

Centex Enterprises Presents

# AMERICAN COURTESANS

a different kind of American Story.....  
a modern day documentary about the  
lives of American Escorts



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# AMERICAN COURTESANS

**Written and Produced by**  
Kristen DiAngelo and James Johnson

**Executive Producer**  
Kristen DiAngelo

**Director**  
James Johnson

## **American Courtesans:**

Kristen DiAngelo    Gina Depalma

Pearl Callahan    Erin Marxxx

Skylar Cruz    Juliet Capulet    Emma Dupree

Hilary Holiday    Tamsen Crown

Gina Robinson    Norma Jean Almodovar

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**LOG LINE:**

A MODERN DAY DOCUMENTARY ABOUT  
THE LIVES OF AMERICAN ESCORTS

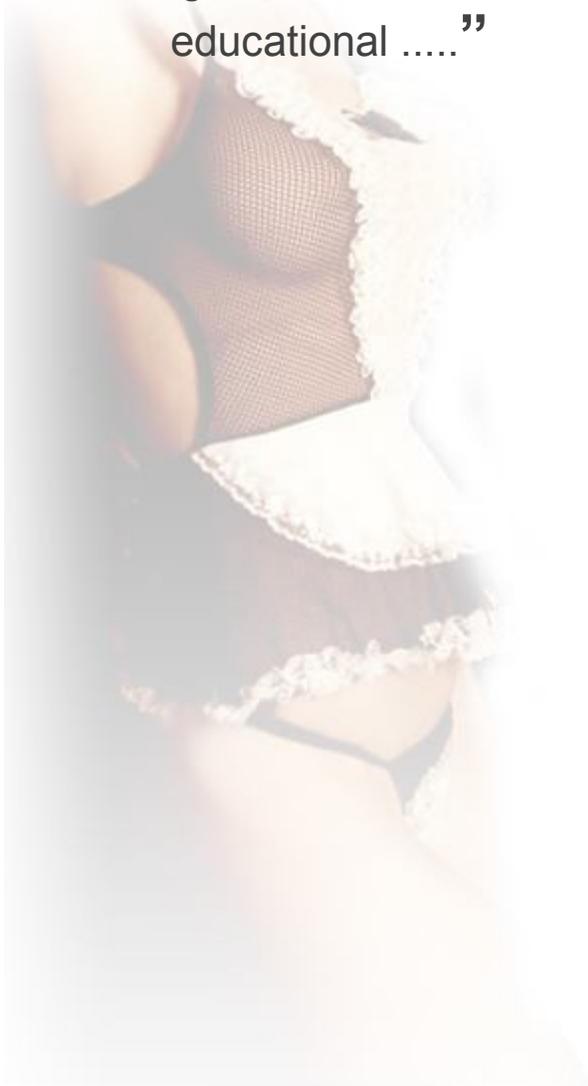
**Synopsis:**

American Courtesans is a Documentary that takes you into the underground world of the American Sex Worker; a world inaccessible to the general public bears its soul to a sometimes unforgiving audience.

Warning: This documentary contains both Sexual and Graphic content.

“Gorilla Filmmaking in its purest form....  
American Courtesans truly captures  
what these women are really like  
and the graphic realities of  
their world.”

“....a new standard has been set for documentary film making. Imaginative, erotic, and educational .....”



If you've read about how this film was conceived, then you know that the idea started when we were shooting web content for Kristen's site and ended up at an S&M club. Afterward, the crew was astounded by what they had seen, which led to discussion about making a documentary.

I have know a few women in the industry who are my friends. They have shared with me some of their stories of adversity and survival. I have been amazed at what these women have encountered throughout their lives and I've been truly awed by what they have overcome. "Miracle" is the word that comes to mind when I reflect on some of their stories. It's a miracle that some of them are still alive; and not just alive but, thriving, productive, members of society.

What really moves me about them, is that despite all they have been through; the abuse, the stigma, the isolation, they are some of the most caring and compassionate people I have ever met. My inspiration for this film is that I want other people to see them the way I see them; for who they really are. They are human beings and damn good ones at that.

When Kristen and I started discussing what we should make a documentary about, we realized she had the ability to give people access to a world that they had never been given access to before. We wanted other women to tell their stories as well. We wanted to erase some of the stigma and stereotypes associated with women in the sex industry and let the audience walk in their shoes for a moment. What we got, was so much more.

## Director's Statement



It was our mission to shed some light on the often misunderstood world of the American Sex Worker. Those of us who participated in the documentary know only too well the realities we live with. After decades of listening to falsehoods created by the general public, largely due to lack of information and puritanical bias, us sex workers made a decision to speak out with the only thing we really have to combat those myths...our own personal experiences and the graphic realities of our world.

