

Mongrel Media

Presents

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED

**Directed by
Jonathan Demme**

A Clinica Estetico Production
In association with Marc Platt Productions

(113 mins, USA, 2008)

Distribution



1028 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6J 1H6
Tel: 416-516-9775 Fax: 416-516-0651
E-mail: info@mongrelmedia.com
www.mongrelmedia.com

Publicity

Bonne Smith
Star PR
Tel: 416-488-4436
Fax: 416-488-8438
E-mail: starpr@sympatico.ca

High res stills may be downloaded from <http://www.mongrelmedia.com/press.html>

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED

Credits

Produced & Directed by:	Jonathan Demme
Written by:	Jenny Lumet
Produced by:	Neda Armian Marc Platt
Executive Producers:	Ilona Herzberg Carol Cuddy
Director of Photography:	Declan Quinn ASC
Production Designer:	Ford Wheeler
Edited by:	Tim Squyres, A.C.E.
Original Score by:	Zafer Tawil Donald Harrison, Jr.
Costumes by:	Susan Lyall
Co-Producer	H.H. Cooper
Casting by:	Bernard Telsey, CSA
Associate Producers:	Elizabeth Hayes Innbo Shim Emily Woodburne
Music Designed & Edited by	Suzana Perić
Production Sound Mixer	Jeff Pullman, C.A.S

Principal Cast

Anne Hathaway / kym
Rosemarie DeWitt / rachel
Bill Irwin / paul
Tunde Adebimpe / sidney
Mather Zickel / kieran
Anna Deavere Smith / carol
Anisa George / emma
and
Debra Winger / abby

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED

Cast in order of appearance

Sebastian Stan / walter
Roslyn Ruff / rosa
Anne Hathaway / kym

Bill Irwin / paul
Anna Deavere Smith / carol

Annaleigh Ashford / quick stop cashier

Zafer Tawil / violin friend

Beau Sia / wedding czar
Innbo Shim / wedding planner

Eliza Simpson / wedding p.a.
Olive / the poodle

Rosemarie DeWitt / rachel
Anisa George / emma

Tamyra Gray / singing friend
Victoria Haynes / bridesmaid

Quincy Tyler Bernstine / 12-step receptionist

Mather Zickel / kieran

Pastor Melvin Jones / 12-step speaker
Darrell Larson / 12-step group leader
Michele Federer / 12-step reader
Matthew Stadelmann / 12-step first-timer
Molly Hickok / 12-step veteran

12 - STEP MEETING
Big Jim Wheeler
Josh Broder
Stephen Richardson
Bruce Bennetts
Paul Sparks
Caroline Goodman-Thomases
Daniel Wolff
Jill Dalton
Joe Alessi
Jordan Cael

Tiffany Little Canfield

Tunde Adebimpe / sidney

Barry Eastmond, Jr. / wedding drummer
Brooklyn Demme / wedding guitarist

Carol-Jean Lewis / sidney's mom
John Anthony / sidney's dad
Kyrah Julian / sidney's sister
Herreast Harrison / sidney's grandmother
Gonzales Joseph / cousin joe

Donald Harrison, Jr.
Fab Five Freddy
James Roche
Jimmy Joe Roche
Rev. Robert Castle

Paul Lazar
Amir ElSaffar
Dorian Missick
Tareq Abboushi
Tavish Graham
Dimitrios Mikelis

Gaida Hinnawi
Alix Derrick
Matt Rabinowitz
Stephanie McBride
Richard Maxwell

Debra Winger / abby
Jerome LePage / andrew

Andre Blake / inspired stylist
Dequina Moore / Rachel's stylist

Joe Tutebon / police officer
Edie Hofstatter / 1st paramedic
Jaime Garcia / other paramedic
Julio "Goya" Pagan / tow-truck operator

Van Hughes / wedding valet

Sister Carol East
Robyn Hitchcock
Christian Scott
Roger Corman

Brian Nelson
David Neumann
Edisa Weeks
Heather Christian
Jennie Liu
Johnny Farraj

Josh Elrod
Maria Dizzia
Marie Runyon
Ray Ultarte
Tymberly Canale

Anita Sarko
Joey Perillo
Christy Pusz
Josephine Demme
Daphne Rubin-Vega

Joyce George / wedding photographer
Stephany Boa / guest electric guitarist
Derrick Williams / dancemaster
Sebastian Stan / bowtie party guest
Elizabeth Hayes / susanna galeano
Marin Ireland / "angela paylin"

Cyro Baptista
BEAT THE DONKEY

Zé Maurício
Lisette Santiago
Marcus Santos
Eldio "Cabello" Rolim

Michelle Clay
Silvana Marquina
Atlanta Foresyth

THE LADIES IN RED

Tonia-Cara Forsters
Kate Rossi
Susan Helen Van Der Griend
Juliet Teakle

Rachel Getting Married

Director's Statement

i was involved in documentary work when sidney lumet suggested that i read his daughter jenny's screenplay about family and other things. i loved jenny's flagrant disregard for the rules of formula, her lack of concern for making her characters likable in the conventional sense, and for what i considered to be her bold approach to truth, pain and humor. i saw that a film could be made from this script that could mirror my reaction to reading it - - - that to our own surprise, at a certain point as the story unfolds, despite the script's refusal to try to manipulate the reader's emotions, we become part of this problematic family and care very much about its members.

i had wanted to work with anne hathaway since watching her in a crowd at a screening five years earlier, already being an admirer of her appearances so far in the movies i'd seen. i was able to pump up the nerve to ask debra winger to be in the picture because we had met several times at a film center close to both our homes. bill irwin is a dear friend and a neighbor, and one of my favorite actors of all time. rosemarie DeWitt was suggested by our casting directors, and all of us immediately wanted her very badly to play rachel.

declan quinn and i felt that the film should try to look like "the most beautiful home movie ever made", as though every scene was captured on digital by a friend with a camera, or even by the ghost of a character whose death haunts this family.

because declan and i had such a good experience filming "jimmy carter man from plains" together, we decided to take as documentary-like an approach as we could to "rachel", consistent with this 'beautiful home movie' idea. so we never rehearsed before filming, and we rarely planned a shot in advance, preferring to let the actors begin the scene with the knowledge that declan would be responding with the camera in the moment to what was going on. in this way, with no duplicated takes or set-ups, it helped keep the spontaneity factor as alive as possible for the cast.

because i wanted to present the possibility of a really wonderful wedding, there was very little "extras casting" for the movie - - - basically, we created a guest list of people i knew -- actors and civilians -- that seemed to fit with the couple, and proceeded to let the weekend unfold on film, with everybody getting to know each other as we filmed, in the way people actually become a momentary community at "real-life" special events.

at the top of the guest list was a group of musicians who i knew i could count on to create evocative original music in the moment, while we filmed, that would free the movie from the need to have a dramatic background score composed during post-production. several of the musicians, some from palestine and iraq, had played on the score of the jimmy carter film, and donald harrison, jr. is part of a new Orleans family that has been the centerpiece of a documentary project that i've been filming there for the past three years.

i was inspired to make 'rachel getting married' very much by my love for the films of robert altman, and by other american movies that choose to take an approach that departs from reliable and time-honored ideas about how to fashion story and style in an effort to move the audience.

jonathan demme
july 21, 2008
lovell, maine

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED

Synopsis

When KYM (Anne Hathaway) returns to the Buchman family home for the wedding of her sister RACHEL (Rosemarie Dewitt), she brings a long history of personal crisis, family conflict and tragedy along with her. The wedding couple's abundant party of friends and relations have gathered for a joyful weekend of feasting, music and love, but Kym—with her biting one-liners and flair for bombshell drama—is a catalyst for long-simmering tensions in the family dynamic.

Filled with the rich and eclectic characters that remain a hallmark of Jonathan Demme's films, *RACHEL GETTING MARRIED* paints a heartfelt, perceptive and sometimes hilarious family portrait. Director Demme, first-time writer Jenny Lumet, and the stellar acting ensemble leaven the drama of these difficult but compelling people with wry affection and generosity of spirit.

#

Rachel Getting Married

Production Notes

About ten minutes into *Rachel Getting Married*, there's a moment when Kym (Anne Hathaway), newly returned to the Buchman family home, wanders down an upstairs hall and steps into a sunlit child's room. Violin music drifts up the stairs from the musicians practicing below. Kym looks around the room for a few seconds, and moves on. Nothing happens—but the moment is powerful.

"I wanted something sad floating through there," recalls producer/director Jonathan Demme. "I had my headphones on, looking at the monitor, and Declan was doing this beautiful shot: Kym turns around, starts from the camera, and that was Zafer Tawil's cue downstairs to start playing. I heard that haunting music and saw Anne's face respond. I went running after Zafer and said, 'Zafer, what was that beautiful tune?' He said, 'That's what I composed for you.'" So this rich musical theme was revealed to us as we were making the movie—and to Annie in character as Kym. It was all in the moment and there it is, onscreen."

