FALL TO GRACE
a film by mari marchbanks
produced by green room pictures

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Production Bios

Mari Marchbanks (Writer/Director)

Mari Marchbanks is a graduate of the University of Texas with a B.S. in Radio, Television and Film. She is the Writer/Director of FALL TO GRACE, which premiered in the SxSW Film Festival 2005. FALL TO GRACE has gone on to screen at film festivals all across the country, and won numerous awards, including the Narrative Feature Prize given by the New Orleans Film Festival and First Place - Best Feature Film at the Rhode Island International Film Festival. Mari is also this year's recipient of the Milagro Award in Screenwriting at the Santa Fe Film Festival.

FALL TO GRACE marks Mari's directorial debut of a feature length movie.

Vicky Boone (Producer/Casting Director)

Vicky Boone works as a producer, director and casting director in Austin, Texas, where she recently cast GRETCHEN, a feature film by Steve Collins and directed ATTACK OF THE BRIDE MONSTER. ATTACK OF THE BRIDE MONSTER received the McMullins-Sullivan Founders Award from Out Takes Dallas and was a finalist in the Planet Out Short Film Competition. In 2002, Boone wrote and directed a 16mm short, ADVENTURE STORY, which premiered in the 2002 Hamptons International Film Festival (competition) and played across the country.

Boone is the founder and former artistic director of Frontera@Hyde Park Theater in Austin, TX, where she produced and directed numerous plays during the theatre's nine seasons.

Boone is currently working with Naomi Iizuka on a screen adaptation of Iizuka's play THE LANGUAGE OF ANGELS.

Jay P. Lipa (Director of Photography)

Jay P. Lipa graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 1997, primarily focusing on cinematography and directing. He was the cameraman on BITTEN BY LOVE, which won the 1998 Coca-Cola Young Filmmaker's Award, and was also presented with the N.Y.U. Outstanding Cinematography Award in 1999 and 2000.

Currently, Jay P. resides in Los Angeles, where he studies and practices cinematography. Last September he completed an anamorphic 35mm film called THE NEXT, and over the last two and a half years has shot five feature films and many commercials on 24p High Definition.

Christopher Roldan (Editor)

Christopher Roldan hails from Chicago, Illinois. He has a Political Science degree from Berkeley and a Film degree from University of Texas at Austin.

He has performed as a drummer for over 20 years. He was in the music business for over a decade, where he managed and promoted artists for major and independent labels.

Christopher has been in postproduction for five years now and this is his first feature film credit as Editor. He was also Associate Editor on SEXLESS, which won the Audience and Jury Awards at the 2003 SxSW Film Festival. He has worked as an assistant editor on movies and TV shows for Warner Independent Features, Paramount, MTV, HGTV, Gold Circle, HBO, InDigEnt and most recently, the Fox Searchlight release of FAST FOOD NATION. He is currently finishing work as editor on his second feature film credit MEXICAN SUNRISE.

Chris Ohlson (Line Producer/First AD)

Chris has overseen a wide variety of projects including features, documentaries, and short films. His most recent credits include line producing the forthcoming Mythos Studios SLAM PLANET: WAR OF THE WORDS, serving as the production manager on Burnt Orange Productions' THE CASSIDY KIDS and associate producing AMERICAN TEEN for A&E Television.

Chris is also a filmmaker creating short video projects that defy easy categorization - his films have screened in film festivals around the world, as well as in museums, coffee shops, bars, garages and backyards.

Jonathan Meiburg (Original Score)

Jonathan Meiburg is an Austin-based musician and amateur ornithologist.

In addition to leading Shearwater, Jonathan also plays keyboards for Okkervil River. The bands have been featured on NPR and acclaimed in the pages of the New York Times, Rolling Stone, and Magnet. Shearwater's newest album, PALO SANTO, will be released by Misra Records in May 2006.

Jonathan's non-musical interests include islands, birds, and the evolution of curiosity. He has a special fondness for woodpeckers, parrots, and the strange birds of prey known as the caracaras.

Travis Weller (Original Score)

Travis Weller is a composer, improviser and violinist based in Austin. His interests are new music, free improvisation, and electro acoustics.

He writes for and performs with Gates Ensemble, Imbroglio String Quartet, Cinders, Golden Hornet Project, and New Music Co-op. Travis curates the Willow Street Concert Series, the Austin Museum of Digital Art Performance Series and is one of the founders of New Music Co-op, a community of composers and performers dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of new music and creating opportunities for performance, education, and composition of adventurous sound.

Travis has composed over thirty chamber and orchestral works, in addition to several film soundtracks and studio performances. This year he accepted a composer's residency with the STEIM foundation in the Netherlands.

