



\*\*\* PRODUCTION NOTES \*\*\*

## ***SHORTCUT TO HAPPINESS***

Running Time: 105 Minutes

MPAA Rating: "PG-13" for language & sexual content

Written by Peter Dexter, Bill Condon & Nancy Cassaro  
Based on a short story by Stephen Vincent Benet  
and a play by Archibald MacLeish

Starring

Anthony Hopkins  
Jennifer Love Hewitt  
Alec Baldwin  
Dan Aykroyd  
Kim Cattrall  
Barry Miller  
Amy Poehler  
Mike Doyle

## **FILMMAKERS:**

Director	Harry Kirkpatrick
Screenwriters	Peter Dexter Bill Condon & Nancy Cassaro
Producers	Adam Stone David Glasser
Co-Executive Producers	Carol Gillson Brian Keathley Michael S. Grayson Michael Z. Gordon Patrick F. Gallagher James Robb Randall Emmett George Furla Corrinne Mann
Executive Producers	Jeff G. Waxman Brian Avery Howard Kazanjian Craig Darian Bob Yari Scott G. Stone Jason Zelin
Associate Producers	T. Vincent Dixie D. Walker Richard Weinman
Edited By	Jeff Wood John Carter
Director of Photography	Adam Holender, A.S.C.
Production Designer	Edward Pisoni
Costume Designer	Ellen Lutter
Music By	Christopher Young
Music Supervisor	Richard Glasser
Casting Director	Roe Baker

## **CAST:**

Daniel Webster	ANTHONY HOPKINS
The Devil	JENNIFER LOVE HEWITT
Bez Stone	ALEC BALDWIN
Julius Jenson	DAN AYKROYD
Constance Hurry	KIM CATTRALL
Mike Weiss	BARRY MILLER
Molly Gilchrest	AMY POEHLER
Luke	MIKE DOYLE

# **SHORTCUT TO HAPPINESS**

*Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.*

--- Albert Einstein

*The devil made me do it!*

--- Flip Wilson

Jabez (“Bez”) Stone (Alec Baldwin) wasn’t a great writer, but he poured his soul into every word he wrote. Struggling to get published, he rose every morning to work on his book before going off to sell expensive men’s clothing that he himself could not afford. Women weren’t particularly interested in him, he had a little over \$500 in the bank, but he had great friends, a good heart, and self-respect. And then everything went to *Hell*.

In a single day Bez lost his job, sat through a demoralizing lunch with his wealthy younger brother, and was nearly thrown out of Webster Books for trying to meet the legendary publisher Daniel Webster (Anthony Hopkins), who had just rejected his manuscript. And things only got worse.

Hoping to be cheered up by his friends at their favorite bar, Bez finds out his buddy Julius Jensen (Dan Aykroyd) just signed a \$190,000 book deal with Webster’s most glamorous editor Constance Hurry (Kim Cattrall). More dejected than ever, Bez leaves the bar and stops at an ATM to discover he’s only got a buck fifty to his name!

Teetering on the breaking point, his life in limbo, Bez begins to make his way home when a gang of young punks beat him up and steal his computer . . . with his *entire* novel in it. Battered, bruised and utterly miserable, Bez finally drags himself back to his hellhole of an

apartment and stares at the failure he sees in the mirror. “Look at yourself,” he says angrily. “You’d sell your soul to trade places with Julius Jensen.”

Unaware that he has just set in motion forces of evil that lay in wait for desperate souls just like him, Bez is suddenly filled with renewed determination. Remembering the words of the great Daniel Webster -- “Go home and write something, Mr. Stone. Write something *better*” -- he races to his closet, gets out his ancient electric typewriter, and starts banging away.

But all poor Bez can type is: ONE HUNDRED AND NINTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, ONE HUNDRED AND NINTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, ONE HUNDRED AND NINTY THOUSAND DOLLARS . . . until his typewriter breaks, and finally, so does he.

