

PRESS RELEASE

July 7, 2005. Award-winning writer/director Matthew Arnold has plans to produce and direct a Hollywood feature film in Ibiza, Spain later this year. The project, entitled "Killing Kowalski," involves big name movie stars from both the United States and Europe. The film is a comedy about an awkward, phobic introvert whose playboy brother tricks him into thinking he's dying in order to break him out of his safe, sterile life. Arnold is a recent graduate of USC's prestigious School of Cinema-Television, where directors like George Lucas, Francis Ford Coppola, Ron Howard, and Robert Zemeckis first honed their filmmaking skills. Arnold's graduate film, "Resurrection Mary," starred Wilford Brimley in the lead role and went on to win awards and attract agents from the world's largest talent agencies. After signing with United Talent Agency in Beverly Hills, Arnold received his first writing assignment, adapting the comic book, "The Marquis" for Circle Of Confusion and Sony Pictures. He now has two other projects in development at other Hollywood production companies. "Killing Kowalski" will be Arnold's feature directorial debut. Says Arnold, "After 'Resurrection Mary' came out, I had a lot of offers to direct low budget or really lousy movies. I knew that I would have to write my own script if I was to direct anything that could be a hit." Arnold pursued his vision and wrote "Killing Kowalski" over the last year. Instead of taking the project to his agents, Arnold developed another plan. "Agents and managers want to change a project to appeal to a certain buyer, or to follow the trend of what is currently selling," he says, "but I believe you have to be ahead of the trend to be successful, or define a new one. This is how other filmmakers, like Quentin Tarantino, became wildly successful." Arnold's first job, incidentally, was working for Tarantino on the film, "Jackie Brown," where the veteran filmmaker offered Arnold advice and visits to his home to watch old movies on a 35mm projector. Learning from his mentor, Arnold decided to get "Killing Kowalski" independently funded and produced, outside the studio system in which he was working. He is currently meeting with investors from all over the world and collaborating with Spanish production companies Palma Pictures, and 5 Puntos, a production company on the island of Ibiza where the film will be primarily shot. "The guys at 5 Puntos have been invaluable in helping me navigate the necessary local channels to make this film possible," Arnold said. Budgeted at 7.7 Million Dollars (USD), the project promises to be one of the biggest budget films ever shot in Ibiza. And because of the filmmaker's love of this locale, the film is written in a way that showcases the many assets of the culture and scenery of the island. Arnold adds, "When I first came to Ibiza in 2002, I fell in love with the place. I came back to the US changed in some way, spiritually altered. Naturally I want to communicate this feeling in the movie." The film shows Ibiza in a very positive light, even including a comedic scene where the main character walks through Ibiza's history and discusses the origin of the island's name. Arnold's plan now is to first acquire the financing from his investors and secure the stars with whom he has strong connections or friendships in Hollywood. Arnold's fully independent approach has worked for many first-time directors who threw off the studio constraints to make a film their way. When asked why he chose the independent financing route, Arnold responds, "Sometimes there is a project that you just know is very special and you want to save it for yourself and control the creative elements. 'Killing Kowalski' is that picture for me. It's simply too good."