

IMAGE ENTERTAINMENT  
presents  
a NEXT WEDNESDAY  
&  
GIGANTIC PICTURES production



Directed by Adam Salky  
Written by David Brind

[www.DareTheMovie.com](http://www.DareTheMovie.com)

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Running Time: 90 Minutes  
This Film is Not Rated



## SYNOPSIS

In high school, what kind of person did you dare to be: risk-taking and lustful, melancholy and confused or simply safe and over-achieving? *DARE* follows three teenagers through their last semester of school: Alexa (Emmy Rossum), the smart, good girl who longs to break out of her shell; Ben (Ashley Springer), the lonely outsider dealing with his sexuality; and Johnny (Zach Gilford), the rich, seemingly perfect bad-boy who has everything. The unlikely trio falls into each other's lives, where they are surprised to learn no one is exactly who they appear to be and make a last-ditch effort to shake things up by taking the biggest risks of their lives before they actually have to start living as adults.

Director Adam Salky and writer David Brind takes us into some uncharted territory with fresh eyes and matter-of-fact authority. Sweet and sexy don't always go together, but they work beautifully in this instance because the sexuality of the film is cleverly woven into the fabric of the story. You can ask why the kids are in such a hurry to experience adult feelings, especially when their parents, comically enough, are afraid to get in the way. All is answered in the nuanced performances of this exceptional cast. They capture perfectly a generation with nothing to rebel against except their self imposed inhibitions. By being keenly perceptive, director Salky stacks up countless priceless moments in crafting teen romance with a decidedly modern spin. In *DARE*, the kids do what they need to do to become the adults they should.

--2009 Sundance Film Festival Catalogue

## A CONVERSATION WITH DIRECTOR ADAM SALKY AND WRITER DAVID BRIND

### ORIGINS

Adam Salky: David and I met at Columbia University's graduate film program. There's an end of the first year project where everyone directs a script that someone else wrote. David produced and we shot the 16-minute short in Philadelphia in June 2004.

The short ends with this incredible, totally unexpected moment of connection between these two boys. It definitely left us wondering what happened to the characters the next day at school.

David Brind: And that was the question we got asked after every screening. What happens next?

*The short DARE screened at approximately 50 domestic and international festivals. Strand Releasing bought the film for the "Boys Life" DVD series.*

Salky: Consequently, we decided to develop DARE into a feature. David started writing it in the fall of the second year of school.

Brind: Since I also produced the short, I was on set during the entire shoot. One night I was watching the monitor as Adam directed a small scene between Ben ("Light Boy") and Alexa, a peripheral character (in the short). After each take, I kept running over to Adam to talk about how important this moment was --how it was about the connection between a closeted boy and his best female friend, who totally knew and accepted him, even without the words to say so. Rightfully, Adam alerted me that though this was interesting, it wasn't really part of the story (of the short). But it set something off for me that never went away --about who Alexa was, and how she perceived this. What kind of relationship does she have with Ben? How does she see Johnny? Alexa took root in my brain and became the jumping off point for the feature script. And that was kind of the beginning of me seeing it as a larger world.

### THEMES

Salky: DARE is a story about the need to take chances when you're young in order to find out who you are, or who you're not. I wanted to tell a story where an audience could feel the intensity of adolescent desire – especially when directed at people who aren't really attainable. I think everyone has that experience. It felt to me like a universal story.

Brind: The story's fraught with a lot of emotions that I like writing about – desire, tension, conflict, shame, joy. Although it's not autobiographical, the characters are very real and personal to me. Certainly you can't write about a period of life that you experienced without some of it seeping through.

Salky: David's writing is incredibly visual and full of personal details. Of course, it was a fictional story, but it came from something very real.

Brind: High school is an intense period of life in America, when we're all obsessed with how others perceive us, how we are treated, where we stand. Part of the rite of passage is the moment in which we realize

that our actions have effects, even indelible ones, on others. This is something that Alexa, Ben and Johnny all come to find out in DARE.

Salky: It is my hope that audiences will also get some laughs in DARE. I treated these first big, life choices that the characters make seriously. But it was also important to remember that they're 17 years old. These are the first choices, not the last. With that in mind, I tried to create some levity throughout the film. Since DARE deals with a lot of the awkwardness of adolescent sexuality, I wanted humor and comedy to come from that. Most of the laughs in the film are from tension and release, and the audience re-living the anxiety of those first, fumbling steps toward experiencing sexuality.

