



Presents

The title "HYENA ROAD" is displayed in large, bold, white letters with a distressed, metallic texture, set against a solid black background.

A Rhombus Media and Triple 7 Films Production

**In Association with Buffalo Gal Pictures, Grand Technology
Resources, and Bron Creative**

A Film by Paul Gross

Release Date: March 11, 2016

Running Time: 120 minutes

Rating: "R" by the MPAA (for "bloody war violence, language throughout, some sexual material")

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CAST AND CREW

Ryan Sanders	Rossif Sutherland
Pete Mitchell	Paul Gross
Jennifer Bowman	Christine Horne
The Cleaner	Nabil Elouahabi
The Ghost	Niamatullah Arghandabi
Travis	Allan Hawco
General Rilmen	Clarke Johnson
Directed by	Paul Gross
Written by	Paul Gross
Produced by	Rhombus Media
	Triple 7 Films
Producers	Niv Fichman
	Paul Gross
Co-Producer	Phyllis Laing
Supervising Producer	Sari Friedland
Associate Producers	Fraser Ash
	Kevin Krikst
	Penny McDonald
	Ted Howard
Executive Producers	Victor Loewy
	Frank Siracusa
	Mirwais Alizai
	Aaron L. Gilbert
	Jason Cloth
Original Music by	Asher Lenz
	Stephen Skratt
Cinematography by	Karim Hussain, csc
Film Editing by	David Wharnsby
Casting by	Deirdre Bowen
	Pam Dixon
Production Design by	Arv Greywal
Costume Design by	Katelynd Johnston

SYNOPSIS

Three men, three different paths, caught in conflict but brought together to save lives: a highly skilled sniper who can't think of his targets as human; an intelligence officer who has never killed while on duty; and a legendary Afghan warrior who left war behind but gets pulled back to battle.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT **BY PAUL GROSS**

After the experience of making "Passchendaele", Paul Gross's 2008 feature film about the epic First World War battle, which took 12 years to finance, he thought he would never make another war film, but in 2010 he was invited to go on a Good Will trip to Afghanistan with the Canadian Forces to visit the troops. "I found the experience unexpected and mesmerizing," says Gross. "Being in the middle of a war zone, the sheer complexity and the dignity in which Canadians are represented by our soldiers, it occurred to me that I wanted to return to Afghanistan with a camera team and document as much as I could."

At the time rumors were flying that the mission would soon be over for Canada. On his return home he pitched the idea of a movie about Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan to Telefilm Canada and impressed on them that this was a timely issue and within months he was travelling back with three camera men and twenty duffle bags of gear. They spent ten days and shot over 60 hours of footage, aboard various forms of military aircraft, at forward operating bases, in Kandahar Airfield, in Kandahar City. As they had no lighting equipment he would spend the evenings talking to soldiers and hearing their stories.

It was these stories, thousands of stories, that helped him craft the screenplay for "Hyena Road" shortly after returning to Canada.

BACKGROUND ON THE PRODUCTION **BY PAUL GROSS**

Casting Rossif Sutherland as 'Ryan Sanders'

"One of the first things that you notice about Rossif is his voice — it is unique and melodious and beautiful — it's the sound of a generous soul, the cadence of a poet. And I'd always felt that the character of Ryan needed an actor who would endow him with real humanity, thoughtfulness and care. Rossif embodies those qualities so thoroughly, and wears them so lightly, I knew they would be present in every line or movement his character takes. He brought a depth of humanity to the part that is singularly his own. Beyond that, he's a great man to be with, works like a Trojan and is genuinely infectious presence."

Casting Christine Horne as 'Jennifer Bowman'

"Christine had probably the hardest challenge in the film. Because of our schedule she had to shoot an enormous amount of material, much of it extremely emotional, in a very compressed couple of days. She was magnificent and I knew without question that she would be able to

shoulder the weight of bringing all the emotional strands of the film together with real humanity and break our hearts. She delivered such a beautiful performance on every level — it's nuanced, complicated and beautiful. She carries her rank with the authority it deserves and yet is human and vulnerable. And most importantly, she has crafted Jennifer as an adult — not an ingénue, but a real woman in a very difficult world. “

Casting Allan Hawco as ‘Travis Davidson’

“I've known Allan for so long now it feels as if we were brothers, which in a sense we are — brothers in arms. as soon as I started thinking of Hyena Road, I knew that I wanted Allan to be part of it. he's a great actor and a natural leader and he brought both to bear on Hyena with his lunatic humour and dedication and consummate skills. He crafted such a full character that it gives the entire sniper detachment definition as a coherent unit composed of individuals with complex lives. He's a genuine Canadian star and we are blessed that he is part of our endeavor.”

