

**On an exotic island so close
to the Big Apple...**



**...Mickey Stern
is about to find his past in someone else's future...**

Maturity is overrated.

2 Life! Films, LLC *in association with* **MANTICORE FILMS**

Presents

Returning Mickey Stern

A Michael Prywes Film

Joseph Bologna Joshua Fishbein Tom Bosley

Renée Taylor Kylie Delre Connie Stevens

Michael Oberlander Sarah Schoenberg

2 Life! Films, LLC

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www.MickeyStern.com

Over **2 MILLION** people are waiting to see how
THEIR movie came out...

Returning Mickey Stern

The Reporter

Net surfers slip 'Mickey' a cast

Mar. 31, 2000

By Paul Bond

More than 2 million Internet users played casting director for the Joseph Bologna-[Tom Bosley-Connie Stevens] starrer "Returning Mickey Stern," the debut movie from independent 2Life! Films and the first movie to be cast in cyberspace.

Michael Prywes, Victor Erdos and Jason Akel, besides founding 2 Life! and producing "Returning Mickey Stern," also created the Web site CastOurMovie.com, and let visitors to the site choose four leading roles (HR 12/17).

The Web site included photos of the actors who competed for the parts, as well as audition video and a synopsis of the movie. When all was said and done, Internet users chose Kylie Delre, Michael Oberlander, Sarah Schoenberg and John Sloan to star.

Bologna [Tom Bosley] and [Stevens] were cast by the producers, who are still looking to cast the teenage lead and one other role.

The Web site creators and film producers said that their "cybercasting" experiment was so successful that they're considering forming an online company for casting movies and TV shows.

"One of the wonderful things that have come from this has been the studios that have approached us," Erdos said.

One idea Erdos and company are considering is a CastOurEpisode Web site for television shows.

"Wouldn't it be great if fans of 'Friends' could cast a guest star of an episode?" Erdos said. "What a great way to further involve the audience."

"Returning Mickey Stern" is the story of Mickey, an idealistic, communist-hating teenager in the 1950s whose life a half-decade later hasn't quite worked out the way he planned. An older Mickey, played by Bologna, spends his days thinking about the past, until meeting a 17-year-old who is suspiciously similar to himself at that age.

The movie, which has a tentative \$2 million budget, will begin shooting in September for a January release.



CONTACT: JOSEPH BRAD KLUGE 818.505.1767

Available Winter 2002

Returning Mickey Stern



Rome Independent Film Festival Awards 2002

Best Picture - Feature Length Film

LONG ISLAND FILMMAKER WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

ROME, ITALY - **RETURNING MICKEY STERN**, a movie written, directed and produced by Michael Prywes, has been awarded the top prize in the Feature Film Category for the 2002 Roma International Independent Film Festival. The winner was announced at the RIFF Gala on February 28 2002 in Rome, Italy. The ROMA FEST marks the second venue for the indie comedy; **MICKEY STERN** made its U.S. debut in Sarasota, Florida to a sold out crowd in late January.



Michael Prywes & Joe Bologna Accept award for Best Picture.

RETURNING MICKEY STERN was the first 35mm feature in decades to be shot in Fire Island, NY. The comedy stars an ensemble cast including Oscar nominee Joseph Bologna, Tony winner Tom Bosley, Oscar nominee Renee Taylor, and Connie Stevens.



Prywes with Renee Taylor & Joe Bologna.

RETURNING MICKEY STERN, winner of the Long Island Film Foundation Grant and finalist for the LAIFF Production Grant Award and the Long Island Film Festival Best Screenplay Award, is the story of an idealistic teenager in 1950 who adores the New York Yankees and dreams of stamping out Communism. Fifty years later,

life hasn't quite turned out the way he expected, and Mickey (Bologna) spends his days wishing he could turn back time. He returns to Seaview, Long Island with his best friend Harry (Bosley) and meets a teenage boy (Joshua Fishbein) who is suspiciously similar to himself at that age. Mickey has one week to change both their lives for the better.



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STUDIO DIRECTOR CAMERAMAN TAKE SC

Il Messaggero

RETURNING MICKEY STERN

DIRECTOR'S CHAIR Thought Ewan MacGregor was all wrong in *The Phantom Menace*? Hated Winona Ryder in *Girl, Interrupted*? Think you can cast movie roles better than Hollywood does? Here's your chance to vote on starring parts in an independent comedy, *Returning Mickey Stern*. Go to castourmovie.com to watch auditions by actors in RealVideo, read their résumés and check out their mug shots. Then vote for sexy and brainy Ilana, 26, or her evil ex-boyfriend Ben. Winners will be announced on March 23, and shooting starts in April. —By Anita Hamilton

»» ROLE CALL You can't pick the next Anakin, but three young filmmakers think it may soon be an option. For now, they're letting you cast the indie comedy *Returning Mickey Stern*. Until March 20, log on to CastOurMovie.com (www.castourmovie.com), browse auditions of 12 rookie thespians up for four roles, and vote. So far, thousands of surfers have weighed in, inviting comparisons to another Net phenom. Says writer-director Michael Prywes: "The thing about *Blair Witch* was that they introduced you to the film...after it was shot. We wanted to show people what it's like to make a movie." —Ann Limpert



