

# THE BLIND SIDE

Sandra Bullock (“The Proposal”), Tim McGraw (“Friday Night Lights”) and Oscar® winner Kathy Bates (“Misery”) star in Alcon Entertainment and Warner Bros. Pictures’ “The Blind Side,” which depicts the remarkable true story of All-American football star Michael Oher.

Teenager Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) is surviving on his own, virtually homeless, when he is spotted on the street by Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock). Learning that the young man is one of her daughter’s classmates, Leigh Anne insists that Michael—wearing shorts and a t-shirt in the dead of winter—come out of the cold. Without a moment’s hesitation, she invites him to stay at the Tuohy home for the night. What starts out as a gesture of kindness turns into something more as Michael becomes part of the Tuohy family despite the differences in their backgrounds.

Living in his new environment, the teen faces a completely different set of challenges to overcome. And as the family helps Michael fulfill his potential, both on and off the football field, Michael’s presence in the Tuohys’ lives leads them to some insightful self-discoveries of their own.

“The Blind Side” is directed by John Lee Hancock (“The Rookie”), who also wrote the screenplay based on the book *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game* by Michael Lewis. Gil Netter, Andrew A. Kosove and Broderick Johnson produced the film with Molly Smith, Erwin Stoff and Timothy M. Bourne serving as executive producers.

Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw star as Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy, and Kathy Bates stars as Michael Oher’s dedicated tutor, Miss Sue. Quinton Aaron is introduced in the central role of Michael Oher. The film also stars young actors Lily Collins and Jae Head as the Tuohy children, Collins and S.J., respectively.

The behind-the-scenes creative team is led by director of photography Alar Kivilo, two-time Oscar®-nominated production designer Michael Corenblith (“Apollo 13,” “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”), editor Mark Livolsi, costume designer Daniel Orlandi and composer Carter Burwell.

“The Blind Side” is a presentation of Alcon Entertainment and will be distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company. “The Blind Side” has been rated PG-13 by the MPAA for one scene involving brief violence, drug and sexual references.

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For downloadable general press information and photos on “The Blind Side,” please visit: <http://press.warnerbros.com>

## **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

*The ideal left tackle is big... He is wide in the butt and massive in the thighs. He has long arms, giant hands, and feet as quick as a hiccup. This is a rare and expensive combination, the need for which can be traced to that Monday night game and Lawrence Taylor. For on that day, he not only altered Joe Theismann's life but mine as well.*  
Leigh Anne Tuohy in “The Blind Side”

Family and football were two things Michael Oher had never experienced in his life. But they ultimately became the two things that changed his life forever.

Growing up virtually abandoned in the poverty-stricken projects of Memphis—appropriately called Hurt Village—Michael had had few options and even fewer opportunities. But that was before he crossed paths with an unstoppable force in the person of Leigh Anne Tuohy. What followed was a series of events that would be hard to believe...except for the fact that the events are true. Michael became a member of the Tuohy family, who nurtured his abilities both on and off the football field, resulting in an inspiring story that is still unfolding today.

Director/screenwriter John Lee Hancock states, “It really is two different stories, one of which is more of a question: Who is Michael Oher and why did the stars align to shine so brightly on this kid from the projects in Memphis? And then on the other side, it’s a great story about how this unique family evolved, and the unconventional mother-son relationship at its center. Sports, specifically football, was the engine that propelled the story forward, but he could have been a dancer or a pianist—it wouldn’t have made

any difference. The journey that Michael and the Tuohy family go on is the heart of the movie.”

Sandra Bullock, who stars in the role of Leigh Anne Tuohy, notes, “The beauty of the story is that you think it’s one thing and it turns out to be something else, and those are usually the best things in life. I thought the script was going to be about football until I read it and realized that it’s really about family.”

She adds that, while it is obvious how much the Tuohys did for Michael Oher, “it was not that one-sided. They certainly did a good deed in taking in this young man in such a loving and generous way. But, in turn, he brought out a side of their family that they didn’t even realize was missing. The family seemed to have all the success and joy in the world, but when Michael showed up, it was as if he was the final piece to the puzzle.”

The actress’s observation is confirmed by her real-life counterpart, Leigh Anne Tuohy, who offers, “I think Michael had a much greater impact on our lives than we did on his. You take so much in life for granted, but when Michael moved in with us, he made us realize how blessed we are. We viewed life differently after he joined our family.”

How Michael Oher became a part of the Tuohy family was first chronicled in the best-selling book *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*, written by Michael Lewis, who had previously focused on the sport of baseball in his bestseller *Moneyball*. The author reveals that he stumbled on the story of Oher and the Tuohys almost by accident. “For anyone who wants to interpret the whole thing as some kind of miracle, there’s a lot of evidence,” he laughs.

Lewis, who had gone to high school with Leigh Anne’s husband, Sean Tuohy, had initially contacted his old classmate to interview him for an article about their school baseball coach. That eventually led to his meeting Michael and learning of his relationship with the Tuohys.

The book *The Blind Side* juxtaposes Michael’s story with an in-depth look at how the position of left tackle on a football team has grown in importance, instigated by a single, unforgettable play—Lawrence Taylor’s career-ending sack of quarterback Joe Theismann in November 1985.

Assigned to protect a right-handed quarterback from what he can't see coming, a good left tackle often earns a salary second only to the quarterback himself. Michael Lewis admits, "At first I thought that was bizarre because almost nobody pays attention to the left tackle. But when I looked into it, I learned that the market had determined this incredible value in the position and that he'd evolved into a particular physical type—the elephant as ballerina, for lack of a better description. That interested me. Then when Sean told me that Michael was being scouted as a prospect for the position of left tackle, I could see how it all went together."

Tim McGraw, who stars as Sean Tuohy, asserts that you don't have to be a sports fan to appreciate "The Blind Side." "Whether or not you are interested in football, or sports at all, the story behind this movie is so heartwarming, I think it will appeal to everyone."

Producer Broderick Johnson agrees. "The appeal of this story is the combination of heart and humor, as well as sports, which has had its share of negative press in recent years. In fact, so much of the general news these days is about all the things that are going wrong and this is one of those instances where something very positive happened that transformed both Michael Oher and the Tuohy family. It's an inspiring story in a world that's divided, in large part, by the 'haves' and the 'have-nots.' It shows that you can be a good Samaritan and it can benefit you as much as the person you're helping. I think it's very entertaining, but it's also very powerful."

