



**DIRECTOR:** Sam Fischer  
**PRODUCER:** Craig Christiansen  
**WRITER:** Marc Conklin  
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## **LOGLINE / SYNOPSIS**

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### **LOGLINE // MEMORIAL DAY**

When 13-year-old Kyle Vogel discovers his grandfather's World War II footlocker on Memorial Day, the two strike a deal: Kyle can pick any three objects inside, and Grandpa Bud will tell him the stories behind each one. As we flash back to Bud's WWII experiences, we also flash forward to Kyle's future as a soldier in Iraq, where he experiences friendships, losses and moral dilemmas that parallel his grandfather's—and bring new meaning to that day on the porch.

### **SYNOPSIS // MEMORIAL DAY**

When SSgt. Kyle Vogel leaves a handwritten letter on the seat of his car, grabs a pistol and steps into a Minnesota forest, we wonder who he is and what he's about to do. Flash back a few months as Vogel lies wounded in a hospital near Anbar Province, Iraq. The night before he's due to return to combat, his doctor, Lt. Kelly Tripp, presses him on why he's so obsessed with collecting battle souvenirs. Kyle proceeds to tell her what happened on Memorial Day, 1993, when, as a 13-year old boy, he discovered his Grandpa Bud's WWII footlocker.

Though reluctant to talk about the war, Bud, who served with the 82nd Airborne, strikes a deal with Kyle: "Pick any three objects, and I'll tell you the story behind each one." As we see Bud's WWII tales from Europe, we also see how Kyle's experiences in Iraq have paralleled them—and how that day on the porch will affect how he ultimately deals with the losses, regrets and moral dilemmas that unite all soldiers across wars and generations.

## **PRODUCTION COMPANY**

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### **PERSPECTIVE FILMS // PROFILE**

Perspective Films is a production company with a proven track record of exceeding expectations and providing superior results. The Perspective Films team brings more than 25 years of high-level 'Hollywood Perspective' and experience.

To contact Perspective Films:  
Los Angeles: 310-570-2171  
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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Everybody knows someone who “won’t talk about the war.” And millions of people have footlockers in their attics filled with memories that are both joyful and difficult. This film is for everyone who identifies with that sense of the untold story, and my hope is that it affects each person who sees on it a very personal level.

In the bigger picture, I want this film to enhance the very meaning of the Memorial Day holiday in America—so that in addition to being a day of remembering, it also becomes a day of *sharing memories*. Veterans from World War II to the present are rarely forthcoming in telling their stories. We need to ask—almost insist—that these brave men and women share their experiences, and then we need to do them the honor of sitting back and listening.

*Memorial Day* is an uplifting family movie that I hope can serve as a conduit to opening footlockers around the world and releasing the amazing stories locked inside. As one Army major said about the movie:

**“I don’t know when I’m going to tell my kids about my combat experiences,  
but I’m going to start by showing them this film.”**

~ Sam Fischer

## CREW BIOS

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### **Sam Fischer // Director**

Sam has more than 25 years of feature film and episodic television experience that has taken him from best boy, gaffer, camera operator and director of photography to director—most recently working with Oscar-nominated actor James Cromwell in *Memorial Day*. Sam is known for directing with an understanding and compassion you don't often find on the traditional Hollywood set. Actors and crew members will attest to the fact that Sam is able to both listen and lead, combining an artistic sensibility with a blue-collar work ethic. The result is a positive production environment that brings out the best in everybody and produces a finished product that far exceeds the sum of its parts. In his spare time, Sam basks in the bright light of his two baby boys – Sev and Viggo – and receives direction from his lovely wife, Janna.

### **Craig Christiansen // Producer**

Cultivating relationships is a role Craig takes very seriously. Often considered a project's 'Chief of Staff', Craig's ability to cultivate strong relationships between financiers, distributors, marketers and personnel is key to his success delivering a project on time and within budget. Craig aligns moving parts to work in synchronicity while cultivating a culture of excitement and anticipation. From attorneys and accountants to coordinators and production assistants, Craig knows how to get everybody focused on a single vision. The result is a positive and efficient production environment that leads to a final product that everyone can be proud of.

