



A film by
DAVID GOW

Written by
DAVID GOW

Starring
DAVID STRATHAIRN
ANDREW WALKER

Directed by
DAVID GOW
MARK ADAM

Produced by
ARNIE GELBART
FRANCINE ALLAIRE
DAVID GOW

Edited by
SUSAN SHANKS
MARK ADAM

Original music by
BENOÎT GROULX

Genre
LOW BUDGET FEATURE FILM

Film length
90 MINUTES

Shooting format
HD, DELIVERED 35 MM

Film locations
MONTREAL, QUÉBEC
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PENITENTIARY

Date of production
2006

Web site
DISTRIBUTOR WEB SITE: www.steeltoesthemovie.com



TAG LINE

A neo-nazi Skinhead on trial for a racially motivated murder is defended by a court appointed, liberal Jewish lawyer.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Academy-Award® nominated David Strathairn portrays Danny Dunkleman, a Jewish liberal humanist, and the court-appointed lawyer representing Mike Downey (Andrew Walker), a Neo-Nazi Skinhead on trial for the racially motivated murder of an East Indian immigrant. *Steel Toes* takes us into the intense and fiery relationship that develops between these two men as they explore their emotional and intellectual differences.

Steel Toes is a provocative exploration of the inescapable and insidious presence of racial and religious intolerance in our society.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Set in downtown Montréal, *Steel Toes* is largely a two-man drama. Mike Downey is in his early twenties and is, when we meet him, an avowed white supremacist Skinhead. He is about to be put on trial for a racially motivated murder, which he admits to having committed. Mike could face twenty-five years in solitary confinement. Danny Dunkleman is a liberal Jewish lawyer who is assigned to represent Mike by legal aide. Mike and Danny are polar opposites, and it is difficult to imagine why they would agree to work together, but something compels each man to venture forward. As a result of their first encounter Mike comes to think that having a Jewish lawyer, in what he sees as a Jewish-run conspiracy might make sense. Danny sees more than a glimmer of intelligence in Mike and finds it hard to imagine that the murder was a cold premeditated act.

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(Long synopsis cont.)

The two men are forced to find a way to deal with one another. It looks as though they may be getting nowhere until Danny finds a piece of exculpatory evidence, which challenges his growing hatred for Mike. Danny gives the evidence to Mike along with a complete file on the case. Danny challenges Mike to construct his own defense, all the while meticulously constructing the best possible defense for his client. As the drama unfolds, both men, as a result of their encounter with one another, examine their consciences in depth. Neither is too pleased with what he finds and both bury their faults until these flaws are forced, once and for, all to the surface.

Danny as a liberal Jewish man sees tolerance, kindness, and compassion as the threads in the cloth of human experience. He struggles with how to find within himself compassion for a man who kills a helpless victim.

In the end Danny is forced to come to terms with his own intolerance and the results of his own inner conflicts. As a consequence of these events, Danny's professional fortunes rise sharply while his personal fortunes fall on equally hard times. Mike is solidly indoctrinated and believes that Danny is part of the lesser races in the world. He has embraced a fundamentalism that tells him he is superior by birth, to most of the world. However, nearly everything in his experience of the world runs counter to this ideology. Most particularly the only person who is helping him, who is available to him and who is honest with him is supposedly the enemy and evil.

Mike is forced into accepting the full repercussions of his having killed someone in a moment of rage, informed by a cult of hatred. Mike comes to examine what he might do in society to atone for this action and reevaluates his entire belief set.

Both men are left challenged, changed and better prepared for the rest of the road that will be their future. Both pay a price, both lose and both win.

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FILM FESTIVALS & AWARDS

BEST FEATURE FILM
Beverly Hills Film Festival

BEST SCREENPLAY
Method Fest

BEST ACTOR (ANDREW WALKER)
Whistler Film Festival

SPECIAL JURY REMI Award Winner
WorldFest Houston

COLUMBINE AWARD FEATURE FILM
Moondance Film Festival

BEST FEATURE FILM
Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival

BEST NEW FILM
Marwil Jewish Film Festival

DWORKIN PRIZE
Promotion of Tolerance, RVCQ

SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD
Northeastern Pennsylvania Jewish Film Festival

Official Selection:

Tiburon International Film Festival
WorldFest Houston
Pacific Jewish Film Festival
Hartford Jewish Film Festival
Atlanta Jewish Film Festival
Baltimore Jewish Film Festival
New Jersey Jewish Film Festival
Rockland Jewish Film Festival
Pittsburgh Jewish Film Festival
Seattle Jewish Film Festival
Virginia Festival of Jewish Film
USA Film Festival
ashland independent film festival
Minneapolis Jewish Film Festival
Harrisburg Jewish Film Festival
Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival
St. Louis Jewish Film Festival

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

DAVID GOW (Writer, Director and Producer)

David Gow was working as a writer and performer by the age of seventeen. His early years included Stand-Up Comedy and stage work as a comic actor. David studied at Second City, in Toronto, before entering Montréal's Concordia University to study acting full time in their BFA program. By 1986, David was acting regularly in theatre, film and television.