Holding the heavy machine over his head like Moses about to break the Ten Commandments, Bez hurls the broken typewriter through the window, and instantly hears an anguished cry. Terrified, he peers through the shattered the glass and sees just how doomed he really is. The typewriter has delivered a fatal blow to both an elderly woman and to his cursed life. Now he’s not only a failed writer, he’s an accomplished murderer.

As ambulance and police sirens wail, someone begins to relentlessly buzz his doorbell. Distraught, mad with fear, Bez finally opens the door to find a different kind of siren, a beautiful temptress with flaming red hair standing in front of him . . . like a godsend. Well, not exactly.

Gaping at her deliciously wicked black stiletto heels, drooling over her cherry red leather trench coat pulled tight around what he knows is one *hell* of a body, Bez let’s her in. And, as the bewitching creature prances around his apartment, the police start banging on his door.

Mesmerized and terrified at the same time, Bez cries, “What’ll I do?”

“Trust me,” the vixen coos, flashing a devilish grin.

While Bez crouches in the closet, she answers the door, and instantly the eerie enchantment begins. The broken window vanishes and so do the police. The elderly woman is miraculously healed, and Bez is more than ready to make any deal this sexy Satan wants.

But before he does, she offers a friendly word of advice. “You’re about to make a deal for your mortal soul for *all* eternity,” she smirks. “Don’t blow it on season tickets... . Think *carefully* before you give your answer.” And then she asks the question that will change Bez Stone’s life forever. “More than anything else on earth -- *What do you want?*”

His writer’s soul desperately searching for the right words, Bez starts fumbling through his heart’s desire. “I want to write books that last!” he cries. “I want appreciation. I want respect! I want *everyone’s* respect!” “You’ll feel so much better if you’ll just say it!” the dangerously beautiful she-devil screams. And then he does. “SUCCESS!” he yells. “I WANT SUCCESS!”

Suddenly all business, the dish of a demon smiles coldly. “Ten years, standard contract,” she says matter-of-factly, “and then I take what’s mine.” With that, it’s time to seal the deal. Yes, it’s carpe diem – or carpe devil – time.

In the morning, success storms in like a tempest. The doorbell rings and a messenger hands Bez a letter saying that his manuscript has been accepted. When he reaches in his pocket for a George Washington to tip the messenger, he finds a wad full of Benjamin Franklins. Miraculously, the cut on his forehead from the mugging is gone. Women on the street can’t stop gazing at him with lust. Can it get any better? Oh, yes . . .

A first printing of 100,000 copies of his book has been ordered. His gorgeous editor Constance Hurry wants to sleep with him. Tom Cruise wants to option his book. Cab drivers pass others by to pick him up. He’s being compared to Hemingway. Norman Mailer has his book on

his nightstand. Yes, Bez Stone is the man of the hour . . . but he's on the Devil's clock. And it's ticking fast.

Years go by, friends die, his books are critical bombs, but sell like crazy, and the titles, *Loss of Feeling* and *The Falling Man* are more than a reflection of his life . . . they are about absolutely nothing. It seems SUCCESS is ravenous, so hungry it is eating away at him, depleting him of everyone he loves, including himself, and still the public demands MORE.

He is tired of feeding the meaningless machine of success the putrid pabulum it hungers for, but without a soul, that is all that Bez Stone has in him. Now he knows that it is not success that he wants, it is something that he had long before . . . self-respect.

Can Daniel Webster, the God of the publishing world, be the mortal strong enough to go up against the immortal Queen of the underworld? Can Webster, whose ancestors wrote the dictionary, find the eloquence to outwit the essence of evil?

In a courtroom Armageddon like no other on earth, the Devil and Daniel Webster battle for Jabez Stone's mortal soul. Infamously dead writers – Truman Capote, Sylvia Plath, Mario Puzo, Ernest Hemingway, Oscar Wilde, and even Jacqueline Susann – sit in judgment in the jury box, and none other than Julius Jensen, the man whose fame Bez stole, is sitting on the bench. With the odds definitely not in favor of the good guy, will Webster lose to Lucifer? Will Beelzebub battle to victory? And most important of all, would *you* sell your soul for a shortcut to happiness?

