

Warner Independent Pictures presents

In association with Nala Films, Summit Entertainment and Samuels Media

A Blackfriar's Bridge production

A film by Paul Haggis

Tommy Lee Jones and Charlize Theron

IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH

**Executive produced by Emilio Diez Barroso, Bob Hayward, David Garrett, Erik Feig
James Holt, and Stan Wlodkowski**

Produced by Laurence Becsey, Patrick Wachsberger, Steven Samuels, Darlene Caamano Loquet

Story by Mark Boal and Paul Haggis

Screenplay by Paul Haggis

Produced and directed by Paul Haggis



www.inthevalleyofelah.com

IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH

SHORT SYNOPSIS

"In the Valley of Elah" tells the story of a war veteran, his wife, and the search for their son, a soldier who recently returned from Iraq but has mysteriously gone missing, and the police detective who helps in the investigation.

Inspired by true events, "In the Valley of Elah" is Haggis' directing follow-up to the Academy Award winning "Crash." In addition to the Oscar-winning screenplay for "Crash," his recent writing credits include the award winning "Million Dollar Baby," for which he received an Academy Award nomination for Best Screenplay, and current releases "The Last Kiss," "Flags of Our Fathers," "Casino Royale" and "Letters From Iwo Jima."

Warner Independent Pictures presents in association with Nala Films, Summit Entertainment and Samuels Media, a Blackfriar's Bridge production of a film by Paul Haggis, starring Tommy Lee Jones and Charlize Theron. "In the Valley of Elah" is executive produced by Emilio Diez Barroso, Bob Hayward, David Garrett, Erik Feig, James Holt, and Stan Wlodkowski, and produced by Laurence Becsey, Patrick Wachsberger, Steven Samuels, and Darlene Caamano Loquet. With a story by Mark Boal and Paul Haggis, screenplay by Paul Haggis, "In the Valley of Elah" is produced and directed by Paul Haggis.

IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH

SYNOPSIS

On his first weekend back after serving in Iraq, Mike Deerfield (Jonathan Tucker) goes missing and is reported AWOL. When Hank Deerfield (Tommy Lee Jones), a former military MP and his wife Joan (Susan Sarandon) get the phone call with the disturbing news, Hank sets out to search for their son. Emily Sanders (Charlize Theron), a police detective in the jurisdiction where Mike was last seen, reluctantly helps him in his search. As the evidence grows, her missing person's case begins to look more and more like foul play, and soon Sanders finds herself in a fight with the military brass as she and Hank struggle to keep control of the investigation. But when the truth about Mike's time in Iraq finally begins to emerge, Hank's entire world is challenged and he's forced to reevaluate long-held beliefs to solve the mystery behind his son's disappearance.

"In the Valley of Elah" is a thought-provoking drama inspired by true events from acclaimed filmmaker Paul Haggis and stars Oscar®-winning actors Tommy Lee Jones ("The Fugitive," "Men in Black"), Charlize Theron ("North Country," "Monster") and Susan Sarandon ("Dead Man Walking," "Alfie"). The film also stars Jason Patric ("Narc," "Your Friends and Neighbors"), James Franco ("Flyboys," "Spider-Man 2"), Josh Brolin ("Melinda and Melinda," "Into the Blue") Frances Fisher ("House of Sand and Fog," "Titanic"), Jonathan Tucker ("The Deep End," "The Virgin Suicides"), Mehcad Brooks ("Glory Road," "Desperate Housewives") and newcomers Wes Chatham, Jake McLaughlin, and Victor Wolf.

Paul Haggis directs from his original screenplay based on a story by Mark Boal and Haggis. This is Haggis' directing follow-up to the Academy Award-winning "Crash." In addition to the Oscar-winning screenplay for "Crash," his recent writing credits include the award-winning "Million Dollar Baby," for which he received an Academy Award-nomination for Best Screenplay, and recent releases "Flags of Our Fathers," "Casino Royale" as well as "Letters From Iwo Jima," which also received an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay.

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Collaborating behind the scenes is the creative team of Oscar®-nominated director of photography Roger Deakins, A.S.C., B.S.C. ("The Man Who Wasn't There," "O Brother Where Art Thou?"), production designer Laurence Bennett ("Crash," "Freedom Writers") and costume designer Lisa Jensen ("The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants," "The Fabulous Baker Boys").

THE BUILD UP

Following the success of “Crash” there was no shortage of source material for writer/director Paul Haggis to choose from for his next project; nevertheless he was up for a challenge. In meetings with his agents, Haggis recalls, “I said to them, anything that you know will never be made, that’s what I want.” Shortly thereafter, he was sent a magazine article from Playboy Magazine written by Mark Boal called “Death and Dishonor.” “I was really moved by it,” says Haggis. “It’s a very tragic story and I said I really want to do this.”

“We’d been on the lookout for this kind of material for awhile,” concurs producer Laurence Becsey who has worked with Haggis for more than a decade. “Paul had an instant affinity to the subject matter,” he recalls. “It’s a powerful tale. When you read the article you realize it’s the platform to approach a subject that could resonate with everybody. What’s the right thing to do for justice? What do we do to take care of ourselves? What does everybody do to take care of the family?”

Boal’s article details the murder of a young Army enlisted man just home from Iraq who was stationed at Ft. Benning, Georgia, the investigation mounted by his father following his disappearance, and the toll of combat on three platoon mates accused of the murder.

In shopping the idea around, Haggis took it to collaborator Clint Eastwood for whom he wrote the award-winning “Million Dollar Baby,” “Flags of Our Fathers” and “Letters From Iwo Jima.” Eastwood in turn took it to Warner Bros. “Clint championed this for me and I really appreciate it,” says Haggis. “Back in 2003 it was a story no one wanted to hear, so it would’ve been very difficult to make without his support.”

“The more research I did, the more the story expanded,” he continues. “I ended up combining it with another true story, and fictionalized Hank’s journey to uncover the truth. Whether you’re for or against the war, we need to face what’s happening to the brave men and women we’re sending there. I wanted to tell the story of good people who have to make terrible decisions.”