That spontaneity—capturing unrehearsed the moody chemistry of Zafer Tawil's composition, Declan Quinn's restless camera, and Anne Hathaway's bereft gaze—was the guiding principle of the *Rachel Getting Married* production.

"The looseness of Jenny's script made me feel that this shouldn't be a tightly directed movie," says Demme. "At every step of the way, Jenny went to an unexpected place and went further and further off formula and never pulled back. I was really amused and intrigued by the fact that Jenny didn't try to make you like these characters. They were smart, edgy, irritating and yet halfway through reading the script I felt like I had become part of the family and cared tremendously about all of them.

"There's terrible trauma in this family, and yet the wedding is beautiful. I wanted *Rachel Getting Married* to explore both sides of that paradox—the dark struggle, and the celebration of love and family and friends."

Letting the story unfold

To portray those polarities, Demme, cast and crew took an unconventional approach to every aspect of the film's production. Long, loosely staged scenes play out accompanied by live music; documentary-style camerawork and editing tell the story; and eminent actors mingle onscreen with movie novices, musicians, artists and dancers in a creative mix.

"We all agreed to let reality happen in front of the cameras without trying to manipulate it from behind the scenes too much. Consistent with that we didn't do any rehearsals, and nobody, not even Declan, really knew what the shot was going to be until the take started taking shape."

As lengthy scenes played out from start to finish, Director of Photography Declan Quinn and his camera crew prowled the family home with handheld cameras, capturing on the fly the characters' exchanges, speeches, big gestures, and small sidelong looks. The action moved forward with few takes and as little obtrusive preparation as possible.

"In the intimate scenes," says producer Neda Armian, "there would be the main characters in gut-wrenching conversation—and Declan. He was almost like one of the actors, part crew and part cast, relying on his instincts, skill and confidence to know where to point the camera. I like to say this movie has Jonathan's heartbeat and a lot of Declan's blood."

(Or sweat—"That camera was heavy," remarks Declan Quinn.)

Quinn relates, "The way we worked was very empowering to the cast, and brought the emotions to the surface. Even the crew had to look at things differently, because we all had to be on our toes and react in the moment. As the DP I don't usually operate the camera myself, but it gave me the freedom to make immediate choices; I tried to see the action as a viewer in the room would—to put the audience in the midst of it."

During the long wedding party scenes, strategic cameras were literally placed in the actors' hands to augment the "pro" cameras: Gonzales Joseph, who plays Sidney's cousin in uniform, is never seen without a small prosumer camera; indie filmmaker Jimmy Joe Roche is the official wedding videographer, and two of the digicam-wielding guests are Demme's mentor Roger Corman and ace cinematographer Charlie Libin.

A safe zone for dangerous emotions

The unrehearsed, improvisational shooting style suited the story's emotional high voltage.

"There was such an atmosphere of trust," says Anne Hathaway, who manages to bring wounded humanity to the unrelentingly difficult character of Kym. "Since we never knew when the camera was on us, the cast had to listen every second, and achieve a very intense level of focus. One of the lessons that the movie teaches—particularly for people in recovery—is how important it is to stay in the present. To be able to stay in character, and hear and react to the music and the scene around you, is very liberating for an actor. To me, this story

is about communication and love—and we were given the latitude to explore that.”

“Something happens where you get to work and every corner of the house feels like a house and not a movie set,” says Rosemarie DeWitt, with a nod to production designer Ford Wheeler’s evocative creation of a beautiful and believable family home for the Buchmans.

An oud on the back porch

Like the free-form shooting style, the music was an integral element played out with unconventional freedom.

“For the longest time,” recalls Demme, “I’ve had this desire to try to provide the musical dimension of a movie without traditionally scored music. I thought: wait a minute, in the script, Paul is a music industry bigwig, Sidney’s a record producer, many of his friends will be gifted musicians, so of course there would be nonstop music at this gathering. Following that logic, we have music playing live throughout the weekend, but always in the next room, out on the porch or in the garden.”

Among the legion of musicians, dancers, and performers whom Demme enlisted to fill the ranks of the wedding party, jazz great Donald Harrison, Jr. and Palestinian virtuoso Zafer Tawil, contributed original throughline musical themes and are credited as composers (they also brought along plenty of accompaniment: Harrison’s Grammy-nominated nephew Christian Scott shows up to jam at the reception, and Tawil is joined by an ensemble of players from the score of *Jimmy Carter Man From Plains* including Amir ElSaffar.)

“The musicians were encouraged to play whenever they were inspired to, the more the better, never paying attention to the rolling camera,” explains music supervisor and editor Suzana Perić, who has worked on every Demme film since *Something Wild*. “Musical anarchy on the set. Bliss for the musicians, big headaches for those who had to record them. “

“At one point,” says Demme, “Anne Hathaway was trying to act out a very intense scene while the musicians noodled around outside. She was distracted and the assistant director came to me and said that she was having trouble, so I said “Tell her to do something about it, then.” That’s when Kym yells at them to shut up—all unplanned and improvised but completely in character.”

Finding the unscripted gems

Crediting a lifetime in a complicated, artistic family for her screenplay’s perfect pitch, Jenny Lumet says “I’m a good listener” (and watcher—Sidney Lumet did

engage once in a dishwasher-filling race—with Bob Fosse). Improvisation expanded on the script's strikingly authentic dialogue.

For example, Bill Irwin describes how the actors tuned into "...Storytelling that wasn't on the page. As scripted, my character Paul and Debra Winger's character Abby, my ex-wife, hardly exchange any dialogue. But Debra and I followed our instincts, and enlarged that relationship without words, through gestures." That's the case when Paul and Abby briefly embrace and then pull apart at the end of their daughter's wedding—a piercing moment for the viewer.

"There were things in the script that Jenny had written in a very pared-down style," explains Demme. "At script level the wedding progressed through brief snapshot leaps in time. It was scripted that Sidney would sing a song but Rachel's vows to Sidney weren't scripted. I told the actors that they had to take us through a complete wedding, and incidentally, they had to stage it themselves. Rosemarie made up Rachel's speech herself. Beau Sia, who helped plan the rehearsal dinner and wedding with Rosemarie and Anisa George (Emma), was an unscripted character imposed on the filming by casting Beau—an actor and poet I've been dying to work with—as kind of a "wedding czar emcee guy"."

Rosemarie DeWitt points out, "There are times when you feel like Jonathan's orchestrating everything and nothing at the same time," an observation echoed by Bill Irwin: "Sometimes it seems like all he's doing is smiling and making sure people feel good about work day after day. But he knows what he's after and gets what he wants."

Everybody gets their moment

The movie's big set pieces, such as the rehearsal dinner, the wedding, and the reception dance party, are densely populated with a wide-ranging assemblage of Demme's friends, family, colleagues, and other energizing personalities (see the following section, *Friends, Musicians, and the Community Spirit* for a detailed listing of participants).

"Every person, every face in the film is there for a reason," says Armian. "Jonathan loves real people, and loves working with his friends, which creates a real camaraderie and ease. We were really having a wedding. I wasn't a producer, I was a wedding planner. And he invited his friends." Going local, most of the cast and crew were based in the New York area; "People actually went home at night and saw their families," boasts Armian.

Beyond the fun factor of a convivial set, Demme explains, "One of the conceits of the script was that, despite the drama, the wedding goes great. Let's face it,

the reason you can have a great wedding is because you get a bunch of people together who hit it off and have a great time at a once in a lifetime event. I couldn't imagine how that could be "acted" by extras, so I felt that the best thing to do would be to get a fantastic group of people together who meet each other the way people will do. If it takes us five days to film the wedding, we'll film it in continuity and everyone will get to know each other. At the end, when they are partying together, they really should be partying together."

Parallel gatherings

"Over the weekend," continues Demme, "there are two different kinds of gatherings going on: people gathering to have fun at the wedding, and other people engaged collectively in the epic struggle against addiction, gathering together to gain strength from that community on a parallel track. We wanted to show maximum respect for that courage and honesty."

Hathaway sees those qualities in Kym: "I love Kym's almost compulsive need for honesty," says Hathaway, "and how direct she is. Her timing may not be appropriate, but she's trying so hard to get across the chasm of tragedy that separates her from her family. She's trying every day to choose joy and sobriety. She's fighting for her place in the family, trying to acknowledge and atone in her own way. At the end, maybe her sister Rachel understands her journey, and that acceptance is crucial."

For all that it revels in love and friendship—and a great party—*Rachel Getting Married* is ultimately focused on that emotional honesty, right to the depths of Kym's eyes as she hears the sad violin music wafting upstairs.

Rachel Getting Married

About the Cast

Anne Hathaway (Kym)

Anne Hathaway shot to stardom playing opposite Meryl Streep in the sleeper hit *The Devil Wears Prada* in 2006. 2008 was a busy year: in addition to her appearance in the challenging role of Kym in *Rachel Getting Married*, Hathaway was most recently seen in the action-comedy *Get Smart*, starring alongside Steve Carell. She will soon be seen in the drama *Passengers* for Sony Pictures with co-star Patrick Wilson, directed by Rodrigo Garcia; and the romantic comedy *Bride Wars* with Kate Hudson, directed by Gary Winick. In 2007, Hathaway played the title role in the Jane Austen biopic *Becoming Jane*, starring opposite Maggie Smith and James McAvoy.

