



Directed by Neil Burger

Written By Elle Smith & Mark L. Smith

Starring Daisy Ridley, Ben Mendelsohn, Garrett Hedlund, Caren Pistorius, Brooklynn Prince

Produced by Teddy Schwarzman, p.g.a., Keith Redmon, p.g.a., Mark L. Smith

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For production notes and stills, please visit:

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SYNOPSIS

Based on the international bestselling, award-winning psychological suspense novel **The Marsh King's Daughter** by Karen Dionne, Helena Pelletier leads an ideal life with a great husband and a young daughter, but she is hiding a dark secret within: that her father is the infamous 'Marsh King,' the man who kidnapped her Mother as a teen, and that she was the product of the relationship between captive and tormentor. Helena has lived in the wilderness for 12 years, in a life carefully controlled by her kidnapper/father Jacob, until he is caught and sent to prison. When Jacob escapes from prison unexpectedly, sensing the danger this monster poses for her husband and young daughter, Helena must confront her secret past and use the tools he equipped her with to hunt him down.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Production started on Monday, June 14th, 2021, and for the next 37 days, **The Marsh King's Daughter** would shoot in Toronto, and some of the most remote portions in the Province of Ontario. With the exception of one day in studio, **The Marsh King's Daughter** was completely shot on-location and would make extensive use of the city of Toronto, the Greater Toronto region and the Province of Ontario to bring the bestselling book to screens. Still in the grips of COVID, production had to adhere to strict COVID and Provincial protocols guidelines which included testing cast and crew three times a week and the extensive use of PPE, even while shooting in the remote outdoor locations in Northern Ontario. Toronto and Ontario were under strict COVID lockdowns which barred restaurants from opening their doors to indoor dining and only providing takeout. Gyms, non-essential retail, movie theaters, tourist attractions were all closed to the public and would only open after production wrapped, but to a limited 25 percent total capacity. All told, Toronto and Ontario suffered the longest shutdown in North America which made shooting or doing any business in Ontario an incredibly difficult challenge. The shutdown particularly hit the Wardrobe department as they could not run out and get a last-minute outfit as clothing stores were considered non-essential and were all closed. All clothing had to be planned out in advance and several duplicates of each outfit were bought and kept on-hand.

The Marsh – Integral to the storyline was finding the perfect location to set the marsh which was to double for the remote marshlands of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. After an extensive scout, the producers found their perfect marsh setting, but it was a four-hour drive north of Toronto at *French River* which is in an extremely remote portion of Northern Ontario. Northern Ontario is famed for their untouched wilderness and *French River* is the epitome of Northern

Ontario's pristine beauty. Remarks Ben Mendelsohn, "It was incredibly beautiful shooting in the marsh. That's Canada. Ever since I watched (feature film) *The Black Robe*, I have been stunned by Canada's beauty. I have worked all over the world and it's hard to beat Canada for its natural beauty." Adds Caren Pistorius, "Ontario, and Canada as a whole, is insanely beautiful. An absolute privilege to be on this land which completely feeds into your performance." So critical and culturally significant, the Canadian Government designated *French River* as their first *Canadian Heritage River* as the river was an important route for Indigenous people, French Explorers and Fur Traders to meet and trade and exchange goods. At 332 kms (206 miles) away from Toronto, it was a herculean task moving the full production to this remote region of the province. This included moving cameras, lights and all the gear required to shoot on location plus finding reasonable accommodations for your cast and crew which ended up being over an hour away. The amazing crew was tasked with moving all the gear which entailed a daily one-hour travel from their hotel to their primary assembly point. Once they arrived, the crew took a 45-minute boat ride which was followed by a 30-minute hike, on foot, through narrow hilly and rocky terrain to the marsh set. And this was while the crew were carrying all their necessary equipment to shoot. So treacherous some of the days were that production had to employ several helicopters to move the gear. If those challenges were not enough, Mother Nature decided it needed to rain while they were shooting, so the crew had to battle all of the geographical challenges in the rain. But a testament to the amazing crew, they got it done. And of course, the cast endured their share of challenges but they all agreed that it was worth it. Remarks Daisy Ridley, "It was a tough shoot. We were tested. But I'm excited to see the final product." Production would shoot for a full week at *French River* right near the beginning of their shoot. It proved fruitful as this week of remote shooting created an instant bonding between crew and cast as they were *all in this together*.

A substantial portion of the movie takes place in the wilderness, so while production wrapped up north at *French River*, there was still more marsh shooting to do. One of the benefits of shooting in Toronto is the relatively close proximity to nature and conservation areas. About 90 minutes east of downtown Toronto lies the *Ken Reid Conservation Area*. Famed for its marsh lands, wooded areas and hiking trails, *Ken Reid* provided the perfect setting to shoot several critical scenes without having to travel four hours north of the city. Complementing *Ken Reid* and *French River* was the quaint *Twyn Rivers* which is nestled in the Rouge National Urban Park. Less than an hour east of Toronto, the *Twyn Rivers* is home to the Rouge Creek which features untouched nature trails and breathtaking views. Combined with *Ken Reid* and *French River*, this location allowed production to complete various scenes - seamlessly as one. A scene which started *French River* weeks ago would culminate in the *Twyn Rivers*

location with the audience not being aware that they are two different locations, four hours apart.

