



THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

Present

A Deutsch / Open City Films  
GreeneStreet Films  
Production

# AWAKE

**WARNING:** This film depicts a horrifying, true-life surgical event known as “anesthetic awareness.” **AWAKE** may not be suitable for those about to undergo anesthesia for surgery.

## Production Notes

**84 Minutes**

**Rated R**

“Awake” is a Weinstein Company presentation being distributed in US theaters by Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer Studios Inc. (MGM)

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**AWAKE**

**Cast**

Clayton Beresford, Jr. .... Hayden Christensen  
Samantha Lockwood.....Jessica Alba  
Lilith Beresford..... Lena Olin  
Jack Harper ..... Terrence Howard  
Larry Lupin .....Christopher McDonald  
Dr. Putnam ..... Fisher Stevens  
Nurse Carver ..... Georgina Chapman  
Clayton Beresford, Sr. .... Sam Robards  
Dr. Neyer..... Arliss Howard

**AWAKE**

**Filmmakers**

Written and Directed by.....Joby Harold  
Producers.....Joana Vicente  
Jason Kliot  
John Penotti  
Fisher Stevens  
Executive Producer.....Tim Williams  
Co-Executive Producer.....Donny Deutsch  
Co-Producers.....Amy Kaufman  
Tory Tunnell  
Unit Production Manager.....Robin Sweet  
Production Designer.....Dina Goldman  
Art Director.....Ben Barraud  
Director of Photography.....Russell Carpenter  
Casting Director.....Avy Kaufman  
Costume Designer.....Cynthia Flynt  
Department Head Make Up.....Chris Bingham  
Post Supervisor.....Miles Ferguson  
Editor.....Craig McKay  
Visual Effects Supervisor.....David Isyomin  
Prop Master.....Adam Roffman  
Stunt Coordinator.....Pete Buccossi  
Sound Mixer.....Noah Timan

## AWAKE

### Synopsis

Clayton Beresford, Jr. (Hayden Christensen) seems to have it all—a gorgeous fiancée named Samantha Lockwood (Jessica Alba), an adoring mother Lilith (Lena Olin), a thriving business and all the money a young man could ever want. But Clay’s life is far from perfect—his relationship with Sam is a secret because she actually works for his overbearing mother and he is in desperate need of a heart transplant.

Jack Harper (Terrence Howard) is Clay’s friend and his cardiologist. Jack was there when Clay first had heart trouble and he helps Clay prepare for the surgery, which will occur as soon as the doctors can find a donor with Clay’s rare blood-type. Jack stresses to Clay that he must live everyday to the fullest, come clean to his mother and marry Sam without further ado.

When Sam pressures Clay to marry her, he comes clean to his mother. Lilith responds by offering Sam money to stay out of their lives. Clay is furious. He grabs Sam and insists they get married that very night, with Jack by their side as his Best Man. Shortly after the wedding, Clay’s beeper goes off. This can only mean one thing—they found Clay a matching heart donor.

Clay and Sam breeze into the medical center where they meet Jack and his colleagues, Dr. Putnam (Fisher Stevens) and Nurse Carver (Georgina Chapman). Lilith pushes Clay to use Dr. Neyer (Arliss Howard), who is one of the top cardiologists in the country. But Clay is adamant that Jack perform the transplant and that he trusts him despite several pending malpractice suits. As Clay nervously prepares for surgery, Sam tries to calm him.

Anesthesiologist Dr. Larry Lupin (Christopher McDonald) bolts into the hospital late, explaining that he had been at a wine tasting. Everyone expresses concern at this admission but in the end, they decide to proceed with the operation. Dr. Lupin injects Clay and he gently slips under.

At this point, Clay realizes that he can hear the doctors, still prepping him for surgery. As Clay feels Jack’s fingers on his sternum, scalpel in hand, Clay knows he’s in serious trouble.

Clay is experiencing “anesthetic awareness,” where a surgery patient can feel everything being done to him, but cannot move or speak.

Clay can feel everything Jack and his team does to his body and believes he is suspended in a nightmare. He hears conversations that don’t belong in an OR and begins to learn that everyone is not who they seem. Clay begins to realize that he was never meant to wake up from this operation.

Through several more revelations, Clay’s heart line reappears on the monitor. Was all of this a dream brought on by the anesthesia? Or did everything Clay heard actually happen? No matter the circumstances, he opens his eyes. He is awake.

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# AWAKE

## **About the Production**

The symptoms are excruciating: sharp pains in the back and on the sides that radiate to the abdomen and the groin; blood in the urine; difficult urination; fever and chills; nausea and vomiting. Patients report feeling as if they had been stabbed in the back with a steak knife.

While being treated for these symptoms—caused by a kidney stone—writer-director Joby Harold first got the idea for a thriller about, well, pain.

“It was just about the most painful experience I could possibly conceive. I was in unimaginable pain for about six hours, to the point where I got very bored of being in pain. My mind began to wander, and I went back to when I was a kid. I thought about my parents, and my wife, and the things I cared about, and in the middle of that, right in the middle, I got sort of an idea, and a light bulb went off.”

The idea became the movie *AWAKE*, a thriller starring Hayden Christensen, Jessica Alba, Terrence Howard and Lena Olin. The film is about a wealthy young man with a bad heart and a complicated love life who, at the beginning of life-saving heart transplant surgery, experiences what is known in the surgical community as “anesthetic awareness”: though paralyzed by drugs, the patient can see, hear and, most horrifically, feel everything happening to his or her self.

“Most psychological thrillers are experienced by the audience in a fairly passive way,” says Harold, who makes his feature directorial debut with *AWAKE*. “The point of *AWAKE* is to take the audience inside this man’s consciousness while he’s experiencing this unique and horrible event.