Cast Bios

Kira Pozehl (Sarah Minske)

Kira Pozehl grew up in the small town of Seward, Nebraska and later went on to attend the University of Texas - Austin. While in Austin, she played Leslie in the Equity production of BE AGGRESSIVE at the State Theatre. Notable roles at the university included THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES, WOMEN WE HATE, and the role as Hermia in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

Kira was a finalist on the 2003 ABC reality series ALL AMERICAN GIRL. Kira is trained in dance and piano.

Kira currently resides in Los Angeles working in fashion event production while concurrently pursuing her acting career.

Jessica Roque (Jessie Acosta)

From a young age Jessica has traveled between Texas and Los Angeles, appearing in countless commercials, film, and television projects.

In between acting gigs, she has found time to pursue dance training, play basketball, track, and volleyball and participate in cheerleading.

Jessica credits her success to date to the strong support of her family and friends. She is very proud to be part of this project and wants to thank all of those involved for this wonderful opportunity.

Gabriel Luna (Kristofer Rostropovich)

Gabriel Luna was born in Austin, Texas, on December 5, 1982, and is still a resident of Austin. At St. Edward's University Mary Moody Northern Theatre, he was critically acclaimed for his portrayal of Romeo in ROMEO AND JULIET, and was in the companies of C/O THE GROVE and THE KENTUCKY CYCLE.

Gabriel also plays percussion for the Austin folk-rock band Miner's Canary.

FALL FROM GRACE marks his feature film debut.

Bhagirit Crow (Alexei Rostropovich)

Born in Houston, Texas, Bhagirit Crow is a parent, teacher, actor and facilitator of self-inquiry living in Austin, Texas. Recent stage roles include Abe in the KENTUCKY CYCLE and Creon in MEDEA STORIES at the Mary Moody Northern Theatre.

He received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Tisch School of the Arts, studied at Circle in the Square in New York, and trained to be a yoga teacher in India.

Bhagirit played the principal role in several short films, MY ROOM, ODE TO SALVADOR DALI, and SPRING TRAINING.

Julia Polozova (Helena Rostropovich)

Julia Polozova was born in 1974 in the Russian city of Artem. She grew up in the family of journalist and cinema critic, Olga Polozova. At eleven she had a leading part in a dance production at the University of Theatrical Arts in Moscow, and later appeared in the film WHERE IS YOUR SON? directed by Andrei Rostoskogo. She graduated from the Birobigjansky College of Art with a degree in dance and choreography.

She married in 1995 and moved to the U.S. She finished modeling school in Lubbock, Texas, and now lives in Dallas with her husband and son.

Prior to shooting FALL TO GRACE she had parts in TODAY AND TOMORROW, PORTAL, LAX (the pilot), and BARNEY AND FRIENDS.

Cassidy Rose Johnson (Anika Rostropovich)

Cassidy Johnson was born in Winchester, MA at the turn of the century. Her gregarious nature and boundless energy convinced her parents that she would be an asset to the modeling/acting industry.

Beginning at 9-months-old, Cassidy has appeared in three feature films, two shorts, a Fox pre-pilot, a children's video, a public service announcement, and multiple print ads. She enjoys the auditioning process almost as much as landing the jobs.

Cassidy is represented by Ciao! Agency in Georgetown, TX. She currently resides in the DFW-area and is the best reader in her kindergarten class.

Dean Stafford (Roger)

Dean Stafford was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, and now resides in Austin, where he is a student at St. Edward's University. At St. Edward's Mary Moody Northern Theatre, he made his Austin debut in C/O THE GROVE, and the Austin Chronicle dubbed his performance "a hoot." He also appeared in THE KENTUCKY CYCLE and A FLEA IN HER EAR.

FALL TO GRACE is his feature film debut. Currently, he is focused on school and his orchestral pop rock band, Pompeii.

Dean plans to pursue a career in independent film.

Adriene Mishler (Misty)

Adriene Mishler is a former student of St. Edward's University, in Austin, Texas, where she studied Theatre. Adriene has recently performed with The Rude Mechanicals in PALE IDIOT and with Refraction Arts Project in THE PHILOMEL PROJECT in the NYC Fringe Festival 2005. Previously, Adriene performed in ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, THE HOUSE, AMADEUS, THE KENTUCKY CYCLE,

HONKY TONK ANGELS, and C/O THE GROVE, all at St. Edward's Mary Moody Northern Theatre.

Adriene has also performed in New York and throughout the wild streets of L.A. while studying with The SITI Company. She is a founding member of St. Idiot Collective (SIC) and teaches Creative Drama and Yoga to children at the Dougherty Arts School and Casa De Luz in Austin.

FALL TO GRACE is her feature film debut.

J. Ed Araiza (Carlos Acosta)

A native Texan, now living in New York, J. Ed has performed all over the world as part of the SITI (Saratoga International Theatre Institute) Company. Most recently, he performed in BOBRAUSCHENBERGAMERICA at the Bonn Biennial in Germany and in the Dance Theatre production SYSTEM/LAYERS. Other SITI productions include MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, CULTURE OF DESIRE, WAR OF THE WORLDS, SMALL LIVES/BIG DREAMS, THE MEDIUM and RADIO PLAY.

