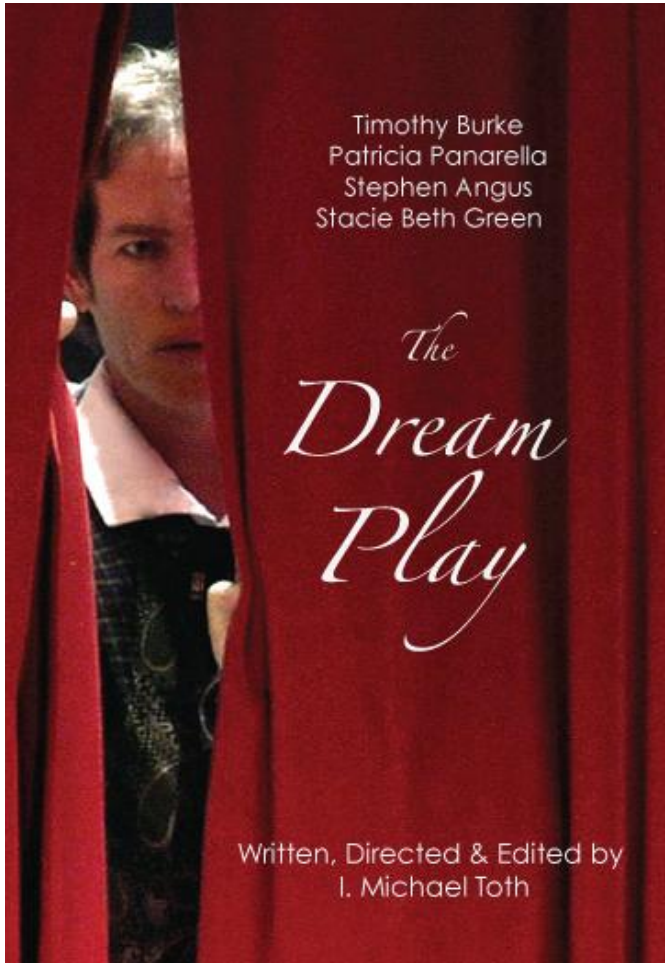


# OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

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a **LIFE IS A DREAM** production

## Written & Directed

I. Michael Toth

## Starring

Timothy Burke, Stephen Angus,  
Stacie Beth Green,  
Patricia Panarella  
and introducing Trey Maclin

**Color/Dolby 5.1**

**Approx. Running Time 96 minutes**

**USA/English**

**1080p/24 High-Definition**

**This film has not been rated.**

## Media Contact

Christopher Gentry, Producer

Life is a Dream Productions

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Chicago, Illinois 60657

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

or find us on  at [www.facebook.com/TheDreamPlay](http://www.facebook.com/TheDreamPlay)

# 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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Mark is an actor who moves to Chicago with his dog where he finds work acting in “The Dream Play” by August Strindberg at a local theater. During rehearsals, he develops new friendships and a conflict with the eccentric but demanding director of the play. While trying to master the multiple roles he was cast to play, he recollects a gray rainy day from his past when a chance encounter with a hitchhiker changed the course of his life and his identity. As the rehearsal process drags on, Mark realizes that opening night and payday are far off. Struggling to make ends meet, he answers an ad placed on the theater’s message board by a mysterious young woman. This leads him to participate in a private play that will alter his perspective on acting, theater and his own life. Mark discovers that he is in an ambiguous place where the difference between life and art and what is “real” and what is “make-believe” disappears.

# Directors Statement by I. Michael Toth

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*In his wonderful memoir “Shifting Point” Peter Brook, one of the greatest theater directors, wrote a little story about the origins of theater. The story goes...(to paraphrase Peter Brook) on the seventh day of creation, God decided to invent theater. He called his angels together and announced this in the following terms: “The theater will be the field in which people can learn to understand the sacred mysteries of the universe. And at the same time it will be a comfort to the drunkard and to the lonely.” The people responded with enthusiasm and quickly there were many groups writing plays and putting them on stages. But, the results were disappointing. Audiences did not like them. So, some writers, directors and actors commissioned an angel to go back to God to ask for help. The angel returned from God carrying a little box. The theater professionals gathered around the angel while he opened the box, took out a piece of paper and unfolded it. It contained one word: ‘INTEREST’. ‘Ahh’, the theater professionals sighed in unison, “We get it! It has to be interesting”... And so the story went.*

*I like this story very much and I think of it whenever I write a screenplay or embark on an adventure of making a film. Definitely, this story also applies to film, and maybe, even more so than to theater. We make films with a hope that many people will see them and, if we are lucky, like them. Of course it is important to understand that it is impossible to make a film that absolutely everyone would like.*

