



Tony Reames

Class of 1992

Computer Science / Film Maker

A 1992 graduate of GHS. Tony Reames chose the University of Pittsburgh to complete his degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, Computer Science/Mass Media. After graduation, he moved to Atlanta, Georgia, to pursue a career in computer program development. His move to Atlanta came as a result of his lifelong friendship with Tym Hoffman. He and Tym would continue to collaborate and explore creative outlets that would eventually lead to their work in films. The first company he worked for was an information technology firm but he was approached soon by an entrepreneur who was interested in funding a dot com company. The year was 1997, internet interest was just beginning to take hold. Tony and a small group of his tech friends, including Tym Hoffman, started Media 1st, a digital media company that resulted in the creation of several patents and copyrights and grew to over 100 employees. Then in 2002, Tony accepted a job as a Senior Systems Engineer with Tiber Creek, a government contractor that supports the Army Reserve, National Guard, US Army and Homeland Security. He continues in this role today.

But truly, the work that inspires him is writing and directing films. He has been fortunate to work with many of the industry's greats in movies and music. He has directed and filmed music videos for Arrested Development, A Tribe called Quest as well as Redman, Busta Rhymes, Phife and Chuck D. His films have included the stars Eric Roberts, Bill Mosely, Kane Hodder and Linnea Quigley. His work has screened on all major networks as well as film festivals all over the world. His latest movie, SpookT, was a part of the prestigious London based Fright Fest. Other movies have appeared at Sitges in Spain, Nightmares in Columbus Ohio, Morbido in Mexico City, Monster Fest here in Pennsylvania and Dances With Films at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood. While at festivals, his movies have won many awards:

- Best Film - Days of the Dead Film Fest - SpookT
- Joe Bob Briggs World Drive In Award - Lethologica.
- Indie Spirit Award - Renegade Film Fest - Lethologica
- Best Comedy - Gen Con Film Fest - Playtime's Over
- Best Music Video -FM Film Fest - Arrested Development
- Best One Shot - The Geekie Awards - The Closet

Yet, Tony feels that the nicest compliment he has received for his creative work came from meeting the horror legend Joe Bob Briggs, famed movie critic and champion of all things horror, who called him "filmmaker par excellence" and awarded his film, Lethologica, with the coveted "Hubbie" Award. Tony describes himself as a work in progress, but knows that the thing he is most

proud of is his family. His wife Glenna and his three children, Evan, Quinn and Chris have been very involved in his film making and continue to be a part of every project.

Coming full circle, Tony premiered his ghost story, SpookT at the Reynold's Drive In in the fall of 2023. His goal of making a full length movie in his home town has brought attention to Greenville. He hoped that the movie would interest viewers enough that they would want to visit Greenville just as films like "Walking Dead" did for Senoia, Georgia. The second film in the SpookT series is ready to start filming this fall in Greenville and will again focus on the town and answer some of the questions left unresolved in SpookT.

"As I think back to my high school days, there are many adults who had a positive impact on me. Among them: Mrs. Koehler, Mr. Herrick, Mrs. Christiansen, Mr. Fagley come to mind. They were dedicated teachers but more importantly, they showed daily that they cared about their students. I love humor and those who know me will attest to the fact that I use humor to communicate and interact with others. There is a difference between humor and sarcasm. I appreciated the teachers I mentioned because they never belittle students in order to get a laugh. I think that very early on, I decided that I would never purposely try to embarrass others in order to elevate myself. Maya Angelou once said: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never for-get how you made them feel." I credit those amazing teachers for teaching me that lesson, and I believe that I am a better person because of it.

Advice to his younger self:

"I was a mess at 16, rudderless, and sinking. I wish I could go back and say, hang in there. Times will not always be better, but you will be better equipped to handle them. I would al-so say, trust your gut, because wow, are you going to see and do some cool things, but most importantly you will get to do them with your friends and family."

Tony lives with his wife, Glenna and his three children in Powder Springs, Georgia.