



Classification: TBA  
Running Time: 95 Minutes  
NZ Release date: December 3rd

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**Cast Information:**

Georgia Kaminski ..... Kristen Stewart  
Beagle Kimbrough..... Aaron Stanford  
Easy Kimbrough..... Bruce Dern  
Marg Kaminski ..... Elizabeth Ashley  
Guy Kimbrough ..... Jayce Bartok  
Stephanie ..... Miriam Shor  
Violet ..... Talia Balsam  
Judd ..... Jesse L. Martin  
Ceci Kimbrough.....Melissa Leo

**Filmmaker Information:**

Production Companies.....57<sup>th</sup> & Irving  
The 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Director..... Mary Stuart Masterson  
Producers..... Jesse Scolaro  
Allen Bain  
Darren Goldberg  
Elisa Pugliese  
Mary Stuart Masterson  
Executive Producers .....Patrick Morris  
Carol Morris  
Screenplay ..... Jayce Bartok  
Casting ..... Billy Hopkins  
Suzanne Crowley  
Kerry Barden  
Paul Schnee  
Editors .....Joe Landauer  
Colleen Sharp  
Cinematographer ..... Pete Masterson  
Production Designer..... David Stein  
Sound Design..... Lew Goldstein  
Music Composition ..... Duncan Sheik

**Logline:**

*The Cake Eaters* is a light-hearted, bittersweet story about two families coming to terms with love in the face of loss.

**Short Synopsis:**

Mary Stuart Masterson's directorial debut is a romantic drama set in a small town where the intimate secrets and tensions of two families force them to come to terms with life, love and death. Written by Jayce Bartok, the dynamic ensemble cast features Kristen Stewart, Aaron Stanford, Bruce Dern, Elizabeth Ashley and Melissa Leo. Original music composition by Tony Award Winner Duncan Sheik.

**Full Length Synopsis:**

*The Cake Eaters* is a quirky, small town, ensemble drama that explores the lives of two interconnected families coming to terms with love in the face of loss.

Living in rural America, The Kimbrough family is a normally odd bunch; Easy, the patriarch, owns a butcher shop and finds himself grieving over the loss of his wife, Ceci, while hiding a secret ongoing relationship for years; Beagle, his youngest son who was left to care for his ailing mother, works in the local high school cafeteria by day but has a burning passion inside that manifests itself through painting; and the eldest son, Guy, has been away from the family for years while pursuing his musical aspirations in the big city until the day he learns of his mother's passing and that he's missed the funeral.

Upon Guy's return home, the complex nature of each character unravels; Beagle's pent up emotions connect with Georgia Kaminski, a terminally ill teenage girl wanting to experience love before it's too late; Easy's long time affair with Marg, Georgia's eccentric grandmother, is exposed to the Kimbrough family; and Guy discovers that, in his absence, his high school sweetheart, Stephanie, has moved on and started a family of her own.

Through it all, The Kimbroughs and Kaminski's manage to establish a new beginning in the face of their greatest fears; life, death and family...

## **Mary Stuart Masterson / Director's Statement:**

When I was on the phone with Bruce Dern for the first time as he was agreeing to play the role of "Easy", he said to me, "Masterson, don't be afraid of the word 'sweet' when you make this movie." He was 100% right.

When I first read the script for Jayce Bartok's *The Cake Eaters* I was struck by its simplicity and sweetness. Oddly, the world of this movie is untouched by the techno-centric modern world. Rather than fight it, I chose to embrace it on every level. The simplicity of the story meant that the success of the film would depend on the integrity of the actors' performances.

I am in awe when in the presence of great actors. The feeling is like one feels at the edge of a cliff. No one knows whether or not they are going to be able to do it – to fly – but they jump into the void anyway and on their own faith, or faith in the ideas of the story, or faith in the character they are playing, or faith given to them by their director they fly... or not. There's no other way to do it well. On *The Cake Eaters* I was blessed with an amazing group of actors including Kristen Stewart, Aaron Stanford, Bruce Dern, Elizabeth Ashley, Jayce Bartok, Miriam Shor, Talia Balsam, Jesse L. Martin and Melissa Leo, among many others, whose scrupulous attention to detail and truth was matched only by their willingness to jump. And they flew.

