

WILBY WONDERFUL

a feature film written and directed by Daniel MacIvor

(2004, Canada, 99 minutes)

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Short Synopsis

Wilby Wonderful is a bittersweet comedy about the difference a day makes. Over the course of twenty-four hours, the residents of the tiny island town of Wilby try to maintain business as usual in the face of very unusual business.

As a scandal threatens to rock the very foundation of Wilby island, Duck MacDonald (Callum Keith Rennie), the town's dyslexic sign-painter, keeps interrupting the depressed video store owner Dan Jarvis (James Allodi) during his half-hearted suicide attempts. Meanwhile, Dan has enlisted the blindly-ambitious real estate agent, Carol French (Sandra Oh), to sell his house in an effort to quickly tie up the last of his loose ends. Carol however is more interested in selling her recently deceased mother-in-law's house to Mayor Brent Fisher (Maury Chaykin), in order to get on-side with the in-crowd.

To take her social step up, Carol could use the help of her police officer husband Buddy (Paul Gross), but Buddy has his hands full with perennially-sexy, wrong-side-of-the-tracks Sandra Anderson (Rebecca Jenkins), who can never decide if she is coming or going. Sandra's daughter Emily (Ellen Page), is none too thrilled about her mother repeating her typical pattern of married men and bad reputation, but Emily herself is just about to have her heart broken for the very first time. Of course everyone's concerns are going to be very different tonight when someone finds the body in the closet. Welcome to Wilby.

Wilby Wonderful is the second feature collaboration between producer Camelia Frieberg, co-producer Sherrie Johnson, and Cape Breton born writer/director Daniel MacIvor. The film is financed Telefilm Canada, Astral Media-The Harold Greenberg Fund, Nova Scotia Film Development Corporation, CHUM Television, CBC, The Movie Network, Movie Central (A Corus Entertainment Company), The South West Shore Development Authority and the Shelburne Film Production Centre, The Nova Scotia Film Industry Tax Credit, The Government Of Ontario–The Ontario Film & Television Tax Credit, and The Canadian Film Or Video Tax Credit. It is being distributed in Canada by Mongrel Media.

Long Synopsis

Wilby Wonderful is a bittersweet comedy about the difference a day makes. Over the course of twenty-four hours, the residents of the tiny island town of Wilby try to maintain business as usual in the face of very unusual business.

"She just wants a little bit of love. Just like all of us."

Wilby Island is just a few minutes by ferry from the mainland, but where a loyal Islander is concerned it might as well be years away from the fast-lane living of the mainland. Recently a scandal has rocked the town and it is only days before the details are to be published in the local paper, bringing shame and scorn to all involved.

It's Thursday morning in Wilby. Dan Jarvis (James Allodi), a transplanted Mainlander and owner of the local video store, is clearly troubled as he climbs to the top of a small bridge over a rushing river, apparently ready to end it all. However, before he can make his fatal leap, Duck MacDonald (Callum Keith Rennie) appears. Duck, an Islander born and bred and a man of few words, is the local handyman. Duck doesn't buy Dan's excuse that he was climbing the bridge to get some exercise.

Thwarted, Dan leaves Duck to his own work on the bridge: hanging a large banner. The banner reads "Wilby Wonderful," announcing the upcoming Wilby Days Festival. The festival is the brainchild of Carol French (Sandra Oh), a tightly-wound real estate agent and professional volunteer. Carol is, like Dan Jarvis, a non-Islander, but she has made it her focus to find her way into the inner circle of Wilby's elite, although so far, not very successfully. Her most recent scheme is to sell the stately old home of her recently deceased mother-in-law to Wilby's good-natured but perk-loving Mayor, Brent Fisher (Maury Chaykin).

Carol's husband, Buddy French (Paul Gross), could help Carol in her quest to becoming an insider, but as a member of the local police force and the son of the man who first settled Wilby 150 years ago, Buddy finds Brent and his cronies uninteresting, to say the least. Worse, Buddy is beginning to find that Carol's pursuits are turning her into a stranger. Carol senses this, but the fear of her marriage falling apart only makes her spin her wheels even more.

These same fears are starting to push Buddy into the arms of the hopeful and willing Sandra Anderson (Rebecca Jenkins). Buddy and Sandra knew each other in high school but at that time moved in very different circles. Sandra is a true Island girl with an easy laugh and an incredible lust for life. She recently returned to Wilby after years on the mainland. She has taken over Iggy's, the once popular but now abandoned local café. Despite good intentions, she hasn't managed to get the kitchen running much past coffee and donuts.

