

EMMY Award Nominee  
JASON RITTER

Young Hollywood Award Winner  
EMMANUELLE CHRIQUI

Golden Globe Winner  
JAMES BROLIN

Academy Award Winner  
CHRISTINE LAHTI

Like it or not... family happens.

# the STEPS



"THE STEPS BRINGS NEW LIFE TO THE  
DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY COMEDY."  
- Indiewire

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**tiff.** toronto  
international  
film festival



See [www.the-steps.com](http://www.the-steps.com) for more info  
SEYDL INTERNATIONAL, BLUE ICE PICTURES in ASSOCIATION WITH PICTURES PRESENTS A PATRICIA CLAFFE PRODUCTION "THE STEPS"  
JASON RITTER EMMANUELLE CHRIQUI JAMES BROLIN BENJAMIN ATTORIS STEVEN MACKAY KATE CORRETTI AND VINNY VEDMAN in CHRISTINE LAHTI  
PATRICIA CLAFFE AND JACQUELINE GROSSER RILEY ANDREW LITVINOFF AND TODDY KID BROWN "ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGNER" AND "DRESS DESIGNER" ANDREW SCHMANN, CSC  
JOSHUA WALKER SENE ANNE CLARE VILLENEUVE ROBIN HARTUNG NEW THEATRE "PRODUCTION DESIGNER" ANDREW BRUCE CAROL BROWN JASON JAMES ANDREW CLAFFE  
TELEFON "PRODUCTION OFFICE" ANDREW CLAFFE

RATING PENDING

A Film by  
ANDREW CURRIE

# THE STEPS

Starring  
JASON RITTER  
EMMANUELLE CHRIQUI  
JAMES BROLIN  
CHRISTINE LAHTI  
VINAY VIRMANI

RUNNING TIME: 98 mins  
SHOOTING FORMAT: Digital  
ASPECT RATIO: 2:35  
PICTURE: Colour  
SOUND: 5.1  
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: English  
SUBTITLES: No  
RATING: Pending

## THE STEPS

### Logline

Giving 'dysfunctional family' a whole new twist.

### Synopsis

An uptight New Yorker and his party girl sister visit their Dad's lake house to meet his new wife and her rough-around-the-edges kids prompting a clash of cultures quickly descending into chaos. When the “step” parents announce they are also adopting a child to bring this “family” together, lingering bitterness and current disappointments wreak havoc as these strangers slowly, and hilariously, figure out how to perhaps become a family.

### Quotes:

"*The Steps* brings new life to the dysfunctional family comedy." – Indiewire

"Riotous comedy... Featuring a brilliant ensemble cast led by James Brolin and Oscar-winner Christine Lahti" – The Peach Review

"★ ★ ★. *The Steps* is a cute and charming comedy... many moments of tenderness. There is a certain light and sweetness at play." – Scene Creek

"It got big laughs at Whistler. *The Steps* was a perfect example of how a familiar story, when told well, can feel new. The casting, both in how they inhabit their own characters as well as how they interact with the others, is bang on." – Assholes Watching Movies

### Festivals:



## THE STEPS

### Andrew Currie – Writer.Director.Producer



Andrew was a founding partner in Anagram Pictures (MILE ZERO, ELIJAH, THE DELICATE ART OF PARKING, FIDO.) He graduated with a film degree from Simon Fraser University, and completed the Director's residency at the Canadian Film Centre in 1997. After a series of award winning shorts, he made the critically acclaimed drama MILE ZERO, (2001) winning awards around the world. He then directed and co-wrote the popular and subversive zombie comedy, FIDO (Lionsgate) starring Carrie Anne Moss, Billy Connolly and Tim Blake Nelson. FIDO had its world premiere at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival, then played numerous other festivals including the 2007 Sundance Film Festival, Gerardmer in France, Sitges in Spain, Karlovy Vary, the AFI, and many others). FIDO won numerous awards, and sold in nearly every country around the world. FIDO is currently being developed as a TV series with Lionsgate, and as a Broadway Musical with Producer Gerald Goehring. Other directing credits for Andrew, include the CTV TV movie SLEEP MURDER starring Jason Priestley and Natar

