

## "FAR AND AWAY"

Ron Howard

During the development of "Far and Away," director Ron Howard was inspired by stories of his ancestors, especially those who--like Joseph and Shannon--took part in the Oklahoma land rush. One story in particular, however, illustrates one of Howard's favorite themes: the strange and often comic twists of fate that guide people to their destiny.

"One of my great-grandfathers--the only one who *didn't* take part in the Cherokee Strip land rush--was thrown off a train near a small town out west," says Howard. "As it happened, he later became the mayor of that town, and one of its most prosperous citizens. But it wouldn't have happened if they hadn't thrown him off."

"Much of the humor and excitement of 'Far and Away' is driven by these kinds of small miracles," says Howard. "It's romantic, emotional and even whimsical at times. It's the type of story that we all wish had happened in our family."

Ron Howard has been involved with feature films and television programming as a writer, producer, actor and director for many years. Born in Duncan, Oklahoma, he made his acting debut at the age of 18 months in a Baltimore production of "The Seven Year Itch," and his first screen



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appearance in "The Journey," when he was four years old. As a child actor, he appeared in "The Music Man" and the long-running television series "The Andy Griffith Show." He also starred in the popular television series "Happy Days," and drew favorable reviews for his performances in "American Graffiti" and "The Shootist."

Howard directed his first feature film, "Grand Theft Auto," in 1978, when he was 23 years old. This began a string of popular hits, ranging from domestic comedy to science-fiction/fantasy: "Night Shift," "Splash," "Cocoon," "Gung Ho," "Willow" and, in 1989, "Parenthood." Last year he directed "Backdraft," which received four Academy Award nominations and was one of the highest-grossing films of the year.

Together with Brian Grazer, he is a founder and chief executive officer of Imagine Films Entertainment, Inc., a public company that independently produces theatrical feature films. Since Imagine went public in 1986, Howard has served as executive producer for "No Man's Land," "Vibes" and "Clean and Sober." In 1989 Howard produced Imagine's "The 'burbs," starring Tom Hanks.

Howard currently resides in Connecticut with his wife and four children.

Tom Cruise. Nicole Kidman. Imagine Films  
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Howard Film. "Far and Away." Music by John Williams.

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Costumes Designed by Joanna Johnston. Co-Producers, Larry DeWaay and Bob Dolman. Film Editors, Michael Hill and Daniel Hanley. Production Designed by Jack T. Collis and Allan Cameron. Director of Photography, Mikael Salomon, A.S.C. Executive Producer, Todd Hallowell. Story by Bob Dolman & Ron Howard. Screenplay by Bob Dolman. Produced by Brian Grazer and Ron Howard. Directed by Ron Howard. A Universal Release.

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"FAR AND AWAY"

Brian Grazer

Producer Brian Grazer was recently honored as NATO/Showest '92 Producer of the Year. In addition to "Far and Away," he serves as producer on the upcoming Universal release "Housesitter," a romantic comedy starring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn directed by Frank Oz, and "Boomerang," a comedy starring Eddie Murphy.

Mr. Grazer also produced the recent sleeper hit "My Girl," starring Macaulay Culkin and Anna Chlumsky, as well as "Backdraft," "Kindergarten Cop," "The Doors" and "Parenthood."

Co-chairman (with Ron Howard) and CEO of Imagine Films Entertainment, Inc., Grazer has established himself as a creative producer with a sharp eye for new talent. He has helped launch the film careers of such stars as Michael Keaton, Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan, Daryl Hannah, John Candy, Johnny Depp and, most recently, Anna Chlumsky.

Grazer, whose keen sense of story earned him an Academy Award nomination for "Splash," has harnessed his talent for combining story with stars to produce three top-ten box office hits: "Parenthood," starring Steve Martin, "Spies Like Us," starring Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd, and "Splash," starring Tom Hanks and Daryl Hannah. Grazer's other films include "Clean and Sober" (Michael Keaton),



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"Night Shift" (Michael Keaton and Henry Winkler) and "Real Genius" (Val Kilmer).

