



Presents

EQUITY

A film by Meera Menon
(100 min., USA, 2016)
Language: English

Distribution



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MongrelMedia

CAST

Naomi Bishop	Anna Gunn
Michael Connor	James Purefoy
Erin Manning	Sarah Megan Thomas
Samantha Ryan	Alysia Reiner

FILMMAKERS

Directed by
Meera Menon

Screenplay by Amy Fox
Story by Sarah Megan Thomas, Alysia Reiner and Amy Fox

Producers
Alysia Reiner and Sarah Megan Thomas

Executive Producer
Candy Straight

Co-Producers
Susan Bevan, Barbara Byrne, Suzanne Ordas Curry, Anthony Daddino, Salima Habib,
Cecilia Herbert, David Hoffman, Audrey McNiff, Linda Zwack Munger, Linnea Roberts,
Christine Toretta, Larry Weitzner

Associate Producers
David Alan Basche
Frank Thomas

Director of Photography
Eric Lin

Editor
Andrew Hafitz

Production Designer
Diane Lederman

Composer
Alexis and Sam

Costume Designer

Teresa Binder Westby

Casting Director
Stephanie Holbrook

LOGLINE

A female investment banker, fighting to rise to the top of the corporate ladder at a competitive Wall Street firm, navigates a controversial tech IPO in the post-financial crisis world, where loyalties are suspect, regulations are tight, but pressure to bring in “big money” remains high.

SYNOPSIS

Senior investment banker NAOMI BISHOP (Anna Gunn) is a sharp, experienced, and resolute competitor in high-stakes finance, but her (mostly) winning track record is overlooked when she is passed over for promotion at her Wall Street firm. Her specialty is bringing Silicon Valley start-ups through initial public offering, but her last project left an industry perception that she had miscalculated the IPO's value and mishandled the delicate process of going public. She needs a big win to dispel those clouds, so she puts aside her frustration and gets to work courting promising start-ups.

Naomi works closely with her younger subordinate VP ERIN MANNING (Sarah Megan Thomas). While Erin's fortunes are tied to Naomi's, Erin is shrewdly ambitious on her own.

For Naomi, a sense of unease permeates both her professional and private life. She reconnects at a career-mentoring alumni event with an old friend from college days, SAMANTHA RYAN (Alysia Reiner). As a Justice Department investigator, Ryan has been taking on narcotics gangs, but now her focus has shifted to white-collar crime, investigating Wall Street finance. Samantha and Naomi share rueful laughs at their youthful exploits and current income disparity—the public-sector attorney vs. the moneyed investment banker.

Outside Naomi's fierce commitment to work, what private life she has is sometimes shared with MICHAEL CONNOR (James Purefoy), a broker at another division of Naomi's investment bank who arranges deals with hedge funds. Michael lives for the cutthroat sport of his vocation, flying by instinct and testing the boundaries of rules and regulations. While their affair is still ongoing after a long history, Michael and Naomi share a comradely friendship; still, Naomi is wary of “shop talk” between them that could be construed as insider information sharing. In the wake of the financial crisis, their Wall Street world is constrained by heightened regulatory oversight, and rumours and gossip are supposed to be locked behind division firewalls, even among colleagues at the same institution.

Hoping to secure her place at her firm's highest level, Naomi sets her sights on winning the deal to take tech darling Cachet public and manage the IPO. Led by an arrogant young technocrat, ED (Samuel Roukin), Cachet is an online network premised on privacy as the most valuable commodity in a sea of social networks—an exclusive, impenetrable domain for private networking, the flip side of social media oversharing. But when a disgruntled employee raises questions about a possible crack in Cachet's walls, Naomi must decide whether to investigate rumors that may compromise the deal, or push forward with the confidence her superiors expect.

Meanwhile, Naomi's circle of associates juggle competing agendas. Erin, her VP, angles to get out from under her role as Naomi's shadow, and is not held back by loyalty. Over at the Justice Department, Samantha is taking aim at a hedge fund rogue, BENJI AKERS (Craig Bierko), who does business with Michael Connor. Samantha hopes that she can parlay her acquaintance with Naomi into some dirt on Michael Connor, eventually leading to damning evidence against Akers. And Michael is under pressure from Akers to deliver insider tips that will guide Aker's hedge fund to the next winning bet.

Michael knows just where to go looking: Naomi's Cachet IPO, which is being touted as the next big thing. But since hedge funds can make a killing on failure as well as success, there's money to be made by sabotaging Cachet's hopes for a billion-dollar first day of trading.

As these machinations intersect, Naomi finds herself tangled in a web of deception and office politics and begins to question if there is anyone she can trust. With the IPO drawing closer, Naomi sees that the choices she has made for her career have left her very much alone. Forced to reexamine the rules of the ruthless world she has always loved, she finds herself in a fight for her professional survival.

About the Filmmakers

MEERA MENON (Director)

Meera Menon was recently selected to be a fellow at 20th Century Fox's Global Directors initiative. Her directorial debut *Farrah Goes Bang* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, where Meera was awarded the Nora Ephron Prize for a groundbreaking woman filmmaker by Tribeca Film Festival and *Vogue* Magazine. Additionally, Meera was selected by *Glamour* Magazine as one of 35 women under 35 Running Hollywood. She received her MFA from USC.

