

Paramount Pictures

NEWS RELEASE

MOTION PICTURE GROUP
MARKETING DIVISION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD, SEPTEMBER 10 - "School Ties," a compelling film about prejudice, will open nationwide on approximately 600 screens on Friday, September 18. The film is a presentation of the Motion Picture Group of Paramount Pictures, a Paramount Communications Company. Produced by Stanley R. Jaffe and Sherry Lansing, "School Ties" was directed by Robert Mandel from a screenplay by Dick Wolf and Darryl Ponicsan based on a story by Dick Wolf. Danton Rissner is the executive producer and Michael Tadross is the associate producer. The film stars Brendan Fraser ("Encino Man"), Chris O'Donnell ("Scent of a Woman"), Andrew Lowery ("Buffy The Vampire Slayer"), Matt Damon ("Rising Son"), Randall Batinkoff ("The Player"), Cole Hauser (making his motion picture debut), Anthony Rapp ("Adventures in Babysitting"), and Ben Affleck (co-star of the telefilm "Daddy"). The cast also includes Amy Locane ("Melrose Place"), Peter Donat and Željko Ivanek.



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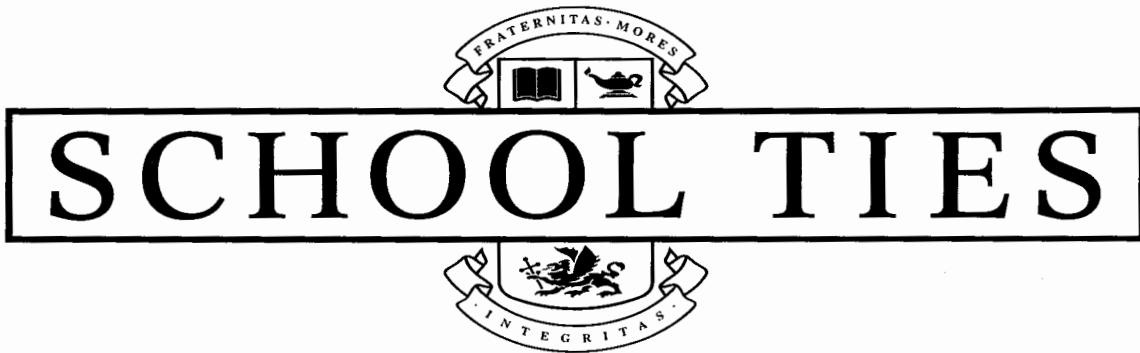
A Paramount Communications Company

In the film, David Greene attempts to deny and hide his Jewish faith but is ultimately confronted with his schoolmates' prejudice. David Greene is recruited from his hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania to be the star quarterback at an elite New England prep school. After he forms friendships with young men from families of wealth and renown, these bonds are tested when Greene's religious identity is revealed. He and his classmates are forced to consider their values and loyalties as they strive to live up to their heritage while denying that of another.

MPAA-rated PG-13, "School Ties" will be presented in Dolby Stereo in select theaters. Running time: 109 minutes.

Paramount Pictures

HANDBOOK OF PRODUCTION INFORMATION



PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS

A JAFFE/LANSING PRODUCTION

A ROBERT MANDEL FILM

SCHOOL TIES

BRENDAN FRASER

Music by MAURICE JARRE

Edited by JERRY GREENBERG and JACQUELINE CAMBAS

Production Designer JEANNINE CLAUDIA OPPEWALL

Director of Photography FREDDIE FRANCIS

Associate Producer MICHAEL TADROSS

Executive Producer DANTON RISSNER

Story by DICK WOLF

Screenplay by DICK WOLF and DARRYL PONICSAN

Produced by STANLEY R. JAFFE and SHERRY LANSING

Directed by ROBERT MANDEL

Read the Paperback from Pocket Books

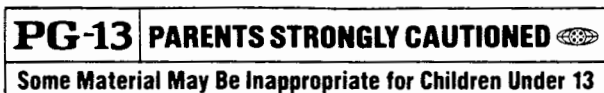
Soundtrack Album on Big Screen Records



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"SCHOOL TIES"

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

How far would you go in order to fit in? Would you lie about your background, your social class, your religion?

"School Ties" is a compelling film about prejudice. David Greene is recruited from his hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania to be the star quarterback at an elite New England prep school. After he forms friendships with young men from families of wealth and renown, these bonds are tested when Greene's religious identity is revealed. He and his classmates are forced to consider their values and loyalties as they strive to live up to their heritage while denying that of another.

Produced by Stanley R. Jaffe and Sherry Lansing, "School Ties" was directed by Robert Mandel from a screenplay by Dick Wolf and Darryl Ponicsan based on a story by Dick Wolf. Danton Rissner is the executive producer and Michael Tadross is the associate producer of the presentation of the Motion Picture Group of Paramount Pictures, part of the entertainment operations of Paramount Communications Inc.