“In most thrillers,” Harold continues, “the audience sees the main character walking down a hallway and knows that there’s a bad man around the corner, that danger is near. In our film, I’m hoping to make Clay’s experience happen right in the middle of the audiences’ head. We’re trying to make the experience as visceral, as immediate, and as identifiable as possible, so it’s something the audience can actually feel in real time. It will be like a ride.”

On a bright and chilly autumn afternoon, Harold, Hayden Christensen and a skilled New York production team, including the cinematographer who shot the Academy Award winning *TITANIC*, are hard at work shooting a scene in which pain itself is visualized. The location is a corridor inside Manhattan’s famous Bellevue Hospital, on a high floor overlooking the East River. Florescent lights shimmer on polished linoleum floors. The place is dead quiet. Then the nightmare begins.

It’s probably a good thing that this part of Bellevue is about to undergo renovation and free of patients: Christensen’s horrible screams would be detrimental to any human being’s sense of well-being.

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After Harold's kidney stone epiphany, it took him about a week to write the first draft of *AWAKE* and another three months to do research and build the narrative.

"I talked to about fifty nurses, four surgeons, and a ton of doctors—basically anybody I'd ever met who had any sort of a medical background," he says.

Harold had been developing another film at Open City Films, the New York production company run by Joana Vicente and Jason Kliot. "This earlier project was a sprawling, almost epic thriller," Vicente recalls, "that would have been very hard to get made."

After the kidney stone episode, however, Harold went back to Open City Films with a new pitch for *AWAKE*, that focused more on the narrative hook of anesthetic awareness. Open City Films embraced the pitch with great enthusiasm and proceeded to develop the project with Harold for two years.

As *AWAKE* was gathering momentum, Open City's Vicente and Kliot happened to mention the project to Vicky Cherkas, a business affairs executive at another New York production company, GreeneStreet Films. Cherkas told GreeneStreet's Fisher Stevens and John Penotti about the project and, based on their enthusiasm, continued to pursue it with Open City.

"The script just totally grabbed me, and grabbed John Penotti, and the whole GreeneStreet team," Stevens explains. "It was like one of these unique, movies, something we'd never done as a company, and something I'd never seen as a moviegoer. Our usual prerogative is that the writer directs his or her own script, and Joby was clearly ready to direct."

From that point forward, "I spent a lot of time going back and forth to L.A. and meeting people like Hayden and Jessica, assembling the right cast that sort of made everybody feel comfortable with the project," recalls Harold. "When you think about what we're trying to do, *AWAKE* is a fairly experimental film, and it's fairly adventurous," he explains. "There are not a lot of films like it."

"But I think the project's very uniqueness helped us to attract this great cast, an extraordinary cinematographer, an amazing editor. It's weird to think about all of these extremely talented people gathering around a movie that came out of my awful little experience with a kidney stone. The kidney stone's only so big, the movie ends up being t-h-i-s big, and the whole thing took three years."

"Joby's a very impressive writer," concludes Vicente. "If you read his scripts, they're incredibly visual, and you just feel like they come from the mind of a director. He always knows what everything is about: he understands his characters, the situations they're in, and there's always a visual sense to it. Just talking to him, you feel he's a filmmaker. He's proven it on the set."

Jessica Alba felt the same way when she first read *AWAKE* a year and a half ago.

“To be honest with you, I haven’t read a script that was this interesting, or complicated, or fresh and new in a really long time,” Alba says today. “I met with Joby before the movie was set up anywhere to express my interest.”

GreeneStreet brought both equity financing and The Weinstein Company to the project. In turn, The Weinstein Company brought the film to key actors.

“Harvey Weinstein called me up and said he had a great script with a great new director attached,” Hayden Christensen tells a visitor to the set, “and he said that I should do it. So I met with Joby and we hit it off famously. Joby clearly had a very defined vision for the character and for the movie, and I trusted him implicitly.”

“Harvey Weinstein came up with the idea to cast Terrence Howard as Jack, Clay’s heart surgeon, after he saw CRASH,” says Stevens. “I’ve known Terrence for probably fifteen years, and he’s always been one of my favorite actors, but it was Harvey who actually had the idea to cast him in this. And now I can’t see anybody else in this role. Terrence and Hayden have this camaraderie that’s just phenomenal, and it’s phenomenal for the film.”

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Though the idea of anesthetic awareness is a creepy one, and AWAKE is certainly a thriller, much of Harold’s work as a writer and Jessica Alba’s and Hayden Christensen’s jobs as actors is to frame what happens to Clay in the narrative of a convincing, high-stakes love story.

“I think a pretty outstanding element of AWAKE is that even though Hayden’s character goes through this horrific experience, the way he gets through it is basically his love for this girl,” explains Alba. “We all agreed that this had to be the most intense young love anybody’s ever seen. The stakes are higher between Clay and Sam because there’s an invisible expiration date on Clay’s life: the characters just don’t know what tomorrow’s going to bring.”

“Though the audience doesn’t know it right away—their love is so passionate, and so heart-breaking, because there’s a physical element to it which is a ticking clock.”

“Clay is born into wealth, a multi-millionaire,” explains Harold. “Sam, on the other hand, comes from much smaller beginnings. Where Clay lives in a material world, Sam is somebody who exists on a much less materialistic plane. She’s a much more open person and I think he finds that attractive about her. When he’s with her, he’s in a little bubble, and they live in this little bubble together. And he sort of holds his breath until he has to go back.”

Playing Sam is a refreshing change for Alba. “For whatever reason, I’ve only been hired to do big commercial movies,” she says after shooting the kiss with Christensen. “With movies, it often seems like the bigger the movie, the more people are in charge of what the story should be. The more money that’s put into the movie, the more vague the characters can become. On AWAKE, it’s nice to be able to play a real character who has to make real choices, with motivations that are more complicated.”

