



WINNER
of 27
FESTIVAL
AWARDS

THE GYMNAST

PRESS KIT

THE GYMNAST

27 Awards
6/2006 to 11/2007

WINNER

Jury Award BEST FEATURE
OutFest 2006

WINNER

HBO Audience Award BEST FIRST FEATURE
OutFest 2006

WINNER

Audience Award BEST FEATURE
Frameline 2006

WINNER

Audience Award BEST FIRST FEATURE
PhillyFest 2006

WINNER

Jury Award BEST FEATURE
NewFest 2006

WINNER

Audience Award BEST FEATURE
LesGaiCineMad 2006
Madrid, Spain

WINNER

Jury Award BEST FEATURE
Fresno Reel Pride 2006

WINNER

Audience Award BEST FEATURE
Santa Fe Film Festival 2006

WINNER

Audience Award BEST FEMALE FEATURE
Pink Film Days 2006
Amsterdam

WINNER

Audience Award BEST FEATURE
PRIDE Film Festival, IN 2007

WINNER

BEST OVERALL FEATURE
Q Cinema, Fort Worth, TX 2007

WINNER

BEST OVERALL FEATURE
Lavender Film Festival 2007
Pikes Peak, CO

WINNER

Audience Award BEST SCREENPLAY
Ned Farr
Tampa Int. LGBT Film Festival 2007

WINNER

**Time Warner American Independent
Audience Award BEST FEATURE**
Cleveland International Film Festival 2007

WINNER

KODAK Shot On Film Award
Durango Independent Film Festival 2007

WINNER

Audience Award BEST FEMALE FEATURE
Lavender Film Festival 2007
Pikes Peak, CO

WINNER

Audience Award BEST ACTRESS
Dreya Weber
Tampa Int. LGBT Film Festival 2007

WINNER

BEST ACTRESS
Dreya Weber
OUT TAKES Dallas Int. LGBT Film Festival 2007

WINNER

BEST DIRECTOR
Ned Farr
OUT TAKES Dallas Int. LGBT Film Festival 2007

WINNER

Dallas Voice Audience Choice Award BEST FEATURE
OUT TAKES Dallas Int. LGBT Film Festival 2007

WINNER

BEST AMERICAN INDEPENDENT FEATURE
Mount Shasta Int. Film Festival 2007

WINNER

Vital Voice LGBT Award
St. Louis International Film Festival 2007

2nd PLACE

Audience Award BEST FEATURE
Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival

2nd PLACE

Audience Award BEST ACTRESS
Addie Yungmee
Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival

2nd PLACE

Audience (Rosebud) Award
BEST FEATURE
Verzaubert - International LGBT
Film Festival

3rd PLACE

Audience Award BEST ACTRESS
Dreya Weber
Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival

HONORABLE MENTION

Best New Director
Ned Farr
The Seattle LGBT Festival

THE GYMNAST

Press

"THE GYMNAST delivers emotional intensity in tastefully spectacular wrappings...the entire film unfolds in the space between physicality and sexuality. The acting is fine throughout, Weber in particular proving a master of the speaking glance. Writer/director Farr, adept at keeping dialogue to the point and at a minimum, allows thesps' expressive gestures and body language to tell the tale. Pic's epilogue, tucked in and interspersed among the closing credits, erupts in an epiphany of non-verbal communication."

Ronnie Scheib,
VARIETY

"How refreshing to discover a film about a mature woman at a crossroads in her life. **THE GYMNAST is fresh and vibrant**, acted with conviction by a talented ensemble."

Leonard Maltin

"The heroine of this debut feature is an original, complex creation...a triumph for Weber."

LA WEEKLY

"...a rare gem of a film."

Tom W. Kelly,
SAN FRANCISCO BAY TIMES

"A former gymnastic champion (played by Dreyfa Weber), in a deadening marriage and in her early forties, is thrown together with a dancer (Addie Yungmee), to create an aerial act to take to Vegas. A good deal of the action is (quite literally) up in the air and **this vertiginous, voluptuous love story is the kind of film that really stays with you. Weber is a knockout and there isn't a false move**; don't miss the end credits which include grace notes in the final scenes."

