

PRODUCTION NOTES



UK RELEASE DATE 2 MARCH 2007

Hilary Duff's new fragrance *With Love... by Hilary Duff* is in selected stores from 11 March

Hilary Duff's new single *With Love* is released 19 March

Hilary Duff's new album is released 2 April

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS
UK Release Date 2 March 2007

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

**SYNOPSIS**

To Ava (Haylie Duff) and Tanzie Marchetta (Hilary Duff), adult responsibilities are making sure their shoes are in season, getting into the right clubs, and, in Ava's case, being engaged to the right TV star. Ava and Tanzie are the "face" of Marchetta Cosmetics, the mega-company their late father built from the ground up, and as a consequence they've never had to develop any skills beyond looking good.

Other than the occasional board meeting or photo shoot, the sisters mostly let their father's trusted partner, Tommy (Brent Spiner) and CFO Craig (Obba Babatundé), look after the company while their housekeeper, Inez (Maria Conchita Alonso), the only "mother" they've ever known, looks after their house.

But when Tommy presents a takeover offer from their father's arch-rival Fabiella (Anjelica Huston), Tanzie takes a stand. She secretly harbors dreams of becoming a chemist like her dad and shudders at the thought of Fabiella taking over what their father believed in so passionately.

But Ava and Tanzie's world is turned upside down when an investigative reporter breaks a blockbuster story that one of Marchetta's best products is a health hazard. He even has footage of a disfigured victim to prove it. Suddenly, the news media is hounding the celebutantes for something other than paparazzi pictures. Their assets are frozen. Their staff flees. Soon, their house and car are gone and the two young women who had the world in the palm of their hand find themselves with nothing but the couture on their backs. Is there even a way around Los Angeles that isn't in the back of a limo?

Though the easiest option would be to let Fabiella take the company and walk away with millions, the girls realise they're tougher than that and set out to get to the bottom of the accusations against their dad. With the help of Inez and some new friends – a Marchetta chemist (Marcus Coloma) and a free legal aid attorney (Lukas Haas) – Ava and Tanzie use skills and resources they never knew they had to grow up, clear their father's name, and in the process, discover who they really are.

Maverick Films and Patriot Pictures present *Material Girls*, starring acclaimed performers and real-life sisters Hilary Duff and Haylie Duff, who team up for the first time. The film is directed by Martha Coolidge from a script by John Quaintance and Amy Rardin & Jessica O'Toole. *Material Girls* also stars Anjelica Huston, Brent Spiner, Maria Conchita Alonso, Lukas Haas, Marcus Coloma and Obba Babatundé and is produced by Eve LaDue, David Faigenblum, Milton Kim, Mark Morgan, Hilary Duff, Susan Duff and Guy Oseary. The executive producers are Michael Mendelsohn and Tim Wesley. Johnny Jensen is the director of photography; James Spencer is the production designer; Steven Cohen is the editor, and Van B. Ramsey designed the costumes.

ABOUT THE FILM

Platinum-selling musical artist Hilary Duff, who has starred in such films as *Raise Your Voice* and *Cheaper By the Dozen*, has always wanted to act opposite her sister, Haylie Duff, who is also a musical performer and recently starred in the comedy phenomenon *Napoleon Dynamite*. "It's something we've wanted for a very long time," says Haylie Duff, "from the time we were little girls and would play dress up and act out little skits in our backyard."

While MATERIAL GIRLS is a summer comedy, it also has a message of hope, respect and self-determination that resonated with both sisters. "This film has a fun story, with lots of laughs and outrageous situations, but it also has a heartwarming message about how these girls need to recognize their potential," says Hilary Duff. Director Martha Coolidge agrees. "There is so much depth in this story about the girls losing their father and

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS
UK Release Date 2 March 2007

coming to grips with being without a parent and standing up for yourself," she says. "Deep in its heart, I think that's what this movie is about, and that's ultimately what I responded to." "Martha gave us the freedom to change some of it to reflect our voices," says Hilary Duff. "She allowed us to have fun in the development of our characters." Says Haylie Duff, "I've really learned a lot from her."

Hilary Duff and Haylie Duff play wealthy Los Angeles celebutantes Tanzie and Ava Marchetta, who live in a whirlwind of glamour and notoriety. Ava is about to announce her engagement to TV hunk Mic Rionn (pronounced "Mike Ryan") while Tanzie harbors secret dreams of following her late father Vincent Marchetta into chemistry, which she plans to study at UCLA. "The similarities between the two girls in the story and my girls are so close it's scary," says MATERIAL GIRLS producer, and mother of its two stars, Susan Duff. "Ava, like Haylie, is a free spirit. Tanzie, like Hilary, is the one who's always trying to keep everything balanced and on level ground."

On the eve of a charity event honoring their late father, Vincent, the Marchettas learn that sales at the company have been flat and their father's arch-rival Fabiella wants to acquire the company for her own cosmetics empire. Oscar-winning actress Anjelica Huston plays Fabiella. "I seem to be fated to play strong women in one sense or another, but I didn't want Fabiella to be the stereotypical villain of the piece," says Huston. "With Martha's help, we found a good balance for the character. It turned out to be a very fun job for me." Though the acclaimed actress is best known for her turns in such dramatic fare as *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, *The Grifters* and *The Dead*, she relished the opportunity to play a lighter role. "It was a fun script about young women coming of age and coming to terms with who they are," says Huston. "It's been a really nice part of my career to be able to do movies directed at younger audiences, like *The Addams Family* or *The Witches*."