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For the last third of production, the crew moved onto a sound stage at Kaufman-Astoria Studios in Queens. This is where the team built a set resembling a surgical operating room, and where much of the film's most intense and harrowing action was shot.

"I think a lot of people are often overwhelmed by the thought of going into surgery and wonder how it is that they won't feel anything," Terrence Howard says. "It's that uncertainty that makes *AWAKE* a particularly mental thriller."

"Anesthesia is one of the most effective medical interventions, yet one of the least understood," reported Sandra Blakeslee in the *New York Times* in 1994. "Since the nature of consciousness is a fundamental mystery, perhaps it is not surprising that the art of rendering people unconscious also defies exact understanding. These gaps in knowledge mean that anesthesiologists have no reliable ways to gauge when a person is unconscious."

The science behind anesthesia only adds to this uncertainty.

"Anesthesiologists mix as many as 15 drugs to produce desired effects," Blakeslee reports. "They use opiates to block pain, Valium-type drugs to reduce anxiety and induce amnesia, a muscle relaxant to paralyze the body and a dollop of volatile gases to promote unconsciousness. These anesthetic cocktails are custom designed for various kinds of procedures and to meet the needs of each patient."

Howard prepared for his role by spending time "watching about ten different operations, at the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. It's amazing to stand there inside the O.R., watching a heart transplant, or aortic valve replacement, literally as someone is holding a life in their hands. And then for an actor to be able to come to it and shoot it, that's a blessing and a half."

For Christensen, the greatest challenges of shooting the scenes in the operating room were mental.

"It was not easy to exist in a space where I'm kind of in this perpetual free-fall," he explains. "When I'm on the table, I can't interact with anybody else, and I'm also trying to figure things out. Meanwhile, everyone is oblivious to my presence. Trying to feel connected in a scene like that is challenging. But I think it will be neat for an audience to sort of get inside of Clay's head and experience that with him."

"Actually," he says, "it should be terrifying."

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## AWAKE

### About the Cast

**HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN (Clay)** will next be seen starring in Doug LIMAN'S Jumper opposite Samuel L. Jackson and Rachel Bilson. Christensen plays David Rice a jumper who can teleport himself around the globe and finds himself relentlessly pursued by a secret organization sworn to kill all jumpers. JUMPER will be released on February 15, 2008 by 20th Century Fox.

Christensen is most well known for his role as Anakin Skywalker in George Lucas's blockbuster epics STAR WARS EPISODE II: ATTACK OF THE CLONES and STARS WARS EPISODE III: REVENGE OF THE SITH.

Christensen gained critical acclaim for his role as a troubled teenager in Irwin Winkler's 2001 drama LIFE AS A HOUSE. For his performance, Christensen was nominated for a Golden Globe Award and Screen Actors Guild Award. Christensen also received the award for Best Breakthrough Performance from the National Board of Review.

Christensen's other film credits include: George Hickenlooper's FACTORY GIRL, Sofia Coppola's THE VIRGIN SUICIDES, Sarah Kernochan's ALL I WANNA DO and John Carpenter's IN THE MOUTH OF MADNESS.

Additionally, Christensen starred in Billy Ray's SHATTERED GLASS, which was the first feature film produced by Christensen's production company, Forest Park Pictures in partnership with Cruise/Wagner Productions, Baumgarten/Merims Productions and Lions Gate films.

Christensen was born in Vancouver, and later moved to Toronto, where he currently resides.

**JESSICA ALBA (Sam)** fell in love with acting at a very early age, becoming active professionally at the age of 12. She began studying with acting coaches in Los Angeles and, shortly thereafter, landed at the Atlantic Theatre Company, where she studied with founders William H. Macy and David Mamet.

Alba first achieved worldwide recognition as the lead character in James Cameron's DARK ANGEL, Mr. Cameron's first project after the history-making TITANIC and his first television venture. In the series, Alba portrayed Max, a genetically-enhanced human prototype who escapes from her government captors only to live out her life on the run in the underground of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seattle. In the series' first season, she was nominated for a Golden Globe and a People's Choice Award. She was voted the TV Guide Award as Breakout Star of the Year by readers, and won Favorite TV Actress at the 2001 Teen Choice Awards. DARK ANGEL has been a success around the world, helping to establish her as an international star.

Her early feature film credits include 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox's NEVER BEEN KISSED, starring and produced by Drew Barrymore, as well as the thriller, IDLE HANDS for Sony Pictures. She later starred as the title character in Fine Line Features' romance THE SLEEPING DICTIONARY, a

period drama which co-starred Brenda Blethyn, Bob Hoskins, Emily Mortimer, Noah Taylor and Hugh Dancy. Her first starring role in a major studio film was the 2003 release, HONEY. The contemporary urban drama from Universal Pictures grossed over \$60-million worldwide.

In 2005, Alba's film career began to catch fire. She starred opposite Bruce Willis and an all-star cast in the provocative and critically acclaimed SIN CITY, directed by Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller. She next starred as Sue Storm 'The Invisible Girl' in Marvel Comics' action-franchise blockbuster FANTASTIC FOUR, which was released by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox in July 2005 and became a worldwide box-office success, with over \$300 million in revenue. Later the same year, she starred in the 2005 underwater action-adventure, INTO THE BLUE.

In 2005, the combined worldwide box office for FANTASTIC FOUR, SIN CITY and INTO THE BLUE totaled over half a billion dollars. There is talk of a sequel to SIN CITY and the next installment of the popular comic book adaptation, FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER, opened worldwide in June 2007.

Alba has also filmed a role in the comedy, BILL, with Aaron Eckhart and Elizabeth Banks. Next up, she stars opposite Dane Cook in the romantic comedy, GOOD LUCK CHUCK, and has completed filming the starring role in the remake of Hong Kong's psychological horror hit, THE EYE, for Lionsgate Films and Cruise-Wagner Productions. She is currently filming Paramount Pictures' LOVE GURU, opposite Mike Myers.