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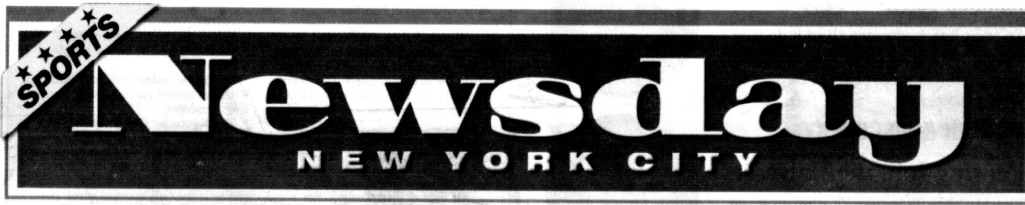
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Returning Mickey Stern

Opens Long Island International Film Festival



www.nynewsday.com

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2002 • CITY EDITION

To Fire Island, in a Quest for Magic

By Gene Seymour
STAFF WRITER

At 27, Michael Prywes seems a little too young to be steeped in "what ifs" about his life's direction. He's recently married, he's teaching writing at Queens College, and his first feature film, "Returning Mickey Stern," will be screened tonight as the opener to the 19th annual Long Island Film Festival at Westhampton.

But Prywes, who was born in Bethpage and reared in Dix Hills, says that without his own regrets and second thoughts, he couldn't have made a film about a 60-something ex-ballplayer (Joseph Bologna) who finds himself grasping for magic and redemption on Fire Island after his wife's death.

"I'd majored in performance studies at Northwestern University," Prywes says. "And after I'd graduated, I thought, well, maybe I should have gone somewhere to major in film instead of writing for the stage. Maybe I should have majored in journalism. And I wondered what if I could have gone back when I was 17 and told myself this is what I should do with my life? Would I have bothered listening anyway? And it forced me to think of how lucky I have



Newspaper Photo / Bruce Gilbert

Director Michael Prywes' first feature film, "Returning Mickey Stern," is a bittersweet comedy about love starring Joseph Bologna as an ex-ballplayer whose wife has died. It screens tonight.

been so far to do what I've been doing and how easy it is to forget that, no matter how old you are."

As the eponymous Stern in Prywes' bittersweet comedy, Bologna is a crusty, wounded soul who played for the Yankees just long enough to get his own baseball card. The Korean War not only took away a baseball career, but also delayed his marriage to a beautiful young woman he met on Fire Island just before he shipped off for battle.

Prywes' story begins years after Mickey married the woman he loved, only to lose her too soon to cancer. He makes a sentimental summer journey back to Fire Island with best friend Harry (Tom Bosley), erstwhile bagel tycoon and full-time retired grouch. There he meets a cocky city kid named Michael (Joshua Fishbein), who reminds Mickey of his younger self to eerie degrees. They walk alike, throw the ball alike and even eat ice cream in the same reckless, headache-inducing manner. When Mickey meets a young woman (Kylie Delre), who is a spitting image of his wife during his own summer love, he tries desperately to force history to repeat itself.

Over lunch in Manhattan, Prywes says he had written six screenplays before "Mickey," which was "the first one I'd done that I'd actually go out and see." The others were more high concept, "like a Romeo and Juliet in outer space piece I'd written. But I wondered later why I'd write something like that if I weren't into science fiction, which I'm not."

Bologna, a veteran actor who also has a solid reputation as a playwright and screenwriter, was always Prywes' first choice to

See PRYWES on B10

'Mickey Stern' in Westhampton

PRYWES from B2

play Mickey. Once he'd read Prywes' script and signed up, Bologna brought along for the ride such notables as Bosley, Connie Stevens (who plays one of Michael's former teachers) and Bologna's wife and writing partner, Renee Taylor, who plays a randy single on the prowl.

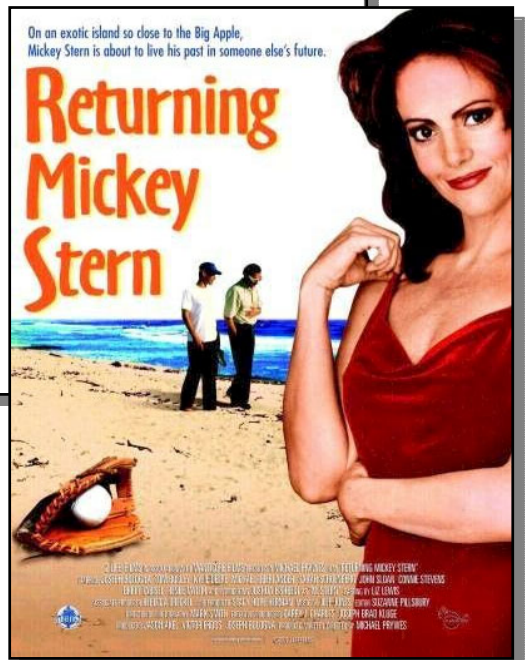
"When Joe first called and said he wanted to do it, I saved the phone message for months," Prywes says. "He made it very easy for me, helped me with the script. We're now friends. Tom, I'd never met, and so I was a little nervous with him at first. By the time Connie came along, I'd found my groove."

Fire Island is as much of a presence in the film as the characters. Prywes made certain of that. "People kept telling me that I'd save money if I'd shoot it in 16 mm or digital. But I insisted on 35 mm. I wanted the beauty of Fire Island to show in this movie." (His solicitousness for the place comes from summers

spent in Seaview, where Prywes' father had a medical practice during peak months.)