"School Ties" stars Brendan Fraser ("Encino Man"), Chris O'Donnell ("Scent of a Woman"), Andrew Lowery ("Buffy The Vampire Slayer"), Matt Damon ("Rising Son"), Randall Batinkoff ("The Player"), Cole Hauser (making his motion picture debut), Anthony Rapp ("Adventures in Babysitting"), and Ben Affleck (co-star of the telefilm "Daddy"). The cast also includes Amy Locane ("Melrose Place"), Peter Donat and Željko Ivanek.

Producers Stanley R. Jaffe and Sherry Lansing, in partnership, produced such Paramount films as "Fatal Attraction," "The Accused" and "Black Rain." For the final Jaffe/Lansing production, Jaffe was very involved in the preparation of "School Ties" prior to his becoming president and chief executive officer of Paramount Communications Inc.

In the film, David Greene attempts to deny and hide his Jewish faith but is ultimately confronted with his schoolmates' prejudice. Greene's dilemma is a universal one: how does it feel to be an outsider, and what price will an outsider pay to belong? Or, as Jaffe puts it, "At what price to yourself are you willing to compromise who you are, what you are and what you stand for in order to become acceptable to a group that might not otherwise want you?"

"'School Ties' is not just about prejudice against Jews," Lansing stresses. "It shows, I hope, how irrational prejudice is -- that it is based on nothing more than fear; and that we must

educate people not to be afraid of the unknown. I hope the film will make people more tolerant of any minority group.

"'School Ties' shows that you must never, ever deny what or who you are," Sherry Lansing adds. "It's not worth it to lose your identity in order to be accepted into a group. You can't allow a lie of omission. That means learning to accept yourself and learning that you have to be your own individual."

"'School Ties' is about what kids do when they need to belong," says director Robert Mandel, whose films include "F/X" and "Independence Day." "I think at 17 when you're in high school that need to be part of a popular group becomes overpowering -- much more important than being an 'A' student or being a good person. It's easy to give in to pressure, but it's difficult to raise your voice in protest to a group and take an active stand against something that you know is wrong."

"People who are searching for an identity are very subject to the sway of the group," comments screenwriter Dick Wolf, who recently has won acclaim as executive producer/creator of the television series "Law & Order." "'School Ties' is a coming-of-age story about a teenager facing the realization of who he is and what he can expect from the world."

"'School Ties' exposes the insidiousness of prejudice," says Darryl Ponicsan, "because if no one had told the other students that David was a person they were prejudiced against, they wouldn't have known." Ponicsan previously worked with the

producers on "Taps," which Jaffe produced for Twentieth Century Fox when Lansing was the studio's production head.

Brendan Fraser, the actor who plays the film's protagonist, found that his experiences as a student at Upper Canada College Preparatory School -- a school based on the English public school model -- provided useful background for his role.

Fraser remembers, "Filming on the Middlesex School campus brought back strong memories of jackets and ties, trees and lush green playing fields, and anxieties over academia -- the emphasis on achievement, the weightiness of the workload. And there were other directions in which you were pulled just as strongly: the friends you made so quickly, the relationships that bonded in a matter of days and could last for years.

"Something I shared with the character of David Greene was that I was willing to do anything to be included in a group, even if it meant denying myself and who I was. And I think that, in some shape or form, that's a part of all of us. Fortunately David realizes what he's done. He comes out of his experience a much stronger person."

David Greene's roommate, Reece, is played by Chris O'Donnell, who evaluates the St. Matthews school's student body: "A lot of them don't realize how well off they are and aren't aware of all the opportunities they've been given. They live in a cloistered world."

Matt Damon plays Dillon, who David replaces as football team quarterback. "David comes along and steals Dillon's thunder," Damon comments. "David's a better football player and it's obvious that he's a great guy, so it takes Dillon some time to come to terms with that. He does become friends with David and accepts him and begins to trust him. Then Dillon finds out he's Jewish."

The revelation leaves David's peers unsure of how to respond to someone they thought was a friend. However, David isn't the only student to face a crisis. Fulfilling the scholastic requirements of St. Matthew's Academy will add to the burdens placed on the students by their families' expectations and their own demanding goals and perceptions of themselves.

Making a film dealing with anti-Semitism has long been a goal of Stanley R. Jaffe and Sherry Lansing who formed Jaffe-Lansing Productions in 1982. While many would like to believe that anti-Semitism no longer exists in the world, this kind of prejudice remains something that is very much with us every day. The 1991 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents by the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'rith reported the highest overall total of incidents ever recorded in the 13-year history of the annual audit. One hundred and one anti-Semitic incidents at 60 college campuses were among a total of 1,829 incidents from 42 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands.

"We like to nostalgically think of the '50s as a kinder, gentler time, but of course it wasn't," screenwriter Darryl Ponicsan says. "Prejudice and narrow-mindedness were rampant then. What's scary is that the changes perhaps are only on the surface. One would like to think we're far more understanding now than we were 35 years ago but anti-Semitic incidents continue."

