

BASED ON *The New York Times* BESTSELLER

KAREN
ALLEN

YANNICK
BISSON

S. EPATHA
MERKERSON

MICHAEL
CRISTOFER AND

CELIA
IMRIE

"REFRESHING
in its depiction
of diverse, older female characters."
—GLENN KENNY, NYTIMES

"SOOTHING
even therapeutic value."
—ALAN SCHERSTUHL, VILLAGE VOICE

"IN ALLEN'S SPARK & GRACE
there's a real sense of discovery."
—SHERI LINDEN, HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



YEAR BY THE SEA

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO RECLAIM YOUR LIFE



LOGLINE

Hoping to reclaim who she was before marriage and children, an empty nester retreats to Cape Cod where she embarks upon a quest to set herself free.

written, directed & composed by
ALEXANDER JANKO

114 mins / 2k / 24 fps / 1.85



AUDIENCE CHOICE

Rhode Island International Film Festival
Naperville Independent Film Festival
Berkshire International Film Festival
Vail Film Festival

BEST FEATURE

On Location: Memphis International Film & Music Festival
Carpe Diem Andretta Award — Woodstock Film Festival

BEST SCREENPLAY

Grand Prize — Rhode Island International Film Festival
Outstanding Achievement in Filmmaking: Screenwriting — Newport Beach Film Festival

BEST MUSIC

Alexander Janko — Hamilton Film Festival

ACTOR AWARDS

Best Actress (Karen Allen) — Hamilton Film Festival
Best Actress (Karen Allen) — Naperville Independent Film Festival
Women in Film Award (Karen Allen) — St. Louis International Film Festival
Creative Vision Award (Karen Allen) — Rhode Island International Film Festival
Renaissance Award (Karen Allen) — Port Townsend Film Festival
Vanguard Award (Karen Allen) — Vail Film Festival
Best Ensemble Cast — Best Actors Film Festival



SYNOPSIS

After 30 years as a wife and mother, an empty nester retreats to Cape Cod rather than follow her relocated husband to Kansas. Intent to rediscover herself but plagued with guilt, she questions her decision until stumbling upon a spirited mentor. Supported by her literary agent and a host of locals, including a sexy fisherman, our heroine learns to embrace the ebb and flow of life—ultimately discovering the balance between self and sacrifice, obligation and desire.

based on

“A Year by the Sea”
by Joan Anderson

“Once in awhile, a book comes along that speaks frankly...reaching into the psyche of a typical baby boomer—mainly women—who have said goodbye to their child-rearing years and are searching their souls for self-definition.”

Margot Russell, *Inside Cape Cod Magazine*

international and *New York Times* bestseller / translated into 19 languages / as seen on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Good Morning America* and more

writer/director/composer Alexander Janko

Q&A

What compelled you to adapt Joan Anderson's *NYT* best-selling memoir "A Year by the Sea" into a feature film?

When Joan's first book magically appeared on my kitchen counter, I was at a crossroads. Disenchanted with my film composing career, I'd pulled the rip cord on Hollywood. So her opening line—*the decision to separate seemed to happen overnight*—struck a chord.

Like many midlife readers worldwide, my *raison d'être* was eluding me. Joan's mission to find herself anew is

so honest it's impossible to avoid asking yourself the questions she poses. One of them—*who are we beyond the roles we play?*—inspired me to dig deep.

In doing so, I discovered Joan's quest for authenticity is universal. Her courage to embark upon a journey of self-discovery became a story I needed to share with the world on the big screen.





real actors, real women

What did you desire in a cast?

Seasoned thespians in command of their craft.
And women who personify genuine beauty—that
amazing glow that radiates from within sans external
enhancements. Joan's story is about accepting oneself

no matter the age or stage. So our casting director, Pat
McCorkle, embraced my dream to look beyond fleeting
"stardom." And she wound up landing us a Golden Globe,
Emmy, Tony, and Pulitzer Prize award-winning cast!

countering ageism

How did the women respond?

At our first table read I realized Karen Allen, S. Epatha Merkerson and Celia Imrie were perfect in their roles as well as wonderful role models. Each brings wisdom and sensibility to their characters that translates into strong, sensitive and sincere “older” women.

No one should ever be made to feel they’ve outlived their usefulness. Why should life suddenly stop just because we reach a certain age? As a father to a daughter, I’ve never wanted my child to alter or hide who she is—whenever she is.



A scenic background image of a beach with two women walking away from the camera. The woman on the left wears a blue and red sari, and the woman on the right wears a red and white sari with a colorful pattern. In the distance, a red lighthouse sits atop a sandy cliff under a blue sky with light clouds.

lifelong play

Could you talk about the “other” Joan?

