

## **Interview with Roger Lindley, Director Of *Revenge in Kind***

### *What got you into directing?*

I started my career at the local CBS affiliate in Amarillo, Texas and discovered my talent for production, winning an Amarillo Ad Federation ADDY award for the first TV spot I ever produced. I've had opportunity to work on a wide range of regional, national and international productions all while living in Amarillo. I decided in 1996 to become a director and my career decisions since were made with that goal in mind.

### *What appealed to you about *Revenge In Kind*?*

When I was introduced to *Revenge in Kind* in spring of 2016, the potential for this film immediately caught my attention. I recognized the script as the foundation of a very strong film with mass audience appeal, especially with women. The film features a strong, complex female lead, a vile antagonist, memorable supporting characters and a story that I believe will profoundly resonate with the psyche of western society. A director cannot ask for more than that.

### *What is the most challenging aspect of your job? Most rewarding?*

For me, movie making is the pinnacle of artistic expression; whereas film is the culmination of several distinct art forms such as writing, photography, music, makeup, acting and so on. Nurturing each of those art forms into a motion picture is the greatest challenge I have on a film but also the most rewarding. There is no greater creative satisfaction that I can think of.

*Revenge in Kind* was particularly challenging because it played out across many locations. This put strong pressure on an already tight production schedule and often forced us to discard plans. In those situations, the entire team's creative instincts and raw talent often brought scenes to life that are superior to the ideas that I had in mind before the day began. I cannot fully articulate the pride and satisfaction I had in experiencing those results time and time again.

### *Your job is a lot about people managing. Why are you so good at it?*

I approach filmmaking as a team sport, and everyone on the team is important. Whether production assistant or cinematographer, experience and reputation qualifies an individual for the position they fill; however, beneath the qualifications is a human being with anxieties and aspirations, and every person on the film wants to be appreciated for their work. And everyone on the film is on the payroll because they are experts in their discipline. I give my team creative freedom within proper boundaries, and I never stop encouraging the team and extending heartfelt appreciation for a job well done, all the while expecting them to perform at their best. The results are self-evident. With everyone on the team having a passionate sense of creative ownership, *Revenge In Kind* came to life in a way that dynamically exceeded everyone's expectations—including mine.

### *How would you characterize your style?*

I love working with actors. Early in my career, I immersed myself in Stella Adler's Method Acting techniques in film that she adapted from Constantine Stanislavski, the famous early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russian theater director. I have adapted many of those techniques in my directing style with great success.

Acting, of course, is only one part of the creation of a film. As I mentioned above, I allow the team a fair amount of creative room between the fairly wide boundaries of my vision, which gives the film room to breathe and become what it needs to become without compromising the story. This is highly effective in adapting the creative process of filmmaking to demanding time and budget limits that are typical with independent filmmaking, and the results are always fantastic.

What is your favorite movie genre?

That's a tough question for me, much like asking me what my favorite food is. This month, I would tell you Sushi, but I cannot tell you what it will be next month. I might do better to describe the genres I don't care much for, such as musicals and horror. Put me in front of a mind-bending physiological thriller, a good action or sci-fi flick and you'll have me all day. My bucket list as a director includes a supernatural thriller, an international spy action/adventure where the villain has the power to wipe out humanity, a war picture, a sci-fi deep space drama and an apocalyptic epic.

Anything else you want to add/discuss?

At the end of every film, I go back to my normal life, and there is a grieving period. Living on the adrenaline of being on set is gone and the creative discussions and rehearsals are done. The camaraderie of the team that has been family for over a month ends. I will miss working with the amazing cast. What an honor to work with such fine actors. And watching the crew work their magic is gone. It's depressing for me.

But together, we made a fantastic movie, a piece of art that will live forever. There is no greater thrill.