



OFFICIAL SELECTION
CANNES CLASSICS
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Midnight Return

THE STORY OF BILLY HAYES AND TURKEY

LOG LINE:

Midnight Return: The Story of Billy Hayes and Turkey explores the emotional and political power of film, as seen through the lens of the blockbuster hit, *Midnight Express*, a movie that turned the real Billy Hayes into an international celebrity and made him the enemy of Turkey.

SYNOPSIS:

After his ingenious escape from a Turkish prison in 1975, Billy Hayes arrived home to a hero's welcome, instant celebrity and within a week had a book and movie deal for his story. From the moment it stunned the world at the Cannes Film Festival in 1978, '*Midnight Express*' cemented its place in film history as an artistic and financial success, before becoming an indelible part of pop culture. But its lasting impact has been on Turkish people worldwide who still condemn the film as racist and blame Billy Hayes for defaming them and their country. Despite warnings from family and friends, Billy returns to Turkey and faces a nation still haunted by the film and his own demons.

INTERVIEWS INCLUDE:

Starring: Billy Hayes, Oliver Stone, Peter Guber, Alan Parker, David Puttnam, Giorgio Moroder, Ahmet Ertegun, Peter Greenberg, Jeffrey Lyons, and others.

Midnight Return: The Story of Billy Hayes and Turkey is written, directed and produced by the Emmy® winning and WGA award winning Sally Sussman. Executive Producer Anthony Morina is a three-time Emmy® winner, and a CableACE Award winner.

"*Midnight Return*" is entirely self-financed; there is no third party financing attached. Film is now completed and ready for delivery and distribution.

ANTHONY MORINA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/PRODUCER

Anthony (Tony) was born in Syracuse, N.Y. He graduated with a business degree from S.U.N.Y. Plattsburgh. He moved to Los Angeles and began studying acting with the legendary, Eric Morris who then asked Tony to take over several of his classes. That began a 5-year career teaching at U.S.C. Film School where he taught directors how to communicate with actors. During that time, he had his own theatre, acting workshops, coached actors and directed myriad plays. That led to an opportunity in television where he began his career as a freelance director, directing series such as "Santa Barbara", "The Young & The Restless", "General Hospital", "Generations", "All My Children", "Guiding Light", "One Life to Live" and "Port Charles". During that time, he also directed a mini series for Comedy Central entitled "The Clinic" where he won a Cable Ace Award for directing a comedy special. He also directed the syndicated sketch series, "The Newz" and several sketch comedy pilots, "Evening at the House of Blues", and "Out of Bounds".

He then joined his wife, Sally Sussman on the MTV series, "Spyder Games", where he served as Producer. Subsequently, he was hired by Sony International to supervise the launch of their co-productions with Russian broadcaster CTC. The first series, which was an enormous international success, "Poor Anastatia", led to a yearlong stint in Moscow supervising the drama series line up for Sony.

Upon his return, he was offered the job of Supervising Producer on "The Young & The Restless" where he has been for the last 9 years, winning 3 Emmy Awards. *Midnight Return* is his first documentary as Producer and Executive Producer. He is elated to be part of the film's World Premiere as part of Cannes Classic at the Festival De Cannes 2016.

SALLY SUSSMAN
WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Sally was born in Toronto, Canada. She graduated from the University of Southern California Annenberg School of Journalism. Upon graduation, she began work as a Writer's Assistant on the NBC series, "Facts of Life." She was promoted to Staff Writer shortly thereafter and was with the show for two seasons. She then pursued freelance sitcom writing doing various episodic series until an opportunity arose in the world of daytime serials to work with William J. Bell on "The Young & The Restless". She was with the show for 5 years as its Story Consultant and Associate Head Writer, being part of the team that sent the show to #1 where it remains today. During her stint, she was nominated for 3 Emmy Awards.

That experience caught the attention of Brandon Tartikoff who hired Sally at NBC, to create its own in-house daytime serial. She created "Generations", a ground breaking daytime drama that featured prominently for the first time ever, an African-American family at its core. During the series' two-year run, Sally served as Head Writer and Executive Producer. She was then hired by Aaron Spelling to create and write a nighttime serial set in the ski resort of "Whistler". She then wrote several movies for television including a mini-series for New World entitled "Forbidden Passions".