In reality, Sandra is not sure that Wilby is going to work for her. The main reason for returning to the island was to give her teenage daughter Emily (Ellen Page) a chance at a simpler life. Emily, on the other hand, thinks the reason for returning to Wilby had more to do with her mother having slept her way through every town on the mainland.

Emily is embarking on a love affair of her own, which, as she tells her mother, is "not about sex." However, Emily's boyfriend Taylor (Caleb Langille) may not agree. As Thursday evening turns into Thursday night, Emily's real lesson in simplicity brings us back to Duck, who in turn brings us back to Dan Jarvis, who, as we discover, is at the centre of the scandal that threatens to blow the lid off life on Wilby Island as we've known it.

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Production Notes

Wilby Wonderful features a stellar ensemble of Canada's most talented performers: James Allodi, Maury Chaykin, Paul Gross, Rebecca Jenkins, Sandra Oh, Ellen Page and Callum Keith Rennie. The second feature collaboration between producer Camelia Frieberg, co-producer Sherrie Johnson, and Cape Breton born writer/director Daniel MacIvor, the film is financed by Telefilm Canada, Astral Media-The Harold Greenberg Fund, Nova Scotia Film Development Corporation, CHUM Television, CBC, The Movie Network, Movie Central (A Corus Entertainment Company), The South West Shore Development Authority and the Shelburne Film Production Centre, The Nova Scotia Film Industry Tax Credit, The Government Of Ontario—The Ontario Film & Television Tax Credit, and The Canadian Film Or Video Tax Credit. It is being distributed in Canada by Mongrel Media.

For Daniel MacIvor, ***Wilby Wonderful*** is a gentle and intimate story of hope and the importance of believing that we live in a world of creation, not destruction. In fact, we create that world by believing in it. "In a more complex way of looking at it, the movie is about reflection and inversion," says MacIvor. "If we allow ourselves to exist as the reflection of others' perceptions of us, that reflection is inverted, reversed—it can lead us to missteps and bad choices. But in the world I aspire to live in, even bad choices can lead us to understanding. Sometimes everything ends up backwards, but as this film says, sometimes the backwards way is better."

MacIvor and longtime business partner, co-producer Sherrie Johnson, approached producer Camelia Frieberg with the ***Wilby Wonderful*** script in an early draft. The three had just worked together on *Past Perfect*, which had been an inspiring and positive experience, and they were excited by the prospect of working together again. "Daniel is a collaborator, but at the same time he has very strong opinions," says Frieberg. "He does like to hear what you think, then feels free to throw it out if it doesn't work for him. That is what every director should be able to do. The nice thing is that Daniel values and respects the contributions that others make, and every person on the crew gets that sense from him." Co-producer Sherrie Johnson adds, "Daniel is incredibly efficient, fast, prolific, and he is a great collaborator. He has carried everything that he has learned in his work in the theatre for the past eleven years over into film. He has been refining and refining his craft, and this process is quite incredible to watch."

Since the trio's initial decision to work together on ***Wilby Wonderful***, there have been twelve new drafts of the script. MacIvor is a director who loves to write. "One of the things I take from my work in the theatre is a fluidity around story and script. No element is too small to be considered essential, and no element too important not to be potentially eliminated. We have to be able to evolve with the story as it evolves." But that doesn't mean a throw-the-script-away-and-improvise attitude on set. "We very much stick to the script on the day – although chances are it has changed considerably from the day before." MacIvor explains, "I continue to write through the shoot. As long as the actors will take changes, I'll give them changes. We try to keep the script alive and breathing through the shoot, always continuing to uncover the story beneath it."

One challenge MacIvor set for himself was to make the story take place in a twenty-four hour period. "I am interested in time – what time means. This comes from my work in the theatre—a time-based medium. *Past Perfect* took place on two days two years apart; ***Wilby*** takes place over 24 hours. Time always figures prominently for me. 24 hours is interesting because to make it seem plausible, the revelations and changes must be gentle, small—deciding to stay, or try, or not try at all."

Another challenge MacIvor happily met was the demanding work of creating an engaging multi-storyline film. "I set that up as a challenge for myself. *Past Perfect* was basically two actors and two locations, ***Wilby*** couldn't be any further from that. But really the multi-storyline battle was won with the casting of the ensemble. God couldn't have cast this movie better."

Cast

Wilby Wonderful brings together a remarkable group of Canadian talent.

