

‘Vicious’ takes a look inside the stripper’s world

Thriller is years in making

By **DAVE FISHER**
For Cannon Beach Gazette

Scheduled to be released this September, the critically-acclaimed film “Vicious” made its Oregon coast debut in February on a cold winter’s night in Manzanita. For writer/director Jason Rosenblatt of Portland it’s been a decade’s-long journey.

“I wrote and directed my first short films in college before attending the New York Film Academy six-week summer program and then the graduate film program at Columbia College Chicago,” said Rosenblatt, who grew up in Beaverton and graduated from Lewis and Clark in 1999 with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. “After a decade in film school and then working in the trenches of Hollywood, I returned to Portland in 2008 determined to stop talking about films and start making them.”

The idea for “Vicious” came up shortly after Rosenblatt returned home from Los Angeles.

“I was looking for work that would allow me to continue to pursue my writing and editing work. I realized one option available, if I was a woman, might be stripping because there could be a significant amount of dead time.”

Ideas soon flowed and the script went through a few years of rewrites with help from fellow Portlander Randall Jahnson, writer of “The Doors.”

“So, the idea for ‘Vicious’ came in 2008, the first draft in 2009, and 10 years later

the film, which was filmed in Portland, is finally being released,” said Rosenblatt.

The 96-minute film, intended for mature audiences, stars Angela Nordeng, Tommy Harrington, Jason Richter, Geno Romo and Tommy Hestmark. “Vicious” features a number of Portland businesses, musicians and actors. The film is due for release this fall from Summer Hill Entertainment.

In a nutshell, “Vicious” is the story of a young woman, Belle White, who is working her way through law school. By night, she is a stripper. Belle, who’s stage name is Roxie, becomes alarmed when she finds herself the object of a middle-aged stalker who refuses to leave her alone until she agrees to quit working as a stripper. She delves deeper into the darkness of the world in which she has become entrapped, but in the end gains the strength to overcome those forces that played a negative role in her life.

The film, with its twists and turns, gives its audience a glimpse of the enticing and exciting world of exotic dance and its flip side, a backstage view of the inner workings of a dark and seedy profession.

The filming took place in late 2013 with reshoots in 2014. Editing and sound design continued through 2015. The film made the rounds at festivals in 2016 and 2017 during which it earned numerous awards, including best actress for Angela Nordeng, who plays Belle, at a variety of film festivals and Rosenblatt as best director at the Oregon Independent Film Festival.

Geno Romo, a Portland radio station DJ and



Angela Nordeng, who plays Belle White in the film “Vicious,” earned Best Actress honors at various film festivals in 2016-17.

one of the film’s supporting actors, accompanied Rosenblatt to the recent screening of “Vicious” at Manzanita’s Hoffman Center for the Arts.

“I was amazed how long it took to complete,” said Romo of the independent effort. “Months after I had completed my shoots I ran into Jason only to learn that he was still working on the film.”

Part of the reason, explained Rosenblatt, was funding. “There’s no standard budget or timeline for independent films,” he said. “‘Vicious’ is what’s considered ultra-low or no-budget. While there were investors, the investment amount was not significant compared to the majority of films that get completed and distributed.”

Like Belle in the movie, Rosenblatt’s means to an end involves another job, working a graveyard shift as a concierge at a downtown

Portland condominium to help make ends meet. During production he received help from friends and acquaintances who filled in as “extras” during the shoot. In one particular scene, a raucous group of strip club patrons begin yelling and shouting obscenities at Belle as she performs onstage, bringing her to tears.

“They’re not at all like that in real life,” noted Rosenblatt. “It was a stretch for them to act like that.”

As for how long it took to complete “Vicious,” Rosenblatt has no regrets.

“What we did different from other films I’ve heard of is that we never gave up on re-shoots and fixes to get it right,” he explained. “The initial production was 18 days, but then there were 12 days of reshoots and then another 20+ days of pickup shots. And more reshoots with producer Andre Khurul

and then editor Sean Parker, as well as additional dialog and sound effects work with composer Bryan Minus and sound designer Jason Wells.”

Romo, who plays the strip club owner, agrees that the extra time was worth the effort. “It made for a better film and if there’s any money to be made, this guy (Rosenblatt) certainly deserves it.”

Long range, Rosenblatt’s goal is a career writing and directing stories as feature films, TV shows, and web series. “I’m always writing and searching for the next story to tell,” he said.

Currently, he’s in regular production on a YouTube web series titled “Ted Tantrum: the Self Reliant Man,” starring Alan Burrell. His second feature, “Intersection,” has been shot and edited with the sound design and score still in the works.

“I am also in pre-produc-

tion on four no-budget short films intended to target film festivals such as the McMinville Film Festival, where, last month, I had three of my films play for audiences.”

