

# COYOTE





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## Synopsis

J and Steve receive a call that their friend has been deported back to Mexico. While Steve tries to figure out how to get money down to him so he can pay a coyote to bring him back, J presents another option, "Save the money. Let's go get him ourselves."

With their friend Pablo packed in a handmade wooden compartment hidden in the back, Steve and J's pickup truck approaches the U.S. Border. The Border Agent asks a couple questions, eyes their clean-cut "American" look, and waves them through. It was easy. Too easy.

Steve and J find out how much they would have made if Pablo were a client, rather than a friend. They sense an opportunity. Business-savvy Steve concocts the plan, while J uses his half-Mexican roots and knowledge of Spanish to establish the contacts.

Steve convinces his fiancé, Katie, to get involved, drawing her in by appealing to the humanitarian side of the scheme. "These people are coming whether we help them or not. We're just trying to give them a safer option," he tells her, "We're the kinder, gentler, people smugglers."

J recruits Pablo's cousin, Mariana, into the operation and the two soon become romantically involved. In an ironic twist, as J labors to bring Mexicans into the U.S., he finds his own desires pushing him to stay in Mexico.

The machine starts working and money starts flowing in. The organization grows. With added employees and added profits they soon find themselves heading up a legitimate business. With one problem... it's not legitimate. It's illegal. And easy money comes with a hard price.

After a tense run-in with Border Patrol, and mounting threats from rival coyote gangs, Katie starts to see the dangers and risks Steve is exposing himself to. "Smuggling illegals can't be your job!" Katie tells him as an ultimatum. But it is his job. Steve and J are in too deep as it is. The consequences of their actions are coming and simply pulling the plug on the operation won't stop them.



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## Crew Bios

### **Brian Petersen (Writer/Director)**

Brian started his work in the industry as an Assistant Director for the indie-hit Napoleon Dynamite, a film in which he also has a small acting role ("Lance"). After the success of Napoleon Dynamite, Petersen went on to write and direct his first feature film, Think Tank. Petersen recently started up Side Street Productions, a small indie production company with long-time friend Brett Spackman.

### **Brett Spackman (Writer/Editor)**

Brett received critical acclaim for his short documentary Run to Jay's: Tournament of Champions, which played at over 2 dozen film festivals and received numerous jury and audience awards. In addition to writing and directing, Brett is an experienced video editor and web developer. He recently co-founded Side Street Productions with long-time friend Brian Petersen. Coyote is the first project to come out of the company.

### **Chris Wyatt (Producer)**

Chris Wyatt has served as producer on four feature films, including the 2004 hit Napoleon Dynamite (Fox Searchlight), the 2007 theatrical release Think Tank (Maitland Primrose Releasing), and the thriller Beneath (MTV Films). Wyatt's work as a producer earned him a shared 2005 IPF "Indy Spirit Award" nomination ("Producing Award"). Wyatt holds a MFA in Motion Picture Producing from the University of Southern California's elite Peter Stark Producing Program.

### **Devin Colvin (Producer)**

After working in LA for a few years, Devin received his MBA in Marketing from Arizona State University. He has worked in the fashion and luxury industry and as an Entertainment Editor for various magazines including LA Splash and Lucire. He was as an accountant on the TNT Production of Geronimo, Script Supervisor on After Cheri and is currently working in pre-production on the film Monday After Christmas.



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## Credit List

A Side Street Production

Directed by	Brian Petersen
Written by	Brett Spackman Brian Petersen
Produced by	Chris Wyatt Devin Colvin
Director of Photography	Robb Hanks
Production Designer	Stefani Batson
Edited by	Brett Spackman
Music by	Christopher Brady
Sound Designer	KC Blake
Visual FX Supervisor	Steve Griffith
Unit Production Manager	Erin Cook
Production Coordinator	Kristi Labrum

### Principal Cast

Steve	Brian Petersen
J (Jesse)	Brett Spackman
Katie	Carley Adams
Mariana	Marina Valle
Señor Juarez	Oswaldo Hernandez
Danny-boy	David C. Thompson
Pablo	Genesis Curiel
Dino	Dante Valle



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## Production Notes

Coyote is a film that deals with the large flow of immigrants coming from Mexico to the U.S. It's a subject that evokes strong feelings on both sides of the border. During pre-production, the filmmakers spoke with Border Patrol agents, volunteer Minutemen and numerous Mexican immigrants who had experienced the crossing first hand. Their personal experiences were so powerful that many real life experiences and stories made their way into the script.

To lend to the authenticity of Coyote, most of it was filmed in and around Tucson, AZ and Sonora, Mexico. Many of the actors and most of the extras were locals discovered just before or during production. Some of the key scenes involving Border Patrol vehicles actually prompted nervous neighbors to inquire if there were round-ups going on in the area.

Coyote was filmed with a small crew and small setup. Minimal camera, grip and lighting equipment was used, but the crew returned amazingly high production value. The grip truck and transportation van both served as "stars" of the movie as well as carrying equipment & cast across borders (when they weren't broken down in the desert).

Brian Petersen and Brett Spackman, who both act in and wrote the film, wanted to set a personal story within this hot topic of immigration without being preachy or promoting a certain political agenda. While it illustrates the technical details of smuggling people across and contains thrilling action scenes, the story really focuses on 'everyday people' who have to make difficult choices, who get in over their heads and must face the consequences. Viewers on both sides of the issue will be able to identify with key characters and be drawn to the gripping story.

When the writers started the story, they wondered if upon completion the topic would still be timely. Today, the debate over immigration is even more heated and will most likely continue to escalate, especially as we near the U.S. Presidential race.







Señor Juarez (Oswaldo Hernandez) interrogates Steve (Brian Petersen) about his people smuggling business and trespasses on Juarez-controlled territories in Mexico.

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PRODUCTIONS**

[www.themexican dream.com](http://www.themexican dream.com) • [info@sidestreetproductions.com](mailto:info@sidestreetproductions.com)



Katie (Carley Adams) reacts to a proposition from Steve and J. to start smuggling people into the U.S for cash — utilizing the same method used to bring over her friend Pablo.

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J. (Brett Spackman) introduces Danny Boy (David C. Thompson) to Mariana (Marina Valle) in the chapel where all the immigrants meet each morning prior to making the trek across the border.

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At a lunch break during a routine border crossing, J. (Brett Spackman) and his customers notice an approaching group whose intentions have not yet been made clear.

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