

## SILENT HILL PRODUCTION NOTES

A child's mysterious ailment. A desperate mother. An eerie, deserted city shrouded in mist, plagued by secrets.

The mysteries are only beginning to deepen.

When young mother Rose (Radha Mitchell) -- desperate to find a cure for her daughter Sharon's bizarre illness -- refuses to accept a medical recommendation of psychiatric institutionalization, she flees with Sharon and heads for SILENT HILL, the town that her daughter continuously names in her sleep. Although her husband Christopher (Sean Bean) adamantly opposes, Rose is convinced the mysterious town will hold all the answers. But as her car approaches the deserted city's limits, a mysterious figure appears in the road, forcing Rose to swerve and crash. When she comes to, Sharon is gone, and suddenly Rose -- accompanied by a determined police officer (Laurie Holden) from a nearby town -- is on a desperate quest in Silent Hill to find her child.

It's immediately clear that her destination -- left alone since devastating coal fires ravaged Silent Hill -- is unlike any place she's ever been: smothered by fog, inhabited by a variety of strange, haunted beings, and periodically overcome by a living Darkness that literally transforms everything it touches. As Rose searches for her daughter, she begins to learn the history of Silent Hill -- its violent, puritanical past and the origins of its accursed state -- and realizes that her daughter is just part of a larger, more terrifying destiny.

*Silent Hill* stars Radha Mitchell (*Melinda and Melinda*, *Finding Neverland*, *Man on Fire*), Sean Bean (*North Country*, *National Treasure*, *Lord of the Rings*), Laurie Holden (*Fantastic Four*, *The Majestic*), Deborah Kara Unger (*White Noise*, *The Game*, *Crash*), Kim Coates (*Assault on Precinct 13*, *Pearl Harbor*, *Black Hawk Down*), Tanya Allen (*Starhunter*), with Alice Krige (*Star Trek: First Contact*, *Reign of Fire*) and Jodelle Ferland (*Tideland*).

Tri Star and Samuel Hadida present a Silent Hill DCP Inc.— Davis Films Production, in association with Konami, *Silent Hill*. Directed by Christophe Gans (*Brotherhood of the Wolf*, *Crying Freeman*) from a screenplay written by Roger Avary (*Pulp Fiction*, *The Rules of Attraction*) *Silent Hill* is a Canada-France Co-Production. The producers are Samuel Hadida (*Domino*, *Resident Evil*, *Brotherhood of the Wolf*) and Don Carmody (*Chicago*, *Resident Evil: Apocalypse*). Andrew Mason (*Dark City*, *The Matrix Trilogy*) and Victor Hadida (*Domino*, *Resident Evil: Apocalypse*) serve as Executive Producers, along with Akira Yamaoka, who created the hugely successful Konami video game on which the film was based. The director of photography is Dan Lausten, the production designer is Carol Spier, the editor is Sebastien Prangere, the creature designer and supervisor is Patrick Tatopoulos, the costume designer is Wendy Partridge and the music is from Jeff Danna.

*Silent Hill* is rated R for strong horror violence and gore, disturbing images and some language. The running time is 127 minutes.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

For director Christophe Gans, the appeal of making the film of *Silent Hill* lay in its otherworldliness, its mixture of horror, sci-fi and drama elements, all the while refusing to succumb to the rules of any one genre. “This is a classic *Twilight Zone* story, dealing with emotions and the supernatural,” says Gans. “The story, embedded in different dimensions and linked by the fact that everyone is suffering, rests between the tradition of Romanesque melodrama and surrealistic science fiction. What I like is that *Silent Hill* is a current place, but once you are caught in it, you are condemned to wander there forever. But of course, it’s absolutely mythological; not a normal story at all.”

It was while on the set of Gans’ hit film *Brotherhood of the Wolf*, talking with Samuel Hadida, the producer of the film - and the man behind Metropolitan FilmExport and its production arm, Davis Films – that the idea of transforming the popular video game *Silent Hill* into a feature film developed. *Brotherhood* was the pair’s second film together after *Crying Freeman* and they instantly latched onto the possibilities inherent in creating a gripping tale and arresting cinematic experience around the idea of a town caught between heaven and hell, trapped by a vicious secret.

“*Silent Hill* is a step beyond what we have seen in cinema,” continues Hadida. “The video game is extraordinarily popular because each gamer experiences something unique when they play it. This film is going to further that experience by adding dimension and mythology to an already amazing concept. I first met Christophe when I was presenting one of my films, *Evil Dead* at the 1982 Festival du Film Fantastique de Paris; he was there with his short film, “Silver Slime”. Throughout our years of working together, we have been waiting to make a film that would be an homage to the horror genre. *Silent Hill* is that homage.”

Convincing the makers of the game, Konami, to give Gans and Hadida the rights to make the movie was no small task, but Hadida knew the game's richly visual aesthetics and spooky narrative would dovetail perfectly with Gans' encyclopedic film knowledge. "It's a twisted story with enormous reference to the cinema of today because the Japanese creators have taken their influences from the masters of the horror genre," says Hadida. "Christophe, having seen almost every film ever made, is the right person to reference these genres." The competition for the rights to the game was fierce. Hadida and Gans found that they were competing against more than a few major Hollywood production companies. What made the difference, and it was the only thing that made the difference, was Christophe Gans' vision, which he conveyed in a thirty minute on-camera statement to the game's creator, who in turn took that to the Board of Directors at Konami. Gans took home the prize because Konami felt he was the only one who perfectly understood the essence of the game.

Yet at the same time, the difference in media was crucial to understand. "A game is a game, and a film is a film," says Gans. "Silent Hill is about diving into a frightening world. What was important in the idea to do a movie was to bring a background story into the foreground. And we wanted to make all the characters grey and ambiguous, very multi-dimensional."

Producer Don Carmody had previously teamed with Samuel Hadida on the blockbuster *Resident Evil* franchise, and was immediately intrigued by what *Silent Hill* promised: a movie experience "intellectually interesting, stimulating, and definitely cinematic."

### **THE WORLDS OF SILENT HILL**

Integral to understanding the complex universe of Silent Hill is grasping the many realities and unrealities of the place. "*Silent Hill* is very different from any other film in the genre," comments Hadida. "This is a world that exists on four different dimensions or levels of existence: the town of Silent Hill in the 1970s

when it was real and existing, Silent Hill now, Silent Hill in the fog state and Silent Hill in the Darkness state. Carmody adds, “it’s an incredibly challenging effort to show all these levels visually and to do so, massive sets were built, requiring five studios to accommodate them all, and for every set, there are two or three levels of existence.”

Two of the dimensions have to do with time – reflecting the real Silent Hill of thirty years ago as seen in flashbacks that look like scratchy old film stock, and the real Silent Hill of today, in which Sean Bean’s Christopher has gone looking for his wife. The other two dimensions to the town – the foggy daylight in which Rose tries to find her daughter, and the rust-colored, occasionally enveloping Darkness that represents an evocation of Hell – have to do with space. “I like this idea that we are literally exploring dimensions of space, time and something metaphysical, mystical,” says Gans.

Executive Producer Andrew Mason, who came to this project with a curriculum vitae that includes *The Crow*, *Dark City* and *the Matrix* trilogy, gravitates towards filmmakers who create a complete world. Having spent a childhood reading science fiction, he has a penchant for alternative realities. “This is either a story about what happens in the moments between death and your fate or perhaps it’s a story about the existence of a real alternative dimension some of us get trapped into because we deny our fate,” says Mason. “This film deals with the terror of loneliness, the fear of the dark, the fear of taking responsibility for your own evil side, and the fear of your own fate. In *Silent Hill* the game, the creators put you constantly in an environment in which everything is potentially threatening and nothing feels like it will ever offer you comfort. This film seeks to reproduce that experience for a wider audience.”