Our film highlights Joan Anderson’s mentor: Joan Erikson—author and wife to Erik Erikson, the famed psychologist who pioneered the 8 stages of human psychosocial development and coined the term “Identity Crisis”.

Instant friends, Erikson taught Joan the importance of play and urged our heroine to recognize joy is a duty. After Erik’s death, Erikson revealed a 9th stage of life, noting that while old age has many negatives, it also offers elders the opportunity to transcend.



Would you consider *YEAR BY THE SEA* a “chick flick”?

Not entirely. While women do take center stage, the men in our film struggle with similar issues—usefulness, duty, connection to self and spouse, and the one thing we all must learn to accept: change.

Having experienced myriad transitions myself, I’ve uncovered the only way to make wine is to crush grapes. Joan’s story challenges us all to embrace the uncomfortable nature of change and relish the results.

Thanks to the heartfelt performances of Michael Cristofer and Yannick Bisson, “the man’s” journey also is articulated with tenderness and truth.

universal story

natural beauty

Why did you shoot on Cape Cod?

Cape Cod's National Seashore played an essential role in Joan Anderson's transformation. As she learned to embrace the turning tides, she gained access to her true nature and unveiled the pleasure of life's natural rhythms, which started to flow. I wanted to honor that aspect of her story, as well as capture the area's indigenous wildlife and intrinsic beauty on screen.



What do you hope audiences will take away from the film?

No matter how “old” you are, you still have the power to celebrate life, change in meaningful ways, experience new adventures and find happiness. Stale relationships can be refreshed. New relationships can offer unexpected lessons.

If audiences are inspired to ask themselves “*Who am I beyond the roles that I play?*” we’ve done service to Joan’s story. If *YEAR BY THE SEA* entertains, stirs emotions and provokes a dialogue, then I’ve accomplished my goal as an indie filmmaker.

it’s never too late



LEAD CAST

Featuring a **GOLDEN GLOBE®**, **EMMY®**, **TONY®**, and **PULITZER PRIZE**-winning cast:



Joan
KAREN ALLEN



Cahoon
YANNICK BISSON



Liz
S. EPATHA MERKERSON



Robin
MICHAEL CRISTOFER



Erikson
CELIA IMRIE

and



KAREN ALLEN - Joan

KAREN ALLEN is a highly acclaimed screen and stage actor and director whose vast film repertoire includes such blockbusters as ANIMAL HOUSE, RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, STARMAN, THE GLASS MENAGERIE, SCROOGED, THE SANDLOT, THE PERFECT STORM, INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL, BAD HURT and more.

Among her myriad theatrical performances she portrayed Helen Keller in William Gibson's THE MONDAY AFTER THE MIRACLE on Broadway, earning a Theatre World Award.

Ms. Allen is on the faculty of the Theatre Department at Bard College at Simon's Rock, has taught acting and directing at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in NYC and is a lifetime member of the Actor's Studio. She recently completed her film directorial debut with A TREE. A ROCK. A CLOUD. a short based on the story by Carson McCullers.





YANNICK BISSON - Cahoon

YANNICK BISSON is an internationally known and award-winning actor best recognized as the artful Detective William Murdoch in the worldwide TV crime drama favorite MURDOCH MYSTERIES. Feature film credits include Toronto International Film Festival selection CASINO JACK, NOTHING REALLY MATTERS, TOO LATE TO SAY GOODBYE, THE SECRETS OF COMFORT HOUSE and ANIMAL 2, among many others.

He also has appeared on the TV series SUE THOMAS: F.B.EYE, HIGH TIDE, NOTHING TOO GOOD FOR A COWBOY, and the U.S. hit Showtime drama series SOUL FOOD.

He recently garnered the Fan's Choice Award at the 2016 Canadian Screen Awards and was honored with the 2017 ACTRA Toronto Award of Excellence.

S. EPATHA MERKERSON - Liz

S. EPATHA MERKERSON is a theatrical force on the stage and screen in both television and film. Exalted for her three-time Image Award-nominated role as the smart and shrewd Lieutenant Anita Van Buren on the TV crime drama LAW & ORDER, feature film credits include THE CHALLENGER, LINCOLN, MOTHER AND CHILD and the upcoming SEXUAL HEALING.

She also claims a long list of Broadway and off-Broadway honors that include Drama Desk and Tony nominations for Best Actress for her performance in THE PIANO LESSON, a 1992 Obie for her performance in I'M NOT STUPID and a 1998 Helen Hayes Award for her role in the Washington D.C. Studio Theater production of THE OLD SETTLER.

She currently plays Sharon Goodwin on NBC's CHICAGO MED.