Indeed, it’s a busy time for the Portland-area native who, around the age of 13, decided he wanted to be a novelist and, later in college, that he wanted to be a screenwriter.

The trailer for “Vicious” and additional information can be found at summerhillfilms.com/vicious. Some of Rosenblatt’s short films are available on Vimeo.com.

The Manzanita Film Series is a program of the Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita. Films are screened monthly throughout the year featuring unique and provocative films created by filmmakers from around the Pacific Northwest. For more information visit hoffmanarts.org.

Coast Happenings Calendar YOUR GUIDE TO MUSIC, ART, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL EVENTS ON THE NORTH COAST

Friday, March 8

Bill Hayes
5-7 p.m., Cheri’s Cafe, guitar; 239 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach, 503-436-1129.

Wes Wahrmond
6-9 p.m., The Bistro, guitar, 263 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; 503-436-2661.

Art and Wine Walk
6-8 p.m., Savor Cannon Beach. For more information, visit www.savorcannonbeach.com, or call 888-609-6051.

Maggie & the Katz
6:30 p.m., Sweet Basil’s Cafe, 271 N. Hemlock St. Cannon Beach; 503-436-1539. No cover.

Texas Hold ‘em
7 p.m., American Legion, 1216 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-2973, 21+

Saturday, March 9

Nehalem Estuary Cleanup
4:30 a.m., Salmonberry Saloon, 380 Marine Dr., Wheeler, OR. For more information, visit lnwc.nehalem.org, or call 503-368-7424.

WINGS Conference
8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., a free conference designed to help women explore educational and career opportunities, Columbia Hall at Clatsop Community Col-

lege, Astoria; www.clatsopcc.edu/content/wings-2019-registration-form/ or call 503-717-1852.

Savor Cannon Beach
1-5 p.m., Savor Cannon Beach, Wine Tastings and Beyond. For more information, visit www.savorcannonbeach.com, or call 888-609-6051.

Women of the Blue and Gray
2 p.m., “True Civil War Stories of Mothers, Medics, Soldiers, and Spies,” with Marianne Monson. Cannon Beach Library, 131 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach, 503-436-1391.

Wes Wahrmond
6-9 p.m., The Bistro, guitar, 263 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; 503-436-2661.

Nate Botsford
8 p.m., Public Coast Brewing Co., live music, 264 E. Third St, Cannon Beach. For more information, visit publiccoastbrewing.com, or call 503-436-0285.

The Junebugs
9 p.m., Live music, San Dune Pub, 127 Laneda Ave, Manzanita; 503-368-5080.

Monday, March 11

Tipsy Eagle Workshop
7 p.m., Magical lake land-

scapes, Manzanita Lighthouse, Manzanita.

Burgers & Jam
6:30 p.m., American Legion, 1216 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-2973. The Legion offers burgers and music on Monday nights.

Wednesday, March 13
Wednesday morning meeting
8 a.m., Hosted by the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce, Pizza A’ Fetta, upstairs, 231 N. Hemlock.

Thistle and Rose
5-7:30 p.m., folk/Americana; The Bistro, 263 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; 503-436-2661.

Thursday, March 14

Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Moses Williams
4 p.m., Cannon Beach History Center and Museum, 1387 S. Spruce, Cannon Beach; 503-436-9301.

Sugar Thistles
5:30-7:30 p.m., folk/pop duo; The Bistro, 263 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; 503-436-2661.

Annie Oakley
6 p.m., N. Tillamook Library, 571 Laneda Ave., Manzanita; 503-368-6665.

Floating Glass Balls
7-9 p.m., Bill’s Tavern, folk, blues and “beachgrass,” 188 N. Hemlock. Cannon Beach; 503-436-2202.

Friday, March 15
Bill Hayes
5-7 p.m., Cheri’s Cafe, guitar; 239 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach, 503-436-1129.

Wes Wahrmond
6-9 p.m., The Bistro, guitar, 263 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; 503-436-2661.

Maggie & the Katz
6:30 p.m., Sweet Basil’s Cafe, 271 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-1539, www.cafesweetbasils.com, no cover, 21+. Maggie & the Katz play blues, soul and rhythm-n-blues.

Texas Hold ‘em
7 p.m., American Legion, 1216 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-2973, 21+

“Living on Love”
7:30 p.m., Coaster Theatre Playhouse, 108 North Hemlock St., Cannon Beach; coastertheatre.com, 503-436-1242.

Language of Time
6 p.m., Stirling Gorsuch Art Exhibit Opening; Cannon Beach History Center and Museum, 1387 S. Spruce, Cannon Beach; 503-436-9301.

