



ROCK 'N ROLL IS HERE TO STAY
...BUT WHO WILL BE LEFT TO PLAY?

TRALOINVER and ROLLING STONE presents

BROKEN POET

A Film by
EMILIO J. RUIZ

ELLIOTT MURPHY JOANA PREISS MICHAEL O'KEEFE MARISA BERENSON
FRANÇOISE VIALON SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN PATTI SCIALFA

PRODUCER JOSÉ LUIS LÓPEZ EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ÁNGEL CORTÉS AFFRESE SCREENPLAY ELLIOTT MURPHY, EMILIO J. RUIZ, DANNY TALK
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JESÚS AGUILAR, ANTONIO LABATO PHOTOGRAPHY JUANMA POSTIGO (AEC) COSTUME DESIGNER REBECCA ABRASSE
EDITING OSCAR LOSADA SOUND JANTER ZUMER MUSIC ELLIOTT MURPHY, GASPARD MURPHY DIRECTED BY EMILIO J. RUIZ

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ROCK'N ROLL IS HERE TO STAY ...BUT WHO WILL BE LEFT TO PLAY?

BROKEN POET IS A COMPELLING INVESTIGATION INTO THE MEANING OF SUCCESS, ROCK STARDOM AND EVEN FREEDOM ITSELF WHICH, AS JANIS JOPLIN SANG, IS JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE.

EMILIO J. RUIZ'S BROKEN POET (2018) IS AN ADAPTATION OF THE SHORT-STORY **THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT** WRITTEN BY **ELLIOTT MURPHY**, WHO STARS IN THE FILM HIMSELF ALONG WITH **JOANA PREISS**, **MARISA BERENSON** AND **MICHAEL O'KEEFE**, ALL MEMBERS OF A TRULY INTERNATIONAL CAST. **BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN** AND **PATTI SCIALFA** MAKE REMARKABLE CAMEO APPEARANCES DUE TO THEIR LONGTIME FRIENDSHIP WITH MURPHY. THE FILM, PRODUCED BY **TRALOVINER** AND **ROLLING STONE**, HAS BEEN RECENTLY SHOT IN NEW YORK AND PARIS AND WILL BE RELEASED IN THE LATER PART OF 2019.

THE PLOT

Broken Poet is the story of 1970's rock star Jake Lion, who was presumed dead in Paris until his former roadie Plynth happens to be riding in the Paris Metro forty years after Jake's much publicized suicide and happens to hear an aged street musician who sounds just like him.

In search of an exclusive story, Rolling Stone publisher Kathy Madison sends rock journalist Meg Trudeau to Paris to investigate who before leaving visits Bruce Springsteen and Patti Scialfa at their New Jersey home in hopes of gaining insight into Jake Lion's successful career and tragic death.

While in Paris, Meg hooks up with Joe Shippers, a charismatic English music biz veteran who actually knew Jake Lion and who accompanies her on her exploration to unearth him in Paris as an unexpected romance begins to develop between them.

After a fruitless search of the Paris Metro, Meg finally gets a useful tip from another street musician in a buskers bar and locates Jake – or at least a crippled musician she presumes to be him but who insists he is not Jake but rather his brother Erik.

Jake or Erik or whoever he is, agrees to be interviewed for Rolling Stone and leads Meg on an underground tour of Paris: a small neighborhood cafe, musical instrument store, vintage clothing shop and even a walk through the frightening sewers beneath the Paris Opera as he tells his story and ruminates about the music business all the while insisting he is not Jake Lion.

On her final day in Paris, Jake/Erik does not show up, instead sending his long-time companion Christine, a flamboyant and renowned Paris groupie, to see Meg, who recounts the harrowing night when Jake allegedly jumped off a bridge into the Seine.

Unsure if she has a story, Meg returns to New York where Kathy Madison sends her on one last journey, this time out to Long Island to interview a retired music teacher who knew both Jake and his brother Erik and who insists Jake has suffered from a debilitating disease since childhood.

Meeting Plynth again in a seedy bar, Meg describes Jake's deteriorating condition and is ready to pay him the balance of his fee for the scoop but then Plynth has second thoughts when he realizes what could happen if the world would discover Jake in his sad state and tries to convince Meg to drop the story.

