

Strand Releasing presents

REFUGE

A film by JESSICA GOLDBERG

Starring Krysten Ritter, Brian Geraghty, Logan Huffman, Madeleine Martin

PRELIMINARY PRESS NOTES

Official Selection: Hamptons International Film Festival 2012

Country of Origin: United States
Format: DCP/1.85/Color
Sound Format: 5.1 Surround Sound
Running Time: 84 minutes
Genre: Drama
Not Rated

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SYNOPSIS

This heartwarming romance finds Amy (Krysten Ritter of VERONICA MARS and BREAKING BAD) as a young woman raising her two, slightly younger, but overly needy siblings. Amy has to balance her personal life with her responsibilities. But when Sam (Brian Geraghty of BOARDWALK EMPIRE and TRUE BLOOD), a young handsome stranger rolls into town, he becomes entrenched in the family while he and Amy, against all odds, begin to create a life they never thought possible.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Refuge is based on the stage play I wrote as a young student at Juilliard. The play, like the movie, is an odd little love story about two people who want different very things in the world but come together anyway. It's also a story about family. The family we're stuck with, the family that makes us who we are, and the new families we make as we go forth in the world. It's about the delicate struggle between our responsibility to our siblings, lovers, husbands and wives, and our personal hopes and desires. It's about compromise. It's about saying goodbye to a personal dream, for reality. Or maybe it's not. Maybe you just exchange one dream for another. You lose the road, but you get the safety of home. You get the refuge.

We shot the film in 17 days on a shoe-string budget. It was The Hamptons in winter. It was freezing. The house we shot in had no heat. But, everyone: the actors, the crew, my DP, my AD, gave so generously of themselves and put in a ton of hard work to make this shoot happen. Everyone cared. And that all started with Dallas and Jack, mom and dad, (or dad and dad) of the family we made on set. Later, The Milk Carton Kids came on board and created what I think is a truly, beautiful score. I'm grateful to share the movie with an audience, bring others into the family, or at least invite them to be guests at the wedding.

Finally, I dedicated this movie to my own Dad who passed away a year before we started shooting. I miss him.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Jessica is a graduate of NYU's Dramatic Writing Program and The Juilliard School, and has become a very hot screenwriter over the past 3 years having written for Imagine, Peter Berg, Ellen Page, Focus Features, Kathy Kennedy, and Denise DiNovi among others. Her script ABSENT HEARTS landed her on Variety's 10 Writers to Watch List. She wrote HEART OF A SOLDIER with Taylor Lautner attached to star and Josh Schwartz producing for Universal. Her pilot The Prince of Motor City was produced for ABC in 2008 starring Aidan Quinn, Andie Macdowell, Piper Perabo and Morris Chestnut. She is currently developing a pilot at CBS with Matt Tolmach producing called SLEEPERS. She is also writing a feature film adaptation of the Lauren Oliver novel DELIRIUM for Fox, as well as an adaptation of GOODBYE FOR NOW aka DEADMAIL written by Laurie Frankel for Lionsgate/Summit with Temple Hill producing, and recently completed her directorial debut REFUGE, which she adapted from one of her plays. She is currently working as a staff writer on NBC's NOTORIOUS, which debuts this fall.

FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

JACK HELLER (Producer)

Born and raised in New York City, Jack attended the prestigious Columbia Grammar and Preparatory High School. Jack received his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California, where he was enrolled in the film production program, a school that

