

ROMAN POLANSKI: WANTED AND DESIRED



**An Antidote Films Production
In Association with Graceful Pictures and BBC**

A Film by Marina Zenovich

RUNNING TIME: 99 minutes

RATING: Not rated

CONTACT:

Judy Chang/Melody Korenbrot
Block-Korenbrot, Inc

jchang@bk-pr.com

Mkorenbrot@bk-pr.com

(323) 634-7001

Steven Raphael
Required Viewing

sterapha@aol.com

(212) 206-0118

PRODUCTION CREDITS

DIRECTOR **Marina Zenovich**
WRITERS **Joe Bini**
P.G. Morgan
Marina Zenovich
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS **Steven Soderbergh**
Randy Wooten
PRODUCERS **Jeffrey Levy-Hinte**
Lila Yacoub
Marina Zenovich
COPRODUCER **P.G. Morgan**
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER **Michelle Sullivan**
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **Tanja Kopp**
EDITOR **Joe Bini**
MUSIC COMPOSER **Mark Degli Antoni**

FEATURING INTERVIEWS WITH

Mia Farrow Actress
Samantha Geimer Girl in case
Roger Gunson Assistant District Attorney in Polanski case
Douglas Dalton Roman Polanski's Defense Attorney

ABOUT THE FILM

What happens when one of the world's most famous directors becomes trapped inside one of his own movies?

Directed and produced by Marina Zenovich, **ROMAN POLANSKI: WANTED AND DESIRED** is a fascinating look at the public scandal and private tragedy that led to the legendary director's sudden flight from the United States after his conviction for unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor in 1977. The documentary reopens the complex and still-controversial case 30 years later, challenging many of the myths that have built up around it, while exploring the circumstances that led up to his conviction, as well as the media circus that followed. The film also reveals for the first time some of the questionable behind-the-scenes legal maneuvering.

ROMAN POLANSKI: WANTED AND DESIRED is a 2008 Sundance Film Festival Award winner for Documentary Film Editing and a Cannes Film Festival Official Selection in May 2008.

Known for such films as "Rosemary's Baby" and "Chinatown," Roman Polanski's life was marked by tragedy. His mother was killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust and his fairy-tale love affair with his wife, actress Sharon Tate, ended when she was murdered by followers of Charles Manson in 1969. She was eight months pregnant at the time. Surviving these tragedies, he rebuilt his career in the '70s, until he made a fateful mistake during a photo shoot with a 13-year-old girl. Subsequently convicted of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor, Polanski pled guilty and served 42 days in jail. **ROMAN POLANSKI: WANTED AND DESIRED** explores how the case affected both the young girl and Polanski, while addressing larger, lasting questions about the media, our cultural obsession with celebrity and the U.S. legal system.

Uncovering a treasure trove of telling footage from the past and incorporating revealing modern-day interviews, the film recounts the events that might have influenced Polanski's behavior, unearthing little-known information about the case. In particular, the documentary sheds light on the unusual conduct of presiding Judge Laurence Rittenband, whose zeal for celebrity cases was unprecedented. Revisiting many of the key players – from the candid, clear-eyed victim, to the lawyers representing both sides, to members of the media and friends – the film presents an extensive examination of the case.

Among the exclusive interviews are: the victim, Samantha (Gailey) Geimer, now 45 years old, who publicly forgave Polanski in 1997; former Assistant District Attorney Roger Gunson; and Polanski's defense attorney, Douglas Dalton, who breaks his silence after 30 years to reveal the extraordinary backstage maneuvers that ultimately led Polanski to flee.

Other interviewees include: Lawrence Silver, Samantha Geimer's attorney; producer Andrew Braunsberg, a close Polanski friend; Philip Vannater of the LAPD (Ret.); Dave Wells and Jim Grodin, Assistant DAs (both retired); Richard Brenneman, reporter for the *Santa Monica Evening Outlook*; Hollywood gossip columnist Marilyn Beck; actress Mia Farrow; producer Hawk Koch; psychiatrist Dr. Ronald Markman; producer Daniel Melnick; and screenwriter Lorenzo Semple, Jr.

Now 75, Roman Polanski has lived in France for the last 30 years, where he has been highly honored and continues to be revered. His Best Director Oscar® for the 2002 film "The Pianist" was awarded in absentia.