And if there’s some confusion about its altered realities, it’s intentional, Gans says. “We do not try to explain everything because I prefer people to find the meaning in the dream quality of this story. It is more pleasurable to enjoy the opacity. It is a playful invitation to be intelligent.”

In adapting the game, Gans did make a crucial change to the story - the protagonist of the film is female, rather than male. "If you deal with disturbing issues such as we do in the film, you must have a saving grace," he says. "Bringing women into the story, (the cast is almost entirely female), was my way of doing that. By putting the issues on a feminine level, it makes them more complex and, at the same time, more ambivalent."

The leitmotiv in "Silent Hill" is motherhood, faith and persecution, all presented on a symbolic level. Gans' film *Brotherhood of the Wolf* (which he regards as his 'boy's film'), features Mani, a shamanistic North American Aboriginal who believed in the forces of nature. *Silent Hill* is the feminine counterpart in which Gans explores the force of motherhood against intolerance. "Rose, as Sharon's adoptive mother, loves the child so much, Sharon becomes her own. In this way, motherhood in the film is about Immaculate Conception - motherhood achieved in the noblest way. And that is the saving grace of the film. All these female characters have different ways of coping with motherhood."

Complementing Rose is Cybil, the childless police officer who adopts Rose's quest; Dahlia, the suffering mother who lost her child to a fanatical sect; Christabella, the religious leader who has turned away from motherhood for what she believes is the greater good of the community; Anna, the innocent who grasps onto anything that fashioned itself as a mother; and Dark Alessa, who tends to her namesake with all the savagery that the maternal instinct can mobilize.

By the time *Silent Hill* reaches its devastating conclusion in the suddenly unfriendly sanctuary of a witch-obsessed cult, Gans' film has coalesced into a cautionary tale of the dangers of religious fanaticism that evokes the disturbing history of witch hunting. "In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century in Europe, the witches who were persecuted were women who wanted to be free, who wanted to be considered as conscious entities," Gans details. "Monotheistic religions constantly attack the idea of femininity and this is something that was clearly in my mind. But I am not moralizing. I try first to tell a story and if audiences dig into it, they

might find what I like and what I don't like. If someone was to watch *Brotherhood of the Wolf* and then *Silent Hill*, they'd have a pretty good idea of who I am."

Mason concurs. "Anyone who's seen *Brotherhood of the Wolf* knows there's a very sure hand at the helm of this movie. They'd know this was someone who enjoyed the grandeur that cinema has to offer and who could bring vast and amazing adventure alive on the screen. But what they didn't perhaps see was how twisted and surrealist a brain he has, and this is an opportunity for him to put those things together."

Cinematographer Dan Laustsen returned to work with Gans once again, having shot the director's hit *Brotherhood of the Wolf*. "Christophe has a very clear vision of what he likes and it's just fantastic," explains Laustsen. "I've never worked with anyone who knows so much about movies. He's completely visual. I'm sure he has seen all the movies in the world. In the case of *Silent Hill*, it is not horror, horror, horror. It's scary, but it's very poetic with beautiful, sweeping images and that's its power."

While adapting a game experience to screen is similar to adapting a novel, it is not the same. A novel is often compacted, but this video game has been distilled. Akira Yamaoka, the creator of the *Silent Hill* video game, embraced the work of French surrealists, like Hans Bellmer and modern artists such as Francis Bacon, blending in a healthy serving of Kafka. "It's logical to approach a film version from a French surrealist point of view, which Christophe does," explains Mason. "In *Silent Hill*, there are layers and layers of story and every time you think you understand, something occurs that makes you reevaluate everything. Adapting this game is more about finding its essence, as well as taking as much familiar material as possible, retaining the intensity of the mystery and suspense."

"I cried when I played 'Silent Hill 2,'" recalls screenwriter Roger Avary. "It's a beautiful piece of art and it will always exist. But we had to disassemble it and create something new." Together Avary and Gans spent hours and hours studying not just story elements and details, but how the camera floats through the

game. “The one element we always felt we must remain true to is the spirit of the material,” Avary continues. “If not, then all is lost.”

And what is the spirit of this fever dream called *Silent Hill*? Avary explains, “That was the one great and true struggle Christophe and I had. I believe in forgiveness and Christophe believes in justified revenge, and I think Christophe won.” Comfortable with the results, Avary explains, “Christophe understands *Silent Hill* as well as, if not better than the creators of the game. First as a player, then as a writer and then a director, Christophe absorbed the necessary metaphorical elements of the material and then layered on his and my and everyone else’s interpretation of the material. You could have had a million different filmmakers do their own interpretation of this, but there aren’t any who are as media hungry as Christophe. He absorbs all manner of manga, novels, movies, TV shows, video games, and music. He was the one to make this movie because he lives and breathes the material.”

Ultimately, Avary believes *Silent Hill* has a richly unclassifiable quality to it. “Is it a relationship drama? Is it science fiction? Is it atmospheric horror? Is it an apocalyptic film? What Christophe has created is unlike anything else that has been put to film. One of the things about *Silent Hill* is that it defines itself.”

## **CASTING THE CHARACTERS**

Christophe Gans approached casting by considering more subtle actors, those who would offer nuanced versions of the characters, and avoid the obvious. “All my actors belong to independent, educated cinema, which brings a certain cache to this film,” explains Gans.

Radha Mitchell portrays Rose DaSilva, the mother of Sharon, a very troubled little girl whose sleepwalking takes her to dangerous places and who, while still asleep, keeps asking to be taken ‘home to *Silent Hill*’. Against her husband’s wishes, Rose takes Sharon to the abandoned town of Silent Hill in

West Virginia to find answers. As they enter the town, Rose loses control of her car. When she regains consciousness, Sharon has disappeared and the search begins.

“Radha is a cross between Grace Kelly and Mia Farrow,” says Gans. “She’s playing a very rich woman who, until this film begins, has led an untroubled life. Radha brings something sophisticated and vulnerable to a character who is not initially sympathetic. She’s elegant with a slightly 60s look which is, for me, very interesting. She is Rose and she is my Rose.”

“The first time I read this script, I got ten pages into it and had to stop because I was too scared to keep reading,” says Mitchell. “I did finish it, but only by reading it in the afternoon sunlight. It was a page-turner, to be sure, but it freaked me out. And that’s the reason I took this part. As the film moves along, my character gets tougher and stronger. There’s a joke on set that Christophe is our personal trainer because for the first few days it was ‘Run, Radha, run’. It’s very primal training.”

“*Silent Hill* is a mystery unto itself,” Mitchell notes. “It’s the kind of film that doesn’t have a conclusive finish so you’re really on for the ride. There’s something new to look at in every scene. Christophe’s vision is so intense and so grand that this has been a great experience.”

At the center of *Silent Hill* is Sharon, portrayed by 10 year-old Jodelle Ferland, noted for being the youngest nominee in the history of the Daytime Emmys. In *Silent Hill* she plays Sharon, Alessa and Dark Alessa, three girls who exist simultaneously, yet in vastly different time/space dimensions. Ferland’s unique achievement was deconstructing these personas and then delivering three individual, captive performances. “When I was working on the script with Roger Avary,” Gans recalls, “we were alarmed by what we had created because who was going to play it? We briefly considered the idea of triplets. But, based on her work in *Kingdom Hospital* and footage from Terry Gilliam’s *Tideland*, we brought Jodelle in and she hit the spot on the first take. Every time. She’s amazing because she’s ten and she acts like the

little girl that she is, but she's more. She has a brilliant mind." In fact, the filmmakers knew that Ferland was the right girl for the part when she walked into her audition and announced "I've always wanted to play the devil."

