

# CERTAIN WOMEN

Starring

Laura Dern  
Kristen Stewart  
Michelle Williams  
James Le Gros  
Jared Harris  
Lily Gladstone  
Rene Auberjonois

Written, Directed, and Edited by  
Kelly Reichardt

Produced by  
Neil Kopp, Vincent Savino, Anish Savjani

Executive Producers  
Todd Haynes, Larry Fessenden, Christopher Carroll, Nathan Kelly

Contact:  
Falco Ink

# CERTAIN WOMEN

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

Laura	LAURA DERN
Ryan	JAMES Le GROS
Fuller	JARED HARRIS
Sheriff Rowles	JOHN GETZ
Gina	MICHELLE WILLIAMS
Guthrie	SARA RODIER
Albert	RENE AUBERJONIS
The Rancher	LILY GLADSTONE
Elizabeth Travis	KRISTEN STEWART

## Production

Writer / Director / Editor	KELLY REICHARDT
Based on stories by	MAILE MELOY
Producers	NEIL KOPP VINCENT SAVINO ANISH SAVJANI
Executive Producers	TODD HAYNES LARRY FESSENDEN CHRISTOPHER CARROLL NATHAN KELLY
Director of Photography	CHRISTOPHER BLAUVELT
Production Designer	ANTHONY GASPARRO
Costume Designer	APRIL NAPIER
Casting	MARK BENNETT GAYLE KELLER
Music Composer	JEFF GRACE

# CERTAIN WOMEN

## Synopsis

It's the off-season in Livingston, Montana, where lawyer Laura Wells (LAURA DERN), called away from a tryst with her married lover, finds herself defending a local laborer named Fuller (JARED HARRIS). Fuller was a victim of a workplace accident, and his ongoing medical issues have led him to hire Laura to see if she can reopen his case. He's stubborn and won't listen to Laura's advice – though he seems to heed it when the same counsel comes from a male colleague. Thinking he has no other option, Fuller decides to take a security guard hostage in order to get his demands met. Laura must act as intermediary and exchange herself for the hostage, trying to convince Fuller to give himself up.

Elsewhere, Gina (MICHELLE WILLIAMS) and Ryan (JAMES LE GROS) have decided to build a new home outside of town. With their disinterested daughter Guthrie (SARA RODIER) in tow, they visit Albert (RENE AUBERJONOIS), an elderly family friend who seems to be fading into senility. Trying to keep Albert focused, Gina gets him to agree to give the couple the pile of unused sandstone on his property so that they can build their home. Albert consents, and they soon return with a truck to haul the stones away; but as they do so, it's not clear to Gina that Albert understands exactly what is happening.

On a horse ranch just outside of the tiny town of Belfry, a long drive from Livingston, a young female ranch hand (LILY GLADSTONE) takes care of animals, isolated from the rest of the world. She develops a fascination with Elizabeth (KRISTEN STEWART), a recently graduated lawyer based in Livingston and looking to pick up extra money by offering legal workshops for teachers. Attending Elizabeth's classes and having coffee afterwards only piques the ranch hand's interest, ultimately leading her to make an unexpected drive to Livingston, hoping to find Elizabeth, even if she has no idea what to say.

Set against the Big Sky backdrop of southern Montana and reflecting both the immense scope and profound stillness of its setting, "Certain Women" examines the moments both large and small that make up the lives of strong, independent women looking for ways to understand and shape the world around them.

# CERTAIN WOMEN

## About the Production

Livingston, Montana; located on the Yellowstone River and flanked by the Absaroka mountains, the town with a population of just over 7,000 is the setting for three stories of independent women finding their way through daily struggles that range from the mundane to the life-changing. Based on short stories by Maile Meloy, “Certain Women” is brought to life by acclaimed independent filmmaker Kelly Reichardt.

This is the sixth feature film for Reichardt, and the fifth set in the American Northwest. Departing the Oregon settings she explored in “Old Joy,” “Wendy and Lucy,” “Meek’s Cutoff,” and “Night Moves,” the wide-open “Big Sky” country and the landlocked, isolated landscape of southern Montana provide a profoundly beautiful and entirely appropriate backdrop for the characters and moments that constitute the three stories in the film. “This was the first time I’ve spent a lot of time and made a film in a location that is not on a coast,” Reichardt observes, “and that gives this film a completely different feeling. There are mountains on all sides of you, which in many ways locks you in, and I think that really changes the way you might look at the world.”

Looking at the world from that unique perspective is what links the three stories adapted by Reichardt: “Native Sandstone” and “Tome” were from Meloy’s 2003 debut *Half in Love*, and “Travis, B.” in 2009’s *Both Ways is the Only Way I Want It*. The latter book earned acclaim from the *New York Times* as one of the ten best books of the year, and was on *Oprah* magazine’s summer reading list in 2010 (“...the nuanced depictions of small-town life...make for a rich

tableau of lovelorn cowboys, provincial lawyers, and renegade women.”) Drawing favorable comparisons to literary legends like Flannery O’Connor and Raymond Carver, Meloy’s stories (many set in Meloy’s hometown of Helena, rather than Livingston) “erupt from a volatile combination of the tender and the vicious...[as] gentle, deer-in-the-headlight protagonists are stunned by the escapades of their daring, outlandish, and even outlaw intimates,” as the reviewer from *Booklist* enthuses.

