# ANTHONY LAPAGLIA OSCAR ISAAC

## WWW.BALIBO.COM PRESS BUOK

# BALIBO

PRESENTED BY SCREEN AUSTRALIA, ARENAFILM, CINIMOD FILMS AND LAST STRAW PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH FILM VICTORIA, SHOWTIME AUSTRALIA, THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PREMIERE FUND AND CONTENTFILM INTERNATIONAL

ROGER EAST ANTHONY LAPAGLIA JOSE RAMOS-HORTA OSCAR ISAAC

GREG SHACKLETON DAMON GAMEAU GARY CUNNINGHAM GYTON GRANTLEY MALCOLM RENNIE NATHAN PHILLIPS TONY STEWART MARK LEONARD WINTER BRIAN PETERS THOMAS WRIGHT JULIANA BEA VIEGAS

DIRECTOR ROBERT CONNOLLY PRODUCERS JOHN MAYNARD, REBECCA WILLIAMSON SCREENPLAY DAVID WILLIAMSON, ROBERT CONNOLLY BASED ON THE BOOK "COVER UP" BY JILL JOLLIFFE

CINEMATOGRAPHER TRISTAN MILANI ACS FILM EDITOR NICK MEYERS SOUND DESIGNERS SAM PETTY, EMMA BORTIGNON ORIGINAL MUSIC LISA GERRARD PRODUCTION DESIGNER ROBERT COUSINS COSTUME DESIGNER CAPPI IRELAND HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGNER ANGELA CONTE CASTING JANE NORRIS MULLINARS CONSULTANTS LINE PRODUCER SARAH SHAW EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANDREW BARLOW, ANDREW MYER, ANTHONY LAPAGLIA, PAUL WIEGARD AUSTRALASIAN DISTRIBUTION FOOTPRINT FILMS WITH TRANSMISSION FILMS AND PARAMOUNT PICTURES AUSTRALIA INFO@FOOTPRINTFILMS.COM.AU

INTERNATIONAL SALES CONTENTFILM INTERNATIONAL LONDON@CONTENTFILM.COM

#### **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

YEAR OF PRODUCTION	2009
RUNNING TIME	111 MINUTES
LENGTH IN METRES	3046м
LENGTH IN FEET	10011FT
SOUND	DOLBY SR & DOLBY DIGITAL
RATIO	1:1:85
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH, SOME TETUM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
FILMED ON LOCATION IN	N AUSTRALIA AND EAST TIMOR

#### EAST TIMOR, 1975: FIVE JOURNALISTS ARE MISSING. ONE MAN SEARCHES FOR THE TRUTH. ONE MAN FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE.

East Timor, 1975. As Indonesia prepares to invade the tiny nation of East Timor, five Australian-based journalists go missing.

Four weeks later, veteran foreign correspondent Roger East is lured to East Timor by the young and charismatic José Ramos-Horta to tell the story of his country and investigate the fate of the missing men.

> As East's determination to uncover the truth grows, the threat of invasion intensifies and an unlikely friendship develops between the last foreign correspondent in East Timor and the man who will become President.

> > BALIBO is a political thriller that tells the true story of crimes that have been covered up for over thirty years.



#### **ROBERT CONNOLLY** WRITER AND DIRECTOR

Robert Connolly is the writer and director of the feature films THE BANK (2001) and THREE DOLLARS (2005). He is also the producer, together with his business partner John Maynard, of the award-winning films, THE BOYS and ROMULUS, MY FATHER (starring Eric Bana and Franke Potente).

Robert has garnered many awards for his work, including two AFI awards for best original screenplay for both THE BANK and THREE DOLLARS; and Best Film for ROMULUS, MY FATHER in 2007. As a director, he has screened his films in over 30 major international film festivals including the Toronto International Film Festival and San Sebastian Film Festival.

Robert received a Centenary Medal for services to the Australian Film Industry in 2001 and was part of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's 2020 ideas summit in 2008 in Canberra. He has also recently been appointed to the new board of Screen Australia.

### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

There are few equivalent events in Australia's history that so clearly illustrate the clash between principle and pragmatic foreign policy – the abandonment of human rights for short term political gain. In the face of such pragmatic decision-making and blind eye turning, BALIBO looks at the role of those courageous enough to seek out the truth and to maintain the belief for an independent East Timor.

Travelling to East Timor to make the film was certainly one of the most extraordinary experiences for all involved, with the East Timorese welcoming us into their country and working in every area of production to assist with achieving this re-telling of their nation's tragic history. Recreating in Balibo the footage that the Balibo Five were most likely murdered for capturing gave those sequences a tough veracity we would otherwise have struggled to achieve in any other location.

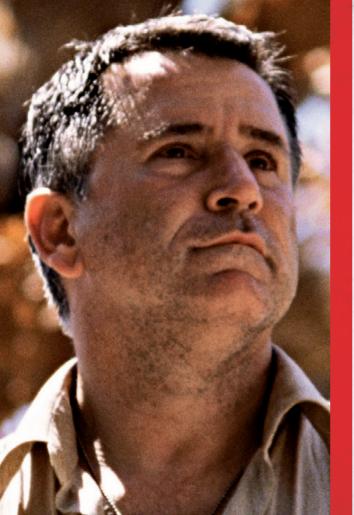
Balibo is a story that demands to be told. The eventual winning of independence for East Timor in 1999 is a modern miracle; a triumph for the determined population of a tiny nation lead by charismatic leaders.











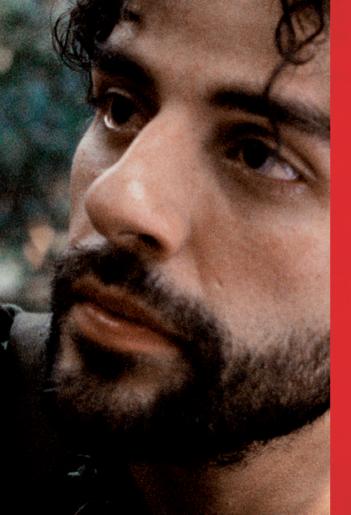
#### ANTHONY LAPAGLIA ROGER EAST

Anthony LaPaglia has received widespread critical acclaim for his portrayal of Jack Malone in WITHOUT A TRACE, winning a Golden Globe Award and earning an Emmy Award nomination and two SAG Award nominations. He won a Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics Circle Award for his performance in Arthur Miller's A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE, of which he is producing a feature film version.

His numerous feature film credits include the critically acclaimed LANTANA, BETSY'S WEDDING, THE HOUSE OF MIRTH, SWEET AND LOWDOWN, THE CLIENT, COMPANY MAN, SUMMER OF SAM, AUTUMN IN NEW YORK, LANSKY, PHOENIX, COMMANDMENTS, BRILLIANT LIES, WINTER SOLSTICE, THE BANK (Directed by Robert Connolly), and THE ARCHITECT and most recently stars as one of the voices of the stop-motion animated feature \$9.99.

His television credits include a recurring role as Simon Moon in FRASIER, for which he earned an Emmy Award, and the series MURDER ONE.

Anthony is also an Executive Producer of BALIBO.



#### OSCAR ISAAC JOSE RAMOS-HORTA

Classically trained with an internationally diverse heritage, Oscar Isaac recently co-starred in the film BODY OF LIES from acclaimed director Ridley Scott, opposite Leonardo DiCaprio and Russell Crowe. He will soon appear in Steven Soderbergh's CHE, with Benicio del Toro, and opposite Rachel Weisz in AGORA, directed by Academy Award winner Alejandro Amenabar, due out December 2009. He has reunited with Ridley Scott shooting the untitled Robin Hood film alongside Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett and will play King John in a film to be released by Universal in 2010.

Oscar's stage credits include Romeo in ROMEO AND JULIET with Lauren Ambrose and a role in TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA adapted by John Guare and Mel Shapiro for the NY Public Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park program. He starred in BEAUTY OF THE FATHER by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Nilo Cruz at Manhattan Theatre Club. Isaac was last seen in MCC Theater's American premiere of Mick Gordon and A.C. Grayling's GRACE with Lynn Redgrave.

