

Stewart Morrison

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OVERQUALIFIED

9/89 - 7/92

English Literature Professor for Loyola Marymount College, CA.
Classes taught: Medieval Literature, Arthurian Legend, Renaissance Literature, Middle English, Olde English.

9/89 - 7/92

Research Translator and adjunct Professor for Oxford University, Oxford, UK.
Researched and translated pre-Chaucerian manuscripts from original Middle English.

6/80 - 7/89

Associate English Professor for Rutgers University, NJ.
Classes taught: Intro to British Literature, Medieval Literature, Arthurian Legend, Victorian Literature.

5/79 - 6/80

Assistant Curator for Philadelphia Museum of Natural History.
Worked primarily in the area where they kept the really old stuff.

Olde English Translator for the Philadelphia Medieval Society.

Education:

Rutgers University, College of Arts and Science, New Brunswick, NJ
M.A. Medieval Literature, May 1978

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
B.A. English and History, 1982

Achievements:

Fencing Champion, Oxford University, 1990.
Knighted *Sir Stewart the Linguist* by the Philadelphia Medieval Society round table, 1979.

Special Skills:

Fencing. Fluent in Latin, Olde English, and 14th Century French.

References:

BOOTSTRAP PRODUCTIONS presents "OVERQUALIFIED"
RICHARD PENN JOEL SWETOW JAMISON REEVES DINA KRIGER and FELIX the cat
edited by STEVE FARDYS director of photography TROY DUNNAGAN production designer ASHLEY COOK sound designer ZEEROCK
executive producers ASHLEY COOK and RICHARD PENN produced by NATHAN PRICE, ALEX DALTON and STEVE FARDYS
written and directed by STEVE FARDYS



Synopsis

With eviction pending and his gas already shut off, Stewart Morrison is an unemployed medieval literature professor at the end of his financial rope. But Stew's life turns on a dime when he finds a child's backpack by his mailbox. Searching the contents for a name in order to return the bag to its rightful owner, Stew makes an incredible discovery in the bottom of the lunch box -- a brick of uncut cocaine.

Stew eventually samples his find, (just to make sure it's real, of course.) Six hundred dollars worth of cocaine later, Stew wakes up to a wicked cocaine hangover and someone pounding on his door. The local drug dealer, Vic Kronen, accompanied by his daughter Dina, has found his way to Stew's door to reclaim the four-year-old's backpack.

Calm, cool and clearly in control, Kronen puts the pressure on Stew, assuming he intended sell the product. As Kronen explains to Stew what kind of pain his goons might inflict, his daughter innocently plays with Stew's cat, Lancelot, oblivious to her father's profession, or the gun he keeps tucked in his belt. Stew offers to pay Kronen back for the coke he used, but Kronen wants more than money from Stew. He wants a new employee.

OVERQUALIFIED



Sometimes the job finds you.

The genesis of *Overqualified* was rather simple. It's based on a true story...sort of.

The rent was five days overdue and I knew a check would bounce right back in my face with a \$29 bank fee attached. I had quit teaching to write full time, and the money from my last screenwriting assignment had run out weeks ago. My morning walk to the mailboxes at the front of my apartment only made things worse. My DWP bill had turned red, which meant cold showers were soon on the way.

I stopped to talk with my friend and neighbor, Richard, in the downstairs apartment. He offered me a cup of coffee and we sat out on our front steps. After sufficient griping about the present economy and my financial situation, I made a joke about contemplating knocking off a liquor store or turning to crime. The drug dealers in the park behind my apartment seem to do pretty well; maybe I was in the wrong business?

As I smoked my last cigarette, Richard relayed a story he knew of a friend in Chicago. The guy had been walking down the street when he came across a child's backpack. Being the Good Samaritan, he figured he'd take a look inside and see if there was an address so he could return it. Amongst the contents of what was clearly a kindergarten's backpack, he found something totally shocking -- a brick of cocaine.

That was the seed for *Overqualified*. I asked Richard if I could "borrow" the story, went upstairs and pounded out a 16-page short script in a few hours. I honestly had no intention of actually making the short, but hoped maybe some film student would be interested in a short script for their final project and I could sell it and pay my DWP bill.

