

# Artistic License

F I L M S

ARTISTIC LICENSE FILMS

*PRESENTS*

AN M2M FILMS AND EGOLI TOSSELL FILM PRODUCTION  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH HELLHOUND

## Mouth to Mouth

A FILM BY ALISON MURRAY

NEW YORK OPENING ON MAY 19, 2006  
AND  
LOS ANGELES OPENING ON JUNE 2, 2006

**Unrated**  
**96 Minutes**

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## Synopsis

Sherry, a young runaway meets the radical street collective SPARK - Street People Armed with Radical Knowledge – while she is living on the streets of Europe. She travels through the continent in the SPARK van, recruiting members from street gangs and disenfranchised youth at raves and town squares and experiencing the group's giddy thrills as well as its punishing manipulations.

Searching for a place to belong where she can still be herself, Sherry thinks she has found this in SPARK, but when her mother comes to find her, Sherry discovers that she must pay a heavy personal price for rebellion.

Alison Murray combines drama, suspense and choreographed movement in an intense, stylish and provocative look at youth culture, the struggles of parenthood, and the dark side of nonconformity.

## **Director's Statement**

**Alison Murray**

"I left home when I was 15. The energy and vitality of youth is paramount to the film. Like me at that age, the film's heroine Sherry is searching for a place to belong where she can still be herself. She thinks she has found this in SPARK - Street People Armed with Radical Knowledge. I tried to create an organization I would want to join, SPARK was the result. Harry, SPARK's leader, says "Most organizations aimed at helping the homeless want you to fit back in, and contribute to society, like you should get off the street, into a house, into a 9 to 5 job...but maybe there's another way." To me, SPARK's appeal lies in offering those who have fallen through the cracks a chance to pull their lives together, without having to become cogs in the wheel.

The down and out characters SPARK recruits are clever, witty and sardonic. I tried to show the tenacity of these people on the margins in an irreverent, humorous way. It is the apparently craziest street person, Mad Ax, who is the least taken in by SPARK's rhetoric. He appreciates Sherry's innocence and feistiness, and falls in love with her. She rejects him, but inspires him to break out of his apathy. This strange relationship between Sherry and Mad Ax is my favorite thing in the film, a love story. Sherry leaves the group after compromising what she believes in order to find acceptance. At the end of the film she stands up for what she knows is right, aware that she will go out into the world totally alone, but with her freedom and individuality intact. Others joined the group easily prepared to give their power away, in exchange for the security and sense of righteousness that being part of a group can bring. George Orwell's ANIMAL FARM was a classic inspiration for exploring this meeting point of politics and human nature.

Although SPARK helps some of its members, my own disillusionment with 'alternative lifestyles' is reflected in the story. In my teens I lived for several years in squatted buildings in London, teetering on the edge of homelessness. I met and was inspired by political activists who wanted to change the world. The let down was hard when I discovered so many of these people to be armchair anarchists whose daily lives were little different to anyone else's. The utopia we were meant to be building never materialized. But at least there was a good party along the way.

I intend the film to look to the audience as the world looks to Sherry as she experiences it. As she travels from Northern to Southern Europe the dramatically changing landscape illustrates the mood. We experimented with how far we could push the limits of the HD blow up process from 16mm to 35, to create our unique look of saturated colors, sometimes blown out, sometimes shadowy. During the shoot, we often used very long master shots, which we grabbed just as the sun was about to set, rehearsing the shot again and again as we waited for the perfect light.

I used my background in dance and physical theatre to express the deeper emotions of the characters. Choreography is central to many films I admire, the fight choreography of *RAGING BULL*, and the soldiers in Claire Denis' *BEAU TRAVAIL*. I love the heightened and intense physical drama dance conveys, but I am often puzzled as to why the dancers are going through the angst their contorted bodies express so powerfully.