AMY FOX (Screenwriter)

With over a dozen theatre productions and a Merchant Ivory film to her credit, Amy Fox's crisp, quirky writing has been turning the heads of stage and film critics since 1999. *Time Out New York* has called her "a ferocious talent" and *The New York Times* has praised her "warmth of understanding." Amy's play "Summer Cyclone" has been produced in cities across the country, and her more recent work has played to sold out theaters in New York and London.

In 2000, Merchant Ivory executive producer Ismail Merchant commissioned Amy to write a screenplay based on the premise of her play "Heights." The resulting film, also called *Heights*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and opened nationwide in June 2005. The film stars Glenn Close, James Marsden, Jesse Bradford and Elizabeth Banks.

Amy continues to write plays, screenplays and fiction from her home in New York City, where she has lived since 1997. She is currently working on a novel. Fox is a graduate of Amherst College and received her Master's degree in fiction writing from Brooklyn College in May 2005. She is on the faculty of the NYU/Tisch Graduate School of Film and Television. She is originally from Boulder, Colorado.

ALYSIA REINER (Producer/Samantha Ryan)

Alysia just finished filming season 4 of *ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK*, won a SAG award for her role as "FIG," the tough as nails assistant warden as part of the amazing ensemble cast, and can be seen in seasons 1, 2 and 3 now on NETFLIX. She just started filming season 1 of *BETTER THINGS* for F/X, brought to you by the inimitable Louie CK & Pamela Adlon. Additionally you can catch her as D.A. PARKS in Shonda Rhimes' breakout hit *HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER*, and Lilian Izikoff on *ROSEWOOD*, and Fiona in Michael Showalter's new series *SEARCH PARTY* as well.

Equity was Alysia's 7th independent feature as an actress shot in 2015, but the first in her life as actress and producer. Alysia loves working as a change maker for women, and has been invited to the WHITE HOUSE and UN to speak about women and entrepreneurship. Additionally she was just awarded the Sarah Powell Huntington Leadership Award by the Women's Prison Association, was recognized as an INTELLIGENT OPTIMIST in *Ode* Magazine and profiled by New York Women in Film and Television as a woman to watch.

She lives in Harlem, with her husband (actor David Alan Basche, an actor and associate producer on the film) and daughter Livia Charles, who is named after her father Charles - who inspired her to produce this film.

SARAH MEGAN THOMAS (Producer/Erin Manning)

Sarah Megan Thomas has made a name for herself in the entertainment industry as one of the brightest and most determined in all fields. As an actress, producer, and writer, she has a mission to tell stories about strong and complex women.

Sarah co-founded the company Broad Street Pictures in 2015 alongside Alysia Reiner with EQUITY as their inaugural project. The company is dedicated to telling stories from more perspectives than have reached the screen thus far. Speaking to Sarah's major understanding of the industry, Broad Street has an impressive list of creative partners including Bloomberg, Geena Davis, New York Women in Film and Television, and The Creative Coalition.

Sarah also starred opposite James Van Der Beek in Ben Hickernell's BACKWARDS, a drama about romance in the competitive world of professional rowing. She wrote and produced BACKWARDS.

A graduate of Williams College, Sarah then trained at both RADA and Drama Studio London. On stage, Sarah has starred in various off-Broadway productions including the whimsical gender-bending *Love's Labour's Lost* (The New York Times review: "Once you hear Berowne(a)'s (Sarah Megan Thomas') immortal cry of longing 'Oh my little heart!' spoken by a woman, you may wonder why Shakespeare didn't think of that"), and the New York premiere production of *Summit Conference*. *Summit Conference* was extended twice due to popular demand.

Sarah is an advocate for charitable causes, most notably *Minding Your Mind*, a charity that educates children in school about mental health problems to relieve the stigma. She's an accomplished athlete in her personal life, enjoying nearly all sports from basketball to pilates, and she has even climbed to the top of Mt. Rainer in Washington.

Sarah currently resides in downtown New York City with her husband and her son.

About the Cast

ANNA GUNN (Naomi Bishop)

Anna Gunn is a two-time Emmy Award-winner for her performance as 'Skyler White' on AMC's *Breaking Bad*. Gunn also starred as 'Martha Bullock' on HBO's *Deadwood* and 'Detective Ellie Miller' on FOX's *Gracepoint*. Her film work includes *Nobody's Baby* opposite Gary Oldman, *Enemy of the State*, Kevin Smith's *Red State* and the independent *Sassy Pants*. On stage, Gunn originated leading roles in Donald Margulies' "Time Stands Still" and Alan Alda's "Radiance: The Passion of Marie Curie." Her additional stage credits include "Sex with Strangers," "The Rehearsal," "Measure for Measure," "Hysteria," and "The Beggar's Opera." Gunn can next be seen in Clint Eastwood's *Sully*, alongside Tom Hanks.

