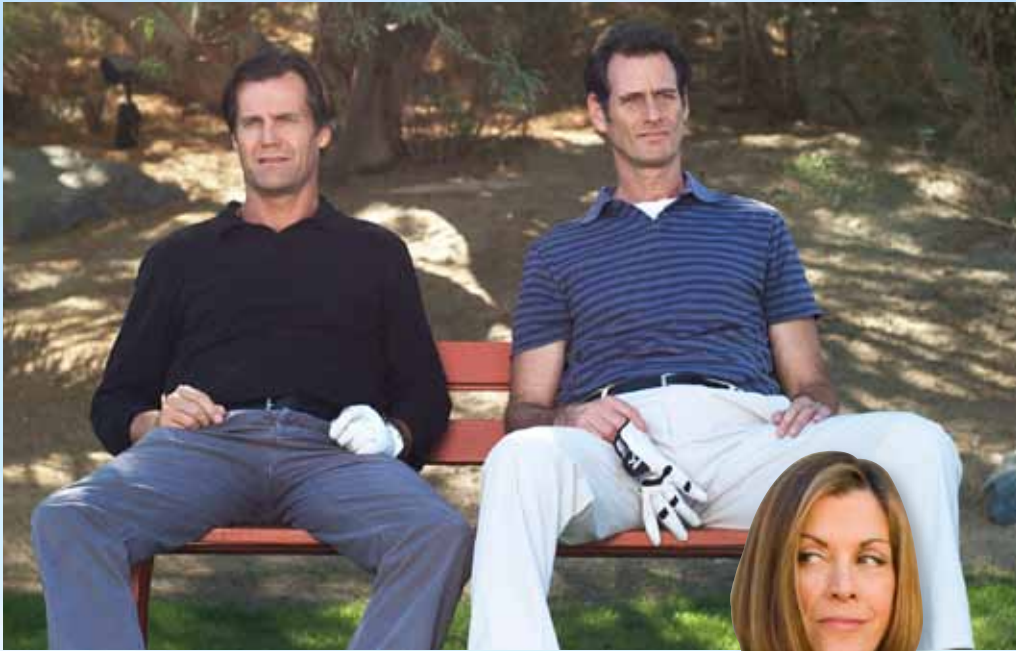


# fifty-nothing



a coming of age  
story about  
the coming  
of age

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**press kit**





**synopsis** **fifty-nothing** is a modern comedy that explores the simple truth that it's never too late to start over again. Even at age 50.

We meet two long-time golf-buddies, Adam, going through a trial separation from his wife of 15 years and Jon, who is not only losing work to the 'young guy', but also dealing with a 'generous' prostate.

They decide to take off on a weekend journey to let loose and re-live the Palm Springs get-a-way of their younger days but meet with unexpected results. Struggling to fit in with the younger crowd, they find surprising comfort through encounters with women nearer their own age.

## log line

During a holiday get-a-way to Palm Springs, two fifty year-old men find unexpected results while trying to re-live their younger days in this comic coming of age story about the coming of age.

As the weekend progresses, both are forced to come to a truce with middle life's predicaments. A film that asks the question, "If fifty is the new thirty then why do my knees ache?" in what may be the world's first coming of age story... about the coming of age.



## production notes

**fifty-nothing** began as conversations between two friends who were experiencing life after 50. These talks became a story loosely based upon the duo's personal experiences and current life events. A few scribbled pages followed and then a video shoot to see if any of it made sense. Encouraged by what they saw, the pages became a full script and the script in turn became this film.

## inspiration

At a certain point in life, you have to ask "if not now, when?" This is where Drew Pillsbury & Martin Grey Gottlieb had found themselves. After years in the business and always having the dream to produce a film, they finally pulled the trigger and dove in. Pillsbury had previously worked with director Tom Johnston on the festival hit, *JEROME*, with co-star Wendie Malick and suggested him for this project. Tom immediately agreed and brought with him a wealth of experience and artistic know-how. What began as an idea between two friends had now morphed into a reality under Johnston's guidance.

As the project came together, one friend lead to another and soon we were in pre-production with a solid team in place. Our director sat down with our DP and devised the look of the film... he wanted each scene to look like a postcard.

The Palm Springs location made this an easy task for Director of Photography, Keith Duggan, who embraced a new camera technology called the RED Camera to capture the pristine desert location. The RED system has revolutionized low-budget filmmaking, giving small productions the ability to capture a big budget look.