takes under 75 applicants per year. At the age of 17, Jack moved to Los Angeles for a summer internship with legendary producer Bobby Newmyer (SEX LIES ANDVIDEOTAPE, TRAINING DAY). While still attending USC, and at the young age of 20, Newmyer's Outlaw Productions gave Jack a first look and overhead deal. In December of 2003, GQ featured Jack in an article about his ambitious rise in Hollywood at such a young age. After graduating, Jack secured a first look and overhead deal with producer Lorenzo Di Bonaventura (TRANSFORMERS). By age 22, Jack was hired by David Schiff to become a founding member of his new management and production company The Schiff Company. David had spent over 25 years as a talent agent and was looking for a young and ambitious manager/producer to build his new venture. In Jack's three years at The Schiff Company, he helped build an impressive client list. At the beginning of 2008, Heller left The Schiff Company with Dallas Sonnier to begin Caliber Media Co. He is currently a principal at Caliber, and runs all production, branding, and new media activities. He has produced 13 films in the past 4 years, including a successful series of films starring wrestling legend Stone Cold Steve Austin, and the independent film THE HOMECOMING written by Frank Hannah (THE COOLER). In March of 2010, Jack's feature film directing debut ENTER NOWHERE, starring Scott Eastwood and Sara Paxton, sold to Lionsgate and is set for release in April 2012. Since ENTER NOWHERE, Jack produced the Milo Ventimiglia and Sara Paxton thriller STATIC 3D, REFUGE starring Krysten Ritter and Brian Geraghty, and 3 NIGHTS IN THE DESERT starring Wes Bentley and Amber Tamblyn. Jack also recently wrapped on his directorial follow-up DARK WAS THE NIGHT, starring Kevin Durand and Lukas Haas.

DALLAS SONNIER (Producer)

Raised in the Highland Park suburb of Dallas, TX, he first attended University of Southern California at the age of 16. As a freshman, Dallas helped establish a joint venture between the film and business schools that allowed students to major in the "Business of Cinema," a program that focused on the producing and representation fields of the industry. Prior to graduation in 2002, Dallas was already a full-time employee at the United Talent Agency, where he assisted agents in the film and television departments. After spending 3 years at UTA, he left the company to become a manager at The Schiff Company in 2005. At the beginning of 2008, Dallas left The Schiff Company to form Caliber Media Co. with Jack Heller. He maintained his clients and is currently the principal manager at the company. Caliber's first feature Enter Nowhere was released by Lionsgate/Grindstone and the company is premiering its Jessica Goldberg film Refuge starring Krysten Ritter and Brian Geraghty at the upcoming Hamptons Film Festival in October. Caliber is currently in post on several projects including Dark was the Night starring Kevin Durand, Milo starring Ken Marino, Abby in the Summer starring Jaime Pressly, The Scribbler starring Katie Cassidy, 3 Nights in the Desert starring Wes Bentley, and Static starring Milo Ventimiglia and Sara Paxton.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

KRYSTEN RITTER

A multi-faceted actress with a classic beauty and magnetic presence, Krysten Ritter has crossed mediums with an impressive body of work in film, television, theatre, writing, producing, music, and recently fashion design. Next Fall, Ritter will be seen starring as the titular character in the second season of *DON'T TRUST THE B---- IN APARTMENT 23* for ABC. The series centers on Chloe (Ritter) a New York party girl with the morals of a pirate who bullies and causes trouble for her naïve small town roommate. She has recently been nominated for a Teen Choice Award for her performance in the category of 'Choice TV Villain.' The show has also been nominated in the category of 'Choice TV Breakout Show.' Most recently, Ritter was seen in Neil LaBute's *HEART OF THE MATTER* at the Lucille Lortel Theatre opposite Cheyenne Jackson, Emmanuelle Chriqui and Tammy Blanchard. Additionally, she was last seen on the big screen alongside Kate Bosworth and Rachel Bilson in the indie-comedy *LIFE HAPPENS*, which she co-wrote and co-produced with director Kat Coiro. Ritter has also written and co-written several feature and TV scripts, which are currently in various stages of development and production, including a pilot for MTV called *CASSANDRA FRENCH'S FINISHING SCHOOL FOR BOYS*, Ritter with Executive Producer. This October, Ritter will be seen in Amy Heckerling's romantic-comedy *VAMPS*, in which she stars alongside Alicia Silverstone and Sigourney Weaver. The film follows two young vampires in New York, who have to gamble their immortality when they find love.

