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DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN

The sequel to the Canadian classic *GOIN' DOWN THE ROAD*

Written and Directed by Don Shebib

Produced by Robin Cass

"I don't think it's going to be what the audience expects. I think they are expecting further adventures of Pete and Joey doing the same thing in Vancouver as they did in Toronto, only 40 years later. It's not that kind of sequel. It's a totally different film, but it plays off the original. If this film has anything to sell, it's heart. And that is more important than anything." -- Don Shebib

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Set some forty years after the original Canadian classic, DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN begins as Pete McGraw is retiring from his days as a Vancouver postie. With the news of his wayward life-long buddy Joey's demise, Pete finds himself the custodian of a series of letters and a plea from his late pal to head back east with his ashes along with details for a special delivery. DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN is a touching comedic and romantic tale of second chances at life and love.

LONG SYNOPSIS

DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN, the sequel to the Canadian classic *Goin' Down The Road*, picks up forty years later when Pete is on the cusp of retirement from his job as a postie. Pete has been living in Vancouver, disconnected from his old life and friendships. On the verge of his retirement, Pete receives a call from an acquaintance of his somewhat estranged best friend, Joey. Pete learns that Joey is facing surgery for cancer. Days later, Pete is paid a visit from Joey's pal and Pete is given a package as he learns of Joey's demise. Joey has sent Pete the urn containing his ashes, 3 letters, money and the plea that Pete fulfill his final wishes. Instead of peaceful retirement, gardening and dreaming of a more creative life, Pete instead finds himself on the road again in the old Chevy. This road trip is a true adventure and each letter, a clue as to what will happen next. From the grave, Joey dictates Pete's next steps and ultimately changes the course of his life.

First stop is Toronto where Pete is to find Joey's estranged wife, Betty and deliver some money that Joey has left for her. He also has to inform her of Joey's death. Having been abandoned by Joey while expecting their child, Betty is not at all receptive to Pete when she discovers him at her doorstep. Betty's best friend Selina invites Pete in where he breaks the news and meets Betty-Jo -- Joey and Betty's daughter. Now a 40-year-old woman, Betty-Jo has had a

string of unsuccessful relationships and unsteady jobs. Betty-Jo has the fire and adventurous nature of her estranged father but is also filled with anger and resentment towards the man who deserted her.

With his first task completed, Pete climbs back into his Chevy to continue on the road towards Cape Breton where he is to scatter his old friend's ashes. Betty-Jo asks to hitch a ride to Oshawa but once aboard the car announces her true intentions – to travel with Pete all the way to Cape Breton. In a move to try to get to know her father better, Betty-Jo convinces Pete to allow her to come on his journey and together they unravel more secrets to the past than either of them expected.

As *Goin' Down the Road* was the story of two young men who turn their back on their lives in search of new adventures and opportunities, DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN is the trip home – retracing steps, revisiting old haunts and piecing together the memories and experiences that all weave together in becoming the fabric of life.



DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT

One could argue that when Don Shebib made *Goin' Down The Road*, he had the foresight of one day making a sequel. The classic Canadian film ended with best friends Pete and Joey hitting the road and leaving behind loves and Joey's unborn child. The film that made it's way into Canadian hearts and film history, left its audience hanging as to what happened to this wayward pair. It took 40 years for Shebib to return to those characters and re-visit them in DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN.

In 1999, Cam Haynes, co-founder of Union Pictures, was working at TIFF and had programmed a restored version of *Goin' Down The Road* as part of the prestigious Open Vault. It would be the first time Cam Haynes and Don Shebib would meet. At the time DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN had not yet been conceived but the meeting would prove to be a fruitful connection. *Goin' Down The Road remains to-date the most successful Open Vault film TIFF has ever played.*

Goin' Down the Road travelled across Canada as part of the Film Circuit and was released on DVD, reviving people's love for the film. Around that time talk began about the idea of Shebib creating a sequel. Cayle Chernin (who played Selina in both the original and the sequel) along with several others in his inner circle, were instrumental in convincing Don to start writing and eventually encouraged him to write a treatment. Around that same time in 2003, Paul Bradley who played Joey died. Many who are close to Shebib claim it was ultimately Paul's death that propelled him to write DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN. The arduous task of reviving the story of Canada's favourite pair of bad-boys began, but this time Shebib had to deal with characters who were in their twilight years rather than the wild youth chasing their dreams.

