



Jonathan Gray

Moderator

A practicing attorney since 1990, Jonathan Gray is a dedicated advocate for emerging and established directors, producers, production entities, screenwriters, investors and distributors in film, television and other media. He is the senior partner at Gray Krauss, a full-service entertainment law firm. Originally founded as Spinak & Gray in 1998, Gray Krauss concentrates its work in independent film and television financing, production and distribution, as well as music and intellectual property matters. The firm's clients include motion picture and television producers, directors, writers, distributors and financiers.

Jonathan is the former chairperson of the New York State Bar Association Committee on Motion Pictures. He is also an experienced trial lawyer and has acted as lead counsel in numerous jury and bench trials in the state and federal courts of New York. His diversified trial experience includes copyright and trademark actions, as well as product liability, securities, and civil rights matters. Jonathan is also an award-winning independent film producer whose films have been screened at festivals worldwide.



Sophie Barthes

Writer/Director

Born in France, Sophie Barthes grew up in the Middle East and South America. In 2000, she moved to New York to attend Columbia University Graduate School of International & Public Affairs for a curriculum in international affairs and film. Sophie graduated after directing a documentary in Yemen on the UNICEF literacy programs for women with cinematographer Andrij Parekh. Together they directed the short film *Snowblink* in Ukraine. She recently wrote and directed the award-winning short *Happiness*, which will screen at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. Both *Happiness* and *Cold Souls* won the NYSCA Individual Artists Grants and the Showtime Tony Cox Award for Best Screenplay (Feature & Short categories) at the Nantucket Film Festival. Sophie recently completed her residency at the Nantucket Screenwriters Colony and was admitted to the 2007 Sundance

Screenwriters Lab with Cold Souls. Cold Souls will be produced by Touchy Feely Films and Journeyman Pictures.

Happiness, 35 mm, 11 min. May 2006, USA

Played in 2006 at Nantucket IFF (won the Showtime Tony Cox Award Best Screenplay in a Short Film), Palm Springs ShortFest (won Best Live Action Short under 15 min.), Expression en Corto Mexico (won 2nd prize Best Live Action Short), Los Angeles Intl Short FF (nominated Best Female Director), Paris Cinéma Les Rencontres Cinématographiques, Rhodes Island, Monterrey IFF Mexico, Montréal IFF, Boston IFF, Hamptons IFF, Molodist IFF (Ukraine), LA Femme FF, Chicago IFF, Prague IFF, Sao Paulo IFF, Izmir IFF (Turkey), Sienna IFF, Austin IFF. In 2007: San Francisco Independent FF, Cinequest, Santa Barbara IFF, Florida FF, Portland IFF, Sofia IFF (Bulgaria), The Space4 Shorts FF (UK), Birds Eye View FF (London), South By Southwest and Sundance.

Snowblink 35mm, 17 min. 2004, Ukraine/USA

(Directed by Sophie Barthes & Andrij Parekh, written by Sophie Barthes)

Played at Tribeca Film festival 2005, Hampton International film festival 2005, Stonybrook 2005, Telluride film festival 2005, Texas film festival 2005 (Best Director Award), Denver film festival 2005, San Francisco Women Film Festival 2006 (Won best short), and various European festivals.



Ira Deutchman

Marketer/Distributor

Ira Deutchman has been making, marketing and distributing films for 31 years, having worked on over 150 films including some of the most successful independent films of all time. He was one of the founders of Cinecom and later created Fine Line Features—two companies that were created from scratch and in their respective times, helped define the independent film business.

Currently Deutchman is President and CEO of Emerging Pictures, a New York-based film distribution and digital exhibition company.

Among the over 60 films he acquired and released at Fine Line were Jane Campion's *An Angel at My Table*, Gus van Sant's *My Own Private Idaho*, Jim Jarmusch's *Night on Earth*, Robert Altman's *The Player* and *Short Cuts*, Roman Polanski's *Bitter Moon* and *Death and the Maiden*, Alan Rudolph's *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle*, Mike Leigh's *Naked*, and the award-

winning *Hoop Dreams*, which until recently was the highest grossing non-music documentary in history.

