

Star of 2007 Academy

Issue #7 | Interview

Award Winning Movie 'West Bank Story'

Joey Naber

As a Los Angeles native, Joey Naber began acting in his teens. In addition to starring in the 2007 Academy Award winning short film, *West Bank Story*, Naber has been featured in numerous films like *Mother*, *Executive Decision*, *The Siege*, and *Three Kings*. In between films, Naber has also scored several TV guest star appearances on "Las Vegas," "ER," "Charmed," "JAG" and many more.

In 2000, Naber and his wife co-produced and starred in *Five Wishes* which won many awards including an honor at the Santa Clarita Film Festival in 2001.

Recently, Naber just wrapped principal photography on a short film he directed called *Final Resolve*.



www.joeynaber.com

For more information, or to schedule an interview with Joey Naber, please contact Mona Loring at (805) 231-3182 or contact@monaloring.com.

Tell us about yourself?

-I am an actor and director with more ambition and heart than anyone you'll meet in Hollywood.

When did you discover your passion for acting?

-It all started when I found my passion for acting by chance. It was in junior high.

The school had passed out a sheet of paper that gave us students a choice on which elective we wanted for 7th grade. The only two elective options were music or drama. I knew I would not be successful playing an instrument, but not certain if I knew what the elective "drama" really entailed. I picked it anyway. I figured I had a better shot doing anything over playing music! By the end of my first day of drama class, I knew I was in love with the dramatic arts.

What acting classes have you taken?

-Oh my! Acting classes? SO MANY! The ones I remember and enjoyed the most were in junior high school because my drama teacher Mrs. Schiller was so inspiring.

Another one that stands out is a class I took many years ago with Lynda Goodfriend (Lori Beth from Happy Days).

You have done a lot of acting roles in both TV and film? Which do you prefer and why?

-They are two different worlds and I really do not prefer 1 over the other. I truly enjoy both. I must say that you have much more time to work and prepare for your character in film rather than TV.

-I enjoyed working with Rob Reiner. Always thinking on his feet and writing as he is directing. Terrific guy and director.

What do you think are important qualities a director needs to have?

-A director should enjoy working with actors. A director should allow the freedom of an actor to create, continue creating, then create some more. A director needs to have fun on a set, making it more of an entertaining mission than just a job.

Do you have a role model?

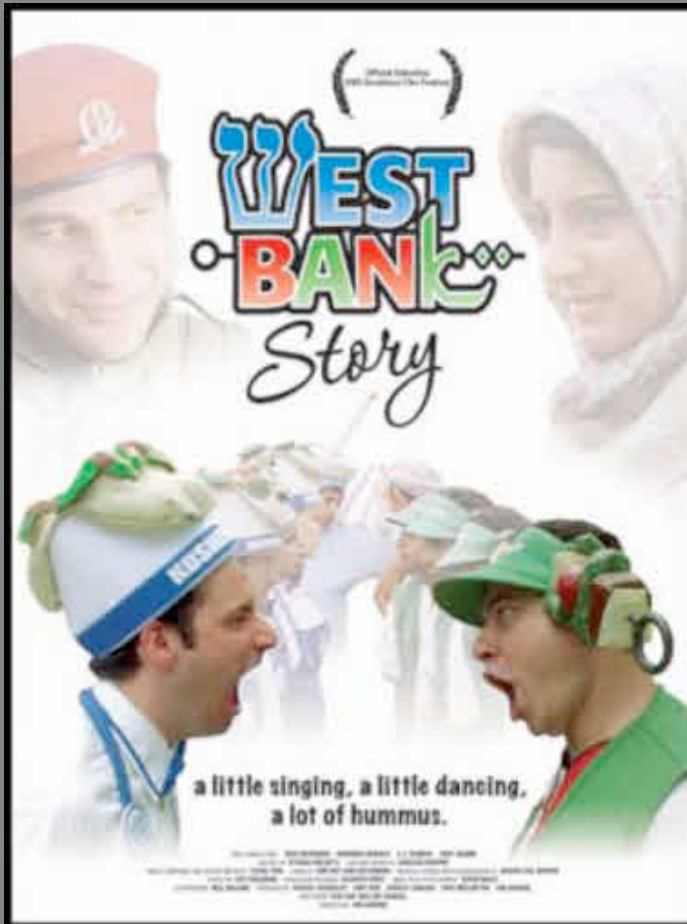
-My role model is my son. He is 5 years old and the best actor in the world! Really!

As an actor, you have seen many scripts. What makes the difference between a bad, a good, and a great script?

-A script that gives up the ending sooner than later is a bad script. A script that gives up the ending at the end... is a good script. A script that has you reading the whole script without putting it down once and never really gives up the ending at all-- but

makes you think it has... is a GREAT script.

Who was your favorite director?



During the filming of a show or movie, how much are the actors allowed to stray from the script?

-Rarely are we allowed to do so. However, a good director who believes in you as an actor will allow you some room to play.

Congratulations on winning an Academy Award for your role in "West Bank Story". How did it feel to get the industries top honor?

-Well first of all, I would love to take the credit, but the academy award won for best short film. I was one of the leads and proud to be a part of the film that won the Oscar.

You've worked in both short films and major box office productions. What do you like and dislike about each?

-Again, two different worlds. Short films are fantastic because most of the time the director is also learning as he is directing, so there is no studio shadowing his/her every move. The director in most short films has the freedom to create which also allows the actors to create. A problem with a big budget film is

that the main goal is to stay on or below budget so the director is also worried about budgets and what he can and cannot do with the money that he has or has not. This can reflect on the actors as well. On a positive note, of course big budget features have very talented, hard-working crews. The films allow you to feel that you are climbing the ladder to commercial success.

Tell us about your favorite acting job.

-My favorite acting job was working on a movie called "MOTHER" with Albert Brooks and the legendary Debbie Reynolds. She was a delight and to have a scene with such a legend is my most favorable moment on screen.

You have also been a producer on many of the films you've done. What is that like?

-Well it's definitely not an easy thing to do, because you are dealing with more than you can usually handle like, budgeting, scheduling, paperwork, permits, contracts, and the list goes on. Then, to be an actor on the same film tops it off. It's great when I

can stop producing and act while the camera is rolling!

Who has been your favorite actor to work with?

-Again, Debbie Reynolds was classic, however, James Caan was wonderful as well.

Any big acting plans for 2008?

-I am shooting a film called "Blood Shot" in January 2008 for a few weeks. It's a comedy horror. It's an amazing script and I am excited to be working on it.

Thanks for taking some time to share with us. Any advice for our readers?

-The one thing to remember about this business is that you cannot take it so seriously. If you do, it will eat you up alive. Yes it is very, very competitive-- but you don't have to be.

Do all that you can do, then go home and enjoy your friends and family. At least for me, that is partially why I do all I do-- so that I can have as much quality time with my family as possible.

A & P

