

# **CIRCUIT RIDERS**

Narrative short fiction

Comedy

Running time: 14:59

DVD (all regions), NTSC, 4:3

Written and Directed by: Rob McCarthy

Produced by: Rob McCarthy and Brooke Lewis

(Award Winning) Director of Photography: Matt Kovalakides

(Award Winning) Script Supervisor: Alba Morera Vallverdu

Editors: Scott Berger and Dylan M. Hollis

Titles and optics: Egg !deal Media

**Synopsis:** CIRCUIT RIDERS is a wicked spoof of the controversial pay-to-audition acting workshops. In what Daily Variety called “one of Hollywood’s best kept dirty little secrets,” struggling actors continue to pay thousands of dollars per year to be seen by film and television casting directors, all in the hope of landing that one-line “he-went that-a-way!” role on television.

We follow Lori Horhind, assistant to the associate to the *real* casting director for the hot new television series “Malibu Surfer Cops.” Lori gives an “educational” workshop to some grizzled character actors, along with a few first-time actors just off the bus. Lori, a failed actress herself, now on a power trip, learns a bitter truth as she rides the casting director “circuit.”

**Director Rob McCarthy** wrote this powerhouse ensemble acting piece for specific actors including:

**Brooke Lewis** (QUINTUPLETS),

**Johnny “Roast Beef” Williams** (GOODFELLAS, HONEYMOON IN VEGAS),

**Gina St. John** (BRUCE ALMIGHTY, XXX 2, E! News Anchor),

**Jack Jozefson** (BRUCE ALMIGHTY), and

**Velvet Rhodes** (PASSIONS).

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## About the film:

CIRCUIT RIDERS is a wicked spoof of the pay-to audition casting director workshops which happen almost daily in New York and Los Angeles. Many needy actors pay thousands of dollars a year in an attempt to be seen by television and film casting directors in the hope of securing an acting job.

Brought under civil suit for “clear violation of...section 450 of the California Labor Code,” in what has been called “one of Hollywood’s best kept dirty little secrets” (*Daily Variety*), the workshops continue to be one of the few ways struggling actors are able to perform in front of casting directors, all in the hope of landing that one-line “he-went that-a-way!” role on television. Casting directors, in return, have a steady source of extra income from an almost infinite pool of struggling, desperate talent.

CIRCUIT RIDERS spares no one, taking a poke at actors and casting directors alike. We follow Lori Horhind, assistant to the associate to the *real* casting director for the hot new television series “Malibu Surfer Cops.” Lori gives an “educational” workshop to some grizzled character actors, along with a few first-time actors just off the bus. Lori, a failed actress herself, but now on a power trip, learns a bitter truth as she conducts one of her 40 workshops per year on the casting director “circuit.”

CIRCUIT RIDERS is a comedy that makes a point.

## About the cast:

**Johnny “Roast Beef” Williams.** Martin Scorsese discovered Johnny Roast Beef in Rao’s Restaurant, East Harlem, where he immediately cast him for a supporting role in the classic GOODFELLAS. In fact, Scorsese was so impressed by Johnny’s handling of the role and his natural acting ability, he renamed the character “Roast Beef” in his honor.

Johnny appeared in STATE OF GRACE opposite Gary Oldman and Sean Penn. He also played a lead opposite Nicholas Cage, James Caan, and Sarah Jessica Parker in HONEYMOON IN VEGAS. Johnny has played a variety of film roles, from gangster to auto mechanic, with such respected talents as Billy Crystal, Jim Carrey, and Whoppi Golberg. Johnny’s television credits include LOIS AND CLARK, NYPD BLUE, HIGH INCIDENT, NINETEEN, DHARMA AND GREG, and a recurring role on LOVE AND MONEY. He has also appeared in a variety of network movies, including a special ROCKFORD FILES movie of the week opposite James Garner.

Johnny is also a writer, penning the sequel to MAFIOSO, THE FATHER THE SON, for Eagle Films of Philadelphia. He just finished shooting a pilot presentation MAMA AND SON created, written, and produced by Johnny for a possible television sitcom series. Johnny Williams is represented in Los Angeles by Amsel, Eisenstadt, and Frazier, and in New York by Harden-Curtis.

