

"...may very well be one of the best films to screen anywhere in the U.S. in 2007."

-Richard Propes
independentcritics.com

MIDLOTHIA

where do you go
when you come from
nowhere?



I N T E N T I O N A L F I L M S

Short Synopsis:

Midlothia is a small, tight-knit town, where everyone knows everyone else's business. On Fred's last day in town, he and his closest friends uncover secrets that threaten the fabric of their friendship.

Long Synopsis:

After a long night of wandering, Fred wakes up in the middle of nowhere, baked by the Texas sun. Stumbling home, he finds his friends Bill and Duck are none too happy that he missed his own going away party.

But something mysterious happened the night before. Fred is ready to tackle his demons and stay in town—to face the mistakes of his life and make them right. Little does he know that his announced departure has created a maelstrom of unrest amongst his friends—a breeding ground for truth. Walking into a hornet's nest of revelations, the friends he thought he knew turn Fred's world upside down.

In the wake of this extraordinary day, four life-long friends say the words they've never had the courage to say, and learn truths about themselves and each other that will change the nature of their relationships forever.

"It's kind of like therapy, only with guns and booze."

A genuine story about finding truth and self-worth by any means necessary, *Midlothia* was adapted from the play *Pluck the Day* by Steven Walters. In this original interpretation of an unusual love rectangle, *Midlothia* takes viewers into the depths of a small town in Texas, where on the surface values appear simple. The paths of four friends overlook different, but intersecting horizons. Eyes are opened and one is left on the road to an uncertain destiny.

Directed by Bill Sebastian and produced by Randal Scott, *Midlothia* was shot on location in Midlothian, TX, a small town south of Dallas known as the cement capitol of America. The film stars James Thomas Gilbert, Jessica McClendon, Eric Reeves and Bill Sebastian.

Vital Stats:

Title: Midlothia
Production Company: Intentional Films
Length: 89 minutes
Production Medium: 24P DV (color)
Exhibition Medium: HDCam, DigiBeta, DVCam, DVD
Filmed in: Midlothian, TX

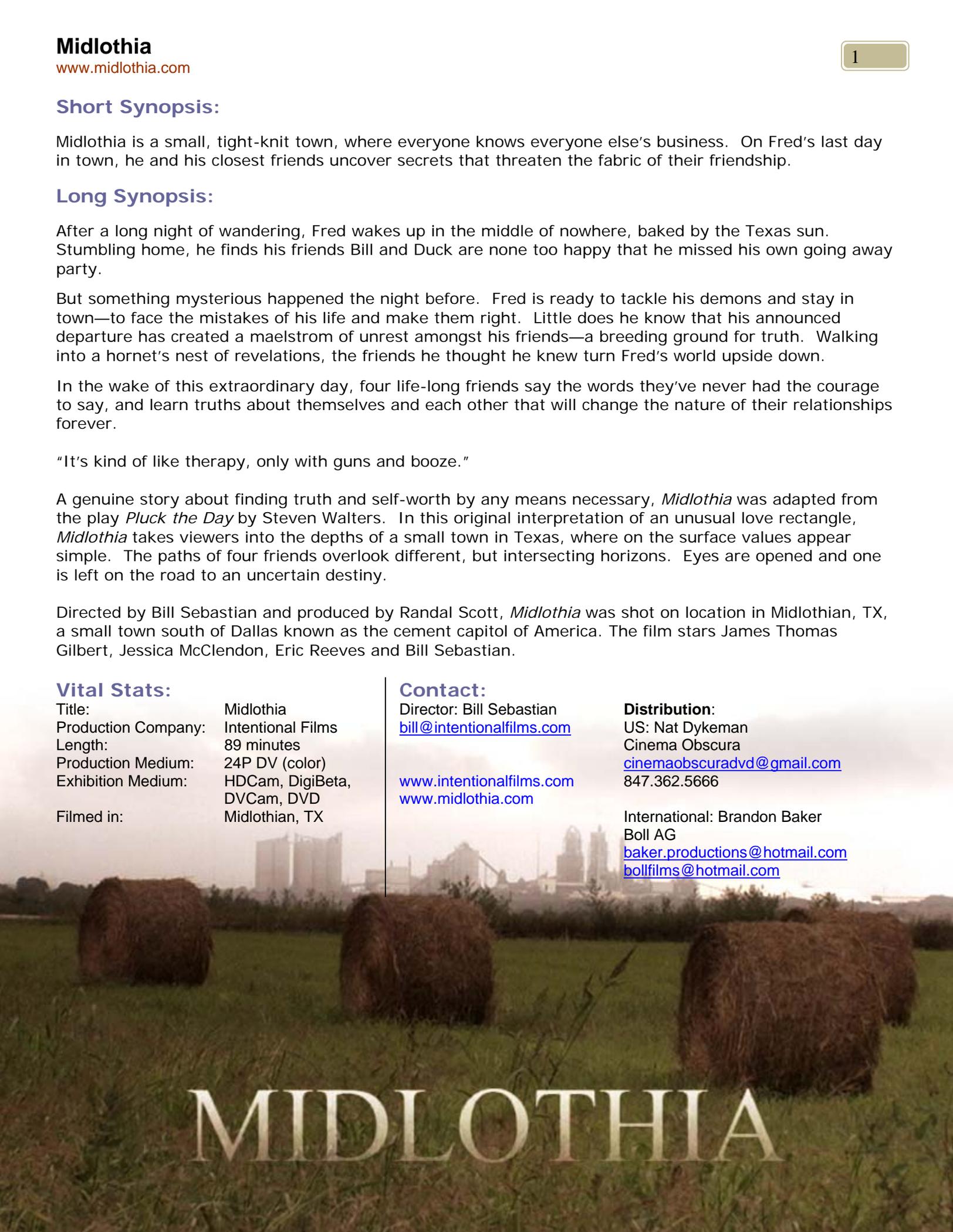
Contact:

