

Columbia University  
Film Producing R6035  
Spring 2009  
Monday 6-9

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Office hours: Appointments available before class or through email above.

Reading: Script of *Savage Grace* (prior to first class)  
*Savage Grace: The True Story of Fatal Relations in a Rich and Famous American Family* by Natalie Robins and Steven Aronson (prior to first class)  
Various Budgets/Schedules/Press

Overview:

During the course we will study the case history of SAVAGE GRACE – a low budget, independently financed film directed by Tom Kalin and distributed by IFC. We will analyze the film from development to distribution.

The second part of the course will involve re-conceiving a big budget movie (already released) into a low/moderately budgeted film. In teams of two, this exercise will involve a creative pitch, financing proposal, breakdown and production budget and an oral presentation to the class. These presentations will consist of the plan of attack for each stage of production (rewriting, casting, budgeting, shooting and post production).

Additionally:

- Guest speakers will be brought in to discuss various topics in depth.
- We will devote a portion of each class to discussing the practical application.

Course Structure

1. January 26 Introduction, Discussion Watch SG
2. February 2 Development/Rights/WGA/Writers/Casting  
*Team assignments, start brainstorming for re-envisioning exercise*
3. February 9 Financing/Actors/Raising Money/PreSales  
*Teams present big budget movie and outline 5-10 areas of focus (obstacles and how to overcome).*

4. February 16                      Tom Kalin comes to class  
PreProduction/ Production and Post Scheduling  
*Hand in proposal letter to financier, start to breakdown the film you will budget*  
*Start Oral presentations 5 min each, one from each group*
5. February 23                      Hiring Key Crew/Budgeting  
Where to shoot/Build or Location  
*Hand in breakdowns, production budget discussions in-class*  
*Oral presentations 5 min each, one from each group*
6. March 2                              Dealmaking/Negotiating  
*Read /Pitch Financing Proposal Letters*  
*Oral presentations 5 min each, one from each group*
7. March 9                              Insurance/Legal/Payroll/Bonds/Banks  
*Production Budget discussions*  
*Oral presentations 5 min each, one from each group*
- March 16                              SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
8. March 23                              Shooting/Camera/Sound/G&E/Art Dept  
*Hand in draft of production budget*
9. March 30                              Production Dept/Dailies Post Production  
*Budget Discussion in-class*
10. April 6                              Editing/Picture and Sound
11. April 13                              Music  
*Hand in Second Revision of production Budget*
12. April 20                              Distribution/Foreign Sales/Marketing  
*Budget Discussion in-class*
13. April 27                              Publicity/Festivals
14. May 4
- May 11 (CLASS 15?)                      MakeUp Day (TBD)