"Pretending hatreds don't exist in this country is to deny people the opportunity to make things better," remarks screenwriter Dick Wolf.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Principal photography for "School Ties" commenced after a decade of effort and persistence by the producers. Anti-Semitism has seldom been explored in films, with the notable exception of "Gentleman's Agreement," winner of the 1947 Best Picture Academy Award.

Selecting as their focus the social conditions that inspire prejudice and intolerance, the filmmakers decided to place "School Ties" in the McCarthy era, a period of overt anti-Semitism, after screenwriter Dick Wolf selected a preparatory

school as the venue. He, himself, had attended the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts in the early '60s.

Screenwriter Darryl Ponicsan began his work on "School Ties" after writing "Taps." Like the central character of "School Ties," Ponicsan was born in a Pennsylvania coal-mining town -- Shenandoah, near Scranton -- and he was a high school senior in 1955.

"Having worked as a teacher, I know firsthand that teenagers are interested in the larger subjects beyond sex and rock 'n' roll," says Ponicsan. "'Taps' was basically about honor. For 'School Ties,' I liked the notion of dealing with prejudice in a teenage arena."

Prior to principal photography, director Robert Mandel interviewed alumni of '50s prep schools: "They had memories of teachers and of chapel, of playing three sports each semester and studying very regulated hours. There were tremendous expectations of these students. Generations of their families had gone to Princeton or to Harvard and it was expected that they would follow. Those academic pressures continue. In light of all the social problems and pressures, there remains the need to succeed."

The filmmakers who collaborated to make "School Ties" include Academy Award-winning director of photography Freddie Francis ("Glory," "The Elephant Man"); costume designer Ann Roth ("Working Girl," "Places in the Heart"), Academy Award-winning

editor Jerry Greenberg ("Kramer vs. Kramer," "The French Connection"), editor Jacqueline Cambas ("Mermaids," "Racing With the Moon"), and Academy Award-winning composer Maurice Jarre ("Fatal Attraction," "Lawrence of Arabia").

Pre-production on "School Ties" began in early 1991 in Massachusetts after locations were scouted extensively throughout the Northeast. Production designer Jeannine Claudia Oppewall ("Ironweed," "Tender Mercies"), who is now based in Los Angeles but was born and raised in Massachusetts, sought to present New England as a place that is "open, bucolic and green. The setting exemplifies a rich state of mind, backed up by a wealth of ideas, feelings and traditions. Visually there is a sense of space and limitless possibility that speaks to David."

Oppewall and her staff combed libraries and archives to research and immerse themselves in the mid-1950s. Thrift shops, flea markets and property rental houses on both coasts were ransacked to find every kind of appropriate furniture and paraphernalia for set dressing.

"That was only part of the work," Oppewall points out. "I liken doing a period film to using a pencil. But with this pencil, you use the eraser a lot more than you use the lead. You spend a lot of time just 'erasing' the present. That is the largest part of the job. And as you might imagine, doing period films becomes increasingly difficult with each passing year. Streets are always the most problematic thing. Even towns that

have maintained a good amount of their original architecture have often gone in for idealized renovations that actually say more about the '70s or '80s than anything else."

The Middlesex School, perhaps one of the most beautiful prep-school campuses in the nation, was chosen as the primary location. Situated in historic Concord, Massachusetts, the school was founded in 1901 and reflects in its circular layout and lovely NeoGeorgian architecture the classic image of the traditional New England prep school. Although non-sectarian since its inception, the school maintained a boys-only admission policy until it became co-educational in 1974. Middlesex now is headed by an Asian-American female, Dr. Deirdre Ling. She is the fourth person to hold this position since 1901 and she is the first woman to do so. Among Middlesex's many noteworthy alumni are Massachusetts Governor William Weld and actor William Hurt.

Additional Massachusetts prep schools used during the filming were Worcester Academy in Worcester that became the Overbrook Girls' School, and St. Mark's School in Southborough, which provided the film's headmaster's office.

Principal photography on "School Ties" began September 3, 1991 in Acton, Massachusetts. Paramount built a full working studio with production offices and two sound stages within the walls of the former Diamond Health Club. Many of the interior scenes were filmed there, a short distance from the Middlesex School in Concord.

Additional sequences were shot in neighboring Central Massachusetts communities. The Blue Bird, a beloved relic in the town of Gardner that still serves a crowd of regulars and diner buffs, was the location for the diner where David and Sally have their first date. The country club sequence was filmed at The Lanam Club, a dining club in Andover that is housed in a Victorian mansion. The Scranton luncheonette where David meets with his friends was shot in Lowell, Massachusetts at the 87-year-old Danas's Luncheonette and Candy Store, the look of which has not significantly been altered over the years.

Adding to the period authenticity of "School Ties" was the work of picture car coordinator Gino Lucci, who obtained the nearly 250 vintage 1950s-era vehicles used in the film. Lucci, a specialist whose previous period films include "Annie" and "The Cotton Club," maintains contacts with classic car collectors' clubs all over the country.

