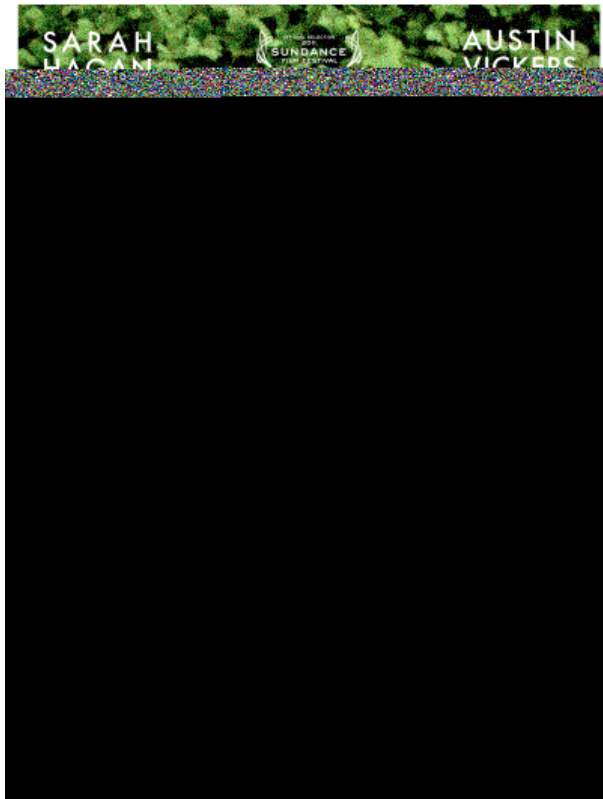




JESS + MOSS

A film by Clay Jeter
Starring Sarah Hagan and Austin Vickers



PRODUCTION NOTES

Running Time: 85 minutes

Website: www.jessandmoss.com

US Sales Contact:

Preferred Content, 310-393-0707

Kevin Iwashina, kevin@preferredcontent.net

Foreign Sales Agent:

Visit Films, 718-312-8210

Ryan Kampe, rk@visitfilms.com

Direct Film Contact:

Jason Michael Berman, Exec Producer, 213-610-8923, jnberman@gmail.com

JESS + MOSS

Synopsis

Jess, age 18 (Sarah Hagan) and Moss, age 12 (Austin Vickers) are second cousins in the dark-fire tobacco fields of rural Western Kentucky. Without immediate families that they can relate to, and lacking friends their own age, they only have each other. Over the course of a summer they venture on a journey exploring deep secrets and hopes of a future while being confronted with fears of isolation, abandonment and an unknown tomorrow.

Through a series of memories and vignettes, Director Clay Jeter creates a lyrical tale of two solitary, playful and young souls in JESS + MOSS. Jeter delicately imposes a complex assemblage of ways of looking and listening – planes of focus, select pieces of music, and expert sound engineering call attention to cryptic, but suggestive details. The film creates a world where mundane elements swell to bursting and demonstrate the power of cinema to capture the sensation of memory; the beautiful and tragic feeling of the fleeting; and the preciousness of youth and all of its disasters.

**ABOUT JESS + MOSS
TOLD BY FILMMAKER CLAY JETER**

As soon as I began to entertain the idea of directing an independent feature film, I knew that I would shoot my first movie on location in the south. More specifically, I wanted to shoot in Western Kentucky on my family's tobacco farm, centered around the old abandoned and crumbling farm house that had belonged to my great-grandmother until she passed in 1998. I grew up around this volatile and vibrant landscape, which is itself a major character in the film, dangerous and beautiful at once.

