

Mongrel Media presents

Heights

A film by Chris Terrio

with

Glenn Close, Elizabeth Banks, James Marsden, Jesse Bradford

(USA, 93 minutes, 2004)

Distribution

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

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Synopsis

“Heights” follows five characters over twenty-four hours on a fall day in New York City. Isabel (Elizabeth Banks), a photographer, is having second thoughts about her upcoming marriage to Jonathan (James Marsden), a lawyer. On the same day, Isabel's mother Diana (Glenn Close) learns that her husband has a new lover, and begins to re-think her life choices and her open marriage. Diana and Isabel’s paths cross with Alec (Jesse Bradford), a young actor, and with Peter (John Light), a journalist. As the interrelated stories proceed, the connections between the lives of the five characters begin to reveal themselves and their stories unravel so that Isabel, Jonathan, Diana, Alec, and Peter must choose what kind of lives they will lead before the sun comes up on the next day.

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Cast

(in order of appearance)

Juilliard Macbeth	Chandler Williams
Juilliard Lady Macbeth	Bess Wohl
Diana	Glenn Close
Isabel	Elizabeth Banks
Jonathan	James Marsden
Alec	Jesse Bradford
Wedding Rabbi	Daniel Neiden
Marshall	Tom Lennon
Mark	Matt Davis
Peter	John Light
Liz	Isabella Rossellini
Rachel	Susan Malick
Autograph Seeker	Rachel Siegel
Helen	Katie Kreisler
Paul	Phil Tabor
Benjamin's Exes	Jordi Vilasuso
Nat DeWolf	Joel de la Fuente
Scorned Woman	Melanie R. Orr
Andrew	Denis O'Hare
Jeremy	Rufus Wainwright
Henry	Eric Bogosian
Rabbi Mendel	George Segal
Laura	Angel Desai
Michael	Jonathan Walker
Amanda	Regina McMahon
Jesse	Michael Murphy
Guest 1	Jane Nichols
Ian	Andrew Howard
Built Guy	Don Fitzgerald
Party Girl	Meghan Glennon
SNL Writers	Winsome Brown
Oliver	Michael Goldstrom
Guest 2	Jim Parsons
Subway Singer	Steven Glenn
Subway Woman	Alice Tan Ridley
Cindy Adams	Caroline Clay
Guest 3	Herself
Subway Mugger	Alexander Lange
EMT	Manny Siverio
Police Officer	Frank Shattuck
Hospital Receptionist	D'Vorah Bailey
Ana	Jan Ellis
	Liza Colon-Zayas

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The Production Company

“Heights” is produced by the legendary Oscar winning Merchant Ivory Productions team of Ismail Merchant, James Ivory, Paul Bradley and Richard Hawley (“The Bostonians”, “A Room With a View”, “Heat & Dust”, “Maurice”, “Mr. & Mrs. Bridge”, “Howard’s End”, “Remains of the Day”, “In Custody”, “A Soldier’s Daughter Never Cries”, “The Golden Bowl”, “The Mystic Masseur” and “Le Divorce”).

The Filmmakers

Directed by
CHRIS TERRIO

Produced by
ISMAIL MERCHANT
RICHARD HAWLEY

Screenplay by
AMY FOX

Based on the Stage Play "Heights" by
AMY FOX

Additional Screenplay Material by
CHRIS TERRIO

Director of Photography
JIM DENAULT

Original Score
MARTIN ERSKINE
BEN BUTLER

Production Design
MARLA WEINHOFF

Costume Design
MARINA DRAGHICI

Editor
SLOANE KLEVIN

Associate Producer
PIERRE PRONER

Executive Producer
PAUL BRADLEY

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Art Director
DIANE LEDERMAN

Casting
JAMES CALLERI, CSA

Crew

Line Producer
Unit Production Manager
Production Accountant
1st Assistant Director
2nd Assistant Director
3rd Assistant Director
Production Office Coordinator
Script Supervisor
Sound Mixer
Boom Operator
Camera Operator
First Assistant Camera
Second Assistant Camera

Key Make Up and Hair
Key Hair
Hair Stylist for Ms. Close
Make Up for Ms. Close

Costume Supervisor
Costumer

Set Decorator
Art Department Coordinator
Leadman
Scenic Artist
Set Dressers

Gaffer
Best Boy Electric
Generator Operator
3rd Electric

John Scholz
George Norfleet, Jr.
Marlus C. Harding
Thomas Fatone
Patrick D. Gibbons
David Blazina
Michael J. Cargill
Rebecca Fulton
Thomas Varga
Marshall McGee
Joia Speciale
Eddie Rodriguez
Maria Calvaruso

Claus Lulla
Kabuki
Martial Corneville
Christine Leiter

Rachel Leah Greene
Lynn Falconer

Diane Lederman
Cedar McClure
Gary Wattson
Sarah Berney
Eric Friedewald
Crystal River Williams
Andrew Call
Lance Turnbow

Thomas O'Connor
Timothy Wood
James Thorne
Paola Cantoni

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Key Grip	Glenn Fishel
Best Boy Grip	James Casey
Dolly Grip	Tom Kempf
Still Photographers	Walter Thomson KC Bailey
Property Master	Edward P. Scoppa, Jr.
Assistant Property Master	Ana Katharina Drechsler
Teamster Captain	Gary Mahr
Drivers	Ray Nevin, Sr. Ray Nevin, Jr.
Locations Manager	Charlyne Hopson
Assistant Locations Managers	Meghan Glennon Alexander Kalkines Rob Roy
Macbeth Theatrical Lighting Design	Ken Billington
Lighting Assistant	Benjamin Percy
Lighting Technician	Brad Robertson
Video Assistant Operator	Mauricio Soto
Video Playback Technicians	Dennis Green Steven Hampoff
Casting Associate	Alaine Alldaffer
Casting Assistants	Nicole Lorenzetti Kristen Jackson
Extras Casting	Keith R. Gunthorpe Pat Golden
Additional Casting – Los Angeles	Lindsay Chag
Parking Coordinator	Clayton “Massive” Thomas
Production Secretary	Jeremy Crane
Assistant to Director	James Wilson
Assistants to Producers	Katy Oliver Leah Ramella Melanie Shanley

