

# *DEVIATE*

*fate is a four letter word*



*A FEATURE FILM*

*written by*

*Serge De Nardo*

*& Angelo Salamanca*

*produced by*

*Serge De Nardo*

*directed by*

*Angelo Salamanca*

An AUSTRALIAN CINEMA ENSEMBLE production

*“You have to accept the fact that part of the sizzle of sex comes from the danger of sex.”*

*“Men chase by night those they will not greet by day.”*

*“Pornography is now beyond anyone’s control. It’s a classic example of ever-controversial unregulated capitalism — the market automatically responding to individual needs and desires.”*

*“I continue to support and defend pornography, which I believe exposes the deepest, darkest truths about sexuality.”*

... Camille Paglia

(author, academic, social critic)

## WHAT’S IT ABOUT ?

The comfortable existence of a prominent middle-aged psychologist crumbles rapidly as he becomes obsessed with a client who features in a series of BDSM movies.

## THE STORY

When a single mother with a five year old daughter, reluctantly seeks psychological help for depression, she slowly begins to share with her therapist some carefully guarded aspects of her past and current life. She embarks on therapy sessions with the intention of keeping her profession and an abusive relationship with her ex-husband a secret, but when her psychologist inadvertently discovers his client works in the porn industry, he begins to lose self-control to the point of obsessively exploring firsthand the milieu she moves in. The psychologist’s relatively normal existence is turned on its head as he begins to “deviate” and descend into a sordid, confused fantasy-world of lust, desire, and longing. This eminent professional and family man soon finds himself in conflict not only with his client’s controlling former partner (and current employer) but also with his own wife and son. He dives headlong into a nightmare which compromises his stable marriage, his family, his career, and which ultimately threatens his life.

## THE FILM

**Serge De Nardo** (*The 25th Reich, Neighbours, Greeks on The Roof*) stars with **Belinda Kirwan** (*No. 1 Two Snowflakes; Neighbours; Love is a Square; Sick to the Vitals; Remembering Nigel*) and **Nancy Finn** (*City Homicide, Stingers, The Secret Life Of Us, The Joe Manifesto*), and **Mick Preston** (*Godzilla Final Wars (Tokyo), The Late Show with David Letterman (NYC), City Homicide (Melbourne)*), in a feature film that explores a psychologist's obsession with his new client - an attractive woman working in the online porn industry - and his subsequent fixation with the sub-culture of BDSM (Bondage-Domination-Sadism-Masochism).

*Deviate* is a psycho-sexual, erotic thriller with a dark story-line which might have come directly from today's universal tabloid headlines. It delves into some of the practices in the multimillion dollar global online porn industry which inundates most societies and which often adversely affects both young and older viewers with dubious, bizarre or negative representation of human sexuality.

## PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

<i>Genre:</i>	Erotic thriller
<i>Writers:</i>	Serge De Nardo & Angelo Salamanca
<i>Producer:</i>	Serge De Nardo
<i>Production Company:</i>	The Australian Cinema Ensemble
<i>Locations:</i>	Melbourne
<i>Principal Photography:</i>	2017
<i>Release:</i>	2018
<i>Rating:</i>	MA
<i>Contact Details:</i>	Serge De Nardo 61 (0) 411 238560

## SYNOPSIS

When single mum, LUCY McLEOD (30s), visits GP, DR GATEHOUSE, after suffering serious bouts of depression, he suggests she see a psychotherapist before resorting to prescription drugs.

Prominent psychologist, DAVID BERGMAN (50s) appears to have it all; he's highly respected in his field, having just published a book on new directions in psychotherapy. He lives with his loving, caring wife SARAH (50s) and teenage son, MICHAEL (16) who looks up to him.

David listens to Lucy's story and gauges that she's reluctant to fully reveal her situation. When he suggests she speak freely in order that he may help her, she alludes to her 'erotic' dreams and fantasies, and how these thoughts clash with her strict Seventh-day Adventist upbringing. Lucy is clearly suffering an emotional hell. David assures her that he can help her, even though he's certain she's still holding back vital information.

By chance, David notices a small but distinctive tattoo on her leg. He waits till the session has ended before furtively investigating further. Via the internet, he connects the tattoos – Hindu iconography in the form of a lotus flower and a conch - to a pornographic web site. To his astonishment, David realises Lucy specializes in BDSM (Bondage-Domination-Sadism-Masochism) and although she wears a mask in the adult videos, the tattoos clearly identify her.

