

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **Viggo Mortensen** (Tom Stall)

Since his screen debut as a young Amish farmer in Peter Weir's 1985 *Witness*, Viggo Mortensen's career has been marked by a steady string of stellar and diverse performances.

Mortensen was last seen in Disney's epic action-adventure *Hidalgo* based on the true story of the greatest long-distance horse race in history. Directed by Joe Johnston and written by John Fusco, Mortensen stars as Frank T. Hopkins, the legendary cowboy and the greatest endurance rider the West has ever known. Frank and his mustang, Hidalgo, compete in the Ocean of Fire – a 3,000 mile race across the Arabian Desert – which becomes not only a matter of pride and honor, but also a race for his very survival as he and Hidalgo attempt the impossible.

Critics have continually recognized his work in more than 30 films, including such diverse performances in Peter Jackson's epic trilogy *The Lord of the Rings*, *A Walk on the Moon* opposite Diane Lane, Jane Campion's *Portrait of a Lady* opposite Nichole Kidman and John Malkovich, Brian DePalma's *Carlito's Way* opposite Al Pacino and Sean Penn, *Boiling Point* with Wesley Snipes and Dennis Hopper, and *Ruby Cairo* with Liam Neeson.

Born in New York to a Danish father and an American mother, Mortensen spent the early part of his childhood in Manhattan. His family traveled a great deal and he spent several years living in Venezuela, Argentina and Denmark. He began acting in New York, studying with Warren Robertson. He appeared in several plays and movies, and eventually moved to Los Angeles, where his performance in "Bent" at the Coast Playhouse earned him a Drama-logue Critic's Award.

Mortensen is also an accomplished poet, photographer and painter. Mortensen founded Perceval Press in 2002, a small independent publisher specializing in art, critical writing and poetry. The intention of the press is to publish texts, images, and recordings that otherwise might not be presented.

Mortensen is currently working on his third book of poetry, and recently exhibited a new photographic series, "Miyelo" at the Stephen Cohen Gallery in Los Angeles. He also exhibited at the Wellington City Gallery and Massey University in Wellington, New Zealand, Track 16 Gallery in Los Angeles and Robert Mann Gallery in New York City.

**Maria Bello** (Edie Stall)

Best known for her Screen Actors Guild Award-winning lead role on *ER* as the passionate and headstrong pediatrician Dr. Anna Del Amico, Maria Bello has quickly emerged as one of Hollywood's up and coming film stars. She made her television debut as a series regular opposite Scott Bakula in *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*. The spy-adventure series required Bello to do some of her own stunts.

She co-starred in *Permanent Midnight* with Ben Stiller and Elizabeth Hurley, and with Mel Gibson in Paramount's *Payback*. In 2000, Bello co-starred in *Duets* with Gwyneth Paltrow, Huey Lewis and Scott Speedman, and starred in Jerry Bruckheimer's highly anticipated *Coyote Ugly*, portraying Lil, a tough talking entrepreneur who owns a Western style bar in New York City called Coyote Ugly.

In the fall of 2000, Bello returned from China where she filmed a special project, which was presented on the spectacular giant IMAX® screen called *China: the Panda Adventure*. Based on Ruth Harkness' autobiography, "Lady and the Panda," the large format picture, released in 2001, combines spectacular images of a foreign land and breathtaking scenes with Giant Pandas, in an incredible true story of hope courage and triumph of the human spirit.

In October of 2002, Bello co-starred opposite Greg Kinnear in the feature *Auto Focus*, based on the complex life of Bob Crane of television's *Hogan's Hero's*. She also completed the dark comedy *100-Mile Rule*, a story which revolved around three salesmen from Detroit who come to Los Angeles for a seminar and become entrenched in far more than they ever imagined. In 2003, Bello captivated audiences in the feature film *The Cooler*, a tale of luck, love and Las Vegas. She was part of an all-star cast including William H. Macy, Alec Baldwin and Ron Livingston. Screened at the 2003 Sundance Festival, Bello received glowing reviews, and earned Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild nominations for Best Supporting Actress. The picture was released by Lion's Gate in November, 2003.

In 2004, Bello starred in the Sony thriller *Secret Window*, with Johnny Depp and John Turturro, and in John Sayles' *Silver City*, co-starring Chris Cooper, Richard Dreyfuss and Thora Birch. She recently completed *Assault on Precinct 13*, opposite Ethan Hawke, Laurence Fishburne and John Leguizamo; *Sisters*, based on the Chekov play "Three Sisters" directed by Arthur Allan Seidelman, and co-starring Erika Christensen, Mary Stuart Masterson and Chris O'Donnell; and *The Dark*.

On stage Bello performed in the world premiere of "The Killer Inside Me," in addition to "Smart Town Gals," "Big Problems," "Urban Planning," and "A Lie of the Mind."

