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SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

*A film by Lawrence Kasdan*

# DARLING COMPANION

*Starring*

Diane Keaton  
Kevin Kline  
Dianne Wiest  
Richard Jenkins  
Elisabeth Moss  
Mark Duplass  
Ayelet Zurer  
Sam Shepard

*Opening Night*

Santa Barbara International Film Festival 2012

[www.darlingcompanionfilm.com](http://www.darlingcompanionfilm.com)

103 min | PG-13 | Release Date (NY/LA): 04/20/2012

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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*Darling Companion* is a comedy about many varieties of companionship. At the center of the movie is a marriage that has gone on for a long time and become frayed. Surrounding that union are young people falling in love, a brand-new marriage and the surprise of mid-life romance.

The film is also about the connection that sometimes happens between a human being and a pet – the love, friendship and solace that can pass between species.

Anyone who's ever had a dog knows they live in the moment. That fact of their behavior can have a revivifying effect on the people around them. While humans worry about the future and mull over the past, dogs bring us back to the present with the uncomplicated joy they take in the here and now – getting outside with us for a walk, having their meal, being stroked.

The movie probably began the day my wife Meg and I rescued a mutt named Mac from a cacophonous dog shelter in Los Angeles. After taking that dog into our lives and affections, he was lost during an outing in the Rockies. We spent three weeks searching, calling his name up and down mountain trails, enlisting our friends and family. The whole town was on the lookout. Just at the moment we had given up hope, a stranger who had seen our flyers found Mac playing with her dogs by the river. Mac was dirty and thin, but uninjured. Friends and searchers around town and across the country celebrated his recovery.

The characters in *Darling Companion* are fictional, but the sense of how our affection for these animals can bring people together is very true to this production. This is my eleventh film, but my first independent production. The incredible cast and crew who agreed to work with us – for scale – signed on because they responded strongly to the story.

The production brought together old friends we've worked with for many years, like Kevin Kline, our longtime editor, Carol Littleton, our composer, James Newton Howard, and costume designer Molly Maginnis. We were able to attract people whose work we've admired forever, like Diane Keaton, Dianne Wiest, Richard Jenkins and Sam Shepard; and people just now taking off in the film business, like director of photography Michael McDonough and production designer Dina Goldman.

We converged in Utah to shoot our movie with a limited budget and a tight schedule, helped along by some very remarkable dogs and their equally remarkable trainers.

*Darling Companion* became one of the most gratifying filmmaking experiences I've ever had.

-- Lawrence Kasdan

## SYNOPSIS

On the side of a busy freeway, a woman finds the love, devotion, commitment, and courage she needs – all wrapped up in a bloodied stray dog who becomes her “darling companion.” When the beloved canine goes missing, a shaggy-dog search adventure plays out, drawing together friends and family and rekindling a lifelong love.

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BETH (Diane Keaton) and JOSEPH WINTER (Kevin Kline) are a long-married couple living comfortably in the Denver suburbs. Joseph, a successful, busy surgeon, is regarded by his wife as pompous and self-involved, while Beth, an empty-nester now that their daughters are grown, is considered high-strung and overly-emotional by her husband. While they’re sometimes testy with each other, they’re united in pride and pleasure in their family.

One wintry day, driving with daughter GRACE (Elisabeth Moss), Beth spots something on the side of the freeway and insists they pull over. Nestled in the roadside shrubbery is a dog – frightened, banged-up, but clear-eyed and responsive. With uncharacteristic boldness, the women coax and carry the injured stray to their car and take him to a vet. Not only is the dog saved, but he brings good fortune in the bargain: the handsome young vet, SAM (Jay Ali) locks eyes with Grace, and a romantic spark is kindled.

