

**HAPPY SLAPPING
PRESS COVERAGE**

Happy Slapping Radio coverage

Friday August 12, 2011

CJAD 800 – interview on the Abe Hefter’s Show with Christos Sourligas and Andrew Farrar

Wednesday August 17, 2011

Mike FM – Interview with Christos Sourligas and Andrew Farrar

Thursday August 18, 2011

K103 FM - Interview with Christos Sourligas and Andrew Farrar

Friday August 19, 2011

CKUT – Mention of the film on Off the Hook

Saturday August 20, 2011

CJAD 800 – Interview on the Tracey Mckee show with Debra Kouri and Alex Harrouch

Q92 – Interview with Andrew Farrar on All Access Week end

CHOM – Mention of the film by Jason Rockman

CJAD 800 – Mention of the film on the Abe Hefter Show by Stuart Nulman

Sunday August 21, 2011

Q92 – Rerun of All Access Week End interview with Andrew Farrar

Monday August 22, 2011

CBC radio – Interview on Homerun with Tristan Lalla and Christos Sourligas

CJAD 800 – Interview on The Joey Elias Show with Christos Sourligas and Andrew Farrar

Athens International Radio 104.4 FM – Interview with Christos Sourligas

Tuesday August 24, 2011

Team 990 – Interview on the Mitch Melnick show with Christos Sourligas and Andrew Farrar

Happy Slapping Television Coverage

Thursday August 18, 2011

Global TV – Interview on Summer in the City with Christos Sourligas, Erica Deutschman, Jaa Smith Johnson

Saturday August 20, 2011

CTV – Interview on What’s On with Jesse Camacho, Andrew Farrar and Christos Sourligas

Global TV – Mention in week end round up on Summer in the City

PLAYBACK

Playback
August 2, 2011

<http://playbackonline.ca/2011/08/02/strong-canadian-field-at-montreal-world-film-festival/>

Andre Forcier's *Coteau Rouge*, which stars Roy Dupuis, is to open the Montreal World Film Festival, organizers said Tuesday.

The Quebec film, which also stars Céline Bonnier and Gaston Lepage, offers an offbeat fable about a body disposer for the mob, a shady property developer, an ex-boxer and a grandmother who becomes a surrogate mother.

And also screening in competition in Montreal is Quebec director Demian Fuica's *La Run*, which portrays a Quebec family dealing with the gentrification of their town.

La Run will be the only Canadian feature film contender in Montreal's juried competition, which includes entries from 19 other features and 11 shorts from 19 countries.

Canadian short films entered in competition include Jean-Patrick Joseph's *Thanksgiving Dinner*, Velislav Kazakov's *Overcast* and George Schwizgebel's *Romance*, a Canada/Switzerland coproduction.

The Montreal festival, which tends to focus on world cinema and will feature 383 films from around 70 countries during its Aug. 18 to 28 run, has no Canadian film sidebar this year.

Homegrown films will instead be folded into the main festival sidebars, except for the Canadian Student Film Festival competition of shorts.

Elsewhere, the First Films World Competition will include the Canadian entry *The Maiden Danced to Death*, a Hungary/Canada/Slovenia coproduction by director Endre Hules.

And the Focus on World Cinema showcase will include Peter Bishai's *A Million Colors*, a Canada-South Africa coproduction, Charles Wahl's *Webdultery*, Nicholas Kinsey's *Killing Ruth – The Snuff Dialogues*, Josh Koffman's *Dead Dreams*, and *Happy Slapping* by Canadian director Christos Sourligas.

The Focus on World Cinema's short film section will also feature Canadian entries like Chris Remerowski's *Life on the River*, Farzin Farzaneh's *Drat*, Emilie Gaudet's *Between the Lines*, and Danny Lynch's *The Washing Machine*.

Montreal also booked a solid lineup of Canadian documentaries, *Blinding*, by Steve Sanguedolce, Aaron Yeger's *A People Uncounted*, *Les Pales Du Mal – Parcours Citoyen* by directors Jean and Serge Gagné, Jay Bajaj's *We Ain't Rich Or Famous But We Are Happy Pals*, and *Behind The Camera* by Bob Mckenna.



Le Buzz

August 17, 2011

<http://lebuzz.info/2011/08/64135/ffm-les-10-films-a-ne-pas-manquer/>

Also picked up by: http://www.news-de-stars.com/ces-amours-l%E0/ffm-%7C-les-10-films-a-ne-pas-manquer_mrm284879.html

Le Festival des films du monde de Montréal fait souvent figure de parent pauvre, les longs métrages présentés n'ayant pas le rayonnement de ceux visionnés à la Mostra de Venise ou au TIFF, le festival de Toronto. Néanmoins, on trouve de petits bijoux au FFM et voici les 10 longs métrages à aller voir.

Le Festival des films du monde de Montréal (FFM) débute demain, le 18 août, et se poursuit jusqu'au 28 août. Pendant 10 jours, 383 films originaires de 70 pays, dont 230 longs et moyens métrages et 153 courts métrages seront présentés aux cinéphiles. Voici une sélection des 10 films à ne pas manquer, présentée par date de première projection.

Coteau rouge d'André Forcier est le film d'ouverture de cette 35^e édition du FFM. Mettant en scène Roy Dupuis, Céline Bonnier et Gaston Lepage dans une fable déjantée qui se permet toutes les libertés avec un vidangeur de cadavres, un promoteur immobilier pas très net, un ex-boxeur, une grand-mère porteuse. Projections: 18 août à 10h et à 19h30 ainsi que le 21 août à 14h40.

Un baiser papillon de Karine Silla-Perez avec Vincent Perez, Valeria Golino, Elsa Zylberstein, Nicolas Giraud, Jalil Lespert et Cécile de France. Billie et Louis ont la chance de s'aimer passionnément et d'avoir une famille. Jusqu'au jour où une terrible nouvelle vient faire basculer leur existence et celle de leurs proches. Marie, l'amie de Billie, sa confidente et comédienne reconnue, redouble d'acharnement pour donner la vie tandis qu'Alice son infirmière, combattante pour la liberté, lui maintient que la vie «c'est maintenant et dans l'instant». C'est un film, sur l'amour, sur l'espoir et sur la certitude que la force de la vie, malgré les plus dures épreuves, reprendra toujours le dessus. Projections: 19 août à 19h ainsi que le 20 août à 14h40.

Incendies de Denis Villeneuve avec Lubna Azabal, Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin, Maxim Gaudette, Rémy Girard. À la mort de leur mère, les jumeaux Jeanne et Simon Marwan partent au Liban en quête d'un passé douloureux, sur les traces d'un père qu'ils croyaient mort et d'un frère dont ils ignoraient l'existence. Projections (gratuites): 19 août à 16h30, 23 août à 12h30, 24 août à 20h20, 25 août à 14h30.

