

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

The Joe *Manifesto*

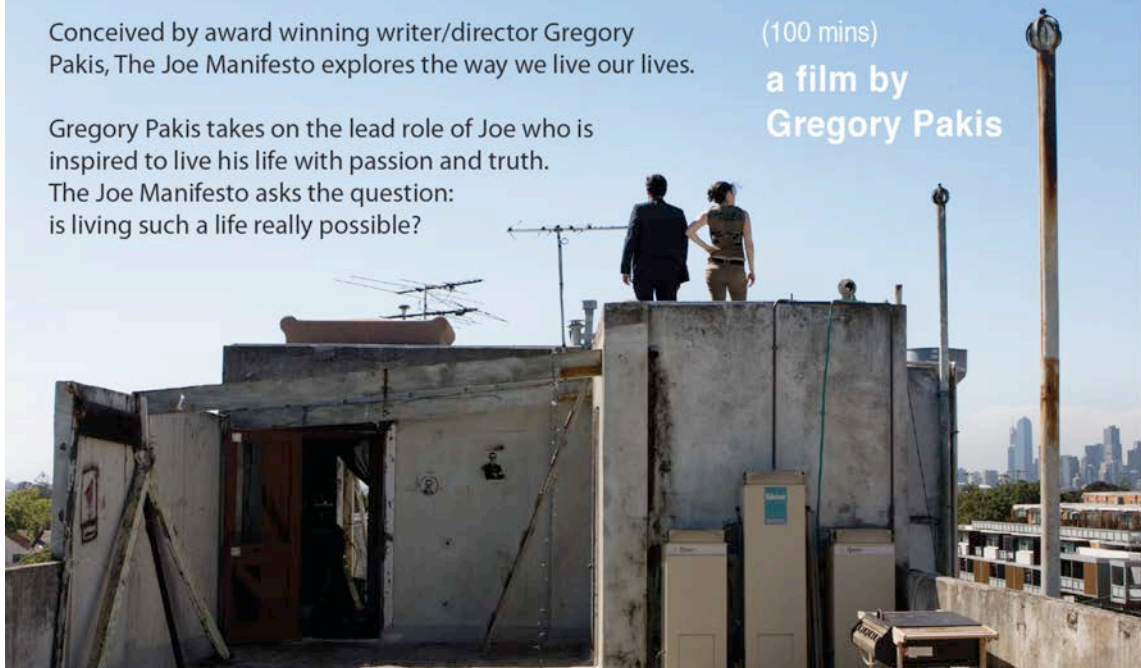
order is fake, *chaos is real*

Conceived by award winning writer/director Gregory Pakis, The Joe Manifesto explores the way we live our lives.

Gregory Pakis takes on the lead role of Joe who is inspired to live his life with passion and truth. The Joe Manifesto asks the question: is living such a life really possible?

(100 mins)

a film by
Gregory Pakis



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Julian Vincent Costanzo Films

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

TITLE	“THE JOE MANIFESTO“
DURATION	100 minutes
SHOOT FORMAT	HD
SCREEN RATIO	1:85
PREVIEW COPY	DVD / VIMEO LINK
SOUND	5.1 Surround
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	AUSTRALIA
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
YEAR OF PRODUCTION	2008
COMPLETION DATE	2013
PREMIERE	September 2013
INVESTORS	PRIVATE
PRODUCTION COMPANY	JVC FILMS & GUERILLAFILMNITE
CURRENTLY on VOD in USA and Canada	thru Amazon Instant Video, VUDU, & PlayStation via Anderson Digital
WEBPAGE	www.thejoemanifesto.com

The Joe Manifesto

Synopsis

In his early 30's, Joe works an office job and is engaged to his lovely fiancé, Marg. However, sexual adventure and self-expression are lacking in Joe's life. On cue, a compelling co-worker, Vee, crosses Joe's path, tempting him towards her wild ways of job and partner swapping. Joe is inspired by the credos contained in her booklet she calls her 'manifesto' which emphasizes being honest and impulsive in life. Joe soon breaks off with his fiancé, gets a job demotion, and starts telling people what he really thinks of them. His life soon becomes the chaotic adventure he sought, but when he realizes he has taken it too far, Joe has to figure out a way to put his life back into order again.