With *MOUTH TO MOUTH* I was able to create choreography where the audience knows exactly why the characters move as they do, because they have spent the previous thirty minutes getting to know the characters' stories. The choreography flows naturally from the characters' interactions and does not reflect conventional dance styles. I tried to work with the unique physicality of the individual actors to create something believable yet heightened. I hope the overall style to be truthful, yet poetic. The moments where Sherry physically touches and is touched by the other characters speak the most. "

**Executive Producer's Statement**  
**Atom Egoyan**

"This is a truly adventurous and original film. Alison Murray makes extraordinary shorts which combine her choreographic skills with a finely tuned sense of camera gesture and play. In her first feature, Murray extends this unique vision in a compelling story of a young woman's experience with a modern cult. *MOUTH TO MOUTH* urgently conveys the complex dynamics of an individual against the tribe, compassionately revealing both the seductions and the horrors of indoctrination and liberty. "

## Biographies

### **ALISON MURRAY DIRECTOR/ WRITER**

Alison Murray grew up in Canada and the UK. She studied dance and theatre before completing an MA in Film Direction at the Royal College of Art (1995). She has been making award-winning short films since *KISSY SUZUKI SUCK* (1992). Many of Murray's films incorporate her unique approach to dance and in 1996 she received a Paul Hamlyn Award for Choreography. She has choreographed and directed two films for the BBC's 'Dance for the Camera' series. Alison's work has been presented alongside that of Harmony Korine, Paul Thomas Anderson, Michel Gondry and Atom Egoyan in *RET. INEVITABLE* at Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage - an event billed as 'screening today's most important visualists'. The Institute of Contemporary Art in London has presented a retrospective of her short films, also shown at the Tate Gallery.

In 2000 Murray completed *TRAIN ON THE BRAIN*, an hour long documentary for Channel 4 and TVOntario in which she rode the rails across North America, armed with a DV and Super 8 camera. In 2003 she collaborated with London based rapper Jonzi D to make *AEROPLANE MAN*, a film adaptation of Jonzi D's hit theatre show of the same name. She has directed over twenty music videos, and is currently producing and directing a documentary about Carnys - traveling fairground workers. *MOUTH TO MOUTH* is Alison's first feature film as a writer and director.

### **ELLEN PAGE - SHERRY**

An actress whose poise and range reaches well beyond her years, Ellen Page is emerging as one of Hollywood's most talented rising young stars.

Page was most recently seen in David Slade's *HARD CANDY*, distributed by Lionsgate Films. She will next be seen in the *X-MEN: THE LAST STAND*. Page stars as Kitty Pryde, a young mutant who possesses the ability to phase through solid matter. Directed by Brett Ratner and also starring Patrick Stewart, Halle Berry, and Hugh Jackman, *X-MEN: THE LAST STAND* will premiere at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival and is slated for worldwide release on May 26, 2006.

On Canadian television, Page played the role of Lilith in the first season of "ReGenesis," a one-hour drama for TMN/Movie Central which garnered her with a 2005 Gemini award for her performance. Page also appeared in the cult hit series "Trailer Park Boys".

Other television movie credits include "Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story," opposite Thora Birch and "Going for Broke" opposite Delta Burke and Gerald McRaney, both for the Lifetime Network, as well as "Mrs. Ashboro's Cat," opposite Michael Ontkean where she won the 2004 Gemini Award for Best Performance in a Childrens' or Youth Program or Series and MARION BRIDGE, winner of Best Canadian First Feature at the Toronto International Film Festival where Page won an ACTRA Maritimes Award for Outstanding Female Performance.

### **NATASHA WIGHTMAN – ROSE, SHERRY'S MOTHER**

Natasha Wightman attended Elmhurst Ballet and Theatre School. She has performed in theatre, television and film. Most recently she appeared in James McTeigue's V FOR VENDETTA and Philippe Andre's THE ROPE. Other film work includes, SHOREDITCH directed by Malcolm Needs and GOSFORD PARK directed by Robert Altman. Her television work includes roles in "State of Play" for the BBC as well as "The Trouble with Love," also for the BBC. On stage, Wightman has played Roselind in "As You Like It," a production by the Soho Theatre Group in London and Ruth in "Blithe Spirit" presented by the Tristan Bates Theatre. Her other plays include "La Ronde" at the Southwark Playhouse and "Richard III" at the Rose Theatre.

### **ERIC THAL - HARRY**

Eric Thal was born in upstate New York and grew up outside of Philadelphia. He moved to New York City to study acting and pursue his career. With virtually no previous film experience, he was cast in Sidney Lumet's A STRANGER AMONG US, opposite Melanie Griffith, after originally auditioning for a smaller role.