## **STRUCTURE**

Brind: I really liked the idea of following each character in a way that you could really get inside their heads. So that once you were with Alexa, you never left her. You couldn't suddenly be in Ben's room and see what he was thinking. I thought it would enable me in my writing and ultimately Adam in his directing to unpeel, unmask and kind of go deeper into the characters. I wanted to be able to show the characters' intimate details.

## **VISUALS**

Salky: Through the course of the film, I hope the audience feels an emotional progression, not just with the stories and the characters, but also with the visuals and the music.

Alexa's act was shot to be very bright and somewhat reminiscent of a high school film that we might know. It suits Alexa's character - organized, put-together (at least on the outside), structured. I also wanted the first act to feel familiar, so audiences could be comfortable with the story at the outset.

At the passing of the baton to Ben's act, the visuals become a little more adult. The colors are a little darker, more mature.

When we switch to Johnny's act, the camera work is almost entirely hand held, except for certain scenes that take place in Ben's house. The colors in Johnny's act are muted and stark.

For the scene at Courtney's house, near the end, I hope the visuals build to a crescendo that leaves the audience a little unhinged, a little unsteady.

I also wanted the scenes concerning the very first intimate sexual experiences of the main characters to feel as real as possible, with all of the adolescent awkwardness and thrills intact.

The style of each of these scenes is very specific to each character's act. The one that takes place in Alexa's act is very constructed. It took an entire night to film. It required 20 shots. Ben's is very honest and matter of fact. Because at that moment, Ben is able to get what he wants sexually through honesty. The one in Johnny's act is much messier and realistic.

## **CHARACTERS/ACTORS**

### **Alexa Walker/EMMY ROSSUM**

Salky: Alexa is very pretty, but one of the things that's integral to her character is that she doesn't feel comfortable in her own skin. She doesn't understand why she can make straight As and be president of every club, but can't feel normal in social situations.

Especially after watching her stunning audition tape, we knew Emmy understood Alexa and her conflict.

Brind: She just kind of took over the role and embodied it. She completely internalized the part.

### **Ben Berger/ASHLEY SPRINGER**

Salky: Ashley Springer came in for an early reading of the script. We were just floored by him.

Brind: Ben feels different. Ashley played Ben (in that first reading) differently than any of us expected Ben to be played. We could never get him out of our head.

### **Johnny Drake/ZACH GILFORD**

Salky: Like all the characters in DARE, Johnny is subtle and complex. Especially in the scenes that take place in Ben's home, we see Johnny in a new light. We get a glimpse of how Johnny is not the person we expect him to be. He's just not the jock, the cool guy, a one-dimensional character. He's actually very complex.

Zach has these qualities, and the ability to create a character with range. In the beginning of DARE, you will believe that he is the jock character, but towards the end you will be surprised by where Zach takes Johnny.

### **Courtney/ROONEY MARA**

Brind: Courtney is ahead of her time, which allows her to be the popular cool girl. But she is also never quite at home with any one group.

Salky: She's also an instigator. When you are an adolescent and making your first choices and taking your first risks to figure out who you are, a lot of those choices are inherently selfish. I think that applies to all the characters and their journeys, but also to Courtney, because she's instigating stuff for her own entertainment. She doesn't sort of see what could happen, or what does happen.

Brind: And the way Rooney Mara played it could easily have called for a fourth chapter.

### **Adults, Parents**

Salky: The parents in David's script felt very close to my own family and those of my friends. I've seen these people before in my life.

Brind: I think they're extremely well intentioned -especially Ben's mother Ruth and Deidre, Alexa's mother. They care deeply and passionately about their children. Alexa and Ben's parents trust their kids. Whether or not they fuck up along the way, they know Ben and Alexa are going to be OK. Johnny's a different story.

**Ruth Berger/ANA GASTEYER**

Brind: Ana is known for her comedic abilities, and she certainly gets to show them off in DARE. But the character of Ruth, like the kids in the film, is complex. She loves and supports her son, but desperately longs to change him. She is human and strikes a balance between being nurturing to Ben and slightly uncomfortable about who he is shaping up to be. Ana found that balance naturally, with both warmth and the occasional moments of maternal aggression.

Salky: Ana infused the character of Ruth with a warmth that really brought her to life. She created a mom that was so familiar to me, it gave me chills.

