

# **BEST SELLERS**

A film by Lina Roessler 100 mins, Canada/USA, 2021 Language: English

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# **Synopsis**

Lucy Stanbridge has inherited her father's boutique publishing house, and the ambitious would-be editor has nearly sunk it with failing YA titles and bad reviews.

When she discovers the company is owed a book by Harris Shaw, a reclusive, cantankerous, booze-addled author who originally put the company on the map, she looks to him for one last stab at salvation, both commercial and critical.

Her timing couldn't be more perfect. Harris owes money and he happens to have a new book - which he hates. Lucy's ecstatic until she finds out Harris's old contract stipulates that no one edit his work. However, in exchange, he must tour the book.

And so is born the book tour from hell - where fame doesn't equal fortune, twitter followers don't add up to shit, and the legacy you're trying to uphold might be born out of lies the past can't contain.

# A Q&A with Director Lina Roessler

Tell us about the movie. How would you describe the film in just a couple of sentences?

Best Sellers is an odd couple road movie. It's the story of a begrudging friendship between two people who are so deeply afraid of failure that they push each other to the limit of what's comfortable. In doing so, they can't help but learn to respect and admire each other, therefore validating each other as artists and human beings. It's really a love story; an ode to unlikely friendship.

#### How did the project come together?

In 2017 I was part of TIFF's Talent Lab. Each participant had to create a two minute self-portrait film in order to introduce ourselves to our mentors. One of the mentors was producer Cassian Elwes, and for whatever reason, he was really taken by my rendition. It was sort of a whimsical piece, full of colour and a bit of wry humour. Afterwards he asked to see my short films and soon after the lab was done, he sent me *Best Sellers* which his daughter and producing partner, Arielle, had optioned. Cass asked me to read the script and tell him my thoughts, which he would share with Arielle. I complied, and shortly after, he invited me to NYC for a meeting and asked me to put together a lookbook for the film based on my notes. I can't really explain how bizarre this was for me. Not to mention I'd never made a look book before and had only done equivalents with pulling images and creating little packages for my short films.

I literally made a little book, which made sense at least in so far as the film was all about the literary world. In any case, I jetted down to NYC and at our meeting, handed over the book only to listen to Cassian and Arielle begin to discuss casting. This sounds absurd now, but I couldn't actually conceive of the idea that I would be involved in any way, and I asked Cassian directly how he wanted me to help. He said: "Why do you think I flew you down here? I want you to direct this picture!" If I said anything, it must have been along the lines of "Huh!?" I have never fully appreciated the word "gobsmacked" until that moment. The rest is history, and it has been a beautiful, wild ride.

#### Aubrey Plaza is wonderful as Lucy. Tell us a little bit about Lucy, what drives her?

Aubrey did such beautiful work on this, and I'm really proud of what she brought to the character. Lucy is driven by her greatest fear: that she is not enough. The shadow of her father and the weight of his legacy is what fuels her determination to succeed. Failure isn't an option, though she sheds her outward veneer of perfectionism when she is forced to contend with Harris, and in doing so becomes her authentic self. Aubrey played the role stunningly, and brought real truth to Lucy's journey.

# Aubrey Plaza and Michael Caine have a natural onscreen chemistry. What was it like working with them both?

It was a dream come true, both daunting and exciting. They are both so talented, and though their approaches are different and they come from different schools, they worked beautifully together. Honestly, we all just had a lot of fun! Michael is of course, a legend, a literal Knight, and a brilliant actor who is both charming and hardworking. He truly gave his all to the performance, and always wanted to make sure I had what I needed. Aubrey is an exceptional comedian, hilarious, surprising, and always eager to do her best for the good of the film. I was exceptionally lucky to have them. They taught me a lot.

# This is your first time directing a feature-length film. What has this process been like for you?

It's safe to say it's been unlike anything I've experienced. I've been on sets before, albeit as an actor more times than as a director, but still nothing can prepare you. You prepare, you work hard, trouble shoot as much as you can, and then you just have to jump in and do it. The opportunity to work with an amazing group of producers, a dream cast and the best crew I could hope for, is something I don't take for granted. This experience was also bookended by two large events for me: the death of my father right before we started shooting, and then the arrival of covid-19 during the post production process. I couldn't have done this film without the work and support of my crew and collaborators.

# Your first three shorts touched on themes of trauma, abuse & displacement. How did directing this film, with comedic elements, differ from these projects?

It's difficult to compare as the protagonists in my short films are mainly children, and the themes are miles away from the relationship and situation that Harris and Lucy find themselves in. That said, emotions and their subtle complexities exist equally in all humans, no matter their age or situation. As for the comedic elements, I like to think they are born out of the same emotional palette.

#### What is your favourite memory from being on set?

This is tough, as I have many fond memories. There was a day early on in the shoot where we had our first emotional scene between Aubrey and Michael.

We were all shoved into a cramped, seedy, motel room with mirrors everywhere. Unbelievable to think of that now, post covid. In any case, there was a moment where I saw Michael look at Aubrey in awe. A beautiful connection took place, and I knew we were off to the races. There were many other funny moments that took place, silly things with the crew and cast, but I'll save those for a tell-all in about 40 years.

# In the film, what is it about Michael Caine's character Harris Shaw that piques the interest of such a large part of society?

There are a few reasons. On the one hand, we are living in a time of huge division, and a large part of it is due to politics and what side of political correctness you lie on. The needle has swung both ways to the extreme ends of either spectrum, especially in the United States. When things go so far either way, there is always a correction that takes place, as humans naturally rebel against what is the status quo. Harris isn't afraid to offend. In fact, he does it almost on purpose, as a defense mechanism. People admire the rebel, and they do so especially when it comes in an unassuming form; in this case, a man who is in his late 80's. This is another factor of his appeal. Harris Shaw represents an older world, a simpler time of typewriters and all things we now label 'vintage'. These are things we have a nostalgia for. There's something comforting about the remembrance of an analog world, a world which for new generations of humans, has literally gone the way of the horse and buggy.

