

# Screwball



**GREENWICH**  
ENTERTAINMENT

# INFO

**Distribution Company:**  
Greenwich Entertainment

**Produced By:**  
Billy Corben & Alfred  
Spellman (Rakontur)

**Directed by:**  
Billy Corben

**Starring:**  
Tim Elfrink, Tony Bosch &  
Porter Fischer

**Run Time:**  
105 minutes

**Logline:**  
Billy Corben's latest Miami-set doc is a funny, irreverent investigation of Major League Baseball's infamous doping scandal that involves a nefarious clinician and his most famous client: the New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez.





# CONTACTS

## Press Contacts:

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# SYNOPSIS

Billy Corben's true-crime dramedy investigates the MLB's infamous doping scandal involving a nefarious clinician and his most famous client: the New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez.

They say South Florida is a sunny place for shady people. Filmmaker Billy Corben has a talent for uncovering some of its most colourful characters in hit documentaries like COCAINE COWBOYS and THE U. Now in Screwball, he delivers a true-crime comedy worthy of the novels of Elmore Leonard. The film looks at doping in major league baseball from the perspective of Anthony Bosch, a specialist in performance-enhancing drugs, who was a key figure in the scandals of Alex Rodriguez, Manny Ramirez, and other star players.

While Bosch's medical credentials may be lacking, his storytelling skills are first rate. On camera, he is hilariously frank about the rise and fall of his Biogenesis health clinic, including details of mob connections, financial chicanery, his cocaine habit, and Rodriguez's eccentric behaviour. Miami New Times journalist Tim Elfrink helps to frame the story based on his book Blood Sport: A-Rod and the Quest to End Baseball's Steroid Era.

In the pursuit of youth, adults often look childish. Corben reflects this by casting children to play the roles of Bosch, Rodriguez, and others in delightfully staged reenactments — like a cross between The Little Rascals and The Thin Blue Line.

The film excels in inducing laughter, but also raises serious questions about the culture of professional sports. While some get punished for drugging, others profit from uneven oversight. A government health inspector tells of being in hot pursuit of Bosch's case until receiving mysterious orders to drop it. Powerful interests would be happy to let this story slip from memory. But Screwball makes it unforgettable.

# ABOUT THE FILM

Billy Corben and Alfred Spellman produced the TIFF competition documentary "Screwball" through their Miami-based media production company Rakontur. The film was directed by Corben and will premiere at the festival on Friday, September 7th at 9:45pm at Scotiabank 4.

The now-defunct Biogenesis anti-aging clinic in South Florida was owned and operated by Anthony "Tony" Bosch.

Bosch called himself "Dr. T" and pretended to be a medical doctor even though he had no medical training whatsoever. Bosch pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute a Schedule III controlled substance (testosterone) in October 2014.

Bosch provided anabolic steroids, human growth hormone (hGH), growth hormone releasing peptides and various other performance-enhancing drugs to numerous high-profile Major League Baseball players including New York Yankee's Alex "A-Rod" Rodriguez and Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun. Thirteen MLB players linked to Biogenesis were suspended for over 50 games.

The documentary features interviews with the key figures in the scandal, including Miami New Times managing editor Tim Elfrink, who broke the story and co-authored with former New Times staffer Gus Garcia-Roberts a book on the case called Blood Sport: Alex Rodriguez and the Quest to End Baseball's Steroid Era.

Corben and Spellman produced the highly-acclaimed 2006 documentary film "Cocaine Cowboys". "Cocaine Cowboys" explored the bloody Miami drug wars during the 1970s and 1980s that accompanied the rise of cocaine in the United States.

"Screwball" attempts to capture the same on-the-ground first-hand perspective that characterized "Cocaine Cowboys." It does this through the use of interviews with journalists, law enforcement officers, attorneys and steroid dealers linked to and familiar with the Biogenesis steroid scandal..



