

MA We got approached by the Greenway to run film downtown and that was most attractive to us and to our partner company, Boston Light and Sound, who service all our projectors. They're the guys that did the 70mm **Hateful Eight** run, installing all those projectors all over the country. BL&S, through their generous donation of time and experience and manpower, allowed us to exhibit film outdoors in downtown Boston. They were free shows and they were pretty well attended. We've done two seasons of that, and one of the wonderful things that came out of it is we've been approached by other organizations to run outdoor movies. The most notable would be the Trustees of Reservations, who contacted us and said they had a park parcel in Massachusetts called the Rocky Woods Reservation that is underutilized and it's got a cabin alongside of a lake and it's kind of an old campground area, and they don't have enough people coming to it. I asked if they would consider letting us run the **Friday the 13th** films, and they immediately said they would. We went out and did a site visit and it was the most perfect setting you could ever imagine to screen the **Friday the 13th** films outdoors. We're running **The Evil Dead** and **The Cabin in the Woods** at this location.

CH *Is this going to be a seasonal thing?*

MA Yeah, I'm going to do as many of these as I possibly can. We'll probably have to branch out into summer camp comedies sooner or later.

CH *I was wondering, were they cool with having more adult-oriented films, or do they prefer trying to bring in kids?*

MA They've been the most down organization I've ever partnered with. They've certainly floated the idea and I'm open to that. Primarily, we're getting people there because they're seeing a film in a very immersive location; that setting is insane. We even hired an actor that had a wonderful Jason Voorhees costume who stayed in character the entire time. He was just pacing around the perimeter of the property.

CH *What would you say to someone who insists that film is dead?*

MA I would say that film is very much alive in our house. In the month of October alone, twenty 35mm prints went through our projection booth. Film will survive as long as people continue to seek it out. There are art-house cinemas all over the country who are keeping this medium alive. The people who say that film is dead are the same people who are killing it by staying on their sofas watching Netflix, instead of seeking out a true cinematic experience. Film isn't dead, they are. ☘

THE TRUTH FROM THE BOOTH Confessions of a Film Projectionist By Tim Ferrante

DEERSASTER FILM!

Because **The Deer Hunter** (1978) ran a tad over three hours, this meant fewer showings per day than a typical movie. Such was the case when my cozy itch of a theatre, the Colonial in Keansburg, NJ, booked Michael Cimino's Oscar-laden hit for a last-gasp run. **Hunter** would be a single 7:30 p.m. showing. It meant I could scoot a little earlier than usual. And one night I needed to scoot even earlier!

I'd been working as a projectionist and a stage-hand. I hated saying no to jobs, so I'd shift and shimmy my schedule. During **Hunter's** run, the union business agent asked if I could make a 10:45 p.m. "load out" (the breaking down and packing of a live show) at a theatre that was at least a 25-minute drive from the Colonial. Even though **Hunter** ended at 10:33, I told him I'd be there. To safely make the 10:45 call I'd have to leave by 10:15 latest. And I knew just how to do it...*bwahahahaha!*

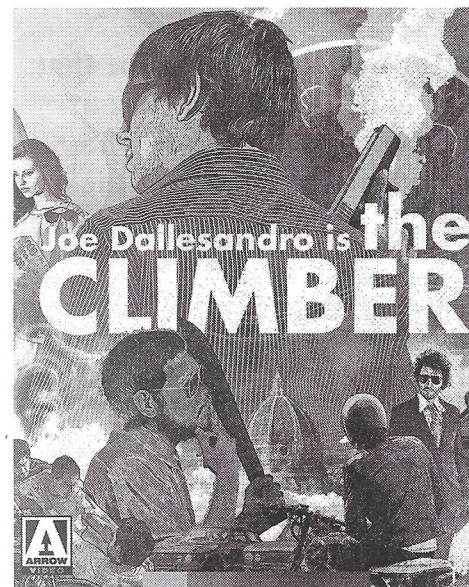
Having already run **Hunter** in several houses, my plan was to shave 20 minutes by changing over projectors in mid-reel into scenes that plausibly could follow the one before it. I'd also dip out of the long closing credits, saving even more minutes. We were getting very small crowds. I was confident no one would notice. There were 10 people in the audience that night. Perfect! I didn't warn the manager that an "in-projector" film editor was afoot. I'd identified two places where I could perform my sleights. It worked beautifully and I successfully ended the movie early. I bolted for my car and didn't look back.

The next day the manager asked why the movie ended so early. I had to come clean...so I lied. "Damn, I must have skipped a reel by accident!" He bought it but said I picked the wrong night to do it. That audience I didn't think would notice? There was a **Hunter**-aholic present who'd seen it multiple times. A lousy 10 people show up and one of them is in love with this picture! Are you kidding me!? And he was furious his favorite film had been butchered. With a refund in hand, he swore he'd never come back.

Unlike Christopher Walken, I'd dodged a bullet. To this day I'm surprised at how cavalier I was about my beloved profession. Then again, when I was a projectionist at ABC-TV... ☘

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EUROCRIME REPORT!

THE CLIMBER (1975) ☘☘☘1/2

D: Pasquale Squitieri. Joe Dalessandro, Stefania Casini, Raymond Pellegrin, Benito Artesi, Ferdinando Murolo. 102 mins. (Arrow Video \$29.98 Blu-ray + DVD 2-disc set) 5/17

Small-time hood Dalessandro has ambitions beyond being a cog in a black-market cigarette operation. When he jacks up the price of his wares and keeps the extra profit for himself, he earns the ire of his don (Pellegrin), who has him brutally beaten and exiled from Naples. He gets a ride to Rome from Casini (**Suspiria**), where, not one bit deterred from his dreams by almost being killed, he tries again and again to make it big, and damn the consequences to everyone around him. For the first half of the film, he appears almost parodically inept, but then things turn around dramatically. Soon he returns to Naples in triumph, Casini on his arm, and is on his way to being the biggest boss, or so he thinks. The rise and fall of a petty hoodlum is a story that has powered gangster films for their entire history, but the familiarity of the storyline is, in fact, just one of the many joys of **The Climber** (original title **L'Ambizioso**). If you were to ask someone delirious with fever what they thought a '70s Italian gangster flick would be like, this is what they would come up with. From its hear-it-to-believe-it soundtrack to the see-it-but-still-don't-believe-it fashion, to the hitherto unsuspected use of dirt bikes in protection rackets, **The Climber** is a jaw-dropping exercise in gritty locales and over-the-top, logic-demolishing events. And it is stupendously entertaining, with numerous moments demanding to be immediately rewound and watched again for the benefit of disbelieving eyes. Italian and English-language tracks are present, but since (as he explains in a terrific interview) that is not Dalessandro's voice on the English track, the Italian provides a more seamless experience. Unmissable. ☘

—David Annandale