



Presents

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN



World Premiere – 2011 Cannes Film Festival

Directed by Lynne Ramsay
Screenplay by Lynne Ramsay & Rory Stewart Kinnear

Starring
Tilda Swinton, John C. Reilly, and Ezra Miller

Running Time: 112 Minutes
Opens in New York & LA December 2nd for Oscar qualifying run
January 27th- NYC & LA
February- National Rollout

Distributor Contact:
Dan Berger
Oscilloscope Laboratories
dan@oscilloscope.net
212.219.4029

Press Contacts:
Kia Muhammad
Oscilloscope Laboratories
kia@oscilloscope.net
212.219.4029

Chanelle James
Strategy PR
chanelle.james@strategypr.net
646.918.8736

Elena Zilberman
Strategy PR
elena.zilberman@strategypr.net
646.918.8730

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN

SYNOPSIS

A suspenseful and gripping psychological thriller, Lynne Ramsay's WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN explores the factious relationship between a mother and her son. Tilda Swinton, in a bracing, tour-de-force performance, plays the mother, Eva, as she contends for 15 years with the increasing malevolence of her first-born child, Kevin (Ezra Miller).

Based on the best-selling novel of the same name, WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN explores nature vs. nurture on a whole new level as Eva's own culpability is measured against Kevin's innate evilness. Ramsay's masterful storytelling simultaneously combines a provocative moral ambiguity with a satisfying and compelling narrative, which builds to a chilling, unforgettable climax.

PERSONAL ANECDOTES FROM PRODUCTION

Lynne Ramsay (Director)

We had a 30-day shoot and an 86-page script. We had to be really focused. It was about knowing what you want. It's a whole different world for me. You're essentially moving through an alien landscape. But the crew was so organized; it was the best I've ever worked with. We did three takes max, twenty-five setups a day. They were really behind the project, and we had absolutely top-notch people working on it for very little money.

Seamus McGarvey (Director of Photography)

It was a challenge shooting very quickly as we only had 30 days to shoot many scenes. We shot listed the whole film so it was very helpful in that everyone knew what we were trying to achieve every day. We have an extraordinary crew, and it's wonderful to work with such a decisive director as Lynne. She knows the power of the edit and the camera, and she looks at every take and knows when we got it. We went for a very lucid and clear point of view versus how memories are normally shot, like a waking dream. The present day is more psychological and internal and getting under the skin and into the head of Eva's character.

Judy Becker (Production Designer)

The entire film was shot on location, so we did a lot of work to find locations that could be transformed. One example is an abandoned vocation school we found that became a hospital, a pediatrician's office, a juvenile detention center, a school and a run down tropical hotel in Ecuador. We're fortunate because we wanted to use it as a mini studio, and fortunately there was enough room here to do it.

For the design, it was to distinguish the three main time periods: the early days when she has a baby with happy memories: the suburbs where things become more austere -- where Eva and Kevin's relationship starts to go downhill; and the present day which is the aftermath of what happens when Eva has lost everything.

Tilda Swinton (Eva / Executive Producer)

Seamus is someone I've known for over twenty years. We first worked together with Derek Jarman, years ago, in England. For us to work altogether is grace -- not only are he, Lynne and I all Scottish-based filmmakers -- we're all good friends. Working doesn't get much better than that.

Bob Salerno (Producer)

We have an amazing crew, there is admiration and collaboration between everyone to help get Lynne's vision on to the screen. From the costumes to the production design, everyone is working to bring the script to life.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

TILDA SWINTON (“Eva”)

A native of Scotland, Tilda Swinton started making films with the English director Derek Jarman in 1985, with *Caravaggio*. They made seven more films together including *The Last of England*, *The Garden*, *War Requiem*, *Edward II* (for which she was named Best Actress at the 1991 Venice International Film Festival), and *Wittgenstein*, before Jarman’s death in 1994. She gained wider international recognition in 1992 with her portrayal of *Orlando*, based on the novel by Virginia Woolf under the direction of Sally Potter. She has established rewarding ongoing filmmaking relationships with Lynn Hershman Leeson with whom she made *Conceiving Ada*, *Teknolust* and *Strange Culture*, with John Maybury with whom she made *Man 2 Man* and *Love Is The Devil*, with Jim Jarmusch (*Broken Flowers*, *The Limits of Control*) and Luca Guadagnino with whom she made *The Protagonists*, *The Love Factory* and most recently the widely acclaimed *I Am Love* which she co-produced over the span of a decade.