Alba has appeared in a several iconic and lucrative endorsement campaigns including the famous Got Milk? "milk mustache" campaign and was featured in a star-studded 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign for The Gap, as well as other prestigious campaigns in the U.S. and internationally. She recently signed a global endorsement contract representing Revlon, joining an elite group of beauties representing the brand, including Halle Berry, Eva Mendes and Sheryl Crow.

She showcased her comedic talents as host of the 2006 MTV Movie Awards and she has appeared on countless prestigious magazine covers in the United States and throughout the world.

Although many would describe her as an exotic beauty, Alba was raised in a traditional American family in California. Her mother's family has a French-Danish heritage, while her father is from Mexican-Indian and Spanish lineage.

**LENA OLIN (Lilith)**, an Academy Award® nominee, has become a favorite of audiences and critics alike with her remarkable beauty and talent. On the small screen, she was most recently seen on the critically acclaimed and highly rated ABC series, ALIAS, opposite Jennifer Garner and Victor Garber.

Olin was last seen in Lasse Hallström's feature film CASANOVA with Heath Ledger and Sienna Miller. Before that, she was seen in director Ron Shelton's HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE opposite Harrison Ford. In addition, Lena joined an ensemble cast that includes Don Cheadle and Kevin Spacey in THE UNITED STATES OF LELAND.

Olin made her American film debut in 1988's *THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING*, opposite Daniel Day Lewis, directed by Philip Kaufman. She went on to star opposite Ron Silver and Anjelica Houston in *ENEMIES: A LOVE STORY*, for which she received a New York Film Critics Award for Best Actress as well as an Academy Award® nomination. Olin also starred opposite Johnny Depp and Juliette Binoche in Lasse Hallström's *CHOCOLAT*. Additional film credits include Roman Polanski's *THE NINTH GATE* with Johnny Depp; *POLISH WEDDING* opposite Gary Oldman; Sidney Lumet's *NIGHT AND THE MOMENT* opposite Willem Dafoe; *HAVANA* opposite Robert Redford; *MR. JONES* opposite Richard Gere; and Ingmar Bergman's *FANNY AND ALEXANDER*. In 1998, Lena Olin was honored to serve as a judge at the Cannes Film Festival.

Olin was born in Sweden, where she has been with the Royal Dramatic Theatre since the age of 20. It was there that she met the legendary Ingmar Bergman who went on to direct her in several theatre projects, including "King Lear," "After the Rehearsal" and "Miss Julie." Additional stage credits include "The Alchemist," "Paradisbarnen," "Juno and the Paycock," "Gross Und Klein," "Servitore Di Due Padrone," "Restoration," "Nattvarden," "Summer," "A Dream Play" and "The Master and Margarita."

**TERRENCE HOWARD (Jack)**, Crowned as the "Indie Film King" by *Entertainment Weekly*, Terrence Howard exploded onto the Hollywood scene after delivering strong performances in a number of film and TV productions. Last year alone he has multiple nominations including an Academy Award and Golden Globe, and has received awards for Breakthrough Actor by the National Board of Review, Movieline and Gotham Awards. He has also received the Rising Star Award from the Palm Springs International Film Festival, the Renaissance Artist Award from the Diversity Awards and the Career Achievement Award from the Chicago International Film Festival. Called Sundance's "newest golden boy" by *New York Magazine* after a record breaking year at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, Terrence recently served as a drama juror at the 2006 festival.

Terrence started off 2005 with dynamic performances in Paul Haggis' Academy Award winning film *CRASH* and in John Singleton's *HUSTLE & FLOW*. For his leading role in *HUSTLE & FLOW*, Terrence received an Academy Award, Golden Globe, Image Award and Independent Spirit Award nominations and won the Satellite Award for Best Actor. The song, which he performs in the film, received a Critics Choice Award and was the first rap song ever to receive an Academy Award. The cast also received a Screen Actors Guild nomination for Best Ensemble.

For the critically acclaimed *CRASH*, Terrence and the all-star cast including Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, Thandie Newton and Matt Dillon received a Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Ensemble, was nominated for a Gotham award and swept up the Best Picture Oscar at the 2006 Academy Awards.

Keeping a powerful presence on the small screen as well, Howard was seen in the critically acclaimed HBO film *LACKAWANNA BLUES* based on Tony Award-winning Ruben Santiago-

Hudson's autobiographical play and directed by George C. Wolfe. The cast, which includes Jeffrey Wright and S. Epatha Merkerson was nominated for an NAACP Image Award.

Howard's love for acting came naturally, through summers spent with his grandmother, New York stage actress Minnie Gentry. He began his acting career on THE COSBY SHOW after being discovered on a New York City street by a casting director. The chance encounter helped Howard break into feature films, and soon he was cast in such films as MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS.

Some of Howard's memorable performances are of scene-stealing characters such as Cowboy in the Hughes brothers' film DEAD PRESIDENTS and as Quentin in Malcolm D. Lee's film THE BEST MAN. The latter earning him a NAACP Image Award, Independent Spirit Award nomination and a Chicago Film Critics Award nomination.

Terrence recently completed filming a thriller THE BRAVE ONE, which he stars opposite Jodie Foster. He was recently seen as swim coach Jim Ellis in PRIDE co-starring Bernie Mac, AUGUST RUSH with Robin Williams and Freddie Highmore and THE HUNTING PARTY with Richard Gere. In the spring, Terrence will begin production on IRON MAN opposite Robert Downey Jr., which is based off the famed comic-book series.

Howard was recently seen as swim coach Jim Ellis in PRIDE co-starring Bernie Mac. Terrence will next be seen in the thriller THE BRAVE ONE, which he stars opposite Jodie Foster, AUGUST RUSH with Robin Williams and Freddie Highmore and AWAKE with Jessica Alba and Hayden Christensen. Terrence is currently in production on IRON MAN opposite Robert Downey Jr., which is based off the famed comic-book series.

