

# **Guns**

**A Hungry Eyes Film & Television Production  
In association the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Written by Jennifer Holness & Sudz Sutherland  
Produced by Jennifer Holness  
Directed by Sudz Sutherland**

**Starring**

**Elisha Cuthbert, Gregory Smith, Shawn Doyle, Lyriq Bent, K.C.  
Collins, Cle Bennett, and Colm Feore as Paul Duguid**

## **Production information -**

Hungry Eyes Film and Television presents the 4-hour, two-part mini-series "Guns," the story *behind* the headlines of Canada's mounting gun problem and the lives touched by violence. "Guns" is co-created and co-written by Jennifer Holness and Sudz Sutherland, produced by Holness and directed by Sutherland.

A gritty and explosive drama, "Guns" tells the story of four families caught up in illegal gun trafficking and the ripple effect this has on their lives. From the streets of Toronto to Dayton, Ohio, and all the way to the front lines of Uganda, "Guns" examines the incendiary issues of illegal arms in Canada, the US, and around the world. This is the story of the people who traffic guns, the elite police force charged with catching them, and the lives caught in the crossfire.

"Guns" stars Elisha Cuthbert ("24," "Captivity", "Love Actually"), Shawn Doyle ("11<sup>th</sup> Hour," "Big Love"), Lyriq Bent ("SAW II-IV," "Four Brothers"), Cle Bennett ("How She Move," "Odyssey 5"), KC Collins ("Doomstown," "Poor Boy's Game"), Gregory Smith ("Everwood," "Closing the Ring", "The Dark is Rising"), Stephen McHattie ("300," "The Rocket"), and Colm Feore ("Bon Cop, Bad Cop," "Chicago").

"Guns" is a Hungry Eyes Film & Television production for the CBC. Arthur Cooper is Director of Photography and Rupert Lazarus is Production Designer. Robin Neinstein is the Executive in Charge of Production for the CBC.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

“Guns” follows a pair of Toronto detectives leading an investigation centering on a twenty-three year-old gun trafficker, Bobby Duguid (Gregory Smith). Detective Rick Merriweather (Shawn Doyle) and Detective Constable Ford Sanders (Lyriq Bent) are two dedicated officers from the Weapons Enforcement Unit who struggle to balance family life with an investigation growing in complexity and danger.

Bobby Duguid traffics guns from the US and sells them to street thugs. His father, Paul Duguid (Colm Feore), is the man pulling the strings behind a much larger organization. Paul is a legitimate arms dealer accredited by many governments to sell weapons internationally, but he sells weapons illegally too. He is known to the Weapons Enforcement Division as Mr. Teflon, as nothing illegal has been pinned to him. Paul comes under increased police scrutiny when Bobby mistakenly shows up at a street level gun dealer’s house that happens to be under surveillance. Trouble deepens for Bobby after he engages his girlfriend Frances’ (Elisha Cuthbert) help and the police begin tracking her movements as well.

Caught up in the drama are Derek Wilson (KC Collins) and Conrad Shannon (Cle Bennett) from Toronto's inner-city. They are subcontractors in Paul's criminal organization. Their jobs are to keep the guns flowing on the street. Fresh out of jail, Conrad wants to regain his position on the streets as top dog. But Derek is sick of the criminal lifestyle and wants out, a prospect that is complicated by having to raise his thirteen year-old sister Deanne. Derek gets the opportunity of a lifetime when sexy, tough journalist Eva Innis (Rachel Ford) takes him under her wing and gets him a job interning at her newspaper, the Metropolitan Gazette. Derek sees a way out of his situation for the first time, but when Bobby gets implicated in the murder of a prominent Toronto resident and Derek is present, things become decidedly more intense.

