

# **the NIGHT of the WHITE PANTS**

**PRODUCTION NOTES**

**[www.nightofthewhitepantsmovie.com](http://www.nightofthewhitepantsmovie.com)**

# THE NIGHT OF THE WHITE PANTS

## Synopsis

A bag full of drugs; an ex-trophy wife with a court order; a groupie searching for a judge; and an ex-CEO with nothing to call his own except the head of a deer. In a single summer night in Dallas, Texas, these things all come crashing together in a punk fable about letting go and learning how to say “F-\*&% it all!”

Max Hagan (TOM WILKINSON) has spent a lifetime pursuing success, and has achieved it in spades. But when we first meet him, this absentee father extraordinaire is lying in bed in his once-swanky Dallas home, quietly contemplating how he managed to sell his multi-million dollar company, lose his HTW (Dallas-speak for "Hot Trophy Wife"), and allow his drug-addled son Millian to move back in. Max's daughter Beth (SELMA BLAIR) owns a small record label and has just gotten a big offer to move to New York. But she is so obsessed with being normal that she can't see the cracks opening up in her own life. Only Max's disabled sister Lolly (GERI JEWELL) seems to see what's happening, but no one is listening.

When Beth asks her father to finally meet her boyfriend, Raff (NICK STAHL) – a kinda punk musician with latent ambitions towards software design – she sets into motion a night for Max that sends his life on an enchanting turn for the worse. Over dinner, a high-strung Beth and a high-on-Xanax Millian start a fight, and Millian exposes Raff as his drug dealer. Before Beth and Max have had a chance to digest this, Barbara waltzes in with two Dallas cops and an eviction notice, leaving Max on the street, with no one to turn to but Raff.

Max and Raff couldn't have less in common. But starting at the club where Raff's band plays, they spend an increasingly surreal night together. Max finds his conservative demeanor and most of his self-control slipping away when an over-sexed, coke-sniffing groupie named Felicia (LAURA JORDAN) targets him. Before he can say, “Royal Fuck!” (Felicia's special toast), Max gives in, and finds himself not just following, but embracing the chaos that ensues. Meanwhile, Raff finds himself playing the role of straight man to the increasingly whacked-out Max -- and a reluctant bond begins to form between them.

As the evening wears on, the two find themselves managing a giant bag of pot, breaking into Max's own house to boost an envelope filled with cash, and searching for a judge at 2 am to marry a pair of rockers. Somehow, everyone winds up in the same suite at a posh Dallas hotel – along with the police – with all of them at a crossroads. Max's first ex, Vivian (FRANCES FISHER) has quietly been trying to help Millian get off drugs. But is it possible when the “new” Max bursts into her suite that she could actually be charmed by his sudden vulnerability? When Raff finds his own business opportunity in the hallway, will he understand his priorities in time to make a decision about moving to New York with Beth? As for Millian – is there a chance that he can clean up for real when his own father is crazier than he is? And just who needs a judge to get married so badly, anyway?

When the air clears in the morning, Max has let go of everything he's believed he wanted, and found in Raff a strangely clear voice for what really matters. For the first time, facing his own mortality, Max begins to find a way back to the family that he had left behind.

# THE NIGHT OF THE WHITE PANTS

## Cast (in order of appearance)

Horace "Raff" Rafferty	Nick Stahl
Max Hagan	Tom Wilkinson
Aunt Lolly	Geri Jewell
Millian Hagan	Fran Kranz
Beth Hagan	Selma Blair
Young Man	Adam Powell
Vivian Hagan	Frances Fisher
Naomi	Jessica McClendon
Barbara Hagan	Janine Turner
Constable	Rick Herod
Gulcon	Harout Yerganian
Trophy Wives Guitar Player	Mike Melendi
Bartendress	Jamie Amaral
Doorman	Brett Brock
Front Desk Clerk	Jon McPhalen
Band Guy #1	Ryan Sumner
Trophy Wives Lead Singer	Toby Halbrooks
Trophy Wives Bass Player	Jeff Halbert
Trophy Wives Drummer	Taylor Young
Felicia Exall	Laura Jordan
Judge Barefoot Johnson	Grant James
Dottie Johnson	Gwyn Little
Bob Brenton	Joe Berryman
Police Officer	Constance Jones
Prison Guard	Lawrence Varnado
Barbara's Attorney	Brent Smiga
Mediator	Louanne Stephens

