

# MILLENNIUM FILMS

PRESENTS

A **TWO TON FILMS** PRODUCTION

A FILM BY **JUSTIN ZACKHAM**

**ROBERT DE NIRO KATHERINE HEIGL DIANE KEATON**  
**AMANDA SEYFRIED TOPHER GRACE**  
WITH **SUSAN SARANDON** AND **ROBIN WILLIAMS AS FATHER MOINIGHAN**

# *Big* The Wedding

**BEN BARNES CHRISTINE EBERSOLE DAVID RASCHE PATRICIA RAE ANA AYORA**

CASTING BY BARBARA FIORENTINO, CSA  
COSTUME DESIGNER AUDE BRONSON-HOWARD  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER ANDREW JACKNESS  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JONATHAN BROWN A.S.C.  
EDITED BY JONATHAN CORN A.C.E.  
MUSIC BY NATHAN BARR  
CO PRODUCER MATT O'TOOLE  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS THIERRY SPICHER PHILIPPE MARTIN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AVI LERNER DANNY DIMBORT TREVOR SHORT  
BOAZ DAVIDSON JOHN THOMPSON  
BASED ON THE MOTION PICTURE "MON FRERE SE MARIE" AND BASED ON AN ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY  
WRITTEN BY JEAN-STEPHANE BRON AND KARINE SUDAN  
AND PRODUCED BY BOX PRODUCTIONS AND LES FILMS PELLEAS  
SCREENPLAY BY JUSTIN ZACKHAM  
PRODUCED BY CLAY PECORIN HARRY J. UFLAND JUSTIN ZACKHAM  
PRODUCED BY RICHARD SALVATORE ANTHONY KATAGAS  
DIRECTED BY JUSTIN ZACKHAM

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## Synopsis

With an all-star cast lead by Diane Keaton, Robert De Niro, Susan Sarandon and Robin Williams, THE WEDDING is a smart, witty and often outrageous comedy that gives an intimate view of a modern family through their highs and lows over a single weekend of celebration.

In THE WEDDING, Don and Ellie Griffin (Robert De Niro and Diane Keaton), long divorced, are suddenly thrown back together for the sake of their adopted son's wedding when his very conservative biological mother decides to come in for the nuptials. The Griffin's soon learn that acting the happily married couple is not so easy and especially awkward for Don's girlfriend, Bebe (Sarandon). In the midst of these charades, the Griffin's children face their own troubles as Lyla (Katherine Heigl) struggles with a secret, Jared (Topher Grace) contemplates his love life or lack thereof, and Alejandro (Ben Barnes) tries to keep everyone together, including his new bride, Missy (Amanda Seyfried) who is appeasing her parents by getting married by a priest (Robin Williams) in a traditional Catholic wedding.

Writer, Director and Producer, Justin Zackham (*The Bucket List*), is the mastermind behind THE WEDDING and designed the film in the vein of a European comedy with a subtle dramatic underpinning that captures the idiosyncrasies of family life. Throughout the film, the Griffin's are amusingly and poignantly forced to watch their past, present and future unravel for everyone to see... all while trying not to kill each other in the process.

## About the Production

Weddings are by their very nature, stressful. Emotions run rampant and so often, the pressure of capturing the illusive perfect wedding and meeting expectations takes away from what is bringing the happy couple together in the first place. Add an eccentric family to the mix and chaos and mishaps are bound to ensue.

When writer, director and producer Justin Zackham began to conceive of this project, he was initially inspired by the premise of the French-Swiss film *Mon frère se marie* where an adopted son asks his adoptive parents, who have since become divorced, to pretend to be married for the weekend of his wedding. From there, Zackham took his story in a different direction thematically with his own wedding experience in the back of his mind. “We were ready to elope,” said Zackham. “And then two days before, she said she couldn’t do it because her mom would kill her. We went through hell for the next year and a half preparing for the wedding. People do crazy things around weddings for reasons that if you’d talk to them any other time of their life, they’d say they’d never do such a thing.”

In writing the film, Zackham was also guided by his hometown of Greenwich, Connecticut with its country clubs, private schools and high society life, where he was actually an outsider looking in. “As the sort of poor token Jew[let’s ask Annie]—I saw how these kind of crazy, rich, wonderful families interacted with each other—they could fall apart and come together so easily,” said Zackham. These memories of growing up in Connecticut influenced Zackham’s development of the characters and the quirky functionality of the Griffin family.

Costume Designer, Aude Bronson-Howard worked with Zackham to find the feel for THE WEDDING that was typical of the area, yet at the same time atypical given the story they are trying to tell. There was a balance in finding a look that wasn’t too formal or stuffy for the Griffin’s. “A lot of these characters are so non-conventional even though they’re in conventional Greenwich, Connecticut, said Bronson-Howard. “As in every film, you have to give people their own individuality, their own personality.”

In THE WEDDING, the older generation is actually much more unruly than the younger generation and so Bronson-Howard dressed the younger characters a little more traditional and conservative than the older characters. For the wedding, Bronson-Howard kept the look light with a floral theme from the dress to the interiors of the wedding tent and the cake, and all of the center pieces. “I looked to English garden parties for inspiration because it’s often informal and people aren’t afraid of color and it felt like there’s more culture that way,” said Bronson-Howard. “And I thought why not bring a little bit of that here to this Greenwich extravaganza.”

As fate would have it, Zackham’s decision to shoot in Greenwich, Connecticut became a common bond for several of the producers and cast members. Producer Richard Salvatore who was married in Connecticut recalls, “Everything came full circle. Producer Clay Pecorin is from Connecticut, Justin’s from Connecticut and I didn’t even realize that Katherine (Heigl) and Topher (Grace) were also from Connecticut till further down the road.” The familiar setting helped ease the cast into their family dynamic for the film. “Katie Heigl is a longtime friend of mine, who’s from the next town over in Connecticut,” said Grace. “So it’s been amazing to have that kind of connection with someone and play that sister/brother relationship. It’s like, if you had to choose someone to be your sister, where you guys kind of finish each other’s sentences—she’s the one you you’ve got to choose.”

“That Connecticut connection...,” says Heigl. “When Topher signed on to do the project, I knew it would be fun because he and I have this banter. I knew we were going to have a great time working together, and I’d have my buddy on set with me.”

The playful and familiar atmosphere on set helped shape what was taking place on screen with the Griffin’s. “Everyone is having so much fun on this movie, myself included,” said Zackham. “We shot a scene one day where you looked through the lens and it’s at a point where it’s not Robert De Niro, Diane Keaton and everyone anymore—they actually feel like a family.”

“Justin, I think, went out of his way to create a kind of society here that would bleed into the film,” said Grace. “We’re all hanging out in our free time, and that rarely happens, that you voluntarily, after spending 16 hours together, want to hang out.

“The atmosphere on set has been great and I think that all starts at the top,” said Salvatore. “If you have a great director that cares about his actors, then the actors care more about the film. Every person on the movie has brought their A game and are getting along really well.”

Salvatore was drawn to the project because of Zackham’s ability to not only write comedy, but the underlying dramatic moments as well. “I thought this had a lot of heart,” said Salvatore. “I thought that with this powerful of a script; we would be able to put together a strong cast.” And that’s exactly what happened as Zackham and Salvatore got Keaton interested from the very beginning and found the perfect ‘Don Griffin’ to play opposite her in Robert De Niro. “It was always De Niro in our minds,” said Salvatore. “But he’d been busy while we were putting the film together and then finally there was a break, and we dove in. Once he was interested we got Heigl involved and it became something where everyone else wanted to be a part of the movie.”

“With all of these people, Diane, Susan, Bob, it’s a wonderful cast,” said Robin Williams. “To be a part of this ensemble is kind of why I took the role—it’s like a paid vacation. Don’t tell anybody... but it’s lovely.”

Walking into a cast that includes Academy Award® winners Diane Keaton, Robert De Niro, Susan Sarandon and Robin Williams can be daunting for a young actor, but as Seyfried explains, “They are all serious and well-respected actors, but you get all of us in a group and it doesn’t feel daunting. They are so intelligent, and completely their own, which makes acting opposite them more interesting and natural.”

