

Andrew Simpson

Gwendoline Yeo

starring Don Swayze

An Orofino Production

What's left of the American Dream when everyone wants a piece?





PRESS KIT

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SYNOPSES



Brief Synopsis

In the Old West-lawmen, drifters, and hired guns converge on an isolated ranch, believing its Chinese owners possess stolen gold.

Synopsis

When two drifters hear rumors that a Chinese railroad worker has absconded with stolen gold and now owns a remote ranch in the wilds of Northern California, the desperate men put a plan into motion to steal the "Chinaman's gold" themselves—quickly, before other interested parties close in.

Saul, the younger of the drifters, uses his charm and his skill with horses to get hired on as a ranch hand, while his grizzled mentor Bill lurks in the shadows on the perimeter. To betray his new Chinese boss Zhen into revealing the treasure's location, Saul tries any trick he can think of, even playing on the sexual tension stirring between him and Zhen's beautiful wife, Kun Hua.

But the game has begun too late. One by one, other parties arrive: a group of mercenaries representing ruthless bankers, a shady gunman who might or might not be a federal marshal, and the racist local sheriff and his deputy—all have motives of their own. Saul finds himself up against far worse men than himself and is forced to shift plans and allegiances in a deadly multi-sided face-off of bluffs, gambles, and betrayals as he struggles to find the gold and come out alive.

His chances hinge on Kun Hua, who has motives of her ownbut as this austere yet seductive woman's actions lure the household dangerously closer to a bloodbath, Saul is forced to question: Who is betraying whom?

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

People always asks us: Why a western? Simply put, we wanted a gorgeous, rich-looking film that could be made on a budget, and western resources were what we had available. Yet, looking back, we realize that perhaps our first feature couldn't have been anything BUT a western. The making of an independent film is a grueling, soul-searching journey, and the natural "rough rider" spirit that permeated production through post-production was sometimes the only advantage we had. On the other hand, the minute we brought out guns, horses, and haunting landscapes, even the non-western fans among us felt the passions and excitements of our childhood imaginations rise up and take hold.

Set against the wilds of Northern California in 1871, HEATHENS & THIEVES is a timeless western in the broadest sense. Saul (Andrew Simpson) is a Civil War veteran turned drifter whose loyalty is tested on all sides. His world is full of guns, horses, gold and dubious lawmen, including his amoral but crafty and charismatic partner Bill (Richard Doyle). But in the vein of Double Indemnity and The Postman Always Rings Twice, we also wanted HEATHENS & THIEVES to be a finely nuanced noir mystery filled with memorable villains. Kun Hua (Gwendoline Yeo) is the ravishing femme fatale, the frontier wife of a Chinese man (Boyuen) who is just trying to live the American dream, and Don Swayze turns in a timeless character performance as the violent Union Colonel Sherman Rutherford. Even the isolated landscape imbues the story with a sense of intrigue, where alliances are broken and nothing is as it seems.

At its core, we feel that HEATHES & THIEVES is also a fresh, modern story. It treads the unfamiliar territory of the

Western Chinese-American experience, wrestling with issues of racism and disillusionment in a post-war era. It is at times violent and hard-hitting, pushing the envelope of political correctness through moments of exceptionally dark—and often uncomfortable—humor. The only thing that remains pristine is the landscape; we tried to make full use of the vast Northern California forests, mountains, and ranch lands that are rarely seen in the dusty saguaro cactus fantasies of Hollywood.

After nearly three years in the beautiful and dangerous Wild West of independent filmmaking, collaborating with the most incredibly talented cast and crew, we have finally finished this labor of love called HEATHENS & THIEVES. Whether or not you consider yourself a western fan, we hope that as you watch this story unfold you'll find that it reaches far beyond the generic studio experience—and that you'll feel that passion, intrigue, and excitement that only the lost West can stir.

