

**Mongrel Media**  
Presents

# AT ANY PRICE

**A film by Ramin Bahrani**  
**(105 min., USA, 2012)**  
**Language: English**

**Official Selection**  
Venice Film Festival 2012  
Toronto Film Festival 2012  
Telluride Film Festival 2012

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*High res stills may be downloaded from <http://www.mongrelmedia.com/press.html>*

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

During the six months I spent with farmers in the American Midwest, the two phrases I heard most were “Expand or Die” and “Get Big or Get Out.” These mantras fuel American and global dreams of success. Modern farmers run multi-million dollar businesses with highly advanced technology, while doubling as genetically modified seed-salesmen, who constantly check the global markets on their smartphones. The pressures are immense. I wanted to know what happens to a man when he values expansion of business over his family, his neighbor, his community and ultimately himself. Can his family stay together in the face of this intensely competitive world?

- Ramin Bahrani 2012

## SYNOPSIS

In the competitive world of modern agriculture, ambitious HENRY WHIPPLE (Dennis Quaid) wants his rebellious son DEAN (Zac Efron) to help expand his family's farming empire. However, Dean has his sights set on becoming a professional race car driver. When a high-stakes investigation into their business is exposed, father and son are pushed into an unexpected crisis that threatens the family's entire livelihood.

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The Whipple Farm in prime Iowa corn country has been in the family for three generations. HENRY WHIPPLE (Dennis Quaid) oversees a farming empire that has grown to over 3,000 acres, riding high in his ultra-mechanized tractor while his wife IRENE (Kim Dickens) presides over a large and comfortable farmhouse. Henry has always favored his eldest son GRANT (Patrick Stevens), who grew up a shining Iowa State football star, over his younger son DEAN (Zac Efron), who was drawn to speed and race cars.

But golden boy Grant has left home to see the world outside Iowa, leaving Dean alone to shoulder the weight of Henry's ambitions and expectations. Dean is a hometown hero on the local stock car racing circuit, who wants to make it to ARCA and then NASCAR. Despite this, Henry makes it clear to him that he'll never make it in the big leagues, and his place is in the family business.

Big-agribusiness is a two-trillion dollar market that runs on the mantra "Expand or Die," and Henry is a firm believer. He wants to expand his farming empire and continue the family legacy. Hoping to pick up a choice parcel, he forces Dean to come with him to a funeral to "pay their respects"—and to offer to buy out the deceased's 200 acres. The bereaved family is disgusted, but they sell. The sale cuts out a young farmer who has been leasing and working the land, and he angrily threatens Dean.

Henry had intended the 200 acres to lure Grant back home, but sporadic postcards from a South American mountain climbing adventure make it increasingly clear that Grant has no intention of cooling his heels back in Iowa.

The Whipplés may appear the picture of the American dream of family and prosperity, but the farm is leveraged in the millions, and Henry's garrulous, glad-handing exterior thinly masks desperation; he is acting the role of salesman, putting on a show. In addition to farming, Henry travels the state as a salesman for LIBERTY SEEDS whose GMO (genetically modified) corn out-produces conventional seed suppliers, and has muscled many out of business. Henry strives to make #1 salesman in as many counties as he can, but he's thrown for a loop when rival salesman JIM JOHNSON (Clancy Brown) picks off a number of his top accounts and adds one of Henry's counties to his belt.

It's a stinging humiliation, so Henry turns to a tried-and-true stress release: MEREDITH (Heather Graham), his on-and-off tryst on the side. His wife Irene isn't blind to Meredith's existence—in the small town, everybody knows everything.

Henry may run the family farm, but it's his tough old father CLIFF (Red West) who runs Henry. Doomed never to live up to Cliff's standards, Henry dishes similar disapproval out to Dean, who, bored, rebellious and starved for excitement, indulges in some wannabe Bonnie and Clyde mayhem with his girlfriend CADENCE (Maika Monroe). With no functioning family of her own, Cadence hangs around the Whipple Farm like a sexy stray kitten needing adoption. When Henry insists she help out with his sales calls, Cadence shows surprising savvy and resourcefulness. There's more to Cadence than meets the eye.

In his quest for expansion, Henry has neglected his family, but with Grant AWOL, he starts to pin his hopes on Dean. It's a revelation when Henry makes it to the race track for the first time to watch Dean bask in the adulation of the crowd; it has finally dawned on Henry that Dean's not such a loser after all.