Leonard Maran,
SAN FRANCISCO OBSERVER

"A polished, absorbing piece of work. Uncommonly sensual, and economically told, it's the kind of film in which a glance, a touch or a gesture communicates with an eloquence and potency words struggle to match...flecked with grace notes and strong characterization, (THE GYMNAST) delivers emotional intensity without overplaying its hand. One also must commend Weber's evocative choreography, and the finely framed photography that helps make the aerial sequences so lyrical. The overall look of the film is at once spare and sumptuous. Kudos to Farr and cinematographer Marco Fargnoli."

Bill Thompson,
THE POST AND COURIER

THE GYMNAST

Press

"THE GYMNAST, writer/director **Ned Farr's lushly photographed drama on sexual awakening casts a sensual, captivating spell.**"

Randy Myers
CONTRA COSTA TIMES

"There is a scene in The Gymnast in which the protagonist, Jane, is suspended in midair, wrapped in a giant strand of silk that she's using as part of her Cirque du Soleil-like aerial routine. At one point, she pauses to slowly caress the shroud of gossamer fabric that has engulfed her body. It is a small but powerful metaphor of a person inside a cocoon, awaiting transformation. It is one of those rare pictures that everyone should see (straight readers, this means you) because even though it's a smoldering lesbian love story (are you paying attention now, straight guys?), the film reveals a number of universal themes, including transformation, loss, ageism, adultery and betrayal. All of this without so much as a hint of Lifetime-network sentimentality...these themes unravel both figuratively and metaphorically as Jane and Serena navigate the beautiful silks they employ as part of their act. So stunning are the visual cues in The Gymnast that language plays a secondary role. We read the loss on Jane's face as she deals with her domestic life, we feel the temporary sensuality and strenuous physicality as we watch her navigate the competitive world of gymnastics at midlife, and we sense the sexual tension between the two women as they rehearse and perform their act in silence, alone and high above the rest of the world."

Jason A. Heidemann
TIME OUT CHICAGO

"THE GYMNAST, a new film written and directed by Ned Farr, is **a drama with a rare kind of beauty and power.** Seldom before has a movie about middle age and sexual confusion brought with it such a tangible sense of longing and realism without losing its sense of humor...**As an examination of sexual awakening and the complications that arise, THE GYMNAST is unmatched.**"

Danielle Riendeau
AFTER ELLEN.com

"Scripter and director Ned Farr, making his feature debut, **strikes a perfect balance in depicting both the beauty and the strength of his characters,** as well as the vulnerability and yearning behind their perfectly honed physiques."

Natalie Peterson
FRAMELINE30

THE GYMNAST

Director's Statement

"When you're spending investors money, you make a slasher film. When you spend your own, you get to do something a little more scary, like make a drama," laughs writer/director Ned Farr. "Fortunately, we could green-light ourselves, so we got to dig into issues that have a richness and complexity to them. A failing marriage, now there's something scary. Stepping over the gender line for the first time, that discovery that you're a three on the Kinsey scale, that's a feast of emotion all to itself! There's also the adultery angle. I just find it fascinating that in our real lives there is so much condemnation around a subject that gets reflected back to us in our culture, through our stories and movies, in a way that makes adultery not only understandable, but also sometimes transformative. How many people even registered that *The Bridges of Madison County* was about adultery? It certainly wasn't part of the advertising campaign. The reason forbidden love is so moving in books and films and not in life is because in stories we get to see and feel both sides, whereas in life, almost by definition, you can't."

