

**Cinepix Inc.
and
The National Film Board of Canada
present**

"PRINCES IN EXILE"

**a heart-warming story
about life's real heroes...**

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and
The National Film Board of Canada

present

"PRINCES IN EXILE"

Starring

ZACHARY ANSLEY
NICHOLAS SHIELDS
STACIE MISTYSYN
ANDREA ROTH
GORDON WOOLVETT

with

ALEXANDER CHAPMAN
as "Gabriel"

and

CHUCK SHAMATA
as "Dr. Merritt"

Directed
by
GILES WALKER

Produced
by
JOHN DUNNING

Produced for the NFB
by
MARRIN CANELL

Executive Producers
ANDRE LINK
COLIN NEALE

Screenplay
by
JOE WIESENFELD

Based on the Novel
"Princes in Exile"
by
MARK SCHREIBER

Supervising Producer
IRENE LITINSKY

Associate Producer
JEFFREY BARMASH

Director of Photography
SAVAS KALOGERAS

Production Designer
CHARLES DUNLOP

Editor
RICHARD TODD

Original Music by
NORMAND CORBEIL

"PRINCES IN EXILE"

is a co-production of

CINEPIX INC.

and

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

in association with

THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Produced with the participation of

TELEFILM CANADA

running time: 103 min. 40 sec.

FILM SYNOPSIS

For one extraordinary summer, they have the chance to get away from over-protective parents and the endless procession of doctors -- to be like regular teenagers again.

They call themselves "**Princes in Exile**". They have cancer and they live with the harsh knowledge that they may never reach their twenties, never be troubled by college applications, never watch their parents grow old.

And so they magnify the time they have left -- having fun, discovering love, forming friendships, making plans...for a future they may never see.

Produced by Cinepix Inc. and the National Film Board of Canada, "**Princes in Exile**" follows the poignant, often humorous rite of passage of Ryan Rafferty (ZACHARY ANSLEY), a shy, intelligent seventeen year-old who spends three weeks at Camp Hawkins, a summer retreat for children with cancer. Diagnosed as having a brain tumour, Ryan is angrily resigned to the fact that he may not live to see another year. With time running out, he clings to two goals: publishing his journal and losing his virginity (not necessarily in that order).

But the friendships Ryan builds that summer change his life. His cynicism fades when he meets Robert (NICHOLAS SHIELDS), a daredevil who wages a daily war against death, and Holly (STACIE MISTYSYN), a young girl who may have lost her leg to cancer but not her fighting spirit. In their optimism and defiant refusal to surrender to the disease, Ryan finds new strength.

"**Princes in Exile**" is a film about preparing to let go of life by living it to the fullest.

FAST FACTS

Production Notes for the film "Princes in Exile", a Cinepix/National Film Board co-production

- **"Princes in Exile"** is based on Mark Schreiber's novel of the same name. Schreiber, a native of Cincinnati, wrote the book in 1981 at the age of twenty.
- Cinepix producer John Dunning approached Giles Walker in the fall of 1987 and asked him to read the novel. At the time, Cinepix was involved in the Canadian theatrical release of Walker's comedy feature **"The Last Straw"**.
- Cinepix optioned the novel in January 1988.
- Canadian screenwriter Joe Wiesenfeld (best known for his superb adaptation of L.M. Montgomery's **"Anne of Green Gables"**) was brought on board to develop a treatment.
- In August 1988, Walker visited "The Hole in the Wall Camp", a retreat for terminally ill children that is funded by actor Paul Newman.
- Marrin Canell, an independent producer, was contracted to represent the National Film Board.
- Jeff Barmash, legal affairs for Cinepix, liaised all the financial partners.
- Cinepix formed a rare alliance with the National Film Board, Telefilm, CBC, and the Department of Communications to finance the project. The film's budget was \$2.7 million.
- The principals, including Zachary Ansley, Stacie Mistysyn and Nicholas Shields, were assembled in casting sessions in Toronto and Vancouver organized by John Comerford and partner Brian Levy. Montrealer Lois Siegel did the Montreal casting and the extras.
- Dr. Michael Whitehead and Dr. Barbara Sourkes from the Montreal Children's Hospital were selected as consultants on the film. With director Giles Walker, they developed medical histories and psychological profiles for each character.
- A lot of research went into the physical characteristics of the cancer patients. Make-up artist Gillian Chandler worked with medical consultants on hair-loss patterns and scar tissues. Most actors had to shave their heads.

