



**UPLIFTING  
ENTERTAINMENT**

**UP ORIGINAL MOVIE**

***LOVE FINDS YOU IN SUGARCREEK***

**PREMIERES EXCLUSIVELY ON UP,  
AT 7:00 P.M. EDT / 8:00 P.M. PDT ON SUNDAY, JUNE 1**

**SYNOPSIS**

Rachel Troyer (Sarah Lancaster) is a smart, focused, single policewoman in the quaint town of Sugarcreek, nicknamed “The Little Switzerland of Ohio” and located about an hour south of Akron, in the heart of Amish country. She frequently looks in on her three kindly Amish aunts Bertha (Kelly McGillis), Anna (Marianna Alacchi) and Lydia (Annie Kitral), who raised Rachel from girlhood after she was orphaned and are the proprietors of a picturesque, although faded farmhouse inn. When a mysterious stranger, Joe (Tom Everett Scott), shows up on the inn’s doorstep with his five-year-old son, Bobby (Thomas Kapanowski), the aunts insist on taking the pair in as a matter of faith and good will. Rachel’s police instincts immediately tell her that this seemingly broke outsider is much too refined to be the drifter he presents himself to be. So, while the aunts welcome Joe as a handyman and enjoy having a child around the Sugar Haus Inn again, a wary, suspicious – yet attracted – Rachel becomes determined to uncover his identity. Her digging not only reveals his surprising identity, but the fact that he’s run away from his home, his life, and a shocking unsolved murder. Unfortunately, Rachel’s digging doesn’t go unnoticed, which brings Joe’s past – and its violence – right into this quiet Amish community.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Based on Serena B. Miller's novel, *Love Finds You in Sugarcreek* was filmed in Holmes County, Ohio, with the majority of the filming taking place in Sugarcreek, Ohio, the heart of Amish country. Sugarcreek was originally settled by immigrants from Switzerland and Germany. With a population of just over 2,200, it has a rich blend of Swiss culture and Amish heritage, creating an experience all its own. With Swiss-style architecture, an annual Swiss festival and the world's largest cuckoo clock, Sugarcreek is a top tourist destination for the state of Ohio. Produced by George Shamieh and Mission Pictures, filming took place in during the fall of 2013, which coincided with the same timeframe set by the novel. Terrence Cunningham directed the movie. Bryar Freed-Golden wrote the adapted screenplay.

To prepare for their respective roles in the film, the cast not only had to learn about the principles of being Amish, but also had to become familiar with the Amish dialect and the physicality of what it takes to live as part of the Amish community. During production, star Tom Everett Scott trained to use a scythe and he learned how to harness a horse and buggy.

"One of the most remarkable things about making this movie in Amish country is the experience of being immersed in the environment and the community itself," said Director Terrence Cunningham. "The Amish community was so accommodating and it created a collaborative environment for us to be able to learn about their culture. It was really inspiring."

The shooting in Ohio proved to be one of the most unique working environments for the film's cast and crew. The location for the aunts' "Sugar Haus Inn" is a very remote location, and one of the things the cast and crew noticed most about the location was the quiet stillness, incredible beauty of the sky, and particularly the formations the clouds made right before the start of the production day. While shooting at the Sugar Haus Inn location, Cunningham said he arrived to set early one morning and witnessing the clouds forming what he could only described an experience that felt like divine intervention.

The hospitality and help of the couple who live in the house was unsurpassed and became part of the fabric of the story. It was not unusual for production to stop filming in order to avoid capturing an Amish family passing by on horse and buggy, as most do not allow photographs or video to be taken of themselves.

The first day on set it poured rain, so production was forced to rework the shooting schedule to accommodate for the weather. They also chose to shoot scenes on site at a popular annual event – the Ohio Swiss Festival in Sugarcreek, where the "steintossen" was filmed. *Steintossen* is a German word meaning 'stone tossing.' It is a Swiss sport and attraction at popular festivals in Switzerland. According to locals, *steintossen* can only be seen in the U.S. at the Swiss Festival in Sugarcreek, held each year during the last weekend of September. Contestants hurl a huge stone weighing 138 pounds. There are cash

prizes awarded to those contestants who throw the stone the longest distance. During filming at the Festival, several tourists and attendees mistook star Sarah Lancaster, who was dressed in her police uniform wardrobe, as an actual policewoman.