Given that most of the actors were now in their 60s and that one of the key figures had recently passed away, it would have been easy for Shebib to write a story about the twilight years of one's life and an examination of life's regrets and pain. Instead, Shebib's DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN is a testament to the idea that you are never too old to start again and most definitely never too old to be surprised by life.

ABOUT THE MAKING OF THE FILM

DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN was shot in the Fall of 2010. The intensity of the shoot and the intimacy of the script resonates throughout the final film. In many ways the film was a bittersweet reunion between the surviving original cast members Doug McGrath, Jayne Eastwood and Cayle Chernin, who all made their film debuts in *Goin' Down The Road*. The spirit of Paul Bradley who played Joey in the original was clearly felt throughout production as an urn with his photo sat squarely on the dashboard of the notorious Chevy Impala.

Even though the film plays tribute to the original, it was very important for director Don Shebib that DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN move from the past into the future so both films could stand on their own merit. While the original film almost feels documentary in tone, it has a purity of cinematic charm that is perhaps unrivaled in Canadian cinema. Forty years later the sequel is a much more classic drama in both script and shooting style, although it features brief clips from the original in which the late Paul Bradley delivered his iconic star turn. While the original appealed to a youthful demographic, the sequel is crafted specifically for a more mature audience.

Making a sequel to one of Canada's most beloved films can come with a lot of pressure. By bringing in fresh characters played by Kathleen Robertson, Tedde Moore and Anthony Lemke, Shebib managed to bridge past and future – and this sentiment was very much the driver on set. The newer actors realized that they were walking into a story that was part of their Canadian heritage as they portrayed the younger generations connected to the characters from the original.



THE CAST

Doug McGrath (Pete)

Doug McGrath is an acclaimed Canadian actor, whose turn as “Pete” in *Goin’ Down The Road* (1970) forever earned him his place in our history. For his outstanding performance, he took home a Canadian Film Award (now called a Genie Award) for Best Performance by a Lead Actor, an award he shared with costar Paul Bradley. Following the auspicious debut, McGrath could be seen in Canadian movies *Wedding in White* (1972, starred Carol Kane), *The Hard Part Begins* (1973), the Bob Clark-directed *Black Christmas* (1974) and *Russian Roulette* (1975). He broke into Hollywood with roles in the Clint Eastwood films *The Outlaw Josey Wales* (1976), *The Gauntlet* (1977), and in *Cat Murkil and the Silks* (1976). Meanwhile, he also appeared on the small screen, in the TV movie “Helter Skelter” (1976) as well as guest starring in episodes of “The Starlos” (1973), “The Rookies” (1975), “Baretta” (1976) and “The Incredible Hulk” (1979).

After appearing in Clint Eastwood’s adventure film *Bronco Billy* (1980), McGrath once again attracted attention when he played the supporting role of Coach Warren in *Porky’s* (1982). His performance brought the actor a Genie nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in 1983. He went on to have guest roles in *Falcon Crest* (1982), *Little House on the Prairie* (1982) and “Dynasty” (1983), and appear in small roles in movies *The Escape Artist* (1982), *Coming Out Alive* (1984), Clint Eastwood’s *Pale Rider* (1985), the crime *Cold Front* (1989, with Martin Sheen) and the Steven Spielberg-romantic adventure *Always* (1989), which starred Richard Dreyfuss and Holly Hunter.

