



# **THE LAST TIME**

## **Press Kit**

### **Cast:**

**Michael Keaton....*Ted***

**Amber Valletta....*Belisa***

**Brendan Fraser....*Jamie***

**Daniel Stern....*John***

**Neal McDonough...*Hurly***

**Michael Lerner...*Leguzza***

**Written & Directed by....Michael Caleo**

**Produced by.... Adam Rosenfelt**

**Producers.... Peter Samuelson,  
Malcolm Petal, Stavros Merjos**

**Executive Producers....Michael Keaton, Marc Schaberg,  
Brendan Fraser**

**Executive Produced by....Sam Nazarian**

**Casting by....Anne McCarthy and Jay Scully**

**Costume Design by....Shawn Holly-Cookson**

**Production Design by....Garreth Stover**

**Edited by....David Finfer, Thom Noble**

## **Short Synopsis**

TED, the top salesman at the Bineview sales company is forced to show naive novice JAMIE the ropes. Jamie's optimistic enthusiasm isn't squashed by TED'S cynical and angry personality but after he fails to make sale after sale, Jamie quickly becomes disillusioned with the big city. When Jamie introduces TED to his beautiful fiancé BELISA, the hard-bitten salesman falls hard, and when they begin an illicit affair, the real TED emerges; losing the bitter edge that made him a great salesman. JAMIE continues to fail at the sales game and TED'S guilt over the affair prompts him to feed JAMIE his own sales leads to try and keep him afloat. Even as Bineview begins to lose profitability, TED becomes increasingly focused on BELISA and his sales start to suffer. But all is not as it seems. Who would you sell out to trade up?

## **About the Production**

### **Interview with the director, Michael Caleo and producer, Adam Rosenfelt.**

## **Genesis**

"The story is built principally around the relationship of two guys, Ted (Michael Keaton) and Jamie (Brendan Fraser) set in the world of high pressure sales," explained director Michael Caleo. "I am definitely attracted to darkly comedic films such as "Glengarry Glen Ross;" "The Spanish Prisoner," and "Fargo." David Mamet has always been a big inspiration to me. Basically, I am interested in the human character; how people appear on the outside is not always how they are on the inside, and in the idea that bad things often happen to good people. Keaton's character, "Ted," for example, left the life he previously loved because of a broken heart and became this hard, cynical man and then he meets "Belisa." It could appear as the worst thing that could have happened in his life but actually it effectively saved him by falling in the love again and subsequently changing his life for the better."

"I also like to play with stereotypes and the image of exterior versus the interior. I believe that people who appear harder on the outside are often much softer on the inside, and vice versa. For example, Amber's and Brendan's characters are beautiful on the outside but rotten on the inside, and they live in a beautiful house representing perfect domestic bliss but things are really emotionally vacant on the inside.

## **Casting the characters...**

***Michael Keaton as “Ted” makes a huge transition from cynical salesman to revealing a very poetic sensitive side. What were your thoughts behind his character and how Michael should interpret him?***

“Michael obviously brings a lot of his own personal attributes to the multi-layered character of Ted. He is an extremely talented actor with an amazing pool of resources. He did a great job in that, even after the terrible things he did to Brendan and Amber’s characters in the beginning, you are able to forgive him. I like the complexity of people, playing with the idea of making unlikable people likeable.

Adam Rosenfelt added: “I’ve always felt that Michael Keaton is an undervalued and under utilized actor. He has a reputation of being very selective about the scripts he does but we took a chance and went out to him, not thinking he was going to do it. He read the script and responded to us very quickly which was nice and confirmed our instincts about the quality of the script.”

## **Amber Valletta as “Belisa”:**

Our biggest challenge was finding an actress in her ‘30’s who was not so well known that the audience would have huge expectations about her character and be anticipating some major character change coming. Amber’s own background helped in that she was her on her from an earlier age with modeling. She was very independent; similar to Belisa, and also that she has a very sweet side to her – that was really essential for the role.”

Adam Rosenfelt added: “Amber came through the casting process. In the film, the male roles really overshadow the female roles but we needed someone fresh so you couldn’t see what was coming with her character. The character arc behind the grift was something I really responded to in the screenplay and that’s something Amber was able to portray extremely well.”

