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BANDEIRA and KEY ENTERTAINMENT

A BEAU FLYNN and EMCKE/AUGSBERGER PRODUCTION
An IMF 2 PRODUCTION

PIPER PERABO
JANE MCGREGOR

SLAP HER...SHE'S FRENCH

TRENT FORD
JULIE WHITE
BRANDON SMITH
and MICHAEL MCKEAN

Written by
LAMAR DAMON & ROBERT LEE KING

Directed by
MELANIE MAYRON

Running Time: 93 Minutes
MPAA Rating: PG-13

Press Contacts:
DISTRIBUTOR
Pam Ingber
Premiere Marketing & Distribution
818/455-0301
pingber@thepremieregroup.net

WEST COAST
Steven Zeller
GS Entertainment Marketing
323/860-0270
stevenzeller@gsemg.com

EAST COAST
Susan Steeno
GS Entertainment Marketing
323/860-0270
susansteeno@gsemg.com

The Cast

Genevieve LePlouff..... **Piper Perabo**
Starla Grady **Jane McGregor**
Ed Mitchell..... **Trent Ford**
Monsieur Duke **Michael McKean**
Bootsie Grady **Julie White**
Arnie Grady **Brandon Smith**
Randolph Grady **Jesse James**
Tanner Jennings..... **Nicki Aycox**
Ashley Lopez..... **Alexandra Adi**
Kyle Fuller **Matt Czuchry**
Doreen Gilmore **Cristen Coppen**

The Filmmakers

Directed by **Melanie Mayron**
Written by **Lamar Damon & Robert Lee King**
Producers **Beau Flynn**
..... **Jonathan King**
..... **Matthias Emcke**
Executive Producers **Bernd Eichinger**
..... **Thomas Augsburg**
..... **Stefan Simchowitz**
..... **Matthias Deyle**
..... **Volker Schauz**
Director of Photography **Charles Minsky**
Production Designers **Anne Stuhler**
..... **Roswell Hamrick**
Editor **Marshall Harvey**

Costume Designer.....**Julia Caston**
Music.....**David Michael Frank**
Line Producer.....**IMF Oliver Hengst**
Line Producer.....**Steven Brown**
Casting by.....**Justine Baddeley**
.....**Kim Davis-Wagner**
Unit Production Manager.....**Steven Brown**
First Assistant Director.....**Eric Fox Hayes**
Key Second Assistant Director.....**Courtney A. Wulfe**
Associate Producers.....**Elizabeth Wang-Lee**
.....**Rebecca Donaghe**
Production Supervisor.....**Todd Lewis**
Texas Casting.....**Liz Hegley, C.S.A.**
Art Director.....**Jeff Mossa**

Synopsis

Starla Grady (Jane McGregor) has it all. The most popular girl at Splendona High School in Texas, she is a beauty pageant winner, the head cheerleader and dates the school's quarterback, Kyle Fuller (Matt Czuchry). Nothing is going to stand in the way of Starla's quest to fulfill her life's ambition: to become the most popular morning talk show host in America...that is until Genevieve LePlouff (Piper Perabo) enters her perfect world.

Faced with a failing grade from French teacher Monsieur Duke (Michael McKean) and being suspended from the cheerleading squad, her parents Bootsie (Julie White) and Arnie (Brandon Smith) suggest hosting a foreign exchange student from Paris to help her. Starla is reluctant, however, until she needs to garner audience sympathy at a pageant. When she announces that her family will be the first in town to offer their hospitality to a student from overseas, Starla walks off with the crown yet again.

Timid and mousy, Genevieve arrives in Splendona complete with horn-rimmed glasses and beret. Her sad tales of misfortune and lost love soon win her sympathy from the Grady family and their friends. Professing undying admiration for Starla and her wonderful life, Genevieve is only too happy to be at her beckon call and listen to her most intimate secrets. Ed Mitchell (Trent Ford), the school photographer, is the first to notice a hidden beauty under Genevieve's unassuming disguise and her picture is soon gracing the cover of the paper with an article about her tragic past. An article that was supposed to feature Starla and her generosity is instead devoted to "All About Genevieve."

Before Starla realizes what is happening, Genevieve has usurped her best friends Asley (Alexandra Adi) and Tanner (Nicki Aycox), her boyfriend, her parents, her spot on the cheerleading squad and her position as the most popular girl in Splendona. She even goes so far as to orchestrate Starla's arrest for drugs and attempted murder. Everything seems lost until Starla is helped by an unlikely pair of supporters, her younger brother Randolph (Jesse James) and the photographer, Ed Mitchell. These three team up to expose Genevieve as the conniving, back stabbing liar that she has always been.