MacIvor wrote the part of Dan Jarvis for James Allodi. The two have worked together for many years in the theatre and Allodi played the lead in MacIvor's short film, *Permission*. "Dan Jarvis is a troubled man who feels he has nowhere to turn and no one to confide in. I wrote the part for Jim knowing he could handle the silence Dan carries with him—Jim has an amazing ability to command attention by simply being silent and still. He has a phenomenal presence, and as well a sense of melancholy that Dan needed. He brings such life to Dan."

The multi-talented Allodi, a feature film writer/director himself with the 2000 release of his critically-acclaimed *The Uncles*, has been following the script through its many stages of development. "One of the things that really appealed to me was the fact the story takes place during one day. Every time you do a scene, you are obligated to find the emotional continuity of that scene, something that appears to take place one minute later on screen may have actually been shot two weeks earlier. It makes you do your homework. And it's that preparation that gets you under the skin of the character; it makes you look for the details, the small moments that define the emotional journey. And that's what *Wilby* is, really: a series of these beautiful, intimate moments."

When writing the part of Mayor Brent Fisher, MacIvor always had Maury Chaykin in mind. "Brent Fisher is not a bad guy, but he knows how to play the game", explains MacIvor. "He is just one of the boys in the good-old-boys network; he sees little harm in what he does. Inside the story he is certainly a villain, but I didn't want it played that way. I knew Maury would give it a twist." The Brooklyn-born Chaykin, a multi-award winning performer, has established himself on both sides of the border as one of the preeminent character actors of our time. "Maury can be such a clown, but always rooted in a reality that is awe-inspiring", says MacIvor. "Maury always takes an unexpected approach to his characters. He takes the side streets and back alleys but always arrives brilliantly where you need him to be."

Paul Gross plays police officer Buddy French. Buddy was born and raised in Wilby, and his great-grandfather was one of the founders of the island. Buddy was raised to believe that people could make a difference, but he is disillusioned as he watches the island fall away to greed and game-playing. He finds himself at a place in his life where he knows something has to change—but how? “When Paul’s name came up for Buddy I was very excited about the sense of heroism he could bring to the character,” says MacIvor. “Paul does that so well. But I also needed him to be a failing hero. On the first day I said to Paul, ‘I need you to go to an insecure place and play Buddy from there.’ Which he did, beautifully. Paul’s work in this movie is lovely. Very gentle, open and vulnerable. He is a tremendous actor.”

Gross recently released *Men With Brooms*, his feature film directoral debut, which he also co-wrote and starred in. A multi-tasker himself, he had a clear idea of what MacIvor was trying to capture. Says Gross, “When I read the script, I thought it was really beautiful, very carefully observed, a very detailed slice of a particular kind of community. It is a very subtle, believable and effective piece of writing, where the sum of the ensemble is larger than the individual parts. I have admired Daniel’s work over the years, but I’ve never actually worked with him before. It has been a terrific experience.”

Rebecca Jenkins plays Sandra Anderson, who has just moved back to Wilby after many years away. She really wants to find a simpler life for herself and her teenage daughter, but she is having trouble breaking old habits—like late nights and married men. “For me Sandra’s character is sunshine,” says MacIvor. “All she really wants is for people to feel good, but she’s physical and sensual and that can frighten people. And certainly she suffers from having been something of an outsider—she was seen as ‘the bad girl’ in high school and that still follows her.” When MacIvor offered Jenkins the part, she was very excited about the opportunity to play someone who was always trying to look for the positive. MacIvor explains, “Rebecca’s played a lot of dark and brooding characters in the past, but if I had to pick one word to define Rebecca as a person it would be ‘sunshine’.” Jenkins is a talented musician (a beautiful song she wrote and sings appears in the film), and an award-winning actor who has worked with MacIvor on both of his last two projects, *Marion Bridge*, which he wrote, and *Past Perfect*, which he wrote, directed and co-starred in with Jenkins. “Daniel and I have developed a kind of a short hand. We don’t need to spend hours talking through scenes for motivation and meaning. It’s actually getting to the point where we can look at one another and without a word get both the question and the answer.”

Sandra Oh, well known for her comedic talents and award-winning dramatic performances, brings a rich mixture of edge and pathos to Carol French, the tightly-wound real estate agent, professional volunteer, transplanted mainlander, and wife of born and bred Islander Buddy French. "Because of Carol's tunnel vision ambition and almost desperate need to be accepted, she could have very easily been played broadly and one-note, but Sandra has such a sensitivity to Carol. She understands her struggle of needing to be accepted by the community, and her misguided choices to reach that goal," says MacIvor. "From day one Sandra nailed it brilliantly and brought so much humanity to the role, more than I saw myself actually." Born and raised in Ottawa, Sandra Oh, who currently resides in Los Angeles, was thrilled to come home to Canada when offered the part by MacIvor. "I thought the script was great, but mostly I wanted to do this film to work with Daniel."

