



FUGITIVE PIECES

**Written and Directed by
Jeremy Podeswa**

Produced by Robert Lantos

**Based upon the novel by
Anne Michaels**

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Runtime: 105 minutes

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FUGITIVE PIECES

THE CAST

Jakob	Stephen Dillane
Athos	Rade Sherbedgia
Alex	Rosamund Pike
Michaela	Ayelet Zurer
Jakob (young)	Robbie Kay
Ben	Ed Stoppard
Naomi	Rachelle Lefevre
Bella	Nina Dobrev
Mrs. Serenou	Themis Bazaka
Jozef	Diego Matamoros
Sara	Sarah Orenstein
Irena	Larissa Laskin
Maurice	Daniel Kash
Ioannis	Yorgos Karamichos
Allegra	Danae Skiadi

FUGITIVE PIECES ABOUT THE STORY

A powerful and unforgettably lyrical film about love, loss and redemption, **FUGITIVE PIECES** tells the story of Jakob Beer, a man whose life is transformed by his childhood experiences during WWII. The film is based on the beloved and best-selling novel by Canadian poet Anne Michaels.

Jakob's story (Robbie Kay) begins in Poland in 1942, when he is nine years old. Nazi soldiers have murdered his parents and abducted his teenage sister, Bella. Traumatized by this horrific event, Jakob sneaks out of his hiding place and struggles to survive. He is found by Athos Roussos (Rade Sherbedgia), a Greek archaeologist working at a Polish dig site in Biskupin. Moved by the child's plight, Athos boldly smuggles Jakob out of Poland and hides him in his home on the island of Zakynthos in Greece, also occupied by the Germans. Jakob spends the last years of the Occupation in Athos' tender care.

After the war, Athos and Jakob immigrate to Canada, where Athos has accepted a teaching position with a University. As he matures, Jakob (now played by Stephen Dillane) begins a new life, studying, writing, and eventually falling in love with Alex (Rosamund Pike), a beautiful young woman. Yet he remains haunted by his parents' death and the question of his sister's fate. This terrible burden makes it impossible for him to live in the moment or to accept love when it is offered to him. Writing offers some relief, but it is not until he meets Michaela (Ayelet Zurer), a gentle soul who truly understands -- and accepts -- his pain, that Jakob allows himself to join the living. The lessons he learns become a legacy to Ben (Ed Stoppard), a child of survivors whose life intersects with Jakob's in meaningful ways.

Written and directed by Jeremy Podeswa and produced by Robert Lantos, **FUGITIVE PIECES** is a Canada/Greece co-production between Canada's Serendipity Point Films, Athens-based Cinegram S.A. and Strada Productions. The film is co-produced by Sandra Cunningham, Dionyssi Samiotis and Takis Veremis. The film is financed by Serendipity Point Films, Telefilm Canada, Astral Media, Corus Entertainment, The Harold Greenberg Fund and the Ontario Media Development Corporation.

FUGITIVE PIECES SHORT SYNOPSIS

FUGITIVE PIECES is a powerful, poetic, and emotionally-charged drama about love, loss and redemption. The film tells the story of Jakob Beer, a man whose life is haunted by his childhood experiences during WWII. As a child in Poland he is orphaned during wartime then saved by a compassionate Greek archeologist. Over the course of his life, he attempts to deal with the losses he has endured. Through his writing, and then through the discovery of true love, Jakob is ultimately freed from the legacy of his past. **FUGITIVE PIECES** is based on the beloved best-selling novel by award-winning writer Anne Michaels.

Written and directed by Jeremy Podeswa and produced by Robert Lantos, **FUGITIVE PIECES** is a Canada/Greece co-production between Canada's Serendipity Point Films, Athens-based Cinegram S.A. and Strada Productions. The film is co-produced by Sandra Cunningham, Dionyssi Samiotis and Takis Veremis. The film is financed by Serendipity Point Films, Telefilm Canada, Astral Media, Corus Entertainment, The Harold Greenberg Fund and the Ontario Media Development Corporation.

FUGITIVE PIECES ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

"I did not witness the most important events of my life," writes Jakob Beer, the writer and WWII survivor who is the central character in Canadian poet Anne Michaels' critically acclaimed and internationally best-selling novel, Fugitive Pieces. Orphaned during WWII and propelled to an unforeseen destiny, Beer struggles mightily with the memory of his family's death, simultaneously tormented and transformed by haunting recollections of his family killed during the war. His story, a powerful personal history and a poetic tale of love, loss, and redemption, is beautifully brought to life in **FUGITIVE PIECES**, a film based on Michaels' contemporary classic. Adapted for the screen and directed by Jeremy Podeswa, who was lauded for his previous films *THE FIVE SENSES* and *ECLIPSE*, **FUGITIVE PIECES** is an eloquent and provocative drama that reaffirms the importance of compassion in an often inhumane world. The film's talented ensemble cast includes Stephen Dillane (*THE HOURS*, *WELCOME TO SARAJEVO*), Rade Sherbedgia (*BEFORE THE RAIN*, *EYES WIDE SHUT*), Rosamund Pike (*PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*) and Ayelet Zurer (*MUNICH*). **FUGITIVE PIECES** was produced by Robert Lantos, who recently enjoyed great critical and commercial success with his award-winning production, *BEING JULIA*.