Production Notes

Slap Her...She's French stars Piper Perabo (*Coyote Ugly*), Jane McGregor (*MTV's Live Through This*), Trent Ford (*Gosford Park*), Michael McKean (*Best In Show*), Julie White (*Six Feet Under*), Brandon Smith (*Lonesome Dove*) and Jesse James (*As Good as it Gets*). Directed by veteran actress Melanie Mayron (*thirtysomething*), the film was written by Lamar Damon and Robert Lee King. Executive producers are Bernd Eichinger, Thomas Augsberger, Stefan Simchowicz, Matthias Deyle and Volker Schauz. The production team included director of photography Charles Minsky, production designers Anne Stuhler and Roswell Hamrick, editor Marshall Harvey, costume designer Julia Caston and producers Beau Flynn, Jonathan King and Matthias Emcke.

For screenwriters Lamar Damon and Robert Lee King, the inspiration for *Slap Her...She's French* started with the title. But as they fleshed out the story, what began as a "foreign exchange student from hell" movie evolved into a sophisticated teen comedy about the politics of popularity. Setting the film in an upscale Texas high school, they created the characters of Starla, the cheerleader who seems to have it all, and Genevieve, the unassuming French foreign exchange student who connives to appropriate her life. On its long journey to the screen, *Slap Her...She's French* gained a reputation as one of Hollywood's best unfiled scripts, according to several websites.

The script eventually landed on Bernd Eichinger's desk at Constantin Film and the project finally received the green light. "We read the material in an early version and bought it for further development," the producer says. "For me, filmmaking is first and foremost about a clever script and that is exactly why this material caught my attention. *Slap Her...She's French* has a universal premise that can be understood everywhere."

Veteran actress and director Melanie Mayron was brought onboard to direct the film. She found great comic possibilities in this volatile tale of high school popularity and deception. "It's real out there; a raunchy, edgy comedy," the director says. "This film guarantees a teen-comedy experience that doesn't shy away from the risks of presenting such a story. It is really great fun."

Jane McGregor makes her screen debut as self-absorbed Starla Grady, the film's unlikely heroine who has to battle a surprising and unexpected rival. The actress is best known for her role in the MTV series *Live Through This* about an aging rock band that take their children on a reunion tour. In her first starring role, McGregor slips easily into this ambitious and energetic character.

"Starla faces up to every challenge with strength and decisiveness," the young actress explains. "She is very self-confident and puts all her energy into the pursuit of her dream career to be a morning talk show host. Although she is the product of her

own shallow world and can be very mean at times, she doesn't realize it until Genevieve arrives and threatens everything."

Mayron was impressed with the young actress. "Starla is a difficult character to play," the director says. "She can be headstrong and a bit mean but has to remain vulnerable. The plot hinges on the audience liking her and rooting for her in the end. Jane really pulled it off. She knows her stuff and has a great kinetic ability and timing."

Piper Perabo soared to fame in Jerry Bruckheimer's box office hit *Coyote Ugly* and plays the deceptively modest Genevieve LePlouff. Perabo was very excited about the challenges of playing a role that was very different from anything she had previously done. "A fellow actress once told me that villains and scoundrels have the most to offer an actor and that was what really motivated me to take this role," she says. "Genevieve is obsessed with Starla's life and that is what gets her into trouble. She's a fraud looking for the characteristics that would make her appear like a friend. She gives the pretence of being shy and polite, but in truth she has you wrapped around her little finger."

Mayron has nothing but praise for Perabo. "Piper is very skilled," the director says. "She is very focused, committed and captures every nuance. It was wonderful working with her."

A veteran of such comedies as *This Is Spinal Tap* and *Best In Show*, Mayron cast Michael McKean in the role of the sexually frustrated French teacher Monsieur Drake. "He plays the part of a teacher suffering from a serious loss of control when surrounded by teenagers and miniskirts," Mayron says. "I've known Michael for years, and he's a great comic actor. He is a wonderful improviser, and I knew he would give this role a real depth and presence. When I approached him about it, he was into it straight away and turned up on the set three days later ready to create this very funny character."

Bernd Eichinger remembers how excited the cast was to be directed by Mayron. "Melanie has exactly the balance which is necessary for comedy," he says. "Having spent many years in front of the camera herself, she was able to give the actors the confidence to find the narrow path to the grotesque that leads the way back to the genuine comedy. The actors recognized her feel for comedy." Perabo also found working with Mayron an incredible learning experience. "She shares a common vocabulary with the actors which made communication very easy when we talked about the scenes."

Nicki Aycox, featured in the film as Starla's friend Tanner Jennings, took Mayron's direction and advice to heart. "Nicki is smart and has a good instinct," Mayron says of the young actress. "She had the job of playing a typical blond but I definitely did

not want a caricature. Nicki brought a loveable intelligence to the role which allowed Tanner to become a real flesh and blood character.”