#### Does the film have an overarching message?

I'll leave that to the experts, but I do hope this film connects with people. It's themes of friendship, authenticity, secrets, and loss, are ones we all are familiar with. If audiences laugh and are moved, that's all I can hope for. *Best Sellers* is a gift from Michael, Aubrey, and our entire cast and crew to you and yours. I hope you like it.

## About the Filmmakers

#### Lina Roessler (Director)



Lina Roessler studied English and Creative Writing at Concordia University, received a performance degree from the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York, and completed an MFA in film production at York University. Acting credits include a recurring role on Lost Girl, numerous guest stars on series such as Private Eyes, Murdoch Mysteries, Supernatural, and Killjoys, and she will soon star in a triple A video game.

Her directorial debut, *Little Whispers: The Vow* screened at dozens of festivals including TIFF Kids and won First Prize Best Children's Short at Rhode Island International Film Festival. *Winter* (16), the second film in the Little Whispers series, won several awards including the A&E Short Film

Award, received its Canadian Premiere at TIFF Kids, and was selected to screen at Cannes as part of Telefilm Canada's Not Short on Talent program.

Mustard Seed (17) her thesis and third short in her series won top prizes including a Golden Sheaf Award for best student film, Best National Film from U. of Winnipeg, the Heart, Minds and Souls award in Rhode Island and was named one of Canada's TIFF Top Ten films of 2017.

Lina was a member of the 2017 TIFF Talent Lab and was invited to the Berlinale Talents Campus and Short Script Station with her fourth short film project in 2018. Her feature script, The Rescuer, placed top ten at the Canadian Film Festival Screenplay Competition, the Vancouver Women in Film Screenplay competition, and was a quarterfinalist in the 2018 Slamdance Screenplay Competition. She was once of ten writers across Canada invited to attend the TIFF writers' studio, 2019. Recently, Lina was awarded the Best In Showcase Award by WIFT- T.

Lina has recently completed directing her first full length feature film entitled *Best Sellers* starring Sir Michael Caine and Aubrey Plaza. The film has been invited to screen as a special gala at the 71st Berlinale International Film Festival.

#### Anthony Grieco (Writer)



Anthony is a 2015 Nicholl Award winner for his script Best Sellers. It was recently produced by Cassian and Arielle Elwes and stars Michael Caine and Aubrey Plaza. Anthony has had several scripts optioned, and eagerly awaits the start of production on his next script, a Buzz Aldrin biopic to be directed by Marc Forster. In addition, Anthony is a script consultant. He has worked as a Story Specialist for The Writers Store and a mentor for the Industry Insider Screenwriting Contest.

He is also the co-writer of the screenwriting book The Pocket Screenwriting Guide: 120 Tips for Getting to Fade Out.

Anthony moved to Los Angeles when one of his first spec screenplays was solicited by various agents and managers. Within months, he had optioned his first (co-written) feature, a comedy called *I'm With Stupid*, to Peachtree Films. Anthony attended the University of Toronto where he studied English and History. He later attended Circle in the Square Theatre School in New York City and went on to act in over 50 television commercials and episodic programs. In his spare time, Anthony is an amateur photographer (favorite subjects include Los Angeles architecture, his wife's cooking, and his cats Max and Buddy), film buff, collector of Criterion films, and frequent dinner party attendee.

#### Jonathan Vanger (Producer)

Jonathan Vanger has been producing film and television projects for over 30 years. Originally from the UK, Jonathan first started in the business working for Completion Guarantor Performance Guarantees. This enabled him to gain invaluable production experience working in film and television production not just in the UK and in Europe but on projects shooting in Australia, South Africa, Canada and in Los Angeles.

Having decided to move into physical production, Jonathan began raising production finance in the UK and in France, with the intention of combining those sources of financing with tax credits in Canada. The first of these productions was *Grey Owl* starring Pierce Brosnan, directed by Sir Richard Attenborough and produced by the late Jake Eberts and Montreal based producer Claude Léger.

On the back of the success of *Grey Owl*, Jonathan moved to Montreal where he worked in association with Transfilm International Inc. and Claude Léger on a number of feature films and high-end TV series for the international markets in association with French media giant Lagardère and Luc Besson's Europa Corp.

In 2014, Jonathan would go on to set up Wishing Tree Productions Inc. Which has rapidly become one of the most prolific production companies operating in Montreal. Recent production credits include the feature film *Dreamland* starring Gary Oldman and Armie Hammer, directed by Nicholas Jarecki as well as *Best Sellers* starring Michael Caine and Aubrey Plaza directed by Lina Roessler.

Jonathan is also the local Montreal-based producer on Seasons 3 and 4 of the Gaumont animated series 'F is For Family' which is streamed on NETFLIX. Steps are currently underway to begin season 5 in the fall.

#### Pierre Even (Producer)

The film *Life Begins* from Michel Monty launched ITEM 7 in 2009. The first three productions – the other two being Jean-Marc Vallée's *Cafe de Flore* and Kim Nguyen's *War Witch (Rebelle)* – receive a great public and critical reception and also win several nominations or prestigious awards, including a nomination for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film for *War Witch*.

Pierre Even distinguished himself with three co-productions – *Brooklyn*, *A Kid*, and *Bon Cop Bad Cop 2* – all of which have had great success at the box office in Quebec or abroad. *Brooklyn* has also received several prestigious nominations at the Academy Awards, Golden Globes, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and the Canadian Screen Awards. Pierre proposes in 2019 its most ambitious production to date, *The Hummingbird Project*, which sees him reconnect for the third time with the director Kim Nguyen, starring Jesse Eisenberg, Alexander Skarsgård and Salma Hayek. In theaters in 2022 are *Best Sellers* a film by Lina Roessler starring Michael Caine and Aubrey Plaza that will premiere at Berlinale, *Maria Chapdelaine* written and directed by Sébastien Pilote, and *Marco Polo Go Round*, Item 7's first foray in virtual reality.

