

a film by **RICHIE ADAMS**  
from the acclaimed novel "UNA VIDA" by **NICOLAS BAZAN**

**JOAQUÍN DE ALMEIDA**  
**BILL COBBS**  
**SHARON LAWRENCE**  
and **AUNJANUE ELLIS**



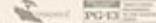
*"The award winning of Mind and Music unfolds like a poignant jazz sonata. Quietly compelling, the film resonates with strong performances... completing a story that will linger long after the music ends."*

- Talking Movies

# of Mind and Music

MONTEREY MEDIA PRESENTS A SOUTH BAY PART PRODUCTION "OF MIND AND MUSIC" STARRING JOAQUÍN DE ALMEIDA, BILL COBBS, RUTH NESSA, ANDRE ROYO  
SHARON LAWRENCE, and AUNJANUE ELLIS. MUSIC BY CARLOS JOSÉ ALVAREZ. EDITOR JAY WENSEL. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOEL C. HIGH, KENNETH HARRY, RICH KRAEMARTNEZ, KIM COLLEA, ASHLEY WALSH. PRODUCED BY PETER COMBINS, JOEL C. HIGH  
AND DAVID BOGOW. DIRECTED BY NICOLAS BAZAN. WRITTEN BY NICOLAS BAZAN. PRODUCED BY RICHIE ADAMS, BRENT CABALLERO, NICOLAS BAZAN, NANCY GREEN-KEYES, AND NICOLAS BAZAN. DIRECTED BY RICHIE ADAMS.

HIGHLAND ROAD FILMS





## Cast

<b>Joaquím de Almeida</b> .....	Dr. Alvaro Cruz
<b>Aunjanue Ellis</b> .....	Una Vida
<b>Bill Cobbs</b> .....	Stompleg
<b>Ruth Negga</b> .....	Jessica
<b>Sharon Lawrence</b> .....	Angela Cruz
<b>Andre Royo</b> .....	Kenny
<b>Marcus Lyle Brown</b> .....	Sam
<b>Ashton Leigh</b> .....	Lily
<b>Stefan Solea</b> .....	Jacob
<b>Laura Costine</b> .....	Young Cruz's mother
<b>John Pirkis</b> .....	Dr. Laurence Guillaume
<b>Jentzen Ramirez</b> .....	Young Cruz
<b>Jaedon Harmon</b> .....	Young Sam
<b>Dora Elvira Pascual</b> .....	Cruz's mother
<b>Dr. Pierluigi Nicotera</b> .....	Pierluigi

## Credits

Director..... **Richie Adams**  
Producers ..... **Richie Adams, Brent Caballero, Nicolas Bazan,  
Nancy Green-Keyes**  
Executive producer ..... **Nicolas Bazan  
and based on his Novel 'UNA VIDA: A Fable of Music and The Mind'**  
Co-producers ..... **Peter Cummings, Joel C. High**  
Line producer ..... **Phil Smoot**  
Screenplay..... **Richie Adams, Nicolas Bazan**  
Music..... **Carlos José Alvarez**  
Music coordinator..... **Lindsay-Bea Davis**  
Cinematographer..... **Tom Lembcke**  
Film editor..... **David Rogow**  
Production designer ..... **Kenneth Hardy**  
Set Decorator ..... **Chad Harris**  
Costume designer..... **Kim Martinez**  
Costume supervisor ..... **Kristen Anthony**  
Co-makeup department heads..... **Kim Collea, Ashley Walsh**  
1<sup>st</sup> asst. director..... **Jonathan Southard**  
Executive music producer ..... **Jay Weigel**  
Music supervisor ..... **Joel C. High**

Running time: 97mins  
MPAA: PG-13  
An English language film

## Quotes

"*of Mind and Music* is a quiet gem... outstanding performances. De Almeida, often seen in villainous roles, delivers a beautifully understated turn. Superb cinematography and gorgeous musical score."  
– The Hollywood Reporter

"A deeply moving, absorbing and inspiring true story with which millions can identify."  
– Jeffrey Lyons/LYONS DEN RADIO

"Set in the city of New Orleans, the award winning *of Mind and Music* unfolds like a poignant jazz sonata. Quietly compelling, the film resonates with strong performances by Aunjanue Ellis as a street singer losing her memory and Joaquim de Almeida as a neuroscientist determined to help her. Bill Cobbs is touching in the role of the singer's guitarist and guardian completing a story that will linger long after the music ends."  
– Roberta Burrows, Talking Movies

"Adams conjures flights of visual poetry."  
– Los Angeles Times

"A tenderhearted family affair unfolding against the backdrop of some sweet New Orleans street music."  
– Kam Williams, Baret News Syndicate

"There's a soothing quality to *of Mind and Music* – its crisp editing, measured pace and tender score – that acts as a palliative coating for its layered and intersecting, emotion driven-stories. Performances that are superb across the board."  
– LA Weekly

"Quiet and lyrical. Surprises with unexpected impact, thanks to the talented cast and the powerful dual forces of music and human kindness."  
– The New Orleans Advocate

## Synopsis

A lyrical and extraordinarily beautiful story woven together by the music that permeates New Orleans and the jazz that made it famous.

Renowned Neuroscientist Dr. Alvaro Cruz (Joaquím De Almeida) returns home from a lecture in Paris, heartbroken and disillusioned. In his absence, his mother has succumbed to Alzheimer's disease. Nothing that his research or science could do could stop this from happening.

He decides to take some time off work and reconnect with the love of music that he shared with his mother. While finding solace in the music that permeates New Orleans' French Quarter, he hears the mesmerizing voice of Una Vida (Aunjanue Ellis) for the first time. After repeat visits to hear her sing, he discovers that she is suffering from Alzheimer's disease and that her unconventional "family" cannot cope with her declining health. Una Vida's musical partner and caregiver, Stompleg (Bill Cobbs) will soon be retiring to a home out of state and her adopted daughter, Jessica (Ruth Negga) has troubling issues of her

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own to overcome.

