



INDEPENDENT FEATURE FILM PROJECT BACKGROUND

Producers: Terence Donnelly
Lisa Arbuckle

Director: Richard Benjamin

Writer: Lisa Arbuckle

Start Date: August 2007

Location: Cedar Rapids, IA

WHAT THE FILM IS ABOUT:

Log Line: *"Your life is only as good as your mother thinks it is."*

An interfering, outspoken mother of three grown children believes that despite her best efforts as a mother, her children are living lives that are unacceptable. Each of her children believes that their current lives are a direct result of their dysfunctional childhoods more than 25 years ago.

When the mother wins a lottery jackpot, she decides to force her children into a better life by giving them the "mother" of all ultimatums: Change their lives to meet her standards and collect a portion of the lottery winnings OR keep living their current lives and get absolutely nothing.

Over the course of the next two months, the family goes through a series of hilarious and heart-breaking events that force them to stare down the demons that they have hidden in each of their closets for so many years and to decide, once and for all, whether to live their lives on their own terms or their mother's.

LISA ARBUCKLE: Arbuckle first began writing radio advertisements at age 8, when she wrote a cereal jingle that won the regional grand prize. It also landed Lisa a spot singing the jingle on several Midwest radio stations. Twenty years later, in 1999, Lisa opened her own agency and became serious about advertising.

Within one year, Lisa's client base grew to more than 30 Midwestern businesses. During the next four years, Lisa would write, direct and produce 26 television commercials, seven infomercials and the 10-episode, one-hour television program, *THE GREAT EXCHANGE*. In addition to television production, Lisa also continued writing jingles and 13 radio commercials.

Media Management Group, LLC (MMG) fast became the agency of "firsts" in the Midwest, winning awards for Lisa's work in design as well as production. These included two national Telly Awards; one for an infomercial she wrote, directed and produced; and the other for *THE GREAT EXCHANGE*, which she also wrote, directed and produced. *THE GREAT EXCHANGE* was the first independently produced program of its kind in the Midwest and broke ratings records for its time slot in Iowa.

In April 2005, Lisa relocated to the Phoenix area. Upon relocating, Lisa enrolled at Scottsdale Community College (SCC) to earn a Film & Television Production degree. In the spring of 2006, Lisa worked as a 2nd, 2nd Assistant Director and Casting Assistant on SCC's KODAK 35mm project, *THE BLACKSMITH AND THE CARPENTER*, which is currently in post-production. Lisa is an Iowa native, a wife and the mother of three children. She lives in Gilbert, Arizona.

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TERENCE (TERRY) DONNELLY: Donnelly's award winning career spans more than 32 years, across four decades, as an Assistant Director and Producer. He has been involved in the production of more than 40 feature and made for television films. Four of his 18 feature films have been nominated or have won the Oscar for Best Film and two of his Made for Television films have won an Emmy and an ALMA award for Outstanding Made For TV Movie.

Terry was the Assistant Director on the original *THE EXORCIST*, which is currently the fourth grossing horror film of all time and the 12th grossing movie of all time.

Terry teaches the Film and Video Producing & Financing class at Scottsdale Community College, in Scottsdale, Arizona; and the Producing for Hollywood class at Arizona State University; in Tempe, Arizona. He also schedules and budgets films for independent filmmakers worldwide through his Arizona based company, Motion Picture Budgets Inc.

RICHARD BENJAMIN: Benjamin has been involved in the stage, motion picture and television industries since 1964. After majoring in drama at Northwestern University, Richard went on to perform on Broadway and on the stage in London in such classic productions as *THE ODD COUPLE*, *TAMING OF THE SHREW* and *BAREFOOT IN THE PARK*.

In 1969, Benjamin made his film debut in *GOODBYE COLUMBUS*, and went on to appear in more than twenty other films including *CATCH-22*, *DIARY OF A MAD HOUSEWIFE*, *PORTNOY'S COMPLAINT*, *HOUSE CALLS*, *LOVE AT FIRST BITE* and the Woody Allen film, *DECONSTRUCTING HARRY*. In 1975, Richard was honored with a Golden Globe award for Best Supporting Actor for his work in *THE SUNSHINE BOYS*. On television, Benjamin co-starred with his wife Paula Prentiss in the CBS series *HE AND SHE*, and starred in the Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation of Arthur Miller's *FAME*. Benjamin also hosted two top-rated episodes of NBC's *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE*, one of which earned an Emmy nomination.

In 1982, Benjamin made the transition from acting to Directing with *MY FAVORITE YEAR*, a film that brought Peter O'Toole an Oscar nomination for Best Actor. Benjamin has since directed the films: *RACING WITH THE MOON*, with Sean Penn and Nicolas Cage; *CITY HEAT* with Clint Eastwood and Burt Reynolds; *THE MONEY PIT*, with Tom Hanks and Shelly Long; *LITTLE NIKITA*, with Sidney Poitier and River Phoenix, *MY STEPMOTHER IS AN ALIEN*, with Dan Aykroyd and Kim Basinger; *DOWNTOWN*, with Anthony Edwards and Forest Whitaker; *MERMAIDS*, with Cher, Winona Ryder and Bob Hoskins; *MADE IN AMERICA*, with Whoopi Goldberg and Ted Danson; *MILK MONEY*, with Melanie Griffith and Ed Harris; and *MRS. WINTERBOURNE* with Shirley MacLaine, Ricki Lake and Brendan Fraser.

On television, Benjamin directed the acclaimed military satire, *THE PENTAGON WARS* for HBO. He then directed Neil Simon's *LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR*, for Showtime which received an Emmy nomination for Best Picture. Benjamin also produced and directed Neil Simon's *THE GOODBYE GIRL*, starring Patricia Heaton, Jeff Daniels and Alan Cumming for TNT. Most recently, he directed the film, *A LITTLE THING CALLED MURDER*, for FOX starring Judy Davis.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: With more than 1,500 independent films vying for funding each year, getting the financing to take the film from concept to the big screen is a major challenge. **CONDITIONAL LOVE** offers every one a chance to be a part of a major film project. For a minimum \$20 donation, people will be entered to win one of five roles as featured extras in the movie. Higher donations offer increased perks. Donation information is available at www.conditionallovemovie.com/donations.

For more information about **CONDITIONAL LOVE**, please contact: **Ken Reinstein, blue 22 pr, at 480-634-4188 (office), 480-510-9762 (cell), or ken@blue22pr.com**.

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