Other films Deutchman has worked on were *Sex, Lies, and Videotape*, *To Sleep with Anger*, *Metropolitan*, *A Room with a View*, *Stop Making Sense*, *El Norte*, and *The Brother from Another Planet*.

His screen credits include Associate Producer of John Sayles' *Matewan*; Executive Producer of Jonathan Demme's *Swimming to Cambodia*, Gary Sinise's *Miles From Home*, Paul Bartel's *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills*, Matty Rich's *Straight Out of Brooklyn*, Stephen Gyllenhaal's *Waterland*, Maggie Greenwald's *The Ballad of Little Jo*, Alan Rudolph's *Mrs. Parker & the Vicious Circle*, Paul Auster's *Lulu On the Bridge*, Wayne Wang's *Center of the World*, Daniel Noah's *Twelve*, Anthony Jaswinski's *Killing Time*, Loren-Paul Caplin's *The Lucky Ones*, Amy Wadell's *Brothel* and Georgia Lee's *Red Doors*; and Co-Producer of David Anspaugh's *The Game of Their Lives*. Deutchman was the Producer of Tony Vitale's *Kiss Me, Guido*, Sarah Kernochan's *All I Wanna Do*, Mark Christopher's *54*, Adam Davidson's *Way Past Cool*, Bob Gale's *Interstate 60*, Tanya Wexler's *Relative Evil*, and two upcoming films—Ann Hu's *Beauty Remains* and Ed Radtke's *Superheroes*. He was also Consulting Producer on the CBS sitcom *Some of My Best Friends*.

Deutchman is an Associate Professor in the Graduate Film Division at Columbia University, and is the Chairman of the Independent Feature Project/New York.

He is a graduate of Northwestern University, with a major in film.



Jamal Joseph

Writer/Director

Jamal Joseph is the writer and director of *Panther Baby* for Focus Features, which was based on Joseph's true-life experience as the youngest member of the Black Panther Party. He also wrote and directed *Drive By: A Love Story and Da Zone*. Joseph's teleplays include *Ali: An American Hero* (Fox), *New York Undercover* (Fox), *Knights of the South Bronx* (A&E), and *The Many Trials of Tammy B.* (Nickelodeon). His book, *Tupac Shakur Legacy* was published by Atria in 2006. Joseph is the founder and artistic director of IMPACT, a Harlem-based youth theater company; and executive director of New Heritage Films, a non-profit organization that provides training and opportunities for minority filmmakers. He is a recipient of the American Film and Video Blue Ribbon, The Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Competition, two Silver Apples, and a Cine Golden Eagle. He is also an alumnus of the Sundance Film Institute Directing Lab.

Mary Jane Skalski

Producer

Mary Jane Skalski is a producer based in New York City.

Mary Jane is currently in post production on *The Visitor*. The film stars Richard Jenkins, Hiam Abbass, Haaz Sleiman and Danai Gurira and was written and directed by Tom McCarthy.

Previous films include *The Hawk is Dying*, directed by Julian Goldberger and starring Paul Giamatti, Michelle Williams and Michael Pitt. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and screened in the Directors Fortnight at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival. She also co-produced Steven Shainberg's *FUR: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus* starring Nicole Kidman and Robert Downey Jr. The film opened the Rome Film Festival in 2006 and was released by Picturehouse.

In 2004, Mary Jane produced Gregg Araki's *Mysterious Skin*. The film was adapted from the novel by Scott Heim and stars Joseph Gordon- Levitt, Brady Corbet, Michelle Trachtenberg and Elisabeth Shue. It premiered at the 2004 Venice Film Festival and has also screened at Toronto and Sundance. The film has been cited on over 70 Ten Best lists (including the New York Times and the LA Times) and received nominations at the Gotham Awards (Joe Gordon-Levitt for Breakout Performance) and the Spirit Awards (Gregg Araki for Best Director).

