

HEAVEN

15:00

HELL



JAMES CROMWELL

# ADMISSIONS

A SHORT FILM

WHAT IF YOU HAD TO FACE EVERY DECISION YOU'VE EVER MADE  
AND THE PEOPLE THEY AFFECTED MOST?

JAMES CROMWELL  
**ADMISSIONS**  
A SHORT FILM

DIRECTED BY HARRY KAKATSAKIS  
PRODUCED BY GAVIN J BEHRMAN  
WRITTEN BY JOHN VISCOUNT

RUNNING TIME: 20:58  
FORMAT: HD SHOT WITH PANAVISION CAMERAS AND LENSES

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## Short Synopsis:

*Admissions* is a short film starring Academy Award nominee James Cromwell that tells a transformational tale about what it takes to find lasting peace. Featuring an Israeli couple and a Palestinian, this modern parable is set in the Admissions Room for the Afterlife. Its purpose is to start a conversation that heals.

## Long Synopsis:

James Cromwell plays an enlightened clerk who works in the Admissions Room for the Afterlife. He is called on to guide an Israeli couple (Anna Khaja & Anthony Batarese), and a Palestinian (Oren Dayan), who go through Admissions together because they have suffered similar tragic endings. As the details of their deaths and how their fates are intertwined become clear, the Clerk attempts to reveal the wisdom required to find everlasting peace.

## The Inspiration:

The screenplay for *Admissions* was originally written as a response to 9/11. Alarmed by the rising amount of division and hostility in the world, John Viscount (Writer) felt compelled to put forth an interpretation of life that he hoped would lead more naturally to forgiveness. He did so by creating a different world, the Admissions Room for the Afterlife, that reflected the teachings he had found most healing in his own life. This ethos is probably summed up best in the film by James Cromwell's character, "The Clerk," when he tells Ahmad, "the ones who find it hardest to love, need love the most."

When the US-Iraq war began, Viscount once again felt compelled to respond and did so by co-writing the eventual theme song to the film with his music partner, Matthew Yelton. "Free" quickly became the perfect companion piece to *Admissions* because it reflects the same thought system as the film. Its simple, powerful message is that we experience true freedom when we "put some love back into love."

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A SHORT FILM

## THE MAKING OF *ADMISSIONS*

In 2010, Viscount found the message of *Admissions* as timely as when it was first written and sent it to his close friend, Gavin J Behrman (Producer). The two decided that it needed to be made, especially in the current, geo-political climate. Harry Kakatsakis (Director) enthusiastically agreed and the three began the work of bringing *Admissions* to life.

Once the core production team of Kakatsakis, Viscount and Behrman came together, the financing and casting process began. Early in 2011, a fundraising drive on Kickstarter was launched. Within three months, 144 people generously donated enough money to help raise over \$17,000.

Next, another campaign began to find the right A-List actor to play the role of "The Clerk." Producer Crispian Belfrage was enlisted to assist in this endeavor, and by mid-June 2011, Academy Award nominee and peace activist James Cromwell agreed to perform in the role.

With financing secured and a strong cast assembled, shooting began at the end of July 2011. Behrman then put to work the deep list of contacts he had made over his years in the business. On the production of Warner Bros' *Something Borrowed*, he had met Director of Photography, Charles Minsky ASC, a highly accomplished veteran of the motion picture industry with a long list of Hollywood hits including *Pretty Woman*, *Valentine's Day*, *You Me and Dupree*, *The Producers*, and *New Year's Eve*. Minsky agreed to come on board as soon as he read the script.

Going into production with Hollywood heavyweights like Cromwell and Minsky took the project to a whole new level. Traceigh Scottel (Producer) was then brought in to run the physical production, and soon after, the film received cameras donated by Panavision, grip and lighting equipment from Leonetti, and a very generous stage deal from Quixote Studios, a top Los Angeles soundstage.

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A SHORT FILM

## THE MAKING OF *ADMISSIONS*

The film was shot in two days over a weekend with a wonderful family of over fifty crew members. Many came on board to work for very little, or donated their expertise.

Once the film was in the can, another all-star team was assembled for post-production. The talented Harry Yoon (Editor) came highly recommended and was recruited to cut the film. Simon Scott (Visual Effects), an Emmy, Clio, and Telly award-winning Flame Artist, donated his outstanding services to build the visual effects shots and do the color correction. Perry Robertson & Scott Sanders of EarCandy, Inc. (Sound Design & Editorial) kindly contributed their crew and facilities to provide the sound mix. EarCandy, Inc. has performed post sound services for productions such as *Red State*, *Up in the Air*, *Juno*, *Rambo* and *17 Again*. Veteran trailer producer Michael Goodnight (Co-Producer) was enlisted to design the film's marketing with Viscount. The duo created a campaign and trailer that features voiceover by international music impresario Nic Harcourt (KCSN-FM).

The filmmakers are profoundly indebted to each individual who donated their passion, time, talent and money to the project. Without them, *Admissions* would not exist. For a complete list of the crew and all those who backed the film, please visit, [www.admissionsfilm.com](http://www.admissionsfilm.com).

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## ADMISSIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

In 1793, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a founding father of the United States, called for the creation of a Department of Peace that would be on equal footing with the Department of War.

The department's purpose was to cultivate peace with all humankind, teach us to forgive and love our enemies, subdue the passion for war, and inspire veneration for human life.

In 1935, the first bill was introduced in Congress calling for the creation of a United States Department of Peace.

Since then over 100 similar bills have been introduced in 31 other congressional sessions.

No bill has ever passed.

