

Ira David Wood III

starring

Reece Thompson

Madison Iseman

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



THE FOX HUNTER

ARK ROYAL presents "THE FOX HUNTER" a film by DENIM BUFFALO

starring REECE THOMPSON OLIVIA G. APPEGATE IRA DAVID WOOD III MADISON ISEMAN

BENJIE ANDERSON FRIEDA JANE JOHN LESCAULT HEATHER WILLIAMS MICHAEL RUPNOW

with JAY HUGULEY and BETH BRODERICK produced by ANDERSON BOYD PATRICK SHANAHAN

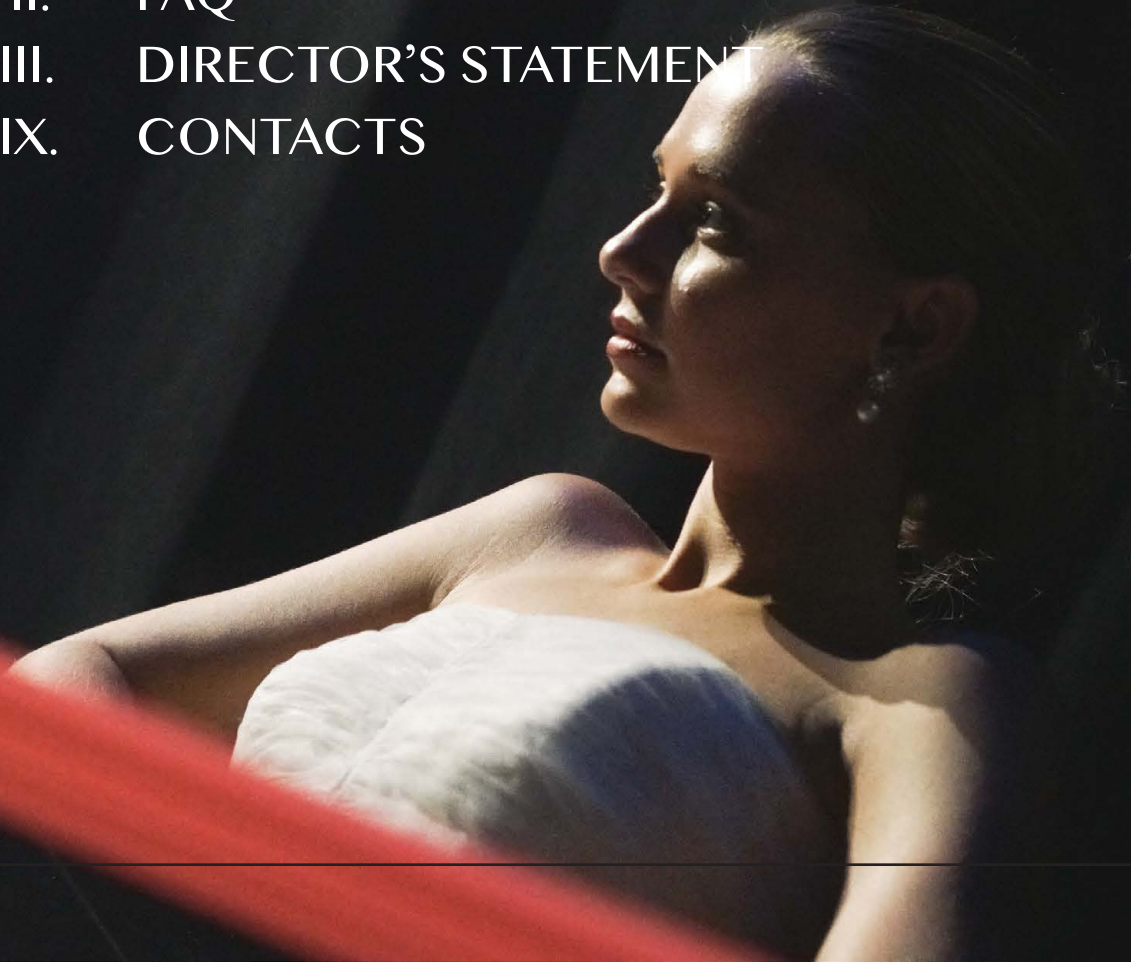
executive producers N IALL HANLEY CLIFF BLESZINSKI RICK FRENCH JT FRITSCH NOREEN and EAMON FITSMAURICE

edited by ANDERSON BOYD score by VINCENT GILLIOZ sound by TRAILBLAZER STUDIOS

cinematography by DANIEL SATINOFF written and directed by PATRICK SHANAHAN

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I. LOGLINE/SYNOPSIS

A prominent Southern family of savage media moguls deteriorates at the crossroads of past and progress in matters of death, wealth, love and American journalism.