Cast as Ashley Lopez, another friend of Starla, newcomer Alexandra Adi was thrilled by the opportunity to work with Mayron. “A director who also happens to be an experienced actress is quite simply a blessing,” says Adi. “She knows what you are going through and you really get into the role and develop your acting skills.”

Through her experience and understanding, Mayron managed to draw some outstanding comic portrayals out of this cast of veterans and newcomers. “The material is very funny so the key to humor was to have the actors play it straight,” she explains. “The actors had to be as real as possible, get across that these characters really believe in what they say. One of the biggest advantages of a director who started out as an actor is that you understand the needs of the performers and there is a common language you share which makes communication very easy. For the actors, there is a feeling of sympathy from behind the camera which is simply wonderful.”

To achieve an authentic look, the film was shot in and around the Dallas area. The production team went to great lengths to create Splendona’s vulgar nouveau riche display of wealth, an environment to establish the false values that make it possible for a pretty deceiver to pull the wool over the eyes of an entire community. “The opening shot pans across cow pastures until we suddenly come upon these big pseudo mansions,” Mayron says. “We shot in Plano, which is a new, high-end suburb with many malls and lots of wealth. It was a great setting for the world of Splendona.”

Finding the right setting for Starla and her family was an important key to establishing the characters. “We found a huge neo-nouveau house for the Grady family residence,” says director of photography Charles Minsky. “This film is about a particular circle of Texas society who are well off and like to display it on a grand scale. To make the girls look really glamorous, we flooded the film with vivid, illuminating colors which reflect their nouveau wealth.” Having previously done *Pretty Woman*, Minsky was well equipped to handle the task. “Everyone in this film just glows,” Mayron says. “It’s a film about beautiful people and Chuck did a wonderful job in creating their world.”

Costume designer Julia Craston was highly praised by the entire cast for her creations that bring out the individuality of the various characters, from the conservatively dressed shy French teenager to the garishly overdone style of the beauty pageant contestants. “Julia was wonderful,” Mayron says. “The costumes really captured the mindset of these high school girls. They look as if they are going to a cocktail party as opposed to French class or homeroom.” The entire design team enjoyed creating this highly stylised and vulgar display of wealth.

Shooting in a working high school was a familiar setting for the cast and crew. “No matter how many years go by, being in a high school brings it all back,” Mayron says. “While we were shooting the film in one part of the school, the world we were recreating was being lived in the other part. It was a lot of fun for us and everyone we worked with in Texas were incredible to us.” But while the people of Texas were a joy to work with, the weather did not always co-operate.

“The most difficult shoot was the three days spent on the football field. It was truly a test of everyone’s skill and endurance,” Mayron recalls. “It was 20 degrees and these poor girls are out there in their short cheerleader outfits doing the routines. We started with 300 extras but by four a.m. we were down to 30 due to the weather. To keep the illusion of a grandstand full of people, we had to be inventive with the shots. Everyone was just incredible and we finally got all the footage completed. But aside from some bad weather, it was really fun and we all had a great time making it.”

From two writers fleshing out an irreverent title into a comic examination of the politics of high school popularity to its listing on the web as one of Hollywood’s best unfiled scripts, *Slap Her...She’s French* has finally made it to the big screen. In the hands of a highly talented cast and crew, this wickedly funny tale of deception and redemption is sure to keep audiences laughing from start to finish.

About the Actors

Piper Perabo (*Genevieve LePlouff*)

Originally from New Jersey, Piper Perabo took to acting early by creating staged adaptations of her favorite books in her grandmother’s living room. After graduating cum laude from Ohio University, Piper landed her first major film role in Marc Levin’s *Whiteboys*, an indie about a posse of white rapper wannabes in Iowa. Next up for Piper was the role of Karen Sympathy, the bumbling FBI agent in the mostly live-action big screen version of the TV cartoon classic *The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle*. Robert DeNiro produced and starred in the film along with Rene Russo and Jason Alexander. One week after she finished shooting, Piper landed her big break-out role in *Coyote Ugly*. Cast as Violet Sandford, a charming but shy girl from the suburbs, Piper brought her talents to the forefront as a character that follows her dream to become a singer/songwriter.

Her next role was that of a swashbuckling, charismatic boarding school girl fighting for her right to love another woman in award-winning director Lea Poole’s *Lost and Delirious*. *A Piece of My Heart* is a romantic comedy in which Piper co-stars opposite Australian heartthrob Martin Henderson, and she recently completed *George and the Dragon*.

Jane McGregor (*Starla Grady*)

In *Slap Her...She’s French*, Jane McGregor makes her cinematic debut in the leading role of a perfect American teenage homecoming queen who has to fend off a scheming French rival who is trying to usurp her teen throne.