Gans nurtured Ferland's performances with a combination of charm and gentle direction, mixed with a peculiar dialect they invented that involved a lot of meowing. "Christophe is really nice," says Ferland. "I like him a lot. And playing three people isn't hard, but Dark Alessa wears a lot of makeup and her school uniform has a lot of gunk on it."

While the character of Rose is a new incarnation for *Silent Hill*, the Brahams police officer Cybil Bennett, played by Laurie Holden, is someone gamers will know well. Cybil is a loner and a survivor. Her religion failed to support her through a personal tragedy in her youth, but where faith fell short, Cybil's instinct to serve and protect leads her to eventually help Rose because she recognizes a kindred spirit in a woman trying to safeguard her child.

"This script is riveting," notes Holden, brimming with delight about every detail in the film. "It's spectacular - so many levels, so many complexities and so many wonderful themes permeating the story. Christophe is amazing. I feel blessed because he is such an artist. He is so respectful of the process in every way. He explores character development unlike any director I have ever worked with before. When I first arrived and was in hair and makeup, I asked him, 'This girl Cybil, what is she?' and he looked at me and said, 'You are my white wolf.' Not only did it explain it all, it created a clear path for me to become Cybil."

Gans had seen Holden in *The Majestic*, a film he defends enthusiastically. "In it, she was beautifully feminine and I cast her so I could show her other side, make her strong and sleek. Laurie on the screen is, for me, a perfect manga image brought to life."

Deborah Kara Unger, who plays Dahlia, and Christophe Gans have known each other since before Unger acted in David Cronenberg's *Crash*, a movie Gans recommended that she take. In the intervening years, Gans had hoped to work with her, but explains, "When you've known someone for a long time, you want to offer something amazing. When I proposed that she play a woman of seventy, one who was bizarre enough to frighten me, I thought that she'd throw the script in my face."

On the contrary, Unger leapt at the part. "Dahlia has a core essence akin to John Procter in *The Crucible*," she explains. "She is someone who did not speak out in time; someone who was blinded by faith and her silence caused injury. Dahlia has become wise through suffering. She functions in all of Silent Hill's worlds, bridging light and darkness as the prophet. She functions in an enigmatic way."

Unger expounds, "Dahlia is the most operatic part I've ever tackled. She's a more complicated character than I anticipated. Not that I underestimated her, but Christophe has conceptualized her in a much more layered fashion. This film is *Alice in Wonderland* meets *Dante's Inferno*."

Christabella is the one character Gans finds difficult to discuss because of her intricacies. "Christabella consciously decides not to be a mother and yet, she tends to her flock," he explains. She is also the catalyst of the story. To play Christabella, Gans selected Alice Krige specifically because of her work in experimental films such as *Institute Benjamenta* and *Twilight of the Ice Nymphs*, and her mainstream work in *Star Trek*. "I knew in casting Alice that she'd have the ability to play her role with passion and strangeness. In confronting Radha's Rose, she has delivered Christabella with a combination of elegance and violence."

Krige was enamored with both her role and her director. "Christabella is the dominant controlling figure of a religious sect with puritanical antecedents. They have a deep-seated belief that they are responsible

for holding Satan and evil at bay.” To prepare, Krige turned to Erna Paris’ book, *The End of Days*, about the 300-year development of the Spanish inquisition, which bore its fruit under Isabella of Spain. “I thought this role would be difficult and it is. But Christophe has the most fertile and vivid imagination and a passion for telling a story layered with emotional content in the imagery of every frame.”

Away from the fog and the Darkness of *Silent Hill* is another dimension - reality. There, Christopher DaSilva, played by Sean Bean, and Officer Gucci, played by Kim Coates, struggle to find Rose and Sharon.

“Sean’s role is a difficult one,” says Gans. “When you exclude the loving husband and father from the dimension where the women are fighting, it is by definition, romantic. He can only operate from his love for his wife and daughter, but do no more. He can only be in love and in pain, searching and waiting, trying to understand. I like that the central guy in the story shows his vulnerability, his tenderness.”

“My character has lost his family and he just can’t get any information,” explains Sean Bean. “He’s unaware of the evil going on, but he can feel it. He can sense it. And I think the heartbreak and despair starts to drive him crazy. Christophe has developed a world that is so vivid and so real that it’s not difficult for me to put myself in Christopher’s situation. He’s very eloquent and very inspiring. Besides, he loves this bizarre, weird, wild stuff: he revels in it.”

Kim Coates weighs in with his take on the *Silent Hill* experience, “I have to say this is by far the strangest movie I’ve ever done. It’s two movies! Sean and I are in one; Radha and Laurie and Jodelle are in another. We never set foot in the worlds of fog and darkness. So Gucci’s story is simpler: he has secrets, something that happened when he was young, and it changed him, but he keeps everything inside.”

## **THE CREATURES OF SILENT HILL**

Embodying the terror of *Silent Hill* are a panoply of vividly creepy entities: the relentlessly destructive, sword-wielding Red Pyramid, the harrowing Grey Children, the Armless ones, the mysterious Janitor, the Cockroaches and the Dark Nurses. Their combined effectiveness is the result of the harmonized efforts of acclaimed creature designer Patrick Tatopoulos in Los Angeles, prosthetic effects supervisor and co-designer Paul Jones in Toronto (who also was responsible for all 'organic' injury effects), costume designer Wendy Partridge, visual effects producer Holly Radcliffe, and movement consultant Roberto Campanella.

While the Cockroaches were entirely computer-generated images, Red Pyramid began as a Patrick Tatopoulos design. "We stayed very close to the images in the game, but for me, it was all about proportions and elegance," explains Tatopoulos. "It's very simple: beautiful doesn't mean pretty. If you retain the elegance of the creature and some degree of humanity in the design, it becomes mesmerizing. The components of Red Pyramid were sent to Toronto and Paul Jones' team took over the implementation, including working with costume designer Wendy Partridge to build the skin skirt and boots with 15-inch platforms worn by Roberto Campanella, one slightly lower than the other to create a truncated gait."

The Grey Child, which was multiplied in post-production to create a Grey horde, was Tatopoulos' favorite project. A body suit for petite dancer Yvonne Ng was crafted out of spandex, with silicone sprayed on to create a translucent skin. Ng's deliberate posture accentuated the design of the infant's belly and sway back, but it was the face which held the creation's truest artistry. Adds Tatopoulos, "Christophe wanted each creature to be sensual and to have the sense that they are constantly screaming. The Grey Child's face is human, elongated, twisted, with the skin slipping back with a mouth stretching into an eternal howl."

Dancer Michael Koda played the Armless one, and Tatopoulos' design was intended to stress functionality for the performer. "Even though the Armless one does not have a mouth, under his skin you can still feel his perpetual scream," explains Tatopolous. Finally, there were the Nurses, notable for their ashen uniforms, which seem to grow out of their skin, and a lack of features on their faces. Layered onto that image is their movement: marionette-like, frozen in time, coming to life when light appears in the darkness of the hospital.

The character of the Janitor was added during production, and Paul Jones designed and built both the mummified version found in the fog world, and the living, crawling twisted being who appears in the Darkness. Jones' own long history of playing the game enabled him to find a design which tapped into familiar themes, including a disturbing use of barbed wire. "Disturbing, not disgusting" became a mantra of sorts for Gans when it came to the visual and prosthetic effects, says Jones. "It's very easy to gross you out," he says. "The trick for Christophe was to have it still be visceral and disturbing, but something you can't take your eyes off. He doesn't want people to turn away. He wants people to be entranced, but have the same kind of horror in their eyes."

