



Tribeca Film in partnership with American Express presents a

MARLBORO ROAD GANG production

An EDWARD BURNS film

# NEWLYWEDS

Written and Directed by EDWARD BURNS

*Select Theatrical Release*

Chicago: January 13, 2012 at the Gene Siskel Film Center

Huntington, NY: January 27, 2012 at Cinema Arts Centre

Stuart, FL: April 10, 2012 at Lyric Theatre

Available on VOD December 26, 2011

**Distributor: Tribeca Film**

375 Greenwich Street

New York, NY 10011

**TRIBECA FILM:**

Tammie Rosen

212-941-2003

[trosen@tribecaenterprises.com](mailto:trosen@tribecaenterprises.com)

**ID PR:**

[Nyfilm@id-pr.com](mailto:Nyfilm@id-pr.com)

**FEATURING**

EDWARD BURNS *as Buzzy*

KERRY BISHÉ *as Linda*

MARSHA DIETLEIN BENNETT *as Marsha*

CAITLIN FITZGERALD *as Katie*

JOHN SOLO *as Miles*

DARA COLEMAN *as Dara*

MAX BAKER *as Max*

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ..... EDWARD BURNS  
PRODUCED BY ..... AARON LUBIN  
..... EDWARD BURNS  
..... WILLIAM REXER II  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ..... MIKE HARROP  
CO-PRODUCERS ..... BEN CHEAH  
..... NICOLAS NEWBOLD  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER ..... ZAK TUCKER  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ..... WILLIAM REXER II  
EDITOR ..... JANET GAYNOR  
MUSIC BY ..... PT WALKLEY  
CASTING DIRECTOR ..... MARIBETH FOX

## **SYNOPSIS**

### **Short:**

Buzzy (Edward Burns) and Katie (Caitlin FitzGerald) are a newly married couple living a seemingly conflict-free life. But when Buzzy's damaged and impulsive half-sister Linda (Kerry Bishé) arrives at their doorstep expecting to stay for an indefinite period in their Tribeca loft, her antics threaten to disrupt the couple's commitment to an "easy" marriage. Meanwhile, with Katie's sister Marsha projecting suspicions of her own husband's infidelity onto Buzzy, will the couple's formerly trusting and insulated life be able to withstand the dysfunctions of their respective siblings?

### **Long:**

Buzzy (Edward Burns) and Katie (Caitlin FitzGerald) are a newly wedded couple living a seemingly conflict-free life, in which he works days as a personal trainer while she works nights as a successful restaurateur. As this is each of their second marriages they have decided not to sweat the small stuff and to commit to an "easy" marriage.

But their wedding bliss is thrown out of balance when Buzzy's much younger half-sister Linda (Kerry Bishé) arrives at their doorstep, suitcase in hand, expecting to stay for an indefinite period in their Tribeca loft. As Buzzy has neglected to mention that his wild younger sister might be visiting, Katie is a little annoyed yet tolerant. However things escalate when Linda gets drunk and brings home a one-night stand, just about to have sex on the kitchen counter before Buzzy intervenes.

Katie's sister Marsha (Marsha Dietlein Bennett) is also no easy customer, as she is suffering serious marital problems with her husband of 18 years Max (Max Baker), and projects her suspicions of infidelity and dishonesty onto Katie and Buzzy's relationship. Katie worries that a life of conflict may be what she has to look forward to in future years.

As Linda becomes an even bigger headache of a houseguest, Katie wants her to leave the apartment. Katie is even more frustrated when Buzzy guiltily defends his sister, who is desperately trying to rekindle a relationship with a former lover Miles (John Solo), now newly married himself.

As Buzzy and Katie's formerly insulated and protected life becomes invaded by their respective, dysfunctional sisters, perhaps their honeymoon period is over...but is it lost forever?

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT FROM EDWARD BURNS**

People often ask me, which of my films is my favorite. And while each film is special to me, I must admit that if I had to choose, my favorite film would be SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK. I have always wanted to do a companion piece to that film, where I would use the pseudo-documentary device, both as a tool for storytelling, while also allowing me to work with a tiny crew and a micro-budget.

So, I thought an examination of a marriage would be fertile territory to cover for such an exercise, and really wanted to specifically explore the question of what makes for a successful marriage, so the screenplay for NEWLYWEDS was born. I wrote the script with certain actors in mind, most of whom I have worked with before, including Kerry Bishé, Marsha Dietlein Bennett, Max Baker and Dara Coleman. I met with all of the actors before we shot the movie, including the female lead, a terrific young actress named Caitlin FitzGerald, and collaborated with them about their respective parts. They helped to shape their individual roles, and allowed me to tailor-make the script to capture their respective voices and nuances as performers.