**Dr. Serena Moore/SANDRA BERNHARD**

Brind: I wrote that role for Sandra. I think she is extreme talent in so many ways. And she has chops as a dramatic actress that we were excited to showcase.

Salky: I've been a huge fan of Sandra's since I was a kid. In DARE, she plays a role that is very surprising. It's a performance that is outside of what she's known for.

**Grant Mason/ALAN CUMMING**

Salky: The character of Grant is someone who is a very accomplished actor, with a command of the stage, and someone Alexa looks up to. Because of his background, Alan was a perfect fit for the role. The moment Grant steps onto the stage with Alexa, it's immediately clear how far Alexa is from accomplishing her goal of becoming an actress. Alan made that possible.

Brind: Alan Cumming's intensity, honesty and unflinching directness as both an actor and a person brought the character of Grant to life in a way that astonished us. He understood Grant Matson and the script on a visceral level.

## CAST

**EMMY ROSSUM** (Alexa Walker)

Roger Ebert has called her “a phenomenal talent.” David Ansen of Newsweek wrote “Emmy Rossum is a heart-stopping presence.” Jack Matthews of the New York Daily News wrote: “Her voice is like fine crystal and every moment while she’s singing is something special.”

Twenty year old Emmy Rossum is a gifted young actress and an accomplished musician. Nominated for a Golden Globe Award in 2004 for her starring performance as Christine in the film *The Phantom of the Opera*, she won the National Board of Review’s Best Female Breakthrough Performance Award and the Broadcast Film Critics Association’s Best Young Actress Award in 2005. She also starred in *Poseidon* in 2006, as well as the global warming blockbuster *The Day After Tomorrow* with Jake Gyllenhaal, in the Clint Eastwood directed drama *Mystic River*, and in the independent feature, *Songcatcher*, which won the Special Grand Jury Prize for Outstanding Ensemble at Sundance in 2001. Rossum’s acting performance in *Songcatcher* earned her an Independent Spirit Award nomination in the category of Best Debut Performance. Her television credits include guest starring appearances on “Law and Order,” and “The Practice.”

Most recently Rossum completed *Dragonball*, FOX's \$60 million action adventure comedy slated for 2009 release. Rossum plays the female lead Bulma, a scientist and weapons expert who is the very tough/sexy/feisty comic relief of the film.

In 2007, Rossum recorded her first album for Geffen records, “Inside Out”. Using her classically trained voice as the primary instrument, she is writing and recording all her own songs. Currently Rossum is working on her second album in between film roles.

Rossum began her theatrical career at the age of seven when she began singing the children’s roles at the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center. Between the ages of seven and twelve she was trained there in stagecraft and classical vocal technique and performed in five languages in 20 different operas.

Rossum is the Youth Ambassador for the international organization Youth AIDS, which works to educate young people in sixty countries on the prevention and treatment of AIDS. Rossum travels internationally raising awareness of the pandemic by speaking at schools, universities and government forums.

Rossum was born in New York City in 1986 and attended the Spence School until 1996. She earned her high school degree through Stanford University’s Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY) and Northwestern University’s Center for Talent Development (CTD).

**ZACH GILFORD** (Johnny Drake)

Zach Gilford plays Matt Saracen on NBC's critically acclaimed drama, FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS. The show is in its fourth season on NBC/Direct TV and this will be Gilford's last season.

Gilford was recently in Fox Searchlight's *Post Grad* in which he plays the love interest to Alexis Bledel. Gilford also stars in the upcoming *The River Why*, from director Matt Leutwyler and writers Thomas A. Cohen and John Jay Osborn. He will play "Gus Orviston" in the film adaptation of David James Duncan's novel of the same name – the first novel published by Sierra Club Books in 1983.

Gilford made his feature film debut starring in Larry Fessenden's *The Last Winter* – nominated for a 2008 Gotham Award for Best Ensemble. Other credits include GREY'S ANATOMY, and LAW & ORDER: SVU and the feature film *Rise: Blood Hunter* opposite Lucy Liu.

Gilford graduated from Northwestern University where he starred in productions of "Equus" and "The Laramie Project". A Chicago native, Gilford spends his free time leading backpacking, ice climbing and diving expeditions in Alaska, New Zealand and Australia.