The artist de Michel Hazanavicius avec Jean Dujardin, Bérénice Bejo, John Goodman, James Cromwell, Penelope Ann Miller, Missi Pyle. À Hollywood en 1927, George Valentin est un acteur très célèbre de films muets. De son côté, Peppy Miller est une jeune figurante. L'arrivée des films parlants va bouleverser leur vie. Lui, autrefois véritable vedette, va tomber dans l'oubli, alors qu'elle va devenir une véritable star du cinéma parlant. Leur histoire d'amour sera alors traversée par de nombreux obstacles. Projections: 20 août à 19h10 ainsi que le 21 août à 16h50.

Happy Slapping de Christos Sourligas. C'est le premier film au monde tourné entièrement avec un iPhone 4 HD. Inspiré de faits vécus, Happy Slapping nous entraîne dans le sillage de cinq jeunes banlieusards aisés qui font une virée en ville en quête de gloire. Leur projet ? Ils prévoient une soirée si scandaleuse que les séquences filmées au moyen de leurs téléphones feront d'eux des vedettes instantanées d'Internet. Après avoir été égalés en violence par un gang de rue et intimidés par leur idole en ligne, ils doivent redoubler de brutalité afin de se faire un nom. Évidemment, rien ne se passe comme prévu et tout est enregistré sur leurs mobiles! Projections: 21 août à 21h30, 23 août à 10h00 ainsi que le 24 août à 21h30.

This is not a film de Jafar Panahi et Mojtaba Mirtahmasb. Cela fait des mois que Jafar Panahi attend le verdict de la cour d'appel. À travers la chronique d'une journée dans la vie du cinéaste iranien, Panahi lui-même et son compatriote, le réalisateur Mojtaba Mirtahmasb, tentent de percer les limites qui se dessinent aujourd'hui dans le cinéma iranien. Projections: 21 août à 12h40, 22 août à 14h30 ainsi que le 23 août à 16h50.

La run de Demian Fuica avec Jason Roy Léveillé, Marc Beaupré, Pierre-Luc Brillant, Nicolas Canuel, Paul Dion et Nanette Workman. Guillaume (Jason Roy Léveillé) est un jeune homme clean. Il ne consomme pas de drogues dures. Il ne fait pas parti de gangs de rue et n'est aucunement lié au milieu criminel. Tout son univers bascule lorsqu'il apprend que son père (Paul Dion), un joueur compulsif, s'est endetté de 50 000 \$ chez un prêteur sur gages. Submergé par ses dettes, son père essaye de se suicider, mais Guillaume intervient à la dernière seconde. Ce dernier décide donc de payer la dette de son père. Il s'embarque avec son chum Manu (Marc Beaupré) dans «la run» : la livraison à domicile de drogues. Grâce à Rivière (Nicolas Canuel), le boss de la pègre du secteur, les deux amis accumulent les transactions de drogues et deviennent des vendeurs de plus en plus importants au détriment des autres vendeurs. Projections: 23 août à 9h et à 19h ainsi que le 24 août 14h40.

La conquête de Xavier Durringer avec Denis Podalydès, Florence Pernel, Bernard Le Coq, Samuel Labarthe, Hippolyte Girardot, Dominique Beneshard. 6 mai 2007, second tour de l'élection présidentielle. Alors que les Français s'apprentent à élire leur nouveau Président, Nicolas Sarkozy, sûr de sa victoire, reste cloîtré chez lui, en peignoir, sombre et abattu. Toute la journée, il cherche à joindre sa femme Cécilia, qui le fuit. Les cinq années qui viennent de s'écouler défilent : elles racontent l'irrésistible ascension de Sarkozy, semée de coups tordus, de coups de gueule et d'affrontements en coulisse. Projection: 23 août à 19h.

Ces amours-là de Claude Lelouch avec Audrey Dana, Laurent Couson, Raphaël, Samuel Labarthe, Gilles Lemaire, Dominique Pinon, Judith Magre, Liane Foly, Zinedine Soualem, Gisèle Casadesus, Anouk Aimée. Le destin flamboyant d'une femme, Ilva, qui, sa vie durant, a placé ses amours au-dessus de tout et qui se les remémore au rythme d'un orchestre symphonique. Dans cette fresque romanesque, Ilva incarne tout le courage et les contradictions d'une femme libre. Et si ce n'était pas Dieu qui avait créé la femme mais chaque homme qu'elle a aimé? Projection: 26 août à 19h10.

Les Demoiselles de Rochefort de Jacques Demy avec Catherine Deneuve, Françoise Dorléac, Gene Kelly est présenté dans le cadre de l'hommage rendu à Catherine Deneuve. Deux soeurs jumelles, Delphine et Solange, rêvent d'une carrière artistique et du grand amour. Yvonne, leur mère, tient le café de la place. Elle regrette d'avoir laissé partir Simon Dame, son grand amour de jeunesse. Projection (gratuite en extérieur): 27 août à 20h30.



Montreal Mirror
August 18, 2011

<http://www.montrealmirror.com/wp/2011/08/18/cabinet-of-curiosities/>

Cabinet of curiosities

Local and international oddities abound at the 35th annual Festival des Films du Monde by [MALCOLM FRASER](#)

The Festival des Films du Monde (World Film Festival) has shown a remarkable capacity for survival against the odds. The fest has surmounted not only the legendary eccentricities of its founder and head honcho Serge Losique and a history of notoriously uneven programming, but a couple of outright life-threatening incidents—at one point ill-advisedly running in direct competition with the Toronto International Film Festival, and later losing its federal funding for two years. But the FFM carries on, this year celebrating its 35th anniversary.

The fest has even scored a bit of a coup this year with its first high-profile North American premiere in a good while—*The Artist*, a black and white, silent comedy from French director **Michel Hazanavicius**. Jean Dujardin, the star of Hazanavicius's James Bond-spoofing *OSS 117* films, won the Best Actor prize at this year's Cannes for his portrayal of a silent movie star in Hollywood at the dawn of talking pictures. With a supporting cast including John Goodman and Malcolm McDowell, this looks promising.

Another selection of interest is *This is Not a Film*, by Iranian director **Jafar Pahani** in collaboration with documentarian **Mojtaba Mirtahmasb**. The film shows a day in Pahani's life as he awaits sentencing for his involvement in the Iranian uprising of 2009. On the other side, in so many ways, of Middle Eastern cinema is Israeli drama *The Slut*, in which writer/director Hagar Ben-Asher stars as a sexually voracious single mom in an Israeli village.