She co-founded the Dream Yard Drama Project for Kids, a not-for-profit arts and education program for children in Harlem. She has toured Africa and Asia while continuing her studies in conjunction with her arts and education program for children, and lends her time and energy to the charity, Save The Children.

**William Hurt** (Richie Cusack)

William Hurt was most recently seen in M. Night Shyamalan's thriller, *The Village*, opposite Joaquin Phoenix and Sigourney Weaver. In October, 2004, he was seen in The Hallmark Channel's miniseries, *Frankenstein*, opposite Donald Sutherland. Also in 2004, Hurt was seen in the independent film, *Blue Butterfly*. He starred as a famous entomologist who takes a terminally ill boy into the rainforest to grant his dying wish. The film was screened at the Tribeca Film Festival and released in Canada and Japan.

In 2002, Hurt appeared in Disney's *Tuck Everlasting*, directed by Jay Russell, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. He also starred in the title role of the CBS mini-series *Master Spy: The Robert Hanssen Story*, and made a cameo appearance in Paramount's *Changing Lanes*, starring Samuel L. Jackson.

In 2001, Hurt starred in the independent film *Rare Birds* co-starring Molly Parker, which was nominated for Best Film at the Genie Awards, Canada's equivalent of the Academy Awards. The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. He was also seen in a supporting role in Steven Spielberg's *A.I.* In the same year, he starred in *The Flamingo Rising* for CBS. Based on the novel by Larry Baker and directed by Martha Coolidge, Hurt starred opposite Brian Bonbon and Elizabeth McGovern in the story of an eccentric dreamer who builds the world's largest drive-in movie theater across the street from a funeral parlor. In April of 2003, Hurt starred in *Varian's War* for Showtime. Directed by Lionel Chetwynd and produced by Barbra Streisand's Barwood Films, the film co-starred Alan Arkin, Julia Ormond and Lynn Redgrave, and followed the story of Varian Fry (Hurt) who rescued prominent European artists and more than 2,000 others from the Nazi persecution during World War II.

In 2000, Hurt delivered a memorable performance in *Sunshine*, opposite Ralph Fiennes. Directed by Istvan Szabo, *Sunshine* received three Genie Awards, including one for Best Motion Picture. In addition, Hurt also appeared in *The Simian Line* with Lynn Redgrave and Eric Stoltz, and in *Dune* for the Sci-Fi Channel.

In 1980, Hurt made his film debut in *Altered States*. He received a Best Actor Oscar nomination for *Broadcast News* and *Children of a Lesser God*. For *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, he was honored with an Academy Award as well as Best Actor Awards from the British Academy and the Cannes Film Festival.

Among his other film credits are *Body Heat*, *The Big Chill*, *Eyewitness*, *Gorky Park*, *Alice*, *I Love You to Death*, *The Accidental Tourist*, *The Doctor*, *The Plague*, *Trial by Jury*, *Second Best*, *Smoke*, *Confidences a un Inconnu*, *Jane Eyre*, *Michael*, *Dark City*, *The Proposition*, *The Big Brass Ring* and *One True Thing*.

For radio, Hurt read Paul Theroux's "The Great Railway Bazaar," for BBC Radio Four, and "Shipping News" by E. Annie Proulx. He has recorded "The Polar Express," "The Boy Who Drew Cats" and narrated the documentaries *Searching for America: The Odyssey of John Dos Pass*, *Einstein—How I See the World*, and the English narration of Elie Weisel's *To Speak the Unspeakable*, a documentary directed by produced by Pierre Marmiesse.

Hurt trained at Tufts University and New York's Juilliard School of Music and Drama. He spent the early years of his career on the stage between drama school, summer stock, regional repertory and Off Broadway, appearing in more than 50 productions, including "Henry V," "5<sup>th</sup> of July," "Hamlet," "Richard II," "Hurlyburly" (for which he was nominated for a Tony Award), "My Life," (winning an Obie Award for Best Actor), "A Midsummer's Night's Dream" and "Good." In 1988, he was awarded the first Spencer Tracy Award from UCLA.

### **Ed Harris (Carl Fogarty)**

Ed Harris recently demonstrated his range and versatility with three different roles: in director Michael Tollin's *Radio* with Cuba Gooding Jr., Robert Benton's screen adaptation of *The Human Stain* with Nicole Kidman and Anthony Hopkins, and the black comedy, *Buffalo Soldiers*, co-starring Joaquin Phoenix.

He also wrapped production opposite Paul Newman on the HBO film *Empire Falls*, based on Richard Russo's best-selling novel, directed by Fred Schepisi. The film also stars Joanne Woodward, Helen Hunt, Robin Wright Penn and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Harris also starred in the Focus Films drama, *Winter Passing*, opposite Will Ferrell and Zoey Deschanel for director Adam Rapp.

