



BATTLE OF SOHO

PRODUCTION NOTES

Publicity Materials (**PRESS KIT**)

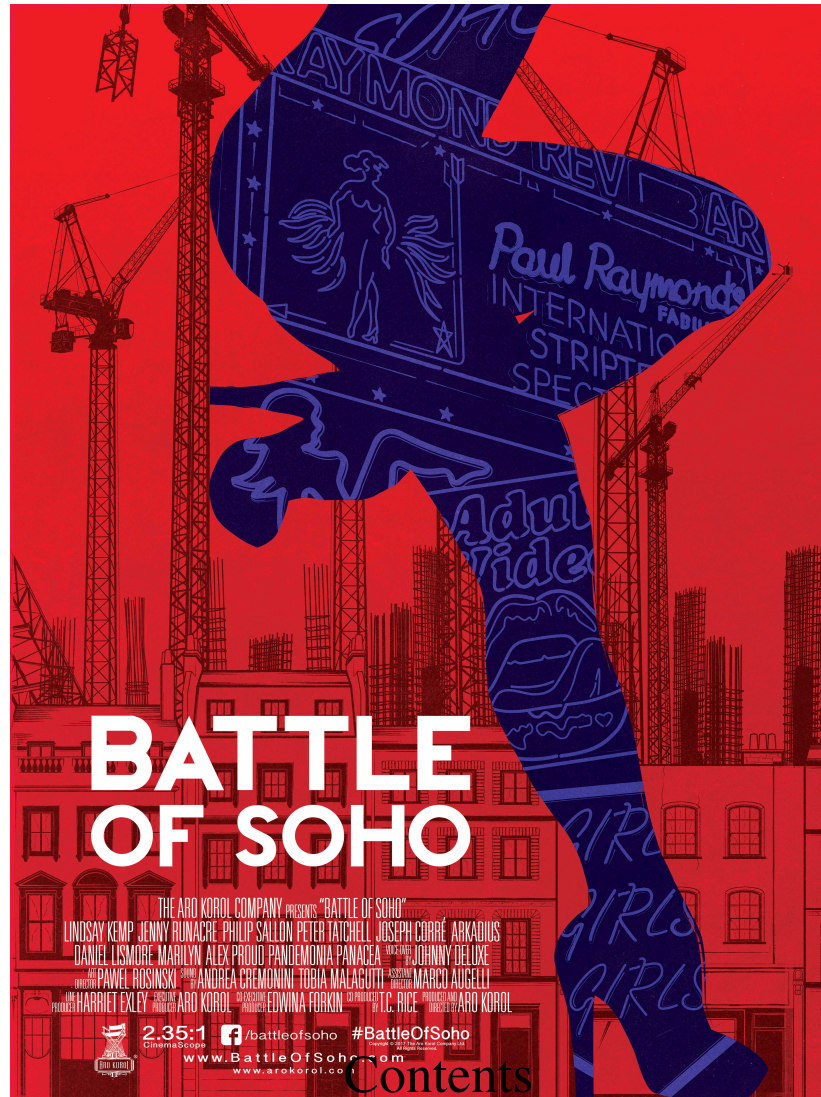
www.arokorol.com

Password: take

Running Time: 100 minutes

Rating:





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FILMMAKERS

Directed by ARO KOROL
Produced by ARO KOROL
TC RICE
HARRIET EXLEY
DIANNE COLLINS
Executive Producers ARO KOROL
EDWINA FORKIN

Director of Photography ARO KOROL
1st Assistant Director MARCO AURELLI
Sound by ANDREA CREMONINI
TOBIA MALAGUTTI
Art Director PAWEŁ ROSIŃSKI
Original Song PHILL WHITE

FEATURIG

(AMONG OTHERS)

Stephen Fry • Peter Tatchell • Jenny Runacre • Lindsay Kemp
Pandemonia Panacea • Daniel Lismore
Philip Sallon • Joseph Corre

SYNOPSIS

Inspired by the closure of Madame Jo Jo's, 'Battle of Soho' addresses gentrification within Soho, surrounding London areas, and other major global cities.

