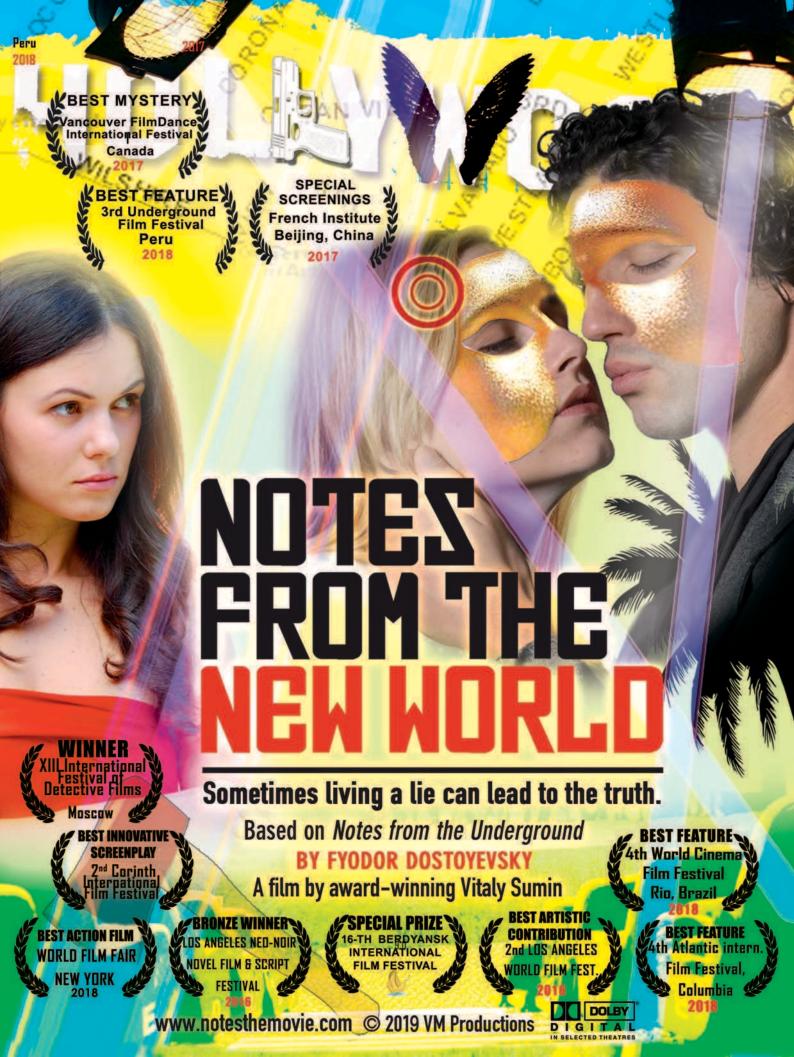


PRESS KIT

Notes From The New World A film by Vitaly Sumin











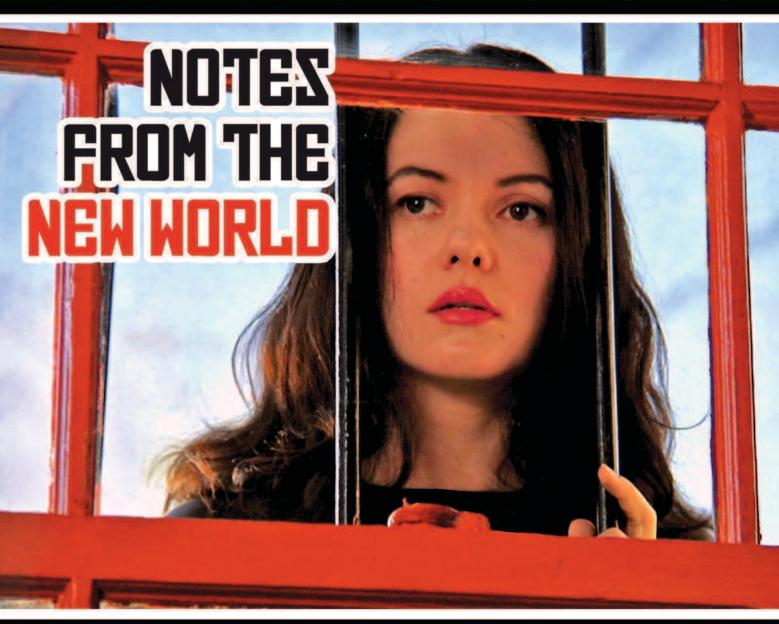












Sometimes living a lie can lead to the truth.