Ungalaaq), and TWISTEERIA, a ½ hr Gemini-nominated comedy for YTV. As a feature film producer Andrew's credits include THE DELICATE ART OF PARKING and most recently LAWRENCE & HOLLOWMAN, which won Best Comedy Feature at the 2014 Canadian Comedy Awards. Andrew has just produced and directed his latest feature THE STEPS a comedy/drama written by Robyn Harding and starring Jason Ritter, James Brolin, Christine Lahti, Emmanuelle Chriqui, Vinay Virmani, Steven McCarthy, Kate Corbett, and Benjamin Arthur.



### Robyn Harding – Writer

Vancouver-based writer, Robyn Harding, wrote the screenplay for the feature film, "The Steps", produced by Quadrant Motion Pictures. She has several film and television projects in development.

Harding is the author of the novels "The Journal of Mortifying Moments", "The Secret Desires of a Soccer Mom", "Unravelling" and "Chronicles of a Midlife Crisis". She has also written an award winning Young Adult novel, "My Parents Are Sex Maniacs... A High School Horror Story" and a critically acclaimed memoir, "Mom, Will This Chicken Give Me Man Boobs? My Confused, Guilt-Ridden and Stressful Struggle to Raise a Green Family".

## CAST BIOS

### **Jason Ritter**

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Jason Ritter is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he studied at the Atlantic Theatre Company. He also studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. Ritter most recently starred in *GHOST STORIES: THE SHAWL & PRAIRIE DU CHIEN*, a new collection of short plays written by David Mamet and produced by the Atlantic Theater Company.

Ritter starred on NBC's critically acclaimed "Parenthood" as Lauren Graham's love interest and can currently be seen as a recurring character on HBO's "Girls" and the Comedy Central series "Another Period." Ritter will next be seen in the feature film "The Steps" and was last seen in the Jesse Zwick directed film "About Alex". Other recent feature credits include "Hits," by David Cross, "Seven Minutes," directed by Jay Martin and "You're Not You," directed by George C. Wolfe.

Ritter's other film credits include: "Wild Canaries," "Good Dick," "The Education of Charlie Banks," "Our Very Own," "Happy Endings," "Mumford," and "Raise Your Voice." Other television credits include series regular roles on "The Event", "The Class" and "Joan of Arcadia."

Ritter starred as the title character in the Lincoln Center production of Wendy Wasserstein's "Third," directed by Daniel Sullivan. His additional theater credits include the Off-Broadway production of Tom Donaghy's "The Beginning of August" and the role of 'Tim' in the world premiere of Neil LaBute's play "The Distance from Here" at London's Almeida Theatre, directed by David Leveaux.

## Emmanuelle Chriqui

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EMMANUELLE CHRIQUI has made her mark in a variety of roles in television and film. Chriqui currently stars on TNT's crime drama series "Murder In The First" opposite Taye Diggs and Kathleen Robertson. This spring, she starred as Herodia in National Geographic's miniseries "Killing Jesus." On the big screen, Chriqui recently reprised her role as Sloan in the film adaptation of the HBO hit series "Entourage." Other recent feature credits include Fort Bliss alongside Michelle Monaghan, C'est Complicque opposite Manu Payet, Three Night Stand with Sam Huntington, and The Steps

opposite Jason Ritter.

Chriqui starred with Adam Sandler in Columbia Pictures' comedy You Don't Mess with the Zohan, with Adrien Brody in Cadillac Records, Steve Buscemi in the independent film Saint John of Las Vegas and Rupert Friend in Renny Harlin's 5 Days of War. She was also seen in director Sebastian Gutierrez's comedy Elektra Luxx.

