

A movie poster for the film 'PIZZA'. The background is a dimly lit pizza shop with wooden walls. A man with dark hair and a slight beard, wearing a dark jacket over a grey shirt, stands in the center, looking off-camera with a serious expression. To his left, a door has the number '819' and a red neon sign. To his right, a pizza is hanging on the wall. The title 'PIZZA' is written in large, bold, red capital letters across the middle of the poster.

PIZZA

DEER MOUNTAIN FILMS PRESENTS

A FILM BY TAVET RUBEL BRIAN McELHANEY CLYDE BALDO "PIZZA"

MUSIC BY TODD GOLDSTEIN PUPPETS ISOLDE CHAE-LAWRENCE EDITOR TAVET RUBEL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ERIC EGERTON
SOUND DESIGN MATT LEWKOWICZ SCREENPLAY BY TAVET RUBEL PRODUCED BY CASEY KOPPELSON DIRECTED BY TAVET RUBEL



SYNOPSIS

After a night of unfulfilling socializing and shameless drunk-dialing, Ted decides to call it quits and look for a midnight snack. Driven to the outer recesses of the city by hunger and misfortune, he finds a pizza place operated by a strange, terrifying man.

The concept for *Pizza* was inspired by a \$1.00/slice pizza place in Manhattan's East Village. How did those guys afford their overhead, I wondered. I came up with a bizarre explanation.

What if the pizza was "recycled" rather than consumed? What if the slices, somehow indigestible, were routinely fished out of the toilets of unsuspecting customers, wiped dry, and returned to their display case a few hours later by a stealthy delivery boy? An enterprising businessman could sell the same four or five slices of pizza hundreds of times.

I decided to tell the tale of one unlucky customer victimized by this imaginary scam. How would a lonely introvert face such a humiliating, unreal situation? What sorts of nightmares would brew in his sensitive subconscious?

Although *Pizza* is fundamentally a low-budget comedy, I was inspired by cinematic depictions of New York as a dark, threatening city in dramas like Scorsese's *Taxi Driver*, and by the interaction between psychosis and reality in experimental films like David Lynch's *Eraserhead*.

Tavet Rubel
New York City
August, 2010



TAVET RUBEL (WRITER/DIRECTOR)

Tavet Rubel was born and raised in New York City. He has a BA in Visual Art from Brown University and works as an animator, illustrator and designer in New York.

The only child of two visual artists, Tavet grew up running around a tiny apartment dressed as Batman, drawing caricatures of Richard Nixon and impersonating Saturday Night Live characters.

Tavet is drawn to filmmaking because it provides a vehicle for his offbeat sense of humor, as well as a canvas for his visual imagination.



CASEY KOPPELSON (PRODUCER)

"Pizza" marks Casey's first time as a producer. She worked as Production Supervisor for the short "Blood Magic" (Dir: Sonya Goddy), and handled Extras Casting for the short "Open Air" (Dir. Laurence Vannicelli). Both films premiered at the BAM Cinema Film Festival in 2010.

Casey has a BA from Brown University, where she studied business economics and crewed far too many experimental black-and-white films. She currently lives in San Francisco.



FILM WEBSITE

<http://deermountainfilms.com>

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