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Post Production Crew

Supervising Sound Editor
First Assistant Editor
Editing Assistant

Bob Hein
Katherine Fisher
Perri Frank

Dialogue Editor
Sound Effects Editor
Assistant Sound Editor
Foley Artist
Foley Engineer
Re-Recording Mixers

Stuart Stanley
Coll Anderson
Akil Jelani Wilson
Nancy Cabrera
Ryan Collison
Peter Waggoner
Andy Kriss

Music Supervisors

Dave Hnatiuk
Ramsay Adams
Alex Proner
John Carbonara

Music Editor

Post-Production Interns

Ben Stauffer
Diana Oliva

Online Editor
Video Supervisors

Larry Schmitt
Dennis de Jesus
Joe Monge
Tim Bond
Noelle Penraat
David Pultz

Colorist
Negative Cutter
Color Timer

Music

“Tastes of Honey-Supatone Dub 1”
Written and produced by
Richard Dorfmeister and Rupert Hubber
with permission of Tosca Music Wien
courtesy of G-Stone Recordings
Tosca: Different Tastes of Honey
under exclusive license to
K7 Records 2002

“El Divorcio”
performed by Marc Ribot
and Cubanitos Postizos
courtesy of Atlantic Records Group
by arrangement with
Warner Strategic Marketing

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“Dreaming”
performed by Susan Malick
written by Bird/Malick/Davoskin
(p) 2004 Cool Guy Music

“Baile Baile Baile”
performed by Marc Ribot
and Cubanitos Postizos
courtesy of Atlantic Records Group
by arrangement with
Warner Strategic Marketing

“Moments in Your Mind”
performed by Lonnie
written by Lonnie Rutledge
Central Intelligent Music, 2004

“Los Teenagers Bailan Changui”
performed by Marc Ribot
and Cubanitos Postizos
courtesy of Atlantic Records Group
by arrangement with
Warner Strategic Marketing

“2wicky”
performed by Hooverphonic
courtesy of Epic Records and
Sony Music Entertainment (Belgium)
S.A./N.V.
Sony Music Licensing

“El Groucho Rojo”
performed by Marc Ribot
and Cubanitos Postizos
courtesy of Atlantic Records Group
by arrangement with
Warner Strategic Marketing

“Masturbation Session”
performed by Los Amigos Invisibles
(p) 2000 @ Luaka Bop
with the permission of
EMI Music Publishing

“Fiesta El Solar”
performed by Marc Ribot
and Cubanitos Postizos
courtesy of Atlantic Records Group
by arrangement with
Warner Strategic Marketing

“King of Snake (Fatboy Slim Remix)”
performed by Underworld
published by Smith Hyde Productions
Admin. By Chrysalis Songs (BMI)/
Sony/ATV Songs LLC
alb/ @ Sherlock Holmes Music Ltd. (BMI)
courtesy of V2 Records, Inc

“Juan’s Mambo”
performed by Juan Colon
courtesy of Homeboy Productions Inc.

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“Angels (Thievery Corporation Remix)”

performed by Wax Poetic
Featuring Norah Jones
written by Ersahin/Jeanetty
courtesy of Ultra Records, Inc.

“New Year’s Prayer”
performed by Jeff Buckley
courtesy of Columbia Records
by arrangement with
Sony Music Licensing

“Gamar El Hawa”
arranged by Mohamed Nouh
(p) 1997 @ La Bandeson

“Art”
performed by Loque
courtesy of Lava Records LLC
by arrangement with
Warner Strategic Marketing

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Production Notes

“Heights,” produced by New-York based Merchant Ivory Productions, was shot entirely on location in New York City in the fall of 2003. “Ismail Merchant and I wanted to do a film that was set here in New York,” says producer Richard Hawley. “The company has had its headquarters here for more than 40 years, but we hadn’t shot a movie in New York City since ‘Slaves of New York’ 20 years ago.”

The company enlisted director Chris Terrio, a young New York-based writer and director who had worked as James Ivory’s assistant and directed various small projects for the company, to develop a script with playwright Amy Fox based on her short play, which had been in on-and-off development at the company for two years. Terrio began work on the project in 2002.

“I liked the fact that many of the characters were young and facing the kinds of problems you face in your mid-twenties, when you’re not really sure who you are and what you want to do with your life,” says Terrio, who was hired to do the film when he was 25. “And then there was the fact that it was set in New York, my hometown.” Ismail Merchant and Richard Hawley never considered shooting the film anywhere other than on location in the city. “There is a kind of authenticity you get from shooting here that you couldn’t duplicate anywhere else,” says Merchant. “You don’t get the kind of views of New York we got in this film at a studio in Burbank, in downtown LA, or on the unconvincing streets of Toronto.” “When you see those locations play as New York, you always know in the back of your mind that it just isn’t,” says Hawley.

The film involves a twist on a classic kind of New York genre – various characters’ lives intertwined, connections revealing themselves as the day goes on. The film starts off, Terrio says, looking like it might be a marriage comedy, but as the day and night progress, the style of the film gets looser, the dialogue becomes more sparse, and the mood darkens. Terrio says that he was most interested in the possibilities of the latter third of the film, when the various relationships we have come to know fall apart, or reaffirm themselves. “In its original form, the entire film was a comedy, which developed into sort of a farce in the end,” says the director. “I wanted to take it in the opposite direction.” That shift in tone as the day and night progress were inspired, in part, by the work of legendary New York playwright Edward Albee. “Albee was briefly a writing mentor of mine,” says Terrio. “[His plays] ‘A Delicate Balance’ and ‘Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?’ have a structure similar to the one we used in this film – they take place over one night, and as the night goes on the world gets bleaker, but then the sun rises in the end.”

The process of developing the characters was undertaken with the help of the cast. Terrio specifically cites Glenn Close’s influence in creating Diana: “The character was really developed in conjunction with Glenn,” says the director. “This wasn’t a role that was on the page and Glenn just stepped into. A lot of the small bits of improvisation in the movie are Glenn’s own, and there are entire scenes that are based on ideas Glenn had in rehearsal.”

