

Strand Releasing

presents

The Missing Person

A film by

Noah Buschel

Starring

Michael Shannon

Frank Wood

Amy Ryan

Margaret Colin

S16mm / HDCAM – SR

95 minutes

In English, Color, Dolby

Contact:

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Cast

John Rosow	MICHAEL SHANNON
Harold Fullmer	FRANK WOOD
Miss Charley	AMY RYAN
Mrs. Fullmer	LINDA EMOND
Hero	JOHN VENTIMIGLIA
Lana	MARGARET COLIN
Gus Papitos	PAUL SPARKS
Don Edgar	YUL VAZQUEZ
Drexler Hewitt	PAUL ADELSTEIN
Jane Rosow	KATE ARRINGTON
Javier	ANTHONY ESPOSITO
Agent Chambers	LIZA WEIL
Agent Craig	DANIEL FRANZESE
Mabel	MERRITT WEVER
L.A. Cop	GARY WILMES
L.A. Taxi Driver	RODRIGO LOPRESTI
Saxophone Player	JOE LOVANO

Filmmakers

Production Companies	THE 7 TH FLOOR APROPOS FILMS
Writer/Director	NOAH BUSCHEL
Producers	JESSE SCOLARO ALLEN BAIN LOIS DRABKIN ALEX ESTES
Co-Producer	PETRA HOEBEL
Executive Producers	JASON ORANS AMY RYAN
Casting Director	LOIS DRABKIN
Editor	MOLLIE GOLDSTEIN
Director of Photography	RYAN SAMUL
Production Designer	ALETA SHAFFER
Costume Designer	EDEN MILLER
Music Supervisor	JIM BLACK

Short Synopsis

Writer/Director Noah Buschel's third feature, *The Missing Person*, stars Michael Shannon as John Rosow, a private detective hired to tail a man, Harold Fullmer, on a train from Chicago to Los Angeles. Rosow gradually uncovers Harold's identity as a missing person; one of the thousands presumed dead after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Persuaded by a large reward, Rosow is charged with bringing Harold back to his wife in New York City against his will. Ultimately Rosow must confront whether the decision to return Harold to a life that no longer exists is the right one. *The Missing Person* co-stars Academy Award © Nominee Amy Ryan and features a strong supporting cast including Margaret Colin, Linda Emond, Yul Vazquez and John Ventimiglia.

Synopsis

The Missing Person opens in the dingy Chicago apartment of former New York City police officer, and current alcoholic/private detective John Rosow. He is awoken from his stupor by his telephone ringing. On the other end is a lawyer, Drexler Hewitt, who offers him a job: tail a man on a train from Chicago to Los Angeles. Hewitt's no-nonsense assistant, Miss Charley, immediately shows up at Rosow's door with some more information, a cash advance, and with that he is soon boarding a Los Angeles bound train.

On the train Rosow spies his target calmly sitting inside his cabin, accompanied by a young boy. After an alcohol fueled train ride, Rosow follows the subject back to a Santa Monica motel. His stay in Los Angeles is littered with absurd, often disarming encounters with an odd cast of characters; a cab driver who knows his Catholic saints, a Segway riding L.A. cop, a helpful motel clerk, an overzealous cell phone salesman, meddling FBI agents and a femme fatale who attempts to seduce him at a bar.

Early the next morning Rosow follows the subject in his rental car after he jumps in a cab with the young boy. The ride takes him farther and farther out of town until he's practically in Mexico. When the cab pulls over to gas up, and the subject and the boy enter a nearby diner, Rosow takes the opportunity to glean some information from the cab driver. After a bribe and striking a chord with the cabbie as a fellow New York City expatriate, Rosow finds out the subject and the boy are headed to a remote Mexican orphanage. Unable to effectively follow the cab where it's going, Rosow pays the cabbie to hide in his trunk.

The orphanage proves too difficult a place to remain inconspicuous and Rosow is soon knocked out by a couple of guards. Brought before the orphanage's owner, Don Edgar, Rosow learns that Harold, the subject, has been acting philanthropically; finding children in distress and bringing them to a safe haven in the orphanage.

Driving back to Los Angeles Rosow finally reaches Hewitt. After angrily complaining about having so much information withheld, Hewitt offers him half a million dollars to return Harold to his wife back in New York City. Acting on a tip from the cab driver, Rosow finds Harold at a sushi restaurant waiting for his train

to depart. Under the threat of turning him over to the authorities, Harold has little choice but to accompany Rosow back to New York.