"Another compelling issue is how a woman measures her worth when she no longer is able to have children, especially if she hasn't yet had one. There is all manner of rationalizing that goes into taking the sting out of crossing that threshold, but the thought of it...I don't know, I just found myself profoundly moved by that transition. Everything else in the story branches out from there. There's a direct emotional connection between Jane's body failing her at a critical moment during her gymnastic career and it failing her as a potential mother. And so many other facets of Jane's character are compelling. She spent 6 to 8 hours a day training over the course of many years to achieve one goal, Olympic gold, only to have all that training come to nothing. What do you do with that? In her case, it led to a refusal to really commit to anything ever again, to stay small. It's such a beautiful and ironic moment when she does her balance beam routine for the police officer at the film's end. Her past comes around full circle. Her training did have a purpose. It's the singular thing that allows her journey to continue. I love that."

"The question I've been asked is why this film, why now? I can only think that, aside from the fact that the themes have resonance for me, this is the kind of story you rarely see. You don't see many movies made about women in their forties. It's almost as if there weren't hundreds of millions of them walking around. Certainly being married to Drea provided a little inspiration!"



Writer/Director Ned Farr

THE GYMNAST

Synopsis

Short Version

Jane, a former elite gymnast, when confronted with age and infertility, searches to give her life new meaning. Caught between an over-bearing husband and a possessive former teammate, she finds escape in a Cirque Du Soleil-type aerial act... and in the arms of another.

Long Version

Jane Hawkins (Dreya Weber) was once one of America's top gymnasts, but events and injury prevented her from fulfilling her Olympic destiny. Almost twenty years have passed in obscurity, working hand to mouth as a massage therapist while slowly disappearing in a passionless marriage. In an attempt to give meaning to her life, she has been secretly trying to get pregnant, against her husband David's wishes. Though still in peak condition, her doctor informs her that she may have waited too long to have children. And without David's money, she can't afford the fertility drugs that might make the difference.

A chance meeting with Denise, a former gymnastic teammate, provokes Jane to reexamine her life and past. While visiting a gymnasium, she is recognized by a coach, who recruits Jane for a completely different kind of venture: being part of a Cirque Du Soleil type of aerial act.

Also recruited to be part of the act is an enigmatic dancer named Serena. When events force the coach out of the project, Jane and Serena attempt to put the act together themselves, and in the process, fall in love. After Denise convinces her the affair with Serena is a form of denial, Jane must choose between having a child with her suddenly willing husband, or creating a completely new life for herself.

THE GYMNAST

Crew

WRITER/ DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Ned Farr

PRODUCERS

Dreya Weber
Michael Carp

CO-PRODUCER

Addie Yungmee

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

Shannon Beach
Cathy Shim
Steve Yablock

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Marco Fargnoli

COMPOSER

Craig Richey

AERIAL CHOREOGRAPHY

Dreya Weber

PRODUCTION SOUND

David Waelder

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Morgan Rhodes

ART DIRECTOR

Willy Roberts

MAKE-UP/HAIR

Laura Markert
Sherri Haight

COSTUME DESIGNER

Darragh Marmorstein

*Corset Costumes designed by Jennifer Jacobs, Serena's Dance Costume designed by Karla Cama
Performance Costumes designed by Shannon Beach & Dreya Weber*

POST SOUND

Immersion Sound

SALES CONTACT

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THE GYMNAST

Biography

NED FARR, Writer/Director

A graduate of the Film School at SUNY Purchase in New York, Farr has been involved in production for over 17 years, from preproduction storyboard artist to post production editor, and well as a long stint as a gaffer on many commercials, music videos, and features.

Ned Farr's most recent film *How to Ace an Intervention* won Best Short Film at the DV Film Festival '04 and the Durango Film Festival '05, also winning a screenwriting award from the HypeFest for its screenplay. He also wrote, directed and edited three other short films; *Dream A Little Dream For Me* which premiered at the Seattle International Film Festival, *The Contractor* and *The Catcher*. His short films have been screened at over 30 film festivals nationwide. Ned has also directed music videos for various artists, including Jesse Hultberg, The Blue Thumbs, and Plato.