Before long the dog, aptly named Freeway, is a beloved family member. A year passes, and Grace and Sam are engaged to marry. The festive wedding is held at the family’s lodge-style country cabin in the High Rockies. Once newlyweds and guests depart, Joseph and Beth are left to relax with a few stragglers: Joseph’s sister PENNY (Dianne Wiest) and her new beau RUSSELL (Richard Jenkins); Penny’s son BRYAN (Mark Duplass), who is also a surgeon in medical practice with his uncle Joseph; and the cabin’s caretaker CARMEN (Ayelet Zurer), whose exotic beauty and accent lend her an alluring air of mystery. Beth and Joseph are unimpressed with the artlessly friendly Russell, worrying that Penny is being seduced by an opportunistic loser. Bryan, equally wary of Russell, becomes distracted by the lovely Carmen.

This cozy house party is thrown into crisis mode when Freeway, out for a woodland ramble with Joseph, bounds away after a deer. Joseph is relatively nonchalant about Freeway’s disappearance – he’s a dog, he’ll find his way home – but Beth immediately launches a full-scale, all-hands search party that keeps up far into the night. The whole town goes on alert via radio announcements and reward flyers; they even summon the local SHERIFF (Sam Shepard) on his day off. A second day goes by with no sign of Freeway.

Beth is devastated, furious at Joseph, and inconsolable with worry that Freeway has perished. But Carmen assures them that Freeway lives, confiding that she has a gift for finding things, passed down from her mother’s Roma forebears. With a real-life Gypsy psychic in their midst, the search party is re-energized, putting skepticism aside to follow Carmen’s “third eye” and its vexingly vague insights – something about a yellow house, or maybe a blue house, or maybe a red-haired woman...

As Penny pairs off with Carmen on the search, and Bryan pairs off with Russell, bonds of friendship strengthen among them. But Freeway remains lost, and Beth and Joseph get lost too; hours hiking and bickering along rugged mountain trails turn dark, stormy, and treacherous. When Joseph tumbles down a steep hillside and dislocates his shoulder, Beth rescues him, and their misadventure draws them closer. Even as they give up hope of ever seeing Freeway again, they rediscover their enduring love and commitment.

On the commuter plane taking them back to civilization, Beth glances out the window and is convinced she sees Freeway in a meadow below. She's so certain that Joseph fakes a health crisis to get the plane turned around. Back on the ground, they race to the meadow. With husband, family, and friends loyally accompanying her, Beth calls and whistles to Freeway one last time – and her canine companion runs to her for a joyful reunion.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

*Darling Companion* reunites Director Lawrence Kasdan with longtime filmmaking colleagues, showcases an ensemble of characters portrayed by some of his favorite actors, catches some acclaimed behind-the-camera talent on a career upswing, and introduces another whole category of leading player to the Kasdan opus: the charismatic non-human.

### Call out the Hounds

“We wanted a mixed breed to play Freeway,” says Meg Kasdan, Co-Writer with husband Lawrence of the *Darling Companion* script, which was based on their own experience loving, losing, searching for and finding their beloved shelter mutt Mac in the High Rockies. “We’re prejudiced, of course, but we think mutts are the best dogs. Our Freeways – really played by two dogs – are consummate professionals, and their trainers are, too.”

Kasey, a multi-colored Collie mix, and Kuma, his Aussie mix understudy, are seasoned animal actors who came to the production through “Good Dog Animals,” run by professional trainers Guin Dill and Steve Solomon.

Kasey and Kuma have life stories to rival Freeway’s: they were both spotted in shelters by trainers who recognized the right personalities, smarts, and charisma for great onscreen canines. Kasey had been abandoned in the desert, found with an old rope embedded into his neck (he still bears a scar). He was found in the Las Vegas shelter while his trainer was on a shoot there.

Kuma was adopted from the South L.A. shelter when he was a just a young puppy. The Kasdans had also adopted their cattle-dog mix, Mac, from an L.A. shelter.

### Real Life and Reel Life

The filmmakers took their inspiration not only from Mac’s three-week long lost-and-found epic [see Director’s Statement], but also from Meg’s sister’s dramatic real-life rescue of a dog on the side of a Detroit freeway. “She pulled over and scrambled up the embankment, just like Diane in

the movie. It's amazing how the instinct to protect an animal can galvanize you," says Meg Kasdan. Her sister named the dog Freeway, and the name stuck to the movie's canine character.