## Crew

Writer/Director	Amy Talkington
Producer	Anne Harrison
Executive Producers	Tim Forbes
	Glenn Rigberg
	Tom Hardart
	Paul Hardart
Director of Photography	Jim Denault
Editor	David Leonard
Music	Tony Tisdale
Music Supervisors	Susan Jacobs
	Seth Rothschild
Line Producer	Douglas Bruce

Co-Producer  
Production Designer  
Costume Designer  
Casting by  
1st AD  
2nd AD  
1st Assistant Camera  
2nd Assistant Camera  
Additional 2nd Assistant Camera

Steadicam  
Still Photographer  
Camera Utility  
Post Production Supervisor  
Assistant Editors

Script Supervisor  
Art Director  
Set Decorator S.D.S.A.  
Costume Supervisor  
Make-Up  
Hair Stylist  
Prop Master  
Gaffer  
Best Boy Electric  
Electrician  
Set Electric  
Additional Electrics

Key Grip  
Best Boy Grip  
Grips

Additional Grips

Location Manager  
Assistant Location Manager  
Locations Assistant  
Sound Recordist  
Boom Operator  
Playback  
Sound Supervisor  
Dialogue Editor  
Foley Artist  
Foley Engineer  
Sound Assistant

Joey Stewart  
Regina O'Brien  
Lee Hunsacker  
Sheila Jaffe, C.S.A.  
Stewart Young  
LouAnn Wu  
Dan Jackson  
Mike Wohlfield  
Paul Armstrong  
David Brink  
JP Patin  
George Niedson  
Bill Matlock  
Kelli Parsons  
Sarah Connors  
Nick Corrao  
Adam Contini  
Sher Anderson  
Jonathan Shaffer  
Regina O'Brien  
John Smith  
Janet Tallent Dickson  
Melizah Schmidt  
Jason Hammond  
Dave McFarland  
Daniel McGarvey  
Eric Montes  
Jessica Quazi  
Luis Martinez  
Alex Mena  
Danny Williams  
Mike Dunson  
Paul Carroll  
Ashley Burleson  
Nathan Telck  
Greg Carpenter  
Chris Lee  
Mark Hodge  
Jimmy Schwertner  
Melissa Kirkendall  
David Daniel  
Lesa Foust  
Pete Henning  
Damian Volpe  
David Ellinwood  
Shaun Brennan  
Mark Corbin  
Chris Stangroom

Re-recording Mixer  
Production Accountant  
Production Office Coordinator  
Assistant Production Office Coordinator  
Assistant to Amy Talkington  
Production Office Assistants

2nd AD/Key Set PA  
2nd 2nd AD  
Additional 2nd 2nd AD  
Additional Key set PA  
Post Production Accountant

Dave Paterson  
Jenni Wieland  
LG Davis  
Tiffany Leigh Kieran  
Leonora Epstein  
Catherine Cunningham  
Melissa Kirkendall  
Angie Meyer  
Brock Cravy  
Doug Silver  
Jay Serra  
Jason Block

### **2nd Unit**

Director  
DP  
1st AC  
Gaffer  
Key Grip  
Production Assistant  
Texas Music Consultant  
Music Editors

Joey Stewart  
Jim Denault  
Dan Jackson  
Jim Fisher  
Kevin Long  
Paul Riggs  
Donna Pearce  
Anne Pope  
Jamie Lowry

## **NOTES ON THE FILM**

from director Amy Talkington

After years of mining my dark side (in my short films “Number One Fan” and “Second Skin”), I discovered that I would rather express the darkness with light. It has been said that “comedy is tragedy plus time,” so I guess it was just a matter of time until I was able to view my own experiences through this prism.

