

“THANK YOU ALL”

I will always remember *Atlantis Down* like a milestone in my professional and personal life. The biggest achievement so far and yet an incredible experience that saw me growing into a different person.

The challenge was enormous: people kept repeating me it was another impossible dream, but I believed I could pull this off, I was determined to succeed and when Ethan Marten joined me I knew we were bound to win this. The quest for money last over three months, 97 days sleeping on the ground on couches, in garages, turning the back of a Mexican restaurant into an office, designing their fliers in exchange for food to survive.

I never looked back: failure was not an option.

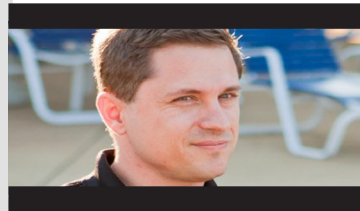
Only 11 months went by from the day I had my crazy idea of shooting this film and the day we wrapped it and today looking back, it seems and feels like I was blessed by a miracle, a miracle I am sure my relatives in Haven must have made for me.

This entire adventure was a miracle: we shot a 90-minute sci-fi film with 17 minutes of CGI (special effects) with



a ridiculous budget in only 13 days, managing a crew of 50-60 people (depending on the days), going under-budget and finishing one day earlier. We had 6 sets being built (one was the space shuttle cockpit!) and 8 locations to move to.

Shooting the entire film in 13 days forced me to shoot 6.5 pages a day for the first five days, 12 pages on the sixth (when Michael Rooker joined the cast) and 8.5 pages per day the following week. I still don't know how I managed to keep that rhythm, especially considering I'm not on drugs! We had



people on set speaking three different languages and yet... we did it.

I strengthened our relationship with those friends who helped me for free and we made a few new precious friends here in Virginia.

I fired and got rid of some

people along the way and I don't regret it because they totally deserved it and because this also is part of a learning process.

To my brave investors who helped us along the way and who believed in a crazy dream, I say “thank you” from the bottom of my heart for taking this leap of faith, for your unconditioned trust.

To my crew and cast members who had to cope with me for 13 very long days I want to say “Thank you for helping me bringing to life the characters of this screenplay and for being so patient in such extreme conditions. I hope you'll have a good memory of this experience”.

To those whom I will not work anymore with, who let me down big time in one or more occasions, who bad-mouthed me, backstabbed me and spread venom on set, I want to say “Thank YOU! Thank you very much for everything you did because you became another challenge to win and a way to grow.”

And last but not least, a huge, enormous, gigantic “thank you” to my family who has always been behind me and without whom I would be nowhere.

This film is dedicated to you.

MAX BARTOLI
(Director/Writer/Producer)