

THE MAGNETIC DETECTIVE

A film by Bryan Dahlberg.

Because life isn't all black and white.

Synopsis

A solitary and unnamed private detective is minding his own business on the "mean streets" of a big city in the 1940s. A mysterious and inevitably sexy woman -- or is she many women? or all women? -- enlists his help for an unspecified mission. It involves him in a nocturnal adventure with her, a fast car, lots of loot, a bottle of cheap scotch, and far too many people trying to rub him out, knock him off, and punch his lights out.

The detective is the narrator, a man we never see, whose means of telling the story is a collection of magnetic words sticking to metal objects in the scenes. The impressionistic story line can be interpreted in different ways, but one thing is obvious: the detective tells the story with a sense of irony so strong that magnets could stick to it.

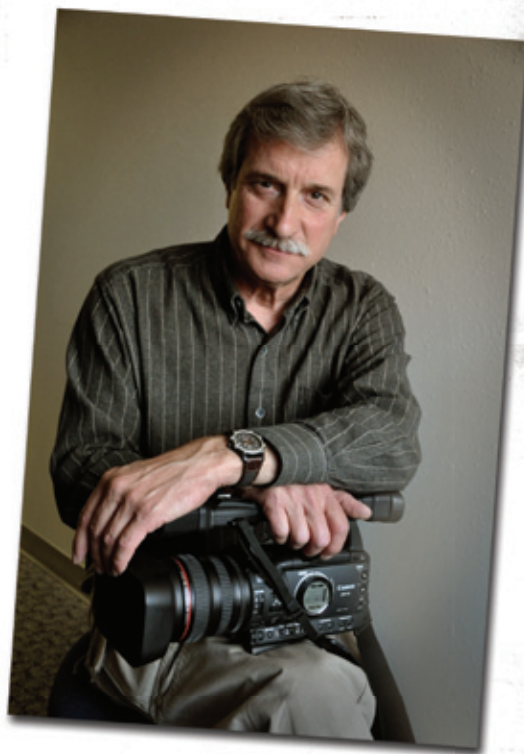


Does he finally get the girl?
Does he solve the mystery?
It's not all black-and-white.
And neither is the movie.

Background

Filmmaker Bryan Dahlberg has had a long love affair with film noir. He even respects it the next morning. This film came about through a serendipitous combination of that affection and two random events.

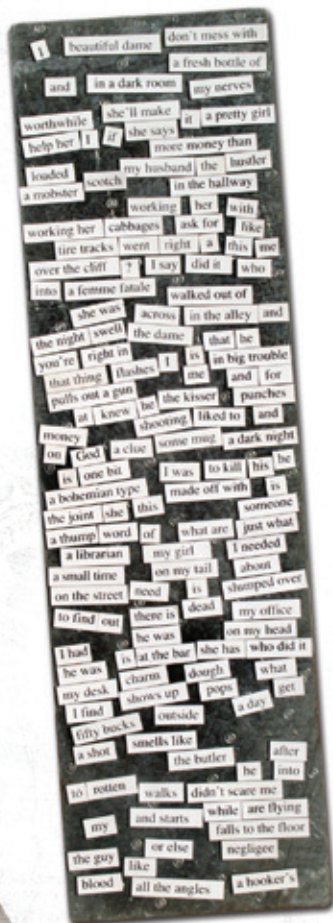
Standing in the checkout line of a bookstore, he noticed a small box labeled "Magnetic Poetry Kit, Detective Novel Edition" and bought it on impulse without having any clear intention in mind. And a few minutes later, while walking back to his truck, he passed a metal post with a single word painted on it. The entire project suddenly took shape in his mind. The scene containing that post was the first one shot for the film, and it's the last scene in the final edited production.



Except for the shots containing people, the photography was done almost entirely spontaneously. For more than a year, Dahlberg carried the words of his Magnetic Poetry Kit on a sheet of galvanized steel stashed behind the driver's seat of his truck. With it he always carried at least one camera, either a Canon XL2 or a pocket-sized -- and appropriately pistol-shaped -- Sanyo HD1010. He spent a lot of time detouring through industrial areas and urban alleys at twilight, looking for iron and steel artifacts for his magnetic words.

Profile

Bryan Dahlberg holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Art. His first job after college was working in a small film studio near Chicago. There he assisted in several documentary and instructional productions for the Chicago Horticultural Society. He is certain that a faded 16mm print of his epic "How to Mulch" is still languishing somewhere in a dusty warehouse, awaiting discovery as a cult classic.



These days he does videography and photography for the US government, as well as graphic design and photo work for commercial clients. He also builds working cameras out of decorative hardwoods for sale on his website: www.photonbox.com



Crew

Director, Writer, Photographer, Editor	Bryan Dahlberg
Props	Doug & Judy Gallob
	Alyce Chase
Additional photography	Craig Dahlberg
Kitchen light gaffer	Rex Welch
Negligee wrangler	Katherine Kouris
Music	Yuri Sazonoff
	Yanis Sousa
	Alexander Khaskin



Cast

Femme fatale	Alyce Chase
Femme fatale	Alexi Paulina
Femme fatale	Michele McGinley
Stunt driver	Eric Seifert
Detective's hands typing	Bryan Dahlberg
Detective's left hand at another time	Alyce Chase
Detective's left hand, later	Bryan Dahlberg
Detective's right hand	Alyce Chase
Detective's right foot	Bryan Dahlberg
Unknown security guard	as himself
Charlotte	the spider