Ultimately, “The Night of the White Pants” is a comedy about Max Hagan (Tom Wilkinson) and his family. It is about a man who thinks he has controlled everything in his life and discovers that he controls nothing. I liked the idea of throwing a man like this into the chaotic world of punk rock. How would the cultures clash? How would the comedy build? And ultimately how would embracing the “sweet sound of chaos” bring Max back to the family he had nearly lost?

First off, I felt that I needed performances grounded in reality. I knew it’d be much more relatable (and much more funny) to see a somewhat grounded Max tossed into this surreal night. So, rather than casting strictly “comic” actors, I went after actors that could bring me the real and I trusted that the comedy would follow.

Though we were setting out to make a comedy, I did not want to abandon the visual language, which is so important to me as a filmmaker. Jim Denault (my cinematographer), Regina O’Brien (my production designer) and I worked very hard to serve the story and Max’s arc with the visual.

For example, Max, Raff and Beth are each introduced indoors amid their own personal kind of chaos, trapped. However, the two most emotionally enlightened characters, Lolly and Vivian, are introduced in more peaceful interiors with clear images of nature around them. These distinctions are subtle but I think help us to begin to understand these characters, however subconsciously.

As the night progresses, the story grows more and more surreal. I tried to implement this in all aspects of the filmmaking. The camera, the art direction, the editing and even the performances take a turn. They are more out of control, chaotic, brighter, wilder. In essence, the movie embraces the punk rock ethos along with Max.

Ultimately, Max comes down off the drugs and back down to earth. Hung over the next day in jail, Max begins to make sense of the night. He knows that punk is not for him but the night has allowed him to learn to let go and to appreciate the “real” things in his life, such as his family. In the end, we find him, finally, basking in nature and light, enlightened and engaging in a simple game with his family.

## ABOUT THE SOUNDTRACK

Director Amy Talkington, who grew up in the music scene of Deep Ellum in Dallas (and later wrote about music for many national magazines), called upon her connections and friends in the Texas music scene to create a sound that is uniquely Texas -- and we are not talking country music.

“The Night of the White Pants” features more than fifteen songs from Texas bands – ranging from the old-school Austin punk-rockers THE DICKS, to garage-rock legends THE 13<sup>th</sup> FLOOR ELEVATORS to up-and coming Dallas bands such as THE GOLDEN FALCONS to of-the-moment pop sensations SPOON.

The centerpiece song is a cover of the legendary Iggy and the Stooges song “Search and Destroy” by Austin’s YOUNG HEART ATTACK, produced by Robbie Adams (U2, Beck, Smashing Pumpkins).

The movie also features an extraordinary score from new talent, Tony Tisdale. Tisdale used a unique palette of instrumentation, including the ukulele, which perfectly captures the movie’s tone with both feeling and playfulness.

### **The soundtrack includes:**

“The Delicate Place” by SPOON (Austin)

“You’re Gonna Miss Me” by THE 13<sup>th</sup> FLOOR ELEVATORS (Austin)

“Misty Rowe” and the unreleased “Kick the Party” by YOUNG HEART ATTACK (Austin)

“Rich Daddy” by THE DICKS (Austin)

“Dead From the Neck Up” by THE RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS (Austin)

“Tree Frog” by RECORD HOP (Denton)

“Tonight Alive” by MAX CADY (Dallas)

“Balm” and the unreleased “After Party” by THE GOLDEN FALCONS (Dallas)

“Skin Cancer” and “The Wrong Side of Town” by 25% TOBY (Dallas)

“Whose Side Are you On?” by PETER SCHMIDT AND HIS GENTLEMAN SCHOLARS (Dallas)

“Disturbing Tranquilities” by EARL HARVIN TRIO (Dallas)

And a cover of Iggy and the Stooges’ “Search and Destroy” by YOUNG HEART ATTACK

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### AMY TALKINGTON (Writer/Director)

Amy Talkington is a filmmaker and writer best known for her shorts “Second Skin” and “The New Arrival,” both of which were selected by The Sundance Film Festival. Her five short films have screened at numerous festivals worldwide and have received a number of accolades including top festival prizes and the New Line Cinema Award for Best Director. In addition, her shorts have been released on DVD and have been acquired by television worldwide, including sales to Canal + France, HBO and The Sundance Channel. Based on her short films, Amy was selected as one of Filmmaker Magazine’s “25 New Indie Faces to Watch” and has also been featured on MTV, The Sundance Channel, The Independent Film Channel, CNN, E!, MSNBC and the BBC.

