

RIPPLE EFFECT

monterey media presents
A YBG Production A Film By PHILIPPE CALAND
FOREST WHITAKER VIRGINIA MADSEN MINNIE DRIVER PHILIPPE CALAND
'RIPPLE EFFECT' JOHN BILLINGSLEY KALI ROCHA and KIP PARDUE
Casting LINDSAY CHAG Music by ANTHONY MARINELLI
Edited by JOSEPH SEMENSE and YVAN GAUTHIER
Production Designer SHIRLEY LEONG Director of Photography DARON KEET
Executive Producers FOREST WHITAKER VIRGINIA MADSEN MINNIE DRIVER
Written, Produced and Directed by PHILIPPE CALAND
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Tech Specs

Running Time: 82:39 minutes
Exhibition Format: 35 mm & Digital
Production Format: HDCAM
Aspect Ratio: 1.78:1
Color, Stereo, English
12/17/07

Producers Website

www.rippleeffectthemovie.com

TRAILER: http://www.montereymedia.com/independent/ripple_effect_trailer.html

For photos, posters, videos and more please visit our Flickr:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/montereymedia/sets/72157626093072583/>



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SYNOPSIS

A hip, new-age fashion designer, Amer Atrash (PHILIPPE CALAND), left Lebanon in pursuit of the America Dream. Living in the fast lane and always just on the brink of success, something unexpected always seems to get in the way.

In the weeks before the launch of his cutting-edge clothing brand, and on the brink of major financial success, Amer finds himself in an all-too-familiar predicament when the rug is pulled from under his feet at the eleventh hour. Propelled into action, the hustler within is awakened, but he is met with a barrage of ‘no’s, and finds himself with his back against the wall. Neglected and confused, his wife Sherry (VIRGINIA MADSEN) decides that she “needs time to think”. While burying himself in his work, Amer is haunted by the memories of an event that transpired years ago. Seeking his wife’s solace, he confesses his dark secret to her, divulging the story of an unavoidable accident fifteen years earlier that left Phillip Blackman (FOREST WHITAKER) a paraplegic in a wheelchair. Amer further confesses that he believes that all of the pitfalls he has encountered in life since that night are directly linked to the curse and bad karma from his actions. Compassionate and understanding, Sherry encourages Amer to make amends. Setting out to find Phillip and reveal himself, Amer inadvertently encounters Phillip’s beautiful wife, Kitty (MINNIE DRIVER), who sings at a local bar. Through their unusual interaction, she leads him to the man he seeks.

Phillip has made the very best of his life and takes Amer on a spiritual journey, the goal of which to change Amer’s state of mind and help bring him nearer to enlightenment. Through this life-altering encounter, Amer learns a new truth about that fateful night.

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FOREST WHITAKER ('PHILLIP' / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

At a towering 6'3", 220 pound body frame, the soft-spoken Forest Whitaker began college on a football scholarship, but soon transferred to USC to train as an operatic tenor, before following yet another scholarship to Berkeley, where he began studying acting. Playing high-school athletes in such teen flicks as "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" (1982), his film debut at the age of 21, and "Vision Quest" (1985), prepared him for his supporting role opposite Paul Newman in Martin Scorsese's "The Color of Money" (1986), as well as supporting roles in "Platoon" (1986), "Stakeout" and "Good Morning, Vietnam". He was soon elevated to leading man under the Clint Eastwood directed "Bird" (1988), earning Best Actor at the Cannes Film Festival. Whitaker also appeared throughout the 90's in such films as "The Crying Game" (1992), "Species" (1995) and "Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai" (1999) among others.

Whitaker made his feature directing debut with "Waiting to Exhale" (1995), and became a much sought after directorial talent. Recently, he won an Academy Award® for his performance in "The Last King of Scotland" (2006).

VIRGINIA MADSEN ('SHERRY' / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

Voted as one of the most beautiful actresses in 1986, Virginia Madsen continues to stun audiences with her attractive looks and superb acting ability. She first hit the screen as Princess Irulan in the science fiction epic "Dune" (1984) however, it was in 1986 that Virginia captivated America with her intense portrayal of a Catholic school girl who fell in love with a boy from a prison camp in "Fire with Fire" (1986). Since then, her career has only led her to greater achievements including a Best Supporting Actress Oscar® nod for her subtle performance in the critically acclaimed film, "Sideways" (2004) as well as being directed by such greats as Robert Altman and co-starring opposite Hollywood heavyweights Harrison Ford, "Firewall" (2006), Billy Bob Thornton, "The Astronaut Farmer" (2007), and Jim Carrey, "The Number 23" (2007).