[~]Megan Peterson & John Douglas Sinclair

KEY CAST BIOS



DON SWAYZE (Col. Sherman Rutherford) Don Swayze's career has spanned more than two decades of work in film and television. He has lent his talent to more than 30 films, appearing with other acting legends such as Garey Busey, Forest Whitaker, Lisa Kudrow and his older brother, Patrick Swayze. Don has also had numerous recurring roles in television, including work on CSI: Crime Scene Investigation; L.A. Law; Criminal Minds; The X-Files; NYPD Blue; Murder, She Wrote; Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman; Dragnet; and many others, including a recurring role in HBO's series True Blood as the werewolf Gus. One of his colleagues on the show described Don's performance as brilliant and irrepressible. "Don is fearless. He's absolutely fearless."



GWENDOLINE YEO (Kun Hua Hui) Nominated for a NAMIC best actress award as Sun Fu, Gwendoline Yeo was handpicked by Robert Duvall and Walter Hill to star in AMC's Emmy awardwinning western Broken Trail. Other film work includes The Jane Austen Book Club, A Day Without A Mexican, and The Magic Of Ordinary Days, among others. In TV, she got her break playing Eva Longoria's naughty maid Xiao-Mei on Desperate Housewives, seasons 2 and 3, for which Mark Cherry submitted her for an Emmy nomination. Her TV work includes recurring roles on 24, General Hospital, Gigantic, and Grounded For Life, and guest appearances on The Mentalist, Chuck, Hannah Montana, The Beast, Eli Stone, The OC, Judging Amy, Stand Off, Jag, and NYPD Blue.



ANDREW SIMPSON (Saul) Andrew Simpson's years of work in the theater have landed him leading and supporting roles in productions of Macbeth, The Tempest, Richard III, Dangerous Liaisons, Marat/Sade, Two Gentlemen of Verona, True West, and many others. He has increasingly begun to work in film and television, starring in the independent films Amleth: A Prequel, The Ballad of Cornelius Hell, and DreamLogik, among others. He is currently working on an adaptation of Cervantes' Don Quixote.

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RICHARD DOYLE (Bill) With a career spanning more than four decades, Richard Doyle has left an iconic trail of work on both the big and small screens, from Cheers and M*A*S*H to Air Force One and The Practice. Equally successful for his vocal stylings, his voice can be heard on a myriad of video games and animation series, including bestselling games like Ninja Gaiden, Justice League, and Wolverine and the X-Men. Richard is also a veteran of the theater world and a Founding Artist of South Coast Repertory. He is currently enjoying his 47th season as a principal cast member and has appeared in more than 200 professional theater productions.



BOYUEN (Zhen Hui) Boyuen's background in martial arts and dance led him to a film and television career, including roles on television dramas such as *The Good Guys, Las Vegas, Alias, NYPD Blue, Without a Trace, 24, Walker Texas Ranger,* and numerous film, commercial, and stage productions.



MICHAEL ROBERT BRANDON (Moses) Having graduated Summa Cum Laude from NYU, Michael Robert Brandon's musical abilities led him initially to set his ambitions on Broadway. However, his unique look and presence led him to a career in film and television, where he landed roles on shows such as Nip/Tuck, Carnivàle, Medium, and CSI: New York. Film roles include Break (with David Carradine), Jeffrey, No Man's Land: The Rise of Reeker, and the role of Frank Lawson in the upcoming feature Restitution, among others.



TOM PROCTOR (Sheriff Ashplant) In addition to years of acting in film and television, including everything from E.R. to Fear of Clowns 2, Tom Proctor has worked as either stunt double or stunt coordinator for numerous productions, including SLC Punk and Walker, Texas Ranger. His company, MadCat Movies, recently released the feature film The Road to Freedom and has several other films and television shows in development and production.



JESSE JAMES YOUNGBLOOD (Bronco) The arts of acting and stunts merge seamlessly through the intense physicality of Jesse James Youngblood. His work in both fields can be seen in numerous films including 300, Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End, Mexican Blood Bath, Flags of Our Fathers, Knuckleheads, and Lifetime original movie The Clinic, as well as notable television series such as Medium, True Blood, and Workaholics.



