



INCLUSION FILMS

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A crew of 70% Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Recently Produced Inclusion Films' First Feature Length Film, "Carol of the Bells" directed by Joey Travolta
Carol of the Bells to Screen in December in Los Angeles, San Diego, Bakersfield, Lodi and Vero Beach

LOS ANGELES/SAN DIEGO/BAKERSFIELD/LODI/VERO BEACH (November 24, 2019) -- A crew of 70% individuals with developmental disabilities recently produced Inclusion Films' first feature length film, ***Carol of the Bells***, directed by Joey Travolta. Fresh from earning the **Audience Favorite Feature** award at the [San Diego International Film Festival](#) in October - ***Carol of the Bells*** will release in multiple cities in December. Travolta teaches filmmaking to individuals with developmental disabilities at 6 partner studios across California via Inclusion Films. *Carol of the Bells* was produced in association with **Futures Explored, Inc.** and **Options for All**.

About Inclusion Films

Inclusion Films www.inclusionfilms.com was started in 2007 by veteran filmmaker Joey Travolta. The mission of Inclusion Films is to teach filmmaking to individuals with developmental disabilities in six dedicated production studios through California. In addition to their workshops, they travel the country doing short film camps for children and teens with autism. The production team that has been trained by Inclusion Films is available for hire - where they work side by side with veteran filmmakers. One of the goals of Inclusion Films is to continue to seek out employment opportunities in the film industry for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Additionally, Inclusion Films and two non-profit organizations that support adults with developmental disabilities, Futures Explored, Inc. www.futuresexplored.org, and Options for All www.optionsforall.org, launched "Inclusion Networks," a subscription based channel featuring digital content produced by adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The first-of-its-kind channel presents short films, documentaries, news stories, original series, special features and behind-the-scenes footage. (See promo video here and to subscribe, visit: <https://youtu.be/Ec4tchcmwMU>)

Director/Producer Joey Travolta shared "***Carol of the Bells*** is a beautiful story by itself, but the way it was made is even more beautiful. Working with a crew where **70% are developmentally different** offers insight into just how much they bring to the table when offered the opportunity. **Having the opportunity is the key.** Inclusion Films has a mission of inclusion - to train people with different abilities in the art of filmmaking. The soft skills learned in the training program can then be applied to other jobs and all aspects of their life."

When asked what drives his passion for inclusion, Travolta shared "My father raised us in an environment of inclusivity. Family was important, kindness was important, everyone was equal and everyone was welcome. That's what first led me to being a special education educator. Partnering that passion for equality with filmmaking has become my life's work. I want everyone to have that sense of belonging when they are trained by us, come to our camps or work with us on a film. That sense of belonging brought out the best in everyone - and allowed for an environment for this talented diverse team to create an **award winning feature film**. No small feat. I'm looking forward to sharing their work on ***Carol of the Bells*** and helping to create a shift in employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities."

About Carol of the Bells

www.carolofthebellsmovie.com

Written by J.C. Peterson and Directed by Joey Travolta

A young father battles his troubled past to find peace with his wife and son. Scott has always struggled with his secret adoption, and the life changing moment as a child at Christmas time. Now Scott has the answer to his greatest fear. Can he take the final step to bridge the truth about his first family and heal his wounds?

Cast

Starring: RJ Mitte Yuly Mireles Lee Purcell

Introducing: Elijah Maximus

Featuring: Geri Jewel, Andrea Fay Friedman, Donna Pescow

Special Appearance by: Donna Mills

Additional Cast: Del Zamora, Isha Collins, Aisha McBride and Dale Oprandy

Produced by Dale Oprandy and Joey Travolta

Executive Producers: Will Sanford, Nancy Batterman, Trevor Drinkwater, Christopher Tisi

Line Producer: Bill Dion

Co Producer: Gail Williamson

Editor: Christopher Duguay

Director of Photography: Andy Ryan

Casting by: David Zimmerman

Composer: David Arkenstone

[Link to Official Trailer and BTS](#)

