

# Who Do You Love

A film by Jerry Zaks

## MEDIA KIT

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## SYNOPSIS

Leonard Chess changed the face of modern music, and he did so without playing a note. An immigrant living in Chicago just as the city was exploding with new blues sounds, he heard what few others did at the time: the universal passion in the music. Etta James, Muddy Waters and Bo Diddley all rose to fame thanks to Chess. At first with a nightclub and then with his legendary record label, Chess earned his place in American cultural history. This is his story, and it rocks

## **PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

Who Do You Love is the life story of legendary record producer Leonard Chess, founder of Chess Records in Chicago, IL, the label that helped popularize Blues music during the 1950s and '60s.

Leonard, a Jewish immigrant from Poland and the son of a junkyard dealer, is mesmerized by the Black music and culture that surrounds him. Leonard and his brother Phil, open a club called the Macomba, and gamble on producing “race records” with the help of bass player and songwriter, Willie Dixon. After initial failure, they find tremendous success with the extraordinary Muddy Waters. As Muddy Waters becomes wildly popular, Leonard and Phil Chess create Chess Records. Leonard’s obsession with the music business strains his family life. Leonard then makes great efforts to make things right at home with his wife Revetta, and son Marshall. As his priorities are changing, so is the music world around him.

The Chess brothers widely exposed Blues as it radically reinvented itself as Rock 'n' Roll. Who Do You Love also stars David Oyelowo, Chi McBride, Jon Abrahams, and Grammy Nominated Jive Records recording artist Raheem DeVaughn.

## THE MUSIC

### *Birth of the Blues...*

Although the main focus of the movie is on the life of CHESS record executive Leonard Chess, it tells the story of business between brothers and the popularization of blues music. This movie begins looking through the eyes of a young Leonard Chess in the family owned junkyard. As an adult, Leonard and Phil Chess, Leonard younger brother, end up taking ownership and working in this yard.

The brothers worked at the yard to support their families, however, eventually decided to sell it to buy a record studio. The money from selling the junkyard, in addition to a stash of secret money Leonard had hidden in his home, created what was known as CHESS Records. Unfamiliar with the ins and outs of the music industry, Leonard and Phil enlisted the help of Dix, a black bass player and songwriter knowledgeable of blues genre, to assist in managing the record company and artists.

Leonard's first objective was to create a music band that could increase profits for the family business. Through creating the band, they came across guitar player Muddy Waters. Muddy Waters replaces Johnson, the initial guitar player in the new band, and actually borrowed Johnson's guitar to "audition" for Dix and Chess. Muddy songs were inspired by life's tragedies and hardships, which eventually was a success and attracted lots of people to nightclub shows.

After recording a hit record with the band created by the Chess brothers, Muddy wanted to bring in his personal band to continue doing music.

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Leonard is unsure of this venture at first, but eventually allows Muddy to perform with his own band. Muddy's band is a success and ends up in nightclubs and on the radio. The radio DJ was paid to put Muddy's track in rotation, and but had no real intentions to put him on. Muddy and his band members visited the DJ station, where after an exchange of serious glances, the DJ aired their song. A song that undoubtedly became a hit single that sparked a blues trend.

Another blues singer featured in the movie was a beautiful woman named Ivy. Leonard was familiar with Ivy's talents because he witnessed her performing in previous nightclubs. Leonard then attempted to recruit Ivy to record for his label after seeing her one night at a bar. The agreement was for Leonard to pay off Ivy's debt in exchange for her singing for his company. She had a beautiful voice, but couldn't produce beautiful music when she eventually got into the studio, because she was a drug addict. In efforts to help sober Ivy, Leonard put her into a hotel for a few weeks, and made it clear that no drugs or alcohol would be allowed into her room. Ivy eventually died of an overdose, but not before she sang a song called "At last".

*The blues had a baby and they named it Rock 'n' Roll...*

As time progressed Leonard picked up other artists such as Bo Diddley and Etta James. Bo Diddley introduced rock and roll, and Etta James ended up singing her own rendition of Ivy's song, "At Last". The blues was

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ultimately placed on the back burner as rock 'n' roll flourished. Taking in these new acts expanded Chess Records and introduced a new musical trend that would eventually add to the success of the company.

The music used in this movie included both vocal and instrumental accents. The blues genre uses monotone voice characteristics and usually creates visuals of heartache and pain through song. Significant instruments featured from this era include the guitars, bass guitars, harmonicas and drums. The predominant music in the movie is blues, however, rock 'n' roll was featured toward the conclusion of the movie.