Reichardt has already made several films based on short stories, and found herself inspired by how the setting and the characters in three particular stories fit together. “I knew I wanted to shoot somewhere else, so I liked that the stories were based on Montana,” she remembers today. “I was drawn to the story about the rancher first, about her life struggles, and her isolation. This person’s daily chores, her connections to the animals – all of those things drew me in.” When the rancher finds herself unexpectedly drawn to the itinerant teacher who visits the town twice a week, it leads her to a series of realizations and actions that seem to gain a momentous resonance as circumstances change.

Other filmmakers have been inspired by short stories or shorter-form narratives as the basis for feature films – think of Robert Altman’s “Short Cuts” (based on several stories by Raymond Carver) or the overlapping narratives of Jim Jarmusch’s “Mystery Train.” But in assembling these three stories, Reichardt took the unusual approach of presenting them fully and sequentially, rather than intertwining them. There are moments where the stories overlap – characters from one story very briefly cross paths with characters from the others – but each story is afforded its own distinct space to play out. Rather than linked by specific plot points, they are linked by the quality of the characters who, like their environment, are textured, nuanced, layered, and subtle. Ultimately, Reichardt feels that the choice to keep the stories

distinct helps capture the depth and intensity of the characters: in stories that lack traditional “action” or “high stakes” (at least according to contemporary cinematic standards), lingering with the characters in their moments of indecision, contemplation, and resolution became imperative. “These weren’t stories that you could leave and come back to,” Reichardt says plainly.

For Reichardt, that also meant sequencing the stories effectively to capture the range of experience between the characters. The first and last stories are about people who are native to the location – residents who reflect the static, but still overpowering feeling that embodies the feeling of the land around them. It was the middle story, featuring Michelle Williams and James Le Gros as a couple hoping to take a pile of sandstone away from an elderly neighbor, that provides the link between the two. “This was a story of outsiders coming in and moving into this new area,” the director explains, “and it fit so nicely between the other two stories where the characters are of that world.”

Initially looking for locations around Helena, Reichardt and longtime producing partner Neil Kopp expanded their search to other areas of Montana that would serve the production not only from a story standpoint, but visually. Moviegoers familiar with Reichardt’s work know exactly how much location, light, and landscape serve as key elements in her film, as the visual impact of the images, often rendered in loving, patient detail, underscore the more subtle elements of emotional conflict that characters often cannot express directly through dialogue. Reichardt was drawn to Livingston because of the way the town is surrounded by the Rocky Mountains and the way the high altitude and northern latitude could be seen on film. “The light is so different; the mountains seem much bigger, and they feel closer in, but it’s a bare landscape. They call it ‘big sky’ for a reason.” It is also a setting which proved to be more sensory than

expected. Reichardt recalls that producer Kopp initially wondered how “different” the remote Livingston felt from more accessible or familiar locations, “but after leaving I don’t think any of us thought that,” she concludes. “The moisture is very different – and it’s also one of the windiest cities in the country. We arrived on the first day and the wind was howling and almost blew us over, but that’s typical Livingston weather.”

Living in the area for over three months, including thirty shooting days, was a challenge well met by the production team’s experience. Kopp is just one of Reichardt’s team who have been with her for over a decade, and also includes producer Anish Savjani and executive producers Todd Haynes and Larry Fessenden (add to that list cinematographer Christopher Blauvelt, working with Reichardt for the third consecutive project). “All of these films have taken a lot of creative thinking on Neil and Anish’s part,” Reichardt says, “Their tenacity and being up for that kind of challenge has been very lucky for me.” Still, her colleagues are not above suggesting that Reichardt at some point think about making different creative choices. “They keep asking me – will you *please* write a script that takes place in the summertime?” Reichardt jokes.

The weather indeed became a factor as production began. The most remote location is the rancher’s homestead, and logistics dictated that it was the sequence that would be shot first (though it is last in order in the final film). The horses that Lily Gladstone’s unnamed character attends to were not animal actors, but actual horses on a very remote ranch who were unused to seeing any human except a caretaker or two. “I wanted to spend time there to understand that life – the daily chores, the way of life – as well as to look at the light and locations that would reflect that character’s world,” Reichardt says. “But when we started production, we really used a very basic skeleton crew, and had to add people slowly so the horses wouldn’t freak out.”

There was also the last-minute decision to shoot the film on 16mm after a debate about using digital. Being in a remote location meant that looking at processed film dailies would be difficult. “But when we did some test shooting on digital, the layers of snow on the ground looked like a white wall – there was just no detail,” Reichardt remembers. Capturing the rancher’s world effectively would mean the more cumbersome 16mm. That’s when the movie weather gods interfered. “When we did our test shoot and preproduction, it was mild and snowing. The day before we started actual production, the weather changed, and it went to freezing with no snow – everything that was white had turned brown.”