Toronto & Ontario Covers Michigan – The task of where to shoot **The Marsh King's Daughter** fell upon Black Bear Picture principal and producer Teddy Schwarzman and his team. Toronto and Ontario quickly rose to the top of the list due to their Northern landscape but also access to urban areas with close proximity to conservation sites. Ever since Toronto famously doubled for Chicago in the Academy Award®-winning Best Picture *Chicago*, Toronto and surrounding areas have become a much-desired location for producers to shoot their series and features. For decades, Toronto has doubled for New York, Boston, Washington D.C., and several cities on the Eastern seaboard. In fact, there are portions of Toronto near Lake Ontario that have even doubled for Venice Beach and Malibu. Add in world class crews and the most diverse* on-screen talent pool in North America and it is easy to see how despite the strict COVID protocols, Toronto and Ontario have registered another record-breaking year of film and television production. (**BBC Radio has long declared Toronto to be the most diverse city in the world with 200+ ethnic groups, speaking over 140 different languages.*)

For the production team, finding the perfect home set to shoot for *Helena's Home* was paramount as approximately 25% of the film's production takes place there. Thankfully, a quick drive from downtown Toronto, in picturesque Halton Hills, a home was found. Halton Hills is a unique combination of two urban areas, historic hamlets and stunning rural landscapes and it is just another example of the incredible versatility that comes from shooting in Toronto and surrounding areas. The home was in a remote location, but it didn't take long for locals and fans to descend upon the location and the production's basecamp trying to get a glimpse of Daisy Ridley.

To shoot The University and party scenes, production embarked upon a famous location, Humber College – Lakeshore Campus. A popular shooting location for decades, it is probably best known for the setting of the cult comedy classic *Police Academy* and DC comics feature film *Suicide Squad*. The campus is vast, with plenty of green space and a great combination of historic and modern buildings that served the many needs of production while they shot **The Marsh King's Daughter** there over a few days.

Daisy Ridley as 'Helena' – There was never a doubt for the producers and director that Daisy Ridley was their perfect 'Helena.' Remarks Schwarzman, "Daisy has these emotive eyes and she can convey so much by doing so little. Additionally, Daisy not only has not the physicality

that the role requires but possess an intelligence and empathy to perfectly nail the role of Helena.” For Daisy’s part, she read the script pre-COVID and loved it. And when she picked up the script a year after COVID, Daisy was amazed by how much the script still thrilled her and it was an easy yes to do it. Co-star Mendelsohn sums it up best, “Daisy is a champion. A truly leading person. She’s one of the primary reasons why I wanted to do this movie.” And all were completely blown away by Daisy’s commitment to the role as it was not an easy role to portray. Daisy was required to work 33 out of the 37 shooting days, so off days were in short supply.

Ben Mendelsohn as ‘Jacob’ – With Daisy in place, the task fell to the production to fill out the rest of the cast and probably the next most important role to cast was that of Helena’s father, ‘Jacob.’ The producers had a very short list of actors that started with Ben Mendelsohn and ended with Ben Mendelsohn. The production team was incredibly grateful that the ultra-busy Ben was not only available but wanted to do the role. “Ben is one of the best working actors, bar none,” notes Schwarzman, “and to have him in our film was an absolute joy and treat as I don’t think anyone else could have played the role of Jacob.” Co-star Caren Pistorius adds, “Ben is a legend. Full stop. What a joy to just watch him work.” And Daisy jokes that Ben and her actually met years ago but he didn’t remember. Nonetheless, she was overjoyed by the casting of Ben as ‘Jacob.’

Brooklynn Prince as ‘Young Helena’ – Brooklynn is proof that one should always put their wishes out to the universe and let the rest unfold. Brooklynn has been a huge fan of Daisy Ridley since Star Wars and had put it out that Daisy is her bucket list and would like, someday, to work with her. Several years back, as luck would have it, both Brooklynn and Daisy were both guests on ABC’s *Good Morning America* and Brooklynn had her fan-girl moment. Daisy was promoting the latest installment of Star Wars and Brooklynn was promoting a feature. When Brooklynn’s mother received a call that the script for **The Marsh King’s Daughter** required someone to play a younger Daisy, she was beside herself and Brooklynn could not believe it. Brooklynn fit the role perfectly and the role of ‘Young Helena’ was cast. Adds Schwarzman, “I have been a fan of Brooklynn since *The Florida Project* and just knew she would be perfect for the role.”

And it was also so great seeing the off-set relationship between Brooklynn and Ben Mendelsohn. Ben plays her on-screen dad and that didn’t stop when the cameras stopped rolling. Ben would continually check on Brooklynn during their shoot days and made sure that the eleven-year-old was ok and had everything she needed, especially when it came to shooting the challenging marsh scenes. Ben too was a child actor having started acting in his

early teens, so he completely understands the pressures on young actors. Remarks Ben, “Brooklynn is a real pro. She has been working since she was three. She has a strong sense of who she is. And Brooklynn is such a pro of showing her feelings in front of large groups and does it so well.” As on-screen, Brooklynn was Ben’s *Little Shadow* off-screen and it was quite a joy for cast and crew to see them interact. Her on-screen mother Caren Pistorius sums it best, “Brooklynn oozes pure joy and she really loves what she does, and you can see it on-screen.”

South African native **Caren Pistorius** probably portrays the least thankful character in the feature. The character of ‘Beth’ that Caren so perfectly nails is quite complicated. Trying to protect her daughter ‘Helena’ from the harsh truth that they are not living freely while trying to placate her father ‘Jacob’ is not an easy task to convey with a character. And all the while, ‘Helena’ bears an incredible amount of resentment towards her mother. As Caren notes, “this is not your average mother-daughter relationship.” But embarking on a challenging character was worthwhile as Caren was eager to work with Director Neil Burger. Remarks: Caren, “Neil is an electric director. He did *Divergent*, *Limitless* and *The Upside* and in every project, he brings something different.”

Among the last of the main characters to be cast was the role of ‘Stephen’ and thankfully **Garrett Hedlund** was available as he was on the producer’s wish list. At the time of shooting, Garrett was a new dad to a six-month-old baby, so he was being quite selective in choice of projects as it would require spending time away from his newborn son. But the script really spoke to Garrett and he was eager to work with Daisy, so he decided to sign on. Garrett has been an in-demand actor since he burst onto the scene at the young age of 18 with the feature film Wolfgang Petersen’s *Troy* opposite Brad Pitt. Garrett also relished the opportunity to come back to Toronto and work as he shot one of his first features, John Singleton’s *Four Brothers* in 2005. Remarks Producer Schwarzman, “There is a calm and intelligence in his performance which allows Garrett to play a true equal to Daisy.”