## Episode Synopsis

### **Part One**

In the midst of a series of high profile gun murders, Detective Rick Merriweather and Det. Ford Saunders of the Weapons Enforcement Unit investigate the unprecedented flow of weapons into the city. Utilizing an Informant that has ties to Ford's past, they discover that the source of the weapons influx is well-connected businessman and legitimate arms dealer, Paul Duguid, and his 23-year-old son Bobby. Derek and Conrod, cousins who work for the Duguids, find they are on different paths after Conrod is released from prison. When Bobby's girlfriend, Frances Dett, makes a trafficking run across the boarder, the cops are not far behind. They follow the trafficking operation to its sources in Ohio, Virginia and Honduras. However, cut loose on the streets their Informant puts the Detectives in jeopardy by alerting their targets to the sting.

## **Part Two**

A brutal home invasion takes on national significance when the husband of a prominent CEO is killed. The murder draws an uncomfortable amount of attention to Paul Duguid, triggering him to use Conrod to murder all the witnesses involved. Det. Rick Merriweather and his team stop Duguid's cross-border trafficking operation and Frances is arrested. When Merriweather returns to the city, he is enraged to find his family threatened after one of the traffickers visits his home. Conrod faces off with Derek, the last witness who can identify Bobby as a murderer. As the conclusion of the case draws near, the Detectives rush to save Frances' life - now the lone witness against Bobby.

## **The Story**

The dramatic increase of gun violence in Toronto over the last decade and the specific kind of exposure it receives in the media is a subject that writer/director David 'Sudz' Sutherland and writer/producer Jennifer Holness, could no longer ignore.

Reading about the 'Summer of the Gun' was alarming for the husband and wife team who found themselves going a step beyond feeling sympathy for the victims when reading about the deadly bloodshed - they wanted to know what was behind the increasing gun violence in this city, beyond the black youth on the street so often attributed to it. They were interested in exploring where these guns come from and how they get to a city where firearms are illegal.

It was a call from Sutherland's niece, however, that really pushed him to want to publicly explore this sensitive subject. "My niece called me and told me that her school was under lock-down from shots fired for the third time that year," says Sutherland. "This is the same neighbourhood that I grew up in and that neighbourhood was not like that when I was a kid. That was scary to me - that there's gunfire on the street that I grew up on. That was a cause for alarm."

Sutherland and Holness began to think about what had changed in the city suburban neighbourhoods and in the projects that led to so many kids now having guns and the increasing violence that accompanies. "Back in the 70s and 80s, there was hardly any gun violence," states Holness. "I grew up in the projects and none of the guys I knew had guns."

Through this project, the duo decided to explore how guns get into the hands of 15-year-old kids on the street. "We wanted to trace that path. We had some friends who are cops and some who are criminals so we combined all of the information to try to get at some kind of truth," explains Sutherland. "That's how the story began to take shape. We wanted to focus on the people themselves and how they get caught up in these situations."

When Sutherland and Holness committed to doing a project of this nature, they knew they had a responsibility to expose the many levels of gun trafficking - levels that aren't necessarily portrayed in the media. They wanted to go beyond the violence on the street and reveal the different types of people involved in this multi-layered industry. "In writing 'Guns,' we wanted to show that this issue is more than just a stereotypical 'guns in the hood' kind of thing. We're trying to portray realistic issues around everyone involved in gun trafficking," says Sutherland. "In doing this you have to look at the various cross-sections of

society. We cross class lines, race lines and we're showing real human beings – we're dealing in the context of family.”

In addition, the creators wanted to show the grey areas and the complicated issues involved around gun violence. It was important for them to be able to illustrate, on screen, the many different sides to this escalating problem when looking at both perpetrators as well as victims.

Many of the headlines in the media focus on the kids who have these guns but Holness wanted to look at the bigger picture. “We wanted to show that gun violence isn't just black kids on the street,” states the writer/producer. “Often it's the white collar types who run this business – they bring the arms in which subsequently get into the hands of young people. We wanted to show that the responsibility around gun trafficking was a much larger thing.”

To help explore this idea in the script, Sutherland and Holness created the ‘Weapons Enforcement Unit,’ similar to an actual elite gun trafficking unit in Toronto. “We wanted to look at that unit and how they track where these guns are coming from and create a story in and around that aspect,” says Holness.

Being parents of three children, Sutherland and Holness felt a particular connection to this kind of story. “As a father, I'm worried. It doesn't matter how well you raise your kids. If someone has it in for them, if they have access to a gun, it can happen to anyone,” says Sutherland.