## **THE COSTUMING**

Inspired by a Chicago style of fashion, costuming featured in the movie exhibited an authentic, stylish and elegant taste. Combining 1930's, 40's, and 50's style trends, cast members were dressed in articles ranging from tailored suits, long skirts, to feathered hats.

The 1930's brought forth a more genteel, ladylike appearance. Rounded busts and waistline curves were made more noticeable, while hairstyles became more soft and delicate. Small plate shaped hats adorned the heads of most women. Luxurious gowns were worn during evening events, while loose comfortable fashions were prevalent in during afternoons. Sequins and glass beads were added to fabrics to create a shimmer and glamorous look for the 1930's fashionista.

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The film's portrayal of the 1930's was that of aged and tattered clothing. This era was during The Great Depression; therefore characters in the film were dressed according to poverty-like standards. Most people during this era were without jobs, or with little money, therefore costuming during this portion of the film exuberated emotional appeal and depicted more of a lower class style of dress.

The 1940's developed skirts that were short and straight accompanied by short jackets. Cardigans were worn with skirts and covered evening dresses replaced long flowing gowns common in the thirties.

The film's portrayal of the 1940's demonstrated a financial turning point for the Chess brothers and other characters. Costuming was more upscale, including double breasted suits and other authentic pieces. This portion of the film included more nightclub scenes, and showed the Chess brothers making more money, which in turn pushed the costuming from working-class to middle-class.

Costuming in the film during the 1950's was more vibrant and colorful. Characters in the film were making more money, therefore able to buy nice clothes, homes and cars. Style of dress during this portion of the film was of success. Tailored suits, beaded dresses and fine jewelry were now some of the luxuries of being upper class in the 1950's.

Emphasis on color variation, fabric texture/quality and authentic pieces throughout the film, bring light to the apparent growth in style, fashion, and financial means as times went on. With more success came better tastes and values in appearance and personal possessions.

## THE LOVE STORY

*At last,  
My love has come along,  
My lonely days are over,  
And life is like a song...*

Leonard Chess is married to a woman named Revetta, and also has a young son named Marshall. The movie starts out depicting Leonard as a hard-working man engrossed in his family and dedicated to their happiness. This then slowly fades away as Leonard's career starts taking off.

Ultimately Leonard's career is interfering with his marriage and the relationship he has with his son. Revetta feels neglected and Marshall simply misses his father. Leonard's long hours at the job and apparent workload are cause for him to neglect his family. Unable to see his neglect, Leonard pushes harder to expand the family business, however, putting business before family.

A turning point for this defaulted relationship comes when Leonard does not go on an annual family fishing trip. Using excuses relative to work, Leonard promises to make up the missed trip with his family at a later date. Phil tries to reason with Leonard and suggests that work is not more important than maintaining your family. Leonard simply does not agree and secretly explains that he has no desire to vacation in outdoor accommodations. This shows the bond between families is breaking down for the Chess', and work is over powering the need for family.

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Leonard also began an affair with one of his clients, Ivy. This affair was sparked by Ivy's sultry disposition as well as Leonard's curiosity of dating a black woman. Leonard knew this affair would dissolve his marriage and decided (with the help of his brother) to end it. When Leonard visited Ivy to tell her the affair was over, he found her dead in her hotel room, overdosed on drugs.

Leonard returns home one day to find Revetta and Marshall had moved out of their house, and into his brother's home. At no surprise, more than the fishing trip avoidance caused Revetta's move. Aside from obvious clues in the breakdown of their marriage, were the not so obvious clues. Revetta knew about Leonard and Ivy's affair.

*That's All I want from you...*

After realizing the importance of his family, Leonard decides to change his outlooks of family and business. Correlating to the movie perfectly, Leonard uses music to convey his love for Revetta. He sits outside Revetta's window and serenades her until she comes out and rides home with him.

A prevalent issue in society is the unbalanced nature between business and family. Each entity requires an abundance of attention and dedication, however many people are unsure of how to balance the two. There is a way to have a successful business while maintaining a successful and healthy family. Perhaps this film will shed light on how families fill voids, teamwork and dedication builds strength, and dreams come true with faith and determination. *CHESS*. © 2009 Louisiana Media Productions.