In 2003, Harris earned his fourth Academy Awards nomination, a Golden Globe nomination, a Screen Actors Guild nomination, and a BAFTA nomination as Best Supporting Actor for his performance in Stephen Daldry's *The Hours*. Previously, he earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor for *Pollock*, his widely acclaimed directorial debut. The film had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival and co-starred Marcia Gay Harden, who won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. Harris' other feature credits include *A Beautiful Mind*, *Stepmom*, *The Truman Show* (for which he received an Academy Award nomination and won the Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor), *Apollo 13* (for which he was nominated for both an Academy Award and a Golden Globe, and won the Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Supporting Actor), *The Right Stuff*, *A Flash of Green*, *Walker*, *The Third Miracle*, *Alamo Bay*, *Sweet Dreams*, *Jackknife*, and *The Firm*.

His television credits include *The Last Innocent Man*, *Running Mates*, *Paris Trout*, and *Riders of the Purple Sage* (for which he and his wife Amy Madigan, as co-producers and co-stars of the film, were presented with the prestigious

Western Heritage Wrangler Award for Outstanding Television Feature Film), and HBO's *Empire Falls*, with Paul Newman.

Harris made his New York stage debut in Sam Shepard's "Fool for Love," for which he earned an Obie Award for Outstanding Actor. His other stage credits

include "Prairie Avenue," "Scar," "A Streetcar Named Desire," "The Grapes of Wrath," "Sweet Bird of Youth," and "Simpatico" for which he received the Lucille Lortel Award for Best Actor.

### **Ashton Holmes** (Jack Stall)

Holmes makes his feature film debut opposite Viggo Mortensen and Maria Bello in David Cronenberg's *A History of Violence*. He recently completed guest lead roles on CBS' *Cold Case* in which he played a troubled thug; and on NBC's *Law & Order: SVU*, as a low-life character.

Holmes made an impact in his stage debut as the lead in the National Tour of "Rent," landing the role after his first audition. He also performed in London's West End in "The Snow Queen" and made his professional debut in "A Christmas Carol," which toured regionally.

Born in Albany, N.Y., Holmes was struck by the magic of theatre and film at age 4 when his mother took him to see "Peter Pan," clinched by a desire to play Luke Skywalker when he saw *Star Wars*. He subsequently took acting lessons at age 6 and began appearing in community theatre. While attending the Albany Academy, he performed in "Guys and Dolls." His other stage credits include "Hippolytus," and "Measure for Measure" which played at the Albany Art Centre. He further honed his skills during a one-year internship at New York State Theatre Institute before relocating to Los Angeles.

**Heidi Hayes** (Sarah Stall)

Heidi Hayes, age 6, makes her feature film debut in *A History of Violence* as the Stall's young daughter. She made her television debut at age 5, on *Doc*. On stage, she performed in a local production of "Charlie Brown", "Oliver," and a summer theatre musical review.

Born in Orillia, Ontario, on September 25, 1998, home-schooled Hayes is in the equivalent of grade one. The blue-eyed blonde youngster lives with her parents and two older sisters, Mallarie (11) and Nakita (9), in the Muskoka "cottage country", north of Toronto where her parents run The Central Ontario School of Falconry, breeding birds of prey, giving flight demonstrations at schools and events in addition to falconry courses.

**Stephen McHattie** (Leland Jones)

Stephen McHattie's substantial body of work encompasses a wide range of roles in feature film, theatre and television. Most recently he starred in the independent feature, *One Dead Indian*, the story of the indigenous peoples 1995 Quebec uprising. Other recent features include *The Lazarus Child*, starring Andy Garcia, Frances O'Connor and Angela Bassett; *Twist*, opposite Nick Stahl, a contemporary urban drama based on Dickson's "Oliver Twist," and *Secretary*, in which he played Maggie Gyllenhaal's father. Among his more than 40 films are memorable turns in *Geronimo*, *Belizaire the Cajun*, *Gray Lady Down*, *Beverly Hills Cop III* and *The Dark*.

McHattie has starred on television in Canada and the US. He received the 1995 Gemini Award for Best Actor in a telefilm for CBC's *Life with Billy*. He was a series regular on *Cold Squad*, CBC's *Emily of New Moon*, *Beauty and the Beast* and CBS' *Scene of the Crime*. Other notable television performances include *X-Files*, *Seinfeld*, *Law and Order* and the telefilms *Centennial* and the title role in NBC's *James Dean*.



McHattie made his Broadway debut in "The American Dream" in 1968, and was a member of the Phoenix Theater and the Circle in the square repertory. He received an Obie Award for "Ghetto" and the Drama Desk nomination for "Mensch Meier" at the Manhattan Theater Club.

Born in Nova Scotia, McHattie now lives outside Toronto with his wife, actress Lisa Houle, and their children: Isobel, Duncan and Tess.

**Greg Bryk** (William "Billy" Orser)

On the big screen, Greg Bryk's credits include a lead role in the independent feature, *Pizza; Men With Brooms*, written and directed by Paul Gross; *The Gospel of John*; and Clay Borris' indie film, *The Pawn*. His two most recent independent films are *Slatland* and *Gray Light*, where he plays the leading role in both.

