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JIM CAVIESEL ★ AMBER TAMBLYN ★ CHRIS MULKEY  
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Venice couple Karen Landry and Chris Mulkey (pictured above with fellow actor John Jenkins in a still from the 1988 indie classic, *Patti Rocks*) will appear at the screening of *Patti Rocks* at the Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Avenue, on Saturday, March 20, as part of the first annual Other Venice Film Festival (March 19-21) in, of course, Venice! Following the screening Chris will be honored with the first Abbot Award, for excellence in filmmaking. Check out [www.veniceofilmfest.com](http://www.veniceofilmfest.com) for more information and the festival schedule.



## CHRIS MULKEY'S ALL-AMERICAN SPLENDOR

BY ALEX SIMON  
PHOTOGRAPHY ELISA HABER

**C**hris Mulkey epitomizes the classic American character actor. Although most character actors aren't household names, their faces are familiar to filmgoers the world over. With his everyman, all-American appearance, Mulkey has graced the screen in over 70 films, since making his debut in the 1976 indie hit *Loose Ends*, playing Billy Regis, an immature working stiff, a role he would later reprise in the now-legendary film festival smash, *Patti Rocks* (1987).

Born May 3, 1948 in Viroqua, Wisconsin, Chris grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, and studied theater at University of Minnesota.

After doing years of theater, Chris moved out west and soon started landing small parts in films such as *The Long Riders* (1980). It was his work as a sympathetic deputy in the action hit *First Blood* (1982) that first garnered the actor notice, which was followed by a scene-stealing turn in the cult classic *The Hidden* (1987). That same year, Chris co-wrote and starred in the controversial independent film *Patti Rocks*, about an average Joe who's going nowhere fast, and the road trip he takes with his best friend (John Jenkins) so he can break up with a girl that he's gotten pregnant (played by Chris' wife Karen Landry). A precursor to the films of Neil La Bute with its scatological dialogue and frank

portrait of male-female relationships, *Patti Rocks* remains a still-talked-about film today in film circles as one of the most influential of American independent films. Other fine work followed in such diverse fare as *Twin Peaks*, *Gas Food Lodging*, *Broken Arrow*, *The Fan*, *Behind Enemy Lines*, *Weapons of Mass Distraction*, *Sugar Town*, and most recently, *Radio* with Ed Harris and Cuba Gooding, Jr.

A Venice resident since 1981, Chris Mulkey will be presented with the Abbot Award at the first annual Venice Other Film Festival, for his remarkable body of work.

**VENICE:** How does it feel to be the first recipient of the Abbot Award?

Chris Mulkey: It's actually got me a little scared! [laughs] I thought guys had to die before they got these awards, or were responsible for something. I'm not sure what the deal is. No, it's really nice. It's great to feel appreciated, because it doesn't always happen when you're an actor. It's funny, I was in Luxembourg doing a movie and this bartender goes [Germanic accent] "Ja, you're dat guy from dat movie *Patti Rocks*! Talking about ze dicks and chicks chopping zere dicks off!" [laughs] It's a goofy business, but it's amazing when your work reaches all these people across the world.