

Strand Releasing

presents

DROOL

Written and Directed by Nancy Kissam

Starring
Laura Harring
Jill Marie Jones
and **Oded Fehr**

A Slamdance Film Festival 2009 Special Screening

USA, 85 Minutes
Screen Ratio: 1.85: 1
Sound Format: Dolby
Not Rated

LA/National Press Contact:

Justin Lo / Marcus Hu
Strand Releasing
phone: 310.836.7500
fax: 310.836.7510
justin@strandreleasing.com
marcus@strandreleasing.com

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LOGLINE

When Anora Fleece accidentally kills her husband, she, her kids and her new girlfriend take a family road trip to go bury daddy.

SYNOPSIS

Anora Fleece has got it rotten. Her husband's a bastard. Her kids treat her bad. And she lives in the middle of nowhere feeling like a nobody. That is until a new neighbor, Imogene Cochran, moves in. Imogene sells Kathy K. Kosmetics, make-up for the cocoa skinned woman. Thing is, they don't like cocoa skinned anything in these parts, but that doesn't stop Imogene and Anora from becoming friends. It also doesn't stop them from becoming more than friends. And when Anora's husband, Cheb, finds them, all hell breaks loose, but the tables are turned when Anora accidentally shoots Cheb dead. Anora and Imogene then pile the kids in the Kathy K. car, throw the corpse in the trunk and ride off on a "family" road trip to go bury daddy.

C A S T

Laura Harring (Anora)
Jill Marie Jones (Imogene)
Oded Fehr (Cheb)
Ashley Duggan Smith (Tabby)
Christopher Newhouse (Little Pete)
Ruthie Austin (Kathy K.)
Dalton Alfortish (Denny)
Rebecca Newman (Princess)

C R E W

Written and Directed by Nancy Kissam
Produced by John Portnoy, Todd Williams, Nick Thurlow
Executive Producers Darryn Welch, Chris Ouwinga
Executive Producers Nils Larsen, Chad Marting, Peter Baxter
Co-Producers Lee Donaldson, Daniel Lewis
Director of Photography Kara Stephens
Production Designer Maurin Scarlata
Edited by Jenn Belleville
Costume Designer Shauna Leone
Music by Dana Boulé

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When you write, people often ask where your ideas come from. I have no idea. In fact, I fear that after a "great" idea shows itself, that's it. I've reached my idea quota and none will ever show up again. Ideas gave me a divorce and I'm on my own, scratching my own back.

When I thought of the idea for Drool, it was at first a John Waters-esque campy revenge comedy. However, when I started writing, the script went in a new direction. The superficial characters weren't as vapid as I once designed, and it still maintained the comedy, but not so campy, not so histrionic. Dare I say it; it became deeper.

I think it's important for a writer to listen to the characters' voices. And I think when Anora began speaking – as well as all the others – I couldn't help but become fascinated by her story. I've always had a kind of obsession with people and their behavior. What's so fun about being a writer are the times when you just shut up and listen. The characters will tell you what happens to them. If you listen.

Anora's story is not necessarily a rare one. Abused woman befriends and begins an affair with her female neighbor and then, by accident, kills her husband. Well, maybe it is a little off the rails. I've heard it said – and I believe it to be so – every story has been told, but it's in the telling that makes it unique.

At the onset, Anora's reality is dishwatered – wood paneling, stained carpeting and archaic kitchen appliances surround her. She tries to salt and pepper her dismal world with floral curtains, animal shaped oven gloves and her colorful fantasies. However, these bits get lost and muted in her depressed existence. Then, as the film progresses and as our heroine finds herself becoming a fuller person, the film literally opens up and the colors become more vivid. By the time she reaches her destination of Savannah, Georgia, the colors are almost edible.

What excites me the most about directing is working with actors. I enjoy being the parent of a production and helping to shepherd us all to our final destination. I'm open to actors' ideas because they often find something within the character that I haven't even considered – and that's a real trip – to have that something revealed to you and to receive that surprise.