David becomes obsessed with Lucy and her work, but this fixation with the new client doesn't sit well with his wife, Sarah. As cracks appear in his long-standing marriage, David pushes Lucy to open up about her *real* life. It becomes clear to Lucy that her therapist's feelings of genuine concern for her are compounded by a strong desire to be with her whatever the cost. Sensing an awkward and risky situation developing, Lucy puts a stop to the therapy.

Mortified and disoriented, in a moment of stupidity David performs an indiscretion with a sex-worker and is caught out by his disgruntled secretary, BETTINA. When irate Sarah gets wind of what her husband has done, she leaves him in order to better deal with the serious health issues she's temporarily kept secret from him.

Now utterly devastated, David takes a huge gamble in tracking down Lucy at her private home. Once he learns that she's being manipulated and exploited by her ruthless ex-husband, ANDY, David offers to help her out of the abusive relationship with enough money for her to get away. Lucy is touched by the offer but assures him that there is no escaping her ex and his cohorts, for Andy has serious gambling debts to pay off and he considers his Lucy is his chief "asset".

However, David resolves to assist her in other ways by dealing with Lucy's ex head-on at the porn film studio. But Andy shows exactly what he's capable of by overpowering David and turning him into an unwilling participant of his latest BDSM internet video nasty. Finding himself amongst garbage, stripped of his clothes, self-esteem, career, and the respect of his family, David's only wish now is to put an end to Lucy's angst.

The following day, he returns to attack Andy with a knife, but with tragic consequences for both men. As David sits in his car bleeding profusely from a life-threatening wound, he's content in the knowledge that he has achieved what he set out to do – his client is now free to live her life safely with her daughter.

# THE AUDIENCE

## Who is our target audience?

This movie will appeal to mature teenagers and adults who have a sociological interest in all aspects of sexuality - especially when it comes to moral and ethical behaviour displayed once humans are exposed various forms of porn easily accessible via the internet. The story's subject matter and themes examines the affects of both users and participants within the context of online porn as a sexual-political, gender-political and socio-economic, phenomenon.

Films exploring similar themes: *Color of Night*; *Basic Instincts*; *The Skin I Live In*; *Unfaithful*; *Bound*; *Jade*.

## Reaching the audience.

Our marketing strategy to reach our audience incorporates a social media plan, an online marketing plan, and traditional marketing techniques.

Theatrical Distribution is important to the give the film a profile and this is a major part of our distribution plan. This will be complimented with On Demand sites such as iTunes, Google play, Amazon and others who are important in this changing media landscape. This is not to deny the important of Free to Air TV, Cable and Satellite deliver platforms which will also be important markets for the film.

We plan to implement a cross media strategy with a clear focus on our target audience.

## WHO IS IN IT ?



Serge De Nardo has worked on numerous films and Television programs from the late 1980s, as both a writer and actor. He was a co-writer and starred in the highly successful comedy 'Greeks on the Roof', screened on Channel 7 in 2003, working alongside Angus Sampson. He also co-wrote and starred in the award winning feature film "The 25th Reich" as Sgt Karl Weaver. Among my other film credits are "No Two Snowflakes" (2016) as Alberto, and "Big Mamma's Boy" (2011) as Father Leo. Other TV credits include Neighbours, Blue Heelers, Saved, Bastard Boys, and High Flyers.



Belinda Kirwan co-wrote and stars in the upcoming 6-part web series 'Actresses' which is set to launch on YouTube in 2017. She has also appeared as an actor in 'No Two Snowflakes', 'Neighbours' 'Love is a Square,' Sick to the Vitals,' 'Remembering Nigel' and in many professional live theatre shows including 'Mate' (Belvoir Street Theatre), 'Macbeth' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' She is also known for her work as a news reporter and presenter on both commercial television and SBS.



Nancy Finn studied acting at the National Theatre Drama School in Melbourne and British American Drama Academy in Oxford England. She has worked in Feature Film, Short Film, TV, TVC's, Theatre and Multimedia with directors such as John Ruane, Glendyn Ivan and Jean-Pierre Mignon. TV credits include: *City Homicide*, *Neighbours*, *Stingers* and *The Secret Life Of Us*. Feature Film credits include: *The Joe Manifesto*, *Academy* (Japanese Release 2007) and *Clean*. Nancy has also worked extensively as a Voice Over Artist.