One of the things that set "The Blind Side" apart was that when the book was published, and even as the movie was being made, much of Michael's story was still unfolding. Producer Andrew A. Kosove explains, "It is a current events story, as it were, but I don't think that creates complications as much as it creates opportunities. It's very timely, especially in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, when we have come to understand that there is no set type of family. We live in a society made up of different kinds of families, where the only things that really matter are our love and support for one another. I think that's a wonderful thing, and it's a message that people can really relate to in this day and age."

The fact that the "The Blind Side" takes place in the present day also benefited Hancock, who says, "I loved the book and spoke at length with Michael Lewis, who is a fantastic writer, but, if possible, it's always important to meet the real people and hear

how they talk instead of just reading it. So spending time with the Tuohys and Michael and being around them as a family was invaluable.”

For the Tuohy family, seeing this chapter of their lives become a best-selling book and then a major motion picture was somewhat bemusing. Sean Tuohy relates, “When Michael Lewis first called, he was going to write a nice, little article. We still haven’t quite figured out how, somewhere along the way in this whole thing, it went from a nice little article to a book and now a movie,” he laughs.

“The Tuohys opened up their home and their lives, so we felt a great deal of responsibility to do right by their family, and that’s a lot to live up to,” says Bullock. “You want people to be entertained, but you also want them to leave the theatre with a genuine understanding of who these people are. I know that was important to John, who was determined that we not do anything that didn’t ring true. It was one of the things I really liked about working with him; he’s a wonderful filmmaker.”

Kosove adds, “John Lee Hancock and Alcon have a relationship that goes back more than ten years. He is a fantastic writer and an outstanding director. We knew he would hit this movie out of the park—or should I say into the end zone—which is exactly what he did.”

Producer Gil Netter comments that everyone involved in the film, on both sides of the camera, “shared a common goal, no pun intended. The entire cast and crew wanted to do justice to this extraordinary story and the people behind it. It made the whole production a tremendously fulfilling experience, from beginning to end, and I am very proud of the movie.”

*This team is your family and you have to protect them...  
Tony is your quarterback. You protect his blind side.  
When you look at him think of me. How you have my back.  
Leigh Anne Tuohy in “The Blind Side”*

Casting on the “The Blind Side” began with Sandra Bullock, who Kosove says was “the first and only choice for the role of Leigh Anne Tuohy.”

Bullock read the screenplay and recalls, “It was a beautifully written script. It had all the right beats in all the right places. And I was amazed how John gave every one of the characters such a nice arc...each character has a distinct journey.”

Nevertheless, it took some convincing on the part of Hancock to get the actress to accept the role of the headstrong wife and mother, who, with a simple act of kindness, brings Michael Oher in out of the cold, literally and figuratively.

Hancock remembers, “Sandy liked the script but was having trouble figuring out how to portray Leigh Anne. We would meet and she would ask all kinds of questions, but I wasn’t able to come up with the answers she was looking for.”

“That was my biggest reservation,” Bullock affirms. “John would try to explain her to me, but he’d always fall short. I kept feeling something is missing.”

Hancock continues, “I think Sandy was understandably frustrated with my inability to describe the character, but that’s because Leigh Anne is indescribable. It’s one of the wonderful things about her. Finally I said, ‘Sandy, you just have to meet her.’ So we went down to Memphis and I introduced her to Leigh Anne. It turned into a full day spent with Leigh Anne and everything that involves: craziness and mayhem and fun and laughter and getting a lot of stuff done in very short order. At the end of the day, Sandy turned to me and said, ‘Okay I get it.’ She had experienced firsthand the tornado that is ‘Tuohy time,’ and we were off and running.”

“Once I saw the whole package, I realized why John couldn’t explain her,” the actress states. “How can you explain that kind of energy? By the end of one day with Leigh Anne, I was exhausted. She manages to do what she wants to do in the manner she wants to do it. She doesn’t care what it takes; she just gets it done her way. All I can say is, if there were more Leigh Anne Tuohys, the world would be a better-run, more harmonious and more productive place...as long as it was by her rules,” she laughs. “It was terrifying to think of playing her, but it was a challenge I couldn’t say no to. She’s such an amazing person.”

Playing Leigh Anne went beyond imparting her singular spirit. Bullock also needed to change her familiar brunette hair to match her character’s blonde locks, and she worked with dialect coach Francie Brown to master Leigh Anne’s accent, as well as the cadence and inflections in her voice.

In order for Brown to be an effective coach, she needed to hear from the source. Leigh Anne Tuohy reveals, “She hounded me. She called me and said, ‘Say Leigh Anne 30 times. Say Sean.’ There were words she’d want me to go over and over, and I’m thinking, ‘Didn’t you get it the first dozen times?’ She was very persistent, but she did a good job,” she smiles.

Bullock, who is also from the South, notes, “Many people think a Southern accent is a Southern accent, but there are many different ones. But it wasn’t just Leigh Anne’s accent. My dialect coach explained it was also the intent behind her words. Once we figured out the intent on top of the dialect, it helped so much. I wasn’t trying to copy her exactly because then it becomes a caricature, but there is a way she goes about life that you need to pick up on or you’re going to be left behind. So we wanted to capture as much of the essence of Leigh Anne as we could.”

The strength of Leigh Anne Tuohy’s personality made casting the role of her husband, Sean Tuohy, in Hancock’s words “difficult.” The director goes on to explain, “When you’re around the Tuohy family, you get the sense that she’s the engine, but he is the glue that holds it all together. Sean is completely self-assured and comfortable in his own skin. He has that Southern ex-athlete attitude; there’s a swagger there.”

“We needed an actor who would have a real screen presence opposite the whirlwind that is Leigh Anne,” Johnson confirms. “We had to have an actor who would make Sean feel just as important as she without having as much screen time.”

Hancock says they found everything they were looking for in actor and country music superstar Tim McGraw. “When Tim McGraw’s name came up, I thought he would be a great choice. I had admired his work in movies and he had all the qualities we were looking for. It felt like a natural fit and he turned out to be fantastic. I loved working with him.”

