

## *The Opposite of Sex*, 1998

Rated R

Studio: Sony Classics

Release date: May 22, 1998

Running Time: 105 minutes

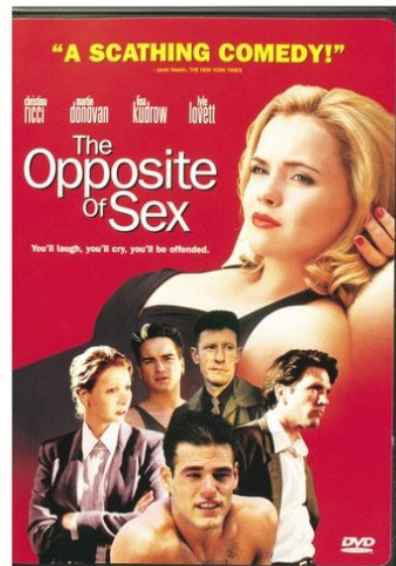
Awards: Independent Spirit Award, Best Screenplay, Writers Guild of America, Best original Screenplay

### Cast

Dedee Truitt	Christina Ricci
Bill Truitt	Martin Donovan
Lucia Delury	Lisa Kudrow
Carl Tippet	Lyle Lovett
Jason Bock	Johnny Galecki
Randy	William Lee Scott
Matt Mateo	Ivan Sergei
Bobette	Megan Blake
Tom Delury	Colin Ferguson
Timothy	Dan Bucatinsky
Joe	Chauncey Leopardi
Ty	Rodney Eastman
Jennifer	Heather Fairfield
TV Reporter	Amy Atkins
Girl Student	Leslie Grossman
Marcia	Emily Newman
Medical Examiner	Harrison Young
Police Officer	Pancho Demmings
Harley Man	Terry L. Rose
Harley Man #2	Richard Moore
Policewoman Judy Zale	Susan Leslie
Reporter	Margaux St. Ledger
World News Reporter	Leslie Bevis
Bobette's Lawyer	Nicole Tocantins
Cashier	Becky Wahlstrom
Dr. Allen	Peter Spears
Nurse	Kristine Keever
School Principal	David Phelps-Williams
Parole Officer	Todd Eckert
Tricia	Heather Lee

### Credits

Executive Producer	Steve Danton, Jim Lotfi
Producer	Michael Besman
Producer	David Kirkpatrick
Director	Don Roos
Screenplay	Don Roos
Cinematography	Hubert Taczanowski
Original Score	Mason Daring
Editor	David Codron
Production Design	Michael Paul Clausen
Costume Design	Peter Mitchell



0:00:11 Introduction by director Don Roos.

It was a labor of love for everyone involved. Principal photography began on June 8, 1997. Filming took place over 40 days on many locations throughout Southern California, including Los Angeles, Ventura County, Big Bear and Palm Springs. These traditional Southwestern tourist spots were transformed into a small Louisiana township; South Bend, Indiana; and Canada; to name just a few of the territories covered in the film.

The production turned a very western looking ranch on the edge of Ventura County into a small town in Louisiana. Big Bear, known for its beautiful lake, forests and ski resorts, doubled as Canada. They also shot on location all over the city of Los Angeles, from Santa Monica to Hollywood to the San Fernando Valley, and on sound stages in Culver City.

The "most permanent" location was a beautiful home in Hancock Park near downtown Los Angeles, where the crew set up for 10 days. This set was Bill's home in South Bend, where Dedee arrives unannounced and proceeds to turn everyone's lives upside down.

Bill, played by Martin Donovan, is the character everyone looks up to in the film and the one who unites them all. "Ultimately, Bill's approval is sought by all," says Donovan. "I think that's because he's a decent guy; morally and ethically he's very right down the middle, very straight. He's the gay straight man."

Dedee, portrayed by 17-year-old Christina Ricci, is the catalyst, whose arrival forces everyone to reexamine their values and how they are living their lives. For her, playing a more grown-up role and a character many would describe as "white trash" offered Ricci the chance to show people they should not be so quick to make judgments.

Although Dedee is the character everyone loves to hate, Christina sees her differently, as a very smart girl underneath it all who is in the midst of a real-life adventure. "This is her year of firsts," says Ricci. "This is the first time she's ever rebelled and tried to change her life."

Lisa Kudrow portrays Lucia, the character who ultimately undergoes the greatest transformation in the film. Lucia is very angry with life when the film begins, a real change of pace for Kudrow, who is most well known for her light and happy character on the popular television show *Friends*. "Lucia would hate Phoebe, the character I play on *Friends*," says Kudrow.

"I loved having the opportunity to play such a different type of role than I usually do," says Kudrow. Lucia transforms herself in the film: "she is resisting, resisting, resisting the whole time and just when she feels like she's lost everything, she lets go and her life really begins."

Writer-director Roos describes *The Opposite of Sex* as a comedy about the consequences of sex. "The film is all about sex and the connections it makes in our lives, as well as the consequences of having sex with somebody -- good or bad."

The title, according to Roos, is drawn from the character of Dedee, who desires a life of complete freedom with no consequences for her actions or connections including relationships, friendships and babies.

Kudrow has another take on the title: "Sex is usually about the union between two people, but in this movie sex is dispersing everybody and driving them apart and making sure they are alone, which is the opposite of sex," she says, adding "I think Don has represented just about every attitude towards sex in this movie."

All of the actors agree that Roos has written a very smart and funny script which drew them to the material.