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MIDLOTHIA

CAST:

James Thomas Gilbert – DUCK
Jessica McClendon – APRIL
Eric Reeves – BILL
Bill Sebastian – FRED

Randal Scott – TED

CREW:

Bill Sebastian – Director/Screenwriter
Randal Scott – Producer
Cliff Richhart – Director of Photography
Ricardo Veiga – Composer
Tom Walker – Production Designer
Avram Dodson – Co-Producer / Asst. Dir
Toni Cobb-Brock – Casting Director
David Rosenblad – Post Sound Supervisor
Lesa Faust – Location Sound
Joe Conte – Additional Music
Max Hartman – Additional Music
Jonathan Price – Additional Music
Toby Halbrooks – Additional Music
Casey Wickson – Script Supervisor
Deva George – Stunt Choreographer
David Rosenblad – Sound Post
Shea Wood – Make-Up

SCREENINGS:

Jan 24, 2007	Park City Film Music Festival , Park City, UT (<i>Silver Medal</i>)
Mar 10-11, 2007	Lake County Film Festival , Libertyville, IL (<i>Audience Award</i>)
Mar 22-Apr 1, 2007	AFI Dallas , Dallas, TX
Mar 21-29, 2007	East Lansing Film Festival , East Lansing, MI
Apr 23, 2007	Newport Beach Film Festival , Newport Beach, CA
Apr 27-28, 2007	Indianapolis International Film Festival , Indianapolis, IN
May 17, 2007	Big Island Film Festival , Waikoloa, HI
June 6-9, 2007	Waterfront Film Festival , Saugatuck, MI
Sept 8, 2007	Microcinema Fest , Palatine, IL (<i>Winner of 6 Awards incl. Best of Fest</i>)
Sept 8, 2007	Bluegrass Independent Film Festival , La Grange, KY
Sept 27, 2007	NewFilmmakers Film Festival , Los Angeles, CA
Oct 25, 2007	Home Brewed Film Festival , Warrawong, NSW, Australia (<i>Finalist</i>)
Jan 12, 2008	Trail Dance Film Festival , Duncan, OK (<i>Nominated for 3 Awards</i>)
Apr 18, 2008	Cackalacky Film Festival , Charlotte, NC
Apr 19, 2008	Lake Forest Film Festival , Lake Forest, IL