In fact, McGraw fit the role even more naturally than the filmmakers initially thought. Both McGraw and the real Sean Tuohy had grown up in Louisiana, and, like Sean, the actor had also excelled in sports throughout his life. McGraw attests, “I was always an athlete; I can’t remember ever not playing sports. I thought that’s what I was going to do with my life...until I got to college and bought a guitar. And the rest,” he grins, “is history.”

The actor adds that the similarities between him and Sean Tuohy were only part of the reasons he was drawn to the role. “Sean is an all-around good guy, and the inspirational story of what he and his family did for this kid—the time, the effort and the love he put out—is pretty incredible. Also, a positive movie about sports is something I really enjoy seeing because sports, if played the right way and coached the right way, can really teach you a lot about yourself and about life in general.”

McGraw’s words are borne out in the story of the film’s central character. Finding the right actor to play the role of Michael Oher posed the filmmakers’ biggest casting challenge by far. He had to be the right age and have Michael’s preternatural size, but he also had to convey an innate reserve.

Hancock comments, “The process of casting Michael Oher was long and exhausting; it was a needle in a haystack situation. We carried out a nationwide search, going to a lot of different cities and hiring local casting directors to find actors with the qualifications we needed, both physically and spiritually, for lack of a better word. We were looking for a very specific combination. In short, we needed a gentle giant.”

They discovered the perfect combination of size and personality in an aspiring actor named Quinton Aaron, who was living in New York when he was called in to audition for “The Blind Side.” Two weeks later, he was being flown to Los Angeles to meet with Hancock and the producers.

“We looked at a lot of actors who didn’t quite fit the bill,” Hancock recalls. “When I saw Quinton’s tape, there was something about him that was missing in the other ones. Then when he came in the door, my first instinct was to hug him, and it was that quality that first struck me. He also has a face that draws you in; when he’s quiet and looks at you with those doe eyes, there’s a story there that you want to know. I just had a gut feeling he was our guy...that we were about to change his life in a spectacular way.”

Learning he had won the lead role of Michael Oher “was better than any dream,” says Aaron, who adds that he felt a strong connection to his onscreen alter ego. “When I read the story, I saw that we had a lot in common. Neither of us knew our fathers growing up. I was the biggest kid in my school; he was the biggest kid in his school. I kept to myself a lot and was more of a quiet, shy kid, and that’s pretty much what he was like. I also played some football at one point, but I wasn’t good at it.”

Hancock remarks, “I knew Quinton had played a little high school football, but the concern was that he had to look like he could really handle himself on a football field. We got him involved with trainers, who set him up with a regimen of diet and workouts. He lost a lot of weight, but, more importantly, he started looking like an athlete.”

Aaron, who lost more than 100 pounds in preparation for the role, relates, “I was determined to do anything and everything required, because if you love what you’re doing, you are going to give one hundred and ten percent. Before the movie started I went through seven weeks of intense training, with two-a-day practices every day and we continued training through filming. I started calling John Lee Hancock ‘Coach Lee’ because he was always encouraging me and making me feel good about everything I was doing. He’s a great guy and I felt so honored to be working with him and Sandra and Tim, who were also such an inspiration to me. It was so much fun; I loved every minute of it.”

Aaron shared the experience of working on his first major feature with his two younger castmates: Lily Collins, who played the Tuohy’s teenage daughter, Collins; and Jae Head, who played their 10-year-old son, Sean Junior, called S.J., who was the first to befriend Michael at school.

“We were all learning together and sharing new experiences, which made it really fun,” says Lily Collins. “From the very beginning, we were like real siblings. Quinton took me under his wing and called himself my bodyguard; he was a big, gentle teddy bear, which is apparently the same relationship Collins had with Michael. And Jae! The moment we met, we started going back and forth and nagging each other like only a little brother and big sister can do.”

Jae Head says that his character is more than a friend and a brother to Michael. “S.J. is also his coach, which felt really cool. He is very loyal to his big brother and is going to do whatever he can to help him. He helps coach him on how to play football, and I think S.J. has a lot of responsibility for Michael becoming a starting left tackle in college. I really do,” he smiles.

Off the football field, the person most responsible for Michael getting into college was his tutor, Miss Sue, who became an extended member of the Tuohy family. Miss Sue is played by Academy Award® winner Kathy Bates, who, coincidentally, is from the

same part of Memphis, Tennessee as her character. That fact especially pleased the real Miss Sue, who says, “I thought she was the perfect person to play me; it was a true honor.”

Bates offers, “Miss Sue and I didn’t meet but had a long talk on the telephone. It turns out she and I grew up very close to one another. It was a great help to listen to her voice and her stories about Michael. I was not familiar with Michael’s whole story, but after reading the script, I was very moved by it and by the fact that it was true and still in motion. I believe audiences will love this story. It’s current, it’s true, and it shows the power of the golden rule in action.”

For the filmmakers, one of the real treats in casting “The Blind Side” was inviting the real SEC college coaches who had courted Michael Oher to appear as themselves. Turning the tables on the coaches, executive producer Molly Smith was responsible for recruiting them to play for “The Blind Side” team. “Growing up in the South, I grew up around SEC football and I’m a big football fan, so it was great fun to be able to call these guys and ask them to play themselves in the movie. The biggest selling point for them, of course, was getting to meet Sandra Bullock. The hardest thing was working out the logistics of getting them all here on certain days, which was quite a feat because they were all a little busy with their day jobs,” she jokes. “But they were excited to come down, and they all had a great time.”

The coaches appearing in the film are: Nick Saban, formerly of LSU and now at Alabama; Tommy Tuberville, formerly of Auburn; Houston Nutt, formerly of Arkansas and now at Ole Miss; Phil Fulmer, formerly of Tennessee; Ed Orgeron, formerly of Ole Miss and now an assistant head coach at Tennessee; and the legendary Lou Holtz, formerly of South Carolina.

“It was one of the best days of my career,” Hancock declares. “I’m a huge college football fan so getting to meet those coaches and work with them was incredible.”

For the recruiting sequence, Hancock directed the coaches to do what they do best: *sell*. “They are natural born salesmen; it’s what they do all the time and they all did very well. Lou Holtz had *me* wanting to play for South Carolina,” he laughs.

