

David & Layla

PRESS NOTES

A Films International Corp Release
35mm Film in English. Aspect Ratio: 1.85 : 1
Running Time: 106 minutes. MPAA Rating: R

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Dedication

For my sister whose husband was kidnapped in 1963. Later he was found murdered with 170 other civilians in a mass grave. Her two sons are refugees in Germany.

For my brother, missing since 1993. In 2003 his remains were found in Saddam's Abu Ghraib mass grave. His widow and three children are refugees in Holland.

-Jay Jonroy

Synopsis

Inspired by a true story, David is something of a public access cable celebrity, host of an interview show called *Sex & Happiness*, a show that playfully explores the correlation between sex, spice, and contemporary coupling. During a taping of one episode he almost literally trips over a voluptuous, mysterious, sensual Middle Eastern dancer named Layla. Though he's already reluctantly engaged to another woman, Abby, a svelte, Jewish, kick boxing instructor, David falls head over heels for Layla, who turns out to be a Kurdish Muslim refugee. Despite this seemingly insurmountable hurdle David pursues Layla with reckless abandon, setting off a playful veiling and unveiling of the differences and similarities between the two cultures. Theirs is truly a match made in heaven, a place they might just wind up in a lot sooner than each other imagines!

As if their own personal cultural differences were not enough to derail this funny, obsessive romantic entanglement, here come the parents. David's parents, observant conservative Jews, greet the news with equal feelings of rejection, and abandonment. Layla's uncle (her family was killed in Iraq by Saddam Hussein) is as radical a traditionalist as David's mother and father are devoted Jews.

At David's editing bay, during a rare, touching and sober vignette, Layla provides a brief but shocking history into the genocide of Kurds in 1988 in Halabja, Iraq. But lighthearted repartee, and sexual chemistry, is never far behind. David invokes the names of Jewish legends like Freud and Einstein while Layla explains that the ones and zeroes and the writing of algebraic code for modern computers were revolutionized by al-Khwarizmi. They navigate the Hudson River by boat, exchange words of ardor over wine (and, of course, food), and debate their differences in the rain by the light of the moon.

Meanwhile, Layla is having immigration problems, which would seem to make David's proposal of marriage a welcome proposition, especially given *her* parents choice of a mate: Muslim Dr. Ahmad, a wealthy, middle-aged ex-patriot who holds no sense of adventure or romantic potential for Layla.

Still and all, Layla will not accept David as a husband unless he agrees to become Muslim, a plan that doesn't even sit well with the local Lebanese Imam, that is, until Howar, Layla's musical accompanist, explains that one of the most revered translations of the Koran was written by a Jewish scholar. Just when Solomon-like wisdom peeks its head around the corner comes another revelation: that vasectomy David had earlier been subjected to, at the teasing suggestion of his ex-fiancée, Abby.

"David & Layla" is a warm, big-hearted comedy-romance. It's a timeless story about the differences that threaten what is pure about love. On a lighter level it's the Hatfields vs. the McCoys, it's Romeo and Juliet, without the poison and the daggers, it's about bagels and it's about...spice. On a more serious level it's the mixing pot of the Middle East in America, specifically in Brooklyn. It's finally Layla who teaches David more about love, and love and sex than a whole season's worth of his television show could possibly convey. And it's finally David who ultimately strikes a delicate balance that will allow his absolute love for Layla to become a romance for the ages.

My Inspiration for "David & Layla"

by Jay Jonroy

I was an Iraqi refugee. But it might have been a scene out of "An American in Paris."

The time: the 1990s. The city: Paris, France. The place: an Isle St. Louis brasserie, near Notre Dame. That's where I first met Alwand Jaff. I was studying at the Sorbonne and lunching al fresco when Alwand, wrongly assuming I was French American, asked to share the table.

Our conversation revealed, remarkably, that our respective parents all hailed from Kurdistan, north of Iraq. Alwand had recently escaped Saddam's Baghdad, where she had managed her family's Travel Agency. Her profession made global travel and relocation much easier for her than for hundreds of thousands of others. She moved first to Dubai, and then settled in Paris where she learned how to speak French. In the late eighties Alwand boarded a flight to San Francisco to attend a Kurdish wedding in Northern California. During the flight she met a man named David, David Ruby. He was returning home to Silicon Valley where he was a marketing executive for a new technology company. They were both smitten. They shared an easy rapport and an intellectual and physical attraction. It seemed too good to be true. And it almost was: before landing he discovered she was Kurdish and Muslim, she discovered he was Jewish.

By the end of that typically endless Paris lunch I knew I had to tell their story. On that day the seeds that would eventually lead to "David & Layla" were planted.

