

2012 ECA AWARDS



PETE VILLANI
Carjack



Camera operator Pete Villani studied at Chapman University, where his plan to become a director was altered by his interest in camera and lighting. His cinematography professor at Chapman, Jurg Walthers, taught him to think organically, through lens choice and lighting. Eventually he earned his Master's degree at the American Film Institute under the teachings of Bill Dill, ASC. During his last year at AFI, Pete interned for Allen Daviau, ASC.

Carjack is about a car thief who gets more than he bargained for. The film grew out of discussions Villani had with his frequent collaborator, commercial director Jeremiah Jones. "We discussed shooting digitally, but after scouting and considering all the day exterior work, we chose film [3-perf Super 35 mm at 1:85]," Villani recalls. "I had to shoot fast, and because of all the camera movement and action, I didn't want to worry about things like rolling shutter [shooting digitally]."

"We had short November daylight hours and a child actor whose time was limited. For practical purposes, shooting film allowed me to move quickly and not worry about clipping due to a hot sky or a reflection off a car window."

The goal was a look that felt gritty without being grainy. Villani shot 500 ASA 5218 and 5219 to lengthen his days, and to limit grain, he researched shooting Super 1:85.

Villani's recent credits include shooting some additional footage for the film *The Babymakers*, directed by Jay Chandrasekhar, a Fox digital short he shot, and a Web series, directed by Martha Coolidge, for which he operated.