



**UPLIFTING  
ENTERTAINMENT**

**UP ORIGINAL MOVIE**

***DEAR VIOLA***

**AIRING EXCLUSIVELY ON UP,  
SUNDAY, MARCH 16 AT 7:00 P.M. EST**

**SYNOPSIS**

In the UP Original Movie *Dear Viola*, when the writer of a local, obsessively-read, beloved advice column, entitled "Dear Viola," decides to retire and leave the quaint seaside village of Bellport, seasoned editor Earl Bellamy (Neil Crone) is taken aback. While hoping to keep a lid on this news and his paper going, Earl unexpectedly finds a brand-new "Viola" column on his desk. Earl, his "The Bellport Herald" staffers Brian (Adamo Ruggiero) and Peggy (Sheila McCarthy), and soon the entire town find Viola's new published tone to be refreshing, no-nonsense, funny and wise. An outpouring of mail for Viola floods in. Again, Earl leaves the mail on his desk and another column appears. Using the security camera, Earl discovers the mystery columnist to be none other than Katie Miner (Kellie Martin), the shy accountant who has quietly done the books at the paper for years. Katie agrees to continue writing the column as long as her identity can remain secret. Sifting through a mountain of letters, Katie becomes struck by one from a widower, Russ (Jefferson Brown), who calls himself "Mr. Lost Love." Working as a deep sea fisherman with pal Clay Jackson (Arnold Pinnock), Russ can't seem to move past the loss of his wife five years prior and struggles to find the strength to raise his young daughter, Meredith (Kira Gelineau). Firmly, Katie encourages him to reach out to others, begin dating and start living. As they correspond through the column and run into each other (hidden by their pen names), Katie starts to fall for Russ. But when Russ decides to take Viola's advice and start dating the knockout new girl in town, Jamie (Brittany Gray), Katie has to decide if it's really in her best interest to keep her identity and growing feelings secret.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Once Entertainment One wrapped production on the UP original movie *Rocky Road* (airing later in 2014), shooting immediately began in early October 2013 on *Dear Viola* in Cobourg, Ontario. Cobourg had left such an impression on the *Rocky Road* production team that they decided to stay there and shoot *Dear Viola*. Cobourg is a quaint town with a population of only 17,500 and is an hour and a half east of Toronto. On the shores of Lake Ontario, Cobourg was settled by United Empire Loyalist in 1798 and the town has maintained its charm and sense of history with many original homes and buildings intact. Director Laurie Lynd previously worked in Cobourg shooting an episode of *Murdoch Mysteries* and was really happy to be back. Comments Lynd, "Cobourg was a total pleasure to work in, and everybody was so welcoming and gracious which made our time in Cobourg so easy." Remarks Supervising Producer Jonathan Schwartz, "We fell in love with the quaint Main Street, the Marina, the clapboard houses and all of the stunning parks. It also helped that the town was supportive of us being there and we ensured them that we wouldn't be too disruptive." And finally, since *Dear Viola* was completely shot on location, production really needed a place like Cobourg with its picturesque marinas as the town becomes an essential *character* in the movie.

While this is the first time Executive Producer Ira Pincus and Schwartz have worked with Director Lynd, they are hoping for many more opportunities. Remarks Schwartz, "Laurie is the kind of director that Ira and I like to work with. He is opinionated and fights for the picture – all qualities that I really gravitate to when hiring a director." Adds Pincus, "Laurie has directed some lovely films, and we felt that this movie would be best served with him steering the ship. And we were right. He was fantastic to work with and I hope that we can do this many more times." And Lynd was immediately drawn to the *Dear Viola* script because "it is something often attempted – but rarely achieved: a charming, funny, moving romantic comedy. For those who think "they don't make 'em like they used to," *Dear Viola* will be a breath of fresh air." And finally, with an aggressive shooting timeline of only 10 days, Lynd's extensive experience shooting episodic television came in handy, making him the perfect candidate to direct *Dear Viola*.