“The Night of the White Pants” is Amy’s feature debut. She is currently developing her sophomore effort, “Deeply Shallow and Really Fake,” which is also set in her native Dallas. Working as a writer, Amy penned the feature screenplay “Queen of the Rodeo” for 20th Century Fox and Madonna’s Maverick Entertainment and created original TV pilots for MTV Networks, New Regency, UBU and Tollin-Robbins Productions.

Before making films, Amy wrote about music and film. She has written for *VH-1*, *Spin*, *Mademoiselle*, *College Music Journal*, *Interview*, *Seventeen* and *Ray Gun* magazines. Her photographs have been published in *Rolling Stone* and *Ray Gun*.

Originally from Texas, Amy graduated Magna Cum Laude from Barnard College with a degree in Art History. She went on to study film at Columbia University's Film Division, where she completed her MFA with a concentration in Directing. She was nominated for a Rockefeller Foundation Film Fellowship in 2000.

### ANNE HARRISON (Producer)

Anne Harrison is an independent producer in New York. In addition to “The Night of the White Pants,” she produced the critically acclaimed feature “Two Family House” (Lion's Gate, 2000), which won Dramatic Audience Award at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for Best Actress and Best Screenplay by the Independent Spirit Awards. It was the recipient of Special Mention for Excellence in Filmmaking, National Board of Review, and was selected by Toronto, Deauville, Sundance and numerous regional festivals.

Her projects in development include “Relative Distances,” written and to be directed by Karen Moncrieff; “The Danish Girl” (produced with Gail Mutrux) written by Lucinda Coxon; “Winchell” (produced with Martin Scorsese) written by Steve Zaillian; and “The X-Craft Raid” written by Tim Rose Price. She was formerly Director of Development at Scorsese Productions where she developed, among others: “The Last Temptation of Christ,” “New York Stories,” “Goodfellas,” “The Age of Innocence” and “The Grifters” (directed by Stephen Frears).

Harrison was named by Variety as one of their “50 To Watch.” She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University, where she currently sits on their Creative Arts Advisory Board.

### **JIM DENAULT (Director of Photography)**

During his 21-year career behind the camera, Jim Denault has made a name for himself in the independent film world. He received an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Cinematography in 1996 for “Nadja,” and an Emmy nomination in 2005 for Outstanding Cinematography for a Single-Camera Series category for the HBO series “Carnivále.” He also photographed such groundbreaking films as “Boys Don’t Cry,” and “Maria Full of Grace.” In addition to “Night of the White Pants,” Denault's recent work includes Richard LaGravenese’s “Freedom Writers.”

### **DAVID LEONARD (Editor)**

"The Night of the White Pants" is David Leonard's third project with Amy Talkington. David also edited Talkington's award winning short films, "Number One Fan" and "Second Skin". Leonard has edited over fifteen feature films including Raymond De Fellita's "Two Family House" and "The Thing About My Folks", Michael Almereyda's "Nadja", Alan Taylor's "Palookaville", Hype Williams' "Belly" and Michael Kang's upcoming "The Motel". Leonard has also been an assistant editor on films by Martin Scorsese, Robert Altman, John Sayles and Tim Burton.

### **TONY TISDALE (Composer)**

Tony Tisdale wrote and performed original music in "Little Miss Sunshine", directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris and starring Greg Kinnear and Toni Collette. Before working in film, he co-created the rock opera "A Tad Bazaar." “The Night of the White Pants” is Tisdale’s debut as composer.

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **TOM WILKINSON (MAX)**

British-born Tom Wilkinson is a veteran of stage and screen. It was his film role in the British and international box office sensation, "The Full Monty" followed by his performance in the Oscar-winning "Shakespeare in Love," that first brought him to the fore with worldwide audiences.

