

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

# Choke

A Novel



Chuck  
Palahniuk

Author of  
**Fight Club**

"Sheer anarchic fierceness of imagination. . . . A raw and vital book." —*The New York Times*



## SYNOPSIS

An adaptation of Chuck Palahniuk's (*Fight Club*) novel, *CHOKES* is a powerful (and hilarious) film about love and strife between mothers and sons, the addictive power of sex, the terrors of aging, the ugly truth about historical theme parks, and much more.

Victor Mancini (Sam Rockwell), a dropout from medical school, has devised a complicated scam to pay for his mother's (Anjelica Huston) elder care: Pretend to be choking on a piece of food in a restaurant and the person who "saves you" will feel responsible for the rest of his life. Multiply that a couple of hundred times and you generate a healthy flow of checks, week in, week out. Between fake choking gigs, Victor works at Colonial Dunsboro with a motley group of losers and stoners trapped in 1734, cruises sex addiction groups for action, and strikes up an unlikely affair with a nurse (Kelly MacDonald) at the hospital where he visits his mother, whose anarchic streak made his childhood a mad whirl and whose Alzheimer's disease now hides what may be the startling truth about his (possibly divine?) parentage.



## CLARK GREGG – WRITER/DIRECTOR



Clark Gregg has spun a successful career on the New York stage into a growing profile in motion pictures and television as an actor, writer, and director. Clark Gregg's career as an actor began when he was a student at New York University, where he became a protégé of noted playwright and director David Mamet. Mamet cast Gregg in his first film role -- a small part in 1988's *Things Change* -- and that same year he made his off-Broadway debut in Howard Korder's play *A Boy's Life*. With Mamet's help, Gregg co-founded the esteemed Atlantic Theater Company in New York in the late '80s, and in 1990, Gregg made his Broadway debut in Aaron Sorkin's drama *A Few Good Men*. Through the 1990s, Gregg gave a number of strong supporting performances in such films as *Clear and Present Danger*, *The Usual Suspects*, and *Magnolia*, with Gregg earning a Best Supporting Actor nomination at the Independent Spirit Awards for his striking turn as a transsexual in the independent feature *The Adventures of Sebastian Cole*. In television, Gregg scored recurring roles on the shows *The Commish* and *Sports Night*, as well as guest appearances on *Sex and the City* and *The West Wing*. And he remained a near-constant presence on the New York stage, earning Outer Critics Circle, Obie, and Drama Desk nominations for his work. Gregg also began directing for the stage, including well-received productions of Mamet's *Edmond* and Kevin Heelan's *Distant Fires*. In the late '90s, Gregg developed an interest in screenwriting, and began working on a supernatural thriller in his spare time. As chance would have it, Gregg's script came to the attention of Robert Zemeckis, who was eager to direct a thriller; Gregg's first screenplay became *What Lies Beneath*, which starred Michelle Pfeiffer and Harrison Ford, and became a major box-office success.

# CAST

SAM ROCKWELL as VICTOR



## SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford - Charley Ford  
Snow Angels - Glenn  
Joshua - Brad Cairn  
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - Zaphod Beeblebrox  
Piccadilly Jim - Jim Crocker  
Matchstick Men - Frank Mercer  
Confessions of a Dangerous Mind - Chuck Barris  
Welcome to Collinwood - Pero  
13 Moons - Rick  
Charlie's Angels - Eric Knox  
Galaxy Quest - Guy Fleegman  
The Green Mile - 'Wild Bill' Wharton  
A Midsummer Night's Dream - Francis Flute  
Celebrity - Darrow Entourage

## ANJELICA HUSTON as IDA



### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

Seraphim Falls - Madame Louise Fair  
Material Girls - Fabiella  
Art School Confidential - Art History Teacher  
These Foolish Things - Lottie Osgood  
The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou - Eleanor Zissou  
Daddy Day Care - Mrs. Gwyneth Harridan  
The Royal Tenenbaums - Etheline Tenenbaum  
The Man from Elysian Fields - Jennifer Adler  
The Golden Bowl - Fanny Assingham  
Phoenix - Leila  
Buffalo '66 - Jan Brown  
The Crossing Guard - Mary  
The Perez Family - Carmela Perez  
Addams Family Values - Morticia Addams  
Manhattan Murder Mystery - Marcia Fox  
The Addams Family - Morticia Addams  
The Grifters - Lilly Dillon  
The Witches - Miss Eva Ernst/Grand High Witch  
Enemies: A Love Story - Tamara Broder  
Crimes and Misdemeanors - Dolores Paley  
Prizzi's Honor - Maerose Prizzi  
The Postman Always Rings Twice - Madge

