

Sabbatical Pictures

Presents

Exit Speed

Produced by Sally Helppie

Written by Michael Stokes

Directed by Scott Ziehl

93 minutes

Language: English

Genre: Action, Thriller

Rated R

Exit Speed

Bus passengers succumb to their own primal instincts when besieged by a psychopathic motorcycle gang in the wilds of Texas. A high-octane thrill ride featuring extreme motorcycle stunts.

Produced by
SALLY HELPPIE

Written by
MICHAEL STOKES

Directed by
SCOTT ZIEHL

CAST

DESMOND HARRINGTON.....Sam Cutter
LEA THOMPSON..... Maudie McMinn
JULIE MOND Merideth Cole
ALICE GRECZYN..... Annabel Drake
FRED WARD.....Sgt. Archibald Sparks
GREGORY JBARA..... Coach Jerry Yarbro
DAVID REES SNELL Danny Gunn
KELLI DAWN HANCOCK..... Desiree
NICK SOWELLDuke
EVERETT SIFUENTE Mr. Vargas
WALLY WHITEWalter Lindley

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(Synopsis)

On Christmas Eve, ten passengers board a bus traveling across Texas. Most are heading for home, family and friends. Some are in search of new jobs. One, an Army deserter, is trying to stay a jump ahead of the Military Police.

On a deserted section of highway, the bus collides with a nomadic biker wired on crystal meth. When the passengers go to his aid, he opens fire on the bus. Terrified, the passengers set upon him and kill him.

The murder is witnessed by eight other members of the biker's pack.

The passengers flee on the bus with the bikers in murderous pursuit. Forced off the road, the passengers take refuge in an abandoned wrecking yard. As they watch in horror, the bikers surround the place before sending one of their own to bring back the rest of the pack.

While the remaining bikers launch probing attacks, the passengers rely on improvised weapons and sheer guts to mount a defense. Their numbers dwindling, the passengers realize they must do the unthinkable in order to survive.

They must go on the offensive.

MICHAEL STOKES

Writer

Michael Stokes is perhaps the only Humanitas Prize-winning screenwriter to also have a movie heralded by Fangoria Magazine as a “must-see gem”.

Stokes alternates between writing animated shows for children and penning feature-length thrillers and chillers like SABOTAGE, JUNGLEGROUND, BRAM STOKER’S SHADOWBUILDER (the Fango fave), and EXIT SPEED which he also produced. EXIT SPEED is a modern day western in which bus passengers traveling across Texas are set upon by “bandits” in the form of meth-addicted bikers. It stars Fred Ward, Desmond Harrington and Lea Thompson.

Stokes’s two most recent scripts are in preproduction. NIGHTFALL, a violent vampire flick (that restores bloodsuckers to their rightful place atop the predatory food chain), is being made by Frank Mancuso Jr., the producer of SPECIES and the Robert DeNiro spy movie RONIN. Stokes’s neo-noir detective story VERDIGRIS about corruption in post-Katrina New Orleans is being produced by Tule River, producers of the Sundance feature, DOWNLOADING NANCY.

Stokes also writes children’s animation. In 2006 he was awarded a Humanitas Prize (which honors stories that “affirm the human person, probe the meaning of life, and enlighten the use of human freedom”) for an episode of MISS SPIDER’S SUNNY PATCH FRIENDS. In 2005, he was a nominee for a Writer’s Guild of Canada Award for another episode of MISS SPIDER called “The Marin Rose” (named after the youngest of his five stepchildren).

Stokes is the story editor and lead writer for the new BABAR television series based on the beloved books. He has written for ROLIE POLIE OLIE, TOTALLY SPIES and TODDWORLD. He was a writer and story editor for the animated adventure JANE AND THE DRAGON which was co-produced by Peter Jackson’s WETA Studios, the digital wizards behind LORD OF THE RINGS. Stokes was also part of a team of writers hired by Lucasfilms to break stories for CLONE WARS.

In 2008, Stokes wrote and made his directorial debut with THE BEACON. Like all good ghost stories, THE BEACON is, at heart, a mystery. As the heroine, Bryn Shaw, unravels the circumstances surrounding the death of a small boy, Stokes provides the audience clues to the unraveling state of Bryn’s marriage. Guilt and ghosts make a potent and frightening combination. THE BEACON stars Teri Polo, David Rees Snell, Elaine Hendrix, Ken Howard, and genre icon Michael Ironside.