DIRECTOR STATEMENT:

Midlothia marks new territory for me as an artist. Not only is it my first foray into intimate drama, but it has grown to become my most ambitious, and meaningful work to date. In 2004, I read Steven Walters' play *Pluck the Day*. The characters struck a chord with me – familiar, yet puzzling. I became driven to see them brought to life for the screen, and began adapting the screenplay. What resulted is *Midlothia*, a film that speaks to friendship, loyalty and truth, as well as the antithesis of each.

PRODUCTION NOTES

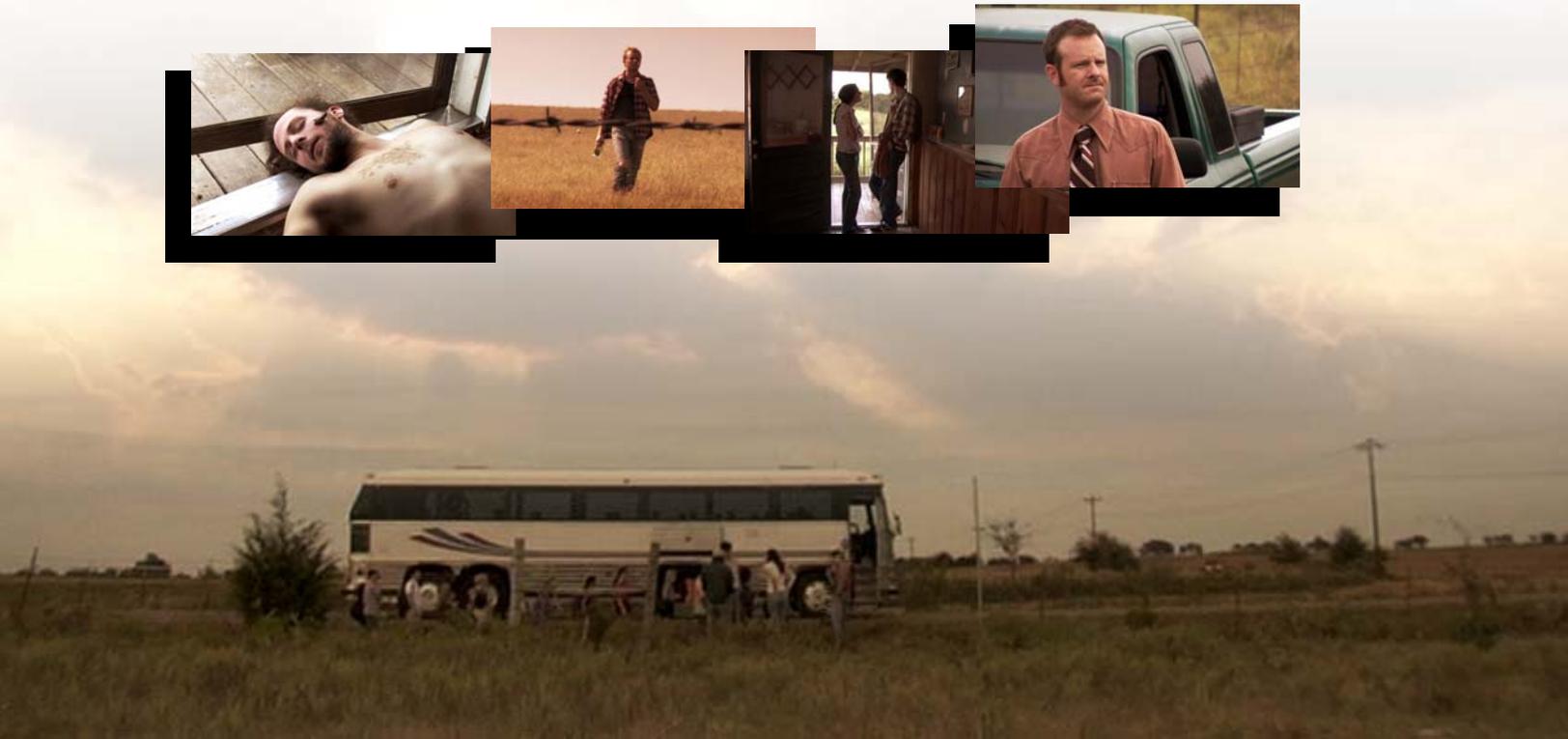
"Forging Ahead"

