

MY IDIOT BROTHER

A Big Beach/ Likely Story production

Starring

Paul Rudd

Elizabeth Banks

Zooey Deschanel

Emily Mortimer

Steve Coogan

Hugh Dancy

Kathryn Hahn

Rashida Jones

Shirley Knight

T.J. Miller

Adam Scott

Janet Montgomery

Matthew Mindler

Sterling Brown

Directed by

Jesse Peretz

Written by

Evgenia Peretz and David Schisgall

Produced by

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MY IDIOT BROTHER

Cast

Ned	PAUL RUDD
Miranda	ELIZABETH BANKS
Natalie	ZOOEY DESCHANEL
Liz	EMILY MORTIMER
Dylan	STEVE COOGAN
Christian	HUGH DANCY
Janet	KATHRYN HAHN
Cindy	RASHIDA JONES
Ilene	SHIRLEY KNIGHT
Billy	T.J. MILLER
Jeremy	ADAM SCOTT
Lady Arabella	JANET MONTGOMERY
River	MATTHEW MINDLER
Omar	STERLING BROWN

Crew

Directed by	JESSE PERETZ
Written by	EVGENIA PERETZ DAVID SCHISGALL
Produced by	ANTHONY BREGMAN PETER SARAF MARC TURTLETAUB
Executive Producers	JESSE PERETZ CAROLINE JACZKO STEFANIE AZPIAZU JOHN HODGES ALEEN KESHISHIAN
Director of Photography	YARON ORBACH
Production Designer	INBAL WEINBERG
Editor	ANDY MONDSHEIN JACOB CRAYCROFT
Composer	NATHAN LARSON ERIC JOHNSON
Music Supervisor	SUSAN JACOBS
Costume Designer	CHRISTOPHER PETERSON
Casting by	JEANNE McCARTHY

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Synopsis

Ned Rochlin (Paul Rudd) chooses to look for the good in every situation and the best in everyone he meets, which often puts him at odds with the world around him – especially his family. After all, what can you say about a guy who is quite easily tricked into selling pot to a uniformed police officer? Upon being released from jail, Ned excitedly returns to the organic farm he shares with his girlfriend, Janet (Kathryn Hahn), to find that she has thrown him out, and more importantly won't give up custody of his beloved dog (named "Willie Nelson"). Without a house, a job, or a clue about how to get Willie Nelson back, Ned seeks shelter with his begrudging family.

His overbearing mother Ilene (Shirley Knight) offers to take him in to their childhood home on Long Island, but Ned soon suffocates sharing the same roof with her. Hoping to find some part-time work and earn enough cash to get his dog back, Ned moves in with his oldest sister, Liz (Emily Mortimer), a high-strung earth-mother of two, married to a pretentious documentary filmmaker, Dylan (Steve Coogan). Ned fits right in with Liz's seven year-old son River, but his version of what's fun for kids doesn't fit with his sister's carefully crafted child-rearing program. After turning Liz's life upside down, Ned relies on middle sister Miranda (Elizabeth Banks), a career-driven journalist for *Vanity Fair*, for a place to crash while still trying and failing to get back Willie Nelson. He quickly makes a mess of Liz's big break at the magazine and shakes up her carefully compartmentalized love life. He is then forced upon his youngest sister, Natalie (Zooey Deschanel), whose wild-child past threatens to ruin her happy existence with Cindy (Rashida Jones), an emotionally stable lawyer who has become close to the entire family.

As each sister's life starts to reach a crisis point, it seems to them that Ned is always in the middle of every misunderstanding, and despite his good intentions, always seems to say or do the wrong thing at the wrong time. In a series of painfully funny revelations and confessions, Ned's entire family starts to realize that maybe, in believing and trusting the people around him without fail, Ned isn't such an idiot after all.

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About the Production

Comedies about family have always connected with audiences— no matter the situation, we all recognize pieces of our own brood’s craziness and eccentricities in the relationships that evolve on-screen.

“My Idiot Brother” is the latest installment of the dysfunctional family comedy, part of the long tradition, offering a contemporary perspective on the way family members treat each other and struggle to bring the best out of each other despite their differences. “I’ve always been interested in the small ways people can behave in a self-destructive or ridiculous manner,” says screenwriter Evgenia Peretz. “One of the truths that I think the story highlights in a comical way is the way in which people blame those closest to them for their own screw-ups in life. We all do that to people we care about – I know I certainly have in the past!”

The family under examination here is the Rochlins of Long Island – particularly the only son, Ned, played by Paul Rudd. For most of his life, his family hasn’t quite known what to do with Ned. It’s not that there’s anything wrong with him mentally – it’s just that Ned doesn’t seem to match anyone’s idea of what a successful grown-up should be. He’s wasted his efforts on go-nowhere ideas like “bio-dynamic farming,” and as the story begins, is just getting out of jail - for taking pity on a “stressed” uniformed police officer and selling the cop his personal stash of marijuana. To make matters worse, Ned doesn’t seem to carry a negative thought despite his directionless life. In fact, Ned is invariably, incurably positive, always believing in the best of people, trusting them and accepting everything they say as the truth. The only thing that seems to really hurt him is when his ex-girlfriend Janet (Kathryn Hahn) refuses to grant the recently sprung Ned custody of his beloved dog Willie Nelson.

Throughout the course of “My Idiot Brother,” Ned’s three sisters - all with complicated lives filled with careers, relationships, and real-world concerns - take turns trying to help Ned get on his feet and grow up. As Ned becomes more and more enmeshed in their lives – often with disastrous results – they slowly start to realize that they are the ones who might need help, not their good-natured sibling. “Ned has clearly broken away from this family of smart but neurotic

sisters,” explains director Jesse Peretz. “He’s made the choice to live a life of less cynicism, to have more faith in people. His idea is that even if people might be taking him for a ride, trusting them completely will challenge them to live up to a higher standard.”