Casting Niamatullah Arghandabi as ‘The Ghost’

“One of the most thrilling things for all of us is the extraordinary performance of Arghandabi as The Ghost. His portrayal is charismatic and compelling and all the more astonishing because he is not an actor. I met him on my first trip to Afghanistan where he worked with the CAF. Currently he divides his time between London and Kabul, where he is one of the policy advisors to Dr Abdullah Abdullah, the Prime Minister of Afghanistan. In his late teens, Arghandabi was a Mujahideen in the war against the Soviets, serving under the real Ghost's command. To have someone in our film with such a background to the tortured history of modern Afghanistan was invaluable and every department in the film availed themselves of his priceless advice. He is also a relentlessly entertaining raconteur. Ask Arghandabi a question and an hour later you are in the thrall of his story telling, no closer to an answer but willing to listen for another hour. An amazing man and an indispensable part of the movie.”

Filming at CFB Shilo

“The Canadian Forces were extremely helpful in all aspects of the film, and our time shooting at CFB Shilo, 205 kms north of Winnipeg, was no exception. It was here that we built our Forward Operating Base Sperwan Ghar, a replica of one of many Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Afghanistan. A FOB is a secured forward military position, commonly a military base, that is used to support tactical operations. This is where our Sniper Detachment would be based. On touring the Sperwan Ghar set, our Military Advisor, Lieutenant Ted Howard, commented ‘I always say that the movie people are magicians. I walk around the sets and I feel like I'm back there. This is amazing what they've re-created.’”

Many members of the Canadian Forces used their leave to help us out with the movie, as crew, background and actors. According to Paul Gross “having the real guys all around us was great because they could just tell me that my script was stupid or ‘no one would ever say this’. Although, I have to say that there is an absolute tsunami of conflicting advice from the military, but they were enormously supportive.”

Filming in Jordan

“Three weeks were spent shooting in Jordan. Originally Gross hoped to shoot in Afghanistan, but insuring a crews' safety became an obstacle, so locations were scouted in Southern Jordan, in and

around Aqaba, on the Red Sea, as the landscape is very similar to Afghanistan. The fictitious village of Haji Baba and surrounding grape fields were created by Production Designer Arv Greywal, and built on the desert floor nearby the Bedouin village of Titin. The crew of carpenters were mostly Egyptians from Aqaba and they built nearly the entire set by hand. The Kandahar City scenes were shot in the hectic streets and alleyways of Old Aqaba. The sniper scenes were mostly shot in the stunning mountains and hills shouldering the dramatic Jordan Rift Valley, which borders Israel.”

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AND LOCALES IN THE FILM

The Canadian Forces in Afghanistan

According to Veterans Affairs Canada, chain of events that would bring Canadian soldiers into the desolate and dangerous terrain of Afghanistan began on September 11, 2001. On that day, four airliners were hijacked in the skies over the eastern United States; two were deliberately crashed into the World Trade Center towers and one into the Pentagon, resulting in the death of nearly 3,000 people. These horrific attacks shocked and galvanized the United States and much of the world. Canada would soon play a role in the ensuing international efforts to battle terrorism and help bring democracy to Afghanistan.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a rugged country in Southwest Asia, located between Pakistan and Iran. This ancient, mountainous land is about the size of Saskatchewan and has a population of approximately 30 million people. The various ethnic groups and factions that have made the country home over the centuries have given Afghanistan a rich heritage and diversity, but have also helped make peace and stability difficult to achieve.

The civil war that broke out after the former Soviet Union withdrew from its military occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s would see the Taliban regime gain control of the country. This extreme fundamentalist regime severely limited civil rights and supported international terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda (the group which was behind the attacks in the United States). In the wake of September 11, the United States and the world took action through the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Canada and the World Responds

The first Canadian Armed Forces contribution to the campaign against terrorism in Southwest Asia came at sea. Beginning in October 2001, Canadian ships would see ongoing duty in the waters off the region, supporting and defending the international fleet operating there as well as locating and searching unknown boats looking for illegal activity.

The Aurora patrol aircraft and Hercules and Polaris transport planes of the Canadian Armed Forces Air Command would also be active in Afghanistan and the waters off Southwest Asia, filling important roles in marine surveillance, transporting supplies and personnel, and evacuating casualties. Canadian helicopters also provided important service in identifying merchant vessels and offering valuable transport support over the years.

Canadian soldiers soon travelled to Afghanistan as well. The first were commandos from the elite Joint Task Force 2 (JTF 2) in December 2001, followed by other Canadian soldiers in January 2002 who were initially based in Kandahar. There they joined American and British troops already fighting to topple the Taliban regime, eliminate terrorist operations and establish the basis for lasting peace in the troubled country.

