

Present

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO EVERYTHING



A Film by Rob Meyer

THEATRICAL Release Date: March 21, 2014

VOD Release Date: March 11, 2014

Directed by: Rob Meyer

Written by: Luke Matheny and Rob Meyer

Starring: Kodi Smit-McPhee, James LeGros, Alex Wolff, Katie Chang, and Sir Ben Kingsley

Running Time: 88 minutes

Rating: "PG-13" by the MPAA

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CAST AND CREW

David Portnoy	KODI SMIT-MCPHEE
Donald Portnoy	JAMES LEGROS
Juliana Santos	DANIELA LAVENDER
Ellen Reeves	KATIE CHANG
Timmy Barsky	ALEX WOLFF
Evelyn Reed	ZANDI HOLUP
Peter Nessbaum	MICHAEL CHEN
Rob Lindau	TOBIAS CAMPBELL
Mr. Edbrooke	JOEL VAN LIEW
Scarsdale High School Capt	DANIEL G.S. BERGER
Lawrence Konrad	BEN KINGSLEY
Eric	ADAM BARRIE
Trish	JESSICA PEREZ
Director	ROB MEYER
Writers	LUKE MATHENY ROB MEYER
Producers	DAN LINDAU PAUL MILLER KIRSTEN DUNCAN FULLER LISA K. JENKINS
Co-Producer	LINDA MORAN
Director of Photography	TOM RICHMOND
Composer	JEREMY TURNER
Editor	VITO DESARIO

SYNOPSIS

David Portnoy (Kodi Smit-McPhee), a 15-year-old birding fanatic, makes an unbelievable discovery: he might have taken a photo of a supposedly extinct duck that hasn't been seen in North America since 1878. Upon the counsel of the Young Birders Society, David's high school birding club, he takes his finding to a legendary ornithologist, Dr. Konrad (Academy Award-winner Ben Kingsley) to solidify the claim. With his original photo too blurry to confirm bird's identity, Konrad recommends they find the duck again before it migrates in order to get a better account of this Lazarus species, but this time using a quality camera.

David and his ragtag birding crew (Alex Wolff, Michael Chen) embark on an epic road trip to solidify their place in birding history - and with girls. Enter Ellen (Katie Chang), who is in possession of the quality camera they seek and tags along under one stipulation: she takes the first photo of the rare duck. As they encounter other birders and a certain doctor who just might want to steal their claim, what initially seemed like fun exercise in birding could turn into a journey of discovery in more ways than they all hoped.

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO EVERYTHING marks the feature directorial debut of Rob Meyer, who wrote the film with Academy Award-winner Luke Matheny.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In the words of naturalist E. O. Wilson, "nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive, and even spiritual satisfaction." This is never more relevant than during the teenage years, when our emotions and sense of wonder are constantly heightened. I wanted to make a film about kids who find peace -- maybe even some sort of understanding -- in the woods. I also wanted to celebrate nerdiness. I was a big nerd in high school and still am (hence the E.O. Wilson quote), so I, along with my co-writer, Luke Matheny, wrote a film about characters who care passionately about something without worrying too much about what others think. Finally, I wanted to make a film that tackled the issue of loss in a way that wasn't depressing. The result was a road trip movie about birding teenagers looking for an extinct duck.

David, our hero, deals with the recent death of his mother by raising his binoculars to the world of birds. He convinces his friends to embark on a trip to find the Labrador Duck, a bird previously believed to be extinct. For me, the romantic belief that something can return from extinction had obvious appeal and was inspired by the recent (possible) re-emergence of the Ivory-Billed woodpecker. I'll admit that much of my writing and creative work gravitates towards our existential predicament, and the subject matter of a Lazarus species turned what could be a dreary theme into an adventure with inherent humor. My goal was to intertwine the fun and wit of sharp adolescent minds with the melancholy aftermath of a recent tragedy.

