

Come Away with Me

A FILM BY ELLEN GERSTEIN



FILM CONTACT
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COME AWAY WITH ME

Charlie Robinson Ellen Gerstein

LOGLINE

Torn apart by war and social pressure, a woman finds the courage to go to her high school reunion with the hopes of rekindling the romance with her one true love.

SYNOPSIS

An inter-racial couple, sweethearts in the '60s, were torn apart by war and social pressure. Anne summons the courage to go to her high school reunion, hoping to rekindle the romance with Michael, a war hero with PTSD and Alzheimer's and the love of her life.

TRT 16:21

"Come Away With Me Tonight"

Ellen was so inspired by Anne and Michael's love story that she wrote the original song, "Come Away With Me Tonight," as their '60s high school love song. It is beautifully performed by Hollie Cavanagh from American Idol and features Luis Eric Gonzales from Earth, Wind and Fire on horns.

The classic R&B sound brings you back to that era.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have always been inspired, in my life and in my projects, by every day heroes. It takes guts to go for what makes you happy, and live life your own way, because in life there are no guarantees. To me Anne is that every day hero, who finally summons up the courage and strength to go after her one true love, not knowing what will happen and not letting age, society, or what's expected of her, hold her back. I hope when people connect with Anne, they see that going for your own happiness is what is important in life.

The effects of war on people in the armed service and how their lives change forever by what they experience physically, mentally and emotionally is a very important issue to me. Michael is fighting demons from the effects of war while Anne fights her own personal battles. These very real characters touch my heart, and I hope they will touch yours.

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www.ComeAwayWithMeTheMovie.com

Filmmakers & Cast

Ellen Gerstein

Actress/Director/Filmmaker



Ellen Gerstein is an actor, writer, director and member of the Alliance of Women Directors. She wrote and directed *Waiting For Ronald*, which won international awards for its inspiring story of a mentally challenged man creating a new independent life. Her feature script, *Just South of Normal*, won the Roy W. Dean Screenwriting Grant. She co-wrote and starred in a short film, *Silent Laughter* out of the prestigious AFI Directing Workshop for Women. Ellen has worked with actors and directors such as Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Martin Scorsese, and Mimi Leder. Ellen also co-wrote, co-produced and starred in the award winning interactive play *Club Disco*, which ran for eight months at the Lillian. She brought her experience

as a licensed therapist and standup comedienne to the stage, writing and starring in her one-woman show, *My Psychotherapy Comeback Tour*, which was a semi-finalist in the Samuel French Short Play Contest and played in the New York Fringe Festival.

Ellen Gerstein's film credits include her most recent roles in *Control: A Love Story*, *America is Still the Place*, *Treasure Of The Black Jaguar*, and *Swelter* with Alfred Molina. Her television credits include recurring roles as Aunt Rande on *Shameless* for Showtime and as Tina on *The Whole Truth* for ABC. Ellen was also in the TV Movie, *James Dean*, acting along side Kathy Bates, James Franco and director, Mark Rydell. Currently, Gerstein is working on a series, *Ronald and Edgar*, a webisode comedy for her character, Sylvia's 'Just Sayin' and a documentary, *Not Dead Yet*, featuring award winning woman directors. Ellen is a judge for a prestigious screenwriting grant and several film festivals. As an acting teacher and coach, Ellen has a scholarship program for young actors in her class. Ellen studied acting with Lee Strasberg, script analysis with Stella Adler, and is a lifetime member of the Actors Studio.

