

Strand Releasing
Presents

Peter and Vandy

A film by **Jay DiPietro**

Starring **Jess Weixler** and **Jason Ritter**

An Official Selection of The Sundance Film Festival 2009

USA, 80 min
Screen Ratio: 1.85: 1
Sound Format: Dolby Digital
Not Rated

NY/National Publicity:
Betsy Rudnick
Falco Ink Agency
850 7th Ave. #1005
(646.713.4367)
betsyrudnick@falcoink.com

LA/National Publicity:
Kate Payne
Ginsberg/Libby
6255 Sunset Blvd. #917
(323.645.6817)
kate.payne@ginsberglabby.com

Please download photos from our website:
<http://extranet.strandreleasing.com/login.aspx>

Synopsis

Peter and Vandy is a love story told out of order. Set in Manhattan, Peter and Vandy go from strangers, to pie-eyed lovers, to a twisted and manipulative couple... just not in that order. They leave us asking what most couples ask themselves, "How the hell did we get this way?"

We see Peter and Vandy through everyday scenes in their life together. Trying to have sex... Meeting for the first time... Having dinner... Small, seemingly disconnected moments, but moments we all recognize. These moments are what we are comprised of. Ordering food. Picking a movie. In these moments we see who people really are.

As the film progresses, these moments begin to connect, revealing a larger story. It becomes a game, tying together the clues, figuring out how they came together... how they end up. It's part of the fun, but ultimately their story is told out of sequence for a greater purpose. Imagine if you could go back in time and watch yourself falling in love. Imagine if you could watch your first date with your significant other and hear *the exact words you were saying*. Chances are those words would be a lot different than you remember... and a lot more revealing. People come together for very specific reasons, whether they realize it or not. By first seeing Peter and Vandy's future, we can really understand what is happening in these "small moments" in the past.

Peter and Vandy, like a lot of couples, don't always know why they stay together, or why they are the way they are. But because we see things out of sequence... we do.

Director's Statement

A few years back I wrote a scene about a man and a woman and had some actors read it. After the actors read it, a friend said, "You should keep writing about these characters," and before he could finish the sentence I knew *exactly* what I would write: I would write the story of this couple, Peter and Vandy, and tell it out of sequence... and in doing so, make their story that much clearer.

In that moment I saw the scenes – the first I love you – arguing about ordering Chinese food – splitting up – seeing each other on the street... but what really excited me was idea of playing these scenes against one another. All of the funny inconsistencies and hypocrisies and truths would be emboldened. I imagined getting to know this couple intimately... *and then seeing their first date*. I imagined seeing them falling in love... *and then seeing them call each other every name in the book*.

And what's more... I imagined how all of these scenes illuminated each other. All of the clues to who they become are there when they fall in love. It may feel, at first, like they just go from "innocent lovers" to "grizzled couple." But the more you get to know them, the more we see that they are setting up who they become, even in the most

romantic of scenes. By first seeing their future, we can fully understand what is happening in the past... and vice versa.

Beyond that, I just wanted to create a fun story that leaves room for the actors to really live things out. I believe that to really feel what an actor is feeling in a scene... the actor must be talking about "something else." It's not fun to watch a couple say to each other, "God I wish I never met you." But it's fun to watch them feel that while arguing about how to make a PB and J. It's the basis of drama and comedy – to me – and it's what I enjoy bringing to the screen.

-Jay DiPietro

Cast

Peter	Jason Ritter
Vandy	Jess Weixler
Paul	Jesse L. Martin
Marissa	Tracie Thoms
Andrew	Noah Bean
Michelle	Kristina Klebe
Keith	Zak Orth
Dad	Bruce Altman
Emma	Dana Eskelson
Mom	Maryann Plunkett
Gary	Grant Varjas
Bartender	Amanda Gruss
Delia	Rose DiPietro
Mike	Lawrence Levine
Not Keith	John Becker Good
Not Keith's Friend	Chris Lopata