JAMES PUREFOY (Michael Connor)

James Purefoy's career began with a decade of performing with the most prestigious theatre companies in England including the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre. He has starred in a diverse range of dramas on both big and small screens, such as: *A Knight's Tale*, *Vanity Fair*, *Solomon Kane*, *The Philanthropist*, *Episodes* and *John Carter*. He appeared as 'Mark Antony' in HBO's series *Rome* and as 'Joe Carroll' in the hit U.S series *The Following*. Aside from *Equity*, this year he will also star in the Sundance TV series *Hap and Leonard*, *Roots* for the History Channel and in Ben Wheatley's *High Rise*.

ALYSIA REINER (Samantha Ryan/Producer) see above.

SARAH MEGAN THOMAS (Erin Manning/Producer) see above.

DAVID ALAN BASCHE (Ian/Associate Producer)

David just finished 4 seasons (yeah, four!) of the hit sitcom "The Exes" on TV Land, starring with Wayne Night and Donald Faison. Recently you've also seen him on shows like "Elementary," "Chicago PD," "Blindspot" and coming this Summer is the Wall Street movie "EQUITY," which he also helped produce.

And while David's been a series regular on many TV comedies and dramas (like *The Starter Wife*, *Lipstick Jungle*, *Three Sisters*, *Oh Grow Up*, and more) he's also worked in film for Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, Paul Greengrass, Shawn Levy, Robert Zemeckis, Michael Patrick King, George Nolfi and more. He's flirted with Julia Roberts, stolen Tom Cruise's wife, berated Brooke Shields, married (and divorced) Debra Messing, chased Matt Damon all over New York, yelled at some boxing robots with Hugh Jackman, and snubbed Sarah Jessica and Mr. Big.

Yes yes yes he loves the theater, too! On stage, two of his most notable performances were starring in the Naked Angels production of the Drama Desk Nominated play “SnakeBit,” and performing for over a year with Eli Wallach in the original New York production of the two character play “Visiting Mr. Green.” Regional appearances include Williamstown, Hartford Stage, New Jersey Shakespeare, Rhode Island Playwright’s Theatre, Iowa Shakespeare, Hartford Theatre Works, the Yale School of Drama Cabaret, the Boston Majestic Theatre, and the White River Theatre Festival.

David is also an outspoken environmentalist, and has been featured on TV's "World's Greenest Homes" and "Renovation Nation," as well as in various magazines like Dwell, Gotham, and The Nest. He's involved with many charities including The Cancer Support Community, SAY: Stuttering Association for the Young, Actors for Autism, and Cycle For Survival. And he is a proud EMERSON COLLEGE graduate.

NATE CORDDRY (Cory)

Nate Corddry’s first television job was as a correspondent on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.” Following that, he was cast as a series regular on “Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip” for Aaron Sorkin. Recent television credits include Comedy Bang Bang, the Adult Swim comedy, The Hindenburg Explodes, a starring role in the Chuck Lorre, comedy series, "Mom" opposite Anna Farris and Allison Janney, the David E. Kelley series “Harry’s Law” opposite Kathy Bates and Nate voiced a series lead role in the Disney XD animated television series “Tron: Uprising.” Corddry’s film credits include "The Circle" with Tom Hanks and Emma Watson, "Ghostbusters" directed by Paul Feig, "Equity" opposite Anna Gunn that premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival, "St. Vincent" with Bill Murray, “The Heat” with Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy, “Girl Most Likely,” with Kristin Wiig, "Katie Says Goodbye" “The Invention of Lying,” “Yogi Bear” and “6 Souls" opposite Julianne Moore. Corddry is the creator and host of "Reading Aloud", a #1 on iTunes podcast that presents live renditions of contemporary literature. Nate has performed on stage for several seasons with the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts. He hails from Weymouth, Mass and currently resides in Los Angeles.

SAMUEL ROUKIN (Ed)

Samuel Roukin’s background in British theater includes roles in Trevor Nunn’s *Hamlet* at The Old Vic; Bijan Sheibani’s *The Kitchen* at the National Theatre; and Sir Nicholas Hytner’s *His Dark Materials* and *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2*. Roukin also spent a season at The Royal Shakespeare Company in the lead role of Pip in Declan Donnellan’s adaptation of *Great Expectations*. Most recently on Broadway, Roukin played Valvert in The Roundabout Theatre’s production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

Roukin can currently be seen on AMC's *Turn* as the villainous "Captain John Simcoe" and he will recur on the next season of *Salem*. His television credits include guest star and recurring roles on multiple series, including *Housewife*, *49*, *Appropriate Adult*, and *Richard II*, produced by Sam Mendes. Roukin's film debut was in the Oscar®-nominated film *Happy-Go-Lucky*, directed by Mike Leigh. Other films include Jane Campion's *Bright Star* and David Yates' *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Roukin is a native of Southport, England, was trained at The University of Hull, and earned a distinction from Bristol Old Vic.

LEE TERGESEN (Randall)

Lee Tergesen is perhaps best known as 'Tobias Beecher' from the HBO prison series *OZ*, a role he played for six seasons; he also worked with HBO on the award-winning miniseries *GENERATION KILL* and *BURY MY HEART ON WOUNDED KNEE*. Other notable credits include television appearances on *HOUSE*, *NCIS: NEW ORLEANS*, *PERSON OF INTEREST*, *CRIMINAL MINDS*, *THE NEW ADVENTURES OF OLD CHRISTINE*, *DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES*, and *THE BIG C*, among many others. Most recently, Lee has been recurring on hit shows such as *THE AMERICANS*, *AMERICAN HORROR STORY: FREAK SHOW*, and *THE STRAIN*. Select film credits include *MONSTER* (opposite Charlize Theron), *THE FORGOTTEN* (with Julianne Moore), *WAYNE'S WORLD*, *SHAFT*, *POINT BREAK*, and *RED TAILS*.

