



year of the dog

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Peggy and Pencil are inseparable companions. They sleep together, eat together, and even take-in Friday night movies together. Life is uncomplicated and safe, and although Pencil is a Beagle, Peggy is happily entrenched in a satisfying relationship of co-dependency with her beloved pet. But with love comes loss, and Peggy's world comes crashing down when Pencil meets a mysterious demise in the neighbor's yard. Left to pick-up the pieces of her shattered life, Peggy embarks on a personal journey to fill the void. Friends, family and co-workers try to distract Peggy from her misery with their own obsessive quests for happiness, but in the end, she emerges from her loss with a new found sense of her place in the world and what it takes to make her happy.

Molly Shannon, Laura Dern, Regina King, Tom McCarthy, Josh Pais, John C. Reilly and Peter Sarsgaard star in **YEAR OF THE DOG**, a Paramount Vantage presentation of a Rip Cord/Plan B Production. Critically acclaimed screenwriter Mike White makes his directorial debut from an original screenplay. White, Dede Gardner and Ben LeClair produce. Nan Morales and Brad Pitt serve as executive producers.

Other behind the camera personnel include director of photography Tim Orr (TRUST THE MAN, COME EARLY MORNING), production designer Daniel Bradford (THE GOOD GIRL), costume designer Nancy Steiner (LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE, LOST IN TRANSLATION), and editor Dody Dorn (MEMENTO, A GOOD YEAR), A.C.E.

YEAR OF THE DOG is rated PG-13 (for some suggested references) and has a running time of 97-minutes.

About The Film

Like millions of people, Peggy (Molly Shannon) has found a comfortable niche in which to live. She has a solid administrative job, close family and the dependable companionship of her dog, Pencil.

This stable status quo is rocked when Pencil's sudden death leaves Peggy reeling in a world devoid of meaning without him. Her quest for happiness leads her to the attractive, yet ambiguous Newt (Peter Sarsgaard) who introduces her to animal activism, a vegan lifestyle and even a new dog. Inspired by Newt, Peggy unleashes an obsession with animal rights and dog placement, which greatly concerns her brother (Thomas McCarthy), sister-in-law (Laura Dern), best friend (Regina King), neighbor (John C. Reilly) and boss (Josh Pais) who all feel her life is dangerously out of balance.

Unable to overcome continuing disappointment with her fellow human beings, Peggy ultimately makes a heartfelt commitment to the animal world, where, for her, the love is unconditional and satisfaction is guaranteed.

"The movie is a lot about obsessive thinking," says writer-director Mike White. "I don't think they are extreme characters, but they're kind of obsessed with where they derive their happiness and where they think Peggy should derive her happiness."

White points to Robin, Peggy's boss, who is obsessed with material success, her brother and sister-in-law who are consumed with their children and Layla, Peggy's colleague and best friend, who's singular obsession is to get married.

Producer Dede Gardner adds, "**YEAR OF THE DOG** is about how people don't listen to people and how they get very wrapped up in their own lives, not even in a selfish way, but in a kind of matter of fact way.

"It's a real comment on our failings as human beings to listen to other human beings, and suggests that pets are a legitimate source of comfort and companionship."

White, whose previous writing efforts include *ORANGE COUNTY*, *THE GOOD GIRL AND SCHOOL OF ROCK*, has assembled an exceptional ensemble cast, which includes Molly Shannon, Laura Dern, Regina King, Tom McCarthy, Josh Pais, John C. Reilly, and Peter Sarsgaard.

The role of Peggy was specifically written for Shannon, notes White. “I knew she could do this part, and in a way, she inspired it,” says White. “There’s so much to her acting. She is so skilled and specific that it was really fun to watch everyday. She’s obviously an incredibly, funny comedian, but she is also a skilled actress.”

Known primarily for her six-year comedic stint on *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE*, Shannon earned a BFA in drama from New York University’s prestigious Tisch School of the Arts. Both White and Shannon had worked together previously on a short-lived television series, *CRACKING UP*.

Shannon’s personal take on Peggy is that “at the core of everything, she is a really good person, she gets off track a little bit but ultimately sheds the stuff and the people that weren’t working in her life.”

White also says, “I do think there is a child-like quality to Peggy, kind of an innocent in some ways, but I didn’t want to make her seem like an eccentric throwback to a world that time has forgotten. I wanted something that was a bit whimsical.”

Academy Award®-nominated actor John C. Reilly portrays Peggy’s neighbor, Al, who, in a matter of frames, moves from a sympathetic paramour to the object of her anger. According to Reilly, “Mike told me that he thought Al was the most misunderstood character in the movie. He’s just a regular guy, living the sort of mainstream life, but it’s only in contrast with some of the other people and what Molly’s character is going through that he starts to seem weird.”

As an avid hunter, Al becomes a newfound enemy to the freshly baptized animal activist, Peggy.

Peter Sarsgaard, as Newt, nourishes Peggy’s interest in animal activism, but frustrates her hope of any kind of romantic connection. Gardner feels that Peggy and Newt do have something unconventionally romantic because “he represents loving something passionately. He doesn’t try and proselytize about it...he’s just very pure and anchored and she finds that attractive.”

When Newt offers a new dog to Peggy after Pencil dies, he knows exactly what he is doing. “She doesn’t need the perfect dog.” explains Sarsgaard, “She needs a dog that she can try and help, and that will take the focus off of her.”