On the surface, one might expect Ned to be part of the current vogue of comic hero who is hopelessly clueless, self-involved, and immature. From the outset, though, the writers had a very different approach to Ned’s personality. Writing with the intention that the part would be played by Rudd – who had worked with Jesse Peretz’ on the 2001 feature “The Chateau” – they wanted to give the character depth, dimension, and a level of believability that would defy the usual expectations of how an “idiot brother” might behave. “A lot of characterization came from knowing who the performers would be,” says co-writer David Schisgall – who, being married to Evgenia Peretz (Jesse’s sister), makes the creation of the film a family affair.

Ned isn’t a childlike savant, or an overgrown teenager: he simply believes in the best of people even when the evidence suggests he shouldn’t. “When we wrote the script, we kept Frank Capra in mind” Schisgall remembers. Ultimately, Ned is perceived as an “idiot” by his sisters because that’s the easiest way to describe someone who refuses to “get” the way the world is supposed to work.

Bringing the complex Ned to life was the task of Paul Rudd. “There are other actors who would have gone for the easier laughs,” says Jesse Peretz, “but I’m really happy with what Paul has contributed. Paul isn’t approaching it like he’s going for the jokes. He has confidence that if he goes for the emotional reality of the character, the laughs will follow.” The depth of his performance should come as no surprise. Most audiences know Rudd from his recent string of comic hits including “Knocked Up,” “I Love You, Man” or “Dinner with Schmucks.” But his range and gift for nuance in character won’t be a surprise to those who have seen him in films such as “The Cider House Rules,” Neil Labute’s “The Shape of Things,” or hit Broadway productions of Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” (with Helen Hunt and Kyra Sedgwick) and Richard Greenberg’s “Three Days of Rain” (with Julia Roberts and Bradley Cooper).

The writers took the same care with the other characters as they did with Ned. “We all know so many type-A New Yorkers, like Ned’s sisters, who crave something, are always out to achieve something, and are never really happy,” says Evgenia Peretz. “What happens when someone comes along who has none of those goals, none of that suspicion and competitiveness, and is really happy? How do these characters react to that? That’s a fun dynamic to play.”

Some might say that perhaps part of Ned's "problem" is that he was raised in a home of strong, intelligent, and very different women. Mother Ilene (Shirley Knight) is loving, but perhaps a bit too eager to meddle in her children's lives. After a night back in his childhood room, even happy-go-lucky Ned needs to move on from Ilene's clutches. So he heads to the Brooklyn brownstone of sister Liz (Emily Mortimer) and her husband Dylan (Steve Coogan). Liz is trying to be the best mom she can – but because her only model was Ilene, she tends to dominate the lives of both her infant and her playful six year-old River. Liz is so focused on her kids she doesn't put up much of a fight as Dylan turns more and more to his work – making a documentary about a famous and very beautiful Russian ballerina. With Ned suddenly in the middle of her life, Liz starts to lose control, particularly as Ned and River seem to delight in roughhousing with each other. When she encourages Ned to earn some cash by helping out with Dylan's documentary to get him out of the house, the resulting revelations eventually prove even more disastrous.

"Emily Mortimer has always been one of my favorite performers," enthuses Jesse Peretz. "There's nothing inherently funny about her character, and that's what's really impressive about her performance coming across as so hilarious. She's giving the movie a very substantial emotional weight, but at the same time adding to the comedy at every turn."

Middle sister Miranda (Elizabeth Banks) is a determined career woman, a writer for *Vanity Fair* who is finally about to land her first big interview. Of the siblings, Miranda seems to be the most level-headed, though her high standards, intense focus on her career, and sharp tongue are likely one of the reasons she tends to keep others at an arm's distance – like her otherwise attentive downstairs neighbor Jeremy (Adam Scott). She agrees to allow Ned to be her driver on an interview with Lady Arabella, a scion of European royalty who was recently part of a public scandal. Curiously, Arabella hits it off more with Ned than Miranda, and ultimately it's only to him that she confides some of her more salacious personal secrets. When Miranda realizes that her story is doomed unless she can get Ned to confess what he knows about the Princess' private life, her career and her relationship with her too-trusting brother suddenly seem to be threatening to destroy each other.

"When we started writing the story," remembers Jesse Peretz, "we decided to write for actors we knew. The one exception was Miranda – I'd never worked with Elizabeth Banks before. Of all of the characters, Miranda is the quickest and wittiest, the one making the most

jokes, the most aggressive in teasing the others in her family about their faults. I've been really psyched working with Elizabeth because she's got a great sense of timing. Elizabeth Banks is one of the greatest comic actresses of our time."

The youngest sibling, Natalie (Zooey Deschanel) is perhaps closest to Ned in temperament. Natalie, too, is a lover of people, though in very different way than Ned, as the lengthy list of both male and female conquests in her past would indicate. Now, it seems, Natalie has finally settled into a stable relationship with Cindy (Rashida Jones), a successful lawyer and reliable partner who is already practically part of the family. In fact, it's Cindy who seems to take the most interest in Ned's quest to regain custody of Willie Nelson, helping him hatch a plan of action that predictably gets Ned into more trouble.

Natalie, however, is far from settled – she lives in a Brooklyn apartment with a large number of immature, aimless roommates, and is making a half-hearted stab at stand-up comedy. She seems to share Ned's affinity for not taking things too seriously. She's also still attracted to others, as her flirtation with Christian (Hugh Dancy), an artist who is a self-improvement enthusiast, indicates. Willing to let Ned stay with her (and hoping to find him some romantic fun after his stint in prison), Natalie's life, too, is turned upside-down when the various secret compartments of her life start crashing down because of Ned's trusting nature.

The combination of Natalie's lovable kookiness and the increasingly serious situation that threatens her stable relationship with Cindy was another challenge for the performers. "Since we had Zooey Deschanel in mind from the beginning, it ended up being a very fun character to write," recalls Evgenia Peretz. "We didn't have to over-write her character and hammer everything on the head in making her believable. There's something very Zooey about the character, the way Zooey is able to play a particular kind of just slightly flaky. Not many actresses could do that role."