Many of the cast members also felt a personal connection to this project. “Kids know so much about guns from video games,” says Colm Feore, who is also a father of three. “What we have to do is show these kids the difference between what real guns do and what imaginary guns do – what moral responsibility is

and what violence on the streets is all about. Shows like 'Guns' will prompt us to have these discussions."

Cle Bennett, who plays a street-level gun criminal, has another kind of connection to the story as a result of his personal experience with gun violence. Bennett's friend's brother was gunned down on his front doorstep days before he was to testify in a home invasion trial. "He was just trying to do what was right. One of the big problems we have in certain areas is that people don't want to talk and this is the perfect example of someone trying to do the right thing and putting himself in danger because of it," explains Bennett of his friend's death. "It was a tragic death but I allow that experience to fuel my performance."

## The Characters

To bring this story, ripped from the headlines, to life, Holness and Sutherland assembled an incredible cast of established and emerging talent. "We wanted to put a great deal of humanity into all of the characters, so finding the right cast was imperative for us," says Holness.

Finding the right person to play Detective Rick Merriweather, the-lead detective for the Weapons Enforcement Unit was extremely important for the moral centre of the show. "We loved Shawn Doyle's work on Canadian T.V. and in 'Big Love' and knew he had the right quality to play Detective Merriweather," says Sutherland. "There's a rawness to Shawn that you don't see often and we wanted him to bring that gritty quality to the character, which he absolutely does."

Doyle plays a weathered detective with intense drive, who's been exposed to many tragedies over the span of his career. "What was interesting to me about Rick is that his connection to this young girl who he's tried to save, and her subsequent death is the straw that breaks the camel's back - he's driven after that event in a way he wasn't before. Cumulatively, his experiences have driven him to the point now where he's got this laser focus."

In addition to the interest in his character, Doyle was also drawn to the larger message that lies in this production. "When I read the script, I felt a particular resonance because the subject was so timely - particularly in Toronto where we're starting to move into this escalated version of what we've already seen in the United States," says Doyle.

Lyriq Bent plays Rick Merriweather's partner, who is much more than a traditional detective. Detective Ford Saunders is a young man trying to find his way in the corporate world of the police but he's also forced to face his past by having to arrest one of the people he grew up with.

Being able to directly relate to some of the events his character is involved in initially caused Bent to feel some concern. "I was a bit apprehensive about how I was going to play this character who has grown up in the Jane and Finch area and who has seen some of the same things that I've experienced," says Bent. "I wanted to go in with an open mind as to what's happening and understand the content in that way. I wanted to tell the writer's story as opposed to my story."

In the end, Bent was able to marry his personal experiences with his characters experiences in a harmonious way. "My personal background helped in some situations because I was coming at it from a real place. I just had to learn how to balance it all," recalls Bent.

Sutherland agrees that Bent was able to portray all of the facets required to play Detective Ford Saunders. "He plays in numerous different relationships in this show - the cop relationship, the love relationship and many others. Bent played this part really well because he's an actor with many dimensions."

Colm Feore was the first actor signed on the project. "We wanted him to play Paul Duguid because we needed an actor who could make this villain complex and intelligent. The best villain for me is an intelligent villain," says Sutherland. "Also, because Paul does a lot of the things in the story out of love for his son, I thought that was an added dimension that Colm could play because he's a father of three, not to mention a wonderful actor and a joy to have on set."

Feore was attracted to the well-written script, the complex character of Paul Duguid and also to the messages in the storyline. "I thought that Sudz and Jennifer showed a good grasp of the balance going on and the simple fact that the business and people making money from selling guns keep the industry going - it's an economic thing as well as a cultural thing," says Feore. "I thought they found that beautifully and tried to express different points of view without prejudice."

Beyond being in the business of selling guns, both legally and illegally, Feore was able to tap into the basic workings of his character. "Paul was in the navy when he was young, he's formed by a militarist understanding of how the world order should be and so, consequently, his understanding is military," explains Feore. "He is of the opinion that life is harsh. He feels that times are tough and you have to do something and he knows how to sell guns so that's what he does."