The novel Fugitive Pieces was published in 1996. Universally acclaimed, it won England's prestigious Orange Prize, Ontario's Trillium Award, the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award and the Giuseppe Acerbi Literary Award, among others. It was also short-listed for Canada's Giller Prize. In Canada, Fugitive Pieces was on the national bestsellers' list for more than two years and the novel has been published in thirty countries. Although many producers approached author Anne Michaels about dramatizing her novel, she was reluctant to give her approval. "I waited a long time before handing it over to anyone to do as a film because I believed that whoever represented this on screen would have to have a deep understanding of the sanctity of it," she explains. Michaels' story is complex, poetic, and metaphoric, challenging qualities to preserve in a screen adaptation.

Jeremy Podeswa read the novel when it was first published and was deeply affected by it. "I was incredibly moved by the character's story, the tragedy in his childhood that haunts him and the woman who transforms his life in adulthood. **FUGITIVE PIECES** has profound things to say about trauma, memory and the redemptive power of love. I thought it would make an incredible movie," he recalls. The story stayed with him and after a few years and several directing projects, including *THE FIVE SENSES*, Podeswa decided to pursue the project. "A Canadian company had the rights to the novel, and I approached them about writing and directing it. They saw *THE FIVE SENSES*, which had just premiered at Cannes, and liked it, as did the author Anne Michaels, and we decided to go ahead with the film adaptation."

Michaels was impressed by the fact that Podeswa, whose father is a Holocaust survivor, felt a strong connection to the material. "I knew that Jeremy had a personal stake in the telling of the story and that, in the end, is

what moved me," says Michaels. "He understood that the book was not only about the relationship between memory and history and the relationship between men and women, but the relationship between men and men," she adds.

Podeswa wanted to capture the essence of the novel as well as its poetry. "It wasn't about being extremely literal or having everything that was in the book in the movie. But from the beginning, I knew we had to use the specific language of the book, its most distinctive quality. Narration was, in my opinion, essential. Finding an interesting and unexpected way to use the narration became the challenge," Podeswa explains. "The book deals with narrative in a very complex way and I felt the movie needed to mirror that," he adds. "The most interesting way to tell the story would be to reflect these "fugitive pieces" by weaving in and out of different periods."

Both the novel and movie are largely about memory, history and perception. For Podeswa, it was important that the past and the present be represented on equal terms, which meant that Jakob should live equally in the past and in the present. "The young Jakob and the adult Jakob coexist at the same time, so we see him as a boy and we see him as an adult, living in two time periods simultaneously," Podeswa explains. "As pure structural form, it really reflects a large part of the theme of the story—that history is in us. Everything that came before us is part of who we are. We are the repository of our family's histories, of our culture's history, and our country's history. We embody that. The past and the present live within us."

Like Podeswa, producer Robert Lantos was captivated by the novel when he experienced it for the first time. Having produced *SUNSHINE*, another epic story about the perseverance of the human spirit in the face of unimaginable adversity, Lantos was not daunted by the challenge of dramatizing Michaels' intricate and emotionally-charged material. When he discovered the rights had already been optioned, he approached the producer and made a deal. "Jeremy Podeswa was already attached to the film," recalls Lantos. "I was very impressed with everything he had done. He managed to write a powerful screenplay based on a book that seemed to defy adaptation."

Podeswa approached the project knowing that casting would be a critical part of the job. He wanted actors who would be credible, but also thoughtful and connected to the material. "In a way, you're casting a person whom you want to embody the values of your story," Podeswa explains. "I set out to cast actors who understood what the script was trying to say and who had an emotional connection with their characters."

The pivotal role in **FUGITIVE PIECES** is that of the adult Jakob, a character who is simultaneously burdened and empowered by his past. "This is the story of a man whose entire life is haunted by the events he witnessed as a child, and his guilt for having survived when his parents and sister did not. It's the story of a man imprisoned by his memory, who in middle age, through the love of a woman, is transformed," says producer Robert Lantos. "We needed an exceptional actor to pull off a role that is so deeply internal. Jeremy and I thought Stephen Dillane could more than meet the challenge."

Podeswa knew Dillane to be an actor with a strong emotional center. "He can do very little and speak volumes. And that is very important with this character. I had seen many of his films, but I had also seen his stage work—most recently his one-man *MACBETH* in Los Angeles, in which he showed an incredible range. Dillane is a serious actor with all the qualities of a leading man. A perfect Jakob," says Podeswa.

FUGITIVE PIECES also portrays Jakob as a child, and casting this role was very difficult because Podeswa wanted a young actor who was fresh, original and free of mannerisms. He mounted an international search, working with casting directors in London, Prague and Budapest. They auditioned over a hundred and fifty boys before finding 10 year old Robbie Kay. Ironically, although his audition tape came from Prague, Kay was a British expatriate who had been living with his family in Prague for two years. Podeswa was struck by Kay's intuitive acting talent and his ability to look incredibly fragile. When he immersed himself in his role, Kay became Jakob. His transformation was so complete that Podeswa says it was impossible to find traces of the real Kay in his character.

Rade Sherbedgia was selected as Athos, the Greek archaeologist who rescues young Jakob from certain death in Poland. "Rade, with his amazing presence, life experience, and joie de vivre - all of which he brings to the role - amazingly embodied the combination of depth and life force possessed by Athos," said Podeswa. Sherbedgia bonded easily with Robbie Kay.

