PINNACLE PICTURES PRESENTS A JOHN MAYNARD PRODUCTION "ALL MEN ARE LIARS"
A FILM BY GERARD LEE
all
MEN
are
LiaRS
"THE BEST
LIAR IS HE WHO MAKES THE SMALLEST AMOUNT OF LYING GO THE LONGEST WAY."
SAMUEL BUTLER

all men are liars

"A LIE? 'TIS BUT THE TRUTH IN MASQUERADE." LORD BYRON

Sensitive, 17 year-old Mick O'Brien reluctantly cross dresses and joins an all girl band in an attempt to reunite his family. He falls in love with lead singer Angela who's been jilted by one too many lying men. She's hot for Mick, not just because he's cute and talented but, being a woman, he's sure to be honest.

Mick O'Brien, un jeune homme sensible de dix-sept ans, est obligé de s'habiller en femme et de rentrer dans un groupe féminin afin de tenter de réconcilier ses parents. Il tombe amoureux d'Angela, la chanteuse, qui vient une fois encore de se faire plaquer par un amant menteur. Mick lui plaît beaucoup, pas seulement parce qu'il est mignon et doué, mais aussi parce que, comme c'est une femme, elle peut compter sur son honnêteté.

"IN HUMAN RELATIONS, KINDNESS AND LIES ARE WORTH A THOUSAND TRUTHS." GRAHAM GREENE

Toni Pearen

Angela, lead singer of the all girl Total Fire Band, has been jilted too many times. She knows all men are liars and she's had enough. A relationship with a woman would be more "honest and normal" but she's never met a woman she wanted to be with until she meets Mick.

Toni has been in the entertainment business since she was nine years old. She is already a veteran of more than one thousand shows, playing television, clubs, concert halls and shopping centres.

In 1989 she began her career in an Australian soap opera as Toni Windsor in E STREET. In 1994 a guest stint in HOME AND AWAY made her one of the best known and loved television personalities in Australia. As a singer, her first two singles, IN YOUR ROOM and I WANT YOU, went gold in Australia and Toni has just released her debut album INTIMATE. ALL MEN ARE LIARS is Toni Pearen's first feature film.

Gerard Lee: "It just seemed natural to cast such a talented singer and actor as Toni in the role of Angela. I was attracted by her wonderful voice, her natural charm and her real screen presence."