The real trouble for the two Marchetta sisters descends during a charity event when a scandalous breaking story is streamed directly to the on-stage monitor as Ava and Tanzie are accepting an award on their father's behalf. Consumer reporter Ned Nakamora (Henry Cho) reveals that participants in a test study for Marchetta's Everdew formula suffered life-long disfigurement and scarring from the product. Adding insult to injury, Mic Rionn's agent breaks off Ava's relationship with his client!

In the ensuing chaos of the scandal, Marchetta stock takes a drastic drop and the girls' assets are frozen. Since the girls appear to have no discernible practical skills or business acumen, they have left the running of the business to Tommy Katzenbach, who founded Marchetta Cosmetics with their father and now thinks their best course of action is to sell.

Tommy is played by Brent Spiner, who is perhaps best known for his role of Data in the long-running *Star Trek: The Next Generation* series. "Brent is a chameleon to the point of not being able to recognize him from movie to movie," describes director Coolidge. "He's funny, sweet and loveable all at the same time, which is very important for the character of Tommy." Spiner has worked with director Coolidge on three previous projects (*Out to Sea*, *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge* and *The Ponder Heart*). "For me, there's an ease about working with Martha," says the actor. "She's very collaborative and always asks for ideas from her actors."

Now penniless, the Marchetta sisters have no where to go but to the home of their housekeeper, Inez, played by Maria Conchita Alonso, who seems to be the only true friend they have left in the world. "Inez is not a person who cares about her external beauty," says Alonso. "Although she works for very wealthy people, in her own life, she's not as well off. By showing them kindness and helping them to get back on their feet, Inez shows the girls that there are some great rewards to making your own way and working towards achieving what you want, rather than having it handed to you."

Tommy urges the girls to sell the company to Fabiella, but Ava senses something fishy about the offer and is determined to find out what's going on. Down and out, the girls find an unexpected ally in Rick (Marcus Coloma), a Marchetta lab technician, who catches would-be chemist Tanzie's heart when he helps them outrun the paparazzi.

They also seek help from a free legal aid attorney, Henry (Lukas Haas), whom the girls had already turned down for a corporate donation. Haas last worked with Coolidge as an adolescent when he starred in the director's film, *Rambling Rose*. *"Even at fourteen it was like working with a complete adult, professional, accomplished actor,"* says Coolidge. *"What makes this project even more fun is that he's never done a part like this before – a romantic lead like in a 1930s-esque screwball comedy. He's offbeat but intelligent and has a kind of laid-back energy, which is perfect for Henry and gives him great chemistry with Hilary and Haylie."* *"It was great fun for me to play the voice of reason to their craziness,"* says Haas, who thoroughly enjoyed working with the Duff sisters. *"The second I stepped on the set, they embraced me and really took the time to get to know me and make me feel comfortable."*

Henry steers the girls toward hiring a private investigator until they realise they have no funds and will therefore have to do the detective work themselves, "Erin Brockovich"-style. While Ava tracks down Ned Nakamura, Tanzie examines the Everdew chemistry, ultimately winding up in jail for her efforts but uncovering an important clue in the scandal's on-screen "victim" (Judy Tenuda). But the girls have glimpsed the truth about their predicament and will use every trick they've learned, and some that just come naturally, to unmask the culprit, and reclaim the future they want for themselves.

Though the two main characters are sent to the brink of their admittedly facile existence, they come to discover their own inner strength when forced to rescue themselves and redeem their father, rather than the other way around. *"Over the course of the film, our characters learn how to distinguish the things that are really important in life - family, having respect for others, as well as yourself and learning how to earn that respect from others, instead of demanding and expecting it,"* says Haylie Duff. *"One's financial position in life shouldn't determine how you treat others."*

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Though Hilary and Haylie Duff have only a handful of films under their belts, Coolidge has high praise for their work. *"They're very talented, willing to work and have been great with the rest of the cast and the crew,"* she says. *"Despite their young ages, they both bring enormous experience to the making of the picture in the comedy as well as the experience of being 'celebutantes,' which is essential to their characters."* Anjelica Huston agrees. *"Hilary and Haylie are sweet, fun, charming girls,"* she says. *"They're extraordinarily accomplished. When they're not making movies, they're recording or promoting. They have a very full life and are extremely well mannered and gracious. They were a pleasure to work with."*

"This film is about two girls who really don't have any talents when we first meet them," describes Coolidge. *"They're famous for just being there. The fact that they are real sisters is priceless. They know what natural sister love and natural sister conflict is. They've shared those experiences with both their characters and me. You can't buy the kind of interplay they have. They're great together and really help each other in their scenes. Their courtesy and respect towards each other is really quite remarkable and great to watch. It's obvious that they love what they do"*.

Coolidge was likewise thrilled with the opportunity to fill out the cast with actors with whom she has previously collaborated. Also featured in the cast are Eric Hodges (*Even Stevens, Boomtown, David and Lisa*), Henry Cho (*Say It Isn't So, Revenge of the Nerds III*), Brandon Beemer (*Suits On the Loose, CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*), Colleen Camp (*Clue, Die Hard 3*), Reagan Dale Neis (*A Minute With Stan Hooper, Stark Raving Mad, Malcolm in the Middle*) and comedienne Judy Tenuta.

"When you work with great actors, people who you click with, it's wonderful to use them again when you have the right part," she says. *"We had a very short prep time for MATERIAL GIRLS, so for me to bring in people that I can rely on, like Brent, Lukas, Obba Babtunde and Colleen Camp, that takes one layer of pressure off of*

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS **UK Release Date 2 March 2007**

me. In addition, I've found some new actors on this film that I hope to work with again in future films, and that includes Hilary and Haylie."