Cotton O'Connor returns to his home in the South after having been away for several years. The world he returns to, is not the one he left behind. The great matriarch of the family has passed away and nothing is as it was. As all the members of the family gather, Cotton realizes how much his own perspective has changed and struggles to see how he belongs in an old South with old ways.



The O'Connor Family

II. PLOT OUTLINE

The film opens on the eve of the Debutante Ball in the heart of North Carolina. Lily O'Connor's big night to "come out" as a lady is already tarnished as her father has been gone for years. Left to be escorted by her young uncle, Cotton, Lily reluctantly takes the stage.

With the whole city in attendance, including the O'Connor family, a drunken Cotton slips, falls and takes Lily to the floor with him. Everyone is shocked, but none is more disappointed than the great matriarch of the O'Connor family. Cotton sees the sadness in his Grandmother's eyes and can hardly take any more embarrassment.

That evening, Cotton packs his bags and says goodbye to Aesop, the family butler, in the middle of the night. This is the introduction of the family and our main character. Three years pass in a timelapse and the phone starts to ring. Aesop informs all of the children, scattered across the globe, that their Grandmother has died.



One by one, the children return home. First, Cotton arrives, however he has missed the funeral. Outraged, he tries to learn how she passed and visits her grave. In the graveyard, he is visited by his old flame, June Mordecai. A lot has changed since he left. June has gone to school in Paris and returned to open her own clothing store in downtown. Everyone he sees remembers the awkward night where he fell and he is forced to relive the moment that he has spent several years trying to forget. (Continued on next page)

II. PLOT OUTLINE (Continued)

Cotton's wretched, selfish sister, Marietta, takes her private jet home and is less worried about having missed the funeral than she is about the state of the will and the family business. The O'Connor family have been the publishers of the local paper, The Carolina Times, for nearly a century. Now, with their Grandmother gone, the fate of the paper, as well as the family is up in the air.

All the while, the troubles with the family are exacerbated by Cotton's old hunting club. There is something more dark and sinister about this secret gentleman's club than meets the eye. The club is eager for Cotton to return to their ranks as they struggle to maintain power in the city. Since Cotton is the presumed heir to the paper, he would control the press. Or so everyone still believes.

The only sibling yet to return, is Whitman. No one is surprised as he's been gone for many years now. Everyone is sleeping when he finally returns. Everyone, except Cotton, who lies awake at night contemplating his lingering love for June.