**ASHLEY SPRINGER** (Ben Berger)

Ashley Springer was born and raised in NYC. After graduating from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, he was cast in *The Secret*, *Anamorph* and *Assassination of a High School President*. He also appeared in Tom McCarthy's *The Visitor*. Springer's first lead role was in Mitchell Lichtenstein's *Teeth*.

**ROONEY MARA** (Courtney)

In addition to DARE, Rooney Mara just completed filming the lead female role in the remake of *Nightmare on Elm Street* for New Line and *Platinum Dunes*. She also stars in *The Winning Season* which was also in the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. Other upcoming films include *Youth in Revolt* (Dimension), *Tanner Hall* (2009 Toronto Film Festival) and *Dream Boy* (2008 Berlin Film Festival). Her work has been seen on television with guest roles on "ER", "The Cleaner", "Women's Murder Club" and "Law & Order: SVU." Rooney founded and directs the not-for-profit organization Faces of Kibera which provides much needed care and assistance to poverty stricken orphans in Kibera, Kenya ([www.facesofkibera.com](http://www.facesofkibera.com)). She resides in Los Angeles with her dog Oscar Pinkerton.

**ANA GASTEYER** (Ruth Berger)

Ana Gasteyer has appeared in the films *Reefer Madness*, *Mean Girls*, *What Women Want*, *Dick*, *What's the Worst That Could Happen*, *Dick* and *The Women*. She is a former member of LA's comedy troupe The Groundlings. Spent six seasons on "Saturday Night Live" - popular characters included music teacher Bobbi Moughan-Culp, NPR's Margaret Jo, and impressions of Martha Stewart and Celine Dion. Other TV credits include "Frasier," "Just Shoot Me," "3rd Rock from the Sun," "Mad About You," "Seinfeld" and "Law & Order." Guest hosted "The Late Late Show," "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" and others. On Broadway, she will she next star in "The Royal Family" opposite Rosemary Harris and directed by Doug Hughes. She received rave reviews as 'Fosca' in Gary Griffin's production of

Sondheim's "Passion" (Jefferson Award nomination) at The Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Prior to that, she earned raves as Elphaba in "Wicked" (Broadway & Chicago, Jefferson Award nom). Broadway: "The Threepenny Opera" (with Alan Cumming and Jim Dale), "The Rocky Horror Show." Off-Broadway/Regional: "Kimberly Akimbo" (MTC), "Roulette," "The Vagina Monologues," "Cinderella" (NYC Opera), Fanny Brice in "Funny Girl" (Pittsburgh CLO) and Mary Zimmerman's "The Notebooks of Leonardo DaVinci." Recordings: the Grammy-nominated "Hair" (Actor's Fund), "Reefer Madness." Gasteyer continues to perform her musical evening "Let It Rip!" around the country.

### **ALAN CUMMING** (Grant Matson)

Actor of stage and screen Alan Cumming trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and quickly found fame in his homeland for both his television work and stand-up comedy. The theater gave him his biggest break when he appeared in Manfred Karge's *Conquest of the South Pole* in Edinburgh. The play transferred to the Royal Court in London's West End and Cumming was nominated for the Most Promising Newcomer Olivier Award.

U.S. film audiences were first introduced to Cumming in *Circle of Friends*, and he went on to appear in many varied films including Bryan Singer's *X2: X Men United*, Robert Rodriguez's *Spy Kids* trilogy, *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion*, *Goldeneye*, Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut*, *Titus*, *Emma* and *Sweet Land* (for which he received an Independent Spirit Award for producing).

Alongside friend Jennifer Jason Leigh he wrote, produced, directed and starred in the acclaimed *The Anniversary Party*, which won a National Board of Review award and two Independent Spirit nominations. In 1998, *Cabaret* opened on Broadway and Cumming was heralded for his stunning performance as the Emcee. He won the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, FANY, Theatre World and New York Public Advocate's awards for his work. He has continued to earn accolades on Broadway in *The Threepenny Opera*, *Design for Living*, and Off-Broadway in *Elle* (which he also adapted) and *The Classic Stage Company's The Seagull* opposite Dianne Wiest. He returned to the British stage in 2006 in Martin Sherman's *Bent*, and most recently appeared in the National Theatre of Scotland's production of Euripides' *The Bacchae*, which opened the Edinburgh International Festival and toured Scotland, transferred to London and then to the Lincoln Center Festival. Cumming won the Herald Archangel award for his work as Dionysus.

