



# LOCAL FILMMAKER WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

## Matthew Luppino Receives Accolades For Work On Short Films

STORY BY KIM WILLIS / PHOTOGRAPHY BY JULIANNA BONNETT AND KURLIS MATI

AT ONLY 22 YEARS OF AGE, Matthew Luppino, has earned awards and accolades for his work on short films. To date his films have won nine international awards.

"Film-making is my passion," says Luppino. "I still can't believe that all of this has happened so quickly for me."

Luppino grew up in Windsor and graduated from Ste. Anne Catholic High School. His interest in film developed at an early age. He is self-taught, learning on his own before attending the Toronto Film School. After saving enough money to buy a Sony camcorder, Luppino shot his first film, "Beyond Fear," locally in the summer before he started grade 10.

It was also during high school in 2011 when Luppino founded Luppo Studios Productions Inc.

"It started out as a joke and is now my biggest asset to my portfolio. This website now showcases my large collection of projects I have created with my company."

It was at the Toronto Film School where Luppino wrote and produced, "Blink of an Eye." It is based on a true-story of a high-school classmate, Mikaela Scurto, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. During that period he had the opportunity to go to Los Angeles to work on a film, "Red Spring." One day on the set he received a call that

"Blink of an Eye" has gotten into the Teneculo Film Festival in the Student Short category. The film ended up competing in the Best Romance Short category and won.

"It was really wild. I was only 19 and the film went viral and won at another film festival and global distribution was offered."

After 18 months living in Toronto, Luppino moved back to Windsor. His five-year plan was to purchase film-making equipment which would allow him the freedom to create his own projects and continue to work on his writing.

"Never did I think I would have nine international awards at this stage of my career."

For Luppino the best films stem from a good story that connects with the audience. He specializes in the Drama and Romance genres, but also likes to dabble into many projects including songwriting, rapping, poetry, and writing novels.

"I am a writer at heart, I having been writing for as long as I can remember. I really strive to showcase emotion through the art of film."

He comes up with a lot of his ideas because he is a lucid dreamer.

"I actually get my best ideas when I am asleep," said Luppino. "I have a dream journal and I write down all my dreams."



If I can't think of an ending (for a film) or where the film is going, I go to sleep and figure it out in my sleep."

"True Colours" is Luppino's latest film. It is a true-story following Nathan and Bailey as they discover true love. With the help of his dream journal, Nathan reveals how to show his true colours. The film was shot over three days in Windsor, Tecumseh and Kingsville with a budget of \$300. It was released on September 1, 2017.

"The film follows specific moments in my past with a girl that I am madly in love with. I used the concept of when you say 'I see your true colours' in a fight and turned that message into a positive saying, 'I will show you my true colours. It is dedicated to a girl who has my heart.'"

Fortunately there is a lot of support for the film industry in Windsor-Essex. Actors and others have donated their time and talents to Luppino's films.

Luppino says he worked hard on this film and he's very proud of it. "Now that I keep winning more awards and as they keep piling up," says Luppino, "I feel little bit more anxious every time I enter a film festival only because it intensifies every time I enter, I don't know if I'm going to win or not." Luppino says he puts a lot of pressure on himself to win awards. As he continues to work on his writing and producing, Luppino is also focusing on promotion of his films and his studio. In many ways there has never been a greater time to be a filmmaker. The internet and mediums like YouTube and Netflix have provided new platforms to make films available. In addition, the cost of equipment has dropped. Individuals like Luppino are able to establish their own company and make films about stories they are passionate about.

"It comes down to people seeing your work. You don't need all the special effects that cost thousands of dollars. It forces you to be creative."

As part of his efforts to get more people to see his films, Luppino's goal is to be living in Los Angeles within five years.

"It can be challenging being in Windsor a long way from the heart of the film industry. I have chosen the independent route which means that I have to get my foot in the door in different ways. However, it also means that I have to work other jobs to pursue my passion. I believe that if I keep perfecting my craft it will work out for me."

For more information about Matthew, his films and Luppino Studios visit his website at [luppinstudios.weebly.com](http://luppinstudios.weebly.com).

WLM

## QUALITY • RELIABILITY • SERVICE



- Tear Offs & Repairs • Built Up Roof Systems
- Metal Roof Coating • TPO & PVC Roof Systems
- Maintenance • Commercial Siding • Modified Roofs
- Roof System Analysis • Single Ply Rubber Systems

## COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE



ROOFING SOLUTIONS



p. 519-256-8474 • e. [quality@quinnsolutions.ca](mailto:quality@quinnsolutions.ca) • [www.quinnsolutions.ca](http://www.quinnsolutions.ca)

for your  
*Valentine*

ocean bottom soap company  
Wine & Chocolate  
17g of chocolate  
Naturally & Chemically Free  
Handmade in Canada

1614 Lesperance Rd., Tecumseh  
226.676.0228  
[oceanbottomsoap.com](http://oceanbottomsoap.com)

Let the  
**Sun Shine**  
in Your Life

**SEATON**  
SEATON SUNROOMS

4600 Rhodes Drive  
Windsor ON

519-944-6006 [www.seatonsunrooms.com](http://www.seatonsunrooms.com)