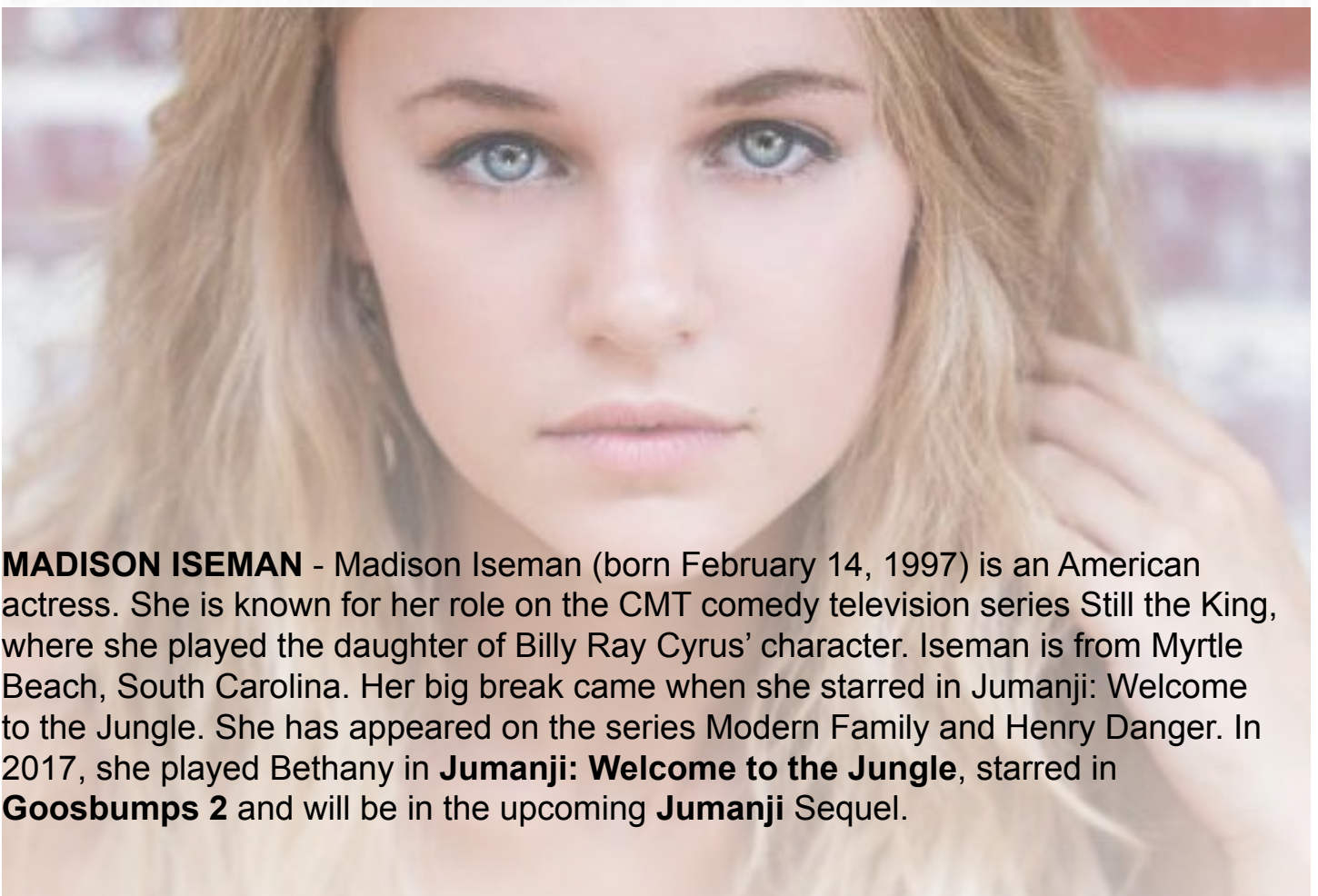


As the family hashes out the will, it is revealed that their father has sold The Carolina Times to a digital media outlet known as Dagger Digital. The kids are furious at the news, though all of them know they are partially to blame. As they come to grips with each other and continue to unravel, it seems that Aesop is the only one of them with any sense. At the climax, we find ourselves at the barrel of a gun and at the end of our wits as the family tries to comprehend how they ended up in such a state and wonder who will make it out alive.

III. CAST



REECE THOMPSON - Reece Thompson grew up just outside Vancouver, Canada. His mother ran a film society that brought independent movies to town. He expressed an interest in acting at an early age and later attended acting school. His first lead film role came in 2007 when he played Hal Hefner in the critical acclaimed coming of age film “**Rocket Science.**” It was directed by Jeffrey Blitz and earned a Grand Jury Prize nomination at the Sundance Film Festival. (**The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Rocket Science**)