Academy Award® nominee and Golden Globe winner Laura Dern plays Peggy's sister-in-law Bret, playing opposite Tom McCarthy as Pier.

“Once you have kids, your world gets very small because it's all about protecting your kids and seeing dangers everywhere. Peggy is an audience for all of their enthusiasms and anxieties,” says White. “But, when the tables are turned and she's grappling with the loss of her dog, they're not able to understand how deep that emotion goes for her. So, in some sense, they disappoint her.”

Dern adds, “I think it's a hilarious character because she's just so absorbed in herself and her children that she can't see anything else. The level of neurosis is just so fun.”

As Peggy's office mate and best pal, Regina King's Layla is a new and different acting turn for her. Producer Gardner recalls her casting: “Mike called me and said ‘I know this isn't how we've talked about the part, but Regina King should be Layla.’ I was 100% onboard. I'd never seen her do this kind of thing.”

King has always been one of White's favorite actors. “Layla is all about relationships, getting a man and getting married,” says White. “She assumes that Peggy must have the same obsession.”

Gardner lauds both the writing and the performances in **YEAR OF THE DOG** because “we're putting real people on the screen. That's rare.”

The Inspiration

The inspiration for **YEAR OF THE DOG** came from a White personal experience with a cat that lived in his backyard and died in his arms on Christmas day.

“I couldn't believe how broken up I was over this stray cat,” White says. “The cat dying coincided with a time when I was extremely overloaded with work and I ended up getting really far behind. My whole life began to spiral out of control, which I thought was an interesting premise for a movie. I thought I could somehow take the experience and turn it into something cathartic for me.

“I always thought it would be interesting to do a movie about animals that was more sophisticated than the typical family film. I wanted to explore adult relationships with animals that blended some of the humor and pathos I like to do in my writing.”

White's cast definitively approved of his effort as a first-time director. "Mike is such an amazing writer and performer and to be working with him on his directorial debut is absolutely thrilling," says Shannon. "There's nothing like having the writer direct because he has such a clear understanding of the moments."

Sarsgaard points out that White's characters are usually not the star quarterbacks or the Phi Beta Kappas. "He's interested in this other group of people that get overlooked and you wouldn't ordinarily see in films."

Dede Gardner explains, "**YEAR OF THE DOG** is the epitome of how Mike White thinks. He's got a very unique perspective on the world. He finds the humor in lots of situations, but he never sees it without the beating heart.

"He always sees the situation as being enacted by actual people, and he's never standing in judgment of his characters."

White's career has been on a natural evolution towards directing. "When I first started this journey into directing, I was pretty stressed," says White, "but, by the third or fourth day of production, I realized how much fun I was having. You endeavor for many years to have the perfect work experience, and this has been just that."

Producer LeClair adds, "this project has so many personal touches to it, it was just an obvious thing for him to do it."

About The Production

While filming entirely in his native Southern California, White wanted to use the hot, sunny climate to contrast the deep grief that Peggy experiences. "One thing I find distinctive about a childhood in Southern California is that you have painful moments, and they always seem to fall on the most beautiful sun-dappled days," says White. "Even though Peggy is going through an extreme deep grief, the sun is shining brightly, and I wanted to capture how weird it feels to be in such a depressed state while in such a beautiful environment."

In fact, most of the filming was done under extreme conditions as Los Angeles experienced one of its worst heat waves in recent history. Those conditions also posed challenges for the animals and their trainers. Ursula Brauner, trainer for the dogs in the

film, including the two leads, Pencil and Valentine, was pleased with the interaction between human actors and their animal counterparts.

“We wanted to make sure that the actors were aware of what happens off-camera while they’re doing their lines,” says Brauner. “During a scene, we are behind the camera cueing the dog, so it can be distracting. It’s a very difficult thing to stay focused in a moment when some crazy trainer’s jumping around behind camera trying to get a look or action.”

Brauner praises both Shannon and Sarsgaard for their performances in scenes with the animals. “It doesn’t always happen, but we were lucky enough to spend quite a bit of time with Molly and Peter. They both came out to our ranch in Castaic, and spent a lot of time with the dogs,” notes Brauner.

Although he felt the level of professionalism with the animals on the set was exceptional, White recalls that it still can create a certain amount stress for a director. “Our trainers were so good and all of the dogs were all extremely lovable and professional, but there were definitely moments where it felt a little crazy. When we shot at the animal sanctuary we had pigs, cows, turkeys and chickens combined with little kids and babies who needed to take a nap...all with three cameras and a crane. It definitely got crazy at times.”

About the Cast

MOLLY SHANNON (Peggy)

Molly Shannon has successfully segued from television to film, and has quickly become of Hollywood’s most sought-after talents. Shannon recently completed work on EVAN ALMIGHTY, sequel to the hit film, BRUCE ALMIGHTY, opposite Steve Carell, and in two independent films, Sue Kramer’s GRAY MATTERS and Bruce Leddy’s SHUT UP & SING.

She recently appeared in Keenan Ivory Wayan’s LITTLE MAN and with Will Ferrell in TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY as well as a cameo in the box office hit, SCARY MOVIE 4.

Some of Shannon's other feature film credits include the role of Betty Lou Who in Ron Howard's *HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS*, *ANALYZE THIS* opposite Billy Crystal and Robert DeNiro, Todd Solondz's *HAPPINESS, NEVER BEEN KISSED* opposite Drew Barrymore and the *SNL* skit featuring the head-bobbing, nightclubbing brothers, *A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY*.