Both Duff sisters admit that their strong bond gave them the natural ease and fluidity with each other that was necessary for their roles. *"I never felt alone for a second during the making of this film,"* says Hilary Duff. *"Haylie and I are best friends as well as sisters and we have our own little language. We can give each other advice and help each other in the scenes."* *"It's like having a security blanket with you at all times,"* says Haylie. *"There's always someone on our side that respects us and cares about the other's feelings, and that gives us the freedom when we want to try to experiment with something in a scene, to try to make it a little different or better. With Hilary, I never feel like I'm being judged."*

Their closeness as siblings demonstrated itself off-screen as well, as they chose to share a trailer, rather than have separate facilities during the filming of the movie. *"We drive to work together, bring our dogs to the set, and spend our off-screen time together in the trailer. I would do this all the time if I could,"* says Hilary.

Prior to the commencement of the filming, Hilary and Haylie Duff gave their director the benefit of their wisdom and experience in the world they were about to portray onscreen. *"This is a movie about style,"* explains Coolidge, *"and it was very important to me to establish that style. I felt it had to be done authentically to give the audience the respect they deserve. They know about this world. They see this world everyday on television, they read about it in newspapers and magazines. I wanted to give it the look that they have come to know and then put our own personal touch on it."* The girls took the filmmakers on a night of club-hopping that helped shape the look and feel of the film. Their own personal fashion styles also informed the filmmakers' work.

As Los Angeles itself is a character in the film, it was fitting that principal photography on MATERIAL GIRLS began with the cast and crew assembling in downtown LA. *"We really tried to play up the setting of this city,"* says production designer James Spencer. *"We wanted to find places in LA that not many people have seen, and take an approach toward the visual aspect of the picture that was unusual and at the same time, very real."* To that end, the production found itself in several of LA's hottest nightclubs shooting long before and after those clubs would normally be in operation. The Wella Cosmetics company in the suburbs of Los Angeles allowed its headquarters to be transformed into the Marchetta Company, providing a unique and realistic window into the world of cosmetics production. To film the grittier legs of the girls' journey, the film crew took to the historic district of Echo Park as well as the crowded streets of downtown LA to capture the city's lively, earthy, urban feel. Everywhere they went, curious onlookers watched avidly as the Duff sisters portrayed the two fish-out-of-water Marchetta girls. *"All in all,"* observes Coolidge, *"it was a great pleasure to explore Los Angeles as we really know it."*

Two months after they began, filming wrapped on MATERIAL GIRLS, yet there was still one very daunting challenge for Hilary and Haylie Duff to undertake. Both accomplished singers and musicians, the girls wanted to re-record the classic pop anthem made famous by Madonna which also serves as the title of their film, *Material Girl*. *"It's a great honor, but there is a little bit of pressure,"* admits Hilary Duff. *"Haylie and I grew up listening to Madonna and loving her music and Material Girl is a landmark song. Our version is going to be different from the original, in that we were thinking of doing several variations, going a little more hip hop urban, maybe having a rapper come in for another, and then one version with just Haylie and me. We hope audiences will like our take on it, but most of all, we hope Madonna likes it."* *"What I hope audiences get from MATERIAL GIRLS,"* offers Martha Coolidge, *"is that it touches their heart a little, that they feel something for these girls and what they learn...that they can appreciate some of our silly values and celebrity, but they shouldn't take over your life. Most of all, I hope they walk out of the theatre singing, humming and laughing. Messages notwithstanding, it's really just meant to be a wonderful time."*

ABOUT THE CAST

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS
UK Release Date 2 March 2007

Having barely reached her 18th birthday, **HILARY DUFF** (Tanzie Marchetta) has already conquered the worlds of television, music and motion pictures. Duff came to prominence in 2001 as the star of Disney's *Lizzie McGuire* television series. Her film credits include starring roles in *The Lizzie McGuire Movie*, *Agent Cody Banks*, *Cheaper By The Dozen*, *Raise Your Voice* and *A Cinderella Story*, which grossed 30 million dollars in less than two weeks. The top 10 soundtrack for *A Cinderella Story* featured *Our Lips Are Sealed*, Hilary and Haylie Duffs' cover of the Go-Go's song.

Her Hollywood Records album entitled *Metamorphosis* sold over 5 million copies worldwide. She followed that with her self-titled album, *Hilary Duff*. Duff's 36-date Most Wanted Tour, which featured sister Haylie as an opening act, sold out in most major markets around the U.S and was followed by the DVD of the tour, *The Girl Can Rock*.

Hilary Duff and Haylie Duff's voices are also featured in Miramax Home Entertainment's animated DVD *In Search Of Santa*. Her most recent film was *The Perfect Man*, starring alongside Heather Locklear and Christopher Noth. Immediately following the completion of MATERIAL GIRLS, Duff embarked on another cross-country music tour, and reprised her role in *Cheaper By the Dozen 2*.

Even with that kind of nonstop schedule, Hilary still finds time to give back to those less fortunate. A charter member of the Kids With a Cause organization, Hilary sponsored a "Food for a Friend" drive that collected canned foods brought to her show in each city to feed more than 22,000 youngsters at shelters around the country.

HAYLIE DUFF (Ava Marchetta) was born and raised in Houston, Texas. She discovered acting through ballet when she landed a spot in the Ballet Met Performance of *The Nutcracker*. Haylie Duff first appeared in the two-part mini-series *True Women* and soon after in Goldie Hawn's directorial debut *Hope*, both filmed in Texas. Haylie and sister Hilary Duff were soon out in California pursuing acting full time. She booked her first audition and quickly landed roles in such films as *Addams Family Reunion*, *The Newman Shower*, and *Dreams in the Attic* and guest-starring roles in the television series *Third Watch*, *Boston Public*, *The Amanda Show*, and *Chicago Hope*.