Everything about the look of the film was a blissful collaboration with my brother and DP, Peter C.B. Masterson, and my Production Designer, David Stein. I referenced Normal Rockwell for the color palette and, to some extent, the formal composition of some shots, but the rest was a world unto itself. Working with my brother was a creative high in my career. David Stein commented that when Pete and I got on a roll solving a problem we would cease to speak in an English he couldn't understand. He called it "twin speak". By the end of the shoot, he was fluent.

The simplicity to the overall aesthetic is a deceptively delicate animal. When it came time to edit the film, we had way too much story for such a simple film. It was a very complicated road to find the simplest gesture in the film. I cannot say enough about my collaborators and Editors Joe Landauer and Colleen Sharp, and how their two different and invaluable perspectives helped me solve the puzzle. Similarly, the score needed to support the story but never sit on top of it or over embellish. Our Composer, Duncan Sheik, found, as I did, that there is a complex paradox to the central theme between Beagle and Georgia that isn't obvious on the sweet surface.

Usually, when young lovers get together there's the implied "happily ever after". Not in this case. The impermanence which underlies each of the three love stories is what makes them so vital. The themes of love and loss in *The Cake Eaters* are a refreshingly sweet alternative to what our cynical world usually serves up. At its core, *The Cake Eaters* is a story about risking love in the face of loss. Everyone in the story is either grieving a recent loss or anticipating an impending one. Everyone wishes for something they can't have. But a young girl named "Georgia", played magnificently by Kristen Stewart, who has the most to lose in the story, manages to show every character that it's better to love and lose than to never love at all.

## Cast Biographies:

### Kristen Stewart / "Georgia Kaminski"

Kristen Stewart was introduced to worldwide audiences with her outstanding performance alongside Jodie Foster in *Panic Room*. Her film, *Twilight*, was one of the biggest films of 2008 and *New Moon* is set to be even bigger.

Stewart starred in Screen Gems *The Messengers* directed by The Pang Brothers, in Warner Independent's *In the Land of Women*, alongside Meg Ryan and Adam Brody for writer/director Jonathan Kasden, and in Paramount Vantage's *Into The Wild* for director Sean Penn.

Recently, Stewart was in the independent film *The Yellow Handkerchief* alongside William Hurt and Maria Bello and *What Just Happened* alongside Robert De Niro and Sean Penn for director Barry Levinson.

Stewart's additional film credits include *Zathura*, *Speak*, *Fierce People*, *Catch That Kid*, *Undertow*, *Cold Creek Manor*, and *The Safety of Objects*.

Stewart resides in Los Angeles.

### Aaron Stanford / "Beagle Kimbrough"

An actor who consistently brings intensity and intelligence to his work, Aaron Stanford is poised to become one of the foremost talents of his generation.

Aaron received critical acclaim for his feature film debut in *Tadpole* opposite Sigourney Weaver and Bebe Neuwirth. Since that breakout performance, he has continued to tackle a variety of roles including: "Gabe Winter" in *Winter Solstice* (for which he received the "Rising Star of Tomorrow" Award at The 2004 Hamptons Film Festival) opposite Anthony LaPaglia; and supporting roles in David Mamet's *Spartan*, Woody Allen's *Hollywood Endings* and Spike Lee's *25<sup>th</sup> Hour*.

Stanford's other film credits include *X Men 2* and *X Men 3*; Alexandre Aja's remake of Wes Craven's thriller *The Hills Have Eyes*; the independent films *Flakes* opposite Zooey Deschanel for Indigent Pictures and director Michael Lehmann (which will premiere at this year's South By Southwest Film Festival); *Live Free or Die* opposite Paul Schneider; *Runaway*, opposite Robin Tunney, which he also produced, and which was an official selection at the 2005 Tribeca Film Festival.