Dean wins the race—but not before deliberately trashing the car of his rival BRAD JOHNSON (Ben Marten), the son of Henry's own rival Jim Johnson. Dean has made an enemy, but he has won a shot at the big-league races on the ARCA circuit, an opportunity that will cost him \$15,000 in equipment and expenses. Henry wants to celebrate—and reconnect with his family—but for Dean it may be too little too late.

Irene secretly gives Dean the \$15,000 out of her own money, squirreled away from the family finances. Dean's moment of glory comes at the big, fancy racetrack—and swiftly evaporates as he is outmaneuvered and run off the track by more seasoned competitors.

While Dean's big dreams go bust, Henry too is caught in a desperate bind: he has been under surveillance by investigators for Liberty, who accuse him of re-using their patented GMO seed corn. Unlike conventional corn, in which a portion of each crop is put aside, cleaned, and planted for the next year's crop, it's illegal to clean and reuse GMO corn; like Monsanto, Liberty holds the patent on life itself. The investigators threateningly order Henry to allow them onto his fields so they can test his corn. Indeed, Henry is guilty. He has been cleaning and re-using Liberty corn in cahoots with BYRON (Chelcie Ross), whose conventional seed-cleaning business was driven under by the Liberty juggernaut. They've been cleaning and re-selling Liberty seed to other farmers, and if Liberty can prove it, Henry will be ruined.

The stage is thus set for the potential downfall of the Whipple Farm family empire, as death, sex, and treachery play out among fathers and sons, wives and girlfriends, and grudge-match rivals. When a terrible crime threatens their security, the family closes ranks—and Henry's long-ignored moral conscience is put to the test. Against the backdrop of the Whipple Farm's good old-fashioned Customer Appreciation Day picnic, classic American heartland ethics collide with the ruthlessly competitive realities of modern industrial-scale farming.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

The fiercely competitive world of high-tech agribusiness is the backdrop for *AT ANY PRICE*, a drama that melds timeless themes of fathers and sons, ambition and rebellion, morality and survival, with a sharply de-romanticized view of modern farming. “I spent about six months in the Midwest observing the life of farmers,” says writer/director RAMIN BAHRANI about his heartland portrait. “I’d ride with the farmers in their massive 48-row air-conditioned GPS planters and they’d talk to me, almost like a therapy session. A lot of the stories and emotions in the movie came from those conversations with real farmers.”

As was his creative process with his much-acclaimed earlier features *GOODBYE SOLO* (2008), *CHOP SHOP* (2007), and *MAN PUSH CART* (2005), Bahrani drew from lengthy research, living close to his material and gathering insights and details. “When I heard that seed-sellers have Customer Appreciation Day, I knew it could be a great framework for the story. I made a special trip back out just to see that. Another time a farmer I was staying with, George Naylor, took me to a Power Point presentation about improving crop yields in the back room of a family restaurant. He thought I’d be bored to death. Of course I was extremely excited! It made it into the movie.”

George Naylor was among the farmers profiled in *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* by Michael Pollan, who introduced Bahrani to a number of farmers and contacts in corn country.

### **Expand or Die**

Bahrani collaborated with co-writer HALLIE ELIZABETH NEWTON on the screenplay. “She’s really great at character, dialogue and humor,” he says, and their rich storytelling propels a gripping human-scale tale that encompasses big and complex issues about morality, progress, and the nature of agriculture itself.

“Like a lot of people these days, we’re very interested in food—where does it come from? Is it processed? What are we putting into our bodies? And the king of processed food is corn. There’s a collision between our collective romantic idea of farming and heartland values, and the reality that farming is a big, cutthroat business. It has dramatically changed—it’s not local guys in overalls plowing the land; it’s businessmen running multimillion dollar operations with very advanced technology. On my first trip out to Iowa, every farmer I met told me the same two phrases, “Expand or die” and “Get big or get out.” It seemed like a metaphor for American society, for the values that have led us to disaster. In many ways, believing in those mantras perpetuated the housing crisis, and the global financial meltdown. It’s a dangerous philosophy for life that is being exported to Europe and beyond.”

### **Salesman on the Prairie**

Those driven agribusinessmen are embodied in Henry Whipple, portrayed with depth and desperation by DENNIS QUAID in a performance that the [Toronto International Film Festival](#) calls “the role of a lifetime.”

“Henry’s a guy with a lot of grey areas,” says Quaid. “He’s devoted to his family but very selfish at the same time. He’s so caught up in the family legacy and expanding his farm that he’s blind to what’s really going on—he’s pretending that they have this great traditional family when everything is twisted under the surface. He’s sweating to keep up a front.”