Subsequently, she joined "Days of Our Lives" as its Head Writer, winning the show's first ever Writers' Guild of America Award and earning 2 more Emmy nominations. From there she was hired by MTV to be Executive Producer and Head Writer of that network's first foray into a late night serial with the 65 episode series, "Spyder Games" earning another Emmy Award nomination. After a short break, she went onto to write a series for Sony International entitled, "Dear Masha", a Russian-American co-production. Then she returned to "The Young & The Restless" for another stint as Story Consultant and Co-Head Writer, winning her second Writers' Guild of America Award and an Emmy Award.

After leaving the daytime serial world, she set out to make her first documentary feature. Although it took 8 years to complete, *Midnight Return* represents a new chapter in her career. She is thrilled to have the World Premiere as part of Cannes Classics at the Festival De Cannes 2016.

SEAN H. FANTON
EDITOR/CO-PRODUCER

Sean Fanton was born in Connecticut, then moved to Los Angeles where he grew up. He began his career in production and then moved into the position of Assistant Editor. It didn't take long for him to be promoted to Lead Editor. Over his career, he has edited thousands of hours of network television for clients, NBC, ABC, FOX, Discovery, MTV, BBC America, Spike, Nat Geo, TruTV and many others. He has also edited several short films that have been shown at the AFI Fest, LA Short Film Festival and others.

In 2013, Sean edited the feature documentary, "Let's Roll" which premiered at the Newport Beach Film Festival and went onto play various festivals around the country.

Sean had previously worked with Sally Sussman as Editor on the MTV series, "Spyder Games". A few years later they teamed up to finish *Midnight Return* and Sean is thrilled to have the film's World Premiere as part of Cannes Classics at the Festival De Cannes 2016.

ANTHONY MARINELLI
COMPOSER

Anthony Marinelli was born in Los Angeles. He attended the University of Southern California School of Music as a piano and composition major. His extensive work as a young arranger, orchestrator and performer for Quincy Jones, Jack Nitzsche, Lamont Dozier, Arthur Rubenstein and Giorgio Moroder was vital in launching his own career as composer, producer and artist.

Over his career, he has composed, conducted and performed the music in over eighty motion pictures, including *The Man From Elysian Fields*, *15 Minutes*, *Hotel*, *American Gun*, *2 Days in the Valley*, *Mayor of the Sunset Strip*, *Young Guns*, *Internal Affairs* and *Timecode*. He also composed music heard in *Leaving Las Vegas*, the action film *Demolition Man* and the hit comedies *Let It Ride* and *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*. Recent releases include, *Altergeist*, Jada Pinkett Smith's directorial debut film, *The Human Contract*, the provocative *Chapter 27*, starring Jared Leto and Lindsay Lohan, *My Sexiest Year* featuring collaborations with Dr. John, and *Ripple Effect* starring Oscar winner Forest Whitaker and Oscar nominees Virginia Madsen and Minnie Driver.

Along with his film work, Anthony has a notable record career. He played keyboards on Michael Jackson's mega-hit *Thriller* as well as on albums for renowned artists as James Brown, Lionel Richie, Van Halen, The Crystal Method, Supertramp and Quincy Jones. He remixed and produced Herb Alpert's classic *Whipped Cream & Other Delights*, featuring Herb Alpert, Ozomatli, The Dust Brothers and Thievery Corporation and produced a remake of Marvin Gaye's *What's Going On* by New Orleans natives the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, featuring Chuck D, Guru and Ivan Neville.

His large scale orchestral work *In the Family Way* was commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Leonard Slatkin and premiered at the Hollywood Bowl.

Marinelli has composed award winning music for over 500 hundred television commercials including 30 spots for Apple Computer, multiple spots for Microsoft, Nike, Mercedes- Benz, Chevrolet, Budweiser, Jaguar, Shell, Southwest Airlines, Boeing and the iconic "This is your Brain on Drugs" campaign.

In musical theatre, Marinelli completed an original musical BollyDoll, a Bollywood genre extravaganza with visual artist and vocalist, Amrita Sen, directed by Shekhar Kapur in 2014. He also composed and conducted a rare live television performance of the stage play *On Golden Pond* starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer.

Marinelli co-founded, incubated and hosted Levels Audio Post, a post production venture servicing the television shows: American Idol (Fox), The Bachelor (ABC), the Teen Choice Awards (Fox) and the MTV Award Shows.

Anthony was intrigued by the subject matter of *Midnight Return* and after seeing an early cut, wanted to be involved. He composed, arranged and produced all the original music in the film.