And lastly, production needed to cast the character of ‘Clark Bekkum,’ which the team settled on **Gil Birmingham**. Probably best known to audiences as ‘Thomas Rainwater’ in the widely popular Paramount+ series *Yellowstone* and ‘Billy Black’ in *The Twilight Saga*, Gil has amassed 60+ credits over the last three decades. Gil probably had the shortest shooting schedule (eight days) among the leading cast in the feature, but his work pulses throughout. As Helena’s adopted father, much of Gil’s scenes are with Daisy and he enjoyed every minute of their time.

Director Neil Burger – For the last 15+ years, Neil has been entertaining audiences with an eclectic mix of features and series. From STX's *The Upside* which grossed a resounding \$122 million, to Showtime's hit series *Billions*, Neil has become an in-demand director, writer and producer. Neil however, is best known to audiences for directing *Divergent* which grossed over \$280 million worldwide. Remarks Ben Mendelsohn, "Neil is the type of director that will not let is go until he gets exactly what he needs and that makes him so incredible at his craft." Neil was always producer Teddy Schwarzman's first choice. Having worked together once before, Teddy was looking for another project to collaborate on. After Teddy had read the book **The Marsh King's Daughter** while it was still in galley form in early 2017, he decided to option it with the hopes that Neil would direct. (See more on Neil in **Director Q&A**).

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR NEIL BURGER

1. What drew you to this script? How did you become involved?

[NEIL BURGER] I'd been looking to do a movie set in nature, where the natural world, the wilderness, is as big a character as anything else. I'm also interested in the idea of what shapes us—our parents, the experiences in our childhood, any kind of trauma. Are we stuck with that “shape”, or can we change, can we be our own person? This is exactly what Helena is struggling with—the legacy of her charismatic but dangerous father.

Teddy Schwarzman (of *Black Bear*) and I had been talking about doing something together, I told him all this, he sent me the screenplay... and I was in.

2. How does Marsh's location shape the narrative of the film? Describe some of the challenges of shooting in such a remote location.

[NB] For Helena, the wilderness where she grew up is like her very own Garden of Eden. When she was in nature, she felt that she was fully present in the world—she was *herself*. Attuned to every bird song, gust of wind, rustle of leaves. But she's been cast out of that place and she yearns to return to it. So, for the narrative of the film, finding those natural locations was essential. We had to feel they were truly wild, that they hadn't been logged or managed or reclaimed. You can tell the difference. We had to look far and wide to find that kind of pristine wilderness. For example, to get to the location for one week of shooting, we drove an hour on a remote dirt road to reach a river, then took a boat for 45 minutes, then hiked on a narrow path for 30 minutes to reach the right spot. This remoteness cuts down on shooting time, it's difficult for the crew hauling equipment in and out, and there aren't proper “facilities”. But in the end, we all agreed it was worth it.

3. How has it been working with this cast on set? What does Daisy, Ben, Garrett & Brooklynn bring to their role?

[NB] It was a tough shoot because of the difficult locations, but through all those challenges it was a real pleasure to watch Daisy deliver a powerful performance day after day. She just brought it—a real truth, an honesty, from a deep emotional well—no matter what kind of chaos was happening on the periphery. As a director, it's a huge relief when the actor just steps up and brings it all—when they're great. And she was.

Ben is a well-loved and respected actor among other actors-- he ups the game of everyone around him. Incredibly supportive and empathetic, there's no better performer to act with. And of course, he brings a real gravitas to every scene.

Brooklynn Prince is a true delight—a real pro at age 11. She's capable of executing any kind of technical or emotional performance. Everyone in the cast and crew was stunned at how truly impressive she is. Plus, she might have been the most interesting person on the set to talk to. Not sure how that's possible, but it's true.

4. How do you create a safe space when dealing with intense subject matter like Marsh King's Daughter?

[NB] As a director, you always try to create the right space for an actor to do their best work, where they feel safe enough or motivated enough to lay their emotions bare. This was challenging on this movie because the actors were literally walking along the edge of a cliff, submerged in a rushing river, or sinking to their knees in the marsh's mud. All the while trying to be true to the intense emotions at the heart of the story. Physically and psychologically, you try to make the actor as safe and secure as possible so they can forget about their own personal situation and just be in the moment of the story. It's not always easy to do.

5. Helena's relationship with her father is very complex. Can you explain her conflicting feelings, in how she still loves and idolizes her father, even though she knows the truth of their history?

[NB] Helena's childhood was idyllic. She was completely present in the world, learning from her father how to be at one with nature. Because of him, her life was magic and their home a paradise. Later she understands the truth about her father... and yet she also knows that she was most alive when she was with him. She yearns for that feeling again but realizes it can never be. Her father is a dangerous foe... but he's also taught her everything she knows. These emotional conflicts are at the heart of the story. The past comes back to haunt the present. What do we do with those mixed feelings, the longing and guilt—how do we ever reconcile them and find peace?

6. What makes this story/movie special? What should audiences expect from the movie?

[NB] I love that it's an exciting ride that also takes a deep dive into character. A thriller works best when there's a powerful emotional connection to the people on screen, where we feel for them, where we sense everything, they're sensing. It's a unique story, with a character painfully torn between different worlds, struggling with the trauma of both, and then taking action to try to honestly resolve her situation. And the way she ultimately saves herself is brutal and ingenious and terrifying.

7. The source material is a best-selling novel by Karen Dionne. Do you think fans of the book will be eager to see the feature?

[NB] I think they'll love the movie. But a movie is not a book, and the audience has to recognize that. This movie is a different lens on the same character and situation, exploring different parts of her story. The script takes liberties with the book even if it's very true to the experience.

