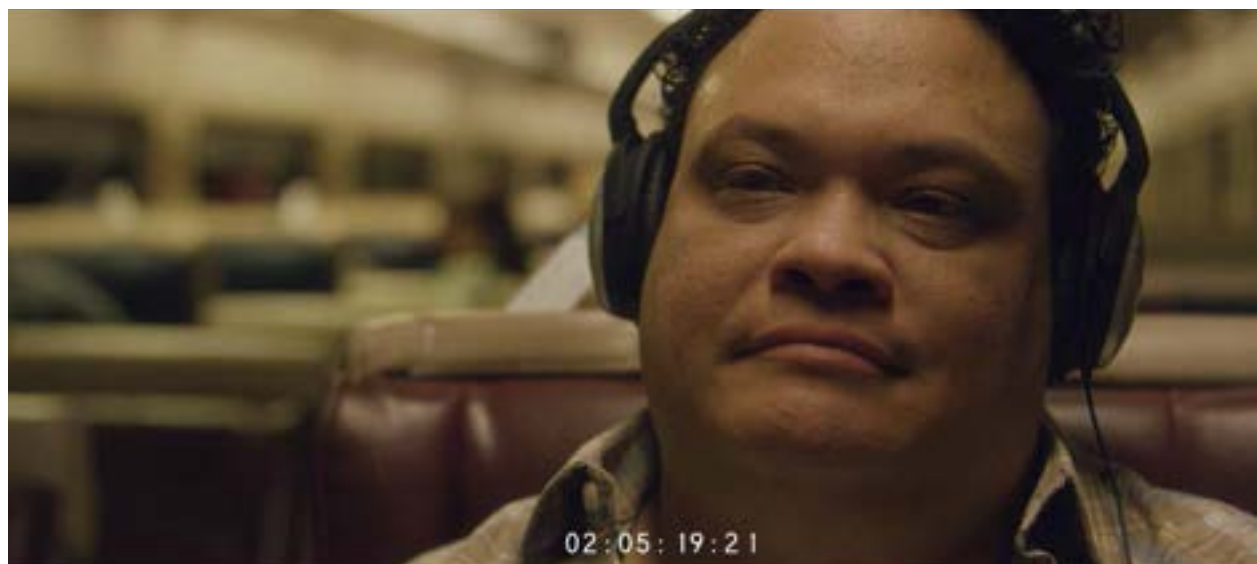
Growing up in New York, Martinez had no idea he would become a working actor. "My family wasn't into it. They considered it impractical and certainly didn't encourage me. It kind of happened by accident. A friend told me about this reality series, *Unsolved Mysteries*, that was looking for a track star. Well, in high school, that is what I was. I did the audition. I ran fast, had one line and I got my union card."



To date, Adrian Martinez has garnered over 100+ television and film credits. Highlights include several standout sidekick roles in such projects as *Focus*, opposite Will Smith and Margot Robbie, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* opposite Ben Stiller, *Casa de mi Padre* opposite Will Ferrell and *I Feel Pretty*, as Amy Schumer's office buddy, 'Mason.' Martinez is also known for series regular roles on television shows such as the CBS All Access comedy, *No Activity*, produced by Will Ferrell and *Funny or Die*, as well as the computer hacker, 'Dumont' in the NBC spin-off, *The Blacklist: Redemption*, opposite Famke Janssen and Ryan Eggold.

"So now, my family is really proud of me," Martinez asserts. "I went to a movie with my mom. She saw my name in the credits, and stood up and shouted, 'That's my son.' Coming from Dominican and Nicaraguan descent, I think I am the only Dominiaguan working in the industry."

Martinez hasn't confined his activities to just being a working actor in film and television. He worked in live theater when he was living in New York. "I did a lot of plays with actors such as Phillip Hoffman. Working in L.A., I don't have the same opportunity, but I would like to get back to it."



But Martinez has kept creatively busy. "When I'm on set, I come up with ideas," he confirms. "I just wrote, produced, directed and starred in a film, *iGilbert*. It also stars the Dominican actress, **Dasha Polanco** (*Orange Is the New Black*). It is a very strange and dark love triangle, a cautionary tale. I financed it myself, sold my property. It has a marvelous cast (including **Raul Castillo**, **Emilio Delgado**, **Marisol Miranda** and others). I had a lot of people who helped me on this project. It gave me a chance spread my wings."

On the set of his current series, *Stumptown*, shooting in Burbank, he is delighted with the opportunities it has given him. "We are supposed to go to 13 episodes, but there is a good possibility we will do more. I am particularly happy with the episode that is airing October 30th." He laughs, "It highlights my character."

Looking to the future, Martinez says he loves to do a one-person show. "I saw **John Leguizamo's** *Latin History for Morons*. It was great work, and it was very encouraging. I am fortunate that I have all these possibilities. It is just a matter of making it all happen."

[View online here](#)

Why Hispanic Diversity in Hollywood Is Still Lacking

BY IN FOCUS STAFF | EL SEGUNDO

PUBLISHED 11:10 AM ET OCT. 07, 2019

Adrian Martinez and Marissa Echeverria reveal what it's like to be Hispanic actors in the entertainment industry and while they say diversity in Hollywood has made great strides, it still has a long way to go.

Watch *In Focus California: SoCal* on Sundays at 9 a.m. and *In Focus California: In Your Community* on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on Spectrum News 1.





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MOVIES TV MUSIC CELEBRITY NEWS

'Stumptown' star Adrian Martinez Reveals His Worst Habit And Other Fast Facts



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'Stumptown' Episode 2: Tookie will soon get a last name, a family and uncover a dark past, teases Adrian Martinez

Martinez, who is happy about working with "Camryn Manheim, and Michael Ealy, and Cobie, of course," is excited to show the expansion of who Tookie is and his value to the show

By Mangala Dilip

Published on : 12:01 PST, Oct 2, 2019



ABC's 'Stumptown' has managed to amass a huge fan-following just an episode into its premiere, and we can certainly understand why.

Even though the show focuses on a very unlikely hero – a veteran with PTSD, gambling and alcohol problems – it also introduced some amazing characters who add value to her life.

Cobie Smulders' Dex is a brilliant study of the human experience, but without characters like her best friend Grey (Jake Johnson), and her former boss and big brother of sorts Tookie (Adrian Martinez), her story would never be complete.

As Martinez points out, the brilliance of the show is in its writing, and give its characters ample depth. "I read the pilot for 'Stumptown' and I told my agent, 'Listen, any way you can get me in on this, please'," Martinez tells MEA WorldWide (MEAWW).

He adds how, as a movie star who has been in many A-list movies, he felt like he had to actually earn his money. "In film, it's a lot slower and you're a lot more pampered. In TV, you really gotta move and it's just like pages and rewrites and pages and rewrites," he shares.

It seems like he is going to have to get used to this lifestyle, because not only is 'Stumptown' worthy of a multi-season run, but Tookie is going to be a staple on the show.

"I'm really happy to say they have really expanded the role of Tookie. I now have a last name, I just found out I have a family, and I have dark secrets," he says, teasing how there is some really good stuff coming along.





Martinez who is happy about working with "Camryn Manheim, and Michael Ealy, and Cobie, of course," is equally excited to share the expansion of who Tookie is and his value to the show.

On his character's "interesting relationship" with Dex he says, "She used to work for me in the food truck, and she is kind of like the sous chef who was horrible at everything."

"We kind of had the parting of the ways, and she goes to the war and becomes an Iraqi veteran and comes back, and finds herself as a PI because she feels like she has the skillset for that," Martinez says.

"But I've always been the person that she can always trust and count on in a city where there are a lot of people who you cannot trust and count on. Their friendship has evolved along those lines," he adds.

We can watch this unfold when the show returns with episode two on Wednesday, October 2, on ABC.

[View online here](#)



Mark Brennan · Sep 24, 2020 · 10 min read

Stumptown star Adrian Martinez makes directing debut with *iGilbert*

[Adrian Martinez](#), star of such films as [Focus](#), [The Secret Life of Walter Mitty](#) and Disney's live-action remake of [Lady and the Tramp](#), talks to us about his role on TV series [Stumptown](#), writing and directing his first feature film [iGilbert](#) and lessons learned getting his indie project off the ground.



Photo Credit: Diana Ragland

Adrian Martinez is a prolific actor across film and television, dancing effortlessly back and forth across the line between comedy and drama. He's a character actor who is a big character in his own right. Having watched some of his previous interviews, I was anticipating a playful experience during our chat, so when I told him I had some questions lined up, his response didn't disappoint.

"Sure, as long as it has nothing to do with acting or the film business."

Fortunately for me, he did indeed open up about his experience in the film business, especially about the making of his debut feature as writer/director *iGilbert*. First of all, though, I ask if his work has been impacted by coronavirus, and how he's kept himself busy during quarantine.

"Yes, it has had an impact on me. I was scheduled to do a movie in Venezuela with actor, [John Leguizamo](#), and that got shelved because of COVID. Then, we were supposed to start season 2 of *Stumptown* in July and here we are in September still waiting. It has had its effects, yes. I've been reduced to doing monologues in Times Square with the little coin cup in front of me, but it is what it is!"

In fact, the native New Yorker has been busy, far from Times Square, writing a new feature. It's great to hear that at a time when some creatives are feeling the pressure to be productive during this unexpected time, Martinez has been able to be exactly that.

"Orson Welles once said, 'The enemy of art is the absence of limitations'. In the midst of COVID, can you dig deeper and find something to do creatively in this climate? For me, the answer is yes. If we didn't have these obstacles, then we would be forced to just spend a lot of money and make it easy, but now we have to dig deeper. That's the challenge for everyone who's creative right now. It's still possible."

"I've written a film script called *Gabacho* which is Spanish slang for a white person. In this case, it's ironic because the Gabacho will be played by me, a self-loathing Latino, who gets deported from the States, winds up in Mexico and then befriends all the people he hates to get back to the States. It's a satirical look at race and identity. I'm in the middle of having meetings, raising funding for that. Wish me well because it's a funny as hell movie."

As an actor, right before the virus struck, Martinez was preparing for shooting the second series of *Stumptown*, the story of a sharp-witted Marine veteran who becomes a private investigator played by [Cobie Smulders](#). Not only was the series picked up for a second season, but Martinez's character Tookie has also been expanded. What's it like waiting to discover the fate of your character?



"I have had the blessing of being able to work with the executive producers in a very open forum. I pitch them ideas. I send them ideas all the time via email. They're in Los Angeles, I'm here in New York, but it doesn't matter. We Skype, we email and I pitch them all ideas for my character Tookie.

"For those of you who haven't watched this show, Tookie's wife cheated on him. I can't imagine why. I was loving and faithful and great in bed [laughs], but there it is. What happens to Tookie now? Does he wind up with her again? Is Tookie on eHarmony or any dating app that you might have in London? Does he swipe the wrong way? The possibilities are endless."

The series is based on a graphic novel written by Greg Rucka, in which Tookie does not feature as a character, and has instead been created for the television show. Does that offer him a sense of freedom with the character perhaps not enjoyed by his cast mates who have a clear reference point for their role?

