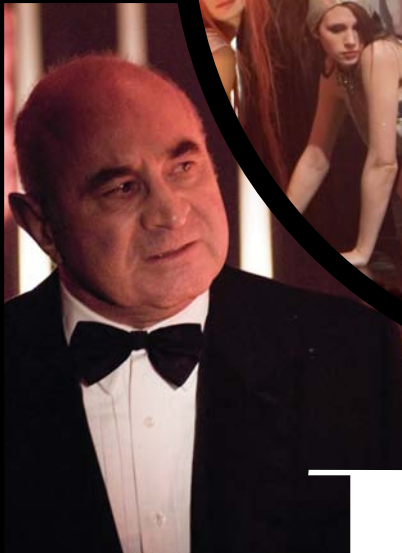




FESTIVAL DE CANNES

OFFICIAL SELECTION
OUT OF COMPÉTITION

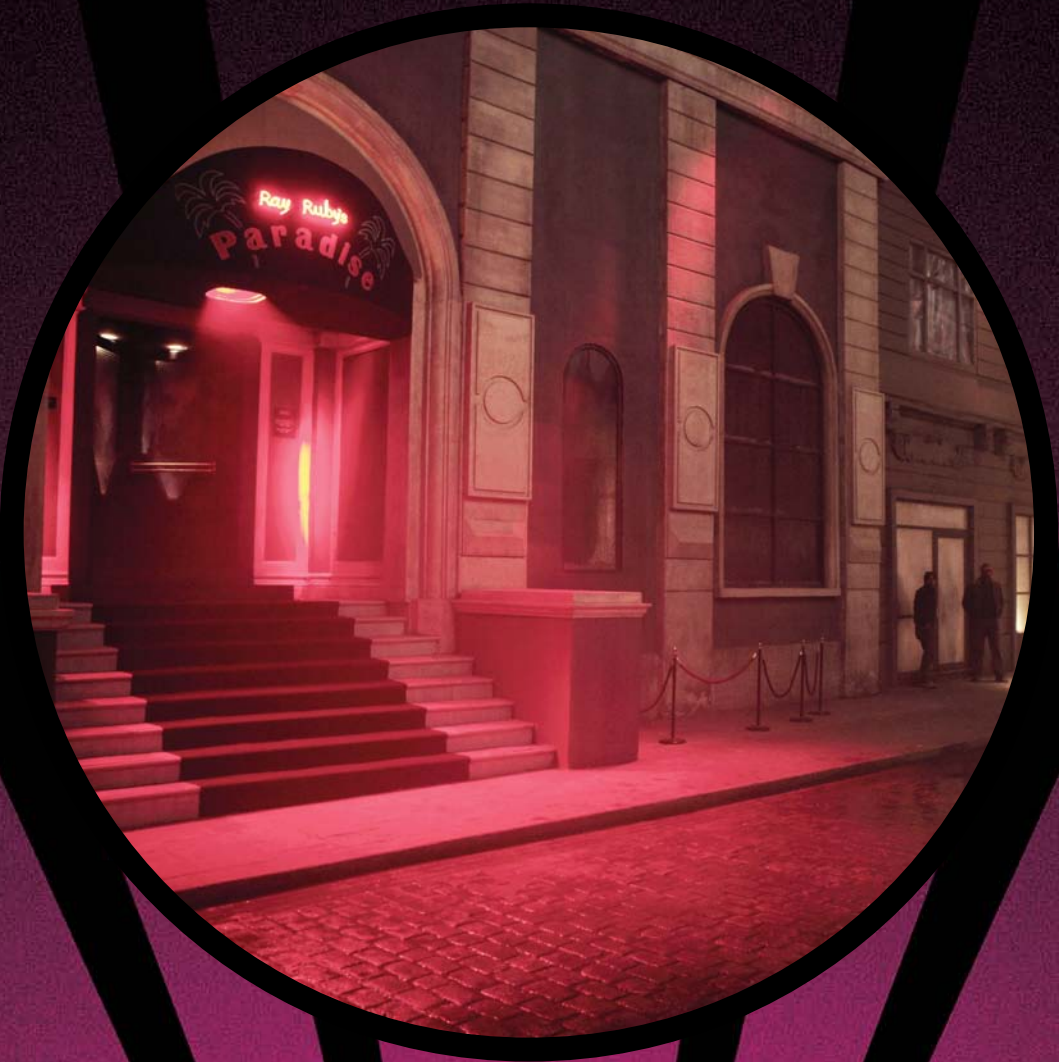
GOGO

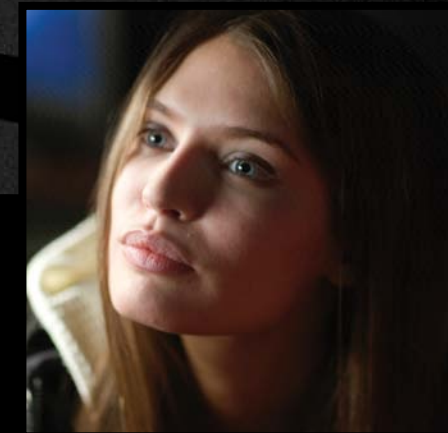


TALES

A FILM BY

Abel Ferrara





Ray Ruby's Paradise, a classy go go cabaret in downtown Manhattan, is a dream palace run by charismatic impresario Ray Ruby, with expert assistance from a bunch of long-time cronies, sidekicks and colourful hangers on, and featuring the most beautiful and talented girls imaginable.

