



Sedona International Film Festival to present award-winning Hitchcockian thriller about identity theft

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According to the Federal Trade Commission, one in six Americans will become the victims of identity theft this year. Don't think it could happen to you? The Sedona International Film Festival will be screening "Selfless," an edge-of-your-seat thriller that shows just how easily someone can be robbed over the Internet with a simple slip-up.

Called "stylish, smart and compelling" by the *Oregonian*, the Hitchcockian thriller revolves around a young architect who has become a national star in the green building movement and unwittingly makes himself the target of a master identity thief during a random encounter at the airport.

Filmed in Portland, Oregon's trendy Pearl District, "Selfless" recently took top honors, including the "Best Feature Award," at the BendFilm Festival, and was nominated for both the "Red Star" award sponsored by Heineken for "new visions" in filmmaking and the "Film for Change Producer's Award" at the Santa Fe International Film Festival. "Selfless" was also the only standing-room only entry in the Northwest International Film & Video Festival last Fall.

The Sedona Film Festival will screen "Selfless" on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 2:10 pm, at the Harkins Theatre 6, and on Friday, February 27, at 7:15 pm, at Sedona Red Rock High School. For information about how to purchase tickets, go to www.SedonaFilmFestival.com or call 928-282-1177.

“Selfless” marks the feature film debut for Jacob and Arnold Pander, the award-winning comic book illustrators and creators of such cult classics, *GRENDEL: Devil’s Legacy* and *XXX (Triple X)*. Dubbed “a power duo of creativity” by *SOMA* magazine, their long collaboration has included music videos for Palm Pictures, the concept for Gus Van Sant’s “Runaway” video for Deee-Lite, three graphics novels, ten comic series for Marvel, Dark Horse and DC Comics (including the blockbuster titles *Batman: City of Light* and *Batman: Apocalypse Girl*) and, most recently, *Accelerate* for Image Comics. Arnold has also illustrated, as well as co-authored with Jon Vankin, a new manga-inspired graphic novel – called *Tasty Bullet*—to be published by Image Comics this coming June.

[Watch the Panders talk @ “Selfless”](#)

“Selfless” stars Joshua Rengert, Mo Gallini, Jen Hong and October Moore. Based in Los Angeles, Gallini’s portfolio of unforgettably menacing villains includes supporting roles in John Singleton’s *2 Fast 2 Furious*; *End of Days*, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger; and David Lynch’s *Mulholland Drive*. Rengert has appeared in national commercials for Nintendo, Vonage, and Regent’s Blue Cross, as well as local spots for the Oregon Lottery. Moore, a leading voice-over actor currently being featured in national spots for Comcast, is a graduate of the New Actors Workshop in New York, where she studied under renowned director Mike Nichols. Hong, who makes her feature film debut, is a professional dancer who has performed with numerous Northwest companies.

For more information, go to www.selflessthemovie.com, where a trailer and video interview with the Pander Bros. is posted.



About the Filmmakers

The sons of prominent Northwest painter Henk Pander, the Pander Bros. were encouraged to explore their creativity from the time they could hold a crayon. As kids, they were backstage regulars at Portland’s landmark Storefront Theater, where their father designed installations and stage sets. By their preteens, Arnold was consumed with drawing comics and Jacob, though equally gifted with a pen and brush, was already plotting out his first movie, inspired by such late-night TV serials as “Flash Gordon.”

Their first 8mm film, “War is Hell,” was directed by Jacob at age 12, and starred Arnold, 10, as an ambushed soldier. (To his teacher’s horror, Jacob poked holes through the film stock

to create the illusion of gun-fire flashes.) Their first 16mm film, “Time Gate,” two years later found Arnold stranded in an apocalyptic future, and Jacob’s senior film project, “Walker 2000,” an epic about the last man on Earth. (Their early shorts played in downtown nightclubs, even though the brothers were too young to be admitted.) Around the same time, their first pen-and-paper collaboration became the comic strip, *Gamma World*, which ran in their high school newspaper. And their first after-school jobs were in the Future Dreams comic book store (Arnold) and at a local art house theater (Jacob).

Indeed, it was as a result of Arnold leaving one his drawings behind at Future Dreams, when he quit the job, that their first big break came only a year out of high school. Popular comic book author Matt Wagner spotted it and had independent comics company, Comico, sign them to create the covers, logo and interior illustrations for his ***GRENDDEL: Devil’s Legacy*** series. Overnight, they went from “selling Christmas cards out of our shoulder bags” to being able to afford a trip to the family homeland when it was over. The 12-issue series set a new sales record for an independent comic book (on a par with Marvel and DC Comics), merited nominations for the coveted Eisner and Manning Awards, and scored the industry’s top fans-choice award for the duo.

Among other notable projects, the Pander Bros. created the ***Secret Broadcast*** comic book/companion audio CD tribute to pirate radio (which included electronica producers from throughout the U.S.); the first comic book designed to be read in any order: the Dark Horse mini-series, ***Exquisite Corpse***; and their own epic Amsterdam thriller ***XXX***, also for Dark Horse (which Mondo 2000 hailed as “a comix masterpiece”).

After studying 16mm filmmaking at the Northwest Film & Video Center and serving as an apprentice editor on the 35mm feature, “Shadow Play,” Jacob launched his career as a director with a series of shorts infused with rebellious humor. Among them, ***The Spirit of 76*** featured painter and sculptor Tom Cramer, whose volatile and unpredictable interview style keeps the viewer on constant edge as the artist probes the meaning and American zeitgeist of the early 1990s; ***Media Hijack*** was a 20-minute visual narrative blending of repurchased media images and sound; and ***The Other Side of the Tracks*** chronicled a day in the life of three heroin addicts.

During the same period, the brothers collaborated with several Portland artists from a variety of creative disciplines to form the art collective, **FUSE**. The venue hosted monthly First Thursday events to showcase emerging talents in performance, film and music.

In 1992, Jacob was hired by Frontier Records to shoot his first music video, ***Light in You***, for Dharma Bums, which received extensive play on MTV. Among the others, the Panders conceived, directed and produced Hitting Birth’s ***Drive On***, winner of a Oregon Cascade Award, and several electronica videos featured on MTV’s Amp. Soon after, they were hired by LA-based Palm Pictures to create a series of music videos, featuring such international electronic artists as Howie B., Fantastic Plastic Machine, Spacer, and DJ Miku in a narrative through-line to tell an audio-visual story. *Wired* magazine called their talent for raw storytelling “a knack for cinematic suspense.”

Their 1995 cult classic, **The Operation**, took first place at the New York Underground Film Festival, 2nd place at the Chicago Underground Film Festival, and honors at festivals in Berlin and Copenhagen. *Film Threat* noted that *The Operation* was “the most unusual, inspiring and crowd-pleasing piece” in the NY Underground Film Festival. *Wired* described it as “the kind of video that can rewire your neural net,” and Northwest Film & Video Festival judge Dan Ireland told *Willamette Week*: “It’s like a 16mm version of going over Jupiter in ‘2001: A Space Odyssey!”

The Pander Bros.’ last comics collaboration DC’s *Batman: City of Light* – which, coincidentally, featured Batman pitted against a mad, ego-driven architect. Their most recent graphic novel was *Accelerate* from Image Comics last fall.

For more of the Pander Brothers’ wide range of media projects visit: www.panderbros.com

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