Like Bahrani, Quaid spent time living with Henry’s real-life counterparts to hone his portrayal. “We ate meals with farmers and their families, heard their stories and felt them out. They were very generous in opening up their lives to us. The movie really reflects what is going on in modern day America, how people are struggling to keep up with the Jones.”

As Quaid recalls, “When I read the script I thought—it’s Willy Loman on the prairie. We’re really doing *Death of a Salesman* in a way.”

### **A Patent on Life**

Henry really is a salesman: in addition to farming his family’s land, he hustles around the state selling seed corn for the fictional Liberty Seed company, an industrial agribusiness behemoth. Unlike conventional seed that could be saved from the harvest, cleaned and re-used for the next season’s planting, patented GMO seed must be bought anew every year. By selling for Liberty, Henry and his peers undercut their communities’ traditional seed-growing, cleaning, and selling economy.

“Hallie and I had to present very complicated issues about genetically modified food and patented ownership of life without being didactic,” says Bahrani. “We had to work it into the drama.”

The investigation that threatens the Whipple empire is very much true to life. “Michael Pollan introduced me to Troy Roush, one of the farmers profiled in *FOOD, INC.* In our movie he plays one of the farmers who rides the fields with Henry and Cadence on their dirt bikes. I visited with Troy in Indiana, who like all farmers invited me to stay in his home with his family. He told me in detail about how Monsanto investigated him for patent infringement, about two agents who followed him, how they looked, what they dressed like, and that’s what we modeled those characters on. Troy was innocent actually, and settled his case after devastating hardship and loss. But for our film, it seemed more interesting for the character to be guilty.”

In his headlong pursuit of profit, Henry’s corporate crime—breaking the GMO seed patent—is nearly his ruin, but his moral crime—covering up a manslaughter—totally shatters the act he has been playing and his illusions that he’s living a good life. “Henry and Irene are disturbed and haunted in ways that Dean may not be. But they get away with it,” says Bahrani. “And that’s the culture of the country right now. Politicians on

both sides helped the banks get away with it. Corporate and political greed is on steroids. Screw people over and you'll get away with it—you will even be rewarded! And this is a problem, a real problem. 'Getting away with it' will haunt the Whipple family for the rest of their lives."

### **The Second Son**

The character of Dean, the underappreciated second son, traces a trajectory from rebel desperate to escape the family legacy to conspirator desperate to keep the legacy going. As Dean, ZAC EFRON takes on a classic archetype and makes it his own. The character of Dean, struggling to break free of small town roots and family obligations, demands formidable acting range and shades. Says Efron, "The key to Dean for me was to figure out the relationship with his father and brother—resenting one and loving the other, his feelings of abandonment and his urge to break free. He's a renegade younger brother who wishes he could leave like his older brother did, but he's confused about his life and his place in the family. I enjoyed acting the dark side of Dean, and trusted Ramin to guide me through the experience."

Dean's dreams of stardom on the big-league racing circuit extend the story into another aspect of Americana—and blast white-knuckle suspense and action into the movie's storyline. "Race cars are Dean's escape from the mundane," says Efron, who admits: "To be honest, racing scared the heck out of me. However, we had great instructors and after a few laps, I got the hang of it pretty quickly. Driving the rally car through the cornfield was insane."

Although his character's name and plight might invoke another young actor who played the moody protagonist of EAST OF EDEN, Efron says, "I was really inspired by Paul Newman in HUD—he's a prodigal son who's into fast cars too."

### **The Women**

Raise the kids, keep the books, burn off the steam, cheer the winner—the women who surround the protagonists of AT ANY PRICE live roles as constrained as the men. Irene, Henry's wife, played by KIM DICKENS, seems like the embodiment of wholesome family values, but when the Whipple world is threatened, her moral sense proves surprisingly elastic. "It's not just Henry and Dean who get in trouble," explains Bahrani. "If the family's in trouble, Irene would lose everything too. Her children would lose everything. Who is prepared to do that? It's very challenging to say, 'Yes, I'm prepared to give up every thing for the truth.' And is it really going to make a difference? To what lengths will a parent go to save their family? God know how anyone would answer in that situation."

Irene may be Henry's backbone, but Meredith (HEATHER GRAHAM), the town beauty who never managed to get out of town, is Henry's escape valve. "Talking to farmers," recalls Bahrani, "I sometimes heard about infidelity because you're dealing with small towns and occasional boredom. Everyone would know about it and it was just accepted because what else were you going to do? Get divorced? And remarried to whom?"

Heather Graham's steamy rendezvous inside a grain bin with Zac Efron's character was inspired by chance: "George Naylor invited me along as he cleaned out his grain bin, and as I was sloshing around in the corn, I was struck by how amazing it was to be inside this grain bin and that it would be a great location for a scene. I knew it had to be either a murder scene or..."