In 1995, she conceived and performed her acclaimed live-art piece *The Maybe* in which she presents herself lying asleep in a glass case for eight hours a day over seven days, which was presented at The Serpentine Gallery in collaboration with an installation she devised with Cornelia Parker. More than 22,000 people saw *The Maybe* there, making it the most popular exhibition of its time. The following year, in collaboration with the French artists Pierre et Gilles -- and for comparable numbers of visitors – she recreated the piece at the Museo Barocco in Rome.

Swinton has also performed in Spike Jonze’s *Adaptation*, David Mackenzie’s *Young Adam*, Mike Mills’ *Thumbsucker*, Francis Lawrence’s *Constantine*, Béla Tarr’s *The Man from London*, Andrew Adamson’s two blockbusters *The Chronicles of Narnia* tales, Tony Gilroy’s *Michael Clayton* -- for her performance in which she received the BAFTA and an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress of 2008, and Erick Zonca’s *Julia*, which received its World Premiere at the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival for which she was nominated for a César Award and for its release in the UK, Swinton won the Evening Standard’s Best Actress Award.

JOHN C. REILLY (“FRANKLIN”)

Academy Award® and multi-Golden Globe nominee John C. Reilly has made an impact in both the comedic and dramatic worlds of cinema. He has received Oscar® and Golden Globe nominations for Best Supporting Actor for his standout performance as Amos Hart in the Academy Award®-winning film, *Chicago*. Additionally, for that role, he was named Best Supporting Actor by the Las Vegas Film Critics, and was nominated by the Chicago Film Critics in the same category. That same year, Reilly starred in two other Academy Award®-nominated films: Martin Scorsese’s *Gangs of New York*, and Stephen Daldry’s *The Hours*, making it the first time that a single actor had been part of three of

the five films in this prestigious category.

Reilly's other Golden Globe nominations were for Columbia Picture's *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story* for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy and Best Original Song - Motion Picture for *Walk Hard*, which he co-wrote. The song was also nominated for Best Song Written for Motion Picture, Television or Other Visual Media at the 51st Annual Grammy Awards.

Most recently on the big screen, Reilly reunited with Will Ferrell and producer Judd Apatow in the comedy *Step Brothers*, which went to earn over \$100 million domestically.

Reilly's first film role came in Brian De Palma's 1989 motion picture, *Casualties of War*. That was followed by appearances in a wide array of films including *Days of Thunder*, *Shadows and Fog*, *We're No Angels*, *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, *Hoffa*, *Georgia*, *Dolores Claiborne* and *The River Wild*. However, as a regular in director Paul Thomas Anderson's films, Reilly began attracting attention for his roles in *Hard Eight*, *Boogie Nights* and *Magnolia*.

Other film credits for Reilly include as Jennifer Aniston's husband in *The Good Girl*, which garnered him a Spirit Award nomination; *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, *A Prairie Home Companion*, *Dark Water*, *The Aviator*, *Criminal*, *The Perfect Storm*, *For Love of the Game*, *Never Been Kissed*, *Anger Management*, *State of Grace* and *The Thin Red Line*.

Reilly returned to his theater roots in 2000 when he starred in Sam Shepard's Tony Award-nominated Broadway production, *True West*, starring opposite Philip Seymour Hoffman, garnering an Outer Critics Circle Award and Tony Award nomination for Best Performance by a Leading Actor. In April 2005, he starred in the Broadway production of Tennessee Williams' classic *A Streetcar Named Desire*. His other stage credits include the Steppenwolf Theater productions of *Othello*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *The Grapes of Wrath* where he starred alongside Gary Sinese. In addition, Reilly produced and played the title role in Ionesco's *Exit the King* at the Actors Gang Theater in Los Angeles. Reilly's recent credits include voicing the character of 5 for 9 produced by Tim Burton, *Cedar Rapids* and the critically acclaimed *Cyrus*. Later this year, he will be seen on-screen opposite Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet and Christoph Waltz in Roman Polanski's *God of Carnage* based on Yasmina Reza's play.

