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Film Festival

"Combines the unexpected humor and intimate emotionality of Carson McCullers with the lived-in working-class detail of director Mike Leigh." -- Michael Sragow, *Baltimore Sun*

"Swimmers was the most poignant and moving film I saw at Sundance 2005." -- Reed Martin, *USA Today*

"A deeply-felt, human-scale story." --James Greenberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*

"Raw and riveting." --Daniel Wible, *Film Threat*

Press Kit



SHAWN HATOSY
- 2005 Tony Award, Best Actress for "Doubt"
CHERRY JONES
ROBERT KNOTT
MICHAEL MOSLEY
SARAH PAULSON
and introducing
TARA DEVON GALLAGHER

Swimmers

a film by DOUG SADLER

A PRODUCTION OF DAMAGE CONTROL FILM PRODUCTION & HORIZEN GLOBAL PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH QUASIWORLD ENTERTAINMENT
A DOUG SADLER FILM "SWIMMERS" SHAWN HATOSY CHERRY JONES ROBERT KNOTT MICHAEL MOSLEY SARAH PAULSON & INTRODUCING TARA DEVON GALLAGHER
CASTING ELLEN PARKS CSA COSTUME DESIGNER ANE CRABTREE MUSIC SUPERVISOR SUSAN JACOBS MUSIC BY PAUL CANTELON & DAVID DARLING
EDITED BY LILAH BANKIER AFFONSO GONÇALVES & SUSAN KORDA PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARK WHITE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY RODNEY TAYLOR
CO-PRODUCER DANIEL BICKEL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ERAN CONFORTY ELI GONDA CHRIS HUDDLESTON BELTON LEE MICHAEL LIN & ELI NAVON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS OPHIRA DAGAN & LISA GREEN PRODUCED BY MELANIE BACKER DAVID W. LEITNER & MICHAEL YANKO WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY DOUG SADLER

design by StudioPak / bottom photo by Jin Pak / top photo by Linda Farwell

Swimmers

A Film by Doug Sadler

A Production by
Damage Control Filmproduction & Horizen Global Productions
In association with QuasiWorld Entertainment

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Swimmers

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Festivals

KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL July 1 – 9, 2005

GALWAY FILM FLEADH July 5 – 10, 2005

MAINE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL July 15 - 24, 2005

Awards

2005 SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
GRAND JURY PRIZE, BEST NEW AMERICAN FILM

“We have decided to award this year’s New American Cinema prize to Doug Sadler’s Swimmers, in recognition of its intelligent, emotional perspective on American family. With a screenplay that sidesteps convention (while honoring a certain classicism of storytelling), and performances that do justice to their characters’ often-surprising patterns of behavior, Swimmers shows us a working class family that transcends discussions of Red States and Blue States, focusing instead on the infinitely more complex, beautiful, and rewarding inner life of real human beings, proving that ordinary people are always the most compelling characters.”

--Jury Statement

2005 21st FESTROIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
PRIZE CITY HALL OF SETÚBAL, BEST FILM - AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

2005 HUMANITAS PRIZE – Sundance Feature Film Category
SWIMMERS is one of three finalists for the prestigious, Humanitas Prize, now in its 31st year.

Reviews

Jan. 31, 2005

Swimmers

By James Greenberg



PARK CITY -- Before Miramax brought independent film to the multiplex and Sundance made it a national sport, American independent cinema was about regional filmmaking. Small, well-told stories rooted in a specific time and place. A rocky coming-of-age tale set along the Maryland coast, "Swimmers" is that kind of film. Mature audiences looking for a deeply-felt, human-scale story should be given the chance to enjoy this one in theaters.

More than anything, "Swimmers" is a realistic and loving portrait of a twelve-year-old girl's inner life. Emma Tyler (Tara Devon Gallagher) is, in her father's words, a peeler--a young crab that is shedding its shell before moving on to the next stage of growth. Unfortunately, Emma's serene if not particularly joyful life hits a snag when she develops an ear problem that calls for a costly operation.

Living off the water in the Chesapeake Bay is at best a precarious business. Emma's father Will (Robert Knott) fishes for crabs and oysters but changing economics and environmental conditions make it a losing proposition. A strong, silent type, he is predictably driven to drink by his shortcomings, which leaves the work of keeping the family together and finding money to the matriarch Julia (Cherry Jones).

Perhaps because it's a region that has not been seen a lot on film, it is easy to feel the beauty as well as the hardship of life here. As her family situation worsens, Emma makes friends with Merrill (Sarah Paulson), a highly strung young woman with a troubled past who has just returned to town. The two form a bond based on old suffering and new respect. Sarah is the kind of strange presence we meet in movies who comes into someone's life and leaves. Dark and given to manic bouts of depression, Sarah is an intriguing character who could have used a bit more backstory.