Perhaps the most optimistic outlook is reserved for teenage Cadence, played as an unassuming beauty with native smarts and an innocent heart by newcomer MAIKA MONROE: she just might follow Meredith's advice and get out of town.

### **The Writer/Director**

"Ramin is a very strong director," according to Dennis Quaid. "When he offered me the script and I saw his movies, I wanted to work with him based on the performances he got out of actors, and even non-actors. He never let me sit on my laurels or use my usual tricks. He was always prodding me to do something different. I love working with writer/directors because they know what they want."

Zac Efron concurs. "It's rare to see someone with so much passion for so many things. I feel like he could probably do anything and succeed. He's a mad scientist."

Although the production's budget was comfortable compared to Bahrani's earlier indie productions, Quaid says "The only reason that anybody was there was because they wanted to be there. As a crew everybody was really devoted. It was so special to work with Ramin. But nobody was working for the money—my trailer was my car."

"I wanted it to be a very classical looking film," says Bahrani, "because I felt it would be a nice contrast to how modern and subversive the story actually is. The films that I was looking at a lot were *The Searchers*, *The Last Picture Show* and *Nashville*. But mainly it was *Bonnie and Clyde*. I wanted an expansive and epic feeling that could capture the intimate human story within the vast landscape."

### **Alarm Bell From the Cornfields**

Ultimately, the story of the Whipple family circles back to the story of the farm. There are at least two starkly contrasting ways of looking at modern high-tech farming, as Bahrani explains:

"Our story is Willy Loman popping his head up out of the cornfields saying, "I killed myself for a reason! Why did you all forget?" And he isn't saying that to me, he's saying it to the world, which is now in a global financial crisis. The whole housing and economic crisis, which has impacted the entire world, is due to people valuing expansion over valuing their families, their communities and themselves. It's no different than Willy Loman. He valued the idea of having more and getting bigger, more than he valued his own life. He knew that the social world no longer valued him as a human being. And I think that's where we're unfortunately heading as a global community. I thought this film could be an alarm bell that would ring out from the cornfields."

On the other hand, Bahrani notes: “I could not meet one old timer who told me, ‘I wish for the old days.’ Every single one told me, ‘I would rather be in this automated tractor with air conditioning that could drive itself with GPS. Why would I want to kill my back right now? This is much better.’ And there’s the conflict. That progress comes at a price. The Whipples have to choose between the truth or survival, and they have to live with trying to succeed at any price. Each of us has to decide for ourselves what our moral compass is, who we are, and what type of world we want to live in.”

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**A Word From Michael Pollan** *from the Telluride Film Festival Film Watch Program Guide, 2012:*

“AT ANY PRICE takes us on a harrowing journey into the modern, post-Monsanto farm belt. This is a place where the pressures on farmers to “expand or die,” as one character puts it and to rat out their neighbors creates a world in which good men find themselves resorting to desperate measures to maintain their hold on the land and a way of life that is falling apart.”

## **AT ANY PRICE**

### **CAST**

Henry Whipple	Dennis Quaid
Dean Whipple	Zac Efron
Irene Whipple	Kim Dickens
Meredith Crown	Heather Graham
Jim Johnson	Clancy Brown
Byron	Chelcie Ross
Cadence Farrow	Maika Monroe
Cliff Whipple	Red West
Brad Johnson	Ben Marten
Larry Brown	Dan Waller

# AT ANY PRICE

## Crew

Directed by Ramin Bahrani

Written by Hallie Elizabeth Newton  
Ramin Bahrani

Produced by Teddy Schwarzman  
Pamela Koffler  
Kevin Turen  
Justin Nappi  
Christine Vachon  
Ramin Bahrani

Executive Producer Ron Curtis

Executive Producers Mohammed Al Turki  
Eric Nyari  
Brian Young

Co-Producer Declan Baldwin

Associate Producers Summer Shelton  
Ben Stillman

Director of Photography Michael Simmonds

Music Composer Dickon Hinchliffe

Editor Affonso Gonçalves

Production Designer Chad Keith

Music Supervisor Michael Hill

Casting Director Douglas Aibel

Sound Supervisor and  
Re-Recording Mixer Tom Efinger

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **Dennis Quaid** (Henry Whipple)

In his first television series, Quaid stars in the CBS drama series for VEGAS. Directed by James Mangold, Quaid plays ‘Ralph Lamb,’ a former cowboy who becomes the sheriff of Las Vegas in 1962, who reshapes the police department, and brings law and order to a town run by mobsters and small time crooks. The series co-stars Michael Chiklis and Jason O’Mara and debuts Tuesday, September 25, 2012.

