



# Finding Bliss

**A film by Julie Davis**

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**STARRING**

Leelee Sobieski  
Matt Davis  
Denise Richards  
Donnamarie Recco  
Mircea Monroe  
PJ Byrne  
with Kristen Johnston  
and Jamie Kennedy

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**A classic struggle between good girls and bad girls, art and commerce, idealism and selling out, Finding Bliss is a hilarious and heart-warming tale of self-discovery.**

**Finding Bliss marks the third feature written and directed by Julie Davis. Her last film “Amy’s Orgasm” was called “candid, funny, and deeply authentic” by *The Daily Variety* and Kenneth Turan of the *LA Times* called her first film, “I Love You, Don’t Touch Me!”, “the debut of a fresh new voice, one that’s honest, sexy, and consistently funny.”**

## **Log Line**

Aspiring filmmaker Jody Balaban moves to Hollywood with the dream of directing movies, only to end up editing adult films at Grind Productions, where she unexpectedly finds love, friendship, and her true self.

## **Synopsis**

Finding Bliss is a cutting edge romantic comedy that explores the adult film industry through the eyes of an idealistic 25 year-old award-winning film school grad, Jody Balaban (LEELEE SOBIESKI), new to Los Angeles.

After a long humbling year temping as a traffic cop on a studio lot, Jody is faced with the hard decision of taking the only well-paying industry job she has yet been offered – editing porn at Grind Productions, a profitable X-rated company run by former porn star and shrewd business-woman Irene Fox (KRISTEN JOHNSTON). Irene explains that Grind is embarking on their first “real” movie, which they plan to release in art-house theaters across the country. The consummate saleswoman, she attempts to seduce the desperate Jody to edit the film by challenging her to bring a smart female point of view to the sexual content in the movie, which is the crucial element needed for the film to cross-over into the mainstream.

At first horrified by the prospect of exposing herself to the cockroaches of the film industry, not to mention the effect it would have on her strict Jewish parents, Jody has a remarkable change of heart when she realizes that Grind has all the facilities she needs to make her own low budget movie – on the sly of course. Jody rationalizes taking the job on the grounds that “the means justify the ends” – by editing porn during the day, she’ll be able to make meaningful art at night.

At first, Jody’s plan seems to be working out – she prepares to shoot her film after hours and her parents happily think she has a respectable job - but things get complicated when Jody meets Jeff Drake (MATT DAVIS), the charming Herr Director of porn. Jeff, also an award-winning filmmaker, once had his own dreams of making ‘real’ films, but now is a hard-worn cynic who masks his disappointment behind a façade of irony. In Jody, he sees the idealism he once had, while Jody starts to face her own sexual hang-ups as she begins to get aroused by the porn she so harshly judges.

When Jody starts making her own low budget romantic comedy at night, she hires Laura (DENISE RICHARDS), a sweet ingénue who questions Jody’s preconceptions about love and sex as and gradually inspires Jody to embrace her growing attraction towards Jeff, not to mention her unexpected affection for the lowlifes of porn, including the dimwitted but lovable porn star Richard “Dick” Harder (JAMIE KENNEDY).

## About the Cast

### LEELEE SOBIESKI (“Jody Balaban”)

At the age of 25, Leelee Sobieski has become a breakout actress of her generation. She most recently starred opposite Al Pacino in the Sony thriller *88 MINUTES*, appeared alongside Nicolas Cage in Neil LaBute’s remake of *WICKER MAN* for Warner Bros., as well as in the big-budget feature adaptation of the sword and sorcery video game *IN THE NAME OF THE KING: DUNGEON SIEGE* with Jason Statham. Her next leading men will be Johnny Depp and Christian Bale in Universal’s anticipated July ’09 John Dillinger biopic *PUBLIC ENEMIES*. She recently returned from location in Moscow filming *MAD COW*.