Aaron will next be seen in ABC and Warner Bros. Television's new pilot *Traveler* where he plays the title role of Will Traveler. In the vein of *Enemy of the State* and *Three Days of the Condor*, this thriller asks the question, "do you really know who your friends are?" Three Yale graduate students set out on a road trip only to become wrapped up in a national security emergency after one of them frames the other two for the bombing of a famous New York art museum. The two friends on the run (Matthew Bomer, Logan Marshall-Green) must clear their names by determining the true identity of their betrayer (Aaron Stanford), who they suspect has set them up as part of a larger conspiracy. Flashbacks to the trio's lives together in academia help illuminate the lie that was their friendship.

Aaron began his career with an intense focus in stage performance, beginning with local theatre in his Massachusetts hometown and continuing with work at the London Academy of Theatre. He returned to the stage in 2004 to star in the Vineyard Theatre's off-Broadway production of *Where Do We Live*, for which once again, he received rave reviews.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Aaron currently resides in Los Angeles.

### **Bruce Dern / “Easy Kimbrough”**

Bruce Dern's award-winning performances over decades have earned him recognition as one of the most talented, versatile and prolific actors of his generation.

Dern has a recurring roll on HBO's new series *Big Love*, and was most recently seen in *The Astronaut Farmer*, *Believe in Me*, *Down in the Valley*, *The Hard Easy* and *Walker*. Other recent credits include the independent features *Monster*, *Masked and Anonymous*, *Madison* and *Milwaukee, Minnesota*.

Born into Illinois aristocracy, Dern was expected to follow family tradition and become a lawyer. But he was inspired by the effect James Dean had on a theatre audience. "I decided I wanted to be an artist as an actor, whatever it took," Dern says. "I geared my whole life, lifestyle and all my energies to that end. For me, there were no alternatives."

He studied at Lee Strasberg's Actors Studio in New York and began winning roles on Broadway. In 1960, he landed a movie role under Elia Kazan's direction in *Wild River*.

Dern then went to Hollywood, where he created over 100 television and movie character portraits. Deciding he had what it took to be a leading man, Dern was determined to take no more featured performer roles. He didn't work for ten months. Finally, Dern received his first meaningful recognition with a Best Supporting Actor award from the National Film Critics Association for his role in Jack Nicholson's *Drive, He Said*.

He has since won numerous honors, including an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe nomination for *Coming Home*, Genie Award nominations for his work in *Middle Age Crazy* and *Harry Tracy*, *Desperado*, and the Best Actor Award at the Berlin Film Festival for *That Championship Season*.

Dern's starring credits reveal uncommon versatility. He has performed leading roles in such films as *The Great Gatsby*, *Family Plot*, *Black Sunday*, *Smile*, *The Driver*, *The King of Marvin Gardens*, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, *Tattoo*, *Space* and *Toughlove*. More recently, he was seen in *Down Periscope*, *Mulholland Falls*, *Last Man Standing*, *The Haunting*, *All the Pretty Horses* and *The Glass House*.

Dern received rave reviews for his performances in Showtime's *Mrs. Munck* with Diane Ladd, and TNT's *Amelia Earhart: The Final Flight*. He also costarred with Linda Hamilton in USA Network's *A Mother's Prayer* and Burt Reynolds in TNT's *The Premonition*.

Away from the camera, Dern remains in full stride, finding time to run at least 10 miles a day.

### **Elizabeth Ashley / “Marg Kaminski”**

Elizabeth Ashley made her Broadway debut in 1959 in Dore Shary's *The Highest Tree*. Her Broadway credits include *Enchanted April* with Molly Ringwald, the recent revival of Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*, *Take Her*, *She's Mine* opposite Art Carney and directed by George Abbott (Tony and Theatre World Awards). *Barefoot in the Park*, in which she starred with Robert Redford, was written for her by Neil Simon and directed by Mike Nichols (second Tony nomination), *The Skin of Our Teeth* directed by Jose Quintero (opened the American Bi-Centennial at the Kennedy Center & on Broadway), and Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra* with Rex Harrison at the Palace Theatre. Other Broadway credits include *Legend*, *Hide and Seek*, and *Agnes of God* (originated the role of Dr. Livingston opposite Geraldine Page and Amanda Plummer) for which she received the Albert Einstein Award for excellence in the performing arts.