With the eventual fall from power of the Taliban, attention turned to stabilizing the country and helping establish a new Afghan government. The UN authorized a NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to take on this challenge. The initial Canadian contribution to the ISAF in the summer of 2003 consisted of more than 700 Canadian Armed Forces members stationed in Kabul, the country's capital, with 200 more providing support from elsewhere in Southwest Asia. In Kabul, the Canadians patrolled the western sector of the city, helped operate the airport and assisted in rebuilding the Afghan National Army.

In 2005, the Canadian Armed Forces' role evolved again when they began to shift back to the volatile Kandahar region. While the Taliban government had been toppled, the group remained a strong presence in some areas of the country. Indeed, Canada's return to Kandahar coincided with a resurgence in Taliban activity and our soldiers quickly found themselves the targets of attack.

The numbers of Canadian soldiers soon swelled to approximately 2,300 to help deal with the enemy and support the Provincial Reconstruction Team operating there. Canadian tanks, artillery and infantry soldiers all took part in many ground operations in Kandahar, including large-scale offensives against massed Taliban forces. This chapter of Canada's efforts in Afghanistan was the most perilous. Anytime Canadian soldiers left the relative safety of their main camps to go "outside the wire" the danger was very real.

Canada's combat role in the country ended in 2011 when the focus shifted to training Afghanistan's army and police force and the last of our service members left the country in March 2014. But Canada's efforts in the troubled country have been numerous. Reaching out in an attempt to build trust and win the hearts and minds of the people of Afghanistan was an important goal. In addition to their military activities, Canadian Armed Forces members engaged in many humanitarian efforts like digging wells, rebuilding schools and distributing medical and relief supplies, both as part of their official mission and on a volunteer basis.

Facts and Figures

- More than 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members served in the Afghanistan theatre of operations between 2001 and 2014. These brave men and women are eligible to receive the General Campaign Star-Southwest Asia.
- Afghanistan is a very poor country and its climate can be extreme. Summer temperatures of 122° F / 50° C are common and huge dust storms can sweep across its arid deserts.
- Camp Nathan Smith was a base for Canadian operations in Kandahar for several years. It was named in honor of a soldier from Nova Scotia who was killed there in 2002.
- Operation Medusa was a September 2006 offensive in Kandahar province that involved more than 1,000 Canadian Armed Forces members, making it our country's largest combat operation in more than 50 years. The heavy fighting in Operation Medusa tragically saw the loss of 12 Canadians, but the Taliban were pushed from the Panjwai district.

Heroes and Bravery

Canadians demonstrated great bravery time and again in Afghanistan. Here are just some examples of that valor.

- A number of Canadians who served in Afghanistan have earned the Star of Military Valour, our country's second-highest decoration for courage. The first was Sergeant Patrick Tower in August 2006 when he braved enemy fire to lead the extraction of a platoon that had come under heavy attack.
- Flight Lieutenant Chris Hasler, a Canadian serving with Britain's Royal Air Force, received the Distinguished Flying Cross for piloting helicopter resupply missions under fire in July 2006. He was the first Canadian to be decorated for bravery in the air in more than 50 years.
- Captain Nichola Goddard became the first female Canadian Armed Forces member to die in combat duty when the forward artillery observer was killed in a firefight on May 17, 2006.

Sacrifice

Canada's efforts in Afghanistan have made a difference, but this has come at a great cost. The threat of suicide attacks and roadside bombs was a constant risk. Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) caused the most Canadian casualties. There were also many other perils beyond ambushes and firefights with the enemy. Landmines and friendly fire incidents took the lives of our soldiers while vehicle accidents, illnesses and the psychological strain of serving in such a difficult environment also took a heavy and life-long toll. Sadly, 158 Canadian Armed Forces members died in the cause of peace and freedom in Afghanistan.

ABOUT THE CAST

Rossif Sutherland (“Ryan Sanders”)

Rossif Sutherland, an established performer in Music, Film and Television has developed an extensive resume. Film credits include “Big Muddy” directed by Jefferson Moneo, “I’m Yours” opposite Karine Vanasse, Gary Yates’ feature film “High Life” opposite Timothy Olyphant and Joe Anderson for which received a Genie nomination, and the critically acclaimed Clement Virgo feature “Poor Boy’s Game” opposite Danny Glover all of which premiered The Toronto International Film Festival. Others include “Timeline”, a Paramount feature directed by Richard Donner as well as the independent feature film “Red Doors” directed by Georgia Lee. Most recently he just completed filming a supporting role in ‘Back Country’ opposite Joel Kinnaman and the starring role in ‘River’ directed by Jamie Dagg which shot in Laos.

