

JONATHAN DEMME

Chairman

MICHAEL BALLHAUS

MARTINA GUSMAN URRUTI

MASATO HARADA

NADINE LABAKI

CLARE PEPLOE

LEONOR WATLING

JONATHAN DEMME Chairman

Producer and director, born in 1944 in Baldwin, Long Island, New York. Before and since the production of *Rachel Getting Married* (2008), Jonathan Demme has focused primarily on making documentary films. *Right to Return: New Home Movies From the Lower 9th Ward*, on post-Katrina New Orleans, is an ongoing project; he is currently editing *Neil Young Trunk Show: Scenes From a Concert*, and is in pre-production on a Bob Marley documentary scheduled for release in February 2010, the 65th Anniversary of Marley's birth. *Jimmy Carter Man From Plains* was his most recent release prior to *Rachel Getting Married*.

Demme has directed over 27 feature films including *The Manchurian Candidate* (2004), *The Agronomist* (2002), *Beloved* (1998), *Philadelphia* (1993), *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991) (for which he won an Academy Award and the New York Film Critics Best Director), *Married to the Mob* (1988), *Swimming to Cambodia* (1987), *Something Wild* (1986), and *Melvin and Howard* (1980), for which he was named Best Director by the New York Film Critics. Additional producing credits include *Devil in a Blue Dress*, *Household Saints*, *That Thing you Do!*, *Ulee's Gold*, and *Adaptation*.

Demme's films have been nominated for 20 Academy Awards. *The Silence of the Lambs* received five Academy Awards in 1991 – for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Screenplay Adaptation. His films have won screenplay Oscars twice, *Melvin and Howard* (Best Original Screenplay, 1980) and *The Silence of the Lambs* (Best Screenplay Adaptation, 1991), and two of the Best Actor awards of the 1990s went to Anthony Hopkins (*The Silence of the Lambs*, 1991) and Tom Hanks (*Philadelphia*, 1993), with Jodie Foster receiving the Best Actress award (*The Silence of the Lambs*, 1991) as well.

Right to Return: New Home Movies from the Lower Ninth Ward is Demme's passion project. He felt driven to see and document the recovery effort (or lack of one) in New Orleans. His first visit was in the fall of 2005, and Demme has been returning to track the journey of the community and individuals in the Lower Ninth Ward ever since. "The Tavis Smiley Show" dedicated a week of programming to excerpts of *Right to Return*. Later, a compilation of material became the feature length documentary, *Right to Return: New Home Movies from the Lower Ninth Ward*, which premiered at the Silverdocs Festival in June 2007.

Demme's ongoing trips to document the constantly unfolding stories of people within the community have inspired four additional biopics which are in various stages of development: *The Harrisons of New Orleans*, *The Carolyn Parker Story*, *Pastor Mel*, and *The Blue House*, which documents the heroic efforts of the Common Ground organization's work in the community.

Demme, a strong advocate of human rights, has also produced and directed a number of documentaries about the Haitian plight, including *The Agronomist*, *Haiti: Dreams of Democracy*, *Haiti: Killing the Dream*, *Tonbe Leve*, and *Courage and Pain*. In addition, he directed the documentary *Cousin Bobby*, and produced the Academy Award-nominated biography *Mandela* as well as *Into the Rope!*, about Double Dutch; *The Utmost*, a portrait of producer Kenny Utt; and *One Foot on a Banana Peel, the Other Foot in the Grave*, about living with AIDS. He also produced the Peabody Award-winning documentary *Beah: A Black Woman Speaks*, about the life of Beah Richards.

Demme's creative talents have also lured him into the music domain. He released the acclaimed concert film *Neil Young: Heart of Gold*, in 2006, re-teaming with Neil Young, with whom he worked on *The Complex Sessions*, the 1994 film featuring six songs from the "Sleeps with Angels" album. He directed the Robyn Hitchcock concert film *Storefront Hitchcock* as well as the award-winning Talking Heads concert film *Stop Making Sense*. In addition, Demme has directed music videos for Bruce Springsteen, Les Frères Parent, The Neville Brothers, New Order, KRS-One, and the Feelies, among others. He also produced *Konbit*, an album of Haitian music.

MICHAEL BALLHAUS

The cinematographer Michael Ballhaus was born in Berlin in 1935. His work for the director Rainer Werner Fassbinder in Germany, and later for Martin Scorsese in the USA, has marked the career of one of the most outstanding cinematographers in modern cinema, who has been nominated for an Oscar on three occasions for *Broadcast News* (James L. Brooks, 1987), *The Fabulous Baker Boys* (Steve Kloves, 1989) and *Gangs of New York* (Martin Scorsese, 2002).

