

# Persmap



# Drive

## Een film van Nicolas Winding Refn

Verenigde Staten · 100 min · 2011 · Actie / Drama · 35 mm /DCP

*Driver (Ryan Gosling) is stuntcoureur in Hollywood, die bijverdient als bestuurder van vluchtauto's in het criminele circuit. Hij wordt verliefd op zijn mooie buurvrouw Irene (Carey Mulligan), een jonge moeder die wordt meegeslept in de onderwereld praktijken van haar man, de ex-gedetioneerde Standard (Oscar Isaac). Wanneer een klus gruwelijk fout gaat, moet Driver doen waar hij goed in is om Irene en haar zoontje te redden: Drive.*

Gebaseerd op het gelijknamige boek van James Sallis.



Beste Regisseur - Cannes Film Festival 2011

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## LONG SYNOPSIS

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Driver (RYAN GOSLING) is a Hollywood stunt driver, flipping cars and spinning wheels for formulaic Hollywood action pictures. But as he likes to say, "It's only part time." By night he's the getaway driver for heist operations, navigating the labyrinth of L.A. streets with a mechanical precision that makes him one of the best in the business.

Shannon (BRYAN CRANSTON) is Driver's agent, for both daytime and nighttime employment. Like any small-time criminal, Shannon has a big plan: to fund a stock car for Driver to race on the professional circuit while he manages the team. Enter Bernie Rose (ALBERT BROOKS), a former movie producer who since climbed up the crime family hierarchy. After seeing Driver in action at the speedway, Bernie Rose insists that childhood friend Nino (RON PERLMAN) also partner with them.

Though Driver is a lone wolf by nature and professional necessity, his icy exterior starts to melt the second he shares an elevator with his new high-rise neighbor, Irene (CAREY MULLIGAN). When he sees her again at the grocery store with her young son, Benicio (KADEN LEOS), struggling with a stalled engine that won't turn over, he can't help but offer them a ride. Pretty soon he is, happily, driving them everywhere. While Irene works her waitress shifts, Driver watches Benicio, and they soon settle into an unexpected domestic bliss.

This interlude in Driver's life squeals to an abrupt stop when Irene's husband Standard (OSCAR ISAAC) is released early from prison for good behavior. Even though nothing has happened between Driver and Irene, Standard is threatened by another man's presence in his family's life. Driver shifts into reverse and gives them a wide clearance, respectful of Irene's desire to keep her family together.

But when Driver finds Standard bloodied and beaten in the garage--with an emotionally traumatized Benicio standing just a few feet away--Driver gets embroiled ever further in Irene's life. Standard is deeply indebted to the mob for the "protection money" he collected in jail and is charged with robbing a pawnshop in order to pay off the gangsters threatening harm not just to him but to Irene and Benicio. In desperation, he turns to Driver for help.

That's where Cook (JAMES BIBERI) and Blanche (CHRISTINA HENDRICKS), Cook's stripper girlfriend, come in. Cook lays out the plan of the robbery: Standard and Blanche enter the pawnshop and secure the cash while Driver keeps the car running outside. Everyone will get a percentage of the haul, which means Standard can pay the sharks after him.

But the job doesn't go as planned. When Standard is shot dead leaving the pawnshop and a mysterious second car tries to re-steal the money that they have just stolen, Driver discovers that they have been turned into pawns in an elaborate intra-mob rivalry. As he tries to puzzle together what happened and who can be trusted, he finds that the burnt tire tracks lead straight to his own employees: Nino and Bernie.

Driver's instinctive impulse to extract revenge for the double-cross that ended in Standard's death is tempered by his need to secure a safe harbor for the now widowed Irene and orphaned Benicio. He attempts to negotiate with the mob by bargaining away the stolen money, but soon discovers they won't be satisfied until every potential witness has been taken care of—permanently. Up against a gangster syndicate that won't rest until he and everyone he cares about has been eliminated, Driver has no choice but to shift gears and go on offense.

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## CAST

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DRIVER	RYAN GOSLING
IRENE	CAREY MULLIGAN
SHANNON	BRYAN CRANSTON
BERNIE ROSE	ALBERT BROOKS
STANDARD	OSCAR ISAAC
BLANCHE	CHRISTINA HENDRICKS
NINO	RON PERLMAN
BENICIO	KADEN LEOS
TAN SUIT	JEFF WOLFE
COOK	JAMES BIBERI
DOC	RUSS TAMBLYN
CHAUFFEUR	JOEY BUCARO
YOUNG WOMAN	TIARA PARKER
HITMAN#1	TIM TRELLA
HITMAN#2	JIMMY HART
WAITRESS	TINA HUANG
STRIPPER	ANDY SAN DIMAS
BEARDED REDNECK	JOHN PYPYER-FERGUSON
MASKED MAN#1	CRAIG BAXLEY, JR
MASKED MAN#2	KENNY RICHARDS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR# 1	JOE PINGUE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR#2	DIETER H. BUSCH
CATERER	CHRIS MUTO
NEWSCASTER	RACHEL DIK
WAITER	CESAR GARCIA
MOVIE STAR	STEVE KNOLL
MOVIE STAR GIRLFRIEND	MARA LAFONTAINE
POLICE OFFICER	TEONEE THRASH
BASKETBALL ANNOUNCER	RALPH LAWLER



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## CREW

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DIRECTED BY NICOLAS WINDING REFN  
SCREENPLAY BY HOSSEIN AMINI  
BASED ON THE BOOK BY JAMES SALLIS  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NEWTON THOMAS SIGEL, A.S.C.  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER BETH MICKLE  
COSTUME DESIGNER ERIN BENACH  
SOUND LON BENDER  
ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FRANK CAPRA III  
DIETER H. BUSCH  
EDITING MATTHEW NEWMAN  
MUSIC BY CLIFF MARTINEZ  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS WILLIAM LISCHAK  
LINDA MCDONOUGH  
DAVID LANCASTER  
GARY MICHAEL WALTERS  
JEFFREY STOTT  
PRODUCED BY MARC PLATT  
ADAM SIEGEL  
JOHN PALERMO  
GIGI PRITZKER  
MICHEL LITVAK  
CO-PRODUCED BY GARRICK DION  
JONATHAN OAKES  
JAMES SMITH  
FRANK CAPRA III  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH NEWBRIDGE FILM CAPITAL



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## DIRECTOR NICOLAS WINDING REFN

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Nicolas Winding Refn, born in Denmark, is known for his edgy and visually stimulating films. His first film, which he wrote and directed when he was only twenty-four, was the extremely violent and uncompromising, "Pusher." "Pusher" became a cult phenomenon and won him instant international critical acclaim in 1996.

After the success of his debut, Refn wrote, produced, and directed his next film, "Bleeder." Highly stylized and focused on introverted reactions to outward situations, this film was a marking point for the shaping of Nicolas's career. "Bleeder" premiered at the 1999 Venice International Film Festival. Refn's third feature, "Fear X" (2003) was his first foray into English language films. Starring John Turturro and co-written by Hubert Selby, Jr, "Fear X" received its world premiere at Sundance Film festival. The film's stormy career pushed famed journalist Henrik List, to write a biography on Refn, spanning his earlier years from "Pusher: (1996) to "Fear X" (2003).