When Una Vida's condition worsens, Cruz puzzles his wife, Angela (Sharon Lawrence) by bringing her home. As they attempt to get Una Vida into the home care residence that looked after his own mother, one of Una Vida's disturbing nightmares reveals that she was forced to surrender her only son to social services when he was a young boy. Together, Cruz and Jessica seek out Una Vida's long lost son (Marcus Lyle Brown) in hopes of finally giving her resolution to the grief, loss and longing that has overshadowed her hard but also beautiful life.

**Logline:** A story about a beautiful street musician suffering from memory loss and a disheartened neuroscientist intent on helping her, bringing together the city of New Orleans and the jazz that made it famous.

## Production Notes

It all started back in 2008. Richie Adams was directing a commercial at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans when he was approached by Dr. Nicolas Bazan, director of the Neuroscience Center for Excellence. He had written a novel and would like to make it into a movie. Intrigued, Richie read the novel and so began a journey that would last six years, ending with the 2014 completion of that movie, *Una Vida: A Fable of Music and Mind*.

It is hard to get an independent movie made and even harder to have all the right pieces fall into place. In this case a series of serendipitous events and meetings made it happen.

Adams brought Brent Caballero on board as a fellow producer. They had worked together on Richie's first film

*Inventing Adam*. Brent in turn introduced casting director Nancy Green- Keyes. When Richie Adams talked her through the script she welled up several times and said, "I'm in."

Lead actor Joaquim de Almeida jumped at the chance to portray Dr. Alvaro Cruz because it reflected his own life experience. His mother died of Alzheimer's after suffering for 10 years. "My whole family comes from the pharmaceutical industry and they were all in denial. I got used to the fact that my mother was going to die eventually but I didn't think that she would get to where she got. It was quite terrible," he recalls. And like the character he portrays, he was not with her when she passed. He was making a movie. "So I could completely understand why this guy (Dr. Cruz) just can't deal with it." Joaquim, who is always working, also had another, more prosaic reason for wanting to do this particular film. He almost invariably plays the bad guy in movies and television. This was a rare opportunity to be the good guy.

Aunjanue Ellis, in the title role of a street singer suffering from Alzheimer's, is going through this with her mother, who is suffering from dementia.

Sharon Lawrence, who plays the wife of Dr. Cruz, also had a deeper understanding. She is married to a physician who is in research "and I know that type of personality that has a focus and a dedication."

Richie Adams found that location work also fell into place. Everywhere he went with his limited budget he was able to get locations for free that would normally cost thousands. He wanted to use one of New Orleans' most famous hotels, the Corn Stalk, near the French Quarter and happened to mention it to a

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man he approached to use his radio controlled helicopter for a particular shot. It turned out that this man grew up near the Corn Stalk Hotel, had in fact completely rewired it when he was 13. It was owned by his grandmother. He was also fortunate to get permission to film in the Michaloloupos Gallery, owned by New Orleans' most famous artist, whose work is reminiscent of Vincent Van Gogh.

**About the cast...** Portuguese-born award winning **Joaquim de Almeida** (Dr. Cruz) is at home working in Europe, South America or the U.S., be it in film, television or theater. Currently promoting his role in David Gordon Green's new film *Our Brand is Crisis*, he has had memorable roles in such films as *Clear and Present Danger* and *The Fast & Furious* franchise and TV shows such as "Santa Barbara", "Revolution", "Once Upon a Time" and "Revenge".

**Aunjanue Ellis** (Una Vida) currently starring as Miranda Shaw in ABC's "Quantico" and the soon to be released *Birth of a Nation* with Armie Hammer. Starring in "The Book of Negroes" this past year, she also earned a SAG Award for her role in *The Help*, a SAG nomination for the biopic *Ray* and two NAACP Image Awards for her roles in *Men of Honor* and in *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*.

**Bill Cobbs** (Stompleg) has had a long and successful acting career, starting with the Negro Ensemble Company and moving on to roles in *Night at the Museum*, *The Muppets Movie* and *Oz the Great and Powerful* and many TV shows including "The Sopranos", "Harry's Law" and "Rake".

Irish-born **Ruth Negga** (Jessica) has an eclectic career, appearing in Shakespeare at the Old Vic in England, in *World War Z* for Paramount and as Shirley Bassey in the television movie *Shirley*, which garnered her the Irish Film and Television Academy Award as Best Actress and most recently as the beautiful and sinister 'Raina' on Marvel's AGENTS OF SHIELD for ABC.

**Andre Royo** shines in the role of Kenny. His credits include *Hand of God*, "The Wire", "Fringe" and "Heroes". He has also ventured into executive producing the independent feature film *Would You Rather?*

**About the crew...**This is only the second feature film for writer/producer/director **Richie Adams**, the first being *Inventing Adam*, but he has been a title designer for more than 10 years, working with such greats as Alejandro Gonzales Innaritu, David Frankel, Francis Lawrence and Richard Donner. He has designed main title sequences and advertising for films such as *S.W.A.T.*, *The Last Samurai* and *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*.

**Dr. Nicolas Bazan** wrote the novel *Una Vida: A Fable of Music and Mind* and is one of the film's producers. He knows of what he writes, being a medical doctor, a neuroscientist and director and founder of the LSU

Neuroscience Center of Excellence in New Orleans. Producer **Brent Caballero** has been casting director on more than 50 films, working with such directors as William Friedkin (*Killer Joe*) and Steve McQueen (*Twelve Years A Slave*.) Producer and casting director **Nancy Green-Keyes** has cast many notable films including *Rush Hour*, *Family Man*, *Friday After Next*, *The Notebook* and the recently released *The Other Woman*.

Co-producer **Peter Cummings** is involved in creative and legal research, rights clearance and product placement, contributing to 50 features including *Man of Steel* and *MI4: Ghost Protocol*. Editor **David Rogow** has been involved in such major successes as *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Factory Girl* and *Chicago*, which received a number of Academy Awards®, including one for editing.