Other recent productions include the thriller *NIGHT TRAIN* with Danny Glover and Steve Zahn, the independent feature *HEAVEN’S FALL* with Timothy Hutton and David Strathairn which screened at the SXSW Film Festival; *LYING* with Chloe Sevigny which premiered at Cannes; *IN A DARK PLACE*, the modern adaptation of Henry James’ *TURN OF THE SHREW*; the romantic-comedy *THE OPTOMIST* in which she stars with Shane West., and the comedy caper *WALK ALL OVER ME* which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Prior to having spent much of the last few years studying fine arts and literature at Brown University, Sobieski starred for director John Dahl in FOX’s acclaimed psychological thriller *JOY RIDE*, in producer Neil Moritz’s Sony thriller *THE GLASS HOUSE*, and opposite Albert Brooks in Paramount Classics’ tender *MY FIRST MISTER* for director Christine Lahti as a misunderstood goth chick. She also starred opposite John Cusack in Lions Gate’s *MAX* which tells the story of an art dealer who befriends an aspiring artist named Adolf Hitler. In France, she starred in the French-language film *L’IDOLE*, and opposite Catherine Deneuve in an adaptation of the novel *DANGEROUS LIAISONS* that filmed in both French and English.

Sobieski also garnered a Golden Globe nomination for *Uprising*, the NBC Sweeps mini-series for filmmaker Jon Avnet. Her previous foray into television garnered both a Golden Globe and an Emmy nomination for the portrayal of legendary Joan of Arc in the top-rated, \$20 million CBS mini-series *Joan of Arc*. She previously treated audiences to a variety of performances including a young nymphet opposite Tom Cruise in legendary director Stanley Kubrick’s top-grossing *EYES WIDE SHUT* for Warner Bros., received rave reviews opposite Drew Barrymore in FOX 2000’s *NEVER BEEN KISSED*, and lead the Merchant-Ivory production, *A SOLDIER’S DAUGHTER NEVER CRIES* which also called for Sobieski to exercise her fluent French. She also starred with Josh Hartnett in director Mark Piznarski’s FOX 2000 romantic drama, *HERE ON EARTH*.

Discovered by a casting director who suggested she try acting after spotting her in her New York City school cafeteria, she shortly thereafter landed starring roles in the telefilms *REUNION* with Marlo Thomas and Peter Strauss, and *A HORSE FOR DANNY* with Robert Urich. The series *CHARLIE GRACE* soon followed in which she portrayed Mark Harmon’s daughter.

Her feature film debut featured Sobieski as Martin Short’s daughter with Tim Allen in *JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE* for Disney. She also starred opposite Elijah Wood in Mimi Leder’s action thriller *DEEP IMPACT* for Paramount / Dreamworks SKG.

## **MATTHEW DAVIS (“Jeff Drake”)**

Likened by many to a “young Harrison Ford,” Davis received critical acclaim for his edgy, breakout performance in Joel Schumacher’s *TIGERLAND*, in which he starred opposite Colin Farrell, playing a bright, aspiring young writer who gets shipped off to war. He then starred in MGM’s smash comedy hit, *LEGALLY BLONDE*, as ‘Warner’, Reese Witherspoon’s WASP-y Blue-blood “boyfriend-you love-to-hate”, for whom she traveled to Harvard to win back.

Further adding to his reputation as a big screen heartthrob was his starring role in Universal’s surf/romance flick, *BLUE CRUSH*, in which he plays a pro-football quarterback with whom Kate Bosworth falls in love.

A bold departure from such roles came with Davis’ role in the Merchant/Ivory production of *THE HEIGHTS*, on which he worked with Elizabeth Banks, James Marsden, and Jesse Bradford. The film, which also stars Glenn Close, debuted at the Sundance Film Festival. Davis will be soon seen on the upcoming season of the Emmy Award winning FX series *Damages* starring Glenn Close and Rose Byrne.

## **DENISE RICHARDS (“Laura”)**

Denise Richards earned her place in history and achieved world-wide fame as Bond girl, Dr. Christmas Jones in MGM’s hugely successful film *THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH* opposite Pierce Brosnan. Richards came to attention in the thriller *WILD THINGS* co-starring Kevin Bacon, Matt Dillon and Neve Campbell. Richards made her big screen debut in Paul Verhoeven’s box-office hit *STARSHIP TROOPERS* showcased alongside a cast of fresh young talents.