The same was true of Isabel, played by Elizabeth Banks. “Elizabeth is incredibly well-read, but she’d never read Jane Austen’s Emma, so I gave her that,” says Terrio. “That book is maybe the best example of a seemingly very aware young woman who can see into everyone else’s life, but is blind to her own. That, and many other things, informed our work but, ultimately, the Isabel on screen is Elizabeth’s own creation.”

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The ensemble cast of the film is a dizzying array of talented actors, many of them based in New York City. “We built an amazing ensemble for “Heights”,” says Hawley. “Both younger and older actors, new talent opposite established movie stars. We have George Segal playing opposite James Marsden, Isabella Rossellini playing opposite [young British actor] John Light, Glenn Close opposite young actors who had never been in films before.”

Casting was a delicate equation undertaken with Casting Director James Calleri, who is the director of casting for the venerated New York City theater company Playwrights’ Horizons, “This was a difficult movie to cast – there are so many different chemistries that had to mesh for the scenes to work,” says Terrio. “Fortunately, there was no studio involved at the beginning, telling us we had to have a certain number of known names. If I liked the actors, and Ismail [Merchant], Richard [Hawley], and James [Ivory] agreed, they were cast regardless of whether they were stars or unknowns.” Hawley adds, “But basically, Chris and I went through our list of dream cast members, and then went after each, one by one, until we got them. We were casting throughout the filming, getting the right actor for each part, no matter what the time constraints. We never wanted to settle just to have someone if he or she wasn’t perfect for the part.”

The cast includes Eric Bogosian, playing a New York theater director, Michael Murphy, playing an editor at the New York Times, and singer Rufus Wainwright, playing the ex-boyfriend of one of the characters. Terrio says that casting Wainwright was a particular coup for him. “I’ve been a fan of Rufus’s music for a long time,” says Terrio, “and I kept thinking of him when I thought of Jeremy, even though, as far as I knew, he’d never been in a movie. Finally, we tracked him down, and I invited him to coffee, and he told me he’d do the movie if he could do a scene with Glenn Close.” Terrio says, “If there hadn’t been a scene like that in the script, I would have written one.”

Some are surprised to learn that “Heights” is a contemporary film, based on Merchant Ivory’s considerable reputation for producing lush period adaptations. “James Ivory has said that every film is a period piece – a snapshot of a particular place and time. “Remains of the Day” is a period movie, but so are “Taxi Driver” and “Breathless”.” “Heights”, the director says, is located in a very specific segment of New York City, in a specific perimeter of city blocks. “This film doesn’t claim to be an all-encompassing cross-section of New York,” says Terrio. “It’s much smaller than that. I grew up in a working-class neighborhood in the outer-boroughs, and the people I grew up with are nowhere to be found here.” But, the director says, he thinks the film is an accurate portrayal of a small world of young, post-college New Yorkers, many of whom are struggling to create careers in the arts. “That’s a world I know very well, because I live in it now,” says Terrio.

The film is also set in a specific post-9/11 time period. “New York is a character in this film, and even in a movie that’s basically about interpersonal relationships, you can’t help but acknowledge the presence of larger forces outside, in the city,” says Terrio. “That’s in the film in small ways – New York’s newfound patriotism in the woman singing “America the Beautiful” in the subway; the hole in the skyline in the many scenes overlooking Lower Manhattan.”

Those Downtown and Uptown vistas and the streets of New York had to have a certain look, the filmmakers say, to distinguish the film from other contemporary New York films, and to set it apart in the Merchant Ivory canon. “I’m a devoted fan of Tony Pierce-Roberts and the kind of work he’s done for

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James Ivory, but I wanted this film to have a different kind of urban palate.” So the production hired cinematographer Jim Denault, a New York resident who had shot films such as “Boys Don’t Cry”, “The Believer”, and “Real Women Have Curves”, to give the film a signature style. “I’m thrilled with Jim’s work on the film,” says the director. “Jim is incredibly gifted, and he’s a genius with artificial light. There are blues and greens in the interiors that capture a specific kind of urban space, and give the film a look that’s at once poetic and realistic. I’m his biggest fan.”

Heights reunited Denault with the editor Sloane Klevin, who had previously edited “Real Women Have Curves”. Terrio describes his collaboration with Klevin as one of the best he’s ever had. “Sloane and I could communicate almost by ESP in the editing room. She’s got one of the quickest minds I’ve ever encountered, and combines that with an impeccable artistic sense.”

The production team was rounded out by first-time production designer Marla Weinhoff, who enlisted art director/set decorator Diane Lederman to help her define the look of more than 30 locations; and costume designer Marina Draghici, a fixture on New York’s theater scene whose work ranges from avant-garde opera to a Holocaust film.

A particular challenge to the filmmakers was creating an appropriate musical score. “This was a very difficult movie to score,” says Hawley. “The music had to be emotional but restrained, and never telegraphing the characters’ actions or intentions. It was a very difficult task to get just the right balance of ambience and emotion that delivered itself as just another element of the film. We wanted a sound that didn’t lay on top of the movie, but was as interwoven as the photography.” The producers and director eventually settled on the team of Martin Erskine and Ben Butler – who had worked on many scores, but had never written a feature score on their own before. “We went through so many different ideas with many talented composers, but none of them seemed to work for this movie,” says Terrio. “Finally, we sat and watched the film with Marty and Ben, and they just started taking our ideas and improvising along with the picture, and it clicked. So we created the music piece by piece. It was a very organic process – we later re-recorded some things and refined, but basically they played when they were moved to play by the picture.”

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About the Cast

GLENN CLOSE – DIANA

Glenn Close made her feature film debut in George Roy Hill's *THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP* in July 1982, stepping from a successful career in the theatre to one on the screen. She was subsequently nominated for an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actress and has since gone on to build one of the most distinguished careers in both film and theatre.