During their trip Rosow learns that Harold is a missing person; presumed dead after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. He barely made it out alive that day, but the experience combined with the loss of a child in a kidnapping a few years before, changed him and he knew he could never go back to his former life. Harold's story forces Rosow to remember why he too fled New York City; the death of his wife in that very same attack.

Arriving in New York, Rosow and Harold are met by Miss Charley at the airport. Instead of immediately returning Harold, Rosow takes them to a hotel where he can stash Harold, ensure his payment, and buy some time to try and figure everything out. Rosow entrusts his former colleague Lt. Gus Papitos with keeping an eye on Harold while he goes to Harold's wife to collect his ransom. Before he and Miss Charley leave the hotel, Rosow tips her that something may be up.

Sure enough, when Rosow returns, Gus has "accidentally" let Harold go. Based on Gus' affiliation with Harold and his wife (he was the detective assigned to their kidnapping) he deduces that Gus recommended him for the job banking on his alcoholism and nihilistic attitude to screw it up. If Harold were to be declared dead a hefty life insurance payout would be granted to his wife, with a nice chunk going to Drexler Hewitt and Gus for their troubles.

Rosow meets Miss Charley and Harold at a jazz club. Rosow had tipped her off that Harold might be provided with an opportunity to escape, and she was waiting for him. The next morning, after picking up his reward at the bank, Rosow brings Harold back to his old New York City apartment. Transfixed by a painting done by Harold's kidnapped child, and with Harold pleading for his release behind him, Rosow knows he cannot force Harold to return to a life he does not want a part of, nor exists any longer. He gives the money back to Harold's wife, and goes back to Chicago.

Months later we find Rosow clean, sober and with a recently transplanted Miss Charley on his arm.

Director's Statement

I grew up in New York's Greenwich Village and was living there on 9/11. At the time I happened to be reading a lot of Raymond Chandler. That's pretty much how "The Missing Person" came to be.

After I wrote the script, I started to study noir a little bit. I found out that noir had a long history with war, was very much tied-up in war. Hard boiled detective stories were often written as subversive meditations on home front distresses. After America "won" the war, the genre became even more cynical, dark, and uneasy.

If "The Missing Person" is about anything, it's about Post Traumatic Stress. It's about what happens when your world has been blown up, in one way or another. Scattered movie theaters, train yards, apartments with no lights on. Everyone, rich or poor, becomes vagrant and rootless. Cast away into separate worlds on the same street by a bad dream shared by too many people.

John Rosow is the hero of the movie. He's not the greatest detective of all time, and his intentions are sometimes murky. But he's the hero nonetheless. The case he's gotten is a very hard one. Villains and evil-doers are the least of his concerns. What he really has to deal with is his own trauma. That he takes on this difficult case at all makes him the hero.

Cast Bios

Michael Shannon / "Detective John Rosow"

Michael Shannon grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, and began his professional stage career in Chicago. His first acting role was in *Winterset* at the Illinois Theatre Center. Over the next several years, he continued working on the stage with such companies as Steppenwolf, The Next Lab and A Red Orchid Theatre. He subsequently relocated to London for a year and performed on stage in London's West End in such productions as *Woyzeck*, *Killer Joe*, and *Bug*.

While in Chicago, Shannon also kept busy in front of movie and television cameras, most notably in William Friedkin's *Bug* and Oliver Stone's *World Trade Center*. *Kangaroo Jack* (2003) marked the third Jerry Bruckheimer production in which Shannon has appeared. He also appeared in *Bad Boys II* (2003), directed by Michael Bay and starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, and in *Grand Theft Parsons* (2003), with Johnny Knoxville and Christina Applegate.

Michael recently completed working on the films *W* with director Oliver Stone and *Revolutionary Road*, the highly anticipated Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*) film which reunites Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet and Kathy Bates. Earlier this year, Shannon starred opposite Ashley Judd in a big-screen adaptation of Tracey Letts' *Bug*; the film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. He then headlined *Shotgun Stories* which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival this spring. You will

also see him in Sydney Lumet's upcoming film, *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead*, along side Philip Seymour Hoffman, Albert Finney and Ethan Hawke. And he recently worked with Curtin Hanson for a second time in *Lucky You*.

Inspired by fresh and interesting new directors and writers, Michael continues to make his unique impression on independent film. His work in *Shotgun Stories* helped launch the career of young director, Jeff Nichols. His poignant work in Noah Buschel's upcoming *The Missing Person* is sure to make its mark. He will also star in *The Greatest* with Susan Sarandon and Pierce Brosnan later this year.

