



# *Favorite Son*

*Directed by Howard Libov*

[www.favoriteasonmovie.com](http://www.favoriteasonmovie.com)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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### **“FAVORITE SON”**

#### **SCREENING IN**

#### **HOBOKEN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

**SUNDAY MAY 31, 8:00PM**

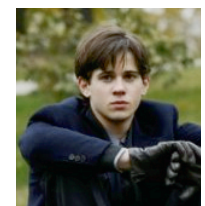
Madison, NJ -- May 22, 2009 -- *Favorite Son* the award-winning full length dramatic feature film will be screening in the **Hoboken International Film Festival** at the **Cedar Lane Cinemas 4** in Teaneck, NJ on **Sunday, May 31, at 8:00pm.**



**Pablo Schreiber**, soon to be seen opening on Broadway in *Desire Under the Elms* with **Brian Dennehy**, stars in *Favorite Son* as **DAVID**, a troubled adult whose new friendship with young teen **ROSS**, is seen as suspicious at best, and possibly dangerous.

**Pablo Schreiber (DAVID)** also appeared in *Reasons to be Pretty* (by Neil LaBute); *Awake and Sing* (TONY Nominee), *Dying City* (Lincoln Center Theater), *The Wire* (HBO), *The Manchurian Candidate* (Directed by Jonathan Demme); **Woody Allen's** *Vicki Cristina Barcelona*, and *Lords of Dogtown* with **Heath Ledger**.

**Connor Paolo** is a regular on the CW's **Gossip Girl** cast, plays the teenager **ROSS**. Paolo has previously worked with **Oliver Stone**, **Clint Eastwood**, and **David Gordon-Green**.



**Connor Paolo (ROSS)** in addition to currently appearing in *Gossip Girls* (WB,) has appeared in *World Trade Center* (Directed by Oliver Stone,) *Alexander* (Directed by Oliver Stone,) *Mystic River* (Directed by Clint Eastwood), *Snow Angels* (Directed by David Gordon-Green,) and *Gangs of New York* (Directed by Martin Scorsese.)

Directed by **Howard Libov**, an **Associate Professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Madison Campus** in New Jersey, the film is the story of loner **David Paxton**, 30, who returns to his hometown and becomes obsessed with childhood friend **Joan** and her troubled teenage son **Ross**, seeing them as a last chance for a "perfect" life. David is rejected by Joan, but breaks through Ross's volatile, destructive nature and forms an unlikely friendship with the boy, making himself the object of suspicion and condemnation by the town. Driven over the edge, David begins a dangerous descent, targeting town patriarch **Bill Huston**, the man who stands between he and Ross, and heading toward a final violent confrontation that will explode in the realization and revelation that David may be a most unlikely, and worthy hero.

**Kellie Overbey** as **JOAN** *The Coast of Utopia* / Lincoln Center Theater (T. Stoppard),  
*Sweet and Lowdown* (Woody Allen)

**Richard Bekins** as **HUSTON** *United 93* (P. Greengrass)

**Full Cast List:**

David Paxton	<b>Pablo Schreiber</b>
Ross Embry	<b>Connor Paolo</b>
Joan Embry	<b>Kellie Overbey</b>
Coach William Huston	<b>Richard Bekins</b>
Eric Mason	<b>Tolan Aman</b>
Robert Mason	<b>Matt Walton</b>
Waitress/Wendy	<b>Lenore Zann</b>
Young David Paxton	<b>Ryan Metzger</b>
Baseball Manager	<b>Cornell Womack</b>
Les	<b>Josh Becker</b>
Henry (Young Boy #1)	<b>Ian Hyland</b>
Jake (Young Boy #2)	<b>Paul Thode</b>
Teacher	<b>Karol Shveyster</b>
Stadium M.C.	<b>John Morgan</b>
David Paxton, Sr.	<b>Joe Prussak</b>
Young Insurance Executive	<b>Brian Hotaling</b>
Guy Outside Bar	<b>Jonathan Sang</b>
Counter Girl	<b>Jackie Sneyers</b>
Shortstop	<b>John Beloff</b>
Young Baseball Player / 2nd Base	<b>Mario Mergola</b>