Since I can remember, I've been fascinated with the concept of memory, which is a major theme of *Jess + Moss*. We decided to shoot the movie on about 30 different film stocks, some of which were relatively new and would render crisp clean images. Others were as much as 25 years old and had been stored in a variety of conditions. We knew many of these would render grainy images with color and contrast fluctuations. For this reason, we wanted to shoot on film because it has the capacity to behave in a way that parallels the way memory behaves. While some memories can be extremely crisp and clear, others, which have been replayed in one's mind over and over again, can begin to become faded, fuzzy, and washed out ghosts of the original memory. We wanted the film stocks as well as the locations to simultaneously encompass the qualities of vibrancy and degradation that define our memories.

I was reading Carson McCullers' *The Member of the Wedding* when I first started putting pen to paper for what was to eventually become the story of *Jess + Moss*, and I think it shows in the film. In many ways, the characters of Jess and Moss and the nature of their relationship are inspired by Frankie and John Henry in McCullers' heart-wrenching book. In addition, I also spoke extensively with my mother, who, like my sister and I, spent many of her childhood summers wasting the days away with her cousins on the very farm where we would be shooting.

There is something extremely visceral about the humid nights and oppressively hot days of a Kentucky summer, which feels at first like it will last forever, but which, ultimately, seems to come to a sudden end without warning. Jess and Moss are 18 and 12, respectively. For me, it's about putting characters at these formative stages of their lives in the evocative and haunting setting of *Jess + Moss* that provides the quintessential environment for a movie about memory.

ABOUT THE CAST

SARAH HAGAN (Jess)

Sarah Hagan is best known for her beloved recurring roles as “Millie Kentner” on the cult series *Freaks and Geeks* and “Amanda” on the hit series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Born in Austin, Texas, she began acting at age 6, when her mother first signed her up for musical theater, and has since appeared on *Ally McBeal*, Judd Apatow’s *Undeclared*, *Boston Public*, *Grey’s Anatomy*, and *Medium*, to name a few. She played the voices of “Lola Llama” and “Jungle Girl” on the Cartoon Network series *My Gym Partner’s a Monkey*. After a hiatus from acting to study painting and sculpture, Hagan has returned with a supporting role in the Warner Bros. comedy *SPRING BREAKDOWN* alongside *Saturday Night Live* cast members Amy Poehler and Rachel Dratch, and the lead role in *JESS + MOSS*.

AUSTIN VICKERS (Moss)

Austin Vickers, 12 years old, attends Forrest Middle School in Chapel Hill, Tennessee. He got his first taste of acting at age nine, when he earned a roll in the Dixie Theater production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Reading for the role of Moss, he made an immediate impression with his naturalism, authenticity and long list of special skills, including 4-wheeling. After casting him as the lead role in the short film *5 DOLLARS*, director Clay Jeter knew without a doubt that this engaging charmer was the right kid for the part. *JESS + MOSS* is Austin's first feature film role.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

CLAY JETER - Director, Writer, Producer, Additional Cinematographer

Clay grew up in Tennessee riding go-karts off-road, converting abandoned houses into skateparks, and organizing extremely dangerous firework-battles in the outskirts of his neighborhood. In an inflatable raft, he explored the Jeter River Cave in the woods behind his house attempting to find a way out on the other side, stopping occasionally to turn off his flashlight and shoot roman candles into the dark caverns. When he was 12, he found a kitten in a dumpster, placed it on the front of his skateboard, and rode it to the safety of his home (Buster, the cat, still lives in Clarksville with his parents).

Clay started acting as a kid and quickly became obsessed with filmmaking. While guest starring on an episode of the cult classic WALKER TEXAS RANGER, he learned how to execute the sleeper hold by WWE Legend "Hot Rod" Rowdy Roddy Piper. To the great dismay of his math and science teachers, Clay turned down an offer to study engineering at MIT so he could attend film school at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. After college, Jeter went on tour with the Brooklyn-based rock band The Hold Steady to direct the documentary A POSITIVE RAGE and traveled to Africa as the co-director of photography on BOUNCING CATS, a feature-length documentary about break-dancing in Uganda. He returned home to the family tobacco farm in Western Kentucky to direct his first narrative feature film, JESS + MOSS.