Based on *Notes from the Underground*BY FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY
A film by award-winning Vitaly Sumin



BEST FEATURE FILM

4th Atlantic Internationa

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www.notesthemovie.com www.vmpfilms.com



A WORD by the Director

Whatever is depicted, it's essential that a film's content resonate with contemporary audiences. Vitaly Sumin, president of VM Productions, is the writer-director-producer of Notes From The New World, a feature adapted from Fyodor Dostoevsky's short story, Notes From The Underground. Relates Sumin, "In transporting the essential elements of the prophetic masterpiece, Notes From The Underground, that predicted the major events of our time from mid-19th-century Russia to modern-day California, I have underscored the universality of Dostoevsky's tale as well as the commonalities of the human experience..." (Christina Hamlett, in American Chronicle, during the first stages of preproduction, November 2009)

Notes from the New World is both an adaptation and a continuation of Dostoyevsky's work. At the same time, it's a re-telling. What's important are the ideas and themes of the original writing. I've never been particularly interested in the exact re-creation of stories by classical authors, including the appropriate attributes of the corresponding historical time period involved. For me, every classic work of fiction is a template serving as basis for explorations of our own age.

Vitaly Sumin



THE FILM

Los Angeles, 2012. In the process of preparing for the leading role in a play based on Dostoevsky's *Notes from the Underground*, a young actor is drawn into a world of intrigue, romance, and murder.

Steven (24), a struggling actor is hired by Bob (50), a wealthy playwright, to play the lead in a show based on Dostoevsky's Notes from the Underground. To gather material, Bob hires Irina (24), a Russian Mafia call girl, to visit Steven as Liza, the prostitute in the original story. Their interaction is observed on video monitors by Bob and through a window by Sonia (19), a beautiful stalker. The two women soon find themselves vying for Steven's affections as well as the leading female role in Bob's play. Their acting, it turns out, is not confined to the stage.

Danger intrudes when a Mafia fortune disappears; everyone is suspected. Fortunately, Irina's boss and lover, Misha (29), is distracted by the prospect of managing her to Hollywood stardom.

The characters' parallel destinies converge with the premiere of Bob's play. But after the curtain falls, the film goes on to answer one final question: Can true love, peace, and happiness be found in a world of ceaseless danger and deception.

On another level the story suggests an amazing reading of the state of the post modern world. Are we witnessing a certain realization of Dostoevsky's prophecies?



THE Director BIO

Writer-Producer-Director

After receiving an M.S. degree in Oceanography, VITALY SUMIN produced ocean-related documentaries (Jacques Cousteau style) which eventually led him to abandon his scientific career to get a B.A. degree in film directing. He subsequently worked as a co-writer and producer on numerous productions.



Sumin's award winning short film **From Womb To Tomb**, which he wrote, directed edited, and produced, made a world tour of important festivals. Sumin received a US patent #4,784,394 for his invention **The World Belongs To You!** - an interactive tourist game (including video, reality TV and other versions).

Sumin further studied at The Sorbonne in Paris under a study grant. His script **The Idiot**, a contemporary international thriller based on DOSTO-YEVSKY's novel, received a development grant from The Warner Bros Fund. A number of other Sumin's scripts are circulating in the United States and Europe. Vitaly Sumin currently resides in Los Angeles.