About the Crew

ERIC LIN (Director of Photography)

Eric Lin earned his MFA in cinematography at New York University's Graduate Film Program. His feature film work includes Bradley Rust Gray's, "The Exploding Girl"; William H. Macy's directorial debut, "Rudderless," starring Billy Crudup, Anton Yelchin, Laurence Fishburne and Selena Gomez; and Adam Salky's "I Smile Back", starring Sarah Silverman. His most recent projects include Meera Menon's "Equity," featuring Anna Gunn and James Purefoy, which premiered in competition at Sundance 2016; and Sophie Goodhart's "My Blind Brother," with Adam Scott, Nick Kroll, and Jenny Slate, which premiered at SXSW 2016. He recently completed production on Brian Shoaf's feature, "Aardvark," starring Zachary Quinto, Jenny Slate and Jon Hamm. Based in Brooklyn, Lin's work has taken him abroad to Hong Kong, Cuba, Iceland and Haiti. He has shot commercial projects for clients such as Miu Miu, HP, DuPont, Mattel and SAP.

ANDREW HAFITZ (Editor)

Andrew Hafitz has been editing films since 1995. Along the way, he's collaborated with seasoned directors and newcomers alike, including Lodge Kerrigan (*Keane*, 2004), Larry Clark (*Ken Park*, 2002; *Bully*, 2001), and Whit Stillman (*Damsels in Distress*, 2012; *The Last Days of Disco*, 1998). Three of his films with younger directors have premiered in U.S. Dramatic Competition at Sundance, including *Don't Let Me Drown* (Cruz Angeles, 2009), *Here* (Braden King, 2011), and *Equity* (Meera Menon, 2016), which will be distributed by Sony Pictures Classics. In 2015, the micro-budget *Naz & Maalik*, written and directed by another young collaborator, Jay Dockendorf, premiered at SXSW on its way to a distribution deal with Wolfe Releasing. *Naz & Maalik* also won Best LGBT Film at Nashville, and its two leads, Curtiss Cook Jr. and Kerwin Johnson Jr., shared the Best Actor award at Outfest Los Angeles.

Andy has also frequently crossed over into non-fiction cinema. His documentary credits range from a portrait of author Mark Epstein and sculptor Arlene Shechet for Rebecca Dreyfus's *On Meditation* series (2015) to several David Schisgall films, including the feature *The Lifestyle: Group Sex in the Suburbs* (1999). He also edited Schisgall's "True Life: I'm in Iraq," winner of the Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Network News Documentary for MTV in 2005.

A graduate of Yale University with a degree in comparative literature, Andy is passionate about telling stories in film language that is both articulate and emotional. He lives in Manhattan and Willow, NY, with his wife, Robin.

DIANE LEDERMAN (Production Designer)

Diane Lederman has been a major creative force in film design since the early 1990's. Over the course of her career, Lederman has worked on projects ranging from small independent art films to big budget studio productions. Her early work as a Set Decorator includes credits on such films as; *I Shot Andy Warhol*, *Heights*, *Summer of Sam*, *Wall Street 2*, *Tower Heist* and, *The*

Butler. Making her mark as a Production Designer, Lederman has worked on some of the most critically acclaimed shows on television today. Projects such as *The Leftovers*, for HBO, and *The Americans*, for FX showcase Lederman's talent for transporting viewers to different times and places through effective production design. Recently she worked with Meera Menon on her independent film *Equity*, which premiered in competition at Sundance 2016. Making the most of a budget while producing sets with high production value has become Lederman's trademark and is why she is in such high demand.

Lederman is set to begin work as Production Designer on a new show for Netflix, *13 Reasons Why*, with Director Tom McCarthy, (Spotlight, The Station Agent), and Writer Brian Yorkey, (Next To Normal, If/Then).

TERESA BINDER WESTBY (Costume Designer)

Teresa Binder Westby's career spans 20 years; she brings a top notch aesthetic, an attention to detail, and an astute understanding of the interdependent relationship a designer has with their director, as well as the actors. Having assisted, supervised and keyed many films in the costume department, Teresa brings knowledge of all the moving parts needed to bring the characters to life. With a BS from Vanderbilt University, and a background in collecting vintage clothing and shopping for famed designers such as Richard Hornung, Ann Roth, Colleen Atwood, Mark Bridges, and Joanna Johnston, Teresa delivers sophisticated, appropriate and beautiful designs that are certain to complement any script, set, or character, be it period or contemporary. Teresa's latest work, *Equity*, directed by Meera Menon, is a favorite for this designer considering the level of clothing needed to tell the story: high end Wall St. on a shoe string budget. Design does not have to suffer because of budget; Teresa excels at being a creative counterpart on any film crew. Having worked with directors such as M. Night Shayamalan, James L. Brooks, Lee Daniels and David O. Russell, and styled actors such as Robert DeNiro, Bruce Willis, Jamie Foxx, Helen Mirren, Reese Witherspoon and Woody Harrelson, Teresa has an ability to merge creative talent, with a keen business sense, to achieve the desired goal. She has a unique ability to design a closet that suggests a visual definition of the character from the page to the screen. Teresa lives in the Philadelphia area with her husband, Sean, and children Reiner and Anya.

