

An artist overcomes madness and leaves an astounding body of work.
Lust For Life meets One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest.

Vincent



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‘Vincent’

Project Summary

Logline: It's *Lust For Life* meets *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, a glimpse into the tortured life of Vincent Smarkusz, Bi-polar artist who overcame madness, depression, loss and multiple sclerosis to leave behind an astounding body of work.

Vincent Smarkusz, an aging recluse living in New England, is visited by Mervine, the sculptress who owns the barn in which he lives. Vincent intends to create a new painting, but he's in a fragile state – his bi-polar condition plagues him with frightening hallucinations (often involving demonic ravens) and bouts of depression, while the strength of his right hand and his overall mobility are crippled by the debilitating effects of multiple sclerosis. Mervine asks him what this next painting will be. Through flashbacks and hallucinations, we learn about the tumultuous events that led to this pivotal moment in his life.

Growing up in New England, Vincent's parents were polar opposites. Father was a blue-collar Polish immigrant and drinker with no patience for a sensitive son. Mother was imbued with a nurturing spirit, and never waned in her support of her son's artistic endeavors and unconventional vision. When William, a bohemian poet, sees promise in Vincent's early paintings at an art show, he encourages the burgeoning artist to return with him to Greenwich Village where his art and considerable talents might be better appreciated.

Vincent embarks on a personal journey on which he mingles with poets and actors in the pubs of New York City. He wrestles with love, betrayal and rejection; and suffers a decade in the shadowed wasteland of deep depression in a mental institution where his creative spark is all but extinguished. Surviving heartache, depression, personal loss, and a right hand weakened by multiple sclerosis, he emerges triumphant to create an astounding body of work. Instead of being conquered by a world which seems to him forever haunted by hallucinations of evil ravens and deceased friends, he learns to confront these demons head-on by pouring the energy of his tormented soul into each painting.

In the loft of the barn, Vincent paints "The Final Peace," which will be his last (and arguably best) work in which he is surrounded by white doves and his mother's comforting embrace. With each loving brush stroke of the artist's swan song, he achieves personal and artistic peace at last.

Characters & Proposed Cast:

Preliminary Budget: 11-17 Million (Cast contingent)

Vincent: Bi-polar artist overcomes depression, insanity and the crippling effects of multiple sclerosis, creates an astounding body of work that captures his shattered soul on canvas. (Max Ryan, Viggo Mortensen, Louis Politan, Paul Gennaro)

Mother: Always supportive of her son's sensitive nature: a force of light in a dark and often cruel world. (Kim Bassinger)

Father: Blue-collar, chiseled from a life of poverty, has no patience for his fragile and sensitive son. (Robert Foster)

William: Bohemian Greenwich Village poet, has the courage and confidence Vincent so desperately needs. (Louis Politan)

Grayson: A fellow patient at the mental institution, Grayson suffers from similar demons as Vincent but leans more toward mania than depression. (Enzo Zelocchi, Kevin Corrigan, Jack Dimich, William Kirkham)

Christina: Model and Muse: introduces Vincent to the pains of heartache and betrayal. (Bar Paley, Nikolette Noel)

Mervine: A wealthy married patron admires Vincent's work and his soul. (Katherine Narducci, Jenna Dewan-Tatum)

Proposed Director(s): (Rafael Zelinsky, Alain Zaloom, Abel Ferrara, Mauro Borrelli, TJ Mancini)

Writer: T.J. Mancini "*Find Me Guilty*" (Vin Diesel), "*Boardwalk*", "*Los Bandoleros*", "*Genghis Khan*", "*Marco Polo*"

Producer: T.J. Mancini "*Find Me Guilty*" (Vin Diesel), "*Strays*" (Vin Diesel), "*Shadow of Doubt*" (Melanie Griffith, Tom Berenger), "*Downtown*" (Genevieve Bujold, Burt Young, Lilo Brancatto, John Savage, Domenica Scorsese).

Executive Producers: Sushil Mehandru (Story by), Cycilia Hui Chen