

# EVERY ACT OF LIFE



## Featuring:

Terrence McNally, F. Murray Abraham, Lynn Ahrens, Jon Robin Baitz, Christine Baranski, Dominic Cuskern, Tyne Daly, Edie Falco, Stephen Flaherty, John Glover, Anthony Heald, John Benjamin Hickey, Sheryl Kaller, John Kander, Roberta Kaplan, Tom Kirdahy, Larry Kramer, Nathan Lane, Angela Lansbury, Paul Libin, Joe Mantello, Marin Mazzie, Audra McDonald, Peter McNally, Lynne Meadow, Rita Moreno, Jack O'Brien, Billy Porter, Chita Rivera, Doris Roberts, Don Roos, John Slattery, Micah Stock, Richard Thomas, John Tillinger, & Patrick Wilson, the plus the voices of Dan Bucatinsky, Bryan Cranston, & Meryl Streep.

"Wonderful . . . I wasn't prepared for the emotional release of *Every Act Of Life*." – *The Paper*

"Poignant, incredibly inspiring . . . indispensable." – *The Village Voice*

"Really entertaining and illuminating . . . Bravo." – *Edge Media*

"Riveting and revealing." – *Entertainment Weekly*

"Staggering, heart-warming, and inspiring beyond words." – Joyce DiDonato

"I just loved it. One of the best films I have seen at the festival." – Rex Reed

## Short Synopsis:

Four-time Tony-winning playwright Terrence McNally's six ground-breaking decades in the theatre, the fight for LGBTQ rights, triumph over addiction, the pursuit of love and inspiration at every age, and the power of the arts to transform society.

### Synopsis:

The son of an alcoholic beer distributor in southern Texas, Terrence traveled the world as tutor to John Steinbeck's children (Steinbeck's only advice was, "Don't write for the theater, it will break your heart"); suffered an infamous Broadway flop in 1965 at age 24; and went on to write dozens of groundbreaking plays and musicals about sexuality, homophobia, faith, the power of art, the need to connect, and finding meaning in every moment of life. He's won four Tony Awards; had long relationships with Edward Albee and Wendy Wasserstein; lost a lover and many friends to AIDS; stopped drinking through the intervention of Angela Lansbury; helped launch the careers of Nathan Lane, F. Murray Abraham, Audra McDonald, Doris Roberts, Patrick Wilson, and Joe Mantello; was an early champion of marriage equality and faced violent protests for his play *Corpus Christi*; survived a brutal fight with lung cancer; and finally found lasting love with his now-husband, producer Tom Kirdahy.

Terrence's plays, musicals, operas, and screenplays include: *And Things That Go Bump in the Night* (1964), *Next* (1969), *Bad Habits* (1974), *The Ritz* (1975), *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (1982), *It's Only a Play* (1986 / 2014), *Andre's Mother* (1990), *The Lisbon Traviata* (1989), *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* (1991), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1992), *A Perfect Ganesh* (1993), *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (1994), *Master Class* (1995), *Ragtime* (1996), *Corpus Christi* (1998), *Dead Man Walking* (2000), *The Full Monty* (2000), *Mothers and Sons* (2014), and *Anastasia* (2017).

"The stakes are really high now, higher than ever. We need to bring barriers down, not build walls. We need to love one another more, and see how connected we really are. I think that's the message of art."

- Terrence McNally

"Terrence gets to the truth in a way that makes you laugh and cry in all different areas – musical theatre and plays. I defy you to name another playwright who can do that. You cannot tell the history of American theatre without celebrating his life and work."

- Audra McDonald

"Terrence started so early to show Americans who gay people are. He did it before anyone else. He did it better than anyone else."

- Roberta Kaplan

"Terrence shows that it's worth living, it's worth being an authentic human being, and above all that it's worth loving."

- Christine Baranski

"Terrence cares deeply and profoundly about the theatre and how meaningful an artist's contribution to society can be. After all these years he's still my favorite writer, and he is very much like his plays: sharply intelligent, witty, heartfelt, passionate, and full of surprises. Like a great actor, his writing can turn on a dime. You're laughing hysterically one minute and the next thing you know, tears are running down your face. No one is happier to be in a rehearsal room with a new play than Terrence, and he still has a very pure, childlike excitement about the whole process."

- Nathan Lane

## EVERY ACT OF LIFE

Produced, Directed, and Written by: JEFF KAUFMAN

Produced by: MARCIA S. ROSS

Executive Producers: JAY ALIX & UNA JACKMAN, SUZI DIETZ, TOM KIRDAHY, MARK LEE, TED SNOWDON & DUFFY VIOLANTE, BUDDY STEVES & ROWENA YOUNG

Editor: ASHER BINGHAM

Music: LAURA KARPMAN & NORA KROLL-ROSENBAUM

Cinematography: JORDAN BLACK, AUTUMN EAKIN, ANTHONY LUCIDO

Runtime: 92 minutes

Jeff Kaufman produced, directed, and wrote the documentaries *The State of Marriage*, *Father Joseph*, *The Savoy King: Chick Webb and the Music That Changed America*, *Brush With Life: The Art of Being Edward Biberman*, and *Education Under Fire*, plus programs for The Discovery Channel and The History Channel, and a half-dozen short films for Amnesty International. He also contributed cartoons to *The New Yorker*, and illustrations to *The Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*, wrote / illustrated several children's books, and hosted radio talk shows in Vermont and Los Angeles.

Marcia S. Ross produced *The State Of Marriage*, *Father Joseph*, and *The Savoy King*. As a casting director and executive, she has worked on hundreds of feature films, TV series, pilots, and movies for television. She also served for 16 years as EVP of Casting for Walt Disney Motion Pictures, and 5 years as VP for Casting and Talent Development at Warner Brothers Television. Her credits include *Clueless*, *thirtysomething*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, *The Princess Diaries*, *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion*, *The Lookout*, *The Muppets*, *Parental Guidance*, and *Oblivion*.

### Sales Contact:

Orly Ravid, The Film Collaborative  
310-312-3268, [oxr@msk.com](mailto:oxr@msk.com)

### Film Festival Representative:

Jeffrey Winter, The Film Collaborative  
323-207-8321, [jeffrey@thefilmcollaborative.org](mailto:jeffrey@thefilmcollaborative.org)

### U.S. Publicity:

Falco Ink.  
212-445-7100  
Steven Beeman, 917-854-8700, [StevenmBeeman@Falcoink.com](mailto:StevenmBeeman@Falcoink.com)

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