Ben Barnes found himself pausing and trying to wrap his head around working with such a seasoned cast. “My very first scene—my second day—was with Bob, Diane, and Susan and I just thought... ‘How did I end up here?’,” said Barnes. “I think about day five, I finished a scene with Bob and he sort of put his arm around me and said, ‘See you tomorrow kiddo.’ I was like, kiddo, that’s me, that’s my new name, officially.”

There was a very specific moment when Topher Grace suddenly realized there were four Academy Award® winners in front of him. “I was sitting at this table the other day, and everyone’s got an Academy Award® but me,” laughs Grace. “To be able to do a comedy scene with Robin Williams or do a heartfelt emotional scene with Robert De Niro or Diane Keaton, or work with Susan Sarandon, whose work I’ve loved forever—I feel so lucky and it doesn’t get any better than this.”

With vast experience came a freedom and comfort level of improvisation for Keaton, De Niro, Sarandon and Williams. Heigl recalls, “They taught me a lot in that they tend to improvise and

just get into character in a way where they just sort of say what they think and feel in the moment. And it is in that moment that they think of the most brilliant thing to say. That's talent and experience and wisdom and genius. We can't all do that."

THE WEDDING is very much told through the eyes of Ellie Griffin (Diane Keaton) who comes home for the first time in ten years to the house that she and her ex-husband Don Griffin (Robert De Niro) shared with their three children. The film opens with Ellie Griffin stopping by the red maple tree where their moments as a family are captured in time, immediately giving the audience the sense that theirs is a close-knit family.

THE WEDDING moves directly into the more outrageously funny territory as we're introduced to Don Griffin (Robert De Niro) and his longtime girlfriend, Bebe McBride (Susan Sarandon). As Don Griffin, Robert De Niro is in rare form. Zackham explains, "Bob has traditionally played the straight guy in comedies and I feel that, though he may disagree, for the first time he's the comic character." Zackham continues, "He's stealing scenes and he's laugh out loud funny and has this great chemistry with Diane where you just completely buy that they're exes."

"Don Griffin is definitely curmudgeonly and just wants to keep the peace, said Zackham. "He doesn't like any drama and he just wants to keep things nice and smooth—everyone have a good time—but of course that never works out.

Sarandon's character, Bebe McBride, has been with Don Griffin for over ten years and has settled into her place as the eccentric step-mother in the family, but over the course of the weekend, she's forced to revisit her past and reevaluate her relationship with Don.

With the dynamics between these three characters already complicated enough, they suddenly find themselves thrown into an awkward situation when Don and Ellie must pretend they are still married for the weekend of their youngest son's wedding. Alejandro (Ben Barnes) was adopted by the Griffin's at a very young age and has never told his very conservative biological mother (Patricia Rae) that his adoptive parents divorced. Thinking his mother would never travel to the United States for his wedding, Alejandro is caught off guard when she agrees to attend. Conflicted with the secret he's kept for years, he decides it's best to continue the lie for the duration of the weekend to keep the peace and not upset his mother.

"Alejandro's brought up for the first few years of his life by a very Catholic family in Columbia and then moves to America to be raised by a Jewish/Buddhist mother and a father who thinks that any organized religion is for morons," said Barnes. "So the idea that his biological mother gave up her only son so that he could have a chance at a better life in the States with a 'dysfunctional' family that would commit a treacherous sin of divorce is more than he can handle."

"My character is very catholic and I think there are circumstances in her life that really make her cling to her beliefs," said Rae. "So Alejandro is under this misconception that she's a very closed-minded woman but she is really just as human as everyone else."

While his decision to protect the feelings of his biological mother may be in her best interest and the wisest decision to keep the peace for his wedding, Alejandro has unintentionally thrown his adoptive parents and Bebe for a loop.

Meanwhile, Alejandro's fiancé, Missy O'Connor (Amanda Seyfried), is struggling with her parents who are less than thrilled that their daughter is marrying someone from another country and from such an unconventional family. "She loves her parents even though they're uptight and sticklers about certain traditions," says Seyfried. "I think they did not see this for her, even though she is obviously very much in love with Alejandro."

As Muffin O'Connor, Christine Ebersol explains, "They want to set their daughter on the right path so she can be as admired as they'd like to be. Accepting their future son-in-law has them a bit anxious because it's not really what they had in mind and not being able to control that produces anxiety."

Both Alejandro and Missy have decided, against their own wishes, to be married in a traditional Catholic wedding to please her parents and his biological mother. As the priest, Father Monaghan (Robin Williams) is from a very wealthy parish that is very much in keeping with what the O'Connor's would approve of.

The Griffin's two other children, Jared (Topher Grace) and Lyla (Katherine Heigl) come into town for the wedding with their own share of baggage. On coming home, Jared finds himself questioning his decision to remain a virgin until he meets Alejandro's sister from Columbia, Nuria (Ana Ayora) and falls in love. "Jared's almost 30 and he's carved his own path, but he's starting to waiver," said Grace. "Then he kind of falls head over heels immediately for his adopted brother's biological sister. He's got a lot of issues in terms of what this means."

"Nuria takes advantage of her sexuality to lure him in with a certain freedom that he doesn't have, but she ends up really caring about him and it turns out better than she would have even imagined it to be," added Ayora.

Lyla's marriage is on the rocks and she has a secret that she knows will complicate matters. Since the divorce, her relationship with her father has been strained and this weekend is the first in a long time that they've spent together. "Lyla's biggest problem with her father is the fear of becoming like him because they are so similar," said Heigl. "But she finally sort of looks at him and goes—he is who he is, I am who I am, we love differently but it's still enough."

With all of their differences and quirks, this is a family that loves each other and supports each other through all of life's moments. "This is a film about a wedding, but even more about family," said Grace. "More importantly, it shows all different kinds of love represented in a real modern family is."

"I hope when our movie is out in theaters, that everyone brings their families," said Salvatore. "Because not only is this a feel good comedy, it's also heartfelt and something that everyone should be able to relate to."

## About the Cast

### **DIANE KEATON / Ellie Griffin**

Since her screen debut in *Lovers and Other Strangers*, Diane Keaton has proven to be an extremely versatile actress, director and producer. Her acting career spans over twenty-five movie greats, including *The Godfather Trilogy*, *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*, *Annie Hall*, for which she received a best actress Academy Award, and the smash hits *Father of the Bride* and *The First Wives Club*. Ms. Keaton also received Academy Award nominations for her role in the film *Something's Gotta Give*, *Reds* and for her poignant performance in *Marvin's Room*. Thus, making history as the only actress to have had an Academy Award nomination once in every decade.

Ms. Keaton has also received praise as a director, beginning with her work on *Heaven* and culminating with the critically acclaimed *Unstrung Heroes*.

Ms. Keaton won the Golden Globe for her performance in *Something's Gotta Give*, written and directed by Nancy Meyers, and co-starring Jack Nicholson. She also received National Board of Review award for this performance.

As a producer, she is proud to have worked with Gus Van Sant on his critically acclaimed film, *Elephant*, which won the Palm d'Or at the Cannes film festival last year. She has starred in and executive produced the Lifetime TV movie, *On Thin Ice*, which dealt with a mother's methamphetamine addiction for which she won a Prism Award for her compelling performance. She directed and executive produced, the TV pilot *Pasadena* for Fox Television. She has also directed and co-starred in *Hanging Up*, with Meg Ryan, Lisa Kudrow and Walter Matthau, and contributed performances to *The Other Sister*, directed by Garry Marshall.

Ms. Keaton currently has a book out that she edited showcasing her collection of amateur clown paintings, for Lookout and Powerhouse books, entitled Clown Paintings. In Fall 2007, her fifth published book with Rizzoli titled Casa Romantica is expected with great anticipation.

Early 2007 saw the release of the comedy Because I Said So. In April 2007, Diane began production on her latest project in Louisiana with Queen Latifah and Katie Holmes called Mad Money which is directed by Callie Khouri. (Thelma and Louise)

2007 also marks the year that Diane is recognized with the Lincoln Center Honors in New York.

Shifting effortlessly from comedy to drama and back again, Diane Keaton continues to captivate and delight her audiences with every project she devotes herself to.