After driving aimlessly in the rural outskirts of Dallas, Texas for days on end, looking for property for sale or rent that was run down enough for someone to let us generally abuse it for a month straight, we were left with nothing. We had met with several overly-suspicious, toothless, armed men and swarms of hornets, but had no location to shoot 80% of our movie. We had cast our film and were into rehearsals with two weeks left. We could have considered postponement, but didn't. Something would come through.

The perfect location came to us from an unlikely person our producer met at a backyard barbeque. He lived in a double-wide trailer in Midlothian, Texas. To our astonishment, he was glad to have us take over every room but his bedroom for the entirety of our shoot, and even became excited about us blowing holes in his wall with a shotgun. It couldn't have worked out better.

I had never been in a famous Texas "double-wide" before, so I didn't know what to expect. With some hard work and attention to detail from Tom Walker, our production designer, the structure became another character in the film.

And along the way, we all fell in love with the town of Midlothian – even enough to adopt the name. If you're ever passing through, stop in and have a burger at the Hippie Cowboy.



PRESS / REVIEWS :

"Raw and powerful" - AFI Dallas

"a remarkably deft performance by Jessica McClendon, who offers a penetrating look inside the soul of the girl next door" - Peter Martin, Twitch Film

"a nice little gem of an indie film" - Kim Voyner, Cinematical

"A powerful drama... in the tradition of Tennessee Williams... Great suspense, tension and even humor." - Lake County Film Festival

"Excellent ensemble film" - Lisa Harlow, Park City Film Music Festival

"We end up caring about these characters because we recognize them: we either know them, or we are them" - John Meyer, Pegasus News

"Finally a film that has the balls to really show small-town life." "Midlothia" does this in abundance, practically celebrating and mourning small-town life in the same scene, with all its glorious quirks and uncomfortable imperfections... This film will make you laugh, sometimes at all the wrong things, and will have you squirming in your seats aching for each of the four main characters and, on a couple occasions, praying that each one gets out of this thing alive... "Midlothia" is not only the best film having screened at the Indianapolis International Film Festival this year, it may very well be one of the best films to screen anywhere in the U.S. in 2007." - Richard Propes, IndependentCritics.com

AWARDS/NOMINATIONS:

Lake County Film Festival:

Audience Award

Microcinema Fest:

Best of Fest

Best Director - Bill Sebastian

Best Drama Feature

Best Editing - Bill Sebastian

Best Actress - Jessica McClendon

Best Supporting Actor - James Thomas Gilbert

Park City Film Music Festival:

Silver Jury Award "Best Impact of Music in a Feature"

Dereel Film Festival:

"Best of the Rest" Award

Home Brewed Film Festival:

Feature Finalist

Trail Dance Film Festival:

Winner: Best Drama Feature

Winner: Best Director - Bill Sebastian

Nominated: Best Actor - Bill Sebastian



BIOS:

Bill Sebastian (Writer, Director, Actor - *Fred*) hails from Dallas, TX, where he spent most of his youth pursuing a professional soccer career. While at Southern Methodist University, he injured himself performing a stunt in a student film, putting an end to his sports career, but birthing a newfound passion for telling stories. He has since written, directed and edited many award winning short films and completed two features.



Bill began his film career at age 19 as an intern for a commercial production company, simultaneously making coffee for ad executives and shooting his first feature on weekends—a mockumentary about an unemployed ninja. He has since supported his filmmaking endeavors by working as a freelance commercial editor. Whilst navigating the world of commercial post-production, Sebastian has remained active in independent film, both on and off-screen in Texas and California.