As always, the fest includes interesting curiosities from all over the globe. **Joel Fendelman's** *David*, the only American film screening in competition, is the story of a young Muslim boy (Muatasem Mishal) growing up in a Brooklyn community where the Jewish and Muslim communities overlap. A young woman struggles with difficult questions about revenge and forgiveness in *She's Not Crying, She's Singing*, from Belgian filmmaker **Philippe de Pierpont**, while *North Sea, Texas*, from Flemish director Bavo Defurne, is a gay coming-of-age story.

A fair bit of Canadian and Quebec cinema is also spotlighted. Montreal writer/director **Christos Sourligas's** *Happy Slapping*, the tale of a gang of thrill-seeking youngsters looking for online fame, holds the distinction of being the first feature film entirely shot on an iPhone. Toronto director **Josh Koffman** managed to get a high-profile cast, including Mickey Rourke and John Hurt, for his thriller *Dead Dreams*. On the franco side, films of interest include **Demian Fuica's** *La Run*, a drama about a clean-living young man who becomes a drug runner to pay off his dad's gambling debts, and *Coteau Rouge*, the latest from veteran Quebec director **André Forcier** (*A Wind From Wyoming*).

This year's FFM also offers a couple of opportunities for cinematic fun alongside its regular programming: a selection of musicals (ranging from Hollywood classics to recent Bollywood hits) screening outdoors at Place des Arts, and a series of free screenings of Quebec films from the past year. It's a great way to catch up if you missed *Incendies*, *The Trotsky*, *Les Amours imaginaires* or any other local hits on the big screen.

La Rue du HipHop

La Rue du Hip Hop
August 18, 2011

Also picked up by: <http://www.paperblog.fr/4770152/happy-slapping-au-ffm/>

Happy Slapping au FFM!

Montréal, le mercredi 10 août 2011 -- *Le film Happy Slapping inaugure plusieurs premières... C'est le premier film au monde tourné entièrement avec un iPhone 4 HD. Les cinq comédiens ont aussi endossé eux-mêmes le rôle de caméraman. Et compte tenu des limites de la technologie par téléphone mobile, aucun moniteur d'assistance vidéo et aucun contrôle d'enregistrement n'ont été utilisés pendant le tournage. Résultat : un tout nouveau langage cinématographique où les comédiens sont les véritables artisans du film. Pas de doute, ici, « le médium est le message », comme le dirait Marshall McLuhan.*

Inspiré de faits vécus, Happy Slapping nous entraîne dans le sillage de cinq jeunes banlieusards aisés qui font une virée en ville en quête de gloire. Leur projet ? Ils prévoient une soirée si scandaleuse que les séquences filmées au moyen de leurs téléphones feront d'eux des vedettes instantanées d'Internet. Après avoir été égalés en violence par un gang de rue et intimidés par leur idole en ligne, ils doivent redoubler de brutalité afin de se faire un nom. Évidemment, rien ne se passe comme prévu... et tout est enregistré sur leurs mobiles !

Avec son style fausse-réalité et ses prises de vues subjectives tournées caméra à l'épaule, Happy Slapping rappelle Le Projet Blair Witch et Activité paranormale. Ce film novateur, destiné à la génération Y (14-29 ans), pose l'éternelle question à laquelle est confrontée cette génération : jusqu'où peut-on aller pour devenir célèbre ?

**Happy Slapping sera présenté en anglais au Cinéma Quartier Latin:
Dimanche 21 août à 21h30 / mardi 23 août à 10h00 / mercredi 24 août à 21h30**

À propos de « happy slapping »

Le terme « happy slapping » fait référence à un phénomène qui a vu le jour au Royaume-Uni et qui est maintenant répandu dans le monde entier. Praticué par des bandes de jeunes, le « happy slapping » consiste à frapper ou à attaquer des passants tout en filmant, puis à diffuser la vidéo par téléphone ou Internet. Ces attaques gratuites et violentes ne sont pas sans rappeler celles du film Orange mécanique. Mais aujourd'hui, c'est la perspective de la notoriété et de la célébrité en ligne qui motive les jeunes à devenir violents. On a utilisé l'expression « happy slapping » (qui pourrait être librement traduite par « joyeuse baffe »), car le but premier de l'agresseur est de faire croire que l'attaque est une surprise cocasse, aux dépens de la victime.

À propos de One Man Band Films inc.

One Man Band Films inc. a été fondée par Christos Sourligas, réalisateur lauréat de nombreux prix et ex-distributeur d'émissions de télévision. Son premier film, Elephant Shoes, fut l'enfant chéri du circuit des festivals, couronné par plusieurs prix et présenté à guichets fermés partout dans le monde avant d'être distribué par Alliance Films. Auparavant, Christos a été vice-président des ventes pour le célèbre distributeur d'émissions de télévision humoristiques Juste pour rire. Pendant ses 12 ans au sein du Groupe Juste pour rire, les émissions de télévision produites par le groupe ont été vues par plus de 1,5 milliard d'auditeurs dans plus de 140 pays et par les passagers de 100 compagnies aériennes. En outre,

lorsque la licence des Gags Juste pour rire a été accordée à ABC, cette série est devenue la première émission conçue pour le Canada à être diffusée sur un réseau de télévision américain.

Journal de Montréal
August 21, 2011

<http://lejournaldemontreal.canoe.ca/journaldemontreal/artsetspectacles/cinema/archives/2011/08/20110821-033436.html>

Also picked up by: <http://lejournaldemontreal.canoe.ca/journaldemontreal/artsetspectacles/cinema/archives/2011/08/20110821-033436.html> and
<http://tipet.net/montreal/culture/cine/page/2/>

FFM: Happy Slapping **Un film entièrement tourné sur un iPhone** Maxime Demers



Le film *Happy Slapping*, présenté aujourd'hui au Festival des films du monde, a été entièrement tourné sur un iPhone 4 HD. On n'arrête pas le progrès...

Réalisé par le Montréalais Christos Sourligas, *Happy Slapping* est le tout premier long-métrage à avoir été entièrement filmé sur un iPhone 4.

« Il y a déjà eu des courts-métrages tournés sur des iPhone et des cellulaires, mais c'est le premier long-métrage, souligne le réalisateur.

Filmé de manière subjective à la façon des *Blair Witch Project* et *Paranormal Activity*, *Happy Slapping* suit cinq jeunes banlieusards qui débarquent en ville avec pour objectif d'attaquer d'innocentes victimes pour filmer des

scènes de violence avec leurs cellulaires.

Comme le film se colle au point de vue des cinq jeunes personnages, l'idée de tourner le tout sur des iPhones s'est imposée naturellement.

« On trouvait donc que cela ferait plus vrai et réaliste, de raconter cette histoire avec les images que les cinq personnages captaient eux-mêmes sur leurs cellulaires, souligne Christos Sourligas. Les cinq comédiens du film ont donc en quelque sorte agi à titre de caméramans, en se filmant les uns et les autres avec leur iPhone. Avant le tournage, ils ont eu droit à un cours de caméra donné par le directeur photo du film, Luc Montpellier.

