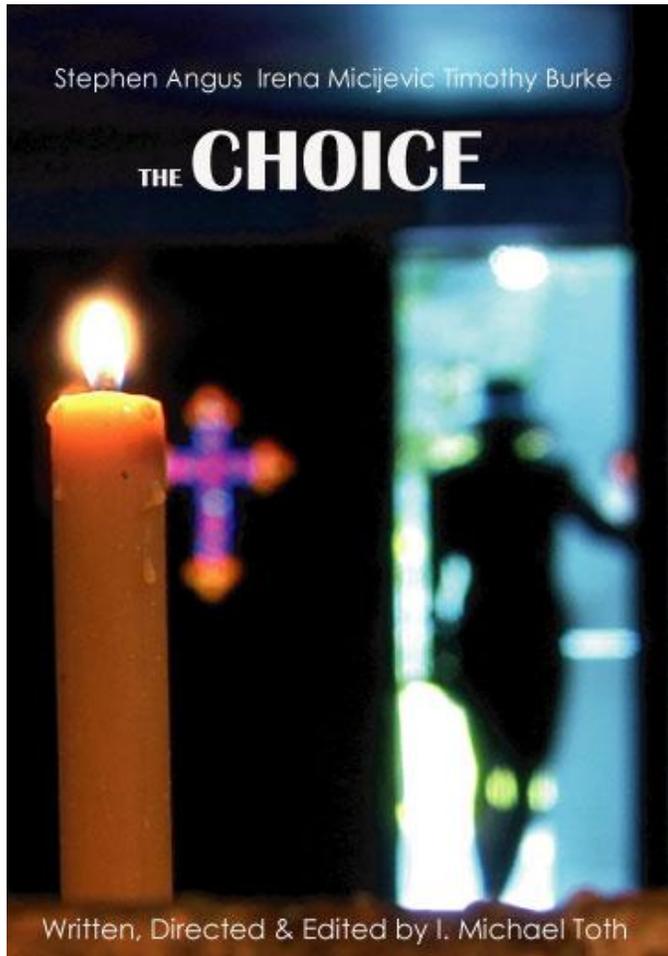


# OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

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a **LIFE IS A DREAM** production

## Written & Directed

I. Michael Toth

## Starring

Stephen Angus, Irena Micijevic  
and Timothy Burke

**Color/Dolby 5.1**

**Approx. Running Time 94 minutes**

**USA/English**

**1080p/24 High-Definition**

**This film has not been rated.**

## Media Contact

Christopher Gentry, Producer

Life is a Dream Productions

1435 West School Street

Chicago, Illinois 60657

Tel. +1 773 517 4118

Fax +1 773 632 2036

[cgentry@lifeisadreamprod.com](mailto:cgentry@lifeisadreamprod.com)

For the more information, visit [www.graywhiteblackfilm.com](http://www.graywhiteblackfilm.com),

or find us on



Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TheChoiceFilm](http://www.facebook.com/TheChoiceFilm)

# Background

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GWB Film, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company (the “Company”), was formed in 2007 to produce the feature film project titled, GRAY IN WHITE AND BLACK. Told in two separate feature length films, THE DREAM PLAY (approx. 96 minutes) and THE CHOICE (approx. 94 minutes), the films are based on the award winning short film, CAST IN GRAY, written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth. The films were completed in September 2010.

# Synopsis

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Vera is a proprietor of a trendy French restaurant and Jazz club in Chicago. Late one evening, just before closing, Vera confronts a customer who refuses to pay the bill. He claims his name is Paul and that her husband, Tim, owes him a large sum of money. After Vera explains that Tim died a year ago in a car accident, Paul, seemingly crushed, drinks heavily and then abruptly leaves. After closing the restaurant, Vera drives by a bus stop where she sees the police lifting drunken Paul from a bench. Feeling sorry and guilty at the same time, Vera rescues Paul from the police. After unsuccessfully trying to find him a motel, Vera is forced to take unconscious Paul to her own house where, in the garage, she leaves him sleeping in the car. The next morning, hung-over Paul and Vera find themselves in an awkward situation attempting to better know each other. Vera questions him about her late husband Tim’s past, but Paul’s answers are vague and cryptic. Following an uneasy breakfast, Paul asks Vera to take him to the cemetery to visit his friend’s grave. At the cemetery, their conflict sharpens and a game of cat and mouse ensues, culminating in a physical fight and then reconciliation. Back at her house, Vera discovers a certain attraction to Paul and invites him for dinner at her restaurant. At the restaurant Paul leads Vera back in time where she confronts the mystery of her husband’s death. But, for Vera a suspicion lurks: is Paul’s story true or is it just a great performance by a sinister con-artist?