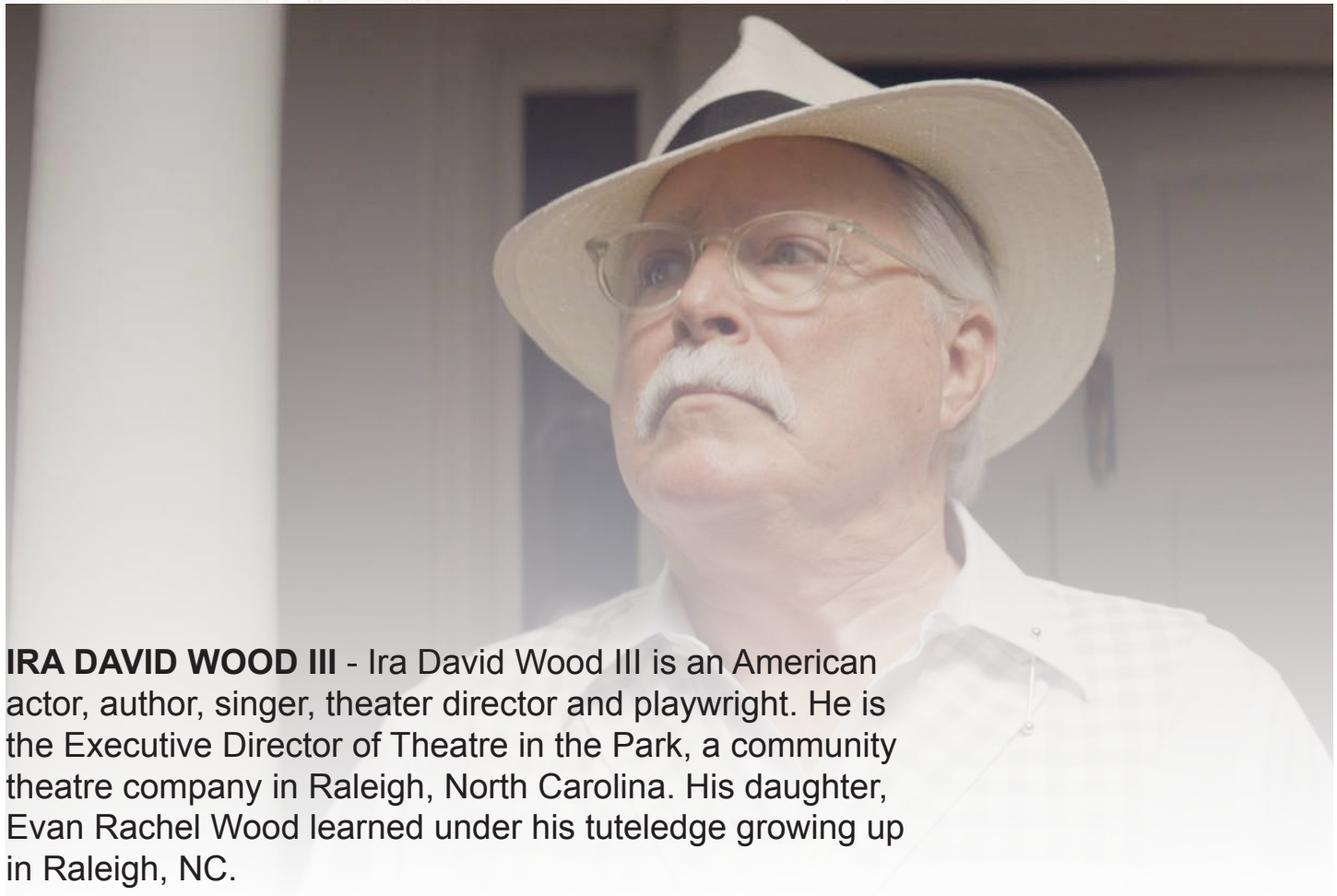


MADISON ISEMAN - Madison Iseman (born February 14, 1997) is an American actress. She is known for her role on the CMT comedy television series Still the King, where she played the daughter of Billy Ray Cyrus’ character. Iseman is from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Her big break came when she starred in Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle. She has appeared on the series Modern Family and Henry Danger. In 2017, she played Bethany in **Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle**, starred in **Goosebumps 2** and will be in the upcoming **Jumanji Sequel**.

III. CAST (Continued)



BETH BRODERICK - Beth Alison Broderick was born on February 24, 1959 in Falmouth, Kentucky but was raised in Huntington Beach, California. Beth was always very interested in theater as a child and she graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Pasadena, California at age 18. After that, she moved to New York and began her professional acting career. She stopped acting for a few years to dedicate herself to dealing with the AIDS crisis in the early eighties. (**Sabrina Teenage Witch**)



IRA DAVID WOOD III - Ira David Wood III is an American actor, author, singer, theater director and playwright. He is the Executive Director of Theatre in the Park, a community theatre company in Raleigh, North Carolina. His daughter, Evan Rachel Wood learned under his tutelage growing up in Raleigh, NC.

IV. PRODUCTION



Patrick Shanahan, Writer/Director

Shanahan has spent the majority of his professional life as a visual artist working on canvas and in cinema. His work over the last decade with Denim Buffalo Films prepared him for his most recent endeavor: *THE FOX HUNTER*, which is the writer-director's first true stab at narrative feature work. Shanahan has also helmed and shot several documentaries and short films and is currently writing the script for *CLEAR LAKE*, a new take on The Buddy Holly Story, with his other partnership, Prix Productions.



Anderson Boyd, Producer

The youngest of three brothers, Anderson Drew Boyd was born in Raleigh, North Carolina to Elbert and Ann Boyd. Formative years in coastal Wilmington, North Carolina eventually led him to New York City. He is primarily known for editorial work on *Winter's Bone* (2010), *The History of Future Folk* (2012), *Cold Weather* (2010), and his feature directorial debut, *Well Wishes* (2015).