The complications of the plot are not surprising and almost besides the point. Emma's brother Clyde (Sean Hatosy) falls for Sarah; that doesn't work out. There's bad blood between Clyde and Emma's other brother Mike (Michael Mosley) and the two come to blows. And Julia and Will's marriage is threatened. Emma's one sanctuary had always been her love of swimming, but now with her ear problem, she can't even do that. In one way or another, everyone's life here is dependent on the water.

What really makes "Swimmers" special are the small touches rather than the big dramatic flourishes. Writer/director Doug Sadler somehow gets inside the head of a twelve-year-old girl and manages to communicate her dreams and fears. And it's the wonderful performances that make these people come alive. Gallagher, in her film debut, is soulful without being sappy, and Jones as her mother turns in her usual nuanced work. She can show more with a crease of the brow than most actors can with a page of dialogue. Veteran character actor Knott captures the darkness and light and quicksilver personality of a man at his wit's end. Beautiful work all around.

These are not just characters who were plopped down in an unusual location because someone thought

it would be an interesting place to shoot a movie. They belong here and their lives are part of the environment. Rodney Taylor's sensitive photography captures the uniqueness of the place but also the harshness as seen through a young girl's eyes. Although the story is familiar, the specifics make you feel like you've been taken someplace new.

January 29, 2005

Swimmers

By Daniel Wible



In a quiet working-class town on Maryland's coast, a young girl's innocence may forever be shattered as she confronts the realities of adult weakness and pain. The young girl is the focal point of "Swimmers," a raw and riveting family drama from writer/director Doug Sadler. Yes, I know what you're thinking: yet another family drama from the independent film circuit, oh what joy! But trust me on this one, if you're a lover of the finest in film acting and potent drama, "Swimmers" is one of those "smaller" films you won't want to miss.

In a breakthrough performance, Tara Devon Gallagher is Emma Tyler, a fiercely intelligent and observant 11-year old suffering from some unspecified illness requiring expensive surgery. Grounded, literally, from her favorite pastime, swimming, Emma is forced to look for alternative ways to pass those lazy summer days and soon meets Merrill (Sarah Paulson), a seriously damaged young woman newly returned home. In keeping with countless other Sundance '05 screenings I've caught, the two strike up, yes, a touching Unlikely Friendship. Though, to be fair, this friendship makes total sense and is therefore probably not all that unlikely. The sweetly innocent Emma allows the world-weary Merrill to in some ways reconnect with her own lost innocence, while Merrill, for her part, provides an oasis for Emma, who feels invisible at home in the eyes of her struggling parents. Will and Julia Tyler (superbly portrayed by Robert Knott and Cherry Jones, respectively) love their daughter immensely, but suffer the financial woes of a poor fishing season, the sudden loss of Will's boat (for which he may be responsible, having a reputation for liking the bottle, as they say), Will's fierce pride in not having to ask for handouts, and possibly even an extramarital affair. Added to this volatile mix of domestic strife and crisis is a love story desperately trying to emerge between Merrill and one of Emma's older brothers Clyde (Shawn Hatosy). As the two attempt to meet cute, Merrill's ugly past and pathologic need to be used threatens to resurface and destroy her newfound sense of purity.

Idyllically filmed in a small waterfront town along the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, "Swimmers" has a wonderfully evocative sense of place. Sadler and cinematographer Rodney Taylor draw exquisite visual parallels between the gentle rise and fall of the tide and the banal rhythms of daily seaside life. Their use of water as a timeless surrogate for life, hope, and even death, is particularly interesting, if not entirely original. Not to be outdone by the silent, but omnipresent character that is the setting, the film's cast is uniformly authentic and mesmerizing. Their noteworthy performances, along with Sadler's smartly observed script, elevate the film well above the Lifetime Channel schmalz you probably fear. Fresh from her recent stints in Shyamalan's "Signs" and "The Village", Cherry Jones pilfers nearly every scene she graces. Give this woman an Oscar already! As beaten goods, Sarah Paulson is equal parts desirable and nutty, but always in command of her role. But "Swimmers" is ultimately young Tara Devon Gallagher's film. The rookie actress improbably delivers a profoundly mature performance that belies her experience. Discovering all this emerging talent makes one remember why they come to Sundance in the first place.