Crew

Director/Writer/Producer	Jay DiPietro
Producers	Peter Sterling, Austin Stark
Producers	Benji Kohn, Bingo Gubelmann
Executive Producers	Amanda Gruss, Lawrence Levine
Co-Producers	Carly Hugo, Mathew Parker
Associate Producers	Bryan Weiss, Jamie Sheib, Alexandra Wachtel
Director of Photography	Frank G. DeMarco
Production Designer	Lucio Seixas
Editor	Geoffrey Richman
Costume Designer	David Withrow
Casting Director	James Calleri
Music Supervisor	Stephanie Diaz-Matos
Composer	Jason Lifton
Production Supervisor	James McKay
Production Coordinator	B. Reeves
Assistant Director	Scott Lazar
Sound Mixer	Anthony Viera

(Full credits available upon request)

About the Cast

Jason Ritter (Peter) is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he studied at the Atlantic Theatre Company. He also studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. He is the son of actors John Ritter and Nancy Morgan, and grandson of famed film cowboy Tex Ritter.

Jason can also be seen in the films *Our Very Own*, opposite Allison Janney and Keith Carradine, *Happy Endings*, written and directed by Don Roos, and starring Lisa Kudrow, Maggie Gyllenhaal, and Tom Arnold, and *Lenexa, 1 Mile*, directed by Jason Wiles. Other film credits include *Mumford*, directed by Lawrence Kasdan, *Swimfan*, *Freddy vs. Jason*, and *Raise Your Voice*.

Jess Weixler (Vandy) won the Special Jury Prize for Acting at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival for her work in the motion picture *Teeth*. Prior to that, she received terrific notices for the independent feature *The Big Bad Swim*. Additionally, Jess has done several guest spots on television including *Criminal Intent* and *Hack*.

Jess graduated from the prestigious Julliard School of Drama in 2003 where she amassed an impressive list of classical and contemporary roles. She recently premiered a new show Off Broadway called *Stay*. She received the Rising Star award at the 2007 Hamptons International Film Festival this past October.

Jesse L. Martin (Paul) recently completed a 9 year run as the compulsive and passionate Detective Edward Green on the perennial hit *Law & Order*. He has received multiple SAG nominations (Ensemble) and eight NAACP Image Awards nominations (Outstanding Actor) for his work on the show. He was most recently seen on the big screen reprising his role in the film adaptation of Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer-Prize and Tony Award winning musical *Rent*.

Martin has also received critical acclaim for his work on television shows such as *Ally McBeal*, *The X Files*, *413 Hope Street*, *New York Undercover*, and the telefilm *Deep In My Heart*. Past film credits include Mary Stuart Masterson's directorial debut *Cake Eaters*, opposite Aaron Stanford, Jayce Bartok and Kristen Stewart, *Season of the Youth*, and the independent feature *The Restaurant*, where he performed alongside Adrien Brody, Elise Neal and Lauryn Hill.

Tracie Thoms (Marissa) realized a long-held dream when she starred this past fall as 'Joanne' in the final weeks of the historic 12 year run of the Broadway musical, *Rent*. Previously, she starred in the same role in Sony's film of *Rent* opposite Rosario Dawson, Taye Diggs and Jesse Martin.

In 2007, Tracie starred opposite Kurt Russell and Dawson in Quentin Tarantino's *Grindhouse: Death Proof*. The New York Times and other major media outlets gave Tracie's performance rave reviews. Tracie was also featured opposite Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway in *The Devil Wears Prada* for director David Frankel. In addition, she can be seen every week as a series regular on the hit CBS series, *Cold Case*. Tracie

was a series regular on the 2004 Fox series, *Wonderfalls*; had a memorable guest role as CCH Pounder's tortured daughter on FX's *The Shield*; starred in the Chevy Chase pilot for NBC; was a series regular on UPN's *As If*; guest starred on *Law and Order*, and has appeared in the indie films *Descent*, *Sex and Breakfast* and *Brother to Brother*.

About the Filmmakers

Jay DiPietro (Director/Writer/Producer) is a New York City playwright and, and as a filmmaker, *Peter and Vandy* is his directorial debut. He adapted the screenplay from his acclaimed play of the same title, which enjoyed sold out houses during its four month run in downtown New York in 2002 and received a Drama Desk nomination for Best Play. Jay has numerous projects in development for the screen and stage. He also enjoys directing music videos. Jay lives in Manhattan with his wife and two daughters.