The story Haggis arrived at is a murder mystery with broader implications at a time when so much attention is focused on our men and women in uniform. It’s the story of Hank Deerfield, a war veteran, his wife Joan, and police detective Emily Sanders, a civilian and struggling single mother, who joins forces with Hank to conduct the search for his missing son.

Academy Award-winning actor Tommy Lee Jones, who plays the role of Hank Deerfield says of the story, “You’d have to say that it concerns itself with what a war can do to people. I also think it indicates that blind, mindless patriotism is very dangerous.”

“No matter how you feel about the war or where your stance is politically, the one thing you can’t deny is that we’re sending young boys and girls out there who experience a lot of trauma,” says Academy Award-winning actor Charlize Theron who plays the struggling single mom, Police Detective Emily Sanders. “To bring them home, throw them back into this society and expect them to function as normal human beings is asking a lot of them. It’s a harsh reality and we really haven’t been very honest about it.”

“We see that the battlefield is divided up,” adds producer Becsey. “We can view it in the most caustic way, which is combat, but the other is the emotional war that goes on. We may understand the physical sacrifices but we’re not always really prepared for the emotional and psychological cost.”

ASSEMBLING THE TROOPS

It took Haggis a year and a half to finish the script, but the casting was almost immediate. Haggis began with the Emily Sanders role. "I'd met Charlize before and I'd been telling her the story every time we bumped into each other," says Haggis about getting her involved in the project. "I finally called her and said would you read it? That was a Thursday morning, Thursday night she read it and Friday morning she called and said, I'm in."

"There are few actors who are true American icons," explains Haggis about the decision to go after Jones for the role of Hank Deerfield. "Tommy Lee Jones is so much more than that. He's one of our very best actors."

Getting Tommy Lee Jones interested in the role took only a few days remembers Haggis, "He read it over the weekend; Monday he said I want to do it. I was thrilled."

"I'm a huge fan of Paul's work," admits Theron. "I think he's a great writer." She first met Haggis when she was on the awards circuit for "North Country" and he for "Crash." "Everywhere I went we'd end up at the same table or talking to each other and we really hit it off. I thought it would be really fascinating to go through some kind of working experience with him never knowing that he would actually offer me this part."

"She's one of a very few of these wonderful actresses who can morph from one role to the next," says Haggis about his decision to cast Charlize in the role. "The role is that of a small town detective," he continues, "so I didn't want someone who looked like a glamorous Hollywood star. And while Charlize is all that, she also has the ability to completely disappear into a role, and that's what she did here."

"Emily Sanders is a single mom who is just really trying to survive," says Theron of her character. "She wants to be good at her job and she wants to take care of her son." While she's a strong character who can stand up for herself and roll with the rigors of the job, she's not a superwoman, just a human being. "I like that Paul really celebrated that she's incredibly flawed and that she doesn't get everything right all the time," comments Theron.

While most of Emily's days are fairly routine, the missing person's case that comes her way has a profound effect on her. "She's never had to deal with a case of this magnitude," explains Theron. "She becomes emotionally involved in the case, and the job begins to affect her in a much more personal way than anything she's done previously. I really liked that."

Not only does Sanders begin to see her job differently as a result of the case, but the people she has to deal with seep into her life and affect her too. Theron found this aspect of the character fascinating as well. "A beautiful kind of odd relationship happens between Hank and Sanders," she describes, "which is something that I've never done before. They are just two very different people stuck with each other, trying to figure out what happened to his son. He's always one-upping her and it drives her insane but forces her to be more on top of her game."

"There's a great chemistry between the two of us," she continues. "It's sometimes incredibly humorous and sometimes incredibly emotional and touching."

"He's competitive with her and resentful," explains Tommy Lee Jones about his character's reaction to Charlize's Emily Sanders. "He's eager for her to accomplish her task and finally, is ultimately affectionate towards her because of her kindness and understanding."

"Paul's got a great instinct," says Becsey about the decision to cast Tommy Lee Jones and Charlize Theron in the key roles. "It's a unique combination. They both have a brassy side to them which is so necessary for their parts."

Another key role is that of Hank Deerfield's wife, Joan. In typical Paul Haggis fashion, he sent the script to his first choice, Susan Sarandon, thinking you don't know until you try. "She said she'd love to read it and she did," recounts Haggis, "and then she called and said, you know there's really nothing here, is there?" Embarrassed, but conceding that she was right, Haggis looked at the script from the character of Joan's point of view and set about making some changes. Remarks Haggis about sending her the rewrites, "She read the new pages right away and signed on. That was a pretty great day."

Although the story unfolds in a small town from the civilian point of view, the backdrop for the drama is the military and many of the characters are in the armed services. This includes the four young platoon buddies of the missing soldier, Specialist Ennis Long, Specialist Gordon Bonner, Corporal Steve Penning and Private Robert Ortiz. Two of these roles, Bonner and Penning, went to young men who had served in the military.

The part of Specialist Gordon Bonner is played by Jake McLaughlin, a young Iraq war vet who is making his acting debut. "He has the skills of an actor without ever having acted before," marvels Haggis.

As Jake sees it, his real life combat experience puts him about even with more experienced actors. "A lot of actors have to create a back story for their character, which is very easy for me to do because I was already over there," explains McLaughlin. "In fact, I was in Iraq the same time as that soldier in the original story and in the same division. They were in the 1st Brigade and I was in the 2nd Brigade."

"I understand everything that's going on," he continues, "so I think I have an advantage as far as that's concerned." So much so, that actors with no service experience sometimes enlisted his opinion for tips on behavior for their particular character.

McLaughlin's character Bonner is Mike's platoon-mate and roommate, which adds a dimension. "He's more remorseful for everything that's happened." Says McLaughlin, "and he goes out of his way to make Mike's dad feel better."

The other military vet was Wes Chatham who served in the Navy for four years and was cast as Corporal Penning. "I was in the Gulf but I wasn't in Iraq," says Chatham, "I was on a ship so it's different but I think it definitely helped me as far as understanding my character and what he went through."

"I think a guy like Penning probably comes from a military family," explains Chatham about his character. "Under the right circumstances he can be your best friend, a good soldier and under other right circumstances he could be a monster."

