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## Slamdance 2016 Preview: Meet The Filmmakers, Part 2

Ben Umstead, U.S. Editor

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On Monday, we introduced you to a slew of first-time feature filmmakers from the 22nd Slamdance Film Festival, taking place in Park City, Utah at the Treasure Mountain Inn, January 22nd-28th,

We continue today with a fresh batch of filmmaker Q&As -- read on and you just may find your new favorite cinematic upstart!



Andrea Marini, **ART OF THE PRANK** - Documentary Competition

Tell us about your film, but not in a plot-centric way, please...

Moving beyond the protagonist for a second, the story of **Art of the Prank** is really about determination and passion in doing whatever you want to do, however you want to do it! Which is, after all, what it takes to make great art that makes a strong statement.

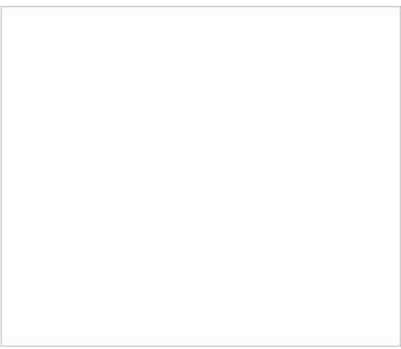
Introducing you to Joey Skaggs is an honor for me. Once you are done watching the film you will feel like you want to know more about him. And if you are lucky enough to not already be familiar with him, this will be an amazing discovery. It will be a blast.

Share with us a pivotal cinema related experience or moment from your childhood or young adulthood

The first time I decided to direct a scene and film it, I was 15 years old. I'm not really sure why that happened, probably because of my brother's passion for films, or because it was so exciting to put all these elements together to create an elaborate piece of art (not sure if it was really art at the time).

Where I come from, a town in south Tuscany, filmmaking is not really an ordinary occupation. So, stepping out of the crowd to do something that was so challenging, definitely drove me to try to make it real.

A few years later, when I finally managed to study art, I entered into an art contest. During the event they had students competing with all kinds of art forms--drawing, painting, photography, poetry and even filmmaking. The theme of the competition was strongly related to a social issue. During the day



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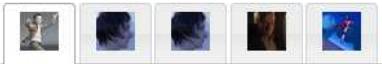
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### FEATURED ARTICLES



### The Many Faces Of Jet Li

We do have scoops now and then, and the news that Jet Li would be joining the third xXx film (re-starring Vin Diesel) was one of those occasions. That news has now been corroborated, so with Jet Li in mind, let's have this week's quiz be about him! Because without... [More »](#)

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there were people wandering around, talking to each other and looking at the student art pieces. Then when it was time to show the films, all of a sudden everybody stopped. I turned around and the room was packed, their eyes were glued to the screen, their ears wide open, silence throughout the whole screening. That day, I realized how strong a film could be, even a very short one. I actually won the first prize, and I was very proud.

Then things got more complicated. Every filmmaker knows how difficult it is to transform this passion into something you can do every day. I was lucky enough to find my own way getting there, and in 2012 I was introduced to Joey Skaggs by a producer I was working with in Rome. The last three years of my life have been an amazing challenge and an opportunity to grow as a filmmaker. This film has definitely been the best learning curve I could hope for (with its ups and downs). Making a documentary is a very challenging job. Dealing with reality and trying to shape that into a story that is meaningful, fun, engaging, emotional, etc., is not easy at all. And this is what you have to deal with every day when it comes to making a documentary film.

Also, "living" with someone like Joey, and learning about his life, has been so meaningful to me. What he does is so close to storytelling that this experience personally went way beyond just making a film about him. It improved my vision on so many levels. This is reflected in the film and will be reflected in everything I do from now on, in my own way.

### Why Slamdance?

I have no doubt when I say that Slamdance is truly the best film festival we could hope for. This is mainly because of its provocative and genuine nature, which is really the essence of our film, Art of the Prank!

### Your essential Park City survival kit:

A warm jacket, a warm pair of shoes, a warm hat, a warm pair of gloves... Ok, being serious... My essential kit is the team behind Art of the Prank coming with me. As far as I'm concerned everything we do as filmmakers has no meaning if it can't be shared, and sharing it with at least some of the people that made it real is priceless, fun and motivating. This will make this amazing and unique experience even better.

Wednesday, 11:00 am

31 Submit Submit 0

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#andrea marini #art of the prank #chemical cut #Claire Carré #driftwood #embers  
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#paul taylor #slamdance 2016 #slamdance film festival

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The Real Reason 'The Amazing Spider-Man 3' Got Canceled



8 Movies That Suddenly Turn Terrible After 20 Minutes



The Shady Side Of Kaley Cuoco 'You Don't Know About



The Original 'Star Wars 7' Script Used Luke Very Differently



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Ard Vijn — Matt, recalling your column

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Ard Vijn That settles the quiz! As usual, here are the titles and the people who correctly identified them first: 1: BLACK MASK (okupin) 2: ROMEO MUST DIE (okupin) 3: FIST OF LEGEND (okupin) 4: LETHAL...  
[The Many Faces Of Jet Li](#) • 8 hours ago

Ard Vijn And there goes 5. Well done, all!(Also: blimey, KUNG FU CULT MASTER aka THE EVIL CULT aka LORD OF THE WU TANG aka THE SWORDMASTER aka KUNG FU MASTER has a lot of titles...)  
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Ard Vijn You have 6, 8 and 11 right (on top of 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10)! That just leaves 5 at this point...  
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Ard Vijn You have 4 (well, almost), 7, 10 and 12 correct! That just leaves 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11...  
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