All the creatures were further digitally manipulated in post production. The Grey Children's skin was treated to resemble burn victims, Armless' limbs were elongated and distorted, the Janitor's legs were twisted, and the Nurses' movements were time-shifted. But Jones takes pains to point out that they are performances first and foremost, and that without the dance-infused portrayals by Campanella, Koda and Ng – who had never played creatures before -- all would be lost. "It's a very tough job being a creature in a movie, it's no fun at all," says Jones. "You're covered in a cumbersome costume that makes you sweat incredibly, and it can be physically uncomfortable to hold positions for long amounts of time. But they were so cool and so much fun and they never complained once. They made my job so much easier."

## **BUILDING A FOUR-DIMENSIONAL SILENT HILL**

Realizing the special, strange world of *Silent Hill* required the coordination of physical set design with the virtual capabilities of CGI. The narrative space of *Silent Hill* consists of four dimensions: reality in the Silent Hill of 30 years before, reality in present day, the Fog world, and the Darkness.

Born in the 1960s, the great period of the big epic adventure films, Gans has long been inspired by the impact of the cinemascope image on a physical environment. “There was something grand about those films,” he says. “It was much more about being in a different place, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*. I enjoy the scale of the human being on the giant set.”

For *Silent Hill*, Gans was excited about creating a complete town, but not inside a computer: one that he and the actors could see and touch and be inspired by. The filmmakers took over a Canadian town and completely transformed it. “We created it with more than 100 sets,” says Gans. “And that makes it real, strangely real. That’s my old fashioned style. But there are visual effects, because it’s impossible to do a film like this without them.”

Gans initiated the design process with his own storyboards, which were based on the concept of Japanese manga comics (graphic novels). Unlike Western comics which are based around superhero themes, manga have an advanced story structure, utilizing depictive image-making techniques that imitate cinema, such as zooming, scene "panning", and stills/close-ups of characters.

As a result, Gans’ brief to production designer Carol Spier was incredibly comprehensive. “I work with very precise storyboards,” he explains. “I like to design each of my shots because dealing with three different dimensions, often superimposed on each other, you have to be extremely clear, otherwise the audience will be lost. I first test my vision on a storyboard and then move to camera. Because I work from specific angles, the sets can have a high level of detail.”

Spier worked from those storyboards to create a world wrecked by time. Decayed settings are the environment for 80% of the film, varying between the deterioration of the Fog state and the corroded, decomposed conditions of the Darkness state. In some cases, real buildings were altered for the movie's purposes, such as the factory set and the school set, and in other cases, sets were built from scratch, such as the massive church – which took eight weeks to construct -- and the mountain road that leads into Silent Hill, which was created in a studio.

One of the best finds, Spier says, was a street in Brantford, Ontario to duplicate Silent Hill's empty thoroughfare. "A lot of sections of the street had closed down because they were going to renovate it," says Spier. "We were able to go in and redress windows and change colors and take away signs we didn't want to see, and make it look like the town had been abandoned for thirty years. And we had considerable help from the people in Brantford. We worked in great detail to raise the two-dimensional world of the video game into the three-dimensional world of *Silent Hill*." Spier's primary inspiration were places that had been left to age and decay, so she perused extensive photographs from the Chernobyl disaster and eerie, abandoned psychiatric hospitals in upstate New York. Taking Spier's work further were artists at several visual effects facilities, including Buf Compagnie in Paris, and Mr. X Inc. and C.O.R.E. Digital Pictures, Inc. in Toronto, all led by visual effects producer Holly Radcliffe.

As appreciative as audiences will be of these sets and the sweeping cinematography, it was the actors who were overwhelmingly grateful that almost all principal photography was shot in real environments. "I may not have been a good enough gamer to play *Silent Hill* very well, but for three months on these incredible sets, I have been living there," says Radha Mitchell. "It's a visual feast."

# SILENT HILL

## ABOUT THE CAST

**RADHA MITCHELL (Rose DaSilva)** was most recently seen in the critically acclaimed starring role of 'Melinda' in Woody Allen's film *Melinda and Melinda*, opposite Will Ferrell.

Prior to that she was seen in *Finding Neverland*, for which she and her co-stars Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet and Dustin Hoffman were nominated for a Screen Actors Guild ensemble award. The film was directed by Marc Forster (*Monster's Ball*), with whom she worked in 2000 when she starred and produced the Independent Spirit Award-nominated film *Everything Put Together*.

In 2004, Mitchell starred opposite Denzel Washington in *Man on Fire*, playing the mother of a missing child who had been kidnapped. She starred opposite Colin Farrell in Joel Shumacher's *Phone Booth* and in the box-office hit *Pitch Black* opposite Vin Diesel. The actress gave a memorable performance as Syd, the young editorial assistant who falls in love with Ally Sheedy's heroin-addicted photographer character in Lisa Cholodenko's critically acclaimed drama *High Art*. Her role in Emma-Kate Croghan's romantic comedy *Love and Other Catastrophes* was highly praised at both the Cannes and Sundance film festivals. Other recent film credits include *When Strangers Appear* with Josh Lucas, the independent feature *Dead Heat* opposite Keifer Sutherland and Anthony LaPaglia, *Nobody's Baby* with Gary Oldman and Skeet Ulrich, and Rodrigo Garcia's *Ten Tiny Love Stories*. On television, she starred with Hank Azaria and Donald Sutherland in NBC's critically acclaimed mini-series *Uprising* for director Jon Avnet. Mitchell recently finished shooting two starring roles for release next year; *PU 239* opposite Paddy Considine and *Rogue* which is directed by *Wolf Creek's* Greg MacLean. She will next be seen in *Mozart and the Whale*, written by Ron Bass (*Rain Man*), starring opposite Josh Hartnett.

**SEAN BEAN (Christopher DaSilva)** gained international fame as Boromir in the Academy Award®-winning *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. But while that may be his best-known role, it is only one in a career that includes more than 40 films, acclaimed stage performances and one of the most successful franchises in British television history.

Originally from Sheffield, Bean worked as a welder before turning to acting, and even his most polished characters retain a hard masculine edge. After graduating from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company, and then won two career-making film roles, the first in 1990's critically acclaimed *The Field* opposite Richard Harris, and the next in 1992's *Patriot Games*, starring opposite Harrison Ford in a provocative and complex portrayal of the tragic antagonist.

Clearly a romantic lead, he was cast as Richard Sharpe, hero of the Napoleonic Wars, in 1993's *Sharpe's Rifles*. After 13 two-hour sequels, Bean was one of the UK's best-known stars.

He also dazzled audiences in films as varied as *Tom & Thomas*, *Essex Boys*, *Ronin* and *Anna Karenina*, and more recently in *Troy*, with Brad Pitt; *The Big Empty* with Jon Favreau, *Equilibrium* with Christian Bale and *Don't Say a Word* opposite Michael Douglas.

On stage in 2004, the classically trained Bean won raves in an acclaimed West End production of *Macbeth*, and recently starred in *Henry VIII* for Granada opposite Ray Winstone and Helena Bonham Carter.

In the last 18 months he has starred in the Bruckheimer/Disney blockbuster *National Treasure*, Dreamworks' *The Island*, *Flightplan* with Jodie Foster and, in his first role as an American, the acclaimed *North Country* with Charlize Theron. He has just completed the final chapter of Sharpe, *Sharpe's Challenge*, set in India and due out in 2006.

Voted by readers of *Empire Magazine* "the second sexiest man in England," Bean escapes madness by working non-stop in films around the world, and rooting for Sheffield United wherever satellite reception allows.