Back by popular demand, Richards will return for the second season of E! Entertainment Television’s unscripted reality series, *DENISE RICHARDS: IT’S COMPLICATED*, executive produced by Ryan Seacrest. Viewers follow the stunning, high-profile star as she navigates Hollywood, romance, and motherhood.

Richards was also seen in the independent film *JOLENE* starring Michael Vartan and Donald Sutherland. She made a cameo appearance in *EDMOND* directed by Stuart Gordon, starring William H. Macy and Julia Stiles.

Richards’ additional film credits include *YO PUTA*, *EMPIRE*, *UNDERCOVER BROTHER*, *THE THIRD WHEEL*, *GOOD ADVICE*, *DROP DEAD GORGEOUS*, *TAIL LIGHTS FADE* and a cameo appearance in the hit romantic comedy *LOVE ACTUALLY*.

On television, Richards starred in Lifetime’s romantic comedy movie of the week, *I DO (BUT I DON’T)* alongside Dean Cain which garnered the highest ratings for the network that year. In addition, she starred in the UPN series *SEX, LOVE AND SECRETS* and made a memorable appearance on *SEINFELD*. She first garnered critical notice as a series regular in *AGAINST THE GRAIN* opposite Ben Affleck and in the television film *IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE* as Mimi Rogers’ daughter.

## **DONNAMARIE RECCO (“Kathleen McDuffy”)**

Donnamarie Recco was born in Brooklyn NY, where she swore she would become a world-renowned ballerina. After deciding instead to be a famous concert pianist, then a rock star, then again a concert pianist, she finally settled on becoming an actress, reasoning that this would allow her to do it all.

Accompanying the many years of classical piano training and dance classes, Donnamarie studied with Terry Schreiber in NYC and at the Lee Strasburg Theatre Inst. in LA. It was in Los Angeles where she landed her first role in the cult classic Tri-Star film, *THREE NINJAS*. Her appearance in this film, where all she did was sell a hot dog, was her ticket to... a SAG card!

Since those humble beginnings, she has played opposite Robert DeNiro in *ANALYZE THIS*, opposite Greg Kinnear and Willem DeFoe in *AUTO FOCUS* and opposite Gwyneth Paltrow in *VIEW FROM THE TOP*. She has also appeared as a guest star on acclaimed television shows such as *THE SOPRANOS*, *LAW & ORDER*, *JUDGING AMY*, *THIRD WATCH* and *NYPD BLUE* to name a few. She recently starred in an independent film called *ONE NIGHT* in her hometown of New York City during the hottest summer ever recorded. When asked how that made her feel she simply whispered, "Water..."

Donnamarie currently lives in Hollywood, where she splits her time between acting and volunteering as a caretaker for hospice patients, another one of her life's passions. Her volunteer work goes hand in hand with her belief that how we leave this life is as important as how we enter it. Plus, she claims to derive great pleasure playing Bingo.

## **JAMIE KENNEDY (Richard “Dick Harder”)**

Jamie Kennedy, a multitalented comedian-actor-writer-producer, is a true hyphenate. He may be seen acting in a film one minute and on stage doing stand up the next. Kennedy skyrocketed to fame with a groundbreaking performance and scene-stealing rants in Wes Craven's *SCREAM* and *SCREAM 2*. His portrayal of Randy Meeks, the video-store-clerk-turned-horror-hero with a knack for pop culture, secured him a place in the annals of horror movie history. He has gone on to work with some of Hollywood's biggest names, including George Clooney, Eddie Murphy, Steve Martin, and Will Smith.

Most recently, Kennedy joined the cast of CBS's *GHOST WHISPERER* opposite Jennifer Love Hewitt. The series debuted on October 3rd. In September of 2008 Kennedy released *HECKLER*, a documentary which he produced with Michael Addis. The film played at both the Tribeca and AFI Film Festivals and has been met with critical acclaim. Variety calls it "Hilarious!" and the New York Sun hails the film "A Must-See!" *HECKLER* is a comedic feature documentary exploring the increasingly critical world we live in, and asks some interesting questions of people such as Jon Voight, George Lucas, Bill Maher, Mike Ditka, Rob Zombie and many more.