JOHN LORENZ (Paco) With a career encompassing screen and stage, John Lorenz can be seen in the film The Donner Party starring Crispin Glover, and the TV show Justified, and his theater roles include Anibal in Jose Rivera's Cloud Tectonics, Helicon in Albert Camus' Caligula, and Jerry in Edward Albee's The Zoo Story. He received his BFA in film studies from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and has performed at the Greek National Theatre Festival under the direction of Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka. John graduated from the Actor's Training Program at Solano Community College under the instruction of George Maguire and is a member of the Road Theatre Company.



CECILIE BULL (Pearl) is an actress born and raised in Norway. She has had starring roles in the feature films Escape From Darwin and Never Say Never Mind alongside John Rhys-Davies from The Lord of the Rings trilogy. Cecilie began her performance career at a young age as a dancer, but soon developed a love for theater. To pursue acting, she came to Los Angeles to study at USC and graduated with a BA in theater and a minor in film production. Her latest projects include Stanley DeBrock and Pizza with Bullets starring Vincent Pastore from The Sopranos.



<u>JOEL BERRY</u> (Deputy Clayborne) Actor, writer, producer, and director Joel Berry has amassed online audiences for his self-created series of characters, shows, commercials, and more, produced through his production company Sweet Tea Films.



ROY HALL JR. (Ed) Roy Hall Jr. is the traditional and elected Chairman of the Shasta Tribe and is Shasta/Cahuilla Indian. He lives in Siskiyou County, California, where his people have resided for 10,000 years. He is a natural horseman, trainer and farrier, and therapeutic equestrian instructor. Currently he is developing a herd of versatile, highly trained horses.

KEY CREW BIOS

PETER SCOTT (Producer) is the founder of management and production company Torque Entertainment. Peter's two decades in TV and film have garnered him experience in numerous critical aspects of the industry. Beginning with production work at Universal on shows like Coach, Peter moved on to talent powerhouse ICM as a literary department agent trainee, and later landed a creative executive position at a Universal-based production company where he developed feature films. From there he segued into a loftier position, serving as the director of development at Michelle Pfeiffer's Via Rosa Productions. Branching out on his own, Peter launched several entertainment industry businesses, including a screenwriting competition, a screenwriting consultation business, and his flagship company Torque Entertainment. His company Torque currently represents two directors, seven writers, and ninety-eight actors.

MEGAN PETERSON (Director) has been involved in features, television, and documentary filmmaking for more than a decade, having served in various capacities as director, writer and producer. While attending the University of Southern California's Cinema-Television MFA program, her foray into directing began under the tutelage of Robert Zemeckis (Forrest Gump, Back to the Future) and has branched out into multiple re-creation-based series around the world for networks like National Geographic, the Travel Channel, and Discovery. Her most recent endeavors include the breakout hit Auction Kings as well as the upcoming Sundance Channel series Ludo Bites America with celebrity chef Ludovic Lefebvre. Other notable directing accomplishments include a music video for VH-1 breakout artist Nya Jade that

garnered the attention of MTV's "Buzzworthy" with airtime on BET and VH1. In addition to co-directing *Heathens & Thieves*, Megan continues to collaborate with a number of other production companies, most notably Authentic Entertainment in Burbank.

JOHN DOUGLAS SINCLAIR (Writer/Director) is an award-winning writer and director living in Los Angeles. He received a Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, as well as First Place honors in the Screenwriting Expo, for his screenplay Split Infinity, written with Nova Jacobs. Previously, John took Grand Prize in the American Accolades screenwriting competition for his historical epic Black Bart, written with Marc Cebrian. With Jacobs, John wrote and directed a series of short films, of which Schrödinger's Cat won several awards on the festival circuit, including top prize at the Festival of Fantastic Films in Manchester, England. Sinclair wrote and directed the one-act stage play Taco for Grandma at Hollywood's Theatre of NOTE. He is co-author with Janet Bloor of the Thames & Hudson book Rubber: Fun, Fashion, Fetish.

