

THANKS FOR SHARING

A film by Stuart Blumberg

Production Notes

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Running Time: 110 minutes

Synopsis

From Academy Award® nominated screenwriter and first-time director Stuart Blumberg (THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT) comes a sharply comic and deeply moving look at a very different kind of modern family – the haphazard family forged by three men trying to navigate life, love and the emotional landmines of New York City while recovering from addiction. Academy Award® nominee Mark Ruffalo, Academy Award® winner Tim Robbins and Broadway star Josh Gad (“The Book of Mormon”) anchor a stellar ensemble cast in a story about the kind of friends who, no matter how wild their rises and falls, always put each other back together again.

The three men – including an over-achieving environmental consultant (Ruffalo), a married father with long term success but daily challenges (Robbins) and a wise-cracking, out of control ER doc (Gad) – highlight the various stages in the process of conquering addiction and the community one needs to survive. On their own, they are each are smart, charming and completely broken . . . but together, they come to realize, they might have a real shot at happiness.

THANKS FOR SHARING is directed by Stuart Blumberg from a screenplay by Blumberg and Matt Winston. The film stars Mark Ruffalo, Tim Robbins, Gwyneth Paltrow, Josh Gad, Joely Richardson, Patrick Fugit and pop star Alecia Moore in her first film role. The producers are Class 5 Films’ William Migliore and David Koplan, and Olympus Pictures’ Leslie Urdang, Dean Vanech, and Miranda de Pencier, The executive producer is Edward Norton.

About The Production

Addiction, and all of its intricacies, has become one of the big issues of the 21st Century – but in Stuart Blumberg’s dramatic comedy THANKS FOR SHARING, addiction becomes something else: a catalyst behind real and transformative relationships. Blumberg and co-screenwriter Matt Winston set out to reveal the world of a 12-step program as it hasn’t been seen before: as a community – a community of the anxious, the volatile and the troubled, but one that nevertheless lifts people up no matter how deep the hole they have dug for themselves.

Blumberg previously won acclaim for his Oscar® nominated screenplay for THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT, another unconventional dramatic comedy – which explored the consequences of the children of a same-sex couple seeking out their sperm donor. Behind its fun, endearing characters and sparkling wit, the film raised provocative questions about the definitions of family. With THANKS FOR SHARING, Blumberg and co-screenwriter Matt Winston continue redefining the term in our times as they bring that same wry, realistic sense of humor about family foibles to an even more unlikely clan: a trio of men trying to confront the temptations and travails of sex addiction.

“THANKS FOR SHARING is really a story of friendship and bonds between the most unlikely of sources,” says Blumberg. “These three guys each have their problems, but with each other, they are searching for that feeling of togetherness and connection that will give them a better chance of getting through.”

Winston continues: “We really wanted to shine a light on the idea that perhaps the only solution to our brokenness in these times is to be broken with each other. That’s something that resonates with a lot of people.”

He goes on: “In many ways, Mike, Adam and Neil form a multi-generational family tree and the spine of the story is that they become each other’s lifelines. When the characters are not connecting to each other . . . that’s when things in their lives begin to go wrong. It’s ‘united we stand; divided we crash and burn.’”

Blumberg and Winston wrote together via Skype over the course of nine months, and the screenplay – which was as biting as it was honest -- soon won over the production team at Class 5, the company in which Blumberg is partnered with Edward Norton and William Migliore.

“Stuart called me and said they had started working on a new script and that it was set in the world of recovering sex addicts,” recalls Migliore. “And my one comment to him was, ‘Please find the humor’ -- which I think they’ve done incredibly well.”

Migliore continues: “What struck me about the script, as well, is that it is very much about the universal need to connect. It’s seen through the prism of people in a recovery program but, like THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT, it’s about the relationships we all share and the modern challenges of maintaining them.”

Blumberg was gratified by their support. “Bill is the most driven producer I’ve ever seen and he brought along David Koplan, who had line produced LEAVES OF GRASS, and these guys helped me make this movie in every way. They’ve just been incredible champions of this story,” he says.

Soon after, Olympus Pictures came on board with producers Leslie Urdang, Miranda de Pencier and Dean Vanech, bringing their experience with supporting strong, fresh voices in contemporary cinema. “Olympus has got a great track record and they really care about their movies,” says Blumberg. “They were always striving to give us the best tools to make the movie and that was an amazing experience.”

All of the filmmakers knew that the distinctively funny-tough tone of the screenplay would demand complex, humor-laced, yet emotionally transparent performances – so the next vital step would be casting the one-of-a-kind roles.

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At the heart of THANKS FOR SHARING is the story of Adam, a perennial Type A Personality and a dedicated five-year veteran of a 12-Step Program – yet one who remains afraid to put himself to the test with a real-world relationship. It’s a nuanced, shifting role and Stuart Blumberg had long envisioned diverse leading man Mark Ruffalo – who garnered acclaim in THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT – bringing it to life.

“Because Adam is a character who has been through a lot, we needed an actor who could really convey depth and Mark does that, but he is also really, really accessible,” observes the writer-director. “It’s challenging subject matter and Mark had to go an intense place. But once he commits, he really jumps in and he was amazing to watch.”

Ruffalo says he had a similar reaction to THANKS FOR SHARING as he had to THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT. “It made me laugh and then I was moved – I really like that kind of style where uncomfortable comedy is mixed with serious drama. I call it ‘one foot on a banana peel and the other foot over the grave,’” he quips.

As for Adam, he says: “He’s shut himself down to love because of his fears of sex and that whole minefield. He’s just met this incredibly hot, smart, successful woman and they are hitting it off, but he doesn’t know how to relate to her sexually. Things are very comedic and romantic between them, but it’s not perfect at all, because he keeps being forced to face his own fallibility. But that’s one of the beautiful things about the movie: each of these characters gets another chance -- and none of them is able to do it alone.”