It was serendipity that had me leaving Iraq as I did, as a student on a scholarship to England awarded by the then Iraqi Minister of Education. Then came Paris. In 1994 I moved to New York and found myself, much like Alwand and David, peacefully co-existing with a small universe of Jewish friends and neighbors, witnessing much of the familial humor, awkwardness, and harmony that was evident in that city's many Muslim and Jewish communities and that was to become the leitmotif of "David & Layla." The events of 9/11 determined, once and for all, that the overall tone of the film must be comedic, even as it honored the spirit, the tenacity, the joy, the love, and the freedom that could be found at the core of the relationship between Alwand and David. In 1996 I was invited to my first Passover Seder, a ritual whose traditions were replicated with hope and humor. It was a celebration whose underpinnings were strangely familiar to me, an Iraqi Kurd in New York. What that evening represented *also* spoke volumes to me and, consequently, inspired the tenderest moments of my film.

Alwand and David married in 1990. Alwand lives part-time in Paris and part-time in Marrakech, where they purchased land and built a villa. David continues to nurture his U.S. career south of San Francisco. He lives part-time there and part-time with Alwand in Paris. Their relationship continues to thrive today.

Cast

David Fine
Layla
Mel Fine
Judith Fine
Abby
Woody Fine
Francois
Uncle Ali "Al"
Zina
Dr. Jacobson
Dr. Susswein
Imam
Howar
Rabbi Rabinovich
Aunt Aftaw Khan
Dr. Ahmad
Ken, Immigration
Yun, Immigration
Mr. Wong
Solo
Waiter
Belly Dancer
Fred
Newroz (Son)
Interview Girl #1
Interview Girl #2

DAVID MOSCOW
SHIVA ROSE
PETER VAN WAGNER
POLLY ADAMS
CALLIE THORNE
WILL JANOWITZ
ALEXANDER BLAISE
ED CHEMALY
ANNA GEORGE
KEN KLIBAN
ALBERT MACKLIN
HANY KAMAL
JOSEPH KAMAL
TIBOR FELDMAN
ANAHID
ALI REZA FARAHAQIAN
RANDY CHERKAS
C.S. LEE
ANGEL SING
ISMAEL "IZZY" RUIZ
JASON CATALANO
DORIT ELENA
BRIAN GERSH
ALEX HOFFMAN
ROBIN SPRANCE
NICHOLE PATXOT

Cast Biographies

David Moscow (David Fine)

Moscow made his feature debut in the now classic film, *BIG*, directed by Penny Marshall, in which he played JOSH, the younger version of Tom Hanks' character. As he grew, so did his resume. Moscow appeared in Walt Disney's *NEWSIES*, he reunited with Marshall for *RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS*, starring Drew Barrymore, he starred opposite Jessica Alba in the urban drama, *HONEY*, and co-starred with Ashton Kutcher in *JUST MARRIED*. He has also shown his range in a variety of celebrated independent films, including *RESTAURANT*, opposite Adrien Brody, the Sundance Award-Winning film, *HURRICANE STREETS*, *NEARING GRACE*, directed by Rick Rosenthal, and *RIVER RED*.

Moscow co-stars in the upcoming film *LOOKING FOR PALLADIN*, by writer/director Andrejz Krakowski. The film, shot in Guatemala, follows Moscow's character, "Josh Ross", a talent agent who goes on a journey to seek out an old Hollywood legend (*BEN GAZARRA*) for a film remake. Once he finds the reclusive old actor he discovers more than he bargained for. He also recently completed *BULL RUN*, an indie film about the experiences of five divorced fathers in contemporary America.

Moscow co-starred on television in the comedy series, *ZOE BEAN*, with Selma Blair, and appeared on Broadway in *WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?*, as well as in several off-Broadway productions.

Moscow is also a screenwriter and producer, having several of his own projects currently in development.

Shiva Rose (Layla)

Shiva Rose's film work includes the 20th Century Fox feature *THE FIRST 20 MILLION*, HBO's award-winning *61* directed by Billy Crystal, the Slamdance Film Festival hit *BLACK DAYS*, *RED ROSES AND PETROL* with Malcolm McDowell, and *SILENT MADNESS – HOLLYWOOD BABYLON* in which Rose portrays legendary silent screen star Louise Brooks. She also appeared in the short film *DYSENCHANTED*, playing the role of Snow White, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2004. Her television credits include "Las Vegas", "The Division", and "The Practice". Most recently she appeared on "CSI: Miami" in the recurring role of 'Sonya.'

Rose is quite passionate about the theater and has appeared on stage in numerous productions such as the Pacific Resident Theatre's award winning production of "The Swan," and "Necessary Target" by Eve Ensler. Her favorite theater roles include: 'Hennie' in "Awake and Sing", 'Therese' in "Therese Raquin", 'Joan' in Caryl Churchill's "Far Away". She has also acted at The Berkshire Theatre Festival, The Roundabout Theater in New York and most recently at The Mark Taper Forum. In 2008 she will appear as 'Antonia' in The Rubicon Theater's production of *My Antonia* directed by Scott Schwartz.

