



Presents

## DESERT ROSE

A film by James Konrad Siler  
Running time: 27 minutes  
Not Yet Rated

"Everyone has a different sense of judgment. The person who's been healed will say this person is a saint. The person hearing that she has killed someone and that she has broken out of jail will say this woman is a rogue. Who's right?"

– Running Wolf Martel in *Desert Rose*

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<http://www.kumarpictures.com>

## **DESERT ROSE**

### **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

*Desert Rose* chronicles the filmmaker's journey as a novice investigator. His investigation becomes entangled in the web of stories about an FBI Most Wanted criminal, Theresa "Rose" Grosso.

### **LONG SYNOPSIS**

Filmmaker James Konrad Siler delivers a unique, richly arranged documentary with *Desert Rose*, an investigative documentary measuring the life path of a once FBI Most Wanted fugitive. Theresa "Rose" Grosso received her Most Wanted status after her fourth escape from prison. In 1969, Theresa Grosso was convicted of allegedly murdering Melvin Lukart in cold blood. Her identical twin sister testified that Theresa gunned down the man when they were out partying. The gun was the twin's property, and Theresa still claims that she doesn't remember the incident. Based on the circumstances of Theresa's case, James seeks the truth and begins to make sense of the years Theresa spent on the lam.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

Not too long ago I saw a picture of Theresa “Rose” Grosso in the Washington Post, a woman frozen in a mug shot with tear welling in her eye. Her picture motivated me to question whether this once FBI Most Wanted fugitive belongs in jail. The article reads that Theresa claims to be a woman rehabilitated by her life on the run. However, after her recapture in 1998, the Maryland Department of Corrections created a super-maximum security confinement for her. Since her return to prison she is the only inmate at that classification, and she is confined to a double cell with permission for only one hour of sunlight per week.

Over the past two years, I investigated the activities of a FBI's Most Wanted fugitive, Theresa Rose. Her identical twin sister testified that Theresa gunned down a man when they were out partying. The gun was the twin's property, and Theresa still claims that she doesn't remember the incident.

Two independent eyewitnesses I first visited with called Theresa a healer, a saint—a woman who could never commit murder. As I pound the concrete along the I-10 corridor, I uncover Theresa's secrets.

Are her loyal followers guided by the truth, or misguided by a woman who gave them the love and sex they desperately wanted?

James Konrad Siler

## THE FILMMAKERS

### **James Konrad Siler**

#### **Director, Writer, Producer, Editor**

James is a native Californian but has lived in New York City for over 2 years. He is the son of Jim and Kumari Siler. After graduating from University of Florida in 2001, he spent the next 4 years building his own production company, producing videos for various 501 c 3's and corporations. Siler has made numerous videos and commercials for broadcast, including campaigns for Florida Management Trust, Maddox Foundry, and WellFlorida Council. In the spring of 2005, he decided to return to school to pursue a degree in Documentary Directing. Upon graduation, he plans continue servicing his New York and Florida clients at **Kumar Pictures**.

### **Dr. Kendra Siler-Marsiglio**

#### **Co-producer, Co-Writer**

Kendra is a neuroscientist and writer. Her writing company is **Kwriting, LLC**. In addition to writing nonfiction, she specializes in medical writing. Kendra uses her talents in writing and science to enhance the social fabric and health of the community.

### **Deborah Cupples**

#### **Co-Writer**

For *Desert Rose*, Deborah is an attorney and writer who helped analyze case files of Theresa Grosso. At her blog **Buck Naked Politics**, she says some people describe her as a policy “wonk.” Deborah is interested in continuing writing for film, television, and documentary.

### **Alex Davidowski**

#### **Cinematographer**

Alex Davidowski has worked in feature films, television, music videos, commercials, and dozens of short films. He has directed short films that have been exhibited in film festivals. He is a veteran of film and television production, and is featured on imdb.com.

### **Barry Sides**

#### **Composer**

Barry Sides is a multi-talented artist. He is revered as an exceptional guitarist and is proficient in many different musical styles including blues, folk, rock and roots or Americana. Barry Sides performs on six and twelve string acoustic guitars, Dobro and other resonator guitars, baritone and electric guitars, harmonicas and piano. His vocal style is his calling card and is equal parts silk and sandpaper and pleasure and pain. He is best known for his delta style bottleneck slide playing and his strong vocal talent. He is a true professional and is a pleasure to work with.



presents  
in association with  
City College of New York  
a james konrad siler film

## DESERT ROSE

Director	James Konrad Siler
Writer	James Konrad Siler
Producer	James Konrad Siler
Editor	James Konrad Siler
Co- Producers	Kendra Siler-Marsiglio
Co-Writer	Deborah Cupples
Original Music	Barry Sides
Directors of Photography	Alex Davidowski
	Raffat Abuzeio
2 <sup>nd</sup> Editor	Yutaka Ueda
Opening Sequence Editor	Dimon Gapon

### INTERVIEW CREW

Director of Photography	Alex Davidowski
Production Coordinator	Jayprad Desai
First Assistant Camera	Riad Saidi
Technical Supervisor	Jayprad Desai
Production Sound Mixer	Raffat Abuzeio
Art Director	Chelsea Allent

**FILM CREW**

Director of Photography	Raffat Abuzeio
Production Supervisor	Alex Davidowski
First Assistant Camera	Riad Saidi

**TESTIMONIES**

Will Irby	Margaret Parrish
Serge “Runningwolf” Martel	Verlie Barton
MaryFrances Clinton	Helen Webber
Jay Herron	David Swanson

**Archival Footage and Stills**

Washington Post  
Federal Bureau of Investigations  
Levy County Sheriff  
Sierra Vista Herald  
Gainesville Sun  
America’s Most Wanted (FOX)

**Additional Archives and Libraries**

Alachua County Library

**Special Advisors**

Andrea Weiss  
David Davidson  
Herman Lew  
Babak Rassi  
Andjez Krakowski  
Ruth Hernandez  
Deborah Cupples

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