



CITY OF SPIES



ISTANBUL 1941

A reading of the screenplay by **Michael Lanahan**.

Thursday, August 1, 2019 7:30 p.m.

City of Spies is a WWII spy thriller inspired by the true story of how the Haganah smuggled Jews out of Europe, via Istanbul (the "City of Spies") to British Palestine against conspired resistance from Germany, England, Russia and Turkey. **IT IS ESTIMATED HAGANAH SAVED 55,000 JEWS DURING THE WAR, MOST OF THEM DIRECTLY THROUGH ISTANBUL.** *This story has never been told.*

Directed by Michael Schroeder.

A light reception will follow the reading.

The WGAW Career Longevity Committee's Seasoned Readings series promotes and celebrates the work of writers age 50 and over.

Writers Guild of America West
7000 W. Third Street
2nd Floor, Multi-Purpose Room
Los Angeles, CA 90048

CAREER LONGEVITY COMMITTEE

The mission of the Career Longevity Committee is to assist writers of all ages in planning for long and successful careers by giving them the tools and knowledge to adapt to changes in the marketplace. All guild members are welcome to join the CLC.

Chair:
Dan Wilcox

Vice-Chair:
Mitch Paradise

INCLUSION AND EQUITY DEPARTMENT

The department works with industry personnel to develop access and talent development programs and also hosts events, panels, and seminars to promote a more positive image of historically underemployed writers, to increase the industry's awareness of the unique obstacles often faced by these writers, and to encourage positive change in hiring practices.

Director:
Tery Lopez

Specialist:
Tony Velarde

Coordinator:
Libbie Anderson-Bagley

inclusionandequity@wga.org

ABOUT THE WRITERS

MICHAEL LANAHAN

Screenwriter and script doctor Michael Lanahan is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and has a Master of Arts degree from the graduate film school of the University of Southern California. Lanahan is principal or contributing screenwriter of four released motion pictures, including *Jocks*, *Perfect Target*, *Raspberry Heaven* and *Hickok*, which premiered in 2017 and is still in global theatrical distribution and is currently featured on Netflix. Among the actors that have appeared in Lanahan's films are a very young Mariska Hargitay (now the highest paid actress in TV), Richard Roundtree (original *Shaft*), Christopher Lee (*Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars* and godfather of classic British horror), Kris Kristofferson (Golden Gloves champion, Rhodes scholar, Nashville janitor, songwriter), Bruce Dern (two-time Oscar nominee), Luke Hemsworth (most recently played head of security on *Westworld*, and Robert Englund (Freddie Krueger!).

A WWII history buff, Michael read about the tragic sinking of the tramp steamer the Struma in the Black Sea with almost 800 Jewish refugees aboard and decided to write a movie about it.

EUGENE KALLMAN

As a child growing up in North Florida, I often wondered why my mom would make two pots of field peas or collard greens. One for my dad and another for the rest of us. Ours had bacon or ham and his didn't. Or why my dad loved pickled herring; something the rest of the neighborhood never heard of. Or why on Saturdays he listened to the Texaco live broadcast from the Met. My dad was Jewish and a transplant from Brooklyn and my mom was as gentile as one could be from the Appalachians of Northern Alabama.

So, when Mike Lanahan showed me his treatment for "City of Spies" and asked if I wanted to write a full script version with him, I couldn't wait to get started. Besides the compelling drama of the story, I was attracted to it because of the plight of the Jews fleeing from Europe, which included people like me. As far as the Nazis were concerned a half-Jew was a whole Jew. And since the heroine of our story is of the same background as me--Jewish father and gentile mother, she and I share the same valid reason to be a Zionist. Since my father's family is from Hungary, it is a real possibility that I had relatives onboard one of those shabby vessels trying to get past the Turks to reach the Promised Land.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

MICHAEL SCHROEDER DGA



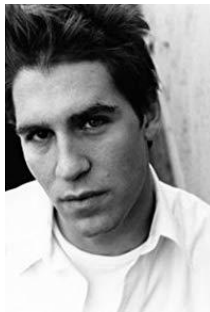
Award Winning Writer/Director Michael Schroeder is known for his ability to work with actors, his style in lighting and intriguing camera work; what the New York Times labeled as 'snazzy' shooting. He joined the DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA in 1982. Schroeder has directed ten features including *Man in the Chair*, starring Christopher Plummer. The drama/comedy was a Festival darling winning Best Picture at Santa Barbara, Stony Brook, Kent and Heartland Film Festivals. The picture garnered other Festival honors and notice at Berlin (Crystal Bear - Best Picture Nomination), Seattle, Palm Beach, AFI-Dallas, MethodFest and others.

Schroeder has made over forty other feature films. His body of work includes his First Assistant director career, (a hundred commercials/music videos and thirty-five feature films, including *The Big Easy* and *Shy People*). In 1981, Schroeder produced his first feature, *One Dark Night* (Meg Tilly's first film).

Other feature films directed by Schroeder include *Out of the Dark* for New Line Cinema; *Damned River* shot over sixteen rigorous weeks on the Zambezi River in Africa for United Artists; *Cyborg 2: Glass Shadow* starring Angelina Jolie (her first film) and Elias Koteas; *The Glass Cage*, shot in New Orleans starring Eric Roberts and Richard Tyson; *Cover Me* starring Paul Sorvino for Paramount and *Relentless II: Dead On* for New Line Cinema, which won Best Crime Thriller at the Denver Film Festival.