After meeting Ellen Page on *Marion Bridge* and witnessing her formidable talent, MacIvor began re-writing the role of the intelligent, wise-for-her-years Emily Anderson specifically for Page. "I think Ellen is amazing," says MacIvor. "She is emotionally connected in ways that I could only ever dream of being. Emily is in the midst of a difficult sexual awakening, and that is not easy to play at sixteen. But Ellen does it with grace and truth." Page started acting at the age of ten. Since then she has garnered two Gemini Award nominations. After her first experience with MacIvor, Page was excited to have the opportunity to work with him again. "Daniel is such a wonderful writer and director, but really I think it comes down to the fact that we trust one another," she says.

For the role of Duck MacDonald, MacIvor turned to friend and fellow actor Callum Keith Rennie. During our observation of life in Wilby over this twenty-four hour period, Duck becomes something of an unexpected hero. A born Islander, Duck still remains something of an outsider and he is comfortable in that position. "Callum is similar to Duck in a lot of ways," says MacIvor. "I think of them both as angels, but in the old sense of an angel, the kind with armour and wings." Rennie, a Genie Award-winning actor, admired the way the storylines came together with such humour and heart. "I hadn't played this kind of character before. There is a kindness and gentleness to him. He doesn't have a lot of conflict, but he has deep concerns and hopes," says Rennie. "I have known Daniel for fifteen years, and I am really happy to have this opportunity to work with him. He is very adept at getting what he wants. He has a way of getting his ideas across with gentleness."

CREW

The picturesque town of Wilby, with its Victorian styled wooden houses, vast, manicured lawns, and open vistas surrounded by the icy blue ocean, is captured on film by Director of Photography Rudolph Blahacek, known for his work on films such as Peter Lynch's *The Herd* and Showtime's mini-series, *Slings and Arrows*. This is the second feature film collaboration for Blahacek and MacIvor, who worked together on *Past Perfect*. MacIvor says, "With Rudy, it has always been an open dialogue. When we approach a scene, we are often coming from very different directions, which in the end gives us more choices. We've been together long enough to be able to laugh our way through tension, and if that doesn't work, we're not afraid to take it outside," jokes MacIvor.

Another returning member of the *Past Perfect* team is Production Designer Emanuel Jannasch. "I'm really drawn to Emanuel because of the way he thinks about space," says MacIvor. "He's trained as an architect so he approaches space intellectually—which brings a necessary dimension to the emotional tone of the characters and stories in Wilby. And he's a minimalist, as am I, so he doesn't allow things to get too busy; he keeps it subtle."

Costume Designer Lin Chapman also impressed MacIvor with her subtle approach. "Lin is amazing; she understands that you don't have to wear hip waders to enjoy a plate of salmon," says MacIvor. "She understands what clothes are about and how they affect the person. She works inside the story and is incredibly thorough, but still remains fluid enough to keep the actors happy. She's a dream."

LOCATION

MacIvor always planned to shoot the film in his home province of Nova Scotia, but he hadn't expected to end up on the South Shore. "I was always imagining we'd be working in the North end of the province, closer to Cape Breton, but we heard about Shelburne and the Film Centre facility and went up for a scout. We loved it immediately. The studio was great and Shelburne was a perfect Wilby. After our preliminary scout, I began a re-write to accommodate the great locations I found in Shelburne."

A refurbished naval base, the Shelburne Film Centre (nicknamed "Camp Wilby") became residence, production office, dining hall, recreation centre, and home to the cast and crew. MacIvor thought it was a great facility, and the added bonus of having the entire cast and crew spend time together off screen was invaluable to the development of the team mentality that imbued the shoot. "So often during filming everyone just heads off at the end of the day and the shoot can become just another gig. But what we had going on was more of an experience—a community was formed—and we were all part of it, from drivers to hair and make-up, from actors to producers. It was a great time—Camp Wilby will be long remembered."

CREW BIOS

DANIEL MacIVOR (Writer/Director)

Wilby Wonderful is Daniel MacIvor's second feature film as director and writer following 2002's *Past Perfect*, in which he also starred. First known for his work in theatre, MacIvor is Artistic Director of da da kamera, a theatre company he runs with his longtime business partner Sherrie Johnson. Together they formed the company's offshoot da da kamera pictures. As a theatre maker, MacIvor is known to audiences around the world for the touring productions of his own plays: *Cul-de-sac*, *In On It*, *Monster*, *Here Lies Henry*, and *House*. He and da da kamera have been the recipients of numerous awards, including a GLADD Award from the American Gay and Lesbian Anti-Defamation League, and the prestigious Village Voice OBIE in 2002.

