

SUNSHINE STATE

A FILM BY JOHN SAYLES

A Sony Pictures Classics Release

141 Minutes. Rated PG-13 by the MPAA

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850 Seventh Avenue	110 Thorn Street	8271 Melrose Avenue	550 Madison
Avenue			
Suite 1005		Suite 200	8 th Floor
New York, NY 10019	Jersey City, NJ 07307	Los Angeles, CA 9004	New York, NY 10022
Tel: 212-445-7100	Tel: 201 656 0529	Tel: 323-655-0593	Tel: 212-833-8833
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CAST

MARLY TEMPLE.....	EDIE FALCO
DELIA TEMPLE.....	JANE ALEXANDER
FURMAN TEMPLE.....	RALPH WAITE
DESIREE PERRY.....	ANGELA BASSETT
REGGIE PERRY.....	JAMES MCDANIEL
EUNICE STOKES.....	MARY ALICE
DR. LLOYD.....	BILL COBBS
EARL PICKNEY.....	GORDON CLAPP
FRANCINE PICKNEY.....	MARY STEENBURGEN
JACK MEADOWS.....	TIMOTHY HUTTON
FLASH PHILLIPS.....	TOM WRIGHT
SCOTTY DUVAL.....	MARC BLUCAS
TERRELLBERNARD.....	ALEXANDER LEWIS
TODD NORTHUPSAM.....	MCMURRAY
GREG.....	PERRY LANG
LESTER.....	MIGUEL FERRER
LORETTA.....	CHARLAYNE WOODARD
BUSTER BIDWELL.....	CLIFTON JAMES
JEFFERSON CASH.....	CULLEN DOUGLAS
MURRAY SILVER.....	ALAN KING
SILENT SAM.....	ELIOT ASINOF
STEVE TREGASKIS.....	RICHARD EDSON
BILLY TRUCKS.....	MICHAEL GREYEYES

CREW

DIRECTOR/WRITER/EDITOR.....	JOHN SAYLES
PRODUCER.....	MAGGIE RENZI
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER.....	NANCY SCHAFER
PRODUCTION DESIGNER.....	MARK RICKER
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY.....	PATRICK CADY
MUSIC COMPOSER.....	MASON DARING
COSTUME DESIGNER.....	MAYES RUBEO
CASTING.....	ROS & JOHN HUBBARD

SUNSHINE STATE

WELCOME TO DELRONA BEACH AND THE 2ND ANNUAL BUCCANEER DAYS! Take a trip! Take a drive! SEE FLORIDA TODAY!

Oceanfront motels. T-shirt shops. Golf courses. Palm trees. Sandy beaches. Condominiums. Man-eating alligators. Indians, pirates, Spanish gold, sea Island plantations. "People don't realize how hard it is to invent a tradition."

-Francine Pinckney

Change is coming to Delrona Beach, Florida, assaults on every front.

Here's Marly (Edie Falco) running her father's motel and hating every minute of it. Lester and Greg (Miguel Ferrer and Perry Lang) will stop at nothing to buy the motel, and Dad (Ralph Waite) will never sell. Mom (Jane Alexander) is living in her own dream world down at the community theater and off at the Audubon meetings, saving what's left of the natural habitat.

Marly's wasting away in Margaritaville, dodging her ex-husband (Richard Edson), losing her golf pro (Marc Blucas) and tempted by the new guy in town (Timothy Hutton) even though he is definitely working for the other side.

Here's Desiree (Angela Bassett) back for her first real visit home since she left under a cloud 25 years ago. She doesn't trust her mother Eunice (Mary Alice) and won't be drawn into staying in the black enclave of Lincoln Beach, even though family friend Dr Lloyd (Bill Cobbs) works her pretty hard. Dr. Lloyd is up against it, fighting off the Plantation in the person of promoter Northrup (Sam McMurray) whose battles with the black community go way back. Trophy husband Dr. Reginald Perry (James McDaniel) does his best to fit in, but he's worried about the old boyfriend Flash Phillips (Tom Wright), and nobody's comfortable with the boy Eunice has taken in, young arsonist Terrell (Alex Lewis)

Chamber of Commerce stalwart Francine Pinckney (Mary Steenburgen) keeps a smile on her face and pom poms high, championing Buccaneer Days through its course. She's too busy to see much of banker husband Earl (Gordon Clapp) whose gambling debts are giving him problems of his own.

Real people. Real places. Welcome to Florida.

About the Story

Unfolding during the week-long Buccaneer Days Festival, a new “tradition” created by the local Chamber of Commerce, **SUNSHINE STATE** is set in Plantation Island, Florida, a place where local real estate development is changing a modest beachside community into an upscale, manicured resort for winter-weary Northerners. The long-time locals, are divided on whether to cash in or stand their ground. The newcomers are eager to enjoy the good life and/or make a quick buck. Plantation Island, like its residents, is in transition.