« C'est Luc qui a lancé l'idée que ce soit les acteurs eux-mêmes qui filment, explique Christos Sourligas. On a donc acheté cinq iPhones, un pour chaque acteur, et on a commencé à tourner. »

Contraintes

Happy Slapping, qui a bénéficié de l'aide financière de Téléfilm Canada, a été tourné à Montréal, sur une période de deux semaines, avec un budget d'environ 250 000 \$.

Cette façon de travailler a forcément imposé différentes contraintes. Par exemple, aucun moniteur d'assistance vidéo et aucun contrôle d'enregistrement n'ont été utilisés pendant le tournage.

« Le montage a aussi été extrêmement long, ajoute le réalisateur montréalais dont il s'agit d'un second long-métrage (après *Elephant Shoes*, également présenté au FFM il y a sept ans).

« Comme les acteurs filmaient tous et souvent en même temps, on s'est retrouvés avec des heures et des heures de matériel. On a passé cinq mois à monter le film. »

Quant à l'histoire du film, elle a germé dans la tête du réalisateur il y a une douzaine d'années lors d'un voyage à Londres.

« J'y avais lu une série d'articles sur le phénomène du *Happy Slapping*. Le *Happy Slapping*, c'est un mouvement de jeunes adolescents qui s'amuse à s'attaquer à des passants dans la rue en les filmant. Le but ultime est de diffuser ensuite leurs vidéos sur Internet. Mon film n'est pas basé sur un cas précis, mais il s'inspire du phénomène en général.

»

Happy Slapping est présenté dans le cadre du 35e FFM au Cinéma du Quartier Latin ce soir à 21 h 30, demain à 10 h et mercredi à 21 h 30.

À SURVEILLER AUJOURD'HUI AU FFM:

The Artist de Michel Hazanavicius (OSS 117), avec Jean Dujardin et Bérénice Bejo. Film muet en noir et blanc qui a fait sensation au plus récent Festival de Cannes (prix d'interprétation remis à Dujardin). Présenté hors concours au Cinéma Quartier Latin à 16 h 50.

David, de Joel Fendelman. L'histoire d'un jeune garçon musulman de 11 ans vivant au sein d'une famille très conservatrice, à Brooklyn. Présenté en compétition mondiale au Cinéma Impérial à 14 h.

Coteau Rouge, d'André Forcier (*L'eau chaude, l'eau froide, La Comtesse de Bâton Rouge*). Nouveau film du réputé cinéaste québécois mettant en vedette Roy Dupuis, Céline Bonnier et Gaston Lepage. Présenté en ouverture jeudi et de nouveau aujourd'hui au Quartier Latin à 14 h 40.

The Gazette

A new nameplate for The Gazette in Montreal

Montreal Gazette

August 24, 2011

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/entertainment/movie-guide/>

[Montreal+World+Film+Festival+2011+Happy+Slapping+high+tech+teen+terror/5295937/story.html](http://www.montrealgazette.com/entertainment/movie-guide/Montreal+World+Film+Festival+2011+Happy+Slapping+high+tech+teen+terror/5295937/story.html)

Montreal World Film Festival 2011: Happy Slapping has high tech and teen terror

Writer and director Christos Sourligas's *Happy Slapping* is the first feature film to be shot on iPhone. It is screening at the 2011 edition of the Montreal World Film Festival.



MONTREAL - It has taken Montreal filmmaker Christos Sourligas seven years to follow up his debut feature. But just as his 2004 romantic drama *Elephant Shoes* – made on a wing and a prayer and maxed-out credit cards for \$10,000 – jarred audiences and critics alike at the Montreal World Film Festival, so will Sourligas's latest, *Happy Slapping*, albeit for far different reasons.

Happy Slapping – screening Wednesday at 9:30 p.m. at Quartier Latin as part of the Montreal World Film Festival – is the world's first feature film to be shot entirely on the iPhone 4. Actually, on five iPhone 4s. Sourligas's five principal players not only had to act, but doubled as

cinematographers.

Innovative to be sure, but *Happy Slapping* is also one disturbing descent into teen disaffection and terror, and its release couldn't be more timely in light of the recent mob violence in England. The film takes its title from the British fad where teens assault strangers on the street, shoot the encounters on camera phones and endeavour to post them on YouTube for some fleeting fame.

Happy Slapping's lead reprobates are indulged suburban teenagers who clearly get no kicks from hanging out in West Island malls. They bolt from the burbs to create mayhem downtown, but soon learn that actions have consequences.

Their sordid romps are frightening, all the more so since the iPhone footage brings a certain *cinéma vérité* quality, à la *Blair Witch Project*. Also creepily credible are the performances by principals Jesse Camacho (the sweet, cherubic star of *Less Than Kind*), Alex Harrouch, Erica Deutschman, Jaa Smith-Johnson and Tristan D. Lalla. And can't forget Andrew Farrar, a.k.a.

Annakin Slayd, who plays a would-be victim, co-wrote the script with Sourligas and scored the music.

Sourligas notes that the audience was uneasy at the film's world-premiere screening at the fest on Sunday. "So I guess it worked," he kibitzes. "That's great people were uncomfortable with some scenes. That was my goal, to keep people on edge. I wanted to shake audiences up."

Sourligas hired a researcher to support his claim that *Happy Slapping* was the first flick to be shot on an iPhone 4 HD. He does acknowledge, however, that other filmmakers have followed suit.

The iPhone may be cheaper than a movie camera, but Sourligas spent considerably more on *Happy Slapping* than he did on *Elephant Shoes*. His budget ballooned up to \$250,000 – still paltry by most moviemakers' standards. "And once again, I maxed out my credit cards by spending \$100,000 of my own money on the production," says the ever-cash-strapped Sourligas, who is grateful that Telefilm Canada invested some much-needed post-production funds.

It wasn't Sourligas's idea that the five actors also be conscripted as camera operators. That was the brainwave of his director of photography, Luc Montpellier.

"He came in during rehearsals and was adamant that the actors shoot the film," Sourligas recalls.

"I was dead set against that and asked him: 'Why am I bringing you here, then, if the actors are going to shoot the film?' But then he convinced me that the cameras were like other characters in the film, and I slowly came around. In retrospect, it was a brilliant idea."

While Sourligas was aware of the flash-mob phenomenon sweeping parts of the planet – sometimes for the purposes of inciting violence – he hadn't anticipated the mob mentality escalating to the point it did in England.

"It's freaky. I turn on the TV these days and it seems like I'm watching a rough cut of my own movie. It's life imitating art. Or is it art imitating life?"

