

# BIG SUR

A Film by Michael Polish  
2013 / USA / English / Drama  
81 min / HD / 2.40 / Dolby 5.1

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LOGLINE:

A recounting of Jack Kerouac's three sojourns to the cabin in Big Sur owned by poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

SYNOPSIS:

Based on the 1962 novel by American literary icon Jack Kerouac, Big Sur recounts the events surrounding Kerouac's three brief sojourns to a cabin in Bixby Canyon, Big Sur, owned by Kerouac's friend and fellow Beat poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. The story departs from Kerouac's previous fictionalized autobiographical series in that the self- inspired character is shown as a popular, published author; Kerouac's previous works are restricted to depicting Kerouac's days as a bohemian traveler.

The movie depicts Kerouac's mental and physical deterioration. Kerouac is unable to cope with a suddenly demanding public, and is battling with advanced alcoholism. He seeks respite first in solitude in the Big Sur cabin, then in a relationship with Billie, the mistress of his longtime friend Neal Cassady. Kerouac initially finds solace in the Big Sur wilderness, but is driven by loneliness to return to the city, and resumes drinking heavily.

Across Kerouac's subsequent trips to Big Sur and interleaved lifestyle in San Francisco, he drunkenly embarrasses Neal by introducing Billie to Neal's wife, cannot emotionally provide for the increasingly demanding Billie, and finds himself increasingly unable to integrate into suburban life. Kerouac's inner turmoil culminates in his nervous breakdown during his third journey to Big Sur, which serves as his farewell to the beat generation.

QUOTES:

“Big Sur achieves one of the trickier challenges in cinema, dramatising the inner demons of a character awash in melancholy and addiction.”  
**Screen Daily**

“The truest stab yet at bringing Kerouac's artistry to the screen.”  
**Variety**

‘Filming a truly immersive and dimensional adaptation of a Kerouac novel remains an ongoing challenge for any filmmaker, but Polish’s film comes closer than most, while adding another layer of complexity to the author’s venerable reputation.’  
**The Hollywood Reporter**

TECH SPECS:

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Run Time           | 80 min           |
| Country            | USA              |
| Language           | English          |
| Shooting Format    | RED (5K)         |
| Soun               | Dolby 5.1        |
| Aspect Ratio       | 2.40             |
| Production Company | 3311 Productions |

CAST:

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Jean-Marc Barr  | Jack Kerouac          |
| Kate Bosworth   | Billie                |
| Josh Lucas      | Neal Cassady          |
| Radha Mitchell  | Carolyn Cassady       |
| Anthony Edwards | Lawrence Ferlinghetti |
| Henry Thomas    | Philip Whalen         |

CREW:

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Writer / Director       | Michael Polish          |
| Based on the novel by   | Jack Kerouac            |
| Producers               | Orian Williams          |
|                         | Ross Jacobson           |
|                         | Adam Kassen             |
|                         | Michael Polish          |
| Executive Producers     | Jim Sampas              |
|                         | Mark Roberts            |
|                         | Eddie Vaisman           |
|                         | Donal Logue             |
| Director of Photography | M. David Mullen, A.S.C  |
| Production Designer     | Max Biscoe              |
| Editors                 | Robert Frazen, A.C.E.   |
|                         | Geraud Brisson          |
| Costume Designer        | Bic Owen                |
| Composers               | Bryce and Aaron Dessner |



## JEAN-MARC BARR (Jack Kerouac)

Jean-Marc Barr was born in Germany to a French mother and an American father, a USAir Force officer. He studied at UCLA and the Sorbonne, completing his drama education at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He is best known to U.S. audiences for his roles in *Hope and Glory* (1987), *The Big Blue* (1988), *Europa* (1991) and *Breaking the Waves* (1996) including many other independent European films.

His collaboration with Danish director Lars Von Trier put him on track to start directing his own works. He debuted in 1999 as a co-director, screenwriter and producer with *Lovers*, made in harmony with the Dogma 95 Manifesto. This film became the first part of a Free-Trilogy whose two subsequent parts – the drama *Too Much Flesh* (2000) and the comedy *Being Light* (2001) – that he co-directed with Pascal Arnold. Their last three films *One to Another* (2006), *American Translation* (2011) and *Sexual Chronicles of a French Family* (2012) have had US releases.