The rush you get when a collective of people nurture your work so much that it just keeps growing and becoming more fantastic is like nothing else. I was lucky; I got to have – and continue to have - that experience with Drool.

-- Nancy Kissam

CAST BIOS

Laura Harring (Anora) Ever since astounding audiences and critics alike with her breakthrough performance in David Lynch's award winning "Mulholland Drive" for which she received an Alma Award for Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture, Laura Harring has been one of Hollywood's hottest rising stars.

The International Herald Tribune compared her to Ava Gardner and film critic Roger Ebert likened her to Rita Hayworth.

Born in a small town in Mexico, Laura or "Laurita" as her family called her, grew up an extremely shy as well as a reclusive fragile young girl. Sick most of her childhood, Laura's mother found an alternative medical doctor that helped Laura get over the illness and this transformed her life forever. Laura who was taking adult dosages of medicine, abandoned them ambitiously to start dancing and imagine herself as an actress. On her journey to newfound health, she jumped in feet first, to an play an angel in the Christmas play , "The Nativity Story".

In her teens Laura went abroad to study at the prestigious boarding school, Aiglon College in Switzerland. It was here that Laura met the brother of her future husband of 2 years, before having an amicable separation to pursue her dream of becoming a talented and versatile actor. After graduation, pursuing her passion to travel, Laura took on the task of becoming a social worker in India, where she performed manual labor work, including building schools, planting trees and carrying heavy rocks to fix the extreme soil erosion problem of the Himalayas in the mid eighties.

Last June, Laura costarred in the Warner Brothers feature "Nancy Drew: The Mystery in Hollywood Hills" starring alongside Emma Roberts for director Andrew Fleming and producer Jerry Weintraub.

Last November, she starred opposite Javier Bardem in New Line's "Love in the Time of Cholera" from the award winning novel written by Nobel Prize Winner, Gabriel Garcia Marquez and directed by Mike Newell.

A versatile actress who has played a great diversity of roles in her career, Harring's film credits include "John Q" with Denzel Washington, "The King" opposite William Hurt, and "The Alamo: Thirteen Days to Glory," opposite the legendary Raul Julia. Laura always held her own.

Last summer, she stole our hearts with the heartfelt and real performance of a suburban mom in the HBO feature "Walkout," directed by Edward James Olmos. It was based on the true story of the 60's injustice in the school system of East Los Angeles.

Harring was featured on Season 5 of FX's critically acclaimed hit series, "The

Shield" as Becca Doyle, a defense attorney who willingly commits to pro bono cases for people she feels are redeemable. She played opposite Forrest Whittaker.

In his last film, David Lynch honored her femme fatale character from Mulholland Drive in "Inland Empire," another dark and mysterious abstract film from the masterful director.

Laura played "The Sophisticated Lady," a classical jazz singer, in her most recent film, "The Caller," opposite Frank Langella and Elliott Gould. The film won this year's Tribeca Film Festival "Made In New York Best Narrative Feature Film Award."

Laura was the first Latina to ever win the Miss USA crown. Her passions include Argentine tango dancing, world traveling and Commedia Dell' Arte. She resides in Los Angeles, California.

Jill Marie Jones (Imogene) exudes flawless beauty, embodies talent and possesses versatility that sets her apart in each and every performance. She was most recently seen opposite Ice Cube in the Fred Durst-directed Dimension Films production "The Longshots" about the true story of the first female to play in Pop Warner football at age 11.

Prior to "The Longshots," Jill wrapped production in Louisiana on "Major Movie Star"; the Steve Miner-helmed comedy in which she starred alongside Jessica Simpson as an actress who joins the Marine Corps. Jill played a fellow recruit of Simpson, who becomes her close friend. Jill most recently appeared in "The Perfect Holiday" opposite Queen Latifah, Terrence Howard, Gabrielle Union, and Morris Chestnut, which opened December 12, 2007 from the Yari Film Group.