In March 2017 a new VMP film in development, *Crime and Punishment L.A.*, made it to the <u>Top Eight of the Stage 32 European Co-Production Matchmaking Program</u>. The prize included being featured at a panel at SXSW in Austin, and also a one-on-one session with several European Film Commissioners to talk about the co-funding with European producers. Crime and Punishment L.A. is a modern-day adaptation of Dostoyevsky's famous novel about a man who commits a crime and eventually is condemned by his own conscience. This adaptation is set in Los Angeles during the riots of 1992. The project is in active development with the European co-partners.

In June 2013 he was appointed as a Jury Member of the short films section by the Direction of the 16th International Film Festival Brigantina, Ukraine http://www.notesthemovie.com/Brigantine-Jury-Shorts-June, 2013.html

In 2006 he wrote/produced and directed feature film Shades of Day

- www.shadesofday.com in the framework of his DOSTOYEVSKY - Los Angeles Project - http://www.shadesofday.com/VMP/new-projects.htm

Shades of Day - an adaptation of DOSTOYEVSKY's novella "White Nights" was selected by the Rutgers University's professor Gerald Pirog for his course in cinema along with the classic works by Bertolucci, Kurosawa, Bresson, Scorsese, Shrader, Von Sternberg... -http://www.shadesofday.com/critics.htm

For various reasons - mainly because the film was shot on super 16 separately in b&w and color - the negative remained uncut until the completion of Director's Cut in 2013. In April 2013 Shades of Day finally began its tour of the festivals.

2013 - Shades of Day - New Director's Cut-2013

























In 2011 Vitaly wrote, directed and produced feature film **Notes From The New World** - <u>www.notesthemovie.com</u> - an adaptation of "Notes From The Underground" by F. DOSTOYEVSKY -- in the framework of his **DOSTOYEVSKY - Los Angeles Project**

- Winner of the 13th International Festival of Detective Films Moscow, Russia April 2011
- Best Innovative Screenplay and the Golden Pegasus Plaque of Recognition by the Office of Corinth Major 2nd Corinthian International Film Festival, Greece (December 3-10, 2011)

































In 2011 Vitaly produced and directed 19 mini series titled **The Missing Screenwriter**: http://www.vmpfilms.com/the_missing_screenwriter.html.

The project became a winner of the 14th International Festival of Detective Films - Moscow, Russia - April 2012 (Category "Crime and Punishment")

2014-2017 -

--postproduction of the feature length **Behind The Scenes Documentary-Reimagining Dostoevsky** (writer, producer, director). www.dostoevsky-bts.com

--postproduction of the feature length film **The Missing Screenwriter** based on the award winning series (writer, producer, director).

2013-2017 -

Development of the package of 3 feature length projects (writer, producer, director): Idiot, LA, Shades of Blood, Crime &Punishment, LA with the participation of A and B cast:

www.shadesofday.com/VMP/new-projects.htm

QUESTIONS TO Vitaly Sumin

What was it like working with the unknown actors? Much better than with "known" actors.

If you had to do it all over again what would you do differently? I wouldn't do it again. I would simply make another movie.

What did you learn from directing films?
It's better to watch films than to make them.

Who are your influences?
Bergman, Truffaut, Kubrick, Kurosava, Hitchcock...

What do you see as the future of filmmaking? And you?

Beyond the storyline you have developed in your film, what is your broader message regarding the state of society both in America and throughout the world?

Well, we're living in an unprecedented time of technological revolution and the fall of the walls. Hamlet who lived at the time of another revolution - the passage from Renaissance to Baroque - stated that "time has dislocated the joint!"—which I'm citing from memory. Whatever happens in a faraway corner of the world may become known right away anywhere in the world.

The problem is that to change a living human being in an evolutionary way requires a longer time, if it's ever possible. Most, if not all, social revolutions that intended to quickly change the world failed but provided us with experience. On the other hand, the technological revolution made some dreams come true; in a way, the world has become one.

Steven, hero of *Notes From The New World*, who is assigned to portray a modern "Underground Man" in the Los Angeles of 2012, claims: "Not all civilizations progress at the same pace, but then the losers use bombs to make all of us equal."

