

Goltzius Productions

in association with

The Group Entertainment and Multivisionnaire Pictures

presents

# Off Jackson Avenue

Running Time: 80 minutes

Rating: This film is not yet rated.

Website (including downloadable stills and clips):

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

**Exclusive engagement at Quad Cinema New York July 17-23, 2009**

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Press Kit 5/14/2009

# Off Jackson Avenue

## Synopsis

Off Jackson Avenue is an interwoven crime story set in New York City involving a Mexican woman (Jessica Pimentel) who has been tricked into sex-slavery by an Albanian pimp (Stivi Paskoski) and must find a way to break out; A Japanese hit man (Jun Suenaga) who is in town to do a job for the Chinese mob and must finish his assignment despite the fact that he is haunted by his recently-dead mother's ghost; And a local car-thief (John-Luke Montias) who must go on one last stealing spree to raise enough money to buy a tire store and go legit. A smack-bang tale of ambition, survival and fate, Off Jackson Avenue reminds us that there are still some parts of New York City that you won't find on any map.

## Writer/Director Biography

Born in Rochester, New York USA, John-Luke Montias attended New York University where he studied acting and film. John-Luke shot his first film, "Bobby G Can't Swim," on a budget of about \$20,000 in Hell's Kitchen, New York City. The film won a number of festival awards, including the New Directions Award and Best Director at the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival. "Bobby G." was released theatrically and on DVD in the US and other countries throughout the world. John-Luke later directed a TV pilot, "Nicky's Game," starring Burt Young and John Ventimiglia. John-Luke's next feature will be a black comedy, "Mother's Day".

## CAST BIOS:

Jessica Pimentel (Olivia) – Young Millie in "Illegal Tender"; role of Angelique opposite Colin Farrell in "Pride and Glory". On television, "Law and Order" and "Third Watch".

Stivi Paskoski (Milot) – Role of "Deege" in cult-hit "PCU". On television Stivi starred in Showtime's "Brotherhood" as the fearsome Pete McGonagle. He has guest-starred in many other shows including "Homicide", "Law and Order", "Third Watch", "New Amsterdam", "Damages".

Jun Suenaga (Tomo) – starred in the indie-hit "The Love Machine"; co-starred in the TV pilot "Nicky's Game" with Burt Young and John Ventimiglia. Jun also is the voice of Toshi in the hit video game "Midnight Club: Los Angeles".

Gene Ruffini (Uncle Jack) – Role of Vinny Forlano in Scorsese's "Casino"; "Analyze This"; "Ghost Dog: The Way of The Samurai"; role of DeNorsico Sr. opposite Vin Diesel in Lumet's "Find Me Guilty"; role of Nonno opposite Chazz Palmenteri in the upcoming "Once More With Feeling". Gene also co-starred in John-Luke Montias' first feature "Bobby G. Can't Swim".

Aya Cash (Olga) – role of Eve in "Winter of Frozen Dreams". Television guest-starring in Showtime's "Brotherhood", "Law and Order: Criminal Intent". Aya recently co-starred in Oscar-winner Ethan Coen's Off Broadway play, "Offices".

# Off Jackson Avenue

## Full Cast

Olivia.....Jessica Pimentel  
Milot.....Stivi Paskoski  
Tomo.....Jun Suenaga  
Olga.....Aya Cash  
Uncle.....Gene Ruffini  
Joey.....John Luke Montias  
Ivan.....Dan Oreskes  
Donna.....Judith Hawking  
Jimmy.....Michael Gnat  
Tommy.....Tony Mastrantonio  
Dino.....Richard Petrocelli  
Wu.....Jackson Loo  
Li.....Grant Chang  
Semka.....Sonia de los Santos  
Dascha.....Alona Tarniak  
Corina.....Denise Ogaz  
Russ.....Jim Tooley  
Benny.....Chris Hansen  
Tomo's.....Aki Ando  
Archie.....Norman Middleton  
Luiz.....Jose Rosario  
Kwok.....Shing Ka  
Tong .....Ryo Okamura  
Bartender.....Anthony Caso  
Eddie.....Clem Cheung  
Ho.....Dave Chan

## Tech Credits

Producer: Michiel Pilgram  
Executive Producer: Gill Holland  
Writer and director: John-Luke Montias  
Cinematographer: George Gibson  
Editor: Michiel Pilgram  
Production Design: Tamar Gadish  
Composer: Ed Tomney  
Sound mixer: Chen Harpaz

# Off Jackson Avenue

Costumes: Sandra Alexandre

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## John-Luke Montias Filmography

“Bobby G. Can’t Swim” - 1999 feature, writer/director, actor.

