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A Mellow Night for Memories

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A Mellow Night for Memories is my second short film as a director. This film was in many ways more complex than my previous one. The actual budget, size of the crew, and my own personal ambition made that in addition to the roles of writer and director, I had to become a producer as well. Throughout the film making process and from personal experiences I have enjoyed over the past few months, I understood that to succeed in crafting a film, one must have a creative and practical mind. No matter how ambitious my vision was when I wrote the project, none of it would've been made possible without the numerous hours I spent on the phone, in meetings, or in my car, always eager to find solutions to endless problems.

Fundamentally, what I enjoyed most throughout the production process is the following, *how do I make my creative vision come true within the limitation of my budget and schedule.*

The film acts as a diptych between two surreal scenes. A desolated but majestic bar with only two waiters and one old drunk woman. And a yard sale that takes place at night. Both scenes are linked via one of the two waiters, who after he leaves work meets his wife at the yard sale. The yard sale is not a typical one. It reproduces the interior of a house without the walls. During the night they meet an older man and begin talking, philosophising, and dancing until the sun rises. In shooting this film, I was thematically interested in relations between young and older couples, the apparent romanticisation of the *night*, and the relation between film and theatre. Indeed, both scenes because of their surreal set design, function as stages. However, despite the theatrical aesthetic, none of the performances are influenced by theatre. Rather, they are realistic performances, in surreal locations.

To conclude, I'd like to mention a few words about my editing process. The film I edited is not the film I wrote. That's the beauty and creativity that stems from the editing room. Overall, this process has been extremely fulfilling. I am extremely happy that I film I wrote, is not the film I shot, nor is it the film I have edited. All together, these three films make *A Mellow Night for Memories*.

Angelo Chammah

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