Hathaway also was recently seen in Ang Lee's drama, *Brokeback Mountain*, opposite Jake Gyllenhaal, Heath Ledger, and Michelle Williams. Hathaway and the rest of the cast were nominated for Best Ensemble Cast at the 2005 ifp/Gotham Awards, as well as a 2006 SAG Nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture. In addition, the film, its director, and cast garnered numerous additional accolades, including seven Golden Globe nominations, and eight Academy Award nominations, including a win for Ang Lee for "Best Director" —the most received by any film that year.

Hathaway lent her voice to the highly successful animated feature *Hoodwinked*, for The Weinstein Company. Castmates include Glenn Close, Andy Dick, Anthony Anderson, and Jim Belushi.

In January 2005, Hathaway traveled to Cambodia on behalf of the documentary *A Moment in the World*, organized by Angelina Jolie. The project placed roughly 25 participants in various locations on a specific day, each instructed to videotape their surroundings at the same specific "moment in time." The film premiered at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival. Hathaway has been dedicating her time and efforts to community service work on this side of the globe. She has been involved with the Step Up Women's Network, a foundation created to strengthen community resources for women and girls. She served as host for Step Up's inaugural Inspirational Awards this past April and was honored by the foundation this past June. She is also on the advisory board for Lollipop Theater Network; an organization that screens movies in hospitals for pediatric patients suffering from chronic or life-threatening illness. Hathaway has been involved with Lollipop on a number of levels, and originally became involved

while participating in a screening event for young patients at Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA.

In recent years, Hathaway was seen starring in Garry Marshall's anticipated sequel, *The Princess Diaries 2: The Royal Engagement*. Starring opposite Julie Andrews, Hathaway reprised her role as Princess Mia Thermopolis. She received a 2002 Teen Choice Award nomination for *Best Actress in a Comedy* for the original *The Princess Diaries*. Of Hathaway, Marshall says, "The multi-talented Hathaway is a combination of Julia Roberts, Audrey Hepburn and Judy Garland."

Other credits include the independent drama, *Havoc*, directed by Barbara Kopple; the title role in Miramax's *Ella Enchanted*, based on Gail Carson Levine's celebrated novel and directed by Tommy O'Haver; "*Nicholas Nickleby*," based on the novel by Charles Dickens; and *The Other Side of Heaven* directed by Mitch Davis.

Hathaway gained Hollywood's attention for her acclaimed turn in the series *Get Real*, for which she was nominated for a 2000 Teen Choice Award for *Best Actress in a Drama*. She studied acting at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey and at the award winning Barrow Group in New York City, which honored her achievements in April 2005. She was the first and only teen ever admitted to their intensive acting program. She also studied in the musical theater program with the Collaborative Arts Project, CAP 21, affiliated with New York University. In high school, Hathaway was nominated for the *Rising Star Award*, sponsored by the Paper Mill Playhouse, for the best high school performance by an actress in the state of New Jersey.

Hathaway's theater credits include: The Lincoln Center Encore series presentation of "Carnival," for which she won the prestigious 57th Annual Clarence Derwent Award; Andrew Lloyd Webber's workshop of "Woman in White;" and "Forever Your Child." In 2004-2005, she also participated in the Encores Concert Gala as well as the Stephen Sondheim Birthday Gala. Hathaway is also an accomplished dancer who studied at the Broadway Dance Center in New York City.

Rosemarie DeWitt (Rachel)

A versatile talent in both drama and comedy, Rosemarie DeWitt is gaining attention in film and theater after winning plaudits for her television roles in such series as *Mad Men*, *Standoff*, *Queens Supreme*, *Sex and the City*, and *Law and Order*. Born in Queens, NY and raised in New Jersey, DeWitt attended Hastra University and studied at the Actors Center in New York. In addition to playing the title role in *Rachel Getting Married*, DeWitt stars in three films forthcoming in 2009: *Margaret*, *How I Got Lost*, and *Tenure*. DeWitt is the granddaughter of Jim

Braddock, the boxer whose film story *Cinderella Man* features Rosemarie as a neighbor of the Braddock family.

Debra Winger (Abby)

Since her stunning breakthrough in *Urban Cowboy*, Debra Winger has long been acknowledged as one of the screen's finest actresses. Her roles in *Shadowlands*, *An Officer and a Gentleman* and *Terms of Endearment* all garnered Winger Academy Award nominations, as well as praise from critics and others.

She made her feature film debut in *Thank God It's Friday*, followed shortly by *French Postcards*. But it was her co-starring role with John Travolta in *Urban Cowboy* that brought her to the world's attention.

Winger went on to co-star with Nick Nolte in *Cannery Row*, and, working again with her long time friend and mentor James Bridges, in *Mike's Murder* before winning an Oscar nomination for her performance opposite Richard Gere in *An Officer and a Gentleman*. Her second nomination came for her role in *Terms of Endearment*.

Ms. Winger's films of the 90's include Bernardo Bertolucci's *Sheltering Sky*; Paramount pictures *Leap of Faith* with Steve Martin; Castle Rock's *Forget Paris* with Billy Crystal; and *Wilder Napalm* with Arliss Howard and Dennis Quaid.

Winger received a Golden Globe nomination for her role in *A Dangerous Woman*, and her third Oscar nomination for her performance in *Shadowlands* with Anthony Hopkins.

After a six year hiatus (1995-2001) spent appearing on stage at the American Repertory Theater, touring with Michael Tilson-Thomas and the New World Symphony, and a fellowship at Harvard University, she produced and co-starred in *Big Bad Love* which was written and directed by Arliss Howard.

She was the subject of the 2003 documentary film *Searching for Debra Winger* which she followed with movie roles in *Radio* (2003), *Eulogy* (2004), *Dawn Anna* (2005) and *Sometimes in April* for HBO films.

She continues to work as the U.S. Ambassador for Sight Savers International, an organization which works to prevent, cure, and provide aide for the visually impaired worldwide.

Bill Irwin (Paul)

Bill Irwin starred on Broadway and London's West End in the revival of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" for which he won the 2005 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Play. Most recently, his 2007 theater piece "The Happiness Lecture" was commissioned by and staged for the Philadelphia Theater Company. He is an original member of Kraken, and of San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus. Original works include the Broadway productions "Fool Moon" (with David Shiner), "Largely New York" (5 Tony Award nominations, Drama Desk & Outer Critics Circle Awards) and "The Regard of Flight" (many of these first developed at Dance Theatre Workshop).

Irwin has starred in many other Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional productions, including: "The Goat or Who is Sylvia" opposite Sally Field; "Accidental Death of An Anarchist"; "5-6-7-8 Dance!"; "Waiting For Godot"; "Scapin"; "The Tempest"; "Garden of Earthly Delights"; "Texts for Nothing"; "A Flea In Her Ear" (directed for Roundabout Theatre) and many others.

Previous to *Rachel Getting Married*, Irwin appeared with KRS-1 in Demme's 1997 *SUBWAYStories: Tales from the Underground* which aired on HBO.

Irwin has also appeared in many film and television productions, including the PBS Great Performances telecasts "Bill Irwin Clown Prince" and "The Regard of Flight"; "The Laramie Project"; and numerous series. In his film work, prior to *Rachel Getting Married*, Irwin appeared in such films as: *Popeye*, *Eight Men Out*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Igby Goes Down*, *Lady in the Water*, *Dark Matter*, *Raving*, *Across The Universe* and others.

Irwin has won many awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Choreographer's Fellowship, and Guggenheim, Fulbright and MacArthur Fellowships.

Anna Deavere Smith (Carol)

Anna Deavere Smith is an actress, playwright, and author. When granted the prestigious MacArthur Award, her work was described as "a blend of theatrical art, social commentary, journalism, and intimate reverie."

She has performed in film and television as well as on stage. She is probably most recognizable in popular culture as Nancy McNally, the National Security Advisor on NBC's former hit, *The West Wing*.

However, it is Ms. Smith's work in the theater that has been her intellectual focus. Looking at controversial events from multiple points of view, Ms. Smith's theater combines the journalistic technique of interviewing her subjects with the art of interpreting their words through her performance.

She has created several plays using her journalistic technique that are part of an ongoing series called *On the Road: A Search for American Character*. Among these are "Twilight: Los Angeles" about the Rodney King riots, which received two Tony nominations, an Obie, a Drama Desk Award, a Special Citation from the New York Drama Critics, and numerous other honors; and "Fires in the Mirror" which examined a race riot that occurred in Crown Heights, Brooklyn when age-old racial tensions between Black and Jewish neighbors exploded. It received an Obie Award, numerous other awards and was a runner up for the Pulitzer Prize. Other works in the series include *House Arrest*, which deals with the American presidency, and *Hymn*, a collaboration with world famous choreographer and dancer, Judith Jamison, for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She performed the play around the US, in London and Australia, and in a film version for PBS.