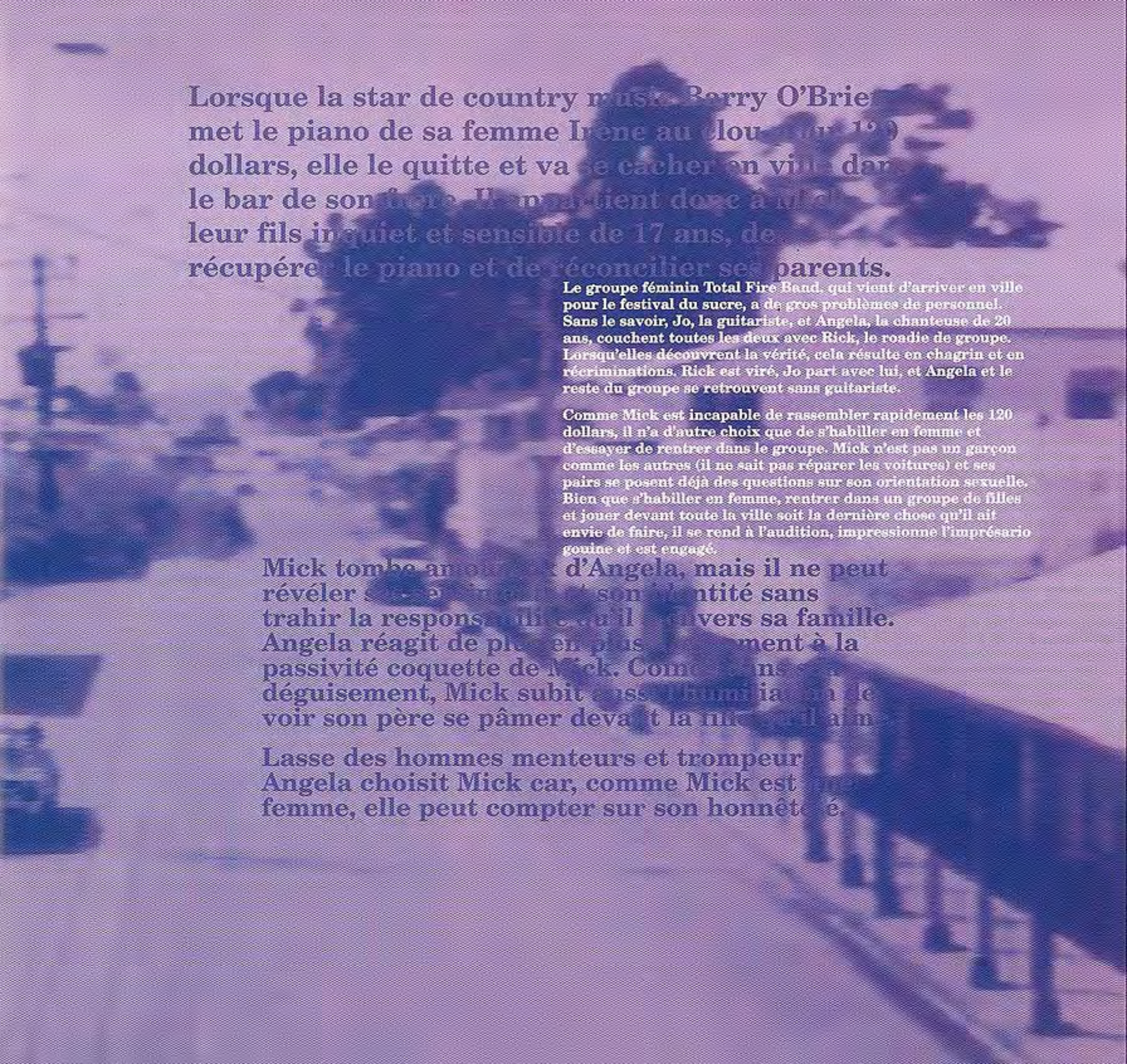
When country rock star Barry O'Brien hocks his wife Irene's piano for $120, she packs and leaves, hiding out at her brother's pub in town. It's up to troubled and sensitive 17 year-old Mick to retrieve the piano and reunite the [illegible]

The all girl Total Fire Band, newly arrived in town for the sugar festival, has serious personnel problems. Unknown to each other, Jo, lead guitarist, and Angela, the 20 year-old lead singer, have both been sleeping with the band's roadie, Rick. When this is discovered, heartbreak and recrimination follow. Rick is kicked out and Jo goes with him, leaving Angela alone and the band in need of a new lead guitarist.

Unable to find a fast $120 it appears Mick's only option is to dress as a girl and audition for the band. Mick's not one of the boys (he can't fix cars) and his peers are already suspicious of his sexual orientation. Though the last thing he wants to do is cross-dress, join a girl's band and play in front of the whole town, he auditions, impresses the dyke manager, and is taken on.

Mick falls in love with Angela but he's powerless to express his true feelings or identity without betraying his responsibility to his family. Angela reacts to Mick's coy passivity by becoming more and more ardent. Trapped in his disguise, he also has to suffer the humiliation of seeing his father crooning and swooning over the girl he loves.

Tired of lying, deceiving men, Angela has opted for Mick - because Mick, being a woman, is sure to be honest.



Lorsque la star de country musique Barry O'Brien met le piano de sa femme Irene au clou pour 120 dollars, elle le quitte et va se cacher en ville dans le bar de son frère. Il appartient donc à Mick, leur fils inquiet et sensible de 17 ans, de récupérer le piano et de réconcilier ses parents.

