

A Cinema Guild Release



# NATURAL SELECTION

Written and Directed by Robbie Pickering

Starring Rachael Harris and Matt O'Leary

Winner of Seven Awards at the 2011 South by Southwest Film Festival,  
including Grand Jury and Audience Awards for Best Narrative Feature  
and Breakthrough Performance for Rachael Harris and Matt O'Leary

90 minutes / 2.35:1 / USA / Rated R

Stills available at: [www.cinemaguild.com/downloads/](http://www.cinemaguild.com/downloads/)

## BRIEF SYNOPSIS

Linda White, a devoted Christian housewife, leads a sheltered and childless existence in suburban Texas. Her world is turned upside-down when Linda discovers that her husband has a 23-year old illegitimate son, Raymond, living in Florida. Linda sets out on a quixotic journey to find him and reunite him with his father; along the way she develops a tender and surprising relationship with Raymond that forces her to come to terms with her past and rethink her future.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

Linda White (40's) leads the sheltered life of a conservative Christian housewife in suburban Texas. Her world is irrevocably altered when her husband Abe (50s) suffers a tragic stroke at a sperm clinic. Abe had been making 'donations' for the duration of their marriage and has produced numerous offspring, unknown to Linda who has never been able to conceive. When Abe asks to see one of his children before he dies, she steals the clinic files and finds the address of Abe's eldest biological son – Raymond Mansfield (20's).

Linda tracks down Raymond in a shack on the outskirts of Tampa, Florida. Raymond's in a little jam – he's being hunted by the police. So after some hesitation, he agrees to fly the coop with Linda. They set off back to Texas together. After a few road mishaps that culminate in Raymond getting pummeled by two drifters at a derelict country gas station, Linda's maternal instincts surface as she lovingly tends to his wounds. However, he takes advantage of her and steals her car and money - only to have the loot purloined from him when he gets drunk at a rowdy local bar. Raymond is wracked with guilt and makes his way back to Linda with his tail between his legs. But Linda decides to head back home alone. Raymond decides to exchange his coveted duffel bag of drugs for a dirt bike in hopes of getting

Linda back.

Back in Houston, Linda's brother-in-law Peter has grown concerned for her welfare., Peter sets out on the road to find Linda and protect her from Raymond -- who he has come to view as a threat to her safety. His intentions are not entirely noble; we discover that he has always lusted after his sister-in-law.

After much begging from Raymond, Linda finally forgives him and agrees to continue their trip on the back of Raymond's recently procured dirt bike. The two grow closer and Raymond actually begins to shares his painful past with Linda. Linda reveals her secrets as well and Raymond learns that her inability to conceive was the result of a botched abortion when she was a minor. After driving through the night in a cold rainstorm, Linda and Raymond seek shelter in a roadside motel. The next morning, Linda wakes in Raymond's arms. In the heat of the moment, the two desperate travelers make love. However, Peter finds them and breaks the motel door down when they are in the height of their passion. Believing that Linda is being raped, Peter awkwardly fires a pistol at Raymond. He misses his target and a naked Raymond escapes.

On the way back to Texas with Peter, an ashamed Linda learns that Abe has recovered. She also discovers that Raymond wasn't even the real Raymond Mansfield, but rather a small-time thug named Clyde Brisby, who was wanted by the police and hiding out in the real Raymond's shack. Linda is devastated and now feels more alone and betrayed than ever.

Back home, Linda and Abe resume the familiar routine of their marriage, but as the months pass, Linda discovers she is pregnant - with Raymond's (Clyde's) child. Raymond (Clyde) comes back to make amends. He is cleaning up his life, thanks to Linda, and he wants her to run away with him.

The next morning, she loads up her car while Abe stoically sits inside the house. Raymond anxiously waits for Linda to show up at a bus stop. Instead, it is Abe who appears. As the two men talk, Raymond slowly realizes that Linda has chosen to leave both of them.

Linda sets out on the road by herself, headed for a new life with her unborn child.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT: ROBBIE PICKERING

To me, *NATURAL SELECTION* is about death. Or rather the feelings that accompany any death – the death of a relationship, the death of a stranger, the death of a loved one, or the death of a way of life. I started writing the film six years ago when I received a barely-intelligible-through-the-sobs call from my Mother telling me that her husband, my stepfather Bill, had terminal cancer. I took the news hard. Very soon, my Mom would be alone for the first time in her life. It was almost impossible for me to conceive of the depth of isolation and solitude she would be feeling. I realize now that through my concern for her welfare, I was also dealing with my own fear of death for the first time. Writing *NATURAL SELECTION* was a way of coping. I didn't want to write about those emotions in a didactic or literal way. Rather, I tried to capture the essence and form of what I was feeling and funneled it into a story that bears little resemblance to the literal situation my mother or I was living through. In that way, the screenplay was less of a true-to-life story than a kind of strange ekphrastic ode to oblivion.