In Television, Sutherland has had recurring guest spots on shows such as NBC’s “Crossing Lines” and BBKA’s “Copper” with other guest starring roles in TMN’s “Living In Your Car”; “Monk” and “Being Erica” and “Cracked” for CBC as well as a recurring role in season 10 of NBC’s hit show “ER”. He’s been series regular on Showcase’s “King” and the hit show “Reign” for the CW. When he’s not acting, he is busy recording his music.

Paul Gross (“Pete Mitchell”; see filmmaker credits in next section)

Paul Gross is internationally known for his role as Constable Benton Fraser on the multi award-winning drama series “Due South.” He was honoured with two Gemini Awards for Best Actor, and one Gemini Award for his writing on the series. Gross also received two Gemini Awards for best performance by an actor in the critically acclaimed series “Slings & Arrows”.

In 2000, Gross wrote, directed and starred in the feature film Men with Brooms, which was the highest-grossing English-language Canadian film of the previous 20 years. He also starred in, co-wrote and produced the miniseries “H2O” as well as its sequel “The Trojan Horse”.

In 2008 Gross released his feature film Passchendaele, a movie based on the famous First World War battle heroically fought by 50,000 Canadians in the bloodied fields of Ypres, Belgium. Passchendaele, which Gross wrote, directed and starred in, was the highest grossing Canadian film of 2008 with the box office reaching over \$4.5 million, and won five Genie Awards, including Best Picture.

He starred in the ABC series Eastwick based on the movie The Witches of Eastwick, opposite Rebecca Romijn, Jamie Ray Newman and Lindsay Price and the movie Gunless and also Executive Produced the series Cra\$h & Burn and The Yard.

Gross earned a degree in drama at the University of Alberta, and went on to perform extensively in Canadian regional theatres in addition to forging a writing career. His first play, The Deer and the Antelope Play, performed in Edmonton, won the Clifford E. Lee National Playwriting Award and the Alberta Cultural Playwriting Award (1982).

His numerous acting credits also include starring roles in the television movies “Murder Most Likely”, “Getting Married in Buffalo Jump,” and “Buried on Sunday” and the miniseries “Prairie

Giant: The Tommy Douglas Story” and “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea,” Armistead Maupin’s “Tales of the City,” and “Chasing Rainbows.” Gross also performed in the feature films Barney’s Version, Wilby Wonderful, Aspen Extreme, Cold Comfort, Paint Cans, Whale Music and Married To It.

On stage, Gross performed the title role in the Stratford Festival’s 2000 production of Hamlet to record-setting audiences. He received a 1985 Dora Award nomination for his performance as Romeo in Romeo and Juliet and a Dora Award for Best Performance for his role in the critically acclaimed North American premiere of Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Toward the Somme (1988) which played at Toronto’s CanStage. In the Fall of 2011 he appeared in Noel Coward’s Private Lives opposite Kim Cattrall (Sex and the City) on Broadway and at the Royal Alex in Toronto and in 2012 he starred in John Guare’s Are You There, McPhee? at the McCarter Theatre at Princeton.

Gross has received the Governor General’s Performing Arts Award and the Pierre Burton Award. He was recently appointed to the Order of Canada and also received the Earle Grey Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award, from the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.

Allan Hawco (“Travis Davidson”)

Allan Hawco is a Newfoundland born actor and a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal. Most recognized from his lead role as ‘Jake Doyle’ on the CBC hit TV series, “Republic of Doyle”, Allan also served as the Co-Creator, Showrunner, Executive Producer, and Head Writer for the Gemini-nominated series.

Prior to “Republic of Doyle”, Allan starred in some of the most acclaimed television productions in Canada including “ZOS: Zone of Separation” (The Movie Network, 2008), political thrillers “H2O” (CBC, 2004) and “Trojan Horse” (CBC, 2007), as well as the World War II drama Above & Beyond (CBC, 2006).

Beyond television, Allan has maintained his roots in the theatre as the co-founder of Toronto-based theatre company, “The Company Theatre”, where he garnered rave reviews as the star in its inaugural production of Tom Murphy’s Whistle in the Dark as well as critical acclaim for both his roles in Festen and Belleville.

Allan’s feature film credits include a starring role in “Love & Savagery” (2009), directed by John Smith, and supporting lead in Sir Richard Attenborough’s “Closing the Ring” (2007) with Christopher Plummer and Shirley MacLaine.