CAST BIOS

DAISY RIDLEY – ‘Helena’

Daisy Ridley continues to make her mark on Hollywood as one of the most dynamic English actresses of our time. She is best known for her breakthrough role as Rey in the 2015 film, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* directed by J.J. Abrams. She reprised her role as Rey in *Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi* directed by Rian Johnson in 2017 and in the final film of the Skywalker Saga *Episode IX: The Rise Of Skywalker* directed by J.J. Abrams in 2019.

Upcoming, Ridley has several projects coming out in 2023. She will be seen starring in noir thriller, *Magpie*, based on a story she developed. The film, which also stars Shazad Latif, was directed by award-winning British theater talent Sam Yates and was written by Tom Bateman. The film follows a couple whose lives are thrown into disarray when their daughter is cast opposite a controversial major star. The story follows Helena Pelletier (Ridley) as she seeks revenge against the man who kidnapped her mother. Ridley will star in Joachim Rønning’s *Young Woman And The Sea* in which she is the titular character. The film, based on Glenn Stout’s novel of Gertrude “Trudy” Ederle, the first woman to ever swim across the English Channel, will be released by Disney. Sundance indie drama, *Sometimes I Think About Dying*, stars Ridley who also serves as a producer and plays Fran. Fran likes to think about dying but when she makes the new guy at work laugh, everything changes. Oscilloscope has acquired U.S. rights on the film. She lent her voice for *The Inventor*, the animated family feature by Oscar®-nominated *Ratatouille* scribe Jim Capobianco whose all-star voice cast also includes Marion Cotillard, Stephen Fry and will premiere at the Annecy International Film Festival.

Additionally, Ridley is set to return to the Star Wars franchise as Rey in one of the *Star Wars New Jedi Order* films with Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy directing and Steven Knight writing. Ridley is also set to star in London-set action-thriller *Cleaner* alongside Clive Owen from filmmaker Martin Campbell. Ridley plays Joey Locke, an ex-soldier turned window cleaner, who is sprung into saving hundreds of hostages after a group of activists ambush an energy company’s annual meeting at the Shard.

Additionally, she has several projects in development including a murder mystery series, *The Christie Affair*, from Miramax TV which she will star in and executive produce. In 1926, when her husband’s affair became public, Agatha Christie vanished for eleven days. In this reimagining, told through the eyes of her husband’s mistress Nan O’Dea (Ridley), Nan and Agatha become entwined in each other’s lives in ways neither expected. At Amazon, Ridley will lead, and executive produce *The Better Liar* series based on the book by the same name.

The drama series follows a woman who hires a lookalike in an effort to conceal her sister's death and claim their shared inheritance. She will also star in Mathieu Kassovitz's futuristic thriller, *Mind Fall*, which takes place in near-future London, where the most sought-after drug on the black market is memories, physically removed from one person's brain and implanted into another's using a new illegal technology. She will star in Jane Anderson's *Women In The Castle* alongside Kristin Scott Thomas and Nina Hoss. The film adaptation of Jessica Shattuck's 2017 New York Times bestseller follows three widows whose late husbands planned an assassination attempt on Hitler.

In 2021, Ridley was seen starring in Doug Liman's sci-fi adventure *Chaos Walking* opposite Tom Holland. The film was released by Lionsgate on March 5, 2021.

In 2020, she lent her voice to Elinor Cook's *Islanders* which was released by Audible on September 10. Previously, Ridley narrated the IMAX educational film *Asteroid Hunters*, a look at asteroids and their cosmic origins. That year she also lent her voice to Baobab Studio's *Baba Yaga* and Pierre Zandrowicz's *The Dawn Of The Art*, a collaboration with Google Arts and culture. Both of which were nominated for a Daytime Emmy® Award in the category of 'Outstanding Interactive Media.'

In 2019, Ridley was seen in *Ophelia* opposite Naomi Watts, which premiered at Sundance in 2018. The film was released by IFC Films on June 28, 2019.

In 2018, Ridley lent her voice to Sony's live action animated hybrid, *Peter Rabbit* starring opposite James Cordon, Margot Robbie, Elizabeth Debicki and Rose Byrne for director Will Gluck.

In 2017, Ridley was seen in *Murder On The Orient Express*, directed by Kenneth Branagh and featuring Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Penelope Cruz, and Judi Dench. The film was released by Fox in November.

In 2016, Ridley voiced the lead role of "Taeko" in the 25th Anniversary re-release of Studio Ghibli's classic animated film, *Only Yesterday*. She also served as an Executive Producer and narrator on the documentary *The Eagle Huntress* which was released by Sony Pictures Classics.

Additionally, she sang the duet "At the Ballet" from *A Chorus Line* with Anne Hathaway for Barbra Streisand's *Encore: Movie Partners Sing Broadway* album.

Daisy is the recipient of a 2016 Oscar Wilde Award. The non-profit US-Ireland Alliance created the event to recognize the contributions of the Irish in film. This is an honorary Irish award.

BEN MENDELSON – ‘Jacob’

Ben Mendelsohn is a critically acclaimed and award-winning actor who won the Emmy® in 2016 as Best Supporting Actor for his role in the Netflix series *Bloodline*. He was also nominated for a Golden Globe® and Critics’ Choice Award for his role in the first season.

In 2010, Ben starred opposite Guy Pearce in David Michod’s highly acclaimed feature *Animal Kingdom* (winner of the Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Jury Prize). His performance in the film earned him both of Australia’s top awards - an AFI Award and an IF Award for Best Lead Actor. He was also given the 2013 British Independent Film Award for his performance in David Mackenzie’s *Starred Up*.

Following his incredible performance in *Animal Kingdom*, he landed three starring roles in coveted films: Christopher Nolan’s *The Dark Knight Rises* opposite Christian Bale and Anne Hathaway, Derek Cianfrance’s *The Place Beyond the Pines* with Ryan Gosling and Bradley Cooper, and Andrew Dominik’s *Killing Them Softly* opposite Brad Pitt.