The picture is also about the people that I knew growing up in a very religious community in east Texas. When I was a child, I think that I saw all of these people as exaggerations of their best or worst qualities (mostly their worst). Years later, when I wrote the script, I tried to stay true to my childhood exaggerations for humor's sake – but also to imbue each character with a sense of humanity and depth.

Of course, nobody would know the literal story of my stepfather's death by just watching the film, and I think that's the way it should be. But I hope that audiences will relate to the undercurrents of grief, loneliness, discovery, humor and eventually rebirth that drove me to write it and devote so much of myself to its inception. The last thing Bill told me before he died was to take care of my Mom. This is the best way I could think of doing just that.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

NATURAL SELECTION really started to come together about a week before production. That's when my producers and I decided to take a chance and Facebook message Rachael Harris. Let me explain...

We were down in Smithville, Texas with our crew, gearing up for the shoot. The only problem was, we had no lead actress. I'd met with Rachael about two months before, and after an exhaustive casting search, I had decided on her for the lead role. Only problem was, she was already committed to another project – a TV pilot – so even though she loved the film, she couldn't commit to it. I subsequently went to my second choice for the role, a wonderful actress, but I could never get Rachael out of my head. When the second choice actress fell through after about a month of negotiation, I immediately wanted to go back to Rachael. But everyone 'in the know' told us that was an impossibility. And by no means were we to contact her personally. So we waited for a few tense days, and it wore on the whole crew – me, the producers, the cinematographer, even the production designer. We all knew that Rachael was right for the part.

So finally we took a risk and decided to Facebook message her. We spent about four hours deliberating and strategizing, trying to craft the perfect email. Finally, we sent it. And within an hour, she messaged us back, saying that her pilot hadn't gotten picked up. She had actually been wondering for a week now if we were still interested in her for the role. To make a long story short, Rachael flew down to Smithville, Texas a few days later. And the next day, we were in production. As soon as she had her first scene with the inimitable Matt O'Leary, I knew that we had a movie. From that day forward, every one of us cast and crew stuck down in Smithville (incidentally, not a bad place to be stuck) became a family. We got along, we fought tooth-and-nail, we loved each other, and we loathed each other.

One time, back at NYU, I heard Oliver Stone tell an audience of eager young film students that they better enjoy making their student films, because it would be the last time they would get the freedom to do whatever they wanted. While I'm sure that he had a point, my experience on my first feature-length film couldn't be more to the contrary. Since production, I've consistently been amazed at how much the text I first wrote six years ago has been transformed in ways that I never could have imagined. The best thing that I can say about what's onscreen now is that it's full of mistakes, surprises and unplanned moments/emotions. In short, it's alive. And it got that way because everyone who worked on it devoted their full talent and capabilities into bringing it to life in ways I never could have on my own. From the actors to the producers, the cinematographer, the editors, the production sound mixer, the hair and make-up people and the assistant camera -- everyone devoting their artistry to this film cared deeply about it. NATURAL SELECTION belongs to them just as much as it does me. I hope they are as proud of the result as I am.

# ABOUT THE CAST

## **RACHAEL HARRIS** – “LINDA”

Rachael Harris stole her scenes as the pitch-perfect, irritating girlfriend of Ed Helms in the number one R-rated comedy of all time, *The Hangover*. She had previously co-starred with Helms as a correspondent on *The Daily Show*. Harris may be seen starring opposite Steve Zahn in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* directed by Thor Freudenthal for Fox; and the sequel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*, coming out March 2011. She just wrapped on the sequel. Other film credits include: *Best in Show*, *A Mighty Wind*, *For Your Consideration*, *Starsky & Hutch*, *Kicking & Screaming* and *Daddy Day Care*.

On the small screen, she may be seen on CBS' *Gary Unmarried* guest starring on Starz's *Party Down*, and playing Gary Cole's wife on *The Good Guys*. Previously, Harris appeared on ABC's *Cougar Town* and Showtime's *Fat Actress*.