[Link to The Making of Carol of the Bells](#)

Carol of the Bells_Poster 27x39

[Download Link](#)

Upcoming Screenings

Bakersfield, CA

December 3rd - 7pm Screening

The Historic Bakersfield FOX Theatre

2001 H St, Bakersfield, CA 93301

Screening is followed by a talkback with Joey Travolta and cast members

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

Screening - December 6th - December 12th

Maya Cinemas, Bakersfield

1000 California Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93304

Select Screenings

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

Lodi, CA

December 4th - 7pm - Screening

Lodi Stadium 12 Cinemas

109 N School St, Lodi, CA 95240

Tickets : kimberleedibartolo@yahoo.com | (209) 471-3812

Ticket Price \$20 - includes VIP movie ticket and entrance to exclusive post-screening reception.

SOLD OUT

At 6:00 pm, city officials and the community will commemorate the film with a ribbon cutting and red carpet. The film will begin at 7 pm. Directly following the screening, from 8:45 – 10:30, Inclusion Films will host a reception at Elegance Banquet Hall (formerly The Merlot) at 23 W. Elm St, directly across the street from Lodi Stadium 12 Cinemas. Guests can indulge in hors d' oeuvres, sweet treats and beverages while enjoying a meet and greet with Director, Joey Travolta and the cast and crew of this phenomenal film.

December 6th - 12th - Select Show Times

Lodi Stadium 12

109 N School St, Lodi, CA 95240

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

San Diego, CA - Release Dec 6 - Dec 12th

AMC Fashion Valley 18

7037 Friars Rd, San Diego, CA 92108

select matinee screenings

[Check Website for Tickets and Times](#)

Vero Beach, Florida - Release Dec 6 - Dec 12th

The Majestic 11

940 14th Ln #4733, Vero Beach, FL 32960

[Check Website for Tickets and Times](#)

Los Angeles, CA - Screening - Wednesday, December 11th at 7pm

Laemmle NoHo Theatre

5240 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91601

Screening is followed by a talkback with Joey Travolta and cast members

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

SOLD OUT

Press Coverage for Carol of the Bells

San Diego: From the San Diego International Film Festival

- FOX 5 News [FOX 5 News San Diego - Joey & Tonya Mantooth](#)
- KUSI News [KUSI News San Diego Joey Promoting COTB & Festival](#)
- KUSI News [KUSI News San Diego Susan Clausen promoting Festival and COTB](#)
- FOX 5 News [FOX 5 News San Diego - 2nd Piece with Joey](#)
- CBS8 News [CBS8 News San Diego - Joey Travolta promoting COTB](#)

From the Bentonville Film Festival

- Deadline: [Andrea Fay Friedman Joins 'Carol of the Bells'](#)
- Spectrum News: [Disability is Diversity](#)
- Deadline: [Geena Davis's Inclusive Bentonville Film Festival Unveils Gala And Competition Slate](#)
- Thrive Global: [Actor RJ Mitte of Breaking Bad: "Be aware of those around you; Look past your own agenda and ask what the person next door is fighting for, because we're all fighting for the same things"](#)
- The Hollywood Reporter: [This Changes Everything' to Open Geena Davis' Bentonville Film Festival](#)
- Fox News: [Lee Purcell Mentored Steve McQueen](#)
- In Touch: [The Bentonville Film Festival See The Event's Best Moments](#)
- US Weekly [All Your Favorite Stars Were at The Bentonville Film Festival](#)
- OK Magazine: [Inside Geena Davis Bentonville Film Festival Pics](#)

- The Arkansas CW [Bentonville Film Festival Carol of the Bells](#)

Texas: From the Cinesol Film Festival

- The Brownsville Herald: [Star Power: Cinesol Film Festival Features Breaking Bad Actor](#)