Following "Fear X," Refn returned to his native Denmark to write, direct and produce "Pusher II" (2004) and "Pusher III" (2005), as a result of his first movie's growing cult following. The subsequent success of "Pusher" II and III, along with the first, became the internationally renowned "Pusher Trilogy," premiering at the Toronto Film Festival in 2005 and cementing it as a worldwide phenomenon.

In 2006, Refn wrote and directed "Bronson," an ultra-violent, surreal, escapist film following the real life landmarks and self-entrapment of Britain's most notorious criminal, Michael Peterson, who claims his alter ego is legendary actor, Charles Bronson. The film premiered at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival, and resulted in the world media calling Refn the next great European auteur.

Refn next wrote, directed and produced "Valhalla Rising," starring his long time collaborator, Mads Mikkelsen. "Valhalla Rising" is a film inspired by a story Refn's mother read to him when he was young. The film premiered at the 2009 Venice Film Festival and led the world media to define his filmic style as "Refn-esk."

In addition to the films Refn has made, he and his wife Liv Corfixen were the subjects of an acclaimed documentary, "Gambler," which premiered at the Rotterdam International Film Festival in 2005. Refn has already received two lifetime achievement awards (one from Taipei International Film festival in 2006 and the second from Valencia International Film Festival in 2007) and was the winner of the Emerging Master Award from the Philadelphia International Film Festival in 2005.

Next up, Refn will produce and direct a film he wrote called "Only God Forgives," which is currently in pre-production in Thailand.

Refn lives in Copenhagen with his wife and their two children.



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## ABOUT THE CAST

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### RYAN GOSLING

Ryan Gosling's (Driver) career breakthrough came with the controversial lead role in the 2001 film "The Believer". His performance garnered him rave reviews and industry-wide attention. He continues to be noticed as "one of the most exciting actors of his generation," as recently declared by Manohla Dargis, critic for The New York Times. In 2004, he was lauded as ShoWest's Male Star of Tomorrow.

In 2007 Gosling was honored with both a Golden Globe® and SAG Actor nomination for his work in "Lars and The Real Girl." The previous year he garnered an Academy Award® Nomination for 'Best Actor' for his role in "Half Nelson." His performance as 'Dan,' a drug-addicted inner city junior high school teacher also garnered 'Best Actor' nominations from the Screen Actors Guild Awards, the Broadcast Film Critics Awards, Film Independent Spirit Awards, Chicago Film Critics, Online Film Critics' Society, Toronto Film Critics and the Satellite Awards. He was awarded the 'Male Breakthrough Performance Award' from the National Board of Review, and won Best Actor Awards from both the Seattle and Stockholm International Film Festivals. His 2010 powerhouse performance in "Blue Valentine" earned Gosling his second Golden Globe® Nomination for 'Best Actor'.

Gosling's performance in "The Believer," which won the Grand Jury prize at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival, garnered him a 'Best Actor' Film Independent Spirit nomination, a 'Best Actor' nomination from the London Film Critics' Circle, and earned him the Golden Ram for 'Best Actor' by the Russian National Critics Association.

He returned to Sundance in 2002, starring in the independent feature "The Slaughter Rule," playing an emotionally vulnerable and estranged teen, opposite David Morse. He received strong reviews for his follow-up performance as a nihilistic predator in the psychological thriller "Murder By Numbers," opposite Sandra Bullock.

Gosling's penchant to take on intricate and complex characters earned him the lead and title role in "The United States of Leland," opposite Kevin Spacey and Don Cheadle. Subsequently, he starred in the blockbuster romantic drama "The Notebook," followed by Marc Forster's "Stay," opposite Ewan McGregor and Naomi Watts, starred opposite Anthony Hopkins in the New Line thriller "Fracture" as well as the lead in "All Good Things." Gosling recently received a Golden Globe® Nomination for Best Actor the acclaimed drama "Blue Valentine," opposite Michelle Williams.

In 2011, Gosling can be seen in the marital crisis comedy "Crazy, Stupid, Love" directed by Glenn Ficarra and John Requa, also starring Steven Carell, Julianne Moore, and Emma Stone. His next project is George Clooney's upcoming drama "The Ides of March" with Evan Rachel Wood, Marisa Tomei, and Phillip Seymour Hoffman.

In addition to his work on screen, Gosling, an accomplished musician, recently released the album "Dead Man's Bones."



**CAREY MULLIGAN** (Irene) recently starred in Fox Searchlight's "Never Let Me Go," based on the award-winning novel by Kazuo Ishiguro (Remains of the Day). Starring opposite Andrew Garfield and Keira Knightley and directed by Mark Romanek. The film was featured at both the Telluride and Toronto International Film Festivals. She also starred in Oliver Stone's "Wall Street 2: Money Never Sleeps," the sequel to the 1987 film, "Wall Street," as Michael Douglas' daughter.

Last year Mulligan received an Academy Award® nomination, Golden Globe® nomination & Screen Actors Guild Award Nomination and garnered critical acclaim for her starring role in the Sony Classics film "An Education," written by Nick Hornby and directed by Lone Scherfig. Mulligan received the British Independent Film Award for 'Best Actress,' was named 'Best Actress' by the National Board of Review, and was named 'Best Actress' by the Orange British Academy of Film (BAFTA).

Additional films credits include "Public Enemies," "The Greatest," "Brothers," "Pride and Prejudice" and "And When Did You Last See Your Father" with Jim Broadbent and Colin Firth.

She most recently was cast in the coveted role of 'Daisy' in Baz Luhrmann's "The Great Gatsby," set to go before the cameras in 2011.

Mulligan currently resides in London.





**BRYAN CRANSTON** (Shannon) recently received his third consecutive Emmy® Win as 'Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series' for his portrayal of 'Walter White' on AMC's "Breaking Bad." Cranston holds the honor of being the first actor in a cable series, and the second actor in the history of the Emmy® Awards to receive three consecutive wins. He was also previously nominated for a Golden Globe® and three Emmys® for his performance as 'Hal' on FOX's "Malcolm in the Middle."

Cranston's other television credits include a recurring role on "Seinfeld," HBO's "From the Earth to the Moon," and the mini-series, "I Know My First Name is Steven," among others. He has also guest starred on programs such as "Chicago Hope," "Touched By An Angel," "The X-Files," and many more.

On screen, Cranston recently completed production on Tony Kaye's "Detachment" opposite Adrien Brody and Marcia Gay Harden, and Brad Furman's "Lincoln Lawyer" opposite Matthew McConaughey and Marisa Tomei.

Cranston will next star in Tom Hanks' "Larry Crowne" opposite Hanks and Julia Roberts, which will be released by Universal Pictures in 2011. He will also be seen in Andrew Stanton's "John Carter of Mars," which will be released by Walt Disney Pictures on June 8, 2012, and the World War II drama "Red Tails," written by George Lucas.

Cranston's other feature film credits include: "Saving Private Ryan," "Little Miss Sunshine," "Seeing Other People," "That Thing You Do!," "Clean Slate" and "Kissing Miranda," just to name a few.

