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SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

# WHIPLASH

*Written and Directed by Damien Chazelle*

***Official Selection***

Sundance Film Festival 2014

Cannes Film Festival 2014

Toronto International Film Festival 2014

Winner, Grand Jury Prize, Dramatic – Sundance Film Festival 2014

Winner, Dramatic Audience Award – Sundance Film Festival 2014

106 Mins | Rated R

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## LOGLINE

Andrew Neiman is an ambitious young jazz drummer, single-minded in his pursuit to rise to the top of his elite east coast music conservatory. Plagued by the failed writing career of his father, Andrew hungers day and night to become one of the greats. Terence Fletcher, an instructor equally known for his teaching talents as for his terrifying methods, leads the top jazz ensemble in the school. Fletcher discovers Andrew and transfers the aspiring drummer into his band, forever changing the young man's life. Andrew's passion to achieve perfection quickly spirals into obsession, as his ruthless teacher continues to push him to the brink of both his ability—and his sanity.

## SYNOPSIS

Andrew Neiman is a 19-year-old jazz drummer, dreaming of greatness but unsure if his dream will ever come true. Haunted by the failed writing career of his father, Andrew is determined to rise to the top of the country's most elite music conservatory. One night, Terence Fletcher, a conductor equally known for his talent for teaching as he is for the terrifying method of his instruction, discovers Andrew practicing the drums. Even though Fletcher says very little to him that night, he ignites in Andrew a passion to achieve his goal. To Andrew's surprise, the next day, Fletcher requests that he be transferred into his band. This single act changes the young man's life forever.

At first, Andrew is an “alternate,” confined to turning the pages of the “core” drummer. But at the band's next competition, in an act of either serendipity or sabotage, the core drummer's sheet music is misplaced. Having committed the music to memory, Andrew gets the opportunity to play. Though the act further alienates him from his fellow musicians, the band nonetheless wins the competition, and he seems poised to become Fletcher's new “favorite son.”

Emboldened by this acceptance, Andrew summons the courage to ask out Nicole, the counter girl at his local theater for whom he'd nursed a silent and unrequited crush. But on that date, Andrew's musical preoccupations threaten to derail even his most genuine romantic overtures.

Andrew's maniacal effort to achieve perfection is further fueled by Fletcher's psychological brinksmanship. Andrew's family can barely recognize the stone-faced obsessive sitting at their dinner table. Andrew even elicits a sharp word from his otherwise mild-mannered father.

The nearer to perfection Andrew gets, the narrower his circle of intimates becomes until he is left

only with Fletcher—and even that relationship is jeopardized by the ferocity of Andrew’s ambitions.

A journey that can be seen alternately as a descent into madness or an ascent to greatness comes to a crescendo on the biggest platform for Andrew’s talents—the unforgiving stage of Carnegie Hall.

## CREDITS

### CAST

<b>Andrew</b>	MILES TELLER
<b>Fletcher</b>	J.K. SIMMONS
<b>Nicole</b>	MELISSA BENOIST
<b>Jim</b>	PAUL REISER
<b>Ryan</b>	AUSTIN STOWELL
<b>Carl</b>	NATE LANG
<b>Dorm Neighbor</b>	MAX KASCH
<b>Mr. Kramer</b>	DAMON GUPTON

### FILMMAKERS

**Written & Directed by** Damien Chazelle  
**Producers** Jason Blum, Helen Estabrook, David Lancaster, Michel Litvak  
**Executive Producers** Jason Reitman, Jeanette Brill, Couper Samuelson, Gary Michael Walters  
**Co-Producer** Nicholas Britell  
**Cinematographer** Sharone Meir  
**Production Designer** Melanie Paizis-Jones  
**Editor** Tom Cross  
**Original Score by** Justin Hurwitz

## Director's Statement

There are a lot of movies about the joy of music. But as a young drummer in a conservatory-style high school jazz orchestra, the emotion I felt the most frequently was a different one: fear. Fear of missing a beat. Fear of losing tempo. Most overwhelmingly, fear of my conductor. With *Whiplash*, I wanted to make a movie about music that felt like a war movie, or a gangster movie --- where instruments replaced weapons, where words felt as violent as guns, and where the action unfolded not on a battlefield, but in a school rehearsal room, or on a concert stage.

The jazz legend that has always intrigued me the most is that of the young Charlie Parker. Now, if you'd asked any of Charlie's contemporaries when he was 16 or 17 who among the young Kansas City cats would grow to be the greatest musician of his generation, none would have picked Charlie. To the old-timers, he was just an eager kid of middling talent. And yet, somehow, something happened in Charlie's late teens, because by the age of 19 he was playing some of the greatest music ever heard. How did this happen? Well, so the story goes, one night Charlie participated in a cutting session at the Reno Club and screwed up his solo: the resident drummer threw a cymbal at his head and the audience jeered him off the stage. He went to bed with tears in his eyes, muttering "I'll fix them cats." He practiced like a madman for the next year, and when he returned to the Reno, he wowed the world.