Bryk recently completed the futuristic drama series *ReGenesis*. He was a series regular on *Body and Soul* and guest-starred on several popular series including *The Eleventh Hour*, *Blue Murder*, *Sue Thomas F.B. Eye*, *Starhunter*, *Mutant X*, and *The Relic Hunter*.

A native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Bryk played football at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, where he won the Vanier Cup in 1993. He decided to pursue an acting career after landing his first role as the lead in the university's production of "Hamlet." After graduating with a Bachelor of Honours in Drama and English, he went on to perform on some of North America's most prestigious stages including the Stratford Festival, the Stratford Conservatory, Circle in the Square, New York's Metropolitan Opera, and the Prairie Theatre Exchange. Bryk makes his home in Toronto with his wife and children.

**Peter MacNeill** (Sheriff Sam Carney)

Peter MacNeill, one of Canada's busiest actors has an incredibly impressive resume. He has appeared in Kevin Costner's feature *Open Range*, with Costner, Robert Duvall and Annette Bening, and in John Smith's *Geraldine's Fortune*, opposite Jane Curtin. He received a 1997 Genie Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance as Whiskey Mac in Thom Fitzgerald's *The Hanging Garden*. Among his other big screen credits are *Cletis Tout* with Christian Slater and Richard Dreyfus; *The Caveman's Valentine*, featuring Samuel L. Jackson; *Violet* opposite Mary Walsh; *Frequency* with Dennis Quaid; *Simon Birch*, based on a novel by John Irving; and David Cronenberg's *Crash* with Holly Hunter and James Spader.

On television, MacNeill most recently appeared in Paul Gross' mini-series, *H2O*. In 2003, he won a Gemini Award as Best Supporting Actor for his performance in *The Eleventh Hour* in which he had a recurring role. He also has a recurring role in the popular television series *Queer as Folk*. MacNeill earned a 1994 Gemini Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in *Gross Misconduct*, a television movie directed by Atom Egoyan; and again, in 1998 for his role in Penelope Buitenhuis' *Giant Mine*. His extensive list of television credits also includes *Framed* with Rob Lowe and Sam Neill; *Blue Moon*; Stuart Gunnarson's *Dangerous Evidence: The Lori Jackson Story*; *Deep in My Heart* with Gloria Reuben and Anne Bancroft; the fact-based *Long Island Incident*; and *My Own Country* with Marisa Tomei. He also appeared in *Storm of the Century*, a mini-series based on the book by Stephen King. Among his many episodic credits are recurring roles on the series *Traders* and *Psi Factor Chronicles of the Paranormal*.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### **David Cronenberg** (Director)

David Cronenberg's reputation as an authentic auteur has been firmly established by his uniquely personal body of work including the films for which he wrote the screenplays: *Shivers*, *Rabid*, *Fast Company*, *The Brood*, *Scanners*, *Videodrome*, *The Fly*, *Dead Ringers*, *Naked Lunch*, *Crash* and *eXistenZ*. The films he directed from screenplays by other writers are *The Dead Zone*, *M. Butterfly* and, most recently, *Spider* and *A History of Violence*.

His films have won him awards and recognition around the world, among which is an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from the University of Toronto, which he received in June 2001. He has been an Officer in France's prestigious "Order of Arts and Letters" since 1997. In 1999, he presided over the Jury at the Cannes Film Festival.

Retrospectives of his work have been held in Japan, USA, UK, France, Brazil, Italy, Portugal and Canada. Books on Cronenberg include [The Shape of Rage – the Films of David Cronenberg](#), [The Artist as Monster: The Cinema of David Cronenberg](#) and [Cronenberg on Cronenberg](#) in addition to a collection of interviews published by [Cahiers du Cinema](#).

Born on March 15, 1943 in Toronto, Cronenberg studied at the University of Toronto, where he became interested in film and produced two shorts in 16 mm, *Transfer* and *From the Drain*, graduating in 1967. His first films in 35 mm were *Stereo* and *Crimes of the Future*, both shot in the late '60's. In these works, Cronenberg established some of the themes and preoccupations that would characterize much of his later work.

In 1975, Cronenberg shot his first commercial feature *Shivers* (aka *They Came From Within* or *Parasite Murders*), which became one of the fastest recouping movies in the history of Canadian film. His next feature, *Rabid*, starring Marilyn Chambers, went on to make \$7-million on a production investment of little more than \$500,000, providing Cronenberg with an impressive track record after just two pictures by 1977. He then directed the drag-racing film *Fast Company*, inspired in part by his own passion for cars and racing.

He moved on to direct *The Brood* in 1979, starring Oliver Reed and Samantha Eggar, an artistic breakthrough for Cronenberg, which led him to larger-budgeted and more ambitious films. *Scanners*, which centered on the telepathic powers of an underground element of society, was aimed at a wider audience than his earlier horror/fantasy films and became his biggest hit yet. The week it opened, Variety listed *Scanners* as the number one box-office film in North America.

