



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

## ***THE FINAL SEASON***

Running Time: 113 minutes

MPAA Rating: "PG"

Final Partners

presents a

Carl Borack/TRMC Production

In association with

Fobia Films

A David Mickey Evans Film

Directed by

David Mickey Evans

Written by

Art D' Alessandro & James Grayford

Starring

Sean Astin

Powers Boothe

Rachael Leigh Cook

James Gammon

Larry Miller

Marshall Bell

with

Tom Arnold

and

Michael Angarano

## FILMMAKERS:

Director	David Mickey Evans
Screenwriters	Art D'Alessandro & James Grayford
Producers	Michael Wasserman Steven Schott Tony Wilson Michael Wasserman D. Parker Widemire, Jr. Herschel Weingrod
Executive Producers	Sean Astin Carl Borack
Line Producer	Kenneth Burke
Edited By	Harry Keramidas A.C.E.
Director of Photography	Daniel Stoloff
Production Designer	Chester Kaczinski
Costume Designer	Lynn Brannelly-Newman
Music By	Nathan Wang
Casting Director	Rosemary Welden

## CAST:

SEAN ASTIN	Kent Stock
POWERS BOOTHE	Coach Jim Van Scoyoc
RACHAEL LEIGH COOK	Polly Hudson
JAMES GAMMON	Jacob Akers
LARRY MILLER	Roger Dempsey
MARSHALL BELL	Harvey Makepeace
TOM ARNOLD	Burt Akers
MICHAEL ANGARANO	Mitch Akers
LUCINDA JENNEY	Sheryl Van Scoyoc
BRETT CLAYWELL	Patrick Iverson
DANIELLE SAVRE	Cindy Iverson
ANGELA PATON	Anne Akers
DAYTON CALLIE	Mr. Stewart
NICK LIVINGSTON	Kevin Stewart
ROSCOE MYRICK	Sammy Wilson
MACKENZIE ASTIN	Chip Dolan
ALEXANDER ROOS	Steve Myers

# THE FINAL SEASON

*One of the beautiful things about baseball is that every once in a while you come into a situation where you want to, and where you have to, reach down and prove something.*

– **Nolan Ryan**

7 no-hitter games, 3 more than any other pitcher  
27 Major League Baseball Seasons (record)  
5714 career strikeouts

## About the Story

In the small town of Norway, Iowa, everyone comes together for high school baseball. But life throws curve balls; and the passionate young players, rookie coach Kent Stock (Sean Astin), and the hometown fans find that life's greatest challenges strike off the diamond. The Final Season is the true story of a coach who inspired his team and brought hope to a town when they needed it most.

## Based on a True Story

Kent Stock (Sean Astin) had some mighty big cleats to fill when he stepped in for Jim Van Scoyoc (Powers Booth), head coach of the Norway Tigers, the most formidable high school baseball team in the history of Iowa. A school with only 100 students in a town of 586 people, the beloved Tigers won 20 State Championships in 26 years and the admiration of the entire town. Claiming that Norway grew ballplayers “like corn,” Coach Van Scoyoc picked a winning team of 14 boys year after year, young men who grew up watching their older brothers, family and friends win state titles before them, and like a lucky glove passed down through generations, the coveted championship trophy was now theirs to win.

But in 1991 the Norway School Board decided it was going to merge Norway with a nearby high school in Madison, thereby shutting the school forever and crushing the town's hope of keeping their baseball tradition alive. Turning a deaf ear on the community's cries of protest, town officials refused to renew Coach Van Scoyoc's (Boothe) contract, and hired Kent Stock (Astin), a former girls volleyball coach, to lead the team in their final season.

Suddenly apathy instead of cheers met the Norway Tigers and their coach. Rumor had it that a Tee Ball player had a better chance of hitting a Nolan Ryan fastball than the Norway Tigers had of taking their 20<sup>th</sup> State Championship. Even the boys on the team had given up, fumbling grounders and dropping flies that they could have once fielded in their sleep.

But the rookie coach wasn't about to let the Tigers or the town give up. Like the champion he expected each one of them to be, Stock challenged the boys with words to live by: "Ask yourself one question," he said. "How do you want to be remembered?" Their collective answer made the Tigers start acting like the accomplished ballplayers they knew how to be. And as the team rallied, so did the town. The players, the coach and all of Norway began to believe that the Tigers had one more victory in them before the school closed forever. How did the Norway Tigers want to be remembered? As winners!

Based on the true story of one of the greatest dynasties in high school baseball history, *The Final Season* is about digging deep within to find the courage to triumph against all odds.