"There are classic car clubs for specific years and makes of cars," says Lucci. "And usually, these vintage cars are in mint condition. The hard part is finding period cars that have the authentically worn, beat-up look you would have found in an average family's car back then. Also, people tend to collect mostly convertibles and coupes. There are very few collectors of station wagons or four-doors. So you just have to dig and dig

and dig until you find. We had to go through 35 1955 Greyhound buses to find one in good condition that was intact inside and out."

Massachusetts filming was completed on November 5, after which the company moved to Pennsylvania for the final three days of principal photography.

"We had to achieve a contrast between working-class Pennsylvania and upper-crust, old-monied New England," says Oppewall. "For Pennsylvania we needed dirty stone buildings, dirty brick buildings, streets that had a threadbare, shopworn feeling. David's cramped row house is located between a graveyard and a steel mill -- it's the perfect metaphor for the bookends of David's existence, and for the life that threatens to entrap him."

Although David is meant to come from Scranton, the town of Bethlehem was used because some of its neighborhoods have changed very little since the '30s when the town and its inhabitants were photographed by Walker Evans. Scenes in and around the coal breaker were filmed at the Jeddo Seven coal yards near Hazelton, Pennsylvania.

ABOUT THE CAST

BRENDAN FRASER (David Greene) recently starred in the comedy "Encino Man" and co-starred in the acclaimed NBC telefilm "Guilty Until Proven Innocent." His upcoming film is "Twenty Bucks" with Linda Hunt and Christopher Lloyd.

The son of a Canadian tourism official, Fraser was born in Indianapolis and grew up in Holland, Switzerland and Canada. After attending Upper Canada College Preparatory School, Fraser's education continued at the Actors' Conservatory, Cornish College of the Arts, in Seattle. He also held an internship at Intiman Theatre in Seattle and was a company member of the Laughing Horse Summer Theatre in Ellensburg, Washington. His stage appearances have included productions of "Waiting for Godot," "Arms and the Man," "The Marriage of Bette and Boo," "Romeo and Juliet," "Moonchildren," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

CHRIS O'DONNELL (Reece) won the starring role of the son of the character played by Jessica Lange in the acclaimed "Men Don't Leave" after a nationwide talent search. He also appeared in "Fried Green Tomatoes" and "Blue Sky" and will next be seen starring opposite Al Pacino in the two character drama "Scent of a Woman."

The youngest of seven children, O'Donnell was born and raised in Winnetka, Illinois, and is currently pursuing his undergraduate studies at Boston College.

ANDREW LOWERY (McGivern) appeared in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Mom and Dad Save The World" and "Fatal Charm." He has been a regular on the NBC series "A Different World" and has guest-starred in such series as "Baywatch," "Falcon Crest" and "Cheers."

He has appeared with the ADT/Stopgap Theatre, the Strindberg Society, and the FC Playhouse in numerous productions including "Amadeus" (as Mozart), "The Lion in Winter" and "Picnic." Lowery was born and raised in Southern California. A bass guitarist, he plays with his own band, "Standard Fruit."

MATT DAMON (Dillon) starred with Brian Dennehy in the TNT telefilm "Rising Son." At the prestigious American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge he has appeared in such plays as "Fun" and "Nobody." Just after completing "School Ties," Damon received rave reviews in the Nora Theatre Company's production of Steve Tesich's "The Speed of Darkness."

A native of Boston, Damon is currently an English major at Harvard.

RANDALL BATINKOFF (Van Kelt) appeared in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "The Player" and opposite Molly Ringwald in "For Keeps." He was born in Monticello, New York and grew up on an egg farm in nearby Forndale. He attended Phillips Academy and is a graduate of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

He has been acting since childhood in commercials and on television. Among his television credits are the CBS pilot "One More Try," the CBS/Lorimar series "Better Days," and the NBC Movie of the Week "The Stepford Children."

COLE HAUSER (Connors) is making his motion picture debut in "School Ties." He has appeared in three HBO productions: "The Prom," "Just for the Summer" and "The Substitute." His upcoming film is "Dazed and Confused." He has trained at the Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera and the Santa Barbara Montessori Summer Stock Theatre.

Born in New York City, Hauser is the descendant of a motion picture dynasty. His great-grandfather was Harry Warner, co-founder of Warner Bros., his grandfather was screenwriter Milton Sperling ("The Battle of the Bulge"), his mother is writer Cass Sperling, and his father is actor Wings Hauser.

ANTHONY RAPP (McGoo) appeared in "Adventures in Babysitting" and "Far From Home" and his upcoming film is "Dazed and Confused." He was also in the NBC Disney Sunday Movie "Sky High" with James Whitmore.

An actor since childhood, he starred on Broadway as the Little Prince in "The Little Prince and the Aviator" and in "Precious Sons," for which he received a Drama Desk nomination and an Outer Critics Circle award. He has been a member of the national touring companies of "Evita" and "The King and I." Regionally, he appeared at Chicago's Goodman Theatre in "Landscape of the Body" and has been in two productions of "Oliver!" In New York, he created the role of Ben in John Guare's acclaimed "Six Degrees of Separation" at Lincoln Center. For his own theatre company, Mr. and Mrs. Smith Productions, Rapp produced and directed John Guare's "Marco Polo Sings a Solo" and Ionesco's "The Bald Soprano." His brother Adam is also an actor and producer in the company.