Also a singer-songwriter, Ned has released three CD's of original music, *Desert Motel* which is available at iTunes, and Amazon.com, and *The Good Red Road* and *Indian Summer* which are available at www.nedfarr.com.

Ned is currently in development with two original screenplays.

MARCO FARGNOLI, Director of Photography

Marco Fagnoli, a native of Dayton, Ohio, and graduate of Wright State University, began his career in Chicago's grassroots film community. After relocating to Los Angeles in the late 90's, he began shooting independent features and music videos. His work has been seen several times at the Sundance Film Festival, and his TV documentary work includes projects for NBC, FOX, Lifetime, and the History Channel.

The Act, a Sundance 2005 short film, was just honored this past Spring by inclusion in the Cinematographers Guild Showcase for Excellence in Cinematography. The features and short films he's shot have picked up other awards at Aspen Independent (Best Feature Cinematography), Houston Worldfest, BACA, Durango, and Cinequest film festivals. In addition to THE GYMNAST, Marco's latest projects are the indy feature *Race You to the Bottom*, *Forever*, and the award-winning short film *How to Ace an Intervention*, directed by Ned Farr.

Marco is currently in pre-production for *The Hammer*.

THE GYMNAST

Biography

CRAIG RICHEY, Composer

A native of North Carolina, Craig graduated from the Juilliard School of Music in NYC.

Craig began scoring films in NY. His first score, indie film *When It's Over*, won critical praise in the LA weekly, and Variety after being screened at the first Newport Beach Film Festival. He also scored Nicole Holofcener's *Lovely and Amazing* (starring Catherine Keener, Brenda Blethen, Emily Mortimer, Jake Gyllenhaal and Dermot Mulroney), and Ned Farr's short film *The Catcher*, starring Dreyya Weber. His most recent film, *Friends With Money*, written and directed by Holofcener and starring Jennifer Aniston, Catherine Keener, Francis McDormand and Joan Cusack, opened the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and nationally in April of 2006.

Also a singer-songwriter, Craig's songs appear both in *Lovely And Amazing* and *Friends With Money*. Craig has released a record of original Christmas songs titled *Mother & Child, Songs of Christmas'* available at iTunes, Amazon.com, and CDbaby.

MICHAEL CARP, Producer

A native New Yorker, Michael Carp came out to Los Angeles on the late '80s to pursue a career in film. Carp worked in entertainment, advertising & technology during the tech- boom, and in 1994 Carp opened Lunarfish, a Production & VFX Company.

Lunarfish was one of the key teams that created the stunning visual effects in the painted worlds of the film *What Dreams May Come* which won them the Academy Award for best Visual Effects and the very prestigious Prix Pixel-INA: Imagina Award.

Among other spots for D&G, AMC Theaters & La Fee Absinthe, Lunarfish also won the AICP Award and Cannes & Clio Award shortlists for *Bullet Factory*. Other Indie films include *Olé*, *Venice Underground*, *RienCarNation*, and *The Basement*.

THE GYMNAST

Cast

DREYA WEBER	Jane Hawkins-Galvin
ADDIE YUNG MEE	Serena Goldberg
DAVID DE SIMONE	David Galvin
ALLISON MACKIE	Denise Wingfield
MAM SMITH	Nicole Phelan
STEF TOVAR	Dan
TRICIA SMALL	Crystal
PAUL HICKS	Jim
JEFF SUGARMAN	Stan
KATHE MAZUR	Dr. Weiland
ANDREW ABELSON	Julian Bastien
JOHN LEE AMES	Q
AMY LEMONS	Sandy Wingfield
ROBERT BURKE	Officer
RON DREWES	Holt
MAGGIE MELLIN	Mrs. Goldberg
FRED ORNSTEIN	Mr. Goldberg
TONY HORTON	Chad
CATHY SHIM	Female Masseur #1
JENNIFER KANG	Female Masseur #2
HILARY HAYES	Serena's Agent
BELLA HICKS	Young Gymnast
AVA DAIKELER	Crystal's Daughter
MIKEALA ARENSEN	Young Gymnast #2