The inspiration for Miller's novel, Love Finds You in Sugarcreek, Ohio, came from a wooden plaque hanging in a bed and breakfast that author stayed at that read, "Entertaining Angels Unaware." She developed an interest in the Amish and their culture when she moved to central Ohio. "Their work ethic is inspiring; they created jobs in that area where there were no jobs," Miller said. "Love Finds You in Sugarcreek, Ohio is a story that captures the integrity of the Amish people. I think what people will take away from this film is that no matter what difficulty in life the Amish community is facing, they manage to have goodness and love towards all people." She added, "Sugarcreek is a safe place to go and people need safe places to go."

## ABOUT THE CAST

### KELLY MCGILLIS ("BERTHA")

A California native, Kelly McGillis was born and raised in Newport Beach. After high school, she was accepted into the acting program at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts where she began to study acting in earnest. Kelly was so taken with her studies that she applied to and was accepted by the drama department of the Juilliard School in New York. It was while she was a student there that she was discovered by Robert Ellis Miller, who cast her in his film *Reuben, Reuben* as Tom Courtney's love interest. Shortly thereafter, she appeared on stage in the world premiere of Garson Kanin's play *Peccadillo* starring opposite Christopher Plummer and Glynnis Johns.

Her big break was being cast to star opposite Harrison Ford in Peter Weir's *Witness* playing the unforgettable role of the Amish widow, "Rachel Lapp." This was soon followed by other films such as Tony Scott's *Top Gun* opposite Tom Cruise, Alan Rudolph's *Made In Heaven* with Timothy Hutton, and Deborah Winger and Jonathan Kaplan's *The Accused* opposite Jodie Foster. Numerous other films followed. Not restricting herself to the big screen, Kelly continued to work in television, starring in several mini-series and movies of the week. Recently, she completed filming a guest-star arc on the Showtime series, *The L Word*. She also found time to produce and star in a film adaptation of Kate Chopin's novel, *Grand Isle*.

Kelly has always, however, had a love of the stage which was nurtured by her years at Juilliard. Since her graduation, she has found time on a regular basis to perform live theatre – very often classics by Chekov, Shaw, Ibsen, Shakespeare and O'Neill. She has regularly appeared in starring roles with the prestigious Shakespeare Theatre of Washington, D.C. and also performed in a national tour of the stage play "The Graduate" as "Mrs. Robinson." This past season, Kelly received critical acclaim for her starring performance as 'Regina' in the California revival of Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes" and for her UK tour

of Terrence McNally's "Frankie and Johnny" in the *Clair de Lune*. She recently appeared in the independent films *Stake Land*, *The Innkeepers*, *We Are What We Are*, *Tio Papi* and the just completed *Blue*.

Kelly has spent most of the past decade undertaking one of her most demanding roles – being a mother and raising her two daughters, Kelsey and Sonora.

### **SARAH LANCASTER ("RACHEL TROYER")**

With genuine talent and a captivating presence, Sarah Lancaster has been turning heads as one of Hollywood's ascending Leading Ladies. Entertainment Weekly included Lancaster in its "Must List," a barometer of all that is "smart, sexy, and reeking of power." In the summer of 2013, Lancaster starred opposite one of Hollywood's leading men, Robert Downey Jr., as his soon to be ex-wife in the Warner Bros. and David Dobkin-directed film, *The Judge*.

As one of the Stars of NBC's cult spy dramedy, "Chuck," Lancaster has seen her fair share of action. For five seasons, she brought life to Dr. Ellie Bartkowski-Woodcomb, Chuck's overly protective sister who has required a fair amount of protection herself. To Ellie, Lancaster brought a captivating combination of warmth and sensibility that has made her a favorite among fans and critics alike.

Prior to her work on "Chuck," Lancaster attained the highly-coveted female lead on ABC's JJ Abrams-produced series, "What About Brian." For two seasons as 'Marjorie,' she was at the center of the show's love triangle, struggling to choose between her fiancé, 'Adam' (Matt Davis) and his best friend, 'Brian' (Barry Watson). Lancaster previously recurred on the WB's acclaimed series "Everwood" as 'Madison,' the babysitter turned pivotal love-interest to Gregory Smith's 'Ephram.' She also delighted audiences with an arc on NBC's long-running sitcom, "Scrubs" as 'Gift Shop Girl, Lisa,' the object of Zach Braff's obsession.

On the big screen, Lancaster played a love interest to Leonardo DiCaprio's character in *Catch Me If You Can*, as well as the indie feature film *The Good Doctor*, opposite Orlando Bloom.