"It's one of the funniest scripts I've read in a long time and all of the humor comes out of the characters' needs," says Donovan. "It's a really biting satire on America's ignorance, there is a fear of sex and religion--the whole puritanical Calvinistic sexual mish-mash that is '90s America, and that's what Don goes after in this film."

For Roos, who has watched his material wind up on the big screen through other directors' eyes, this was a chance to fully realize his own vision and an experience he found very exciting.

"It's like having a child and raising it yourself rather than having a child a letting someone raise it while you watch through a chain link fence," says Roos.

### Chapter 1 (0:01:15) Start

When Don Roos started to write this piece his goal was to break a few Hollywood rules. Here are some of the rules that he wanted to break. 1) The hero must be very likeable, 2) Avoid flashbacks, 3) No voice-overs, please. As a result he gives you a heroine who is what some people would call mean, not very likeable.



Biography for Don Roos

Date of birth 14 April 1959, NY

Trade mark His films often involve some type of travelling.

#### Trivia

- Graduated Phi Beta Kappa from University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.

#### Personal quotes

- [About The Opposite of Sex (1998):] "It's all sort of dressed as a rebel, but it's the sort of a rebel that studies hard and goes to bed early and gets straight As."

#### Writer - filmography

1. Happy Endings (2005) (written by)
2. Bounce (2000) (written by)
3. "M.Y.O.B." (2000) TV Series (creator) (writer)
4. The Opposite of Sex (1998) (written by)
5. Diabolique (1996) (screenplay)
6. Boys on the Side (1995) (written by)
7. Love Field (1992) (written by)
8. Single White Female (1992) (screenplay)
9. Casebusters (1986) (TV) (as Donald Paul Roos)
10. "The Colbys" (1985) TV Series (writer)
11. "Paper Dolls" (1984) TV Series (writer)

12. "Hart to Hart" (1979) TV Series (writer)

#### Producer - filmography

1. Call Waiting (2004) (executive producer)
2. All Over the Guy (2001) (executive producer)
3. "M.Y.O.B." (2000) TV Series (executive producer)
4. Boys on the Side (1995) (executive producer)
5. Love Field (1992) (co-producer)

#### Director - filmography

1. Happy Endings (2005)
2. Bounce (2000)
3. "M.Y.O.B." (2000) TV Series
4. The Opposite of Sex (1998)

Chapter 2 (0:01:30) Dedee Truitt

Here is our first encounter with this unlikable creature. Notice how Don Roos tries to build some sort of suspense by not showing her face right away. Don wanted to copy some French stylized movies in making this film, but due to time constraints he didn't have the luxury to do that. This movie was made for just under \$5 million dollars, shot for forty days, which is a long shooting schedule for a 123-page script. But the movie has lots of set-ups and small scenes. In a script when you have a small scene that is only one or two pages long, you still have to light and set that scene up, so that is a problem in production scheduling. As a result they ran out of time and resources early on in the production shoot and then had to adjust their artistic vision.

Biography for Christina Ricci

Date of birth 12 February 1980, Santa Monica, CA, Nickname Squant, Height 5' 1"

Mini biography Precocious, outspoken child-teen starlet of the 1990s, Christina Ricci was born in 1980 in Santa Monica, California, the youngest of 4 children of a lawyer father and realtor mother. She made her screen debut at the age of 9 in Mermaids (1990) in which she worked with 'Cher'. Her breakthrough adult role was in The Ice Storm (1997) in which she plays a nymphet who skillfully seduces 2 brothers. Candid and controversial, as well as a highly skilled actress, Christina was much in demand by film makers in the late 1990s. In 1999, at the age of 19, she directed and worked on the screenplay for the movie Asylum (1996). A compulsive talker and smoker who seem to have a new and refreshing view on every subject, the buxom Christina is becoming a top box office draw and seems to be destined for super-stardom in the new century.



Trivia

- Never formally studied acting.

Actress - filmography

1. Cursed (2004) Ellie Hudson
2. Monster (2003) Selby
3. I Love Your Work (2003) Shana
4. Anything Else (2003) Amanda
5. The Gathering (2002) Cassie Grant
6. Miranda (2002) Miranda
7. Pumpkin (2002) Carolyn McDuffy
8. The Laramie Project (2002) Romaine Patterson
9. Moby: Play - The DVD (2001) (V) Angel
10. Prozac Nation (2001) Elizabeth Wurtzel
11. All Over the Guy (2001) Rayna Wyckoff
12. The Man Who Cried (2000) Suzie
13. Bless the Child (2000) Cheri Post
14. Sleepy Hollow (1999) Katrina Anne Van Tassel
15. No Vacancy (1999) Lillian
16. 200 Cigarettes (1999) Val
17. Souvenir (1998) (voice) Young Orlando
18. I Woke Up Early the Day I Died (1998) Hooker
19. Desert Blue (1998) Ely Jackson
20. Pecker (1998) Shelley

21. Small Soldiers (1998) (voice) Gwendy Doll
22. The Opposite of Sex (1998) Dedee Truitt
23. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) Lucy
24. Buffalo '66 (1998) Layla
25. The Ice Storm (1997) Wendy Hood
26. That Darn Cat (1997) Patti Randall
27. Little Red Riding Hood (1997) Little Red Riding Hood
28. The Last of the High Kings (1996) Erin
29. Bastard Out of Carolina (1996) Dee Dee
30. Gold Diggers: The Secret of Bear Mountain (1995)
31. Now and Then (1995) Roberta
32. Casper (1995) Kathleen 'Kat' Harvey
33. Addams Family Values (1993) Wednesday Addams
34. The Cemetery Club (1993) Jessica
35. The Addams Family (1991) Wednesday Addams
36. The Hard Way (1991) Bonnie
37. Mermaids (1990) Kate Flax

