



Presents:

A RABBIT BANDINI production

In association with MADE IN FILM LAND

# Sal

Directed by James Franco

RELEASE:

NOVEMBER 1, 2013: THEATRICAL

OCTOBER 22, 2013: VOD

Run Time:

95 Minutes

PR CONTACT:

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## **SYNOPSIS**

James Franco's *Sal* chronicles the final day in the life of actor Sal Mineo (Val Lauren), 1950's teen idol and an Academy Award® nominee for his roles in *Rebel Without a Cause* and *Exodus*. Almost two decades later, Mineo is no longer the marquee sensation he had once been — but after years of public struggles with drugs and alcohol, he has become open about his homosexuality and is finding his way to becoming the actor and director he has always wanted to be. Featuring a magnetic performance by Lauren, Franco's intimate portrait finds the human details in a larger-than-life Hollywood story.

## **JAMES FRANCO'S DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

In 1976 Sal Mineo was murdered in front of his apartment on Holloway Drive, one block away from Sunset Boulevard, in the heart of Hollywood. Sal was thirty-seven when he was murdered, and was on the cusp of a new upswing in his career. He had started as a child star and when he was fifteen acted opposite James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*, for which they were both nominated for Oscars® (Dean posthumously). As a young performer, Sal was incredibly successful, as both an actor and a singer, and then in his twenties, for a variety of reasons both in and out of his control, he lost the recognition he had enjoyed as a young man. He struggled through his twenties and thirties to work, never again achieving the level of success he once enjoyed.

He lived the common tragedy of so many creative people who are passionate about what they do and don't have an outlet for their work. But unto the end, Sal was fighting for freedom of expression, and for ways to create work that was exciting and new. When he was murdered the tabloid magazines groundlessly hinted that the murder might have involved drugs or a gay lover, and ever since the memories of Sal has been tied to such erroneous conjecture in bad faith. This film is a portrait of a sensitive and kind artist in his last hours. Its intent is to show a whole life in the course of one day, the last day of Sal Mineo's life.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Val Lauren**

Val Lauren most recently wrapped up the feature film, *The Last Knights* playing opposite Clive Owen and Morgan Freeman, for director Kazuaki Kiriya's theatrical release in 2014. He will next appear in *Int. Leather Bar* directed by James Franco and Travis Matthews, a re-imagining of the film *Cruising* starring Al Pacino, where he stars in Pacino's role. The film will release late 2013/ early 2013. Also in 2013, Val filmed the leading role in *Desires of the Heart*, an independent feature film directed by James Kicklighter.

Val made his theater director debut when he directed a sold out run of the critically acclaimed original play theater production, *No Way Around But Through*, written by Scott Caan and produced by Garry Marshall and Mike O'Malley. Val and Scott starred alongside Melanie Griffith, Bre Blair and Robyn Cohen.

He made his writing and film directorial debut with the 40 minute short film, *Help* about a man (played by Val) who one night sets out on a mission to save his dying Mother's life. *Help* was an official selection at numerous film festivals including the Hollywood Film Festival, Palm Springs International, Ashland Independent, Charleston International, Playhouse West Film Festival, and the Strasbourg International, earning Val awards in several categories including: Best Actor, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Picture and Audience Award for Best Picture. *Help* also won OpenFilm's short film competition, earning Val a financing and a production deal with the production company, James Caan and Robert Duvall.

Val's other credits include a supporting role in Phedon Papamichael's soon to be released *Lost Angeles* and guest stars on the season finale of "Hawaii 5-0", "Monk", "CSI NY", "Criminal Minds", and "24".

### **James Franco**

James Franco's metamorphosis into the title role of the TNT biopic "James Dean" earned him career making reviews, as well as a Golden Globe® for Best Actor in a Motion Picture made for Television. He also received nominations for an Emmy® and Screen Actors Guild Award® for this memorable performance. Franco earned an Independent Spirit Award® for Best Male Lead as well as nominations for an Academy Award®, a Golden Globe Award® and a Screen Actors Guild Award® and recognition from numerous critics' associations for his starring role in Danny Boyle's critically acclaimed drama *127 Hours*. His performance alongside Sean Penn in Gus Van Sant's *Milk* earned an Independent Spirit Award® for Best Supporting Actor and he was nominated for a Golden Globe® for his role in David Gordon Green's comedy *Pineapple Express*, where he starred opposite Seth Rogen. He is also known for his starring role as Harry Osbourne in Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man Trilogy*.