"You make it work either way. If there was a real Tookie, I'd be in Portland and talking to him, studying him and examining how he speaks and all the rest, but the fact that there isn't is a blank slate. I've done most of my best work with improvisation. I think of a movie called *Focus* that I did with [Margot Robbie](#) and [Will Smith](#), where most of what I did was improvised or just a leap off the dialogue. *I Feel Pretty* with [Amy Schumer](#), same thing. I did a lot of improvisation there. It's how my brain works.



"You ask, 'Is it okay if we try it this way or that way?' It's harder in television because there are standards, practices, and all that, but if you have the right creator of the show in your corner, it makes it a lot easier. I was pitching [Jason Richman](#) last year every week, every episode, 'What if Tookie did this?' Some of it stuck to the wall and some of it didn't, but it's my obligation to get it out of my head and out of my heart because that way, I'm not wondering, 'Damn it, what if we had just done--' I don't like that. Just get it out of the way. Just say it."

Speaking of getting it out of his head and heart, I ask what inspired him to write and direct his first feature [Güther](#) - in which he also stars - the story of a 39-year old loner living with his mother, fearful of life and people yet starving for human connection.

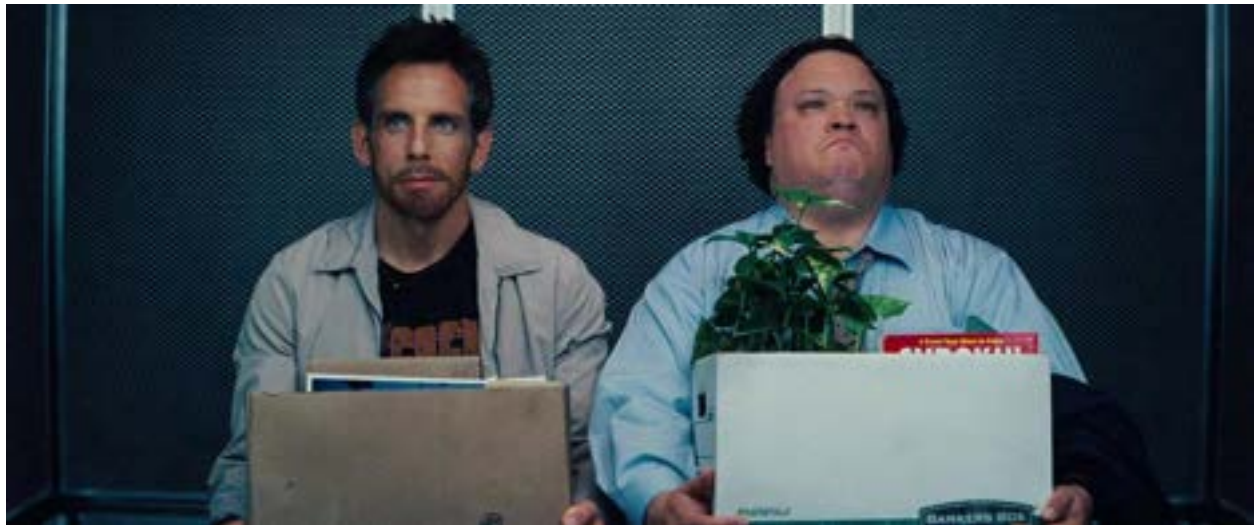
"This is a true story. I was sitting in a subway here in New York. There was a beautiful woman sitting diagonally across from me, right next to the door. This guy walked into the car and he walked up to her and just started taking photos right up to her face. She was like, 'What the fuck are you doing?' Very upset. The next train stop, he gets off. That was it. I just wondered, 'who is this guy?' Why do you think that you could just completely objectify someone that easily, that quickly? He wasn't emotional or laughing. He was just dead. I just wondered about that."



"I've seen it a few times, just people just taking photos of people without their permission or anything. I just wondered about it. I don't know if you've seen [The Social Dilemma](#) in Netflix. I encourage you to see it. It's about social media and this ever-increasing dehumanization that's going on and how the focus seems to be on surface connection instead of true human connection, and is humanity at risk of being lost during this battle?

"*Gilbert* is my attempt at addressing one person's journey where he becomes completely lost and just seeing women as objects that he uses to feed his loneliness, but, of course, it doesn't work and it leads to catastrophic consequences in his life. I just felt compelled to do it because I have a young daughter and I'm wondering what kind of men is she going to be left to decide who she spends a life with if we're so indoctrinated and just taking pictures and just objectifying each other? That was the beginning of it."

With inspiration in place, then came the task of writing script. Martinez worked on the story over 6 months, and even wrote some scenes worked on in a writing group led by [Jose Rivera](#), the Oscar-nominated writer for [The Motorcycle Diaries](#), but to write the whole script took him just one weekend. Then came directing the piece. With all experience as an actor on so many different sets, were there any insights into directing that proved particularly valuable to him?



"Yes. In 2013, I did [The Secret Life of Walter Mitty](#) with [Ben Stiller](#). He produced it, he directed it, and starred in it. He was involved from 5am until 18 hours later. I've never seen a guy work harder at anything in his life. He was so meticulous about everything and so committed to making this the best movie he could. He would be in a scene with me and then he would just check the monitor, and he would be signing papers, and he would be talking to his producer about the next setup, and how we lost a location and he would take off and handle it. He was just relentless, like a machine.

"That really informed me about the challenge of directing and starring in a movie. I really soaked that in. To be honest, *iGilbert* almost killed me because I wrote, produced, starred, and directed it. It was a shoestring budget. It was a really difficult shoot. My DP left a week before day one. I wound up finding my DP on Craigslist [chuckles]. Locations came and went, actors came and went, crew came and went. When you can't really pay people what they're used to, I understand we're all trying to survive, but it was difficult. It took its toll."

Production difficulties aside - Martínez is clear he does not want to produce a movie he's starring in again - for an experience actor turned first-time director, working with the actors must have been enjoyable.

"It was the one thing I could definitely say I got right, because I love actors and I love how courageous they are. It seems easy in some sense, but it's not. It's hard to reveal yourself in front of a crew and camera and just be completely raw and naked with people you barely know. I was fortunate to have a wonderful cast.

"[Dascha Polanco](#) is my leading lady, a wonderfully gifted actress. There was one scene. It was between her and [Raul Castillo](#), also a wonderful actor, who plays the bad guy in the movie. The day they first met, they had to do a love scene in a bedroom that gets very heated and passionate and becomes somewhat violent. There was no time for rehearsal. They literally just jumped off the edge and into the deep water, and they swam beautifully. It's a great scene in the movie. One of my favourites. I understand how hard it is, how brave they are, and I really appreciate the craft."



"I do want to direct again, I want to direct my script of *Gabacho*. It isn't an ego thing, it's really more about protecting the piece, because once the director directs the movie, they really can manipulate it in the edit to their own story, and there are a lot of stories of this happening in Hollywood where you don't even recognise the script anymore. It's really just about protecting something I wrote arduously over a long period of time, and making sure that my vision is out there on the screen. I would love to direct *Gabacho*, I'm just not going to put my own money into it this time [laughs]."

As the director of his own script, in this instance, he was able to manipulate the final piece how he saw fit. A crucial piece of the puzzle for Martinez was the score.

"I had a hard time finding the right music for it. Movies that are low-budget like these, you really have to rely so much on the music. The music helps really tell the story. I flew to Spain once to meet with these composers, just trying to work something out, and it fell through. They wanted more money than God needs, and it just didn't work out.

"Then I was filming Disney+'s remake of *Lady and the Tramp* in Savannah, Georgia. I had a day off and they have a film festival there, SCAD, and I got invited to go see a movie there. I'm walking over, and a couple of people recognised me, and they said, 'Hey, we actually wanted you to do a movie with us.' Then a very famous film critic was there and he said, 'I know you, yes. You're okay'. Then I just blurted out, 'Does anybody know of a composer that always delivers!?'"



"They said, 'Oh, yes, our friend [Gill Talmi](#) is amazing. Check him out, he's in New York'. I'm in New York so I reached out to Gill Talmi, and I swear to you, I sobbed. I'm getting emotional now because when he did the first pass on the music, I grabbed him by the face, and I said, 'I have a movie now. I have a movie!' It's so delicious, and beautiful, and moving, and it really just puts the story together. That was a big deal in post-production, finding the right composer. Huge thanks also to [Gisela Fulla Silvestre](#) and [Emy Cae](#) who also added music to the film."

When it came to the edit, Martinez had two different editors work on the film, [Shonnard Hedges](#) and [Morgan Neville](#), with varying backgrounds in film and television - something that influenced the final edit of the film.



"It was interesting because I had the first pass, the editing was done by a man, who mostly works in television, and then the second pass was done by a woman who mostly works in feature films. There had been a good chunk of time that had passed between the two, and they both brought different aesthetics and perspective to it, and it really wound up being helpful.

"Now, I don't know if I'll do that again, but it was interesting how one was very sort of nuts and bolts, and the other one would look at different takes that were more nuanced and crazy. Anyway, it was sort of like grab the best of the best, and now we have a movie. I think, hopefully, only I can tell because it looks pretty seamless, but it's very interesting seeing two different perspectives, from two different kinds of experts going at it."

Post-production on the film was completed in July and it has already be accepted into some film festivals which are yet to be announced. Has he had the opportunity to screen for an audience just yet?

"I've been a real - what's the word? I don't want to say dick, but yes, I've been a real dick about it. I've shown it to a few people, like some wonderfully acclaimed A-list directors types that you know. They've been very, very supportive, and they love the movie. That got me feeling, 'Okay, let me just take a deep breath and jump with this, and start submitting to festivals'. I think it's not going to be seen anywhere until I have a world premier lined up, and then I'll have a private screening with cast and crew, if we can still actually go anywhere. That's the thing, it's crazy now with COVID, but we'll see how it plays out."



With the film ready for the world, and overcoming some of the challenges faced while making it, what advice would Martinez go back and give himself at the start of the project?

"I would say that when you cast a movie, you don't just cast the actors, you cast the crew. It's essential to hire people that will be there for you from the beginning to the middle to the end, that believe in your project beyond whatever money they're going to make, and that are actually committed to the vision of what you're trying to do.

It really is like going off to war. When you're in the pit and you're shooting at the end, you don't want the guy next to you to be like, 'This is getting a little cray cray, you never said there'd be dirt. I'm going to leave now'. You don't want that guy [laughter]. You want the guys like, 'Here's more ammo, let's get this right'. That's certainly going to be the case on *Gabacho*, hopefully, knock on wood."

You can follow Adrian on:

Twitter: [@TasteOfAdrian](#)

Instagram: [@TasterAdrian](#)

[View online here]



STORMI MAYA Y ADRIAN MARTINEZ | ME GUSTAN SUAVECITAS!



STORMI MAYA Y ADRIAN MARTINEZ | GENIAL O MAL!





ADVICE

ABC's Stumptown Actor Adrian Martinez: Don't Limit Yourself

By Ilana Rapp

f g+ t @ in

ABC actor, Stumptown's Adrian Martinez, has muddled blurred lines in more ways than one.

First, he has tested the boundaries of being an actor by becoming an actor who also produces and directs.