PYONGSON YIM (Director of Photography) As a Los Angelesbased cinematographer, Pyongson Yim works in both television and film. Most recently, she has traversed America and abroad shooting shows for the Travel Channel, National Geographic, Discovery, and the Learning Channel, among many others. Two of the shows she has lensed took took top prizes at the Telly Awards, the Emmys of cable television. Pyongson has shot commercials for national broadcast as well as award-winning short films that have screened at festivals such as Cannes, Temecula, HDFest, and LA International Shorts. Her feature work has also screened at many festivals and enjoyed distribution via television and DVD. A graduate of USC's film school, Pyongson is currently working as a cinematographer on a feature drama as well as an independent documentary.

STEVEN RILEY (Executive Producer) has served as special effects and pyrotechnics coordinator and supervisor for many of the biggest films and directors in Hollywood, including Steven Spielberg, J.J. Abrams, and Clint Eastwood. His most recent credits include Super 8 and Eastwood's biopic on J. Edgar Hoover. Other credits include Gran Torino, Flags of Our Fathers, Letters from Iwo Jima, Million Dollar Baby, and Mystic River, as well as such blockbusters as The Aviator and Spider-Man, among countless others.

<u>DAVID POOLE</u> (Executive Producer) David Poole's years of work as special effects technician can be seen in a huge and ranging body of films, from Clint Eastwood's *Gran Torino*, Flags of Our Fathers, and Letters from Iwo Jima, to movies like Leatherheads, The Dukes of Hazzard, Lords of Dogtown, Face/Off, and David Lynch's Lost Highway, as well as many more.

MATTHEW MARCONI (Producer) wrote, produced, and directed the award-winning feature film *Truce* starring Buck Taylor (*Gunsmoke, Tombstone*). Truce won the bronze Wrangler Award for the Best Theatrical Motion Picture of 2006 at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. Matthew also recently wrote, produced, and directed the short film *Sally*.

JARED HAMAGUCHI (Creative Consultant) A ten-year veteran at Saatchi & Saatchi, L.A., conceptualizing and designing national brand and advertising campaigns for Toyota North America, Jared Hamaguchi also worked under former DreamWorks' art director Bill Perkins and production designer James Hegedus on Shrek and designed for Industrial Light & Magic, creating both collateral and merchandising for the production of Star Wars Episode 1.

KYLE PETERSON (Production Designer) A Northern California native, Kyle Peterson is currently a Los Angeles-based production designer and art director working in film

and television. Trained initially as a carpenter, his woodworking skills came in handy on his first feature, Heathens & Thieves, which required building and crafting an 1800s Western world. Since then, he has completed a wide range of genres and formats, from feature thrillers to television programming, including shows for Animal Planet. In addition to his extensive skills in carpentry, his passion for art and a degree in history have proved invaluable in his continued pursuits in production design. He is currently working on a feature comedy in Los Angeles.

ELAINE MONTALVO (Costume Designer) Elaine Montalvo's nearly 30 feature film credits include the winner of the 2002 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award, Real Women Have Curves; Chuck & Buck, winner of the Independent Spirit Award, Best Film 2000; and the drama American Gun starring film legend James Coburn and Virginia Madsen. Currently, Elaine's work can be seen on the hit Nickelodeon series Big Time Rush and in the summer release feature A Better Life directed by Chris Weitz (Twilight Saga: New Moon, About A Boy).

<u>DARRELL MITCHELL</u> (Production Sound) Darrell Mitchell, a Los Angeles-based sound mixer, has worked on multiple television series, movies, and various commercials and other media. He has sound-mixed in all four corners of the world, from Easter Island to the North Pole and war-torn Iraq, including projects for 20th Century Fox, NBC, ABC, PBS, Animal Planet, TLC, Country Music Television, Travel Channel, MTV, VH1, E!, Nova, and more.