Born in Chicago and raised as the fifth of six children in an Irish-Lithuanian family, Reilly studied at the Goodman School of Drama at DePaul University.

EZRA MILLER (“Kevin”)

Since his 2008 screen debut in the harrowing prep-school drama *Afterschool*, Ezra Miller has built a reputation for fearlessness, comic chops and holding his own opposite stars including Andy Garcia, Liev Schreiber and Helen Hunt. *Afterschool*, the highly-acclaimed independent feature, screened at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival and the 2009 Berlin Film Festival. The film garnered critical acclaim including nominations at both the Gotham Independent Film Awards and the Independent Spirit Awards.

Miller’s film credits include opposite Andy Garcia in Raymond De Felitta’s *City Island*, *Every Day*, opposite Liev Schreiber, Helen Hunt, Carla Gugino, Brian Dennehy and Eddie Izzard, and the lead role in Bryan Goluboff’s directorial debut *Beware The Gonzo*. Most recently, he completed Sam Levinson’s *The Reasonable Bunch*, in the lead role, with Ellen Barkin, Ellen Burstyn, Kate Bosworth, Demi Moore, and Martin Landau.

Miller’s television credits include multiple episodes of *Californication* on Showtime and a recurring role in the first and second seasons of the hit USA series *Royal Pains*. A passionate musician, Miller recently toured on the East Coast with his band Sons of an Illustrious Father.

FILMMAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

LYNNE RAMSAY (DIRECTOR / SCREENWRITER / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

Lynne Ramsay won the 1996 Cannes Prix de Jury for her graduation film, the short *Small Deaths*. Her second short film *Kill the Day* won the Clermont Ferrand Prix du Jury; her third, *Gasman*, won her another Cannes Prix du Jury in addition to a Scottish BAFTA for Best Short Film.

Ratcatcher (1999), Ramsay's debut feature, won critical acclaim and numerous awards. It was screened at the 1999 Cannes Film Festival and opened the Edinburgh International Film Festival, winning her the Guardian New Directors prize. She also won the Carl Foreman Award for Newcomer in British Film at the 2000 BAFTA Awards, the Sutherland Trophy at the London Film Festival and the Silver Hugo for Best Director at the Chicago International Film Festival.

Ramsay's second film, *Morvern Callar* (2002) won Samantha Morton the British Independent Film Award for Best Actress, and Kathleen McDermott the Scottish BAFTA Award for Best Actress. It also won the 2002 C.I.C.A.E. Award and the Award of The Youth at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival.

RORY STEWART KINNEAR (SCREENWRITER)

An accomplished musician, *We Need To Talk About Kevin* marks his first screenplay.

SEAMUS McGARVEY (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

Seamus McGarvey (ASC, BSC) born in Armagh, Northern Ireland, began his career as a still photographer before attending film school at the University of Westminster in London. Upon graduation in 1988, he began shooting short films and documentaries including *Skin*, which was nominated for a Royal Television Society Cinematography Award, and *Atlantic*, directed by Sam Taylor-Wood, nominated for the 1998 Turner Prize. He also photographed and directed over 100 music videos for such artists as U2, The Rolling Stones, PJ Harvey, Robbie Williams, Sir Paul McCartney, Dusty Springfield and Coldplay. His credits as a cinematographer include Oliver Stone's *World Trade Center*, starring Nicolas Cage, *The Hours*, directed by Stephen Daldry, starring Nicole Kidman, Meryl Streep and Julianne Moore, for which he earned the Evening Standard British Film Award for Best Technical/Artistic Achievement; the action-adventure film *Sahara*, starring Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz, for which he won the Irish Film and Television Award for Best Cinematography; *Along Came Polly*, starring Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston; *High Fidelity*, directed by Stephen Frears, starring John Cusack; *Wit*, starring Emma Thompson, directed by Mike Nichols; *Enigma*, directed by Michael Apted; *The War Zone*, *Butterfly Kiss*, *The Winter Guest*, *The Actors*, *A Map of the World*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Atonement*, for which he has received an Academy Award® nomination, a BAFTA nomination and the Technical Achievement Award in the Evening Standard British Film

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN

Awards and won the 2008 Irish Film and Television Award for Best Cinematography.

