

## GODMOTHERED

### Production Notes

Disney's "Godmothered" is an all-new magical Christmas comedy in the classic Disney tradition, starring Jillian Bell and Isla Fisher.

Set at Christmas time, "Godmothered" is a comedy about Eleanor, a young, inexperienced fairy godmother-in-training (Bell) who upon hearing that her chosen profession is facing extinction, decides to show the world that people still need fairy godmothers. Finding a mislaid letter from a 10-year-old girl in distress, Eleanor tracks her down and discovers that the girl, Mackenzie, is now a 40-year-old single mom (Fisher) working at a news station in Boston. Having lost her husband several years earlier, Mackenzie has all but given up on the idea of "happily ever after," but Eleanor is bound and determined to give Mackenzie a happiness makeover, whether she likes it or not.

"Godmothered" also stars Santiago Cabrera, Mary Elizabeth Ellis, Jane Curtin, June Squibb, Jillian Shea Spaeder, Willa Skye, Artemis Pebdani, Utkarsh Ambudkar, and Stephnie Weir.

"Godmothered" is Directed by Sharon Maguire and Produced by Justin Springer. Diane L. Sabatini, Tom Pollock, Ivan Reitman and Amie Karp serve as the film's Executive Producers.

\* \* \*

### A COMICALLY MISMATCHED ODD COUPLE

Fantasy faces a hard reality in Disney's "Godmothered" – a hilarious Christmas comedy that turns the traditional fairytale completely on its head. When an offbeat fairy godmother forces herself on a reluctant human protégé, they'll both discover life isn't as simple as "happily ever after."

Eleanor is an apprentice fairy godmother, highly enthusiastic and eager to learn the tricks of the trade, but not quite there yet. All her life she has lived in The Motherland, the Gothic fantasy other-world where fairy godmothers come from and where they are raised and trained and have existed for a thousand years. There, she has been taught by her imperious headmistress Moira (Emmy winner Jane Curtin), who literally wrote the book on "godmothering," all the very traditional fairy tale notions of what girls aspire to—going to balls in beautiful gowns, marrying Prince Charming and also things like turning pumpkins into carriages and mice into footmen.

Mackenzie is a world-weary widow who lives in Boston with her daughters Jane (Jillian Shea Spaeder) and Mia (Willa Skye) and is exhausted from trying to juggle all the responsibilities of motherhood with a high pressure and mostly unrewarding job on the number four local news program. After her husband was killed in a car crash four years ago, she's closed herself off from any dreams of romance or happiness and has just focused on getting through the day. With babysitting help from her sister Paula (Mary Elizabeth Ellis), Mackenzie has tried her best to raise her daughters to be as pragmatic as she is about what life has to offer.

Eleanor's and Mackenzie's worlds collide one day when, due to a lack of demand for fairy godmothers, The Motherland is in great danger of shutting down, with everyone to be retrained as tooth fairies. Desperate to find something that will validate the need for fairy godmothers to continue to exist, Eleanor finds a letter from Mackenzie asking for help, unaware that she sent it decades ago. With the help of her roommate,

Agnes (Oscar® nominee June Squibb), Eleanor is transported from The Motherland to 21<sup>st</sup> century Boston, in order to find Mackenzie and use what she has learned from Moira to bring happiness to her life.

“Godmothered” producer Justin Springer (“Dumbo”) and Director Sharon Maguire (“Bridget Jones’s Diary,” “Bridget Jones’s Baby”) recognized the comic potential in the notion of the classic fairy godmother being a fish out of water in today’s world.

Recalls Springer, “We have this kind of woefully naïve fairy godmother who expects to find things perfectly situated as you might in a fairytale story. But instead, she runs right into the wall that is Boston in the present day. A lot of the comedy is just her trying to make sense of today’s world.”

Maguire explains, “There’s this conflict between Eleanor’s expectations and what she thinks being a fairy godmother and what she thinks magic is like. But then when she’s confronted with the real world, all her expectations come crashing down in a very funny way.”

The director continues, “There are all the tropes of the Disney legacy....magic, there’s wands, fairy godmothers and woodland creatures, but we also get to subvert that legacy for comedy. Eleanor is untrained in magic, so none of her spells go according to plan and Happily Ever After is delivered in a very different way than we’ve come to expect in previous Disney movies.”

From her first encounter with the much-older-than-she-expected Mackenzie, it is evident that this assignment is not going to be easy for Eleanor. Their differences make them a comically unharmonious odd couple, a recipe for laughs in a buddy comedy.

Says Springer, “You have sweet, sugary, naïve Eleanor who runs into this cynical kind of pragmatic woman who’s lost her belief in magic. She started as a young girl who believed in fairy godmothers and magic and all that could be. But life has worn that down for her and she no longer prioritizes her own happiness. She’s not worried about finding her Prince Charming, she’s just pragmatically trying to make it through things. So you have this story where Eleanor is trying to nudge her in the direction of following a formula to become ‘happily ever after’ when Mackenzie’s not really looking for that.”

Maguire says, “For Eleanor to come into the modern world is a shock, you know. And for her to bring her brand of magic into the world of a 2020 Boston single mom, is a huge shock.”

## THE STARS

The roles of Eleanor and Mackenzie provide fantastic showcases for two comedic actors able to balance the humor with emotion and poignancy. To play Eleanor, the filmmakers chose Jillian Bell, who’s starred in such films as “Brittany Runs a Marathon,” “Rough Night,” “Office Christmas Party,” “22 Jump Street” and the TV comedies “Workaholics” and “Idiotsitter.”

Springer says, “I think Jillian’s the funniest person working on the planet right now. I feel like not only does she have the comedic chops to make this a very funny, fish out of water fairy godmother story, but she could also bring an emotionality to it that would really resonate for us and for an audience.”

Maguire adds, “In Jillian Bell we’ve got a unique Disney godmother. I don’t think Disney ever had a godmother like this one. I think she’s going to be very winning to audiences.”

Bell explains, "I just fell absolutely in love with the character and the idea for the film. Eleanor is probably one of my favorite characters I've ever gotten to play. She is naïve in some areas but she's also smart. She wants the best for everyone and she wants everything to be magical and wonderful and lovely. Her dream in life is to come down and prove that fairy godmothers are still needed during these modern times."

Of her director, Bell says, "I was a big fan of Sharon's because I love the 'Bridget Jones' movies very much and I was excited to get to work with her. And she's very passionate and she knows what she wants and she knows the look of it all."

To portray Mackenzie, the filmmakers cast Australian-born actress Isla Fisher, whose memorable scene-stealing in "The Wedding Crashers" led to starring roles in such films as "Wedding Daze," "Definitely, Maybe" and "Confessions of a Shopaholic."