Rachel Getting Married is not the first time Ms. Smith and Demme have worked together. Smith played a feature role in *Philadelphia* and was a political pundit in *The Manchurian Candidate*. She has been featured in several films, among them: *The American President*; *The Human Stain*; *Dave*; and *Rent*. She was a regular on the CBS series *Presidio Med*, and had a recurring role on *The Practice*. She co-starred in HBO's 2007 film *Life Support*, which starred Queen Latifah.

As a writer, director, professor, and activist, Anna Deavere Smith has been involved with numerous arts organizations and universities. Her articles and writings have appeared in many national publications, and her plays have been published in book form. Her latest book is *Letters to a Young Artist* (Vintage Random House).

Tunde Adebimpe (Sidney)

A founding member and lead singer of the Brooklyn-based band TV on the Radio, Tunde Adebimpe is also an actor, director, and animator. TV On The Radio has released four albums since 2001; their most recent album, *Return to Cookie Mountain* (Interscope Records and 4AD, 2006) was named the "Album of the Year" by numerous publications including *SPIN* for 2006. TV On The Radio's most recent album, *Dear Science*, is slated to be released in Fall 2008.

As an actor, Tunde was the lead in *Jump Tomorrow* (IFC/Film Four 2001) and *The First Three Lives of Stuart Hornsley* (Big Son Films, 2004). He is also an accomplished animator; he directed the Yeah Yeah Yeah's animated music video for "Pin" (2003), and worked as an animator for MTV's popular show *Celebrity Death Match*.

Tunde Adebimpe was born in St. Louis, MO, and grew up in Nigeria and in the Pittsburgh, PA area. He is a graduate in film production of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where he specialized in animation.

Mather Zickel (Kieran)

A New York native, Mather Zickel burst onto the scene with his uncanny, memorable portrayal of Bill Murray in the ABC MOW *The Gilda Radner Story*. With many NYC stage credits to his name, Mather went on to play a recurring role on the Comedy Central series *Reno 911*, before landing the lead role of "Darryl Freehorn" in the USA series *Underfunded*. In 2006, Mather had leading roles in the comedic feature films *The Ten*, directed by David Wain (starring opposite Winona Ryder & Paul Rudd), and *Balls of Fury*, directed by Robert Ben Garant (starring Christopher Walken & Dan Fogler). As well, Mather was honored to be invited to the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, in support of *Lighten Up*, in which he starred, directed by John Veiner. In 2007, Mather could be seen on television as legendary Yankee's outfielder Lou "Sweet Lou" Piniella, in the landmark ESPN miniseries *The Bronx is Burning*, working alongside John Turturro and Oliver Platt. Mather also has appeared onstage in many New York and regional theater productions, and trained at The Public Theater's Shakespeare Lab and at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Mather recently was announced to co-star opposite Paul Rudd, Jason Segel and Jamie Pressley in the Dreamworks feature comedy *I Love You, Man*, directed by John Hamberg.

Anisa George (Emma)

Anisa George is an actress and filmmaker who was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in 1982. She graduated from Columbia University in 2005 with a degree in Middle Eastern Cultures, speaks Persian and Arabic, and was granted a Senior Tow Fellowship to research sacred theater in Iran. She herself is a theater artist, and has toured throughout America, Canada, and England with original theater pieces such as *The Kingfishers Wing*, *The Marriage of Munirih Khanum*, and *Foreigner*, many of which she has authored and performed. She is also the director of *Don Quixote of Bethlehem*, a feature length documentary on theater and community, and several short films. Currently she's working on another feature length documentary in her home town of Bethlehem about the conversion of one of America's largest steel factory's into a casino-entertainment tourist destination. She has taught dance in Kuwait and sung on national television in Kosovo, as well as collaborated with Iranian filmmaker Amir Naderi and Amber, a film and photographic collective in England. Emma, is her first part in a major motion picture

Jerome LePage (Andrew)

A New York character actor with numerous film and television credits, Jerome LePage has been seen opposite Robert De Niro in *Analyze That*; in *The Florentine* with the late Chris Penn; in *No Way Home* with Tim Roth; as the husband to

Frances Mc Dormand in *Palookaville*; and as a New York Yankee ballplayer in *The Scout*. Jerome is proud to have been part of the ensemble of actors from the Emmy winning 1996-97 season of *Law & Order*.

Before being cast in *Rachel Getting Married*, Jerome worked with Jonathan Demme once previously as part of the crew on the Neil Young concert feature film *Heart of Gold*. He was a production associate on that unique project.

Victoria Haynes (Victoria – Bridesmaid)

Victoria Haynes is a recent graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she studied at Stella Adler Studio of Acting. Victoria made her feature film debut in Jonathan Demme's *The Manchurian Candidate*.

She can currently be seen as the title character in *Valerie* and in Episode 2 of the new web series *Theater Is Dead*. Both are viewable on www.reduxproductions.com. Haynes' favorite NY theatre credits include: "Reckless"; "I Was Tom Cruise" (Fringe Festival 2007 Winner of Outstanding Play Award); "Jesus Hopped the A Train"; and *Mnemonic*. This summer she will be returning to Cortland Repertory Theatre to perform the lead role in "A Few Good Men". She lives in Brooklyn.

Beau Sia (Norman Sklear – wedding czar)

Beau Sia is a Chinese American poet from Oklahoma City. Sia was featured in the award-winning film *Slam* and in the documentary *Slam Nation*. He wrote the poetry book "A Night Without Armor II: The Revenge" and has two spoken word CD's: *Attack! Attack! Go!* and *Dope and Wack*. In 2001 Sia received the California Arts Council Writer-in-Residence grant for Youth Speaks, and was the lead artist for the Creative Work Fund. Sia has appeared in every season of HBO's "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry," and is one of the original cast members and co-writers of Def Poetry Jam on Broadway, for which he was a 2003 Special Event Tony Award Winner. Sia is currently working on a new theater piece for the opening of the Museum of the Chinese in America in New York City. Prior to *Rachel Getting Married*, Sia was seen in Demme's *The Manchurian Candidate* and, coincidentally, in a TV on the Radio music video.

Rachel Getting Married

Friends, Musicians, and the Community Spirit

With its multitude of wedding guests, musicians, 12-step speakers, and partygoers, *Rachel Getting Married* gave producer/director Jonathan Demme the chance to bring a wide-ranging community of his own friends and colleagues in front of the camera.

Many of these participants share some connection to Demme's long career as a feature and documentary filmmaker, and many are friends from the music world or other parts of Demme's life. Virtually every person appearing onscreen (other than the principal actors) is part of this loosely woven fellowship, in keeping with the film's celebration of family and friends.

The New Orleans Connection

Demme and Producer Neda Armian have met a number of New Orleans residents while making their ongoing 2007 project *Right to Return: New Home Movies from the Lower 9th Ward* about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The Harrison family has become the centerpiece for a new work-in-progress documentary, *The Harrisons of New Orleans*, drawn from seasonal shoots over the past three years since the flood.

Donald Harrison Jr. and Zafer Tawil composed the score for *Rachel Getting Married*. Donald plays the "Rachel Loves Sidney" saxophone solo that introduces the love theme from the film. He makes a poignant speech at the rehearsal dinner. He is an internationally-acclaimed jazz musician, known as the originator of the Nouveau Swing style, which merges acoustic swing with modern R&B, second-line, hip-hop, New Orleans African American roots culture, and reggae rhythms.

Herreast Harrison, Sidney's grandmother, is Donald Harrison Jr.'s mother. She and her family have deep roots in the Ninth Ward, and have long been involved in work to document, preserve, and foster Mardi Gras Indian culture, along with other aspects of local African-American culture. An acclaimed artist and fifth-generation quilter, Mrs. Harrison has traveled around the world sharing New Orleans cultural traditions. The Harrison family is featured as one of the 'chapters' in Demme's documentary, *Right to Return: New Home Movies from the Lower 9th Ward*.

Christian Scott, jazz trumpeter at the *Rachel* wedding, is the 25-year old Grammy nominated nephew of Donald Harrison, Jr. and grandson of Herreast Harrison.

Now based in New York, Scott signed with celebrated jazz label Concord Music Group at the age of 22. Scott's second album, *Anthem*, was inspired by Hurricane Katrina's effect on the city of New Orleans.

Brian Nelson is another of Herreast's grandson, appearing as part of Sidney's extended family. He is an L.A.-based student filmmaker.

Kyrah Julian plays Sidney's sister Kyrah. Kyrah's mother is Carolyn Parker, the subject of another portrait in progress, *The Carolyn Parker Story*, drawn from hundreds of hours of footage obtained over three years of visits to the cramped FEMA trailer where Kyrah and her mom have lived since the floods. She attends Tulane University, where she is a double-major in Psychology and Early Childhood Education. She plans to become a teacher.