His recent credits include *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* directed by Anthony Minghella, *The Soloist* for director Joe Wright, and *Nowhere Boy* for director Sam Taylor- Wood.

In 1998, the British Society of Cinematographers invited McGarvey to join. In 2004, he was awarded the Royal Photographic Society's prestigious Lumiere Medal for contributions to the art of cinematography.

LUC ROEG (PRODUCER)

Luc Roeg is CEO of production and film sales outfit, Independent. He has Produced and Executive Produced numerous features including Bernard Rose's *Mr. Nice*, David Cronenberg's *Spider*, Steve Barron's *Mike Bassett: England Manager*, Oliver Parker's *Othello* and Nicolas Roeg's *Two Deaths*.

Prior to Independent, Roeg was Head of Independent Film Europe at the William Morris Agency, UK. Previously, he was one of the founders of Vivid Productions, where he produced Tom Waits' *Big Time* and Peter Medak's *Let Him Have It*.

JENNIFER FOX (PRODUCER)

Jennifer Fox received an Academy Award nomination® as producer of Tony Gilroy's directing debut, *Michael Clayton*, starring George Clooney, Sydney Pollack, Tilda Swinton and Tom Wilkinson. The film received seven Oscar nominations including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Supporting Actress. Fox collaborated with Gilroy again to produce his next film, *Duplicity*, starring Julia Roberts, Clive Owen, Tom Wilkinson and Paul Giamatti. That same year Fox produced *The Informant*, directed by Steven Soderbergh and starring Matt Damon.

She is currently beginning production on Tony Gilroy's next directing project, *The Bourne Legacy*.

Fox served as President of Steven Soderbergh and George Clooney's production company Section Eight from 2001 to 2007. There she produced Stephen Gaghan's *Syriana*, for which George Clooney won the Academy Award® for Best Supporting Actor. Under the banner, Fox also executive produced the Clooney-directed political drama *Good Night and Good Luck*, which received six Academy Award® nominations including Best Picture; Richard Linklater's *A Scanner Darkly*, starring Keanu Reeves, Robert Downey Jr., Woody Harrelson and Winona Ryder; *PU-239*, which premiered at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival; Rob Reiner's *Rumor Has It*, starring Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Costner, Shirley MacLaine and Mark Ruffalo; *The Jacket*, directed by John Maybury, starring Adrien Brody and Keira Knightley; and *Criminal*, directed by Gregory Jacobs starring John C. Reilly, Diego Luna, and Maggie Gyllenhaal.

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN

During Fox's tenure, Section Eight also produced *Ocean's Eleven*, *Welcome to Collinwood*, *Full Frontal*, *Far From Heaven*, *Insomnia*, *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, *Ocean's Twelve*, *The Good German*, and *Ocean's Thirteen*. Prior to Section Eight, Fox was Vice President of Production at Universal Pictures, where she worked on several films including Steven Soderbergh's *Erin Brockovich*.

ROBERT SALERNO (PRODUCER)

Robert Salerno has been working in the film industry for more than 20 years including his most recent release, the critically acclaimed film *A Single Man*, based on the Christopher Isherwood novel, directed by Tom Ford and starring Colin Firth and Julianne Moore. The film garnered many accolades including an Oscar® nomination for Colin Firth, three Golden Globe nominations as well as Salerno's nomination for Best Picture at the Independent Spirit Awards this year. Other critically acclaimed films of his include *21 Grams*, directed by Alejandro González- Iñárritu, and starring Sean Penn, Benicio Del Toro and Naomi Watts. The film received numerous awards including two Oscar® nominations, and a 2004 Independent Spirit Award for Outstanding Filmmaking.