### **ROBERT DE NIRO / Don Griffin**

Robert De Niro launched his prolific motion picture career in Brian De Palma's "The Wedding Party" in 1969. By 1973 De Niro had twice won the New York Film Critics Award for Best Supporting Actor in recognition of his critically acclaimed performances in "Bang the Drum Slowly" and Martin Scorsese's "Mean Streets."

In 1974 De Niro won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of the young Vito Corleone in "The Godfather, Part II." In 1980 he won his second Oscar, as Best Actor, for his extraordinary portrayal of Jake La Motta in Scorsese's "Raging Bull."

De Niro has earned Academy Award nominations for his work in four additional films: as Travis Bickle in Scorsese's acclaimed "Taxi Driver," as a Vietnam vet in Michael Cimino's "The Deer Hunter," as a catatonic patient brought to life in Penny Marshall's "Awakenings," and in 1992 as Max Cady, an ex-con looking for revenge, in Scorsese's remake of the 1962 classic "Cape Fear."

In 2009, De Niro received the coveted Kennedy Center Honor for his distinguished acting. He also received the Hollywood Actor Award from the Hollywood Film Festival and the Stanley Kubrick Award from the BAFTA Britannia Awards. In addition, AARP the magazine gave De Niro the 2010 Movies for Grownups Lifetime Achievement Award.

De Niro was honored with the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 2011 Golden Globe Award. He also served as the jury president of the 64th Cannes Film Festival.

De Niro's upcoming film projects include the action thriller, "The Killer Elite" which Open Road Films will release in September.

De Niro also stars in Garry Marshall's "New Year's Eve," New Line's ensemble love story follow-up to its "Valentine's Day" movie.

De Niro's recent film credits include Relativity Media's thriller "Limitless," "Little Fockers," the third installment of the highly successful Tribeca Productions' "Meet the Parents" franchise, Filmauro's Italian romantic comedy, "Manuale d'amore 3," Nu Image Films' psychological thriller "Stone," and 20th Century Fox's "Machete."

His distinguished body of work also includes performances in Elia Kazan's "The Last Tycoon"; Bernardo Bertolucci's "1900"; Ulu Grosbard's "True Confessions" and "Falling in Love"; Sergio Leone's "Once Upon a Time in America"; Scorsese's "King of Comedy," "New York, New York," "Goodfellas," and "Casino"; Terry Gilliam's "Brazil"; Roland Joffe's "The Mission"; Brian De Palma's "The Untouchables"; Alan Parker's "Angel Heart"; Martin Brest's "Midnight Run"; David Jones' "Jackknife"; Martin Ritt's "Stanley and Iris"; Neil Jordan's "We're No Angels"; Penny Marshall's "Awakenings"; Ron Howard's "Backdraft"; Michael Caton-Jones' "This Boy's Life"; John McNaughton's "Mad Dog and Glory"; Kenneth Branagh's "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein"; Michael Mann's "Heat"; Barry Levinson's "Sleepers" and "Wag the Dog"; Jerry Zaks' "Marvin's Room"; Tony Scott's "The Fan"; James Mangold's "Copland"; Alfonso Cuarón's "Great Expectations"; Quentin Tarantino's "Jackie Brown"; John Frankenheimer's "Ronin"; Harold Ramis' "Analyze This" and "Analyze That"; Joel Schumacher's "Flawless"; Des McNuff's "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle"; George Tillman's "Men of Honor"; John Herzfeld's "Fifteen Minutes"; Frank Oz's "The Score"; Tom Dey's "Showtime"; Michael Caton-Jones' "City By The Sea"; Nick Hamm's, "Godsend"; John Polson's "Hide and Seek"; Mary McGuckian's "The Bridge of San Luis Rey"; DreamWorks's "Shark Tale" Jay Roach's "Meet The Parents," and "Meet the Fockers," Barry Levinson's "What Just Happened," Jon Avnet's "Righteous Kill" and Kirk Jones' "Everybody's Fine."

De Niro takes pride in the development of his production company, Tribeca Productions, the Tribeca Film Center, which he founded with Jane Rosenthal in 1988, and in the Tribeca Film Festival, which he founded with Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff in 2001 as a response to the attacks on the World Trade Center. The festival was conceived to foster the economic and cultural revitalization of Lower Manhattan through an annual celebration of film, music, and

culture, the festival's mission is to promote New York City as a major filmmaking center and help filmmakers reach the broadest possible audiences.

Through Tribeca Productions, De Niro develops projects on which he serves in a combination of capacities, including producer, director and actor.

Tribeca's "A Bronx Tale" in 1993 marked De Niro's directorial debut. He later directed and co-starred in "The Good Shepherd" with Matt Damon and Angelina Jolie.

Other Tribeca features include "Thunderheart," "Cape Fear," "Mistress," "Night and the City," "The Night We Never Met," "Faithful," "Panther," "Marvin's Room," "Wag the Dog," "Analyze This," "Flawless," "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle," "Meet the Parents," "Fifteen Minutes," "Showtime," "Analyze That" and "Meet the Fockers."

In 1992, Tribeca TV was launched with the acclaimed series "Tribeca." De Niro was one of the executive producers.

In 1998, Tribeca produced a miniseries for NBC, based on the life of "Sammy 'The Bull' Gravano."

Tribeca Productions is headquartered at De Niro's Tribeca Film Center in the TriBeCa district of New York. The Film Center is a state-of-the-art office building designed for the film and television industry. The facility features office space, a screening room, banquet hall and restaurant. The center offers a full range of services for entertainment professionals.

### **SUSAN SARANDON / Bebe McBride**

The extremely versatile actress brings her own brand of sex appeal and intelligence to every role – from her fearless portrayal in "Bull Durham" to her Oscar-nominated performances in "Thelma and Louise," "Lorenzo's Oil," "The Client," and "Atlantic City" to her Academy Award-winning and SAG Award winning role in "Dead Man Walking" as Sister Helen, a nun consoling a death-row inmate.

Sarandon has been seen in "Wall Street 2: Money Never Sleeps" for director Oliver Stone, in "Lovely Bones" for director Peter Jackson, "Enchanted", "Speed Racer" for Larry and Andy Wachowski, "Elizabethtown" for director Cameron Crowe, "Shall We Dance?," "The Banger Sisters", "Mr. Woodcock," "In the Valley of Elah" for director Paul Haggis, "Alfie," "Moonlight Mile," "Igby Goes Down," "Romance and Cigarettes," "Twilight," "Step Mom," and "The Hunger"

Sarandon made her acting debut in the movie "Joe," which she followed with a continuing role in the TV drama "A World Apart." Her early film credits include "The Great Waldo Pepper," "Lovin' Molly," Billy Wilder's "The Front Page" and the 1975 cult classic "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." In 1978 she played Brooke Shields' mother in Louis Malle's controversial "Pretty Baby" and went on to receive her first Oscar nomination in Malle's "Atlantic City."

Her additional feature credits include: "The Witches of Eastwick," "Cradle Will Rock," "King of the Gypsies," "Compromising Positions," "The January Man," "White Palace," "The Buddy System," "Sweet Hearts Dance," "A Dry White Season," "Bob Roberts," "Light Sleeper," "Little Women," and "Safe Passage."

On Broadway, Sarandon appeared in Gore Vidal's "An Evening with Richard Nixon" and received critical acclaim for her performances Off-Broadway in "A Coupla of White Chicks"

Sitting Around Talkin” and the thriller “Extremities.” She also appeared, Off-Off-Broadway, in the moving post September 11th stage play “The Guys.” In 2009, she returned to Broadway and starred in “Exit the King” with Geoffrey Rush.

The hard-working actress has made a career of choosing diverse and challenging projects both in film and television. In 2008 she received an Emmy Nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Miniseries for her role in the HBO film “Bernard and Doris” as well as a Golden Globe and Sag nomination. She received an Emmy and SAG nomination for her work in Barry Levinson’s “You Don’t Know Jack” with Al Pacino for HBO.

She starred in the 2003 CBS Movie “Ice Bound” as Dr. Jerri Nielson - based on Nielson’s real life survival story - and as Princess Wensicia Corrino in the Sci Fi Channel Mini Series “Children of Dune.” Sarandon also appeared in the TV Movie “The Exonerated,” directed by Bob Balaban.