Second, he has erased the category of being an ethnic actor without annihilating his heritage.

Adrian has an important message – *Don't limit yourself.*

All of this in what seems to be one swoop of a fulfilling career. Let's get some more information from Adrian Martinez about how he operates in this frenzied world we call show business.

You're currently in ABC's new crime drama series Stumptown alongside Cobie Smulders, Jake Johnson, and Michael Ealy. Your character, Tookie, runs a taco food truck and delves into making the truck stand out by inventing different recipes. Tell us about your audition and how your character has evolved since you first got the part. @StumptownABC

You also star as 'Elliot' the dog catcher in the CGI and live-action re-imagining of Disney's Lady and the Tramp which was released on Disney+. @disneyplus

a) What was it like working for a platform that hadn't yet made a debut?

b) Describe your work on Lady and the Tramp. Tell us everything in the making of your role.

"Lady and the Tramp" is a very special project. Being a Disney villain in a timeless classic is wonderful. They had me at "Disney" and there was no doubt in my mind that Disney+ would do well, and it has. Exciting stuff. The shoot was in the summer and November last year in Savannah, Georgia. It was HOT! Chasing Lady and Tramp, played wonderfully by Rose and Monte, was no joke. Especially in a corduroy suit from 1910, then having to spring after CGI dogs for some shots. All the credit belongs to their trainers Mark and Matilde who have more patience than anyone I've ever met ever. And of course, our peerless director, Charlie Bean. We blocked and rehearsed the scenes with the dogs so they would get accustomed to me as a person, and not as just some villain chasing them on the shoot day. The dogs are rescues and were picked from over 300 dogs! The trainers were there the whole time, instructing the dogs on where to move, when to move, how to react to me, etc. It takes great patience on everyone's part, but the end result is amazing.

In a world where show business is working on being more diverse, it still appears that there's a long road ahead. What are your thoughts on this? What's it like being a Hispanic actor?

I honestly don't see myself as a "Hispanic actor," that's too limiting. I'm an actor. Period. You don't see white actors going around saying, "I'm a white actor." They call themselves 'actors' and no one questions it. It's ACTING, and I can play any role from any place just like anyone else. My approach, my mindset, has always been, "I belong here," and my reps and the casting community understand that and to their credit, get me in the room so I can prove it. My last three roles in movies have been Farhad in "Focus," Mason in "I Feel Pretty," and Elliot in "Lady and the Tramp." Not exactly Hispanic, lol, but yes, I'm proud of my heritage and I'm bringing it to "Stumptown" on ABC as 'Tookie'.



Adrian Martinez. Photo by Diana Ragland.



You are a true New Yorker. What if you get a job outside of your home base? Who pays for air, hotel, etc.?

I'm based in New York. I don't go anywhere unless someone else pays for it, but that's a perk I've earned over years of consistently good work. If you're starting out and have the means, I would fly to an audition if it guarantees me a face-to-face with the director. Remember, you cannot do adjustments in a self-tape, and sometimes the directors don't even see them. I was invited to do a self-tape for "Casa de Mi Padre" starring Will Ferrell. I asked my agent if the director was having a casting session in LA. When I heard he was, I flew myself out there, crushed the audition and booked it; I flew back to New York with a smile on my face. Another time, I did the same thing and did not book it, but I have no regrets. I'm going to bet on my talent every time.

What's it like doing appearances for the productions you've been in?

Doing press is a privilege and an obligation I take seriously. The actor is being asked to help get the word out on their project, in a very competitive industry filled with hundreds of shows and movies. I do whatever I need to do to help. For studios and TV, yes, they treat you right, but all of it is negotiated with your reps. You should have a lawyer to check the fine print. But I've always been treated well—first class flights, car service, per diem, five-star hotels, green rooms equipped with WHATEVER you want, red carpets with media. And depending on the job, I can sometimes bring along a plus one.

Do you have any hobbies that do not include anything to do with the entertainment field?

I'm drawn to nature and the arts. You can learn a lot about acting on the fifth floor of MoMa staring at the classics by Picasso, Matisse, Cézanne, Siqueiros, etc. I love the botanical gardens in the Bronx and Brooklyn, and the ocean in L.A.

What advice can you give to actors who are just breaking into the field today?

Acting professionally is a privilege; never forget that. No one owes you anything. Persevere. Show up prepared and on time; there are no excuses. If things aren't going right or not going on your timeline, remember— no one gives a shit. WORK HARDER. Take in life besides acting. Get off the phone and smell a rose. Develop your own projects and shoot them. You don't need anyone's permission to actualize your dreams.

You can find Adrian Martinez on Instagram.

Adrian Martinez. Photo by Diana Ragland.

ADRIAN MARTINEZ BIOGRAPHY

Adrian Martinez has over 100 film and television credits, including several standout sidekick roles, such as "Focus," opposite Will Smith and Margot Robbie; "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," opposite Ben Stiller; "Casa de mi Padre," opposite Will Ferrell; and "I Feel Pretty," as Amy Schumer's office buddy Mason.

Martinez can be seen in the role of the dog-catching villain Elliot in the live-action/CG hybrid update of the animated classic "Lady and the Tramp," streaming on Disney+. He'll make his directorial debut with the premiere of "iGilbert," a drama feature he wrote starring himself, Dascha Polanco ("Orange Is the New Black") and Raul Castillo ("Looking").

Martinez is also known for series-regular roles on television shows such as the CBS All Access comedy "No Activity," produced by Will Ferrell and Funny or Die, as well as the computer hacker Dumont in the NBC spinoff "The Blacklist: Redemption," opposite Famke Janssen and Ryan Eggold.

Martinez is fluent in both English and Spanish and resides in New York City.



[View online here]



HOME / ENTERTAINMENT / TV

'Stumptown' star Adrian Martinez teases Tookie's 'dark secrets,' asks people to tune in to ABC dramedy for 'the Avenger'

A private investigator with PTSD, a gambling problem and a penchant for justice, Dex's life is constantly in danger, but thankfully she has a guardian angel in Tookie, played by Adrian Martinez

By Mangala Dilip

Published on : 01:11 PST, Aug 17, 2019



All fans of 'Stumptown' graphic novel series already have September 25, 2019, marked on their calendars, but the rest of us need to take a note of the date too. ABC is premiering Jason Richman's televised version of the series on the said date, and starring as the badass protagonist Dex Parios is Cobie Smulders aka Robin from 'How I Met Your Mother' aka Agent Mariah Hill from the Marvel movies.

A private investigator with PTSD, a gambling problem and a penchant for justice, Dex's life is constantly in danger, but thankfully she has a guardian angel in Tookie, played by Adrian Martinez. The hilarious Latino actor tells MEA WorldWide how it was clear even at the script stage that he needed to be the caring, loving figure in the life of Dex, who is very clearly a loose cannon.

"She has different sexual partners and she's out there risking her life to help solve these cases. And in the meantime, she comes to me for advice and she comes to me for guidance. I have this Guardian Angel approach to remind her, 'Listen, you got to be careful because things can happen that everybody is going to be on the good side of things,'" explains Martinez, adding that the emotional hook for the character was that he's trying to protect her.



Along with being the comic relief in the series, Martinez's Tookie is also a very relatable character on the show. "I think everyone has someone in their life they look out for, you know? Parents look after the kids or sometimes kids look after their parents. There's always someone you worry about, there is always someone that you care for, you look out for and so I think the audience will relate on that level and Tookie's also a very funny character," he elaborates, adding how there is going to be a lot of action and there's going to be a lot of drama, and there is also going to be

a lot of action and there's going to be a lot of drama, and there is also going to be comedic relief that he hopes to bring to the character, which does not exist in the comic book universe created by Greg Rucka.

Martinez is looking at Tookie's absence in the graphic novels as an opportunity to bring something fresh and new to 'Stumptown'.

"I was assured by the creative team that Tookie will be a three-dimensional character, which is something very important to me. Nobody wants to see stereotype - it's boring and we've all seen those already. Tookie runs the taco stand in town, and I am a Latino actor, but beyond the surface is a three-dimensional person with dark secrets that shall be revealed over the course of the season," he teases.

The actor, who was very impressed with the graphic books, as soon as he read it, talks about how deep they cut. "They have strong emotional connections between the characters and so I could totally see why ABC would want to build the series off of it because it's something that you look for," he explains, adding how successful shows really depend on the emotional connections between the characters and making sure that the audience can feel these connections.

"If you don't have that then the show is not going to work. But I saw in the book that these emotional hooks were all over the place, and so it makes sense, and it's a smart move to do a series based on 'Stumptown'."

He also appreciates the fact that the 'Stumptown' stories are funny, and have a strong female lead in a way we have never seen before. He says, "We've seen plenty of cops, but she's a private investigator with PTSD. I've not seen that before, so, whenever you are reading something that you've not seen before, it's very attractive because automatically you can say that the audience will be pulled in because it's something new... And, then you have all these different strong emotional connections and it's funny. There's a lot going on here."

Martinez continues, "I think the audience is going to be really impressed by the production value, and of course, you have a great cast led by Cobie Smulders, who is

one of our Avengers. Once you have an Avenger in the cast, you're in a good place. Then you also have excellent actors who've been in hit shows like Jake Johnson and Michael Ealy and Camryn Manheim and so you have a really strong cast with the next to the creative team."

After all, it is the only action dramedy on television – it's got action, it's got comedy, it's got drama, teases Martinez, adding how no other show is going to give all three elements under the same umbrella that 'Stumptown' does. So, if you are a fan of one or all of the genres, do not forget to tune into ABC's 'Stumptown' on Wednesday, September 25.

If you have an entertainment scoop or a story for us, please reach out to us on (323) 421-7515



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HOME / ENTERTAINMENT / MOVIES

Disney Plus' 'Lady and the Tramp' is faithful to the original and has four live-action dogs, says film's 'bad guy' Adrian Martinez

The titular dogs will be live-action and Disney is banking on a stellar cast and technology to say the story brilliantly and keep it updated.

By Mangala Dilip

Updated On : 06:54 PST, Aug 16, 2019



Disney recently released the first look of the upcoming live-action 'Lady and the Tramp' movie, which is set to premiere on its streaming service Disney Plus come November 12 and fans cannot stop gushing about the adorable pups who will portray the titular heroine and hero. The movie promises to equally come through for those nostalgic of the original animation, and those who want to see Disney's cutting edge technology and special effects.

The biggest attraction, as one of the stars of the movie, Adrian Martinez, puts it, will be the fact that the titular dogs are also live-action. "Both Lady and Tramp will be live-action, you know, they're real dogs," says Martinez, adding, "They're going to get a chance to see the real Lady and Tramp, and not the animated version. So, we discover the story in that perspective."

"It's very exciting and it's really well done because we use two Ladies and two Tramps - one worked for close-ups and one for stunt work. Then we also use special effects for scenes that required a lot of stunt work that perhaps was not safe for the dog. But it's all seamless and gorgeous. And so you'll be able to discover this movie from a whole new way," he adds.

Martinez, who plays the bad guy in that movie - Elliot the dog catcher - gushes about how excited he is about the project, even though chasing Tramp, in Savannah, Georgia, during the months of August and September, while wearing a polyester suit was no joke. "That was my stunt work of the year," he jokes. "They had to constantly throw water at me to keep me going but it's really gorgeous. It just looks gorgeous, plus, every detail, you know Disney does it right."