As a high schooler, I spent hours every day locked away in a soundproofed basement, practicing drums until my hands bled, dreaming of just such a transformation. Spurring me on was a larger-than-life local hero, my school's conductor, who had managed his own dazzling transformation over the past decade: turning a New Jersey public school's fledgling jazz band into the best program of its kind in the country according to *Down Beat Magazine*, an ensemble that had played at two Presidential inaugurations and opened the JVC Jazz Festival in New York. For years, drumming became my life, and for the first time music became associated in my mind, above all else, with—not entertainment, or fun, or self-expression, but—fear.

Looking back, I wonder how and why this happened. My journey as a drummer culminated in national honors and awards, but I can still vividly recall the nightmares, the nausea and skipped meals, the days of unmanageable anxiety—all in the service of a style of music that is, on its surface, all about freedom and joy. More crucial than anything else to me in those days was a single relationship—that between me and my teacher. It is that relationship—so loaded and fraught with tension—that I wanted to really explore in *Whiplash*. If it is a teacher's duty to push a student to greatness, then at what point is enough enough? Did Charlie Parker *need* to be jeered off the stage in order to become "Bird"? How do you *make* someone great?

To capture the emotions I felt in my drumming years, I wanted to shoot each musical

performance in the movie as though it were a life-or-death contest --- a car chase, say, or a bank robbery. I wanted to showcase all the details I remembered --- all the dirt and grime and effort that go into a work of music. The earplugs and broken sticks, the blisters and cut hands, the incessant counting and the beeping metronomes and the sweat and fatigue. At the same time, I wanted to capture those fleeting moments of beauty that music allows—and that film can so movingly capture. When you listen to a Charlie Parker solo, you enter a state of bliss. Was all the suffering Parker endured for his art worth it, just so we could enjoy the results decades later? I have no idea, but to me it's a question worth asking, one that reaches beyond music --- beyond even the arts --- and touches on a concept that's so simple but so fundamental to the American character: greatness at any cost.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

**Damien Chazelle (Director, Writer)** was born in 1985, and wrote and directed his first feature film, *Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench*, while an undergraduate at Harvard University. The film was nominated at the 2009 Gotham Independent Film Awards and was released theatrically in 2010. It was one of Metacritic's 20 best-reviewed films of 2010 and appeared on the best-of lists of *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Globe*, *Time Out New York*, *Film Comment* and *The Boston Phoenix*.

In late 2012, Chazelle directed a short film based on part of his feature screenplay *Whiplash*. The screenplay appeared on the 2012 Black List, and the short won the Short Film Jury Award for U.S. Fiction at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. Chazelle recently completed the feature version of *Whiplash*, produced by Jason Reitman's Right of Way Films, Jason Blum's Blumhouse Productions, and Bold Films.

## ABOUT THE CAST

**Miles Teller (Andrew)** had the distinct honor and privilege of making his feature screen debut opposite Nicole Kidman in the film based on the Pulitzer Prize winning play *Rabbit Hole*. In this tragic family drama, directed by John Cameron Mitchell, Miles played ‘Jason Willette,’ a bit of a loner teen who escapes into a world of comic books and science fiction.

Miles was born in Downingtown, Pennsylvania and during those formative years he developed a love of sports and has remained a die-hard Phillies and Eagles fan. The family moved to Citrus County, Florida when Miles was twelve. “Nice weather...we play baseball all year round.”

During his sophomore year he and his best friend auditioned for *Footloose* because “the Drama Club Counselor was really pretty.” His pal got the lead and Miles was cast as ‘Willard,’ the best friend. As a result he was recruited to attend a six-week performing arts class in New York City at the New York School for Film and TV. Back in Florida he participated in the Florida State Thespian Festival. His monologue was impressive enough to represent his district at the state event. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from high school and auditioned for Julliard and New York University. After what he thought was a disastrous audition, Miles was thrilled that NYU did accept him. Ironically Miles was cast once again as Willard, but this time in the new Paramount film *Footloose*, which was released in October 2011.

He was most recently seen in Relativity’s *21 And Over*, Todd Phillips *Project X*, *The Spectacular Now* with Shailene Woodley and recently wrapped production on *Get A Job* opposite Bryan Cranston and Anna Kendrick, *Two Night Stand* with Analeigh Tipton and Kid Cudi and *That Awkward Moment* with Zac Efron and Michael B. Jordan. He is currently filming *Divergent*, based on the best-selling novel by Veronica Roth, which has been compared to similar young adult books such as *The Hunger Games*.

**J.K. Simmons (Fletcher)** has appeared in diverse projects spanning motion pictures, television and the stage on and off Broadway. He is known for playing the character J. Jonah Jameson in Sam Raimi’s *Spider Man* trilogy. Other motion picture credits include *Hidalgo*, *The Ladykillers*, *The Mexican*, *Off the Map*, *For Love of the Game*, *The Gift*, *Thank You for Smoking*, *Rendition*, *Burn After Reading* and, memorably, his portrayal of the off-beat but not deadbeat father, Mac McGuff, in the hit comedy *Juno*.

