

A CIGAR AT THE BEACH

Filmmaker Bio:

Stephen Keep Mills (Writer/Director/Executive Producer) started out as an actor. Graduating from the Yale School of Drama in 1969, he began his professional life with The Guthrie Theatre and performed with many leading regional theatre companies in the US and Canada, appeared in three Broadway productions, and worked on new plays at the Public Theatre in NYC in the time of Joe Papp. Much of his TV and film work can be found on IMDb by searching for Stephen Keep. Mills began writing, directing, and producing his own plays in 1985, and in 2003, turned one of them, *Hotel Lobby*, into a digital feature. He is following up that effort by making his debut as a film director with *A Cigar at the Beach*.

Cast:

Billy Gillespie (THE SMOKER) Escaping the mean streets of Philadelphia and living on the sun-drenched beaches of Florida, Billy found refuge on the water. A passion for deep sea fishing, water skiing, and the burnt red sky at sunset brought a sense of belonging. Answering the nagging call back to the streets, Billy chose New York City to further his craft of acting. Billy's film and television credits include leads in the Indie films *Wormkiller Last Spring*, *Last Stand*, *Doc Hollywood*, *Law and Order*, and *Homicide Life on the Streets*. Longing to combine the kinetic energy of the streets and the meditative peace of the beach and Redwoods, Billy now calls California home.

Cathy Shim (ARIEL) was born in Seoul, South Korea and came to the United States with her family when she was a toddler. Cathy was admitted with full scholarship to study at the R.D. Colburn School of Performing Arts at the age of 7. She continued her musical studies through college at the USC Thornton School of Music as a Piano Performance major before shifting her interest towards medical sciences, graduating with a B.S. in Kinesiology and a minor in Piano Performance. She began her pursuit of acting at USC and has studied with various instructors at the East West Players Actors Conservatory, The Larry Moss Studio, Lesley Kahn & Company as well as comedic improvisation with the Groundlings, Cold Tofu, and stand-up at Judy Carter's Comedy Workshop. Her television credits include a recurring guest star role on Comedy Central's *Reno 911!*, guest star appearances on *Living with Fran*, *Free Ride*, *All of Us*, and *So Notorious*. Her film credits include *Love is the Drug* and *Porting*, for which she was also an associate producer.

Rumi Bunya (FAYE) was born in Osaka but grew up in Tokyo. After getting her Bachelor's in American Literature, she came to Hollywood and attended the Lee Strasberg institute. Rumi worked in a few typical actress jobs (waitress) and then became a teacher, teaching Japanese. All the while Rumi kept pursuing her acting career, getting semi-steady work in modeling and commercials. In 2004 Rumi married her non-acting boyfriend (still together).



Svetlana Efremova (WOMAN IN WHITE) is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and a former lead actress with the St. Petersburg State Theatre in Russia. She worked with the Moscow Art Theatre, appeared on Broadway in *Uncle Vanya*, Off-Broadway in *Ivanov* and performs frequently with the South Coast Rep in Costa Mesa and the Yale Rep in New Haven. She has worked with both Grotowsky and Peter Brook. Her TV credits include *West Wing*, *The Practice*, *Joan of Arcadia*, *ER*, *Without a Trace*, *Cold Case*, *Strong Medicine*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Her films include *K-19*, *White Oleander*, *Island*, *Hotel Lobby* (with Stephen Keep Mills), *The Optimist*, *Spinning Boris*, *Phone Booth*, *Prince of Central Park*. Currently, she is a professor of Acting at Cal State Fullerton.