Disney did hire the best people for the job. Much like the perfect casting of Martinez, four-time Oscar winner Colleen Atwood designed the costumes of the film, and the iconic filmmaker Charlie Bean, who was the brains behind the Lego movies was roped in to direct. "They were able to transform Savannah into 1908 by bringing in horses and cobblestone streets and it looks really authentic," promises Martinez, adding how he thinks everyone's going to enjoy it, because it's faithful to the original 'Lady and the Tramp' while also using modern technology to help tell the story and keep it updated.

Along with being in one of the most anticipated movies of the year, his career baby 'iGilbert' is heading to the festivals. The movie also promises to be brilliant, with a unique look at our relationship with technology, and has a stellar cast, led by Dascha Polanco, Daya from 'Orange Is the New Black.' The movie, which was written, directed and financed by Martinez will see her in a way we have never seen her before, he promises.



Adrian Martinez of Stumptown attends the Entertainment Weekly & PEOPLE New York Upfronts Party on May 13, 2019 in New York City.

The movie is a fruit of labor, and almost killed him, says Martinez, who sold a property he has in New York to produce it. "I couldn't get anyone to finance it, so I produced it, I starred in it, wrote it, I directed it... I did it over 20 days and, at the end of it all, I just felt really wiped out and exhausted by the experience, but I'm happy to say that the end result is really, really good, and it is a strong movie about where we are today in terms of our relationship with technology and is it taking over our lives too much."

Martinez, who goes by @tasteofAdrian on social media, will also be seen as Tookie in ABC's 'Stumptown,' set for premiere on September 25th.

If you have an entertainment scoop or a story for us, please reach out to us on (323) 421-7515



[\[View online here\]](#)



'Stumptown' Cast Talks Powerful Leading Ladies, Dark Secrets & The Rock

We know Camryn Manheim can ace playing a cop and a lawyer, but what profession would she want to tackle next?

BY PERRI NEMIROFF

PUBLISHED JUL 26, 2019



We've already shared the first [Stumptown](#) interview from San Diego Comic-Con with **Cobie Smulders**, **Jake Johnson** and **Michael Ealy**, and now it's time to meet more of the ensemble! The upcoming ABC series is an adaptation of the graphic novels series of the same name and stars Smulders as Dex Parios, a PI working in Portland with some serious military intelligence skills, but also an unapologetic style to her work that gets her into some trouble.

For this second round of *Stumptown* talk, we chat with **Cole Sibus**, **Camryn Manheim**, **Adrian Martinez** and **Tantoo Cardinal**. Sibus plays Dex's brother Ansel and Manheim steps in as Lieutenant Cosgrove. Then we've got Martinez who plays Tookie, someone he describes as a guardian angel to Dex, and Cardinal as Sue Lynn Blackbird, an extremely powerful individual who, in the graphic novel, gives Dex an assignment in exchange for clearing a debt. Check out the video at the top of this article to hear the group talk about some standout qualities of their characters, who they'd name the unsung hero of *Stumptown* and to catch a brief round of "Would You Rather." *Stumptown* begins its run on ABC on September 25th at 9/10c.



Cole Sibus, Camryn Manheim, Adrian Martinez, Tantoo Cardinal:

- Manheim, Martinez and Cardinal tease one quality of their character that they've never played before.
- Sibus talks about jumping into one of his first big projects and working with Smulders and Johnson.
- Martinez talks about the relationship between his character and Dex.
- Would You Rather begins!
- Who would they dub the unsung hero of *Stumptown*?

Here's the official synopsis for *Stumptown*:

Based on the graphic novel series, "Stumptown" follows Dex Parios – a strong, assertive and sharp-witted army veteran with a complicated love life, gambling debt and a brother to take care of in Portland, Oregon. Her military intelligence skills make her a great PI, but her unapologetic style puts her in the firing line of hardcore criminals and not quite in alliance with the police.

[\[View online here\]](#)

DEADLINE

HOME / FILM / BREAKING NEWS

Adrian Martinez Joins Disney's 'Lady and the Tramp'; 'Mulan' Adds Chen Tang

By Amanda N'Duka
September 21, 2018 11:45am



Strauss/Shutterstock

Adrian Martinez, last seen opposite Amy Schumer in the comedy *I Feel Pretty*, has secured the role of Elliot, a dog-catcher, in Disney's live-action/CG hybrid update of the animated classic *Lady and the Tramp*. Martinez joins Kiersey Clemons, Thomas Mann, Yvette Nicole Brown as part of the live cast along with Tessa Thompson and Justin Theroux as the voices for Lady and Tramp. Charlie Bean is directing the pic based on the 1955 original which followed an upper-middle-class American cocker spaniel named Lady who meets a street-smart, downtown stray mongrel called Tramp, and the two embark on many romantic adventures including that iconic spaghetti smooch dinner scene. The pic will be released on Disney's forthcoming streaming service that is slated to launch in fall 2019. Martinez, whose credits include WB's *Focus* and *Office Christmas Party*, is repped by Phoenix Artists.



Ben Draper

In more Disney live-action remake casting news, **Chen Tang** has been cast as of Yao in the *Mulan* film, which will hit theaters March 27, 2020. Yifei Liu stars as Mulan in the Niki Caro-directed adaptation based on the Chinese folktale and the 1998 Disney animated feature. It tells the story of Mulan, the eldest daughter of an honored warrior who is spirited, determined and quick on her feet. When the Emperor issues a decree that one man per family must serve in the Imperial Army, she steps in to take the place of her ailing father as Hua Jun, becoming one of China's greatest warriors. The Yao character appeared in the animated film. The all-Asian cast includes Donnie Yen, Jason Scott Lee, Utkarsh Ambudkar, Yoson An, Ron Yuan, Tzi Ma, Chum

Ehelepola, Gong Li, Jet Li, Rosalind Chao, Cheng Pei-Pei and Nelson Lee. The pic will shoot in China and New Zealand. Tang's credits include *Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *Escape Plan 2: Hades* with Sylvester Stallone. He's repped by Luber Roklin Entertainment, Daniel Hoff Agency, and Stone, Genow, Smelkinson, Binder and Christopher.

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READ MORE ABOUT: [ADRIAN MARTINEZ](#) / [DISNEY](#) / [LADY AND THE TRAMP](#) / [MULAN](#)

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Skyscraper

New York, July 10

4

Amanda Seyfried

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with wife
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12

From left: Producer Beau Flynn, actor Noah Cottrell and director Rawson Marshall Thurber



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Pablo Schreiber (left) and Adrian Martinez

14

Carla Gugino



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Dwayne Johnson

'Guess Who Died': Beth Lacke & Adrian Martinez Cast In NBC's Comedy Pilot

by [Nellie Andreeva](#) • [tip](#)
and [Denise Petski](#)

January 30, 2018 12:08pm



IMDB/Shutterstock

Work It alum [Beth Lacke](#) is set as a female lead opposite Hector Elizondo and Holland Taylor, and [Adrian Martinez](#) (*The Blacklist: Redemption*) has been cast as a series regular in *Guess Who Died*, NBC's single-camera comedy from [Norman Lear](#) and Peter Tolan.

Guess Who Died, from Sony Pictures TV, is based on Lear's personal experiences and described as a humorous and inspiring look at the shared joys and challenges we all experience at any stage of life. Set in the Las Esperanzado Senior Community in Palm Springs, it centers on Murray (Elizondo), a retired music executive who is positive and upbeat with sparkling eyes and a keen, sharp and wonderful sense of humor. Holland plays his sister-in-law, Patricia, a former American Airlines flight attendant who can be a little too proper at times, but she's sharp as a tack with a great sense of humor.

Lacke will play Cybil, Murray's daughter who works as a poetic writing teacher at a community college. Loyal and devoted, she visits her parents every day and helps with her mom's care.

Martinez will play Lopez, the security guard at the main guard gate at the Las Esperanzado.

Lear and Tolan executive produce via their respective production companies, Act III Productions and The Cloudland Company, alongside Lear's associate Brent Miller.

Lacke most recently recurred on the CW's *Frequency* and guest-starred on *Chicago Med*.

Martinez was a series regular on *The Blacklist: Redemption*. His feature credits include *Office Christmas Party*, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* and *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*.

'The Blacklist: Redemption' Casts Adrian Martinez; Eloise Smyth Joins 'Harlots'

by Denise Petski

July 7, 2016 2:27pm



Ross Ferguson/Hamilton Hodell

Adrian Martinez has booked a series regular role on NBC's *The Blacklist* spinoff *The Blacklist: Redemption*. In *The Blacklist: Redemption*, Tom Keen (Ryan Eggold) joins forces with Susan "Scottie" Hargrave (Famke Janssen), the brilliant and cunning chief of Grey Matters, a covert mercenary organization that solves problems governments don't dare touch. Martinez will play Dumont, an extremely capable computer hacker with an exotic air who keeps his boss apprised of their enemies' movements. Martinez guested in the role in the mothership series. Martinez serves as writer/director/producer and stars alongside Dascha Polanco in his latest feature, indie dark comedy *iCreep*. He's repped by Phoenix Artists.

Eloise Smyth (*Fortitude*) has landed a lead role in drama series *Harlots*, a co-production between ITV and Hulu. The series centers on brothel owner Margaret Wells, who struggles to raise her daughters in London during the 18th century. Smyth will play Lucy Wells, sister to Charlotte Wells (Jess Brown Findlay) and daughter to Margaret Wells (Samantha Morton). Smyth recently wrapped Season 2 of *Fortitude* for Sky Atlantic. She previously starred opposite Sean Bean and Vanessa Kirby in *The Frankenstein Chronicles* for ITV Encore. She can also be seen in *How to Talk to Girls at Parties*, directed by John Cameron Mitchell. Smyth is repped by Hamilton Hodell in the UK.

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Dascha Polanco Lands Female Lead In 'iCreep'; Ingjerd Egeberg Joins 'Downsizing'

by Erik Pedersen

May 3, 2016 1:56pm



Shirley Grant Management/Crimson Media Group

Dascha Polanco, a regular on Netflix dramedy *Orange Is the New Black*, has landed her first starring film role. She is set as the female lead in *iCreep*, an indie dark comedy from writer-director Adrian Martinez, who also stars in and will produce the pic. The film follows the life of a loner, Gilbert (Martinez), and the love of his life, Jana (Polanco). Polanco plays Dayanara Diaz on *Orange Is the New Black*, sharing a pair of SAG Awards for the ensemble cast, and also appeared in the features *Joy* and *The Perfect Match*. Other credits include *The Cobbler* and *Gimme Shelter*. She is repped by Gersh and Shirley Grant Management.

Norwegian actress **Ingjerd Egeberg** has landed a role in *Downsizing*, Alexander Payne's film for Paramount Pictures about a man who joins the throngs of people undergoing a new process that reduces them to a tiny fraction of their size. She will play Anne Helene in the film, which stars Matt Damon, Kristen Wiig, Christoph Waltz and Alec Baldwin. Egeberg co-starred in *Oyevitne*, the Norwegian series that is being remade as *Eyewitness* by USA Network. Her other credits include the Norwegian series *Mammon* and *Thomas P.*, along with a guest spot on Netflix's *Lilyhammer*. Egeberg is repped by Crimson Media and Panorama Agency in Scandinavia.

