



CASTING ABOUT

A FILM BY BARRY J. HERSHEY

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High-res press images – www.kino.com/press



CREW

Directed by Barry J. Hershey
Produced by Lewis Wheeler
Edited by Marc Grossman
Director of Photography – Allie Humenuk
Berlin Casting Director – Sabine Schroth
Boston Casting Director – Carolyn Pickman, CSA
Chicago Casting Directors – Mickie Paskal, CSA and Rachel Tenner, CSA
London Casting Director – Marilyn Johnson
Los Angeles Casting Director – The Casting Company - Michelle Lewitt
Boston Casting Associates – Matt Bouldry and Leslie Sellers
London Casting Associate – Alex Wilson Jones
Music Supervisor – Linda Cohen
Office Production Coordinator – Sarah Forney
Research Consultant/Dramaturg – Lida McGirr
Supervising Sound Editor – Richard Bock
Re-recording Mixer – Robert Fernandez
Re-recording Studio – Sound One Corp.
HD On-Line Editor – Benjamin Murray
Assistant On-Line Editor – Joseph Borges
HD On-Line/Film Transform – PostWorks, New York
Colorist – John Crowley
Assistant Colorist – Franklin Vargas
Inferno Artist – Brian Benson
Title Design – Susan Bradley
Color Timer – Fred Heid
Technicolor Coordinator – Joe Violante

CASTING ABOUT

DIRECTED BY BARRY J. HERSHEY

(2005)

35 MM – DOLBY SRD

U.S.

IN ENGLISH

86 MINUTES

NOT RATED



CASTING ABOUT

SYNOPSIS

CASTING ABOUT is a lyrical, feature documentary that explores the captivating experience of casting actors. From the point of view of a filmmaker, we see and hear many of the 350 actresses who audition for three roles in a dramatic film. CASTING ABOUT includes footage from audition sessions held in Berlin, Boston, Chicago, London, and Los Angeles – weaving together actor interviews, monologues, and scene work to create an impressionistic collage of the casting experience.

In late 2000, filmmaker Barry J. Hershey set out to cast actresses for a dramatic film that he had co-written and intended to direct. The plan was to incorporate some of the casting footage into the fiction film, an idea arising from Hershey's first experience with casting at film school more than 20 years earlier. After reviewing the more than 70 hours of casting tapes, a decision was made to shape this rich material into a film of its own.

The viewer sits in the filmmaker's seat, watching the actors at work and learning about their lives, vulnerabilities, fears and dreams. The film explores the boundaries between fiction and reality - and the dialectic between voyeurism and intimacy.

The film presents footage of 184 actresses – many of whom perform monologues from the work of renowned contemporary playwrights such as Eric Bogosian, David Hare, Richard LaGravenese, Susan Miller, Keith Reddin, Nina Shengold, and Alfred Uhry.

CASTING ABOUT explores the casting process while also celebrating the demanding craft of acting.



CASTING ABOUT

Director's Statement – Barry J. Hershey

When casting for my first film at USC School of Cinema, with my fellow student and collaborator, Jay Roach (who went on to direct the Austin Powers films, among others), I had my first experience casting – in this case, for the female lead in a modern story based on the Medea myth. We placed an ad in Dramalogue and, given the number of young actresses in Los Angeles, we received hundreds of replies in the form of photographs and resumes. We selected about 75 actresses and scheduled them for one-on-one auditions.

It was a remarkable experience, spending 10 to 20 minutes with each woman, one after another, for two long days. We interviewed each person and did scene work with many of them as we tried to select the best actress for the part.

It was a unique interpersonal experience. First, the distinct roles of the filmmaker and the actresses were clearly defined. Second, there was the experience of getting quickly acquainted with each person as an individual, while at the same time observing the contrast to those who had come before. Third, each actress had to both interact with the filmmakers and then assume a different persona for the film character she portrayed. Witnessing these transformations 4 to 5 times an hour for a couple of days had a powerful impact on a young, aspiring director.

When the two days of auditions were completed, I said to Jay that it would be interesting to make a film based on this experience so that those who are never in a position to cast could have some sense of this fascinating experience. This idea, which percolated in the back of my mind for over two decades, eventually led to CASTING ABOUT.

Barry J. Hershey – Filmography

CASTING ABOUT (2005)
SOUND OF PEACE (1998)
THE EMPTY MIRROR (1996)
LUCIFER: GOD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ANGEL (1991)
UNTITLED 1987 (1989)
FILMMAKER (1987)
ODYSSEY (1986)

KINO

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

CASTING ABOUT (Biographies)

Barry Hershey – DIRECTOR

Barry previously directed and co-wrote THE EMPTY MIRROR (www.emptymirror.com), which premiered at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival, was released theatrically by Lions Gate Films, and broadcast on HBO. Universal Studios and Lions Gate Films released the film on home video and DVD. Barry previously directed a number of award-winning short films (www.soundofpeace.com): ODYSSEY, FILMMAKER, UNTITLED 1987, LUCIFER: GOD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ANGEL and SOUND OF PEACE. Among the many honors the films received are a Gold Hugo at the Chicago International Film Festival and a CINE Golden Eagle. Barry studied filmmaking at Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and the University of Southern California, where he received his MFA in Cinema.