**LAURIE HOLDEN's (Cybil)** acting career reads like a Cinderella story. While performing on stage at the world renowned Larry Moss Acting Studio, she was discovered by Frank Darabont (*The Shawshank Redemption*, *The Green Mile*) who thought she was perfect for the lead in his capra-esque drama, *The Majestic*. Holden's captivating feature film debut starring as Jim Carrey's long lost love in the film was met with critical acclaim by the New York Times and film critics around the world. This film introduced audiences to her natural onscreen presence, which Darabont called "fresh, awesome – like an old Hollywood film star with a lovely twist." Indeed, keeping things fresh is Holden's passion and she's created an arsenal of memorable characters in film and television since she began her career as a child. She appeared in last summer's successful comic-action adventure, *The Fantastic Four* starring opposite Michael Chiklis' portrayal of 'The Thing.' She recently shot the indie family film, *Bailey's Millions* with

Tim Curry, Jon Lovitz, Jennifer Tilly and Dean Cain and is attached to star in another indie opposite Ben Kingsley, *The Knights of Impossingworth Park*.

A dual citizen of Canada and the U.S., Holden's career got off to the kind of start most actors can only dream of. Upon graduating from UCLA with honors, Holden received the "Natalie Wood Acting Award" for Best Actress. She went on to study the classics on the London stage at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. She co-starred in the TNT mini-series *Young Catherine* with Vanessa Redgrave, and gained notoriety playing 'Marita Covarubbias,' the UN Informant to Fox Mulder, on the long-running hit *The X-Files*. Her episodic work includes a comedic turn in the critically *acclaimed Due South*, for which she was nominated for a Gemini Award (Canada's Emmy). Holden also starred as the only female lead opposite Michael Biehn in the remake of the MGM classic *The Magnificent Seven* for CBS.

**DEBORAH KARA UNGER (Dahlia)** was most recently seen starring opposite Michael Keaton in *White Noise*, Thomas Jane in Bronwen Hughes' *Stander*, John Travolta and Scarlett Johansson in *A Love Song for Bobby Long*, and Sir Ian McKellen in Carl Bessai's *Emile* (for which she received the 2004 Geraldine Page Best Actress Award at the American Method Festival).

In 2003 she received a Best Actress Canadian Academy Award nomination starring opposite screen legend Sophia Loren in Edoardo Ponti's *Between Strangers*, with Mira Sorvino and Gerard Depardieu, and completed three feature films including *I.0* which screened in official competition at 2004's Sundance Film Festival.

Since graduating from the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Art in Australia (as the first Canadian to be accepted), she has co-starred in such films as: Norman Jewison's *Hurricane* with Denzel Washington, *Payback* with Mel Gibson, David Fincher's *The Game* with Michael Douglas and Sean Penn, David Cronenberg's *Crash* with Holly Hunter and James Spader (Special Jury Prize in Official Competition in Cannes), and Istvan Szabo's award-winning epic *Sunshine* with Ralph Fiennes and William Hurt, which garnered her a 2000 Genie nomination for Best Supporting Actress.

Other feature film credits include: *Thirteen* with Holly Hunter, *The Salton Sea* with Val Kilmer, *Signs and Wonders* with Stellan Skarsgard and Charlotte Rampling, *Leo* with Joseph Fiennes and Dennis Hopper, *Fear X* with John Turturro, *No Way Home*, with Tim Roth, Bette Gordon's critically acclaimed *Luminous*

*Motion*, and *The Weekend* with Gena Rowlands, which received the 1999 Best Ensemble Acting Award at the Seattle Film Festival.

Upcoming releases include *Alibi* with Rebecca Romijn and Steve Coogan, and *Things That Hang from Trees* with Ray McKinnon and Laila Robbins. Ms. Unger made her feature film debut in the award-winning WWII drama *Prisoners of the Sun* with Russell Crowe. On television, Ms. Unger appeared as Ava Gardner in HBO's 1998 drama, *The Rat Pack*, and in the award-winning mini-series *Bangkok Hilton* with Nicole Kidman. In September 2004, Deborah Kara Unger received the Award of Excellence from Russia's Vladivostok International Film Festival and in April 2004, she received the Imagery Award at Cinema Epicuria. In May 2003, Ms. Unger was honored as the recipient of the Libertae Award at the Dubrovnik International Film Festival for her ongoing work in and commitment to the spirit of independence in film.

**KIM COATES (Officer Gucci)** Canadian born actor Kim Coates has the distinction of successfully entering the film and television industry in Canada, and also crossing the border and expanding his ever growing repertoire into noted feature films which have been given international acclaim and great critical reviews.

With over 40 films to his credit, including *The Island* directed by Michael Bay, *Hostage* with Bruce Willis, *Assault on Precinct 13*, opposite Ethan Hawke and directed by John Carpenter, *Open Range* starring and directed by Kevin Costner with Robert Duvall and Annette Bening, *Hollywood North* with Matthew Modine and Alan Bates, Academy Award® winners *Black Hawk Down* directed by Ridley Scott, and *Pearl Harbor* directed by Michael Bay, this actor has managed to transcend the barriers between stage, television and film. His talents have been utilized on Broadway in his portrayal of Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*; and in the title role of *Macbeth* at the legendary Stratford Theatre. He has had roles in more than 20 made for television movies, such as the NBC mini-series *Hercules*, *Friend of the Family*, Disney's *Scream Team* with Eric Idle, *Thoughtcrimes* with Joe Flannigan, and the award winning series *Fallen Angels* with Bill Pullman. These dramatic turns on television have garnered him Gemini nominations for Best Actor in a Featured Supporting Role for *Dead Silence* and Best Performance in a Guest Role Dramatic Series for *The Outer Limits* .

In addition to *Silent Hill*, Coates has 4 major films opening in 2006 including *Grilled*, *Skinwalkers* and *King of Sorrow*.

Coates currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife and their two children.

**TANYA ALLEN (Anna)** is perhaps best known as the sardonic intern in Ken Finkleman's award-winning series, *The Newsroom* (for which she won the Gemini Award for best performance in a Comedy). After attending the prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, she launched her professional acting career in her late teens, starting with appearances on such series as *The Adventures of Shirley Holmes* and *Kung Fu: The Legend Continues*. Allen received a Gemini nomination (the Canadian Emmys) for her role in 1994 TV movie *Lives of Girls & Women*. It was her performance in the title role in the Canadian TV movie *Lyddie*, a historical drama about a teenage girl who leaves her poverty-stricken family to work in a cotton mill; followed by a lead in CBS comedy *The Newsroom* that moved Allen into the public eye. She then played the lead role of 'Sarah' in the World War II drama *Regeneration*, opposite Jonathan Pryce and Jonny Lee Miller. The following year she moved to New York, and starred in Bruce McDonald's *Platinum* (which earned her a Gemini nomination for Best Actress), *Clutch* opposite Tom Green, *Liberty Stands Still* opposite Wesley Snipes and Linda Fiorentino and *White Lies* with Sarah Polley. Allen's role as the emotionally stunted but brilliant 'space waif' Percy on *Starhunter* made her a favorite with sci-fi fans all over the world. She reprised the role of Percy on *Starhunter 2300*: and then took to the ice in Kari Skogland's hockey comedy/drama *Chicks with Sticks*.

**ALICE KRIGE (Christabella)** was born in Upington, South Africa. After four years at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, she went on to study acting at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Her first professional performance was in 1979's *Play for Today* for the BBC. In 1980, Krige made her feature film debut as 'Sybil Gordon' in the Academy Award® winning film, *Chariots of Fire*. Krige then appeared in the 1980 television adaptation of *Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities*, which was followed by her memorable, dual role as the avenging spirit in 1981's *Ghost Story*. Also in 1981, Alice debuted in a West End theatre production of George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man*, for which she received the honors of both a Plays and Players Award and a Laurence Olivier Award for Most Promising Newcomer.