Following her impressive debut, Close was nominated for Academy Awards for Supporting Actress in Larry Kasdan's seminal film *THE BIG CHILL* and in Barry Levinson's *THE NATURAL*, starring opposite Robert Redford. Ms. Close went on to star in *THE STONE BOY*, with Robert Duvall, Richard Marquand's hit thriller *JAGGED EDGE* with Jeff Bridge, and after that *FATAL ATTRACTION* opposite Michael Douglas, which garnered her a fourth Academy Award nomination. She then received both an Oscar nomination and BAFTA nomination for Best Actress in Stephen Frear's *DANGEROUS LIAISONS*, co-starring John Malkovich and Michelle Pfeiffer. Additional films Ms. Close has starred in include *IMMEDIATE FAMILY*, with James Woods; *REVERSAL OF FORTUNE*, with Jeremy Irons; Franco Zeffirelli's *HAMLET*, with Mel Gibson, Helena Bonham-Carter and Alan Bates; Istvan Szabo's *MEETING VENUS*; Billie August's *THE HOUSE OF THE SPIRITS*, co-starring Meryl Streep, Jeremy Irons, Vanessa Redgrave, and Winona Ryder; Ron Howard's *THE PAPER*, co-starring Michael Keaton, Robert Duvall and Marisa Tomei; the live action Disney film version of *101 DALMATIANS*, in which she brought to three-dimensional life the delicious Cruella DeVil; Tim Burton's *MARS ATTACKS!*, opposite Jack Nicholson; Bruce Beresford's *PARADISE ROAD* with Frances McDormand and Juliana Margulies, and Wolfgang Peterson's hit political thriller *AIR FORCE ONE*, with Harrison Ford.

Other recent films for Ms. Close include the ensemble comedy--and Sundance Film Festival hit--*COOKIE'S FORTUNE* for director Robert Altman, with Liv Tyler, Julianne Moore and Charles Dutton; Disney's enormously successful animated *TARZAN*, in which she voiced Tarzan's ape mother; the animated sequel *102 DALMATIANS*, reprising her role as Cruella DeVil; Rodrigo Garcia's independent feature (produced by Jon Avnet), *THINGS YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HER*, with Holly Hunter, Cameron Diaz, Calista Flockhart and Valeria Golina, *THE SAFETY OF OBJECTS*, directed by Rose Troche, and the other Merchant Ivory Production, James Ivory's *LE DIVORCE* with Naomi Watts, Kate Hudson, Sam Waterston, Stockard Channing and Leslie Caron.

Ms. Close made her theatrical debut in New York in a season of three plays back-to-back: *LOVE FORE LOVE*, *THE MEMBER OF THE WEDDING* (in which she understudied future *GARP* co-star Mary Beth Hurt) and *RULES OF THE GAME*. Additional plays that she starred in include Richard Rodgers' musical *REX*, *UNCLE VANYA*; the Sherlock Holmes-style thriller, *THE CRUCIFER OF BLOOD*; *UNCOMMON WOMEN AND OTHERS*, starring another *GARP* cohort Swoosie Kurtz; *JOAN OF ARC AT THE STAKE*, with William Hurt, and *BENEFACTORS* with Sam Waterston, Simon Jones and Mary Beth Hurt. For her role in the hit Broadway musical, *BARNUM*, she won her first Tony nomination for her portrayal of Charity Barnum. She then won the Tony-Award as Best Actress for her performance as Jeremy Irons' actress wife in Tom Stoppard's *THE REAL THING*. She won another Best Actress Tony Award for Mike Nichols' production of *DEATH AND THE MAIDEN*, in which she co-starred with Richard Dreyfuss and Gene Hackman. She later wowed audiences and critics alike with her stunning

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portrayal of Norma Desmond in the American premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's SUNSET BOULEVARD, and received an award for Outstanding Performance from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, a Drama-Logue Award for Lead Actress, as well as her third Tony Award.

Ms. Close proudly lays claim to having sung the National Anthem some eight times at Shea Stadium for the New York Mets, and in 2001 she received a Crystal Award from Women In Film for her distinguished acting career.

ELIZABETH BANKS – ISABEL

Elizabeth Banks is one of the most promising young talents in Hollywood. She had a starring role as Marcella Howard in the hit summer film of 2003, SEABISCUIT, opposite Tobey Maguire and Jeff Bridges. She also appeared opposite Maguire in SPIDER-MAN 2, reprising her role as Betty Brant, which director Sam Raimi created for her in the first SPIDER-MAN blockbuster. She also appeared opposite Leonardo DiCaprio in Steven Spielberg's CATCH ME IF YOU CAN.

Banks' additional feature credits include roles in John Singleton's SHAFT with Samuel L. Jackson and WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER starring Janeane Garofalo and David Hyde Pierce. She has also appeared in several independent features including the THE TRADE and ORDINARY SINNER, which won the Best Film Award at the 2002 Slamdunk Film Festival in Park City. Her extensive theater credits include roles in American Conservatory Theatre's productions of HURLY BURLY, BETHLEHEM, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE and UNCLE VANYA, as well as the Guthrie Theater's production of SUMMER&SMOKE directed by David Esbjornson. Originally from Massachusetts, Banks received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her graduate Degree at the American Conservatory Theater. Banks currently resides in Los Angeles.

ERIC BOGOSIAN – HENRY

Eric Bogosian is best known for his Obie Award-winning solos and for his plays TALK RADIO and SUBURBIA. In 1988, Oliver Stone directed the film version of TALK RADIO, in which Bogosian starred and for which he received the Berlin Film Festival Silver Bear. In 1995, Richard Linklater directed the film SUBURBIA. In addition to the Silver Bear, Bogosian is the recipient of three Obies, a Drama Desk Award and most recently, the Guggenheim Fellowship. He is the author of five major plays and six full-length solos. His second novel will be published by Simon and Schuster next spring.

His other film and television credits include working with Woody Allen in DECONSTRUCTING HARRY, Robert Altman in THE CAINE MUTINY COURT-MARTIAL, Paul Schrader in WITCH HUNT, Atom Egoyan in ARARAT, Agnieszka Holland in SHOT IN THE HEAD and John McNaughton in SEX DRUGS AND ROCK&ROLL. In addition, he has starred in such disparate fare as UNDER SIEGE II, BEAVIS AND BUTTHEAD DO AMERICA and last year's WONDERLAND. He lives in New York City with his wife, director Jo Bonney and their children.