Having a neighbor who is a working actor with 30 years of experience is priceless to a writer/director. When that neighbor says, "Hey, I know a great actor who would be perfect for the villain. Why don't we make this?" you don't say no.

I guess I was the "film student" looking for a script to make, and since the Bootstrap philosophy has always been to learn through hands-on experience, this was the perfect opportunity to work with some great actors. *Overqualified* was made on a budget of virtually zero with the help and commitment of some amazingly talented people.

As for the real "Stewart Morrison" who found the brick of cocaine in a child's backpack in Chicago, he spent an agonizing weekend trying to figure out what to do with it. At about 4:00 a.m. Monday morning he flushed it all down the commode, went back to bed and was finally able to get some sleep.



Production Notes

Overqualified was shot in one weekend on a virtually zero budget. It was shot on a Panasonic DVX-100, using the 24p conversion. Shooting on DV gave the small crew the ability to shoot and reset quickly, considering time constraints and a very cramped location.

The short was primarily edited on an iBook G4 computer using Final Cut Pro. ADR was generously provided by Dean St. John and Julie Altus at Todd A.O., Burbank. The final sound mix was done digitally with ProTools by long time Bootstrap collaborator, Zeerock. Zee worked in the back of his mobile studio - in between gigs - while touring the Southwest with his band. Zee is now on tour in Russia.

Since the team had no money for locations, Steve's apartment was used for the primary location, and Richard's apartment downstairs conveniently became the green room and staging area for the shoot. In the planning, it sounded ideal, but the x-factor became the cranky neighbor downstairs who was not happy about the commotion during the shoot and kept threatening to call the police. It seems that every production must have its hurdle.

Bringing years of professional experience as an art department coordinator and executive assistant on such films as *Galaxy Quest* and *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, Ashley Cook took over the roles of production designer and script supervisor for *Overqualified*. Constantly adapting and adjusting while simultaneously keeping the set running like a well-oiled machine, Ashley handled every hurdle and somehow managed to find the time for every shot the director wanted.

Almost everyone involved with *Overqualified*, from pre to post-production is, in some way or another, a friend. Director of photography, Troy Dunnagan, was an easy choice for the director. Steve and Troy had worked together on Steve's first film, *Personal Business*, and established a comfortable creative rapport.

Deborah Dimond, a friend of producer Alex Dalton, volunteered not only her cat, but also her artistic skills as storyboard artist for *Overqualified*. Her cat, Felix, a trained studio cat with several film credits, came out of retirement for the project. Trained professional that he is, Felix needed very little direction, only the occasional coaxing with a piece of roast beef.

Though no cats were harmed during the filming, the same cannot be said for couches. The director's couch suffered numerous stab wounds, and has since retired from the industry to live quietly in Santa Monica near the beach.



Crew

Steve Fardys - Writer/Director

Originally from New Jersey, Steve moved to Los Angeles in 1998 to attend UCLA's Professional Program in Screenwriting. While at UCLA he wrote *Storm Surge*, an action adventure with a female lead, which won the UCLA Screenwriting Contest in 1999. It was also at UCLA that Steve met classmate Nathan Price, and began a friendship that would eventually become a successful business partnership. Steve joined Nathan and Alex Dalton as the third partner in Bootstrap Productions in 2001.

After UCLA, Steve taught English for four years at Bishop Alemany High School in Mission Hills, California. Along with the standard curriculum, Steve also taught journalism, photography, and "Film as Literature," a course that he developed.

While teaching, Steve's second script, *Soul Searching*, a supernatural thriller, won the *ScriptWorld 2002* screenwriting competition, and both *Storm Surge* and *Soul Searching* were optioned. Although teaching was incredibly rewarding, Steve's heart was still with screenwriting, and after four years of trying to do both simultaneously, he decided it was time to pursue screenwriting full time. Not long after he turned in his gradebook, Steve was hired to pen *Icebox*, a serial-killer thriller for director/producer David Winkler (*Devour*, and *Finding Graceland*).