His other work includes Rachel Ward’s feature debut *Beautiful Kate* alongside Rachel Griffiths (for which he received an AFI Award nomination for Best Lead Actor), David Caesar’s *Prime Mover*, Alex Proyas’ *Knowing* starring Nicolas Cage and Rose Byrne, Baz Luhrmann’s *Australia*, Andrew Dominik’s *Killing Them Softly*, Ridley Scott’s *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, and *Slow West* co-starring Michael Fassbender and in Ryan Gosling’s directorial debut *Lost River*.

In 2015 Mendelsohn co-starred opposite Ryan Reynolds in the A24 film *Mississippi Grind* for which he received a nomination as Best Lead Actor from Film Independent.

Additional film credits include starring opposite Rooney Mara in the Benedict Andrews directed *Una* based on the Broadway play *Blackbird*, as Director Orson Krennic in *Star Wars: Rogue One*, Steven Spielberg’s *Ready Player One*, the Nicole Holofcener film *The Land of Steady Habits*, *Robin Hood: Origins*, *Captain Marvel*, *The King*, *Darkest Hour*, *Cyrano* and *Babyteeth* in 2020 for which he received a London Critics Circle Film Award nomination.

Mendelsohn has several films yet to be released. He stars with Pedro Pascal in the upcoming film *Freaky Tales* directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, *The Marsh King's Daughter* opposite Daisy Ridley, and *To Catch a Killer* opposite Shailene Woodley.

He stars opposite Samuel Jackson in the upcoming Marvel series *Secret Invasion*, and stars as famed designer Christian Dior in *The New Look*, a series on Apple+ which will air in 2023.

GARRET HEDLUND – ‘Stephen’

Garrett Hedlund has had a multitude of starring roles since he made an auspicious debut as part of the all-star cast in Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy* with Brad Pitt, Eric Bana, Orlando Bloom and Diane Kruger when he was just 18 years old.

Currently in pre-production, Hedlund's stars in *The Bride*, a Screen Gems modern horror-thriller inspired by Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. He recently completed work on Stephen King's scripted podcast *Strawberry Spring*, which debuted in September 2021 and starred in Amazon's second season of *Modern Love* in an episode opposite Anna Paquin.

Hedlund's most recent work was starring as Harry Anslinger in Lee Daniels' *The United States Vs. Billy Holiday* from Paramount Pictures, Netflix's *Triple Frontier*, co-starring with Ben Affleck, Charlie Hunnam, Oscar Isaac, Adria Arjona, and Pedro Pascal, and the independent film *Dirt Music* filmed in Australia.

In the award-winning film for Netflix, *Mudbound*, Hedlund co-starred with Mary J. Blige, Carey Mulligan and Jason Clarke. Directed by Dee Rees and based on the Hillary Jordan novel, the cast won the Robert Altman Award at the Spirit Awards as well as the Breakthrough Cast Award at the Hollywood Film Awards. The film received numerous award recognitions including Academy Award® nominations for Best Cinematography and Best Writing Adapted Screenplay.

Hedlund also starred in Andrew Heckler's *Burden* portraying the lead character based on the true story of a KKK Klansman who's life course is changed when he finds love. *Burden* premiered in January of 2018 at Sundance.

On the small screen, HBO premiered Stephen Soderbergh's "Mosaic," which stars Hedlund and Sharon Stone. The project was an experimental show which had a tie-in with a newly developed app that helped viewers follow different character's story lines.

Hedlund received critical accolades for his starring role in Walter Salles' *On The Road* opposite Sam Riley and Kristen Stewart, based on the novel by Jack Kerouac. He also starred alongside Vin Diesel, Steve Martin and Chris Tucker and his *On The Road* co-star Kristen Stewart in *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* from director Ang Lee. Hedlund was also in William Monahan's *Mojave* in which he appeared once again with his *Inside Llewyn Davis* co-star, Oscar Isaac.

Hedlund also starred alongside Hugh Jackman and Rooney Mara in Warner Bros' *Pan*, directed by Joe Wright, in which he portrayed 'Hook.' Previous film credits include; Universal's *Unbroken*, based on the Laura Hillenbrand book and directed by Angelina Jolie; *Inside Llewyn Davis* alongside Oscar Isaac, Carrie Mulligan and John Goodman, and *Lullaby*.

Hedlund has had the opportunity to work with great actors and directors in: Twentieth Century Fox's *Death Sentence* opposite Kevin Bacon, Kelly Preston and John Goodman; Universal Pictures' *Georgia Rule* opposite Lindsay Lohan and Jane Fonda; and *Eragon* co-starring with Djimon Honsou, Jeremy Irons and John Malkovich. Hedlund also starred in Paramount Pictures' *Four Brothers* with director John Singleton and co-stars Mark Wahlberg, Andre 3000 and Tyrese Gibson and Universal's *Friday Night Lights*, directed by Peter Berg and produced by Brian Grazer and Imagine Entertainment. Hedlund starred as tailback Don Billingsley, co-starring with Billy Bob Thornton, Derek Luke, Jay Hernandez, Lucas Black and Tim McGraw. He also starred in *Tron: Legacy* alongside Jeff Bridges and Olivia Wilde and *Country Strong* opposite Gwyneth Paltrow, Leighton Meester and Tim McGraw.

Hedlund was born in northern Minnesota and spent his high school years in Scottsdale, Arizona before starring in Petersen's iconic film at the age of eighteen. He began taking private acting classes while in high school and took a unique approach to his pursuit of the craft by reading screenplays of older films, watching those films on video, and then pretending he was auditioning for one of the roles in the film. He also spent countless hours reading the Hollywood trade papers at his local bookstore and calling agents in Los Angeles. He graduated from high school a semester early and immediately packed his bags and headed for Hollywood.

Hedlund has been honored with the Young Hollywood "Film Actor of the Year" Award, the Glamour UK "Man of the Year" Award and the Maui Film Festival's "Rising Star" Award.