Madame Jo Jo's was world renowned as the home of cabaret, hosting the scene's most notorious acts whilst additionally nurturing the budding performers of tomorrow in its unique, offbeat and extravagant fashion. Despite half a century of enthralling entertainment encompassing Paul Raymond's legacy, Madame Jo Jo's licence was revoked and subsequently closed in November 2014 following a violent incident in what was seen as a draconian move by Westminster Council.

Amidst London's major plans for redevelopment exist the impending threats of closure on a multitude of London's iconic entertainment and social spaces. The resounding impact on performance art and culture is at the heart of 'Battle of Soho's' message.

Not least of the affected is Curzon, Soho. Built in 1912, Soho's acclaimed art house venue offers theatre screenings, premiers, director Q&A's as well as mainstream screenings, though Crossrail development details list Curzon, Soho as a "surface area of interest" for Crossrail's new ticket hall.

Following campaigns, corporate interest, business owners and performers, 'Battle of Soho' documents the poignant current and historic events that are contributing to this - what is named by many - cultural catastrophe.

'Battle of Soho' provides a voice to both the developers and those affected by assessing the extent of the impact this will have on the future of London's entertainment and sub-cultures. The power of collectivism reigns true throughout, demonstrating that although it may be too late to save New York, it is not too late to save London.

THE FILMMAKERS

ARO KOROL (Director & Producer)

Aro Korol is a music video and documentary filmmaker born in Poland, which is where his love for film and media grew. His grandmother worked in the local cinema and he would often sneak in to the projection booth to watch new and classic films such as *Gone with the Wind* and *Some Like It Hot*. This early introduction to some of the greatest films contributed to shaping his visual style and he began to experiment with a Super 8 camera at home.

At 19 years, Korol landed his first job in film as a production assistant on Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* (1993). He made his first professional short film *Ca Va* (1996), which starred Omar Shariff, whom Aro had met and persuaded to take the role during a bridge festival in Douville, France.

With few work opportunities in his native Poland Korol moved to Paris where he lived for 12 years, going on to study film at New York University in 1997. In 2008 Korol moved to London where he started a film and music video production company, The Aro Korol Company Ltd. He had viewed London as the 'Capital of the World' and the British people as having a vibrant individuality that New York had been losing while he resided there, this is where the inspiration for *Battle of Soho* began

TC RICE (Co-Producer)

TC Rice has been involved with all aspects of the movie business and entertainment worlds for over forty years. From his beginnings selling popcorn in a local Seattle cinema, to production, marketing, writing and performing all the jobs everyone forgets about (or wants to). Rice is primarily known for his experience in distributing independent and foreign language films theatrically in North America. Over the years he has worked films as diverse as the first CARE BEARS movie to the original *BAD LIEUTENANT* and everything in between. He has worked with many diverse directors and producers including: Melvin Van Peebles, Andrzej Krakowski, Rosa Von Praunheim, Henry Jaglom, Abel Ferrara, Percy Adlon and others

In addition to his distribution and production background Rice is known for his significant Film Festival contacts. In his early years he was Coordinator for the Seattle International Film Festival and has since worked as a consultant, guest speaker, juror, etc. for many other festivals. He remains on the Board for the Galway Film Fleadh.

HARRIET EXLEY (Line Producer)

Starring in her first role as Line Producer, Harriet is a passionate, hard-working and innovative individual. As an avid film-lover from a young age, Harriet appreciates a multitude of genre and form, ranging from Spielberg's biographical epic *Schindler's List*, to Gondry's science-fiction *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, to Tarantino's undeniably exceptional form in modern cult classics such as; *Reservoir Dogs*, and *Pulp Fiction*. However, it was self-taught director, Richard Linklater that stemmed the source of her inspiration to work in production through titles such as *Slacker*, *Dazed and Confused*, yet most notably Linklater's rotoscoped works; *A Scanner Darkly* and philosophical docu-fiction, *Waking Life*.