- Principal photography commenced July 24, 1989. The 28-day shoot covered three major locations: Kamp Kanawana, a YMCA camp near St. Sauveur, Mount St. Bruno Provincial Park, and the sound stages at the NFB's Montreal headquarters.

- June 1990: A preview screening for the medical consultants and novelist took place at the NFB in Montreal. Author Mark Schreiber remarked: "Three seconds into the film, I knew that I was watching something special. The pace was perfect, the acting mature. Giles' direction was brilliant.

"I can think of very few instances where the film equals the book. **Princes** is one. Most movies adapted from novels are sufficiently disappointing or so different that the author thinks: 'This isn't mine!' or 'This actor looks nothing like my character!' They feel detached from this vision on the screen. But everything in this film seemed familiar to me, even the lake and the dock resembled the lake and dock imprinted in my memory when I wrote the book."

John Dunning - Producer, Cinepix Inc.
Andre Link - Executive Producer, Cinepix Inc.

"Before I had finished reading **"Princes in Exile"**, I knew this novel had to be made into a feature film," recalls producer John Dunning. "This is a story about real-life heroes."

When Dunning first approached director Giles Walker about Mark Schreiber's novel, Walker wanted no part of it. But Dunning was persistent. "Every few days, John would call me up and ask me if I had read it," says Walker. Three weeks later, Walker cracked the book and eventually agreed to take on the project. **"Princes in Exile"** was shot in July 1989.

John Dunning and partner Andre Link created Cinepix Inc. in 1964. Twenty-six years and thirty-five feature films later, Cinepix has become one of Canada's leading film production companies with box-office hits like **"Meatballs"**, the hilarious film about summer camp that launched the acting career of Bill Murray. A burgeoning film production house, Cinepix has been a spring-board for talented young artists. "Eighteen of the films we have produced have been with first-time directors," says Dunning. Early in their careers, both David Cronenberg (**"The Fly"**) and Ivan Reitman (**"Ghostbusters"**) collaborated with Dunning and Link on Cinepix productions.

"It's not very often that we can get involved in a film like **'Princes in Exile'** because of the financial risk involved," says Link. "Every producer dreams of the day when he can make the kind of film he wants to make. This project was made possible because the National Film Board, Telefilm, and CBC pooled resources with us."

Giles Walker would be the first to agree that a publicly-funded agency like the NFB and an unabashedly commercial studio such as Cinepix make strange bedfellows. Initially reticent about this unusual collaboration, he soon came to rely on Dunning's input during script development sessions and at rushes screenings. "Dunning has enormous experience as a theatrical film producer," says Walker. "He's right there with you and is not distracted by other things. He gives 100%. I respect that."

"Everyone told us this co-production was a 'marriage-made-in-hell' and that it would not go further than the pre-production stage, but it turned out very well," adds Dunning. "It is one of the most pleasant experiences I've had in filmmaking. I think the desire and enthusiasm for the project surpassed the egos."

In addition to **"Princes in Exile"**, Dunning and Link have just completed two other feature films: **"Drug Busters"** starring Lorenzo Lamas, and **"Whispers"** starring Victoria Tennant, Jean Leclerc and Chris Sarandon. All three films are scheduled for release this year.

Marrin Canell - Producer, National Film Board

A versatile filmmaker who has worked in both the public and private sector, Canell's films have won numerous awards, including seven Genie Awards, three Red Ribbons from the New York Film Festival, a British Film Academy Award and an Academy Award nomination. Over a span of twenty years, he has tackled everything from political and social documentaries to sports.

In addition to producing the late-night CBC television talk show "**Ninety Minutes Live**" with Peter Gzowski, Canell's producing credits include NFB classic "**His Worship Mr. Montreal**", Donald Brittain's evocative documentary on former Montreal Mayor Camille Houde, and "**The Sweater**", Sheldon Cohen's beautifully rendered animated adaptation of Roch Carrier's short story about growing up in Montreal and Canadian hockey idol Maurice "Rocket" Richard. His directorial highlights include: "**In Search Of**", a three-part documentary series starring Leonard Nimoy, "**Whistling Smith**" (nominated for an Academy Award), CBC's "**The Establishment Challenged**", with Patrick Watson and the NFB's "**The War Series**" hosted by Gwynne Dyer.

