

a BLUFF CITY production

in association with
BEECH HILL FILMS

THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE

PRODUCTION NOTES

DIRECTED BY
JOSH BARRETT & MARC MENCHACA

WRITTEN BY
MARC MENCHACA

STARRING
RON HAYDEN
CK MCFARLAND
MARC MENCHACA
TOBIAS SEGAL
FRANKIE SHAW
with
BARRY CORBIN

COMPANY CONTACTS:

Bluff City Productions
Benjamin Fuqua
(m) 713-408-9809
Ben@bluffcityfilm.com

Beech Hill Films
Alexa L. Fogel
(o) 212-594-8095
(m) 917-771-7193
Afogelbhf@aol.com

Beech Hill Films
Brendan Mason
(o) 212-594-8095
(m) 646-942-3814
brendan@beechhillfilms.com

CAST

Bob RON HAYDEN
Diane CK MCFARLAND
Noah MARC MENCHACA
August TOBIAS SEGAL
Lainey FRANKIE SHAW
Bode BARRY CORBIN
Mindy CAROLYN GILROY
Gray BRIAN ORR
Kev BRENT SMIGA
Leigh Ann KATHERINE WILLIS

FILMMAKERS

Directed by JOSH BARRETT
MARC MENCHACA
Screenplay by MARC MENCHACA
Produced by BENJAMIN FUQUA
Executive Producers ALEXA L. FOGEL
BRENDAN MASON
Director of Photography RYAN BOOTH
Production Designer JEN BARCHACA
Editors SCOTT BRIGNAC
FILIP K. KASPERASZEK
Hair, Make-Up, and Costume Designer SARAH ELLISON LEWIS
Original Music by BRIAN ELMQUIST, BRIAN MURPHY,
KANENE PIPKIN

SYNOPSIS

Set in a small town in the Texas Hill Country, mother of two Diane Sutton (CK McFarland) is the caregiver to her twenty-five year old son August (Tobias Segal), who has cerebral palsy, and her husband Bob (Ron Hayden), who is in the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease. Her daughter Lainey (Frankie Shaw) is living at home and has distanced herself from the daily life of the family. Suffering her own chronic health issues, Diane is warned by her doctor to make changes to her daily routine, not just her full time job of working stock at a supermarket, but also the exhausting physical demands that August's care presents: feeding, bathing, transferring him from the car to house, room to room, table to bed. After almost dropping August while carrying him onto the front porch on a recent return home from the store, Diane hires Noah Warden (Marc Menchaca) to build a wheelchair ramp up the steps to the house.

Noah strikes up a conversation with August while building the ramp, and August -- who is physically unable to speak -- observes Noah throughout. Noah joins the family for dinner that evening as partial payment for his labor; it is clear the Suttons are having a hard time making ends meet. As Noah heads out the door after dinner, Diane catches him and asks if he would like to pick up some work helping out with August during the day while she is at work and he accepts. As the primary caregiver for this family, it is clear that, while asking for help may not come easily to this strong woman, Diane desperately needs assistance to carry this family forward.

As Noah and August get to know each other and navigate the challenges of their relationship, the dynamics within the family begin to shift. Noah is introduced to the Sutton family at a time when they are all at a critical point in their lives. We follow this ordinary Texas family facing great challenges as life takes unexpected turns for all, including the newcomer who is forced to look at the life he has been avoiding.

DIRECTOR STATEMENTS

THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE is my first foray into feature film directing and has been one of the most rewarding and intimidating experiences of my life. That is only partly due to the learning curve of actually shooting a film for the first time. What is intimidating has been the responsibility of honoring who the Suttons and Noah are throughout this process, despite the fact that they are quite fictional. When I worked with Marc as he was developing and writing his script, these characters began to take shapes that were incredibly detailed, full and honest. I realized they were people I knew in some way. They are all extremely complex and imperfect. Marc and I both, as rewrites happened and phenomenal actors began to walk in their shoes, had to constantly ask these characters: how do we stay true to you? Because the characters were constantly being rediscovered and examined, similar to how real life relationships must be rediscovered and examined. It would be easy for me to explain the film as a story about family, or a tale about loss or change or companionship or that this is a film that deals with disability. Fortunately, I cannot pinpoint the film as one of these things, because it is all of these things, and more. It is about things I am still trying to put my finger on. As much time as I have spent with the Suttons and Noah, I am still learning about them. They continue to teach me things about myself, and how uncomfortable, heartbreaking and joyful it can be to move through life. That is the rewarding part.

