

THE TRUTH

...IS ALWAYS COMPLICATED



" **THE TRUTH** spins almost predictably completely out-of-control only to pull the viewer in an unexpectedly different direction."

Winchin Chala - Boston Cultural Events Examiner

" **THE TRUTH** was one of the best movies I've seen in a long time. I like the cleverness of it. This is a 5 out of 5 star film."

Nick Kubic - Theatrum Mundi

JOHN **HEARD**



BRENDAN **SEXTON III**



ERIN **CARDILLO**



AND
DANIEL **BALDWIN**



SYNOPSIS+

When husband and wife, Jonathan and Dana Davenport are taken hostage in their upscale home by a mysterious intruder named Gabriel, what starts out as a simple home invasion robbery quickly turns into something much more complicated. Dana may, or may not, know the intruder Gabriel. And Gabriel may, or may not, have previously crossed paths with Jonathan. Is Gabriel really there just to rob them? Can Jonathan and Dana survive once they're exposed to each other for who and what they really are? What are they trying to hide from Gabriel and from each other? Is it worth dying for?

TALENT+

JOHN HEARD

Emmy nominated actor John Heard began his career on the stage, winning multiple awards in both Chicago and New York, including a 1976-77 Theatre World Award and Obie Awards for his off-Broadway performances in "Othello" and "Split". John has appeared in over sixty feature films, dozens of television movies, and guest-starred in numerous award-winning dramas on TV. His early screen successes include performances in Cutters Way, Chilly Scenes of Winter, Heart Beat, Big, The Pelican Brief, Home Alone, In the Line of Fire, Pollack and most recently The Great Debaters. John has had recurring roles on Prison Break, CSI: Miami, as a guest star on Numbers, Southland and Entourage.

BRENDAN SEXTON III

Debuted in Todd Solondz's WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE, in which he played the troubled bully, Brandon. For that performance, Brendan was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award. Brendan went on to play leads in the independent films, HURRICANE STREETS and DESERT BLUE. His additional credits include the award-winning BOYS DON'T CRY, as well as BLACK HAWK DOWN, EMPIRE RECORDS, PECKER, WINTER OF FROZEN DREAMS, THE GIRL IN THE PARK and IN MY POCKET. Upcoming releases include THE MARCONI BROTHERS and THE TRUTH. Brendan lives in New York and Los Angeles.

DANIEL BALDWIN

Recently completed the Emmy nominated HBO production Grey Gardens where he plays Julius Krug, the former Secretary of the Interior under President Truman and secret true love of Little Edie (Drew Barrymore). The film also stars Jessica Lange as Big Edie and is based on the true life of Jackie Kennedy's eccentric aunt and first cousin both named Edith Bouvier Beale aka "Big and Little Edie". Other notable film roles for Daniel have included, Oliver Stone's Born on the Fourth of July, Mulholland Falls, Steve Buscemi's directorial debut Trees Lounge, John Carpenter's Vampire\$ where he starred with James Woods and Paparazzi with Cole Hauser and Dennis Farina. Daniel is well remembered for his role as the marriage-troubled Beau Felton in the hit NBC TV series Homicide: Life on the Street. His television appearances include Showtime's critically acclaimed film Our Fathers, the Sci-Fi original movie Anonymous Rex, CBS's TV movie Open House where he starred opposite Christine Lahti and Killing Moon with Penelope Ann Miller. Currently on TV, Daniel can be seen in a recurring role on CBS's COLD CASE. Born and raised in Massapequa, Long Island, NY, Daniel is one of the many talented Baldwin brothers. Before embarking on an acting career, Daniel was a stand-up comedian. He and his wife, Joanne Smith-Baldwin, have a daughter, Avis Ann and they just gave birth to their second child, Finely Rae.

ERIN CARDILLO

Has appeared in several films, and in guest starring and recurring roles on ABC, NBC, CBS, NIK, FOX, Lifetime, and Disney Channel series. She was cast in a contract role on the daytime soap opera Passions where she played the role of Esme Vanderhausen from 2005-2007, and was named "Soap Opera's Digest's Most Entertaining Character of 2007". She can currently be seen as Miss Emma Tutweiller on the Disney Channel series, The Suite Life On Deck.

WRITTEN+DIRECTED

RYAN BARTON-GRIMLEY

Ryan Barton-Grimley was born in Harare, Zimbabwe. He moved to the US with his family in 1983 and has been battling culture shock and attempting to assimilate ever since. He is a graduate of UCLA, an avid writer, and painter. After working as an actor in such films as *The Price of Love*, *Now and Never*, and *Tropix*, Ryan discovered his true place in the world, behind the camera.