Now working as an independant producer and director, Canell has channelled his energy into hard-hitting social-issue documentaries. With director Alanis Obomsawin, he has produced "**Richard Cardinal: Cry from the Diary of a Metis Child**", "**Pound-makers Lodge: A Healing Place**" and "**No Address**", films that examine issues pertaining to Native peoples such as Canada's social services policy, alcoholism, self-government and urban alienation. Canell also co-produced the two-hour CTV special "**The New North**" featuring Farley Mowat.

Passionately committed to films that celebrate the human spirit, Canell was a natural choice for producer of Giles Walker's "**Princes in Exile**", a film about a summer camp for children with cancer. "I was drawn to the gutsy script," says Canell. "The ability of the kids in **Princes** to take what life gives them and roll with the punches is heroic and inspirational.

Giles Walker - Director

A creative force behind the National Film Board's recent ventures into feature filmmaking, director Giles Walker is now courted by independent producers in Canada and the U.S. For his latest project, **"Princes in Exile"**, Walker teamed up with John Dunning and Andre Link of Cinepix Inc. and Marrin Canell of the NFB to make a poignant film about a summer camp for children with cancer.

When John Dunning first approached him to make the film, Walker was reluctant. "The first word I saw when I opened the novel was 'cancer'," says Walker. "My first wife died of leukemia and I didn't think I was ready to make a film about someone with cancer." Walker did agree to visit Paul Newman's "The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp" in Connecticut, a retreat for terminally ill children. After spending time with the kids and their counsellors, Walker threw his support behind the project. It was the fulcrum point of production. "When I walked out of there two days later, it was like I was wearing a suit of armour that I haven't taken off since," says Walker.

A passion for filmmaking prompted Giles Walker to switch from Psychology to a Master's degree in Film at Stanford University, where he made the documentary **"Down to the Sea"** (1972). Committed to making documentary films, Walker joined the NFB shortly after graduation.

A New Brunswick native, it's not surprising that the first three films Walker chose to direct dealt with the management of Canadian marine and freshwater ecosystems. Following this, he completed three documentaries profiling members of the Canadian National Ski Team. Walker's favorite, **"The Sword of the Lord"** (1976) chronicles Jungle Jim Hunter's obsessive pursuit for gold as "God's weapon on skis" and his crushing disappointment after a bad season.

In 1977, Walker made his first dramatic film, **"I Wasn't Scared"**. "It was a natural transition," says Walker. "I found myself wanting to have more control. I had passionate discussions with then cameraman Paul Cowan about whether or not documentaries really tell the truth and how the director sometimes has to manipulate the subject in a documentary to find the truth."

His gamble to switch from the classic documentary genre, renowned at the NFB, to drama, paid off. Walker's second drama **"Bravery in the Field"** (1979), a powerful story of a feisty old war veteran forced to pawn his medals when his pension cheque is late, was nominated for an Academy Award.

Although Walker continued to work unimpeded over the next five years, a new political wave in the form of the Applebaum-Hebert Royal Commission hit the NFB in 1984. The report, which recommended the dismantling of the institution, "forced filmmakers to do a lot of soul-searching," says Walker. "Out of that crisis, John Smith and I developed a filmmaking technique that involved a mixture of documentary and drama which we called 'alternative drama'."

The first experiment resulted in the alternative drama **"The Masculine Mystique"**, a humorous look at the serious topic of how men related to women in the wake of feminism. Made with non-professional actors, improvised dialogue, and a cinema verite style of shooting, the novel production attracted the attention of international film reviewers. Its successful sequel **"90 Days"**, which follows the stories of two of the characters in the first film, is an off-beat comedy about a mail-order bride and artificial insemination. The film was a critical and financial success. Produced on a budget of \$600,000, **"90 Days"** was sold to forty countries and grossed over \$1,000,000. After the release of **"The Last Straw"**, the third film in the "testosterone trilogy", Walker decided his next project would have a more serious theme. "Comedy is a trap," says Walker. "You can get hooked on making people laugh."