We (and by we, I really mean my cinematographer Tom Richmond) shot the film with great formal rigor, with an emphasis on carefully composed shots. We lit gently and naturalistically, so that the film would feel both timeless and authentic. Led by our brilliant production designer Elizabeth Jones, we were careful to keep to a specific color palette. Our rule was simple: if we couldn't find a color in an Audubon painting, we'd try to keep it from being in the film. The result has a nostalgic quality and a muted sensibility that I hope helps the bittersweet tone resonate with audiences.

We worked hard to get the details of birding right. While I wasn't a birder before starting the project, I now count myself as an enthusiastic beginner and have great admiration for hard-core enthusiasts who have unbelievably long life lists and a knack for luring birds out into the open. Going into the field with experts to get our wildlife footage was one of the most inspiring parts of the shoot and I witnessed more than one "bird whisperer" moment. We also invited two veteran birders to be on set, including birding legend Kenn Kaufman (author of the memoir Kingbird Highway, the birding equivalent to *On the Road*). Everyone from the actors to the VFX team to the sound designer conferred with our ornithological consultants and got into the spirit of things.

Above all, *A Birder's Guide to Everything* strives to get to the heart of human emotions, exploring why we immerse ourselves in passions like birding when faced with life's great challenges. The journey takes David miles away from his home, through situations both challenging and absurd, but the film ends with a heartfelt face-to-face reconciliation with his father. This simple conversation, a stark discussion about issues that really matter, is to me the bravest act in the film, and one which I think young people and adults can both genuinely admire.

ABOUT THE CAST

BEN KINGSLEY (Lawrence Konrad)

After earning an Academy Award, two Golden Globes and two BAFTA Awards for his riveting portrayal of Indian social leader Mahatma Gandhi, Sir Ben Kingsley continues to bring unequaled detail and nuance to each role he portrays. In 1984, Kingsley was awarded the Padma Sri by Indira Gandhi and the government of India. Kingsley went on to earn three additional Oscar nominations for *Bugsy* (1991), *Sexy Beast* (2000) and *House of Sand and Fog* (2003), his roles have been as diverse as his talents, from a sturdy vice president in *Dave* to the scheming Fagin in *Oliver Twist*. Since being knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in the New Year's Eve Honors List 2001, Kingsley has continued to earn honors as a truly international star.

In 2013 Kingsley was seen in the blockbuster film *Iron Man 3*, as "The Mandarin." The film has grossed over \$1 billion worldwide to date. He also starred in Summit Entertainment's *Ender's Game*, based on the novel of the same name was directed and written by Gavin Hood about an unusually gifted child who is sent to an advanced military school in space to prepare for a future alien invasion.

Additionally, Kingsley starred in the independent films *A Common Man*, a psychological thriller directed by Sri Lankan film maker Chandran Rutnam and *A Birder's Guide to Everything*, a comedy which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Kingsley next will star in *War Story*, premiering at this year's Sundance Film Festival. Directed by Mark Jackson the film is about a war photographer who retreats to a small town in Sicily after being held captive in Libya. The film also stars Catherine Keener and Hafsia Herzi.

Kingsley can also be seen in the highly anticipated short film from Marvel entitled "All Hail the King" which has been described as an epilogue to *Iron Man 3* and a possible prologue to *Iron Man 4*. The 14-minute film was written and directed by *Iron Man 3* scribe Drew Pearce, and will be included on the *Thor: The Dark World* Blu-ray, out winter of this year.

Later this year, Kingsley will also star in *Eliza Graves*, alongside Michael Caine, Kate Beckinsale and Jim Sturgess. A turn of the century thriller based on an Edgar Allan Poe short story. *Walking With the Enemy*, an independent film inspired by a true story of a young man separated from his family in WWII who disguises himself as a Nazi SS Officer and uncovers more than just his family whereabouts. And *Our Robot Overlords* where Earth has been conquered by Robots from a distant Galaxy and survivors are confined to their houses and must wear electronic implants, risking incineration by Robot Sentries if they venture outside.