Journalistically trained, whilst nurturing a keen interest in conservation of all kinds – urban, animal, and environmental – Harriet reaps inspiration from the more recent investigative works of Kip Anderson's *Cowspiracy*, Shawn Monson's *Earthlings*, and Chris Delforce's harrowing documentary *Lucent*. She is ambitious in her future in production, and aims to one day produce her own feature surrounding similar environmental issues. Bristol-based (UK), Harriet has since begun her career at Icon Films working alongside Harry & Laura Marshall on award-winning TV productions such as, *River Monsters* and *Savage Kingdom*

ANDREA CREMONINI (Sound)

Andrea's journey with audio started in Verona, Italy, when he was sixteen, with an interest in all things music. After working in live sound, he decided to move from Italy to the UK to study in London and graduated with Hons. in Audio and Music Production. Due to his love for the location life, he then kicked off his career as a sound recordist. He now works in live events, film, and records music on location.

TOBIA MALAGUTTI (Sound)

Tobia Malagutti is a freelance Sound Engineering professional from London, UK. He is a graduate of the Music Production program at SAE London and holds a Bachelor Degree in Music Technology from “Università degli Studi di Milano” (Milan, Italy). He is also a professional musician with a Diploma in Drums Performance from “Accademia del Suono” (Milan). Tobia's passion for everything music and sound has been longstanding, from his young days first as a stage kid and later as pro drummer in his home Italian town of Mantova, to his work with sound effects library engineering for Chocolate Audio (Milan) and hobbies such as open-air recording of wilderness sounds for sample libraries. He is currently successfully freelancing his way around the London movie industry scene, where he has collaborated with several short film projects, including the recent "Music Sound Machine" (Mixing Engineer and Soundtrack Producer), featured at the 2017 Festival Corner Cannes. Quite the rock climber type, he is never shy for a steep challenge and he is currently launching “mobile studio” project in London in collaboration with Focalrhythm Production LTD. This innovative enterprise seeks rediscover realism in music recording by adapting studio recording techniques to unconventional spaces. With a reputation for being "the nice guy" amongst his colleagues, Tobia is a competent, determined, detail-oriented person who strives to perform at his best in every project.

MARCO AUGELLI (1st Assistant Director)

Marco moved to London at the age of 20 and had the chance to work as a freelancer in different productions, from music videos, corporate and web marketing videos. Soon to be graduating in Film/TV Editing and Post Production, Marco continues working as a video maker and assistant director with Aro Korol.

PAWEŁ ROSIŃSKI (Art Director)

Pawel Rosinski, a graphic designer, an illustrator and art director. After graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts, he went on to work in some of the world's top creative agencies including Saatchi&Saatchi and Iris Worldwide.

ARO KOROL ON BATTLE OF SOHO

While living in New York Aro observed the closing of iconic venues such as CBGB and began to see the city as a pioneer of gentrification when he came to London. He stated that ‘I have seen this process of gentrification happening everywhere. When a venue as valued as Madame Jojo’s in Soho closes you can’t ignore it, and I could see echoes of the cultural decline in New York reverberating here.’

This sparked in him a desire to document what was happening to the area and how the local community and residents were reacting to these changes. He thought he could put up a mirror to Soho and highlight what was occurring in metropolitan areas around the world.

Following campaigns, corporate interest, business owners and performers, the film documents the poignant current and historic events that are contributing to this - what is named by many - cultural catastrophe. Aro set out to talk to people on both sides of the argument. Interviewees recommended speaking to others and the process evolved organically until he had 58 interviews recorded. He has provided a voice to both the developers and those affected by assessing the extent of the impact this change will have on the future of London's entertainment and sub-cultures.

The film was an opportunity to explore the importance of communities coming together to protect the cultural heritage and identity of an area that they hold dear. Aro wants the film to showcase examples of successful campaigns and encourage audiences that their voice can make a difference and urging them to get involved in the efforts to preserve such areas.