Film Feature

Adrian Martinez on Playing a Drug Dealer in 'White Girl': "I Pick My Stereotypes Carefully"



By [Monica Castillo](#) | 1 year ago



For rising college sophomore Leah (Morgan Saylor), the lead character in first-time director Elizabeth Wood's *White Girl*, her first summer in the Big Apple was supposed to be spent focusing on her internship and hanging out with friends. Instead, she falls in love with her neighborhood drug dealer Blue (Brian "Sene" Marc), starts selling blow, and spirals out of control from a coke addiction. *White Girl* is based on Wood's own experience, giving the confessional drama, which just premiered at the [Sundance Film Festival](#), a visceral edge.

One of *White Girl*'s most striking elements is its majority Latino cast. Although Blue and his friends are drug dealers, they're not broad-stroke stereotypes. Blue is sensitive, confessing that he gets his name from his ever-present sadness. The suave Kilo (Anthony Ramos) approaches Leah's roommate with enough confidence to win her over. Nene (Ralph Rodriguez) is the joker of the crew, rounding out the other guys who found girlfriends among their gentrifying neighbors.



The last Latino character we're introduced to is Lloyd, Blue's unhinged and creepy supplier who's played by veteran character actor, Adrian Martinez. "I pick my stereotypes carefully, so if it serves the story and the story says something very meaningful then I think it's ok," Martinez said at the Sundance premiere party. "If it was just a bunch of drug dealers shooting at each other, I'm not interested."

If Adrian Martinez looks familiar to you, that's because the [Dominican-Nicaraguan-American](#) actor has cropped up in dozens of movies and TV shows like *The Sopranos*, *Focus*, *American Hustle*, *Inside Amy Schumer*, and *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. *White Girl*, however, finds Martinez in a much darker space.

Embed from Getty Images



Once Blue is arrested, Lloyd, looking for repayment of the large stash he had recently handed over to Blue, physically intimidates Leah. It's a scene, which Martinez insists, he played for laughs. "I don't usually do those kinds of roles. I felt like it would be a good role to do. Having to be a bad guy with Morgan was like kicking a bunny. It was very hard to be her bully."

Although the crew is guilty of peddling drugs, it's made very clear in *White Girl* that the Latino men are under constant surveillance. At one point, Leah asks why they can't sell drugs in clubs in Manhattan, and their honest answer is that they aren't welcome there. Safe in Queens, but without the white privilege to travel unbothered in Manhattan, their experience varies greatly from the white girls. Incidentally, Leah and her roommate partake in heavier drugs than the guys, but they are never stopped or questioned, even when their behavior is out of control.

"I pick my stereotypes carefully, so if it serves the story and the story says something very meaningful then I think it's ok."

Embed from Getty Images



White Girl also explores its racially conscious subject matter in terms of the justice system. Saddled by a lackluster public defender and three strikes on his record, Blue is almost assured 20 years in prison due to minimum sentencing laws, which studies show affect black and brown offenders more than their white counterparts. Leah naively thinks there's something she can do about it, because she hasn't run into the same systemic roadblocks as Blue. It'll come as no surprise, though, that private lawyers are very expensive and can take advantage of the situation.

Although the set was serious, there were plenty moments of levity. "Everybody in the cast is great. Morgan and Sene, all these people, they're like blossoming flowers. They're young and were very spontaneous," said Martinez of his experience working with them. "They connected to the material and it was very easy to feed off of their energy."

Embed from Getty Images



The film's personal angle, the clever ways in which the script handles systemic violence, and the love story at the heart of it all worked magic on Sundance crowds, according to Martinez. "You can tell by how much people are interested in your movie by how many stay for your Q&A," says the actor, recalling *White Girl's* world premiere. "The vast majority stayed." Martinez adds that film will likely connect with audiences his co-stars' ages and younger. "I think it will have a profound effect on young people who are trying to find themselves and are losing their minds."

We partnered with TribecaFilm.com to cover Latino talent at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

White Girl is screening in Brooklyn during Rooftop Films on August 11, 2016 at 8 p.m. The director will be present for a Q&A followed by an after-party. Buy tickets [here](#).

FOCUS ACTOR

ADRIAN MARTINEZ

ON REAL CONNECTION,
DRAWING STRENGTH FROM
ART, AND ASKING THE
UNIVERSE FOR GUIDANCE

INTERVIEW: ROBERT PIPER



Robert Piper: What is the hardest obstacle you've had to overcome in your life?

Adrian Martinez: Myself. Fear of success. Fear of failure. I have felt them all. But fear is an acronym for “false evidence appearing real.” So you hold on to that and just keep going. Being open and receptive to the spirit that connects us all, maintaining friendships, striving at real connection—all that keeps me a step ahead of fear too.

RP: What inspires you?

AM: Children do. They seem to be the ones focusing on really connecting emotionally and openly, while the grown-ups seem to be focusing on surface connections, like Facebook. I also draw strength from the stillness and power of art. One of my favorite places is The Cloisters museum in Upper Manhattan—the Unicorn Tapestries, the view of the Hudson, the flowerbeds. You can't help but be inspired by the waves of wonderful.

RP: How do you deal with overcoming failure?

AM: It's important to be gentle with oneself. You would never mock the runner who stumbles in a marathon at the thirteenth mile. That runner is you.

RP: What projects are you working on?

AM: I've got a few. Really excited about the movie *Focus* and working opposite Will Smith and Margot Robbie. It's funny, but that opportunity was life's way of showing me to never give up. I had come off a horrific

experience on a movie where I was treated pretty badly. It shook me up. I literally asked the universe for guidance; I felt like a drowning man. Then I heard about *Focus* and saw they were looking for this character that I was right for. I told my agent to get me in on it, and the next thing I knew was being treated like all those years of sacrifice mattered. I was filming in the Superdome with Mr. Smith one day and riding around in a sports car through Buenos Aires the next. Surreal, wonderful. Grateful to everything that helped make it happen. I've got fuel in my tank now.

Another project is a TV show idea of a modern-day Latino Archie Bunker / Glenn Beck type; his name is Hank. The time is right for a satirical look at race in this country.

“It's important to be gentle with oneself. You would never mock the runner who stumbles in a marathon at the thirteenth mile. That runner is you.”

*Adrian Martinez has more than eighty film and television credits, appearing alongside Ben Stiller in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, in *Casa de Mi Padre* with Will Ferrell, and in *Focus* opposite Will Smith. Adrian is also recognizable from national commercial spots for State Farm.*

What It's Like to Be a Professional Fat Guy

Overweight actors reveal the pros and cons of getting paid to be pudgy

BY RICK MELE August 12, 2015



From L to R: Adrian Martinez, Charley Koontz, Joel Marsh Garland PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CBB WOODZ, ROSS PERLUSON (MARTINEZ)

The overweight sidekick is a longstanding trope in movies and TV shows. From John Belushi popping a “zit” in *Animal House* to Chris Farley performing his “*Fat Guy in a Little Coat*” routine in *Tommy Boy*, it’s the chubby guy’s job to provide hefty doses of comic relief.

But ever wonder what it’s like to audition for parts that explicitly call for fat actors? Especially if you don’t think of yourself as a joke?

“When you’re starting out, you do feel like you have to take any gig that’ll come down the pipe,” admits Charley Koontz, who first broke out playing “Fat Neil” on *Community* and now stars in *CSI: Cyber*. “There have been a couple of parts—without naming shows—that you read and go, this is just so gratuitous, mean, and ugly.”

It was a similar experience for Joel Marsh Garland, whose gig as a prison guard on *Orange Is the New Black* expanded significantly in the Netflix comedy’s recent third season. “You’d get a casting breakdown where the whole joke was just about being a fat guy—like ‘Fat Guy in a Chimney,’” he says.

In the early days, Garland took a few of those roles to prove he could remember lines when he got in front of the camera. “And being able to pay your bills and get a couple residual checks is tempting,” he says.

(Want the smartest insight and advice for guys, *from* guys? Check out [The Better Man Project](#). You’ll learn how to boost your bank account, shrink your belly, and have scorching hot sex!)

But at a certain point, ‘Fat Guy in a Chimney’ stopped being interesting to Garland, and his line was drawn in the sand. Adrian Martinez, a veteran character actor who has appeared in everything from *American Hustle* to *Inside Amy Schumer*, had this realization right away.

“I’m not going to sit in a vat of mayonnaise and be a fat joke from beginning to middle to end,” says Martinez. “There has to be something in there that you can hang your creative hat on.”

That “something” is often subjective. Earlier this year, Martinez starred in the con-man flick *Focus* alongside Will Smith and Margot Robbie. His role: a 500-pound Persian named “Fatass Farhad.”

Comedian Artie Lange, who was also offered the part, publicly called the role an offensive stereotype. But Martinez saw an opportunity to be more than a punchline.

“Initially when you read ‘Fatass Farhad,’ you’re like, ‘Aw, c’mon, *really?*’, but then you read the script, and the whole fat thing is 5 percent of it,” Martinez says. “There are a couple of fat jokes in the movie, but it was a great opportunity to work with A-list talents and in exotic locales. And now I have Margot Robbie’s email.”

These Hollywood heavyweights know their place in show business.

“There are certain opportunities as a big guy that you don’t get,” says Garland. Adds Koontz, “I’m just never going to be able to separate what I do from how I look.”

But they refuse to be defined—or boxed in—by their body type.

“I’ve always felt that my weight does not get me work—my talent does,” Martinez says. “Otherwise they could do casting at the food court in a mall.”

And it’s a good lesson for everyone, in any job: Sometimes you take the gig for the opportunity to show what you can do on a bigger stage. Signing up for every menial task, like fetching coffee and making copies, helps you build a dependable reputation around the office. Over time, you’ll become the go-to guy—and that’s what really pays.

Tags: [LIFE LESSONS](#), [BETTER MAN PROJECT](#), [CELEBRITIES](#), [ENTERTAINMENT](#)



February 27, 2015 by [Kiko Martinez](#)

[o Comments](#)

Adrian Martinez – Focus



Adrian Martinez stars as Farhad, a thief who travels to Argentina with his best friend Nicky (Will Smith) to pull off a major heist.

In the new romantic dark comedy "Focus," actor Adrian Martinez plays Farhad, the best friend and partner-in-crime of Nicky (Will Smith), a professional con man who teams up with a femme fatale (Margot Robbie) for a major heist in Argentina where the stakes get a lot higher for all three thieves.

During an interview with Martinez, who has also starred in films such as "American Hustle," "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," and "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," we talked about what attracted him to a project like "Focus," how he approaches auditions after 20 years in the industry, and what it was like working with Louie C.K. last year on his hit TV show on FX.

So, what were you going for with the look and style of your character Farhad?