## Crew:

Director/Co-writer	<b>Howard Libov</b>
Producer	<b>Brian Gonsar</b>
Co-Writer	<b>Michael Stewart</b>
Casting Director	<b>Ed Lewis</b>
Director of Photography	<b>Ben Wolf</b>
Editor	<b>Emily Gumpel</b>
Music	<b>Murray Attaway</b>
Songs	<b>Mike Mills (of R.E.M.)</b> Explosions in the Sky Mogwai

### Howard Libov, Director

Howard Libov, a native of Baltimore, MD, graduated with a BFA in Film & Television from New York University and also garnered a Certificate in Directing from The American Film Institute's Center for Advanced Film and Television Studies. ***Favorite Son***, Howard's second feature film, is based on the award-winning short film ***Little Man***, also directed by Howard Libov. ***Little Man***, co-starring **Frankie Muniz** of *Malcolm in the Middle*, played at more than twenty five film festivals, won the **Best Dramatic Short Award at the World Festival of SportFilm**, and the **Silver Illumination Award at The Crested Butte Reelfest**. ***Little Man*** is in national distribution with **The Cinema Guild**.

Howard Libov directed and co-wrote the feature film ***Midnight Edition***, which won the **Best First Feature Award at the Festival of Fantastic Film**, played at the **London, Dublin, and Hamptons Film Festivals**, and was broadcast on **HBO, Cinemax, and Showtime**. ***Midnight Edition*** was released on home-video by **MCA/Universal**. Libov also directed the comedic short film, ***Men Will Be Boys***, which starred members of Chicago's Second City Theater and was syndicated nationally on PBS stations as a modern day companion piece to **Paddy Chayefsky's Oscar Winning, Marty**. Libov's documentary ***Fourteen Stations***, profiled Madison, New Jersey artist and resident **Arie Galles**, and his ten-year quest to complete a series of drawings he started out thinking would take him only a year to finish. ***Fourteen Stations*** is also in distribution with **The Cinema Guild**.

### Benjamin Wolf, Director of Photography

Ben Wolf's first film, the short ***Gold Mountain***, won a **student Academy Award**. His most recent features include: **James Ryan's *The Young Girl and the Monsoon***, now on Showtime, starring Terry Kinney and Diane Venora; **David Sporn's *The Road from Erebus***, currently playing on HBO; and **Art Jones' *Going Nomad***, starring Damian Young and Victor Argo. That last collaboration led to 2003's ***Lustre***, the feature by Art Jones starring Victor Argo -- featuring Ben's keen eye for dramatic setting and the beauty of the New York cityscape. Ben photographed **Deborah Kampmeier's *Virgin***, featuring Robin Wright Penn, Elizabeth Moss, and Daphne Rubin-Vega, which has been nominated for two **2004 Independent Spirit Awards**. Ben takes his trade to the far reaches for documentaries - from Oaxaca, Mexico to Lijiang, China. His cinematography has been praised in a series of American Cinematographer articles, notably for **Jones' *Going Nomad*** and **Charles Weinstein's *Under the Bridge***. Ben's photography helped bring **Bernard Malamud's** short story, ***The First Seven Years***, to life on PBS. It guided **Howard Libov's *Little Man*** and ***Under the Radar*** to festival acclaim, and lifted **Shoja Azari's *K***, which screened at the **Venice Film Festival in 2002**. May 2003 marked a second career milestone for Ben, who managed to photograph **three films at the 2003 Tribeca Film Festival** - and in three distinct categories: short (***The Last Word*** by the internationally renowned **Shirin Neshat**), documentary (***Witnessing*** by **Aileen Ghee**), and feature (**Jones' *Lustre***).

### **Emily Gumpel, Film Editor**

Emily Gumpel graduated from SUNY Purchase in 1993 with a degree in Fine Arts and a minor in Film Theory. She began working in the film industry as an assistant editor on films such as ***New Jersey Drive***, ***Surviving Picasso*** and ***American Psycho***. She has edited more than 20 feature films, shorts and television shows including the feature ***Miss Monday***, which won an award at the **1998 Sundance Film Festival**, ***Black Picket Fence***, a feature documentary, which won several awards at both the **2001 Brooklyn Film Festival** and the **Urban World Festival**, and ***60 Odd Hours in Italy*** which was directed and produced by **Russell Crowe** and premiered at the **2001 Sundance Film Festival**. She is currently editing the documentary ***Collateral Damages***, which looks at the after effects of September 11th on several New York City firefighters.