After six seasons as Sloan in the HBO comedy series "Entourage" opposite Kevin Connolly, Chriqui appeared opposite Simon Baker in CBS's successful drama series, "The Mentalist." She went on to star and executive produce "Cleaners," a crime-action series for Sony Pictures Television's online video network, Crackle, which also features David Arquette and Emily Osment. Her other TV credits include "The Borgias," a period drama with Jeremy Irons, and recurring roles on both "The O.C." and HBO's "Unscripted," a series from George Clooney and Steven Soderbergh. Chriqui also lends her voice to the role of Cheetara in "THUNDERCATS," Cartoon Network's reimagining of the popular 80's cartoon, and to the role of Paige in "TRON: Uprising."

In addition to film and television, Chriqui made her debut on the New York stage in Love, Loss and What I Wore, an Off-Broadway play written by Nora and Delia Ephron.

Emmanuelle is involved in several philanthropic efforts. Along with Robin Wright, Emile Hirsch and Joel Madden, she has helped launch raisehopeforcongo.org with respected humanitarian John Prendergast. In addition, she is on the Young Hollywood Board for the Environmental Media Association and continues her active role as a spokeswoman for Colon Cancer Canada. Other ventures include collaborations with Baume and Mercier.

## James Brolin

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Golden Globe and Emmy Award-winning actor JAMES BROLIN is among the entertainment industry's most popular stars, with acting and directing credits that range from comedy and drama, to big scale action-adventure. His work runs the gamut from studio blockbusters to prestigious independent projects.

His early start in film began with his own darkroom at 10-years-old and soon developed toward shooting 8mm motion pictures by the time he was a teenager. At the age of 20, he made his motion picture debut as a contract player with Twentieth Century Fox in *Take Her, She's Mine*. Roles followed in *Dear Brigitte*, *John Goldfarb*, *Our Man Flint*, a breakthrough role opposite Frank Sinatra in *Von Ryan's Express* and a starring role opposite Jacqueline Bisset in a *Cape Town Affair*.

Brolin next moved to MGM in more starring feature film roles, among them *Skyjacked*, *Capricorn One* and *WestWorld*. Next he starred in *The Amityville Horror*, followed by Universal's cult film *The Car* and *Gable and Lombard*, where he portrayed legendary film star Clark Gable as well as Allison Anders' hit drama *Gas Food Lodging*.

While Brolin has proved his versatility in all genres, he is most widely recognized for his starring roles in the critically acclaimed ABC television dramas, *Hotel* and *Marcus Welby M.D.* for which he earned both the Emmy and Golden Globe awards for best supporting actor and best actor. Brolin other television work includes ABC's *Trapped*, the CBS mini-series *And the Sea Will Tell* and *Christmas with Tucker* which became the Hallmark channel's highest rated film ever. *The Reagan's* earned Brolin another Emmy and Golden Globe nomination, for most Outstanding Lead Actor in a Mini-Series or Movie.

Brolin's feature film work includes Steven Soderbergh's *Traffic* and Steven Spielberg's *Catch Me If You Can*; followed by a commanding role in the Denzel Washington directed *Antwone Fisher*, and *A Guy Thing* starring opposite Julia Stiles, Jason Lee and Selma Blair. He rejoined Blair in *The Alibi* and appeared in *The Hunting Party* with Richard Gere.

Brolin's upcoming film projects include Universal's comedy *Sisters* with Brolin playing the father of Amy Poehler and Tina Fey. Brolin also stars opposite Christine Lahti as newlyweds who plan a gathering to introduce their separate children in *The Steps*.

Also upcoming, CBS' new series *Life in Pieces*, centers on one family via stories told by its different members. Brolin will portray patriarch John Short, who is going through a crisis as he approaches his 70th birthday. Rounding out the clan are Thomas Sadoski (*The Newsroom*), Betsy Brandt (*Breaking Bad*), Colin Hanks (*Fargo*) and, as the family matriarch, Dianne Wiest.

Brolin's love of film is boundless, and he and his wife Barbra are always planning the next movie... whether watching them or making them. They both are true cinema devotees, always learning more, and always wanting to please others with their craft.

## Benjamin Arthur

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From a young age, Benjamin Arthur knew that he was destined to perform. He enrolled in musical theatre and improv classes, later going on to complete an intensive acting program at The Vancouver Film School. Following VFS, Benjamin spent five years studying the Meisner technique at “A Company of Rogues Acting Studio,” finding a mentor in Christianne Hirt.