For the Peretzes and Schisgall, writing the screenplay together also meant collaborating amongst siblings and spouses that might prove trying to even the healthiest of relationships. "It's a lot like a marriage – a constant struggle," jokes David Schisgall. Evgenia and Jesse Peretz have always been close as siblings – like the characters in the film, they are two of four – and have grown even closer in recent years. They first collaborated on a work based more on their shared memories of childhood – something they hope to produce at a later date – so they had a creative working relationship, as well as sharing the joys of parenthood as both siblings had

daughters arrive in the world about the same time. “It’s rare that we go more than a day without talking to each other or a couple of days without hanging out,” says Jesse. “This process really has allowed us to grow closer and appreciate each other more.”

There was also a history of collaboration between Evgenia Peretz and her husband David Schisgall, though of a different sort. “Since we both have primarily worked in non-fiction forms, we’ve often acted as sounding boards and unofficial advisers for each other’s projects,” explains Schisgall. Peretz has been a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* since 1999, covering celebrity culture, politics, and international affairs; Schisgall is a documentary filmmaker and producer whose credits include PBS’ “Frontline” and Errol Morris’ “Dr. Death: the Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter, Jr.” “The difference this time was that we weren’t just helping each other with our individual work,” observes Peretz. “In those projects, it’s easy to offer criticism because you have a good critical distance. That’s a lot harder to do when everyone in the room has contributed equally to what you are creating.”

Being familiar with each other proved especially rich when crafting the characters. “We all had a shorthand; we all know the same people,” says Evgenia Peretz. “If we wanted to describe a character, one of us would say ‘It’s like this person’ that we all know, and the others would instantly know what that meant. There’s something to be said for being able to collaborate on such a personal level.”

That spirit of collaboration extended to the set and the production crew, who worked together for thirty days in the New York City summer heat, on a budget very modest when compared to what one might expect for an ensemble comedy starring some of the film world’s most bankable and likeable stars. “Our budget isn’t very high, so everyone is doing it for the right reasons,” says Jesse Peretz from the set. “I’m always worried that I’m going to jinx myself because you never know about a film until it’s finished, but the vibe on the set is really good. People are here because they want to be, because of the quality of the script and because of the other people working on it. And no one is going for the joke so much as the emotional reality – everyone’s on the same page.”

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About the Cast

PAUL RUDD (Ned)

Rudd currently stars in James L. Brooks's, *How Do You Know* opposite Reese Witherspoon and Jack Nicholson. Columbia Pictures released the film on December 17, 2010.

He will next be seen starring in Jesse Peretz's *My Idiot Brother* opposite Elizabeth Banks, Zooey Deschanel, Emily Mortimer and Rashida Jones. The film centers on an idealist (Rudd) dealing with his over bearing mother and crashes at the homes of his three ambitious sisters and brings truth, happiness and a sunny disposition into their lives while also wreaking havoc. This film marks Rudd's second collaboration with Peretz having worked with him previously in *The Chateau*.

Rudd recently completed production on David Wain's *Wanderlust* starring opposite Jennifer Aniston as a New York couple who move to a freewheeling commune to escape their modern city life. Rudd is producing the film with Judd Apatow, David Wain and Ken Marino.

He recently starred in Jay Roach's *Dinner for Schmucks* opposite Steve Carell. Prior to that, he starred in John Hamburg's *I Love You, Man*, which grossed over \$90 million worldwide.

He also starred in and co-wrote David Wain's box office hit *Role Models* opposite Seann William Scott. The Broadcast Film Critics Association and the St. Louis Film Critics Group nominated the film as Best Comedy.

Rudd starred in Judd Apatow's hit *Knocked Up* opposite Seth Rogen and Leslie Mann. *Knocked Up* grossed over \$300 million worldwide and won the People's Choice Award for Favorite Movie Comedy. It was also nominated for a Critics Choice Award for Best Comedy

Movie and was named as one of AFI's Top Ten Films of the Year.

Rudd's other film credits include: *Monsters Vs. Aliens*, *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, *The 40 Year Old Virgin*, *Anchorman*, *The Ten*, in which he also served as a producer on the film; *Night at the Museum*, *Diggers*, *Reno 911*, *The Cider House Rules*, *The Object of My Affection*, *Wet Hot American Summer*, *Clueless*, and *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet*, among others.

On stage, Rudd starred opposite Julia Roberts and Bradley Cooper in Richard Greenberg's *Three Days of Rain*. He also starred in Neil LaBute's *Bash* in both New York and Los Angeles as well as Labute's *The Shape of Things* in London and New York. He made his West End debut in the London production of Robin Phillips' *Long Days Journey Into Night* opposite Jessica Lange. Other stage credits include Nicholas Hynter's *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center Theater with a special performance, which aired on PBS' "Great Performances" and in Alfred Uhry's Tony Award winning play, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*.

On television, Rudd guest starred on NBC's *Friends* as Phoebe's (Lisa Kudrow) husband Mike Hannigan for the final two seasons and starred as Nick Carraway in A&E's production of *The Great Gatsby*.

ELIZABETH BANKS (Miranda)

Elizabeth Banks has become one of Hollywood's most sought after and versatile actresses, moving effortlessly between comedy and drama, and now taking on a role as a producer. She was recently seen starring opposite Russell Crowe in "The Next Three Days," directed by Paul Haggis. Banks portrays a woman jailed for murder whose husband (Crowe) tries to free her from prison. Lions Gate released the film on November 19th, 2010.

Additionally, Elizabeth will be seen starring in the independent film "The Details" opposite

Tobey Maguire and Laura Linney. She can also be seen in a recurring role on the NBC series “30 Rock.”

Banks recently produced Disney’s sci-fi thriller “The Surrogates,” starring Bruce Willis, through her company Brownstone Productions. Upcoming projects for Brownstone, which Banks runs with her husband Max Handelman, include “Tink,” a Disney live-action romantic comedy in which Banks will star as the title character of ‘Tinkerbell,’ “Forever 21,” a Dreamworks comedy which Banks will star in and produce, “Too Far From Home,” a Universal film about three astronauts who were stranded on the international space station and the comedy “Pitch Perfect,” also at Universal.