General Coverage

- KGET-TV Bakersfield (NBC/CW) [Inclusion Films Shoots Its First Feature Length Film](#)
- KGET-TV Bakersfield (NBC/CW) [Inclusion Films Shoots Movie In Bakersfield](#)

Cast Bios

RJ Mitte

Best known for his portrayal of Walter “Flynn” White Jr for five riveting seasons of AMC’s Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning dramatic thriller “Breaking Bad,” RJ Mitte is an actor, advocate and philanthropist who has carved out his niche in Hollywood by breaking down stereotypes and changing people’s mindsets with his easy going demeanor and positive outlook on life. During it’s final season, the “Breaking Bad” premiere drew approximately 5.9 million viewers, a number that nearly doubled to 10.3 million by the season’s final episode. As Walt Jr., referred to by fans as “The Breakfast King,” Mitte acted as the Cerebral Palsy-afflicted son of Walter (Bryan Cranston) and Skyler (Anna Gunn). As Walter continued his descent into drug manufacturing and trade, Walt Jr. finds himself torn between his father’s deceit, his mother’s protectiveness, and his own developing sense of independence. Walter Jr.’s Cerebral Palsy on the show was embellished, meaning RJ had to learn how to walk on crutches and slur his speech to create a more dramatic version of his own disability.

At the young age of three, Louisiana native Mitte was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, though that has never deterred his drive to succeed in television and film. After moving to Los Angeles due to his sister’s chance encounter with a casting director, Mitte landed roles in various shows such as SHOWTIME’s “Weeds,” NBC’s “Vegas,” CW’s “Everybody Hates Chris” and costarred on ABC Family’s primetime hit show “Switched at Birth,” until being cast in his life-changing role on “Breaking Bad.” Concluding “Breaking Bad,” Mitte, reemerged on the big screen in DIXIELAND, in his first non-handicapped leading role. Most recently, he starred opposite Wesley Snipes in THE RECALL and was also seen in TIEMPO COMPARTIDO (Official 2018 Selection World Cinema Dramatic Competition at Sundance). Also seen starring alongside John Cusack and George Lopez, RIVER RUNS RED in late 2018, he was also in a co-starring role on Starz’ coming of age television thriller “Now Apocalypse,” which premiered in early 2019.

Never one to shy away from an opportunity to take his talents to new avenues, RJ was thrust into the global spotlight as the celebrity face and model of GAP International’s “Lived in Spring” campaign with his image appearing on mediums such as billboards, buses, and life-sized posters in cities across the world from Tokyo to Dubai and across the US, he has cemented himself as a face to know in the fashion world. He made his way to the catwalk, modeling in Men’s Fashion Week in Milan, Berlin and New York City for designers Vivienne Westwood, soPopular and Ovadia & Sons.

Throughout the years, Mitte has been an inspiration to his peers around the world by championing his Cerebral Palsy in hopes of removing the stigma associated with disabilities. In order to bring awareness to his own issues with bullying and prejudice, Mitte has engaged in public speaking and serves as the official Ambassador for United Cerebral Palsy and Shriners Hospitals for Children and partners with Shriners to spearhead their #CutTheBull campaign to advocate on anti-bullying for children with disabilities, much like himself. He’s also involved with SAG-AFTRA as a member of the union’s IAPWD (Performers With Disabilities Committee).

Yuly Mireles

Yuly Mireles was born and raised in Yuba City, California. Creativity has always been at the forefront of Yuly's life; putting on plays with her four older sisters in her adolescence was nothing short of comical and enchanting. Acting remained a hobby in her late teens and early twenties, until moving to the Bay Area. There, Yuly devoted herself to searching for her truth as an actor. She took classes and workshops at the American Conservatory Theatre and worked as a lighting technician for Television and Film projects simultaneously. It wasn't until she was introduced to the Meisner Technique Studio, that she felt a strong pull and duty to explore the craft of acting.

