

## Just One Time: Sensitive and Honest

Review By Mary Damiano

*Just One Time* is a charming romantic comedy that asks this question: How far would you go to please the one you love?

Lane Janger and Joelle Carter star as Anthony and Amy, an engaged couple whose wedding is just around the corner. They are devoted to each other, but one thing nags at Anthony. His ultimate fantasy is to see Amy in bed with another woman. Amy does not want to fulfill this fantasy. Anthony believes that if Amy loved him she would do it; Amy believes that if Anthony loved her, he wouldn't force the issue. Determined to teach Anthony a lesson, Amy enlists their gay neighbor Victor, who has a crush on Anthony. After telling Anthony that she's ready to go through with the fantasy, and getting him to say he'd do the same for her, she presents him with Victor, and tells Anthony that as soon as he lives up to his end of the bargain, she will too.

This agreement sets in motion many different relationships and situations, in which the characters gain greater

understanding of each other. There are some hilarious scenes, including a trip to a gay bar by Anthony, Victor, and Anthony's firefighter buddies, and another with Amy browsing in a gay bookstore.

Janger wrote, directed, produced and stars in *Just One Time*. He has put together a delightful movie, light enough to be thoroughly entertaining but with enough substance to pose some interesting questions.

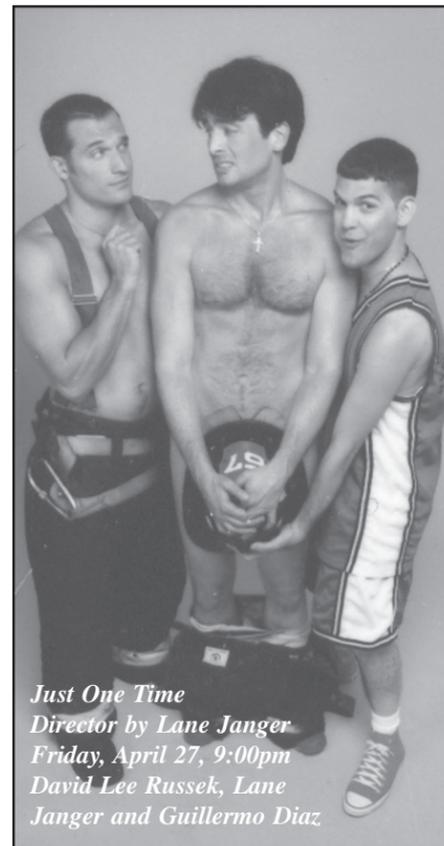
*Just One Time* began as a short, which Janger expanded into this full-length feature. The short was featured in *Boys Life 3*. If you've seen the short, don't assume you've seen the feature. Whereas the short was sort of a great joke with a punch line, the feature is a fully realized movie with fleshed out characters and situations.

One of the strengths of *Just One Time* is its excellent cast. Janger does a great job showing Anthony's dilemma, trying to live up to his end of the deal to get what he wants. Joelle Carter is wonderful as Amy, a lawyer torn between being true to herself and

making her fiancé happy. The luscious Jennifer Esposito plays Michelle, the lesbian furniture refinisher down the street, whom Amy turns to with thoughts of fulfilling Anthony's fantasy. And then there's the remarkable Guillermo Diaz, as Victor. At first, Victor seems a little stereotypical, a flamer who knows that his sneakers are not pink, but fuchsia. But as the film goes on, Victor emerges as a multifaceted person, sweet and disarming, sensitive and honest. It is to Diaz's credit that he can overcome such an early verdict of his character and create a real person.

*Just One Time* is so much fun, you'll probably want to see it more than just one time.

*Just One Time* will make its South Florida premiere at the Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Friday, April 27 at 9 pm. Lane Janger and Guillermo Diaz will attend the screening. Tickets for the screening only are \$10; tickets for the screening plus a midnight party at Level are \$25.



*Just One Time*  
Director by Lane Janger  
Friday, April 27, 9:00pm  
David Lee Russek, Lane Janger and Guillermo Diaz

## Life as a Fast 'Lane'

Interview By Mary Damiano

Lane Janger knows that if you want to get something done, do it yourself. That's probably why the talented young filmmaker did practically everything but cater his latest movie, *Just One Time*, wearing the hats of star, director, producer and writer.