Le groupe féminin Total Fire Band, qui vient d'arriver en ville pour le festival du sucre, a de gros problèmes de personnel. Sans le savoir, Jo, la guitariste, et Angela, la chanteuse de 20 ans, couchent toutes les deux avec Rick, le roadie de groupe. Lorsqu'elles découvrent la vérité, cela résulte en chagrin et en récriminations. Rick est viré, Jo part avec lui, et Angela et le reste du groupe se retrouvent sans guitariste.

Comme Mick est incapable de rassembler rapidement les 120 dollars, il n'a d'autre choix que de s'habiller en femme et d'essayer de rentrer dans le groupe. Mick n'est pas un garçon comme les autres (il ne sait pas réparer les voitures) et ses pairs se posent déjà des questions sur son orientation sexuelle. Bien que s'habiller en femme, rentrer dans un groupe de filles et jouer devant toute la ville soit la dernière chose qu'il ait envie de faire, il se rend à l'audition, impressionne l'imprésario gouine et est engagé.

Mick tombe amoureux d'Angela, mais il ne peut révéler son identité sans trahir la responsabilité qu'il a envers sa famille. Angela réagit de plus en plus violemment à la passivité coquette de Mick. Comme son déguisement, Mick subit une humiliation de voir son père se pâmer devant la musicienne aimée.

Lasse des hommes menteurs et trompeurs, Angela choisit Mick car, comme Mick est une femme, elle peut compter sur son honnêteté.

John Jarratt

Barry O'Brien, a 40 year- old adolescent suffering mid-life crisis, he has self proclaimed king pin of the town. His wife left him the day he hocked her piano but Barry is not one to suffer for long. There's a new all girl band in town and the 20-year old lead singer Angela, an Elvis fan too, seems a bit keen on him. Things are at last looking good for Barry O'Brien, the Rocker from Worondilla. Barry believes his time has come.

John Jarratt's career in Australian cinema began in 1974 with his role in PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK. He has since featured in 20 feature films, as well as many television dramas and a great deal of theatre. Jarratt was born and raised in Far North Queensland. He is no stranger to the North as an actor, having played Jacko in the long running television series FIELDS OF FIRE.

Jamie Petersen

Tom O'Brien, Mick's 12 year-old brother, wants his mother back desperately. He never lets Mick off the hook in his quest for the return of the piano and his mother. When push comes to shove Tom is the catalyst who brings Irene to the concert and back to her husband Barry.

Gerard Lee: "We discovered Jamie when he accompanied his sister to an audition. Sitting off on his own, he was the one we were looking for. Jamie's talents are yet to be exploited. He's an amazing kid. Whenever I needed to hear the voice of reason on the set I'd have a word with Jamie."

David Price

Mick is forced to dress as a woman to try to reunite his family. He is trapped in a female disguise, must endure the unwanted intentions of Geoff, leader of the local hoons, and repel the advances of Angela, the girl he dearly loves - all under the gaze of his family and the town's people of Worondilla.

Gerard Lee: "The challenge of David's role is the challenge of the film - to portray a character who, with one step either way, could be a convincing boy and a convincing girl. David plays the unsophisticated, 17 year-old caught in a woman's world with a restrained emotion which was perfect for me."
David Price: "After one of my early auditions I took home a Polaroid of myself as Michelle and showed it to my Mum. She didn't recognise me. It gave me confidence that I stood a chance to pull it off." ALL MEN ARE LIARS is David's first major role. He postponed his last year of secondary school to concentrate on the role of Mick/Michelle.