-- Josh Barrett, 2012

I first started writing THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE because a friend of mine has Cerebral Palsy. My relationship with him has come to mean so much to me over the years. He was the impetus for the character of August. August and the rest of the Sutton family are unique and yet common to us all. They are simple characters I think we all have known at some point in our lives. I hope we have handled them in a way that we all identify with their struggle and joy, loss and victory. I think the heart of what I wanted to say in this film is that our family, whether it be our biological family or the family we adopt as we go through life, is what shapes who we are; our understanding of those closest to us, as hard as it is to come to an understanding at times, hopefully is molded by love and acceptance.

Handling each of their stories in a way that told who they were in an organic and real way was Josh and I's main goal. The Sutton family is an American family in the throes of life. They don't live large and they're not looking at the greener grass; they have each other, live for each other and don't make excuses for their lot in life. In the end they each carry one another in some way. As for Noah, he is on a journey unbeknownst to him to find a family, a place that is home. We always strove for the reality in each of their stories and tried to avoid spelling it out for the audience. I think they do, in the end, find a home and accept each other for who they are.

I hope our film will find a home with those who watch it, a familiar place we can return to.

-- Marc Menchaca, 2012

CAST BIOS

RON HAYDEN – *Bob Sutton*

Ron Hayden is both Stanislavski and Meisner trained and has worked for 30 years in the film and theater industries in Europe, New York, Los Angeles and Asia. He has done over 30 films and scores of plays. After moving to Los Angeles from New York he joined the Loft Studio where he created the role of Lewis in Horton Foote's production of COUSINS. He later became the only actor to direct at the studio under the watchful eye of the Los Angeles teaching icon, Peggy Feury. It has been Ron's privilege to appear as Guest Teacher and Lecturer at both the Drama and RTF departments of Southwest Texas State and the University of Texas, Austin. While in Austin Ron taught the Meisner Technique at his 2 Chairs Studio where he first met writer, director and co-star of THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE, Marc Menchaca.

CK MCFARLAND - *Diane Sutton*

For the past 35 years, CK has been an award winning actor, writer, director and producer in both the theatre and film industries. Ms. McFarland has co-written and directed over 20 original plays, many of which have toured the southwest. In 1999, Ms. McFarland co founded Alleywood Studios in Austin, Texas, providing workshops for the Austin film and acting communities; where she teaches On Camera Film Acting.

She won a best actress award from the Austin Circle of Theatres for her performance in Big States award winning IN THE WEST, which she co-wrote, performed and produced this prestigious play which culminated a five year run at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Ms. McFarland also directed and co-wrote A RIDE WITH BOB (the Story of Country Swing King Bob Wills) featuring Grammy winners Asleep At the Wheel.

Her popular one woman show EARTH ANGELS (produced by Eloise McAllister), ran for 9 months in Austin, and was one of six shows nationally invited to the prestigious Spoleto Piccolo Festival in Charleston S.C. and was awarded an Austin Critics Table Award. She co-wrote and co-starred in the hit cowgirl musical THE COW PATTY'S, which toured both the nation with various extended regional theatres for 3 years.

For seven years CK was artistic director of Magic Mirror Theatre in Taos, New Mexico, and opened Trans Act in Austin Texas, which was the birth place of the national hit, GREATER TUNA. At Mills College , CK won a scholarship to study for a semester at both The Royal Academy and The London Academy of Dramatic Arts. Mills awarded her a degree in acting and directing as well as the Stebbins prize for excellence.

MARC MENCHACA - *Noah Warden / Writer / Director*

Marc Menchaca is an actor, writer and director. He starred in the HBO miniseries GENERATION KILL and has worked on several TV series, including: TREME, PERSON OF INTEREST, FLASHFORWARD and most recently recurring on Showtime's HOMELAND. He has produced and performed in theatre Off Broadway. THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE marks Mr. Menchaca's directorial debut and his first narrative feature film as writer.