Feore was also able to understand the inner workings of his character on a moral level. "These issues become very complicated because although some of the guns come through illegally and end up on the streets killing people, some go to rebel forces that have a just cause in Uganda. So Paul's moral justification is that there is this kind of balance," explains the actor.

Cle Bennett was cast in the role of street criminal, Conrod Shannon. Bennett was excited to work on the project for many reasons, one being his relationship with Sutherland. "I worked with Sudz on 'Doomstown' and we have a great working relationship so when I heard he was creating this project, I was ready to jump on board," recalls Bennett.

Bennett was also attracted to the larger message his character represented. "Although Conrod is working on the street level, he's working for someone who's higher up. It shows the relationship between the white collar criminals and the street thugs."

In working with Bennett, Elisha Cuthbert gained a deep respect for her co-star. "Cle has a calm quality about him but in this project has to step up and be an aggressor," remarks Cuthbert. "I don't think it's easy to play a bad guy so it's a testament to his work that he is really convincing in this role when he's the opposite in his own life."

Like Bennett, KC Collins also worked with Sutherland on 'Doomstown' so was pleased to be cast in the role of Derek Wilmot, giving him the opportunity to work with Sutherland again and play opposite Bennett. "I loved the script and the character of Derek," says Collins. "He straddles this line between good and evil because he's got a sister who he has to raise but then this cousin, Conrod, who's just gotten out of jail pushes him to continue the same kind of life they

used to lead before he got sent away –a life of crime that Derek’s never really been comfortable with. He has a tug of war with good and evil – trying to do the right thing for both his sister and his cousin. This struggle is something I think people will relate to.”

Sutherland welcomed the opportunity to work with Collins again. “KC is a fantastic actor who comes with a level of commitment, observation and sensitivity. The work that he does involves looking at that vulnerable spot and taking his character to those levels – moving away from a safe portrayal to seeing more of a human being emerged,” says Sutherland. “He’s good at letting the audience know what he’s feeling or what he’s concealing. He lets the audience in and develops a relationship with them because he’s very clear about whatever’s going on. “

Sutherland and Holness then had to find the right person to bring the character of Bobby Duguid, the son of arms kingpin Paul Duguid, to life on screen. “We were extremely excited about casting Gregory Smith for that part because he’s a fantastic actor” recalls Holness.

“The script was well written. I found it to be vast but not too overwhelming with really interesting characters involved in a fascinating story,” states Smith. “Bobby’s been a tough character to play cause he’s not the nicest guy in the world and although he’s a product of his environment, he’ got some nasty elements in him.”

For Smith, this story took him inside a world he has never experienced first hand, dealing with specific kinds of actions and specific kinds of people. “Bobby doesn’t think he is a jerk, but I do. I don’t think that bad guys ever really think of themselves as bad guys. For them, it’s just how they relate to people and comes

down to other people's opinions of them. This notion helped me step into this character."

Sutherland and Holness wrote the part of the gun trafficker's girlfriend, Frances Dett, with Elisha Cuthbert in mind. "She's got this real quality that Frances needs. She's not a person who is fazed by this Hollywood thing," notes Sutherland. "With Frances, Elisha has the opportunity to play a wide range of emotions because this character is a psychology major, she works as a waitress in a strip club to make money and she ends up helping her boyfriend with gun trafficking - she makes choices that straddle the line."

There were many qualities in the character of Frances that Elisha connected to. "I like the idea that Frances isn't necessarily bad but falls in love with a bad guy and so finds herself doing things she wouldn't normally do. All of a sudden she is completely wrapped up in it all and in trouble because of it," says Cuthbert of her character. "As shown through Frances, I think it's easy find yourself wrapped up in something. I hope this story will encourage people to talk about this. "

Sutherland agrees. "Most of us straddle the line in life - I think few of us take a firm stand and don't waver from it. Frances is like most of us who, given the right circumstances, could do something wrong," says Sutherland. Adds Holness; "Frances is the cautionary tale. We were thrilled to have Elisha involved because we're hoping that the kids can identify with her."

