



A Feature-Length Motion Picture from

RiverBend Films

In Association With

The Filmmakers' Society at the University of Virginia

The University of Virginia Department of Drama

The University of Virginia Department of Media Studies

The World Premiere:

April 9th, 2008 – 8:00pm Newcomb Hall Theatre The University of Virginia, Charlottesville

www.TheReceiptMovie.com

Kevin G. Bender bender@riverbendfilms.com

RiverBend Films



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Kevin G. Bender, Executive Producer

Email: bender@riverbendfilms.com

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Most Ambitious Student Film in U.Va. History Set to Premiere April Ninth

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA-- The world premiere of *The Receipt*, which at a final length of 80 minutes will be the longest and most ambitious student film project to come out of the University of Virginia, is set to take place on Wednesday, April 9th, 2008, at Newcomb Hall Theatre on the grounds of the University of Virginia. *The Receipt* is also the first feature-length student film from U.Va. to feature a completely original musical score with full orchestration, including a completely original vocal piece, *In Any Way I Can*. With a final production expense exceeding \$8,500, *The Receipt* is also the most expensive student film ever produced at U.Va. and was completely financed by the students involved in the production.

The Receipt tells the stories of two college seniors and best-friends, the shy Evie and the gregarious Norah. As they enter into their final year of college, Norah inadvertently sets into motion a chain of events that will lead to Evie's romance with a recently-graduated waiter, and later, to a difficult time of change for both girls. The film is concurrently a light-hearted romantic comedy and a coming-of-age tale about two girls discovering who they are through friendship, romance, and conflict.

Evie is played by U.Va. second-year student Sarah-Elizabeth Edwards, Norah by U.Va. third-year drama minor Mauri Epstein, and Thomas, Evie's romantic interest, by U.Va. third-year drama major Matthew Marcus. *The Receipt* is directed by U.Va. fourth-year student Kevin G. Bender, who has directed a number of feature-length student film projects in the past as well as numerous short films.

The production staff of *The Receipt* went to great lengths to reproduce a "Hollywood-style" production environment, using professional production and post-production techniques, including the use of high-end audio recording equipment, advanced musical scoring software, 1080p high definition camera technology, and Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound.

The three-minute theatrical trailer for *The Receipt*, along with additional content, can be viewed on the film's official website, <u>www.thereceiptmovie.com</u>. *The Receipt* will make its world premiere on April 9th in full 1080p high definition and will be entered in numerous film festivals nationwide.

For Additional Information, Please Contact:

Kevin G. Bender, Executive Producer bender@riverbendfilms.com

Brief Plot Synopsis

The Receipt tells the story of two college seniors, Evie and Norah, who as they enter their final year of college begin to feel the weight of uncertainty about their respective futures. By a happy chance, and some instigating on the part of Norah, Evie suddenly falls for Thomas, a recent college graduate working at a resort restaurant for the summer as a waiter. The new relationship begins to make the shy Evie more open and outgoing, but as she spends more and more time with Thomas, Norah, nervous about her and Evie's futures and about the prospect of her friendship with Evie collapsing, becomes jealous and insecure, leading to conflict and betrayal. The Receipt is a story of friendship, romance, loyalty, forgiveness, and coming to realize who we are and becoming comfortable with ourselves and with those who care about us.

Quick Facts

- At 80 minutes long, *The Receipt* is the longest student film ever produced at U.Va.
- *The Receipt* is the first large-scale student film at U.Va. ever to have a completely original musical score, including a totally original vocal song with lyrics
- It took a cast and crew of over 30 people to complete the film
- 28 different locations were used in filming
- Production lasted almost 7 months: an open casting call was held on September 18, 2007, and postproduction was completed on March 30, 2008
- The film was shot and is being exhibited in full 1080p High Definition
- With a final production expense of over \$8,500, *The Receipt* is the single most expensive student film ever produced at U.Va. and was entirely financed by students
- *The Receipt* marks a rare attempt by a students to produce what would be considered a "conventional narrative film" in an environment dominated by experimental and avant-garde filmmaking
- The Receipt features a full 5.1 Dolby Digital surround sound mixdown
- The cooperation of a vast number of U.Va. administrative offices and academic departments, including
 the Housing Division, Business Operations, the School of Law, the School of Engineering and Applied
 Science, and Newcomb Events Office, were required in order to secure permissions for using various
 locations on U.Va.'s campus
- The Receipt features a totally original vocal song, In Any Way I Can, played during the film's end
- Over 8,000 computer files, totaling a file-size of greater than 2 terabytes, were required for the post-production of the film