Finally, while on the telephone with Kathy Madison, Meg decides to kill the story, not wanting to destroy the already fragile state of Jake's mental and physical health and even thinking about returning to Paris herself to find love and maybe play an old song in the Metro.



THE PLAYERS



ELLIOTT MURPHY is JAKE LION

More than forty-five years have passed since the release of Elliott Murphy's ground-breaking first album *Aquashow* in 1973 (declared an Album Classic by the UK's prestigious UN CUT magazine). Since this debut, Elliott, singer-songwriter, rock troubadour, indefatigable road warrior (over 100 shows a year!) and prolific author of fiction, has released more than 35 albums as well as publishing three novels and numerous collections of short stories. Born in 1949 to a show business family in New York, Elliott began his career with a troubadour like odyssey in Europe in 1971, which included a bit part in Federico Fellini's film *Roma*. In 2015 Elliott Murphy was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture.

www.elliottmurphy.com



JOANA PREISS is MEG

Joana Preiss was born in Marseille, France. She is a model, dancer, singer, actress and director. She is known for her roles in *Paris, je t'aime* -segment *Quartier des Enfants Rouges*- (2006), *Dans Paris* (2006), *Boarding Gate* (2007), *Crudo* (2016) and *Les dents, pipi et au lit* (2018).

She has also released the worldwide acclaimed documentary *Siberie*, in which she explored the disintegration of her relationship with French filmmaker Bruno Dumont during an extended voyage along the Russian Siberian plains.



MARISA BERENSON is KATHY MADISON

Marisa Berenson has spent a good portion of her time on this planet being photographed, whether as a model playing muse to the likes of Richard Avedon, David Bailey, Steven Meisel, Helmut Newton, and Irving Penn, or as an acclaimed actress appearing in films such as Luchino Visconti's *Death in Venice*, Bob Fosse's *Cabaret*, Stanley Kubrick's *Barry Lyndon*, *Casanova & Co.*, the Blake Edwards comedy *S.O.B.*, Clint Eastwood's *White Hunter Black Heart*, or *Lo Sono l'Amore*, directed by Luca Guadagnino, as well as many other films, shortfilms and TV series.

Yves Saint Laurent called Marisa Berenson 'the girl of the 1970s'.



MICHAEL O'KEEFE is JOE SHIPERS

In an unparalleled career of acclaimed acting in films, TV and theater, Michael O'Keefe has garnered both Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations. He has appeared in such notable films as *Eye In the Sky*, *Michael Clayton*, *Frozen River*, *The Pledge*, *Ironweed*, *The Great Santini* and *Caddyshack*. Television audiences will recognize Michael as *Homeland* CIA Agent John Redmond as well as remembering him as "Fred" on *Roseanne*. Other TV appearances also include *The West Wing*, *Blue Bloods*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Law and Order*, *House M.D.*, *The Closer* and *Brothers and Sisters*.



FRANÇOISE VIALLON is CHRISTINE

A graduate of the Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique of Paris, Françoise Viallon is a veteran French actress of film, TV and theater, known for the films such as *Dissonances* (2003) and the TV series *Les amours de la belle époque* (1979), *Marie-Marie* (1981) and *Petits secrets entre voisins* (2017) as well as numerous French theater productions of Moliere, Pirandello and Tennessee Williams.

She has also participated in several short films, including Christian Vincent's *Il ne faut jurer de rien*.



BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN is HIMSELF

Internationally acclaimed Bruce Springsteen is an American singer-songwriter whose best known songs chronicle Springsteen's working-class roots in New Jersey. His breakout record *Born to Run* united arena rock with human-size tales of working-class America. With dozens of awards (including an Academy Award and numerous Grammy Awards) and selling more than 65 million albums in the U.S. alone, Bruce Springsteen is one of the bestselling and most popular artists of all-time. In 2016 he was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama. In 2018 he won a special Tony Award for *Springsteen on Broadway*.



PATTI SCIALFA is HERSELF

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Patti Scialfa is a long-time vocalist/guitarist in The E-Street Band as well as an accomplished singer-songwriter. Her solo albums include *Rumble Doll*, *23rd Street Lullaby* and *Play It As It Lies*.

She has also contributed vocals to both Rolling Stones and Keith Richards albums and holds a degree in music from New York University. She and Bruce Springsteen have been married since 1991.



THE BROKEN POET

Elliott Murphy was born in Rockville Center, New York, grew up in Garden City, Long Island and began playing the guitar at age twelve. His band The Rapsallions won the 1966 New York State Battle of the Bands. In 1971 he travelled to Europe and appeared in the Federico Fellini film *Roma*. Returning to New York, in 1973 he secured a record contract with Polydor Records after being noticed by rock critic Paul Nelson.

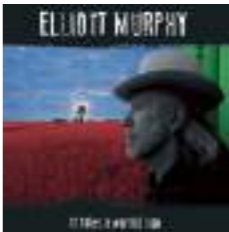
His debut album *Aquashow* (1973) was an unparalleled critics favorite and garnered glowing reviews in Rolling Stone, Newsweek, The New Yorker and music magazines around the world. Follow up albums included *Lost Generation* (1975) produced by Doors Producer Paul A. Rothchild, *Night Lights* (1976) featuring Billy Joel and *Just a Story from America* (1977) featuring Phil Collins. To date, he has released over thirty-five albums as well as *Never Say Never...The Best of 1995-2005*, a CD and DVD of live performances. His best-selling 1996 album *Selling The Gold* featured an extraordinary duet with Bruce Springsteen on the song *Everything I do leads me back to you*. In 2016 the documentary *The Second Act of Elliott Murphy* won the audience favorite award at the San Sebastian Dock of the Bay Film Festival and was an official selection at the Stony Brook Film Festival. In 2018 Elliott Murphy was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame by Billy Joel. All Music Guide has rated over fifteen of his albums with 4 stars or more.

On 4 November 2015 Elliott Murphy was decorated with the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in a ceremony at the Mairie of the 4th Arrondissement in Paris.

Selected Discography

Prodigal Son (2017)
Aquashow Deconstructed (2015)
Intime (2014)
It Takes A Worried Man (2012)
Elliot Murphy (2010)
Notes From The Underground (2008)
Coming Home Again (2007)
Murphy Gets Muddy (2005)
Never Say Never (2004)
Strings Of The Storm (2003)
Soul Surfing/Rainy Season (2002)
Rainy Season (2000)
La Terre Commune (2001)
April (1999)
Beauregard (1998)
Going Through Something (1996)

Selling The Gold (1995)
Unreal City (1993)
Diamonds By The Yard (1992)
If Poets Were King (1992)
12 (1990)
Apres Le Deluge (1987)
Live Hot Point (1991)
Party Girls & Broken Poets (1984)
Change Will Come (1987)
Milwaukee (1985)
Murph The Surf (1982)
Affairs (1980)
Just A Story From America (1977)
Night Lights (1976)
Lost Generation (1975)
Aquashow (1973)





THE DIRECTOR

Emilio J. Ruiz has been and remains one of the most notorious movie directors in the Spanish and European cinema industries in recent years. A BBC correspondent in Latin America during the 1990s, when Emilio returned to Spain he entered the movie business with the documentary *Lorca. El mar deja de moverse*, about the Spanish poet, Federico García Lorca, which won prizes in many International festivals, including the award for the Best European Documentary in 2006. Also within this field he has directed very prestigious films like *Orson Welles and Goya*, an official documentary at the Expo Zaragoza 2008, with unpublished material from the brilliant American director, and *Morente* (2011), a musical about the flamenco singer and composer Enrique Morente, which made it to the finals of the Goya Awards and was acknowledged by the FNAC as the best Musical Film in the same year.

Within the field of fiction two films are worth noting: *El Discípulo* (*The Disciple*, 2009), a controversial feature film about the life of Jesus Christ, which was banned in several countries but won important prizes at festivals, like the Filmmaker UK Awards, starting with seven nomination at that event and winning the awards for the Best Film, Best Production and Best Leading Actor. His latest film is *La Venta del Paraíso* (*The Sale of Paradise*, 2012), which was a great commercial success and won the Prize for the Best Original Film at the New York City International Film Festival, as well as the Luis Buñuel Prize in Spain. The last movies directed have been *Yerma* and *Bernarda*, both inspired by the plays of Federico García Lorca.

