



A
PERFECT
ENDING

a Nicole Conn film

BARBARA JESSICA
NIVEN CLARK

JOHN HEARD MORGAN FAIRCHILD

SOUL KISS FILMS presents a NICOLE CONN film "A PERFECT ENDING"
BARBARA NIVEN JESSICA CLARK JOHN HEARD MORGAN FAIRCHILD REBECCA STAAB KERRY KNUPPE
director of photography TAL LAZAR editor NICOLE CONN music by BOB FOWLER STEPHEN RIDLEY
music supervisor ALAN V. ABRAHAMS co-producers BARBARA NIVEN FONTESSA DE RIDDER MELANIE RICE RICK TUCKER
executive producer MARINA RICE BADER produced by TOPHER MILLER JANELLE K. EAGLE
story by MARINA RICE BADER written and directed by NICOLE CONN

A PERFECT ENDING

SYNOPSIS

Rebecca, a repressed and uptight socialite, lives a perfect pointless life. A new world unfolds when she finds herself somewhere she'd never expect - in the arms of a high-priced escort. She could never have known that in that space, she would discover answers she's been searching for her entire life. Her journey from perfect control to unbridled passion allows Rebecca not only to reclaim worthless years, but to redeem and vindicate painful regrets. Raw, evocative and even humorous, "A Perfect Ending" explores one woman's struggle to find what moves her and asks: Without passion, what's the point?

CAST

Barbara Niven	Rebecca Westridge
Jessica Clark	Paris
John Heard	Mason Westridge
Morgan Fairchild	Valentina
Rebecca Staab	Sylvie
Kerry Knuppe	Jessica Westridge
Imelda Corcoran	Kelly
Mary Wells	Shirin
Michael Adam Hamilton	Aaron Westridge
Bryan Jackson	Hank Westridge
Marc Crumpton	Jared
Gloria Gifford	Sharon
Lauryn Nicole Hamilton	Janice
Cathy DeBuono	Dawn
LeeAnne Matusek	Megan
Erika Schiff	Ella
Gary Weeks	Dr. Weller
Christa Hoven	Marissa
Steve Tyler	Business John
Todd Gilliam	S&M John
Terrence Beasor	Older John

CREW

Nicole Conn	Writer, Director, Editor
Marina Rice Bader	Executive Producer
Topher Miller	Producer
Janelle Eagle	Producer
Tal Lazar	Director of Photography
Dean Andre	Sound Design & Final Mix
Bob Fowler	Composer
Stephen Ridley	Composer

SPECS

title A Perfect Ending
genre Narrative Feature
copyright 2012
running time 106 minutes
format HDCAM, Blu-Ray, DIGIBETA, DVD
aspect ratio 16:9
sound Stereo
website <http://www.soulkissfilms.com/a-perfect-ending.html>
FACEBOOK <http://www.facebook.com/pages/A-Perfect-Ending/176874809012578>

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

BARBARA NIVEN as Rebecca



Barbara Niven is definitely living her dreams! She's one of Hollywood's busiest actresses, and served on the National Board of Directors for the Screen Actors Guild. She has more than 100 TV and film roles to her credit, appearing on Lifetime, Hallmark, NCIS, Cold Case and One Life to Live, as well as playing Marilyn Monroe in "The Rat Pack." As a host and spokesperson, she's been in over 2,500 radio & TV commercials and infomercials. She's also a media trainer, motivational speaker, author and producer.

What drew you to this project?

I've always wanted to work with Nicole Conn. We've known each other for over 20 years, since our Portland, Oregon days. I'm a huge fan of her writing and her film work. We tried several times to get projects going, but it was never the "perfect" time, until "A Perfect Ending."

I met Nicole and Marina for lunch one day, and they told me about this script and character. I read it as soon as I got home and found myself hooked, surprised and sobbing when I finished it. I HAD to play Rebecca. It was hugely scary for me though, because the script called for nudity and for love scenes with a woman. I have never seen a woman my age doing a nude scene, and it terrified me. That's why I had to do it. I have learned that when something frightens me, I must say yes. It usually leads to the biggest gold.