MacIvor has been working as a filmmaker since 1995 when he wrote and directed the now cult favorite shorts *Wake Up Jerk Off* and *Margaret Atwood and the Problem With Canada*. In 1997, he wrote and directed the half hour *Permission*, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. And in 1998, he wrote and directed the festival favorite, *Until I Hear From You*.

As a screenwriter, MacIvor's credits include Laurie Lynd's Genie Award-winning 22 minute musical *The Fairy Who Didn't Want To Be A Fairy Anymore* (in which MacIvor also starred as the titular Fairy), co-writing (and starring in) the feature film *House* (based on his own play) which Lynd also directed, and writing *Marion Bridge* for Wiebke Von Carolsfeld, which won best First Canadian Feature at the Toronto International Film Festival, and won MacIvor Best Screenplay at the Atlantic Film Festival in 2002. Also known as an actor, MacIvor was nominated for a Genie Award for his work in Jeremy Podeswa's *The Five Senses*, and was a regular on Don McKellar's CBC series *Twitch City*.

Currently MacIvor continues to tour his one-man performance *Cul-de-sac* and is at work on an screenplay adaptation of his play *You Were Here*.

CAMELIA FRIEBERG (Producer)

WILBY WONDERFUL marks the second time Frieberg has teamed up with writer/director Daniel MacIvor following the 2002 success of *Past Perfect*.

Frieberg is one of Canada's busiest and most accomplished independent producers, best known for producing Atom Egoyan's acclaimed *The Sweet Hereafter* which was nominated for two Oscars for Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay, and won 8 Genie Awards including Best Motion Picture, and the Grand Prix, the International Critics Prize, and the Ecumenical Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

She produced the award-winning features *Exotica*, *The Adjuster* and *Speaking Parts*. Frieberg is also credited with producing Jeremy Podeswa's *Eclipse* and *The Five Senses*, Srinivas Krishna's *Masala*, and was executive producer for Amnon Buchbinder's *The Fishing Trip*, the highly acclaimed musical comedy, *Bollywood Hollywood*, directed by Deepa Mehta, as well as Lea Pool's *Mariposa Azul*.

Frieberg has been recognized and awarded for her accomplishments as winner of the Toronto WIFT Crystal Award for Excellence in Production and Vancouver's WIFT 'Woman of the Year'. She also serves on the board of Astral Media's Harold Greenberg Fund. Frieberg now resides in rural Nova Scotia with her husband and two children.

SHERRIE JOHNSON (Co-producer)

Wilby Wonderful is Sherrie Johnson's second feature film collaboration with writer/director Daniel MacIvor and producer Camelia Frieberg. Johnson was an associate producer on *Past Perfect* in 2002.

Johnson is well known in Canadian and international cultural circles as a successful agent, award-winning theatre producer and co-founder of the Six Stages Festival which has taken place in cities such as Berlin, Glasgow, Prague and Toronto. Her longstanding partnership with Daniel MacIvor started in 1993 when they formed da da kamera, helping to turn it into a vital and successful international company, touring extensively through Canada, the United States, the UK, Europe, Israel and Australia.

As a film producer, Johnson has worked with some of the brightest lights on the Canadian scene, including Jeremy Podeswa, for whom she produced the shorts *The Susan Smith Tapes* and *Touch*; and Wiebke Von Carolsfeld, producing her short film *Spiral Bound*. Her work with MacIvor includes his short *Until I Hear From You* and his upcoming *You Were Here*. Currently she is working as producer for Srivinas Krishna, known for his widely popular *Masala*, on his new film *A Tryst With Destiny*, to be shot in India next year, and on his upcoming Air India mini-series for broadcaster Toronto One.

GENEVIÈVE APPLETON (Associate Producer)

Geneviève Appleton has worked in the film and television industry since 1983 as an actor, producer, director, editor, writer, and story editor. Her production credits include Gemini-Award-winning *The Arrow*, and the feature film *Such a Long Journey* directed by Sturla Gunnarsson. Appleton co-wrote the bible and pilot of a dramatic television series, *Minds' Eye*, for XYZ Animation and series creator John Coldrick, and she has just completed writing a feature film set in 2052 entitled *The Last Dreamplay*.