### **A METAPHOR FOR FAMILY**

Director David Mickey Evans has a "thing" for baseball – not just your average love of the game, but sort of a sixth sense about it. He can *feel* when audiences are going to fall in love with a baseball story just as he did with his directorial debut, "The Sandlot", because for Evans, the game is not just about winning or losing, it's about family. Such is the case with "The Final

Season”, in which the Norway Tigers aren't just a team of ballplayers; they're the sons and grandsons, cousins and nephews of the entire community. "It's the only game on Earth where the object is to get home," says Evans, quoting one of the lines in the film. "It's a metaphor for family, and for life, where you can be a part of a team – part of a tight unit – but within that tight family unit, you can stand out as an individual and shine."

Sean Astin, who plays Kent Stock, couldn't agree more. "Baseball, and especially high school baseball, is something that brings parents out to see their kids. It truly brings whole families together to go to the park and hang out," says the actor, best known for playing the title role in “Rudy”, and more recently for the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy. "I'm just in awe of Kent Stock and the Norway Tigers. I mean, to find a school team in the middle of rural Iowa, in the middle of pastures, farmland and cornfields, that has this unfathomable tradition of winning is definitely worth making a movie about."

Powers Boothe, who portrays ousted coach Jim Van Scoyoc, says that not only was the story well worth getting made into a film, it also exceeded his dreams of what a baseball movie could be. "In my dreams, I hoped that we could catch not only the baseball moments, but also the heart of the human beings playing the game, and I believe we did," says the star of films “Sin City”, “Men of Honor”, and television’s “Deadwood”. "This movie is going to sweep people back to their hometowns, with the red and white baseball uniforms, the green grass, the flags and the local barbershop – it was just so real, so pure that it actually supercedes the experience of just playing baseball. It's about life, and living it right."

Rachael Leigh Cook, who portrays Polly Hudson, the woman from the school board trying to shut down Norway, was attracted to the role because she liked the way her character comes around to understanding the heart of the game, and in essence the heart of the town.

"Polly gains an insight about Norway that the other board members don't understand," says the actor who recently starred in "Nancy Drew" as well as the popular TV series "Las Vegas". "It's a wonderful sport, if it's played right like the Norway Tigers played it – with everything they had."

Director Evans agreed. "The boys on that final Norway team didn't have anything waiting for them at the end of the game because their school was going to be shutting down, and yet they put their whole heart into each play right down to the final catch," says the man who also wrote the screenplay for the critically acclaimed "Radio Flyer". "They played with courage, commitment and character because it was simply the right thing to do."

Boothe, also known for his portrayal of the Vice President in the hit series *24*, sums up the film best. "I believe "The Final Season" gets to the core of human beings, our hopes, our dreams, our efforts. It will remind moviegoers of that, and at the same time, it will open their eyes and make them go somewhere they didn't think they could go."

## **THE NORWAY LEGENDS**

"I count myself one of the luckiest people on the face of the earth," says Jim Van Scoyoc, about having gotten to coach baseball at a high school the caliber of Norway. "I didn't have to do any selling on why it was good to be good. It was already there. You're never going to get anywhere [when] there's just no believers."

Van Scoyoc had a win-lose record of 854 – 254 in the 19 years he was head baseball coach at Norway High School. He was a three-time state Coach of the Year, National Coach of the Year and went on to become a pitching coach for the Detroit Tigers minor league team. He won 12 state championships and also set a record winning four championships in a row from 1981-1984.

Norway Baseball itself has been written about in newspapers across the country, including *USA Today*, *Baseball Weekly*, *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Sports Illustrated*. Considered a mecca for professional scouts, the high school produced 16 kids who went on to play in some level of professional baseball. In fact, about a third of all Norway High school players also played in college, and for a town of less than 600 people, it defies any statistical odds.

**Hal Trosky** was the first of the Norway baseball Legends. A strapping farm kid, he collected 228 homeruns for the Cleveland Indians and Chicago White Sox during an 11-year career in the 1930s and 40s. As legend has it, he will forever be remembered in Norway lore for hitting a baseball over 600 feet in a town team game.

In 1969, the Detroit Tigers drafted **Bruce Kimm** as a senior out of Norway High School. He also played for the Cubs and White Sox and has been coaching in the major leagues since 1982, and was named head coach of the Chicago Cubs for the second half of the 2002 season. Kimm's teammate **Dick McVay** was 69-3 as a high school pitcher, losing his first two games as a freshman and only one other.