Lancaster was born in Overland Park, Kansas, where she grew up with her younger brother, Daniel. Her mother was a homemaker and her father was in real estate. It was her father's job that led the family to Mission Viejo, California, when Sarah was 10 years old. Soon after the move to Southern California, Lancaster began taking acting classes and landed a talent agent. Following a few months of commuting from Orange County to Los Angeles for auditions, she secured her first professional series regular role, starring as Rachel on "Saved by the Bell: The New Class."

Lancaster resides in Los Angeles with her Husband, Matt and their son, Oliver. Her interests include travel, reading, the arts, and staying fit with such activities as tennis, hiking, and Pilates. She also lends her time

to various charities and organizations including: The Alzheimer's Foundation, the Orange County Performing Arts Center, Habitat for Humanity and Operation Smile.

### **TOM EVERETT SCOTT ("JOE")**

Tom Everett Scott is currently recurring on the CW series "Beauty & The Beast." Prior to that, he portrayed 'Detective Russell Clarke' in NBC's drama series "Southland." Scott's numerous other television credits include NBC's "Law & Order," "Cashmere Mafia," "Sons of Anarchy," "Philly," "The Street," "Grace Under Fire." He was also featured in the television movie "Surrender, Dorothy" opposite Diane Keaton and Chris Pine.

On the big screen, his breakout role came when he landed the lead as drummer 'Guy Patterson' in Tom Hanks' *That Thing You Do!* From there, he went on to appear in various films, including *Dead Man on Campus*, *Boiler Room*, and Universal's *Because I Said So*, opposite Mandy Moore.

Scott was recently seen in Walt Disney's box office success *Race to Witch Mountain*, opposite Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, and can soon be seen in Simon Wells' *Mars Needs Moms*, opposite Joan Cusack and Seth Green. Scott was seen in *Tanner Hall*, where he stars opposite Rooney Mara, Georgia King and Amy Sedaris, which premiered at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival. He just wrapped *Storage*, opposite Sarah Jones and Lee Tergesen, which is being produced by Guy Pham. He also just finished filming *Parental Guidance*, in which he starred with Billy Crystal, Bette Middler and Marisa Tomei.

### **THOMAS KAPANOWSKI ("BOBBY")**

Thomas Kapanowski was born in Elmhurst, IL, the oldest of 4 children, to a father who is in sporting goods sales and mother who is a CPA. At an early age, Thomas was able to capture the attention of an audience. With his outgoing personality and ability to memorize at a young age, acting seemed a good fit. At the age of 4, Thomas began his training by attending acting classes in the Chicago suburbs. Thomas attended and competed at IMTA Jan 2012 and won the Child Actor of the Year award. This experience gave Thomas the ability to take his acting career to the next level. Thomas now resides with his family in Wexford, PA, a Pittsburgh suburb. He enjoys challenging himself in school with advanced reading and math skills. His interests include multiple sports activities, using his great imagination and spending time with his two younger brothers and his sister. *Love Finds You in Sugarcreek* is his first major role in a television movie.

### **MARIANNA ALACCHI ("ANNA")**

Marianna Alacchi grew up in Brooklyn, NY in a very traditional Sicilian-American home where she developed a love for acting at an early age. Alacchi is a current member of SAG-AFTRA, a Special Effects Make-up Artist (Former member of IATSE Local 798, NYC) and a Registered Nurse. Working in Film, TV & Stage, she has worked on approximately 250 shows & films, either as an actress or as a special

effects/key make-up artist and costumer. She can be seen in "Take Shelter," "Homicide: Life on the Streets," "This World: Then Fireworks," "The New Detectives," "Forensic Files," and "Prison to Praise." Stage highlights include performances at the Kennedy Center and The White House as Betsy Ross with the Jenna Jones' *Star Spangled Muse*. Alacchi is also an accomplished singer having recorded six gospel albums, three of which are for children. Presently, she lives in Copley, OH with her Ecclectus Parrot "Ms. Scarlett O'Parrot" and her house bunny "Julie."

### **ANNIE KITRAL ("LYDIA")**

Annie Kitral's most recent film credits are: *Love Finds You in Sugarcreek*, *Jack Reacher*, *The Funeral Guest*, *Beyond the Mask*, *The Yank*, *A Resurrection*, *Beautiful Sin*, *A Christmas Tree Miracle* and *Riddle*. Past film credits include: *Welcome to Collinwood*, *It Runs in the Family*, *The Nightowls of Coventry*, *This Train*, *The Rapture*, *My Bloody Valentine*, *The Bridge to Nowhere*, *Vamps* and *Dark Reunion*. Television credits include: "The Practice," "Judging Amy," "Strong Medicine" and "The Others." She had the pleasure of working with director Jerry London twice on "Strong Medicine."