## cast & crew

**Martin Grey Gottlieb (Adam)** As an actor, Martin has worked regularly for over twenty years in film and television with directors such as Terry Zwigoff, Barry Levinson, Howard Deutch, Paris Barclay, Dan Sackheim and many more in projects as diverse as *GHOST WORLD*, *THE NATURAL*, *THE ODD COUPLE* and *THE CHEROKEE KID*. Most recently he recurred in NBC's *LIFE* as Mark Conover and has Guest Starred on shows such as *COLD CASE*, *CSI: MIAMI*, *DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES* and *ER*. On stage he won a DramaLogue award for Best Actor in Lee Kalcheim's *FRIENDS*.

As a writer/director/producer, Martin made his directorial debut with the original comedy *ON AND ON...* that he created and wrote under Showtime's auspices, starring Anne-Marie Johnson and Alan Campbell. His screenplay *KNUXIE* about a gay baseball player, was optioned by Terra Bella Entertainment and Adam Leipzig.

**Drew Pillsbury (Jon)** has worked for over twenty-five years as an actor, getting his start opposite Griffin Dunne and Madonna in the resounding flop *WHO'S THAT GIRL*. With nowhere to go but up, he subsequently starred in the critically acclaimed independent film *JEROME*, opposite Wendie Malick. *JEROME* appeared in numerous film festivals around the world, including Taos, Austin, AFI, Munich, and Berlin. Of the film, the *LA Times* wrote, "Taut and compelling... an example of mature, disciplined American

## cast & crew cont.

independent filmmaking at its best.” JEROME was released theatrically and subsequently picked up by the Sundance Channel.

Finding his passion in the indie world, Drew began to write. His first feature, 100 MILE RULE, stars Maria Bello, Jake Weber and Michael McKean, and was purchased by HBO after appearing at numerous film festivals, including Cannes, Cinequest, Santa Barbara, Palm Springs, Taos, Nashville, USA, Fort Lauderdale and Stony Brook where it garnered the Audience Choice award. Pillsbury’s second film, BROKEN, stars Heather Graham, Jeremy Sisto and Tess Harper. The film premiered at the AFI Film Festival. First Look Studios released BROKEN in NY, LA, Chicago, Austin and Minneapolis and then it was subsequently picked up by SHOWTIME.

**Wendie Malick (Kate)** Television: JUST SHOOT ME (two-time Emmy and Golden Globe nominee), FRASIER, BIG DAY, JAKE IN PROGRESS, GOOD COMPANY, DREAM ON (four Cable Ace awards), numerous guest roles and TV movies including NYPD BLUE, CSI, SEINFELD, CYBIL, X-FILES, TAKE MY ADVICE, APOLLO 11, and DYNASTY: THE MINISERIES.

Theatre: BURLEIGH GRIMES, NORTH SHORE FISH, Off Broadway, WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THUNDER?, BLITHE SPIRIT (Williamstown), THE UNDERPANTS (Geffen), QUESTA, ROUND TRIP, VAGINA MONOLOGUES, SANTALAND DIARIES (Los Angeles), THE GUYS (Studio Arena).

Film: ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKY, CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC, THE GOODS, ADVENTURELAND, RACING STRIPES, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, JEROME, WAITING, SCROOGED, BUGSY, A LITTLE SEX, THE EMPEROR’S NEW GROOVE, MR. MIKE’S MONDO VIDEO.

**Anne-Marie Johnson (Erin)** is a Los Angeles native and UCLA graduate. She has starred in several successful television series, including, IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT, WHAT’S HAPPENING NOW, IN LIVING COLOR, MELROSE PLACE etc. For five seasons she portrayed Congresswoman “Bobbie Latham” on CBS’s hit military drama JAG. Miss Johnson appeared for two seasons on the hit UPN comedy GIRLFRIENDS as “Sharon Upton Farley” and also starred as “Donna Cabonna” on The Disney Channels hit TV series, THAT’S SO RAVEN. Currently Anne-Marie has a recurring role on Tyler Perry’s THE HOUSE OF PAYNE. Her feature credits include HOLLYWOOD SHUFFLE, STRICTLY BUSINESS, IMO GIT U SUCKA, ROBOTJOX, TRUE IDENTITY, DOWN IN THE DELTA, PURSUIT OF

## cast & crew cont.

HAPPINESS, LEGACY OF A HIT MAN, and L.A. RIOTS SPECTACULAR . She will soon be seen in the USA Cable Network series “Facing Kate” and upcoming feature films SUICIDE DOLLS, UNCORKED AND **fifty-nothing**.

Ms. Johnson produced and starred in the critically acclaimed West Coast premiere of BEE-LUTHER HATCHEE. Other producing credits include “ON AND ON”, a pilot presentation for the Showtime Cable Channel.