*You know, when I was driving all over Kingdom Come  
looking for you, I just kept thinking about one thing...  
I know I should have asked you this a long time ago,  
but do you even want to play football?*

Leigh Anne Tuohy in “The Blind Side”

“The Blind Side” was filmed almost entirely on location in Atlanta, Georgia, which doubled for Memphis, Tennessee. Executive producer Timothy M. Bourne notes, “There is a similarity between most Southern cities, and Atlanta is not too far away from Memphis, geographically or emotionally. It’s also a great place to shoot. There is a huge crew base here and they have a terrific infrastructure. There are so many advantages and the people are wonderful. You can’t beat it.”

Production designer Michael Corenblith says that, in conceiving the story’s Memphis backdrop, “I was reminded of the work of a fine arts photographer named William Eggleston, who has lived his whole life in the Memphis area. I really felt that his palette and sensibility lent itself to the visuals of this picture, so when I met with John Lee, I brought a book of Eggleston’s work with me. Then, when we met with the cinematographer, Alar Kivilo, he came in with the same book. I knew at that point we were on the right track.”

In designing the sets, Corenblith wanted to accentuate the disparity between the affluence of East Memphis, where the Tuohys live, and the abject poverty of Hurt Village, on the other side of town.

A private residence in the upscale Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta served as the Tuohy house, which reflects the taste of Leigh Anne Tuohy, who is an interior designer. “Leigh Anne was phenomenally gracious and opened her home to our set decorator Susan Benjamin,” Corenblith says. “Susan spent two days with the family, which allowed us to emulate Leigh Anne’s decorating style.”

Costume designer Daniel Orlandi was given similar access to the Tuohy family, which benefited him in creating the wardrobes for the cast.

The exclusive Atlanta International School and The Westminster Schools, also located in Buckhead, both doubled as the private Wingate Christian School, where Michael Oher becomes an unlikely student and where he first encounters the Tuohys.

On the opposite end of the spectrum was Hurt Village, which was re-created in a housing project in East Atlanta that was nearly deserted. Corenblith elaborates, “One of the strokes of good fortune we had was that we found a very large housing project that was slated to be torn down, which meant that it was, for the most part, empty. It had the size and scale of the actual Hurt Village, and it represented the polar opposite of the neighborhood where the Tuohy family lived. The direct contrast between those two worlds became a way of personifying Michael’s journey, which, as a designer, is the clearest way I know to tell the story.”

Michael Lewis observes, “If you don’t tell this story, people might assume that Michael Oher was just this great athlete and he was predestined to be in the NFL. But when you look more closely, you see that if he hadn’t gotten out of that environment, he wouldn’t have even made it on a high school football field, let alone college or the NFL. He would have been dead or in jail...or just forgotten.”

Sean Tuohy agrees. “Michael was once completely devalued in the world. Imagine what kind of value we put on kids like him who don’t happen to be athletic. Imagine who gets passed by and that’s a shame. I think this story says we need to do more to help kids, all of whom have value.”

Michael Oher reflects, “I know there are people who have a lot more talent than I do, but they never made it out. So if people hear my story they will know that if you give somebody a chance, there is hope for that person.”

“I am telling you there are Michael Oher’s everywhere—wonderful kids who need a home, who want a family,” states Leigh Anne Tuohy. “It doesn’t take much searching out because they are right under your nose. And they don’t need to be brilliant at football. They don’t need to be someone who excels at anything other than loving you and wanting love in return.”

John Lee Hancock concludes, “I think it’s appropriate that this movie is coming out around Thanksgiving because it is very much about giving thanks. It is about taking stock and being grateful for the things you have. And also being aware of what other people don’t have.”

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## **ABOUT THE CAST**

**SANDRA BULLOCK** (Leigh Anne Tuohy) is one of Hollywood's most sought-after leading ladies. Bullock most recently starred with Bradley Cooper in the comedy "All About Steve," which she also produced for her production company, Fortis Films. She also starred opposite Ryan Reynolds in the romantic comedy smash hit "The Proposal," which has grossed over \$300 million worldwide. Bullock has also recently earned praise for her performances in such dramas as the Truman Capote biopic "Infamous," in which she portrayed author Harper Lee, and the 2004 Oscar<sup>®</sup>-winning Best Picture, "Crash," directed by Paul Haggis, for which she shared in a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award<sup>®</sup> for Outstanding Performance by a Motion Picture Cast.

Bullock had already appeared in several acclaimed motion pictures when her breakthrough came in the 1994 runaway hit "Speed." Her next two features, "While You Were Sleeping," for which she earned her first Golden Globe nomination, for Best Actress – Comedy or Musical, and "The Net" were both critical and popular successes.

She later earned another Golden Globe nomination, for Best Actress – Comedy or Musical, for her performance in the hit comedy "Miss Congeniality," which she also produced for Fortis Films. Under the Fortis Films banner, she has also produced and starred in "Hope Floats," which marked her producing debut; "Practical Magic"; "Gun Shy"; "Two Weeks Notice," opposite Hugh Grant; and "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous."

Bullock's additional film credits include starring roles in the psychological thriller "Premonition"; the romantic drama "The Lake House," opposite Keanu Reeves; the comedy drama "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," for first-time director Callie Khouri; and the thriller "Murder by Numbers," which she also executive produced. Among her earlier credits are "Forces of Nature," "28 Days," the animated "The Prince of Egypt," "Speed 2: Cruise Control," "In Love and War," "A Time to Kill," "Two if by Sea," "Wrestling Ernest Hemingway," "Demolition Man," "The Thing Called Love" and "The Vanishing."

She made her debut as a writer/director with the short film “Making Sandwiches,” in which she also starred with Matthew McConaughey. The film debuted at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival.

For television, Bullock served as an executive producer of the highly successful “The George Lopez Show,” which aired on ABC for six seasons and can currently be seen in syndication.

In addition to her Golden Globe nods and SAG Award<sup>®</sup>, Bullock has received numerous awards and nominations for her work, including two Blockbuster Entertainment Awards, four MTV Movie Awards, an American Comedy Award, eight Teen Choice Awards, and four People’s Choice Awards for Favorite Female Movie Star. Additionally, in 1996 and again in 2001, Bullock was named ShoWest’s Female Star of the Year by the National Association of Theatre Owners.

**TIM McGRAW** (Sean Tuohy) has earned a place in the front ranks of global entertainment, spanning multiple mediums. One of the music industry’s most successful artists, he has sold more than 40 million albums and had over 30 singles reach #1 worldwide. His enduring status as one of country music’s hottest draws is consistently proven by his sold-out concert tours. His tenth studio album, *Southern Voice*, was just released on October 20.

