

# twelve

a unique independent motion picture shot in boston

## introduction

In November 2006, Scott Masterson, a 28 year old filmmaker local to Boston, decided to act on an idea that had been in and out of his thoughts for years. The concept was simple; create a film collaborative where a group of up and coming filmmakers could assist each other in producing their own short films, ultimately to be packaged as a collection of different styles and forms of expression. Having worked in the Boston film and video community for approximately seven years, Scott knew that the talent was available in the area, but finding the perfect theme for the filmmakers to build off of would provide more of a challenge.

## concept

Though bringing a group of young filmmakers together to form this sort of co-op was unique in itself, Scott knew a unifying theme would be necessary to package this collection of short films as one project. He decided to spread the project out over the course of a year. Twelve filmmakers would be hand-picked and assigned a month. Each director's story would be expected to take place during that month and be produced during that month. The writer/director would also be encouraged to try crafting a story that embodied the energy and sentiment of his/her unique month.

## the collaboration

In order for "twelve" to function effectively as an ultra-low-budget independent film, collaboration will be key. One of the most intriguing aspects of the project is the demanding level of participation expected amongst the filmmakers. All of the writer/directors have, more or less, entered into a contract with each other, promising to assist each production in any form possible. This assistance ranges from filling a vital role on set to sharing resources that may otherwise be unattainable. Whether one of the filmmakers is holding the boom microphone or providing essential equipment, each has agreed to contribute as much as possible.

## the producers

The executive producers of "Twelve" are Scott Masterson and Steve Oare. Scott conceived the project and organized the directors in addition to being one of them himself. Steve is a local producer whose credits include "Fever Pitch" and

“The Departed,” among many others. In 2000, Steve founded Old Harbor Productions in the Boston area. Scott and Steve have worked collaboratively for about five years. It is their hope that “Twelve” will strike a cord with audiences due to its unique approach.

## choosing directors

Perhaps the most exciting element of “Twelve” is the potentially vast difference between all of the directors involved. Each writer/director was invited to be part of the project based on his or her individuality. The directors were encouraged to bring their distinctive styles to their segments within “Twelve.” This will ensure that the final feature film will be a virtual mixed bag. It will be a rollercoaster of genres, styles and approaches. The directors were also chosen based on their strengths. While one of the filmmakers may excel in editing, another may have more cinematography experience. This, again, will reinforce the film as a collaborative.

## months as characters

Beyond simply using the months of the year as a time-table for creating “Twelve,” it was decided, early on, that it would be the writer/director’s challenge to capture the sentiment of his/her assigned month. This task was intentionally vague, allowing the filmmakers to impose their own thoughts, emotions and/or memories upon the month. This, again, will guarantee each short film’s individuality. For example, Sean Baker has described his month, February, as being the “Wednesday” of the year. The month that seems to drag because it falls in between exciting times of the year. And Garth Donovan describes April as a time for coming out of hibernation. These are the types of themes that their films will embody.

## old harbor productions

Old Harbor Productions was founded by Steve Oare in 2000. The company was started to provide post-production services to events that were using video presentations. In 2003, Old Harbor aligned with directors Vladimir Minuty and Scott Masterson, and producer Angela Minuty in the hopes of moving toward more production work. Since then, the company has slowly grown to produce commercials, music videos and short films. “Twelve” will mark Old Harbor Productions’ first feature film. Contact information for the company can be found on the last page of this packet.

## shooting format

Due to the ultra-low-budget nature of “Twelve,” shooting on film was not an option. It was clear from the start that the project would have to be shot in a digital medium. With the advances of digital video technology, shooting in a video

format is no longer taboo in the film industry. Digital video now has the ability to mimic the look of professional-grade film formats. But the “Twelve” directors needed to decide, as a group, which technology would best suit their needs and expectations. The camera that was chosen was the Panasonic DVX 100A. The camera has the ability to shoot in 24p (a frame rate that appears similar to film) and a 16:9 aspect ratio (required for theatrical release). To ensure a visually cohesive feature film, each short will be shot using this camera.

## shooting in boston

Each of the participating filmmakers has had, in some capacity, experience on productions in or around Boston. Through this experience, they have gained knowledge of the local protocol and resources that may assist in the creation of a project such as “Twelve.” Within their collaborative, the filmmakers have pooled their knowledge, resources and contacts in order to provide the most effective, inexpensive method of production. Experience with the local vendors, actors and locations is a true advantage when producing an independent film. In addition, the writer/directors have a tight tie to Boston, wishing to represent the city as an artistic, production-friendly region with a lot of young talent and wonderful stories to tell.

## financing

For the most part, “Twelve” is being funded primarily by its directors. Keeping with the “film co-op” idea, each of the participating filmmakers was responsible for contributing an equal share of the production costs. That money will provide a director with a suitable grip and lighting package, all necessary camera and sound equipment, and other production supplies. In addition, some of the shared financing will be used for submission costs involved with entering multiple film festivals. Though this type of financing is presently adequate, the “Twelve” producers would be open to talking with potential investors and plan to begin fundraising in the early summer.

## venues

“Twelve” is planning to hold a Boston premier screening sometime in early 2008. But the project, in large part, is meant for submission into multiple film festivals around the world. The costs that the filmmakers share, in addition to covering production costs, also covers the entry fees and formatting expenses associated with submitting a film into a film festival. Perhaps the largest festival the filmmakers anticipate entering is the world-renowned Sundance Film Festival. By entering these festivals, the producers and directors hope to gain support for the film and possible interest from distributors. Ultimately, as with any film, the goal is to receive distribution, whether it be theatrically or otherwise.

# twelve: the film

When all twelve short films are complete, they will be edited together, in month sequence, to create the final feature-length film. The individual short films will then take on a new life as part of a larger picture. Just one stop in a journey through the art of storytelling. Much thought has gone into ensuring the film is effective as a packaged feature, without taking away from the individualism of each filmmaker's contribution. It is understood that this is a format that has never been attempted for a theatrically released film. However, it is the estimation of the producers and directors that audiences will be entranced with its simplicity and strength on screen.

## contact information

Please contact the producers of "twelve" with any and all questions concerning the project. A website will be coming soon. A sample trailer and photos are available upon request.

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