Mick Preston trained as an actor in New York with the late Uta Hagen. He lived in New York for 9 years and then Los Angeles for a further 2 before returning to Melbourne. His credits include *Godzilla Final Wars* (Tokyo), *The Late Show* with David Letterman (NYC), *Guiding Light* (NYC) and *City Homicide* (Melbourne).



Josh Massarotti has appeared in several short films and is currently working on a number of short and feature films currently in post-production. IN 2015 he began training as an actor with Peter Kalos , and regularly visits the Melbourne Actors Lab to continue to refining his craft.



Nina Nicols' acting for the screen includes feature film, "I Am Evangeline"; web series "Hactresses"; "Neighbours"; and numerous short films. Work for the stage ranges from international Shakespearean productions after training at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, to musical, "Diva The Musical" and "The Barber of Seville" for Opera Australia.



Nadia Andary has a wealth of theatre experience, which includes various Shakespeare productions with OZACT, *Così (Barnstorm)*, *The Goldberg Variations (Brighton Theatre)*, *Hotel Pedro* and *The Window Outside (La Mama)*, *The Okinawa Hymen Repair Kit Factory (Bluestone Arts Space)*, and Baggage Productions' *Madwomen Monologues* as actor and director. Screen work has involved commercials and voiceovers, and numerous short films and television productions, including *Neighbours*, *Fergus in Hell* and the upcoming series *Sonnigsburg*.



**Adam May** has acted extensively in theatre, film, and television, spanning a broad variety of theatre spaces including: La Mama, Theatreworks, Chapel off Chapel, 45 Downstairs, NorthcoteTown Hall, Gasworks, Victorian Arts Centre, Regal Theatre Perth, the London Palladium, and the Edinburgh Festival. Film and television credits include *Ali's Wedding*, *House Husbands*, *Tangle*, *Blue Heelers* (semi-regular), *Saddle Club*, *One Perfect Day*, *Secret Life of Us* and nominated best actor at the 15/15 Festival. Adam also wrote *Rising Fish Prayer* (winner of the Asialink Playwrighting Award) broadcast periodically on BBC Radio and published by Currency Press.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



My aim as director of *Deviate* is to tell a poignant and emotionally charged story simply, effectively, convincingly. I intend to create an on-screen dynamic which is above all, compelling – a movie that will be at times disturbing and gut-wrenching and which will take its audience on a journey through the shadow side of the human psyche.

## BIOGRAPHY

Angelo Salamanca began his stage career when his audition for an award winning Australian touring company eventually saw him perform in England, Scotland, Wales, Holland, Germany, Belgium and Italy. In the mid 80s, Angelo began writing screenplays. His association with Colosimo Films yielded two produced feature screenplays including *CLOSER AND CLOSER APART* praised by David Stratton in "Variety", and *HUNGRY HEART*, Official Selection Edinburgh International Film Festival and also Official Selection Montreal International Film Festival.

In 1991, Angelo graduated with distinction from Swinburne Film and Television School (now, VCA Film and TV School) where his film, *Urban Myth* (writer/director), was picked up for distribution by the Australian Film Institute and received a Certificate of Merit from the Nimes Film Festival, France.

Angelo's first feature as writer/director was *HOSTAGE TO FATE*. A 35mm short film followed: *THE SPIDER AND THE FLY* screened at a number of festivals including St Kilda Film Festival; *IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES*; Fitzroy Shorts at The Night Cat Café.

A second feature film as director, the futuristic teen flick, *ZYCO ROCK* was produced in 2008 and screened at the Kent International Film Festival (Connecticut, USA); Seattle True Independent Film Festival, USA; Sled Island Festival Alberta, Canada; International Film Festival of Ireland.

Angelo has many years experience in the film industry and performing arts as scriptwriter, director and actor, as well as judging films and scripts (Melbourne International Film Festival; AFTRS/ACCTA; The Australian Writers Guild) and teaching (RMIT Film and Video Department, The Fellowship of Australian Writers).

Angelo's latest project as director – short drama, *THE LAST BABSUSHKA DOLL* - is currently in post-production: The cast includes Anne-Louise Lambert, Don Bridges, Chris Gabardi and Tiriél Mora.



# VISUAL MOOD



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