



HOLLYWOOD'S  
ALL AMERICAN BOY  
HAD A SECRET.

# TAB HUNTER **CONFIDENTIAL**

ALLAN GLASER PRODUCTIONS in association with AUTOMAT PICTURES presents  
TAB HUNTER DEBBIE REYNOLDS ROBERT WAGNER JOHN WATERS GEORGE TAKEI CLINT EASTWOOD PORTIA DE ROSSI  
'TAB HUNTER CONFIDENTIAL' Director of Photography NANCY SCHREIBER, ASC Edited by JEFFREY SCHWARZ  
Original Score by MICHAEL 'THE MILLIONAIRE' CUDAHY Titles & Animation GRANT NELLESSEN Associate Producer JON GLOVER  
Line Producer PATRICIA BISCHETTI Executive Producers CHAD AND GINNI DREIER SHARON BRADFORD LEANNE REES Co-Producer JOHN BOCCARDO  
Produced by ALLAN GLASER NEIL KOENIGSBERG JEFFREY SCHWARZ Directed by JEFFREY SCHWARZ

# TAB HUNTER **CONFIDENTIAL**

## **TIP SHEET**

### **An Allan Glaser Production in Association with Automat Pictures**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Title              | Tab Hunter Confidential  |
| Genre              | Documentary  |
| Running Time       | 90 Minutes   |
| Format             | HDCam / Blu-ray  |
| Aspect Ratio       | 16:9 (1.78)  |
| Sound              | Stereo Lt / Rt   |
| Copyright          | 2015   |
| Director           | Jeffrey Schwarz  |
| Producers          | Allan Glaser, Neil Koenigsberg, Jeffrey Schwarz  |
| Co-Producer        | John Boccardo  |
| Cinematographer    | Nancy Schreiber, ASC   |
| Editor             | Jeffrey Schwarz  |
| Composer           | Michael "The Millionaire" Cudahy   |
| Interviewees       | Tab Hunter, John Waters, Clint Eastwood, George Takei, Debbie Reynolds, Robert Wagner, Portia de Rossi, Noah Wyle, Connie Stevens, Robert Osborne, Lainie Kazan, Rona Barrett  |
| Logline            | The story of matinee idol Tab Hunter from teenage stable boy to closeted Hollywood star of the 1950s.  |
| Paragraph Synopsis | In the 1950s, Tab Hunter is number one at the box office and number one on the music charts. He is Hollywood's most sought-after star and America's boy next door. Natalie Wood, Debbie Reynolds and Sophia Loren are just a few of the actresses he is romantically linked to. Nothing, it seems, can damage his skyrocketing career. Nothing, that is, except for the fact that Tab Hunter is secretly gay. Now, Tab Hunter's secret is out. In TAB HUNTER CONFIDENTIAL we will meet, for the first time, the real Tab Hunter as he shares with us the whole story of a happy, healthy survivor of Hollywood's roller coaster. |
| Website            | <a href="http://www.tabhunterconfidential.com">www.tabhunterconfidential.com</a><br><a href="http://www.facebook.com/tabhunterconfidential">www.facebook.com/tabhunterconfidential</a>   |

Festival Representative

Jeffrey Winter  
The Film Collaborative  
137 N. Larchmont Blvd., #606  
Los Angeles, CA 90004  
818-679-8751 cell  
323-466-3535 office  
[jeffrey@thefilmcollaborative.com](mailto:jeffrey@thefilmcollaborative.com)

## **NOTES ON THE FILM**

Throughout the 1950s, Tab Hunter reigned as Hollywood's ultimate male heartthrob. In dozens of films - and in the pages of countless movie magazines - Tab's astonishing looks and golden-boy sex appeal drove his fans to screaming, delirious frenzy, making him the prototype for all young matinee idols to come.

Bristling against being just another pretty face and wanting to be taken seriously, Tab was one of the few to be able to transcend pin-up boy status. He earned his stripes as an actor to become a major movie star and recording artist.

But throughout his years of stardom, Tab had a secret. Tab Hunter was gay, and spent his Hollywood years in a precarious closet that repeatedly threatened to implode and destroy him. Now, Tab's dramatic, turbulent and ultimately inspiring life story has become an explosive documentary feature directed by Emmy award winning filmmaker Jeffrey Schwarz.

The film has the unique advantage of exclusive, unprecedented access to Tab Hunter himself who shares first hand, for the first time, what it was like to be a studio manufactured movie star during the Golden Age of Hollywood and the consequences of being someone totally different from his studio manufactured image. We will trace Tab's dizzying rise to Hollywood super-stardom, his secret life in an era when being openly gay was unthinkable, and his ultimate triumph when the limelight finally passed him by.