Allan’s major accolades include such awards as the Gascon Thomas Award from the National Theatre School, an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Canadian Television Hall of Fame, a Gemini Nomination for Best Actor in a Dramatic Series (“Republic of Doyle”), and an ACTRA Nomination for Best Male Actor (“Love & Savagery”).

He stars opposite Cuba Gooding Jr. in the CBC miniseries, THE BOOK OF NEGROES.

Christine Horne (“Jennifer Bowman”)

Born in Aurora, Ontario, Christine graduated from York University with a BFA in Acting. Soon after graduating, Christine was cast in the Lead role of “Hagar” in “The Stone Angel”, a feature film directed by Kari Skogland. Co-starring with Ellen Burstyn, Christine was brilliant as Hagar from age 16 to 35. An official selection at TIFF, the film received critical acclaim and Christine was recognized as one of Canada’s most talented young performers.

Recent film and television credits include leading roles in “The Untitled Work of Paul Shepard” (Feature Film), “Remedy” (Global), “Lost Girl” (Showcase), “Rookie Blue” (ABC) “Flashpoint” (CTV), “Republic of Doyle” (CBC), “HMS” (WB Network) and “Befriend and Betray” (Global).

Christine was featured in “The Captive”, directed by Atom Egoyan and starring Ryan Reynolds. The Captive was an official selection at Cannes (2014).

The ACTRA Awards are coming up in February 2015. Christine has been nominated, for “Beat Actress” for her work in “Entangled”, a short film which was a selection at TIFF 2014.

In addition to her career as a brilliant film actor, Christine has taken Toronto theatre audiences by storm. In Spring of 2014, Christine starred opposite Allan Hawco in “Belleville”(CanStage). She just completed a sold-out run of “The Seagull” for Crow’s Theatre and CanStage. Other credits include “Farther West” (Soulpepper) and “Andromache” (Necessary Angel). Christine won The Dora Award for Best Actress for “The Turn of the Screw” in June, 2010 and was nominated for previous Dora Awards for “Andromache” and “Miss Julie: Sheh’mah”.

Clark Johnson (“General Rilmen”)

Clark Johnson is an accomplished actor and director whose work includes a wide range of both comedy and drama. On television he has played such notable characters as Senator Robert Bettencourt on the Amazon series ALPHA HOUSE, Gus Haynes the edgy news editor on THE WIRE for HBO, and detective Meldrick Lewis on NBC’s long-running series HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET. For his performances in the films NURSE.FIGHTER.BOY and RUDE, Clark received two Genie Award nominations.

Clark’s recent credits as a filmmaker include S.W.A.T. starring Samuel L. Jackson and Colin Farrell and THE SENTINEL starring Michael Douglas and Kiefer Sutherland. His most notable work as a television director, which is extensive, includes HOMELAND, LAW & ORDER, THE WALKING DEAD, and THE SHIELD. He received an Emmy nomination for directing the pilot episode of the latter. Clark will next serve as director and Executive Producer of the upcoming Showtime series CHIRAQ.

Niamatullah Arghandabi (“The Ghost”)

Niamatullah (Niamat) Arghandabi is an Afghan born actor, entrepreneur and politician. Hyena Road is his feature film debut. He has had parts in Afghan and Japanese productions and was featured in the BBC documentary Niamat’s Story.

He was raised in the Arghandab district in Kandahar, Afghanistan where his father was a Military doctor. When he finished his schooling Niamat had a choice to make, either he had to fulfill compulsory service under the Afghan-Soviet regime or he could join the Mujahidin. At the age of 15 he decided he was going to join the Mujahidin. This is where he met the real life Ghost who was his Commander in the fight against the Soviets.

After the Soviets left Afghanistan Niamat, was recruited by Save the Children to assist them in their post-war reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. Niamat then went on to work with UNHCR as a security advisor and interpreter in Taliban held Kandahar. During this period the United Nations were supporting the Rabanni rebels in their fight against the Taliban. When a UN supply air craft working for the UN was forced to land in Taliban held territory, Niamat was sent along with the Russian Ambassador to help secure safe passage for the air crew. He was able to secure their safe passage but the Taliban insisted that Niamat plant explosives in the Russians luggage before they left. When he refused he knew his time in Afghanistan was over. The UN arranged for him to immigrate to the UK.

Niamat returned to Afghanistan in 2002 when the Taliban government fell to the coalition forces. He knew he had to do something to help his country recover from decades of warfare. He decided the best way was to so was giving Afghan youth opportunities other than fighting for the Taliban. He started a local not for profit called the National Islamic Society for Afghan Youth. In 1996 he approached then Sergeant Ted Howard and proposed a way for the Canadian Forces to help him support the youth by finding them employment opportunities in Kandahar. The program was a resounding success. Ted and Niamat have been good friends ever since.