MINNIE DRIVER ('KITTY')

The English-born Minnie Driver received her degree in drama from Webber-Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London (1991), where she did assorted stage work and British television as well as playing various London clubs as a jazz vocalist and guitarist. In 1995, she made her breakout performance as Benny Hogan, the Irish co-ed who wins Chris O'Donnell's heart in "Circle of Friends", and then as Russian country-western singer in the James Bond "Golden Eye" (1995).

Driver moved triumphantly from the witty-co-star to leading lady in numerous American and British films playing such memorable characters as the love interests of hit man John Cusack "Grosse Pointe Blank" (1997) and troubled young genius, Matt Damon "Good Will Hunting" (1997), and in "Hard Rain" (1998) as a feisty woman who saves the life of a security guard (Christian Slater).

Stealing the show as the Italian opera diva Carlotta in the film adaptation of the hit Broadway musical "The Phantom of the Opera" (2004), Driver gave audiences perhaps her most memorable performance to date.

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PHILIPPE CALAND ('AMER' / DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/WRITER)

Born of French/Lebanese descent, Philippe Caland grew up in Paris and Beirut and attended the American College of Paris prior to relocating to the United States in 1985

Philippe became interested in the film industry in 1987 and wrote the story for *Boxing Helena*, which Jennifer Lynch adapted into a screenplay in 1993. Caland served as producer on the film which led he and co-producer, Sean Penn, to be nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for 'Best Feature' for the film, "Loved" in 1998.

In 2004, Caland wrote, directed and starred in "Hollywood Buddha", a film loosely based on his quixotic attempts to place his 1994 film, "Dead Girl" with a major distributor. The film was an 'Official Selection' at the South By Southwest Film Festival, the Paris Film Festival and the New York/Avignon Film Festival and won the 'Best Film' and 'Best Director' awards at the Taos Vision Quest Film Festival.

Caland is also the founder of Econology, an organization that promotes environmental sustainability.

Philippe Caland has known the heights, the depths, and the *ripple effect* in his own life. He was born privileged in Beirut, the grandson of Lebanon's first president.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ripple Effect is a film exploring the idea that events are interconnected. That every action causes a reaction. And like ripples in water, as they intersect, they alter each other.

I've been in the United States for twenty years. But I went through some difficult times when I was young in Lebanon, as everyone does who is raised in the middle of a war. And I felt making a small movie about the state of mind that results would be a way of growing from it. Even if it was just a film I made with friends, that no one saw.

But as I worked on the material, and told people about it, it started to build excitement. Many times in the past I've launched films intending to make them on a larger scale. But this time, the less I tried to do this, the more the interest grew. The people who heard about it seemed personally compelled by the idea that destiny isn't fixed -- that we alter it by our intention. Like ripples of behavior that intersect and change the ripples of other people's behavior.

Suddenly I received a call suggesting I talk with Forest Whitaker about playing the opposite lead to me. I never intended to have a cast like this, but since people felt it should go down this road I saw it as a great opportunity, and pursued it.

I called Forest. He was in a hotel room in Uganda, playing the very brutal role of Idi Amin. He didn't know me, hadn't seen a script for Ripple Effect, was strained from the role, and then the lights went out in his hotel.

Now, the oddness of sitting in a dark hotel room, in a foreign country far from home, talking to a stranger could have easily brought an end to the conversation, but instead Forest searched around and found a candle. He lit it and sat, and listened to what I had to say. The blackout eliminated all the normal distractions of the movie shoot and allowed us to talk very quietly and deeply. And after I explained what I wanted to accomplish, he said he also felt there was something here for him -- that he wanted to explore, (chuckle)

And I guess it let us fulfill that old proverb literally -- that it's better to light a candle than curse the darkness.

When we then offered parts to Minnie Driver and Virginia Madsen, I had the same kind of experience. Virginia was an old friend who I had been searching for years for a way to work with. And the story required Minnie to do a stage performance, which was something she was passionately working on in her life and wanted to focus on.

It seemed the original intent to make this little movie intersected, like crossing ripples, with the intentions of many other people, who had their own reasons to work on this story, altering everyone's path, and leading a small backyard film to one starring a cast of Academy Award honored actors, just to express an idea about how we all effect each other.