"Mickey Stern" was filmed over a 19-day period two autumns ago. Since then, it's made the festival circuit in the United States and abroad, winning the best feature prize at the Rome International Film Festival. Prywes' reluctance to put a final cost figure on the film's production comes partly from the fact that "we're still spending money on it, including bringing it to Westhampton." (His best guess, "when it all shakes out," is roughly \$850,000.) ■

WHERE&WHEN "Returning Mickey Stern" screens tonight at 8 at the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center, Holly Angell Hardmann's "Besotted," a comedy shot in Southold, screens at 8 p.m. tomorrow, followed by a 9:30 p.m. showing of Steve Race and Carmine Cangialosi's "The Beach House." For festival information, call 800-762-4769 or the Westhampton Beach PAC at 631-288-1500, or see the Web site, www.lifilm.org.



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Available Winter 2002

Returning Mickey Stern

Opens Tiburon International Film Festival

MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

D6 • Sunday, March 17, 2002

SCREENING ROOM

New fish in the ocean

The Tiburon International Film Festival makes its debut



Tiburon film festival picks

OPENING THE Tiburon International Film Festival on March 22, "Returning Mickey Stern" involves middle-aged widower Mickey Stern (Joseph Bologna), who returns to the island where he met, and then lost, his true love. Mickey's plan is to search for their modern-day incarnations, get them to meet, fall in love, and live the happy life he missed out on.

But instead of finding two young lovers who remind him of how he and his love were, he finds two people who appear to actually be Mickey and his love, only 25 years younger.

"Stern" is a coming-of-age movie for people who've already come of age. Mickey doesn't need to discover his identity or decide on his future, he needs to learn to face the mistakes he made in the past and live with the heavy burden of regret — of life's missed opportunities and the delusion that youth isn't fleeting.

The main question is whether Mickey has really found his former self, or simply two people who look like faces from the past — which makes "Stern" either a humorous time-warp film about finding closure and getting on with one's life, or a sad treatise on middle-aged delusion and advanced metabolic disorder.

Which ever it is, regret is still one nasty load.

An indie hit from 1996, "Swingers" followed the hu-

IT'S WELL KNOWN throughout the county that the city of Tiburon takes its name from the Spanish word for shark.

But in regard to film festivals, the Tiburon International is still a little fish swimming in a giant ocean.

"When it comes to showcasing films that otherwise would go unnoticed, our feeling is the more the merrier," says festival co-founder Jason Resnik, a 26-year-old life-long Tere Lindo resident.

But while only in its first year, the Tiburon International Film Festival already has the look of something that could one day become a major player, much like its Mill Valley counterpart on the other side of Highway 101.

"They've been around for such a long time and put on such outstanding events," says Resnik. "We hope to reach that level some day, but for now we content to be in Tiburon."

Running March 22 through 28, the festival's 82 films include a new film from acclaimed French documentarist Claude Lelouch ("Shoah"); Rome International Best Feature award-winner "Returning Mickey Stern"; Sansara Film Festival hit "Do It For Uncle Manny"; "Tefloopy," winner of last year's Oscar for Best Student Film; a program dedicated to the cinema of war-torn Bosnia; and several films from and about Iran, currently one of the world's most praised film industries.

The festival was born when, after speaking with local residents about foreign films, Tiburon resident Steve Shifis approached Resnik, and along with Shifis's son, Siamak, created both a forum for international filmmakers to show their work and a venue for local residents to learn more about the diverse cultures of the world.

Soon the three men found themselves escorting film submissions, raising funds, stuffing en-

velopes, creating a festival Web site and, basically, running an international film festival.

Now it's time to see if this shark can swim.

The following are some highlights from the first annual Tiburon International Film Festival:

► Help celebrate the first-ever Tiburon International Film Festival at the Opening Gala on March 21 from 7 to 11 p.m. at Sam's Anchor Cafe, located at 27 Main St. Tickets are \$100. The event will be preceded by cocktails on the Angel Island Ferry at 5:30 p.m.

► The Closing Night Party and Award Ceremony starts at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at Serrino Italian Restaurant, at 9 Main St. in Tiburon, and features hors d'oeuvres and wine and will conclude with awards for the filmmakers. Tickets are \$35.

► The festival plays host to an Oscar Night party at Sam's Anchor Cafe on March 24. Festival filmmakers will be on hand, including Oscar-winning biographical director Robert Siodmak ("Michalangelo A Self Portrait"). Space is limited and guests will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis.

► The festival offers a number of

IF YOU GO

The Tiburon International Film Festival runs March 22 through 28 at the Tiburon Playhouse Theater, located at 40 Main St. in Tiburon. Tickets are \$8 general, \$15 for Opening Night Reception (to purchased by director of the festival office) and the Playhouse Theater at 2, Jock Mac Lane. For information, call 381-4123 or visit the festival Web site at www.tiburoninternational.com.

► The festival often a number of

TIBURON International Film Festival co-founder Jason Resnik picks a few of his favorites from this year's festival (some pics courtesy of the film festival):

► "Work in Progress": A portrait of a community in Barcelona's barrio chino (Chinese quarter), where lives are touched by the construction of a building in a street just off the busy Ramblas. Showing March 25 and 27.

► "Returning Mickey Stern": A man returns to the island of his youth to right the wrongs of his past. Showing March 22 and 26.

► "Ewww!": Set in a metropolis, this short involves a young man and woman who fall in love, if only in their minds. Showing March 25 and 26.

► "America So Beautiful!": The story of a group of young Iranian immigrants in Los Angeles trying to find their way in America at the beginning of the Iran hostage crisis in 1979. Showing March 25 and 27.

► "Maryam": An Iranian-American New Jersey teen-ager deals with cultural backlash when her fundamentalist cousin comes to live with her during the 1979 Iran hostage crisis. Showing March 22 and 28.