Lewis Wheeler – PRODUCER

Lewis has worked in film and television production for 14 years as a producer, production manager, assistant director, editor, and cameraman. Recently he co-produced the dramatic feature THE BLUE DINER for WGBH/PBS/CPB. He has worked on documentaries such as LOOKING FOR RICHARD, directed by Al Pacino, BEAR WARS, RETURN OF THE EAGLE, and GOING THE GRAND. Other credits include SIEGE AT ALTA VIEW, NO ROOM FOR OPAL, THIS BOY'S LIFE, A SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM, and OUR FATHER, produced by Sandra Bullock. Lewis received an MFA from The American Film Institute in Los Angeles. His film SING PRAISES TO THE POISONED ARROW screened at nine international festivals and won Best Film and Best Screenplay at the Melbourne International Film Festival.

Marc Grossman – EDITOR

Marc Grossman has edited many feature films, television shows and commercials since attending film school at UCLA. He previously collaborated with Barry Hershey on THE EMPTY MIRROR and SOUND OF PEACE. His association with Zalman King includes stints as editor of the Showtime series RED SHOE DIARIES as well as the feature films WILD ORCHID, TWO MOON JUNCTION and DELTA OF VENUS. Marc also cut TUFF TURF with James Spader and Robert Downey Jr., ONCE BITTEN starring Jim Carrey, and FAR FROM HOME with Drew Barrymore.

Allie Humenuk – CINEMATOGRAPHY

Allie Humenuk is an award-winning filmmaker whose work has been seen nationally and internationally at museums, film festivals and on television. Born in Philadelphia, Allie discovered filmmaking while a student at Harvard University. She now teaches film and video production at Harvard while balancing her career as an independent filmmaker – she is currently making a film about photographer Abelardo Morell, OUT OF PLACE. She is also widely known for her work as a cinematographer. Some of her clients include PBS, MTV, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, Front Line and CBC.



CASTING ABOUT

FILM FESTIVALS / SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Sydney Film Festival (Australia) – June 2005

Sedona International Film Festival & Workshop (Arizona, USA) – March 2005

Bradford Film Festival (Bradford, United Kingdom) – March 2005

Independent Film Festival of Boston - IFFB (Massachusetts, USA) – April 2005

Johns Hopkins Film Festival (Maryland, USA) – April 2005

WorldFest - Houston International Film Festival (Texas, USA) – April 2005

*** Silver Remi Award**

Reel HeART International Film Festival - RHIFF (Toronto, Canada) June 2005

*** Feature Documentary Category - 3rd Place Award**

Forest Grove International Film Festival (Oregon, USA) – June 2005

Woods Hole Film Festival (Massachusetts, USA) – August 2005

Rome International Film Festival (Georgia, USA) – Sept. 2005

Bluegrass Independent Film Festival (Kentucky, USA) – Sept. 2005

Bay Street Film Festival (Ontario, Canada) – Sept. 2005

Boston Film Festival (Massachusetts, USA) – Sept. 2005

Harlem International Film Festival (New York, USA) – Sept. 2005

Black Earth Film Festival (Illinois, USA) – Oct. 2005

*** Best Documentary and Best of Festival**

Cork Film Festival (Ireland) – Oct. 2005

E2 Film Festival and Conference on Ethics and Entertainment (Arizona) – Oct. 2005

Northampton Independent Film Festival (Massachusetts, USA) – Nov. 2005

Midwest Independent Film Festival (Chicago, USA) – Feb. 2006

Harvard Film Archive (Massachusetts, USA) – April 2006

for series - 'Beyond Truth: Contemporary Nonfiction Cinema'

WGBH Boston (PBS affiliate) – July 2006

WGBY Springfield (PBS affiliate) - Indie Film Journal series – August 2006

Blue Mountain Film Festival (Ontario, Canada) – October 2006



CASTING ABOUT – THE ACTORS (alphabetical order)

Wendy Elizabeth Abraham
Mädchen Amick
Jeannette Arndt
Solveig August
Nina Bagusat
Kristina Bangert
Silvana Bayer
Emily Behr
Amalie Bizer
Elizabeth Bogush
Tina Bordihn
Hannah Bourne
Jennifer Bradley
Brigid Brannagh
Julia Bremermann
Liz May Brice
Anne-Sophie Briest
Julie Carpineto
Kim Cassidy
Lara Cazalet
Stacey Cervellino
Sarah Charipar
Stephanie Childers
Julia Christina
Diana Cignoni
Darcy Cohler
Jessica Collins
Tiffany Conroy
Mary Kay Cook
Melisande Cook
Honey Crawford
Rosana Crombie
Gesine Cucrowski
Annett Culp
Sandra Darnell
Manao DeMuth
Kelly Dirstine
Melanie Dix
Nora Düding
Heather Dumont
Nicole Eggert