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QUOTES

"Leaving Hollywood nonsense behind, Philippe Caland has now made his second compelling and original movie that captures the deeper meaning of life at the moment when one is forced to give up the disease of control and the ego illusion of self worth/self hate - the world in which 98% of us struggle for meaning - and submit to a larger force completely outside of our control.

His 'Hollywood Buddha' was a whimsical, charming, infectious if gentle romp in this mindscape. His current, utterly grabbing 'Ripple Effect' tears the veils off from the outset and keeps tearing until the characters - and audience - have been swept through their own high-drama ripple effect, that of seeing one's life shaped ferociously by the inner wounds we all carry.

Caland displays a gift for evoking from the audience edge-of-chair emotions via his combination of genuine, very real characters and sharp, intelligent, meaningful, very real (for thinking people) dialogue. He's also a fine director working with a terrific cast, enjoyable alone for watching Forest Whitaker, Virginia Madsen and Caland himself (in the protagonist role) reveal their rich selves right through the screen characters."

-Jay Levin, Founder, LA Weekly

"This is one film you should not miss. Forest Whitaker's performance alone is worth seeing this for. This is a thought-provoking and powerful film... beautiful... fantastic."

- angelfire.com/pq/moviereviews

"Sure to be a crowd-pleaser, *Ripple Effect* is a must-see." – Good Times, Santa Cruz

"A powerful archetypal journey... to spiritual awakening." - Eckhart Tolle

"3 Stars. Very Good. Kudos to Philippe Caland for crafting such a refreshingly-unpredictable cautionary tale filled with complex characters, and for coaxing inspired performances from an A-list cast topped by Forest Whitaker, Virginia Madsen and Minnie Driver. " - Kam Williams, Newsblaze

"3 Stars. Recommended." – Video Librarian

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FILM FESTIVALS

CENTRE PIECE FILM BARBADOS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Director's Choice Award - Best Feature - Sedona International Film Festival
Gold Remi – WorldFest – Houston International Film Festival
Indie Spirit Best Picture Award- Boston International Film Festival

Official Selection- Avignon Film Festival
Official Selection- Santa Cruz Film Festival
Official Selection- Sedona International Film Festival
Official Selection- Byron Bay Film Festival
Official Selection- Woods Hole Film Festival



KENNEBEC JOURNAL

Actress Virginia Madsen in film premiering in Waterville

BY AMY CALDER
Staff Writer

KENNEBEC JOURNAL Morning Sentinel

06/20/2008

WATERVILLE -- Actress and producer Virginia Madsen has great praise for small independent theaters like Railroad Square Cinema, which tonight will premiere her movie, "Ripple Effect."

"I just think it's so wonderful when local cinemas care about these films," said Madsen, who stars in and co-produces the film. "It means so much to the filmmakers because it's really not about money -- it's about the art of filmmaking. It's because of the support of local cinemas that we get to show what we have worked so hard to do."

Philippe Caland wrote, directed and also stars in "Ripple Effect," an introspective movie about a fashion designer facing crises in both his marriage and business -- crises he believes are the result of a wrongdoing he committed 15 years earlier.

Caland plays the designer, Amer Atrash; Madsen plays his wife, Sherry, a beautiful, empathetic woman, saddened and disturbed by her husband's seeming inability to make quality time in his hectic life for her and their daughter, Charley, played by Caland's real-life daughter of the same name.

Speaking from her home, which is an hour north of Los Angeles, Madsen said Caland's passion for the project and belief in its premise convinced her to be part of the low-budget film, which also stars Minnie Driver, Forest Whitaker and John Billingsley. A longtime friend of Caland's, Madsen said he is a very charismatic and determined filmmaker.

"I feel that as a friend and as an actor, he's really onto something and he's really unique," she said. "We started talking about making movies and he said, 'I have this idea and do you want to come and produce with me?' and I said, 'Yes, I'm in.' I loved the subject matter."

Madsen, 46, was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in the critically-acclaimed film, "Sideways." She has starred in many other movies, including "Dune," "Fire With Fire," and "Firewall," in which she co-starred with Harrison Ford. She also starred in "A Prairie Home Companion," directed in 2006 by Robert Altman, who died that year.

Madsen grew up in the northern suburbs of Chicago. Her mother, Elaine, was a wife and homemaker who later became an Emmy Award-winning director.