New York productions include RAFT OF THE MEDUSA, BODY GAME, EASTERN STANDARD, OCCASIONAL GRACE and ORESTES. Los Angeles productions include LEAR, MACBETH, LA VICTIMA, AND WOMEN AND WATER.

As a director his credits include THE LADEE LEROY SHOW and ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST. As a playwright, he created THE HOUSE and C/O THE GROVE for St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas.

David Stokey (Leo Minske)

David Stokey's film and television credits include TORNADO for Fox, FAITH & BULLETS, MASTER OF THE GAME, and THE M.O. OF M.I. for Ardustry Entertainment. He has also appeared in many TV commercials.

David's 16-year stage career includes over 50 productions for which he has received many acting nominations and awards.

A native of Texas, David Stokey attended St. Edwards University. He lives in Austin, Texas. When not working, he spends time with his family. He is a member of the Austin Shakespeare Festival and Austin Playhouse.

Bill Johnson (Auggie)

Bill Johnson is an Austin, Texas actor who has performed in almost every theatrical venue, creating roles in original productions by noted playwrights Marty Martin, Jaston Williams, Tom White, and Terry Galloway.

Bill's film credits include Leatherface in TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 2, FUTURE KILL, TALK RADIO, FULL MOON IN BLUE WATER, D.O.A., MIDNIGHT TACO, and THE DEMON FIVE. Bill is in pre-production for the upcoming noir drama, THE END THAT EATS.

Bill is also known for his villain voices in computer fantasy RPG epics, including the voice of the notorious Guardian of the Black Gate in Origin Systems' Ultima series. His voice is featured in a new RPG game: Brute Force, from Digital Anvil/Microsoft Corp.

Amparo Garcia (Audrey Minske)

Amparo Garcia-Crow acts, directs and writes plays, screenplays and songs. Representative roles include Carla (IN THE WEST); Marisol (MARISOL); Luz (UNMERCIFUL GOOD FORTUNE) and the reoccurring Mrs. Hernandez in PBS' WISHBONE.

Her plays have been developed at South Coast Repertory Theatre and produced Off-Broadway, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Chicago, Los Angeles and various theatres in the Southwest. As a director, Amparo has received the prestigious NEA/TCG Director's Fellowship.

Amparo is a former James Michener Fellow and has been a professor of Acting/Directing at the University of Texas - Austin. Presently she is the founder of Inspirit Studios where she coaches actors and writers.

Heather Hanna (Lilly Acosta)

Originally from Arcadia, California, Heather Hanna moved to Austin, Texas from Los Angeles about four years ago. Since then she has been an active member of the Austin theater & film community. She recently appeared on stage in the Rude Mechanicals' PALE IDIOT and CHERRYWOOD, and was in TEMPEST for Kitchen Dog Theatre.

Heather appears in OUT OF HABIT by Robin Larson with XPIX Films in Los Angeles, and in the independent film GRETCHEN, written and directed by Steve Collins. She attended Southern Methodist University where she received her BFA in Theatre Studies.

When not working as an actor in film she performs regularly with local theatres and focuses her time on her new found passion, film editing.

Rene Alvarado (Dwayne)

Rene Alvarado was born and raised in Laredo, Texas by his mother and his grandmother. He moved to Austin to attend the University of Texas, and after graduating, moved to Los Angeles, California, where he now resides.

In Austin, Rene appeared on stage in EL PARAISO for the Rude Mechanicals, PETRAS PECADO and SUENO FOR TEATRO VIVO, and ROOSTERS for Different Stages. Rene has been seen in print ads for Don't Mess With Texas, Mydoc.com, and Supercuts.

Other film credits include NO PAIN NO GAIN for Zukor Productions. He recently finished shooting a feature film, EAST SIDE STORY, to be released in 2006.

Jeffery Mills (Jacko)

Jeffery Mills made his film debut in FALL TO GRACE and recently completed THE ELECTRIC BILL for 824 Pictures.

Primarily a stage actor based in Austin, Texas, Jeffery has worked with Salvage Vanguard Theatre, Dallas Children's Theatre, St. Edward's University Theatre and the 7th Street Workingman's Club and has received numerous acting nominations and awards for his work.

Jeffery is also a founding member of the award-winning improv comedy troupe Fatbuckle, their sketch comedy incarnation Think Tank and the St. Idiot's Collective (SIC).

Rick Azulay (Edik)

Rick Azulay began his acting career in the Peter Yates film, THE FRIENDS OF EDDIE COYLE. Since then he has appeared in theater, television and film in Austin, Boston, New York and Los Angeles.

His film work includes DARK TOWER, ANGUISH, AMERICAN DETECTIVE, MISS CONGENIALITY, SECONDHAND LIONS and THE CHIPOTLE DIAMONDS.