Ultimately, the stories in the film were shot in reverse order, partially to accommodate the schedules of the actors involved and take maximum advantage of their availability. Reichardt has forged a solid collaborative relationship with actor Michelle Williams, herself a native of Kalispell, Montana, and previous star of Reichardt’s “Wendy and Lucy” (which earned Williams an IFP nomination and Online Film Critics Society Award for Best Actress) and “Meek’s Cutoff.” James Le Gros, as well, had worked with Reichardt before in “Night Moves.” But many actors were new to Reichardt’s team, and quickly found ways to contribute and mold their performances to Reichardt’s cinematic style. Despite being used to bigger budgets, Reichardt was impressed by her cast’s professionalism. “There wasn’t any hump or period of adjustment with any of them,” she says. “My crew is really together, everyone was always on the same page, and everyone knows that everyone else is contributing in small ways. It was very easy to make people comfortable, and having Michelle and James around as the familiar faces during the middle of production also helped.”

It’s easy to describe Kelly Reichardt’s films as “small” compared to Hollywood blockbusters and even some higher-profile indies. She’s more likely to invoke comparisons to

legendary way-out-of-the-mainstream filmmakers like Jon Jost or Wim Wenders than she is her generational peers. But “Certain Women” continues her examination of real people facing situations in almost real time, against the backdrop of real locations and places that both define and confine characters and their actions. Exploring the nuanced moments of these women’s lives, from impossible conversations with difficult men, to awkward pauses where communication fails, to private and unseen actions that are almost miraculously rendered through silence and stillness, “Certain Women” magnifies Reichardt’s technique as it echoes from scene to scene, character to character, and story to story. Even when characters can’t seem to speak for themselves, the film’s delicate and thoughtful rendering of these strikingly observed and very human stories manage to speak volumes to viewers in a manner that is unique to one of the cinema’s most disciplined and expressive voices.

# CERTAIN WOMEN

## About the Cast

### **LAURA DERN (Laura)**

Two-time Academy Award nominee Laura Dern has touched many audiences and critics alike with her moving and heartfelt performances. For her Oscar nominated performance in *RAMBLING ROSE*, Critic Peter Travers explained that Dern "ranks among the best actresses of her generation." Recently, Dern co-starred in *WILD* for which she earned her second Academy Award® nomination. The film, directed by Jean-Marc Vallée, is Nick Hornby's adaptation of Cheryl Strayed's best-selling 2012 memoir. In 2010, in celebration of their family legacy in film and television, Dern, her mother Diane Ladd and father Bruce Dern were awarded with the first ever "Family Star Ceremony" on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

In addition to her two Oscar nominations, Dern has received 4 Golden Globe Awards and has been nominated for 5 Primetime Emmy Awards. She received her 2013 Primetime Emmy Award nomination for her performance in Season 2 of HBO's critically acclaimed original series *ENLIGHTENED*. Dern earned the 2012 Golden Globe Award on behalf of her performance in Season 1, and the series also garnered a 2012 Golden Globe nomination for "Best Television Comedy." Dern also served as the executive producer and co-creator. The show reunited her with HBO where she starred in the 2008 Emmy award-winning *RECOUNT*. For her performance as Katherine Harris, Dern earned a 2008 Golden Globe and was nominated for an Emmy Award and Screen Actors Guild Award.

Dern will soon be seen starring in *CERTAIN WOMEN* and *THE FOUNDER*. Kelly Reichardt's film *CERTAIN WOMEN*, which is a feature adaptation of Maile Meloy's short stories about people living in a small town, will premiere at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival in January 2016. The project also stars Kristen Stewart and Michelle Williams. *THE FOUNDER*, which also stars Michael Keaton and Linda Cardellini, tells the story of McDonald's founder, Ray Kroc.

Recently, Dern's voice can be heard as Sue Murphy in Netflix's new animated comedy *F IS FOR FAMILY*, which premiered in December 2015. The show, created by Bill Burr and Michael Price, also features the voices of Burr and Justin Long.

Also in 2015, Dern co-starred in *99 HOMES* alongside Michael Shannon and Andrew Garfield. The film was awarded the Grand Prix at the 2015 Deauville American Film Festival, and was also screened in the Special Presentations section of the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival. Directed by Ramin Bahrani, the film tells the story of a struggling father who reluctantly accepts a job with the ruthless real-estate broker who evicted him and his family from their home.

In 2014, Dern was seen in Fox 2000's film adaptation of John Green's best-selling novel *THE FAULT IN OUR STARS*, starring alongside Shailene Woodley. In September 2012, Dern was seen in *THE MASTER*, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson and also starring Joaquin Phoenix, Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams. In 2010, Dern was seen in a poignant role in the indie film *EVERYTHING MUST GO* with Will Ferrell and Rebecca Hall and in *LITTLE FOCKERS* with Robert DeNiro, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand.

In 2007, Dern starred in Mike White's *YEAR OF THE DOG* alongside Molly Shannon, Peter Sarsgaard and Regina King. In 2006, Dern was seen starring as three different characters in David Lynch's *INLAND EMPIRE*. At the 2007 Independent Spirit Awards, Film Independent gave their Special Distinction Award to David Lynch and Laura Dern for their collaborative work on this movie, as well as *BLUE VELVET* and *WILD AT HEART*.

