




OUT

*in the*

VINEYARD

*A New Musical Film by Jim Fall  
with Original Songs by Mervyn Warren*

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt and dark shorts, stands on a wooden pier or boardwalk at night. He is looking off to the right with a thoughtful expression. The background shows a beach with waves, a city skyline with lights, and a street lamp. A sign on the pier reads "WELCOME TO OCEFRONT BEACH" and lists "WAVE" and "WIND" with some illegible text below. A wooden bench is visible to the right.

♪  
*My failures are mounting  
That's four, but who's counting?  
There was always another frontier  
Seems I have no business being in business  
So, one thing is painfully clear  
It's time to move on...*



# SYNOPSIS

Sean O'Dey, a young gay man fast approaching his 30th birthday, is a perpetual dreamer whose life has been defined by a series of business failures. As he shuts his latest failed enterprise, he receives unexpected news that his long-lost Uncle Walt has passed away, and he must attend the reading of the will. Accompanied by his best friend and part-time drag performer, Conrad, Sean travels from Los Angeles to the idyllic Sonoma countryside, where he discovers he's inherited all of Uncle Walt's worldly possessions, including an aging house and vineyard.

But the inheritance sets off a feud with José, the fiery neighboring vineyard owner, who believes the property should have been left to him. Sean soon uncovers the family's hidden love story spanning six decades: Uncle Walt and José's father, Gustavo, were impassioned lovers caught in a complex love triangle with José's mother, Valentina.

When Sean learns that Uncle Walt's unfulfilled dream was to build a successful winery one day, he seizes upon this venture as a chance to prove his worth despite having no expertise in winemaking. For Sean, this risky endeavor is his last chance to redefine himself and honor a family legacy rooted in love, resilience, and identity. Will Sean's journey be yet another chapter of failure, or will he rise above his past to honor Walt's legacy and find his own place out in the vineyard?






“Making an original movie musical has been

*my dream.”*



The background of the page is a warm, orange-toned sunset over a city skyline. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the right side, partially obscured by the silhouettes of palm trees in the foreground. The city buildings are dark silhouettes against the bright sky. The overall mood is nostalgic and cinematic.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The first movie my parents took me to see in a theater was *Mary Poppins*, and it immediately took up permanent residence in my heart. At that time, I didn't realize that it was part of a rare breed of original break-into-song movie musicals that were explicitly written for the screen and weren't adaptations of stage productions. Some of the movies on this list include *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), *Singing In The Rain* (1952), *A Star Is Born* (1954), *Gigi* (1958), *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (1964), *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory* (1971), *Yentl* (1984), and more recently: *Once* (2007), *La La Land* (2016), and *The Greatest Showman* (2017).

In this same tradition, *Out In The Vineyard* is an original new movie musical written for the screen. However, unlike these other musicals, it's grounded much more in reality. Granted, it's a reality where people break into song, but not with extravagant fantasy elements. That being said, the movie still has big, fun, lively numbers. But for the most part, the story is intimate, with songs that reflect the big-hearted, romantic drama that unfolds.

*Out In The Vineyard* musically weaves the parallel stories of two generations of Sonoma farm families struggling to unite for survival. Musicals shine when characters reach a point where dialogue is no longer enough, and only through song can they fully express their deepest hopes, dreams, and desires. Adapting any story into a musical is challenging, but *Out In The Vineyard* is a rich, multicultural tale of forbidden love, family secrets, and big dreams, filled with poignant and rousing opportunities for the characters to break into song.

