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Directed by France Swimberge
Produced by Morgane Production



MAKING TARANTINO

52'

SUMMARY

Quentin Tarantino is one of the most influential and original filmmakers in contemporary cinema. Both a critically acclaimed auteur and a cult figure of global pop culture, his filmography weaves a sweeping American narrative enriched with subtle biographical references and echoes of American history.

"All of my movies are personal. Excruciatingly personal." Quentin Tarantino's work is a maze. In his films, he tells nothing more than the story of his own life, a life that was never extraordinary, a life in which he was not born an artist but became one. This film takes us back to the origins of his influences, into the heart of the L.A. area, in the city of Torrance, California, to retrace the journey of this self-taught filmmaker who has become a key figure, a star of international cinema.



SYNOPSIS

"My job is to hide it." Quentin Tarantino.

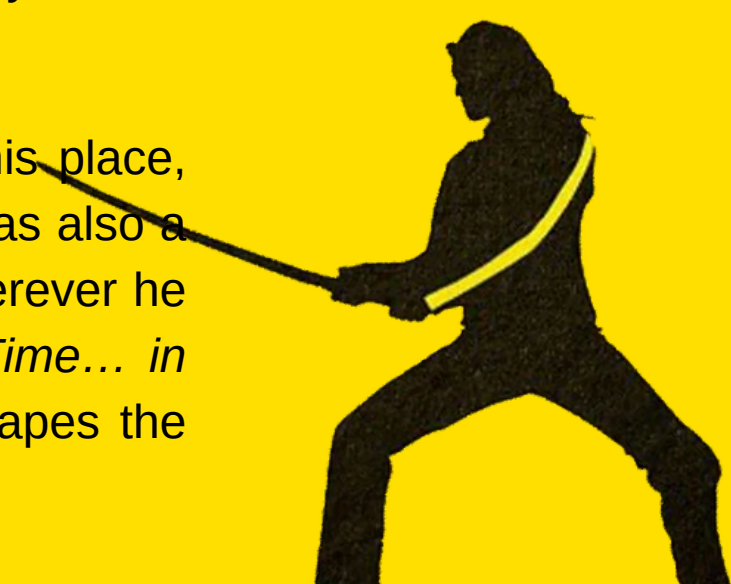
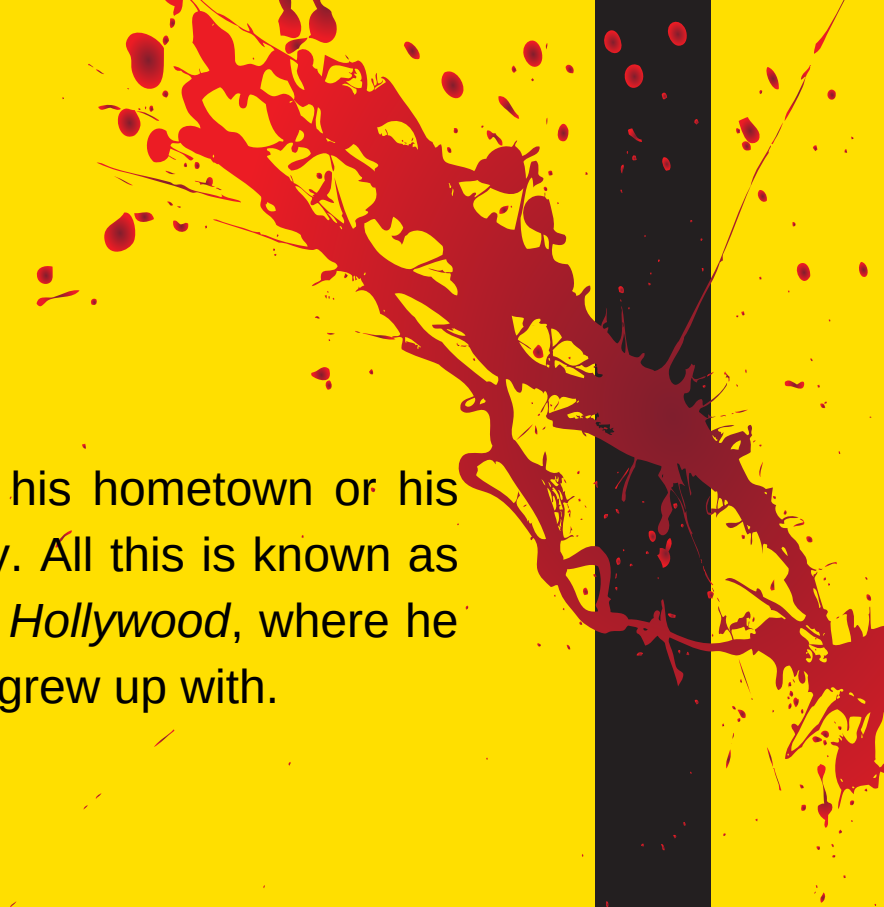
Steve Buscemi compares a child in *Pulp Fiction* to Quentin Tarantino, insisting on elements from his childhood, like Knoxville, his hometown or his relationship with his single mother. The scene also evokes the Vietnam War and a family legacy - mixing dark humor and tragedy. All this is known as being Tarantino's signature. The director often draws on his own memories to make his films, as he did in *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood*, where he recreated the streets of the city of Los Angeles as he once knew them. Tarantino uses sets, sounds, and visuals similar to those he grew up with.