Filmography

Bernarda (2018)

Yerma (2017)

El violín de piedra (2015)

La venta del paraíso (2012)

Morente (documentary) (2011)

El discípulo (2010)

La España de la copla (documentary) (2009)

Lorca. El mar deja de moverse (documentary) (2006)

A la sombra de los sueños (2004)



NOTES BY EMILIO J. RUIZ

The story is based on Elliott Murphy's own history as well as the story *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* written by him where he mixed reality and fiction. Based on this premise, I shot the film with a dramatized documentary technique, using a direct and effective cinematographic language.

The Elliott Murphy songs that have been included in *Broken Poet* are those whose lyrics compliment the plot of the film, in effect becoming a part of the script. Each song when it appears does not take us out of the movie, but continues to tell the story.

The historical and documentary images have been transformed into cartoons to give the film a more artistic and intimate character and achieve a harmonious mix between reality and fiction. It has been a pleasure to direct natural actors such as Elliott Murphy, Bruce Springsteen or Patti Scialfa (all seasoned performers who are accustomed to tell stories through their songs), as well as professional actors such as Joana Preiss, Michael O'Keeffe, Marisa Berenson and Françoise Viallon.

Broken Poet is an independent production that has been blessed with the sponsorship and support of Rolling Stone magazine. The musical quality of the film is unquestionable.

The film has been shot in Paris and New York. In contrast to the typical postcards of each city that are well known to movie viewers, I chose to show other darker and hidden environments of these two world capitals that do not usually appear in the cinema. This contrast of lights and shadows is the same that accompanies the protagonist throughout the film. Beyond a fictional biopic, the film deals in depth with the themes of success and rock stardom. Is real success filling stadiums or playing in the Paris metro for a few interested passerbys? As the protagonist says in the movie: Success is nothing but freedom.

NOTES BY ELLIOTT MURPHY

STORY

I wrote *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* (the short-story which inspired the film *Broken Poet*) in the early 1980's. It was the story of Jake Lion, a fictional 1970's rock star who jumped off a bridge into the Seine in 1975 and is rediscovered playing in the Paris Metro in 1985 ... or is he? The story was an examination of what success and rock stardom really means and I must have been thinking about Jim Morrison and the rumors of him still being alive at the time. Unbeknownst to me, this story would in some way foretell my own future, as I finally moved to Paris myself in 1989 for the second act of my own career in music although I have yet to jump off a bridge! Now, 40 years later, I am thrilled to find myself playing the principal role. As I say in the film "Sometimes the songs know more about me than I know about the songs" and the same can be said for *Broken Poet* as I often feel this film knows more about me than I know about the film!

SCRIPT

Writing the script of *Broken Poet* with Emilio J. Ruiz was quite intense, a back to the

future adventure, because I needed to reacquaint myself with the fictional world of Jake Lion I literally wrote last century. To ensure we had all the elements needed to make a feature film, Emilio and I had to more fully develop characters and plots that had been lost in time for over 40 years and expand the story to include some enticing new sub-plots that would help illuminate this dark journey into the heart of rock 'n roll and update it to 2018. We went through many rewrites – at least five or six – but finally, like a jig-saw puzzle all the pieces fell into place and it was time to cast the film. In the original story both the editor of Rolling Stone and the journalist who is sent to Paris to find Jake Lion were men but we decided to change gender and now both Kathy Madison (the editor of Rolling Stone played by the legendary Marissa Berenson) and Meg Trudeau (the journalist played by Joana Preiss) are engaging females who both instigate and pilot the journey to find Jake Lion.