In his career, Thal has preferred to select interesting and varied roles, often unrecognizable from the characters he has played. Films have included: SIX DEGREES OF SEPERATION, THE PUPPET MASTERS, JOE'S SO MEAN TO JOSEPHINE, SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS, WISHFUL THINKING, MIXING NIA, and THE SHAFT. Television appearances have included TNT's "Samson and Delilah" with Elizabeth Hurley, ABC's "The Wedding" with Halle Barry, as well as a slew of bad guys on various cop shows.

In addition to acting, he spends most of his time with related creative interests including writing, film-making, and playing music.

In 2000, he was cast in a pilot called "Ultraviolet." An actor named Spence Decker played his vampire-cop partner. The two have remained friends and when on the same coast have frequently worked together playing guitar in original songs of Decker's. They worked together again playing band-mates in LOOKING FOR SUNDAY, directed by Ultraviolet's director, Mark Piznarski. The film features Decker's songs and will be completed in 2006.

#### **BEATRICE BROWN – NANCY**

Beatrice Brown makes her feature film debut in MOUTH TO MOUTH.

#### **MAXWELL McCABE-LOKOS – MAD AX**

Maxwell McCabe-Lokos is an up and coming young actor from Toronto, Canada. Playing 'Mad Axe' in Mouth to Mouth he shows promising talent as an exciting and convincing character actor. He is a natural talent, self taught and original. In only a few years Maxwell has had supporting roles in numerous television shows; This Is Wonderland, Street Time, and Blue Murder to name just a few, as well as many feature films; Land of The Dead, The Sentinel, Twist, The Man... and has just finished working with Ellen Page as her supporting co-star in their second film together: The Tracey Fragments by Bruce MacDonald. Maxwell is represented by agent Dani De Lio at Creative Drive artists in Toronto.

## **AUGUST DIEHL – TIGER**

German actor, August Diehl has appeared in many feature films, including the lead role in *TATTOO*, directed by Robert Schwentke. He also performed alongside Adrien Brody in the film *LOVE THE HARD WAY*, directed by Peter Sehr. His acting credits include many German television and film productions.



## Credit List

Written and Directed by	ALISON MURRAY
Produced by	ANNE BERESFORD JUDY TOSSELL
Director of Photography	BARRY STONE, CSC
Production Design	ULRIKA ANDERSSON
Editor	CHRISTIAN LONK
Costume Design	JEMIMA COTTER
Make-Up and Hair Design	HEIKO SCHMIDT LEE PEARSON
Line Producer	MARC WÄCHTER
Production Manager	TOM STERNITZKE
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Director	DYLAN GRAY
Sound Design	FRANK KRUSE
Original Music Score	ROWAN OLIVER
Sound Recordist	PEDRO MELO
Color Grading	JENS BEYER
Sound Mixer	ROBERT JÄGER
Executive Producers	ATOM EGOYAN SIMONE URDL

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Sherry	ELLEN PAGE
Sherry`s Mother Rose	NATASHA WIGHTMAN
Tiger	AUGUST DIEHL
Nancy	BEATRICE BROWN
Mad Ax	MAXWELL McCABE-LOKOS
Manson	ELLIOT McCABE-LOKOS
Dog	DIANA GREENWOOD
Harry	ERIC THAL
Blade	JEFFERSON GUZMAN
Scrawny Boy	WILLY RACHOW
Heckler	CHRISTIAN NÄTHER
Red	JIM STURGESS
Squeegee Girl	PATRICIA GUERREIRO
Cute Guy	JOAQUIM HORTA
Spark Members	ARMIN DILLENBERGER RUI SILVA ANDRÉ TEODÓSIO ALBERTO MAGASELA ANDRÉ TEODOSIO MÁRCIA CARDOSO ILÍDIO FRANCES ANDRESA SOARES TERESA MADRUGA ANTÓNIO PEDRO FARIA CRISTINA DO AIDO TERESA MÓNICA PAULA GARCIA
Choreography	ALISON MURRAY
Choreographic Assistant	CHARLOTTE DARBYSHIRE
Script Editors	TIM JACKSON AIMEE STEPHENSON BRITT HARRISON
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director	STOJAN PETROV
Script Supervisor/Continuity	ANNETTE DREES