Shannon also starred in *SUPERSTAR*, featuring her own popular "SNL" character, Mary Katherine Gallagher.

Additional film credits include *MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER*, *SERENDIPITY*, *OSMOSIS JONES*, *WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER*, *THE SANTA CLAUSE 2* and *A GOOD BOY!*

On television, Shannon was last seen opposite Christopher McDonald and Jason Schwartzman in the offbeat comedy series, *CRACKING UP*. She also starred in the USA Networks original movie, *12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS EVE* and appeared in the remake of the classic musical, *THE MUSIC MAN*, co-starring Matthew Broderick and Kristen Chenoweth. Her television series credits include multiple guest appearances on *WILL & GRACE*, *SEX AND THE CITY* and numerous others.

Shannon spent six years as a member of the repertory company on *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE*, primarily known for the eclectic characters she created such as Mary Katherine Gallagher. Her parodies of Courtney Love, Liza Minnelli, Monica Lewinsky and Meredith Vieira were also crowd favorites.

Prior to joining *SNL*, she appeared at The Up Front Comedy Theater in Los Angeles in "The Rob and Molly Show," an improvisational show which she co-wrote with Rob Muir.

Born in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Shannon earned a BFA in drama from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She currently lives in Los Angeles and New York.

LAURA DERN (Bret)

Laura Dern has emerged as one of the great actresses of her generation proving that she is capable of great depth and range, touching audiences and critics alike with her moving and heartfelt performances.

Dern most recently starred in David Lynch's feature film, *INLAND EMPIRE*, a film shot entirely on digital video over the course of a three-year time period throughout areas of the Inland Empire as well as in Poland. Dern and Lynch were honored by Film Independent at the 2006 Spirit Awards with the Special Distinction Award for their collaboration on *INLAND EMPIRE*, while Dern was singularly honored by the New York Film Society as Best Actress Runner-up.

She recently wrapped production on *TENDERNESS* alongside Russell Crowe and Jon Foster, which is due for release in 2007.

In 2005, Dern co-starred in the Todd Robinson-directed drama, *LONELY HEARTS*, based on the 1940's true story of two homicide detectives who track a murderous pair of killers known as the Lonely Heart Killers. The film screened at the TriBeCa Film Festival and the Jacksonville Film Festival.

Other recent film credits for Dern include *HAPPY ENDINGS*, directed by Don Roos, and premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. It also closed the Los Angeles Film Festival. Dern also appeared with Julianne Moore and Woody Harrelson in *THE PRIZE WINNER OF DEFIANCE OHIO*, directed by Jane Anderson, and *WE DON'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE* opposite Mark Ruffalo.

Dern appeared in a diverse selection of roles in three very different films in 2001. She starred alongside Sean Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer in the critically-acclaimed *I AM SAM*, as Steve Martin's suspicious dental hygienist girlfriend in *NOVOCAINE* and in *FOCUS*, opposite William H. Macy. She also had a cameo appearance that year in *JURASSIC PARK III*, which re-teamed her with director Joe Johnston and actor Sam Neill.

On television, Dern delivered a captivating performance in Showtime's *DAMAGED CARE* in which she portrayed the real-life Dr. Linda Peeno, an advocate and whistleblower against HMO's managed care practices. She has also appeared in Lifetime's *WITHIN THESE WALLS*, opposite Ellen Burstyn and Showtime's *DADDY AND THEM*, a film written and directed by Billy Bob Thornton.

In January 1999, the Sundance Institute presented Dern with the Piper Heidsieck Award for Independent Vision (recently re-named the Sundance Institute to Independent Vision Award), following in the footsteps of previous honorees such as Nicolas Cage,

Tim Robbins, Kevin Spacey, Benecio Del Toro and Julianne Moore. Each year, this award is bestowed by the Sundance Film Festival in recognition of the original voice and vision of an actor whose work reveals commitment to independent spirit and artistic merit.

In 1996, Dern starred in *CITIZEN RUTH*, directed by Alexander Payne. She portrayed a young, glue-sniffing homeless woman whose pregnancy becomes a lightning rod for both Pro-Life and Abortion Rights Group groups. Receiving rave reviews critics, Dern also earned the Best Actress award from the Montreal Film Festival.

In 1993, she starred opposite Sam Neill and Jeff Goldblum in Steven Spielberg's worldwide phenomena and record-breaking box office success, *JURASSIC PARK*. Later than year, she starred opposite Clint Eastwood and Kevin Costner in *A PERFECT WORLD*.

In one of the most critically applauded performances in 1992, Dern received both an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe nomination for *RAMBLING ROSE*, directed by Martha Coolidge and co-starring her mother, Diane Ladd. This film holds its place in history as the first time a mother and daughter have earned Academy Award nominations for the same project.

Dern's other film credits include *SMOOTH TALK*, *MASK*, *BLUE VELVET*, *WILD AT HEART*, *DR. T AND THE WOMEN*, *OCTOBER SKY*, *FAT MAN AND THE LITTLE BOY*, *HAUNTED SUMMER*, *TEACHERS*, *FOXES AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN*, *THE FABULOUS STAINS*.

Dern made her directorial debut with a short film, *THE GIFT*, which aired as part of Showtime's *DIRECTED BY* series.

She was nominated for an Emmy Award and won an American Comedy Award for her guest-starring role in the controversial "Puppy Episode" on *ELLEN*. She also received a Golden Globe nomination for her role in Jane Anderson's *THE BABY DANCE*.