This movie, including the love scenes, is very raw and truthful. What you see in Rebecca is what we all feel when we let somebody in, revealing imperfections, stretch marks and vulnerability. But there's also a beauty and a grace in revealing Truth, and owning it. Paris teaches Rebecca to love herself, that she is already perfect. I wanted to show that we are the most stunning when we are the most open. That all the points of our lives (the good and the bad) make up the beautiful road map of our bodies and souls. It doesn't matter how old we are. Self-love and acceptance makes us gorgeous, inside and out!

What did you most admire about the character you played?

I knew I had to play Rebecca. It's the most of myself that I have ever put into a character. I have lived pieces of her life, as I think we all have. Nicole even wrote a scene based on my own past eating disorder and self-image problems, about never feeling pretty enough, smart enough, skinny enough...or "Perfect" enough. It's common in women. Rebecca has spent her life trying to be perfect too, never feeling like she quite lives up to the façade. She has tremendous guilt and judgment about so many things: body issues, motherhood, social status, marriage. Most of us never change. But Rebecca has a wake-up call and works to make things right. For herself, her children, and her birthright. She is a hero, and I hope that her strength will inspire other women to step up and connect to their own voice and power. And to lighten up on ourselves!

Please comment on working with Nicole Conn.

Working with Nicole Conn was the best experience of my acting career. She made me feel safe to explore areas of myself I never looked at before, and to put every ounce of my heart and soul into what you see on screen. It is the best work I have ever done, and I am so grateful that Nicole asked me to do it. She inspired each member of the cast and crew to transcend limitations, and to create a magical little film we are all proud of. I wish I could work in all of her movies!

Soul Kiss is known for making films that empower women—does A PERFECT ENDING deliver on that promise?

Women (and men too) of any age, lifestyle and demographic will be empowered from watching "A Perfect Ending." It's not a gay or Lesbian movie. It's a human journey, about the struggle for Truth, Love and Happiness. Everyone will identify in some way with Rebecca or Paris, or the family members. I think they'll come away inspired to follow their own path to love and truth, whatever that looks like for them.

Is there a message you hope the audience takes away from A PERFECT ENDING? If so, what is it?

We waste our lives putting so much emphasis on things that don't really matter. Think what we could accomplish if we put that energy toward something positive, instead of putting ourselves and each other down? Women have an incredible strength and capacity to love. We must learn to love ourselves as well. It's never too late to change. Life can be glorious! My motto is: Don't settle for less than wonderful. And don't give up five minutes before the miracle!

How did this movie get made, against all odds?

Marina Rice Bader is the reason this film got made, and I am amazed that she pulled it off, to tell you the truth. She was like "the little engine that could", working to bring all the money, people and pieces together, against all odds. She started with a donation page on "Kickstarter" to get

initial funding, and the buzz grew. People loved being part of the process and sent in whatever they could afford, giving up their Starbucks or a percentage of their paychecks over and over again. And...we made it! The donor list has now grown to a legion of film family and friends. Marina has taken very good care of them. They have loved receiving her behind-the-scenes videos and updates throughout the filmmaking process, and I'm sure they will be part of future Soul Kiss films as well. I think more filmmakers are going to be following Marina's lead, and that this will become the benchmark for getting indie films made. Bravo and thank you, Marina!



JESSICA CLARK as Paris



Jessica Clark was born in London, in the UK. While still in high school, Jessica won a nationally televised modeling competition and began to work as a fashion model. Her ensuing modeling career meant that she traveled the world, also living for a time in Paris and then New York. Her career highlights as a model have included appearing in the pages of Vogue, Elle, Marie Claire, Glamour and Jalouse magazines and walking the runway for designers such as Hermes, Bottega Venetta and Matthew Williamson.

An avid storyteller, Jessica naturally segued into acting, loving the greater challenges and depth such character work requires. She has very happily made LA her home and still revels in wearing tank tops in February. As an actress she is known for her work in Film Festival favorite 'Sara', as well as the ABC sitcom 'Great State of Georgia'. She was also featured in Usher's multiple award winning music video "Burn."

Jessica is the recipient of a New Now Next Award (2009) in the category 'Cause You're Hot' and attributes the tremendous compliment primarily to her assiduous use of Chili Peppers in her cooking.