Jones may be best known for starring as Toni Childs, the somewhat self-involved, materialistic friend in UPN's comedy "Girlfriends". This role allowed Jill to transform from her soft-spoken, caring ways to a loud-mouthed and witty new mother trying to navigate her relationships. This balance allowed for a dimensional character that people loved to hate and always drew a laugh.

Jill's talent has caught the eye of many and earned her a nomination for Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series for the 2006 NAACP Image Awards. In addition, Jill and her co-stars from Girlfriends were among the first women to be honored and invited to co-host the 2004 NAACP Image Awards. Her successes were also recognized in the form of a 2004 BET Nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a series for her role as Toni Childs.

Formerly, Jill was featured as the celebrity face of the Baileys campaign "Serve Chilled" which airs worldwide and spans across both print and television. The

television ads consist of seven separate vignettes, directed by the renowned Paul Hunter, in which Jill stars as Kelly. Storylines revolve around Kelly, her boyfriend Lewis and a group of their friends “mixing it up,” and can additionally be viewed on the Baileys official Web site.

This Texan native currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

Oded Fehr (Cheb) first caught the attention of moviegoers worldwide with his portrayal of the mysterious warrior, Ardeth Bay, in Universal’s blockbuster action films “The Mummy” and “The Mummy Returns.” He went on to star as the hero ‘Carlos’ in the internationally successful franchise “Resident Evil: Apocalypse” and “Resident Evil: Extinction.” Fehr’s wide-ranging credits also include the hit comedy “Deuce Bigelow: Male Gigolo”, the DreamWorks’ family film “Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story” and the upcoming psychological thriller “The Betrayed,” to be released later this year by MGM.

Fehr has also made his mark on the small screen, starring in the provocative Showtime series “Sleeper Cell” for two years. With much critical acclaim, he portrayed the chilling and compelling underground terrorist cell leader ‘Farik’.

The series garnered a multitude of awards and nominations, including Emmy and Golden Globe nominations, in addition to being chosen as one of AFI’s top ten programs of the year.

Born in Israel, Fehr relocated to Germany to study for a career in business. On a whim, he enrolled in a drama class and starred in a production of David Mamet’s “Sexual Perversity in Chicago.” Discovering his passion for acting, Fehr studied for the next three years at The Old Vic Theatre School in Bristol, England. He went on to London’s Court Yard Theatre where he starred as the title character in their production of “Don Juan Comes Back From the War.”

He resides with his family in California.

CREW BIOS

Nancy Kissam (Writer/Director) is a native of New York where she wrote and directed several plays and received a Master's degree in Theatre from NYU. She has written and directed work in L.A. such as her one-woman show, La La (Seven Women One Mouth) that LA Weekly called "expertly written...a forceful performance." Nancy continues to perform all over L.A. with her improvisation troupe, The Gay Mafia. Her screenwriting career was launched with her first script, Stone, which was invited into Outfest's Screenwriting Lab. Soon after, her second script, Drool, won the 2006 Slamdance Screenwriting Competition. In the summer of 2008, the year of Hurricane Gustav, Nancy had the pleasure of teaming up with Upload films to direct Drool. It is making its world premiere at Slamdance '09.

Kara Stephens (Cinematographer) After attending film school at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Kara headed to Los Angeles to make it in the film world. After a year of getting coffee and making copies on the set of the film True Lies, Kara realized that the natural place for her was behind the camera. She started as a loader and then quickly moved her way up the ladder to become a Cinematographer. Along the way she worked with such luminaries as John Frankenheimer, Kathryn Bigalow, Kevin Spacey and Catherine Hardwicke. Drool is Kara's fifth feature. You can see her reel at www.karastephens.com.

John Portnoy (Producer) has been working in production and post production since his first job, syncing dailies for a Michael Jackson music video in 1991. Since then, he has been an assistant editor, editor, visual effects supervisor, and post supervisor. This broad experience in post was pivotal in his being hired to create and run a post-production department for Yari Film Group. John has served as post supervisor on a large number of films, including recently released THE JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB and RESURRECTING THE CHAMP. In 2006, he created the post-production services division of Upload Films, the company he co-founded with Todd Williams and Nick Thurlow.