In 2005, Dern filmed the Todd Robinson-directed drama *LONELY HEARTS* alongside John Travolta. Also in 2005, Dern appeared in a supporting role in the Don Roos directed dark comedy, *HAPPY ENDINGS*; and she appeared with Julianne Moore and Woody Harrelson in *THE PRIZE WINNER OF DEFIANCE OHIO* directed by Jane Anderson. In 2004, Dern starred as the complex and conflicted Terry Linden opposite Mark Ruffalo in *WE DON'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE*.

Dern appeared in a diverse selection of roles in 2001. She starred alongside Sean Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer in *I AM SAM*, as Steve Martin's suspicious dental hygienist girlfriend in *NOVOCAINE* and opposite William H. Macy in *FOCUS* for first time director Neil Slavin. Dern also had a cameo that year in *JURASSIC PARK III*, which re-teamed her with director Joe Johnston and actor Sam Neill. On television in 2001, Dern delivered a captivating performance in Showtime's "Damaged Care" as real-life Dr. Linda Peeno, a whistleblower against HMO's managed care practices. Dern also served as a producer on this project. Earlier that year, Dern appeared in Lifetime Television's "Within These Walls," opposite Ellen Burstyn. Dern also starred in Showtime's "Daddy and Them," written and directed by Billy Bob Thornton.

In January of 1999 the Sundance Institute presented Dern with the Piper Heidseick Award for Independent Vision, following in the footsteps of previous honorees such as Nicolas Cage, Tim Robbins, Kevin Spacey, Benecio Del Toro and Julianne Moore.

In 1996, Dern starred in the critically acclaimed black comedy *CITIZEN RUTH*, directed by Alexander Payne, garnering the Best Actress award at the Montreal Film Festival. In 1993, she starred opposite Sam Neill and Jeff Goldblum in Steven Spielberg's record-breaking box office success *JURASSIC PARK*. Later that year, she starred opposite Clint Eastwood and Kevin Costner in *A PERFECT WORLD*, which Eastwood directed. Dern received both an Academy Award® and Golden Globe nomination in 1992 for her performance as 'Rose' in the acclaimed *RAMBLING ROSE*, directed by Martha Coolidge and co-starring her mother, Diane Ladd. This film holds a place in history as the first time that a mother/daughter team has earned Academy Award® nominations for the same project.

In 1985, Dern won the Los Angeles Film Critics' New Generation Award for her performances in *SMOOTH TALK* and *MASK*. Other film credits include Robert Altman's *DR. T AND THE WOMEN*, *OCTOBER SKY*, *FAT MAN AND LITTLE BOY*, *HAUNTED SUMMER*, *TEACHERS*, *FOXES* and *LADIES AND GENTLEMAN*, *THE FABULOUS STAINS*. Dern made her directorial debut with the short film *THE GIFT* which aired as part of Showtime's "Directed By" series in 1994.

In 1997 Dern was nominated for an Emmy Award and won an American Comedy Award for her guest-starring role in the controversial Puppy Episode of "Ellen." She received a 1998 Golden Globe nomination for her role in Jane Anderson's "The Baby Dance" for Showtime. Dern received the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress, as well as Emmy and Cable ACE nominations for her starring role in the 1992 telefilm "Afterburn." Other work on television includes Showtime's acclaimed film noir series, "Fallen Angels," for which she received an Emmy nomination, and Showtime's original film, "Down Came a Blackbird," which she also produced, opposite Vanessa Redgrave and Raul Julia.

### **JARED HARRIS (Fuller)**

A classically trained stage actor and former member of London's famed Royal Shakespeare Company, Jared Harris' prolific career continuously showcases his ability to easily transition from one character to another, garnering him great praise and keeping him in the company of some of today's most creative talent in film, television and stage.

Harris' extensive film career includes Steven Spielberg's Academy Award<sup>®</sup> nominated biopic, *Lincoln*, in which he played the iconic Civil War hero 'General Ulysses S. Grant' opposite Daniel Day Lewis; his portrayal of the villain 'Professor Moriarty' in *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* opposite Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, and Noomi Rapace; his appearance alongside Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett in David Fincher's Academy Award<sup>®</sup> nominated 2008 film, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*; and a riveting portrayal of Andy Warhol in the acclaimed independent film *I Shot Andy Warhol*.

In 2015, Harris completed principal photography on two independent films - *The Last Face* and *Certain Women*. *The Last Face*, which also stars Charlize Theron, Jean Reno and Javier Bardem, was directed and produced by Sean Penn. In the film, Harris plays a doctor working in war torn Africa for Doctors Without Borders. In *Certain Women*, directed by Kelly Reichardt, Harris plays a rancher who seeks legal aid from a lawyer played by Laura Dern. The film, which also stars Michelle Williams and Kristen Stewart, will premiere at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

Harris most recently appeared on the big screen in Guy Ritchie's *Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, which also stars Henry Cavill, Armie Hammer, Alicia Vikander, and Luca Calvani. The Warner Bros. film, a big-screen update of the 1960s TV series, was released August 14, 2015. That summer, Harris could also be seen in Gil Kenan's *Poltergeist*, a contemporized remake of the classic tale about a family whose suburban home is invaded by angry spirits. In this film, which also stars Sam Rockwell and Rosemarie DeWitt, Harris plays a ghost hunter/television personality who is called in to help the family get their daughter back from the poltergeists.

