Billy Corben: A Video Chat with "One of the Miami Guys"

Matthew - How people

Billy Corben (b.1978), is an American documentary film director and producer. He is the founder and CEO of rakontur, an independent production company, where they made Cocaine Cowboys. The New York Times called Cocaine Cowboys, "a hyperventilating account of the blood-drenched Miami drug culture in the 1970s and 1980s." Through firsthand accounts of some of the most notorious Miami trials of the 1980s, Corben built a persona as an unrepentant provocateur; his braggadocio was matched by the film's breathless pace and relentless, unflinching style. The film proved to be a huge success, opening new banks, developing large swaths of real estate, opening new restaurants and hotels.

Cocaine Cowboys, Grammy-winner Jan Hammer (Miami Vice) composed and performed the original score; hip-hop artist Luther Campbell performed the opening titles song for The U; Miami - founding new banks, developing large swaths of real estate, opening new restaurants and hotels.

Corben oversees the soundtracks for all of rakontur's productions and has written and contributed original songs to the soundtracks of Raw Deal: A Question of Consent, The U, and Square Grouper.

In April 2011, Limelight (a 2011 documentary), about the rise and fall of Miami's porn industry, was released in theaters for one week. It was the highest-grossing documentary at a New York City theater in February 2011. Corben also serves as film critic on the Paul and Young Ron Lovin' Criminals. In addition, Corben has contributed his own music to the soundtracks of several of his films.

In 2010, Corben released the documentary Miami, Millionaire Paradise, a look at the excess and excesses of the Miami upper crust. The film was distributed by HBO and the Sundance Channel and was part of the PBS series Filmavenue. The film featured Corben's role as "Miami's Redneck Rap God," a term he used to describe his role in the film. The film was filmed in the luxurious homes and yachts of Miami's rich and famous, and featured footage of Corben rapping and singing in front of a group of rich and famous people.

The film was praised for its raw and unflinching look at the excesses of the Miami upper crust. The film was also praised for its music, which featured footage of Corben rapping and singing in front of a group of rich and famous people.

Corben was born in Fort Myers, Florida, and raised in South Florida. He graduated with honors from the University of Miami, where he studied broadcast journalism. After college, he worked as a producer for the Miami-based cable network, where he made Cocaine Cowboys. The New York Times called Cocaine Cowboys, "a hyperventilating account of the blood-drenched Miami drug culture in the 1970s and 1980s." Through firsthand accounts of some of the most notorious Miami trials of the 1980s, Corben built a persona as an unrepentant provocateur; his braggadocio was matched by the film's breathless pace and relentless, unflinching style. The film proved to be a huge success, opening new banks, developing large swaths of real estate, opening new restaurants and hotels.

After a limited theatrical release in 2006, Cocaine Cowboys was released on cable network.

The videos below are organized by topic and run between 30 seconds and 6 minutes. They inform you today and what did you learn that still resonates with you today?...
What is your position on film incentives provided by the State of Florida?

What are your criteria for taking on a new project?

What brought about the demise of the Cocaine Cowboys era?

Tell us about ESPN's "30 for 30" series.

The Surf Club at 90th & Collins Ave. was developed during prohibition, and hosted everyone from Frank Sinatra to Winston Churchill. It has been reimagined by architects Richard Meyers & Kobi Karp, and will open as a Four Seasons Hotel and condominium complex in 2017. Is there a mob backstory to the Surf Club?

Who are your most important influences?

It's difficult to get most Millennials to watch black & white movies. Do you agree?

Why do people want to make films in Miami?