Kennedy was last seen on the big screen in his starring roles in Yari Film Group's *KICKIN' IT OLD SCHOOL*, and the Warner Bros. film *MALIBU'S MOST WANTED*. The film, which he also co-wrote, is based on the fictional Malibu rapper Brad Gluckman, one of the characters Kennedy created and often portrayed on *THE JAMIE KENNEDY EXPERIMENT*. He will next be seen in the upcoming films, *FINDING BLISS*, and *SPRING BREAK '83*. He is also the executive producer of CBS' game show entitled *SPLITSVILLE* in which divorcing couples battle over their personal possessions. Kennedy is also currently producing through his Jizzy Entertainment *SHINGLE* the psychological drama, In Northwood, starring Nick Stahl. The film commenced filming in July 2008.

In 2002, Kennedy triumphed on the WB when he created the hit show *THE JAMIE KENNEDY EXPERIMENT*. He was writer, producer, and star of the series, portraying a myriad of characters each week during the show's three seasons. Returning to the WB again, Kennedy served as a co-creator and executive producer on the WB series *THE STARLET* and *LIVING WITH FRAN*. In the summer of 2006 Kennedy also brought *BLOWIN' UP* to the small screen; a comedic reality series for MTV. The show followed him as he and sidekick Stu Stone attempted to achieve their lifelong dream of becoming rappers. They released their first album also titled "*Blowin' Up*" in July 2006.

Kennedy also conquered the book market with the release of his autobiography "*Wannabe...A Hollywood Experiment*" in the summer of 2003. In the book, Kennedy shares his good and bad times, from his boyhood in Philly to his current Hollywood experiences. As a teenager growing up near Philadelphia in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, Kennedy got a taste of Hollywood working as an extra in *DEAD POETS SOCIETY*. A year later, he moved out to Los Angeles at age 18 and began performing improvisational comedy and stand-up at open-mic nights.

After much dues-paying, Kennedy got his first big break in 1996 with the role of Sampson in Baz Luhrmann's *ROMEO + JULIET*. Soon after, he was a breakout star of *SCREAM* and next appeared as a street hustler in James L. Brooks' *AS GOOD AS IT GETS*. The roles continued and in 1999 Kennedy co-starred in the Persian Gulf War movie *THREE KINGS*, directed by David O. Russell and starring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg. That same year, he starred as a wannabe cinematographer opposite two of his biggest idols, Steve Martin and Eddie Murphy, in the comedy *BOWFINGER*. In *BOILER ROOM*, Kennedy teamed up with Ben Affleck, Giovanni Ribisi and Vin Diesel to expose the dark side of Wall Street.

Amassed in a short time, Kennedy's expansive list of movie credits also includes the animated feature *ROBOTS*, *ENEMY OF THE STATE* opposite Will Smith and Gene Hackman; *BAIT* starring Jamie Foxx and David Morse; Max Keeble's *BIG MOVE*; *THE SPECIALS* with Rob Lowe and Thomas Haden Church, a film which Kennedy also produced. Kennedy currently tours the country doing stand-up comedy. He resides in Los Angeles.

## **KRISTEN JOHNSTON ("Irene Fox")**

Kristen Johnston starred on the hit television series *3<sup>rd</sup> ROCK FROM THE SUN*, for which she won two Emmy Awards. She has had many roles on television including a recurring role on *ER* and a memorable turn as the party girl who falls out the window on *SEX AND THE CITY*.

Johnston made her film debut in the short film *THE DEBT*, which won a number of awards at international film festivals, including the 1993 Cannes Film Festival. Her other film credits include a cameo role in the upcoming Julie Davis film, *FINDING BLISS*, *AUSTIN POWERS: THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME*, *THE FLINSTONES IN VIVA ROCK VEGAS*, *STRANGERS WITH CANDY*, *MUSIC & LYRICS*, and the upcoming *BRIDE WARS*, opposite Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway.

