

# **EUGENE**

## **Director's Notes**

### **by Jake Barsha**

EUGENE was one of four stories that I had intended to shoot with a skeleton crew and a micro budget. Three of those stories evolved into polished scripts, one of them still remains a treatment. EUGENE was originally written as the character study of a lonely man. I think it's up to the viewer to determine for themselves the meaning of the movie. I had set out with two goals. The first goal was to make something that I believed in -entertaining, the second, was to have fun doing it.

EUGENE is a strange story, and perhaps an even stranger story how it actually evolved into a motion picture. I had met Stuart Bennett in 2004. He had given up his entire life in Washington DC and moved to Los Angeles to pursue his dream of acting. At that time I was working primarily as a camera assistant/film loader in the commercial production industry. I had written a couple of scripts, and had several story ideas, but did not have the resources to turn them into movies. I finally decided to shoot, regardless of budget, equipment, or cost. I was determined to make the movie with whatever available resources I had access to. I had cast Stuart Bennett in several of the early no budget short films that I made, I shared my treatment for EUGENE with several actors including Stuart, when Stuart read the script he said he was blown away and said he would do anything he had to do to play this part. Stuart Bennett financed the movie.

When I was young, I was the type of kid who used to stay up all night watching the late movies on local TV. My favorite movie up until I was nine years old was OMEGA MAN, then it became MAD MAX in 1979 (I had to sneak into a theater to see it). I was also a huge fan of the man with no name. From an early age movies seemed to validate my personal tendency to day dream. I guess my film influences come from the many, many movies I like, TAXI DRIVER, IN COLD BLOOD, A FIST FULL OF DOLLARS, noir, foreign, that sort of thing. I watch everything I can, I love movies. I especially love the learning process that accompanies filmmaking. I hope the psycho-sexual love story of EUGENE reaches an audience and provides them with entertainment. After all, I have been told that there exist some aspect of EUGENE in everyone.

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