

April 1, 2023

## Hollywood Independents Presents

*An Ameer Jorge Productions/Dees Film Productions Market Premier of*

# ***Altered Perceptions***

Los Angeles – April 1, 2023 – Hollywood Independents announces the Market Premier Screening of *Altered Perceptions* for PRESS/BUYERS/ACQUISITIONS/FESTIVAL PROGRAMMERS attending the Festival de Cannes.

**SUNDAY, MAY 21**

**PALAIS. C**

**16:30 PM**

(Completed, Availability all, 2hrs/2023)

**Logline:** In a post-pandemic world, with the country devastatingly divided both politically and socially, and the United States on the brink of possible Civil War, things begin to further deteriorate when the perceptions of many seemingly “normal people” begin to change dramatically, causing alterations in reality and behaviors that cannot be explained medically – perceptions so deadly and bizarre that modern science cannot begin to explain it.

**Synopsis:** When suicides, homicides and mass murders begin to increase at an alarming rate, Dr. Joseph Feretti, a renowned neurologist, and his team begin to unravel what appears to be the root of these behaviors – rapid aging of the brain which looks like dementia, which is spreading worldwide.

Those on the conservative fringe claim the disease is affecting only LGBTQ+ and African Americans who have been vaccinated against COVID-19. This misinformation quickly becomes a hot political issue, with individuals being rounded up, quarantined and exterminated. With political division at its worst, and our democracy collapsing, a man claiming to be from the future may be the key to helping us save ourselves.

**Cast:** This riveting psychological thriller features Academy Award and Golden Globe nominee Eric Roberts (*King of the Gypsies, Star 80, Runaway Train, The Pope of Greenwich Village*) and Academy Award nominee/Golden Globe winner Sally Kirkland (*Anna, The Haunted, Cold Feet, Bruce Almighty, JFK*), and Lance Guest (*The Last Starfighter, Halloween II, The Patient, Jaws: The Revenge*). The multitalented cast introduces Oran Stainbrook (*Paradox,*

*Treasures of the Heart*), and features Danny Fehsenfeld (*Chickenhare & The Hamster Of Darkness – which was the #1 movie on Netflix for 4 weeks, The Young & The Restless*, Oscar winning *Spiderman Into The Spiderverse, How To Get Away With Murder*), Matt Fling (*All the Lord's Men, One and the Same, Littlerock*), and William McNamara (*Stealing Home, Doing Time on Maple Drive, Medusa, Copycat*).

The incredible cast is rounded out by Torie Tyson (*Family Tree, Medusa, Echoes of Kerberos, House of Adam*), Jose Rosete (*Dante's Hell, Monsters of Man, Lowlife*), Brent Bailey (*Night Train, Holiday Dating Guide, LBJ*), Vincent Giovanni (miniseries *The Offer, Supergirl, Lovesick*), AlgeRita Wynn (*Medusa, Something From Tiffany's, Home, Crazy Stupid Love*), Lynn Lowry (*Cat People, Score, The Crazies, Shivers*), Michael J. Nelson (*Family Tree, Medusa*), Keith Roenke (*D'Agostino, Family Tree, Medusa, Hot Tub Time Machine, Alice in Wonderland*), and Joseph DeMatteo.

**Perspectives:** These are indeed troubling times, as evidenced by increasing division among us socially, emotionally, as well as politically, which impacts us all. As a society, we have rarely been as polarized as we are today – and one of the root causes of this polarization is the harsh rhetoric that characterizes our political leanings. From these issues sprang the idea to write ***Altered Perceptions***.

Events and actions over the past few years clearly illustrate the deep-seated divides and increasingly stark disagreements between us – including the economy, racial injustices, voter suppression, climate change, international engagement, core “American values,” white supremacy, and a long list of other issues which may lead to lasting harm to our democracy. ***Altered Perceptions*** delves into these issues contemporaneously.

Although American exceptionalism preceded the coronavirus outbreak, the COVID-19 pandemic further revealed just how pervasive the divide in American society is at this time, with most of the country believing that we are more ideologically divided now than before the COVID outbreak. Disagreements relating to voter reliability, scientific trust, COVID vaccinations, mask wearing, contact tracing, fake news, truth vs. opinion, and public and policy responses to the crisis has surely changed our lives in many important ways – all of which are highlighted in ***Altered Perceptions***.

**Director:** Provocative award-winning filmmaker Jorge Ameer (*The Family Tree* - which was acquired by NBC/Universal for the Peacock Channel) directed ***Altered Perceptions***. Ameer has previously authored, produced, and directed multiple feature films, including *The Truth Within, Strippers, The Singing Forest, Contadora is for Lovers, The House of Adam, The Dark Side of Love, Sabor Tropical, D'Agostino*, and *The Family Tree*.

**Screenwriter:** Dr. Wayne Dees, has been a clinical neuropsychologist for the past 20 years. Neuropsychology is a specialized branch of psychology concerned with how a person's cognition and behavior are related to the brain and nervous system. It was his work in this field that inspired the screenplay for ***Altered Perceptions***. He has previously written two screenplays, *Déjà vu* and *Strangers in the Night*.

Neuropsychologist, Dr. Wayne Dees, and award-winning director Jorge Ameer are excited to present the Market Premier of ***Altered Perceptions*** at the Festival de Cannes. Dr. Dees initially met director Jorge Ameer while working in Los Angeles in the mid-1990s on the film *California Myth*. They reconnected 25 years later after he watched Ameer's award-winning film, *The Family Tree*, which Ameer wrote and directed. *The Family Tree* has won over 23 awards with 4 nominations and movie awards to date, and it was a finalist at the 2021 Academy Awards. Many of the stars of director Ameer's previous films have been reunited in ***Altered Perceptions***.

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