In 2012 Niamat decided to formally devote himself to improving the political stability of his homeland. In 2014 he ran alongside Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in the Afghan elections. He currently splits his time between Kabul where he works as the Chief Communication Officer for Prime Minister Abdullah and London where he runs a real estate company.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Paul Gross (Writer/Director/Producer)

Paul Gross is one of Canada's most popular actors, internationally known for his role as Constable Benton Fraser on the multi award-winning drama series *Due South*. He was honoured with two Gemini Awards for Best Actor, and one Gemini Award for his writing on the series, which he also executive produced during the final season.

Gross received two Gemini Awards, for best performance by an actor in a continuing leading dramatic role, for his portrayal of Geoffrey Tenant in the critically acclaimed series "Slings & Arrows". He was also awarded the Golden Nymph for Best Actor in a miniseries for "H2O" at the Monte Carlo International Television Festival in June 2005.

In 2000, Gross co-wrote, directed and starred in the feature film *Men with Brooms*, which was the highest-grossing English-language Canadian film of the previous 20 years. He also starred in, co-wrote and produced the miniseries *H2O* which aired on CBC in October 2004 as well as the sequel miniseries *The Trojan Horse*.

Gross released his feature film *Passchendaele* in 2008, a movie based on the famous First World War battle heroically fought by 50,000 Canadians in the bloodied fields of Ypres, Belgium. Gross wrote and directed the screenplay and stars as Michael Dunne, a character based on his own Grandfather. In addition to opening the Toronto International Film Festival in 2008, *Passchendaele* was the highest grossing Canadian film of the year with the box office reaching over \$4.5 million, and recently won five Genie Awards, including Best Picture, and Best Actor nomination for Gross.

He starred in the ABC series *Eastwick* based on the movie *The Witches of Eastwick*, opposite Rebecca Romijn, Jamie Ray Newman and Lindsay Price and the movie *Gunless* and also Executive Produced the series *Cra\$h & Burn* and *The Yard*.

Gross earned a degree in drama at the University of Alberta, and went on to perform extensively in Canadian regional theatres in addition to forging a writing career. His first play, *The Deer and the Antelope Play*, performed in Edmonton, won the Clifford E. Lee National Playwriting Award and the Alberta Cultural Playwriting Award (1982).

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On stage, Gross performed the title role in the Stratford Festival's 2000 production of *Hamlet* to record-setting audiences. He received a 1985 Dora Award nomination for his performance as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* and a Dora Award for Best Performance for his role in the critically acclaimed North American premiere of *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Toward the*

Somme (1988) which played at Toronto's CanStage. In the Fall of 2011 he appeared in Noel Coward's Private Lives opposite Kim Cattrall (Sex and the City) on Broadway and at the Royal Alex in Toronto and in 2012 he starred in John Guare's Are You There, McPhee? at the McCarter Theatre at Princeton.

Gross has received the Governor General's Performing Arts Award and the Pierre Burton Award. He was recently appointed to the Order of Canada and also received the Earle Grey Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award, from the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.

Niv Fichman (Producer)

Niv Fichman is one of the founding partners of Rhombus Media in Toronto. The company's 30-year history has yielded a rich compilation of feature films, documentaries, performing art films and series television. Their dedication to excellence is reflected in the awards their projects have garnered: an Oscar, seven Emmys, numerous Genies, Geminis and Screen Awards, Golden Pragues as well as a Golden Rose of Montreux and a Prix Italia.

Niv's most recent projects include: ZOOM (2014), a multi-dimensional interface between a comic book artist, a novelist and a film director. This is the first feature film directed by Pedro Morelli and the second international co-production between Rhombus Media and Brazil's O2 Filmes. Patricia Rozema's INTO THE FOREST (2014), based on the acclaimed novel by Jean Hegland stars Ellen Page and Evan Rachael Wood. Denis Villeneuve's ENEMY (2013) starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Mélanie Laurent, Sarah Gadon and Isabella Rossellini, which had its world premiere at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival; OUR MAN IN TEHRAN (2013), a documentary exploring Canada's role during the 1979 hostage crisis in Iran; HOBOWITH A SHOTGUN (2011) starring Rutger Hauer, exploded onto the scene premiering in the Sundance Festival's midnight section; Fernando Meirelles' adaptation of Nobel Laureate Jose Saramago's BLINDNESS (2008), written by Don McKellar and starring Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Danny Glover, and Gael Garcia Bernal opened the 2008 Cannes Film Festival; Paul Gross' World War I romantic epic PASSCHENDAELE (2008) was the top grossing Canadian film of 2008 and received the Best Picture Genie. Niv is currently completing postproduction on SENSITIVE SKIN (2014), a new TV series by Don McKellar starring Kim Cattrall, as well as McKellar himself.

