

Kurt Martin about MOON ROCK FOR MONDAY

"I think she's even learning Polish"

9 year old Monday is terminally ill, she probably will not live to be older than 16. She is a cheerful Australian kid with a sunny approach towards life, however, in her eyes there is a desire for adventure and excitement. She dreams about a trip to the Moon Rock monument but never expected to embark on that journey in the company of Tyler, a sympathetic criminal. During the trip, a beautiful brother-sister bond grows between them, as they cross paths with the loveliest bunch of quirky people. With police detectives and a raging father on their trail, you can't give up hoping that the two will make it together, but the odds are well against them.

Two young outlaws on a trip through a desert landscape in a quest for freedom and redemption. Debuting director Kurt Martin turns this deeply moving and captivating "NATURAL BORN KILLERS light" story into a road movie for all ages.

Tyler is not exactly a petty criminal, we're talking about a true cop killer.



Kurt Martin: I could have gone with a small-time crook, but I really wanted a strong redemption plot for Tyler. Everyone in the audience is ready to forgive him by the end of his journey, but in a way Tyler is doomed from the start.

Monday must be the coolest kid I've seen in a long time, stealing your heart in the blink of an eye. Was she "naturally born cool"?

Martin: Ashlyn Louden-Gamble was! She can sing, dance, write and act – I think she's even learning Polish – and I'm honestly her biggest fan! Her character Monday on the other hand develops as she learns from Tyler. By the end, she's listening to cool music and even adopts Tyler's red converse shoes, which I love.

Why Moon Rock? What is Monday hoping to find there?

Martin: I love it when you have to give a character a destination to get to. This idea about Moon Rock stems from her mother, who died a long time ago. Ever since, Monday had this war of conscience going on, for which she's hoping to find redemption at Uluru. It's just an idea in her head, like I used to have them myself. I was born with really bad eyesight. My dad used to say things like: if you get a cut on your skin, and you go in the ocean, the salt water will make you better. I would jump in the ocean and put my eyes under the water, and come out with these big bloodshot eyes. That's the kind of ideas you get in your head as a child.

The sentence that moved me most, would be "She died on a Monday" (about Monday's mother). What a brilliant way to share such delicate information.

Martin: When you're writing it's really tempting to make things very obvious for the audience. But on this line I really wanted the audience to work for it. So thank you for noticing!



Tyler seems to have a talent for stealing amazing, iconic cars. Tell me something more about your "special eye" for cars.

Martin: I know nothing about cars! If I did there is no way I would've picked that car for the film. We had to drive it 30 hours into the Australian desert, which is fine for new cars, but this one was 50 years old! It constantly broke down along the way. For me Tyler's colour throughout the film is red, so it made sense that he'd steal a red car. I also slipped in a yellow kombi, which was a little nod to LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE.

Why LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE?

Martin: That film just blows me away every time I watch it. Actually one of my favourite films is CITY OF GOD, I took a bit from that too, and I was influenced a lot by ALICE IN WONDERLAND.

Your film has a great collection of odd characters and beautiful freaks in common. What does this trip tell about the true soul of Australia, besides that you can play golf in the desert?

Martin: We actually do have a golf course in the middle of the desert! Which completely blew my mind and



I had to incorporate it into the film. It is so easy to judge a book by its cover, but if we scratch the surface we see we're all going through our own issues. You can get so much more out of life by showing people empathy, something Monday does with everyone she meets. I hope it's something the audience might take away from the film as well.

Monday has a devoted father. Throughout the film his appearance starts resembling more and more a vengeful vigilante on a never ending chase mission.

Martin: The father's journey is about acceptance. He has to let Monday go, he can't lock her up in the apartment

and feed her medication forever. She needs to burn bright, even if it's only for a small amount of time.

A rabbit is keeping us company throughout the entire film. How was it to work with 'Bacon'?

Martin: A nightmare! We had a rabbit wrangler on set who took care of him, and Ashlyn became good friends with him by the end of filming. As a thank you to Ash for all her hard work I bought her a rabbit as a present.

How did Brian Jonestown Massacre end up on the movie's soundtrack?

Martin: I grew up in the 90s and I just love that kind of music. But we had such a small budget, so I had to be

very selective of what music I could choose.

I guess MOON ROCK FOR MONDAY was not in the first place intended as a youth movie. Could you have guessed that one day it would be screened in young audience festivals?

Martin: I had no idea. I've always wanted to make films, it's been my dream. So honestly I'm just so happy to have made a film. But to be accepted into European film festivals is just amazing, everyone is so happy and blown away. I'd like to say a massive 'thank you' for having us!

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Gert Hermans

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