**Tom Lembcke**, director of photography, has trained alongside many leading cinematographers, including Haskell Wexler, Rodrigo Prieto and Production designer **Ken Hardy** had that position for all seven seasons of *The West Wing* while makeup designer **Kim Collea** is best known for her work on *Iron Man* and *Pearl Harbor*.

Franz Lustig. Composer **Carlos José Alvarez**, born of Cuban immigrants, has been playing music since he was a child and has been composing film scores since 2000. He previously worked with Richie Adams on *Inventing Adam*. **Joel C. High** was both music supervisor and co-producer on the film, having previously worked on more than 100 motion pictures and television projects. **Jan Weigel** designed and

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produced the musical arrangements for the characters Una Vida and Stompleg, while **Mykia Jovan**, a strong part of the New Orleans musical scene, provided the vocals for *of Mind and Music*.

## Film Festivals

*of Mind and Music* has received numerous film festival awards & recognition:

**SEDONA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2015:**

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE DRAMA

**BLACK REEL AWARD 2015:**

NOMINEE, OUTSTANDING INDEPENDENT FEATURE

**VANCOUVER INT'L FILM FESTIVAL 2014:**

NOMINEE, BEST NEW DIRECTOR AWARD

**NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL 2014:**

JURY AWARD, BEST ACTRESS (Aunjanue Ellis)

AUDIENCE AWARD / MUSIC CATEGORY

**AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL 2014:**

JURY AWARD, BEST ACTRESS (Aunjanue Ellis)

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

**BRECKENRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL 2014:**

JURY AWARD, BEST DIRECTOR

JURY AWARD, BEST ACTRESS (Aunjanue Ellis)

**VAIL FILM FESTIVAL 2014:**

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE

**LOUISIANA INT'L FILM FESTIVAL, 2014:**

VISIONARY AWARD / BEST LOUISIANA FILM

**LA COSTA FILM FESTIVAL:**

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

## Director's Statement



L. to R.: Dr. Nicolas Bazan (Author of the novel), Richie Adams (Director of the film)

I had directed a commercial on behalf of an advertising agency in New Orleans for the LSU Health Sciences center in 2008, and when finishing the shoot one day, the director of the Neuroscience Center for Excellence, Dr. Nicolas Bazan, approached me and told me about a novel he was about to publish called *Una Vida: A Fable of Music and the Mind*, and that he wanted to one day make it into a movie. I later worked with Dr. Bazan to adapt his novel into the screenplay that became our movie.

What drew me to the story was how little I knew about Alzheimer's disease. I figured that I was probably not alone in that regard, and the more I learned about the disease, the more I wanted to do my part to bring awareness to the mystery and realities that surround the disease. What drew me to Dr. Bazan's novel, was the richness in the characters and colorful backdrop (jazz culture of New Orleans) that he had depicted, and the message of hope that the story offered to those caring for one with Alzheimer's...that researchers such as himself are working tirelessly everyday in pursuit of a cure for the devastating disease.

I guess you could say that I've been directing since 2003, when I first directed the title sequence for S.W.A.T. We shot the title cards on 35mm film, and from that experience, I was hooked. I went on to direct other title design and motion picture advertising related projects (*The Last Samurai*, *K-ville*), a few short films, then directed my first feature film, *Inventing Adam*, in 2009, which debuted at the Vail Film Festival in 2010.

I tend to work with the same team for most of my projects. I have collaborated with some of the filmmakers on *of Mind and Music* for eight years or more. Once you find a great team, you develop a kind of shorthand, which enables you to move quickly when filming. Our film was shot in about three weeks, with one additional week of pick-ups...so that shorthand was essential.

## Cast bios

### Aunjanue Ellis (Una Vida)



Aunjanue Ellis currently stars as Miranda Shaw, the director of an FBI base who oversees the training of a new group of recruits on ABC's highly anticipated drama "Quantico."

Ellis most recently appeared on television in BET's epic series "The Book of Negroes," of which she received a Television Critics' Choice Award nomination for Best Actress in a Movie or Limited Series.

Ellis has also starred in numerous movies, including Tate Taylor's "The Help", in which she played Yule Mae Davis, the maid arrested for allegedly stealing a ring. In Taylor's James Brown biopic "Get On Up", Ellis portrayed Vicki Anderson, acknowledged by Brown in his autobiography as probably the best singer he ever witnessed. Ellis has also starred opposite Denzel Washington in "The Taking of Pelham 123" as well as "The Caveman's Valentine." She shared a SAG Award nomination for her role as Mary Ann Fisher in "Ray". Ellis received a NAACP Image Award nomination for her performance as a medical student in George Tillman Jr.'s "Men of Honor," with Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Robert DeNiro.

Ellis's additional film credits include "Romeo and Juliet in Harlem" (which she also executive produced), "Ed's Next Move", "The Express", "Freedomland", "The Hungry Ghosts", "Lovely & Amazing", "A Map of the World", "Money Matters", "Notorious", "The Volunteer" and "of Music and The Mind". She made her motion picture debut in Jim McKay's Sundance Film Festival hit "Girls Town", opposite Lili Taylor.

Ellis has also starred in the television series "Abducted: The Carlina White Story" and garnered a second NAACP Image Award nomination for her portrayal of Candy Carson alongside Cuba Gooding Jr. and Kimberly Elise in the made for television film "Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story." Ellis appeared as a series regular on "The Mentalist," "High Incident," "E-Ring" and "Justice." Her television credits also include arcs on "NCIS: Los Angeles," "True Blood" and "The Practice" and guest starring roles on "The Good Wife," "Sleepy Hollow," and "Blue Bloods." She first appeared on television in an episode of Dick Wolf's police drama series "New York Undercover."

In 1995, Ellis made her professional acting debut as Ariel opposite Patrick Stewart's Prospero in "The Tempest," directed by George C. Wolfe in a New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theatre production that began its run at Central Park's Delacorte Theatre and later transferred to The Broadhurst Theatre on Broadway. Her stage credits also include the Broadway production of "Joe Turner's Come and Gone," directed by Bartlett Sher, "A Winter's Tale" for the NYSF/Public Theatre, and at MTC, "Drowning Crow" and "Seeking the Genesis."