What drew you to this project?

Firstly it is written and directed by Nicole Conn. Her contribution to film, and to the stories of women is virtually unique. I have so much admiration and respect for Nicole that I couldn't wait to read her script. Once I was lucky enough to have my hands on a copy of 'APE' I fell in love with the story, but especially with Paris. Paris is a character, a woman that an actress is rarely granted the gift of becoming. Complex, eloquent, pained, joyful, loving and with a perspective on the world and human emotion that was amazing and challenging to explore and portray.

What did you most admire about the character you played?

Her instinct for survival and her chameleon like adaptability in the face of tremendous resistance. I see this in people every day, in women everyday... what they are capable of dealing with, surviving and still maintaining that intrinsic self, that love.

Please comment on working with Nicole Conn.

Nicole was/is just such a gift to me as an actor and as a person. She is truly a heart led woman, and by proxy director. At every step of the film making process she felt so connected, both to the characters she created and to the actors she cast. It became this intense, emotive, experience that for me relied entirely on trust. Because I knew I could trust Nicole, I was able to give her permission to push me as an actor, push my capabilities, knowing I wanted to give everything I could to APE and to Paris, but also know that she would keep me, Jessica safe. Because of that trust, and her commitment and her intricate knowledge of these living people I feel as though we as a cast and crew were able to create something truly beautiful and soulful. Which as I type this I realize is so perfect because Marina and Nicole are SOUL KISS Films :)

Soul Kiss is known for making films that empower women - does A PERFECT ENDING deliver on that promise?

Yes, yes, and YES! The women you will experience in this film come from all walks of life, are different ages, from different countries and each and every one of them goes on their own journey, experiences their own discoveries and from the time we meet them to the time we have to leave their world we see each and every one of them become more aware and centered and present in their strength as women. It's spectacular!

Is there a message you hope the audience takes away from A PERFECT ENDING? If so, what is it?

Being happy, being true, allowing oneself to give and receive love, in whichever capacity is truly worth fighting for. We deserve it - don't settle for less.



JOHN HEARD as Mason



In the 1970s, Heard appeared on the stage, television and film. He appeared off-Broadway in 1974 in Mark Medoff's *The Wager* and at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in 1977 in a series of new plays. In 1979 he played **Arthur Dimmesdale** in a television production of *The Scarlet Letter*. Heard won Obie Awards for his performances in *Othello* and *Split* in 1979-80. He was the male lead in the 1979 film *Head Over Heels* (which was renamed and rereleased as *Chilly Scenes of Winter* in 1982).

In 1981, he had the starring role of Alex Cutter in the film *Cutter's Way*. He played the lover of Nastassja Kinski, one of the main characters, in the remake of *Cat People*. In 1984, he portrayed photographer George Cooper in *C.H.U.D.* (Cannibalistic Humanoid Underground Dwellers) alongside future *Home Alone* co-star Daniel Stern. *The Trip to Bountiful* is a 1985 film in which he had a starring role. In 1988 he was seen in the film *The Milagro Beanfield War*. Later that year he had a notable role playing Paul, Tom Hanks's adult corporate competitor and jilted boyfriend of Elizabeth Perkins, in *Big*. He co-starred with Bette Midler in *Beaches* in 1988, and played real-life Ku Klux Klan leader D.C. Stephenson in the TV-miniseries *Cross of Fire* in 1989. In 1991 he starred in *Deceived* (opposite Goldie Hawn) playing Jack Saunders. He also starred in *Gladiator* opposite Cuba Gooding, Jr.

In 1990, Heard starred in the philosophical film *Mindwalk*, was featured in the hugely successful comedy *Home Alone* (and also starred in its 1992 sequel, *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*) and in *Awakenings* alongside Robert De Niro and Robin Williams. Also in 1992, he played Daugherty in the film *Radio Flyer*. In 1993 he played FBI agent Gavin Verheek in *The Pelican Brief*. In 1994 he played the part of David Manning in the film 'Out on a Limb', Shirley Maclaine's account of her spiritual journey toward finding herself through the world of reincarnation. He also starred with Samuel L. Jackson in 1997's *One Eight Seven* and was featured in the 2000 miniseries *Perfect Murder, Perfect Town*. He has had roles on *The Sopranos* as crooked cop Vin Makazian for which he received an Emmy nomination as outstanding guest actor, and on *Battlestar Galactica* as Commander Barry Garner.

