



COMPASS
CINEMA™

J. Thomas Purifoy, Jr.

Thomas Purifoy's interest in movies can be traced back to his mother. When *American Movie Classics* came out in the 1980's, they used to watch old films for hours together. In high school, Thomas attended a summer class on "Film and Literature" that exposed him to film criticism and theory. For the rest of that summer he watched 2 to 3 movies per day as he explored the world of cinema. It was then that he met the works of Ingmar Bergman, Akira Kurasawa, Orson Welles, and other directors he admires.

Upon graduation, Thomas attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He majored in English and Creative Writing, his Honors thesis being a screenplay on Vanderbilt's Fugitive poets. He graduated from Vanderbilt in 1994 and took a commission in the U.S. Navy. He spent the next two years as an officer on an amphibious ship, in his spare time working on screenplays and stories. He then spent a year and a half with a Naval Special Boat Unit working for the U.S. Navy SEALs.

He left the Navy in 1998 and took time off to work on screenwriting. During that time he attended the first class of *Act One: Writing for Hollywood* in Los Angeles. In the Fall of 1999, he moved to Lyon, France where he taught high school in the American School of Lyon. The following year he served as Director of the school and taught Old Testament and Philosophy.

Thomas returned to the United States in 2001 and moved back to Nashville, Tennessee. He took a job as the marketing director of a small fitness company where he worked for the next three and half years. During that time he wrote and produced a number of marketing videos and commercials.

In October 2005, Thomas and a friend started their own production company, Compass Cinema. In April 2006, Thomas produced, directed, and co-wrote *Samaritan*, the first short film in the *Modern Parables* series. Between February and August 2007, he produced, directed, and wrote five other short films for the same series, as well as created the primary curriculum pieces for *Modern Parables*. *Modern Parables* was released in October 2007.

Thomas continues to manage Compass Cinema. He is currently developing additional curriculum products, including *Modern Parables Vol 2*.