Ruffalo attended a number of 12-Step meetings, both for sex addiction and alcoholism during his preparation and was stirred by what he saw. “One thing that’s great to see as an actor is all the honesty in those rooms,” he observes. “Everyone is just being very bare and real in that world and a lot of beautiful things happen, from heart wrenching sadness to gut-busting humor.”

To play Adam’s sponsor, Mike, the filmmakers turned to Oscar® winner Tim Robbins, known for such indelible roles as Dave Boyle in MYSTIC RIVER, Andy Dufresne in THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION and Nuke in BULL DURHAM. As Mike, he portrays a kind of esteemed, elder statesmen of the community – yet also a vulnerable husband and father still grappling with unresolved family issues of his own.

“Tim is really smart and an intellectually and physically imposing person. He knows what he wants and he knows it well – and I think there is a lot of that in Mike,” observes Blumberg. “He doesn’t suffer fools gladly, but he’s also the big poppa bear who you want to have hug you. Tim really had access to a certain part of himself that made that real.”

Robbins, who is an accomplished filmmaker in his own right, says the script stood out. “It’s rare to find a comedy that deals with a serious subject matter for adults,” he comments. “And I liked the approach of the ending which is hopeful and offers some real solutions.”

He also liked that Mike is both the linchpin of the support group – and as capable of collapsing as anyone else. “He’s managed to become a mentor to others, but at the same time he’s still susceptible to the weaknesses that come with addiction,” he notes.

Much of Mike’s susceptibility revolves around his own family problems, particularly with his son Danny, who has not fallen far from the addiction tree. “I think the most difficult thing a parent has to face is if and when their children do wrong, wondering how much they had to do with that,” he says. “That’s the big unspoken thing for Mike. We all hope our mistakes are not visited upon our children.”

While Robbins could relate to Mike as a parent, learning about sex addiction was a bit of an education. “I read recovery books and I went to a meeting,” he says. “At first I had a bit of cynicism about sex addiction, you know, thinking that it’s just an excuse. But when I went to the meeting I realized it’s a real thing and people really do screw their lives up with this addiction. I had nothing but admiration for the courage that was expressed in that room.”

The third member of the trio – and one who least thinks he needs any help – is Neil, an E.R. resident who got hauled in for some rather shocking behavior on the subway. Taking the role – which involves a sharp, 180-degree turn as Neil goes from smart-ass to serious about change – is Josh Gad, who recently made a splash playing Elder Arnold Cunningham in the Broadway hit “The Book of Mormon.”

“Neil is one of those characters who audiences at first find unlikeable and then you find yourself rooting for him,” notes Blumberg. “I didn’t know Gad that well until people educated me about him and then I realized . . . this guy is going to be a comic force. And Gad is Neil in this movie. He was so enthusiastic and fun and committed – it was really, really enjoyable to work with him.”

Gad found the script funny but also more than funny. “There’s an

unbelievable humanity to Stuart's characters," he remarks. "THANKS FOR SHARING to me continues in that tradition of THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT of being an amazing window into people who are just like everybody else except that they share a very unique characteristic, and in this case, these guys are each addicted to sex in different ways."

Like some of the other actors, it was the first time he ever really seriously considered what it might be like to have a dark and harmful addiction to the driving desires we all have. "For me, it was an exploration of something that I've always kind of scoffed at," he admits. "I've always been like, 'well if you're addicted to sex, isn't that just a human quality, aren't we all addicted to that thing?' But when you really hear what these people are going through it opens your eyes to a real disease that I think a lot of people don't quite understand."

Neil goes from not really taking his own addiction seriously to chasing redemption. "Neil starts out in the throes of his addiction," Gad explains. "He goes to extreme lengths, even creating a shoe camera to look up women's skirts. But it all catches up with him and when he's faced with losing everything that he's worked so hard for, he has to look himself in the mirror and say, 'Is this what I want to be?' That leads him on an incredible journey."

While Adam, Mike and Neil might be there for one another on this roller coaster journey, they also have to deal with family and friends who are not quite in tune with what they are up against. Adam's brand new girlfriend, Phoebe, starts dating him without any clue about his addiction – and doesn't make the discovery until she's already fallen for him. Taking the role is Academy Award® winner Gwyneth Paltrow, who fell for the screenplay.

"I'm always looking for interesting roles and this was so well-written and so funny – and the cast they were assembling was amazing, so I wanted to come on board," she explains. "Stuart got the drama so right. It didn't feel forced or melodramatic but it was very personal and I laughed out loud many times."

Says Migliore of what Paltrow brings to the role: "She is the perfect combination of charm, beauty and strength that drives Phoebe's rapport with Adam. You really root for their relationship."

Creating that link was made easier by a natural chemistry with Mark Ruffalo. "Mark is a very confident, easy-going, lovely actor," Paltrow says. "He

has this incredible likeability and depth, but there's also a real sweetness to him which I think is why women go gaga for him in the movies. His niceness is just very palpable, and it really comes through."

While Phoebe might not be immediately sympathetic to Adam's withheld admission of addiction, she has her own compulsions as a perfectionist and exercise obsessive. "I think Phoebe projects onto Adam some of her own self-judgment, which is interesting, because it causes her to kind of realize she needs to make some changes herself," observes Paltrow.

Playing Mike's wife Katie, who has years of experience with an addicted partner, is British actress Joely Richardson, recently seen in *THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO* and the Showtime series "The Tudors." Though Blumberg had some initial doubts about casting an Englishwoman as a Brooklynite, Richardson's unique combination of fragility and boldness seemed perfect for a character in a longtime marriage with an ex sex-addict.

Richardson says of Katie: "I see her as kind of the still water in a story where most of the characters are fighting against themselves. She has the ability to stay calm with all this turbulence around her – but I also think she is someone who has tried to overcompensate because she has been stuck in this triangle with Mike and their son Danny and she so desperately wants her family to be happy."