Though she was born in San Francisco, Ellis claims the small Mississippi town of McComb as her home. There, Ellis' grandmother raised her on a farm that has been in the family for generations. "My mother gifted me with my particular kind of radical imagination. And my grandmother gave me the tools to execute it," she says. Brought up in a Baptist church where she performed recitations and skits, it was not until she was a student at Tougaloo College that Ellis would first find herself on stage. It was her discovery of theater that led

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her to transfer to Brown University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in African American Studies, while also training as an actor under Jim Barnhill and John Emigh. She went onto receive a Master of Fine Arts degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Ellis is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., a service sorority that honored her with the 2010 Rising Star Award.

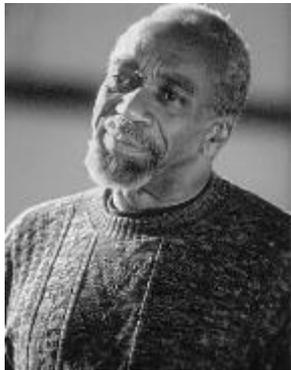


### **Joaquim de Almeida** (Dr. Alvaro Cruz)

Born in Lisbon, Portugal, Joaquim de Almeida moved to New York City in 1976 where he studied with Lee Strasberg and Stella Adler to pursue his career in acting. Joaquim will be seen in the upcoming WB and George Clooney feature *OUR BRAND IS CRISIS* directed by David Gordon Green and starring opposite Sandra Bullock and Billy Bob Thornton. He is best known for his performances in the features *ATLAS SHRUGGED*, *CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER*, *FAST FIVE*, and *CHE PART 2*. He made his mark in television as well where he was a recurring on season three of the popular series "24." He has guest starred on *ONCE UPON A TIME*, *REVENGE*, *MISSING*, and *PARENTHOOD*.

Joaquim is fluent in six languages, has won countless awards and has been in more than 90 films and television shows, acting and has worked alongside Harrison Ford, Kim Basinger, Antonio Banderas, Kiefer Sutherland, Robert Rodriguez, and Steven Soderberg, among others. Apart from residing in Santa Monica, he spends time with his family in Portugal.

### **Bill Cobbs** (Stompleg)



BILL COBBS was born and raised in Cleveland Ohio where his mother was a cleaning lady and his father was a construction worker. As an amateur actor in the city's Karamu House Theater, he starred in the Ossie Davis play *Purlie Victorious*. Cobbs was an Air Force Radar technician for eight years. He also worked in office products at IBM and sold cars in Cleveland.

In 1970 at the age of 36, he left for New York to seek work as an actor. There he turned down a job in the NBC sales department in order to have time for auditions. He supported himself by driving a cab, repairing office equipment, selling toys, and performing odd jobs. His first professional acting role was in *Ride a Black Horse* at the Negro Ensemble Company. From there he appeared in small theater productions, street theater, regional theater and at the Eugene O'Neil Theater. His first television credit was in *Vegetable Soup* (1976), a New York public television educational series, and he made his feature film debut in *The Taking of Pelham One Two Three* in 1974.

Bill has gone on to appear in such films as, *Decoration Day*, *New Jack City*, *I know What You Did Last Summer*, *The Color Of Money* and *The Bodyguard*. He was extraordinary opposite Duvall in indie film *Get Low*. Other films include *The Ultimate Gift*, *Black Water Transit* opposite Laurence Fishburne, *The Muppets Movie*, *Derby Stallion*, *OZ The Great And Powerful* for Disney Studios... the list goes on and on.

Bill was a series regular on *The Gregory Hines Show* and *I'll Fly Away*. He recurred on *Six Feet Under*, *The Practice*, *The Sopranos*, *October Road*, *Harry's Law*, *The Glades*, *Go On*, *One Tree Hill*, and most recently recurs on *Rake* for NBC.

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In *of Mind and Music* he displays his musical talents, singing and playing the guitar. Bill just completed his third stint on the Ben Stiller *Night At The Museum 3* for Fox Studios. In his free time Cobbs enjoys music, reading, playing his drums and practicing his golf.

### Ruth Negga (Jessica)



Ruth Negga most recently starred as the beautiful and sinister 'Raina' on Marvel's AGENTS OF SHIELD for ABC. She has just wrapped the pilot for the AMC/Sony TV show PREACHER directed by Seth Rogen starring opposite Dominic Cooper and will next begin to shoot her lead role of 'Mildred Loving' in Jeff Nichols upcoming indie film LOVING, opposite Joel Edgerton.

Other upcoming features include the independent MIND AND MUSIC directed by Richie Adams, the big screen adaptation of WARCRAFT for Legendary and director Duncan Jones, Scott Graham's UK indie feature IONA in which she plays the title role and John Ridley's ALL IS BY MY SIDE.

Big screen credits include NOBLE for director Stephen Bradley, WORLD WAR Z (Paramount), THE SAMARITAN (opposite Samuel Jackson) and Neil Jordan's BREAKFAST ON PLUTO (with Cillian Murphy). Most recently seen in Scott Graham's UK feature, IONA.

On television, her variety of US and UK credits includes AMC's pilot PREACHER, recurring role of "Raina" on Marvel's AGENTS'S OF S.H.E.I.L.D for ABC, HBO's pilot THE MONEY with Brendan Gleeson, COUP with Gabriel Byrne, the hit UK series MISFITS and LOVE/HATE for RTE. Ruth won the Irish Film and Television Academy Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of 'Shirley Bassey' in the TV movie SHIRLEY.

Her extensive and award-winning theatre credits include PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD at The Old Vic, HAMLET at the National Theatre, PHAEDRE (National Theatre) for which she won the Ian Charleson Award, LAY ME DOWN SOFTLY, OEDIPUS LOVES YOU, THE CRUCIBLE, THE BACCHAE, BURIAL AT THEBES (all at the Abbey Theatre) and TITUS ANDRONICUS (The Project Theatre) for which she received the Irish Times Award for Best Actress.