Pierre Even has produced more than thirty films, including *C.R.A.Z.Y.* directed by Jean-Marc Vallée: released in 2005, won 51 international prizes and was sold in 85 countries, *Nitro* directed by Alain DesRochers: released in the summer of 2007 in Québec, the film grossed 1.2 million in its opening weekend, beating all Hollywood blockbusters.

### Arielle Elwes (Producer)

Elwes's career began very early on, coming from a family of film, both in producing and acting. After graduating from college, Elwes started at The Weinstein Company (mini major studio of movies such as *The Imitation Game, Django Unchained, The King's Speech* and Lee Daniel's *The Butler*) in their distribution department. Elwes then went on to work in both distribution and marketing at TWC in both their Los Angeles and New York offices.

During the fall of 2015, Elwes departed to consult for the new distribution venture that was releasing Michael Moore's theatrical documentary, *Where to Invade Next.* Since then, Elwes has produced *Braid*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2017. She just wrapped her latest film, *Best Sellers*, starring Oscar winner Sir Michael Caine and Aubrey Plaza. Elwes also works with the Horizon Award Program, a program started by producer Cassian Elwes (Dallas Buyers Club, Blue Valentine) that works to end the gender gap of female filmmakers in Hollywood by sponsoring and mentoring a carefully selected group of young female filmmakers every year.

#### Cassian Elwes (Producer)

Cassian Elwes is an expert in producing, arranging financing and finding distribution for independent films. He began his producing career with 1984's Oxford Blues starring Rob Lowe and Ally Sheedy and quickly went on to make another 29 films, including Men At Work, with Emilio Estevez and Charlie Sheen, and The Chase, again with Sheen.

In 1994, Elwes joined William Morris and headed William Morris Independent Film for 15 years. He arranged financing for indie hits such as *Slingblade* and *The Apostle*, both of which were nominated for multiple Academy Awards. *Monster's Ball* was their historic follow up as Halle Berry became the first African American woman to win the Academy Award for Best Actress. In the end he had arranged financing and distribution for 283 films during his tenure at William Morris.

Since leaving William Morris 10 years ago, Elwes has either produced or executive produced more than 70 films such as David Lowery's Ain't Them Bodies Saints, nominated for a Gotham Independent Film Award for Best Feature, Derek Cianfrance's Blue Valentine starring Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams, for which Williams was nominated for Best Actress at the Academy Awards, and the hit period drama Lee Daniels' The Butler, which featured an all-star cast headed by Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey. He also executive produced J.C. Chandor's All Is Lost starring Robert Redford and executive produced and arranged financing for the Academy Award winning directed by Jean-Marc hit *Dallas* Buvers Club Vallee, starring Matthew McConaughey, Jared Leto and Jennifer Garner.

Most recently, Elwes produced both the multiple Academy Award nominated *Mudbound*, directed by Dee Rees, which Netflix distributed, and Dee Rees' latest film, *The Last Thing He Wanted*, starring Anne Hathaway, Ben Affleck and Willem Dafoe, which Netflix will distribute. *Dreamland*, starring Gary Oldman, Armie Hammer, and Evangeline Lilly, and *Best Sellers*, starring Michael Caine and Aubrey Plaza, are in currently in post-production.

Wayne Marc Godfrey (Producer)

Wayne Marc Godfrey is a prolific film producer and financier with over 125 independent feature film credits to his name. Wayne has procured investment of more than US \$340 million across an aggregate production budgets in excess of US \$1.5 billion. In 2018, Wayne founded Purely Capital - a disruptive entertainment finance platform that automates the acceleration of long dated contracted entertainment receivables for rights owners and distributors.

A couple of Wayne's major titles include: The Foreigner, 47 Meters Down, Wind River, Strangers: Prey At Night, A Private War, Silence, White Crow and Dragged Across Concrete.

Petr Jakl (Executive Producer)

Petr Jákl was born on September 14th 1973 in the Czech Republic and got a master's degree at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport at the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Since 1992 he has also been active in the film industry. He started as an actor and a stuntman in Czech movies and later he was cast into many big Hollywood productions. Shooting with directors Luc Besson ( $Joan\ of\ Arc$ ) and Rob Cohen (xXx) were important turning points in his film career, as they both helped Petr to develop his acting career further. Later on, Petr started writing, producing and directing.

Petr's directorial debut film *Kajinek* (2010, Czech language), was successful both in terms of viewer attendance (highest box office opening weekend in Czech history) and at Czech and foreign festivals (Czech Lion for best supporting actor, main prize at Belgium festival, etc). His horror/thriller *Ghoul* (2015, 3D, English) is the highest grossing horror movie in Czech history. *Ghoul* won the main prize at horror film festival Grossmann Fantastic Film.

Petr is currently finishing his historical action drama *Medieval* (2020, English) which he wrote, produced and directed. Starring Ben Foster, Michael Caine, Sophie Lowe, Til Schweiger, Matthew Goode, Roland Moeler, Karel Roden etc. Edited by Steven Rosenblum (*Braveheart*, *Blood Diamond*) and music by Philip Klein (*The Last Full Measure*).

He is a producer on *The Last Full Measure* which is a film based on the true story of Vietnam War hero William H. Pitsenbarger, a U.S. Air Force Pararescue medic who personally saved over sixty men. The film stars Sebastian Stan, Christopher Plummer, William Hurt, Peter Fonda, Ed Harris and Samuel L. Jackson. Petr is also an executive producer on upcoming film *Axis Sally* starring Al Pacino and Meadow Williams and directed by Michael Polish. This is for MoviePass Films, based on the true story of a woman who unwittingly became the voice of German propaganda targeted to American troops during WWII.

Most recently, Petr executive produced *Best Sellers* starring Oscar winner Michael Caine and Aubrey Plaza. Lina Roessler is making her directorial debut. The project is based on Anthony Grieco's original screenplay, which won the 2015 Nicholl Fellowship Screenwriting award, and is an official Canada-UK co-production, produced by Arielle Elwes (*Braid*), Cassian Elwes (*Mudbound, The Butler*), Petr Jákl (*xXx, Ghoul, Medieval*) and Wayne Marc Godfrey (*The Foreigner, Wind River*) on the UK side and Jonathan Vanger (*Miss Sloane*) and Pierre Even (*Item 7: War Witch, The Hummingbird Project*) on the Canadian side. EPs include Martin Barab, Jere Hausfater and Mark Damon.