Marly Temple (Edie Falco) is living her father’s (Ralph Waite) dream of running a motel, only it has become her nightmare. Too sick to run the place himself anymore, her father is opinionated and ornery. Her mother (Jane Alexander) is immersed in the community theater group she runs like an impresario. Marly herself has given up her career as a “Weeki Wachee Mermaid” and her marriage to Steve (Richard Edson) is over. She begins a tentative romance with Jack Meadows (Timothy Hutton), a landscape architect recently arrived to transform a section of the island into a "natural" gated community. Now that her life consists of avoiding Steve, nursing hangovers and waking up with the wrong guy, Marly is tempted to accept a takeover bid for her motel from a strip mall developer..

In the next town over, Desiree Perry (Angela Bassett) has returned to visit and show off her new anesthesiologist husband, Reggie (James McDaniel). Sent away by her proud parents after she disgraced them by getting pregnant at 15, Desiree, like Marly, pursued a career in “show business.” But instead of Broadway or movies, her appearances have been limited to industrials and infomercials. Still intimidated by her strong-willed mother Eunice (Mary Alice), Desiree returns to find that her little hometown of Lincoln Beach, an African-American enclave created during the era of segregation, is, like its neighboring P.I., being eyed by developers. Her mother has taken in a relative, Terrell (Bernard Alexander Lewis), a troubled adolescent boy, and Reggie finds himself reluctantly pushed into being a role model. The emotional stakes are raised by the

appearance of Flash Phillips (Tom Wright), the former football star who like Lincoln Beach, he too has fallen upon harder times.

As both Marly and Desiree grapple with the sometimes-overwhelming weight of family history and family expectations, and wrestle with questions of love, duty and responsibility,

SUNSHINE STATE offers an indelible portrait of two women, two families, and two communities standing on the brink of change.

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About the Production

SUNSHINE STATE was filmed entirely on Amelia Island, which like its counterpart in the film, is home to a traditionally white enclave and a traditionally black enclave, called American Beach. As producer Maggie Renzi explains, “A. L. Lewis was one of the several men who started the Afro-American Insurance Company, which was one of the first big black businesses. Lewis understood that there was nowhere for his workers and other black people to go to the beach in segregated Florida in the 20's. In 1935, with the cooperation of, among other people, Eleanor Roosevelt, he was able to purchase this big piece of beachfront and there was an exodus every Friday night from Jacksonville and everyone would go out to the beach for the weekend, including performers like Cab Callaway and Ray Charles, people like that. They'd finish their gig in Jacksonville and then come and club at night, on American Beach. Its just the sort of history that fascinates John, who is, in any case, fascinated by African American history, and history in general.”

John Sayles discovered Amelia Island while scouting locations for another project based on a short story he had written years before, about treasure hunters on the west coast of Florida. As he recalls, “I was struck by how changed the small towns there were from my last extensive visit fifteen years earlier. The Florida I had written about didn’t exist anymore. I came across a mention of Amelia Island and the American Beach community in a “Lonely Planet” guide – I’d always been fascinated with the American Beach phenomenon and decided to go there and give the Florida idea one more shot. What I found was an island with all the elements – old and new, “Mom and Pop” businesses and corporate chains, gated communities, history as myth and tourist attraction, real estate as the hotly contested central issue in politics and parallel racial enclaves, all crammed into a relatively small area.” The characters in **SUNSHINE STATE** quickly sprang forth – “they evolved from the idea of black people and white people living parallel lives that occasionally intersect. One woman is realizing she needs to leave, while the other is discovering that she may be able to return.”

An acclaimed independent filmmaker whose career has spanned three decades, Sayles has built up a company of actors that he frequently works with and many of his favorites, including Tom Wright, Gordon Clapp and Clifton James, appear in **SUNSHINE STATE**. As Sayles says, “We’ve been very lucky in casting over the years. The actors in **SUNSHINE STATE** are a mix of people I’ve worked with before and people whose work I’ve admired but never gotten together with before. My favorite thing about production is getting good actors together and providing an environment for them to play off each other in. The better the actors are, the more of my work is done for me.”

Angela Bassett had worked with Sayles on **PASSION FISH** and **CITY OF HOPE** early in her career before becoming a major star with her performance as Tina Turner in **WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT**. As a native of Florida, she was thrilled with the project. Says Angela; “It’s always a joy when he calls. I really enjoy working with John because it’s such a wonderful collaborative experience. He is very clear about the characters but he gives you a lot of flexibility. You get to work *together*. You have boundaries that he has set but you also feel a sense of freedom as an artist.”

Edie Falco, best known for her two-time Emmy-winning role on HBO’s *The Sopranos*, worked with Sayles for the first time on **SUNSHINE STATE** and was happy to return to her roots in the independent film world. As she says, “Hollywood has gotten its fingers into the whole independent film industry and changed it dramatically but this experience felt like it used to. We all liked the story, and each other, and we love to make movies. John has a knack for surrounding himself with certain people who have a certain similar energy about them. He takes it seriously but he doesn’t get stressed out about stuff – he has it in perspective.”

Edie loved the character of Marly: “I really related to her and I was glad because she wasn’t a character I had played before. She’s a single woman, not a wife or a mother, which was a great change. Although she doesn’t want the responsibility of her father’s business, her family has been on this island for many generations. She is as local as they come and feels very possessive of the land and wants to see that it’s done right by.”