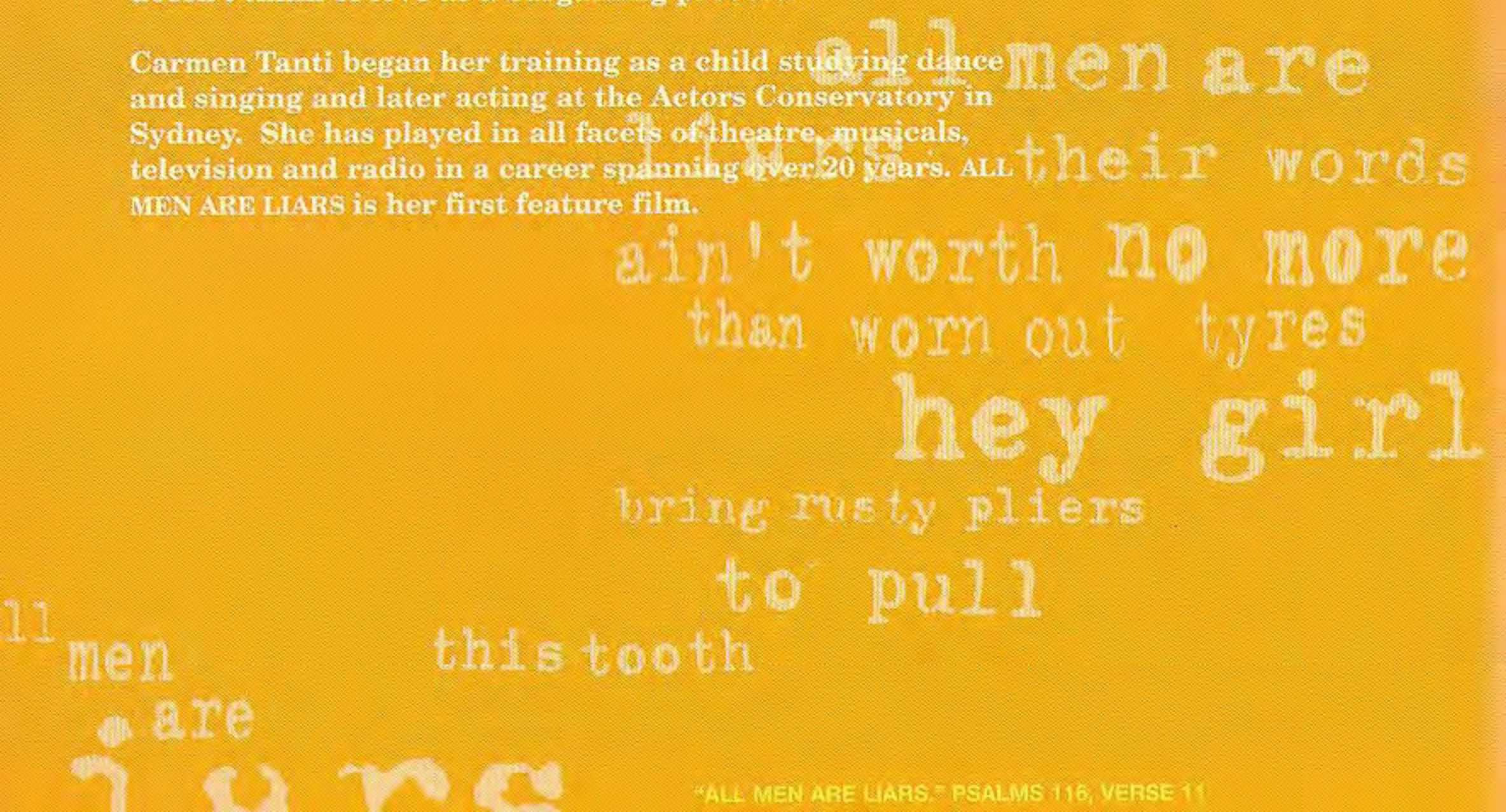
"TELLING LIES IS A FAULT ... AN ART IN A LOVER, AN ACCOMPLISHMENT IN A MARRIED MAN." HELEN ROWLAND, U.S. JOURNALIST

Carmen Tanti

Irene is the emotional lynch pin of the O'Brien family and a symbol for the suffering of small town women. Without her there would be no quest to return the piano. When she leaves home the family falls apart. Barry embarks on a foolish fantasy, Mick dresses as a girl - only Tom, the youngest son, seems to have his head screwed on.