During the 1990s, McGrath spent most of his time outside the limelight. He maintained his presence by appearing in two features, 1991’s *The Rocketeer*, opposite Bill Campbell, Jennifer Connelly, Alan Arkin, Timothy Dalton and Paul Sorvino, and the 1993 action *Quick*, starring Teri Polo and Martin Donovan. On television, he appeared in a couple of dramas “What Love Sees” (1996) and “Inherit the Wind” (1999) and in an episode of “Providence” (1999).

In the next decade, McGrath found roles in the made-for-TV film “The Mutant Watch” (2000), the horror feature John Carpenter’s *Ghosts of Mars* (2001), starring Natasha Henstridge, Ice Cube, Jason Statham and Clea DuVall, and in the 2004 comedy series “This Is Wonderland”, in which McGrath appeared as Ralph, he was handed a Gemini nod for Best Performance by an Actor in a Guest Role Dramatic Series. The same year, he appeared in other Canadian production like the drama film “My Brother’s Keeper” and the made-for-TV film “H2O.” In 2005, McGrath had a cameo role, as Thomas Mitchell’s father, in “Our Fathers,” a TV drama starring Ted Danson, Christopher Plummer, Brian Dennehy, Daniel Baldwin and Ellen Burstyn.

Kathleen Robertson (Betty-Jo)

Actress Kathleen Robertson's versatile performances continue to garner her roles in diverse television and film projects. She appeared in *Hollywoodland* (2006) with Adrien Brody and Ben Affleck, *Mall Cop* (2005), and was featured in the role of Julia Sullivan on the IFC's TV series *The Business* (2006-2007). Guest appearances include *CSI: Miami* and *Law and Order*. She's appeared in the blockbuster series *Scary Movie* (2000), *Scary Movie 2* (2001), and *XX/XY* (2002), opposite Mark Ruffalo. Robertson also appeared with Bill Murray in director John McNaughton's comedy *Speaking of Sex* (2001), starred in the TV movie as notorious Canadian murderer Evelyn Dick in the grizzly 1946 true story "Torso: The Evelyn Dick Story" (2002) and had a coveted cameo opposite Sean Penn in New Line Cinema's *I Am Sam* (2001).

She collaborated with writer/director Gregg Araki on the films *Splendor* (1999) in which she starred as Veronica, a girl caught in the middle of a love triangle with the likes of Johnathon Schaech and Matt Keeslar, and *Nowhere* (1997) in which she portrayed the overbearing, purple-haired lesbian 'Lucifer'. Both characters were a far cry from her introduction to millions of households while assuming the role of Clare Arnold on Fox's hit series "Beverly Hills, 90210" (1990). Additional film credits include *Beautiful* (2000) with Minnie Driver for director Sally Field, Bruce McCulloch's *Dog Park* (1998), and *Psycho Beach Party* (2000). This Fall Kathleen stars opposite Kelsey Grammer in the new television series, *Boss*. A native of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Robertson currently resides in Los Angeles.

Jayne Eastwood (Betty)

Jayne Eastwood has had a long and varied career on stage, in film and television. She was one of the original cast members of the Toronto branch of The Second City, and was a semi-regular on SCTV. Her film work includes her role as "Betty" in *Goin' Down The Road*, and supporting roles in the Oscar-winning film *Chicago*, *Hairspray* starring Michelle Pfeiffer and John Travolta, and *Dawn of the Dead*, starring Sarah Polley and Ving Rhames.

In 2005, she joined the cast of the CBC TV series *This Is Wonderland*, a courtroom comedy-drama. Some of her other television work includes *Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows*, *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, and *Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning*. She has been a voice actor in more than 20 animated shows, including *My Pet Monster*, *Tales from the Cryptkeeper*, *The Busy World of Richard Scarry*, *Bob and Margaret*, *Rupert*, *Pippi Longstocking*, *Bob & Doug*, *For Better or For Worse* and *Babar and the Adventures of Badou*. Eastwood recently appeared in the acclaimed Toronto theatrical production, *Women Fully Clothed* at the Royal Alexandra Theatre.