Michael Ballhaus worked for Rainer Werner Fassbinder on fifteen films, including a lot of the German director's essential work, such as *Die Bitteren Tränen der Petra Von Kant* (*The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant*, 1972), *Mutter Küsters' Fahrt zum Himmel* (*Mother Küster's Trip to Heaven*, 1975), *Despair* (1978), *Die Ehe der Maria Braun* (*The Marriage of Maria Braun*, 1979) and *Lili Marleen* (1981).

In 1983 he made his debut in American cinema with director John Sayles in *Baby, It's You* (1983) and then worked with Francis Ford Coppola in *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992); with Wolfgang Petersen in *Outbreak* (1995) and *Air Force One* (1997); with Mike Nichols in *Postcards From the Edge* (1990), *Primary Colors* (1998) and *Working Girl* (1988); with Robert Redford in *Quiz Show* (1994) and *The Legend of Bagger Vance* (2000); and with Barry Levinson in *Sleepers* (1996).

With his first film for Martin Scorsese, *After Hours* (1985), Michael Ballhaus won a nomination for the Independent Spirit Awards. He has worked with the New York director on seven films, including *The Color of Money* (1986), *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988), *Goodfellas* (1990) and *The Departed* (2006).

In 1971 Michael Ballhaus directed two documentaries for television: *Fassbinder produziert Film Nr. 8* and *Die Verabredung mit der Wirklichkeit*.

In 2006 Michael Ballhaus received the Berlinale Camera at the Berlin Film Festival for his contribution to cinema.

MASATO HARADA

Film director, writer and actor, Masato Harada was born in Numazu, Japan, on July 3, 1949. The first movie he saw was *The Search* (1948) by Fred Zinnemann. The episode in which Montgomery Clift hands the war orphan (played by Ivan Jandl) a piece of bread became Harada's primal screen image. He was influenced by the realistic nature of the earlier works in black and white of Lumet, Pontecorvo, Frankenheimer and Kurosawa. His very first encounter with film making scene took place some time in 1954, when Akira Kurosawa was filming *Seven Samurai* in Gotemba, near Harada's hometown. Soon afterwards, he became a fan of chanbara jidaigeki, period films with samurai swordplay, from Toei Company.

In the summer of 1972, he visited San Sebastian Film Festival as a *Kinema Jumbo* correspondent, where Howard Hawks was invited as the president of jury. He met his mentor in San Sebastian. Their "relationship" lasted for five years til Hawks' death in 1977.

Harada moved to Los Angeles in 1973. He married to a journalist, Mizuho Fukuda in 1976. In 1979, he wrote and directed his first feature, *Goodbye Flickmania*, a Hawksian buddy movie. Since then, he has written the screenplays of the films he has directed. On the Halloween in 2002, Harada made an acting debut as Omura in *The Last Samurai*.

The films of Masato Harada as director are: *Goodbye Flickmania* (1979), *Windy* (1984), *Onyanko the Movie* (1986), *The Heartbreak Yakuza* (1987), *Gunhead* (1988), *Painted Desert* (1993), *Kamikaze Taxi* (1994), *Trouble with Nango* (1995), *Rowing Through* (1996), *Bounce KO Gals* (1997), *Jubaku/Spellbound* (1999), *Inugami* (2001), *Totsunyuuseyo! Asama Sanso Jiken (The Choice of Hercules)*, 2002), *Jiyuu Reani (Bluestokings)* (2005), *Densen Uta (The Suicide Song)* (2007), *Moryo no Hako (The Shadow Spirit)* (2007), *Kuraimazu Hai (Climber's High)* (2008).

As actor he has worked in *The Last Samurai* (2003) and *Spirit* (2006).

He has been nominated on three occasions by the Japanese Film Academy: as best director for *Jubaku/Spellbound* (1999), and as best director and for best script for *Totsunyuuseyo! Asama Sanso Jiken (The Choice of Hercules)*, 2002).

MARTINA GUSMAN URRUTI

Martina Gusman was born in 1978 in Argentina and is a producer. She graduated in Combined Arts from the University of Buenos Aires and took a degree in acting at the Carlos Gandolfo school. From 1998 to 2000 she worked in advertising film production. In 2001 she started working with Pablo Trapero in his film production company, Sargentina.

In 2002 she founded Matanza Cine together with Pablo Trapero, an independent film production company, where she took part in the following films:

El Bonaerense (2002), by Pablo Trapero; *Sarasa* (2002), by Pablo Trapero; *Ciudad de María* (2003), by Enrique Bellande; *La Mecha* (2003), a full-length film by Raúl Perrone; *Familia Rodante* (2004), by Pablo Trapero; *Géminis* (2005) by Albertina Carri; *Mi Mejor Enemigo* (2005); *Dí Buen Día a Papá* (2005), by Fernando Vargas, 2005 (Co-Producer). As an executive producer she worked on *Mbya Tierra en Rojo* (2006), a documentary directed by Philip Cox and Valeria Mapelman; *Nacido y Criado* (2006), by Pablo Trapero; *La Rabia*, by Albertina Carri, (2007); *Intersección* (2007), by Pablo Trapero 2007; *Leonera* (2008), a full-length film by Pablo Trapero.