TOBIAS SEGAL - *August Sutton*

As a sophomore at Temple University in Philadelphia, TOBIAS SEGAL was cast in the lead role in a local production of EQUUS, for which he won the prestigious Barrymore Award for Outstanding Performance.

The Barrymore Award led to work at the major theaters in Philadelphia, moving to New York and lead roles in Playwrights Horizons' DORIS TO DARLENE and Manhattan Theater Club's FROM UP HERE, for which he received the Drama Desk and Drama League nominations. His credits also include the Atlantic Theatre Company, Second Stage and Rattlestick Theatre, as well as the world tour of director Sam Mendes' BRIDGE PROJECT (Shakespeare's A WINTER'S TALE and Chekov's CHERRY ORCHARD with Ethan Hawke and Simon Russell Beale), and his Broadway debut in the revival of THE MIRACLE WORKER with Allison Pill.

In addition to guest star roles in FRINGE, GOLDEN BOY, LAW & ORDER, he recently played his first lead film role in a film was in the dysfunctional comedy PETUNIA opposite Christine Lahti, Thora Birch, Brittany Snow, Michael Urie and Eddie Kay Thomas (the Variety review said "...among expertly turned performances, stage thespian Segal is a standout...") Projects recently completed include DARKROOM (horror genre), RESERVOIR (psychological Iraq war thriller), and alt-rock comedy B-SIDES.

Toby will next appear in the Universal comedy R.I.P.D. with Jeff Bridges and Ryan Reynolds.

FRANKIE SHAW - *Lainey Sutton*

Frankie Shaw has starred in a number of independent films. 2012 was a busy year for Frankie. She recently wrapped THE PRETTY ONE opposite Zoe Kazan, Ron Livingston and Jake Johnson, SOMEBODY MARRY BARRY opposite Lucy Punch, Tyler Labine and Damon Wayans Jr, FLUIDIC opposite Michael Mosley, Whitney Able and Katherine Waterston as well as a supporting role in LULLABY starring Amy Adams, Garret Hedlund and Richard Jenkins.

On the small screen Frankie was a series regular on BLUE MOUNTAIN STATE a raunchy sitcom about college football. Her other film and television credits include THE FREEBIE, EXPLICIT ILLS, FALLING UP, KNIFE FIGHT, ONE NIGHT, CSI:NY, LAW & ORDER; among others.

Ms. Shaw is a graduate of Barnard College of Columbia University where she majored in English Literature. When she is not working in front of the camera, she is shooting a documentary and writing. She is from Boston Massachusetts and currently lives in Los Angeles.

BARRY CORBIN - *Bode Warden*

Barry Corbin was born in Lamesa, the seat of Dawson County, south of Lubbock in West Texas. He graduated from Monterey High School. He was the son of the former Alma LaMerle Scott (1918–1994), a teacher, and Kilmer Blaine Corbin, Sr. (1919–1993), a school principal, a judge and a Democratic member of the Texas State Senate for two terms from 1949-1957. Corbin studied theatre arts at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He was a United States Marine. Many of his films have been westerns, and Corbin's proficiency in the saddle is no act. He played a corrupt sheriff in the 2001 Tom Selleck Turner Network Television film CROSSFIRE TRAIL. Much of his spare time is spent riding horses and tending to cattle on his small Texas ranch near Fort Worth. He volunteers his time to charity rodeos for many years. In 2006, he participated in the Lubbock centennial. Corbin has been quoted as being an avid enthusiast of riding, and has won numerous cutting horse trophies.

Mr. Corbin began his career as a Shakespearean actor in the 1960s, he wrote plays for National Public Radio and he currently continues his love of theatre touring the country in his one man traveling show, which he co-wrote, called CHARLIE GOODNIGHT'S LAST NIGHT, about the celebrated Texas cowboy.