"Though social networking, kids are meeting up at random quarters, creating havoc and beating up people. But what's interesting is that many of these rioters who have been caught had no criminal records and came from middle-class families. These are kids with nothing to do and looking for kicks. Kids who have never been told no by their parents and teachers." What these kids also have in common is that they are all so tech-savvy. They are able to get their unsettling images online in seconds.

"I am astounded by their skills there," Sourligas says. "I have an iPhone now only because I made the movie with them. But I have no clue how to use it to full advantage."

"During the first couple of days of shooting, the actors were really apprehensive about shooting, but in no time they caught on. Then the iPhones became like appendages to them."

As was the case with Elephant Shoes, Sourligas hopes to do the festival circuit with Happy Slapping, then land a theatrical distribution deal.

“The long-term goal is to get the film online, because no one seems to be buying or renting DVDs these days. The market appears to be all video on demand, pay-per-view or download rentals. Times are fast changing, and we have to keep pace with the times. Just like production methods are moving in new directions, the home-video market has been dramatically altered and seems to be on the verge of collapse.”

But what about Apple, the purveyor of the iPhone, as a sponsor? It would seem like a no-brainer.

“I didn’t even get a free phone out of them,” Sourligas cracks. “They’re only interested in dealing with A-list celebrities. And I’m not there.” Yet.

Sourligas suffered the ultimate indignity: he was the only one in the flick who actually got slapped in the face. And it wasn’t a happy slap, as the image on screen can attest.

“It really hurt. All the other slaps were fakes, choreographed by stunt coordinators. For the sake of the realism, I wanted a real slap. The actor who did it was initially reluctant about slapping the director. I really had to push him.” Hopefully, Sourligas won’t suffer a symbolic but still painful slap to the face by audiences.

“It’s all about taking risks to get noticed,” he says. “That’s the price one must pay in this game.”

Front page of the Montreal Gazette August 24, 2011





The Gazette

MONTRÉAL | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2011 | SINCE 1785 | BREAKING NEWS AT MONTREALGAZETTE.COM

'We will not replace Jack Layton'

AS DETAILS FOR A STATE FUNERAL for the NDP leader Jack Layton were released, his party and other Canadians continued to frame his legacy. Quebec lieutenant Thomas Mulcair said the best way to honour Layton is to continue his work, and health advocates repeated his final message to embrace life and "keep the dream alive." Pages A3-A4, A16-A17, B1

NEW ARTIFACTS HELP TELL OLD STORY



Old Montreal excavation Christy's Leamy, director of communications at the Port of Montreal, holds a recently found archaeological artefact during a photo-op at the site of Canada's first Parliament building. Article begins here on the state of a recent primary page, middle and second pages. The object helps tell the story of how Montreal became Canada's capital - and demonstrates how that site is the first of its kind. Page A16. **Not done with old?** Heywood's new look. Louis Ripstein's Parliament is a new look. Page B1.



ADVENTURE BEHINDS

City defends starting work now

SOONER OR LATER, THE ADVENTURE EXPRESSWAY will be rebuilt, the city's executive committee member responsible for infrastructure told city council Tuesday. Later in the work now, Richard Deschamps said in response to questions from opposition councillors - even if it means taking on a \$70-million loan - that work on the structure to become degraded and require repairs that could coincide with the reconstruction of the Fernand Berthelme or the Champlain Bridge. James Meenan reports. Page A7

(Detail of layout)

Montreal Gazette

Puppy Slapping is the world's first feature film shot entirely by iPhone. Page C1

Cold soups can be tricky, but with fresh ingredients and proper chilling, they make for cool summer fare. Page C1

Nerves rattled as 5.9 quake centred in Virginia is felt as far away as Montreal. Page A15

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"Just as diamonds are a million miles from the earth, so strikes appear from good deeds and wisdom appear from a pure and peaceful mind."
— Lao-tzu

WEATHER
Variable clouds
High 22° Low 16° Page D7

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ARTS & LIFE

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THE 2011 MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS FILM FESTIVAL



BILL BROWNSTEIN
 of *Chloe Sledge*

"Happy Slapping ... is the world's first feature film to be shot entirely on the Internet."

We have the technology, and the teen terror

If you're a Montreal filmmaker, Christmas is a busy time to get up and get out. But just as the 2011 season draws to a close, a new wave of indie filmmakers is making its mark on the festival scene. *Happy Slapping*, a comedy starring Montrealer Bill Brownstein, is the first feature film to be shot entirely on the Internet. It's a low-budget, low-budget comedy that's not only fun, but also a cinematic triumph.

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By Bill Brownstein, page C3



Super bowls

Summer is the other season for soup. With fresh produce and a blender, possibilities for chilled creations are endless

A bowl of soup is a comforting sight, a warm embrace. But in summer, it's a refreshing one. With fresh produce and a blender, possibilities for chilled creations are endless. Cantaloupe, green gazpacho, cucumber and tomato. These are just a few of the many possibilities for chilled soups.

It's a low-budget, low-budget comedy that's not only fun, but also a cinematic triumph. It's a low-budget, low-budget comedy that's not only fun, but also a cinematic triumph. It's a low-budget, low-budget comedy that's not only fun, but also a cinematic triumph.

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MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL



THE WASL ACTION IN WASL'S FILM, CAPTURED AT THE MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL. THE WASL ACTION IN WASL'S FILM, CAPTURED AT THE MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL.

BROWNSTEIN
Camera phones were characters in the film

CONTINUED FROM D1

"We were in a dark room and we were talking about the camera phone," Brownstein says. "It was dark and quiet and we were talking about the camera phone. It was dark and quiet and we were talking about the camera phone. It was dark and quiet and we were talking about the camera phone."

"We had a camera phone in the room and we were talking about it. It was dark and quiet and we were talking about the camera phone. It was dark and quiet and we were talking about the camera phone."

"I came on the TV these days and it was like I was watching a rough cut of my own movie," Brownstein says.

"I was watching a rough cut of my own movie," Brownstein says. "I was watching a rough cut of my own movie," Brownstein says. "I was watching a rough cut of my own movie," Brownstein says.

"I was watching a rough cut of my own movie," Brownstein says. "I was watching a rough cut of my own movie," Brownstein says. "I was watching a rough cut of my own movie," Brownstein says.

Q: It's a P.K. for Wednesday
The Chicks
(Montreal, Quebec)
The Chicks are a three-piece band from Texas. They are known for their country music and have won several Grammy awards. They are currently on tour and performing in Montreal.



THE DIRECTOR OF THE FILM, CAPTURED AT THE MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL.

"I was watching a rough cut of my own movie," Brownstein says. "I was watching a rough cut of my own movie," Brownstein says. "I was watching a rough cut of my own movie," Brownstein says.