MICHAEL CRISTOFER - Robin

MICHAEL CRISTOFER is a distinguished screen and stage actor, writer and director who has appeared in EMOTICON, THE GIRL IN THE BOOK, THE OTHER WOMAN, FIVE FLIGHTS UP and CHRONIC, as well TV series RUBICON, SMASH and MR ROBOT.

Stage performances include ROMEO AND JULIET (NY Shakespeare Festival), TRUMPERY, BODY OF WATER, DON'T GO GENTLE (MCC Theater) and A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE.

Awarded a Pulitzer Prize and Tony for the Broadway production of his play, THE SHADOW BOX, he also wrote the screenplay. Directing credits include GIA—which won a Director's Guild Award and was nominated for 5 Emmys—as well as BODY SHOTS and ORIGINAL SIN.

He currently plays Phillip Price on USA's MR ROBOT.

CELIA IMRIE - Erikson

CELIA IMRIE is an accomplished and celebrated award-winning actor and writer who starred in the critically acclaimed THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL and its sequel THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL, as well as BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY, CALENDAR GIRLS, THE EDGE OF REASON, WIMBLEDON, NANNY MCPHEE, STAR WARS - THE PHANTOM MENACE, ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS and BRIDGET JONES'S BABY.

Nominated for the Olivier Award for Best Actress in the Tony and Olivier award-winning comedy NOISES OFF at The Old Vic Theatre, she possesses a rich theatrical repertoire that also includes an Oliver Award for Best Actress in a Musical for ACORN ANTIQUES: THE MUSICAL and The Clarence Derwent Award for Best Supporting Actress in THE SEA.

She's currently writing a third novel to follow "Not Quite Nice" and "Nice Work (If You Can Get It)" and regularly appears on FX's BETTER THINGS.



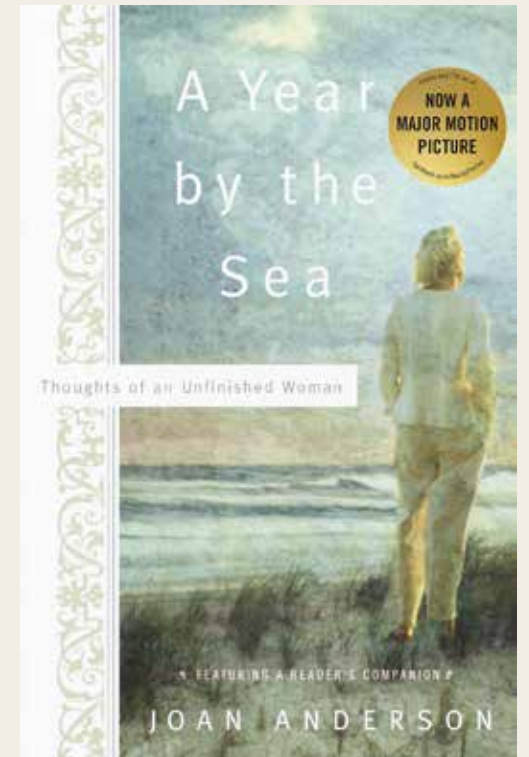


ALEXANDER JANKO - writer/director/composer

ALEXANDER JANKO is an award-winning filmmaker whose creative career spans the music, literary, stage, TV and film industries. He has worked on more than 65 major motion pictures. A career milestone, he composed the music for MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING. His first script, HOME TOWN, became a semifinalist in Final Draft's "Big Break" screenwriting competition. His directing debut, *YEAR BY THE SEA*, won 16 festival awards (including Best Feature, Best Actress, Best Screenplay and Best Music) before its national release.

JOAN ANDERSON - book author

Joan Anderson is an author and motivational speaker who hosts retreats for women in search of themselves. Her first memoir, *A YEAR BY THE SEA*, was on the *NYT* best-seller list for 32 weeks, followed by 4 more books translated worldwide: *AN UNFINISHED MARRIAGE*, *A WALK ON THE BEACH*, *A WEEKEND TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE*, and *THE SECOND JOURNEY*. Dubbed "the runaway wife", she has appeared on *Oprah*, *Weekend Today*, *Good Morning America* and more.



www.YEARBYTHESEA.com



Publicity

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REAL WOMEN MAKE WAVES presents a B-ARROW ENTERPRISES picture
in association with MONTABELA PRODUCTIONS and RIVET ENTERTAINMENT
"YEAR BY THE SEA" based on the memoirs by JOAN ANDERSON produced by LAURA GOODENOW with BILL LATKA and ALEXANDER JANKO
cinematographer BRYAN PAPIERSKI film editor NORIKO SAKAMOTO costume designer CARISA KELLEY casting director PAT McCORKLE
music supervisor MATT LILLEY featuring songs by THE WEEPIES

written, directed & composed by
ALEXANDER JANKO