For her own company, White Wave Productions, Appleton has written, produced, directed and edited numerous films and videos, including the documentary *A Garden's Family* for Vision TV, and a half-hour drama, *Vision*, adapted from a short story by Ursula K. LeGuin, which won a TV Ontario Telefest Award. Her documentary entitled *Actor's Transformation*, on the work of acting teacher Deena Levy and her students, recently premiered at the Female Eye Film Festival and will be broadcast on Bravo! in the coming year.

Appleton is currently co-producing the feature *Come Back Paddy Riley* by writer-director Amnon Buchbinder (*The Fishing Trip*), with Camelia Frieberg and Kelly Bray.

RUDOLF BLAHACEK (Director of Photography)

WILBY WONDERFUL marks the second collaboration between cinematographer Rudolf Blahacek and director Daniel MacIvor, after working together on ***Past Perfect***. With a career spanning over two decades, Blahacek is one of Canada's busiest DPs, with feature film credits including Igor Virovac's *The Lodger*, Sky Gilbert's *My Summer Vacation*, Edmond Chan's *Garage* and Peter Lynch's *The Herd*. Blahacek's television credits include A&E and Alliance Atlantis' *The Heist*, CBS's *The Pilot's Wife*, Disney's *Tru Confessions*, USA Network's

Devil's Pass and *Do Or Die*, Showtime's *Crown Heights* and Rhombus Media's mini series *Slings and Arrows*.

MIKE MUNN (Editor)

Editor Mike Munn has established himself as a fixture on the Toronto new wave scene of the 1990s, editing films for Bruce McDonald's *Road Kill*, Pete Mettler's *Picture of Light* and *Tectonic Plates*, and John Greyson's *The Law of Enclosures*. Most recently, Munn has been credited with his work on the critically-acclaimed *Owning Mahoney* for Richard Kwietniowski, as well as his collaborative efforts with director Srinivas Krishna on *Masala* and *Lulu*. Munn is also the director/producer on the award-winning short film, *A Hole In The Road*.

EMANUEL JANNASCH (Production Designer)

WILBY WONDERFUL is the second occasion Emanuel Jannasch has teamed up with Daniel MacIvor as production designer, following his work on *Past Perfect*. A native Nova Scotian, Emanuel Jannasch studied architecture at Cornell and Dalhousie, and works in many aspects of building and design as well as in film. His first production credit was *Def-Con4*. Jannasch worked both as art director and production designer. Favourite projects include Dan Petrie's *Calm at Sunset*, Richard Kwietniowski's *Love and Death on Long Island*, and Mort Ransen's *Margart's Museum*. His design for Trisha Fish's *New Waterford Girl* was honoured with a Genie nomination. In theatre he has designed George Elliot Clarke's *Whylah Falls* for its Halifax runs and also for the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. He is an active teacher in architecture as well as film design.

LIN CHAPMAN (Costume Designer)

Prior to **WILBY WONDERFUL**, costume designer Lin Chapman's feature film credits include Steven Reynolds *The Divine Ryans*, Virgo Clement's *One Heart Broken into Song*, Peter O'Fallon's *A Rumour of Angels* and Nicholas Kendall's *Cadillac Girls*. Chapman is well known for her television work and is credited with working on such television series as *Made In Canada* as well as the CBC's *Blizzard Island*, *Codco*, *Theodore Tugboat*, and *Street Cents*. Chapman's television movie credits include *Pit Pony*, *God Knows*, *Anne and Maddy*, *The Peggy*, *In Service*, *A Town Without Christmas* and *Footsteps*.

Cast Bios

JAMES ALLODI (Dan Jarvis) most recently starred in *Rhinoceros Eyes*, *Foolproof*, *Men With Brooms*, *Glitter*, *Dead Aviators*, *The Five Senses*, as well as Daniel MacIvor's short film *Permission*. Allodi starred as himself in Peter Lynch's *The Herd*, which was nominated for a Genie Award for Best Feature Length Documentary. The multi-talented Allodi made his own feature film directorial debut in 2000 with *The Uncles*, based on an original screenplay he wrote.

Allodi was seen in a recurring role in the television series *Once A Thief*, and has appeared in numerous other series such as *The Associates*, *Due South*, and *The Newsroom*. He also appeared in CityTV's live theatre production of Bruce McDonald's *American Whiskey Bar*, as well as such television movies as *Angel of Harlem*, *Fellini and Me*, and *Thrill Seekers*.

In theatre, Allodi's portrayal of Val in the production of *The Last Supper* earned him a Dora Award nomination for Best Actor. Allodi has worked under the direction of Daniel MacIvor in theatre productions of *You Are Here*, *In On It*, and *The Soldier Dreams*. His other theatre credits include *How an Intellectual Can Aspire to Savagery*, *He Made the Stars Also*, *The Watchspring* and *Choastic*.