She also starred in HBO’s “Earthly Possessions,” based on the Anne Tyler novel and directed by James Lapine; in the CBS Movie “Women of Valor;” and the HBO Miniseries “Mussolini: The Decline and Fall of Il Duce” opposite Bob Hoskins and Anthony Hopkins.

She has made guest appearances on 30 Rock and in the “Mother Lover” video on Saturday Night Live.

In addition to her many on screen credits, she lent her vocal talents to the animated features “Rugrats in Paris,” “James and the Giant Peach,” and “Cats & Dogs” and provided narration many documentaries including Laleh Khadivi’s documentary “900 Women,” about female prison inmates.

### **ROBIN WILLIAMS / Father Moinighan**

An Academy Award and Emmy-winning actor and a multiple Grammy Award-winning performer, unparalleled in the scope of his imagination, Robin Williams continues to add to his repertoire of indelible characters.

Williams recently appeared on the New York stage in his Broadway acting debut as the title character in Rajiv Joseph’s play, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*. He earned raves for his performance, with The New York Times saying he “gives a performance of focused intelligence and integrity” and The Los Angeles Times calling it “an impressive feat of stagecraft that only this performer could have pulled off.” The critically acclaimed play earned six Drama Desk Awards, nominations, three Outer Critics Circle Award nominations and three Drama League Award nominations, including one for Distinguished Performance for Williams.

Williams began his career as a stand-up comedian, and he returned to stand-up from 2008 – 2010 with the critically acclaimed, sold-out comedy tour *Weapons of Self Destruction*. Over the course of the tour, Williams performed in 65 cities across the country, as well as in London, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, grossing an astounding \$40 million. Additionally, *Weapons* was taped over two nights at Washington, DC’s DAR Constitution Hall and aired on HBO, becoming the network’s highest rated stand-up comedy special of the year and earning three Emmy Award nominations, including one for Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy Special. The CD recording of the show was also nominated for a Grammy Award.

Well known for his free-associative monologues and for pointing out life’s absurdities through his astute social and political observations, Williams’ previous comedy tour was in 2002. After a

16-year absence from the stand-up scene, he hit the road and toured America with a critically acclaimed one-man show that became the highest-grossing comedy tour ever and culminated in a final performance filmed by HBO and broadcast live from New York on July 14, 2002. The special, entitled *Robin Williams: Live on Broadway*, was nominated for five Emmy Awards.

On the big screen, Williams was most recently seen starring in the dark comedy, *World's Greatest Dad*. The film premiered to critical praise at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival and Robin's performance has been touted as one of the best of his career. Bobcat Goldthwait directed the film, which was released by Magnolia Pictures at the end of August 2009.

In 1997, Williams received an Oscar and Screen Actors Guild award for his performance as 'Sean Maguire,' the therapist who counsels Matt Damon's math genius character in Gus Van Sant's *Good Will Hunting*. The Academy previously nominated Williams for best actor in *The Fisher King*, *Dead Poets Society*, and *Good Morning Vietnam*. Williams garnered a special honor from the National Board of Review for his performance opposite Robert DeNiro in *Awakenings*. In 2004, Williams received the prestigious Career Achievement Award from the Chicago International Film festival and, in 2005, the HFPA honored him with the Cecil B. DeMille Award for outstanding contributions to the world of entertainment.

Williams' filmography includes a number of blockbusters. In 1993, he starred in Chris Columbus' *Mrs. Doubtfire*. For Mike Nichols, Williams portrayed 'Armand Goldman' in *The Birdcage*, for which the cast won a SAG ensemble award. In 1996, both *The Birdcage* and *Jumanji* reached the \$100 million mark in the USA in exactly the same week. Williams went on to assume the dual roles of Peter Pan/Peter Banning in Steven Spielberg's *Hook*, to play a medical student who treats patients with humor in *Patch Adams* and to star in Disney's *Flubber*. In 2006, Robin appeared opposite Ben Stiller in the hit comedy, *Night at the Museum*. To date, the film has earned over \$250 million in the United States alone. In May 2009 he reprised his role as 'Teddy Roosevelt' in the sequel, *Night at the Museum 2: Battle of the Smithsonian*, which so far has earned another \$400 million for the franchise worldwide. In addition, Williams' award-winning vocal talents helped propel the Warner Bros. animated film, *Happy Feet*, to another \$200 million box office, as well as the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film.

Robin Williams first captured the attention of the world as 'Mork from Ork' on the hit series *Mork & Mindy*. Born in Chicago and raised in both Michigan and California, he trained at New York's Julliard School under John Houseman. Williams made his cinematic debut as the title character in Robert Altman's *Popeye*. Additional early motion picture credits include Paul Mazursky's *Moscow on the Hudson*, in which he played a Russian musician who decides to defect, and *The World According to Garp*, George Roy Hill's adaptation of John Irving's acclaimed best-selling novel about a writer and his feminist mother.

In a departure from the usual comedic and family fare he is best known for, Williams collaborated with two accomplished young directors on dramatic thrillers. For Christopher Nolan, he starred opposite Al Pacino as reclusive novelist 'Walter Finch,' the primary suspect in the murder of a teenage girl in a small Alaskan town, in *Insomnia*. In Mark Romanek's *One Hour Photo*, Williams played a photo lab employee who becomes obsessed with a young suburban family.

Using only his voice, Williams created one of the most vivid characters in recent memory - the 'Blue Genie of the Lamp' in Disney's *Aladdin*. The performance redefined how animations were voiced. Audio versions of his one-man shows and the children's record "Pecos Bill," have won

him five Grammy Awards. More recently Williams lent his vocal talents to the blockbuster hit animated feature *Robots*.

Williams' stage credits include a landmark production of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" directed by Mike Nichols and co-starring Steve Martin and, most recently, a short run in San Francisco of "The Exonerated," which tells the true stories of six innocent survivors of death row.

Offstage, Williams takes great joy in supporting causes too numerous to identify -covering the spectrum from health care and human rights, to education, environmental protection, and the arts. Headlining a number of USO tours, Williams has traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan four times to help raise morale among the troops. Williams is perhaps best known philanthropically for his affiliation with "Comic Relief," which was founded in 1986 as a non-profit organization to help America's homeless. To date, the overall efforts of the "Comic Relief" organization have raised over \$50 Million.

### **BEN BARNES / Alejandro Griffin**

With three new films on the horizon, actor Ben Barnes continues to prove his talent on the big screen.

In March 2012, Barnes will film the leading role of 'Tom' opposite Jeff Bridges and Julianne Moore in the feature film "Seventh Son". A tale of a young man, training to be an exorcist in the 1700s who must learn how to exorcise ghosts, contain witches, and bind boggarts – all in preparation to help his master face the Queen of Witches and her army. Warner Bros. anticipates release in 2013.

In the Summer 2011, Barnes shot the feature, "The Wedding", playing the role of Alejandro 'Griffin'. Ellie (Diane Keaton) and Don Griffin (Robert De Niro), long divorced, must pretend to be husband and wife again at their adopted son Alejandro's wedding in order to appease his deeply religious biological mother. Their ruse doesn't go over well with Bebe (Susan Sarandon), Don's longtime live-in girlfriend and Ellie's former best friend. The film also stars Amanda Seyfried, Katherine Heigl and Topher Grace.

Prior to shooting "The Wedding", Barnes filmed in Montreal for independent feature "The Words", starring Bradley Cooper, Zoe Saldana and Dennis Quaid. A beautiful film that documents a writer who discovers the price he must pay for stealing another author's work. This feature is due for release in 2013.

Barnes was last seen starring as 'Stephen Wraysford' in Trevor Nunn's highly anticipated West End production of "Birdsong," based on the international best-selling novel by Sebastian Faulks. The play tells the story of Wraysford's journey through an all-consuming love affair and into the horror of the First World War. "Birdsong," adapted by Rachel Wagstaff, opened on Tuesday, September 28th, 2010 at the Comedy Theatre in London and run through to Saturday, January 15th, 2011.