He is likely to be seen in the role of the local sheriff, military leader, or some other authority figure, though on occasion, he has effectively portrayed murderous villains as well. To moviegoers he is well remembered as General Beringer in WARGAMES, John Travolta's uncle in URBAN COWBOY, co-starring with Clint Eastwood in ANY WHICH WAY YOU CAN, or Roscoe Brown, who was July Johnson's bumbling deputy, in the acclaimed western LONESOME DOVE. He also had a role in 2008's Oscar-winning film NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MAN, and IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH.

From 1979 until 1984 he appeared in several episodes of the hit television show, DALLAS, as Sheriff Fenton Washburn. In 1983, Corbin co-starred in the famed television mini-series THE THORN BIRDS. Corbin played Mary Carson's stockman PETE, who teaches the Cleary's sons how to shear sheep on their aunt's gigantic sheep station Drogheda, in Australia. In 1983-1984, Corbin played Merit Sawyer in the NBC television series BOONE. Corbin's role was that of a stern father to the young actor Tom Byrd, who played Boone Sawyer, an aspiring singer. The program was set in rural Tennessee during the 1950s and was created by Earl Hamner, who had great success earlier with CBS's THE WALTONS. From 1990 to 1995, Corbin portrayed former astronaut Maurice Minnifield on CBS's NORTHERN EXPOSURE, for which he received several Emmy nominations and a Screen Actors Nomination for Outstanding Performance by an ensemble Comedy Television series.

In 1994, Corbin narrated the acclaimed TBS documentary MOONSHOT, telling the story of the 1960s space race from the first-person viewpoint of Mercury Seven astronaut Deke

Slayton. From 2007, he still plays the character Clay Johnson, father of Deputy Chief Brenda Leigh Johnson on THE CLOSER series.

From 2003-2008, Corbin was a cast member of the teenage drama series ONE TREE HILL, where he portrayed a basketball coach for the Tree Hill Ravens. Corbin is the signature voice of radio station KLIF in Fort Worth, Texas, and has also voiced trailers and promos for CMT and various other country radio stations. He has also appeared in several video games such as STEVEN SPIELBERG'S DIRECTORS CHAIR, RED ALERT: RETALIATION as General George Carville. In the sequel, COMMAND & CONQUER: RED ALERT 2, he played General Ben Carville, with a much larger role. The game also featured a number of cinematics spoofing his role in WARGAMES. TEX MURPHY: THE PANDORA DIRECTIVE as Jackson Cross - An NSA operative who kidnaps and threatens to kill the main character in his pursuit of an alien artifact.

Barry Corbin has received numerous accolades throughout his prolific career. Aside from the obvious ones for his acting talent, Corbin has also been honored for his humanitarian deeds and his efforts on behalf of the Western Lifestyle. He was honored with the Western Heritage Wrangler Award at the National Cowboy Hall Of Fame in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for his role of Charlie McCloud in Louis L'Amour's CONAGHER.

Mr. Corbin was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas. A recent painting of Corbin has been placed at the museum exhibit; and he was presented with A Lifetime Achievement Award by The Gold Camp Film Festival in historic Cripple Creek, Colorado.

Mr. Corbin is most recently acting as a series regular on ANGER MANAGEMENT with Charlie Sheen, and as recur guest star role on the ABC hit, MODERN FAMILY as Cam's dad.

FILMMAKER BIOS

JOSH BARRETT - *Director / Story Editor*

Josh Barrett is a professional actor, director, writer and producer. *THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE* marks Josh's debut directing a feature film. He received his MFA at NYU's Graduate Acting Program where he was the recipient of the Dean's Fellowship. In addition to starring as a series regular with Marc Menchaca in HBO's *GENERATION KILL*, he has performed for the last decade in various projects for film, television, and theater across the country. His writing has been featured at New York's Flea Theater and he was a contributing writer for the play *COLUMBINUS*, which has been produced off-Broadway and several times regionally, and was nominated for The Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play. Josh has also teaches acting at the New York Film Academy and produces segments for vh1.

MARC MENCHACA - *Director / Writer / Noah*

Marc Menchaca is an actor, writer and director. He starred in the HBO miniseries *GENERATION KILL* and has worked on several TV series, including: *TREME*, *PERSON OF INTEREST*, *FLASHFORWARD* and most recently recurring on Showtime's *HOMELAND*. He has produced and performed in theatre Off Broadway. *THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE* marks Mr. Menchaca's directorial debut and his first narrative feature film as writer.

