

UK FILM REVIEW

DECEMBER 2020

Christmas Special

FIRST LOOK

Robyn Rosenkrantz & Michael Glover

**CRITIC CHRIS OLSON
INTERVIEWS ROBYN
ROSENKRANTZ &
MICHAEL GLOVER**

Your company, Bright Blue Gorilla: Filmmakers & Musicians from Los Angeles, has an interesting story. What can you tell us about it?

R: Bright Blue Gorilla was born in 1990. Michael and I met in L.A. at a music club on the Sunset Strip in April 1989, where we were both performing. We got together, wrote a love song and fell in love! We decided

to quit our jobs, sell everything we had, (except our guitars) and buy one-way tickets to Amsterdam. Our dream was to travel the world, play music and just see what would happen. Thirty years later, we're still seeing what's going to happen next! We started making feature films (skipped making short films and went straight to making our first feature in 2004), after we were cast as actors & musicians in an Alec Baldwin/Matthew

Broderick film called "The Last Shot". With that Hollywood paycheck, we bought our first camera and fell in love with filmmaking. We've been making films ever since, touring the world with them, doing concerts, cinema screenings and "pop-up" screenings in living rooms around the world. We just released our 7th feature film "36 Husbands" VOD, worldwide, through Under the Milky Way. Michael writes and directs (and wears every other hat!) I produce (and wear every other hat too!). Our movies



have been on Netflix and are currently available worldwide on iTunes, Amazon, and other platforms.

You have a new film coming out, *36 Husbands*. How would you pitch it to a new audience?

R: *36 Husbands* is an uplifting, musical, mystical, romantic kung-fu spy comedy starring 3 powerful women - and a bunch of husbands! Lots of music in it, a super fun film. Our goal is for audiences to leave the cinema, or home computer, feeling better

than when they walked in!

M: These 3 powerful women are Kung Fu masters, spies, on a mission to slow down the steady march toward World War 3.

Why did you want to tell this story?

M: I wrote a story with what I consider an "improved" situation where women were in charge and men were playing supporting roles. I wanted to mask the more serious undercurrents with comedy and a light-hearted feel. (I think

there's enough dark & depressing material out there these days - just watch the news for a few minutes and you'll probably agree.)

What have been the biggest challenges getting this film made?

R: That's a great question for indie filmmakers. Facing challenges and problem solving is a big part of the creative process! Making films is also great training for daily life: how to overcome every obstacle that comes your way. We've never had tons of money to make our films, so we've had to think outside the box. We go for high quality but keep things



simple. Do the best you can with what you have right in front of you. We've learned how to wear all the hats, from camera, lighting, casting, writing, editing, catering, music, etc. If you are willing to do all the jobs, have fun while working really hard, and stay positive, it always comes together. Asking for help from your community is a big key to successful filmmaking (from crowdfunding to locations to...). With 36 Husbands, we decided to cast 4 super special terrific actors from Germany, Italy and Ireland (Christa Pasch,

Nadine Nourney, Roberta Bianchini & Dominique Anglim) that could also be our core crew when they weren't on camera. Since we were making a spy comedy that takes place in 4 different countries (Australia, Germany, France & USA), we needed to find actors that would travel with us for 5 months and also be up for learning new skills. It was an amazing team, we cooked together, built props together, location scouted together, did just about everything together, and we became a very close family through this journey. Finding places to stay for

6 people was a new challenge for me as Producer. Most of the time it's just Michael and I, traveling the world together, doing concerts and movie screenings. But amazing things happened when I asked for help. People in every country invited us & our actors to stay with them and also let us shoot scenes in their fabulous locations. We made new friends everywhere we went.

Who are your movie influences?

M: The period that most influences me is the 1930's and 1940's. Ernst Lubitsch, Howard Hawks, Frank Capra, George Cukor, and a bit later,

Billy Wilder. I love the old "Studio Films". I once had an opportunity to ask Mickey Rooney what a typical work day was like during the Studio System days. He said, "We worked 9 to 5, Monday through Friday. Never on weekends and rarely had to work overtime." He also added, "There was a difference between us, back then, and the filmmakers of today: We knew what we were doing." He went on to explain that because the same technical team worked together on every film, grips, set designers, etc., they all knew each other and knew what to do. It was super efficient. I love watching films from that period - 30's through the mid 1950's.

R: Great inspiring stories, amazing actors, films with a high vibe, a deeper meaning, with comedic elements and without vulgarity are what I enjoy most. Some of my

favorites are "You Can't Take it With You", "It's a Wonderful Life", "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington", "The Wizard of Oz", "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" I'm just a big kid when it comes to films!

What advice would you give to new filmmakers?

R: If you don't LOVE making films or creating art, don't do it. You can't hold back on any level or it just won't happen. Take your time in building a great team and pick people that you love to hang out with and have spent time getting to know. Filmmaking is intense, it's 24/7, really hard work, but super fun. Pre-production is really important, don't rush it, you can save yourself lots of trouble, if you work out most of it in advance. Film school can be great, but if funds are limited, why not skip school, buy some gear and learn by doing? After 7 features we're

finally getting the hang of it!

What's next for you?

M: I have a few script ideas ready to go... I'm just waiting to see what the world does in the next year or so to see what story needs telling.

What would you say if you were a dolphin?

M: I'd be just like Flipper and squeak and shriek and somebody on the dock would say: "He's trying to tell us something! He's trying to say that Billy and Bud's boat threw a propeller and are stranded on that island that criminals use as a hide-out! We have to hurry!"

R: I'm a Gorilla! Gorillas love dolphins and all living creatures. Let's all get along and play together. It's all a dream, so enjoy the journey, do what you love and do your best to serve others!