

**QUESTION & ANSWER
WITH THE CREATOR OF OVERRIDE
RANDALL KRONGARD**

How did you come up with the idea for 'Override' and then turn it into an actual film?

Randall Krongard: My brother is a Captain in the Navy SEALs, my dad recently retired after many years working for the CIA and my uncle worked for several years at the State Department overseeing some hairy situations as well. To be honest, I became fed up with the constant portrayal of American soldiers and intelligence officers in movies and on T.V. as either nitwits or horrible people. I wanted to give an angle that America is in a vicious fight with Islamic fascists and that the enemy in this fight is NOT our own soldiers and intelligence people! Nor is it their counterparts throughout the world in Europe, Africa and Asia who are battling the same Islamic extremists we are.

I got the idea for the plot to the Override after some bad luck. I was driving my wife to Kennedy Airport in a used convertible I just bought the week before. The thing burst into flames on the Long Island Expressway. On the tow truck ride back I got to talking with the driver about his experience repossessing cars and how many close calls he'd had. That gave me an idea of how to fashion a movie about terrorism on a low budget, a way to bring an everyday man into contact with an infamous terrorist.

As far as making it, I just started from scratch. I began by walking around East Hampton and watching local media too. If I spotted someone I thought might work in the film I approached them, maybe in the CVS store in East Hampton or at the park, whatever. I was able to fill several roles that way. The biggest break was when a young actor showed the script to his friend who turned out to be Samrat Chakrabarti, who has a long list of movies and T.V. roles to his credit. I was floored when Samrat called me from Los Angeles and said he really wanted to be in the film to play the part of Abie. And when I landed Demosthenes Chrysan, a veteran stage actor in NY, to

play the role of Ibrahim Harazi, I knew we had something special. These guys tore the screen up.

How did you choose the title, 'Override'?

R.K.: During my research I came across a letter written by Zarqawi, who headed Al Queda in Iraq until the U.S. dropped two 500 pound bombs on his safe house. He had written a letter defending his killing of innocent people, muslims included, by using the Arabic word, "dharura" which roughly translates into "overriding necessity." In other words, that innocents have to die at times to achieve a higher objective. In the film, we use that word and idea for the character of Ibrahim Harazi to justify his murderous actions.

How did shooting in the Hamptons in the heart of summer with all the glitz and glitter affect the story and style of the movie?

R.K.: We really wanted to use the Hamptons summer scene as another character in the film. The life at the beach, the big, manicured houses, people in their beautiful cars makes an amazing backdrop. Also, it feeds the story line where a wealthy oil executive on vacation is targeted for assassination.

It was also helpful that actors knew they'd get a few free nights in the Hamptons during the summer, that didn't help my tight budget but I think it helped the moral of the actors, to be in such a great place to work.

And shooting on a small budget has its challenges.

R.K.: The budget definitely limited us but it also gave incredible urgency to the project. We would show up on location and begin piecing together the scene as fast as we could. I would work on the fight choreography, if the scene called for it, while the crew checked lighting and camera angles. It was really a team effort with the crew and actors pitching in to get the scene set up and rolling as quickly as possible.

The final fight scene we shot at a massive rock quarry. There must have been four different set ups if not more that day. That may not sound like a lot but consider we had two major fight scenes to stitch together on the spot, we had to haul our equipment over these huge, rocky hills from the bottom of a mine shaft, and had less than five hours before we lost the sun for that day. And that type of challenge was pretty much par for the course during the whole shoot.

What is your hope for Override?

R.K.: To make this into the next Die Hard series for the 21st century, to give people a full-throttle action movie experience with a dash of political relevance.