BENJAMIN FUQUA - *Producer*

Benjamin Fuqua is a producer and writer based in New York City. Ben started his career working in production and development at Tribeca Productions and Scott Rudin Productions working on films, such as: *LITTLE FOCKERS*, *FANTASTIC MR. FOX* and *IT'S COMPLICATED*.

Mr. Fuqua has also worked on various productions in many different capacities, both on set and in the production office; such as: NBC's, *LAW & ORDER: SVU*, *THE WINNING SEASON*, Philip Seymour Hoffman's directorial debut *JACK GOES BOATING*, *I DONT KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT*; and most recently, the *UNTITLED WOODY ALLEN SUMMER PROJECT*.

THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE is the first feature film under his production shingle Bluff City Productions; where they have several other projects in development.

ALEXA L. FOGEL – *Executive Producer*

As a producer with Beech Hill Films, Ms. Fogel's last project HELENA FROM THE WEDDING premiered in competition at SXSW 2010 and was released in the fall of 2010. Ms. Fogel's previous work includes RUN, FAT BOY, RUN starring Simon Pegg, Thandie Newton, and Hank Azaria (directed by David Schwimmer), which was released by New Line and Picturehouse world-wide in 2008, and was the #1 film in the U.K. for five straight weeks. Other producing credits include A HOLE IN ONE (starring Michelle Williams), FACE (Sundance 2002), Jim McKay's OUR SONG (Sundance 2000), and CHARMING BILLY.

Alexa L. Fogel casts the HBO series TREME, by creator David Simon, the BBC America series COPPER, from Tom Fontana, and Alan Ball's Cinemax series BANSHEE. She has recently begun casting on the HBO series UNT. NICK PIZZOLATTO PROJECT, to be directed by Cary Fukunaga, and starring Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson.

Ms. Fogel recently cast the feature THE SITTER for director David Gordon Greene for 20th Century Fox, TOO BIG TO FAIL for director Curtis Hanson for HBO Films – based on Andrew Ross Sorkin's book, the FX series LIGHTS OUT, and RED TAILS for LucasFilm, a drama about the Tuskegee Airmen during WWII. Ms. Fogel cast season two of the HBO series IN TREATMENT.

Ms. Fogel cast the acclaimed HBO original series THE WIRE (Artios Award for Dramatic Pilot Casting), and seven-part Iraq War tale GENERATION KILL (Emmy nomination) for Company Pictures and HBO Films, about the men of the First Marine Recon Battalion.

Alexa L. Fogel is the former vice president for creative affairs of ABC Entertainment. During her tenure at ABC, Ms. Fogel won two Emmy Awards and two Artios Awards for NYPD BLUE, and an Artios Award for MURDER ONE. Ms. Fogel was also awarded three Artios Awards as casting director for Tom Fontana's award-winning HBO series OZ.

BRENDAN MASON – *Executive Producer*

Mr. Mason's last project HELENA FROM THE WEDDING, starred Melanie Lynskey and Lee Tergesen, and premiered in competition at SXSW, and was released by Film Movement in the fall of 2010.

During his ten-year tenure at Beech Hill Films, Mr. Mason has worked in various capacities in both development and production.

As an Associate Producer at Beech Hill for seven years, he has worked on such productions as RUN, FAT BOY, RUN (Picturehouse), A HOLE IN ONE, and JIMMY BLUE (NYFF '06), among others. Prior to Beech Hill, Mr. Mason worked at Paramount Pictures.