#### Martin J Barab (Executive Producer)

Martin J. Barab, grew up in Southern California. Martin graduated from the University of Southern California in 1967 with a B.S. degree in Finance and international trade. He graduated from Loyola University School of Law in 1970 with a J.D. degree in 1985, Martin began producing and distributing independently produced motion pictures, as well as gaining international reputation as a leading attorney in the independent motion picture production and financing fields.

Working as an entertainment attorney, Martin has been a production, distribution and financing attorney for numerous independent distribution and production entities. Since commencing practice in the entertainment branch of the law and producing motion pictures for his company, Martin has been involved in the production and distribution of over 300 motion pictures. Martin has organized and was involved in the founding of major motion picture companies such as: Nu Image, Millennium Pictures, Franchise Pictures, Moonstone Entertainment, American World Pictures, as well as many other independent production entities. As an attorney he has represented some of the leading independent motion picture production and distribution companies such as: Cannon Pictures, 21st Century Entertainment, Behavior Worldwide, Trimark Pictures (Currently LionsGate Pictures), Fries Film Group, Showcase Entertainment, Providence

Entertainment, Liberty International Inc., Crystal Sky Entertainment, Emmett Furla Oasis Films as well as many others.

In 2005 and 2006 Martin was President of Distribution and Productions of Bauer Martinez Studios. He organized and arranged output deals with The Weinstein Company, MGM Studios, Atlantis-Alliance and Vivendi Visual Entertainment. He resigned his position in January 2006 and served as President of International Productions and Distribution at American World Pictures.

In 2007 Martin formeda new production and consulting entity in New Mexico called Double Tree Entertainment LLC. Double Tree has also formed a joint venture in Australia and currently in the Czech Republic.

#### Mark Damon (Executive Producer)

Mark Damon is the Chairman of Foresight Unlimited, a company he founded in 2004, and recently bought in 2019 by Chicken Soup for the Soul Entertainment, a publicly-traded NASDAQ company with a market cap of more than \$400M. Foresight Unlimited was established to develop, finance, produce and distribute high quality feature films for the domestic and international marketplace. Credited with having invented the foreign sales business as we know it today, Damon is considered one of the world's leading authorities on international distribution and has played a successful role in various facets of the entertainment industry for over 50 years. Over the past 25 years, Damon's productions have grossed over \$2 billion in theatrical box office worldwide.

Damon has produced or executive produced over 70 films, and his films have received 10 Oscar nominations including: the 2005 Academy Award winner Monster, starring Charlize Theron, the critically acclaimed, multi-Oscar nominated World War II drama Das Boot, directed by Wolfgang Petersen and The NeverEnding Story, also directed by Wolfgang Petersen. Other acclaimed films include The Upside of Anger, starring Oscar nominee Joan Allen and Kevin Costner, 9 ½ Weeks, directed by Adrian Lyne, 8 Million Ways to Die, directed by Hal Ashby, Short Circuit, directed by John Badham, High Spirits directed by Neil Jordan, Choirboys directed by Robert Aldrich, The Lost Boys, directed by Joel Schumacher, Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book, directed by Stephen Sommers. Plus, the blockbuster releases of 2 Guns, starring Denzel Washington and Mark Walhberg; and Lone Survivor, starring Mark Wahlberg and directed by Peter Berg. The film went on to gross over \$125 million at the U.S. box office.

Damon has been directly involved in the international licensing of over 300 feature length pictures, including such noteworthy box-office titles as the James Bond film *Never Say Never Again*, directed by Irvin Kershner and starring Sean Connery, Prizzi's Honor, directed by John Huston and featuring Jack Nicholson and Anjelica Huston, *Once Upon A Time In America*, directed by Sergio Leone and featuring Robert DeNiro and James Woods, Cotton Club, directed by Francis Ford Coppola and featuring Richard Gere and *The Final Countdown*, starring Kirk Douglas.

Most recently, Damon produced the incredible true story of a pararescueman who saved over 60 lives in one of the bloodiest battles of the Vietnam War, entitled *The Last Full Measure*. The star-studded film stars 10 Academy Award and Golden Globe Nominees including Samuel L. Jackson, Christopher Plummer, Ed Harris, William Hurt, Peter Fonda, Diane Ladd, Sebastian Stan, and was released nationwide in January 2020 by Roadside Attractions/Lionsgate to an incredible reception by audiences – scoring a 96% Audience Score on Rotten Tomatoes.

Damon first entered the world of independent sales and production in the 1970's while living and working in Italy where he saw a huge market of independent international distributors eager for top American movies. When he returned to the U.S. in 1977 he founded the Producer Sales Organization (PSO). His goal was to sell important American pictures to international distributors, the first such company to compete with the major studios. Damon's subsequent success with PSO led to his reputation as the inventor of the foreign sales business and the brains behind independent film production. His early visionary contributions to the international distribution of independently produced films are widely recognized and he has developed a reputation in the entertainment industry as one of the leading producers and distributors of independent films.

Damon is one of the original founding members of AFMA, now known as the International Film and Television Alliance (IFTA). Mark received his M.B.A. and B.A. degrees from the University of California Los Angeles and resides with his wife in Beverly Hills. In May of 2008, Mark Damon's biography, From Cowboy to Mogul to Monster, was published, chronicling his 50 years in the entertainment industry.

## About the Cast

#### Sir Michael Caine (Harris Shaw)



MICHAEL CAINE is a two-time Academy Award-winning actor whose career has spanned six decades. He won his first Oscar, for Best Supporting Actor, for his work in Woody Allen's Hannah and Her Sisters, for which he also received Golden Globe and BAFTA Award nominations. He took home his second Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his role in Lasse Hallström's The Cider House Rules, also winning a Screen Actors Guild Award and earning Golden Globe and BAFTA Award nominations.