Recently, Ritter wrapped production on the indie-drama, *REFUGE*, based on the stage play of the same title and written and directed by Jessica Goldberg. The actress portrays a young woman working to take care of her younger siblings after her parents have abandoned them. The film also stars Brian Geraghty, Madeleine Martin and Logan Huffman. Ritter is well known for her critically acclaimed turn on AMC's hit series *BREAKING BAD* where she played, Jane Margolis, a young woman who battles a history of drug addiction. In the series, the already fragile character has a tragic star-crossed love affair with Jesse' (Aaron Paul). The award-winning television series premiered in January of 2008 and will conclude with its fifth and final season in mid-2012. Other film credits include *KILLING BONO* (2011), the DreamWorks comedy *SHE'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE* (2010); the Disney/Jerry Bruckheimer film *CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC* (2009) opposite Isla Fisher; *WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS* (2008) with Ashton Kutcher, and *27 DRESSES* (2008) alongside Katherine Heigl. Other notable television credits include the Starz dark comedy *GRAVITY*; *VERONICA MARS*; *GILMORE GIRLS* and *GOSSIP GIRL*. Her theater credits include Zach Braff's play, *ALL NEW PEOPLE* where she starred opposite Justin Bartha at the Second Stage Theater, *ALL THIS INTIMACY* which also played at the Second Stage Theatre and the 2006 *24 HOUR PLAYS* at the Signature Theatre.

Beyond her acting career, Krysten Ritter has an eye for fashion and has co-designed a dress with Corey Lynn Calter. She has also designed a small capsule line of shoes for Alice and Olivia in which the collaboration reflects Ritter's girlie but edgy personal style. Additionally, she was a guest curator of an earring for JewelMint which benefitted Autism Speaks. Ritter was the lead of the fall 2009 and 2010 Banana Republic ad

campaigns and is also a member of a rock band called Ex Vivian which have contributed tracks to a number of her projects. The band will have a small record release in the summer of 2012. Ritter began her career as a model with Elite Model Management and currently splits her time between New York and Los Angeles.

BRIAN GERAGHTY

Earlier this summer, Brian completed work as the lead role in the independent feature KILIMANJARO, in which he played Doug, a man whose life is at a standstill and decides to turn things around by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. Brian recently wrapped FLIGHT for Paramount Pictures with Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, and John Goodman. This spring, he filmed a recurring role on Alan Ball's TRUE BLOOD in which he plays Brian, an Iraqi war veteran who suffers from debilitating flashbacks. Last year, he filmed the reunion dramedy 10 YEARS as part of an all-star ensemble that includes Channing Tatum, Oscar Isaac, Kate Mara and Anthony Mackie. The film made its premiere at last year's Toronto Film Festival. Last year, Brian also filmed GAY DUDE for Lionsgate and completed work as the lead opposite Krysten Ritter in Jessica Goldberg's feature REFUGE. Geraghty's additional film credits include the following: Kathryn Bigelow's Academy Award-winning thriller THE HURT LOCKER with Jeremy Renner and Anthony Mackie; EASIER WITH PRACTICE, the directorial debut of Kyle Patrick Alvarez, for which Geraghty earned rave reviews; the short film BASTARD, directed by Kirsten Dunst; Emilio Estevez's BOBBY, for which the New York Times hand-picked his performance as one of the "Scene Stealers: Breakthrough Performances" of 2006; WE ARE MARSHALL, directed by McG and starring Matthew McConaughey and Matthew Fox; OPEN HOUSE with Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer (Tribeca Film Festival 2010); THE GUARDIAN, directed by Andrew Davis and starring Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher; JARHEAD, directed by Sam Mendes and starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Jamie Foxx and Peter Sarsgaard; Terry Zwigoff's ART SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL with John Malkovich and Max Minghella; AN AMERICAN CRIME with Ellen Page and Catherine Keener; WHEN A STRANGER CALLS with Camilla Belle; LOVE LIES BLEEDING with Christian Slater and Jenna Dewan; CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER WOMEN with Aaron Eckhart and Helena Bonham Carter; THE OPTIMIST with Leelee Sobieski; STATESIDE with Val Kilmer and Jonathan Tucker; and CRUEL WORLD with Edward Furlong.

Prior to launching into a film career, had guest starring roles on several top television series, including THE SOPRANOS, LAW & ORDER and ED.