***EQUITY* and the Real World of Wall Street**

EQUITY is fiction, but its story is firmly grounded in reality. From background research to fact-checking, networking, mentoring, and, most critically, funding, the production benefited from support and investment from real-life finance professionals—mostly women, but also a few key men. These Wall Street and business veterans enriched the *EQUITY* story with decades of experience and perspective reaching from the early days of women in executive positions to the post-financial crisis era of heightened scrutiny and regulations. The *EQUITY* concept and script resonated with these advisors and investors who wanted to contribute to bringing the film to life.

Producers **Alysia Reiner** and **Sarah Megan Thomas** liken their quest for support from the financial community to the ‘roadshow’ undertaken by start-up companies in search of capital and buzz. Sarah Megan Thomas wrote an initial round of cold-call letters to senior executives on Wall Street - one yielded a positive response from a prominent male business leader at a major bank (who chooses to remain anonymous). This executive supports women in finance, and after meeting Sarah and hearing about the film, he made introductions, and doors began to open (it was much further down the networking line that investors began to commit actual funds).

Executive Producer Candy Straight emerged as lead investor and recruiter, helping the producers create the kind of formal business plan that proved compelling to potential investors. Months of networking, ‘meet and greet’ parties, ‘sizzle reel’ screenings, and close scrutiny (not only by potential investors but also by some of their firms’ Compliance departments) yielded the support the producers needed to take *EQUITY* into production.

The following statistics illustrate some of the inequities women in the financial services industry still face—while the capsule bios of investors portray the real-life professionals who have forged successful careers within that world.

Women in Financial Services: Fact Sheet

Women are underrepresented and undercompensated on Wall Street, in the U.S. banking and finance industry, and across the executive suites of corporate America:

Wall Street: Percentage of women at the 22 largest U.S. Investment Banks/Financial firms:

CEOs	0% (there has never been a female CEO at these 22 firms)
Executive Level Officials	16.6%
First/Mid-Level Officials	30.9%

Standard and Poor's 500: Percentage of women at the 89 firms in Finance:

CEOs	2.1%
Executive Level Officials	29.3%
First/Mid-Level Managers	46.1%

Corporate America: Percentage of women at Standard and Poor's 500 (all firms):

CEOs	4.0%
Executive Level Officials	25.1%
First/Mid-Level Managers	36.8%

[source: Catalyst: <http://www.catalyst.org/knowledge/women-ceos-sp-500>]

Women in financial services face disparities based on gender in:

Income: According to a 2015 *Bloomberg Businessweek* [survey](#) that tracked M.B.A. graduates from 2007 to 2009, the women earned, six to eight years later, on average 20 percent less than the guy who sat next to them in class; even more tellingly, female graduates of Columbia's business school, a significant proportion of whom land on Wall Street, earned nearly 40 percent less.

[source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-10-20/the-real-cost-of-an-mba-is-different-for-men-and-women>]

Advancement Opportunity: According to a U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) data analysis, it is less than half as likely for a woman in financial services to progress from a middle to a senior level position as it is for a man.

[source: Oliver Wyman, [Women in Financial Services](#), p. 8, Exhibit 4, <http://www.oliverwyman.com/insights/publications/2014/dec/women-in-financial-services.html#.VwulexMrKCQ>]

Leadership: While no female executive has ever served as CEO of the 22 largest U.S. banks and investment firms, women have been close to the top of Wall Street firms before, only to get derailed. Some examples are: Zoe Cruz (president of Morgan Stanley) and Sallie Krawcheck (head of Citigroup Global Wealth Management).

[source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-06-26/one-of-these-women-may-win-the-struggle-to-run-wall-street-firm>]

Family Pay Penalty: Parenthood and marriage also impose a pay penalty on women while they award a bonus to men. In the United States, unmarried women earn 96 cents to an unmarried man's dollar, but married women with at least one child earn 76 cents to the married father's dollar.

[source: United Nations, Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016, p. 98, <http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/>]

THE *EQUITY* INVESTORS

First-Person Perspective from the Wall Street Professionals Who Made *EQUITY* Possible

“In my 36 years on Wall Street I have never been bored. It has never been easy, but I am not drawn to easy things. I like challenge. I am an eternal optimist, always believing people want to do the right thing and that fairness will prevail in the end. When I started as an investment banker in 1980 there were very few women associates. By now, I would have predicted the industry would be close to parity at the most senior levels, but that is far from true. But it is much better than it ever was—and I have no intention of leaving until I can say yes, you do have a real shot. Of course, that probably means I will need to be buried on the Street!”