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

### ALESSANDRO NIVOLA – “Leonard Chess”



Alessandro's first professional leading role earned him a Drama Desk Award Nomination for his performance opposite Helen Mirren on Broadway in Turgenev's *A Month in the Country*. The following year he drew critical acclaim and a Blockbuster Award Nomination for playing Nicolas Cage's paranoid genius younger brother in John Woo's *Face/Off*. A series of roles in English movies followed, establishing him as one of the few Americans capable of playing British characters from all regions and classes. He starred as a Hastings fisherman opposite Rachel Weisz in Michael Winterbottom's *I Want You*, played the charming cad in the Patricia Rozema adaptation of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, and the romantic King Ferdinand of Navarre in Kenneth Branagh's musical film of Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*.

Back in the U.S. he starred opposite Reese Witherspoon in *Best Laid Plans*, and played leading roles in *Jurassic Park 3*, and Mike Figgis' *Time Code*. He returned to the theater to play Orlando to Gwyneth Paltrow's Rosalind in *As You Like It* at Williamstown, before being reunited with Helen Mirren in Peter Jan Brugge's film *The Clearing*, where he played Robert Redford's son.

Alessandro earned an Independent Spirit Award Nomination for his performance as the rock singer Ian McNight in Lisa Cholodenko's *Laurel Canyon*. Apart from seducing both Kate Beckinsale and Frances McDormand in the film, he recorded the character's songs himself prompting Vogue magazine to write, "he sings Brit pop well enough to get a record deal." His other films include *Junebug*, which premiered in competition at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival and is distributed by Sony Pictures Classics, and *The Sisters*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. He also stars in the film *Goal*, playing an international soccer star, financed by Adidas and distributed by the Buena Vista Motion Picture Group.

He is a graduate of Yale University with a BA in English.

## CAST BIOS (Cont'd)

### JON ABRAHAM – “Phil Chess”



Jon Abraham was born October 29, 1977 and has been a credited actor since 1995. He was nominated for a MTV Movie Award for Best Kiss in “*Scary Movie*” (2000). Abraham also won the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival, Short Film Award for best actor in “*What are The Odds*” (2004). Widely known for his performances in “*Meet the Parents*”, “*Scary Movie*”, and “*House of Wax*”. He is also credited for performances in various films, television series, and theatrical performances. Movies featuring Abraham include “*My Boss’ Daughter*”, “*The Faculty*”, and “*Dead Man Walking*”. Television series featuring Abraham include “*Ellen*” and “*Boston Public*”. He made an appearance in the 2007 music video for Fall Out Boy's, "This Ain't a Scene, it's an Arms Race".

### DAVID OYELOWO – “Muddy Waters”



David was born in Oxford in 1976, the son of a Nigerian prince. He attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He made history at age 24 when he was the first black actor to play a British monarch in a major stage production of *Henry VI* for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

David is most well known in the UK as a star on the BAFTA award-winning BBC TV series *Spooks*, about agents in Britain’s legendary MI5 spy service. Last year, David starred in *LAST KING OF SCOTLAND*. This year David has appeared in *A RAISIN IN THE SUN* on ABC, and *AS YOU LIKE IT* on HBO.

Most recently he can be seen on the HBO miniseries *FIVE DAYS* and soon you will see him in Anthony Minghella’s last feature *NO. 1 LADIES DETECTIVE AGENCY*.

## CAST BIOS (Cont'd)

### CHI MCBRIDE – “Dix”



Chi McBride can be seen on ABC's critically claimed hit-series PUSHING DAISIES as private investigator Emerson Cod. He just wrapped DRIVING LESSONS co-starring Dermot Mulroney, Selma Blair, and Bow Wow. Chi also starred in FIRST SUNDAY for Screen Gems opposite Ice Cube, Tracy Morgan and Katt Williams.

Chi's past credits include ABC'S critically claimed series THE NINE, Fox's critically acclaimed series BOSTON PUBLIC as well as feature films such as AMERICAN SON, THE TERMINAL, ANNAPOLIS, I ROBOT and GONE IN SIXTY SECONDS.

### MEGALYN ANN ECHIKUNWOKE – “Ivy Mills”



Megaly born May 28, 1983 in Spokane, Washington. Her father is Nigerian and her mother is Navajo-Caucasin descent. Her last name Echikunwoke means "leader of men" and Megaly is the granddaughter of a Nigerian tribal leader of the Igbo, which technically makes her African royalty. She is known for playing Nicole Palmer in the first season of 24 and Isabelle Tyler in The 4400.

She was raised on a Navajo Indian Reservation in Chinle, Arizona. She has a brother named Miki and a sister named Misty. She was discovered at 14 years old when she was performing in an arts academy summer camp play, and have ever since had long distance relationship with Hollywood.