Ms. Johnson is entering her 13th year as a Screen Actors Guild National Board Officer. For four years she served as the Senior Advisor to the President and just completed her fourth term as SAG’s First Vice President, making her the first African American to be elected to that position in the Guild’s 77 year history. Ms. Johnson also holds a seat on the AFTRA national board.

**Kathleen Noone (Peggy)** is a familiar face playing ‘Ellen’ on ALL MY CHILDREN. After 11½ years, 2 Emmy nominations and an Emmy Award, she moved to Hollywood and worked such shows as QUANTUM LEAP, HUNTER and EMPTY NEST before accepting the leading role of Claudia Whittaker on the popular KNOTS LANDING for its last three seasons. She also recurred on LA LAW, PARTY OF FIVE and FRASIER, and Guest Starred on such sitcoms as LOVE AND WAR, NED AND STACY, MURPHY BROWN, and ELLEN. She’s also appeared in Movie of the Week’s WHAT LOVE SEES with Richard Thomas and Annabelle Gish, HEARTS ADRIFT with Don Murray, and the feature films CITIZEN RUTH with Laura Dern, SKELETONS with James Coburn and Ron Silver, and SERPENT’S LAIR with Jeff Fahey as well as DON’T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN with Adam Sandler.

**Michaela McManus (Alix)** spent a season on LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT as Assistant District Attorney Kim Greylek. Prior to “SVU,” Michaela starred on the entire fifth season of The CW’s hit show “ONETREE HILL” In television, she has also appeared on “CSI NY.” In addition to her feature film debut in **fifty-nothing**, Michaela recently filmed a role in the independent feature CAFE for director Marc Erlbaum. Aside from her work on screen, Michaela has also starred in several stage productions in her young career. Growing up in Rhode Island, Michaela always had a strong focus on acting and theatre. She was a theatre major at Fordham University, studied Shakespeare at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, and attended New York University’s Graduate Acting Program.

Michaela has appeared in the feature film THE BEAUTIFUL LIE, which won the 2006

## cast & crew cont.

MTV Movie Award for 'Best Student Filmmaker'

**Jessalyn Gilsig (Jessica)** is currently appearing in Ryan Murphy's new Fox show, GLEE. She has worked with Murphy in the past in the role of Gina on NIP/TUCK. Currently she can also be seen in the Emmy nominated web series IMAGINARY BITCHES. Jessalyn has appeared in recurring roles on FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS, HEROES and PRISON BREAK. She recently was seen in PROM NIGHT, and will appear in the upcoming film, THE STEPFATHER. Jessalyn's credits also include Off Broadway productions such as FIFTH OF JULY, GUN-SHY and MERE MORTALS.

**Steve Hytner (Larry)** has made an indelible impression on both the large and small screens. Most recently splitting his time between the HBO hit series HUNG and the ABC series EASTWICK, he's brought his unique talents to more than 25 films, starred as a series regular on seven TV shows and guested repeatedly on more than 50 others. Combined with his stand-up comedy career, commercial campaigns and appearances, Steve is one of America's most recognized character actors.

Steve received critical acclaim for his portrayal of Kenny Bania on the long-running hit SEINFELD. His other works include "FRIENDS", CSI – CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION, BOSTON LEGAL, PUSHING DAISES, ROSWELL, KING OF QUEENS, THE GEORGE LOPEZ SHOW and many, many more.

He started his feature career in the film SKI PATROL and went on to star in such films as IN THE LINE OF FIRE with Clint Eastwood, FORCES OF NATURE with Ben Affleck and Sandra Bullock, THE MARRYING MAN with Alec Baldwin, to name a few.

**Thomas Johnston (Director) fifty-nothing** is the second feature film for director Thomas Johnston. He co-directed his first feature, JEROME, released in 2001 and was a hit on the festival circuit worldwide including the AFI Los Angeles and Berlin Film Festivals. The Los Angeles Times wrote of JEROME, "*an example of mature, disciplined American Independent filmmaking at its best.*" Tom is a long-time associate of the filmmaking Coen Brothers, as well as director Robert Redford.

**Ian Toporoff (Producer)** is an Emmy Award winner and three-time nominee for the series SUNSET BEACH. Ian's career spans over 20 years in both film and television. Credits include work on: James Cameron's THE ABYSS, THE PUNISHER, as well as the long running CBS television series, THE KING OF QUEENS. He is currently serving as Producer on the feature film "NOTHING PERSONAL."