In 2008, Banks had four films in theatres “W,” “Zach and Miri Make a Porno,” “Role Models” and “Meet Dave.” Banks received critical acclaim for her role as “First Lady Laura Bush” opposite Josh Brolin in Oliver Stone’s “W”. The impressive cast included James Cromwell, Richard Dreyfuss, Ellen Burstyn and Jeffrey Wright. In Kevin Smith’s “Zack and Miri Make a Porno.” Banks (Miri) and Zack (Seth) play two broke friends who decide to cure their financial ills by making an X-rated movie. Banks also appeared in Universal’s “Role Models,” opposite Paul Rudd and Sean William Scott and the Fox comedy “Meet Dave” opposite Eddie Murphy.

In 2007, Banks was seen in the Warner Brothers holiday comedy “Fred Claus” opposite Vince Vaughn and Paul Giamatti. The film grossed over 70 million dollars at the box office. Banks was also seen reprising her role as journalist “Betty Brant” in “Spiderman 3”. Banks appeared in both of the previous “Spiderman” blockbusters in the role, which director Sam Raimi created for her.

In 2006, Banks starred in the Disney blockbuster “Invincible,” opposite Mark Wahlberg and Greg Kinnear. The film opened number one at the box office.

In 2005, Elizabeth made a memorable turn in “The 40-Year-Old Virgin” as “Beth” a sex-crazed bookstore employee. The same year she also appeared in “Sisters,” an independent film opposite Maria Bello and Eric McCormack. She was also seen in Universal Pictures’ critically acclaimed horror/comedy “Slither”.

In June 2005, Banks was seen starring in the Sony Classics/Ivory Merchant drama “Heights” opposite Glenn Close and James Marsden. Also in 2005, Banks appeared in IFC Film’s “The Baxter”.

Banks’ additional feature credits include her breakthrough roles the award Academy Award winning films “Seabiscuit,” in which she starred as “Marcela Howard” opposite Jeff Bridges and Tobey Maguire, and in Steve Spielberg’s “Catch Me If You Can.” She has also appeared in “The Uninvited,” “Daltry Calhoun,” “Sexual Life”, John Singleton’s “Shaft” with Samuel L. Jackson and “Wet Hot American Summer” starring Jeneane Garofalo and David Hyde Pierce. She has also appeared in several independent features including “The Trade” and “Ordinary Sinner,” which won the Best Film Award at the 2002 Slamdance Film Festival in Park City. Her extensive theater credits include many roles in American Conservatory Theatre productions, as well as the Guthrie Theater’s production of “Summer & Smoke” directed by David Esbjornson. In 2006 Banks played Cherie, the female lead in William Inge’s comedy “Bus Stop,” as part of the Williamstown Theater Festival.

On the small screen Banks recently made a guest appearance on ABC’s “Modern Family” and appeared in recurring role as “Dr. Kim Porter” on NBC’s “Scrubs.” In 2007 she

appeared in the CBS mini series “Comanche Moon,” which is Larry McMurtry’s popular prequel to “Lonesome Dove.”

Originally from Massachusetts, Banks received her Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her Graduate Degree at the American Conservatory Theater. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

ZOOEY DESCHANEL (Natalie)

Zoey Deschanel is an entertainer in every sense of the word, bringing the classical leading lady back to the modern audience with her old-fashioned charm. Lauded as “timeless”, “vintage” and “ethereal,” Deschanel’s recent films include “(500) Days of Summer” opposite Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and Warner Brothers’ “Yes Man” opposite Jim Carrey. Cinephiles have long known Deschanel for her breakout performance in Cameron Crowe’s “Almost Famous,” and “All the Real Girls” for which she received an Independent Spirit Award nomination. Other films include “The Good Girl” with Jennifer Aniston, “Eulogy” with Debra Winger and Ray Romano, and “Elf,” opposite Will Ferrell for director Jon Favreau. Zoey’s music has added to her performance tapestry. Her latest album “She & Him: Volume 2” debuted at #6 on the *Billboard* Top 200, and was one of the most critically acclaimed albums in 2010.

Deschanel made her feature film debut in 1999 in Lawrence Kasdan’s ensemble drama “Mumford.” She played the loveable sidekick Kit in “Failure to Launch” with Matthew McConaughey and Sarah Jessica Parker, and starred in the box office hit “The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy” with Sam Rockwell, Mos Def and John Malkovich. She was also seen in the Disney film “Bridge to Terabithia,” based on the Newberry Award-winning children’s novel, and she provided the voice of a surfing penguin alongside Shia LaBeouf and Jeff Bridges in the

animated hit “Surf’s Up.” Other co-starring credits include “The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford” opposite Brad Pitt and Casey Affleck, “Live Free or Die” with Aaron Stanford, “Gigantic with Paul Dano,” “Flakes” with Aaron Stanford, “The Go-Getter with Lou Taylor-Pucci,” “The Good Life” for writer/director Stephen Berra, and Adam Rapp’s “Winter Passing,” opposite Will Ferrell and Ed Harris. She also starred with Mark Wahlberg in the thriller “The Happening,” “Abandon” for director Stephen Gaghan, “Big Trouble” for director Barry Sonnenfeld, and the Emmy Award-nominated Sci-Fi Channel mini-series “Tin Man.”

In addition to her work on-screen, she has also earned rave reviews and popular acclaim for her collaboration with M. Ward and their band, She & Him. Music, having always been a passion for Deschanel, has produced two albums boasting twenty-one original songs written by Deschanel and four covers of some of her personal favorites. Additionally the band has sold out tours in the US, UK and Europe.

Next up for Deschanel is the Universal Pictures period comedy “Your Highness” opposite Natalie Portman and James Franco. Zooey, who was named for the male character in J. D. Salinger’s Franny and Zooey, spent much of her childhood on location with her actress mother, Mary Jo, and her father Caleb, an Academy Award-nominated cinematographer. She credits her father with instilling in her a keen visual sense and great style.