Pastor Mel Jones offers inspiring words at the 12-step meeting. A New Orleans resident, Pastor Mel Jones is the founder of Bethel Colony Baptist Church and is the leader of the Bethel Colony South drug and alcohol rehabilitation program in the Gentilly community of New Orleans. A recovering addict himself, Pastor Mel is intimately familiar with the challenges faced by those caught up in addictions. He was a great anchor for the 12-step scene. He is the focus of a third documentary portrait in progress, *Pastor Mel*.

Musicians

Jonathan Demme met an ensemble of musicians from middle east background while searching for a group to play on the soundtrack for *Jimmy Carter Man From Plains*. The collaboration was so successful that Demme invited this group of musicians to help musically narrate *Rachel Getting Married* and to play friends of the Buchman family.

Zafer Tawil and Donald Harrison Jr. composed the score for *Rachel Getting Married*. Zafer Tawil plays his original themes on the violin and oud throughout the film. An accomplished Palestinian musician, Tawil is a virtuoso on the oud, violin, qanun, and is a master of Arabic percussion. He has performed with numerous musicians ranging from pop star Sting to Arab music virtuosos such as Simone Shaheen, Chab Mami, Bassam Saba, and George Ziadeh; as well as avant-garde composer/performer Elliot Sharpe, among many others. Tawil has composed music for a number of films, and has held workshops on Arabic Music at many US universities.

Johnny Farraj is an Arabic musician living and working in New York City. He has mastered the oud, the riq, the frame drum and other percussion instruments, as well as classical Arabic singing. Johnny created the maqamworld.com web site

to teach classical Arabic music (maqam) theory, and has taken part in many lectures and demonstrations on that subject.

Amir Elsaftar, whose father is Iraqi and mother is American, is a virtuoso trumpet and santoor player. He is equally versed in Jazz and traditional Arab music.

Gaida Hinnawi is a vocalist and composer working at the intersection of the New York Arab and improvised music scenes. Her compositions draw at once on classical Arabic song, Syrian folk traditions, and free improvisations that expand on traditional Arabic maqams (modes) to produce an original and highly personal style marked by great emotional intensity. An acclaimed singer from an early age, Hinnawi was raised in Damascus and later lived in Kuwait, Paris, and Detroit, where she received classical voice training at Wayne State University. Now settled in New York, she leads two ensembles: ILHAM and Gaida's Ensemble.

Tareq Abboushi has been playing the buzuk for ten years, starting at the National Conservatory of Music in Ramallah, Palestine, and continuing in New York City. A graduate with honors from William Paterson University with a B.M. in Jazz Piano Performance, Abboushi has performed with notable musicians and given numerous lecture demonstrations around New York and in Boston, Washington DC, Maine, Colorado, Toronto, and Chicago.

Dimitrios Mikelis is a vocalist, ud and piano performer, born in Athens, Greece. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the Berklee College of Music in jazz studies (2003), a Masters degree in Jazz Performance from the William Paterson University, NJ (2006), and a Diploma in the studies of traditional harmony & counterpoint, Central Conservatory of Athens, Greece (1999). From an early age Dimitri had a special interest in Byzantine music, traditional Greek and Middle Eastern, Classical and Jazz music. Mikelis has toured Europe and the US, and plays around New York, as a member of various ensembles playing different styles of music.

More Musicians

Robyn Hitchcock sings and plays at the post-wedding party. An English singer-songwriter and guitarist, Hitchcock collaborated with Demme in 1998 for the live concert film *Storefront Hitchcock* and later appeared as a double agent in Demme's 2004 remake of *The Manchurian Candidate*. In recent years, he has expanded into film composing and has been featured in many film soundtracks.

Sister Carol East is one of Jamaica's top entertainers. In *Rachel Getting Married*, she plays a family friend who sings her original composition "Dread Natty Congo" at the reception. From her upbringing in outright poverty in Denham

Town Ghetto, Sister Carol emerged as a star of the dancehall. Her work in the U.S. won her a featured role in Demme's *Something Wild*, followed by a starring part in *Married to the Mob*.

Brooklyn Demme plays the electric-guitar Wedding March. He is a recent graduate of high school and will attend Oberlin College in the fall. He is the son of Jonathan Demme. In *Rachel Getting Married*, he plays with his good friend and fellow band member, rock drummer **Barry Eastmond Jr.** (son of recording artist, Barry Eastmond, Sr.).

Stephany Boa is the guitarist who wears silver makeup on her face. Demme spotted her playing in Central Park and asked the producers to track her down for the wedding party jam session.

Anita Sarko is the blonde DJ who spins at the reception dance party. She joined the *Rachel Getting Married* cast at the suggestion of screenwriter Jenny Lumet. Lumet knew Sarko from her days as a fixture on the New York nightclub scene, when she worked as a DJ at such legendary venues as The Mudd Club and the Palladium. Sarko has DJ'd parties and fashion shows for leading designers including Marc Jacobs and Betsy Johnson.

Other Friends and Colleagues

Roger Corman is seen as a camera-wielding wedding guest. The fabled film producer/director's American International Pictures launched many illustrious acting and directing careers, including Jack Nicholson, John Sayles, Peter Bogdanovich, Francis Ford Coppola, and of course Jonathan Demme, who directed his first feature film, *Caged Heat*, for Corman in 1974.

Filmmaker and journalist **Anisa George** plays Emma and is a Demme family friend. She is an artist, a film and theater director, and a performer. She is currently working on a documentary film in Bethlehem PA, her hometown. Her aunt, **Joyce George**, plays the wedding photographer and is also a Demme family friend. (see *About the Cast*, page 25)

Fab Five Freddy appears as his fabulous self, a very special guest at the rehearsal dinner and wedding. A pioneer/historian of hip-hop culture and former graffiti artist, Fred Brathwaite helped introduce a wider audience to rap, graffiti, and the '70s and '80s hip-hop scene. Freddy became the first hip-hop VJ as host of the MTV music video show entitled "Yo! MTV Raps" which was created and produced by Ted Demme, Jonathan's nephew. Fab Five Freddy is the Associate Producer of Demme's new film portrait of Bob Marley.

Rev. Robert W. Castle officiates at Rachel and Sidney's marriage ceremony. He is an Episcopalian minister, and the subject of Demme's 1992 documentary, *Cousin Bobby*, about his progressive ministry in Harlem. He is Jonathan Demme's cousin, and has appeared in many films by Demme, including his portrayal of Tom Hanks's father in *Philadelphia*. He has also appeared in Demme's *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Beloved*, and *The Truth About Charlie*; and in Campbell Scott and Stanley Tucci's *Big Night*; Barry Levinson's *Sleepers*; Abel Ferrara's *The Funeral*; and James Mangold's *Cop Land*, and others.

Paul Lazar, who orchestrates the "Rachel/Sidney" wedding chant, has frequently been seen in featured roles in Demme's films, including *Married to the Mob*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Philadelphia*, and *Beloved*. He is co-founder with Annie-B Parson of New York City's acclaimed **Big Dance Theater** troupe.

Big Dance Theater contributed choreography and great dancing to the reception party sequence. In addition to troupe founders Paul Lazar and Annie-B Parson, *Rachel Getting Married* participants include fellow founder **Molly Hickok**, and troupe members **Tymerly Canale**, **Heather Christian**, **Jenny Lui**, **David Neumann** and **Edisa Weeks**. Molly Hickok, is also seen in the 12-step meeting. The OBIE and BESSIE award-winning Big Dance Theater has created 15 dance/theater pieces and been presented in both dance and theater venues in New York City, nationally, and abroad,

Jim Roche Sr. offers an idiosyncratic toast at the rehearsal dinner as Paul Buchman's old friend. He is a long time Demme friend who has appeared in a number of Demme's films, starting with *Something Wild*, when the two met in Tallahassee in 1986 while filming there. Roche Sr. has been a professor of fine arts at Florida State University for over 30 years, and was a performance art pioneer in New York in the 1970s. Roche's mediums include site-specific work, installation projects, calligraphic concepts, and sculpture. His work has been exhibited internationally at venues including the Whitney Museum of Art, the Walker Art Center, and the Venice Biennale.