In the end, Sutherland and Holness were delighted with the cast they were able to assemble for this project that stands near to their hearts. "This cast is amazing because they all know the appropriate truths to hit. Choosing the right one for the moment while being able to play another one is key and they all understand

this,” says Sutherland of his cast. “By having such versatile actors, I always get amazing stuff. The first take is great and then the second take they give you something completely different. They’re giving me a lot to work with because they understand it. They come to the table committed and make intelligent choices. We’ve got a cast that can lift an already good script into greatness.”

### Guns In production

"Guns" was shot over 42 days in and around Toronto and Hamilton. Arthur Cooper (“Love, Sex and Eating the Bones”, “Young People F\*\*ing”) served as Director of Photography (shooting on 35mm) and Rupert Lazarus served as Production Designer. Locations ranged from upscale Hamilton century homes, to the Millbrook Prison, to abandoned industrial sites.

Perhaps the most vital location the “Guns” filmmakers fought to secure was the corner of Yonge and Gould, where they shot the opening sequence of the mini-series in which character Jessica Farrell is caught in the crossfire of a gang shooting and killed, while strolling Yonge Street with her mother.

On Boxing Day 2005, 15-year-old Jane Creba died when she was caught in the crossfire of rival gangs while shopping on Yonge Street – the authenticity of this location for the sequence that introduces the story was therefore of tantamount importance to Holness and Sutherland, to make it clear that this violence happens on our thoroughfares, not just low-income neighbourhoods.

**During the production of Guns, from June 25<sup>th</sup> through until August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 10 people were killed in shooting incidents in Toronto.**

On July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, four men were killed ranging in age from 11-31 in four separate shooting incidents, including the high profile murder of 11 year old Ephraim Brown.

On Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, the day after “Guns” shot its climactic shooting sequence, 19-year old Kevon Hall was gunned down in broad daylight at an east end apartment building while visiting friends.

Throughout production Holness and Sutherland regularly forwarded e-mails with news of these incidents to the crew of Guns, providing ongoing reminders of the life and death importance of the story they were working so hard to tell.

According to the Coalition for Gun Control, over the past 16 years more than 16,000 Canadians have died of gun shots; almost 3,000 of them were murdered. Increasingly, guns are ending up in the hands of our young people; recent events include the Dawson College shooting on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in which 18 year old Anastasia de Sousa was killed and 19 others injured before the shooter shot and killed himself, and the May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 shooting of 15-year old Jordan Manners at Toronto's C.W. Jefferys Collegiate.

And while 2006 statistics indicated a decline in gun-related homicide in Canada following 2005's murderous 'year of the gun,' 2007 saw a returned increase in gun-related homicide and homicide overall.

A Stats Can report released on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 showed that the number of youths charged with homicide in Canada in 2006 was at its highest since 1961 – 84 youths aged 12-17 were accused of homicide in 2006.

## The Cast

COLM FEORE (Paul Duguid) is a veteran talent with a distinguished catalogue of work with starring roles in film, television, and on stage. Feore recently co-starred in the hit film "Bon Cop Bad Cop", one of the highest-grossing Canadian films of all time and subsequently went on to complete the feature films "Serveuses Demandeuses" and "Rivard: Les Annees Kennedy."

Feore's credits on the big screen include the Academy Award winner for Best Picture "Chicago", which also won the 2003 SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by the Cast of a Theatrical Motion Picture, "Intervention", "The Chronicles of Riddick", "The Exorcism of Emily Rose", "Paycheck", "The Sum of All Fears", "Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould", which won the Genie Award for Best Picture and earned him a nomination for his performance.

His list of small screen credentials include ABC's 6-part mini-series "Empire," "Slings & Arrows II," "The West Wing," "Boston Public," "Nuremburg", "The Day Reagan was Shot", and "Trudeau", for which he won the 2002 Monte Carlo Television Festival Award for Best Actor and the 2002 Gemini Award for Best Actor in a Mini Series.

In 2005, Feore starred with Denzel Washington in the Broadway performance of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," earning him the St. Clair Bayfield Award. Other stage productions include "Hamlet," "My Fair Lady," "Don Juan," "Coriolanus," and "Oliver."