ABOUT THE CAST

EVAN HART (as Jack)



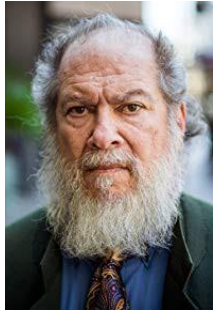
As an actor, Evan has starred in Steven Soderbergh's *Now Apocalypse*, Showtimes' laughter *House of Lies* and *The Bronx is Burning* and in films like *Law Abiding Citizen* and *Cadillac Records*. He recently was cast in ABC's pilot, *Until the Wedding* directed by Susannah Grant. As a writer, Evan has sold scripts and worked with Fox, TNT, Amazon, Lionsgate, Sony Crackle, Eone and Cineflix. He lives in Los Angeles and London.

DOMINIKA JUILLET (as Ilona)



Dominika is a European-Canadian actress who speaks 3 languages, rides horses and motorcycles, plays piano and holds a degree in Philosophy and English. Her great-grandmother was a Baroness; her grandfather was a theatre actor and horticulturalist. Dominika grew up between two worlds, the opulent and the naturalist; as a child, she wanted to be a secret agent, and later Indiana Jones. She was awarded a CBC series as actress/writer and has played leads and supporting on feature films and television in Canada and the U.S. including *Art History*, *Dracano*, *Vanquisher*, *Sink Hole*, *You And I* and *The Wrong Girl*. She started an award winning speaker series called *Provoke*. She recently wrote/starred in a VR pilot *Cupid* premiered by Samsung and Oculus Rift.

CARL BRESSLER (as Hakeem, Major Heinz, Immigration Officer)



Detroit 1970-80: Music Business. LA 1980-Present day: Studied law @ Southwestern U School of Law, studied acting with Stella Adler & her friend, William Chow of the Peking Opera. Acted in 19 stage plays including a one man show, 36 student films, 200 showcases in 400 days. Did not get famous. Left bar/restaurant managing to assist at tiny technical artists agency. Built huge Montana Artists Agency 1989- 2004. Sold it. Hit the halfway mark of the goal of performing fifty characters named "Berg" with at least one on every continent, one in sub-orbital or in the troposphere, one underwater and one animated Berg character. Love acting, entertainment business and all kinds of entrepreneurial ventures, particularly if social good involved.

BRUNO GUNN (as Ambassador Pearle, Swarthy Man, Bagdasian, Desk Clerk)



Bruno got his first taste of Hollywood from film legend, Woody Allen who cast him in the 1998 comedy *Celebrity*. Then it was on to roles alongside Hugh Grant (*Mickey Blue Eyes*) and Viggo Mortensen (*28 Days*). Recently, Bruno starred in Shonda Rhymes' *For the People* and can be seen opposite James Marsden in HBO's *Westworld*, but he's most recognized for playing Brutus in the 2013 blockbuster, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*. For more than 20 years he's amassed credits in comedy and drama including; *Sons of Anarchy*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Prison Break*, *Angel*, *Buffy*, *True Blood*, *The Office*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Herbie Fully Loaded* and *Bad Teacher*.

SIERRA ELLISON (as Sadie, Anna, Magda, Russian Secretary, Nurse)



Sierra A. Ellison is a graduate student at Chapman University studying creative writing and literature with a Bachelor's from SDSU in television and film. She's been passionate about the entertainment world her entire life, starting on the stage with lead performances in shows like *Lil' Abner* and *Don't Drink the Water*. After playing as a professional tennis player, she created, wrote, and starred in a nationally televised show titled *Tennis Runway* and acted in numerous award-winning short films and web-series. She was also a finalist in Sundance's screenplay contest and continues to write screenplays and fiction today.

JAY DONOHUE (as Shimon, Editor, SS Captain, Jimmy)



Actor, producer, theatre owner, Jay owns the award winning McCadden and Lex theatres on Theatre Row in Hollywood, Ca. The McCadden Pl. Theatre is the oldest Equity Waiver theatre in Hollywood, starting in 1979, and the Lex Theatre is not far behind starting in the early 1980's. Some of Jay's credits over his long career are: *The X Files*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *The Fugitive*, *The Hotel*, *Man in the Chair*, *Farewell to Harry*, *Flicks*, *Tom Jones Rides Again*, *The Family*, as well as recently producing the acclaimed LA Premiere of the play, *The Lost Virginity Tour* and the Fringe Festival at the McCadden Pl. Theatre.

DANIEL HALL (as Sam, Arik)



Daniel spent much of his childhood in Connecticut performing in concerts with his family. He earned his BFA in Theatre at The University of Michigan. He spent a semester studying at the Globe Theatre in London. Hall then moved to NYC where he guest starred on *Law and Order* and booked a recurring role on *Guiding Light*. Since making the move to Hollywood where he continues to pursue his career, to name a few, Hall has appeared in a string of television series including *Mad Men*, *Mixology*, *Graceland*, *Rizzoli and Isles*, *The Newsroom*, *Quarry* and most recently a contract role on *The Young and the Restless*.

ALAN HEITZ (Max, Naumov, Swiss Banker)



Originally from the Washington DC area, Alan Heitz has recently been on *Veronica Mars*, *Criminal Minds*, *Good Girls*, and the final episode of *Bones*. He's also recurring as Rick on *This is Us*.

RICHARD CRAY (NARRATOR)



A rock drummer, Dartmouth dropout, and son of a Palo Alto Psychiatrist who wanted him to be a doctor, Richard ultimately graduated UCLA School of Law and found himself reading his first screenplay – an early draft adaptation by Robin Swicord of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* – while working in music business affairs at Universal Pictures. The script so intrigued Richard that he began reading not just the scripts required of him but those circulating at other studios as well.

Richard began screenwriting professionally after winning a 1995 Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. That script has been optioned like nine times, and frankly he is sick of it. He has since worked on over a dozen feature film and television projects, many sparked by sketchy pitches and spec sales. Before Richard abandons punctuation altogether, he served as an editor for the UCLA Law Review. He would like you to know that.