Kingsley recently completed production on Ridley Scott's epic film *Exodus*, which he shot in New Orleans and Tarsem Singh's sci-fi thriller *Self/Less*. Last year he also completed *Learning to Drive*, where he re-teamed with his Elogy director Isabel Coixet and co-star Patricia Clarkson. He simultaneously lent his voice to the Focus Features animated film *The Boxtrolls* based on the novel Here Be Monsters.

Kingsley's other roles include Sacha Baron Cohen's *The Dictator* following his role in Martin Scorsese's *Hugo*. Released in 2011 the film earned five Academy Awards. Kingsley was also seen starring in Martin Scorsese's 1950s drama *Shutter Island* as well as Jerry Bruckheimer's *Prince of Persia*. He was also seen in *The Physician*, an adaptation of Noah Gordon's best-selling novel which follows a young Christian born into poverty in 11th Century England who ventures across Europe into Muslim-dominated Persia to better study the emerging study of healing. He also starred in the sexually charged *Elegy*, directed by Isabel Coixet, for which he was nominated British Actor of the Year by the London Critics Circle Film Awards. He starred in two films at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival giving further perspective to his work: The Audience Award winning and Grand Jury Prize nominated *The Wackness*, in which he plays a drug-addled psychiatrist; and the crime thriller *Transsiberian*, as a mysterious traveler opposite Woody Harrelson. He also starred in *50 Dead Men*, a thriller set against the dangerous backdrop of 1980s Ireland, and the more lighthearted crime comedy *War, Inc.* opposite John Cusack.

Steeped in British theatre, Kingsley marked the beginning of his professional acting career with his acceptance by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1967. From roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, Brutus in *Julius Caesar* and the title roles in *Othello* and *Hamlet*, among others, his more recent and diverse stage roles include those in *The Country Wife*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *A Betrothal* and *Waiting for Godot*.

Kingsley's film career began in 1972 with the thriller *Fear Is the Key*, but his first major role came a decade later in the epic *Gandhi*, directed by Richard Attenborough. He followed this Oscar-winning performance with such early films as *Betrayal*, *Turtle Diary*, *Harem*, *Pascal's Island*, *Without A Clue* (as Dr. Watson to Michael Caine's Sherlock Holmes) and *The Children* opposite Kim Novak. During the '90s Kingsley distinguished himself through such roles as Mayer Lansky in *Bugsy*, *Sneakers*, *Searching For Bobby Fischer* and *Dave*. In 1994 he was nominated for a BAFTA Award for his memorable supporting role as Itzhak Stern in Steven Spielberg's seven-time Oscar winner *Schindler's List*.

Ben Kingsley has remained a coveted and ubiquitous talent. Beginning with such films as *Rules of Engagement*, *What Planet Are You From?* and an Oscar-nominated role as a brutal gangster in *Sexy Beast*, he received his most recent Oscar nomination in 2004 for his performance as a proud Iranian emigrant in the highly acclaimed *House of Sand and Fog*. Among his films in the last several years are Roman Polanski's *Oliver Twist*, the crime drama *Lucky Number Slevin*, John Dahl's *You Kill Me* and the Roman empire saga *The Last Legion*.

JAMES LE GROS (Donald Portnoy)

James Le Gros is an actor with a versatile screen presence and a diverse body of work that consists of over 60 films and 20 television shows.

Since being cast by Gus Van Sant as Matt Dillon's drug addicted cohort in *DRUG STORE COWBOY*, Le Gros has become a long time traveler on the independent film landscape. No stranger to the Sundance Film Festival, he has starred in such Grand Jury nominated films as Bart Freundlich's *MYTH OF FINGERPRINTS* opposite Julianne Moore, Billy Morrissette's *SCOTLAND, PA* opposite Maura Tierney, Greg Harrison's *NOVEMBER* opposite Courtney Cox, Stacy Cochran's *DROP BACK TEN* and Peter McCarthy's *FLOUNDERING*.