JESSE BRADFORD – ALEC

Jesse Bradford, now 24, has quietly amassed a body of work matched by few actors of any age. Starting with the role of Robert DeNiro's son in FALLING IN LOVE in 1983, he went on to appear in the Christmas classic PRANCER, followed by the European cult film THE BOY WHO CRIED BITCH with Adrien Brody, then Alan Pakula's PRESUMED INNOCENT with Harrison Ford, MY BLUE HEAVEN

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with Steve Martin, FUNNY FARM with Chevy Chase, and THE BOYS with James Wood.

Mr. Bradford's breakthrough performance came in Steven Soderbergh's acclaimed KING OF THE HILL, for which he was nominated as best actor by the Chicago Film Critics. Leading roles followed in FAR FROM HOME: THE ADVENTURE OF YELLOW DOG, HACKERS with Angelina Jolie, ROMEO AND JULIET with Leonardo DiCaprio, Merchant/Ivory's A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER NEVER CRIES, CHERRY FALLS, DANCING AT THE BLUE IGUANA, SPEEDWAY JUNKY, and ACCORDING TO SPENCER. The surprise hits BRING IT ON, CLOCKSTOPPERS, and SWIMFAN mark three out of four consecutive films starring Mr. Bradford that opened number one at the Box office. A recent graduate of Columbia University with a degree in Film History, he is currently guest starring on the Emmy winning WEST WING and playing blues guitar on convenient Mondays at Cozy's Bar.

MATT DAVIS – MARK

Davis received critical acclaim for his edgy breakout performance in Joel Schumacher's TIGERLAND, in which he starred opposite Colin Farrell, playing a bright, aspiring young writer who gets shipped off to war. He then starred in MGM's smash comedy hit LEGALLY BLONDE, as 'Warner', Reese Witherspoon's WASP-y Blue-blood "boyfriend-you love-to-hate", who she traveled to Harvard to win back. Further adding to his reputation as a big screen heartthrob was his starring role in the surf romance flick BLUE CRUSH, in which he plays a pro-football quarterback with whom Kate Bosworth falls in love. Mr. Davis' upcoming films include SEEING OTHER PEOPLE with Jay Mohr, Julianne Nicholson and Andy Richter, and SHADOW OF FEAR with Aidan Quinn and Robin Tunney.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Matt's other credits include Miramax's BELOW directed by David Twohy, and Disney's mega-hit, PEARL HARBOR by Michael Bay.

ANDREW HOWARD – IAN

Andrew Howard was born and brought up in Wales. His career has spanned theatre, television and film. His theatre productions include an astonishing performance in CADIFF EAST at The Royal National Theatre and a performance in David Leveaux's production of ELECTRA, which received outstanding reviews. He recently completed THE LION IN WINTER for Hallmark Entertainment starring alongside Glenn Close and Patrick Stewart. His additional television credits are HEARTS OF GOLD, OUTSIDE THE RULES and DROVER'S GOLD.

His film credits include Michael Cacoyannis' THE CHERRY ORCHARD, SHOOTERS which he co-wrote and starred in alongside Adrian Dunbar, Matthew Rhys and Ioan Gruffydd, BELOW for Dimension Pictures, ONE PERFECT DAY for director Paul Currie and the critically acclaimed MR IN-BETWEEN for which Andrew won The Best Actor Award in 2001 at The Tokyo Film Festival and Best Actor in 2003 at the Valenciennes Adventure Film Festival.

THOMAS LENNON – MARSHALL

Thomas Lennon, originally from Chicago, began his career as a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts experimental theater wing. It was here that he co-founded the sketch comedy troupe THE STATE. This group went on to critical success with their self-titled hit series on MTV, of which he was one of its stars, producers and writers. THE STATE was nominated for a 1995 Cable ACE award for Best Comedy Series and ran for three seasons.

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Tom has appeared in the films MEMENTO (NewMarket), OUT COLD (Disney/Spyglass), A GUY THING (MGM) and most recently a lead role in Paramount's romantic comedy HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS, as well as Merchant Ivory's LE DIVORCE.

Lennon has also built a strong career as a screenwriter with partner Robert Ben Garant. They have written the comedies 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS for Universal, THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN starring Eddie Murphy for IMAGINE, TAXI with Queen Latifah for FOX, STARKY AND HUTCH starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson for Warner Bros, PACIFIER for Disney, and now BALLS OF FURY with Spyglass in which he will also star. On television, Lennon has had guest roles on NBC's FRIENDS, JESSE, and MDs; as well as having co-created and starred in the pilot, HEY NEIGHBOR! for FOX.

Tom Lennon currently resides in Los Angeles and is the co-creator, Executive Producer, and star of the critically acclaimed COMEDY CENTRAL show RENO 911!, which is currently in its second season.

JOHN LIGHT – PETER

John Light most recently appeared as the Devil in Joel Soisson's ASCENSION. His other film credits include Geoffrey in Andre Konchalovsky's LION IN WINTER, and Eric in Patrick Lussier's DRACULA II: ASCENSION.

On the small screen, Mr. Light played Lt Col Dobey in Tom Hanks' BAND OF BROTHERS, which was nominated best movie or mini-series by the American Film Institute Awards for Motion Pictures in 2002 and for a Sunday Times Ian Charleson Award in 2001 and in 1997.

Among his many theatre credits, Mr. Light has performed in three Royal Shakespeare Co. plays - the role of Konstantin in Adrien Noble's interpretation of THE SEAGULL, Leonard in Edward Bond's IN COMPANY OF MEN, and Siczynski in Peter Gill's A PATRIOT FOR ME.