Mehcad Brooks, a familiar face from the uplifting hit "Glory Road" and a series regular on "Desperate Housewives," was cast as Specialist Ennis Long. About his character's thought process for surviving combat, Brooks says, "It was kind of hard to understand because I have not been put in a kill or be killed situation and if you hold onto what society accepts as normal then you're dead, so you have a lot of layers to these characters and the exploration of that as an actor was amazing."

As with the other roles, Haggis knew exactly what he was looking for and the process for Brooks from audition to a job offer was very short.

Victor Wolf, who won the role of Private Robert Ortiz, sees his character as a lost soul. "Now that he's home," says Wolf of his character Ortiz, "the only thing that makes sense was back in Iraq. I think it's fascinating how this place, this war can change a person's perspective on what's normal."

"It's not just about these soldiers who come back and the horrors they've been through and seen," says Wolf about what he sees in the story, "but it's also about the parents and families of these soldiers, they're never the same either and you see that it's never over."

About his attraction to the character he plays, Wolf explains, “These young boys are given the power of God in a way, taking lives as they see necessary and that really fascinated me about him.”

Confident about the material and the inner workings of the character he wanted to play, Wolf ran into an unexpected roadblock. “I was really scared I wasn’t going to get the role because of my weight,” reveals Wolf. “But Paul believed. He said, you’re the kid and you can do it.” Wolf worked with a trainer and lost 30 pounds to play the part.

Once cast, Haggis sat the four young men down and instructed them to hang out together. “We spent every single minute with each other,” adds Wolf, “so we knew the good and the bad. We got on each other’s nerves sometimes but it totally shows when we’re together as though we’ve been to wars together.”

“He told us to get drunk together, love each other, hate each other, get in fights and know each other forwards and backwards and become real friends,” recounts Brooks. “And we did. So when we’re doing scenes together it’s not a stretch at all because we know each other.”

“In the military you get thrown together with a group of guys,” explains Chatham from previous experience. “With all the time you spend together and the things that you go through, you become more than friends – it’s almost like family. I think it was very important to Paul that we had that chemistry and you’d be able to see it coming through.”

About the relative inexperience of the actors who play the young soldiers, Haggis says, “There’s an undeniable truth in someone who’s been to war. We were looking for actors who had that authenticity.”

Rounding out the cast are a collection of up and coming young actors and familiar faces. Jonathan Tucker plays the role of Mike Deerfield, the character whose plight sets all the action in motion, but is seen only in flashbacks. Jason Patric as Lt. Kirklander and James Franco as Sergeant Carnelli are Ft. Rudd personnel who report the disappearance, then try to control the access to evidence when the case leaves their jurisdiction. Josh Brolin plays Emily’s boss Chief Buchwald, the Bradford Chief of Police who tries to kick the case back to the military when it starts heating up. Evie, a topless waitress and one of the last people to see Mike before he disappears, is played by Frances Fisher.

SHOCK AND AWE

On Paul’s previous directing venture, “Crash,” there was the luxury of an extensive rehearsal period. Because “In the Valley of Elah” came together so quickly, there was almost no time for the actors to rehearse and a much more spontaneous atmosphere was created on set. This made for a more stimulating working environment for the actors and director, and contributed to the heightened sense of camaraderie they all felt as the project went along.

“I like to see what the actors are going to bring,” explains Haggis, “and for the most part I like to be driven by that. If I only saw what I wrote I’d be terribly disappointed.”

“It’s very effortless,” says Theron about the creative process on set and the working relationship the actors developed with their director. “It just happens organically. He doesn’t give in to mediocre work, his writing is challenging and he’s constantly pushing the envelope, pushing you as an actor. I really can’t ask for more than that.”

The young ‘platoon buddies’ found their work experience equally rewarding and their director open and supportive at every turn. “He’s very open,” observes Mehcad Brooks about Haggis. “It’s been a real joy because he makes you feel like you’re working with him, not for him.”

“He’s very hands-on,” says McLaughlin matter-of-factly. “He knows exactly what he wants and that’s good.”

Wes Chatham concurs and adds, “He always knows what he wants but he knows how to take what you’ve done and nudge it to what he needs specifically for the scene. You trust that he knows how to make it all come together.”

“He’s really good at getting that human reaction,” says Victor Wolf about Paul’s directing style, “at finding the humanity in the most horrible circumstances and at leading you there, getting you to that place without trying so hard.” Wolf also has high praise for Paul Haggis the writer. “He’s phenomenal. His dialogue is right on but also it’s not only what you’re saying, it’s everything that’s behind the words. He’s so good at doing that.”

Haggis also has a real gift for putting the right mix of people together. “He really does an incredible job of finding people that he believes can bring what he wrote to life,” observes Theron. This process, whatever it is, is almost certain to bring about a great chemistry among the actors and a great working experience for them. The veterans and the recruits felt equally at home on the set and they all got on famously, although most expressed awe at being in the same film frame with the legendary Tommy Lee Jones.

“He’s a force to be reckoned with,” says Charlize Theron of her co-star. “As an actor he’s incredibly talented.” Going into the project, she recalls, “I knew working opposite him I’d really have to stand tall, bring my game. I like when an actor does that and I have a huge amount of respect for him.”

As time went on their working relationship seemed to mirror that of Sanders and Hank. “There are moments where I’m incredibly intimidated and then moments where he just steals my heart,” Theron explains. “I really have a soft spot for him and I really enjoyed this experience with him.”

The often-reticent Tommy Lee Jones found the working experience with Charlize “wonderful.” “She’s very funny, a very fine actress, a good pal and a lot of fun to be around,” he continues about his co-star.

“I learned a lot by just watching her,” says Mehcad Brooks. “She uses the script like it’s a piece of music and she’s playing jazz all over it.”

But perhaps the biggest compliment from the group of young actors who were initially in awe of her was the recognition that, “she’s one of the guys and we fully accepted her into our little circle.”

“She has a personality that glows,” says Victor Wolf who had several scenes with her including a stunt-filled chase scene. “She’s so vibrant, it’s amazing to work with her.”