Born in Chicago and raised in Joliet, Illinois, Anthony studied filmmaking at New York University.

BEN AFFLECK (Chesty) starred in the NBC telefilm "Daddy" and his upcoming film is "Dazed and Confused."

Born in Berkeley, California and raised in Boston, Affleck is currently studying at Occidental College in Los Angeles.

AMY LOCANE (Sally Wheeler) stars as Sandy in the hit Fox/Spelling television series "Melrose Place." Locane co-starred with Johnny Depp in "Cry-Baby" and her films include "Lost Angels" and the upcoming "No Secrets" and "Blue Sky."

Locane was born and raised in the suburbs surrounding Princeton, New Jersey and attended an all-girls school run by nuns. At the age of 12, she began working in commercials as a hobby after a photographer for The Trentonian gave a photo of her to a local agent. At 15 she made her television acting debut in three episodes of the series "Hot House."

PETER DONAT (Headmaster Bartram) has appeared in such films as "War of the Roses," "Tucker: The Man And His Dream," "F.I.S.T.," and "The Hindenburg." His television appearances include "Captains and the Kings," "The Lindbergh Kidnapping Case," "The Missiles of October," "Rich Man, Poor Man, Book II," and "The Suicide's Wife." His series appearances include "Father Dowling," "Murder She Wrote," "The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd," "Voyagers," and "Hill Street Blues."

Donat has appeared on Broadway in "Equus," "Staircase," "Hadrian VII," and "The First Gentleman," for which he won a Theatre World Award. His regional theatre appearances include productions at the Citadel Theatre, the California Theatre Centre and the American Conservatory Theatre.

ŽELJKO IVANEK (Cleary) starred in "Mass Appeal" and "The Sender" and was featured in "Rachel River" and "Tex." Among his television credits are the telefilms "The Sun Also Rises" and "Our Sons" with Ann-Margret and Julie Andrews.

Ivanek first drew attention as a member of the original New York company of Caryl Churchill's "Cloud Nine," for which he won a Drama Desk Award. He has appeared on Broadway in "Two Shakespearean Actors," "Loot," "Brighton Beach Memoirs," for which he received a Tony Award nomination, and "The Survivor."

In addition to "Cloud Nine," he appeared off-Broadway in "The Cherry Orchard" and "A Map of the World." His regional stage appearances include "It's Only a Play" at Ahmanson at the Doolittle, the world premiere of Athol Fugard's "Master Harold and the Boys" at the Yale Repertory Theatre, "Hamlet" at the Guthrie, and three seasons at the Williamstown Theatre Festival.

Born in Yugoslavia, Ivanek was raised in the U.S. He is a graduate of Yale University and the London Academy of Dramatic Art.

Films with KEVIN TIGHE (Coach McDevitt) include the John Sayles films "City of Hope," "Eight Men Out" and "Matewan." His other films include "Another 48 HRS.," "Fat Man and Little Boy," "Bright Angel," and "Newsies." His theatre appearances include "Crime and Punishment" at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., "The Ballad of Soapy Smith" at the Seattle Repertory Theatre and

New York's Public Theatre, "Trial of the Catonsville Nine" at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, "Design for Living" at the National Company of Great Britain, and "Open Admissions" on Broadway.

ED LAUTER (Mr. Greene) has appeared in such films as "The Rocketeer," "My Blue Heaven," "Born on the Fourth of July," "Cujo," "The Longest Yard," "French Connection II," and "Family Plot." His television appearances include "The Jericho Mile," "Love's Savage Fury," "The Guyana Tragedy," "Freedom Riders," and "Father Dowling." Lauter has appeared on Broadway in "The Front" and "The Great White Hope."

Lauter is a native New Yorker. His mother, Sally Lee, acted on the Broadway stage in the 1920s in plays produced by Lee Shubert and David Belasco. Among her co-stars were Frank Morgan, Blanche Yurka and Henry Hull. Stage-struck since childhood, Lauter started as a stand-up comic in Greenwich Village cabarets. He went on to study acting with William Hickey.

MICHAEL HIGGINS (Professor Gierasch) appeared in "Wind," "Dead Bang," "Angel Heart," "Rumblefish," and "The Conversation." Higgins made his film debut in 1953 in "Edge of Fury."

Higgins was born in New York and began his acting career in the 1930s on the stage. After World War II service, during which he received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for Heroic

Action, he entered the American Theatre Wing program for returning veterans. His first job was as a guard in the production of "Antigone" that starred Katharine Cornell. Concurrently, he understudied Marlon Brando in Shaw's "Candida."