## KATE BOSWORTH (Billie)

Kate Bosworth has made the seamless transition from a young Hollywood starlet to one of today's leading ladies. She played the iconic 'Lois Lane' in Warner Bros. Superman Returns for director Bryan Singer and graced the screen in Kevin Spacey's Beyond the Sea, where she portrayed screen icon 'Sandra Dee' opposite Spacey as Bobby Darin. Receiving rave reviews from critics, Dee herself gave a nod of approval for her portrayal as the ultimate golden girl. Bosworth was most recently seen in the independent film Little Birds with Juno Temple and will next be seen in Michael Polish's Big Sur with Josh Lucas, which will premiere at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. She will also star in the thriller Black Rock with Lake Bell out this spring. She also just finished shooting the Sylvester Stallone-penned action-thriller Homefront where she stars opposite James Franco and Jason Statham.

Her additional recent credits include the comedy Life Happens starring opposite Krysten Ritter and Rachel Bilson, Sam Levinson's indie drama Another Happy Day starring opposite Demi Moore and Ellen Barkin, the remake of Straw Dogs with James Marsden and Alexander Skarsgard, the action film The Warriors Way with Danny Huston and Geoffrey Rush, David Auburn's drama The Girl in the Park opposite Sigourney Weaver and in Robert Luketic's 21. Most recognized for her strong-willed performance in John Stockwell's hugely successful Blue Crush, Bosworth landed her first lead role after dedicating herself to a crash course in surfing.

Contradicting the blonde surfer-girl image and showcasing her multidimensional range, she starred in the dark indie biopic Wonderland, portraying the real-life girlfriend of the late, infamous porn star John Holmes, played by Val Kilmer.

With this determination not to be type-cast, it is no surprise that Bosworth made another turn in her next film Win a Date with Tad Hamilton, Robert Luketic's romantic comedy in which she starred opposite Topher Grace and Josh Duhamel. Critics dubbed her as America's next sweetheart for her performance as a small town girl caught in a love triangle. Bosworth also made a cameo appearance in Bee Season as a Hari Krishna convert opposite Max Minghella, Richard Gere and Juliette Binoche.

While she made her feature film debut in Robert Redford's film The Horse Whisperer at the age of 14, Bosworth made the decision early on to make education her priority—choosing parts that

would accommodate her school schedule. While in high school, she starred in the WB's hit summer series Young Americans and took a role in Jerry Bruckheimer's Remember the Titans. Subsequent to her graduation, Bosworth starred in Roger Avey's Rules of Attraction.



## **RADHA MITCHELL (Carolyn Cassady)**

Radha Mitchell continues to be one of the most versatile and hardest working actresses in Hollywood with a slew of feature films on the way. Recently wrapped production on Standing Up with Val Kilmer, Gus with Michelle Monaghan, Evidence with Stephen Moyer, Fugly! with John Leguizamo, Bird People with Josh Charles and ensemble films The Frozen Ground opposite John Cusack, Nicholas Cage and Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, Big Sur alongside Stana Katic, Josh Lucas and Kate Bosworth which will premiere at Sundance, as well as Olympus Has Fallen with Morgan Freeman, Gerard Butler, Dylan McDermott, Aaron Eckhart, Ashley Judd, Angela Bassett, Robert Forster and Melissa Leo slated for theatrical release on April 5, 2013. Upon completion of these projects, Mitchell was tapped for the lead role in ABC's new organized-crime drama series Red Widow from Twilight-scribe Melissa Rosenberg which premieres on March 3, 2013.

Mitchell was last seen in leading roles for the feature films Surrogates opposite Bruce Willis and The Crazies alongside Timothy Olyphant. In 2009, Mitchell co-produced and starred in the indie, The Waiting City, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and screened for the closing gala of the 2010 Indian Film Festival Los Angeles (IFFLA). She has also starred in such features as The Children of Huang Shi with Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Chow Yun-Fat, Henry Poole is Here with Luke Wilson, Feast of Love alongside Morgan Freeman and Greg Kinnear, Silent Hill as the leading role, Finding Neverland opposite Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet and Dustin Hoffman, Man on Fire with Denzel Washington, the innovative feature film, Phone Booth, opposite Colin Farrell, Pitch Black starring Vin Diesel and her acclaimed dual performance as both the comic and tragic leads in Woody Allen's Melinda and Melinda.