SUSAN MALICK – RACHEL

After gracing the pages of Italian Vogue, Cosmo, Allure, and the fashion runways of Paris, New York, and London, Susan is now turning heads as a serious actress. Her smarts and sharp wit make this chameleon one of Hollywood's best kept secrets. After her work with Wynn Handman at the American Place Theatre and at the Actor's Studio, she has put her talents to the test in the memorable roles she has created in indie flicks such as PASS THE BUCK, THE BIG STORY, and MAYBE IT'S ME, and in Universal Pictures THE GURU, Merchant Ivory's COTTON MARY and Milos Forman's THE MAN ON THE MOON. She has made numerous television appearances including Sydney Lumet's 100 CENTRE STREET, and in addition to appearing in HEIGHTS, Susan wrote and performed "Dreams" on the film's soundtrack. Her upcoming album, "Where the Sky Meets the Sea," will be released early next year, and she recently sold her first feature film screenplay, IT GIRL, which is scheduled for production next year. Susan lives in Manhattan with her two cats.

JAMES MARSDEN – JONATHAN

Displaying astonishing versatility with a wide range of film roles, James Marsden is quickly making his mark on Hollywood. Marsden was recently seen in the New Line feature THE NOTEBOOK for director

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Nick Cassavetes and is currently filming THE ALIBI opposite Steve Coogan and Rebecca Romijn-Stamos.

Most recognized for his role as 'Cyclops' in 20th Century Fox's blockbuster X-MEN, Marsden once again joined the superhero lineup for last year's X2. Marsden's other feature film credits include the MGM thriller DISTURBING BEHAVIOR with Katie Holmes and Nick Stahl; GOSSIP for Warner Bros. opposite Kate Hudson; New Line's comedy SUGAR AND SPICE with Mena Suvari and Marley Shelton; and INTERSTATE 60 with Gary Oldman, Chris Cooper, Ann Margaret, Amy Smart, and Christopher Lloyd. He has made several television appearances, including the role of Glen Floy on the final season of the Emmy winning series ALLY MCBEAL.

Marsden currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife Lisa and son Jack.

MICHAEL MURPHY – JESSE

With an acting career that successfully spans film, television, and theater, Michael Murphy has always been not only a respected "actor's actor," but a favorite of such directing icons as Robert Altman, Woody Allen, Paul Mazursky, Peter Weir, Tim Burton, Oliver Stone, Elia Kazan, Peter Bogdanovich, Martin Ritt, Robert Aldrich, Orson Welles, John Badham, Paul Thomas Anderson and John Sayles.

His cult-favorite TV series TANNER 88 – a mockumentary about a fictional presidential campaign starring Murphy as Jack Tanner, a presidential contender on the campaign trail – was recently updated by its creators Robert Altman and Gary Trudeau. With new interviews featuring Murphy and his co-stars, it aired on the Sundance Channel during the 2004 Presidential campaign.

Additionally, the busy actor has completed three new films besides Merchant/Ivory's HEIGHTS. They are Buena Vista's IN THE DARK, Don McKellar's CHILDSTAR, and John Sayles' SILVER.

Some of Murphy's classic feature credits include: MAGNOLIA (S.A.G. nomination for best ensemble), KANSAS CITY, BATMAN RETURNS, SALVADOR, THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY, MANHATTAN, THE FRONT, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN, NASHVILLE, WHAT'S UP, DOC?, BREWSTER MCCLOUD and M.A.S.H.

For years, Murphy lived in New York while performing in theater but now resides with his family, daughter and actress-wife Wendy Crewson in Toronto, where he stars as a judge in the new CBC satiric comedy series THIS IS WONDERLAND, written by Canada's renowned playwright George F. Walker.

DENIS O'HARE – ANDREW

Denis recently completed a Tony nominated performance on Broadway in ASSASSINS. In 2003, he won a Tony award for his work in TAKE ME OUT. Some of his other Broadway performances include MAJOR BARBARA (Roundabout), CABARET, and RACING DEMON (Lincoln Center Theatre).

His numerous television appearances include NEW YORK UNDERCOVER, LAW & ORDER (4 episodes), LAW & ORDER:SVU, THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES, 100 CENTRE STREET (3 episodes), ST. MAYBE (Hallmark Hall of Fame). His film credits include LARGE'S ARK, 21 GRAMS, THE ANNIVERSARY

HEIGHTS

PARTY, ST. PATRICK'S DAY, RIVER RED, SWEET AND LOWDOWN, and HAMLET.

ISABELLA ROSSELLINI – LIZ

Isabella Rossellini grew up in Paris and Rome. At the age of 19, she moved to New York, where she became a translator and later a reporter for RAI-Italian Television. Her popular segments led to appearances as New York correspondent for the weekly Italian comedy show THE OTHER SUNDAY with Roberto Benigni.

Rossellini began a modeling career at the relatively advanced age of 28, when she was photographed by Bruce Weber for British Vogue and Bill King for American Vogue. She has since worked with the industry's most distinguished photographers- from Richard Avedon to Steven Meisel, from Helmut Newton to Peter Lindbergh, from Norman Parkinson to Eve Arnold. She has appeared on the cover of such magazines as Vogue, Elle, Marie Claire, Bazaar and Vanity Fair. An exhibition of photographs of Rossellini, "Portrait of a Woman", was held in March 1988 at the Museum of Modern Art of the city of Paris.

She made her cinematic debut in 1979 in Paolo and Vittorio Taviani's IL PRATO (THE MEADOW). Her American film debut was opposite Mikhail Baryshnikov and Gregory Hines in Taylor Hackford's WHITE NIGHTS. In 1986, she starred opposite Dennis Hopper as Dorothy Vallens, the tortured lounge singer, in David Lynch's haunting and controversial BLUE VELVET.

Other films include ROGER DODGER, COUSINS, ZELLY AND ME, WILD AT HEART, DEATH BECOMES HER, FEARLESS, WYATT EARP, BIG NIGHT, THE IMPOSTORS, and THE FUNERAL. Her portrait of the Jewish Hassidic mother in LEFT LUGGAGE, directed by Jeroen Krabbe, won a special award at the Berlin Film Festival in 1998.

Rossellini's television work includes MERLIN, DON QUIXOTE, THE ODYSSEY, THE FRIGHTENING FRAMMIS, THE GIFT, CRIME OF THE CENTURY (Golden Globe nomination), and a two-episode arc of the series CHICAGO HOPE (Emmy nomination). Isabella recently appeared as Empress Josephine in NAPOLEON for A&E opposite Gerard Depardieu, John Malkovich and Sophie Loren.