His stage work includes such Broadway productions as "Mixed Couples," "Whose Life is it Anyway?" and "Equus," as well as the premieres of "A Tale Told" and "Levitation" at the Circle Rep, "Uncle Vanya" and "The Iceman Cometh" at Circle in the Square, and "Antony and Cleopatra" at the New York Shakespeare Festival. He has received two Obie awards, a Drama Desk nomination, and nominations for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor from the National Society of Film Critics.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Director ROBERT MANDEL made his motion picture directorial debut with the acclaimed "Independence Day." Set in a small Texas town, the film starred Kathleen Quinlan, David Keith, Dianne Wiest, and Cliff De Young. "Independence Day" led to Mandel's being chosen to direct the high-tech suspense thriller hit "F/X" starring Bryan Brown and Brian Dennehy. Mandel subsequently directed "Touch and Go" with Michael Keaton. He

also directed the HBO film "Perfect Witness" and the telefilm "The Haunted."

Born in California and raised in New York City, Mandel was a student at Pennsylvania's Bucknell University, where he received a B.A. in chemistry. Then settling on a career in the theatre, he received an M.F.A. from Columbia University, where his teachers included Joseph Papp of the New York Shakespeare Festival.

After graduating, he went to work for Papp and began directing off-Broadway and regional theatre productions. Among the plays he staged were David Storey's "Life Class" with Swoosie Kurtz, "The Cherry Orchard" with Kim Hunter, "Come Back Little Sheba" with Dana Andrews, and Jules Pfeiffer's "Knock, Knock."

After "Knock, Knock," Mandel enrolled in the directors' program at the American Film Institute. His first effort -- the 45-minute "Nights at O'Rears," which explored a small town girl's crush on a local Romeo -- was selected for the New York Film Festival and won first prize at Los Angeles's Filmex and the YSA film festivals. The film led to an after school television special entitled "Andrea's Story," for which Mandel received an Emmy.

Producer STANLEY R. JAFFE, president and chief operating officer of Paramount Communications Inc., is the Academy Award-winning producer of "Kramer vs. Kramer," "Taps," "The Bad News

Bears," and "Goodbye Columbus." In partnership with Sherry Lansing he produced such acclaimed films as "The Accused," "Black Rain" and "Fatal Attraction," and he was very involved with the preparation of "School Ties."

Born and raised in New York City, Jaffe began his film career with Seven Arts, the production company that later merged with Warner Bros. Jaffe left the company after optioning Phillip Roth's novel Goodbye, Columbus. Released by Paramount, the hit movie adaptation made stars of its then-unknown leads, Richard Benjamin and Ali McGraw.

Jaffe's next film "A New Leaf" was directed by and starred Elaine May. At the age of 29, he joined Paramount as chief operating officer and executive vice president. Before the end of the year, he was named president of the company. While at Paramount he developed and supervised such films as "Love Story" and "The Godfather" and reorganized the company's corporate and economic structure. In 1971 he resigned to form his own company, Jaffilms, Inc., and produced "Bad Company," "Man on a Swing" and "The Bad News Bears." The latter became one of the biggest box-office hits of 1975. In the same year, Jaffe accepted the post of executive vice president in charge of worldwide production at Columbia Pictures. At Columbia he developed "The Deep," "Bobby Deerfield" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

In 1977 he formed Stanley Jaffe Productions and received an Academy Award for producing "Kramer vs. Kramer," which also

with this picture, but it's also fitting because it's a picture that we both fervently believe in."

Producer SHERRY LANSING's partnership with Stanley R. Jaffe has been one of the most successful in Hollywood. It has distinguished Jaffe-Lansing Productions as the only production company to have been headed by two former studio chiefs.

As president of Twentieth Century Fox, Lansing supervised the production of such renowned films as "The Verdict," "Quest for Fire," "King of Comedy," and Stanley R. Jaffe's productions of "Taps" and "Without a Trace."

A cum laude graduate of Northwestern University in Illinois with a B.S. in Speech, Lansing worked as a math teacher in Watts just after the 1965 riots. Later, she turned to modeling and acting, garnering movie roles in "Loving" with George Segal and "Rio Lobo" with John Wayne. Attracted to a production career, she worked as a script reader and became head of development for Talent Associates.

After working as executive story editor at MGM, she was promoted to executive vice president of creative affairs. Moving to Columbia Pictures as senior vice president for production, she supervised such films as "The China Syndrome" and "Kramer vs. Kramer" (produced by Stanley R. Jaffe). Appointed president of Twentieth Century Fox Studios in 1980, she was the first woman ever to hold that position at a major studio.

Lansing's most recent film produced with Stanley R. Jaffe was "Black Rain," starring Michael Douglas and Andy Garcia and directed by Ridley Scott. Prior to that she and Jaffe produced "The Accused," for which Jodie Foster won an Academy Award, and the 1987 box-office phenomenon "Fatal Attraction" starring Michael Douglas and Glenn Close.