BROOKLYNN PRINCE – ‘Young Helena’

Brooklynn Prince, known to her friends as BB, is a 11-year-old native of Orlando, Florida. She is the breakout star of Sean Baker’s film, *The Florida Project*, for which she won the critic’s choice award. In 2019 Brooklynn made her directorial debut with her short film, *Colours*, which she wrote, directed, and starred in for Curated by Facebook. She also starred in *Angry Birds 2*, Amblin’s *The Turning*, *Settlers*, *The Lego Movie: The Second Part*, and teamed with Macy’s and Make A Wish America for their holiday campaign. You can currently catch her in Disney’s *The One and Only Ivan* with Angelina Jolie and Sam Rockwell. You can also catch her as real-life journalist Hilde Lysiak on the critically acclaimed Apple TV drama series *Home Before Dark*, which recently debuted its sophomore season. Brooklynn was recently seen on the big screen in Elizabeth Banks’ *Cocaine Bear*. Brooklynn has a huge heart for helping others and enjoys working with local charities: Community Hope Center and She is More Than.

CAREN PISTORIUS – ‘Beth’

Caren Pistorius can most recently be seen starring opposite Russell Crowe in the feature film *Unhinged* and in *High Ground*, which premiered at 2020 Berlin International Film Festival.

Caren also appeared in *Gloria Bell*, a reimagining of Sebastián Lelio’s 2013 film of the same name, starring opposite Julianne Moore, *Mortal Engines* and *Cargo* which premiered at the 2017 Adelaide Film Festival. Her other film credits include *Denial*, which premiered at 2017 Toronto Film Festival, *Slow West*, which premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and *Light Between Oceans*. She made her feature film debut in *The Most Fun You Can Have Dying*.

Caren’s television credits include *Wake In Fright* for Network Ten, the popular drama series *Offspring*, the critically acclaimed *Redfern Now*, *Paper Giants 2: Magazine Wars*, *The Blue Rose*, and the Disney series, *Legend Of The Seeker*.

Caren received a Silver Logie Award nomination for Most Popular New Talent and a Graham Kennedy Award nomination for Most Outstanding Newcomer at the 2014 Logie Awards.

GIL BIRMINGHAM – ‘Clark Bekkum’

Gil Birmingham (*Twilight*, *Hell or High Water*, *Wind River*, *Yellowstone*) has co-starred in the *Twilight* series films in addition to co-starring in *Rango*, *The Lone Ranger*, and *Hell or High Water*. He has had recurring guest star roles on the popular Netflix’s *House of Cards*, Netflix’s *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, Freeform’s *Siren*, and in TNT’s *Animal Kingdom*. Birmingham starred in the limited Netflix series *Pieces of Her* opposite Toni Collette, and the FX limited-

series *Under the Banner of Heaven* opposite Andrew Garfield. Gil can be seen as series regular Thomas Rainwater in the long-running TV series *Yellowstone* on the Paramount Network.

CREW BIOS

NEIL BURGER – Director

Neil Burger is an American film and television director, writer, and producer.

His feature directing credits include *Voyagers* starring Colin Farrell, Tye Sheridan, and Lily-Rose Depp; and *The Upside*, starring Bryan Cranston, Kevin Hart, and Nicole Kidman, which grossed over \$100 million in North America and was Burger's third number one opening in a row.

He also directed *Divergent*, starring Shailene Woodley and Kate Winslet; *Limitless*, starring Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro; *The Lucky Ones*, starring Rachel McAdams and Tim Robbins; and the critically acclaimed *The Illusionist*, starring Edward Norton and Paul Giamatti. He made his directorial feature debut with *Interview with the Assassin*, winning the Best Feature Film category at both the Woodstock Film Festival and Avignon Film Festival, and receiving nominations for three Independent Spirit Awards.

On television, Burger directed the first two episodes and executive produced *Billions*, the Showtime series starring Paul Giamatti and Damian Lewis. Burger started his career directing commercials at Ridley Scott and Associates for clients like Nike, MasterCard, and Coca-Cola. A graduate of Yale University with a degree in fine arts, Burger resides in New York City with his family.

ELLE SMITH – Writer

Elle Smith (screenwriter) began her career as a creative executive and producer for thrillers and dark genre films, and currently writes for both film and television. She's a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and currently resides in the mountains of North Carolina.

MARK L. SMITH – Writer/Producer

Mark L. Smith (screenwriter, producer) has written a number of films, including Alejandro González Iñárritu's Academy Award-winning film, *The Revenant*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, the 2018 film, *Overlord*, co-written with Billy Ray, and the George Clooney-directed feature, *The Midnight Sky*, for Netflix. He also has the upcoming Clooney-directed *Boys In The Boat* for MGM, *Twisters* for Universal Studios, and the Netflix limited series, *American Primeval*.

TEDDY SCHWARZMAN – Producer

Teddy Schwarzman serves as President & CEO of Black Bear Pictures, and oversees all operations of the company, including development, production, finance and strategic planning.

Schwarzman has produced a range of content, a sampling of which includes *The Imitation Game*, Academy Award® winner for Best Adapted Screenplay and nominated for seven additional Academy Awards®, including Best Picture; J.C. Chandor's *All Is Lost*, which earned Robert Redford a Golden Globe® nomination for Best Actor; *Suburbicon*, directed by George Clooney and starring Matt Damon, Julianne Moore and Oscar Isaac; *Ben Is Back*, written and directed by Peter Hedges, starring Julia Roberts and Lucas Hedges; Dave Franco's *The Rental*; and *I Care A Lot*, written and directed by J Blakeson, starring Rosamund Pike, Peter Dinklage, Eiza Gonzalez, Chris Messina and Dianne Wiest, for which Pike won the Golden Globe® for Best Actress, Comedy/Musical. Schwarzman has also served as Executive Producer of Dee Rees' *Mudbound*, nominated for four Academy Awards®, and Heidi Ewing's moving film, *I Carry You With Me*.