*But, it is also important that as many people as possible enjoy a film, be moved by it and understand the story at least on some level. Everything else in the film beyond that, which is perhaps understood by a few, is just a great bonus. By 'everything else' I'm thinking of metaphors, symbols, hidden connotations inside of a story, exploration of film language, philosophical ideas, etc., elements that are not easily visible but are important in many good films.*

*I believe that the filmmaker should oblige the audience to use their imagination and to think beyond what has been overtly stated in a film. This makes the audience and each individual viewer effectively a co-creator of the film.*

*I hope that we produced a film of quality and substance that will attract and hold the attention of our audience. My greatest wish is that the audience will be involved and will empathize with the characters in our film.*

*Edward Albee once said: " ... The part of the creative act is surprising yourself. Things work from unconscious to conscious." With this quote in mind, I am trying to organize my thoughts and present some ideas that at first slowly and subconsciously permeated my mind and later throughout the filmmaking process influenced my decisions why and how I would make these films.*

- *The principal idea is that the characters in both films make choices that ultimately allow viewers to choose how to interpret these films.*
  
- *The question of **identity**, what is identity and how it relates to individual's soul, is the major concern of these films, as well as the questions of: **existence; free will and fate**; the **nature of creative process** and its **relation to divine**; and the mysterious, invisible laws that govern the **relationships of the living and the dead**.*

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

## Cast



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 CHOICE, 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!



PATRICIA PANARELLA (Rose) is a veteran actress and model who has portrayed a wide variety of characters ranging from Playboy Bunny to anguished Catholic mother. She co-starred in 1973 in Luke Moberlys THE SWEET TALKER, appearing on the cover of Spanish fashion magazine Vanidades. She has collaborated with such industry icons as Robert Duvall and is currently studying under the tutelage of Sande Shurin. Patricia recently appeared in the short films BOXED IN and FOUR.



STACI BETH GREEN (Heather) has appeared in her recurring role on the Emmy-winning daytime television drama, GUIDING LIGHT. She appeared in the New York Strindberg Festival with Andre De Shields and on tour nationally as Juliet in ROMEO AND JULIET. Staci made her Chicago debut in LADY CHAPLIN AND HER TRAMP at Piven Theatre Workshop, where she went on to play Olenka and Nadya in CHEKHOV SHORTS and Naftali in MAD DANCERS; currently playing the role of Elena in Tuta Theater's production of UNCLE VANYA. She trained at Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and holds an MFA from UMKC & The Kansas City Rep.



STEPHEN ANGUS (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 CHOICE, QUIZ SHOW, FORREST GUMP, PECKER, and LE PELICAN.

**THE DREAM PLAY**  
**By I. Michael Toth**



TREY MACLIN (Foster) makes his feature film debut in *The Dream Play*. He has spent many years on various Chicago stages, performing in musicals, cabaret and a variety of other work. A member of TUTA, he has appeared in several of their Chicago productions to date, and counts his best work among them. Trey was last seen as Hal in Steep Theater's award winning production of Dennis Lehane's *Coronado*, and prior to that as Pontius Pilate in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*.



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.

**FEATURE FILM**  
**Official Press Kit**

# 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.

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## 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)

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## 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**

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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

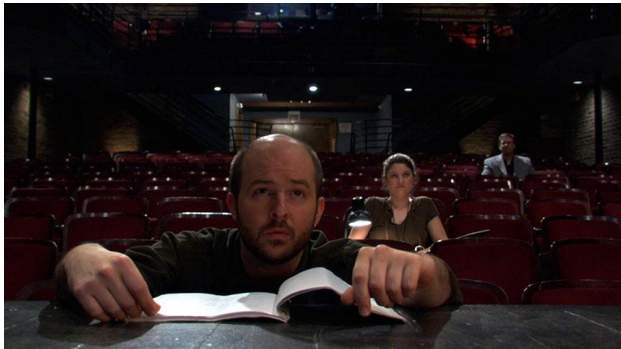
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Timothy Burke as F. Timothy Herbert.



Stacie Beth Green as Heather.



Foster (Trey Maclin) follows a rehearsal in progress.



Dark-Haired Woman (Lorissa Julianus).



Foster (Tray Maclin) converses with his actors.



Tim and The Dog (Bibo) on the bridge.