EMILY MORTIMER (Liz)

Emily Mortimer’s many film credits include her break-out role in the critically-acclaimed “Lovely & Amazing” directed by Nicole Holofcener. The film brought Mortimer great critical acclaim and a 2003 Independent Spirit Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Mortimer most recently has been seen on screen in a wide range of projects including: Martin Scorsese's box office hit, "Shutter Island," which she played a mysterious patient of the clinic where the story is set; the comedy, "City Island"; "Harry Brown," a crime drama which she plays a detective opposite Michael Caine; the thriller "Transsiberian," directed by Brad Anderson ("The Machinist"); and "The Pink Panther 2," reprising her role of Nicole opposite Steve Martin. Other recent films include "Lars and the Real Girl," opposite Ryan Gosling and Patricia Clarkson, David Mamet's "Redbelt," Woody Allen's "Match Point," Shona Auerbach's "Dear Frankie," David Mackenzie's first film, "Young Adam," Stephen Fry's, "Bright Young Things"; Kenneth Branagh's "Love's Labour's Lost," Shekhar Kapur's award-winning "Elizabeth," "The Ghost and the Darkness," "Formula 51," "Scream 3," "The Kid," and "A Foreign Affair." Mortimer also voiced the character of young Sophie in Walt Disney Studios' English language version of "Howl's Moving Castle," directed by the renowned Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki. In addition to her several film projects, Mortimer has also starred in a range of television projects including playing the role of Phoebe, a love interest for Alec Baldwin's character, during the 2007 season of the hit NBC series "30 Rock."

On stage, her credits include Jez Butterworth's "Parlour Song," Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," and "The Lights" on London's West End. She also appeared in Eric Idle's new play "What About Dick?: A Film for Radio" in the 2007 tryout run in Los Angeles. The daughter of famed writer Sir John Mortimer and Penelope Glossop, she studied English and Russian at Oxford University. She married actor Alessandro Nivola in 2002; their son was born in 2003 and their daughter earlier this year.

STEVE COOGAN (Dylan)

British-born Steve Coogan was on top of the U.S. box office in 2008 with “Tropic Thunder.” He was also seen recently in “Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian,” reprising his role from “Night at the Museum.” Earlier this year, he starred as Hades, God of the Underworld in “Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief.” His voice may currently be heard in “Marmaduke.”

Born and raised in Manchester, where he trained as an actor at the Manchester Polytechnic School of Theatre, Coogan saw stand-up as a way of obtaining an equity card. While working in radio, Coogan created his character Alan Partridge in “On the Hour” which became the television show “The Day Today,” which became the radio show “Knowing Me, Knowing You with Alan Partridge.” The show made the transition to television and received huge critical acclaim along with numerous awards. At the 1994 British Comedy Awards, Coogan won Top Male Comedy Performer, Top Comedy Personality and the program won Best New Television Comedy. Coogan then completed a sell-out tour in the UK with his live show “The Man Who Thinks He’s It,” which won a South Bank Show Award and broke all box office records for a comedy show in London’s West End.

As a writer, Coogan started a screen career co-writing the British hit “The Parole Officer” with business partner Henry Normal. In 2002, Coogan released a new series of “I’m Alan Partridge,” which again received rave reviews and earned him two BAFTA Awards for Best Comedy Series and Best Comedy Performance. Coogan's most recent television appearance was in the 2007 season finale of HBO's award-winning “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” playing Larry David's psychologist. He also wrote and starred in a Christmas Special for BBC 2 titled “Tony Ferrino's Phenomenon” (for which he received the Silver Rose of Montreux Award) and the

BBC 2 comedy shows “Saxondale” and “Coogan's Run.” He recently wrapped his 40-city tour of his second live comedy show, entitled “Steve Coogan is Alan Partridge and Other Less Successful Characters.”

Other film credits for Coogan as a performer include “The Indian in the Cupboard,” Jim Jarmusch’s “Coffee and Cigarettes,” “24 Hour Party People,” “Around the World in 80 Days” (as Phileas Fogg), “Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story,” “Happy Endings,” “Marie Antoinette,” “Finding Amanda,” and the American indie hit “Hamlet 2.” Later this year, he will also be seen opposite of Hilary Duff and Molly Shannon in “Safety Glass.”

HUGH DANCY (Christian)

Hugh Dancy starred in Max Mayer's "Adam" opposite Rose Byrne, which premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival and was awarded the Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize and was released by Fox Searchlight. He also recently starred in the MCC Theater's Off Broadway production of "The Pride," directed by Joe Mantello.

His previous film credits include "Confessions of a Shopaholic," "Evening," "The Jane Austen Book Club," "Beyond the Gates," "King Arthur," "Ella Enchanted," "The Sleeping Dictionary," "Black Hawk Down," and "Young Blades." On television, Dancy starred in Tom Hooper's critically acclaimed series "Elizabeth I" opposite Helen Mirren and Jeremy Irons. He received an Emmy Nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or a Movie for his role as Earl of Essex, and the series received the 2007 Golden Globe Award for Best Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television and the Emmy Award for Best Miniseries. His other television credits include: "Daniel Deronda," "David Copperfield," "Relic Hunter" and "Madame Bovary."

On stage, Dancy starred in David Grindley's "A Journey's End" opposite Boyd Gaines, Jefferson Mays and Stark Sands. "A Journey's End" won the 2007 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play. He graduated with an English Literature degree from St. Peter's College, Oxford.

KATHRYN HAHN (Janet)

A natural talent with an engaging presence and undeniable energy, Kathryn Hahn has made her mark through a variety of entertaining and memorable character roles. She can currently be seen as Claire on HBO's "Hung", and was recently seen in James L. Brooks film "How Do You Know?" alongside Jack Nicholson, Reese Witherspoon, Paul Rudd, and Owen Wilson.

Prior to that, Hahn was seen in Sam Mendes' film "Revolutionary Road." She also co-starred in "The Goods: The Don Ready Story," directed by Neal Brennan. Her other film credits include the comedy "Step Brothers" with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly, "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" with Kate Hudson, "Anchorman," "The Last Mimzy," "The Holiday," "Win a Date with Tad Hamilton," and "Flushed." Hahn's TV credits include her recurring role as Lily Lebowski on the NBC hit show "Crossing Jordan" and "Four Kings."