► "Hypocrite": A short film in which a woman is followed through the streets by a film camera before turning and attacking the voyeuristic viewer with verbal and physical assaults. Showing as part of Short Program 1 on March 23.

► "Edge of the Ice": A short psychological and musical kaleidoscope about snowmobile racing in the remote wilderness of Lapland. Showing as part of Short Program 1 on March 23.

► "Do It For Uncle Manny": A send-up of the Hollywood lifestyle and all of the trespassing that come with it. Showing March 26.

► "Epochs-Suspensions": Six stories of artists bound together by their inability to carry out their job. Showing March 27.

► "Do You Remember Sarajevo?": Documentary footage recorded by ordinary citizens about everyday life in a besieged European city at the end of the 20th century. Showing March 24.

► "The Terms": A black comedy about a father and son who live in a trailer in the middle of nowhere and their bizarre attempts to kill each other. Showing as part of Short Program 1 on March 23.



See Tiburon, page D7

"RETURNING MICKEY STERN": Mickey (Joseph Bologna) returns to the side of his youth to rewrite the past.

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Returning Mickey Stern

DAILY NEWS

www.nydailynews.com

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Monday, August 13, 2001

SPOTLIGHT ON GREAT PEOPLE

Movie novice spins his Web

Michael Prywes practically grew up with computers — he was 5 years old when he got his first, and learned HTML code for Web pages almost as soon as it hit the market.

So it makes sense that when he Queens College and St. John's University instructor, Bolgona (teaches Screenwriting 101), began work on his first movie, he looked for ways to use computers in the production.

Which is how Prywes and co-producers Victor Erdos and Jason Akel did something on their first picture that had not been done before — they let Internet surfers pick some cast members.

If that seems a bit odd, consider this: "Returning Mickey Stern," starring Joe Bolgona, Leslee Taylor, Tom Bosley and Angela Stevens was shot on Fire Island last year. The 90-minute reel about lost youth and lost love is undergoing final edits before it starts to make the rounds of film-festival screenings and commitments.

"We wanted to do something using his new technology that would be new and exciting," said Prywes. "We decided to make [the movie] a collaborative experience for a large number of people."

The experience came by way of Castourmovie.com, the Web site Prywes created to do just what it says. In the latter part of 1999, Web surfers visiting the site saw a synopsis of the movie and actors and actresses up for each role as well as their audition tape.

Four cast members — Sarah Schoenberg, Kylie Deire, Michael Oberlander and John Sloan — all won their parts in the Internet vote.

"Returning Mickey Stern" is Prywes' fifth script, an accomplishment in itself for a 26-year-old. Although he has had a couple in development, which means that someone purchased an option to film, this is the first one to be produced.

The quartet of entertainment veterans — Bolgona and wife, Taylor, are on Broadway. Bosley was the father in "Happy Days" and Stevens, who rose to fame on "Hawaiian Eye," has appeared in dozens of film and television roles — were kind to the first-time filmmaker, Prywes said.

"The first day on the set, Tom Bosley took me aside and said he was going to do everything in his power to make sure I got what I needed from him," said Prywes.

Bolgona helped him refine the script and shares a producer credit. They remain close friends.

Bolgona attended Prywes' California wedding to Northwestern sweetheart Devra last year, and he attended Bolgona and Taylor's Broadway debut this week of their play, "If You Ever Leave Me, I'm Going With You."

"I learned a lot from Joe about fleshing out a script and taking advantages of the situations a script presents to move the story along," Prywes said. "He knows so much about the business."

Born in Flushing and raised on Long Island, Prywes went to Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., outside Chicago, where he majored in creative writing for the media.

After graduation, he spent a year in California trying to break into the business. That was just enough time to convince him Hollywood was not his thing.

"Hollywood is the kind of place that can make you feel like you're a dime a dozen," he said. "You can sit at a table in a cafe and watch people waving around scripts. There are more than 100,000 scripts written in this country every year."

Back in New York, Prywes was on a radio show when the disk jockey interviewing him said he knew Bolgona and promised to get him a copy of the script. Bolgona loved it but wanted to work with Prywes to refine the characters.

It was Bolgona, who, with Taylor, has written a string of Broadway hits like "It Had To Be You," who suggested Bosley for the project.

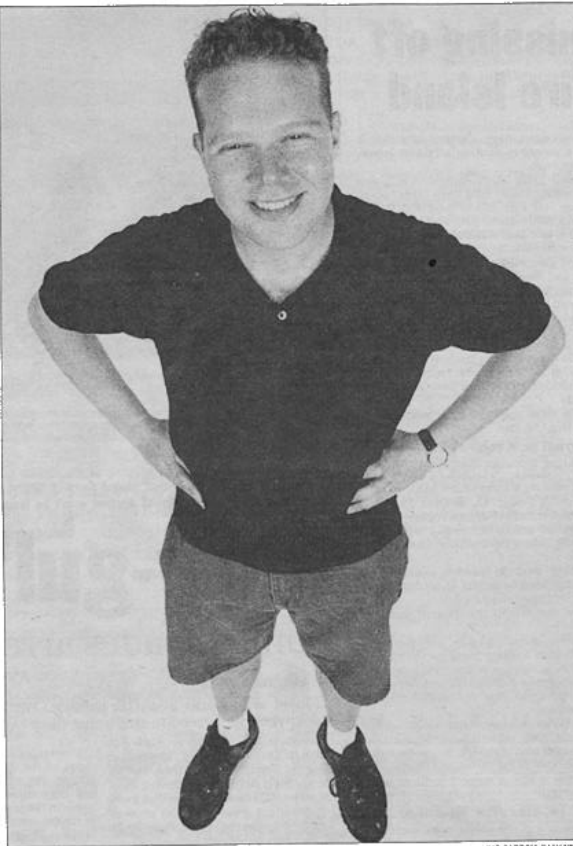
A cast of 20 and crew of 25 descended on Fire Island. "Returning Mickey Stern" was in the can in three weeks, thanks in large part, Prywes said, to the cooperative residents of Ocean Beach and Seaview.