Bill's last short film, *Robots Are Blue*, experienced significant success, publicly screening more than 40 times around the globe and taking honors at 9 festivals. Cinequest released the film as part of its Second Sight DVD Series last year. Additional honors include a nomination for a Video Premiere Award for his work on *The Riff*, and top three finishes at the Dallas Video Festival's 24 Hour Video Race four years in a row.

Midlothia marks Sebastian's first feature since teen-hood, as well as his first departure from straight comedy into character driven drama. Past directorial work can be seen at www.intentionalfilms.com. Bill currently resides in Los Angeles with his fiancée Dana Pupkin.

Randal Scott (Producer, Actor - *Ted*) is a working actor/filmmaker from Dallas, Texas with a background in business and sales. Since graduation from Texas Tech, many people have purchased various things from Randal including radio air time and life insurance. He is your good neighbor.



In 2000, Randal took a leap of faith and began calling himself an actor. This scary new territory soon became a passion as he performed in local theater productions and independent films. In the years following, he found himself behind the camera as co-creator of several award-winning short films.

Through this journey, Randal met and worked with Bill Sebastian who asked him to produce *Midlothia*. Randal eagerly accepted the challenge of producing his first feature film.

Randal's production philosophy is simple. "Feed the crew handsomely, surround yourself with great people and the work will take care of itself." *Midlothia* wrapped in the budget with 10 minutes to spare and 64 dollars.

Randal Scott resides in Los Angeles with his wife and 2 sons.





Jessica McClendon (Actor - *April*) is a Fort Worth, TX native. She received her BFA in theatre with an emphasis in Acting and Costume Design from Texas Christian University in May 2005 where she held the Nordan and Fine Arts Guild Scholarships for acting.

Jessica made her professional acting debut at 16 in Casa Manana's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Since then she has gone on to do many professional plays in the DFW area, commercials, and 3 indie-features. Her most recent, "Night of the White Pants" starring Selma Blair, Tom Wilkinson, Nick Stahl, and Frances Fisher premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2006.



Jessica is also the creator of www.shopfilthygorgeous.com an online boutique that carries fun clothes and accessories of her own design.

Midlothia is Jessica's second indie-feature and her favorite.



James Thomas Gilbert (Actor - *Duck*) began acting at Martin High School in Arlington, TX and continued on to Texas Wesleyan University, where he earned his BFA in Theater in 1999.

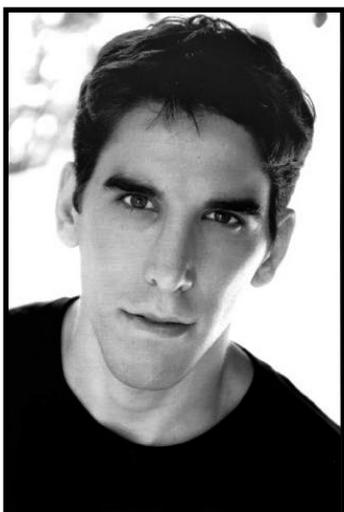
He immediately entered the professional theatre scene in Dallas, working days as a scenic carpenter for the Dallas Children's Theatre and nights at over 10 area theatres on stage.

Meanwhile James became a frequently cast independent film actor in Dallas, lending his talents to a variety of shorts and features.



Gilbert began collaborating with Sebastian on *Portal, the Movie*, and continued to remain close-by for a series of Sebastian's shorts, culminating in winning the role of Duck in **Midlothia**.

Shortly after production, Gilbert made the move to Los Angeles. He lives with a cat.



Eric Reeves (Actor - *Bill*) lives and works in Denton, Texas. Eric studied acting at KD Studios in Dallas and additionally studied under Michele Condry and Nancy Chartier.

Eric has worked in numerous Dallas theatre productions, including recent work with Second Thought Theatre, home of resident playwright, Steven Walters, author of "Pluck the Day."

Midlothia marks Eric's first feature film. Most recently, he earned a supporting role in the Coen Brothers' **No Country for Old Men**.