### **Andre Royo** (Kenny)

ANDRE ROYO has that rare ability to give the characters he plays depth and emotion without overshadowing his cast mates. As evidence, see Royo's amazing turn as Bubbles on HBO's critically acclaimed drama *The Wire*, Henry Arliss Higgins on Fox's *Fringe* and Stephen Canfield in *Heroes*.

Royo has also appeared on a diverse range of shows, including *How to Make it in America*, *Memphis Beat*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Whole Truth*, *Party Down*, *CSI: Miami*, *Numb3rs* and *Criminal Minds*, and an array of features including *Red Tails* and *The Spectacular Now*.

The first time Royo appeared on the big screen was in John Singleton's *Shaft*. He's also appeared in an eclectic array of features such as *Red Tails*, *Hellbenders*, *Remnants*, *The Collection*, *August*, *Super*, *Calloused Hands* and *The Spectacular Now*. Most recently he appears in *Lila & Eve*, co-starring with Viola Davis and Jennifer Lopez.

Beyond acting, Royo executive produced the independent feature film *Would You Rather* and is attached to produce two additional features. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and daughter.

### **Sharon Lawrence** (Angela Cruz)



You may know her from her multiple EMMY nominated and SAG Award winning portrayal of ADA Sylvia Costas Sipowitz in the ground breaking *NYPD Blue* or as a stay-at-home prostitute in *DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES*, as Issy's tender but ditzy Mom on *GREY'S ANATOMY* (for which she earned her 4th EMMY nod) or a murderous realtor on *MONK* or a sociopathic serial killer on *LAW AND ORDER:SVU*, coming to terms with her long lost daughter on *RIZZOLI & ISLES*, speaking out for protection of endangered polar bears for the World Wildlife Fund or beating up Larry David on *CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM*. Watch for her this fall starring opposite Sir Patrick Stewart in his new series *BLUNT TALK* for Executive Producer Seth McFarland on *STARZZ*

Film work includes the up coming *SOLACE* with Sir Anthony Hopkins, the indie hit *MIDDLE OF NOWHERE* Ava DuVernay (Best Director at Sundance Film Fest 2012; two *GOTHAM AWARD* and four *SPIRIT* nominations). In the summer of 2013 Sharon shot three independent social issue films, *GRACE* about addiction recovery, of *MUSIC* and *MIND* about Alzheimer's and *THINSPO* about eating disorders. Currently on the festival circuit are Award winning shorts *SOMEBODY'S MOTHER* with Missy Pyle and *THE BRIDGE PARTNER* with Beth Grant. She also appeared in *THE PERFECT FAMILY* with Kathleen Turner, *LIES AND ALIBIES* with Rebecca Romjin, *LITTLE BLACK BOOK* with Holly Hunter and *GOSSIP* with Kate Hudson and *THE ONLY THRILL* with Diane Keaton and Diane Lane.

She has headlined her own comedy series *FIRE UP* produced by Kelsey Grammar for NBC and starred with class acts Alfred Molina, Betty White and Dixie Carter in CBS's sit com *LADIES MAN*. Her work for the web also

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includes the Anthony Zukier's genre series SILVERWOOD on YouTube and the political drama ChasingTheHill.com

Other prominent appearances include her much Twittered about stints on ONE TREE HILL and DROP DEAD DIVA Audiences saw her on COMMUNITY, THE MENTALIST, BODY OF PROOF, THE GLADE, GHOST WHISPERER, BOSTON LEGAL, DIRT and HIDDEN PALMS, PRIVILIDGED. She has starred in many films for television and and also produced for NBC, FIVE DESPERATE HOURS, co-starring Giancarlo Esposito.

An accomplished stage actress, Sharon starred last December in the acclaimed Coward cabaret Love, Noel at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts an last spring in the Pasadena Playhouse in Noel Coward's final play A Song At Twilight. She created the role of Maureen in the premier of Theresa Rebeck's Poor Behavior at the Mark Taper Forum. Last year she in NY in the hit Love, Loss And What I Wore and was recently nominated for an Ovation Award and won the LA Drama Critics Circle Award for her acclaimed performance as Vivian Leigh in Pasadena Playhouse's Off Broadway hit Orson's Shadow. Her latest Broadway appearance was as Velma Kelly in Chicago.

Sharon earned her BA in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has been honored with UNC-Chapel Hill's Outstanding Young Alumni Award and now serves on the BoD for the University's General Alumni Association. Other acknowledgements of achievement include Prism, Method Fest, and Drama Logue Awards.

Sharon previously chaired the Women In Film Foundation were she incubated and managed corporate partnerships with Netflix and the Scholl Foundation, She fill active on the Advisory Board. She serves on the Board of Directors of two effective environmental organizations Heal The Bay and Green Wish and is a Trustee of the Screen Actors Guild Foundation. She lives in Los Angeles and Idyllwild,

California and is married to physician Dr. Thomas Apostle. She is a member of First Congregational Church Of Los Angeles. Twitter @sharonlawrence Instagram @sharonelawrence

## SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE

### **Prof. Dr. Pierluigi Nicotera**

Professor Nicotera plays Dr. Alvaro Cruz's friend and colleague who shares the remarkable details of two Alzheimer's patients who 'come alive' while listening to the music of Elvis Presley, together. Dr. Nicotera is a renowned scientist and leading international expert in the field of neuronal cell death.

He was appointed Scientific Director of DZNE in April 2009. Prof. Dr. Nicotera was trained in General Medicine and Cardiology at the University of Pavia, Italy. He obtained his Ph.D. at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, where he worked subsequently as associate professor. From 1995 to 2000 Nicotera headed the division of Molecular Toxicology at the University of Konstanz and was then appointed Director of the UK Medical Research Council Toxicology Unit. His research has been centered on the molecular mechanisms that lead to neuronal demise following chronic and acute insults. Loss of neuronal synaptic connections and apoptosis play central roles in neurodegenerative diseases.