Equally amazing for Wolf was working with Tommy Lee Jones. “I’ve had some deep scenes with him and he does so much without doing anything,” says Wolf with a tone of respect. In addition to the more emotional scenes, Wolf also had a fight scene with Jones. “That man is intense,” recalls Wolf. “He doesn’t hold back. He was hitting me with that flashlight and that image of him standing over me with that flashlight and with the fire in his eyes, wow!”

THE MISSION

Production began on December 4, 2006 in Albuquerque, NM where the crew shot in 28 locations in the Albuquerque area including the New Mexico State Fairgrounds, the VA Hospital, an assortment of bars and strip clubs, the Old County Courthouse and the vacant Social Security building. The production then moved to Whiteville, a small town near Memphis, TN to establish the Deerfield’s’ home in the small town where they lived. Following four days in Tennessee, the production moved to Morocco for the Iraq War

flashback scenes where they completed principal photography.

Production Designer Laurence Bennett, who worked with Haggis previously on “Crash,” found the very ambitious schedule the toughest challenge for him. In considering the design, he took his cue from the character of Hank. Recalls Bennett, “The way the imagery for this film broke down for me was through Hank’s journey. He comes from a very safe place in Tennessee, which he’s very familiar with and goes out into the world and finds that society isn’t really what he remembered it to be and he realizes the world has changed in a way he doesn’t understand and doesn’t particularly like.”

“He’s a very still person,” observes Bennett about the lead character, “very contained, so his stillness within the context of strip clubs, bars, rather garish environments is an interesting juxtaposition.”

In considering the story for further indications about the direction the design should take, Bennett says, “I think the story operates on a lot of levels – it’s a mystery, it’s a story about a father and his son, it’s about things said and not said – but all contained in a fairly classic structure which led me to classicism, nothing terribly flashy and letting Hank’s story come through.”

“Crash” was about fluidity and connection,” says Haggis about the visual style of his previous film. “This is a piece of Americana and so I decided to shoot it in a very classic American way.” To achieve this classic look on film, Haggis called on acclaimed cinematographer Roger Deakins. “His eyes see the magic,” says producer Becsey of Deakins’ work. “He creates the magic with Paul.”

THE LONG ROAD HOME

The title “In the Valley of Elah” refers to the spot in Israel as noted in the Bible (1st Samuel, chapter 17) where the battle of David and Goliath took place some 3000 years ago. Today, it’s a lesser-known tourist attraction at the junction of Route 38 and Route 375 near Elah Junction.

It conjures up a battle with impossible odds, and what becomes of those who beat the impossible odds and return home only to face coping with symptoms of PTSD and other stress-related disorders.

“I love the title as odd as it is,” explains Haggis, “because it embraces a lot of what the movie talks about. King Saul sent David into the Valley of Elah to fight Goliath, armed only with five stones. I asked myself, who would do that? Who would send a young man to fight a giant? This film addresses our responsibility in sending young men and women off to war....”

ABOUT THE CAST

TOMMY LEE JONES (Hank Deerfield)

Academy Award™ winner TOMMY LEE JONES (Hank Deerfield) was awarded the Best Supporting Actor Oscar® for his portrayal of the uncompromising U.S. Marshal Sam Gerard in the box office hit *The Fugitive* in 1994. For this performance, he also received a Golden Globe Award as Best Supporting Actor. Three years before, Jones received his first Oscar® nomination for his portrayal of Clay Shaw in *Oliver Stone's JFK*.

Jones recently directed and starred in the critically acclaimed, *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*, which debuted in competition at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival. Jones won Best Actor and screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga won Best Screenplay for this film about friendship and murder along the Texas-Mexican border.

Jones recently made an appearance in Robert Altman's big screen spin-off of Garrison Keillor's U.S. radio show, *A Prairie Home Companion*. The film also starred Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline.

Next Jones will be seen in *No Country for Old Men* based on the Cormac McCarthy novel, and written and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen. Jones stars with Javier Bardem as a West Texas sheriff in pursuit of a vicious and vengeful drug trafficker and assassin.

In 2003, he starred with Cate Blanchett in *The Missing* for director Ron Howard. Prior to that he starred with Benicio del Toro in *The Hunted* for director William Friedkin, and re-teamed with Will Smith and director Barry Sonnenfeld in the box office hit, *Men in Black 2*.

In 2000, Jones starred in *Space Cowboys* with James Garner and Donald Sutherland for director/co-star Clint Eastwood, and in *Rules of Engagement* with Samuel L. Jackson.

Jones starred with Ashley Judd in the box office hit *Double Jeopardy* in 1999, and in 1998 he reprised his role of U.S. Marshal Sam Gerard in *U.S. Marshals*, the follow-up to *The Fugitive*. In 1997 he starred with Will Smith in the No. 1 box office hit of the year, *Men In Black*, which grossed over \$500 million worldwide.

Jones made his feature film debut in *Love Story* and, in a career spanning four decades, has starred in such films as *Eyes of Laura Mars*, *Coal Miner's Daughter* - for which he received his first Golden Globe nomination - *Stormy Monday*, *The Package*, *Under Siege*, *Heaven and Earth*, *The Client*, *Natural Born Killers*, *Blue Sky*, *Batman Forever*, and *Cobb*.

In 1995, Jones made his directorial debut with the critically acclaimed telefilm adaptation of the Elmer Kelton book *The Good Old Boys* for TNT. Jones also starred in the telefilm with Sissy Spacek, Sam Shepard, Frances McDormand and Matt Damon. For his portrayal of Hewey Calloway, he received nominations for both a Screen Actors Guild Award and a CableACE Award.

Jones had had previous success on the small screen. In 1983, he won an Emmy Award for Best Actor for his performance as Gary Gilmore in *The Executioner's Song* and, in 1989, was nominated for an Emmy Award and a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor for the miniseries *Lonesome Dove*.

His numerous network and cable credits include the title role in *The Amazing Howard Hughes*, the American Playhouse production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Rainmaker* for HBO, the HBO/BBC production of *Yuri Noshenko*, *KGB* and *April Morning*.

In 1969, Jones made his Broadway debut in John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me*. His other Broadway appearances include *Four on a Garden* with Carol Channing and Sid Caesar, and *Ulysses* in *Nighttown*

with the late Zero Mostel.