Some of his many other film credits include the iconic *The Italian Job*, Cy Endfield's *Zulu*; *Alfie*; and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, alongside Steve Martin.

Caine has also appeared in many of Christopher Nolan's films, including *The Dark Knight, Inception* and *Interstellar*.

More recently, he starred in Paolo Sorrentino's *Youth; Going in Style*, alongside Morgan Freeman and Alan Arkin; *Sherlock Gnomes*, with Emily Blunt and Johnny Depp; and in Matthew Vaughn's *Kingsman: The Secret Service*.

Caine has recently finished Twist, a modern retelling of Dickens' Oliver Twist, alongside Lena Heady. He was most recently seen in Come Away, which premiered this year at Sundance, also starring Angelina Jolie and David Oyelowo.

Michael can most recently be seen in Christopher Nolan's next feature Tenet.

### Aubrey Plaza (Lucy Stanbridge)

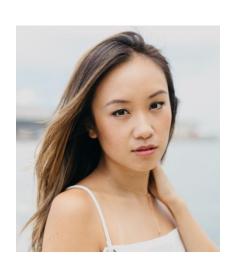


Aubrey Plaza began her career performing improvand sketch comedy at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater. She received further recognition for her starring role as April Ludgate on the NBC sitcom 'Parks and Recreation' (2009–2015), and as Lenny Busker in the FX drama series 'Legion' (2017–2019).

After several supporting roles in various films, Plaza had her first leading role as Darius Britt in the comedy Safety Not Guaranteed (2012). She also starred in the films Mystery Team (2008), Funny People (2009), Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (2010), Monsters University (2013), Life After

Beth (2014), Dirty Grandpa (2016), Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates (2016), The Little Hours (2017), Ingrid Goes West (2017), An Evening with Beverly Luff Linn (2018) Child's Play (2019) and Black Bear (2020).

### Ellen Wong (Rachel Spence)



Ellen Wong is an internationally acclaimed, SAG award nominated actress from Toronto, Canada. After a global casting search landed her the breakout role of Knives Chau in the cult classic Scott Pilgrim VS The World, Ellen has starred in numerous film and TV productions. memorable turns include "Jill Chen" on CW's 'The Carrie Diaries' (a prequel to HBO's Sex in the City), and "Jenny Chey" on Netflix's Emmy and Golden Globe nominated comedy series 'GLOW', from executive producer Jenji Kohan ('Orange is the New Black'). Most recently, Ellen headlined the independent film In The Life of Music, which was

selected as Cambodia's entry for Best International Film at the 2020 Oscars. The movie also won the Audience Award at the L.A. Asian Pacific Film Festival, and garnered Ellen a Rising Star award from the Philadelphia Asian Film Festival. Ellen can soon be seen alongside Michael Caine and Aubrey Plaza in the indie film, Best Sellers.

Ellen is an Ambassador for TIFF's Share Her Journey, a campaign dedicated to fighting for gender equality in the film and television industry. She also sits on the board of directors of the Cambodia Town Film Festival and The Haing S. Ngor Foundation.

#### Scott Speedman (Jack Sinclair)



Scott Speedman continues to captivate audiences on both the big and small screen. He can most recently be seen starring in TNT's 'Animal Kingdom,' opposite Ellen Barkin. Created by John Wells and loosely based on the 2010 Australian feature of the same name, Barkin stars as the matriarch of a Southern California family whose excessive lifestyle is fueled by their criminal activities, with Speedman playing her second in command. Shawn Hatosy, Ben Robson, Jake Weary and Finn Cole co-star.

Prior to this, Speedman was featured on *Shadow Girl* opposite Zosia Mamet. The story follows Holly (Mamet), who has faded to the point of becoming literally invisible after the death of her mother as a teenager. After more than a decade of solitude, and making a living in the shadows as a paparazzi photographer, Holly meets Shane (Speedman), a down-on-his-luck former Mixed Martial Arts champion and the one person who can see her.

Recent credits have included Atom Egoyan's *The Captive*, an official main competition selection of the 2014 Cannes Film Festival, opposite Ryan Reynolds. This was his second collaboration with Egoyan following *Adoration*. He also starred in *Barefoot* opposite Evan Rachel Wood for director Andrew Fleming, Citizen Gangster playing the title role of Canada's most infamous bank robber, Lluis Quilez's Out of the Darkness opposite Julia Stiles, Open opposite Michelle Monaghan for HBO/Ryan Murphy Productions and *Barney's Version* opposite Paul Giamatti and Dustin Hoffman.

Box office hits include the worldwide blockbusters *Underworld* and *Underworld: Evolution* opposite Kate Beckinsale, the horror smash *The Strangers* opposite Liv Tyler, and *The Vow* with Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum.

Other film credits include Mary Harron's *The Moth Diaries*, Henry Miller's *Anamorph* opposite Willem Dafoe, Jacob Tierney's *Good Neighbours* opposite Jay Baruchel, Allan Moyle's *Weirdsville* opposite Wes Bentley, Ron Shelton's *Dark Blue* opposite Kurt Russell, Isabel Coixet's *My Life without Me*, opposite Sarah Polley (for which he won Best Actor at the Bordeaux International Film Festival), Tony Piccirillo's *The 24th Day*, opposite James Marsden, Bruce Paltrow's *Duets*, co-starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Lee Tamahori's *XXX: State of the Union* and Gary Burns' *Kitchen Party*.

His first film was the short feature *Can I Get a Witness?* directed by Kris Lefcoe. The film was developed at the Canadian Film Centre in Toronto, founded by Norman Jewison, and was screened at the 1996 Toronto International Film Festival.

Speedman then began studying at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York before landing the role of "Ben Covington" in the popular WB Network drama 'Felicity', which had a successful four-season run. He made his stage debut in summer 2000 in Edward Albee's The Zoo Story at the Equity Theatre in Toronto.