Focus Puller	CLAUDIA SCHNOOR
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Camera	HELEN SABATZKI
Stills Photographer	JOSIE SYKES
Boom Operator	CARLOS MOTA
Art Director	ASTRID POESCHKE BERGAN
Art Department Trainee	HENRY SEIFERT
Property Master	DAVID HOFFMANN
Property Buyer	TOM BEWERMEIER
Stand-By Carpenter	LARS DICHT
Stand By Property	CLAUDIA KIEFER
Scenic Painter	WOLFGANG WREDE
Assistant Costume Designer	LOUISE NOBLE
Wardrobe	SENAY AY
Make-Up Assistant	MARIE-EGLANTINE LEIBFRIED
SFX Make-Up	TRICKY MAC FX
	CHRISTIANE RÜDEBUSCH
Special-Effects	HANS SECK
Special Effect Technicians	ADRIAN LORBERT
	MICHAEL STAHL
Stunt Coordination	ALISTER MAZZOTTI
Stunt Performers	MICHAEL SCHEUNEKE
	WOLFGANG STEGEMANN
	ASUKA TOVAZZI
	MARTIN WARNCKE
	SASCHA HEU
Casting Canada	JOHN BUCHAN
Casting USA	SUSAN SHOPMAKER
	KERRY BARDEN
Casting UK	JANE FRISBY
Casting Germany	SIGRID EMMERICH
Casting Portugal	ANTRO CASTING
Dialogue Coach	ANNE-MARIE SPEED

## **About the Production**

### **M2M Films/MJW Productions**

MOUTH TO MOUTH is co-produced by M2M films, the sister company of MJW Productions, one of Britain's leading independent producers. Both companies are run by Anne Beresford and Margaret Williams, and have long-lasting relationships with a number of like-minded directors.

MJW is particularly known for music and dance films, but also work in drama, features and documentaries. Credits include Alison Murray's TRAINS ON THE BRAIN, the ultimate railroad movie which was shown to great acclaim on Channel 4 and TVOntario. Also the film of Benjamin Britten's opera OWEN WINGRAVE for Channel 4, directed by Margaret Williams. Filmed entirely on location, 'this is probably the best film version of opera yet made' (Daily Telegraph).

Currently showing on Channel 4 is "The Rough Guide to Choreography," a four part documentary and performance series exploring choreography from Kathak to the pop video. MJW are in pre-production on "Armida," a new music drama for Channel 4 with composer Judith Weir, which will be filmed entirely on location in Morocco. They are also developing two feature films to be directed by Margaret Williams: GAL PLANET, a UK/Sweden/Finland co-production and GARDEN OF EDEN, adapted from Sharon Butala's novel, set in Canada and Ethiopia, to be co-produced with Buffalo Gal Productions in Manitoba.

### **Egoli Tossell Film AG**

Egoli Tossell Film is an independent production company with subsidiaries in Berlin, Munich, Leipzig and Cologne. We are European producers with a passion for great stories and storytellers. We develop and produce international feature films, young emerging talent and outstanding theatrical documentaries.

Over the past few years, we have worked in countries as diverse as the former Soviet Union, USA, Israel, South Africa, and Jamaica – not to mention most of Europe. We have forged strong relationships with leading producers and financiers in many of these countries. In 2004, we had six feature films and three feature documentaries in production. Egoli Tossell's library now comprises more than fifty titles to which we own the majority of rights.

Our vision is to make heartfelt, meaningful films with strong audience appeal. Past productions include Alexander Sokurov's RUSSIAN ARK, Ed Herzog's ALMOST HEAVEN and Nana Djordjadze's 27 MISSING KISSES. We pride ourselves on being filmmaker's producers and enjoy strong creative relationships with outstanding directors and writers. Our current slate of European co-productions includes films by Paul Verhoeven and Nicholas Roeg.

### **Hellhound**

Hellhound is Alison Murray's film and theatre production company, formed in 2003 to produce Jonzi D's AEROPLANE MAN, a film adaptation of the hip rap theatre show.

