



Awakening Film Spotlight

Calling it Quits

5 Questions for Writer/Director Anthony Tarsitano

SEM Question #1

For our readers who have yet to see "Calling it Quits," would you mind relating a brief summary of the idea behind this story?

"Calling it Quits' is a journey of the heart. It is based on my life experience of turning from an external search to an internal search for happiness. The story touches on many

aspects of the journey - relationships, work, money, success and spirituality. The intent of the film is to share what I have learned and do it in humorous, real, and an uplifting way."

The premise for 'Calling it Quits' is a successful man, fueled by his unhappiness, sets out on a quest to regain it. However,

after many attempts fail to provide an answer, he sinks even deeper. It is not until a fateful encounter with a spiritual guide that he turns inward and begins to discover the truth behind his unhappiness.

SEM Question #2

When did you first realize that this concept would make for such a remarkable film project?

My background is in TV advertising. I had always made time to pursue my personal creativity through different media too - painting, sound installations and finally writing/filmmaking. After selling my ad agency a few years ago, I decided it was time to do a feature film. I had a couple of scripts I had written that I thought I was going to shoot. But, since I had been going through a transformation of my own (I had begun on the path of Non Duality a few years earlier), it became clear that this was what I really wanted to write about and share. So, I sat down and the script just flowed out of me - I was writing something that meant



something to me, so it was easy. From there, it was a just matter of getting the right players on board to help make it happen.

SEM Question #3.

Do you hear from people who have seen "Calling it Quits" and have had similar spiritual journeys themselves?

During our screenings around the country, I heard from so many different people about how the film had touched them. I met folks on their own spiritual path, those seeking a path, and those that just enjoyed the film and it's story (I have to admit, the story is very heartwarming). Many, many people also related to my character. He's a babyboomer. He's real. And, they were asking themselves the same questions about their lives. I was often moved by their stories. It has been the best part about making the film. FYI: Since our DVD launch on the web we have also filled orders in 15 countries worldwide - feedback has been great - so the film's story is universal too.



SEM Question #4

My wife was very moved by this film, but she is not into "this stuff" like some of us. Do you find the film translates well for people who are not familiar with the subjects of awakening and/or personal inquiry?

As I mentioned earlier, the film resonates with people who are not familiar with awakening or non duality. My goal in making the

film was not to be too heavy-handed when talking about that aspect of the film. I wanted to be thought-provoking and possibly open the door to those who were not on such a path. As they say, I didn't want to preach to the choir. It was important to me to strike a balance between the real life story that we all can relate to and the portion of the film regarding the spiritual path.

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About the Director

Anthony Tarsitano was born and raised in New York City. He graduated from college in 1976 with a BFA in painting. After college, Anthony pursued his artwork while working as a graphic designer. His career path eventually moved him into advertising, and he started his own NYC agency in 1985, where he turned his entire creative focus. In the late 80's he began writing and directing TV commercials for major clients – that is when he fell in love with the moving image. He also worked as an adjunct professor at the FIT in New York. In his limited spare time, he also began writing and shooting short films. In 2003, Anthony sold his agency and left the ad business entirely. In 2006, in 2007 he wrote his first feature film "Calling it Quits," which was completed in 2008. Since 2008, "Calling it Quits" has screened at numerous film festivals (garnering many awards along the way) and venues across the country.

You'll witness some of that worldly skepticism about the path from the characters in the film. It was important to share that side of it too. Also, I had never seen a film that depicted the journey to Self discovery. I felt it was important to show by example how one can get caught up in the world and what do you do when it no longer works.

SEM Question #5

As a director who has shaped this project through to completion and success, do you have any advice for aspiring spiritual film makers?

My advice to aspiring filmmakers is simple. There are two kinds of film - and they're not just good or bad. There are films made to entertain and make money. Then there are films that are made because the filmmaker needs to make that film, whether it makes money or not. Both are valid and both come with their own set of obstacles. For me, at this stage of my life, it's about making the films I want to make - and if they make money all the better. So, young filmmakers have to ask themselves the age old creative question ... "What kind of artist do you want to be?"

We here at Spiritual Enlightenment Magazine would like to thank Anthony Tarsitano and everyone involved in this project for bringing the subject of Spiritual Awakening into the world of film like never before. We also want to thank Anthony for helping us put this story together.

About the Producer

David Stuart comes to producing with a diverse background in content strategy, media development, writing and marketing.

At Internet pioneer Prodigy Services Company David worked with top companies nationwide developing branded, interactive content. An award-winning manager, David earned recognition creating market strategies and content that told stories, involved audiences and formed communities.

As a producer and production manager David's work has included commercials, music videos, award-winning specials for networks like A&E, indie features such as Welcome To Academia, starring James Legros and Calle Thorn, and Pro Bono work for organizations such as The Muscular Dystrophy Association and Children's Miracle Network.

David also served as producer on the MAC release Washington Heights, with Bobby Canavale, Calling it Quits, with Dennis Boutsikaris and Jessica Hecht, and Screen Door Jesus, winner of the Golden Starfish Award at the Hamptons International Film Festival.



Calling it Quits

A film by
Anthony Tarsitano

*Experience this Award-Winning Film
about a Man's Journey of
Self Discovery*

www.callingitquitsmovie.com



"A sweet film."

-- Martin Scorsese, Academy Award Winner

"Brought me answers I never knew I was looking for."

-- Arlene Epstein, Nassau Herald

"A wonderful character-driven narrative. A must see."

-- Gerber Entertainment

"Powerful. Resonates look after seeing the film."

-- Sedona Red Rock

"This is a wonderful movie!"

-- IrememberJFK.com

"Totally from the heart."

-- Kent Film Festival

"Masterfully acted and sensitively
and lovingly produced."

-- Boomer-Living.com