Cayle Chernin (Selina)

Cayle Chernin was a Canadian actress, writer, and producer born on Cape Breton

Island, Nova Scotia. She began her career as Selina in *Goin' Down The Road*. She later produced award-winning documentaries, and acted in film, television and theatre.

Her television work was extensive and her credits included "Single White Spenny" (2011), "Of Murder and Memory" (2008 TV movie), the highly successful CBC TV series "Little Mosque on the Prairie" (2007), "Queer as Folk" (2004), "What Makes a Family" (2001 TV movie), "Exhibit A: Secrets of Forensic Science" (1998 TV series), "A Town Torn Apart" (1992 TV movie), and the beloved CBC TV series "King of Kensington" (1978). Her film credits included the award-winning *Rhinoceros Eyes* (2003), *Not a Fish Story* (2002), *Passengers* (2000), *The Graveyard Story* (1991), *Concrete Angels* (1987), *Baraba* (1986), *Tracks* (1977), *Dealing: Or the Berkeley-to-Boston Forty-Brick Lost-Bag Blues* (1972) and *Love in a 4 Letter World* (1970).

Chernin died of ovarian cancer on February 18, 2011 at the age of 63. DOWN THE ROAD AGAIN marks her final screen appearance.

Anthony Lemke (Matt)

Ottawa-born Anthony Lemke is best known as Capt. Grisham from the television series "Queen of Swords" and as David Rothstein from the hit, multiple award-winning Québécois series "Les Hauts et les bas de Sophie Paquin." He has numerous credits in television and in films, including "PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal" (1999), "The Ricky Nelson Story" (1999 – TV movie), "Relic Hunter" (2000), and *American Psycho* (2000) with Christian Bale.

Other recent credits include appearances on the hit SyFy series "Warehouse 13," on CTV's "The Listener," and "The Last Templar", an NBC mini-series adaptation of Raymond Khoury's New York Times best-selling novel of the same name, starring Mira Sorvino and Victor Garber.

Lemke earned a law degree from McGill University in 2007. He wrote and produced the short film *One Last Dance* (2009).

Tedde Moore (Annie)

Tedde Moore has been a professional actor for over 50 years, working in all media. She has a Genie for her film work and enjoys ongoing recognition as 'Miss Shields' in the cult film *A Christmas Story*. In 2002 she was awarded a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Female Performance, Independent Theatre. Presently she can be seen on DVD in the controversial History Channel miniseries *The Kennedys*. In Dec. 2011 she will be seen on the Hallmark Channel and CTV as Mrs. Clause in another Christmas film *Mistletoe Over Manhattan*.

Moore co-edited (with Lynda Mason Green) a book of Canadian performers anecdotes, 'Standing Naked In The Wings'. She teaches acting at Equity Showcase Theatre, The Royal Conservatory of Music, Sheridan College and Niagara College.

THE FILMMAKERS

Don Shebib (Writer, Director and Editor)

Don Shebib is an award-winning Canadian film director, writer, producer and editor. Trained at the National Film Board of Canada and CBC TV, his acclaimed work includes *Surfin'* (1964), *Satan's Choice* (1965) and *Good Times Bad Times* (1969), which won three Genie Awards.

In 1970 Shebib directed the classic film, *Goin' Down The Road*, what has been called "the seminal Canadian drama." Made on a shoestring budget, *Goin' Down the Road* is credited with having revitalized English-Canadian cinema, drawing the attention of a savvy international audience and unanimous praise from prominent critics who likened its raw and gritty honesty to the early work of groundbreaking directors such as John Cassavetes and John Schlesinger.