In the film, both Edie and Angela’s characters wrestle with how to incorporate the past with the present, what to hold on to and what to let go of. They return as women to the town they left as kids. They find that their parents are aging and their sleepy small town has become a Mecca for developers and outsiders. Says Sayles, “Change is tough on everybody. What you hope for is to hold on to the best and get rid of the worst. Furman’s (played by Ralph Waite) golden days included racial segregation, a negative legacy but one that also was instrumental in making Lincoln Beach the unique center of African-American cultural life that it was. With the passing of segregation, the black community gained access to all kinds of areas that were denied before, but lost some of its cohesiveness. There is a lot of money to be made selling beachfront homes or businesses to corporate entities but a way of life disappears and people become more isolated, the world’s less “personal.” Marly (Edie Falco) has tried to hold on to her father’s dream to please him – but it’s not her dream. Desiree (Angela Bassett) has burned all bridges to her past and her family, but finds she is now strong enough to re-establish contact and face the consequences.”

Jane Alexander and Ralph Waite play Marly’s parents, Miss Delia and Furman. Ms. Alexander had worked with Sayles years earlier on a public television dance film and she was thrilled to work with him again. Says Alexander; “It was exciting for me because John and Maggie together have a long history of doing movies that really probe a particular relationship or a particular issue. The setting for this film is very important to John and in this film he investigates that and he came up with these incredible characters – it’s complicated, wonderful and funny. There is a

lot of humor in this film. And it's fun to work on a John Sayles movie because John is so easygoing. He knows exactly what he wants and it's so beautifully written that you don't have to work hard. It was a delight to be part of."

Best known as the wise father on the long-running TV series *The Waltons*, Ralph Waite jumped at the chance to portray Furman. As he recalls, "On the same day that this script arrived, I got an offer to do a Disney film in Australia. But when I read this script, there was no choice. I liked the story and I liked the character. Unlike so many movies nowadays, this is really about something. It's always a pleasure to do something that is meaningful and says something real about life, and happens to be beautifully written at the same time. We see a place where life has been very simple and very beautiful and suddenly developers are beginning to encroach and take over and destroy the local color by building these huge developments that rob the place of its beauty and uniqueness, making it impossible for ordinary people to live. My character reminds me of a rural King Lear. He's a local man who's made good but because of diabetes, going blind, getting old, he senses that life is closing down and that he's losing his power. He doesn't want to sell out but all of these forces are against him. He fights it but, unfortunately, mostly through words. He's an interesting character and as I've gotten older I've found that some of our power does diminish, both mentally and physically. It was great to do an old man that is still hanging in there."

Like Waite, James McDaniel, who plays Desiree's husband Reggie, was a newcomer to the Sayles world. But he was a longtime fan. Says McDaniel; "I had been a great admirer of his work for years. He's a renegade, one of a kind, he's a gift to America. I have great respect for the things he has done. So more than just an acting job, the making of this film was an adventure for me. Because I'm a film director as well, it was great to see how he worked. He runs an extremely calm, soothing set, which we actors don't often get to experience. His style is very gentle and very confident – he knows when he's got it because he's also written it."

As is characteristic of Sayles' films, the personal drama of **SUNSHINE STATE** plays out against a very real time and place in the American experience. Fascinated by the way social and political forces shape our personal experience, in **SUNSHINE STATE** Sayles explores how the development and sprawling of America impacts everyone, from the old-timers to the newcomers. America has always been a land of change, of throwing out the old for the new, but Sayles sees something new happening across America: "We have long celebrated the tradition of the self-made man, the entrepreneurial innovator who creates a fortune for himself through originality and hard work. A lot of legislation has been passed to fight monopoly and leave some breathing room for "the little guy." But in the last fifteen years there has been collusion between government and international business that almost insures that big money will be able to drive out small money and jobs will go to the country that protects its workers least. I see patriotism and consumerism being touted as being identical virtues. The average citizen has less control over their life – food, regional culture and entertainment are all homogenized. Even history, as in **SUNSHINE STATE**, becomes a commodity."

Florida has inspired many writers, from Wallace Stevens to Charles Willeford, from John D. MacDonald to Carl Hiassen, many of who write about the sleaze and hucksterism of Florida with both insight and humor. Sayles sees **SUNSHINE STATE** as part of this great tradition. As he says, "Florida continues to be one of our more schizophrenic states, as the finale of the Bush/Gore election illustrated. Southerners, northerners, midwesterners, black people, white people, Hispanic people, all living together in a state that was once considered uninhabitable swampland and then became an advertiser-created dreamscape." It is that tension between the dream of Florida and the reality that creates the drama and the rich tapestry of characters of **SUNSHINE STATE**.

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About the Cast

In Alphabetical Order...