Richard Benjamin's "Racing with the Moon" starring Sean Penn and Elizabeth McGovern was the first Jaffe-Lansing production, followed by Michael Apted's "Firstborn" with Peter Weller and Teri Garr. "Fatal Attraction" was directed by Adrian Lyne, and "The Accused" was directed by Jonathan Kaplan and starred Kelly McGillis and Jodie Foster.

"Stanley Jaffe and I have always liked to make films that do more than entertain," says Sherry Lansing. "We like to make films that have some substance to them; films that stimulate thought, move you emotionally, and perhaps even effect change."

With "School Ties," the fruitful Jaffe-Lansing partnership comes to a close. "I had the best partner in the world for nine years," Lansing remarks. "So I'm left with a mixed feeling: I still feel that Stanley is my partner, but he's my partner in a different manner. I have all the support and all the brainstorming that I need with him still, but now he's in an executive capacity. So the partnership continues; the relationship continues; it just has a different structure. And although I miss seeing him on the set every day, I can think of

nobody in the entire world better suited to run the company. So I'm very happy for all of us who want to make films at Paramount that there's a filmmaker running the company who is so well qualified and who understands. What could be better than having a filmmaker run a corporation that makes movies?"

Lansing will continue to produce through her company, Sherry Lansing Productions, based at Paramount. Her first project is "Indecent Proposal" starring Robert Redford, Demi Moore and Woody Harrelson in a drama directed by Adrian Lyne.

Executive producer DANTON RISSNER produced "A Summer Story" and, earlier this year, was appointed Paramount's executive vice president, European production.

Previously, he was a vice president of production for MGM/UA, where he was responsible for such films as "Year of the Dragon"; and an executive vice president of production for 20th Century Fox, where he was responsible for films including "Unfaithfully Yours" and "Ladyhawke."

Before that, Rissner held a number of positions with United Artists, beginning as vice president in charge of European feature production. While with United Artists, he was involved with such films as "La Cage Aux Folles," "Yanks," "Equus," "Hair," "The Spy Who Loved Me," "Rollerball," and "Roma." Prior to that, he served as vice president, European production, for

Warner Bros. and was associated with "A Clockwork Orange," "The Devils" and "Death in Venice."

Rissner spent two years as head of the literary department of the Ashley Famous Agency and he accompanied Ted Ashley to Warner Bros. when he and Steve Ross became studio heads in 1969. Rissner began his career as a telethon producer for United Cerebral Palsy.

Associate producer MICHAEL TADROSS produced the NBC telefilm "When Will I Be Loved?" and is currently producing, with Sherry Lansing, Paramount's "Indecent Proposal."

He was born and raised in New York. After graduating from Wagner College as an art major (with a theatre minor), he began working in film production. Throughout the 1970s he held nearly every film position imaginable, from actor to camera trainee to assistant film editor to Second Assistant Director. He was first assistant director on numerous films, including "Cocktail" and "Masquerade," and on the television mini-series "A Rage of Angels II." He was also unit production manager on several TV movies and miniseries, as well as Paramount's "Ghost," "Coming To America" and the New York location filming of "Black Rain." Tadross was associate producer of "Brenda Starr" starring Brooke Shields.

Screenwriter DICK WOLF was writer/executive producer of "Masquerade" and writer/producer of "No Man's Land." His television series work as executive producer/creator includes "Law & Order," "Crime & Punishment," "Nasty Boys," "Christine Cromwell," and "Gideon Oliver." He is executive producer/co-creator of "Mann & Machine." From 1986 through 1988, Wolf was co-executive producer of "Miami Vice" after serving in 1985/1986 as executive script consultant and receiving Emmy and Writers Guild Award nominations for "Hill Street Blues."

Wolf was born in New York. He attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Screenwriter DARRYL PONICSAN was an established novelist when he became a screenwriter with the 1973 hit "Cinderella Liberty," which was based on his popular novel of the same name. Another of Ponicsan's eight novels, The Last Detail, also became a very successful motion picture directed by Hal Ashby and starring Jack Nicholson.

Ponicsan's other films include "Taps," "The Boost," "VisionQuest," and "Nuts," which was co-written by Tom Topor and Alvin Sargent. Ponicsan also wrote the television series "The Mississippi" and the telefilm "The Girl Called Hatter Fox."

He studied at Muhlenberg College in Allentown and at Cornell University. After a stint in the navy, he spent seven years in

New York and Los Angeles as a schoolteacher. He also became a social worker in Los Angeles at the height of the Watts riots.

Ponicsan's novels include Goldengrove, Andoshen, Pa., The Accomplice, Tom Mix Died For Your Sins, An Unmarried Man, and The Ringmaster.

A former book reviewer for the Los Angeles Times and a columnist for the L.A. Herald-Examiner, Ponicsan has twice been honored with nominations for the Writers Guild of America Award and won the 1973 Image Award from the NAACP.

FREDDIE FRANCIS (Director of Photography) is a two-time Academy Award-winner that has distinguished himself as both a cinematographer and a director. Among his films as director of photography are "The Elephant Man," "Dune," "The French Lieutenant's Woman," and "Glory," for which he won his second Academy Award.