# About the Production Team

#### Claudine Sauvé (Director of Photography)

Claudine Sauvé moves naturally between cinematography and stills photography. From features to television, she has been telling intimate stories through her images for years. She has lensed a wide variety of projects, including 15 feature films such as *Stealing Alice* directed by Marc Séguin, dramatic thriller *The Wild Hunt* and *The Year Dolly Parton Was My Mom.* Her television credits include the outstanding drama series '19-2', which twice earned her the Gemeaux Awards for Best Direction of Photography, 'La Faille', 'The Disappearance' for NBCUniversal. Claudine has also brought her unique vision over the years to documentaries and short films, including the Oscar nominated *Short Film Henry*.

#### Arthur Tarnowski (Editor)

Arthur Tarnowski, ACE is a prolific and award-winning editor of feature films, television series, commercials and documentaries. For over 20 years, his varied projects have brought him to work in Europe, the U.S. as well as his native Canada. He has also worked as a second unit director on some of the productions he has edited.

Some of his more notable feature film work includes; *The Hummingbird Project* with Jesse Eisenberg, Alexander Skarsgard and Salma Hayek; *Brick Mansions* with Paul Walker; *Deadfall with* Eric Bana, Charlie Hunnam and Olivia Wilde; *Good Neighbours* with Scott Speedman and *The Trotsky* with Jay Baruchel; *Emotional Arithmetic* with Susan Sarandon, Christopher Plummer and Max Von Sydow; and *Birthmarked* with Toni Collete and Matthew Goode. He has edited several mini-series for television including 'The Red Tent,' 'The Last Templar,' 'Mirage' and 'The Phantom.' His work in series television includes among others; 'Bad Blood', 'Largo Winch', '19-2', 'The art of More' and 'Being Human'. He has edited the Quebec comedies *De Père en Flic 2 (Fathers and Guns 2)* as well as *Menteur (Compulsive Liar)* for director Émile Gaudreault. Both films managed to become the top locally produced box-office hits in Canada in 2017 and 2019.

Tarnowski also edited Oscar winning director Denys Arcand's latest film *The Fall of the American Empire*. In addition to *Arcand*, he has edited for other noted Oscar winning or nominated directors such as Kim Nguyen and Stefan Ruzowitzky.

His work has also been noticed at various film festivals around the world. Whitewash (2012) won the best first feature et the Tribeca film festival, The Trotsky (2009) won several prizes including the Audience award at the Tokyo Film Festival, Enragés (Rabid Dogs) had its premiere out of competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2015. In 2019, Tarnowski also edited the first ever French-Canadian film financed by Netflix, the acclaimed thriller Jusqu'au Déclin (The Decline) which earned over 21 million views in its first month of release on the platform. Tarnowski is also a very sought-after creator-editor of film trailers, he has created over 150 of them since 2003, including several of the biggest box-office hits in Canada and Quebec.

Tarnowski is very proud of his latest editing assignment, *Best Sellers*, a dramatic comedy starring Michael Caine and Aubrey Plaza. The film marks his first collaboration with director Lina Roessler. It is his third project with producer Jonathan Vanger as well as his fourth with producer Pierre Even.

Arthur Tarnowski is a member of ACE (American Cinema Editors), and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts (with honours) in Communication Studies from Concordia University.