In casting Jakob's two love interests, Alex and Michaela, Podeswa and Lantos selected two highly accomplished actresses. British actress Rosamund Pike plays Alex, the young, vibrant and modern woman who is attracted to Jakob and mistakenly believes that she can help him escape his own torment. Israeli actress Ayelet Zurer plays Michaela, the gentle intellectual who accepts Jakob as he is, with all his complexities and contradictions. Nina Dobrev was cast as Jakob's sister Bella, with Ed Stoppard (*THE PIANIST*) and Rachelle Lefevre rounding out the principal cast as Jakob's "second family", Ben and Naomi.

Podeswa encouraged his actors to read the novel, though many were already familiar with it. "The script is quite prismatic and, by design, very selective in what it incorporates from the book. But the book is very helpful in fleshing things out for the actors -- it is a guide for what they're meant to experience," says Podeswa. The cast also met author Anne Michaels, who occasionally visited the set. "The conversations I've had with the actors have been extremely moving because they really are embodying the book to an incredible degree," praises Michaels. "The physical likeness to what was in my mind is so potent. I think the film has an extraordinary cast."

The project was challenging on many levels—writing, producing, acting (many of the cast members had to learn Yiddish and Greek), as well as directing. "It's such an atypical film from the beginning—a rich poetic movie told in a semi-abstract way with a very intricate narrative. The story weaves in and out of different time periods and countries and there are many characters who float in and out, as well," Podeswa observes. "On a logistical level, **FUGITIVE PIECES** was very challenging to direct because we had thirty-eight days to tell a very complex story in a beautiful and

unconventional way. But the possibility of making something fresh, new and vital was always there."

Principal photography began on April 24, 2006. "This was a demanding shoot," notes Lantos. "We had to film three time periods in two countries -- in Toronto and Hamilton in Canada, and in Athens and on the islands of Hydra and Lesbos in Greece. I had seen Jeremy's other work and I felt confident he was up to this great challenge."

Podeswa discovered that shooting on the island of Hydra was more than just "challenging" -- it was almost impossible. He was drawn to Hydra because of the island's unusual beauty and long-standing bohemian culture. It was a perfect place for a writer such as Jakob to find peace and inspiration, but Hydra was not an ideal place for a film crew. There are no roads on the island, only passageways and endless flights of stairs. Equipment -- cameras, lights, and all their accoutrements -- had to be carried by donkey.

FUGITIVE PIECES takes place during the 1940s, the 1960s, and the 1970s in Poland, Greece and Canada. To capture these disparate times and locations in a creative and visually exciting way, Jeremy Podeswa turned to cinematographer Gregory Middleton, with whom he had worked on *THE FIVE SENSES*, production designer Matthew Davies (*SAINT RALPH, THE SADDEST MUSIC IN THE WORLD*), and costume designer Anne Dixon. They decided that each of the time periods in the story would have a different look and a subtly different color palette. For the 1940s in Poland and Toronto, moodier and more sober tones were used. But as the story progresses and Jakob moves toward illumination and understanding, the lighting in the film changes. The dark shadows in Poland become softer as Jakob meets Alex, and eventually finds true love with Michaela. Greece, a place of serenity and fulfillment, is always awash with color and light.

The production extensively researched the archaeological site of Biskupin, Poland, the shtetl interiors in the 1940s; Toronto interiors and exteriors in the 1940s, 1960s and 1970s; and Greek island details in the 1940s and 1970s to create an accurate portrait of settings during those periods. Furthermore painstaking detail went into creating the personal spaces for the individual characters. "I hope we were successful in conveying the fundamentals, but also in creating a sense of the very layered, very textured personalities of the individuals," says production designer Davies.

Wardrobe remained true to the periods with costume designer Anne Dixon choosing subtle colors for the 1940s, but somewhat brighter colors and bolder patterns for the 1960s and 1970s. "One of our biggest challenges was to turn each scene into a tableau and because the script intertwines periods, we made sure the color palette was very subtle so the change would not be visually jarring," Dixon explains.

First and foremost, Podeswa set out to bring an emotionally engaging story to the screen. **FUGITIVE PIECES** is a deeply felt drama that is at once personal and universal. "This story cuts through cultural divides," says producer Robert Lantos. "It's a story in which the most noble of human instincts overcomes all the horrors around it."

FUGITIVE PIECES ABOUT THE CAST

STEPHEN DILLANE

'Jakob'

Stephen Dillane trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. His early theatre work included repertory seasons at Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Contact Theatre, Manchester and Chester Gateway Theatre. Leading roles at the National Theatre followed in productions of *THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM*, *DANCING AT LUGHNASA*, *LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT*, and *ANGELS IN AMERICA*, followed by *HUSH* written by April D'Angelis at the Royal Court. He won the Richard Burton Shakespeare Globe Award in 1995 for the title role in *HAMLET* at the Gielgud Theatre directed by Sir Peter Hall. He played Clov in *ENDGAME* at the Donmar Warehouse, Artie in *HURLYBURLY* at the Old Vic, and the title role of *UNCLE VANYA* for the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Young Vic. He returned to the Donmar Warehouse to play Henry in Tom Stoppard's *THE REAL THING*, for which he won Best Actor in the Evening Standard Theatre Awards 1999, and was nominated for Best Actor Olivier Award 2000. He then played Tony in *OUT LATE NIGHT* by Wallace Shawn at the Royal Court. He returned to *THE REAL THING* for a limited run in the West End of London prior to Broadway where it played at the Barrymore Theater. On Broadway he won the Best Actor Tony Award 2000, Best Actor Drama Desk Award 1999/2000, and Theatre World Award 2000. He returned to the West End to play George in *LIFE AFTER GEORGE*. He returned to the National Theatre in 2002 to play Alexander Herzen in the Tom Stoppard Trilogy *COAST OF UTOPIA*. Recently he performed in a much-praised solo version of *MACBETH* directed by Travis Preston, playing to sell-out audiences in Los Angeles at The Redcat Theatre, The Almeida Theatre in London, and at the Sydney and Adelaide Festivals in Australia. His most recent theatre credit is Caryl Churchill's two-hander at The Royal Court *DRUNK ENOUGH TO SAY I LOVE YOU*.