THE MANIFESTO:

1. Change any routine when you are feeling bored.
2. Be 100% honest.
3. Wear your heart on your sleeve.
4. Push people past their breaking point.
5. Never use alcohol or drugs to loosen up.



Joe & Vee (Gregory Pakis, Chloe Gardner)

Picture: Michael Oulton

Introduction by writer, Gregory Pakis

I wanted to make a film explicitly about someone who decides to be as honest as possible and how it would affect his life and those around him - a dramatic version of *Liar, Liar* (1994) perhaps.

The Joe Manifesto is set in a contemporary middle class urban environment where impulses and thoughts have to be repressed, so that order can be maintained.

What would happen if someone made the conscious decision to un-repress the repressed and act on impulses without the use of alcohol and drugs, which then couldn't be used as an excuse?

The central protagonist, Joe, is engaged, has an office job, and is paying off a mortgage.

The female lead, Vee, represents the unconscious. She is impulsive and un-regimented. When someone like Joe meets someone like Vee, something is bound to happen.

The characters at Joe's work, some of whom are in committed relationships, are lustful. What if Joe influenced them to be impulsive as well?

The Joe Manifesto is a story of a conformist who decides to stop conforming.

History & Background by Gregory Pakis

The Joe Manifesto is about finding the balance between being honest yet respectful of other people's feelings. It's about how ultimately you can't really be honest, even though honesty is valued in our society. You have to taint honesty sometimes, use nicer words - but ultimately, is that honesty?

Though laws in society are clearly defined, we are still encouraged to "be ourselves". However, what if our impulses are toward sexual crime, or physical violence, or just being plain rude?

As a film-maker and artist I have a bit of a license to be honest. There is more at stake if someone like Joe is honest because he exists in a more conformist environment. However, *The Joe Manifesto* is a partly auto-biographic film about my own real-life attempts to be honest and the freedom and trouble that ensued.

I myself made attempts at intellectual and sexual honesty - in other words, freedom of body and mind.

In my mid-twenties, I went through a stage that could be called 'a crisis'. It came from a feeling that everything in my life seemed too bolted down and controlled.

Life just didn't feel real, fun, or amazing enough. I felt I was holding back my true self and my life seemed over regimented.

So I rocked the boat.

I started saying what I thought and doing what I wanted. Maybe not to the extent that Joe does in ***The Joe Manifesto***, but enough to ensure a few dramas resulted.

For example, I felt I was making films to impress people rather than for my own satisfaction, so I quit. I also felt I was holding myself back around my own family in many regards, so I said stopped contact with them.

After an initial short period of disorientation and depression, an amazing few months of personal transformation began. Everything became more real and "in the moment", so to speak. It almost felt like I was on some amazing drug, and in fact I was - a real life.

I began to relate to myself and others in a more honest and balanced way and as a result I felt I was finally on the right path.

Everything just seemed to start working for me. I continued my film-making career, and got back in contact with my family. Both aspects of my life have been better for it since. I disappointed a few people but this is sometimes necessary for personal growth.

This is also the case in ***The Joe Manifesto*** where Joe disappoints many of the people around him.

The Joe Manifesto is about sometimes having to hit rock bottom before you can really grow. One must strip themselves of many of their layers of social identity, then put themselves back together in a more integrated way. This was a theme in ***Fight Club*** (1999) that I resonated with and is also a Buddhist value.

The female lead, Vee, is a mixture between myself and different women I have known. Some of the characters at Joe's work are loosely based on people I have worked with in offices during part time jobs.

The Joe Manifesto took 5 years to write.

It may be the first screenplay ever written in a van - my then and current residence.

More details about the film.. by Gregory Pakis

No film was really an influence for *The Joe Manifesto* but similar films might be *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999), *Fight Club* (1999) and *American Beauty* (1999).