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Happy shopping now to receive
of 2013
The Montreal World Film Festival is a celebration of cinema from around the world. It features a diverse selection of films, including documentaries, feature films, and shorts. The festival is held in Montreal, Quebec, and is one of the largest film festivals in North America.

THE MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL
OF 2013
The Montreal World Film Festival is a celebration of cinema from around the world. It features a diverse selection of films, including documentaries, feature films, and shorts. The festival is held in Montreal, Quebec, and is one of the largest film festivals in North America.

We remember you well,
Chelsea Hotel

Sordid and sensational landmark is redesigned out of existence

BY MICHAEL O'NEILL

It's the Chelsea Hotel, the one that's been around since the 1920s. It's the Chelsea Hotel, the one that's been around since the 1920s. It's the Chelsea Hotel, the one that's been around since the 1920s.

"The Chelsea Hotel is a landmark building in New York City. It has a long history and is known for its artistic and cultural significance. The hotel is located in the Chelsea neighborhood and is one of the most famous hotels in the city."

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THE CHICKS PERFORMING AT THE MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL.

"The Chelsea Hotel is a landmark building in New York City. It has a long history and is known for its artistic and cultural significance. The hotel is located in the Chelsea neighborhood and is one of the most famous hotels in the city."

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A NEW CHAPTER FOR LITERARY FESTIVAL



THE PROGRAM for the Festival is a celebration of literature and art. It features a diverse selection of speakers, including authors, poets, and artists. The festival is held in Montreal, Quebec, and is one of the largest literary festivals in North America.

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NATIONAL POST

The National Post

August 24, 2011

<http://arts.nationalpost.com/2011/08/24/montreal-film-proves-the-iphone-can-do-just-about-anything/#more-43756>

Also picked up by:

<http://www.favorise.com/entertainment/2142670/Montreal-film-proves-the-iPhone-can-do-just-about-anything>
and <http://iphonestuff.co.za/content/montreal-film-proves-biphoneb-can-do-just-about-anything>

Tweeted by cfccreates:



Montreal film proves the iPhone can do just about anything



Happy Slapping – screening at the Montreal World Film festival Aug. 24 – is the world’s first feature film to be shot entirely on the iPhone 4.

[Postmedia News](#) Aug 24, 2011 – 9:00 AM ET | **Last Updated: Aug 23, 2011 4:46 PM ET**

By Bill Brownstein

It’s taken Montreal filmmaker Christos Sourligas seven years to follow up his debut feature at the Montreal World Film Festival. But just as his 2004 romantic drama *Elephant Shoes* — made on a wing and a prayer and maxed-out credit cards for \$10,000 — jarred audiences and critics alike, so will Sourligas’s latest, *Happy Slapping*, create shock waves, albeit for far different reasons.

Happy Slapping – screening at the Montreal World Film festival Aug. 24 at 9:30 p.m. – is the world’s first feature film to be shot entirely on the iPhone 4. Actually, on five iPhone 4s. Sourligas’s five principal players not only had to act but doubled as cinematographers as well.

Innovative to be sure, *Happy Slapping* is also one disturbing descent into teen disaffection and terror, and its release couldn’t be more timely in light of the recent mob violence in England. The film takes its title from the Euro-fad where teens assault unsuspecting strangers on the street, shoot the encounters on camera phones and endeavour to post them on YouTube for some fleeting fame.

Sourligas’s lead reprobates here are indulged suburban teenagers who clearly get no kicks from hanging out in West Island malls. They bolt from the ‘burbs to create mayhem downtown but soon learn that actions have consequences. Their sordid romps are frightening, all the more so since the iPhone footage brings a certain *cinema vérité* quality à la *Blair Witch Project*. Also creepily credible are the performances by principals Jesse Camacho (the sweet cherub star of *Less Than Kind*), Alex Harrouch and Erica Deutschman. And can’t forget would-be victim, Andrew Farrar, a.k.a. Annakin Slayd, who co-wrote the script with Sourligas and also scored the music tracks.

Sourligas notes that at the film’s world-premiere screening at the fest on Sunday audiences were uneasy. That pleases him. “So I guess it worked,” he says. “That’s great people were uncomfortable with some scenes. That was my goal to keep people on edge. I wanted to shake audiences up.”

Sourligas hired a researcher to support his claim that *Happy Slapping* was the first flick to be shot on an iPhone 4 HD. He does acknowledge, however, that other filmmakers have since followed suit.

No matter that iPhones are cheaper than movie cameras, Sourligas spent considerably more on *Happy Slapping* than he did on *Elephant Shoes*. His budget here ballooned up to \$250,000 – still paltry by most moviemakers’ definitions. “And once again, I maxed out my credit cards by spending \$100,000 of my own money on the production,” says the ever-cash-strapped Sourligas, who is grateful that Telefilm Canada invested some much-needed post-production funds.

As was the case with *Elephant Shoes*, Sourligas hopes to do the festival circuit with *Happy Slapping*, then land a theatrical distribution deal. “The long-term goal is to get the film online, because no one seems to be buying or renting DVDs these days. The market appears to be all video on demand, pay-per-view or download rentals. Times are fast changing, and we have to keep pace with the times.”

But what about Apple, the purveyors of the iPhone, as a sponsor? It would seem like a no-brainer. “I didn’t even get a free phone out of them,” Sourligas says.

Happy Slapping screens Wednesday at 9:30 p.m. as part of the [Montreal World Film Festival](#).

PLAYBACK

Playback
August 26, 2011

<http://playbackonline.ca/2011/08/26/canadian-director-shoots-feature-length-movie-on-iphone-4/#ixzz1W9s8n7zK>

First a phone – now a movie camera?

The Canadian movie *Happy Slapping* was shot solely by five actors holding an Apple iPhone 4 in their hands and pointing the HD camera app at one another.

The film, which follows five “happy slapping” teens recording on their camera phones physical assaults on unsuspecting strangers, bowed this week at the Montreal World Film Festival.

Montreal writer/director Christos Sourligas insists his film is the first feature-length movie to be entirely shot using iPhone 4 cameras.

“It took a few days for the actors to get comfortable shooting with the [iPhone] cameras. After a while, it wasn’t a tool, it was part of their bodies,” Sourligas told *Playback Daily*.

How did his actors end up doubling as cinematographers?

Veteran DOP Luc Montpellier was initially on board to lense *Happy Slapping*, mostly at night and out-of-doors.

One day during rehearsals, however, while watching Sourligas block the actors, Montpellier thrust iPhone 4 handsets into the hands of the five main actors and asked them to capture specific angles.

After three days of experimenting with the iPhones, Montpellier reported back to Sourligas: the film needed to be shot entirely by the actors.