In 2014, marking his foray into children's cinema, Harris' voice was heard as "Lord Portley-Rind" in Focus Features' Academy Award® nominated animated film, *The Boxtrolls*. The 3D stop-motion and CG hybrid animated feature is a comedic fable that takes place in Cheesebridge, a posh Victorian-era town obsessed with cheese by day; plagued by the mysterious Boxtrolls by night. Prior to this, Harris starred in John Pogue's horror film *The Quiet Ones*, Paul W.S. Anderson's action drama *Pompeii*, and the young adult fantasy adaptation *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*, opposite Lily Collins, Jamie Campbell Bower, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Lena Headey.

This year, Harris will star as "King George" in the Netflix series *The Crown* from Academy Award nominees Peter Morgan (*The Queen, Frost/Nixon*) and Stephen Daldry (*Billy Elliot, The Hours*). The series is inspired by the play *The Audience*, which centers on the weekly audiences given by Queen Elizabeth II to prime ministers that date from her accession in 1952 to the present day.

In 2015 Harris was equally busy behind and in front of the television camera. He went behind the camera for the first time to direct the eleventh episode, "Time and Life", of the final season of AMC's award-winning hit drama *Mad Men*. Harris had previously starred in the show for two seasons as a 1960's ad executive 'Lane Pryce.' The role earned Harris his first Primetime Emmy® nomination in the category of Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series. Harris appeared on screen as 'Anderson Dawes' in *The Expanse*, a limited series for Syfy.

Harris made his film debut in 1989's *The Rachel Papers*, which was also the directorial debut of his brother Damian, and has since gone on to appear in over fifty films in a wide array of roles, including the sleazy Russian cab driver, Vladimir, in Todd Solondz's *Happiness*, for which the cast received the 1999 National Board of Review Acting Ensemble Award. Additional credits include Michael Mann's *The Last of the Mohicans*; *Sylvia*, Jim Jarmusch's *Dead Man*; Jonathan Nossiter's *Sunday*, which won the Grand Jury Prize at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival; *Igby Goes Down*; *Mr. Deeds*; Michael Radford's *B. Monkey*; Wayne Wang's *Smoke*; and John Carpenter's *The Ward*, among others.

Harris has accumulated an impressive list of television credits in both England and the U.S., including highly acclaimed performances as Henry VIII for the BBC production of *The Other Boleyn Girl*, John Lennon in the 2000 television drama and original VH1 film *Two of Us*, and the starring role in BBC's dramatization of Simon Mann's failed attempt to overthrow the oil rich African nation Equatorial Guinea in *Coup!* Additional BBC credits include the mini-series *To the Ends of the Earth*, and *The Shadow in the North*. Stateside, Harris has been seen in recurring roles for both *The Riches*, in cult hit *Fringe*, and has guest-starred on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* and *Without a Trace*.

Harris has appeared with some of the most renowned theater companies in both London and New York. His first theatre job at the Royal Shakespeare Company was in Mark Rylance's *Hamlet*, which is considered to be the defining interpretation of his generation. Harris made his American stage debut as Hotspur in the New York Shakespeare Festival's *Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2*. He then went on to perform with the company in both *Tis Pity She's A Whore* and *King Lear*. Additional stage credits include the New Group's Obie Award-winning production of Mike Leigh's *Ecstasy*, the New Jersey Shakespeare Company's experimental production of *Hamlet*, in which he played the title role, the Almeida Theatre's production of Tennessee William's bittersweet comedy *A Period of Adjustment*, and the Vineyard Theater's production of *More Lies About Jerzy*.

Harris was born in London, and is the son of Irish actor, Richard Harris. He attended North Carolina's Duke University, where he majored in drama and literature and after graduation he

studied at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Harris currently resides in Los Angeles.

### **MICHELLE WILLIAMS (Gina)**

MICHELLE WILLIAMS is a three-time Academy Award nominee and Golden Globe Award winner. Her many film credits include *Oz the Great and Powerful*; *Take This Waltz*; *My Week with Marilyn* (Academy Award, BAFTA Award, Critics' Choice Award, and Screen Actors Guild Award nominations; Golden Globe Award and Independent Spirit Award); *Blue Valentine* (Academy Award, Golden Globe Award, Critics' Choice Award, and Independent Spirit Award nominations); *Land of Plenty* (Independent Spirit Award); *Brokeback Mountain* (Academy Award, Golden Globe Award, BAFTA Award, Critics' Choice Award, and Screen Actors Guild Award nominations); *Wendy and Lucy* (Independent Spirit Award nomination, Toronto Film Critics Association Award); *Meek's Cutoff*; *Shutter Island*; *Incendary*; *Synedoché, New York*; *I'm Not There*; *The Hottest State*; *The Station Agent*; and *Me Without You*. She made her Broadway debut as Sally Bowles in the recent Roundabout Theatre Company production of *Cabaret*. Her previous theatre credits include the Off-Broadway productions of Mike Leigh's *Smelling a Rat* and Tracy Letts's *Killer Joe*, and the Williamstown Theatre Festival production of *The Cherry Orchard*. Her television credits include the HBO film "If These Walls Could Talk 2" and a six-year run as Jen Lindley on the hit television series "Dawson's Creek." Ms. Williams recently completed filming Kenneth Lonergan's *Manchester by the Sea*.