It is often said that casting makes the movie or series and *Dear Viola* did a fantastic job assembling their roster of amazing talent. For the lead role of "Katie Milner/Dear Viola," *Dear Viola* was fortunate to have landed Kellie Martin. Executive Producer Pincus has been a friend of Martin's for many years and tried on numerous occasions to get her to star in one of his pictures but she was always so busy. Remarks Schwartz, "Once we read the script, Ira and I felt that it would be a great idea to bring it to her and we were thrilled to hear that she was intrigued by the character. We made sure the schedules aligned this time and everything worked out perfectly." Director Lynd had never had the privilege of working with Martin but comments, "Working with her was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my career to date. Kellie is a superb actress, adept at both comedy and drama, and is also a wonderful human being." Kellie wore two hats on this project -- as an actress and as an executive producer -- and gave astute script notes and very timely and wise

input on our scheduling. Like everyone else on board, Kellie recognized the challenge of shooting the entire film in 10 days, and was game for it.”

For the role of “Russ,” the leading man and single dad, Jefferson Brown nailed the audition. Remarks Schwartz, “I think there was a natural feel to his audition that made us feel he was right for the part. You have to believe that he is a single father trying to make the best of it and he did an excellent job.” Adds Lynd, “Jefferson has a rugged movie star quality to him but still comes off as an everyman, and that is a unique combination.” Brown was the unanimous first choice for all and production was thrilled with his performance. And when the cameras rolled, there is a real spark on camera between Brown and Martin’s characters.

But the real find during the whole casting process came with the role of “Meredith,” the eight-year-old daughter to single dad “Russ” and, most say, the *heart* of the film. While production scouted a wide net for the role, little did they know that the actress they were looking for actually resided in Cobourg. Kira Gelineau has lived most of her life in Cobourg but only after she was cast and asked to come in for a wardrobe fitting did production learn she was a local actress. And it was in fact Lynd who had found Gelineau earlier this year when he was auditioning six-year-olds for a pre-schooler show he was directing. Though Gelineau was too old for that show, Lynd immediately thought of her for “Meredith” and indeed, she was Lynd’s only choice for the role – an opinion shared by Kellie Martin and producers. According to Schwartz, “The challenge with young actors is that they tend to turn it off between lines. Very few, if any, keep in character and react to what the other actors in the scenes are saying and doing but Kira was such a natural at listening and reacting that we were simply blown away.” And Lynd echoes Schwartz’s comments. “Kira does something few child actors do: she *listens* while she’s in a scene, she doesn’t just wait to say her lines. If an adult actor should say his or her line differently, Kira picks up on it and adjusts her line accordingly.”

When Lynd read the script, he immediately thought of the wonderful and talented Jackie Richardson to play “Rennie,” “Katie’s” live-in housemate and confidant. Lynd has been a long time friend and fan of Richardson and first met her over 35 years ago in the production of *Anything Goes*. She starred as “Reno Sweeney” and performed with friends of Lynd’s in the chorus, and they have been friends ever since. All agreed that working with Richardson was a dream; she is a consummate professional who brings genuine warmth to her character and to the set. Comments Lynd, “Knowing Jackie was playing “Rennie” — and singing in the film’s gospel music/church sequences -- I added the spiritual *Balm in Gilead* as a solo for her character. This haunting piece will play during the film’s dramatic climax when “Russ” daughter has gone missing, and “Rennie” sings the spiritual song as a prayer for the child’s safe return and simply nails it. Audiences will be blown away.”

Music plays an important role in *Dear Viola* and it is the musical competent of the movie that really cemented

Lynd's attraction to direct it, so he was adamant with having accomplished musicians in the production. In addition to pitching Jackie Richardson, Lynd pushed to cast Toronto based alt-country singer-songwriter Justin Rutledge in a supporting role and to get him singing in the church choir. Rutledge serves double duty in *Dear Viola* and also scores the movie, which will give it a unique, Roots/Americana sound – something which will further distinguish *Dear Viola*.

And rounding out the supporting cast, Lynd had the pleasure to work with several actors from past projects and once again pushed for them. The incredibly talented Sheila McCarthy was cast as the newspaper secretary “Peggy” and provides some of the best comic relief in *Dear Viola*. And for the role of newspaper writer “Brian,” Lynd was delighted to work once again with Adamo Ruggiero, whom he first directed on *Degrassi: The Next Generation* over ten years ago.