The involvement of an entire mountain town in the search for a dog is true, including the participation of a friend who offered psychic clues to Mac's whereabouts. "Just as Carmen says in the film, our friend confessed 'I've never told you this, but I find things.' This was someone we'd known for years, so the fact that she kept this secret made it more credible to us," says Lawrence Kasdan. "Like Carmen, her insights were vague and she was never really right or wrong, but she kept us going and gave us hope."

Lest a viewer take the autobiographical aspect too far, "For the record," says Kasdan, "The characters played by Kevin and Diane are fictional. But we did experience how intensely emotional that disappearance was. A lost dog may not seem important, but as Beth says, 'Love is love.' Our search for Mac showed us how people can rally their best selves. The hunt for the dog in the movie becomes the catalyst for some emotional reckoning among the searchers."

### **Empty Nesters**

*Darling Companion*, Lawrence Kasdan's eleventh feature film, can be seen as the third of a trilogy including *The Big Chill* and *Grand Canyon* (also co-written with Meg Kasdan). Each is a comic drama portraying ensemble casts of characters roughly Kasdan's contemporaries, following them through their 30s (in *The Big Chill*), 40s (in *Grand Canyon*), and now into their later mid-years after families are grown and gone. "Diane's character has a space in her life. She's an empty nester, and her husband is so wrapped up in work he can't understand her feelings and loses patience with her volatile emotions," says producer Anthony Bregman. "It's the fraying of a long marriage, the irritations that fill up the vacuum. That's why Freeway becomes so important to Beth and ultimately to Joseph, too. The dog leads the people back to each other."

### **Friends and Family**

Solid bonds are evident in the production, too. Kevin Kline stars in all three films, and editor Carole Littleton, A.C.E., has cut nine of Kasdan's films: "She's a wonderful collaborator and a very good friend who's totally on our wavelength" says Meg Kasdan. Composer James Newton Howard has written the scores for six of Kasdan's films. Actor Richard Jenkins (Russell) made his feature film debut in Kasdan's *Silverado*, and Elisabeth Moss (Grace) acted in Kasdan's *Mumford*.

"Plus," says Lawrence Kasdan, "we got to work with some of the amazing actors we've admired for so long, like Keaton and Wiest and Sam Shepard, so it felt like a reunion anyway."

Kasdan considers the production very fortunate in securing the participation of director of photography Michael McDonough: "When I saw Michael's work in *Winter's Bone*, which was a magnificent piece of outdoor photography, I knew he'd be perfect to capture the magnificent Rockies landscape, the stormy weather, and the great faces of these actors in *Darling Companion*." The mountain locations include Utah's American Fork and the towns of Park City and Sundance; and in Colorado, the town of Telluride.

The entire cast and crew worked on *Darling Companion*, Kasdan's first non-studio, independent feature, for scale. "Not only all these normally highly-paid actors, but wonderful production design and costume departments, hugely talented and experienced professionals," says Kasdan.

"We were lucky, but it came together because all these people responded to the story," says producer Elizabeth Redleaf. "At the end of the production, the crew presented Lawrence with a scrapbook showing pictures of themselves with their own dogs. It's heartening to find so much shared purpose and feeling in a movie production atmosphere."

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **MARK DUPLASS (Bryan)**

A talented and influential actor, writer, producer and director, Mark Duplass is one of the founders of the 'mumblecore' aesthetic. As an actor he is well known for his roles in *The Puffy Chair*, *Hannah Takes The Stairs*, *Humpday*, and *Greenberg*. In addition to his starring role in *Darling Companion*, he also recently starred in the FX comedy television series *The League*.

### **RICHARD JENKINS (Russell)**

Long regarded as one of the great supporting and character actors of film and television, Richard Jenkins captivated audiences and critics with his Academy Award® nominated performance for Best Actor in *The Visitor*. In addition to his starring role in *Darling Companion*, his notable filmography includes *Hannah and Her Sisters*, *Silverado*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *How to Make an American Quilt*, *Snow Falling On Cedars*, *North Country*, *There's Something About Mary*, *Intolerable Cruelty*, and *Burn After Reading*. Among roles for television, Jenkins is best known for playing Nathaniel Fisher in the HBO series *Six Feet Under*.

