

The Miscreants of Taliwood

GEORGE GITTOES' DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"The Miscreants is the third film in my **NO EXIT doc trilogy**, which covers the War on Terror era *Soundtrack to War* - looked at music and war Iraq (05), *Rampage* - music and street war in a US rap'hood (06), and *the Miscreants* - film and the encroaching war in the North West Frontier of Pakistan (08)."

"I do not work from a pre written script, I work with what I find on prolonged location shoots, and then create my final script in the edit suite. During the course of the **NO EXIT trilogy** I have crossed from filmmaker behind the lens in *Soundtrack to War*, to finally, in *The Miscreants*, playing narrator/presenter, artist/journalist/actor, being Director/DOP, losing my inhibitions about showing my process."

"I see myself as a fine artist working with the medium of film, with the central most important part of my work being that I interact in actual places, as events happen. For me it is about BEING THERE - rather than going in later on the back of current affairs analysis."

"With the support of my Producer, I have maintained a practice of working independently. If the project is time urgent, I do not have to wait out the time delays of raising big budgets before I can start. When I have an instinct about a subject I want to explore - such as when I first went to Peshawar and the North West Frontier - I begin to shoot straight away. I started *The Miscreants* with just enough money for the first airfares, and a box of mini DVD tapes."

"When filming in conflict zones I go in alone, with my cameras and mini DVDs, and work with local people. For *The Miscreants* I set up a small studio base in Peshawar for 6 months - on two forays in 2007-8. From there I accessed the North West Frontier, which at that time, was a region and people which had had very little exposure in the West."

"For all the films in the NO EXIT trilogy, I choose my locations with an instinct for where the next world hot spot would be, and once there, I remained as open as possible to what I was seeing and hearing. I always hunt for unique people who are cinematic stories and situations which reveal layers of the big picture. As can be seen in all three films of the NO EXIT trilogy films, I am drawn to other creative people who find themselves caught in the difficult currents of our times - (the young soldier-musicians stuck in a unwin-able war, in *Soundtrack to War*; afro American making music in a Miami ghetto, in *Rampage*; and actors and filmmakers struggling to hold onto their artform in Pakistan, in *The Miscreants*.)"

"I have had two outstanding people working with me to achieve the NO EXIT trilogy - my Producer Gabrielle Dalton, who has shared the vision and allowed me to develop a totally unique creative process for making feature films, and my Editor, Nick Meyers, who allows me the lengthy and often painful process of construction and deconstruction in the editing suite, over many sleepless nights, until the final multi layered film I am after, is achieved."