Fichman has previously produced renowned directors such as François Girard, Olivier Assayas, Guy Maddin, Don McKellar, Peter Mettler, Peter Wellington, Kevin McMahon, Marc Evans, as well as Paul Gross. Other selected feature films include THE RED VIOLIN, THIRTY TWO SHORT FILMS ABOUT GLENN GOULD, LAST NIGHT, THE SADDEST MUSIC IN THE WORLD, SNOWCAKE and SILK. Selected television projects include SLINGS & ARROWS, YO-YO MA: INSPIRED BY BACH and SEPTEMBER SONGS.

In June 2007, Niv Fichman was named the Canadian Producer of the Year by the CFTPA and was honoured by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in 2011.

Karim Hussain, C.S.C. (Director of Photography)

A cinematographer who specializes in art-house and genre cinema, he has photographed features such as Deepa Mehta's BEEBA BOYS (2015), Brandon Cronenberg's ANTIVIRAL (Cannes Film

Festival 2012, Best First Feature TIFF), Jason Eisener's HOBOWITH A SHOTGUN (Sundance Film Festival 2011), Olivier Abbou's TERRITORIES (Best Thriller, Brussels Fantasy Film Festival 2011), Jason Eisener's segment of THE ABC'S OF DEATH (TIFF 2012), Ted Geoghegan's WE ARE STILL HERE (SXSW 2015), Richard Stanley's THE OTHERWORLD (Fantasia 2013), Gilles Paquet-Brenner's WALLED IN (Fantasporto 2008) 3 episodes of the anthology THE THEATRE BIZARRE (Sitges 2011) and episodes of HANNIBAL for directors James Foley and Peter Medak. In the realm of short movies, he has photographed the short 501 for Paul Gross, METHOD for Greg Smith (TIFF 2013) and THE BROKEN HEARTED (TIFF 2003).

He has also Directed and Photographed the features SUBCONSCIOUS CRUELTY (Sitges 2000), ASCENSION (New Visions Award SITGES 2003), LA BELLE BETE (Mar Del Plata 2007, Director's Award BUFF 2007), as well as the short CITY WITHOUT WINDOWS (TIFF 2002, ROTTERDAM, JUTRA NOMINATION BEST SHORT). He also co-wrote Nacho Cerda's THE ABANDONED (TIFF 2006).

With Paul Gross' HYENA ROAD (2015), Karim Hussain CSC pushes digital technology to its limits, primarily using Arri's new documentary-style camera the Amira handheld, working with multiple cameras and units to provide the immediate, reality-inspired sensation that plunges the audience deep into the same chaotic situations as the characters.

Arv Greywal (Production Designer)

Beautiful and disturbing environments designed by Arv Greywal include his version of Manhattan in David Cronenberg's Cosmopolis. For Paul W.S. Anderson's 3D feature Resident Evil: After Life, Greywal turned Los Angeles into a nasty trap for actress Milla Jovovich's character Alice. He provided a demon-possessed cheerleader with a killer smile her happy hunting ground in Karyn Kusama's Jennifer's Body, and created a haven for a delusional young man (Ryan Gosling) and his kind of doll in Lars and The Real Girl. An aging cop (Bruce Willis) and his charge (Mos Def) took an eerie walk down his very mean streets in Richard Donner's 16 Blocks, and as the living dead took over the world, Greywal created a safe haven for the last humans in George A. Romero's Land of the Living Dead.

Greywal served as art director on The Pacifier, Dawn of the Dead, Godsend, Bulletproof Monk, David Cronenberg's Spider (Director's Guild of Canada Team Award, Genie nomination Best Art Direction (2003), Kathryn Bigelow's K-19: The Widowmaker, Exit Wounds, Finding Forrester and Showtime's "A Slight Case of Murder". Most recently Greywal has designed for Deepa Mehta's upcoming feature film about a Sikh Gangster, Beeba Boys, Brandon Cronenberg's first feature, Antiviral, Heaven is for Real, Directed by Randall Wallace, and John Eric Dowdle's No Escape.

Born in Bombay, India, Greywal immigrated to Canada with his family when he was 13 years old. After graduating from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies and a Bachelor of Architecture, he spent a period running his own architecture firm before entering the film industry on Lulu as an art apprentice. He moved rapidly through the ranks, working as the art director on Bruce McCulloch's Dog Park and Frank Pierson's Dirty Pictures (Golden Globe - Best Motion Picture made for TV (2000) after honing his craft as first assistant art director on such features as American Psycho, eXistenZ, Dirty Work and Mimic.