I loved *Fight Club* and many of its comments about social conformity. However what did the Edward Norton character do with his newly acquired knowledge in relation to the logic and freedom of not conforming? *Fight Club* ends with skyscrapers (symbols of capitalism) collapsing and he scores a girlfriend. I was interested in a story where someone could positively integrate their newly acquired self-knowledge, back into their existence in a conformist world.

So *The Joe Manifesto* is my *Fight Club*, but without the fights...

Director's personal vision – why the film was made...

by Gregory Pakis

I can't remember a film where the main character is glad and unrepentant that he walked a path into darkness. Usually in cinema, a character who walks this path, is remorseful about their actions, and then beg for forgiveness from those they affected i.e. *Fatal Attraction* (1989).

Though not the desired state, chaos is a natural state of things. I wanted to explore a story where a character intentionally made his life chaotic because he felt it was a truer way to live.

REVIEWS / MEDIA

<http://neoskosmos.com/news/en/The-Joe-Manifesto>

<http://filmreviews.net.au/the-joe-manifesto-interview-with-gregory-pakis/>

<http://www.filmink.com.au/reviews/the-joe-manifesto-film/>

http://www.cinephilia.net.au/show_review.php?movieid=5677&reviewid=5922

Who is Gregory Pakis?

Writer, director, and star of ***The Garth Method*** (2004) currently distributed throughout Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada by Accent and Vanguard Entertainment. ***The Garth Method*** was the winner of 8 awards at film festivals in Australia and the US, amongst them *Best Actor* and *Best Director* awards.

Gregory also played the main part of *Jack*, in author *Jeremy De Ceglie's* first feature film ***Jugular (2013)*** and has recently appeared in a ***Kid's Under Cover TVC***, and Channel Nine's ***House Husbands***.

In 2011 Gregory completed ***Garth Lives in a Van***, which documented his experiences living out of a van around inner city Melbourne for 12 months. It picked up a *Best Guerilla Film* award.

Gregory also starred in and produced a documentary about him hitchhiking from Melbourne to Cairns in 2005 called ***Garth Goes Hitchhiking*** (2007).

He also runs a film entertainment night in Melbourne called ***guerillafilmnite*** which screens feature and short films, whilst also incorporating random fun conversation subjects and *secret rules* for the night.

guerillafilmnite was the recipient of two ***Short Poppy*** awards in 2006 and was in ***The Age's Top Ten Movie Events*** in 2012.

LINKS

www.guerillafilmnite.com

www.theage.com.au/news/entertainment/bartsb-filmmaker-records-his-life-in-the-vehicle-he-calls-home



(left – prod. Julian Costanzo. right – dir. Gregory Pakis) **PICTURE : Martin Capan**

GREGORY PAKIS

Director/Writer/Actor

TITLE	ROLE	TYPE	LENGH	FORMAT
Zero O'Clock (2014)	Writer/ Director/Star	Short	13min	Mini Dv
Jugular (2013)	Star	Feature	82min	HD
The Joe Manifesto (2012)	Writer/Director/Star	Feature	98min	HD
Garth Plays Woodstock (post-prod, 2011)	Director/Editor/Star	Doco	60min	Mini Dv
Garth Lives in a Van (2011)	Director/ Editor/Star	Doco	62min	Mini Dv
Garth Goes Hitch-Hiking (2007)	Director/Editor/Star	Doco	78min	Mini Dv
The Garth Method (2004)	Writer/Director/Editor/Star	Feature	82min	Super 16mm/ Mini DV
Caffeine (1997)	Co-writer	Short Feature	61min	Super 16mm

Who is Julian V Costanzo?

Julian V. Costanzo was the first producer to have two short films in the **Tropfest** Top 16, with **Off the Meter & Coping** in 2013, and he was also the winner of **Tropfest 2012** with **Lemonade Stand**. In 2013 he produced the award winning comedic web series **Great** and was selected by the **SPAA One's to Watch** program as 1 of 20 emerging producers representing the next generation of the industry. He is currently producing the series **Footballer Wants a Wife**, funded through the **Screen Australia Multi-platform Drama Program**.