Given my love of musicals, unsurprisingly, my first four feature films all contain musical numbers in one way or another. However, they were primarily one-off performances within the story, where a character sings a live song. I'm excited to say that with the creation of *Out In The Vineyard*, I'll finally realize my lifelong dream of directing an entirely new, unapologetic, original movie musical. I couldn't be more thrilled. – JIM FALL

A close-up shot of a person's hand holding a large bunch of dark, ripe grapes. The person is wearing a brown, textured jacket. The background is a blurred vineyard with green leaves and other grape clusters. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

**SEAN:** But, why did Walt will this vineyard to me? Every business I've ever attempted has failed. Every single one.

**VALENTINA:** But you kept trying. You never gave up. You had vision and you weren't afraid to keep dreaming big. That's why. *You're the last chance for his dream to come true.*



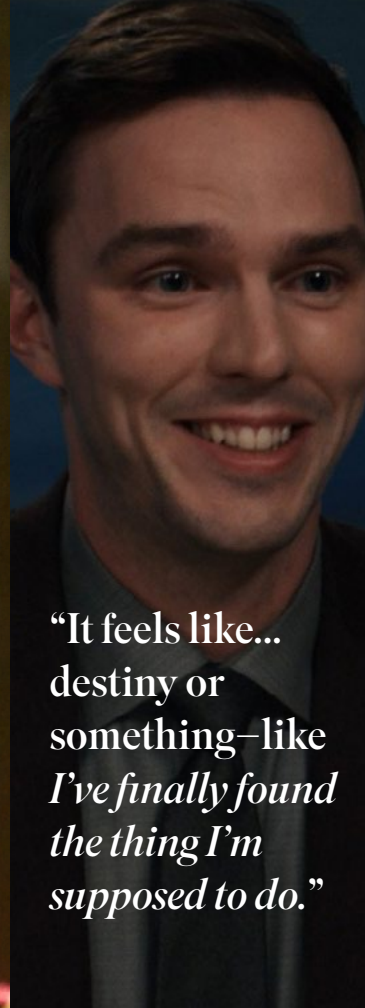
# CHARACTERS

**WALTER O'DEY AND SEAN O'DEY (1966/Present Day):** Walt (29) appears in the 1966 flashbacks. Sean (29), Walt's nephew, appears in the present-day scenes. The same actor plays both parts.


**WALT (1966):** an idealistic but closeted young man secretly involved in a passionate love affair with Gustavo, a bisexual seasonal harvester working in his father's vineyard. Walt and Gustavo share a dream of opening their own winery one day, but after the death of Walt's father, they must first find a way to save the vineyard, now teetering on the brink of foreclosure.

**SEAN (Present Day):** Sean's life seems perfect: he's a handsome, confident gay man engaged to a successful doctor. But beneath this exterior, Sean is quietly spiraling. He's failed at every business venture he's pursued, leaving him feeling adrift and worried he may never make his mark on the world. But an unexpected inheritance from his estranged Uncle Walt—a vineyard—gives him one last shot at redemption. Against his fiancé's objections, Sean decides to throw caution to the wind, embracing the daunting challenge of running the vineyard and opening a winery. It's a huge risk, but for Sean, it might be his only chance to prove himself.


“Did you tell her about us?”



“It feels like... destiny or something—like *I've finally found the thing I'm supposed to do.*”