### **STARS ARE BEDAZZLED BY A WICKEDLY CLEVER SCRIPT**

Why would Academy Award®-winner Anthony Hopkins, Oscar®-nominees Alec Baldwin and Dan Aykroyd, television and film sensation Jennifer Love Hewitt, and Golden

Globe winner Kim Cattrall all be clamoring to get on the bandwagon of *Shortcut to Happiness*? The answer is simple – a fantastic script. Based on Stephen Vincent Benet’s celebrated short story, “The Devil and Daniel Webster,” and on Pulitzer Prize-winning author Archibald MacLeish’s play “Scratch,” the script for *Shortcut to Happiness*, was, in Hewitt’s words, “Brilliant!”

Five-time Emmy nominee Cattrall, who played the seductive Samantha on HBO’s hit series *Sex and the City*, couldn’t agree more. “I’m a real fan of ’30s and ’40s comedy, where it really is about the dialogue,” says Cattrall. “And this movie is intelligent, it’s smart, it’s savvy, and there’s also a message: Never sell out because you have to live with yourself.”

Hopkins elaborates. “It’s a classic morality tale about good versus evil,” says the acclaimed actor who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1993. “I thought the script was very good and I said I’d love to do it.”

Funnyman Aykroyd was delighted to work with his friend Baldwin and totally mesmerized by Hopkins and Hewitt. He was also especially glad to stretch his dramatic wings. “I play Julius Jensen, a rival and a friend to Jabez Stone, who is sacrificed as part of the deal,” explains Aykroyd. “It is Julius’ success that is transferred over to Jabez by the Devil.”

Acknowledging that he’s seen the devil portrayed in many ways, Aykroyd says that Hewitt’s performance is of the best. “Jennifer has this incendiary quality, and she really brings a certain kind of danger to the role,” observes Aykroyd. “She’s a fun devil, a sensuous devil, and a very dangerous one.”

Hewitt couldn’t have been more honored to step into Satan’s stilettos. “I’m not the normal choice for the devil, so I was shocked and intrigued at the same time when the producers wanted to cast me in the role,” she laughs wickedly, adding that when you think about it, if Satan

wanted to wreck havoc on earth, he'd surely disguise himself. "Satan wouldn't jump into the body of someone who looked mean or evil, would he? No, the person who Satan would pick -- because it would be the sickest choice -- would be the person who everyone considers to be the sweet girl next door."

Attracting a wonderful supporting cast the likes of SNL's Amy Poehler and Golden Globe nominee Barry Miller, who play Bez's writing cronies Molly and Mike, *Shortcut to Happiness* also features a stellar list of cameo roles, including real life authors Robert Stone, who one the National Book Award for Dog Soldiers, and Gay Talese, an award-winning author and journalist, known for his articles in *The New York Times* and *Esquire Magazine*.

In addition, SNL comedian and impersonator Darrell Hammond shows up to play Bez's snooty boss at the clothing store; *Will & Grace* Emmy winner Bobby Cannavale turns in a performance as a policeman; and even David Letterman regular Larry "Bud" Melman (aka Calvert Deforest) does a cameo as the bailiff in the final courtroom scene.

With a movie that pits a distinguished book publisher against a Devil that doesn't *need* to wear Prada to look absolutely fabulous, *Shortcut to Happiness* is one helluva movie. And, with a cast that ranges from Sir Anthony Hopkins to Larry "Bud" Melman, this is a philosophical yet fiendishly funny film.

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

**ALEC BALDWIN** (Jabez Stone) a native New Yorker, burst onto the TV scene in the early 1980s with appearances in several series, including *The Doctors* and *Knots Landing*, before scoring several feature film roles in *Forever*, *Lulu*, *Beetle Juice*, *Married to the Mob* and *Talk Radio*.