McGregor first gained fame in *Live Through This*, an MTV series about an aging rock band that take their children on a reunion tour. For McGregor, this breakthrough

was preceded by more than five years of diverse challenges in which she gained experience as a TV actress. Her TV movie credits include a part in *Noah* with Tony Danza, *Our Guys: Outrage at Glen Ridge* opposite Ally Sheedy and Eric Stoltz, *Y2K*, *The Patty Duke Story* and the Showtime feature *Bang Bang You're Dead*, a timely film which deals with violence in our schools. McGregor recently completed starring in *Flower and Garnet*, an independent Canadian feature film.

Trent Ford (*Ed Mitchell*)

Newcomer Trent Ford grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and London, England and is currently studying English Literature at Cambridge. Ford started acting in college and played the role of Mitch in a stage production of Tennessee Williams' classic *A Streetcar Named Desire* and subsequently joined the University's Shakespearean Group. He appeared as the fool in *King Lear*, as Henry, Prince of Wales, in *King Henry IV – Part 1* and as John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, in *Richard II*. Ford is currently playing the male lead in the New Line feature *How to Deal* opposite Mandy Moore and Alison Janney and will segue into the independent film *400 Boys*.

Ford made his movie debut in the drama *Deeply*, first screened at the Toronto Film Festival 2000, playing the role of Kirsten Dunst's lover; their tragic love affair was narrated by Lynn Redgrave as a writer telling the story. Ford can be seen in Robert Altman's Academy Award nominated film *Gosford Park* starring an incredible ensemble cast including Maggie Smith, Alan Bates, Derek Jacobi, Helen Mirren and Ryan Phillippe.

Michael McKean (*Monsieur Duke*)

Born in New York, Michael McKean began his career with radio comedy troupe Credibility Gap. His first big break was a role in the series *Laverne & Shirley*, one of the most successful American TV sitcoms of the seventies. After landing a part in Steven Spielberg's chaos comedy *1941* and in Robert Zemeckis' directing debut *Used Cars*, McKean achieved the ultimate breakthrough with Rob Reiner's 1984 cult mockumentary *This Is Spinal Tap*. As the longhaired blond lead guitarist of the fictitious rock band Spinal Tap, he created the role of David St. Hubbins, a figure who was adopted by pop music culture and continues to this day.

McKean's numerous film credits include *The Big Picture* and *Best In Show*, both directed by fellow Spinal Tap member Christopher Guest, Clint Eastwood's *True Crime*, Jay Roach's *Mystery Alaska*, Kevin Williamson's *Teaching Mrs. Tingle* and Christine Lahti's *My First Mister* opposite Albert Brooks and Leelee Sobieski. McKean has worked side by side with many of the great comedians in Hollywood, such as Jeff Goldblum and Jim Carrey in *Earth Girls Are Easy*, Chevy Chase in *Memoirs of an Invisible Man*, with Dan Aykroyd in *Coneheads*, Steve Martin and John Candy in *Planes, Trains & Automobiles* and Adam Sandler in *Little Nicky*.

Like many famous comedians before him, McKean joined TV's long-running *Saturday Night Live* in 1994, and he is the only performer in the history of the show to be a series regular, host and musical performer. He has also appeared in several episodes of *The X Files*.

Julie White (*Bootsie Grady*)

Julie White enjoys the benefit of a solid drama school education at Fordham University in addition to attending several further education programs run by renowned teachers. Her extensive experience in the theatre include the Broadway production of Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles* and Seattle productions of *Marvin's Room* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

She made her film debut in 1997 in the thriller *Flypaper*, opposite Craig Sheffer, Sadie Frost and Illeana Douglas. She has since appeared in *What Women Want* starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt and in *Say It Isn't So* starring Chris Klein and Heather Graham. On television, she was a member of Brett Butler's ensemble cast in the hit sitcom *Grace Under Fire* and the television adaptation of *The Heidi Chronicles* opposite Jamie Lee Curtis. Guest appearances include such hit series as *Ally McBeal*, *Law and Order* and *Touched by an Angel*. She is currently featured in the HBO series *Six Feet Under*.

Brandon Smith (*Arnie Grady*)

For more than 15 years, Brandon Smith has been a popular character actor both on television and in films. He trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and the East 15 Acting School in London and the Jacques Lecoq School of Mime & Theatre in Paris.

In 1988, Smith made his movie debut in the small-town drama *Full Moon In Blue Water* followed a year later by a part in the thriller *Night Game* about a serial killer. After parts in Ron Shelton's romantic political biography *Blaze* starring Paul Newman and the science fiction film *I Come In Peace*, Smith appeared in a variety of films such as *Robocop 2*, *Rush*, Clint Eastwood's prison drama *Perfect World* and *Powder*. He has appeared in numerous television series, including *Young Riders* and *Walker, Texas Ranger*, as well as ambitious TV projects such as the Tom Hanks co-produced series *From the Earth to the Moon* and the western hit *Lonesome Dove*.