Franco most recently starred in the comedy *The End Of The World* with Seth Rogen, Jonah Hill and Danny McBride as well as Sam Raimi's *OZ: The Great And Powerful* and Harmony Korine's *Spring Breakers*. He will again co-star with Jonah Hill in *True Story* for New Regency and will also star in Paul Haggis' *The Third Person*. Franco's additional credits include Ryan Murphy's *Eat, Pray, Love* starring opposite Julia Roberts, Shawn Levy's comedy *Date Night*, Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's *Howl*, where he played the famous poet Allen Ginsberg, George C. Wolfe's *Nights In Rodanthe*; Paul Haggis' *In The Valley Of Elah*; Karen Moncrieff's ensemble drama *The Dead Girl*; Tommy O'Haver's drama *An American Crime*; John Dahl's *The Great Raid*; Robert Altman's *The Company*; as well as *City By The*

Sea opposite Robert DeNiro and the Martin Scorsese produced *Deuces Wild*. On television, he starred in the critically acclaimed series “Freaks And Geeks”.

He wrote and directed *The Feast Of Stephen*, which premiered and won a Teddy award at the Berlin Film Festival. Additionally, Franco directed *Saturday Night*, a documentary on the week-long production of a “Saturday Night Live” episode, which originally premiered at SXSW and *The Clerks Tale*, which premiered at Cannes. Franco also wrote and directed a biography on poet Hart Crane called *The Broken Tower* which premiered at the 2011 Los Angeles Film Festival and directed *Sal*, a biography based on the life of Sal Mineo, which screened at the 2011 Venice Film Festival. He also recently produced *Kink*, a documentary that premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. Additionally, he directed and starred in William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying* based on the classic novel, which premiered at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival and will be released this Fall, and starred in the film adaptation of Cormac McCarthy’s *Child Of God*, which he also co-wrote and directed.

## **Vince Jolivette**

In 2003, Vince teamed with actor James Franco and manager Miles Levy to form Rabbit Bandini, a production company focused on creating groundbreaking narrative, documentary and multimedia content. Recent projects include Harmony Korine’s *Spring Breakers*, *Lovelace*, starring Amanda Seyfried, *The Iceman*, starring Michael Shannon, and the SNL behind the scenes documentary, *Saturday Night*. Last August production was completed on *As I Lay Dying*, directed and starring James Franco, based on the novel by William Faulkner. *As I Lay Dying* premiered at the 2013 Cannes International Film Festival to rave reviews. Vince was a Producer on both *Child Of God*, which was an adaptation of Cormac McCarthy’s acclaimed book by the same name and *Palo Alto* directed by Gia Coppola which was drawn from James Franco’s book *Palo Alto Stories*. *Child Of God* and *Palo Alto* will have their International premiere at the 2013 Venice International Film Festival and their North American premiere at the 2013 Toronto Film Festival. Some other projects that are in post production are *Tar* based on a series of poems by C.K. Williams and *Bukowski* based on the early life of author Charles Bukowski.

## **Christian Olave**

Cristian Olave is a Chilean born American actor, filmmaker and storyteller. He was raised in Miami, Florida and is fully bilingual in English and Spanish.

His training began at the American Conservatory Theatre under the tutelage of playwright, and Pulitzer prize finalist, Amy Freed. Further studies continued at Playhouse West in Los Angeles, where he trained with Robert Carnegie and Jeff Goldblum.

As a producer, he has collaborated with Mark Greenberg (“Entourage”) and Molly Connors (*Frozen River*, *Killer Joe*) on the award winning short film *Help* written and directed by Val Lauren and starring Lauren and Golden Globe® nominee Adam Beach.

Cristian's passion for the rich history and heritage of distilled spirits makes him a sought after spirits raconteur. He conducts seminars and tastings throughout the United States.