### **Marc Conklin // Writer**

Marc wrote the feature film *Memorial Day* (James Cromwell, Jonathan Bennett), scheduled for release in May 2012, and penned the Gary Sinise-narrated TV documentary project *Twilight Tear*, currently in post-production. His romantic comedy *Deadbeat Boyfriends* was optioned after winning the International PAGE Awards' Gold Prize for comedy in 2007, and he was a semifinalist in the prestigious Nicholl Fellowship in 2009. His new script is a character-driven comedy called *Twin Cities*—which is fitting, as he lives in St. Paul with his wife, Anne, and son, James. Marc is a former ad agency creative director who has received awards for his work from the Society of Professional Journalists, IABC Minnesota, the Public Relations Society of America and the National Television Academy. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and received an MFA from Hamline University.

## CAST BIOS

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### **James Cromwell // “BUD VOGEL”**

Born in Los Angeles but raised in Manhattan and educated at Middlebury College and Carnegie Tech, James Cromwell - the son of noted film director John Cromwell - studied acting at Carnegie-Mellon. He went into the theater (like both his parents) doing everything from Shakespeare to experimental plays. He started doing television in 1974, gaining some notice in a recurring role as Archie Bunker's buddy Stretch Cunningham in "All in the Family" (1968), made his film debut in 1976, and goes back to the stage periodically. Some of his more noted film roles have been in *Revenge of the Nerds* (1984), *Star Trek: First Contact* (1996) and the surprise classic about a charming pig, *Babe* (1995), for which he received an Oscar nomination for his role as Farmer Arthur Hoggett. He garnered some of the best reviews of his career for his role as a corrupt, conniving police captain in *L.A. Confidential* (1997), and continued to please audiences with performances in *Secretariat* (2010), and the Best Picture Oscar winner, *The Artist* (2011). *Memorial Day* (2012) is the first time James and his son, John Cromwell, are in a film together. John plays a younger version of his father during WWII.

### **Jonathan Bennett // “SSGT KYLE VOGEL”**

Originally from Toledo, Ohio, Jonathan headed straight to New York to pursue acting after graduating from the theater program at Otterbein. He was actually discovered by an agent while sitting on a train—and six months later he signed on to play J.R. Chandler in the iconic soap opera "All My Children." Since then, Jonathan's career has been on fire. He has appeared in a slew of teen comedies, side-by-side with some of the biggest and brightest stars of their time including *Mean Girls* (with Lindsay Lohan), *Cheaper by the Dozen 2* (with Steve Martin) and *Lovewrecked* (with Amanda Bynes). He also stepped into and took over the iconic role replacing Ryan Reynolds as Van Wilder in *Van Wilder: Freshman Year*.

### **Jackson Bond // “KYLE VOGEL” (13 yrs.)**

Jackson was born on April 13, 1996, in St. Paul, Minnesota. He began his performance career at age 6 as a competitive hip hop and break dancer. His charisma and natural comfort as a performer caught the attention of a national talent agent who encouraged him to pursue acting. At age 8, he aspired to be in television and movies, and soon earned his first feature role opposite Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig in the Sci-Fi Thriller *The Invasion*. From there, he appeared as a guest star on “CSI: Miami” and as a series regular on the ABC sitcom “In Case of Emergency” with Lori Loughlin, David Arquette and Jonathan Silverman. He also had feature roles in *The Killer Movie* and *Into Temptation*.

During his acting jobs, Jackson remained living in Minnesota to focus on his studies and athletics. He continues to act, having appeared in several television, radio and internet commercials—but devotes most of his time to playing on his high school hockey team. Jackson recently completed filming the movie *Memorial Day* opposite James Cromwell.

**CREDITS**

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**STARRING**

<b>SSGT KYLE VOGEL</b>	Jonathan Bennett
<b>BUD VOGEL</b>	James Cromwell
<b>LT. BUD VOGEL</b>	John Cromwell
<b>YOUNG KYLE VOGEL</b>	Jackson Bond

**CREW**

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Sam Fischer
<b>PRODUCER</b>	Craig Christiansen
<b>WRITER</b>	Marc Conklin
<b>ORIGINAL MUSIC</b>	Paul Hartwig
<b>CINEMATOGRAPHY</b>	Bo Hakala
<b>FILM EDITOR</b>	Bill Rammer
<b>PRODUCTION DESIGNER</b>	Mark Wojahn
<b>ART DIRECTOR</b>	Lindsey Koens
<b>MAKEUP DEPARTMENT</b>	Crist Ballas
<b>UNIT PRODUCTION MGR</b>	Philip Joncas