Benjamin garnered critical acclaim in his starring role as ‘Josh Blecher’ in Mark McKinney’s HBO Canada sitcom *LESS THAN KIND*, opposite the late Maury Chaykin. His work on the show earned him five Leo nominations, three of which he won, alongside two Gemini nominations and one win. On top of those awards, he and the cast of *LESS THAN KIND* received three Canadian Comedy Awards for “Best Ensemble” and a Gemini award for “Best Show.” In 2010, Benjamin hosted the Leo Awards, and in 2012 he co-hosted the British Columbia Film Society’s Academy Awards Party.

Benjamin also appeared in the third installment of The American Pie series *AMERICAN REUNION*, opposite Seann William Scott. On the big and small screens, he has further appeared in *THE L WORD*, *WHISTLER*, *THE MOVIE OUT HERE*, *SAVING HOPE*, and *HANG-LOOSE* (which he wrote and produced), among others.

Receiving further acclaim, Benjamin most recently starred in the NBC half-hour comedy series *WORKING THE ENGELS*, portraying a petty criminal with a heart of gold who would do anything for his sisters and his mother (played by Andrea Martin). This past winter, Benjamin shot the upcoming feature film *THE STEPS* which also stars Emmanuel Chriqui, Jason Ritter, and James Brolin; and recently wrapped filming the highly anticipated feature, *ONE DROP*, from director Tricia Lee.

## Steven McCarthy

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Steven McCarthy is an award-winning actor, musician, theatre and filmmaker whose work has been seen across Canada and around the world. In 2009 he founded Candles are for Burning, a production company dedicated to making rock 'n roll like it's theatre, and theatre like it's rock 'n roll. *Revisited*, a play he co-created, toured nationally and internationally to great acclaim and garnered awards nationwide. After graduating from the prestigious National Theatre School, Steven went on to create a series of genre-bending productions and in 2010 he was awarded the Best

Director Award for his production of *Bliss* at the Summerworks festival. Notable works include directing and designing a guerrilla theatre treatment of Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love* in a downtown art gallery, translating the hit quebecois play *5 Visages pour Camille Brunelle*, directing the Toronto



premiere of Neil Labute's *Reasons to be Pretty* and starring in *Necessary Angel's* controversial *Andromache*, a world premiere at the LuminaTO Festival.

The *ElastoCitizens*, the 10-piece funk rock band for which Steven is the lead singer and co-founder, released their second disc, *Ep*, to coincide with the premiere of their feature film *Picture Day* at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival. Their dazzling, high-energy stage-shows have made them a cult favourite on the Toronto music scene. Steven's newest project, *Monster*, is a dance-punk 4-piece band in the tradition of *Death from Above* or *LCD soundsystem*.

Steven continues to play leading roles in films for Miramax, Dreamworks, and Columbia Tri-Star and his most recent film, *Kate Melville's* award-winning *Picture Day* opened to great acclaim at 2012's Toronto International Film Festival. He played a recurring role in Oscar-winning director, Guillermo del Toro's new television series, *The Strain* and plays a leading role alongside Christine Lahti and Jason Ritter in Andrew Currie's newest feature, *The Steps*. He recently completed production on his first short film, "o negative" a darkly erotic meditation on the vampire myth which he wrote and directed and in which he stars alongside Alyx Melone.

## **Kate Corbett**

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Kate Corbett was born and raised on the east coast of Canada in small town - Holyrood, Newfoundland. She started acting in repertoire summer theatre at a very young age. Once graduating high school, Kate moved to Toronto, Ontario to study theatre at Ryerson University. She continued her training years later at the Canadian Film Centre's Acting Conservatory. Corbett's feature film credits include two Toronto International Film Festival film selections, *Empire of Dirt* (2013) and *The Animal Project* (2013); as well as *Barn Wedding* (2014) and *How to Be Deadly* (2014). Kate has also starred in several

short films, including *How Eunice Got Her Baby* (2009) and *The Tunnel* (2013) which she also holds the credit as writer.