Originally from New Jersey, Geraghty graduated from The Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theatre in New York City. His stage credits include roles in productions of BERLIN, MIDNIGHT MOONLIGHT, SNIPERS and ROMEO AND JULIET. He began his professional career in New York before re-locating to Los Angeles. Geraghty recently returned to the stage in January when he appeared opposite Martin Sheen and Frances Conroy in Frank Gilroy's THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES about a young man's return from World War II. Geraghty starred as the young man, the role for which Sheen earned a Tony Award in 1964.

An ardent surfer, he has been a surf instructor and is an ongoing, active supporter of the Surfrider Foundation, a non-profit environmental organization working to preserve our oceans, waves and beaches. He is also involved with TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors), a resource for anyone who has suffered the loss of a military loved one, regardless of relationship to the deceased. They meet their mission by providing peer-based support, crisis care, casualty casework assistance and grief and trauma resources.

LOGAN HUFFMAN

With his striking good looks and remarkable acting ability, Logan Huffman is poised to become one of Hollywood's leading young stars. Perhaps best known for portraying Tyler Evan's in ABC's hit adventure drama, *V*, Huffman is currently in production on the feature film *UNDERDOGS*. Other recent film credits include the family drama, *REFUGE*, alongside Krysten Ritter and Brian Geraghty, the thriller *COMPLICITY* and Hallmark Hall of Fame's *A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON* with John Corbett. Huffman entered Gattelypoole acting Intensive at Northern Illinois University to study with Master Meisner teacher Katherine Gattely. Excelling quickly, he moved to New York at age 17 to begin pursuing his dreams of acting professionally. Soon after, Huffman appeared in the critically acclaimed indie drama *LYMELIFE*, starring Emma Roberts, as well as Rosie O'Donnell's movie of the week, *AMERICA*.

MADELEINE MARTIN

Madeleine can soon be seen in Olivier Award-winning playwright Simon Stephens' acclaimed new London play *HARPER REGAN* at The Atlantic Theater Company. Later this year she will take on the role of Millie in Roundabout's revival of William Inge's *PICNIC*. In 2009 Madeleine was the recipient of the Marian Seldes' Most Promising Young Performer Award, and The National Youth Theater award in 2008 for her performance as Jean Fordham in the original Broadway Production of the Tony Award-winning *AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY*. She has also appeared alongside Jeff Goldblum and Billy Crudup in the original Broadway production of Martin McDonagh's *THE PILLOWMAN*, and she was the youngest presenter at the Tony Awards for her heartbreaking performance as Joe in the Roundabout Revival of *A DAY IN THE DEATH OF JOE EGG* with Eddie Izzard. She is best known for her role as Becca Moody, Hank Moody's (David Duchovny's) precocious daughter on Showtime's *CALIFORNICATION*. This spring she completed work with Griffin Dunne on Justin Schwartz's new film *THE DISCOVERERS*, a human comedy about a dysfunctional family. Madeleine can soon be seen in the dark comedy *REFUGE* by Jessica Goldberg, also starring Brian Geraghty (*THE HURT LOCKER*) and Krysten Ritter.

Madeleine's additional television credits include guest starring roles on *CRIMINAL MINDS*, *LAW & ORDER*, *LAW & ORDER SVU*, and *HOPE AND FAITH*. She charmed young fans for years as the beloved JoJo on Disney's animated T.V. series *JOJO'S CIRCUS*.

CAST

Krysten Ritter	Amy
Brian Geraghty	Sam
Logan Huffman	Nat
Madeleine Martin	Lucy

CREW

Written and Directed by	Jessica Goldberg
Produced by	Jack Heller Dallas Sonnier
Executive Producers	Jessica Goldberg Austin Stark Chris Papavasiliou Benji Kohn Gary Cogill Richard Toussaint Trainor Houghton Jack Schuster
Co-Producers	Jason Dolan James Calleri Glen Trotiner
Director of Photography	Doug Emmett
Casting	James Calleri, CSA
Editor	Zach Wolf Jack Heller
Original Music	The Milk Carton Kids
Costume Designer	Marina Albright

Based on the play REFUGE by Jessica Goldberg