

## SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL GLOBAL SHORT FILM PROJECT

Filmmaker bios. October 2006.



### **JONATHAN DAYTON and VALERIE FARIS**

Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris made their feature film directorial debut with *LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE*.

The married team began their careers creating and directing the pioneering MTV show, "The Cutting Edge." They continued to work at the leading edge of music television, directing award-winning videos and

documentaries for artists including REM, The Red

Hot Chili Peppers, Jane's Addiction, The Smashing Pumpkins, Macy Gray, Oasis, Weezer and The Ramones. Their music productions ultimately earned them two Grammy Awards, nine MTV Music Video Awards and a Billboard Music "Director of the Year" Award.

In addition, Jonathan and Valerie have worked extensively in television, including directing episodes of the groundbreaking sketch comedy series "Mr. Show with Bob and David" for HBO. They also produced two feature films: the documentary *THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION PART II: THE METAL YEARS* for New Line Cinema and Jane's Addiction's *GIFT* for Warner Bros. Music.

In 1998, Jonathan and Valerie co-founded Bob Industries, one of the country's leading commercial production companies, where they have directed high profile television ads for VW, Sony Playstation, Gap, Target, Ikea, Apple and ESPN, among many others. In 2004, *Boards Magazine* placed Dayton and Faris among the top ten directors working in commercials today.



### **JODY HILL**

Jody Hill grew up in North Carolina and attended the film school at the North Carolina School of the Arts. Following graduation he moved to Los Angeles where he worked various jobs in television. He moved back to North Carolina to make a film that he had been working on for several years with the support of his friends and local community. "The Foot Fist Way," which he wrote, directed, produced, and acted in, premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. Jody maxed out several credit cards to get

the \$70,000 film finished, but it paid off when Momentum Pictures snapped up UK rights at the festival. The film caught the attention of Will Farrell and Adam McKay ("Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby"), who had just set up their new company, Gary Sanchez Productions, at Paramount Vantage (Paramount Pictures' new distribution/production arm). Paramount picked up the film for

distribution and it will be the first film in the Gary Sanchez slate. Farrell and McKay also hired Hill to create, executive produce, write and direct a TV show, which HBO recently purchased. Jody has also sold a project to Warner Brothers and producer Donald De Line ("The Italian Job") that he is currently writing and is attached to direct. Jody and "Foot Fist" star and co-writer Danny McBride are also working on their follow-up to "The Foot Fist Way."



## JUSTIN LIN

Justin Lin's solo directorial debut, the critically acclaimed *Better Luck Tomorrow*, premiered at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival, garnering a nomination for the Grand Jury Prize. At the 2004 Independent Spirit Awards, *Better Luck Tomorrow*, which he co-wrote, co-produced and edited was honored with a John Cassavetes Award nomination.

*Better Luck Tomorrow* went on to make box office history as the highest grossing per-screen average

opening weekend film for Paramount Classics/MTV Films when it was released in April 2003.

Renowned film critics including Ebert and Roeper listed *Better Luck Tomorrow* as one of the top five films of the year.

In 2006, Lin had two studio films released in national distribution. His second feature, Touchstone's *Annapolis*, starring James Franco, Tyrese Gibson and Jordana Brewster was released in January 2006. Then, immediately after finishing the filming of *Annapolis*, Lin immediately started work on the summer action film *The Fast and The Furious: Tokyo Drift* - the third installment of the Fast and Furious franchise. The film was released in June 2006 and has grossed over \$158 million worldwide and has been touted by fans as one of the best in the trilogy.

Currently, Lin is in post production on his independent 70's period piece film, *Finishing The Game*, which reunited him with his cast members from *Better Luck Tomorrow*, *Annapolis* and *Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift*. The making of *Finishing The Game* was the subject of a recent New York Times Arts and Leisure Section cover story.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan and raised in Southern California, Lin was recently named one of Variety's "Top 10 Filmmakers to Watch". In July 2003, He was named the "It Auteur" on "Entertainment Weekly's" annual "It List", citing the 100 most creative people in the entertainment industry.