Born to a show business family and raised in Southern California, Cranston made his acting debut at the age of eight in a United Way commercial. It wasn't until he finished college that acting became a serious consideration. While on a cross-country motorcycle trip with his brother, he discovered community theater and began exploring every aspect of the stage. Soon, he was cast in a summer stock company.

Cranston returned to Los Angeles and quickly landed a role on the television movie, "Love Without End," which led to his being signed as an original cast member of ABC's "Loving."

He continues to pursue his love for theater as often as time permits. Cranston's theatrical credits include starring roles in "The God of Hell," "Chapter Two," "The Taming of the Shrew," "A Doll's House," "Eastern Standard," "Wrestlers," "Barefoot in the Park," and "The Steven Weed Show," for which he won a Drama-Logue Award.

Cranston is also a dedicated screenwriter and director. He wrote the original romantic drama "Last Chance" as a birthday gift for his wife, in which he also starred and directed. Cranston also directed several episodes of "Malcolm In The Middle," the Comedy Central pilot "Special Unit" and several episodes of "Breaking Bad."

Additionally, Cranston has produced an instructional DVD called KidSmartz, which is designed to educate families on how to stay safe from child abduction and Internet predators. KidSmartz raises money for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, by donating half the proceeds from sales.

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**ALBERT BROOKS** (Bernie Rose) is among the most inventive practitioners of motion picture comedy, as well as one of its most incisive commentators on contemporary life. Brooks began his career as a stand-up comic, and went on to become an award-winning actor, writer and filmmaker. Brooks has written, directed and starred in seven feature films: "Real Life," "Modern Romance," "Lost In America," "Defending Your Life," "Mother," "The Muse" and "Looking for Comedy in the Muslim World."

Brooks made his acting debut in Martin Scorsese's 1976 classic, "Taxi Driver." His other acting credits include such films as "Private Benjamin," "Unfaithfully Yours," "I'll Do Anything," "Critical Care," "Out of Sight" and "My First Mister." He earned an Academy Award® Nomination for his performance in "Broadcast News." "Finding Nemo," which he starred, received an Academy Award® for Best Animated Feature and has become one of the highest grossing animated films ever made. Brooks has also been honored by the American Film Institute with a retrospective of his work at the first U.S. Comedy Arts Festival.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Brooks studied drama at Carnegie Mellon University before starting his performing career in 1968 doing stand-up comedy on "The Steve Allen Show." He then became a regular on "The Dean Martin Show," and performed on such variety programs as "The Ed Sullivan Show," "The Merv Griffin Show," "The Hollywood Palace" and had over forty appearances on "The Tonight Show," starring Johnny Carson.

Brooks has recorded two comedy albums: "Comedy Minus One" and "A Star is Bought," the latter earning him a Grammy Award nomination for Best Comedy Recording. His first directorial effort was in 1972 for the PBS series "The Great American Dream Machine." He adapted an article he had written for Esquire Magazine, "Albert Brooks' Famous School for Comedians" into a short film. Following this, he created six short films for the debut season of "Saturday Night Live."

In 2011, Brooks will have his first novel, 2030, published by St. Martins Press.

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**OSCAR ISAAC** (Standard) is classically trained with an internationally diverse heritage, and is poised to take Hollywood by storm. Prior to his work on "Drive," he filmed two projects simultaneously; "W.E.," a modern day love story juxtaposed with the true story of Wallis Simpson and King Edward VIII, directed by Madonna, and the Warner Brothers feature "Sucker Punch" from director, Zack Snyder ("Watchmen," "300") due out March 2011.

Prior to filming "Sucker Punch," Isaac re-teamed with acclaimed director, Ridley Scott on Universal's "Robin Hood." The film also starred Academy Award® Winners Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, and William Hurt. Oscar took on the famed role of 'Prince John' and went toe-to-toe with Crowe in this new take on the well-known story. In "Agora" (Universal Focus), directed by Academy Award® Winner Alejandro Amenabar, Isaac stars opposite Academy Award® Winner Rachel Weisz. It is a tale of unrequited love set against the backdrop of ancient Egypt and questions the relationship between science and religion. In 2009, Isaac won the Australian Film Institute Award for Best Supporting Actor for his work in "Balibo" playing Nobel Peace Prize winner, 'Jose Ramos Horta.'

He co-starred in the Warner Brothers' film "Body of Lies," directed by Ridley Scott, opposite Academy Award® Nominee Leonardo DiCaprio and Academy Award® Winner, Russell Crowe. Also, he was seen in Steven Soderbergh's "Che," with Benicio del Toro. Other film credits include Vadim Perelman's "The Life Before Her Eyes," opposite Uma Thurman and Evan Rachel Wood. He has guest-starred on NBC-TV's "Law and Order: Criminal Intent".

His first starring role was as 'Shiv' opposite Paddy Considine and Radha Mitchell in the critically lauded "PU-239" from HBO Films about selling radioactive materials on the black market in post-Communist Moscow. The film was directed by Scott Z. Burns and premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in 2006, and aired on HBO in 2007. Isaac next wowed audiences with his performance as 'Joseph' in New Line Cinema's Christmas drama, "The Nativity Story," which chronicled the arduous journey of Mary and Joseph, a miraculous pregnancy, and the history-defining birth of Jesus. It was the first film ever to premiere at the Vatican. The film was directed by Catherine Hardwicke and co-starred Academy Award® Nominees, Keisha Castle-Hughes and Shohreh Aghdashloo.

Isaac garnered superb reviews playing the title role in "Romeo and Juliet" with Lauren Ambrose, directed by Michael Grief and in the musical revival of "Two Gentlemen of Verona," adapted by John Guare and Mel Shapiro both productions for the NY Public Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park program. He starred in "Beauty of the Father" by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Nilo Cruz, directed by Michael Grief at Manhattan Theatre Club. Isaac was last seen in MCC Theater's American premiere of Mick Gordon and A.C. Graylings' "Grace" with Lynn Redgrave.

Other theatre credits include: "Arrivals and Departures," "When It's Cocktail Time in Cuba," and "Spinning into Butter". While a student at Juilliard, Oscar played the title role in "Macbeth"; he also co-wrote and performed his own music in the show, "American Occupation"; and was seen in "The Marriage of Figaro"; "The Birds"; "Three Sisters"; and many others. He also attended Master Classes with such actors as Sir Ian McKellen, Fionna Shaw, Simon Russell Beale, Brenda Blethyn, Alfred Molina and was the recipient of the prestigious 'Princess Grace Award' in 2004.

Isaac also writes and performs music with his band. He was raised in Miami and currently resides in New York.

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**RON PERLMAN** (Nino) has moved seamlessly between the worlds of film, television, and theater for almost three decades. Having received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, he returned to his native New York to begin his professional career in theater, delving into the works of contemporaries like Pinter and Beckett as well as the classics of Shakespeare, Marlowe, Ibsen, and Chekhov with two recent trips back to Broadway in "A Few Good Men" and "Bus Stop."