Other film credits include John Singleton's crime drama ANGEL EYES, HARTS WAR, FOUR BROTHERS, IDLEWILD and Jim Sheridan's GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN'.

A self-taught musician Howard plays both the piano and the guitar and he can be seen displaying these musical talents opposite Jamie Foxx in 2004's RAY for which they both earned a SAG nomination. A promising songwriter, Howard's lyrics are soon to be acquired by some of today's biggest artists.

**CHRISTOPHER MCDONALD (Larry Lupin)**, singled out by the *New York Times* as one of the hardest working and most prolific actors in Hollywood, continues to bring legendary characters to life with consistent acclaim. Currently, McDonald starred in the New York theatrical hit "Chicago" and he was recently on the big screen in the new film BROKEN FLOWERS. McDonald is also set to appear in the upcoming independent films THE DRUMMER with Michael Madsen and THE L.A. RIOT SPECTACULAR alongside Snoop Dogg and Emilio Estevez.

Most recently, Chris appeared in GRIND, SPEAKEASY, CHILDREN ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS which is based on the Truman Capote short story, SPYKIDS 2: THE LOST ISLAND OF DREAMS with Antonio Banderas, and the Coen brothers' THE MAN WHO

WASN'T THERE with Billy Bob Thornton and Frances McDormand. He has also guest-starred in several episodes of the Hawaii-based series NORTH SHORE (Fox).

Born and raised in New York City, this handsome actor has ignited movie screens with the spectrum of roles he has chosen since the beginning of his career. He attended Hobart College, from which he graduated cum laude on academic and athletic scholarships. During his time in school, McDonald decided to switch from a pre-med major to theater arts. He studied at the esteemed Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, the London Academy of Music and the Stella Adler Acting Conservatory in New York.

McDonald has played a wide variety of intriguing characters in more than 70 films including the infamous Shooter McGavin in HAPPY GILMORE. Additional film credits include REQUIEM FOR A DREAM with Ellyn Burstyn; THE PERFECT STORM with George Clooney; NURSE BETTY with Renee Zellweger; FLUBBER with Robin Williams; QUIZ SHOW, THELMA & LOUISE, THE SKULLS, THE IRON GIANT, THE FACULTY, FIVE ACES and GRUMPY OLD MEN.

As if that were not enough, McDonald has played Mel Allen in HBO's critically acclaimed baseball feature 61\*, in addition to appearing in more than 23 television programs. Most recently, McDonald starred as the loving yet slightly neurotic patriarch on the critically acclaimed Fox series CRACKING UP. He also starred as attorney Rex Weller on the CBS drama FAMILY LAW (four seasons) and as the philandering husband to Kirstie Alley on VERONICA'S CLOSET. Guest starring roles include such series as HOME IMPROVEMENT, STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, MATLOCK and CHEERS.

McDonald has also graced the theater with a starring role in "Nightclub Cantata and Final Touches," an Obie Award-winning musical for which he won the Dramalogue Best Actor Award. McDonald has also performed on stage in "Bouncers," "Hay Fever" and the Los Angeles Theatre Center's productions of "Hamlet," "Othello" and "The Taming of the Shrew."

In addition to being an accomplished actor, McDonald is a sports enthusiast who enjoys pushing the limits. He is an avid pilot who logs as many hours in the air as he does on the road, and he can also be found motorcycling, or skiing on the weekends. McDonald boasts a great jump shot and has two gold tournaments in his name.

Providing a backdrop that further illustrates his personality, McDonald lives in the rustic San Bernardino Mountains with his wife and four children, where he enjoys fishing and cooking on his barbecue.

**FISHER STEVENS (Dr. Putnam)**, an actor, producer and director, wears many hats. He made his Broadway debut at the age of 18, in the Tony Award-winning play "Torch Song Trilogy." On stage, he went on to perform in Nicholas Hytner's revival of "Carousel," Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs," Terence McNally's "A Perfect Ganesh," Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and "A Midsummer Nights Dream" at the New York Shakespeare Festival.

As an actor, Stevens made his motion picture debut at the age of sixteen in the horror film *THE BURNING*. But, it was *THE FLAMINGO KID* in 1984 that established Stevens as a serious young actor. Since then, Stevens has gone on to star in such films as *MY SCIENCE PROJECT*, *REVERSAL OF FORTUNE*, *SHORT CIRCUIT*, *HACKERS*, *ONLY YOU*, *UNDISPUTED*, and many others. TV credits include two years as a series regular on CBS' *EARLY EDITION*, (1996- 2000) for which he also directed numerous episodes, FOX's *KEY WEST*, and guest roles on *FRIENDS*, *FRASIER*, and *COLUMBO*. Currently, he can be seen on the big screen in the critically-acclaimed *FACTOTUM*.

On the production front, Stevens co-founded the New York-based theater company *NAKED ANGELS* in 1986, which is still going strong after fifteen years. Members include Matthew Broderick, Marisa Tomei, Rob Morrow, Kenneth Lonnergan, and Gina Gershon. Stevens has produced and directed a number of *NAKED ANGELS* productions including "Here Lies," one of eight one-act plays entitled "Fear: An Issues Project" starring Dominic Chianese ("The Sopranos") at the Greenwich Street Theatre. He also starred in the critically-acclaimed production of "Shyster" by Bryan Goluboff with Annabella Sciorra and Phyllis Newman.

In 1995, Stevens made his short film directing debut with "Call of the Wylie," starring Amy Irving and Patrick Breen which he produced with John Penotti. The film premiered in competition at the Sundance Film Festival in 1995. It was after this successful collaboration that he and Penotti formed GreeneStreet Films (GSF), a leading production New York based production company.