Gerard Lee: "I wanted to do a story where the wife goes back to the husband even though he doesn't deserve her. Often love is blind to reality and Irene is a woman who doesn't think of love as a bargaining process."

Carmen Tanti began her training as a child studying dance and singing and later acting at the Actors Conservatory in Sydney. She has played in all facets of theatre, musicals, television and radio in a career spanning over 20 years. ALL MEN ARE LIARS is her first feature film.



"ALL MEN ARE LIARS." PSALMS 116, VERSE 11

Director

Gerard Lee came to directing through writing. He is the author of two novels, TRUE LOVE AND HOW TO GET IT (1982) and TROPPO MAN (1989), as well as two collections of short stories, PIECES FOR A GLASS PIANO (1980) and EATING DOG (1993). He also co-wrote, with Jane Campion, her first feature film, SWEETIE (1989).

Lee, a friend of producer John Maynard's for fifteen years, previously co-directed, also with Jane Campion, half of the dead pan short film PASSIONLESS MOMENTS.

Producer

John Maynard is known as a producer with an instinct for talent and original projects. His support and encouragement for new directors has introduced to world cinema directors such as Vincent Ward and Jane Campion.

ALL MEN ARE LIARS is Maynard's third film in Australia in seven years; the previous two, THE NAVIGATOR (1988 dir. Vincent Ward) and SWEETIE (1989 dir. Jane Campion), were selected in Competition in Cannes and were both world wide successes.

"I was attracted to the warmth of the characters and the balance of ideas in Gerard's script. It seemed only natural to provide Gerard the opportunity to direct, adding value to his own screenplay with his dry and idiosyncratic sense of humour.

"The notion of going against the cross dressing convention in Australian comedy by making an Australian film about a boy who doesn't want to be a girl, also had a special, perverse charm."

Director of Photography
Steve Arnold (ACS)

With fifteen years of experience behind him, Steve Arnold played a key role in realising Lee's vision of Far North Queensland. He has an impressive list of feature film, television and documentary credits. Arnold is well known for his work as DOP on Bill Bennett's docu-dramas MALPRACTICE and MORTGAGE. Other documentary work includes Gillian Armstrong's highly regarded BINGO, BRIDESMAIDS AND BRACES and Don Featherstone's documentary on Les Murray, DAYLIGHT MOON.
For television he recently completed the first series of the Australian drama FIRE, shot POLICE RESCUE - SERIES 2, and has worked on assorted tele-movies and mini-series. His recent feature film credits include COPS AND ROBBERS and EBBTIDE.

Music
Mark Moffatt and Wayne Goodwin

Mark Moffatt, is one of Australia's leading record producers, having worked with artists that include Yothu Yindi, Jenny Morris, Ross Wilson, John Farnham, Tim Finn and Mental As Anything. His work in film began with Gillian Armstrong's STARSTRUCK in 1982. Continuing this working relationship he worked on Armstrong's feature film HIGH TIDE and her documentary BINGO, BRIDESMAIDS AND BRACES. His other credits include the feature films BACK OF BEYOND and ROUGH DIAMONDS and the mini-series FIELDS OF FIRE I, II AND III.

Wayne Goodwin is best known for his inventive violin-playing and is rapidly becoming one of Australia's leading film composers. His collaborations with Mark Moffatt have included the mini-series FIELDS OF FIRE I, II AND III and the feature films ROUGH DIAMONDS and BACK OF BEYOND.

As a multi-instrumentalist Goodwin has worked with INXS, Midnight Oil, Rick Price and Jenny Morris. He has also performed on the sound tracks to assorted films including BLACK ROBE, CROCODILE DUNDEE II, DEAD CALM and YOUNG EINSTEIN.

"THE LIE IS THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCK OF GOOD MANNERS"
QUENTIN CRISP

Yal

A director's perspective

ALL MEN ARE LIARS was due to go into production in 1992 but was delayed for over two years while Maynard ran the gauntlet of the conservative Australian film funding systems. It wasn't made any easier when Maynard offered the project to first time director Gerard Lee, who had a track record as a writer but only seven minutes of directing experience.