Krige decided to focus on working with the prestigious Royal Shakespeare Company where she performed in *King Lear*, *The Tempest*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*. She then

appeared in a diverse range of films, including *King David*, *Barfly*, *Haunted Summer*, *Code Name: Chaos* and *See You in the Morning*. Her work in television includes the critically acclaimed mini-series, *Ellis Island* and *Wallenberg: A Hero's Story*.

In addition to numerous roles in television, including appearances on *Beverly Hills, 90201* and *Becker*, Krige also appeared in the films *Sleepwalkers*, *Institute Benjamenta*, *Amanda*, *Twilight of the Ice Nymphs*, *Habitat*, *The Commissioner* and *Molokai: The Story of Father Damien*. One notable standout, however, was the film *Star Trek: First Contact*, for which Ms. Krige won a 1997 Saturn Award for her portrayal of the 'Borg Queen'.

The new millennium finds Krige with several projects to her credit, which include such works as *The Little Vampire*, *Star Trek Voyager: End Game*, *Attila*, *Dinotopia*, *Reign of Fire* and *Children of Dune*. Recent projects include *Shadow of Fear*, a Natalie Wood bio-film, the Borg Invasion 4D theme park attraction, a film about the 1980's television series *Dynasty* and a recurring role on the HBO series *Deadwood*. Upcoming projects include *Lonely Hearts*, *The Contract*, starring John Cusack and Morgan Freeman and *The Line of Beauty*, for the BBC. Krige was recently awarded an honorary doctorate in literature from Rhodes University and is producing her first feature film.

**JODELLE FERLAND (Sharon, Alessa, Dark Alessa)** In the last decade, Jodelle Micah Ferland has built up an impressive resume filled with roles in film, television, radio, voice work, and commercials. Born in October, 1994 in Nanaimo, British Columbia, she got her television start in an episode of CTV's *Cold Squad* (1998). It wasn't long before she landed a lead role in her first film, *Mermaid* (1999), at the age of four. Her portrayal of the heartbroken "Desi" earned her a Daytime Emmy® Award nomination, making her the youngest nominee in history. That performance also earned her a Young Artist Award of Hollywood. Since then, she has appeared in almost 30 more films and television series, including: Dean Koontz's *Sole Survivor* (1999), *Special Delivery* (2000), *Deadly Little Secrets* (2000), *Trapped* (2001), *Miracle of The Cards* (2001), *The Christmas Child* (2002), *Mob Princess* (2002), *They* (2002), and *Carrie* (2002), and has made guest appearances on *Dark Angel* (2000), *Smallville* (2001), and *The Collector* (2004). Ferland can also be seen starring in Stephen King's *Kingdom Hospital* (2004), playing a tortured young girl who haunts the hospital's halls. In 2004, she landed the lead role of Jeliza-Rose in Terry Gilliam's *Tideland*, co-starring Jeff Bridges, a film about a disturbed young girl who finds solace in her own imagination after the death of her mother. When not performing, Ferland spends her time with family and loves to hang out with her friends.

## SILENT HILL

### ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

**CHRISTOPHE GANS (Director)** Born in 1960 in Antibes, France, Gans was an early convert to film fandom. As a teenager, he made Super-8 samurai and kung fu films and in the late 1970s, he published the fanzine, *Rhesus Zero*, sharing his passion for sci-fi, kung fu and other genre films with others. In 1980, Gans studied at the French cinema school Idhec (Institut des Hautes Etudes Cinematographiques) and directed a short film called *Silver Slime*, a tribute to Mario Bava, which was well received at the 1982 Paris Festival.

In 1982, he also founded the magazine *Starfix* and championed the work of directors like David Cronenberg, Dario Argento, Russel Mulcahy, David Lynch, John Carpenter and Sergio Leone. Initially working on an adaptation of Liberatore's underground cult comic, *RanXerox*, Gans then wrote and directed a segment of Samuel Hadida's 1994 production of H.P. Lovecraft's *The Necronomicon*. Gans' segment, *Hotel of the Drowned*, convinced the Japanese creator and investors that he was the perfect choice to direct the live-action adaptation of the successful manga and anime series, *Crying Freeman*. *Crying Freeman*, also produced by Hadida, won the Audience Award at the 1995 Sweden Fantastic Film Festival and was nominated for the 1996 International Fantasy Film Award at Fantasporto.

Gans went on to create for Metropolitan the video collection, "HK", devoted to Hong Kong movies. He then worked for two years on a free adaptation of Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues under the Sea* before directing *Brotherhood of the Wolf (Le Pacte des loups)* about the Beast of Gévaudan, an unknown animal who killed more than one hundred people in France at the end of 18th century. Released in 2001, *Brotherhood of the Wolf* was nominated for a Saturn Award and Best Director at the 2002 Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films, the Grand Prize of European Fantasy Film in Gold at the 2002 Brussels International Festival of Fantasy Film, and won a Cesar (the French Academy Award®) for Best Costume Design as well as the Grand Prize of European Fantasy Film in Silver at the 2001 Catalonian International Film Festival, Sitges, Spain in addition to being nominated for Best Film at that festival.

**ROGER AVARY (Screenwriter)** Born in Canada, unrelenting gonzo filmmaker Roger Avary has captured both the mainstream of Hollywood as well as the fringe of indie cinema with his aggressive and unique filmmaking style. A former video store clerk from Manhattan Beach, California, Avary is a self-

proclaimed charter member of what he calls “the video store generation.” The first generation of information age filmmakers with complete and total access to a database of tens of thousands of films at any given moment...something no other generation before his can claim. In 1994 his first feature film, the cult classic, *Killing Zoe*, produced by Hadida, garnered the Prix Tres Special in France and won the best film awards at Japan's Yubari International Film Festival and Italy's MystFest. The film was released by New York-based October Films and has won favorable, if not heated, reviews. The film has been hailed by Daily Variety, Cahiers du Cinema, and the Village Voice as one of the finest debut films of the last twenty years. His second film was a bold and visually striking adaptation of Bret Easton-Ellis’ novel, *The Rules of Attraction*. The film was such a creative success that Roger Avary and Greg Shapiro have optioned the rights to Bret Easton-Ellis’ novel *Glamorama*. The film is currently in development under Shapiro’s production banner, Kingsgate Films. He has also completed work on Robert Zemeckis’s upcoming animated feature, *Beowulf*.

Avary also collaborated with director Quentin Tarantino as co-author of his Cannes Film Festival Palm d'Or winner *Pulp Fiction*. In 1995 the two shared best writing accolades from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, the New York Film Critics' Circle, the Boston Society of Film Critics, the National Society of Film Critics, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and the British Academy of Film and Television for their work on *Pulp Fiction*. This phenomenal success has led to a prolific writing career for Avary, working at Warner Brothers, Paramount, Dreamworks, and others. Avary has been very active as a producer, both on his television projects, and the independent films *Boogie Boy* and *The Last Man*. Avary is a spokesperson for Apple Computer and their prosumer editing software, Final Cut Pro, with which he edited his 35mm feature *The Rules of Attraction*. An avid Apple evangelist, Avary’s full page spreads have appeared worldwide in Daily Variety, The Hollywood Reporter, Post Magazine, Rez Magazine, Videography Magazine, Millimeter Magazine, and many more. He dropped out of the Art Center College of Design, screaming at one of his professors, “You don’t need a degree to study film!” He now lectures yearly at the Art Center. Avary collects and restores vintage Atari X-Y monitor arcade machines, as some people might specialize in restoring old automobiles. Avary is currently editing his digital video feature of the footage shot in Europe for Victor’s travels, to be titled *Glitterati*. He is also preparing the screenplay for his next film as director.