## **Brendan Fraser as “Jamie”...**

Michael Caleo continued: “With Brendan, I wanted somebody who could appear very naive coming to New York City for the first time. He also had to be at the age where you can believe he has had some success in his small home town and is now coming to the big city to try his luck. I also wanted someone physically big so that when he starts to get out of control and there is the threat of violence, Michael would feel both sorry for him and also scared at the same time.”

***The sex scene is one of the most original sex scenes written for film. What were your thoughts behind it and how did you handle shooting it?***

Michael Keaton also said it was one of the most original scenes he had ever read. It's really a difficult scene to shoot. It's a very awkward encounter for Michael and Amber's character – making love right next to her passed out husband. I tried to make the audience not quite sure what's actually happening and also keep the tension of whether Brendan was going to wake up. Again, it's a question of what's the worst thing a character can do to another character, and yet we ultimately forgive Ted. It's that "good people who do bad things" scenario. It's morally somewhat skewed and it kind of sets up Amber's character as a wild character and raises the question of why she is with Brendan, who seems like such an ordinary man. He was probably the most exciting man in her small home town of Ohio."

Adam Rosenfelt added: "Basically, it's one of the main reasons I greenlit the film. It's an incredibly original scene and something people will definitely talk about afterwards. Michael Caleo spent two whole days on that particular scene, covering it from every angle – it was very deftly handled and he maintains the tension with the camera angles and the constant edits to the sleeping Brendan."

***What was your biggest challenge on the film?***

"It's really quite a complex script," responded Michael Caleo, "and Element Films was great about seeing it that way, as a blend of genres. I had to constantly keep reminding everyone from the actors, to the music people that we were walking a very fine line. You can't be too extreme in one genre i.e. too stalking, or too romantic, or too funny – you have to keep all the genres in parameters. If you over stress one too much, the other genres won't be believable so I had to keep a tight rein on how everyone was interpreting the film. From my experience with television comedic dramas like "The Sopranos" and with "Rescue Me," often the dark humor is funnier than straight jokes. If we had gone overboard on the comedy, Amber's emotional scene at the end would not have been believable. The biggest challenge for me as a director was to get everyone to understand the tone of the film. Keeping them balanced and make all three character arcs intersect with each other."

***Filming was interrupted in the middle of your shoot in New Orleans with the impending hurricane Katrina – how did this affect the production?***

“It was really a baptism by fire for first time film director. We were shooting the driving scene with Michael and Brendon in the middle of New Orleans on Canal Street only eight hours before the hurricane hit. We found ourselves in the middle of the biggest natural disaster in American history. We had the usual police escorts for the production but suddenly they all had to leave because of the impending storm. Obviously our concern was getting everyone out safely. We had been evacuated once before and it had been a false alarm but thank god we decided to evacuate this time. Adam, our producer, had everything set up for us to move immediately to Mississippi and then three days later we were back shooting in LA. Ironically for the film, it turned out to be a good move as we found some good locations back in LA.”

Michael Caleo continued: “We also had to contend with the extreme heat of New Orleans – it was up 106 degrees during the day. It definitely made Michael and Brendon, and everyone, uncomfortable and heightened the tension of the film, which was bonus. Also the disruption of moving cities, changing crews etc. also probably helped Brendon’s character who was a fish out of water and also Michael’s, a character who was not comfortable in his own skin, as he wasn’t being true to himself.”

Adam Rosenfelt, producer further explained, “It was really at the same time both horrible and intoxicating, dealing with the crisis management in the middle of one of the biggest natural disasters this country has had. We were fully prepared for the evacuations - we had hotel rooms in Mississippi already to go and a bus rented right away so we got everyone out in time.”

### **Long Synopsis:**

When JAMIE (Brendan Fraser) and his beautiful fiancé, BELISA (Amber Valetta) move to the big city from the Midwest, they attempt to make a fresh start. Jamie, the former top salesman of his local office, transfers to the NY office of Bineview, full of confidence and optimism. However, he is immediately paired up with TED (Michael Keaton), an aggressive, foul-mouthed and cynical salesman, who happens to be the sales division's best man. When Jamie brings Ted home to meet Belisa for the first time, sparks fly and the impact is electric. It is not long before Ted and Belisa give in to a moment of passion and begin an illicit affair.