Julian Vincent Costanzo

Producer

TITLE	ROLE	TYPE	LENGTH	FORMAT
"Coping" (2013) Dir : Kaiya Jones	Producer	Short Film	7 min	HD
"Off the Meter" (2013) Dir : Carl J. Sorheim	Producer	Short Film	7 min	HD
"Lemonade Stand" (2012) Dir: Alethea Jones	Producer	Short Film	7 min	HD
"Dave's Dead" (2012) Dir: Alethea Jones	Producer	Short Film	15 min	HD
"The Joe Manifesto" (2010) Dir: Gregory Pakis	Producer	Feature Film	90 minutes	HD
"Opposites Attract" Doritos (2009)	Director/Producer	TVC	1x 30sec, 1x 45sec	RED One
"Oz Girl" Season 1	Associate Producer	Mobi-series	24x 4min	HDV
"The Gist of It" Season 1	Producer	Mobi-series	12x 10min	HDV
"P.I Weinstein" (2009) Dir: David Broder	Executive Producer	Short Film	15 minutes	RED One
"The Sebet" (2009) Dir: Lukas Strautins	Associate Producer	Teaser Trailer	3 minutes	HD
"Sanitation & HIV" World Vision (2009)	Director/ Producer	TVC	2x 45sec	16mm
"Union Jack" (2009)	Director/ Producer	Short Film	8 minutes	HD
"Grey Days" (2009)	Director/ Co-Producer	Short Film	12 minutes	HDV
"Jumping Jack" (2008) Off Selct. FilmFest@Falls 2008 Runner Up Best Short MUFF 2008 Off Selt BDYFF 2009	Director/ Producer	Short Film	14 minutes	HD

The Players

Joe - **Gregory Pakis**

Gregory's first notable role was in ***The Garth Method*** (2004) where he played Garth, an out of work actor who schemes outlandish plans for acting notoriety. Gregory won three *Best Actor* awards at national and international film festivals for the part. He then resurrected the character in the award winning documentaries ***Garth Goes Hitch Hiking*** (2007) and ***Garth Lives in a Van*** (2011). Gregory played the main part of Joe in ***The Joe Manifesto*** (2013) and recently played the main part of *Jack*, in author *Jeremy De Ceglie's* first feature film ***Jugular*** and has recently appeared in a ***Kid's Under Cover TVC***, and Channel Nine's ***House Husbands***.

Vee - **Chloe Gardner**

Chloe Gardner graduated from the Adelaide College of the Arts in 2002. During this time she appeared in Australian Films such as ***Wolf Creek, Travelling Light*** and ***Jacked***. She was accepted into the Stella Adler Studio in NY to participate in a Master class on Anton Chekhov. She has appeared on stage in NY performing *Hotel & Night*, by Raimondo Cortese. On her return she took guest roles on ***McLeod's Daughters, City Homicide*** and ***Packed to the Rafters***, as well as leading roles in Independent films such as ***Offside*** and ***Little Black Dress***. She wrote and Produced an award winning short called ***Snapshots*** soon after playing the lead role of Vee in ***The Joe Manifesto***. She currently runs a film school for kids in *Adelaide* called ***Kids Camera Action*** and is the Managing Director for ***The Adelaide Kids Film Festival***.

Marg - **Fiona Macys**

Fiona studied acting in New York City at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Post-graduation, Fiona was invited to join the Academy's theatre company and teach voice, speech and acting. Fiona currently represents the Academy, conducting their annual casting auditions for the Australasian region. Since returning to Australia Fiona's credits include Theatre, TV and film, some of which include: ***Neighbours*** (Fremantle Media TV, 2011), ***Twentysomething*** (ABC TV, 2011), numerous TV commercials, and theatre credits including performing at Theatreworks, Stables Theatre and La Mama where she produced, wrote and acted in her theatre company's premiere play ***An Evening with Chekhov***. Fiona currently works as a an actor and Speech Pathologist.