PRINCIPAL CAST

Emma	TARA DEVON GALLAGHER
Julia	CHERRY JONES
Will	ROBERT KNOTT
Clyde	SHAWN HATOSY
Merrill	SARAH PAULSON
Mike	MICHAEL MOSLEY
Shellie	KATE GOEHRING

FILMMAKERS

Writer/ Director
Doug Sadler

Producers
Melanie Backer
David W. Leitner
Michael Yanko

Director of Photography
Rodney Taylor

Executive Producers
Ophira Dagan
Lisa Green

Executive Producers
Eran Conforty
Eli Gonda
Chris Huddleston
Belton Lee
Michael Lin
Eli Navon

Co-producer
Daniel Bickel

Casting
Ellen Parks, C.S.A.

Production Designer
Mark White

Costume Design
Ane Crabtree

Editors
Lilah Bankier
Affonso Gonçalves
Susan Korda

Music Supervisor
Susan Jacobs

Original score
Paul Cantelon
David Darling

Synopsis

Set in a small waterfront town tucked along the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, *SWIMMERS* follows the relationship between a lonely eleven year-old girl from a family of struggling watermen and an enigmatic young woman making an uneasy return to the home of her childhood. As the young woman provides an oasis from the stress and financial hardships that threaten to tear the girl's family apart, she in turn finds herself growing ever-dependent on the unconditional friendship and unlikely support the child provides.

SWIMMERS stars Tara Devon Gallagher (as eleven year-old Emma) and Sarah Paulson (as her confidante Merrill) in performances that achieve bare bones honesty. When Emma suddenly requires a vital medical procedure and her father (Robert Knott) loses his fishing boat – and his livelihood – Emma's family finds itself on the brink. Meanwhile, Merrill fights to reconcile the emotional turmoil of her past with her attraction to Emma's brother Clyde (Shawn Hatosy). As Emma's curiosity and interest lighten Merrill's perspective on her own soul searching, Merrill's influence provides the girl with a much needed sense of freedom and mischievousness. As Emma begins to unveil the story of Merrill's past, however, their friendship takes a dark turn and her mother (Cherry Jones) intervenes. Soon relationships collide and secrets are revealed in the fractious household.

Told from Emma's imaginative perspective, *SWIMMERS* is a fiercely intimate look at the strength and delicacy of family and an eloquent paean to the lifestyle of the Chesapeake waterman. Ultimately, the film illuminates the lives of people for whom survival and redemption often require heartbreaking negotiation with their daily hopes and fears.



Director's Statement

SWIMMERS is about people who have fallen out of balance with nature (both their own and the natural world), and whose lives depend upon regaining that balance. In order to illuminate these connections, I have chosen to observe this intense time in the Tyler family from the perspective of Emma, who, as the youngest, can still see and feel in a way that the adults around her cannot. Though Emma's voice and worldview have some relation to magical realism, SWIMMERS is a realistic portrait of the inner life of a girl still connected to the possibility and personality of the natural world around her. Since her reality includes the world of imagination, it is my responsibility as a filmmaker to follow her there. That said, SWIMMERS is grounded in a realistic style of performance and setting.

The fishermen of the Chesapeake Bay (or watermen as they are known locally) have lived for centuries on the crabs and oysters they harvest. A proud, independent tradition emblematic of the American spirit, watermen are also uniquely threatened by growth, environmental and economic concerns. Thus, Will Tyler and his family are particularly vulnerable to the sort of financial crisis with which they are confronted. The impracticality of Will's sons continuing this tradition also permeates their relationships with each other and themselves. This way of life, and Will's struggle to continue it, exemplify one of the things being lost in our drive toward technological and financial excess and resulting disconnection with nature.

I cannot overstate the subtlety with which I hoped to address the political and cultural issues raised by SWIMMERS. Ultimately, this is a story about people facing specific crises and striving to give birth to new dreams. It concludes with hope firmly rooted where it always has been: in that which is to come.

Doug Sadler



About the Cast



SWIMMERS marks TARA DEVON GALLAGHER's (Emma) motion picture debut. She also appears as a featured contestant in Marilyn Agrelo's documentary about competition ballroom dancing in the New York City public school system, MAD HOT BALLROOM, the opening night selection of the 2005 Slamdance Film Festival. For television, Gallagher has taken part in two children's specials – "Saagwa" for PBS and "My Favorite Book" for HBO as well as commercials for both Target and Chuck E. Cheese amongst others. Other credits include "The Children's Hour," directed by Austin Pendleton and the children's opera, "Brundiba." Gallagher lives in New York City.