This Fall, Quaid stars in Ramin Bahrani’s film AT ANY PRICE, alongside Zac Efron and Heather Graham, which will have its world premiere at the 2012 Venice Film Festival, as well as screening at the Telluride Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival. He will also be seen in THE WORDS, opposite Bradley Cooper, Jeremy Irons and Olivia Wilde. The film debuted at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and is scheduled for national release on September 7, 2012.

Quaid has also completed production on Gabriele Muccino’s PLAYING FOR KEEPS, in which he co-stars with Gerard Butler, Uma Thurman, Jessica Biel and Catherine Zeta-Jones which is scheduled to be released on December 7, 2012. His recent films SOUL SURFER and FOOTLOOSE were both released in 2011.

In 2010, Dennis starred in the Sony Screen Gems fantasy-thriller, LEGION, alongside Paul Bettany. He also portrayed ‘President Bill Clinton’ in the HBO movie, THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, directed by Richard Loncraine, for which Dennis received Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild and Emmy Award nominations.

Quaid began acting in high school and studied theater at the University of Houston. Soon after his arrival in Hollywood, he landed the plum role of a working-class tough in BREAKING AWAY.

Quaid received honors from the New York Film Critics Circle and The Independent Spirit Awards as Best Supporting Actor of the Year and also garnered nominations for a Golden Globe Award and Screen Actor’s Guild Award for his performance in the critically acclaimed 2002 film, FAR FROM HEAVEN.

### **Zac Efron** (Dean Whipple)

Zac Efron has received a wide array of accolades throughout his career including ShoWest’s *Breakthrough Performer of the Year* award, the MTV Movie Award for *Breakthrough Performance* (2008) and *Best Male Performance* (2009), in addition to multiple Teen Choice and Kids Choice Awards.

Zac will soon be seen in Lee Daniels’ THE PAPERBOY opposite Nicole Kidman, John Cusack and Matthew McConaughey. The film premiered to a standing ovation at this

year's Cannes Film Festival and will also screen at the Toronto Film Festival prior to its release in October. He also appears in LIBERAL ARTS alongside Elizabeth Olsen and Allison Janney. The film is directed and written by Josh Radnor and will premiere later this fall. Additionally, he co-stars in the drama AT ANY PRICE which focuses on an enterprising farmer whose plans cause problems within his family. Ramin Bahrani directs the film which also stars Dennis Quaid and Heather Graham and will screen at the Venice, Telluride and Toronto Film Festivals.

This year, Efron has starred in a variety of films which range in genre from comedy to drama. Most recently, he was seen in Warner Brother's THE LUCKY ONE, a film adaptation of the Nicholas Sparks novel. In March, Zac voiced the character of Ted in the NBC Universal animated film DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX, where he tries to win over the girl of his dreams, voiced by Taylor Swift. Last winter, Zac co-starred in Gary Marshall's NEW YEAR'S EVE alongside Michelle Pfeiffer, Robert De Niro, Halle Berry, Jessica Biel and Hilary Swank.

Additional film credits include 17 AGAIN opposite Matthew Perry and Leslie Mann, the Richard Linklater film ME AND ORSON WELLES, and the box office smash summer film HAIRSPRAY, which won the Critics Choice award for Best Ensemble. Television credits include a recurring role on the WB series SUMMERLAND, guest starring roles on THE SUITE LIFE OF ZACK & CODY, ER, THE GUARDIAN, and C.S.I. MIAMI.

Efron became a household name with the launch of the 2006 Emmy Award-winning Disney Channel phenomenon HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL. He reprised his role as Troy Bolton, head of the basketball team, in HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2, which broke cable TV records as it garnered 17.5 million viewers. Zac also starred in the Disney Feature Film HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR, the third installment of the extremely successful "High School Musical" franchise. HSM3 set a box office record as the highest grossing opening weekend total for a musical.

A native of Northern California, Zac currently resides in Los Angeles. He recently started his own production shingle and has several feature film projects in development.

#### **Heather Graham** (Meredith Crown)

Heather Graham caught the attention of filmmakers with her breakout role in Gus Van Sant's DRUGSTORE COWBOY, for which she received an Independent Spirit Award nomination. Graham went on to score roles in the 1997 classic BOOGIE NIGHTS, for which she received the MTV Movie Award for Best Breakthrough Performance, and 1999's AUSTIN POWERS: THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME. Also in 1999, Graham was named ShoWest Female Star of Tomorrow.