Simmons’ latest films include *The Words*, *The Music Never Stopped*, *Jennifer’s Body*, *Extract*, *The Vicious Kind*, *I Love You Man*, *Beginner’s Guide to Endings*, *Contraband* and the Academy

Award-nominated *Up in the Air*. Last year he filmed the Steve Jobs biopic, *Jobs*, as well as Jason Reitman's upcoming film, *Labor Day*. Earlier this year, JK wrapped shooting Marc Lawrence's film, *The Reluctant Professor* opposite Hugh Grant and Marisa Tomei and as well as Gillian Raimi's next feature *Murder of a Cat*. Most recently, JK filmed Jeremy Sisto's feature *Breakpoint*.

On the small screen Simmons played LAPD Assistant Chief Will Pope in TNT's hit series "The Closer." He also played Vern Schillinger on HBO's acclaimed drama "Oz," and had a recurring role as Dr. Emil Skoda on NBC's "Law & Order." He has had guest starring roles on NBC's "Parks and Recreation," and a recurring role on TBS' new hit comedy "Men at Work."

Simmons has appeared on the Broadway stage in performances of "Guys and Dolls," "Laughter on the 23rd Floor," "A Change in the Heir," "Peter Pan" and "A Few Good Men."

This winter, JK will start shooting NBC's new comedy "Growing Up Fisher" opposite Jenna Elfman.

**Melissa Benoist (Nicole)** just wrapped production on the feature *Imagine*, opposite Al Pacino, Jennifer Garner, Christopher Plummer and Annette Bening for director Dan Fogelman. Benoist got her start in the independent film *Tennessee*. She guest starred on "Blue Bloods," "The Good Wife" and "Law & Order SVU" SVU before her arc on Showtime's critically acclaimed series "Homeland." Benoist beat out 900 other girls nationwide to land the new female leading role of "Marley" on FOX's hit show "Glee."

**Paul Reiser (Jim)** is a seasoned actor, writer, producer and stand-up comedian and continues to add to his list of accomplishments. In addition to co-creating and starring in the critically acclaimed NBC series, "Mad About You," which garnered him multiple Emmy, Golden Globe, American Comedy Award and Screen Actors Guild nominations for Best Actor in a Comedy Series, Reiser this year starred opposite Matt Damon and Michael Douglas in the Steven Soderbergh-directed HBO movie "Behind The Candelabra", a film that won eleven primetime Emmy's.

Also this year, Reiser can be seen in two highly anticipated Sundance Film Festival contenders; "Life After Beth," a horror-comedy starring Aubrey Plaza and Oscar-nominees Anna Kendrick and John C. Reilly; and "Whiplash," based on a 2013 Sundance-winning short film of the same name starring JK Simmons and Sundance Festival favorite Miles Teller.

In 2011, Reiser created, executive-produced and starred in, “The Paul Reiser Show” which aired on NBC in the Spring of that year.

2005 saw the release of, “The Thing About My Folks,” Reiser’s first original screenplay in which he starred alongside Oscar-winning actors Peter Falk and Olympia Dukakis.

In 2003 Reiser made his theatrical debut in Woody Allen’s “Writer’s Block.” The evening of one-act comedies marked Mr. Allen’s first time out as a director for the stage.

Reiser’s successes also include his book *Couplehood*, which sold over two million copies and reached the number one spot on The New York Times bestseller list and *Babyhood*, his follow-up book which features his trademark humorous take on the adventures of being a first-time father, which also made The New York Times bestseller list. His third book, *Familyhood*, hit the shelves in 2011.

Born and raised in New York City, Reiser attended the State University of New York at Binghamton where he majored in Music - Piano and Composition. Reiser co-wrote “The Final Frontier” – the theme song from “Mad About You” with Grammy-winning producer Don Was, and in 2011 he released an album of original songs with British Singer/songwriter Julia Fordham called “Unusual Suspects.”

Reiser is also remembered for notable performances in films such as “Diner,” “Bye, Bye Love,” “The Marrying Man,” “Aliens,” “One Night at McCool’s” and “Beverly Hills Cop” (“I” and “II”).

Paul Reiser and his family currently reside in Los Angeles.

**Austin Stowell (Ryan)** is one of the industry’s most promising rising stars with an enviable slate of upcoming films. In 2014, he co-stars in film projects including *WHIPLASH* opposite Miles Teller; *BEHAVING BADLY* opposite Selena Gomez; and *DOLPHIN TALE 2*, the sequel to Warner Bros’ 2011 hit film.

STOWELL was most recently seen in Steven Soderbergh’s *BEHIND THE CANDELABRA*, the award-winning HBO film based on the life of celebrated pianist Liberace, played by Michael Douglas. In 2012, he starred opposite Liam Hemsworth in *LOVE AND HONOR*, winning the lead role over Hollywood’s most in-demand young actors.

STOWELL broke onto the movie scene in 2011 with a compelling performance in *DOLPHIN TALE*, opposite Morgan Freeman, Harry Connick Jr. and Ashley Judd. From the producers of

THE BLIND SIDE, this inspirational true story follows a brave dolphin and the compassionate strangers who banded together to fight for her survival. STOWELL plays a wounded Marine, whose quest for his own rehabilitation and his strong bond with his young cousin, serves as the inspiration for building a prosthetic tail that saves the dolphin's life. The Warner Brothers film was both critically acclaimed and widely received at the box office.