Saturday, March 16

Arch Cape Forest Acquisition plan
11 a.m.-noon; presentation at the Arch Cape Fire Station located at 79729 US-101, Arch Cape; archcapeforest@gmail.com.

Fire Mountain Raffle Party
5:30-9 p.m., With live music by Seattle area band, Hot Club Sandwich; at the Old Nehalem Fire Hall, 35900 Eighth St Nehalem. Tickets can be purchased from a Fire Mountain parent or online at Firemountainraffle2019.eventbrite.com.

Pouring at the Coast
3 p.m., Sample from more than 60 types of craft beer presented by nearly 30 breweries, food, and live music. Seaside Civic and Convention Center, 415 1st Avenue, Seaside.

Poetry Reading
4:30 p.m. p.m., with Kim Stafford, North Tillamook Library, Manzanita; 503-368-6665.

Wes Wahrmond
6-9 p.m., The Bistro, guitar, 263 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; 503-436-2661.

Adams and Costello
7 p.m., Public Coast Brewing Co., 264 E. Third St., Cannon Beach; 503-436-0285.

Canary and the Rooster
7-9 p.m., Canary and the Rooster play classic rock music. Seaside American Legion, 1315 Broadway, Seaside.

Yur Daddy
9 p.m., live music, Manzanita Lighthouse, 36480 US-101, Nehalem., 503-368-4090.

“Living on Love”
7:30 p.m., Coaster Theatre Playhouse, 108 North Hemlock St., Cannon Beach; coastertheatre.com, 503-436-1242.

Monday, March 18

Burgers & Jam
6:30 p.m., American Legion, 1216 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-2973. The Legion offers burgers and music on Monday nights.

Tuesday, March 19

Winter Wordplay
10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., drop-in writing lounge from Manzanita Writers Series, at the Hoffman Center, 594 Laneda Avenue, Manzanita; hoffmanarts.org.

Nature Matters
7-9 p.m. at Fort George Brewery, 1483 Duane St., Astoria. “A Virtual Tour of Oregon’s Marine Reserves,” presented by Cape Falcon Marine Reserve; CapeFalconMR@gmail.com; 503-702-4869.



MARKETPLACE

To place a classified ad call 503-325-3211, log onto www.cannonbeachgazette.com or stop in at 1555 N. Roosevelt in Seaside | Deadline is Monday at noon

157 Events

The Sharpening Doc will be sharpening knives, scissors, some garden tools. Saturday 3/9/19 10-12 10th&Duane, Astoria.

201 Antique & Classic Vehicles

27th Annual Astoria Automotive Swap Meet Vendors Wanted Clatsop Fairgrounds Saturday, March 9th 8am-2pm Contact Fred 503-440-9481 Dorothy 503-468-0006

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Now Hiring
Full-Time Employment Family Health Center seeks FT Med Asst for our clinic in Ocean Park, WA. Benefit Package. Send resume Ocean Park, Washington. Jobs@cfamhc.org

Hiring The Following Positions
• Landscape maintenance personnel. Drivers license required.
• Landscape construction/irrigation personnel
Contact (503)739-0984 for application and more information.

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651 Help Wanted

Full-Time Employment Receptionist needed for busy medical office, 8-5pm Monday-Friday Experience preferred. Send resume to Attn Jeanne 2120 Exchange St Suite 200 Astoria, Oregon. (503)325-5360

Buyer/Lead Clerk-Bookstore: Half-time position. View job description/qualifications and apply on-line at our web site <https://www.clatsopcc.edu/human-resources/>. This position is open until filled with first review of applications on March 15, 2019. Call the Office of Human Resources at Clatsop Community College 503 338-2406 if application assistance is needed. AA/EOE

651 Help Wanted

Seaside Golf Club Restaurant and Lounge is looking for a full-time cook with breakfast, lunch, and evening bar menu experience. Must have experience in complete food prep, food management of ordering and food costs, specials menu, etc. Leave the city lights and stress behind and move to the beach. \$15-\$20 an hour DOE. Contact Phil at 503-738-2607 or apply in person at Seaside Golf Course, 451 Ave U, Seaside.

UPGRADING? Sell your used equipment fast, by listing it in The Cannon Beach Gazette classified section. Call 503-325-3211.

651 Help Wanted

Project Coordinator, Alliance for Equity in Education (.75 FTE): ¾ time position, grant-funded through March 2022. View job description/qualifications and apply on-line at our web site www.clatsopcc.edu. Position is open until filled with first review of applications on March 15, 2019. Call the Office of Human Resources at Clatsop Community College 503-338-2406 if application assistance is needed. AA/EOE

Call 503-325-3211 to place a classified ad in the Seaside Signal or Cannon Beach Gazette!