

A New Name in Hollywood: Barber Ali

Barber Ali's acting career began almost by accident, while he was attending celebrations at the United Nations with his uncle, Ambassador Ali who served as Chairman of Contributions for 25 years, and was the former Pakistani Ambassador to Washington. "When I started acting, I immediately asked myself why I hadn't been doing this earlier in my life," he



says. "I had an absolute passion for it."

After nearly a year of training the work came quickly, with Ali earning accolades as a character actor in a series of feature films, television, live theater and commercials. His feature film breakthrough came with a part in Stephen Frears' *Dirty Pretty Things*, in 2002, a role that got him noticed as a tremendous talent by the industry and recognized on the streets.

Visiting Los Angeles in 2005, Ali began to make inroads in the local entertainment business. He worked steadily, earning his SAG card, and became recognized for his strong presence as a character actor in a series of film and TV appearances, including work on hit shows such as *Numb3rs*.

Now, with a decade full of credits, all the hard work has paid off. Barber Ali has landed a lead part in a project to be released in 2010 called, *The Good Sister*, and will be performing in a one-man tribute to legendary British director Alfred Hitchcock called, *Spellbound: an Evening with Alfred Hitchcock*.

"There is so much that is unknown about the man, who is a true genius, and who better to play him than me," says Ali in a proper British accent, referring to his physical appearance, which would allow him to pass as Hitchcock's brother. "This could be my role of a lifetime, my chance to capture Hitchcock as well as Philip Seymour Hoffman did with *Capote*."

"It's just such an honor to be a part of this business here in Los Angeles," Ali says. "My goals are to eventually win a BAFTA award, which I hope will launch me toward recognition from the Academy. One thing that I have learned in this town is that if you work very hard and keep your eye on the ball, anything is possible."

Michael Moore Vs. Capitalism: A love Story

For 20 years Michael Moore has examined one of my favorite topics: the horrific impact corporate America and the credit system has on the lives of Americans. Passionately digging below the surface of the culprits, the American film-maker with an Irish background doesn't lose his temper when describing the evil of Capitalism. Instead, he narrates with great sense of humor, taking the viewer into uncharted territories, asking taboo questions that evoke a sense of outrage, which I believe is long overdue.



Where did the American dream go? It was originally sold to us based on the ideas of corporate America: banking, consumerism, politics. Let's take a longer look at the nightmarish price that families pay now by losing their jobs, their homes and their savings. It is like a sweet and promising love affair gone astray: lies, abuse, betrayal, inferior motives, various self serving agendas...and 14,000 jobs being lost every day.

Does history repeat itself? We know that to be a fact from history classes in school. "John Paul II said after the Berlin wall came down: 'Even after communism is gone, there is another system that has its evils,' and he spoke against capitalism," says Moore. We teach about the Holocaust so it will not be repeated again. But, something inhuman does not need to look like gas chambers. It can look like a love affair. Blinders on everyone, or human nature?

In his movie Michael Moore points out that in America the top one percent has more financial wealth than 99 percent under them combined. How crazy will this seem to historians looking back? That we allowed this to happen? One percent ran everything. The other 99 percent ran around going: Look at us, we are free! We live in a democracy! Really? You know what they will call us? They will call us slaves. Four hundred years from now, that's what they will call us. They will even have a term for it...probably *'Wage Slaves,'*" says Moore.

"They thought they weren't slaves, because they got a paycheck," he continues. "The future historians will say: Wow, these people actually had the power and they ceded it to the one percent willingly. The one percent didn't have to take it through violence. The percentage of Goldman Sachs' income that went to taxes last year: one percent. It was 34 percent the year before."

Thank God he has a sense of humor. It eases the spirit when you start thinking about the reality of the topic: Capitalism. "That sounds like box-office death, doesn't it? But that's one of the reasons why I did it," Moore says. "Because I thought this is a challenge. I believe that if you make a really good movie you could call it 'Shit drying on the wall' and people will

go to see it, if they heard it was a good movie. Because people are always dying to see a good movie. Humor is the absolute thing in order to survive. Humor is some way to alleviate the darkness. I think humor is a lethal political weapon."

The Roosevelt footage in the movie is priceless. It makes Americans cry when they watch it, because we think about what could have been; that we could have had these things for 60 years. "How many people in your country (referring to Europe where I was born) were evicted from their homes because they couldn't afford to pay their doctors? Zero, of course. Just as in France or Canada or the UK. How many people were thrown out of their homes in America because of medical bills? It's the number one cause for foreclosures and bankruptcies."