# Director’s Statement by I. Michael Toth

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*The initial story was inspired by a dream I had. One early morning, when I was in the state between dreaming and waking, this image of a car in the rain on an empty road, passing by a hitchhiker with a dog, appeared to me. This image, as well as the characters that emerged and their encounter seemed so unusual and intriguing that I decided to write them down before they evaporated from my memory.*

*So, from this experience, at first, came a short film called “Cast in Gray”; and later a full-length feature film was born.*

*The fundamental idea for THE CHOICE is what Nietzsche described as "... the basic metaphysic is the inversion of values: truth out of deception, a selfless act out of self-interest, things of highest value from this inferior world, this labyrinth of delusion..."*

*There is a need for closure of certain chapters in one's life. For this to happen there is often a need for an external agent, be it a person or an event. Sometimes an epiphany through music or art can help cathartically close the door of the past. But, usually and more likely it is just someone else we can talk and relate to, especially if that someone reveals information that would fit as a missing piece in the puzzle of one's past.*

*In trying to find our way through life, we need to come to terms with fate, ghosts, workings of the past, maybe even God – things unseen but ever-present in our consciousness.*

*I hope that after watching this film the audience will have something to talk about. The questions will be posed, and the answers might be many. But, what is true and what is not?*

*It's not up to the filmmaker to tell his audience what to think, but it's up to the audience to create their own meaning from the structure of the film and to see, interpret, understand and experience according to their individual intelligence, education, sensibility and intuition.*

*I believe that religion, as well as history, tells lies... but we can safely trust fiction, because it makes only symbolic claims to truth.*

**I. Michael Toth**  
**Writer/Director**

## Cast

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IRENA MICIJEVIC (Vera) has starred in eight feature films, including *DESIRE* and *WELL TEMPERED CORPSES*. She was awarded Best Actress award at Film Festival Novi Sad for her leading role in *MAGIC*. Irena co-starred with legendary Serbian actor Lazar Ristovski in *A SMALL WORLD*. She has appeared in numerous stage and television productions for Yugoslavian television and the BBC.



STEPHEN ANGUS (Paul, *The Man With The Dog*) is a veteran stage actor who has also appeared in a number of film and television programs. An actor from the age of seven, his stage credits include a variety of leading roles. At Victory Gardens in Chicago, he played the Pilot alongside legendary screen and stage actor, Michael Nussbaum, in *THE SWEET LITTLE PRINCE*. His television credits include the recurring character Alex Carew on NBC's *HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET*, appearances in episodes of *AMERICA'S MOST WANTED* and *MISSING: REWARD*. In 2004 he appeared in the award-winning short film *CAST IN GRAY*. Stephen also appeared in the films *THE DREAM PLAY*, *QUIZ SHOW*, *FORREST GUMP*, *PECKER*, and *LE PELICAN*.



TIMOTHY BURKE (F. Timothy Herbert) is a veteran actor of the stage and screen. He has appeared in lead and supporting roles in five feature films including *THE DREAM PLAY*, *THE RETURN*, *THE DEVIL'S PLACEBO*, *BEING MICHAEL MADSEN*, starring Virginia and Michael Madsen, and *MITCHELLVILLE* (Sundance Film Festival, Jury Special Mention, CineVegas Film Festival). He trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day and Morris Carnovsky. In 2004 he appeared in the award-winning short film *CAST IN GRAY*. He has appeared in lead and supporting roles on stage productions of *DEATH OF A SALEMAN*, *THE CRUCIBLE*, *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST*, *THE FOREIGNER* (Best Actor Award) and *OLIVER!*