**Brooke Lewis.** Brooke recently played “Gina Grizano” on the FOX sitcom QUINTUPLETS. Her film credits include 54, RULES FOR MEN, and PRIDE & LOYALTY. Other television credits include ALL ABOUT US, ONE LIFE TO LIVE, and the lead character in a short film that placed 3rd in HBO’s PROJECT GREENLIGHT. She also starred in the festival winning short CODE BLUE and you can catch her in the soon-to-be-released indie feature THE DRUM BEATS TWICE. Brooke’s stage credits include “Donna Marsala” in the off-Broadway comedy TONY N’ TINA’S WEDDING. She is also a producer and heads the indie film company Philly Chick Pictures. Brooke is a proud member of IFP and is represented by Larry Corsa and Melissa Birnstein.

**Gina St. John.** Gina played a “newscaster” in the film BRUCE ALMIGHTY and she will also appear in the upcoming XXX 2. She has anchored a number of national television shows including E! NEWS on E! Entertainment television, and numerous other programs for the USA network, Lifetime Television, and Animal Planet. Her television credits include MONK, NCIS, GROUNDED FOR LIFE, JOAN OF ARCADIA, MISS MATCH, THE DA, SABRINA THE TEENAGE WITCH, and THE DISTRICT. Gina began her career as an actress, comedienne, and disc jockey before moving to Los Angeles where she quickly landed the job as the evening DJ on STAR 98.7.

**Jack Jozefson.** Jack recently played the “homeless man” opposite Jim Carrey in BRUCE ALMIGHTY. He started out many years ago doing children’s theatre, where he quickly learned the secrets of grabbing and holding an audience’s attention. He has concentrated on film and television for the past 25 years after enduring a life as a stand-up comic. Among his numerous television credits, he has particularly enjoyed roles on NYPD BLUE, HUNTER, JAKE & THE FATMAN, and a recurring principal role on GENERAL HOSPITAL.

**Daniel Faltus.** Daniel played opposite Oscar-winner Faye Dunaway in the National tour of the Tony-winning play MASTER CLASS. His film credits include the award-winning film, DON: PLAIN & TALL. Daniel can be seen as “Chives,” the English butler on EVEN STEVENS. Other television credits include ALIAS, MONK, IT’S ALL RELATIVE, ENCORE ENCORE, S CLUB 7, and FIREFLY. Daniel is also an accomplished pianist. He has performed at the Kennedy Center, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Radio City Music Hall, and the Lincoln Center, where he was Music Director for New York City Opera’s student opera workshops. For four seasons, Daniel has been Music Director for Los Angeles Opera’s in-school-opera program. He has been Music Director at the Hollywood Bowl for a show of theatre music, and coached the lead singer in Leonard Bernstein’s *Mass*.

**Lisa Brando.** Lisa can be seen in a recurring role as “real estate agent Candice Howard” on GENERAL HOSPITAL. Her other television credits include ED, EVEN STEVENS, ONE LIFE TO LIVE, and YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS. She recently landed several national commercials, including FEDEX, LAS VEGAS, and T-MOBILE. Lisa is a natural comedienne, and was a member of the main stage and touring company of the famous improv group Second City. Lisa is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University.

**Velvet Rhodes.** Velvet recently played a recurring role as a witch assistant to “Tabitha” on PASSIONS. She is classically trained, having attended the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. She has numerous television and film credits, and was a member of the Little Theatre on Shaftsbury Avenue, London, where she dallied with many experimental and original works. She is fluent in German and can be seen in several upcoming films including, NEVER SAY MACBETH, FAST FORWARD, and DOG CIAO.

**Stacy Noelle Conner.** Stacy a native Texan who began her adventures in acting at the age of five. She studied theater throughout her childhood, worked both on and off-stage at Fort Worth’s Shakespeare in the Park, spent a summer studying theater at the National High School Institute at Northwestern University, and received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from the University of Southern California.

**Kimbra Westervelt.** Kimbra will be seen in the film ALL THAT I NEED at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival, playing herself. An accomplished singer, she performed the song “Your Touch,” in Paramount’s A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY. You may also have caught her hilarious episode playing a “White Diana Ross” on IN LIVING COLOR.