In 1990, Baldwin appeared in the first on-screen adaptation of the Jack Ryan character created by mega-selling espionage author Tom Clancy. A blockbuster hit, *The Hunt for Red October*, starred Baldwin alongside Sean Connery. He went on to appear in a diverse array of films, including *Miami Blues*, Neil Simon's *The Marrying Man* and *Glengarry Glen Ross*.

In 1994, he starred in a remake of the Steve McQueen action flick *The Getaway*, and he brought to life the famous comic strip character *The Shadow*. Two years later he took a turn for a serious role as an assistant district attorney in the civil rights drama *Ghosts of Mississippi*.

Baldwin's distinctive vocal talents then saw him voice US-aired episodes of the highly popular UK children's show *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends*, as well as *Clerks*, *Cats & Dogs*, *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within* and *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie*.

Always involved in something, the eclectic actor has remained consistently busy over the past decade with appearances in numerous films, including *Pearl Harbor*, *The Cooler*, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award® and a Golden Globe, *The Cat in the Hat* and *Along Came Polly*.

On television, Baldwin has appeared in numerous hit shows and received two Emmy nominations for his appearances on *Will & Grace*. He received both Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for his roles in three miniseries: *Path to War*, *Nuremberg* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Most recently, Baldwin appeared in *The Good Shepard*, *Running with Scissors* and *The Departed*. Known for his scathing appearances hosting *Saturday Night Live*, Baldwin is currently wowing audiences in the hit TV series, *30 Rock*, for which he has won a Golden Globe award.

**ANTHONY HOPKINS** (Daniel Webster) received an Academy Award® for his performance in *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991), and was subsequently nominated in the same category for his performances in *The Remains of the Day* (1993) and *Nixon* (1995). He was also given Best Actor Award by the British Academy of Film & Television Arts for *The Remains of the Day*. In 1993, he starred in Richard Attenborough's *Shadowlands* with Debra Winger, winning numerous critics awards in the U.S. and Britain. In 1998, he was nominated as Best Supporting Actor for his performance in *Amistad*.

In 2001, Hopkins starred in the sequel to *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Hannibal*, in which he starred with Julianne Moore. Directed by Ridley Scott, the blockbuster film grossed over \$100 million domestically. He also recorded the narration for the 2000 holiday season's hit film Dr. Seuss' *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*.

In 1998, Hopkins starred in *Meet Joe Black*, directed by Martin Brest, *Instinct*, directed by Jon Turteltaub, *Titus*, Julie Taymor's film adaptation of Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus with Jessica Lange, *The Mask of Zorro*, directed by Martin Campbell and co-starring Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones, and *The Edge*, a dramatic adventure written by David Mamet and directed by Lee Tamahori, and co-starring Alec Baldwin.

In 1997, he starred in the title role in *Surviving Picasso*, directed by James Ivory, and in *Amistad*, directed by Steven Spielberg. 1992 he appeared in *Howard's End* and *Bram Stoker's Dracula* before starring in *Legends of the Fall* and *The Road to Wellville*.

Hopkins made his directorial debut in 1995 with *August*, an adaptation of Chekhov's

Uncle Vanya, for which he composed the musical score and also played Vanya. His earlier films include: *84 Charing Cross Road*, *The Elephant Man*, *Magic*, and *A Bridge Too Far*. *The Bounty* and *Desperate Hours* were his first two collaborations with Dino De Laurentiis Company.

In American television, Hopkins received two Emmy Awards for *The Lindbergh Kidnapping Case* (1976), in which he portrayed Bruno Hauptmann, and *The Bunker* (1981), in which he portrayed Adolph Hitler.