Most recently, Graham starred in ABOUT CHERRY opposite James Franco which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in February 2012 and will hit theatres September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Up next she stars in Ramin Bahrani's *AT ANY PRICE* which will debut at the , Telluride, Toronto and Venice Film Festivals. Graham's character finds herself caught between her lover, Dennis Quaid, and his son, played by Zac Efron, while coming to terms with her small-town life.

It was recently announced that Graham will reprise her role as Jade in the hit comedy *THE HANGOVER 3*. Graham has starred in *JUDY MOODY AND THE NOT BUMMER SUMMER*, *5 DAYS OF WAR*, (2011) and opposite Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms and Zach Galifianakis in *THE HANGOVER* (2010). She also starred with a stellar ensemble in Emilio Estevez's *BOBBY*. Throughout her career, Graham has worked with some of the industry's most respected actors and directors. Her performances include that of a doe-eyed girl in *SWINGERS*, with Jon Favreau and Vince Vaughn; an ambitious young actress in Frank Oz's *BOWFINGER* with Steve Martin and Eddie Murphy; and the tragic Mary Kelly in Albert and Allen Hughes' *FROM HELL* opposite Johnny Depp, as well as roles in *THE GURU* with Marisa Tomei; *HOPE SPRINGS* opposite Colin Firth; *COMMITTED* with Luke Wilson; Ed Burns' ensemble *SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK*; James Toback's *TWO GIRLS AND A GUY* with Robert Downey Jr.; *LOST IN SPACE* with Gary Oldman and William Hurt; and *SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION* starring Will Smith. Graham executive produced and starred in the feature film *CAKE*, a romantic comedy also starring Sandra Oh and Cheryl Hines. In 2004-2005, she received rave reviews for her guest starring stint on NBC's critically acclaimed series "Scrubs." On stage, Graham made her theatrical debut off-Broadway in Playwrights Horizons' "Recent Tragic Events."

**Kim Dickens** (Irene Whipple)

Born in Huntsville, AL, Kim Dickens' debut was 1995's indie-comedy hit *PALOOKAVILLE* directed by Alan Taylor. From there, Dickens appeared as the female lead in Keifer Sutherland's feature directorial debut, *TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES*, N.M. She starred opposite Bruce Willis in the Harold Becker-directed thriller *MERCURY RISING*; then showed up along side Ben Stiller and Bill Pullman as the mysterious and elusive suspect, Gloria, in the Jake Kasdan-helmed cult-hit comedy, *ZERO EFFECT*. In 2000, she co-starred alongside Kevin Bacon and Elizabeth Shue in the Paul Verhoeven summer blockbuster, *HOLLOW MAN*. Further acclaim came to Dickens in the summer of 2001 in director Allison Anders' semi-autobiographical film, *THINGS BEHIND THE SUN*. This performance garnered Dickens an Independent Spirit Award® nomination for best female lead. 2003 found Dickens busy on both the big screen and small, starting with a prime role in Showtime's mini series *OUT OF ORDER* and then a well received role in the Academy Award® nominated *THE HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG*.

Additionally, Dickens has portrayed notable characters like Joanie Stubbs, the Madame of the Bella Union in HBO's highly acclaimed *DEADWOOD*, to a rock singer spinning out of control in Alison Anders' film, *THINGS BEHIND THE SUN*, which garnered her an Independent Spirit Award nomination. Other credits include Sam Raimi's *THE GIFT* with Cate Blanchett, and Jason Reitman's comedy *THANK YOU FOR SMOKING*, also starring Aaron Eckhart.

Prior to her starring role in Ramin Bahrani's AT ANY PRICE, Dickens' recent films included FOOTLOOSE for Paramount and John Lee Hancock's Oscar nominated THE BLIND SIDE. In addition she has played recurring characters on hit series LOST, FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS, and FLASH FORWARD. Kim was also seen on HBO's David Simon drama TREME.

Kim currently lives in Los Angeles.

**Maika Monroe** (Candace Farrow)

Nineteen year old Santa Barbara native Maika Monroe makes her big screen debut in Ramin Bahrani's AT ANY PRICE. Since then, Maika has gone on to land and shoot the coveted role of "Mandy" in Jason Reitman's upcoming film LABOR DAY starring opposite Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin. Maika will also be seen in Sofia Coppola's BLING RING. Despite a breakout year in Hollywood, this talented actor still finds time for a career in professional freestyle kiteboarding, recently placing 2nd in the International Red Bull Big Air Competition while passing through the Dominican Republic on her way to the Venice Film Festival.