Her modeling and acting career also led Rossellini into the world of cosmetics. Beginning in 1982, she was the exclusive spokesmodel for the international cosmetics brand Lancôme for 14 years. In 1990, Lancome launched the very successful fragrance Trésor, which was Rossellini's first involvement with product development. In 1995, Isabella began a collaboration with Lancaster Group to develop her own brand of cosmetics, Manifesto, which launched internationally in May 1999.

Rossellini's self-described fictional memoir Some of Me was published in the USA in 1997. The book has since also been published in Italian, German and French language editions. Also in 1997, the George Eastman House (USA) honored Rossellini for her work in preserving the films of her parents, Ingrid Bergman and Roberto Rossellini

Isabella Rossellini lives in New York City with her two children.

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GEORGE SEGAL – RABBI MENDEL

A veteran of over 60 feature films, George Segal first drew national attention in 1965 for his role as a distraught newlywed in *SHIP OF FOOLS*. The following year, he earned an Academy Award nomination for his performance in *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?*. Mr. Segal also won raves for his role in such films as *THE ST. VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE*, *NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY*, *THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT*, *LOVING*, *BORN TO WIN*, *A TOUCH OF CLASS*, *WHERE'S POPPA?*, *BLUME IN LOVE* and *WHO IS KILLING THE GREAT CHEFS OF EUROPE?*. In 1975, he appeared in a spoof of the classic *MALTESE FALCON*, titled *THE BLACK BIRD*, and was reunited with his *TOUCH OF GLASS* co-star Glenda Jackson in the 1979 film *LOST AND FOUND*.

After taking some time off in the early 1980's, he starred as the father of Kirstie Alley's baby in the hit movie *LOOK WHO'S TALKING*. He reprised the role in the sequel *LOOK WHO'S TALKING 2*. In recent years, he appeared in the features, *FOR THE BOYS* with Bette Midler and James Caan, *THE CABLE GUY* with Jim Carrey, *FLIRTING WITH DISASTER* with Mary Tyler Moore, *TO DIE FOR* with Nicole Kidman and *THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES* with Barbara Streisand and Lauren Bacall.

On television, Mr. Segal has been nominated for Golden Globe Awards two years in a row for his role in *JUST SHOOT ME*. In addition, Segal starred in the television series *MURPHY'S LAW*, in which he portrayed an insurance investigator, as well as the 1986 series *TAKE FIVE* and the 1993 series *HIGH TIDE*. He has also appeared in numerous television movies including *THE LINDA MCCARTNEY STORY*, *DEATH OF A SALESMAN*, *OF MICE AND MEN*, *FOLLOWING HER HEART* and *THE PAUL FLEISS STORY*. In 1998, he played Harry Houdini's legendary producer/manager, Martin Beck, in the cable bio-drama *HOUDINI: BELIEVE*. Additionally, he had a recurring role in *THE NAKED TRUTH* and guest starred on *CAROLINE IN THE CITY*. He also had a recurring part on Tracey Ullman's cable series *TRACEY TAKES ON...*

An accomplished banjo player, Segal began his career playing with Bruno Lynch and The Impressive Jazz Band and would often perform for studio audiences during *JUST SHOOT ME* show tapings.

Born in Great Neck, New York, Segal now lives in Los Angeles with his wife Sonia.

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT – JEREMY

Rufus Wainwright is a singer/songwriter who was named Rolling Stone's Best New Artist in 1998 for his first album, "Rufus Wainwright". He followed that up in 2001 with the critical and popular success "Poses", and released his third album "Want One", on the DreamWorks label in September 2003. His follow-up to "Want One", titled "Want Two", will be released later this year.

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About the Filmmakers

CHRIS TERRIO—DIRECTOR/ADDITIONAL SCREENPLAY

Chris Terrio was born in New York in 1976. He studied English literature at Harvard and later in graduate school in Cambridge before getting an MFA in Film Production from USC, where he made a number of short films. His short film “Book of Kings” debuted at the first Tribeca Film Festival, was a Sundance Buzz Cut, and played at a number of festivals worldwide before debuting on IFC in 2003. Chris worked as assistant to James Ivory. He then co-directed, with Matthew Modine, the first staged reading of JACOB’S HANDS – a screenplay by Christopher Isherwood and Aldous Huxley, for the Merchant and Ivory Foundation for the Arts. Chris lives in New York City. HEIGHTS is his first feature film.

ISMAIL MERCHANT – PRODUCER

Although Ismail Merchant was born in Bombay, he has lived and worked for most of his life in the West. Merchant's first film was a theatrical short, THE CREATION OF WOMAN, which was nominated in 1961 for an Academy Award and was an official entry from the United States in the Cannes Film Festival that same year. While en route to the festival, Merchant met James Ivory, who agreed to form a partnership, Merchant Ivory Productions, to make English-language theatrical films in India for the international market.

Attracted by India's visual beauty, as well as by the opportunity to finance his films with frozen rupee accounts of major American distributors, Merchant produced THE HOUSEHOLDER, the team's first collaboration with writer Ruth Praver Jhabvala (SHAKESPEARE WALLAH, THE GURU, and BOMBAY TALKIE). For forty years, Merchant Ivory Productions has enjoyed one of the most productive collaborations in cinema, making such films as ROSELAND, THE EUROPEANS, QUARTET, HEAT AND DUST, A ROOM WITH A VIEW, MR. AND MRS. BRIDGE, HOWARDS END, THE REMAINS OF THE DAY, JEFFERSON IN PARIS, SURVIVING PICASSO, and A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER NEVER CRIES.

In addition to producing, Merchant is a director. His directing credits include a short film entitled MAHATMA AND THE MAD BOY, a television feature THE COURTESANS OF BOMBAY, and his first theatrical feature, IN CUSTODY, which won four National Awards from the government of India, including Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Costumes, and Best Production Design. Additional directing credits are THE PROPRIETOR, starring Jeanne Moreau, COTTON MARY, starring Madhur Jaffrey, Greta Scacchi, and James Wilby, and THE MYSTIC MASSEUR, based on the novel of V.S Naipaul, shot in Trinidad in the winter of 2001.