Judging & Panels

Judge — Diversity in Cannes Showcase
Program: Black Lives Matter

Judge — Roy W. Dean Film Making Grant

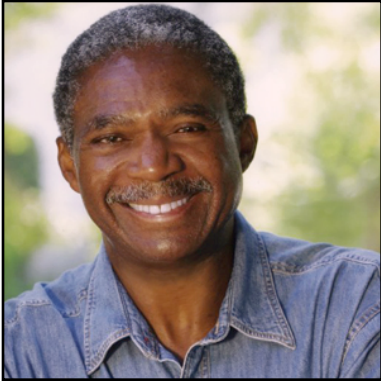
Judge — Audition Division of the Actor's Studio

Judge — Consortium San Diego and SD Film Awards



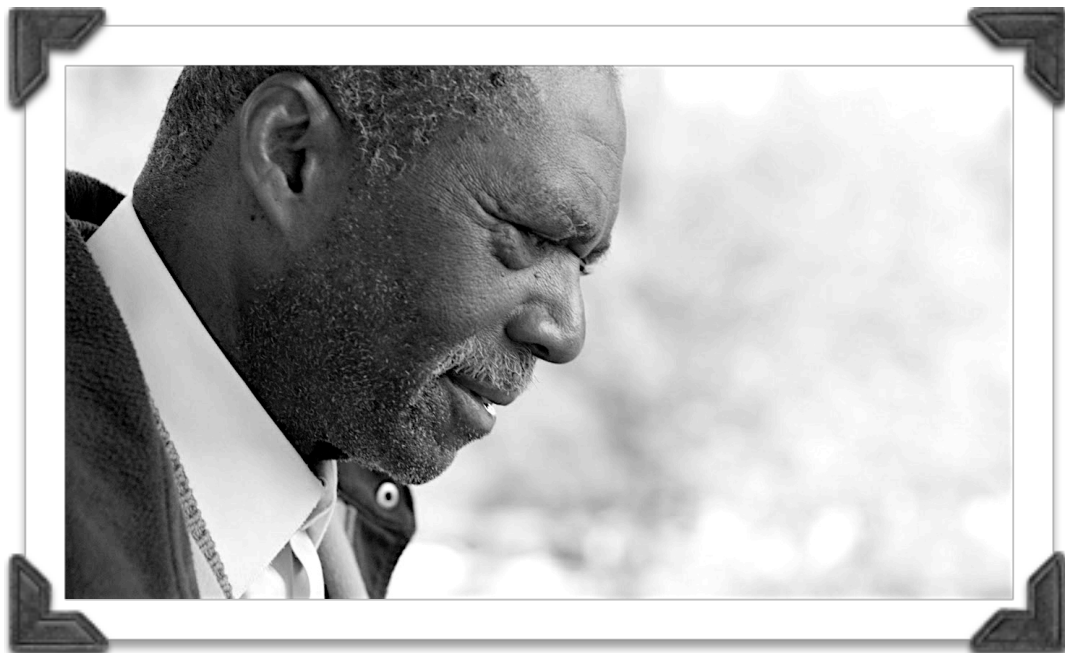
Charles Robinson

Actor



Charles Robinson, veteran actor from Houston, Texas, studied at Studio 7 Workshop and the University of Houston. He also studied with the Alley Repertory Theatre and was acting Vice President of the Urban Theatre; before he moved to Los Angeles, Robinson became a member of the Actors Studio. He honed his craft at the Mark Taper Too, Inner City Cultural Center, South Coast Rep., The Actors Studio Millennium with Lyle Kessler's UNLISTED, and also acclaimed DRIVING MISS DAISY with Diane Ladd and other L.A. theatres. His films include: *Apocalypse Now*, *The River*, *Set It Off*, *Antwone Fisher*, *Even Money*, *Jackson*, *Steam*, *Natural Disasters*, soon to be released *Sweet Kandy*, *Hoovey*, and

Maybe Someday. Robinson's television credits include many pilots, as well as being a regular on *Buffalo Bill*, *Night Court*, *Love & War*, *Ink*, and *Buddy Faro*; in addition, he presently recurs on *Hart of Dixie*, and *The Game*. Other shows include, *Home Improvement*. Robinson also had other great roles in *Mc Bride*, *The Riches*, *My Name Is Earl*, *Cold Case*, *House*, *Bernie Mac*, *Still Standing*, and countless others. **He is a CAMIE Award winner twice for his roles in *Miss Lettie and Me*, and *Secret Santa***; both movies made for TV. As for radio, one of his favorite performances was the lead in Walter Mosley's *Black Betty*. He was the **2006 Ovation Awards Winner for Best Actor in a Play as Troy in August Wilson's *Fences***, and the **2010 Image Theatre Award Winner for Best Actor in a Play for *The WHIPPING MAN***, as Simon—a role he will reprise at South Coast Rep. in the winter of 2015. Willy Loman was his last major role for SCR's *Death of a Salesman*. He was part of the winning ensemble for the **2013 Theatre Image Award for *Jitney***. He has performed for years as a guest artist at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a guest at the Old Globe, and countless other national theatres.