“[Montpellier] told me ‘I don’t need the glory to say I shot the first film on an iPhone. The kids should do it,’” Sourligas said, recalling his conversation with the DOP.

What’s more, the actors shooting the movie aimed to be more visceral and more in keeping with the POV, hyper-realism shooting style of genre classics like *The Blair Witch Project* and *Paranormal Activity*.

“Luc said it would be fake if [Montpellier] shot the film. It would be too fluid, too real,” Sourligas remembers.

The director ended up trusting his DOP, to dramatic effect.

“Even if the film is a bit grainy, because we don’t have the proper light, if an actor is jittery because they’re nervous, that’s fine, because that’s what’s happening,” the director insisted.

That said, packed audiences for the first public screenings at the Montreal World Film Festival were gripped by more than lighting or a jittery camera.

Sourligas recalls emotional tremors running through the Montreal audiences, and even a few collective gasps, due to the film's slow-building tension from occasional happy-slapping to assaults on unwitting victims.

The director insists his "bullying film" was inspired by personal experience.

"I grew up in a working class area of Montreal, where the culture was eat-or-be-eaten. It wasn't just in the streets or at school, it was at home," Sourligas remembers.

The filmmaker insists he was even bullied and bullied others himself in a past life as a Montreal TV program distributor.

"I worked in a toxic environment for 12 years, so I made the film in part to get over that experience," Sourligas said.

The five main teen characters in *Happy Slapping*, three boys and two girls, set out for thrill-seeking kicks one night in a bid to become famous on YouTube.

Before long, however, the teen mayhem degenerates into terror as the five misfits turn their anger and aggression on one another.

"There's a lot to think about, and later people walked out of the theatres and immediately had conversations," Sourligas said of the audience reaction.

After Montreal, *Happy Slapping* will have a life on the festival circuit – Sundance and Berlin asked for DVD copies of the film to view – before a possible theatrical, pay-per-view and online download release.

THE *Hollywood* REPORTER

Hollywood Reporter

August 26, 2011

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/canadian-happy-slapping-feature-shot-228368>

Canadian 'Happy Slapping' Feature Shot Solely By Actors Using iPhone 4

1:25 PM PDT 8/26/2011 by Etan Vlessing

Writer/director Christos Sourligas: "I didn't watch rushes until a month later. This is one of the first films to be shot by the actors, with no playback and no video assist."

TORONTO – Montreal writer/director **Christos Sourligas** received more than a little attention when his movie *Happy Slapping* debuted this week at the Montreal World Film Festival.

The Canadian project is the first feature-length movie to be shot entirely using Apple's iPhone 4.

All five main actors doubled as cinematographers, following one another to capture footage with their HD-quality iPhone camera phones.

"I didn't watch rushes until a month later. This is one of the first films to be shot by the actors, with no playback and no video assist," Sourligas explained.

The indie movie portrays five suburban youth capturing video footage of their assaults of unsuspecting victims for uploading to the Internet for celebrity fame.

The ground-breaking Generation Y film, based on an often violent fad that originated in the UK, asks how far young people will go to make a name for themselves.

Sourligas said it took a few days for the actors to get comfortable using iPhone cameras to replace a DOP.

"After a while, it wasn't a tool, it was part of their bodies," he said.

The actors were instructed on how to shoot the movie by the original cinematographer on the film, **Luc Montpellier**, especially when it came to camera angles.

There was lots of run and gun shooting style, with Sourligas and his crew hiding behind walls or dumpsters to avoid getting caught in a shot.

"We'd have headphones on and listen to the action, and go off of what we're hearing. If we got two or three good takes, he (Montpellier) would synch them and we'd play it back. If we had to adjust the blocking or dialogue, we'd do it in two or three new takes," the director recalled.

The result is a film that resembles *The Blair Witch Project* and *Paranormal Activity* in its reality-style camera footage acquired from hand-held iPhone cameras.

Happy Slapping, from Montreal-based indie producer One Man Band Films, is Sourligas' second feature after *Elephant Shoes*, which was released domestically by Alliance Films.



FESTIVAL CITY

Sickening, but maybe that's the point

Happy Slapping makes its dizzying world premiere at the Montreal World Film Festival

by MATTHEW KASSEL

29.08.2011



Happy Slapping, which premiered last week at Montreal's World Film Festival, is a nauseating film. Maybe I'm too sensitive, but as I walked out of the theatre after seeing it, I felt green, like I had just been on a turbulent boat ride.

Let me explain. *Happy Slapping*, directed by Montrealer Christos

Sourligas, was filmed entirely on iPhones and is the first feature film of its kind. It's not the content that's nauseating—though that's debatable. There's never a steady shot. You keep hoping, adjusting your eyes for some stillness, but the stillness never comes.

It's not unintentional, all the wobbliness. In this movie, the main actors—five hormonal teenagers; two girls, three guys—are the

cameramen. They drive into Montreal from the suburbs looking to film themselves, on their iPhones, doing five stupid things. What they film is basically the movie.

They're motivated by a popular video website called rampnites.com, whose solipsistic emcee, Kendo (Tristan D. Lalla), has announced that he is looking for five shocking and provocative videos to post online. Boomer (Jesse Camacho), a chubby Internet addict with his own site, Boomer's Boomerang, is perhaps most motivated by the call. He wants hits.

Wiggy (Alex Harrouch)—a goateed, pubescent hothead—is already on the site. His brother beat him up, filmed it, and sent in the video. When the five arrive in the city, they run into Wiggy's brother, who tells them, intimidatingly, that they'll have to start happy slapping if they want to get on rampnites.com

[Happy slapping is real](#), though it's not so common anymore. The practice started in South London around late 2004. Basically, what you do is go up to someone, an unsuspecting stranger, slap him or her while filming it all on your camera phone, and run away before you're caught. Then, of course, you post it online. Happy slapping might be funny if it weren't so humiliating, and if it didn't evolve in real life to include acts of rape and immolation. The movie *Happy Slapping* might be funny if you could tell it was meant to be. The scene where the cute, blonde, and insecure Belle (Erica Deutschman) films herself after she's taken her parents' prescription pills was too reminiscent of the seriously unfunny movie *Thirteen*. Another scene has Wiggy having sex with his girlfriend Tiki (Laurin Elizabeth Padolina) against a pool table in a vacant bar. Princeton (Jaa Smith-Johnson), Wiggy's friend, tries to get in on the action, to no avail. Wiggy will have nothing of it. In the end, the group gets five videos—including some amateur porn, a dangerous road crossing and a couple of happy slaps. But the five of them end up disgracing themselves in the process, and their paltry ambitions lead them well beyond the bounds of human decency. (I guess it wasn't just the wobbliness that made me sick.) While watching this film—when I wasn't reeling from the nausea—I was confronted with a confusing question, for the context: Should I laugh? I wasn't so sure, and in that way the film did its job in unmasking the ambiguity of a seemingly innocuous—yet ultimately, humiliating—pursuit.