## **Stacey Miller**

Originally from Texas, Stacey Miller began her career in Los Angeles as an actress, co-starring in numerous Rabbit Bandini productions including *The Ape*, *Good Time Max* and *The Broken Tower*. After completing USC's Master of Professional Writing program, her focus shifted almost exclusively to writing for film and television. Most recently, Stacey co-wrote and co-directed Rabbit Bandini's original series *Acting Class*. Stacey is currently at work on several upcoming projects.

## **Trevor Neuhoff**

Trevor grew up in Boulder, Colorado and moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee for high school. Once there, he began to train in the theatre, completing ten productions over the four years. He studied undergraduate film at New York University, and was fortunate enough to act in independent features during that time -- John Henry Summerour's "Sakkanaga", as well as numerous other shorts and art projects. Upon recently finishing his degree, Trevor made the cross country move from New York to Los Angeles.

## **PRODUCTION COMPANY BIOGRAPHY**

Founded in 2003 by James Franco, Vince Jolivette, and James' manager Miles Levy, RABBIT BANDINI PRODUCTIONS has established a successful track record of making films that have performed financially, creatively and commercially both within the independent filmmaking community as well as in conjunction with major studios and foreign sales corporations.

The company's projects have premiered internationally in the most prestigious film festivals, including Cannes, Sundance and Berlin, earning critical acclaim and accolades in each. Standouts thus far include the coveted 2010 Sundance opening night premiere of *Howl*, a biography of iconic beat poet Alan Ginsberg, and the Teddy award winning *The Feast Of Stephen* in Berlin. With strong literary roots and a great appreciation for both innovative and classic novels, Rabbit Bandini is always seeking books for adaptation. Notable acquisitions include Stephen Elliot's *The Adderal Diaries*, and William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*.

Rabbit Bandini has also produced; *The Broken Tower*, a biopic on iconic poet Hart Crane, and *Maladies*, a quirky drama starring Franco and Catherine Keener. As partners and executives in charge of production, James, Vince and Miles were an integral part of such films as; *Howl*, about the life of poet Allen Ginsberg; *The Broken Tower*, about the poet Hart Crane. The company played an invaluable role in bringing the creative vision to the screen while supervising physical production. Other notable producing credits include *Springbreakers* starring Selena Gomez, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Benson and James Franco; a biopic on Linda Lovelace, *Lovelace*, starring Amanda Seyfried, Sarah Jessica Parker and Peter Sarsgaard; and *The Iceman* about notorious hit man Richard Kuklinski.

Rabbit Bandini currently has 2 films in post-production; *Tar* starring Franco, Mila Kunis, Jessica Chastain and Zach Braff, and *Bukowski* about the early years of the poet Charles Bukowski's life. Rabbit Bandini's adaptation of William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* (directed by and starring Franco) premiered at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival and the adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's acclaimed book *Child Of God* (directed by Franco) is going to premiere internationally at the 2013 Venice Film Festival as well as have its North American premiere at the 2013 Toronto Film Festival.

## CAST

Sal	Val Lauren
Billy Bolasco	Vince Jolivette
Ray Evans	Christian Olave
Michael Mason	Trevor Neuhoff
Nurse	April Bausista
Nurse #2	Jacquelyn Deme
Nurse #3	Eva Lauren
Mabel	Jocelyn Anderson
Kier Dullea	Jim Parrack
Milton Katsolas	James Franco
Store Clerk	Ed Ghamem
Steven Gustaggson	Jason Fox
Nancy Barr	Stacey Miller
Attacker	Raymond Williams
Monica Morrem	Felicity Bryant
Detective Pia	Brian Lally
Detective Tankersely	Brian Goodman
Marsha DiSessa	Robin Cohen
Waiter	Adam Peek
Dancer	John Morrow

## CREDITS

Directed by	James Franco
Produced by	Miles Levy
	Vince Jolivette
	Caroline Aragon
Story by	Vince Jolivette
	Val Lauren
	Stacey Miller
	James Franco
Screenplay by	Stacey Miller

A Rabbit Bandini Production

In Association with Made in Film Land

Director of Photography

Christina Voros

Production Designer

Kristen Adams

Composer and Sound Designer

Neil Benezra

Costume Designer

Michelle Boucher

Based upon the Book

“Sal Mineo: A Biography”