Haylie Duff, like her sister, is also a very talented singer/songwriter. For two years she was a member of the girl group *Trilogy* and has now gone on to pursue a solo career. She wrote two songs on Hilary Duff's hit solo debut album *Metamorphosis* and wrote and recorded the theme song for a series of Christian DVDs called *Surf City Summer* in which she also voices the animated lead character.

The actress has also appeared in *This Girl's Life*, *I Love Your Work*, and *That's So Raven* and co-starred in comedy phenomenon *Napoleon Dynamite*. Duff recently starred as Amber Von Tussle on Broadway in the hit musical *Hairspray*. When not filming or in a recording studio she loves to go to the beach with her sister and her dogs and spend hours painting pottery.

ANJELICA HUSTON (Fabiella) is an Academy Award-winning actress and critically acclaimed director. Raised in Ireland, Huston is part of the third generation of a renowned cinematic legacy. She was recently seen starring alongside Bill Murray in Wes Anderson's *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*. She received a Golden Globe Award and was nominated for an Emmy Award for her role in HBO's original movie *Iron Jawed Angels* in which she starred with Hilary Swank and Julia Ormond. Huston recently filmed *Art School Confidential* directed by Terry Zwigoff and starring John Malkovich and Jim Broadbent. She recently directed Rosie O'Donnell and Andie MacDowell in the Hallmark/CBS television movie *Riding on the Bus with my Sister*.

Huston received an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, as well as Los Angeles and New York Film Critics Awards, for her role as Maerose Prizzi in the black comedy *Prizzi's Honor*, her first adult collaboration with her father, John Huston. Additionally, Huston has made extraordinary characters come to life with

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS
UK Release Date 2 March 2007

memorable performances in films such as *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *The Addams Family* and *Addams Family Values*, and Nicholas Roeg's *The Witches*.

The actress made her directorial debut in 1996 with her adaptation of Dorothy Allison's best-selling memoir, *Bastard Out Of Carolina* for which she was nominated for a Director's Guild of America Award and an Emmy Award. Huston directed, produced and starred in *Agnes Browne*, which was presented at the Directors' Fortnight at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival. Her other feature film credits include *Ever After* with Drew Barrymore, for which she won the Blockbuster Entertainment Award for Best Supporting Actress, and *The Crossing Guard*, directed by Sean Penn, with Jack Nicholson, for which she received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Supporting Actress. Huston has been honored with Academy Award nominations for her roles in Paul Mazursky's *Enemies: A Love Story* and Stephen Fears' *The Grifters*. Additional film credits include *Daddy Day Care*, Clint Eastwood's *Bloodwork*, Woody Allen's *Manhattan Murder Mystery* and *Crimes and Misdemeanors*; Frances Ford Coppola's *Gardens of Stone*; *Buffalo '66*, *The Golden Bowl*, *Handful of Dust*, *Mr. North* directed by Danny Huston, *The Perez Family* directed by Mira Nair, and her father's last film, *The Dead*.

In television, she received an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actress, as well as a SAG Award nomination for TNT's mini-series *The Mists of Avalon*. She received Emmy nominations for her performance as Calamity Jane in the mini-series *Buffalo Girls* and for her performance opposite Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones in the mini-series *Lonesome Dove*. She was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for her performance opposite Sam Neill in the television film *Family Pictures*.

BRENT SPINER (Tommy) is known worldwide for his portrayal of the android Data for all seven seasons of the television series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, as well as in 4 subsequent *Star Trek* feature films. In addition to acting chores on *Star Trek Nemesis*, Spiner created the story for the film, along with Academy Award nominated screenwriter John Logan. For his work in *Star Trek: First Contact*, Spiner earned a Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Science Fiction or Fantasy Film. The actor's additional film credits include *The Aviator*, *Independence Day*, *Phenomenon* and *Out to Sea* opposite Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon for MATERIAL GIRLS director Martha Coolidge. He also starred with Dana Carvey in *Master of Disguise*, and made a brief cameo in the critically acclaimed *I Am Sam*, starring Sean Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer.

On television, Spiner worked for director Coolidge, first opposite Halle Berry in the award-winning HBO biopic *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge* followed by the drama *The Ponder Heart*. He also starred as the villainous Stromboli in the ABC musical *Geppetto*, starring Drew Carey. He has guest-starred on the series *Joey*, *Mad About You*, *The Outer Limits*, *Dream On* and *Cheers*, and has appeared in the TNT telefilms *Huey Long* and *Crazy From the Heart*.

Spiner has an extensive list of credits both on and off-Broadway. He was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for his performance as John Adams in the Tony-nominated revival of the musical *1776*, and also starred in a touring production of *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, directed by his *Star Trek* co-star Patrick Stewart. Spiner, who sings in the films *Out to Sea*, *Star Trek: Nemesis* and *Star Trek: Insurrection* also released an album of popular standards, which he called *O! Yellow Eyes is Back*. Following his work on MATERIAL GIRLS, Spiner appeared in the acclaimed CBS television series *Threshold*.

Born in Cuba and raised in Venezuela, **MARIA CONCHITA ALONSO** (Inez) knew at an early age she wanted to be a performer. Her career started when she was crowned "Miss Teenager of Venezuela", then "Miss Teenager of the World", and soon thereafter named "Miss Venezuela" in the "Miss World" beauty pageant. She became one of the top models of her time, and then conquered the hearts of millions of viewers in the Hispanic world, starring in more than 11 soap operas and movies. Shortly after her arrival in the United States, she was cast opposite Robin Williams in *Moscow on the Hudson*. Since that debut, she has acted in more than 50 films alongside such luminaries as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sean Penn, Nicolas Cage and Jeremy Irons in features

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS
UK Release Date 2 March 2007

such as *The Running Man*, *Touch and Go*, *A Fine Mess*, *Predator 2*, *Colors*, *Vampire's Kiss* and *Blackheart*, to name but a few.