At work, Jamie fails to make sale after sale and quickly becomes disillusioned with the big city. Ted starts to feel guilty about his affair with Belisa, and begins to give the flailing Jamie some of his client leads. Ted's work begins to slip, as he focuses more on Belisa, their relationship becoming his priority. When Ted's sales fall off, Bineview's quarter sales are also at risk, adding additional pressure to the situation.

Jamie's sales continue to suffer, even with Ted's help and his mental state begins to slip. He confides in Ted that he believes Belisa is having an affair.

With the future uncertain, and tension growing around the love triangle between Jamie, Belisa and Ted, *The Last Time* builds to an intense climax where nothing is as it seems. Who would you sell out to trade up?

## **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

### **MICHAEL KEATON**

Michael Keaton was born in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania and studied speech for two years at Kent State. Keaton's work as a TV cameraman in a cable station, led him to the realization that he wanted to be an actor.

Keaton moved to Los Angeles to begin auditioning for various TV parts. He got a key break starring alongside James Belushi in the short lived comedy series WORKING STIFFS (1979), which showcased his comedic talent and won him the co-lead in NIGHT SHIFT (1982) which earned Keaton some critical acclaim, and subsequent lead roles in comedy hits MR. MOM (1982), JOHNNY DANGEROUSLY, and GUNG HO (1986). His role as the title character in the 1988 TIM BURTON horror-comedy BEETLEJUICE, which starred Alec Baldwin, Geena Davis, and Winona Ryder earned Keaton widespread international acclaim.

Keaton's career was given another major boost when in 1989 he was again cast by Burton, this time as millionaire playboy and crime-fighter Bruce Wayne in the big budget film BATMAN, a widely praised performance, closely followed by BATMAN RETURNS (1992). He subsequently starred in Kenneth Brannagh's MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (1993), Ron Howard's THE PAPER (1994), alongside Andie MacDowell in MULTIPLICITY (1996), in JACKIE BROWN (1997); and OUT OF SIGHT (1998). More recently, Keaton has appeared in a number of productions including LIVE FROM BAGHDAD (2002), WHITE NOISE (2005), FIRST DAUGHTER (2004), and HERBIE: FULLY LOADED (2005). Michael Keaton is the voice of "Chick Hicks" in Disney/Pixar's latest animated feature, CARS (2006).

### **BRENDAN FRASER**

Brendan Fraser is an award winning actor who has starred in over 30 movies. The son of a Canadian Foreign service officer, he moved often as a child. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts at Seattle's Cornish College of the Arts. Planning on attending graduate school in Texas, he dropped out when he stopped in Hollywood on his way and decided to stay. His first film role was in DOGFIGHT (1991) followed by SCHOOL TIES (1992). His breakout role was starring in the comedy GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE (1997). Since then, Fraser has displayed his versatility as an actor, starring in both dramas and comedies including GODS AND MONSTERS (1998), THE MUMMY (1999), BEDAZZLED (2000), THE MUMMY RETURNS (2001), THE QUIET AMERICAN (2002), and the 2006 Academy Award winner for Best Film, CRASH (2004), for which he shared the Screen Actors Guild award for an outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture. In March 2006, it was announced that he would be receiving a star on Canada's walk of fame: He is the first American-born actor to receive a star.

## **AMBER VALLETTA**

Amber Valletta got her start in the fashion industry when her mother enrolled her in modeling school at the age of fifteen in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She has appeared on the cover of all the top magazines, as well as in advertisements for Louis Vuitton, Calvin Klein, and Versace. She also hosted MTV's House of Style with friend and fellow supermodel Shalom Harlow. Valletta's feature film credits include: THE TRANSPORTER 2 opposite Jason Statham (2005), with Will Smith in the comedy HITCH (2005), RAISING HELEN (2004) alongside Helen Mirren, Joan Cusack, Kate Hudson and Felicity Huffman, the Ben Stiller comedy DUPLEX (2003); MAX KEEBLE'S BIG MOVE (2001), and WHAT LIES BENEATH (2000), in which she starred opposite Michelle Pfeiffer and Harrison Ford.

## **MICHAEL CALEO** (Director)

Michael Caleo is a writer director who made his name in Television, writing for HBO's THE SOPRANOS, which earned him an Emmy nomination for his Episode, "Where's Johnny?" Other credits include VH1's POP UP VIDEO and UPN'S half-hour hidden-camera series REDHANDED. Other credits include the Emmy award nominated TV series RESUCE ME, starring Dennis Leary, and the acclaimed short film, 40. Caleo's upcoming film project, mafia story MALAVITA, is currently in development, with Luc Besson attached to produce.