Producer - filmography

1. Adrenalynn (2004) (producer)
2. Pumpkin (2002) (producer)
3. Prozac Nation (2001) (co-producer)

This is the first scene that occurred to Don Roos when he sat down to write the script and I will come back to that a little bit later. This was shot on day three of the filing schedule. This was the first movie to be written and directed by Don Roos, he had been a screenwriter in Hollywood for numerous years, but this was his first chance to direct something that he wrote. He stated that this was the happiest time of his life to be on the set of his first movie.



Chapter 3 (0:03:48) Off to Indiana

Getting the movie to that first day of shooting is always a big question. Don Roos stated that up until ten days prior to beginning to

shoot the film it was all up in limbo. Will we get a cast that the studio believes in, to get their money back? Can we hire the right people? Will the money be there? Two weeks after they started shooting, Reisher, who was the financing studio decided to get out of the feature film business. So for a lot of the filming of this movie they were orphans, which really helped the creative side of the movie, since there was less interference from above. David Kirkpatrick a producer on this film, kind of stepped in to play the role of the studio guide.

Biography for Martin Donovan  
Date of birth 19 August 1957, Reseda, CA, Height 6' 1"  
Spouse Vivian Lanko 1984-present, two children  
Trivia Is an accomplished stage actor.

Actor - filmography

1. At Last (2005) Mark Singleton
2. Dot (2005) Paul Deer
3. The Visitation (2005) Travis Jordan
4. White Like Me (2004) Gus
5. "Traffic" (2004) (mini) TV Series Brent Delaney
6. Saved! (2004) Pastor Skip
7. Agent Cody Banks (2003) Dr. Connors
8. The United States of Leland (2003) Harry Pollard
9. RFK (2002) (TV) John F. Kennedy
10. Insomnia (2002) Detective Hap Eckhart
11. Pipe Dream (2002) David
12. "Pasadena" (2001) TV Series Will McAllister
13. Amy & Isabelle (2001) (TV) Peter Robertson
14. The Great Gatsby (2001) (TV) Tom Buchanan
15. Cuba Libre (2000) Ulysses
16. Custody of the Heart (2000) (TV) Dennis Raphael
17. The Pornographer: A Love Story (2000)
18. Wonderland (2000) (TV) Dr. Neil Harrison
19. Desire (2000)
20. "Wonderland" (2000) TV Series Dr. Neil Harrison
21. In a Savage Land (1999) Dr. Phillip Spence
22. Onegin (1999) Prince Nikitin
23. The Hunt for the Unicorn Killer (1999) (TV)
24. Living Out Loud (1998) Robert Nelson
25. Spanish Fly (1998/I) Carl
26. Heaven (1998) Robert Marling
27. The Book of Life (1998) Jesus Christ
28. When Trumpets Fade (1998) (TV) Capt. Roy
29. The Opposite of Sex (1998) Bill Truitt
30. Rescuers: Stories of Courage: Two Couples (1998)
31. "Night Sins" (1997) (mini) TV Series Paul Garrison
32. The Portrait of a Lady (1996) Ralph Touchett
33. Hollow Reed (1996) Martyn Wyatt
34. Flirt (1995/I) Walter
35. French Exit (1995) Partygoer
36. Nadja (1994) Jim
37. The Rook (1994) John Abbott
38. Amateur (1994) Thomas Ludens
39. "The Adventures of Pete & Pete" (1993) TV (1993)
40. Quick (1993) Herschel Brewer
41. Flirt (1993) Walter
42. Scam (1993) (TV) Gordon Wexler
43. Malcolm X (1992) FBI Agent
44. Simple Men (1992) Martin
45. Surviving Desire (1991) Jude
46. Trust (1990) Matthew Slaughter
47. At Mother's Request (1987) (TV) Detective Rogen
48. Hard Choices (1985) Josh

0:05:06 The restroom scene went through several re-writes and no one was really thrilled with the final selection for the scene. This was shot on location and as a result was too cumbersome to move the camera around the actors; as a result the cuts are not very real to look at in the scene. The scene was difficult to edit, as it is a scene that works well with an audience, but in the cutting room in the absence of an audience, it works really slow.

0:07:01 This was not shot in Indiana, it was all shot in Los Angeles, and thus it was all about keeping (1) palm trees out of the shot. Not to mention houses of (2) ethnic origins.

The final shot of these two guys in their bedroom, really lacks any sexual tension between the two of them. Martin was not feeling well and it was late at night filming, thus the resulting scene... lacking.

Chapter 4 (0:08:01) Lucia

When this scene was recorded they added the dialogue in the background with looping.