He had recurring roles on *CSI: Miami* (as Kenwall Duquesne, father of Calleigh Duquesne) and *Prison Break* (as Frank Tancredi, Governor of Illinois and father of Sara Tancredi). In 2006, he starred in the independent film *Gamers: The Movie* and had a part in the Touchstone Pictures movie, *The Guardian*. In 2007 he played the sheriff in the Denzel Washington-directed film, *The Great Debaters*. On April 23,

2009, he appeared in an episode of *Southland*. Recently, Heard was seen on FOX's *The Chicago Code* for two episodes as the Mayor of Chicago.



MORGAN FAIRCHILD as Valentina



This elegant lady defined the TV version of the rich, sophisticated businesswoman who knows what she wants, and will do whatever it takes to get it. She was born Patsy Ann McClenny on February 3, 1950, in Dallas, Texas. She began acting as a child, when her mother enrolled her in drama lessons after she was too shy to give a book report in class. From the age of 10, she performed in children's plays. Later she would do dinner theater and stock productions in Dallas. She chose Morgan as a stage name. In 1973, Morgan decided to pursue a career in television; just 6 weeks after moving to New York she landed the key role of Jennifer in the daytime series "Search for Tomorrow" (1951); she stayed on until 1977.

Morgan moved to Los Angeles, where she originated the role of Jenna Wade on the wildly popular nighttime soap "Dallas" (1978) (Jenna was later portrayed by Priscilla Presley). Morgan made numerous guest appearances on TV series. She played Constance (Weldon) Carlyle in "Flamingo Road" (1981), and she was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Actress; that was her breakout show that propelled her to stardom. Morgan received an Emmy nomination for a special episode of "Murphy Brown" (1988).

Morgan has shared some of her beauty secrets by authoring the book "Super Looks" which is a complete guide that includes makeup, exercise, and diet tips. Morgan is a member of the Entertainment Industry AIDS Task Force. She is an active speaker on environmental issues and helped found the Environmental Communications Office, which encourages entertainment industry professionals to become better educated and more active on environmental issues. Morgan is a collector of movie memorabilia (particularly anything about Marilyn Monroe)

and antique clothing. She is a ballet fan and is also interested in anthropology and paleontology; Morgan is truly a brainy beauty.



REBECCA STAAB as Sylvie



Most recently seen on GLEE, FAIRLY LEGAL, CRIMINAL MINDS, DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES, THE MENTALIST, CSI, CSI-NY, NCIS, NIP/TUCK, and THE CLEANER, Rebecca's first acting job (and first audition for that matter) on LOVING, as series regular teenage punk-rocker Cecelia Thompson, is still one of her favorites mostly because she never gets to play punk-rockers any more.

Born in Hays, Kansas and growing up in Omaha, Nebraska, Rebecca had a 4.0 GPA in both high school and college, and was Miss Nebraska in the Miss USA pageant where she finished sixth overall.

Some of Rebecca's series regular roles include the sex-crazed anchorwoman Sherry Beck on the newsroom drama LIVE SHOT; innocent vampire Daphne Collins on DARK SHADOWS; the first lesbian television character Ellen Sommers on TRADE WINDS; and the billionaire widow/vampire/fashion designer Elizabeth Barrington on PORT CHARLES. Rebecca has enjoyed working on other network series from Cheers, Seinfeld, Ellen, Wonder Years, Columbo, Beverly Hills 90210, Drew Carey, Dharma and Greg, and Las Vegas to name a few.

Rebecca played the title role in indie film HOUSE ON A HILL starring with Phillip Baker Hall, and recently completed work on two other films ALL AGES NIGHT, and LOVE at FIRST HICCUP.

Rebecca studied in New York City with Uta Hagen at the HB Studios, and in Los Angeles with Larry Moss. She lives in the Hollywood Hills in a Historical Home with her boyfriend and four dogs, where she enjoys landscape architecture, interior design, and gourmet cooking.