SALLY HELPPIE

Producer

Sally Helppie is a Founder and President of the Texas-based motion picture production company Sabbatical Pictures. In its first two years, Sabbatical Pictures has financed and produced two feature films.

A graduate of the UCLA School of Law, Sally practices Entertainment Law and commercial litigation even as she produces character-driven genre films like the action-packed thriller EXIT SPEED and the supernatural chiller THE BEACON.

Sally is a hands-on producer, intimately involved in all phases of development, pre-production, production, post-production and distribution. She is Of Counsel and heads the Entertainment Law section of the Dallas law firm Tipton Jones, where she has handled the legal work for several big-budget Hollywood-based films. In addition, she represents Texas-based financiers, producers, writers and actors.

In addition to Entertainment law, Sally is a seasoned trial attorney, whose practice encompasses all aspects of commercial trials and appeals. She has been named a Texas Super Lawyer for three years and has been recognized as one of the top business litigators in the United States. She is a member of the Entertainment and Litigation sections of the State Bar of Texas and the Dallas Bar Association, and currently serves as Chair of the Business Litigation Section of the Dallas Bar.



DESMOND HARRINGTON as Sam Cutter

Desmond was born in Savannah, Georgia, but moved to his parents' native Bronx, New York at age 3, where he attended Catholic schools. Desmond found trouble in and out of school throughout his formative years. After high school, he took jobs as a laborer, a landscaper, a cold caller at a brokerage firm, and finally a bartender in Manhattan, where a co-worker invited him to attend an acting class. That changed the course of his life.

Over the years, Desmond has appeared in dramas and comedies alike, including *LIFE IS HOT IN CRACKTOWN* with Shannyn Sossamon and Brandon Routh, *WRONG TURN* with Eliza Dushku and Emmanuelle Chriqui, *GHOST SHIP* with Gabriel Byrne, Julianna Margulies and Emily Browning, *WE WERE SOLDIERS* with Mel Gibson and Greg Kinnear, *THREE WAY* with Dominic Purcell and Joy Bryant, and *RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS* with Drew Barrymore and Steve Zahn.

He is well-known for his television roles as Joey Quinn on *DEXTER*, Troy in *RESCUE ME*, Jack Bass in *GOSSIP GIRL*, Wylie Blake in *SONS & DAUGHTERS*, and Detective Dexter McCarron in *L.A. DRAGNET*.

Additional film and television credits include *TiMER*, *FORT PIT*, *LIFE MAKES SENSE IF YOU'RE FAMOUS*, *MY FIRST MISTER*, *NOT SINCE YOU*, and *LAW & ORDER: CRIMINAL INTENT*.



LEA THOMPSON as Maudie McMinn

Lea Thompson is perhaps best known for her roles in *BACK TO THE FUTURE I, II, and III* (Kid's Choice Award winner) and as the star of the long-running television show *CAROLINE IN THE CITY* (People's Choice and TV Guide Award Winner). She starred in *SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL*, *ALL THE RIGHT MOVES*, *HOWARD THE DUCK*, *THE BEVERLY HILLBILLIES*, *SPACE CAMP* and *DENNIS THE MENACE*. Some of Lea's other film credits include *ARTICLE 99*, *CASUAL SEX?*, *JAWS 3-D*, *RED DAWN*, *THE WIZARD OF LONELINESS*, *THE LITTLE RASCALS*,

THE WILDLIFE, THE UNKNOWN CYCLIST, FISH DON'T BLINK, COME AWAY HOME, DOUBTING THOMAS, and BALANCING THE BOOKS.

Her television movie credits include: THE SUBSTITUTE WIFE, STOLEN BABIES, THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT, THE UNSPOKEN TRUTH, MONTANA, NIGHTBREAKER, the NBC miniseries, A WILL OF THEIR OWN, STEALING CHRISTMAS, A LIFE INTERRUPTED: THE DEBBIE SMITH STORY, CALIFORNIA DREAMING and the miniseries FINAL APPROACH.

In addition to NBC's CAROLINE IN THE CITY, Lea has appeared in Lifetime's FOR THE PEOPLE and in the Mystery Movie Series on the Hallmark Channel in JANE DOE, during which she made her directorial debut.

An all-around triple threat performer, Lea also has appeared in many stage productions, including THE LITTLE MERMAID, BUS STOP, THE ILLUSION, LONG TIME COMING, CHARLIE BACON'S FAMILY, THE TRIP BACK DOWN, VAGINA MONOLOGUES, and as "Sally Bowles" at Studio 54 in the Broadway revival of CABARET.