Matthew Kassel writes about many things. At the moment, he mainly writes about jazz. Find his jazz blog at <http://coldjazz.blogspot.com/>

<http://roverarts.com/2011/08/sickening-but-maybe-thats-the-point/#more-10264>



The Times

SCENE

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September 3, 2011

“Happy Slapping” (Canada): Montreal filmmaker Christos Sourligas’ second feature film deals with teenagers, teenage angst and technology in a very raw and naturalistic light. It centers around five bored suburban teens who decide to spend a Sunday afternoon and evening cruising around downtown Montreal, armed with their iPhones, and shoot footage during their adventures around the city. The goal ... to create an original video that will appear on a popular website and become instant internet celebrities. When the fivesome’s video ideas don’t pan out, they decide to resort to “happy slapping”, a British street practice in which they approach a stranger and violently accost them. Sourligas effectively uses the latest in video recording technology to its fullest extent by shooting the entire film on iPhone cameras, and press the five lead actors to do double duty as cinematographers. The end result of this exercise in cinema verite narrative is a very entertaining and brutally honest look at teenage life today, and how technology rules it.



Screen Talk: The perfect catch

By Stuart Kemp of the Hollywood Reporter

Friday, 9 September 2011

Slap on the back

Hollywood trend-spotters sit up and take note. The Montreal film-maker Christos Sourligas has just shot a feature-length movie entirely on Apple's iPhone4. Five of the high-definition devices were dished out to the writer-director's cast for his project *Happy Slapping*, with the actors doubling as cinematographers. They followed one another to shoot the footage with the mobiles for the film. The writer-director said it took a few days for the actors to get comfortable using the mini-cameras to replace a director of photography. It was cut together and debuted at the Montreal World Film Festival. The project itself shows five suburban youth capturing video footage of their assaults of unsuspecting victims for uploading to the internet for celebrity fame. That fad, known as happy slapping, began as a violent fad originating in the UK. The shoot itself involved a lot of hiding behind wheelie bins, so those filming weren't picked up in the background of the on-the-run footage. The good news is Sourligas still hired a director of photography to advise on the shoot.

Happy Slapping: The Movie Shot Entirely on an iPhone

1  0
 Tweet  Like 

September 21, 2011
By Calum Shanlin | @calumshanlin



Christos Sourligas is the **first man in the world** to have made a feature film using an iPhone 4, and only an iPhone 4. *Happy Slapping* is the name of the film which got a screening at the Montreal World Film Festival. *Happy Slapping* is inspired by true events - which we'll get in to - and sees its five principal actors also double as the main camera operators. We spoke with Christos about the project.

What was the overall reception like for the movie?

Amazing. It's ballooned to a point where because of what's been going on with the riots in England with all the youths, then all these violent flashmobs that are happening in the US, people are already thinking there's the potential for a spinoff.

Why did you choose happy slapping, the activity?

I used to run the television sales division at Just for Laughs for 12 years, I was VP there, and I used to travel a lot for work - on average twice a week. I'd be in London about six times a year. About four or five years ago there was a case of about a dozen or so kids between the ages of 12-20, and they went on happy slapping rampages. They winded up killing a very well known gay activist - they had no clue who he was, he was just a random person they picked in the park - and a few other people were seriously injured, including a couple of Canadians. All these kids were tried as adults because they were heinous crimes. So every time I went and visited I'd always pick up newspaper clippings, thinking it would make a great movie and we could shoot the whole thing entirely on cell phones. It's not based on the events that happened in London, however the concept of happy slapping is what I've kept in the film.

Did you already have the idea to shoot on a cell phone long before the iPhone was released?

Yes. The iPhone 4 is only the second phone in the world to come out with an HD camera and we were going to actually use a Samsung that came out the previous summer. My DP (Director of Photography) was saying, 'go with the Apple', because you're going to use Final Cut Pro (an Apple developed editing software), so just keep the whole thing Apple 'cause you just don't know with Samsung. So we shot with the Apple.

You'd always had the idea to use the cellphone? You didn't want to use a FlipCam or suchlike?

Well, the idea was to use a cellphone when we started writing the film about four years ago or so. The idea was to use a cameraphone that would be of good quality. As we progressed with the script, technology progressed. Guess what? We have this great new phone camera we can use.

Do you think more filmmakers will take a leaf out of your book and try and do the same thing?

Oh, for sure. It's only a matter of time. Only 30 years ago filmmakers started using video cameras. Now, it's normal for most independent filmmakers to use them. Even film cameras are on their way out, right? Most DPs are going to tell you exactly that, ten years ago they still wanted to use celluloid but because of the advance technology - binary codes - electronic images are almost as good if not superior to what you find in celluloid these days. So, it's only a matter of time before even phone cameras are somewhat extinct. It's unreal, the quality. Unreal.

It's crazy what you can do these days.

A lot of people were saying - you know I'm not that tech savvy - you're going to have this curving and distortion especially when you're moving around and different plaining and you don't have any of that. It's very fluid. They've got steady cams for the iPhone 4 now that you can buy, so obviously people are starting to realise you can actually shoot more than just a short film or a music video on it, y'know? There was that Korean filmmaker, Park Chan-Wook - he came out with a short film in January, he's a very famous Korean filmmaker and he got a lot of news because he shot this little short film. I did the research - I hired a journalist and a researcher to make sure we were the first ones to shoot with an iPhone 4 because others have shot with different camera phones. We were, out of the gate, when we started shooting in June/July when the camera first came out, but I'm pretty there are others who have shot features and not just short films.

So, when can the regular person like me see the movie?

With my first feature, we did about six months to a year of film festivals and then Alliance picked it up and showed it everywhere. So, if I was to estimate I would probably say it'd be about 6-12 months before it actually gets to distribution. But, you never know, things can happen so quick, y'know?

So will Alliance distribute this movie too?

Well, I'm going to take it to Alliance first because they were very good to me with my first feature and it played just about everywhere. You can still actually see it on [MoviePix](#) these days. So, they'd be the first ones just out of respect to them. Internationally, they already have partnerships and do own other distribution companies in a lot of these what we call G8 countries. They'd be the first I'd take it to, if they're interested - great. If not, I've just got to move on. Patrice Deroux who runs eOne, is the one who actually bought my film back in the day when Alliance was called Alliance Atlantis - he used to run the theatrical and home video distribution department so he'd probably be number two I think.

Is there any way that we can watch a trailer?

I don't have a trailer just because we're waiting, we just got some more money from [Telefilm Canada](#) to properly finish the film, including a trailer and a website, and proper sound and colour correction. We might need to do a little bit of [ADR](#).