Krissie – **Emma Moore**

Emma's acting credits range from theatre and TV productions that include ***Sea Patrol, Thank God You're Here, Underbelly, and Neighbours***.

Helen – Nancy Finn

Nancy studied acting at the British American Drama Academy and National Theatre Drama School. Her work includes feature films, TVC's, short films and multimedia with directors such as John Ruane, Glendyn Ivan and Jean-Pierre Mignon. Television credits include **City Homicide**, **Neighbours**, **Stingers** and **The Secret Life of Us**, and for companies such as the Seven Network, Grundy Television, and Crawford Productions.

Sue – Penelope Mitchell

Penelope began acting a few years before she landed her role as **Letha Godfrey** on the Netflix series **Hemlock Grove**, appearing on Australian kids show, **Toon Time**, the ABC's **Next Stop Hollywood**, which followed six Australian actors (including Penelope) who move to Hollywood to audition for pilots. She also appeared in an episode of Australian police drama **Rush**. Upcoming roles include **The Curse of Downers Grove** and the TV series, **The Vampire Diaries**. She is also the cousin of actor Radha Mitchell.

Victor - Noel Herriman

Noel has done various voiceovers, appeared in various plays and TV commercials, television series include, **MDA**, **Neighbours**, **Menzies and Churchill at War**, **Dirt Game**, **Thank God You're Here** (two episodes), **Rush**, **Tangle**, **Laid 2**, **Dangerous Remedy** and **Paper Giants 2**, and more recently **Upper Middle Bogan**. His feature films include, **Candy**, **Ghost Rider**, **The Joe Manifesto** and **Predestination**. He is also the father of Hollywood actor Damon Herriman.



Joe (Gregory Pakis)

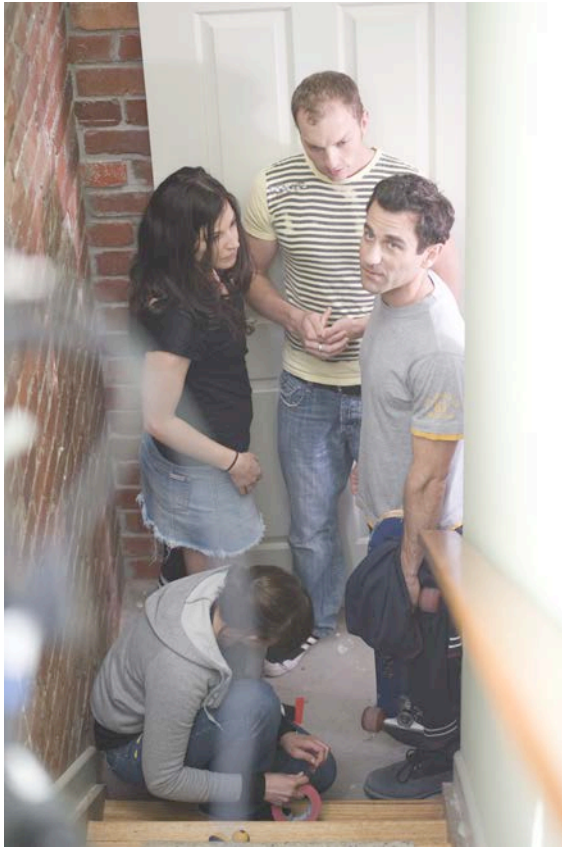


(Joe) Gregory Pakis (Vee) Chloe Gardner

PICTURE : Maria Poletti



(Director & Star) Gregory Pakis, (Producer) Julian Costanzo and
(1st Assistant Director) Stephen De Villiers **PICTURE : Michael Oulton**



(Joe) Gregory Pakis (Vee) Chloe Gardner
PICTURE : Maria Poletti



(Director & Star) Gregory Pakis
PICTURE: Michael Oulton



(Vee) Chloe Gardner
PICTURE: Michael Oulton



(Director & Star) Gregory Pakis
PICTURE: Michael Oulton

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