

# THE PLAYLIST

## On The Rise: 5 Cinematographers To Watch In 2013

FEATURES

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### Christopher Blauvelt

Cinematography was dealt a pretty serious blow last year with the death of Harris Savides, one of the absolute A-listers out there thanks to his work with David Fincher, Gus Van Sant and Sofia Coppola, among others (read our retrospective of his work here). But fortunately, Savides had a sort of apprentice, one who we'll

be seeing much more of in the years to come. The 41-year-old Christopher Blauvelt is an L.A. native, and a third-generation film professional who went into the family trade, his first credit coming as a clapper loader on "The Rocketeer" in 1991.

He worked his way up the ranks on the likes of "Speed," "Jade" and "The Game," seemingly coming to the attention of Savides on the latter. They were reunited in 2002 on "Gerry," by which time Blauvelt was working as first assistant camera, and he went on to work with him either as first assistant or camera operator on "Elephant," "Last Days," "Zodiac," "Margot At The Wedding," "Greenberg" and "Restless," while also operating camera on "Where The Wild Things Are," "A Single Man" and "I'm Still Here," among others.

In the meantime, Blauvelt had started acting as DoP on shorts, and made his feature film debut in 2010 with Kelly Reichardt's "Meek's Cutoff." Boldly shot in Academy ratio, it immediately established Blauvelt as a talent in his own right, and some impressive work followed, not least in Ry-Russo Young's underrated 2012 Sundance picture "Nobody Walks." While the film received tepid reviews from most, all rightfully praised Blauvelt's lyrical, sensual photography.

That was swiftly followed by Harmony Korine's "Lotus Community Workshop," the Val Kilmer-starring segment of anthology film "The Fourth Dimension," and yet-to-be-released "The Discoverers," with Griffin Dunne and Dreama Walker. But last year brought sadness with the shoot for Sofia Coppola's "The Bling Ring." It's unclear who shot what, but it is clear that Savides and Blauvelt are sharing credit on the film, and that the older DoP trusted his one-time apprentice to finish the work would appear to speak volumes.

The film will be released later in the year, but Blauvelt has lots more on his plate; he shot both parts of the split-perspective double-bill "The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby," starring Jessica Chastain and James McAvoy, and has reteamed with Reichardt on "Night Moves," with Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning and Peter Sarsgaard. Right now, he's just got underway on "Max Rose," which marks Jerry Lewis' return to the screen. It's still relatively early in his career, but it's a promising and diverse line-up, and if they prove to be as gorgeous as "Meek's Cutoff" or "Nobody Walks," it will be very much cause for celebration.