Describe the process that you went through to develop a "life imitates art" storyline where the characters are actually living the modern version of the play in which they are acting on screen.

When an actor performs on stage, a process of identification with a character takes place. Depending on the degree and scope of the identification, an actor may need some time to "get back" and restore his or her inner self. In the story of Notes From The New World, Steven, a young actor at the beginning of his career, is asked by Bob, a mad Machiavellian-type director and playwright, to perform the part of the "Underground Man" in real life. Once Steven puts on the mask of the "Underground Man", there's

no way back : he's entering a world of mythical forces that will push him all the way through the labyrinth into the "Unknown".

How is the action in your film juxtaposed against the futility of the "Underground Man" and his inability to change either himself or the society he blames for his misery?

Every common man of no particular influence or stature throughout history has felt that he has no real control over his own fate. In today's modern society, however, the common man has the illusion of control of his own destiny through technology. And even though Steven is surrounded by elements of modern technology-such as the spy cameras throughout his living quarters being used to help him develop his part-he ultimately finds that he's not the one controlling them. He only had the illusion of control. As such, he is really no different than the "Underground Man" that he is researching.

Do you see yourself as an underground man? From time to time.



DEVELOPMENT AND BEYOND

Vitaly Sumin had completed the film *Shades of Day* based on the Dostoevsky's novella *White Nights*. It was time for the second film in his projected Dostoevsky/LA project. He had two Dostoevsky-inspired scripts completed: one was *The Idiot*, written in Paris several years before *Shades of Day*. The other was a re-visioning of *Crime and Punishment* set at the time of the riots that followed the Rodney King verdict in 1992.

But the creative process has a way of establishing its own schedule, and out of inspiration and perhaps a need for the proverbial change of pace, Sumin's writing took a different direction in the form of a new script titled *Love Game*. It was a post-Orwellian tale that combined multiple strands of modern life: high-tech voyeurism, virtual reality, greed, and the diminution of personal meaning. Its characters were caught in a web, not of their own making, but one to which they willing submitted when they entered an electronically monitored maze in order to win a life-changing prize.

But with the ongoing tectonic political and social shifts occurring in the world post 9-11, it soon became apparent that the Dostoevsky/LA project could no longer be kept on hold; and the story that resonated most strongly with the new reality was Notes from the Underground, with its simultaneously sobering and inspiring themes of personal freedom and willful alienation. Working at a feverish pace, Sumin created a script that took Dostoevsky's nineteenth century novella as the starting point for a strikingly original contemporary tale.

Only later did Sumin realize that a key aspect of the plot-an ever-shifting love triangle between the main characters-had been subliminally derived from another work by Dostoevsky, his epic novel *The Idiot*.

The script, soon to be titled *Notes from the New World*, had additional roots in two books outside of the Dostoevsky canon: *The Magus* by John Fowles and *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. The prototype for the plot-driving character of Bob in "Notes," for instance, is none other than Fowles' wealthy Greek master manipulator, Maurice Conchis. Some of Bob's traits are also drawn from the character of Bill in the *Love Game* script, which Sumin wrote well before he'd read *The Magus*. To complete the creative circle, it should be noted that neither *The Magus* nor *The Alchemist* would likely exist without the influence of Dostoevsky.

It was in *Notes from the New World* that the inventions of *Love Game* would find a new and richer context. The concept of a bored, rich master manipulator observing human behavior in his private electronic matrix resurfaced with a heightened degree of humanity in the character of Bob Criden. But his surveillance activities were now motivated, not by idle curiosity, but by

a passion to understand and create. While ethically dubious, this pursuit was in the service of larger, tangible purpose—to provide him with mate—rial for play based on—you guessed it—Dostoevsky's immortal Notes from the Underground. The architecture of the story achieved a new intricacy as it presented a play within a play within a play; it became the dramatic and visual embodiment of Shakespeare's immortal formulation, "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players."