Aside from her work as an actress, Rose is recognized for her unique style and fashion sense. She is a favorite among fashion editors and is often included in magazines such as *Allure*, *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*.

Rose spends her free time as a volunteer for various social causes. She is very active with numerous charities such as *V-Day*, created to end violence against women. She also created a program called *Resource* that fed the homeless, which she launched while attending college at UCLA. She is a sponsor for *VIP*, which helps abused children and volunteers at *CFCA* (Caring For Children With AIDS). Recently she was asked to be a spokesperson for Amnesty International's Refugee Program.

Rose presently resides in Los Angeles with her husband Dylan McDermott and their daughters Colette and Charlotte.

Peter Van Wagner (Mel Fine)

Peter Van Wagner is a busy New York film, television and stage actor. Recent film appearances include *HOLLYWOOD ENDING*, *PEOPLE I KNOW* and *OFF THE BLACK*. He has made guest-starring appearances on the television series *LAW & ORDER*, *ED*, *THIRD WATCH* and *RESCUE ME*. Toiling off-Broadway Peter has co-starred in *ISN'T IT ROMANTIC*, *THE NOTEBOOK*, *TWO AND A HALF JEWS* and *TREASON*. On the Chicago stage Peter portrayed Tevya in *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* and Garfinkle in *OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY*.

Polly Adams (Judith Fine)

Polly Adams' Broadway credits include Elie Wiesel's *ZALMEN OR THE MADNESS OF GOD*. Adams co-starred in the national touring company production of *LOST IN YONKERS* playing the role of Gert. She played leads in numerous Off-off Broadway, stock and regional plays for over 25 years - most notably at The Ensemble Studio Theatre, where she is a founding member. Adams is currently appearing on stage in New York in the play *THE NIBROC TRILOGY* as Mrs. Gill.

Adams' television credits include featured roles in six episodes of *LAW and ORDER*, and on *NEW YORK NEWS* starring Mary Tyler Moore, *THE WRIGHT VERDICTS* starring Tom Conti, *NOW AND AGAIN*, *PLAYERS*, *THE EGDE OF NIGHT*, *SEARCH FOR TOMORROW*, *ALL MY CHILDREN*, *CONAN O'BRIEN* and *LATE NIGHT WITH DAVID LETTERMAN*. Her featured roles in films include *PEOPLE I KNOW*, starring Al Pacino, *THE JUROR*, starring Demi Moore and Alec Baldwin, *NEW YORK CROSSING*, starring Giancarlo Giannini, Woody Allen's *CELEBRITY*, *UPTOWN GIRLS*, and *WE PEDAL UPHILL*. She was most recently seen as airline purser Debbie Welsh in Paul Greengrass's Academy Award nominated *UNITED 93*.

Will Janowitz (Woody Fine)

Native New Yorker Will Janowitz is most recognized as Finn DeTrollo (Meadow Soprano's boyfriend) from HBO's "The Soprano's." Janowitz began acting in high school, continuing at North Carolina School of The Arts. After returning to New York, his first dramatic role was in Ensemble Studio Theatre's "First Day of Hunting Season," opposite Tony Award-winner Daisy Egan. In addition to high profile guest leads on series such as "Law & Order" & the upcoming CBS pilot, "Babylon Fields" from director Michael Custa, Janowitz has worked for director David Gordon Green in the feature film *GEORGE WASHINGTON*. He also had a role in *The Pavement*, a series of short comedy spots for Showtime. Janowitz is also an avid playwright: his credits include "Francisco's Secret," "Minor Intrusion" and "Gnome."

Callie Thorne (Abby)

Thorne can presently be seen as Sheila Keefe, Tommy Gavin's ex-girlfriend (who also happens to be his deceased cousin's widow) on *RESCUE ME*, the critically acclaimed, Emmy-nominated, one-hour drama from Sony Pictures Television airing on FX. She was recently featured during a three-episode-arc on the FOX prime time drama "PRISON BREAK." Other television credits "ER," playing 'Jodie Kenyon,' the girlfriend of Dr. Victor Clemente (John Leguizamo), and as 'Elena,' the ex-wife of Baltimore Homicide Detective James McNulty (Dominic West) on the HBO crime drama "The Wire;" she might be best known for her portrayal of 'Detective Laura Ballard' on NBC's "Homicide: Life on the Street." Thorne has made guest appearances on NBC's "Ed," "Third Watch," "Law & Order: SVU," and "Law & Order: Criminal Intent."