Cook Street Productions (Production Company)

Peter Sterling (Producer) currently heads Cook Street Productions, which focuses on both production and debt financing. Peter recently produced "*Were The World Mine*", a magical story of empowerment about a high school student who finds the power to make people fall in love. "*Were The World Mine*" received strong reviews including a Critic's Pick from the New York Times and has played in over 70 film festivals. The film has been theatrically released via Landmark Theatres and is playing in 20 cities throughout the country. Previous to Cook Street Production, Peter worked as a fixed income portfolio manager at KBC Alternative Investments co-managing a five billion dollar portfolio of securities.

Paper Street Films (Production Company)

Austin Stark, Benji Kohn, Bingo Gubelmann (Producers)

A New York City-based film production and finance company specializing in documentary and fictional feature films, Paper Street Films was launched in 2007 by filmmakers Bingo Gubelmann and Austin Stark, and Wall Street financier Benji Kohn. This past year they produced the thriller, *Homecoming*, directed by Sundance-winner Morgan J. Freeman, starring Mischa Barton and Jessica Stroup (*90210*, *Prom Night*). They also executive produced the animated film, *My Biodegradable Heart*, directed by Dana Adam Shapiro (*Murderball*), which premiered at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival and screened at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

Frank G. DeMarco (Director of Photography) has shot *Delirious* (2006), *Beerfest* (2006), *Shortbus* (2006), *Full Grown Men* (2006), *Patch* (2005), and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (2002), among many others. In 1999 he received the award for Best Cinematographer at the No Dance Film Festival for *Bury the Evidence*. He was also twice nominated at the Independent Spirit Awards for Best Cinematography: *Habit* in 1998 and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* in 2002.

Geoffrey Richman (Editor) is the award-winning editor of *Murderball* and *Sicko*, the 2006 and 2008 Academy Award nominees for Best Feature Documentary. For his work

on *Murderball*, Geoffrey won the first-ever Special Jury Prize for Editing at the Sundance Film Festival, where the film also won the Audience Award for Best Documentary. The following year, Geoffrey returned to Sundance with a film he edited, *God Grew Tired of Us*, which won both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award. Other credits include *The Order of Myths*, *If I Didn't Care*, *21 Up America*, and documentary and reality programming for a variety of networks including Showtime, Discovery Channel, TLC, Oxygen, The Food Network, and PBS.

Stephanie Diaz-Matos (Music Supervisor) is the Executive Producer at Search Party, a music supervision company that traverses the worlds of advertising, television and film. After starting out as Program Director on MTV's seminal electronic music show, AMP, she became Soundtrack Coordinator at London Records, and later moved into London/Sire's A&R department. Stephanie has served as music supervisor on films such as *Broken English*, *Song Sung Blue* and *Frost*, and television shows *Lost* and *Six Degrees*, among many others.

About the Soundtrack

The soundtrack for Peter and Vandy has been called "an indie soundtrack, in the vein of Garden State or Juno, but with a little more snarl to it..."

The soundtrack includes works by:

The National – Quintessential New York rock band, with a large, dedicated following. Their last two albums were named Album of the Year by several media outlets. Their song "Mr. November" was Barack Obama's theme song during his campaign.

Animal Collective – Their most recent album, is being lauded as the best album of the year and an instant classic and got an unprecedented 9.6 rating on Pitchfork Media. Another brilliant New York band with a very dedicated following.

Patrick Wolf – His song, Overture, is the song people leave the theatre humming – regularly. He is a British music prodigy / diva with a huge tabloid presence back in London. He has a new album due in early 2009.

Frightened Rabbit – Scottish band whose 2008 album, "Midnight Organ Fight" was on many top ten lists. An already popular – respected band that is poised to make the leap.

Menomena – Popular indie band from Portland, Oregon with a very dedicated following. Their last album also graced a number of top ten lists and they have a highly anticipated album coming in early 2009.

Les Savy Fav – Another highly respected New York band – elder statesmen of indie rock - that are legends for their live shows and for their web episodes on Pitchfork TV.