On television he has appeared in "Sex and the City," "Frasier," "Third Rock From the Sun," "The L Word," "Reefer Madness" and most recently in Sci-Fi Channel's record-breaking "Tin Man." He is also the host of PBS' "Masterpiece Mystery."

His second feature film as actor/director, *Ghost Writer*, was released in 2008. He has been selected to star as the Green Goblin in Julie Taymor's *Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark* on Broadway in Spring of 2010, and will also be seen in the upcoming films, *Dare*, *Boogie Woogie*, *Riverworld* and *The Tempest* opposite Helen Mirren. His debut album, *I Bought a Blue Car Today* will be released September 22nd of this year. Taken from his one-man show of the same name, Cumming belts out celebrated hits alongside little-known gems accompanied by his musical director, Lance Horne. It's a musical journey peppered with material by Frank Sinatra, Dory Previn, Kander & Ebb and Cyndi Lauper, to name only a few.

"Alan Cumming: *I Bought A Blue Car Today*" premiered at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City in February followed by a March run in Sydney, Australia, and will next be seen in London's West End in early September followed by NY dates and a West Coast tour. It has garnered rave reviews from critics

and audiences alike. The New York Times claimed Cumming “exudes the fabulousness of a brash showbiz kid,” while Time Out called the show, “A little piece of Vaudevillian wonder packaged up in one hell of a sexy Scotsman.” The show is based on Cumming’s experiences living in the United States for the past 10 years.

Cumming’s activism and charity work for civil rights and sex education causes have earned him several humanitarian awards including two Human Rights Campaigns awards, GLAAD’s (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) prestigious Vito Russo Media award and The Trevor Project Hero Award. In 2005, he was awarded an Icon of Scotland and in 2006, received an honorary Doctorate of Arts from the University of Abertay, Dundee. Most recently, he was appointed an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list honored for services to film, theater and the arts and to activism for equal rights for the gay and lesbian community. He is also the author of the book, *Tommy’s Tale*, and has launched a successful fragrance and body line. For more information, please visit [www.alancumming.com](http://www.alancumming.com).

### **SANDRA BERNHARD** (Dr. Serena Mohr)

An accomplished comedienne, actress, singer, and writer, Sandra Bernhard truly embodies the spirit of the Arts. Breaking down perceived boundaries between entertainment, social commentary, and performance art, Bernhard defies neat categorization. Described by The New York Times as “a living breathing bonfire,” Bernhard has been challenging fans and critics with her knife-edged humor, satire and emotive performances for the past 25 years.

Bernhard’s live performances, which are part comedy, part social satire, and part cabaret, showcase her astonishing range of talents. Her recent show “Everything Bad and Beautiful” galvanized audiences in the United States and Great Britain. Her critically acclaimed Broadway hits, “I’m Still Here... Damn It!” toured nationally and was filmed for an HBO special, which has achieved legendary cult status. You can currently catch her on tour celebrating the 10th anniversary of her classic hit show “Without You I’m Nothing.” The show toured the world and led to a Grammy nominated album and feature film of the same name.

Since she first appeared in 1983 in Martin Scorsese’s *The King of Comedy*, Bernhard’s numerous films include *Inside Monkey Zelterland*, *Hudson Hawk* and more recently, *Dinner Rush*.

Her television appearances include a regular role on “Roseanne” from 1991-1996, and guest starring roles on “Ally McBeal”, “Chicago Hope”, and “Will & Grace”. She has appeared on “Late Night with David Letterman”, as well as “The Tonight Show”, “Rosie O’Donnell”, “The View” and “Chelsea Lately”. She hosted the season premiere of “MadTV” and in 2001 hosted her own talk show, “The Sandra Bernhard Experience” for A&E television.

Her publications include *Confessions of a Pretty Lady*, *Love, Love, and Love*, and *May I Kiss You on the Lips, Miss Sandra?* Her essays have been published in numerous magazines, including *The New Yorker*.

## FILMMAKERS

### **ADAM SALKY** (Director)

New York City filmmaker Adam Salky makes his feature film directorial debut at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival with *DARE*, an official selection in the dramatic competition category.

Salky has directed several award-winning short films, including a short version of *DARE* in 2003, on which the feature film is based. It screened in over 50 festivals around the world, garnered six ‘best of’ awards, and was picked up for distribution by Strand Releasing. In 2007, Salky filmed *RECRUITER*, a documentary short film, which was a finalist for the 2008 Student Academy Awards. *THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT*, a short comedy that Salky wrote and directed, won a special jury prize at the 2005 Palm Beach Film Festival.

