

Milan, March 5, 2018

**WORLD'S FIRST DEAF SUPERHERO FILM, 'SIGN GENE'
SET TO BE RELEASED IN THE US ON APRIL 13
FILM WILL BE SCREENED IN THE US AND BE CELEBRATED AS PART
OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASL AT THE LAEMMLE MUSIC
HALL**

\$25,000 Indie superhero film shoot with a Sony 3CCD Created, directed and produced by Emilio Insolera with Stars Emilio Insolera, Ben Bahan, Vava, Danny Gong

Ensemble Cast Includes Carola Insolera, Humberto Insolera, Susan Mather, Jesse Thomas.

'Sign Gene' the first superhero film featuring deaf mutants with supernatural powers through the use of sign language will be screened in US theaters on **Friday, April 13th**. The news comes on the heels of the World Premiere held in Milan, Italy on September 8th and release of the film in Italian theaters by the UCI Cinemas, the largest share of the Italian theater market, owned by AMC Entertainment on September 14th.

'Sign Gene' written, produced, directed and starring Emilio Insolera, deaf actor with a long list of authentic deaf actors, centers on a deaf agent (Emilio Insolera) from New York City carrier of a powerful genetic mutation that enables him to create supernatural powers through the use of sign language, sent to Japan with his colleague (Danny Gong) to investigate the various intriguing crimes committed by Japanese deaf mutants. The villains, like the agents, can create superhuman powers.

The film was shot between Japan, USA and Italy, has a James Bond plot with a touch of Grindhouse and makes several references to deaf culture and history and sign language linguistics.

Synopsis

The protagonist is a secret agent, Tom Clerc, deaf, comes from a multi-generational Deaf family and is descendant of Laurent Clerc 'the Father of the Deaf in America' that brought the sign language to the States two centuries ago. Tom is carrier of SGx29 a powerful Sign Gene mutation but he lost a significant portion of his powers during a fierce fight some years back against his main villain, his own deaf brother Jux Clerc the leader of 1.8.8.0, an evil organization dedicated to exterminating Sign Gene mutants.

Hugh Denison, the head of the Q.I.A. (QuinPar Intelligence Agency), an agency affiliated to The Pentagon composed of hand-selected agents with Sign Gene mutation, sends Tom Clerc and his colleague Ken Wong from New York City to Osaka to investigate various intriguing crimes scene. They end up in a fight with a Japanese gang led by Tatsumi Fuwa and learn that they can win the game only by playing it the Japanese way. Tom Clerc also learns that his powers are not lost forever.

Biography

The creator and actor Emilio Insolera, is a well known activist, profoundly deaf since birth, polyglot, lived in various continents, each for more than a lustrum, from North and South America, Europe and Asia, Fulbright-Wirth scholar, with a bachelor degree in film and linguistics from Gallaudet University and a master in Science of Communication with summa cum laude from University of Rome La Sapienza. Insolera is also one of the authors of the first Italian Sign Language multimedia dictionary.

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Key points about the film:

- *it is a \$25k film shot with a Sony 3CCD*
- *it was shot between US, Japan and Italy*
- *six are the languages spoken in the film (English, Japanese, Italian, ASL, JSL, LIS)*
- *it maintains its authenticity by hiring deaf actors (deaf talents) instead of deaf fakers like multimillion dollar films from 'You'd be surprised' (1926) to 'Wonderstruck' (2017)*
- *it is edited with a touché of Grindhouse (vintage effects) by Tarantino and Rodriguez*
- *it makes several references to deaf culture, deaf history and sign language linguistics unlike many other films. Please check blog "Deconstructing Sign*

Gene"

- *it opens the first generation deaf superheroes: there are no deaf superheroes until now. It is in other words, a Black Panther, but from the deaf core's perspective.*
- *The heroes' superpowers are based on their own potentials, particularly those linguistically visual unlikely some existing new-born deaf superheroes on comics. There is one for example, whose power was "being able to hear" the sound thanks to a sophisticated hearing aid (unconscious message is that being "deaf" remains a problem, a weakness, typical of the hearing perspective)*
- *It acts as a introductory film with the purpose to create a synergy of collaboration with one of the Big Six majors from Warner Bros to Paramount Pictures.*
- *written, directed and produced by profoundly deaf, native signer, Emilio Insolera*
- *Several deaf actors in the film are well known activists o the deaf community, to name a few: Ben Bahan (chair of Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University), Humberto Insolera (Vice-president of the European Union of the Deaf), Carola Insolera (Supermodel).*