



## Press Packet

### Mentors - Tony & Santi

From *The Fugitive* director Andrew Davis comes *Mentors*, the story and journey of the deep and lasting 60-year friendship and professional bond between two legendary photographers, *Tony Vaccaro & Santi Visalli* who captured some of the most iconic photographs of the century.

#### Film Synopsis

An intimate portrait of two renowned photographers. From Tony Vaccaro's time as a combat photographer under General Patton in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division during WWII capturing some of the most touching images of the war to Santi Visalli's 1957 Italian jeep expedition across the globe, *Mentors* shares their life's journey not only as friends but also legendary photographers, reminding us all of the role family, friends, and mutual support plays in one's life.

**Tony Vaccaro's** subjects include Mohammed Ali, Enzo Ferrari, Pablo Picasso and Sophia Loren amongst hundreds of others for *Look and Life* magazines.

**Tony Vaccaro** - <http://tonyvaccaro.studio>

**Santi Visalli** photographed five US presidents, Federico Fellini, Louis Armstrong, Andy Warhol, and Sophia Loren, as well as covers for over 50 magazines and newspapers including the *New York Times*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *Forbes*.

**Santi Visalli** - <http://www.santivisalli.com>

#### Director statement

When I was 8 years old my mom took me to see *The Little Fugitive*, a low budget feature film made by still photographers Morris Engel and his wife Ruth Orkin. This touching story about a young latch-key kid shot in black and white made a huge emotional impression on me. I wanted to take pictures and be part of film.

Many years later, after directing *The Fugitive* with Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones, I met Morris and Ruth's daughter Mary Engel, a respected photo archivist. We used Ruth Orkin's iconic photo of *An American Girl in Italy* on the walls of Michael Douglas and Gwyneth Paltrow's apartment in a *Perfect Murder*. Mary and I stayed in touch and later she sent me a notice about the legendary photographer Tony Vaccaro being recognized in NYC at an American Photo Archive event.

In Santa Barbara, I met renowned Sicilian photographer Santi Visalli through a mutual friend. I asked Santi if he knew another Italian photographer Tony Vaccaro. Santi just froze, looked me in the eye and

with deep emotion said, “I wouldn't be here if not for Tony Vaccaro”. Tony was 96, Santi 85. I knew I had to get them in front of a camera and let them tell their story.

I believe we've created a touching, historical tribute to a deep and lasting relationship born from tumultuous world events and focusing on the role of mentorship, sharing talent, support and friendship with a fellow artist in need.

### **Andrew Davis, Director**

With over 15 major motion pictures to his name, Davis is best known for his intelligent action-thrillers like the “The Fugitive”, nominated for seven Academy Awards including best picture, as well as the beloved family adventure film “Holes”, based on the award-winning book, and the post-Katrina action/adventure “The Guardian”, a fictional story of the US Coast Guard rescue swimmers. Prior to directing, Davis was a journalist and an award-winning cinematographer for commercials and feature films. His own mentor was legendary filmmaker/cinematographer and social activist Haskell Wexler.

Andrew Davis full bio - [www.mentorsmovie.com/andrew-davis](http://www.mentorsmovie.com/andrew-davis)

### **Ethan Boehme, Producer/Editor**

Ethan Boehme is the editor of “Tony & Santi” and has served as a director, editor, cinematographer, and producer on many documentaries including, *Dying to Know* about counterculture legends Timothy Leary and Ram Dass, *Four Days in Chicago* and Mr. Davis' *The Making of Stony Island*. Currently, he is working with Jackson Browne on a number of musical and concert documentary projects, as well as a series of short form documentaries for The Baktun Foundation in Mexico. He also serves as the director for the Jeff Bridges Photography Archive.

### **Lowell Blank, Producer**

Lowell Blank is a producer and executive with over twenty-five years' experience on both Hollywood studio and independent productions. Blank has served in various producing capacities on feature films, including several directed by Andrew Davis including *Holes*, *The Guardian*, *A Perfect Murder*, *Chain Reaction*. He has also produced commercials, documentaries and other projects. Previously he was President of Chicago Pacific Entertainment, Blank holds an MFA in Writing and Contemporary Media from Antioch University Santa Barbara and a BA in Film and Television from San Diego State University.

### **Press, Industry and Jury, screening link;**

Please contact Chicago Pacific Entertainment for a private screening link.

### **Film website**

[www.mentorsmovie.com](http://www.mentorsmovie.com)

### **Contact:**

### **Chicago Pacific Entertainment**

For interview requests, sale and distribution inquiries or more information please contact Chicago Pacific Entertainment at 805-966-1674 or email [asst@chipac.com](mailto:asst@chipac.com)