Yuly is pure authentic magic mixed with humility both on and off screen. She is very proud of her strong foundation as an actor, having trained in the Meisner Technique in San Francisco. Yuly is now a full time actor in Los Angeles, she keeps her tools sharp at the Warner Loughlin Studio in on going scene study classes. You can catch a glimpse of her dynamism on TNT's Animal Kingdom Season 3 and 4 in the recurring role of Tina Trujillo. You can also catch her this winter in the feature film Carol of the Bells, directed by Joey Travolta.

Lee Purcell

Prime-Time Emmy-nominated actress Lee Purcell recently completed a starring role in the upcoming feature film CAROL OF THE BELLS for director Joey Travolta and his Inclusion Films.

Lee is the recipient of two Prime-Time Emmy nominations, her first being for LONG ROAD HOME starring opposite Mark Harmon, the second for SECRET SINS OF THE FATHERS starring opposite Beau Bridges.

She recently completed the TV pilot SICK and was also recently seen in the film JL RANCH opposite Jon Voight and in KIDS VS. MONSTERS opposite Malcolm McDowell and in LOVE AT FIRST GLANCE opposite Amy Smart.

In her extensive career, this acclaimed actress has earned numerous film, television and stage credits, including her role as "Louise St. Laurent" on the international TV series DUE SOUTH and as the sultry step-mom in the iconic film VALLEY GIRL with Nicholas Cage. Lee was also seen as "Eleanor Sullivan" in the NBC-TV Prime-Time series PERSONS UNKNOWN with Chadwick Boseman, created by Oscar winner Christopher McQuarrie. Fans around the world also frequently reach out to Lee for her role as "Peggy" in the cult favorite film BIG WEDNESDAY.

As an ingénue, Lee's film career began when she was personally selected and mentored by legendary movie star Steve McQueen to star as a small-town high school student in McQueen's Solar Productions' film ADAM AT 6 A.M. opposite Michael Douglas. She will always be grateful to McQueen for his casting and mentoring her and cherishes the time spent with him.

At only three years old, Lee was chosen by Neiman Marcus to be a runway child model for their flagship store in Dallas, Texas and began modeling professionally.

As a dancer, Lee was performing in a traveling troupe by the age of 13, and later danced in such films as ALMOST SUMMER and television shows such as McGYVER.

In addition to acting, Lee has also been active in production as a producer/writer/director and co-owned a niche market video production company, which won the Silver Medal in the New York Film and TV Festival. After the sale of the video company, Lee focused on the production and financing of independent features, and the creation of film, TV and theatre projects.

Lee has also directed and produced live theatre. She was co-owner and performer of a critically acclaimed troupe of well-known actors and musicians who performed Western Heritage literature and music from the 1800's. Many noted guest artists, including the late Sam Shepard, performed with the Green River Players.

Having the unique background of being an American who trained and lived in London, Lee has returned to Europe many times to direct, perform and teach. She has enjoyed directing and performing there in such plays as LOVE LETTERS, BLITHE SPIRIT, RICHARD III, MACBETH and others.

Lee is a voting member of the by-invitation-only, prestigious Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (OSCARs) and has served on various committees there. She is also a member of The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (EMMYS). Lee currently serves on the Board of the actors union SAG-AFTRA, an elected position.

Lee has been involved with many charitable organizations throughout her career, and some of her charity work has included Heart of a Horse, Veterans Entertainment Team, Big Brothers, Special Olympics, and Paralyzed Veterans of America among many others.

Social Media: www.leepurcell.com * IG: theleepurcell * FB: leepurcellfanpage * Twitter: @leepurcell

Elijah Maximus

Elijah Maximus began participating in theater at age three. When he was four years old he played "Dolore" in the *Madama Butterfly Opera*. At five, he was cast in the Joey Travolta directed film, *Carol of the Bells*, where he played "Jeremy Johnson".

Now six, he's recently finished filming a pilot called *Barkskins*, where he took on the role of "Theo".

In addition to acting, he enjoys various types of sports.