Springer said, "Isla Fisher's been in some of the funniest movies over the last twenty years and has become a household name in comedy. To have her play the mom and a woman who's become a bit of a cynic and is ultimately transformed by this fairy godmother felt really exciting to us."

Added Maguire, "I think audiences will be amazed at seeing Isla play a tired, cynical, forty-something Boston single mom, which in many ways is like the Bill Murray role in 'Groundhog Day.'"

Fisher says, "There are so many great elements in this movie. There's magic, there's humor, there's the connection between the two women--you root for them, you care about them. It's a buddy comedy. It's something that I think that families will all enjoy. And most importantly it's set at Christmas which is everybody's favorite time of the year. "

About her co-star, Bell says, "Isla's brilliant. She's hysterical and she's so good in this. She's so incredibly talented and she has some really funny moments of doing physical comedy within the scenes. She is the most beautiful clown I've ever worked with."

Fisher returns the praise, saying, "I love working with Jillian. She has a ton of energy. She's so funny. She makes me laugh every day. She's just so much fun and she just creates a really fun vibe on set. And she's absolutely perfect as Eleanor."

## COMEDY, BUT ALSO HEART

Fisher was equally effusive about Director Maguire. She says, "It's so fun working with Sharon. I was a big fan of 'Bridget Jones' and she really is a thoughtful director who can discuss the emotional landscape of your character. She's very good technically. She loves to keep the camera moving. She allows you to do an improv take. She's able to walk that fine line where we can laugh but we still have heart."

Springer concurs, saying, "'With Bridget Jones's Diary,' Sharon demonstrated that she can make a very funny movie that's also full of emotion and really takes you through the reality of being a woman in the modern world. Those are all things that we really want this film to succeed at too."

Mackenzie's grief over losing her husband and the pressures of being both a single mom and sole provider are both moving and grounded in reality. Her wanting to shield her daughters from experiencing the

heartbreak and pain in life that she's experienced and having to learn to let her kids take risks and live their own lives is something every parent goes through.

Fisher explains, "I loved the emotional arc of Mackenzie. How she begins as a woman who is sort of self-sacrificing and putting her kids' needs first and really trying to heal herself after the death of her husband. She's frustrated emotionally because she is trying to raise her children but she can't be vulnerable in front of them. She needs to be in charge and sort of models someone who's coping while secretly she's heartbroken over the death of her husband. And to see her awakened by this fairy godmother into a person who can have fun and occasionally spoil herself, who learns to love life again"

### **"HAPPILY EVER AFTER" IN TODAY'S WORLD**

There's poignancy and truth when Eleanor is forced to realize that all her old-school concepts about what will make Mackenzie happy are false, and presumptuous on her part.

Maguire says, "When Eleanor finds out why Mackenzie doesn't believe in 'happily ever afters,' she doesn't know what to do with that and that's great because it sends her back to zero in what she does with her magic and she has to learn what 'happily ever after' really is."

This is one of the film's key messages: That in today's world, unlike in traditional fairy tales, 'happily ever after' doesn't mean marrying a prince and living in a castle. It's completely subjective.

Says Springer, "That notion of redefining what 'happily ever' after might mean in a way that's more practical and real in our regular lives. That sometimes you have to take control of your own fate and become your own fairy godmother and find that happiness."

Fisher says, "Mackenzie realizes that her true love is her children and they were in front of her the whole time. But due to so many ingredients – an unhappy job, struggling economically, feeling sort of overwhelmed as a single mom, she was unable to actually see the magic that was in front of her. I think a lot of mothers will relate to her."

She continues, "'Happily ever after' doesn't need to come from a fairy tale. 'Happily ever after' can come from helping others, being of service, being the best version of yourself, being of service and caring for each other, like Mackenzie and Eleanor do in the end and living in a world in which we all support each other. That's 'happily ever after.'"

Springer adds, "The real magic from real life comes from seeing the everyday things in our life that bring us joy and happiness. The real magic is making a friendship. It's the friendship between Eleanor and Mackenzie that becomes the magic of the story that helps Mackenzie see her life in a different way and realize that her own happiness has been right there with her the whole time."

He says, "There's also the message that our lives don't always have to just be filled with pragmatism, and we don't have to give up on our own happiness. That it's important to keep hope alive. So I think there's a lot of different messages in the movie all wrapped up in a really funny fish out of water holiday film."

## THE SUPPORTING CAST

Joining Bell and Fisher in supporting roles are Santiago Cabrera (“Star Trek: Picard”) as Mackenzie’s on-air reporter partner Hugh; Mary Elizabeth Ellis (“It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia”) as Mackenzie’s sister Paula; and Jillian Shea Spaeder (“Walk the Prank”) and Willa Skye (“Lazy Susan”) as Mackenzie’s young daughters Jane and Mia, respectively. Emmy® winner Jane Curtin (“Kate & Allie” and “Saturday Night Live”) is Moira, headmistress of The Motherland and June Squibb (Oscar® nominee for “Nebraska”) is Eleanor’s roommate Agnes. Artemis Pebdani (“Scandal”), Utkarsh Ambudkar (“Brittany Runs a Marathon”) and Stephnie Weir (“Crazy Ex-Girlfriend”) portray Mackenzie’s colleagues at the TV news station and Carlease Burke (“Child’s Play”) appears as Greta, one of Eleanor’s fellow fairy godmothers at The Motherland.

## THE BELOW THE LINE TALENT

Maguire says, “We’ve got an amazing team on this movie.”

“We asked everyone in every department to treat the material as it’s real and it’s serious, and it has to be fully believable and then the comedy can come on top of that,” says Springer.

Christopher Norr (“Succession,” “Gotham”) serves as Director of Photography with Alice Normington (“Suffragette,” “My Cousin Rachel”) as the Production Designer, Gary Dollner, ACE (“Fleabag,” “Killing Eve”) as Editor and Renee Ehrlich Kalfus (“Hidden Figures,” “Last Christmas”) as Costume Designer. The Music is by Academy Award® winner Rachel Portman (“A Dog’s Purpose,” “The Cider House Rules”).

Maguire explains, “It’s very important to me that it’s very funny but it’s also very important to me that it looks beautiful. I do think it’s possible to shoot a comedy that looks beautiful. I really, really want that aesthetic to run throughout the whole thing. I think we have the means to do that here and we have the people employed to help us get there.”

“We’ve really put together a team of people who I think can make it both a beautiful movie but also a really funny one,” Springer added.

## A WORKPLACE COMEDY

Mackenzie’s field of work provided an additional repository of humor. Maguire says, “The whole local news angle I think is a source of great comedy.”