His film career began in the early 1980s with two films back to back for director Jean Jacques Annaud; "Quest For Fire," for which he received a Canadian Academy Award nomination, and the role of 'Salvatore,' the hunchback in Umberto Eco's "The Name Of The Rose." Perlman resumed his unique collaboration with French directors starring in Jean Pierre Juenet and Marc Caro's award-winning "City Of Lost Children," and costarring with Sigourney Weaver and Winona Ryder in Juenet's "Alien Resurrection."

Other film work includes roles in studio ventures such as "The Island Of Dr. Moreau," "Romeo Is Bleeding," "Fluke," "The Adventures Of Huck Finn," "Sleepwalkers," "Happy Texas," "Enemy At The Gate," "Blade 2," "Star Trek Nemesis," and Guillermo del Toro's "Hellboy" as the title character. Perlman's independent film credits including "Cronos," "The Last Supper," "When The Bough Breaks," "Frogs For Snakes," "I Woke Up Early The Day I Died," "Tinseltown," and the Academy Award® Winning short "Two Soldiers."

Perlman's film career was interrupted for a three-year run on CBS' critically acclaimed "Beauty And The Beast" for which he received a Golden Globe® Award for Best Actor along with two Emmy® Nominations and three Viewers For Quality Television Awards. Other television work includes HBO's "The Second Civil War," "Mr. Stitch," "The Adventures Of Captain Zoom," the Rob Nilsson adaptation of the Rod Serling classic "A Town Has Turned To Dust" for the Sci-Fi Channel, and "The Magnificent Seven."

Most recent credits include Stephen King's mini-series "Desperation" for ABC, Larry Fessenden's indie, "The Last Winter," "In The Name Of The King" with Jason Statham, a "Masters Of Horror" episode directed by John Carpenter for Showtime, the independent feature "The Mutant Chronicles," opposite Thomas Jane and John Malkovich, "I Sell The Dead," opposite Dominic Monaghan, "Outlander" opposite Jim Caviezel and John Hurt, and "Bunraku" opposite Demi Moore, Josh Harnett and Woody Harrelson. Perlman reprised his role in Guillermo del Toro's sequel, "Hellboy 2: The Golden Army," and next will be seen in "Season Of The Witch" where he stars opposite Nicolas Cage.

Perlman is currently shooting the third season of the critically acclaimed FX series, "Sons Of Anarchy" where he plays 'Clay,' the president of a motorcycle gang.

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**CHRISTINA HENDRICKS** (Blanche) began her career as the opportunistic, career climbing intern on Showtime's "Beggars and Choosers" before segueing into a production deal with John Wells Productions in which she did numerous shows including, "The Big Time" on TNT, "ER" for NBC (recurring role) and "The Court" on ABC opposite Sally Field.

She can currently be seen as 'Joan Harris' (formerly 'Holloway') on AMC's critically acclaimed series "Mad Men." Christina's portrayal of 'Joan' earned the actress her first Emmy® Nomination in the category of 'Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series.' "Mad Men" won the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Emmy Award for outstanding drama series, the 2009 Golden Globe® for Best Television Series – Drama as well as the 2009 and 2010 Screen Actors Guild Awards for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series. She recently wrapped shooting the fourth season of "Mad Men."

For features, Hendricks recently completed filming on Paper Street Films' "Detachment," opposite Adrian Brody and James Caan, slated for release in 2011. She was most recently seen in Warner Bros.' "Life As We Know It" in which she stars opposite Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel for director Greg Berlanti. Additionally, she recently worked on Hyde Park Films' independent drama "Leoni" alongside Emily Mortimer as well as appearing in "La Cucina," "South of Pico," and the recently completed "Driving Lessons" with Dermot Mulroney and Hope Davis.

Hendricks also starred on "Kevin Hill" on UPN opposite Taye Diggs. Her many television guest appearances include "Without a Trace", "Cold Case," and recurring roles on Joss Whedon's "Firefly," "Notes From the Underbelly," and "Life."

Christina currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband.

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## ABOUT THE CREW

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**HOSSEIN AMINI** (Screenwriter) is responsible for adapting James Sallis' novella, *Drive*, into the screenplay that secured Ryan Gosling's involvement. He was honored with Academy Award®, BAFTA & WGA nominations for 'Best Adapted Screenplay' for his work on "The Wings Of The Dove," starring Helena Bonham Carter & Linus Roache, which was based on Henry James' book of the same name.

Other key credits for the talented writer include "Dying Of The Light," which was nominated by BAFTA for the TV award as 'Best Drama,' and "Jude," starring Kate Winslet that won at the Dinard and Edinburgh Film Festivals when it was released. Amini also did the re-writes for "Four Feathers" & "Killshot."

Amini is currently working on the screen adaptation of John Le Carre's latest book, *Our Kind Of Traitor*.

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**MICHEL LITVAK** (Producer) is a Belgian industrialist who founded the independent production & finance company Bold Films in 2004. With a dedication to making commercial films with artistic vision, Litvak has produced a variety of films including the Golden Globe® Nominee for Best Picture "Bobby", directed by Emilio Estevez, with an ensemble cast that included Sir Anthony Hopkins, Demi Moore, Shia Lebouf, William H. Macy and Sharon Stone. Litvak recently produced the apocalyptic thriller, "Legion", released by Sony in 2010 and the Joe Dante 3D thriller, "The Hole". Litvak is also developing projects with several top-tier filmmakers including Philip Noyce, James Mangold and David O'Russell.

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**MARC E. PLATT** (Producer) stands among the few producers who have successfully bridged the worlds of theatre, film and television. His projects have garnered a combined 7 Oscar nominations, 16 Tony nominations, 12 Golden Globe® nominations and 19 Emmy® nominations. In theatre, Platt is the producer of Broadway's blockbuster "Wicked," which The New York Times recently called "the defining musical of the decade," as well as "Three Days of Rain" which starred Julia Roberts, Paul Rudd and Bradley Cooper.

Platt's films include the smash hit "Legally Blonde" and its sequel, "Legally Blonde 2," starring Reese Witherspoon; the critical and fan-favorite "Scott Pilgrim vs. The World," directed by Edgar Wright, starring Michael Cera; the musical "Nine," directed by Rob Marshall and starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Judi Dench, Nicole Kidman, Marion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz, Sophia Loren, Kate Hudson and Fergie; the critically acclaimed "Rachel Getting Married," directed by Jonathan Demme, starring Anne Hathaway; the 2008 summer hit "Wanted," starring Angelina Jolie, James McAvoy, and Morgan Freeman; and "Cop Out," starring Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan.

In television, Platt won the Golden Globe® Award for Best Miniseries for "Empire Falls" (HBO) starring Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Ed Harris, Helen Hunt and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Platt also executive produced "Once Upon A Mattress," starring Carol Burnett and Tracey Ullman (ABC);

the Emmy Award winning miniseries, “The Path To 9/11” (ABC); and the hit MTV series, “Taking The Stage.”

Prior to establishing his production company, Marc Platt served as president of production for three movie studios: Orion, TriStar and Universal.