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## CAST BIOS (Cont'd)

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She later began auditioning for parts via videotape, and then she and her mom would make the long drive from Arizona. Her persistence paid off and at age 15 she was cast as the young female lead in the ABC/Peter Benchley miniseries "Creature."

Megalyn and her family moved to Los Angeles where she enrolled in high school and immersed herself in the theatre department. She appeared opposite Alfre Woodard in the cable feature "Funny Valentines." Megalyn was a series regular in the sci-fi series *The 4400*, playing the adult version of the mysterious Isabelle Tyler since the beginning of season 3. Echikunwoke left the show in 2007 after her character sacrificed herself. Not long after she left the show, it was dropped by its production company.

She had previously starred in the MTV soap opera *Spyder Games* as Cherish Pardee, a coffee house singer. Other notable characters include the daughter in *Like Family*. She has had guest roles in numerous shows including *The Steve Harvey Show*, *Boston Public*, *ER*, *What I Like About You*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *That '70s Show*, *Veronica Mars*, and most recently *Supernatural*. She also had a recurring role during the first season of *24*.

## MARIKA DOMINCZYK – "Revetta"



Marika was born July 7, 1980 in Kielce, Poland. Dominczyk moved to Brooklyn, New York with her parents and two sisters when she was just 3 years old. Credited as an actress since 2000, she is known for her roles in "*The 40 Year Old Virgin*", "*3 A.M.*", and "*Bag Boy*". Dominczyk has also been featured in numerous television series including "*Las Vegas*", "*Brothers and Sisters*", "*Heist*", and "*North Shore*". She is also engaged to boyfriend of three years and former *Felicity* star Scott Foley.

## CAST BIOS (Cont'd)

### KEVIN MOORE (KEB MO)– “Jimmy Rogers”



Kevin Moore was born October 3, 1951 in Los Angeles, California. Also known as Keb' Mo', Moore has been credited as an actor and composer since 1996. He is known for his work on *“All the Kings Men”*, *“Honeydripper”*, and *“Freddie: The Search for Grandpa Four”*. Moore was also featured in various films and television series such as *“Shut up and Sing”*, *“Killer Driller”*; television series *“Freddie”* and *“Touched by an Angel”*.

### RAHEEM DEVAUGHN – “Andrew Tibbs”



Raheem perfected his craft as a young artist by releasing numerous mixtapes and performing throughout his hometown of Washington, D.C., **Raheem DeVaughn** was determined from the beginning to be the best.

DeVaughn graduated from High Point High School in Beltsville, Maryland and then headed to nearby Coppin State. It was the first day of college that would change the course of his life. “I saw a group of guys standing outside singing, Boyz II Men style,” remembers DeVaughn. “I just went up there and started harmonizing with them. Before I knew what was going on, I was in a group, cutting class to write lyrics and record.” Although the group did not last, the direction DeVaughn’s life was about to take would

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## CAST BIOS (Cont'd)

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have a lasting effect on his music. After winning \$2,000.00 in a talent show at Bar None, a Washington D.C. nightclub, DeV Vaughn decided to go for broke and invested all of his winnings into a CD burner. Several independent releases led to a showcase with Jive Records and the road to a major label debut finally caught steam.

Introduced to a wider audience in 2005 with the release of his debut disc The Love Experience, singer Raheem DeV Vaughn has always strived to create the perfect hybrid of old school grooves and new school attitude.

Still performing at a steady pace, Raheem has played everywhere from Japan to Jamaica. "I have a cult following," he says. "Sometimes I see the same people in different cities, and I just love that." The essence of Raheem as an artist is to watch him perform live; it's a stunning aural and visual performance, that comes to life on stage when he is accompanied by Picasso, a DC based visual artist, who captures live moments of the performance on canvas.

### **RYAN SHAW** – "Billy Breeze"

Ryan Shaw was born in Decatur, Georgia and grew up in a deeply religious Pentecostal family. He began singing in church at the age of five and later formed a family group with his four brothers called the Shaw Boys. "We didn't listen to secular or pop music either in *or* out of our house," he explains. "So my early musical influences are all from the gospel world—singers like Darryl Coley, Keith Brooks, James Moore, and the Pace Sisters."

After briefly attending Georgia State University, Ryan successfully auditioned for the gospel musical *A Good Man Is Hard to Find (Part II)*. In 1998, he joined the cast of *I Know I've Been Changed*, written and directed by Tyler Perry (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*). Ryan came to New York with this production and performed to sold-out crowds at the Beacon Theater.