After moving to Toronto, and acting in a number of stage plays, David turned his attention to writing for the theatre. Following the critically successful reception of his one-man show *The Flight Of Peter Pumkineater*, David was invited to join the prestigious Tarragon Theatre's Playwrights Unit. It was there David that wrote a full-length family drama, *The Friedman Family Fortune*, which was produced at Centaur Theatre in Montréal. David's next play, *Cherry Docs*, upon which *Steel Toes* is based, was David's break out play. The play continues to see productions eight years after its first premiere, and has seen productions all across Canada and the United States, as well as in Israel, Germany, Poland and the UK. The play is in major library collections throughout North America and has been used as a teaching tool in law school. David followed with *Bea's Niece*, a play that has seen a number of major productions in Toronto, Washington, Ottawa, Milwaukee, and Saskatoon.

David's most recent play *Relative Good* premiered in September 2005 at Ottawa's GCTC. David has written dramas for CBC Radio, and continues to act in film and television, having appeared in dozens of projects including "Mrs. Parker & The Vicious Circle", directed by Alan Rudolph and produced by Robert Altman, and in "Lost Junction" directed by Peter Masterson. David appeared alongside David Strathairn in "Day One", and has had roles in Québec based projects including "Invasions Barbares", "Monica La Mitraille" & "Fou De L'Isle".

As a writer, David has won major Awards and support from The Canada Council For The Arts, a Writers Guild of Canada Award, and nominations for The Siminovitch Prize, The Chalmers Award, and a nomination for a Governor General's Award. David holds an MFA in theatre from York University, Toronto, and is a member of the faculty of The National Theatre School Of Canada. With the success of his plays, having lived for eleven years in Toronto, David returned to Montréal in the year 2000 and began work on the film *Steel Toes*, with Francine Allaire and Arnie Gelbart at Galafilm. *Steel Toes* is David's debut as a feature filmmaker.

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MARK ADAM (Director)

Mark Adam has worked as a director, producer, editor and DOP since 1997. Trained as a classical dancer at the National Ballet School and the School of American Ballet, he began his filmmaking career with works on the National Ballet of Canada and the Toronto Dance Theatre. His dance films have been screened at festivals and broadcast on every continent as well as on CBC, Radio-Canada, ARTV and Bravo in Canada. In 2002 and 2004 Mark was nominated for a Genie Award for best direction (performing arts category) for "The Dancer's Story" and "Old Country". His films have also been nominated several times for American Choreography Awards. Like many classically trained artists, his fascination rests in the technique of rendering the human form meaningful in visual storytelling form. In 2001 his film *Zummel* was screened at MediaScope in the Museum of Modern Art NYC. *Steel Toes* is Mark's first feature.

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DAVID STRATHAIRN

A native Californian of Scottish and Hawaiian ancestry, David Strathairn attended Williams College in Massachusetts. After graduation, Strathairn attended Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College in Florida and subsequently worked a six-month stint as a clown in a traveling circus. After this experience, he launched a successful acting career.

In the course of his career, David Strathairn has worked with some of Hollywood's top directors including Mike Nichols' *Silkwood*, Stephen Gyllenhaal's *Losing Isaiah*, Sydney Pollack's *The Firm*, Tim Robbins' *Bob Roberts*, Penny Marshall's *A League of Their Own*, Taylor Hackford's *Dolores Claiborne*, Curtis Hanson's *LA Confidential* and Philip Kaufman's *Twisted* to name just a few. He has also appeared in many of his Williams College classmate John Sayles' features, including *Matewan*, *Eight Men Out* and *Passion Fish*.

He has starred opposite Meryl Streep in *The River Wild*, Richard Dreyfuss in *Lost In Yonkers*, Jessica Lange in *Losing Isaiah*, Ray Liotta and Jamie Lee Curtis in *Dominick and Eugene*, Sean Penn and Christopher Walken in *At Close Range*, Debra Winger in *A Dangerous Woman*, Ashley Judd and Oliver Platt in *Simon Birch*, Sigourney Weaver and Julianne Moore in *A Map of the World*. He's also appeared in *Blue Car*, which was purchased by Miramax from the 2002 Sundance festival, and *Harrison's Flowers*, opposite Andie Macdowell.

His extensive stage work includes *The Three Sisters* with Billy Crudup and Marcia Gay Harden, *Dance of Death* with Sir Ian McKellen and Helen Mirren and *Salome* with Al Pacino.

Television credits include "In the Gloaming, The James Brady Story", "The American Clock" and "The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd". Strathairn also had a recurring arc on "The Sopranos."

In 2005, Director George Clooney gave him the main part of the acclaimed *Good Night, and Good Luck*. David Strathairn earned for this movie the Venice Film Festival's Best Actor Award and is nominated for an Oscar® Award, a Golden Globe Award, a BAFTA Award, a SAG Awards and an Independent Spirit Award.

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ANDREW WALKER

Born and raised in Montréal, Québec, Andrew started performing in his elementary school's drama program and began landing professional roles by age 14. At 16, he starred in the Canadian television series "Student Bodies", but his primary focus was landing a football scholarship to attend college in the U.S. An injury dashed those plans, so he turned his focus solely to acting.