With all of the pieces in place, the next step was to shoot *Dear Viola*. With only 10 days to shoot the movie and immediately following *Rocky Road*, the crew knew that it was possible to make a movie with compressed timelines, but this time they had one less day than they did on *Rocky Road*. Nonetheless, with the hard work of crew, amazing cast and Lynd's direction, they all made it possible. Remarks Lynd, “When I first knew we would only have 10 days, I thought – it's not possible. But with trims and tweaks we were able to adjust the script to the *nearly* possible.” And Lynd also credits his wonderful First Assistant Director (1<sup>st</sup> AD), Alan Goluboff, who is not only a longtime collaborator of Lynd's, but a veteran AD who has worked in features and television for over 30 years with credits such as *A Christmas Story* on his resume. Adds Lynd, “The shoot went; I have to say, absurdly well.” And once again, Cobourg had welcomed crew with open arms and had been very inviting and allowed them to shoot in some very unique locations. For the home that “Russ” and “Meredith” live in, production was really lucky to scout this amazing house that backs onto Lake Ontario. But what really makes the home unique is that it once was a cottage in northern Ontario that the homeowner had *moved* to Cobourg to be placed on his Lake Ontario waterfront lot. With its amazing post and beam construction and wide plank board floors, everybody on the crew and in the cast instantly fell in love with the home and location. And when the crew had wrapped for the day, they returned to the King George Hotel. As their existing home from the *Rocky Road* shoot, the King George Hotel is Cobourg's most popular lodging venue and also serves as a tourist attraction because it formerly was a prison! Schwartz recalls that, “we put the cast and crew up in the King George Hotel and I don't think any of us fully grasped what it would be like to stay in a converted prison. I actually had the jail bars in my room. It took a several days to get fully used to it.”

## ABOUT THE CAST

### KELLIE MARTIN ("KATIE MINER / DEAR VIOLA")

While executive producer/star Kellie Martin has garnered many acting credits, she is probably still most fondly remembered for her work as 'Becca Thatcher' in the popular ABC series "Life Goes On," for which she received an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actress. From there, Martin played the title role in CBS' drama *Christy* as well as medical student "Lucy Knight" on NBC's "ER" from 1998-2000. Most recently, she broke ground as "Army Captain Nicole Galassini" on "Army Wives."

Other recent television projects include the movies *I Married Who?* and *Smooch* as well as spots on "Private Practice," "Grey's Anatomy" and "Drop Dead Diva."

Among her feature film credits are *Open House*, *Malibu's Most Wanted*, *A Goofy Movie*, *Matinee* and *Troop Beverly Hills*.

In 1999, Martin took on a new role as national spokesperson for the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA). Drawing on her family's experience (her sister Heather passed away at age 19 from complications of a misdiagnosed case of lupus), Martin works to raise awareness of autoimmune disease as a major women's health issue. Among her activities: lobbying on Capitol Hill; participating in the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women 2000; and meeting with patients and family members to share her story. In 2001, *Reader's Digest* named Martin a national "Health Hero" on its cover; and a year later, Lifetime Television's "Intimate Portrait" featured Martin and her work with AARDA. In 2003, Martin was honored with the Michael Wayne Public Service Award by Lupus LA.

In 2001, Martin graduated from Yale University with a degree in art history. In 2004 she was accepted to the AFI Directing Workshop for Women where she directed her first short film. In 2014, Martin's first novel, *Madam*, which she co-authored, will be published by Penguin Group.

### JEFFERSON BROWN ("RUSS MITCHELL")

Born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Jefferson Brown moved with his family at age seven to Newmarket, Ontario. Returning to New Brunswick for his post-secondary education, he pursued a degree in visual art at Mount Allison University in Sackville. In his third year at the university, Brown was cast in the school's annual musical and fell in love with performing.

Brown has appeared in numerous films, most recently playing the romantic lead in *Dear Viola*. Other films include *Mr Viral*, *Dirty Singles*, *Breakdown at 17*, *Carrie*, *Shark City*, *Stag*, *Cobu 3d*, *Silent Hill 2*, *Salem Falls* and *The Twelve Men Of Christmas*. His lead in the cult hit *Please Kill Mr Know It All* garnered a

nomination for Best Male Performance in a feature at the 2013 Canadian Comedy Awards. Other awards include Best Actor at the 2007 Canadian Filmmakers Film Festival.

His guest work in television includes "Murdoch Mysteries," "Cracked," "Played," "Xiii," "Haven" and "La Complex." Brown has recurred on series such as "Degrassi," "Rookie Blue," "Slings & Arrows," "Being Erica," "Sophie" and "MVP."

Brown currently resides in Toronto with his wife, baby daughter and two cats.

