

**CONTACT:**

Sasha Berman  
SashaBerman@mac.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Indie film based on NYT bestseller opens NYC Sept. 8  
Karen Allen, Celia Imrie and S. Epatha Merkerson star in  
*YEAR BY THE SEA***

Real Women Make Waves is proud to present the US Theatrical release of the award-winning independent film **YEAR BY THE SEA**, based on the *New York Times* and international best-selling memoir by Joan Anderson and starring highly acclaimed screen and stage actress Karen Allen (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Animal House*).

Executive produced by Tony-award winners Daryl Roth (*Kinky Boots*, *Indecent*) and Terry Schnuck (*Beautiful*), and written, directed and composed by Alexander Janko, the film will open at Lincoln Plaza and Landmark Sunshine in New York on September 8 and at Laemmle Royal, Town Center and Playhouse 7 in Los Angeles on September 15. A national release will follow.

After a season of high-powered female super heroes, **YEAR BY THE SEA** settles the pace with a crowd-pleasing journey of self-discovery and friendship featuring three women of the baby-boomer generation.

Winner of 16 festival awards - from Audience Choice to Best Feature/Actress/Music and Screenplay - **YEAR BY THE SEA** chronicles empty-nester Joan Anderson's (Karen Allen) decision not to follow her relocated husband to Kansas. Instead, she retreats to Cape Cod to rediscover herself and redefine her life. Plagued with guilt, she questions her decision until stumbling upon a spirited mentor, Joan Erikson (Celia Imrie) - author and wife of famed psychologist Erik Erikson, who coined the term "identity crisis." With a support group that includes her literary agent and a host of locals, Joan learns to embrace the ebb and flow of life - ultimately discovering the balance between self and sacrifice, obligation and desire.

It was Joan Anderson's honesty and courage to embrace change that attracted filmmaker Alexander Janko (composer, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*) to her work nearly nine years ago—and a labor of love that propelled his journey to bring it to the big screen as writer, director and composer.

**Karen Allen** (*Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*), **Celia Imrie** (*The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*), and **S. Epatha Merkerson** (*Chicago Med*) headline this Golden Globe, Emmy, Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning cast alongside **Yannick Bisson** (*Murdock Mysteries*), **Michael Cristofer** (*Mr. Robot*) and **Alvin Epstein** (*Synecdoche, New York*; *Law & Order*).

**About Joan Anderson**

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 four 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.

**About Alexander Janko**

Alexander Janko 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.

More information about **YEAR BY THE SEA** can be found at [www.yearbythesea.com/press](http://www.yearbythesea.com/press)