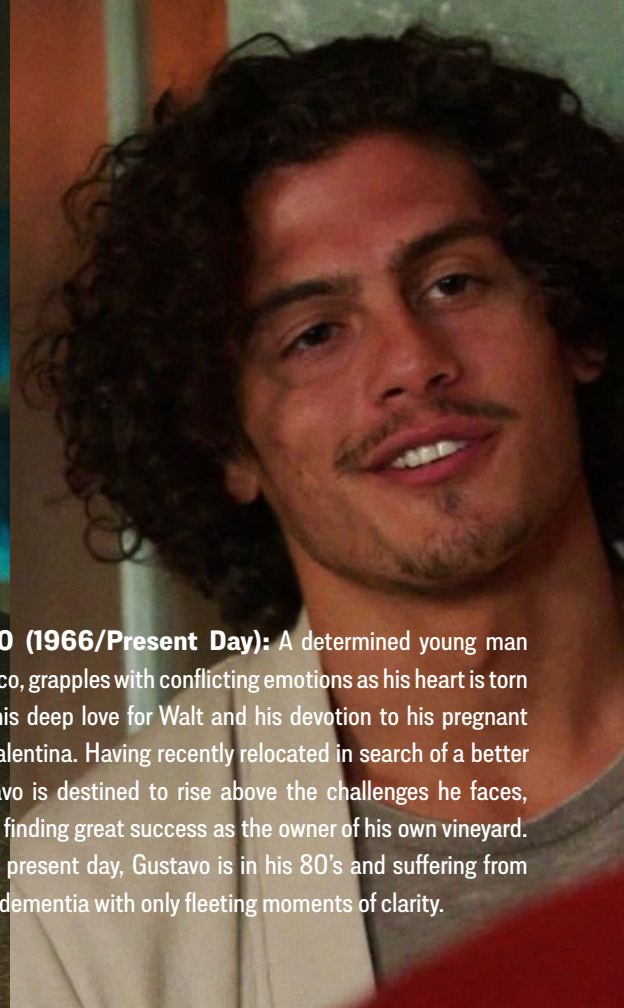
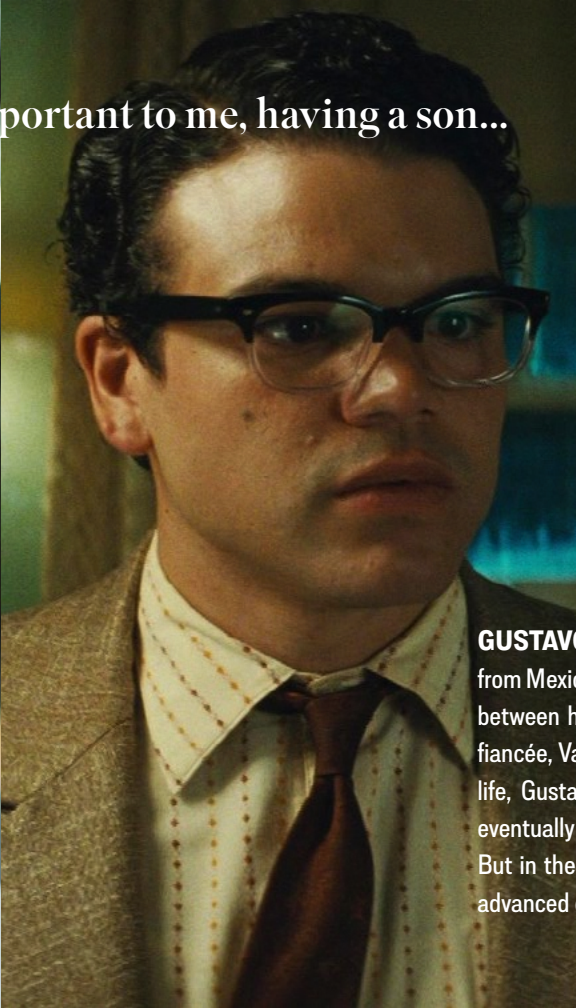


IDEAS (L-R): Josh O'Connor, Nicholas Hoult, Joe Keery




“I’ve told you, having a family is important to me, having a son...  
You know *I’ve always wanted that.*”

IDEAS (L-R): Anthony Ramos,  
Josh Rivera, Tommy Martinez



**GUSTAVO (1966/Present Day):** A determined young man from Mexico, grapples with conflicting emotions as his heart is torn between his deep love for Walt and his devotion to his pregnant fiancée, Valentina. Having recently relocated in search of a better life, Gustavo is destined to rise above the challenges he faces, eventually finding great success as the owner of his own vineyard. But in the present day, Gustavo is in his 80's and suffering from advanced dementia with only fleeting moments of clarity.





IDEAS (L-R): Oscar Isaac,  
Diego Luna, Edgar Ramirez

“Well, congratulations, neighbor. You just saved me a shit ton of money. Because when you fail at this, *and you will*, that vineyard will automatically default to me free of charge.”