Harris also recently appeared in the Hollywood Bowl production of RENT in Los Angeles.

Harris was born in Worthington, Ohio and currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

## **MATT O'LEARY** – “RAYMOND”

Matt O'Leary began his rise to fame as a child actor, proving himself a versatile talent. From his debut in *Mom's Got a Date with a Vampire* and his work in *Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams* as Gary Giggles, O'Leary went on to explore much darker roles. In Bill Paxton's *Frailty*, he played the son of a serial killer, and as The Brain, he helped Joseph Gordon-Levitt's character in



the hard-boiled indie thriller *Brick*. Other film credits include: *Havoc, Live Free and Die Hard, American Son, Anytown, Death Sentence, Sorority Row* and the upcoming horror film, *Mother's Day*.

On the small screen, he has appeared on *Law and Order: Criminal Intent, CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* and *Eleventh Hour*.

O'Leary was born in Chicago, Illinois and currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

### **JON GRIES – “PETER”**

A native of Glendale, California, veteran actor Jon Gries has appeared in a number of feature films including *Real Genius, Running Scared, Get Shorty, Jackpot,* and *The Astronaut Farmer*. Gries is perhaps most recently best known for his role of “Uncle Rico” in *Napoleon Dynamite*, in which he was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award. In television, he played “Broots” in NBC's *The Pretender* for four seasons. He recurred on ABC's *Lost*, playing “Roger Linus.” In addition to starring in NATURAL SELECTION, Jon recently directed the independent feature *Pickin' & Grinnin'.*

### **JOHN DIEHL – “ABE”**

John Diehl is an adroit and dependable character actor, known especially for his roles as Charles Kawalsky in *Stargate*, and Detective Larry Zito on TV's *Miami Vice*.

His 25-year career is laden with contrasts, moving effortlessly between more traditional Hollywood thugs, crazies, and ne'er-do-wells to more mature characters. He has appeared in over 70 movies, including Oliver Stone's *Nixon*, (as G. Gordon Liddy) *Falling Down*, *A Time to Kill*, and *Gettysburg*.

Diehl's small screen work is no less prolific. In addition to *Miami Vice*, he has appeared on *Friday Night Lights*, *The West Wing*, *The Shield*, and *Point Pleasant*.

Diehl also had a short stint as a professional boxer, with a record of 3-1.

Diehl was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and currently resides in Ojai, California with his wife and son.

# ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

## **ROBBIE PICKERING – WRITER/DIRECTOR**

Robbie Pickering grew up in Jersey Village, Texas, where he spent most Sundays in run-down churches with his Mom. He went on to receive his undergraduate degree at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. During his time at Tisch, he wrote and directed two short films, both of which won the Student Film Award at the Hamptons International Film Festival in their respective years. Pickering is the first and only participant in the nearly twenty-year history of the festival to win the student award twice. His second short film, "Prom Night", was also awarded the Lew Wasserman Screenwriting Award at NYU and went on to screen at festivals around the world.

After graduation, two of Pickering's commercials – Budweiser's 'Sacred' and Careerbuilder's 'Stuck' – were selected to be honored at the annual Association of Independent Commercial Producer's Show in New York. Both spots were shown in gala screenings at such venues as the New York Museum of Modern Art, the Dallas Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The spots are now part of the permanent collection at the MOMA in New York. Pickering was subsequently profiled in Shoot Magazine and named one of the Magazine's 2007 new directors to watch.

In 2007, his debut feature screenplay, *NATURAL SELECTION*, was selected from thousands of entries to take part in Film Independent's Screenwriter's Lab and Director's Lab. The script also made it onto the Hollywood Black List, along with such scripts as *Superbad*, *3:10 to Yuma*, *The Bucket List* and *There Will Be Blood*. The Black List is an industry-wide listing of the best-unproduced screenplays in Hollywood compiled from the suggestions of over 90 film executives and high-level personnel. This increasingly influential and exclusive

list was written up in the New York Times, which called it a 'Hollywood phenomenon.'

In 2008, Pickering once again appeared on the Black List with his screenplay for *The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea*, and the subsequent year appeared on the list for the third time with his screenplay for *The Mallusionist* (co-written with Jase Ricci).

NATURAL SELECTION is Pickering's feature film directorial debut.