Playing Danny is Patrick Fugit, who came to the fore as the star of Cameron Crowe's *ALMOST FAMOUS*. This turned out to be a bit of serendipitous casting in which Tim Robbins had a hand. After Robbins ran into Fugit while bicycling in Venice Beach, the two decided they could conceivably play father and son. Days later, Fugit was sent the script.

"I actually read the script on a plane and I was laughing out loud and then crying," Fugit recalls. "It's not exactly a drama or a comedy. It's three life stories that are very genuine."

Fugit especially loved having the chance to work so closely with Robbins – both starred in HBO's "Cinema Verite," but had no on-screen interaction -- even if Danny carries a lot of festering anger towards a father who never could quite live up to his ideal. "I've loved Tim since I was young, so I was stoked to work with him," he says. "It was great exploring this relationship with him. There is

constant tension between Danny and Mike until they have it out – and Tim really brings his heart to everything he does.”

Playing Dede, the woman who becomes a life-altering encounter for Neil, is Alecia Moore. After learning that the part had essentially been inspired by her persona, pop singer Moore accepted the challenge of taking on her very first film role, despite no prior acting experience.

“When we were writing the story, Dede’s voice was such a strong and funny one that for some reason the idea of Pink came into my head – as the image of that tough girl who you love and who you know really has a soft center,” recalls Blumberg. “We thought, ‘we’ll write it for her, even if she probably will never do it.’”

Continues Migliore: “Alecia pushed herself in every way from day one and showed a remarkable commitment to the film. I think it’s going to be very exciting for audiences to see her in this role.”

Says Moore of Dede: “She’s a girl who has hit rock bottom and is finally ready to reach out. She wants to get better. She wants to connect. And when she meets Neil, there’s a chance to have their first healthy, real relationship. “

For Moore, relationships, no matter how rocky, are the foundation of THANKS FOR SHARING. “All of the characters in the movie are trying to rebuild the bridges they once burned,” she summarizes. “I think they come to realize that all there really is in life is these lasting relationships, and I find that very endearing and hopeful.”

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Stuart Blumberg always believed that the humor in THANKS FOR SHARING would help pull the audience into a very intimate story surrounding a rather awkward and even taboo subject. A mixture of comedy and reality is interlaced throughout the script – and he envisioned that same effect in the style and design of the film.

“I wanted the film to feel heightened enough that these are not just characters, but real people that you really relate to,” he explains.

To that end he gathered a crack technical crew who helped him realize his vision. They include cinematographer Yaron Orbach (OUR IDIOT BROTHER),

production designer Beth Mickle (DRIVE), costume designer Peggy Schnitzer (“Californication”) and editor Anne McCabe (HBO’s “The Newsroom” or YOU CAN COUNT ON ME).

“Yaron was amazing at helping me achieve the naturalistic look I wanted and to balance the drama and comedy,” says Blumberg. “Beth can work on a shoestring to make things beautiful; and overall, we had an amazing team.”

It might have been Blumberg’s first directorial outing, but the transition from tapping out the story from behind the keyboard to making it come alive in the director’s chair felt seamless to those around him.

“Stuart has a fantastic combination of knowing exactly what he wants while being incredibly open to the element of surprise, so we had a lot of those happy accidents while making this film,” notes Migliore. “Stuart really excels in tonal shifts – finding the humor in any given situation then turning that on a dime into something quite heartfelt.”

When asked about making a movie with a first time director, Urdang said, “It’s always a leap of faith. However, Stuart is deeply intuitive, driven, and an incredibly fast learner. He understands that interdependence is fundamental to our lives. And that it is the combination of singular efforts that make for something bigger. The themes in his story informed our decision – Stuart values community and we bet on that part of him that would allow for collaboration and for bringing out the best in everyone on his team. It was a good bet.”

Blumberg says he hopes that mix of yin and yang emotions also leads to something else in THANKS FOR SHARING – a sense of possibility even for those who seem lost. “I think we revel in watching other people struggling and trying to be better human beings,” he concludes. “This is a story about how the best way to get through this struggle is with other people – and how sometimes, admitting your limitation to others is the only route to finding the hope to overcome them.”

About the Cast

MARK RUFFALO – Academy Award nominee Mark Ruffalo is one of Hollywood’s most sought-after actors, easily moving between stage and screen

and working with directors including Ang Lee, Martin Scorsese, Michael Mann, Spike Jonze, David Fincher, Fernando Meirelles and Michael Gondry.

Ruffalo earned nominations for an Academy Award, Screen Actors Guild Award, BAFTA Award and Independent Spirit Award for his performance in Focus Features' "The Kids Are All Right," directed by Lisa Cholodenko. He was also honored with the *Best Supporting Actor Award* by the New York Film Critics Circle. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2010 and opened to rave reviews in July 2010.

Ruffalo was recently seen in Marvel Enterprises' international box office hit, "The Avengers," in which he portrayed 'Bruce Banner,' and 'The Incredible Hulk.' The film also stars Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Chris Hemsworth and Chris Evans, and is directed by Joss Whedon.

Ruffalo recently wrapped production on "Now You See Me," in which he stars opposite Morgan Freeman, Woody Harrelson and Jessie Eisenberg. The film, directed by Louis Leterrier, follows a team of FBI agents as they track a squad of the world's greatest illusionists, who pull off bank heists during their performances. Summit Entertainment will release the film on January 18, 2013.

Ruffalo is currently filming opposite Keira Knightley in "Can a Song Save Your Life?" The story follows an aspiring female singer in New York City whose world takes a turn for the better when a down-on-his-luck record producer (Ruffalo) discovers her, and the two forge a romance and turn each other's lives around. The film is written and will be directed by John Carney and produced by Anthony Bregman and Judd Apatow.