### **DIANE KEATON (Beth)**

Academy Award® winning Diane Keaton is one of the most beloved actors in American film. She can be counted on to deliver a powerful yet often humorous performance that is always personal and authentic. In addition to her latest starring role in *Darling Companion*, her feature films include: *The Godfather*, *Annie Hall*, *Baby Boom*, *Father of the Bride*, *First Wives Club*, *Reds*, and *Something's Gotta Give*. She has been nominated for four Oscars®, winning for *Annie Hall*. In addition to numerous other awards and nominations, she has received nine Golden Globe® nominations, winning twice for *Annie Hall* and *Something's Gotta Give*.

### **KEVIN KLINE (Joseph)**

Kevin Kline has had a remarkable career in film and theater spanning three decades. His dramatic and comedic skills are highly prized by top directors of independent and Hollywood

films. He has won an Academy Award® for *A Fish Called Wanda*, as well as Golden Globe® nominations for *Dave*, *In & Out*, *De-Lovely*, *Soapdish*, and *Sophie's Choice*. In ***Darling Companion*** he is reunited with director Lawrence Kasdan for whom he has starred in the films *The Big Chill*, *Grand Canyon*, and *Silverado*.

### **ELISABETH MOSS (Grace)**

Elisabeth Moss has made an enormous mark on popular culture through her role as Peggy on the hit television series *Mad Men*, for which she has received two Emmy® nominations. She has also received an Independent Spirit Award nomination for her leading role in *Virgin*. In addition to her role in ***Darling Companion***, she appeared in *Girl Interrupted*, *The West Wing* and *Mumford* by Lawrence Kasdan, among other films.

### **SAM SHEPARD (Sheriff Morris)**

Sam Shepard is an iconic American actor, playwright, and director. He was nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in *The Right Stuff* and, in addition to his role in ***Darling Companion***, has appeared in numerous films including *Black Hawk Down*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, and *Frances*. Among his many accomplishments in theater are a Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play “Buried Child.”

### **DIANNE WIEST (Penny)**

Dianne Wiest was most recently seen onstage in *The Forest* at Classic Stage Company and before that, Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* on Broadway. Other New York theatre appearances include *The Seagull* at Classic Stage Company; Wendy Wasserstein's *Third*; *Memory House* by Kathleen Tolan; *Salome*; *Oedipus*; *The Shawl*; *Hunting Cockroaches*; *After the Fall*; *Beyond Therapy*; and *The Art of Dining*. Film credits include *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, *Hannah and her Sisters* (Oscar®), *Radio Days*, *September* and *Bullets Over Broadway* (Oscar®), all by Woody Allen. She also appeared in *Parenthood* (Oscar® Nomination), *Edward Scissorhands* and *The Birdcage*. In addition to her starring role in ***Darling Companion***, Wiest has been seen in recent years in John Cameron Mitchell's *Rabbit Hole*, David Frankel's *The Big Year*, Charlie Kaufman's *Synecdoche, New York* and the HBO series *In Treatment* (Emmy®).

### **AYELET ZURER (Carmen)**

Ayelet Zurer is an Israeli actress best known for her roles in *Munich*, *Angels & Demons*, *Vantage Point*, and *Adam Resurrected*. She has also appeared in numerous Israeli films and television series including *Nina's Tragedies* and *Betipul*, an Israeli drama series which was adapted into the HBO series *In Treatment*.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### LAWRENCE KASDAN (Director/Writer/Producer)

Counting his latest, *Darling Companion*, four-time Academy Award® nominee Lawrence Kasdan has directed eleven films: *Body Heat*, *The Big Chill*, *Silverado*, *The Accidental Tourist*, *I Love You To Death*, *Grand Canyon*, *Wyatt Earp*, *French Kiss*, *Mumford*, and *Dreamcatcher*. He has written or co-written all of these pictures except John Kostmayer's *I Love You to Death* and Adam Brooks's *French Kiss*. In addition, Kasdan has written or co-written four of the most successful films in motion picture history: *Raiders of The Lost Ark*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Return Of The Jedi* and *The Bodyguard*.