JANE ALEXANDER (Delia Temple) won a Tony Award for her Broadway debut performance in 1968 in *The Great White Hope*, directed by Edwin Sherin, and has since been nominated for her roles in *6 Rooms Riv Vu*, *Find Your Way Home*, *First Monday in October*, *The Visit*, *The Sisters Rosensweig* and, most recently, *Honour*. Other New York stage appearances including *Approaching Zanzibar* by Tina Howe, *The Heiress*, *Hamlet*, *Monday After the Miracle* and *Shadowlands*, in which her portrayal of Joy Davidman won critical raves. Ms. Alexander's film and television career has been equally active and her credits are extensive. She has been nominated for four Academy Awards, for *THE GREAT WHITE HOPE*, *ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN*, *KRAMER VS. KRAMER* and *TESTAMENT*. On television, she has portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt (in the much-heralded miniseries *Eleanor and Franklin*), Calamity Jane, Georgia O'Keefe (in the PBS production *A Marriage: Georgia O'Keefe and Alfred Steiglitz*), and Alma Rose in *Playing For Time*, for which she won an Emmy Award.

MARY ALICE (Eunice Stokes) has worked with such acclaimed directors as Clint Eastwood (*A PERFECT WORLD*), Spike Lee (*MALCOLM X*), Brian De Palma (*BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES*), Penny Marshall (*AWAKENINGS*) and Charles Burnett (*TO SLEEP WITH ANGER*). She was a regular on the NBC series *A Different World*, earned an Emmy nomination for her work in *I'll Fly Away*, and has appeared in many series including *Providence*, *Touched By An Angel* and *Laurel Avenue*, and the miniseries *The Women of Brewster Place*. Her numerous theatre credits include *The Vagina Monologues*, *Having Our Say*, *Richard III*, *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Fences*, for which she earned the both the Tony and Drama Desk Awards for Best Featured Actress.

ANGELA BASSETT (Desiree Perry) received an Oscar nomination and a Golden Globe Award for her unforgettable portrayal of Tina Turner in **WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT**. She recently starred in **THE SCORE**, co-starring Robert DeNiro, Ed Norton and Marlon Brando, and in the Athol Fugard drama **BOESMAN & LENA** with Danny Glover, for which she received an Image Award nomination as Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture. She also recently completed filming *Rosa Parks* for CBS. Bassett starred in last year's sci-fi thriller **SUPERNOVA** with James Spader; the acclaimed **MUSIC OF THE HEART**, opposite Meryl Streep and directed by Wes Craven; and the 1998 screen adaptation of Terry McMillan's novel **HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK**, with Whoopi Goldberg and Taye Diggs. Among Bassett's other credits are the blockbuster **CONTACT** with Jodie Foster and the popular **WAITING TO EXHALE**, directed by Forest Whitaker. In 1995, Bassett starred in **STRANGE DAYS** and played the lead opposite Eddie Murphy in **VAMPIRE IN BROOKLYN**. She previously starred in Spike Lee's epic film **MALCOLM X** (as Betty Shabazz), **BOYZ IN THE HOOD**, **KINDERGARTEN COP**, **CITY OF HOPE**, **PASSION FISH** and **INNOCENT BLOOD**. Born in New York City and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida, Bassett won a scholarship to Yale University where she received her bachelor's degree in Afro-American studies and an MFA from the prestigious Yale School of Drama. Her stage appearances include *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Colored People's Time*, *Black Girl*, *Henry IV, Part I*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and, with Alec Baldwin, a 1998 production of *Macbeth* at New York's Joseph Papp Public Theater.

MARC BLUCAS (Scotty Duval) recently completed work on *A VIEW FROM THE TOP*, opposite Gwyneth Paltrow, and *THEY*, a supernatural thriller. He was recently seen in the drama *WE WERE SOLDIERS*, with Mel Gibson and Madeline Stowe, as well as Kevin Smith's ensemble comedy *JAY AND SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK*, with Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Jason Lee, *PLEASANTVILLE* and *SUMMER CATCH*, opposite Freddie Prinze Jr. Marc is probably best known for his portrayal of "Riley Finn," Sarah Michelle Gellar's love interest, on the hit series, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

GORDON CLAPP (Earl Pickney) earned an Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series for his work in the ABC hit *NYPD BLUE*. He has worked with John Sayles since the beginning of Sayles' career, appearing in *RETURN OF THE SECAUCUS SEVEN*, *MATEWAN* and *EIGHT MEN OUT*; other films include *RULES OF ENGAGEMENT*, *SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET* and *GROSS ANATOMY*. Clapp has appeared on television in dozens of movies of the week and miniseries and has guest-starred on series including *Cheers*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *The Wonder Years* and *Cop Rock*.

BILL COBBS (Dr. Lloyd) first worked with John Sayles on *BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET*; his more than sixty other film appearances include roles in *SILKWOOD*, *THE COTTON CLUB*, *THE COLOR OF MONEY*, *TRADING PLACES*, *BIRD*, *NEW JACK CITY*, *THE HUDSUCKER PROXY*, *THE BODYGUARD*, *GHOSTS OF MISSISSIPPI*, *THAT THING YOU DO*, *HOPE FLOATS* and *RANDOM HEARTS*. He was a series regular on *The Gregory Hines Show*, *I'll Fly Away*, *The Others* and *The Michael Richards Show* and has guest-starred on *Six Feet Under*, *The Practice*, *The Sopranos*, *ER*, *NYPD Blue* and many, many other shows.