### **KIRA GELINEAU ("MEREDITH")**

Kira Gelineau has grown up in small towns, two hours east of her birth city Toronto, Ontario. She started out at the ripe age of four doing local fashion shows where her parents knew she enjoyed performing. This was the reason they enrolled her to attend a weekend talent convention in Toronto and where her current agent scouted her. Since that time, Gelineau has appeared in numerous Canadian and U.S. national ad campaigns, as well as shooting television series pilots. Gelineau is currently in the recurring role of Epiphany in the animated kids show "Artie's Creative Galaxy." *Dear Viola* is her first movie role, with hopefully more to come. In her spare time not only does Gelineau love to swim, play with her friends and sing with her choir La Jeunesse, but also sharpen her skills in musical theatre and dance classes. She also enjoys reading, writing stories and going to school, where her favorite subjects are science and recess. When she grows up, she wants to be a "triple threat" performer.

### **JACKIE RICHARDSON ("RENNIE JASPER")**

Jackie Richardson, one of Canada's foremost singers of gospel, blues and jazz, was born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and moved to Toronto with her family, while still at a young age.

She grew up in Richmond Hill, which she still considers her hometown. Richardson began singing in her church choir at seven and her successful musical career started at the age of 16 when she joined a local quartet called "The Tiaras." She later performed at the Canadian Forces bases across Canada, the South Pacific and the Far East.

A veteran of the stage and the small and large screens, Richardson forged a very successful acting career with roles in "No! No! Nanette Anything Goes, "Hello Dolly!" and "Raisin in the Sun". She became well known for her part in "Ain't Misbehaving," which earned her a Dora Award. With her glorious voice, it's not surprising that she is in demand. Over the years, she has performed and/or recorded with, among others, Rita Chiarelli, Morgan Davis, Anne Murray, Alannah Myles, Joe Sealy, Ken Whiteley, Kingsley Etienne, Jeff Jones and Michelle Wright. Richardson's own CD, *A Woman's View: Child Eyes*, which is mainly contemporary jazz, is currently available in music stores.

In September of 1992, she helped to promote the James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, a worthwhile cause that benefits African Canadians in the field of higher education, history, culture and research.

A dazzling performer, Richardson has a powerful and supple voice - it sounds as if it could almost soar to the heavens - and a warm, vibrant stage presence. The music of Jackie Richardson is an experience of soul, a profoundly personal synthesis of the remarkable gospel, blues and jazz women she has embodied on stage and screen. It is also a portrait of self - not the showcase of a showboat but a demonstration of songmanship in the service of spirit.

Richardson won the Gemini Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Dramatic Program or Mini-Series for *The Gospel According to the Blue*. In 2004, she was the Dora Mavor Moore Winner for Best Female Principal Role in a Musical for "Cookin' at the Cookery: The Music & Times of Alberta Hunter." Richardson has received Gemini, Dora, Juno, Jessie, Betty, Toronto Blues Society and NAACP Award Nominations.

### **ARNOLD PINNOCK ("CLAY JACKSON")**

Arnold Pinnock has been a familiar face on the Canadian film and television scene. An accomplished and well-respected actor and comedian, he began his career in stand-up and was a cast member with the world-renowned The Second City Toronto for three years.

Pinnock has been the lead in several acclaimed television series, including Disney's "Life with Derek," ABC's "Beautiful People," Showtime's "Billable Hours" and more recently, "Combat Hospital" for Global and "The Listener" for CTV. He's also made guest appearances on numerous other television shows and has had roles in many films, including *Exit Wounds*, *Lars and the Real Girl*, *Bait*, *Assault on Precinct 13* and *The Incredible Hulk*, working with directors such Louis Leterrier, Antoine Fuqua, Clement Virgo and Andrzej Bartkowiak.

Pinnock continues to be in high demand as an actor. He also recently co-created a television comedy series, "Fusion."

### **ADAMO RUGGIERO ("BRIAN SOUTHERN")**

Adamo Ruggiero is a recognized actor, host and activist. His 12 years experience in the industry is widely diverse, having played lead roles on television/film/theater, hosted on television/live arenas as well as written and produced original projects. His major credits include: "Degrassi: The Next Generation" (CTV), "Being Erica" (CBC), "The Next Star" (YTV), "The Neverending Story" (Roseneath Theatre), "Dog Sees God:

Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead” (6 Degrees Theatre), “Truth/Dare” (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre), *Make the Yuletide Gay* (Guest House Films) and *The Pool Date / Gaysian* (BravoFact).