Christine Bruno – *Disability Consultant*

Ms. Bruno is an actor, director, coach and disability advocate/consultant. She received an MFA in Acting and Directing from the Actors Studio Masters Program at New School University and is a lifetime member of the Actors Studio. As a performer and director, Ms. Bruno has worked throughout the U.S., Australia and across the U.K. Her credits include *THE GLASS MENAGERIE*, *THE GOOD DAUGHTER*, *THE CRUCIBLE*, *A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE*, *KRANKENHAUS BLUES*, the independent feature films *STATIC*, *ONE SPRING* and TV's *LAW & ORDER*. She most recently completed a run at London's Oval House Theatre and a U.K. tour of the new musical, *RASPBERRY* and has performed her one-woman show, *SCREW YOU, JIMMY CHOO!*, in the U.K. and Australia. As Disability Advocate for Inclusion in the Arts (www.inclusioninthearts.org), Ms. Bruno has represented the organization across the U.S. and internationally and consults regularly on issues of casting, accessibility, accuracy and authenticity of portrayals and storylines. She served as the 2011 Co-chair of the I AM PWD (www.iampwd.org) global civil rights campaign and is a member of the SAG-AFTRA national committee for Performers with Disabilities.

RYAN BOOTH - *Director of Photography*

Two years ago Ryan Booth was a full time audio engineer who dabbled in photography. He shot images for bands, labels, and non-profits overseas in between producing and engineering records. But everything changed in 2010 when he shot a short on a whim for a multi-chapter contest sponsored by Canon and Vimeo. That short was selected as a chapter winner and Ryan was invited to co-write the final chapter, an experience which changed the course of his career. The final film premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival and launched Ryan's career as a Director of Photography. Since then, he has shot extensively for the BBC, A&E Networks, MTV and VH1; as well as numerous commercial clients including Home Depot and Whole Foods. He also created and directs a live music project, SerialBox Presents, which has garnered over 1 million impressions and has been featured on numerous media sites including Paste Magazine and NPR and has resulted in Ryan's production company, SerialBox Productions, being hired to create numerous live DVD and music videos for Atlantic Records and SonyBMG. Ryan currently resides in Texas and is currently in production on the second season of SerialBox Presents. *THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE* is Ryan's first feature film as a Director of Photography.

SCOTT BRIGNAC - *Editor*

For over 10 years, filmmaker Scott Brignac has combined his keen technical knowledge of film with his passion for rich, provocative storytelling as a writer, editor, and director. Along with documentary and commercial work, Brignac has written and directed several award-winning shorts. His most recent work, a cycle of short films entitled *SELF-SABOTAGE*, garnered critical acclaim as an official selection of the 2012 The Mix Film Festival and as the best experimental short winner at the 2012 Festivus Film Festival. *THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE* is Brignac's first venture into feature film editing.

FILIP K. KASPERASZEK – *Editor*

Filip graduated with honors from the Polish National Filmschool in Lodz. He has worked as a professional editor for over seven years and is a member of the prestigious Polish Editors Association.

Currently, Filip is a MFA candidate in Directing at Columbia University.

BLUFF CITY PRODUCTIONS

Bluff City Productions is a development and production company designed to create compelling, thought-provoking story on a low-budget model using captivating imagery and strong performances to engage and connect target audiences around the world.

THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE is their first feature film, and Bluff City has several other projects in development. Bluff City was founded by Benjamin Fuqua in 2010, and was later joined by Josh Barrett and Marc Menchaca in 2011.

BEECH HILL FILMS

Beech Hill Films is a New York-based film and television production company formed in 2000 by Alexa L. Fogel and Joseph Infantolino. Brendan Mason joined the company in 2002.

Recent projects include HELENA FROM THE WEDDING, which premiered in competition at SXSW 2010 and was released in by Film Movement in the fall of 2010. RUN, FAT BOY, RUN starring Simon Pegg, Thandie Newton, and Hank Azaria (directed by David Schwimmer) was released by New Line and Picturehouse worldwide in 2008, and was the #1 film in the U.K. for five straight weeks. Other producing credits include A HOLE IN ONE (starring Michelle Williams), FACE (Sundance 2002), Jim McKay's OUR SONG (Sundance 2000, IFC), CHARMING BILLY, and the short film JIMMY BLUE (NYFF '06).

Upcoming projects include THE TRICKY PART by Martin Moran, based on the Obie Award-winning play and novel of the same name, SMART GIRLS by Julie Sharbutt and Stephanie DiMaggio, and PRESERVATION by Nicole Brendring.