Jesse James (*Randolph Grady*)

Jesse James made his acting film debut as Helen Hunt's asthmatic son in *As Good As It Gets* directed by James L. Brooks.

The gifted twelve-year-old young actor has worked with an impressive array of talented directors and actors. His credits include Robert Altman's Grisham thriller *The Gingerbread Man* with Kenneth Branagh, *Message In a Bottle* with Kevin Costner and Robin Wright Penn, Diane Keaton's comedy *Hanging Up* with Meg Ryan, *Gods and Monsters*, *A Dog of Flanders* with Jon Voight, and Jack Lemmon's short film, *Puppies*

for *Sale*. Jesse played the young Ben Affleck in *Pearl Harbor* and the youthful version of Johnny Depp in *Blow*.

Notable guest appearances on television include such series as *Angel*, *Felicity*, *Walker*, *Texas Ranger*, as well as an episode of *The X Files* written and produced by David Duchovny and the 100th episode of *ER*. He starred in the ABC movie of the week *Bailey's Mistake* and can be seen in the independent film *Fear of the Dark* and *The Butterfly Effect* with Eric Stoltz and Ashton Kutcher.

Nicki Aycox (*Tanner Jennings*)

Nicki Aycox made her first TV appearance in *Third Rock from the Sun* and the teen series *USA High*. After guest spots on *Ally McBeal* and *The X Files*, the young actress attracted attention for her role on the hit series *Providence*, *CSI*, *Family Law* and recently increased her popularity with a role on *Dark Angel*.

Following her film debut in the satirical comedy *The Dogwalker*, Aycox starred in *Crime and Punishment In Suburbia*, a very free high school adaptation of the Dostoyevsky classic novel. She can also be seen in another modern version of a classic, *Rave Macbeth*, a rave adaptation of the Shakespeare classic, reinterpreting the leading female role of Lady Macbeth. She recently completed *Momentum* and *Like a Bat out of Hell: Jeepers Creepers 2*.

Alexandra Adi (*Ashley Lopez*)

Alexandra Adi has been gaining experience in front of the TV cameras for more than eight years playing guest roles on such series as *The Cosby Mysteries*, *Boy Meets World*, *Step By Step* and *Brookfield*.

Adi made her first film debut alongside Whoopi Goldberg and Frank Langella in the comedy *Eddie* and was later featured as a younger version of Annabella Sciorra's character in the thriller *Copland*. Other film credits include *American Pie*, *Jawbreaker* and *Tequila Body Shots*. Adi's next project is the romantic comedy *Moving August*, starring Brenda Bakke, Sarah Wynter and Eddie McClintock.

Matt Czuchry (*Kyle*)

Growing up in Tennessee, Matt Czuchry is a Southern boy who attended the College of Charleston, in Charleston, South Carolina. At college, he was a nationally ranked tennis player, captain of the tennis team, and an avid fundraiser. He was even named Mr. College of Charleston after having raised huge sums for breast cancer research.

Czuchry was discovered by a casting director and persuaded to come to Los Angeles to try his hand at acting. In a short time, he played a hometown boy at odds with rich kids on the series *Young Americans*, an obsessed love-struck teen on *The Practice*, and a cancer-stricken young man in the independent film *Swimming*

Upstream. Czuchry was last seen starring opposite David Arquette in the film *Eight Legged Freaks*.

Cristen Coppin (Doreen Gilmore)

Cristen Coppin grew up in Jacksonville, Florida and moved to Los Angeles two years ago after she landed a guest starring role on the series *Safe Harbor*. She subsequently booked the pilot *Just Married* and played a supporting role in the feature film *Road Trip*. Cristen recently wrapped a leading role in the independent film *The Flats*. She currently studies with Leigh Kilton Smith.

About the Filmmakers

Melanie Mayron - Director

Melanie Mayron made her directing debut on the set of her hit ensemble show *thirtysomething* and later marked her feature directorial debut with *The Babysitter's Club*. Television credits include the remake of *Freaky Friday* and *Toothless*, a two-hour premiere film for The Wonderful World of Disney, starring Kirstie Alley and Lynn Redgrave, for which Mayron garnered a Directors Guild Award nomination. Additionally, she has directed episodes of *Dawson's Creek*, *Nash Bridges*, *Arli\$\$*, *The Larry Sanders Show*, *Providence* and *Ed*. Mayron also directed the pilot and several episodes of *A State of Grace* for ABC Family. She is currently co-producing the film *Let It Ride* with Gale Ann Hurd.