Born in Miami Beach, Florida and raised in West Virginia, Kasdan attended the University of Michigan, supporting himself with a series of writing awards while he studied English literature.

Kasdan made his critically acclaimed directorial debut with *Body Heat* in 1981. Next, he directed *The Big Chill*, which he co-wrote with Barbara Benedek and which was nominated for three Academy Awards®, including Best Picture. His next effort was the sprawling western *Silverado*, which he directed and produced, and co-wrote with his brother Mark.

Kasdan next directed *The Accidental Tourist* based on the novel by Anne Tyler and adapted by Kasdan and Frank Galati. The film was named Best Picture of 1988 by the New York Film Critics, received four Academy Award® nominations, including Best Picture, and earned Geena Davis a Best Supporting Actress award. The script for *Grand Canyon*, co-written with his wife Meg Kasdan, earned them Academy Award® and Golden Globe® nominations for Best Original Screenplay. The film received the Golden Bear Award for Best Picture at the 1992 Berlin Film Festival.

In 1994, Kasdan made *Wyatt Earp*, starring Kevin Costner, Dennis Quaid and Gene Hackman, and in 1995, directed *French Kiss*, a romantic comedy set in Paris and Cannes with Meg Ryan and Kevin Kline. Kasdan wrote and directed the comedy *Mumford* in 1999, which earned him the Best Screenplay Award at the San Sebastian Film Festival. In 2003, he helmed the sci-fi thriller *Dreamcatcher*, based on the Stephen King novel and adapted for the screen with William Goldman.

The Writers Guild of America gave Kasdan its 2006 Laurel Award for advancing the literature of motion pictures.

### MEG KASDAN (Writer/Executive Producer)

After losing and subsequently finding their dog in the mountains of Colorado, Meg Kasdan suggested to her husband, writer/director Lawrence Kasdan, they collaborate on a screenplay inspired by that experience. *Darling Companion* is the result.

In 1991, the couple co-wrote *Grand Canyon*, which Lawrence Kasdan directed, and for which the Kasdans were nominated for an Academy Award® for their original screenplay.

Born and raised in Detroit, Meg Kasdan attended the University of Michigan, where she met her future husband. They married in 1971. Their two sons, Jake Kasdan and Jon Kasdan, are filmmakers.

Meg Kasdan acted as music supervisor for *The Big Chill*, selecting and compiling songs for the soundtrack, which eventually became a platinum record, with over 7 million copies sold around the world.

She has been involved with multiple community service organizations and currently serves on the boards of directors of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Gabriella Foundation, a charter school and dance program for underserved Los Angeles youth. For more than ten years she taught art as a volunteer in Los Angeles inner-city schools.

### **ANTHONY BREGMAN (Producer)**

Anthony Bregman's films include the Academy Award®-winning *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Friends With Money*, *Our Idiot Brother*, *Synecdoche, New York*, *Please Give*, *The Tao of Steve*, *Lovely & Amazing*, *Human Nature*, *The Extra Man*, *Thumbsucker*, *The Savages*, *The Ice Storm*, *The Brothers McMullen*, *Trick*, Mexican science fiction extravaganza *Sleep Dealer*, and punk rock monster movie *Love God*, the world's first digital film. Along with *Darling Companion*, he has produced two other films to be released in 2012: Stephen Frears' *Lay the Favorite*, and Julian Farino's *The Oranges*.