**Mike Boddicker's** 1983 pitching performance in the World Series was the best by a rookie in 60 years, striking out Pete Rose, Joe Morgan and Mike Schmidt. Boddicker went on to establish himself as one of the most consistent right-handers of the 1980s and was named the "Sporting News Rookie of the Year." Earning an All-Star Game selection and being a Gold Glove Winner, Boddicker took the time out to help with making *The Final Season*. In fact, he literally lent his arm by providing many of the throws off-camera during the baseball scenes.

## **THE NORWAY BASEBALL TRADITION**

“Amateur baseball in the Midwest *is* Norway,” stated Bill Clark, a scout for the Atlanta Braves in the 80s and 90s. “They’re an average-looking bunch, but when the chips are down, they can play better than anyone in the state. It goes beyond fundamentals; it’s instinct. It goes deeper than coaching, coaching *refines* it.”

Anyone who has anything to do with Norway baseball – the former fans, the old coaches now far away, the former stars now retired from the major leagues — they all care deeply about what happens to the team. But no one cares more than Coach Van Scoyoc. He owned the vision long before the film “Field of Dreams” made it popular. When he wasn’t manicuring the diamond, raking the pitcher’s mound, mowing the outfield grass, or chalking the baselines, Van Scoyoc liked to sit on the ledge beneath the Norway scoreboard and stare into the fields beyond the ballpark. “I still think that if I sat there long enough somebody would come out of the cornfield or somebody’s house who was going to be a ballplayer,” he says. “Back then, I always knew it was going to happen, but I just wondered who it was going to be next.”

And true enough, year after year, as predictable as the harvest, Van Scoyoc produced a bumper crop of kids who clawed their way to the state tournament. But in truth, Norway meant more than great players and state trophies. It was a style of play, a way of winning, an attitude. No bench jockeying. No flinging of helmets after a called third strike. No razzing of younger players. It meant great pitching, stellar defense, amazing rallies and incredible upsets – all of it coming from the heart.

In 1967, the team upset Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson, then Iowa’s undisputed baseball king, 1-0, in the state tournament. In 1982, the team swept Davenport Assumption when both were ranked first in their class. In 1983, the team scored six runs in the final inning to

capture the fall tournament. And the victories kept coming until the school was shut down after the Final Season in 1991.

While Norway baseball remained consistently excellent, the town struggled with change. All over Iowa, farms were growing and small towns were shrinking. Schools in Amana, Newhall, and Atkins, Norway's old rivals consolidated. But Norway always resisted. When six schools formed Benton Community in the 1960s, Norway wouldn't join. The people showed the same stubbornness as their Tigers, believing it's never too late to rally and standing together.

Then came 1991, when the final team trailed Iowa City High 8-1, but won the game 9-8. They had "spotted" Maquoketa six runs, then rallied to win in extra innings. They trailed Vinton, 12-0, but won, 22-18. Then they played the #1 team in 4A, coming from behind with four runs in the last two innings to win. Truly a remarkable string of victories, for this David against Goliaths.

As a kid, Kent Stock heard a lot about Norway baseball. But never imagined he'd get the opportunity to be a part of it. In 1990, he was lucky enough to become the assistant coach under Jim Van Scoyoc. "It was the best summer of my life," remembers Stock, now a school principal in Marion, Iowa. "Those kids all wanted to be the next Mike Boddicker, Hal Trosky or Bruce Kimm that goes on to the Big Leagues. They wanted to be the next great player from Norway, but truly they were *all* great players."

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKER**

**DAVID MICKEY EVANS** (Director) was born in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania and grew up in Pacoima, California. A passionate lover of movies since childhood, it was his 14<sup>th</sup> viewing of *Star Wars* during its initial release that sealed his fate to become a film maker. Encouraged by his Cinema teacher in High School, he applied to and was accepted into the Film Department at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. After graduating with both a BA and MA, he lived the life of a starving artist for three years. His original screenplay *Radio Flyer* is generally accepted as having started the spec script sales frenzy of the early 1990s. His film *The Sandlot* has become a beloved classic that continues to be re-discovered by each new generation.

Mr. Evans lives outside Los Angeles, Ca with his wife and four children.

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

**SEAN ASTIN** (Kent Stock) is one of Hollywood's most respected young actors with a distinctive list of projects and credits.