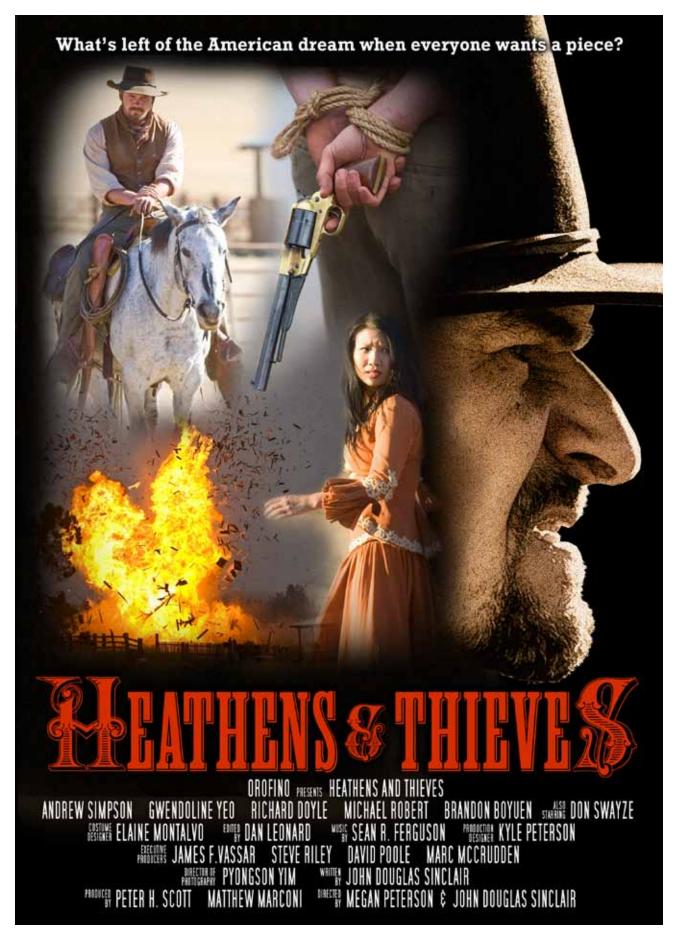


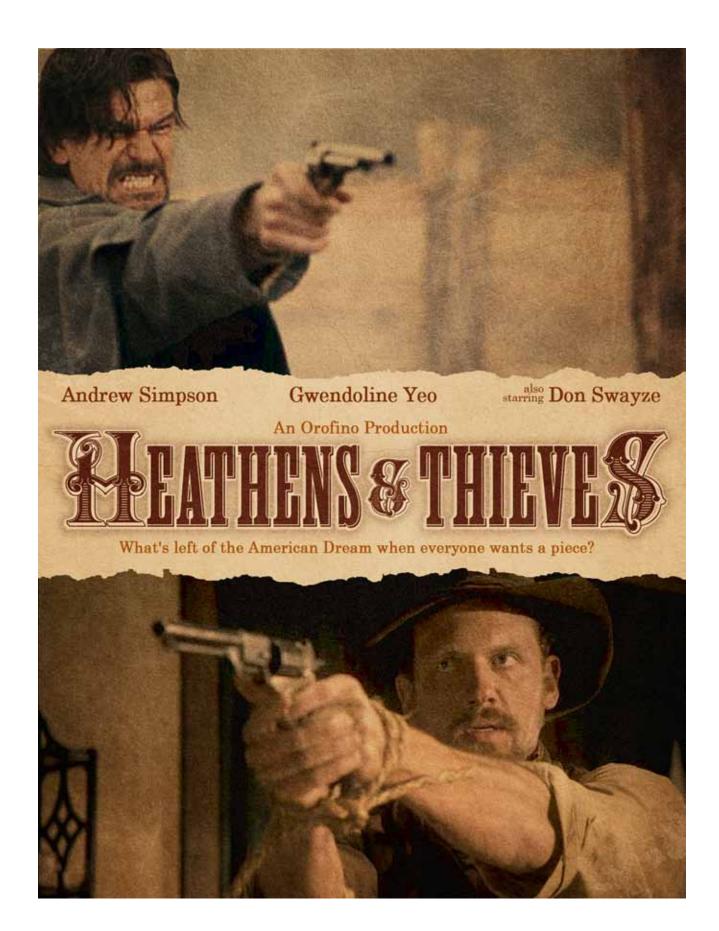














REATHENS & THIEVES









HEATHENS & THIEVES CAST

Saul ANDREW SIMPSON Kun Hua GWENDOLINE YEO Colonel Sherman Rutherford DON SWAYZE

Bi11 RICHARD DOYLE

Zhen BOYUEN

Εd

Moses MICHAEL ROBERT BRANDON

TOM PROCTOR Sheriff Ashplant

Bronco JESSE JAMES YOUNGBLOOD

JOHN A. LORENZ Paco

Deputy Clayborne JOEL PATRICK BERRY

Pear1 CECILIE BULL ROY HALL JR.