## Film Festivals & Awards

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- **East Lansing Film Festival 2010**
  - Audience Choice Award, Best Feature Film
  - Jury Nominated Best Feature Film
- **Midwest Independent Film Festival 2011**
  - Nominated Best Feature Film, also Timothy Burke for Best Actor; Stacie Beth Green for Best Actor; I. Michael Toth for Best Screenplay
- **Bratislava International Film Festival, 2011** (out of competition)
- Sedona International Film Festival, 2012

## Critical Reviews

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Reviews can be read in their entirety at <https://www.facebook.com/TheDreamPlay>

*"Toth's narrative form is deliberate and an artistic canvas. He creates imagery that adds to the dream and its power; a tree in the middle of nowhere, the odd surreal nature of theater itself, a white sugar cube absorbing the blackness of espresso."*

- Patrick McDonald @ Midwest Film Forum

*"Watching Mark interact with his coworkers in the play, the mysterious hitchhiker in the flashbacks and the older woman he meets, gives the audience a way to view Mark through many different channels to help explain his character. The heart of the movie is a character study and director I. Michael Toth executed it very well."*

- Spartan Edge (reviewed at East Lansing Film Festival)

*"We jump between three phases of a once-suicidal man: Encountering a hitchhiker ... acting in Strindberg's 'Dream Play' ... acting with an elderly woman in a play she wrote. Parts are perplexing, parts have a rich resonance, all of it is filmed and acted with uncommon skill."*

- NOISE Magazine (reviewed at East Lansing Film Festival)

*"An intriguing film about Sartre, acting, and the quest for fulfillment, 'The Dream Play' is a dark drama that examines our personal prisons and the choices we make to escape. Although the film beautifully sets up its main premise and expertly ties all of its loose ends, it still leaves the audience to wonder why some*

**THE DREAM PLAY**  
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*ends were ever introduced. Very strong performances from the entire cast make 'The Dream Play' a first rate think piece on an independent budget."*

*- Paul Wozniak, CityPulse (reviewed at East Lansing Film Festival)*

# Credits

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

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

**Presents**

**TIMOTHY BURKE**  
**STEPHEN ANGUS**  
**PATRICIA PANARELLA**  
**STACIE BETH GREEN**  
**TREY MACLIN**  
**LORRISA JULIANUS**  
**BIBO**

cinematographer  
**SASHA RENDULIC**

sound mixer  
**TOM BEACH**

music  
**PATRICIA BARBER**

additional music  
**NATASHA BOGOJEVIC**  
**ZVONIMIR TOT**

**THE DREAM PLAY**  
**By I. Michael Toth**

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**production design**

**SLOBODAN BATA RADOVANOVIC**  
**VANESSA CONWAY**  
**SARA TREMBLAY**

**costume design**

**NATASHA VUCHUROVICH DJUKICH**

**makeup design**

**JILLIAN ERICKSON**

**hair design**

**BUDD BIRD**

**co-producer**

**KELLY JOHNSON**

**associate producer**

**FRANK T. HERBERT**

**creative consultant**

**ALEKSANDAR JAN KOSCALIK**

**executive producers**

**VICTOR FORYS**

**I. MICHAEL TOTH**

**CHRISTOPHER GENTRY**

**PREDRAG KONSTANTINOVIC**

**NENAD DUKIC**

**producer**

**CHRISTOPHER GENTRY**

**writer director editor**

**I. MICHAEL TOTH**

**THE DREAM PLAY**

**CAST**

**TIM/MARK .....TIMOTHY BURKE**  
**MARK the HITCHHIKER.....STEPHEN ANGUS**  
**ROSE .....PATRICIA PANARELLA**  
**HEATHER/AGNES ..... STACIE BETH GREEN**  
**FOSTER.....TREY MACLIN**  
**PLAYWRIGHT .....LORRISA JULIANUS**  
**VERA ..... IRENA MICIJEVIC**  
**MARTIN.....SHAUN WHITLEY**  
**KELLY THE PRODUCER ..... KELLY JOHNSON**  
**MICKEY.....JACQUELINE STONE**  
**JENNIE/CHRISTINE ..... ALICE WEDOFF**  
**BILLIE/PRIEST..... MATTHEW VAN COLTON**  
**BOOTH/DOCTOR..... ANDY CARL**  
**JESSIE/LAWYER..... KEVIN VIOL**  
**DINO/PHILOSOPHER .....TOM WINTER**  
**MAN IN BAR ..... VICTOR FORYS**  
**COMPOSER IN THE PLAY ..... NATASHA BOGOJEVIC**  
**THEATER SEAMSTRESS .....JULIA ZAYAS-MELENDEZ**  
**FLOWER GIRL..... DEBBIE MYERS**  
**AVANTI DRIVER .....EVEN WARD**  
**THE DOG.....BIBO**