Julie Janata

Producer/Editor



Julie Janata is an Emmy Award-winning producer, director, and editor of independent films. She is a story builder, crafting character-driven narrative and documentary features that have won critical acclaim and more than twenty awards around the world, including multiple Emmy nominations, the FIPRESCI International Critic's Prize, and an independent Spirit Award nomination. Her films have been honored with a Mac Arthur Foundation grant and screened by special invitation of the United Nations, U.S. Senate, Democratic National Convention, and the U.S. State Department's International American Film Showcase. Five films have been acquired by Showtime, three by PBS, as well as international theatrical and television

distribution. Julie was trained by some of the world's best filmmakers on Oscar and Emmy-winning productions in the U.S., Europe, New Zealand, and Africa. She has worked for every major studio—Warner Brothers, Paramount, Universal, Fox, Sony and Disney—as well as ABC, CBS, PBS, HBO and ESPN. She started her career in high school as a camera operator, became Assistant Promotion Director of an ABC TV station in college, then came to Hollywood as a Cinematography Fellow at the American Film Institute.

A member of the Producers Guild and Editors Guild, Julie is dedicated to diversity in media, through volunteering as President Emeritus of Alliance of Women Directors and as Co-Chair of the Producers Guild Diversity Committee.

Polly Morgan

Director of Photography



Cinematographer **Polly Morgan** has emerged as a fresh young talent at the forefront of independent cinema. Since graduating from the American Film Institute a short three years ago, Morgan has shot eight features, which have played at Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca, and have won numerous awards for Best Cinematography—including the Gerald Hirshfeld ASC Award. In the last two years, Morgan has been part of the BSC's "New Wave," heralded as an ASC "Rising Star" and been included in the Local 600's "Generation Next." Morgan's work is not limited to independent film, working on the hit FX show, *American Horror Story*, and BBC's, *Call The Midwife*. Morgan also works in the commercial market shooting for

large brands such as BMW and Target. From London to Los Angeles, Mumbai to Fiji, Morgan has traveled around the globe with an eye for arresting imagery and a desire to share the stories of the human experience.

David Field

Writer



Dave Field is a veteran and former ad man. His only combat experience was two years fighting boredom at Fort Hood, Texas. In the early '90s, an idea born on a restaurant napkin turned into *A Legendary Christmas*, a children's play subsequently invited to the 1993 Sundance Children's Play Lab, where it was workshopped into its present form. It now resides at YouthPlays.com. In 2005, *Symmetry*, a power struggle set in academia, premiered at Chicago's Victory Gardens Theatre. It earned a Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination for best new play. Other successes include comedies, one-acts, and his own website: TheatreDave.com

Victoria Sampson

Sound Design



Victoria Rose Sampson is a writer/director, film and sound editor. She has been a renowned Feature Film Sound Editor since 1973. With over 169 titles of post-production sound work, some of her credits include *Hot Tub Time Machine 1 and 2*, *About Last Night* (2014), *Odd Brodsky*, and *Cut!* Also, *Sex and the City I and II* (feature films), *The Fighter*, *Scream 4*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl*, *Old Dogs*, *Wild Hogs*, as well as *Donnie Darko* and *Return of the Jedi*. Victoria Sampson is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and is a graduate of the AFI's acclaimed Directing Workshop for Women. She has written, directed, produced and edited two award winning short films as

well as a dozen commercials. She directed a PSA for Women in Film for the Down Syndrome Research and Treatment Foundation. The thirty-second spot has already won a Telly award and a Gold Aurora Award. She is also a member of The Alliance of Women Directors where she serves on its Board of Directors. She teaches post-production sound to help directors and sound professionals get the most sound bang for their buck at Video Symphony, USC, and Moviola Digital. She is currently in pre-production for directing her first feature film, *SHELBY'S VACATION*, for writer/producer Nancy Beverly.