In 1992, Dern received a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress as well as Emmy and Cable ACE nominations for the telefilm, *AFTERBURN*. Other television credits include Showtime *FALLEN ANGELS*, for which she received an Emmy nomination and Showtime's original film, *DOWN CAME A BLACKBIRD*.

Out of appreciation and respect for the extraordinary gift that the Dern family has brought to the film and television, The Hollywood Entertainment Museum honored Bruce, Diane and Laura with the Hollywood Legacy Award.

Dern resides in Los Angeles with her husband, Ben Harper, and their two children.

REGINA KING (Layla)

Born in Los Angeles, Regina King has collected a wide array of film and television credits during her career, showing herself as a skilled actress. Most recently, she joined the cast of the hit television show, *24*, as the previously unseen sister of President David Palmer.

King's first mark in television was on the sitcom, *227*. The show ran for five years, and she also made appearances in such feature films as *SCROOGED* with Bill Murray and Charles Burnett's domestic drama, *TO SLEEP WITH ANGER*.

In 1990, when *227* ended, King established a working relationship with director John Singleton by co-starring in three of his films, *BOYZ N THE HOOD*, *POETIC JUSTICE AND HIGHER LEARNING*. She also appeared in F. Gary Gray's hit comedy, *FRIDAY*, and co-starred in *A THIN LINE BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE*, opposite Martin Lawrence.

King attracted critical praise for her performance as Cuba Gooding Jr.'s wife in *JERRY MAGUIRE*, followed by co-starring roles in Terry McMillan's *HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK* and the action-thriller, *ENEMY OF THE STATE*. Other film credits include *MIGHTY JOE YOUNG*, *LOVE AND ACTION IN CHICAGO*, *LEGALLY BLONDE 2: RED, WHITE AND BLONDE*, *DADDY DAY CARE* and *A CINDERELLA STORY*.

In 2004, King co-starred opposite Jamie Foxx in the musical biopic, *RAY*. She has also worked in animation including *THE ANT BULLY* and *THE BOONDOCKS*.

TOM MCCARTHY (Pier)

Tom McCarthy has amassed an impressive variety of credits in film, television and stage. Most recently, he can be seen in Clint Eastwood's *FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS* and will soon be seen in the hit HBO series *THE WIRE*.

Other film credits include *SYRIANA*, *GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK*, *ALL THE KING'S MEN*, *THE SITUATION*, *BEAUTIFUL, OHIO*, *MEET THE PARENTS*, *THE LAST SHOT*, *THE CITIZEN* and *30 DAYS*.

McCarthy's television credits include being a series regular on *BOSTON PUBLIC* and other episodic series including *ALLY MCBEAL*, *THE PRACTICE*, *LAW AND ORDER: SVU* and *SPIN CITY*. He also co-starred in two films for Hallmark Hall of Fame: *ST. MAYBE* opposite Mary Louise Parker and *MARY AND TIM* opposite Candace Bergen.

On stage, McCarthy's credits include "Noises Off" on Broadway, regional productions of "La Ronde," directed by Joanne Woodward, Lanford Wilson's "Virgil Is Still the Frogboy," "Hamlet," "Taming of the Shrew," "School for Wives" and "Twelfth Night."

JOSH PAIS (Robin)

With a solid history in both film and television, Josh Pais continues to divide his acting time between both mediums. Pais was most recently seen in the highly-anticipated and much talked about film *TEETH*, which premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. Other upcoming film credits include *THE KEY MAN*, *NEAL CASSIDY* and *WATCHING THE DETECTIVES*. This summer he will shoot the film *PEEP WORLD* in NYC. On television he will play Phil Pepe in the ESPN series *THE BRONX IS BURNING*, which airs in July.

Born in New York, Pais' past film credits include playing Raphael in *TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES*, *THE STATION AGENT*, *SWIMMING*, *SCREAM 3*, *FIND ME GUILTY*, *LITTLE MANHATTAN*, *A CIVIL ACTION*, *PHONE BOOTH*, *ROUNDERS*, *MUSIC OF THE HEART*, *IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY* and *A BEAUTIFUL MIND*.

Pais was seen in the most recent season of *THE SOPRANOS*. Other television credits include *RESCUE ME*, *HOPE & FAITH*, *LAW AND ORDER* in which he had a recurring role, *SEX AND THE CITY* where he played the hilarious part of ‘The Modelizer’, *HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREETS* and *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE*.

JOHN C. REILLY (A1)

Nominated for an Academy Award and Golden Globe for his work in the hit musical, *CHICAGO*, John C. Reilly has garnered a reputation as an actor with great range.

Born in Chicago and raised as the fifth of six children in an Irish-Lithuanian family, Reilly studied at the Goodman School of Drama. Later, he became a member of the Chicago’s renowned Steppenwolf Theatre.

Reilly’s first film came in the 1989 Brian De Palma film, *CASUALTIES OF WAR* followed by appearances in wide array of film genres including *DAYS OF THUNDER*, *SHADOWS AND FOG*, *WE’RE NO ANGELS*, *WHAT’S EATING GILBERT GRAPE*, *HOFFA*, *GEORGIA*, *DOLORES CLAIBURNE* and *THE RIVER WILD*.

As a regular in director Paul Thomas Anderson’s motion pictures, Reilly began attracting attention for his roles in *SYDNEY*, *BOOGIE NIGHTS* and *MAGNOLIA*. He also co-starred in Terrence Malick’s *THE THIN RED LINE*.