Alonso has been honored with the Hispanic Woman of the Year Award, Golden Globe Awards and the ALMA Award for Best Actress. She was given an Independent Spirit Award as Best Actress for the movie *Caught*, which also starred Edward James Olmos.

Maria Conchita's musical talents are highly recognized by the music industry as well as audiences worldwide. Her success as a singer/songwriter has placed her on top of international hit parades. Multiple number 1 albums, platinum and gold records sales have contributed to her nominations for GRAMMY awards in: Best Latin Artist for her album *Maria Conchita*, Best Latin Performance for the single *Otra Mentira Mas* and Best Latin Pop Album for *Imaginame*, in which she co-authored seven songs. She also performed and co-wrote *Vamos a Bailar* for the movie *Scarface* with Al Pacino. Her latest CD is entitled *Soy*.

Alonso was the first Latina not born in the United States to star on Broadway, in *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*. In Los Angeles' she appeared in Neil Simon's adaptation of *The Odd Couple* and toured with *The Vagina Monologues*, through various North American cities. She was also the first Latina ever to receive the Key to the City of Las Vegas. Recently, Maria Conchita shot the feature film *English as a Second Language*, as well as *El Muerto* with Wilmer Valderrama (from "That 70's Show").

LUKAS HAAS' (Henry) career was launched in 1984, when, at the age of seven, he landed the role of Samuel opposite Harrison Ford in the Peter Weir film *Witness*. His performance as the Amish child who is the sole witness to an undercover cop's murder won the hearts of moviegoers and the acclaim of the critics. Soon thereafter he landed starring roles in such films as *Lady In White*, *The Wizard of Loneliness*, and *Alan and Naomi*, which was co-written by his mother, Emily Haas.

The actor was subsequently nominated for an Emmy for his portrayal of AIDS victim Ryan White in the controversial TV movie *The Ryan White Story* and continued to distinguish himself in film in starring roles opposite some of our most celebrated actors including Jessica Lang in *The Music Box* for director Costa Gravas, Robert Duvall (who Haas first starred opposite one year earlier in *Convicts*) and Laura Dern in *Rambling Rose* for MATERIAL GIRLS director Martha Coolidge, and John C. Reilly and Winona Ryder in *Boys*.

On stage, Haas performed alongside Steve Martin and Robin Williams in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* at Lincoln Center in New York City for director Mike Nichols.

Haas has worked with acclaimed directors such as Woody Allen for *Everyone Says I Love You*, Tim Burton for *Mars Attacks*, and Alan Rudolph for *The Breakfast of Champions*, to name just a few.

His most recent work includes *Brick*, which screened in competition at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, *Last Days* directed by Gus Van Sant, which premiered in Cannes this year and *Alpha Dog* alongside Justin Timberlake and Emile Hirsch for director Nick Cassavetes. Haas recently filmed a pilot with David Arquette for MTV tentatively titled *Dirt Squirrels*. He also continues to pursue his other passion, music, and has performed with the band Outkast and with Macy Gray.

MARCUS COLOMA (Rick) will soon be seen as a regular on the upcoming television series *South Beach*. He had a recurring role on the FOX series *Point Pleasant* and has guest-starred on series such as *JAG* and *Strong Medicine*.

OBBA BABATUNDÉ (Craig) is one of the busiest actors in Hollywood, juggling careers in film, television and stage. His most recent appearances include the features *The Manchurian Candidate*, *The Notebook* and *After the Sunset*, while continuing to star as the father of two sisters in the UPN sitcom *Half & Half*.

Babatundé's acting portfolio includes the motion pictures *John Q*, *How High*, his memorable role as Lamar in *That Thing You Do*, *Philadelphia*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, *The Temptations*, and *The Visit* among others.

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS
UK Release Date 2 March 2007

Additional television credits include the title role in the USA Network's film *Redeemer*, and the role of Kenny's father in the award-winning Showtime drama series *Soul Food*.

The talented artist earned Emmy and Cable ACE Award nominations for his role as Willie Johnson in HBO's *Miss Evers' Boys*, and a NAACP Image Award nomination for his portrayal of Harold Nicholas in HBO's *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*.

Babatundé also boasts multiple Broadway credits, and is best known for his Tony-nominated role as C.C. White in the original Broadway production of *Dreamgirls*. Other stage performances include Billy Flynn in *Chicago*, Hal Prince's *Grind* and he originated the role of the legendary jazz artist Jelly Roll Morton in the world premiere of *Jelly's Last Jam*. He next stars in the highly anticipated feature film *The Celestine Prophecy*, based on the best-selling book.

FAITH PRINCE (Pam) was last seen on Broadway in *Noises Off* along with Patti LuPone and Peter Gallagher. In 2001 Faith starred on Broadway as Ella Peterson in the Comden and Green classic *Bells Are Ringing*, for which she received Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk, and Tony Award nominations. She is best known for her Tony-winning turn as the perennially unwed Miss Adelaide in the 1992 Broadway revival of *Guys and Dolls*, for which she also won Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle awards. She created major Broadway roles in *Jerome Robbins' Broadway* (Tony, Drama Desk nominations), *Nick and Nora* (Outer Critics Circle award), and *Little Me* with Martin Short, as well as playing an acclaimed Anna in the recent revival of *The King and I*. After starring in Broadway's James Joyce's *The Dead*, she reprised her role for the West Coast and Washington premieres of that production (Ovation, Helen Hayes nominations). Faith originated the character of Trina in William Finn's *Falsettoland*, and also appeared off-Broadway in *Bad Habits*, *Urban Blight*, *Groucho*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Olympus on My Mind*, and *Scrambled Feet*.