Well, Farhad is based on a real-life Grammy Award-winning producer who is friends with ["Focus" directors] John [Requa] and Glenn [Ficarra]. I can't remember his name, but that's basically what he looks like. But then I was able to put my own spin on it. It was lot of fun. John and Glenn let me take chances and make the character my own and were supportive of me being a part of the creative process.

What initially drew you to a project like "Focus" other than getting the chance to work with actors like Will Smith and Margot Robbie?

What really drew me to the movie was that the script was full of surprises. You never knew how things were going to play out. That's so rare these days. Then, you had Farhad, this character I could relate to because of his loyalty to his best friend Nicky, played by Will Smith. Personally, I am very faithful to the people in my own life. I always have their back. I think that's something that really comes across with Farhad. Nicky relies on Farhad. I see him as a spiritual brother to Nicky.

Where does a film like this rank for you in your career? You've worked on some major movies before like "American Hustle" and "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," just to name a couple.

You know, a lot of people saw me in "Walter Mitty" with Ben Stiller. The movie did well and really took on a life of its own when it went On Demand. We'll, have to see how "Focus" plays out. If it's a hit, I think it'll certainly help my career. But if it's not, it doesn't matter to me personally because I'm going to keep acting and going after my own projects. But I do feel like it's a special movie that will really connect with audiences.

You're very recognizable in the film industry. Does that help you when you go into auditions? I mean, I know you need to have talent to land some of the roles you've received, but does having a familiar face help you in any way?

I think it helps get auditions that are high profile, but you still have to prove yourself. Even after Will's last movie "After Earth," there were questions if he could make box-office hits, which was ridiculous. The man's made billions of dollars for studios. It's crazy. You really do have to prove yourself every time out.

The last time I interviewed you was back in 2010 and you told me the same thing. Has it gotten any easier in the last five years, or is it still a dogfight?

Yeah, you always have to keep proving yourself. You're just proving yourself to more important people. (Laughs) When you're starting your career, you're proving yourself to unknown directors. And now I'm proving myself to John and Glenn and Ben Stiller and Will Ferrell, or whoever. You just have to go into your audition and nail it. When you audition you have to make them feel like something exciting is going on.

For some reason, I don't see you as someone who really gets fazed by the audition process. I imagine you going in and just laying it all on the table every time.

Yeah, I mean they're called auditions, but I call them performances. I prepare as if it was opening night. I go in assuming I already got the role. It's a chance to act and do my thing. That's how I approach it. I use the same skillset that I do on set or on the stage. That's how I move forward. The only time recently where I didn't have to audition for something was for an episode of "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit" where I got to play a mentally disabled person. They just made an offer, which, I guess, says a lot about me.

Talk a bit about playing the sidekick in a lot of your movies. It seems like you've embraced that role.

To me, it's basically going to a free film school. When I was working with Will Ferrell [in "Casa de mi Padre"], I learned a lot about discipline. When I worked with Ben Stiller, I learned about how someone works with a lot of stamina. When I worked with Will Smith, I learned about being generous and grateful. I've never met anyone who was more grateful for his stature in the business than Will. We shot the film in Buenos Aires and one day he was coming out of this market and people just started gravitating to him and he'd stop for selfies. He spent a lot of time taking photos there. He really enjoys his fame. He's special.

Do you ever think about your career 20 years from now and what you'll be saying about the films you were in 20 years prior? I mean, movies last forever. Twenty years from now, all your DVDs – or whatever we're watching movies on – will still be floating around.

Yeah, I do think about doing work that will stand the test of time. I do think about leaving behind a film legacy that my daughter will be proud of. I've been blessed. There are a lot of Latinos actors who are coming up now and have had opportunities that 10 or 20 years ago simply did not exist. I like to feel that it's in part to actors like myself or David Zayas or Paul Calderon or any number of actors in their 30s or 40s or 50s who cleared the path for the new generation. I feel like it's all good. We helped them and hopefully they help someone else.

Later this year, we're going to see you in a comedy called "Sisters," which stars Tina Fey and Amy Poehler about two sisters who throw a big house party. What do you think a house party hosted by Tina and Amy would look like in real life and would you go?

I would go anywhere they want me to go. I would go in handcuffs. I would go dressed anyway they wanted me to dress. These are two of the smartest, funniest people in the business, period. They have such great chemistry. Time will show that this was one of the great comic teams that people will remember forever.

Speaking of great comedians, you had a small part in a very ambitious six-part episode of "Louie" last year alongside Louie C.K. What was that experience like being a part of a TV show that was doing such different things no one else had really tried before?

Yeah, Louie is a special writer. He's special because he's not afraid to be himself and not afraid to take chances. He doesn't write his characters to be funny. He just writes real people and puts them in funny situations. Everything is really grounded. That's one of the things that sets him apart. He doesn't go for the easy laugh. He goes for the truth. Sometimes the truth is pretty funny on its own.

How did you get the role in that last episode anyway?

I was sitting in my apartment in the Bronx and I got a call at 8:30 on a Friday night. It was from the associate director of "Louie." He said, "Hey, I'm so and so from 'Louie.'" Louie wanted you to come down and do an episode." I didn't believe him. I said, "Well, Louie will have to get on the phone because I really don't know who you are." (Laughs) So, Louie got on the phone. His voice was unmistakable. He was like, "Hi. This is Louie. I want you to come out here. We'll get you a car. You're going to be screaming in the rain naked. I don't know what you're going to be saying. Can you do it?" I was like, "Sure! Of course!" That's exactly what happened. Next thing I know I was in a car and then on a sound stage screaming in the rain naked. That's how these things happen. Someone says, "We need someone to do this role, but we don't have time to audition anyone. Who can we get to scream in the rain naked?" And someone says, "Adrian Martinez."



'Focus' Star Adrian Martinez Pops Into Dish Nation!

February 26, 2015



Dish Nation

By **Amber Ryland**

Adrian Martinez co-stars alongside **Will Smith** and **Margot Robbie** in the new blockbuster *Focus*, and he popped into **Dish Nation's** Los Angeles studio recently to chat with hosts **Heidi Hamilton** and **Frank Kramer** about the new flick.

Having been in hit movies like *American Hustle*, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* and *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, this is the first time the Latino actor has played a Persian character.

"I am not [Persian]," he noted.

"But I am an actor and I felt like this was an opportunity to do something that's out of the box for me at the same time, something I felt safe and comfortable with. He's a smart ass like me, he's very much faithful to Will Smith, I'm faithful to the people in my life."

Martinez pulls off the character of Farhad flawlessly and quipped he has no problem transforming for a role.

"I gained 50 pounds 10 years ago for this role," he laughed. "I thought, some day this will come in handy."

And believe it or not, Martinez says Robbie is in love with him! Okay...don't believe it.

"What people don't know, is that she has an 'I love Adrian' tattoo on her foot," he joked about his hot Australian co-star.

"I put it on her while she napped. It's on the bottom of her foot, so I don't think anyone's gonna notice for a while."

Smith recently appeared on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* where talked about the chemistry he and Robbie had while filming, and Martinez agreed, saying it was evident to everyone on set.

"They just really hit it off," he dished.

"The chemistry was palpable and the next thing you knew, we were all in Buenos Aires."

Focus opens in theaters nationwide this weekend.



Adrian Martinez talks prominent role in 'Focus' after several supporting roles



BY

RAY MONELL

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Friday, February 13, 2015
10:39 AM



Adrian Martinez as Farhad in Warner Bros. Pictures' heist film 'FOCUS.' (WARNER BROS. PICTURES)

After two decades of acting, Adrian Martinez finally knows what it feels like to be in the catbird seat.

You may recognize Martinez for his supporting roles in "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" and "American Hustle," the Aaron Rodgers-obsessed Green Bay Packers fan in a State Farm commercial, or the guy who bellows "Money!" in a New York Lotto ad that ran a few years back.

The actor has dozens of credits to his name, but it's his most recent role as Persian computer expert/confidence man Farhad in the movie "Focus" — a lighthearted heist flick starring Will Smith that opens Feb. 27 — that Martinez deems his most rewarding gig to date.

"I feel like I've been running in a marathon for 20 years and somebody from the side just reached out and handed me a cup of Champagne," says Martinez, who describes himself as "Dominiaguan" (a portmanteau of Dominican and Nicaraguan).

"I read the script and I was like, 'Wow! If they can pull this off, it's gonna be special.' "

Farhad runs with an outfit of con men led by Smith's character. Filming locations included New York, New Orleans and Buenos Aires, says Martinez, who lives in Manhattan.

Up next for Martinez is a Web series based on a screenplay he co-wrote with filmmaker Hugo Perez. Martinez's character – an anti-immigrant, FOX News-watching Latino named Hank – embodies what would happen if Archie Bunker's brain were implanted into the skull of an Hispanic man.



Adrian Martinez also appeared in 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty' and 'American Hustle.' (ROSS FERGUSON)

"Let's just say he's very confident in his own opinions, even if his opinions make no sense," quips Martinez, who adds that the online comedy was developed for Time Warner.

Creating your own acting opportunities "is the kind of thing that people who are starting out need to get into," adds the actor, who grew up on 145th St. between Broadway and Riverside Dr.

"What stories do you wanna tell? What are you really passionate about when you see the world? What's bothering you? What's moving you? Tell that story, 'cause people

need to hear it.

"I don't worry about the fact that I'm Latino, I don't worry about the fact that I'm not Hollywood's definition of handsome. I worry about what I can do to tell my stories and put them into the world," he adds.

"And I sit down, I write them, and I find that if you come up with something really good, they really don't care who you are.

A career in 'Focus'

Martinez lands big break in Will Smith comedy

BY RAY MONELL

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ROSS FERGUSON



Martinez as a con man in "Focus."



TIMESVIDEO



Focus: Adrian Martinez On His Character

By Warner Bros. Pictures | Feb. 12, 2015 | 0:30

Share:      

Film Feature

He's Been in 100 Hollywood Films, But Adrian Martinez Is Now Making Movies on His Smartphone


By [Andrew S. Vargas](#) | 2 years ago


From Michelangelo to Mozart, the history of Western art has always tended toward the myth of the solitary genius: one man (yes, it's usually a man) who with little more than a pen or paintbrush and a mysterious personality radically changes the course of Western culture. In truth art is rarely produced in a bubble; any great artist has a close friend, husband, wife, or editor to give invaluable feedback and put the solitary genius in his place whenever necessary.

Yet unlike other arts, film has always embraced this collaborative nature of creation, and its history is filled with the work of great duos from the Dardenne Brothers to Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel. Comedy in particular thrives off of that special chemistry produced when you mix one part Laurel with one part Hardy, or when you roll up your Cheech with a little bit of Chong. It's about energy and connection, and when the sparks fly they can light up the audience like a forest fire.

Enter [Hugo Perez](#) and [Adrian Martinez](#). Both accomplished artists in their own right, a chance encounter five years back set the stage for a rich collaboration that is only now beginning to bear fruit. For his part, Perez has spent years writing, producing, and directing award-winning documentaries and short films, while Martinez has made a career as a battle-worn character actor, popping up alongside the likes of **Ben Stiller** (*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*), **Will Ferrell** (*Casa de Mi Padre*) and **Zach Galifianakis** (*It's Kind of a Funny Story*).