### **JAMES Le GROS (Ryan)**

Since being cast by Gus Van Sant as Matt Dillon's drug-addicted cohort in DRUGSTORE COWBOY, James Le Gros' has established himself as a versatile actor with a diverse body of on-screen work.

Le Gros has starred in numerous Independent Spirit Award-nominated films including Nicole Holofcener's LOVELY AND AMAZING opposite Emily Mortimer, Todd Haynes' SAFE opposite Julianne Moore, Alan Rudolph's MRS. PARKER AND THE VICIOUS CIRLE opposite Jennifer Jason Leigh, and Stacy Cochran's MY NEW GUN opposite Drew Barrymore. For his portrayal of the dim-witted, rising-A-list movie star "Chad Palomino,"

opposite Steve Buscemi and Catherine Keener in Tom DiCillo's *LIVING IN OBLIVION*, he was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award.

Le Gros' major film credits include David Fincher's *ZODIAC*, Tony Scott's *ENEMY OF THE STATE*, Oliver Stone's *BORN ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY*, Cameron Crowe's *SINGLES* and Kathryn Bigelow's *POINT BREAK*.

His television credits include series regular work on David E. Kelley's Emmy Award-winning *ALLY MCBEAL* and Showtime's Emmy-nominated *SLEEPER CELL*. He costarred in HBO's *MILDRED PIERCE* opposite Kate Winslet, and more recently recurred in HBO's *GIRLS*, FX's *JUSTIFIED*, and Showtime's *BILLIONS*.

Le Gros will next be seen in a starring role in the Kelly Reichardt's Sundance film *CERTAIN WOMEN* opposite Michelle Williams, and Fritz Bohm's independent feature for Maven Pictures *WILDING* opposite Bel Powley.

### **SARA RODIER (Guthrie)**

Sara Rodier has quickly become a breakout young actor of 2014, making a name for herself with her exceptional comedic timing blended with a quirky, engaging temperament that has heads turning in the entertainment industry. Most recently, Sara was seen starring in CBS' comedy series "Bad Teacher" alongside Ari Graynor, Sara Gilbert, David Alan Grier, Kristin Davis, and Ryan Hansen. The series is based on the hit feature film about a hot, fearless, and unapologetic former trophy wife named Meredith Davis [Graynor] who masquerades as a teacher in order to find a new man after her wealthy husband leaves her penniless. Sara stars as "Lily," Meredith's best friend's smart and witty stepdaughter who attends the middle school where Meredith is on the hunt for a new rich husband to re-establish her lavish lifestyle.

The series premiered April 24, 2014.!

Born and raised in Hollywood, Florida until the age of seven, Sara began entertaining audiences at a young age. She discovered her passion for acting by participating in school plays and local theater, and truly fell in love with acting after starring in a summer production of "Oliver." By

the time she was eleven, Sara had started acting professionally. She made her theatrical debut in the independent film *THE FUTURE*, written and directed by award-winning filmmaker Miranda July, in 2011. Sara went on to book guest star roles on ABC's comedy series "Happy Endings" [2012], and Nick at Nite's "Wendell & Vinnie" [2013]. She followed up her back to b!ack guest stars with a series regular role, on "Bad Teacher" for CBS. !

When not working, Sara enjoys playing the violin, relaxing at the beach, drawing, and traveling to interesting places. She also is an excellent student; while acting is a top priority for her, education is also paramount. Her favorite subjects in school are English and Art. Social contribution is important to Sara, and she often volunteers with the Operation Gratitude organization, which sends care packages to U.S. Armed Forces personnel deployed worldwide. Sara currently resides in Beverly Hills with her parents and two younger siblings. !

### **RENE AUBERJONIS (Albert)**

Long-time theater, television, and film actor RENÉ AUBERJONIS was most recently be seen NBC's *1600 PENN* and is featured in the animated series *ARCHER*.

René is a Tony Award winning actor, receiving the award for *COCO* (starring Katherine Hepburn,) and Tony Award nominations for *THE GOOD DOCTOR*, *BIG RIVER*, and *CITY OF ANGELS*.

René's many films include *THE PATRIOT*, *EYES OF LAURA MARS*, *M.A.S.H.*, *MCCABE AND MRS. MILLER*, *BREWSTER MCCLLOUD*, and *IMAGES*.

René has made countless guest-starring roles in shows such as *THE GOODWIFE*, *CRIMINAL MINDS*, *FRASIER*, as well as *THE PRACTICE*, where he was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series. René was also nominated for numerous SAG awards for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series for his work in *BOSTON LEGAL*.

### **LILY GLADSTONE (The Rancher)**

Lily Gladstone was raised on the Blackfeet Reservation in Northwestern Montana. Of mixed heritage, Lily's tribal affiliations include Kainai, Amskapi Piikani and Nimi'ipuu First Nations. In 2008, she graduated with high honors from the University of Montana with a BFA in Acting, and a minor in Native American studies. Film credits include Alex and Andrew Smith's *Winter in the Blood*, Arnaud Desplechin's *Jimmy P*, and Sarah Adina Smith's *Buster's Mal Heart*. She has thrice toured nationally with The Montana Repertory Theater. In addition to garnering multiple film and theater credits, she has facilitated countless expressive arts workshops with various social justice and human rights advocacy groups - including National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Living Voices, Red Eagle Soaring, Longhouse Media, Yellow Bird Inc., The Roxy Film Academy and Conscious Alliance. Her emphasis is youth outreach and education.