# CREW BIOS

Billy Corben was born in Fort Myers, Florida. He studied political science, screenwriting, and theatre at the University of Miami. His documentary features include RAW DEAL: A QUESTION OF CONSENT (01), COCAINE COWBOYS (06), SQUARE GROUPE (11), LIMELIGHT (11), BROKE (12), and DAWG FIGHT (15). SCREWBALL (18) is his latest documentary feature.

# Billy Corben

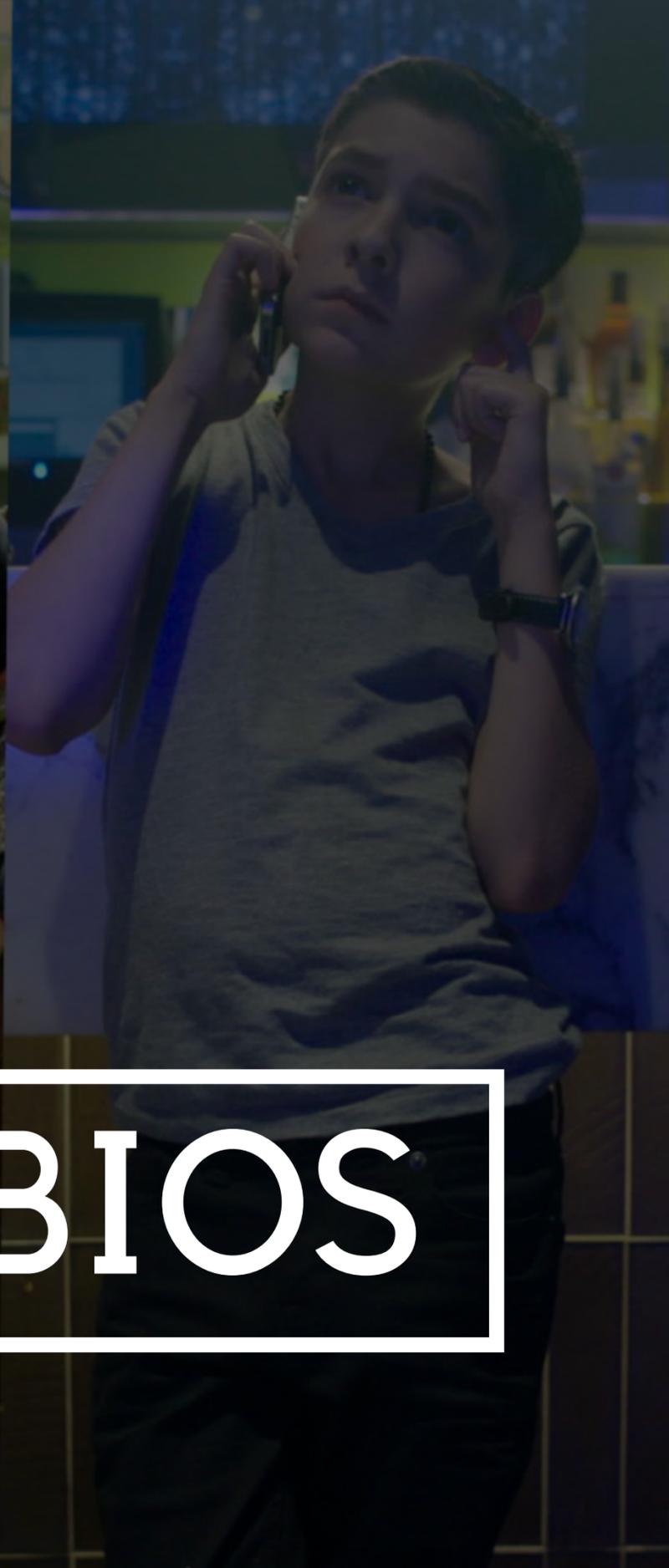
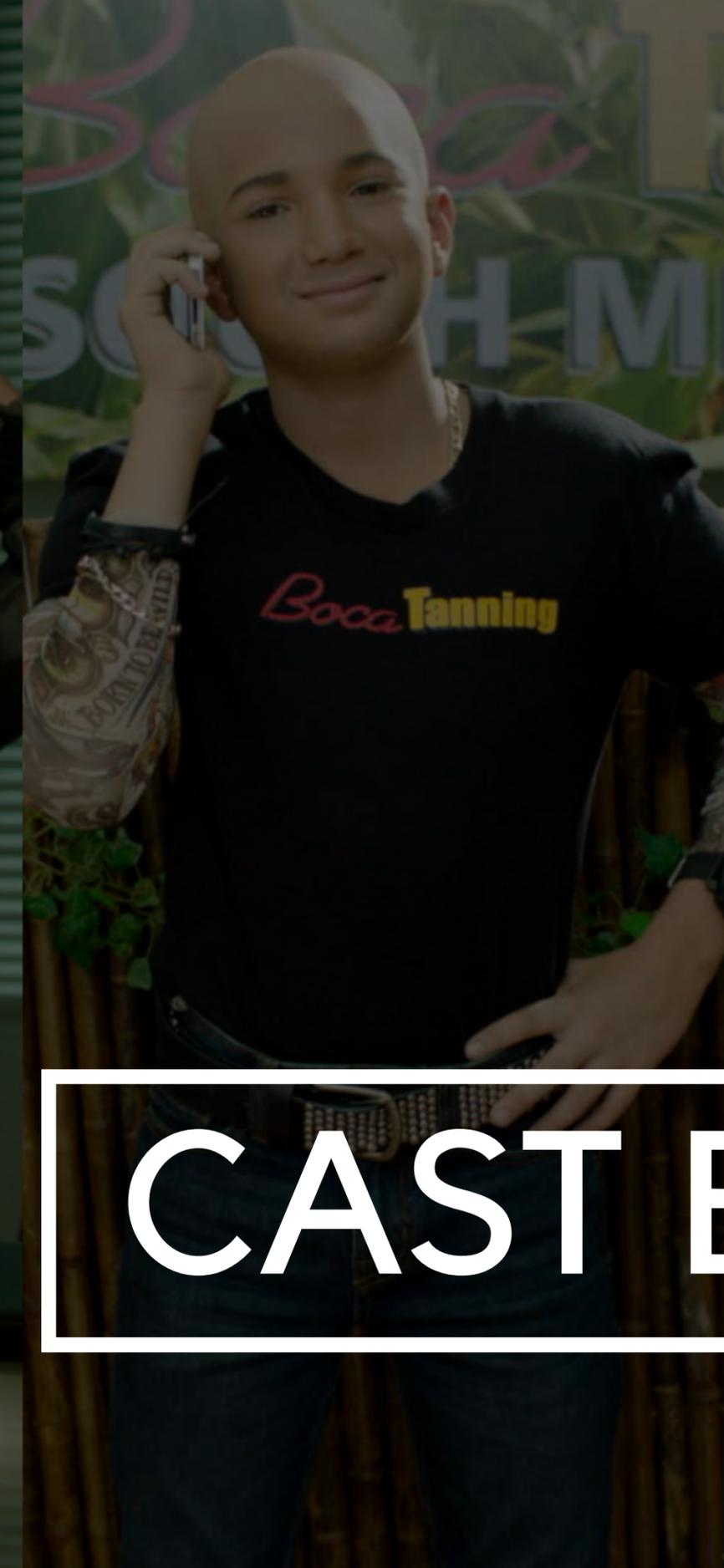
WRITER + DIRECTOR + PRODUCER





Alfred Spellman was born in Miami Beach, Florida. He met Billy Corben in middle school and the duo formed their first production company when they were 15 years old. After studying political science at the University of Miami, Spellman and Corben started their Miami-based studio Rakontur and have produced ten feature documentaries, including RAW DEAL (01), COCAINE COWBOYS (06), ESPN 30 for 30's "The U" (09) & "Broke" (12) and DAWG FIGHT (15), picking up an Emmy and Peabody along the way.