RICHARD EDSON (Steve Tregaskis) made his memorable screen debut in Jim Jarmusch's STRANGER THAN PARADISE. He has since appeared in dozens of films, including THICK AS THIEVES, THE WOMEN THEN THE FIREWORKS, JUNGLE FEVER, PLATOON, GOOD MORNING VIETNAM, DO THE RIGHT THING, WEDDING BELL BLUES, BLOODHOUNDS OF BROADWAY, FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF, DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN and John Sayles' EIGHT MEN OUT.

EDIE FALCO (Marly Temple) became the only actress to ever receive the Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Dramatic Series, the Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Dramatic Television Series, and the SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama, all in the same year for her performance as "Carmela Soprano" in the hit HBO series *The Sopranos*' debut season. She won the Emmy for that role again this year and has been nominated once again for the Golden Globe, as well as the American Film Institute's award for Female Television Actor of the Year. She is also known to television audiences from her recurring roles in the HBO dramatic series *Oz* and the acclaimed NBC series *Law and Order* and *Homicide*. Ms. Falco made her Broadway debut in the Tony Award winning play *Sideman*, which she originated in its off-Broadway production. For her performance, she received a Theatre World Award and a Drama Desk Award nomination for the Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Play. Ms. Falco went on to make her London stage debut in the West End premiere of *Sideman*. This past summer she opened the London production of the highly successful play *The Vagina Monologues*. She has also been seen in New York in the off-Broadway productions of *Shooting Gallery*, *The Way* and *A Fabulous Beast*. For the feature film COST OF LIVING, Ms. Falco received the American Film Institute's Best Actress Award. Her other film credits include A PRICE ABOVE RUBIES, COPLAND, TROUBLE ON THE CORNER, PRIVATE PARTS, HURRICANE, LAYIN' LOW, BREATHING ROOM, THE FUNERAL, THE ADDICTION, BULLETS OVER BROADWAY, LAWS OF GRAVITY,

TRUST, THE UNBELIEVABLE TRUTH and RANDOM HEARTS. She last starred as the title character in the award-winning film JUDY BERLIN.

MIGUEL FERRER (Lester) has happily played a long line of offbeat characters, from the forensic examiner he plays in NBC's *Crossing Jordan*, to the drug dealer who ate poisoned eggs in TRAFFIC, to the pathologist in *Twin Peaks*, to the coke-snorting executive in ROBOCOP. The son of Jose Ferrer and Rosemary Clooney, Ferrer started out as a studio musician and still plays with a band called The Jennerators with bandmate Bill Mumy of *Lost in Space* fame. Since his breakout in ROBOCOP, Ferrer has starred in WHERE'S MARLOWE? and THE HARVEST, lent his voice to Disney's MULAN, appeared in the Stephen King miniseries THE STAND and THE SHINING, and appeared in a Los Angeles production of *Visions and Lovers* opposite Jenna Elfman.

TIMOTHY HUTTON (Jack Meadows) won an Academy Award, Golden Globe and Los Angeles Film Critics' award for his performance in Robert Redford's ORDINARY PEOPLE and has gone on to perform in numerous films, including TAPS, DANIEL, THE FALCON AND THE SNOWMAN, MADE IN HEAVEN, Q&A, GENERAL'S DAUGHTER, FRENCH KISS and BEAUTIFUL GIRLS. As a member of New York's Circle Repertory Company, Hutton originated the role of Peter Haskins in the Broadway production of Craig Lucas' *Prelude to a Kiss*. Starring opposite Henry Fonda, Hutton appeared in the Los Angeles stage production of *The Oldest Living Graduate*, which was later broadcast live on NBC. Again at Circle Rep, he starred in *Babylon Gardens* with Mary Louise Parker; he also directed Nicole Burdette's *Busted* for the Naked Angels Theater Company in New York. On television, Hutton is currently executive producing and directing the critically acclaimed A&E series *Nero Wolfe*, as Wolfe's dapper aide, Archie Goodwin. For Showtime, Hutton produced and starred in *Mr. And Mrs. Loving* and also starred as the title character in *Aldredge Ames: Traitor Within*. Working behind

the camera, Hutton has directed a number of music videos and his feature film directorial debut, *Digging to China*, earned raves at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival.

CLIFTON JAMES (Buster Bidwell) made his Broadway debut in William Saroyan's *The Cave Dwellers* in 1956 and has since appeared in 40 Broadway and off-Broadway productions including five Pulitzer Prize-winning plays – *J.B.*, *All The Way Home*, *The Time of Your Life*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *The Shadow Box*. He appeared in *A Sense of Humor* with Jack Lemmon at Circle in the Square, in *American Buffalo* with Al Pacino and at the Booth Theatre in *Total Abandon*. In 1959, he was acclaimed for his portrayal of Willie Stark in Robert Penn Warren's *All The King's Men*. He has appeared on all the major television networks including England's BBC and for two years was "Striker" Bellman on the soap opera *Texas*. His extensive Shakespearean credits include the roles of Casca, Sir Toby Belch, Stephano, Bottom, Ajax and Enobarus. He has been featured in thirty motion pictures and one of his most memorable film roles was J.W. Pepper, the redneck sheriff in the *James Bond* films. Other movies include John Sayles' EIGHT MEN OUT, LONE STAR, SHE-DEVIL, DAVID AND LISA, COOL HAND LUKE, THE CHASE, WILL PENNY, THE NEW CENTURIONS, RANCHO DELUXE, THE LAST DETAIL, THE UNTOUCHABLES, THE BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES, etc. Mr. James is a graduate of the University of Oregon and a member of the Actors Studio.