## The Filmmakers



L. to R.: Richie Adams, Dr. Nicolas Bazan, Aunjanue Ellis, Brent Caballero

### **Richie Adams** Director/Writer/Producer

Richie Adams is a writer, director, and producer who cut his teeth in film as a title designer, and over the past 10-plus years has worked with many of the great players in film and television, including Alejandro González Iñárritu, David Frankel, Francis Lawrence, and Richard Donner. His work as a main and end title designer includes two films being released in 2014 – *The Judge* and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 1*.

Graduating from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Richie Adams free-lanced in advertising before attending Otis School of Art and Design in Los Angeles, where he was handpicked by Richard Alan Greenberg of main title fame (*Alien*, *Superman*, *Matrix*) to be Art Director for his new company, RAGinc, and, later, Creative Director of Greenberg's next company, Ignite Creative, where Richie designed and produced main title sequences and motion picture advertising for films such as *S.W.A.T.*, *The Last Samurai*, and *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*.

After several years in Los Angeles, Richie returned to hometown, Baton Rouge, LA, to form River Road Creative, a boutique live-action studio where he continues to offer design and related services for film and television (*Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters*, *Fruitvale Station*, *Water For Elephants*, *Babel*), as well as directing/producing commercials, which have garnered awards and accolades at most of the major award competitions, including an EMMY® nomination. He designed the striking logo for TSG Entertainment, seen at the beginning of *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*.

*of Mind and Music*, completed in 2014, is his second feature film and is currently playing the festival circuit, where it won its first Jury Award for Best Actress (Aunjanue Ellis) and an Audience Award at the Newport Beach Film Festival, another Jury Award for Best Actress (Aunjanue Ellis) and Audience Award at the American Black Film Festival in New York, NY, the Jury Award for Best Director and Jury Award for Best

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Actress (Aunjanue Ellis) at the Breckenridge Film Festival, and most recently a Nomination for the Best New Director Award at the Vancouver International Film Festival.

His first feature, *Inventing Adam*, played to sold-out audiences, including the Vail Film Festival.

## **DR. NICOLAS BAZAN** Producer/Writer

Dr. Bazan wrote the novel "Una Vida a Fable of Music and the Mind" on which the film is based. He is a medical doctor, neuroscientist, author, educator and mentor. He is Director and Founder of the LSU Neuroscience Center of Excellence, New Orleans, Boyd Professor (the highest rank in the LSU System) and Ernest C. and Yvette C. Villere Chair of Retinal Degeneration.

He has made seminal discoveries that illuminate our understanding of stroke, age-related macular degeneration, epilepsy, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease and traumatic head injury and is a celebrated guest speaker internationally. He is also an entrepreneur and has advocated for a local knowledge-based economy during the last few decades. Currently he also sits on the Senate of the German Alzheimer's effort, the DZNE, and on the Board of the New Orleans Opera Association, Bureau of Governmental Research and others.

## **Brent Caballero** Producer

Brent Caballero has been the casting director on more than 50 films, casting key talent in such pictures as *Killer Joe*, *Mirrors 2*, *Meeting Evil*, *Fly Paper*, and *Maze Runner*. Along the way, he has worked with award winning directors, such as William Friedkin (*Killer Joe*), Steve McQueen (*Twelve Years a Slave*), Cary Fukunaga (*True Detective*) and Wayne Kramer (*Cooler*).

He has been a strong supporter of the local talent in Louisiana and has discovered some of the great young talent Louisiana has to offer. You can often hear him say, "I am only as good as the actors I put forth."

Caballero, produced his first independent feature, *All American Orgy*, released in 2009, which traveled the festival circuit, ultimately landing a distribution deal through Phase 4 films. He was both casting director and a co-producer in Richie Adams' *Inventing Adam*.

## **Nancy Green-Keyes** Producer

Nancy Green-Keyes came into the industry as a talent agent, representing actors such as Alfred Molina, Steve Buscemi, Samuel L. Jackson, John Hawkes and Angela Bassett. In 1996 she and casting partner Matthew Barry opened Barry/Green Keyes Casting.

During 17 years together they have cast such notable films as *Rush Hour*, *Rush Hour 2* (Chris Tucker, Jackie Chan), *Family Man* (Nicholas Cage, Tea Leoni), *The Notebook* (Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams), *Alpha Dog* (Emile Hirsch, Justin Timberlake, Anton Yelchin), *Friday After Next* (Ice Cube, Mike Epps, Katt Williams), *The Other Woman* (Leslie Mann, Nikolai Coster Waldau, Cameron Diaz, Nicki Minaj) and the pilot for Showtime's critically acclaimed series *Brotherhood* (Jason Clarke, Jason Isaacs, Kevin Chapman, Annabeth Gish).

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She continues to enjoy her long standing casting association with Tony and Olivier Award winning producing partners David Pugh and Dafydd Rogers. Together with her producing mentor Chris Brinker, she was involved as a producer in the indie films *Bad Country* (Willem Dafoe, Matt Dillon, Tom Berenger) and *Lonely Street* (Robert Patrick, Jay Mohr, Katt Williams).

*of Mind and Music* is her third endeavor as a creative producer.

### **Peter Cummings** Co-producer

Peter Cummings supported the director in early drafts of the screenplay. Later, he provided key personnel, locations and production support in the form of creative and legal research, rights clearance and product placement. Contributing to 50 major studio and independent feature films such as *Man of Steel*, *MI4: Ghost Protocol*, *50 Shades of Grey* and *Juno*, Peter's experience includes working closely with many departments, such as editorial and music supervision, to ensure creative and legal objectives are achieved.

### **David Rogow** Editor

David Rogow has worked as an additional editor on *The Big Year*, *The Blind Side*, and *Marley and Me*. He was an associate editor on *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Factory Girl* and *Chicago* (Academy Award® win for editing.)