KERRY KNUPPE AS JESSICA



Kerry Knuppe studied acting in Denver and performed roles in various theater productions throughout the state of Colorado before moving to Los Angeles. She is best known as the female lead in award winning independent film *Skills Like This*. Other film projects include *The Sensei*, *Yielding to a Willing Breath*, *Outside Hope*, Lifetime's *The Craigslist Killer*, *Taking Capellera*, *Everything + The Girl*, and *Extreme Tag*. Think of her this way – if Jennifer Garner, Rachel McAdams and Natalie Portman had a baby, it would be Kerry.

ARTISTIC TEAM

NICOLE CONN – *Writer, Director, Editor*



Nicole Conn has been a die-hard romantic and black and white film fan from the age of ten.

Her penchant for adult and dramatic story telling is evident in her latest feature film *Elena Undone*, touted as “sexy and smart. A classic romance with a twist, veteran lesbian writer Nicole Conn’s (*Claire of the Moon*, *little man*) latest effort will be sure to sweep audiences off their feet.” She recently finished penning the book version of *Elena Undone*, now available at Bella Books.

Conn’s previous venture, *little man*, is a documentary she wrote, directed and produced about her own premature son born 100 days early and only weighing one pound. The feature documentary went on to win 12 Best Documentary Awards, along with the prestigious Cedar Sinai’s Courageous Beginnings Award and Family Pride’s Family Tree Award. The film made three TOP TEN FILMS OF 2005 list and Showtime picked up the feature and ran an Emmy campaign on this hard-hitting story about Conn’s son’s premature birth and subsequent 5-month hospital stay in a Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit.

In efforts to continue her support of other parents who find themselves thrust into the insanity of the NICU, Ms Conn collaborated with *Preemie Magazine* Founder Deborah Discenza in creating the *The Preemie Parent’s NICU Survival Guide: How to Maintain Your Sanity and Create a New Normal* published in January, 2010.

Conn’s passion for film carried her through her first feature where she single-handedly raised the money, wrote, directed and produced (along with Pam Kuri) *Claire of the Moon*, the maverick film about a woman’s journey to her sexual identity. The film garnered rave reviews and paved the way for lesbian themed cinema in 1991. Conn also created a FIRST for lesbian cinema: ancillary in the form of a novelization (in its 15th reprint and 10 Year Anniversary Republic) a making-of documentary *MOMENTS* (best-selling lesbian documentary ever made), soundtracks, posters, t-shirts, etc. She followed these projects with the award winning short film, *Cynara...Poetry in Motion*.

A two book deal with Simon Schuster produced the novels, *Passion’s Shadow* (1995) and *Angel Wings* (1997), a new age love story. The script adaptation for *Angel Wings* won the 2001 Telluride Film Festival’s Best Screenplay Award. In

another pioneering effort, *The Wedding Dress* was chosen by AOL Time Warner for its new internet endeavor ipublish, which debuted in June 2001. *She Walks in Beauty* was published in September, 2001 and is currently in development as a feature film along with several other original screenplays Conn has penned.

Conn achieved industry recognition with her film *Claire of the Moon* and was a finalist in the prestigious Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science's Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting. She believes in giving back to the community and sponsored the *Claire of the Moon* Scholarship in 1998, awarding second time novelists through the ASTRAEA Foundation.

Well known for her speed, quality and prolific ability to write in many genres, Conn has written five novels, a parent's guide, two teleplays, nine screenplays, and has produced four soundtracks.

She currently resides with her life and business partner Marina Rice Bader and their family of wonderful (if precocious) six children in Los Angeles.

TAL LAZAR – *Director of Photography*



Tal Lazar is a professional director of photography and has worked on a wide range of projects in genres spanning drama, horror and comedy. In 2010, he completed three feature films: ELENA UNDONE, THE PERFECT HOUSE, and THREE BLIND SAINTS. Since then he has added NIGHTDREAMBLUES, A WIFE ALONE and THE WHOLE BANANA. He holds an MFA degree from the world renowned American Film Institute Conservatory. During his final year of completion, he received the FotoKem Cinematography Grant and Panavision's New Filmmakers Grant for his thesis film "Shadow Man".