Springer explains, “Local news is always quite hilarious. We spent a lot of time around the office watching videos of stories that are told on local news around the country and we’re gonna leverage some of that in our film as kind of a comedic runner. Eleanor’s story plays into that as she’s this character who’s coming into the world and finds her way into the center of these news stories and that makes them quite comedic.”

Mackenzie and her on-air reporter partner Hugh are given such typical assignments to cover as a snowstorm, a tailgate party for a Boston Bruins ice hockey game and a patch full of exploded pumpkins, courtesy of Eleanor.

And as in other film and TV comedies set in a local TV station, there are eccentric characters and office politics. Among Mackenzie's co-workers are her unctuous, backstabbing bully of a boss Grant (Ambudkar); female cameraman Duff (Pebdani), who is fascinated with Eleanor; and vapid news anchor Barb (Weir). Hugh, a divorced Dad who moonlights as a costumed Sons of Liberty performer, re-enacting the Boston Tea Party, may or may not be a potential romantic interest for Mackenzie, despite having the last name Prince.

## **BOSTON AS A CHARACTER IN THE FILM**

"Godmothered" is set in two worlds, the fantasy otherworld of The Motherland, and the real world we live in today. To represent the real world, the filmmakers were intent on setting the film in a real American city, rather than Anywhere, U.S.A.

Springer recalls, "When you look at a lot of great comedies from the past you can really remember where they took place. 'Trading Spaces' was in Philadelphia. All the John Hughes stuff was in Chicago. We wanted to find a real city where we could shoot it as that city."

Because the story is during the holidays, they envisioned "Godmothered" taking place in a city that would have a very beautiful, very Christmas-y, feel to it—a winter wonderland with sparkly, twinkling lights. After considering various cities, they settled in Boston.

To showcase Boston, they purposely chose locations with identifiable points of interest that are associated with the city, such as City Hall, Boston Public Garden and Copley Square. For the exterior of Paula's apartment, the crew shot in Boston's North End, and for some of the parade shots, Boston's Financial District. The Charlestown area around the Bunker Hill monument were used for the exteriors of Mackenzie's house and Jane's school. The exterior of the TV station where Mackenzie works was in Chelsea. Additional locations in the Boston area included an old military airplane hanger in Weymouth, for most of the parade sequence and Jane's performance, an unoccupied office building in North Andover for the interior of the TV station, and a parking garage in Malden. Two different houses in Dedham were used for the interiors of Mackenzie's house. In Westford, scenes of Eleanor's runaway sled were shot at the Nashoba Valley Ski Area. They also filmed in Ipswich for the scenes with the pumpkin patch and Eleanor being picked up by the lady trucker. A deconsecrated church in Lowell was used for the interiors of The Motherland.

For The Motherland, a make-believe world that doesn't really exist, the filmmakers pictured a timeless Gothic institution like Oxford or Yale, but overgrown. Because of the absence of light stone Gothic buildings in America, The Motherland had to be created using green screen and plate shots of Oxford and references of everything from castles to colleges all over different parts of Europe.

Principal photography commenced on January 17, 2020 and wrapped five days early due to the COVID pandemic on March 12.

## **THE POOF, THE WANDS AND GARY**

Although visual effects were key to bringing "Godmothered" to life, it was important to the filmmakers that they not be overdone and potentially overshadow everything else in the film. They wanted to keep everything in check in order to keep it grounded in reality, as much as possible.

They coined the term “poof” for the sequences when Eleanor would wave her wand to do a bit of magic. Because Eleanor has not yet mastered her use of her wand, some of the “poofs” yield the result that Eleanor desires, such as when she transforms Mackenzie’s streetwear into a fairy godmother’s notion of a party dress or a luxurious living space, much to Mackenzie’s horror. At other times, her “poofs” don’t quite work out the way she wants, like when she attempts to turn a pumpkin patch into a carriage to transport her to where Mackenzie works in Boston.

“There’s gonna be some big set pieces in this film, but I think it’s funniest when it’s done in a small way like when it’s Eleanor trying really hard to do her magic and it not working out exactly the way she thought,” says Springer.

Maguire adds, “The magic and the poofs are within a modern setting and it’s a tricky thing to get right, but it also is very funny. Because Eleanor is untrained in magic, she gets things very wrong and as they say, hilarity ensues.”

In order to make the poofs happen, the fairy godmothers need their wands. In “Godmothered,” there are have three different types of wands. Because Eleanor is just an apprentice, she has a very simple wooden wand, almost like bleached bone or ivory. Moira, the headmistress of The Motherland, has a gorgeous solid gold wand. The other godmothers have a wand that’s somewhere in between the first two. They’re all made entirely out of green resin and painted, and fitted inside with a cool white LED.

In the beginning, Eleanor is not quite familiar with her wand. So there are scenes where the wand will actually droop when she tries to cast a spell. For those, the prop department created a mechanical wand that’s “puppeteered” to go limp to show how immature she is with it at first. To show her progression with her magic, as she develops skill and confidence, she will graduate to a wand that’s straight and clearly under her control.

Along with the poofs, “Godmothered” features Gary, a magical CG creature--a city raccoon Eleanor has enlisted to help lighten Mackenzie’s load of household chores, like laundry, sweeping and hanging Christmas lights. He’s very much in the tradition of the woodland creatures in other classic fairy tales, just not quite as helpful.

## ABOUT THE CAST

**ISLA FISHER (Mackenzie)** will next be seen in “Blithe Spirit,” directed by Edward Hall and co-starring Dan Stevens and Dame Judi Dench.

Fisher was last seen in “Greed,” directed by Michael Winterbottom and co-starring Steve Coogan. Prior to that, she appeared in Harmony Korine’s film THE BEACH BUM with Matthew McConaughey, Snoop Dogg and Zac Efron and in Warner Brothers’ 2018 comedy “Tag” alongside Jon Hamm, Rashida Jones and Ed Helms.

In 2016, Fisher appeared in Tom Ford’s critically acclaimed “Nocturnal Animals” alongside Amy Adams and Jake Gyllenhaal. Earlier that year, she starred in Fox’s comedy “Keeping Up with the Joneses,” directed by Greg Mottola, alongside Jon Hamm, Zach Galifianakis and Gal Gadot.