Johnston is a longtime member of the Atlantic Theater Company where she recently starred in *SCARCITY* by Lucy Thurber. She also teaches acting at the Atlantic Theater Company Acting School at NYU which was founded by playwright David Mamet and actor William H. Macy. Johnston's other theater credits include *LOVE SONG* on the West End, *BALTIMORE WALTZ*, *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, *TWELTH NIGHT*, *AUNT DAN AND LEMON*, *THE WOMEN*, *THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH*, *BABY ANGER*, and the Lincoln Center production of *THE LIGHTS* for which she received a Drama Desk Award nomination. Most recently, Johnston starred in the Williamstown Festival play, *THE UNDERSTUDY* by Theresa Rebeck and directed by Scott Ellis, also starring Bradley Cooper and Reg Rogers.

## **MIRCEA MONROE (“Sindi”)**

Raised in the Solomon Islands and Fiji, this exotic beauty has quickly become one of Hollywood’s hottest rising stars. Mircea first showcased her acting skills in the theater, but quickly moved on to the big and small screens where she has proven to be as versatile as she is beautiful, having earned starring roles in comedies, dramas, action, and horror films.

In her first year in Hollywood, Monroe garnered breakout parts in five films, including *THE CODE* opposite John Cusack and Morgan Freeman for director Bruce Beresford, Fox’s *THE ULTIMATE GIFT* opposite Abigail Breslin, and the title role in the sports-themed drama, *FAST GIRL*. With these successes, she exploded to star in eight films set to be released this year; including the lead in the award-winning independent romantic comedy *SCREW CUPID* and starring roles in *FINDING BLISS* opposite Leelee Sobieski and Jamie Kennedy, the adaptation of the blockbuster video game franchise *TEKKEN*, and MGM Studio’s sequel to *INTO THE BLUE* titled, *THE REEF*.

Her additional credits include the feature film “*BORDERLAND*,” and memorable guest-starring appearances on “*Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*,” “*Scrubs*” and “*Freddie*.” Monroe also starred as the winsome *ELLIE LAIRD* on Fox’s high-octane yet ill-fated series *DRIVE* and most recently as “Virginia”, a mysterious woman with a deadly secret in the first installment of NBC’s highly anticipated horror anthology series *FEAR ITSELF*.

## **PJ BYRNE (“Gary”)**

Having graduated from Boston College with a degree in finance, P.J. Byrne made the choice to pursue a career in acting and went on to receive his M.F.A. from the highly respected Theatre School at DePaul University. Since then, he has compiled a long list of impressive film and television credits including *CHARLIE WILSON’S WAR* playing opposite Tom Hanks (portraying senior congressional aide Jim VanWagenen), *BEWITCHED* playing opposite Will Ferrell, Nicole Kidman and Stephen Colbert, *BE KIND REWIND* opposite Jack Black, *BRUCE ALMIGHTY* with Jim Carrey, *EVAN ALMIGHTY* with Steve Carell, and *BLOODWORK* alongside Clint Eastwood.

Byrne’s long list of television appearances include his current role as a recurring character on the CW series *THE GAME* (Irv – the driven sports agent who represents a number of professional football players), and guest appearances on *NCIS*, *RENO 911*, *THE WEST WING*, *DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES*, *BOSTON LEGAL*, *NEW ADVENTURES OF OLD CHRISTINE* and dozens of others. He was cast as a series regular on the short-lived CBS TV series *VIVA LAUGHLIN* with Hugh Jackman and Lloyd Owen and as series regular for the HBO produced Kanye West pilot directed by Larry Charles.

Additionally, he has appeared in more than 50 national commercials and is the title character in the Nickelodeon animated pilot, *T.U.F.F. PUPPY*.

A New Jersey native, he was born in Maplewood, N.J. and raised in Old Tappan, N.J. graduating from Northern Valley Regional H.S. where he played three varsity sports – basketball, soccer and baseball.

## **About the Filmmakers**

### **JULIE DAVIS (Writer/Director)**

*FINDING BLISS* is Julie Davis' labor of love and is based on her real-life experiences as an editor of adult films. Previously, Julie wrote, produced, directed and edited the critically acclaimed low budget comedy *I LOVE YOU DON'T TOUCH ME* which was one of the highest sales and most popular films at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival, and was released in 1998 by MGM/Goldwyn Films. Opening to enthusiastic reviews from *The Los Angeles Times'* Kenneth Turan, who called the film "sexy, honest and consistently funny," and *The New York Times'* Janet Maslin, who dubbed Davis "the female Woody Allen," Davis was able to raise the independent financing for her second film *AMY'S ORGASM*.