Callie's film credits include the 2007 Sundance Film Festival selection *DELIRIOUS*, opposite Alison Lohman, *WATCHING THE DETECTIVES*, co-starring Lucy Liu and Cillian Murphy, , *THE F WORD*, *ANALYZE THAT* (Warner Bros), *HYSTERICAL BLINDNESS* (HBO), *SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK* (Paramount) and *NEXT STOP WONDERLAND* (Miramax), and the short film *ROBIN'S BIG DATE*, starring Sam Rockwell

Her theater credits include "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" at The Public Theater, (again) opposite Sam Rockwell and Eric Begonia, directed by Phillip Seymour Hoffman; "Gone Home" (MTC) opposite Josh Hamilton, directed by David Warren; "Joe Fearless" (Atlantic Theatre Company), "The Country Club" (The Drama Department) and "Slavs" (Mark Taper).

Ed Chemaly (Uncle Ali "Al")

Ed Chemaly most recently appeared Off-Broadway in *MAGIC HANDS FREDDY*. Some of Chemaly's other off-Broadway credits include *THE GATHERING* at Jewish Rep., *NEW WORLD RHAPSODY* at *HB PLAYWRIGHTS*, *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*, *WHAT HAPPENED TO JONES*, *THE NEW YORK IDEA*, *WASHINGTON IRVING'S SKETCHBOOK*, *THE STREETS OF NEW YORK*, *THE AMERICAN CLOCK*, *AWAKE AND SING*, and *ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD*. He has also appeared in the regional productions and touring companies of Tony Kushner's *HOMEBODY/KABUL* at Seattle's Intiman Theatre, *BACH AT LEIPZIG* at the Hangar Theatre, and the Philly Award nominated *MOOLAH* at the Triangle Theatre. His film and television credits include *ADIEU*, *LOVE LUST AND MARRIAGE*, *LAW & ORDER: SVU*, *AS THE WORLD TURNS*, and *RYAN'S HOPE*.

Alexandre Blaise (Francois)

Born in Paris, Blaise was raised while living with his parents, both painters, at New York's famed Chelsea Hotel. Inspired by that hotel's Bohemian *feng shui* he took up acting and first performed professionally with a local theatre troupe in St. Tropez. His more notable credits include featured roles in *RETURN FROM THE RIVER KWAI*, starring Edward Fox and Chris Penn, *EYE OF THE WIDOW*, starring F. Murray Abraham, *IF LUCY FELL*, starring Ben Stiller and Sarah Jessica Parker, *THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA*, starring Anne Hathaway and Meryl Streep. His television appearances include several *LAW & ORDER* episodes, numerous soap operas, and a national television commercial for American Express opposite Jerry Seinfeld.

Hany Kamal (Imam)

Egyptian-born Hany Kamal, a devout Muslim who resides in Manhattan, has appeared in films such as THE SIEGE, WEST BANK BROOKLYN, THE OPPONENT, and TOO TIRED TO DIE, His television work includes roles on LAW & ORDER: S.V.U. and several national commercials, both of the on-camera and voiceover variety.

Anna George (Zina)

Playing Zina, Uncle Al's wife, Anna George is a New York based actor. Her TV credits include the various incarnations of LAW AND ORDER, SEX AND THE CITY, 3 LBS and THE JURY. She had co-starring roles Off Broadway in SAKHARAM BINDER and TERRORISM. Her independent films include CONFESS and INDELIBLE. She was also featured in the film SYRIANA.

Filmmaker Biographies

'Jay' Jalal Jonroy (Writer/Director/Producer)

A dual American and British citizen, born in southern Kurdistan (Iraq), multi-lingual Jay Jonroy now lives and works in New York and Paris. He is fluent in English, French and Kurdish, and is conversant in Persian, Arabic and Portuguese. Made stateless and in exile as a teenager, Jonroy studied and worked in London, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Rio, Paris and New York. He aspired from an early age to become a film artist.

Two members of Jonroy's family - a younger brother and a brother-in-law - went missing or murdered in Iraq. Later, their remains were found in Ba'athist's and Saddam's mass graves. Jonroy was obliged to abandon his film projects unfinished for about ten years to help his family escape Saddam's genocidal campaigns against Kurds. Some of those horrors are reflected in his first feature film DAVID & LAYLA.

Either through scholarships or paid for by his own work, he has studied at the universities of Leicester, Imperial College, London, Paris Sorbonne, and UCLA and USC film schools in Los Angeles. After graduating with a rare First Class Honors B.Sc. degree at Leicester University, to the dismay of his professors Jonroy declined a scholarship to study for a PhD at Churchill College, Cambridge University, in favor of a Masters Degree at Imperial College/London University so he could live in London. In London, he studied creative photography and worked briefly as a fashion photographer in London and Paris. During that time, and before her royal romance with Prince Andrew, he discovered model Koo Stark. Jonroy also studied 'Acting, Movement and Speech' at the London City Literary Institute.

Once in New York he coached actors for their final year scenes and plays at the renowned 'Circle in the Square's School of Acting on Broadway. From 1996 to 2000, Jonroy was a volunteer mentoring graduates on their final thesis scripts and films at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

An amateur musician, Jonroy collects ethnic music and has been listed as a Patron of the Arts at New York's World Music Institute. An occasional art collector, he has loaned works of art to many museums including The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Jonroy supports Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Institute Kurde de Paris, and the World Music Institute. He writes about and promotes the films, music and cultures of oppressed nations and is a free-lance supporter of the Human Rights International Film Festival.

