



Workshops and Panels

Actor's Panel

3:00 Saturday, November 6
Art Center Gallery

William Nix, Moderator

William Nix is the Chairman of the Creative Projects Group, LLC (CPG) and also serves as on the Board of Directors of the related 501(c)(3) Creative Projects Foundation (CPF). These two entities work actively to promote the development of individual and organizational creative capacities, to resolve creative differences and to manage and directly produce motion picture, television, music, interactive videogames, live entertainment and multimedia installations and events.



Will was the Executive Producer of *Firedancer*, a film about the Afghan Diaspora in the U.S. and the first Afghan feature film to be submitted for Oscar consideration, that had its world premiere in Kabul and its U.S. premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York and served in the same capacity on the companion documentary, *Return to Afghanistan*, that premiered at the U.N. Film Festival in New York in October 2007. He also served as both production counsel and Executive Producer for the Spanish language documentary feature, *!Ya Basta!* that premiered at SXSW in March 2007, which focused on the abduction phenomenon in Mexico. Serving as Executive Producer, he is currently in pre-production on two films, one a "global collaborative" feature entitled *The Prophet* that is slated for production by award-winning animators, narrators, composers and musicians from around the world during 2011, and release in 2012, and the other a biographical picture based on the life and work of Kahlil Gibran. He is developing a feature film currently-entitled *Voice of the Child* that is focused on capturing children's individual and collective voices, on film and in song, to show their perspective, wisdom and power to heal the world and has a series of other projects in development.

He is a lifetime voting Member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), and a Member of the Academy of Television Arts and Science (ATAS), the National Academy of Recording Arts and Science (NARAS), the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences (AIAS) and a documentary and feature film producer who actively serves on Award Nominating Screening Juries for both the International Documentary Association (IDA) and AMPAS.

Craig T. Nelson

Emmy Award winner Craig T. Nelson" is a man of many talents... actor, writer, director, and producer. He stars as 'James Salinger' in "The Company Men," written and directed by John Wells. With humor, pathos and keen observation Wells introduces us to the new realities of American life. The film also stars Tommy Lee Jones, Ben Affleck, Kevin Costner and Chris Cooper. It premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and will be released on December 10, 2010. He currently stars as 'Zeek Braverman' on NBC's drama series "Parenthood."



He began his career as a writer/performer on the "Lohman and Barkley Show," and his talent as a writer garnered him a Los Angeles Emmy Award for the show. Nelson's writing credits include "The Alan King Special" and "The Tim Conway Show."

Nelson's feature film credits include: "The Proposal" with Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds, "Blades of Glory" with Will Ferrell, "The Family Stone" with Sarah Jessica Parker and Diane Keaton, "The Skulls," "All Over Again," "Devil's Advocate," in which he co-starred with Al Pacino and Keanu Reeves, "Ghosts of Mississippi" with Whoopi Goldberg, directed by Rob Reiner, "I'm Not Rappaport," co-starring Walter Matthau and Ossie Davis, "Turner & Hooch" with Tom Hanks, "Poltergeist I" and "Poltergeist II - The Other Side" (he contributed to the screenplay),

"Action Jackson," "The Killing Fields," "Silkwood," and "The Osterman Weekend."

In 2004 audiences got to "hear" a new side of the man. He voiced 'Bob Paar,' or as he was known in his superhero days, 'Mr. Incredible,' in the Oscar winning Walt Disney Picture/Pixar Animation Studios "The Incredibles." The film is a DVD bestseller.

Nelson starred as 'Jack Mannion' on "The District," a drama that was inspired by the experiences of real-life police crime fighter Jack Maple. In 1997, he completed his eighth and final season on "Coach," starring as 'Hayden Fox.'

Nelson's guest-star appearances include: series finale of "Monk," a three-episode arc on "CSI:NY," four episodes of "My Name is Earl," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," and "Private Benjamin." He starred in the critically acclaimed series "Call To Glory" and directed its final episode. His television movies include Showtime's award-winning "Dirty Pictures," NBC's "Take Me Home Again" with Kirk Douglas, "Rage," "Toast of Manhattan," "Alex: The Life of a Child," "The Switch," and "The Fire Next Time" and HBO's "The Josephine Baker Story." His mini-series credits include: NBC's "To Serve and Protect" and "Creature."

Nelson was born in Spokane, Wash., on April 4. He has always been interested in music, playing drums and guitar through high school and college. He attended the University of Arizona and studied at the Oxford Theater in L.A. He is a father, grandfather and great-grandfather. In his leisure time he enjoys golf and participates in celebrity/Pro Am's.