We then used the guerrilla-filmmaking approach I loved during the making of SIDEWALKS, and applied it to the filming of this movie, by canvassing my favorite neighborhood in New York, Tribeca. With our tiny, 3-man crew, and a small, Canon 5D camera, we shot in half a dozen restaurants in the neighborhood, while they were open for business. Additionally, we captured most of my favorite streets in the low light of winter, including N. Moore, Greenwich and Varick. I guess you can say this film is a love letter to Tribeca, and I hope asks some interesting questions about relationships and the challenges of a marriage.

## CAST BIOS

### EDWARD BURNS

Lauded by critics and audiences alike, Burns gained international recognition for his first feature THE BROTHERS MCMULLEN, which premiered in competition at the 1995 Sundance Film Festival, winning the Grand Jury prize. The film, which Burns wrote, directed and starred in, was shot on a budget of only \$25,000 and went on to gross over \$10 million at the domestic box office, making it the most profitable film of 1995. The film also won Best First Feature at the 1996 Independent Spirit Awards.

Burns' second film, the romantic comedy SHE'S THE ONE starring Jennifer Aniston and Cameron Diaz, reinforced Burns' versatile talent as a writer, director, and actor able to simultaneously and successfully wear multiple hats.

Burns continues to write, direct, star in and produce his films, including the Paramount Classics relationship comedy SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK, PURPLE VIOLETS, and most recently, NICE GUY JOHNNY. In a groundbreaking deal, PURPLE VIOLETS was the first feature film to premiere exclusively on iTunes. Burns built on this platform and successfully released NICE GUY JOHNNY via digital distribution in 2010.

His 10<sup>th</sup> feature film as a writer, director and actor is the romantic drama NEWLYWEDS, which had its world premiere and was selected as the closing film at the 2011 Tribeca Film Festival. Burns has been involved with TFF since the festival's inception in 2002.

As an actor, Burns starred opposite Tom Hanks and Matt Damon in Steven Spielberg's critically acclaimed World War II epic SAVING PRIVATE RYAN. He also starred in the thriller 15 MINUTES opposite Robert De Niro, CONFIDENCE opposite Dustin Hoffman, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox romantic comedy hit 27 DRESSES opposite Katherine Heigl.

Burns can be seen in the upcoming feature film MAN ON A LEDGE opposite Sam Worthington and Elizabeth Banks, as well as in Jennifer Westfeldt's FRIENDS WITH KIDS. Additionally he is starring opposite Tyler Perry and Matthew Fox in I, ALEX CROSS, set to be released in early 2012. Burns will also star in "40," Doug Ellin's much buzzed about new HBO series.

Ed Burns was born in Woodside, Queens and raised on Long Island. While at Hunter College in New York City, Burns switched his focus from English to filmmaking before quickly moving on to make The Brothers McMullen, which won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival.

He lives in New York City with his wife and two children.

### CAITLIN FITZGERALD

Caitlin FitzGerald is emerging as one of Hollywood's most engaging and talented young actresses. She is best known for her film roles in ITS COMPLICATED (starring opposite John Krasinski and Meryl Streep) and TAKING WOODSTOCK.

She will soon be seen in the Sony Pictures Classic's film DAMSEL'S IN DISTRESS opposite Greta Gerwig, Adam Brody, and Analeigh Tipton which will be released in the spring of 2012. The film was also showcased at the 2012 Toronto Film Festival.

Recently, FitzGerald finished filming the romantic drama MUTUAL FRIENDS which takes a closer look at the tension of relationships and connections of mutual friends in New York City; she plays the character 'Liv.'

Soon, FitzGerald will start filming the horror and psychodrama THE PINES in which she stars as the character 'Lena.' THE PINES tells the story of a woman Lena (FitzGerald) with severe bipolar disorder who is kidnapped and taken to a strange retreat as part of a radical cure. Set roughly in late 1970s.

No stranger to the small screen, FitzGerald's Television credits include: "Gossip Girl," "How to Make it in America," "Mercy" and "Law & Order: SVU."

FitzGerald currently resides in New York City.

### **KERRY BISHÉ**

In just a short period of time, Kerry Bishé has already made a name for herself in the worlds of film, TV and theater.

Bishé is currently shooting ARGO directed by Ben Affleck. Most recently, she starred as Lucy in the ABC series "Scrubs". She made her Broadway debut as Clara in the Roundabout Theatre's production of *Pygmalion* opposite Jefferson Mays and Claire Danes. Prior to that, Bishé made her Off Broadway debut in the Irish Repertory's *The Hairy Ape*, followed by her portrayal of the title role in Minetta Lane's production of *My Name Is Rachel Corrie*, directed by Alan Rickman.

Additional film credits include SEX AND THE CITY: THE MOVIE, RED STATE, TURKEY BOWL, NICE GUY JOHNNY, MESKADA, MOTHERHOOD, THE WOMEN, THE UNDERSTUDY, and TV credits include "Life on Mars," "Royal Pains," and "Virtuality."