## cast & crew cont.

**Maria Bierniak (Producer)** got her start in the business working as a location scout and manager in New York City for films such as “QUIZ SHOW”, “SPIDERMAN”, “ANALYZE THIS” and “THE STEPFORD WIVES”. Her most recent project credits include Oliver Stone’s “WALL STREET II” and “CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC.” **fifty-nothing** is her first project as a producer.

**Amy Herman (Executive Producer)** entered the film industry under producer Robert Greenhut on such Woody Allen films as HANNAH AND HER SISTERS and RADIO DAYS. She used that experience to become one of the top unit production managers on the East Coast. Her filmmaker associations include some of the most respected names in the industry including Martin Scorsese, Mike Nichols, James L. Brooks and Robert Redford. Her major film credits include BIG, WORKING GIRL, GOODFELLAS, SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE, QUIZ SHOW, JERRY MAGUIRE, SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION, AS GOOD AS IT GETS, THE HORSEWHISPERER, ANALYZE THAT, LADDER 49 and DARK WATER. Her most recent credits as a Co-Producer are on the Mel Brooks musical movie THE PRODUCERS, Martin Scorsese’s SHUTTER ISLAND and the Disney dance film STEP UP 3D.

**Melanie Backer (Executive Producer)** Melanie produced Sundance Lab and Sundance Film Festival Premiere SWIMMERS starring Cherry Jones, Sarah Paulson and Shawn Hatosy. She produced the films, PUMPKIN and THE AMATI GIRLS. Melanie worked with Kelly Reichardt, Sarah Green and Jodie Foster on THE ROYAL COURT, was Story Editor at New Line Cinema and VP Production and Development for Glenn Gordon Caron. Melanie is currently packaging and producing the features films, THE GORDONS AT THE END OF THE WORLD and I AM ROSE FATOU, and executive Produced Jorn Threlfall’s MOJADO. At the Toronto International Film Festival, Melanie producer - repped Justin Lin’s first film SHOPPING FOR FANGS as well as LOVE AND ACTION IN CHICAGO.

**Jim Hayden (Executive Producer)** comes to the film business via the stage, and along with his wife and producing partner, Kathie, is an award-winning producer (Lee Kalcheim’s FRIENDS). Always an artist, Jim has written and produced several songs, most recently WE BEGIN AGAIN and THE FIRE IN ATLANTA with Mark Hart from CROWDED HOUSE. He continues to write and make music. **fifty-nothing** is Jim’s first foray into the feature film world.



## cast & crew cont.

**Keith J. Duggan (Director of Photography)** was born and raised in New York. He majored in film at The University of Buffalo, where he nurtured his love of camera and light. Duggan spent his early years designing and lighting theatre, which eventually led him to become Director of Photography for American Movie Classics (AMC). He went on to lens several independent features in New York, including THE BEACH HOUSE. Television credits include THE NEXT FOOD NETWORK STAR, INSIDE JOKES, KEVIN HILL, THE LAW FIRM, JUGANDO EL AMOR, MTV's BECOMING, THE TONIGHT SHOW with JAY LENO, JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE, and THE HOWARD STERN SHOW.

**Patrick Giraudi (Supervising Sound Editor)** is a pioneer in using digital workstation in sound editing and mixing films. He is a well established Sound Supervisor/Re-recording Mixer in the film industry. Patrick has pursued a career as a Sound Designer, Supervising Sound Editor and Re-recording Mixer which lead him to work on hundreds of independent films. Along the way, Patrick worked with David Lynch's STRAIGHT STORY and MULHOLLAND DRIVE in his personal home studio.

# fifty-nothing cast

(in order of appearance)

adam.....martin grey  
jon.....drew pillsbury  
waiting room man.....john rundall  
waiting room wife.....joyce renly  
doctor.....victor mccay  
erin.....anne-marie johnson  
receptionist.....alyssa coates  
dan the dude.....garrett strommen  
jessica.....jessalyn gilsig  
becca.....audrey wasilewski  
michelle.....rebecca field  
skinny's bouncer.....tony marquina  
waiter.....victor bohy  
peggy.....kathleen noone  
nancy.....miriam flynn  
bartender.....patrick mckee  
larry of lumpy's.....steve hytner  
alix.....michaela mcmanus  
kate.....wendie malick  
lumpy's couple.....stephen & sandy dorros  
porn voice.....dame smokey windchime  
slow golfer.....stuart davis

directed by  
thomas JOHNSTON

written by  
drew PILLSBURY & martin a. GOTTLIEB and thomas JOHNSTON

produced by  
ian TOPOROFF  
maria t. BIERNIAK  
martin a. GOTTLIEB  
drew PILLSBURY  
thomas JOHNSTON

executive producers  
amy HERMAN  
melanie BACKER  
jim HAYDEN

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