In 2011, Barnes starred in the indie feature film "Killing Bono," a dark comedy based on the autobiography by Barnes' character, 'Neil McCormick,' who, along with his brother, sets up a band called 'The Undertakers' in Dublin in the late '70s only to witness their classmates and rivals going on to become the biggest band in the world, U2. The film was release by Paramount Pictures International in the UK and Ireland.

In the same year Barnes reprised his role as 'King Caspian' in "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," the third installment of the feature films based on the fantasy book series by C.S. Lewis. The film, directed by Michael Apted, was released by Twentieth Century Fox in 3D and 2D on Thursday, December 9th and Friday, December 10th, 2010, worldwide. He first appeared in the role of 'Prince Caspian' in the second film of the franchise, "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," in 2008.

Barnes also stars in "Locked In," an independent thriller/drama, as 'Josh,' a man who walks away from his career and gets kicked out of his home after cheating on his wife. An accident then puts his young daughter in a catatonic state in which her mind is awake but she can only move her eyes. He wonders if he has begun to lose his mind when he starts to see messages that appear to be from his daughter. The film, directed by Suri Krishnamma and produced by Peninsular Media, and opened the Boston Film Festival on Friday, September 17th, 2010.

In 2009, Barnes was seen starring as the title character in "Dorian Gray," a film based on Oscar Wilde's classic novel. In 2008, he appeared in Sony Pictures Classics' "Easy Virtue" with Jessica Biel, Kristin Scott Thomas and Colin Firth. The film is based on the Noel Coward play and directed by Stephan Elliot. In 2007, he starred as 'Young Dunstan' opposite Claire Danes in "Stardust," which also featured Robert DeNiro and Michelle Pfeiffer. Barnes also made his feature film debut during the same year in the independent film "Bigga than Ben."

Barnes first gained attention in London's West End in the Wyndham's Theatre production of the Tony Award-winning Alan Bennett play "The History Boys." The thrilling comedy tells the story of eight bright, funny students guided by a maverick English teacher and headmaster, trying to get into college in the 1980s. Barnes played one of the titular boys, 'Dakin.'

On stage, his credits include the 2005 modern musical "Sex, Chips & Rock 'n' Roll" at the Royal Exchange in Manchester, and 2004's "Loving Ophelia" at the Pleasance Theatre in London. As a teenager, he became a member of the National Youth Music Theatre, a UK company of young people that runs workshops, drama courses and musical theatre productions. From 1996 to 2001, he appeared in many productions by the organization including "The Ballad of Salomon Pavey," "Bugsy Malone," a celebration of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 50th Birthday, "The Ragged Child" and "The Dreaming."

Barnes studied Drama and English Literature at Kingston University, where he earned his degree in 2004. He currently resides in London.

### **TOPHER GRACE / Jared Griffin**

Topher Grace, who was a weekly fixture in homes across America on the hit comedy series That '70s Show, seamlessly transitioned from the small screen to the big screen. In 2004 he was honored with Breakthrough Acting Awards by both the National Board of Review and the New York Online Film Critics for his roles in Paul Wietz's In Good Company, starring opposite Dennis Quaid and Scarlett Johansson, and Dylan Kidd's P.S., opposite Laura Linney.

Grace was most recently seen in HBO's Emmy-nominated film Too Big to Fail starring alongside William Hurt and Cynthia Nixon as well as the coming of age comedy Take Me Home Tonight with Anna Faris, which he also executive produced for Relativity Media. His additional recent credits include Robert Rodriguez's thriller Predators with Adrien Brody and Laurence Fishburne and Garry Marshall's Valentine's Day where he starred opposite Anne Hathaway. He will next

be seen in Michael Brandt's thriller *The Double* starring opposite Richard Gere and is currently in production on the drama/comedy *The Wedding* with Robert DeNiro, Diane Keaton and Katherine Heigl.

Grace's major breakthrough in film came with his debut role in Steven Soderbergh's Oscar nominated *Traffic*, which he followed-up with memorable cameos in Soderbergh's *Ocean's 11* and *Ocean's 12*. Grace's other credits include Robert Luketic's *Win a Date With Tad Hamilton*, *Mona Lisa's Smile* with Julia Roberts and starring opposite Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst as the evil Venom in the third installment of the Spider-Man franchise.

Due to a tennis injury, Topher fell into acting in a high school performance of *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. Upon graduating, he moved to Los Angeles to attend USC and was asked to read for the starring role of Eric Forman on *That '70s Show* by a high school classmate's parents who had seen him perform. It was his first audition.

Grace now splits his time between New York and Los Angeles.

### **KATHERINE HEIGL / Lyla Griffin**

Katherine Heigl became a box-office sensation starring first in Judd Apatow's smash hit comedy, *Knocked Up*, followed by a starring turn with Ed Burns and James Marsden in the romantic comedy, *27 Dresses*, and then opposite Gerard Butler in the romantic comedy *The Ugly Truth*, which she also executive produced. These earned Heigl "Female Star of the Year" honors at the 2010 ShoWest awards.

Heigl will next be seen starring in Gary Marshall's *New Year's Eve* opposite Jon Bon Jovi for New Line Pictures. She also stars as bounty hunter Stephanie Plum in the Lionsgate release, *One for the Money*. The story is based on the first novel in the best-selling series by author Janet Evanovich. The book spent over 75 weeks on the best seller list and spawned 15 sequels. Directed by Julie Ann Robinson, produced by Tom Rosenberg, Gary Lucchesi, Wendy Finerman and Sidney Kimmel, and executive produced by Heigl via her production company Abishag, *One for the Money* also star Jason O'Mara, Daniel Sunjata and Debbie Reynolds.

Heigl will also star in *The Knitting Circle* for HBO Films, executive producing the project with her mother and producing partner, Nancy Heigl, under their Abishag banner, alongside Pine Street Pictures. Craig Wright is writing the screenplay adaptation, based on the best-selling novel by Ann Hood.

Heigl's film credits include *Life As We Know It*, opposite Josh Duhamel, directed by Greg Berlanti; the action comedy *Killers*, opposite Ashton Kutcher for director Robert Luketic; the comedy *The Ringer*, Steven Soderbergh's critically acclaimed depression-era drama *King of the Hill*, *Under Siege 2: Dark Territory*, *Stand-Ins* and *That Night*. Her first feature film leading role was in Touchstone Pictures' *My Father the Hero*, starring opposite Gerard Depardieu.

On television, for six seasons, Heigl portrayed Dr. Isobel "Izzie" Stevens, the small-town girl constantly battling for respect amongst her peers, on ABC's critically acclaimed drama *Grey's Anatomy*. In 2007, Heigl earned an Emmy Award and a Golden Globe nomination for her performance. Heigl also starred on the WB sci-fi drama series, *Roswell*.

In May of 2009, Katherine Heigl and her mother Nancy launched the Jason Debus Heigl Foundation in honor of her older brother, who died much too young in an automobile accident and whose strong, compassionate nature and great love of animals was the cornerstone of their

endeavors. The Heigls are using their resources to work directly to address the pet population crises in Los Angeles and across the country.

Toward that goal, the Foundation launched the “Compassion Revolution” in September of 2010, pledging over one million dollars to a variety of low cost and free spay/neuter programs in Los Angeles and surrounding counties, as a key component to reducing the number of animals in shelters. The Foundation also presently funds pet education programs, actively supports pet adoption programs, and fund and supports small dog transport from local kill shelters to both no kill shelters and rescues facilities throughout the country. To date the Foundation has funded the transport of over 4500 animals out of high kill shelters to areas where they are rapidly adopted.

Katherine Heigl also actively supports Donate Life, the organ donation foundation.

### **AMANDA SEYFRIED / Missy O’Connor**

Amanda Seyfried has joined the group of Hollywood’s young leading actresses.

Seyfried is best known for her starring role in the Universal Pictures hit film “Mamma Mia!” Seyfried highlighted her vocal skills as ‘Sophie’ the daughter of ‘Donna’ (Meryl Streep). The film, directed by Phyllida Lloyd, was released in July 2008 and has grossed more than \$600 million internationally.