With a growing collection of improvised, comedic micro-short films slowly gaining traction and a feature film in the works, these guys might have what it takes to be something like the Latino Coen Brothers, or at least their more bronzed second cousins. On the cusp of their breakout success, we sat down with these two close friends and collaborators to talk about self-empowerment, Latino Archie Bunkers, and finding magic in small moments.



Adrian Martinez and Ana Asensio in "Is This Your Baby?" short film shot on an iPhone 4S.

How did the two of you become interested in movies and acting?

Adrian: Well, I basically have always been enamored by the movies. They've always been able to speak to me. The great movies. On an intellectual and also an emotional level. Movies were my friend growing up. I was very shy so I would go to the movies and I would just sort of find myself in different worlds and enjoying that. And then, as I watched movies — even when I was like 10 years old — I would see actors make choices and I would say to myself, "Well why didn't he do this?" or "Why did he do that?" *[laughs]* I was actually questioning the work of Al Pacino and Gary Oldman. And then I just started thinking, "Maybe I should just do it myself." And it's been an interesting ride.

I read that you started by auditioning in high school for *Unsolved Mysteries*?

Adrian: Yeah it was a TV show and they were just looking for someone that could run fast, and at the time I was a medalist in sprinting. So I just basically sort of took off at the audition, left everyone in the dust and picked up one line, which was, "Open the door!" So I was banging on the door after doing a sprint and just screaming, "Open the door!" And I still don't know why I was screaming that, but it got me my SAG card.

Hugo: That was also your first Emmy was for that performance, right?

Adrian: [laughs] Yes, yes. I was at a party once and I told this guy, "You know I just had my chart done by an astrologist, and she said that within 10 years you're going to have an Oscar a Tony and an Emmy." And he said, "Yeah, those are going to be your kids." So we'll see.

Well there's hope either way. Whether they're kids or whether they're statues, they'll come!

Adrian: Thanks.

And Hugo — how did you get into the crazy world of film?

Hugo: I grew up in Miami, in the cradle of Cuban civilization in the U.S. I loved movies when I was a kid, but books were really the thing that kind of transported me. And I would say that books really were my first love and how I found other worlds and other stories. And really the decision to go into filmmaking happened right before I went to Yale. I saw *City Lights* for the first time — Chaplin's film — then there was this Chaplin film festival and for a week I saw all of Chaplin's films and I decided I wanted to do that. And I meant that quite literally because when I went to Yale I spent my first year watching almost exclusively silent films and making silent film comedies that I starred in. So I started in the silent film era, you could say.



Adrian Martinez and Hugo Perez in Santa Fe, 2009

How did you guys meet?

Adrian: We met at [NALIP](#) [National Association of Latino Independent Producers], at a producers conference. Actually it was a competition that I won for a script and he won for his script. And we met in New Mexico for the first time. He had his project, I had mine, and we started talking about film and ideas and we kind of hit it off, and that was 8 years...

Hugo: 5 years ago.

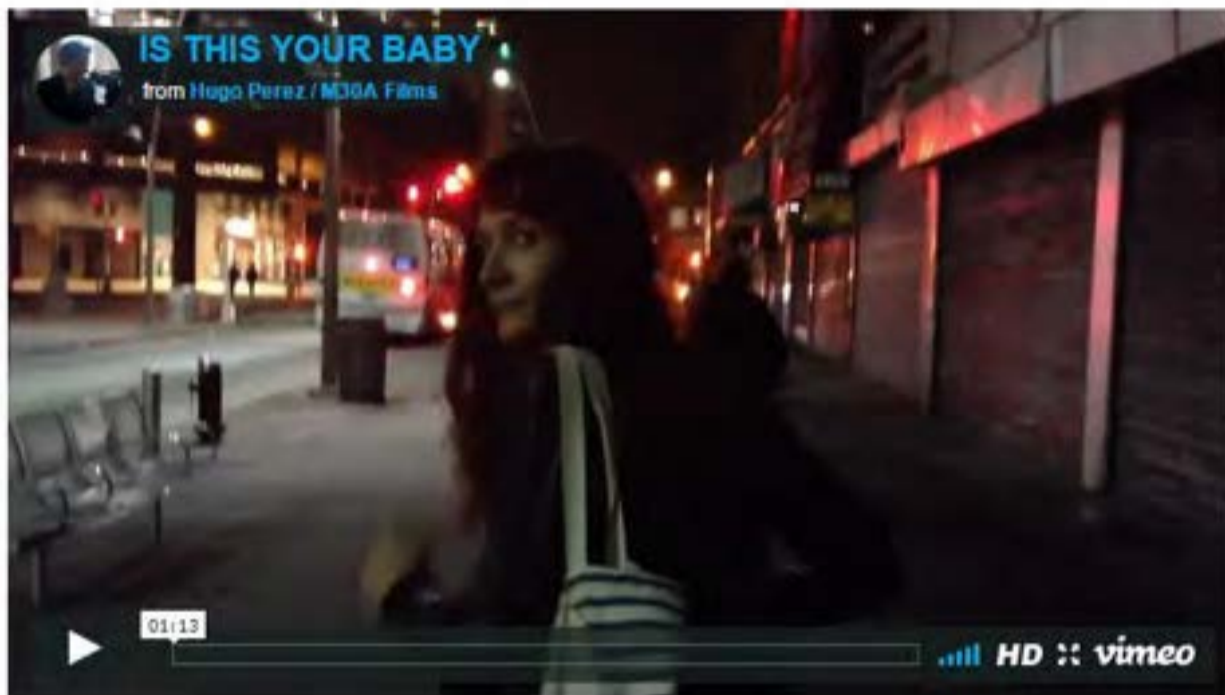
Adrian: Yeah about 5 years ago.

Hugo: Yeah it was 2009. It feels like 8 but it was really 5. We were both part of this director's lab that NALIP used to do and it was really a special experience, and Adrian and I connected. And I remember we were on this van ride back to the airport and it was like, "Hey maybe we should get together in New York and talk about some stuff." So since then we've been kind of writing partners and working on screenplays and trying to push little projects together.

“Movies were my friend growing up. I was very shy so I would go to the movies and would find myself in different worlds.”

Where did the idea come from to make these improvised micro-short films? Somebody had an iPhone and said, “Hey let’s do something,” or...

Hugo: Yeah, Adrian and I have done a couple of small videos over the years. And our friend Ana and I have worked together quite a bit, and so we’ve always been like, “Oh, we should do something, we should do some stuff together.” And we all went out to see a movie at [BAM](#) one night, and as we were walking from BAM over to Carroll Gardens [in Brooklyn] to have dinner we encountered this abandoned baby carriage on a dark street and it was really creepy. And I was like, “Okay, we got to stop and we got to make a little movie here, and it’s going to be one take and we’re not going to rehearse it” and that’s what we did. It actually wound up being 2 takes, because I messed up the first take, but that was the first one that we did and we had a great time doing it.



And that’s when we decided we were going to do a lot more of these. And of course 3 months go by before we do the second one, which was *Is That Your Boyfriend?* But it’s something we enjoy doing, we think that there’s something great about coming up with a loose concept and then riffing on it, improvising a little short out of it. So it’s a little series that we’re going to continue to do and I think we’re going to do more regularly.

I don’t know if you guys are familiar with *Shadows* by John Cassavetes, but obviously there’s a whole tradition of this loose, free, improvisational style of filmmaking. I am wondering how it changes your approach in terms of directing for you Hugo, and for Adrian in terms of acting. And what do you find attractive about this improvisational style as opposed to something more rigid or rehearsed?

Adrian: I’ve always been a fan of improvisation. I did a film called *Mail Order Wife* that was primarily improvised and I find it very freeing. It allows you to be spontaneous. You have to be open to the moment. You go to any acting school and they always talk about: “Stay in the moment, be in the moment.” And when you improvise with the right actors there’s no choice, you have to be in the moment. So it’s very liberating in that way. And, let’s face it, with the right actors — and **Ana Asensio**’s a fantastic actress — it can be really liberating and just give you a real sense of being present, which is really cool.

Hugo: I think... I don’t mean to get pretentious here, Bertholt Brecht, when he was talking about theater, he said his ideal for theater was that it would be like going to a baseball game, because the outcome should always be in question. I think to do these little improvised films, it sort of breaks down the kind of conventional, you know, “I’m the director, you’re the actors, you’re the crew” and all of a sudden you’re a team. So you call a play and you go, you run it. And that’s what we’re doing. So we talk about it a little bit, we each have our role: I’m behind the camera and then the actors are in front of the camera and we just kind of riff off of each other, and it’s great. It is really liberating and really freeing. Then there’s no excuse not to do something. Instead of like, “Oh, let’s get the script right,” or, “Oh, we need the money or the gear, blah blah blah,” it’s like, “Hey, we’re going to make a movie right now.” So, it’s kind of fun and exciting and I think the results thus far have been good for us.

“Instead of:
‘Let’s get the script right’ or
‘We need the money or the gear, blah blah blah.’ It’s like:
‘Hey, we’re going to make a movie right now.’”



Adrian Martinez in 'Mail Order Wife'

In terms of these digital micro-shorts, it's a young format, but do you guys have any models or inspirations? Are there any micro-short series that have caught your attention in the last couple of years?

Hugo: I wouldn't say that there have been micro-short series that have caught my attention. There have been some webseries that I think have been very interesting because of the way that they've been little game-changers. One of them is *Awkward Black Girl*, I don't know if you're familiar with it. The interesting thing about it is that it's taking a look at representations of young African-American professionals and people in a way that we never see in mainstream television. So in the case of that series the thing that I thought was special about it was that it was a very personal voice that showed a different reality than what we're used to seeing.

With what we're doing it's a little less tied to a social agenda and it's really more about, I don't know, kind of finding inspiration or magic in small moments in every day life and responding to them as creatives. I mean, literally like pulling a little bit of magic out of the air and sharing it with other people.

In terms of what we want to do with it, we want to continue to do the series for ourselves, probably create a little channel around it, and then we're starting to have conversations about finding a brand to sponsor the series, because I think this kind of concept could be really successful as a brand or content series if we find the right partner. So Garnish Media, who I work with a little bit, they've started to put out some feelers to some of their clients, so we're waiting to hear back on that.

"I'm trying to basically create video comic strips for the new media era."

Adrian: We're talking to you Dos Equis!

I think they heard you! [laughter]

Hugo: So, we're going to continue to do this because we enjoy it, but we think that there is a place in the market for this kind of work. And the model that I look to for these micro-shorts is actually kind of an old-world model, which is comic strips. If you think about comic strips, they're these tight little wonderful little narratives in four panels. And I think with these micro-shorts that we're doing, it's kind of the same thing. You have a little situation and then you have a sharp hit at the end, you have a little twist or something. So like "Bloom County" or "Doonesbury" or "The Far Side", I guess those are some of the inspirations, and I'm trying to basically create video comic strips for the new media era.



Hugo Perez

Adrian, in the two micro-shorts you've done so far, you seem to be tending toward a character that's kind of a shady canalla. Where did this guy come from? Did you come up with it together or does this just come from some place deep within you?

Adrian: I don't know what you mean, I think he's a lovable, sweet guy. This canalla thing, I'm perplexed by that.

