

# ART DIRECTORS GUILD PRESENTS CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND WITH DESIGNER JAMES D. BISSELL IN CONVERSATION



PRESENTED BY THE ART DIRECTORS GUILD FILM SOCIETY AND AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE

LOS ANGELES, July 20, 2015 - The <u>Art Directors Guild (ADG) Film Society</u> and <u>American</u> <u>Cinematheque</u> presents a special screening of the rarely seen <u>CONFESSIONS OF A</u> <u>DANGEROUS MIND</u>, director George Clooney's first feature with Production Design by James D. Bissell, on **Sunday**, July 26 at 5:30 PM at the Egyptian Theatre (6712 Hollywood Blvd. Hollywood). Based on the "unauthorized autobiography" of flamboyant game show producer Chuck Barris, the film's production design is noted for its "neo-hallucinogenic" color palette, as well as a number of mind-bending pre-CGI cinematic techniques. The screening and conversation with Bissell, moderated by Production Designer John Muto, marks the final installment of this year's 2015 ADG Film Series "Confessions of a Production Designer," sponsored by <u>The Hollywood Reporter</u>. "Such a unique picture called for a very special visual approach," said Muto. "Employing a brilliant, almost psychedelic color palette, and mixing both classic and state-of-the-art cinematic techniques, Bissell created a remarkable look that perfectly creates the right world for such a unique story. The picture was well ahead of its time when released and is long overdue for consideration as a visual masterpiece. I look forward to our conversation following the screening, in which Jim will articulate the design process by which he created such a special motion picture experience."

James Bissell is the latest recipent of the ADG Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented to him by George Clooney. Bissell was Production Designer for *Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation* (2015), *Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol* (2011) as well as *E.T.* (1982), *Jumanji* (1995), *300* (2006), *The Rocketeer* (1991), *The Falcon and The Snowman* (1985) and *Someone To Watch Over Me* (1987). A subsequent collaboration with Clooney on *Good Night and Good Luck* (2005) earned Bissell an Academy Award® nomination.

CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND stars George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Drew Barrymore, and Sam Rockwell. Barris, at the height of his career as a successful television game show producer and creator of both *The Dating Game* and *The Gong Show,* is approached by a shadowy operative who recruits him into service as a CIA operative and contract killer. Seduced by the glamour, excitement, and danger of both worlds, Barris' double life soon spirals out of control. The film's unique visual treatment by Bissell brilliantly portrays the possibly unhinged mental state of the narrator and "hero" of the wild story.

Since 2007, the Art Directors Guild (ADG) Film Society and the American Cinematheque have hosted a series of monthly screenings spotlighting remarkable achievements in film design and the Production Designers and Art Directors responsible. Alternating between the historic Egyptian and Aero theatres, screenings are followed by panel discussions with both industry professionals and experts from related fields. In addition to *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, the 2015 series has spotlighted the richly visualized productions of *Sotto*, *Sotto* (1984), spotlighting Designers Gianni Giovagnoni and Enrico Job; *An American in Paris* (1951), with a tribute to Designers E. Preston Ames and Cedric Gibbons; and *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938), honoring Designer Carl Jules Weyl.

Representing the ADG are Film Society Co-Chairs and Production Designers John Muto, Thomas A. Walsh and John Iacovelli. Debbie Patton is ADG Manager, Awards and Events. Working with them are the American Cinematheque's Gwen Deglise, Margot Gerber and Grant Moninger. General Admission: \$11. American Cinematheque members: \$7. Students/Seniors with valid ID: \$9. All screenings start at 5:30 PM; 24-hour information is available at 323-466-FILM (3456).

High-resolution photos of the film and James D. Bissell <u>available for download here</u>. For Information about the 2015 ADG Film Series <u>click here</u>. For ticket information, go to <u>American Cinematheque's website</u>.

## NOTE TO MEDIA: Media are invited to cover!

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ABOUT THE ART DIRECTORS GUILD: The Art Directors Guild (IATSE Local 800) represents 2,300 members who work throughout the United States, Canada and the rest of the world in film, television and theater as Production Designers; Art Directors; Assistant Art Directors; Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists; Illustrators and Matte Artists; Set Designers and Model Makers; and Previs Artists. Established in 1937, the ADG's ongoing activities include a Film Society, an annual Awards Banquet (#ADGawards), a creative/technology community (5D: The Future of Immersive Design), a bimonthly craft magazine (*Perspective*); and extensive technology-training programs, creative workshops and craft and art exhibitions. The Guild's Online **Directory/Website** Resource is at <u>www.adg.org</u>. *Website:* http://www.adg.org

Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/ADG800</u> Twitter: <u>https://twitter.com/ADG800</u> Instagram: http://instagram.com/adg800/

#### PRESS CONTACTS FOR ADG:

Weissman/Markovitz Communications Cheri Warner Tel: 818.760.8995 <u>cheri@publicity4all.com</u>

#### ABOUT AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE:

Established in 1981, the American Cinematheque is a 501(c)(3) non-profit viewer-supported film exhibition and cultural organization dedicated to the celebration of the Moving Picture in all of its forms. At the Egyptian Theatre, the Cinematheque presents daily film and video programming which ranges from the classics of American and international cinema to new independent films and digital work. Exhibition of rare works, special and rare prints, etc., combined with fascinating post-screening discussions with the filmmakers who created the work, are a Cinematheque tradition that keep audiences coming back for once-in-a-lifetime cinema experiences. The American Cinematheque renovated and reopened (on Dec. 4, 1998) the historic 1922 Hollywood Egyptian Theatre. This includes a state-of-the-art 616-seat theatre housed within Sid Grauman's first grand movie palace on Hollywood Boulevard. The exotic courtyard is fully restored to its 1922 grandeur. The Egyptian was the home of the very first Hollywood movie premiere in 1922. In January 2005 the American Cinematheque expanded its programming to the 1940 Aero Theatre on Montana Avenue in Santa Monica. For more information about American Cinematheque, visit the website at <a href="http://www.americancinematheque.com">http://www.americancinematheque expanded</a> its programming to the 1940.

### PRESS CONTACTS FOR AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE:

Margot Gerber Tel: 323.461.2020 x 115 publicity@americancinematheque.com