WILL BASANTA – Cinematographer, Producer, Writer

Will was brought up in the woods of deep southern Illinois. He became interested in visual media at an early age, restoring a derelict darkroom and teaching himself black and white photography. After studying film at the University of Southern California, he split to the mountains of northwestern Wyoming to work as a painter, explore the backcountry, climb, camp, and otherwise bum around. Since returning to California, he has shot music videos for artists such as John Fogerty, The Fray, Five for Fighting, Bloc Party and Bonnie "Prince" Billy, among others. He was co-director of photography with friend Clay Jeter on BOUNCING CATS, a feature documentary about break-dancing in Uganda, which is currently playing in festivals worldwide. Deeply influenced by his adventures in the woods and mountains, he has developed an organic aesthetic and an unflinching desire to explore the magical nature of moving pictures. He plans, one day, to move to Big Sur and live in a treehouse.

DEBRA JETER - Writer, Executive Producer

Debra Jeter has published both fiction and nonfiction in popular magazines, including Working Woman,

New Woman, Self, Home Life, Savvy, Christian Woman, and American Baby, and has co-authored two textbooks. Her story, Recovery, was awarded first prize in a short story competition sponsored by Christian Woman; and her nonfiction book Pshaw, It's Me Grandson: Tales of a Young Actor was a finalist in the 2007 USA Book News Awards in the category History: Media & Entertainment.

She holds a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, as well as a B.S. and an M.B.A. from Murray State University. A native of Mayfield, KY, she resides most of the year in Clarksville, TN, with her husband Norman Jeter and cat Buster. Their two children, Clay Jeter and Nikki Jeter Wilbanks, reside in Los Angeles. She is an Associate Professor in the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University, where she has been awarded both the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Webb Award (chosen by the MBA graduating class) for Excellence in Teaching. She holds a joint appointment as a Visiting Research Professor at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

ISAAC HAGY - Editor, Producer, Writer

Born in 1984 in Lost Nation, Iowa, filmmaker and photographer Isaac Hagy has, for as long as he can remember, focused his lens on the fringes of culture, the periphery of society – the indigents, derelicts, and mad geniuses that walk off the edge and only sometimes come back to tell the tale.

His career in film editing began while he was still enrolled in USC, when he was brought on as an editor for AN UNLIKELY WEAPON, a feature documentary about famed war photographer Eddie Adams. Isaac showcased his keen eye for images as a storytelling medium. The film played at over 50 festivals worldwide and won numerous awards including Best Editing.

Since then, he has worked on a variety of long and short-form projects including countless music videos, commercials, and experimental short films, demonstrating his versatility as an editor. His deeply collaborative working style, which extends beyond the role of a traditional editor, has garnered the trust and respect of many prominent directors.

In 2009, Isaac traveled to Africa, where he produced, co-wrote, and edited a feature documentary about the positive effects of hip-hop culture in the poorest regions of Uganda. The film, BOUNCING CATS, is currently making the festival circuit while preparing for a theatrical release.

JESS + MOSS is Isaac's first narrative feature.

Hagy, it should be noted, rides a 1968 BMW motorcycle. There is a painting of him riding this motorcycle across the desert with Bob Dylan – as if in a dream of searching for the lost America.

ADAM CHILDRESS – Co-Producer

Adam Childress was born and raised in Nashville. Childress became interested in production during his senior year of high school and saw it as a new medium of expression to develop and explore. He soon realized how expansive the industry is and has grown to love every aspect of it.

During college, Childress started making films with a talented group of people and met his long-time business partner Brian Harstine. Childress helped develop and co-produce several short films. Over the 2010 political season, Childress produced and worked as editor and motion graphics artist on more than 100 political advertisements.

JESS + MOSS is his first feature film.