Seyfried will next be seen in New Regency’s sci-fi action thriller, “In Time,” from writer-director Andrew Niccol. Justin Timberlake will also star in the film distributed by Twentieth Century Fox. “In Time” revolves around a society in which aging stops at the age of 25 and where time has become the currency. The film will be released on October 28, 2011.

Seyfried recently wrapped production on “Gone,” a thriller directed by Heitor Dhalia. The movie follows Jill Parrish (Seyfried) who returns home to find her sister’s bed empty. Jill is convinced that the serial killer who kidnapped her two years before has come back to finish the job. With no one to turn to, Jill sets off on her own to find her sister. Summit will release the film on February 24, 2012.

In 2011, Seyfried starred in Warner Bros’ “Red Riding Hood.” Produced by Leonardo DiCaprio’s Appian Way, the film is directed by Catherine Hardwicke. Seyfried plays Valerie, the caped girl who, after a tragic event, tries to solve the mystery of the wolf that’s been terrorizing her village for two decades.

In 2010, Seyfried starred opposite Channing Tatum in the box office hit, “Dear John,” the adaptation of the Nicolas Sparks (“The Notebook”) bestseller. In the film, Seyfried plays a young woman who meets and falls in love with a soldier (Channing Tatum) while he’s on leave. Lasse Hallstrom (“The Cider House Rules”, “Chocolat”) directed from a script by Jamie Linden. “Dear John” grossed more than \$100 million worldwide and is the highest opening film to date for Sony Screen Gems.

In 2010, Seyfried also starred in the Summit film, “Letters to Juliet,” in which she plays a young American who travels to Verona, Italy to answer letters people write to the fictional Juliet of “Romeo and Juliet” fame. The film is directed by Gary Winick (“Bride Wars,” “13 Going On 30”) and also stars Vanessa Redgrave, and Gael Garcia Bernal.

Also in 2010, Seyfried starred in “Chloe,” an Atom Egoyan-directed thriller where she shares the screen with Julianne Moore and Liam Neeson. Seyfried plays an escort (‘Chloe’) hired by a successful doctor (Moore) to test her husband’s fidelity.

In 2009, Seyfried starred in the Fox Film “Jennifer’s Body.” In the film written by Diablo Cody (“Juno”), Seyfried plays ‘Needy,’ the best friend of ‘Jennifer,’ (Megan Fox) a possessed cheerleader who begins killing boys in a small town.

On the TV front, Seyfried received critical praise for her starring role in HBO’s Golden Globe nominated drama, “Big Love.” In it she played ‘Sarah Henrickson,’ a teenage girl who struggles with life in a polygamist family, headed by ‘Bill’ (Bill Paxton) and ‘Barb Hendrickson’ (Jeanne Tripplehorn).

A Pennsylvania native, Seyfried started her career by modeling at the age of 11. She soon turned to acting and landed her first contract role in 2000 as Lucy Montgomery on “As the World Turns.” In 2002, “All My Children” signed her to the contract role of Joni Stafford.

Her big break, though, was in 2004’s “Mean Girls,” the Lorne Michaels/Tina Fey/Paramount where she co-starred with Lindsay Lohan and Rachel McAdams. Together they won the Best On-Screen Team Award at the MTV Movie Awards.

In 2005, Seyfried starred in the Sundance Film Festival favorite “Nine Lives.” Written and directed by Rodrigo Garcia, the film also starred Sissy Spacek, Glenn Close, Holly Hunter, Robin Wright Penn and Dakota Fanning.

In 2006, she appeared in “Alpha Dog,” directed by Nick Cassavetes, and starring Justin Timberlake, Sharon Stone, Emile Hirsch, and Bruce Willis. She followed this with “American Gun,” starring Donald Sutherland, Forest Whitaker, and Marcia Gay Harden.

Amanda currently divides her time between Los Angeles and New York.

### **CHRISTINE EBERSOL / Muffin O’Connor**

Christine Ebersole has enchanted audiences throughout her performing career, from the Broadway stage to television series and specials, films, concert appearances, and recordings. Ms. Ebersole received virtually every Off-Broadway award and her second Tony Award for Leading Actress in a Musical for her “dual role of a lifetime” as Edith Beale and Little Edie Beale in *Grey Gardens*. Acclaimed by critics and audiences alike, the show was nominated for ten Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and its CD was nominated for a Grammy Award.

Other memorable New York stage performances include her Tony Award-winning performance as Dorothy Brock in the smash hit revival *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, *Steel Magnolias*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *Oklahoma*, *Dinner at Eight* (Tony and Outer Critics Circle nominations), *The Best Man*, and the recent revival of Noel Coward’s *Blithe Spirit*. She has starred in five City Center Encores! Productions, most recently receiving unanimous praise for her starring role as Margo Channing in *Applause*.

Ms. Ebersole has appeared in many hit movies, including *Amadeus*, *Tootsie*, *Richie Rich*, *Black Sheep*, *Dead Again*, *Folks!*, *Ghost Dad*, *True Crime*, *My Girl 2*, *Mac and Me*, and *Confessions of a Shopaholic*. Ms. Ebersole has an extensive list of television credits including recent appearances on *Retired at 35*, *Royal Pains*, *Ugly Betty*, *Law and Order SVU*, *Boston Legal*, *Samantha Who*, and *Will and Grace*.

In concert, Ms. Ebersole has appeared in numerous halls throughout the country. Most recently, she performed in the concert version of the opera *The Grapes of Wrath* at Carnegie Hall. Previously, Ms. Ebersole participated in the Opening Night Gala of Carnegie Hall's 118<sup>th</sup> Season. She appeared with the San Francisco Symphony in their tribute to Leonard Bernstein. After making her debut with the Boston Pops four years ago, she returned to Boston's Symphony Hall and Tanglewood to star as Desiree Armfeldt in a concert version of *A Little Night Music* with the Boston Pops. In televised concerts, she has often appeared on PBS, including her star turns in *Ira Gershwin at 100: A Celebration at Carnegie Hall* and *the Rodgers & Hart Story: Thou Swell, Thou Witty*. In December 2010 she performed for the second time on the Kennedy Center Honors.

A recording artist as well, Ms. Ebersole has released such albums as: *Christine Ebersole: Live at the Cinegrill*, *In Your Dreams*, *Sunday in New York*, and the newly released *Christine Ebersole Sings Noel Coward*. For more information, please visit her website at: [www.christineebersole.com](http://www.christineebersole.com).

### **PATRICIA RAE / Madonna**

Patricia Rae might have found her perfect niche working as a successful character actor with roles running the whole gamut of film genres, but the road to Hollywood hasn't always been an easy one. If there's one actor who has definitely paid her dues, Rae, hands-down, is the one.

In an industry based on fabricated reality and make-believe, Patricia Rae is the real deal! She worked persistently for well over two decades, reverently knocking doors and dedicating herself completely to her craft before seeing fruits in her acting career.

This native New Yorker of Colombian decent lived much of her professional life on the East Coast where she worked in theatre, commercials, sketch comedy, independent film and TV. Her grandmother who was running a boarding house while her mother was at work raised Rae in Queens. With her mom remarrying and sporadically relocating, Patricia quickly developed a sense of displacement which ultimately got her drawn to the art of acting for its premise relies on the ability to embrace different personalities and be transported into different locations.

And so Patricia's journey into the acting world began in elementary school when while in fourth grade, the drama teacher spotted her and requested her to be in "Oliver Twist". She then moved to Florida in her teens where she resumed her scholastic activities. Although performing poorly on an academic level, Patricia, with the support of the Drama club, was able to find a successful and comfortable niche in acting. Finding her true calling, she earned a series of awards in regional and statewide competitions with her drama troupe.

A brief semester spent in a small college in St Augustine Florida, provided Patricia with an enlightening revelation: "Why waste money on getting an acting degree when you could study the curriculum in New York? Off she went to the prestigious Lee Strasberg Institute where she learned the painful technique of reliving past childhood experiences. Armed with a "thin" resume, Patricia struck gold with her first professional job securing a co-starring role opposite Don Johnson in the hit TV series "Miami Vice". Sent on the set as an extra, her inquisitive mind brought her to find out that a few supporting roles were yet to be cast. The casting crew was on the set asking actors to audition before the director. When no one approached her, Patricia took matters into her own hands and demanded to give it a try. She got the part and received her SAG card all in one day.

