
ACTOR JEREMY SISTO

Interviewed by **Kathrina Miccio**



His career has moved effortlessly between film, television and theater, Jeremy Sisto has become an iconic presence in entertainment. Eight years after wrapping an acclaimed three-season role on **LAW & ORDER** as Detective Cyrus Lupu, Sisto re-teamed with prolific creator/producer Dick Wolf on the CBS drama, **F.B.I.** which is now prepping for its third season. The show follows a group of agents in New York fighting terrorism, organized crime and counterintelligence to keep America safe.

Jeremy Sisto made his first major impression on television audiences as bipolar artist Billy Chenoweth on Alan Ball's *SIX FEET UNDER*, a role which Ball wrote for him. In its five-year run, it earned three Golden Globes, three Primetime Emmys and 25 Emmy nominations. Sisto's extensive film credits include the 1995 classic *CLUELESS* with Alicia Silverstone, Stacey Dash, Paul Rudd, and Brittany Murphy; the tennis comedy *BREAK POINT*, which he co-wrote and produced; Fox International's *THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR*; and *HANGMAN*, which premiered at the 2015 SXSW Film Festival. Sisto recently lent his voice to the Oscar-nominated and highly anticipated animated film *FROZEN II*, in addition to the Oscar- and Golden Globe-nominated animated *FERDINAND*, for which he also lent his voice. His other eclectic film roles include those in *GRAND CANYON*, *HIDEAWAY*, *ROBOT AND FRANK*, *MOONLIGHT AND VALENTINO*, *WHITE SQUALL*, *WITHOUT LIMITS*, *SUICIDE KINGS*, *THIRTEEN*, *WRONG TURN* and *WAITRESS*.



Why would an established actor like Jeremy Sisto, take a part in a short independent film?

A few months back, it had been a long day of watching many films that were submitted to my Procida International Film Festival. And then I watched the short, *Wichita*. I don't like to read about the actors ahead of time, so not to judge before I even watch them. So I didn't realize that Jeremy was in it, and was pleasantly surprised. I truly love this film!!

I sat down to chat with actor Jeremy Sisto about the Award Winning Short he's in, "*Wichita*" starring Maxim Roy, written by Bo Price and Winner for "Best Female Director", at The Procida International Film Festival.

OK, we Zoomed, well, anyway, we were sitting!

"She struck me as someone who was very talented, and I saw her as someone that could find herself a film career. So I let her know if she had anything, that I could help her with, and she called me with *Wichita*." JS

KM: Jeremy, how did you decide to take a part in the short independent production, “Wichita”?

JS: I do an annual show which is written each year put on by a friend of mine Jason Lesner . It’s based on a group of monologues written by people that have experienced homelessness in Los Angeles. Then they put on 50-80 productions up with different actors and directors all over the city of Los Angeles to bring awareness to the issue and to raise money for a shelter. I’m been involved with it for a couple of years, and Sergine Dumais was the director of one of them. I saw her as someone that could find herself a film career. So I let her know if she had anything that I could help her with, she called me with this.



KM: With your schedule shooting FBI in New York, how did you find the time?

JS: It was just an afternoon, so it was not that big of a deal for me. It was enjoyable, and it ran really smoothly. We were all on the same page, and fairly quickly collectively worked out a few different versions that Bo Price the writer had put forth. So we shot it, and hadn’t heard anything for a while, and then suddenly it started winning film festivals.

KM: Yes, and may I say, my festival as well. The Procida International Film Festival, Sergine Dumais for Best Director.

JS: She struck me as someone who was very talented.

KM: I absolutely agree. When did you film it?

JS: It was right before the pandemic, during last season of my show, FBI which I shoot in NY. My family is in LA so it was one of my from stop overs, so we shot it in LA. And now it’s been getting a lot of really positive response. Sergine and Bo have been working on a script based on the idea and the characters.

KM: Is it a sitcom?

JS: No it’s a feature. It has a very unique rhythm to it. The relationship between these characters, the way the dialogue is structured, and the rhythm and the style of it is very unique. So now with the feature there’s more insight into their very strange relationship where they play characters, the way that they communicate with each other and this strange distance that they put forth. Its fun to watch, but I didn’t really understand it at the time we shot it. And now people are really starting to respond to the buoyancy in such a heavy kind of event of true insincerity.

KM: Was there any improv, or was it all on script?

JS: We were pretty much on script, although, the writer Bo Price had a few lines he wanted me to try out to see which ones worked. I actually managed to work them all in. He was quite happy about that.

KM: The dialogue was perfect, and I must mention Maxim Roy. She is fantastic in this, and the banter between the two of you was so organic and unique.

JS: And we never met before.

KM: Thats incredible. Well, I can't wait to see the feature.

JS: I'm looking forward to working on that.

KM: OK, off subject. Are you Italian?

JS: Yes, half. My fathers family is from Bari.

KM: Because there was something that I've been curious about.
When you were on Law and Order your last name was Lupo. Detective Cyrus Lupo.

JS: Yes.

KM: Was that an inside joke or some kind of pun from Dick Wolf the creator?

JS: What?

KM: Well, Lupo means Wolf in Italian.

JS: Is that right? Lupo means Wolf in Italian? I've never heard that.

KM: Yes there's actually a saying in Italian. La Bocca del Lupo. Which means "The Mouth of the Wolf" or "Good Luck".

JS: Nobody ever told me it meant Wolf. I usually look those things up.

KM: So there you have it. It took 8 years later and a very cool short called "Wichita" for me to tell you.

JS: (*Chuckled*). Yes, you Kathrina were the one to enlighten me about my own character.

KM: (*Big Smile*)

.....I love when things like that happen.

Jeremy Sisto, is not only an extraordinary actor, but a super nice guy. KM