He edited *Loved* with William Hurt, Sean Penn and Robin Wright (nominated for an Independent Spirit Award), *Driven* and the documentary *The Restless Conscience* (Academy Award® nomination) as well as Shirley Clarke's *Ornette*. Rogow consulted on *Alive Inside*, a documentary about music and the memory. He has also worked on various TV shows as an editor and assistant including *The Wire*, *Lights Out*, *The Unusuals* and *The Philanthropist*. As a music editor, he worked on *Philadelphia*, *Carlito's Way* and *Sleepless in Seattle*. First assistant editor credits include *School of Rock*, *Prime* and *Devil in a Blue Dress*.

### **Tom Lembcke** Director of Photography

Tom Lembcke has trained alongside many leading cinematographers including Haskell Wexler, Rodrigo Prieto and Franz Lustig. Building on his deep understanding of film history, Tom brings vision, passion and intelligence to the intensely collaborative work of filmmaking. In addition to his feature film work, Mr. Lembcke's camerawork has helped to create many successful marketing campaigns. Clients include Samsung, Ace Hardware, McDonalds and Audi.

### **Ken Hardy** Production Designer

Ken Hardy was the production designer for *The West Wing* for all seven seasons. He also worked with *The West Wing* creator Aaron Sorkin on his lauded series *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*. Joining forces with *The*

*West Wing* writer and producer Kevin Falls he was production designer for the original series *Journeyman* in 2007. He has also worked on the series *Law & Order: Los Angeles*, *Persons Unknown*, and *Body of Proof*.

**Kim Collea** Makeup Designer

Kim is best known for her work on *Iron Man* (2008), *Pearl Harbor* (2001) and *The Patriot* (2000).

## The Music

**Carlos José Alvarez** Composer

Alvarez creates a musical backdrop that echoes the sounds of the Argentinian main character, Alvaro Cruz. Alvarez has crafted a delicate score dealing with themes of loss, struggle and redemption while transporting us into the mysterious world of Alzheimer's.

Carlos' life-long passion for storytelling is evident in the variety of music he creates for the screen. Within his artistic process he considers himself a storyteller as much as a composer. Breathing life into the characters and luring the audience into the story is what really excites him. He finds much of his inspiration in a film's imagery and characters and his love for powerful and touching melodies shines through his music. Carlos resides in Los Angeles.

*"I've always had this enchanting connection with New Orleans. We agreed early on that we wanted the score to help portray New Orleans as the European city that it is, and connect the audience to Alvaro and his origins in Argentina. The story and its very delicate themes provided me with a palette to stretch myself and write something special, yet slightly unexpected."*

**Joel C. High** Music Supervisor/Co-producer

Joel C. High has worked on more than 100 films and television projects and also is chief executive for a company he co-founded in 2006.

Over the last decade, he has created and supervised the music departments for two of the leading independent studios in the industry: Trimark Pictures and Lionsgate Entertainment. He built the publishing division for both companies and started the boutique soundtrack label Lions Gate Records.

In addition to his acclaimed work in motion pictures, with directors such as Tyler Perry, Marc Forster, Peter Bogdanovich, Don Roos, Roger Avary, James Foley, Bill Paxton, Billy Ray, Mario Van Peebles, Duane Adler and Rob Zombie, he oversaw the music for the growing Television group at Lionsgate, including *The Dead Zone* and the Golden Globe-winning series *Weeds*.

Joel is the music executive behind such films as *Saw*, *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and the Leonard Cohen documentary *I'm Your Man*. He oversaw Lionsgate's first Academy Award® nomination in the Original Song category, for Best Picture winner *Crash* and the Golden Globe nominated score from *Girl With A Pearl Earring* by Alexandre Desplat.

*"Of Mind and Music was truly a labor of love for me. It was a chance to work on a meaningful project where the music and the people of New Orleans are intrinsic to the story telling. It is the kind of film that you read the script and you can already hear the music. I was privileged to be involved."*

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### Jay Weigel Executive Music Producer

Jay Weigel designed and produced the musical arrangements for the characters Una Vida and Stompleg. He is a distinguished composer, producer, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, and contractor for film, television, recordings, and concerts.

Based in New Orleans, he has worked in the film and television industry for nearly 30 years. His recent scores and soundtrack recordings can be heard in Warner Brothers films including *The Campaign*, *Green Lantern*, and *Grudge Match* and numerous Tyler Perry's films including *For Colored Girls*, *Meet the Browns*, *Madea Witness Protection*, and *Madea Goes to Jail*; HBO's *Little Britain*; *I Love You Phillip Morris*, *Bullet to the Head* and numerous documentaries and independent films. He has worked as an orchestrator, conductor and score preparer for composers such as George S. Clinton, Christopher Young, Jon Swihart, Christopher Lennertz and Terence Blanchard. As an arranger and orchestrator, he has worked with REM, Chris Thomas King, Judith Owen and several projects with Hal Willner. Weigel is currently working on two Warner Brothers films, *Get Hard* and *Midnight Special*, and producing a CD of music by Paul Sanchez.

*"The opportunity to help shape the personalities of two of the main characters in the film of Mind and Music is an experience I will cherish forever. Choosing songs, and a style in which to realize those songs, that accurately reflect the soul of these two characters would not have been possible without the amazing talents of the three New Orleans musicians I was able to recruit into the project."*

**Mykia Jovan** provides exceptional vocals for of *Mind and Music*'s key musical moments in the movie. This innovative vocalist stepped into the New Orleans music scene with an eclectic range of jazz, blues, soul and funk. Her honest lyrics and penetrating emotion captivates everyone in earshot. "Gospel is my foundation, and jazz is my first love, so I am heavily influenced by artists who have conviction and honesty in their voice with elegant execution," Jovan said. "Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald, Marvin Gaye, Erykah Badu, Yael Naim and Sade. These artists shaped me."