Hahn made her Broadway debut in the Tony winning play "Boeing-Boeing" alongside Bradley Whitford, Gina Gershon, Mary McCormack and Christine Baranski. Other theater credits also include "Dead End" (Ahmanson Theater, Huntington Theater Company), "Ten Unknowns" (Huntington Theater Company), "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Williamstown Mainstage), "Hedda Gabler" (Williamstown/Baystreet), "Othello" (Yale School of Drama), "Chaucer in Rome" (Williamstown Mainstage), "Camino Real" (Williamstown Mainstage) and "The Birds" (Yale). She received her Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and her

Masters in Fine Arts from the Yale School of Drama, and currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband, son, and baby girl.

RASHIDA JONES (Cindy)

Rashida Jones most recently appeared in Columbia Pictures' "The Social Network," starring opposite Justin Timberlake and Jesse Eisenberg. She will also appear in Fox 2000's upcoming comedy "The Big Year," opposite Jim Parsons, Anjelica Huston, Steve Martin, Jack Black, and Owen Wilson. She also recently starred in the drama "Monogamy" opposite Chris Messina, which premiered in April at the Tribeca Film Festival. Previously, she was seen in the DreamWorks feature, "I Love You, Man" for writer/director John Hamburg, starring opposite Paul Rudd and Jason Segal.

On television, Jones can currently be seen on NBC's "Parks and Recreation" opposite Amy Poehler, which will return for a third season beginning January 2011. She first caught the attention of audiences and the industry alike when she portrayed ambitious saleswoman Karen Filippelli in NBC's Emmy Award-winning comedy "The Office," opposite Steve Carell. She also starred as Kate on "Unhitched," a half-hour comedy for Fox from the Farrelly brothers. Previous television credits include David E. Kelley's "Boston Public"; TNT's "Wanted," Judd Apatow's "Freaks and Geeks"; "If These Walls Could Talk II"; "Chappelle's Show"; and the British television series "NY-LON". Jones was also a correspondent on the talk show "Vibe TV".

Overture Films recently acquired the rights to Jones and writing partner Will McCormack's first script "Celeste and Jesse Forever." She is attached to star in the film which focuses on a young couple in the midst of a divorce who attempt to maintain their friendship while pursuing new relationships. In addition, Jones recently sold her script "Frenemy of the

State" to Universal Pictures. She graduated from Harvard University, where she appeared in several plays including "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf", "Dancing at Lughnasa", "The Odd Couple: The Female Version", and "H.M.S. Pinafore." She was also in "Pitching to the Star" with Peggy Lipton, at the Lee Strasburg Theatre.

SHIRLEY KNIGHT (Ilene)

After fifty plus years of winning awards for her work in drama (including two Oscar nominations, three Emmy Awards, two Golden Globes, a Tony, and the Best Actress at the Venice Film Festival), Shirley Knight is enjoying a "second career" in comedy. Knight was born in Gossell, Kansas, the state she grew up in. She attended Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, Wichita State University, and has a Doctor of Fine Arts Degree from Lake Forest College. She began studying to be an opera singer at age eleven. After studying at the Pasadena Theatre School, she began her film career in 1959. She then went to New York and began her theatre career. She studied acting with Jeff Corey and Lee Strasberg and is a member of The Actor's Studio. She has received many honors from her home state of Kansas, including the Kansan of the Year award in 2000 and the Governor's Distinguished Artist Award in 2007.

Knight's over 200 professional stage, screen, and film credits now span over half a century, and includes classic television shows such as "Rawhide," "77 Sunset Strip," "Maverick," "The Outer Limits," "The Fugitive," "The Streets of San Francisco," "Murder She Wrote," "Matlock," "Law & Order," "L.A. Law," "Ally McBeal," "ER," "House," "Desperate Housewives," and the new series "Hot in Cleveland." She has been nominated for eight Emmy Awards, winning three times: for her guest work on "thirtysomething," and then, in 1995, winning twice in the same year, for her guest role on "NYPD Blue" and as Best Supporting

Actress in a Miniseries or Special for her heartbreaking performance in “Indictment: The McMartin Trial.” Her stage career is no less acclaimed, having earned a Tony Award for “Kennedy’s Children” and a nomination for Horton Foote’s “The Young Man From Atlanta.” She is one of the few working actors who can claim to have had a part written especially for her by Tennessee Williams (“A Lovely Sunday for Creve Couer.”)

On screen, Knight’s career includes her Oscar-nominated roles in “Sweet Bird of Youth” and “The Dark at the Top of the Stairs,” as well as films such as “The Group,” “Petulia,” “The Rain People,” “Endless Love,” “Color of Night,” “Stuart Saves His Family,” “As Good As it Gets,” “The Salton Sea,” “Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood,” “Paul Blart: Mall Cop,” and “The Private Lives of Pippa Lee.”

T.J. MILLER (Billy)

T.J. Miller is becoming one of the most sought after young comedians and actors in the comedy world. He has been named one of Variety’s “Top 10 Comics to Watch,” as well as one of Entertainment Weekly’s “Next Big Things in Comedy.” He recently starred as ‘Ranger Jones’ in the Warner Brothers live-action/CGI feature film YOGI BEAR opposite Dan Akroyd, Justin Timberlake and Anna Faris, and opposite Jack Black and Jason Segel in the 20th Century Fox live action 3D film GULLIVER’S TRAVELS in December. Prior to these, he was seen in Tony Scott’s dramatic thriller UNSTOPPABLE opposite Denzel Washington and Chris Pine.

Miller first came to audience’s attention in 2008 when he starred in the JJ Abrams blockbuster hit CLOVERFIELD. The Sci-Fi thriller opened number one at the box office. Soon after he appeared in Mike Judge’s EXTRACT opposite of Jason Bateman and starred in the ABC comedy series “Carpoolers” opposite of Jerry O’Connell. This past year Miller was seen stealing scenes in the Paramount comedy, SHE’S OUT OF MY LEAGUE opposite of Jay Baruchel and

Alice Eve and he also voiced the character ‘Tuffnut’ in the hugely successful Dreamworks animated film HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON alongside Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler and Craig Ferguson. Miller also had a role in Universal’s comedy feature GET HIM TO THE GREEK with Russell Brand and Jonah Hill.