ROMAN POLANSKI: WANTED AND DESIRED is an HBO Documentary Films and TH!NKFilm presentation; directed by Marina Zenovich; produced by Jeffrey Levy-Hinte, Lila Yacoub and Marina Zenovich; executive producers, Steven Soderbergh and Randy Wooten; written by Joe Bini, P.G. Morgan and Marina Zenovich; director of photography, Tanja Koop; edited by Joe Bini; music composed and arranged by Mark Degli Antoni.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"In February of 2003 there was an article in the Los Angeles Times that questioned whether Polanski would be able to return to Los Angeles if he was nominated for an Oscar for his film THE PIANIST.

Soon thereafter, Samantha Geimer and her attorney appeared on 'Larry King Live' where she publicly forgave Polanski. Her lawyer said something that night, which started my five-year odyssey. He said, 'What happened that day, both to Polanski and to some extent the American judicial system, I really think it was a shameful day.'

What was he talking about? I knew that Polanski fled the country but I couldn't imagine how or why Geimer's lawyer thought that Polanski had been wronged. I was intrigued. I realized that the only way I was going to get to the truth was to talk to the people who were there. I soon discovered that 30 years on, this long misunderstood case still stirred extremely strong feelings.

Having spoken to most of those involved, I discovered that Polanski fleeing the country has totally eclipsed what happened during the judicial proceedings. I also realized the case was tragic for everyone involved. Polanski remains in France, unable to return to the U.S. or countries that have an extradition treaty with the U.S. for unlawful sexual intercourse. Samantha Geimer will forever be known as 'the girl who had sex with Roman Polanski.' Both the prosecution and defense have expressed remorse regarding the way the case unfolded.

This film is not intended to serve as an apology for Roman Polanski. I wanted to explore the case itself and what happens when the media and public opinion enter the courtroom. "

Marina Zenovich

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



MARINA ZENOVICH (Director, Writer, Producer)

Marina Zenovich is a director and producer. Her most recent film, *ROMAN POLANSKI: WANTED AND DESIRED* - called "a documentary of rare fascination and power" by *Entertainment Weekly* - was an Official Selection of the Cannes Film Festival 2008. Other films include: *WHO IS BERNARD TAPIE?* -- a study of the French former politician/convicted criminal turned actor and her fascination with him and *ESTONIA DREAMS OF EUROVISION!* about the wacky world of Tallin, Estonia as it prepares to host the Eurovision Song Contest. Her first documentary *INDEPENDENT'S DAY*, a look at the struggles of independent filmmakers set at the Sundance and Slamdance Film Festivals, featured Steven Soderbergh, Neil Labute and Greg Mottola.

She also works for Gallery HD's series *ART IN PROGRESS* where she has profiled Julian Schnabel, Robert Wilson, John Baldessari, Takashi Murakami and David Lynch, among others.

JEFFREY LEVY-HINTE (Producer)

President of Antidote Films in New York, Jeffrey Levy-Hinte most recently produced *THE LAST WINTER*, an eco-horror thriller co-written and directed by Larry Fessenden. Nominated for best ensemble cast at the 2007 Gotham Awards, the film premiered at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival and was recently released by IFC Films in September 2007, receiving widespread critical acclaim. Also in 2007, Jeffrey produced the documentary *BOMB IT*, a comprehensive investigation of graffiti, covering street art from all around the world. *BOMB IT* premiered at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival's World Documentary Competition. Selected as one of *Variety's* "Producers to Watch" in 2003, Jeffrey has also produced many other critically successful and award winning films, including Gregg Araki's *MYSTERIOUS SKIN*, Catherine Hardwicke's *THIRTEEN*, and Lisa Cholodenko's *LAUREL CANYON*. Additionally, Jeffrey edited the 1996 Academy Award-winning documentary *WHEN WE WERE KINGS*, has served as a juror for the Independent Spirit Awards, and is a board member for Independent Features Project (IFP) of New York.

LILA YACOUB (Producer)

Lila Yacoub produces narrative features, documentaries and shorts. She associate produced the critically acclaimed *THE ANNIVERSARY PARTY*, written and directed by Jennifer Jason Leigh and Alan Cumming; Lasse Halstrom's *THE CIDER HOUSE RULES*; and Rob Iscove's *SHE'S ALL THAT*. Lila also produced the short film, *EASTER SUNDAY*, which stars Jennifer Jason Leigh, and was in competition at the Tribeca Film Festival. Most

recently, Lila consulted on Robert Redford's LIONS FOR LAMBS and Stephen Daldry's forthcoming THE READER.