*Just One Time* was originally conceived as a short that was shown at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival, and was included in the recent collection, *Boys Life 3*. Janger was encouraged to expand the short into a feature, and the current incarnation of *Just One Time* was born. The feature film played at the Toronto Film Festival in late 1999 and has been making the film festival circuit ever since.

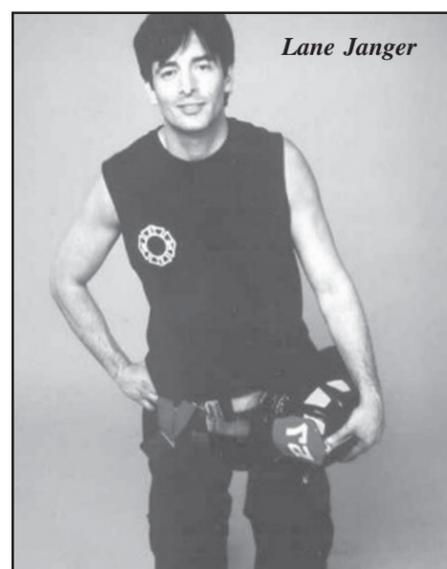
Growing up, Janger wanted to be an actor. His father, who had bad experiences as an actor, discouraged this interest, so Janger came to acting later than he might have. He did undergraduate work at UC Santa Barbara, then attended NYU for graduate school. While at NYU, Janger started a music video company with a partner, which became his start in the business. He never intended to be a producer, but became one out of necessity, as he had a movie that he wanted to direct and get it made. His heart, though, truly lies in the creative process of filmmaking.

"I love writing, but I have to be in the mood for it," Janger says. "Directing I always enjoy, and acting I really enjoy. I don't know if I'd want to do everything together again. I hate producing. I never want to do that again. I never wanted to produce in the first place but I really wanted to get a film made that I was directing."

*Just One Time* is Janger's fourth foray into producing. He also produced the features *I Like It Like That*, *Fool's Gold*, and *I Think I Do*. The latter featured Guillermo Diaz, who plays to part Victor in *Just One Time*. Janger wrote the film with Diaz in mind. He first saw the actor in *Party Girl* and knew he had to work with him. "I've told Guillermo I never want to make a film without him."

While gay characters and gay themes are very hot right now, Janger believes that the most successful examples are not strictly gay films or shows, but mainstream works that have gay characters in them. "I think whenever anything becomes a gay film it's not as hot, but when there are gay characters, it is hot. It's got to appeal to middle America." *Just One Time* is not strictly a "gay film," but still did not get a theatrical distribution deal, but is slated for video release this summer.

Janger is a big fan of *The Sopranos* his



Lane Janger

own taste in film runs the gamut from *Goodfellas* to *Babe*. He admits that while he'd like to keep his films on the personal level that independents allow, he'd also like to be part of a much larger production. "I'm completely sick of independent film," Janger says, laughing. "I've been on four projects where I've been there from start to finish and it's so hard."

Janger continued, "You spend three years, and then a lot of people don't see it. It doesn't get out to the world the way you want it to. At this point I'd much rather someone come to me with a project and say, 'Okay, make this with a studio.' I still want to do things that are a little offbeat, and interesting, but I'd like to not have to beg, borrow and steal when I make a movie now. I feel like I'm too old for that."

His favorite part of making movies is the actors. "I like working with the actors. I love when the film comes together, when it's finished. I do really enjoy my time with the actors, rehearsing and shooting scenes."

Even when he takes a break, Janger manages to stay very busy. He's spending a lot of time at home right now with his six-month-old twins. This June he completes an intensive two-year acting course, and he is in the process of selling a script for a family film.

Janger and Diaz will be in the audience Friday, April 27, when *Just One Time* makes it's South Florida premiere at the Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Janger enjoys watching the movie with an audience. "It's pretty great. I've seen it with a lot of warm, enthusiastic audiences. It's pretty satisfying. All the things, you wonder if they'll actually play or not, and they do, and then some things that you don't expect to be funny, people really enjoy. It's fun to watch with a festival audience. They're so appreciative."

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