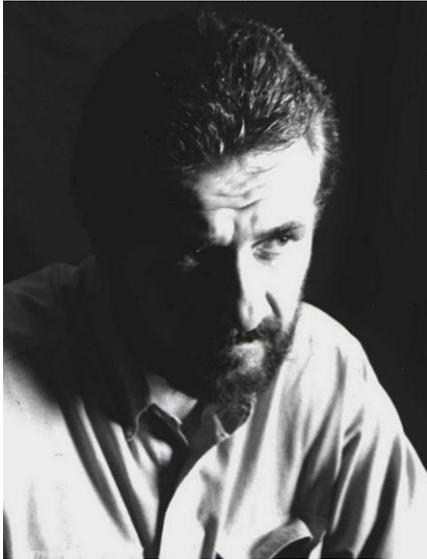


BIBO (*The Dog*) Bibo met actor Stephen Angus one sunny morning while wandering the streets of Washington, D.C., and they have been fast companions ever since. From an early age, she has exhibited a keen attention to physical gesture, emotional states and the subtlest nuances of spoken communications. Bibo is not 'formally' trained, working more from a place of devotion, amusement and agreement than from 'commands'. She communicates through breath (Bibo is an acronym for 'breathing in, breathing out'), touch, movement, eye contact and, of course, voice.

# Crew

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## Writer/Director/Editor



I. Michael Toth

I. Michael Toth (Writer/Director/Editor) has over 25 years of professional experience in the film and television industry. After graduating from the prestigious University of Arts, Film and Television Production Department in Belgrade, he started his professional career as an assistant director to Srdjan Karanovic on the feature film “Petrija’s Coronet” (Petrijin Venac). He worked as assistant director on various feature films, as a documentary filmmaker and writer/ director for the documentary TV series “Man and Time” for TV Novi Sad.

Michael moved to the United States in 1987 and settled in Chicago, where he has produced, directed, filmed and edited a number of short films, documentaries and videos. He also produced, directed and edited numerous commercials, industrial and point of purchase videos for major corporations, including McDonald's Corporation, Hilton Hotels, General Electric Corporation, American Dental Association, Nestle, Sears, State of Illinois, and United Nations among others.

Michael formed Life is a Dream Productions with producer Christopher Gentry in 2000 to produce feature films.

## AWARDS

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- **Critics' Choice Award: Best Film**, The Choice, 2010 Leskovac International Film Festival, Serbia (writer/director/editor)
- **Audience Choice Award: Best Feature Film**, The Dream Play, 2010 East Lansing Film Festival, Michigan (writer/director/editor)
- **Audience Choice Award: Best Short Film**, Cast In Gray, 2006 Bridge International Film Festival, Vancouver, Canada (writer/director/editor)
- **Best Short Film**, Cast In Gray, 2005 Golden International Film Festival, Colorado (writer/director/editor)
- **Best Narrative Film**, Cast In Gray, 2005 East Lansing Film festival, Michigan (writer/director/editor)
- **Best Sound Design** (M. Toth) for Cast in Gray, 2005 Midwest Independent Film Festival (writer/director/editor, sound design)
- **Best Actor Award** (T. Burke) for Cast In Gray, 2005 Midwest Independent Film Festival (writer/director/editor)
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place Award** for ITVA (International Television and Video Association/US) Awards: 1992 – UNSEEN JOURNEY, a feature documentary (producer/director/editor)
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place Award** ITVA for Music Video BIG GUITARS, 1991 (editor)

## FILMOGRAPHY

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- **"The Choice"**, 2010, feature, 91 min.  
(writer/director/editor/exec. producer)
- **"The Dream Play"**, 2010, feature, 96 min.  
(writer/director/editor/exec. producer)
- **"Three Gifts Of Grotto"**, 2006, documentary, 28 min.  
(writer/director/editor/second camera)
- **"The Patricia Barber Quartet: Live in France"**, 2005, feature documentary, 60 min.  
(co-writer/director/editor/exec. producer)
- **"Cast in Gray"**, 2004, short feature, 39 min.  
(writer/director/editor/sound designer)
- **"21<sup>st</sup> Century Blues Man"** 2000, Documentary, 30 min.  
(writer/director/editor/cinematographer/exec. producer)
- **"Sculptures: Pieces of my Dreams"**, 1998, documentary, 15 min.  
(writer/director/editor/co-cinematographer)
- **"The Freemasons"**, 1995, feature documentary, 56 min.  
(director/editor/exec. producer)
- **"Story of Icarus"**, 1994, documentary, 17 min.  
(writer/director/cinematographer/editor)
- **"Good Manners For Kids"**, 1993, short feature, 30 min.  
(director/editor)
- **"Unseen Journey"**, 1991, feature documentary, 60 min.  
(director/editor/exec. producer)
- **"Coming Back"**, 1990, documentary, 29 min.  
(director/editor)
- **"Home Free"**, 1990, documentary, 24 min.  
(director/editor)
- **"The Caviar Quartet"**, 1988, short feature, 12 min.  
(co-writer/director/editor)
- **"Inferno"**, 1985, Documentary, (in Serbian)10 min  
(writer/director/producer)
- **"The Journey of a Portrait"**, 1984 (in Serbian Putešestvije jednoga portreta),  
(documentary/narrative, 30min. - writer/director/editor/producer)
- **"The Last Fat Jasha"**, 1983 (in Hungarian Utolsó Kövér Jása), documentary/narrative, 30 min.  
(writer/director/editor/producer)