**JOSE (Present Day):** Gustavo and Valentina’s only son is a hardworking but shortsighted man in his 40’s who has never been comfortable with his ailing father Gustavo’s bisexuality and long standing love affair with the recently deceased Walt. When Jose learns that Walt’s vineyard has been left to Sean—an inept outsider—he becomes embittered. Fueled by resentment and determined to protect what he feels is his rightful inheritance, Jose sets out to undermine Sean’s attempts at success.



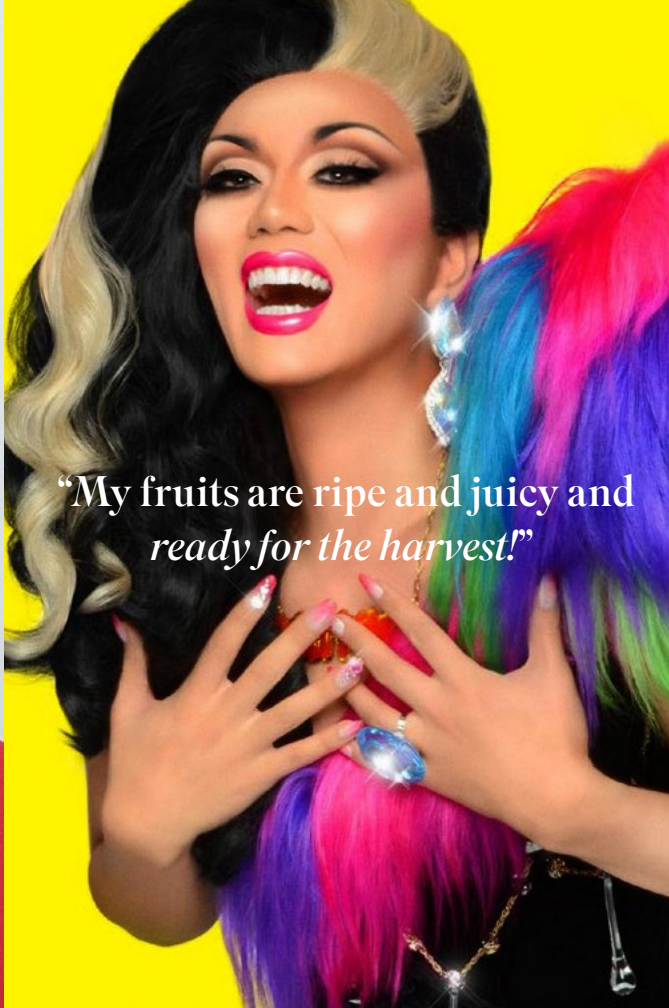
“It’s simple, really. Walt was the love of Gustavo’s life... and Gustavo was the love of mine—*Is, is the love of mine.*”

**VALENTINA (1966/Present Day)** is a smart, loving woman with a quiet yet unwavering determination. In 1966, as a young wife, she is initially devastated to learn that Gustavo, her husband and the father of her unborn child, has been in a long-standing love affair with Walt. However, after Walt cares for her following a heartbreaking miscarriage, Valentina’s feelings evolve. She comes to care for him deeply, and together, the three form an unconventional but deeply bonded family. In the present day, Valentina is in her 80’s and her greatest wish is for Sean, Walt’s nephew, to carry forward Walt and Gustavo’s dream of opening a winery—a dream that her own son, Jose, shows no interest in pursuing.

IDEAS (L-R): Ariana DeBose,  
Eva Noblezada, Michelle Veintimilla



IDEAS (L-R): Jin Ha, Manila Luzon, Roz Hernandez



*“My fruits are ripe and juicy and ready for the harvest!”*



**CONNIE/CONRAD (Present Day):**

Sean's longtime best friend and confidant, Connie, is an architect and interior designer by profession, but also a talented drag performer whenever the mood strikes—and it often does. Fiercely loyal to Sean, Connie never hesitates to dish out the tough love and blunt truths that only a close friend can offer. Connie drives Sean the seven hours to Sonoma from LA for the will reading. Once there, Connie unexpectedly finds himself captivated by a hunky local winemaker named Willie, sparking a whirlwind romance.