Biography for Lisa Kudrow  
Date of birth 30 July 1963, Encino, CA, Birth name Lisa Marie Diane Kudrow, Height 5' 9½"



# Film Study, lecture on the movie, *The Opposite of Sex*, (1998)

Compiled by Jay Seller

Mini biography Kudos for Kudrow! Not the dumb blonde of "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion." Lisa Kudrow was born in Encino on July 30, 1963. Her father Lee Kudrow was a physician, and her mother Nedra a travel agent. Lisa was raised in Tarzana. Lisa played varsity-level tennis in high school and college and is a pool shark who has mastered some of the more difficult trick shots (so beware). Lisa graduated from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. At first she wanted to pursue a career in research, so she returned to Los Angeles to begin working with her father. However, Lisa got inspired to perform by one of her brother's friends, comedian Jon Lovitz. And so the tall (5'9") blond-haired, green-eyed beauty entered show biz. Lisa auditioned for the improv theater group The Groundlings, based in Los Angeles. Cynthia Sziget, a well-known improv teacher, took Lisa under her wing. In that class, Lisa became a friend of Conan O'Brien. Graduating with honors, in 1989 Lisa became a full-fledged member of The Groundlings. Breaking into TV, Lisa got a recurring role as Ursula, the ditzy waitress on "Mad about You." This led to Lisa's starring role on "Friends." In the debut season (1994-95) of "Friends," Lisa earned an Emmy nomination as Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series; in 1998 she won that award for her role as Phoebe, the ditzy but lovable folk singer. Lisa has also been nominated for Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild and American Comedy Awards for her performances. Lisa made the transition to the silver screen with a lot of success. In 1997 Lisa starred opposite Oscar winner Mira Sorvino in the hit comedy "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion." Lisa garnered more praise for her work in movies when she got the New York Film Critics Award for her starring role in "The Opposite of Sex." Lisa married Michael Stern, an advertising executive on May 27, 1995. On May 7, 1998, they were blessed with a son, Julian Murray; they live in Los Angeles.  
Spouse Michel Stern, 1995-present, one son

## Trivia

- Attended William Howard Taft High School in Woodland Hills, CA. She graduated June 18, 1981.
- Measurements: 36C-26-36 (Source: Celebrity Sleuth magazine)
- Majored in Biology at Vassar College, her alma mater.
- 1985 graduate of Vassar College in New York.
- Attended grade school with Daniel Pearl, the journalist murdered in Pakistan.

## Actress - filmography

1. Living and Breathing (2005)
2. Happy Endings (2005) Maimiee
3. "Comeback" (2005) TV Series Valerie Cherish
4. Wonderland (2003/I) Sharon Holmes
5. Marci X (2003) Marci Feld
6. Analyze That (2002) Laura Sobel
7. Bark (2002) Dr. Darla Portnoy
8. Dr. Dolittle 2 (2001) (voice) Ava
9. All Over the Guy (2001) Marie
10. Lucky Numbers (2000) Crystal
11. Hanging Up (2000) Maddy Mozell
12. Analyze This (1999) Laura MacNamara Sobel
13. "Hercules" (1998) TV Series (voice) Aphrodite
14. The Opposite of Sex (1998) Lucia DeLury
15. Hacks (1997/I) Reading Woman
16. Clockwatchers (1997) Paula
17. Romy and Michele's High School Reunion (1997)
18. Mother (1996/II) Linda
19. The Crazysetter (1995) Adrian Wexler-Jones
20. In the Heat of Passion II: Unfaithful (1994) Teller
21. "Mad About You" (1992) Ursula Buffay (1993-1995)
22. "Bob" (1992) TV Series Kathy Fleisher
23. In the Heat of Passion (1992)
24. Dance with Death (1991) Millie
25. Murder in High Places (1991) (TV)
26. The Unborn (1991) Louisa
27. To the Moon, Alice (1990) (TV) Friend of Perky Girl
28. L.A. on \$5 a Day (1989) Charmer

## Producer - filmography

1. "Comeback" (2005) TV Series (executive producer)
2. Picking Up and Dropping Off (2003) (TV)

## Writer - filmography

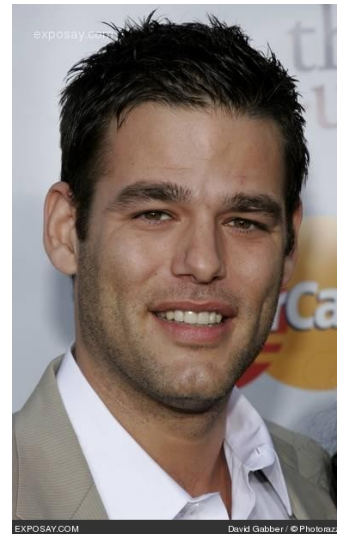
1. "Comeback" (2005) TV Series (writer)

0:08:41 A lot of people did not want this scene in the movie, including the producers. It is the first dialogue scene between the leads and they are actually talking together, which naturally slows the movie down. The shooting of this scene is lacking what is called an intermediate angle. It has this angle and the close-ups, which kind of gives it a theatrical aspect.

0:10:56 Characteristically voice-over films keep a strong pace going, so when you slow it down for dramatic, it tends to go really slow. Thus the problem of balancing the drama and the comedy becomes apparent. The lack of interesting shots also is apparent, but the writing carries it along.

## Chapter 5 (0:11:15) Hanging out with Matt

Here is another scene lacking in shots, here on the edge of the pool. The sound is also not the greatest. As Don Roos had never directed a film before he stated that he made a decision to concentrate on performance. As a result he said they would



## Film Study, lecture on the movie, The Opposite of Sex, (1998)

Compiled by Jay Seller

sometimes linger in a set-up for him to find a performance, or for the actor to find a performance. He stated if he did it again, he would not concentrate on making a performance within each shot or angle. He stated that he would probably be a little more economical in shooting his second picture. On this day of shooting, the producers came to the director and told him that he was shooting too much film, simply doing the job of the producer, watching the bottom line.