# **End Credits**

#### **BEST SELLERS**

Directed By LINA ROESSLER

Written By ANTHONY GRIECO

Produced By JONATHAN VANGER PIERRE EVEN

CASSIAN ELWES
ARIELLE ELWES
WAYNE MARC GODFREY

Executive Producer PETR JÁKL

Executive Producer MARTIN J. BARAB

Executive Producers HUSSAIN AMARSHI SASHI ARNOLD PAUL-E, AUDET KEVIN BERNHARDT

Executive Producers
MARK DAMON
JERE HAUSFATER
ADAM GOLDWORM
JOE SISTO

Associate Producers TOM VANGER JEANNETTE GARCIA

Editor

#### ARTHUR TARNOWSKI, ACE

Cinematographer CLAUDINE SAUVÉ, CSC

Production Designer MARIO HERVIEUX

Composer
PAUL LEONARD-MORGAN

Music Supervisor ANTHONY VANGER

Sound STÉPHAN ROY STÉPHANE BERGERON JEAN-PHILIPPE SAVARD

Visual Effects Supervisor EMILIEN LAZARON

Costume Designer SOPHIE LEFEBVRE

Casting By
ANDREA KENYON, CSA
RANDI WELLS, CSA
PAM DIXON, CSA

MICHAEL CAINE

AUBREY PLAZA

SCOTT SPEEDMAN

**ELLEN WONG** 

**VERONICA FERRES** 

and

#### **CARY ELWES**

Produced with the participation of

SODEC

in association with

MONGREL MEDIA

and

MÉTROPOLE FILMS

R. U. ROBOT ENTERTAINMENT

Presents

Α

WISHING TREE PRODUCTIONS

ITEM 7

WACKI MEDIA PRODUCTION

Production

Line Producer Ginette Guillard

Post-Production Supervisor Marie-Pierre Tétreault

First Assistant Director Erik Ajduk

In memory of MyLou Sauvage

**CAST** 

Harris Shaw Michael Caine

Lucy Stanbridge Aubrey Plaza

Jack Sinclair Scott Speedman

Rachel Spence Ellen Wong

Halpren Nolan Cary Elwes

Joseph Stanbridge Luc Morissette

Drew Davis Veronica Ferres

Phil Rosen Frank Schorpion

Dr. Chen Florence Situ

Verne Olson Philip Le Maistre

Sister France Linda Nourse

Hipster - Lizard Lounge Sebree Laurie

Waitress Briauna James

Teen Reviewer Charli Birdgenaw

Tattooed Kid Massimo Diem

Tween Girl Sofia Timotheatos

Earnest Manager Thomas Niles

Bro Stoner Brandon Lorimier

Grant Recipient Chance Jones Sauray

Legal Minions Max Laferrière

Michelle Rambharose

Book Launch Guest Susie Almgren

Nun Receptionist Natalie Darbyson

Second Tween Girl Sarah Navaratnam

News Anchor Christopher Hayes

Reporter Alex Petrachuk

Guy at Road House Bar Benjamin Muir

Book Employee Rachel Osborne

Fans Patrick Park

Joelle Jeremie

Girl Beside Lucy Elana Dunkelman

Hipster - Road House Bar Udit Bombay

Hotel Clerk Victoria Sanchez

Nurse Georgia Remond

Nurse with Harris Elisabeth Etienne

Students Megan Jonker

Rahul Gandhi

Young Guide Frank Fiola

Bar Patron Alessandro Russotti

Michael Caine Double Glen Bowser

Stunt Coordinator Alexandre Cadieux

#### DIRECTING DEPARTMENT

2nd Assistant Director Renato De Cotiis

3rd Assistant Directors Raphaël Hébert

Caroline Longpré

Katherine Paradis

Stéphane Moukarzel

Frédérique Chalifoux

Jean-Baptiste Diago

Ela Miszkurka

AD's trainee Clara Smith Haddad

#### ADDITIONAL CREW

Script Supervisor Fanny Bellavance

Script Timing Lorette LeBlanc

#### **CASTING**

Casting Directors Andrea Kenyon, CSA

Randi Wells, CSA

Pam Dixon, CSA

Extras Casting Johanne Titley

#### **PRODUCTION**

Assistant Line Producer Justine Chevarie-Cossette

Production Coordinator Olivia Sellem

Production Secretary Marie-Christine d'Amours

Office Runner Jozef Daenens

#### ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL

Head Accountant Neil Olsen

Assistant Accountant Justin Stokes

Payroll Shawn Aumond

Financial Controller Sylvain Proulx

Sisto Entertainment & Business

CA Legal Counsel Law Services

Joe Sisto, Daniel Bachner, Alex

Andreescu

UK Legal Counsel Lee Stone

US Legal Counsel Jere Hausfater

#### **CAMERA**

Cinematographer Claudine Sauvé, CSC

Camera A 1st AC Marie-Julie Besse

Camera A 2nd AC Etienne Didelot-Pothier

Patrick Biron

Alice Lemieux

Camera B Operators Jean Kavanagh

Daniel Sauvé

Sylvaine Dufaux

Camera B 1st AC Guillaume Parisien

Anthony Huneault

Eric Godbout

Camera B 2nd AC René Frechette

Apprentice Camera Mélodie Rondeau (Luvia)

Still Photographer Sébastien Raymond

Additional Still Photographer Laurence Grandbois-Bernard

Drone Operator Martin Lemire

Drone Pilot Patrick St-Arnaud

#### SOUND

Sound Mixer Stephan Roy

Boom Operators François Blouin

Sébastien Froment

#### **ART DEPARTMENT**

Production Designer Mario Hervieux

Art Director Louis-René Landy

Assistant Art Director Stéphane Dufour

Art Department Coordinator Mireille Leclerc

Key Decorator Dominique Gosselin

Set Decorator Ginette Paré

Property Buyer Mylène "Mylou" Bilodeau

Assistant Property Buyer Florence Lambert-Langelier

Key On Set Props Elisabeth Bastien-Syr

Assistant On Set Props Emilie Blake

Set Dressers Jean Nicolas Clarizio

Nicolas Mathieu

Charles-Antoine Bouchard-Blondeau

Guillaume Ménard-Ouellet

Luc Bonin

Guilaume Guérette

Graphic Artists Élaine Beauchemin

Emma Severin

Marie-Hélène Leblanc

Portrait Artist Dominique Gaucher

Armour André Campbell

Animal Wrangler Josée Juteau

Product Placement Coordinator Catherine Boily

#### WARDROBE

Costume Designer Sophie Lefebvre

Head Wardrobe Mistress Martine Gagnon

Costume Coordinator Rosalie Clermont

Wardrobe Technician Melissa Giroux

Key Dresser Hélène Bélanger

Assistant Key Dresser Katy Delisle

Assistant Dresser Rafael Tibobeau

Dresser - Extras Anne-Marie Aird

#### MAKE UP & HAIR

Key Make-up Artist Audrey Bitton

Assistant Make-up Artist Lola Dupont

Make-up Artists - Extras Marie-Michelle Claveau

Carol-Anne Boivin

Geneviève Bonneau

Christine Carrière

Sherry Hu

Marianne Bobet

Key Hairdresser Johanne Paiement

Assistant Hairdresser Marc-André Lessard

Hairdressers - Extras Felicio Rousseau

Daniel Coté

Nathalie Dion

Gladys Simard

Sarah Tremblay

#### ELECTRICAL

Gaffer Hugo Roy

Best Boy Lighting Technician Simon Gaudreau

Lighting Technicians Dave Magnan

Simon Thériault

Guillaume Carbonneau

Philippe Saint-Laurent

Generator Operator Claude Reimnitz

#### **GRIP**

Key Grip Nicolas Mignot

Best Boy Grip Jocelyn Spronken-Forget

Grips Sébastien Courteau

Elliot Gregoir

Gael Giraud

Alexandra Elkin

Martin Vaillancourt

Guillaume Canniccioni

Picture Car Coordinator Michel Perreault

Camera Car Operators Philippe Perreault

Jocelyn Bourcier

Camera Car Technician Emile Germek

#### UNIT & LOCATION MANAGING

Location Manager Véronique Mathieu

Assistant Location Manager Cyrille Loreau

Unit Manager Pascal Ménard

Assistant Unit Manager Yanick Henrico

Set P.A. Élodie Marois

Truck P.A. Jean-Pierrôt Fournier

Back-Up Set P.A. Justine Cavalieri

Back-Up Truck P.A. Britany Guy

Production Assistants Francis Augé-Pagé

Nikita Bershanski

Charles Labrie

Set Runner Jimmy Bellemare

Craft Persons Rachel Lemire

Andréane Lavoie

Assistant Craft Person Jean-François Rondeau

On Set Medic Daniel Lepage

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

Transport Coordinator Louis-Charles Sarrazin

Head Driver Lino Mondello

Drivers Marie-Claire Synett

Louis-Paul Dallaire

Sylvain Hubert

Emmanuel Chevallier

Pablo Lugo

Vehicles Coordinator Michel Perreault

Base Camp Operator Maxime Langevin

#### MECHANICAL AND PHYSICAL SFX

SFX Supervisor Louis Craig

SFX Technician Louis Pedneault

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Consulting Producer Nicki Cortese