A close-up, side-profile shot of a man with short dark hair, wearing a red shirt, kissing another man on the cheek. The man being kissed is mostly in shadow. The background is a dimly lit room with a lamp and a wooden cabinet.

**GUSTAVO:** I love you, you know.

**WALT:** I know.

**GUSTAVO:** Even if there isn't enough money, even if this all falls apart and we lose everything, none of it matters, as long as we stay together.

**WALT:** *I know that too.*



# THE LOOK

Set across two distinct time periods sixty years apart, *Out In The Vineyard* unfolds against the backdrop of picturesque Sonoma County, California, where rolling hills, lush vineyards, quaint farmhouses, and charming small towns set the stage for this musical drama/comedy.

The film's visual style will be reflected in the beauty of the rural landscape while capturing the essence of both eras. Scenes that take place in 1966, including the rousing epic opening musical number, will be shot in the 2.40:1 widescreen format with a rich, saturated Technicolor palette and a subtly grainy film look reminiscent of classic 1960s widescreen movies like *The Sound of Music*, and the original *West Side Story*.

In contrast, scenes set in the present day will be presented in the more common 1.85:1 aspect ratio, adopting a contemporary visual approach with modern color tones and clarity. But as our main character, Sean, undergoes his transformative journey and discovers his identity and purpose in the final act, the film will seamlessly transition from 1.85:1 to 2.40:1 widescreen while maintaining the modern color palette and clarity. This visual transformation will reflect the themes of the film, as well as Sean's new appreciation of his past and the bright future ahead he sees for himself.





An aerial photograph of a rolling landscape in Sonoma County, California. The foreground features a vibrant green vineyard with neat rows of grapevines. Beyond the vineyard, there are dense green forests and clusters of trees. The middle ground is dominated by rolling hills with a mix of golden-brown, dry grass and patches of green. In the distance, more hills and a small blue pond are visible under a clear sky.

# THE LOCATION

*Out in the Vineyard* unfolds against the timeless landscape of Sonoma County, California, spanning both the 1960s and the present day. The valley's enduring natural beauty remains as captivating as ever, with its cinematic vistas of rolling hills filled with vineyards stretching endlessly with a backdrop of redwood forests reaching the top of the mountains.

Sonoma County is a welcoming enclave of multigenerational family-owned wineries with a widely diverse community ranging from migrant farm workers to high-tech professionals and every social stratum in between. Discovering this inclusive atmosphere and a deep-rooted family history he knew nothing about inspires our lead character, Sean O'Dey, to leave his frustrating life in Los Angeles behind and try to make a new future here in the Valley.