Born in San Saba, Texas, he worked briefly with his father in the oil fields before leaving for St. Mark's School of Texas, then Harvard University, where he graduated cum laude with a degree in English.

CHARLIZE THERON (Emily Sanders)

Oscar®-winning actress Charlize Theron is one of the great actresses of our time. With her ability to capture a plethora of characters, she relentlessly demands the audience's full attention as soon as she appears on screen. This South African native is continuously being praised and admired for her inspiring and powerful performances.

Theron captivated audiences as female serial killer Eileen Wuornos in the independent gem "Monster." Theron received the Independent Spirit Award & the National Broadcast Film Critics Association as well as winning the Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, San Francisco Film Critics Circle, New York Film Critics Online and Southeastern Film Critics awards, the Breakthrough Performance Award from the Nation Board of Review and the Academy Award.

Continuing with her busy schedule Charlize was next seen in the drama "North Country" opposite Frances McDormand and Sissy Spacek for director Niki Caro. Based on the real life story of a group of women coal miners and the hostile work environment they faced on a daily basis, "North Country" received great praise. Her incredible performance as Josey Aimes garnered her nominations for a Golden Globe, SAG, Critics Choice, and an Oscar®.

Theron also captivated audiences in HBO's "The Life And Death Of Peter Sellers" opposite Geffery Rush, for which she received a Best Supporting Actress nomination from the Golden Globes, Screen Actors Guild Awards, and the Emmys.

She is currently filming "Tonight, He Comes," starring alongside Will Smith and Jason Bateman. Directed by Peter Berg, "Tonight, He Comes" is an action packed drama based on a superhero who starts a questionable affair with Theron.

Moviegoers were first introduced to the seductive charm of Charlize Theron in her feature film debut, MGM's "2 Days in the Valley," with James Spader, Eric Stoltz, and Jeff Daniels. She's also been seen co-starring alongside Al Pacino and Keanu Reeves in "Devil's Advocate," with Tom Hanks in "That Thing You Do" and in Jonathan Lynn's "Trial and Error." In addition Theron starred in Woody Allen's "Celebrity" which she then followed with "Mighty Joe Young" with Bill Paxton. In 1999 Theron starred in the Oscar nominated "The Cider House Rules" and in New Line Cinema's "The Astronaut's Wife" with Johnny Depp. Soon following in 2000, the much in-demand Theron tackled back-to-back roles in the following movies: Robert Redford's "The Legend of Bagger Vance" with Will Smith and Matt Damon, Fox 2000's "Men of Honor" with Robert DeNiro and Cuba Gooding, Jr., John Frankenheimer's "Reindeer Games" with Ben Affleck and Miramax's "The Yards" co-starring Mark Wahlberg, Joaquin Phoenix, James Caan and Faye Dunaway.

In 2001, Theron illuminated the screen in the Warner Bros tearjerker "Sweet November" alongside Keanu Reeves, as well as in Woody Allen's "Curse of the Jade Scorpion," co-starring Helen Hunt, Dan Aykroyd and David Ogden Stiers. In the fall of 2002 Theron starred opposite Patrick Swayze, Natasha Richardson and Billy Bob Thornton in "Waking Up in Reno" which she then moved on to star alongside Kevin Bacon, Courtney Love, Stuart Townsend, Pruitt Taylor Vince and Dakota Fanning in the feature film "Trapped" directed by Luis Mandoki.

SUSAN SARANDON (Joan Deerfield)

The extremely versatile actress brings her own brand of sex appeal and intelligence to every role – from her fearless portrayal in "Bull Durham" to her Oscar-nominated performances in "Thelma and Louise,"

“Lorenzo’s Oil,” “The Client,” and “Atlantic City” to her Academy Award®-winning and SAG Award winning role in “Dead Man Walking” as Sister Helen, a nun consoling a death-row inmate.

Sarandon was recently seen in “Alfie” opposite Jude Law, in “Shall We Dance” with Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez and in “Noel” with Robin Williams, Paul Walker and Penelope Cruz. She also starred in the 2003 CBS Movie “Ice Bound” as Dr. Jerri Nielson - based on Nielson’s real life survival story - and as Princess Wensicia Corrinno in the Sci Fi Channel Mini Series “Children of Dune.”

Sarandon made her acting debut in the movie “Joe,” which she followed with a continuing role in the TV drama “A World Apart.” Her early film credits include “The Great Waldo Pepper,” “Lovin’ Molly,” “The Front Page” and the 1975 cult classic “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” In 1978 she played Brooke Shields’ mother in Louis Malle’s controversial “Pretty Baby” and went on to receive her first Oscar® nomination in Malle’s “Atlantic City.”

More recently, Sarandon was seen in Brad Silberling’s “Moonlight Mile,” with Dustin Hoffman; in the comedy “Igby Goes Down,” with Jeff Goldblum; in “The Banger Sisters,” with Goldie Hawn and Geoffrey Rush; opposite Paul Newman and Gene Hackman in “Twilight;” in the poignant comedy “Stepmom” with Julia Roberts; in the erotic farce “Illuminata,” directed by John Turturro; Tim Robbins’ drama “Cradle Will Rock”; Wayne Wang’s “Anywhere But Here”; and Stanley Tucci’s “Joe Gould’s Secret.”

In addition to her many on screen credits, she lent her vocal talents to the animated features “Rugrats in Paris,” “James and the Giant Peach,” and “Cats & Dogs” and served as narrator for Laleh Khadivi’s documentary “900 Women,” about female prison inmates.

The hard-working actress has made a career of choosing diverse and challenging projects both in film and television. Her additional feature credits include: “King of the Gypsies,” “The Hunger,” “Compromising Positions,” “The January Man,” “White Palace,” “The Buddy System,” “Sweet Hearts Dance,” “A Dry White Season,” “The Witches of Eastwick,” “Bob Roberts,” “Light Sleeper,” “Little Women,” and “Safe Passage.” She also starred in HBO’s “Earthly Possessions,” based on the Anne Tyler novel and directed by James Lapine; in the CBS Movie “Women of Valor;” and the HBO Miniseries “Mussolini: The Decline and Fall of Il Duce” opposite Bob Hoskins and Anthony Hopkins.