In 2011, Ruffalo made his directorial debut with "Sympathy for Delicious," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on January 23, 2010 and went on to win the Special Jury Prize for dramatic film. The film starred Orlando Bloom, Laura Linney, Juliette Lewis and Ruffalo in a story about a Los Angeles DJ who finds that he has the power to heal. The film was released in New York and Los Angeles by Maya Entertainment on April 29, 2011.

In 2010, he was seen in Paramount Pictures' thriller "Shutter Island," directed by Martin Scorsese. Ruffalo starred opposite Leonardo DiCaprio in the film.

In 2007, Ruffalo appeared in the Phoenix Pictures film “Zodiac” opposite Jake Gyllenhaal and Robert Downey Jr. Ruffalo portrayed the infamous Detective Dave Toschi, who devoted his career to tracking down the Zodiac killer.

In 2006, Ruffalo made his Tony Award–nominated Broadway debut in the Lincoln Center Theater’s revival of Clifford Odets’ “Awake and Sing!” The original cast included Ben Gazzara, Zoe Wanamaker and Lauren Ambrose.

He appeared in 2004 in the Michael Mann directed “Collateral” opposite Tom Cruise. He was also seen in Warner Independents’ “We Don’t Live Here Anymore” opposite Naomi Watts, Peter Krause and Laura Dern. Ruffalo served as an executive producer on the film which screened at the Sundance Film Festival. Also in 2004 Ruffalo starred the romantic comedy “13 Going on 30,” opposite Jennifer Garner and appeared in Charlie Kaufman’s “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind” opposite Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet. In 2003, Ruffalo was seen opposite Meg Ryan in Jane Campion’s film “In The Cut.”

Ruffalo earned critical recognition in 2000 for his role in Kenneth Lonergan’s “You Can Count on Me,” opposite Laura Linney and Matthew Broderick. The Martin Scorsese–produced film won coveted *Grand Jury Prize* for best film in dramatic competition and the *Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award* at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival.

His other credits include “The Brothers Bloom,” “Margaret,” “Blindness,” “Just Like Heaven,” “Reservation Road,” “All the King’s Men,” “What Doesn’t Kill You,” “My Life Without Me,” “The Last Castle,” opposite Robert Redford and James Gandolfini, “Windtalkers,” “XX/XY,” “Committed,” “Ride With the Devil,” “Studio 54,” “Safe Men,” “The Last Big Thing,” “Fish in the Bathtub” and “Life/Drawing.”

Ruffalo’s acting roots lie in the theater, where he first gained attention starring in the off–Broadway production of This is Our Youth; written and directed by Kenneth Lonergan, for which he won a *Lucille Award for Best Actor*. Ruffalo has won several awards for other performances, including a *Dramalogue Award* and the *Theater World Award*. In 2000, Ruffalo was seen in the Off–Broadway production The Moment When, a play by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner James Lapine.

Having trained with Joanne Linville at the distinguished Stella Adler Conservatory, Ruffalo made his theater debut in Avenue A at The Cast Theater. A writer, director and producer, Ruffalo co-wrote the screenplay for the independent film "The Destiny of Marty Fine," which was the first runner-up in the 1995 Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Additionally, he has directed several plays and one-acts. In 2000, he directed Timothy McNeil's original play Margaret at the Hudson Backstage Theatre in Los Angeles.

Ruffalo resides in New York.

TIM ROBBINS – Tim Robbins is an award-winning actor and director who first broke out in the cult classic Tapehead with John Cusack, and followed that up with the critically-acclaimed box office hit Bull Durham opposite Susan Sarandon and Kevin Costner. He is known for his roles in The Shawshank Redemption (earning a SAG nomination), the Coen brothers¹ Hudsucker Proxy, and Mystic River (for which he won an Oscar and Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor). Robbins was nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance in Bob Roberts, a documentary about a right-wing folk-singing politico, which he also directed. He won the Golden Globe for Best Actor for The Player, Robert Altman¹'s send-up of Hollywood. His work behind the camera on Dead Man Walking, which he also wrote, earned him an Oscar nomination for Best Director. He has been honored at numerous film festivals including Venice, Berlin, Cannes and Sundance. He is also one of the founders and Artistic Director of the Actors¹ Gang experimental theater group.

GWYNETH PALTROW – Gwyneth Paltrow is one of today's most prolific and celebrated actors in both television and film. A testament to her undeniable talent, Paltrow's role in SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE catapulted her into awards stardom with Best Actress honors at the Golden Globes, Screen Actors Guild Awards, and Academy Awards. In 2011, she also won the Emmy award for Guest Actress in a Comedy series for her role of substitute teacher Holly Holiday on the smash hit Fox series "Glee." Recent films include small roles in Marvel's

smash hit THE AVENGERS and in Steven Soderbergh's CONTAGION as well as Shana Feste's COUNTRY STRONG. Paltrow also recorded original music included on COUNTRY STRONG's Academy Award nominated soundtrack. Paltrow is currently in production on Marvel's IRON MAN 3. She will once again return to the screen as Ms. Pepper Potts opposite Robert Downey, Jr. when the film hits theaters in May 2013.

Additional film credits include Jon Favreau's IRON MAN and IRON MAN 2; James Gray's TWO LOVERS; brother Jake Paltrow's THE GOOD NIGHT; John Madden's PROOF (for which she received a Golden Globe nomination); SYLVIA; Ryan Murphy's RUNNING WITH SCISSORS; Douglas McGrath's INFAMOUS; THE WORLD OF TOMORROW; Neil LaBute's POSSESSION; Wes Anderson's THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS; Peter and Bobby Farrelly's SHALLOW HAL; THE ANNIVERSARY PARTY; Bruce Paltrow's DUETS; BOUNCE opposite Ben Affleck; Anthony Mighella's THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY; and Andrew Davis' A PERFECT MURDER. Paltrow's early career credits include SLIDING DOORS; Douglas McGrath's EMMA; GREAT EXPECTATIONS; THE PALLBEARER; SEVEN; A VIEW FROM THE TOP; MOONLIGHT AND VALENTINO; JEFFERSON IN PARIS; MRS. PARKER AND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE; MALICE; HOOK and SHOUT. Her first role was a remarkable performance in the critically acclaimed FLESH AND BONE opposite Meg Ryan and Dennis Quaid. She also co-wrote and co-directed the short film DEALBREAKERS with friend Mary Wigmore.