Cronenberg's next film, *Videodrome*, starring James Woods and rock star Deborah Harry, released in early 1983, moved out of the cult realm into the mainstream cyberpunk market. Blurring the boundaries of reality and consciousness, the film is a high-tech, nightmarish satire involving violence, sexuality and biological horror, all by now familiar Cronenberg themes.

*The Dead Zone* followed in 1984, based on the best-selling novel by Stephen King. Financed by Dino de Laurentiis, released by Paramount and starring Christopher Walken, Brooke Adams and Martin Sheen, the film is an allegorical good-vs-evil story revolving around the fate of a man cursed with power to see into the future of those he touches. The most mainstream of Cronenberg's films, *The Dead Zone* still retains the director's identifiable style and design and went on to earn three out of the five Avoriaz Film Festival prizes of that year as well as seven Edgar Allen Poe award nominations in the U.S.A.

Mel Brooks then approached Cronenberg to direct *The Fly* for Twentieth Century Fox, starring Geena Davis and Jeff Goldblum. *The Fly* was a huge popular and critical success for Cronenberg, earning many accolades, including an Oscar for Best Special Effects/Makeup and a shared jury Prize at the Avoriaz Festival. A remake of the 1958 horror classic, Cronenberg's *The Fly* was a reconceptualization of the original, and was successful as a horror-fantasy film and as a compelling love story

Next came *Dead Ringers* starring Jeremy Irons and Genevieve Bujold, a psychological thriller about inseparable twin brothers who work as gynecologists and love the same woman, with tragic results. The film was a departure for Cronenberg who described it as more naturalistic. Nonetheless, *Dead Ringers* continued Cronenberg's fascination with the darker side of human psychology and behavior. *Dead Ringers* won accolades from the L.A. film critics for Best Director

In 1989, Cronenberg began writing the screenplay for his version of William S. Burroughs's *Naked Lunch*. For artistic and practical reasons, *Naked Lunch* was not a literal translation, but a fusion of Cronenberg's own work with that of Burroughs'. Shot in Toronto in 1991, the film starred Peter Weller, Judy Davis, Ian Holm, Julian Sands, Monique Mercure, Nicholas Campbell, Michael Zelniker and Roy Scheider.

Drawing on Burroughs' counterculture novel and other Burroughsian sources for the script, *Naked Lunch* is about the act of writing something dangerous and complex and how it affects the person writing it.

In 1992, Cronenberg directed *M. Butterfly*, starring Jeremy Irons and John Lone, adapted from the Tony-Ward winning Broadway hit based on the true story of a French diplomat, who, for 20 years, was so obsessed with a Chinese diva from the Beijing Opera, he could not discern that the object of his love was really a

man. But when they were arrested for espionage, he was forced to face reality. *M. Butterfly*' took Cronenberg abroad for the first time to film in China, Hungary, France as well as Canada.

The same year, *Naked Lunch* won eight Genie Awards including Best Motion Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay. In addition, The National Society of Film critics voted Cronenberg Best Director and his script, Best Screenplay. The New York Film Critics' Circle awarded him Best Screenplay and *Naked Lunch* earned a third Best Screenplay award from The Boston Society of Film Critics.

Cronenberg next adapted *Crash* from J.G. Ballard's cataclysmic novel, *Crash*, starring Holly Hunter, James Spader, Elias Koteas, Deborah Unger and Rosanna Arquette. A film about technology and eroticism, *Crash* created international controversy, went on to win the Jury Prize in Cannes Film Festival, 1996 for "Audacity, Daring, and Originality" and collected five Canadian Genies for Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Editing and Best Sound Editing. In addition it won the Golden Reel Award for the Canadian film with the highest Canadian box-office gross.

In 1995, Cronenberg wrote *eXistenZ*, inspired by an interview with author Salman Rushdie, which triggered the idea of an artist who suddenly finds him/herself on a hit list and forced to flee into hiding. He made the hero a game designer thinking that game design could possibly ascend to the level of art. Jennifer Jason Leigh stars as the game designer opposite Jude Law as a novice security guard who links into Leigh's world. Willem Dafoe, Ian Holm, Sarah Polley, Don McKellar and Callum Keith Rennie play various heroes and villains who weave in and out of the game.

*eXistenZ* went on to win a Silver Bear at the 1999 Berlin International Film Festival for Outstanding Artistic Achievement and a Genie Award for editing in

addition to Golden Berlin Bear, Catalonian International Film Festival Best Film, Saturn Award and Golden Reel nominations.

His next film, the powerful psychological thriller, *Spider*, starred leading British actor Ralph Fiennes in the title role, with 10-year-old newcomer Bradley Hall playing Spider as a young boy. The stellar supporting cast included Miranda Richardson, Gabriel Byrne, Lynn Redgrave and John Neville. Acclaimed novelist Patrick McGrath adapted the screenplay from his own novel.