A creative writing major, magna cum laude graduate of Emory University, Salky completed his MFA with honors at Columbia University's Graduate School of the Arts Film Division. His work at Columbia was recognized by three prestigious prizes: The Kodak Cinematography Speaker Series grant, The Panasonic Kids Witness News Fellowship for his work teaching filmmaking to under-privileged inner-city kids, and The James Bridges Award, a production grant, one of the highest honors in the Columbia Film Division.

Salky currently lives in Los Angeles.

### **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. Jenkins was nominated for an Academy Award for his performance.

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 was nominated for the 2009 Independent Spirit/Piaget Producers Award. His most recent film is *Goodbye Solo*, from writer/director Ramin Bahrani, winner of the Fipresci International Critics Prize at the 2008 Venice Film Festival. *Goodbye Solo* is currently in theatrical release by Roadside Attractions and will be released on DVD by Lionsgate. He just wrapped on the Sundance Lab project *Night Chases Us* starring Anthony Mackie and Kerry Washington.

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 features 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. 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.

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 Production Manager MAMTA TRIVEDI  
 First Assistant Director YANN SOBEZYNSKI  
 Production Counsel GRAY KRAUSS LLP JONATHAN GRAY NICOLE COMPAS  
 First Assistant Camera RORY HANRAHAN  
 Second Assistant Camera LUKAS WOLF  
 Additional 2nd Assistant Camera AARON HOLLANDER ANTHONY DeFRANCESCO  
 Assistant to Director of Photography CHRISTIE CZERPAK  
 Camera Production Assistant JOSEPH SHUSTER  
 Crane Operator ROGER TOMES HARRY SCHEID  
 Steadicam Operators DAVID ISERN  
 AFTON M. GRANT

Still Photographer ANNEKE SCHONEVELD

Art Director MICHAEL DAVID CRENSHAW  
 Art Department Coordinator ARIZONA NEWSUM  
 Set Decorator CLARISSA SHANAHAN  
 Leadman MICHAEL VIRGILIO  
 On-Set Dresser ANTHONY TROVARELLO  
 Set Dressers JASON CONTINO  
 JAMIE SIMS  
 SEAN DONNELLY  
 Scenics NYSSA CAPPS  
 ANNE KOLENDA  
 Art Production Assistants DANIEL COREY  
 CHARLES J. COSTELLO  
 CHRIS DONNELLY  
 DAVID A. ELLIOTT  
 BRIAN RZEPKA  
 KELLIE JO TINNEY  
 Art Intern ZACK SCHMID

Property Master MARINA PARKER

Sound Mixer PHILIP ROSATI  
 Boom Operator SHAWN ALLEN  
 Second Boom Operator JOHNPAUL GOLASKI

Script Supervisor LESLEY-ANNE MORRISON

Chief Lighting Technician RICHARD P. ULIVELLA  
 Assistant Chief Lighting Technician DAVID A. ERICKSON  
 Third Electric BENJAMIN KITCHENS  
 Electricians MATT BROGS  
 ANDREW D'AURORA  
 MEREDITH KITCHENS  
 MICHAEL WITHERS

Key Grip	MAXIM KULISH KEVIN A. GALLAGHER
Best Boy Grip	DAVID L. BRIGGS
Third Grip	BLAKE EICHENSEER
Dolly Grip	ANDREW McLEAN
Grips	MATTHEW BARABUSCIO DAVE BARNES THOMAS GREGG
	MATTHEW HINGSTMAN DAN JOYCE JUSTIN LIPETZ MARC PATTERSON ZACHARY RUBINO RANDOM WALDRON
Wardrobe Supervisor	TAMIKA JACKSON
Wardrobe Production Assistants	CAROLINE BERBERICH JESSICA GLENN
Key Make-Up Artist	APRIL CHATMAN-ROYCE
Assistant Make-Up Artist	J. CHRISTOPHER POLITO
Key Hair Artist	LISA DELLECHIAIE
Final Party Jewelry Designer	SHIRLEY L. EPHRAIM
Locations Management	EDWARD J. EBERWINE III
Assistant Locations Manager	CHRISTOPHER WATTS
Location Production Assistant	CHRISTOPHER SMITH
Film Production Runner	KRIS CHAIN HARRIS
Set Protection	RUSSELL JOZWIAK ROB NEMETH AARON STEIN
Production Coordinator	MAURA ANDERSON
Advance Coordinator	DEL C. LUKENS III
Assistant to the Producers	ALEC UNKOVIC
Office Production Assistant	SHANA GREENSPON CARLY HAINES
Office Intern	ALEX KRAFT
Clearances	JENNIE GREEN
Philadelphia Casting	MIKE LEMON CASTING MIKE LEMON, CSA ANNETTE KAPLAFKA
Casting Associate	ALLISON ESTRIN
Extras Coordinator	NATALIA RODRIGUEZ
Second Assistant Director	JOLIAN BLEVINS