Last spring, Paltrow published her debut cookbook titled MY FATHER'S DAUGHTER and continues to develop her passion project GOOP.com. She first established her credibility in the culinary field when she co-wrote *Spain, A Culinary Road Trip* with acclaimed chef Mario Batali.

Born in Los Angeles where she spent the first eleven years of her life, Paltrow stems from a very close-knit family deeply entrenched in the entertainment industry. Her father, Bruce Paltrow was a highly successful producer ("St. Elsewhere", "The White Shadow") and her mother is the award-winning actress Blythe Danner. Paltrow and her younger brother Jake spent their early childhood in Los Angeles where she attended St. Augustine by the Sea (now known as Crossroads).

Paltrow currently resides in New York City and London.

JOSH GAD – Josh Gad brings wit, humor and depth to the small and large screens. He began his career in theatre, graduating from the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama. He then turned his sights to comedy, joining the famed Groundlings Improv troupe and founding his own – The Lost Nomads Comedy Troupe. He has already graced both the small and large screens alike, raising the bar for fellow comedians and thespians.

Gad will also be starring, writing and executive producing a new comedy series that is currently in production titled 1600 PENN; the series follows the Gilchrist family as they try to have a normal life while balancing the responsibility of being the “First Family” of the United States. Next, Gad will be starring as the prankster-loving Steve Wozniak in the biopic JOBS, chronicling Steve Jobs’ ascension from college dropout into one of the most revered creative entrepreneurs of the 20th century. The film is scheduled to be released in 2013.

In 2008 Gad starred in Twentieth’s THE ROCKER alongside Rainn Wilson for Shawn Levy and Tom McNulty. The music-themed comedy follows failed, down-and-out drummer (Wilson) who twenty years after being kicked out of his now-famous group gets a second chance – with his nephew’s (Gad) high school rock band.

Gad also starred in the hit film 21 alongside Kate Bosworth, Lawrence Fishborne, and Kevin Spacey about six MIT students trained to become experts in card counting who subsequently take over Vegas casinos for millions worth of winnings. In addition, in 2008, Gad was seen in CROSSING OVER, a multi-character drama about immigrants of different nationalities struggling to achieve legal status in Los Angeles. The film also starred Harrison Ford, Sean Penn, Ray Liotta, and Ashley Judd.

In 2010 Gad was seen in Twentieth’s LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS co-starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Anne Hathaway, Judy Greer, and Hank Azaria. The film is about a salesman who competes in the cutthroat world of pharmaceuticals to hawk a male performance enhancement drug. Gad plays the character ‘Josh Reidy’ – Gyllenhaal’s brother.

Gad starred in the Broadway comedy musical BOOK OF MORMON, written by the creators of South Park, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, and Tony Award winner Robert Lopez (AVENUE Q). The musical comedy is about two Mormon missionaries in Uganda who find themselves very far away from Salt Lake City. Gad garnered a 2011 Tony nomination for Best Lead Actor in a Musical for his performance and BOOK OF MORMON won the Tony for Best Musical.

Gad is no stranger to the Theatre. His most notable tenure on Broadway was perhaps also the most daunting. Having huge shoes to fill in the Tony Award-winning production of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE, Gad received rave reviews for his portrayal of the disheveled, “mvagic-foot”-using spelling champion. Other theatre credits include “ALL IN THE TIMING: (ELEPHANT ASYLUM), THE CRUCIBLE (PPT), SKIN OF OUR TEETH (CMU), and AXIS OF E (The York Theatre).

Gad also lent his voice as ‘Woodie’ to the new MTV animated series GOOD VIBES. The show centers around two high school surfer dudes living near the beach in California. Gad also stars as Gigi, a lovable foreigner with dreams of fitting in as an “average American.” This slapstick comedy series follows Gigi’s adventures where he will let nothing stand in his way. *Gigi: Almost American* is a co-production of BBC Worldwide Productions, My Damn Channel and the comedy troupe, The Lost Nomads.

JOELY RICHARDSON – Joely Richardson trained at RADA. Her first professional job was ‘Miss Julie’ (Liverpool Playhouse). Other THEATRE credits include a season at the RSC, ‘Beauty and the Beast’ (The Old Vic) ‘Saxon Shore’ (Almeida), Lady Windermere’s Fan (Theatre Royal Haymarket), Madam Melville (Promenade, Broadway), & “Steal Magnolias” in the West End. Last year she returned to the NY stage in Michael Wellers ‘Side Effects’ at the Lucille Lortel Theatre to rave reviews and delighted audiences with her portrayal of “Ellida” in Ibsen’s ‘Lady From The Sea’ at The Rose Kingston at the start of 2012.

Joely made her FILM debut with Sir David Hare’s ‘Wetherby’. She also appeared in Peter Greenaway’s ‘Drowning byNumbers’, ‘Shining Through’, ‘King Ralph’, ‘Event Horizon’, ‘101 Dalmations’, ‘The Patriot’, ‘Maybe Baby’, ‘Sister

mySister', 'Affair of the Necklace' and 'Under Heaven'. Last Year she was seen playing the young Queen Elizabeth I in Roland Emmerich's film 'Anonymous', then David Fincher's 'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo'. This year she can be seen in 'Red Lights' with Robert De Niro.