Maika lives in Los Angeles.

**Red West** (Cliff Whipple)

Red grew up in Tennessee, became a lifelong friend of Elvis Presley, wrote many songs for him and appeared in most of his films in the 1960's. He became a stuntman, then segued into TV as a regular actor on *Black Sheep Squadron* and guest starred on many episodic series over the next several decades. More serious film roles came his way in the 80's including ROADHOUSE with Patrick Swayze, RAINMAKER directed by Francis Ford Coppola, GLORY ROAD, and a critically acclaimed performance in GOODBYE SOLO directed by Ramin Bahrani. Most recently, Red wrapped a featured role in AT ANY PRICE, directed by his friend Ramin Bahrani and just completed SAFE HAVEN directed by Lasse Hallstrom.

Red and his wife, Pat, have two sons, six grandchildren and currently make their home in Tennessee.

**Clancy Brown** (Jim Johnson)

Clancy Brown began his acting career in Chicago theater and continued to perform stage locally until he won the role of Viking, a nasty prison inmate, in the 1982 feature film BAD BOYS starring Sean Penn. He has gone on to star in many motion pictures, including the multiple Oscar® nominated film THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION, COWBOYS AND ALIENS, THE GUARDIAN, STARSHIP TROOPERS, FLUBBER, BLUE STEEL, SHOOT TO KILL, EXTREME PREJUDICE and the cult classic HIGHLANDER. Brown's television credits include HBO's Emmy® award winning series CARNIVALE, the NBC series EARTH 2, the Emmy® nominated HBO movie NORMAL, as well as a recurring role on ER. He is also known to millions of children

as the voice of Mr. Krabs from the hugely popular animated series SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS.

**Chelcie Ross** (Byron)

Chelcie Ross has brought his lanky 6-foot-2 frame and deep voice to some 50 films, 30 TV shows and 80 plays. Ross' own story is the stuff of movies. An Air Force brat and the oldest of three brothers, he played football, basketball and baseball in high school in New Jersey, then went to Southwest Texas State. He needed a humanities credit, so he showed up one day to build theater sets. The drama coach heard his voice, and before long, he was playing King Lear. Film and television fans have enjoyed his work as Dan Devine in RUDY, as Eddie Harris in MAJOR LEAGUE, and Conrad Hilton on MAD MEN. He was honored to be part of the London and Sydney Australia cast of Tracy Lett's Tony Award winning play "August:Osage County". He can be seen in the Fall release of TROUBLE WITH THE CURVE as one of Clint Eastwood's baseball scouting buddies.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

**Ramin Bahrani** (Writer/Director/Producer)

Ramin Bahrani was born and raised in North Carolina. His films have premiered and screened at such festivals as Venice, Cannes, Sundance, Berlin and Toronto. He has won numerous awards such as the FIPRESCI prize for best film (MAN PUSH CART, London; GOODBYE SOLO, Venice), the "Someone to Watch" Independent Spirit Award (CHOP SHOP), and was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. He collaborated with Werner Herzog on his short film PLASTIC BAG and recently directed a music video for Sigur Rós. In 2010 legendary American film critic Roger Ebert proclaimed Bahrani as "the director of the decade."

AT ANY PRICE world premieres in the main competition at The Venice International Film Festival 2012, and The Telluride Film Festival 2012 and Toronto Film Festival 2012 in North America.

**Hallie Elizabeth Newton** (Co-Writer)

Born and raised in the deep south, Hallie Elizabeth Newton is a short story writer, journalist, and screenwriter. Her work has been published in such journals as Vice, Huffington Post, 25, Dossier, and Impose. She just completed a new script for commercial director Ben Quinn's debut feature. AT ANY PRICE is her first feature screenplay.

**Killer Films**

Founded by Christine Vachon and Pam Koffler, Killer Films has produced acclaimed features including Academy Award®-winning BOYS DON'T CRY and Academy Award®-nominated FAR FROM HEAVEN. Most recently, Killer Films executive produced MILDRED PIERCE, the Emmy Award®-winning HBO mini-series starring

Kate Winslet. In addition to AT ANY PRICE , Killer Films just wrapped production on KILL YOUR DARLINGS starring Daniel Radcliff, Dean DeHaan, Elizabeth Olsen and MAGIC MAGIC starring Michael Cera, Juno Temple and Emily Browning.

**Teddy Schwartzman** (Producer)

Teddy Schwarzman is Founder and Principal of Black Bear Pictures, a New York-based film production and finance company, launched in 2011.