Oscar also writes and performs music with his band. He was raised in Miami and currently resides in New York.



#### DAMON GAMEAU GREG SHACKLETON

Since graduating from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 1999, Damon Gameau has starred in the critically acclaimed feature films THE TRACKER, directed by Rolf de Heer, THUNDERSTRUCK and RAZZLE DAZZLE, both directed by Darren Ashton.

In 2005, Damon performed in the sell-out season of RAY'S TEMPEST at the Belvoir St Theatre, directed by Richard Roxburgh. His television credits include THE MICALLEF PROGRAM, groundbreaking SBS drama, GOING HOME, the multi-award-winning Foxtel drama, LOVE MY WAY, the British mini-series for Ecosse Films, RAW and the highest rating Australian drama series, UNDERBELLY: A TALE OF TWO CITIES.

#### GYTON GRANTLEY GARY CUNNINGHAM

Gyton has worked extensively in theatre, television and film. For television, Gyton is best known for his portrayal of Carl Williams in the highly acclaimed UNDERBELLY and will soon appear in the highly anticipated 30 SECONDS and BARGAIN COAST. Gyton's film credits include PRIME MOVER, ALL MY FRIENDS ARE LEAVING BRISBANE, A MAN'S GOTTA DO, UNDER THE RADAR, DANNY DECKCHAIR, BLURRED, and SWIMMING UPSTREAM.

In 2008 Gyton won an AFI Award for Best Lead Actor in a Television Series and recently received a TV Week Logie Award for Most Outstanding Actor, both for his work in UNDERBELLY.



#### NATHAN PHILLIPS MALCOLM RENNIE

In the last seven years Nathan has appeared in twelve feature films in either starring or co-starring roles. His credits include: AUSTRALIAN RULES (Sundance 2002), WARRIORS OF VIRTUE 2, TAKE AWAY, ONE PERFECT DAY, UNDER THE RADAR, YOU AND YOUR STUPID MATE, WOLF CREEK (Sundance & Cannes 2005), SNAKES ON A PLANE (opposite Samuel L Jackson), REDLINE, SURFER DUDE (opposite Matthew McConaughey), and DYING BREED (Tribeca 2008).

Nathan directed the behind-the-scenes footage of BALIBO in East Timor and has most recently produced, directed and starred in his own short film MESSAGE FROM THE CEO.

#### THOMAS WRIGHT BRIAN PETERS

Thomas Wright is an actor and writer from Melbourne and the cofounder and director of The Black Lung Theatre. He has featured most recently in VAN DIEMANS LAND (2009) for director Jonathan Auf Der Heide and the tele-film THE KING – THE STORY OF GRAHAM KENNEDY (2007) for director Matthew Saville.

In 2008 he featured as the lead character Beane for the Melbourne Theatre Company Production of John Kolvenbach's LOVE SONG, directed by Craig Illot.



#### MARK LEONARD WINTER TONY STEWART

Mark graduated from the VCA in 2007. His credits include the short films ADVANTAGE (Melbourne International Film Festival 2007, Sundance Film Festival 2008) and HELL'S GATES (Best Film, Best Third Year Film and Best Director VCA School of Film and Television 2007, Qantas Touring Award Melbourne International Film Festival 2007).

His feature film credits include PLAYING FOR CHARLIE (Melbourne International Film Festival and Sydney Film Festival 2008) and VAN DIEMEN'S LAND (Adelaide Film Festival 2009).

#### BEA VIEGAS JULIANA

Bea Viegas came to Australia as a one-year old with her family in 1975. She graduated with a Bachelor of Asian Studies from Curtin University of Technology. In 2003/2004 she returned to East Timor as a translator/interpreter and also worked as an English and Tetum language teacher for the Australian Army. Her students included Lieutenant Colonel Sabika. She maintains her practice and interest in languages.

BALIBIO is Bea's first acting experience.

#### JOHN MAYNARD PRODUCER

With a career in film spanning over twentyfive years, John Maynard has produced the debut feature films of some of Australia and New Zealand's most acclaimed directors: Jane Campion (SWEETIE), Vincent Ward (VIGIL, THE NAVIGATOR), Rowan Woods (THE BOYS), Robert Connolly (THE BANK) and Richard Roxburgh (ROMULUS, MY FATHER).