CHERRY JONES (Julia), a two-time Tony Award winner is currently appearing in the Manhattan Theater Club production of John Patrick Shanley's "Doubt", for which she won her second Tony for Best Actress. Other Broadway appearances include Nora Ephron's "Imaginary Friends"; the Roundabout Theatre Company's production of "Major Barbara," directed by Daniel Sullivan; Lincoln Center Theatre's production of "The Heiress" for which she won the Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle and Drama League Awards; her Tony-nominated performance in "A Moon for the Misbegotten"; "Our Country's Good" (Tony Award nomination); "The Night of the Iguana"; "Angels in America"; "Macbeth" and "Stepping Out." Regional and off-Broadway credits include "Flesh & Blood," "Pride's Crossing" (Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Lucille Lortel Awards); "The Baltimore Waltz" (Obie Award); "The Good Person of Setzuan" (Joseph Jefferson Award); "A Moon for the Misbegotten"; "I Am a Camera"; "The Seagull"; "The Importance of Being Earnest" and Goodnight Desdemona/Good Morning Juliet."



In addition to SWIMMERS, Jones can be seen in Steven Soderbergh's OCEAN'S 12 and appeared earlier last year in M. Night Shyamalan's THE VILLAGE. Her motion picture

credits also include M. Night Shyamalan's SIGNS, DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD, Tim Robbins' CRADLE WILL ROCK, Wolfgang Peterson's THE PERFECT STORM, ERIN BROCKOVICH with Julia Roberts and THE HORSE WHISPERER, directed by Robert Redford. Her work on television includes the Lifetime movie "What Makes a Family" as well as PBS's Masterpiece Theater adaptation of Langston Hughes' "Cora Unashamed" and two appearances opposite Gene Wilder in the A&E mysteries "Murder in a Small Town" and "The Lady in Question."

Jones trained at Carnegie Mellon University and is a founding member of the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she has performed in over two dozen productions, including "As You Like It," "Twelfth Night," "The Three Sisters," "The Caucasian Chalk Circle," and the premieres of both Christopher Durang's "Baby with the Bathwater" and Larry Gelbart's "Mastergate." She also appeared at ART playing the title role in a new adaptation of Aristophanes' "Lysistrata."

Jones is the proud recipient of GLAAD's 2004 Vito Russo Award for her outstanding commitment to combating homophobia.



ROBERT KNOTT (Will) is a third generation actor. His grandparents and parents had a traveling theater tent show that followed the wheat harvest. When the show closed in the 1950s, his family made camp in Oklahoma where Robert was born and raised by actors, musicians and storytellers. He spent the early part of adulthood working on oil rigs, sticking with it for more than 10 years until the bust in the 80s when he fell back on the only other life he knew -- acting. Today, he lives and works as an actor/writer in Los Angeles.

Prior to SWIMMERS, Knott co-starred as Dobbitt in Robert M. Young's BELOW THE BELT, a comedy based on Richard Dresser's play that premiered at Sundance last year. Knott most recently completed work on THE GARAGE, directed by Carl Tiabolt.

Knott's extensive list of motion picture credits include POLLOCK, directed by Ed Harris, Stephen Frears' HIGH LOW COUNTRY with Billy Crudup, STORM with Martin Sheen, BUFFALO SOLDIERS with Danny Glover and Walter Hill's WILD BILL with Diane Lane.



SHAWN HATOSY (Clyde) starred in the Emmy-nominated “Soldier’s Girl” (Sundance 2003) for Showtime and the features THE COOLER (Sundance 2003) and DALLAS 362 (winner, 2003 CineVegas Critics Award). Most recently, he completed filming the independent LITTLE ATHENS. He can next be seen in the independent feature 11:14, an ensemble film which follows four different and seemingly unconnected stories set in a small town. 11:14 also stars Hilary Swank, Rachael Leigh Cook, Patrick Swayze, Colin Hanks, Barbara Hershey and Henry Thomas. Other film credits include A GUY THING, BORSTAL BOY, JOHN Q, OUTSIDE PROVIDENCE, ANYWHERE BUT HERE, THE FACULTY, SIMPATICO, DOWN TO YOU, TANGLED,

JOYRIDERS, HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, NIAGARA NIAGARA, THE POSTMAN, INVENTING THE ABBOTTS and IN & OUT. Hatosy is currently in production on Nick Cassavete’s ALPHA DOG, with Emile Hirsch, Justin Timberlake and Bruce Willis.

For television, Hatosy starred in TNT’s “Winning Season,” HBO’s telefilm “Witness Protection” and the critically acclaimed HBO series “Six Feet Under.” He made his stage debut starring as Billy the Kid in the La Jolla Playhouse production of “The Collected Works” of Billy the Kid for directors Kate Whorisky and Des McAnuff. Last February, Hatosy starred in the Paul Weitz play “Roulette” opposite Anna Paquin and Ana Gasteyer off-Broadway. Hatosy grew up in Frederick, Maryland and currently resides in Los Angeles.

Combining natural beauty and innate acting ability, SARAH PAULSON (Merrill) is a star on the rise. Paulson will next be seen as Laura Wingfield in the upcoming Broadway revival of Tennessee Williams’ “The Glass Menagerie,” alongside Jessica Lange.