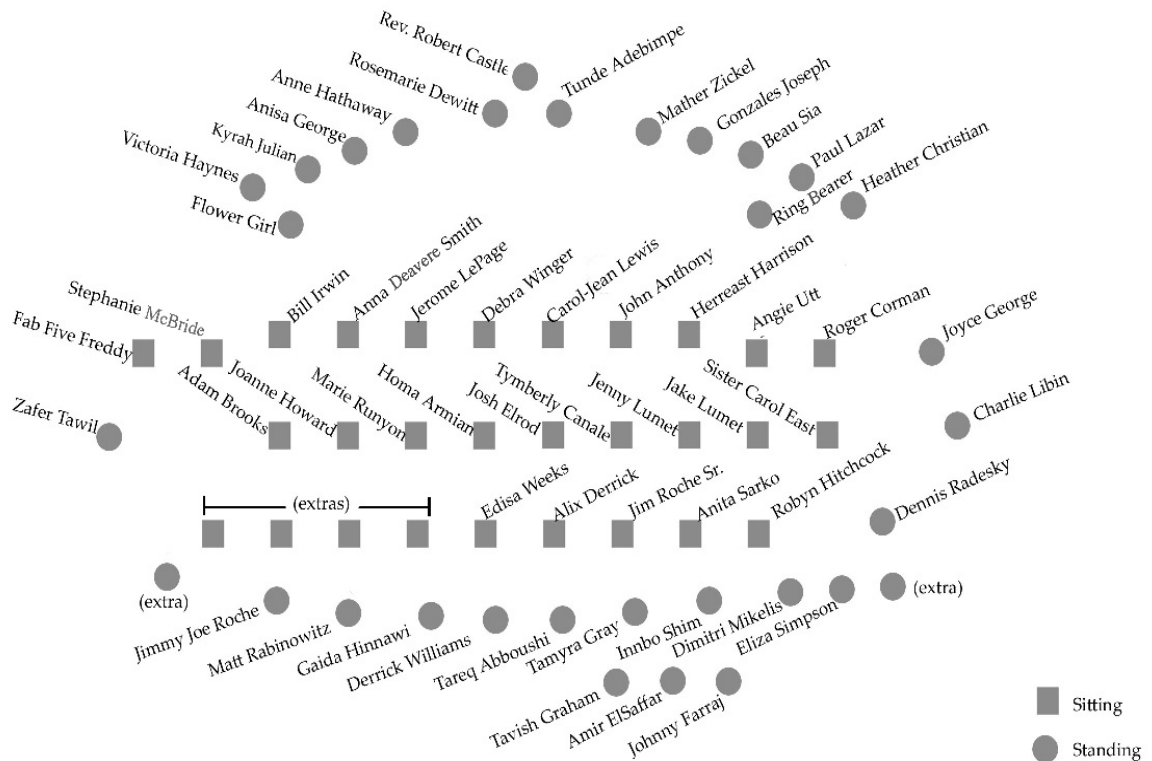
Gonzales Joseph plays Sidney's Cousin Joe, the Iraq war soldier home on leave. He is indeed a Specialist in active duty, currently stationed in Fort Lee, VA. He served in Iraq from November '04 to September '05. A Haitian national who closely follows the culture and politics of his birth country, Joseph saw Demme's documentary *The Agronomist* and reached out to Demme through a contact in a magazine article. The two became email correspondents and friends. Joseph plans to make documentary films about Haitian culture after his military service ends.

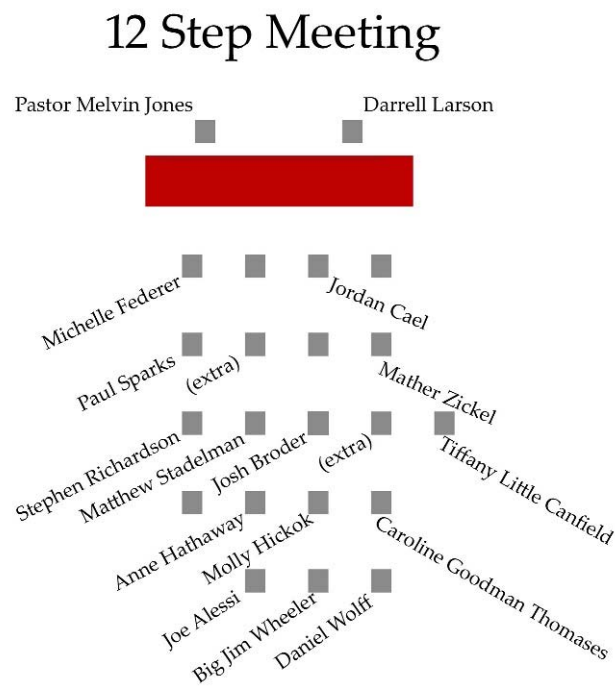
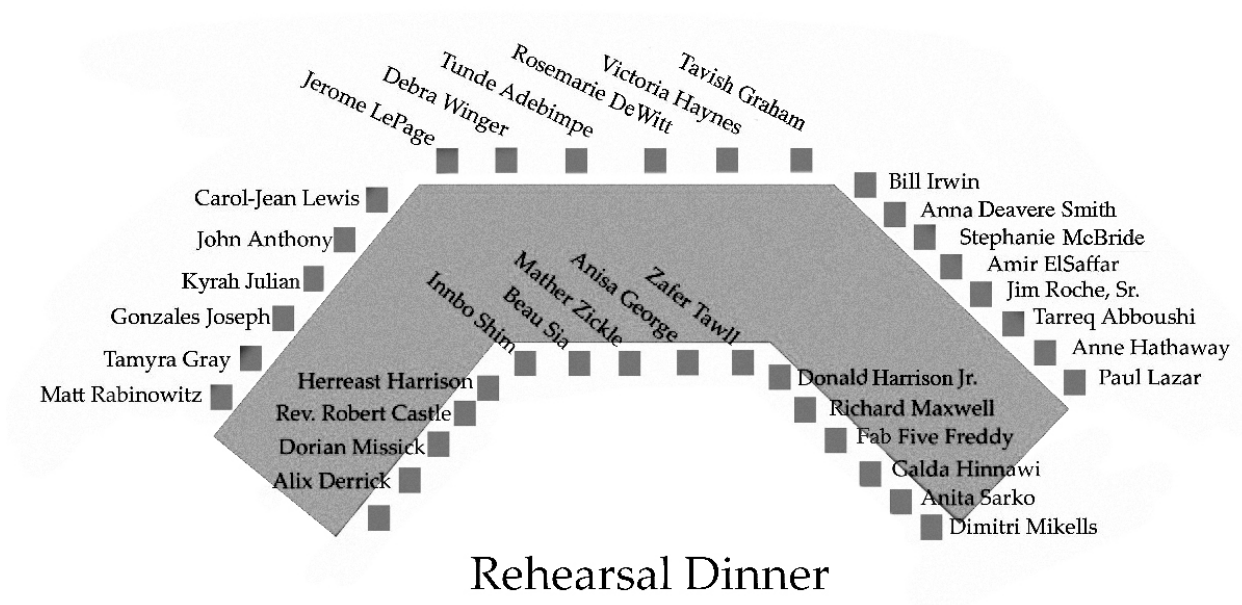
Olive, the Buchman family poodle, is remembered with love and thanks.

Rachel Getting Married

Seating Charts

Wedding Ceremony Rachel Getting Married





Rachel Getting Married

About the Filmmakers

Jonathan Demme (Producer/Director)

Before and since the production of *Rachel Getting Married*, 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*, *Beloved*, *The Agronomist*, *The Silence of the Lambs* (for which he won an Academy Award and the New York Film Critics Best Director), *Philadelphia*, *Married to the Mob*, *Something Wild*, *Swimming to Cambodia* and *Melvin and Howard*, 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.

Jonathan Demme Filmography as Director

2008	<i>Rachel Getting Married</i> Feature
2007	<i>Jimmy Carter Man from Plains</i> Documentary
2007	<i>Right to Return: New Home Movies from the Lower 9th Ward</i> , Documentary
2006	<i>Neil Young: Heart of Gold</i> Documentary
2004	<i>The Manchurian Candidate</i> Feature
2002	<i>The Agronomist</i> Documentary
2002	<i>The Truth About Charlie</i> Feature
1998	<i>Beloved</i> Feature
1998	<i>Storefront Hitchcock</i> Documentary
1997	<i>Subway Stories: Subway Car to Hell</i> Anthology
1994	<i>Neil Young & Crazy Horse: The Complex Sessions</i> Documentary
1993	<i>Philadelphia</i> Feature Winner, Academy Award, Best Actor (Tom Hanks)
1992	<i>Cousin Bobby</i> , Documentary
1991	<i>The Silence of the Lambs</i> Feature Winner, Academy Award, Best Picture Winner, Academy Award, Best Director (Jonathan Demme) Winner, Academy Award, Best Actor (Anthony Hopkins) Winner, Academy Award, Best Actress (Jodie Foster) Winner, Academy Award, Best Adapted Screenplay (Ted Tally) Winner, Directors Guild of America, Best Director (Jonathan Demme)

	Winner, National Board of Review, Best Director (Jonathan Demme) Winner, National Board of Review, Best Picture Winner, New York Film Critics Circle, Best Director (Jonathan Demme) Winner, New York Film Critics Circle, Best Picture Winner, Berlin Film Festival, Best Director (Jonathan Demme)
1988	<i>Haiti, Dreams of Democracy</i> Documentary
1988	<i>Married to the Mob</i> Feature
1987	<i>Swimming to Cambodia</i> Performance Documentary
1986	<i>Something Wild</i> Feature
1986	<i>Accumulation with Talking Plus Water Motor</i> Performance (documentary of choreographer Tricia Brown's acclaimed dance piece)
1984	<i>Swing Shift</i> Feature
1984	<i>Stop Making Sense</i> Performance Documentary Winner, National Society of Film Critics Awards, Best Documentary
1982	<i>Kurt Vonnegut Jr's "Who Am I This Time?"</i> , Feature
1980	<i>Melvin and Howard</i> , Feature Winner, New York Film Critics Circle Awards, Best Director (Jonathan Demme) Winner, National Society of Film Critics, Best Picture Winner, Academy Award, Best Supporting Actress (Mary Steenburgen) Winner, Academy Award, Best Original Screenplay (Bo Goldman)
1979	<i>Last Embrace</i> Feature
1977	<i>Citizens Band</i> Feature
1976	<i>Fighting Mad</i> Feature
1975	<i>Crazy Mama</i> Feature
1974	<i>Caged Heat</i> Feature

Jenny Lumet (Original Screenplay)

Jenny Lumet is the author of *Rachel Getting Married* and several other screenplays. She is a 7th and 8th grade school teacher and "drama lady" at Manhattan Country School, a progressive, Independent School which promotes diversity and social responsibility. She has two children, a dog, a fish, 38 pairs of shoes, a husband she's known since the 6th grade, and a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. She lives and works in New York City.