Subsequently, Hellhound has raised financing for and co-produced Carnesky's GHOST TRAIN. Carnesky's GHOST TRAIN is a real ghost train ride featuring live performers and magic illusion by Paul Kieve, illusions creator for HARRY POTTER. This phantasmagorical journey started with an eight week run in London's Brick Lane in August 2004, where 10,000 people rode the Ghost Train. It was also featured as entertainment at this year's Brit Awards in London, and will now commence an international tour. Hellhound is associate producer of MOUTH TO MOUTH.

PRESS KIT



# MOUTH TO MOUTH

A film by Alison Murray

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND PICTURE THE PERFECT WORLD

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# MOUTH TO MOUTH

A film by Alison Murray

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND PICTURE THE PERFECT WORLD

*"In the late 1980s I joined a cult. Mouth to Mouth is an attempt to understand how that could have happened."*

ALISON MURRAY Writer/Director

*"This is a truly adventurous and original film. Alison Murray makes extraordinary shorts which combine her choreographic skills with a finely tuned sense of camera gesture and play. In her first feature, Murray extends this unique vision in a compelling story of a young woman's experience with a modern cult. Mouth to Mouth urgently conveys the complex dynamics of an individual against the tribe, compassionately revealing both the seductions and the horrors of indoctrination and liberty. "*

ATOM EGOYAN Executive Producer

How Sherry loses her virginity, her illusions and her lip ring in one trippy road trip across Europe.

Sherry is searching for a place to belong where she can still be herself. She thinks she has found this in SPARK - Street People Armed with Radical Knowledge. She takes off in SPARK's camper van as they cross Europe recruiting a membership of the down and out. They arrive at a disused vineyard in Portugal that will be their paradise.

Harry, the group's leader, begins harvesting ripe grapes and ready minds through his own methods of hard work and punishment. The stakes are high within this volatile group. Two deaths ensure the submission of most of the recruits but not Sherry, or the apparently craziest street person, Mad Ax. Mad Ax is the least taken in by SPARK's rhetoric. He is also in love with Sherry.

Into this Shangri-la comes Sherry's mother. Failing to persuade Sherry to leave, she decides that SPARK has more to offer than single parenthood in London. Disillusionment complete, Sherry stands up for what she knows is right, denounces SPARK, and escapes with Mad Ax into the unknown.

TRUSTING OTHER PEOPLE WILL PUT YOUR ASS IN JEOPARDY EVERY TIME.

Produced by Judy Tossell and Anne Beresford

With Ellen Page, August Diehl, Maxwell McCabe-Lokos, Eric Thal, Natasha Wightman and Beatrice Brown

Soundtrack: Noir Desir, The Strangers, The Birthday Party, Azure Ray, Maxmilian Hecker and The Bug

Website: [www.mouthtomouthmovie.com](http://www.mouthtomouthmovie.com)

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# MOUTH TO MOUTH

## PRESS QUOTES

"ALISON MURRAY recently landed in Toronto after making street-style dance films in the UK, Murray saw her debut feature, MOUTH TO MOUTH, turn out to be **the year's strongest unreleased film.**"

*Cameron Bailey's Top Ten Locals (Now Toronto December 2004)*

"The dark eyes and sullen mouth say another fuck-you teenager too smart for her own good, but Ellen Page, 17, is the subtlest young actor in town...watch for her raging star turn in Alison Murray's superb MOUTH TO MOUTH."

*Best of Toronto, (NOW)*

"...uncompromising..." *Artrocker*

"It's one of those films that crawls under your skin and doesn't let you go. You will leave {the theater} with images from this radical movie still buzzing in your head."

*Ron Holloway (German Film)*

"*HARD CANDY* is memorable most of all for PAGE,... The actress will be in great demand as soon as Hollywood sees this, if she isn't already. "

*Todd MacCarthy (Variety)*

"Murray's work is admirably uncompromised, and her previous experience directing dance films filters through here in the way the action is choreographed with constant movement. {...} *Mouth to Mouth* is a messy trip, but there's a lot of spark here and signs of good things to come from Murray."

*Craig Phillips (GreenCine Daily)*

"Full of big ideas and impressive moments {...} Murray is at her best in those digressive, dialogue-free scenes"

*Goldberg (The San Francisco Bay Guardian)*



# MOUTH TO MOUTH

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

How Sherry loses her virginity, her illusions and her lip ring in one trippy road trip. After hooking up with a bizarre collective called SPARK and driving across Europe in a blaze of substances, the crew land in a vineyard in Portugal, where Sherry discovers that she must pay a heavy personal price for rebellion.