His many other credits include *The Woodsman*, *Bad Boys II*, *Kangaroo Jack*, *Pearl Harbor*, *Vanilla Sky*, *8 Mile*, *High Crimes*, *Cecil B. Demented*, *Tigerland*, and *Chicago Cab*, an adaptation of the long-running play *Hellcab*.

Frank Wood / "Harold Fullmer" a.k.a. "The Missing Person"

Frank Wood won Broadway's TONY Award & the Drama League Award for *Sideman*, which he also performed in London's West End and Australia.

His film credits include *Dan in Real Life*, *Thirteen Days*, *In America*, *People I Know*, *Pollock*, *Down To You*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Flakes*, *The Favor*, *Small Time Crooks*, and *Michael Clayton*. His television work includes *Flight of the Conchords*, *Medium*, *Line of Fire*, *Third Watch*, *Ed*, *The Sopranos*, *Law and Order*, and *Criminal Intent*. Theatre credits include Sam Shepard's *The God of Hell*, *Spring Awakening*, *Stories Left to Tell*, *The Wax*, *Hollywood Arms*, *Peter and Jerry*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Light Up the Sky*, *Our Town*, *Hamlet*, *The Rainmaker*, and *The Three Sisters*.

Frank received a BA from Wesleyan University and a MFA from New York University Graduate Acting Program. He can be seen next in the upcoming feature films *Changeling* and *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3*. He is currently on Broadway in *August*, *Osage County*.

Amy Ryan / "Miss Charley"

Academy Award nominee Amy Ryan has made her mark working with some of today's most prolific directors, writers and actors. Whether in film, television or on stage, Amy continues to turn heads with chameleon-like character turns and compelling performances.

In October 2007, Amy impressed audiences and critics alike, starring in Miramax's *Gone Baby Gone* as Helene McCready, a drug addict mother from Boston's working class Dorchester neighborhood, whose child is kidnapped. Directed by Ben Affleck, Amy co-starred with Casey Affleck, Morgan Freeman and Ed Harris in what the New York Times called "a gutsy, sensational performance." Her sympathetic portrayal of an otherwise despicable character was recognized with Academy Award, Golden Globe and SAG Award nominations in the Best Supporting Actress categories. Additionally, Amy won Best Supporting Actress awards from the National Board of Review, the

Broadcast Film Critics Association (Critic's Choice Awards), the New York Film Critics Circle, the Los Angeles Film Critics, and Film Critics Societies of Boston, Washington D.C., and San Francisco, among others.

Also in the fall of 2007, Amy appeared opposite Ethan Hawke in *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* directed by Sidney Lumet. Her work was recognized with Best Ensemble Cast awards from the Gotham Awards, the New York Online Film Critics and the Boston Society of Film Critics, and nominated for a Broadcast Film Critics Association award.

As a follow up to two profoundly dramatic performances, Amy opted for a lighter turn, guest starring in the season four finale of NBC's *The Office*. Showing off her comedic chops, Amy was introduced to the group at Dunder Mifflin as Holly, the new Head of Human Resources. Applauded by New York Magazine for "raising the show's game" and given a "cheers" by TV Guide, she will return for several episodes in season five, where sparks will continue to fly with Michael (Steve Carell).

In October 2008, Amy returned to the big screen in Clint Eastwood's *Changeling* for Universal and Imagine Entertainment. Amy stars opposite Angelina Jolie as a prostitute who is wrongly confined to a mental institution as revenge for speaking out about LAPD atrocities in 1920's Los Angeles. In December, Universal and Working Title released Paul Greengrass' film adaptation of the best selling novel *Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq's Green Zone*. As the female lead opposite Matt Damon, Amy plays a New York Times reporter on assignment in Iraq, investigating the United States government's claims of weapons of mass destruction.

In 2005, Amy garnered attention for her work in *Capote*, directed by Bennett Miller, playing the wife of the Holcomb County Sheriff (Chris Cooper) who welcomes Truman (Philip Seymour Hoffman) to the small Kansas town. Her other film work includes *Dan in Real Life* directed by Peter Hedges, *War of the Worlds* directed by Steven Spielberg, *Keane* directed by Lodge Kerrigan and *You Can Count on Me*, directed by Kenneth Lonergan. Amy has also completed two independent films: *Bob Funk* by writer/director Craig Carlisle and *The Missing Person* by writer/director Noah Buschel, both due out in 2009.

In addition to her film credits, Amy has achieved major success on the Broadway stage. In 2000, she was nominated for her first Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Play, for *Uncle Vanya*. In 2005, she astounded critics with her moving portrayal of Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Directed by Edward Hall, and starring opposite John C. Reilly, Amy was nominated for her second Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Play. She also starred in Neil LaBute's *The Distance from Here* in London's West End.