In 2002, Reilly scored well with audiences and critics with a group of high profile films including *THE HOURS*, *THE GOOD GIRL*, *GANGS OF NEW YORK* and *CHICAGO*. For the latter, he was nominated for an Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor for his role as Amos Hart.

Recent film credits for Reilly include *TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY*, *A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION*, *DARK WATER*, *AVIATOR* and *CRIMINAL*. Other films include *THE PERFECT STORM*, *FOR LOVE OF THE GAME* and *NEVER BEEN KISSED*.

On stage, Reilly starred on Broadway in “The Grapes of Wrath.” He also starred in “A Streetcar Named Desire” and “Othello” at the Steppenwolf and earned an Outer Critics Circle Award and Tony nomination for “True West.”

PETER SARSGAARD (Newt)

An actor noted for his range and ability to access what is behind the often complicated facades of the characters he plays, Peter Sarsgaard continues to add to his burgeoning reputation.

Sarsgaard recently finished shooting the New Line film *RENDITION*. Directed by Gavin Hood, the film stars Meryl Streep, Reese Witherspoon and Jake Gyllenhaal and centers on a CIA operative in the Middle East who questions his assignment after observing a secret-police grilling of a suspect in a suicide bombing.

Last fall, he completed production on the film *THE MYSTERIES OF PITTSBURGH*, based on Michael Chabon's 1988 debut novel. Adapted and directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber, the story, which marked Chabon's (*WONDER BOYS*) literary launch, chronicles the last summer of Art Bechstein's youth and revolves around his eccentric circle of friends. Sienna Miller, Nick Nolte and Jon Foster also star.

In fall 2005, Sarsgaard was seen in Universal Pictures' *JARHEAD*, directed by Sam Mendes and also starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Jamie Foxx, the film is an adaptation of Anthony Swofford's best-selling Gulf War memoir. He also starred opposite Patricia Clarkson and Campbell Scott in the psychological thriller *THE DYING GAUL* for writer/director Craig Lucas.

During summer 2005, Sarsgaard starred in the Disney/Imagine Entertainment-produced thriller *FLIGHTPLAN*, co-starring Jodie Foster. Directed by Robert Schwentke, the film earned over \$220 million dollars worldwide.

In 2004, Sarsgaard co-starred to much critical acclaim in the biopic *KINSEY*. Written and directed by Bill Condon, and starring Liam Neeson as the legendary sex researcher Alfred Kinsey and Laura Linney as his wife Clara, Sarsgaard plays Kinsey's young protégé and earned both a Critics' Choice Award nomination and an Independent Spirit Award nomination for his supporting role. Sarsgaard also co-starred in Zach Braff's independent hit *GARDEN STATE*. Written, directed, and co-starring Braff, the

Fox Searchlight release also stars Natalie Portman and follows the travails of a young man who returns home for his mother's funeral after being estranged from his family for a decade.

Sarsgaard received an official stamp of critical approval for his portrayal of New Republic editor Charles Lane in Billy Ray's SHATTERED GLASS. For his performance, Sarsgaard garnered awards from the Boston, San Francisco, St Louis, Toronto and National Society of Film Critics, as well as Golden Globe and Spirit Award nominations for Best Supporting Actor.

He is perhaps best known for his role as Teena Brandon's friend, then tormenter and rapist in Kimberly Pierce's' BOYS DON'T CRY. Starring opposite Hilary Swank and Chloë Sevigny, Sarsgaard received critical praise for his searing portrayal of the violent ex-con ill-equipped to deal with a startling discovery.

Other roles include Kathryn Bigelow's submarine thriller, K-19: THE WIDOWMAKER opposite Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson, D.J. Caruso's THE SALTON SEA, opposite Val Kilmer, "Empire," opposite John Leguizamo and Wayne Wang's controversial THE CENTER OF THE WORLD opposite Molly Parker. Sarsgaard first gained notice as Leonardo DiCaprio's rival and John Malkovich's son in THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK. He also appeared in Larry Clark's ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE, Tim Robbins' DEAD MAN WALKING with Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon and Iain Softley's SKELETON KEY with Kate Hudson and Gena Rowlands.

On the small screen, Sarsgaard starred in Showtime's acclaimed feature, *FREAK CITY*, produced by Michael Stipe and Sandy Stern's Single Cell Pictures.

A member of Douglas Carter Beane's New York-based theater company, The Drama Department, Sarsgaard appeared last year in their off-Broadway production, "Kingdom of the Earth," opposite Cynthia Nixon and directed by John Cameron Mitchell. He was also seen on stage in 2003 in the Signature Theatre Company's acclaimed revival of Lanford Wilson's "Burn This."

Sarsgaard attended the Actors' Studio Program at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, after which he was cast in Horton Foote's "Laura Dennis" at the Signature Theatre Company Off-Broadway.

About the Filmmakers

MIKE WHITE (Writer / Director / Producer)

YEAR OF THE DOG marks Mike White's directorial debut. He first gained attention for writing and starring in the Miguel Arteta directed **CHUCK & BUCK**, which had its premiere at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival. He returned to Sundance in 2002 with Arteta for the premiere of his original script, **THE GOOD GIRL**. Both films went on to earn Independent Spirit Awards for White. His other writing credits include the short-lived but acclaimed television series, *FREAKS AND GEEKS* and *PASADENA*, as well as the feature comedies, **ORANGE COUNTY**, **SCHOOL OF ROCK**, and last year's **NACHO LIBRE** (which he co-wrote with **NAPOLEON DYNAMITE**'s Jared and Jerusha Hess). His production company, Rip Cord, is based at Paramount Pictures.