Leading roles in films include Franco Zeffirelli's *HAMLET* opposite Mel Gibson, *FIRELIGHT*, directed by William Nicholson opposite Sophie Marceau, and *WELCOME TO SARAJEVO*, directed by Michael Winterbottom with Woody Harrelson and Marisa Tomei. Dillane filmed starring roles in four films in 2001, Charles Harker in *SPY GAME* directed by Tony Scott, Charlie in *THE TRUTH ABOUT CHARLIE* directed by Jonathan Demme, Simon in *THE GATHERING* directed by Brian Gilbert, and Leonard Woolf in *THE HOURS* directed by Stephen Daldry. *THE HOURS* received a SAG Award nomination in 2003 for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture. In 2003 he also starred as Merlin in *KING ARTHUR*, directed by Antoine Fuqua. Recent films include *HAVEN*, directed by Frank Flowers, *NINE LIVES*, directed by Rodrigo Garcia, the lead role of Harry Vardon in *THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED*, directed by Bill Paxton for Disney, *GOAL!* directed by Danny Cannon, *KLIMT* directed by Raul Ruiz, and which screened at The Berlin Film Festival in 2006, and *GOAL II!* directed by Jaume Collet-Serra. After filming

FUGITIVE PIECES, he starred as Brooks Baekeland with Julianne Moore in SAVAGE GRACE directed by Tom Kalin.

This past March, he commenced filming the seven part TV series JOHN ADAMS for HBO in which he played Thomas Jefferson. He is currently filming HURNDALL for Channel 4 TV and GOD ON TRIAL for BBC TV

RADE SHERBEDGIA

'Athos'

Rade Sherbedgia won the Best Actor/Marco Aurelio Award at the 2007 Rome International Film Festival for his role in Fugitive Pieces. His next films opening in early 2008 are Paramount Pictures' and Cruise/Wagner Productions' THE EYE and BATTLE IN SEATTLE directed by Stuart Townsend, for which he received an award at the Cancun International Film Festival. He also recently completed shooting LOVE LIFE, the directorial debut of well-known German actress Maria Schrader, DreamWorks Pictures' THE CODE directed by Mimi Leder and Screen Gems' upcoming QUARANTINED.

Sherbedgia has worked with many notable directors including Stanley Kubrick, Clint Eastwood, John Woo, Phillip Noyce and Guy Ritchie. Sherbedgia's credits include Kubrick's EYES WIDE SHUT, Eastwood's SPACE COWBOYS, Woo's MISSION IMPOSSIBLE II, Ritchie's SNATCH and Phillip Noyce's THE SAINT. He received the Angel Award for Best Actor at the 2007 Monaco International Film Festival for his role in SHORT ORDER directed by Anthony Byrne. The actor starred in many films in his home country of Yugoslavia, including Milcho Manchevski's Oscar nominated BEFORE THE RAIN, for which Sherbedgia won the Venice Film Festival Pasinetti Award.

Sherbedgia's list of high-profile television credits includes the musical SOUTH PACIFIC opposite Glenn Close and Harry Connick Jr., and a series-regular role on SURFACE for NBC.

A published poet and musician, Sherbedgia also has a strong theatre background and has performed in numerous stage productions in London, England. He also established a moving theatre company in London with Vanessa Redgrave. Sherbedgia runs the Ulysses Theatre Festival in Croatia with his wife every summer.

ROSAMUND PIKE

'Alex'

Rosamund Pike grew up in London, England, the daughter of professional opera singers. She began acting as a teenager with the National Youth Theatre. She studied English Literature at Oxford University, where she began acting professionally. Her first film role was in A RATHER ENGLISH

MARRIAGE starring Tom Courtenay and Albert Finney. Soon after she was cast as Lady Harriet in the BBC's television miniseries WIVES AND DAUGHTERS, and the following summer she filmed LOVE IN A COLD CLIMATE, an adaptation of the Nancy Mitford books.

Pike's breakout role was as MI6 agent Miranda Frost in the Bond film DIE ANOTHER DAY. In 2004, she was cast as a journalist who uncovers a human trafficking ring in the Gaza Strip in Amos Gitai's documentary-style thriller, PROMISED LAND. That same year she appeared as Samantha Grimm in the film adaptation of the computer game DOOM, directed by Andrzej Bartkowiak. Following that, Pike began work on Laurence Dunmore's THE LIBERTINE alongside Johnny Depp. She won the 2005 British Independent Film Award for Best Supporting Actor / Actress for her portrayal of Elizabeth Malet in that film.