To join the effort to establish Departments of Peace in governments across the globe, please contact:

Global Alliance for Ministries & Infrastructures for Peace

[www.mfp-dop.org](http://www.mfp-dop.org)

The filmmakers are also partnering with other venerable peace organizations and conferences to help spread the message of *Admissions* through their worldwide networks. The ultimate goal is to affect a positive change of mind in the world.

# ADMISSIONS

## THE CAST

### **James Cromwell** "The Clerk"

Born in Los Angeles, raised in Manhattan, and educated at Middlebury College and Carnegie Tech, James Cromwell, the son of noted film director John Cromwell, studied acting at Carnegie-Mellon. He then went into the theater, like both his parents, doing everything from Shakespeare to experimental plays. He first appeared on TV in 1974, gaining notice in a recurring role as Archie Bunker's buddy, Stretch Cunningham in *All In The Family* (1968). Some of his more noted film roles have been in *Revenge of the Nerds* (1984) and the surprise hit about a charming pig, *Babe* (1995), which earned him an Academy Award nomination. He garnered some of the best reviews of his career for his role as a corrupt, conniving police captain in *L.A. Confidential* (1997). Overall, James has appeared in over 155 productions, including TV and film, over his long, distinguished career.

### **Anna Khaja** "Daphna"

Anna first gained recognition on the big screen in *King of California*, as the unyielding but vulnerable cop who faces off with - and eventually is seduced by - Michael Douglas. Then, in five more features, Anna plays an eclectic mix of roles alongside Jim Carrey and Bradley Cooper (*Yes Man*), Chris McDonald (*Reunion*), JK Simmons and Alexis Bledel (*Post Grad*), Milo Ventimiglia (*Order of Chaos*) and Robert Carlyle and Danny Masterson (*California Solo*). Her television appearances include *The Closer*, *House M.D.*, *Private Practice*, *This Might Hurt*, *Flash Forward*, *Numb3rs*, *Sleeper Cell*, *Dirt* and *Weeds*. Anna is also the 2011 winner of the Ovation Award for Lead Actress in a Play for *Shaheed: The Dream and Death of Benazir Bhutto* (also nominated for Best Production of the year) that she wrote and performed in both LA and NY. In 2007, she originated the role of the Iraqi mother "Nerjas," delivering a 45 minute monologue in the US Premiere of Canadian playwright Judith Thompson's *Palace Of The End*, receiving an LA Weekly Award for Solo Performance as well as a nomination for a Lead Actress Ovation Award. She has also received outstanding notices in the Los Angeles Times, NY Times, The New Yorker and Variety.

### **Oren Dayan** "Ahmad"

Oren Tobias Dayan was born in 1987 in Woodland Hills, CA to Jewish-Israeli parents. The depth of his acting work is a result of always seeking creative challenges. In *Admissions*, he took on the complex task of being an actor of Israeli descent playing a Palestinian who is in bitter conflict with Israel. His other work ranges from the lead in the award-winning play, *Desert Sunrise*, helmed by Misha Shulman, to provocative television roles on *NCIS*, *Lie To Me*, *The Unit*, *The Sarah Connor Chronicles*, as well as the controversial role of Keseb in the short film, *Ripple Effect*.

### **Anthony Batarse** "Eli"

Anthony Batarse was born in Kuwait City where his father worked as an engineer. Shortly after his birth, Anthony's family relocated to Los Angeles where he eventually developed an interest in acting in the drama program at North Hollywood High School. His first professional roles were on stage in several local productions in and around Los Angeles. Roles on episodic television followed, such as *Ryan Caufield: Year One*, *Homeland Security*, *West Wing* and *Days Of Our Lives*. Anthony's many film roles have allowed him to work side by side with actors such as George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Ice Cube, Jamie Foxx, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman and Jeremy Piven.

# ADMISSIONS

## THE FILMMAKERS

Harry Kakatsakis (Director) is a native New Yorker, raised by acting professionals. He has written and directed numerous plays that have appeared at such theaters and events as The Ensemble Studio Theater, the NYC Fringe Festival and The A Train Plays. He directed *In My Country*, a top finalist in Moveon.org's Bush in 30 Seconds Contest. He produced and directed *43 Days*, a training video chronicling a teen runaway's descent into prostitution. He also wrote the feature film *Search & Destroy* for Larry Levinson Productions. He is currently represented by Gage Group LA, and is developing several projects including feature films, television, and web series.

Gavin J Behrman (Producer) is a 18-year veteran of the film industry. He has worked all over the world on the production of over 28 feature films such as *Valkyrie*, *The Book of Eli*, *Thank You For Smoking*, *Spiderman*, *Erin Brockovich* and *The Horse Whisperer*. His most recent projects include *The Adjustment Bureau*, *Tower Heist* and *Another Happy Day*, winner of the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. Gavin believes that important films can send a powerful message to the world, influencing society's views and ultimately the course of history.

John Viscount (Writer & Producer) is a writer, music composer and branding specialist who has worked with a variety of clients including Transamerica, JBL, Fender Guitars, Roland Music Corporation, Sega, Pitney Bowes and Jet Propulsion Laboratory. John also edited for AskMoses.com, a free, 24-hour counseling website, and Fabrengen, a publication featuring uplifting stories and advice read by millions worldwide. He also did extensive pro bono writing for Room To Read, an organization that builds schools, libraries and computer rooms in impoverished areas of Nepal, India, Vietnam, Cambodia and Africa. In this type of work, John experienced the powerful attraction and transformational capability of positive messaging. He then became founder of Mind Over Fabric, an organic clothing line featuring uplifting messages inspired by spiritual teachings from around the world. John is also the co-writer of the theme song for *Admissions* and recently completed a companion book of spiritual essays based on the teachings in the film. His goal with all his projects is to help cultivate more peace in the world through the creation of content that elevates as it entertains.