*CLOSE YOUR EYES AND PICTURE THE PERFECT WORLD*

## SYNOPSIS

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Harry, the group's leader, begins harvesting ripe grapes and ready minds through his own methods of hard work and punishment. The stakes are high within this volatile group. Two deaths ensure the submission of most of the recruits but not Sherry, or the apparently craziest street person, Mad Ax. Mad Ax is the least taken in by SPARK's rhetoric. He is also in love with Sherry.

Into this Shangri-la comes Sherry's mother. Failing to persuade Sherry to leave, she decides that SPARK has more to offer than single parenthood in London. Disillusionment complete, Sherry stands up for what she knows is right, denounces SPARK, and escapes with Mad Ax into the unknown.

# MOUTH TO MOUTH

## MAJOR CREDITS

### Key Cast:

Sherry	ELLEN PAGE
Harry	ERIC THAL
Sherry's Mum Rose	NATASHA WIGHTMAN
Tiger	AUGUST DIEHL
Mad Ax	MAXWELL MCCABE LOKOS
Nancy	BEATRICE BROWN
Dog	DIANE GREENWOOD
Blade	JEFFERSON GUZMAN
Director/Writer	ALISON MURRAY
Producers	ANNE BERESFORD & JUDY TOSSELL
Director of Photography	BARRY STONE, CSC
Production Design	ULRIKA ANDERSSON
Editor	CHRISTIAN LONK
Costume Design	JEMIMA COTTER
Sound Design	FRANK KRUSE
Original Score	ROWAN OLIVER
Sound Recordist	PEDRO MELO
Executive Producers	ATOM EGOYAN & SIMONE URDL
Production companies	M2M FILMS LTD & EGOLI TOSSELL FILM AG

# MOUTH TO MOUTH

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

### ELLEN PAGE (Sherry)

Credits include:

	<u>Director</u>	<u>Title</u>
Lead	David Slade	<i>Hard Candy</i>
Principal	Daniel MacIvor	<i>Wilby Wonderful</i>
Principal	Marion Productions/Wiebke Von Carolsfeld	<i>Marion Bridge</i>
Principal	Naked Piper Films/Scott Simpson	<i>Tough and Go</i>
Lead	Porchlight/Kelly Sandefur	<i>ghost.com</i>
Principal	Showcase/Mike Clattenburg	<i>Trailer Park Boys II</i>
Series lead	Cochran Entertainment/various	<i>Pit Pony (2 seasons) *</i>
Principal	Cochran Entertainment/Eric Till	<i>Pit Pony (MOW)</i>
Ensemble	Showcase/Mike Clattenburg	<i>Trailer Park Boys **</i>

\* Young Artist Awards nominee for Best Performance in a TV Drama Series

\* Gemini nominee for Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Programme or Series

\*\* Gemini nominee for Best Ensemble Cast

ACTRA Maritimes Award for Outstanding Female Performance for *Marion Bridge*. Recently voted best star under 20.

### NATASHA WIGHTMAN (Rose, Sherry's mother)

Credits include:

2003	Feature Film		<i>Shoreditch</i>
2002	TV (BBC)		<i>State of Play</i>
2002	Short film	Katharine	<i>Mexicano</i>
2002	TV (BBC)	Rosamund	<i>The Trouble with Love</i>
2001	Feature Film	Lavinia	<i>Gosford Park</i>
2001	Feature Film	Lead role, Maisy	<i>Shoreditch</i>
2000	TV (CBS)		<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>
2000	Feature Film	Lead role, Mira	<i>Revelations</i>
1999	Stage	Rosalind	<i>As You Like It</i>
1998	Short Film	Nina	<i>The Feather Room</i>
1998	Stage	Ruth	<i>Bly the Spirit</i>

# MOUTH TO MOUTH

## ERIC THAL (Harry)

Credits include:

2001	Feature Film	<i>Down</i>
2001	TV Film	<i>Shift</i>
1999	Feature Film	<i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i>
1998	Feature Film	<i>Mixing Nia</i>
1997	Feature Film	<i>Samson and Delilah</i>
1994	Feature Film	<i>The Puppet Masters</i>
1993	Feature Film	<i>Six Degrees of Separation</i>
1992	Feature Film	<i>A Stranger Among Us</i>