In the fall of 2006, Bregman founded the New York City-based production company Likely Story, which he currently runs with Stefanie Azpiazu. Prior to Likely Story, Bregman was a partner at This is That for four years, and spent ten years as head of production at Good Machine, where he supervised the production and post-production of over thirty feature films, including *Sense and Sensibility*, *Eat Drink, Man Woman*, *Walking & Talking*, *What Happened Was...*, *The Wedding Banquet*, and *Safe*. Bregman teaches producing at Columbia University's Graduate Film School, and is on the board of the IFP.

Bregman's movies have won numerous awards at the Oscars®, Golden Globes®, BAFTAs, Gothams, Indie Spirits, and Cannes, Berlin, and Sundance Film Festivals, among others. At the end of 2009, Roger Ebert named *Synecdoche, New York* the Best Film of the Decade.

### **ELIZABETH REDLEAF (Producer)**

Elizabeth Redleaf is the CEO of Werc Werk Works, a film production company built on a vision of supporting artists and rewarding its profit partners. In addition to producing *Darling Companion*, she is the producer of *Howl*, starring James Franco and directed by Rob Epstein and Jeff Friedman, *The Convincer* by Jill Sprecher, executive producer of the Todd Solondz film *Life During Wartime*, and the Béla Tarr film *The Turin Horse*. Elizabeth is also on the board of directors of the Telluride Film Festival and the Walker Art Center.

### **JOHN J. KELLY (Executive Producer)**

John Kelly was born in Liverpool, England, and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. An early interest in the theater led John to the entertainment industry.

John first began at Pepin-Merhi Entertainment Group, an independent production and distribution company which produced ten films per year. John was hired as the Production Controller, being quickly promoted through the ranks to the position of Unit Production Manager and then Line Producer. During a five-year stay with Pepin-Merhi, as the Head of Production and the sole Line Producer, John produced and supervised over seventy episodes of television, forty feature films, and numerous music videos for the studio.

In 2001, John was hired as President of Production for American Cinema International. After his fourth film with the company, John broke away to produce freelance projects.

John has produced, through his own production company, the independent feature film *Luminaries* with Scott Bakula and Cheech Marin. John's first endeavor garnered an ALMA nomination for Outstanding Feature Film in 2001. John's second independent film venture *Finder's Fee*, won Best Film at the 2001 Seattle Film Festival. As a producer on *Fire & Ice* John received an Outstanding Television Movie nomination for the 2002 NAACP IMAGE Awards. Through his production company, John also produced *Purgatory Flats* and *One Last Ride*. Ang Lee joined with John to executive produce *One Last Ride*.

During a period of six years, John produced with the Spanish entertainment company, Drimtim Entertainment, nine films in Barcelona. John has since worked with directors such as David Mon on *Spartan*, Kevin Reynolds on *Tristan and Isolde*, Brian DePalma on *The Black Dahlia*, and Roger Donaldson on *The World's Fastest Indian*, starring Anthony Hopkins.

John's entire year of 2006 was spent working with Sean Penn on the critically acclaimed film, *Into the Wild*. In 2008, John produced, *Gentlemen Broncos*, with director Jared Hess, and in 2009, *Warrior*, with Director Gavin O'Conner. In addition to ***Darling Companion***, John recently produced *127 Hours*, directed by Danny Boyle, and *Abraham Lincoln; Vampire Hunter*.

Coming to the United States as a child immigrant, John's first and foremost lesson has been that anything is possible in this country if you just work hard enough for it.

### **CHRISTINE KUNAWA WALKER (Executive Producer)**

Christine Kunewa Walker is an award-winning producer of artist-driven independent film. In addition to ***Darling Companion***, she produced *Life during Wartime*, a Todd Solondz film, *Howl*, starring James Franco as poet Allen Ginsberg, and *The Convincer* with Greg Kinnear and Alan Arkin. Walker also co-wrote and produced *Older than America* starring Adam Beach and Bradley Cooper, produced *Factotum* starring Matt Dillon, Lili Taylor and Marisa Tomei, and line produced *American Splendor*. Christine's awards and recognition include the Producer's

Guild of America Diversity Award, an Independent Spirit Award nomination, and the Sundance Institute's Producer's Fellowship.