As further evidence of this truth, the story's themes of renewal and betrayal were recapitulated in the very process of making the film. During pre-production, almost the entire cast was replaced during the extended rehearsal process (see "About the Casting.") In effect they became placeholders, allowing the production to gel until the final cast could appear, fresh horses bringing with them a new springiness and spontaneity. And an additional benefit was incurred: as newcomers, strangers in a strange land, they were able to viscerally capture the lost, searching qualities of their characters.

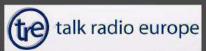
Meanwhile, video clips began appearing on YouTube and the Notes from the New World website (www.notesthemovie.com) concerning the mysterious disappearance of Robert Hurley, Sumin's co-writer on the film. Questions were raised about whether Hurley had engineered his own disappearance or fallen victim to foul play.

This is partially a reflection of Sumin's irony laced humor, though the larger intent of this cyber-charade was the marketing of *Notes from the New World*, a la Blair Witch Project. In this instance, however, the Robert Hurley disappearance exists in its own universe, maintaining no direct connection to the narrative of *Notes from the New World*. Taken together, the Hurley clips constitute a verite-style film of its own, this one eerily featuring the original, mostly departed cast members of "Notes."

But that only underscores one of the underlying themes of "Notes"—that reality holds the possibility of endless creative interpretation. And now, with regard to the film itself, the possibility of interpretation lies with those who view it. Notes from the New World is ready for its close-up.

DISCOVER MORE

MEDIA, PR



PRAISE FOR NOTES FROM THE NEW WORLD by Robert Allen, London based film critic – extract from the interview with Charles Brown /Talk Radio Europe during the Marbella International Film Festival in Costa Del Sol, Spain, October 2012:

www.notesthemovie.com/NFTNW%20Marbella%20Ra-dio%20Critic-12.28.12.mp3

THE VOICE OF RUSSIA

Interview with Vitaly Sumin by The Voice of Russia regarding "Notes From The New World" of April 25th 2011 with Donna West was broadcasted 160 countries in 38 languages on short and medium waves, in the FM bands, satellite and through global mobil communication network, including the internet

http://www.notesthemovie.com/interview/interview.html



NOTES FROM THE NEW WORLD - An Interview with Vitaly Sumin By Ioanna Fotiades during the 2nd Corinth International Film Festival in Greece -December, 2011 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm6DZrykbm white://www.notesthemovie.com/Festivals-break-ing-news-corinth.html



NOTES FROM THE NEW WORLD - An Interview with Vitaly Sumin By Christina Hamlett http://www.notesthemovie.com/interview/Interview%20w.Vita-

ly-American%20Chronicle-Christina-Hamlett-%20NFTNW.pdf



NOTES FROM THE NEW WORLD By Jim Papamichos

- MyFilm.gr http://www.myfilm.gr/10300

THE VOICE OF RUSSIA

Interview with Vitaly Sumin by The Voice of Russia regarding "The Missing Screenwriter" of April 14th 2012 with Donna West was broadcasted to 160 countries in 38 languages on short and medium waves, in the FM bands, satellite and through global mobil communication network, including the internet

http://www.notesthemovie.com/interview_voice_of_russia/interview_voice_of_russia.html

EuroWeeklyNews

NOTES FROM THE NEW WORLD - An Interview with Vitaly Sumin By Nicole Hallet with Euroweekly News during the Marbella International Film Festival in Costa Del Sol, Spain, October 2012

www.euroweeklynews.com/component/k2/item/110123-mytery-evolves-during-making-of-film

One Woman's Writing Retreat

 Interview with Vitaly Sumin by Lisa Pinckard http://www.shadesofday.com/VMP/smile.htm



- **SHADES OF DAY** - Extract from article by Christina Hamlett – Great Adaptations – in Movie Maker Magazine 2008:

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NOTE: For various reasons – mainly because the film was shot on super 16 – separately in b&w and color - the negative remained uncut and the film hasn't been submitted to the festivals.

In April 2013 the New Director's Cut was created. It premiered in April 18, 2013 in the 15th International Film Festival of Detective films in Moscow (www.detectivefest.ru) and became a winner receiving a Special Prize.

