



Starting March's Oscar season with a special treat - a featured interview with a filmmaker who shares my deep appreciation for film noir. Keep reading to explore our shared cinematic obsessions and the classic influences that drive his work.

Hello, [Joseph Peters](#), welcome to our *Script & Spine Series*. Thank you for taking time to discuss your passion for cinema, especially film noir and answering my questions.

**Can you share a little bit of background about yourself?**

I grew up in Southern California. I began writing, drawing, and painting at the age of seven. I attended high school in Pasadena, where I performed in both *West Side Story* and *Godspell*. I studied writing, drama, and the fine arts at the University of Southern California. I graduated with a B.A. in Communications.

**When did you begin watching films and what are your favorite filmmakers?**

I was very young when I began watching feature films on television. I began researching and renting films to watch and learn from the masters. My favorite filmmakers are Alfred Hitchcock, Orson Welles, Francois Truffaut, Ingmar Bergman, Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, Carlos Saura, and Wong Kar Wai.

**What is/are your favorite genres of movies?**

I enjoy watching thrillers with action, romance, and suspense. The one style of filmmaking that has stayed with me through the years was film noir. I love the cinematography, mood, and atmosphere.

**Pick one film or movie from your all-time favorites list and share with us a little bit more about what speaks to you about this film and why you love it so much?**

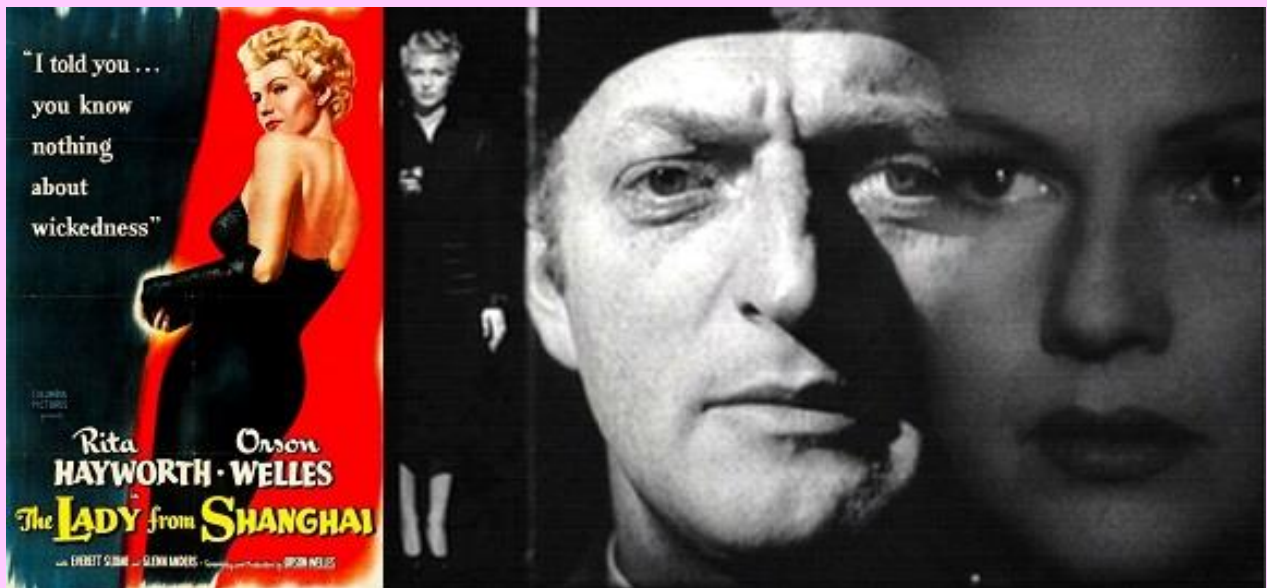
My favorite film of all time is *The Godfather*. It is a beautiful, haunting film that transported me into another world. It was made in a neo noir style which I love.

*The Godfather* (1972) - This [scene](#).



What feature film or movie would you recommend that we watch (classic or modern)?

*The Lady From Shanghai* (1947) - This [scene](#).