On Broadway, Sarandon appeared in Gore Vidal’s “An Evening with Richard Nixon” and received critical acclaim for her performances Off-Broadway in “A Coupla of White Chicks Sitting Around Talkin’” and the thriller “Extremities.” She also appeared, Off-Off-Broadway, in the moving post September 11th stage play “The Guys.”

Sarandon also appeared in the TV Movie “The Exonerated,” directed by Bob Balaban.

JAMES FRANCO (Sergeant Carnelli)

Franco metamorphosis into the title role of the TNT biopic *James Dean* earned him career-making reviews, as well as a Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Motion Picture made for Television. He also received nominations for an Emmy and Screen Actors Guild Award for this memorable performance.

Having starred as Harry Osbourne in Sam Raimi’s blockbuster “Spider-Man” and its sequel “Spider-Man 2,” Franco will next be seen in the third installment of the “Spider-Man” franchise, along with Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst. He also stars opposite Sienna Miller in “Camille,” which will be released next year, and appears in “An American Crime,” starring Catherine Keener.

He most recently starred in the World War I drama “Flyboys,” the classic romance “Tristan and Isolde,” as well as the naval academy drama “Annapolis.”

Franco's credits include John Dahl's "The Great Raid", Robert Altman's "The Company," Nicolas Cage's directorial debut "Sonny," as well as "City By The Sea" opposite Robert DeNiro and the Martin Scorsese produced "Deuces Wild." On television, he starred in NBC's critically acclaimed "Freaks and Geeks."

He has written, directed and starred in several short plays. He adapted two of them, "Fool's Gold" and "The Ape," into feature length films in which he produced, directed and starred in. He also wrote and directed "Good Time Max" which is currently in post production.

JONATHAN TUCKER (Mike Deerfield)

Throughout his impressive career, actor Jonathan Tucker has had the good fortune of working with some of today's most talented filmmakers. This Spring, however, his collaboration with Academy Award-winner Paul Haggis ("Million Dollar Bay," "Crash") lead him to the central role in NBC's highly acclaimed drama "The Black Donnellys." Tucker starred as Tommy Donnelly, an Irish youth with peacemaking instincts who turns dark due to his brothers' involvement in organized crime in New York City's notorious Hell's Kitchen neighborhood. The series will be followed by another Haggis collaboration, Warner Independent Pictures' Iraqi War drama "In the Valley of Elah" in which he stars as an AWOL soldier. He is currently on-location in Queensland, Australia filming the lead role in Dreamwork's thriller "The Ruins" based upon the best-selling novel for director Carter Smith.

Audiences and critics alike first took notice of Tucker when he portrayed Tilda Swinton's sensitive teenage son in Fox Searchlight's critically lauded "The Deep End" from director's Scott McGehee and David Siegel. The thriller depicted a devout mother who instinctively reacts to cover-up a death in an attempt to avoid her son's implications.

Tucker transitioned the acclaim into a diverse string of roles including director Marcus Nispel's remake of the horror classic "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" for New Line Cinema, Samuel Goldwyn's "Stateside" with Val Kilmer, the role as younger sibling to John C. Reilly in the Soderbergh/Clooney-produced con-themed feature "Criminal," Miramax's thriller "Hostage" in which he starred opposite Bruce Willis., and more recently, in Weinstein Co.'s "Pulse," a remake of Kiyoshi Kurosawa's Japanese horror classic. Upcoming is Think Films' dark comedy "Love Comes to the Executioner" co-starring Ginnifer Goodwin and Jeremy Renner, as well as the drama "Cherry Crush" opposite Nikki Reed ("Thirteen").

Additional films include Sofia Coppola's "The Virgin Suicides" in which he portrayed Kirsten Dunst's voyeur teen neighbor and attempted savior, "Ball in the House" with David Strathairn and Jennifer Tilly, the young Billy Crudup in Barry Levinson's acclaimed "Sleepers", and the comedy "Two if by Sea" with Sandra Bullock.

Likewise, previous forays into television include an arc on David E. Kelley's "The Practice," a guest starring role on "Law & Order: SVU," "CSI," and "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" as well as the season premiere of "Six Feet Under." He most recently completed a star-turn on the lauded new Showtime series "Masters of Horror: Dance of the Dead."

Though a Boston native, Tucker has had the opportunity to travel the world over, including a couple years in Paris as a young boy, thanks to his renowned art historian/professor/curator father, Paul Hayes Tucker, and marketing consultant mother, Maggie Moss-Tucker. By third grade, he was starring in the Boston Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" and continued as a member of the company for five years. He is also a graduate of Ojai's Thacher School.

FRANCES FISHER (Evie)

Born in Milford On-Sea, England, Frances Fisher's itinerant childhood in Columbia, Canada, France, Brazil, Turkey, Italy and in various locations around the U.S. undoubtedly provided fodder for her thespian career. After graduating from high school in Orange, Texas, Frances cut her teeth acting on

Tennessee Williams and Robert Bolt in Orange Community Theater. She also apprenticed at the Barter Theatre in Virginia before moving to New York City where her career quickly blossomed.

Fisher went on to star in over 30 theatrical productions both regionally and off-Broadway, including *Fool For Love*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Orpheus Descending* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. During this time she studied with Stella Adler and is one of the last three students selected by Lee Strasberg to become a member of the renowned Actors' Studio. Fisher earned a Drama-Logue award for Best Ensemble Cast in the world premiere of Caryl Churchill's *Three More Sleepless Nights*.

Fisher began to build her film career with roles in *Tough Guys Don't Dance*, *Babyfever*, *Patty Hearst* and *Female Perversions*. She then added starring roles opposite Clint Eastwood in the Academy Award-winning *Unforgiven* and *True Crime* to her burgeoning resume. Frances next starred in the Warner Bros. offbeat comedy *The Big Tease* opposite Craig Ferguson and *The Rising Place* for director Tom Rice, which was the Grand Prize winner of the 2001 Malibu Film Festival. The versatile actress is perhaps best known for her memorable performance as Kate Winslet's mother in *Titanic*, which garnered her a Screen Actors Guild nomination as part of Best Ensemble Cast, while the film went on to receive 11 Academy Awards.