His introduction to Hollywood came as 'Jesse' on SECRET LIFE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER. What began as a single episode gig turned into a 17 episode arc spanning two seasons on the hit ABC Family series, thanks to STOWELL's charm and his character's popularity.

Growing up in Connecticut, STOWELL was a competitive athlete. After a sports injury sidelined him, he agreed to perform in a local theater production and it was there that he discovered a passion for acting. A college recruiter in the audience of this performance offered STOWELL a full scholarship the University of Connecticut Department of Dramatic Arts. Shortly after graduating, STOWELL moved to LA, where he currently resides, to pursue acting professionally.

**Nate Lang (Carl)** is an actor, writer and musician based in Los Angeles.

He most recently finished shooting the independent film WHIPLASH opposite Miles Teller and JK Simmons. The project is written and directed by Damien Chazelle who also wrote and directed Nate in the 2013 Sundance Jury Prize Award winning short film by the same name. Jason Reitman and Blumhouse are producing.

He also co-stars in the upcoming Paramount Insurge feature, DESTINATION WEDDING. Other credits include Yahoo's THE FUZZ and HBO's FUNNY OR DIE PRESENTS.

Nate performs regularly at the UCB Theatre. He is originally from New Bedford, Massachusetts.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

**Jason Blum (Producer)** is the founder and CEO of Blumhouse Productions, a multi-media production company that has pioneered a new model of studio filmmaking- producing high-quality micro-budget films for wide release. Since its launch in 2000, Blumhouse has produced more than 30 feature films including the highly-profitable *Paranormal Activity* and *Insidious* franchises, *The Purge* and *Sinister*.

In the past two years, Blumhouse, a director driven company that helps filmmakers like James DeMonaco, Scott Derrickson and James Wan tell genre stories that they are passionate about, has produced eight movies that far out-grossed their budgets on opening weekend.

Blumhouse's *The Purge*, its first production under its first-look deal with Universal Pictures, opened to more than \$34 million on its opening weekend of June 7<sup>th</sup>, with a budget of just \$3 million. The company's most recent film *Insidious: Chapter 2* from FilmDistrict, grossed over \$40 million on its opening weekend of September 13<sup>th</sup> with just a \$5m budget.

Blum's model began with the original *Paranormal Activity*, which was made for \$15,000, released by Paramount Pictures, and grossed close to \$200 million worldwide, making it the most profitable film in the history of Hollywood. Blumhouse also produced the phenomenally successful sequels *Paranormal Activity 2*, *Paranormal Activity 3* and *Paranormal Activity 4*.

Blumhouse's franchises include James Wan's *Insidious* which had a budget of \$1.5m and grossed close to \$100m worldwide and *Sinister*, directed and co-written by Scott Derrickson and starring Ethan Hawke for Lionsgate/Summit which has grossed over \$87 million worldwide on a \$3 million budget.

Blumhouse's upcoming micro-budget wide releases include *Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones* for Paramount; *Jessabelle* for Lionsgate; and *Stretch* for Universal.

For Halloween 2012, Blumhouse built *The Blumhouse of Horrors*, an innovative and frightening haunted house experience in the heart of downtown Los Angeles. Blumhouse's Los Angeles-based movie production team used its expertise in horror film production, storytelling, and movie set design to transform the Variety Arts Theater into a fully-immersive and chillingly intense Halloween attraction. In 2013, Blumhouse invited horror fans to experience *The Purge: Fear the Night*, a live-event inspired by the backstory to the feature film.

In television, Blumhouse has a first-look deal with Lionsgate and is working on both scripted and non-scripted projects. Blumhouse executive produced *The River* for ABC, *Stranded* for

SyFy, *'The Normal Heart'* directed by Ryan Murphy for HBO and *'Eye Candy'* starring Victoria Justice for MTV.

Blum's credits also include: *The Tooth Fairy*, starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, *The Reader*, for which Kate Winslet won an Academy Award; *Hysterical Blindness*, starring Uma Thurman, which aired on HBO and garnered Thurman a Golden Globe Award; and *Hamlet* starring Ethan Hawke, Bill Murray, Sam Shepard and Kyle MacLachlan.

Blum began his career as the producing director of the Malaparte theater company, which was founded by Ethan Hawke. He currently is a member of the Academy, is on the Sundance Institute's Director's Advisory Group and serves on the Board of Directors of the New Group Theater in New York City.

**Helen Estabrook (Producer)** is the producing partner of filmmaker Jason Reitman and runs Right of Way Films. She most recently produced Reitman's film, LABOR DAY, starring Josh Brolin and Kate Winslet, which will be in theaters January 31<sup>st</sup>. They also produced the feature version of the Sundance-winning short WHIPLASH, directed by Damien Chazelle, and will serve as executive producers on DEMOLITION, which Jean Marc Vallee will direct from the script by Bryan Sipe. Right of Way has a first-look deal with Indian Paintbrush with whom they made the Duplass Brothers' film JEFF, WHO LIVES AT HOME and Reitman's previous feature, YOUNG ADULT. They are currently shooting Reitman's next film, which he wrote with Erin Cressida Wilson.