I was fortunate enough to see this noir classic on the big screen at an Orson Welles retrospective. It was filled with so many creative and artistic choices. The fun house mirror scene was ahead of its time.

How has noir influenced your work through the years?

This style of filmmaking has given me the opportunity to take the audience into another world.

## What are some of the responsibilities that you have as an independent filmmaker?

As an independent filmmaker, I write, produce, and direct film projects that are designed to be seen on theatrical screens and/or streaming platforms. These films are made with a smaller budget and allow for more creative freedom. I always try and balance both the creative and the business side of making films. I strive to make films that are both artistic and commercial. It is important to make your audience happy. But it is equally important to make money for the film investors.



## In which countries are you interested in making your films &/or movies?

I am interested in working with many different countries around the world. Argentina and Spain are the two countries that I have visited. I have met with potential production companies, cast, and crew. I have scouted locations which is another character in the films. I have attended the film markets such as Ventana Sur in Buenos Aires and the Iber Series in Madrid. There are other countries such as Italy, Germany, and Portugal that would work well for the European neo noir style that appears in my films.

## How do you choose the feature film &/or movie projects? What do you look for?

I do like period pieces. There is an element of fascination in looking back at an earlier period of time and infusing that era with stories and characters that will appeal to a modern worldwide audience. I prefer thrillers because they contain drama, crime, action, and romance. The thriller genre allows me to contain all of the elements that will provide both artistic and commercial appeal to a global audience. A blending of both reality and fantasy. My film projects are a part of an anthology series. The themes are good vs evil as well as life and death.



**Joseph D. Peters - Directing [Demo Reel](#) - Sandor & Parissa - choreographers**

**Can you tell us about any future feature film projects?**

**I have several feature film projects with completed screenplays, completed storyboards which I have drawn myself (shot for shot), pitch decks, top sheet budgets, treatments, and demo music.**

**The titles are *Blood on the Streets*, *Tango in the Dark*, *A Silence Within*, *Hidden Tracks*, *Dark City Streets*, *Tango Rendezvous*. *Silent Storms* is being developed. I am also developing, *Rum and Coke With a Twist*, which was written by Joe McGaha. Find the conceptual trailers below.**



***Blood on the Streets* [trailer](#)**





*Tango in the Dark* [Argentine Dance Sequence](#)  
- Sandor & Parissa – Choreographers



*A Silence Within* [trailer](#)



*Hidden Tracks* [trailer](#)



*Dark City Streets* [trailer](#)



*Tango Rendezvous* [trailer](#)

**Do you know of any Spanish production companies that you would like to work with?**

I am open to working with any of the Spanish production companies. Recently, the head of Mediapro Studio in Barcelona announced a ten-year plan to grow in English production. [MediaPro article](#).

And that is encouraging because the Spanish language has always been a barrier for feature film projects and tv series to be greenlit by many in the entertainment industry. Streaming has opened up the need to produce content in both Spanish and English. All of my feature film projects will be shot in English and dubbed into multiple languages with the use of [deepdub.ai](#), in order to reach a worldwide audience.

**What is a film or movie that you watched that surprised you in a most unexpected, good way?**



***The Protégé* (2021) [trailer](#)**

I saw the film's poster as I was on my way into the theater. Once inside, they played the trailer. This thriller had action, suspense, romance, and a neo noir style. The cinematography, locations, acting performances, and stunt work was all superb.

**Any final thoughts you wish to share about films and your love of them?**

I would recommend to do what comes naturally. Be true to who you are as a person and an artist. I also recommend that in regards to networking ... always return phone calls and emails. That person that you communicate with at this stage of your life, may not be able to help you to advance at this moment. But, that person may one day run his own production company and will remember that you were there for them and may be able to help you at this current stage of your career.

**Thank you for your time and your valuable insights, Joseph Peters.**

You're welcome.

You can see Joseph's work through the years by visiting his [website](#) and Joseph's feature [film projects in development](#).

If you breathe classic cinema and dream in film noir, I want to hear your story. Let's connect and share your unique perspective as a featured guest in an upcoming edition of *Script & Spine*.

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Thank you for reading,

**[Melissa Van Oss](#)**

Three-Time Bestselling Author