ALAN KING (Murray Silver) is a renowned comedian and actor who has appeared in dozens of films including RUSH HOUR 2, CASINO, NIGHT AND THE CITY, THE BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES, ENEMIES: A LOVE STORY, AUTHOR! AUTHOR!, I THE JURY, JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT, THE ANDERSON TAPES and THE HELEN MORGAN STORY.

PERRY LANG (Greg) has acted in numerous films, including JENNIFER 8, THE BIG RED ONE, 1941 and Sayles' EIGHT MEN OUT, but has spent the last six years as a television director on series such as *NYPD Blue*, *ER*, *Dawson's Creek*, *Arli\$\$* and others.

He also directed Sayles, who acted in Lang's first feature film, *LITTLE VEGAS*. Sayles also wrote the screenplay for Lang's second film, *MEN OF WAR*.

ALEX LEWIS (Terrell) makes his screen debut in *SUNSHINE STATE*. The 15-year-old resident of Orange Park, Florida, has acted in church and in school and loves football, basketball, drawing, singing and reading.

JAMES McDANIEL (Reggie Perry), best-known to TV viewers as Lt. Arthur Fancy on the hit series *NYPD Blue*, has appeared in numerous films including Spike Lee's *MALCOLM X*, Kevin Hooks' *STRICTLY BUSINESS*, Woody Allen's *ALICE* and Daniel Petrie's *ROCKET GIBRALTAR*. McDaniel won the prestigious Obie Award and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for his portrayal of Wendall in the New York stage production of *Before It Hits Home*. He also received the Clarence Derwent Award for his performance as Paul Portier in the Tony Award-winning Broadway play, *Six Degrees of Separation*. McDaniel appeared on Broadway in *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, with Steven Rae and Alec McGowan. Additional theater credits include roles in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Balm in Gilead* and *A Soldier's Play*. Besides *NYPD Blue*, McDaniel has appeared in numerous television series including *Civil Wars*, *L.A. Law*, *Gabriel's Fire* and *Crime Story*, and miniseries including *Common Ground*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Murder in Black and White* and *Internal Affairs*.

SAM McMURRAY (Todd Northrup) has appeared on television in countless series including *The Sopranos*, *Malcolm in the Middle*, *Freaks and Geeks*, *Friends*, *Chicago Hope*, *Wings*, *Home Improvement*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Miami Vice* and *Kojak*. His feature film credits include *ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES*, *L.A. STORY*, *LITTLE VEGAS*, *RAISING ARIZONA* and John Sayles' *BABY, IT'S YOU*.

MARY STEENBURGEN (Francine Pickney) won a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award and Golden Globe for MELVIN AND HOWARD. She also received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress for CROSS CREEK and a Golden Globe nomination for RAGTIME. Her performance in the BBC/Showtime miniseries *Tender is the Night* earned her a British Broadcasters Guild Award, and she received an Emmy nomination for *The Attic: The Hiding of Anne Frank*. Steenburgen was "discovered" by Jack Nicholson in the reception room of Paramount's casting offices in New York. Nicholson gave her a script and was so impressed with her reading that he sent her to Hollywood for a screen test. She soon found herself working opposite Nicholson in GOIN' SOUTH (1978), which launched her film career. Her many other films include NIXON, POWDER, WHAT'S EATING GILBERT GRAPE, PHILADELPHIA, THE BUTCHER'S WIFE, BACK TO THE FUTURE PART III, PARENTHOOD, MISS FIRECRACKER, END OF THE LINE (which she also executive produced), DEAD OF WINTER, ROMANTIC COMEDY, ONE MAGIC CHRISTMAS, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S SEX COMEDY, and most recently LIFE AS A HOUSE.

RALPH WAITE (Furman Temple) is best-known for role as the patriarch of television's *The Waltons* but he has been active in film, television and theatre for more than three decades. His many feature film credits include THE GIN GAME, CLIFFHANGER, THE BODYGUARD, FIVE EASY PIECES and COOL HAND LUKE (with SUNSHINE STATE actor Clifton James). He has appeared on Broadway and in theatrical productions across the U.S. and in London. In addition to *The Waltons*, Waite has also been seen on television in series including *Mississippi*, *Murder One* and *Shannon's Deal* (written by John Sayles) and TV movies including *A Good Sport* with Lee Remick, *The Secret Life of John Chapman*, *The Lemon Grove* and *The Third Twin*. An active Democrat, Waite recently ran for the California congressional seat won by Mary Bono.