Miller is currently crisscrossing the country performing his critically acclaimed stand-up act, which has included stops in Chicago, Toronto and Montreal for the Just for Laughs Festivals. At times he performs with his sketch comedy group “Heavyweight,” with Brady Novak, Mark Raterman and Nick Vatterott. Earlier this year, Comedy Central featured him on their “Hot List” special, which focused on the top 10 stand-up comedians of the moment. Miller hails from Denver, Colorado, and toured with Second City in Chicago for almost two years. He also insists on reminding people that he was the Regional Winner of the Sierra Mist Search for the Next Great Comic in 2005.

Miller currently resides in Los Angeles.

ADAM SCOTT (Jeremy)

Adam Scott recently joined NBC’s critically acclaimed comedy “Parks and Recreation” as a series regular opposite Amy Poehler. In addition, as part of his casting on the show he sealed a first-look production deal with NBC Universal. Scott also was recently seen starring in the Starz original series “Party Down,” which just wrapped its second season, and also produced with executive producers Paul Rudd, Rob Thomas, Dan Etheridge and John Enbom.

Scott also starred in “The Vicious Kind,” executive produced by Neil Labute, and winner of the Best Picture award at the 2009 New Orleans Film Festival; the role also earned him a nomination for Best Actor at the Independent Spirit Awards. Additionally, Scott has a lead role

opposite Elizabeth Shue, Ving Rhames, and Richard Dreyfuss in “Piranha 3D.” Other upcoming projects include “Operation Endgame”; and “Passenger Side,” in which he also serves as executive producer. The film premiered to rave reviews at this year’s Los Angeles Film Festival and the Toronto Film Festival.

Scott starred opposite Amy Adams in “Leap Year”; alongside John C. Reilly and Will Ferrell in “Step Brothers”; with Josh Hartnett in “August”; with Martin Landau and Elizabeth Banks in “Lovely, Still.” He previously starred in the critically acclaimed HBO series “Tell Me You Love Me.” In addition, he portrayed Johnny Meyer, Howard Hughes’ press agent, in Miramax’s Oscar-winning film “The Aviator,” for legendary director Martin Scorsese. Additional film credits include the blockbuster comedy “Knocked Up,” “The Great Buck Howard,” and “Art School Confidential.” He currently resides in Los Angeles.

JANET MONTGOMERY (Arabella)

Janet Montgomery began her acting career at the age of 12 when she appeared on the British children's' show “Short Change.” In 2008, she guest starred opposite Nicholas Hoult on the critically-acclaimed UK teen drama series “Skins.” She moved to Los Angeles, and was quickly cast in the Dark Castle films “The Hills Run Red” and “Wrong Turn 3: Left for Dead.” She recently appeared opposite Natalie Portman and Winona Ryder in Darren Aronofsky’s psychological thriller “Black Swan.” On television, Montgomery is currently recurring on the HBO hit series “Entourage” in which she plays E’s assistant and she recently completed shooting an episode of FX’s “The League.” She is about to start work in a recurring role on Fox’s “Human Target.”

MATTHEW MINDLER (River)

Matthew Mindler made his professional acting debut as a member of the Original Broadway Cast of the Tony Award-winning musical, “Billy Elliot.” Prior to “My Idiot Brother,” Matthew appeared in commercials, the film “Bereavement” with John Savage, and the daytime drama “As the World Turns.” He is a powerful singer, and in addition to acting, he is currently studying voice, tap, and ballet. Matthew's strong drive to succeed, professionalism, and distinctive personality are constantly commented on by directors and fellow actors alike.

STERLING BROWN (Omar)

Sterling is currently a series regular on the Lifetime hit series Army Wives, which is entering into its fifth season. Other television credits include Supernatural, Detroit 1-8-7, Eli Stone, Boston Legal, Medium, Without A Trace, Third Watch, Alias, ER, and NYPD Blue. Film credits include Righteous Kill, Trust The Man, and Stay. Mr. Brown came to acting through the stage and has numerous theatrical credits regionally and in New York City. Most notably, he appeared in an all star production of Bertolt Brecht's The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui starring Al Pacino, opposite Liev Schrieber in Shakespeare in the Park's MacBeth, and in Tarrell Alvin McCraney's Pulitzer prize nominated Brother/Sister Plays at the Public Theater. He received his MFA from NYU.

MY IDIOT BROTHER

About the Filmmakers

JESSE PERETZ (Director)

Jesse Peretz' previous feature films are "The Chateau," with Paul Rudd and Romany Malco; "The Ex," starring Jason Bateman, Zach Braff, Amanda Peet, and Charles Grodin; and "First Love, Last Rites" with Giovanni Ribisi and Natasha Gregson Wagner, based on the Ian McEwan short story. On television, he directed the sketch portions of the first season of the Comedy Central show "Important Things with Demetri Martin," and has directed scores of award-winning commercials and music videos, including videos for the The Breeders, Jack Black, and Jimmy Fallon. The video for the Foo Fighters "Learn To Fly" earned Peretz the Grammy Award for Video of the Year. He was also the co-creator of The Jimmy McBride MTV cabdriver (played by Donal Logue) in the mid-1990s. In high school, Peretz started the successful rock band The Lemonheads with classmate Evan Dando, for whom he remained the bass player for the group's first four albums.

EVGENIA PERETZ (Screenplay)

Evgenia Peretz has been a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* for more than ten years. She has written on a wide range of topics, from eccentric subcultures (such as big wave-surfers, female war reporters, the children of rock stars, and Kabbalah), to profiles of controversial artists and entertainers (including writer James Frey, director Tony Kaye, Lindsay Lohan, and Tom Cruise), to articles about the follies of the rich, including St. Tropez and the plagued Plaza Hotel conversion. She has also written extensively on politics, covering the run-up to the war in Iraq, the Florida recount, and the press coverage of Al Gore in 2000. Her article on President Bush's

life in Crawford, Texas, was selected for the anthology *Best Political Writing 2006*. She holds a BA in Fine Arts from Harvard and an MFA from NYU in Dramatic Writing. She lives in New York with her husband, documentary filmmaker (and “My Idiot Brother” co-writer) David Schisgall, and their two children, Elias and Daphne.

