

Mongrel Media

Presents

TEENAGE PAPPARAZZO



A Film by Adrian Grenier
(94 min., USA, 2010)

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TEENAGE PAPARAZZO documents the true story of a relationship between a 14 year-old paparazzo (Austin Visschedyk) and Adrian Grenier, the star of the HBO series *Entourage*. Inspired by a chance encounter with Visschedyk during a night out, Grenier (who previously directed the documentary *Shot in the Dark*) decides, for a change, to turn the cameras on the paparazzi in an effort to document this unique teenager's world. But the actor/director soon finds the project turning into a personal challenge as Grenier is forced to take responsibility for his influence on his subject's life. As Visschedyk succumbs to the lure of fame, Grenier sets out to understand what makes that lure so powerful—hoping that he and Austin can find something more authentic than the relationship of mutual exploitation that now exists between them.

TEENAGE PAPARAZZO contextualizes this vivid story of their relationship using interviews with various people who understand both the perks and consequences of media exposure—from psychologists and historians to celebrities (including Matt Damon, Eva Longoria, Paris Hilton, Alec Baldwin and Whoopi Goldberg), as well as critics, fans, bloggers, publishers and tabloid writers. Grenier ultimately offers an intimate look at the paparazzi and the celebrity culture they serve—and the way it influences this particular teenager and his family.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I landed a job on the hugely successful show "Entourage" and became a celebrity by playing a celebrity on TV. The paparazzi (or paps) were soon unavoidable, a nuisance yes, but as I understood it, part of the job. It's a simple relationship – celebrities use the media and the media uses us – annoying but relatively harmless, or so I thought until I was snapped one night by Austin Visschedyk.

Only 14 at the time, Austin wasn't just a kid with a camera. The true product of Los Angeles, the belly of celeb culture, Austin was a full-fledged paparazzo, prowling nightclub parking lots at night and chasing down limos for that money shot – Paris, Britney, Lindsay, Nicole. The paps were supposed to be the predators. We were supposed to be the prey. The delicate balance between celebrity, fans and the media that brings them together was off-kilter, and I knew something was terribly wrong.

Determined to uncover what was going on with a culture so fixated on fame that its children stalk celebrities at night, I decided to turn the cameras on the paparazzi. What began as an in-depth look at the easy villains who, with the media conglomerates, make possible all of the juicy tidbits that fill newsstands and entertainment television alike quickly morphed into something more revealing. And at the center is Austin and what happens when the hunter becomes the hunted.

- Adrian Grenier

Adrian Grenier (Director)

Adrian Grenier is an actor, musician, director and producer; he is a non-fiction, multimedia storyteller best known for his acting role in the Emmy-nominated HBO series, *Entourage*, which is currently in its sixth season.

New Mexico born and NYC bred, Adrian was raised single-handedly by his mother, Karesse. In 2002, when Adrian embarked on a yearlong search for the father from which he was estranged for 18 years, he documented the journey. The result was a feature length film and his directorial debut, *Shot in the Dark*.

As a vehicle to craft socially responsible human stories, Adrian founded Reckless Productions in 2002. Through television and film, both documentary and narrative, his company aims to evoke dialogue on important, current topics. He currently has several feature films in development. Adrian's *Alter Eco* – a television show which premiered on Discovery channel's Planet Green – features a team of green activists and experts who demonstrate how to live more sustainably; inspiring viewers to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle.

Amidst film and television projects, Adrian drums for The Honey Brothers- a New York, new-wave folk band - who travel the US and abroad, uplifting crowds everywhere.

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PRODUCED BY

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THE PRODUCERS WISH TO SEND EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL INTERVIEWEES, CONTRIBUTORS, EVERYONE ON THE STREET, FANS, AND THE MEDIA AT LARGE FOR CONTRIBUTING GENEROUSLY TO A COMPLEX AND BEAUTIFUL BLOBISPHERE.

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TEENAGE PAPAARAZZO

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