CHARLAYNE WOODARD (Loretta) most recently appeared on stage in *In Real Life*, the third play in her personal trilogy, which continues the saga of a young African-American woman on her journey into the charged world of New York theatre. Ms. Woodard's first two plays, *Pretty Fire* and *Neat* were emotional autobiographies, recounting her childhood and her family in upstate New York. *Pretty Fire* received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle award and the NAACP theatre awards for best play and best playwright; *Neat* received Irving and Blanche Theatre Vision Award and Backstage Laurel Awards. Woodard's Broadway credits include the original cast of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, for which she received both a Tony and Drama Desk nomination. Her film credits include MILLION DOLLAR HOTEL, UNBREAKABLE and EYE FOR AN EYE. Woodard starred as "Gina Wilkes" on the hit series *Chicago Hope* for four years; other TV credits include the lead in *Run for the Dream: The Gail Devers Story* and the miniseries *Oprah Winfrey Presents: The Wedding*.

TOM WRIGHT (Flash Phillips) has appeared in John Sayles' BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET, CITY OF HOPE, MATEWAN and PASSION FISH; his extensive list of film credits include PALMETTO, MURDER AT 1600, TALES FROM THE HOOD, TO FORGET PARIS, REVERSAL OF FORTUNE, THE COTTON CLUB, and FUNNY VALENTINES, opposite Alfre Woodard. He is currently shooting MGM's BARBERSHOP. Wright was a series regular on CBS's *Martial Law* and had a recurring role on Lifetime's *Any Day Now*. Other television credits include appearances in *Family Law*, *NYPD Blue* and *Seinfeld*. On stage, Wright has appeared at the Manhattan Theatre Club, the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Kennedy Center, and Yale Rep.

About the Filmmakers

JOHN SAYLES (Writer/Director/Editor)

SUNSHINE STATE is John Sayles' 13th feature film. His most recent film was LIMBO, which starred Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and David Strathairn and was shot on location in Juneau, Alaska. Prior to LIMBO, John directed the critically applauded MEN WITH GUNS, which was nominated for a Golden Globe in 1999 for Best Foreign Language Film. Prior to that, he created LONE STAR for which he earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay. Sayles is currently developing JAMIE MacGILLIVRAY with Maggie Renzi, a period adventure story set in Scotland and the New World. They hope to shoot in spring of 2003. The film will star Robert Carlyle. In July of this year Sayles will go to Mexico to film "Casa De Los Babys."

Beginning as a screenwriter for producer Roger Corman, Sayles wrote such pictures as

PIRANHA, BATTLE BEYOND THE STARS, ALLIGATOR and THE HOWLING.

Sayles first film as director was the counterculture classic RETURN OF THE SECAUCUS SEVEN, winner of the 1978 Los Angeles Film Critics Award for Best Screenplay. He followed this with LIANNA, the story of a woman coming to terms with her lesbianism.

Sayles broadened his audience with the youthful romantic comedy-drama BABY IT'S YOU and the satirical BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET, about a black extra-terrestrial whose ship crash-lands in New York City. His next two projects were stories about which he had long been passionate, MATEWAN and EIGHT MEN OUT. Sayles had written both of these years before he was able to film them; both were considered commercially risky and he had difficulty raising the funds to make them. In 1986, MATEWAN, the story of a 1920 miners' strike in West Virginia, went before the cameras. The following year, the movie was part of the Director's

Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival. Sayles also wrote a book about the experience, entitled *Thinking in Pictures: The Making of the Movie MATEWAN*.

EIGHT MEN OUT, based on the book by Eliot Asinof, which detailed the 1919 baseball World Series scandal, was among Sayles' most popular efforts. It is also one of only two scripts (the other being Rosalie Fry's THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH) that he has directed based on material from another source. Sayles' urban epic CITY OF HOPE was shot in five weeks in 40 locations and included 48 speaking roles. Covering the mix of generations and ethnicities living in a small metropolis, the film won the Grand Prix at the Tokyo Film Festival and appeared on numerous Ten Best lists.

Sayles scaled down his dramatic canvas for his next picture, the intimate PASSION FISH, about the healing relationship between a nurse and her patient, set in Louisiana. Starring Mary McDonnell and Alfre Woodard, the film earned McDonnell an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress and Sayles an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay. THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH, Sayles' next film, wove a lush tale about the 'selkie,' a beautiful woman who turns into a seal. Most recently, Sayles executive produced GIRLFIGHT, written and directed by Karyn Kusama, which was released in 2000.

Among Sayles' published prose is an O. Henry Award-winning short story and the novel *Union Dues*, which was nominated for a National Book Award. His numerous scripts for other directors include the features THE CHALLENGE for John Frankenheimer and BREAKING IN for director Bill Forsyth. He also created the acclaimed television series *Shannon's Deal*. He has published two additional novels, *Pride of the Bimbos* (1975) and *Los Gusanos* (1991), as well as the short story collection *The Anarchists' Convention* (1979). He is also the subject of *Sayles on Sayles* published by Faber & Faber. In 1985, Sayles received the John D. MacArthur Award, given to 20 Americans in diverse fields each year for their innovative work. He has also been the

recipient of the Eugene V. Debs Award, the John Steinbeck Award and the John Cassavettes Award.