Steve recently finished his second script assignment for David Winkler. His most recent spec script, *Killing Dennis Nolan*, won *Scr(i)pt Magazine's* Open Door Contest last December, and has been selected by Drama Garage for a staged reading in Hollywood. *Killing Dennis Nolan* is the script he began writing while he was teaching, and it was developed to be Bootstrap's first low-budget feature. He is currently in talks with an established producer on an option of the script, and a possible co-production with Bootstrap Productions.

Overqualified is Steve's second time in the director's chair, though he has worked on almost every Bootstrap project in some capacity, from donut getter to DP. (See "*The Bootstrap Hypothesis*") *Overqualified* is Steve's first time behind the editing controls.



Alex Dalton - Producer

Alex Dalton is a founding partner in Bootstrap Productions, the company he and Nathan Price established in 2000 with the hands-on approach to film and theater. Through this partnership, Alex has produced and directed numerous theater and film projects over the last six years. He has come to the conclusion that this line of work suits him better than working at the zoo.

Alex's first directing project and Bootstrap's first play was *Paradise Lost*, a futuristic version of Milton's classic, written by Bootstrap partner Nathan Price. Next, along with Nathan and Steve, Alex produced a trio of plays in the fall of 2001 entitled *Southern Rain*. Alex stepped into the director's chair once again for one of these plays, *Flood*, written by Mary Beth McNulty.

After the success of the plays, it was time for Bootstrap to take on film. Alex went behind the camera to direct their first digital short, *Stradiv*, which premiered at the Blowup Festival in 2002. *Stradiv* was based on a short story Alex dreamed up on the way to a Dodger's game with Nathan. More recently, Alex has been concentrating on shorter, comedic subjects. He conceived, wrote, directed & edited a series of Pabst Blue Ribbon spec commercials which were well received, and is currently working on a series of spec commercials for Twinkie. He is also currently in pre-production on a music video which will shoot later this summer.

Alex has also had a strong hand in overseeing and producing other Bootstrap endeavors. He has served as a producer on every Bootstrap project since its inception. Alex has always believed that Bootstrap is strongest when it works together, and Steve and Nathan make that easy.

In his alternate life, Alex writes for *Splat* paintball magazine and acts on occasion, so don't be surprised if you see him selling soap or malt liquor.

OVERQUALIFIED



Nathan Price - Producer/Music Supervisor

A native of Alabama, Nathan caught the creative bug at age 11 when he began writing sonnet sequences and playing jazz saxophone. He studied both creative writing and jazz at Oberlin College & Conservatory in Ohio, after which he moved to Los Angeles and enrolled in the Professional Program in Screenwriting at UCLA (where he met Steve).

Since moving to Los Angeles, Nathan has worked in theater as a stage manager, light-and sound-board operator, director, writer and actor. His first play, *Bringer of Gifts*, was staged as part of Wolfskill Theater's *Santa's Busted Jaw* production during the Christmas season of 1998. His second -- a cyberpunk rendition of Milton's *Paradise Lost* -- was directed by Alex and served as the birth of Bootstrap Productions.

Nathan has directed two of Bootstrap's short films -- *Evolve*, which Steve wrote, and *Everybody Loves My Baby*, a 30-minute short which Nathan wrote for three of Bootstrap's favorite and most talented actors. He has also edited most of Bootstrap's work and served as post-production supervisor and coordinator.

A lifetime musician, Nathan has played countless gigs in the Los Angeles area, and has also lent his musical abilities to Bootstrap's productions. For *Southern Rain*, a collection of short plays about the South, Nathan coordinated and rehearsed a live blues duo to perform between acts. For *Everybody Loves My Baby*, he arranged, performed and mixed numerous versions of the dixieland song from which the film's title came. He has selected and/or arranged music for most of Bootstrap's other projects as well.

When lost in the cavernous black hole that is the nine-to-five work week, Nathan serves as managing editor of *SportsTravel* magazine, a trade publication covering sports event management, marketing and news.