UK Production Accountant Stuart Stanton

Legal and Business Affairs Lee Stone of Lee & Thompson LLP

Cassian Elwes' Assistant David Josephs

#### WISHING TREE PRODUCTIONS

Bookkeeper Micheline Lajoie

Office Assistant Deitan Trudeau

Production Assistant Kayla Hozjan

#### ITEM 7

Content Consultant Camille Trudel

Accountant Roseline Egoume

Intern Jeanne Motulsky

#### **MUSIC**

Composed / Produced by Paul Leonard-Morgan

Mixed by Andy Bradfield

Recorded at PALM Studios

Additional Programming Mike MacLennan

Cello Eric Byers

Guitars / Bass Ross Hamilton

Drums Juice

Assistant to Composer Matt Lewis

Music Supervisor Anthony Vanger

Music Supervision Services ASV Publishing Ltd.

#### ADDITIONAL MUSIC

Don Giovanni, K 527\_Fact I Scene 15: Aria: Fin ch'han dal vino
Composed by Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus
Performed by Skovhus, Bo (Baritone), Nicolaus Esterházy Sinfonia (Orchestra)
and Halász, Michael (Conductor)
Licensed courtesy of Naxos Music

The Nutcracker: Act II. Divertissement: Spanish Dance; Arabian Dance; Chinese Dance; Russian Dance; Toy Trumpets
Composed by Tchaikovsky, Pyotr Il'yich
Performed by Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra and Lenárd, Ondrej (Conductor)
Licensed courtesy of Naxos Music

Last of the Steam-Powered Trains
Written by Ray Davies
Recorded by The Kinks
Courtesy of Sanctuary Records Group Ltd., a BMG Company

I'm The Face
Performed by The High Numbers
Written by Peter Meaden
Published by Chester Music Ltd t/as Campbell Connelley & Co Ltd

The Drinking Song from La Traviata Composer: Giuseppe Verdi Label & Publisher: Cavendish Music

Texas Hot Sauce
Written & Performed by Barrie Gledden and Richard Kimmings
Label & Publisher: Audio Network Limited

Soldiers' Chorus (from FAUST)
Composer: Charles Francois Gounod
Label: Music Box

Publisher: Cavendish Music

Tchaikovsky Nutcracker
Nutcracker Suite, OP. 71A, Waltz of the Flowers
Composer: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Label & Publisher: Cavendish Music

Get The Feeling
Performed by Jimi Hendrix and Curtis Knight
Courtesy of Experience Hendrix LLC under exclusive license to Sony Music
Entertainment
Licensed by Sony Music Entertainment UK Limited

Let's Get Away
Composed by Mark Gasbarro & Rick Riso
Courtesy of Cavendish Music on behalf of 5 Alarm Music

Early Daze
Written & Performed by Christian Marsac
Label & Publisher: Audio Network Limited

#### POST-PRODUCTION

Post-production Supervisor Marie-Pierre Tétreault

Editor Arthur Tarnowski

Colorist Vickie-Lynn Roy

Graphic Artist Maurice Roy

First Assistant Editor Andréanne Cousineau

Project Manager Yannick Gamache

DI Technicians Rafael Yamin Ronzani

Raphaël Demers

Maxime Taimiot

DI Coordinator Dany Landry

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Re-recording Mixer Stéphane Bergeron

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Sound Effects Editors Jean-Philippe Savard

Raymond Legault

Music Editor Jean-Philippe Savard

Sound Assistant Alexis Pilon-Gladus

Foley Artist Nicolas Gagnon

Foley Sound Mixer Jocelyn Caron

Foley Artist Assistant Thomas Garant

ADR Supervisor Natalie Fleurant

ADR Editor Natalie Fleurant

ADR Studio (Montreal) Difuze

ADR Recordist Benoit Leduc

Sound Technical Supervisor Pierre Laroche

ound Post Production Manager Isabelle Favreau

ADR Studio (Toronto) Deluxe

ADR Recordist Devin Doucet

uling & Reconciling Coordinator Jessica Finch

ADR Studio (London) Goldcrest

ADR Recordist Mark Appleby

Assistant Producer Emma Liu

Marc Graue Recording Studios

ADR Studio (Los Angeles) (Burbank, CA)

ADR Engineers Juan Martin Del Campo

Steve Selvaggio

ADR Supervisor Andy Welker

Production Coordinator Samantha Duncan

Production Assistant Madeline Dorroh

Dailies Facility ZAP

Technical Director Alexandre Bouchard

Business Development Marie-Pierre Tetreault

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Data Management Technician Simon Cadotte-Dubie

Data Management Coordinator Solenne d'Arnoux de Fleury

Visual Effects by Mels Studios and Postproduction G.P.

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Visual Effects Producer Cynthia Mourou

Lead Compositing Francois Trudel

Visual Effects Coordinators Emilie Debiasi

Julie Page

Matte Painting artist Alexandre Meneux

Vincent Boucher Cormier

Tracking/Layout Artists Tania Beaulieu

Environment artist David Dionne

FX Artists Gabriel Monette

Glenn Curry

Motion Design Jérôme Routhier

Samuel Boisvert

Compositors Emilie Pelletier

Florian Dubois

Francois Trudel

Justin Rader

Mathieu Archambault

Reine Bourgault

Rodrigo Armendariz

VFX editing and I/O Isabelle Clermont

Marion Gasqui

Sylvain Thibodeau

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Simon Downey Pat Kiely

Daniel Birnbaum TIFF Talent Lab

My amazing crew And all the people, moments, choices and decisions that led here.

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Actors ACTRA, SAG-AFTRA

Director DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA

Screenwriter WRITERS GUILD OF CANADA

Filmed on location in Québec, Canada

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