VM PRODUCTIONS OUR MISSION

VM Productions is dedicated to developing and producing quality films based on original stories and the masterpieces of world literature. Our films deal with a variety of contemporary issues often neglected by the mainstream cinema-whether studio productions or independents.

We admire the great artists of all times. The richness and complexity of their lives and the discoveries they made to help humanity move forward toward a deeper understanding of life, death, peace, and coexistence serve as the source of our inspiration.

VM Productions has completed two of four slated films in its Dostoevsky-LA Project. Each is conceived as a freewheeling contemporary re-envisioning of a timeless Dostoevsky masterpiece:

The first, Shades of Day, is based on the novella, White Nights. It was recently included in the cinema curriculum of Rutgers University, along with films by Bertolucci, Kurosawa, Von Sternberg, Scorsese, Shrader, and Robert Bresson.

The second, just completed, is *Notes from the New World* based on the novella *Notes from the Underground*.

The third, currently in development, is an international psychological thriller inspired by the novel, *The Idiot*.

The fourth planned film of the project is *Crime and Punishment*, *LA*, in which Dostoevsky's classic tale is transported to the Los Angeles of 1993, around the time of the rioting that followed the Rodney King verdict.



CREDITS

Written, Produced and Directed by Vitaly Sumin

Based on *Notes From The Underground*By Feodor Dostoevsky

Cast

REBECCA SIGL Irina - The Call Girl

NATHANAEL THIESEN Steven - The Poor Guy

NATASHA BLASICK Sonia - The Angel

JERRY PRAGER Bob – The Rich Guy

DEVORAH LYNN DISHINGTON Michelle - Bob's Secretary

MAXIM POLLACK Misha - The Mafia Boss

With (in order of appearance)

RAYMOND ALVAREZ David - Sonia's Guardian Angel

> NICK TERESCHENKO Igor – Mafia Pimp

DMITRY KARPOV Boris – Mafia Spy

RACHEL DWYNWIYN GARLINGTON Angelina-Lolita

JULIA EMELIN Linda - Struggling Actress LANDALL GOOSLSBY Brian - Steven's Friend

TRIP HOPE Dan - Steven's Friend

BRIAN MARTINEZ
Little Angel (Bob's show)

With

(Bob's Show - audience)

DOUG DANE
Spectator (speaking part)

REX HOSS - Spectator
Spectator (speaking part)
JOHNNY GIOSA
JENNIFER HERENKOHL
PAULA HOROWITZ
ELNORA KELLER
CAROL KRAFT
MATT LEIKAM
UDI LOUSHI
BRIAN A. MARTINEZ
STEVEN RICHARDS
VITALY SUMIN

Script by VITALY SUMIN

Produced and Directed by VITALY SUMIN

Executive Co-Producer
ANK BERGSTEDT

Associate Producer
TAESUNG YIM

Original Music by GERARDO PEREZ GIUSTI

Director of Photography
CHIA-YU CHEN

Film Editing by SKIP SPIRO Casting by RICHARD CRATER

Art Direction by BRAD LUBLIN

Script Supervisor SHERRY MASON

Makeup/Hair & FX Department

Makeup/FX/Hair Department Head
MARIANNE PARISE

Makeup, Hair and FX Artist
MARIANNE PARISE

Hair Designer LISA MALCOLM

Production Management

Production &
Post Production Supervisor
TAESUNG YIM

Co-Producer JOHN KEARNS JR.

Line Producer MATT LEIKAM

Production Manager
JOHN DAY

First Assistant Director
UDI LOOSHI

Second Assistant Director
MIKE MULLENIX

Art Department

Construction Coordinator BRAD LUBLIN

Set Decoration NOELLE PAUL

Sound Department

Production Sound Recordist
DAVIN PRESSNALL

Boom Operator & 2nd Unit Sound Recordist GUILLAUME RAYNAUD

> ADR Supervisor DENI KING

Dialogue and Effects Editor STEPHEN PARISE

Dialogue Editor and ADR Mixer
DAVID KRUK

Backgrounds and Music Editor
KAREN YEE

ADR Recordist
TYLER PAYNE

ADR Editor
JESSE DODD

Foley Artist TONY MARGULIES

Foley Mixer DONALD WAYNE JOHNSON

Sound Re-Recording Mixer STEVE SHEPHERD

Sound Design/Mix ExtremeMixing!