THE TRUTH is Ryan's feature film debut as a writer/director and it explores what we all commonly refer to as "the truth" and how subjective that really is. It combines a slick visual style, an ever-evolving story that keeps twisting until it's "killer" end, and incredible acting performances by John Heard, Brendan Sexton III, Erin Cardillo, and Daniel Baldwin. **THE TRUTH** is inspired by Michael Hanneke's "Funny Games", Roman Polansky's "Death and the Maiden", Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver", and David Lynch's "Blue Velvet." **THE TRUTH** World Premiered in late 2009 at the Boston Film Festival.

"THE TRUTH" A Star Is Born In New Psychological Thriller ***REVIEW***

September 27, 2009 • Boston Examiner • Winchin Chala

"THE TRUTH" starring John Heard (Jonathan Davenport), Brendan Sexton III (Gabriel Doyle), Erin Cardillo (Dana Davenport), Daniel Baldwin (Gabriel's father) was sneak previewed as a work-in-progress at the Boston Film Festival last week.

The premise, according to "THE TRUTH" homepage, is "When a successful couple is taken hostage in their upscale home by a violent intruder, a simple robbery turns into a night of secrets revealed and trusts betrayed". More than that can not be revealed without giving away the twists and turns which make the film engaging. Suffice it to say that it is a classic psychological thriller. Among other elements of this genre is the reliance on the psychological tension between captor and captive. However, this film takes it up a notch, and the psychological tension is between the two captives as well as between their captor and them. "THE TRUTH" brings a realistic exploration of relationships and identity which questions how well anyone knows anyone else. It is not a film of speculation and rumination on the part of the characters. Its appeal is partly due to the unspoken angst of this nightmarish situation, which is hidden in the recesses of many peoples psyches. The one on screen spins almost predictably completely out-of-control only to pull the viewer in an unexpectedly different direction. There are raw moments of criminally-sadistic behavior which may be off-putting, but "THE TRUTH" is a truly engaging Pandora's Box of deceptions.

Oddly "THE TRUTH" has a Dogma look and feel at times, though it is a formalist film and could never be categorized as such. This realistic Dogma-like atmosphere is due to Ryan Barton Grimley's (RBG) directorial approach, which causes a feeling of here and now with temporal and geographical realism, and in particular, his stream-of-consciousness pacing. However, it is filmed with lights, props and the blue-hued sharpness of the Red Camera which lends a necessary sensation of cold to "THE TRUTH". There are very clever shots to handle time which RBG employs very successfully; in fact, the entire work is a perfect example of continuity editing which, in an interview, he stated he had a hand in. RBG travels fluidly back and forth between the present and the past in flashbacks which are luminously elegant, not the usual soft-focus fare. He chooses medium and close shots to convey the story, and he shoots entirely within the house, barring the opening scenes. As a result, the home's stark, plain, claustrophobic interior effectively conveys the characters' fears and represents the characters themselves who are held hostage in their shells of personalities as much as they are by their captor. "THE TRUTH" is a very well-calibrated film in every way.

Brendan Sexton III (Boys Don't Cry) as Gabriel Doyle is convincing as a criminal who is neither a madman nor possessed of a mastermind. He is a bit of a street thug who is motivated by revenge as well as the spoils of robbery, a part which could easily have been lost in stereotype; he does not allow that. As expected, veteran actor John Heard (Betrayed, 1988; Mindwalk, 1990; P.J., 2008) as the husband, Jonathan Davenport, also rises to the challenge of duality embedded in his part. He is touching as a pathetic husband in love with his beautiful young wife, but shifts easily to a conniving aggressor.

Then there is the wife who has perhaps the greatest challenge in terms of performance in "THE TRUTH". The actress who takes on this complex character is one who comes under the category of exquisite ice-maiden minx. She has the stunning expressionless beauty of Catherine Deneuve or Nicole Kidman and the talent of Meryl Streep. She stands in the ready to take her place on the pedestal of screen star goddess; her name is Erin Cardillo (The Suite Life on Deck). The role of Dana Davenport in "THE TRUTH" demands a full range of emotion and delves into dark, dreary depths not found in the Disney likes of her current starring role as Emma Tutweiler. Surprisingly, Erin, a relative newcomer to features, dug into her training and her soul and proved herself versatile enough to communicate every single one of those feelings with flawless credibility. This is not the last to be heard of Erin Cardillo.