Born in London in 1917, he began as an apprentice to a still photographer and at 17 got his first motion picture job as a clapper boy. Later he became a camera assistant and, after World War II service as a director of photography with the Army Kinematographic Unit, returned to the film industry as a camera operator. In that capacity he worked on such films as "Mine Own Executioner," "Outcast of the Islands," "Moulin Rouge," "Knave of Hearts," "Beat the Devil," and "Beau Brummell." After taking charge of the second-unit photography for John Huston's "Moby

Dick," he became a director of photography. Among his most distinguished films during this phase of his career were "Time Without Pity," "Room at the Top," "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning," and "The Innocents." He won his first Oscar in 1960 for "Sons and Lovers."

In the early '60s Francis turned to directing. He became a specialist in British horror movies with such films as "The Skull," "The Deadly Bees," "Tales from the Crypt" and, more recently, "The Doctor and the Devils." In all he has directed more than 30 features.

The films of JEANNINE CLAUDIA OPPEWALL (Production Designer) include "The Big Easy," "Light of Day," "Ironweed," "Radio Days," and "The Music Box."

Oppewall re-created the New England of her own youth for "School Ties." Born in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, she was educated at Bryn Mawr, where she received her M.A. in Medieval Studies.

She began as a curator and researcher for the famous designer Charles Eames. Over the years she spent with him, her duties expanded. She did post-production and distribution work on more than 100 of Eames's industrial and documentary films. She also helped design and organize his museum exhibits and assisted him in his architecture and furniture design.

Her first job on a feature film was as a gofer on the set of Paul Schrader's "Blue Collar." Soon she began working for

production designer Paul Sylbert on such films as "Hardcore," "Blowout" and "Resurrection." Her first film as a production designer was "Tender Mercies" in 1981, followed by "Love Letters" and "Maria's Lovers." After a one-year break during which she worked for the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm, she returned to motion picture design.

The films of ANN ROTH (Costume Designer) include all of Mike Nichols's movies since "Silkwood" along with such film as "The Bonfire of the Vanities," "Pacific Heights," "Funny Farm," "The Unbearable Lightness of Being," "Sweet Dreams," "Places in the Heart," "Nine to Five," "The World According to Garp," "Dressed to Kill," "Hair," "Coming Home," "The Goodbye Girl," "Klute," and "Midnight Cowboy."

Roth received the BAFTA award for "The Day of the Locust," an Academy Award nomination for "Places in the Heart," and an Emmy nomination for the American Playhouse presentation of "Roanoak." She is also a three-time Tony-nominee for "The House of Blue Leaves," "The Crucifer of Blood" and "The Royal Family." In addition to her association with Mike Nichols that began with the Broadway production of "The Odd Couple," her Broadway credits include "Purlie," "The Women," "Play It Again, Sam," and "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."

A native of Pennsylvania, Roth began her career as a scenery painter for the Pittsburgh Opera. She then moved to New York and began assisting such costume designers as Irene Sharaff and Miles White.

JERRY GREENBERG (Editor) received an Academy Award for editing "The French Connection" and was also Oscar-nominated for "Kramer vs. Kramer." His other films include "Awakenings," "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," "The Accused," "The Untouchables," "No Mercy," "Wise Guys," "Body Double," "Scarface," "Still of the Night," "Dressed To Kill," "The Missouri Breaks," "The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3," "The Seven Ups," "They Might Be Giants," "The Boys in the Band," and "The Subject Was Roses."

Born and raised in New York City, Greenberg made his motion picture editing debut with "Bye Bye Braverman" directed by Sidney Lumet.

The films of editor JACQUELINE CAMBAS include "Mermaids," "Downtown," "Little Nikita," "My Stepmother is an Alien," "Light of Day," "The Money Pit," "Racing With the Moon," "City Heat," "Zoot Suit," "Cat People," and "Falling in Love Again."

Composer MAURICE JARRE is a three-time Academy Award-winner for the David Lean films "Lawrence of Arabia," "Dr. Zhivago" and

"A Passage to India." His other films include "Ghost," "Distant Thunder," "Fatal Attraction," "Witness," "The Bride," "Enemy Mine," "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome," "Top Secret," "Dreamscape," "The Year of Living Dangerously," "Great Expectations," "Mandingo," "The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean," "Topaz," "Isadora," "The Damned," "The Collector," "Is Paris Burning," and "The Longest Day."

Jarre was born in Lyons, France and was educated at the Sorbonne in Paris. He began his career with Jean-Louis Barrault's company and then spent 12 years as the musical director of the French National Theatre.

Jarre's first film score was for the short "Hotel des Invalides" in 1952. His first three motion picture scores were for "Le Tetre Contre Les Murs," "Eyes Without A Face" and 1962 Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award-winner "Sundays and Cybele."

Jarre has composed an opera based on Victor Hugo's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and for television wrote the music for the Franco Zeffirelli mini-series "Jesus of Nazareth."



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