Perhaps best known as one of the definitive interpreters of Tennessee Williams' work, she has starred in many of his plays, including *Eight by Tenn* (eight of Williams' one-acts) starring with Amanda Plummer at the Hartford Stage, the 1973 landmark Broadway production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* directed by Michael Kahn (third Tony nomination and Tennessee Williams Foundation Award), *Suddenly Last Summer* at Circle in the Square, *Red Devil Battery Sign*, and *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore* (WPA), *Out Cry* directed by Michael Wilson and *Sweet Bird of Youth*, directed by Michael Kahn at Washington's Shakespeare Theatre (Helen Hayes Award nomination / Millennium Award). She has also appeared in *The Glass Menagerie* directed by Michael Wilson (Hartford Stage, A.R.T. Boston and Alley Theatre) which won the Boston Globe Critic's Award and most recently she became the first actress to have played Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and returned 30 years later to play *Big Mama* in the highly praised production at Hartford Stage.

She played Isadora Duncan in *When She Danced* (Playwrights Horizons); appeared in A.R. Gurney's *The Perfect Party* and Giraudoux' *The Enchanted* (Kennedy Center); *Master Class* (Royal Alexandria Theatre/Toronto); played Regina in *The Little Foxes* directed by Douglas Hughs at the Shakespeare Theatre.

National tours and regional work include *Vanities* with Kathy Bates, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* directed by Michael Wilson, *A Coupla White Chicks* with Sandy Dennis, *Full Gallop*, and *Eleemosynary* directed by Burt Reynolds.

Film credits include *The Carpetbaggers* (debut, 1962), *Ship of Fools* (Golden Globe nomination), *Rancho Deluxe* with Jeff Bridges, *Marriage of a Young Stockbroker*, *Golden Needles*, *92 In the Shade* with Warren Oates, *The Great Scout*, *Cathouse Thursday* with Lee Marvin, *Coma* with Michael Douglas, *Paternity* with Burt Reynolds, *Split Image* with James Woods, *Dragnet* with Tom Hanks, *Vampire Kiss* with Nicholas Cage, *A Man of Passion* with Anthony Quinn, *Happiness* directed by Todd Solondz( Independent Spirit Award), *Just the Ticket* with Andy Garcia, *Stagecoach* with Willie Nelson and Johnny Cash, *Windows* directed by Gordon Willis, and Broadway: *The Golden Age* directed by Rick McKay.

Among her TV credits are A&E's *The Rope* by Eugene O'Neill (Cable ACE Award Nomination - Best Actress), *The Two Mrs. Grenvilles* with Ann-Margret, *Miami Vice*, *Svengali* with Peter O'Toole and Jodie Foster, *The War Between the Tates*, *When Michael Calls* with Michael Douglas, *Sandburg's Lincoln*, *Caroline in the City*, *Dave's World*, series' regular on *Evening Shade* with Burt Reynolds (Emmy nomination), *The Buccaneers* (PBS), *Law & Order* and *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *The Larry Sanders Show*, *Homicide: Life on the Street* and many appearances on *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson.

Miss Ashley was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the American Film Institute while serving on the first National Council of the Arts during the administrations of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, and also served on the President's Committee for the Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement Awards. She is the author of the best-selling book, [Actress: Postcards from the Road](#) (published in 1978). She can be heard on Lou Reed's 2004 CD, "The Raven." Rolling Stone magazine credits Miss Ashley as originating the phrase, "money is the long hair of the 80's." Miss Ashley has retired and resumed her career twice. The first time was in 1965 when she married actor George Peppard, her second of several marriages (actor James Farentino being her first). She and Peppard gave birth to their son Christian in 1968. After divorcing Peppard in 1970, she resumed her acting career with great success. Her book became a best seller in the late 70's and she retired a second time to sail around the world on a nine-meter ocean racing sailboat.