Martin Clark (MARINER #1) a native of Chicago, performed in his first professional Equity production at age 12 in the Chicago company of *My Sister Eileen*. During high school he served a four-year apprenticeship at Showcase Theatre in Evanston, Illinois. He studied acting and directing at Carnegie Tech, Goodman Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, and also with coaches Stella Adler, Eric Morris, and Hope Summers. His Episodic TV credits are legion the last being this year in *The Shield*. He has appeared in supporting, Co-Star and Starring roles in over 20 theatrical motion pictures including the Civil war epoch, *Gods and Generals* with Robert Duval and Stephen Lang. Martin has a strong Shakespearian background and is a proud member of the prestigious Los Angeles Classical Theatre Lab.

William Joseph Hill (MARINER #2) has starred in notable Indie films including *Picket Guy* and *Vigilbot*. William was also featured on the Penn & Teller Showtime Series *Bull***t!* with his wife Pamela in the “Bottled Water” episode. William and Pamela have their own production company, Four Scorpio Productions, where they are developing several feature projects.

Jermaine Jackson (MARINER #3) was born in Atlanta and got his first taste of acting at the young age of 7 as a featured extra in the movie *The Slugger’s Wife*. He studied the art of theater while attending Georgia Southern University on a football scholarship. Upon graduation, he started taking acting classes at the Actor’s Studio with Nick Conti in Atlanta. After landing several commercials and movie roles, he joined the Screen Actors Guild and moved to Los Angeles to further his career. In his first two months he booked a sketch comedy pilot. Comedy is his strong point and he is considered a dynamic story teller with an outlandish cast of characters in his repertoire.

Radu Vlad (MARINER #4) Originally from Romania, Radu has been involved in the entertainment business for more than 10 years. His training includes acting, writing, and TV production skills developed during his college years at NJIT, Rutgers University, and UCLA as well as independent studies. Among other shows, he can be seen in *Kiss the Girls*, *Bowfinger*, *Earl’s Your Uncle*, and of course, *A Cigar at the Beach*. Radu works and lives in Los Angeles.



Stephanie Nash (WIFE) has performed at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Off-Broadway, Odyssey Theatre (LA), and in a Broadway National Tour. On TV, she's appeared on *Ghost Whisperer*, *Head Cases*, *The Closer*, *Weeds*, *NYPD Blue*, *Carnivale*, *Dragnet*, *Strong Medicine*, *7th Heaven*, *Frasier*, *Judging Amy*, *Boston Public*, *Angel* and many commercials. Stephanie also performed live on KPFK (90.7FM) her solo show about her vision quest (4 days alone on a mountain with no food or water.) A Yale School of Drama graduate, she also coaches actors & directors, and teaches mindfulness meditation techniques. Contact her at: www.NashArts.com.

Charlie Schmidt (JASON) was born in Irvine, California on July 1, 1994. He began acting at the age of 6 when he starred in a Pillsbury Crescent Roll commercial. His mother convinced him to quit acting for a while, but he begged her to start auditioning for parts again at the age of 9. Charlie loves team sports such as basketball, volleyball, and baseball. He also enjoys an occasional tennis match and likes to jump horses when he can. During the summer, you'll find him kayaking in the Gulf Islands in British Columbia. Charlie also enjoys video games, computer games, as well as card games. But as much as Charlie loves games and sports, he is devoted to his craft and continues to take acting classes weekly.

Crew:

Daniel Dubiecki (Executive Producer) produced his first feature film, "Waiting for Mo" at the tender age of eighteen. The film played at the New York Film Festival and Sedona Film Festival and has garnered many honors for the director, Zaki Gordon. Since then, Daniel has produced countless award winning short films, directed by his creative partner Jason Reitman including "Operation", "H@", "In God We Trust", "gulp", and "Consent". Daniel recently produced another short directed by Newton Thomas Sigel and J. Lisa Chang, starring Selma Blair, Elias Koteas, and Richard Kind. In all, he has produced over 20 shorts and four features, which have played at over 100 film festivals, winning over 30 awards around the world, including awards at Sundance, Aspen Shortsfest, Toronto, Cannes, LA Film Festival, New Directors/New Films (MOMA), ShortShorts (Tokyo), Edinburgh, Melbourne, Sydney, and US Comedy Arts. As well as producing short films, Daniel produces commercials at Tate USA in Santa Monica for clients such as Heineken, Honda, BMW, Wal*Mart, GM and Nintendo. Currently, Daniel and partner producer, Lara Alameddine are developing their Australian science-fiction series of books, beginning with *Galax-Arena* and *Terra-Farma* into motion pictures. He and Lara have also acquired rights to another best selling Australian book, *Undercover* followed by its sequel *White Lies* with their counterpart down under, Torus Tammer. In September 2005 at the Toronto Film Festival, Daniel and Jason premiered their first feature film "Thank You For Smoking" starring Aaron Eckhart, Maria Bello, Adam Brody, Sam Elliott, Katie Holmes, Rob Lowe, William H. Macy, and Robert Duvall and sold it to Fox Searchlight who released it on March 17, 2006. One week later, Daniel and Jason announced the opening of their new comedy production company Hard C which has a two-year first look deal with Fox Searchlight. Announced only weeks ago, their next film they are about to begin is the highly anticipated, indy, comedy/drama, "Juno."



Michael Alba (Director of Photography) was born and raised in Southern California. While attending college at the Brooks Institute of Photography, Michael began his career working as a Director of Photography and camera operator for the internationally renowned Hollywood biography series Autograph. During his final year of school, Michael collaborated with director Boris Undorf for his first feature film Sonata, as camera operator, which was acknowledged for outstanding cinematography on the festival circuit. Following Sonata, Michael relocated to Los Angeles, joined the IATSE 600 Cinematographer's Guild, and began shooting independent films, episodic television, and television movies. Michael has worked as a camera assistant to many successful cinematographers and applied his skills to shooting 6 feature films as a Camera/SteadyCam operator. His credits include over two dozen short format films, commercials, music videos, and pilots, both as a Director of Photography and camera operator.

Tamera Martin (Editor, Producer) has been a documentary producer and Avid editor/instructor for over 10 years, editing/co-producing feature-length documentaries for PBS, Turner, and Discovery and over 50 short form/ commercial programs for Fortune 100 clients and studios. She dedicates half of her professional hours to instruction and consulting, a commitment that extends to include the entire portfolio of Avid editing courses as well as a small slate of instructional models designed to simulate the daily trials and pitfalls of feature/ documentary editing. As a Senior Instructor specializing in Advanced Effects and Avid Symphony finishing, Tamera brings a wealth of real-world problem-solving experience, story telling/aesthetics and technical mastery together for the benefit of her students and clients. Tamera co-produced, edited, and received an Emmy nomination for the Gates Foundation documentary, *The Day My God Died*, narrated by Tim Robbins and Winona Ryder with music by David Robbins and Bono. *Without Lying Down: The Frances Marion Story*, Tamera's 2000 centerpiece documentary for Turner Classic Movies, was nominated by the WGA and DGA. Los Angeles-based composer and pianist

Milen Kirov (Composer) represents a new generation of world musicians. Combining his Bulgarian background with rigorous European and American education and conservatory training, and a vast experience in the music worlds of two continents, Milen is a dynamic performer and composer working with equal success in a variety of genres. He has written concert and film music, music for stage in the jazz, world and pop fields, and has performed all over Europe and the United States. Milen Kirov has recorded and/or performed with some of the best jazz and pop musicians of today, such as Perry Farrell and Steve Ferrone, among others. Currently Milen is working on several music projects, among them his Balkan jazz/rock/power band "Bulgarian Moonshine Co." and the rocktronic trio "Ai".

Ron Pereira (Art Director/Designer) Ron earned his degree from California College of the Arts. Director Tony Scott saw his first short film and funded Ron's next project. He has written and directed films that have appeared on Showtime and have been screened at Sundance. He was presented the Crystal Heart Award from the Heartland Film Festival by producer Don Hahn for his film *Kid*.