Technical Specifications

Shooting Format: Sony HDV 1440 x 1080i (1.33 pixel) High Definition digital video (mpeg2, 25Mb/s)

Audio Recording Format: 32-bit, 96kHz mono

Exhibition Format: 1920 x 1080-30p, High Definition digital video (mpeg2, 25Mb/s)

Audio Exhibition Format: 24-bit, 48kHz Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound

DVD Video Format: 720 x 480-24p digital video (mpeg2, 10Mb/s)

DVD Audio Formats: 16-bit, 48kHz Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound and 2.1 Stereo Sound



Principal Cast and Crew

Starring:

Sarah-Elizabeth Edwards (Evie) Mauri Epstein (Norah) Matthew Marcus (Thomas)

Co-Starring:

Alexander Keevil (Calvin)
Gareth Whitlow (Ralph)
Jason Kobielus (Doug)
Kunal Doshi (Charles)
Gabrielle Moskey (Receptionist)
Kyle Ringgenberg (Eugene)
Vanessa Ochs (Professor)

Directed by:

Kevin G. Bender

Writing Credits:

Rachel Bernstein (Original Screenplay)

Produced by:

Kevin G. Bender (Producer, Executive Producer) Michael Benonis (Producer) Rachel Bernstein (Producer) Kyle Ringgenberg (Producer)

Photographed by:

Kevin Collins (Director of Photography)

Production Design by:

Kevin G. Bender (Production Designer) Rachel Bernstein (Art Director)

Edited by:

Kevin G. Bender (Picture Editor) Michael Benonis (Sound Editor)

Music by:

Kyle Ringgenberg (Original Score)

Casting by:

Annie Steingold (Casting Director)

Biographies for Principal Cast and Crew



Michael Benonis (U.Va. Third-Year ~ Electrical Engineering)

Mike Benonis is a third-year undergraduate at the University of Virginia majoring in Electrical Engineering. He has extensive sound design experience, having mixed numerous live concerts, live stage shows, and has designed audio for numerous stage productions. *The Receipt* will mark the first time he has worked on audio for film.



Rachel Bernstein (U.Va. Fourth-Year ~ Jewish Studies)

Rachel Bernstein is a fourth-year Jewish Studies major at the University of Virginia. Her love of theatre was expressed through acting and directing in high school and now she is focused on creative writing, especially playwriting and screenwriting. This is her first full-length motion picture screenplay.



Kevin Collins (U.Va. Third-Year ~ Biology/Media Studies)

Kevin Collins is a third-year Biology major at the University of Virginia and an employee of U.Va.'s Digital Media Library. He is an extremely experienced filmmaker, editor, and cinematographer and specializes in High Definition video production.



Kunal Doshi (U.Va. First-year ~ Drama/Commerce)

Kunal Doshi is a first-year currently planning to enter the McIntire School of Commerce. He has given a number of stage performances in grade school and high school. After clearing 7 grades of Trinity College (London) Examinations, he worked as an assistant setting up students for their exams. He has also directed and produced several short films.



Sarah-Elizabeth Edwards (U.Va. Second-Year ~ Drama/Psychology/Education)

Sarah Elizabeth Edwards is a second-year at the University of Virginia studying drama, psychology, and elementary education. Sarah is excited to have the opportunity to work with this very talented cast and crew on *The Receipt*, her first appearance in a feature film.



Mauri Epstein (U.Va. Third-Year ~ Drama/History)

Mauri Epstein is a third-year history major and drama minor at the University of Virginia. She is originally from St. Louis, Missouri. She has performed in the U.Va. production of *Scapin* as Hyacinth and in the play "And Miss Reardon Drinks A Little" in which she played Mrs. Pentrano. She recently received acting training at the Michael Howard Conservatory in New York City. *The Receipt* will be her first film.



Alexander Keevil (U.Va. Fourth-Year ~ Drama/Education)

Alexander Keevil is a fourth-year at the University of Virginia and is studying Drama and Special Education. He was a member of the Virginia Glee Club during his first year, and is a brother in the coed, service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega. Alexander is from Manakin-Sabot, Virginia and is a dual-citizen of England and the United States.



Jason Kobielus (U.Va. Third-Year ~ Drama)

Jason Kobielus is a third-year Drama major with a concentration in performance and a Studio Art minor at the University of Virginia. He performed in regional theatre productions of: *he Hobbit*, *Golliwhoppers!*, and *The Ballad of Robin Hood*. At U.Va. he has appeared in: *Twelfth Night*, *Ubu Roi*, *Hair*, *Cloud Nine*, *Xerxes the Great*, *Her Infidel*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Jason is a two-time nominated National Capital Area Cappies critic, and a two-time Virginia state champion in original oratory and prose interpretation.