After years spent in New York, she then decided it was time for a change. So she took the leap and moved her family from New York to Los Angeles in search of that “breakthrough” role. Ironically, landing that role of a lifetime in “Maria Full of Grace” playing the memorable Carla sent her back to the Big Apple.

Much as been said about the performances in the movie; but it was Rae’s interpretation of Carla, a pregnant Colombian woman living in a tiny apartment in New York with her family, that stuck in people’s minds. Her spectacularly phenomenal performance earned her a litany of accolades and a prestigious Imagen Awards nomination for “Best Supporting Role.”

But we wouldn’t expect any less from Rae - a bigger than life character who proves that acting, beyond being a business, is most importantly an art.

With an impressively prolific IMDB resume, this working seasoned actress was seen on the big screen in feature films such as Swimfan, Nightstalker and the award-winning Maria Full of Grace. On the small screen, she also recently appeared on several hit television series including "Chuck", "The Mentalist", "The Closer", "Life" and "The Chicago Code".

It goes without saying, of course, that this Latina spitfire secured the job the unconventional way – yet it was nevertheless all based on the merit of her immense talent and that one “Full of Grace” role that has unforgettably, visually carved itself a place in cinematic history for delivering one of the film’s most famously memorable scenes.

Patricia was scheduled to read for Justin Zackham (director) and Clay Pecorin (producer) in LA, but as circumstance would have it, she was in NY for her daughter’s graduation. The director had expressed great interest in her having seen her "Maria Full of Grace" performance. Hence upon her manager’s insistence to casting, a message was relayed to Justin, proposing a meeting on the East coast since the director was scheduled to fly back to the Big Apple within the next few days after having seen an incalculable amount of actresses in LA. Justin enthusiastically agreed and a special session was set in the NY office to see Patricia Rae. Some things are just destined to be. This was one of them for the talented actress who booked the gig on the spot!

Patricia Rae currently resides in Los Angeles. Rae is also an accredited Power Flow Yoga teacher and provides classes twice a week to students of all ages in Studio City, California. Patricia’s teaching approach is infused with laughter, compassion and an infectious enthusiasm for life. Her students often comment on how funny she is, to which she replies, “If yoga isn’t FUN– you’re doing something wrong!” And indeed, Patricia Rae’s “make it happen” attitude has continuously proven to be one of her biggest assets. But then again, it is an easy motto to embrace when it is backed-up by such exceptional talent and impressive acting abilities.

## **About the Filmmakers**

### **JUSTIN ZACKHAM / Writer, Director, Producer**

Writer, producer and director Justin Zackham attended film school at New York University. After graduation, he wasted no time jumping into work. Zackham quickly moved to Los Angeles where he directed his first feature film *Going Greek* (2001). The film, which he also wrote and produced, was a comedy about a loner freshman named Jake Taylor who is forced to join the coolest and wildest fraternity on campus. The comedy starred Dylan Bruno, Laura Harris and Simon Rex and won a Teen Choice Award for comedy actors Harvey Silver and Oliver Hudson.

In 2003, Zackham worked as writer and producer on the documentary *The Fastest Man in the World* (2003), which again starred Dylan Bruno alongside Corey Pearson and Charlie Talbert. Following that, his next big project was the drama *The Bucket List* (2007), which he also wrote and produced. The film starred Oscar-winning actors Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman. In 2007, it won the NBR Award at the National Board of Review.

Zackham's second major feature film was the star-studded comedy *The Big Wedding* (2012), with Robert De Niro, Diane Keaton, Katherine Heigl, Amanda Seyfried, Robin Williams and Susan Sarandon among others. The film centers on a long-divorced couple who fake being married for a big family wedding.

Zackham's other accomplishments include working as writer and executive producer for the television show *Light Out* in 2011. He also won a Viewer's Choice Award for Best Short Film in 1999 for *Caught in the Act* (1999).

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### **CLAY PECORIN / Producer**

Two Ton Films principal CLAYTON PECORIN is the lead producer on *THE BIG WEDDING* which stars Robert DeNiro, Diane Keaton, Susan Sarandon, Katherine Heigl, Amanda Seyfried, Topher Grace and Robin Williams.

As producer, Pecorin also recently wrapped production on *Where Did You Sleep Last Night* which will be released in Feb 2013. Pecorin is also the Producer of *NUBS* which is scheduled to start production spring 2013. Clayton entered the world of film as an investor in the independent cult-classic *GOING GREEK* which premiered on Showtime Networks.

As an executive in publishing, media, and philanthropy for over 12 years, Pecorin worked on myriad projects with Time Warner, McGraw-Hill, and Hearst, and has raised over \$150 million of debt and equity financing for a number of media ventures. Pecorin remains as an equity holder in two lifestyle magazines as well as an investor in a Stephen Sondheim play.

In addition Pecorin is the Managing Partner of OTM Advisory, which worked closely with the charities of Magic Johnson, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and business leader Michael Milken.

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### **RICHARD SALVATORE / Producer**

Part-Owner of the famous Magnolia Bakery in Manhattan along with his family, Richard was born in the Bronx, right down the street from Yankee stadium. He graduated Hofstra University while simultaneously owning and operating with his family the popular Greenwich Village

restaurant, Poppolini's. After 15 years of running several Poppolini's and bars around NYC, and feeding a string of youngsoon to be stars including Ethan Hawke, Kevin Spacey, Anthony Michael Hall, Camryn Manheim, Matt Dillon and Adam Sandler, he got bitten by the film bug and drove cross country to try his hand at producing films. His parents, singer Geraldine Stuart and theater producer, Steve Salvatore provided the creative genes to influence his new career.

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### **AVI LERNER / Executive Producer**

He is co-chairman of Nu Image, Inc. and Millennium Films, Inc. With more than 300 films to his credit, he is one of the most experienced producers and distributors of independent films in the international motion picture industry. Most recently, Lerner produced the highly anticipated action hit "The Expendables" starring Sylvester Stallone, and "The Mechanic" starring Jason Statham.

Lerner was born in 1947 in Haifa, Israel. He studied economics at the University of Tel Aviv and served as a paratrooper in the Israeli Army. After a short period in the banking industry, Lerner entered the film business in 1972 when he established the first and only drive-in cinema in Tel Aviv. He went on to develop a chain of six movie theaters in Israel. In the late 1970s, Lerner was the first to recognize the potential of the home video market. He effectively cornered the Israeli home video market by acquiring the rights to more than 7,000 motion pictures.

In 1984, Lerner went to South Africa to produce the remake of "King Solomon's Mines," starring Richard Chamberlain and Sharon Stone. The success of the film led to a sequel, "Allan Quatermain and the Lost City of Gold," and Lerner's decision to sell his Israeli company and relocate to Johannesburg, South Africa.

Between 1984 and 1992, Lerner produced more than 40 motion pictures in South Africa for his company Nu Metro Productions and sold them all over the world. In 1986, he acquired the Metro cinema chain in South Africa and the South African home video operations of Thorn EMI. Over the next four years, Lerner built the Nu Metro Entertainment Group into one of the largest and most aggressive entertainment companies in Africa. Nu Metro included four different companies encompassing production, distribution, theaters and home video.

In 1991 and 1992, partly as a result of the political instability in South Africa and partly because of Lerner's desire to establish a Los Angeles based production and distribution company, Nu Metro Ltd. (excluding the film production operations) was sold. The proceeds were used partly to produce the first five films for the new group and partly to establish a new company in Los Angeles.

In 1992, Lerner moved to America and established Nu Image with Danny Dimbort and Trevor Short. In 1996, Nu Image formed Millennium Films to address the market's growing need for quality theatrical films and higher budget action features, while Nu Image continued to cater to the lucrative worldwide home video market. Between the two divisions, over 230 films have been produced since 1992.

Today, Lerner is one of the most respected and prolific independent film producers in the industry. He is a member of the Board of Directors of both the Independent Producers Association and the American Film Marketing Association. His company Nu Image/Millennium Films currently produces between 14 and 15 independent pictures a year.