THE GYMNAST

Biography

DREYA WEBER Actor (Jane)/Producer

Dreya has acted extensively in Film, Television, and Theatre. She can be seen in Nicole Holofcener's *Lovely and Amazing*, Sharon Pollack's *Everything Relative*, and short films *Dream A Little Dream For Me*, which premiered at the Seattle International film festival, *The Catcher*, and *The Contractor*. She guest starred in several episodes of ABC's *The Practice*, the CBS/Paramount pilot *Company Town*, and has been in many commercials.

Dreya appeared on Broadway at the Roundabout, at the New York Shakespeare Festival, Circle-in-the-Square, and in many Off-Broadway and Regional theatre productions. In Los Angeles she played Vivien Leigh in the west coast premiere of Austin Pendleton's *Orson's Shadow*, (winner Ovation, LADCC, Garland Awards), and recently appeared in the third sold out run of *Le Club Seduce*, an aerial burlesque comedy that she co-wrote and co-produced.

Dreya spent 3 years traveling the world with Cher's *Living Proof Farewell Tour*. She choreographed all of the aerials in the show, and performed as a dancer and solo aerialist. The NBC broadcast of *Living Proof* won the 2003 Emmy for Best Musical Special. Dreya choreographed an aerial swing number for Madonna's *Re-Invention Tour*, and all of the aerials in Pink's *Try This* and *I'm Not Dead* tours.

Dreya's fascination with aerial arts began after her final season as an All-American gymnast at Hunter College. She happened across a trapeze rig while visiting her sister in Bloomington, Indiana. She quickly excelled and soon was performing flying trapeze in *The Moscow State Circus*, *Circus America*, and the *Royal Hanniford Circus*.

ADDIE YUNG MEE Actor (Serena)/Co-producer

THE GYMNAST marks Addie's film acting debut.

Addie is one of the dance world's most sought after performers, having toured the globe with Madonna, Janet Jackson, Pink, and Cher's Emmy-winning *Living Proof Farewell Tour*, in which she also performed as an aerialist. She is currently out on Madonna's 2006 *Confessions* tour.

Addie's film appearances as a dancer include: *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Bowfinger*, *Collateral*, *Orange County*, and *Like Mike*. She has also appeared in numerous music videos: Madonna, Pink, No Doubt, Cher, Lenny Kravitz, Timberland and Magoo, Mick Jagger, Missy Elliot, and more.

THE GYMNAST

Biography

ALLISON MACKIE Actor (Denise)

Allison Mackie began her career in New York at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater and the Actor's Studio.

Miss Mackie recently appeared in the indie film *Our Very Own* with Allison Janney. Other film credits include *Original Sin*, *Gia*, *Friends & Family*, *Rear Window*, *The Souler Opposite*, *The Stranger*, *Sliver*, *Schemes* and *Amos & Andrew*. Television: *Without A Trace*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Frasier*, *E.R.*, *Undue Influence*, *Jack Reed 3* and *South Beach*.

Allison has appeared on Broadway as Roxane in *Cyrano De Bergerac* starring Frank Langella and with Joanne Woodward in *Candida*. Regionally she has worked with Miss Woodward in productions of *The Big Knife*, *La Ronde*, *Hay Fever*, *The Constant Wife* and most recently *David Copperfield*. Regional credits include *Peccadillo* (written & directed by Garson Kanin) *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Velvet Elvis*, *All The Way Home* and *Dear Brutus*.

MAM SMITH Actor (Nicole)

Mam graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts for Dance and Theater. She also received a Masters degree in communications from Emerson College in Boston.