Many of Jonroy's siblings & relatives now live as refugees in diaspora in England, Holland, Germany, and France. As he describes it, DAVID & LAYLA is a gift, a 'comic relief' to the oppressed *Layla's* of the world. It's dedicated to the memory of the genocide victim members of his family in Kurdistan.

Gill Holland (Co-Producer)

Spirit Award nominee for Producer of the Year Gill has worked on over fifty independent films, including Sundance favorites SPRING FORWARD, LOGGERHEADS, triple Sundance Award winner HURRICANE STREETS, the FOX sit-com GREG THE BUNNY, the 2006 Spirit Award winner SWEETLAND and the Emmy-nominated DEAR JESSE. He was the first filmmaker to read and appreciate the potential of DAVID & LAYLA's script in 2001 (before the political flotsam and jetsam of 9/11). He produced three volumes of cineBLAST!, the short film compilation. He is a principal partner at The Group Entertainment, the KY/NYC management/production company, and a Consultant to the principal investor of DAVID & LAYLA, Films International Corp.

Half-Norwegian, half North Carolinian, a lawyer and former adjunct professor at NYU Graduate Film School, Gill worked at the French Film Office before embarking full-time in his career as a producer. He has been on the jury for shorts at Sundance and on the selection committee for the Academy Awards' Student Division. The stable of talent on his record label, sonaBLAST!, features Kelley McRae, The Old Ceremony and Irish star Mark Geary.

Isen Robbins & Aimee Schoof (Co-Producers)

Intrinsic Value Films was founded by Isen Robbins and Aimee Schoof in 1997. The two partners have produced over twenty films which have participated in many film festivals, both in the U.S. and abroad, including Cannes, Berlin, Toronto, and Rotterdam; six of their efforts premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Their films have been nominated for two Gotham Awards and four Indie Spirit Awards.

Intrinsic Value projects currently in post production include THE ALPHABET KILLER, directed by Rob Schmidt and starring Eliza Dushku, Cary Elwes and Timothy Hutton, THE SKEPTIC starring Tim Daly, Tom Arnold and Zoe Saldana, and THE ATTIC, directed by Mary Lambert, and starring Elisabeth Moss, Jason Lewis and John Savage.

Previous Intrinsic Value titles include MISSING IN AMERICA (2004) starring Danny Glover, Linda Hamilton, Ron Perlman and David Strathairn (First Look Releasing), SHOOTING LIVIEN (2004) starring Jason Behr, Sarah Wynter, Dominic Monaghan, Joshua Leonard and Ally Sheedy (TLA Releasing, Showtime), SATAN'S LITTLE HELPER (2003) by Jeff Leiber (Squirm, Blue Sunshine, Remote Control) starring Amanda Plummer and Katheryn Winnick (Universal/Screen Gems), Sundance Special Grand Jury Prize and Gordon Parks Screenwriting Award winner BROTHER TO BROTHER (2003) starring Anthony Mackie, Roger Robinson, Larry Gillard, Anjanue Ellis, ANOTHING BUT LOVE starring Isabel Rose, Andrew McCarthy, and Eartha Kitt, (2003) (Samuel Goldwyn, Wellspring, Starz, Lifetime, Showcase International) DEATH OF A DYNASTY (2003) by Damon Dash starring Jay-Z, Rob Stapleton, Devon Aoki, Capone; Tribeca Film Festival '03, (TLA Releasing and Luna International), THE HEBREW HAMMER (2002) starring Adam Goldberg, Andy Dick and Mario Van Peebles for Content Films; (2003 Sundance Film Festival, Comedy Central and Strand Release 03), XX/XY (2001) starring Mark Ruffalo and Kathleen Robertson; Sundance Dramatic Competition, (IFC Films, MGM video, Senator International), and BEYOND THE OCEAN (1999) Sundance '00 Dramatic Competition, a Searchparty Films release.

Harlan Bosmajian (Director of Photography)

Harlan Bosmajian was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. He began his fascination with photography at an early age. Throughout high school, still photography was his form of self-expression. This interest continued throughout his Undergraduate studies at Western Washington University where he received a BA in English and Visual Communication.

Bosmajian began a career as a professional photographer in Seattle working as an assistant to various commercial photographers while establishing his own studio. He held various shows at local galleries including Seattle's prestigious Benham Studios. While he became technically proficient at still photography, it didn't seem a sufficiently passionate career choice. Cinematography became his new passion, which was nurtured as a New York University graduate film program student. Bosmajian spent the next four years learning the basic craft of cinematography and during that time shot over twenty short films. By the time he graduated he had assembled a reel of work that he used as a calling card for work on low-budget features and commercials.