### Biography for Ivan Sergei

Date of birth 7 May 1972, Hawthorne, NJ, Height 6' 4"

Spouse Tanya Sergei 2003-present

### Trivia

- Most memorable experience working on "The Opposite of Sex" was his \$1,000 phone bill for a rental cell phone that he used the four days that he was shooting in Big Bear.

### Actor - filmography

1. "Hawaii" (2004) TV Series Danny Edwards
2. "10.5" (2004) (mini) TV Series Dr. Zack Nolan
3. "Crossing Jordan" (2001) TV Series Dr. Peter Winslow
4. Scorched (2003/I) Mark
5. "Wednesday 9:30 (8:30 Central)" (2002) David Weiss
6. Playing Mona Lisa (2000) Eddie/Carl/Ben
7. The Big Day (1999/I) John
8. "Jack & Jill" (1999) TV Series David 'Jill' Jillefsky
9. Airtime (1998)
10. The Opposite of Sex (1998) Matt Mateo
11. "Once a Thief" (1997) TV Series Mac Ramsey
12. Mother, May I Sleep with Danger? (1996) (TV)
13. Once a Thief (1996) (TV) Mac Ramsey
14. The Rockford Files: Friends and Foul Play (1996) (TV)
15. Star Command (1996) (TV) Ens. Phillip Jackson
16. Gunfighter's Moon (1995) Spud Walker
17. Dangerous Minds (1995) Huero
18. If Someone Had Known (1995) (TV) Jimmy Pettit
19. Bionic Ever After? (1994) (TV) Astaad Rashid
20. Ghoul School (1990) (V) (as Keith McKenna)

### Director - filmography

1. Rebellion (2002/I)

### Writer - filmography

1. Rebellion (2002/I)

There was a scene cut out here, where Lisa Kudrow warns Donovan that she sees something between these two. It wasn't needed for the plot, so it was cut out. When a scene doesn't warrant the time it takes to play the scene then you know you can cut it out. But what it did allow for was the dialogue between the two adults.

### Chapter 6 (0:15:30) "I'm late."

This is called a twofer shot. (A camera shot that has two actors in the frame.) Difficult for editing purposes, as you do not have any choices to make to increase or decrease the speed of the dialogue. When you do this you try to give the audience more to look at, the design of the sheets, the spread of the bodies before you, etc...



### Chapter 7 (0:16:23) Surprising Bill

This scene was supposed to be shot at night, and then they realized they wouldn't be able to control the reflections in the windows, so they made it a day scene.

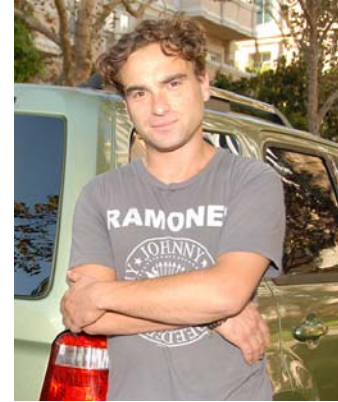
0:17:30 Being a new director you see some mistakes here in the filming as he isn't consistent with his eye lines and the location of the actors in the room. This must have been a difficult scene to edit. Now had Lisa Kudrow been sitting in this scene it would have made things easier, as you wouldn't have had that added movement in the scene, which of course forces the eye movement of the actors to change.

0:18:16 Another little mistake here, between the cuts as Lisa grabs the cigarette she changes hands. Again a more experienced director would have probably noticed a lot of this stuff.

Another thing that Don Roos talked about was as a writer on a set you get no attention at all, but as the director on a set, you have people falling all over you to make you happy. He has a little craving for pudding, and stated that he got more than his fair share in the making of this movie, demonstrates the power that a director can have on the set.

### Chapter 8 (0:21:08) Jason

0:21:28 Notice the orange traffic cone in the street, also the facts that this kid is parked in his driveway, but he doesn't even notice the car as he comes out of his own house. If you look at Johnny Galecki's credits you will see he is one of the most experienced actors working on this film. He had a rather large career on TV in the series *Roseanne* and currently on *The Big Bang Theory*, 2008, on ABC.



Biography for Johnny Galecki

Date of birth 30 April 1975, Bree, Belgium, Height 5' 5"

#### Trivia

- By age 7 he began performing in such prestigious theater productions as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Pippin* and *Galileo*, opposite Brian Dennehy at The Goodman Theater in Chicago.
- Star/producer/writer *Roseanne* Arnold of "*Roseanne*" praises Galecki's "great vulnerability."

#### Actor - filmography

1. *Happy Endings* (2005)
2. *White Like Me* (2004) Marcus
3. *Chrystal* (2004) Barry
4. *Bookies* (2003) Jude
5. *Vanilla Sky* (2001) Peter Brown
6. *Playing Mona Lisa* (2000) Arthur
7. *Bounce* (2000) Seth
8. *Morgan's Ferry* (1999) Darcy
9. *The Opposite of Sex* (1998) Jason Bock
10. *I Know What You Did Last Summer* (1997) Max
11. *Suicide Kings* (1997) Ira Reder
12. *Bean* (1997) Stingo Wheelie
13. *Murder at My Door* (1996) (TV) Teddy McNair
14. *Without Consent* (1994) (TV) Marty
15. *A Family Torn Apart* (1993) (TV) Daniel Hannigan
16. "*Roseanne*" (1988) TV Series David Healy (1992-97)
17. "*Billy*" (1992) TV Series David
18. *Backfield in Motion* (1991) (TV) Tim Seavers
19. *In Defense of a Married Man* (1990) (TV) Eric
20. "*American Dreamer*" (1990) TV Series Danny Nash
21. *Blind Faith* (1990) (TV) John Marshall
22. *Christmas Vacation* (1989) Russell 'Rusty' Griswold
23. *Prancer* (1989) Billy Quinn
24. *A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon* (1988) Toby
25. *Murder Ordained* (1987) (TV)