Fisher is most widely recognized for her critically-acclaimed performance as Vince Vaughn's off-kilter love interest in the blockbuster "The Wedding Crashers." Other film credits include "Now You See Me" with Mark Ruffalo, Woody Harrelson and Jesse Eisenberg. Gore Verbinski's Academy Award®-winning animated feature "Rango" with Johnny Depp; John Landis's "Burke and Hare" with Simon Pegg and Andy Serkis; "Confessions of a Shopaholic" (based on the best-selling book series by Sophie Kinsella); romantic comedy "Definitely, Maybe" with Ryan Reynolds; writer/director Scott Frank's critically acclaimed thriller "The Lookout" starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Jeff Daniels; the animated flicks "Horton Hears a Who" with Jim Carrey and Steve Carell; "The Rise of the Guardians" with Hugh Jackman and Chris Pine; "Hot Rod" with Andy Samberg; "Wedding Daze" with Jason Biggs; "Life Of Crime" with Jennifer Aniston, David O. Russell's "I Heart Huckabees" alongside Dustin Hoffman and Naomi Watts; "Scooby-Doo"; "Bachelorette" opposite Kirsten Dunst and Lizzy Caplan; "The Great Gatsby" in the supporting role of Myrtle Wilson alongside Leonardo Di Caprio and Joel Edgerton, for which she was nominated for many Critics Awards and an ACCTA award for best supporting actress; "Now You See Me" opposite Mark Ruffalo, Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson and Morgan Freeman; "The Brothers Grimsby" alongside her husband Sacha Baron Cohen, Rebel Wilson, and Penelope Cruz; and the scripted/improvisation TV series "Pilot Season" with comedic actors David Cross, Andy Dick, and Sarah Silverman. She has had recurring roles in "Bored to Death," alongside Zach Galifianakis, was nominated for a SAG award for "Arrested Development" and starred in "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

In June 2016, Fisher made her debut as a children's author with "Marge in Charge". Fisher has been making up stories at bedtime for her children every night since they were born, which is how "Marge in Charge" began. She is developing the books into a TV show which she sold to Nickelodeon with Bonnie Arnold, the award-winning producer of "Toy Story" and "How to Train Your Dragon."

Born in the Middle Eastern country of Oman, Fisher's family moved to the small city of Perth in Western Australia when she was a young girl. At the age of nine, Fisher was already appearing in commercials as well as TV shows broadcast on Australian television. She then became best known for her role as Shannon Reed in the popular soap "Home & Away," which also helped launch the careers of Guy Pearce, Naomi Watts and Heath Ledger. While working on the set of "Home & Away," she also found the time to write and release two best-selling teen-themed novels.

She studied at L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris, where she studied clown, mime and commedia dell'arte.

**JILLIAN BELL (Eleanor)** has become Hollywood's comedy darling. In 2019, she starred in the title role in the Amazon feature, "Brittany Runs a Marathon," which she also executive produced. She was a standout in the Summer 2017 comedy blockbuster "Rough Night" opposite Scarlett Johansson and Kate McKinnon. Jillian can also be seen in New Line's feature "Fist Fight" opposite Charlie Day and Ice Cube, and in Paramount Pictures' "Office Christmas Party" opposite Jason Bateman and Jennifer Aniston.

In 2015 Jillian was in Sony's "Goosebumps" as well as "The Night Before."

Jillian recently sold a remake of the film "Splash" to Disney with Imagine Entertainment producing. She will star opposite Channing Tatum. In this reimagined version, Jillian will reprise Tom Hanks' role while Channing will play the Merman.



Her breakout role was in “22 Jump Street” opposite Jonah Hill & Channing Tatum where she played the villain “Mercedes”, the mastermind behind the drug WHYPHY. Paul Thomas Anderson also cast her in both “Inherent Vice” and “The Master.”

Jillian has been busy on the TV side as well, having written, executive produced and starred in two seasons of “Idiotsitter” for Comedy Central. Her TV credits include “Workaholics” and HBO’s “Eastbound & Down.”

**SANTIAGO CABRERA (Hugh)** is best known for his breakthrough role in NBC’s “Heroes” which earned an Emmy® and Golden Globe® nomination. Cabrera stars in the CBS All Access series “Star Trek: Picard” opposite Patrick Stewart, which premiered on January 23, 2020.

Most recently, Cabrera starred as Joseph Bachman on HBO’s miniseries “Big Little Lies” opposite Reese Witherspoon, CBS’s “Salvation,” and Mindy Kalling’s “The Mindy Show.” On the movie side, Cabrera most recently starred in Pablo Larrain’s musical drama “Ema” alongside Gael Garcia Bernal and “Transformers: The Last Knight” opposite Mark Wahlberg and Josh Duhamel.

Other television credits include “BBC’s “Musketeers,” “Empire,” “Merlin,” “Dexter,” “Spooks,” “Judge John Deed,” “Falcon” and “Anna Karenina.”

Domestic and international movie credits include “Haven,” “Love & Other Disasters,” “Che,” “Haven,” “For Greater Glory,” “Hemingway And Gellhorn” and “Meant to Be”. Cabrera played the lead role in Matias Bize’s “La Vida De Los Peces” (Life of Fish), which premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2010. The film went on to earn a Spanish GOYA Award for Best Film and Cabrera picked up a Best Actor Award at Chile’s Altazor (Chilean BAFTA EQUIVALENT).

Cabrera also has a developed theatre background. He trained at London's Drama Centre from 2000 to 2003 and went on to rehearsals for a Northampton theatre production of “Othello,” directed by Rupert Goold. In 2008, Cabrera returned to the stage for Theatre of Memory production of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” at Middle Temple Hall, in which he played the title role opposite Juliet Rylance.

**MARY ELIZABETH ELLIS (Paula)** began her love for acting as a child in the local theatre of Laurel, Mississippi, and that love drove her to attend Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University. Upon graduation, L.A. was calling. Ellis continued studying acting as well as improvisation at the Upright Citizen's Brigade Theater.

On the feature front, Ellis is currently filming Paul Thomas Anderson’s new film, which is a period piece that takes place in Los Angeles. Other feature credits include, *Masterminds*, in which she plays Owen Wilson’s scene stealing wife Michelle, “Free State of Jones” where she plays a confederate woman “Margaret” opposite Matthew McConaughey and the indie ‘The Last Time You Had Fun’ which premiered at the Los Angeles International Film Festival. She co-wrote and starred in the independent film, “A Quiet Little Marriage,” which won The Grand Jury Prize at Slamdance Film Festival.

Recent television credits include AMC series “Lodge 49” opposite Wyatt Russell and her recurring role on the Netflix series “Santa Clarita Diet” opposite Drew Barrymore and Timothy Olyphant. Ellis starred opposite Fred Savage and Rob Lowe on the FOX single-camera legal comedy “The Grinder.” She is also known for her hysterical recurring role as The Waitress on FXX’s hit show “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia,”

which she began working on at the show's creation. Her Lifetime television spoof, "Mother May I Dance With Mary Jane's Fist," which she created for the stage was turned into a television special for Adult Swim which she wrote and produced. Other TV credits include playing Amy in the NBC single-camera comedy "Perfect Couples" and recurring on Fox's "New Girl" playing the character of Caroline. Ellis also recurred on the ABC comedy "Happy Endings" and played roles on "Drunk History" and "Comedy Bang Bang."

