

"The rich would have to eat money if the poor did not provide food."



Cornell Turner had a vision of his future life at an early age, like most independent thinkers and great artists do when they allow their imagination to turn a vision into a functioning business. That vision made him ponder his own expectations and how he could strengthen his ability to work with and better understand other people, nourish his artistic side and bring his real-life adventures into focus and turn them into something tangible. With this in mind, the idea of a stylized independent film company, influenced by Russian filmmaker Dziga Vertov, was being formulated in 2013 after relocating to Phoenix, Arizona. Shortly thereafter, in 2014, Turner's company, AMERICAN VERTOV, came to fruition.

Turner spent his youth curious about other cultures, which eventually led him to military service as an Infantryman. After his tour of duty, he moved to Seattle, Washington, and eventually moved to and spent a majority of his time in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, where he spent half his life reflecting upon his life's adventures. Many of his Canadian comrades from the arts community noticed a unique and artistic quality about him and took him in, "against his will," said the humorous and humble Turner.

He began learning about the arts from influential teachers. But, more importantly to him, also some valuable life lessons. "Love and treatment of people first and art second. It's the foundation for loving what you do in life. The rest will follow," says Turner.

After moving to Los Angeles, artists and teachers such as Mark Brandon, Andrew McIlroy and P. Lynn Johnson had a great influence on Turner's view into the acting world, as well as Cameron Thor who taught him the process of actually dealing in the American entertainment market. Following, Turner landed various roles for film and television. His network credits include Spike Television, NBC, The CW, USA Network and Miramax Family.

While in Los Angeles, Turner studied filmmaking with a primary focus on documentaries, as well as honing his writing skills. "The history of early filmmaking and Russian 1920s-era documentaries give great insight into the films and television programs we see today," says Turner.

Turner says of his company, "AMERICAN VERTOV is not so much a company as it is a philosophy. Script will always drive the artist to pull the words from the page into character and make it believable. It's the 'elephant in the room' and when done properly, the artist reveals it for everyone to see. It's true. It's organic. It forces the viewer into thought and discussion. That's the kind of material that we seek and focus on at AMERICAN VERTOV."