Wilkinson followed that run with wide acclaim and nominations for his unforgettable performance as a grieving father in "In the Bedroom" opposite Sissy Spacek. His honors for that film include an Academy Award® nomination, a BAFTA nomination, a Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and Best Actor Awards at the New York Film Critics Awards and Independent Spirit Awards. Wilkinson next broadened his scope by playing the transgendered husband to Jessica Lange in the HBO Production "Normal," for which he received Emmy and Golden Globe nominations.

Wilkinson's broad range of film roles also includes "Sense & Sensibility," "Smilla's Sense of Snow," "Oscar & Lucinda," "Ride with the Devil," "The Importance of Being Earnest" and the critically acclaimed "The Girl with the Pearl Earring." His recent roles include the critically praised "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" with Kate Winslet and Jim Carrey; "Stage Beauty" with Billy Crudup; "Piccadilly Jim," from a screenplay by Julian Fellowes adapted from P.G. Wodehouse; "A Good Woman" with Helen Hunt and Scarlett Johansson; "Batman Begins" with Christian Bale; "Ripley Under Ground"; "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" with Laura Linney; and "Separate Lies" with Emily Watson and Rupert Everett, for which he received a London Film Critics nomination. He also stars in the upcoming "Last Kiss" for Lakeshore with Zach Braff and Blythe Danner and the independent "Dedication" with Billy Crudup and Mandy Moore.

On stage, Wilkinson's theatre work includes the role of John Proctor in "The Crucible" at the Royal National Theatre, the title role in "King Lear" at the Royal Court, Dr Stockmann in the award winning production with Vanessa Redgrave of "Enemy of the People" in the West End and a Critics Circle Award-winning performance in "Ghosts." He also won acclaim at the Royal Court in the title role of "King Lear" and some years later David Hare's production of "My Zinc Bed" with Julia Ormond. Television credits include Pecksniff in the award winning BBC TV series "Martin Chuzzlewit" and the Duke in David Thacker's production of "Measure for Measure" as part of the Performance series for the BBC. Tom was nominated for a BAFTA for Best Actor for his performance in Piers Haggard's drama "Cold Enough For Snow."

### **NICK STAHL (RAFF)**

After an impressive feature film debut at the age of twelve, Nick Stahl has continued to display a broad range of talent. Stahl most recently starred in the feature film "Sin City" for Dimension Films and director Robert Rodriguez opposite Bruce Willis, Jessica Alba, and Clive Owen. He was also seen in the HBO's critically acclaimed series "Carnivale" in which he starred as 'Ben Hawkins'. Stahl also recently starred as 'John Connor' in "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger and Claire Danes for Warner Bros. He was also seen in the

indie film “Twist” and the Sundance feature “Bookies.”

Over the years, Stahl has maintained his presence with a number of films, most notably in the critically acclaimed film, “In the Bedroom,” for Miramax Films. Also memorable, was his chilling performance in director Larry Clark’s “Bully,” opposite Brad Renfro and Bijou Phillips. His other film credits include Twentieth Century Fox’s “The Thin Red Line,” directed by Terence Malick and co-starring Sean Penn and George Clooney, and New Line Cinema’s “Safe Passage,” opposite Susan Sarandon and Sam Shepard.

### **SELMA BLAIR (BETH)**

Selma Blair first gained the attention of the moviegoing public with her performance in “Cruel Intentions,” a youthful retelling of the classic novel *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Selma starred for two seasons as the title character in the WB’s “Zoe” and then appeared in the hit comedy, “Legally Blonde” opposite Reese Witherspoon, and co-starred with Cameron Diaz and Christina Applegate in “The Sweetest Thing.” She then starred in two independent films that garnered her much critical acclaim, Dana Lustig’s “Kill Me Later” and Todd Solodnz’s controversial “Storytelling.”

In 2004, Selma starred in Guillermo del Toro’s “Hellboy”--the sequel to which she will shoot next year--and appeared in John Waters’ “A Dirty Shame.” Her other recent film credits include Paul Weitz’s “In Good Company” opposite Topher Grace; “Pretty Pesuasion”; “The Alibi” opposite Steve Koogan, and Thomas Sigel’s “The Big Empty” opposite Elias Koteas. This past year she was seen in the remake of John Carpenter’s “The Fog.” She recently wrapped production on Ed Burns’ “Purple Violets.”

