

MARTEINN THORSSON – WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



Marteinn Thorsson was born in Reykjavik, Iceland and is a dual citizen of Iceland and Canada.

Marteinn started making films at an early age, using a Super 8mm camera. By the age of 17, he had his first gig in the advertising business, as a stills photographer on a commercial film shoot.

In college, he continued by making short horror flicks, while also working in television and on feature films. Two of his early films sold to **Icelandic Television**: *Toy Soldiers* to private broadcaster Channel 2 and *Bogomil Font*: *The Crooner Behind The Curtain* to state broadcaster RUV.

He graduated from **Ryerson University**, in Toronto, Canada, with a B.F.A. degree in Film Studies in 1993 and a 65-minute film noir, *Diary of an Assassin*. *Diary of an Assassin* was selected for a premiere at the **Montreal World Film Festival** but Marteinn could not afford to strike a print, so he was unable to screen the film in the festival.

Since then, Marteinn has written, directed and produced television dramas, comedies, documentaries & variety shows. He has helmed a series of commercials and music videos. He has also written film criticism for Icelandic Press and taught courses in Film Studies at the **Icelandic Film School**.

Marteinn has won **5 PROMAX** awards for promotional spots he created in Toronto, Ontario for **Astral Media/TMN**, for **Showcase**, and for **YTV** and **City-TV**. In 2006 he won the **Icelandic Edda Award** for best Television program, for the current affairs show *Kompás* (for broadcaster **CHANNEL 2**).

In 2004 Marteinn co-wrote and co-directed with **Jeff Renfroe** the feature *One Point 0* (a.k.a. *1.0*, a.k.a. *Paranoia: 1.0*) starring **Jeremy Sisto**, **Deborah Kara Unger**, **Udo Kier** and **Lance Henriksen**. *One Point 0* was nominated for the **Grand Jury Prize** at the **2004 Sundance Film Festival**, and has subsequently sold to more than 43 countries worldwide and won awards in places around the globe. **Variety Magazine** put Marteinn on its **10 Directors To Watch List** in 2004.

He has just released his second feature *Rokland (Stormland)*, which is produced by **Snorri Thorisson** at **Pegasus Pictures** (Reykjavik). Along with Thorisson and **Buffalo Gal Pictures** (Winnipeg), he's developing *When Falcons Fly*, a Canada-Iceland co-production, about a rag-tag underdog team of 2nd generation Icelandic immigrants in Winnipeg, Canada, who go on to win the first Olympic gold in Hockey in 1920.

Marteinn owns **Tenderlee Motion Pictures Company** (www.tenderlee.com), which has several projects in development, including *YOSOY*, based on a novel by **Gudrun Eva Minervudottir**, *Gardarholmi (The Saga Island - Thule)* based on the graphic novel by **Hugleikur Dagsson**, *Bankster*, based on a novel by **Gudmundur Oskarsson**, an untitled horror film by writer/novelist **Steinar Bragi** and an original thriller, *Fljótin (The Rivers)* by **Björn Haukur Pálsson**.

In the summer of 2010 he shot a short entitled *Permille (Prómill)* which was selected for the **Reykjavik International Film Festival** that same year.

Permille is the basis for a no-budget feature (working title is *Blackout*) on an alcoholic (Rokland star, **Ólafur Darri Ólafsson**) who decides to go into rehab but first he must go on a 48-hour bender.

Marteinn will also be teaching Screenwriting and Directing at the **Icelandic Film School** in 2010-2011.

FILMOGRAPHY (SELECTED)

2004 One Point 0 (a.k.a. Paranoia: 1.0) – 93 Minutes
2010 Permille – 14 Minutes
2011 Rokland (Stormland) – 110 Minutes
2011 Gönnar – Öndlit Íslands – In pre-production
2012 THE RIVERS – In Development.
2012 When Falcons Fly – In development