Geri Jewell

Geri Jewell is best known as Cousin Geri on the NBC sitcom, *The Facts of Life*. She was the first person with a disability to have a regular role on a prime time series. She began her career doing stand up comedy at the Comedy Store in 1978. In 1980 she performed at the 2nd Annual Media Access Awards, when she was introduced to Norman Lear by producer, Fern Field.

When Geri is not working in television, she is a highly sought after motivational speaker and trainer in the areas of diversity, disability and GLBT issues. Her training has taken her to such companies as Hewlett Packard, Master Foods, Johnson Wax, AT&T, Amgen, Mass Mutual and Raytheon. She has also trained such government agencies as The C.I.A., The U.S. Treasury Department, Defense Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Army.

In addition to her ongoing speaking circuits, she has never forgotten her roots in comedy. She has appeared on many of the cable comedy shows, including *Evening at the Improv* on A&E, and *Stand Up Spotlight* on VHI. She has opened for Paul Anka, Robert Goulet, and Judy Collins. She has been featured on *Entertainment Tonight*, *E Hollywood True Story*, and ABC's *20/20*, and A&E's *Biography*.

Andrea Fay Friedman

When Andrea Fay Friedman was born in Los Angeles on June 1, 1970, nobody would have predicted that she would become a well-known actress and public speaker, go to college, hold a job, drive a car and live a full and independent life. Because Andrea was born with Down syndrome, the pediatrician told her parents to send her straight to an institution because she would not develop beyond the mental age of four or five. Her parents, Harold and Marjorie Friedman, ignored the doctor's advice, took Andrea home, loved her, taught her and worked to help her develop to her full potential.

Most of Andrea's education took place in regular schools where she was mainstreamed in regular classes (see attachment, "Education" for details). She participated in a wide range of activities with other children: piano, guitar, dance and drama classes among them. Without anyone's realizing it, Andrea was being trained for her future acting career. (See attachment "Acting Training" for details.)

In 1991, she auditioned for and won the continuing part of Amanda, Corky's (Chris Burke) girlfriend in the TV series "Life Goes On" and became a permanent member of the cast for two seasons.

In addition to "Life Goes On," Andrea has been a featured guest star on episodes of "Baywatch," "Touched By An Angel," "Chicago Hope," "Walker, Texas Ranger," "7th Heaven," "The Division," "Law and Order, SVU" and the star of her own Christmas Special, "Smudge."

Because of her television activities, Andrea is often invited to be a motivational speaker and supporter of causes that help other challenged people. She has spoken to many local, statewide, national and international organizations, including the students and faculty at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, on the subject of the advantage of a "mainstream" education for people with learning disabilities.

Andrea's life is certainly very different from that which was predicted when she was born. She lives independently. When she is not acting, she works in the accounting department of a major law firm. She drives her own car and manages her own schedule, budget, housekeeping and social life. Andrea says she has "Up" syndrome, not Down syndrome and wages a personal battle against the words "retarded" and "disabled." "I am challenged, not disabled," she insists. "'Disabled' means 'cannot do', but my challenged friends and I can do. Some things are hard for us, some things take longer to learn; but if we work hard, we can do." Andrea does work hard and every morning announces, "I love my life. I wonder how many new friends I'll make today."

Donna Pescow

Donna Pescow was born and raised in Brooklyn. She graduated from New York's prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts. After a few small roles Off Broadway, she landed the role of "Annette" in the iconic film "Saturday Night Fever" that launched her career.

Following the release of "Saturday Night Fever," and with its ensuing critical and audience acclaim for her performance, Ms. Pescow was named "Best Supporting Actress" by The New York Film Critic Circle. For the recent 40th Anniversary of the film, it was honored with a special evening at Paramount Studios, A BBC documentary about the making of the film and a TCM screening at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, where the film premiered, followed by a Question and Answer with the director John Badham and Donna Pescow.

Donna starred in the popular TV series "Angie." Her work on this show garnered her a People's Choice nomination for "Favorite Actress in a Television Comedy," and a Golden Globe nomination for "Best Actress in a Comedy Series."