Ruggiero premiered in the second season of “Degrassi: The Next Generation” as Marco Del Rossi. Throughout his eight years on the show, his role as gay teenager Marco garnered much international attention. In 2004, Degrassi received its first *GLAAD Media Award* nomination for Outstanding Drama Series for Ruggiero’s starring episodes *Pride* (part 1 & 2). In 2005, AfterElton.com named Marco one of the top 25 gay characters on television. In January 2008, Ruggiero came out publically as a gay actor in an exclusive TV interview with *eTalk* and a cover story in *Fab Magazine*. Ruggiero has lent his name to The Trevor Project (an organization that helps suicidal LGBT youth) where he shot an international PSA alongside Roseanne Barr, T.R. Knight, Kristin Davis, John Goodman and Neil Patrick Harris. To honor Ruggiero for his activism, the GLAAD Media Awards invited him to present at the legendary Kodak Theater in Hollywood alongside such stars as Ellen DeGeneres, Rufus Wainwright and Tom Ford. *Out Magazine* included Ruggiero in its “Out 100 honorees of 2009” and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences invited him to speak on an LGBT discussion panel hosted by Kathy Griffin. In 2010, Ruggiero joined the fight against gay bullying with his own “it gets better” video which received over 25,000 hits; and he spoke for the cause on various radio/television/print outlets in Canada and the U.S. Recently, Ruggiero spoke at the University of Toronto alongside Oscar winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black to honor outstanding LGBT activists in television and film.

In 2009, Ruggiero returned to the stage in Bert V. Royal’s “Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead” as the womanizing high school burnout Van. Toronto Star’s theater critic Richard Ouzounian wrote: “Adamo Ruggiero is wonderfully sly as Van.” In 2012, Ruggiero played the lead character Atreyu in the Dora nominated play “The Neverending Story” at the Young Peoples Theatre. For Pride 2013, Ruggiero produced and starred in the headlining show “Truth/Dare” at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.

In 2009, Ruggiero starred in the American feature film *Make the Yuletide Gay*, which premiered at Toronto’s Inside Out festival and showed in LGBT film festivals across North America. Later that year, Ruggiero shot the cover of Los Angeles’ popular gay scene publication *Frontier Magazine*, promoting Los Angeles’ LGBT film festival, Outfest.

In 2010, Ruggiero played the recurring character Luis in CBC’s hit show “Being Erica” as well as starred in YTV’s “That’s So Weird.” In 2011, he starred in the BravoFact short film entitled *The Pool Date*, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. In 2013, he shot his second BravoFact short film entitled *Gaysian*, as well as played the lead character in the spin off web series “Boystown.”



Ruggiero is the creator and owner of Neitgeist Entertainment, a multimedia production company that specializes in independent television/film production, original web content, theatre production and media strategy. Neitgeist Entertainment's mandate is to collaborate with diverse groups of artists geared toward creating socially and politically conscience works. Projects include: The international LGBT campaign "You Are Not Alone: Adamo Ruggiero Comes Out" (a joint venture with *Epitome Pictures Inc.*) and the "Report Homophobic Violence Period Campaign" (RHVP) (a joint venture with *Toronto Police*). Neitgeist Entertainment is co-producing the second installment of the popular multi-media show "Truth/Dare."

### **ROBINNE FANFAIR ("CINDY MARCHAND")**

Robinne Fanfair is a versatile and unique actor, born and raised in Toronto. After college, Fanfair began to hone her craft and skill while studying with Neighborhood Playhouse alumnus Jacqueline McClintock. Fanfair's acting career has grown and flourished with numerous television and film roles. She was seen most recently in her role of "Pearl" on the award winning Global series: "Bomb Girls." Her credits also include; ABC- "Rookie Blue," USA Network- "Covert Affairs," CW- "Supernatural" and the recurring role of "Daphne" on the Global network series, "Da Kink in My Hair."

Fanfair's film career soared after being cast in the lead role of "Keesha" in the film *Stronger*, which premiered at the 2004 Toronto International Film Festival and was met with rave reviews during its American debut at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival.

In her spare time, Fanfair loves to bake the latest sweet treats with her own personal spin. She also enjoys yoga, salsa dancing and new fitness challenges such as climbing the CN Tower for the World Wildlife Foundation.