Her recent role as Jane Bennett in Joe Wright's film of the classic Jane Austen novel PRIDE AND PREJUDICE garnered her nomination in the Best Supporting Actress category at the 2006 London Film Critics Circle Awards. Pike was last seen in FRACTURE, a legal thriller co-starring Anthony Hopkins and Ryan Gosling, directed by Gregory Hoblit.

Rosamund's most notable theatre work has included HITCHCOCK BLONDE written and directed by Terry Johnson, SUMMER AND SMOKE, and most recently, GASLIGHT at the Old Vic Theatre in London.

AYELET ZURER

'Michaela'

Ayelet Zurer is one of Israel's leading actresses, having won an Israeli Film Academy Award for her role in NINA'S TRAGEDIES and having received nominations for her roles in RUTENBERG, DREAM SQUARE, and DYBBUK FROM THE HOLY APPLE FIELD. Zurer's first English-language film was Steven Spielberg's Academy Award and Golden Globe nominated MUNICH in which she co-starred with Eric Bana and Geoffrey Rush. Last year, she won the Israeli Television Academy Award for IN TREATMENT, which HBO is currently remaking. Zurer recently filmed ADAM'S RESURRECTION, directed by Paul Schrader, starring opposite Jeff Goldblum and Willem Dafoe and prior to that completed the independent feature SNAPPERS opposite Dallas Roberts and Jeremy Renner. She will soon be seen in Pete Travis' VANTAGE POINT with Dennis Quaid and Matthew Fox for Sony's Columbia Pictures.

ROBBIE KAY

'Young Jakob'

British actor Robbie Kay is twelve years old and was born in Lymington, England. The young actor spent a year studying acting, singing and dancing at one of England's Stagecoach theatre schools. He was recently seen in HANNIBAL RISING, directed by Peter Webber and starring Gaspard Ulliel as Hannibal Lecter. He also plays the role of Arthur Relph in the television drama MY BOY JACK starring Daniel Radcliffe. Robbie has recently completed filming a new adaptation of PINOCCHIO where he plays the title role, opposite Bob Hoskins as Gepetto. Kay is currently living in Prague, Czech Republic.

ED STOPPARD

'Ben'

British actor Ed Stoppard recently appeared in the Reg Traviss dramatic feature JOY DIVISION. Additional film credits include ENZO FERRARI, EMBRASSEZ QUI VOUS VOUDREZ and THE LITTLE VAMPIRE. Stoppard also played Adrien Brody's quick-tempered younger brother Henryk in Roman Polanski's Oscar-winning film THE PIANIST. His latest project is as the eldest son of Michael Gambon and Emma Thompson in the film version of BRIDESHEAD REVISITED.

Stoppard has a strong theatre background, having recently performed in the West End opposite Jessica Lange in THE GLASS MENAGERIE, in the title role of the New Ambassador's production of Shakespeare's HAMLET, as Lorenzo in the Chichester Theatre production of MERCHANT OF VENICE, and as Konstantin in THE SEAGULL. His television credits include the title roles of TCHAIKOVSKY, JEWISH REVOLT and MURDER IN MIND, all for the BBC, as well as EMPIRE for ABC and RELIC HUNTER. Son of playwright Sir Tom Stoppard, Ed Stoppard lives in London with his wife and family.

RACHELLE LEFEVRE

'Naomi'

Rachelle Lefevre most recently recurred on ABC's WHAT ABOUT BRIAN, guest starred on The CW's VERONICA MARS, and CBS comedies THE CLASS and HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER. She will next star in David E. Kelley's dramatic series LIFE ON MARS. She is set to appear on the big screen, starring in the indie comedy PROM WARS and appearing in a cameo opposite Anne Heche in Alan Cummings' SUFFERING MAN'S CHARITY. Lefevre previously starred on the FOX sitcom LIFE ON A STICK, the FOX pilot POOL GUYS and guest starred opposite David Boreanaz on BONES.

Canadian-born Lefevre was first seen in the FOX Family Channel series BIG WOLF ON CAMPUS. Additional television credits include the ABC Family Channel movies UP AND DROPPING OFF with Scott Wolf and SEE JANE DATE.

She also landed the starring role of Etta Place in NBC's THE LEGEND OF BUTCH AND SUNDANCE.

On the big screen Lefevre starred opposite Ed Burns in THE RIVER KING, based on the book by Alice Hoffman. Lefevre also starred in the independent film HATLEY HIGH, which was honored with an award for Best Feature at the HBO Comedy Arts Festival. Other big screen credits include CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND, STARDOM, the Canadian indie PURE, and the short film THE BIG THING, which received awards at multiple film festivals. In 2005 she made her professional stage debut as Mary in the Off-Broadway favorite VANITIES.

Lefevre was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec but currently resides in Los Angeles, where she continues to pursue her film and television career.

FUGITIVE PIECES ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JEREMY PODESWA

Writer/Director

Jeremy Podeswa is the writer, director and co-producer of the critically acclaimed feature films *THE FIVE SENSES* (Fine Line Distribution) and *ECLIPSE* (Strand Releasing). He was cited by *Variety Magazine* in its survey of new international directors, "Tomorrow's Hot Exports".

THE FIVE SENSES was developed at the Sundance Screenwriters' Lab and premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in the prestigious Directors' Fortnight section. It was nominated for nine Canadian Genie Awards, winning for Best Director, was the recipient of the Best Canadian Film Award at the Toronto International Film Festival, and has been distributed in over 50 international territories.