SHAWN DOYLE (Det. Rick Merriweather) has quickly become a familiar face to audiences, turning out critically acclaimed performances on both the big and small screen. In 2005, Doyle promptly booked the coveted HBO drama, "Big Love" and made a splash with recurring roles on "Desperate Housewives" and "24." He has also guest starred on "C.S.I." and the ABC / Stephen Bochco series, "Blind Justice."

In Canada, Doyle starred in the critically-acclaimed Canadian series "The Eleventh Hour," for which he received the 2002 ACTRA Award for Outstanding Male Performance in a Series. Doyle has also received numerous Gemini nominations for his work on "The Eleventh Hour," the gritty series "The City," and the miniseries "Verdict In Blood."

In addition to television, Doyle has amassed quite a pedigree in film starring in such feature films as "Sabah," "The Majestic," "Don't Say A Word," "Cletis Tout," "Frequency," "Knockaround Guys," "Long Kiss Goodnight," and "Papertrail." He is currently performing in the Canstage Theatre production of Caryl Churchill's "A Number," which has received critical praise.

LYRIQ BENT (Detective Ford Saunders) Prior to landing a co-starring role on Lifetime's recent drama series "Angela's Eyes" from the producers of "Crash", Bent guest starred on the UPN series "Kevin Hill" opposite Taye Diggs and USA network's "Kojak" opposite Ving Rhames. Additionally, the versatile actor had recurring roles on the CBS/Zoetrope series "Platinum" and the ESPN/Disney series "Playmakers." He has since been featured in Columbia/TriStar's series "Street Time" as well as the Canadian series "Blue Murder." Bent also appeared

in Robert Townsend's multi-award winning television movie "10,000 Black Men Named George" and the telefilm "Jane Doe" alongside Teri Hatcher.

Bent's success in film has also been burgeoning. His film credits include starring opposite Mark Wahlberg and Andre 3000 in the John Singleton film "Four Brothers" and "Take the Lead" with Antonio Banderas and Alfre Woodward. Bent also co-starred in the smash horror films Saw II and III and starred as the central character in the recently released Saw IV. He also appeared in "Honey" alongside Jessica Alba and Mekhi Phifer and "Crime Spree" with Gerard Depardieu. Furthermore Bent starred in director Michael Mabbott's critically-acclaimed debut feature film "The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico" which premiered at the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival, winning the award for Best First Canadian Feature Film. Most recently, Bent co-starred in Lion's Gate horror film, "Skinwalkers" with Jason Behr and Rhona Mitra.

CLE BENNETT (Conrod Shannon) is one of Canada's rising talents and is no stranger to the stage and screen. He has appeared in many television series including "Da Kink In My Hair," "The Best Years," "Instant Star," "This is Wonderland," "The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour," and "Soul Food." Bennett's film credits include "Animal 2," "How She Move," "Steal," "Treed Murray," "Harvard Man," and "Bait." In addition, Bennett has appeared on stage in such productions as "Advice To The Players" and "Play The Game."

KC COLLINS (Derek Wilmot) can most recently be seen in the feature films "Poor Boy's Game," "Animal 2," and the TMN mini-series "ZOS." Collins has done a variety of television work including roles in "Doomstown," "Platinum," "Soul Food," "Sins Of The Father," "Blue Murder," "Hoop life," and "Due South."

Collins can also be seen on the big screen in such feature films as "Blind Justice," "Owning Mahoney," "Detention," "Bulletproof Monk," "Crime Spree," and "Conviction."

GREGORY SMITH (Bobby Duguid) is best known for his work on the WB's critically acclaimed show "Everwood," and will next be seen starring in the epic Sci-Fi fantasy "The Dark is Rising." Gregory can also be seen this year in Richard Attenborough's romantic drama "Closing the Ring," starring Shirley MacLaine and Christopher Plummer.

