

SIMON FANTAUZZO

Screenwriter

Simon's debut feature *City Rats* was part of the 'official selection' at the *Slamdance Film Festival*, grossed £1.5m and was one of the first independent films released on Blu-Ray. It was also the first collaboration between Simon and Ray Panthaki, whose fruitful relationship has continued to grow as they've now collaborated on four projects, with more to come.

Convenience, Simon's second feature, a comedy about two bumbling robbers who end up doing the night shift in a newsagent debuted at the *Raindance Film Festival*, and starred Adeel Akhtar (*Four Lions* & *Enola Holmes*) Anthony Head, and the late Verne Troyer. The film became a cult hit, garnering many positive reviews, including from *Empire Magazine* who called it "A wonderfully odd assortment of characters assail the central trio, though no one can eclipse *Four Lions* star Akhtar – a complete, hilarious delight as a dimly amiable man who proves that while it's good to be clever, it's better to be kind." Giving the film ****

His third feature, *Estranged*, stars Amy Manson and James Cosmo, and was produced by the team behind *The Paranormal Activity* and the *Insidious* film series, and sold domestically to Netflix by WME and globally by Good Universe (now Lionsgate).

His short film, *Ernie*, was produced for the *Uncertain Kingdom Project*; a series of shorts providing an alternative snapshot of life in 2020, and starred Steven Berkoff and Paul Kaye as father and son. It screened in April 2020 to positive reviews. The short itself won eight awards, including Best Picture at the Los Angeles Film Awards and Best Short Film at the Prague International Film Festival.

His film: *State of Siege: Temple Attack* has recently been released in India for Cantiloe Pictures. He's also written *Taj: Royal Blood* a twelve-part historical drama based on the Mughal Empire for the same company. The show is currently in postproduction and will be released in summer 2022.

He has three features optioned: *Fathom*, a horror about two men trapped in a deep-sea submersible, that will be produced by Ben Jacques (*Accident Man*, *The Hatton Garden Job*). Irish crime drama *Forced Hands* to be directed by Mark O'Connor (*Cardboard Gangsters*) and *French Angel*, a biography of the wrestler Maurice Tillet.

Selected credits

production

producer / production company

television:

TAJ: DIVIDED BY BLOOD (Co-written with William Borthwick) Abhinanyu Singh / Cantiloe Pictures

film:

STATE OF SIEGE: TEMPLE ATTACK Abhinanyu Singh / Cantiloe Pictures
ESTRANGED William Borthwick / Face Films
CONVENIENCE Ray Panthaki / Urban Way Productions
CITY RATS William Borthwick / Face Films
Dean Fisher / Scanner Rhodes Productions

shorts:

ERNIE Ray Panthaki / Urban Way Productions

in development:

PROTECTOR Raveesh Narang
THE DEPENDENCE Raveesh Narang
BY THE BOOKS Ben Jacques / Signature Pictures
DOWN AND OUT IN DALSTON Ray Panthaki / Urban Way Productions
FRENCH ANGEL Ray Panthaki / Urban Way Productions
Daniel Khalili / Financer
JONESTOWN Ray Panthaki / Urban Way Production

optioned:

WILD HENS

FATHOM

FORCED HANDS

WAGHNAKS (Co-written with William Borthwick)

Llewellyn Greef / Dark Matter Studios

Ben Jacques / Maniac Fiction Films

William Borthwick / Face Films

Paul Donovan / Grand Pictures

Phil Hunt / Bankside Films

Abhinanyu Singh / Cantiloe Pictures