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**GIGI PRITZKER** (Producer) started in the film industry as a producer of documentary films, and in 1986, founded Dee Gee Productions, which produced numerous television programs, commercials, industrials and documentaries. She went on to executive produce Independent Spirit Award-winner “Mean Creek,” and produced the hit Columbia Pictures comedy, “The Wedding Planner.”

In 2001, she started OddLot Entertainment, and produced “Green Street Hooligans,” the sequel “Green Street 2: Stand Your Ground,” the romantic comedy “Suburban Girl,” the visually stunning “The Spirit,” and executive produced “The Open Road,” starring Academy Award® Winner Jeff Bridges and Justin Timberlake.

More recently, she produced the Academy Award® Nominated film “Rabbit Hole,” starring Nicole Kidman & Aaron Eckhart, and directed by Sundance Award-winning and Golden Globe® Nominated director John Cameron Mitchell.

Pritzker also develops and produces live stage productions with her partner Ted Rawlins through her company Relevant Theatricals. Earlier productions include “Kiss At City Hall” at the Pasadena Playhouse and “Symmetry” at Victory Gardens in Chicago. Most recently, Relevant launched the new musical, “Snapshots,” based on the book by David Stern, with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz (“Wicked”), F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby,” which enjoyed two highly successful productions in the US with a third anticipated in London’s West End, and “Million Dollar Quartet,” pure rock-n-roll entertainment that explores the historic December 4th 1956 jam session—the one and only gathering of Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash. “Million Dollar Quartet” premiered in Florida and broke all box office records, and then opened at Seattle’s Village Theater where it became the theater’s second most financially in over thirty years—second only to “Cats.” “Million Dollar Quartet” has been running in Chicago for over two years, opened on Broadway in April 2010, and is set to open on the West End in March 2011.

Pritzker also dedicates her time to a variety of other projects. She is a co-founder of the Chicago chapter of the Tibetan Resettlement Project, serves as immediate past chairman of the board of the Chicago Children’s Museum, sits on the nation board for the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation, and is on the board of The Ellen Stone Belic Institute at Columbia College for the Study of Women & Gender in the Arts & Media. She is also involved in a variety of endeavors related to early childhood, education and brain research.

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**ADAM SIEGEL** (Producer) is President of Marc Platt Productions. He joined the company in 2000, after graduating from Wesleyan University, and was promoted to his current position in 2006.



In his time at Marc Platt Productions, he was executive producer on Timur Bekmambetov's "Wanted," based on the popular comic book series that starred Angelina Jolie, James McAvoy & Morgan Freeman. He also served as executive producer on "Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World," based on another highly acclaimed comic book, and "Cop Out," starring Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan, both released in 2010.

For "Drive," Siegel is responsible for discovering James Sallis' novella, Drive, a few years ago when it first hit bookstands. He suggested that his company develop the story into a screenplay, arranging a meeting between Producer Marc E. Platt and Screenwriter Hossein Amini. His efforts from book to screen have resulted in Nicolas Winding Refn's "Drive," starring Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan, Bryan Cranston, Albert Brooks, Oscar Isaac, Ron Perlman and Christina Hendricks.

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**JOHN PALERMO** (Producer) currently has a deal with Fox 2000 and is developing Catherine Fisher's book, Incarceron, as a franchise film that will star teen heart throb Taylor Lautner. Previously, he was partners with Hugh Jackman, running Seed Productions, where they produced such films as "X-Men: The Last Stand," "Deception," and "X-Men Origins: Wolverine."

Palermo got his start as an assistant to Director Bryan Singer on "X-Men" where he first met Hugh Jackman. He served as Jackman's assistant for two years before partnering with him to form Seed Productions.

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**DAVID LANCASTER** (Executive Producer) is the Co-President of Bold Films. Since the early 1980s, he has been involved in the development, finance, production and distribution of over 30 motion pictures, and several major stage plays. His most recent production, the apocalyptic thriller, "Legion," was released by Sony and has grossed over \$65 million worldwide.

He began his career on Broadway as co-producer of Marsha Norman's "Night, Mother," starring Kathy Bates. He then served as associate producer of David Mamet's "American Buffalo," starring Al Pacino and Beth Henley's "The Wake of Jamie Foster," the follow-up to her Pulitzer Prize-winning "Crimes Of the Heart." Broadway led Lancaster to his feature film debut, the Golden Globe® Winning feature film adaptation of "Night, Mother," starring Anne Bancroft and Sissy Spacek for Universal Pictures. He subsequently produced the award-winning Robert Altman drama, "The Laundromat" for HBO, starring Carol Burnett and Amy Madigan.

In 1990, he formed David Lancaster Productions with the mission of producing unique, compelling, high quality motion picture and television projects. Among them were the New Orleans character drama, "A Love For Bobby Long," starring John Travolta & Scarlett Johansson and the Stephen King thriller, "The Bullet," starring David Arquette, Erica Christensen, Cliff Robertson, and Barbara Hershey. Other features include the urban romantic comedy, "Loving Jezebel," winner of the 2000 SXSW Audience Award, action/horror adventure "Wes Craven's: The Breed," starring Michelle Rodriguez, Oliver Hudson & Taryn Manning, and the sci-fi thriller "Hollow Man 2," starring Christian Slater.

Lancaster joined Bold Films as Co-President and serves as producer on all of the company's features. With over 25 years of entertainment experience to his credit, Lancaster brings a wealth of production knowledge and industry relationships to the company. His first task at Bold Films was to oversee post-production on the Golden Globe® Best Picture nominated RFK drama, "Bobby," from Director Emilio Estevez. Since his arrival, Lancaster also produced the Joe Dante directed suspense thriller, "The Hole 3D," "Starship Troopers 3: Marauder," written and directed by Ed Neumeier and the 2008 Toronto Film Festival selection, "Middle Of Nowhere," starring Susan Sarandon and Anton Yelchin. Next up is "Jack," starring Samuel L. Jackson & Liev Schreiber, that will be directed by Brad Anderson.

Lancaster is a native Texan, and currently lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Karen and their son, Jack.

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**WILLIAM LISCHAK** (Executive Producer) joined OddLot Entertainment as chief operating officer in January 2007, and remains responsible for the company's day-to-day operations and the ongoing implementation of its business plan, among other duties. At OddLot he has established a three-picture co-financing distribution deal with Lionsgate, structured other domestic and international distribution arrangements and secured significant debt commitments to fund production and distribution.

From 1988 – 2006, Lischak was COO and CFO of First Look Studios, which grew from a \$3 million foreign sales entity into a \$100 million U.S. theatrical and video distributor and foreign sales company. He secured and structured many production financing deals with worldwide financiers, arranged multiple rounds of private equity investments and secured significant lines of credit with bank groups led by JP Morgan and Merrill Lynch. Additionally, he brought the company public in 1996.

In 2003, Lischak assumed the additional role of President of First Look. He orchestrated a significant financial turnaround of the company, bringing the company to profitability. He led multiple corporate and asset acquisitions, including that of DEJ Productions (a subsidiary of Blockbuster which included a library of 225 films), Capital Entertainment (a DVD content ownership company) and Ventura Distribution (a \$75 million revenue video distribution company), each adding to First Look's position and strength in the home entertainment market. He first moved to Los Angeles in 1982, and worked as a CPA at Laventhol & smp, Horwath, a large accounting firm, ultimately specializing in entertainment.