And here is another miracle — the film cost just over \$800,000, much of it raised from Wall Street investors who were also friends of co-producers Victor Erdos and Jason Akel.

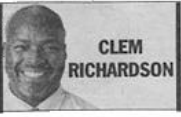
"The great thing about working with professional actors is that it's not difficult to direct them," Prywes said. "They give you what you want."

Most editing on the film was completed in July. Sound editing continues.

Prywes plans to submit the movie in several competitions, including the Long Island Film Festival and Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival.



PAT CARROLL/DAILY NEWS



CLEM RICHARDSON

RISEING STAR Michael Prywes hopes for movie success with his first picture, "Returning Mickey Stern," which was cast, in part, by surfers on the Internet.

Love and loss simmer in Fire Island script

About "Returning Mickey Stern":

It's 1950, and 17-year-old Mickey discovers the magic of Fire Island for the first time when he meets and courts first love Leah while on summer vacation. Mickey wants to play for the Yankees, be rich and fight

communism. But he and Leah don't stay together.

Fast forward to today, and Mickey, his Major League career cut short by a fastball to the temple, still wants to play for the Yankees. Returning to Fire Island with his friend, millionaire "Bagel King" Harry Mankel, Mickey meets a young

woman who bears a striking resemblance to the lost Leah. He also meets 17-year-old Michael Joshua Stern, a carbon copy of his younger self who works at the Seaview Market.

Mickey sees the young boy as his chance to correct the mistakes he made in his own life — and he has a week to do it.

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Michael (Joshua Fishbein) and Mickey (Joseph Bologna) discuss sports and girls.



Eloise (Connie Stevens) greets an unexpected visitor.



Michael (Joshua Fishbein) and Iana (Kylie Delre) head off on a secret date.



Harry (Tom Bosley) pontificates in the garden.



Ben (Michael Oberlander) rubs much needed lotion on Iana's (Kylie Delre) back.



Jeannie (Renée Taylor) blows Harry a kiss.

a humorous time-warp
- Jason Welsh, "Tikaron film festival picks" Marin Independent Journal

2 LIFE! FILMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH MANTICORE FILMS PRESENTS A MICHAEL PRYWES FILM "RETURNING MICKEY STERN"
 STARRING JOSEPH BOLOGNA AND TOM BOSLEY KYLIE DELRE MICHAEL OBERLANDER SARAH SCHOENBERG JOHN SLOAN
 CONNIE STEVENS BRETT TABISEL RENÉE TAYLOR AND INTRODUCING JOSHUA FISHBEIN AS "M. STERN"
 CASTING BY LIZ LEWIS MUSIC BY JEFF JONES EDITOR SUZANNE PILLSBURY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARK SMITH
 ASSOCIATE PRODUCER REBECCA BRECKEL LINE PRODUCER STACY HOPE HERMAN
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BARRY CHARLES JOSEPH BRAD KLUGE
 PRODUCERS JASON AKEL VICTOR ERDOS JOSEPH BOLOGNA PRODUCED, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL PRYWES



Dina (Sara Schoenberg) and Michael (Joshua Fishbein) see Mickey off to the ferry.

Returning Mickey Stern

a new old comedy.



DOLBY DIGITAL English Stereo • 91 Minutes • Color NOT RATED

RETURNING MICKEY STERN

a new old comedy.

Company Contact:

Joseph Brad Kluge
Executive Producer

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RETURNING MICKEY STERN

Mickey Stern remembers a time of big dreams and no regrets, a time when he had a few more hairs on his head and fewer in his ears.

1950: Mickey Stern (Joshua Fishbein), a wildly naïve 17 year old kid, discovers the magical Fire Island for the first time. There, he meets his true love, Leah (Kylie Delre), and courts her. Mickey wants the American Dream - to wear pinstripes as a New York Yankee, to find riches and fame and love, and to fight the “Comms” in Korea. But, their love doesn’t overcome everything, and he and Leah go their separate ways. Full of regrets, Mickey finds himself wishing he could turn back time...

FIFTY YEARS LATER: Mickey (Joseph Bologna) still has dreams of playing for the Bronx Bombers and bringing the world’s last remaining “Comms” to justice. He returns to Fire Island with his best friend Harry (Tom Bosley), the New York Bagel Czar. Mickey discovers that the magic has not left Fire Island. He meets a young woman named Ilana, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Leah. But even more shockingly, he meets a young man who is, quite literally, a 17-year-old version of himself. Michael Joshua Stern, the checkout boy at the Seaview Market, shares Mickey’s name, his childhood appearance, and his stubborn-as-a-broken-down-mule personality. Michael is Mickey!

This is Mickey’s chance to right past wrongs, and he has just one week to do it. He teaches Michael how to become a better ball player and how to be a better man. But with slicked-back hair and hormones in maximum overdrive, Michael might not have what it takes to romance Ilana. Ultimately, Mickey discovers that love cannot be forced, it must be earned, and sometimes, love can be found in the strangest of places.