Book by

Michael Gregg Michaud

Scenes from

‘P.S. Your Cat is Dead’

Scenes by

James Kirkwood

Used with Permission

Line Producer

Caroline Aragon

Unit Production Manager

Kirk Michael Fellows

Production Supervisor

Julie Buck

1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director

Shadie Elnashal

Key 2nd Assistant Director

Richard Robinson

2<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director

Tyler Stratton

Background Casting

Aimee Musil

Location Manager

Stacey McGillis

Additional Scouting

William Coit

Assistant Location Scout

Brad Holtzman

Production Coordinator

T.J. Young

Zane Muthamia

Anna Kooris

Assistant to the Director

Production Designer

Kristin Adams

Art Director

Eric Morrell

Lead Man

Rafael Sierra

Prop Master

Alexandra Dunn

On-Set Prop Master

Ellen Lenbergs

Props Assistant

Kaitlyn Pietras

Set Dressers

Megan Seely

David Ashton

Emily Peters

Consultant	Jose Rodriguez
Costume Designer	Bill Davis
Costume Assistant	Michelle Bougher
Wardrobe Supervisor	Heather Gaither
Wardrobe Intern	Carmen Nydegger
Make-Up Department Head	David Ashton
Key Hair Stylist	Alex Noble
Make-Up Intern	Hanny Tjan
Director of Photography	Leanne Mucci
B-Cam Operator	Christina Voros
1 <sup>st</sup> AC A- Camera	Bruce Cheung
1 <sup>st</sup> AC B-Camera	Christopher Aran
DIT	Kimberly Parker
2 <sup>nd</sup> AC	Chris Cavanaugh
Gaffer	Daniel Rink
Best Girl Electric	Michael Perry
Best Boy Electric	Trish Herremana
Third Electric	Ryan Lynch
Swing	Alex Tamayo
Swing	Jesse Gregson
Key Grip	Andrew Clarke
Best Boy Grip	William Hewson
Grip	Christian Staab
Sound Mixer	Kevin Schilling
Additional Sound Mixer	Michael Weinstein
Boom Operator	Kennard Morris
Additional Boom Operator	Jose Barocio Jr.
Sound Intern	Russell McAbee
Key Production Assistant	Matt Teta
Set Production Assistants	Tyan Kaercher
	Matt McKinnon
	Aimee Musil

Production Assistants

Sonja Mereu  
Nina Ljeti  
Cierra Baker  
Noah Welsh  
Otis Jolivette  
Shelly Hibbard  
Dale Lester  
Jeffrey H. Davis

Audio Post Production

Brooklyn Sound Society

Sound Editor & Rerecording Mixer

Neil Benezra

Dialog Editor

Alex Noyes

Sound Assistant

Lucian Buscemi

Editor

James Franco

Assistant Editor

Jay Davis

Legal Representative

Law Offices of Adam W. Rosen

Assistants to Mr. Franco

Anna Kooris

Iris Torres

Assistant to Mr. Jolivette

Mr. Hill

Catering

William and Lori Grigg

Craft Services

Miguel De Campos

Fire Marshall

Vernon Atwater

### MUSIC

“Where Flamingos Fly”

Performed by Helen Merrill

Composed by James Kennedy and Michael Spoliansky

Arranger Gil Evans

“Start Movin’ (In My Direction)”

Performed by Sal Mineo

Composed by Bobby Stevenson and David Hill

“Shame Shame Shame”

Performed by The K Group

Written by Sylvia Robinson

Published by Gambi Music Inc (BMI) and Twenty Nine Black Music (BMI)

Courtesy of JRL Music Group

“Pumping Iron”

Written and Performed by Neil Benezra

Smoking Pigeons Publishing, ASCAP

“Wet and Wild”

Written and Performed by Neil Benezra

Smoking Pigeons Publishing, ASCAP

“Sal’s Last Drive”

Written and Performed by Neil Benezra

Smoking Pigeons Publishing, ASCAP

“Deep Listening”

Written and Performed by Neil Benezra

Smoking Pigeons Publishing, ASCAP

Clip used from ‘Rebel Without a Cause’ (1955)

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