### **Michael Stewart, Co-Writer**

Michael Stewart is a graduate of New York University's film program at the Tisch School of the Arts. He co-wrote the story for the feature film ***Bad Dreams***, directed by **Andrew Fleming** and produced by **Gale Ann Hurd**, and co-wrote the screenplay for the feature ***Eye of the Storm*** with **Yuri Zeltser**, the director of the film, which was produced by **Roland Emmerich**. Stewart also co-wrote, with Zeltser and Howard Libov, the screenplay for Libov's ***Midnight Edition***.

### **Murray Attaway, Composer**

Murray Attaway was a founding member of **Guadalcanal Diary**, noted for a sound that was at once melodic and rhythmically aggressive, with a decidedly literary and spiritual bent to the group's lyrics. **Guadalcanal Diary** was formed in 1981 by guitarist and singer Murray and lead guitarist Jeff Walls, who'd first met in 1977 when they both joined a punk band called **Strictly American**. Attaway chose the name **Guadalcanal Diary** from a book by **Richard Tregaski** about the U.S. campaign against Japan during World War II, enamored of the name's surface ambiguities and undertones of patriotism and warfare. Murray went on to record as a solo artist for **Geffen Records**, with the release of ***In Thrall***.

--courtesy ***Pandora.com***

### **Mike Mills, Composer**

**R.E.M.** formed at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, in January 1980. Discovering they had similar tastes, vocalist **Michael Stipe** and guitarist **Peter Buck** began working together, eventually meeting bassist **Mike Mills** and drummer **Bill Berry**. In April 1980, the band formed under the name **Twisted Kites**, playing psychedelic bubblegum, and punk covers in a converted Episcopalian church. By the summer, the band had settled on the name **R.E.M.** after flipping randomly through the dictionary.

Though Mike is known primarily as a bassist and piano player, his musical repertoire includes many other keyboard, string, wind and percussion instruments. He is responsible for the songwriting behind some of **R.E.M.'s** most respected songs, including ***"Find the River"***, ***"At My Most Beautiful"***, ***"Why Not Smile"***, ***"Let Me In"***, and ***"What's The Frequency, Kenneth?"***. In addition to providing backing melodies, he has also sung lead vocals on ***"Texarkana"***, ***"Near Wild Heaven"***, **The Clique** cover ***"Superman"*** and **The Troggs** cover, ***"Love Is All Around"***.

--courtesy ***wikipedia.com***

## Brian Gonsar, Producer

Currently a producer at international advertising agency **BBDO**, Brian has had an expansive career producing commercials for clients such as **GE, Bank of America, Domino's, Jet Blue, Ford**, and many others. Brian is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University's film program. His producer/director role while at the university led him to direct an indie music video for NY band **Radio Mundial** which played in seven different countries and rose to the top of the several music video program's playlists while his video for the NJ band **Copperpot** went on to win **Best Music Video** at the **CU2 Video & Film Festival in New York City**. He has shot footage for **Arista** recording artist, **Dido**, the **United States Golf Association**, and the **NY Redbulls** soccer team.

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*Favorite Son* earned a **Remi Gold Award** at **Houston WorldFest 2009** in the **Dramatic Feature Film** category.

Director **Howard Libov** and other Cast and Crew Members are available for interview by appointment.

Please contact: **Steve Thompson**  
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### **Hoboken International Film Festival** **May 29 through June 4**

The 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award winner will be **Cloris Leachman**  
(The Last Picture Show; Young Frankenstein; The Women;  
The Mary Tyler Moore Show; Dancing With the Stars).

All festival venues are located in the heart of New Jersey's artistic capital, with gorgeous, waterfront scenic views of the New York City skyline.

[www.hobokeninternationalfilmfestival.com](http://www.hobokeninternationalfilmfestival.com)

### **Cedar Lane Cinemas 4**

503 Cedar Lane; Teaneck, NJ 07666  
**201-836-3334**

*Favorite Son* is now in distribution with

### **PANORAMA ENTERTAINMENT**

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