A member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and Producers Guild of America, Schwarzman sits on the Board of Directors of Elevation Pictures Corp., one of Canada's leading film and television distributors. Schwarzman also sits on the Board of the Pacific Council on International Policy and the Cedars-Sinai Board of Governors. Schwarzman earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania and a Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from Duke University School of Law, where he sits on the Board of Visitors.

KEITH REDMON – Producer

Keith Redmon is a Partner of Black Bear Pictures, and Head of Black Bear Global. A veteran producer and manager, Redmon was nominated for an Oscar® for producing Alejandro G. Iñárritu's *The Revenant*, which won three Academy Awards®, including Oscars® for direction and for Leonardo DiCaprio's lead performance. Redmon also produced George Clooney's *The Midnight Sky* for Netflix; John Hillcoat's *Triple 9*; and Neil Burger's upcoming *The Marsh King's Daughter*. In television, Redmon has served as an executive producer on Olen Steinhauer's *Berlin Station* for EPIX and Justin Marks' *Counterpart* for Starz starring J.K. Simmons, among other credits.

Prior to Black Bear, Redmon spent nearly two decades at Anonymous Content, where he was a Partner and Head of International. He spearheaded the formation of Chapter One, a U.K. joint venture with United Agents and Casarotto Ramsay & Associates; AC Nordic, a Scandinavian joint venture and AC Brazil.

MICHAEL HEIMLER– Executive Producer

Michael Heimler serves as Head of Production & Finance for Black Bear Pictures, where he has worked since 2013.

At Black Bear, Michael is actively involved with all projects on Black Bear's slate, focusing on physical production, post-production, business & legal affairs, finance & strategy, reviewing creative submissions and working closely with leading Canadian distributor, Elevation Pictures.

Most recently, Michael Produced J Blakeson's *I Care A Lot* starring Rosamund Pike, Peter Dinklage, Eiza Gonzalez, and Dianne Wiest; Executive Produced Heidi Ewing's Sundance award winning *I Carry You With Me*; Executive Produced Gabriela Cowperthwaite's *Our Friend* starring Jason Segel, Dakota Johnson, and Casey Affleck; Executive Produced Chad Hartigan's *Little Fish* and Executive Produced Dave Franco's *The Rental* starring Alison Brie and Dan Stevens.

Previously, he served as Executive Producer on Peter Hedges' *Ben Is Back*, starring Julia Roberts and Lucas Hedges; *Light Of My Life*, written, directed by and starring Casey Affleck; and served as Co-Producer on *Gold*, directed by Stephen Gaghan and starring Matthew McConaughey.

Prior to Black Bear, Michael worked in the motion picture talent department of United Talent Agency in its New York office and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts – Film and Television from The University of Wisconsin – Madison.

ALWIN H. KUCHLER – Director of Photography

Alwin H. Kuchler, BSC is an accomplished German cinematographer. He began his career working as the apprentice to a fashion photographer. At the end of his apprenticeship, he helped out on a friend's film school shoot and fell in love with filmmaking. Alwin graduated from the UK's National Film and Television School in 1994. While attending NFTS, he met director Lynne Ramsay and worked on her short films before getting his first big break on her feature *Ratcatcher*. Alwin's film career has since skyrocketed. He worked with Roger Michell on *The Mother and Morning Glory*, Michael Winterbottom on *CODE 46*, Danny Boyle on *Sunshine* and *Steve Jobs*, Joe Wright on *Hanna*, and Kevin Macdonald on *Marley* and *The Mauritanian*. For the latter film, Alwin was nominated for a BAFTA for Best Cinematography and a BSC Award for Best Cinematography in a Theatrical Feature Film. Most recently, he

shot *Tetris* for Jon S. Baird and Apple+. Alwin and his work have been featured in *Variety*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, and *American Cinematographer* among other publications.

TIM GRIMES – Production Designer

Prior to Searchlight's *Antlers*, Tim Grimes designed Lynne Ramsay's crime thriller *You Were Never Really Here* Starring Joaquin Phoenix for Amazon and Baran Bo Odar's action film *Sleepless*. His previous feature credits include John Hillcoat's heist thriller *Triple 9*, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, Kate Winslet, and Casey Affleck; *STONE* directed by John Curran starring Robert De Niro; Darren Aronofsky's Oscar®-nominated film *The Wrestler* that earned him a nomination for Excellence in Production Design from the Art Directors Guild; Deborah Kampmeier's *Hounddog*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007; M. Blash's *LYING* which premiered at the Cannes Director's Fortnight in 2006; and Gus Van Sant's *Last Days*, an official selection at the Cannes Film Festival in 2005.

Tim's television credits include Lena Dunham's pilot *Max* for HBO, John Hillcoat's pilot for *Quarry*, and season one of Michael Mann's HBO series *Luck*. Outside of film and TV, he teamed up with John Hillcoat on shorts and music videos such as *Corazon* starring Ana de Armas and Demian Bichir, *Bob Dylan: Visions Of Johanna*, and *Johnny Cash: She Used To Love Me A Lot*.

Naomi Geraghty–Editor

Naomi Geraghty has worked with director Neil Burger over many years. Their collaboration includes the recently completed *The Marsh King's Daughter* as well as *The Upside*, *Voyagers*, *Limitless* and *The Illusionist*. She has also cut Oscar nominated movies, *Hotel Rwanda* and *In America*.

She has edited a wide range of TV such as Showtime's *Billions*, a show for which she has also directed two episodes. Other credits include Amazon's *Outer Range*, Netflix's *Bloodline* and HBO's *Treme*.

ANNE DIXON – Costume Designer

Anne's design career spans over the years both on stage and on screen including a myriad of genres and periods, seen internationally in theatre, opera, film and television.

Being one of the most versatile and sought-after Costume Designers, Anne's film collaboration with such directors as Viggo Mortensen, Francois Girard, Niki Caro, Jeremy Podeswa, Neil

Burger, Sudz Sutherland, Billy Ray, Mick Jackson, Anjelica Huston, Paul Mazursky, Kathy Bates, Jeremiah Chechik, and Veronica Tennant has been truly inspirational.