Paulson most recently starred with Renee Zellweger, Ewan McGregor and David Hyde Pierce in Paramount’s DOWN WITH LOVE. Her film credits also include WHAT WOMEN WANT opposite Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt and THE OTHER SISTER, directed by Gary Marshall starring Diane Keaton and Juliette Lewis. A New York native, Paulson



made her feature film debut in *LEVITATION*, an independent film released by Strong Pictures and directed by Scott Goldstein.

Paulson's television credits include HBO's critically acclaimed series "Deadwood," the leading role of Chief Deputy District Attorney Lisa Patterson in ABC's "The D.A.," the lead role of Faith on the NBC sitcom "Leap of Faith," "Path to War" opposite Alec Baldwin and Donald Sutherland, the WB series "Jack and Jill," the Hallmark/CBS movie "The Long Way Home" opposite Jack Lemmon, the HBO pilot "Love and Madness," ABC's two-parter "Cracker," the CBS movie "Shaughnessy," the CBS series "American Gothic" and a recurring role on NBC's "Law & Order."

On stage, Paulson most recently received rave reviews for her performance in "Killer Joe," an off-Broadway production featuring Scott Glenn and Amanda Plummer. She also appeared in the Broadway production of Wendy Wasserstein's Tony Award-winning, "The Sisters Rosensweig" at the Barrymore Theatre, the off-Broadway production of "Talking Pictures," and the regional productions of "Stalin's Daughter," "Ashes, Ashes," "Alert the Media," "Does Anyone Hear Me?," "The Penitent Madeline," "Best Friends," "An Evening of One Acts," and "Amerlia Again."



MICHAEL MOSLEY's (Mike) film credits include *EJECT*, *BROTHER TO BROTHER*, *BUILDING GIRL*, and the forthcoming *ROOM 314*. For television, Mosely appeared on "Law and Order SVU," "Third Watch," "Hack" and "The Education of Max Bickford" (recurring). His stage credits include "Right as Ron" (Jane Street) "In Case You Forget" (Powerhouse Theatre, NYSAF), "Blue Eyes Black Hair" (Ohio Theatre), "Conference Time" (Cherry Lane) and "Uncle Bob" (SoHo Playhouse).

KATE GOEHRING (Shellie) includes among her many theatre credits the role of Harper Pitt in the First National Tour of "Angels in America" (LA Pride and Miami Carbonel awards for best actress). She is also the recipient of a Chicago Emmy Award Nomination for her work in the PBS' production of "Moment of Rage." Other television appearances include roles in "Law & Order," "ER," "Early Edition" and "The Untouchables." Goehring has also been seen on the BBC in the telefilm, "March in Windy City." She most recently appeared at the Arena Stage in Tennessee Williams' "Orpheus Descending." A veteran of regional theatre, Goehring has appeared on stages across America including the Goodman Theatre and Court Theatre in Chicago, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, the McCarter and Boston's Huntington Theatre. Goehring currently resides in New York City.



About the Filmmakers

DOUG SADLER (Writer-Director) was raised on a farm in Louisiana until his parents sold everything and moved the family onto a sailboat for two years. They eventually settled in Maryland and Sadler went on to graduate from Vanderbilt University and study acting at the American Conservatory Theatre. He received his MFA from the American Film Institute. In 2001, Filmmaker Magazine named him one of the “25 New Faces” and the following year his debut film -- RIDERS -- premiered on the Sundance Channel. He was also honored to participate in the Sundance Institute’s Writing and Directing Labs with SWIMMERS.

In 1993, Sadler founded the Oregon Lab, a multi-disciplinary creative retreat committed to experimental work. He currently lives in Maryland and New York with his wife Linda and son Emery.

MELANIE BACKER (Producer) started out in independent film in New York City working for New Line Cinema as their East Coast Story. She then worked for Glenn Gordon Caron as his V.P of Development in Los Angeles. As an independent producer, Backer produced the features THE AMATI GIRLS and PUMPKIN (Sundance 2002). She also produced the short films WOMEN WITHOUT IMPLANTS (Lifetime/Cable ACE nomination), and THE CLEARING. Currently, Backer is working on film projects with Academy Award-winning producers, Jeremy Thomas and Fred Roos. She also works as a producer representative, selling completed films to domestic distributors. Backer is delighted to be working with Doug Sadler on SWIMMERS after representing his first film, RIDERS.