**Michel Litvak (Producer)** is a Belgian industrialist who founded the independent production and finance company Bold Films in 2004. With a dedication to making commercial films with artistic vision, Litvak has diversified the company's slate by developing films in a wide variety of genres that include dramas, thrillers, sci-fi and independent festival favorites.

Litvak recently wrapped production on HOW TO CATCH A MONSTER, his third production with Academy Award<sup>®</sup>-nominated actor Ryan Gosling. The film, which marks Gosling's debut as writer and director, stars Christina Hendricks, Saoirse Ronan, Ben Mendelsohn and Eva Mendes. Recent features include the award winning DRIVE starring Gosling and directed by Nicolas Refn, ONLY GOD FORGIVES starring Gosling and Kristin Scott Thomas; and EVIDENCE starring Stephen Moyer, Radha Mitchell, Torrey DeVitto and Caitlin Stasey.

Litvak continues to broaden and elevate the company's lineup by producing and financing feature projects NIGHTCRAWLER, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Rene Russo, THE COUP starring Owen Wilson and Pierce Brosnan, and WHIPLASH from emerging writer-director

Damien Chazelle. He is also producing and financing THE BLACK BOX, a 13-episode drama scheduled to air on the ABC Television Network, and DOMINION, a TV series for the SyFy Channel.

Earlier films included the 2006 Golden Globe® nominee for Best Picture BOBBY, directed by Emilio Estevez and starring Sir Anthony Hopkins, Demi Moore, Shia Lebouf, William H. Macy and Sharon Stone. Other films include the 2008 Toronto Film Festival Official Selection MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, with Susan Sarandon and Anton Yelchin, the sci-fi thriller STARSHIP TROOPERS 3, the acclaimed drama COME EARLY MORNING, featuring the powerful performance of Ashley Judd, and the Official Selection of both the 2009 Toronto and Venice International Film Festivals THE HOLE from GREMLINS director Joe Dante that won the first ever Primo Persol Award in Venice. In 2010, Sony released his apocalyptic thriller LEGION, which starred Paul Bettany and Dennis Quaid and grossed over \$75 million worldwide.

**David Lancaster (Producer)** is the Co-President of Bold Films. Since the early 1980s, he has been involved in the development, finance, production and distribution of over 35 motion pictures and several major stage plays. His most recent production, DRIVE, directed by Nicolas Winding Refn and starring Ryan Gosling, was released by FILMDISTRICT and has grossed over \$80 million worldwide.

He began his career on Broadway as co-producer of Marsha Norman's NIGHT, MOTHER starring Kathy Bates. He then served as associate producer of David Mamet's AMERICAN BUFFALO starring Al Pacino and Beth Henley's THE WAKE OF JAMIE FOSTER, the follow-up to her Pulitzer Prize-winning CRIMES OF THE HEART. Broadway led Lancaster to his feature film debut - the Golden Globe-winning feature film adaptation of NIGHT, MOTHER starring Anne Bancroft and Sissy Spacek for Universal. He subsequently produced the award-winning Robert Altman drama THE LAUNDROMAT for HBO, starring Carol Burnett and Amy Madigan.

In 1990 he founded David Lancaster Productions. Notable films include the New Orleans character drama A LOVE SONG FOR BOBBY LONG starring John Travolta & Scarlett Johansson, the Stephen King thriller RIDING THE BULLET with David Arquette and Barbara Hershey, PERSONS UNKNOWN, directed by George Hickenlooper and starring Naomi Watts, Kelly Lynch and Joe Mantegna. Others features include the urban romantic comedy LOVING JEZEBEL, Winner of the 2000 SXSW Audience Award, action/horror adventure WES CRAVEN'S: THE BREED, starring Michelle Rodriguez as well as the experimental spoken word film, THE SADNESS OF SEX with Barry Yourgrau.

In 2006 Lancaster joined Bold Films as Co-President and serves as Producer on all of the company's features. His first task at Bold Films was to oversee post-production on the Golden Globe Best Picture Nominated RFK drama BOBBY, from Director Emilio Estevez. Since his arrival, Lancaster has also produced the Joe Dante directed suspense thriller THE HOLE 3D, the 2008 Toronto Film Festival Selection MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, starring Susan Sarandon and Anton Yelchin; the 2010 apocalyptic thriller LEGION, starring Paul Bettany and Dennis Quaid which has grossed over 75MM worldwide; the found footage thriller EVIDENCE directed by Olatunde Osunsanmi; and Nicholas Winding Refn's DRIVE and ONLY GOD FORGIVES both starring Ryan Gosling.

Lancaster continues his role as company head and Producer on feature film projects including Ryan Gosling's directorial debut HOW TO CATCH A MONSTER, with Christina Hendricks, Saoirse Ronan, Ben Mendelsohn, and Eva Mendes, NIGHTCRAWLER, written and directed by Dan Gilroy and starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Rene Russo, Damien Chazelle's WHIPLASH starring Miles Teller and J.K. Simmons, THE COUP starring Owen Wilson, Pierce Brosnan, and Lake Bell as well as the 13-episode television drama THE BLACK BOX for the ABC Television Network, and Syfy's new series DOMINION based on Bold's feature film, LEGION.