Annie studied with Thomas Q. Fulton, Jr. and Carol Weiss at the Phoenix Theatre Ensemble for over 15 years. She was founding member of the Phoenix Theatre Ensemble and has performed in numerous plays throughout her career. Favorite plays include: "The Interview," "The Belle of Amherst," "Long Day's Journey into Night," "The Cherry Orchard," "The Three Sisters," "King Lear," "Midsummer Night's Dream," "The Magic Fire," "A Flea in Her Ear," "The Miser," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Our Town" and "Arsenic & Old Lace".

Annie is fluent in Ukrainian and enjoys playing with accents. Other life passions include grandchildren, animals & yoga. Annie is a member of the Orchid Society, Indoor Gardening Society and Cactus and Succulent Society.

### **KATHERINE DEBOER ("CHLOE")**

Katherine DeBoer makes her film debut in *Love Finds You In Sugarcreek*. DeBoer is an actress and singer from Cleveland, OH. She graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelors degree in theater from Baldwin Wallace College, attended The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, and later graduated cum laude from law school and practiced law. In addition to her on camera credits, Katherine has extensive stage experience, performing in everything from Shakespeare to Sondheim. When she isn't acting, Katherine enjoys hiking, cooking, playing tennis and travel.

### **KEN STRUNK ("ELI")**

Ken Strunk has been working as an actor for over 30 years. He has appeared in a number of television series, including "Boston Legal," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "The Guardian," "The West Wing" and "NCIS." He has also appeared in over a dozen movies, including *Secretariat*, *Hoosiers* and *Simpatico*, working

closely with a number of actors including Jeff Bridges, Russell Crowe, Matt Damon, Gene Hackman, John Malkovich and directors Michael Mann and Gus Van Sant. Strunk's initial introduction to acting came at Northern Kentucky University where he took the stage for the very first time to play George Antrabus, the lead role in *The Skin of Our Teeth*. He went on to many more plays there and then continued to pursue his training in the theatre department of Louisiana State University. After college, Ken went to work in the theatre and in the commercial production arena, shooting industrial training videos, commercials and working as a presenter at trade shows for large corporations. He lived and worked in Los Angeles for six years, where he continued studying his craft with the renowned acting coach Ivana Chubbuck. Strunk is currently working on his first one-man show entitled "QED," the true story of Nobel Prize winning physicist, Richard Feynman, a role originated by Alan Alda.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

### **TERRENCE CUNNINGHAM (DIRECTOR)**

Born and raised in Cinnaminson, New Jersey, Terrence Cunningham later moved to Phoenix, AZ where he attended Brophy College Preparatory. In 1992, he arrived in Los Angeles where he landed a position on *Last Action Hero* working as an assistant to the editor. He befriended the producer of the film, Robert E. Relyea, who was later hired as President of Production for MGM/UA where Cunningham joined Relyea as his assistant. At the studio, Cunningham worked on the production and post-production of over 40 MGM/UA films including: *GoldenEye*, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, *Get Shorty*, *The Birdcage*, *Species*, *Ronin*, *The Man In The Iron Mask*, *Rob Roy* and *Mulholland Falls*. In 1997, he started writing screenplays hoping it would lead to directing. Upon selling his first screenplay, *No Tomorrow*, he left MGM/UA to write full time. Allied with an independent production company, PM Entertainment, Cunningham had two more screenplays produced, *The Stray* and *Y2K*. Stressing his desire to direct, the producers at PM allowed him to direct his fourth screenplay, *Chaos Factor*, which premiered in HBO. Cunningham directed more films for both PM Entertainment and Cinetel Films: *The Elite*, *Con Express*, *Code Hunter*, *Global Effect*, *Descent* and *Earthstorm*. His other television credits include two 65 hour telenovela arcs for MyNetworkTV – "Desire" and "Wicked, Wicked Games."

### **GEORGE SHAMIEH (PRODUCER)**

A veteran producer, George Shamieh has long been recognized as one of the most respected statesmen of independent producers. Always responding to what the market wants with high quality Prime Time Entertainment that appeals to the worldwide market.

A man of many languages, Shamieh is an accomplished businessman and producer. He served as President and partner of the established mini studio PM Entertainment for 13 years. During his time at PM, he successfully guided the company to a dominant position within the global marketplace.

The company remained one of the few among the competitive world of independent filmmaking that consistently generated high quality Action Adventure feature films. The library of titles at PM boasted more than 150 feature films and two highly successful television series.