Rip-Off (1971), Shebib's second feature, costarred the American actor Don Scardino, Ralph Endersby and Peter Gross. Shebib's third feature, *Between Friends* (1973), made the festival circuit playing in Cannes, London, Berlin, Chicago, Edinburgh, Sydney and Melbourne. Shebib has enjoyed both critical and commercial success with projects such as *Second Wind* (1976) for example, or the made-for-TV movie, *The Fighting Men* (1977), *By Reason of Insanity* (1982) and *The Little Kidnappers* (1990) which gave Shebib a chance to work with Hollywood legend Charlton Heston. His 1981 film, *Heartaches*, went on to win three Genies including Best Original Screenplay for Terence Heffernan and was nominated for eight more including Best Direction for Shebib and Best Cinematography for future director, Vic Sarin. His TV work includes *Wind At My Back*, *Lonesome Dove: The Series*, *The Zack Files* and *Radio Free Roscoe*.

Robin Cass (Producer)

Robin Cass is an acclaimed Canadian film and television producer and co-founder of the Toronto-based production company Triptych Media, with Anna Stratton. More recently he was a co-founder of Union Pictures. His career includes credits on the feature films *High Life* (2009), *Falling Angels* (2003), *Lilies* (1996 Genie Award winner for Best Picture), *The Republic of Love* (2003), *The Hanging Garden* (1997 and recipient of the audience award for Most Popular Film at TIFF), and the groundbreaking *Zero Patience* (1993). He has also served as an executive producer

on *Emotional Arithmetic* (2007) starring Susan Sarandon and Christopher Plummer, and Richie Mehta's feature debut, *Amal* (2008). Television credits include the dramas *Lucky Girl*, *The Tale of Teeka* and Gordon Pinsent's *Heyday!*

Cass has a diverse background that includes work as photo and electronic-based visual artist, as well as a decade of experience in series television as a writer, director and field producer for CFT0 and Global. He is a graduate of the Experimental Arts Department of the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD). He is a past board member and executive board member for the Canadian Film and Television Production Association (now CMPA), Crow's Theatre and the About Face organization.

Anna Stratton (Executive Producer)

Anna Stratton is an award-winning Canadian film and television producer, co-founder of Union Pictures and the president of Triptych Media, originally founded with Robin Cass. Her credits include the feature films *Emotional Arithmetic* (2007) with Susan Sarandon, Christopher Plummer, Max von Sydow, Gabriel Byrne and Roy Dupuis, *The Republic of Love* (2003) and *The Bay of Love and Sorrows* (2002), *Falling Angels* (2003), *Lilies* (1996 Genie Award winner for Best Picture), *The Hanging Garden* (1997 and recipient of the audience award for Most Popular Film at TIFF), and the groundbreaking *Zero Patience* (1993). Additional film credits include *Executive Producing High Life* (2009), Television credits include the dramas *Lucky Girl*, The Banff Rockie award-winner, *The Tale of Teeka* and Gordon Pinsent's *Heyday!*

She has a background in the theatre, where she worked as a producer, administrator and educator and as Head of English Language Theatre for the Canada Council. She produced many stage productions, including the hit play, *Tamara*. She is a graduate of the Canadian Film Centre. Stratton has served on many boards and committees including the Feature Film Project of the Canadian Film Centre, Dance Umbrella of Ontario, the First Night Festival and the Toronto Theatre Festival. She is a co-founder of Reel Canada, the festival of films for high schools and of PRO, the Producer's Roundtable of Ontario, and serves on the OMDC advisory group for screen-based industries.

Sandra Cunningham (Executive Producer)

Sandra Cunningham has over twenty-five years of experience in the international film industry, beginning in Montreal with work in distribution and promotion, which led to a five-year stretch in Rome working on independent productions. After returning to Canada, Sandra worked as a programmer for the Toronto International Film Festival before starting Strada Films, which has brought critically acclaimed Canadian feature films to the big screen, including John L'Ecuyer's, *Curtis's*

Charm, Robert Lepage's *Possible Worlds* and a series of high profile international co-productions with Robert Lantos' Serendipity Point Films, such as Atom Egoyan's *Ararat* and *Where the Truth Lies*, Norman Jewison's *The Statement*, István Szabó's *Being Julia* and Jeremy Podeswa's *Fugitive Pieces*.