A poignant and affecting film about the search for intimacy and meaning in life, *THE FIVE SENSES* stars Tony and Emmy Award winner Mary-Louise Parker, Molly Parker, Philippe Volter (*THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONIQUE*), Marco Leonardi (*LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE*), Gabrielle Rose, and Pascale Bussieres.

ECLIPSE, the story of ten characters looking for love in the ten-day period preceding a solar eclipse, was screened at the Sundance Film Festival, the Berlin International Film Festival, New Directors/New Films at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Toronto International Film Festival.

Podeswa also directed the television movie *AFTER THE HARVEST*, starring Sam Shepard, which was the winner of the Directors Guild of Canada Award for Best Direction and was nominated for nine Gemini Awards (Canada's equivalent of the Emmy Award), including Best Director.

He has also recently directed the final two-hour movie of the mini-series *INTO THE WEST*, set in the 1890s and Executive Produced by Steven Spielberg for Dreamworks and TNT.

In addition, Jeremy has directed numerous episodes of HBO's Emmy and Golden Globe winning series *SIX FEET UNDER*, as well as episodes of HBO's *JOHN FROM CINCINNATI*, *CARNIVALE* and *ROME*, which was shot at Cinecittà in Italy. Other TV directing credits include SHOWTIME's *THE TUDORS*, *DEXTER*, *THE L WORD*, *QUEER AS FOLK* and *THE CHRIS ISAAK SHOW*, FX Network's *THE RICHES*, and *NIP/TUCK*, ABC's *COMMANDER IN CHIEF*, NBC's *BOOK OF DANIEL*, and FOX's *WONDERFALLS*. He is currently directing the

epic HBO mini-series THE PACIFIC, shooting in Australia and Executive Produced by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks.

ROBERT LANTOS

Producer

Mr. Lantos founded and built Canada's leading film and television company, Alliance Communications Corporation, of which he was Chairman and CEO. In 1998 he sold his controlling interest in Alliance in order to focus on the creative process and now produces films through his production company, Serendipity Point Films.

His selected feature film producer and executive producer credits include EASTERN PROMISES, directed by David Cronenberg and starring Viggo Mortensen, Naomi Watts, Armin Mueller-Stahl, Vincent Cassel, (a Toronto International Film Festival Gala and Winner of the People's Choice Award, nominated for three Golden Globes including Best Picture, nominated for two BAFTA's including Best British Film); WHERE THE TRUTH LIES, directed by Atom Egoyan, starring Kevin Bacon, Colin Firth, Alison Lohman and Rachel Blanchard (Official Selection, Cannes Film Festival, a Toronto Film Festival Gala); BEING JULIA, directed by Istvan Szabo, starring Annette Bening and Jeremy Irons (Opening Night Gala, Toronto Film Festival, Academy Award Nominee, Golden Globe Winner and National Board of Review winner); THE STATEMENT, directed by Norman Jewison, and starring Michael Caine (National Board of Review winner); ARARAT, directed by Atom Egoyan, starring Marie-Josée Croze, Arsinée Khanjian, Charles Aznavour, Elias Koteas, David Alpay and Christopher Plummer (Official Selection, Cannes Film Festival and Opening Night Gala, Toronto Film Festival, winner of the Genie Award for Best Picture); MEN WITH BROOMS, directed by Paul Gross and starring Paul Gross and Molly Parker; STARDOM, directed by Denys Arcand, starring Jessica Paré and Dan Aykroyd (Official Selection, Cannes Film Festival and Opening Night Gala, Toronto Film Festival); SUNSHINE, directed by Istvan Szabo, starring Ralph Fiennes, Jennifer Ehle and Rachel Weisz (nominated for three Golden Globe Awards including Best Picture, winner of three European Film Awards, winner of the Genie Award for Best Picture); FELICIA'S JOURNEY, directed by Atom Egoyan, starring Bob Hoskins and Elaine Cassidy (Opening Night Gala Toronto Film Festival, Official Selection, Cannes Film Festival, and winner of four Genie Awards); EXISTENZ, directed by David Cronenberg, starring Jude Law, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Willem Dafoe (winner of a Silver Bear, Berlin Film Festival); THE SWEET HEREAFTER, directed by Atom Egoyan, starring Sir Ian Holm and Sarah Polley (nominated for two Academy Awards®, winner of the Grand Prix and the International Critics Award at the Cannes Film Festival, Opening Night Gala Toronto Film Festival, winner of the Genie Award for Best Picture). CRASH, directed by David Cronenberg, starring James Spader, Holly Hunter

and Deborah Kara Unger (winner of a Special Jury prize at the Cannes Film Festival, six Genie Awards and the Golden Reel Award); JOHNNY MNEMONIC, directed by Robert Longo, starring Keanu Reeves (winner of the Golden Reel Award); WHALE MUSIC, directed by Richard Lewis, starring Maury Chaykin and Cyndy Preston (Opening Night Gala Toronto Film Festival, winner of four Genie Awards); BLACK ROBE, directed by Bruce Beresford, starring Lothaire Bluteau and Sandrine Holt (Opening Night Gala Toronto Film Festival, winner of the Genie Award for Best Picture and the Golden Reel Award); JOSHUA THEN AND NOW, directed by Ted Kotcheff, starring James Woods and Alan Arkin (Official Selection, Cannes Film Festival, Opening Night Gala Toronto Film Festival, and winner of five Genie Awards); and IN PRAISE OF OLDER WOMEN, directed by George Kaczender, starring Tom Berenger and Karen Black (Opening Night Gala Toronto Film Festival, winner of four Genie Awards).