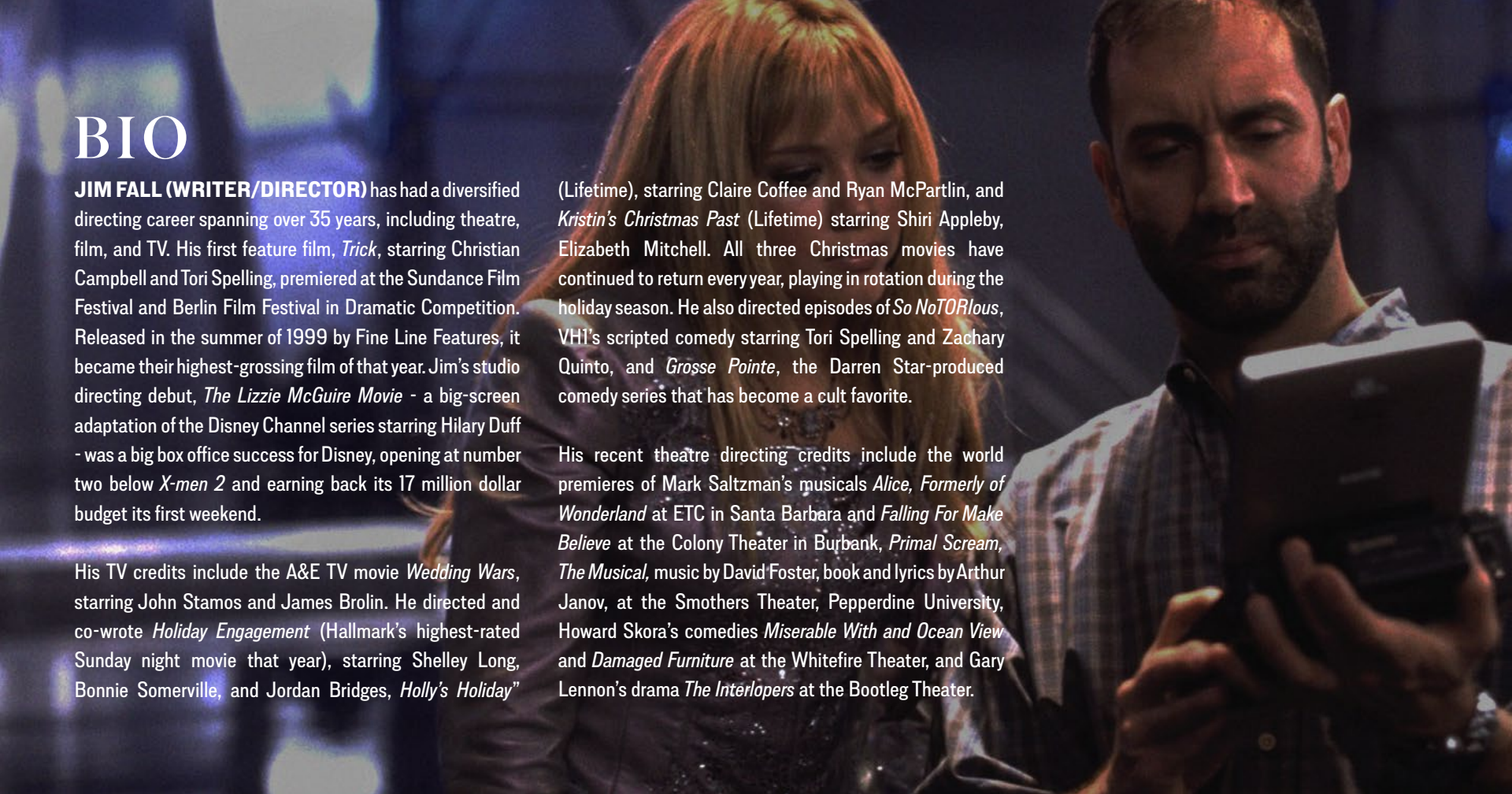
# BIO

**JIM FALL (WRITER/DIRECTOR)** has had a diversified directing career spanning over 35 years, including theatre, film, and TV. His first feature film, *Trick*, starring Christian Campbell and Tori Spelling, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and Berlin Film Festival in Dramatic Competition. Released in the summer of 1999 by Fine Line Features, it became their highest-grossing film of that year. Jim's studio directing debut, *The Lizzie McGuire Movie* - a big-screen adaptation of the Disney Channel series starring Hilary Duff - was a big box office success for Disney, opening at number two below *X-men 2* and earning back its 17 million dollar budget its first weekend.