He spent 2007 creating six blocks of New York City as a permanent set for the Nu Image studios in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Katelynd Johnson (Costume Designer)

Born into a filmmaking family, Katelynd Johnston has had a love for fashion and film since childhood. Upon graduating with an honours degree in Fine Arts, she has worked as a costume designer on feature films and television productions for the past 9 years, while maintaining a strong connection to the visual arts community where she has received arts grants in support of her work and assisted on major gallery and public art production and installations. Kate also works as a stylist and independent designer creating unique and innovative contemporary fashion. Katelynd has served as Costume Designer on many television and film projects, including the series *Cashing In*, the feature film *Foodland*, and TV Movies *Verdict*, *We Were Children* and *Hunting Season*. She was Assistant Costume Designer on *Heaven is for Real* and *Mr. Hockey: The Gordie Howe Story*.

Asher Lenz and Stephen Skratt (Composers)

Asher Lenz and Stephen Skratt are among the busiest film and TV composers working in Canada today. With almost 15 years of experience writing music as a team, they have scored feature films—including *Men With Brooms*, *Cottage Country* and *Our Man in Tehran*, which played at TIFF—as well as dramatic TV and comedy, and internationally successful animated series. Their score for the adaptation of *Sunshine Sketches of A Little Town* was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award. Their clients have included Rhombus, HBO, eOne, MTV, Disney, Mattel, and many others.

As a songwriter, Asher has achieved multi-platinum success. He co-wrote "So She Dances," performed by Josh Groban and featured on *The Simpsons*. He also wrote "Go Where Love Goes," performed by Andrea Bocelli, and co-writes with the Canadian Tenors, among others.

Production Companies:

Rhombus Media

Rhombus Media is an internationally renowned producer of theatrical feature films, TV drama, documentaries and performing arts programmes. Since its inception in 1979, the company has released over 200 productions and has received literally hundreds of awards, including numerous Genies, Geminis, Canadian Screen Awards, Emmys, Golden Pragues and an Oscar. Some of the company's more notable theatrical projects include *The Red Violin* (Academy Award winner for Best Original score), *Last Night*, *The Saddest Music in the World*, *Clean*, *Snowcake*, *Silk*, *Blindness*, *Passchendaele*, *Hobo With A Shotgun*, and *Antiviral*. Rhombus' more recent projects include *Zoom* (2014), a multi-dimensional interface between a comic book artist, a novelist and a film director. This is the first feature film directed by Pedro Morelli and the second international co-production between Rhombus Media and Brazil's O2 Filmes. Patricia Rozema's *Into The Forest* (2014) based on the acclaimed novel by Jean Hegland, which stars Ellen Page and Evan Rachael Wood. *Enemy*, a film by Academy Award nominated Denis Villeneuve adapted from Nobel Laureate José Saramago's *The Double* and starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Mélanie Laurent, Sarah Gadon and Isabella Rossellini, as well as Larry Weinstein and Drew Taylor's documentary *Our Man In Tehran*, exploring the 1979 hostage crisis in Iran. Both films had their world

premiere at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival, each receiving high praise from critics and audiences alike.

For television, Rhombus is currently in pre-production on a new season of Sensitive Skin, starring Kim Cattrall and Don McKellar, which will air on HBO Canada. The company also produced the critically acclaimed series Michael: Tuesdays & Thursdays for CBC, as well as internationally celebrated Slings & Arrows, an 18-part multi-award winning series broadcast on TMN and Movie Central in Canada, the Sundance Channel in the US and a number of other networks around the world. Also well known for a rich variety of performing arts programmes, the company produced several International Emmy winners including Le Dortoir and Pictures on the Edge. Yo-Yo Ma: Inspired By Bach, a six part multi disciplinary series aired on BBC, PBS, ZDF, NHK, CBC and numerous other networks around the world, was a notable international success, receiving countless awards including the Prime Time Emmy and the Golden Rose of Montreux.

Triple 7 Films

Established in 2013 to produce Paul Gross's screenplays and other specialty productions, Triple 7 Films is named after the 777 Howitzer, a very big gun. Hyena Road is Triple 7's first feature Film.

Elevation Pictures

Founded in 2013, with finance partner Teddy Schwarzman of Black Bear Pictures, Elevation Pictures has already established itself as one of Canada's leading film and television distribution companies. Elevation's team of seasoned production and distribution executives, including co-presidents Laurie May and Noah Segal, are committed to bringing a robust film and television slate to audiences with both commercial and critical appeal. For more information, visit elevationpictures.com