Okay, what would drive a lovable, sweet guy to steal a purse?

Adrian: I think it was probably just a heavy purse and she seemed burdened by it.

I'm sure that's exactly how he justifies it to himself. *[laughter]*

Adrian: I don't judge my characters, let's just put it that way.

But is this the type of character that interests you, aside from any type of epithets you could tack on?

Adrian: Well, this is going to sound trite, but I'm interested in every kind of emotional experience that a person has. So obviously as an actor you just want to be able to do them all. The director Peter Brook said that actors are athletes of emotion, and that stayed with me because when I look at... just in New York when you're on the subway you see all kinds of interactions, and you see all kinds of emotional life going on. And it's crazy and it's beautiful and it's disgusting and it's wonderful and it's all there, and you just want to be able to portray that as an actor. It's your responsibility to do that. So in this particular character, yeah he's shady and he seems a little creepy and whatever, but hey, I always felt that creepy, shady guys deserve their day in the sun too!

“This particular character, he's shady and seems a little creepy but... creepy, shady guys deserve their day in the sun too!”

Hear, hear!

Adrian: So yeah, the challenge is just to bring a three-dimensional experience for the audience with each character, which is hard when you have 30 seconds as in these cases. But you do your best.

Hugo: I think what Adrian does so well is that he brings a kind of truth to the reality of these characters. They feel real, right? I don't know, there's a kind of magic that happens. And, like especially in the second one, where he's the guy that just wanders up and meddles in this situation. I feel like, maybe you've never seen this guy, but as soon as you see him, you know him. And that's because of Adrian's performance, and the fact that he becomes that guy. And it's not about making fun, it's about... this is the guy, you know?



I mean, that guy in particular — the café creep — could easily be a caricature. Just take it up one or two notches and it would just be an over-the-top *Chavo del Ocho* — *que descanse en paz*. But he keeps it right there at a level of believability and that gives it something special.

Adrian: Check's in the mail, guys. *[laughter]*

The lack of Latino stories in mainstream media is a constant topic of conversation — and rightfully so — but how do you think these new technologies and platforms might change the game in terms of Latino self-representation?

Adrian: Listen, it's all about self-empowerment. You can't even worry about what the studio system is going to do or not do. It's like expecting Coca Cola to come out with a nutritional soda — it's just not going to happen. So what's the question? The question is, "Now what?" And the time has never been better for people of any color to empower themselves with all these bells and whistles that we have at our disposal. I've known of people shooting full movies just with their iPhone. And then you can put it on YouTube, you can put it in competitions, you can put it on Facebook, you can do whatever. It's all there. You still at a certain point will have to come up and try to get your idea sold, but at least you can make product now. You don't need 5 million dollars, a million dollars, 50 thousand dollars to do anything, you can really just go out and shoot.

“Go out there and shoot! No one's going to write a story better than you can about your own truth.”

And I get a lot of people on Facebook asking me to get together for lunch and pick my brain, and they want to know how you become this working actor, and the message is always the same: look to yourself. Who do you know in your circle that wants to tell stories? Go out there and shoot! Don't worry about the agent or the this or the that. Really. No one's going to write a story better than you can about your own truth, your own experience, your own concerns about the world. Really dig deep and empower yourself and make a movie, or find someone to co-write with on a particular subject as I did with Hugo and just take action! That's the message.



Hugo: I 100% agree with Adrian and I think that in our particular case, instead of waiting for Hollywood or television networks to create the kind of content we want to see, we're trying to create that content ourselves. Adrian, should we talk about *Gabacho* a little bit?

Adrian: Sure.

Hugo: So we wrote a feature screenplay. We were both very disturbed by the immigration situation, particularly in Arizona and this kind of crazy national dialogue kind of demonizing immigrants and the whole discussion around the border. But we didn't want to approach that directly because we've seen that film before. And then we came up with this idea for a character, it's a right-wing Latino guy, you know like a Latino Archie Bunker. You know, he refuses to speak Spanish, he hates salsa music, he's anti-immigrant, he watches Fox News and he talks shit about immigrants all the time.

“We came up with this idea for a character, it's a right-wing Latino guy, like a Latino Archie Bunker.”

There's a few of those in my family, yeah. [laughter]

Hugo: It's like all of our uncles, right?

Yup.

Hugo: So this guy, who will be played by Adrian, his name is “Hank.” His name is Horacio but he goes by “Hank,” because that's an American name. He goes to Arizona for a professional conference and he winds up getting deported because he's brown-skinned and then he has to team up with an illegal immigrant to get back across the border and get home. And on this journey he sort of discovers something about his own identity.



Adrian Martinez as Hank, the Latino Archie Bunker

So we're trying to tell new kinds of Latino stories and show Latino characters that we haven't seen before, or take situations that we think we know but really look at them in a different way. You know, we're taking this issue of immigration and the border and we're bringing to it this broad humor that's inspired by Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder and what they did in the 70s.

So that's like an example of what we're trying to do to change representations of Latinos. And also, excitingly, right now while we're waiting to make the feature Adrian and I are also working on a prequel webseries that focuses on Hank and his real life here in New York. He lives in White Plains and works in New York.

Adrian: “White” Plains

Hugo: Cause he couldn’t live in the Bronx anymore, he needed to go someplace that was whiter.
[laughter]

Very subtle.

Hugo: So it’s just kind of about Hank and his daily struggle with his fellow Latinos. Cause he wants to 100 percent assimilate. He doesn’t want to associated with other Latinos. But other Latinos... like he’s one of them, but he doesn’t want to admit it to anybody. So we’re building a webseries around that that’s a little bit like *The Office* or like *Louie*, sort of observational and just following Hank in his life as he gets into a series of arguments because of the shit that comes out of his mouth.

Adrian: For example, something like, “Dominican women have the biggest asses, but Caucasian women have the cleanest.”

No jodas!

Adrian: Discuss. Discuss.

Hugo: Another thing Hank would say: “You know the conquistadors were a good thing for Mexico. I mean, the Mexicans had it for thousands of years and what did they build? Pyramids! The conquistadors came and now we have Hiltons and Starbucks and Chipotle!”

Yeah sounds like a guy you just love to hate. So where should I send the check? How much do you guys need?

Adrian: Just send it blank, and we’ll take care of it. [laughs]

Great, I’ll go ahead and send you guys a blank Remezcla check and you guys take care of everything else. [*Pending approval]

Hugo: I’m sure that’s worth quite a bit!

I’m curious about your specific experiences as Latinos, either in Hollywood or in independent filmmaking. Do you feel like it’s harder to get ahead as a Latino?

Adrian: I honestly don’t see myself as a Latino actor. I see myself as an actor and a Latino human being. But I don’t approach the business like, “Hey, I’m Latino! Any Latino roles out there?” No. I get the breakdowns like any body else. I see what I think I could play in terms of ethnicity. I can play any number of ethnicities. I’ve got a movie coming out in February called *Focus* where I’m Will Smith’s sidekick and I’m playing an Iranian man. And so when I saw the breakdown I said, “Yeah, this character’s name is Farhad. Farhad is Iranian, he’s a big guy, he’s kind of funny and weird in a crass kind of way. Boom! That’s me!” So I told my agent, “Listen, I want to read for Farhad.”



Adrian Martinez and Will Smith on the set of ‘Focus’

You know, I just feel like you have to put out there in very clear terms — to the universe first, and then to the business people — that you are enough, and you are eligible to work in any number of roles, in any kinds of ethnicities. You just show up and you do your thing and you’ll find that for the most part, even if you don’t get the job, people will remember your work. People will remember your professionalism, your commitment, your willingness to risk, your willingness to open your heart and your soul and your mind, your willingness and ability to be present. That is what is transcendent, that is what keeps you employed.

I've been doing this for 20 years and I've been able to do it because I don't worry about stereotypes, I don't think about it, it's not in my consciousness. It only comes up when I have interviews and people bring it up, but in terms of my day-to-day, I think about work, I think about the possibilities, I think about really just expressing myself as an artist and that's it!

And Hugo?

Hugo: I would agree. I mean I'm a Latino filmmaker because I grew up Latino, but that's not how I've approached my work creatively. A lot of my early inspirations were not Latino films or filmmakers, but like the Coen Brothers or David Lynch. It was really when I started to get to know the work of Almodóvar that I started to really get excited about the

possibilities of telling stories that were a little closer to home. Because the way he represented his characters and situations and the world of Madrid post-Franco, I related to it a lot living in post-Castro Miami. Some very similar characters and tendencies. I guess I've always just tried to write or work on things that moved me in some way. So my documentary work, for instance, very little of what I've done has anything to do with Latino subject matter, but in the fiction, in the narrative pieces a lot of it is really inspired by the community and the culture that I grew up in. Cause it's close to me, and it's something I care about, but also I'm trying to take that experience and make it more universal.

I think that's the trick. I think as artists we can deal with specific worlds or characters, but we have to find a way of connecting with the larger world, and if we don't do that then we failed. Because if we're just making films about a community for that community that nobody outside that community is every going to see, then I think we failed as artists in a way.

“I honestly don't see myself as a Latino actor. I see myself as an actor and a Latino human being.”



Were there any unexpected mishaps or bloopers that came up while you were making these short films?

Hugo: I would say the micro-shorts are our bloopers. I mean we just forget the film and we cut straight to the blooper reel and that's our film.

Shooting in a café you guys didn't turn any heads? That was in Buenos Aires?

Adrian: Yeah that was at a rooftop terrace sort of "sky-bar" in Buenos Aires. It's interesting, you know, we were sort of sitting there and at first no one seemed to notice and then as Nicola starts his dialogue and starts getting upset, more and more people started noticing. But, you have to remember Argentina is a country without an army. So they're very *[laughs]*, they're very passive about everything. They're not going to get involved even if they were upset. But everything was cool. People looked and whatever, but it just added to the energy of the experience.

Hugo: In that case there was no cameraman there. The camera was the Facetime on the laptop, so people I think were probably confused about what was going on. They probably had no idea that a film was being made, and they're like, "Are these guys performance artists? What's going on here?"

Adrian: But they caught on by the second take.



Adrian Martinez in 'Casa de mi Padre'

I can imagine! So any last words? I did want to ask about any plans for collaboration in the future, but I guess *Gabacho* summed it up, no?

Adrian: Yeah, that's our baby.

Hugo: That's the one we're really pushing to see if we can be in production on in 2015. We feel like the time is perfect for that film, and you know we haven't seen that character and that story before.

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Hugo: That's the one we're really pushing to see if we can be in production on in 2015. We feel like the time is perfect for that film, and you know we haven't seen that character and that story before.

I think it's a good time to change the narrative on immigration and change the characters we normally see, to tell it from a different perspective. I think it's a great idea and the perfect time for it, so best of luck with that.

Adrian: And thanks for doing that list of "[Netflixeando: 20 Latino Films to Stream](#)" I'm in #12, *Casa de mi Padre* in case anyone wants to check out any of my work. My buddy Cruz Angeles' documentary on Valenzuela [*Fernando Nation*] is really awesome. But everything is really... it's a tight list.

Well, the [Remezcla Film](#) section is here to promote good work!