- *His childhood as the son of an emotionally distant mother who would briefly tumble into madness*
- *The Svengali-like agent who reinvented him as 'Tab Hunter,' packaged him into a sex symbol - and tried to have sex with him on the side*
- *The Hollywood 'gentleman's agreement' that allowed him to have affairs with stars like Anthony Perkins as long as he publicly dated starlets like Natalie Wood*
- *The 'outing' by Confidential that almost cost him his career*
- *His struggle to stay relevant as the studio system imploded and the manufactured stars of the 50s gave way to the new breed of the 60s*
- *His years in the wilderness of bad movies and dinner theater*
- *His surprising comeback as a cult star with Divine in Polyester*

Punctuating Tab's on screen presence will be rare film clips and provocative interviews with friends and co-stars including John Waters, Clint Eastwood, George Takei, Debbie Reynolds, Robert Wagner, Portia de Rossi, Noah Wyle, Connie Stevens, Robert Osborne, and dozens more.

TAB HUNTER CONFIDENTIAL is an important piece of Hollywood's hidden history that is more relevant than ever in today's obsessive, star-driven, sexuality speculating media.

## **THE CREATIVE TEAM**

### **JEFFREY SCHWARZ - Director / Producer**

Jeffrey Schwarz is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker based in Los Angeles. His feature documentaries include the Emmy Award-winning HBO Documentary Films' VITO, about the beloved gay activist and author of THE CELLULOID CLOSET. Previous work includes I AM DIVINE, a portrait of the international drag superstar and John Waters' leading lady, as well as SPINE TINGLER! THE WILLIAM CASTLE STORY and WRANGLER: ANATOMY OF AN ICON. Called an "EPK samurai" by Variety, he is also a leading producer of studio EPKs (electronic presskits), Blu-ray & DVD content, and original television programming through his company, Automat Pictures.

### **ALLAN GLASER - Producer**

Allan Glaser began his Hollywood career while a student at the University of Southern California. Starting as an intern at 20th Century Fox he quickly became a producer, working at the studio for half a decade. While at Fox he met Tab Hunter and the two partnered up to form Glaser/Hunter Productions. They have produced a variety of projects including the feature films LUST IN THE DUST and DARK HORSE and several television series. They have also developed projects for various studios including Columbia Pictures, Warner Bros, and Paramount Pictures.

### **NEIL KOENIGSBERG - Producer**

Neil Koenigsberg was a founding partner of high profile entertainment public relations company PMK. After eleven years he sold his interest in the company and became a talent manager, working with stars such as Jeff Bridges, Ed Harris, Ally Sheedy, John Lithgow, Tony Goldwyn, Mark Harmon and Amy Madigan. He also was involved in producing films such as American Heart, Pollock, High Art, Hidden In America, A Walk On the Moon and The Giver. Koenigsberg, a graduate of Boston University with a BA in Film, is also a produced playwright who divides his time between Manhattan and Los Angeles. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Ali Forney Center, an organization that aids homeless LGBT youth.

### **JOHN BOCCARDO - Co-Producer**

John Boccardo returns to film after an interim career as a licensed architect in California. A graduate of USC Cinema School, he scripted television and pursued screenwriting and film development before turning to architecture. Tab Hunter Confidential is his first co-producing venture after a long hiatus from the "biz."

## **SYNOPSIS**

In the 1950s, Hollywood agent Henry Willson specialized in representing handsome male stars. A gay man himself, his taste in clients was designed to appeal to the pubescent fantasies of adolescent girls. His latest discovery was the beautiful, blonde Art Gelien, who had little to no acting experience. Willson realized that Art's stunning grace, beauty, and boy-next-door appeal was just what he was looking for. Seeing Art's potential, he signed the kid, changed his name to Tab Hunter, and tried repeatedly to sleep with him – to no avail.

At this time, fan magazines noticed that their circulation exploded when actors with teenage sex appeal graced their covers. It was in this brave new world that Tab Hunter's career was launched with *Island of Desire* in 1952. Tab was cast in a lead role opposite screen legend Linda Darnell. Both the movie and Tab were panned by critics, but teenage girls went wild for the shirtless blond hunk with the dreamy face and the steely jaw. Overnight, with only one role under his belt, Tab Hunter erupted into a media sensation.