Won - New Directions Award and Best Director Award 1999 AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival.

Won - Grand Jury Prize 2000 Florida International Film Festival.

Won - Special Mention 2000 Troia International Film Festival, Prize of the City of Setubal.

Nominated - 1999 San Sebastian International Film Festival, Zabaltegi Award.

Nominated - 2000 Torino International Festival of Young Cinema, Prize of the City of Torino.

Nominated - 1999 Hamptons Film Festival, Golden Starfish Award.

“Bobby G. Can’t Swim” received limited theatrical release in the US (NY/LA) in 2002/03, and also sold over a dozen foreign territories for theatrical and DVD release. The film frequently airs on Showtime/The Movie Channel networks.

“Nicky’s Game” - 2005, director. Tv pilot/short(28 min).

Nominated - 1<sup>st</sup> New York Independent Television Festival, Best Narrative Pilot.

## Production Notes

Shooting format: Super 16 mm on Arriflex SR-3 & Aaton Super 16 A-Minima

Delivery format: HDCAM @ 1080 23.98P or 59.94i or Blue Ray DVD Stereo, 5.1 & full M&E

Shooting Locations: Greater New York City area, including Long Island City, Greenpoint Brooklyn, downtown Brooklyn, lower Manhattan, and Jersey City, NJ.

Trivia: Title while shooting was “Jackson Avenue Hustle”.

## IN FOCUS

Five new films in postproduction. **By Mary Glucksman**

### JACKSON AVENUE HUSTLE

"It's about people in tough predicaments fighting like hell to get out," says John-Luke Montias (*Bobby G Can't Swim*) about his second feature, *Jackson Avenue Hustle*, a stylized New York crime film that weaves three stories about a sex-slavery victim, a sensitive Japanese hit man and a local car thief.

The son of an esteemed Yale economist who was also one of the world's leading Vermeer scholars, Montias grew up in New Haven, Conn. and studied acting at NYU. He staged his own plays Off-Off-Broadway before directing a feature-film debut (which he also wrote and started) inspired by the colorful Hell's Kitchen characters he'd met as a neighborhood bartender. The no-budget *Bobby G* won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2000 Florida Film Festival and the AFI Los Angeles fest's Best Director Award and had its European premiere at San Sebastian before its blink-and-you-missed-it domestic release. "We opened on six screens in Paris, played Singapore for three months and sold numerous international territories, but it was not widely seen in the U.S.," says Montias, adding that Showtime just bought the film. "*Bobby G* got me to Hollywood agents and meetings, but support for what I wanted to make wasn't hap-



JOHN-LUKE MONTIAS' JACKSON AVENUE HUSTLE.

PHOTO BY: GORDON ERICKSON

pening. Ultimately I said, 'I got *Bobby G* made on a shoestring [budget] outside the system, so why can't I do that again?'"

The Super 16mm *Hustle* shot 20 days in New York and Jersey City this January and February, with *Bobby* d.p. George Gibson as cinematographer; locations included Coney Island, Chinatown's Pell Street and the exterior of Shea Stadium. Montias, Jessica Pimentel, Stivi Paskoski (*Brotherhood*) and

Jun Suenaga (*The Love Machine*) round out the cast. "We shot at a breakneck pace, with actors speaking Cantonese and Japanese and temperatures so low we'd have to cut when people's jaws froze," says Montias. "It was actually harder than the first film." With *Jackson* out for fest consideration by early June, Montias plans to segue seamlessly into a early September production on his third feature, the black comedy *Mother's Day*.