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Bob Dolman

BOB DOLMAN (Screenwriter/Co-producer) has been associated with Ron Howard since 1983, when Howard directed Dolman's NBC pilot "Little Shots." Soon after, they started discussing preliminary ideas for the project that would later become "Far and Away."

In the meantime, Dolman wrote the film "Willow," directed by Howard in 1986, and was also a staff writer on "WKRP" and "SCTV." The last of these brought Dolman two Emmy Awards for writing. In 1988, Dolman conceived and produced the Showtime series "Poison."

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## "FAR AND AWAY"

Tom Cruise

Over the past decade, Tom Cruise has emerged as one of the most accomplished actors of our time, one whose performances have brought him both critical and public acclaim--earning him a Golden Globe Award, an Academy Award nomination and a People's Choice Award for Best Actor for his haunting portrayal of war-scarred veteran Ron Kovic in "Born on The Fourth of July." In less than a decade, his films have grossed more than \$1.5 billion worldwide.

Cruise first attracted attention as a headstrong young military cadet in 1981's "Taps." Two years later, his starring role in "Risky Business" demonstrated his ability to command a wide audience. His portrayal of Maverick in the highest grossing film of 1986, "Top Gun," created a nationwide sensation. In 1990, Cruise's film "Days of Thunder"--his first on-screen collaboration with "Far and Away" co-star Nicole Kidman--became the highest-grossing race-car film in cinematic history, with a cumulative gross of \$195 million worldwide.

Cruise has earned the accolades of peers and public alike for his collaborations with many of the entertainment profession's most distinguished filmmakers: with Paul Newman in Martin Scorsese's "The Color of Money," opposite Dustin Hoffman in Barry Levinson's Academy Award-winning



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film "Rain Man," and with five-time Academy Award winner Oliver Stone in "Born on the Fourth of July"--a performance which earned Cruise an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor.

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"FAR AND AWAY"

Thomas Gibson

Thomas Gibson, who plays Stephen Chase, Shannon's fiancée, is a newcomer to feature films. Having graduated from the Juilliard School's drama division in 1985, Gibson has spent the last seven years working mostly on New York's theatrical stages on and off Broadway.

In productions by the New York Shakespeare Festival, he has starred in "Henry IV" (Parts I and II) as Prince Hal, as Malcolm in "Macbeth" with Raul Julia, as Count Orsino in "Twelfth Night" and as Proteus in "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" with Elizabeth McGovern.

Gibson has performed in premieres of many new plays by playwrights David Hare, Howard Brenton, Romulus Linney, and Anna Cascio and is active in theater groups committed to the development of new plays.

Audiences may also recognize Gibson from his television work. Daytime appearances include stints as Sam Fowler on "Another World" and as Derek Mason on "As The World Turns." Gibson also appeared in the mini-series "The Kennedys of Massachusetts" and the mini-series version of Gore Vidal's, "Lincoln," starring Sam Waterson and Mary Tyler Moore.

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"FAR AND AWAY"

Nicole Kidman

One of Australia's best-known young performers, Nicole Kidman first came to the attention of American audiences with her critically acclaimed performance in the psychological thriller "Dead Calm." She co-starred with Tom Cruise in the 1990 international box-office hit, "Days of Thunder." This year, she was featured opposite Bruce Willis and Dustin Hoffman in the screen version of E. L. Doctorow's Pulitzer prize-winning novel, "Billy Bathgate," for which she received a Golden Globe nomination.

Born in Hawaii, Kidman spent her childhood in Australia and began a successful film career at the age of fourteen in "Bush Christmas." In 1985, when she was only seventeen, Kidman became an overnight sensation in Australia for her award-winning performance in the acclaimed mini-series, "Vietnam." Between films, she continued to hone her craft at the St. Martin's Youth Theatre in Melbourne, the Australian Theatre for Young People in Sydney and the Philip Street Theatre, where she learned voice, production and theatre history.

Kidman won her plum role in "Dead Calm" over a pool of many of the film community's most established actresses. She received special notice both for her technical virtuosity and her visceral emotional presence.



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