ABOUT FIRE ISLAND, NEW YORK

Fire Island is New York's colorful wonderland. Just 50 miles from Manhattan, this summer paradise, a spit of barrier beach off the coast of Long Island, was once feared by New Yorkers because of its reputation as a dangerous haven for murdering Indians, pirates, and ghosts. Later, it became known for its rumrunners and its role as a World War II observation platform.

Fire Island is now known as a haven for vacationers seeking the "simpler life". Each community has a distinctive personality: among them, Ocean Beach is Fire Island's tourism lifeline where people of all ages dance the night away; Seaview is a family community with a large Jewish population and a synagogue founded by author Herman Wouk; Ocean Bay Park is the getaway of "group-rental time-share" singles; Point O'Woods is a private gated Christian community; Cherry Grove is the nation's first gay community; the Pines is home to movie moguls and millionaires. Despite Fire Island's diversity, its visitors universally bow to the needs of the National Seashore: there are virtually no cars—transportation is in the form of red wagons and bicycles. Dunes are sacred and must not be trampled, and deer roam freely. Fire Island is a world that holds on to the magic of a quaint yesteryear, when man was still ruled by the elements of nature.

ABOUT MICKEY STERN

Mickey J. Stern was born July 5, 1932 in Poughkeepsie, New York. The son of a carpenter and a homemaker, Mickey began playing stickball at the age of four with a broomstick his father had fashioned. Two years later, the family moved to Brooklyn, and he picked up the game of baseball immediately. He holds the all-time RBI record at Monroe High in the Bronx, a record that is more than 50 years old. The New York Yankees signed him the day he graduated from Monroe. He and Mickey Mantle were billed as the "Magnificent Mickeys" in the New York press, but Mickey Stern never ended up playing for the Bronx Bombers; the Korean War changed everything. Instead, he was sent to Boston in 1952 as a backup utility player for the Red Sox. His big-league career lasted seven months; a wild pitch by Sammy "The Cap" ended his stint with the Bosox. Depressed, Mickey coached high school ball for four years, and then became a professional magician. In 1971, he performed on "The Tonight Show," and he still performs every once in a while. Mickey currently spends his winters in Flushing, Queens, and his summers in Robin's Rest, Fire Island. If you ever see him, ask him to tell you his life story—this summary just scratches the surface.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Returning Mickey Stern was the first 35mm feature comedy ever to be shot in Fire Island, New York. The Incorporated Village of Ocean Beach passed bylaws allowing movie production to take place there.

The island is a place of magic and romance. Many romantic relationships popped up among the crew and cast during principal photography, and a couple endure to this day. Two crewmembers, who had never met before principal photography, eloped soon after production. Was it the magic of Fire Island? Hmmm...

The script was written as a “thesis project” for the UCLA Professional Program in Screenwriting.

The community of Ocean Beach was heavily involved with the production of Returning Mickey Stern, especially members of the Police Department and EMS. The film and equipment was stored in the local jail; after all, who breaks into jail?

Filming occurred before and after Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year. The whole cast and crew participated in a New Year’s feast prepared by Rachel Doering. At the Seaview Synagogue, Tom Bosley and Sarah Schoenberg were called to the bima—the podium—for an aliyah—an honor.

The film was shot almost entirely on Long Island.

The cast and crew came from several states including New York, New Jersey, Arizona, and California, and countries including USA, Canada, Israel, Great Britain, Hungary, Japan, Brazil, and Australia.

Principal photography lasted 19 days. The last day of principal photography was the director’s 26th birthday. The cast and crew gave him an autographed shirt as a birthday present. That, and a completed film.

THE CAST OF RETURNING MICKEY STERN



JOSEPH BOLOGNA (Mickey) and RENÉE TAYLOR (Jeannie):

In 1965, Joseph Bologna married writer/actress Renée Taylor; they wrote the Broadway play "Lovers and Other Strangers," in which Joseph Bologna made his professional acting debut. They then collaborated on the screen version, which earned them their first Oscar nomination and critical acclaim. In 1971, the duo co-wrote "Made for Each Other," which marked Mr. Bologna's feature film acting debut. The feature was re-released in 1985 and has developed a tremendous cult following ever since. Bologna and Taylor received an Emmy Award for co-writing the television special "Acts of Love

and Other Comedies." They wrote and co-starred in the HBO special "Bedrooms," for which they received a Writers Guild Award. In between writing projects, Joe Bologna's acting career flourished. His feature film credits include: "My Favorite Year," "The Women In Red," "Blame It On Rio," and many others. He was also seen playing Adam Sandler's father in the box office hit "Big Daddy." On TV, Joe made guest appearances on "The Nanny," playing the lover of Sylvia Fine, the Emmy-nominated role played by Renée Taylor, and they also "appeared" in "Dr. Dolittle 2" together. In addition to her role on "The Nanny," Renée Taylor has also appeared in such movies as "The Producers," and "White Palace" and recently appeared in the Billy Crystal-directed Home Box Office smash hit "61*" as Babe Ruth's wife.