Neda Armian (Producer)

Neda Armian is a New York-based film producer with a varied roster of projects. Prior to producing *Rachel Getting Married*, she most recently produced, for Participant Productions, Jonathan Demme's *Jimmy Carter Man From Plains*, and serves as executive producer on Demme's documentary project *Right to Return: New Home Movies from the Lower Ninth Ward*. She is also currently working as executive producer on the forthcoming documentary *Give Up Tomorrow*, directed by Michael Collins and Marty Syjuco, which tells the story of Paco Larranaga, a young Mestizo accused of killing two Chinese-Filippino sisters, and how a family-driven grassroots campaign to save him from death row

culminated in the abolition of the death penalty in the Philippines. The film was part of the Tribeca All Access program in 2008 and recently received a grant from Sundance.

Through her production company Armian Pictures, she produced in 2006 *The Situation*, starring Connie Nielsen and Damian Lewis. Directed by Philip Haas, the film dramatized one of the countless human stories in present-day Iraq. She also produced *Time Piece*, a cross-cultural documentary project pairing Turkish and American filmmakers, including the legendary Albert Maysles, which premiered at the 2006 Full Frame Festival. Armian also produced the Emmy Award-nominated and 2005 Peabody Award-winning documentary *Beah: A Black Woman Speaks*, for HBO.

Armian has worked with Jonathan Demme since the start of her film production career on *Philadelphia* in 1993. While working at Demme's company Clinica Estetico, Armian shepherded a wide slate of projects through production while overseeing myriad development and distribution endeavors. She produced *The Truth About Charlie*, and was production associate on *Beloved*, starring Oprah Winfrey. Her full production credits total twelve feature films, including *Adaptation*, *Philadelphia*, *That Thing You Do!*, *Devil in a Blue Dress* and numerous other documentaries and music videos.

In addition to multiple original projects, Armian is also developing an adaptation of Elizabeth McCracken's critically acclaimed *The Giant's House*.

Neda Armian Filmography as Producer

2007	Rachel Getting Married Jimmy Carter Man From Plains
2006	The Situation Time Piece
2003	Beah: A Black Woman Speaks
2002	The Truth About Charlie

Marc Platt (Producer)

Marc Platt has worked in the entertainment industry for twenty-four years, during which time he has served as president of production for three movie studios (Universal, TriStar and Orion), produced live theatre, television, practiced as an entertainment attorney, and handled business affairs at a major talent agency. He now heads Marc Platt Productions, an entertainment company for the production of feature films, television and live theatre.

Rachel Getting Married reunites Platt with Jonathan Demme, with whom he was involved as studio production executive in *Silence of the Lambs* (Orion) and *Philadelphia* (TriStar). Recently, he produced the action hit *Wanted* for Universal Pictures, Platt also produced the smash hits *Legally Blonde* and *Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde* starring Reese Witherspoon; Universal Pictures' teen crowd-pleaser *Honey*; *The Perfect Man* starring Hilary Duff; Universal Pictures' *Josie and the Pussycats*; and *The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising* for 20th Century Fox and Walden Media.

Currently in pre-production is *Nine*, a film based on the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical; Oscar winners Daniel Day-Lewis, Marion Cotillard, Nicole Kidman, Judi Dench and Sophia Loren will star along with Oscar-nominee Penelope Cruz. Platt is also in pre-production on *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World* being directed by Edgar Wright and starring Michael Cera.

Platt produced Broadway's blockbuster hit musical *Wicked*, which now has companies around the world. Platt also produced the Broadway debut of Tony Award winning playwright Richard Greenberg's play *Three Days of Rain*, starring Julia Roberts, Paul Rudd and Bradley Cooper, directed by two-time Tony Award winner Joe Mantello. Additionally, Mr. Platt produced Matthew Bourne's ballet *Edward Scissorhands*, a smash hit in London, Asia and the U.S., for which Platt won his second Drama Desk Award.

Mr. Platt won the Golden Globe Award for Best Miniseries for *Empire Falls* starring Ed Harris, Helen Hunt, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. Platt also executive produced *Once Upon A Mattress* starring Carol Burnett and Tracey Ullman (ABC), and the Emmy Award winning miniseries *The Path To 9/11* (ABC).

Born in Baltimore, Maryland in April 1957, Mr. Platt earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979. He graduated from New York University Law School in 1982, was a member of the NYU Law Review, and was awarded the American Jurisprudence Award. During this time period, Platt produced the Off-Broadway musical *Frances*, and associate-produced the Broadway production of *Total Abandon*. After briefly practicing entertainment law, Mr. Platt joined International Creative Management (ICM). Prior to joining Orion, Platt served as Vice President of Production for RKO Pictures.

Marc Platt Filmography as Producer:

2009	Nine
	Sweet Relief
	Scott Pilgrim vs. the World
	Love and Other Impossible Pursuits

2008	Jeff the Immortal Nappily Ever After Rachel Getting Married Wanted
2007	Seeker: The Dark Is Rising
2006	The Path to 9/11 (TV)
2005	Once Upon A Mattress (TV) The Perfect Man Empire Falls (TV) Happy Endings
2003	Honey Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde Mr. Ambassador (TV) Legally Blonde (TV)
2002	"MDs" (TV Series)
2001	Legally Blonde
2001	Josie and the Pussycats Closure
1987	Campus Man

Carol Cuddy (Executive Producer)

Carol Cuddy, based in New York, has worked on independent, studio, and documentary films as a line producer and unit production manager. Recently she line produced *Before The Devil Knows You're Dead*, directed by Jenny Lumet's father, Sidney. Other credits include *Shine A Light*, the Rolling Stones documentary, and *The Departed*, both directed by Martin Scorsese; *The Interpreter* directed by Sidney Pollack; and *Unfaithful* directed by Adrian Lyne. Other films include John Turturro's *Illuminata*; Jodie Foster's *Little Man Tate*; George Romero & Dairo Argento's *Two Evil Eyes*; and Lee Grant's Academy Award winning documentary *Down and Out in America*.

Ilona Herzberg (Executive Producer)

Ilona Herzberg served as producer on Jonathan Demme's films *Neil Young: Heart of Gold* and *The Manchurian Candidate*, and as executive producer of *The Truth About Charlie*.

Much of Herzberg's executive producing career has specialized in big-budget special-effects films, including the comedy epic *Evan Almighty*; the acclaimed drama *Thirteen Days*, starring Kevin Costner; the disaster epic *Dante's Peak*,

starring Pierce Brosnan; the sci-fi saga *Waterworld*; and the thriller *The River Wild*, starring Meryl Streep.

Herzberg has served as creative executive for CTV Network in Canada and as a line producer for more than 200 hours of TV concert specials and variety shows.

Declan Quinn (Director of Photography)

Declan Quinn was born in Chicago to Irish parents, and grew up both in Chicago and Ireland. He has lived and worked on both sides of the Atlantic ever since.

He attended Columbia College Film School in Chicago, worked as a news cameraman for NBC News, and returned to Ireland where he shot music videos and documentaries for bands including U2.

In 1986, Quinn photographed his first feature film, *Clash of the Ash* in Ireland with director Fergus Tighe. The first American feature Quinn photographed was *The Kill-Off*, an adaptation of a Jim Thompson novel, directed by Maggie Greenwald, which introduced him to the independent film scene in New York.

Since then, Quinn has worked with a roster of eminent directors, including Louis Malle (*Vanya on 42nd Street*), Mira Nair (*Vanity Fair*, *Monsoon Wedding* and *Kama Sutra*), Neil Jordan (*Breakfast on Pluto*), and Jim Sheridan (*Get Rich or Die Tryin'*).

Quinn returned to Ireland to complete a special family project called *This is My Father*, which he co-produced with two of his brothers, Aidan Quinn and Paul Quinn. Paul wrote and directed this tragic love story set in rural Ireland in 1939.