Adding to his seemingly boundless list of occupations, Astin released his acting memoir entitled "There and Back Again: An Actor's Tale." The book opened at #1 on the New York Times Best-seller list, putting him on the map as a true literary story-teller as well as the unabashed screen actor audiences fall in love with again and again. Published by St. Martin's Press and co-written with Joe Layden, the book is a very personal exploration of Astin's prestigious career, from his first big role as Mikey in Warner Bros. classic "The Goonies" through the 18 month arduous challenge of "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy shoot.

Last year, Astin finished a very successful run as Lynn McGill in the new season of Fox's hit series "24." His character met a heroic demise, sacrificing his own life to save the rest of his unit from a nerve gas attack. He followed that with the Steven Spielberg produced mini-series "Into the West," about the white man's expansion into western America.

He was seen in NBC's four-hour miniseries "Hercules," from Hallmark Entertainment. Astin played Linus, Hercules' music teacher, starring alongside Leelee Sobieski, Timothy Dalton, and British new-comer Paul Telfer in the title role. Last spring, Astin also starred alongside his mother, Patty Duke, in the romantic comedy "Bigger Than the Sky."

Astin starred as beloved Sam Gamgee in the Academy Award winning "The Lord of the Rings Trilogy." The three films have grossed over \$3 billion world-wide and have entered the

history books of classic cinema. Astin will next be seen in Lion's Gate's "Borderland" about a human-sacrifice cult in a Mexican border town.

Even with the busy schedule that his film career demands, Astin makes special time for his passion as a very involved public servant. He was invited to Washington, D.C. where his mother Patty Duke, presented him with the Creative Coalition's prestigious Spotlight Award for his contributions to their cause. The Coalition focuses on bridging the gap between Hollywood and Washington, with members meeting White House staffers to raise money for art programs in schools and promote art awareness in children around the country. He is also an adamant animal rights advocate. He attended the Genesis Awards in Beverly Hills, presenting an award to the Genesis Guest of Honor, Virginia McKenna, star of "Born Free" and an active animal rights advocate.

Since 1995, he has been the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. He is also an active supporter of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and The Wildlife Waystation. He recently took an oath of office with the White House Chief of Staff to serve on The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, working alongside such prominent public figures as Senator Bob Dole and Astronaut John Glen. The mission of the council is to recognize and encourage outstanding volunteer service and civic participation by individuals, schools, and organizations thereby encouraging more such activity, especially on the part of America's youth. Last Fall, Astin partnered with Verizon as the Verizon Literacy Champion benefiting the National Center for Family Literacy. In this position, he assists the NCFL in speaking out for family literacy issues across the country but closer to home, he greatly appreciates the importance, enormous benefit, and simple joy that comes from teaching his own children to read. Astin is also a

promising director. He directed a short film called "The Long and Short of It" which was featured at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival. This short was shot on the set of "Lord of the Rings" and features cast and crew from the film.

In 1994, he received an Academy Award nomination and won a Jury Prize at the Texas Film Festival for his short film "Kangaroo Court," which he co-produced with his wife Christine. In addition to this short film, Astin has also directed an episode of the television hit "Angel," and an episode for the HBO anthology "Perversions of Science."

Astin is well known for playing the title role in the critically acclaimed "Rudy" and for his feature debut in "The Goonies." His other film credits include "What Love Is," "Marilyn Hotchkiss' Ballroom Dancing and Charm School," which received critical praise at last year's Sundance Film Festival, "Click," "Fifty First Dates," "Bulworth," "Smile," "Courage Under Fire," "Memphis Belle," "Encino Man," "Like Father Like Son," "Where the Day Takes You," "Staying Together," "War of the Roses" and "Safe Passage." He has also been seen in several independent movies: "Deterrence," "Kimberly," "The Last Producer" and "Boy Meets Girl."

He made his professional debut with his mother Patty Duke in the television After School Special "Please Don't Hit Me Mom." He received Best Actor honors for his performance in "Low Life" at the Fort Lauderdale Film Festival.

Astin has earned a degree in History/American Literature and Culture from UCLA. He resides in Los Angeles with his wife and their three daughters.

Veteran actor **POWERS BOOTHE'S** (Jim Van Scoyoc) long and enviable career is filled with powerful performances on the silver screen, television and theatre.

Recently, Boothe starred in “Sin City”, directed by Robert Rodriguez. His extensive list of other film credits include “Frailty” directed by Bill Paxton, “Men of Honor”, “U-Turn” and “Nixon” both directed by Oliver Stone; “Blue Sky”, “Tombstone”, “Sudden Death”, “Rapid Fire”, “Extreme Prejudice”, “The Emerald Forest” directed by John Boorman, “Red Dawn”, “Southern Comfort”, “Cruising” and “The Goodbye Girl” to name a few.