She once again resumed her career by hosting *Saturday Night Live* on February 7th, 1982. She started rehearsals for *Agnes of God* two weeks later, which played 14 months on Broadway and 40 weeks on the road & has continued to work on stage, in film & on television ever since. She is currently working on her autobiography while driving through all of North America with her dog, Che Guevara.

### **Miriam Shor / “Stephanie”**

Miriam Shor was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, but moved to Venice, Italy when she was only six months old. It was there her love of theatre started when she saw her first opera at the ripe age of two. She began doing plays in high school, and went on to get a BFA in theatre/drama as well as a BA in English from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. From there she moved to New York to pursue a career in the theatre.

Miriam starred on the ABC series *Big Day* and played Becca, the bride's sister, and can currently be seen as one of the leads, Janet Thompson, on CBS's hit TV show *Swingtown*.

Shor has since appeared in more than half a dozen films, including *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and *Bedazzled*. She was a series regular on *Inside Schwartz* and *Then Came You* and has guest starred in many TV shows including *The West Wing* and *My Name Is Earl*.

She has gone back to her theatre roots many times working with such renowned artists as Stephen Sondheim, Terrence McNally, Lanford Wilson as well as many young, up and coming writers.

Miriam speaks fluent Italian having grown up splitting her time between Detroit, Michigan and first Venice, then Torino, Italy. She has an adorable mutt named Maude, loves to travel, but having established her status as a true New Yorker, hates driving.

### **Talia Balsam / “Violet”**

Talia Balsam has appeared in numerous films including most recently: *All the Kings Men* starring Sean Penn, directed by Steve Zailian, New Regency/Fox's *Little Manhattan*, and the indie *Line of Fire*. Other films include *Killing Emmett Young* with Tim Roth and *Gabriel Byrne* which premiered in the first Tribeca Film Festival, *In the Mood* opposite Patrick Dempsey, *Trust Me*, *Valerie Flake*, *Cold Blooded*, *Camp Stories*, *Mass Appeal* and the cult horror film *Crawl Space* opposite Klaus Klinski.

On television, Ms. Balsam recurs on CBS' *Without A Trace*, and co-starred for one season on HBO's *K Street* directed by Steven Soderbergh. She appeared in the pilot *Commander in Chief* with Geena Davis for ABC. Talia has guest starred in *Law and Order*, *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, *The Larry Sanders Show* and *Mad About You*, among others.

Theater credits include the Broadway production of Neil Simon's *Jakes Women*, for which she received a Theater World Award, John Patrick Shanley's *Psychopathia Sexualis*, *Snakebit*, directed by Campbell Scott, *Vicious* (L.A. Weekly Award) New York Stage and Film's *Hand to Hand*, and the *Democracy Projects*, for *Naked Angels*.

### **Jesse L. Martin / “Judd”**

An accomplished actor and singer who has already made his mark in the worlds of theater, television and film, Jesse L. Martin continues to establish himself by constantly bringing a winning combination of indelible charm, charisma and intensity to his roles.

Martin was most recently seen reprising his role in the film adaptation of Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer-Prize and Tony Award winning musical *Rent*. Based on Puccini's classic opera *La Boheme*, this revolutionary rock opera tells the story of a group of bohemians struggling to live and pay their rent in the gritty background of New York's East Village. Martin originated the role of Thomas B. "Tom" Collins.



Martin recently returned for his 8th season as the compulsive and passionate Detective Edward Green on the perennial hit *Law & Order*. He has received multiple SAG nominations (Ensemble) and seven Image Awards nominations (Outstanding Actor) for his work on the show.

Martin received critical acclaim for his recurring role on *Ally McBeal* as Ally's boyfriend, Dr. Greg Butters. His additional television credits include a guest starring role as a disenfranchised alien on *The X-Files* (episode written and directed by David Duchovny); a series regular on the Fox series *413 Hope Street*; a guest-starring role on the Wolf Films/Studios USA series *New York Undercover*; and the telefilm *Deep in my Heart* co-starring opposite Anne Bancroft and Gloria Reuben.