Mr. Lantos's extensive television credits include the movies SWORD OF GIDEON and SHOT THROUGH THE HEARTS (HBO) miniseries as THE HUNCHBACK (TNT), FAMILY OF STRANGERS (CBS), and WOMAN ON THE RUN (NBC). His numerous television series include DUE SOUTH (CBS) and ENG (CTV) and COUNTERSTRIKE (USA).

Mr. Lantos is a member of the Order of Canada and is a Director of Indigo Books & Music. He holds an honorary Doctor of Letters from McGill University.

ANNE MICHAELS

Author *FUGITIVE PIECES*

Anne Michaels' debut novel, Fugitive Pieces, is an international bestseller and has been published in 30 countries. The book has won many prestigious awards in Canada, Europe and the United States, including the Orange Prize for Fiction and the Guardian Prize Fiction Award in the U.K.; the Giuseppe Acerbi Prize in Italy; a Lannan Literary Award for Fiction in the US; and the Trillium Book Award and the Chapters/*Books in Canada* First Novel Award in Canada.

She is also the author of three poetry collections, The Weight of Oranges, Miner's Pond, and Skin Divers, which have won numerous prizes and have been published in the US, the UK, Germany, Holland and Spain. Anne Michaels lives in Toronto. Her latest novel The Winter Vault will be published next year.

SANDRA CUNNINGHAM

Co-Producer

Sandra Cunningham arrived in Toronto 15 years ago following stints in both Montreal and Rome, where her career began with a taste for independent film.

After five years in production working with directors Atom Egoyan, Patricia Rozema, Srinivas Krishna and Jeremy Podeswa, and two years programming with the Toronto International Film Festival, Sandra went on to produce the debut feature film CURTIS'S CHARM, written and directed by John L'Ecuyer, and based on an original story by Jim Carroll. The film premiered at the 1995 Toronto International Film Festival, garnering a jury citation. Cunningham went on to produce L'Ecuyer's follow-up feature film SAINT JUDE, and Robert Lepage's POSSIBLE WORLDS starring Tilda Swinton and Tom McCamus. POSSIBLE WORLDS had its world premiere at the Venice International Film Festival.

Over the past five years Cunningham has co-produced a series of high-profile international co-productions with Robert Lantos' Serendipity Point Films, including Atom Egoyan's ARARAT; Norman Jewison's THE STATEMENT, starring Michael Caine, Tilda Swinton and Jeremy Northam; Istvan Szabo's BEING JULIA, which garnered both a Golden Globe Award and an Academy Award nomination for its star Annette Bening; and WHERE THE TRUTH LIES, directed by Atom Egoyan and starring Kevin Bacon, Colin Firth and Alison Lohman, which had its world premiere in competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2005.

In addition to her collaboration with Serendipity Point Films, Sandra Cunningham has several feature film projects in development under her Strada Films banner, including the upcoming documentary 27, about the deaths of rock music legends Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Jim Morrison.

Cunningham is an active member of the advisory board for the Toronto International Film Festival Group's Roger's Industry Centre, is the co-chair of the Feature Film Committee of the Canadian Film and Television Production Association, and is a member of the DGC's advisory board for Montage Magazine.

TAKIS VEREMIS

Greek Co-Producer

Takis Veremis is the founder and director of StraDa Productions, an independent production and sales company of feature films, television fiction, documentaries and animation, which distributes programs in Greece, Cyprus and Turkey, and represents rights internationally. StraDa's co-production

credits include the feature films BON PLAN and PARANO, Eric Rohmer's TRIPLE AGENT, which was nominated for a Golden Berlin Bear in 2004, and the Berlin 2005 selection HOSTAGE, among others. The company has also been involved in documentaries including LE MYSTÈRE PAUL and VON KARAJAN, and the television projects TROIS JOURS POUR GAGNER and THE GIRL NEXT DOOR. Since 2000, Veremis has also been head of Acquisitions and Development with Audiovisual S.A. Veremis was also the founder and the director of Canal Plus' subsidiary Ellipse International, where he dealt extensively with the international distribution of programs as well as major international co-productions, including BABAR, TIN TIN, RUPPERT and RAY BRADBURY PRESENTS.

GREGORY MIDDLETON

Director of Photography

Director of Photography Greg Middleton previously collaborated with director Jeremy Podeswa on Podeswa's film THE FIVE SENSES, a Directors' Fortnight Selection at the 1999 Cannes International Film Festival. He also worked with Podeswa on three short films 24fps, TOUCH and THE SUSAN SMITH TAPES. Additional film credits include SLITHER, CAKE, GOING THE DISTANCE, FALLING ANGELS, BETWEEN STRANGERS, AFTER THE STORM, BETTER THAN CHOCOLATE and KISSED, for which he received the first of five Genie nominations for Achievement in Cinematography. Middleton received Leo Awards for Best Cinematography for the feature films SUSPICIOUS RIVER and RUPERT'S LAND and for the short film drama WHITE OUT.

WIEBKE VON CAROLSFELD

Editor

Wiebke von Carolsfeld was born, raised and educated in Germany. Since coming to Canada, she has worked as a picture editor with filmmakers, including Deepa Mehta on LET'S TALK ABOUT IT, Renny Bartlett on EISENSTEIN, for which she received a Genie nomination for Best Editing, and Gordon Pinsent on HEYDAY! Wiebke von Carolsfeld collaborated with Jeremy Podeswa on both his feature film THE FIVE SENSES and the television movie AFTER THE HARVEST.