His first successful film was LA CIUDAD (THE CITY) which played festivals all over the world and was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best Cinematography, and won Best Cinematography at the Santa Barbara Film Festival. Bosmajian then went on to shoot a television series for Comedy Central, STRANGERS WITH CANDY, the first narrative TV series to use the High Definition video format. That ground-breaking work led to his being Nicole Holofcener's choice for LOVELY & AMAZING, one of the first dramatic feature films shot on High-Def to be theatrically released. Other credits include SAVING FACE, WINTER SOLSTICE and another Comedy Central series, STELLA. Bosmajian has shot films in the United States, the Dominican Republic and India. He now has twenty-five feature films to his credit. His most recent projects include the Sundance Film Festival entry STARTING OUT IN THE EVENING and the Plum Pictures production LIFE IN FLIGHT.

Adrienne Stern (Casting Director)

One of New York's most prolific and highly regarded casting directors, Adrienne Stern's credits include the Sundance Film Festival 2001 Grand Jury Award winning THE BELIEVER (Showtime), THIRTEEN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ONE THING (Sony Pictures Classics), EUROTRIP, (Dreamworks/ NY casting director), WHATEVER, (Sony Pictures Classics), THE FIVE SENSES (Fine Line), ONLINE, THE TECHNICAL WRITER, SATAN'S LITTLE HELPER, AMERICA BROWN, MALL COP, GIRLSTOWN, KETTLE OF FISH, COLD STORAGE, JUST A KISS, PERCEPTION, ROCK THE PAINT, LIFE ON THE LEDGE, TOLLBOOTH, TARANTELLA (PBS), and THE WOODCUTTER. Stern has also cast three films for Dimension: MIMIC SENTINEL, HELLRAISER 7, and HELLRAISER 8. Her films have premiered and garnered numerous awards at such prestigious film festivals as Sundance, Toronto, Cannes, Tribeca, Berlin, South by Southwest, and at the Seattle International Film Festival.

In 2007 Stern cast two major Sundance premieres: Zoe Cassavetes' BROKEN ENGLISH, starring Parker Posey and Drea de Matteo, and Alfredo De Villa's ADRIFT IN MANHATTAN, starring Heather Graham, Victor Rasuk, William Baldwin, and Dominic Chianese.

Stern's upcoming projects include Bill Paxton's SHOEDOG, directed by Bill Paxton, Luke Kasdon's DON'T FADE AWAY, starring Mischa Barton, Tim Chambers' OUR LADY OF VICTORY, starring Ellen Burstyn and Carla Gugino, Russell Costanzo's THE STRANGE EFFECT OF EVERETT SINGER, starring Brandon Routh, Alejandro Chomski's A BEAUTIFUL LIFE, starring Denise Richards and Jesse Garcia, POPLAR BLUFF, starring Charles Durning and Barbara Barrie, Steve Shill's SILKY PINK, Andrew William Chan's THE IVORY TRADE, Kenneth

Bowser's THE JONES PARTY, and David Russo's THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF LITTLE DIZZLE.

Stern was the Casting Director for The New York Sundance Writers Lab Reading Series from 1996-2005. She has served on both the selection committee and prize jury for the GenArt Film Festival and continues to be a member of Bafta (the British Academy of Film & Television Arts), the Independent Feature Project, New York Women in Film and Television and Ensemble Studio Theatre. Her rather august "moonlighting" endeavors include producing such feature films as This Revolution and Twist starring Nick Stahl.

John Lissauer (Music)

John Lissauer has composed and conducted music for over a dozen feature films including MANAGUA, APARTMENT 1303 and DAVID & LAYLA, as well as for a host of short films and documentaries. He has also orchestrated, arranged and conducted the scores for many features such as SEVEN and THAT THING YOU DO. During the past twenty years John has conducted some of the world's greatest orchestras in London, Paris, Prague, New York and Los Angeles. He has scored three successful TV series and has been the composer-in-residence for the highly acclaimed Westchester Jazz Orchestra. He has taught music Composition at Yale University and teaches a select group of young composers in the art of film scoring. He lives and records at his farm in Westchester. The Katonah Mill Studio is a state-of-the-art complex where John records all but the largest of his film scores. He is currently at work scoring REPEATING IDENTITY, a futuristic thriller.