Under GreeneStreet's banner, Stevens has executive produced several films including the five-time Oscar-nominated "In the Bedroom," (Miramax) directed by Todd Field, starring Sissy Spacek, Marisa Tomei, and Tom Wilkinson, the critically-acclaimed comedies "The Chateau," (IFC Films) starring Paul Rudd and directed by Jesse Peretz and "Lisa Picard is Famous," (First Look) directed by Griffin Dunne and produced by Mira Sorvino and Dolly Hall. The mockumentary was an official selection of the 2000 Cannes International Film Festival.

"Just A Kiss" marked Stevens directorial debut. This romantic comedy starring Taye Diggs, Ron Eldard, Kyra Sedgwick, Marley Shelton and Marisa Tomei was released by Paramount Classics in September of 2002.

Stevens also produced the three time ALMA award winning "Piñero" (Miramax) by writer/director Leon Ichaso based on the life of poet/playwright Miguel Piñero ("Short Eyes"), starring Benjamin Bratt in the title role, Talisa Soto, Rita Moreno and Mandy Patinkin, the hit romantic comedy, "Uptown Girls," starring Brittany Murphy and Dakota Fanning, directed by Boaz Yakin, the soon-to-be-released "Slow Burn," (Lionsgate) a sexy thriller starring Ray Liotta, LL Cool J, Mekhi Pfeifer and Taye Diggs, and 2004's "Yes" (Sony Classics) featuring three-time Oscar nominee Joan Allen and Sam Neill.

This year marks a busy one for Stevens and GreeneStreet—he is executive producer on "A Prairie Home Companion" (Picturehouse) and "Once in a Lifetime" (Miramax) currently in theaters, "The Pleasure of Your Company" (Jason Biggs, Isla Fisher, directed by Michael Ian

Black) debuting at the this year's Toronto Film Festival, "Tenderness" directed by John Polson starring Russell Crowe and "Bill" starring Alba and Aaron Eckhart.

**GEORGINA CHAPMAN (Nurse Carver)** most recently appeared opposite Jennifer Aniston and Clive Owen in The Weinstein Company thriller **DERAILED**. Recent credits also include the UK thriller **THE BUSINESS**, the 2004 hit Jane Austen / Bollywood sendup **BRIDE AND PREJUDICE** and a turn in the action blockbuster **SHANGHAI KNIGHTS** opposite Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson. She has also had big-screen roles in **PICCADILY JIM**, **TIN GOD**, **SOUTH KENSINGTON**, and **DANNY THE DOG**. TV credits include the British series **ROSEMARY AND THYME** and the made-for-TV films **JEFFREY ARCHER: THE TRUTH** for the BBC in 2002 and **SONS & LOVERS**, adapted from the D.H. Lawrence classic, in 2003.

**SAM ROBARDS (Clayton Sr.)** has appeared in numerous hit films, including the award-winning **AMERICAN BEAUTY** and the Steven Spielberg blockbuster **A.I.** He has also played notable roles in **PRET A PORTER**, **LIFE AS A HOUSE**, **BOUNCE**, **CATCH THAT KID** and **BEAUTIFUL GIRLS**.

Robards has also had memorable turns on the small screen in the hit shows **THE WEST WING** and **SEX IN THE CITY**. Other TV credits include the Fox series **GET A LIFE** and movies-of-the-week **BLACKWATER LIGHTSHIP** opposite Angela Lansbury and Dianne Weist and the 2001 remake of **ON GOLDEN POND** with Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. Robards also has extensive experience in the theatre with acting credits in both Broadway and Off-Broadway productions.

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## AWAKE

### **About the Filmmakers**

#### **JOBY HAROLD (Writer / Director)**

Born in London in 1974, Joby Harold is a British writer/director who graduated from UCLA film school in 1998, that year winning the prestigious BAFTA LA fellowship award and the Allan Jacobson award for SIGHT UNHEARD, a short which he wrote, directed, and produced. Harold wrote an adaptation of the comic book OUTLAW for New Line Cinema and is in development on his next film, CHESS for Deutsch/Open City Films. He was named one of Filmmaker Magazine's "Filmmakers To Watch" in the September 2005 issue. He currently lives in New York City. AWAKE is his feature directorial debut.

#### **JOANA VICENTE and JASON KLIOT, Deutch/Open City Films (Producers)**

Vicente and Kliot's Open City Films has produced such eclectic, high-quality films as Tony Bui's Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award Winner THREE SEASONS; Jim Jarmusch's latest film COFFEE AND CIGARETTES, released by UA; and they executive produced Niels Mueller's THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON, starring Sean Penn, Naomi Watts and Don Cheadle.

Kliot and Vicente's Blow Up Pictures has been at the forefront of the digital filmmaking revolution since 1999. The company has attracted top talent both in front of and behind the camera, producing such critically acclaimed and commercially successful films as Nicole Holofcener's LOVELY AND AMAZING, Miguel Arteta's CHUCK & BUCK, Dan Minahan's SERIES 7 and Peter Mattei's LOVE IN THE TIME OF MONEY. These titles were all selected for such festivals as Sundance, Telluride and Toronto and opened theatrically through such companies as Lions Gate, Artisan, USA Films and THINKFilm.

Kliot and Vicente also run HDNet Films, a production division of Todd Wagner and Mark Cuban's 2929 Entertainment, with a mandate is to develop, finance and produce a slate of feature films to be shot in High Definition. HDNet Films productions are intended for simultaneous release through various media holdings owned by Todd Wagner and Mark Cuban, with theatrical and home video distribution through Magnolia Pictures, theatrical exhibition through Landmark Theatres among others, and day-and-date television premieres on the HDNet Movies network.