**SAMUEL HADIDA (Producer)** is one of the most successful producers and distributors in the worldwide film business today. From his home base in Paris, he and his brother, Victor, have grown Metropolitan Film Export, founded in the early 1980’s by the brothers and their father, David, into the largest and most successful independent all-rights distribution company of English language pictures in France.

Metropolitan has distributed hundreds of successful films in France, continuing through *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Through the growth of this distribution business, Hadida has developed a keen understanding of distribution and marketing. It was then an easy step for Hadida to move into producing his own films.

His first production was *True Romance*, the first film produced from a Quentin Tarantino script and his first collaboration with director Tony Scott. Hadida now produces or co-produces several films each year through Davis Films, the production company owned and operated by himself and Victor. These productions encompass the best of the French industry, European productions and co-productions, and American productions.

In addition to *Silent Hill*, Hadida most recently produced Tony Scott's *Domino* with Kiera Knightley and Mickey Rourke. Hadida is also the producer of *Resident Evil* and *Resident Evil: Apocalypse*, starring Milla Jovovich, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* with Robert De Niro, and Fabian Bielinsky's thriller *El Aura*. He was co-executive producer on George Clooney's Academy Award® nominated *Good Night and Good Luck*.

Hadida has had a long collaboration with writer-director Roger Avary, having produced Avary's first directing venture, *Killing Zoe* (with Jean-Hugues Anglade and Julie Delpy) and executive produced *Rules of Attraction*. It was natural that Hadida reached out to Avary to write the screenplay for *Silent Hill*.

Hadida has also had a long association with Christophe Gans. He produced Gans' first film, *Necronomicon*, his next film *Crying Freeman*, as well as the phenomenally successful *Le Pacte des Loups (Brotherhood of the Wolf)*, one of the highest grossing French films of all time and nominated for four Cesar Awards and eight Saturn Awards. The decision to make *Silent Hill* together solidifies their successfully enduring relationship.

Other Hadida productions include David Cronenberg's acclaimed psychological thriller *Spider* starring Ralph Fiennes and Miranda Richardson, Sheldon Lettich's *Only the Strong* (the first Capoeira/martial arts film, and the film which introduced both Mark Dacascos and the famous score music now popularized in the United States in the "zoom zoom zoom" Mazda car commercials), Michael Radford's *Dancing at the Blue Iguana*, Steve Barron's *Pinocchio* with Martin Landau (one of the first films to combine computer-generated images and live action), Matthew Bright's *Freeway* (winner of the top award at the Cognac

Festival and Reese Witherspoon's first role), and Gabriele Salvatores' *Nirvana*.

Upcoming projects include *Onimusha*, the adaptation of the successful Capcom video game, as well as *Judge Dee*, adapted from the famous series of books by author Robert van Gulik.

**DON CARMODY (Producer)** has been producing films for close to 30 years. He was vice-president of production for Canada's Cinepix (now Lionsgate Films), where he co-produced David Cronenberg's early shockers *They Came From Within* and *Rabid* as well as the popular comedy *Meatballs*.

Starting his own production company in 1980, Carmody went on to produce the smash hits *Porky's* and *Porky's II*, the perennially popular *A Christmas Story* as well as *Spacehunter: Adventures In The Forbidden Zone*, *Whispers*, *The Big Town*, *Physical Evidence*, *Switching Channels* and several Chuck Norris films, including *The Hitman* and *Sidekicks*.

He returned to comedy successfully with the *Weekend at Bernies* series, and *The Late Shift* for HBO, which was nominated for seven Emmy® Awards, three Cable Ace awards and the Producers' Guild of America Golden Laurel. *The Late Shift* also won a Golden Globe for actress Kathy Bates and a Directors' Guild Award for Betty Thomas.

His credits include some 75 films thus far, including *Johnny Mnemonic* with Keanu Reeves, *The Mighty* with Sharon Stone, *Studio 54* with Mike Myers, the Academy Award® nominated *Good Will Hunting* with Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Robin Williams, *In Too Deep* with L.L. Cool J, the cult hit *The Boondock Saints* with Willem Dafoe, *The Third Miracle* with Ed Harris and Anne Heche, *Get Carter* with Sylvester Stallone, *The Whole Nine Yards* with Bruce Willis and Mathew Perry, *The Pledge* directed by Sean Penn and starring Jack Nicholson, *3000 Miles to Graceland* with Kevin Costner and Courtney Cox, *Caveman's Valentine* with Samuel Jackson, *Angel Eyes* with Jennifer Lopez, David Mamet's *The Heist* with Gene Hackman, and Danny DeVito, *City by the Sea* with Robert DeNiro and Frances McDormand, *Wrong Turn* with Eliza Dushku, *Gothika* starring Halle Berry, Penelope Cruz and Robert Downey Jr., *Resident Evil* based on the all time bestselling video game and *Resident Evil: Apocalypse* starring Milla Jovovich, and *Assault on Precinct 13* with Ethan Hawke, Laurence Fishburne, Gabriel Byrne and Maria Bello. He is executive producing *Lucky Number Slevin* with Bruce Willis, Josh Hartnett and Morgan Freeman and producing *kinwalkers* in Toronto. Both will be released in 2006.

In 2002 Carmody was co-producer of the hit film musical of *Chicago* starring Rene Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere, which won seven Academy Awards® including Best Picture, three Golden Globe Awards, including Best Musical or Comedy and the Producers' Guild of America Golden Laurel Award for Best Picture as well as many, other awards and citations around the world.

Carmody was born in New England and emigrated to Canada with his parents as a boy. He graduated from film school in Montreal and has gone on to produce films all over the world. He currently lives in Toronto and Los Angeles.

**ANDREW MASON (Executive Producer)** Mason spent 2004 in Romania producing, with Lakeshore's Tom Rosenberg and Gary Lucchesi, the horror thriller *The Cave*, starring Cole Hauser, Marcel Iures and Lena Headey. The directorial debut for Australian Bruce Hunt, the film was released by Screen Gems in August 2005.

Mason began his industry career in the early 1970's as a film editor in documentaries and commercials. He moved into producing, and headed a highly successful TV commercial production company. He formed Australia's first visual effects company in 1983, and worked as visual effects supervisor on a number of Australian films. He returned to producing and, in 1990, joined forces with director Alex Proyas, producing numerous music videos & commercials directed by Proyas. In 1993 Mason served as visual effects supervisor and second unit director on Proyas' *The Crow*.

In 1996 Mason produced *Dark City* for Proyas, released by New Line Cinema in 1998. He followed this with *The Matrix*, directed by the Wachowski Brothers and produced with Joel Silver and Barrie Osborne. He served as Executive Producer of *Matrix Reloaded* and *Matrix Revolutions*.

Mason executive produced three Warner Bros. Pictures released in 2002/3: the live-action *Scooby Doo* starring Matthew Lillard, Freddie Prinze Jr, Sarah Michelle Gellar and Linda Cardellini, *Queen Of The Damned* starring Stuart Townsend, and *Kangaroo Jack* starring Jerry O'Connell and Estella Warren. He served as executive producer on the Warner/Village Roadshow 2001 release *Red Planet*. He also executive produced Bristol Bay/Crusader Entertainment's *Swimming Upstream* starring Judy Davis and Geoffrey Rush, released by MGM in February 2005.

In 2003, Mason's City Productions produced *Danny Deckchair*, a romantic comedy starring Rhys Ifans and Miranda Otto, written and directed by Jeff Balsmeyer. Lions Gate released the film in July 2004.

Mason is a member of the board of the Macquarie Film Corporation, established by Australia's Macquarie Bank to fund Australian film and television projects, and is deputy chair on the board of the New South Wales State Film and Television Office.