Joely's work over six seasons on Nip/Tuck merited two Golden Globe nominations for her performance as 'Julia McNamara' and a Golden Globe win for the series. Other TV Credits include Ken Russell's 'Lady Chatterley's Lover', Poliakoff's 'The Tribe', 'Wallis & Edward', 'Lies My Mother told Me' and 'The Tudors'.

PATRICK FUGIT – Patrick Fugit was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. His mother, Jan, a dance teacher, raised Patrick and his younger siblings dancing and performing from a very young age. Patrick credits Jan with developing his early interest in the dramatic arts. From junior high and into high school, Patrick also began studying the craft of acting in Theatre school during his summer vacations. He made his stage debut in a school production while in the seventh grade. Inspired by his love of performing, Patrick eventually decided to become a professional actor, and went on to land several guest roles in locally shot television episodes throughout his teens.

Patrick made his Hollywood movie debut in the 2000 coming-of-age tale, "Almost Famous," when he was 16. Discovered in a national casting search, Patrick became widely known for playing William Miller, a young rock-fan-turned-reporter based on the early career of its director Cameron Crowe, the youngest journalist for Rolling Stone Magazine. Already a classic, "Almost Famous" is touted as one of the 10 best movies of the decade from 2000–2010.

Fugit later played a sweetly geeky, aspiring comic book artist in the 2002 drama "White Oleander," and a naive drug addict in the indie dark comedy "Spun". His next film, "Saved!" was a satirical look at the religious right in high school. In 2005 he starred in "The Amateurs," an independent comedy about a sleepy town that comes together to film a porno, and in 2007 he starred in "Wristcutters, A Love Story." In 2009, Fugit portrayed the role of Evra the Snake Boy in the fantasy-thriller "Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant."

In 2011, Patrick was seen in HBO's "Cinema Verite" alongside James Gandolfini, Diane Lane and Tim Robbins. This movie told the behind-the-scene story of the groundbreaking 1973 PBS Documentary series "An American Family." That year, he also reunited with Director Cameron Crowe for "We Bought A Zoo", in which he co-starred with Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson and Thomas Haden Church.

ALECIA MOORE– Since her debut in 2000, P!nk (Alecia Moore) has released 6 albums (*Can't Take Me Home, M!ssundaztood, Try This, I'm Not Dead, Funhouse, Greatest Hits So Far!!!*), sold over 32 million albums, 65 million singles (nearly 20 million digital tracks), over 1 million DVD's worldwide and has had 11 singles in the top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100 Chart. In addition, 15 of P!nk's singles have reached #1 in at least 1 or more countries. She is the recipient of 3 Grammy Awards, 2 Billboard Music Awards, 5 MTV Video Music Awards, 2 MTV Europe Awards, 2 People's Choice Awards, and many more. P!nk's last studio album *Funhouse* debuted at #2 on the Billboard Top 200 chart and #1 in the UK, Australia, Netherlands, New Zealand and Switzerland. The album produced the smash single "So What", which marked P!nk's 2nd #1 single on the Billboard Hot 100 (after "Lady Marmalade"). Her latest album, *Greatest Hits So Far...* debuted in the Top 10 in over 13 countries and spawned the hit singles, "F**ckin Perfect" which reach # 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 and "Raise Your Glass" which marked P!nk's 3rd #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 Chart. P!nk is set to release her 6th studio album, *The Truth About Love* on September 18th. The first single "Blow Me (One Last Kiss)" has skyrocketed the charts all over the world.

EMILY MEADE – Emily Meade recently starred in the independent film GIMME SHELTER with Vanessa Hudgens. Other recent films include the comedy SIN BIN with Bo Burnham, and a supporting part in Jason Reitman's YOUNG ADULT.

She was last seen in Joel Schumacher's film TRESPASS, starring Nicolas Cage, and was one of the leads in Schumacher's TWELVE, opposite Chase

Crawford and Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson. Meade also appeared in the recurring role of "Pearl" on HBO's hit series BOARDWALK EMPIRE, executive-produced by Martin Scorsese.

Meade's other film and television credits include MY SOUL TO TAKE directed by Wes Craven, ASSASSINATION OF A HIGH SCHOOL PRESIDENT starring Bruce Willis, BURNING PALMS with Dylan McDermott and Rosamund Pike, THE HOUSE IS BURNING executive produced by Wim Wenders, the CBS television pilot BACK opposite Skeet Ulrich, a guest spot on the FOX series FRINGE, and numerous episodes of the LAW & ORDER series.

Her theatre credits include The Puberty Club, Waiting for the Light to Change, and Sleep Away, all for the 24*7 Theatre Company at the Cherry Lane Theater in New York. Meade was born and raised in Manhattan and is a graduate of the LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts.

About the Filmmakers

STUART BLUMBERG (Director / Co-writer) – Stuart Blumberg wrote and produced the film *Keeping The Faith* starring Edward Norton and Ben Stiller. He also wrote *The Girl Next Door* starring Emile Hirsch and Elisha Cuthbert. In 2009, he produced the HBO documentary “By The People: The Election of Barack Obama” and in 2010, he co-wrote the acclaimed Focus Films dramedy, *The Kids are All Right* for which he was nominated for an Academy Award for best Original Screenplay.

MATT WINSTON (Co-Writer) – Matt Winston, son of Special Effects wizard Stan Winston, grew up in a world of character makeups and creature effects. While in high school, Matt began working at Stan Winston Studio, making molds, running foam, seaming, patching, and learning the FX ropes. This led to puppeteering work on projects that would become iconic cinema classics such as James Cameron’s *Aliens* and Steven Spielberg’s *Jurassic Park*.

After graduating from Yale University, Matt returned to his father’s workshop to learn CGI in the fledgling SWS digital department before Stan joined forces with James Cameron and former ILM boss, Scott Ross to form the visual effects company Digital Domain.