## Cinematographer

SASHA RENDULIC has been a cinematographer for various film and television productions for more than 18 years. He recently completed principal photography on the feature film project, GRAY IN WHITE AND BLACK and is scheduled to lens BLOSSOM starring Rade Serbedzija (Batman Begins, Eyes Wide Shut). In 2007, Sasha was cinematographer on I HAVE TO SLEEP, MY ANGEL, nominated for six European Film Academy awards, including Best Cinematography. The film also won the Best Film Audience Choice award at the 2008 Munich Film Festival. Sasha began his career as a photojournalist for magazines such as STUDIO and WORLD, and exclusive photographer for National Drama Theater in Croatia. He graduated with a degree in cinematography from the Academy for Film and Television Arts and worked as a camera assistant with Academy Award winning cinematographers, including Peter Biziou (ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD) and Freddie Francis (THE PLOT). In 1991 Sasha moved to the United States and has worked on a number of film and television projects, including MR. P'S DANCING SUSHI BAR (Sundance Film Festival entry); STAND BY (Pula Film Festival entry); and CONNECTING DOTS, a feature that combines both film and digital video elements, which won the award for Best Comedy at the 2003 New York International Independent Film & Video Festival. . Sasha has recently been awarded with a membership of the European Film Academy after the film I HAVE TO SLEEP, MY ANGEL made the selection of the best European films of 2008. He was cinematographer on Croatia's 2011 official Oscar entry for Best Foreign Feature Film, 72 DAYS.

More at [www.sasha-rendulic.com](http://www.sasha-rendulic.com).

## Music Composer

Blue Note Records recording artist and Chicago-based, PATRICIA BARBER, composed original music for the films, as well as tapped into her iconic catalogue for additional musical scoring. For more than two decades, Barber has led her own band and released a series of highly acclaimed, strikingly singular albums, dating back to 1992's breakout major label album DISTORTION OF LOVE. It featured her rendition of Smokey Robinson's pop hit, "My Girl," predating by a year Cassandra Wilson's similarly groundbreaking "Blue Light Til Dawn." For her latest album on Blue Note Records, THE COLE PORTER MIX, singer/pianist Barber applies that "natural form of expressiveness" to breath stimulating and intimate new life into the music of one of the Great American Songbook composers. *The New York Times* says, "Patricia Barber has adventurous piano playing, a low-vibrato alto on perpetual rhythm and timbre alert and smart songs about the way we think and live, not just the way we love... This is the kind of art we need to be on the lookout for everywhere." *The Los Angeles Times* wrote that Barber was "the most convincing jazz singer-songwriter since Peggy Lee...her dark imagery, gripping interpretations and propulsive piano playing are among the great wonders of contemporary music." *Time Magazine* said, "Cross Diana Krall with Susan Sontag, and you get Patricia Barber, whose throaty, come-hither vocals and coolly incisive piano are displayed to devastating effect."

More at [www.patriciabarber.com](http://www.patriciabarber.com).

## Producer

CHRISTOPHER GENTRY formed Life is a Dream Productions with Michael Toth in 2000 to produce feature films to be directed by Toth. Since graduating with a degree in Corporate Finance from Arizona State University, Chris has worked in commercial and investment banking with several leading financial institutions including FleetBoston Financial, BankBoston and Sanwa Bank. He is a founding partner and managing director of Monroe Credit Advisors LLC, a boutique investment banking firm headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. Chris produced Michael Toth's short film, CAST IN GRAY, in 2004 and the feature film project, GRAY IN WHITE AND BLACK.

## Production Notes by Producer, Christopher Gentry

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GRAY IN WHITE AND BLACK is a feature film project comprised of two loosely connected full-length feature films. This film project began as a short film titled "Cast In Gray," written, directed and edited by Michael Toth, which was filmed in 2004 and played festivals in 2005. The short film won several narrative short film awards. Filming for both films was predominantly in Chicago, Illinois. The films were shot on 720p/24 hi-definition video and completed in October 2010. Music for the films was composed by Blue Note recording artist Patricia Barber.