In addition to her thriving movie career, Fisher has had many notable television roles. She starred as Lucille Ball in *Lucy & Desi: Before the Laughter*, and as Janet Bouvier in *Jackie O: A Life Story*, both of which were CBS productions. She recurred on the CBS comedy series *Becker* as Ted Danson's love interest and on *Titus* for FOX. Fisher also co-starred alongside Jennifer Love Hewitt in *The Audrey Hepburn Story* for ABC.

Fisher then starred in the 2002 Sundance Film Festival selection *Blue Car* for Miramax and writer/director Karen Moncrieff and co-starred as a lawyer in the Dreamworks feature *House of Sand & Fog* opposite Sir Ben Kingsley and Jennifer Connelly. Frances also starred opposite Rob Lowe as a series regular on the NBC drama *Lyons Den*.

More recently, Frances earned rave reviews for her stand-out performance opposite Julianne Moore & Pierce Brosnan in the New Line feature *Laws of Attraction* and a co-starring role opposite Sir Ben Kingsley & Annette Benning in the HBO / Killer Films feature *Mrs. Harris*.

Frances will next be seen in Universal Pictures *The Kingdom* opposite Jamie Foxx and directed by Peter Berg, Dan Ireland's *Jolene* and Paul Haggis' *In The Valley Of Elah* with Tommy Lee Jones.

JASON PATRIC (Lt. Kirklander)

Jason Patric's feature film debut came in 1987 when he appeared in the comedy-thriller "The Lost Boys." He then starred in the war drama "*The Beast*." His performances in the erotic thriller "After Dark My Sweet" and the drama "Rush" earned Patric critical acclaim and led respected film critic David Denby to label him "the best young actor in American movies." Patric next starred in "Geronimo: An American Legend" and "The Journey of August King." He has also starred in the drama "Sleepers" and in "Your Friends and Neighbors," which was the first feature Patric produced for his production company, Fleece.

Patric starred to critical-acclaim in the drama "Narc," which made its debut at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival. He has completed filming "The Alamo" for The Disney Studios, due in April.

Patric starred opposite Ashley Judd in the Broadway production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at the Music Box Theatre. He recently received critical acclaim for his role in "Expired," and also had a starring role in the dramatic feature film "Walker Payne," for director Matt Williams, co- starring Sam Shepherd. He also completed filming "Downloading Nancy," co-starring Maria Bello.

JOSH BROLIN (Chief Buchwald)

An actor who effortlessly taps into the heart of his empathic characters, Brolin continues to challenge himself in a wide range of roles.

Brolin most recently completed three diverse films. In "Grind House," Brolin joins Rose McGowan and Nicky Katt as characters in a combination of two 75-minute films by auteurs Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez. Brolin also stars in director Karen Moncreiff's ensemble thriller "The Dead Girl," opposite Toni Collette, Brittany Murphy, and James Franco. The Lakeshore production intertwines the lives of a group of people who don't realize they are involved in a scandalous murder investigation. Brolin recently returned from the Cannes Film Festival where "No Country for Old Men," a feature from the Coen Brothers based upon the celebrated novel by Cormac McCarthy, screened in competition. Javier Bardem and Tommy Lee Jones round out the cast of McCarthy's western thriller.

Prior to these roles, Brolin established himself as an actor willing to take on decidedly diverse roles in big budget blockbusters and smaller independent films. In 2005, Brolin starred alongside Jessica Alba and Scott Caan in director John Stockwell's "Into the Blue." The film centers on a group of divers who find themselves in trouble with a druglord (Brolin) after they come upon the illicit cargo of a sunken airplane.

Brolin made his feature film debut starring in the action-comedy "Goonies," directed by Richard Donner for producer Steven Spielberg, and has since appeared in several successful films including: Paul Verhoven's blockbuster hit "Hollow Man," with Kevin Bacon, and Jim Stern's controversial film, "All The Rage," which made its debut at the 1999 Toronto Film Festival, featuring an all-star cast including Gary Sinise, Joan Allen, Giovanni Ribisi, and Anna Paquin; Fox Searchlight's "Best Laid Plans" opposite Reese Witherspoon and Alessandro Nivola, produced by Mike Newell.

Brolin received critical acclaim and audience recognition in David O. Russell's "Flirting with Disaster," portraying a bisexual federal agent, torn between a love from the past and the reality of a current relationship. "Flirting with Disaster" featured an outstanding ensemble cast including Ben Stiller, Patricia Arquette, Tea Leoni, Mary Tyler Moore, George Segal, Alan Alda, Lily Tomlin and Richard Jenkins.

Additional film credits include Victor Nunez's "Coastlines," which premiered at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival, opposite Timothy Olyphant; Scott Silver's "Mod Squad," opposite Claire Danes; Ole Bornedal's psychological thriller "Nightwatch," with Nick Nolte, Patricia Arquette, and Ewan McGregor; as well as Guillermo Del Toro's science-fiction thriller "Mimic," opposite Mira Sorvino, Jeremy Northam, and Charles Dutton.

An accomplished stage actor, Brolin spent five years with Anthony Zerbe at the Reflections Festival at the GeVa Theatre in Rochester, New York. While there, he performed in and directed several of the festival's plays, including "Pitz and Joe," "Life in the Trees," "Forgiving Typhoid Mary," "Oh, The Innocents," "Peep Hole," and "Ellen Universe Joins the Band," "Lincoln Park Zoo" and "Hard Hearts." Brolin also starred opposite Elias Koteas in the acclaimed Broadway production of Sam Shepard's "True West." In 2004, Brolin starred in the award-winning Off-Broadway play "The Exonerated," based on the true stories of a half-dozen former death row inmates. Directed by Bob Balaban, the play features a rotating ensemble cast and Brolin returned in 2006 for encore performances.

Additional stage credits include "Skin of the Teeth," "The Crucible" and "A Streetcar Named Desire" at the Kennedy Memorial Theatre; "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Lebrero Theatre; and "Dark of the Moon" at the Ann Capa Ensemble Theatre.