## KELLY MACDONALD as PAIGE



### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

No Country for Old Men - Carla Jean  
Lassie - Jeanie  
Nanny McPhee - Evangeline  
All the Invisible Children - Jonathan's wife  
Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story - Jenny  
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - Reporter  
Finding Neverland - Peter Pan  
Intermission - Deirdre  
Gosford Park - Mary Maceachran  
Strictly Sinatra - Irene  
My Life So Far - Elspeth Pettigrew  
Entropy - Pia  
Splendor - Mike  
Elizabeth - Isabel Knollys  
Cousin Bette - Hortense Hulot  
Stella Does Tricks - Stella  
Trainspotting - Diane

## BRAD HENKE as DENNY



### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

Altered – Duke  
Hollywoodland – Russ Taylor  
World Trade Center – Allison's Brother  
Sherrybaby – Bobby Swanson  
North Country – Lattavansky  
The Zodiac – Bill Gregory  
Must Love Dogs – Leo  
Me You And Everyone We Know – Andrew  
The Assassination Of Richard Nixon – Martin Jones

### ADDITIONAL CAST

BETH/CHERRY DAQUIRI – Gillian Jacobs  
YOUNG VICTOR – Jonah Bobo  
URSULA – Bijou Phillips  
LORD HIGH CHARLIE – Clark Gregg  
NICO – Paz De La Huerta  
PHIL – Joel Grey  
EVA – Viola Harris  
PRIM PROFESSIONAL – Heather Burns  
DETECTIVE DORFMAN – Mary McCann  
DETECTIVE RYAN – Matt Gerald  
DETECTIVE PALMER – Isiah Whitlock  
DETECTIVE FOUSHEE – Matt Malloy



## CREW

### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY – TIM ORR

#### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

Pineapple Express (Director – David Gordon Green)  
Year Of The Dog (Director - Mike White)  
Snow Angels (Director – David Gordon Green)  
Come Early Morning (Director – Joey Lauren Adams)  
Little Manhattan (Director – Mark Levin)  
Trust The Man (Director – Bart Freundlich)  
The Baxter (Director – Michael Showalter)  
Imaginary Heroes (Director – Dan Harris)  
Undertow (Director – David Gordon Green)  
All The Real Girls (Director – David Gordon Green)  
Raising Victor Vargas (Director – Peter Sollett)

### PRODUCTION DESIGNER – ROCHELLE BERLINER

#### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

August (Director – Austin Chick)  
Joshua (Director – George Ratliff)  
Quid Pro Quo (Director – Carlos Brooks)  
Emmett's Mark (Director – Keith Snyder)  
In The Bedroom (Director – Todd Field)

### ART DIRECTOR – MATTEO DE COSMO

#### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

Rockett (Director – Patrick Sisam)  
Where God Left His Shoes (Director – Salvatore Stabile)



## CASTING DIRECTOR – MARY VERNIEU

### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

Death Proof (Director – Quentin Tarantino)  
Grindhouse (Directors – Robert Rodriguez/Quentin Tarantino)  
The Fountain (Director – Darren Aronofsky)  
Wprld Trade Center (Director – Oliver Stone)  
Southland Tales (Director – Richard Kelly)  
Sin City (Director – Frank Miller)  
Spanglish (Director – James Brooks)  
Training Day (Director – Antoine Fuqua)  
Requiem For A Dream (Director – Darren Aronofsky)  
Any Given Sunday (Director – Oliver Stone)

## EDITOR – JOE KLOTZ

### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

Patriotville (Director – Talmage Cooley)  
Grace Is Gone (Director – James Strouse)  
Junebug (Director – Phil Morrison)

## COSTUME DESIGNER – CATHERINE GEORGE

### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

Reservation Road (Director – Terry George)  
Diggers (Director – Katherine Dieckmann)  
Keane (Director – Lodge Kerrigan)

## COMPOSER - TBD

## PRODUCERS

### Beau Flynn

Beau Flynn is one of the principals of Contrafilm, a Los Angeles-based production company. He has produced over 10 feature films including "Requiem For A Dream", "The Guardian" and "The Exorcism of Emily Rose"

### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

The Number 23 - Producer  
The Guardian - Producer  
The Wild - Producer  
The Exorcism of Emily Rose - Producer  
After the Sunset - Producer  
11:14 - Producer  
Slap Her... She's French - Producer  
Bubble Boy - Producer  
Tigerland - Producer  
Requiem for a Dream - Executive Producer

### Johnathan Dorfman

Mr. Dorfman is a founding member and Managing Director of ATO Pictures, founded in June 2002. Mr. Dorfman is also Vice-President and a member of the Board of Managers of the 12th Floor Film Fund. Before joining ATO and relocating to New York, Mr. Dorfman was a producer in South Africa with over 15 years of experience in a media in film and television production, radio and advertising including overseeing the national HIV/AIDS media campaign of the Ministry of Health. From 2001 to 2002, Mr. Dorfman developed and produced two seasons of the South African television drama series, *Tsha Tsha*, for the South African Broadcasting Corporation. The show won numerous local and international awards.

### SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

Joshua – Producer  
Savage Grace – Executive Producer  
High Water – Executive Producer  
Amandla! A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony – Producer  
Tsha Tsha! (Television) – Producer  
Back To Alexandra - Director

### Temple Fennell

Mr. Fennell is President and a member of the Board of Managers of the 12th Floor Film Fund. He is a founding member of ATO Pictures and has been Managing Director since its inception in June 2002. Prior to joining ATO, Mr. Fennell worked for *Media General, Inc.* as President of *Boxerjam Media, Inc.*, an interactive entertainment company. Mr. Fennell co-founded *Boxerjam* in 1994, with Julann Griffin the creator of the television show "Jeopardy!" and co-managed the company to become the leading interactive entertainment provider for AOL, Sony Station and Yahoo! Games. In 1995, Mr. Fennell co-

founded *Boxer Learning*, an award-winning, online education company distributed in over a thousand schools worldwide. Mr. Fennell attended the American Film Institute as a directing fellow and directed the award winning short, *Howard Black*, with John C. Reilly.

As producers for ATO Pictures, Dorfman and Fennell produced *Amandla! A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony* which sold to Artisan and won the *Audience Award* and *The Freedom of Expression Award* at Sundance in 2002, the *News and Documentary Emmy Award* in 2004 and over ten other awards. In 2006, they produced *Joshua*, starring Sam Rockwell and Vera Farmiga, which sold to Fox Searchlight and was nominated for the *Grand Jury Prize* and won the *Cinematography Prize* at Sundance 2007. In 2007, ATO Pictures executive produced *Savage Grace*, starring Julianne Moore, Stephen Dillane and Eddie Redmayne and *High Water*, a documentary about big wave surfing directed by Dana Brown (*Step Into Liquid*)

## SELECT FILMOGRAPHY

*Joshua* – Executive Producer

*Savage Grace* – Executive Producer

*High Water* – Executive Producer

*Amandla! A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony* – Producer



## ATO PICTURES

ACCORDING TO OUR PICTURES (ATO PICTURES) is a feature film company, based in New York. The company was co-founded in 2002 by international music artist Dave Matthews as well as the directors of Music Today LLC, Redlight Management LLC, ATO Records, US producer Temple Fennell, and South African producer Johnathan Dorfman.

ATO PICTURES is part of a family of companies in the entertainment industry including:

THE DAVE MATTHEWS BAND is one of the most successful musical acts in the US. The band's albums have sold more than 18 million copies in the United States and have been nominated seven times for Grammy awards and won once.

MUSICTODAY is a multi-million dollar state-of-the art e-commerce and fulfillment company providing online merchandising, ticketing and fan club solutions to hundreds of clients in the music and entertainment industry including The Rolling Stones; Eminem; Usher; Dave Matthews Band; Metallica; Dixie Chicks; The Grateful Dead; and others.

ATO RECORDS is a successful independent record company with Grammy Award winning artists such as David Grey; Patty Griffin; Gomez; Jem and Ben Kweller.

REDLIGHT MANAGEMENT and MICK MANAGEMENT manage headlining, award-winning acts such as John Mayer, David Gray and The Dave Matthews Band.

The 12<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR FILM FUND is a private equity fund established to provide financing for production and distribution for projects sourced by ATO Pictures. Temple Fennell and Johnathan Dorfman are members of the Board of Managers of the fund.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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