In addition to "Angie," Ms. Pescow starred in the long running series "Out of this World," and "Even Stevens," for which she was nominated for three Emmy awards.

On stage Donna has appeared in numerous theatre productions in New York, Los Angeles and regionally. The shows include, "Ah, Wilderness!" "Grease," "A...My Name is Alice," "Body Bags," "Isn't It Romantic," "Rest In Pieces," and "Love Letters" where she was reunited with her "Angie" co-star, Robert Hays. Donna also performed her successful musical night club act in New York City and Los Angeles.

A constant presence in TV and Film, Ms. Pescow guest starred on "All My Children," as one of the first openly gay characters on TV. This groundbreaking role earned her and the show the A.G.L.A. award. Ms. Pescow has appeared in dozens of TV shows and movie, among them. "NYPD Blue," "Clueless," the HBO mini-series "Glory Years," "Crossing Jordan," "Cold Case," "Dead Husbands," "The Day the Bubble Burst," "The Soprano's," and "New Girl." She plays Dr. Sharon Finkel on the hit series "The Flash," and recently completed a feature film "Carol of the Bells," that will be released this Christmas. She is presently working on the film "Venus As A Boy."

Donna Mills

Donna is best known for her long-running role as villainous Abby Cunningham on the prime-time soap opera *Knots Landing*, and for her role as Tobie Williams, the girlfriend of Clint Eastwood's character in the 1971 cult film *Play Misty for Me*.

Mills began her acting career on television with a six-month stint on the CBS daytime soap opera *The Secret Storm* in 1966, playing the character of "Rocket." Following this, she made her film debut in *The Incident* (1967), co-starring alongside Martin Sheen, Beau Bridges, Ed McMahon, and Thelma Ritter. She appeared on Broadway in Woody Allen's comedy, *Don't Drink the Water*, as the Sultan of Bashir's wife. She then starred for three years in the soap opera *Love is a Many Splendored Thing* (1967-1970).

In 1980 Mills landed her most prominent role — that of scheming, manipulative vixen Abby Cunningham on the long-running primetime soap opera *Knots Landing*. Mills portrayed Abby from 1980–1989. Prior to being cast in *Knots Landing*, Mills was primarily known for playing the "damsel in distress" archetype in both film and television media. Donna became famous for playing these roles, often leading to unwanted typecasting. In an interview with Jerry Buck for the *Toledo Blade*, Mills said: "I got tired of playing the victim. It's a more active role. Abby keeps things stirred up, and I like that. Abby was not planned when the show began. The writers knew that they wanted a female J.R. Ewing-esque character. However, they had a different sense of the character and who would wind up in the role. With Mills' reputation of playing the victim, they initially didn't choose her for the part.

Josh Mapes of The Biography Channel listed her in the category "10 Primetime Stars We Love to Hate". He said, "Any great soap opera needs a great villain. While viewers may identify more with the protagonist, the villains in a serial drama always spice things up, cause trouble, and make it more fun to watch. From tongue lashings to catfights, underhanded tricks to boldface lies, the characters we love to hate have each brought a fair share of great moments to primetime soaps. While Larry Hagman played the bad guy on *Dallas*.

Donna Mills played bad girl on its spin-off, *Knots Landing*. Unapologetically going after what she wanted, Mills' character engaged in affairs with two of the husbands on the *Knots Landing* cul-de-sac. But, like most vixens on primetime soaps, she was only out for money, not love."

In 1989, Mills announced her intention to leave the long-running nighttime soap after nine years as Abby. According to Mills, she wanted to take a break from acting for a while, and from Abby as well. In an interview with *The Cedartown Standard*, Mills explained: "I'm tired of the show. It's been too long. I'm not particularly happy with the way they've been writing Abby lately. She's too soft. I'd like Abby to get back to her old self. For this role, she won the Soap Opera Digest Award for Outstanding Villainess on three occasions, in 1986, 1988 and 1989.