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## CAST BIOS (Cont'd)

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After the closing of *I Know I've Been Changed*, Ryan joined the resident cast of the Motown Café on West 57<sup>th</sup> Street where he performed Detroit soul favorites by the Four Tops and Marvin Gaye. Later he found another steady gig with a group that he says played “just about anything from the Fifties and Sixties that you could dance to—Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole, Stax and Motown, Dion & the Belmonds, you name it.”

The more Ryan heard of the sounds of the Fifties, Sixties, and Seventies, the more aware he became of the missing ingredients in contemporary music. “I’m into chords, melodies, lyrics, arrangements—I’m into *music* in all its aspects. It seems like the late Eighties were the last time we really had all these elements in Black music, with artists like Anita Baker and Luther Vandross. By the mid-Nineties, we were down to two chords and a drum loop.”

In 2004 Ryan was recruited into the Fabulous Soul Shakers, a vocal group specializing in classic soul and doo-wop. Johnny Gale, the group’s guitarist, is a New York music veteran who’s worked with everyone from Hank Ballard to the Ramones. Deeply impressed by Ryan’s talent, Johnny urged his old friend Jimmy Bralower to check him out. As a percussionist and drum programmer, Jimmy was among the city’s most in-demand session players, having worked with superstars like Madonna, Peter Gabriel, and Steve Winwood.

One night in 2006, Bralower came down to hear Ryan sing at a small Lower East Side club...and was blown away by what he heard. He and Johnny Gale invited Ryan back to Jimmy’s basement studio on Long Island where they quickly cut four of Ryan’s featured numbers with the Soul Shakers including “Do the 45” and “I Found a Love.”



## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Jerry Zaks (Director)** most recently directed Chazz Palminteri's *A Bronx Tale* on Broadway as well as the acclaimed City Center *Encores!* production of "*Stairway to Paradise*". He has received four Tony Awards, four Drama Desks, two Outer Critics Circle Awards, an Obie and an NAACP Image Award nomination for his national tour of "*The Tap Dance Kid*".

He has directed more than 30 productions in New York, receiving Tony Awards for "*Guys and Dolls*", "*Six Degrees of Separation*", "*Lend Me A Tenor*", and "*House of Blue Leaves*". He received a Tony Award nomination for works such as "*A Funny Thing...Forum*", "*Smokey Joe's Café*", and "*Anything Goes*". A medley of other productions he is credited for include "*La Cage aux Folles*" (Tony Award, Outstanding Musical Revival), "*The Foreigner*" (Obie Award), "*The Marriage of Bette and Boo*" (Obie Award), "*The Caine Mutiny Court Marshal*", "*Little Shop of Horrors*", "*The Man Who Came to Dinner*", "*A Bad Friend*", "*The Front Page*", "*Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor*", "*Assassins*" (Drama Desk nomination), "*Wenceslas Square*", "*Sister Mary Ignatius...*", and "*Beyond Therapy*". London: *The Philadelphia Story* at the Old Vic, starring Kevin Spacey. Film: the award winning "*Marvin's Room*", starring Meryl Streep and Diane Keaton. TV: "*Everybody Loves Raymond*," "*Fraiser*," and "*Two and a Half Men*."

Mr. Zaks served as resident director at Lincoln Center Theater from 1986–1990 and is a founding member of the Ensemble Studio Theatre. A graduate of Dartmouth with an MFA from Smith, he received the SSDC's George Abbott Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre in 1994 and an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Dartmouth in 1999. Since 1990 he has been proudly affiliated with Jujamcyn Theaters.

## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES (CONT'D)

**Bob Conte (writer)** Screenplay Credited writer since 1986. Known for his work on “*Who’s Harry Crumb*”, “*The Breed*”, and “*The One*”. Also credited with work on films and videos such as “*Summer Jobs*”, “*Say Nothing*”, and “*Lone Hero*”.

**Peter Martin Wortmann (write and co-producer)** Won a Razzie Award for worst screenplay for “*The Flintstones*” in 1995. He is a writer, producer, and director. Credited as a producer since 1986, with works on films such as “*Who’s Harry Crumb*”, “*The Breed*”, and “*The One*”.

**Dennis A Brown (executive producer)** has supervised numerous Academy Award and Emmy Award winning projects. He has an extensive background in mounting hundreds of millions of dollars of diversified productions in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Western and Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Caribbean...including several complex co-productions.