Lin holds a BA and MFA in film directing from the UCLA School of Film and Television where he began writing, directing and producing numerous award-winning short films.

Early in his career, Lin served as the Production Coordinator of the Media Arts Center for the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. During his tenure there, he created several educational television pilots and documentaries such as: "Passing Through," which was featured on PBS. His multi-media projects at the Japanese American National Museum include "J-Town Rhapsody", an eight-screen video installation, which received several awards including the Crystal Communicator Award of Excellence.

More recently, Justin Lin established *Trailing Johnson*, his own production company, which has already completed "Spotlighting", a documentary about a long-running Las Vegas lounge act that is soon to be broadcast on national television. *Trailing Johnson Productions* is presently in the midst of developing and producing several new film and television projects including *Finishing The Game*.



## MARIA MAGGENTI

Maria Maggenti is a filmmaker and screenwriter. She recently completed her second feature film, *PUCCHINI FOR BEGINNERS*, produced by InDigEnt. *PUCCHINI FOR BEGINNERS* premiered in competition at Sundance in January 2006 and will be released by Strand Releasing in January 2007.

She spent three seasons as a writer on the hit CBS/Bruckheimer drama "Without A Trace" having been with the show since its inception in the fall of

2002.

Maggenti began her career in 1995 as writer/director of *THE INCREDIBLY TRUE ADVENTURE OF TWO GIRLS IN LOVE*. It was released in June 1995 by Fine Line Features and became both a critical and popular success. It was released on DVD by New Line Cinema in May of 2004.

Maggenti wrote the screenplay for the 1999 Dreamworks release "THE LOVE LETTER" starring Kate Capshaw, Tom Selleck, Ellen DeGeneres and directed by Peter Chan. In 1999, Maggenti finished "HE'S A WOMAN, SHE'S A MAN" for New Line Cinema, also with Peter Chan. She developed a vibrant career as "script doctor" for the studios from 1999 until 2002 when she began at *Without A Trace*.

Maggenti received her MFA in filmmaking from the NYU Graduate Film Institute and received her undergraduate degree in Philosophy & Classics from Smith College. She was born in Washington DC and spent her adolescence in Europe and Lagos, Nigeria. In 2001-02 she was an adjunct professor of feature screenwriting at the NYU Graduate Film Institute.

Maria lives in New York City and Los Angeles.



## CORY MCABEE

Cory McAbee was born in Northern CA. He spent much of his adult life in San Francisco where he supported himself as a bouncer in bars. He has no formal education beyond public high school. He is self-taught in several mediums. McAbee is the writer / director of the internationally acclaimed award winning feature film *THE AMERICAN ASTRONAUT*. He is the film's storyboard artist, songwriter, and co-composer of the soundtrack. He acted in the film's leading role and is responsible for

over half of the 50 paintings used to represent the ship's exterior. His short films include the 2005 trailer for the LEEDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, the award-winning animated short *BILLY NAYER*, the Pixelvision short *THE MAN ON THE MOON*, and the stream-of-conscious musical *THE*

KETCHUP AND MUSTARD MAN. His artwork has been exhibited at galleries and museums in the US. For over a decade McAbee has been the singer / songwriter for the musical group THE BILLY NAYER SHOW. He has released seven full length CDS and is currently recording a new collection of material. He has acted in several films including Kuntz & Maguire's THE ONION MOVIE, Todd Rohal's THE GUATEMALAN HANDSHAKE, and Robert Edward's LAND OF THE BLIND starring Ralph Fiennes and Donald Sutherland. He has performed at Lincoln Center Theatre and the Guggenheim Museum as Autoharpist for the Chinese opera THE ORPHAN OF ZHAO. McAbee has currently completed the screenplay & storyboard for his next feature-length film entitled WEREWOLF HUNTERS OF THE MIDWEST. He has written his first book entitled RABBIT. The book is currently being illustrated by Shrek illustrator, James Wilson. Cory McAbee is currently living in Brooklyn, NY.  
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