Aaron Gilhuis

Composer



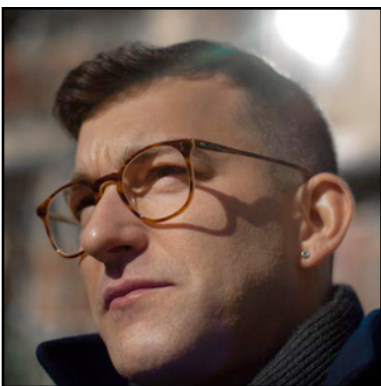
Aaron Gilhuis was born in Ottawa Ontario into a very musical family. He was exposed to music at a very early age. His mother is a piano, voice, and violin teacher, and his father: a bass player. At the age of twelve Aaron began his musical training starting with the the bass guitar. At fourteen he began writing, recording original music, playing guitar, piano, bass, and singing. His passion for music production and composition grew throughout high school, and upon graduation, he enrolled at Algonquin College, for “Pre Music Production.” This degree made him eligible to apply for *Music Industry Arts*—a prestigious program held at Fanshawe College. It is at Fanshawe that he discovered how to bridge the gap between his love for film and music. This inspired him to compose original

scores for film. After graduating with honors, Aaron enrolled in the Berklee School of Music in “Orchestration,” anxious to tirelessly improve his craft of film composition. Aaron was then introduced to Matchbox Pictures and received the opportunity to score their first feature film entitled, *Devil Seed*. *Devil Seed* went on to great success; it was released in fifty-five countries worldwide and grew to number 1 on iTunes in the horror section for several weeks. *Devil Seed* also became the top slot on many VOD channels.

Since then, Aaron has scored five other feature films including: *Clean Break*, *Silent Retreat*, *Kingdom Come*, *The Walk*, *God Forgive Us*, and numerous short films. Currently, Aaron has signed on to score many feature films filming in 2014 and 2015.

Andrew Francis

Colorist



From his native home of London, **Andrew Francis** has worked in the film and television industry for twenty years. His passion for colour finishing was further strengthened when he was drafted to work on the first Digital Intermediate at Cinesite (Europe) on the ten-part war epic, *Band Of Brothers*. From there, he has worked with many of the world’s most renowned filmmakers—recently in Hollywood, and presently, New York City. A perfectionist, he brings a new level of creativity and passion to every show of which he has been a part of. Andrew's work on the film, *Looper*, with Steve Yedlin and Rian Johnsson, really captures the art of the Digital Intermediate.

Screen Credits

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Director | Ellen Gerstein |
| Starring | Charles Robinson Ellen Gerstein |
| Producers | Julie Janata Ellen Gerstein |
| Adapted From The Short Play | “A Couple of Horses Asses” |
| Written By | David C. Field |
| Director of Photography | Polly Morgan |
| Editor | Julie Janata |
| Production Sound | Kelly Ambrow Dan Monahan |
| Supervising Sound Editor | Victoria Rose Sampson |
| Composer | Aaron Gilhuis |
| Production Coordinator | Tracey Harnish |
| Steadicam Operator | Ari Robbins SOC |
| 1st Assistant Camera | Alicia Fischmeister |
| 2nd Assistant Camera | Elizabeth Hodgman |
| Still Photographer | Shirak Agresta |
| DIT | Colin Oh |
| Key Grip | Nicolas Budner |
| Grips | Jon Gomez |
| Props | Brent Mason |
| Hair & Makeup | Lisa Ribar |
| Craft Service | Gabbie Leone |
| Dialogue Editor | Scott Brewster |
| SFX Editor/Re-Recording Mixer | Wesley Poland |
| Title Design | William J. Meyer |