David is thrilled to be back on Broadway this coming February with the new musical from the acclaimed novel and film, THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY, starring four-time Tony®-Nominee Kelli O'Hara and Stephen Pasquale, directed by Bartlett Sher, the Tony-winning director of South Pacific, featuring the Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning team of Jason Robert Brown (music and lyrics) and Marsha Norman (book).

David Lancaster is a native Texan and currently resides in Los Angeles, California with his wife Karen.

**Jason Reitman (Executive Producer)** premiered his first short film, *Operation*, at the Sundance Film Festival in 1998. Reitman made his feature film debut with the 2006 hit *Thank You For Smoking*. He next directed *Juno* in 2007 for which he earned his first Oscar nomination, followed by *Up in the Air* in 2009, which was recognized with six Academy Award® nominations and earned Reitman a Golden Globe® and the WGA Award for Best Screenplay. In 2011, Reitman reteamed with Diablo Cody for the critically acclaimed *Young Adult*, starring Charlize Theron and Patton Oswalt. His latest film, *Labor Day*, which he adapted from the novel by Joyce Maynard and stars Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin, will be released on December 27 by Paramount. He is currently in pre-production on MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN that he adapted from the novel by Chad Kultgen.

**Gary Michael Walters (Executive Producer)** is the Co-President of Bold Films and is actively involved in all aspects of the company including production, development, distribution and finance. In early 2004, European industrial mogul Michel Litvak founded Bold Films along with Walters and hired him as President of the company. Since that time, Walters has played a vital role in the growth and success of the company, establishing Bold Film's International Sales division and redefining the direction of company's slate, placing a firm focus on studio caliber features with top tier filmmakers and A-List talent.

Walters was born in New York, the son of legendary music agent, Norby Walters. He was educated at both Princeton University, where he majored in Statistics and Fordham Law School, where he graduated cum laude. In addition to his academic achievements, Walters also has the rare distinction of being a winner on JEOPARDY. After working on Wall Street as a financial consultant for Johnson & Higgins and serving as a corporate lawyer at Cravath, Swaine & Moore, Walters moved to Los Angeles and entered show business via the entertainment law division of Loeb & Loeb. Following several years of solo law practice, Walters commenced his film-producing career in 2003, specializing in the financing of independent features. During this period, he produced a number of features including STANDING STILL starring James Van Der Beek, Mena Suvari and Colin Hanks; and I LOVE YOUR WORK starring Vince Vaughn, Christina Ricci, Giovanni Ribisi, Jason Lee and Franka Potente.

He has served as Executive Producer on all of Bold's pictures, most notably the critically acclaimed DRIVE directed by Nicolas Winding Refn and the Golden Globe Nominated RFK drama BOBBY, featuring a star studded ensemble cast that included Anthony Hopkins, Sharon Stone, Shia LaBeouf, Demi Moore and Martin Sheen. Other Executive Producing credits at Bold include the Sony release, LEGION starring Paul Bettany; THE HOLE 3D from visionary director Joe Dante; 2008 Toronto Film Festival Official Selection MIDDLE OF NOWHERE starring Susan Sarandon and Anton Yelchin; MINI'S FIRST TIME starring Nikki Reed, Alec Baldwin, Luke Wilson, Carrie Anne Moss & Jeff Goldblum; 2006 Sundance Official Selection COME EARLY MORNING starring Ashley Judd; director Olatunde Osunsanmi's found footage thriller EVIDENCE starring Stephen Moyer and Radha Mitchell; and Nicolas Winding Refn's ONLY GOD FORGIVES starring Ryan Gosling and Kristin Scott Thomas.

Walters continues his role as Executive Producer for Bold's feature film projects including Ryan Gosling's directorial debut HOW TO CATCH A MONSTER, NIGHTCRAWLER starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Rene Russo, Damien Chazelle's WHIPLASH starring J.K. Simmons, THE COUP starring Owen Wilson and Pierce Brosnan, and the 13-episode television drama THE BLACK BOX for ABC Television Network.

He maintains a bicoastal presence with residences in both Los Angeles and his native New York City. He remains committed to producing meaningful films and empowering filmmakers to bring

their singular visions to the screen.

**Couper Samuleson (Executive Producer)** is the executive vice president of Blumhouse Productions, the low-budget production company behind original horror franchises like *Paranormal Activity*, *Insidious*, and *The Purge*. He previously worked at Paramount, where he produced that studio's upcoming micro budget comedy *Drunk Weddings*. Prior to that, he worked at the production company 2929, where he co-produced two films that were nominated for Cannes' Palme d'Or, *We Own The Night* and *Two Lovers*. He began his career as an assistant in CAA's motion picture department. In addition to executive producing the feature length film, Samuelson produced the short film *Whiplash* that won the US Jury Award at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival.