Aro hopes that the film 'inspires the same passion with audiences as I felt from the individuals I met while making it, as it is through this passion that we can work together to protect a key part of our social identity.' He believes the power of collectivism reigns true throughout, demonstrating that although it may be too late to save New York, it is not too late to save London.

THE INTERVIEWEES

LINDSAY KEMP

Lindsay Kemp doesn't converse. He orates. Words spill out, like wine from a jug, in a long, liquid flow; pictures spring to life, shaped by his large, mobile, mouth, illuminated by the movements of his hands, the arching of an eyebrow, the shrug of his shoulders. He is a storyteller. Most of his tales are about himself, cast in the role of a hero or fool, stumbling from adversity to triumph, victim of chance and master of circumstance. All of his stories are, like himself, outrageous; fact so embroidered as to resemble fiction. Life, but larger than life. On stage he is silent. The stories are essentially the same, but words give way to gestures which are slow, deliberate, precise - unfolding to reveal the most commonplace action imbued with an uncommon grace and meaning. Kemp has been described as Britain's leading exponent of mime, but there are few enough mime artists performing in Britain to render the compliment meaningless. Suffice it to say, he is good. David Bowie thought so too, and spent several years studying under Kemp before emerging in androgynous splendor in the guise of Ziggy Stardust. "A man who performed with David Bowie and taught Kate Bush to dance."

PETER TATCHELL

Peter Tatchell has been campaigning for human rights, democracy, LGBT freedom and global justice since 1967. He is a member of the queer human rights group OutRage! and the left-wing of the Green Party. Through the Peter Tatchell Foundation, he campaigns for human rights in Britain and internationally. A summary of his motives, morality and methods can be found here: <http://www.petertatchell.net/about.htm>. Peter's key political inspirations are Mahatma Gandhi, Sylvia Pankurst, Martin Luther King and, to some extent, Malcolm X and Rosa Luxemburg. He has adapted many of their methods to his contemporary non-violent struggle for human rights – and invented a few of his own.

JOSEPH CORRE

Corre was born on 30 November 1967, in Clapham, England to fashion designer and businesswoman Vivienne Westwood and The Sex Pistols's former manager and entrepreneur Malcolm McLaren. His surname comes from his father's maternal grandmother, who was a Sephardic Jew from Portugal. As a child, he would wear his mother's designs long before they were popular. He would hang out with The Sex Pistols and regards them as his favorite band, despite his poor relationship with John Lydon (aka Johnny Rotten). Co-founder with Serena Rees of the lingerie brand, Agent Provocateur. He declined his honor of an M.B.E. (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in June 2007 for his services to the fashion industry

DANIEL LISMORE

London-based artist, actor and designer Daniel Lismore, has earned the title "London's Most Outrageous Dresser" by Vogue due to his distinctive flamboyant style. Lismore is known for his outfits that brilliantly combine haute couture garments. In recognition of his efforts on this front, the retail clothing company H&M selected Lismore in September 2015 to be the face of their "Close the Loop" print and video campaign promoting recycling in the fashion industry. His first U.S exhibition wardrobe at S.C.A.D Fashion Museum "Be Yourself; Everyone Else Is Already Taken" features 30 ensembles styled by Lismore exclusively for S.C.A.D Fashion Museum from among hundreds of items on loan from Lismore's extensive personal wardrobe and archive film footage of his life. Lismore is a prominent feature of the London fashion circuit and his personal style has been the subject of exhibitions at the prestigious Tate Modern in 2013 and Tate Britain in 2014. He studied photography and fashion design until entering into a modelling career where he was photographed by Mario Testino, Phil Poynter, Mert Alas and Marcus Piggott, and Ellen von Unwerth, landing him on the pages of Vogue UK, i-D magazine and L'Uomo Vogue. He progressed from modelling into editorial work, contributing to and illuminating the wardrobes of various European magazines. Lismore has collaborated with American rapper Azealia Banks to concept shows and the artwork of her first album, "Broke with Expensive Taste," and he was the inspiration behind pop artist Iggy Azalea's "Glory" EP cover. Additionally, Lismore has been featured in the music videos of Boy George, George Michael and Alexandra Burke, and he has appeared in "Made in Chelsea," "Britain's Next Top Model," "Denmark's Next Top Model," "The Kylie Show," "Styled to Rock" and the 2016 feature film "Absolutely Fabulous." Since 2012 Lismore has been the creative director of Sorapol, a luxury women's wear label worn by fashion influencer's such as Naomi Campbell, Kylie Minogue, Nicki Minaj, Paloma Faith and Debbie Harry. In recent years he has supported organizations such as Vivienne Westwood's Climate Revolution, climate change charity Cool Earth and New World International Kenya, and Lismore lends his support to the LGBT community, human rights issues and free speech movements. Lismore lives and works in Soho, London.