Allodi has his Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Film from New York University. He lives in Toronto and is currently in development on his second feature film as writer-director.

MAURY CHAYKIN (Brent Fisher) is legendary in film, television and theatre. Born in Brooklyn, Chaykin established himself on both sides of the border as one of the preeminent character actors of our time. His impressive list of film credits include *Being Julia*, *Owning Mahowny*, *The Art of War*, *What's Cooking*, *Mystery Alaska*, *Entrapment*, *My Cousin Vinnie*, *Jerry and Tom*, *The Postman*, *A Life Less Ordinary*, *Love and Death on Long Island*, *Devil In A Blue Dress* and *Unstrung Heroes*. Chaykin also appeared in *Hero* with Dustin Hoffman, turned in a scene-stealing role as the suicidal army officer in Kevin Costner's *Dances with Wolves*, and worked with esteemed director Atom Egoyan in *The Sweet Hereafter* and *The Adjuster*. Chaykin's performances have garnered numerous awards, including a Genie for Best Actor in a Leading Role for *Whale Music*, and a Gemini for Best Actor in a Guest Lead on *Nikita*. The ensemble cast of *The Sweet Hereafter* won the prestigious New York Film Critics Association Award.

Chaykin's television credits include his memorable award-winning portrayal of the legendary Hal Banks in *Canada's Sweetheart: The Saga of Hal C. Banks*, as well as *Due South*, *The Tracy Ullman Show*, and the title character in the A&E series *Nero Wolfe* opposite Timothy Hutton. Chaykin's theatre credits include *A Man's Man*, *Leave it to Beaver is Dead*, *Gimme Shelter*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

PAUL GROSS (Buddy French) is internationally known for his role as Constable Benton Fraser on the multi award-winning drama television series *Due South*, a role that earned him two Gemini Awards for Best Actor in 1995 and 1996. Gross made his feature film directorial debut in 2002 and starred in *Men With Brooms* from an original screenplay he co-wrote with John Krizanc. In feature films, Gross has starred in *Paint Cans*, *Married To It*, *Whale Music*, *Aspen Extreme*, *Cold Comfort* and *Buried on Sunday*.

While starring in the television series *Due South*, Gross not only executive produced the final season, but he also wrote many of the episodes, which garnered him the Gemini Award for Best Writing in a Dramatic Series. Previously, Gross has penned two television movies—*Gross Misconduct*, and *In The Corner* directed by Atom Egoyan. Gross also starred in and executive produced the television movie *Murder Most Likely*. His other acting credits include the popular Canadian television movie *Getting Married in Buffalo Jump*, and in such mini-series as *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea*, *Tales Of The City* and *Chasing Rainbows*.

Gross played the title role in the Stratford Festival's 2000 production of *Hamlet* to record-breaking audience numbers. He also received a Dora Award nomination for his performance as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* and a Best Performance Dora Award for his role in the Canadian Stage presentation of *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Toward the Somme*.

Gross was born in Calgary, earned a degree in drama at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and currently lives in Toronto.

REBECCA JENKINS (Sandra Anderson) burst onto the Canadian film scene with her charismatic acting and singing performance in Anne Wheeler's *Bye Bye Blues*, for which she received a Best Actress Genie Award in 1989. Jenkins also starred in *Past Perfect* and *Marion Bridge*. Other feature film credits include *Interstate 60*, *Bob Roberts*, *Darrow*, *South of Wawa* and *Cowboys Don't Cry*.

Jenkins' many starring roles in movies for television include *Family Reunion*, garnering her first Gemini Award nomination, *And Never Let Her Go*, *Guilty Hearts*, *Catch A Falling Star*, *Angels in the Infield*, *The Ruby Silver*, *Bad Prospects*, *Till Death Do Us Part*, *Honour Bright*, and *Harvest*, for which she received another Gemini Award nomination. She has also had leading roles in *Bad Prospects* and *Split Image*, and she is well known for her starring role in the successful television series *Black Harbour*, garnering her another Gemini Award nomination, and *Destiny Ridge*. She recently guest starred on *Nero Wolf* and *The Associates*, and has appeared in *Outer Limits*, *Beyond Reality*, *Avonlea* and *Street Legal*.

As a singer, Jenkins toured with Parachute Club and Jane Siberry, and continues to perform on occasion, as in the recent tribute to Joni Mitchell. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance and Theatre from the University of Waterloo, and currently lives in Vancouver.