**VICTOR HADIDA (Executive Producer)** served as executive producer of David Cronenberg's acclaimed psychological thriller *Spider*, starring Ralph Fiennes and Miranda Richardson, chosen as an Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival. Furthermore, Hadida was the executive producer of the *Resident Evil* franchise and Christopher Gans' *Crying Freeman*. He also served as executive producer on Tony Scott's *Domino*, Mary McGuckian's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, based on the Pulitzer prize winning novel by Thornton Wilder, and Avi Neshet's *Turn Left at the End of the World*. He is co-executive producer of George Clooney's Academy Award® nominated *Good Night and Good Luck*.

**AKIRA YAMAOKA (Executive Producer)** has composed music for dozens of Konami video games. Yamaoka attended Tokyo Art College, where he studied product and interior design. He started his career as a freelance music composer and eventually joined Konami on September 21, 1993. He is most well known for his work on the Silent Hill series of video games, for which he composed all the music and created all of the sound effects in all four games. He also played the central role of Producer for the games Silent Hill 3 and 4, and additionally he has worked on the sound and music for other popular franchises from Konami. Recently, Akira Yamaoka has released his first solo album and has also contributed music to the Silent Hill feature film.

**DAN LAUSTSEN (Director of Photography)** has photographed some 30 movies, many in his native Denmark, with perhaps his best known credits being the features *Brotherhood of the Wolf*, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, *Mimic*, and *Giselle*. Laustsen's many other credits include *Nomad*, *Darkness Falls*, *Don't Peek*, *I Am Dina*, which won the award for Best Cinematography at the Robert Festival, *Heart of Light*, and *Running Free*.

The Danish-born Laustsen also served as Director of Cinematography on *Gummi-Tarzan*, earning him the Special Award at the Bodil Awards, *Miraklet i Valby*, and *Isfugle* both of which won awards for Best Cinematography at the Robert Festival. Laustsen studied still photography and was working as a fashion photographer when he decided to attend the Danish Film School for three years. He shot his first feature at age 25 in Denmark. The dailies on his first American film, Miramax's *Nightwatch*, caught the eye of Guillermo del Toro, who hired him on *Mimic*.

**CAROL SPIER (Production Designer)** is perhaps best known for her longtime association with director David Cronenberg. Her collaborations with Cronenberg include *A History of Violence*, *eXistenz*, *Crash*,

*M. Butterfly, Naked Lunch, Dead Ringers, The Fly, The Dead Zone, Videodrome, Scanners, The Brood* and *Fast Company* as well as two television docudramas for CBC: *Scales of Justice*. She received Genie Awards for both *Naked Lunch* and *Dead Ringers* and Genie nominations for *The Brood, Videodrome, Scanners* and *eXistenZ*.

Her numerous other feature film credits include *The Man, The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, Noel, Mimic, Joe's Apartment, The Santa Clause, Canadian Bacon, Consenting Adults, Where The Heart Is, Renegades, Sing, Search and Destroy, Running Brave* and *I Miss Your Hugs and Kisses* which, in 1976, marked her first film as a production designer.

For television, Spier designed the PBS/CBC series *Anne of Green Gables*, for which she won a Gemini Award for Best Art Direction, Showtime's *Gotham*, for which she received a nomination for an ACE award for Best Art Direction, the CBS MOW *Escape From Iran*; and the PBS/American Playhouse production of *Overdrawn at the Memory Bank*.

Spier is Canadian-born and studied Interior Design at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Architecture. She began her professional career as an interior designer in Winnipeg, Manitoba. During this period she also worked as a set and costume Designer with various theater groups, including the Manitoba Theater Center.

She began her motion picture career with *The Mourning Suit*, on which she served as set designer, set dresser, and property master. She then moved to Toronto, where she worked as an assistant art director on several feature films, including *Equus* and *Why Shoot the Teacher*, before serving as art director on such films as Norman Jewison's *Agnes of God* and John Schlesinger's *The Believers*.

**SEBASTIEN PRANGERE (Editor)** was born in Paris. After graduating from the ESRA film school in Paris (1991), he went on to editing short films, trailers and documentaries including *Perfect Day, Numéro 26, Benson & Edges, 4ème sous sol, and Dans la nuit*. Prangere made his feature film editing debut with Christophe Gans' *Brotherhood of the Wolf* in 2001 and *Guts of the Beast*, a behind-the-scenes documentary directed by Pascal Laugier. He then worked again with Pascal Laugier for his first feature film, *Saint Ange*, and has edited *Brocéliande* directed by Doug Headline and *9A* for director Reza Rezai.

In addition to his editing work, Prangere has been directing documentaries and supervising DVDs for companies such as Metropolitan & Studio Canal.

**PATRICK TATOPOULOS (Creature Designer and Supervisor)** is undoubtedly one of the top creature and special effects designers currently working in movies. His impressive resume includes Creature Designer and Supervisor on *I, Robot*, *Godzilla*, *Independence Day*, *Stargate*, *Pitch Black*, *They, Saint Sinner*, *Cursed*, *Supernova*, *Super Mario Bros* and both *Underworld* and *Underworld Evolution*. He also created the animatronic mice used in *Stuart Little*. Tatopoulos worked as a conceptual creature artist on *Van Helsing* and *The Chronicles Of Riddick*, and the upcoming *Eragon*. He was a visual consultant on *AVP: Alien vs. Predator*, and a set conceptual artist on *Dracula*, *The Doors*, *Se7en*, and *The Librarian: Quest for the Spear*. To round out his impressive design talents, Tatopoulos created new worlds as the Production Designer of *Underworld Evolution*, *I, Robot*, *Independence Day*, *Dark City*, and the TV series, “*Special Unit 2*.” A man of many talents, he even designed some of the costumes on *Stargate*.

**WENDY PARTRIDGE (Costume Designer)** started off by dressing her dolls at the age of seven and has gone on to design for some of the most exciting films in the last five years including *Underworld* and *Underworld Evolution*, starring Kate Beckinsale, *The Cave*, starring Cole Hauser, Marcel Iures and Lena Headey, *Fantastic Four*, starring Julian McMahon and Jessica Alba, *Hellboy*, for which she received a 2004 Best Costumes nomination for Best Costumes from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films, and *Blade II*, starring Wesley Snipes. Additional credits include *Texas Rangers*, *Snow Day*, *Come L’America*, for which received a 2001 Genie nomination for Best Costume Design, and *Loyalties*, for which she won a 1986 Genie Award for Best Costume Design.

**JEFF DANNA’s** (Music) film credits include Terry Gilliam’s *Tideland*, Roger Spottiswoode’s *Spinning Boris*, starring Jeff Goldblum, Anthony LaPaglia and Liev Schreiber, *The Gospel of John* with Christopher Plummer and directed by Philip Saville, *O*, featuring Mekhi Phifer, Josh Hartnett and Julia Stiles, *Resident Evil: Apocalypse*, starring Milla Jovovich, *Green Dragon* and *The Boondock Saints*. Danna was the composer for the Robert Evans documentary *The Kid Stays in the Picture*. On television, Danna has scored the music for the made-for-television movies “Ice Bound,” starring Susan Sarandon, “A Wrinkle in Time,” “Mafia Doctor” with Paul Sorvino and Olympia Dukakis, Roger Spottiswoode’s “The Matthew Shepard Story,” featuring Stockard Channing and Sam Waterston, “Baby” and “My Own Country” with Glenne Headley, Hal Holbrook and Marisa Tomei. Danna also has worked on television series, including “Kung Fu: The Legend Continues” with David Carradine and “Beverly Hills, 90210.”

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