Mam has appeared on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, in the film *Stay* in numerous print and Television advertisements. Her choreographic contributions for the Broadway Musical *Nine* garnished the show two Tony awards and a broadcast mention. Mam designed Mariah Carey's aerials for the 2003 *Charmbracelet Tour*. Mam performed at Lincoln Center and Radio City Music Hall as a solo aerialist/dancer and toured through out the United States as a featured dancer with the Doug Elkins Dance Co.

Some of Mam's stunt credits include *The Bedford Diaries*, *The Family Stone*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, and *Angels In America*.

THE GYMNAST

Biography

DAVID DE SIMONE Actor (David)

David De Simone studied ballet at Julliard, and was considered something of a prodigy: he didn't start dancing until he was sixteen and flourished so quickly Julliard offered him a scholarship to continue his studies. While in New York he caught the acting bug and began pursuing it with equal intensity. But a simple cut on his hand led to a serious staph infection that permanently weakened his heart and caused him to wear a pacemaker for the rest of his life. This sudden bizarre turn of events changed the course of David's acting career, which for the most part lay dormant in the intervening 20 years before he stepped through our front door to audition for THE GYMNAST.

When Dreya and I met David, he had recently married a lovely gal named Autumn, and was thriving as a general contractor building and renovating houses. A few years earlier he had started taking acting classes again, dreaming of perhaps taking another shot at the biz, and so had put himself out there for any role that might fit. I didn't know that when I wrote the role of Jane's husband, I was writing it for him, had in fact already called his character 'David' years before we ever met, but this must have been the case because as soon as he sat down and started his audition we felt we'd found our man.

A few months after completing principle photography for THE GYMNAST, David suffered a fatal heart attack. The shock of this, the numbed incomprehension in the weeks that followed, was perhaps in time ameliorated by the small grace of seeing him every day on the computer screen as we edited his performance, knowing we'd helped him achieve a dream of his, and by knowing—knowing because he would freely admit it, that he was a very, very happy man.

~Ned Farr

THE GYMNAST

Festivals

6/2006 to 4/2007

NORTH AMERICA

NewFest, New York City NY 2006
Frameline 30, San Francisco CA 2006
Outfest, Los Angeles CA 2006
PhillyFest, Philadelphia PA 2006
Reel Pride, Fresno CA 2006
Austin Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, TX 2006
Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, FL 2006
Sarah Lawrence College, NY 2006
Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, OR 2006
Seattle Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, WA 2006
Reel Affirmations, Washington DC 2006
Pittsburgh Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, PA 2006
Savannah Intl Film Festival, GA 2006
Outrageous Film Festival, Santa Barbara CA 2006
Reeling, Chicago 2006
Trinity College, CT 2006
Indianapolis Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, IN 2006
Long Island Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, NY 2006
Best of OutFest - @ the Egyptian, LA, CA 2006
Santa Fe International Film Festival, NM 2006
Bloomington Pride, IN 2007
Cleveland International Film Festival, OH 2007
Durango International Film Festival, CO 2007
St. Cloud OUT, MN 2007
Outflix Film Festival, Memphis TN 2007
Miami International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, FL 2007
Birmingham SHOUT, Birmingham AL 2007
Boston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Boston, MA 2007
Rehoboth Beach Film Society, Rehoboth Beach, DE 2007
Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville, NY 2007

THE GYMNAST

Festivals

6/2006 to 4/2007

INTERNATIONAL

LESGAICINEMAD, Madrid Spain 2006

VERZAUBERT, Germany 2006

Rozefilmdagen, Amsterdam 2006

Gender Bender, Bologna 2006

Zinegoak, Bilbao Spain 2006

Mardi Gras, Sydney Australia 2007

Melbourne Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Australia 2007

Victoria International Film Festival, Canada 2007

Reelout, Kingston Ontario 2007

Vues D'en Face, Grenoble France 2007

Out In Africa/South African Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, South Africa 2007

CINHOMO, Valladolid Spain 2007

Pink Apple Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Zurich Switzerland 2007

Athens Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Greece 2007

Oslo Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Norway 2007