On television, she has been a recurring guest star on *Spin City* and *Now and Again* and was featured in the PBS special *My Favorite Broadway*. Her additional TV credits include *House*, *Huff*, *Monk*, *Welcome to New York*, *Law & Order*, *High Society*, *Encyclopedia*, and the Hallmark Hall of Fame film *A Season for Miracles*. She has also been featured in the films *Picture Perfect*, *My Father the Hero*, *Dave*, *The Last Dragon* and *Big Bully*. Faith made an award-winning cabaret debut at Joe's Pub in New York City, as well as the live recording, *A Leap of Faith*, for DRG Records.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

"All my films have been about people facing personal challenges in their lives and overcoming them", says **MARTHA COOLIDGE** (Director). *MATERIAL GIRLS* returns the director to the worlds of comedy and romance of her earlier films like *The Prince & Me*, the ever-popular *Valley Girl* and Oscar-nominated *Rambling Rose*.

A distant cousin of President Calvin Coolidge, Martha was born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, the daughter of two architects. In college she started directing short films at the Rhode Island School of Design. In New York, she worked in commercials and continued her film studies at NYU Graduate Film School and Columbia University. Coolidge began her professional film career directing award-winning documentaries. During this period, she also helped found the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers, Inc. and the IFP.

Coolidge first made her mark in the motion picture industry with her direction of the 1983 feature *Valley Girl*, which introduced audiences to the talents of Nicholas Cage. She helped launch the career of another young actor named Val Kilmer in her film *Real Genius*, which has become a cult classic, and won the Audience Award at the Paris Film Festival. *Rambling Rose*, starring Robert Duvall, Laura Dern, Diane Ladd and Lukas Haas, earned two Oscar and Golden Globe nominations for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress, as well as winning three Spirit Awards from the Independent Feature Project West for Best Director, Best Picture and Best

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS
UK Release Date 2 March 2007

Supporting Actress. Over the course of her career, Coolidge has received the Crystal Award from Women in Film, the Robert Aldrich Award from the DGA and the Breakthrough Award from Women, Men & Media, and Lifetime Achievement Awards from Methodfest and the Dallas Film Festival.

In 1993 Coolidge helmed *Lost in Yonkers*, starring Oscar and Tony winner Mercedes Ruehl, Oscar winner Richard Dreyfuss and theatrical legend, Irene Worth, adapted by Neil Simon from his Pulitzer Prize winning play, followed immediately by *Angie*, starring Oscar winner Geena Davis, Steven Rea and a pre-*Sopranos* James Gandolfini in his first leading role. Her other feature credits include *Three Wishes*, *Out to Sea* and most recently, *The Prince & Me*, starring Julie Stiles and Miranda Richardson.

For television, her projects have included the Emmy-winning *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge* starring Halle Berry, and *If These Walls Could Talk II*. Both productions earned nominations for Ms. Coolidge from the Directors Guild of America as well as Emmy nominations. Her other credits for television include the comedy *12 Days of Christmas Eve*, and *The Ponder Heart*. She also directed the final 2 episodes of the fourth season of *Sex and the City*.

Coolidge continues to give back to the industry she loves. She served as a member of the Western Director's Council, Chair of the Creative Rights Committee and a member of the Board of the Director's Guild of America. In 2001, she was elected as the first woman President of the DGA in its 66-year history. She is also a Trustee of Rhode Island School of Design, a member of the board of the American Film Institute, a member of the Dean's Council of NYU Tisch School of the Arts, and has also served on the board of Women in Film, and Dean's Council at UCLA Film School. An avid horsewoman Ms. Coolidge breeds and shows Paso Fino horses and holds several National Championships.

JOHN QUAINANCE (Screenwriter) spent ten years as an actor and stand-up comedian before optioning his first feature MATERIAL GIRLS to Maverick Films in 2003. Other credits include the feature film *Aquamarine* for Fox 2000, and the sitcoms *Good Morning Miami* and *Joey* on NBC. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife Rachel and daughter Harper.

AMY RARDIN and **JESSICA O'TOOLE** (Screenwriters) met in seventh grade drama class in Reston, VA, a suburb of Washington D.C. After honing their craft making up weird plays all through school and graduating from college (University of Virginia and Cornell, respectively) they moved out to Los Angeles together. They sold their first feature, *Rushing*, to Universal in 2000. In addition to that and MATERIAL GIRLS (their first produced project), they have projects at Disney, Sony, Odd Lot and Millenium and are currently working on a television pilot for Broadway Video.

SUSAN DUFF (Producer) has managed the film and music careers of both daughters, Hilary and Haylie. In addition, she served as producer of *The Perfect Man* and as co-executive producer of *A Cinderella Story*.

EVE LADUE (Producer) began her career as an assistant agent at the William Morris Agency, where she worked with a broad range of talent, including Trey Parker and Matt Stone, Emma Thompson, John Travolta, and Elijah Wood. In 1997, Eve accepted a creative executive position at Paramount Studios, where she worked on films such as *Election*, *Angela's Ashes* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. Seeking new challenges, Eve moved to Fox 2000 in 1998, where she managed a development slate of over 20 projects, including *Anna and the King*. As Director of Production, Eve oversaw *Men of Honor* and *Drumline*. In 2000, she was invited to the White House to screen *Men of Honor* for President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hilary Clinton. In 2002 Eve acted as Consulting Vice-President for Current Programming at John Wells Productions. While there she oversaw the development and production of *ER*, *The West Wing*, *Third Watch* and *Presidio Med*.