For television, Brolin made his mark as a series regular in the popular ABC series "The Young Riders," as well as "Private Eye" for NBC and "Winnetka Road" for CBS. Brolin recently received critical acclaim in the TNT's epic miniseries "Into the West." "Into the West" follows stories from the American West in the 19th century as told from the perspective of two families, one of white settlers and one of Native

Americans. The epic treatment also stars Beau Bridges, Gary Busey and Jessica Capshaw. Prior to "Into the West," Brolin starred in the title role of NBC's political drama, "Mr. Sterling." The show followed the efforts of an idealistic young politician as he attempted to both learn and work within an often corrupt system. He also appeared in the CBS movie-of-the-week "Prison of Children," and in the Showtime original film "Gang In Blue" with Mario Van Peebles, J.T. Walsh and Stephen Lang.

Brolin co-starred opposite Mary Steenburgen, Gretchen Mol and Bonnie Bedelia in CBS's "Picnic." Directed by Ivan Passer, the drama is based on William Inge's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, where a handsome drifter comes into a small Kansas town, bringing emotional turmoil to all he encounters.

WES CHATHAM (Corporal Penning)

A Georgia native, Wes embarked on his acting career after serving four years in the Navy as a Naval Aviation Fire Fighter. Wes was stationed on board the Belleauwood out of San Diego, where he was discovered by a casting director who was searching for authentic military personnel for the film, "The Antwone Fisher Story," directed by Denzel Washington. Soon after, Wes won the role of "Isaac" on the Showtime comedy series, "Barbarshop," based on the successful films. He also had a supporting role in "The Fighting Temptations," as well as the dramatic series, "Sleeper Cell." Wes lives in Marina del Ray, California.

JAKE McLAUGHLIN (Specialist Gordon Bonner) Bio Forthcoming

MEHCAD BROOKS (Specialist Ennis Long)

With a coveted role on one of the most popular hit television shows and a leading role in a box office success, Mehcad Brooks is a talented young actor who has become a breakout star.

Brooks just received an NAACP nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series for his performance on the ABC Drama, "Desperate Housewives," playing the role of Alfre Woodard's son and the newest family to move to Wisteria Lane. His character (Matthew Applewhite) first appeared on the final two episodes of last season and he will continue on the show throughout this season. His role also lead to his inclusion in Daily Variety's "Ten Young Actors to Watch" feature in August 2005.

Brooks is currently starring in the Jerry Bruckheimer film for Disney, "Glory Road," which debuted at #1 at the boxoffice. Directed by James Gartner and written by Chris Cleveland, the film tells the story of the 1966 college basketball team who was the first all-black starting line-up to win the NCAA national championship, and was led by Coach Don Haskins. Brooks portrays 'Harry Flournoy,' one of the star players of the team. Also starring is Josh Lucas as 'Coach Haskins. The film was released on January 13, 2006.

An athlete himself, Brooks grew up in Austin, Texas where he was an All-State basketball player in addition to playing football and baseball. He was accepted into Yale University, but instead attended the University of Southern California to study at their prestigious School of Cinema-Television. He also modeled during his high school and college years. His first breaks came as guest-starring roles on "Malcolm in the Middle," "Boston Public", "One on One" and "Cold Case." He also starred in the Disney television movie, "Tiger Cruise."

Brooks currently resides in Los Angeles.

VICTOR WOLF (Private Robert Ortiz)

Wolf was born in and still resides in Inglewood, CA. After seeing his first movie (E.T.) Victor knew he wanted to be an actor. The child of working parents enabled Victor to grow up watching movies spending many hours in local theaters. His love for play pretend as a child and has continued with him making his the actor he is today.

Victor's first acting job was at the age of eighteen for Peugeot Cars. He later did print work but it wasn't long before he started working professionally on shows such as "The Shield" and "American Family." His

film debut was in "How The Garcia Girls Spent Their Summer" where he portrayed the mentally handicapped best friend of America Ferrera ("Ugly Betty"). "How The Garcia Girls Spent Their Summer" was also an official selection for the 2005 Sundance Film Festival.

Currently studying at the Actors Circle Theatre in West Hollywood (with the Stella Adler Technique instructor Arthur Mendoza). Being the consummate actor Victor enjoys watching his contemporaries work in film, he also enjoys spending his free time at the theater watching movies (doing this helps him to further develop his craft). He has applied what he has learned to his work giving him the opportunity to portray the role of Private Robert Ortiz.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

** We appreciate your consideration in not sharing plot points at the end of the film. **

PAUL HAGGIS (Director/Screenplay by/Producer)

Haggis wrote two Best Film Oscar winners back-to-back: "Million Dollar Baby" (2004), and "Crash" (2005). For "Crash," Haggis won Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay, though the film also received an additional four nominations, including one for Haggis' direction. "Crash" reaped numerous awards during its year of release from associations such as the IFP Spirit Awards, the Screen Actors Guild, and BAFTA.

In 2006, Haggis' screenplays included the duo Clint Eastwood productions "Flags of our Fathers" and "Letters from Iwo Jima," the latter earning him his third screenplay Oscar nomination. He also helped pen "Casino Royale," which garnered considerable acclaim for reinvigorating the Bond spy franchise.

Haggis' current project is "In the Valley of Elah" which he wrote, directed, and produced, and is to be released by Warner Independent Pictures, Nala Films, Samuels Media and Summit Entertainment in September, 2007. The film, which stars Tommy Lee Jones, Charlize Theron and Susan Sarandon, is a suspense drama of a father's search for his missing son, who is reported AWOL after returning from Iraq.

Haggis was born in London, Ontario, Canada and moved to California in his early 20s. For over two decades he has written, directed and produced television shows such as "thirtysomething" and "The Tracey Ullman Show," and also developed credits as a pup writer on many Norman Lear sitcoms. He created the acclaimed, if short-lived, CBS series "EZ Streets," which The New York Times cited as one of the most influential shows of all time, noting, that without it "there would be no Sopranos."

Haggis is equally committed to his private and social concerns. He is co-founder of Artists for Peace and Justice, a working board member of EMA (The Environmental Media Association) as well as the advocacy group Office of the Americas, among others.

He is married, the father of four children, and splits his time between residences in Los Angeles and New York.