Lischak was an executive producer on the Frank Miller action-adventure "The Spirit" as well as Lionsgate's feature "Rabbit Hole," starring Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart.

Lischak attended NYU's film and business schools, graduating in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He subsequently became a CPA and earned a masters degree in taxation.

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**LINDA McDONOUGH** (Executive Producer) has been with OddLot Entertainment since its launch in 2001, and has over 15 years' experience in development and production for film and television. At OddLot she oversees development and production on all company films: making literary acquisitions, shepherding project development and managing day-to-day set production.

Additionally, she coordinated the internal project 'green light' modeling process (budget, sales estimates, soft money analysis, etc.) and supervises the creation of production budgets and critical assumptions for each film for the company.

McDonough recently produced "From Prada To Nada," a whimsical Latina spin on Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility, starring Camilla Belle, Alexa Vega, Adrianna Barraza, Wilmer Valderamma and Kuno Becker. OddLot, Lionsgate and Videocine are production, financing and distribution partners on the film.

She is also an executive producer on "Rabbit Hole," starring Nicole Kidman & Aaron Eckhart in an emotionally taut adaptation of David Lindsay-Abaire's Pulitzer prize-winning drama that Sundance Award-winning and Golden Globe® Nominated John Camera Mitchell directed.

McDonough's other producing credits include the SXSW Special Jury and Audience Award Winner "Green Street," its sequel "Green Street 2: Stand Your Ground," the visually stunning "The Spirit" directed and written by Frank Miller, and "Suburban Girl."

Prior to joining OddLot, she served four years as vice-president of development at Drew Barrymore and Nancy Juvonen's company, Flower Films, where she contributed to the development of "Charlie's Angels I & II," "Duplex," "Donnie Darko," and "50 First Dates." McDonough was previously a writer's assistant and script coordinator at 1013 Productions ("The X-Files") where she worked for four years. She started her career at 20th Century Fox Television.

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**JEFFREY STOTT** (Executive Producer) has been in the film business for almost thirty years. He started by working closely with Rob Reiner at the beginning of his directing career with such projects as "This Is Spinal Tap," "The Sure Thing" and "Stand By Me." Then, when Reiner formed his own production company, Castle Rock Entertainment, he made Stott Executive Vice-President of Production Management from 1988 - 2002. During his tenure there, he oversaw production on over sixty feature films and served as the Executive In Charge of Production on the hit series, "Seinfeld."

Some of Stott's noteworthy credits during this time include co-producing Reiner's "The Princess Bride," "When Harry met Sally...," "Misery" and "A Few Good Men." He went on to serve as executive producer on "North," "The American President," "Ghosts Of Mississippi," "The Story of Us" and "The Bucket List," starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman.

More recently, Stott was executive producer on "Marmaduke," starring Owen Wilson and George Lopez. His other credits as executive producer include the remake of "The Omen," "Alex & Emma" and "Murder By Numbers." In addition, Stott has produced documentaries, including "I Am Your Child" and "Declaration Of Independence."

Originally from northern California, Stott has a Masters of Art in History from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D. in History from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

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**GARY MICHAELS WALTERS** (Executive Producer) is the Co-President of Bold Films and is actively involved in all aspects of the company, including production, development, distribution and finance. In early 2004, European industrial mogul, Michel Litvak founded Bold Films along with Walters and hired him as President of the company.

Walters commenced his film producing career in 2003, specializing in the financing of independent features. During this period he produced a number of features, including "Standing Still," starring James Van Der Beek, Mena Suvari and Collin Hanks, and "I Love Your Work," starring Vince Vaughn, Christina Ricci, Giovanni Ribisi, Jason Lee and Franka Potente.

Walters has served as Executive Producer on all of Bold's pictures, most notably the Golden Globe® Nominated RFK drama, "Bobby," featuring a star studded ensemble cast that included Anthony Hopkins, Sharon Stone, Shia LaBeouf, Demi Moore and Martin Sheen. Other executive producing credits include "Legion," starring Paul Bettany, "The Hole 3D" from visionary director Joe Dante, the 2008 Toronto Film Festival Selection "Middle Of Nowhere," starring Susan Sarandon and Anton Yelchin.

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**NEWTON THOMAS SIGEL, ASC** (Cinematographer) began his career as a painter and experimental filmmaker at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. His films began to take on a documentary flavor while covering the Central American wars of the 1980s. These included the Academy Award® Winning "Witness to War: Dr. Charlie Clements" and the theatrical success of "When The Mountains Tremble."

Catching the eye of Haskell Wexler, Sigel was given his first narrative opportunity on "Latino," a film based on Sigel's own life experiences in combat. As he gained more ground while shooting second-unit with Oliver Stone on "Platoon" and "Wall Street," it wasn't long before Sigel was a renowned cinematographer in his own right.

After working with Director Bryan Singer on "The Usual Suspects," a cult classic, the two went on to collaborate on five more films, including Singer's last outing, "Valkyrie." Sigel also shot David O. Russell's "Three Kings" which changed the direction of cinematography with the groundbreaking use of exotic film stocks and lab processes.

A sampling of Sigel's additional credits include "Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind" and "Leatherheads" with longtime collaborator George Clooney, Bryan Singer's "X-Men," "X2: X-Men United" and "Superman Returns," Terry Gilliam's "The Brothers Grimm," and Alan Ball's directorial debut, "Towelhead." Sigel also photographed Bob Rafelson's dark noir tale, "Blood & Wine," starring Jack Nicholson, and Gregory Hoblit's "Fallen," starring Denzel Washington, among others.

Most recently, Sigel shot "Leap Year," starring Amy Adams, Robert Redford's "The Conspirator," and this year's "Frankie and Alice," starring Halle Berry.

In addition to his cinematography credits, Sigel directed HBO's "Point Of Origin," as well as "The Big Empty," starring Selma Blair that he co-directed with his wife, J. Lisa Chang.

He became a member of the American Society of Cinematographers in 2000.

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**BETH MICKLE** (Production Designer) began her career as a production designer when she designed her first feature film “Madness and Genius,” directed by Ryan Eslinger, in 2002. The film's success brought several more features including the acclaimed “Half Nelson,” directed by Ryan Fleck, and written by Fleck and Anna Boden. Produced by Journeyman Pictures, “Half Nelson” won the Best Film prize at the Gotham Awards, and received a Best Actor Academy Award® nomination for Ryan Gosling in 2007.

Mickle re-teamed with Ryan Fleck and Anna Boden on their sophomore film, “Sugar,” the story of an aspiring baseball player from the Dominican Republic, produced by Journeyman Pictures. She then designed “Cold Souls,” directed by Sophie Barthes, also for Journeyman. Starring Emily Watson, Paul Giamatti, and David Strathairn, “Cold Souls” was presented at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival, where it was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize.