How did you feel when you were offered the opportunity to direct your screenplay?

Gerard Lee: "I accepted reluctantly but I was secretly terrified of the prospect of a feature film. There was so much I didn't know. Jane Campion, John and others encouraged me to go ahead, to use the strengths I had, so that was it. Overnight I was a film director but on the laws of probability my chances didn't look too good. On my first day when I arrived on the set and saw so many people waiting for me, I turned to John and said "I hope they are here to help."

"Soon I found out that there is a great deal of support you can expect from experienced old friends plus a committed crew and cast. In retrospect it was a bigger gamble than I'd realised. But if you take one day at a time it helps you get through the whole picture."

I have heard that you have a natural affinity for North Queensland. Is that true?

"Yes. I've always wanted to do something in North Queensland as I saw it, not what was shown in the tourist brochures handed out by Film Queensland. Far North Queensland is where my extended family originates. It's an exotic part of Australia and here was a chance to show it as it was - with an unsentimental and prosaic eye. The landscape in ALL MEN ARE LIARS is taken for granted instead of idealised. Sugar is the original backbone industry of the wet tropics, although the blight of tourism is starting to encroach just about everywhere."

How come you left the big city suburban Sydney of Sweetie for the small town of Worondilla?

"ALL MEN ARE LIARS joins my inner-city self to my Queensland no-bullshit self. The dramatic potential of these two worlds coming together was too irresistible not to explore.

"It took months to decide upon a location to suit all of the needs of the script which would work within our slender resources. When I first saw South Johnstone I thought I'd found an abandoned film set made specially for ALL MEN ARE LIARS. Here was a working cane town with a tough edge to it, uncontaminated by a tourist information centre, modern banks, a pub with a heritage face lift or a giant banana. Our schedule coincided with the start of the sugar season. With a sugar mill at one end and a railway running though the main street we threw caution to the wind and ourselves to the co-operative support from the town."

Was it made even more difficult using a laboratory in a different country?

"It did feel strange driving home each night knowing that the rushes were on their way 3000 km to Wellington NZ. Even more remarkable was that three days later they turned up on the rushes screen in the Farmers Hall down at the Mill. Being a big sound film, in fact almost a musical, I take off my hat to the work from the sound team and the lab who backed us all the way."

Why did you cast so many people from the immediate area?

"North Queensland's personalities are its greatest charm. We cast in the area because the characters I was looking for aren't normally on the books of Central Casting. Not only did the North Queensland people become our talent but they were a real resource as our caterers, our carpenters, our electricians, or mechanics. North Queenslanders have the natural humour that good naturedly features throughout the film and helps give the climax that poignant and amusing quality that is so important.

What next?

"As a writer who previously led a solitary existence I loved and thrived upon the collaborative process of film production. It's easier than facing the blank page every day. John and I had a lot of fun and we're planning a second film together. In the meantime, we have a busy launch schedule."

"WE'LL BRING BACK THE PIANO." MEATHEAD

Cast in order of appearance

Mick	David Price
Irene	Carmen Tanti
Harry	John Jarratt
Tom	Jamie Petersen
Alf	Ken Billett
Angela	Toni Pearen
Courtney	Natasha Riedel
Sam	Helen Tannock
Trish	Michelle Shoemark
Jo	Yvette König
Rick	Cristin Daniel
Shawn	Shawn Cady
Buckley	Harry Reid
Vanni	Francis Carida
Geoff	Matt Flannagan
George	George Marginov
Chris	Chris Smith
Gerry Borwick	Paul Newman
Paul	Paul Cantoni
Vegie	Gregor Girowetz
Nuggett	Victor Richardson
Gates	Chris Rashleigh
Singer at Concert	Linda Farrington
Announcer	Frank Moore