Dennis was Emmy and Producers Guild of American nominated for “*Ike: Countdown To D-Day*” for A & E Network and Sony Pictures Television. The prestigious television movie was based upon Dwight Eisenhower’s final months leading up to D-Day and starred Tom Selleck. Most recently Dennis produced the acclaimed “*Fatal Contact*”, a television movie for ABC.

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## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES (CONT'D)

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Dennis began his career as an NBC Page. He worked in production budgeting and estimating at Desilu Studios, Paramount Pictures, Metromedia Producers Corporation, Quinn Martin Productions and the illustrious American International Pictures. He joined EMI Films to become their vice president of worldwide production and was involved in such projects as "*Deerhunter*" and "*Convoy*".

In the aftermath of *Heavens Gate*, United Artist asked Dennis to join the company as a worldwide production executive. Subsequently he joined ITC Entertainment Group as the senior executive vice president of production and then, twenty-five years after starting as a Page at NBC, he returned as their executive vice president to lead up their in-house production operation.

He then moved on to ABC Pictures where he was in charge of their MOW productions. Dennis then joined Sony Pictures Television heading up their worldwide production of television movies, where he ended his executive career and moved into freelance producing.

Dennis is a graduate of Syracuse University and is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and the Directors Guild of America.

## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES (CONT'D)

**Les Alexander (producer)** has produced enough movies-for-television to lose count. Almost all were made with his former partner of 25 years and friend Don Enright and along the way they won one Best Picture EMMY and several other nominations. In 2007, Les teamed up with another friend –investment wizard Jonathan Mitchell– to produce feature films and yes the occasional television movie.

The first fully financed feature from Alexander/Mitchell Productions is the tentatively titled WHO DO YOU LOVE, directed by multiple TONY award winner Jerry Zaks, about the musical revolution fomented by Leonard Chess and Chess Records Chicago in the 1950s.

Also in production for The Hallmark Channel is a two-hour introduction to television<sup>1</sup>'s newest, and hopefully most successful female sleuths in the film "*Dear Prudence*".

**Gideon Amir (executive producer)** nominated for Emmy for Outstanding Miniseries for "The Mists of Avalon" in 2002. Credited as a producer since 1980. Known for work on various films and television productions such as "*Fifteen and Pregnant*", "*American Ninja*", and "*The Year without Santa Claus*".

**Andrea Baynes (producer)** was born in 1946 and has been credited as a producer since 1986. Recognized as a recipient for a Primetime Emmy for Outstanding made for Television Movie for "*Miss Rose White*" in 1992. Also nominated for Emmy for Outstanding Drama/Comedy Special for "*The Ann Jillian Story*".

## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES (CONT'D)

**Jonathan Mitchell (producer)** has been credited as a producer since 2008. Previously he has been overseeing his family office since 1999. His involvement includes serving as the chief executive officer or general partner of six principal entities engaged in publicly traded stock and bond investments, foreign currency transactions, private equities, lending and real estate development and management.

The Managing General Partner of Benequity was EDM Equities, Inc., an entity established by Joseph (Chairman) and Jonathan Mitchell (President). Jonathan Mitchell was responsible for over 20 million square feet of commercial and industrial properties. Geographically, his family holdings are in a variety of locales within the United States, as well as in Australia, Israel, Japan and China.

Heavily committed to supporting non-profit causes, Jonathan Mitchell has held officer positions and seats on numerous boards of a variety of local, national and international organizations. His charitable work was well discussed in the Melman/Raviv book, entitled "Friends in Deed."

**Carey Meyer (production designer)** has been credited since 1991 and is well known as production designer on various films and television series. Known for work on films such as "*Stuart Bliss*", "*Abilene*", and "*Star Time*". Also known as production designer on various "*CSI*" television series, including sixty-one episodes on "*CSI: Miami*", and production design for one hundred ten episodes on "*Buffy The Vampire Slayer*".

## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES (CONT'D)

**David Franco (director of photography)** was born September 14, 1963, and has been credited since 1987. He was nominated for four awards through The American Society of Cinematographers, and winner of one Emmy award, Gemini Award, and Valladolid International Film Festival Award. Well known for work on "*The Whole Nine Yards*", "*3000 Miles to Graceland*", and "*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*".

**Stacey Rosen (Casting Director)** has been credited since 1993, and nominated for three awards through The Casting Society of America. Nominated for Best Casting for TV Movie of the Week for "*Gleason*" in 2002. Also nominated for Best Casting for TV Miniseries for "*Firestarter 2: Rekindled*" in 2002, and Best Casting for TV Miniseries for "*The Beach Boys: An American Family*" in 2000.