**JILLIAN SHEA SPAEDER (Jane)** is an accomplished actress, having starred on the Disney XD series "Walk the Prank" for three years, followed by a recurring role on the Netflix series "No Good Nick" alongside Sean Astin and Melissa Joan Hart, a stint on Disney's "Just Roll with It" and a supporting role in the film "To the Beat 2," to name a few.

In addition to her acting career, the 17-year-old is also a talented singer-songwriter. Jillian got her start singing and playing the piano when she was five years old, discovered her love of guitar at 12, and now is passionate about writing and recording her original music. Her first two singles, "Story" (July 2018) and "Barely Changed" (January 2019), were produced by music director and producer Mike Avenaim and mastered at Capitol Records. Working with acclaimed producer Mikal Blue (Colbie Caillat, Jason Mraz, Five for Fighting, One Republic), Jillian released "Talk Too Loud" in June 2019 and "Something Better" in September 2019. She also co-wrote, directed, and produced the video for "Something Better. In November 2019, Jillian released Runaway, which she co-composed as the theme song for the Brat TV show "Crazy Fast."

A Philadelphia-area native who primarily resides in Los Angeles, Jillian started her acting career with several roles in regional musical theater. It was a trip to Hollywood that changed Jillian's life through a chance encounter with her manager, who encouraged her to consider moving to California to enter the film and television industry. In her first three months in Hollywood, she appeared in the digital DreamWorksTV series "OMG!," had a guest starring role on Nickelodeon's "Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn" and booked the series regular role on "Walk the Prank."

The youngest of three siblings, Jillian holds "Children International" close to her heart for their dedication to giving children all across the world an equal opportunity at success.

10-year-old **WILLA SKYE (Mia)** began her career at the young age of 6, doing commercial work for the brands GE and Alexa in 2017. Willa made her film debut earlier this year, appearing in the Shout! Studios comedy "Lazy Susan," starring Sean Hayes and Allison Janney.

Aside from acting, Willa is passionate about dance, specifically jazz and ballet. She also enjoys baking and considers herself to be a bit of a mixologist, as she loves to make "mocktails" for her family. Willa also loves animals and has her own rescue dog named Mickey.

**JANE CURTIN (Moir)** first gained national attention when she made her TV debut in 1975 as one of the original members of the "Not Ready for Prime-Time Players" on the hit late-night series "Saturday Night Live." During her five-year run on that show, she received critical acclaim and two Emmy® nominations for her creation of many memorable characters.

She starred with Susan Saint James for five years on the popular television series “Kate and Allie”, twice earning the Emmy® Award as Best Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for her portrayal of affable divorcee Allie Lowell. Jane went on to a successful six-year run as Dr. Mary Albright on the NBC hit “3<sup>rd</sup> Rock from the Sun.”

Curtin’s other television credits include the critically acclaimed miniseries “Common Ground,” as well as the television movies “Divorce Wars” with Tom Selleck, and “Maybe Baby”, with Dabney Coleman,, and the “Librarians” series on TNT.

Her feature film credits include “Antz,” “Coneheads,” “How to Beat the High Cost of Living,” “Suspicion,” “Mr. Mike’s Mondo Video,” “O.C. & Stiggs,” “The Shaggy Dog,” “I Love You Man” and “I Don’t Know How She Does It”.

Born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Curtin studied drama at Northeastern University. She was a member of the improvisational theater group The Proposition for four years before going on a national tour with a number of plays, including the comedy “Last of the Red Hot Lovers.” She appeared on Broadway with Joanne Woodward as Prossie in George Bernard Shaw’s “Candida,” and reprised the role on television. Her other stage credits include the off-Broadway musical revue “Pretzels,” which she co-wrote, and several appearances in A.R. Gurney’s “Love Letters.” Jane also appeared in the Westport Country Playhouse production of “Our Town,” which also played on Broadway to a sold-out run in late 2002 with Jane reprising her role.

Recently, Jane appeared in the comedy smash “The Heat” with Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy, and starred in the CBS series “Unforgettable.” Jane also had a role in Marielle Heller’s critically-acclaimed dark comedy “Can You Ever Forgive Me?” opposite Melissa McCarthy and Richard E. Grant. She can also be seen opposite Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon in the Lionsgate feature “The Spy Who Dumped Me.” She most recently starred in the ABC comedy series “United We Fall.”

**JUNE SQUIBB’s (Agnes)** upcoming film appearances include “Palmer” and “The Humans.”

June is best known for her supporting role in Alexander Payne’s “Nebraska”, which earned her critical claim and numerous award nominations including best supporting actress for the Golden Globe®, SAG/AFTRA, Critics Choice®, Independent Spirit and Academy Award®. Her other films include Adam Sandler’s “Hubie Halloween,” Payne’s “About Schmidt,” “Table 19,” “Love the Coopers,” “Amanda and Jack Go Glamping,” and “A Country Called Home.”

Her most recent TV appearances were recurring roles on “Shameless,” “Good Girls,” “Getting On” and “Girls.” Her recent guest appearances include “The Good Doctor,” “Room 104,” “Grey’s Anatomy,” “The Big Bang Theory” and “Modern Family.” June was also a regular on Robert Smigel’s “Jack and Triumph,” a sitcom with Triumph the Wonder Dog and Jack MacBrayer.

On Broadway, June was Electra, the electrifying stripper in “Gypsy” with Ethel Merman. She was also on Broadway in “Waitress,” “Happy Time,” “Gorey Stories” and “Sacrilege”.

**ARTEMIS PEBDANI (Duff)** is best known for her long-standing role as Artemis in the beloved FX series “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia,” having appeared on the show since its first season. Artemis majorly recurred

on ABC's hit series "Scandal" as Vice President Susan Ross. She also recurred on "Future Man" for Hulu, Showtime's "Masters of Sex" and Fox's "Cool Kids" - a comedy from Charlie Day. She was also a series regular on the FOX comedy "Son of Zorn," with Jason Sudeikis.

Pebdani is upcoming on Showtime's "Black Monday," with Don Cheadle. Other credits include "Better Things," "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," "Santa Clarita Diet," "Life In Pieces," "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." "Superstore," "New Girl," "Another Period," "House of Lies," "Garfunkel and Oates", "Raising Hope," "Modern Family," "House," "How I Met Your Mother" and the movie "Sex Tape." In addition she was a series regular on the FOX pilot "Boldly Going Nowhere," a sci-fi comedy where she played...wait for it...Startemis.