<u>Matthew Marcus (U.Va. Third-Year ~ Drama/Media Studies)</u>

Matthew Marcus is a third year drama and media studies double major. His U.Va. drama department credits include *Twelfth Night*, *Ubu Roi*, *R&J*, *Oedipus*, and *Scapin*. *The Receipt* is his first involvement in a full length film project.



Kyle Ringgenberg (U.Va. Graduate Student ~ Doctoral Candidate, Electrical Engineering)

Kyle Ringgenberg is a graduate student in the Electrical Engineering Department at the University of Virginia. During his time at Rice University, he remained very involved in numerous musical groups, working on original compositions for several events. *The Receipt* will mark the first time which he has composed a score for film, and will also mark the first time that a U.Va. student film has had a completely original score.



Gareth Whitlow (U.Va. Third-Year ~ Drama)

Gareth Whitlow started acting at age fifteen, playing Benny Southstreet in *Guys and Dolls*, and went on to be in other plays in high school, winning many awards. After graduation and a few commercial appearances, he served as production assistant on a feature film shoot and for awhile served as a temporary writer, and was eventually offered a full time writing job. Always wanting to be an actor, and still without a college degree, he returned to U.Va. to pursue a drama major.

Director's Biography

Kevin G. Bender is a senior at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, majoring in Religious Studies with a concentration in Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity. He is also a 2004 graduate of the International Baccalaureate Program, and in high school was Battalion Commander of his high school ROTC unit and was regional champion of Forensics extemporaneous speaking for two consecutive years. He has been interested in films and filmmaking and has been informally writing film reviews since he was in middle school. He began film study in earnest in early high school and began some experimentation with basic filmmaking and film editing on Digital 8.

Kevin G. Bender's first experience with true film making was during his junior year of high school when he attended the Virginia Governor's School for the Humanities, where he took classes in film production, non-linear editing, lighting, and was trained principally as a cinematographer (director of photography). He helped produce and served as director of photography on several mini-projects there. After Governor's School, he purchased his own digital video camera and produced and edited his first independent short-film, *A Day in the Life of a Cat*, an eleven-minute documentary featuring his parents' cats Maggie and Tommie in their daily routines. His second short film was *Nature's Fury*, an impromptu documentary of a tree falling in his backyard in the midst of Hurricane Isabel in September 2003. Following these two first films, he made several other brief short films as class projects, home videos, and a few paid documentaries, including a documentary for his high school varsity swim team.

His biggest project of his early film making career was his high school's *Senior Slide Show and Memory Video*, a 35-minute (65-minute extended) series of videos and still photographs showcasing the high school lives of his classmates. The film premiered before the entire student body and some gathered faculty and parents (an audience of over 1,000) and took in a profit of over \$500. It remains to this day the most successful film he has thus far directed. After high school, he produced the crown jewel of his cinema achievement, his first true feature film and 50-minute documentary of beach week, *Seven Days Under the Sun*.

Kevin G. Bender began attending the University of Virginia in September 2004, where he met-up with former Governor's School classmate and fellow U.Va. student Ryan McElveen to co-produce and direct his second feature film, *Life's a Smoose*, a quirky and unusual political satire. *Life's a Smoose* premiered at the University of Virginia's Salmagundi Film Festival at Newcomb Theatre in April 2007 before an audience of 100 people. After *Smoose*, Kevin G. Bender produced a series of small projects, including training videos, a workout video, several documentaries, a slide show, and the short film *Running Out of Time*.

He then went into pre-production on what was his largest completed project at the time, the 53-minute feature film and social satire *Below the Beltway*, featuring the cast of *Life's a Smoose*. *Below the Beltway* remained in production until January 2007, and premiered at the University of Virginia's Newcomb Hall Theatre on February 26th, 2007. In April 2007, he began pre-production on what would be his most ambitious project, *The Receipt*, which went into full production in September 2007. *The Receipt* set several records at the University of Virginia, being the longest student film ever produced at the school (80 minutes), the first film of its kind to have a completely original musical score, and the first film at the school to be simultaneously presented in 1080p high definition and Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound. *The Receipt* will make its world premiere on April 9, 2008.

Production Still Photographs



On the set of *The Receipt*From left: Michael Benonis, Sarah-Elizabeth
Edwards, Mauri Epstein, Kevin G. Bender





Recording audio on the set of *The Receipt* Kyle Ringgenberg



Setting up a crane shot for *The Receipt* Kevin Collins, Director of Photography



Setting up equipment for *The Receipt* Michael Benonis



On the set of *The Receipt*From left: Sarah-Elizabeth Edwards, Mauri Epstein