THE GOLDEN BOWL marked the fortieth anniversary of Merchant's career in film production, a career which has already earned the Merchant Ivory team a place in the GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS for the longest partnership in independent cinema. In addition to the numerous accolades Merchant has won in the world of film, he is also an Honorary Doctor of Arts at Bard College, New York, has been honored by the Mayor of New York, and was made a *Commandeur des arts et des lettres* by the French Government in 1996. Merchant recently produced the hit LE DIVORCE, starring Kate Hudson, Naomi Watts, Glenn Close, Sam Waterston, Stockard Channing and Leslie Caron, and is currently in production in Shanghai on THE WHITE COUNTESS, written by Kazuo Ishiguro, and starring Ralph Fiennes, Natasha Richardson, Vanessa Redgrave, Hiroyuki Sanada, and Lynn Redgrave.

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RICHARD HAWLEY – PRODUCER

Richard Hawley was born in New York and first joined the Merchant Ivory family in 1985 as James Ivory's Assistant Director on *SLAVES OF NEW YORK*, then as Associate Producer on *THE PROPRIETOR*. In addition to his varied credits as a writer and director, his credits as a producer include Executive Producer: *A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER NEVER CRIES*; Producer: *COTTON MARY* and *THE MYSTIC MASSEUR*; and Co-Producer: *THE GOLDEN BOWL* and *LE DIVORCE*. Mr. Hawley heads up Merchant Ivory Productions' North American operations, including Merchant Ivory Film Distribution which has successfully released such films as Theo Angelopoulos' *ETERNITY AND A DAY*, Alain Resnais' *SAME OLD SONG*, Lea Pool's *SET ME FREE* and *RATCATCHER* by Lynne Ramsay. Mr. Hawley is set to direct his next film, *MADE IN FRANCE*, which is scheduled to begin shooting in Paris this coming Spring, 2005. His work as a photographer has appeared in galleries throughout the United States, including his most recent show, "Dreamscapes." Hawley is presently co-producing *THE WHITE COUNTESS* with Ismail Merchant, Paul Bradley and James Ivory, written by Kazuo Ishiguro, and starring Ralph Fiennes, Natasha Richardson, Vanessa Redgrave, Hiroyuki Sanada, and Lynn Redgrave.

AMY FOX—SCREENPLAY

Amy Fox is a graduate of Amherst College. She is the author of a number of plays, including *HEIGHTS* and *SUMMER CYCLONE*, which both played in New York City. *HEIGHTS* is her first work for the screen. She is currently working on another screenplay and living in New York City.

JIM DENAULT – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Jim Denault has photographed more than 30 feature films, including the recent *MARIA FULL OF GRACE*. His other credits include Matt Dillon's *CITY OF GHOSTS*, and the Sundance hits *REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES* and *THE BELEIVER*. Among his other credits is the Oscar-winning *BOYS DON'T CRY*.

SLOANE KLEVIN – EDITOR

Editor Sloane Klevin's film credits include the Sundance hit *REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES*, *PUMPKIN* starring Christina Ricci, *BEST LAID PLANS* starring Reese Witherspoon, the Nickelodeon film *HARRIET THE SPY*, and Mike Figgis' *RED WHITE AND BLUES* for PBS. In addition to her film work, she is a prolific editor of commercials, music videos, and trailers. She is also a professor of film editing at the Columbia University film school.

MARLA WEINHOFF – PRODUCTION DESIGN

Marla Weinhoff has collaborated with photographers and directors such as Richard Avedon, Steven Meisel, Julie Taymor, Herb Ritts, David LaChapelle and Stephane Sednaoui. Marla has also created sets for recording artists as varied as Prince, Madonna, Britney Spears, Ozzy Osbourne, David Bowie, Alicia Keys, REM and Aerosmith.

Her designs have brought international advertising and editorial campaigns to life for clients including Versace, Evian, Dolce & Gabbana, Yves St Laurent, MTV, Calvin Klein, *Vogue*, *Italian Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *GQ*, *The New Yorker*, *W*, *Architectural Digest*, and

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The Face.

Marla received her M.A. in design from the University of California, Berkeley, with further graduate work in Kyoto, Japan.

MARINA DRAGHICI—COSTUME DESIGNER

Marina Draghici has been designing costumes for the theatre, opera, and film since graduating from the Yale School of Drama in 1988. Her credits include the Paris National Opera, Zurich Opera, Lyon Opera, and the National Theatre of Prague, among many others. She has designed costumes for the films THE GREY ZONE and the forthcoming 12 AND HOLDING.

MARTIN ERSKINE – ORIGINAL SCORE

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Martin Erskine started studying music at the age of 9. Upon moving to New York, he immediately began working on Broadway with Alan Jay Lerner and Charles Strouse, John Kander and Fred Ebb. Serving as an arranger for a few years for Alan Menken, Stephen Schwartz, Stephen Sondheim, and Hans Zimmer he contributed to the Oscar winning music for POCAHONTAS (Best Song and Score 1995) and THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (Oscar Winner for Best Song, 1998). HEIGHTS marks his first feature film score.

BEN BUTLER—ORIGINAL SCORE

Ben Butler grew up in Australia, and discovered the guitar at around the age of 8. By the age of 15, he was playing clubs with a rock'n'roll band. His mentors at this time were world-renowned Australian guitarist Tommy Emmanuel and Australian jazz-rock pioneer Jim Kelly. He quickly found himself recording and performing with Australian legends such as Richard Clapton, Rene Geyer, Russel Morris and Jimmy Barnes, as well as leading his own instrumental groups. He won a scholarship from Berklee College of music, and after attending, Ben moved to New York in 1994. Since then, Ben has worked with an incredible variety of artists as a guitarist, recording and touring throughout the United States, Europe and Australia, and has also lead many projects as a musical director, songwriter and producer. HEIGHTS is his first feature film score.