Visual Effects

Department Head Effects, Title Animation NIKKI JIEUN LEE

Digital Compositor, FXV, Titles (trailer) BRENTON COVINGTON

VM Productions Logo-Graphics & Animation WAN

Stunts

Stunt Double NICK BOCKELMAN

Stunt Performer ALEX LEVINGSTON

Stunt Coordinator LANCE OSBORNE

Camera and Electrical Department

Camera Operator & 1st Assistant Camera CHRIS DANDRIDGE

Gaffer and Key Grip JOHN KEARNS, JR.

Grip Electrician BRANDON FIERI

Grip Electrician & 2nd Unit's DP DEAN SMOLLAR

Production Photographer REX HOSS

> Set Photographer ADAM WHEELER

Costume and Wardrobe Department

Costume Designer
CHRISTINA KIM

Assistant Costume Designer
GABRIELLA GIGLIOTTI

Costume Supervisor
JOLENE WITHERS

Key Costumer JENNIFER HERRENKOHL

Editorial Department

On-Set Editor
IAN CAMPBELL

Assistant Editors NILES HOGUE CHRISTY ANGELL

Editor-Trailer 1 SKIP SPIRO

Editors-Trailer 2
AMY MOGAVERO
CHRISTY ANGELL
(additional editor)
NILES HOGUE
(assistant editor)

Editor - "Love-Terrorism"(promo clip)
www.notesthemovie.com/behind_videos.html
AMY MOGAVERO

Editor - "Hurley Story"(clips)
www.youtube.com/VMproductionsUS
CHRISTINA CASTRO

Editor - "Funny Auditions", "Poster"
www.notesthemovie.com/behind_videos.html
IHSUAN-JUDITH LIN

Colorist ERIC JOHNSON

Music Department

Composer's Assistant & Music Programmer MARIANTHE BEZZERIDES

Music Supervisor (Rights & Clearances) RHONA RUBIO

Other Crew

Production Assistant
MIKE MULLENIX

Assistant to Producer
ANNIE CHANG

Poster Designer STEPHANIE PHILIPPE

Graphic designer - website MIKE FRALIN

> Webdesinger THOMAS SGUARIO

Artistic Advisor DAN MARCUS

PR Writers TAESUNG YIM JOHN FORTIN LAILAH MORIDZADEH

Graphic Designer - Marketing Material
IAN SLATER

Graphic Artist - Promotion and Publicity
MILOS TIRNANIC

Special Thanks

Administrator for Theater Unlimited DENNIS GERSTEN

Stunt Advisor KAI NUUHIWA

Cala Records PAUL SARCICH

Avilon Audio www.avilonaudio.com GREGORY VOSSBERG

Soundtrack

"Jump Off"
Composer JAMIE WAY
Lyrics by JAMIE WAY
Performed by JAMIE WAY
Produced by JAMIE WAY
Published by VM PRODUCTIONS

"My Soul is singing"
Written by
MARTIN BLASICK, NATASHA BLASICK & LUDMILA KRYLOVA
Produced by MARTIN BLASICK
Performed by
NATASHA and MARTIN BLASICK
Published by
Lavish Music,BMI

Matthäuspassion Part 2. No 39. Aria
Composed by J. S. Bach
PAUL GOODWIN, Conductor
JONATHAN MILLER, Director
Courtesy of Cala Records
www.calarecords.com

Matthäuspassion Part 2. No 68. Chorus
Composed by J. S. Bach
PAUL GOODWIN, Conductor
JONATHAN MILLER, Director
Courtesy of Cala Records
www.calarecords.com

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