

LAKE
PRODUCTIONS

JON GARCIA
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THE FALLS



A photograph of two men in white shirts and ties walking through a wooded area. They are carrying bicycles and appear to be in a park or forest setting. The text "DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT" is overlaid in large white capital letters.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Falls is a compelling coming of age story of two Mormon youths discovering the truth of themselves, their families, Mormon Heritage and their humanness. Through their struggles and moments of enlightenment, we are reminded of life's many rites of passage and how with truth and in the course of time— love and happiness will prevail.

In my travels from Texas to the West Coast of the United States, I had time to work on a script dealing with being raised and being an integral part of a small closed minded town and at the same time being different. Along the way a close friend from Idaho told me of his story, which fascinated me. His story was so similar to what I was writing but so foreign to me as I had very little if any knowledge of the Mormon Religion, their rituals and some of the difficulties for their youth who want something different from life and to break away and live honestly.

By filming *The Falls*, I learned that my friends story was not so unique, just never spoken about in Mormon circles. It came to my attention that by being so honest, one is threatened to be cast out from one's community and family without a second thought. I realized that this is what happens subtly in many communities in our world and I felt that the blatant and obvious rejection by the Mormon Culture would strike a chord with many individuals who not only come from small towns, but are raised and brainwashed by many of society's, organizations, governments and even institutions of higher learning.

Directing and producing *The Falls* has been an eye opening and heartwarming reminder of the power of the human spirit within each of us to overcome society's obstacles. The crew, cast and many friends who worked on this film with me, were constantly amazed as to how well we could relate to many aspects of this story. We hope you enjoy it as well.

Jon Garcia
Director & Producer

A photograph of two men in white shirts and ties, likely Mormon missionaries, looking at a book together at night. The word "SYNOPSIS" is overlaid in large white letters.

SYNOPSIS

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Elder Merrill and Elder Smith commit themselves to the service of their Mormon Religion only to realize that there's so much more to life.

While in the devoted services of their Mormon Church, RJ and Chris find love.

LONG SYNOPSIS

You see them everywhere, Mormon Missionaries dressed in their white shirts, ties and suit pants. With their short cut hair they ride on their bicycles and knock on doors, trying to convert the world to their brand of religion. In their Church Community they are revered for exemplifying to the world the wholesomeness and goodness of being a young Mormon youth.

RJ and Chris are no different. Both were born and raised in the Mormon Church. Both accelerated academically, progressed ecclesiastically, earned their Eagle Scout at a young age and had pretty girl friends. And now it's their turn to serve a mission and experience the Mormon rite of passage.

Unknown to them, serving a mission would not only open stranger's doors to "preach the Gospel" to as they were taught; but secrets of their own lives would be awakened while in the service of their fellow man.

The Falls captures the lives of two American teens struggling to make sense of the conflicts between their worlds, their feelings and each other. What they find in themselves and in each other is unpredictable but a compliment to the human spirit.



CAST BIOS

CAST

NICK FERRUCCI earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance from Southern Oregon University. He is currently working on his Masters of Fine Arts in Acting from Northern Illinois University. Primarily a stage actor, most of his acting experience has come about in the theatre, although he has enjoyed working on film. This is his second film with Jon Garcia, his first being *Tandem Hearts*. Nick can also be seen in Justin Koleszar's *One Foot In The Gutter*.

BENJAMIN FARMER studied at The American Musical & Dramatic Academy in New York City. A few of his many screen credits include roles in Matt McCormick's *Some Days are Better Than Others* (SXSW 2010, Premiere), Jared Yanez's *The Roomies*, and on TNT's hit television series *Leverage*.

HAROLD PHILLIPS has worked professionally in theatre, film and television for over 20 years. In that time, he's built a reputation as both an actor and an activist working to strengthen the film and theatre industries. In addition to appearances on stage and in commercials, he has had screen roles in films such as *Crackin' The Code* and *Sum Of The Parts*, and on television in shows such as TNT's *Leverage*.

AUDREY WALKER has been steadily working as an actress in numerous films and television commercials since 2004. She has trained with casting director turned acting coach Laurel Smith, a former student of Sanford Meisner, the man responsible for the Meisner method.

BRIAN ALLARD is an accomplished stage performer having appeared in roles such as Caliban in an off-Broadway production of *The Tempest*, as Peter in the US Premiere of *Tales of Ordinary Madness*, and as Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. In addition to acting, Brian is a proficient stage combatant, as well as a director, fight choreographer and teacher.

PAUL ANGELO received a BFA in musical theatre from the State University of New York (SUNY) Fredonia, going on to receive an MFA from the University of Alabama. In 1997 he co-founded the New Ensemble Theatre (TNE) in Manhattan. He is a veteran of five national tours, and has acted and directed for over sixteen years. He is currently the resident Theatre instructor for West Sylvan Middle School in Portland and Alliance Charter Academy in Oregon City.

GARLOND LYONS has lived and performed up and down the West Coast eventually landing in Portland, Oregon. Additionally, he has appeared in a number of independent films and the pilot for the short-lived NBC sitcom *Emeril*. Garland holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Murray State University.



CREW BIOS

CREW

JON GARCIA (*WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER*) has directed two feature films, *The Falls* being his sophomore effort into feature filmmaking after *Tandem Hearts*. Both films were produced under the banner of Lake Productions, Jon's production company, based in Portland, OR and Seattle, WA. In addition to filmmaking, Jon is an accomplished musician and has released two studio albums, his 2006 Self-titled debut, and 2010's *The Lake*.

JENA BODELL (*FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR*) earned her BA in Theatre Arts from Central Washington University. She has experience in theatre management and technical theatre operations. She now works in television and film production management, as well as spending time working for both the Oregon Governor's Office of Film & Television and the Oregon Media Production Association.

CHRISTOPHER STEPHENS (*DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY*) is a professional in the film and television production and post-production industries. His résumé is extensive and varied, including work produced for television networks like NBC and ABC, and film companies such as Lionsgate. He has produced action sports pieces, documentaries, commercials, music videos and narrative films.