Moreover, Le Gros has starred in numerous Independent Spirit Award nominated films such as Nicole Holofcener's LOVELY AND AMAZING opposite Emily Moritmer, Todd Haynes' SAFE again opposite Julianne Moore, Alan Rudolph's MRS. PARKER AND THE VICIOUS CIRLE opposite Jennifer Jason Leigh, Stacy Cochran's MY NEW GUN opposite Drew Barrymore, and Tom DiCillo's LIVING IN OBLIVION, for which Le Gros was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for his portrayal of the dim-witted rising A-list movie star Chad Palomino opposite Steve Buscemi and Catherine Keener. His other independent film credits include the Gotham Award nominated THE LAST WINTER and the indie fave THURSDAY opposite Aaron Eckhart.

Le Gros' major Hollywood blockbuster film credits include David Fincher's ZODIAC, Tony Scott's ENEMY OF THE STATE, Oliver Stone's BORN ON THE 4TH OF JULY, Cameron Crowe's SINGLES and Kathryn Bigelow's POINT BREAK.

His television credits include his series regular work on David E. Kelley's Emmy Award winning ALLY MCBEAL and Showtime's Emmy nominated SLEEPER CELL. Le Gros costarred in HBO's miniseries MILDRED PEIRCE opposite Kate Winslet. More recently, he recurred on HBO's critical hit GIRLS and FX's JUSTIFIED.

KODI SMIT-McPHEE (David Portnoy)

Kodi is a native Australian who now lives with his family in Los Angeles.

In the summer of 2013, Kodi filmed Twentieth Century Fox's DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES opposite Andy Serkis, Jason Clarke, Gary Oldman, and Keri Russell. The project reunited him with director Matt Reeves with whom he previously worked with on the film LET ME IN (opposite Chloe Moretz).

Recently, he filmed the feature SLOW WEST (dir. John MacLean), opposite Michael Fassbender.

Earlier this year, Kodi filmed THE YOUNG ONES (dir: Jake Paltrow), opposite Nicholas Hoult, Elle Fanning and Michael Shannon. The film will premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2014.

In 2012, Kodi filmed THE CONGRESS (dir. Ari Folman) opposite Robin Wright, Paul Giamatti and Harvey Keitel. The film premiered at the 2013 Directors' Fortnight at The Cannes Film Festival.

In addition, Kodi filmed THE WILDERNESS OF JAMES (dir: Michael J. Johnson) as the title role of 'James', opposite Isabel Furman, Virginia Madsen, and Evan Ross. He also starred in A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO EVERYTHING (dir: Rob Meyer), opposite Ben Kingsley which premiered at the 2013 TriBeCa Film Festival, and played 'Benvolio' in a film adaption of ROMEO & JULIET (dir. Carlo Carlei) opposite Hailee Steinfeld, Douglas Booth, Ed Westwick, and Paul Giamatti.

Kodi previously starred in Laika Entertainment / Focus Features' *PARANORMAN*, in which he lent his voice as the lead role of 'Norman'. The film was nominated for 'Best Animated Feature' for the 2013 Academy Awards, and also received a 2013 BAFTA Awards nomination for 'Best Animated Film.' The cast includes Anna Kendrick, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Casey Affleck, Leslie Mann, and Jeff Garlin.

Kodi previously starred in *LET ME IN* (dir. Matt Reeves), opposite Chloe Grace Moretz and Richard Jenkins, for which he received a 2010 Critics Choice Nomination for 'Best Young Actor' for his performance in the film; *THE ROAD* (dir. John Hillcoat) opposite Viggo Mortenson, Charlize Theron and Robert Duvall, for which he received a 2009 Broadcast Critics Nomination for 'Best Young Actor' and a 2010 Australian Film Institute (AFI) Nomination for 'Best International Actor'; *ROMULUS, MY FATHER* (dir. Richard Roxburgh) with Eric Bana and Franka Potente, garnered him the 2007 AFI Award for 'Best Young Actor' as well as a 'Best Actor' Nomination; the Australian film *MATCHING JACK* (dir. Nadia Tass) for which he received a 2010 AFI Nomination for 'Best Supporting Actor' and also *DEAD EUROPE* (dir. by Tony Krawitz) opposite Ewen Leslie and Marton Csokas which premiered at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival.