DAVID SCHISGALL (Screenplay)

David Schisgall began his career working for documentarian Errol Morris, assisting on “A Brief History of Time,” “Fast, Cheap and Out of Control,” and “Mr. Death,” and producing for Morris’ television series for Bravo, “First Person.” Last year, Schisgall produced “The Ten Trillion Dollar Question,” a documentary about the national debt, which aired on PBS’ “Frontline” in March 2009. Prior to that, he premiered two feature documentaries at the 2007 Toronto Film Festival, “Very Young Girls,” which he produced, directed and shot for Showtime, and “Operation Filmmaker,” which he produced for ITVS/BBC. Both were released theatrically in the United States in the summer of 2008. The two films played dozens of festivals, including Rotterdam, Edinburgh, Jerusalem, True/False, IDFA, and AFI, where “Operation Filmmaker” won the Best Documentary prize.

In 2006, David helped developed the radio show “This American Life” into a television series for Showtime, which has since won several prime-time Emmys. He also created, and directed “Beyond Normal,” a series pilot for MTV about young people in war zones. In 2004, David was honored with the Edward R. Murrow award for Best News Documentary of the year. He received the award for his program on young Americans and Iraqis at war, “True Life: I’m in Iraq,” which aired on MTV and on Armed Forces Television worldwide. It was the first time in its fifty-year history that the award was given to a network other than HBO, CNN, PBS, or the

original three broadcast networks. The film was also chosen as one of the best television documentaries of the year by the Museum of Film and Television.

The Iraq work followed another war-zone hour for MTV, "True Life: I Live In The Terror Zone," about young Israelis and Palestinians on the West Bank. The program was honored by Senator Edward Kennedy at the Khalil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Award, given by the Arab-American Institute; and was the only non-Israeli film about the Israel/Palestine conflict shown at Israel's national festival, the Jerusalem Film Festival. Schisgall's first feature documentary, "The Lifestyle: Group Sex in the Suburbs," was released theatrically by Seventh Art in 2000 after premiering at the Los Angeles Film Festival. *Newsweek* said it was "unexpected, hilarious, and shocking," and *The LA Weekly* proclaimed it "a classic of an altogether different order." Some of his video web content for *Vanity Fair* was shown in fall 2008 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

ANTHONY BREGMAN (Producer)

Anthony Bregman's films include "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "Friends With Money," "Synecdoche, New York," "Please Give," "The Tao of Steve," "Lovely & Amazing," "Human Nature," "The Extra Man," "Thumbsucker," "The Savages," "The Ice Storm," "The Brothers McMullen," "Trick," Mexican science fiction extravaganza "Sleep Dealer," and punk rock monster movie "Love God," the world's first digital film. He is currently in post-production on two films: "The Oranges," and "Darling Companion."

In the Fall of 2006, Bregman founded the New York City-based production company Likely Story, which he currently runs with Stefanie Azpiazu. Prior to Likely Story, Bregman was a partner at This is That for four years, and spent ten years as head of production at Good

Machine, where he supervised the production and post-production of over thirty feature films, including “Sense and Sensibility,” “Eat Drink, Man Woman,” “Walking & Talking,” “What Happened Was...,” “The Wedding Banquet,” and “Safe.” Bregman teaches producing at Columbia University’s Graduate Film School, and is on the board of the IFP.

Bregman's movies have won numerous awards at the Oscars, Golden Globes, BAFTAs, Gothams, Indie Spirits, and Cannes, Berlin, and Sundance Film Festivals, among others. At the end of 2009, Roger Ebert named "Synecdoche, New York" the Best Film of the Decade.

PETER SARAF (Producer)

Peter Saraf co-founded Big Beach with Marc Turtletaub in 2004 and has served as a producer on all of the company’s films including “Little Miss Sunshine,” for which he was nominated for an Academy Award. Saraf’s other credits with Big Beach include Sam Mendes’ “Away We Go,” Christine Jeffs’ “Sunshine Cleaning,” John Crowley’s “Is Anybody There,” Ramin Bahrani’s “Chop Shop,” and Liev Schrieber’s “Everything is Illuminated.” Big Beach’s most recent releases are the documentary “Lucky,” directed by Jeffrey Blitz, and Phillip Seymour Hoffman’s directorial debut, “Jack Goes Boating.”

Before Big Beach, Saraf was an independent producer and long-time partner of director Jonathan Demme and producer Edward Saxon at the production company Clinica Estetico. His credits with Clinica Estetico include Victor Nunez’s “Ulee’s Gold,” Jonathan Demme’s “The Truth About Charlie,” and Spike Jonze’s “Adaptation.” Saraf has also produced a range of documentaries, including Jonathan Demme’s “The Agronomist,” the Academy Award-nominated “Mandela: Son of Africa, Father of a Nation,” and “One Foot on a Banana Peel, the Other Foot in the Grave,” a portrait of the AIDS crisis.

MARC TURTLETAUB (Producer)

Marc Turtletaub has been a producer for ten years through two production companies. In 2004, he co-founded Big Beach with Peter Saraf and has served as a producer on all of the company's films including the Academy Award-winning "Little Miss Sunshine," directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris. Turtletaub's other credits with Big Beach include Sam Mendes' "Away We Go," Christine Jeffs' "Sunshine Cleaning," John Crowley's "Is Anybody There," Ramin Bahrani's "Chop Shop," and Liev Schrieber's "Everything is Illuminated." Big Beach's most recent releases are the documentary "Lucky," directed by Jeffrey Blitz, and Phillip Seymour Hoffman's directorial debut, "Jack Goes Boating." Prior to founding Big Beach, Turtletaub created Deep River Productions in 2000 with David Friendly.