Cronenberg has also acted in a number of other films as a way to reconnect with being on a film set during the isolated periods at home when he's writing screenplays. He had cameo roles in John Landis' *Into the Night*, *The Dead Zone*, *The Fly* and as a Mafia hitman in Gus Van Sant's *To Die For*. He starred in Clive Barker's *Nightbreed* and played a moonshiner in *Moonshine Highway* for Andy Armstrong, appeared in *Trial by Jury* with Armand De Sante and in John Landis' *The Stupids*. He also had roles in the Canadian films *Henry and Verlin*, *Blood and Donuts*, Don McKellar's *Last Night* after playing the lead in McKellar's short film *Blue*. He also appeared in Russell Mulcahy's *Resurrection*, Mike Garris' *The Judge* and James Isaac's *Jason X*.

#### **Chris Bender & JC Spink (Producers)**

Chris Bender and J. C. Spink are partners in Benderspink, a diversified management & production company that opened its doors in November 1998 with fifteen screenwriting clients. In just over a year, Chris Bender and J.C. Spink sold twenty-four client spec scripts, co-produced Universal Pictures' *American Pie* and convinced Disney executives to take a chance on a first-time director for *Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*. On the heels of such success, New Line Cinema signed Benderspink to a first-look deal.

Since inception, the company has expanded its literary and talent management divisions and moved into television by inking a first-look deal with Fox 21.

Benderspink continues to make diverse feature films and retains their deal with New Line Cinema. Over the past six years, Chris Bender and J.C. Spink have had success with Warner Bros' *Cats and Dogs*, New Line's *The Butterfly Effect*, Dreamworks' *The Ring* and Universal's *American Pie 2* and *American Wedding*.

Bender and Spink have produced five features that are slated for a 2005 release. In addition to *A History of Violence*, they also have the romantic comedy *Just Friends* starring Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart, Chris Klein and Anna Farris directed by Roger Kumble; the Dreamworks' horror film *The Ring 2* featuring Naomi Watts; the romantic comedy *Monster In Law* featuring Jennifer Lopez, Wanda Sykes, Michael Vartan and the return of Jane Fonda directed by Robert Luketic; and *Red Eye* directed by Wes Craven starring Rachel McAdams.

**Peter Suschitzky** (Director of Photography)

*A History of Violence* marks Peter Suschitzky's seventh film with Director David Cronenberg, three of which won him Genie Awards for Best Cinematography: *Dead Ringers*, *Naked Lunch* and *Crash*. In addition he photographed *Spider*, *eXistenZ*, and *M. Butterfly*.

Suschitzky has worked on over forty films as director of photography in his career. Most recently, Suschitzky shot Anand Tucker's *Shopgirl* starring Steve Martin, from the novel of the same name, written by Martin. Among his other credits are Anthony Hoffman's *Red Planet*; Tim Burton's *Mars Attacks* starring Jack Nicholson, Glenn Close, Annette Bening, Pierce Brosnan and Danny DeVito; and Randall Wallace's *The Man in the Iron Mask* starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jeremy Irons, Gerard Depardieu, John Malkovich and Gabriel Byrne. His other credits include *Immortal Beloved* starring Isabella Rosselini and Gary Oldham, filmed in Prague under the direction of Bernard Rose for Columbia Pictures. He earned plaudits early on in his career working on the cult hit *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* directed by Jim Sharman, and on the classic *The Empire Strikes Back* directed by Irvin Kershner, both for 20th Century Fox.



Suschitzky has photographed numerous other features films in Europe and North America working with such eminent directors as John Boorman for whom he lensed *Leo the Last* and *Where the Heart Is* which earned him a Best Photography vote by the National Society of Film Critics. Additional credits include *Privilege*, *Charlie Bubbles*, Ken Russell's *Valentino*; *Falling in Love*, directed by Ulu Grosbard for Paramount; and *The Vanishing*, directed by George Sluizer starring Kiefer Sutherland and Jeff Bridges.

Born in London in 1940 of a Hungarian mother and Austrian father (Cinematographer Wolfgang Suschitzky), Suschitzky was raised in London. Although music was his passion, he decided that cinematography would become his profession. After studying his trade in Paris at l'IDHEC, he became a clapper boy at age 19 and a cameraman at 21, spending a year in South America shooting documentaries before shooting his first feature film at age 22-- the youngest cameraman ever to shoot a feature picture in Britain (*It Happened Here*). In addition he is an avid photographer, having had exhibitions in London and Los Angeles.