Visual FX
DIVE NYC

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| VFX Supervisor | Ruben Rodas |
| VFX Producer | Ian Markiewicz |
| VFX Executive Producer | Bob Lowery |
| VFX Editor | Luca Andrei |
| VFX Artists | Dimitre Iliev |
| | Anton Moss |
| | Matthew Robertson |
| Additional Visual FX | Mark Willis |

Digital Intermediate
Sixteen19

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Digital Colorist | Andrew Francis |
| Digital Intermediate Producer | Brian Reali |
| Color Assistants | Charlie Leighton |
| | Patrick DeVine |
| Senior Engineer | Luke Marlow |

“Come Away With Me Tonight”

Performed By

Hollie Cavanagh

Lyrics By Ellen Gerstein (BMI)

Music By Catherine Grealish (ASCAP)

Song Produced By

Ralph Guzzo, Tyler Westen and Eddie Galan

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Piano | Catherine Grealish |
| Keyboard & Trumpet | Luis Eric Gonzalez |
| Trombone | Humberto Ruiz |
| Guitars, Bass and Drums | Ralph Guzzo |
| | Tyler Westen |
| Arrangements | Ralph Guzzo |
| | Tyler Westen |
| Horn Arrangement | Luis Eric Gonzalez |
| Song Mix | Phil McGowan |
| Recording Engineer (Vocals) | Alex Bush |
| | Sonikwire Studios |
| Recording Engineer (Horns) | Gilberto “Pollo” Zavala |
| | Va de Nuez Sound Studio |

Special Thanks

Live Tribe Productions
Camadeus Film Technologies

Cine Power & Light
VER

HD Optics

Tierra Del Sol

Golden West Security

Karen Lavender
Sebastian Lumme
Josh Ford
Terry Meadows
Johnny Healey
Rhett Frazier
Mark Ritchie
Gair Ogato
Steve Miller
Kevin Schaffels
Officer Gomez

Chris Hobbs
Mimi Leder
The Actors Studio
Dolorita Robinson
William Allen
Goya Robles
Barbara Lamelza
Katja Rieckermann



Awards & Festivals

Awards

WINNER 2016, Grand Jury Selection, Gasparilla International Film Festival
WINNER 2016, Best of Show, Best Shorts Competition
WINNER 2016, Award of Excellence, Best Shorts Competition
WINNER 2015, Platinum Award, Spotlight Short Film Awards
WINNER 2015, Best Director, Atlanta Shortsfest
WINNER 2015, Best Short Film Prize, Best Dramatic Short, 29th Wine Country Film Festival
WINNER 2015, Jury Award, Best Short Film, Toronto Independent Film Festival
WINNER 2015, Platinum Remi Award, Best Drama Short Film,
Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival
WINNER 2015, Directors Award, Best Actor In A Short Film Charlie Robinson,
The Woods Hole Film Festival
2015 Official Nomination, Best Short Film, LAIFF

Festivals

2015 Diversity in Cannes Short Film Showcase (Official Selection)
2015 Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 Newport Beach Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 Woods Hole Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 Rhode Island International Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 HollyShorts Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 Legacy Film Festival on Aging (Official Selection)
2015 NYC Independent Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 Montreal World Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 Toronto Independent Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 San Jose International Short Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 29th Wine Country Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 Indiana Short Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 Atlanta Shortsfest (Official Selection)
2015 Red Rock Film Festival (Official Selection)
2015 Ojai Film Festival (Official Selection)
2016 Sonoma International Film Festival (Official Selection)
2016 Gasparilla International Film Festival (Official Selection)
2016 Athens International Film and Video Festival (Official Selection)

Press & Reviews

*“Ellen and Charlie have the sweetest on screen chemistry.
Her direction is subtle and moving. I just would love to see the feature version of the film”*