As an actress, Mayron, a native of Philadelphia, studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York and is best known for a series of lauded performances in highly visible projects: Claudia Weill's critically acclaimed *Girl Friends*, for which Mayron was nominated for a British Academy Award; Costa Gavras' controversial *Missing*; and opposite Vanessa Redgrave in Arthur Miller's *Playing for Time*. She was one of the regular cast members on ABC's Emmy Award-winning series *thirtysomething* and received an Emmy for her work on the show. She starred on Broadway in Herb Gardner's *The Goodbye People* and later created the role of Isabelle Off-Broadway in Susan Sandler's *Crossing Delancey*. Additional work includes "Ordeal in the Arctic" with Richard Chamberlain; *Other Women's Children*; *Drop Zone* with Wesley Snipes; the independent film *Sticky Fingers* with Helen Slater, which Mayron also co-wrote and co-produced; as well as the award-winning short *Little Shiny Shoes*. She has been seen in *Mad About You*, *Wasteland* and *Clockstoppers*.

Lamar Damon - Script

Slap Her...She's French, is Damon's first produced screenplay. He has written projects for Disney, Columbia, Fox 2000, and MGM. Most recently, he penned the remake of *Endless Love* for Universal, based on Scott Spencer's acclaimed novel of obsessive love.

When Damon isn't writing for films, he is producing reality television. His credits include *MTV's Road Rules*, *Popstars*, *Cannonball Run 2001* and *Under One Roof*. He is a graduate of NYU's Dramatic Writing Program, and the recipient of several writing awards, including The Laurel Award, The Tisch Graduate Screenwriting Award, The Paulette Goddard Fellowship, and The Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award.

Robert Lee King - Script

Robert Lee King's first feature, *Psycho Beach Party*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was released theatrically by Strand Releasing in 2001. It can currently be seen most nights after midnight on pay cable.

King made his directorial debut with a short film that he also wrote, *The Disco Years*. The film won numerous awards at various festivals (including Audience Favorite), both in the U.S. and the U.K. Channel Four in England picked up the film to be a part of its Shooting Star series. The film also was released theatrically in the U.S. as part of the initial installment of Strand Releasing's successful shorts series, *Boys' Life*, and is available on video and DVD.

For the stage, King directed George F. Walker's the critically acclaimed *Tough!* The play was produced by Chicagowest, for The Coast Playhouse. Other theatre credits include the first staging of *The 24th Day*, starring Noah Wyle. King also worked with Theatre West and the Blank Theatre Company, before deciding that it was just too hard to do theatre in Los Angeles.

Beau Flynn - Producer

Beau Flynn recently joined The Firm as partner and head of their motion picture and television production division. A graduate of NYU, Flynn formed *Bandeira* in 1995, and the company quickly established itself by producing edgy, against-the-grain material. The company produced four back-to-back films featured in competition at the Sundance Film Festival, beginning in 1996 with *johns* and following with *The House Of Yes*, *The Alarmist* and *Guinevere*. Flynn's most recent films include Joel Schumacher's *Tigerland*, which was nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards, and Darren Aronofsky's *Requiem For A Dream*, which won two Independent Spirit Awards and was nominated for an Oscar, Golden Globe and a SAG award. He currently has several projects in pre-production and production at Dreamworks, Disney and New Line Cinema.

In 2000, Flynn continued to broaden his base by expanding into television. His current television slate includes projects in development at ABC, MTV, CBS, USA and a pilot for Fox.

Jonathan King – Producer

Jonathan King is President of Production for Laurence Mark Productions (*Jerry Maguire*, *As Good as it Gets*, *Riding in Cars with Boys*), an independent production company based at Sony Pictures Entertainment. King also executive produced the company's release *Finding Forrester*, starring Sean Connery and directed by Gus Van Sant.

Prior to joining Laurence Mark and Sony, King was an independent producer. His producing credits include *Guinevere*, *The Alarmist*, *Judas Kiss*, *Starf*cker*, and *54*. King also worked for several years as a production and acquisitions executive at Miramax Films in Los Angeles.

Matthias Emcke - Producer

After six years as a distribution executive and producer at Tele-Munchen Group in Munich, Germany, Matthias Emcke founded Key Entertainment in Los Angeles in May 1994. Key started out by financing and producing independent feature films that toured the festival circuit around the world, including *The Alarmist*, starring Stanley Tucci and David Arquette, *Judas Kiss*, starring Emma Thompson; Carla Gugino and Til Schweiger and *Till Human Voices Wake Us* with Guy Pearce and Helena Bonham-Carter. Emcke was also a producer on the German hit comedy *Madchen Madchen*.

Next, Emcke will be producing the thriller *Solace*, written by Ted Griffin (*Ocean's Eleven*).

