

TIMELAPSE PICTURES PRESENTS

# POINT TRAVERSE

A FILM BY ALBERT SHIN



103 minutes – color – HD – 2:35 – Dolby E – Unrated – Canada

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: [www.timelapsepictures.ca](http://www.timelapsepictures.ca)

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Written, Directed and Edited by ALBERT SHIN  
Produced by ALBERT SHIN  
ROBIN PATRICK SMITH  
ROLAND ECHAVARRIA  
Story by ALBERT SHIN  
ROBIN PATRICK SMITH  
Director of Photography ROLAND ECHAVARRIA  
Production Assistant / Stills MATTHEW ROVET  
Sound Design & Mixing STEVE CUPANI  
Original Music by QUINTON MOODY  
Featuring Songs by ALCOHOLIC FAITH MISSION

## CAST

Adwin WILL ENNIS  
Cael DAVE RACHAR  
Emma HEATHER GALLAGHER  
Wiley JUSTIN MAJOR  
Mia RACHEL NAURUZOVA  
Bobby BEN GULKA  
Jack DEREK MILLER  
Juse ADRIAN MORRIS  
Matt MATTHEW ROVET  
Mia's Stepbrother GORAN SLAVKOVIC  
Sam CARMEN CRAIG  
Random Girl VICTORIA DANYLUK  
Interview Girl GABRIELLA DIAZ  
Cop BILL ENNIS  
Cael's Mom CHRISTINE GALLAGHER  
Old Man FREEMAN KING  
Orange Jacket Man QUINTON MOODY  
Store Clerk CHANG OK SUNG

## ABOUT THE FILM

Two twenty-something friends from a small town go to different lengths to discover their true nature after witnessing a murder.

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POINT TRAVERSE tells the story of two childhood friends, Adwin and Cael, who have followed separate paths in life. Adwin leads a solitary life as the manager of a little restaurant in a small town, while Cael has become a drifter, aimlessly wandering the Earth in hopes of something better. After both men have a chance encounter with an ill-fated loner, the two embark on a journey of self-discovery that forces them to see that the rules governing their lives were made to be broken.

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POINT TRAVERSE tells the story of two childhood friends, Adwin (Will Ennis) and Cael (Dave Rachar) who have followed separate paths in life. Adwin leads a solitary, structured life as the manager of a little restaurant in a small town. Cael has become a drifter, aimlessly wandering the Earth in hopes of something better.

After a chance encounter with an ill-fated loner, the two friends embark on their own separate journey of self-discovery. Cael heads to the city, taking a job as a janitor in an office tower. There he meets Mia (Rachel Nauruzova), who helps Cael find a sense of home that has so far eluded him. Mia is herself running away from a previous life, and sees Cael as a chance to escape to greener pastures. But can Cael commit fully to this new life, or is it just a matter of time before he runs again?

Bothered by his brush with death, Adwin finds comfort with an old friend (Justin Major) and a young employee (Heather Gallagher), who provide him with an outlet for his frustrations. But when these relationships fail him, he becomes obsessed with a life that could have been. As he learns more about himself, Adwin realizes that the structure that has governed his life contains fatal flaws.

Beautifully realized in the cold depths of the Ontario winter, POINT TRAVERSE paints a stark but meditative portrait of life on the edge. How far would you go to find yourself?

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

There's the old adage that says you should "write what you know." As a young director, I struggled with the idea of what I could develop as a first feature film, simply because I felt that I didn't know enough. What could I say that someone else couldn't say better? I didn't come up from some extraordinary set of circumstances; I didn't have to endure any particular hardships growing up beyond the norm. There is no spectacular secret I must lay bare.

How many of us have confronted the possibility that perhaps we are not destined for something special? When do our dreams of becoming astronauts, pro athletes, great leaders and artists become forgotten memories as we live our day-to-day lives? Or even if we do reach our dreams, why do we catch ourselves sometimes staring blankly into our coffee cups or out our apartment windows? We are so often overcome by intangible feelings that make us restless and dissatisfied. But no matter how hard you try, you can't put your finger on it. It's just a feeling. What would a film that explores such an elusive notion look like?

– Albert Shin

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

“I wanted to make a film that captured that moment where people decide, whether they know it or not, who they’re going to be for the rest of their lives.” – Albert Shin

Drawing largely on his experiences growing up, Writer/Director Albert Shin had long ruminated on a story involving a small-town restaurant employee named Adwin who serves a drifter his last meal. Originally conceived as a short, the story took on new life with the idea of a character named Cael, the antithesis of Adwin; a wayward soul in search of a place to call home.

Albert next turned to the website “Craigslist” to search for potential collaborators that could help deliver a feature film on a zero-budget. There he met Robin Smith, an aspiring filmmaker who had spent the last several years as a graduate student in the field of Neuroscience. Robin introduced Albert and cinematographer Roland Echavarria to Prince Edward County, which provided an intriguing backdrop to the film’s story.

“Picton [and Prince Edward County] offered a unique setting for the film. You’ve got the town itself, which is a classic small town, frozen in time, combined with some of the richest scenery that Southern Ontario has to offer.” – Albert Shin

Prince Edward County provided such an inspiration to the filmmakers that they decided to use the name of a local landmark, “Point Traverse,” as the title of the film. Other local hotspots such as Little Bluff, The Acoustic Grill, Robyn’s Nest and Picton Harbour also provided a backdrop for key scenes.