While early ambitions as an actor led his father to character effects makeup work, Matt took the opposite path and after working in effects, began to develop characters as an actor and later as a screenwriter. His acting credits include memorable roles in *Six Feet Under*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *About Schmidt*, *Scrubs* and David Fincher’s now cult classic *Fight Club*.

WILLIAM MIGLIORE (Producer) – Alongside Edward Norton and Stuart Blumberg, William started Class 5 Films and has produced *LEAVES OF GRASS* (Toronto International Film Festival World Premiere), written and directed by Tim

Blake Nelson, starring Edward Norton, Keri Russell, Susan Sarandon and Richard Dreyfuss; the documentary BY THE PEOPLE: the Election of Barack Obama, directed by Amy Rice & Alicia Sams, which premiered on HBO, for which he was nominated for an Emmy and DOWN IN THE VALLEY (Cannes Film Festival selection), starring Edward Norton and Evan Rachel Wood. Prior to Class 5, he produced LET IT SNOW (Sundance Film Festival selection) which was released theatrically in 2000. Upcoming projects include the HBO mini-series UNDAUNTED COURAGE, Jonathan Lethem's MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN for New Line and the film adaptation of Lanford Wilson's BURN THIS.

DAVID KOPLAN (Producer) – David Koplan has produced nearly a dozen films during the span of his career.

Koplan is also currently serving as a Co-Producer on the feature film directorial debut of Academy Award Winner Diablo Cody (*Juno, Young Adult*) starring Julianne Hough, Russell Brand and Octavia Spencer.

Koplan previously served as an Executive Producer on Tim Blake Nelson's *Leaves of Grass*, which premiered at TIFF in 2009. It stars Nelson, Edward Norton, Susan Sarandon, Keri Russell and Richard Dreyfuss.

Koplan's other producing credits include *Chrystal* which stars Academy Award-winner Billy Bob Thornton and was written and directed by Academy Award-winner Ray McKinnon. *Chrystal* premiered in dramatic competition at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival. Koplan worked with Pulitzer Prize nominated playwright Adam Rapp to produce *Winter Passing*, which stars Ed Harris, Will Ferrell and Zooey Deschanel. The film made its premiere at TIFF in 2005.

Under his Timbergrove Entertainment banner, Koplan produced the film noir thriller *The Last Lullaby* directed by Jeffrey Goodman and *Randy and the Mob*, written and directed by Ray McKinnon, and starring McKinnon, Walton Goggins (*The Shield, Django Unchained*), and Burt Reynolds. Koplan is a graduate from the University of Virginia and serves on the board of the Virginia Film Festival.

LESLIE URDANG (Producer) – Leslie Urdang is the producer and president of Olympus Pictures, a production company chaired by Dean Vanich

that finances and develops and produces films of all budget sizes. Olympus' first feature, *Adam*, with Hugh Dancy, Rose Byrne, Peter Gallagher, Frankie Faison and Amy Irving was released by Fox Searchlight in 2009. Recent projects include *Rabbit Hole* starring Nicole Kidman, Aaron Eckhart, Diane Wiest, and Sandra Oh directed by John Cameron Mitchell from David Lindsay-Abaire's Pulitzer Prize winning play. The film earned Nicole Kidman a 2011 Oscar nomination for Best Actress, *Beginners*, written and directed by Mike Mills and starring Ewan McGregor, Christopher Plummer and Mélanie Laurent released by Focus Features Summer 2011. The film earned numerous awards and nominations including a Gotham Award for Best Picture as well as Best Supporting Actor Golden Globe, SAG, BAFTA and an Oscar Award for Christopher Plummer's role as Hal.

Along with *Thanks For Sharing*, Urdang and Olympus recently completed *Mr. Pip*, also an official selection of the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival. This coming Fall (2012) Olympus and Likely Story will release through ATO Pictures *The Oranges* directed by Julian Farino and starring Hugh Laurie, Catherine Keener, Leighton Meester, Allison Janney, Adam Brody, Alia Shawkat and Oliver Platt.

Urdang's additional projects in development include *Family Fang*, a project that reunites Olympus with the Rabbit Hole team of Nicole Kidman, Per Saari and David Lindsay-Abaire, *Peony*, an adaptation of a Pearl S. Buck novel, *Spin*, a sci-fi novel and *Wendy and the Lost Boys*, a romantic comedy.

Some of Urdang's other producing credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, starring Michelle Pfeiffer, Kevin Kline, and Stanley Tucci, *Me And Veronica* starring Elizabeth McGovern and Patricia Wettig, *People I Know*, starring Al Pacino, the Independent Spirit Award nominated film,¹² *And Holding*, directed by Michael Cuesta starring Jeremy Renner, *The Great New Wonderful*, starring Maggie Gyllenhaal, *Game 6*, starring Michael Keaton and directed by Michael Hoffman and *The Narrows* directed by Francois Velle.

Urdang was also a producer for Robert Redford's company, Wildwood Enterprises and for Gary Ross' Larger Than Life. At both companies she worked on the development of several projects including the Walter Salles' directed *Motorcycle Diaries*.

In the theatre, Urdang founded and continues to be a Producing Director of New York Stage and Film that, for over 20 years has developed and produced the new works of hundreds of artists for Broadway and theaters throughout the country. Some of these include the Tony Award-winning plays "Sideman And Tru", and most recently John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer and Tony Award winning play "Doubt".

DEAN VANECH (Producer) – Dean Vanech is Chairman of Olympus Holdings, LLC (www.o-hold.com) based in Morristown, New Jersey. Olympus Holdings is a private firm engaged in entertainment (Olympus Productions), the electric energy industry (Olympus Power) and merchant banking (Olympus Capital Investments).

He has and continues to serve on non-profit boards, presently including Citizens Schools New York (past Chair), The New York Stage and Film Company and The Sustainable Preservation Initiative.