At Black Bear, Schwarzman has produced Allen Hughes' upcoming film, BROKEN CITY, starring Mark Wahlberg, Russell Crowe and Catherine Zeta-Jones; AT ANY PRICE, acclaimed director Ramin Bahrani's latest film starring Dennis Quaid, and Zac Efron; upcoming comedy ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCE (aka A.C.O.D.), featuring an ensemble including Adam Scott, Richard Jenkins, Amy Poehler, Jessica Alba and Jane Lynch; and ALL IS LOST, J.C. Chandor's latest film starring Robert Redford. Black Bear is also developing KING OF HEISTS, a period thriller, with Jeremy Renner attached to star and produce alongside Schwarzman.

Schwartzman resides in New York with his wife and daughter.

**Justin J. Nappi** (Producer) is the founder and Chairman of TreeHouse Pictures. He is also a principal at World Harmony Productions. At TreeHouse he is a producer of *Arbitrage* (Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon), selected by The Hollywood Reporter as one of the "hottest picks of the bunch" at Sundance 2012, AT ANY PRICE with Zac Efron and Dennis Quaid which will premiere at Venice, Telluride and Toronto, and ADULT WORLD with Emma Roberts and John Cusack, which is currently in post-production . TreeHouse Pictures has several films in development for 2012-2013, including ALL IS LOST with J.C. Chandor directing and starring Robert Redford. Justin is part of the producing team of the Martin Luther King, Jr. biopic, scheduled for a 2013 release, being produced by World Harmony Productions, DreamWorks and Warner Bros.

Justin grew up in Central New York and currently resides in New York City. He is an alum of NYU's Tisch Kanbar Institute of Film & Television.

**Kevin Turen** (Producer) began his career at Capital Entertainment, which grew into First Look Studios, where was promoted to President of Production. While there he was responsible for acquiring and distributing over 100 films including THE PROPOSITION, THE DEAD GIRL, AMERICAN CRIME, and A GUIDE TO RECOGNIZING YOUR SAINTS. Turen next became president of Infinity Media, where the company was involved in such films as CAPOTE, THE IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS, and BUG. In 2011, he left Infinity Media and formed TreeHousePictures with Justin Nappi.

Turen graduated from Columbia University with a degree in English and Critical Film Studies.

**Michael Simmonds** (Cinematographer)

Two-time Independent Spirit Award nominee, cinematographer Michael Simmonds began his career shooting two feature films, MARATHON and SOUNDS BARRIER, for world-renowned filmmaker Amir Naderi. Prior to his work on director Ramin Bahrani's AT ANY PRICE, Simmonds collaborated with Bahrani on MAN PUSH CART, CHOP SHOP, GOODBYE SOLO, and the short film PLASTIC BAG, all of which have won numerous awards and played theatrically around the world. Simmonds also lensed the award-winning documentaries THE ORDER OF MYTHS (Margret Brown), PROJECT NIM (James Marsh) and LAST ADDRESS (Ira Sachs). Simmonds received a BFA from the School of Visual Arts in NYC, where he currently lives.

**Affonso Gonçalves** (Editor)

Affonso Gonçalves has edited over thirty films, including three Sundance Film Festival winners: BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD, WINTER'S BONE and FORTY SHADES OF BLUE. Most recently he has worked with Todd Haynes on the acclaimed HBO mini-series MILDRED PIERCE and Ramin Bahrani's AT ANY PRICE. Other feature editing credits include Ira Sachs's KEEP THE LIGHTS ON, Kip Williams' THE DOOR IN THE FLOOR, Tanya Hamilton's NIGHT CATCHES US. He's currently working on Larry Clark's upcoming MARFA GIRL.

**Dickon Hinchcliffe** (Composer)

Dickon Hinchcliffe is a founder member of the British band Tindersticks. He began scoring films in 1996, working with the acclaimed French director Claire Denis (NENETTE AND BONI, TROUBLE EVERY DAY, FRIDAY NIGHT). Since then, he has scored such notable film and TV productions as director Ira Sachs' FORTY SHADES OF BLUE and MARRIED LIFE; Joel Hopkins' LAST CHANCE HARVEY; Sophie Barthes' COLD SOULS; James Marsh's RED RIDING – 1980 and PROJECT NIM; Debra Granik's WINTER'S BONE; Mitch Glazer's PASSION PLAY; Ami Mann's THE TEXAS KILLING FIELDS; the pilot for Michael Mann's HBO series LUCK; and Oren Moverman's RAMPART. Most recently, he worked again with James Marsh on SHADOW DANCER and with Ramin Bahrani on AT ANY PRICE.