TOM BOSLEY (Harry):

Tom Bosley's career has spanned more than 50 years in theatre, movies and television. In 1959, Tom won a Tony for his role as Fiorello LaGuardia in the namesake musical, "Fiorello!" Bosley was so famous that in 1961 he obtained 300 votes to be elected mayor of New York without being on the ballot. In 1962, Tom acted in his first movie "Love with the Proper Stranger", with Steve McQueen and Natalie Wood; he won the "International Laurel Award" for his performance. He also acted in "The World of Henry Orient" with Peter Sellers, in "Divorce American Style" with Debbie Reynolds and Dick van Dyke, and performed in episodes of "Bonanza", "Bewitched", "Get Smart", "Streets of San Francisco"; he was Teddy in "The Debbie Reynolds show" and "The Dean Martin Show" (1971-1972). His 11-year role as Howard Cunningham on "Happy Days" began in 1974, and he was nominated twice for an Emmy. After "Happy Days", Tom Bosley co-starred in "Murder She Wrote", as Sheriff Amos Tupper, from 1984 to 1988. From 1989 to 1991, he starred in "Father Dowling Mysteries" in the title role. He has returned to the theater in recent years, starring in Broadway's "Beauty and the Beast" and "Show Boat."

CONNIE STEVENS (Eloise):

In a career that has spanned over 30 years, Connie Stevens has gained worldwide popularity and recognition as a musician, producer, and actress. Connie was the first artist signed on the newly formed Warner Brothers Records. She recorded two mega-hits in the early sixties, "Kookie Kookie (Lend Me Your Comb)", a duet with Ed "Kookie" Burns, and the #1 album in the country in 1961, "Sixteen Reasons". Her role as Cricket Blake in the hit series "Hawaiian Eye" made Connie Stevens a household name. Connie's career as an actress began with roles in films like "Eighteen and Anxious," "Young and Dangerous," "Party Crashers," and "Rock-a-Bye Baby" with Jerry Lewis. Eventually these roles led to "Cricket Blake" in the TV series "Hawaiian Eye", which ran on ABC for four years. In the early 1960's, Connie appeared with heartthrob Troy Donahue in a series of films which include "Parish" and "Palm Springs Weekend". Connie later appeared in "Two on a Guillotine" and "The Grissom Gang". She then returned to the 1950s with a role in "Grease 2" starring Michelle Pfeiffer. Some of Connie's other films include "Back to the Beach", with Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon, and "Tapeheads", starring Tim Robbins and John Cusack. On Broadway, she was Neil Simon's "Star Spangled Girl," starring with Anthony Perkins and Richard Benjamin. Connie has also been one of America's premiere live performers, headlining in Las Vegas for over 15 years and the larger theater venues all over the United States.





Four members of the younger cast were chosen on **CastOurMovie.com**, the first web site ever to invite the Internet audience to choose the stars of a movie.

The worldwide audience chose Sarah Schoenberg as Dina, Kylie Delre as Ilana, Michael Oberlander as Ben, and John Sloan as Joe. In addition, the young cast includes Joshua

Fishbein as Michael, Broadway star Brett Tabisel as Young Harry, and Kristine Sisco ("As The World Turns") as the Pretty Teen.



THE PRODUCTION STAFF **BEHIND RETURNING MICKEY STERN**



Michael Prywes (Producer, Writer, Director) graduated with honors from Northwestern University's Creative Writing for the Media Program, and also graduated from UCLA's and Hofstra's Professional Screenwriting Programs. In 1996, he launched Chicagoland's "Jewish Theatre Ensemble" theater company (which recently co-produced a project with Steppenwolf Theater Company), earning him the Elie Wiesel National Prize for Jewish Arts and Culture. In addition to directing, the twenty-six year old filmmaker also teaches "Screenwriting 101" at Queens College and St. John's University. *Returning Mickey Stern* is Michael's feature debut; it has been a Finalist for the LAIFF Grant Program and the Long Island Film Festival Best Script Competition, and won 1st place at the Long Island Film Foundation's Grant Competition. He is in development on 100 Year Summer Romance and Boys Will Be Men (both projects he has written), and an action-thriller for a studio.

Joseph Brad Kluge (Executive & Supervising Producer) has worked in all aspects of film production and development. Among the many projects he has worked on: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Addams Family*, *Navy SEAL*, *Last Man Standing*, *True Colors*, and Castle Rock's recent production *Murder By Numbers*, starring Sandra Bullock. Joseph is a member of the Directors Guild of America.



Victor Erdos (Producer) is a graduate of the University of Toronto, as well as UCLA's Independent Film Producer's Workshop. Hailing from Canada as a stage actor and director, Victor is an accomplished performer in film, television and radio

Jason Akel (Producer) is a graduate of Northwestern University's film program where he received the department's top award. In 1994, he produced a short film entitled T.T (Gold Award at the Houston International Film Festival and the Silver Plaque at the Chicago International Film Festival).

Mark Smith (Director of Photography) is a founding partner of E/S Pictures Incorporated. Mark has over twenty years of experience in the industry. He has worked extensively as a director of photography in 35mm film, beta cam, mini DV, and DV formats. Mark has also worked extensively as a producer of live and taped sports events for on-air broadcasts and cable networks. Some of his credits include Director of Photography for the following: *Returning Mickey Stern*, *VH1's Fan Club* (Red Hot Chili Peppers episode), *Sci Fi Happens* (promotional campaign that ran on the Sci Fi channel), NCAA PSA Campaign for 1999 Final Four Tournament, "24 Hours in a Bottle" (a behind the scenes look at the Tom Collins Tour of Champions) that aired on Turner Sports, US Open Promotional Campaign that aired on the USA Network, 1998 Winter Olympics Figure Skating Venue in Nagano, Japan for Turner Broadcasting, Turner Sports Olympic Features Unit (spotlight on Olympic athletes), *A & E Biography "Serpico"* (one of the top 10 Biographies of the series) and as a cameraman for "On Hallowed Ground" (a documentary about street basketball that aired on Turner Broadcasting).