Rick French, Executive Producer

Rick brings decades of marketing experience, as well as proven connections as a film financier and/or producer of six film projects currently in pre-production, development or post-production, as well as connections to domestic and overseas distributors. (*The True Don Quixote*)



Cliff Bleszinski, Executive Producer

Cliff, popularly known as Cliffy B, is an American video game designer. Former design director for the game development company Epic Games and the co-founder of Boss Key Productions, he is known for his role in the development of the *Unreal* and *Gears of War* series. (*Gears of War*, *Lawbreakers*)

IV. PRODUCTION (Continued)



This film was once called *The Hounds of Dixie*. The term “Dixie” was too polarizing even for a story about the South, so we had a working title of “Cotton”; named after our main character. This film was a roller coaster, as most productions tend to be. We made a film with little funding, but with infinite grit, hope and gumption. We had a small crew. We had an outstanding cast. We shot the film in 28 days in some of the most spectacular locations that our city has to offer.

From day one of pre-production, everything got bigger. Coming from an experimental, shoe string budget background, it was daunting to stare down a project like this and take it head on. We were initially a non-union film. We quickly went to SAG and it paid off. The talent that got behind this project did so on faith. Faith in the script and the script alone. No one knew who we were, had seen little of what we had done, but they knew the words on the page would be the key.

So, we sweat and bled over six day weeks, nearly fourteen hours a day to create this film. What ended up on screen does not reflect a \$300,000 budget. Rather, it reflects an unbelievable cast and crew. We became family. The stories from set would flow over the few pages this press kit has to offer, so I hope our images help convey what happened in a little southern city over a few weeks last fall.



VIII. BEHIND THE SCENES



DENIM BUFFALO FILMS



IX. CINE STILLS



DENIM BUFFALO FILMS



VII. FAQ

Q: How did you cast Reece Thompson?

A: Through Instagram, initially. After long talks, we were able to secure him as the lead.

Q: What was your hardest day on set?

A: Our hardest day on set was in the Victorian Mansion. It was the gun scene. Endless safety demonstrations and rehearsals were all halted when we learned our location had not been cleared. The owners lived overseas and it took several hours to get the clearance and resume shooting. It was nearly a disaster. The scene went smooth from there on and no one got hurt!

Q: What's it like working with Madison Iseman?

A: All of our actors were amazing. Madison had recently released Jumanji and was rising in stardom quickly, but we chose her for her Southern roots, not her fame. She is sweet and down to earth and one of the hardest working actors I have ever met. She was a trooper.

Q: Is this film about you (To the director)?

A: Haha. No! Well, maybe. Who knows. I think everything an artist creates is personal in one way or another. So maybe it is, though I do not directly identify with Cotton. There's a lot that goes into a stew though, so I'm not saying a few carrots from my own life aren't swimming around in there somewhere.

VIII. Director's Statement

This project has been very personal to me. Growing up in the South, I felt it necessary to create a film that embodies so many elements of the region.

*This film explores the entitled white attitude that has stained Southern culture, and unfortunately defined, it for generations. Satire and absurdity are at the heart of *The Fox Hunter*.*

Beyond the surface, however, this was the first project where I didn't have to wear so many hats on set, allowing me to truly focus on directing the material I had written.

I am humbled to have worked with such talented actors and our incredible crew. This was such an amazing team effort and with little to no wiggle room in the production schedule or budget, we pulled it off.

I wish this could be a "Crew's Statement" so you could hear from all of us, but this film was a special project to be a part of and I can't wait to share our storybook, Southern world with you.

Thank You,

Patrick Shanahan



DENIM BUFFALO FILMS

CREDITS

written & directed by PATRICK SHANAHAN
produced by ANDERSON BOYD and PATRICK SHANAHAN
executive producers RICK FRENCH NIAL HANLEY &
CLIFF "CLIFFY B" BLESZINSKI
cinematography DANIEL SATINOFF
edited by ANDERSON BOYD

CAST

COTTON - REECE THOMPSON
LILY - MADISON ISEMAN
WENTWORTH - IRA DAVID WOOD III
AESOP - BANJAMIN ANDERSON
MRS. O'CONNOR - BETH BRODERICK
McCUSHING - JAY HUGHLEY

MUSIC

SOUND DESIGN - WILLIE ELIAS
SCORE - VINCENT GILLIOZ

CONTACTS

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