Olympus Pictures (California) and Olympus Theatricals (New York) have emerged as leading production companies in both film and theater.

Olympus Pictures' first feature, *Adam*, was released by Fox Searchlight in 2009, after a successful screening at the Sundance Film Festival. Recent releases include *Rabbit Hole* starring Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart. The film earned Nicole Kidman a 2011 Oscar nomination for Best Actress. *Beginners* starring Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer, was released by Focus Features in 2011. The film earned numerous nominations and awards such as the Gotham Award for Best Picture as well as several Best Supporting Actor Awards for Christopher Plummer including a 2012 Oscar and Golden Globe.

Presently, Olympus is in post-production on Andrew Adamson's first independent feature titled *Mr. Pip*, starring Hugh Laurie. In fall of 2012, Olympus will release through ATO Pictures *The Oranges* starring Hugh Laurie, Catherine Keener, Leighton Meester, Allison Janney, Adam Brody, Alia Shawkat and Oliver Platt.

Olympus Theatricals has produced numerous plays and musicals in New York and London, recently including "Ghost the Musical" (New York) and "The

Sunshine Boys” (London). Olympus won a Tony Award for best Musical Revival of “La Cage Aux Folles” (2010).

MIRANDA DE PENCIER (Producer) – Miranda de Pencier has worked in film, television and theatre for over 20 years. She was the Director of Development for Robert Redford’s company, Wildwood Enterprises, before becoming an independent producer in 2002. de Pencier has produced numerous feature films including *Pu- 239* for HBO and executive produced by Steven Soderbergh and George Clooney, *ADAM* starring Hugh Dancy and Rose Byrne, *BEGINNERS*, starring Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer, for which Plummer won the 2012 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. Her directorial debut, a short film entitled *THROAT SONG* premiered at TIFF in 2011.

EDWARD NORTON (Executive Producer) – Edward Norton has acted in the films *Primal Fear*, *Everyone Says I Love You*, *The People vs Larry Flynt*, *American History X*, *Rounders*, *Fight Club*, *Keeping the Faith*, *The Score*, *Death to Smoochy*, *Frida*, *Red Dragon*, *The 25th Hour*, *The Italian Job*, *Down in the Valley*, *The Kingdom of Heaven*, *The Illusionist*, *The Painted Veil*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *Pride & Glory*, *Leaves of Grass*, *Stone* and the upcoming *Moonrise Kingdom* and *The Bourne Legacy*.

He has been nominated for two Academy Awards, for *Primal Fear* and *American History X*, and won a Golden Globe along with numerous other awards for his performances.

He produced and directed *Keeping the Faith* and also produced *Down in the Valley* (Cannes Film Festival selection), *The Painted Veil*, *Leaves of Grass* and the documentary *By The People: The Election of Barack Obama*.

Norton also founded and runs Class 5 Films in partnership with Academy Award-nominated screenwriter Stuart Blumberg and producer Bill Migliore. Class 5’s first two features, *Down in the Valley* and *The Painted Veil*, were released in 2006. Class 5 more recently produced *Leaves of Grass* (written and directed by Tim Blake Nelson) and Blumberg’s directorial debut, “*Thanks for Sharing*”. The company is developing adaptations of Dan O’Brien’s *Buffalo for*

the Broken Heart and Jonathan Lethem's *Motherless Brooklyn* for which Norton is writing the screenplay.

Class 5's most recent documentary, *By The People: The Election of Barack Obama*, was released by HBO in November 2009, and was nominated for three Emmy awards.

Class 5's other documentaries include: *The Great Rivers Expedition*, a film by Jim Norton, and *Dirty Work*, a film by David Sampliner that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and aired on the Sundance Channel. Class 5 also collaborated with the Sea Studios Foundation on their highly acclaimed, multi-million dollar series about earth system sciences for National Geographic, *Strange Days on Planet Earth*, which Norton hosted and narrated, and which premiered on PBS in April 2008. Class 5 is currently working in partnership with Brad Pitt's Plan B and National Geographic to produce an epic seven part series for HBO based on Stephen Ambrose's acclaimed book *Undaunted Courage* about the Lewis and Clark expedition. Norton and Pitt will executive produce the series.

Norton is also a committed social and environmental activist.

BETH MICKLE (Production Designer) began her career as a production designer when she designed her first feature film *Madness and Genius*, directed by Ryan Eslinger, in 2002. The film's success brought several more features including the acclaimed *Half Nelson*, directed by Ryan Fleck, and written by Fleck and Anna Boden. Produced by Journeyman Pictures, *Half Nelson* won the Best Film prize at the Gotham Awards, and received a Best Actor Academy Award® nomination for Ryan Gosling in 2007.

Mickle re-teamed with Ryan Fleck and Anna Boden on their sophomore film, *Sugar*, the story of an aspiring baseball player from the Dominican Republic, produced by Journeyman Pictures. In 2007, Mickle was named as one of *The Hollywood Reporter's* "Production Designer To Watch." She was also nominated for a BAFTA award for production design in 2010 for her work in *An Englishman in New York*, starring John Hurt. She recently designed *Drive*, starring Ryan Gosling and Carey Mulligan, and directed by Nicholas Winding

Refn who won the Best Director award at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. For her work in *Drive*, Mickle was nominated for an Art Director's Guild Award in 2012. After *Drive* wrapped, Mickle designed *Arbitrage* starring Richard Gere and Susan Sarandon, which opens later this year after a stellar premier at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

Beth most recently wrapped *Only God Forgives* in Thailand, where she collaborated once again with *Drive* director Refn and Ryan Gosling on the most stylized film of her career. Currently she is designing the action film *2 Guns* in New Orleans with director Baltazar Komokur, starring Mark Wahlberg and Denzel Washington.

Mickle is represented by William Morris Endeavor Entertainment.