### **NEIL CRONE ("EARL BELLAMY")**

Neil Crone is not only an accomplished actor, he is also an award-winning comedian and writer. He is an alumnus of The Second City Mainstage and has an extensive list of film and television credits. Crone can currently be seen starring as Fred Tupper in the hit situation comedy "Little Mosque on the Prairie," as Scotty in *Life With Boys* and as Ray Cooper in *Really Me*. He recently filmed guest star roles on "Murdoch Mysteries" and "Rookie Blue." Other television credits include recurring roles on "Wind at My Back," "The Red Green Show," "Power Play" and "Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension."

Crone has appeared in the feature films *Hollywoodland* with Adrian Brody, *Eating Buccaneers* and *Down the Road Again*. He is a mainstay of Saturday morning cartoons and continues to lend his voice to the animated series "Ella the Elephant" and "Redaki." He can also be heard on such shows as "Erky-Perky," "Super Why," "Pearlie" and "The Adventures of Bob and Doug Mackenzie."

Crone was awarded the 2008 Canadian Comedy Award for Best Radio Bit for his work as “Bad Santa” on Q107’s “Derringer in the Morning.” When he isn’t acting, Crone is an award-winning syndicated humor columnist for Metroland newspapers and a highly sought after motivational speaker.

### **SHEILA McCARTHY (“PEGGY MAITLAND”)**

A Genie Award-winner for the classic Canadian films *I’ve Heard The Mermaids Singing* and *The Lotus Eaters*, McCarthy has appeared in the films *Being Julia*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, Sook-Yin Lee’s *Year of the Carnivore*, Brandon Cronenberg’s *“Antiviral”* and, most recently, in the Jonathan Hayes’ feature entitled *Algonquin Park*.

A lead in CBC’s hit series “Little Mosque on the Prairie” for six seasons, McCarthy shines both on screen and stage (most recently, in the critically acclaimed CanStage production of “The Arsonists”). Other notable television credits include “Virtual Mom,” “Die Hard 2,” Disney’s “Paradise,” “Picket Fences,” “Missing,” “Road to Avonlea,” “Street Legal,” “Rookie Blue” and “Murdoch Mysteries.” McCarthy will guest star in the upcoming second season of “Saving Hope.” In the UP Original Movie *Dear Viola*, McCarthy appears with “ER” alum Kellie Martin.

McCarthy received Gemini nominations for her roles in both “Emily of New Moon” and “Sesame Street.”

### **ABOUT THE PRODUCERS**

#### **JOHN MORAYNISS (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)**

John Morayniss oversees all aspects of eOne Television’s day to day activities, which encompasses the development, production, licensing, financing and worldwide distribution of live action drama and comedy series, reality and documentary series, television movies and mini-series, prime time animation and family programming. He also oversees the strategic growth of eOne’s television business and serves as an executive producer on many of eOne’s productions.

Prior to eOne Television (and its predecessor company, Blueprint Entertainment, where he held the position of CEO), Morayniss was head of television at Alliance Atlantis, where he oversaw all development, production and co-production activities for the television division, including the mega-hit series franchise, “CSI.”

Morayniss’ most recent executive producer credits include *Rookie Blue* (ABC, Global and Universal Networks International), *Haven* (Syfy, Global and Universal Networks International), “Saving Hope” (CTV), *Call Me Fitz* (DIRECTV, HBO Canada), *Rogue* (DIRECTV, The Movie Network, Movie Central) as well as Discovery Channel’s upcoming first-ever scripted mini-series “Klondike,” co-produced by Discovery, eOne,

and Nomadic Pictures in association with Scott Free Television. In addition, eOne is the studio behind “Hell On Wheels” (AMC), and is the international distributor of “The Walking Dead” (AMC).

#### **IRA PINCUS (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)**

Ira Pincus is an executive producer for Entertainment One Television in Los Angeles and serves as the head of the television movie department. Since joining the company in 2005 (then known as Blueprint Entertainment), he has produced almost 30 films for the company.

Films of note include: *When Love is Not Enough: The Lois Wilson Story* for the prestigious Hallmark Hall of Fame and CBS starring Winona Ryder and Barry Pepper; series “‘Til Death Do Us Part” for Court TV starring John Waters; “Absolution” starring Samantha Mathis for Lifetime; “The Road to Christmas” starring Jennifer Grey; the *GOODNIGHT FOR JUSTICE* western-themed franchise of movies starring Luke Perry for the Hallmark Channel and “Reel Love” for CMT starring LeAnne Rhimes and Burt Reynolds.

