

Alex Bogomolov, Wai Sun Cheng

Production company(ies)

DragonBear Pictures

Short biography of producer(s)

Alex Bogomolov is a multifaceted film producer and actor with a solid foundation in business and finance. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Finance, he initially demonstrated his entrepreneurial skills by successfully launching and growing a technology startup, leading it to become a flourishing enterprise with over 250 employees. This experience honed his strategic and operational expertise, which he later applied to the film industry. In 2015, Alex moved to Canada to pursue a career in film, seamlessly merging his business acumen with his artistic passions. He founded a production company, applying his leadership and financial knowledge to the world of filmmaking. Under his guidance, the company has produced award-nominated films, commercials, and music videos, with several TV and theatrical projects in the pipeline.

Wai Sun Cheng is an Asian Canadian filmmaker. His interest in film and motion picture work began at the age of 11. Before he became a producer, Wai worked in the film industry as a VFX artist on major feature films and TV productions such as Blade Runner 2049, Fast and Furious, Fantastic Beast and where to find them, Miss Peregrine's home for Peculiar Children, Once Upon a Time, etc. With a strong background in VFX, Wai has a distinct style in his work and provides additional vfx knowledge in the process. Wai has worked on numerous distributed and award-winning projects in the form of narrative feature, shorts, commercials and music videos. His work has been selected by several festivals around the world such as TIFF, Sundance Asia, Cleveland International Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, Leos, Los Angeles film festival, Seattle international film festival, Canadian Cinematographer and etc. Through out the years Wai's work has also garnered several collaborations with many well known actors such as Bruce Willis, Timothy Murthy, Neal McDonough, Casper Van Dien, Sean Patrick Flanery, Nathalie Boltt, Jonathan Lipnicki and etc.

Filmography of applicant(s) - include title and year and/or a link to your IMDb page

With love and a Major Organ (2023) - Official SXSW Selection - Canadian Film Fest - Best Feature Film - Leo's Best Motion Picture nomination - Leo's Best Direction Nomination - Leo's Best wardrobe Nomination - Leo's Best Sound Nomination

Hairy Beast (2023) - Official Cleveland International Film Festival Selection - Official Chicago International Children's Film Festival Selection

Little Manila (2022) - Official Vancouver Asian Film Festival Selection

Because you are Dead to Me (2021)

Alive (2019) - VSFF Best Cinematography - VSFF Best first time director nomination - New York International Film Award Best Short film - San Francisco arthouse Festival Best screenplay

Srikandi (2019) - Official TIFF Selection - Official Sundance Asia Selection - Official Vancouver International Film Festival Selection

Gong Ju (2017) - Leo's Best Cinematography nomination IMDb links

Alex -

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10021599/?ref=nm_sr_srg_0_tt_0_nm_5_q_alex%2520bogomolov#credits - <https://pro.imdb.com/name/nm10021599/credits>

Wai -

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7744791/?ref=nm_sr_srg_0_tt_0_nm_8_q_wai%2520sun%2520#knownFor - <https://pro.imdb.com/name/nm7744791/credits>

Title of qualifying feature film

Ruthless Bastards

Expected release date in 2024:

August 2024

Through which distribution model is your qualifying film expected to be released:

Streaming service

Name of theatrical distributor, film festival or streaming service releasing or exhibiting qualifying film:

Dark Star Pictures, APL Films

Film synopsis

Logline: Former partners in crime reunite for a final mission against a ruthless crime boss in a partnership that could be the death of them.

Synopsis: Former partners in crime, Nico (Casper Van Dien) and Rick (Sean Patrick Flanery), were once unstoppable Fixers and Hitmen working for the formidable Benjamin

Rothstein. However, their partnership was shattered when Nico had an affair with Rick's fiancée, Rachel. Years later, a new crime lord, Sunny Gill (Parmish Verma), rises to dominate the criminal underworld, rekindling Benjamin's thirst for revenge. Sunny's dealings with the notorious Sergeev brothers, top Russian gangsters, present Benjamin with an opportunity he can't resist.

Reluctantly, Benjamin persuades Nico and Rick to reunite for one last mission. Despite their lingering animosity, the promise of a \$5 million incentive convinces them to set aside their differences. Rick also harbors a personal vendetta against Sunny, further fueling his resolve. As they delve deeper into Sunny's operations, old resentments resurface, putting their already fragile partnership to the test.

The plot thickens when Nico and Rick uncover that a banker named Treyton Jones is being coerced into aiding Sunny and the Evgeny brothers. Treyton's daughter, Emma, has been kidnapped, forcing him to facilitate the transfer of large sums of money to the Middle East.

Despite their personal conflicts, Nico and Rick prove time and again that their skills and competence are unparalleled. Yet, they must keep their tempers in check and their focus sharp if they hope to complete their mission—assuming they don't kill each other first.