The first HDNet Films production to hit the market, Alex Gibney's ENRON: THE SMARTEST GUYS IN THE ROOM, landed among the top 15 highest-grossing nonfiction films of all time and received an Academy® Award nomination for Best Documentary Feature.

HDNet Films is currently in postproduction on QUID PRO QUO, starring Vera Farmiga, Nick Stahl and Aimee Mullins; BROKEN ENGLISH, directed by Zoë Cassavetes and starring Gena Rowlands, Drea de Matteo, Parker Posey and Melvil Poupaud; MR. UNTOUCHABLE, a documentary about 70s Harlem drug dealer Nicky Barnes, directed by Marc Levin and produced by Alex Gibney; HUNTER, directed by Alex Gibney ("Enron"), about the life and death of

gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson; and SURFWISE (working title), about the legendary Malibu surfer Dorian “Doc” Paskowitz, who introduced the sport to Israel in the 60’s; Doug Pray (“Hype,” “Scratch”) directs. HUNTER and SURFWISE are co-produced by *Vanity Fair* editor Graydon Carter.

Upcoming releases include: FAY GRIM, Hal Hartley’s follow-up to his 1997 film HENRY FOOL, with Parker Posey as the title character along with Jeff Goldblum, Saffron Burrows and Liam Aiken; and DIGGERS, directed by Katherine Dieckmann and starring Paul Rudd, Maura Tierney, Ron Eldard, Lauren Ambrose, Ken Marino, Josh Hamilton and Sarah Paulson. Both films premiered at the 2006 Toronto Film Festival will open in the spring of 2007.

HDNet Films has partnered with Oscar winner Steven Soderbergh to direct six high-definition films that are being released “day-and-date” across theatrical, television and home video platforms, an innovative distribution strategy allowing consumers to choose how, when and where they wish to see a film. The first was BUBBLE, a murder mystery set in Ohio that cast non-actors in its key roles.

**JOHN PENOTTI and FISHER STEVENS (Producers); TIM WILLIAMS Executive Producer), Greenestreet Films**

GreeneStreet Films (GSF), an independent financing, development and production company, was founded by producer John Penotti and actor Fisher Stevens in 1996. A thriving presence in the United States film community, GSF is dedicated to making quality films and television projects with high production values that are successful both artistically and financially. To accomplish this goal, GSF has significant operational and production financing through private equity sources.

GreeneStreet recently produced: Robert Altman’s A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION (Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, Lindsay Lohan); SLOW BURN (LL Cool J., Ray Liotta, Taye Diggs) and THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY (Jason Biggs, Isla Fischer); ONCE IN A LIFETIME (Documentary about the NY Cosmos soccer team); John Turturro’s ROMANCE AND CIGARETTES (James Gandolfini, Susan Sarandon, Kate Winslet) and 2001 MANIACS (Robert Englund).

Previously, GSF produced the comedy UPTOWN GIRLS directed by Boaz Yakin (FRESH, REMEMBER THE TITANS) starring Brittany Murphy and Dakota Fanning, which was released by MGM in August 2003. GSF financed and produced the number one box office hit SWIMFAN, a teen thriller directed by John Polson, starring Erika Christensen and Jesse Bradford released by Twentieth Century Fox, and the five-time Oscar-nominated Miramax release IN THE BEDROOM, directed by Todd Field, starring Sissy Spacek, Marisa Tomei, and Tom Wilkinson. GSF also financed and produced Fisher Stevens's JUST A KISS, starring Taye Diggs, Ron Eldard, Kyra Sedgwick and Marisa Tomei, released by Paramount Classics, as well as the three-time ALMA award winning PIÑERO, released by Miramax, which was written and directed by Leon Ichaso. This critically acclaimed film based on the life of poet/playwright Miguel Piñero starred Benjamin Bratt in its title role.

In addition, GSF financed and produced the critically acclaimed comedies *THE CHATEAU* (released by IFC Films), starring Paul Rudd and directed by Jesse Peretz, and *LISA PICARD IS FAMOUS* (released by First Look), directed by Griffin Dunne and produced by Mira Sorvino and Dolly Hall. *LISA PICARD IS FAMOUS* was an official selection of the 2000 Cannes International Film Festival in the Un Certain Regard category. Other GSF films include *ILLUMINATA* (Miramax), *A PRICE ABOVE RUBIES* (Miramax) and *I'M NOT RAPPAPORT* (Gramercy).

GSF is headquartered in the Tribeca section of New York City. The 35,000 square foot space, which includes a state-of-the-art digital recording studio and digital film editing suites, is a physical extension of the company's overall philosophy: by offering cutting edge production and music facilities, and by bringing together under one roof a variety of New York's most successful and creative entertainment-related companies, GSF helps artists and entertainment professionals realize their creative visions and produce work of exceptional quality.

**AMY KAUFMAN (Co-Producer)**

Amy J. Kaufman is currently the Executive Producer of *EVENING*, a Michael Cunningham script. Her recent credits include Executive Producer of *THE DOOR IN THE FLOOR*. Other producing credits include *I'M WITH LUCY*, *SERENDIPITY*, Paul Schrader's *FOREVER MINE*, Paul Auster's *LULU ON THE BRIDGE*, John Duigan's *LAWN DOGS* and Norman Rene's *RECKLESS*. She began her career as a producer of music and arts documentaries with such performers as Yoyo Ma, Mark Morris and Max Roach. This experience led to producing *32 SHORT FILMS ABOUT GLENN GOULD*, which received international acclaim and won Canadian Genies for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Cinematography and Best Editing. Ms. Kaufman lives in New York with her husband, Robert Boyd, and their nine year old son, Gabriel.

**TORY TUNNELL (Co-Producer)**

Tory Tunnell recently co-founded Safe House Pictures with partner Will Battersby, a New York based company producing smart-crossover independent films. Prior to Safe House, Tory Tunnell was VP of Deutsch/Open City Films where she oversaw development and production for the entire slate and was solely responsible for soliciting investors Donny Deutsch as well as Mark Cuban and Todd Wagner to invest in Open City Films and HDNet Films.