"Every character in Quentin's films existed in real life." Stacey Sher, producer.

Tarantino's early characters were inspired by people he used to know back when he was younger according to producer Stacey Sher. Tarantino often said that his characters were based on memories he had of people he met or was close to. His mother, Connie—a central figure—embodies independence and courage, qualities that are both reflected in his female characters, such as Jackie Brown or The Bride in *Kill Bill*. Other characters were inspired by some of his mother's friends, such as Jackie Watts, who served as inspiration for the main character in *Jackie Brown*, and Floyd Ray Wilson, a charismatic con artist who inspired the character of Ordell Robbie in that same movie.

In *True Romance*, Tarantino created a character inspired by Samuel Jackson, reflecting his ease with slang and African-American culture - a legacy of his predominantly Black neighborhood and school. Despite accusations of cultural appropriation, he insists on his genuine bond with it, rooted in Blaxploitation cinema and soul music. As a kid, Tarantino would reinvent his favorite movies using GI Joes, something he later brought into his films such as *Kill Bill* and *Death Proof*. His bond with Los Angeles, the city he calls home, emerges in his film settings, such as the Pussycat Theater, an adult movie theater he worked at when he was younger.

Tarantino chose Torrance as the setting for his movie *Jackie Brown*, a postwar American suburb where he grew up. This place, marked by childhood nostalgia, emerges through settings like diners and shopping malls. However, for him, Los Angeles was also a place of poverty and solitude, especially during the time when he lived at his mother's house and had to take the bus wherever he went. This background resurfaces in the violent scenes of his films, such as *Inglourious Basterds*. With *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood*, Tarantino crafts an idealized vision of Los Angeles, far removed from real-life tragedies. His filmmaking reshapes the past, turning even the darkest memories into something alluring.



SYNOPSIS

“Los Angeles is a city where old trends never die. Instead, they resurface through the cracks, like posters pasted over each other.” Quentin Tarantino.



Tarantino explores subjects like Southern decay, racism, and rewritten history in films such as *Death Proof* and *Django Unchained*. In the latter, he denounces slavery through a powerful scene reminiscent of civil rights protest photographs. The filmmaker uses cinema as a means to erase historical barbarity, as in *Inglourious Basterds*, where he defeats the Third Reich. Through characters like Aldo Raine, Tarantino reinvents himself, weaving his personal past into his work. He also addresses his complex relationship with his father, symbolized by absent father figures willing to sacrifice their lives.

**“At first, I wanted to become an actor because I didn’t know any other way to get in the industry.”
Quentin Tarantino.**

At first, Quentin Tarantino wanted to be an actor because of his family legacy and his love for cinema. After getting a few small parts in movies, he realized the people he really looked up to were movie directors. Thanks to one of his mentors, a man named Allen Garfield, he realized he needed to focus on directing. Working at Video Archives gave him the opportunity to nurture his love for cinema and shape his own style. He started writing at the age of 21, using and bringing elements from his personal life to his films. *True Romance*, a film written in the 1980s, caught the attention of producers. The film’s main character was based on his own life, experiences and desires.

Natural Born Killers, a film inspired by the murder spree of two young people, reflects the confusion of America at the time—a subject close to Tarantino’s heart since he was a teenager. Although Oliver Stone brought modifications to his script, he chose to write his own film. In just three weeks, he made *Reservoir Dogs*, which caught Harvey Keitel’s attention. With the support of the Sundance Institute, Tarantino shot video scenes that impressed Terry Gilliam. At 28, as he was filming *Reservoir Dogs*, Tarantino went from being a movie-obsessed kid to being an adult filmmaker, ready to tell his own story through his films.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Structured as a reflection of Tarantino's life and films, the documentary explores an inner world deeply influenced by the anti-Vietnam War protests, the 1970s counterculture and the rise of youth whorship. Using the cultural references of his childhood (commercials, music, cinema), this film captures Tarantino's unique world and style.

The narration process is based on interviews with the filmmaker at different moments of his career, as well as interviews with former colleagues of his and experts. The film features never-before-seen footage like some of Tarantino's appearances in films or *Reservoir Dogs* rehearsals. The documentary focuses on the city of Los Angeles, where Tarantino grew up. It's a city that deeply influenced his work.

Scenes of the Los Angeles, filmed with a meticulous cinematic style, capture the influence of these now-vanished places on the filmmaker's imagination and work. This documentary aims to offer an intimate portrait of Tarantino by uncovering the origins of his creativity.



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Joséphine LETANG

**Head of International Distribution &
Marketing**

j-letang@arteFrance.fr



Alec HERRMANN

Head of Catalog

a-herrmann@arteFrance.fr



Audrey KAMGA

a-kamga@arteFrance.fr

Sales Manager

Canada, USA, South America
& MENA Region



Alexandra MARGUERITE

a-marguerite@arteFrance.fr

Sales Manager

UK, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Eastern
Europe, Asia, language versions

Africa: a-morel@arteFrance.fr



Franka SCHWABE

f-schwabe@arteFrance.fr

Sales Manager

Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland,
Netherlands, Scandinavia, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand