

# Inheritance

## A Short Film

9 Minutes, 51 Seconds  
MiniDV, Color and B&W, 2004



## PRESS KIT



Paul Cuoco  
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# Inheritance

## logline & synopsis

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### LOGLINE

In an impassioned message from the grave, one concentration camp Liberator forces us to remember the horror humanity is capable of. Utilizing actual photos from the Buchenwald concentration camp, and a soulful performance by Harrison Young, *Inheritance* is a gut-wrenching experience that not only informs, but puts the burden of defending humanity squarely on the viewer.

### 125-WORD SYNOPSIS

On the eve of his Grandfather's funeral, a young man receives his inheritance. It is not a dowry of riches, but a simple manila envelope containing photographs and a letter. As the young man sifts through the worn and tattered photos he can not believe his eyes. The images are horrific. Dead bodies neatly stacked in rows. Ovens filled with half-burned human corpses. In shock, he slowly sifts past the horrible imagery to the letter, a powerful and impassioned recounting of April 11, 1945, the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp. His Grandfather describes the horrors of the camp and the shame he felt for locking these feelings and images away. He tells him that this can never be forgotten, and this is his *Inheritance*.

### 250-WORD SYNOPSIS

*Inheritance* is a labor of love based on director Paul Cuoco's experience of learning that his Grandfather was a liberator at the Buchenwald concentration camp during World War II. Using his Grandfather's photographs combined with thorough research, Cuoco crafted this film to honor his Grandfather and all of the men who witnessed these atrocities first hand, as well as to honor the memory of those who were forced to endure it. The following is a short synopsis of the film itself: On the eve of his Grandfather's funeral, a young man receives his inheritance. It is not a dowry of riches, but instead a simple manila envelope containing photographs and a letter. As the befuddled young man sifts through the worn and tattered photos he can not believe his eyes. The images are horrific. Image after image of dead bodies neatly stacked in rows. Ovens filled with half-burned human corpses. In shock, he slowly sifts past the horrible imagery to the letter, and reads his Grandfather's words, a powerful and impassioned recounting of that fateful day, April 11, 1945, when he and his company came upon the Buchenwald concentration camp. His Grandfather describes through haunting words and ghastly photographs the horrors of the camp, its effect on him, and the shame he felt for locking these feelings and images away for fifty six years. He pleads to his grandson that this can never be forgotten, it is now his burden to bear, and this is his *Inheritance*.

# Inheritance

## credits

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Writer / Director	Paul Cuoco
Producer	Jeff Loach
Executive Producers	Daniel Cuoco
	Al Loach
Director of Photography	Doug Delaney
Composer	John Swihart

### Cast

Grandfather	Harrison Young
Daniel	Robert Olufs
Father	Richard Meese

### Crew

Casting Directors	Jeff Paal
	Jerry Whitworth
Assistant Director	Ethan Black
Camera Assistant	Cheuk Wong
Gaffer	R. Scott Marvin
Key Grip	John C. Dunne
Boom Operators	John Dunne
	Ethan Black
Script Supervisor	Deanna Varscsak
Still Photographer	R. Scott Marvin
Editor	Paul Cuoco
Sound Designer	Sandra Holland
Sound Engineer	John Swihart

Primary Holocaust Still Photography by:  
Anthony Cuoco

Additional Public Domain Holocaust Still Photography courtesy of:  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

# Inheritance

## director's statement

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Inheritance is not quite a work of fiction. It is a dramatization of my own experience days after the death of my Grandfather where my father and my brother found a dusty old box while cleaning out his things. Inside they found the holocaust photos which are so prominently displayed in the film. They called me immediately, and sent me copies. I asked for them, though I wasn't sure if I truly wanted to see them. While my Grandfather didn't do anything as dramatic as writing us a letter as he does in the film, I felt that we were meant to find these photos and share them with the world. I could feel the gentle hand of my Grandfather encouraging me to make this film. He as well as these images haunted me from that day through the completion of the film, when I finally felt a sense of peace.

I want to thank my Grandfather, Anthony Cuoco, for his bravery, his example, and our freedom. I have done my best to honor him and all the men who served and witnessed this atrocious crime, as well as the victims themselves who toiled for years in those camps. I hope the film lives up to his and their expectations and in the end its intended purpose. As I wrote in the screenplay, "this cannot be forgotten. It cannot happen again."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Cuoco", with a stylized, flowing script.



# Inheritance

## paul cuoco writer-director

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Paul Cuoco makes his directorial debut with *Inheritance*. For the last ten years he has written and produced a diverse array of creative properties from animated shorts to multi-million dollar themed attractions. Starting his career as an intern with Boston-based production company Horizon Media, Paul's talents were immediately apparent. He was quickly promoted to writer and associate producer overseeing the bulk of Horizon's corporate video projects before moving on to Universal Studios Hollywood where he rose through the ranks from Production Coordinator to Production Manager of Universal's *Terminator 2:3D* attraction. Driven by an insatiable need to create and not just manage, Paul re-focused on writing and producing, determined to push the envelope and create original and inspiring entertainments. He has since written, produced, and consulted on many films, shows and themed attractions spanning demographics and genres from creating internet animations during the dot com boom to developing television pilots and feature-length screenplays, as well as continuing to produce spectacular themed attractions including Universal's *Shrek 4D* and *Revenge of the Mummy: The Ride*.



### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

#### SHORT FILMS

Glazed (co-writer/co-director)  
Hero (Producer)  
Boomerang Love (writer)  
A Stranger's Kiss (Editor, Co-Producer)

#### SCREENPLAYS

Crowe's Nest  
(Semi-Finalist in 2002 Project Greenlight)  
Z  
iRev (Treatment)  
Thieves of the Devil's Blood  
(Semi-Finalist in 1999 American Accolades Competition)  
Oh Brother  
P.E.A.R.L.

#### DOCUMENTARIES

The Visionaries - a PBS Television Series

#### ANIMATION

Fingers & The Three Hand Band  
Love Letters (internet production)  
Odd Gods (internet production)  
Zoophobia (internet production)

# Inheritance

paul cuoco & jeff loach  
producers

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Paul Cuoco & Jeff Loach began collaborating during the development of the spec paranormal television series P.E.A.R.L. Though the series never made it in front of the cameras, a creative partnership was born with the common vision of creating inspiring, provocative, and innovative entertainment. The pair continued to collaborate nights & weekends, while also working full time in the entertainment industry as stage managers, coordinators, and production managers for companies like Brillstein-Grey, DreamWorks, and Universal Studios. After five years, three feature screenplays and numerous other projects, they decided it was time to put their money where their mouths are. Utilizing their personal savings and donations from friends and family, the two embarked on the ambitious, personal, and timely undertaking that would eventually become *Spoils of War*, a digital short film trilogy that combines their individual passions with extraordinary empathy to deliver a moving, thought provoking, and truly honest look at war and its aftermath.



# Inheritance

## doug delaney director of photography

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Doug is a traditionally trained director of photography and color timer. Through his years of experience with film and digital technologies at Pacific Title Doug has emerged as a top notch digital cinematographer. Doug believes by lighting digital projects as if it were film and timing and processing the footage in post, incredible images can be captured for a fraction of the cost. His success and technical expertise in this arena has made him sought after as a digital intermediate colorist for such high profile feature films as *The Lord of The Rings: Return of the King* and the *Matrix* films.

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

#### FEATURE FILMS

Love Hollywood Style  
L.A. Knights  
The Three Stages of Stan  
Breakers  
Runaways

#### SHORT FILMS

Glazed  
Hero

## john swihart composer

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John began his musical training at the age of four, studying piano with Cola Heiden, the renowned pianist, professor of Music Studies at Indiana University, and wife of composer Bernard Heiden. At eight, he picked up the saxophone, and soon followed with guitar, studying at Indiana University. He went on to attend Berklee College of Music, in Boston, studying Music composition, Production and Engineering. After college, he wrote and performed music with many bands in and around New England and New York. He also performed in musical theater in Boston, New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas with the Grammy nominated Blue Man Group. With his music studio, Sonic Gravy, Inc., he has been writing and producing music for picture for twelve years, scoring for feature films, tv, corporate videos, games and interactive projects.

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

#### FEATURE FILMS

Napoleon Dynamite - comedy - Searchlight Films  
Bedford Springs- comedy  
Purgatory House - drama  
Least Likely Candidate - romantic comedy  
Gentle Hands - drama

#### SHORT FILMS

Over The Moon  
(Best Short Film award, Dances with Films 2003)  
Burning Desire  
High Net Worth  
Hope Abandoned  
Over  
End Game

#### DOCUMENTARIES

When Boys Fly  
Hooked on Comixs  
The Mystery Light

# Inheritance

**harrison young**  
**grandfather (voice over)**

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## SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

House of 1000 Corpses (2003) .... Don Willis  
Last Cowboy, The (2003) (TV) .... Preacher  
First Watch (2003) .... Director of the CIA  
Ken Park (2002) .... Tate's Grandfather  
Trance (2002) .... Henry Santorini  
Demon Under Glass (2002) (V) .... James Conroy  
Bubba Ho-tep (2002) .... Bull Thomas, Elvis' Roommate  
7th Heaven (2002) "Frank" in episode: "The Known Soldier" 6 May 2002  
"Korean War, The" (2001) TV Series .... President Eisenhower  
"West Wing, The" (2001) "Senator Grissom" in episode: "The Stackhouse Filibuster" 14 March 2001  
Adventures of Rocky & Bullwinkle, The (2000) .... General Foods  
"CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" (2000) "Judge Cohen" Recurring  
Saving Private Ryan (1998) .... Old James Ryan  
Opposite of Sex, The (1998) .... Medical Examiner  
Primary Colors (1998) .... Sam  
Sex, Lies & Politics (1997) (V) .... Senator Gyrgich  
Game, The (1997) .... Obsequious Executive



# Inheritance

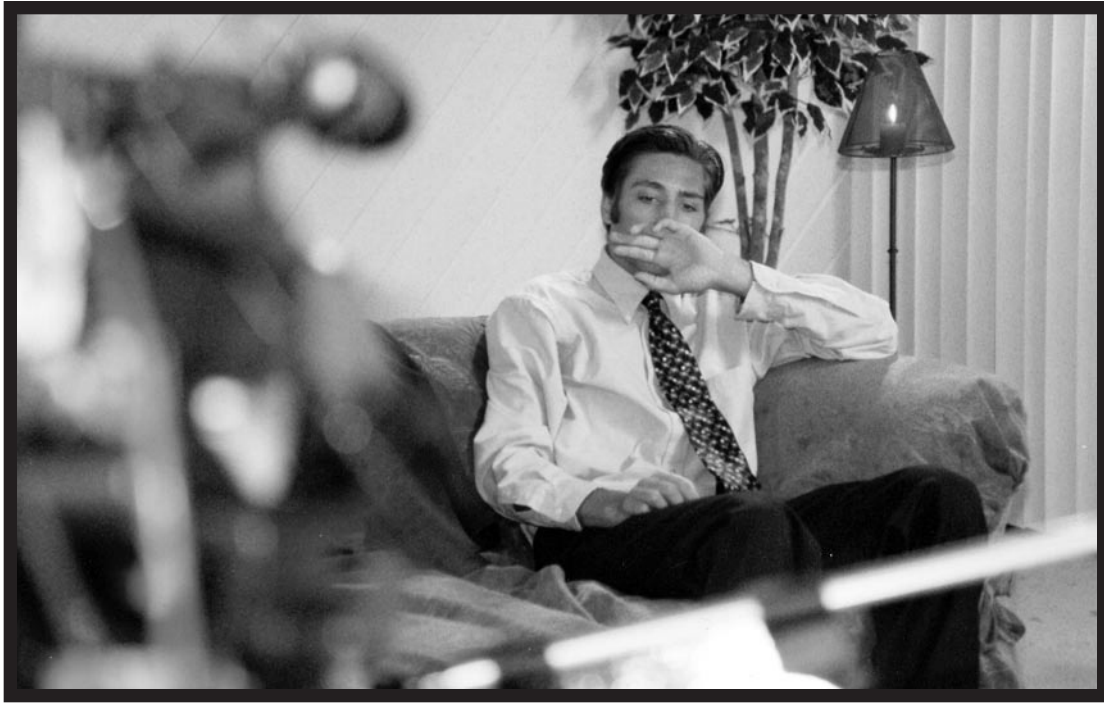


NOT AFRAID! PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "INHERITANCE" HARRISON YOUNG ROBERT OLUFS RICHARD MEESE  
CASTING BY JEFF PAAL & JERRY WHITWORTH MUSIC BY JOHN SWIHART SOUND DESIGN BY SANDRA HOLLAND  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DOUG DELANEY PRIMARY CONCENTRATION CAMP PHOTOS BY ANTHONY CUOCO  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAN CUOCO & AL LOACH PRODUCED BY JEFF LOACH WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY PAUL CUOCO

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PRODUCTIONS

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Robert Olufs as Daniel in "INHERITANCE"

Photo: R. Scott Marvin



Director Paul Cuoco discusses the scene with Doug Delaney, John Dunne, and Cheuk Wong during the filming of "INHERITANCE."

Photo: R. Scott Marvin







Still photograph of director Paul Cuoco's Grandfather, Anthony Cuoco taken at the Buchenwald Concentration Camp in 1945. The photo is the basis and inspiration of the film "INHERITANCE."

Photo: Anthony Cuoco, Unknown. Copyright 2004 Cuoco Family, used with permission.

