

Caught in Conversation with Humberto Guida

Corey Large Plays by His Rules

Corey Large makes movies. With a name like that how could he do anything else, right? At 30 years old Large is breaking out with a slew of independent feature films where he plays lead roles on and off the screen, as star, writer, and producer. Like Sylvester Stallone ("Rocky"), Nia Vardalos ("My Big Fat Greek Wedding"), and Matt Damon and Ben Affleck ("Good Will Hunting"), he's making his own star by making his own flicks.

I was interested in Large because of a film he's producing based on the early life adventures of Errol Flynn. The much-buzzed about "In Like Flynn" actually stars Flynn's grandson, Luke Flynn. The younger Flynn happens to be best friends with Large, who has a lead role in the movie, set to begin filming later this year. Keenly interested by Errol Flynn's flamboyant personal life, I reached out to Large, who after ten years of living in Hollywood still hasn't lost his charming Canadian inflection. What I found was a formerly jaded actor three years into producing his own movies, but already in some phase of production on a full slate of projects. Together with a tight nit cast of filmmaker friends, Large might just be Hollywood's next big do-it-yourselfer.

"I'm determined to control my own destiny, because you don't get to do that much in this town. Now I get to be involved in my movies from conception till you see it on the screen," Large explains, then shifting the conversation to his favorite topic—his upcoming movies.

"On the fist movie I produced, we had cast Luke Flynn, whom we had read about in People Magazine. He was one of the top bachelors under 25 and his grandfather was Errol Flynn, one of the most

revered Hollywood guys of all time. And we became friends. We wrote a story about his granddad's early experience in Papa New Guinea. Turns out when Errol Flynn was 23 years old he was panning for gold there, and they get ambushed by headhunters. That's where the story begins. It's a crazy, non-stop Indiana Jones adventure. We needed a big budget for two guys no one really knows. It was difficult."



Corey Large

Large's company, Wingman Productions, recently sold his third movie, a psychological thriller called "Toxic," to The Weinstein Company for an undisclosed amount. The budget for his flicks have gradually increased from his first \$1 million indie, "Window Theory," which Large sold to Monarch Pictures and he still laments about. "It could have been better, but we were learning." His biggest film is still on the way. It's a controversial movie about young Hollywood excess co-starring, written, and produced by Large and headlined by Jessie Metcalfe of "Desperate Housewives" fame. The film, a \$15 million

production titled "Loaded," was wrapped last October and is set for a theatrical release this summer. Large plays the bad guy, Sebastian, a drug dealer who frames Metcalfe's character, Tristan, after luring him into an underworld of sex and drugs.

Large was originally intending to play Metcalfe's good guy character, Tristan, when the script was written a couple of years ago. After a few more films under his

reveal them to be more flawed than anyone else."

Large adds, "I didn't really live that Hollywood party life, but I was exposed to it enough to be able to base our characters and the bad things they do on those people who are still awake at sunup."

Large broke into acting at 14. A native of Vancouver, he landed a string of small roles on television and film as production boomed in his Canadian town. He moved



round of auditions competing with "a thousand guys with similar looks" for lead roles, Large used a conversation with Owen Wilson as inspiration. Wilson, another graduate of the School for Writing, Producing and Starring in Your Own Movie, told Large he was young and savvy enough to muster together a movie, especially if the only thing he was getting were small roles. It wasn't long before Large was churning out scripts with his writing partner Kyle Kramer, who Large met in his Hollywood apartment building, and Alan Pao, who has directed most of Large's films. While Large found investors for his movies he quickly found out putting his money where his mouth was meant learning a few harsh lessons.

"First couple of movies, we learned the hard way. We got screwed here and there. I know the acting and how to make a movie, but now I had to make people their money back. We had to learn the business side. A lot of it is extremely ruthless," Large explains. "When we did our second movie, "Chasing Ghosts," it had a great cast starring Michael Madsen. We had buzz, people offering us to buy [it] while we were [still] shooting. But we made a poor deal and lost millions. The money the movie made, we never got. People take it and you don't get it back. There are no real rules in this town. I guess that's what I love about it."

belt he came to the realization that he needed a bigger star than himself to play the lead. Large also saw the bright side in playing the bad guy.

"I thought I could be the bad guy. But I didn't play him like a bad guy at all. He doesn't come off as a villain. A lot of the people you know who actually are bad don't act that way. Some [of the] shadiest people or [the ones who get you into the] most trouble... are... people you thought were good guys. Sometimes people get stuck in a situation, and get to a [breaking point] in a relationship and they make the wrong decisions. It's got that formula; good looking, dark, edgy, rich kids in situations that

to L.A. at 21 and enrolled in acting courses at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts where he says he endured classes replete with "obnoxious" exercises such as dancing across the stage like no one is watching.

"I remember doing an acting class taught by Jason Alexander from "Seinfeld." Everyday he would tell the class, 'Oh, you're all still here.' He wasn't mean about it, but he was like, 'None of you will make it. Out of everyone here, there might one person who makes it as an actor. If you can be anything else, go do that,' but I was relentless about not doing anything else in my life but movies."

Fed up with round after endless, soul-draining

"ONE OF THE GREATEST MOMENTS IN ANYBODY'S DEVELOPING EXPERIENCE IS WHEN HE NO LONGER TRIES TO HIDE FROM HIMSELF BUT DETERMINES TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH HIMSELF AS HE REALLY IS."

—Norman Vincent Peale