### **KRISTEN STEWART (Elizabeth)**

Kristen Stewart is one of the most accomplished, talented and in-demand young actresses in Hollywood. In 2015, she became the first American actress to be awarded a Cesar Award in the Best Supporting Actress category for her role in Olivier Assayas' *Clouds of Sils Maria*, in which she starred alongside Juliette Binoche. She received several other accolades for *Clouds of Sils Maria* including the Best Supporting Actress prize for: NYFCC, BSFC, BOFCA, and NSFC. Stewart recently completed production on two films: Olivier Assayas' *Personal Shopper*; and *The Untitled Woody Allen Project* in which she will star alongside Jesse Eisenberg and Blake Lively. Next up for Stewart is Kelly Reichardt's *Certain Women* which is set to premiere at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and Ang Lee's War/Drama, *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*. Most recently, Stewart was seen in Lionsgate's *American Ultra* in which she starred opposite Jesse Eisenberg; in the Drake Doremus directed film, *Equals* which premiered at the 2015 Venice Film Festival; and in Tim Blake Nelson's *Anesthesia* which premiered at the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival.

Stewart starred as Bella Swan in the hit franchise *The Twilight Saga*. The series has grossed over \$3.3 billion in worldwide receipts and consists of five motion pictures. On top of that she starred

in Universal's box office winner *Snow White and The Huntsman*; and in Walter Salles' screen adaptation of Jack Kerouac's *On The Road*.

Introduced to worldwide audiences in 2002 with her gripping performance alongside Jodie Foster in *Panic Room*; Stewart's star continued to rise, hitting a milestone when she garnered the number one spot on the Forbes List of highest paid actresses in 2012. Kristen's career has displayed a challenging assortment of characters in films including: *Adventureland*, *Into the Wild*, for director Sean Penn, starring as Joan Jett in *The Runaways*, *Welcome to the Rileys*, *The Cake Eaters* for director Mary Stuart Masterson, *The Yellow Handkerchief* alongside William Hurt, *What Just Happened*, *In The Land of Women*, *The Messengers*, *Zathura*, *Speak*, *Fierce People*, *Catch That Kid*, *Undertow*, *Cold Creek Manor*, *The Safety of Objects*, *Camp X-Ray* and *Still Alice*.

# CERTAIN WOMEN

About the Filmmakers

## **KELLY REICHARDT (Writer/Director/Editor)**

American landscapes and narratives of the road are themes that run throughout Reichardt's six feature films: *River of Grass* (1994), *Old Joy* (2006), *Wendy and Lucy* (2008), *Meek's Cutoff* (2010) *Night Moves* (2013), and her current film *Certain Women*. Grants: United States Artists Fellowship, Guggenheim Fellowship, Anonymous Was a Woman Award, Renew Media Fellowship. Screenings: Whitney Biennial (2012), Film Forum, Cannes Film Festival in "un certain regard," Venice International Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, Viennale Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, BFI London Film Festival. Retrospectives: Anthology Film Archives, Pacific Film Archive, Museum of the Moving Image, Walker Art Center, American Cinematheque Los Angeles. Has taught at School of Visual Arts, Columbia University, New York University and is currently an artist-in-residence at Bard College.

## **FILM SCIENCE: NEIL KOPP, VINCENT SAVINO, ANISH SAVJANI (Producers)**

Filmscience has produced 17 features that have been nominated for four Independent Spirit Awards and screened at festivals around the world, including Cannes, Toronto, Sundance and Venice. These films include Kelly Reichardt's *Night Moves* and *Wendy and Lucy*, Joe Swanberg's *Hannah Takes the Stairs* and Jeremy Saulnier's *Green Room* and *Blue Ruin*.

## **TODD HAYNES (Executive Producer)**

Todd Haynes is an acclaimed American independent film director and screenwriter. Born in Los Angeles on January 2, 1961, Haynes grew up interested in the arts and attended Brown University where he received his BA in Arts and Semiotics. After college, Haynes moved to New York City where he made his controversial short film *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story* (1987), using Barbie dolls to portray the life and death of singer Karen Carpenter. Haynes made his directorial feature debut with the provocative 1991 film, *Poison*, which went on to win the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, spearheading what would become known as