Amy's television credits are extensive, with over 30 guest star performances and eight series regular or recurring roles on primetime television shows. Most notably, she starred for five seasons as Officer Beatrice "Beadie" Russell in HBO's critically acclaimed series, *The Wire*.

Amy was raised in Queens, New York where she attended the High School of the Performing Arts. She resides in New York City.

Filmmaker Bios

Noah Buschel / Writer & Director

Born in Philadelphia in 1978, Noah Buschel grew up in New York City's Greenwich Village. He made his feature film debut with *Bringing Rain*, starring Adrian Grenier and Paz de la Huerta. *Bringing Rain* was produced by Belladonna Productions, premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2003, and was released by Plexifilm. His second feature, *Neal Cassady*, was produced by Jean Doumanian Productions. It starred Tate Donovan and Amy Ryan, and is being released by IFC Films in 2008. His upcoming film is *Mu*, starring Jena Malone, based on Maura O'Halloran's *Pure Heart, Enlightened Mind: The Life and Letters of an Irish Zen Saint*.

The 7th Floor (Jesse Scolaro & Allen Bain) / Producers

The 7th Floor was founded in 2000 by Allen Bain and Jesse Scolaro with the objective to develop and produce commercially viable, critically acclaimed feature films for theatrical distribution.

Their debut film, *Manito*, had its world premiere at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival where it was awarded a Special Jury Prize. The film went on to become the most awarded independent feature of 2002, receiving three Independent Spirit Award nominations, winning the American Express Emerging Filmmaker Award at the inaugural Tribeca Film Festival, and winning the Open Palm Award for Best Director at the Gotham Awards.

The 7th Floor went on to produce *Cry Funny Happy* which premiered at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival, *Blackballed: The Bobby Dukes Story* which won the Audience Award at the 2004 SXSW Film Festival, and *ROOM* which premiered at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival and the 2005 Cannes International Film Festival, and was nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards.

The company has also co-produced and provided production services on a variety of motion pictures including *Lord of War* starring Nicholas Cage and Ethan Hawke, *The Great New Wonderful* starring Maggie Gyllenhaal, Olympia Dukakis and Edie Falco, *RICK* starring Bill Pullman, *Julia* starring Tilda Swinton and *TwentyNine Palms* directed by Bruno Dumont.

More recently, The 7th Floor premiered *Gardener of Eden*, co-produced with Leonardo DiCaprio, directed by Kevin Connolly of HBO's *Entourage* and stars Lukas Haas, Erika Christensen and Giovanni Ribisi, and *The Cake Eaters* directed by Mary Stuart Masterson and starring Kristen Stewart and Bruce Dern.

The 7th Floor's upcoming projects include *Usonia* about famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, *Revenge of the Green Dragons* by bestselling author Fredric Dannen, and *CHOOSE*, a thriller directed by Academy Award winning Special FX Supervisor, Rob Legato (*Titanic*, *The Aviator*, *The Departed*, *Apollo 13*, *Armageddon*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *Bad Boys II*).

Lois Drabkin (Apropos Films) / Producer

Lois Drabkin is a casting director in New York City. She has cast such independent features as the award-winning *Red Doors*, and Noah Buschel's second feature, *Neal Cassady*, as well as numerous award-winning short films and the New York casting on Steven Spielberg's *War of the Worlds*.

In addition, Lois has worked as an associate alongside a number of the industry's top casting directors, on upcoming projects such as Ridley Scott's *House Of Lies*, Peter Jackson's *The Lovely Bones*, Jim Sheridan's *Brothers*, Mira Nair's *Amelia*, and Michael Mann's *Public Enemies*, and previous work including the HBO series *The Wire* and Jonathan Demme's *The Manchurian Candidate*.

Along with her producing partner, Alex Kaluzhsky, she has newly launched the production company Apropos Films, a company that develops and produces select independent film projects, with an emphasis on unique stories and intelligent, character-driven material.

Alex Estes / Producer

Alex Estes began his filmmaking career at the age of eighteen, in his hometown of Savannah, GA, with the documentary *The Kings and Queens of Chippewa Square*. After moving away from his roots of the south he continued his career in Los Angeles where he produced, wrote, and directed the short film *Amber Alert*. He is currently in post-production on his most recent documentary *The Mind of a Moment*, and has just finished writing the film *Pete, Repeat* that he will also produce with Gigantic Pictures in the fall.