



The Ascent



BEST FEATURE, FICTION FILM PROFESSIONAL
The Mosaic Film Festival
2018

BEST FEATURE
Low to No Film Festival and Writers Competition
2018

SPIRIT AWARD WINNER
Film Festival of Columbus
2018

AUDIENCE AWARD WINNER
NEVERMORE
— 2018 —

WINNER
AWARD OF MERIT
ESPRESSO MENESTIN
TradeFEST



Synopsis

Veteran Homicide Detective Henry Cardenas (Miguel Perez) faces off against his toughest suspect yet in Vince Marins (Stephen Buchanan), a murder suspect claiming to be a fallen angel.

During their roller coaster night together Henry will uncover truths both new, and long buried.

[IMDB](#)



THE ASCENT

MIGUEL PEREZ, STEPHEN BUCHANAN, AMBER WALTER
SAM HOOD, DAVID CASTANEDA, ANISHA ADUSUMILLI, ZELDA ADAMS,
SCORE BY JOHN BENNETT | PRODUCED BY MATTHEW RENDON
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY TOM MORTAGH

Reviews

'THE ASCENT' (2017) IS INDIE FILM-MAKING AT ITS BEST (REVIEW)

"Story, mystery, and atmosphere" make a great film - Meet director Tom Murtagh & producer Matt Renoir of horror-noir The Ascent

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[The Ascent Teaser Trailer](#)

THE ASCENT

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Film • Features

"Story, mystery, and atmosphere" make a great film - Meet director Tom Murtagh & producer Matt Renoir of horror-noir The Ascent

I caught up with director Tom Murtagh and producer Matt Renoir of the superbly low budget indie horror-noir The Ascent for a chat on film, influences, film noir, horror, film-making, and alot more...

Wess Haubrich
12 Mar, 2018

Awards



- Audience Award Best North American Feature
2018 Nevermore Film Festival
- Best Feature Film
2018 The Mosaic Film Festival
- Award of Merit Special Mention
2018 IndieFest Film Awards
- Spirit Award
2018 Film Festival of Columbus
- Best Feature, Best Director, Best Actor, Best FX
2018 Low to No Film Festival

Meet the Director and Producer



Writer/Director Tom Murtagh has been writing screenplays and fiction for years, driven by a simple love for storytelling. More recently, he has ventured into directing and *The Ascent* is his first feature film as a director. A native of New Jersey, he is a graduate of SUNY Purchase where he obtained a degree in philosophy.

[IMDB](#)



Producer Matthew Renoir is really trying to think of something creative to write about himself. I guess he could say everything he does is film, or film-related. After graduating SFSU, he began working on low budget feature films, commercials, and live events in San Francisco. After moving to Los Angeles, and working solely as a cinematographer, he expanded his film horizon by breaking into Producing.

The Ascent is his first go at Producing, and he is glad to have that accomplishment.

[IMDB](#)

Cast



Miguel Perez fell in love with performing after seeing Man of La Mancha in the 7th Grade. Beginning his work on stage, Miguel has since worked in films with the likes of Johnny Depp, Clint Eastwood, Steven Spielberg, Harrison Ford, Hilary Swank and many others. On television he has appeared on ER, Seinfeld, The Good Wife, NCIS-LA and CSI.

Miguel has most recently appeared on AMC's Fear the Walking Dead, and ABC's Designated Survivor.

[IMDB](#)



Stephen Buchanan is a Los Angeles based Actor, and Singer. With extensive Theater experience, and a solid background in Film, he is an absolute force.

He played the role of Noble in Bomb the System, appeared in the web series Coasters as Colton, and recently released an EP under his stage name Cesl Rock.

[IMDB](#)



David Castaneda has been up to quite a bit since appearing in the film. He's since been a regular on Jane the Virgin, landed a role in the Sicario sequel Soldado, and was most recently cast as a lead in Netflix's The Umbrella Academy.

[IMDB](#)



Sam Rodd is a Los Angeles based Actor, and Voiceover artist, whose work can be heard with Lexus, along with numerous Movie Trailers.