Television credits include: *Fargo* (FX/MGM), *Lost Girl* (Showcase/SyFy), *Signed Sealed Delivered* (Hallmark), *Odd Squad* (PBS), *Republic of Doyle* (CBC), *Satisfaction* (CTV), *Call Me Fitz* (E1), *The LA Complex* (CTV), *InSecurity* (CBC) and *Family Biz* (YTV). Recent theatre credits include; a "Canadian Stage" english premiere production of "Yukonstyle" by Sarah Berthiaume and directed by Ted Witzel. As well as, a Toronto and Newfoundland "Tarragon Theatre/RCA" production of "Rocking the Cradle" by Des Walsh and directed by Richard Rose. See Kate in the upcoming feature film; *The Steps* (2015) directed by Andrew Currie.

## Vinay Virmani

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Vinay Virmani was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. A business graduate from York University, he then went on to study filmmaking and theatre at the prestigious Lee Strasberg Institute of Theatre and Film in New York.

Vinay made his feature film debut as an actor/writer with the Canadian hit, “Breakaway” (2011). The film became the highest grossing English language Canadian film of that year.

Vinay’s latest film was the social comedy “Dr. Cabbie” (2014), that charmed audiences across the country. Apart from acting and writing, Vinay ventured into producing with this film.

Vinay is currently in the process of developing a television adaptation of “Dr. Cabbie” with eOne Television and will be seen next in Director Andrew Currie’s “The Steps”.

Apart from his career in the entertainment business, Vinay devotes a lot of his time travelling to schools talking to students and takes part in many social causes through his charity Heroes For Humanity.

## Christine Lahti

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Festival.

No one would view Christine Lahti’s more than 30-year career with anything less than the utmost esteem. She earned her first Oscar nomination in 1985’s “Swing Shift” then took the statue home 10 years later as a first-time director for her short film “Lieberman in Love.” In 1998 after multiple nominations, Lahti won both the Emmy and her second Golden Globe Award – the TV movie “No Place Like Home” was the first – for her portrayal of Dr. Kathryn Austin on “Chicago Hope.” Three years later her feature film directorial debut “My First Mister” opened the 2001 Sundance Film

Lahti recently shot a lead role in Andrew Currie’s upcoming independent feature “The Steps.” She was last seen opposite Kristin Wiig and Hailee Steinfeld in “Hateship Loveship”, which had its premiere at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival. Additional film credits include Sidney Lumet’s “Running on Empty” for which she received the 1998 LA Film Critics Award as well as a Golden Globe nomination, “Leaving Normal” directed by Ed Zwick,” “The Doctor” with William Hurt, Bill Forsyth’s “Housekeeping,” which was voted one of the 20 best films of 1987 by many of America’s film critics,

“Whose Life is it Anyway?” and “...and Justice for All.”

On the TV front, Lahti was most recently seen as Doris McGarrett in CBS’s “Hawaii Five-O” and also portrayed ADA Sonya Paxton in a recurring role on Law & Order: SVU. Her most notable work on the small screen was a starring role on the critically acclaimed series “Jack & Bobby,” for which she received both SAG and Golden Globe nominations. She has also starred in numerous television movies including “Amerika,” (Emmy & Golden Globe nomination), Showtime’s “Out of the Ashes,” “The Pilot’s Wife,” “Open House,” and “The Book of Ruth among others.

A highly esteemed thespian, Lahti last graced the New York stage with her performance in The Culture Project’s 10th anniversary production of “The Exonerated” alongside Marg Helgenberger and Martin Short. Prior to that, she starred with Morgan Freeman in the Broadway debut of Dustin Lance Black’s play “8”, a staged reenactment of the federal trial that overturned California’s Prop 8 ban on same-sex marriage. She also joined the cast of the Tony Award-winning play “God of Carnage,” replacing Marcia Gay Harden in the role that would later be portrayed by Jodie Foster in the 2011 film adaptation by Roman Polanski. Her theatrical endeavors have been equally successful in Los Angeles, with a Drama Desk-nominated role in “Three Hotels” as well as a month long stage run at the Geffen playhouse in Nora and Delia Ephron’s critically acclaimed Love, Loss, and What I Wore.

