

ANGEL LIGHT PICTURES



UNCLE FRANKIE AND ANTONIO SAILLANT

By Nick Christophers

Currently, the movie business has been hurt severely by the abysmal economy yet when it comes to the independent film world; they have come out of the shadows strong. One film company entitled **Angel Light Pictures** is shining through.

The man in the driver's seat is **Antonio Saillant** who has engineered various ways to embellish his company.

Antonio is kind of an innovator who always looked towards achieving his goals at any cost. **Prior, to being involved with film he was actually a semi-pro baseball player.** At the time he was around 21 years old and he always looked up to his older brother. His father always trained him and his brother in the

sport of baseball. **During those years tragedy hit the Saillant home when his brother Angel was killed in a car wreck.** At that time Antonio totally shut down and lost interest in the sport and anything to do with entertainment.

"I quit and I felt like my brother was a huge part of my life. I felt like someone ripped apart of me away. His name was Angel by the way."

Antonio went ahead and studied Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering which is far removed from what he truly loved. He also went on to acquire a degree in Energy Management and began working for Con Edison as a consultant. Yet his destiny was right around

the corner in a local restaurant.

"One day I was in a restaurant minding my own business and I happened to meet Michael Rafter who was a musical director on Broadway. He has done "The Sound of Music" etc. He connected me to Robert Lambert who was one of the casting Director's of "All My Children". He helped me to start the process of acting in television which led me to film."

With his knowledge of engineering he was able to incorporate that into making movies. He would soon meet up with Sidney Pollack and gained his trust and friendship. He learned a lot from him being behind the camera on the set of the "Interpreter". A few weeks after that experience he soon

> INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR/PRODUCER AIMS HIGH

met up with Ted Kotcheff, the executive producer of *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. Ted is known for directing the first "First Blood" and "Weekend At Bernie's". He had eventually brought Antonio on set of the TV shows. Antonio learned a lot from him and developed a tight friendship.

By meeting all of these important individuals Antonio soaked up all he can and went on to begin his own film company. The company entitled *Angel Light Pictures* was actually derived from his brother's memory.

"I went ahead and developed the company and named it after my brother. The meaning of the company is derived by my brother's philosophy of helping others in the industry. Like filmmakers, writers, producers and so on and help make their visions into a reality."

Antonio has moved on to gain the capital to finance his films in the far off land of Dubai. From Antonio's experience he has learned that even in a recession the public still goes to movies to escape the harsh realities we face everyday.

"Even during the Depression people still went to the movies or out for a drink. Everyone needs a means to escape. In Dubai they are willing to invest in films as long as you go there with at least five in the bag not just one. The more of a variety is better than none."

The key is to offer a package deal to mainly lawyers and doctors who like to invest in this kind of business. This is the business model Antonio likes to use as he approaches certain key individuals abroad. These same individuals invest in the market and other ventures. They like to be involved in any of these developmental areas.

"I like to approach people in a genuine way, no bullshit no lies."

Antonio works with many different production companies. Presently, he is working with Frank Calo on a film entitled "Johnny Postal" where Bill Murray is a possible addition to the project. The new thing is Bollywood to Hollywood where in India they produce their films at a lower budget bracket.

"The people in India like to attach themselves to talent and popular

names. I also like to film in New York and only in New York. Yet we need to film at other locales because of production costs."

"JOHNNY POSTAL" is a dark romantic comedy that deals with the loss of identity, the rediscovery of one's self and the courage to walk through the fears that are designed to hold us down. In 2009 Antonio partnered with FMC Productions to package and co-produce the film.

The film company has moved on to produce other films like the thriller "ANGEL'S BLADE" and "THE ASCENSION," starring Corbin Bernsen. Other expected works for Saillant include: "THE EXPENDABLES" and the chilling thriller "BLOOD CAULDRON."

Saillant also currently produced the anticipated indie film, *HETEROSEXUALS*, written and directed by Robert McCaskill and starring J. Robert Spencer who is best known for his role as NICK MASSI in *JERSEY BOYS*, which won the 2006 Tony Award for Best Musical. In addition actors, Natasha Lyonne, Ashley Williams, Tovah Feldshuh, and Michael Izquierdo are all part of this wonderful film which has a New York vibe—similar to a Woody Allen/Marshall Brickman type of film.

Recently, *Angel Light Pictures* completed a short film entitled "Red Right Wrong" which evolves around the gangs of the Westside and how over time the neighborhood changed. The hot feature project in the roster was written by Malachy Murray and stars *TWISTED SISTER*'s own, AJ PERO. Besides, Pero who is best known as the lead drummer of the acclaimed rock band, *Twisted Sister* there is also Stanley Cup champion Ken Daneyko.

The story is based on some true facts. The film surrounds the time of the murderous gang the "Westies" and the mob. The plot centers on the deadly game "Russian roulette" and how it leads to an unexpected twist. Later this year another New York film will be shot from *Angel Light Pictures* entitled "Pumping Up".

The film was written by Peter Papa-georgiou and produced by Antonio and Tony Timpone. The film is to be

shot late this year in Queens, NY. The story revolves around three local friends who work out at an old gym. Every year is the annual "Mr.Hercules" weightlifting contest, and the film will depict how the competition affects their lives and personal relationships. Looking at a 1970's & 1980's remix soundtrack. Think of *Saturday Night Fever* in a gym! Tony Dovolani is attached to the film.

Tony Dovolani's dance partner was Nancy O'Dell, Co Host of "Access Hollywood, on season eight of ABC'S "Dancing with the Stars." He was paired with "All My Children's" soap legend Susan Lucci in season seven. He joined the show in its second season and quickly became a fan favorite. He was paired with Stacy Keibler and they finished in 3rd place. His other partners included: Sara Evans in Season 3, Leeza Gibbons in Season 4, Jane Seymour in Season 5, and Marissa Jaret Winoker in Season 6, they finished in 4th. Place.

"Tony would be a great asset to the film. His TV popularity would be very helpful to the success of the project."

Antonio is very much interested on having Armand Assante and or Chazz Palminteri involved in the film. He also has approached his friend Federico Castelluccio. Antonio's constant goal is to attach people who are hungry for the art and appreciate it. These individuals are just that.

Antonio believes in keeping his company independent and growing yet not to a major level where you lose sight of your goals. "I like to be as big as "Dreamworks" but on an independent level. There is no need for that. I like to stay happy and make others happy as well."

When asked if he thinks the mob genre in film has died out. He offered this philosophy: "I believe the fascination is still there but you need a unique story. Something with heart, something that fuses with different subject matter, like say the horse business."

Antonio is constantly on the move with innovated ideas that are then flushed out on film. His spirit and imagination is fueled by the pure energy through his brother's memory and it shines in every *Angel Light* production.