DEDE GARDNER (Producer)

As president of Plan B Entertainment, Dede Gardner oversees a full slate of active projects. Due for release this fall is **THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES BY THE COWARD ROBERT FORD** starring Brad Pitt and Casey Affleck. The film is directed by Andrew Dominik.

Another upcoming feature film is **A MIGHTY HEART**, based on the book *A Mighty Heart: The Brave Life and Death of My Husband, Danny Pearl* by Mariane Pearl and Sarah Crichton. The film stars Angelina Jolie, Dan Futterman, Irrfan Khan, Will Patton and Archie Punjabi and is being directed by Michael Winterbottom.

Gardner previously served as executive vice president of production at Paramount Pictures. During her seven years at Paramount, she was responsible for such films as **ELECTION**, **ORANGE COUNTY**, **ZOOLANDER** and **HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN TEN DAYS**, among others.

Gardner began her career as a location scout in New York City, then moved on to work at Innovative Artists, and later in the William Morris Agency literary department.

BEN LECLAIR (Producer)

Most recently, Ben LeClair was the associate producer on NACHO LIBRE, which starred Jack Black, written by Mike White and Jared Hess and directed by Hess.

A Massachusetts native, LeClair graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Kansas, where he also studied film. Prior to moving to the west coast, he worked in the editorial departments of several magazines including Boston Magazine, The Improper Bostonian and Pollstar (UK). He also worked for a financial service public relations group.

LeClair also worked on the respective staffs of producer Scott Rudin and writer-director Mike White before being promoted to the director of development for Black and White Productions.

He currently serves as President of Rip Cord Productions.

TIM ORR (Director of Photography)

A native of North Carolina, Tim Orr studied cinematography at the North Carolina School of the Arts School of Filmmaking. He was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for his first feature, GEORGE WASHINGTON, directed by David Gordon Green.

In 2001, Orr was the director of photography on Peter Sollett's award winning RAISING VICTOR VARGAS followed by Sundance Festival award winner, ALL THE REAL GIRLS.

Orr spent the last several years in New York working on numerous independent feature films and commercials before relocating his family to Los Angeles in 2006.

Other feature film credits include DANDELION, for which he was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award, IMAGINARY HEROES, UNDERTOW, LITTLE MANHATTAN, TRUST THE MAN, COME EARLY MORNING and OFF THE BLACK.

Most recently, Orr finished work on SNOW ANGELS, his fourth feature with David Gordon Green.

DANIEL BRADFORD (Production Designer)

Daniel Bradford is well aware of director Mike White's creative style as this is the third collaboration on a White project. Previously, Bradford was the production designer on the feature film, *THE GOOD GIRL*, and the television series, *CRACKING UP*, both of which were written by White.

He was also the production designer on *HERBIE: FULLY LOADED*.

Bradford, raised on a farm by veterinarians, served as art director on a number feature films including Quentin Tarantino's *KILL BILL* and *JACKIE BROWN*, *LEGALLY BLONDE*, *BOUNCE*, *PANIC*, *SHE'S SO LOVELY* and *TOUCH*.

As a set designer, Bradford's credits include *RUSHMORE*, *GODZILLA*, *ERASER*, *OLEANNA* and *PULP FICTION*.

NANCY STEINER (Costume Designer)

Nancy Steiner has worked extensively in film, commercials, music videos and print. Her feature film credits include *LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE*, *SHOPGIRL*, *ELIZABETHTOWN*, *VIRGIN SUICIDES*, *LOST IN TRANSLATION*, *THE GOOD GIRL*, *HUMAN NATURE*, *MILLION DOLLAR HOTEL* and *SAFE*.

Steiner's work has been particularly well represented in the music video world by designing costumes for such diverse artists as Fat Boy Slim, Mick Jagger, David Bowie, Sheryl Crow, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Air, Smashing Pumpkins, No Doubt, Nirvana, Foo Fighters and Bjork, to name a few.

Steiner's commercial campaigns have included Levi's, The Gap, Nike, Volkswagen, Adidas, Diet Coke, T Mobile, Earthlink, Volvo, Bacardi, Puma, Lincoln and Miller Beer, among others.

In 2004, Steiner won "Best Commercial Design" at The Costume Designers Guild Awards for her efforts on the "Bacardi & Cola" campaign. She was also honored by *Premiere Magazine* in 2005 for her work in film.

DODY DORN (Editor)

Academy Award nominee Dody Dorn has showcased her editing abilities on films, both large in scale as well as small, independent features. Most recently, she

edited *A GOOD YEAR*, her third collaboration with director Ridley Scott following *KINGDOM OF HEAVEN* and *MATCHSTICK MEN*.

Dorn collected an Academy Award® nomination for Christopher Nolan's *MEMENTO* (also earning nominations for an AFI Film Award and A.C.E. "Eddie" Award). In the same year, Dorn received an Emmy and A.C.E. "Eddie" nominations for her work on the acclaimed ABC miniseries, *LIFE WITH JUDY: ME AND MY SHADOWS*, starring Judy Davis.