*AMY'S ORGASM* was hailed as "candid, funny, and deeply authentic" by *Daily Variety*, "a smart, tart breath of fresh air" by *The Hollywood Reporter*, and "sophisticated, funny, and fresh" by *The Los Angeles Times*. The film won the Audience Award at the 2001 Santa Barbara International Film Festival and had a successful theatrical run in NY and LA.

Davis then directed the romantic comedy *ALL OVER THE GUY* produced by Don Roos. *ALL OVER THE GUY* sold to Lions Gate Films in 2001 and has been theatrically released world-wide.

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NXNW has offices Boise, Idaho Los Angeles and Berlin.

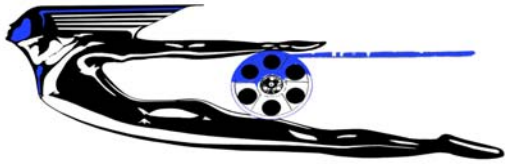
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## **CINAMOUR ENTERTAINMENT**

Offering more than 400 hours of diverse television programming, as well as an ever-growing library of motion pictures, Cinamour Entertainment, LLC. is one of Hollywood's fastest growing production and worldwide distribution companies.

CEO, Glen Hartford, President of Distribution & Development, Cord Douglas and President Daniel Toll, have amassed nearly 60 years of combined experience in production, post-production and distribution.

In the business of distribution, Cinamour provides non-fiction programming to U.S. broadcasters such as FOX REALITY, Discovery, TLC, Court TV, The Travel Channel, and The National Geographic Channel. On the fiction side, Cinamour sells new and library features to the ION Network, SCI FI channel, HBO, Showtime, Fox Broadcasting, Starz Media, F/X, TNT, and many others. Internationally, Cinamour's regular clients include commercial channels such as Buena Vista International, the U.K.'s ITV, Germany's RTL, France's M6 and TF-6 and 1, Spain's Antena 3, as well as public broadcasters like ZDF, France 2, RAI, and the BBC.

Cinamour also has an ever-growing division of television and film productions. On the television side, Cinamour original programming includes ***America's Toughest Bounty Hunters*** for FOX REALITY, ***29 Minutes & Counting*** for Court TV, ***Guru 2 GO*** for Discovery Communications, and ***Saving the Endangered Species*** for Wisdom Media. Cinamour has five television series in development.

In the feature film arena, Cinamour has produced five features over the past four years: ***From Mexico with Love***, an inspirational boxing drama with a Latin twist starring Mexican film star Kuno Becker and industry veteran Bruce McGill (Coming out theatrically through Roadside Attractions and Lionsgate in 2009), ***Finding Bliss***, a romantic comedy set in the filmmaking world starring Leelee Sobieski, Jamie Kennedy, Matt Davis and Denise Richards (screening at SLAMDANCE 2009), ***Recoil***, a military suspense-thriller starring Luke Perry and Tom Berenger (FOX Home Video), ***Forbidden Warrior***, a martial arts fantasy-adventure film starring Bruce Locke and Marie Matiko (Showtime) and ***The Christmas Clause*** with Lea Thompson (ION Network).

In 2009 Cinamour is scheduled to more than double its 2008 output, by producing no less than eight features. In the first quarter of 2009, Cinamour has four feature scheduled to begin production - ***The Tales of The Ancient Empire*** starring Kevin Sorbo, Christopher Lambert and Yanci Butler is currently filming.

## Credits

Writer/Director/Editor .....	JULIE DAVIS
Producers .....	JEFF RICE DANIEL TOLL RICH COWAN DAVE ORNSTON
Executive Producers .....	GLEN HARTFORD BRANDON NUTT LEELEE SOBIESKI NICK VETERE
Director of Photography .....	PETER N. GREEN
Editor .....	DAVID BEATTY
Production Designer .....	VINCENT DEFELICE
Music by .....	JOHN SWIHART

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