Born December 31, 1937 in Margum near Port Talbot Wales, Hopkins is the only child of Muriel and Richard Hopkins, a banker. He was educated at Cowbridge Grammar School, and at 17, he wandered into a YMCA amateur theater production and knew immediately that he was in the right place. With newfound enthusiasm, combined with proficiency at the piano, he won a scholarship to the Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff where he studied for two years (1955-1957). He entered the British Army in 1958 for mandatory training, spending most of the two-year tour of duty clerking the Royal Artillery unit at Bulford.

In 1960, Hopkins was invited to audition for Sir Laurence Olivier, then director of the National Theater at the Old Vic. Two years later, he was Olivier's understudy in Strindberg's *Dance of Death*. Hopkins made his film debut in 1967, playing Richard the Lionheart in *The Lion in the Winter*, starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn. He received a British Academy Award nomination and the film received an Academy Award® as Best Picture.

American television viewers discovered Hopkins in the 1973 ABC production of *Leon Uris' QBVII*, the first American mini-series, in which he played the knighted Polish-born British physician Adam Kleno who is ultimately destroyed by his wartime past. The following year, he starred on Broadway in the National Theatre production of *Equus*, and later mounted another production of the play in Los Angeles where he lived for 10 years, working extensively in

American films and television.

After starring as Captain Bligh in *The Bounty* (1984), Hopkins returned to England and the National Theater in David Hare's *Pravada*, for which he received the British Theater Association's Best Actor Award and The Observer Award for Outstanding achievement at the 1985 Laurence Olivier Awards. During this time at the National he starred in *Antony and Cleopatra* and *King Lear*.

Hopkins also appeared in the feature adaptation of Stephen King's *Hearts In Atlantis* for director Scott Hicks, the action comedy *Bad Company*, co-starring Chris Rock, and the box-office hit prequel to *Silence of the Lambs*, *Red Dragon*, co-starring Ed Norton, Ralph Fiennes and Emily Watson. More recently he was seen in *The Human Stain* opposite Nicole Kidman, *Alexander* opposite Colin Farrell and Angelina Jolie, directed by Oliver Stone, and *Proof* co-starring Gwyneth Paltrow, directed by John Madden. His latest projects have also included *The World's Fastest Indian*, directed by Roger Donaldson and *All the King's Men* with Jude Law, Sean Penn, Kate Winslet, directed by Steven Zaillian and the thriller *Fracture* opposite Ryan Gosling, and will next star opposite Angelina Jolie and Robin Wright Penn in *Beowulf* directed by Robert Zemeckis.

**JENNIFER LOVE HEWITT** (*The Devil*) portrays "Melinda Gordon," a young newlywed who delivers messages from the dead to the living, on CBS' hit drama series *Ghost Whisperer*. Most recently, she appeared in Twentieth Century Fox's hit live action/CGI features, *Garfield* and *Garfield 2: A Tale of Two Kitties*. She was also recently seen starring in two independent features, *The Truth About Love* and *If Only*, which she produced with her production company LoveSpell Entertainment.

Hewitt also starred in the DreamWorks action/comedy *The Tuxedo* opposite Jackie Chan as an intelligence agent who takes on a malevolent corporate mogul, and in MGM's *Heartbreakers*, with Sigourney Weaver, Gene Hackman and Ray Liotta.

Receiving critical acclaim for her performance in the title role of the ABC Original Movie *The Audrey Hepburn Story*, Hewitt is also known to television audiences as "Sarah Reeves" from the award-winning drama series *Party of Five*.

Hewitt's career has been linked to box-office success with such films as *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, for which she won a 1998 Blockbuster Entertainment Award. She also starred in the film's sequel *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*, as well as the comedies *Can't Hardly Wait*, *The Suburbans* and *Sister Act 2*.

Hewitt resides in the Los Angeles area.