Bernd Eichinger - Executive Producer

A year after completing his degree at the Munich-Film-School in 1973, Bernd Eichinger set up his first production company, Solaris Film, working with such recognized filmmakers as Wim Wenders, Hans-Jurgen Syberberg and Wolfgang Petersen. In 1979 he joined Constantin Film as a major shareholder and subsequently built it up to be one of the most successful distribution and production companies in Europe.

Among others, he has produced *The Neverending Story* directed by Wolfgang Peterson, *The Name of the Rose* directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud, starring Sean Connery, *Last Exit to Brooklyn*, *The House of the Spirits* starring Meryl Streep, Glenn Close, Winona Ryder and Jeremy Irons, and most recently, the video game film adaptation *Resident Evil*.

Thomas Augsberger - Executive Producer

Born in Munich, Germany, Thomas Augsberger came to the United States in 1996 to join Key Entertainment as a partner. Previously, he has worked as an attorney in Germany for several years. At Key (and later at Banderia and Air Mechanics, which were Key's studio and television production arms) he was in charge of all business and legal affairs and produced or executive produced a slate of features by first-time

writer/directors: *The Alarmist*, *Splitsville*, *Judas Kiss*, *Coming Soon*, *Love & A Bullet*, *Girls on Top* (a.k.a. *Madchen, Madchen*), and *Till Human Voices Wake Us*.

In March 2002, he departed from Key and started a new (as yet unnamed) development, production, and consulting company. He is currently in pre-production on the Ted Griffin & Sean Bailey scripted *Solace* for New Line.

Stefan Simchowitz – Executive Producer

Originally from South Africa, Stefan Simchowitz began his career as a producer in 1996 with the independent film *Johns*. He went on to produce *The House of Yes*, *Little City*, *Starstruck*, *Judas Kiss* and *Coming Soon*. His executive producer credits include *Guinevere*, *Till Human Voices Wake Us* and Darren Aronofsky's *Requiem For A Dream*, which won two Independent Spirit Awards and was nominated for an Oscar, Golden Globe and a SAG award. Simchowitz's next project is the action-thriller *American Heros*.

Matthias Deyle - Executive Producer

As Managing Director of TNF (Tele Norm Film), which was founded in 1972, Matthias Deyle is one of the most influential and successful film and TV producers in Germany. TNF is responsible for TV series such as *Aus Heiterem Himmel* and *Die Glückliche Familie*, TV films like *Pizza Express* and the RTL thriller entitled *Passagiere in Todesangst* starring Maria Lara, as well as a number of TV shows, documentaries and theatrical movies. Amongst his theatrical movies is *Marianne Und Sophie*, *Abwärts*, *The Lightship* and *Rosamunde*.

In addition to his work for TNF, Deyle also holds a position as consultant to the Munich film fund company IMF (Internationale Medien und Film GmbH & Co Produktions KG). He is responsible for IMF's film production and has overseen two IMF projects, the horror thriller *The Calling* and *Slap Her...She's French*.

Volker Schauz - Executive Producer

Volker Schauz started his career in the entertainment industry in the Marketing and Public Relations Department at HBO in New York. Following he was recruited to the Munich-based company DCM (Deinböck Capital Management AG), Germany's largest independent fund arranger. At DCM, Mr. Schauz, ran the IMF film funds providing film production financing to the major studios and independent producers in Hollywood. Under his aegis IMF has structured and financed a series of ten projects including *Nurse Betty*, *K-Pax* starring Kevin Spacey and *K-19: The Widowmaker*. At IMF Schauz was furthermore responsible for merging IMF with London and Los Angeles based Intermedia and Pacifica Film. All three companies went public at the German Stock Exchange Neuer Markt under the roof of IM Internationalmedia AG in 2000.

After his tenure at IMF, Schauz relocated to Los Angeles where he specialized in film production and fund-base international film financing. Currently, Schauz oversees *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines* as consulting producer for IMF and Intermedia.

Schauz has a degree in Business Administration, Finance and Marketing at the University in Marburg/Germany and degree in Public Relations at State University of New York.

Charles Minsky - Director of Photography

Ever since Charles Minsky's first job as production assistant in the horror film *Frogs* in 1972, the world of movies has never ceased to fascinate him. He found his true vocation working as a camera operator on the comedy *Nine To Five* starring Dolly Parton, Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda. Minsky was promoted to chief cameraman in the second unit camera crew and during the course of the next few years held such position for the thriller *The Hitcher* and *Congo*.

In 1985, Albert Pyun gave Minsky the chance to make his debut as director of photography for his film *Radioactive Dreams*. Five years later Minsky was the director of photography for the international hit movie *Pretty Woman* and followed his success with Garry Marshall's *Dear God*, *Looking For An Echo*, *The Gun In Betty Lou's Handbag*, *Dutch*, *Kazaam* starring basketball superstar Shaquille O'Neal and *Tomcats* starring Shannon Elizabeth. His next film is *Welcome To Collinwood* starring George Clooney and Patricia Clarkson.