### **FRANCES FISHER (VIVIAN)**

Frances Fisher, is perhaps best known for her role in James Cameron’s blockbuster Academy Award-winning film, “Titanic,” where her performance as Kate Winslet’s mother in the film helped earn the cast a Screen Actors Guild nomination for Best Ensemble Cast. She is currently working on the feature film version “Conversations with God,” and recently appeared in “Laws of Attraction,” with Pierce Brosnan, “House of Sand and Fog” opposite Sir Ben Kingsley and Jennifer Connelly. Other film credits include the offbeat comedy “The Big Tease” with Craig Ferguson; “True Crime” with Clint Eastwood; and the Oscar-winning “Unforgiven.” She also co-starred with Robert Duvall and Aiden Quinn in “The Stars Fell on Henrietta.” Additionally, Fisher had starring roles in “Tough Guys Don’t Dance,” “Female Perversions,” “Babyfever” and “Patty Hearst.”

For television, Fisher starred in CBS’ “Jackie O: A Life Story” as Janet Bouvier; ABC’s “The Audrey Hepburn Story” with Jennifer Love Hewitt; and as Lucille Ball in “Lucy and Desi: Before the Laughter”; and on the FOX series “Titus.” She will be starring on stage opposite Annette Benning and Alfred Molina in a production of Anton Chekhov’s “The Cherry Orchard” to be performed at the Mark Taper theatre in Los Angeles.

### **JANINE TURNER (BARBARA)**

Janine Turner is best known for her role as Maggie O'Connell in CBS's "Northern Exposure," for which she received three golden Globe Best Actress nominations and one Emmy nomination. Her film work has included Robert Altman's "Dr. T. and the Women," "Cliffhanger" with Sylvester Stallone, the role of June Cleaver in the feature film version of "Leave it to Beaver," and "Steel Magnolias." In 2002 she directed her first short, "Trip in a Summer Dress." She was chosen as one of People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People and Ten Best Dressed, US Magazine's Ten Sexiest and Ten Most Beautiful and as one of Esquire Magazine's Women We Love. Janine lives with her daughter in her native Texas.

### **LAURA JORDAN (FELICIA)**

Laura Jordan has just finished work on "Brothers & Sisters", the Touchstone pilot for ABC. Her film credits include a starring role in the upcoming indie "Final Draft," Jim Donovan's "Pure", which has screened at the DGA as part of the IAESDO Film Series, as well as the independent short "The New World," written and directed by Academy Award-nominated writer/director Terence Malick. Her other film and television credits include the MTV original movie "The Real World: The Lost Season," "Worlds Apart," "Our Hero," "DeGrassi: The Next Generation," and "Mutant X." Laura trained several years with the Canadian Opera Company (Alto) and is fluent in French.

### **FRAN KRANZ (MILLIAN)**

As a recent graduate of Yale University, Fran Kranz is considered a budding talent on both the stage and screen. Kranz has recently wrapped starring roles in two independent features: "The TV Set" opposite David Duchovny and Sigourney Weaver and directed by Jake Kasdan, and "Careless" opposite Colin Hanks and directed by Peter Spears. Additional film credits include "The Village", "Matchstick Men", "Orange County" and "Training Day" as well as the upcoming films "Rise", directed by Sebastian Guitierrez, and "Bickford Schmeckler's Cool Ideas", directed by Scott Lew. Kranz also has extensive theatre credits from his time at Yale.

### **GERI JEWELL (AUNT LOLLY)**

Geri Jewell has been best known to millions as "Cousin Geri" from the ground-breaking NBC sitcom, "The Facts of Life." More recently, she has co-starred as part of the ensemble for the acclaimed HBO series, "Deadwood." Geri can also be seen as the re-occurring role of Rose on the hit daytime show "The Young and the Restless". After beginning as a stand-up comedian, Geri started her acting career as the personal choice of famed producer Norman Lear for her role as Cousin Geri. With this role she became the first person with a visible disability to become a regular performer on a national television show. During her run on the show she broke important new ground by addressing issues of disability awareness.