**Jeanette Volturno Brill (Executive Producer)** has more than 20 years of production experience working in the film, television and music video industries. She established her company CatchLight in 1999 and has served as an executive producer for the romantic comedies *In the Weeds* and *Amy's Orgasm*. She produced of the *World Festival of Sacred Music* documentaries, which were inspired and hosted by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

In 2012, Brill joined Blumhouse Productions as Head of Production. Since taking that post, she co-produced Dimension Films' *Dark Skies* in addition to Film District's upcoming *Insidious: Chapter 2*, among others. Prior to joining Blumhouse Productions full-time, Brill line produced for *The Purge* producer Jason Blum on the hugely successful *Paranormal Activity* franchise: *Paranormal Activity*, *Paranormal Activity 2* and *Paranormal Activity 3*, as well as James Wan's *Insidious*, and Barry Levinson's environmental thriller *The Bay*.

**Melanie Paizis Jones (Production Designer)** is a Los Angeles based production designer and art director. Her diverse body of work includes commercials for companies like Disney, Toshiba, and Capital One as well as art directing for Annie Leibovitz's Vanity Fair magazine photoshoots, featuring Hollywood's biggest and brightest stars. Currently, Melanie's work can be seen in *The Purge* starring Ethan Hawke, which opened number one at the box office. Her most recent project as production designer was for the feature film *Lazarus*, directed by David Gelb (*Jiro Dreams of Sushi*) starring Mark Duplass and Olivia Wilde. Melanie is a member of the Art Director's Guild.

**Sharone Meir (Director of Photography)** was born in Israel, and his interest in film began with photography classes in high school. That catalyst led him to attend both the Bezalel Academy of

Arts in Jerusalem and the prestigious Sam Spiegel School of Film and Television, where he received numerous scholarships and cinematography awards. After graduating with honors, Sharone moved to Los Angeles to continue his education at the American Film Institute (AFI).

Since graduating from AFI, Sharone has established himself as a distinctly unique cinematographer, shooting a remarkable variety of projects, including the award-winning indie drama MEAN CREEK, the dark and disturbing LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT, the sports drama COACH CARTER and the period musical DARK STREETS. His work also encompasses television where he has created the quirky and stylized pilots for "Suburgatory" and "Raising Hope" plus the gritty dramas "Men of a Certain Age" and "Medical Investigation". Sharone has also photographed commercials all around the world and enjoyed shooting music videos for such diverse artists as Joe Cocker, Pink, Nas and The All-American Rejects.

Sharone recently went back to his native Israel to shoot the feature UP THE WRONG TREE and was subsequently nominated for the Israeli equivalent of the Academy Award for his cinematography in that film. In addition to his ongoing career in cinematography, Sharone continues to explore still photography with large format fine art projects.

**Terri Taylor (Casting Director)** has worked on over 40 feature films over the course of her almost 20-year career in casting. They've ranged from big studio releases to surprise gems from the independent film world. She has worked with Academy Award winning directors, such as: Steven Spielberg, Mike Nichols, Sam Mendes and Steven Soderbergh; as well as acclaimed up-and-comers, like: Craig Brewer, Sasha Gervasi and most recently, *Whiplash* director, Damien Chazelle.

Taylor first met Chazelle when producer Jason Blum introduced them on the short-film version of *Whiplash*. The short caught the attention of critics and audiences when it premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and went on to win Best U.S. Short Film. Its success led to Bold Films financing and producing the feature length film and Taylor once again teamed up with Blum, Jason Reitman (Executive Producer) and Chazelle to cast the movie.

*Whiplash* marks the sixth film Taylor has cast for Blumhouse Films. She met Jason Blum when she was hired to help cast the wildly successful *Paranormal Activity 2*. She went onto cast each installment of the series thereafter; as well as the Blum-produced upcoming film, *Curve*, directed by Iain Softley (*Wings of the Dove*, *K-Pax*).

Last year, Taylor cast the critically acclaimed *Hitchcock*, directed by Sasha Gervasi. The movie garnered much attention and praise for its ensemble cast of Anthony Hopkins, Helen Mirren, Scarlett Johanson, Jessica Beal and Toni Collette. For her effort, Taylor was nominated for

Casting Society of America's ARTIOS Award.

Taylor started her casting career as an assistant and then associate to reputed casting director Debra Zane. As an associate, she helped cast *Catch Me If You Can*, *Traffic*, *Road To Perdition*, *Galaxy Quest* and *The Legend of Baggar Vance*, to name a few. Later she partnered with Zane, co-casting *Seabiscuit* and *War of The Worlds*. Spielberg then hired her to be his US Casting Consultant on the Oscar nominated film, *Munich*.

Besides her career as an independent casting director, Taylor spent time as a casting consultant for Miramax Films, working on such projects as: *Adventureland*, *The Debt* and *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark*. She also worked as a studio executive for Paramount Pictures where she helped oversee *No Strings Attached*, *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, *Super 8*, *Footloose* and *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol*.

Taylor has been married for 18 years to Gregg Taylor, the Head of Development for Dreamworks Animation. They have two children and live in Los Angeles

**Tom Cross (Editor)** Tom Cross is an editor of feature films, documentaries and television. Notable credits include Travis Fine's ANY DAY NOW (Editor), Scott Cooper's CRAZY HEART (Additional Editor), the David Milch HBO series DEADWOOD (Assistant Editor), and Michel Negroponte's science-fiction documentary W.I.S.O.R. (Editor).