**Carol Spier** (Production Designer)

Carol Spier is perhaps best known for her longtime association with director David Cronenberg. Her collaborations with Cronenberg include *eXistenZ*, *Crash*, *M. Butterfly*, *Naked Lunch*, *Dead Ringers*, *The Fly*, *The Dead Zone*, *Videodrome*, *Scanners*, *The Brood* and *Fast Company* as well as two television docudramas for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's (CBC) *Scales of Justice*. She received Genie Awards (Canadian Oscars) for both *Naked Lunch* and *Dead Ringers* and Genie nominations for *The Brood*, *Videodrome*, *Scanners* and *eXistenZ*.

Her numerous other feature film credits include *The Man*, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, *Noel*, *Mimic*, *Joe's Apartment*, *The Santa Clause*,

*Canadian Bacon, Consenting Adults, Where The Heart Is, Renegades, Sing, Search and Destroy, Running Brave* and *I Miss Your Hugs and Kisses* which, in 1976, marked her first film as a production designer.

For television, Spier designed the PBS/CBC series *Anne of Green Gables*, for which she won a Gemini Award (Canada's Emmy Award) for Best Art Direction, Showtime's *Gotham*, for which she received a nomination for an ACE award for best Art Direction, the CBS movie-of-the-week *Escape From Iran*; and the PBS/American Playhouse production of *Overdrawn at the Memory Bank*.

Spier is Canadian-born and studied Interior Design at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Architecture. She began her professional career as an interior designer in Winnipeg, Manitoba. During this period she also worked as a set and costume Designer with various theater groups, including the Manitoba Theater Center.

She began her motion picture career with *The Mourning Suit*, on which she served as set designer, set dresser, and property master. She then moved to Toronto, where she worked as an assistant art director on several feature films, including *Equus* and *Why Shoot the Teacher*, before serving as art director on such films as Norman Jewison's *Agnes of God* and John Schlesinger's *The Believers*.

#### **Ronald Sanders (Editor)**

*A History of Violence* marks Ronald Sander's twelfth film for David Cronenberg. Previously he edited *Spider, eXistenZ, Crash, M. Butterfly, Naked Lunch, Dead Ringers, The Fly, The Dead Zone, Videodrome, Scanners* and *Fast Company*.

Most recently he edited *The Limb Salesman*, directed by Anais Granofsky, screened at the 2004 Toronto International Film Festival; and *Zeyda and the Hitman*, directed by Melanie Mayron for CTV/Miracle Pictures. Among his other

credits are Norman Jewison's *Dinner with Friends* for HBO; Iain Paterson's *Hidden Agenda* and Sturla Gunnarson's *Joe Torre*. Among his feature film other credits are *Johnny Mnemonic*, *Firestarter*, *Perfectly Normal* and *The Gate II*.

For television Sanders edited episodes of *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and *Phillip Marlow Private Eye*, the mini-series *Mariah State*, HBO's *A Month of Sundays*, *The Park is Mine* and, more recently Lamont Johnston's *All The Winters That Have Been* for CBS and Daniel Petrie Jr.'s *Dead Silence* for HBO.

Born in Winnipeg where his father was a projectionist, Sanders was imbued with film from an early age. After graduating with a B.A. from St. John's College, University of Manitoba, he moved to Toronto where he edited documentaries, and began working on feature films as a sound editor.

#### **Denise Cronenberg** (Costume Designer)

Denise Cronenberg has created the costumes for seven previous David Cronenberg pictures: *The Fly*, *Dead Ringers*, *Naked Lunch*, *M. Butterfly*, *eXistenZ*, *Crash* and *Spider*.

Most recently she designed the costumes for the box office hit, *Dawn of the Dead*. Her other credits include *The Caveman's Valentine*, starring Samuel L. Jackson; *Avenging Angelo*, starring Sylvester Stallone, Madeleine Stowe and Anthony Quinn; *Bless the Child*, with Kim Basinger, *The Third Miracle* starring Ed Harris and Anne Heche directed by Agnieszka Holland and *Dracula 2000* with Christopher Plummer. Her additional features include 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox' *A Cool, Dry Place* starring Vince Vaughn, Monica Potter and Joey Lauren Adams; Warner Bros.' *Murder at 1600* with Wesley Snipes, Diane Lane, Alan Alda and Dennis Miller; *Moonlight and Valentino* starring Whoopi Goldberg, Elizabeth Perkins Kathleen Turner and Gwyneth Paltrow; and three HBO movies: *Rebound* starring Don Cheadle, Forest Whitaker and James Earl Jones; *Mistrial* with Bill

Pullman, Robert Loggia and Blair Underwood and *SugarTime*, starring John Turturro and Mary Louise Parker.

Cronenberg studied ballet from age 13 in her native Toronto and later graduated from Ryerson Polytech where she majored in radio and television arts. She began her career as a ballet dancer, training with The American Ballet Theatre before joining the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. She also worked as a dancer on variety shows on CBC TV for 15 years before switching careers to design her own line of clothes for adults and children for five years. She moved on to costume design in 1983, training as wardrobe designer on *Videodrome* and working as wardrobe mistress on *The Dead Zone*.