Since 1993, Quinn has lived in the Hudson Valley of New York with his wife and 4 daughters.

Declan Quinn Selected Filmography as Director of Photography

2008	Pride and Glory Rachel Getting Married
2007	The Return Shine A Light
2005	Get Rich or Die Tryin' Breakfast on Pluto
2004	Vanity Fair
2003	Cold Creek Manor
2002	In America

	11'09'01 – September 11
	Hysterical Blindness (TV)
2001	Monsoon Wedding
2000	28 Days
1999	Flawless
1998	One True Thing
	This Is My Father
	2by4
1997	One Night Stand
1996	Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love
	Carried Away
1995	Leaving Las Vegas
1994	Vanya on 42 nd Street
1992	Cousin Bobby

Ford Wheeler (Production Design)

Ford Wheeler was born and raised at the beach in Southern California, and graduated in Fine Arts from Brigham Young University. He moved to San Francisco in 1968, and then to New York City in 1975, where he worked as a bartender for several years before working in and then buying an African imports store. His first foray into movies was as art director on *Music of Chance* for director Philip Haas in 1993. He decided to sell the store and keep on with the movie work, and has worked as a set decorator and art director for many films, including many by his longtime friend Jonathan Demme. *Rachel Getting Married* is his first Demme film as production designer.

Ford Wheeler Filmography as Production Designer

2008	The Rebound
	Rachel Getting Married
2007	Reservation Road
	We Own the Night
2003	"Queens Supreme" (TV series)
1998	Into My Heart
1997	Sleeping Together

Tim Squyres (Film Editor)

Tim Squyres has edited nine films for director Ang Lee, including *The Wedding Banquet*, *Eat Drink Man Woman*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *The Ice Storm*, *Hulk*, and *Lust, Caution*. He was nominated for an Academy Award in 2001 for his work on *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

In 2002 Squyres edited Best Picture nominee *Gosford Park* for director Robert Altman, and in 2005 he edited *Syriana* for director Stephen Gaghan. In addition to features, he has edited a wide variety of material for television, documentaries, commercials, and music videos.

Tim Squyres Selected Filmography as Film Editor

2009	Taking Woodstock
2008	Rachel Getting Married
2007	Lust, Caution
	The Inner Life of Martin Frost
2005	Syriana
2004	Going Upriver: the Long Journey of John Kerry
2003	Hulk
2001	Gosford Park
	Chosen
2000	Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
1999	Ride With the Devil
1998	Lulu on the Bridge
	"Moyers on Addiction: Close to Home" (TV miniseries)
1997	The Ice Storm
1995	Sense and Sensibility
1994	Eat Drink Man Woman

Donald Harrison Jr. (Composer) *see section: Friends, Musicians, and Community Spirit, page 15)*

Zafer Tawil (Composer) *see section: Friends, Musicians, and Community Spirit, page 16)*

Susan Lyall (Costume Design)

Prior to her work on costumes for *Rachel Getting Married*, Susan Lyall most recently worked on the romantic comedy *Music and Lyrics* starring Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore; football drama *Invincible* starring Mark Wahlberg; and the thriller *Flightplan*, starring Jodie Foster. She had earlier collaborated with Foster on the films *Little Man Tate* and *Home for the Holidays*, which Foster directed and starred in, and Michael Apted's *Nell*, starring Foster in the title role. For Apted, Lyall also designed the costumes for *Extreme Measures*, *Blink* and *Thunderheart*.

Lyall's list of film credits also includes David Mamet's *State and Main* and *The Spanish Prisoner*; *The Mothman Prophecies*, starring Richard Gere; Edward Burns' *She's The One*; Barry Sonnenfeld's *For Love or for Money*; and Steven Soderbergh's *King of the Hill*. Lyall is currently working on *Motherhood*, a dramatic comedy starring Uma Thurman and directed by Katherine Dieckmann.

Lyall began her career as the dresser for the legendary Bette Davis.

Susan Lyall Selected Filmography as Costume Designer

2008	Rachel Getting Married
2007	Music and Lyrics
2006	Invincible
2005	Flightplan
2002	The Mothman Prophecies
2000	State and Main
1999	Music of the Heart
1997	The Spanish Prisoner
1996	Extreme Measures
	She's the One
1995	Home for the Holidays
1994	Nell
1993	For Love or Money
	King of the Hill
1991	Little Man Tate

Suzana Perić (Music Editor)

Suzana Perić has been a part of Jonathan Demme's films since the beginning of her career as music editor working on *Something Wild* in 1986. Since then, she has worked on music editing for most of Demme's films, including *Philadelphia*, *Silence Of the Lambs*, *Beloved*, *The Agronomist*, *Heart Of Gold*, and *Man From Plains*, among others.

She has also collaborated frequently with other directors including Mike Nichols (*Postcards From The Edge*, *Wolf*, *Angels In America*, *Closer*, *Charlie Wilson's War*), and Roman Polanski (*Frantic*, *The Pianist*, *Oliver Twist*); and with composers such as Rachel Portman (*The Human Stain*, *The Truth About Charlie*, *The Manchurian Candidate*) and Philip Glass (*Kundun*, *Dracula*, *The Illusionist*). Suzana is currently working on the Bob Marley documentary, directed by Jonathan Demme.

Suzana Perić Selected Filmography as Music Editor

2008	Rachel Getting Married
	Blind Date
2007	Charlie Wilson's War
	Things We Lost in the Fire

2006	Neil Young: Heart of Gold
	Infamous
	Lady in the Water
	The Illusionist
2005	Everything is Illuminated
2004	The Manchurian Candidate
	Closer
2003	"Angels in America" (TV miniseries)
	The Human Stain
2002	The Pianist
2001	The Lord of the Rings: the Fellowship of the Ring
1998	Beloved
1997	Kundun
1994	Wolf
1993	Philadelphia
1991	The Silence of the Lambs
1990	Postcards from the Edge
1988	Married to the Mob
	Frantic
1986	Something Wild

H.H. Cooper (First Assistant Director and Co-Producer)

Rachel Getting Married was H.H. Cooper's first Jonathan Demme project, but the partnership has carried over and now Cooper is producing Demme's Bob Marley documentary for Shangri La/Tough Gong Entertainment, due to be released in 2010 for Marley's 65th birthday.

Cooper's extensive experience as first assistant director includes: *Synecdoche, New York*; *P.S. I Love You*; *My Blueberry Nights*; *The Departed*; *Music and Lyrics*; *The Good Shepherd* and, for television, "The Service", "The Wire", and "The Fugitive". He has also worked as second assistant director on many Spike Lee films.

Innbo Shim (Associate Producer and Music Supervisor)

Innbo Shim first met Jonathan Demme when she was hired as a senior researcher on his documentary, *Jimmy Carter Man From Plains*. Her role as associate producer on *Rachel Getting Married* soon evolved to include duties as music supervisor and as a featured extra known mysteriously as "the wedding planner." She is currently co-producing Demme's forthcoming Bob Marley documentary. Shim's documentary credits include two national PBS series - *EXPOSE: America's Investigative Reports* and *Race – the Power of an Illusion*. Prior to working in production, Shim marketed films for theatrical distribution and worked in nonprofit media arts management.

Elizabeth Hayes (Associate Producer)

Elizabeth Hayes has had a long career in book publishing and publicity, spending five years with Ballantine (a division of Random House) and then twelve years with Simon & Schuster before moving to the Scribner imprint where she was Vice President and Director of publicity. It was during the publication of Jimmy Carter's highly controversial Palestine Peace Not Apartheid that Elizabeth Hayes was first introduced to producer Neda Armian and Jonathan Demme, who recorded Carter's book tour in their documentary *Jimmy Carter Man From Plains*. After working together on *Man From Plains*, Demme offered Hayes the opportunity to try her skills in the film industry as associate producer on *Rachel Getting Married*. Hayes also plays the role of Paul Buchman's friend and publicist, Susanna Galeano. Hayes is also working as co-producer on Demme's current Neil Young project, *Neil Young Trunk Show*.

Emily Woodburne (Associate Producer)

Emily Woodburne joined Clinica Estetico to oversee the release and domestic and international distribution of *Jimmy Carter Man From Plains* and produced the film's DVD. She then moved to *Rachel Getting Married* as an associate producer.

Prior to this production, Woodburne worked in theatrical film distribution. Most recently, she was the Director of Sales and Distribution for IFC Films, where she helped launch their innovative day-and-date release model. While there she released films from such acclaimed directors as Alain Resnais (*Private Fears in Public Places*), Ken Loach (*The Wind That Shakes the Barley*) Lars Von Trier (*The Boss of it All*) and Hou Hsiao Hsien (*Three Times*). Before her time with IFC, she was the Head of Theatrical Sales and Marketing for Zeitgeist Films, where she released such critically acclaimed films as *Since Otter Left* and *The Corporation*, as well as the 2002 Academy Award-winning Best Foreign Language Film, *Nowhere in Africa*.