Tying in with the U.S. premiere of TETSUO: THE BULLET MAN at the current Tribeca Film Festival , a panel discussion was held with the filmmakers and star at the Soho Apple Store. Director Shinya Tsukamoto, producer Masayuki Tanishima and actor Eric Bossick answered questions and offered observations about making the third in the TETSUO series.

The first film (a.k.a. THE IRON MAN) and TETSUO II: THE BODY HAMMER have been hailed as the best cyberpunk films to come out of Japanese cinema. Tsukamoto wanted the third continuation to also be set in Japan, but spoken in English and headed by an American actor. Hollywood approached him with numerous offers for this project, but creative conflicts prevented these from being fulfilled, and the originally attached producers dropped out because of the way the economy was heading. After 18 years, Tsukamoto felt compelled to bring THE BULLET MAN to the screen his way, rather than give up on his vision.

When Bossick first auditioned for the project, he had no idea what he was in for. “I didn’t know it was TETSUO because the script was titled just THE BULLET MAN,” he said. “I didn’t know what the role was. I guessed I would have 10 minutes of screen time. One hundred actors came in for the first audition; five came in for the second.”

When he discovered what he’d actually be starring in, he felt like “I won the lottery. TETSUO is a worldwide name, known all across the world. It’s a part of cinematic history. I am the first foreigner to work closely with [Tsukamoto].” Understanding the physical elements of his character, as well as his dance training, helped Bossick enact the lead role of Anthony, a family man transformed into a metallic demon.

[redacted]