DAVID FAIGENBLUM (Producer) is a U.K. native who spent the early part of his career working in development with top producers such as Lynda Obst (*Sleepless in Seattle*), Laurence Mark (*As Good As It Gets*) and Storyline Entertainment. (*Chicago*). David then began working as an independent producer and

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS
UK Release Date 2 March 2007

literary manager. He developed and sold the thriller *The Assignment* to Warner Brothers and developed and produced *The Big White*, a dark comedy starring Robin Williams, Holly Hunter, Woody Harrelson, Giovanni Ribisi and Alison Lohman, which was recently released worldwide. David sold the script *Dreamgirls* to Warner Brothers with Jamie Kennedy attached, and *A Guy Thing* starring Jason Lee and Julia Stiles. Most recently, he developed and assisted in the sale of his client's script, *The Bucket List*, to be directed by Rob Reiner and to star Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman at New Line Cinema. Among his other projects in development, David is concentrating on *TAG*, a thriller based upon his own original idea, which he will produce and David Ellis (*Snakes on a Plane*) will direct.

MILTON KIM (Producer) is Chairman & CEO of Maverick Films, founded by himself, Madonna, and Guy Oseary. He is also a partner of Radar Records and founder of Neversleep, LLC. Though he has just recently entered the entertainment industry, he has already produced the movie *Frostbite* and executive produced the movies *Cruel World* and *Sam's Lake*. Prior to his entry into the entertainment industry, Kim was the Founder and Chairman of Good Morning Securities, one of the largest investment companies in South Korea. During his tenure as Chairman of Ssangyong Securities, Mr. Kim was selected by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, as a "Global Leader for Tomorrow". Also, in 1995 he was chosen by *Euromoney Magazine* as one of the top 25 future financial leaders of the world. Kim is an international counsel for the Asia Society, an active member of the Young Presidents' Organization, and serves as a member of the Board of Regents of Georgetown University. He holds an M.B.A. from INSEAD (Europe), an M.Sc. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, and a B.A. from Brown University.

MARK MORGAN (Producer) began his career in the entertainment industry working as Creative Executive for Ridley Scott on films such as *Alien*, *Thelma & Louise*, and *Hannibal* and then in production on the films *Monkey Trouble*, *Terminal Velocity* and *Leaving Las Vegas*. In early 1995, Morgan joined New Regency where he ran the story department covering such films as *Under Siege*, *Free Willy*, *The Client*, and *A Time to Kill*. In 1996, Morgan was hired at Orion Pictures as Director of Development and was promoted to Vice President of Production in early 1997. At Orion/ MPCA, Morgan supervised the development, packaging, and production of film projects, including *Dumb and Dumber*, *Beverly Hills Ninja* and *Kingpin*. In October of 1998, the upper management of Orion Pictures split off to form Destination Films, where they brought on Morgan as Executive Vice President. There he produced several films including *Beautiful*, starring Minnie Driver and directed by Sally Field and *The Wedding Planner*, starring Jennifer Lopez and Matthew McConougey. In 2001, Morgan joined Maverick Films as President. There he produced *Agent Cody Banks* and its sequel *Agent Cody Banks 2*, starring Frankie Muniz for MGM and was later promoted to CEO in December of 2002. Morgan is currently producing *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* for Fox 2000, *The Phone* for Universal Focus and *Twilight* for MTV/ Paramount.

GUY OSEARY (Producer) began his career in entertainment at age 17 at what was to become Maverick Records. He quickly rose through the ranks to chairman of the label and then later Madonna's partner, developing a roster of artists that includes Prodigy, Alanis Morissette, Deftones, and Michelle Branch, and executive produced soundtracks including *The Wedding Singer*, *The Matrix*, *The Matrix Reloaded*, *Austin Powers 1* and *2*, and *Kill Bill Vol. 1 & 2*. Oseary has guided Maverick to sell over 100 million albums worldwide and secured its spot as one of the industry's leading boutique record labels.

In 2001, Oseary, Milton Kim and Madonna established Maverick Films, which has since released *Agent Cody Banks* and *Agent Cody Banks 2* starring Frankie Muniz. He is the executive producer of *Last Call With Carson Daly* (NBC) and was executive producer of the miniseries *The 80s*. In May 2004 Guy partnered with Jason Weinberg and Stephanie Simon to become a principal in Untitled Entertainment, a top entertainment management company with offices in Los Angeles and New York. Untitled's list of clients includes Hilary Swank, Naomi Watts, Asthon Kutcher and Paris Hilton.

Most recently Guy has authored his second book called *On the Record* with foreword by Steven Tyler, a collection of first-hand accounts on how to break into the music industry from many of the most successful artists, producers and executives in the business today.

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS
UK Release Date 2 March 2007

TIM WESLEY (Executive Producer) serves as Executive Vice-President of Maverick Films, where he is tasked with the responsibility of running the day-to-day operations including financial management, business development and physical production. Prior to joining Maverick Films, Tim held strategic planning and business development positions with Paramount Pictures and Sony Pictures Entertainment where he was involved in such television productions as *Seinfeld*, *Frasier*, *Mad About You*, *Married With Children*, *Wheel Of Fortune*, *Jeopardy*, *Ricki Lake* and *Days of Our Lives*. Tim has also provided management consulting services for several leading entertainment production and distribution companies including Warner Bros, Mandalay/Lions Gate, and Franchise Pictures. Tim has also been a producer and production executive of feature films and television movies such as *Some Girl* starring Juliette Lewis, Michael Rapaport, and Giovanni Ribisi, *Sweetwater: A True Rock Story*, VH-1's first made for television movie; *Cruel World* starring Edward Furlong, Jaime Pressly and Andrew Keegan and *The Beginning of Wisdom* starring Matthew Perry and Daryl Hannah.