BRIAN HARSTINE - Producer

Brian Harstine was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He went on to attend college in Nashville where he put together talented teams that have completed several award-winning films and began a partnership with his co-producer Adam Childress. Harstine founded Liquid Crystal Productions and has developed and produced more than 11 short films. Brian has won more than 20 awards and accolades for his films from festivals, critics and audiences alike. In addition to producing, he often works as production manager, assistant director, editor, post-production supervisor and director. Harstine and his team are in post production on three additional feature films, two short films and have four additional features in development.

Harstine is also an avid photographer who has a passion for visuals and their power to tell a story whether it is in a single image or an image in motion.

JASON MICHAEL BERMAN – Executive Producer

Berman recently wrapped production on his second feature film entitled SEVEN DAYS IN UTOPIA which he produced with Mark G. Mathis (PRECIOUS and BRICK). The film stars Robert Duvall, Lucas Black, Deborah Ann Woll, Brian Geraghty, Melissa Leo and Kathy Baker. The film will be released theatrically nationwide in Spring 2011.

In 2009, Berman produced his first feature film entitled THE DRY LAND, which he co-produced with Heather Rae (FROZEN RIVER). The film was written and directed by Ryan Piers Williams, whose USC thesis film Jason also produced. THE DRY LAND stars America Ferrera, Melissa Leo, Wilmer Valderrama, and Ryan O'Nan. The film premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival in the US Dramatic Competition and won the Grand Jury Prize at the Dallas International Film Festival and at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in Scotland. The film was theatrically released by Maya Entertainment/Freestyle Releasing in July 2010.

Berman is currently in production in Maryland on THE BROOKLYN BROTHERS BEAT THE BEST, written and being directed by Ryan O'Nan. Berman will be back in Maryland in March 2011 to produce LEARNING UNCLE VERNON starring the RZA, Charles Dutton and Danny Glover.

Prior to producing, Berman started his career in the agent training program at the William Morris Agency in Beverly Hills, CA. His understanding of the entertainment business was further honed under Rick Sands, the Chief Operating Officer at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, where he witnessed the rebirth of the United Artists label and gained a wealth of knowledge about legal, business affairs, management, distribution, acquisition, and marketing departments of a major motion picture studio. Berman then went on to work for writer/director Gary Ross at his Universal Studios based company, Larger than Life Productions, where he assisted Gary with the animated feature film, THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX.

BLOOD RIVER PICTURES PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH LOVE STREAMS AGNES B. PRODUCTIONS

Executive Producers – Debra Jeter, Norman Jeter, Cliff Coleman

Executive Producers – Bill Fletcher, John Rowley

Executive Producer – Jason Michael Berman

Executive Producer – Harley Tat

Executive Producer – Kevin Iwashina, David Gelb

Associate Producers – Mark Stoeckinger, April Kimble

Associate Producers – agnes b., Charles-Marie Anthonioz

Associate Producer - Nikki Jeter Wilbanks

Co-Producer – Adam Childress

Producers – Clay Jeter, Brian Harstine

Producers – Isaac Hagy, Will Basanta

A Film By - Clay Jeter

Directed by – Clay Jeter

Edited By – Isaac Hagy

Cinematography By – Will Basanta

CAST:

Sarah Hagan

Austin Vickers

Haley Strode

Haley Parker

Donald Fleming

Cliff Coleman

Marie Coleman

Billy Coleman

Wildie Coleman

Scottie Coleman

Story by – Clay Jeter, Debra Jeter, Nikki Jeter Wilbanks

Screenplay by – Clay Jeter, Will Basanta, Isaac Hagy, Debra Jeter

Production Designer – Gregory Grover

Art Director – Melanie Norwood

CREW:

Additional Cinematography - Clay Jeter

Assistant Art Director – Jenna Small

First AD – Brian Harstine,

Second AD - Diana Rice

Boom Operators – Adam Childress, Ben Hickson, Sarah Hagan, Austin Vickers

Key Grip – Matt Holland

First AC – Matt Scott

Second AC - Travis Holmes

Grip and Electric Swing – Nick Rau, Cody Peterson, Chris O'leary

Art Department – Scott McDougal, Kyrie Kerstetter, Amanda Fairhurst

SOUND:

Supervising Sound Editors – Mark Stoeckinger, Cliff Latimer

Sound Editors – Darrell Hanzalik, Dror Mohar, Shannon Potter, Latham Robertson, Alexandra Spinks, Elliot
Conners

Re-Recording Mixers - Michael Prestwood Smith

Title Design - Chris Berdine

Editing Facility - Bonnie Brae Studios, Hollywood

Telecine Facility – Ruses, Hollywood

Telecine Colorist – David Smith

Production Legal - Larry Weinberg, Robert Fyvolent

Post Production Facility – Ground Zero, Nashville

Flame/EFX – Randy Tede

Colorist/Online Editor – Jami Francescon

Assistant Online Editor – Steven Ondik

Facility Manager – Lee Tucker

SPECIAL THANKS:

Steven Drypolcher

Ian McAllister

Martin Marquet
Chantelle Vickers
Chris Berdine
Bob Jackson
Beau Leon
Allen's Fireworks, Clarksville, TN
Design Music Group
Soundelux
Todd AO

THANKS:

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Basanta Family
Mike Beamer
Scott Caruthers
Betty Clark
Laina Cohn
Billy, Wildie, Scottie Coleman
Drew Denny
Brandon Driscoll-Luttringer
Nabil Elderkin
Fotokem
Sinan Germi
Philip Gilberti
Eric Greenburg
Hagan Family
Harstine Family
Randy Jeter
Stacy, Charles, Katlyn Jones
Rebecca Landholt
Jana and Kayla Little
Angela Mason
Jimmi McCarter/Canon Group
Brooke Medansky
Maura Milan
Hiro Murai

New Hat
Reel Good
Rene Ridinger
Gabe Sachs
Peter Sauvey
David Schmidt
Charles Spano
Elana Summerlin
Vickers Family
Jared Wilbanks
Adam Webber
Barbara Wesner

“Country”

Written by Nick Littlemore
Performed by Empire of the Sun
Published by Universal-PolyGram International
Courtesy of EMI (Virgin)

“Tammy”

Written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans
Performed by Connie Francis
Published by Jay Livingston Music, Inc. and Universal-PolyGram International
Courtesy of Universal Records under license from Universal Music Enterprises

“La Vie En Rose”

Written by Edith Piaf and Louiguy
Performed by Edith Piaf
Published by Warner Bros Inc and Universal-PolyGram International

“Another Day In Paradise”

Written by Phil Collins
Performed by Phil Collins
Published by Imagem Music
Courtesy of Atlantic Recording Corp.
By Arrangement with Warner Music Group Film and TV Licensing

"Nothing Compares 2 U"

Written by Prince

Performed by Sinead O'Connor

Published by Universal-PolyGram International (Controversy Music C/O UMG)

Courtesy of EMI UK (Chrysalis Records)

"Maggie May"

Written by Rod Stewart and Martin Quittenon

Performed by Rod Stewart

Published by EMI April Music Inc., EMI Full Keel Music and Unichappell Music (BMI)

Courtesy of The Island Def Jam Music Group under license from Universal Music Enterprises

"Avril 14th"

Written by Richard James

Performed by Aphex Twin

Published by Chrysalis Music Group

Courtesy of Warp/Sire Records

By Arrangement with Warner Music Group Film and TV Licensing

"Silver Stallion"

Written by Clayton Lee Trulove

Performed by Cat Power

Published by RESACA Music Publishing (EMI)

Courtesy of Matador Records (The Beggars Group)

Filmed on Location in and around Murray, Kentucky

Blood River Pictures

In association with Love Streams agnes b. Productions

and Liquid Crystal Productions

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