

Act 4 Entertainment

Why American Psycho?

American Psycho is set in the Wall Street of the '80s, when the best and brightest flocked to financial firms and law firms in New York and London, worked exceptionally hard and lived a fast-paced life consumed by fashion, food and style.

The '80s even then were considered to be a period of excess. It was the start of a great schism between the rich and everyone else, driven to a large degree by the politics of the time and weakening public infrastructure—in education, transportation and security. Patrick Bateman himself is a symbol, an icon of the era, a character where style has eroded any semblance of substance, an example of the result of the extreme—a man who is longing to connect or feel anything real, so fundamentally lost he loses his mind searching for something more.

So why did we want to make *American Psycho*?

On a personal level, aside from being a brilliant satirical work, the themes of *American Psycho* encapsulate why we founded Act 4 Entertainment. We want to make a difference, and help spur social change. Based in Los Angeles, we are focused on creating content that is socially conscious and politically relevant. Our projects—whether they are feature films, documentaries or stage shows—share the fundamental value that enhanced understanding through well-crafted stories leads to inspiration for action. We act for economic



injustice and public infrastructure; we act for political reform and good government; we act for civil liberties and human rights in the United States and internationally.

We think that *American Psycho*, originally written in 1991, is more relevant than ever today. As Bret Easton Ellis said, “You only need to look at how Patrick Bateman’s obsession with food has become an entire industry of its own over the last twenty years.” The global economy is still recovering from the most severe recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s and our world is again locked in a moral debate about fairness, opportunity and equal rights.

Today we find ourselves in far greater extremes. The United Kingdom is one of the most unequal among the advanced industrial economies; the United States is the most unequal. The decreasing opportunity and mobility in both began over 30 years ago—the setting of *American Psycho*—and coincided with tax decreases and easing of financial regulations. Disparity has continued to escalate as we have underinvested in our infrastructure—education,



health care and social safety nets. Rising inequality is further compounded as it corrodes the political system and the democratic process. This inequality not only had a significant impact on critical factors which contribute to social mobility, but those few who gained in this environment are further disconnected from common experience.

If you’d like to know more about our mission and what we do, please visit our website or use the QR code below.

David Johnson, Act 4 Entertainment
act4entertainment.com



Our Partner in Action

We have partnered with the Opportunity Agenda (opportunityagenda.org) on *American Psycho*.

The Opportunity Agenda is grounded on many of the inherent issues raised by *American Psycho*, and works to expand its message of opportunity—equal treatment, economic security and mobility, and voice in the democratic process—to broad audiences through outreach to mass media and social media.