He received his B.F.A. in Visual Arts from SUNY Purchase in 1993 and cut his teeth in commercial editing in NYC. He then entered the independent film world as an Assistant Editor on such films as Ang Lee's Civil War drama RIDE WITH THE DEVIL and Rob Schmidt's horror film WRONG TURN, before becoming the Additional Editor on James Gray's WE OWN THE NIGHT and TWO LOVERS. Next, he edited THE SPACE BETWEEN and ANY DAY NOW for director Travis Fine. Both films premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Cross then collaborated with director Damien Chazelle on the short film, WHIPLASH, which won the Short Film Jury Award: U.S. Fiction at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. In addition to editing the feature version of WHIPLASH, Cross recently cut the feature film TIME LAPSE for director Bradley King.

### **Justin Hurwitz (Music)**

Justin Hurwitz graduated from Harvard University in 2008, where he studied music. He composed the songs and score for the 2010 film musical GUY AND MADELINE ON A PARK BENCH, directed by Damien Chazelle. He and Chazelle are prepping LA LA LAND, a new

song and dance musical for Lionsgate.

## **About Bold Films**

Bold Films is an independent production and film finance company dedicated to providing an artistic haven for filmmakers. The company recently wrapped its third production with Academy Award<sup>®</sup>-nominated actor Ryan Gosling on HOW TO CATCH A MONSTER. The film, which marks Gosling's debut as writer and director, stars Christina Hendricks, Saoirse Ronan, Ben Mendelsohn and Eva Mendes.

Recent releases include ONLY GOD FORGIVES, directed by Nicolas Refn and starring Ryan Gosling and Kristin Scott Thomas and EVIDENCE, starring Stephen Moyer, Radha Mitchell, Torrey DeVitto and Caitlin Stasey. Bold also produced the award-winning film DRIVE.

In October, the company started production on NIGHTCRAWLER, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Rene Russo and Bill Paxton. Dan Gilroy wrote the script and is directing the film produced by Jennifer Fox, Tony Gilroy, and Gyllenhaal, along with Bold. Bold is also producing and financing WHIPLASH, the next feature from emerging writer-director Damien Chazelle starring Miles Teller, J.K. Simmons, Paul Reiser and Melissa Benoist. Bold produced the film alongside Blumhouse Productions and Right of Way Films. They are also financing and producing THE COUP, starring Owen Wilson, Pierce Brosnan and Lake Bell. The action thriller was written by John Erick Dowdle and Drew Dowdle and is being directed by John Erick Dowdle. Drew Dowdle is also producing.

In television, Bold is producing THE BLACK BOX, a 13-episode drama scheduled to air on the ABC Television Network. The company is also producing the drama DOMINION for Syfy along with Universal Cable Productions.

## **About Right of Way Films**

Right of Way Films is the production company of acclaimed writer-director/producer, Jason Reitman. Based in Los Angeles and devoted to producing quality, character-driven films, Right of Way is run by Reitman's producing partner, Helen Estabrook. The company most recently finished LABOR DAY, an adaptation of Joyce Maynard's novel, written and directed by Reitman and starring Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin, which will be released by Paramount later this year. Before that, they made Reitman's YOUNG ADULT, written by Diablo Cody and starring Charlize Theron, and produced JEFF WHO LIVES AT HOME, written and directed by Jay and Mark Duplass, starring Jason Segel, Ed Helms and Susan Sarandon. All three of these films were made in association with Indian Paintbrush, where Right of Way has a first look deal. A number of other projects are currently in development, including DEMOLTION, a Black List script from writer Bryan Sipe that Jean-Marc Vallee will direct; ELLIOT ALLAGASH, a film

adaptation of Simon Rich's book, with Jeffrey Blitz attached to direct; and Reitman's MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN, adapted from the novel by Chad Kultgen

### **About Blumhouse Productions**

Blumhouse Productions, founded by Jason Blum, is a multi-media production company that has pioneered a new model of studio filmmaking- producing high-quality micro-budget films for wide release. Since its launch in 2000, Blumhouse has produced more than 30 feature films including the highly-profitable *Paranormal Activity* and *Insidious* franchises, *The Purge* and *Sinister*. Eight of Blumhouse's recent films have grossed a combined \$1 billion at the worldwide box-office on budgets under \$50 million.

Blumhouse's *The Purge*, its first production under its first-look deal with Universal Pictures, opened to more than \$34 million on its opening weekend of June 7, with a budget of just \$3 million. *Insidious: Chapter Two* from FilmDistrict, grossed \$41.05 million on its opening weekend of September 13th with just a \$5m budget. Blumhouse's upcoming micro-budget wide releases include *Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones* for Paramount and *Jessabelle* for Lionsgate. In addition, Blumhouse is working on both scripted and non-scripted projects in television. Blumhouse executive produced *Stranded* for SyFy and *The River* for ABC, and is also working on projects with HBO and MTV.