Kimbra has many television commercials to her credit. She also received great reviews in Backstage West for her stage work in A WOMAN’S PLACE, and as the “Desperate Actress” in WRITING HOLLYWOOD LESBIAN, 1963. Kimbra studied and worked in France and Italy. She studied acting at The Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in Los Angeles with the late Susan Peretz

**Stephanie Ohanessian.** Stephanie comes from a strong theatre and musical theatre background, having studied at the Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts and the Central School of Speech and Drama, London. She has many plays to her credit. Her film credits include PRINCESS DIARIES 2 and the upcoming KICKING AND SCEAMING. Stephanie is a native Angelino.

**Ryan Spahn.** Ryan’s film credits include POLISH WEDDING (opposite Claire Danes) and LIVING THE DREAM (opposite Sean Young and Jeff Conaway). Ryan is currently filming an untitled project written and directed by BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER’s Amber Benson. His television credits include STAR TREK: VOYAGER, GENERAL HOSPITAL, and Robert Altman’s acclaimed mini-series TANNER ON TANNER (opposite Cynthia Nixon). Ryan’s many theatre credits include the Boston Court’s multi-Ovation Award winner ROMEO AND JULIET: ANTBELLUM NEW ORLEANS, and the acclaimed premiere of Stephen Fife’s THIS IS NOT WHAT I ORDERED at the Zephyr Theatre. Ryan is also a writer and producer. He attended the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy.

**Tracy Weisert.** Tracy played an angel when she was 4 years old in a church Christmas pageant and the next year, she got an “upgrade” to a shepherd role with her own lamb! She was hooked ever since. In college, she played “The Madwoman of Chaillot” with Oscar-winner Greer Garson, and studied acting with two-time Oscar-nominated Kim Stanley. Her first feature film 20 years ago was SILVERADO followed by WYATT EARP with director Lawrence Kasdan and Kevin Costner in her hometown of Santa Fe. Tracy has a national BUDWEISER commercial running that played during the Super Bowl. Tracy wishes to thank Brian, Melanie and Marina for their unwavering support.

### **About the Director:**

**Rob McCarthy** casts a keen, outsider-turned-insider’s eye on the absurdities of life in Hollywood with CIRCUIT RIDERS. Specifically, he takes aim at “one of Hollywood’s best kept dirty little secrets,” the pay-to-audition casting director workshops.

Rob brings a love of actors and acting to his film directorial debut. He studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, and a raft of New York acting schools including HB Studios, Stellar Adler, and Michael Howard Studios. Rob is a member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA).

He has acted in over 17 films, has been seen in 7 television series, and has numerous industrials and commercials to his credit. One of his favorite roles was playing opposite James Cromwell and Frances Conroy as the Loving Couples Center celebrity host, “Bob,” in SIX FEET UNDER.

Prior to acting, Rob had a distinguished career in the military: White House Social Aide to President Reagan; advisor to Madeline Albright at the United Nations; Military Attache in Bogota, Colombia; advisor to Caribbean maritime forces; U.S. Coast Guard Commander; and he earned two masters degrees in engineering from MIT. None of this, however, prepared him for Hollywood.

### **About the Director of Photography:**

**Matt Kovalakides** is the winner of Kevin Spacy's 2004 Triggerstreet film festival for his film TENTH. His film was also an official selection for the 2003 Tribeca film festival. His filmmaking abilities were also recognized by his selection as a finalist in the 2004 "Budweiser Filmmaker Discovery Award." Matt is an honors graduate from Towson University, Baltimore, MD. Visit his website at [www.ravenpictures.com](http://www.ravenpictures.com) to find out more about this exciting writer, director, and director of photography.

### **About the Script Supervisor:**

**Alba Morera Vallverdu** is one of Europe's promising young filmmakers. Alba is in the United States on a prestigious "Fundacio la Caixa" fellowship grant. Her richly textured film WALL/PAPER, based on Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper," won an A.S.C cinematography award, and was honored to be the opening film in the prestigious Vienna, Austria and Bilbao, Spain film festivals. WALL/PAPER was also an official selection in seven other U.S. and international film festivals.

### **About the Editor:**

**Scott Berger** has been making movies since receiving a camcorder for his Bar Mitzvah. His short, FORWARD ANTICIPATION, premiered at the USC Jewish Student Film Festival. Currently an advertising account executive for Campbell-Ewald, Scott helped develop award-winning campaigns for "American Racing Wheels" and "Commercial Capital Bank." Scott has edited numerous commercials, short films, and other video projects. He is co-owner of Egg !deal Interactive Media, [www.eggideal.com](http://www.eggideal.com), which specializes in digital multimedia production.

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