Artemis and her "Always Sunny" co-star Mary Elizabeth Ellis wrote and starred in "Mother May I," a Lifetime TV movie parody for Adult Swim. The pair also wrote and starred in a pilot presentation for FX, "We're Good, Thanks," directed and produced by Charlie Day.

Pebdani grew up in Houston, Texas and received her BFA in theater from Southern Methodist University. Upon moving to California, she studied at the Dell-arte School of Physical Theatre. She continued her training at LA's famed Groundlings Theater, where she was a member of the Sunday Company.

**UTKARSH AMBUDKAR (Grant)** - 2020 should prove to be quite a year for multihyphenate Utkarsh Ambudkar, one of the freshest, smartest, most relevant voices in the business right now.

Utkarsh can currently be seen in Sony's "The Broken Heart Gallery," opposite Geraldine Viswanathan and Dacre Montgomery, and in the upcoming 20th Century feature, "Free Guy" opposite Ryan Reynolds, Taika Waititi, Jodie Comer, Joe Keery, and Lil Rel Howery.

Ambudkar's film credits include the Sundance darlings, "Blindspotting" and "Brittany Runs A Marathon." In the latter, Ambudkar is the romantic lead to the titular character (Jillian Bell), an underachieving hot mess of a 27-year-old woman who decides to take control of her life -- one New York City block at a time. "Brittany Runs A Marathon" marks the directorial debut of award-winning playwright Paul Downs Colaizzo. Material Pictures' Tobey Maguire and Matthew Plouffe and Picture Films' Margot Hand produce. His features resume includes Universal's "Ride Along 2" with Kevin Hart and Ice Cube, with whom he also co-starred in "Barbershop 3" and "Game Over, Man!"

A rapper and creative force from a young age, Ambudkar was an original member of The Beatards, a NYC-based underground hip-hop group (early aughts) that performed alongside acts like Santigold, Azealia Banks, G-Eazy, Public Enemy, Questlove and more. His work with the Beatards eventually helped Ambudkar land the role of Donald, a member of the competitive Treblemakers in "Pitch Perfect," with Anna Kendrick, Elizabeth Banks and Rebel Wilson.

Following "Pitch Perfect," Ambudkar snagged the role of Rishi in "The Mindy Project." More recently for television, he played Raj, a young, charismatic announcer pitted against Hank Azaria's "Brockmire" in the second season of the IFC series. Ambudkar's TV credits also include Showtime's "White Famous," where he regularly stole scenes as a Hollywood agent, "House of Lies," with Don Cheadle, TNT's "Legends," a recurring arc on ABC's "The Muppets" and a guest role on Hulu's anthology series "Dimension 404." In 2016, Ambudkar played Apu's nephew Jay, the first Indian-American actor to lend his voice to "The

Simpsons.” A year later, in comedian Hari Kondabolu’s documentary “The Problem With Apu” (2017), Ambudkar discussed the cultural ripple effects of one of the few Indian characters on TV.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Ambudkar trained at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. While in New York, he acted in various plays and received a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for his work in “Animals Out of Paper,” by Rajiv Joseph at the Second Stage Theatre.

Originating the role of Aaron Burr in the developmental readings of “Hamilton,” Ambudkar later reunited with Lin-Manuel Miranda as part of the improvisational rap group Freestyle Love Supreme, named in tribute to the John Coltrane jazz suite. Accompanied by keyboards and beats, the group performs spoken and sung numbers that are created in real time based on suggestions from the audience. The group performed at a variety of festivals and venues around the world and episodes ran on Pivot in 2014 and Seeso two years later. Just this year, Ambudkar and his cohorts reconvened for Freestyle Love Supreme’s Broadway run at the Booth Theater to rave reviews. Thomas Kail (“Hamilton,” “In the Heights”) directed and produced along with Miranda, Jill Furman and Jon Steingart.

Ambudkar’s debut album “Vanity” also dropped in 2018. His brand of raw and melodic hip-hop addresses race, the first-generation immigrant experience, politics and Hollywood and also features Ambudkar’s old rap crew, including Miranda, “Blindspotting”’s Daveed Diggs and Rafael Casal, and a variety of South Asian artists such as Das Racist’s Heems, Brooklyn Shanti, Kaly and Samora Pinderhughes.

**STEPHNIE WEIR (Barb)** was most recently seen on CBS as Bonnie on “Happy Together” opposite Damon Wayans, Jr and Amber Stevens West.

Born and raised in Odessa, Texas, Weir launched her career after moving to Chicago and performing on stage in the city with theater companies that include The Second City Main Stage, The Goodman Theatre and ImprovOlympic.

She is often recognized for her portrayal as Kristen on the FX series “The Comedians” opposite Billy Crystal and Josh Gad and her wide range of colorful characters on the hit series “MADTV.”

Opportunities that followed her run on “MadTV” include her work on the series “Big Day,” as well other favorites including “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend,” “Life in Pieces,” “Modern Family,” “Weeds” and the animated series “King of the Hill.”

As a writer, she has developed several half-hour scripts for television including projects for CBS and ABC.

Weir and her husband, Robert Dassie continue to perform “WeirDass,” the two-person show they created. They have performed internationally, including Los Angeles, Portland, New York, Chicago and Edinburgh.

In 2002, Ms. Weir was named one of VARIETY’s “Top Ten Comedians to Watch.” She has performed at many comedy festivals, including the Las Vegas Comedy Arts Festival, Montreal Comedy Festival, HBO Aspen Comedy Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

**SHARON MAGUIRE (Director)** is the director of “Bridget Jones’s Diary” (2000) and “Bridget Jones’s Baby” (2016). Both movies smashed box-office records, becoming the biggest rom-coms of all time in the UK.

Sharon Maguire trained in journalism and began her career making documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4 television in the UK. She also directs commercials (Audi, BT, Ford, Volkswagen, Irish Tourist Board). Her movie directorial debut was in 2001 with the box office smash, “Bridget Jones’s Diary.” The movie grossed \$300 million worldwide. In 2007, Sharon wrote and directed the film “Incendiary” for Film 4, which starred Ewan McGregor and Michelle Williams. In 2012, she co-directed “Call Me Crazy,” with writer Marta Kauffman. Since 2017 she’s been running the production company 7Stories, creating film and television.

Her next projects are to adapt and direct “An Excellent Choice,” the memoir of Guardian columnist Emma Brockes, for Sony Pictures and an adaptation of the bestselling novel, Longbourn for Studio Canal.