**KIM CATTRALL** (Constance Hurry) has been a staple of both the silver screen and the small screen since her first day on set. This Hollywood insider has been one of the industries' busiest due to her comedic timing, dramatic depth and onscreen presence. Sexy, smoldering and funny, Cattrall was a leading force in turning the groundbreaking HBO series, *Sex and the City* into a global phenomenon. Portraying femme fatale Samantha Jones, she won the hearts of all women by playing the role honest and impulsive, bringing out the inner vamp in us all. Highly praised by the critics, she was recognized with a Golden Globe win (plus four nominations), four Emmys and multiple Screen Actors' Guild Awards. Now with the worldwide syndication of *Sex and the City*, her portrayal of Samantha is known around the globe.

Cattrall's recently founded Fertile Ground Productions, a Canadian based production company, has already developed one project at the cable network – *Sexual Intelligence*, a feature

length documentary which she hosts and co-executive produced. An accompanying book adds to the projects attraction. Fertile is also currently in development on an adaptation of Clifford Odets' *The Country Girl* which Cattrall will co-executive produce and star in for HBO films.

Now enjoying an extensive acting career that has spanned film, stage and television, Cattrall was born in Liverpool, England, and raised on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. She moved to New York City at the tender age of 16 to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Upon graduation, she was already signing a 5-year film contract with film director Otto Preminger. A year later, Universal Studios bought out the contract and Cattrall became one of the last participants of the Universal Contract Player System. While under contract at Universal, Cattrall guest starred in numerous television series, which led to starring roles opposite Jack Lemmon in his Academy Award® nominated performance in *Tribute* and a Lead Actress Genie nomination (Canadian Oscars) for her performance in *Ticket to Heaven*.

Cattrall has starred in a host of Hollywood blockbuster films, including *Police Academy*, *Porky's*, *Mannequin*, *Masquerade*, *Star Trek 6: The Undiscovered Country*, John Carpenter's *Big Trouble in Little China* opposite Kurt Russell, Disney's *The Ice Princess*, and Brian De Palmas' *Bonfire of the Vanities* with Tom Hanks. In addition, her performance as Jamie in the delightful independent feature *Live Nude Girls* earned her rave reviews at numerous Film Festivals. On television, she starred opposite Jamie Lee Curtis in the TNT television adaptation of Wendy Wasserstein's Pulitzer Prize winning play *The Heidi Chronicles* and in Oliver's Stone's mini series *Wild Palms* for ABC.

When not working in film and television, Cattrall has returned to the stage starring in critically acclaimed productions of Arthur Miller's *A View From The Bridge*, Anton Chekhov's *Three Sister's* (Drama Logue Award), Strindberg's *Miss Julie*, and Moliere's *The Misanthrope*.

She made her Broadway debut opposite Ian McKellen in the National Theater of London's production of Michael Frayn's adaptation of Chekhov's *Wild Honey*. In January 2005, Cattrall made her London stage debut in Sir Peter Hall's *Who's Life Is It Anyway* in the West End, to great critical response.

Fans got to see the personal side of Cattrall on Lifetime television's *Intimate Portrait* and in her *New York Times* Best Seller published by Warner Books that she co-authored, entitled Satisfaction, The Art of the Female Orgasm. A media darling as well, Cattrall has graced the covers of numerous magazines including *More Magazine*, *TV Guide*, *New York Magazine*, and *UK Glamour* to name a few.

Recently, Cattrall finished a run on London's West End's at the Donmar Warehouse in David Mamet's *The Cryptogram*, for which she received rave reviews. She will next be seen in *Tiger's Tail*, a film by John Boorman. This summer, Cattrall is headed to Ireland where she will star in *My Boy Jack*, opposite Daniel Radcliffe.

**DAN AYKROYD** (Julius Jensen) has enjoyed three decades in the entertainment business starting as a writer and performer on his local cable access station in 1970 on a 15-minute program called *Change For a Dollar*. In that same year, he performed on CBC network television as a writer/actor for producer Lorne Michaels in the *Great Canadian Humour Test TV Special*, and in 1972, he moved to Toronto to work for *Ghostbusters* Director Ivan Reitman and Moses Znaimer at the groundbreaking City-TV.