He began his film career at the age of six and built up a lengthy resume with such films as "Leaping Leprechaun," "Spellbreaker: Leaping Leprechaun 2," "The Adventures of Captain Zoom in Outer Space," and starring roles opposite Richard Dreyfuss in "Krippendorf's Tribe" and opposite John Hurt in the independent film "The Climb." Other credits to his name include "Nearing Grace," "American Outlaws," "The Patriot," and "Small Soldiers."

STEPHEN MCHATTIE (Det. Sgt. Clay) can most recently be seen in the international blockbuster hit "300" and in "Shoot 'Em Up." Other film credits include "The Fountain," "A History of Violence," "The Lazarus Child," "Twist," "Secretary," and "Beverly Hills Cop III."

Stephen earned Canada's 2006 Genie Award for his outstanding performance as the legendary hockey coach Dick Irvin in "The Rocket: The Maurice Richard Story." He will next be seen in two CTV films: "Trojan Horse" and "Would Be Kings." He has appeared in "Stone Cold," "Cold Squad," "Emily of New Moon,"

"Beauty and the Beast," "X-Files," "Seinfeld," and "Law and Order." He received the 1995 Gemini Award for Best Actor in a telefilm for "Life with Billy."

Stephen made his Broadway debut in *The American Dream* in 1968 and was a member of the legendary Phoenix Theater as well as the famous Circle in the Square repertory. He received an Obie Award for *Ghetto and Drama* and the Drama Desk nomination for *Mensch Meier* at the Manhattan Theatre Club.

RACHEL CRAWFORD (Eva Innis) is an accomplished actor with a long list of credits to her name for stage, screen and animation. Some of her many television credits include "The Trojan Horse," "CSI Miami," "Mutant X," "Cold Squad," "Falcone," "Hoop Life," "Traders," "The Outer Limits," and "The James Mink Story," which earned her a Gemini Award nomination for Best Performance By A Lead Actress. She was also a series regular on the animated series "Free Willie."

Crawford's film credits include "The Man," "Pale Saints," "Curtis' Charm," "When Night Is Falling," and "Rude," for which she received a Genie Award Nomination for Best Performance By A Supporting Actress.

ELISHA CUTHBERT (Frances Dett) burst onto the American scene as Kiefer Sutherland's daughter in the critically acclaimed FOX series "24," which earned her a nomination for a 2002 Teen Choice Award for Breakout TV Actress. She also received a 2005 SAG Nomination as part of the "24" cast in the category of Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series. Elisha can currently be seen in Roland Joffe's film "Captivity" and has recently wrapped production on the romantic dramedy "My Sassy Girl" opposite Jesse Bradford

and can soon be seen in the dark comedy "He Was a Quiet Man" opposite Christian Slater and William H. Macy.

Other credits to her name include "The Quiet," on which she also served as associate producer, "House of Wax," "The Girl Next Door," "Old School," "Love Actually," "Airspeed," "Believe," and "Lucky Girl" which earned her the Gemini for Best Actress in a Dramatic Program.

the filmmakers

SUDZ SUTHERLAND works on both sides of the fence as a freelance writer and director for dramas and documentaries. Sudz' last project was the triple Gemini award-winning (Best Direction, Best Supporting actress, Best Television Movie) "Doomstown," an MOW for CTV/Sarrazin-Couture Entertainment that he wrote and directed. Sudz is also writing his sophomore feature film "The Way the Ball

Bounces," his follow up to his multiple award-winning and Genie nominated debut feature film "Love, Sex and Eating the Bones".

Sudz's episodic television directing work includes "Degrassi: The Next Generation" for CTV, "The Famous Jett Jackson" for Disney, and "Drop the Beat" for CBC, "Skin Deep III" for Life Network, "Tell It Like It Is" for W Network, "Brand New Life" for NFB/YTV and "Canadian Geographic for Kids" for TVO. Writing stints on TV series include Global's police drama series "Blue Murder", (season I and II) and he was a Story Editor on the Nickelodeon/YTV series "Caitlin's Way". He wrote the pilot episode for Back Alley's series "Drop The Beat", which triggered an order for the first season and resulted in a Gemini nomination for Best Dramatic Writing. Sudz has also written for the CBC's children's programs "Sesame Park" and "Guess What". He also wrote the documentary "Back to Little Rock: The Life of Minnijean Brown Trickey", telling the tale of one of the Little Rock Nine who integrated U.S. schools in 1957.