Second Second Assistant Directors NICOLE AGOSTINO  
 CEDRIC VARA  
 Key Set Production Assistants TIM BRADLEY  
 DANIEL LUGO  
 First Team Production Assistant FORREST MOSS-VREELAND  
 Production Assistants THOR BOUCHER  
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 ADAM SCHOON  
 EMILY SCHUMACHER  
 MALIK SHARP  
 MICHAEL J. WELDON  
 LANDON WISE

Production Intern DAVE O'NEIL

Catering/Craft Services TASTEBUDS MARKET & CATERING

Cast Physicians DR. LOUIS A. KATZ  
 DR. BRIDGET J. SEYMOUR  
 Set EMT AARON MILLER

Post-Production Coordinator PAMELA RYAN

Assistant Editor JENNIFER PADHAM

Visual Effects and Titles Design WORLDS AWAY PRODUCTIONS  
 VICTOR BARROSO  
 SAM CALABRESE  
 KENNY POLONSKI

Post Production Sound Facility GIGANTIC STUDIOS  
 Sound Designer/Mixer TOM PAUL  
 Post-Production Sound Coordinator MAUREEN DOWDELL  
 Music Editors ERIC MILANO  
 DAVE GOLDEN

Dialogue/ADR Editor ESTHER REGELSON  
 Sound Editor JACOB A. GRAGARD  
 Foley Artists SHAUN BRENNAN  
 ERIC MILANO  
 Foley/ADR Recordist MATT SNEDECOR  
 Foley Editors JACOB GRAGARD  
 MATT SNEDECOR  
 Sound Editing Intern MICHAEL KUGLER

DI Facility POSTWORKS NY  
 DI Producer MATTHEW  
 REEDY  
 DI Online Editor GEORGE BUNCE  
 Online Assistant DAVID HASTINGS  
 DI Colorist SCOT OLIVE  
 SHANNON K.  
 Dailies Producer HALL  
 Dailies Colorist ELI FRIEDMAN  
 Publicist CRAIG BANKEY

Distribution Advisory Services CINETIC MEDIA

Music Supervisor DAVE GOLDEN

"You Don't Know Me"

Written by: Ben Folds

Performed by: Ben Folds feat. Regina Spektor

Published by: Free From the Man Songs (BMI)

Courtesy of: Epic Records

Regina Spektor appears courtesy of Sire/Warner Bros. Records

By Arrangement with Sony Music Licensing

"Stripper"

Written by: Neville Henry, Karen Gibbs, Maya Hawie & Tony Haimi

Performed by: The Soho Dolls

Published by: A&G Publishing (PRS)

Courtesy of: A&G Productions

By Arrangement with Zync Music Inc.

"Control"

Written by Melisa Young and Alex Epton

Performed by Kid Sister

Published by Young Modern Music (ASCAP), DLJ Songs (ASCAP) and 3X Change  
 (ASCAP)

Courtesy of Downtown Records

"Pencil"

Written by: G. Grice, R. Bean

Performed by: GZA

Published by: GZA Music Publishing (ASCAP) / Allmaf Productions Inc. (BMI)

Courtesy of: Babygrande Records

"Jasper Drum Beat"

Written by: D. Golden

Performed by: DJDG vs. Jasper

Published by: Constant Lease Crewing Co. (ASCAP)

Courtesy of: Saing Music

"Shine On 'Em"

Written by: V. Williams, W. Jones, C. Golson

Performed by: Sunny Valentine

Published by: Vonstrell Williams Publishing Designee / Sir William Entertainment / WB Music Corp. / Young Drumma (ASCAP)

Courtesy of: Battery Records

"Snooks (Progress Report)"

Written by: Guy Garvey, Richard Jupp, Craig Potter, Mark Potter, Peter Turner

Performed by: Elbow

Published by: WB Music (ASCAP) o/b/o Salvation Music Ltd.