—Jason Stuart, TradioV Host

*“What is truly impressive about this 15 minute gem is **Gerstein’s** patient direction and detailed attention for creating a perfect tranquil setting for the two stars. The sounds of the distant train and the picturesque Spring countryside (nice eye by Director of Photography **Polly Morgan**) seem to fuel both characters to reconnect and reignite their love. This meticulous direction by **Gerstein** not only adds to her own sympathetic, humble performance as Anne—who regrets the mistakes she made in her life, especially abandoning Michael when he needed her the most after he returned from the war—but also harnesses **Robinson’s** heartwarming portrayal as Michael . . . A nice final touch to a sublime work of art.”*

—Peter A. Balaskas, Splash Magazines

“Come Away With Me is an important, heartwarming short film, skillfully directed by Ellen Gerstein. Beautifully acted by Charlie Robinson and Ellen Gerstein, who have a very special connection. Gerstein transports us into living moments of love, friendship and hope. I recommend you take the 15 minutes to watch this worthwhile film.”

—Martin Landau, Actor

“Accomplished as a multi-faceted actress, Ellen Gerstein has won the praises of a number of bigwigs in the industry. She has a warmth that’s instantly likeable and has depicted a range of diverse makeup. At this year’s Rhode Island Film Fest, she’s delving into romance and is proof that one can depict a woman in love irrespective of age. Catch her in the short film

“Come Away With Me” as Ann Chambers, a woman who believes true love still exists and she’s never given up on re-connecting with her paramour. Will she get her man despite the obstacles laid before her? Thanks to Ellen’s portrayal, we may yet see the notion of ageism (a plague if you ask me) in scripts about love vanish. Intimacy even in our golden years has it fair share of stories that need to be told on film.”

—Haren Yong, Actress Blogger

Link: <http://bit.ly/1hoiGqm>

“Two remarkable actors in a very touching piece.”

—Mark Rydell, Director

“Come Away With Me is a gem of a short film with excellent , heartfelt performances by Ellen Gerstein and Charlie Robinson. Gerstein did a wonderful job directing this piece and captured the essence of long lost love so poignantly.”

—Mimi Leder, Director

Press & Reviews

“Come away with me is a brilliantly written and wonderfully acted adaptation from the play “A Couple of Horses Asses”. What struck me most was the gentle unfolding of the love story between these two very sympathetic characters. It’s infused with humor when you don’t expect it and sentimentality when it’s most needed. I found myself caring for both characters deeply and so I desired a better resolution for their sake and yet I was completely satisfied when it was over. Truly moving and well done!”

—Phil Giangrande, host of “Seated at the Writer’s Table”

“Gerstein’s moving portrayal of Ann is imbued with a genuine sincerity as she searches for ways to reconnect with Michael.”

—Linita Masters, The Hollywood Times (LINK)

Link: <http://bit.ly/1HYaWjO>

“Besides starring in “Come Away with me”, Ms. Gerstein also shows off her impressive directing skills, by creating a discreet and beautifully serene backdrop for us to experience this private moment between Ann and Michael.”

—Linita Masters, The Hollywood Times (LINK)

Link: <http://bit.ly/1HYaWjO>

“Ellen Gerstein is a wonderful actress and comedian . . .”

—Russ Pirozek, Oodon Blog

Link: <http://bit.ly/1fvNDay>

“It’s great to see you tackle this type of film, because you did it so well . . . There’s a lot of layers to this film . . .”

—Russ Pirozek, Oodon Blog

Link: <http://bit.ly/1fvNDay>

“Come Away With Me is a must see film. This 16 minute film beautifully illustrates love’s constant ability to overcome all obstacles. The heartfelt and emotional connection between Anne and Michael truly has you rooting for their relationship to flourish . . .”

—Cierra Skelton, Truly Disturbing Magazine

Link: <http://bit.ly/1InefRO>

“Comedy, acting, writing, and directing are just a few passions Gerstein shared with me during our interview . . . She was an absolute pleasure to talk to and an intensely passionate individual.”

—Cierra Skelton, Truly Disturbing Magazine

Link: <http://bit.ly/1InefRO>



Ellen Gerstein

On the set of "Come Away With Me"