In 2007, Mickle was named as one of The Hollywood Reporter's “Production Designer To Watch.” She was also nominated for a BAFTA award for production design in 2010 for her work in “An Englishman in New York,” starring John Hurt. Her upcoming films include “Son of No One,” written and directed by Dito Montiel, starring Al Pacino, Juliette Binoche, and Katie Holmes, and “It’s Kind of a Funny Story” with Zach Galifianakis.

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**ERIN BENACH** (Costume Designer) had her first big break with the super low budget “Half Nelson,” directed by Ryan Fleck and starring Ryan Gosling. She has since worked with Fleck on his next film “Sugar,” the future sci-fi comedy “Cold Souls,” starring Paul Giamatti and Emily Watson, and “Sympathy for Delicious,” Mark Ruffalo’s directorial debut.

Her latest films include “Blue Valentine,” starring Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams which took her to Cannes Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival, “The Night Chronicles: Devil,” written and produced by M. Night Shyamalan, and “Lincoln Lawyer,” starring Marisa Tomei, Ryan Phillippe and Matthew McConaughey.

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**MAT NEWMAN** (Editor) is based in Berlin and Los Angeles, and works internationally on feature films and commercials.

“Drive” is his fourth collaboration with Nicolas Winding Refn, having edited his features “Bronson” & “Valhalla Rising.” He is also credited with the BAFTA-winning “Housewife 49”, “Dr Who”, and the World War II submarine drama “The Sinking of the Laconia.”

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**DARRIN M. PRESCOTT** (Stunt Coordinator) has extensive experience, working on feature films and television series, for almost twenty years. He directs his stunt team to make their efforts either appear over-the-top or unnoticeable for the camera, depending upon the director’s preference.

Most recently, he's overseen the stunts for such features as "Faster," the sci-fi comedy "Paul," due out in theaters in February 2011, and the upcoming "Moneyball," starring Brad Pitt.

As stunt coordinator for the second unit portion of the "Bourne" movies, Prescott and his team were honored by SAG for the action sequences they created for the blockbuster film, "Bourne Ultimatum."

Other key stunt coordinating credits for Prescott include "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," "Hangover," "Public Enemies," and "Gamer." As a stunt performer, he worked on such blockbusters as "Independence Day," "The Matrix Reloaded," "The Matrix Revolutions," and "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," to name a few.



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## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

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Director Nicolas Winding Refn has been a major figure on the international film circuit since making his debut at the age of 24 with the gritty 1996 gangster pic *PUSHER*. In its technically brilliant and tonally sophisticated mix of black comedy, high tragedy and viscerally effective action, *Pusher* not only initiated a landmark trilogy in the crime genre—a franchise currently being remade in English by Vertigo Films—it also showcased the singular vision of Denmark's biggest break-out success since Lars von Trier. Refn's international reputation has since been buoyed by the critical acclaim and cult following that came in the wake of U.K. crossovers *BRONSON*, a bare-knuckled, convention-busting biopic of the infamous English criminal Charlie Bronson, which spotlighted a brilliant performance by Tom Hardy in the title role; and *VALHALLA RISING*, a muddy, bloody Medieval epic elevated to the level of religious art.

Based on Refn's past achievements, Ryan Gosling approached the director about a forthcoming adaptation of James Sallis' pared down, page-turning pulp novel *Drive*. Refn thought that the novel's Los Angeles setting and stunt-driver story line made for a particularly cinematic scenario, and he appreciated Sallis' breakneck narrative economy and signature brand of noir-ish existentialism shaded with sardonic humor. In the figure of the book's nameless protagonist (known only as Driver), Refn saw an opportunity to simultaneously deepen his dramatic interests and dramatically expand his audience.

“Driver flows into characters I put together for *BRONSON* and *VALHALLA RISING*,” says Refn. “These larger-than-life, ambiguously god-like figures. I'm very interested in the dark side of heroism, how that unstoppable drive and righteous adherence to a code above the average person's can shade into something that is quite psychotic.”

Though Ryan Gosling's early successes as a child actor and breakout role in *THE NOTEBOOK* had made him an extremely bankable talent, the actor has repeatedly eschewed conventionally commercial projects in favor of emotionally and technically demanding roles. With critically lauded performances in *THE BELIEVER*, *HALF NELSON* and *BLUE VALENTINE*, Gosling has proven himself to be one of his generation's most hardworking and ambitious young stars.

“I was really intrigued by the role of Driver because the performance demanded this very complex dramatic counterpoint,” Gosling explains. “On the one hand, he's really self-contained, really laconic. There's an economy of movement in the way he carries himself, an economy of words in the way he speaks. He keeps his cards close to his chest and there's an almost poker-faced inscrutability to his reactions. All of which ties into his character, because this is the kind of mechanical self-control he achieves in the flow-situation of driving. Nic kept saying to me, 'The Driver is half-man, half-machine.'”

“On the other hand,” Gosling continues, “Driver is literally psychotic, you know? A Travis Bickle, Taxi Driver-kind of character. Beneath all of that eerie outward calm, there is this reservoir of raging energy and hair-trigger violence. It's like when you're cruising in an automobile and the ride feels so smooth, so stable, so safe—then another car crosses your path. BAM. All that energy, all that mass-times-velocity momentum, is released in a flash of physical violence. And that's basically the character of Driver. He navigates around most obstacles with some very flawless trick-driving, literally and figuratively escaping without a scratch. But when the moment of impact unexpectedly

arrives, it is violent and it physically slams you. The challenge is making the audience feel that tightly-coiled energy when Driver is ticking along as smoothly as a stopwatch.”

“Ryan is a real rarity,” says Refn. “He has the charisma and good looks of a leading man and the gravity of a Method-trained, master class performer. For the role of Driver, the film needed an actor who could convey the explosive violence and emotional loneliness of that lone-wolf character, yet also make his personal transformation through love authentic and believable. Few movie stars have that range. Ryan is one of them.”

For the role of Irene, object of Driver's affection, Refn cast Oscar-nominated actress Carey Mulligan (AN EDUCATION, PUBLIC ENEMIES, WALL STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS). Mulligan had been a fan of BRONSON and VALHALLA RISING and had even mentioned to her agent that she wanted to work with a director like Refn, but it was only after she expressed interest in the script that she learned who was helping the project. Mulligan's enthusiasm was matched by Refn's, who immediately ordered small rewrites of Irene's backstory so he could cast Mulligan.

Mulligan explains her interest in the part: “Irene's character was a challenge because she's really the pivot point for the film's secondary plot, which is literally about the love triangle between her, Driver and Irene's husband Standard but dramatically is about where they'll all end up in the most meaningful sense. And it's not an easy decision for her! Driver certainly seems like Irene's knight in shining armor, but Standard is drawn very sympathetically, as someone who's made mistakes but is genuinely trying to turn his life around. Plus she's loved him since she was 17! So to be able to play those two impulses off of one another, especially after Standard and Driver form an uneasy alliance, gave me so much to work with.”

Says Refn: “Since I was a teenager, I've been a big fan of Sixteen Candles. I've always wanted to remake that film one way or another and, in a very unlikely way, I've done that in DRIVE. Carey has all the intelligence and charm of a young Molly Ringwald. The romantic scenes she has with Ryan make for a very delicate and beautiful contrast to the brutality in the rest of the film.”