Director	Gerard Lee
Producer	John Maynard
Associate Producer	Robert Connolly
Executive Producers	Chris Brown Douglas Cummins
Screenplay	Gerard Lee
Director of Photography	Steve Arnold A.C.S.
Editor	Suresh Ayyar
Original Music	Mark Moffatt Wayne Goodwin
Production Designer	Murray Pope
Costume Designer	Wendy Chuck
Casting	Christine King Liz Mullinar Casting
First Assistant Director	Lynn Maree Danzey
Production Manager	Elizabeth Knight
Music Supervisor	John Hopkins
Music Licensing	Screensong Pty. Ltd.
Music Producer	Mark Moffatt
Music Recording Studio	The Vault

All Men Are Liars
Written by Nick Lowe
Published by Plangent Visions Music Limited
Produced by Dave Edmunds
(P) 1990 Riviera Global Record Publications Limited

Una Furtiva Lagrima
Written by Gaetano Donizetti
Arranged by Wayne Goodwin
Published by Screensong Pty. Ltd.
Produced & Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

The Elvis Song
Written by Mark Moffatt
Published by Screensong Pty. Ltd.
Produced & Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Shakin' All Over
Written by Fred Heath
Courtesy of EMI Mills Music Limited
Performed by John Jarratt
Produced & Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Mama
Written by Mark Charron
© Crazy Cajun Music/J Albert & Son Pty. Ltd.
Performed by John Jarratt
Produced & Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Turpentine Blues
Written by Gerard Lee and John Jarratt
Published by Screensong Pty. Ltd.
Produced & Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Calling All Angels
Written by Jane Siberry
Published by Wing-It Music/Sold for a Song/
MCA Music Canada (SOCAN)
Administered by MCA Music Australia Pty.
Performed by Toni Pearen
Backing vocals by Gemma Deacon
Produced and Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Midnight Special
Traditional arrangement by Mark Moffatt
Performed by Mark Punch
Published by Screensong Pty. Ltd
Produced & Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Mambo Jambo
Written by Raymond Karl,
Charlie Towne and Perez Prado
Courtesy of Southern Music Publishing Co. Australasia
Arranged and produced by
Dave Hallard, Jingle Makers

All Day And All Of The Night
Written by Ray Davies
©1964 Edward Kassner Music Co. Ltd. for the world
Performed by Toni Pearen
Produced and Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Walking The Dog
Written by Rufus Thomas
© Irving Music Inc /Birdees Music
Used with permission of Rondor Music (Australia) Pty. Ltd
Produced and Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Buddhist Cowboy
Written by Gerard Lee
Performed by Gerard Lee
Published by Screensong Pty. Ltd.
Produced and Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

A Rockin' Good Way To Mess Around And Fall In Love
Words and music by Brook Benton,
Luchi Jesus & Clyde Otis
©1958, 1960 Alley Music Corp.,
Trio Music Inc and Iza Music Corp.
Performed by Shakin' Stevens & Bonnie Tyler
Courtesy Sony Music Entertainment (UK) Ltd

With My Boots On
Written by Mike Mason
Performed by Gerard Lee
Published by Screensong Pty. Ltd.
Produced and Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

I Don't Want To Be With Nobody But You
Written by Eddie Floyd
© Irving Music Inc/East Memphis Music
Used with permission of Rondor Music (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Performed by Toni Pearen
Backing Vocals by Gemma Deacon
Produced & Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Catch A Falling Star
Written by Paul Vance and Lee Pockriss
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and Paul Vance Publishing
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All Rights Reserved
Performed by John Jarratt
Produced & Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Ballad Of Oolana
Written by Linda Farrington
Performed by Linda Farrington
© Linda Farrington

Angel Jam
Written by Mark Moffatt
Published by Screensong Pty. Ltd.
Produced and Engineered by Mark Moffatt
Recorded at The Vault

Somebody's Thinking Of You Tonight
Written by Irn Schuster, Marty Symes and Teddy Powell
Courtesy of Southern Music Publishing Co. Australia
Arranged and Produced by Dave Hallard, Jingle Makers

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