MICHAEL MENDELSON (Executive Producer) is the President of Union Patriot Capital, Inc, and Chairman and CEO of Patriot Pictures, where he currently manages senior and mezzanine debt portfolios for banks and financial institutions specializing in entertainment, sports and media finance. Mendelsohn is a lead advisor in negotiating content library acquisitions and valuations, sale and acquisition of entertainment properties for international television conglomerates. Over the course of his career, he has arranged production financing or foreign distribution and co-production deals for such entertainment companies Lakeshore Entertainment (Paramount), Beacon Communications (Universal Pictures), Icon Productions (Paramount), and Franchise Pictures (Warner Bros.) Mendelsohn has arranged production financing for over 258 films.

Just a small sampling of the motion picture projects that Mendelsohn has been involved in include *Air Force One*, *The Mothman Prophecies*, *The Matrix*, *What Women Want*, *The Gift*, *End of Days*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Battlefield Earth*, *The Hurricane*, *The Next Best Thing*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Red Rock West*, *The Madness of King George*, *Nobody's Fool*, *True Romance* and *Arlington Road*, among countless others.

He most recently served as executive producer of *Lord of War*, written and directed by Andrew Niccol and starring Nicolas Cage and Ethan Hawke. He is also currently producing the fast-action lowrider movie, *Crenshaw Blvd*, starring Nelly and Wilmer Valderrama directed by Imani Shukur; *The Wretched*, starring Chow Yun-Fat, directed by Andrew Goth; and *Holy Cross*, executive produced by George Romero.

A graduate of The University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, Michael studied Economics with a major in Finance and Entrepreneurial Management and a minor in English and Russian Literature. He often lectures at his alma mater, as well as AFI, Harvard, NYU, UCLA and USC. Mr. Mendelsohn resides in Los Angeles, California and is on the Los Angeles Board of Directors of the United States Holocaust Museum, Friends of The Israel Defense Forces, Variety Children's Lifeline, and C.O.A.C.H. for Kids at Cedars Sinai Hospital.

JOHNNY E. JENSEN (Cinematographer) reunites with director Martha Coolidge for their ninth teaming, their previous collaborations include the features *Three Wishes*, *Angie*, *Lost in Yorkers*, *Rambling Rose*, and the made for television film *The Ponder Heart*. Jensen's other film credits include *The Game of Their Lives*, *The Ladies Man* and *Grumpy Old Men* as well as the television series *Dragnet (2002)* and telefilms *Deceit* and *Wisegirls*, among many others.

JAMES SPENCER (Production Designer) has also worked on numerous films with Martha Coolidge, including the productions of *The Prince and Me*, *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*, (for which he won an Emmy), *Out to Sea* and *The Ponder Heart*. Spencer has also served as production designer on such films as *Lethal Weapon 3*, *Fair Game*, *Richie Rich*, *Gremlins*, *Gremlins 2: The New Batch*, *The Burbs*, *Innerspace*, *Poltergeist* and *Stripes*. After completing MATERIAL GIRLS, Spencer flew to Hawaii to design the second season of the smash ABC series *Lost*. Spencer and Coolidge have made their partnership official and are married and live in Los Angeles.

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

MATERIAL GIRLS
UK Release Date 2 March 2007

STEVEN COHEN's (Editor) credits also include many Martha Coolidge-directed films, including *The Prince and Me*, *Angie*, *The 12 Days of Christmas Eve*, *Lost in Yonkers* and *Rambling Rose*, as well as other features *15 Minutes*, *Blood and Wine* and *No Man's Land*. His television credits include HBO's Emmy Award-winning *Don King: Only in America*

VAN B. RAMSEY (Costume Designer) has designed costumes for over 30 features, mini-series and telefilms, including such productions as *Lonesome Dove* (for which we won an Emmy), *Sarah Plain and Tall*, *Buffalo Girls*, *Helen of Troy*, *Bastard Out of Carolina* and *The Road to Galveston*, among many others. To create the modern look of the Marchetta sisters when they are down and out, Ramsey had to research future trends, as well as become very inventive with passé separates and accessories.

The MATERIAL GIRLS soundtrack includes a cover version of the classic Madonna hit of the same name, performed by sisters Hilary and Haylie Duff.

Released on 2 MARCH 2007, MATERIAL GIRLS will be distributed in the UK through Verve Pictures

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com

<http://www.mgm.com/materialgirls/>

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURES presents a MAVERICK FILMS/RAFTER ENTERTAINMENT production
in association with PATRIOT PICTURES LLC MILTON KIM PRODUCTIONS and CONCEPT ENTERTAINMENT
A MARTHA COOLIDGE Film HILARY DUFF HAYLIE DUFF and ANJELICA HUSTON
MATERIAL GIRLS
LUCAS HAAS MARIA CONCHITA ALONSO as Inez with BRENT SPINER
Casting by ALETA CHAPPELLE, CSA Music Supervisor DAWN SOLER Music by JENNIE MUSKETT
Editor STEVEN COHEN, A.C.E. Production Designer JAMES SPENCER Director of Photography JOHNNY E. JENSEN, ASC
Line Producer RONALD COLBY Co-Producers HAYLIE DUFF TROY ROWLAND BRENT EMERY GARY RASKIN
Executive Producers MICHAEL MENDELSON GREGORY L. BROWN JOHN B. GOODMAN
WAYNE WHITMAN GREG CARNEY TARA PIRNIA AUSTEN TAYLER
Producers MILTON KIM TIM WESLEY MARK MORGAN GUY OSEARY
HILARY DUFF SUSAN DUFF EVE LADUE DAVID FAIGENBLUM
Written by JOHN QUAINANCE and JESSICA O'TOOLE & AMY RARDIN Directed by MARTHA COOLIDGE

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

023 8084 3763 / annaraynsford@aol.com

Press information and images available at www.vervepics.com