**MICHAEL McDONOUGH (Director of Photography)**

Michael McDonough is a 2010 Independent Spirit Award for Best Cinematography nominee for *Winter's Bone* and one of Variety's "10 Cinematographers To Watch" in 2011. In addition to *Darling Companion*, he also shot *Down to the Bone* for Academy Award® nominee Debra Granik. Michael recently worked with Stephen Frears on *Lay the Favorite*, Vera Farmiga on *Higher Ground*, Rodrigo Garcia on *Albert Nobbs* and is currently shooting *Henry V*, directed by Thea Sharrock, for NBC/BBC.

**CAROL LITTLETON, A.C.E. (Editor)**

Carol Littleton is one of Hollywood's most talented and successful film editors with more than 30 feature films to her credit. Ms. Littleton began a close collaboration with writer-director Lawrence Kasdan in 1981 with his directorial debut, *Body Heat*. She continued her collaboration with Kasdan on nine more films, including *The Big Chill*, *Silverado*, *Grand Canyon* and *Darling Companion*

Littleton received an Academy Award® nomination in 1982 for Steven Spielberg's *E.T.: The Extraterrestrial*. Other notable projects include, *Tuesdays With Morrie* (Emmy Award for editing) and the restoration of Erich Von Stoheim's 1926 classic, *Greed*. Her recent work includes *The Rum Diary*, *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *Margot at the Wedding*, and Jon Kasdan's directorial debut, *In the Land of Women*.

In 1987, Littleton was elected President of the Editors Guild and served two terms. In the mid-90's Ms. Littleton and cinematographer John Bailey were elected to the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—the first time a married couple had served together since Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks.

**DINA GOLDMAN (Production Designer)**

Dina Goldman has great talent for raising the bar on independent film production design. In addition to *Darling Companion*, she is well known for her work on *A Prairie Home Companion*, *Awake, O*, and *The Business of Strangers*.

**JAMES NEWTON HOWARD (Composer)**

James Newton Howard is an eight-time Oscar® nominee and one of the industry's most versatile and in-demand composers, with more than 100 motion picture and television scores to his credit. Howard has received eight Oscar® nominations, including six for Best Original Score for *Defiance*, *Michael Clayton*, *The Village*, *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *The Fugitive* and *The Prince of Tides*, and two for Best Original Song from *Junior* and *One Fine Day*.

In addition to his latest, *Darling Companion*, and the films mentioned above, Howard's long list of credits includes *Green Lantern*, *Water For Elephants*, *Salt*, *The Dark Knight* (for which he

won the 2009 Grammy Award along with Hans Zimmer), *Blood Diamond*, *King Kong*, *I Am Legend*, *The Sixth Sense*, *Signs*, *Freedomland*, *Batman Begins*, *The Interpreter*, *Collateral*, *Hidalgo*, *Peter Pan*, *Dinosaur*, *Runaway Bride*, *Primal Fear*, *Outbreak*, *Wyatt Earp*, *Dave*, *Falling Down*, *Grand Canyon*, *My Girl* and *Pretty Woman*, among others.

Also honored for his work in television, Howard won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Main Title Theme for the series *Gideon's Crossing* and earned Emmy nominations in the same category for *ER* and *Men*. His upcoming releases include Rupert Sander's *Snow White and the Huntsman*, and Tony Gilroy's *The Bourne Legacy*.

### **MOLLY MAGINNIS (Costume Designer)**

With an incredible track record of successful Hollywood films, Molly Maginnis brings a remarkable eye to independent film as well. In addition to *Darling Companion*, a small sample of her films includes *The Little Fockers*, as well as *She's Out of My League*, *In Good Company*, *Dreamcatcher*, *Life as a House*, *Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*, and *Broadcast News*.

### **DONALD MURPHY (First Assistant Director)**

Donald Murphy cut his teeth in the AD department on a string of Coen brothers favorites and has become the go-to First Assistant Director for Clint Eastwood. In addition to *Darling Companion*, his filmography includes *The Town*, *Invictus*, *Gran Torino*, *Changeling*, *Letters from Iwo Jima*, and *Flags of Our Fathers*.