Past film credits include *Season of Youth* and the independent feature *The Restaurant*, where he performed alongside Adrien Brody, Elise Neal and Lauryn Hill.

Martin most recently starred on Broadway in *Rent*, one of the longest running shows on Broadway. *Rent* was the winner on the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Obie Award, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, 4 Tony Awards and 3 Drama Desk Awards. Martin originated the role of Thomas B. "Tom" Collins in the off-Broadway production at the NY Theatre Workshop and carried it through to the Broadway production.

His extensive NY theater credits run the gamut from Shakespeare to musical comedy and include such productions as *Timon of Athens* (his Broadway debut) and *The Inspector General* (National Actors Theatre); *I AIN'T YO UNCLE* (Hartford Stage); *Rock N' Roles From WM Shakespeare* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *The Butcher's Daughter* (Cleveland Playhouse); *Romeo & Juliet* (Acting Company Tour); and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Arena Stage).

An alumni of NYU and a classically trained stage actor, Martin currently resides in Manhattan.

## **Filmmaker Biographies:**

### **Mary Stuart Masterson / Director**

The daughter of screenwriter, director and actor Peter Masterson and Tony Award-winning actress Carlin Glynn, Mary Stuart Masterson was raised in New York City and made her film debut as an actress in *The Stepford Wives* (1975) with her father.

At the age of 16, she appeared on Broadway in Eva LeGallienne's version of *Alice in Wonderland*. Her first teenage film role was in *Heaven Help Us* (1985) followed by roles in *Some Kind of Wonderful* (1987), *Immediate Family* for which she received a National Board of Review Award for Best Supporting Actress, *Fried Green Tomatoes* (1991) and *Benny & Joon* (1993).

In 2003, Mary Stuart made her musical debut on Broadway in a revival of *Nine*, which was inspired by Fellini's film *8 1/2*. This role earned her the Theatre World Award and a Tony Award nomination.

*The Cake Eaters* is her narrative feature directorial debut.

### **Jayce Bartok / Screenwriter & "Guy Kimbrough"**

After appearing in numerous films and television shows as an actor, most notably Richard Linklater's *Suburbia*, John Frankenheimer's *Andersonville*, Tom McCarthy's *The Station Agent* and Georgia Lee's award-winning *Red Doors*, Jayce Bartok was inspired to write and direct, *Stricken*, a short film starring Hayley Mills which made its world premiere at the 2005 Vail Film Festival. Eager to embark on a larger project, he produced and directed with his wife Tiffany, *Altered By Elvis*, a feature length documentary about lives permanently changed, for better or worse, by the King of Rock 'n Roll. *Altered By Elvis* premiered at the 2006 Memphis Film Festival and is continuing its festival run to great response.

*The Cake Eaters* is Jayce's deeply personal feature screenplay debut. *Livingston Avenue* and *Tiny Dancer*, Jayce's newest screenplays, are currently in development. In addition, he is proud to be the voice of Robert Redford's, *The Sundance Channel*, and to have just completed the soon-to-be-released horror film, *Trapped Ashes*, and *Trainwreck: My Life As An Idiot* starring Sean Williams Scott.

With one produced feature script and an acclaimed documentary under his belt, Jayce steps into the realm of feature directing with *The Wedges*, a stark, gritty drama set in the Smokey Mountains of North Carolina in the 1980's.

Jayce currently resides in Brooklyn, New York with his wife Tiffany.

### **Duncan Sheik / Music Composer**

In addition to writing the music for the multiple Tony Award Winning, *Spring Awakening*, Grammy award nominated singer-songwriter Duncan Sheik has composed original music for the Public Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park.

His self-titled debut album, which was an enormous popular and critical success, introduced the hit singles "Barely Breathing" and "She Runs Away," and spent 30 weeks on the Billboard 200. Other albums include "Humming," "Daylight," "Phantom Moon" and his latest, "White Limousine", which was released in January of 2006.