With partner Bridget Ikin, he co-produced Jane Campion's AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE, which won the Silver Lion at Venice Film Festival 1990, and with Robert Connolly he co-produced both THE BOYS, which debuted In Competition at Berlin Film Festival in 1998, and ROMULUS, MY FATHER, which won Best Film at the AFI Awards 2007.

Since 1995 he and Robert Connolly have run the production company Arenafilm as well as their feature film distribution company Footprint Films, which has a reputation for creating innovative marketing campaigns on films such as LOOK BOTH WAYS, MY YEAR WITHOUT SEX and SAMSON & DELILAH.

#### REBECCA WILLIAMSON PRODUCER

Rebecca Williamson has worked for the last fifteen years in film and television. She spent seven years as the senior agent at June Cann Management in Sydney and went on to produce several short films and music videos. Rebecca worked as a co-producer, producer and casting consultant for various companies before moving to Los Angeles in 2000. From 2000-2007 she was the Company Director for Cinimod Films in Los Angeles. BALIBO marks Rebecca's first project with Arenafilm. HE DEFINITIVE, TRUE ACCOUNT

### JILL JOLLIFFE BALIBO

DETAILED AN COMPELLING'

#### JILL JOLLIFFE AUTHOR "COVER-UP"

Jill Jolliffe has been following the Balibo Five story for thirty four years. She witnessed the first incursions of Indonesian regular troops into the territory in September 1975, reported on the death of her five colleagues at Balibo in October, and was evacuated from Dili by the International Red Cross four days before Indonesian paratroopers attacked the capital on 7 December 1975.

In 1978 Jill moved to Portugal, where she continued to follow the East Timor story and to work as a correspondent for The Guardian, The Sunday Times, The Age, the Sydney Morning Herald, and the BBC, among others. She now lives in Darwin and reports regularly from East Timor.

COVER-UP will be re-published as BALIBO in July 2009 by Scribe Publications.



#### LISA GERRARD COMPOSER

Lisa Gerrard is an internationally acclaimed musician, composer and singer. As part of the duo DEAD CAN DANCE, she released nine albums between 1984 and 1995 and in 1995 released her solo debut, THE MIRROR POOL. This was followed by DUALITY in 1998 (a collaboration with Pieter Bourke) and IMMORTAL MEMORY in 2004 (a collaboration with Patrick Cassidy).

In recent years Lisa has become a much sought-after soundtrack composer. She has scored or contributed to the scores for GLADIATOR, HEAT, MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 2, THE INSIDER, NADRO, ALI, WHALE RIDER, BLACK HAWK DOWN, TEARS OF THE SUN, CONSTANTINE and EL NINO DE LUNA (in which she also starred). She received Golden Globe nominations for THE INSIDER and ALI, Grammy and Oscar nominations and a Golden Globe award for the score of GLADIATOR, and four international awards for WHALE RIDER.

#### BALIBO SOUNDTRACK

The music in BALIBO combines an original score by world renowned Australian composer Lisa Gerrard, with traditional Timorese songs. Additional original score in BALIBO was composed by Marcello de Franchesci and Sam Petty.

Traditional Timorese songs are a powerful part of the soundtrack in BALIBO, and include a children's choir from Timor opening the film with the powerful O HELE HO, the Fretilin military anthem FOHO RAMELAU, and the political song KOLELE MAI. The film concludes with Ego Lemo's BALIBO, a Tetum language song composed for the film describing the experiences of the Balibo Five journalists the night before they were to die. Ego is one of East Timor's best known singers, and has spent the last 12 months touring Australia with Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu. Paul Stewart, brother of murdered Balibo Five journalist Tony Stewart, worked with Timorese performer and cast member Osme Gonsalves, on an English/Tetum language interpretation of Graham Parker's 1970s hit, HEY LORD DON'T ASK ME QUESTIONS, to be included on the soundtrack album together with the Dili All Stars political anthem, LIBERDADE.

The Soundtrack Album will be released by ABC Music.