#### **Howard Shore (Composer)**

Howard Shore's longstanding collaboration with David Cronenberg has produced the scores to eleven films – *The Brood* (1979), *Scanners* (1980), *Videodrome* (1983), *The Fly* (1986), *Dead Ringers* (1988), *Naked Lunch* (1990), *M. Butterfly* (1993), *Crash* (1996), *eXistenZ* (1999), *Spider* (2002) and *A History of Violence* (2005). Shore won the Genie Award for Cronenberg's *Dead Ringers* as well as The Flanders Film Festival Award for the music for *Spider*. Shore has said that his writing for the films of David Cronenberg has been the foundation for all of his film music compositions.

Composer Howard Shore's score and song for *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* won not only two Academy Awards but two Golden Globes as well. In the Best Song category, Shore, with his co-writers Annie Lennox and Fran Walsh, took home the statuette for "Into the West," which was sung by Annie Lennox. The Best Score "Oscar" went to the entire film score. The soundtrack to *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* and the song "Into the West" both won Grammy Awards this year. Various groups of critics, such as the Broadcast Film Critics, Chicago Film Critics, Online Film Critics Society and the Las Vegas Film Critics Society also honored Shore last spring. The year prior he

won Grammy Awards for his work on the previous "Rings" film, *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, and received a Grammy nomination for *Gangs of New York*. Shore was also nominated for a BAFTA award for that score. In 2002, Howard Shore received top honors – both an Oscar and a Grammy (Best Original Score) – for *The Lord Of The Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. That score also received awards from the Los Angeles Film Critics, the Chicago Film Critics and the Broadcast Film Critics.

The soundtracks for *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King* have sold more than six million albums worldwide since their releases in 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively. The UK's Classic FM voted *The Lord of the Rings* soundtracks the Best Film Score of All Time for two consecutive years.

Shore has composed more than 60 film scores. Shore's most recent collaboration with Martin Scorsese, *The Aviator*, won this year's Golden Globe for Best Original Score. His outstanding work includes *The Silence Of The Lambs* and *Philadelphia*, directed by Jonathan Demme; *Ed Wood*, directed by Tim Burton; *Seven*, *The Game* and *Panic Room*, all directed by David Fincher; and both *Gangs of New York* and *After Hours*, directed by Martin Scorsese. Other films include the well loved comedies *Analyze This*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, and *Big*. His upcoming film projects include *King Kong*, another collaboration with Peter Jackson.

Shore has been honored with three BAFTA nominations in Great Britain, a Gotham Award in New York, the Saturn Award for Science Fiction, a Genie Award in Canada, and two World Soundtrack Awards in Belgium.

Shore conducted the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in the world premiere of his work, *The Lord of the Rings Symphony: Six Movements for Orchestra and Chorus* in Wellington, New Zealand, in November 2003. Shore is

currently touring the symphony, conducting performances in communities all over the world. Each of the symphony's six movements corresponds to a book within J. R. R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings trilogy. The concerts feature over two hundred onstage performers, including large orchestra, adult and boy choruses, and numerous vocal and instrumental soloists. The symphony has been performed in cities including Antwerp, London, Chicago, Tokyo, Philadelphia, Seville, Sydney, Moscow, and many more.

Howard Shore received his formal musical education at Boston's world famous Berklee School of Music. He recorded with the group "Lighthouse" from 1969 to 1972, and was the original musical director of Saturday Night Live, where he worked with his lifelong friend Lorne Michaels between 1975 and 1980.

#### **Josh Olson** (Screenwriter)

Josh Olson spent several years working in a variety of positions on feature films before turning to screenwriting, writing scripts for various independent production companies. In 2000, Olson wrote and directed *Housesitters*, a series of very short, very funny movies about a pair of stoners with too much time on their hands. He managed to bring five of the shorts in on a budget of less than \$70.00 (not a typo), and *Puppy Love*, the first film in the series, was selected to premiere at the Los Angeles Film Festival in 2001.

The shorts led, in turn, to the feature *Infested*, which was shot for a little under a million dollars in 23 days. Not just a financial success, *Infested* also garnered terrific critical response. In an all out rave, the world-renowned drive-in movie critic Joe Bob Briggs said, "this flick has some of the funniest gore effects since *The Evil Dead*." Critic John Dedeke wrote, "Writer/director Josh Olson has created a completely unexpected modern B-movie masterpiece with *Infested*, which both employs and breaks all the rules of the genre at the same time." And Variety's review was another unequivocal thumbs up, calling the movie, "A fun,

cheapo horror romp that makes no claims to profundity, but displays truly acerbic wit and a deep conversance with the genre."

In late 2002, Olson sold the original script *Three Gun Blues* to Paramount, with producer Gale Ann Hurd attached. He followed that up with the screen adaptation of the graphic novel *A History of Violence* for New Line. He is currently working on a western for Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson, and is writing a haunted house script for New Line.