Saloon Singer JJ LEWIS-NICHOLS BERNARD DOWLING Mercenary 1 Mercenary 2 JOSH TESSIER Saloon Waif ANNA CASTELAZ

Baby Katie KATIE BILLINGS KAYLEE TAN

Blacksmith JOHN HAMMOND Bar Patrons NED NICHOLS

HOWARD LEONARD KEITH TAYLOR TERRY WEEKLEY ROY HALL SR.

Street Urchins CODY SHICK KYLE SHICK

HEATHENS & THIEVES CREW

Directed by MEGAN PETERSON &

JOHN DOUGLAS SINCLAIR
Written by

JOHN DOUGLAS SINCLAIR

Produced by PETER H. SCOTT

MATTHEW MARCONI

Director of Photography PYONGSON YIM

Executive Producers JAMES F. VASSAR

STEVEN RILEY
DAVID POOLE
MARC MCCRUDDEN

Co-Producers EDGAR MARTINEZ SCHULZ

DANIELLE E. SHERROD

LAURA TRISNADI ALEXANDRA WONG

Production Designer

Edited by

Creative Consultant Music by

Costume Designer

First Assistant Director Production Supervisor

Production Managers

Second Assistant Director Second 2nd Assistant Director KYLE PETERSON DANIEL LEONARD

JARED HAMAGUCHI

SEAN R. FERGUSON ELAINE MONTALVO

ELAINE MONIALVO

TONY BECERRA
MERRY CHEN

ANNA WISNIEWSKI

DANA CONLEY

HOWARD ROSELL JORDAN WINGROVE Associate Producers BEN HOLSTEIN

KEELY GRIGEL TAYLER LONG

Script Supervisors MARCIA MUNT

DAVID MONTERO

Art Directors ERICA HEADLEY

Set Decorator Lead Buyer

Set Dresser Onset Dresser ABIGAIL POTTER
ERICA HEADLEY
REED JOHNS
JAMES BIANCA
REED JOHNS

Art Deptartment Assistant CLAUDIA CRACIUN
Graphic Artist BRADY ERICKSON

Storyboard Artist JARED ROGNESS

Camera Operators BJ GOLNICK

CALVIN CALLAWAY

DAN HAAS

Additional Camera WARREN SHULTZ
First Assistant Camera JOSEPH SEGURA
Second Assistant Camera TAMARA WARD