D. W. LEITNER (Producer) has over forty credits as director, DP, or producer in feature documentary and dramatic films produced here and abroad, including five films that screened in competition at Sundance: SPARK AMONGST THE ASHES (1987), FOR ALL MANKIND (1989, Jury and Audience Award Best Documentary), VIENNA IS DIFFERENT (1990), TREMBLING BEFORE G-D (2001), and THE TECHNICAL WRITER (2003). Leitner’s first drama as director, MY SISTER’S WEDDING (2000), marked the film debuts of Patrick Wilson (Mike Nichols’ ANGELS IN AMERICA, ALAMO) and Blanchard Ryan (OPEN WATER). In April 2002, he co-founded Manhattan-based independent production company Damage Control Filmproduction, which specializes in bringing innovative technologies to low-budget feature filmmaking.

MICHAEL YANKO (Producer) entered the independent movie arena three years ago. He has already produced two successful full-length features and built the Horizen Global Productions team. Between 1999 and 2000, Yanko helped finance and co-produce two off-Broadway shows. His love and dedication to independent film production set him on a journey that created a system which supports the artist but never undermines the investor.

OPHIRA DAGAN (Executive Producer) has been producing, developing content, and serving as a television executive producer for more than a decade. Credited as a producer on more than 50 documentary films, TV shows and mini-series, Dagan's experience includes project development, acquisition, financing and production as well as the branding, marketing and development of TV channels for major networks in both Israel and Europe. In 2002, Dagan founded FrameWork Pictures, an independent film production company in New York City. She co-executive produced THE TECHNICAL WRITER, an official 2003 Sundance Film Festival dramatic competition selection. In 2004, Dagan joined Horizen Global Productions as Executive Vice President of Development and Production.

LISA GREEN (Executive Producer) began her acting career in her native Australia. A noteworthy actress in theater, television and film, her credits include principal roles in two of Australia's most popular prime-time television series, "A Country Practice" and "Neighbours." Green then followed her dream to study with Uta Hagen in New York. Since her arrival, she has appeared in a number of off-Broadway productions including "The Misanthrope" and "The Grand Guignol." Her passion for the creative arts and her extensive experience in acting prove invaluable in her foray into production. Green has been an executive producer in off-Broadway shows, and shortly thereafter, she began producing films. She was the executive producer for the film THE TECHNICAL WRITER, an official 2003 Sundance Film Festival dramatic competition selection.

ERAN CONFORTY (Executive Producer)) Eran Conforty's creative background spans a multitude of disciplines. To begin, he was Senior Art Director for leading advertising agencies in Israel where he took part in designing campaigns for numerous clients including Bank Leumi (Israel's second largest bank), El- Al (Israel's national airline) and The Israeli Postal Service.

His creative work includes but is not limited to; writing, producing and directing the National Aids Awareness Campaign for the Israeli Ministry of Health, for which he was awarded the 1993 gold medal for best television service broadcast. Mr. Conforty also wrote, directed and produced a Holocaust documentary for the Israeli Army. The documentary is displayed in Yad Va Shem (The central memorial for the Holocaust in Jerusalem). He took part in writing, producing and directing a video clip for one of Israel's leading singers; the clip opened the 1992 Jerusalem Film Festival.

ELI GONDA (Executive Producer) has extensive experience in stage and screen having been, for the past two years, assistant director for the Broadway productions of "Fiddler on the Roof," starring Alfred Molina; the Tony Award winning revivals of "Henry IV," starring Kevin Kline; "Nine," starring Antonio Banderas; Nora Ephron's "Imaginary Friends," and "Major Barbara," starring Cherry Jones. He also served as assistant director at the National Theatre of Great Britain on John Guare's adaptation of "His Girl Friday." Gonda's film credits include assisting director Trevor Nunn in the BBC's productions of THE MERCHANT OF VENICE; assistant director on THE QUEEN'S NOSE and the independent film WISH YOU WERE DEAD. Gonda is currently teamed with David Leveaux as associate director on the Broadway revival of Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," starring Jessica Lange and Sarah Paulson.

CHRIS HUDDLESTON (Executive Producer) has gained broad experience through a variety of studio and independent films. He worked closely with Charles Shyer on THE AFFAIR OF THE NECKLACE; Steve Bickel on LOVE COMES TO THE EXECUTIONER; and Nancy Meyers and Bruce Block on SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE. Currently, Huddleston is prepping Alexis Jolly's screenwriting debut LEAVING GREENVILLE for QuasiWorld Entertainment.

ELI NAVON (Executive Producer) is a businessman whose involvement extends throughout the film and shipping industries. Three years ago, he entered the film industry with the launch of FrameWork Pictures, an independent film production company, which he co-founded. Since then, he has co-executive produced THE TECHNICAL WRITER and SWIMMERS. Navon's contribution to film spans from American to Israeli film markets.