**JoAnn Jansen (choreographer)** has been credited since 1993 for her work as a choreographer and acting coach. Having worked on a multitude of films, videos and television series, she is known for her talents in "*The Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*", "*The X-Files*", and "*Fear of Loathing in Vegas*". Other productions she worked on includes (but not limited to) "*Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights*", "*Uptown Girls*", television series "*Charmed*", and "*Freedom Writers*".

**Christine Peters (costume designer)** has been credited as a wardrobe designer since 1992. She is well known for work on "*Love Don't Cost a Thing*", "*The Fugitive*", "*The Beach Boys: An American Family*". Other credited works include (but not limited to) "*Mrs. Doubtfire*", "*Ladybugs*", television series "*Joan of Arcadia*", "*Lizzie McGuire*", and "*The Secret*".

## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES (CONT'D)

**Budd Carr (executive music producer)** is acknowledged as one of the film industry's top talents in the field of Film Music Supervision. Best known for his work with Academy Award-winning director Oliver Stone he has applied his expertise to every Stone film since "*Salvador*," including "*JFK*," "*Platoon*," "*The Doors*," "*Born on the Fourth of July*," "*Natural Born Killers*," "*Any Given Sunday*," and "*World Trade Center*." He has supervised over 70 films and worked with renowned directors James Cameron, Michael Mann, Frank Oz, Terry George, Norman Jewison and Mike Newell, among many others.

Budd began his professional career as a music agent with the CMA, IFA and ICM, handling acts such as The Cream, James Taylor, Bob Seger, Carole King, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, and Eric Clapton. Launching his own management company in 1980 he has handled the careers of multi-platinum acts such as Kansas, Captain & Tennille, Heatwave, Asia and Slaughter.

Budd served as Executive Music Consultant for Peter Guber's Mandalay Pictures at both Sony Pictures and Paramount Films, and as the Senior Film Music Supervisor for Windswept Pacific and EMI Music Publishing Companies.

He continues to serve as a consultant, executive music producer and music supervisor for motion pictures, Television and soundtracks and is currently working on Oliver Stone's new film "*W*" starring Josh Brolin about the life of George W. Bush. With his music supervision partner, Nora Felder, their Picture Tunes Music produced the soundtrack album to the critically acclaimed and Academy Award nominated film "*Hotel Rwanda*" and this year they have handled the music for "*Mad Money*" from academy award winning director Callie Khouri and are finishing Overture Film's Puerto Rican/American Humboldt Park and The Chess Records story directed by Jerry Zaks. They are also supervising the award winning Showtime TV series Californication starring David Duchovny.

## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES (CONT'D)

**Nora Felder (executive music producer)** began her start in the music industry as Music Events Supervisor for a prominent New York City East Village Club, coordinating concerts and music release parties for up and coming bands and artists. Later working with legendary music producer, Phil Ramone, Nora honed in on her A&R development and creative chops overseeing music projects for artists ranging from Paul Simon, Sinead O'Connor, to Les Paul and Iggy Pop.

Nora's resume spans her work on many Disney Touchstone films, which led to her current partnership formation of Picture Tunes Music, with legendary music supervisor Budd Carr. Together, Felder and Carr have gone on to handle music for films of all genres ranging from "*Hotel Rwanda*", "*The Guardian*", "*Mad Money*", to the critically acclaimed independent film "*Hounddog*". Current projects include releasing an innovative Itunes "3 pack" soundtrack for their hit Showtime series *Californication* starring David Duchovny, and Overture Pictures "*Humboldt Park*" starring Debra Messing and John Leguizamo.



## CREDITS

### CAST

Leonard Chess	.....Alessandro Nivola
Muddy Waters	.....David Oyelowo
Dix	.....Chi McBride
Phil Chess	.....Jon Abrahams
Ivy Mills	.....Megalyne Echikunwoke
Revetta	.....Marika Dominczyk
Elgin Evers	.....Derrick Martin
Jimmy Rogers	.....Kevin Moore
Little Walter	.....Miko Defoor
Andrew Tibbs	.....Raheem DeVaughn
Malcom Chisolm	.....Joe Chrest
Lonnie Johnson	.....TJ Hassan
Alan Freed	.....Ian Leson
Marshall (7/8-years-old)	.....Tendal Jaret Mann
Bo Diddly	.....Robert Randolph
Little Johnson	.....Gavin Lewis
Sheva	.....Lisa Goldstein
Leonard (13-years-old)	.....Ryan Puzewski
Hank Lakin	.....Roy McCrerey
Joe Chess	.....Dan Triandiflou
Jake	.....J.D. Evermore
Phil (8-years-old)	.....Benjamin Rose