### **ABOUT LIKELY STORY**

Likely Story is a New York-based production company founded by Anthony Bregman in October 2006. In addition to working with Sony Pictures Classics on the April 2012 release of Lawrence Kasdan's *Darling Companion*, the company is currently completing Stephen Frears' *Lay the Favorite*, and Julian Farino's *The Oranges*, which ATO will release in Fall 2012. Most recently, The Weinstein Company released Jesse Peretz's *Our Idiot Brother*, in August 2011. Other recent Likely Story productions include Nicole Holofcener's *Please Give* (Sony Pictures Classics); Robert Pulcini and Shari Springer Berman's *The Extra Man* (Magnolia); Charlie Kaufman's *Synecdoche, New York* (Sony Pictures Classics); Alex Rivera's *Sleep Dealer* (Maya Releasing); and David and Alex Pastor's *Carriers* (Paramount Vantage). Bregman's previous producing credits include *Friends with Money*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Lovely & Amazing*, *Thumbsucker*, *The Tao of Steve*, *The Savages*, *Trick*, *The Ice Storm*, *The Brothers McMullen*, and *Human Nature*. Likely Story recently signed a first look deal with graphic novel and comic book publisher Top Shelf Productions, and has output deals with Village Roadshow Pictures and Svensk Filmindustri.

### **ABOUT WERC WERK WORKS**

Werc Werk Works is an independent film production and finance company founded by Elizabeth Redleaf and Christine Kunewa Walker. Launched in August 2008 and based in Minnesota, the

company is dedicated to the production and financing of high caliber, story-driven films with wide appeal. In addition to *Darling Companion*, Werc Werk Works productions include: Bela Tarr's award winning *The Turin Horse*; the upcoming *Thin Ice*, directed by Jill Sprecher and starring Greg Kinnear, Alan Arkin and Billy Crudup; *Howl*, written and directed by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman and starring James Franco as Allen Ginsberg; and *Life During Wartime*, written and directed by Todd Solondz.

## CAST

Beth	Diane Keaton
Joseph	Kevin Kline
Penny	Dianne Wiest
Russell	Richard Jenkins
Grace	Elisabeth Moss
Bryan	Mark Duplass
Carmen	Ayelet Zurer
Sheriff Morris	Sam Shepard
Ellie	Lindsay Sloane
Sam	Jay Ali
Christus	Charles Halford
Possum	Robert Bear
Freeway	Kasey
Patient	Paul Kiernan
Ethan	Jericho Watson
Cop	Yolanda Wood
Burly Cop	D.L. Walker
Caterer	Dina Goldman
Waiter	Ruben Barboza
Waiter #2	Aline Andrade
Officiant	Jonathan Kasdan
Bandleader	Mark Robinette
Band Members	Craig Miner
	Ryan Shupe
Muriel	Anne Cullimore Decker
Jeff	Anthony Bregman
Deputy Chas	Tod Huntington
Ponytailed Runner	Jason Jensen
Redhead	Christina Thurmond
Co-Pilot	Lorry Houston
Pilot	Jon Florence
Hysterical Wife	Jan Broberg
Comforting Husband	Zack Phifer

# CREW

Directed by	Lawrence Kasdan
Written by	Meg Kasdan and Lawrence Kasdan
Produced by	Anthony Bregman Lawrence Kasdan Elizabeth Redleaf
Executive Produced by	Meg Kasdan John J. Kelly Christine Kunewa Walker
Director of Photography	Michael McDonough
Editor	Carol Littleton, A.C.E.
Production Designer	Dina Goldman
Music by	James Newton Howard
Music Supervisors	Manish Raval Tom Wolfe
Costume Designer	Molly Maginnis
Co-Produced by	Stefanie Azpiazu Andrew Peterson Mark Steele
Casting by	Ronna Kress
Unit Production Manager	John J. Kelly
First Assistant Director	Donald Murphy
Second Assistant Director	Cody Harbaugh