Richard Horowitz (Music)

Richard Horowitz's film credits include THE SHELTERING SKY (Bernardo Bertolucci - Golden Globe and LA Film Critics Music Awards for Best Original Score), ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (Oliver Stone - BMI Award), THREE SEASONS (Tony Bui -Sundance Audience and Jury Awards), LOCOTA WOMAN (Frank Pierson/ Jane Fonda), L'ATLANTIDE (Bob Swaim), and LIFE WITHOUT DEATH (Frank Cole -Naris Award). He has recently completed the score for the film LES AMANTS DE MOGADOR starring Max Von Sydow

He is the founding artistic director of the Gnaoua Music Festival in Essaouira Morocco and was nominated for the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Goddard Liberson Award by Paul Bowles in 1982. He has recorded and performed with vocalist Sussan Deyhim since the early eighties. Their recordings and multimedia operas include Majoun (Sony Classical) Azax/Attra:Desert Equations, The Ghost of Ibn Sabbah and The Gift of Love (Deepak Chopra/Mother Teresa). He also collaborated with Deyhim and Shirin Neshat on the multimedia production Logic of the Birds produced by Lincoln Center, Art Angel in London and The Ortiga Festival in Siracusa Sicily. He is currently working on a new opera with Deyhim: Zarathustra's Mother and is producing cheky Karyo's first recording for Universal Music France. He has also worked with Jon Hassell, David Byrne, Jaron Lanier Duncan Sheik, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Michael Brook, Hassan Hakmoun, Branford Marsalis, Hector Zazu, Doug Wimbish, Will Calhoun, Gram Haynes, Suzanne Vega, Steve Shehan, Marius Devries, Rufus Wainwright, Mickey Hart, Adrian Sherwood, Frank Serafine, and Bill Laswell.

Zulema Griffin (Costume Designer)

Fashion Designer Zulema Griffin began her career in fashion as a Ford model. Working with renowned photographers such as Peter Lindberg, Steven Klein, Marc Baptiste and Nina Schultz, Griffin appeared in such publications as *Bazaar*, *The Face*, *I.D.*, *Essence*, *Interview* and *Paper*. Although Griffin enjoyed a successful career as a model, she decided to opt for life behind the runway.

In June of 2001, Griffin found herself successfully running the costume department of her first film, a feature titled *LOVE THY NEIGHBOR*, directed by Nick Gregory. The director of photography was impressed with Griffin's ability and recommended her for the film *THE BEATLE FAN*, which screened at the Tribeca Film Festival. Since 2001, Griffin has worked on film with actors such as Adreian Grenier, Rhea Perlman, Barabara Hershey, Emily Deschanel, Douglas Smith, Willie Garson, Peter Stromare, Erik Estrada, Victoria Rowell, and Leile Arcieri.

In May 2006, Griffin presented her first fashion show, the Matador-themed Pre-Spring '07 collection, at Brooklyn Fashion Week. Met by raving reviews, Griffin followed up with a strong showing of her full Spring collection during New York Fashion Week in September 2006 and again in February 2007. With both collections garnering positive reviews, Griffin is eager to build a design and retail presence within the industry and is focusing on the start-up of her namesake line.

Crew

Writer/Producer/Director	JAY JONROY
Director of Photography	HARLAN BOSMAJIAN
Film Editor	EGON KIRINCIC
Music	RICHARD HOROWITZ JOHN LISSAUER
Production Designer	PETER YESAIR
Costume Designer	ZULEMA GRIFFIN
Casting Director	ADRIENNE STERN
Co-Producers	AIMEE SCHOOF ISEN ROBBINS
Co-Producer	GILL HOLLAND
1 st Assistant Director	MICHAEL MOFFA
2 nd Camera and 1 st Assistant Camera	MANUEL BILLETER
Key Hair & Makeup	JULIA LALLAS
Pick-up Photography	MATTHEW CLARK
Art Director	ERIC DEAN
Sound Design & Mix	CHEN HARPAZ
Online Editor	BENJAMIN MURRAY
Music Supervisor	JAY JONROY
Production Manager	BRIAN CANGE
Unit Production Manager	TRICIA NOLAN
Preproduction Manager	STEVE MENKIN
Gaffer	SHAWN GREENE
Key Grip	RON MORALES
Script Supervisor	GLORIA PICHHADZE
Sound Mixer	DANIEL JOHNSON
2 nd Assistant Director	LOUISE LOVEGROVE
2 nd 2 nd Assistant Director	MARTA FORNS-ESCUDE
1 st Assistant Director (2 nd unit)	JOE ASPROMONTI
2 nd Assistant Director (2 nd unit)	MARTA FORNS-ESCUDE
2 nd 2 nd Assistant Director (2 nd unit)	JEANELLE MARIE
Director of Photography (2 nd unit)	MATTHEW CLARK
Director of Photography (3 rd unit)	RUBEN O'MALLEY
1 st Assistant Camera	MANUEL BILLETER
1 st Assistant Camera (Camera B)/1 st Assistant Camera (2 nd Unit)	AARON RANDALL
1 st Assistant Camera (3 rd Unit)	CRAIG PRESSGROVE
2 nd Assistant Camera	FERNANDO GAYESKY
Camera Intern	DAN SHARNOFF SUNG RAE CHO

Director's Personal Assistants:

Jewish Matters
Muslim Matters

JOY NIRENSTEIN
YASMEEN HINEDI

Kurdish wardrobe & jewelry, and Kurdish rug & art objects
are from the film director's collection.