KATIE CHANG (Ellen Reeves)

Katie Chang made her feature film debut in "The Bling Ring," written and directed by Sofia Coppola. Based on true events, the film follows a group of celebrity-obsessed, rebellious teenagers as they burglarize the homes of Hollywood celebrities Orlando Bloom, Paris Hilton, Brian Austin Green and Megan Fox, among others. Chang portrays the ringleader of teen house-breakers, which includes Emma Watson, Taissa Farmiga, Claire Julien and Israel Broussard. A24 Films released the film on June 14, 2013.

Upcoming, Chang will appear in the indie film "Anesthesia" alongside Glenn Close, Sam Waterston, Gretchen Mol and Kristen Stewart. Directed by Tim Blake Nelson, the film follows a group of New Yorkers as their lives begin to intertwine following a violent mugging of a popular professor at Columbia University. The film will release in 2014.

Chang appeared in the Rob Meyer-directed film, "A Birder's Guide to Everything." An adaptation of Meyer's award-winning short "Aquarium," the story follows a young, birding-fanatic who escapes on a road trip with his best friends to make birding history. The film also stars Sir Ben Kingsley, Kodi Smit-McPhee and Alex Wolff. Focus World and Screen Media Films recently acquired U.S. rights to the film, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival on April 21, 2013.

Chang's interest in acting began at the young age of 13 while she was studying at the Actors Training Center at the Wilmette Theatre in Wilmette, Illinois. In the summer of 2011, Katie appeared in her first professional role in a short film titled "CUTEeGRL."

Chang is currently studying creative writing as a freshman at Columbia University in New York.

ALEX WOLFF (Timmy Basrsky)

At just six years old, actor/musician and singer-songwriter ALEX WOLFF gained international recognition when he co-starred with his older brother, NAT WOLFF, in 2005's musical comedy *The Naked Brothers Band: The Movie*. The film garnered the Audience Award for Family Feature Film at the Hamptons International Film Festival, and led to the spin-off television series *The Naked Brothers Band* from 2007-2009. He earned the Broadcast Music Incorporated Cable Award for writing the series' music, two Young Artist Award nominations, and one Best Band nomination at The Australian Kids Choice Awards. His musical talents contributed to the show's two soundtrack albums and the single "Crazy Car," which reached #23 on the Top 200 Billboard Charts.

WOLFF, now 16, is continuing to establish a lucrative acting career with two upcoming films. In *HairBrained*, to be released in February, he stars as 15 year-old genius Eli Pettifog, who ends up at Ivy League wannabe Whitman College after being rejected from Harvard, and befriends a 41-year-old freshman (Brendan Fraser) with a gambling problem. The odd pair become unlikely friends. For this role WOLFF has been awarded Best Actor at the Brooklyn Film Festival. In addition, two of his songs appear on the movie's soundtrack.

Upon wrapping *HairBrained*, WOLFF jumped into another starring role in *A Birder's Guide to Everything* by award-winning director Rob Meyer. The film follows 15-year-old bird enthusiast named David on a quest to find a mysterious bird with his friends. What begins as a simple and straightforward mission becomes a coming-of-age adventure for all involved. It was also included in the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival and will be released in the Spring by Focus Features. This film also uses one of WOLFF's songs on its soundtrack.

WOLFF's past credits include the comedy film *The Sitter* starring Jonah Hill (2011), HBO's medical drama *In Treatment* (2010), USA's police comedy-drama *Monk* (2009), and Nickelodeon TV movie *Mr. Troop Mom* (2009). WOLFF and his brother formed a duo called Nat & Alex Wolff and released their first studio album called *Black Sheep* (2011).

WOLFF has also written and directed two short films, one of which, "The Empty Room," was the runner-up in the 2013 Savannah Film Festival. He also wrote a musical called "What Would Woody Do?" which had a workshop performance off Broadway at the Flea Theatre.

WOLFF resides in New York City with his actress-mother Polly Draper and jazz pianist-father Michael Wolff. He is the younger brother of actor/musician/singer-songwriter and fellow 'Naked Brothers' star Nat Wolff.