But all is not well in Paradise.

Ray's facing imminent foreclosure. His dancers are threatening a strip-strike. Even his brother and financier wants to pull the plug. But the dreamer in Ray will never give in. He's bought a foolproof system to win the Lottery. One magic night he hits the jackpot.

And loses the ticket...



A classic screwball comedy in the madcap tradition of Frank Capra, Billy Wilder and Preston Sturges, from maverick *auteur* Ferrara.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"A long time ago, when 9 and 11 were just 2 odd numbers, I lived above a fire house on 18th and Broadway. Between the yin and yang of the great Barnes and Noble book store and the ultimate sports emporium, Paragon, around the corner from Warhol's last studio, 3 floors above, overlooking Union Square. Our local bar was a gothic church made over into a rock and roll nightmare called The Limelite. The club was run by a gang of modern day pirates with Nicky D its patron saint.

For whatever reason, the neighborhood became a haven for topless clubs. The names changed with the seasons but the core crews didn't. Decked out in tuxes and razor haircuts, they manned the velvet ropes that separated the outside from the in, 100%. The only way in was in a suit and a with a credit card which was used to buy funny money, the currency used to buy a lap dance. Ironically, it was the guys who worked there, more than the women, who were the actors. bouncers, DJs and bartenders, dreaming, auditioning and scheming for a stardom that, incredibly, came to a chosen few. I'd get in under the tent as the house director, and once inside, the first hit of seeing the girls never failed to blow my mind. They were truly fabulous: tall, cool and g-stringed out. Maybe it was the combination of near naked women, writhing in front of the well dressed guys, to music that always sounded better there than anywhere else, which makes the memory so long-lasting and vivid.



Back when Leonardo di Caprio was still young enough to call me Mr. Ferrara from underneath a pile of blondes in the room on the first balcony, and Matt Dillon was the only one to neutralize the girls hustling drinks at the bar, me, I was another one of the fools deluding myself that "...one of the girls is my girlfriend." She was smart and beautiful, and I would slip in and watch her lap dance for a group of suits, stripping while stripping them for plenty. Then I would step in with a hundred dollar bill, telling her to put her clothes back on and keep them on. Then we would have a drink together. 3 or 4 hundred later, I'd split like I'd proved something and she'd go right back to work. One of the cardinal rules was, no way could a girl meet you on the outside but we secretly made dates, dates we never kept.



I was the classic sucker, like every other guy in the place or any place like that, including Ray Ruby's Paradise Lounge. For the record, Bob Hoskins' Baron is based on the elegant and infamous regular of the same name, from Mary Lou's, the famed after hours bar from that neighborhood. Luigi, my cousin from Mulberry Street who gave me my entrée into the go go world, is played to perfection by Franky C, while Nicky D is still the great Nicky D. The Ruby brothers, two downtown characters, are played with cool insight by Dafoe and Modine who hail from 'downtown' Wisconsin and Utah. But in the end it's the women who still rule, whether playing go go dancers or being one, back then, now and forever."

ABEL F., ROMA - MAY DAY 2007





CREW

Written & Directed by
Abel Ferrara

DP
Fabio Cianchetti

Production Designer
Frank De Curtis

Original Music
Francis Kuipers

Costume Designer
Gemma Mascagni

Make-up
Giancarlo Del Brocco

Hair
Aldo Signoretti

Stills Photographer
Fabio Lovino

Editor
Fabio Nunziata

Line Producer
Paolo Lucidi

Casting Director
Gillian Hawser

Producer
Massimo Gatti

Executive Producers
Enrico Coletti
Massimo Cortesi

Associate Producers
Oriane Gay
Jay Cannold
Veronica Bilbao
Frank De Curtis

Produced by
Bellatrix Media
Go Go Tales Inc. (USA)

Co-produced by
De Nigris Productions

"Go Go Tales" is co-produced by Go Go Tales Inc., Bellatrix Media and De Nigris Productions. Go Go Tales Inc. was founded by American financier Steven W. Lefkowitz. Bellatrix Media is controlled by "Sunrise Holding S.A.", a company owned by Swiss entrepreneur Massimo Gatti.

CAST

Willem Dafoe as Ray Ruby
(SPIDERMAN I & II, THE AVIATOR, PLATOON, THE ENGLISH PATIENT)

Bob Hoskins as The Baron
(MONA LISA, MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS, WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT?)