Before relocating to Los Angeles in 2007, Tal worked as a director of photography on television shows and music videos in Israel. He previously gained professional experience as a union assistant cameraman working on internationally recognized films.

Tal began his film studies at Tel Aviv University. While pursuing his education, Tal received the Sharet foundation prize for cinematography and participated in the 2005 Budapest Cinematography Masterclass, instructed by Mr. Vilmos Zsimond, ASC and Mr. John Schwartzman, ASC. He participated and produced the 2004 Tel Aviv Cinematography Masterclass, instructed by Mr. Adam Greenberg, ASC and Mr. Ricardo Aronovish, AFC.

Prior to his film career, Tal served the Israeli Defense Forces as a staff sergeant. He finished his services with a sign of excellence bestowed upon him by Israeli president Eizer Weizman.

PRODUCING TEAM

MARINA RICE BADER – *Executive Producer*



Marina Rice Bader has always wanted to make movies, and being the late bloomer that she is finally decided to live her dreams, creating Soul Kiss Films with her life partner, writer / director Nicole Conn. "Elena Undone" was her first producing project - and she loved every moment of it while learning what the term "wearing many hats" really meant. Currently their new film "A Perfect Ending", a story based on one of Marina's ideas, is in post-production. Marina's vision of Soul Kiss Films being the number one producer of women's cinema, which is vastly underserved, is a career goal she can really

get her heart and soul behind. To that end, there are three other projects in development and she's chomping at the bit to get busy on the next one! Marina and Nicole are dedicated to making films that are rich, textured, and always feature strong female leads.

"I want my movies to be for women", says Bader. "I believe in making well written, thoughtful movies with strong females leads who tell a story meant for female audiences, although we have many thoughtful male fans of 'Elena Undone'." Her friends liken Marina to Sisyphus -- the fellow in the Greek myth doomed to eternally pushing a boulder up hill. "I'll do whatever it takes to get the job done - passion drives me and I have no fear of being rejected - it just goes with the territory. 'A Perfect Ending' was funded by our Soul Kiss Tribe, a group of women (and a few fabulous men) who all decided to work together to get this film made. It's been one of the most amazing parts of the project - all these interesting and lovely souls intersecting with our world of making movies, and it's been brilliant. I'm so attached to them, and many have become close friends.

Before jumping into the world of independent movie making, Marina was an LA based photographer working with celebrities, actors, and children for the past two decades. Among her favorite clients are Hector Elizondo, Carol Channing, Val Kilmer, Wentworth Miller, Judith Light, Sir Ben Kingsley and any or all of her six children. Her transition to films, the ultimate in visual storytelling, was only a matter of time.

TOPHER MILLER – *Producer*



Christopher Miller is the Senior Producer of FMA Productions. Although not a Hollywood insider or a child of Hollywood, but with an education and background in business, Chris learned his craft in the offices and on the sets of Hollywood films and commercials and over the past ten years has developed, produced and overseen projects for “Associates” and their many clients.

JANELLE K. EAGLE – *Producer*



In 2010, Janelle formalized her commitment to the creation of ground-breaking films by founding Off the Path Productions. This Los Angeles-based production company serves as a platform both for her documentaries about the unheard voices of our generation and the feature films and videos she produces in and around Hollywood. Janelle’s producing, directing and editing have been commissioned by clients ranging from an orphanage in Bhaktapur Nepal, to an NFL Football star. You can find Janelle’s material on her personal blog [JourneyWithJanelle](#). Her past projects garnered film festival success, international distribution, and even earned her an election as the youngest ever Co-Chair of the Outfest Legacy Awards.

ABOUT SOUL KISS FILMS



Soul Kiss Films is an independent company dedicated to producing entertaining, compelling and evocative films for and by women.

The company originated as the “love child” of producer Marina Rice Bader and writer/director Nicole Conn, and is driven by two directives. One, to create quality cinema that fulfills the need in the LGBT community for “more good movies” and “stories that speak to our experience” and two, support female driven projects in what is still a male dominated industry.

Their hit “Elena Undone” was the number one best selling lesbian film of 2010, “A Perfect Ending” is poised for success, and pre-production has begun on their new feature “Do We Not Bleed”, set to begin filming in 2013.

If you have questions please contact:

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