Over the course of his music career, McGraw has earned scores of awards and nominations, including three Grammy Awards, fourteen Academy of Country Music Awards, eleven Country Music Association Awards, ten American Music Awards and three People’s Choice Awards.

As an actor, McGraw has also established a notable presence in feature films, beginning with his well-received 2004 debut in Peter Berg’s “Friday Night Lights.” He most recently co-starred with Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon in 2008’s hit holiday comedy “Four Christmases,” directed by Seth Gordon. In addition, he was seen in 2007’s action thriller “The Kingdom,” which reunited him with director Peter Berg, and he starred in the 2006 family adventure “Flicka.”

In addition to starring in “Flicka,” McGraw executive produced the motion picture soundtrack, which included the single “My Little Girl,” performed by McGraw as

the end title song. McGraw also co-wrote the song, with Tom Douglas, which earned a Critic's Choice Award nomination for Best Song. In 2008, McGraw and Douglas co-wrote a children's book, also titled *My Little Girl*, published by Thomas Nelson.

Throughout his myriad successes, McGraw's eyes have always been focused on the music, taking full control of his most recent projects and putting his artistic stamp onto the material he chooses to record.

In 2007, McGraw and his wife, Faith Hill, made history as they ended their two-year "Soul2Soul Tour" with a staggering total box office gross of \$142 million. The best-selling multi-year North American concert tour in country music history, the tour encompassed 117 shows in 92 cities and two countries.

That same year, his CD *Let It Go* debuted at #1 on both the pop and country album charts and quickly reached platinum status. His earlier CDs include such hits as *Live Like You Were Dying*, *Tim McGraw and the Dancehall Doctors*, *Set This Circus Down*, *A Place in the Sun*, and his eponymous first album. On television, he has headlined three highly rated NBC specials.

**QUINTON AARON** (Michael Oher) makes his major feature debut in "The Blind Side." He previously appeared in Michel Gondry's "Be Kind Rewind," starring Jack Black and Mos Def, and "Fighting," starring Channing Tatum and Terrence Howard. Aaron was also featured in the short film "Mr. Brooklyn."

On television, Aaron was seen in episodes of "Law & Order" and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

**KATHY BATES** (Miss Sue) has been honored numerous times for her work on stage, screen and television. She won an Academy Award<sup>®</sup> and a Golden Globe for her portrayal of obsessed fan Annie Wilkes in Rob Reiner's 1990 hit "Misery," based on Stephen King's novel. In 1999, she received Oscar<sup>®</sup>, Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations and won a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award<sup>®</sup> and a Critics Choice Award for her performance in Mike Nichols' "Primary Colors." Bates more recently earned her third Oscar<sup>®</sup> nomination for her role in Alexander Payne's "About Schmidt," for which she also garnered Golden Globe and SAG Award nominations and won a National Board

of Review Award for Best Supporting Actress. Her film work has also been recognized with Golden Globe and BAFTA Award nominations for Jon Avnet's "Fried Green Tomatoes," and she also shared in a SAG Award® nomination with the ensemble cast of James Cameron's all-time, top-grossing blockbuster "Titanic."

Bates has a wide range of upcoming projects, including the features "Valentine's Day" and "Wedlocked," both due out in 2010, and the FX miniseries "Alice," in which she plays the Queen of Hearts.

Bates was most recently seen in Stephen Frears' period drama "Cheri," in which she starred with Michelle Pfeiffer; the independent drama "Personal Effects," with Pfeiffer and Ashton Kutcher; Sam Mendes' acclaimed drama "Revolutionary Road," which reunited her with Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet; and the sci-fi remake "The Day the Earth Stood Still," which opened at the top of the box office.

Bates' long list of film credits includes "P.S. I Love You," "Fred Claus," "Failure to Launch," "Little Black Book," "Dragonfly," "American Outlaws," "The Waterboy," "The War at Home," "Dolores Claiborne," "A Home of Our Own," "Prelude to a Kiss," "Shadows and Fog," "At Play in the Fields of the Lord," "Dick Tracy," "Men Don't Leave," "Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," "Straight Time" and "Taking Off." Bates lent her voice to Jerry Seinfeld's animated comedy "Bee Movie," as well as "Charlotte's Web" and "The Golden Compass."

On the small screen, Bates won a Golden Globe and a SAG Award® and earned an Emmy Award nomination for the 1996 HBO film "The Late Shift." Her television honors also include Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG Award® nominations for her performance in the musical "Annie"; another SAG Award® nomination for her role in the telefilm "My Sister's Keeper"; and four additional Emmy Award nominations for her work on the projects "3<sup>rd</sup> Rock from the Sun," "Six Feet Under," "Warm Springs," and "Ambulance Girl," which she also directed.

Bates has also been honored for her work behind the camera as a director. She helmed the A&E telefilm "Dash and Lilly," starring Sam Shepard and Judy Davis, which earned nine Emmy nominations, including one for Bates as Best Director. She also directed five episodes of the acclaimed HBO series "Six Feet Under," earning a Directors Guild of America Award for the episode entitled "Twilight." Her directing credits also

include the telefilm “*Fargo*” and episodes of such series as “*Oz*,” “*NYPD Blue*” and “*Homicide: Life on the Street*.”

Bates first gained the attention of critics and audiences on the New York stage. She was nominated for a Tony Award for her portrayal of the suicidal daughter in the original Broadway production of Marsha Norman’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play “*‘night, Mother*.” She also won an Obie Award for her performance as Frankie in the original off-Broadway production of “*Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*.”

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Bates received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1970 from Southern Methodist University, which awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2002.

**LILY COLLINS** (Collins Tuohy) is a rising young actress, as well as a teen host and journalist. She is currently co-starring with Paul Bettany, Karl Urban and Stephen Moyer in the thriller “*Priest*,” slated for release October 1, 2010. In addition she recently appeared in two episodes of the series “*90210*,” including the final episode of the season.