## AUGUST DIEHL (Tiger)

Credits include:

2004	Director: Volker Schlöndorff	<i>The 9th Day</i> , lead
2004	Director: Achim von Borries	<i>Love in Thoughts</i> , lead
2003	Director: Hans Christian Schmid	<i>Distant Lights</i> ,
2002	Director: Marceline Loridan-Ivens	<i>La Petite Prairie aux bouleaux</i> , lead
2002	Director: Peter Kern	<i>Haider lebt 1. April 2021</i> , lead
2002	Director: Stefan Ruzowitzky	<i>Anatomie 2</i>
2001	Director: Robert Schwentke	<i>Tattoo</i> , lead
2000	Director: Peter Sehr	<i>Love The Hard Way</i> , USA/Germany
2000	Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner	<i>Der Atemkünstler</i> , lead , Shortfilm
1999	Director: Rainer Kaufmann	<i>Cold Is the Breath of Evening</i> , lead
1998	Director: Egon Günther	<i>Die Braut</i>
1998	Director: Marco Petry	<i>Poppen</i> , lead , Shortfilm HFF Munich
1998	Director: Marco Kreuzpaintner	<i>Entering Reality</i> , lead , Shortfilm
1997	Director: Hans -Christian Schmid	<i>23</i> , lead

# MOUTH TO MOUTH

## ALISON MURRAY on MOUTH TO MOUTH

I left home when I was 15. The energy and vitality of youth is paramount to the film. Like me at that age, the film's heroine Sherry is searching for a place to belong where she can still be herself. She thinks she has found this in SPARK - Street People Armed with Radical Knowledge. I tried to create an organisation I would want to join, SPARK was the result. Harry, SPARK's leader, says "Most organisations aimed at helping the homeless want you to fit back in, and contribute to society, like you should get off the street, into a house, into a 9 to 5 job...but maybe there's another way." To me, SPARK's appeal lies in offering those who have fallen through the cracks a chance to pull their lives together, without having to become cogs in the wheel.

The down and out characters SPARK recruit are clever, witty and sardonic. I tried to show the tenacity of these people on the margins in an irreverent, humourous way. It is the apparently craziest street person, Mad Ax, who is the least taken in by SPARK's rhetoric. He appreciates Sherry's innocence and feistiness, and falls in love with her. She rejects him, but inspires him to break out of his apathy. This strange relationship between Sherry and Mad Ax is my favorite thing in the film, a love story.

Sherry leaves the group after compromising what she believes in order to find acceptance. At the end of the film she stands up for what she knows is right, aware that she will go out into the world totally alone, but with her freedom and individuality intact. Others joined the group easily prepared to give their power away, in exchange for the security and sense of righteousness that being part of a group can bring. George Orwell's Animal Farm was a classic inspiration for exploring this meeting point of politics and human nature.

Although SPARK helps some of its members, my own disillusionment with 'alternative lifestyles' is reflected in the story. In my teens I lived for several years in squatted buildings in London, teetering on the edge of homelessness. I met and was inspired by political activists who wanted to change the world. The let down was hard when I discovered so many of these people to be armchair anarchists whose daily lives were little different to anyone else's. The utopia we were meant to be building never materialised. But at least there was a good party along the way.

I intend the film to look to the audience as the world looks to Sherry as she experiences it. As she travels from Northern to Southern Europe the dramatically changing landscape illustrates the mood. We experimented with how far we could push the limits of the HD blow up process from 16mm to 35, to create our unique look of saturated colours, sometimes blown out, sometimes shadowy. During the shoot, we often used very long master shots, which we grabbed just as the sun was about to set, rehearsing the shot again and again as we waited for the perfect light.

I used my background in dance and physical theatre to express the deeper emotions of the characters. Choreography is central to many films I admire, the fight choreography of Raging Bull, the soldiers in Claire Denis' Beau Travail. I love the heightened and intense physical drama dance conveys, but I am often puzzled as to why the dancers are going through the angst their contorted bodies express so powerfully. With MOUTH TO MOUTH I was able to create choreography where the audience knows exactly why the characters move as they do, because they have spent the previous thirty minutes getting to know the characters' stories. The choreography flows naturally from the characters' interactions and does not reflect conventional dance styles. I tried to work with the unique physicality of the individual actors to create something believable yet heightened. I hope the overall style to be truthful, yet poetic. The moments where Sherry physically touches and is touched by the other characters speak the most.