Suddenly, an army of photographers charts his every move as he squires glamorous actresses like Natalie Wood and Debbie Reynolds from event to glittering event. Several more low budget films came his way, and Tab began to taste the intoxicating perks of stardom. And the pressures. In private he began a secret affair with figure skater Ronnie Robertson, but in public he was required to date Hollywood's most eligible starlets. Tab was deathly afraid the party could end at any moment, and equally afraid of being untrue to himself, of being torn apart by the contradictions.

Another thing he feared was that he couldn't measure up as an actor. Tab had learned to act essentially on his own, and he feared that his lack of technique might doom him to a career in B-movies. So he worked furiously to make up for his lack of formal training by appearing in a production of *Our Town*. That work paid off when Warner Bros. cast him in *Battle Cry*. The film played up his immense sex appeal and became a smash hit. As the fan magazines whipped Tab-mania into new heights of frenzy, Warner Brothers decided this media sensation could easily be their salvation, and signed him to a 7-year contract. Tab parlayed his screen stardom in to a highly successful record career, releasing dozens of singles and albums including the #1 hit *Young Love*.

But behind the scenes, Tab's life was in turmoil. His mother Gertrude had a nervous breakdown and had to undergo electro-shock treatments. And he finally broke with agent Henry Willson – who had done surprisingly little for his career. A furious Willson got his revenge by feeding the scandal magazine Confidential a story about Tab's arrest years earlier at a gay party. Suddenly, everything Tab Hunter had worked for was about to be cruelly snatched away. But an odd silence followed. The mainstream media said nothing and the scandal quietly faded away. Part of the reason may be his loyal adherence to Hollywood's so-called Gentleman's Agreement, dating women publicly and keeping his private life private.



Over the next few years Tab went from success to success, cementing his position as Warner Brothers #1 male star. Through it all Tab persevered, turned in solid performances and played the game. He began a romantic relationship with his *Lafayette Escadrille* co-star Etchika Choureau, and even considered marrying her. But in the end he decided against taking the charade to that level and began a secret relationship with fellow actor Tony Perkins. The two leading men struggled to maintain a hidden affair in the heart of Hollywood. But unlike Tab, Tony Perkins was deeply troubled by his homosexuality, which added greatly to the strain. Tony's insecurities ultimately undermined any chance of happiness as a gay man and he and Tab drifted apart.

By the late 1950s, Tab's career was hitting it's peak - *Gunman's Walk* with Van Heflin. Playhouse 90's *Portrait of a Murderer* with Geraldine Page. *That Kind of Woman* with Sophia Loren. And perhaps his most enduring role, Shoeless Joe Hardy in *Damn Yankees*. He could now look back on a stellar career in which he had faced every kind of adversity - dismissive reviews, a treacherous, back-stabbing agent, a front page 'outing' - and triumphed every time. When Tab bought out his Warner's contract to escape studio restraints, he became a free man at last. He hoped it would be the start of a bright new phase in his stardom. Instead, it was the beginning of stardom's end. The fan magazines suddenly turned their attention to his successor - Troy Donahue - and movie roles dried up almost completely. So at the dawn of the '60s Tab Hunter began his long odyssey in the show biz wilderness. He was reduced to doing sub-par movies not worthy of his talents, and by the mid-60s it was clear his stardom was history.

For someone named Tab Hunter, a Hollywood comeback was not going to be easy. The social revolutions of the 60s had swept old Hollywood ideas of glamour into the dustbin. The manufactured stars of the 50s had been replaced by edgy anti-heroes like Dustin Hoffman and Jack Nicholson. But Tab was a determined survivor and a tenacious worker. He became the first major film star to headline on the dinner theater circuit, and spent most of the 70s on the road. The stresses of overwork led to a heart attack and solace in the Catholic Church.

An unexpected opportunity in 1981 changed everything. John Waters, off-beat director of cult classics like *Pink Flamingos*, cast Tab as the romantic lead opposite the cross-dressing cult star Divine. *Polyester* became a huge hit and Tab was suddenly hip again. In 1983, while pitching a screenplay to Fox, he met Allan Glaser, a dynamic young executive. They began a relationship that has lasted ever since. They also ended up producing the screenplay - *Lust in the Dust* - which reunited Tab with Divine.

*Tab Hunter Confidential* concludes with Tab and Allan Glaser living their lives in Santa Barbara, where he spends time with his horses and is "happy to be forgotten." Now, Tab Hunter's secret is out and he rides into the sunset a happy, healthy survivor of Hollywood's roller coaster.