There is a lot of common ground between Hollywood and Wall Street. The people are similar. They are driven, focused and risk takers. They risk failure—personal failure—every day. So I stand with the women in the performing arts—and I stand with women competing to be heard everywhere. In my career I have been called many things—some of them quite comical. Many meant to be hurtful or humiliating. But it is all in how you hear and understand the "actor" delivering the line. Most shots come from insecurity and ambition, not malice. I deal with this directly with humor and honesty. And I always believe the best of people. Everyone wants to be respected. Sometimes I think I deserve an Oscar for outstanding performances!”

Barbara Byrne, Vice Chairman of Barclays Investment Bank

- Byrne was the first and only woman to achieve a vice chairman position at Lehman Brothers in the firm’s 158-year history and is consistently rated as one of the most powerful women in Finance.
- ***Equity Co-Producer***

*“There are too few senior women on Wall Street and in Hollywood—but the ones there are make a real difference. That’s why I am proud to put my equity behind **Equity!**”*

Catherine Keating, President & Chief Executive Officer, Commonfund

- Named both as one of the most powerful women in Banking and one of the most powerful women in Finance by American Banker.
- ***Equity Investor***

*“When I arrived on Wall Street in 1973 there were hardly any women who weren't executive assistants. Both firms and clients were trying to figure out if and how professional women should be included. A number of the investors in **Equity** are women of that era who are delighted a*

compelling story can be told that has a capable, female Wall Street protagonist and that that is no longer an implausible idea."

Cecilia Healy Herbert, Chair of the Board, iShares

- Among the first women to graduate from Harvard Business School, she worked at JPMorgan for most of her career, heading the Bank's San Francisco Office.
- **Equity Co-Producer**

*"As Erin attempts in **Equity**, I hid my pregnancies as long as possible. We all did. I hid my house purchase in the suburbs to avoid speculation that it was a sign I was thinking of retiring. But what I hid most, with all my power, was that for one brief year I was a pom pom girl in college. I lived in fear of the unending ridicule that revelation could cause. It was so critical to always be taken seriously as a woman when trying to play in the boys' sandbox."*

Linda Zwack Munger, Former Senior Institutional Bond Salesperson

- Among other places, Munger worked at Lehman Brothers
- **Equity Co-Producer**

"Many of the high tech companies that go to public are founded by young men and for that reason, female bankers play a variety of roles from advisor to mother to friend."

Linnea Roberts, Advisory Director at Goldman Sachs

- Roberts also works as the Women's Diversity Ambassador at Goldman Sachs
- **Equity Co-Producer**

"The first time I traveled to Hong Kong on business at age 31, the Chairman of the bank at which I worked asked me if I lived at home in NYC with my parents. Not sure how many men he was asking that question!"

Audrey McNiff, Former Goldman Sachs Partner

- **Equity Co-Producer**

"Ability gets you there, but once you are there it's character that allows you to make a difference."

Salima Habib, CITI, Managing Director, Sales and Trading, Head of International Equity Sales

- **Equity Co-Producer**

"Having spent 40 years on Wall Street, the female perspective is underappreciated, underrepresented, and underheard."

Alice Hicks, Founder of Iridian Asset Management LLC. Retired

- **Equity Investor**

"Saw the tension firsthand between earnings for shareholders and integrity of the markets. Saw fortunes made, victims fleeced, lives ruined, and confidence in our markets erode. All in all an exciting and interesting ride."

Cathy Fleming, Fleming Ruvoldt PLLC.

- **Equity Investor**

"When it comes to getting ahead, it is not so much about who you know, but about who knows you!"

Janice Reals Ellig, Co-CEO of Chadick Ellig

- **Equity Investor**

"The tide is finally starting to change. Women are finding their strong and rightful place in businesses, government and society. And the world will be better off as a result."

Maureen McGuire, Former Chief Marketing Officer of Bloomberg LP

- **Equity Investor**

"I got involved in this film because I felt it was a story within a story that needed to be told about professional women working to be successful in an industry, like many, that is overwhelmingly dominated by men. The story itself is a work of fiction, but the sub-story is real and it is one that we must have a discussion about."

Anonymous, male financial services executive and **Equity investor**

About the Investors

CANDY STRAIGHT (Executive Producer/Lead Investor)

Candy Straight is a private investor, currently serving on the board of Neuberger Berman mutual funds and the Board of Governors of Rutgers University (appointed by Governor Chris Christie) where she serves as Chair of the Audit and Enterprise Risk Management Committee. Candy has worked for Merck & Co. Inc. and Bankers Trust Company, and was a principal of Head and Partners and an Advisory Director of Securitas Capital, L.L.C., both global private equity investment firms specializing in insurance and financial services related industries.

From 2004 to 2008, Straight served as a director of National Atlantic Holdings Corporation and its subsidiary Proformance Insurance, a New Jersey based personal and commercial lines insurance company, and, from 2006 to July 2015, Straight served as a director of Montpelier Re, a Bermuda-based property and casualty reinsurer.

Straight was appointed by Governor Christie Whitman to the Board of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority ("NJSEA"). Straight was Vice Chairman of the NJSEA until January 2002. She is also a former trustee of the New Jersey Network Foundation, a past President of the Financial Women's Association of New York, and a former Trustee of Wilson College.

