

FILMMAKERS

ADAM SALKY (Director)

Born and raised in New York City, Adam Salky made his first film in place of a high school term paper. Since then he has directed three award-winning shorts, which have screened in dozens of film festivals around the world.

Salky graduated Magna Cum Laude from Emory University as a creative writing major. He recently completed his MFA with honors at Columbia University's Graduate Film Division. In his second year, Salky was the sole recipient of grants from Kodak and Panasonic, the former for his work as director of "Panasonic Kids Witness News," a program that teaches under-privileged inner-city kids how to make their own short films. Salky also received the 2007 James Bridges Award, a production grant, and one of the highest honors in the Columbia Film Division.

DARE marks Salky's feature film directorial debut.

DAVID BRIND (Writer, Co-producer)

Philadelphia-born filmmaker/theater director David Brind has directed three short films, including *Twenty Dollar Drinks* starring Sandra Bernhard and Tony-Award winner Cady Huffman, which premiered in competition at the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival.

Additionally, David wrote and produced the award-winning short film DARE, which, after playing over 50 film festivals worldwide, was picked up by Strand Releasing as part of *Boys' Life 5*, a successful series of gay-themed short films, available on DVD nationwide and currently airing on MTV's LOGO network.

Returning to his theater roots, David directed Sandra Bernhard in her one-woman show titled *Sandra Bernhard: Everything Bad and Beautiful*, which ran for four months off-Broadway at the Daryl Roth Theater in 2006. Brind restaged the show at the Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia in January 2007. He also participated as a director in the summer 2006, 2007 and 2008 benefit performances of "The A-Train Plays" at New World. Brind directed Cady Huffman in her first one-woman show, which premiered at the Ars Nova Theater and later played at Birdland Jazz Club in 2007. And most recently, he directed a reading of playwright Jerome Kass' "Love Song" that featured Matthew Broderick and Alan Cumming.

Brind received his B.A from Yale University as a double major in Theater Studies and American Studies. He received his MFA in Screenwriting from Columbia University's Graduate Film Program. Upcoming projects include a screenplay adaptation of William Wright's non-fiction book Harvard's Secret Court (St. Martin's Press.)



MARY JANE SKALSKI (Producer)

In addition to DARE, Mary Jane Skalski also produced the 2009 Sundance Spectrum entry *Against the Current*, Peter Callaghan's drama starring Joseph Fiennes, Justin Kirk and Elisabeth Reaser.

A New York-based producer whose work is consistently critically acclaimed and financially successful, Skalski produced one of the few independent hits of 2008 – Tom McCarthy's *The Visitor*. In one of the season's strongest performances, Richard Jenkins stars as a college professor who becomes embroiled in the lives of a young immigrant couple living in New York and stumbles into an unexpected romance as a result. *The Visitor* premiered at the 2007 Toronto Film Festival; Overture acquired and released the film last spring.

Skalski previously collaborated with director Tom McCarthy on *The Station Agent*, which premiered in Dramatic Competition and garnered the Audience Award, the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award and a special acting award for Patricia Clarkson at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival. At the San Sebastian Film Festival, *The Station Agent* received the Special Jury Prize. The film also received three Independent Spirit Awards, a BAFTA for Best Screenplay and three nominations from the Screen Actors Guild, including Best Ensemble. *The Station Agent* appeared on numerous ten best lists, including that of the National Board of Review.

Skalski also produced Gregg Araki's *Mysterious Skin*, which premiered at the 2004 Venice Film Festival and screened at the Toronto, Sundance and London film festivals. It was cited on over 70 ten best lists in the US (including the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*) and received a Gotham Award nomination for star Joseph Gordon-Levitt and a Spirit Award nomination for Araki.

Skalski received the IFP Producer Award in 2004 and appeared on *Variety's* "10 Producers to Watch" the previous year. She is an assistant adjunct faculty member in Columbia University's Graduate Film Department. From 1993 to 1999, Skalski was part of the New York production company Good Machine, where she acted in various capacities, including VP of Creative Affairs.