Her work was featured in the films *TREASURE ISLAND* and *GUINEVERE*, both of which were featured as part of the Sundance Film Festival's Dramatic Competition in 1999. Dorn's diverse career also includes *SICK: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF BOB FLANAGAN*, *SUPERMASOCHISTIC*, a documentary by Kirby Dick which was honored with a Special Jury prize at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival and with the Film prize at that year's L.A. Independent Film Festival.

Dorn's other film credits INCLUDE *I WOKE UP EARLY THE DAY I DIED*, *A SMALL DOMAIN*, Julie Delpy's short *BLAH BLAH BLAH*, *MURDEROUS DECISIONS*, the interactive movie for European Television, *TUESDAY MORNING RIDE*, Michael Lindsay-Hogg's screen adaptation of the classic Samuel Beckett play, *WAITING FOR GODOT*.

She also collaborated with director Nolan on *INSOMNIA*.

A native of Santa Monica, California, Dorn graduated from Hollywood High School and began her career as a production assistant on John Carpenter's biopic, *ELVIS*. She moved into sound editing, working on such classics as *SILVERADO*, *THE BIG CHILL*, *MRS. SOFFEL*, *RACING WITH THE MOON*, *THE BIG EASY* and *CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD*.

A long-term collaboration with Alan Rudolph includes work as a Supervising Sound Editor on *THE MODERNS*, *CHOOSE ME*, *TROUBLE IN MIND* and *MADE IN HEAVEN*. Other sound supervisor credits include *THE BIG PICTURE*, *STATE OF GRACE* and *POWWOW HIGHWAY*. Dorn also started her own sound company, Sonic Kitchen, and, in 1990, won a Golden Reel Award for Best Sound on James Cameron's sci-fi epic, *THE ABYSS*.

Cast:

Peggy	MOLLY SHANNON
Bret	LAURA DERN
Layla	REGINA KING
Pier	TOM McCARTHY
Robin	JOSH PAIS
Al	JOHN C. REILLY
Newt	PETER SARSGAARD
Lissie	AMY SCHLAGEL ZOE SCHLAGEL
Don	DALE GODBOLDO
Holly	INARA GEORGE
Trishelle	LIZA WEIL
Pound Employee	JON SHERE
Al's Girlfriend	CHRISTY LYNN MOORE
Audrey	AUDREY WASILEWSKI
Brenda	BRENDA CANELA
Craig	CRAIG CACKOWSKI
Steve	STEVE BERG
Susan	SUSAN MACKIN
Jeff	CHUCK DUFFY
Nurse	SONYA EDDY
Dog Owner	URSULA BRAUNER
Blond Floozie	GIDDLE PARTRIDGE

Crew:

Written and Directed	MIKE WHITE
Produced By	MIKE WHITE BEN LECLAIR
Produced By	DEDE GARDNER

Executive Producer	NAN MORALES BRAD PITT
Director of Photography	TIM ORR
Production Designer	DANIEL BRADFORD
Film Editor	DODY DORN, A.C.E.
Production Designer	NANCY STEINER
Unit Production Manager	LEIGH SHANTA
First Assistant Director	SCOTT ROBERTSON
Second Assistant Director	STEVEN F. BEAUPRE
Music by	CHRISTOPHE BECK
Art Director	MACIE VENER
Graphic Designer	JANE FITTS
Art Department Coordinator	LINDA GRIFFIS
Set Decorator	K.C. FOX
Leadperson	HEATHER L. WATSON
On-Set Dresser	MIKE MALONE
Foreperson	CHRIS WITHROW
Set Dressers	DON BARKER TODD DANIELS GERALD DONAHOE
Camera Operator	MATTHEW A. PETROSKY
“A” Camera First Assistant	LEX RAWLINS
“A” Camera Second Assistant	LINDA KÄLLÉRUS
“B” Camera Operators	ALAN CAUDILLO MATTHEW J. SIEGEL
“B” Camera First Assistant	F. MAKO KOIWAI
“B” Camera Second Assistant	MICHELLE MANN
Film Loader	DUSTIN PEARLMAN
Still Photographer	SUZANNE TENNER
Script Supervisor	JANE GOLDSMITH

Sound Mixer	ROBERT D. EBER
Boom Operator	PERRY DODGSON
Cable Person	MICHAEL MESIROW
Video Assist	GLENN CANNON
	JIMI JOHNSON
24 Frame Playback	RICK WHITFIELD
Supervisor	
24 Frame Playback	MARK HOCHMAN
Technician	
Chief Lighting Technician	LOUIS DiCESARE
Assistant Chief Lighting	TIMOTHY DURR
Technician	
Electricians	NIKOLA RISTIC
	IDRISSA MOULAYE SENE
	BRENDON PHILLIPS
	DAVID HASKIN
Generator Operator	CHRIS D. WALDEN
Location Rigging Technician	ROY GRANADA
Stage Rigging Technician	JOHN McCORMACK
Chief Rigging Electrician	MICHAEL K. O'MELIA
First Company Grip	VIDAL COHEN
Second Company Grip	JOSEPH PRADO
Dolly Grip	GREG BROOKS
Grips	MARK VENEZIA
	ISMAEL ARAUJO JR.
	NIEL WILLIAMS
First Company Rigging Grip	MICHAEL SAVAGE
Second Company Rigging	MICHAEL FASTOSO
Grip	