Soon, Andrew landed a role as Prince William on the Robin Hood-based television series "Back to Sherwood", followed by a starring role for two seasons on the comedy series "Radio Active". With his success in Canada encouraging a move to Los Angeles, Andrew landed his first American television series role soon after he arrived, that of Rick in The WB television series "Maybe It's Me". Shortly after, he scored a series regular role on the hit WB show "Sabrina the Teenage Witch."

Andrew made his feature film debut in the Frank Oz-directed crime drama *The Score*, starring Robert De Niro, Ed Norton, Marlon Brando and Angela Bassett. He also played the lead role opposite Angie Everhart in the feature film *Wicked Minds*, which was shot in his hometown of Montréal.

2005 was a busy year for Andrew. Between shooting two TV movies *Adopted* and the Louis Bélanger directed *Lies and Deception*, Andrew made appearances on the popular series "Reba" and "Hot Properties". It was also last year that Andrew played a lead role in the feature film *Steel Toes* opposite Oscar®-nominated actor David Strathairn.

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STEEL TOES - REVIEWS

VARIETY

"An engrossing portrayal by David Strathairn."

THE TORONTO STAR:

"Explosive new drama... a provocative exploration of the inescapable and insidious presence of hatred in our society."

TORONTO'S NOW MAGAZINE:

"Strathairn, with his expressive eyes and tremulous voice, is good at suggesting confidence tinged with doubt, and he's well matched by Walker, who brings menace and danger to his role as the defendant."
-Glenn Sumi

"All I said after viewing this film was WOW. This is powerful movie making at its best, a rip your heart out film that grabs you from it's opening frames to its beautiful ending made this film one of the best I have seen in some time. Steel Toes is an extraordinary film that everyone must see."
-VideoViews.org

VC REPORTER:

"Powerful stuff. Steel Toes features riveting performances from Andrew Walker and David Strathairn. Strathairn is positively magnetic."

ASHLAND DAILY TIDINGS:

"Powerful and insightful. Steel Toes is remarkable."

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About the Company

monterey media inc., a uniquely independent studio

monterey media inc., incorporated in 1979, it is a privately owned entertainment industry company specializing in the creation, acquisition, distribution and sale of motion pictures and other programming. monterey media is actively engaged in all areas of domestic media, including theatrical distribution to theatres, film festivals, and other distinctive venues, and is presently increasing its release slate with a continued measured growth strategy.

The Company creates unique and distinctive release strategies tailored to each project. By way of example, in 2005, the Company established a joint venture for the creation of a special theatrical event in conjunction with AMC Theatres to launch the motion picture *Indigo: A one day, 603 North America* venue showing grossed over \$1,190,000 box office. Early theatrical releases included the enchanting *The Blue Butterfly* starring Academy Award® Winner William Hurt; *Nobility*, from Award-winning writer/director Turk Pipkin (which Esquire Magazine called “remarkable”), with a Gala Premiere benefiting Amnesty Int’l. on Earth Day; and the lauded tri-coastal release of, *PEEL: The Peru Project* (heralded as “reminiscent of Bruce Brown’s *Endless Summer*”).

Award-winning feature films included in the theatrical 2007 (and DVD) release slate were the poignant and compelling *Steel Toes* starring Academy Award® nominated David Strathairn, the family film *Eye of the Dolphin*, the true crime story of *Karla*, based upon the infamous and notorious “Ken and Barbie killer” murders; and the critically acclaimed *10 Questions for the Dalai Lama* premiering with Landmark Theatres in San Francisco, Houston, Chicago and Berkeley.

monterey is known for its creative coordinated marketing strategies incorporating promotional alliances with such strategic partners as Wal-Mart, Fisher Price, Pepsi Cola, American Express, Amnesty International USA, Make-A-Wish Foundation® of America, Children’s Cancer Research Fund, KIDS FIRST!®, Days Inns, the International Motorcycle Shows, Healthy World Healthy Child, and Wahoo’s Fish Taco Restaurants.

monterey video

The monterey video division is the 2nd oldest independent video manufacturer and distributor in the United States, acquiring the exclusive rights for all video markets to completed motion pictures or other programming. monterey is well known for its broad marketing to all key retail, mail order and internet sites, schools and libraries, and specialty markets.

The versatile monterey video library encompasses Multi-Platinum RIAA and ITA Award-winning Grateful Dead concerts; prestigious films such as *The Exonerated* starring Susan Sarandon, Brian Dennehy, Danny Glover and Aidan Quinn; celebrated sports programming including the Bruce Brown Films franchise of motorcycle films (*On Any Sunday*) and surf films (*The Endless Summer II*); the most prestigious educational yet entertaining library of films adapted from literature’s renowned authors combined with acclaimed performances from many of Hollywood’s greatest actors; as well as unique feature films and documentaries, and note-worthy children’s programming. In addition, monterey has the honor of being the first video market licensee of the American Film Institute.

10/07

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