## **TIM SUHRSTEDT** (Director of Photography)

Tim Suhrstedt is an Emmy winning cinematographer whose credits include multiple hit TV series: THE WONDER YEARS, TALES FROM THE CRYPT, MELROSE PLACE, CHICAGO HOPE, and more recently: the pilot PALM SPRINGS, ALLY MCBEAL, GREY'S ANATOMY, and a diverse feature filmography that includes DON'T TELL MOM THE BABYSITTER'S DEAD (1991), BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (1992), THE WEDDING SINGER (1998), OFFICE SPACE (1999), and THE HOT CHICK (1992).

## **RANDY EDELMAN** (Composer)

Randy Edelman has won multiple awards for his music composition. He attended the University of Cincinnati, and went on to have hit records in the UK with 'Concrete and Clay,' 'Uptown, Uptempo Woman'. Early successes in music for television include the hit series MACGYVER, and he has since had a prolific career in film. Credits include: GHOSTBUSTERS 2 (1989), KINDERGARTEN COP (1990), DROP DEAD FRED (1991), MY COUSIN VINNY (1992), BEETHOVEN (1992), THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (1992), DRAGON: THE

BRUCE LEE STORY (1993), GETTYSBURG (1993), THE MASK (1994), WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING (1995), DRAGONHEART (1996), SIX DAYS SEVEN NIGHTS (1998), THE WHOLE NINE YARDS (2000), SHANGHAI NOON (2000), SON OF THE MASK (2005), and MISS CONGENIALITY 2 (2005).

**DAVID FINFER** (Editor)

David Finfer is a longstanding, Oscar-winning Editor whose credits include: LOST IN AMERICA (1985), WARLOCK (1989), BILL AND TED'S BOGUS JOURNEY (1991), BOXING HELENA (1993), THE FUGITIVE (1993) which starred Harrison Ford and won the Oscar for Best Editing, SANTA CLAUSE 2: THE MRS. CLAUSE (2002), EXIT TO EDEN (1994), CONNIE AND CARLA (2004) starring Toni Colette and David Duchovny, and WAITING (2005).

**THOM NOBLE** (Editor)

Thom Noble is an Oscar winning Editor whose credits include: RED DAWN (1984), WITNESS (1985) which won him the Editors "Eddie" Award, THE MOSQUITO COAST (1986), THELMA AND LOUISE (1991) which won the Oscar for Best Film Editing, BODY OF EVIDENCE (1993), THE SCARLETT LETTER (1995), THE MASK OF ZORRO (1998), VERTICAL LIMIT (2000), and FLIGHTPLAN (2005) starring Jodie Foster.

**ADAM ROSENFELT** (Producer)

Adam Rosenfelt moved to Los Angeles to embark on a career in film five months after graduating from Cornell University in 1992. At the age of 23, he produced his first feature film; a thriller entitled STARSTRUCK (1995). A year later, Rosenfelt became an agent at Innovative Artists. Soon thereafter, he moved to the Gersh Agency where he continued to excel as a literary agent, representing a talented collection of writers and directors and selling numerous spec screenplays. In 1996, he moved to HSI Productions and founded HSI Entertainment Inc., the feature film division of the company, with HSI's President Stavros Merjos. There he oversaw production on THE THIRD WHEEL with Ben Affleck; LIFERS PICNIC starring Jena Malone and Brad Renfro, and THICKER THAN WATER starring Ice Cube.

In 2003, HSI Entertainment joined forces with SBE Entertainment to form Element Films, with Rosenfelt taking the title of President. The venture already has six films under their belt: DOWN IN THE VALLEY starring Edward Norton and Evan Rachel Wood; WAITING starring Ryan Reynolds, Justin Long (*Dodgeball*), Luis Guzman (*Runaway Jury*) and Anna Faris (*Scary Movie*); TRESPASSING starring Estella Warren (*The Cooler*), Daniel Gillies (*Spiderman*

2) and Ashley Scott (*S.W.A.T.*); *HOME OF PHOBIA* (aka *Freshman Orientation*) starring John Goodman, Heather Matarazzo (*Princess Diaries*), Marla Sokoloff (*The Practice*), and Rachel Dratch (*Saturday Night Live*); and *FIVE FINGERS* starring Laurence Fishburne and Ryan Phillippe also released by ThinkFilm in the U.S. Rosenfelt will oversee production for the company of each of the 9 films in the recently announced 9-picture deal with leading independent studio, Lionsgate.