**JUSTIN SPRINGER (Producer)** currently has a deal at Disney under his production banner, SecretMachine. Most recently he produced “Dumbo” directed by Tim Burton. Previously, Springer executive produced Joseph Kosinski’s “Oblivion” starring Tom Cruise, and produced “Prom” for Disney. In 2010, Springer co-produced “TRON: Legacy,” also directed by Kosinski and starring Jeff Bridges, and subsequently was a producer on “TRON: Uprising,” the Emmy®- and Annie-nominated animated series on Disney XD.

**DIANE L. SABATINI (Executive Producer)** has amassed an impressive list of film credits over the last two decades working in production with some of Hollywood’s most esteemed filmmakers.

Recently she served as executive producer on Disney’s live action/CG adaptation of the animated classic “Lady and the Tramp,” marking her first time collaborating with director Charlie Bean.

Prior to “Lady,” she was co-producer on Tom Ford’s arresting psychological thriller “Nocturnal Animals” starring Amy Adams and Jake Gyllenhaal and co-producer on Martin Scorsese’s critically acclaimed historical drama “Silence” starring Adam Driver and Andrew Garfield. Her other co-producer credits include Michael Mann’s crime thriller “Blackhat” starring Chris Hemsworth and Viola Davis, as well as Tony Scott’s action thriller “Unstoppable” starring Denzel Washington and Chris Pine.

Sabatini began her foray into film production working on Jerry Bruckheimer films including Michael Bay’s “Armageddon” and “The Rock” as well as Dominic Sena’s “Gone in Sixty Seconds.” Her additional film credits include Alejandro Iñárritu’s Oscar® nominated film “21 Grams”, Doug Liman’s “Mr. and Mrs. Smith” and Adam McKay’s contemporary classic “Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy”, among others.

Apart from Sabatini’s successful career in film production, she has also ventured into television serving as producer for Ridley Scott’s company Scott Free Television on the Amazon series “Jean-Claude Van Johnson” and “Killing Reagan” for National Geographic.

Prior to working as an Executive Producer, Sabatini spent three years as Senior Vice President of Physical Production with MGM and Paramount Pictures.

**IVAN REITMAN (Executive Producer)** has been the creative force behind films beloved by audiences around the world – from raucous comedies like “Animal House,” “Stripes,” and “Ghostbusters,” to more sophisticated delights like “Dave,” “Six Days Seven Nights” and “Twins.”

2020 saw the release of “A Babysitter’s Guide to Monster Hunting” which Reitman produced for Netflix under The Montecito Picture Company banner. In addition to “A Babysitter’s Guide,” Ivan spent 2019 producing the much anticipated “Ghostbusters: Afterlife” for Sony Pictures with his son Jason Reitman continuing the family legacy in the director’s chair.

In 2017, he produced “Father Figures” for Alcon Entertainment and “Baywatch” starring Dwayne Johnson and Zac Efron for Paramount Pictures. In 2016, he brought the Paul Feig reboot of “Ghostbusters” to life for Columbia Pictures.

The career that has brought so much laughter to us began in Canada, where his family emigrated from Czechoslovakia when he was four-years-old. Reitman studied music at McMaster University, but soon turned his talents to film and theater.

Shortly after graduation, Reitman delved into film production – first with the extremely low-budget horror comedy “Cannibal Girls,” starring Canada’s Eugene Levy and Andrea Martin, followed by the live television show “Greed” with Dan Aykroyd as its announcer. Reitman then headed to New York City and produced the Broadway hit “The Magic Show,” starring McMaster friend Doug Henning. He continued producing for the stage with the off-Broadway hit “The National Lampoon Show,” where he brought together for the first time the then-unknown John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray, Harold Ramis, and Joe Flaherty.

Reitman returned to Broadway to produce and direct the musical “Merlin,” earning him Tony nominations for directing and producing. While in New York, Reitman reapplied his talents to filmmaking when he joined forces with the National Lampoon and brought us the groundbreaking sensation “Animal House.” Following the success of that film, Reitman returned home to Canada to direct “Meatballs,” still considered one of the most successful film made in Canada.

The string of hits continued with “Stripes” and the “Ghostbusters” series, which teamed Bill Murray with Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis; “Dave,” starring Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver; “Legal Eagles,” starring Robert Redford and Debra Winger; “Six Days Seven Nights,” with Harrison Ford and Anne Heche; “Evolution,” starring David Duchovny and Julianne Moore; and a series of films that revealed an untapped comic persona for action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger: “Twins,” “Junior,” (both co-starring Danny DeVito) and “Kindergarten Cop.”

Reitman’s list of producing credits is equally extensive. He produced the family features “Beethoven” and “Beethoven’s 2nd,” as well as the HBO telefilm “The Late Shift,” which received seven Emmy nominations. Other producing endeavors include “Heavy Metal,” “Howard Stern’s Private Parts,” the animation/live action film “Space Jam” (which teamed Michael Jordan with the Looney Toons characters), and the teen comedy hits “Road Trip,” “Eurotrip” and “Old School,” starring Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn and Luke Wilson.

In 1984, Reitman was honored as Director of the Year by the National Association of Theater Owners and the next year received a Special Achievement Award at the Canadian Genie Awards. In 1979, and again in 1989, for the films “Animal House” and “Twins,” Reitman was honored with the People’s Choice Award. In November of 1994, Reitman became the third director honored by Variety magazine in a special “Billion Dollar Director” issue. At the end of 2000, Reitman’s films “Animal House” and “Ghostbusters” were

honored as two of this past century's funniest movies by the American Film Institute. He currently heads The Montecito Picture Company, a film and television production company.

More recently Reitman completed the family hit "Hotel For Dogs," "The Uninvited," "I Love You, Man," "Post Grad," "Chloe" and the Oscar®-nominated "Up In The Air," starring George Clooney and directed by his son, Jason Reitman. In 2011, he directed the comedy hit "No Strings Attached," starring Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher. In 2012, he produced the wry "Hitchcock," starring Anthony Hopkins and Helen Mirren and in 2014, Ivan directed the sports film, "Draft Day" with Kevin Costner. Reitman has been married to former Quebec film actress Genevieve Robert for more than 40 years. Together, they have three children and live in Santa Barbara, California.

**AMIE KARP (Executive Producer)** is President of Production and Development for The Montecito Picture Company and the Ghost Corps-Sony Pictures partnership with acclaimed director Ivan Reitman.

Karp is Executive Producer on "Godmothered." Most recently she also produced "Babysitters Guide To Monster Hunting" at Netflix, and is Executive Producer on "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" for Sony Pictures, to be released in 2021.