### Chapter 9 (0:23:52) Sheriff Carl Tippett

Factual errors: Indiana license plates are numbered by county. While the movie takes place in St. Joseph county (as indicated by patches on the sheriff's uniform), neither Lucia's nor Bill's plates match that county (or any neighboring ones).

There is always different ways and choices that a director has to play a scene. That last scene with Johnny, they could have gone for the comedy of Johnny Galecki's position or the pain of Matt's position. They chose to go neutral, so when you see a scene think about the choices and the perspectives that the directors decides to go with, as ultimately it reflects on how you see the character.



Biography for Lyle Lovett

Date of birth 1 November 1957, Klein, TX, Birth name Lyle Pearce Lovett

Spouse Julia Roberts 1993-1995 divorced

## Film Study, lecture on the movie, The Opposite of Sex, (1998)

Compiled by Jay Seller

Mini biography A singer-songwriter who plays guitar, Lovett won a 1989 Grammy for Best Male Country Vocal Performance. His albums, the first of which was released in 1986, incorporated elements of country, Western, folk, swing, jazz, bebop, blues and gospel music. He graduated from Texas A&M with degrees in German and journalism.

### Trivia

- Was mauled by a bull on his Klein, TX ranch and needed surgery to repair his right leg. [April 2002]
- He graduated from Texas A&M University with a BA in German and Journalism

### Actor - filmography

1. A Prairie Home Companion (2006) Lefty
2. The New Guy (2002) Bear Harrison
3. 3 Days of Rain (2002) Disc Jockey
4. Cookie's Fortune (1999) Manny Hood
5. The Opposite of Sex (1998) Sheriff Carl Tippet
6. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) Road Person
7. Breast Men (1997) Research Scientist
8. Bastard Out of Carolina (1996) Wade
9. Prêt-à-Porter (1994) Clint Lammeraux

10. Short Cuts (1993) Andy Bitkower
11. The Player (1992) Detective DeLongpre
12. Bill: On His Own (1983) (TV) Singer at beach

### Composer - filmography

1. Be Here to Love Me: (2004)
2. 61\* (2001) (TV) (song "Nobody Knows Me")
3. Dr. T & the Women (2000)
4. Dead Man Walking (1995) (song "Promises")
5. Always (1989) (song "Cowboy Man")

0:25:30 Don Roos also admitted he had problems with the 1) blocking of the actors, and many times he would ask them. Okay, where would you be standing if this were real life? Another area that he had problems with is 2) introducing new characters; this is just something that happens for directors that have had a lot of experience.

0:25:41 In a way to compensate for his lack of knowledge he did have two things that he was able to do, that a normal director would not have. 1) he wrote the script himself, which allows for envisioning how the movie would be filmed and played out. 2) he had his acting class act out the script, as he wanted to get some staging ideas. As a result he had gone through each scene with a group of actors. Unfortunately, they had no time for rehearsal with the real actors.

Notice that he has given back stories to the characters of Lucia and Karl, which you will find out more about later on in the story.

### Chapter 10 (0:25:56) Keeping it quiet

Originally, Lucia was walking up the steps of her own home and a newspaper on the step blew open to reveal this news scandal about her brother. But the scene never worked cinematically. Thus here is the change to the original idea in the script for her reveal.

0:27:51 This is Johnny first take on this character, the TV interview. He had received the part only two days previous, and hadn't even read the script completely. The director explained the character to him and then he just went for it here. The Blockbuster Video store comment is made at a time when Blockbuster used to edit films for the community.

### Chapter 11 (0:28:23) Suspended

0:28:50 As the tone of the movie changes here, you get a serious note presented by the filmmaker's. And of course the story is also developing in many directions.

0:29:19 The cooking scene here with Lisa Kudrow, sent the director outside while they were filming it, since Lisa is a real cut up and he couldn't stop laughing at all of her antics, so he stepped outside as they filmed this little scene.

0:29:51 Here is a great example of back story as Lucia's past is being explained to the audience.

Chapter 12 (0:31:37) Lucia 101

0:31:57 This grocery store scene was shot on Day Five of the movie at 2 a.m. in the morning. They had numerous difficulties in getting the scene. You will notice the tinge of green lights in the background, thus it was not properly lit, and filmed on location, which added the problems of the size of the aisles and getting the camera into the right positions.

0:32:57 See the red drapes and the red shirt, a bad choice.

0:34:24 As he drives down the road here, in the distance you can see one of the film trucks driving up here to meet the taxi.

Chapter 13 (0:34:33) Off to LA

Here we are in “boy’s town,” West Hollywood, California, a gay man’s Mecca. Some really good work with Lisa Kudrow’s hairstyles in this movie, done by the Hair and Make-up artist, Danielle Kurai came up with.

0:36:47 Again another choice here, as Lucia sees her “brother” back with this guy, do you show her pain for not approving of the situation, or do you go for the reunion moment for these two guys. Usually they try to go for a little of both, show the pain then it turns happy, or show the happy and then it turns sad. The voice-over is also used to interrupt the pain.