In American Courtesans, we endeavor to lead you into an underground world where outside eyes are seldom welcome. With no veils of secrecy we step out of our comfort zone and the safety of our world to recant from our perspectives what our lives are really like. Whether we started at the top or were ourselves the victims of human trafficking, it was our goal to tell you all the good, the bad, the sexy and the illicit and put a human face to the ageless profession that until now has been shrouded in myth.

“I kept replaying the scene in my head...definitely a sign of a stellar film. Not to mention these women were mesmerizing”

## Producer's Statement



**Kristen DiAngelo**

*Executive Producer/Producer*

Through out my life I have worn many hats...and today, it just happens to be producer. Escort, Courtesan, writer and entrepreneur have been the names that I've most often hung on my door (a euphemism of course)... I have worked in the sex industry since my teens and have often thought that I would jump over into the what we call "the real world". However, after a lifetime of being here, I am finding that my skill set doesn't easily translate into a new career that would in anyway replace this one. In fact, it became apparent that I would either have to erase my past or embrace it...and of course, I can never be accused of

taking the easier path.

I have thought long and hard about what a bio of mine should include...and all I could think is - Watch the movie. My life has been filled with hills higher than most can imagine and valleys lower that most survive the sum of which is simply my experience and as I always say....wow, what a ride!



**James Johnson**  
*Producer/Director*

Intensity, passion, and 150% is exactly what James Johnson brings to the table when it comes to his directing skills. For someone who was born with a less than conservative mind set (yes, I said born with) he found his life filled with conflict and adversity. He experienced people and the world independently from society, so he could form his own opinions, despite pressure to conform. His adventurous spirit has taken him places most would dare not go. His experiences have made him an advocate for the persecuted, stereotyped, and misunderstood; the underdog. He now considers himself an educational tool for

the conservative masses and has a great appreciation for diversity.

James didn't always pursue a career in media. He earned his Bachelorette in science and his Masters in Management. He has worked in numerous fields and has maintained creativeness and art as a hobby, until now.

James began his career as a director when he met Kristen DiAngelo through his wife, who also works in the adult industry. Kristen admired his vision and creativeness and asked him to help write and direct content for her website. Their working relationship resulted in a creative flow of ideas that went beyond content for a website and developed into a documentary about the adult industry, with the potential of a series of documentaries to follow. Thus, the birth of "America Courtesans" and the christening of James' journey as a director.



## **Bobby R. Poirer**

*Editor*

Modest and understated, one would hardly suspect the powerful creativity that Bobby Poirer brings to the table. From our first meeting he was on the ball and focused, wanting to make sure he was in sync with the vision. His work ethic couldn't be better as his emails and work product seems to keep coming even late into the night. He is diligent and optimistic without ever promising more than he can deliver.

Starting out in Maine, Bobby made a name for himself there. Then ten years ago he decided to relocate to further his film career. Working as a director,

producer, and an editor Bobby has a wide and diverse resume. He has Associate Produced programming for Turner Original Productions, Discovery Channel, NOVA, and National Geographic. His work on a four-part series on the History Channel called "Conquest of America" was written up in the Hollywood reporter as "an epic adventure saga. Ambitious, vicious, and brutal - full of careful casting, sharp costuming and often exquisite art direction, all very effective storytelling".

He has also worked with Pacific Title & Art Studio, providing visual effects, digital intermediate services to studio and independent productions. Some current titles include W – LIONSGATE - Oliver Stone, Last House on the Left – FOCUS FEATURES – Wes Craven, Nothing Like the Holidays – OVERTURE FILMS - Alfredo De Villa, Valkyrie – UNITED ARTISTS – Brian Singer, My Best Friend's Girl – LIONSGATE - Howard Deutch, The Family That Preys – LIONSGATE – Tyler Perry, Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants – WARNER BROTHERS - Sanaa Hamri, The Strangers- Rogue Pictures - Bryan Bertino.

As an editor, he is a delight. As a story teller, he is mesmerizing and as a crew member, everyone should be so lucky to have someone like Bobby Poirer on their side.



## **Laleh Soomekh**

*Director of Photography*

Laleh Soomekh's ability to transform a vision into art is without parallel. Methodical, precise, and efficient, Laleh is able to truly incorporate both the fundamental basics of good film making with her ethereal way of filming. Laleh's strength? -allowing the film makers vision to come to life without compromising the integrity of the story. She waded rivers in the South, hung off horses and trudged the tenderloin to capture the true essence of who we are.

Beginning her professional career as a photographer, Laleh shot portraits for a variety of news publications. Her

education - A degree in documentary film making from Stanford University, and with her education came a Gold Student Academy Award for her film. Immediately out of Stanford, Laleh was recognized by one of Filmmakers Magazine as one of the twenty-five filmmakers to watch for, and her independent documentaries have screened in over 80 film festivals internationally, winning numerous awards, screening on many PBS stations, and receiving critical acclaim.