DANIEL BICKEL (Co-producer) started his early production work on the Academy Award-winning KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN. Over the next several years, Bickel worked as production coordinator and art director on numerous feature films and television movies, including IRONWEED, A RAGE IN HARLEM, DEEP COVER and several Disney movie telefilms.

With a brief break to work as President Jimmy Carter's Director at Habitat for Humanity, Bickel's passion for filmmaking continues today. He recently developed and produced several projects including the award-winning film TALENT, Sundance channel favorite RIDERS and the just completed horror pic, DARK RIDE for Lions Gate Films. Next, Bickel will produce the thriller DANIKA slated for production this spring.

RODNEY TAYLOR (Director of Photography) was born and raised on the coast of North Carolina, and studied film at the University of North Carolina. He began his career shooting live sports for ESPN, ABC, TBS, and others, and in 1988, he moved to Los Angeles and began working as an assistant on IMAX films and features. Taylor has gone on to be a successful cinematographer for numerous features, IMAX films, and documentaries and has been shooting for over 20 years. He first collaborated with Doug Sadler on RIDERS in 2001. Other feature credits include SPARKLER and MORNING. In 1999, Taylor received the International Cinematographers Guild Film Showcase Award for his work on the 35mm short film GRIND. In 2003, he received the Kodak Vision Award for his Excellence in the IMAX format.

ELLEN PARKS, C.S.A (Casting) has a 20 year casting background in film and television, ranging from low budget projects to studio fare. She has done casting work for Martin Scorsese, Alexander Payne, David O. Russell, Joel and Ethan Coen, George Romero and David Letterman, among others, including numerous talented first time filmmakers. Parks' work is distinguished by high-profile ensemble casts (FLIRTING WITH DISASTER), as well as by the introduction of new and re-emerging talent (SIDEWAYS, SECRETARY, SPANKING THE MONKEY, MANNY & LO, SONGCATCHER). She gave actors such as Macaulay Culkin, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Scarlett Johansson, Emmy Rossum and Maggie Gyllenhall

their first important roles. Actors from her casts have garnered twenty acting awards and nominations. Parks won a 2004 Artios Casting Award for SECRETARY and an Artios nomination in 1996 for the casting of FLIRTING WITH DISASTER.

MARK WHITE (Production Designer) began his career as a toy designer, and soon embarked on a career as a theatre designer in New Haven, Connecticut. He served as set designer for Bruno Dumont's TWENTYNINE PALMS, and as art director for Ben Younger's BOILER ROOM. As production designer, White created designs for such films as WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER, DOWN TO THE BONE, TULLY, THE BAXTER and TRANSAMERICA. He holds a BFA from The Maryland Institute College of Art and currently resides in New York.

Prior to her film experience, ANE CRABTREE (Costume Designer) was a fashion stylist in New York, working with New York designers and Elle. She has been a costume designer since 1991. Among her credits are: IF LUCY FELL, THE EDGE OF 17, THE SOPRANOS, Michael Mann's ROBBERY HOMICIDE DIVISION, and Milcho Manchevski's DUST. Most recently, she has completed the television series, "LAX," with the Brothers Russo at the helm. Crabtree is also a painter and a photographer.

LILAH BANKIER's (Editor) feature credits includes CONTROL ROOM (Jury Award 2004 Full Frame Documentary Festival, 2004 Sundance Film Festival) and UNSCREWED (First Film Special Distinction, 2003 Montreal Film Festival, Special Jury Award, 2004 Santa Barbara Film Festival). She was an additional editor on EAT THIS NEW YORK and TADPOLE (Best Directing Award, 2003 Sundance Film Festival), and the assistant editor on Gus Van Sant's GERRY. Her television credits include "The Blues," executive produced by Martin Scorsese for PBS, as well as programs for Oxygen and A&E.

In addition to SWIMMERS, AFFONSO GONÇALVES (Editor) also cut another 2005 Sundance Film Festival selection – FORTY SHADES OF BLUE. He has worked with producer/director Tod Williams as editor on THE DOOR IN THE FLOOR, THE ADVENTURES OF SEBASTIAN COLE and THE BIG BEND. His other feature editing credits include Julian Goldberger's TRANS, Hillary Birmingham's TULLY, Doug Sadler's RIDERS, and Michael Burke's THE MUDGE BOY. He also edited the short subject UPHEAVAL, for Itamar Kubovy, and THE GREEN MONSTER, David Finn's documentary about racing legend and one-time world land-speed record-holder Art Arfons.

