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<p>Nov. 02, 2005</p> <h2>AFI gets Punk'd by U.K. production house</h2> <p>By Stuart Kemp          U.K. independent movie production house Punk Cinema arrived at the American Film Market in Santa Monica armed with an AFI Fest slot for "The Gigolos" — the company's first finished feature — a slate of new projects and no sales agent.</p> <p>The company, headed by brothers Richard and Anthony Bracewell, is very punk in its approach, with the duo producing a movie shot in London with cameos from Anna Massey, Sian Phillips and Susannah York for less than \$500,000.</p> <p>Set in the British capital between dusk and dawn, "Gigolos" revolves around two male escorts who specialize in dating older, rich and influential women. It was made with no tax-break cash, no financial help from any of the U.K. public funding bodies and stars two unknowns, Sacha Tarter and Trevor Sather.</p> <p>Anthony Bracewell said the company simply got on with filming to avoid having to compromise on the actors or the script, written by Richard Bracewell.</p> <p>"We gave the investors equity in the movie in return for their investment," Anthony said. "We didn't offer them any points or anything like that, just a stake in the movie for their investment."</p> <p>With the mainstream U.K. movie industry wringing its hands over potential changes to the tax breaks available in Britain, the Bracewells decided to get out and make their movie.</p> <p>The project has secured early buzz in the U.S. and will unspool as one of eight participants in the European Film Promotion's New Faces in European Cinema program during the AFI Fest.</p> <p>Punk also has brought a pair of movie treatments to AFM for financing and a finished 35-minute project titled "The Big Idea." Projects on Punk's slate include the thriller "Cuckoo" and the comedy caper "Billion Dollar Break."</p> <p>The company also is flogging "The Big Idea," a mockumentary about the hair-brained schemes of two European entrepreneurs played by Tarter and Sather.</p>		<b>INTERACTION</b> <a href="#">CONTACT US</a> <a href="#">MESSAGE BOARDS</a> <a href="#">THR EAST</a>	
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<b>Nov. 07, 2005</b> <h2>The Gigolos</h2> <p>By Sheri Linden</p> <p>They live by night in "The Gigolos" -- the well-heeled night of London's West End and its subculture of moneyed older women and the men whose company they buy. Production outfit Punk Cinema's first feature is an effective slice-of-life portrait of characters navigating big-city loneliness.</p> <p>While the episodic structure limits the film's impact, the comic drama offers many well-observed moments. The presence of vets Susannah York, Sian Phillips and Anna Massey could help to entice specialized distributors to the film, which has its world premiere at AFI Fest in Los Angeles.</p> <p>The script, by producer-director Richard Bracewell and lead actors Sacha Tarter and Trevor Sather -- first-timers all -- deftly suggests back story and raises intriguing questions without resorting to pop psychology. In the film's opening assignation, companion-for-hire Sacha (Tarter) persuades Joy (Angela Pleasence), a shy woman with a nervous laugh, to try on a piece of sexy finery in a Bond Street boutique. Although the film never quite matches the heart-catching delicacy of this sequence, it maintains a pleasing unpredictability, the intimate camerawork drawing the viewer into half-revealed lives.</p> <p>As self-assured, charming and solicitous as Sacha is, we never see him pursuing women outside his clients. He shares a flat with Trevor (Sather), his gangly manager and valet, who frets when he fears Sacha has slighted their most important client, the quietly commanding Lady James (Phillips). After Trevor awakens to his own possibilities in the game, a strange, childish rivalry emerges between him and Sacha.</p> <p>Why these men opt for no-strings relationships is fascinating, but Bracewell and company are more interested in the question than the answer. With his alert, gentle gaze, Sacha certainly seems capable of real emotional involvement. When a globetrotter (York) declares London men boring, he gallantly sets out to prove her wrong. And his longing for connection unexpectedly surfaces with a regular client, the sweetly daffy aging socialite Edwina (Massey).</p> <p>The lack of resolution to many of the vignettes lends the story a shapelessness and softens its power, but between the shadows, "The Gigolos" is a provocative glimpse at open secrets.</p>		<b>Quick links:</b> One-click access to topics in this article. <b>People</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Susannah York</li> <li>▶ Sian Phillips</li> <li>▶ Anna Massey</li> <li>▶ Richard Bracewell</li> <li>▶ Sacha Tarter</li> </ul> <b>Companies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Bracewell and company</li> </ul> <b>Concepts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ no-strings relationships</li> <li>▶ big-city loneliness</li> <li>▶ regular client</li> <li>▶ comic drama</li> <li>▶ real emotional involvement</li> </ul> <b>Categories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Musical scores</li> </ul>	
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