PM Entertainment gained a reputation as a leading and consistent supplier of original Prime Time product not only for its solid roster of international TV clients but for the likes of such domestic cable giants as HBO. In fact, the company carried the distinction of being one of the first major suppliers for HBO World Premiere movies.

In, 1995, Shamieh recognized the emerging international television market, and decided to capitalize on the company's proven ability to deliver high production value in films and pass the knowledge down to a TV series entitled "L.A. Heat". With his amassed knowledge of production in films, Shamieh was able to utilize his staff of in-house writers, directors, and other production professionals as well as state-of-the-art equipment and technology to generate finished product that looked and felt like feature films.

In 2000, Shamieh started American Cinema International and in less than three years, ACI produced 10 action/disaster films with international sales and domestic prime time broadcasts on USA, SCI-FI and HBO Premier. The company utilizes ACI studios in foreign markets such as Canada, Spain, Brazil and Romania to ensure tax incentives and high production values.

ACI has made three feature films in an Indiana Jones type mini-series called "Jack Hunter," starring Ivan Sergei ("Jack and Jill"), Joanne Kelly ("Vanished") and Alaina Hoffman ("Painkiller Jane"). The film was shot on location in Turkey, Egypt and Syria. The next two installments of the "Jack Hunter" series, entitled "Quest for the Golden Calendar" and "The Search for El Dorado," starred Shane West ("ER"), Luke Goss (Hellboy 2), Natalie Martinez (*Death Race*, Azteca Telenovela "Subete a Mi Moto") and Eldon Henson (*The Butterfly Effect* and *The Mighty Ducks* 1, 2 and 3).

Additionally, ACI completed the family films *Born to Race* and *Born to Race: Fast Track*, starring Joseph Cross, Brett Davern and Diogo Morgado, and *Bigfoot*, starring Angie Everhart and Richard Tyson to address the ever-increasing need for Family Entertainment. ACI is also releasing a new film produced by Shamieh, entitled "Fast Track, starring Brett Davern and Beau Mirchoff, both from MTV's "Awkward," along with Diogo Morgado, who played Jesus in History Channel's "The Bible."

At the end of 2013, Shamieh produced *Love Finds you in Sugarcreek* and brought his vast experience to Mission Pictures for the first time.



## **CHEVONNE O'SHAUGHNESSY (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)**

Chevonne O'Shaughnessy is the co-founder and president of Mission Pictures International, and American Cinema International. O'Shaughnessy began her career as the President of International sales for PM Entertainment. Her 10 years in this position resulted in the production and sales of over 176 feature films and two successful television series. PM produced and distributed original prime time product for numerous international TV clients and domestic cable networks, with the distinction of being one of the first suppliers for HBO World Premier Movies. PM remains one of the few among the competitive world of independent filmmaking that consistently generates high quality Action Adventure feature films. She has also served as the executive producer of numerous films and TV mini-series, including "El Dorado," "Born to Race," "Power Play," "Phase IV and many more.

In 2000, O'Shaughnessy founded American Cinema International, along with George Shamieh, with the goal of distributing and producing high quality commercial motion pictures throughout the world. In less than ten years, ACI has produced 20 action/disaster films with international sales and domestic prime time broadcasts on USA, SCI-FI, and HBO Premier. The company utilizes ACI studios in foreign markets such as Canada, Spain, Brazil, and Romania to ensure tax incentives and higher production values.

Throughout her experience in international sales, O'Shaughnessy recognized a niche market for inspirational and family oriented material. In 2008, she founded Mission Pictures International along with Promenade Pictures COO and President, Cindy Bond, with the goal of creating a brand of quality content that will best serve this unique market. Within their first year, Mission Pictures successfully acquired more than 12 titles for theatrical and TV releases, and is quickly achieving their mission to bring positive, inspirational messages back into the global marketplace.

Since its inception, MPI has acquired over 60 films for theatrical, home video and TV release, and has become the international destination for films to the family and faith market. Some of the major feature films include box office hit, *October Baby*, UP's *The Heart of Christmas*, which was nominated for an Emmy® Award in 2012, *Letters to God*, *Mighty Macs* and more.

**CREDITS**

**UP presents a  
Mission Pictures Production**

Sarah Lancaster  
Tom Everett Scott  
Kelly McGillis  
Thomas Kapanowski  
Marianna Alacchi  
Annie Kitral  
Katherine Deboer  
Ken Strunk

**Executive Produced by**

Cindy Bond  
Chevonne O'Shaughnessy

**Produced by**

George Shamieh

**Written by**

Serena B. Miller

**Screenplay by**

Bryar Freed-Golden

**Directed by**

Terrence Cunningham

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