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## **BEST MEDICINE PRODUCTIONS – PRODUCTION COMPANY**

In 2007, long-time friends and former graduate school colleagues Brion Hambel and Paul Jensen formed a production company, Best Medicine Productions, LLC...as in "*Laughter is the...*" Hambel and Jensen are dedicated and driven to produce true independent comedies with high aspirations, big hearts and low budgets. They continue to seek out smart, character-driven comedic material to develop and produce with up-and-coming new filmmakers.

Best Medicine Productions is currently developing and producing several comedic features.



## **BRION HAMBEL – PRODUCER**

Brion Hambel is an independent producer living in Los Angeles, California.

After graduating from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina with his Master of Science in Accountancy, Hambel went on to receive his CPA certification and began working for Arthur Andersen both in Charlotte and New York City. After three years with Arthur Andersen, he went to work for Bertelsmann Music Group and MTV Networks. With a combined six years of public accounting and financial under his belt, he moved to Los Angeles to attend the Peter Stark Producing Graduate Program at the University of Southern California School of Cinema-Television where he received his Master of Fine Arts in Motion Picture Producing.

During his time at the Stark Program, he sharpened his creative teeth on many projects and produced a number of short films. He also worked at Double Feature Films and Broken Lizard Industries in a development capacity.

Hambel has worked steadily on various motion pictures; most notably as Executive Producer and Line Producer on *Small Town Saturday Night* starring Chris Pine (*Star Trek*) and Co-Producer on *Branson*, an independent documentary produced by Jack Black's production company, Electric Dynamite. He has also been the Production Manager on the several feature films, such as *The Open Road*, *Visioneers* and *Wednesday Again*.

## **PAUL JENSEN – PRODUCER**

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Paul Jensen is a former Navy pilot. During his naval career, Jensen was operationally deployed as a mission commander and instructor pilot throughout the Middle East, Europe and Latin America, most notably in support of the Global War on Terror.

In 2004, Jensen left the Navy to pursue a career in writing and producing. He earned a graduate degree in screenwriting at the University of Southern California Film School and was one of only four students to graduate with thesis honors. Immediately after graduation, Jensen worked as an assistant director on several short films and commercials before being hired as a writer's/director's assistant for an A-list director. As a screenwriter, Jensen's written a videogame and optioned a script that's in development. Additionally, Jensen has associate produced a movie, *S.I.S.* currently airing on cable television. In 2007, he left his position as Director of Development at New Redemption Pictures to start up Best Medicine Productions.

He is married with three children. On the weekends, he enjoys reading scripts and changing diapers.

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**JUSTIN MOORE-LEWY & CHARLIE MASON – EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS**

Justin Moore-Lewy was born in Dublin, Ireland. After completing his schooling, he relocated to Los Angeles to join ICM, where he became an agent in 1997. He returned to Dublin to open ICM's Ireland offices under the guidance of ICM principals Jeff Berg and Dave Wirtschafter. He later worked for Dublin-based Treasure Entertainment, where he oversaw feature film production.

Charlie Mason is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended Princeton University and graduated with a degree in economics before joining ICM in Los Angeles. He went on to work with such filmmakers as director Alfonso Cuarón, producer David Rubin and Columbia Pictures' executive Michael Costigan. In 2000, he moved to New York City and developed Internet businesses.

The enduring partnership of Justin Moore-Lewy and Charlie Mason had its beginning when they met while working at the revered talent agency ICM in

Los Angeles during the mid-1990's. After eventually leaving ICM to pursue separate projects, they united in 2004 to create Perfect Weekend.

The production company's prolific release schedule has included the major features *Sleepwalking*, starring Charlize Theron, Woody Harrelson and Dennis Hopper, released by Overture Films after its celebrated debut at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival; the recently completed *The Open Road*, starring pop music icon Justin Timberlake as well as Jeff Bridges, Mary Steenburgen, Ted Danson, Kate Mara, Lyle Lovett and Harry Dean Stanton; ensemble drama *Small Town Saturday Night* with *Star Trek's* new 'Captain Kirk', Chris Pine; suspense thriller *Still Waters*, starring Lake Bell and Clifton Collins Jr., and musical documentary *Branson*, following the careers of performers in the 'Bible Belt Las Vegas' of Branson, Missouri that was a hit with both critics and audiences at its recent Los Angeles Film Festival premiere.

Perfect Weekend is currently in post-production on the family comedy *The Greening of Whitney Brown*, starring Aidan Quinn, Brooke Shields, Kris Kristofferson and newcomer Sammi Hanratty. Also in post-production is the company's first animated feature, *Bands on the Run*, as well as the follow up to the award-winning documentary *Roman Polanski: Wanted & Desired*.

