

Columbia University
Film Producing R6035
Spring 2009
Monday 6-9

Katie Roumel, katieroumel@earthlink.net

Office hours: Appointments available before class or through email above.

Reading: Script of *Savage Grace* (prior to first class)
Savage Grace: The True Story of Fatal Relations in a Rich and Famous American Family by Natalie Robins and Steven Aronson (prior to first class)
Various Budgets/Schedules/Press

Overview:

During the course we will study the case history of SAVAGE GRACE – a low budget, independently financed film directed by Tom Kalin and distributed by IFC. We will analyze the film from development to distribution.

The second part of the course will involve re-conceiving a big budget movie (already released) into a low/moderately budgeted film. In teams of two, this exercise will involve a creative pitch, financing proposal, breakdown and production budget and an oral presentation to the class. These presentations will consist of the plan of attack for each stage of production (rewriting, casting, budgeting, shooting and post production).

Additionally:

- Guest speakers will be brought in to discuss various topics in depth.
- We will devote a portion of each class to discussing the practical application.

Course Structure

1. January 26 Introduction, Discussion Watch SG
2. February 2 Development/Rights/WGA/Writers/Casting
Team assignments, start brainstorming for re-envisioning exercise
3. February 9 Financing/Actors/Raising Money/PreSales
Teams present big budget movie and outline 5-10 areas of focus (obstacles and how to overcome).

4. February 16 Tom Kalin comes to class
PreProduction/ Production and Post Scheduling
Hand in proposal letter to financier, start to breakdown the film you will budget
Start Oral presentations 5 min each, one from each group
5. February 23 Hiring Key Crew/Budgeting
Where to shoot/Build or Location
Hand in breakdowns, production budget discussions in-class
Oral presentations 5 min each, one from each group
6. March 2 Dealmaking/Negotiating
Read /Pitch Financing Proposal Letters
Oral presentations 5 min each, one from each group
7. March 9 Insurance/Legal/Payroll/Bonds/Banks
Production Budget discussions
Oral presentations 5 min each, one from each group
- March 16 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
8. March 23 Shooting/Camera/Sound/G&E/Art Dept
Hand in draft of production budget
9. March 30 Production Dept/Dailies Post Production
Budget Discussion in-class
10. April 6 Editing/Picture and Sound
11. April 13 Music
Hand in Second Revision of production Budget
12. April 20 Distribution/Foreign Sales/Marketing
Budget Discussion in-class
13. April 27 Publicity/Festivals
14. May 4
- May 11 (CLASS 15?) MakeUp Day (TBD)