Born in Ottawa, Ontario Canada on July 1, 1952 (Canada Day), Aykroyd attended Carleton University; and in 1997, he was awarded a Doctorate in Literature (Honoris Causa) in recognition of his *Saturday Night Live* writing and for the nine produced screenplays on which

he shares co-writing credits. They include *Love at First Sight*, *Blues Brothers I & II*, *Spies Like Us*, *Dragnet*, *Ghostbusters I & II*, *Coneheads* and *Nothing But Trouble*. He also contributed uncredited material to the films *Neighbors* and *The Great Outdoors*.

An Oscar® nominee for Best Supporting Actor in the Best Picture of 1989 winning film *Driving Miss Daisy*, Aykroyd had previously received a Grammy nomination for Best New Artist of 1979 for the triple platinum selling *BRIEFCASE FULL OF BLUES* record album, which he recorded with John Belushi. He was also awarded an Emmy for his writing on the *Saturday Night Live* show starring Sissy Spacek.

In addition, Aykroyd was invested with the Order of Canada, being made a member of the Order in 1999 wherein he received a Vice-Regal decoration from the Governor General of Canada which is given to prominent Canadians who “desire to make a better country.”

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, who was a career Royal Canadian Mounted Police Staff Sergeant, Aykroyd was, until 2002, a sworn Captain in the Reserve at the Department of Police in the City of Harahan, State of Louisiana. He served in an advisory capacity with the Reserve for four years and received a citation for youth anti-crime education.

A member of the Association of Canadian Television Radio Artists, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, the Screen Actors Guild, and the Writers Guild of America, Aykroyd is also a subscribing benefactor to the American Society for Psychical Research and the Mutual U.F.O. Network. In 1983 he co-ventured as an investor with the co-founder of Hard Rock Cafe International, Isaac Tigrett, to open U.S. outlets of the famous British American establishment in New York, Dallas and Washington, D.C. It was at the New York Hard Rock Cafe Inaugural Concert that Aykroyd, as the infamous Elwood Blues, reconvened the

original Blues Brothers band for the first time since the death of his partner John Belushi aka Jake Blues.

Performing thereafter in the Elwood Blues Revue, Aykroyd opened the Supreme Court of Rock n' Roll Hard Rock in Dallas Texas in 1985, and in 1997, he recruited Jim Belushi to perform as Jake's blood brother Zee (Zurashayda) for a benefit concert underwriting Carleton University's Alumni fund.

In 1993, Aykroyd partnered with Tigrett and Laurence Bilzerian to found The House of Blues Entertainment Inc. Today there are House of Blues concert hall/ restaurant/ retail stores in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Los Angeles, California; New Orleans, Louisiana; North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Chicago, Illinois; Orlando at Disney West Florida; Las Vegas at Mandalay Bay Resorts in Nevada; Anaheim at Disneyland, California and Cleveland. In 2000 House of Blues Entertainment Inc. acquired the Concerts Division of Universal Studios and currently operates 25 venues in North America making it the third largest purveyor of live entertainment on the continent. As Elwood Blues, Aykroyd hosts the 10 year running House of Blues Radio Hour which is syndicated on 180 radio stations through the United Stations Radio Networks.

Though widely known as a Blues Brother, Aykroyd is best known for his performances on the large screen, some of which include *Christmas with the Kranks*, *50 First Dates*, *Crossroads*, *Pearl Harbor*, *The House of Mirth*, *Antz*, *Grosse Pointe Blank*, *My Fellow Americans*, *Feeling Minnesota*, *Getting Away with Murder*, *Sgt. Bilko*, *Casper*, *Tommy Boy*, *North*, *My Girl*, *Chaplin*, *Sneakers*, *My Stepmother is an Alien*, *Dragnet*, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, *Twilight Zone: The Movie*, *Trading Places* and *Doctor Detroit*, just to name a few.