FRED WARD as Sgt. Archibald Sparks

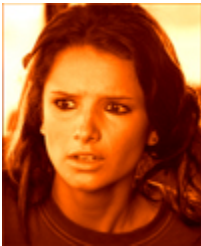
A marvelous character actor with intense eyes, a sly grin and somewhat grizzled appearance, Fred Ward has more than 70 appearances under his belt in many tremendous films. He became interested in acting after serving three years in the US Air Force and studied at New York's Herbert Berghof Studio. Fred then traveled to Europe, where he dubbed many Italian movies, and first appeared on-screen in two films by Roberto Rossellini. Upon his return to the United States, he landed a role alongside Clint Eastwood in the nail-biting prison film ESCAPE FROM ALCATRAZ. Ward's looks often saw him cast as law enforcement or military characters, and he put in noteworthy performances in SOUTHERN COMFORT, UNCOMMON VALOR, and as astronaut Gus Grissom in THE RIGHT STUFF. From there, Fred scored the lead in the now-classic spy-martial arts movie REMO WILLIAMS, which revealed his knack for comedic timing and satirical performance. Fred later played Kevin Bacon's fellow giant-worm-fighting handyman in the light-hearted sci-fi hit TREMORS, "Walter Stuckel" in Robert Altman's THE PLAYER, TV anchorman "Chip Daley" in Tim Robbins' razor-sharp political satire BOB ROBERTS, and a vicious, but incompetent, gangster menacing Leslie Nielsen in NAKED GUN 33 1/3: THE FINAL INSULT.

Ward's abilities as both a strong supporting actor and a truly versatile character actor ensured that he would be in steady demand, and he has continued to turn up in a wide variety of roles utilizing his skills, including **THE CHAOS FACTOR** with Antonio Sabato Jr., **JOE DIRT** with David Spade, **CORKY ROMANO** with Chris Kattan and Peter Falk, and **SWEET HOME ALABAMA** with Reese Witherspoon.



JULIE MOND as Merideth Cole

Julie Mond has appeared on the big screen in such diverse movies as **SOMETHING NEW** and **HANGMAN**, as well as **REST STOP: DON'T LOOK BACK**, **APPROACHING HEAVEN** and **PRINCE OF JERSEY**. She has guest starred on television series **COLD CASE**, **TELL ME YOU LOVE ME** and **CSI: NY**, as well as the Lifetime movie **GRAVE MISCONDUCT** with Crystal Bernard.



ALICE GRECZYN as Annabel Drake

Born in Walnut Creek, California, Alice Greczyn grew up mainly in the mid-west until finally landing in Colorado. Her childhood goal was to compete as a figure skater. But Alice's stunning exotic beauty, a unique European-Asian blend of ethnicity, drew the attention of a talent manager in Colorado, who set her career in motion. Alice loves acting and has quickly piled up roles. She spends her limited off time traveling, whether it's to visit with family or visit places as far as Mongolia. Her true passions are cooking and exploring other cultures.

On the big screen, Alice starred in **SEX DRIVE** with Seth Green and James Marsden, and in **THE DUKES OF HAZZARD** with Johnny Knoxville and Seann William Scott. She had major roles in the horror films **HOUSE OF FEARS** and **SHROOMS**, and has appeared in **FAT ALBERT** and **SLEEPOVER**.

On television, Alice has proven her mettle as Sage Lund in **LINCOLN HEIGHTS**, as Mandy on **PRIVILEGED**, and as Frankie Townsend on **WINDFALL**. She also has

appeared in MOONLIGHT, CSI: MIAMI, PHIL OF THE FUTURE and QUINTUPLETS.



GREGORY JBARA as Coach Jerry Yarbrow

Gregory Jbara is the 2009 Tony Award Winner for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Jackie Elliot, the Dad, in Broadway's BILLY ELLIOT. A graduate of the Julliard School, Gregory is known as a "triple threat." He originated the role of "Andre Thibault" on Broadway in DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS with John Lithgow, and has appeared on Broadway in CHICAGO, DAMN YANKEES, and VICTOR/VICTORIA. He also recently sang the National Anthem at the New York Mets game against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Gregory's film credits include ENCHANTED, OUT OF STEP, IRA & ABBY, IN & OUT, JEFFREY, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, PROJECT 96B, FIRST 20 MILLION..., WORLD TRADE CENTER and THE OUT OF TOWNERS.