SUSAN KORDA's (Editor) first feature length film credit as editor was writer/director Al Reinert's 35mm documentary about the Apollo moon missions, FOR ALL MANKIND, which won both Jury and Audience Awards at Sundance in 1989 and was nominated for an Academy Award in 1990. Korda has since enjoyed a successful career editing documentaries here and abroad, most recently Sandi DuBowski's TREMBLING BEFORE G-D (Documentary Competition, Sundance 2001) about homosexual Chasidim and ultra-orthodox Jews. Korda is also a filmmaker in her own right, having made several award-winning experimental films, including ONE OF US (1999 Berlin Film Festival). In between film projects, she teaches writing, film production, and editing in New York at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and Cooper Union, and in Cologne, Germany at the International Film School.

SUSAN JACOBS (Music Supervisor) has extensive credits and experience. She has managed such talents as Hal Willner, Gavin Friday and Evan Lurie and produced such albums as “The Carl Stalling Project” (WB), “The Lion for Real” (Island Records) and “Stay Awake” (A&M Records). Jacobs has served as music supervisor in both television and film. Some television credits include “Happily Ever After” (HBO), “Live from the House of Blues” (Turner Networks), and “Encyclopedia” (HBO/CTW). Film credits include GOING UP RIVER: THE LONG WAR OF JOHN KERRY (2003/04), THE VILLAGE (2003/04), MONSOON WEDDING (2002/03), UNBREAKABLE (2001/02), BEFORE NIGHT FALLS (2001/02), GIRLFIGHT (2001/02), HAPPINESS (1999/98) and BASQUIAT (1997).

Born in Los Angeles, California, PAUL CANTELON (Original Score) started his musical career as a violinist, making his debut at the age of 13 at Royce Hall. Soon after hearing reclusive pianist Donalee Reubenet, he began his intensive piano studies. At 15, Cantelon started his studies with legendary pianist Vlado Perelemuter, at the Paris conservatory and began his concert career as a pianist. He signed a recording contract with Capitol Records and released a solo piano record of Celtic hymns titled “In the Morning Early.” After studying under Jakob Latiener at the Juilliard School and Dame Mary Berry at Trinity College, Cambridge, Cantelon began extensive touring in the Far East in support of his second solo piano of all original compositions titled “Paul Cantelon Solo Piano” for the Nippon Columbia label.

Cantelon is presently working on a new collection of works, which will be recorded this spring under the guidance of acclaimed classical engineer/producer Tom Lazarus.

DAVID DARLING (Original Score) began piano lessons at the age of five and the study of classical cello at age 10. In high school, he was principal cellist in the orchestra, played tuba in the concert band, sang with the madrigal singers and acapella choir, and played baritone sax in the pep band. He also led his own jazz ensemble in which he played double bass and alto saxophone. Darling attended Indiana State University earning his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Music Education. He was a scholarship student with the Pierre Monteux conducting school and studied jazz performance at Berklee School of Music in Boston. Early awards include first place in the Indianapolis Indiana Music Matinee Solo Artist Competition, and a scholarship to the American Federation of Musicians Strings Seminar. Darling’s music has long been recognized and sought after by producers and directors in the film industry which includes ongoing collaboration with European filmmakers Jean-Luc Godard and Wim Wenders.

Darling resides in Goshen, CT creating music from Camp David Recording Studios

About the Production Companies



DAMAGE CONTROL FILMPRODUCTION is a Manhattan-based independent production company founded in 2002 by Michael Yanko and David W. Leitner to produce low-budget features that place innovative technologies in the hands of experienced directors. In 2002, Damage Control produced *THE TECHNICAL WRITER* (Tatum O'Neal, William Forsythe, Michael Harris, Pamela Gordon), directed by Scott Saunders, which premiered in competition at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival.



HORIZEN
Global

HORIZEN GLOBAL PRODUCTIONS

Horizen Global Productions, a New York-based production company, seeks to engage talented artists with projects that provoke thought about the very essence of humanity. Its mission is to touch, move and inspire people to be aware and conscious of themselves and the world around them.

With funding from the secure collateral of hard assets, specifically real estate, Horizen Global Productions plans to produce two to three projects per year with critically acclaimed and experienced directors, featuring a high-caliber cast. Horizen believes that the success of films not only rests on a captivating and powerful story, but also on the drive, determination and dedication of the people behind it.

QUASIWORLD ENTERTAINMENT is an independent production company founded in 2004 by filmmakers and life-long friends Eli Gonda and Chris Huddleston, to provide imaginative and talented storytellers with the resources necessary to bring to life original ideas for the screen, stage, and living room.

QuasiWorld is presently developing the motion picture *LEAVING GREENVILLE* and the theatrical production "Women with a History of Anything."

Through a strategic relationship with Lexington Entertainment Group, QuasiWorld has preferred access to foreign distribution (Aura Entertainment), digital cinema/postproduction services (Post Logic) and digital effects/computer graphics interface house (Creo).