Before joining Entertainment One/Blueprint, Ira Pincus Films was housed at von Zerneck-Sertner Films where he produced, most notably: *Vinegar Hill*, an Oprah Book Club Selection for CBS starring Mary-Louise Parker, Tom Skerritt and Betty Buckley; *I Do (But I Don't)* for Lifetime starring Denise Richards and Dean Cain; *Three Days* for ABC Family starring Kristin Davis; *Defending Our Kids* starring Annie Potts and Michael O'Keefe; and *Killer Instinct: From the Files of Candace DeLong*, starring Jean Smart and A. Martinez.

Prior to producing, Pincus focused on the business side as a telefilm packaging agent at Creative Artists Agency from 1996-1999, representing the agency's top directors, actors and production companies. Prior to that, from 1990-1996, he was an executive at Citadel Entertainment, owned by HBO, where he was involved with the sales, development and production of approximately 12 films a year.

At University of Maryland and California State University at Northridge, Pincus majored in radio, television & film.

#### **KELLIE MARTIN (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/STAR)**

(See biography above).

#### **JONATHAN SCHWARTZ (SUPERVISING PRODUCER)**

Jonathan I. Schwartz is the supervising producer for Entertainment One's slate of television movies. His credits include the Hallmark Channel original movies *Tom, Dick & Harriet* starring Steven Weber, *Window Wonderland* starring Chyler Leigh, and the UP Original Movies *Rocky Road* starring Mark Salling and *Dear Viola* starring Kellie Martin. Prior to joining eOne, Schwartz worked hands-on in production on many feature

films and television series, including such shows as “Covert Affairs,” “Falling Skies,” “Blue Bloods” and “Killshot,” starring Mickey Rourke, Joseph Gordon Levitt and Diane Lane.

Schwartz lives in Toronto with his wife, son, new daughter and two French bulldogs.

### **LAURIE LYND (DIRECTOR)**

Laurie Lynd is a film and television writer/director based in Toronto. He is currently developing “Deviant,” a 6 x 1 hour limited dramatic television series, based on a true story about a gay serial killer in Windsor, Ontario in 1945. His upcoming features include *The English Child*, a period ghost story written by Carol Hay, and *Side Man*, a drama with music starring Justin Rutledge.

Lynd’s second feature, *Breakfast With Scot*, starring Tom Cavanagh and Ben Shenkman, premiered at TIFF and in the U.S. at The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), and has won Audience Favorite Awards at over ten film festivals. *Scot* is being distributed by Mongrel Media in Canada, Seville internationally and by Regent Releasing/Here Films in the U.S. *Breakfast With Scot* won the 2008 DGC award for Best Family Feature.

*House*, Lynd’s first feature, stars Daniel MacIvor. Lynd also directed the musical shorts *The Fairy Who Didn’t Want To Be A Fairy Anymore* (Genie winner Best Dramatic Short; Silver Hugo Award Chicago International Film Festival; Best Short Seattle International Film Festival) and *RSVP*, which features a vocal performance by Jessye Norman. All three films were selected for both TIFF and SUNDANCE.

Lynd also produced John Greyson’s award-winning short, *The Making of ‘Monsters’*.

Lynd’s television work includes directing the BBC mini-series “I Was A Rat,” starring Academy Award Winner Brenda Fricker and Tom Conti, which was selected as the opening night film for the Sprockets International Children’s Film Festival, winning the YTV Silver Sprocket award as well as Best Children’s Program at the BANFF International Television Festival; “Open Heart” starring Megan Follows; and “Virtual Mom” (also selected to open the Sprockets Film Festival), starring Debbie Reynolds and Sheila McCarthy. Lynd’s most recent film is for eOne/UP, *Dear Viola*, starring Kellie Martin.

Lynd’s episodic work includes six seasons of Shaftesbury’s “Murdoch Mysteries” (including the season 3 & 5 & 7 openers, partly shot in Bristol, UK and in the Yukon,) for which he has been nominated for both the DGC Award and the inaugural CSA Award for Best Direction, Dramatic Series); for Shaftesbury, “Baxter,” and webisodes for “The Listener” and “Murdoch Mysteries” as well as the pilot for an original web series, “The Inhuman Condition;” MTV/Logo’s “Noah’s Arc;” CTV’s “Degrassi: The Next Generation” and Showtime

's "Queer As Folk;" for Fresh TV/Disney Chanel: *My Babysitter's A Vampire*; and for Breakthrough, the entire first season (26 x 15) of the pre-schooler show, "The Adventures of Napkin Man."