Albert and Robin turned to Craigslist once again in search of adventurous young actors that could breathe life into the characters. After several dozen interviews at a downtown coffee shop, Albert selected 8 individuals that he thought could bring something to the table. Wanting the film to take on an authentic and fresh feel, the casting process was followed by several weeks of improvisation and storytelling that allowed the script to take on a new life.

Will Ennis, a Toronto local who had spent several years as part of an improvisational group, seemed the natural fit for Adwin. His monologue at the

end of the film, as well as the song that Adwin sings mid-way through the film, were both entirely based on Will's perception of the character.

“There is no Adwin without Will. For a few months he literally became the character. Luckily for us, he returned to normal afterwards.” – Albert Shin

The character of Cael was filled by Dave Rachar, an aspiring model/actor from Tillsonburg, Ontario. Dave spent several days with Rachel Nauruzova (Mia) working out their dialogue together. Dave also helped the production immensely, providing the location for Mia's apartment (his own apartment), the junkyard in the shotgun scene and the abandoned building in the graffiti scene.

Several of the other actors came up with ideas for the story. These include Justin Major (Wiley), who has a knack for calling out hockey plays; Adrian Morris, a talented artist who happened to be proficient with spray paint; Heather Gallagher (Emma), who decided to wear the right nose ring one day; and Rachel Nauruzova (Mia), who is fluent in Russian as well as several other languages. Also “discovered” on Craigslist was Matthew Rovet, a freshman student at York University, who served as the sole Production Assistant and Stills Photographer.

POINT TRAVERSE was filmed over the course of 43 days in between Newmarket, Picton, Tillsonburg and Toronto. This was accomplished by a skeleton crew consisting only of Albert, Robin, Matt, and cinematographer, Roland Echavarria. Roland's contribution here was key, serving as a one-man camera operator, gaffer, electric and grip.

“The film looks the way it does because of Roland. Nobody works harder than him – he's the first to wake up and the last to go to bed. Everybody had a lot of respect for Roland by the end of the shoot.” – Albert Shin

Roland and Albert decided to shoot the film in video, owing to the large cost of film stock, especially for a project heavy in improvisation. To avoid the “home video” look of prosumer video projects, they used the HPX170 camera in conjunction with the Redrock Micro Cinema Lens adapter, which allowed the use of 35mm lenses. By optimizing lighting conditions for this setup, Roland was able to deliver a cinematic experience using a very modest amount of equipment.

Over 52 hours of high definition footage was captured during the course of the shoot. The first day of filming took place in Newmarket, where the scenes between Adwin and the elderly man were shot. The last two days of filming covered Cael's experience with Jack (played by Juno-winning musician Derek Miller). To the surprise of most of the cast and crew, the camera and equipment survived intact, despite high winds, snow, ice, and temperatures that dipped below -20 degrees Celsius on numerous occasions.

Whenever a gap occurred during production, Director Albert Shin would transfer the footage and make rough edits of scenes to see if they were working. This allowed for additional material to be shot the next day, making scenes flow more smoothly, particularly in the case of establishing shots and cutaways. When production was finished, Albert used these sequences to make a rough cut of the film within a month. Another month was then spent fine-tuning and removing scenes that were unnecessary.

During the casting process, Albert reached out to singer/songwriter Quinton Moody, a friend from Newmarket to score the film. In addition to the score, Quinton played the role of the mysterious "Orange Jacket Man." Quinton also suggested the Danish experimental group "Alcoholic Faith Mission" as an additional source of songs for the film. They graciously provided the production with several key pieces of music that round out the film.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### **ALBERT SHIN (Writer/Director/Editor)**

Born in Ottawa, ON, Canada, Albert Shin graduated from York University with a B.F.A. in Film and Video Production. He is the producer of the award-winning short film DAY OF JOHN, which was an official selection at the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival and The Worldwide Short Film Festival, among many others. In 2006, Albert made his directorial debut with PIN DOCTOR, a short documentary about acupuncture that premiered at the Vancouver International Film Festival. His last narrative short, KAI'S PLACE premiered at the LA Shorts Fest and screened at various other festivals in North America. POINT TRAVERSE is his feature film debut.

### **ROBIN PATRICK SMITH (Producer)**

Although Robin has been a fan of film all his life, this is the first major production of which he has taken part. Graduating from the University of Toronto in 2002 with a degree in Biomedical Engineering, Robin spent time in Europe and Japan before embarking on a Ph.D. program at the University of Miami in Florida. His research centred on the molecular determinant of spinal cord injury, a far cry away from film. However during this time he made his first short, a tribute to a fellow lab member titled "Sun, a day in the life". In 2008, Robin returned to his family home in Prince Edward County to write his thesis. During this time he became acquainted with the area that would provide the rich visual medium of POINT TRAVERSE.

### **ROLAND ECHAVARRIA (Director of Photography)**

Having graduated from the department of Film at York University in 2006, Roland has contributed to the innovative work of several young directors with unique and genuine visual flare. His work has been screened in numerous film festivals around the world including the LA Shorts Fest, the Vancouver International Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival. In 2007 he received a nomination for best student cinematography from the Canadian Society of Cinematographers for his work in "The Battery Powered Duckling". He has recently finished production on two feature films currently in post-production.