

CHUCK KLEVEN

Filmmaker / Writer / Director

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CFC: What accomplishments in filmmaking do you feel like you've achieved?

CK: Getting a vision from your head to paper to realization on screen... that is an accomplishment for any filmmaker. To try to get a film as close to your vision as possible is what it's all about...it's what keeps me coming back. I like the idea of getting my story or other people's stories out and into festivals so that other people can see what today's media may not show ...something bizarre, a little left field.

CFC: Anything personal you might want to share with us?

CK: I enjoy cooking. My favorite show is Anthony Bourdain's Parts Unknown. The cinematography on that show is beautiful. Depending on the episode, the crew will specifically choose a style of film they are all into at the time and try to pull off the same aesthetic. I'm a food whore. To me, cooking is just another form of a creative outlet.

CFC: So, do you currently have anything in the works?

CK: I'll be working on a short film called "Frontier" in Wilmington, NC at the beginning of the summer. In a nutshell, it's about a younger girl who lives with a father that neglects her and she comes up with a plan to escape the reality of her home life.

CFC: What inspires you as a filmmaker?

CK: Initially, the thing that hits me first is music. I start coming up with a scene when I hear a certain song. Also, imagery in everyday life can spark an entire idea at any moment.

CFC: As a filmmaker, what was your proudest moment?

CK: My proudest moment that never gets old is having my films shown on a big screen with an audience. I like being there with the audience getting to experience their watching the film instead of them being at home watching it on a laptop.

CFC: Where are you from and do you believe your background has played an important role in your filmmaking? How so?

CK: I'm originally from Queens, NY. There are tons of characters in NY that you can draw from. Any city that's a melting pot of different cultures is a source for limitless ideas. Also, just immersing yourself in film history and watching different director's films. That cultures you in a way. It makes you think about certain ideas and how to execute those in your own films.



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CHUCK KLEVEN (continued)

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CFC: What do you feel sets you apart from other filmmaker?

CK: I'm very conscious of pacing. I love starting a film off with an impactful image and sound I can think of that best serves the story. Something that will grab the audience and say "hey, you... watch this!" Getting them along for the ride is half the battle, following it through with thoughtful pacing will make or break the film.

CFC: If you were going to make a film of your life, what actor would you choose to play the role of Chuck Kleven?

CK: Tom Hardy, he's good in everything I've seen him in or Sean Connery because in another life...I'd be a double agent.

CFC: Who was your first celebrity crush?

CK: Penelope Cruz... I've loved her forever. That accent just kills me.

CFC: Share a fun fact or two about yourself.

CK: To pay my bills, my "real" job is filming surgical procedures across the country for medical device companies...If I'm ever within 10 feet of a body of water, you'll find me in it at some point...I recently impersonated Frank Abagnale (the man on which the film "Catch Me If You Can" is based) by using his invitation to a gala to get out of a \$60 parking ticket in Charleston, SC.

"...I recently impersonated Frank Abagnale..."

To see more of Chuck's work check out:

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