JENNY RUNACRE

Jenny was born in South Africa to English parents who returned to England with Jenny when she was 7. When she finally left school in London she trained at the Actors Workshop in Notting Hill Gate. In 1970 Jenny was plucked from Drama School by John Cassavetes to star in his film 'Husbands'. He was looking for a complete unknown to groom in his particular brand of intense emotional acting, and for this performance she was nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award. It was a cathartic experience, after which Jenny decided to gain theatre experience and she went off to the provinces and worked in repertory. After returning to London she auditioned for Ken Tynan's Oh Calcutta which became a notorious show in the West End. Then came a spate of films including Pier Paolo Pasolini's Canterbury Tales and Robert Fuest's film of the Michael Moorcock Science Fiction book Final

Programme – where she played the mad Scientist Miss Brunner for which she was again nominated for the Best Newcomer Award, this time for the Evening News. In 1975 Jenny flew to Paris to audition for Michelangelo Antonioni for the role of Rachel in his classic film ‘The Passenger’ with Jack Nicholson which was shot in London, Spain and the Sahara Desert. Films with Ridley Scott “The Duellists”, Tony Richardson “Joseph Andrews” and finally in 1978 Jenny worked with her old friend Derek Jarman in “Jubilee” which was shot in and around Shad Thames and in which she played both the role of Bod, the punk revolutionary and Queen Elizabeth 1st. Further films followed including Anthony Page’s ‘The Lady Vanishes’ and Nicholas Roeg’s ‘The Witches’. Jenny continued acting in film, TV and theatre until in 1995 she decided to pursue her first love painting and attended Central St. Martins School of Art where she obtained a BA and a MA in Fine Art. Jenny now spends her time, acting, painting, (she has had numerous exhibitions of her printmaking, drawings, photographs and Installations) working in radio and lecturing in Performing Arts at West Thames College.

END CREDITS

Starring
(Alphabetical Order)
Arkadius
Tim Arnold
TeTe Bang
Jen Brown
Ally Clow
Joseph Corré
Johnny Deluxe
Joseph A Farrell
Stephen Fry
David Hodge aka Dusty O
John James
Hamish Jenkinson
Andy Jones
Rubyyy Jones
Lindsay Kemp
Jeff Kristian
Daniel Lismore
Marilyn
Meth
Marian Okanlawon
Pandemonia Panacea
Michael Peacock
Anne Pigalle
Alex Proud
Howard Raymond
Jenny Runacre
Philip Sallon
Henry Scott-Irvine
Craig Seymour
Matt Spike
Peter Tatchell
Ben Walters
Ruby Wednesday
Virgin Xtravaganzah
and others

PRODUCTION

Producer & Executive Producer - **Aro Korol**
Co - Executive Producer **Edwina Forkin**
Co-Producer **T.C. Rice**

Co-Producer **Dianne Collins**
Line Producer **Harriet Exley**
Associate Producer **Bart Barton**
Associated Producer **Margherita Mainardi**
Associate Producer **Celine Gautier**