JASON ORANS (Producer)

New York City-based producer Jason Orans is nominated for the 2009 Film Independent Spirit/Piaget Producers Award. His most recent production is *Goodbye Solo*, from writer/director Ramin Bahrani, winner of the Fipresci International Critics Prize at the 2008 Venice Film Festival. *Goodbye Solo* is set for release by Roadside Attractions in March 2009.

Orans co-founded Gigantic Pictures with producing partner Brian Devine. Their other

films include *Goodbye Baby* (Slamdance 2008), *The Toe Tactic* (New Directors/New Films 2008), *Year of the Fish* (Sundance, 2007), *Flannel Pajamas* (Sundance 2006, Dramatic Competition) and *Satellite* (Tribeca 2005) as well as several multi-cultural literary adaptations for PBS, including Nisha Ganatra's *Cosmopolitan* and Julia Solomonoff's *The Suitor*.

MICHAEL FIMOGNARI (Director of Photography)

Michael Fimognari, an ASC honored cinematographer, two-time Emmy Award winner and member of the International Cinematographers Guild, has traveled the world to light and lens motion pictures. His work has screened at honored venues including the Sundance Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival and Camerimage Cinematography Film Festival in Lodz, Poland. In addition to DARE, Fimognari's recent feature credits include *Yonkers Joe* (Chazz Palminteri), *The Neighbor* (Matthew Modine) and *Black Irish* (Brendan Gleeson). Among his awards and critical praise, Fimognari received the Eastman Kodak Award for Best Cinematography at the 2004 Hamptons International Film Festival for *Fighting Tommy Riley* and an Honorable Commendation for the 2001 Robert Surtees Heritage Award from the American Society of Cinematographers for *Issaquena*.

JENNIFER DEGHAN (Production Designer)

Iranian-American production designer Jennifer Dehghan began her career as an art director for BBDO, NY where her campaigns received several awards including a NY ADDY gold, *Creativity Annual's* award of distinction and multiple citations for *Ad Week's* spot of the week. Drawn to the art of storytelling, Dehghan moved into designing for narrative films. Her first notable project was art directing the Academy Award-nominated *The Squid and the Whale*. *The Lost Cause*, directed by Oscar-winning writer Jim Taylor followed. She went on to production design *Thanksgiving*, premiering at the 2005 Tribeca Film Festival, *Kettle of Fish* (2006 Tribeca Film Festival) and *On the Road with Judas*, which premiered in Dramatic Competition at Sundance 2007. In 2008, Dehghan returned to Sundance with Michael Keaton's directorial debut *The Merry Gentlemen*. Dehghan is currently working with Robert Legato on the psychological thriller *Choose*.

DUNCAN SHEIK (Composer)

In addition to writing the music for "Spring Awakening" (2007 Tony Awards for Best Orchestrations and Best Original Score, 2008 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album), Duncan Sheik's other theater credits include: "Nero (Another Golden Rome)" (currently in development), "The Nightingale" (currently in development), "Whisper House" (currently in development). Recorded works include: "Whisper House" (Sony/Victor 2009), "White Limousine" (Rounder 2006), "Daylight" (Atlantic Records 2002), "Phantom Moon" (Nonesuch

2001), "Humming" (Atlantic Records 1998), "Duncan Sheik" (Grammy Nomination "Best Male Vocal") (Atlantic Records 1996). Film Scores include: *Harvest* (2009), *Little Spirit: Christmas in New York* (2008), *Capers* (2007), *The Cake Eaters* (2007) and *A Home At The End Of The World* (2004). Producer credits include: "Holly Brook" (forthcoming CD 2009), "Micah Green" (2008), "Spring Awakening Original Cast Album" (Universal 2007) and "Chris Garneau" (2006).

DAVID POE (Composer)

David Poe is a performing musician, songwriter and composer for film, dance and theatre. He has released three studio albums and two live albums; his next effort will be released in 2009. Poe's songs and scores have been featured in numerous film and television projects, including *Transamerica*, *Capers* and *Little Spirit*, as well as Sam Shepard's play "The Tooth of Crime," and "The Copier," a dance installation commissioned by New York's Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. He lives in Manhattan.