His TV credits include the A&E TV movie *Wedding Wars*, starring John Stamos and James Brolin. He directed and co-wrote *Holiday Engagement* (Hallmark's highest-rated Sunday night movie that year), starring Shelley Long, Bonnie Somerville, and Jordan Bridges, *Holly's Holiday*"

(Lifetime), starring Claire Coffee and Ryan McPartlin, and *Kristin's Christmas Past* (Lifetime) starring Shiri Appleby, Elizabeth Mitchell. All three Christmas movies have continued to return every year, playing in rotation during the holiday season. He also directed episodes of *So NoTORious*, VH1's scripted comedy starring Tori Spelling and Zachary Quinto, and *Grosse Pointe*, the Darren Star-produced comedy series that has become a cult favorite.

His recent theatre directing credits include the world premieres of Mark Saltzman's musicals *Alice*, *Formerly of Wonderland* at ETC in Santa Barbara and *Falling For Make Believe* at the Colony Theater in Burbank, *Primal Scream*, *The Musical*, music by David Foster, book and lyrics by Arthur Janov, at the Smothers Theater, Pepperdine University, Howard Skora's comedies *Miserable With and Ocean View* and *Damaged Furniture* at the Whitefire Theater, and Gary Lennon's drama *The Interlopers* at the Bootleg Theater.



## **MERVYN WARREN (ORIGINAL SONGS & SCORE):**

Five-time Grammy Award winner, 11-time Grammy nominee, and Alabama Music Hall Of Fame inductee Mervyn Warren is a highly accomplished film & TV composer, music producer, lyricist, songwriter, arranger, pianist, and vocalist.

Equally adept at practically any style, Merv's work spans pop, R&B, jazz, classical, orchestral, vocal, country, and more. One of the industry's most sought-after producers, his credits include Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, Queen Latifah, Boyz II Men, Barbra Streisand, David Foster, Celine Dion, Rascal Flatts, Michael Bublé, Dolly Parton, Chicago, The Manhattan Transfer, Al Jarreau, Faith Hill, Rascal Flatts, and many more.

Merv co-produced the Michael Jackson single *This Is It*. He also co-produced with Babyface the Billboard #1 R&B hit *Last Night* by Az Yet; produced a Billboard Top 10 hit—*I Believe In You & Me* (movie version) by Whitney Houston, from *The Preacher's Wife*; and penned a Billboard #2 Dance hit—*The Power of One* for Donna Summer.

Merv has composed the orchestral underscore for numerous feature films—from comedies to dramas to

action—including the #1 hit *The Wedding Planner*, *A Walk To Remember*, *A Raisin In The Sun* (2008), and Jim Fall's *Wedding Wars*.

Merv's expertise is regularly requested by his mentor Quincy Jones, which is no surprise, as Merv produced, arranged, composed, and/or performed on 13 tracks on Quincy's last three albums: *Back On The Block*, *Q's Jook Joint*, and *Q: Soul Bossa Nostra*. Merv also co-produced, with Quincy, *We Are The World 25 For Haiti*, featuring over 80 superstars.

In 2021 Merv was selected by Quincy and Mary J. Blige to compose the score for Mary J. Blige's *My Life*. Merv was also selected by Quincy and director Nicola Peltz-Beckham to compose the score for the 2024 film *Lola*.

Merv has also produced, arranged, and/or written songs and lyrics for numerous films, including *Sister Act 2*, *Living Out Loud*, and most of the Grammy-nominated, multi-platinum soundtrack for *The Preacher's Wife*, featuring Whitney Houston—the best-selling “gospel” album of all time. Merv also composed and arranged underscore and songs for Queen Latifah/Dolly Parton film *Joyful Noise*.