In the fall of 1988, Walker took a two-month leave-of-absence from the NFB to direct the Disney/PBS-Wonderworks co-production **"Caddie Woodlawn"** based on the Newberry Medal-winning children's classic by Carol Ryrie Brink.

Making **"Princes in Exile"** was less harrowing than Walker expected. "We really did our homework and it paid off," says Walker. He recruited a medical consultant (Dr. Michael Whitehead) and a clinical psychologist (Dr. Barbara Sourkes) from the Montreal Children's Hospital to create medical and psychological profiles for each character. We researched every detail, from hair-loss patterns to radiotherapy scars." At one point, Walker considered using real cancer patients in the film, but it was decided that the long shooting days would be too draining for the kids. In the end, two children were given roles as extras.

What's next on the horizon? Walker wants to develop a comedy with Codco's Andy Jones.

Joe Wiesenfeld - Screenwriter

Canadian-born writer Joe Wiesenfeld has attracted much attention in Canada and abroad for his screen adaptations. His sensitive rendering of L.M. Montgomery's beloved novel "**Anne of Green Gables**" for the 1986 CBC series garnered Wiesenfeld a host of honors and acclaim, including a Gemini Award and a special Emmy Award for the year's Best Children's Program.

In 1983, "**Boys and Girls**", which Wiesenfeld scripted, won an Oscar for Best Live-Action Short Drama. "**The Painted Door**", another screenplay by this writer, was nominated for an Academy Award in 1984.

Wiesenfeld's television credits include "**Fatal Vows**" and "**Native Strangers**", two one-hour CBS specials, "**Caddie Woodlawn**", a two-hour Disney/PBS-Wonderworks production directed by Giles Walker, and "**A Nest of Singing Birds**" for CBC television. His feature film credits include "**Mr. Edwards**" for Sunrise Films, "**Dividing Line**" for Tri-Star Pictures, and "**By Design**", an Atlantic Releasing/Beryl Fox Production directed by Claude Jutra.

Wiesenfeld agreed to write the original screenplay for "**Princes in Exile**" after reading Mark Schreiber's original novel. "Stories about children facing death can be so overly sentimental," he says. "What impressed me about Schreiber's story was the possibility of presenting an unsentimental, even light, look at the subject. I wrote the screenplay with that in mind."

PRINCIPAL ACTORS

Zachary Ansley ("Ryan Rafferty")

At eighteen years of age, Zachary Ansley is one of Canada's most talented young artists. In a span of seven years, the Vancouver actor has amassed an impressive list of credits in films such as the Walt Disney production **"The Journey of Natty Gan"**, the ABC Sunday Night Movie **"A Christmas Star"** (co-starring Ed Asner), the CBS Movie of the Week **"Christmas Comes to Willow Creek"** (starring John Schneider and Tom Wopat), and Anne Wheeler's film **"Cowboy Don't Cry"**, which was nominated in 1988 for five Genie Awards including Best Actor.

Recently, Ansley has worked on a number of the CBC **"Family Picture"** series including **"Anniversary"** and **"Give 'Em Enough Rope"**, and had a leading role on the network series **"9B"**.

For the feature film **"Princes in Exile"**, Ansley was offered the challenging role of a teenager diagnosed as having glioblastoma multiforme -- an incurable brain cancer. "I play Ryan Rafferty, a character with a lot of anger inside him," says Ansley. "It was sometimes scary getting into the character but I think that the message of the film is positive -- learn to love yourself. It sounds corny, but I think everyone can learn something from this film, not only people with cancer. It's about coping with personal crises from the inside out."

Director Giles Walker was impressed by the young actor's performance. "Zachary is a strong-willed actor who really demands a lot from a director. You have to convince him your way is the right way. It was a creative battle of wills."

Currently residing in Vancouver, Ansley has just completed high school at Prince of Wales Mini School.