### The Genesis – CAST IN GRAY – By Producer Christopher Gentry

*In spring 2004 we shot the short film, Cast In Gray, on a shoestring budget with some very dedicated actors and crew. The short film was born out of a dream Michael had one night and by our overwhelming desire to put in play our slate of films we had been developing over the last three years. I had witnessed the brilliance of Michael's writing skills and was anticipating our first production with great excitement. Michael set to writing Cast In Gray based on the dream he'd had of a hitchhiker and his dog wandering about the countryside. It took the better part of two months to ready the screenplay. Of course, in the process, Michael had a feature film in mind all along. We were sort of following the approach Jim Jarmusch took with Strangers In Paradise – convinced that this short film would be a first step in the making of a full length feature version of Cast In Gray. The story was designed to stand on its own as a short film, but would be the basis to create a feature length film.*

*Cast In Gray had a successful festival run in 2005 and 2006, winning two BEST SHORT film awards at East Lansing and Golden film festivals. The film also won the audience award at Bridge Fest in Canada and awards for acting (Timothy Burke) and sound design (I. Michael Toth) at the Midwest Independent Film Festival in Chicago and was nominated for various categories at several other festivals. Audiences and critics responded favorably overall to the film, which gave us confidence that*

*the themes and ideas of the film were working with audiences. As planned, the success of Cast In Gray allowed us to attract private funding to finance principal photography for Gray In White And Black.*

# Production Stills

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Irena Micijevic as Vera.



Stephen Angus as Paul.



Vera wrestles with Paul at the gravesite of her husband, Tim.



Paul plays a sax solo as Cleo (Patricia Barber) looks on.



Paul explains the circumstances of her husband's death one year ago.



Vera lights a candle at the Monastery to bid farewell to her husband.

# Credits

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**LIFE IS A DREAM**  
Production  
(animated logo)

**G W B FILMS**  
Chicago  
In association with  
**SEE FILM PRO**  
Belgrade

Presents

**THE CHOICE**

production design  
**SLOBODAN BATA RADOVANOVIC**  
costume design  
**TANJA RADISIC**  
**NATASHA VUCHUROVICH DJUKICH**  
makeup design  
**JILLIAN ERICKSON**  
hair design  
**BUDD BIRD**

cinematographer  
**SASHA RENDULIC**

sound mixers  
**BARTEK SWIATEK**  
**TOM BEACH**

**co-producer**  
**KELLY JOHNSON**  
**associate producer**  
**FRANK T. HERBERT**  
**creative consultant**  
**ALEKSANDAR JAN KOSCALIK**

**music**  
**PATRICIA BARBER**

**additional music**  
**GORAN IVANOVIC**  
**ZVONIMIR TOT**  
**DR DIMITRY GOLEMOVICH**

**executive producers**  
**VICTOR FORYS**  
**I. MICHAEL TOTH**  
**CHRISTOPHER GENTRY**  
**PREDRAG KONSTANTINOVIC**  
**RAFAL LICHOSYT**  
**NENAD DUKIC**

**producer**  
**CHRISTOPHER GENTRY**

**writer director editor**  
**I. MICHAEL TOTH**

CAST

PAUL/HITCHHIKER .....STEPHEN ANGUS  
VERA ..... IRENA MICIJEVIC  
TIM.....TIMOTHY BURKE  
CLEO PARKER..... PATRICIA BARBER  
ROSE .....PATRICIA PANARELLA  
RESTAURANT MANAGER..... ANDY HAGER  
POLICE OFFICER #1 ..... NICK RADOVANOVIC  
POLICE OFFICER #2 ..... JAMIE WOODSON  
GUITARIST ..... NEAL ALGER  
BASSIST .....MICHAEL ARNOPOL  
DRUMMER ..... ERIC MONTZKA  
BARTENDER ..... RUDY METRA  
WOMAN ON THE CEMETERY ..... BETSY JOHNSON  
LITTLE BOY ..... ALEKSANDAR KONSTANTINOVIC  
LITTLE GIRL ..... ALEKSINA JOVIC  
MOTEL OWNER..... HASMUKH SHAH  
MOTEL ATTENDANT ..... GITA SHAH  
CHEF..... DEJAN DJURIC  
GRAVEYARD ATTENDANT #1 ..... PABLO GALINDO  
GRAVEYARD ATTENDANT #2 ..... GERMAN MENDEZ  
THE DOG..... BIBO