# MOUTH TO MOUTH

## EGOLI TOSSELL FILM AG

EGOLI TOSSELL FILM is an independent production company with subsidiaries in Berlin, Leipzig, Cologne, Munich and Potsdam-Babelsberg. We are European producers with a passion for great stories and storytellers.

Over the past fifteen years, we have worked in countries as diverse as the former Soviet Union, USA, Israel, South Africa, Jamaica - not to mention most of Europe. We have forged strong relationships with leading producers, financiers and distributors in many of these territories. In 2005 we had nine films in production. Egoli Tossell's library now comprises of more than fifty titles, to which we own the majority of rights.

Our vision is to make heartfelt, meaningful films with strong audience appeal. Past productions include Alexander Sokurov's *Russian Ark*, Paul Verhoeven's *Black Book* and Michael Caton-Jones' *Shooting Dogs*. We enjoy excellent creative relationships with outstanding directors and writers such as Agnieszka Holland, Sandra Nettelbeck and Maria von Heland.

In 2003, Egoli Tossell was granted a Berlin State Guarantee, underwriting our own substantial development fund. We are working on a slate of more than twenty projects, continuing our strategy and philosophy for diversity - from the creative documentary (*Menachem & Fred*) to attractive feature films such as *Twisted Sister*, written by and starring Heike Makatsch. Heading the list of major European projects in development is the screen adaptation of Francois Lelord's international bestseller *Hector's Journey*.

In 2003 Egoli Tossell joined forces with Hamburg's Wüste Film to launch a theatrical distribution company, *timebandits films* (subsequently also a DVD label). Timebandits got off to a great start in 2004 with the success of Berlinale-winner *Head-On* and will be kicking off 2006 by cooperating with NFP marketing and distribution and Fox to release *the* film for World Cup year: *FC Venus* - a gender-battle comedy produced by Wüste Film and co-produced by Egoli Tossell.

# MOUTH TO MOUTH

## M2M FILMS/MJW PRODUCTIONS

MOUTH TO MOUTH is co-produced by M2M Films, the sister company of MJW Productions, one of Britain's leading independent producers. Both companies are run by Anne Beresford and Margaret Williams, and have long-lasting relationships with a number of like-minded directors.

MJW is particularly known for music and dance films, but also work in drama, features and documentaries. Credits include director Alison Murray's *Train on the Brain*, the ultimate rail-road movie which was shown to great acclaim on Channel 4 and TVOntario. Also the film of Benjamin Britten's opera *Owen Wingrave* for Channel 4, directed by Margaret Williams. Filmed entirely on location, 'this is probably the best film version of an opera yet made' (Daily Telegraph).

Currently showing on Channel 4 is *The Rough Guide to Choreography*, a 4-part documentary and performance series exploring choreography from Kathak to the pop video. MJW are in pre-production on *Armida*, a new music drama for Channel 4 with composer Judith Weir, which will be filmed entirely on location in Morocco. They are also developing 2 feature films to be directed by Margaret Williams: *Gal Planet*, a UK/Sweden/Finland co-production and *Garden of Eden*, adapted from Sharon Butala's novel, set in Canada and Ethiopia, to be co-produced with Buffalo Gal Productions in Manitoba.



*Hellhound is Alison Murray's film and theatre production company, formed in 2003 to produce Jonzi D's AEROPLANE MAN, a film adaptation of the hip rap theater show.*

Subsequently Hellhound has raised finance for and co-produced CARNESKY'S GHOST TRAIN. Carnesky's Ghost Train is a real ghost train ride featuring live performers, and magic illusion by Paul Kieve, illusions creator for HARRY POTTER. This phantasmagorical journey started with an 8 week run in London's Brick Lane in August 2004, where 10,000 people rode the Ghost Train. It also featured as entertainment at this year's Brit Awards in London, and will now commence an international tour.

Hellhound is associate producer of MOUTH TO MOUTH.

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