the New Queer Cinema. In 1995, Haynes's 2nd feature film, *Safe*, starred Julianne Moore as a Los Angeles housewife who becomes environmentally ill. The film would be voted, by decades end, the best film of the 90's by the Village Voice's Critic Poll. Haynes's next film, *Velvet Goldmine*, an homage to the glam rock era of the early 70's premiered in Official Selection at the 1998 Cannes Film Festival, where it received a Special Jury Prize. Haynes's next film, *Far From Heaven* (2002), inspired by the 50's melodrama's of Douglas Sirk, and also starring Julianne Moore, earned both critical and mainstream success, receiving four Oscar nominations, including one for Haynes' Original Screenplay. Haynes won several other awards for this film, including the Independent Spirit Award for Best Director. His 2007 film, *I'm Not There*, imagined the life and work of Bob Dylan through the guise of seven fictional characters, and once again won him critical acclaim, especially for the cross-gender casting of Cate Blanchett, who received the Oscar nomination and Golden Globe award for Best Supporting Actress. In 2011, Haynes directed and co-wrote *Mildred Pierce*, a five-hour mini-series starring Kate Winslet, which garnered 21 Emmy nominations, winning five of them, in addition to 3 Golden Globes Awards. His latest feature film, *Carol*, starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara, premiered in the Official Selection of the 2015 Cannes Films Festival, where Rooney Mara was awarded the prize for Best Actress. The much anticipated film, riding on Haynes's reputation as a filmmaker defined by an inventive, provocative, and uncompromising vision, is scheduled for release in the Fall of 2015.

#### **LARRY FESSENDEN (Executive Producer)**

Larry Fessenden, winner of the 1997 Someone to Watch Spirit Award, and nominee for the 2010 Piaget Spirit Award for producing, is the writer, director and editor of the award-winning art-horror trilogy *HABIT* (Nominated for 2 Spirit Awards), *WENDIGO* (Winner Best Film 2001 Woodstock Film Festival) and *NO TELLING*. His film, *THE LAST WINTER* (Nominated for a 2007 Gotham Award for best ensemble cast), premiered at the 2006 Toronto Film Festival and was distributed through IFC. Fessenden directed *SKIN AND BONES* for NBC TV's horror anthology *FEAR ITSELF* and the feature film *BENEATH* for Chiller films. He wrote the screenplay with Guillermo del Toro of *ORPHANAGE*, an English language remake of the successful Spanish film *EL ORFANATO*. He is the writer, with Graham Reznick of the Sony Playstation videogame *UNTIL DAWN*. Fessenden was awarded the 2007 Sitges Film Festival

Maria Award for his work as a producer, actor and director in genre film, and he won the 2009 Golden Hammer Award for “being such an inspiring force in the industry.” In 2011, Fessenden was inducted into the "Fangoria Hall of Fame" and was honored by the UK's Total Film as an Icon of Horror during the Frightfest Film Festival.

### **CHRISTOPHER BLAUVELT (Director of Photography)**

Christopher Blauvelt is a third-generation film craftsman who combines his extensive experience with a fresh creative eye. A protégé of Harris Savides, Chris worked on films for directors Noah Baumbach and David Fincher and operated on Tom Ford's *A Single Man*, Spike Jonze's *Where the Wild Things Are*, and Gus Van Sant's *Restless*. Chris' work as a cinematographer includes Sofia Coppola's edgy commentary on spoiled youth, *The Bling Ring* and *The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby* with Jessica Chastain and James McAvoy for director Ned Benson, which premiered at the Cannes and Toronto Film Festivals. Chris also lensed Kelly Reichardt's *Meek's Cutoff* and *Night Moves*, starring Dakota Fanning, Peter Sarsgaard and Jesse Eisenberg, which premiered at the Venice and Toronto Film Festivals, and most recently they have collaborated on *Certain Women* starring Kristen Stewart, Michelle Williams and Laura Dern. Chris helped launch Jeff Preiss' directorial debut on *Low Down* for producers Ron Yerxa and Albert Berger. The film tells the story of the renowned but forgotten jazz pianist Joe Albany and stars John Hawkes and Elle Fanning for which Sundance awarded him Best Cinematography at the 2014 festival. Chris worked with director Justin Kelly on *I Am Michael*, which premiered at Sundance 2015. Most recently, Chris shot James Schamus's *Indignation*, which is based on the 2008 novel by Philip Roth which will premiere at Sundance 2016. Named by *Variety* and *Indiewire* as a “Top DP to Watch,” Chris was selected into the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 2015.

### **ANTHONY GASPARO (Production Designer)**

*Certain Women* is his first collaboration with director Kelly Reichardt. Other credits as production designer include: *Off the Black* (dir. James Ponsoldt) and *Safe Men* (dir. John Hamburg). His work in film also includes *Gummo*, *How to Lose Friends and Alienate Others* and *Two Girls and a Guy*. In television he has worked as an Art Director on Comedy Central's "*Upright Citizen Brigade*". Working internationally in the commercial world, Tony

has won a few design awards. Lately, he splits his time working between New York and Los Angeles.

a FILMSCIENCE production a film by KELLY REICHARDT

“CERTAIN WOMEN” LAURA DERN KRISTEN STEWART MICHELLE WILLIAMS

JAMES LE GROS JARED HARRIS LILY GLADSTONE RENE AUBERJONIS

casting MARK BENNETT GAYLE KELLER music by JEFF GRACE costume designer APRIL NAPIER

production designer ANTHONY GASPARRO cinematographer CHRISTOPHER BLAUVELT editor KELLY REICHARDT

executive producers TODD HAYNES LARRY FESSENDEN CHRISTOPHER CARROLL NATHAN KELLY

produced by NEIL KOPP VINCENT SAVINO ANISH SAVJANI

based on stories by MAILE MELOY screenplay by KELLY REICHARDT directed by KELLY REICHARDT

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