Kerry Elkins
Tania Emery
Jennifer Engstrom
Nicole Ernst
Mareike Fell
Deirdre Fitzmaurice
Molly Flynn
Nina Franoszek
Phoebe Frye
Susanne Gärtner
Jule Gartzke
Johanna Christine Gehlen
Claudia Geisler
Jasmin Gerat
Sue Gillan
Linda Gillum
Dana Min Goodman
Shana Goodsell
Sharon Göpfert
Eva Habermann
Audrey Hager
Sarah Hankins
Khara Hanlon
Petra Hartung
Lauren Hayward
Darra Herman
Erin Hershey
Michaela Hinnenthal
Elizabeth Hobbs
Deborah Hodges
Alexandra Holden
Lian-Marie Holmes
Holli Hornlien
Susanne Hoss
Simone Huber
Marin Ireland
Sarah Isenberg
Danica Ivancevic
Katie Jeep
Eva Kaminsky

Megan Kellie
Jennifer Kern
Deborah King
Johanna Klante
Anja Kling
Valerie Koch
Naomi Krauss
Lauren Krol
Bettina Kurth
Linda Jae Ladas
Florentine Lahme
Elizabeth Laidlaw
Courtney Lamb
Joy Lambertson
Bettina Lamprecht
Molly Lanzarotta
Gwen Larsen
Laura Latreille
Caroline Lawton
Christina Lazarakis
Katrina Lenk
Elin Lundgren
Beate Maes
Julia Malik
Simone Marean
Desirée Matthews
Helen McElwain
Anita McFarlane
Aislín McGuckin
Jameelah McMillan
Coco Medvitz
Kymberly Mellen
Shelley Minto
Juliana Mitchell
Marina Morgan
Michelle Morgan
Sarah Jane Morris
Hemmendy Nelson
Elisabeth Oas
Celeste Oliva



CASTING ABOUT – THE ACTORS (alphabetical order)
(continued)

Leigh Oquendo
Clara Perez
Danielle Perry
Jillian Peterson
Eliza Pierson
Katherine Place
Daria Polatin
Carrie Porter
Sabina Riedel
Laura Rogers
Nicole Rogers
Katrina Romanoff
Rachel Romanski
Heather Rosbeck
Heidi Saban
Negaar Sagafi
Kria Sakakeeny
Angela Sandritter
Franziska Schlattner
Tracy Schmetterer
Mandy Schneider
Laura Schuhrk
Jenn Schulte
Saskia Schwarz
Laura Schweitzer
Leslie Sellers
Nicole Shalhoub
Lily Shaw
Anna Shemeikka
Krissy Shields
Mika Simmons
Sybil Smith
Patricia Spahn
Kathrin von Steinburg
Julia Stelter
Maria Stevens
Katja Studt
Ann-Cathrin Sudhoff
Clare Swinburne
Isabella Szendzielorz
Mina Tander
Liz Terzo
Elaine Theodore
Patricia Thielemann
Tabea Tiesler
Laura Tonke
Petra Torky
Susie Trayling
Saskia Valencia
Holly Vanasse
Brinley Arden Vickers
Gillian Vigman
Claudia Vogt
Andrea Walker
Anastasia Webb
Sarah Wellington
Alexandra Wescourt
Taylor Wilcox
Jennifer Winters
Amanda Witt
Petra Wright
Dawn Zeek
Krysta Brielle Zeiset
Helen Zellweger



MONOLOGUE EXCERPTS

+ Coaster

©2000 by Adam Langer

Courtesy of the author

+ Demigod

©1984 by Richard LaGravenese

from 'A... My Name is Alice' ©1985

conceived by Joan Micklin Silver and Julianne

Boyd

Courtesy of the author

+ The Innocents' Crusade

©1993 by Keith Reddin

Courtesy of the author

+ The Last Night of Ballyhoo

©1997 by Alfred Uhry

Courtesy of the author

+ Lives of the Great Waitresses

©1994 by Nina Shengold

Courtesy of the author

+ Nasty Rumors and Final Remarks

©1997 by Susan Miller

Courtesy of the author

+ The Secret Rapture

©1988, 1989, 1994 by David Hare

Courtesy of the author

+ Still Life

©1979 by Emily Mann

Courtesy of the author

MONOLOGUE EXCERPTS (Continued)

+ subUrbia

©1994, 1995 by Eric Bogosian

Courtesy of the author

+ Up, Down, Strange, Charmed, Beauty, and
Truth

©1999 by Edward Allan Baker

Courtesy of the author

+ The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband

©1993 by Debbie Isitt

Courtesy of the author