Chapter 14 (0:37:08) A lot to talk about

0:37:35 This is Jason’s Restaurant in LA that is closed and is now closed forever. Again we have a scene with limited perspectives on the shots. They were unhappy with all of the close ups that were taken for this scene and thus they had to go with the longer shots of the group in this three to four pages of dialogue. As a result notice the repeat of the two shot, an easy mistake to make in looking at a scene like this.

Factual errors: Deedee manages to smoke in a restaurant in California without any problems. There is a no smoking policy in enclosed public places in the state of California.

Here is some continuity stuff to look at, notice Ivan buttering the bread in this scene. Notice that he is constantly buttering the bread and applies lots of butter. And then notice the napkins, constantly changing positions, some up some down.

There was an additional scene here, outside of the restaurant with Lisa dropping the urn and laughing hysterically. The directors and producers thought it was all very funny, but the first audience they showed this too, didn’t respond, thus they cut out the scene.

0:43:30 Notice the slight Rack Focus in this scene in the car. Rack focus changes focus between something in the foreground to something in the background.

0:45:15 Don Roos got sick for about ten days after shooting at this location. The director was sitting right next to the dumpster. But they



saved a lot of money using a real location.

## Chapter 15: Randy

Biography for William Lee Scott (Randy)

Date of birth 6 July 1973, Hudson, NY, Height 5' 7"

Spouse Charlene Bloom 2002-present

Trivia Plays the drums

Actor - filmography

1. \$5.15/Hr. (2004) (TV)
2. The Novice (2004) Henry
3. The Winning Season (2004) (TV) Ty Cobb
4. Killer Diller (2004) Wesley
5. The Butterfly Effect (2004) Tommy Miller
6. Dumb and Dumberer: When Harry Met (2003) Carl
7. Identity (2003) Lou
8. Pearl Harbor (2001) Lt. Billy Thompson
9. Gone in Sixty Seconds (2000) Toby
10. Black and White (1999) Will King

11. October Sky (1999) Roy Lee Cook
12. The Opposite of Sex (1998) Randy 'One Ball' Cates
13. Tis the Season (1998) Zach
14. Before Women Had Wings (1997) (TV) Hank Jackson
15. Gattaca (1997) Young Anton
16. "The Steve Harvey Show" (1996) TV Bullethead

Notable TV Guest Appearances

1. "CSI: Miami" playing "DJ Scorpius" in episode: 5 May 2003
2. "Cracker" playing "Jeremy Falls" in 6 November 1997
3. "Gun" playing "The Skinhead" in episode 19 April 1997

## Chapter 16: Planet Maturia

0:49:52 Notice how in this hotel room they have failed to establish where the people are standing in relationship to the room, as a result you are a tad disoriented by the eye lines, as you are trying to establish everyone locations. The nice thing is here, that the actors are good enough to make that establishment for us. As a result the story flies along uninterrupted by the cameras placement.

Look at Lisa Kudrow's outfit here; Don Roos calls it, "School teacher on holiday outfit." That is so bad. Costume Design by Peter Mitchell. The outfit also says, "Well, I'm off to Universal Studios."

This was filmed on the eighth floor of a hotel and they had so many mistakes, with items falling out the window, a "C-stand" (From "Century-stand," this is one of the most useful and used pieces of grip/lighting equipment there is. This "workhorse of the movie industry" has three staggered legs, which can be folded under each other in a line for easy storage.) and almost killing a tourist, that the hotel invited them not to return. They had only made reservation at the hotel for a few days, so they had to cut out some of the material that they were going to film here.

0:53:28 Lyle Lovett back on the set here, he was absent for about five weeks as he had gone out on concert. As a result they had him for three days in the beginning of the movie and then he was gone for five weeks, and then he came back for another week. Lyle was the most famous person working on this movie, just based on his fan base, and yet very approachable. Fans always interrupted him and he was always the gentleman. An example of his manners, he had a problem with this scene, as a gentleman would always take the street side to protect the lady. Lyle had read the script and his agent called the director to set up a meeting. Both individuals, the director and Lyle, thought they were interviewing each other; as a result they simply had a really nice meeting. Lyle signed on to the project immediately.

Back in the hotel room you have this person walking in the foreground and it is not Lyle Lovett, he was on tour, but rather a stand in trying to impersonate Lyle walk.

Chapter 17: Bible Boy

0:55:37 Filming in Palm Springs began on July 29, so it was hot. The interior of the hotel room was on a stage. Watch Christina's pregnancy pad as it keeps slipping down.

0:57:22 In this scene a huge speech was cut out that Christina was to deliver. The speech just made her too hard. Watch the rubber wall bounce here when she gets thrown against it.

Continuity: Dedee's head wound, and the blood from it, disappear within moments.

Continuity: When Dede hides in the bathroom, Randy pounds on the door wearing socks. A minute later she hits him with the telephone and he's barefoot. He never had the time to take off the socks.

0:58:01 This shot was always in the script it was intended that the violence was to be off camera. All shot in real time. As a result the actors had to go to the bed, wrestle a little and then hold their breath so you would not see their chests rising as they were breathing. You can even see her breathing.

0:59:09 Here we get lot of explanations about this kid, as a result you don't feel too sorry for him. They had to have you go along with Christina for the ride.