Apart from acting, Collins covered both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions for *Seventeen* magazine, blogged for *Seventeen.com* for the Nickelodeon “*Kids Pick the President*” campaign, and has been a contributing writer for *CosmoGIRL* and *Los Angeles Times* magazine. Her other hosting credits include “*Live from the Red Carpet at the Oscars*®” for the E! Network, as well as “*Countdown to Kids’ Choice!*,” Nickelodeon’s pre-show to the 2008 and 2009 Kids’ Choice Awards.

As the face of Nickelodeon, she keeps tween viewers up to date on the latest trends in entertainment and pop culture, including the historic presidential inauguration of Barack Obama, marking the first time in history the network covered an inauguration. In addition, she is a current host for Nickelodeon’s “*Hollywood Hang*,” and can also be seen reporting from the sets of Nick series, movie premieres, awards shows, concerts and other celebrity events.

In 2008, Collins received the Best International Model Award at the 2008 Spanish Glamour Awards in Madrid. She was also presented with the One to Watch Award at the 2008 Young Hollywood Awards.

Born in West Sussex, England, Collins started acting when she was an infant with a role on the British version of the television series “*Growing Pains*.” Moving to the

United States at age six, she began performing musical theater and drama at the Youth Academy for Dramatic Arts. At the age of 15, she discovered her passion for journalism, when she began working for the popular fashion magazine *Ellegirl UK*, where she created and wrote a page informing readers on Hollywood trends and Los Angeles hot spots, called “LA Confidential.” Collins extended her interest in writing and reporting to television as a host for Nickelodeon’s “Slime Across America” tour.

Collins attends the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communication, where she is studying Communication. As the first college representative to sit on the board of The Maple Counseling Center, Collins created “Talk More Create Connections,” a program that promotes open conversations between parents and teens.

**JAE HEAD** (S.J. Tuohy) has worked in both films and television in his young career. A native of Texas, Head made his feature film debut in the action comedy “Hancock,” directed by Peter Berg and starring Will Smith, Charlize Theron and Jason Bateman.

On television, Head has appeared in several episodes of the critically acclaimed television series “Friday Night Lights,” in addition to guest roles on such series as “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” and “How I Met Your Mother.” Head also made an appearance on “MADtv” and was seen in the pilot “The Angriest Man in Suburbia.”

**RAY MCKINNON** (Coach Cotton) is an award-winning filmmaker, as well as an actor. In 2002, he won an Academy Award<sup>®</sup> for Best Live Action Short Film for the dark comedy “The Accountant,” his first effort as a writer/director. In 2004, he made his feature film writing and directing debut with the independent film “Chrysal,” which also marked his first producing effort. Starring Billy Bob Thornton, Lisa Blount and McKinnon, “Chrysal” was one of 16 films selected for the dramatic competition at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival and was released theatrically in 2005.

McKinnon then wrote, directed and starred in “Randy and the Mob,” which won the Audience Choice Award and the President’s Award at the 2007 Nashville Film Festival, and was released theatrically that year. McKinnon’s latest feature project is the

drama “That Evening Sun,” which he produced and in which he co-stars with Hal Holbrook. The film debuted at this year’s SXSW Festival in Austin, where it won the Audience Award and a Special Jury Prize for Best Ensemble Cast. It also won the Audience Award at the Nashville and Sarasota Film Festivals, and the Jury Award at the Atlanta, Newport International, Little Rock, Indie Memphis and New Hampshire Film Festivals. It is slated for limited release in November.

McKinnon’s previous film acting credits include “The Missing,” “O Brother, Where Art Thou?,” “The Grass Harp,” “The Net,” “Apollo 13,” “A Perfect World” and “Bugsy.” On the small screen, he had a recurring role on HBO’s acclaimed series “Deadwood” as the Reverend H.W. Smith. He has also guest starred on numerous series. McKinnon recently sold his original television pilot, entitled “Rectify,” to AMC and will serve as executive producer on the project.

Born and raised in Georgia, McKinnon began his professional acting career on stage in Atlanta. He is married to his frequent producing partner and muse, actress Lisa Blount.

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## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

**JOHN LEE HANCOCK** (Director/Screenwriter) previously directed the “The Rookie,” starring Dennis Quaid, which won the 2002 ESPY Award for Best Sports Movie. He also directed and co-wrote the historical drama “The Alamo,” starring Quaid and Billy Bob Thornton.

Hancock most recently co-wrote the screenplay for the musical drama “The Goree Girls,” to star Jennifer Aniston, which is slated for release in 2010. His upcoming films also include the drama “The Starling,” which he is set to direct, and the fact-based Hurricane Katrina drama “The American Can,” which he is co-writing and will direct.

Originally from Texas City, Texas, Hancock earned a law degree from Baylor University. Upon moving to Los Angeles, he traded his legal career for the chance to start the theatre company Legal Aliens, with actor Brandon Lee. He wrote and directed several original stage plays there before launching his film and television career.

Hancock’s first major motion picture screenplay, “A Perfect World,” was directed by Clint Eastwood, who also produced and starred alongside Kevin Costner and Laura Dern. Hancock then wrote “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil,” the screen adaptation of the acclaimed book, also directed by Eastwood. He made his producing debut with the family drama “My Dog Skip,” starring Kevin Bacon, Diane Lane and Frankie Muniz, under the direction of Jay Russell.

For television, Hancock created the CBS series “L.A. Doctors,” on which he was an executive producer, director and writer. Later, he served as executive producer of the network’s drama series “Falcone,” also directing episodes.

Hancock is currently an advisor at the Sundance Institute Screenwriting Lab.

**GIL NETTER** (Producer) most recently produced the box office hit “Marley & Me,” starring Jennifer Aniston and Luke Wilson. In addition, he served as an executive producer on the fantasy adventure “Eragon.”

Netter’s credits as a producer also include the romantic comedy “Fever Pitch,” starring Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon; the family film “Flicka,” starring Tim McGraw and Maria Bello; the thriller “Phone Booth,” directed by Joel Schumacher and

starring Colin Farrell; and the comedy “Dude, Where’s My Car?,” starring Ashton Kutcher and Seann William Scott.

Netter earlier served as president of Zucker Brothers Productions for seven years. During his tenure, he executive produced such films as “My Best Friend’s Wedding,” “First Knight,” “Naked Gun 331/3: The Final Insult,” “Naked Gun 2: The Smell of Fear,” “My Life” and “A Walk in the Clouds.”