Despite the enormous success of his latest movie, in which Moore is trying to arrest Wall Street CEOs and challenge the foundations of America's economic system, he says he doesn't have any investments and never owned a share of stocks. I share this with him. Despite being an economist, I never felt any high yield investment was transparent enough for me to bother worrying about. It was also an intuition that proved itself right in the end.

So, how can we change the mess we are in? "I don't believe in individual action. The only way we change anything is through collective action," Moore concludes. Isn't it time we wake up and look behind the charms of a love story we have been a part of all along whether consciously or not? Maybe it's not too late!

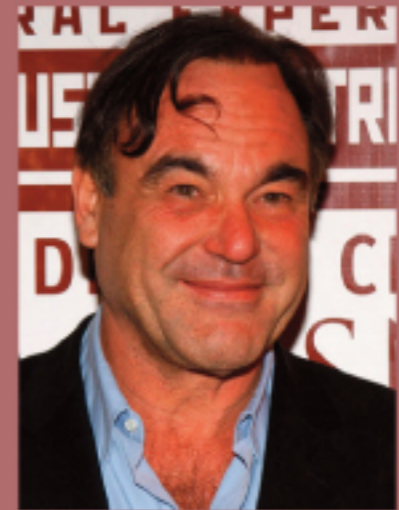
Will America Succeed? Uncensored with Oliver Stone

Oliver Stone is a master of controversial subjects in award-winning movies; a legendary provocateur, brilliant film-maker, director, writer and producer. Somewhat of a rebel he is an influential visionary and prominent portrayer of uncensored contemporary political and cultural issues. Stone doesn't beat around the bush on any issue. He had his own battles to win not only as a war veteran awarded a Bronze Star for Gallantry and a Purple Heart, but as creative genius in Hollywood with a long list of films behind him, winning one Oscar after another; his first for *"Midnight Express"* in 1978—the beginning of his fame as a filmmaker. Other unforgettable movies included: *"Salvador"* starring Oscar-nominated James Woods; the Vietnam war film *"Platoon"* starring Charlie Sheen, William Dafoe, Tom Berenger, and Francesco Quinn; *"Wall Street"* with Charlie Sheen and Michael Douglas focused on the world of tycoons and stock brokers; Tom Cruise in *"Born on the Fourth of July"* for which Stone won an Academy Award for Directing (his third win to date); the Academy

Award-winning *"Reversal of Fortune"* which focused on Claus von Bülow (played by Jeremy Irons) and a long list including, *"Natural Born Killers"*, *"The People vs. Larry Flynt"*, *"Any Given Sunday"*, *"The Day Reagan Was Shot"*, *"The Doors"* and *"JFK"*—what he considers the best of his films. It's a wonder he has time to sleep with roles as writer, producer and director. Stone is busy on the set of the new *"Wall Street."* The cast includes Michael Douglas reprising his Gordon Gekko role 23 years later, Shia LaBeouf, Carrie Mulligan, Frank Langella, Josh Brolin and Susan Sarandon.

I met Oliver Stone at a party 13 years ago. Young and naive, I choked up in his almost regal presence. He seemed preoccupied as most geniuses are, burning a hole in your forehead with his eyes as he spoke. There was something humble and reserved about him, almost as if he wanted to be left alone and away from the celebrity hype and just work behind the scenes undisturbed. I never forgot it. Stone expressed his concerns about government, media and politics.

"I'd like America to succeed. I get a little nervous about the country making it. The war in Afghanistan is a disaster. We make enemies. Our news media is terrible, they don't analyze well. TV in America has reached the Babel-state. It's all crap and bullshit. There's no news in America, not even on the best channels. It's superficial, the news is for profit, it's selling



entertainment.

I take joy in hearing this from Stone. I've been sickened about the news having been analyzed and interpreted by "experts" on TV who get paid handsomely for telling us what to think and how to interpret who said what and why. I find this offensive and outrageous! Not only the news is becoming opinionated and sensational entertainment, but they discuss the same, stupid things while the world is going down the drain faster than water can flow down a gutter. Newscast has become a control system by literally telling us what to think! Where is the integrity in all of this?

AP: What do you think about the current president and his administration?

OS: The question is: Is there a permanent government that makes people do things like go on with this War on Terror and War on Drugs? The thing is: We have to fix our own country; and we've said this for years. How do we break gridlock? How do we get healthcare? How do we get anything done? I'm wondering.

I am wondering as well along with most Americans and the World! The richest, most advanced country on earth and we hardly do or say much anymore that makes any sense in what has become our day-to-day reality.