Perfect Weekend's most recent film, *96 Minutes*, will be competing along with NATURAL SELECTION in the 2011 South by Southwest Film Festival's narrative category among six other features.

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### **STEVEN CAPITANO CALITRI – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Steven Capitano Calitri is one of the brightest young talents on the New York cinematographer scene. His work has been recognized in American Cinematographer Magazine, ICG Magazine and Shoot, and he has shot

campaigns for such clients as Speed Stick, Ad Council, MTV, Miller Lite, Alchemy Vodka, Maxim Magazine, Dr. Pepper, and the Truth Campaign.

Calitri originally started out studying photography (his first love) at Emerson College, and then quickly segued into cinematography. Immediately after graduating, Calitri studied under Graeme Clifford at the highly selective Maine photographic workshop. Subsequently, he quickly worked his way up the crew ranks and became one of the youngest union gaffers to work in New York. As a gaffer and operator, he has worked and studied under some of the most recognized cinematographers in the world including Tim Surstedt, Andrij Parekh, Tim Orr, Stuart Dryburgh, Harlan Basmajian, Eigil Bryld, Benoit Debie and Tom Richmond.

2011 has landed him a short in the Sundance Film Festival and the feature film NATURAL SELECTION in the South by Southwest Film Festival.

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### **MICHAEL BRICKER – PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

Michael Bricker is a freelance production designer based in Austin, Texas and Indianapolis, Indiana.

In addition to his film work, Bricker develops various projects in architecture, product design, and urban development, and currently serves as the co-founder and co-executive director of People for Urban Progress, a project-based urban enhancement non-profit. Bricker holds a Bachelor of Arts in art from Wabash College and a Master of Architecture from the University of Texas at Austin, where he periodically teaches design for film. Additional production design and art department credits include: *My Name is Jerry*, *Kabluey* and *The Cassidy Kids*. His work can be seen at [www.michaelbricker.net](http://www.michaelbricker.net) and [www.peopleup.org](http://www.peopleup.org).



## **MICHELLE TESORO – EDITOR**

Chicago native Michelle Tesoro's long list of accomplishments started with humble beginnings at Abkco Music & Records New York as a DVD and Promo editor. With works including "The Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus" and "Sam Cooke Legend", Tesoro's work has reached the eyes of many through her passion for editing.

After moving to Los Angeles in 2005, Tesoro landed major television series and feature films including FOX's Si-Fi drama *Fringe*, writer-director Sebastian Gutierrez's *Women in Trouble* (2009 SXSW Film Festival), and HBO's critically acclaimed series *In Treatment*. Her recent collaboration with writer-director Robbie Pickering on NATURAL SELECTION, is described by Tesoro as "a small film with a lot of heart: a labor of love".

Tesoro's ability to demonstrate diversity in her craft has earned her work on the highly anticipated new series *Luck* executive produced by Michael Mann and David Milch. With an array of praises complimenting this HBO series starring Dustin Hoffman and Dennis Farina, Tesoro's editing abilities have proved the essence of a creative storyteller in the making.

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## **iZLER – MUSIC/COMPOSER**

iZLER (pronounced "eye-zler") is a Czech born, English raised composer and multi instrumentalist, living in Los Angeles.

Selected in 2008 to be one of six up and coming composers invited to the Sundance Film Composer's Lab in Utah, he is responsible for scores to movies such as *Humboldt County*, *Whatever It Takes*, *Off Season*, *Hamill* and *On The Ice*.

iZLER's musical background stems from the indie band scenes of London and New York starting in the late 90's, during which time he toured, recorded and wrote with artists and producers as diverse as Robbie Williams, Ryan Adams, Imogen Heap, Dave Stewart, Jesse Malin, Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Brian May, Holly Johnson, and many others. After moving to LA in 2003 he began to study music again, focusing on conducting and orchestration, under Lucas Richman at the legendary BMI conducting course and continuing at UCLA. His scores often combine traditional orchestral colours with the much more eclectic sounds of his career in bands and record production.

He has written songs for numerous films and TV shows, including *ER*, *My Best Friend's Girl*, *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*, *This Revolution*, *Thief* and *Chicago Code*.

iZLER is also a regular composer on Showtime's current hit show *Shameless*.