Straight is a graduate of Bloomfield High School. She received her B.A. from Wilson College and her M.B.A. from New York University. In June 1994, Wilson College awarded her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Straight is featured in Melissa Fisher's 2012 book, Wall Street Women, which tells the story of the first generation of women to establish themselves as professionals on Wall Street. Fisher charts the evolution of the women's careers, the growth of their political and economic clout, changes in their perspectives, the cultural climate on Wall Street and their experiences as a result of the 2008 financial collapse. In her book Fisher uses pseudonyms; Ms. Straight is the woman in Wall Street Women known as Mindy Plane.

DAVID F. HOFFMAN (Co-Producer/Investor)

David is co-lead portfolio manager for the Firm's Global Fixed Income and related strategies. Previously, David was president of Hoffman Capital, a global financial futures investment firm and head of fixed income investments at Columbus Circle Investors. David earned a B.A. in Art History from Williams College.

SUSAN BEVAN (Co-Producer)

Susan Bevan was Vice President at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, Inc., an investment Banking and Securities firm. She supervised correspondent clearing operation and general commodity futures and securities regulation practice. She was an Associate at Abramson & Fox, a mid-size law firm specializing in Commodity Futures practice. Prior to her previous jobs, she was Assistant Counsel at Monex International, Ltd., which is a leverage firm specializing in precious metals. Currently, she serves on the Advisory Board at the University of Washington - Foster School of Business Advisory Board, she is Co-Chair/Director of Republican Majority for Choice, Director/Vice Chair for Breast Cancer Alliance, Director of Alpha Phi International. Susan is also on the Leadership Council at the YWCA of Greenwich, sits on the Advisory Board at The Historical Society of Greenwich as well as the National Executive Service Corps.

Susan has been involved in committee work for various organizations, such as The Greenwich Hospital, Stamford Center for the Arts, Greenwich Country Day School, Blair Academy, The Junior League of Greenwich, Fairfield County Community Foundation and Green Fingers Garden Club. She has won the 2004 YWCA Spirit of Greenwich, 2007 Planned Parenthood of Connecticut Community Volunteer, 2009 Greenwich Rotary Citizen of the Year with husband, Anthony Daddino. Susan contributed a chapter to Secrets of Powerful Women, published by Lifetime Television 2010.

She received her Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law and her Bachelors of Business Administration from the University of Washington.

BARBARA BYRNE (Co-Producer)

Barbara Byrne is a Vice Chairman within the Investment Bank at Barclays. Based in New York, she is Chairman of both Barclays Americas Citizenship Council and Barclays Social Innovation Facility, a cross-business resource dedicated to the development of self-sustaining commercial solutions to social challenges.

With over 35 years of financial services experience, Barbara has been at the forefront of developing and leading longstanding partnerships with some of Barclays' most important multinational, corporate clients. She is responsible for leading cross business teams in delivering the firm's products and services to those clients, and is the primary architect of several of the firm's marquee transactions. She has held senior management positions in Energy and Technology Banking groups throughout her career, and has led diverse strategic advisory initiatives across the firm focused on enhancing clients' global market position.

Barbara participates in numerous industry conferences as a forum leader on strategic issues and trends facing the financial services sector and global markets. She is a frequent speaker on behalf of women in business, finance and leadership. She has been invited to attend Fortune's

Most Powerful Women's Summit for over 10 years and leads Barclays' strategic partnership with The Clinton Global Initiative. In each of the past six years, American Banker has ranked Barbara as one of the "25 Most Powerful Women in Finance." She is a member of The Council on Foreign Relations and The Women's Forum for the Economy and Society. Barbara also serves on the New York City Board of the British-American Business Council. In addition, she has provided financial market commentary for news organizations such as Fortune, Forbes, Bloomberg and CNBC.

Barbara graduated from Mount Holyoke College magna cum laude in 1976 and serves on its Board of Trustees and Executive Committee.

SUZANNE ORDAS CURRY (Co-Producer)

Suzanne Ordas Curry is the owner of Write Ideas Public Relations since 1988. Formerly specializing in medical and legal PR, she now focuses on entertainment as a publicist and producer, handling PR for actors, singers and series and currently being an associate producer for the upcoming series *Weight*. In addition to spending her entire career in PR, Suzanne is currently the President, Board of Trustees of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children of Bergen County, and Second Vice President of her municipal Board of Education, which she has served on for ten years. She also volunteers her PR skills for many community organizations and non-profits. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Rutgers University.

SALIMA HABIB (Co-Producer)

Salima Habib has spent her entire career on an equity trading floor. She joined the associate program at Salomon Smith Barney in 2000 and is currently a Managing Director at Citigroup Global Markets. She is Head of International Equity sales for Americas.

Salima was born in Nairobi, Kenya and is of Indian and Persian descent. She grew up in Alberta, Canada, where she completed her Bachelor of Science degree. She received her MBA in Finance from the Olin School of Business at Washington University in 2000. Salima feels strongly about educating young girls on financial literacy, and has taken an active role in mentoring women as they pursue careers in Finance. She lives in Manhattan with her family.