Anne Stuhler - Production Designer

Although Anne Stuhler was a production designer as early as 1990 for *Privilege*, it was not until the mid-nineties that her unique skills as a production designer have been in heavy demand by producers. Her credits include *Palookaville*, *Walking And Talking* starring Anne Heche and Catherine Keener, *Mr. Jealousy* starring Annabella Sciorra and Eric Stoltz, Kiefer Sutherland's hardcore thriller *Truth Or Consequences*, *Scar City*, *Boiler Room* and Jon Favreau's *Made*.

Roswell Hamrick - Production Designer

As with his colleague Anne Stuhler, the mid-nineties marked a turning point in the career of Roswell Hamrick. Hamrick, together with Stuhler, was responsible for the sets for the comedies *Palookaville*, *Walking And Talking* and most recently Jon Favreau's *Made*, starring Favreau, Vince Vaughn, Famke Janssen and Sean "Puffy" Combs. In addition, Hamrick was also able to display his visual creativity in other genres, such as in Kiefer Sutherland's thriller *Truth Or Consequences*, Ben Younger's *Boiler Room* and most recently, Steve Buscemi's hard-hitting prison drama *Animal Factory* starring Willem Dafoe, Edward Furlong and Mickey Rourke.

Marshall Harvey - Editor

Marshall Harvey is a graduate of the California Institute of the Arts where he studied under the aegis of Alexander Mackendrick. His first feature editing credit was *The Sword And The Sorcerer* in 1982. Since then he has been in great demand and has worked on several film comedies.

In 1987, Harvey edited Emmanuelle Béart's US debut *Date With An Angel* and later the TV thriller *The Third Twin*. His collaboration with Joe Dante began with the Tom Hanks' movie *The 'burbs* and continued with *Matinee*, *Small Soldiers* and the HBO movie, *The Second Civil War*. Steve Miner engaged Harvey for the first time for the Disney comedy *My Father The Hero* and then for *Big Bully* and most recently, *Lake Placid*. His next film is *The Touch* starring action star Michelle Yeoh.

Julia Caston - Costume Designer

The TV series *Townies*, starring Jenna Elfman, launched Julia Caston's career as a costume designer for film and television in 1996. Since then, the newcomer has designed costumes for director Scott King's original screenplay *Treasure Island*, clothed the yuppies and stock market sharks for *Boiler Room* starring Vin Diesel, Ben Affleck and Giovanni Ribisi and the imposing female cast of the TV anthology *If These Walls Could Talk 2* starring Vanessa Redgrave, Elizabeth Perkins, Chloe Sevigny and Michelle Williams. *Slap Her...She's French* is the first comedy for this up-and-coming costume designer.

David Michael Frank – Music

David Michael Frank was born in Baltimore where he also received his musical training at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. He studied piano and composition theory, subsequently attending Northwestern University and moving to New York City after graduation where he became the youngest conductor on Broadway. Six years later, Frank moved to California in order to build a career as a composer for film.

In the world of movies, Frank is regarded as a specialist for pulsating rhythms, which is one of the main reasons why he has scored many action films including several films starring Steven Seagal, such as *Above The Law*, *Hard To Kill* and *Out For Justice*. Other credits include the Chuck Norris films *Code Of Silence* and *Hero And The Terror* as well as Brandon Lee's *Showdown In Little Tokyo*. He has worked outside the action film genre with such films as the erotic thriller *Poison Ivy*, the romantic comedy *Rhapsody In Bloom* starring Penelope Ann Miller and Melanie Mayron's directing debut *The Babysitter' Club*.

Some Useful French Phrases

Bonjour
Good Day

Au revoir
Good-bye

Un crepage de cignon
Catfight

C'est temps de rendement!
It's payback time!

J'aime ta nouveau parfum. Est-il s'appelle "Fini"?
I love your new perfume. Is it called "Over"?

Noye dans le Seine? C'est vachement comme "Titanic"!
Drowned in the river Seine? That's like so Titanic!

Personne, j'ai dit personne, se meler de ma famille!
No one, but no one, messes with my family!

La claque! Elle est francaise!
Slap her! She's French!

Quelle film drôle! Le voyons encore.
What a funny film. Lets see it again.

Stills



Genevieve LePlouff (Piper Perabo)



Starla (Jane McGregor)



Starla (Jane McGregor)



Starla (Jane McGregor) and Genevieve (Piper Perabo)



The French teacher Monsieur Duke (Michael McKean) tries to settle the dispute between Starla (Jane McGregor) and Genevieve (Piper Perabo)



Genevieve (Piper Perabo) is also successful as cheerleader



Starla (Jane McGregor) and Genevieve (Piper Perabo)



Melanie Mayron the Director of Slap Her She's French