Other past notable film credits includes the independent feature Dead Heat opposite Keifer Sutherland and Anthony LaPaglia, When Strangers Appear alongside Josh Lucas, Nobody's Baby with Gary Oldman and Skeet Ulrich, Mozart and the Whale opposite Josh Harnett and Rodrigo Garcia's Ten Tiny Love Stories.

On television, she starred with Hank Azaria and Donald Sutherland in NBC's critically acclaimed mini-series, Uprising, for director Jon Avnet. Mitchell gave a memorable performance as Syd, the young editorial assistant who falls in love with Ally Sheedy's heroin-addicted photographer character in Lisa Cholodenko's critically acclaimed drama High Art. Her role in Emma-Kate Croghan's romantic comedy Love and Other Catastrophes was highly praised at both the Cannes and Sundance film festivals.

Originally hailing from Australia, Radha currently resides in Southern California.

## **JOSH LUCAS (Neal Cassady)**

Josh Lucas' film career began by accident in 1979 when a small Canadian film production was filmed on the tiny coastal South Carolina Island, The Isle of Palms, where Lucas and his family lived. Unbeknownst to the filmmakers, 8-year-old Lucas was hiding in the sand dunes watching filming during the climatic scene where teenage lovers engage in a love sick fight. It was during this experience that Lucas decided to pursue a career in film.

Born to young, radical, politically active parents in Arkansas in 1971, Lucas spent his early childhood nomadically moving around the southern United States. The family finally settled in Gig Harbor, Washington, where Lucas attended high school. The school had an award winning drama/debate program and Lucas won the State Championship in Dramatic Interpretation and competed at the National Championship in 1989. Brief stints in professional theater in Seattle followed, before Lucas moved to Los Angeles. After receiving breaks playing a young George Armstrong Custer in the Steven Spielberg production Class of '61 and in the Frank Marshall film Alive, Lucas' career toiled in minor television appearances. Frustrated, he decided to start over and relocate to New York City.

In NYC, Lucas studied acting for years under Suzanne Shepherd and performed in smaller theater productions, like Shakespeare in the Parking Lot, before receiving another break in 1997 when he was cast as Judas in Terrence McNally's controversial off-Broadway production of Corpus Christi. The play led to





his being cast in the films *You Can Count on Me* and *American Psycho*. These films were followed by performances in the Oscar-winning *A Beautiful Mind* and the box office hit *Sweet Home Alabama*. After which, Lucas gave memorable performances in various films, such as Ang Lee's *Hulk*, David Gordon Green's *Undertow*, *Secondhand Lions*, *Wonderland*, Lasse Hallstrom's *An Unfinished Life* and Wolfgang Petersen's *Poseidon*. In 2005, Lucas gained nearly 40 pounds to play legendary basketball coach Don Haskins in the Jerry Bruckheimer production *Glory Road*. Lucas followed this performance by making his Broadway debut in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. Lucas' other theater credits include the award-winning off-Broadway production of *Spalding Gray: Stories Left to Tell*. Lucas's first producing project, the intensely personal Boaz Yakin film *Death in Love*, was released in 2009 in which he also starred. Lucas also produced and starred in the IFC film *Stolen* opposite Jon Hamm, which was released in select theatres last year.

Lucas recently wrapped production on *Space Warriors* opposite Thomas Horn and Dermott Mulroney. Lucas will play the role of Col. Roy Manley in the film written and directed by Sean McNamara. He is currently in production on *Wish You Well*, directed by Darnell Martin.

Lucas recently starred on NBC's drama, *The Firm* based on the book by John Grisham and was seen this past summer in *Hide Away*, which followed the story of a successful businessman (Lucas) attempting to resurrect his life and about the inevitability of change. Lucas was previously seen in the Warner Brothers film *J. Edgar* as the character role of Charles Lindbergh. *J. Edgar*, directed by Clint Eastwood and written by Dustin Lance Black. Lucas also recently wrapped production on two films: Millennium Films *Medallion* alongside Nicolas Cage, and the independent film *Big Sur* alongside Kate Bosworth. Lucas can also be seen in the Australian independent film *Red Dog* opposite Rachael Taylor. Adapted from the beloved and bestselling novel "Red Dog" by Louis De Bernieres, the film captures the story of a loyal dog searching the Australian Outback for its owner (Lucas). Roadshow Films released the film in Australia on August 4th, 2011 to rave reviews. *Red Dog* has quickly become one of Australia's highest-grossing Australian films.