Suzanne Pillsbury (Editor) is a graduate of New York University's Film Program. She got her start on such Woody Allen movies as *Zelig* and *Hannah and Her Sisters*. Since then, she has worked on such notable films as *The Pelican Brief* and *Get Shorty*, and has edited many features including *The Bumblebee Flies Away* starring Elijah Wood and Jeanine Garafolo, and Abel Ferrara's *RX-Mas*.

Cast (in order of appearance)

Mickey Stern - Joseph Bologna
Harry Mankelbaum - Tom Bosley
Young Mickey/Michael - Joshua Fishbein
Young Harry - Brett Tabisel
Leah Ilana Rosenbloom - Kylie Delre
Nurse - Charlotte Prywes
Doctor - Arnie Prywes
Older Leah - Joan Garnock
Dina - Sarah Schoenberg
Joe - John Sloan
Jogger - Bernard Furmanskyy
Ben - Michael Oberlander
Pretty Teen - Kristine Sisco
Soda Jerk - Josh Bitton
Sales Woman - NaAma Ginat
Bouncer - Ray Bressingham
Lush - Robert Bressingham
Jeannie- Renée Taylor
Dr. Eloise Vanderwild - Connie Stevens
Pick-up Artist - Jennifer Jenei

Staff:

Writer, Director - Michael Prywes

Producers - Michael Prywes
- Joseph Bologna
- Victor Erdos
- Jason Akel

Executive Producers - Barry J. Charles
- Joseph Brad Kluge

Line Producer – Stacy Hope Herman
Associate Producer – Rebecca Breckel

Casting Director – Liz Lewis
Director of Photography – Mark Smith
Editor – Suzanne Pillsbury
Composer – Jeff Jones

Unit Production Manager - Seth D. Carmichael
Production Supervisor - Joseph Brad Kluge
First Assistant Director - Joseph Zucco
Second Assistant Director - Dianne Barnes
Second Second Assistant Director - Creel Brown
Script Supervisor - Rebecca Breckel
First Assistant Camera - Toshiro Yamaguchi
Second Assistant Camera - Ross Sebek
Film Loader- Jennifer Johnson
Best Man - Anthony Ricchiuti

Art Director - Nicole Pressly
Property Master/Assistant to Art Director - Briony Barr
Costume Designer - Jocelyn Worrall
Hair and Makeup - Kathleen Toner
Makeup Assistant- Jennifer Jenei
Jewelry Artisan - Tony Fastin
Magic Consultant- "Magic" Al Garber

Gaffer - Benjamin Wolf
Best Boy Electric - Chris Dixon
Electric - Matt Watts
Key Grip - Ed Mattson
Best Boy Grip - Tetsuya Shindo
Grips - Markham Sindeband
- Reed Morano

Production Sound Mixer - Anthony Viera
Boom Operator - Morgan Zvanut
Stills Photographer/Videographer - Stephanie Pommez
Key Set Production Assistant - Tamara Meem
Set Production Assistant - Jack Ricchiuti
Personal Assistant to Talent - NaAma Ginat
Production Masseuse - Jennifer Jenei
Logistics Coordinators - Ray Bressingham,
- Dennis Ruckdeschel

Transportation Captain - Tommy Nolter
Production Counsel - Pamela Golinski
Assistant to Production Counsel - Kim Condon
Additional Counsel - Marvin Schiff
Historical Consultant - Bertram Solomon
Catering - Rachel's Bakery and Restaurant
Insurance- D.R. Reiff and Associates
Payroll - All Payments
Accountant - Barry J. Charles
Publicity - Nathan Jackson

Post Production Supervisor - Rebecca Breckel
Editor's Apprentices - Crystal Taylor
- Allison Eve Zell
Edited at Spin Cycle Post

Associate Editor- Doug Forbes, Post Office Editorial

Rerecording Mixer - Tony Volante
Supervising Sound Editor- Doug Roberts
Sound Editor - Damian Rodriguez
ADR/Foley Mixer, New York - Scott Cannizaro
ADR Mixer, Los Angeles - Matthew Beville

Sound Mixed and Rerecorded at Soundtrack New York

Casting Associate- Lisa Fischhoff
Additional Casting - Carmen Tetztaff
- Terry Berland
Additional Casting Associate - Greg McCandless
Additional Casting Assistant - Claudia Genah

Second Unit
Director of Photography - Steve Denny
Assistant Camera - Chong Pak
Script Supervisor - Rachel Korowitz
Production Assistants - Devra Scheikowitz
- Noëlle Lagueux
- Juan Alvarez
- Andrea Svaras

Additional Units
Directors of Photography - Toshiro Yamaguchi
- Tom Agnello
First Assistant Camera - Ross Šebek
Camera Production Assistant - Ananda Kufner

Wardrobe Provided by:
Beverly Hills Polo Club, Boss by I.G. Design, Fiorucci, Guess, Jockey, Kangol, Moe, Todd Oldham

Grip and Lighting Equipment - Paris Lighting
Camera Equipment - CPT Roesell, CSC, TCS
Sound Equipment - Professional Sound
Walkies - Ralph Mader Sound
Vehicles - C.C. Rentals
Negative Matching - Noëlle Penraat, Inc.
Laboratory - DuArt Film and Video
Color Timing - David Pultz
Titles and Digital Opticals - HeavyLight Digital
-Rob Luttrell
-Kris Schoemaker