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#### **CURT SCHNEIDER** – MUSIC/COMPOSER

Curt Schneider was born in Detroit, Michigan and grew up in a house full of music which spans back several generations. He spent many days hanging out at the radio station where his Mother had a music show. At, 15 his fascination with the way records sound, and what makes a song come alive inspired him to start recording bands in his basement with recording equipment his grandfather gave him. By twenty he was playing bass in the Detroit R&B club scene along side some of Motown's most seasoned musicians. Eventually, Schneider moved to Los Angeles to fully immerse himself in music and build his own studio where he continues to do what he loves.

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#### **JUSTIN GAGE** – MUSIC SUPERVISOR

Since 2001, Justin Gage, an Atlanta ex-pat, has been living and working out of

Los Angeles. Along with his wife, Melissa, Gage has been involved in the arts, in one capacity or another, since graduating from the University of Georgia in Athens. A writer, satellite radio host/program director, promoter and regular music industry speaker he founded both the popular, award winning, audio blog Aquarium Drunkard and independent record label Autumn Tone. In addition, he has produced two lauded Los Angeles music compilations (2009/2010). When not writing about Tom Waits or defending the merits of Steely Dan, Gage can be found DJ'ing around L.A. and traveling the Delta in search of old Blues haunts (his book/guide/travelogue "Memphis And The Delta Blues Trail" was published in 2009). Gage is also 1/4 of the Mondo Boys sound collage collective.

Based in Los Angeles, Aquarium Drunkard is an eclectic audio blog featuring daily music news, interviews, features, reviews, mp3 samples and sessions. Originating in 2005, the Drunkard bridges the gap between contemporary indie with vintage garage, psych, folk, country, New Orleans funk, r&b, soul and everything that falls in between. The blog has since spun off Autumn Tone Records, the Aquarium Drunkard Presents series, Aquarium Drunkard Sessions and the weekly, two hour, Aquarium Drunkard Show Fridays on SIRIUS/XM satellite radio's XMU (channel 26), and XM radio (channel 43). Noon-2pm EST.

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**SUNDAY BOLING, CSA &  
MEG MORMAN, CSA (MORMAN BOLING CASTING)**  
– CASTING DIRECTORS/CO-PRODUCERS

Meg Morman and Sunday "Sunny" Boling met in the Feature Casting office of 20th Century Fox, working on a variety of films, including *Ice Age*, *Dude*, *Where's My Car?*, *From Hell*, *One Hour Photo*, *Unfaithful*, *Behind Enemy Lines* and *Big Momma's House*. They then entered the independent casting world, working with such casting directors as Sheila Jaffe, Debi Manwiller, Eyde Belasco and Francine Maisler.

In late 2004, Meg and Sunny reunited and opened the door to Morman Boling Casting. Most recent premiers include the award winning films *Dear Lemon Lima* (starring Melissa Leo, Beth Grant, Elaine Hendrix, Meaghan Jette Martin and Vanessa Marano), *16 to Life* (starring Hallee Hirsh, Theresa Russell, Jaime Gomez, Will Rothaar, Mandy Musgrave and Shiloh Fernandez), and *Mississippi Damned* (starring Malcolm Goodwin, Tessa Thompson, DB Woodside and Malcolm David Kelley), which has won at least 9 Best Feature awards as well as several Best Actor awards. Meg and Sunny also cast the hugely successful feature *Waitress* (starring Keri Russell, Nathan Fillion, Jeremy Sisto, Cheryl Hines and Andy Griffith), which premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival and was subsequently picked up by Fox Searchlight, as well as *Dr. Dolittle 3* and *Like Mike 2* for 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment and *Another Cinderella Story* for Warner Premiere. In addition, *Steal Me* and *Me & You & Everyone We Know*, were both official selections of the 2005 Sundance Film Festival; *Me & You & Everyone We Know* also went on to win the Special Jury Prize for Originality of Vision as well as the Golden Camera Award at Cannes.

Other credits include *True Adolescents* (starring Melissa Leo, Mark Duplass, and Bret Loehr), *Serious Moonlight* (starring Meg Ryan, Timothy Hutton, Justin Long and Kristen Bell), *Ball Don't Lie* (starring Mykelti Williamson, Nick Cannon, Ludacris, Harold Perrineau, Rosanna Arquette, Emilie de Ravin, Cress Williams, Mathew St. Patrick), and *Small Town Saturday Night* (starring Chris Pine, John Hawkes, Lin Shaye and Robert Pine).