**ANDREW A. KOSOVE** (Producer) and **BRODERICK JOHNSON** (Producer) are co-founders, co-presidents and co-CEOs of Alcon Entertainment, which has financed and/or produced a wide range of films.

Under the Alcon banner, Kosove and Johnson are currently producing “The Book of Eli,” directed by Albert and Allen Hughes and starring Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman and Mila Kunis. The film is slated for release in January 2010. They are also producing the comedy “The Lottery Ticket,” directed by Erik White and starring Bow Wow and Ice Cube, which will open later in the year.

Alcon earlier produced the acclaimed family film “My Dog Skip,” which led to an ongoing Warner Bros. Pictures distribution deal. Alcon’s subsequent titles included the comedy “Dude, Where’s My Car?,” starring Ashton Kutcher; Christopher Nolan’s thriller “Insomnia,” starring Al Pacino, Robin Williams, and Hilary Swank; and the family film “Racing Stripes,” which blended animation and live action.

More recent Alcon titles include the ensemble hit “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants” and its sequel, “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2,” both starring Amber Tamblyn, America Ferrara, Blake Lively and Alexis Bledel; the action-thriller “16 Blocks,” starring Bruce Willis; and the romantic comedy-drama sleeper hit “P.S. I Love You,” starring Hilary Swank and directed by Richard LaGravenese, which grossed more than \$150 million worldwide.

Alcon’s longstanding distribution deal with Warner Bros. Pictures was recently renewed for another five years, encompassing a 15-film slate.

**MICHAEL LEWIS** (Author) has published nine books on various subjects, all but one of them *New York Times* best sellers. Prior to *The Blind Side*, originally

published in 2006, he wrote *Moneyball*, a book ostensibly about baseball but also about the way markets value people. His other works include *The New New Thing*, about Silicon valley during the Internet boom; *Losers*, about the 1996 Presidential campaign; and *Liar's Poker*, a Wall Street story based in part on his own experience working as an investment banker for Salomon Brothers.

He is a contributing writer to *Vanity Fair*, and also writes often for *The New York Times Magazine*. His articles have also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Gourmet*, *Slate*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Poetry Magazine*. He has served as editor and columnist for the British weekly *The Spectator* and as senior editor and campaign correspondent for *The New Republic*. In addition, he has filmed and narrated short pieces for ABC-TV's "Nightline," and made a four-part documentary on the social consequences of the Internet for the BBC.

Lewis grew up in New Orleans and remains deeply interested and involved in the city. He holds a B.A. in Art History from Princeton and an MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics. He lives in Berkeley, California with his wife, Tabitha Soren, and their three children: Quinn, Dixie and Walker. His most recent book is *Home Game: An Accidental Guide to Fatherhood*, about his attempts to raise them.

**MOLLY SMITH** (Executive Producer) is currently developing several projects under her own 2S Films banner, including adaptations of the *New York Times* bestseller *Something Borrowed*, by Emily Giffin, and the international bestseller *French Women Don't Get Fat*, by Mireille Guiliano.

Smith developed her passion for filmmaking at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she began to build her resume by working on productions throughout her college years. She started her career working on several Alcon Entertainment productions, including "The Affair of the Necklace," starring Hilary Swank; Christopher Nolan's "Insomnia," starring Swank, Al Pacino and Robin Williams; and Troy Beyer's "Love Don't Cost a Thing."

Later becoming a production executive at Alcon, Smith helped oversee the productions of "Chasing Liberty," starring Mandy Moore, and the successful family film "Racing Stripes," filmed on location in South Africa. Upon wrapping these two films,

she began to freelance in production and went to work on such projects as the dance movie “Step Up” and the ABC pilot “Traveler.”

In the fall of 2007, Smith joined Wendy Finerman and Alcon Entertainment to produce her first film, “P.S. I Love You,” written and directed by Richard LaGravenese and starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler.

**TIMOTHY M. BOURNE** (Executive Producer) produced the hit drama “Drumline,” and has also served as an executive producer on such films as “Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins,” “One Missed Call,” “ATL,” and “Mr. 3000.” He is currently in production as an executive producer on the comedy “The Lottery Ticket,” starring Bow Wow and Ice Cube, and slated for release in Summer 2010.

Bourne has worked on many of director Penny Marshall’s films, serving as co-producer for “Renaissance Man,” “The Preacher’s Wife” and “Riding in Cars with Boys,” and as production manager for “Big,” “Awakenings” and “A League of Their Own.” Additionally, Bourne served as a co-producer on Andy Tennant’s “Ever After,” and on the Jim Henson Company’s “Muppets from Space” and “The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland.”

He previously collaborated with director Mike Nichols on “Heartburn” and “Working Girl,” and with Barbra Streisand on “The Prince of Tides.” Bourne’s film work also includes “A Walk to Remember,” “Summer Catch,” “Bastard Out of Carolina,” “Sleeping with the Enemy,” “Everybody Wins” and “The Muppets Take Manhattan.”

Bourne began his career scouting locations for Woody Allen’s “A Midsummer Night’s Sex Comedy,” and subsequently worked on Allen’s “Zelig,” “Broadway Danny Rose,” “Hannah and Her Sisters” and “Radio Days.” The son of Oscar<sup>®</sup>-nominated production designer Mel Bourne, he was born and raised in Manhattan.

**ERWIN STOFF** (Executive Producer) has worked on a range of high-profile film and television projects as a producer or executive producer. He is also a principal partner in the leading management firm 3 Arts Entertainment, which he co-founded more than 20 years ago.

As a producer, Stoff's recent credits include last year's worldwide hit remake of "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and the actioner "Street Kings." He also executive produced the blockbuster sci-fi drama "I Am Legend," directed by Francis Lawrence and starring Will Smith.

Previously, he produced writer-director Richard Linklater's "A Scanner Darkly"; "Guess Who," starring Bernie Mac and Ashton Kutcher; Francis Lawrence's "Constantine"; "Biker Boyz," starring Laurence Fishburne; "Sweet November," with Charlize Theron; and "Picture Perfect," starring Jennifer Aniston. His credits as an executive producer include "The Lake House," "Hard Ball," "The Replacements," "The Matrix," "The Devil's Advocate," "Feeling Minnesota," "Chain Reaction," "National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1," and "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me."