**Alfred Spellman**  
PRODUCER



# CAST BIOS

Blake McCall is honored to make his film debut as Alex Rodriguez in *SCREWBALL*, directed by Billy Corben. Blake's TV credits include Season 1 and Season 2 of PBS' "Kid Stew" created by James Patterson. He is excited to film Season 3 this summer.

Blake's regional theatre credits include "Les" in Disney's *Newsies*, directed by Marcos Santana and choreographed by Al Blackstone, at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre. He was also seen as "Little Kansas" in *Gypsy*, directed and choreographed by Marcia Milgrom Dodge, at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre. He has appeared in numerous student productions at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre Conservatory of Performing Arts with some of his favorite roles being "Stanley" in *Flat Stanley Jr.*, "Peter" in Disney's *Peter Pan Jr.* and "Sebastian" in Disney's *Little Mermaid Jr.*

Blake is a student at Bak Middle School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida where he studies theatre. He also studies ballet, jazz, tap, voice, and musical theatre at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre Conservatory of Performing Arts.

Blake enjoys trying new tricks on his trampoline and learning to play his ukulele and keyboard in his free time.

**BLAKE McCALL**  
"ALEX RODRIGUEZ"





Born and raised in Miami, FL, Bryan Blanco began his career acting in nationwide commercials at the age of 8 after working as an extra. In 2018, he landed the star role in SCREWBALL. Bryan is a decorated martial artist, plays running back for his flag football team, and is on his school's track and golf teams. He is a sketch artist who loves drawing his favorite subject — his pup Sir Rocco Corleone.

Coming up, Bryan reunites with Billy Corben for his debut theater performance in *Confessions of a Cocaine Cowboy*.

**BRYAN BLANCO**

"TONY BOSCH"

Born and raised in Miami, FL, Jonathan Blanco began his career working as an extra before landing his role in **SCREWBALL**. Bryan is a 1st degree black belt in Taekwondo, ranking worldwide, and remains active in his school's track and flag football teams, acting as the all-star quarterback. Jonathan also enjoys writing and producing hip hop music.



**JONATHAN BLANCO**

"PETE CARBONE"

# S C R E W B A L L | C R E D I T S

PRODUCTION: RAKONTUR  
PICTURE BY: BILLY CORBEN  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: B.J.  
GOLNICK, ALEXA HARRIS  
EDITED BY: DAVID CYPKIN  
MUSIC BY: 10K ISLANDS  
WRITTEN BY: BILLY CORBEN & DAVID  
CYPKIN  
PRODUCED BY: ALFRED SPELLMAN & BILLY  
CORBEN  
DIRECTED BY: BILLY CORBEN

INTERVIEWS:  
TONY BOSCH  
PORTER FISCHER  
TIM ELFRINK  
JEROME HILL  
PEDRO GOMEZ

RE-CRE CAST  
TONY BOSCH: BRYAN BLANCO  
PORTER FISCHER: FRANKIE DIAZ  
PETE CARBONE: JONATHAN R. BLANCO  
GARY JONES: JAKE MARTIN  
TIM ELFRINK: IAN MACKLES  
ALEX RODRIGUEZ: BLAKE MCCALL  
RICKY MARTINEZ: JAKE STEPHENS  
JEROME HILL: SAMUEL KAI TAYLOR  
ANTHONY CARBONE: NICOLAS HERNANDEZ  
JORGE "UGI" VELAZQUEZ: ARMANDO BERNAL  
IV  
MANNY RAMIREZ: DAVION FIGARO  
DAN MULLIN: JASON BROCKMANN  
YURI SUCART: BRIAN SANZ  
ROB MANFRED: DAVID BOLINGER