In 1995, Salerno began an association with The Shooting Gallery, the New York-based independent film production and distribution company, where he began his longtime partnership with actor/filmmaker Billy Bob Thornton. This creative alliance produced several feature films including the Academy Award®-winning *Sling Blade*, *Daddy and Them* as well as *All The Pretty Horses*, starring Matt Damon and Penélope Cruz. Salerno also produced *Waking Up In Reno* in which Thornton starred with Charlize Theron, Patrick Swayze and Natasha Richardson. Among other films Salerno produced are *Chinese Coffee*, directed by and starring Al Pacino and Hype Williams' *Belly*, starring DMX, Nas and Method Man. Salerno's earlier features include *Hudson River Blues*, *The Substitute 2: School's Out*, starring Treat Williams, and Gary Winick's *The Tic Code*, starring Gregory Hines.

He also produced under his Artina Films banner: *Delirious* by Tom Dicillo starring Steve Buscemi and Michael Pitt, which premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival; *Chapter 27* starring Jared Leto and Lindsay Lohan, which also premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival; and *Winged Creatures* starring Forest Whitaker, Kate Beckinsale, Dakota Fanning and Jennifer Hudson. Most recently he produced Joel Schumacher's *Twelve* based on the book by Nick McDonnell, starring Chace Crawford, Emma Roberts and 50 Cents. Salerno is currently in production on *Arbitrage*, starring Richard Gere and Susan Sarandon.

JOE BINI (EDITOR)

Editor Joe Bini's diverse credits include working with *The Tillman Story* and working extensively with acclaimed filmmaker Werner Herzog for more than a

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN

decade on films including *Rescue Dawn*, *Grizzly Man*, *The Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*, *Encounters At The End of The World* and most recently on *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*.

In 2008, he won the Documentary Editing Award at the Sundance Film Festival for his work on *Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired*.

JONNY GREENWOOD (MUSIC SCORE)

Jonny Greenwood is a member of the acclaimed alternative rock band Radiohead. Greenwood serves mainly as lead guitarist and keyboard player but also plays viola, xylophone, glockenspiel, ondes martenot, banjo, harmonica and drums. He also works on the electronic side of Radiohead, working on computer-generated sounds and sampling. His film score credits include Paul Thomas Anderson's *There Will Be Blood*.

In addition, he has served as the Composer in Residence for the BBC Concert Orchestra.

JUDY BECKER (PRODUCTION DESIGNER)

Judy Becker has worked with some of today's most acclaimed directors including Todd Haynes (*I'm Not There*), Ang Lee (*Brokeback Mountain*), and David O. Russell (*The Fighter*).

Other credits as production designer include Douglas McGrath's *Infamous*, Zach Braff's *Garden State*, Peter Sollett's *Raising Victor Vargas*, Mike Mills' *Thumbsucker* and Rebecca Miller's *Personal Velocity*.

Becker comes from a background in fine arts and photography. She spent several years as an underground comics artist, and had her work published in many notable comics compilations. She lives in New York City.

CATHERINE GEORGE (COSTUME DESIGNER)

Catherine George is a costume designer based in New York. Born and raised in Belfast, Northern Ireland, she graduated in Fashion Design from the University of Derby before going on to work in design in London.

George began her career in film on Jim Sheridan's *The Boxer*, co-written by her brother Terry George. Next, she worked on Terry's HBO feature *A Bright Shining Lie* in Thailand. She went on to work as wardrobe supervisor on *In America*, again for Jim Sheridan.

As an assistant costume designer, she has worked with Joan Bergin (the Emmy® winning designer of *The Tudors*) on a number of projects and Michael Wilkinson on *Garden State*, *Imaginary Heroes* and *The Nanny Diaries*. George went on to design the costumes for Katherine Dieckmann's feature *Diggers* set in

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN

the 1970s; Lodge Kerrigan's award-winning *Keane*; *Reservation Road*, on which she collaborated once again with Terry George.

Soon after, she worked with Clark Gregg on *Choke*, the winner of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival Special Jury Prize. George had her first television credit designing the costumes for *The Return of Jezebel James*, a sit-com starring Parker Posey.

Recent projects include the Oren Moverman's acclaimed film *The Messenger*; *Untitled*, directed by Todd Solondz; and *Red Dawn*, directed by Dan Bradley, starring Jeffery Dean Morgan and Chris Hemsworth.