Sudz's powerful half-hour dramatic debut, "My Father's Hands" screened at Toronto's International Film Festival. It had its Canadian television premiere on CBC and has gone on to win prizes in Canada at the 2000 Yorkton Film Festival (4 awards including best drama, script, direction and best actor), and internationally, including the \$20,000 HBO Short Film Award at the Acapulco Black Film festival. The film was also nominated for a Gemini Award for Best Short. In addition, Sudz co-directed the National Film Board's documentary film, "Speakers for the Dead".

JENNIFER HOLNESS has produced a number of award-winning films and documentaries in the independent film scene. Her feature film, "Love, Sex & Eating The Bones" won 9 festival awards internationally including the City TV

prize for Best First Feature at the 2003 Toronto International Film Festival. The Film was voted one of the Top Ten Films of 2003 and won the Blockbuster Audience Award for Best Feature at the American Black Film Festival in Miami. "Love, Sex & Eating the Bones" was released theatrically in Canada in March 2004. The film also received 3 Genie nominations, for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay for the 2004 Genie Awards.

Jennifer's documentary films include "on/black/stage/women", "Dolores: The Art of Art Modeling" for BRAVO and "Yin Yin/Jade Love", which won the award for Best Canadian Film at the 2003 ReelWorld Film Festival. "Speakers for the Dead", which she co-directed for the National Film Board, won Best Documentary at the 2000 Reel Black Film Awards and aired on Vision and CBC Rough Cuts.

Her film, "My Father's Hands", premiered at the 1999 Toronto International Film Festival, won four awards at Yorkton for Best Drama, Best Script, Best Director and Best Actor (Ardon Bess), and won the HBO Award for Best Short Film airing on that network. "My Father's Hands" was also nominated for a 2000 Gemini Award for best Short Film.

Holness is currently in production on the documentary "Badge of Pride," about gay cops with award-winning filmmaker Min Sook Lee also for the CBC. In 2001 She line-produced the six-part documentary series "Skin Deep II", which won a Gemini for Best Lifestyle Series. She also directed 2 episodes of the series, one of which won the 2002 BFVN award for 'Best New Documentary'.

Current feature film projects include "The Way The Ball Bounces", Sudz Sutherland's sophomore feature in development with Fund, Corus and Telefilm, and "Home Again," a dramatic feature co-production with the NFB.

ARTHUR COOPER is an award winning cinematographer working out of Toronto. He began his career as a camera assistant, working on such films as "Dead Ringers", "Naked Lunch" and "Long Days Journey Into Night." He then moved on to shooting music videos and to date has shot over 120 of them and been nominated for MMVA and CSC awards. Not shy to tackle any genre, Arthur has lensed numerous features ("Young People Fucking", "Who Loves the Sun", "Heater"), MOWs ("Spinning Out of Control"), TV Series ("G-Spot", "Life with Derek"), documentaries ("Tales of the Rat Fink") and short Films ("Big Girl", "Cursing Hanley"). His collaboration with Sudz Sutherland began with the short film "My Father's Hands", which garnered international critical praise, and the feature "Love, Sex & Eating the Bones", awarded Best Canadian Film at TIFF in 2004. The CBC mini-series "Guns" was an exciting opportunity to work together once more and renew their creative collaboration.

RUPERT LAZARUS is a graduate of the Chelsea School of Art and was born and educated in London, England where he began his career before moving to Canada.

Since then, he has worked on such diverse projects as "Danger Beneath the Sea" where his studio-built attack class submarine earned him a Director's Guild of Canada nomination for Outstanding Production Design. Other credits include the series "Ace Lightning" for which he created a down-on-its-luck carnival, and "Body and Soul" for which he brought to life a hospital and wellness centre. In James Toback's "Harvard Man" Rupert designed detailed environments to emphasize the character driven narrative.

Other credits include George Romero's "Land of the Dead," "The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico," and "The Jane Show."