He is seen regularly on television, and has had recurring roles on GROUNDED FOR LIFE, THAT'S LIFE, THE DREW CAREY SHOW and ALL MY CHILDREN. He has guest starred on THE UNIT, TWENTY GOOD YEARS, CONVICTION, FRIENDS, CENTURY CITY, THE WEST WING, WITHOUT A TRACE, TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL, CROSSING JORDAN, PROVIDENCE, ALLY McBEAL, MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE, FRASIER, FAMILY GUY, AMERICAN DAD, ROCKET POWER and COME ON OVER.

On the west coast, Gregory's theatre roles have included LITTLE FISH, PRECIOUS SONS, HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT and FIRST LADY SUITE at The Blank, as well as FELIX & OSCAR at the Geffen.

A native of Michigan, Gregory resides in Los Angeles with his wife and two sons.

TO SURVIVE, 10 STRANGERS MUST DO THE UNTHINKABLE...

exits**SPEED**

DESMOND HARRINGTON LEA THOMPSON FRED WARD ALICE GRECZYN



SABBATICAL PICTURES, LLC PRESENTS "EXIT SPEED" DESMOND HARRINGTON LEA THOMPSON JULIE MOND ALICE GRECZYN GREGORY IBARA DAVID REES SNELL and FRED WARD
ALSO STARRING KELLI DAWN HANCOCK NICK SOWELL EVERETT SIFUENTES WALLY WHITE COSTUME DESIGNER KAREN MARGIOTTA MARY MARGIOTTA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRIS SEAY PRODUCERS MARSHALL HARVEY A.C.E. WILLIAM YOUNG
WRITTEN BY DOUG BESTERMAN PRODUCED BY ERIC WHITNEY DIRECTED BY THOMAS L. CALLAWAY EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY MICHAEL STOKES PRODUCED BY SALLY HELPPIE WRITTEN BY MICHAEL STOKES DIRECTED BY SCOTT ZIEHL
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**TO SURVIVE, 10 STRANGERS
MUST DO THE UNTHINKABLE . . .**

exit**SPEED**

On Christmas Eve, ten strangers board a bus traveling across Texas. Among them is Sam Cutter (Desmond Harrington of *WRONG TURN* and *WE WERE SOLDIERS*) – a working class stiff with a bag of presents for the son he's never met – and a sweet-natured soccer mom named Maudie McMinn (Lea Thompson of *BACK TO THE FUTURE* and *CAROLINE IN THE CITY*). Jumping on at the last second is Merideth Cole (Julie Mond from *REST STOP 2*), an army deserter being tracked by Military Police Sergeant Archibald Sparks (veteran tough guy Fred Ward of *TREMORS*, *THE PLAYER*, and *SWEET HOME ALABAMA*).

Far out in the wilds, the bus collides with a meth-addicted biker. Pursued by his vengeful comrades in a heart-stopping chase, the bus passengers are finally forced off the road. They take shelter in a hell-hole of an abandoned scrap yard while the bikers surround the place and send one of their numbers to bring back the rest of the gang.

Relying on improvised weapons and sheer guts, the passengers manage to repel the first probing attacks the bikers make. Sam and Merideth – who knows Sergeant Sparks is closing in on her – rally others to make a stand. Maudie – a Girl Scout leader and charity marathon runner – proves to be a surprisingly resourceful ally. Desperate to get home to her children, she decides to make a run for help. But it will take all the passengers working as a team to get her out of the yard and past the bikers.

In order to survive, this group of strangers must do the unthinkable: they must trust each other . . . and go on the offensive.

EXIT SPEED is an action-thriller from director Scott Ziehl (whose film *BROKEN VESSELS* won the Audience Award for Best Feature at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival) and Humanitas Prize-winning screenwriter Michael Stokes. Tony Award winner Doug Besterman composed the driving score.

The film also features rising young star Alice Greczyn from *LINCOLN HEIGHTS* and *HOUSE OF FEARS*, David Rees Snell from the hit television show *THE SHIELD*, Gregory Jbara from *GROUNDED FOR LIFE* and the Broadway blockbuster *DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS*, and the members of a real life underground bike crew hired to perform the extreme motorcycle stunts that give *EXIT SPEED* its visceral edge.

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