"Ruthless Bastards" is a thrilling tale of betrayal, vengeance, and redemption, where old enemies must become allies to survive a world of relentless crime and moral ambiguity.

The inspiration: why was this an important film to make?

"Ruthless Bastards" was born from a desire to explore the complexities of human relationships and themes of betrayal, redemption, and moral ambiguity. This film delves into the fractured bond between Nico and Rick, former partners torn apart by betrayal, highlighting the resilience of the human spirit and the possibility of redemption even for those with the darkest pasts.

The film speaks to the current socio-economic landscape, where crime and corruption infiltrate legitimate sectors like banking and finance. The subplot of a banker forced into criminal activities to save his daughter underscores the pervasive influence of criminal networks, making the story resonate with modern audiences.

One of the unique aspects of "Ruthless Bastards" is its diverse cast and cultural dynamics. The story features a Russians teaming up with an Indian gang against Nico and Rick, who collaborate with representatives from the Chinese Triads. This diversity not only adds depth to the narrative but also represents the multicultural fabric of Canada, showcasing the country's inclusive and varied society.

Producing "Ruthless Bastards" allowed us to merge high-stakes action with deep, character-driven drama. It was important to create a film that not only entertains but also provokes thought and discussion about justice and human nature.

The making-of: how did this film come together? What were the highlights/challenges of producing this film?

"Ruthless Bastards" was inspired by classic crime dramas and buddy movies like "Lethal Weapon." We aimed to blend the intense action and deep character dynamics of these genres with a contemporary twist that reflects modern socio-economic issues and diverse cultural dynamics.

One of the major challenges was the SAG strike. Despite this, we managed to secure a waiver, which allowed us to attach Sean Patrick Flanery, Parmish Verma, Theresa Lee, Sydney Scotia and Casper Van Dien and start filming. We were incredibly fortunate to have the best team available during the strike, including an exceptional stunt team. Their dedication and willingness to work on a small indie project, even amidst industry disruptions, were truly remarkable.

Another major challenge was financing, as action movies require significant investment in stunts and special effects. The film's cast-heavy nature also added to the budget constraints. However, the team's resourcefulness and commitment helped us navigate these financial challenges and keep the production on track.

To manage costs, we wrote the script around the locations and assets we had access to, avoiding extra logistic and rental expenses. Securing financing through Canadian film tax credits was another critical step. Detailed scheduling was required to accommodate our high-profile cast.

Filming "Ruthless Bastards" was exhilarating, featuring dynamic on-screen chemistry and expertly choreographed, thrilling action sequences. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The journey of making "Ruthless Bastards" was both challenging and immensely rewarding. Overcoming financial constraints and navigating the SAG strike with a committed team underscored our resilience and passion for filmmaking. The trailer's positive reactions validate the hard work and creativity poured into this project. "Ruthless Bastards" stands as a testament to our dedication to storytelling and the collaborative spirit of our team.

National pride: describe what uniquely defines you as a Canadian producer.

As Canadian producers, we are defined by our commitment to showcasing our nation's diverse cultural mosaic. Films like "Ruthless Bastards" reflect Canada's multicultural heritage and inclusive values.

Our approach to filmmaking leverages Canada's reputation for innovation and creativity. Utilizing national resources like film tax credits, we produce high-quality, globally competitive films.

Furthermore, our backgrounds and experiences uniquely position us to bring a rich, multifaceted perspective to our projects. Alex's solid foundation in business and finance, combined with Wai's extensive experience in VFX and visual storytelling, allows us to approach filmmaking with a blend of strategic vision and artistic innovation.

We are also committed to nurturing and supporting local talent. By providing opportunities for emerging filmmakers and fostering a supportive environment, we contribute to the growth and dynamism of the Canadian film industry.

How will this film further your career as a producer?

The film showcases our ability to handle complex narratives and large-scale productions with well-known talents, proving our versatility and skill in creating high-quality, engaging content.

Adding a high-profile, action-packed film to our portfolio strengthens our reputation and credibility within the industry, making us more attractive to investors, financiers, and the top talent agencies.

Successfully producing "Ruthless Bastards" helps us build valuable connections with distributors and streaming platforms, ensuring wider distribution and increased visibility for our future projects.

In summary, "Ruthless Bastards" is a pivotal project that showcases our strengths, expands our professional network, and enhances our marketability, paving the way for future successes and opportunities.

What is your next step as a Canadian independent producer?

We collaborate with emerging Canadian writers and directors to build a robust library of projects. We plan to leverage our growing network of industry connections, including distributors and streaming platforms, to ensure these projects reach a wide audience. Our goal is to continue producing high-quality, impactful Canadian films that resonate globally.