1:00:44 This was the last day of shooting for Christina, the hotel in Palm Springs. She commented that this picture was the best experience of her career so far on set.

Lisa is used in short shots here, because the heat kept making her hair dye run, it was a vegetable oil hair dye.

Chapter 18: In Lucia's room

1:01:16 On this day of filming, Lisa had just learned that she had won her second Emmy for the role of Phoebe on *Friends*. Thus it was a very distracting day, with calls for interviews flowers arriving on the set, etc... Interesting note here, the cast of *Friends* made a pact that they would only receive Emmy nominations for the role of Best Supporting Actors or Actresses, because they feel that they are all a team and no one is better than the others. That is why in 2000 Matthew Perry turned down his Emmy nomination in the category of Best Actor.

Since Lisa was so distracted Martin allowed her to do all of her close-ups first in this scene.

Here is an example of the Titter-Totter effect, going between series moments and comedy.

1:03:06 Look at the choice that Lisa has in playing this role. She could play it as a woman in love with Bill, wanting him to change his sexual orientation for her. But she plays it as a woman who loves her brother-in-law and only wants the best for him, yet has the sexual frustrations of a woman not in a relationship herself. She is in love with family and the loss of that family. We don't have a "fag hag," that was something Lisa was adamant about not playing.

Chapter 19: (1:07:00) Good neck rubs

Now we have a vulnerable woman, a difficult place to arrive at for this angry/bitter woman. And just so it doesn't get too sentimental, we bring in the voice over. Notice that she grabs the shampoo and not the beer, referring to her earlier statement.

Chapter 20 (1:09:00) Welcome home parade

Here you have the feeling that the movie is going to end here. And if it did end here you would still have a full story. Since we have a whole another act coming up here, they attempt to keep the pace going by cutting to the story as fast as they could.

Chapter 21 (1:10:03) A taped message

There was a Persian Embassy across the street from this house) spent ten days of the filming here) and they did their best to block it out, but here is one shot that you get to see the Embassy. Johnny is strategically placed to block the Persian Symbol. This scene was filmed on two different days in the early evening to match the light. So they did all of Martin's shots on one day and all of Johnny's shots on the second day.

1:13:12 This was a little convenience store, a mom and pop store. If you use a real store you have to buy out their day's business, so they needed a small store to use. The girl in the background is on the Clairol commercials. The windows of the convenience store were painted with fall colors to screen out palm trees and other signs of the California location.

Errors in geography: During a trip from Indiana to Detroit, a drive that is nearly flat, we see a shot of some fairly substantial mountains.

Chapter 22 (1:14:17) Off to Canada

This is Big Bear California and an absolute nightmare of a location for the sound crew, because the lake in the background was full of speedboats. Normally a film crew would pay to get the people off of the lake and post guards to stop people from getting onto the rear of the shots, but they decided to save the cost.

Factual errors: Police cruisers and uniforms for the Ontario Provincial Police are completely inaccurate.

Chapter 23 (1:17:35) Happy with Jason

A director is rarely happy with their finished product as they usually have to make so many concessions to the studio and the time frames that they always feel cheated with the end product. The film was cut on an Avid Computer; the great thing is that you can look at your cuts rather quickly. This film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

One thing that is kind of nice with the gay relationships you see on screen is that it is not about pleading for tolerance; it is just that the main characters love problems happen to be with a member of the same sex. However, this aspect did make it difficult to get the movie put together.

Notice how the Dede voice over here, helps articulate any uncomfortable ness in the audience. It gives the audience a feeling that their point of view was being heard as a result they could continue on and not stop watching the movie.

1:24:01 To film the car shot, the car is mounted on a trailer.

#### Chapter 24 (1:24:29) In delivery

The script took three months to write. This was a different script for Don Roos as he had never used a voice over before and he had never done anything of this style. Don also felt really surprised that somebody actually wanted to make this movie.

#### Chapter 25 (1:26:46) Something else to watch

You also get a different kind of voice over, a voice over that doesn't attempt to explain the obvious. Such as when you see a movie, they show you a mountain cabin in the snow and the voice over says, "There was more snow that winter, than..." Here you get an aggressive voice over and Dede also turns her attention and vile on the audience. No one is safe from this woman.

This scene was shot twice two days apart, because the camera was out of focus during the first shot. Both takes were incredible takes thanks to these two actors.

#### Chapter 26 (1:29:57) "It's a boy."

Continuity: Blood disappears from Bill's hospital gown after he leaves the delivery room.

In case you are wondering what is spread all over this infant's body for the filming, it is cream cheese and jelly. The actor holding the baby was very nervous that he was going to drop the baby. It is also a Hispanic baby.

It was not an easy task to find music that could actually help this story line along.

#### Chapter 27 (1:32:56) Happy endings

Director's like working with Christina Ricci as she is easy to work with, always a professional, no attitude, and comes with a lot of experience growing up in front of the camera.



Notice here as she writes the note that the music sort of becomes dramatic, even though we are at the end of a comedy.

#### Chapter 28 (1:34:39) The opposite of sex

That is a wig. Here they give you flashbacks of images you didn't see, forcing you to think about how deep these lives are.

DVD Includes: Show the class the deleted scenes without the commentary.

Extra Features

Theatrical Trailer

Deleted Scenes

1. Bill and Lucia in the library

2. Domestic life in Hollywood
3. Dedee explains it all to Matt
4. Carl and Bill at the cemetery
5. Hospital check-in

Deleted Scenes with Audio Commentary