ACTING

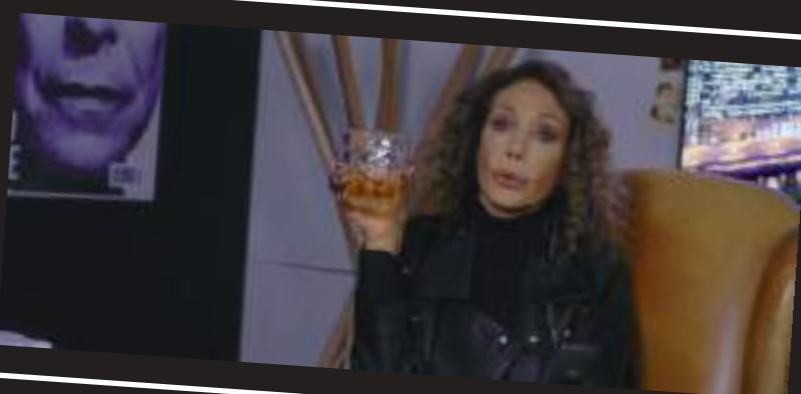
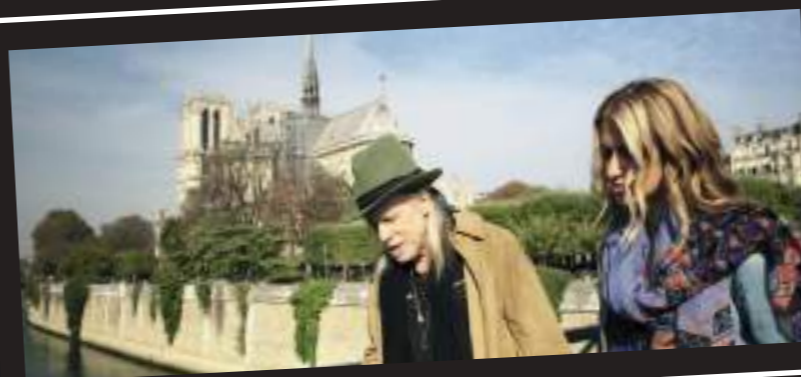
When Emilio asked me to play the principal role in *Broken Poet* I knew it would be a challenge, outside my comfort zone of being a veteran singer-songwriter, but I gladly accepted. My acting career began with a tiny part in Fellini's *Roma* in 1971 and it was time to get back at it again. If not now when? I remember meeting the late Harry Dean Stanton in LA in 1975 and thinking I would like to somehow follow in his footsteps. Learning my lines was painstaking but fortunately my wife, Françoise Viallon, is a classically trained French actress, and together we worked not only on learning my lines but also my intention, as actors like to say. When Academy Award nominated actor Michael O'Keefe arrived in Paris for the shooting of *Broken Poet*, he also was a great help and we took time to deeply explore each of our characters in the film. I think people will be amazed at Michael's charming cockney accent in the role of Record Biz veteran Joe Shippers.

MUSIC

Many of the songs included in *Broken Poet* were previously released and it was Emilio who selected the songs that would work best with the script. But I knew that a brand-new song, something that really expressed the theme of the film, was necessary. It was during one of those cherished moments of inspiration that the muse came to me as I was playing my 12-string guitar in front of the TV: *You want to dance – you gotta pay the piper*. Meaning, of course, that there is a sacrifice for success even for a rock star. I worked on *Theme for a Broken Poet* for weeks and with the help of my son Gaspard Murphy we finished it just in time for the film. Gaspard went on to create all the incidental music of the film, making the transition from instrumental themes to real songs seamless. Finally, we were able to secure the rights to include the original version of *Last of the Rock Stars* from my first album *Aquashow* and this was really the cherry on top of the cake.

NOTES BY MICHAEL O'KEEFE

I've been friends with Elliott Murphy for decades and when he said he and Emilio had written a film with a role for me I jumped at the chance. Joe Shippers is a great part, with interesting challenges, and a vested interest in the suicide of Jake Lion. Meeting Meg Trudeau changes his life and puts him on the road to discovery. Discovery of Jake, and discovery of himself. Joana Preiss is talented and beautiful, which made my job that much easier. Elliot's portrayal of Jake, is authentic and inspired. I'm grateful for the opportunity to play a part in *Broken Poet*. And I look forward to seeing it find an audience.



TECHNICAL CREW

PRODUCER

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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Ángel Cortés Arrese

DIRECTOR

Emilio J. Ruiz

SCRIPT

Elliott Murphy

Emilio J. Ruiz

Danny Faux

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Jesús Aguilar

Antonio Labati

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STYLE DESIGNER

Rebecca Arrosse

EDITING

Oscar Losada

SOUND

Javier Zumer

MUSIC

Elliott Murphy

Gaspard Murphy

SERVICE COMPANIES

Hemisphere Films

Ebano Media

Drama / Musical

100 min.

2:2:35 Scope

Filming Date: Oct / Nov 2018





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