### **LEE ROSE (WRITER)**

Lee Rose is an American director, producer and writer of film and television.

She began her professional career in 1993 producing and writing the television film *It's Nothing Personal* (1993). She also worked on the films *Deconstructing Sarah* (1994), *A Mother's Prayer* (1995), *An Unexpected Family* (1996) and *An Unexpected Life* (1998). She made her directorial debut with the film *The Color of Courage* (1998) starring Linda Hamilton and Lynn Whitfield.

Her other television film credits include *The Truth About Jane* (2000), *A Girl Thing* (2001), *What Girls Learn* (2001), *An Unexpected Love* (2003) and *Jack* (2004).

In 2004, Rose began directing episodic television; her credits include "True Blood," "Soul Food," "Weeds," "Related," "Cashmere Mafia," "Lincoln Heights," "Lost Girl," "Greek, XIII: The Series," "The Glades," "In Plain Sight" and "Haven."

### **KATHLEEN MCGHEE-ANDERSON (WRITER)**

Kathleen McGhee-Anderson is a writer of television, stage and screen who earned a bachelor's from Spelman College and a master's in fine arts from Columbia University's School of the Arts in Film. An early career as a film editor for ABC affiliates in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles was cut short when her writing was brought to attention of Michael Landon. Episodes of "Little House on The Prairie" and numerous sit com assignments followed, including "Benson," "Webster," "Charles In Charge," "Gimme A Break," "Amen," "227" and "The Cosby Show," among others.

Dramatic television credits include "Touched by An Angel," "413 Hope Street," "South Central" and "Any Day Now." She was the executive producer of the fifth season of "Soul Food" (Showtime,) and for four seasons was the executive producer/showrunner of the critically acclaimed series, "Lincoln Heights" (ABC/Family), which garnered the NAACP Image Award for Best Drama, as well as the Gabriel Award for Best Entertainment in 2008.

McGhee-Anderson has written feature films for Columbia Pictures, Paramount Motion Pictures, Bruckheimer Films and Twentieth Century Fox Films. Jersey Films/Sony produced her film, *Sunset Park*, and the movie *The Color of Courage*, dealing her grandparent's landmark Supreme Court housing battle, (in which racially restrictive housing covenants were abolished throughout America,) was produced by Studios USA. She has developed and sold long-form, mini-series, and pilots to NBC, Fox, CBS, ABC, USA,

Showtime and PBS. Her TV drama, "The Story of Blind Tom" (PBS), garnered the first of several NAACP Image Awards, and the Ruby Slipper Award for Children's Programming.

McGhee-Anderson's theater work has been developed and produced in conjunction with The Arena Stage, The Mark Taper Forum, The Crossroads Theater Company, The Vineyard Playhouse, The Harold Prince Music Theater and The Juilliard School in repertory. Her plays, "Jump at the Sun" and "Mothers," (commissioned by Bill Cosby), were produced by LA Theater Works, broadcast on National Public Radio and taught in secondary school throughout the country. She has twice been selected as a Eugene O'Neill Playwright by the prestigious Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut.

McGhee-Anderson has received numerous awards, nominations and grants, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Spelman College, her alma mater, for her achievements in the entertainment industry as a writer, producer and playwright. She is currently at work on a children's musical, "The Princess of 57th Street," a cabaret starring Valarie Pettford, and a movie for the TV One network. Kathleen lives in Venice Beach, California and Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts.

**CREDITS**

**UP presents an  
Entertainment One Production**

Kellie Martin

Jefferson Brown

Kira Gelineau

Jackie Richardson

Arnold Pinnock

Adamo Ruggiero

Robinne Fanfair

Neil Crone

and

Sheila McCarthy

**Executive Produced by**

John Morayniss

Ira Pincus

Kellie Martin

**Supervising Produced by**

Jonathan Schwartz

**Produced by**

Betty Orr

**Written by**

Lee Rose

Kathleen McGhee-Anderson

**Directed by**

Laurie Lynd

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Chelsye J. Burrows      David Gardner

770.692.4559              770.692.9939

[cburrows@UPtv.com](mailto:cburrows@UPtv.com)    [dgardner@UPtv.com](mailto:dgardner@UPtv.com)

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