Under the Millennium label, Lerner has produced such films as last summer's blockbuster "The Expendables," "The Mechanic," starring Jason Statham, "Lonely Hearts," starring John Travolta, James Gandolfini, Jared Leto and Salma Hayek; "Black Dahlia," with Hilary Swank, Josh Hartnett and Scarlett Johansson, under the direction of Brian DePalma; "16 Blocks," directed by Richard Donner and starring Bruce Willis and Mos Def; "88 Minutes," directed by Jon Avnet and starring Al Pacino, Alicia Witt and Leelee Sobieski; "Day of the Dead," directed by Steve Miner and starring Christa Campbell, Nick Cannon, Mena Suvari and Ving Rhames; "The Contract," with Morgan Freeman and John Cusack; "The Wicker Man," with Nicolas Cage and Leelee Sobieski; "John Rambo," with Sylvester Stallone and Julie Benz; "Mad Money," with Queen Latifah, Katie Holmes and Diane Keaton; and "Righteous Kill," starring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro, directed by Jon Avnet.

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#### **DANNY DIMBORT / Executive Producer**

He began his entertainment career with the Israeli distribution company Golan-Globus Films and became managing director within two years. In 1980, he moved to Los Angeles to join Cannon Films as head of foreign sales. He then returned to Israel to produce several feature films prior to joining Cannon/Pathé back in Los Angeles, where he was in charge of distribution. President of International Distribution at MGM until 1991, Dimbort then formed Nu Image with Avi Lerner and served as partner in charge of sales and marketing.

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#### **TREVOR SHORT / Executive Producer**

He was born in Harare, Zimbabwe. He studied law at the University of Zimbabwe and obtained an M.B.A. degree at the University of Cape Town, where he was awarded the Gold Medal of Merit. After obtaining his law degree, Short entered the world of banking and commerce. He headed the Corporate Finance Division at Investec Bank in Johannesburg before joining Nu Metro Entertainment as Managing Director.

Following the acquisition of Nu Metro by a retaining giant, Short became Managing Director of Nu World Services, a film production company based in Johannesburg. In this capacity, Short produced films both in South Africa and outside the country.

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#### **MATTHEW O'TOOLE / Executive Producer**

Mr. O'Toole is one of Hollywood's hottest film producers with a string of successful movies under his belt including *The Expendables* and *Rambo*, Brian DePalma's *The Black Dahlia* and the action-thriller, *Streets of Blood*, starring Val Kilmer, Sharon Stone, and 50 Cent. A successful producer in his own right, Matthew works closely with Nu Image/Millennium Films as Senior VP of Production and is one of the industry's leading independent film producers. Right now, Matthew just celebrated the release of the hotly-anticipated *Expendables 2* as well as Executive Producer on *The Big Wedding* with a star-studded cast including Robert DeNiro, Amanda Seyfried, Katherine Heigl, Robin Williams, Susan Sarandon and Diane Keaton. The *Conan The Barbarian* reboot is another one of Matthew's upcoming movies due for a 2011 summer release.

Matthew began his career in the film industry as a production accountant on a number of high-profile major studio productions including Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, *The Secret Garden*, *Judge Dredd*, *Evita*, *Othello* and *The Avengers*. He quickly moved up the ranks to become a senior production accountant and financial controller on some highly prestigious movies including *Troy* and also two for Ridley Scott – *Gladiator* and *Kingdom of Heaven*. During

this period, Matthew was also responsible for a number of other productions including Billy Elliott and Troy as well as HBO's groundbreaking mini series Band of Brothers.

### **JOHN THOMPSON / Executive Producer**

Has an extensive body of work in the thirty years that he has been making movies. He started in the Italian film industry producing such films as Franco Zeffirelli's "Othello," nominated for two Oscars, Claude Danna's "Salome" which was based on the famous Oscar Wilde play, Lina Wertmuller's "Camorra," winner of four Donatello Awards (Italy's equivalent to Hollywood's Academy Award), Liliana Cavani's "The Berlin Affair," and Paul Schrader's "The Comfort Of Strangers," starring Christopher Walken, Rupert Everett, Natasha Richardson and Helen Mirren, among many others during his time in Europe.

In 1998, Thompson returned to Los Angeles to oversee production for Millennium Films. Under the Millennium Film banner, he has produced co-produced or executive produced over fifty feature films. These include such movies as "American Perfekt," "Shadrach," "Some Girl" (winner of the Audience Award at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival in 1998), "Guinevere," "Prozac Nation," "16 Blocks," "King Of California," "88 Minutes," "The Black Dahlia" and "Rambo IV," to name a few.

More recently, Thompson produced last summer's action blockbuster, "The Expendables," as well as "The Mechanic," starring Jason Statham, and "The Son Of No One," starring Channing Tatum and Al Pacino, which debuted at this year's Sundance Film Festival. He also produced "Rambo," Antoine Fuqua's "Brooklyn's Finest" with Richard Gere, Don Cheadle, Ethan Hawke and Wesley Snipes, and "The Bad Lieutenant: Port Of Call—New Orleans."

Next up for the busy producer is Simon West's "Medallion" and "The Wedding," starring Amanda Seyfried, Robert De Niro, Katherine Heigl, Robin Williams, Susan Sarandon and Diane Keaton.

### **ANDREW JACKNESS / Production Designer**

He has most recent film productions are the upcoming Showtime series The Masters Of Sex, The Big Wedding, Everybody's Fine, Killshot directed by John Madden. he has worked as Production Designer on: Stanley Tucci's Big Night, The Impostors and Joe Gould's Secret. As well as Reckless, Prelude To A Kiss, Longtime Companion and Blue Window directed by Norman Rene. He designed The Love Letter, The Associate with Whoopie Goldberg, and also with John Madden, Ethan Frome and Golden Gate. as well as On The Line, and the HBO feature In The Gloaming directed by Christopher Reeve. For television he designed the pilot episodes of the television series Lights Out, and Off The Map. He also designed the series Life As We Know It.

His work has been seen on Broadway in the musical The 2010 revival of Bye Bye Birdie, The Scarlet Pimpernel, as well as Precious Sons, Spoils Of War, Jules Feiffer's Grownups, The Little Foxes starring Elizabeth Taylor, Beyond Therapy, Whodunnit, Michael Feinstein On Broadway, and Arthur Kopit's Wings. As well as the Hal Prince production of Andrew Lloyd Weber's Whistle Down The Wind.

His regional credits include Carnival!, and Mr. Roberts at the Kennedy Center, directed by Robert Longbottom, The Blonde, The Brunette, and the Vengeful Redhead at Cincinnati Playhouse, and Dallas Theater Center, Charles Ludlam's production of Die Fledermaus, and Cosi Fan Tutte at Santa Fe Opera, Strauss' Intermezzo at NYC Opera, Salome for

Glimmerglass Opera, South Pacific with Richard Kiley for Los Angeles Civic Light Opera, Spoleto Festival USA; Savageland at Washington Opera, Frida for Houston Grand Opera. and work for the Arena Stage, Berkeley Rep, the Mark Taper Forum, the American Repertory Theater, Long Wharf theater, Seattle Rep., ACT Seattle, Hartford Stage Co., The Shakespeare Theater, Yale Repertory Theater, St. Louis Rep., Dallas Theater Center, The Alley Theater, Center Stage, Virginia Stage Co., The Intiman Theater, The Wilma Theater, The Geffen Playhouse and the Williamstown Theater Festival.

In Europe he has designed for the National Theater of Great Britain, London's Tricycle Theater, and the Schiller Theater in Berlin.

Off Broadway, his work includes designs for Jam On The Groove with Ghetto Original dance group, for the NY Shakespeare Festival, as well as work for the Music Theater Group, the American Place Theater, the Roundabout Theater, Manhattan Theater Club, Circle In The Square, the Dodgers BAM Theater Co., and Circle Rep. He has served as artistic associate for the Second Stage, and Playwrights Horizons

As illustrator he collaborated with playwright Wendy Wasserstein on a children's book titled Pamela's First Musical.. He is a graduate of The Yale School Of Drama, and has teaches the Film Design program at NYU's Tisch School Of The Arts.

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