Matthew Modine as Johnie Ruby
(TRANSPORTER II, FULL METAL JACKET, MARY)

Asia Argento as Monroe
(MARIE ANTOINETTE, XXX)

Roy Dotrice as Jay

Lou Doillon as French

Riccardo Scamarcio as Dr. Steven

Stefania Rocca as Debby

Bianca Balli as Adrian

Sylvia Miles as Lilian Murray

Burt Young as Murray

Pras Michel as Sandman
(from THE FUGEEES)

Joe Cortese as Danny Cash

ALSO STARRING

DANCERS:

Shanyn Leigh as Dolly

Manuela Zero as Sophie

Justine Mattera as Sugar

Sabina Beganovic as Elektra

Selena Khoo as Leila

Chiara Picchi as Ally

Julie McNiven as Madison

Gilda Lepardhaia as Salome

Maria Jurado as Goldie

Julia Mayarchuck as Tania

Aurora Giuliani as Kelly

Mara Adriani as Mara

Leila Virzi as Bonnie

Andy Luotto as Stanley

Anita Pallenberg as Aunt Sin

Danny Quinn as Clark

Franky Cee as Luigi

Anton Rodgers as The English

Dominot as Anita Finger

Johnny Shkrely as Junior

Nicky D as Bobby B

Alberto Mangiante as Big Don

Frank De Curtis as DeeJay

Lal Nirmal as Nasim

Singh Gurcharnjit as Zoom

Romina Power as Yolanda Vega

Hang Chen Jin as Ling

Neri Fiuzzi as Wall Street Boy

Sammy Pasha as Sam

Sung Un Cho as Mr. Yamamoto

Shin Yang as Medical Student





“When we read the script of ‘Go Go Tales’, it reminded us of the comedies of Frank Capra, Billy Wilder and Preston Sturges, where tragic events became black comedy and reality was seen with rose colored glasses and rules were bent with a carefree irony.”

Executive Producer
Enrico Coletti

“We can think of no one better than Abel Ferrara to bring this story to life.”

Executive Producer
Massimo Cortesi

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Abel Ferrara was born in 1951 in the Italian neighbourhood of the Bronx. In high school he met Nicholas St. John, who would eventually become his primary screenwriter. As boys they started shooting in Super 8, filming the streets of New York, especially the tougher neighborhoods. His debut on the big screen was in 1979 with **THE DRILLER KILLER**. In this film Ferrara also plays the protagonist, a young painter from New York who becomes crazy and violent.

In 1981, Ferrara created the character of a young blind woman who decides to take revenge on her aggressors after they rape her in **MS. 45**. In **CHINA GIRL** (1987), he told the story of an impossible love that takes place amongst ethnic conflicts between different gangs in Manhattan. Throughout the years, Abel Ferrara has created an image of himself as a truly American *auteur* with a pessimistic vision of his country. Towards the end of the 1980s, Ferrara directed various episodes of **MIAMI VICE**, and two films for TV, **THE GLADIATOR** and **CRIME STORY**.

In the early 1990s Ferrara successfully retained his stylistic edge while gaining a wider audience. In 1990 he jumped into the international spotlight with his bloody thriller, **KING OF NEW YORK**, interpreted magically by Christopher Walken, who plays a drug lord. He followed that up in 1992 with **BAD LIEUTENANT** to great critical praise, with Harvey Keitel as a corrupt police officer looking for redemption. After these successes, Ferrara tackled a remake of **INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS** in 1993, under the title of **BODY SNATCHERS**.

Also in 1993 he released **DANGEROUS GAME**, in which Madonna plays a movie star battling her tyrannical director. Ferrara’s films, utterly unique, profoundly strange, show us a tough world apparently without hope.

In 1995 he released **THE ADDICTION**, a metaphorical exploration of vampirism shot in black and white, including in the cast Christopher Walken, Lili Taylor, and Annabella Sciorra. The next year, **THE FUNERAL**, with Christopher Walken, Chris Penn, Isabella Rossellini, Vincent Gallo and Benicio Del Toro took the public into the world of a violent and oppressive mafia family. This intense film was followed in 1997 by **BLACKOUT** with Claudia Schiffer, Beatrice Dalle, and Matthew Modine, the story of an actor and two women caught up in a vortex of sex, drugs and excessive alcohol.

In 1998, Ferrara once again directed Christopher Walken in **NEW ROSE HOTEL**, a psychological thriller co-starring Asia Argento and Willem Dafoe. In 2001, **‘R XMAS** told the tale of a Christmas spent with a drug-trafficking immigrant.

In 2002, Ferrara moved to Rome, Italy where he directed **MARY**, starring Forest Whitaker and Juliette Binoche as an actress playing Mary Magdalene. The film remained true to the profound rein of Catholicism that has always run through the director’s work. **MARY** won the Grand Special Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival.

DIRECTOR FILMOGRAPHY

- MARY** (2005)
- ‘R XMAS** (2001)
- NEW ROSE HOTEL** (1998)
- THE BLACKOUT** (1997)
- THE FUNERAL** (1996)
- THE ADDICTION** (1995)
- DANGEROUS GAME** (1993)
- BODY SNATCHERS** (1993)
- BAD LIEUTENANT** (1992)
- KING OF NEW YORK** (1990)
- CAT CHASER** (1989)
- CHINA GIRL** (1987)
- FEAR CITY** (1984)
- MS. 45** (1981)
- THE DRILLER KILLER** (1979)



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