### Director's Statement

Every movie I've ever made, including my shorts films, have contained themes that are universal to all families. I'm passionate about stories that are about how we get along as human beings, or don't get along – and how that changes our perspective on life, and often our path in life. THE STEPS is a comedy-drama about two families, one emotionally disconnected, and the other biologically disconnected, coming together over a weekend in an attempt to bond over a new step child. As the weekend unfolds, and conflicts begin, we start to realize that nearly all the characters are denying or avoiding something in their past, which is affecting their lives in the present, whether they accept it or not (or even notice for that matter). The theme of not being able to truly move forward in life when there's something in your past that you're not dealing with, is really at the heart of THE STEPS.

Our central protagonist is Jeff (Jason Ritter), a stock broker living in New York. He grew up under the long shadow of a successful, powerful, but very distant father. This father and son relationship is key to the entire movie. How they resolve their past is ultimately what changes them, and everyone else in the family. Ed Stabler (James Brolin) was a man who put all his energy, and values into his work, and very little into his two children. Jeff's sister Marla (Emmanuelle Chriqui) dealt with her father's emotional distance by rejecting him, and all responsibility in her life. Jeff on the other hand, both idolized and was intimidated by his father, and tried to emulate him. He followed in Ed's footsteps, entering the aggressive world of Wall Street. But, this didn't change Jeff's relationship with his father, and unlike his father, Jeff's career path took an unexpected turn. He made mistakes, he damaged his career, and he became persona non grata on Wall Street. And this is where our film begins. Jeff's world has crumbled around him, but he's living in denial. He's lost his job, his fiancée, and most of his self esteem. But his inability to admit, or even face the truth about his life, causes him to cover up his failures by lying in order to convince people around him that he's still a success. I find Jeff's character fascinating. He internalizes a lot, and that makes him a character that's harder to connect to in the beginning. His "likability" is something I struggled with as a director, but ultimately it's a more honest approach to his character, and watching him evolve and change through the film, and see that change in action, is one of the film's biggest strengths.



For me, the best films always have a strong tonal integrity. Where the mood and feel is maintained throughout, from the design of the world, to the way the camera moves, and especially to the performances. I've always admired director's like David O. Russell and Alexander Payne for their great ability not only to create a perfect tone, but to balance humour, heart and depth as well. When it comes to comedy-dramas, the balance between the two is really critical. I think the best comedy is always

relatable to us as real people, in the real world, and comes from characters we really believe and can relate to, regardless of the situation they're in. It doesn't matter if they're in a more extreme situation than most people would find themselves, if it's grounded in the real world, and authentic, then it's something we can personally connect to. Then when more dramatic moments happen, they also feel more real, because we're connecting to the story through these grounded characters.



Most of the *THE STEPS* takes place at an idyllic lake house. The setting is great, as it's a strong contrast to Jeff's world in the city. It's a place of tranquility and natural beauty, which becomes an ironic backdrop to the conflict that comes up between the two families, as they struggle with the idea of an extended one. I wanted the landscape to help define and express the characters. So while Jeff is outside trying to get reception on his cell phone, he's unaware of his surroundings. Whereas Marla comes outside and is deeply affected by the same landscape that Jeff doesn't even notice.

We shot the movie in the wider 2.39 format. I did this for several reasons. *THE STEPS* is an ensemble film, so I wanted to be able to hold more than one or two characters in the same frame. With the wider format, you can hold three, four, or more characters in a fairly tight shot, which is great. Also, I love having the reaction of one character to another held within the same shot. It often makes the moment funnier, because you're not cutting away to another shot, so the audience is kept more in the perspective of actually being there in the moment - which also makes us feel more connected to the characters.



As a director, I keep things as real as possible. I can't stand saccharine moments, or plot driven devices. Instead I try and focus on the reality of the characters. If the character wouldn't do something, then they shouldn't do something just to force a story point. We made sure that the script didn't have any obvious issues like that before we shot. It meant a longer development time for the script, but I think it's a better movie because of it. I really believe in the idea that character drives story.