**Leah Chase** provides guidance and unity to the vocal design of of *Mind and Music* as a talented musician and vocal trainer. Graduating from Loyola University in New Orleans with a degree in Vocal Performance, Ms. Chase completed one year of graduate study at The Juilliard School in New York before leaving to pursue her true love, jazz. She is currently an Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of New Orleans in the Jazz Studies Division.

**John Fohl** plays guitar for the character, Stompleg. In addition to his own vibrant solo career, John Fohl has performed as a backup artist for musical legends such as Bo Diddly and Joe Huston, and appeared on more than 25 recordings alongside Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Henry Vestine, Spencer Bohren, David Doucet, Dr. John and many others. John has found a natural home in New Orleans and is grateful for the opportunity to live, learn and work in such a rich musical culture.

**Johnny Sansone** is known for his blistering electric harmonica tone, award-winning song writing, swamp, roots, Americana accordion and larger than life stage presence. Johnny has backed up such blues greats as Jimmie Rodgers, Robert Jr Lockwood, John Lee Hooker. Now after a Grammy nomination, nine Blues Music award nominations (winning song of the year 2012), a Juno Award, fifteen Best of the Beat awards and seven Big Easy awards, Johnny continues to forge forward on world wide tours with his band. From playing with The Edge of U2, to Recording Changui music in Santiago Cuba with soprano

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sax great Jane Bunnett, to backing up America's greatest song writer Randy Newman, to performing countless film and television scores from Roger Corman to HBO's *Treme*, Johnny continues to show no limit to his life's work and love of music.

**Jon Cleary** was recently featured in Martin Scorsese's critically acclaimed seven-part PBS series *The Blues*. The series' sixth film, *Red, White, and Blues*, was produced by John Porter and directed by Mike Figgis and catches Cleary performing with Van Morrison, Tom Jones and Jeff Beck. Cleary's impressive past credits include work with Taj Mahal, B.B. King, and Bonnie Raitt whom he continues to tour and record with.

**Kermit Ruffins** is one of the prime reasons why New Orleans is mending post-Katrina, bringing his good-time music to the people as an entertainer, said All Music Guides Michael G. Nastos on Billboard.com, "As a trumpet player and singer of heritage jazz, soul, and popular music, he's uplifting the spirit of Crescent City dwellers who are slowly but surely rebuilding their neighborhoods."

**Sarah Jane McMahon** is the first voice heard singing *Micaela's Aria*, as our character Alvaro Cruz's story begins. Selected by Maestro Placido Domingo to join the Los Angeles Opera, she sang with the celebrated tenor as the Fifth Flower Maiden in *Parsifal*, Naiad in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and The Milliner in *Der Rosenkavalier*. A summa cum laude graduate of Loyola University, New Orleans, and Yale University, recent concert appearances have included Christmas Concerts with The San Francisco Symphony and Shreveport Symphony, *Carmina Burana* at Avery Fisher Hall and with the Tulsa Opera and Ballet, the *Rutter Requiem* at Carnegie Hall, *Knoxville Summer of 1915/Mahler 4* with the Portland Symphony and Ridgefield Symphony, *Bravissimo!* with the Canadian Opera Orchestra, *Messiah* with the Jacksonville Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony, and Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, *Mahler 8* with the Asheville Symphony, Gala concerts with the Sarasota Symphony and Youngstown Symphony, and Baroque concerts with Lyrica Baroque.

**Meschiya Lake** began singing with the traditional jazz outfit the Loose Marbles on the French Quarters Royal Street in 2007. Joined by jazz dancers Chance Bushman and Amy Johnson, a new revival of traditional jazz and dance consequently bloomed, bringing the joy and vitality of New Orleans spirit, wowing audiences both young and old alike.

## Production Stills

Right click on image to save a low resolution to desktop or go to our Flickr page to get high resolution at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/montereymedia/albums/72157657084316810>

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AUNJANUE ELLIS as Una Vida



JOAQUÍN DE ALMEIDA as Dr. Alvaro Cruz



BILL COBBS as Stompleg and AUNJANUE ELLIS as Una Vida



RUTH NEGGA as Jessica



SHARON LAWRENCE as Angela Cruz and AUNJANUE ELLIS as Una Vida



JOAQUÍN DE ALMEIDA as Dr. Alvaro Cruz and BILL COBBS as Stompleg

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

**monterey media inc.** is proud to feature a diverse film library which transcends genre typecasting and creates instead a palette of film experiences destined to be remembered. Incorporated in 1979, monterey is a privately owned entertainment company 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.

In the earliest days of online marketing, mmi established a joint venture for the creation of a special theatrical event in conjunction with AMC Theatres to launch the independent motion picture Indigo: A one day event, which Variety touted as a "603 North America only venue showing grossed over \$1,190,000 at the box office." In recent years, monterey media films have been nominated for the Golden Globe Award, Independent Spirit Award (two nominations in the last three years with one win), and NAACP Image Award. Many of our award-winning films have premiered at Sundance, TIFF, Tribeca, and SXSW Film Festivals, as well as on many year-end's 10 Best Independent Film lists.

The philosophy of doing good while doing well alive and well at monterey. 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, The Creative Coalition for the Arts, KIDS FIRST!, Days Inns, Habitat for Humanity, Greenpeace, the International Motorcycle Shows, Healthy World Healthy Child, Air Pacific and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

### **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, internet sites, educational and specialty markets. The versatile monterey library encompasses unique feature films and documentaries having been awarded numerous awards; prestigious Independent films starring such distinguished actors as James Franco, Kaley Cuoco, Susan Sarandon, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Dennis Hopper, Shirley Knight, Tom Skerritt, Thandie Newton, John Ritter, Tommy Lee Jones, William Hurt, Forest Whitaker, David Strathairn, Brian Dennehy, Robin Williams, Danny Glover, Nathan Lane, Jacqueline Bisset, among many others; celebrated sports programming including Bruce Brown Films' On Any Sunday and The Endless Summer; and 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. In addition, monterey has the honor of being the first video market licensee of the American Film Institute.

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