SANDRA OH (Carol French) is one of Canada's best-known comedic and dramatic actors, with motion picture, television and theatre credits to her name. In addition to *Wilby Wonderful*, her film credits include *Sideways*, *Under the Tuscan Sun*, *Bean*, *Guinevere*, *The Red Violin*, *Waking the Dead*, *The Princess Diaries*, *Pay or Play* and *Dancing at the Blue Iguana*. Sandra won her first Genie in 1994 for her leading role in Mina Shum's *Double Happiness*. Her performance in Don McKellar's *Last Night* led to her winning a second Genie Award for Best Actress in 1999.

In 1993, Sandra landed the coveted title role in CBC's *The Diary of Evelyn Lau*, based on a true story of a tortured teenage poet who ran away from home and ended up a drug addict and prostitute on the streets of Vancouver. Her performance brought her a Gemini nomination for Best Actress and the 1994 Cannes FIPA d'Or for Best Actress. She then went on to star as Rita Wu, the smart and sassy assistant on the HBO comedy series *Arliss* for the first six seasons. Her additional television credits include *Six Feet Under*, *Further Tales of the City*, and a recurring role on *Judging Amy*.

Never straying far from her theatre roots, Sandra Oh has starred in the world premieres of Jessica Hagedorn's *Dogeaters* at the La Jolla Playhouse and Diana Son's *Stop Kiss* at Joseph Papp's Public Theatre in New York, a role for which she received a Theatre World award. She was also recently seen in the *Vagina Monologues* in New York.

Born and raised in Ottawa, Canada, Sandra Oh attended the prestigious National Theatre School of Canada for three years. She moved to Los Angeles in 1996, where she currently resides with her husband, director Alexander Payne.

ELLEN PAGE (Emily Anderson) started her career in 1997 at the age of 10, starring as a lead in both the MOW and television series *Pit Pony*, which won her a Young Artist Award nomination for Best Performance as well as a Gemini nomination for Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Program or Series. She then went on to perform in the television series *Trailer Park Boys*, which earned a Gemini nomination for Best Ensemble Cast. In 2002, Page starred in her third series, *Rideau Hall*. Further to her series credits, she is also credited with lead roles in television movies such as *Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story*, *Mrs. Ashboro's Cat* and *Going for Broke*.

Page made her feature film debut in 2002 starring in *ghost.com*, then went on to add Wiebka von Carolsfeld's *Marion Bridge*, written by Daniel MacIvor, *Love That Boy*, *Wet Season*, and *Mouth to Mouth* to her film credits.

Page is one of Canada's best rising stars. When she isn't acting, she attends high school in Toronto.

CALLUM KEITH RENNIE (Duck MacDonald) was born in England and raised in Alberta, Canada. Rennie started acting at the age of twenty-five, and has since added an impressive list of feature film and television credits to his name.

Rennie's feature film credits include *Falling Angels*, *Flower and Garnet*, *Picture Clare*, *Memento*, *The Last Stop*, *Hard Core Logo* and *Double Happiness*. In 1998, Rennie won a Best Supporting Actor Genie for his role in Don McKellar's *Last Night*, and went on to appear in David Cronenberg's *eXistenZ*.

Rennie starred as a lead in the television series *Due South* playing opposite Paul Gross for two seasons. His other television credits include *Twitch City*, *Trapped*, *Bliss*, *Dice*, *For Those Who Hunt the Wounded Down* and *Paris or Somewhere*.

DANIEL MACIVOR (Stan) is one of Canada's most talented theatrical and feature film actors as well as an accomplished writer and director. MacIvor adds *Wilby Wonderful* to his already impressive list of film, television and theatrical performances.

We recently enjoyed MacIvor in the feature films *Past Perfect*, for which he won the Best Actor Award at the Atlantic Film Festival in 2002. His other feature acting credits include Jeremy Podeswa's *The Five Senses* and *Eclipse*, *House*, and *I Love A Man in Uniform*. He wrote, directed and starred in the short films *Until I Hear From You*, and *Wake Up, Jerk Off*. Television audiences have enjoyed MacIvor in the series *Twitch City* and the TV movie *Gross Misconduct*.

MacIvor has been impressing Canadian and international audiences with his on-stage performances for years, in such theatrical productions as *Cul-de-Sac*, *In On It*, *You Are Here*, *Monster*, *The Soldier Dreams*, *Here Lies Henry*, *Excerpts From the Emo Journals*, *White Biting Dog*, *Never Swim Alone* and *House*, among many others.