She has since starred in several TV movies, including *False Arrest* (1991), *In My Daughter's Name* (1992), *Dangerous Intentions* (1995), *The Stepford Husbands* (1996) and *Ladies of the House* (2008). In 2014, she joined the cast of long-running daytime soap opera *General Hospital*.

After *Knots Landing*, Mills concentrated on television movies, four of which she co-produced: *The World's Oldest Living Bridesmaid* (1990), *Runaway Father* (1991), *In My Daughter's Name* (1992) and *My Name Is Kate* (1994). She returned to *Knots Landing* for its final episode in 1993, and again for the reunion miniseries *Knots Landing: Back to the Cul-de-Sac* in 1997. In between she had a brief recurring guest role as Jane Mancini (played by Josie Bissett)'s mother on *Melrose Place*.

Donna has now joined ABC's *General Hospital* as yet another wealthy troublemaker, Madeline Reeves. She has also joined the cast of *Queens of Drama* on the POP Network, due to air in 2015.

Dale Oprandy

At the age of 10, Dale began his first successful show business venture as a magician and escape artist. His passion to perform became the springboard to a long lasting professional career in the entertainment business. He appeared on such television shows as *NBC's Today Show with Tom Brokaw and Jane Pauley*, *ABC's World News Tonight*, and *The Steve Edwards Show*, among others.

Further continuing his passion to perform, Oprandy concentrated his efforts on developing his acting talents while studying at the Lee Strasburg Theatre and Film Institute in New York City, taking classes with Lee himself, he then moved to LA to take classes from Lee's wife Anna. In the late 70's Dale entered film entertainment by first becoming a Production Assistant then progressing to Scenic Artist. He has Co-Produced many films with his long time friend Joey Travolta. Films such as "*Hard Vice*" and "*Waiting to Live*", most recently "*Carol of the Bells*" during his career he has also Co-Produce and directed on many major television shows as Magic Segment Director. Such notable shows include *Third Rock From the Sun*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *Kenny Rogers Christmas Specials*, just to name a few.

Dale is a member of the Society of American Magicians (SAM), International Brotherhood of Magic, and American Academy of Magical Arts (The Magic Castle) and has been for his entire career.

Dale is the Executive Director of Creativity at Inclusion Films Workshop, Bakersfield. He works directly with students with special needs to teach them the film industry. He teaches practical film workshop to young adults with special needs. He enjoys seeing students evolve under his tutelage and help them unlock talents they didn't even know they had.

J.C. Peterson - Writer

J.C. Peterson is an award winning writer and producer. His first narrative feature "POP-U-larity!" took first place in the 2012 Columbia College Chicago Alumni Feature Film Contest and he has received various recognition for his writing.

His latest screenplay, "Carol of the Bells," produced and directed by Joey Travolta and Inclusion Films, was written to incorporate the English Hand Bell Choir of Activities, Recreation & Care (ARC), a nonprofit organization that Peterson has served as the Executive Director since 2014. Seventy percent of the crew on "Carol of the Bells" consisted of people with developmental disabilities.

Peterson edited and published the book, "A Face in the Crowd," in partnership with Judy Shepard. "A Face in the Crowd," was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Foundation Award in 2003 and the book was used to promote the charitable mission of the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

While attending Columbia College Chicago, Peterson initiated the documentary film, "Short Fuse: The Story of an AIDS Activist" which had its broadcast premiere on WTTM in Chicago. "Short Fuse" received the Chicago International Film Festival Certificate of Merit and won a Weisman Award and the Great Lakes Regional Arts Fellowship. Other awards Peterson received includes third place for his screenplay "One of the Family" for the 2006 Written Image Awards with his screenplay "Skunk Girl" rounding out the top five in 2005. His screenplay "Family Values" was a finalist at the 2001 Outfest Screenwriting Competition sponsored by MTV.