Additional Assistant Camera ALFRED FELIX ESPINO

Second Unit Director TOM PROCTOR
Second Unit DP CALVIN CALLAWAY

Still Photographer BARRY GUTIERREZ
Additional Photographer SEQUOIA PETTENGELL

Gaffers AARON TORRES MATTHEW WALTZ

Best Boy Electrics ERRIN CONNORS
ALEX GORDON

Electricians LARRY PENLAND MARK URSETTA

Company Grips MARK WILLIAM BASSETT

MATT MULCAHEY
CORRIN HODGSON
LEVI ANDERSON
SAM WHITMAN
KIM WILBER
ALAN STEPP
ALEX EPICHOFF

Sound Mixer DARRELL MITCHELL
Boom Operators FRANK OWENS
T.E. PETERSON

Makeup Department Head CHARLOTTE SCOVILL
Key Makeup Artists CHARLOTTE SCOVILL

BEATRICE NAJERA CAROL OCHOA

Key Hair Stylist TANA TRICARICHI
Assistant Hair Stylist CAROL OCHOA

Costume Supervisor CHE HURLEY
Set Costumer ANNA CASTELAZ

Property Masters TESSA FAULKNER
JILLIAN BUNTING

Media Manager KEELY GRIGEL

Assistant Media Manager ALFRED FELIX ESPINO

Specialty Props CREATURE EFFECTS

Stunt Coordinator TOM PROCTOR
Assistant Stunt Coordinator JOSH TESSIER

Special Effects Coordinator RYAN A.RILEY
Special Effects Consultant TOM FISHER

Armorers AL FRISCH

MICHAEL BRAIWICK

Horse Wranglers ROY HALL, JR.
MONICA HALL
Assistant Wranglers INDIGO MACK

JUDY MCNAMES

AHS Representative BARBARA CARR

Studio Teacher BARBRA RUBIN

Historic Consultants CAROLYN WING-GREENLEE

LUCKY OWYANG

GAIL FIORINI-JENNER VIRGINIA LAUSTALOT

Extras Casting JJ LEWIS-NICHOLS

Key Set Production Assistant ANDREW COSBIE
Set Production Assistants BRETT RUSSELL

BRETT RUSSELL
MEAGAN BERNABE
ERIK BARNUM
MARC LANDER
XUE PAN

JACOB SCHATZ
SAM WHITMAN
RUBEN QUINONES
CRYSTAL CURRY

Key Office Assistant JESSE KROMPIER
Office Production Assistants ANGELA MAZZEI

JASON PANGILINAN
DANIELLE YAMAMOTO
SUZANNE BINKERHOFF
NATHAN ISRAILEFF

Office Production Assistants

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Construction Coordinators

BERNARD DOWLING CHRISTIAN PETERSON

Carpenters

JAMES BIANCA
JASON DAVIS
SMOKEY DOWLING
OLIVER DOWLING
EBEN DREWS
PJ GORDON
BOB HALL
CARL HALL
ROY HALL SR.
MATTHEW JENNER
NICK JENNER

Carpenters INDIGO MACK

SKY MCKINLEY
ELI PERLMAN
JULIA PERLMAN
T.E. PETERSON
ALAN STEPP
CRAIG THOMPSON
STEVE YOUNG
JEFF YURKOVICH

Drivers BILL BIRCH

KIM WILBER

Set Medic VICKIE CURRY

Catering PATRICIA PETERSON

GAIL FIORINI-JENNER

XUE PAN

POST PRODUCTION

Sound Designers CODY PETERSON MATT SCHWARTZ

Supervising Sound Editor PETER D. LAGO
Sound Effects Editors STEVEN AVILA
ALEXANDER PUGH

ALEXANDER PUGH
Dialogue Editor BRIAN S.M. WROTH
ADR Editor BEN WHITVER
ADR Mixer DOUG LATISLAW
Re-Recording Mixer TRIP BROCK

Recordists STEVEN UTT
OWEN PETERSON

Foley Artists IAN CLARK-DAUGHERTY

THOMAS OUZIEL AMY SCHWARTZ NATHAN WHITCOMB Re-Recorded At MONKEYLAND AUDIO, INC.

Visual Effects COLLAZO VERSACE

Assistant Editors ALFRED FELIX ESPINO

ERIC STOHLER
Post Production Assistant PAUL BAILEY

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FORT JONES MUSEUM HERITAGE AUCTION

GALLERIES

Digital Colorist TASHI TRIEU
Online Editor JUSTIN LUTSKY

Music Scoring Mixer ISAIAH ABOLIN
Cellos ISABEL CASTELLVI

JESSIE MARINO

Violas BRIAN LINDGREN

VICTOR LOWRIE GREGORY CHUDZIK

Bass GREGORY CHUD:
French horns EVAN GEIGER

AARON KORN

Alto flute SOPHIA SAUNDERS-JONES

Er-hu TODD LOW

Percussion PAUL GREENHAW

"A Man Would Know"
Written By Sean R. Ferguson & John Douglas Sinclair
Performed by JJ Lewis-Nichols

"Love's Lament in Mid-Autumn" Traditional/arranged by Sean R. Ferguson Performed by Sean R. Ferguson

"Leçons de ténébres pour le mercredi Saint a deux voix" Written by François Couperin Arranged by Sean R. Ferguson Performed by Sean R. Ferguson, Abigael Upton Brown, Eric S. Brenner