Brett Cullen

A veteran of film and television, Brett Cullen has appeared in a number of feature films including *Apollo 13*, *Something to Talk About*, and *The Replacements*. Cullen will next be seen in the MGM film *Red Dawn*, and *Puncture*, starring Chris Evans. Most recently, Cullen was in *The Life Before Her Eyes* directed by Vadim Perelman, *Skateland*, *The Runaways*, and *The Burning Plain*, directed by Guillermo Arriaga.

On television, Cullen has starred in six different series including *Young Riders*, *Orleans*, *Simple Life*, and *Legacy*. Most recently, Cullen recurs on ABC Family's *Make It Or Break It*, and has recurred on *Friday Night Lights*, *Damages*, and *The Gates*. Cullen is also known for his character 'Goodwin' in ABC's *Lost*.



Nick Thurston

Nick Thurston is a California native from the San Francisco Bay Area. He has been acting since childhood, and has now received training at several prestigious schools; including the American Conservatory Theatre and the British American Drama Academy in London. He recently graduated from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Acting. He spent a semester abroad in England that opened his eyes to the masterful artistry and fresh energy of European theater, and he hopes to bring this dedication and excitement to his own work here in the United States. While abroad he played Edmund in *King Lear* directed by Kelly Hunter. He has worked on an episode of *Ghost*

Whisperer directed by Jennifer Love Hewitt and Guest Starred on *Cold Case*. He plays the lead in the 2011 release of *The Truth Below* on MTV and stars alongside Stephen Lang and Karen Allen in John Gray's *White Irish Drinkers*, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival. He is the lead in the movie *Reviving Ophelia*, which is currently playing on Lifetime. His selfless dedication to others has taken him to Haiti where he volunteered working directly with the Haitian people.



Emily Hahn

At the age of 5 Emily experienced theater for the first time while visiting Ojai with her parents and attending "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Ojai Art Center Theater. Shortly thereafter, her family moved to Ojai and Emily auditioned and secured her first part in "The Adventures of Stuart Little" directed by Gai Jones and fell in love with acting. After being involved with several of Mrs. Jones workshops and performing under her direction in "The Velveteen Rabbit," Emily went on to voice the role of "Danny" in "The Rabbit Hole" directed by Steve Grumett. She later performed in the Ojai Art Center Theater's "The Music Man" under the direction of Tracey Williams, Choreographer Julie Hamann and Costume Designer Edmund Arredondo.

While performing in "The Music Man," Emily was approached by Jeannine Cosden, talent manager and former actress, to represent her. Jeannine Cosden introduced Emily to one of the top children's agencies in Los Angeles. Emily recently had the honor of voicing "Bonnie" in Pixar's "Toy Story 3," performed in "Hawthorne," "Brothers and Sisters" and will appear in the upcoming "The Green Hornet." Emily and her parents feel that Emily realized her love of acting due to the artistically rich environment of Ojai. Emily loves



singing, dancing, spending time with her friends, hanging out with her dogs and is an avid soccer player. She is an advocate for anti bullying and cares deeply about children with autism.

Paul Weber CSA



Paul Weber is presently the in house casting director for MGM worldwide television and the MGM feature casting consultant. MGM features in development or release include "Fame", "Hot Tub Time Machine" starring John Cusack, "Zookeeper" starring Kevin James, Joss Whedon's "Cabin in the Woods-3d", and "The Hobbit" directed by Peter Jackson. His MGM television credits include "Dead Like Me", for Showtime, and the immensely popular "Stargate" franchise for the SYFY network. Recent MGM home entertainment movies include "Picture This", starring Ashley Tisdale, "Legally Blondes", "War Games " and "Into the Blue 2", as well as "The Initiation of Sarah" and "Cutting Edge " for ABC family. Lifetime credits include "The Haunting on Sorority Row" starring Leighton Meester, "Flashpoint" for CBS and "Spartacus: The Prequel" for Starz. Active development with MGM on new series, pilots and features including "Teen Wolf" for MTV.

Mr. Weber also casts 3-5 independent films a year. He is currently casting "Beulah" starring Dakota Fanning and Ryan Phillippe. Credits include "Table For Three" starring Sophia Bush and (Superman) Brandon Routh, and "Lazarus Child" starring Andy Garcia and Angela Bassett, his producer credits include "Hollywood North" starring Sir Alan Bates, Matthew Modine, and Jennifer Tilly, he is also the US casting consultant for the Canadian Broadcast Company.

He is a member of the Casting Society of America as well as the Writers Guild of America.

Mr. Weber conducts cold reading/scene study workshops worldwide. His intensives are designed for actors 10 and older. He will give each actor a scene to prepare and will offer personal direction and guidance that will give the actor insight into the cold reading process, help the actor develop audition and marketing skills, and prepare the actor for a successful career in the industry. As an instructor he taught the popular class "The Working Actor, Get The Audition, Book The Job" at UCLA.