In parallel with her work in the production field, in 2005 she played a role as an actress in the film *Nacido y Criado* and in 2007 starred in *Leonera* by Pablo Trapero.

NADINE LABAKI

Born in Lebanon in 1974, film director Nadine Labaki studied communication art at Saint Joseph University in Beirut and graduated in 1997. *11 rue Pasteur*, her school film project was awarded first prize for short films in the Beirut Film Festival in 1997 and first prize for short films at IMA's Biennale du Cinéma Arabe in Paris in 1998.

She went on to directing commercials and many musical clips for well known Middle-Eastern entertainers, and was awarded several prizes in 2002 and 2003.

In 2004, she attended the Résidence du Festival de Cannes to write *Caramel*, her first feature length film, which premiered in Cannes 2007 in the Directors' Fortnight and won the TCM-Audience Award and the Youth Award at San Sebastian Festival.

CLARE PEPLOE

The director Clare Peploe was born in Tanzania in 1942, but grew up in England and Italy. She studied at the Sorbonne and Perugia University. She became interested in cinema and art in general from a very early age, and her first jobs had to do with photography. She found her way into the film industry as an assistant to Antonioni on *Zabriskie Point* (1969) and then collaborated on *Novecento* (1975) with her husband, the director Bernardo Bertolucci, with whom she also worked on the script for *La Luna* (1979).

Clare Peploe made her debut as a director with the short film, *Couples and Robbers* (1982), that was nominated for the Oscars and the British Bafta awards. Her first full-length film was *High Season* (1987), whose script she wrote together with her brother Mark Peploe. The film, starring Jacqueline Bisset, James Fox, Irene Papas and Kenneth Branagh, won the Silver Shell at the San Sebastian Festival.

The search for personal identity and a place to belong to, as well as her multicultural vision, characterise a body of work that always shows the director's passion for telling stories. *Rough Magic* (1995) was the following film that she wrote and directed, and won Bridget Fonda the Best Actress award at the Sitges Festival.

In 1998 she once again worked with Bernardo Bertolucci as associate producer and co-scriptwriter on *Besieged* (1998), which was screened in the Official Section at the San Sebastian Festival, out of competition. Her following film, *The Triumph of Love* (2001), based on the play by Marivaux, competed at the Venice Film Festival.

LEONOR WATLING

The actress Leonor Watling was born in Madrid in 1975. She made her film debut in Pablo Llorca's *Jardines Colgantes* (1992). While she continued her training, she worked in television and cinema playing supporting and leading roles in *Grandes ocasiones* by Felipe Vega (1996), *Todas hieren* (1997) and *La espalda de Dios* (1999) by Pablo Llorca, *La primera noche de mi vida*, by Miguel Albaladejo (1997), *No respire, el amor está en el aire*, by Juan Potau (1998) and *Los aficionados*, by Víctor García León (1999). Her role in Antonio Mercero's film, *La hora de los valientes* (1998), earned her a nomination for the Goya award for Best Actress. For her portrayal of Martina in *Son de mar* by Bigas Luna (2001) she won many acting awards including Young Mediterranean Cinema Best Actress (2000) and the Critical Eye Award (2001). She then played her first comedy role in *A mi madre le gustan las mujeres* (2002) by Daniela Fejerman and Inés París, and for this role she was once again nominated for a Goya and was presented with the Fotogramas de Plata and the India Catalina at the Cartagena Film Festival in Colombia, among other awards.

In 2002 she starred in the Pedro Almodóvar's film *Hable con ella*, playing the role of Alicia. She then worked with Gerardo Vera in *Deseo*. In 2003 Leonor chose various supporting roles, in the acclaimed *My Life Without Me* by Isabel Coixet; *Mala leche*, by Patrick Alessandrin, shot in French, and *En la ciudad*, by Cesc Gay.

Her most recent films to date have been: *Crónicas* by Sebastian Cordero, alongside John Leguizamo and *Inconscientes* by Joaquín Oristrell in 2004; *La habitación del niño* by Alex de la Iglesia and *The secret life of words* by Isabel Coixet in 2004; *Salvador* by Manuel Hueriga, *Tirant Lo Blanc* by Vicente Aranda and *Malas temporadas* by Manuel Martín Cuenca in 2005; *Teresa* by Ray Loriga and *París Je T'Aime* by Isabel Coixet in 2006; and *The Oxford Crimes* by Alex de la Iglesia and *Lecture 21* by Alessandro Baricco in 2007.

She combines her acting work with music: she sings and writes the lyrics for the group, Marlango, who she has brought out three albums with: *Marlango* (2004) which won a golden disc, *Automatic Imperfection* (2005) and *The Electrical Morning* (2007).