### FILMMAKERS

Casting	Stacey Rosen, C.S.A.
Executive Music Producers	Budd Carr & Nora Felder
Original Music	Jeff Beal
Production Designer	Carey Meyer
Director of Photography	David Franco
Costume Designer	Christine Peters
Editors	Scott Richter & Anthony Redman
Executive Producers	Gideon Amir & Dennis Brown
Producers	Les Alexander, Andrea Baynes & Jonathan Mitchell
Co-Producer By:	Robert Conte & Peter Wortmann
Written By:	Peter Wortmann & Bob Conte
Directed By:	Jerry Zaks

# Reel Film Reviews

## *Who Do You Love*

Directed by Jerry Zaks  
USA/90 MINUTES/GALA



An unapologetically old-fashioned music biopic, *Who Do You Love* tells the story of Leonard Chess (Alessandro Nivola) - a Jewish nightclub owner who became a pioneer within the music industry after establishing Chess Records and discovering such legendary names as Muddy Waters and Bo Diddley. Director Jerry Zaks - working from Peter Wortmann and

Bob Conte's screenplay - has infused *Who Do You Love* with an exceedingly familiar sensibility that contains all of the tropes and cliches one has come to associate with the genre, including the opening that segues into a flashback (Leonard Chess evidently can't listen to one of his acts without first thinking back on his life) and the expected downfall that dominates the proceedings' third act. Yet the film is generally **elevated by the fantastic music and Nivola's charismatic, commanding performance**, although - in terms of the latter - there's little doubt that Chi McBride steals every one of his scenes as Chess' self-described "guide into the exotic negro world." And although one's interest does start to dwindle once Chess' success starts to overwhelm him - ie his marriage, already on shaky ground, takes a seemingly fatal hit after Leonard starts sleeping with a drug-addicted protege - *Who Do You Love* primarily comes off as **a personable, downright irresistible endeavor that's sure to leave viewers humming its various ditties long after the credits have rolled.**



## Who Do You Love

*An Alexander/Mitchell production. Produced by Les Alexander, Andrea Baynes, Jonathan Mitchell. Executive producers, Gideon Amir, Dennis A Brown. Directed by Jerry Zaks. Screenplay, Peter Wortmann, Bob Conte.*

By JOHN ANDERSON

The story of Leonard Chess, son of immigrants, founder of Chess Records and the man who delivered Chicago blues and Chuck Berry to the world, is **epic, American and timely** (part of the reason Sony's Chess biopic, "Cadillac Records," will be released next year). "Who Do You Love," from helmer Jerry Zaks and scribes Peter Wortmann and Bob Conte, could draw auds with its score -- **rich in Chess** hits -- and its considerable drama, even if Zaks' efforts to evoke a pictorial sense of the '50s and '60s leaves the film feeling a bit static.

It's an interesting aesthetic strategy, though, and as expected from a theater titan like Zaks ("Six Degrees of Separation," "House of Blue Leaves"). The **performances are solid**, notably that of Alessandro Nivola, who walks a delicate line as Chess between sympathetic and contemptible: His dealings with men like Willie Dixon (a great Chi McBride), the songwriter/bassist who wrangled bluesmen for the company, are as dubious as his generosity toward label mainstay Muddy Waters (a twinkling David Oyelowo).

**First-rate acting is also delivered by newcomer Megalyn Echikunwoke** as doomed singer Ivy Mills and Marika Dominczyk as the long-suffering Mrs. Chess. While the movie doesn't electrify, it is **funny, revealing and always watchable**.

The Chess brothers -- the phlegmatic Phil (Jon Abrahams) and the older, restless Leonard -- are running a junkyard when Leonard gets the itch to start a blues nightclub; he sees the financial possibilities in black music; it's unclear he ever sees anything else. His alliance with Dixon, and their eventual meeting with the transplanted Mississippi blues genius Muddy Waters -- portrayed in a way that's probably apocryphal, but certainly works -- kicks Chess Records into high gear.

But Leonard, as the classic Dixon song says, can't be satisfied. "What Leonard does," says his wife Revetta, "he does for Leonard." "Who Do You Love" answers its own question, and is ultimately an entertaining story about a deeply lonely man.

# Who Do You Love

*A film by Jerry Zaks*

BACK