Stacie Mistysyn ("Holly")

In her continuing role as "Caitlin" on the popular CBC television series **"Degrassi High"**, Stacie Mistysyn is a familiar face to Canadians. A nine-year veteran with **"Playing with Time"** productions, Mistysyn has literally grown up on Degrassi street. Her work on **"Kids of Degrassi Street"** lead to a principal role in the spin-off series **"Degrassi Junior High"** and **"Degrassi High"**. Nominated for a Gemini Award for Best Actress in a Continuing Dramatic Series in 1987, Mistysyn set her sights on finding more challenging roles. Last year, she made her feature film debut in Giles Walker's **"Princes in Exile"**, a made-for-television film based on Mark Schreiber's novel about a cancer camp for children. In the film, Mistysyn plays "Holly", a teenager who has just lost a leg to cancer. Despite her handicap, Holly refuses to indulge in self-pity and it is her optimism that helps Ryan redirect his anger into something more constructive.

Although Mistysyn found it difficult to play a girl with an artificial leg, she became so involved in the role that "when I returned to shoot new episodes of '**Degrassi High**', I found myself limping around the set."

Mistysyn won a 1989 Gemini Award for Best Actress in a Continuing Dramatic Series.

Nicholas Shields ("Robert")

Nicholas Shields is an enterprising student. While working towards his law degree at the University of Windsor, Shields manages to juggle a busy filming schedule. He recently returned from Manitoba where he starred in "**Lost in the Barrens**", a film based on a Farley Mowat novel, and will also be seen portraying the central character in the CBC pilot series "**Northwood**".

In Giles Walker's film "**Princes in Exile**", Shields plays Robert, a teenager who has it ALL -- acute lymphocytic leukemia. In the shadow of remission, Robert chooses to walk on the "wild side" off life -- continually brushing death with his daredevil antics. When accused by Ryan of just showing off, Robert retorts that his antics are not just a game but an act of defiance because "death is watching".

"Playing Robert forced me to do some soul-searching and certainly brought me face-to-face with my own mortality. I only wish I could be half as brave in my own life as Robert's character is in the film," says Shields.

Shields' television credits include the ABC show "**Bluffing It**", as well as CTV's "**Night Heat**" and "**My Secret Identity**".

Chuck Shamata ("Dr. Merritt")

A consummate character actor, Chuck Shamata has worked on over 50 television, film and stage productions. Most notable are his Genie nominated performances in the films "**Between Friends**" (HBO) and "**Coup d'Etat**" (Caroness Film Productions). Shamata was also awarded a Bijou for Best Actor in Donald Brittain's film "**The Running Man**".

In addition to starring in Ted Kotcheff's "**Joshua Then and Now**", the Walt Disney Production "**The Devil and Max Devlin**" and Universal Studio's "**Running**", Shamata has made guest star appearances on television series such as "**Night Heat**", "**Street Legal**", "**Seeing Things**", "**T&T**", "**Baretta**", "**Littlest Hobo**", "**Mod Squad**" and "**King of Kensington**". In Giles Walker's latest film "**Princes in Exile**", Shamata plays the role of Dr. Merritt, director and driving force behind Camp Hawkins, a summer camp for children with cancer. Shamata relished his role in the film. "When **Princes** is aired, I believe the public will recognize the love and work that we all gave to this production".

Alexander Chapman ("Gabriel")

Alexander Chapman prepared extensively for his role as "Gabriel" in Giles Walker's film **"Princes in Exile"**. A victim of Hodgkins disease, Gabriel is an introspective character in the film who uses visualization therapy to help maintain a positive outlook on life. "Before shooting began, Giles gave each of us a medical biography and a life history to study," says Chapman. "Then he showed us tapes of actual people with cancer. The background material made it a lot easier for us to understand what goes on in the mind of someone who might not have long to live."

Based in Montreal, Chapman has carried principal and supporting roles in five feature films including **"Wild Thing"** (Filmline), **"Liberators"** (Walt Disney Productions), Denys Arcand's **"Jesus of Montreal"** (Max Films), **"Drug Buster"** (Cinepix), and Giles Walker's **"Princes in Exile"** (Cinepix/NFB). Despite his recent foray into the film industry, Chapman's interest in theatre has not waned. "I like film, but I love stage," says Chapman. His theatrical debut in 1985 met with much success. That year, he won a Best Supporting Actor Award at the Quebec Drama Festival for his outstanding performance in the Foolhouse Theatre Company's production of **"The Dutchman"**. The following year, he garnered a second award at the Quebec Festival for Most Promising Young Performer in the Foolhouse Theatre Company's presentation of **"Next"**.