On the small screen, he was last seen as the Vice President of the United States on the 6<sup>th</sup> season of the Emmy Award winning drama “24” and also starred as ‘Cy Tolliver’ in HBO’s critically lauded drama “Deadwood”. Boothe was recently recognized as part of the cast of “Deadwood” with a SAG Award nomination for “Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series.” He won an Emmy Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of ‘Reverend Jim Jones’ in the television movie “Guyana Tragedy: The Story of Jim Jones”. He has also starred in various television mini-series including “Atilla The Hun”, “Joan of Arc” and “True Women” opposite Dana Delaney and Angelina Jolie. He played the lead in the television movie “By Dawn’s Early Light” with James Earl Jones and Rebecca DeMornay and starred as ‘Phillip Marlowe’ in the HBO series “Phillip Marlowe, Private Eye”. Other television credits include, “Second Nature”, Showtime’s “The Spree”, “Web of Deception”, “Marked for Murder”, “Wild Card” and HBO’s “Into the Homeland”.

Boothe’s career began in the theatre after he received his MFA from Southern Methodist University and became a resident actor at the Oregon Shakespeare Company. Shortly thereafter he made his New York stage debut in the Lincoln Center production of “Richard III” and later went on to star on Broadway as the lead in James McClure’s critically acclaimed one-act comedy, “Lone Star”.

**RACHAEL LEIGH COOK** (Polly Hudson) possesses beauty and versatility, which combine to establish her as one of the most talented young actresses in Hollywood. She most recently starred in Warner Bros. feature film "Nancy Drew" in which her character, Jane Brighton, is the subject of Nancy Drew's most pressing case. In addition, to "The Final Season", Cook recently completed filming the feature "All Hat" which centers around the world of Canadian horse-racing and is based on the novel by Brad Smith. She stars as the rough and tough horse jockey, Chrissie. Also to come is Cook's performance as Haley in Sony Pictures feature film "Blonde Ambition", starring opposite Jessica Simpson and Luke Wilson.

Cook's memorable and riveting performance in a 1998 anti-heroin kitchen smashing public service announcement (This is your brain...) led to her first starring role in Miramax's breakout hit "She's All That", an enchanting teen comedy costarring Freddie Prinze Jr. Cook next put her comedic ability to work in the title role of aspiring rock star Josie McCoy in Universal's "Josie and the Pussycats", alongside Parker Posey and Rosario Dawson.

Continuing to lend her talent to notable films, Cook starred with Hilary Swank and Colin Hanks in New Line's dark comedy "11:14", and alongside Sylvester Stallone in "Get Carter". She also starred in "The Big Empty" opposite John Favreau, and the romantic comedy "Blow Dry" with Josh Hartnett. "In Living Out Loud" with Danny De Vito, Cook played the younger version of Holly Hunter's character, and in the "House of Yes" she portrayed a younger version of Parker Posey's character Jackie-O.

Cook's other starring roles include the film "The Hi-Line", which was featured in competition at the Sundance Film Festival, and the drama "Stateside" as a schizophrenic actress Dori Lawrence, opposite Jonathan Tucker. Early on, Cook impressed a younger crowd with her role in "The

Baby-Sitter's Club" and as Becky Thatcher alongside Jonathan Taylor Thomas and Brad Renfro in "Tom and Huck".

On the small screen, Cook also dazzled in the role of Clara Wheeler for Steven Spielberg and TNT's award-winning miniseries, "Into the West".

Cook currently resides in Los Angeles, CA with husband, actor Daniel Gillies, their two dogs and two cats.

**MICHAEL ANGARANO** (Mitch Ackers) is one of the most gifted actors of his generation, making his mark in Hollywood with a diversity of roles that define him as one of the industry's most respected and sought after young actors.

Angarano will next be seen in David Gordon Green's "Snow Angels" opposite Sam Rockwell and Kate Beckinsale. The dramatic film interweaves the life of a teenager (Angarano), with his old baby sitter (Beckinsale), her estranged husband (Rockwell), and their daughter. "Snow Angels" premiered in competition at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival and will be released by Warner Independent on March 7th, 2008. Gene Seymour from NEWSDAY wrote of Angarano's performance "Angarano shows the kind of shambling charisma that gave the late Walter Matthau a long and lucrative career. Finding such small gems in unlikely settings is what one really comes to Sundance for."