Tunnell associate produced Joseph Castelo's *THE WAR WITHIN*, which premiered at the Toronto Festival 2005 and Jacob Kornbluth's *THE BEST THIEF IN THE WORLD*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2004 and starred Mary Louise Parker. Previously, Tunnell worked through the development and production of *THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON* starring Sean Penn and Naomi Watts, Jim Jarmusch's *COFFEE AND CIGARETTES* starring Bill Murray, Cate Blanchett, The White Stripes, and more, and *LOVE IN THE TIME OF MONEY* starring Adrien Grenier, Rosario Dawson, Steve Buscemi and *LOVELY AND AMAZING* starring Catherine Keener, Jake Gyllenhaal, and Brenda Blethyn.

Tunnell began her career at Miramax Films where she assisted the CFO before segueing into

television production working on two Ed Zwick, Marshall Herskovitz productions (Bart Freundlich's THE ONLY LIVING BOY IN NEW YORK and Peter Berg's WONDERLAND).

**DINA GOLDMAN (Production Designer)**

Dina Goldman was born and raised in New York City, where her exposure to the arts began at an early age during customary visits to her neighborhood museums. She graduated from Wesleyan University, where she majored in Art and Theater and commenced her career as a Set Decorator for the films BREATHING ROOM and MANNY AND LO. As a Production Designer, she has worked on Robert's Altman's TANNER ON TANNER, Todd Graff's CAMP, Patrick Stettner's THE BUSINESS OF STRANGERS, Tim Blake Nelson's O, as well as MILWAUKEE, MINNESOTA, WHATEVER, RHYTHM OF THE SAINTS, FREAK TALKS ABOUT SEX, SEARCHING FOR PARADISE, BROADWAY DAMAGE and the Academy Award nominated short, SPEED FOR THESPIANS. She has also worked internationally with Turner Prize winner Steve McQueen on "Stage" for London's Hayward Gallery, and Sabine Harbeke's "Schnee Im April" for Zurich's Theater Neumarkt. Goldman has two other projects, Edward Burns' THE GROOMSMEN and Robert Altman's A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION, set for release later this year.

**BENJAMIN BARRAUD (Art Director)**

Benjamin Barraud trained as a photographer in New Zealand at the Otago School of Fine Art. He began his film career working in the southern hemisphere. For the past 13 years he has been based in New York and has a range of experience working from prop master to art director, as well as production designer on projects of all scales in film, television and commercials. Recently, Ben worked on the Robert Altman film A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION.

Ben has directed and produced his own film RED LIGHT GO, a documentary about bicycle messenger who street races in New York City.

**RUSSELL CARPENTER (Director of Photography)**

Russell Carpenter, A.S.C., won an Academy Award for Best Cinematography for his beautiful imagery on TITANIC, the enormously successful romantic drama directed by James Cameron. He also collaborated with the director on T2 – 3D: BATTLE ACROSS TIME and TRUE LIES.

Last year he shot MONSTER-IN-LAW for director Robert Luketic. He also shot the action-packed CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE and CHARLIE'S ANGELS starring Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu for director McG; the comedy SHALLOW HAL for Bobby and Peter Farrelly, featuring Gwyneth Paltrow and Jack Black; as well as the dramatic thriller THE NEGOTIATOR with Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey for director F. Gary Gray.

Carpenter's other credits include MONEY TALKS, INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD, HARD TARGET, ATTACK OF THE 50-FOOT WOMAN, PET SEMETARY II, LAWNMOWER

MAN, PERFECT WEAPON, DEATH WARRANT, SOLAR CRISIS, CRITTERS II and LADY IN WHITE.

**CYNTHIA FLYNT (Costume Designer)**

Cynthia Flynt has been designing costumes for film for many years. She started out working with John Sayles on MATEWAN, EIGHT MEN OUT and PASSION FISH. She has also worked extensively with Penny Marshall on AWAKENINGS, A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN, THE PREACHER'S WIFE, and RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS. Various other films, television, dance, and performance pieces have kept her busy in between pictures.

**CHRIS BINGHAM (Make Up)**

Chris Bingham, based in New York, has brought her artistic skills to many recent high profile feature films, such as DUKES OF HAZZARD, HOUSE OF D, BIRTH, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME and THE WEEKEND, as well as on the highly anticipated upcoming George Clooney film MICHAEL CLAYTON. She has also led the Make Up Department for such successful TV series as RESCUE ME, ED and NOW AND AGAIN, as well as the HBO original programs UNDEAFEATED and STOMP. She has lent her talents to the theatre, for "I'm Not Rappaport," and to numerous television commercials.

**CRAIG MCKAY (Editor)** Craig McKay is an award-winning feature film editor, story consultant, director, and executive producer. Directing credits include Emmy-Award-winning "BUBBE MEIES, BUBBE STORIES for PBS and HBO's THE RED SHOES, written by John Guare. Story consultant credits include Bravo's HAITI: DREAMS OF DEMOCRACY, Academy-Award-nominated MANDELA and PBS's award-winning WITNESS: VOICES FROM THE HOLOCAUST. Awards in editing include an Emmy for the NBC mini-series HOLOCAUST, as well as two Academy Award nominations for REDS and THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS. Other editing highlights include THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE, MADE IN MANHATTAN, K-PAX, A MAP OF THE WORLD, COPLAND, PHILADELPHIA, MARRIED TO THE MOB, SOMETHING WILD, MELVIN AND HOWARD and many others. McKay has served a creative advisor at the *Sundance Institute Filmmaker's Lab* and is also Executive Producer with Marion Lear Swaybill on the award-winning feature-length documentary A NORMAL LIFE.

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