Skalski produced *The Station Agent*, directed by Tom McCarthy. The film premiered in the Dramatic Competition at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival and received the Audience Award, the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award and a special acting award for Patricia Clarkson. Its European premiere was at the San Sebastian Film Festival where it was awarded the Special Jury Prize. The film was cited on numerous 'Ten Best' lists including the National Board of Review. It received three Screen Actors Guild nominations, including a nomination for Best Ensemble. The film also received three Independent Spirit Awards and a BAFTA for Best Screenplay.

Additional producing credits include Jem Cohen's *Chain*, which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in 2004 in the Forum; Frank Whaley's *The Jimmy Show* which screened at the Toronto and Sundance Film Festivals; Paul Harrill's *Gina an Actress Age 29*, which was awarded the Grand Jury Prize in Short Film at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival; *Dear Doughboy*, a television pilot for the WB created by Hopwood Depree; Noah Baumbach's series of shorts *Conrad and Butler*; Bart Freundlich's *The Myth of Fingerprints*; John O'Hagan's *Wonderland* which received the Cable Ace Award for Best Documentary; Jim Fall's *Trick* (exec producer), David Schisgall's *The Lifestyle* (executive producer); Kutlug Ataman's *Lola and Bilidikid* (assoc producer), Jill Godmilow's *Roy Cohn/Jack Smith* (assoc producer) and Edward Burns' *The Brothers McMullen* (assoc producer).

Skalski is a consultant for Fortissimo Film Sales and is an assistant adjunct faculty member in Columbia University's Graduate Film Department. From 1993 to 1999 Skalski was part of Good Machine where she acted in various capacities including the VP of Creative Affairs.

Upcoming projects include *In a Country of Mothers* with director Rose Troche, *Against the Current* with writer/director Peter Callahan, and *DARE* with writer David Brind and director Adam Salky.

In 2005, Skalski was the only producer included in PAPER Magazine's Un-Hollywood Dream Team. Previously, Skalski was selected by Variety as one of the 'Producers to Watch' and as one of the 'Indie 50'. In 2004 Skalski received the Producer Award at the IFP Spirit Awards.



Christian Vesper

Senior Vice President, Acquisitions, Program Planning and Scheduling

Sundance Channel

As Sundance Channel's Senior Vice President, Acquisitions, Program Planning and Scheduling, Christian Vesper supervises programming planning and scheduling for the network. He also oversees the acquisition of television series, feature films, and documentaries for Sundance Channel and its VOD offerings as well as other ancillary services. Since he joined Sundance Channel, Vesper has been involved in the acquisition of over 200 titles, including Jean Xavier de Lestrade's *The Staircase*, Michael Winterbottom's *In this World*, Ondi Timoner's *DIG!*, and Jehane Noujaim's *Control Room*. Vesper reports to Laura Michalchshyn, Executive Vice President of Programming and Marketing.

Vesper joined the Sundance Channel in 2002 as Director of Acquisitions and helped to launch Sundance Channel's Docday series as well as the Sundance Channel Home Entertainment division. Vesper was the acquisitions executive on the 2003 Sundance Film Series, acquiring four features that were released theatrically under Sundance Channel's guidance.

Vesper started his career as a lawyer at the Wall Street law firm Brown & Wood in 1993, before leaving for October Films in fall of 1994. He was Director of Business and Legal Affairs at October and USA Films from 1994 through the fall of 1999, working on acquisitions, production, and October's rapid corporate expansion and subsequent mergers. In 1999 Vesper became VP of Business development at the entertainment industry start-up iFilm, acting as the liaison between the company founders and the film industry. In mid-2000, Vesper became a Director of Programming at HBO, buying independent films and documentaries for both HBO and Cinemax.

Vesper has a B.A. in History from the University of California, Berkeley, and a J.D. from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

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