CECILIA HEALY HERBERT (Co-Producer)

Cecilia Healy Herbert graduated from Stanford ('71) with a double major in economics and communications and from Harvard Business School ('73) with a finance concentration. Among the first women to graduate from HBS, she was one of 34 women in her class of 800. She worked at JPMorgan for most of her career doing international corporate finance and heading the Bank's San Francisco Office. She now chairs the board of iShares, Blackrock's \$800 billion Exchange Traded Fund family, and is also on the boards of the Salient Funds and WNET.

AUDREY MCNIFF (Co-Producer)

Audrey McNiff is a retired Goldman Sachs partner. She currently serves as chair of Audit and Governance Committees for Fidelity Charitable, Vice Chair Finance for the John A. Hartford Foundation and sits on the board at the Ann Romney Center for Neurologic Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Audrey attended Holyoke College, spent her Junior year at Dartmouth College and received her MBA in Finance from New York University.

LINDA ZWACK MUNGER (Co-Producer)

Linda graduated from Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism in 1978 and Harvard Business School in 1982. She worked as a senior institutional bond salesperson throughout the 80s and 90s in the Bankers Trust Government Bond department and the Lehman Brothers Mortgage Backed Bond department. She is married with two daughters.

LINNEA ROBERTS (Co-Producer)

Linnea is an advisory director to the firm, focused on recruiting and mentoring in the Investment Banking Division in the Americas, with a particular focus on women professionals. She joined Goldman Sachs as a partner in 2004 and served as co-head of Technology within the global Technology, Media and Telecom Group through 2011.

Prior to joining the firm, Linnea was co- head of Lehman Brothers' Global Technology Group from 2001 to 2004. Before joining Lehman Brothers in 1990, she was assistant controller of OroAmerica from 1987 to 1988 and a senior auditor for Price Waterhouse from 1984 to 1987. Linnea serves on the Advisory Council of The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, the Board of Directors of Valparaíso University, the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the National Board of New Leaders, the Board of Directors of the Child Mind Institute, the New York Board of Directors of Teach for America, and the Ambassadors Council of Grassroot Soccer.

Linnea earned a BS in Accounting and Computer Science from Valparaíso University in 1984 and an MBA from The University of Chicago.

CHRISTINE TORETTI (Co-Producer)

Christine Toretta is the former Chairman and CEO of the S. W. Jack Drilling Co. She serves as Vice Chairman of S&T Bancorp and a director of EQT Corporation and is also a former director of the Pittsburgh Federal Reserve Bank. Christine serves on many non-profit boards including the International Medical Corps and is Chair of The Andy Warhol Museum, founding director of the Gettysburg Foundation. Christine is the Founder and Chair of both the Anne B. Anstine Excellence in Public Service Series in Pennsylvania and the Dodie Londen Excellence in Public Service Series in Arizona.

She was appointed to Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education by Governor Tom Ridge, Governor Mark Schweiker appointed her as his representative on the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. President George W. Bush appointed her to the Rural Telephone Bank where she served as Vice Chair. In 2007, she was elected Chair of the Committee of 200, an organization of the most influential female CEOs in the world.

Named a trustee of the Sarah Scaife Foundation, Christine is an active funder of conservative causes. She is the founder of Women Lead PAC, a Super PAC that supports women running in federal elections. A recipient of numerous awards, she insists that her greatest gifts are her three sons.

LARRY WEITZNER (Co-Producer)

Larry Weitzner is the CEO of Jamestown Associates, one of the nation's premier political consulting firms specializing in television advertising, campaign strategy, direct mail and issue communications. Since 1990, Larry has worked as a political, strategic and public policy consultant to campaigns, businesses, political and civic organizations. He has a Bachelor's degree from Lehigh University and a Law degree from Seton Hall University. Larry and his wife have two children.

OTHER *EQUITY* INVESTORS:

BEVERLY AISENBREY, Retired Managing Director of Frederic W. Cook & Co., an executive compensation consulting firm.

CARRIE BLAIR, Executive Vice-President, Chief Human Resources and Communications Officer at Sun Life Financial.

DEBORAH G. CARSTENS, Real estate professional, California and Colorado.

ANDREA DANESE, Chief Executive Officer and President of Athena Art Finance Corp.

JANICE REALS ELLIG, Author and Co-CEO of Chadick Ellig, a headhunting firm.

CATHY FLEMING, Founder, Fleming Ruvoldt PLLC, a law firm serving finance companies.

ALICE HICKS, Retired Vice President/Portfolio Manager at Irving Trust Company, Partner at both David J. Greene & Co. and Delphi Asset Management, Vice President/ Director & Shareholder at Delafield Asset Management, Senior Vice President at Arnhold & S. Bleichroeder, Inc. and Founder/ Executive Vice President at Iridian Asset Management LLC.

SUSAN HINRICHS, Banker at European American Bank and Wells Fargo, and private equity banker at Riverview Capital and Heeltap! Entertainment, involved with financing of film production and entertainment companies.

CATHERINE KEATING, President and CEO (first woman CEO) at Commonfund institutional asset manager; former senior executive at J.P. Morgan in roles including CEO of the U.S. Private Bank.

MAUREEN MCGUIRE, former Chief Marketing officer at Bloomberg LP; senior marketing executive at Sears, Kmart, and IBM; currently corporate consultant in marketing, diversity, and inclusion.