Her keen insight and visual pulse are captured in feature films *The Marsh King's Daughter*, *Falling*, *The Song of Names*, *Born To Be Blue*, *Lavender to Fugitive Pieces*, *Saint Ralph* and *Interstate 60* to name a few. Other credits in series/minis and their varied worlds *The Comey Rule*, *Anne with an E*, *Lost Girl*, *XIII*, *Guns*; dance *Karen Kain-Dancing in the Moment*, *The Firebird*; skating *Battle of the Blades* and operas *Don Giovanni Unmasked* slightly touches some of the range of her designs.

Anne's vocabulary in this art of storytelling through cloth, bringing to life characters, worlds and emotions makes her creative passion exciting and vibrant.

She is a graduate in Art & Design from The University of the Arts London, England. Winner of the Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award and CAFTCAD Award for *The Song of Names* with numerous nominations for a CSA, Genie, and CAFTCAD Awards for Best Costume Designer. Anne is also a member of the Costume Designer's Guild in LA.

She is published in Canadian Who's Who and Great Women of the 21st Century. Anne was a recipient of the Tom Patterson Award for most promising designer.

ADAM JANOTA BZOWSKI – Composer

Adam Janota Bzowski is a fearless composer with an innovative and deeply complex textural sound world. Most recently, Adam has scored 'Loch Henry' for the new season of Charlie Brooker's *Black Mirror*, *Femme* directed by Sam H. Freeman and Ng Choon Ping, *Animal* starring Rory Kinnear and Sam Claflin, Neil Burger's *The Marsh King's Daughter*, and *The Origin* directed by Andrew Cumming.

His first feature length score for A24's BAFTA nominated film *Saint Maud* won him Best Original Music at the 2020 Gérardmer Fantasticarts Film Festival as well as a Ivor Novello nomination for Best Original Score. Marrying both music and sound design, his use of groaning synths and mangled percussion is sinister, claustrophobic, unrelenting, and laid the foundations of a composer who is unafraid to push musical boundaries.

As a child he was known for his fondness of the intermittent static in between radio stations, an interest that would later see him study Sound Art at University of Brighton. Whilst living in a disused biscuit factory on the English coast, Adam became involved in the ambient music

scene, using an old 4-track tape recorder and guitar pedals to make compositions, a method he continues to use today.

Adam is a London-based composer.

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About Black Bear Pictures

Founded in 2011 by Teddy Schwarzman, Black Bear is one of the world's leading independent studios, focused on creating premium content for a global audience while offering creators and filmmakers an unparalleled destination for creative collaboration. Black Bear Pictures has produced and financed such commercial and critical films as *The Imitation Game*, *I Care A Lot*, *Mudbound*, and *All Is Lost*.

Black Bear International oversees the international sales and distribution rights of commercially oriented film and television content across genres. Black Bear Global is dedicated to forging strategic alliances and co-productions between Black Bear and talent, production companies and other partners overseas. Black Bear Management represents auteur filmmakers, creators and talent across film and television. In addition, Black Bear owns Elevation Pictures, the leading independent film distributor in Canada.

Black Bear's upcoming slate includes: Neil Burger's upcoming psychological thriller *The Marsh King's Daughter* starring Daisy Ridley for Lionsgate and STX; the Netflix feature, *Nyad*, directed by Academy Award® winners Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi & Jimmy Chin, and starring Annette Bening and Jodie Foster; Amazon's upcoming romantic comedy *Somebody I Used to Know* from Dave Franco and starring Alison Brie; and Scott Frank's newest limited series *Monsieur Spade*, starring Clive Owen, which is currently in production. AMC will release *Monsieur Spade* in North America.

For more information: www.blackbearpictures.com, Instagram: [@blackbearpics](https://www.instagram.com/blackbearpics), Twitter: [@blackbearpics](https://twitter.com/blackbearpics)

About STX Entertainment

STX Entertainment, is a next-generation film and television studio that produces and acquires motion pictures and high-quality television programming at scale. From blockbusters like *Greenland*, *Hustlers*, *Bad Moms*, and *The Upside* to hits like *The Gentlemen*, *Molly's Game*, and *The Gift*, STX Entertainment, through its subsidiaries, produces star-driven films and television entertainment for a global audience. Upcoming films include *Ferrari* starring Adam Driver and directed by Michael Mann, *Greenland 2: Migration*, the sequel to the global hit starring Gerard Butler as well as *My Spy 2*, starring Dave Bautista. The company has a number of films and direct-to-platform productions in development including *Fast and Loose*, starring Will Smith, *Night Wolf* starring Kevin Hart, *I Slept with Joey Ramone* starring Pete Davidson, and *Muscle*, starring Vin Diesel, among others.

CREDITS

Directed by
Neil Burger

Screenplay by
Elle Smith & Mark L. Smith

Based on the Book by
Karen Dionne

Produced by
Teddy Schwarzman, p.g.a.
Keith Redmon, p.g.a.

Produced by
Mark L. Smith

Executive Producer
Michael Heimler

Executive Producers
Charles Miller
Cliff Roberts

Executive Producers
Robert Simonds
Adam Fogelson
John Friedberg
Samuel J. Brown

STXfilms
Presents

A
Black Bear Pictures
Production

An
Anonymous Content
Production

A Film by
Neil Burger

Daisy Ridley

THE MARSH KING'S DAUGHTER

Ben Mendelsohn

Garrett Hedlund

Caren Pistorius

Brooklyn Prince

Joey Carson
Yanna McIntosh

And
Gil Birmingham

Casting by
Mary Vernieu, CSA and Michelle Wade Bird, CSA

Director of Photography
Alwin Küchler, BSC

Production Designer
Tim Grimes

Editor
Naomi Geraghty

Costume Designer
Anne Dixon

Music by
Adam Janota Bzowski