Crew

Ashley Cook - Production Designer/Script Supervisor

Ashley has been involved in feature film production and development for more than 10 years, first in the art department and later as executive assistant at Shady Acres Entertainment and Parisot Productions. She has worked on numerous films, including *Galaxy Quest*, *Patch Adams*, *Liar Liar* and *The People vs. Larry Flynt*. She is currently working with director Dean Parisot on the Columbia Pictures film, *Fun With Dick and Jane*.

Deborah Dimond - Storyboard Artist/Cat Wrangler

Deborah is not a professional cat wrangler, so it's fortunate Felix came with experience. Now retired, Felix made his theatrical debut in 1992's *Batman Returns* opposite Michelle Pfeiffer. Other appearances include *Hocus Pocus* and a decade of stage work at Universal Studios Hollywood. Deborah and Felix lead a rambunctious life of sleeping, stretching and gorging on canned foods.

Zeerok - Sound Designer

Originally from Siberia, Zeerok has a background as a writer and composer for Russian theater. Zeerok is the former lead singer for the Red Elvies. He has scored and mixed the soundtrack for numerous films, including *Six String Samurai* and *Mail Order Bride*. He now resides in Austin and is currently on tour in Russia.



Cast

Richard Penn - Stewart Morrison

Richard has appeared in numerous TV and Film roles. *West Wing*, *Friends*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Joan of Arcadia*, *ER* and last year's recurring role on *Bold and the Beautiful* are his favorites. His film credits include *Dr.Doolittle*, *Inspector Gadget*, *Volcano* and *Deep Impact*. He has also done more than 60 commercials and has for the past 18 years performed vocally on the *Star Trek* series *The Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine*, *Voyager* and *Enterprise*.

Joel Swetow - Vic Kronen

Joel Swetow has just completed an 8 episode arc on *Charmed*. Other TV shows on which he has appeared include *Alias*, *Judging Amy*, *N.Y.P.D. Blue*, *Stargate* and *Star Trek - Enterprise*, among many others. His film and m.o.w. credits include major roles in *Lord of Illusions*, *The President's Man 2*, *Live From Baghdad*, *Ruby Ridge*, and *3 Ninjas*. His work on stage is extensive and includes playing Tartuffe, Shylock, Malvolio, Vershinin, and Scrooge.

Jamison Reeves - Jonah

Jamison Reeves is happy to be part of the film *Overqualified*. He can be seen in the movie *Toolbox Murders*, directed by the master of the horror genre and director of the *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, Tobe Hooper. He just finished a run of the play *RAP* for the executives of Comedy Central at the Comedy Central Workspace. His beautiful wife is pregnant and they are expecting their first child, a little girl named Ronin, around July 2.

Dina Kriger - Dina

Dina Kriger has quite a resume for someone so young. In addition to *Overqualified*, Dina has worked on many projects, from commercials and print advertising to films and music videos. She has appeared in six films, including *Garbage Ties*, *Pieces of Eight* and *Clean*. She's appeared on the cover of *Actor and Actress* magazine. She comes from a family of actors; both her older sister and younger brother are in the business as well. When she's not acting, Dina enjoys swimming, singing, dancing and gymnastics.



About Bootstrap

Bootstrap Productions is the trio of Alex Dalton, Steve Fardys and Nathan Price. The company was formed to combine our creative talents and allow us the freedom to experiment with different projects and roles. Each member supports each project in a different capacity, allowing us to learn filmmaking from the ground up, from script to final credits.

The Bootstrap Hypothesis

The Bootstrap Hypothesis, originated by nuclear physicist Geoffrey Chew, denies the existence of fundamental constituents of matter. In fact, it accepts no fundamental entities whatsoever -- no fundamental laws, equations or principles.

If there are no fundamental laws to which our existence is tied, different ideas that contradict each other are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

In other words, as long as a thought, idea, emotion or story is complete in and of itself, it does not need to agree with any other thoughts, ideas, emotions or stories in order to be "right."

What the hell does that have to do with making movies?

If a storyteller is not tied to preconceived rules, formulas or loyalties, he is free to create anything.



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