### **STAVROS MERJOS** (Producer)

Stavros Merjos' producing credits include *WAR OF THE ANGELS* (1999), *THICKER THAN WATER* (1999), *THE THIRD WHEEL* (2002), *AMERICAN GIRL* (2002), *FRESHMAN ORIENTATION* (2004), *EVIL REMAINS* (2004), the acclaimed David La Chappelle documentary *RIZE* (2005) released by Lionsgate, the comedy *WAITING* (2005) also released by Lionsgate, *DOWN IN THE VALLEY* (2005) released by ThinkFilm starring Edward Norton and Evan Rachel Wood, and *FIVE FINGERS* (2006) starring Laurence Fishburne and Ryan Phillippe.

### **PETER SAMUELSON** (Producer)

Peter gained a Masters Degree in English Literature, at Cambridge, England. He then went to the Graduate School of Management, UCLA, Los Angeles. Currently he is Partner of Samuelson Productions of Los Angeles and London. Multiple credits include: *TOM AND VIV* (1994), *WILDE* (1997), *GUEST HOUSE PARADISO* (1999), *THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE 30* (2004), *THE LIBERTINE* starring Johnny Depp (2004), and *CHROMOPHOHOBIA*, starring Penelope Cruz, Ralph Fiennes and Ian Holm (2005).

### **MALCOLM PETAL** (Producer)

At the age of 36, Malcolm Petal has produced more than 30 feature films and made-for-television movies. He is the CEO of L.I.F.T. Productions, Louisiana's only full-service production studio, and the manager of one of the largest independent film funds, LA Squared, whose investors include basketball star Baron Davis, Hotelier, Club Impresario Sam Nazarian, and the State of Louisiana.

Petal has received numerous awards and citations, including an Emmy nomination and an official Day named after him in New Orleans. An attorney educated at Cornell and Tulane Universities, Petal was born in Tokyo, and spent most of his life in London and Santa Monica, California, before settling in New Orleans 11 years ago.

Credits include STARSTRUCK (1995), FRESHMAN ORIENTATION (2004), EVIL REMAINS (2004), WAITING (2005), FIVE FINGERS (2006), and William Friedkin's BUG (2006).

**MARC SCHABERG** (Executive Producer)

Schaberg has been with Element Films since it's inception in 2004, bringing over eight years experience in film financing and distribution. Before joining Element, Schaberg was the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Tomorrow Film Corp., a boutique foreign sales and film financing company, for over five years. Projects such as THE THIRD WORLD starring Ben Affleck, Luke Wilson, and Denise Richards, along with JUST THE TICKET starring Andy Garcia and Andie MacDowell, are just a few of the films that Schaberg oversaw while at Tomorrow Films. These projects then led to negotiations with such credited major studios such as MGM, Miramax, Disney, and Paramount as well as cable movie channels HBO, Showtime, and Encore.

As Chief Operating Officer of Element Films, Marc Schaberg oversees the structuring of all film financing deals, the foreign sales division, as well as negotiations for the talent, distribution and acquisition agreements for Element Films.

Dr. Schaberg is the author of the book, "Globalization and the Erosion of Financial Systems", and was also awarded The Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.

**SAM NAZARIAN** (Executive Producer)

Raised in Los Angeles, Nazarian studied at New York University and the University of Southern California. He is the founder and CEO of SBE Entertainment Group which includes the emerging independent production company, Element Films, amongst its multiple real estate ventures, and successful restaurants and clubs.

As a partner in Element Films, Nazarian has executive produced such celebrated projects as DOWN IN THE VALLEY (Edward Norton, Evan Rachel Wood, David Morse); FIVE FINGERS (Laurence Fishburne, Ryan Phillippe); WAITING (Ryan Reynolds, Ana Faris, Luis Guzman; and HOME OF PHOBIA (John Goodman, Rachel Dratch, Marla Sokoloff). Element Films just recently signed a nine-picture distribution agreement with Lionsgate.