Film Soundtracks include *Great Expectations*, *The Saint*, *Teaching Mrs. Tingle*, *Three to Tango*, *What a Girl Wants*, *Transamerica* and *A Body Goes Down*. Sheik recently composed and produced the original score for the feature film *A Home at the End of the World*, starring Colin Farrell.

## **57<sup>th</sup> & Irving Productions / Production Company**

57th & Irving Productions is a New York based independent film Finance and Production company. The principal of the company is Patrick Morris.

57<sup>th</sup> is currently partnered with Original Media (*Half Nelson*, *The Squid and The Whale*) on the feature film *August* starring Josh Hartnett, Naomi Harris and David Bowie, and was directed by Austin Chick (XXXY). The film premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and was acquired by FirstLook Studios.

They also produced the documentary *American Teen* with Nanette Burstein (*The Kid Stays in the Picture*) which also premiered at Sundance '08 and was acquired by Paramount Vantage, and *I Bring What I Love*, a film about the Grammy-winning activist and African music pioneer Youssou N'Dour, which was directed by Chai Vasarhelyi and premiered at the 2008 Toronto Film Festival.

## **The 7<sup>th</sup> Floor / Production Company & Producers**

After graduating from the esteemed Film Conservatory at SUNY Purchase in 1997 and working their way up the film ranks, classmates Allen Bain and Jesse Scolaro started The 7<sup>th</sup> Floor production company in 2000 with the objective to develop and produce quality feature length motion pictures for commercial distribution.

Immediately, they started production on their first film, *Manito*, which had its world premiere at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival and was awarded a Special Jury Prize. *Manito* went on to become the most awarded independent film that year, receiving three Independent Spirit Award nominations including Producers to Watch, winning the American Express Emerging Filmmaker Award at the inaugural Tribeca Film Festival, and winning the Open Palm Award for Best Director at the Gotham Awards.

Following the success of their debut film, Bain and Scolaro went on to produce *Cry Funny Happy* which premiered at Sundance in '03, *Blackballed: The Bobby Dukes Story* starring Rob Corddry, and *ROOM* which premiered at Sundance and Cannes in '05, and was nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards.

Meanwhile, The 7<sup>th</sup> Floor continued to co-produce other films including *Lord of War* starring Academy Award winner Nicolas Cage and Academy Award nominee Ethan Hawke, *The Great New Wonderful* starring Academy Award nominee Maggie Gyllenhaal and Academy Award winner Olympia Dukakis, and *Julia* starring Academy Award winner Tilda Swinton.

More recent projects include *Gardener of Eden*, co-produced with Leonardo DiCaprio and directed by Kevin Connolly of HBO's *Entourage*, *The Cake Eaters* directed by Mary Stuart Masterson and starring Kristen Stewart and Academy Award nominee Bruce Dern, and *The Missing Person* starring Michael Shannon and Academy Award nominee Amy Ryan.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Floor's upcoming projects include *Usonia* about famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, *Miles from Nowhere* starring Vera Farmiga, *How I Got to Memphis* starring Matt Dillon and Kerry Washington, and *CHOOSE*, a horror film directed by Academy Award winning Special FX Supervisor, Rob Legato (*Titanic*, *The Aviator*, *The Departed*, *Apollo 13*, *Armageddon*).

**Festivals & Awards:**

Tribeca Film Festival – *Official Selection*  
Gaia Film Festival – *Best Feature*  
Sedona Film Festival – *Discovery Award*  
Ashland Film Festival – *Audience Award*  
Ft. Lauderdale Film Festival – *Audience Award*  
Stony Brook Film Festival – *Best Feature*  
FirstGlance Film Festival – *Best Director*

Official Selections: San Diego, Woodstock, Austin, Memphis, Florida, Vail, Sonoma Valley, Atlanta, Boston, Little Rock, Newport, Portland, New Orleans, Avignon (among many others)...

**Quotes:**

“A dynamite performance by Kristen Stewart...” – Variety

“Kristen Stewart’s performance is so real, I’m surprised her name hasn’t come up in award conversations...”  
– Cinematical

“4 ½ stars... Kristen Stewart is heroic...” – Orlando Weekly