CREW

Director of Photography & Editor **Aro Korol**
Sound Recordist **Andrea Cremonini**
Sound Mixer & Dialogue Editor **Andrea Cremonini, Tobia Malagutti**
Art Director **Paweł Rosiński**
Assistant Director & Camera Assistant **Marco Augelli**
2nd. Unit Director **Bruno Simões**
Original Soundtrack **Phil White**
Runner **Marcin Bandrowczak**

Filming Locations

Madame Jojo's Interior
Proud Cabaret, Camden
Ayesha
L'Sheila Sisters

Queer as Fuck

Royal Vauxhall Tavern

Lavinia Co-op
Rubyyy Jones
Ana Morphic

September Issue

Bethnal Green Working Men's Club

Virgin Xtravaganzah

The Priscillas

New Cross Inn

Jenny Drag aka Jen Brown
Heidi Heelz
Valkyrie
Lisa Lux

The Royal Tease

Nambucca

Leopard Lass
Mynxie Monroe
Rify Royalty

New Bloomsbury Set / George & Dragon

David Hodge aka Dusty O

Molly Moggs

Jeff Kristian

SPECIAL THANKS

(Alphabetical Order)

Bruno BLx
Norine Brown
Brenday Burke
Liavali Coquet
Adam Davidson
Daniel Davis
Hannah Dingle
Nandie Pinto Duschinski
David Ellis
Izabela Etmańska
John Evans
Maria Evrenos
Deborah Feyerick
Charlotte Fine
Kerri Franics
Emiro Heco
Karen Hill
Andrew Hughes
Ian Hurdo
Jason Jobling
Jenna Larinoja
Marcin Lipski
J Lucy
Alana Madden
Vincent Martin
Ruari McAleese
Sheila McDonald

Sir. Ian McKellen
Joice McLean
Moneysane
Colin Martin Morris
Bong Nqueyen
Aoife O'Sullivan
Toby Osmond
Michael Peacock
Amy Pinkie Pie Sanders
Alex Proud
Jeff Salmon
Julian Sanz
Marck Schroder
Thomas Warburton
Simon Ward

MUSIC

Winter Fairy Tale **Matthew St. Laurent**
Dance Of The Reaper **Takeshi Furukawa**
Night At The Masked Ball **Takeshi Furukawa**
Clap Track **Paul Reeves**
Suntan Satanic **Jeff Coates / Geoffrey James Pidcock Holroyde /**
 Vezio Bacci
Striking Midnight **Takeshi Furukawa**
Life is Wonderful **Richard A. Jacques**
Cowboy Funk **Sandor Mihaly Jozsa**
Glass Spires **Dave Hewson**
Solace in Solitude **Martin Tillmann**
Let it Rock **Magic Sample / David Felton / Jevgenijs Semelis**
Build it Together **Zac Jordan / Dc Jansson**
Rooftop Party **Paul J. Borg**
Zombie **Jez Miller**

Galaxy A-Go- **Jeff Coates / Geoffrey James Pidcock Holroyde /**
 Vezio Bacci
Street Shaker **Tony Evans**
Back Street Punks **Patrick Robert Murdoch**
Capriccio Destiny **Martin Tillmann**
The Darkest Day **Matthew St. Laurent / Christian Telford**
Perpetual Movement **Dave Hewson**
Antique Carousel **Robert Navarro**
Masquerade **Robert Bennett**
Cosmic Soul **Magic Sample**
Reach Out **Alex Wilson**
Capriccio **Robert Bennett**
Circular Time **Dave Hewson**
The River **Robert Bennett**

Journey of a Dream **Martin Tillmann**
Time Passes **Robert Bennett**
Circus Of The Macabre **Matthew St. Laurent**
Battle of Soho **Phill White**

Visual Effects
Connect&Cut, PARIS
Visual Effects Supervisor **Vincent Martin**
Digital Compositor **Antonin Pimienta**

Music Licensing
West One Music, LONDON
Music Supervisor **Sasha White**
Music Coordinator **Nick Leonard**

DCP MASTERING
Digital Cinema United, LONDON

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