Wardrobe Supervisor
Additional Key Hair and Makeup
Wardrobe Intern

KYLE VILLEGAS
REBECCA PERKINS
ROBIN SPRANCE

Assistant Hair and Makeup
Lead Man
Property Master
Property Master
Art Assistant
Standby Props
Key Hair and Makeup (2nd unit)
Art Intern (2nd unit)

MAYA HARDINGE
JASON BISTARKEY
SARAH BRICKER
SHANNON FINNERTY
JEANELLE MARIA
HELENE LEFF
REBECCA PERKINS
REBECCA ROBERTSON

Layla's Dance & Wedding Choreographer
Jewish Dance Coach
Layla's Dance Coach
Kurdish Dance Coach

JAY JONROY
JOY NIRENSTEIN
NASSIM KHAVARAN
ALWAND JAFF

Coordinator
Key Production Assistant
First Team Production Assistant
Assistant Coordinator
Coordinator Intern
Set Production Assistant
Set Production Assistant
Set Production Assistant
Set Production Assistant
Set Production Assistant
Set Production Assistant
Set Production Assistant
Set Production Assistant
Set Production Intern
Set Production Intern
Set Production Intern
Set Production Intern
Product Placement
Product Placement

DAVID EBMEIER
NAN SANDLE
CHRIS LAGDAMEN
MARK TRILLIZIO
DAN FULLER
OLIVIER BERNIER
ADRIANO VALLE
NICHOLE PATXOT
YASMEEN HINEDI
KIM KOBY
APRIL SCHOTT
ZACH HENDERSON
MIKE MORTELL
TRAVIS GOLDMAN
RYAN JAFRI
JEANELLE MARIE
XINYI PUAH
PATTI GANGUZZA
DEBBIE MAISEL

Gaffer (2nd unit)
Best Boy
Third Electric
Third Electric
Third Electric
Additional Third

COREY BASTFIBLE
NINA KUHN
DAVE WOOLNER
JOY WEBER
DAVID KAVANAUGH
MONICA HOENIG

Key Grip (2nd unit)
Third Grip
Third Grip
Best Boy

MELISSA GUIMARAES
AVRA FOX LERNER
VANCE TUCKER
ADAM HALL

Best Boy (2nd unit)
Best Boy (2nd unit)
Swing

MARIA RAMIREZ
ZACH HENDERSON
MIKE SMITH

Sound Mixer (2nd unit)
Boom Operator
Boom (2nd unit)

ANDRE ARTIS
RYAN DISMUKES
JASON PHILLIPS

Locations Manager
Assistant Location Manager
NYC Mayor's Office of Film
Assistant Locations
Stunt Coordinator
Security
Catering/Craft Service

LAUREN FRITZ
COLIN CROWLEY
ALEX COHEN
JEFFERY BROWN
MANNY SIVERIO
WILLIAM BOURNE
JASON MOTTLEY

Legal Services
Production Bookkeeper

SPINAK & GRAY, NEW YORK
DEBORAH DELBIANCO

Newroz Films Interns

KAVITA KAPOOR
MATT MARHEFKA
ROCHELLE THOMAS
SETH HALL
FLORANCE WACK
CALEB JACOBS-SMITH

Casting Associate
Background Casting
Assistant Background Casting

KIMBERLY HOPE
RICHARD VOLPE
RACHEL WONG

Post-production Manager
Assistant Editor
Post and Temp Sound Assistant
Temp Music Coordinator
Music Supervisor
Music Supervisor Intern
Composer Intern
Accountant CPA
Film Accountant

JAY JONROY
GLORIA PICHHADZE
DAN LANE
JASON PHILLIPS
EDWARD BRUNO
KRISTIN PALKER
JOANNA KATCHER
JEAN PALMIERI
SIMON VAN KEMPEN

Post Sound Services
Sound Design and Mix
Sound Editing

VERTIGO POWER NEW YORK
CHEN HARPAZ
SEAN CANADA
AMY WALDRON
FRANK ENRIGHT
HAE KYONG HARPAZ
GARTH COLLINS

Foley Artist
Voice Over TV Footage

Online Edit/Color Correct
Coordinator
Producer
Editor
Colorist

POSTWORKS NEW YORK
MATTHEW REEDY
TRACEY SOAST
BENJAMIN MURRAY
SCOT OLIVE

Technical Consultant

VICTOR BARROSO

Layla's fiancé photo from 'Kurdistan in the Shadow of History' by Susan Meiselas.
Courtesy of Ali Rowanduzi

TV footage of Kurdish tragedy and Halabja gas victims are courtesies of: Kevin McKiernan,
director of "Good Kurds, Bad Kurds," Jano Rosebiani, director of "Saddam's Mass Graves," and
KurdSat TV Archive.