Oscar Isaac, one of Hollywood's hottest up-and-coming headliners, was chosen for the role of Irene's ex-convict husband Standard. A classically trained Juilliard Graduate who first gained attention for his Shakespearean stage performances, Isaac broke through to mass-audience awareness with his villainous turn as King John in Ridley Scott's ROBIN HOOD. Vanity Fair called that performance a “spotlight stealing” act, but Isaac likes to think of himself as a team player. “DRIVE has such an amazing ensemble cast that it really humbled me to be a part of it,” he says. “Ryan and Carey have such chemistry on screen, there are times I found myself thinking, 'Heck, I'd dump me for Ryan too! And you probably could have guessed this, but Ron Perlman and Al Brooks are two of the funniest guys I've ever met. Watching them weave that humor into serious dramatic performances taught me a lot.”

The character of Shannon—Driver's one-man mechanic, agent and manager, as well as the closest thing he has to a friend—went to Bryan Cranston. Cranston first gained a cult following through his recurring roles on sitcoms like “Seinfeld,” “The King of Queens” and “How I Met Your Mother,” but his career took a turn towards more serious dramatic work with the starring role on the critically acclaimed cable drama “Breaking Bad,” a performance for which he's received three consecutive Emmy Awards. Says Cranston, “One of the things I love about classical film noir, which DRIVE is

similar to in a lot of ways, is how unforgettably vivid the supporting roles could be. Writers and directors would tuck these amazing little character studies into the margins of the film—figures who weren't necessarily heroic, or sympathetic, or even likable—and they'd cast the roles with distinctive character actors who made the scenes come alive. That's how I saw Shannon: he's this big dreamer who's come up short, someone whom Life has literally crippled, and his pathetic desperation is palpable in even his happiest scenes. I think the role as written is such an amazing little miniature, I loved tackling it.”

Recently named “Sexiest Woman in the World” by Esquire Magazine, Christina Hendricks is best known for her role as Joan Holloway on AMC's “Mad Men”. The iconically bold, brainy and busty character Hendricks created with Joan made her a natural to play Blanche, a flame-haired femme fatale who accompanies Driver on one of his heists. “I just loved that role,” Hendricks enthused. “Blanche seems so feminine and supple soft on the outside, but underneath she is as tough as nails. As soon as I got into wardrobe and started strutting around the set in Blanche's stilettos, punctuating every sentence with a POP of my bubble gum, I knew exactly how I wanted to play her. And Nic was great; he just turned me loose and let me tear it up!”

Ron Perlman (CITY OF LOST CHILDREN, HELLBOY, HELLBOY 2) had just as much fun in the role of the flamboyant and hot-headed gangster Nino. “I'm not gonna pretend that Nino wasn't a blast to play. I come into every scene chewing the scenery up and spitting it out, riffing on four-letter profanities like they're guitar solos!” he says, laughing. “And not just because I'm hamming it up, but because that's the character! It's called acting! And Nic really gives you the space to improvise and have fun with it, to really sell it, you know? Because he knows exactly what he wants from a scene and how he is going to cover it, he is able to give you lots of space for structured improvisation. As a performer I love that.”

With his gravelly Brooklyn accent and unmistakable mug, Perlman was practically born to play an outsized mafia boss. His character Nino makes for a dramatic contrast with Albert Brooks', here playing against type to great effect, as the deceptively friendly and low-key criminal Bernie Rose, whose outwardly harmless exterior conceals a deadly ruthlessness.

“Playing opposite Ron was a lot of fun, because our performances are on wavelengths that are as different as our characters,” says Brooks. “In the past I've played a lot of neurotic, nebbish types--smaller-than-life characters, so to speak. Casting me as a criminal heavy might initially seem like a conceptual joke, you know? And that's how Nic and I decided to play it at first, as if Bernie were Nino's smarter yet softer, weaker counterpart. But Bernie's character sneaks up on you. You don't realize how deadly he is until he's already slipped the shank in your side, and just at the moment when you went to shake his hand. The challenge of suggesting that underlying menace without playing the subtext in a really obvious way appealed to me.

“Bernie's carefully concealed but tightly-coiled violence is also what connects him to Driver,” Brooks continues. “There are similarities between Driver and Bernie that are really fascinating. Nic intuitively understands that in the best crime films, generally speaking, the hero and the villain are connected in a meaningful way--they have as much in common as they have differences. The affinities and parallels between the 'good guy' and the 'bad guy' are the means by which you explore more morally and psychologically complex material, elevating genre to the level of high drama.”

The dramatic substance of the film is matched by the formal and stylistic precision of Refn's direction. DRIVE's technically assured visual design creates striking juxtapositions between the gritty, low-rent locations of the story world and the hyper-real, high-gloss sheen of the shooting techniques. With its hypnotic tracking shots, striking camera angles and intense, almost artificial color and lighting effects, DRIVE has visual style to burn. The plastic stylization of the images is underscored by their careful synchronization with the Eurosynth-heavy soundtrack. Audiences sensitive to film form will appreciate DRIVE's mesmerizingly rhythmic montages of downtown L.A.

This careful coordination of sound and image is nowhere more apparent than in the car chase sequences. "I don't drive a car," Refn confesses. "I don't even have a license! But for me, there's a fetish element to cars I find very exciting. Not the particular brand or manufacture, per se, but the sounds of the engine and the felt speed."

"Each of the three car chase sequences are conceived and scored differently," Refn continues. "The first is like a chess match, a game of wits that requires Driver to keep his cool, and it has a very insinuating, slow-building techno score by Johnny Jewel. The second is a straight chase sequence, pure adrenaline. There's no score except for the primal roar of the engines and the squeal of breaks, and the soundtrack is all the more emphatic because it's preceded by a relatively hushed period of anticipation. The third sequence is a stalking one, a stealth attack, and it's played against the mysterious and unsettling sound of 'Oh My Love,' from the soundtrack of the early-70s exploitation film GOODBYE, UNCLE TOM."

The film uses violence sparingly but to great effect. "Violence works when it comes as a shock," says Refn. "Real violence is always over in a matter of seconds. Many films nowadays linger on the acts of violence in a somewhat pornographic way, but that ultimately defuses the effect. The film creates tension because the threat of violence is constant—you don't know when it's going to explode into the frame." The film also makes creative use of suggestion. One sequence has Driver dispatch a would-be killer by literally bashing in his head. "We see nothing but a few drops of blood splatter on his jacket," Refn points out, but the way the soundtrack progresses from dull thuds to the crackling of bone to the squishing sound of flesh conveys a greater sensation of violence than a less discrete presentation.

"There are moments of violence in the film, but they're handled tactfully, almost poetically," Producer Marc E. Platt says, "Drive will engage audiences on many levels. Nic takes the material seriously; he adds moral and thematic weight to what could have been a routine wide-release programmer. Instead of condescending to the genre elements, he elevates them to his own level; instead of spinning his wheels through formulaic car chases, he ambitiously re-energizes their style. DRIVE should please critics, fan-boys and casual audiences alike. It will certainly introduce Refn to the widest audience he's ever known."