In addition to making her own films, Laleh produces, directs, and shoots for television including "Law and Order: Crime and Punishment" for NBC, "Inside Out:Toni Braxton; Family Comes First" for VH1, "In the Moment: Julie Roberts" for CMT, and "DUI" for TLC. She also shot for the Independent Lens Series on PBS and a variety of other Documentary Films. We are very privileged to have her as the Director of Photography on the film "American Courtesans".



## **Harold Escotet**

### *Camera*

Sometimes in life, you meet someone who can see things in a way that few others can. It's as if they are part of the camera, making you feel each and every movement, as if you are right there with them. I think that about sums Harold Escotet up...one with the camera. Fiery, passionate, and full of creativity, this Venezuelan native with a BS in Systems Engineering, but while in school he happened to gain employment as a production assistant on a TV commercial. The one catch; he got the call and had 20 minutes to make it there. Someone had not shown up and a friend of his just

happened to be producing the commercial, if he could make it, he had the job. The job happened to be a commercial for GM, and he had his foot in the door.

Today Harold has worn many hats, from production assistant, to gaffer, director, to director of photography, but the one thing you can be sure of is film is his life. His goal? To take exactly what the director is looking for and making that vision a reality.



## **Eric Bucklin**

### *Sound*

I think that most will agree, that besides the story, one of the things that delineates a good documentary from a great one is the sound. You need that hair raising, spine tingling, almost mesmerizing sound, AND....the lack of it. Because it is at those moments that you can pause and really take in what you have heard. Eric Bucklin seems to understand just that. Young and innovative, he is incredible at working with any set of surroundings and being able to isolate that pure sound of one individuals voice in a sea of chaos.

A California native, Eric has always lived in the world of music. A simple introduction to an analog turntable became his career choice. His passion...the art of spinning

sound and the world of being a DJ. Intrigued by being able to feel the crowds reaction and cater to their desires as they move to his sounds, Eric knows the world of sound is exactly where he wants to be.

It stands to reason that Eric would enter the world of film sound because of his passion and his knowledge of sound. Although Eric still DJ's, he is now a sound recordist, sound editor, and sound designer. For us on the film of "American Courtesans", he was our stabilizing force. Always there and always steady. I can't say enough good about Eric...if you want stellar sound...he's the one.



## **Alex Ojeda**

### *Gaffer*

Originally from El Paso Texas, Alex Ojeda was our gaffer and the youngest of the crew. Light hearted, and continually happy, he kept our crew laughing earning himself the title of “Our goofy gaffer”. Young, ambitious, and full of energy Alex added a level of energy to our set that was well needed on those days where we were shooting late into the night. We were lucky, as with the rest of the crew, he was worth much more than we were able to pay. His knowledge about the industry was wonderful and his “MacGyver” like skills were so indispensable when in the inner cities filming or out in the country. It was

amazing. One moment there was darkness, the next....”poof”....there was light!

A graduate from the University of Texas with a degree in Broadcast Journalism, Alex set off for LA to find something more...Once in LA, he realized that News Telecast was not his life and after attending Los Angeles Film School (LAFS) he moved into the field of lighting and soon became a gaffer. Due to his excellent talent, good team work, and dependability, Alex now has short films, commercials, music videos, web series, and feature films under his belt. American Courtesans is Alex’s first documentary, as well as, his first feature as a gaffer. We all loved him and his work was amazing!



**Jacob Polstra**

*Producer's Assistant*

In every endeavor there is always that one person behind the scenes who does more than is ever given credit for. In this production, it was Jacob. Each filming day we were up at 7am and Jacob was up at 6am. Each night we were falling into bed at midnight and he was up until 1am finishing up the things that were important so that the next day went flawless, and thanks to Jacob, it did. He is young, enthusiastic, and full of energy. Jacob kept us all going and in order even in the midst of chaos.

Although this is his first filming project, but I don't expect it will be his last, as a crew we would be foolish to get a PA less dedicated than Jacob.



Emma Dupree



Erin Marxxx



Gina Robinson



GinaDePalma



Hilary Holiday



Juliet Capulet



Kristen DiAngelo



Pearl Callahan



Tamsen Crown



Norma Jean  
Almodovar



Skylar Cruz

# Crew

**Executive Producer**  
Kristen Diangelo

**Written by**  
James Johnson  
and Kristen DiAngelo

**Directed by**  
James Johnson

**Director of Photography**  
Lalah Soomekh

**Camera**  
Harold Escotet  
and Kahleem Poole

**Editor**  
Bobby Poirier

**Sound**  
Eric Bucklin

**Gaffer**  
Alex Ojeda

**Production Assistant**  
Jacob Polstra

**Assistant Editor**  
Holly Nakamura

**Makeup**  
Nisa Morales and Bic Vu

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