

Press Release

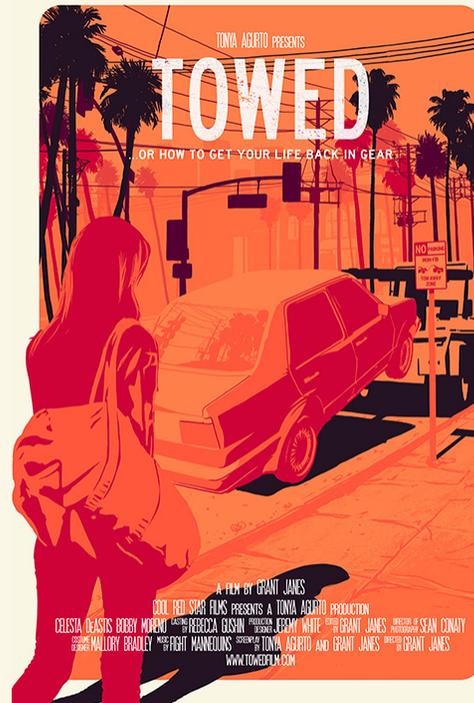
For immediate release

World Premiere of short film “Towed” March 3rd, 2016 at Cinequest Film Festival

February 22, 2016 (Los Angeles, CA) – Los Angeles-based Cool Red Star Films is proud to announce their first film festival acceptance and world premiere of indie short film “Towed,” produced/co-written by Tonya Agurto and directed/co-written by Grant Janes, a husband and wife team.

Cinequest Film Festival (San Jose/Silicon Valley) will host three screenings of “Towed,” in competition, with the world premiere screening event on Thursday, March 3 at 9:30 p.m. at **Camera 12 Cinema**, San Jose, CA.

Accepted into the appropriately designated Cinequest **Shorts Program 2 - “Transitions,”** filmmakers Tonya Agurto and Grant Janes see transition occurring in everyday life, and boldly illustrate this in their short film “Towed.”



Synopsis

Liza’s life is in a downward spiral. A recent break-up leaves her temporarily stuck and living out of her car - with no money, no gas, and seemingly no way forward. Parked in a tow zone and stalked by a persistent tow truck driver, a cat-and-mouse game ensues until



finally Liza has no choice but to leave her car to seek food, water and facilities. Upon her return she receives an unlikely surprise.

About the Film

“Towed” is a raw, urban slice of life set in the blue-collar Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles. Produced by first-time filmmaker Tonya Agurto, an entertainment executive by day, and directed by husband/partner Grant Janes, a commercial director and graphic artist, they are both expanding into narrative film production with their first short film.



“L.A. is a real part of this film,” says Grant Janes, the film’s director. “We filmed in Boyle Heights, just east of Downtown. It’s a working-class neighborhood

with a rich history that is currently home to a vibrant Hispanic community. It’s a far cry from the more sterile environs of West Los Angeles. We were really embraced by the neighborhood - and even included many locals on-camera.”

Producer Tonya Agurto had a hand in nearly every creative decision. “Ultimately, it’s the director’s job to execute on the shoot, work with the actors and the crew - and bring the picture home,” she says. “My goal is to empower my director - but we also have to be on the same wavelength. I worked with Grant on all aspects of this project before a single frame of film was shot. That’s how I like to produce.”



The casting was crucial. “On a project like this, everyone’s a part of the team,” says Tonya. “It’s not enough to be a great actor. I want to

work with talent that is invested in the project. Celesta, who played our lead, bailed us out on continuity issues, gave great performances, and brought her own unique style to the role.” Tonya also adds about Bobby Moreno, who played the tow truck driver: “He nailed every take. It allowed Grant to focus on shot composition and pacing - and freed me up to consider ‘bigger picture’ issues such as story as we moved through the shoot.”

Tonya Agurto eventually came to oversee a 20-plus-person crew that filmed for three 14-hour days, shooting three pages down a day on an Arri Alexa with UPM J. Virdone, DP’s Sean Conaty and Greg LeFevre, Production Designer Jeremy White, Costume Designer Mallory Bradley, Key Grip Lee Winborn, and Kelly Wright handling sound. More information at www.towedfilm.com.

Screening Dates

You are invited to their world premiere* with the following screening dates:

Cinequest Film Festival “Shorts Program 2 - “Transitions”

- Thursday, March 3, 9:30 p.m.* **Camera 12 Cinema** - Screen 7
- Saturday, March 5, 12:00 p.m. **Camera 12 Cinema** - Screen 7
- Monday, March 7, 2:15 p.m. **Camera 12 Cinema** - Screen 7

More information and tickets available at www.cinequest.org.

About Cinequest Film Festival

Cinequest Film Festival (CQFF), March 1-13, 2016 will unite 700 world-leading artists and innovators with audiences (expected to top 100,000) in the San Jose, California Silicon Valley to experience the fusion of creativity and innovation - and to celebrate and re-imagine storytelling via film and new technologies. (Voted Best Film Festival by USA Today readers.)

Production stills

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/f1zns8vc22b8b1b/AAAAN_IXQPXkZmpnVysxVzk6a?dl=0

Set Stills

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/i3iuicqanqthvt/AACdjCITEJ5_3A7PVtsTFF_7a?dl=0

Poster

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/m5e6Ooultrvne9/AADtG5r7LAeDAZ179u-jFYZWa?dl=0>

Press Kit

https://www.dropbox.com/s/5k3wlfwwf7fjOtO/Towed_PressKit.pdf?dl=0

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