Todd Williams (Producer) is a co-founder and partner of Upload Films LLC, a production company committed to producing and financing filmmaker-based projects that establish fresh voices and expand the vocabulary of independent film. Previously, he was the Vice President of Creative Affairs for the Yari Film Group, where he served as Co-Producer on comedy THE CHUMSCRUBBER starring Ralph Fiennes and Glenn Close, romantic comedy GRAY MATTERS starring Heather Graham and FIRST SNOW, a thriller starring Guy Pearce which was written and directed by Oscar-nominated screenwriter Mark Fergus.

Nick Thurlow (Producer) spent 12 years in London, New York and Africa working in arbitrage and treasury management for firms such as HSBC, Banker's Trust, and Standard Charter's Bank before moving to California to Serve as CFO of Sonic Magic Studios. In 2004 he was appointed CEO of Sonic Magic and has

since expanded the company, adding facilities in London and Louisiana. In 2006, Nick's tireless entrepreneurial spirit led him to partner with John Portnoy and Todd Williams to create Upload Films and co-found Louisiana Media Services and Louisiana Media Productions in Baton Rouge, LA.

Darryn Welch (Executive Producer) graduated from ARTTS International, a film and television program in North Yorkshire before returning to Spain to set up Versatile Film in 1999; a successful production company in the commercials, music video and television arena. In 2002 he went on to raise private equity to produce and direct feature films. In 2005 Darryn successfully listed Southern Rock Films PLC on AIM; (the Alternative Investment Market) for which he was the CEO, he resigned from the company in late 2006. In the same year he co produced "Goal! The Dream Begins" for Buena Vista International and Milkshake Films. After spending time producing in Eastern Europe during late 2005 - 2006, Darryn decided to relocate to Berlin, where the postproduction for his directorial debut 'Wish You Were Here' had taken place, to set up Instinctive Film with his producing partner Chris Owinga in what is currently Europe's most film-friendly city. Instinctive Film has developed, financed and produced over 12 feature projects since their launch in January 2007.

Upload Films (Production Company) In 2006, Todd Williams, John Portnoy, and Nick Thurlow founded Upload Films in order to provide a new home for filmmaker-based projects that expand the vocabulary of independent film. Combining production, finishing funds, and post-production services under one roof, Upload both develops its own projects and team up with other producers to bring engaging films with strong visions to the screen. Upload's films have included the Spirit Award nominated "Shotgun Stories," which has been featured on numerous top 10 lists for 2008, as well as Peace Arch's release "The Babysitters," starring John Leguizamo. In addition to "Drool," Upload is involved with four other 2009 theatrical releases, including the thriller "Print," starring Gabrielle Carteris and Will Rothaar, and the courtroom drama "The Thacker Case," starring Eliza Dushku and Gabriel Mann.

Instinctive Film (Production Company) is an independent film finance, development and production company established in March 2007 by producing partners Darryn Welch and Chris Owinga. The core focus of the company is to nurture new talent, develop great stories and tell those stories with a unique vision. Recent productions include Ryan Gosling produced - "Broken Kingdom" written and directed by Daniel Gillies, Peter Sehr and Marie Noelle's Sundance entry "The Anarchist's Wife" (in cinemas across Europe in January 2009). Peter Dowling's underground Thriller - "Stag Night", Michael Oblowitz's - "Sea of Darkness", Davey Frankel's stunning Abebe Bikila biopic - "The Athlete"; the multi-award winning feature documentary "The End", German language coming of age comedy "13 Semester" distributed by FOX and Slamdance entry "Drool" written and directed by Nancy Kissam.

Films in preproduction include Steven Silver's - "The Bang Bang Club" starring Ben Foster and Malin Akerman and Instinctive Film's homegrown teen thriller - "Past Tense" and psychological thriller "Errors of the Human Body" both written by Eron Sheean.