David Arkenstone - Composer

Just nominated for his 4th Grammy award, our composer, David Arkenstone, delivered a beautiful, emotional score for COTB. David has scored many films, has over 65 albums in release, and is one of the elite World of Warcraft composers.

#DavidArkenston, #Grammys #WoW

David S. Zimmerman - Casting Director

Producer, Casting Director, Teacher, Coach, Writer, Actor, Director

David has been coaching actors and putting together workshops for over a decade. He is the Creator and Producer of the "MEET THE BIZ" workshops, which looks to make diversity common place and bridges

the gap between ability and disability. As a personal coach, he has been hired by production companies such as Ryan Murphy's groundbreaking series "NIP/TUCK", worked on Michael Patrick King's, "LOVE YOU MORE", and the new dramedy "TURNOVER."

As a Casting Director his credits include the Showtime pilots and Star Price Productions "PROJECT X" and "SHADOW POINT", as well as the popular series "PENN & TELLER'S BULLSHIT". He has also cast feature films including: "FIGHTING WORDS", co-cast Ringo Le's "BIG GAY LOVE" with Stanzi Stokes and has worked with Inclusion Films on their short film, "SPUD", and the upcoming "CAROL OF THE BELLS", produced by Joey Travolta and Inclusion Films and starring RJ Mitte, Lee Purcell, Donna Mills, Andrea Friedman and Donna Pescow. Zimmerman has also enjoyed working with Lifetime TV, Mark Wolper Productions and Time Life Productions.

You can also see him on the screen as an actor in such films as "HIDE", "MEET THE FOCKERS", the web series "CHILD OF THE '70s" and as the Voice of Jason in Andreas Wessel-Therhorn's award winning animated short, "HEAVENLY PEACE."

In 2007, David was honored at the 25th Annual Media Access Awards at Universal Studio Globe Theatre with the prestigious MEDIA ACCESS AWARD along with Norman Lear, Stevie Wonder and others. In 2013, the "MEET THE BIZ" program was incredibly honored to receive a grant from the CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION through the ACTORS FOR AUTISM and a grant from the FRIENDS OF CALIFORNIANS WITH DISABILITIES, INC for the "40 Series." He also proudly has become a faculty member of the PERFORMING ARTS STUDIO WEST family.

He has been a contributing writer for ABILITY magazine, which is ranked one of the top 50 magazines in the world. Some of his articles include interviews with Jamie Brewer (AMERICAN HORROR STORY) and Norman Lear (ALL IN THE FAMILY). And he also has produced articles for the new coffee table publications, ZENSATIONS.

David is currently working on the film, that he calls his baby, "MY NEXT BREATH" which he created and is producing starring Geri Jewell, Mark Povinelli, Angela Rockwood, Tobias Forrest, Auti Angel, Kathy Buckley and the late Danny Murphy. The film also has appearances by Corey Allen, Jamie Brewer, Norman Lear, and Patrick Stewart.

Trevor Drinkwater: Executive Producer

Trevor Drinkwater is the Founder and CEO of Inclusion Companies LLC. Mr. Drinkwater started his career with Nestle Waters nearly 30 years ago as a sales representative and became the youngest ever General Manager of the company before he turned 30 years of age. After Nestle Waters, Trevor joined Warner Bros Home Entertainment as its SVP of Sales, where he helped the company launch the highly successful DVD format Mr. Drinkwater has Executive Produced over 10 films. He recently founded Inclusion Companies LLC, which provides consulting and sales services for companies seeking to amplify their corporate responsibility initiatives with a specific focus on Diversity and Inclusion. The company also produces two festivals; The Bentonville Film Festival and The Wellness Your Way Festival.

*"When you look at the trailer for **Carol of the Bells**, you really wouldn't know at first glance (that 70% of the crew had developmental disabilities) and I think the biggest piece of that is saying is that these are people who can function in society just like you and I. And especially with the kind of training you are doing, it works on all of those social skills and it really is bringing it back to showing us how we can all live together." - Heather Lake, FOX5 News San Diego*