As Karp leads Montecito into a new forward-looking creative chapter, she's focused on bold storytelling that weaves diverse voices and a sense of wonder through projects that captivate audiences on theatrical and streaming screens worldwide.

Prior to joining Montecito in 2016, Karp worked as a Development Executive at DreamWorks Animation on legacy properties such as "Kung Fu Panda" and "How To Train Your Dragon." She also was Head of Development for the DreamWorks Animation Girls Coalition task force, formed to promote the representation of women in animation.

Karp's creative style is bringing stories to life that inspire audiences of all ages to follow their dreams and make a contribution to the world around them. Karp has never met an animated talking animal that she didn't like. She traveled to the South Pole earlier this year and physically moved the pole to a new spot – and she strives to do the same with storytelling.

**CHRISTOPHER NORR (Director of Photography)** - Cinematography literally runs in Christopher's blood. His father Carl Norr is an award-winning commercial D.P. who from a very early age engendered in his son a love for the beauty of the moving image. Conscious of also instilling a work ethic, Carl had Chris loading mags by his side at the age of 13 and by the age of 18 Chris was getting paid to shoot short films. Christopher remains amazed that he makes a living doing what he loves.

His early experiences as a camera assistant landed him work on seminal films like Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors" and Rob Reiner's "When Harry Met Sally." During that time he also studied from the sidelines other directing greats like Sydney Pollack, Ron Howard and Oliver Stone, and award-winning cinematographers such as Sven Nykvist, Giuseppe Rotunno, Bob Richardson and Gordon Willis, but it wasn't long before he was at the center of the action, shooting numerous independent feature films, dozens of commercials and music videos himself and putting his learned skills to work.



While Christopher is first and foremost a D.P., he continues to take advantage of all opportunities to learn more about the art form, which has included collaborations with Director Michel Gondry and D.P. Ellen Kuras on the visually experimental films “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind” and “Be Kind Rewind” as well as operating on Martin Scorsese’s “Rolling Stones Shine a Light” and Fran Lebowitz documentaries.

Brooklyn born and raised, Christopher still lives in the New York City borough with his family but travels frequently for both work and pleasure. Because his passion for capturing life in all its forms transcends the work place, he never leaves home without a still camera, his eyes always attuned to the kaleidoscope of subtle and not so subtle visual and graphic stories around him.

**ALICE NORMINGTON** has served as **Production Designer** on more than 25 feature films and television programs over the past three decades. Her film credits include “Rocks,” “The Hustle,” “Another Drink,” “My Cousin Rachel,” “Their Finest,” “Suffragette,” “The Riot Club,” “Nowhere Boy,” “Brideshead Revisited,” “When Did You Last See Your Father?,” “Lovers and Other Disasters,” “Proof” and “Hilary and Jackie.” Her TV credits include the mini-series “White Teeth” and “The Secret of Michael Fry” and the TV movies “Birthday,” “Great Expectations” and “The Woman in White.”

**GARY DOLLNER, ACE (Editor)** graduated from Goldsmiths’ College in 1990 and first started editing on youth TV shows such as “The Word” and “Eurotrash” before moving into comedy. He’s since gone on to cut seminal shows in the genre including “Brass Eye,” “The Armando Iannucci Shows,” “I’m Alan Partridge,” “The Mighty Boosh,” “The Thick of It” (for which he was nominated for a BAFTA) and “Veep” (for which he was nominated for an ACE Eddie Award for Best Edited Half-Hour Series for Television). He most recently collaborated with Phoebe Waller-Bridge on two seasons of “Fleabag” (for which he was nominated for a BAFTA and won both an Emmy® and an ACE Eddie Award) as well as the international hit “Killing Eve” (for which he was again BAFTA nominated and won an ACE Eddie Award for Best Edited Drama Series for Commercial Television).

Alongside his work in television, most recently HBO’s “Avenue 5,” Gary has also cut several feature films including Ricky Gervais’s “David Brent: Life on the Road” and “How to Build a Girl” (Dir: Coky Giedroyc), which premiered at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival where it won the FIPRESCI Prize.

**RENÉE EHRLICH KALFUS (Costume Designer)** recently completed the movie “Last Christmas” directed by Paul Feig, starring Emilia Clarke, Emma Thompson, Henry Golding and Michelle Yeoh.

She also worked with the director Paul Feig on his previous movie, “A Simple Favor,” starring Blake Lively and Anna Kendrick. Recent work also includes “Mountain Between Us” directed by Hany Abu-Assad and starring Kate Winslet and Idris Elba.

Kalfus won a Costume Design Guild Award for her work on “Hidden Figures”, an inspiring true story of female African-American mathematicians who were invaluable to NASA’s space program in the 1960s, that was directed by Ted Melfi and starred Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janéle Monae, Kevin Costner and Jim Parsons.

Her film work started with director Lasse Hallström's "Once Around." She went on to collaborate with Hallström on five films, including "Chocolat," which earned her both BAFTA and Costume Design Guild award nominations for Best Costume Design.

Her work showcases the diversity of her range, including period films such as "Snow Falling on Cedars" and "The Cider House Rules"; the gritty dramas of "Dead Man Walking," "The Taking of Pelham 123" and "The Life of David Gale"; and glamorous romantic comedies like "Friends with Benefits," "What Happens in Vegas" and "Baby Mama." The movie musical "Annie" led to a partnership with Target for a line of children's clothes.

New York Women in Film and Television honored Kalfus at their Designing Women Awards in 2014.

**RACHEL PORTMAN (Music)** - Groundbreaking British composer Rachel Portman became the first female composer to win an Academy Award®, which she received for the Miramax feature "Emma". Years later, she was also the first female composer to win a Primetime Emmy® Award, which she received for the HBO film "Bessie".

She has received two further Academy Award® nominations for "The Cider House Rules" and "Chocolat", which also earned her a Golden Globe Nomination, as well as an additional Primetime Emmy® nomination for "Grey Gardens".

Portman has written over 100 scores for film, television and theatre for some of the world's great filmmakers, including "The Manchurian Candidate", "Oliver Twist", "Hart's War", "The Legend of Bagger Vance", "Beloved", "Benny and Joon", "Life is Sweet", "Never Let Me Go", "The Joy Luck Club", "Infamous", "Mona Lisa Smile", "The Human Stain" and "Belle".

In the concert world, she has also written an opera of Saint Exupéry's "The Little Prince" for the Houston Grand Opera, a stage musical of "Little House on the Prairie" and a dramatic choral symphony for the prestigious BBC Proms.

Portman was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2010 and is an honorary fellow of Worcester College, Oxford.