A graduate of Northwestern University, Kerry currently resides in New York City.

### **MARSHA DIETLEIN BENNETT**

NEWLYWEDS marks Marsha's second collaboration with Edward Burns. She also co-starred in his film NICE GUY JOHNNY. Her other film credits include, LITTLE CHILDREN, BOILER ROOM, WINTER OF FROZEN DREAMS, UNBREAKABLE, and the cult classic RETURN OF THE LIVING DEAD: 2. Her short film, MY BLIND BROTHER, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival.

Her numerous television credits include several pilots for various networks, recurring roles on "Gossip Girl," and "Without a Trace," and guest star roles on "Law and Order," "Law and Order: Special Victim's Unit," "Law and Order: Criminal Intent," "Ed," "Third Watch," and many more.

Marsha also has a great love for theater and has starred Off-Broadway in Nicky Silver's *The Food Chain*, Michael Cristofer's *Amazing Grace*, and Joe DiPietro's *Over the River and Through the Woods*. She also performed in numerous productions in the Los Angeles area including *The Wood Demon* at the Mark Taper Forum and *Woman in Mind* (with Helen Mirren) at the Tiffany Theater.

### **JOHN SOLO**

John Solo began his acting career by appearing in the critically acclaimed feature film BLACKOUT produced by and starring Tony Award winner and Oscar nominated actor Jeffrey Wright, and Zoe Saldana. The film went on to premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2007.

From there, John went on to appear on several prominent television shows including: "All My Children," "Law & Order," and most notably recurring as Bazooka on FX's new series "Lights Out."

In 2011, John appeared in the soon-to-be released feature film, MAN ON A LEDGE, starring Sam Worthington and Edward Burns. Switching gears, John produced his first feature film LOVE MAGICAL where he also stars alongside Keith Sweat and Craig "Mums" Grant.

John has studied with some of the industries leading professionals, including actor Vincent D'Onofrio.

Theater credits include MTC's *Gentlemen of Corona*, starring alongside television and film veteran Reggie Vel Johnson.

John constantly performs with his theatre group, participates in acting workshops and studies with his acting coach, Nico Hartos

### **DARA COLEMAN**

Dara Coleman was born in County Wicklow, Ireland. He landed in New York City in 1994. Studied acting with William Esper and then went on to appear in a number of well received New York City Off-Broadway plays. In film, he has worked with Award winning Directors like Oliver Stone (WORLD TRADE CENTER), Edward Burns (ASH WEDNESDAY), Roland Emmerich (THE PATRIOT) and Tom Hooper (JOHN ADAMS); NEWLYWEDS marks his fifth time working with Edward Burns. He lives in downtown, Manhattan.

### **MAX BAKER**

Max grew up in North London in the 70's. He worked for a year as an assistant Director at The Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond, before starting his own theatre company and directing plays on the London Fringe circuit, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Hong Kong Fringe Festival. In 1986 he visited Durant, Oklahoma and stayed there for four years. Then it was off to Detroit, where he worked at the Hilberry Rep, earning a Detroit Free Press Best Actor award. For a couple of years, Max floated around the Pacific Northwest before arriving in Chicago in 1994 where he helped form a theatre company and worked as a director and actor. Shortly after that he was off to New York without a penny to his name. He managed to find the lowest form of telemarketing and ticket-tearing jobs he could and lived in an office. He gave up acting as a pursuit and taught himself how to paint. A friend talked him in to applying for an off-Broadway audition for British actors. Despite his reluctance, Max was cast. Mike Leigh's *Goose-pimples* was a big hit. Max worked alongside Sam Rockwell and Cara Seymour. He landed an agent and booked a pilot in LA almost immediately. That pilot got picked up for series and Max headed out to LA for the first time. He spent the next ten years working in TV and film, peppered with stints back in New York doing plays.

Film credits include big budget studio pictures like REVOLUTIONARY ROAD, CONSTANTINE, PIRATES OF THE CARRIBBEAN II, THE TIME MACHINE, THE ISLAND, as well as a number of small indie films and a string of TV guest roles including: "Medium," "Fringe," "Law & Order," "Felicity," "Angel" and "3<sup>rd</sup> Rock." In 2002 Max met Ed Burns while shooting LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT, and has subsequently appeared in four of Ed's films: LOOKING FOR KITTY, PURPLE VIOLETS, NICE GUY JOHNNY and now NEWLYWEDS, as well as the web series "*The Lynch Pin.*"

Max has continued to paint, building an extensive portfolio of work, and work on stage. He is also a co-founder of a very off-beat indie NY-based band called Eelwax Jesus. He is an avid playwright, and in 2010 his play *The Eelwax Jesus 3-D Pop Music Show* was produced at the Contemporary American Theatre Festival

At the moment he is back in London, performing in the West End in the smash hit show *Jerusalem*.