For the small screen, Stoff recently served as executive producer on NBC's critically acclaimed drama series "Kings." In addition, 3 Arts Entertainment has produced such television projects as the USA Network miniseries "The Starter Wife" and the HBO series "Carnivale."

**ALAR KIVILO** (Director of Photography) recently lensed the acclaimed HBO movie "Taking Chance," starring Kevin Bacon, and Harold Ramis' comedy "Year One."

A native of Montreal, Kivilo began his cinematography career shooting documentaries and short films, including "Boys and Girls," which won an Academy Award® for Best Live Action Short in 1984. Kivilo next began shooting music videos, which eventually led to commercials and the formation of his own company, Propeller. For the next ten years, he directed and shot many Bessie, Clio and Cannes Award-winning commercials.

In 1987, Kivilo lensed his first feature, "Da," followed by Sam Raimi's "A Simple Plan." He has since served as the director of photography on such films as "Frequency," "The Glass House," "Hart's War," "Aurora Borealis," "The Ice Harvest," "The Lake House" and "The Lookout."

For his work on the small screen, Kivilo earned Emmy and American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) Award nominations for the HBO biopic "Gotti," and an ASC

Award nomination for the miniseries “The Invaders.” His television credits also include the HBO movies “Normal,” “Weapons of Mass Distraction” and “Rebound.”

**MICHAEL CORENBLITH** (Production Designer) has been honored with two Academy Award® nominations, the first for his work on Ron Howard’s true-life drama “Apollo 13” and another for the imaginative creation of Dr. Seuss’ Whoville in Howard’s “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” He also won a BAFTA Award for “Apollo 13” and received an Art Directors Guild (ADG) Award nomination for “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” He more recently earned another ADG Award nomination for his work on Howard’s “Frost/Nixon.”

Corenblith’s collaborations with Ron Howard also include “Ransom” and “EDtv.” He previously worked with John Lee Hancock on the historical drama “Alamo,” for which he won an award from the Alamo Battlefield Association in recognition of his recreations of San Antonio de Bexar and the Alamo, the largest standing sets ever built in North America. His additional feature credits include “Wild Hogs,” “Be Cool,” the remake of “Mighty Joe Young,” “Cool World” and “He Said, She Said.”

For television, Corenblith won an Emmy Award in 1983 for his work as a set designer on the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy Awards® show. He more recently worked on the series “Dexter” and “Eerie, Indiana.”

A graduate of the University of Texas in Austin, Corenblith studied design at UCLA and entered the entertainment industry as a television lighting designer. Segueing to films, he started out as a set designer or art director on such films as “Down and Out in Beverly Hills,” “Cat People,” “Burglar,” “Red Heat” and “Die Hard 2: Die Harder.”

**DANIEL ORLANDI** (Costume Designer) has frequently collaborated with director Ron Howard, most recently on “Angels and Demons,” starring Tom Hanks, and the award-winning drama “Frost/Nixon,” starring Frank Langella and Michael Sheen. He previously worked with Howard on “The Da Vinci Code” and “Cinderella Man,” starring Russell Crowe and Renée Zellweger.

His film credits also include John Lee Hancock’s historical epic “The Alamo”; the 1960s-styled “Down with Love,” starring Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor; the Joel

Schumacher-directed thrillers "The Number 23" and "Phone Booth"; Jerry Bruckheimer's "Kangaroo Jack"; and "Last Holiday" starring Queen Latifah. He also worked three times with actor Robert De Niro, on the films "Meet the Parents," "Flawless" and "The Fan."

For television, Orlandi won a 1989 Emmy Award for his work on "The Magic of David Copperfield XI." His additional television credits include the first season of the comedy series "Ed," and such telefilms as "Witness to the Mob" and "Marilyn and Me."

A graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University, Orlandi got his start working with Bob Mackie on the film "Pennies from Heaven" and numerous television specials, as well as on Mackie's successful couture collection.

**MARK LIVOLSI** (Editor) worked with director David Frankel as an editor on the recent hit comedies "Marley & Me" and "The Devil Wears Prada," earning an Eddie Award nomination from the American Cinema Editors for the latter. He had received his first Eddie Award nomination for his work on David Dobkin's smash hit comedy "Wedding Crashers," and more recently collaborated with Dobkin on "Fred Claus."

Livolsi's additional feature credits include "My Suicidal Sweetheart," "The Girl Next Door" and "Pieces of April." His first film as an editor was "Vanilla Sky," directed by Cameron Crowe, with whom he also collaborated as additional editor on "Elizabethtown" and associate editor on "Almost Famous."

As an assistant editor, Livolsi worked on the Woody Allen films "Deconstructing Harry," "Shadows and Fog," "Alice" and "Crimes & Misdemeanors." His credits as an assistant editor also include "Meet Joe Black," "Marvin's Room," "French Kiss," "The River Wild," "Heaven & Earth" and "Funny Farm."

**CARTER BURWELL** (Composer) recently composed the score for Spike Jonze's acclaimed feature "Where the Wild Things Are," and the hit thriller "Twilight." He previously worked with director John Lee Hancock on the films "The Rookie" and "The Alamo." Burwell has also written the music for virtually all of the Coen brothers' films, including the Oscar<sup>®</sup>-winning Best Picture "No Country for Old Men." Among their other collaborations are "A Serious Man," "Burn After Reading," "Intolerable

Cruelty,” “The Man Who Wasn’t There,” “The Big Lebowski,” “Fargo,” “The Hudsucker Proxy,” “Barton Fink” and “Miller’s Crossing.”

Burwell graduated from Harvard College in 1977. While there, he studied animation with Mary Beams and George Griffin and electronic music with Ivan Tcherepnin, and pursued a course of independent study at the MIT Media Lab. After graduation he became a teaching assistant in the Harvard Electronic Music Studio.

Burwell began his film composing career in 1984 with “Blood Simple,” which also began his work with the Coens. His film composing credits also include “This Boy’s Life,” “Kalifornia,” “Rob Roy,” “Conspiracy Theory,” “The Spanish Prisoner,” “Gods and Monsters,” “Being John Malkovich,” “Three Kings,” “Before Night Falls,” “Adaptation,” “Kinsey,” “Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead” and “In Bruges.”

In addition to his film work, Burwell continues to compose dance and theatrical projects, most notably “The Return of Lot’s Wife,” “Cara Lucia” and “Theater of the New Ear.”

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