Production Accountant	MARY JASIONOWSKI
First Assistant Accountant	JENNIFER SCOTT
Payroll Accountant	BEATRIZ RIVAS
Accounting Clerk	JASON DeMEO
Post Production Accountant	EMILY TAKEHARA
Location Manager	FRANCE MYUNG FAGIN
Assistant Location Managers	CHARLES FAGIN STEPHEN E. KARDELL
Production Coordinator	DIANE WARD
Assistant Production Coordinator	AMY H. TUNG
Second Second Assistant Director	NICOLE SWASEY
Assistant to Mr. White	REBECCA ROBINSON
Assistant to Ms. Gardner	EMILY CURRIE
Assistant to Ms. Shannon	AMANDA J. MANTOVANI
Assistant to Mr. Sarsgaard	JEFF WHITE
Production Assistants	DAVID BAX CRIS de ARCE MANUEL FIGUEROA SHELLY M. HEYWARD FRANK McGRATH HIROTATSU TANIGUCHI
Set Intern	MAX GREY
Art Department Assistants	JULIANE CRUMP CHRISTIAN BRENNAN
Costume Production Assistant	DANA GRIFFIN

Product Placement Consultant	MELISSA ROBINSON
Studio Teacher	DONNA CORWIN
Property Master	MICHELLE SPEARS
Assistant Property Master	KIM RICHEY
Property Assistant	STEPHEN McCUMBY
Special Effects Coordinator	TOM MERTZ
Animals Provided by	BOONE'S ANIMALS FOR HOLLYWOOD
Head Animal Trainer	URSULA BRAUNER
Assistant Animal Trainer	MARK HARDEN
Animal Trainers	DEVON EVANS KIM BONHAM KARL BRIAN MILLER
Costume Supervisor	STACY M. HORN
Key Costumer	ANITA BROWN
On-Set Costumers	JEANNINE BOURDAGHS SUZY ROBERTSON
Makeup Department Head	DIONNE P. SMITH
Key Makeup Artist	LISA NASH-JONES
Hair Department Head	MARY ANN VALDES
Key Hair Stylist	NORMA LEE
Post Production Supervisor	TERESA KELLY
Additional Editing by	LORI BALL
Assistant Editors	PABLO PRIETTO ALEXANDRA LEVILOFF
Editorial Production Assistant	ROBERT BENEDICT

Supervising Sound	AARON GLASCOCK
Editors/Re-Recording Mixers	CURT SCHULKEY
Sound Effects Editor/Foley	JOHN THOMAS
Supervisor	
Assistant Sound Editor	WAYNE LEMMER
Dialogue Editor	KIRA
Foley Mixer	MARY JO LANG
Foley Artists	ALYSON MOORE
	JOHN ROESCH
Foley Recordist	SCOTT MORGAN
Mix Assistants	TIM LeBLANC
	JARED MARSHACK
ADR Voices	LYNNE REDDING
	ELIZABETH SWACKHAMER
	CLAUDETTE WELLS
	JON BRUNO
	NICHOLAS GUEST
	JASON HARRIS
	AL RODRIGO
	STAN SELLERS
Casting Assistant	ASHLEY SLATER
Background Casting	TINA KERR
Unit Publicist	HEIDI FALCONER
Location Medic	JAMES E. MADDUX
Construction Medic	PHILLIP KNOEDEL
Construction Coordinator	BRUCE DiVALERIO
Construction General	BUTCH MONTGOMERY

Foreperson	
Paint Supervisor	ROD NUNNALLY
Paint Foreperson	MARK BOUCHER
Toolperson	JOHN W. BALDWIN
Propmaker Forepersons	DAVID C. CAMPBELL ANDY KNIGHT JON KAZUNAGA
Greens Supervisor	STEVE BORGESSE
Labor Forepersons	PHILIP GINOLFI RAINER WOLF
On-Set Painter	SCOTT VALDES
Catering by	DELUXE MOTION PICTURE CATERING
Craft Service	PHIL SCALISI
Assistant Craft Service	DESIREE MEJIA
Security	ON SCENE SECURITY
Engagement Ring Provided by	ZIAMOND
Stand-in for Ms. Shannon	KATHLEEN CARR
Stand-in for Ms. King	JENN BYRD
Stand-in for Ms. Dern	ANGELA KODICEK
Stand-in for Mr. Reilly	BRIAN DEMONBREUN
Stand-in for Mr. Sarsgaard	JASON BRYANT
Transportation Coordinator	WAYNE WILLIAMS
Transportation Captain	MIKE RIPORELLA
Transportation Co-Captain	JACK R. CAMPBELL
Transportation Dispatcher	BERT FERNANDEZ
Music Editors	TERRY WILSON

	RONALD J. WEBB
Additional Music Editing by	FERNAND BOS
Orchestra Conducted by	MIKE NOWAK
Orchestrations by	KEVIN KLIESCH
Orchestra Contractors	SANDY DeCRESCENT PETER ROTTER
Music Prepared by	JoANN KANE MUSIC SERVICES
Music Librarian	ANDREW HAUSCHILD
Music Recorded and Mixed by	CASEY STONE
Additional Mixing by	LARRY MAH
Music Digitally Recorded by	NOAH SNYDER
Music Score Coordinated by	ADAM BLAU
Music Scored at	SIGNET SOUND
Music Score Mixed at	THE LISTENING ROOM
Visual Effects by	INVISIBLE EFFECTS
Visual Effects Supervisor	DICK EDWARDS
Color Timers	CHRIS REGAN GEORGE CHAVEZ
Negative Cutter	MARY NELSON-FRASER
Dolby Sound Consultant	TBD
Titles by	HOLLYWOOD TITLE