Most recently, Strada Films saw Mary Harron's *The Moth Diaries* have its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival followed by a North American premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. 2011 will also see the release of the Strada Films production of *Billy Bishop Goes to War* starring Eric Peterson and John Gray.

Sandra is a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Media Production Association (CMPA), and has produced the Talent Lab at the Toronto International Film Festival for the past six years. She sits on the industry advisory committee of TIFF.

François Dagenais (Cinematographer)

François Dagenais started his film career by directing a series of 23 short documentaries around the world for the CBC. Between 1995 and 1997, he earned an MFA from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles where he shot his first feature film, *Mascara*. Since 1999, he has photographed dozens of projects including *Between the Moon and Montevideo* (Camerimage Cinematography Festival 2000), *One Eyed King* with William Baldwin, Armand Assante and Chazz Palminteri, *A Silent Love* (Sundance 2004), *Undying Love*, a feature documentary on Holocaust survivors (Best Cinematography, CSC Award), *Cube Zero*, the prequel to the cult movie *Cube*, *The National Tree*, *Malls R US*, *Off World*, *Down the Road Again* and *The Samaritan*, starring Samuel L. Jackson.

Jonathan Goldsmith (Composer)

Jonathan Goldsmith is one of Canada's most acclaimed composers. His extensive credits include Sarah Polley's recent film *Take This Waltz* (2011), *Casino Jack* (2010) starring Kevin Spacey, *Score A Hockey Musical* (2010), *Cell 213* (2010), *Highlife* (2009) and *Away From Her* (2006).

For his work as a composer, Jonathan has received many awards including BAFTA Award 2005; Best Original Score For Television; Four Gemini Awards, Best Original Score; Fifteen Gemini Award Nominations, Best Original Score and Four Genie Award Nominations, Best Original Score.

Jasna Stefanovic (Production Designer)

Jasna is an acclaimed production designer with extensive experience. Recent films include Terry Gilliam's *Tideland* (2005), Billy Woodruff's *Honey* (2003), *Connie &*

Carla (2004) with Toni Collette and Nia Vadalos, Marc Rosman's *A Perfect Man* (2005) and Vincenzo Natali's *Brainstorm* (2002). Past work includes Vincenzo Natali's *Cube*, Sofia Coppola's, *The Virgin Suicides*, *Men With Guns* and Universal's *Josie and the Pussycats*.

Jasna's work on *Cube Tideland* both earned her Genie Award nominations for Best Production Design.



CREDITS

PRODUCTION

Don Shebib.....Director/Writer/Editor
Robin Cass.....Producer
Sandra Cunningham.....Executive Producer
Anna Stratton.....Executive Producer
François Dagenais.....Cinematography
Jonathan Goldsmith.....Composer
Robin D. Cook.....Casting Director
Jasna Stefanovic.....Production Designer
Pierre Bonhomme.....Art Director
Marie Grogan Hales.....Costume Designer
Chris Pavoni.....Production Manager
Felix Gray, Neil Huhta.....First Assistant Directors
Karen Patterson-Bowden...Script Supervisor

CAST

Doug McGrath.....Pete
Kathleen Robertson.....Betty-Jo
Jayne Eastwood.....Betty
Cayle Chernin.....Selina
Anthony Lemke.....Matt
Tedde Moore.....Annie

Kristin Adams.....Secretary
Elva Mai Hoover.....Housekeeper
Shawn Lawrence.....Sammy
Gene Mack.....Lenny
Barbara Worthy.....Marie
Sam Moses.....Mike
Neil Crone.....Jimmy
Steve Eric McIntyre.....Mechanic