The character driven comedy-dramas I love (*Sideways*, *The Silver Linings Playbook*, *You Can Count on Me*), have a few big, powerful moments, but most importantly, many more, small, beautifully executed ones. Finding smaller moments, and subtle character beats within the scenes is something that really excites me as a director, and because it's something that evolves through the process of making the film, this means as a director, creating a space for the actors that help them behave as people in the story instead of actors in the scene.

By the end of *THE STEPS*, I hope that the audience connects to the story through the emotions and feelings that the characters are expressing, because they're coming from a genuine place. I want to leave the audience with the idea that we're all capable of overcoming our differences and our pasts, and connecting with each other in a meaningful way. We just have to wake up, and look outside ourselves enough to realize it.

Director

Andrew Currie

**About the company: monterey media inc., a uniquely independent studio**

monterey media inc., incorporated in 1979, is a privately owned entertainment company. monterey media is actively engaged in all areas of domestic media, including theatrical distribution, film festivals, and other distinctive venues, television, digital delivery and entertainment markets.

The Company is known for creating unique and distinctive release strategies tailored to each project. By way of example, in 2005, the Company established a joint venture for the creation of a special theatrical event in conjunction with AMC Theatres to launch the motion picture *Indigo: A one day, 603 North America* venue showing grossed over \$1,190,000 box office. Recently, monterey media films have been nominated for the Golden Globe Award, Independent Spirit Award (two nominations in the last three years – one win this year), and NAACP Image Award. Many of our award-winning films have premiered at Sundance, TIFF, Tribeca, and SXSW Film Festivals, as well as on Roger Ebert's 10 Best Independent Films list.

2015-16 contains a wonderful new film line-up featuring 2 new TIFF Premieres, multiple Academy Award, Golden Globe and EMMY winning and nominated actors including James Franco, Adrian Grenier, Joaquim de Almeida, Barbara Hershey, Joe Mantegna, Amber Tamblyn, and Debra Messing (in *Like Sunday, Like Rain* starring with "Gossip Girl's" Leighton Meester and Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong). 2014 found monterey media films on nationwide screens and included films starring 9 Academy Award nominated actors and 4 TIFF Premier films.

The philosophy of doing good while doing well is practically a mantra at monterey media, and in addition to its ritual support of charitable organizations the company has developed a program entitled A Weekend of Unity & Peace. mmi was awarded a 2013 California Excellence Award Recipient from the United States Trade and Commerce Institute.

monterey is known for its creatively coordinated marketing strategies incorporating promotional alliances with such strategic partners as Wal-Mart, Fisher Price, Pepsi Cola, American Express, Amnesty International USA, Make-A-Wish Foundation of America, Children's Cancer Research Fund, Patagonia, Body Glove, KIDS FIRST!, Days Inns, Habitat for Humanity, Greenpeace, the International Motorcycle Shows and Healthy World Healthy Child and Air Pacific.

**MONTEREY VIDEO & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**

The monterey home entertainment division is the 2nd oldest independent video manufacturer and distributor in the United States and incorporates distribution to all digital markets. monterey is well known for its broad marketing and its direct relationships with key retail, mail-order and internet sites, schools and libraries, and specialty markets. The versatile monterey video library encompasses unique feature films and documentaries with the Company having been awarded numerous Multi-Platinum RIAA and ITA sales Awards; prestigious Independent films starring such distinguished actors as Susan Sarandon, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Shirley Knight, Tom Skerritt, Thandie Newton, John Ritter, Tommy Lee Jones, William Hurt, Forest Whitaker, David Strathairn, Brian Dennehy, Robin Williams, Danny Glover, among many others; celebrated sports programming including Bruce Brown Films' *On Any Sunday* and *The Endless Summer*; the most prestigious educational yet entertaining library of films adapted from literature's renowned authors combined with acclaimed performances from many of Hollywood's greatest actors; and note-worthy children's programming. In addition, monterey has the honor of being the first video market licensee of the American Film Institute.

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