MICHAEL CHEN (Peter Nessbaum)

Born in Poughkeepsie, New York, Michael Chen began his acting career at the age of 6 on several episodes of *Sesame Street*. This led to his first leading role in the film entitled "Children of Invention" (Official selection of Sundance Film Festival 2009.) He most recently portrayed Peter, opposite Ben Kingsley, in the film "A Birder's Guide to Everything", which has been selected by the TriBeCa Film Festival. Michael is now 15 years old and resides in Torrance, California.

DANIELA LAVENDER (Julia Santos)

Born in Bahia, Brazil, Daniela Lavender is part of a close knit 30-strong family, at the age of eight she began training in ballet, jazz, contemporary dance and later studied Flamenco dancing under Roberto Amaral and Yolanda Arroyo in Los Angeles. She then moved into journalism and received a degree from PUC University, Drama followed at Dirceu de Mattos school in Rio de Janeiro, studied English for a year and then travelled to London. She auditioned for the London International School of Performing Arts, playing 'Queen Anne' from Shakespeare's Richard III, and passed the audition in spite of the language barrier.

In 2003 Lavender appeared in the independent film "Emotional Backgammon" and was awarded "Best Actress" at the Denver Film Festival. From there she went on to appear in "Ali G Indahouse" and the BBC series "Longitude", "EastEnders" and "Casualty". Then in 2009 Lavender toured with the British Shakespeare company production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", playing Hippolyta and Titania. 2011 saw Lavender star as "Maria" in a one woman show "A Woman Alone" written by Dario Fo. Then in 2013 Lavender Pictures her co-owned film company started the process of developing a slate of scripts including "Taj" "Zorra" and "Jutland". This spring Lavender will be seen in the role of "Juliana Santos" in "A Birder's Guide to Everything" which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival 2013 and was awarded the Heineken first runner up audience award, also later in 2014 Lavender can be seen portraying the role of "Mata" in Isabel Coixet's new film "Learning to Drive" and "Clara" in "Zipper" produced by Darren Aronofsky.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

ROB MEYER (Director/Writer)

Rob Meyer's first feature, *A Birder's Guide to Everything*, starring Kodi Smit-McPhee and Ben Kingsley, is a coming-of-age comedy about a teenage birder struggling with the recent loss of his mother. Co-written by Oscar-winner Luke Matheny, it was based on his short film, *Aquarium*, starring Jeremy Allen White (*Shameless*), which played at over 60 film festivals and won over 20 awards, including an Honorable Mention at Sundance. Rob is based in New York City and received his MFA from NYU's graduate film school. Prior to NYU, Rob worked at PBS's *NOVA*, HBO Documentary Films, and National Geographic, helping to produce Peabody- and Emmy-award winning documentaries around the world. He is an avid violinist and loves the natural world.

LUKE MATHENY (Writer)

Luke Matheny is a director, writer and actor based in Santa Monica, Calif. His short film "God of Love" -- which he wrote, directed and starred in -- won the Academy Award for Best Live-Action Short in 2011. His other directing work includes the feature romantic comedy "Lovesick," starring Matt LeBlanc, Ali Larter and Chevy Chase, as well as several episodes of the IFC series "Maron," starring comedian Marc Maron.

Luke grew up in Wilmington, Del. He also majored in journalism at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and later pursued a graduate degree in the film department of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

DAN LINDAU (Producer)

Dan Lindau has produced feature films, theater, television live events and three children. As owner of Crossroads Films and 89 Edit, he produced thousands of commercials and music videos. He is currently traveling way too much for a man of his advanced years.

PAUL MILLER (Producer)

Paul Miller is a veteran film producer who has produced such films as *SNOW ANGELS*, *A LOVE SONG FOR BOBBY LONG*, *PROZAC NATION*, and *LONE STAR*.