Angarano will also be seen in Rob Minkoff's "The Forbidden Kingdom" opposite Jackie Chan and Jet Li. Angarano stars as a troubled 17-year-old wannabe kung fu warrior, who after a humiliating defeat at the hands of a street gang, is sent back in time to ancient China on an impossible mission to set free the imprisoned Monkey King (Li) and return to him his all-powerful staff. Lionsgate is scheduled to release the film on April 18th, 2008.

Angarano will also star in Michael Schroeder's "Man in the Chair" opposite Christopher Plummer. Angarano plays a rebellious 17 year old from a broken home who teams up with a retired gaffer (Plummer) to produce and direct a film for a prestigious student competition at his school. The film premiered at the 2007 Santa Barbara Film Festival was the recipient of the American Spirit Award and will premiere at the 2007 Berlin International Film Festival.

Angarano made his breakthrough performance in Wes Craven's "Music of the Heart" opposite Meryl Streep. Shortly after, he starred in Cameron Crowe's Academy Award nominated film "Almost Famous" opposite Francis McDormand, Kate Hudson, Billy Crudup, Zooey Deschanel and Patrick Fugit. Angarano played young William (young Patrick Fugit) and had most of his scenes with Francis McDormand.

Angarano's other film credits include Catherine Hardwicke's "Lords of Dogtown" opposite Heath Ledger and Emile Hirsch, Mike Mitchell's "Sky High" opposite Kurt Russell and Kelly Preston, Alex Steyermark's "One Last Thing" opposite Cynthia Nixon, Thomas Vinterberg's "Dear Wendy," and Gary Ross' "Seabiscuit" opposite Tobey Maguire and Jeff Bridges.

On television, Angarano recently appeared in a four episode arc on Fox's hit drama "24" opposite Kiefer Sutherland. He also guest starred on NBC's Emmy winning comedy "Will and Grace" as Elliot, Jack McFarland's (Sean Hayes) son. Angarano's other television credits include "E.R.," "CSI," "Less Than Perfect," "Summerland," and "Kevin Hill."

Angarano was born in Brooklyn, New York and currently resides in Los Angeles.

As a writer, producer, and actor, **TOM ARNOLD** (Burt Akers) has established himself to both television and film audiences worldwide, having won such awards as the Peabody

Award for writing, and a Golden Globe Award for writing and producing. Additionally, he helped put Fox Sports Network on the map with his hosting duties on “Best Damn Sports Show Period”.

Arnold cornered the market on playing the resident comic relief in films like “Nine Months” with Hugh Grant, Julianne Moore, and Robin Williams, James Cameron’s “True Lies” with Arnold Schwarzenegger, “Hero” with Dustin Hoffman, “Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery” with Mike Myers, and “Animal Factory,” directed by Steve Buscemi, another role for which Tom received great critical notice. Other film credits include “Soul Plane,” “Cradle to the Grave,” and “Exit Wounds.”

Arnold has successfully broken out of the comedic stereotype by landing more mature and dramatic roles in films such as “Pride” opposite Terrance Howard, and the upcoming “Gardens of the Night” and “The Great Buck Howard”, two films starring John Malkovich, the latter also starring Tom Hanks. In 2005, he received critical praise for his role in Don Roos’ “Happy Endings” for Lions Gate Films, starring opposite Maggie Gyllenhaal and Lisa Kudrow. He also starred in “The Kid & I,” an action comedy he wrote for a 16-year-old family friend with cerebral palsy. The film was directed by Penelope Spheeris, with cameos by Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Linda Hamilton.

Arnold began his career in comedy at the University of Iowa before moving to Minneapolis, where he won the Minneapolis Comedy Competition in 1988. He then moved to Los Angeles to write on the highly successful television series, “Roseanne,” before eventually serving as executive producer for the sitcom. He went on to star in three installments of his own HBO special entitled “Tom Arnold: The Naked Truth,” and then wrote, produced and starred in three of his own television series “The Jackie Thomas Show,” “Tom” and “The Tom Show.”

He just recently finished shooting “Rocket,” opposite Jimmy Fallon, Lucy Liu, Sharon Stone and Ileana Douglas. Tom plays a lost soul in an unhappy marriage (to Sharon Stone), trying to figure out how to be a man and a father (to Jimmy Fallon).

Born in Iowa, he has established a writing scholarship and runs an acting workshop for students at the Indian Hills Community College in Iowa. He is also very active with the San Diego Center For Children, which cares for abused and neglected children as well as The Race to Erase MS, The Kayne-Eras Center and Hollygrove children’s home.

Arnold currently resides in Los Angeles.