**BRIAN BROCKWAY (PRODUCER/STORY BY):** Having grown up in a Hollywood film family, Brian has been surrounded by the entertainment world all his life. As a young boy, he would often sneak onto sound stages to watch scenes being filmed at Warner Bros., 20th Century Fox or MGM where his father worked as a feature film editor. Being able to run free on those studio backlots inspired his imagination to make films where you'd find yourself walking down a New York Street one minute then walk around the corner and suddenly be in a Wild West town only to turn around another corner and discover you're in King Arthur's Court. Years later, after graduating from the USC School of Cinema, Brian immediately went to work in the television field as a cinematographer. He has worked on Emmy Award winning shows such as *Murphy Brown*, *Designing Women*, *The Big Bang Theory* and *Two and a Half Men*. Brian feels grateful for having worked with legendary stars such as Robin Williams, Candice Bergen, Lucille Ball, Tom Hanks, Mary Tyler Moore, Bette Midler, Jennifer Anniston and Jean Smart to name a few.

Having come up with the original idea for *Out in the Vineyard* over fourteen years ago, Brian is amazed at the journey on which it has taken him. He is thrilled with Jim Fall's new and fabulous screenplay because not only does it retain the integrity and fun of the original story but now has been reconceived and grounded into a fantastic movie musical.



**ANDREW KOENIGSBERG (PRODUCER)** is an entrepreneur, a connector and communitarian at his core. Professionally he has been assisting organizations transform their business operations for nearly 30 years. As a founder of a successful management consulting firm, FlipSwitch, LLC, he has focused on serving his clients in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Prior to founding FlipSwitch, Andrew has held senior executive roles in several Fortune 500 organizations building and managing teams in a variety of capacities. Andrew hails originally from New York where he fell in love with musical theater from a very young age. It started a lifelong mission to serve as a patron of the arts in each of the communities in which he has lived. Recently he has been leaning in on producing film and theatrical projects. In addition to joining the producing team with American Eclipse, Andrew has also supported his producing team on co-producing projects, *Merrily We Roll Along* and

*Here Lies Love*. He currently has several film projects in final development, *Out in the Vineyard*, a musical romp through wine country and *Nando*, written by Luis Figueroa. Both films are set to go into production in 2025. Additionally, he has served as a board director for the [Transcendence Theatre Company](#) since 2016 in Sonoma, CA. Andrew also served as Managing Director for that same regional professional theater company from 2018-2022. In January 2024, Andrew joined the board of directors of [Maestra](#), an organization which mission is to support women and non-binary individuals in the musical theatre industry. He holds a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology/Business from University at Albany, State University of New York.



**LAURA IVEY (PRODUCER):** Laura Ivey is an award-winning producer of film, television and theater with 26+ years of experience in the production, finance and sales sectors of the entertainment industry.

Most recently, Laura won a Tony Award for Best Musical Revival for the hit Broadway revival *Merrily We Go Along* starring Jonathan Groff, Daniel Radcliffe and Lindsay Mendez. Previous Broadway shows include David Byrne's revolutionary musical *Here Lies Love*, which played at the Broadway Theatre in 2023 and the musical *Mrs. Doubtfire* starring Rob McClure, which opened at the Stephen Sondheim Theater on December 5, 2021. In development is the musical, *American Eclipse*, from the genius musical mind of Michael John LaChiusa.

Her last film *Paulie Go*, starring Ethan Dizon and Madison Wolfe, was released in theaters in Spring 2022. Among the many films Laura has produced over the years are *Walking Out* starring Matt Bomer, which premiered in competition at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and Meg Ryan's directorial debut *Ithaca*, starring Sam Sheperd, Jack Quaid and Tom Hanks. Also, produced was musical adaptation of Jason Robert Brown's Tony-Award winning *The Last Five Years*, directed by Richard Lagravenese and starring Anna Kendrick.

Laura is a member of the Board of Directors of Maestra Music, the only organization providing support, visibility, and community to the women who make the music in the musical theater industry. Previously she served for two terms as Co-President of the Board of Outfest in Los Angeles, CA. Laura received her Juris Doctor from Fordham University Law School and is a member of the State Bar of California.



*There's so much I want for us  
So much more I wanna do  
There are tides that we can turn  
Lifelong wishes to come true  
Someday love will just be love  
And we'll tell the world that we're a team  
A man can dream...*