[IMDB](#)



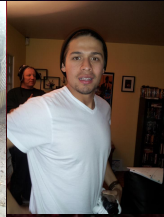
Amber Waller can be seen in commercials, and most recently on Funny Or Die in the Glowing Up Fast campaign of videos for Shell.

[IMDB](#)



Anisha Adusumilli's love for performing began at a young age, studying dancing and singing. She graduated from UCLA, soon after appeared on Fox's New Girl, NCIS: LA, Heartbeat, and most recently Honda's new Hybrid Campaign.

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The Film

The Ascent began as a 131 page shooting script, with nearly all of the pages dedicated to the interrogation between Detective Henry Cardenas, and murder suspect Vince Marins. We spent a year in Pre-Production seeking our cast through the audition process. We found the lead role of Henry Cardenas the most challenging to fill. Fortunately, through word of mouth we met the talented Miguel Perez who agreed to play Henry, and we are glad he did. We're very proud of our entire cast.

We pulled together all of our resources to make this film happen. Friends, and significant others filled crew positions, as well as a few roles. Primary production took place on location in Los Angeles over the course of thirteen days. The bulk of the film was shot at our Police Station, and the Crime Scene locations. Additional footage was shot around Los Angeles over the next year.

Runtime: 98 Minutes

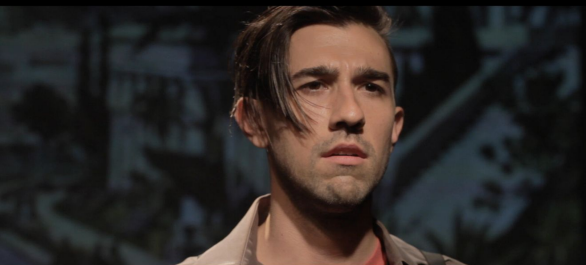
Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

Shooting Format: HD

Sound: Dolby Digital 5.1

Exhibition Format: Blu-Ray, MOV, DCP

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Shooting On Location



While the first day of production went off without a hitch, Day Two proved to be a beast of a day. During our first shots, we heard the unmistakable sounds of an upstairs office being completely cleared out. We'd rented our space on a weekend to save money and these moving guys had a job to do.

Always willing to lend a hand, our crew assisted in moving the upstairs office's 1,800lb Fire Safe Filing Cabinets down to the first floor, and into a moving truck. No necks were broken and production resumed as soon as we saw tail lights.

The production was also treated to the very active events of a neighboring Bartending School, "LAPD" Office Neighbors, and of course Rain on our one exterior day.

Through it all, our team made it happen.

Credits

Writer and Director - Tom Murtagh

Producer - Matthew Renoir

Associate Producer - Gina Bracamonte

Production Coordinator - Daniel Hubbard

Casting Director - Christina Marin

1st Assistant Director - Justin Taylor Dobson

Costumer - Victoria Pitt

Key Makeup Artist - Kim Distel

Sound Mixer - John Bennett

Post Sound Mixer - Brian Hawlk

Composer - John Bennett

Cinematographer - Jeff Galyan

Editor - Nate Hoeft

Colorist/VFX - Ben Gilbert

Props - Aaron Therol

Cast

Henry Cardenas - Miguel Perez

Vince Marins - Stephen Buchanan

Frank Oslo - Sam Rodd

Regina Parker - Amber Waller

Laura Maldonado - Anisha Adusumilli

Luis Medina - David Castaneda

Tracy DeLeon - Zelda Adams

Olivia Renowitz - Nicol Razon

Young Henry - Armando Broncas

Det. Rollins - Tim Halling

Det. Markesh - Eddie Kehler

911 Operator - Quinn Sullivan

Olivia Renowitz (Voice) - Kendall Chappell

Undercover Cop 1 - Josh Wood

Undercover Cop 2 - Parker Sloane

Crime Scene Photographer - Timothy Legerton

Links

Official Website - www.theascentmovie.com

Trailer - <https://vimeo.com/245063351>

Facebook - www.facebook.com/ascentmovie

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/theascentmovie>

Instagram - www.instagram.com/theascentmovie/

Email - theascentmovie@gmail.com