LISA JENKINS (Producer)

Lisa Jenkins, President and Chief Producer at Dreamfly Productions, is an Emmy Award-winning veteran television producer and journalist whose credits include the documentary, *AMERICA'S TEAM TURNS 40*. She recently produced *UNIVERSAL SQUADRONS*, which made its world premiere at Comic-Con Film Festival. Lisa spent eight years reporting and feature producing for Fox Sports Net Southwest and WFAA-TV. She also co-produced the documentary *HOMESTRETCH*, an official Sonoma Valley Film Festival 2007 selection, which aired nationally on PBS.

KIRSTEN DUNCAN FULLER (Producer)

Kirsten Duncan Fuller served as associate producer on the feature film *UNIVERSAL SQUADRONS* and is Producer of several other features in development. She has produced

television commercials and music videos and also has worked with Entertainment Tonight and the NBC affiliate in Denver.

LINDA MORAN (Co-Producer)

Linda Moran of Belladonna Productions is a two-time Independent Spirit Award nominee with L.I.E. (“Best Picture”/2002) and Transamerica (“Best First Film”/2006) and won the prestigious Motorola Producer of the Year Award in 2002 along with partner Rene Bastian. Transamerica (dir. Duncan Tucker) received two Academy Award nominations- Best Actress (Felicity Huffman) and Best Song (Travelin’ Thru by Dolly Parton), and Felicity Huffman won a Golden Globe for her performance. Recent work includes We Are What We Are (dir. Jim Mickle) which premiered to great acclaim at Sundance 2013. Other producing credits include An Englishman in New York (dir. Richard Laxton), Funny Games US (dir. Michael Haneke) and A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints (dir. Dito Montiel) which garnered awards for Best Director and Best Ensemble Cast at Sundance in 2006. Linda along with René were named among “10 Producers to Watch” by Variety during the 2005 Toronto Film Festival. Belladonna continues to develop and produce high-quality independent films with international perspective and commercial appeal.

JEREMY TURNER (Composer)

American musician Jeremy Turner has rapidly gained a reputation for composing innovative and diverse music for the moving image and the stage. From creating award winning scores for films and commercials to a career as the Assistant Principal Cello of the Met Orchestra, he has established a unique regard for understanding and performing varying musical languages and styles.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1975, Jeremy showed an affinity for music at the age of 5 when he began studying the piano. When his family moved to Michigan he took up the cello and became a student of Louis Potter, attending music classes at Michigan State University while still in high school. He moved on to attend The Juilliard School as a pupil of Harvey Shapiro, studying chamber music with Felix Galimir.

When Jeremy was 21 yrs old he joined the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and upon completing his first season was invited by James Levine to join The Met Chamber Ensemble in its inaugural year. After a sabbatical spent in New Zealand as Principal Cello of The Auckland Philharmonia, he returned to the Met and went on to complete his 14th and final season as a member of the orchestra in 2011.

Performing regularly throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, Jeremy has participated in the music festivals of Aspen, Ravinia, Tanglewood, Seattle, La Jolla, Moab, and Music at Plush. In 2003, he was asked by Renee Fleming to perform with her at the opening gala concert of Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall. He has appeared as a cellist on The Late Show with David Letterman, Saturday Night Live, 30 Rock, and Mtv Unplugged and has performed and recorded with artists as varied as Paul McCartney, David Byrne, My Morning Jacket, Lupe Fiasco, The National, Sufjan Stevens, and the Dirty Projectors.

As a singer, guitarist, and keyboardist, Jeremy released his first album in 2006, *Circles Are Landing*, with his former band Marlin Drixan. Shortly thereafter, he began composing and co-founded a recording studio and post audio mix facility in New York City. Finding success at scoring to picture, Jeremy was honored with the 2010 AICP Award for his score to Google's Parisian Love commercial, which aired during Super Bowl XLIV.

Jeremy is currently a senior composer at Big Foote Music and Sound in New York. His recent projects include two feature film scores, a new composition for yMusic Ensemble, orchestrations for Orpheus Chamber orchestra, working with James Murphy and DFA Records, and a short film score written for Brooklyn Rider and Anthony McGill. As a conductor he recently appeared at the 2012 LACMA Art + Film gala, honoring Edward Ruscha and Stanley Kubrick.