The early films of pioneer indie filmmaker John Sayles, including *THE RETURN SEACAUCUS SEVEN* (1979), *LIANNA* (1980) and *THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET* (1985), which were fully restored this year by Sayles's company, Anarchists Convention, Inc, in consultation with the expert preservationists of the UCLA Film and Television Archive, will be released by IFC Films as a retrospective on April 1st.

MAGGIE RENZI (PRODUCER) Producer Maggie Renzi began her professional association with John Sayles when she acted in his first directed feature, *RETURN OF THE SECAUCUS SEVEN*, for which she also served as unit manager and assistant editor. Since then, she has produced and acted in many of Sayles' films. She met John Sayles after graduating from Williams College in 1973 and has lived with him ever since. Before she became a fulltime producer, she worked as a bookstore clerk, a pediatric receptionist, a substitute teacher, a casting assistant, a talent agent's assistant, and for two years as a salad chef in southern California. She began her acting career at age 8 at the Williamstown Theatre Festival where she continued to perform into her twenties. Renzi also produced three Sayles-directed music videos for Bruce Springsteen: "Born in the USA," "I'm on Fire" and "Glory Days," which won an American Video Award. Recently Renzi was a producer on *GIRLFIGHT*, winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize in 2000. Currently, Maggie is developing *JAMIE MacGILLIVRAY* with John Sayles.

PATRICK CADY (Director of Photography) shot the acclaimed feature *JUMP TOMORROW*, directed by Joel Hopkins, and the acclaimed *GIRLFIGHT*, which won the Directing Award and shared the Grand Jury Prize Award at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival. His other feature work includes *THE SPIRIT AND THE BODY* and *PASTRY, PAIN AND POLITICS*. Cady's

extensive cinematography work ranges from VH-1's diverse programming, including the celebrated Fashion Awards, to numerous commercials and music videos. Cady, who began as a camera intern on Sayles' PASSION FISH, was recently honored as a "Director of Photography To Watch" by Variety.

MARK RICKER (Production Designer) has designed Jill Sprecher's THIRTEEN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ONE THING starring Alan Arkin, Matthew McCounaghey, John Turturro and Clea Duvall; LISA PICARD IS FAMOUS for Griffin Dunne; Alex Winter's FEVER and JULIE JOHNSON, starring Lili Taylor, Courtney Love and directed by Bob Gosse. Other design credits include BETTER LIVING, WALKING TO THE WATERLINE and HARVEST for Goldheart Pictures. As an Art Director, he contributed to the designs of Sweetland Films' JUST LOOKING (directed by Jason Alexander), MONTANA, A BROOKLYN STATE OF MIND, Hallmark's PRINCE CHARMING and Dan Sullivan's film adaptation of THE SUBSTANCE OF FIRE. Rucker has an MFA in Scenic and Production Design from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

MASON DARING (Composer) has composed more than forty scores over his career, concentrating on feature films but also including many television movies, documentaries, and series. His feature credits include MUSIC OF THE HEART, John Sayles' LIMBO, and Tony Goldwyn's directorial debut A WALK ON THE MOON. His more recent films include the Farrelly Brothers production SAY IT ISN'T SO; WHERE THE HEART IS, featuring Natalie Portman and Ashley Judd; and the Emmy nominated *Bailey's Mistake* for ABC TV/Disney.

Daring has done numerous scores for John Sayles, including the pan-Latin score of MEN WITH GUNS, the Tex-Mex border music of LONE STAR, the Celtic tinged THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH, and the Cajun-Zydeco based PASSION FISH, as well as MATEWAN, EIGHT MEN OUT, THE BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET, CITY OF HOPE, LIANNA and THE

RETURN OF THE SECAUCUS SEVEN. Among his other feature credits are Don Roos' THE OPPOSITE OF SEX; PREFONTAINE (from the makers of Hoop Dreams); John Ridley's debut COLD HEART; WILD HEARTS CAN'T BE BROKEN, for Disney; and FATHERS AND SONS. He has composed several scores for cable movies, including *The Old Curiosity Shop* for the Disney Channel, Showtime's *Hidden In America*, three episodes of the HBO mini-series *From The Earth To The Moon*, as well as the Peabody Award winning PBS/BBC documentary, *The Great War & The Shaping Of The 20th Century*. A recent project for PBS' *The American Experience* was a three hour biography on George Wallace, *Settin' The Woods On Fire*. He has also composed the long-running themes and multiple episodes for the PBS programs *Nova* and *Frontline*, and the Emmy Award winning theme for *Yankee Magazine*.

Daring, a graduate of Amherst College, splits his time between Marblehead (MA) and Los Angeles. He began his career as a singer-songwriter, and still produces several albums a year for his record label, Daring Records.

MAYES C. RUBEO (Costume Designer) was born in Mexico City, and studied Fashion and Costume Design at Los Angeles Trade Tech. She continued her studies at UCLA and at the Instituto Statale d'Arte di Spoleto in Italy. She worked as an assistant to many of the established costumes designers including Shay Cunliffe, Ellen Mirojnick and Erica Phillips. She first worked with Sayles as an assistant costume designer on LONE STAR and then as Costume Designer for MEN WITH GUNS. Other credits include FIDEL, THE WARDEN OF RED ROCK, THE ARRIVAL and DESERT HEAT.