In May 2011, Lucas starred in Anchor Bay's dark comedy *Daydream Nation*, opposite Kat Dennings. *Daydream Nation* premiered at the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival. Lucas also starred in the Lionsgate film *The Lincoln Lawyer*, opposite Matthew McConaughey; *Life as We Know*, opposite Katherine Heigl and the independent film, *Hideaway*, opposite Ayelet Zurer and James Cromwell, which premiered at the 2011 SXSW film festival.

Lucas has always remained fascinated by documentaries, and over the past few years has worked repeatedly with film legend Ken Burns on the documentaries *The War*, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, and *Prohibition*, in which he narrated. He was involved in the Oscar-nominated *Operation Homecoming*, and appeared in the National Board of Review's award winner *Trumbo*. Lucas also appeared in the Los Angeles Film Festival's award winning film *Resolved*, as well as Barry Levinson's documentary *Poliwood*.

Lucas resides in New York City.





## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### MICHAEL POLISH (Writer/Director/Actor & Producer)

Michael Polish burst onto the independent film scene in 1999 with his first feature, *Twin Falls Idaho*. Sony Pictures Classics won the bidding war for theatrical distribution of the film which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival (1999). In 2000 Michael followed up with the film *Jackpot*. Sony Pictures Classics also distributed the film and the film garnered a 2001 Independent Spirit Awards' John Cassavetes' Best Independent Film Award and the 2001 Seattle International Film Festival's New American Cinema Award. In 2002, Michael directed *Northfork* which also premiered at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival and was distributed by Paramount Classics. In 2006 Michael teamed up with Warner Independent for *The Astronaut Farmer*. In 2010 Michael directed *For Lovers Only* and *Big Sur*, which will premiere at Sundance in 2013. In 2011 Michael directed *Hot Bot*. Michael is a native of El Centro, California. Additionally, Michael studied Visual Communications and Animation at Cal Arts.

### ORIAN WILLIAMS (Producer)

Orian Williams Born in Jackson, Mississippi is an award-winning film producer whose credits include, the Academy Award nominated film, *Shadow of the Vampire*, starring John Malkovich and Willem Dafoe also produced by Nicolas Cage. Orian then set his sites on producing the BAFTA and Cannes winning critically acclaimed film, *Control*, directed by his only choice as director Anton Corbijn which details the life and times of Joy Division front man, Ian Curtis, which was based on the book he optioned 'Touching from a Distance' written by Deborah Curtis. Along the way producing and releasing the comedy *Tennis Anyone?*, with his friend Donal Logue and produced the documentary *One Fast Move Or I'm Gone: Kerouac's Big Sur*. Orian then decided his documentary on Kerouac's *Big Sur* should be made it into a narrative feature film with Michael Polish as director, starring Jean Marc-Barr as Kerouac. Currently he's producing *Dog Years* with director Gore Verbinski and right now working on getting the film *Mystery White Boy* off the ground which follows Jeff Buckley from his rise and fall during his New York and Memphis years with documentary director Amy Berg at the helm as well as *Wonderland Avenue* based on the book by Danny Sugerman and *KIT* based on the life and times of Kit Lambert, a trouble eccentric man who managed the band The Who.

Amongst his many accolades, the versatile producer was chosen by Variety Magazine as one of 2007's Top Ten Producers. Prior to his film career, he was a commercial producer and also dabbled in journalism, public relations, acting, and the music business. He currently resides in Los Angeles, CA.

### M. DAVID MULLEN, ASC (Director of Photography)

M. David Mullen, ASC, studied filmmaking and cinematography at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), where he received his Master's Degree. Since then, he has photographed more than thirty independent feature films and three television series.

He was nominated for the IFP Independent Spirit Award for Best Cinematography in 2000 for *Twin Falls Idaho* and again in 2004 for *Northfork* both films by Michael and Mark Polish. In 2000, he photographed *Jackpot* the first 24P HD feature to be released theatrically in North America. He has worked with a number of digital cinema cameras since then, including the new Red Epic and ARRI Alexa.

In 2004, he became a member of the American Society of Cinematographers; in 2007, he joined the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Projects released in the past few years include *Jennifer's Body* for 20th Century Fox and the NBC series *Smash*. In addition, he photographed the pilot episode of *The Good Wife* for CBS. He also updated the classic textbook "Cinematography" with original author Kris Malkiewicz, and has written a number of articles about his own work for various filmmaking magazines.