Wiebke von Carolsfeld's first feature film as director was the award-winning film MARION BRIDGE, starring Molly Parker. The film won the City TV Award for Best Canadian First Feature Film at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2002. It had its International Premiere as part of the Tiger Competition in Rotterdam and continued to play at festivals around the world. Wiebke von

Carolsfeld was also nominated by the Director's Guild for Outstanding Achievement in Direction for the project. MARION BRIDGE opened to critical acclaim across Canada and the U.S. in April 2003. She also made two short films that screened internationally and served as Director Observer on Atom Egoyan's ARARAT.

Wiebke von Carolsfeld recently completed WALK WITH US, a one-hour documentary about Canadian artists Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller (Bravo/Sundance US). She has also written the original feature ADRIFT, as well as an adaptation of the novel Stay for the screen.

NIKOS KYPOURGOS

Composer

Born in Athens in 1952, Kypourgos pursued studies in music theory and contemporary music techniques under Yannis Papaloannou while simultaneously studying Law and Political Science at the University of Athens. He continued his studies at the Conservatoire in Paris on a scholarship granted by the Onassis Foundation, where he attended the classes of Max Deutsch, Iannis Xenakis and other renowned composers. His studies also included Ethnomusicology and Music Education.

Kypourgos has composed vocal music, orchestral music, chamber music, ballet music, musicals and songs. For the past fifteen years, he has been occupied with incidental music for the theatre, having composed music for many different theatrical genres, ranging from ancient Greek drama to contemporary theatre, as well as with music for films. He orchestrated a piece for the opening ceremonies at the 2004 Summer Olympics. In both fields, he has received numerous awards in Greece and abroad. He received his most recent award for Best Film Music at the 2006 Avignon Film Festival for Elizabeth Puccini's FOUR CORNERS OF SUBURBIA. Other awarded works include the films KILOMETRE ZERO and YOUR NAME IS JUSTINE.

MATTHEW DAVIES

Production Designer

Matthew Davies has worked as production designer or art director on numerous feature films and television productions. Trained at the National Film and Television School in the United Kingdom, Davies returned to Canada, his country of birth, just five years ago. In that brief period alone, he has already completed twelve projects, designing five features and two television series. Recent cinema credits include Guy Maddin's visually ambitious THE SADDEST MUSIC IN THE WORLD, which earned Davies the

2004 DGC Award for Outstanding Achievement in Production Design, as well as the critically acclaimed SAINT RALPH, directed by Michael McGowan, for which he received yet another DGC nomination in 2005. His work in television has been equally well-received with two 2004 Gemini nominations for the Rhombus Media/CBC special ELIZABETH REX, directed by Barbara Willis Sweete, and THE INCREDIBLE MRS. RITCHIE, directed by Paul Johansson. Other credits include the recently released BLAZE for Universal Pictures (Germany) and SNOW CAKE, starring Sigourney Weaver and Alan Rickman.

ANNE DIXON

Costume Designer

For over two decades, costume designer Anne Dixon's work has been seen on stage and on screen internationally, from dance and opera to feature films and television.

Dixon's broad range of work spans Robert Ludlum's covert world of the CIA in THE HADES FACTOR, directed by Mick Jackson, the visually stunning Indian romp BOLLYWOOD/HOLLYWOOD, the epic Boston marathon set in the 1950s in SAINT RALPH, Bob Gales' imaginary highway in INTERSTATE 60, Paul Mazursky's emotionally-charged road trip with Richard Dreyfuss and Judy Davis in COAST TO COAST, the intense urban tale of TREED MURRAY, and the deeply moving effects of illness with Donald Sutherland in AURORA BOREALIS.

Dixon is recognized in Great Women of the 21st Century and The Canadian Who's Who. She received a Genie Award nomination for Best Costume Designer for the feature film SAINT RALPH and is a recipient of the Tom Patterson Award.

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Serendipity Point Films

presents

In association with

StraDa Productions / Cinegram S.A.

In association with

Telefilm Canada

The Movie Network

Corus Entertainment

The Harold Greenberg Fund

FUGITIVE PIECES

Written and Directed by

Jeremy Podeswa

Produced by Robert Lantos

Based upon the novel by

Anne Michaels

Co-Producer

Sandra Cunningham

Stephen Dillane

Rade Sherbedgia

a Robert Lantos production

a Jeremy Podeswa film

Rosamund Pike

Ayelet Zurer

Robbie Kay

Ed Stoppard

Rachelle Lefevre

Themis Bazaka

Nina Dobrev

Diego Matamoros

Sarah Orenstein

Larissa Laskin

Daniel Kash

Yorgos Karamichos

Danae Skiadi

Director of Photography

Gregory Middleton, CSC

Edited by
Wiebke von Carolsfeld

Music by
Nikos Kypourgos

Production Designer
Matthew Davies

Costume Designer
Anne Dixon

Casting by
John Buchan
Nina Gold
Laura Rosenthal
and
Makis Gazis

Executive Producers
Andras Hamori
Takis Veremis
Christina Ford
Mark Musselman

Co-Producers
Julia Rosenberg
Panos Papahadzis
Despina Mouzaki
Jeffrey Berman