Courtesy of: Sheridan Square Entertainment

"Professional / Bouncer"

Written by: J. Volpe, D. Golden

Performed by: R.A.P.T.A. vs. DJDG

Published by: Constant Lease Crewing Co. (ASCAP)

Courtesy of: Saing Music

"Pool"

Written by: Holcombe Waller

Performed by: Holcombe Waller

Published by: Holwal Music (ASCAP)

Courtesy of: Pow Wow Now Records

"Leave The Party"

Written by: Martin Klingman

Performed by: Martin Klingman

Published by: Apple Sky Music (BMI)

Courtesy of: Cordless Recordings, LLC

"U Can't Be Me"

Written by: J. Kirkland, G. Spivey

Performed by: Diamond D

Published by: Dusty Fingers Music (BMI) / DJ Scratch Music (ASCAP)

Courtesy of: Babygrande Records

"The One That Got Away"

Written by: Cassandra Kubinski, Jennifer Marks  
 Published by: Paunchkin Publishing (BMI) / Miss Mayhem Music (BMI)  
 Performed by: Cassandra Kubinski

"Rhymes with an L"

Written by Nick Rodriguez, Tadd Bryan Mullinix  
 Performed by MED  
 Produced by Dabrye  
 Executive Producer: Peanut Butter Wolf  
 Published by: Medaphoar Music (ASCAP) / The Ghostly International Company  
 (ASCAP)  
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"Bayani"

Written by: Saba Mohajerjasbi, George Quibuyen  
 Performed by: Blue Scholars  
 Published by: Gourmet Sabzi Ahangs (ASCAP) / Salvaged Prose (ASCAP)  
 Courtesy of: Mass Line Media

"Hot Springs"

Written by: Don Cassell  
 Performed by: The Dismembered Tennesseans

"Saturdays"

Written by: Frank Errera, Scott Garrish & Greg Kries  
 Performed by: Filthy Rotten Sex Machine  
 Published by: Brutarian Music (ASCAP)  
 Courtesy of: Brutarian Records / Brutarian Magazine

"The Johnstowne Co."

Written by: Dave Golden  
 Performed by: Jasper  
 Published by: Constant Lease Crewing Co. (ASCAP)  
 Courtesy of: Saing Music

"She Wants 2 Get It"

Performed by: KO The Legend  
 Courtesy of: HeviKONcepts

"Lost n Found"

Written by: K. Maguire, I. Taggart, J. Edward Carter IV  
 Performed by: Blue Sky Black Death feat. MidaZ  
 Published by: Kingston Music (BMI) / Young God Music (ASCAP) / BeastMode Music  
 (ASCAP)  
 Courtesy of: Babygrande Records

"Electric Slide, Pt. II"

Written by: Mano dio Gracias

Performed by: The Wildlife

Published by: Cocoa Pup Publishing (BMI)

Courtesy of: Agent Records

"Crazy Sorrows"

Written by: Michael Churton

Performed by: Churton

Published by: MC Ink. (SESAC)

"Odyle"

Written by: Heloise Thorne Williams

Performed by: Heloise and the Savoir Faire

Published by: Trashy Ratty and Microphonic (ASCAP)

Courtesy of: Yep Roc Records / Simian Records

By Arrangement with Ocean Park Music Group

"Bad Dream"

Written by: Jason Martin, Mark Saloman

Performed by: Bon Voyage

Published by: Some Blue Collar Songs (ASCAP) / Thirsty Moon River (ASCAP) / The

Twilight's Own (BMI) / Spinning Audio Vortex (BMI)

Courtesy of: Tooth and Nail Records

By Arrangement with EMI Music Group

"Katie's Rainbow"

Written by: Geoff Aymar

Performed by: The Geoff Aymar Quartet

Courtesy of: Gotham Records

"Collect Call"

Written by: Emily Haines & Jimmy Shaw

Performed by: Metric

Published by: Chrysalis Music Publishing

Courtesy of: Metric Productions Inc.

By Arrangement with Zync Music Inc.

For Myrna

## SPECIAL THANKS

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Weiman Seid, Fat Dot  
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 Zachary Werner  
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 Greater Philadelphia Film Office  
 Sharon Pinkenson, Executive Director

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