"She just was very encouraging of all her children to follow their dreams. I was always so serious about wanting to be an actress. I don't remember ever not wanting that."

Madsen describes herself during that time as very strong-willed and creative -- and her mother recognized her potential.

"She saw that as an asset and really encouraged me to study and to follow that dream," Madsen said. "I'm very blessed to have had her -- to have her as my mother."

Madsen also stars in an independent film with Matthew Broderick and Alan Alda, "Diminished Capacity," which opens July 4.

Much of "Ripple Effect," distributed by Monterey Media, Inc., involves improvisation; Madsen said that generally she is uncomfortable with improv but in this case, it worked.

"When it works -- when you finally get it -- it becomes real and hopefully, something beautiful," she said.

Madsen said she was blown away when she learned that Whitaker and Driver agreed to star in and help produce the film, especially since Caland is not an extremely well-known filmmaker.

"He convinced them both to do it," she said. "I think that actors -- real actors -- always want to work in a creative environment. When it comes down to it, it's not about money and fame and power; we just want to also do it. If you can find the right environment, we'll do it for nothing, and we'll experiment."

monterey media | About the company

monterey media inc., a uniquely independent studio

monterey media inc., incorporated in 1979, it is a privately owned entertainment industry company specializing in the creation, acquisition, distribution and sale of motion pictures and other programming. monterey media is actively engaged in all areas of domestic media, including theatrical distribution to theatres, film festivals, and other distinctive venues, and is presently increasing its release slate with a continued measured growth strategy.

The Company creates unique and distinctive release strategies tailored to each project. By way of example, in 2005, the Company established a joint venture for the creation of a special theatrical event in conjunction with AMC Theatres to launch the motion picture *Indigo: A one day, 603 North America* venue showing grossed over \$1,190,000 box office. Early theatrical releases included the enchanting *The Blue Butterfly* starring Academy Award® Winner William Hurt; *Nobility*, from Award-winning writer/director Turk Pipkin (which Esquire Magazine called “remarkable”), with a Gala Premiere benefiting Amnesty Int’l. on Earth Day; and the lauded tri-coastal release of, *PEEL: The Peru Project* (heralded as “reminiscent of Bruce Brown’s *Endless Summer*”).

Award-winning feature films included in the theatrical 2007 (and DVD) release slate were the poignant and compelling *Steel Toes* starring Academy Award® nominated David Strathairn, the family film *Eye of the Dolphin*, the true crime story of *Karla*, based upon the infamous and notorious “Ken and Barbie killer” murders; and the critically acclaimed *10 Questions for the Dalai Lama* premiering with Landmark Theatres in San Francisco, Houston, Chicago and Berkeley.

2008 releases will begin with *The Secrets* from Israel’s premiere director Avi Neshet; *The Cry* a suspenseful tale which has terrified Latinos for centuries; a family treat in *When I Find the Ocean* and the spiritual but dark *Ripple Effect* starring Forest Whitaker and Minnie Driver.

monterey is known for its creatively coordinated marketing strategies incorporating promotional alliances with such strategic partners as Wal-Mart, Fisher Price, Pepsi Cola, American Express, Amnesty International USA, Make-A-Wish Foundation® of America, Children’s Cancer Research Fund, KIDS FIRST!®, Days Inns, the International Motorcycle Shows, Healthy World Healthy Child, and Wahoo’s Fish Taco Restaurants.

monterey video

The monterey video division is the 2nd oldest independent video manufacturer and distributor in the United States, acquiring the exclusive rights for all video markets to completed motion pictures or other programming. monterey is well known for its broad marketing to all key retail, mail order and internet sites, schools and libraries, and specialty markets.

The versatile monterey video library encompasses unique feature films and documentaries as well as Multi-Platinum RIAA and ITA Award-winning Grateful Dead concerts; prestigious films such as *The Exonerated* starring Susan Sarandon, Brian Dennehy, Danny Glover and Aidan Quinn; celebrated sports programming including the Bruce Brown Films franchise of motorcycle films (*On Any Sunday*) and surf films (*The Endless Summer II*); the most prestigious educational yet entertaining library of films adapted from literature’s renowned authors combined with acclaimed performances from many of Hollywood’s greatest actors; and noteworthy children’s programming. In addition, monterey has the honor of being the first video market licensee of the American Film Institute.

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