

PRESSKIT



**RETIRE**  
**FOR THE EVENING**

**A FILM WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY  
ED HELLMAN**

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
BOB GIRALDI**

**STARRING:  
CARLA RHODES**

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### **SHORT SYNOPSIS:**

A ventriloquist's puppet attempts to continue the act after his partner dies.

### **LONG SYNOPSIS:**

In 1950, Raissa Halliday, a famous ventriloquist, teaches her shy, 10-year-old son, Eben, to express himself using a simple sock puppet.

Eben grows up to become a professional ventriloquist, though not nearly as talented nor well-received as his mother, and on New Years Eve of the year 2000, dies in his apartment, the sock puppet still on his hand.

At first unwilling to accept change, the sock puppet drags the dead body around the apartment, preparing for a final show, before ultimately realizing it can't perform on its own and returning to Eben's sock drawer.

### **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION:**

Retire for the Evening is a 10-minute live action short film that was written and directed by Ed Hellman, a graduate student at the School of Visual Arts in Bob Giraldi's MPS Live Action Short Film program. It was filmed over 4 days in New York in February, 2013.

### **AWARDS:**

Runner Up Best Picture SVA Film Fest 2013

Featured on RocketHub's blog:

*<http://blog.rockethub.com/post/46873764649/the-puppet-comes-to-life-short-film-crowdfund>*

### **SCREENINGS:**

SVA Film Fest 2013

DragonCon 2013

Albany Asbury Shorts Film Concert 2013

NewFilmmakers Halloween Show 2013

American Romanian Festival Film Series 2013

**ACTOR BIOGRAPHY:**

**CARLA RHODES (ACTRESS)**

Carla Rhodes is a rock n' roll ventriloquist and comedienne. Mentored by the legendary Shari Lewis, Carla has performed since her teens and appears regularly in New York City when not touring nationally. Most recently, she was honored to be a finalist in the 2012 Andy Kaufman Awards.

**KEY CREW:**

**BOB GIRALDI (Executive Producer)**

Bob Giraldi is an American film and television director known for directing the film Dinner Rush and the music video for Michael Jackson's song "Beat It." His work has garnered many accolades, including several London International Awards, Cannes Advertising Awards, NY International Awards, Addy Awards, Chicago Film Festival Awards and hundreds of Clio Awards. He has also been named one of the "101 Stars Behind 100 Years of Advertising." His production company has produced and directed close to 3000 commercials, music videos and short films.

**ED HELLMAN (Writer/Director)**

Ed Hellman hails from Baltimore, Maryland. He holds a BFA from Bard College and a MPS from the School of Visual Arts. Ed is an Apple-certified Final Cut Pro Editor and professional freelance Director and AD. He has been making films since the fourth grade, often investigating the themes of identity, gender, sight, and miscommunication. Ed won the Adolfas Mekas Award for Scriptwriting in 2006 for his 3rd feature film, "Elephant in Love" and "Retire for the Evening" won Runner-Up Best Picture at its premiere festival, the SVA Film Fest 2013. He is currently working as a freelance Director and 1st Assistant Director, while in pre-production on a web-series with Carla Rhodes. Ed lives with his wife, Andrea, and their two hairless cats in New York.

**KEVIN KOLACK (Producer/1st Assistant Director)**

Kevin Kolack grew up outside of Atlanta in a town with no traffic light. After getting a BS in chemistry and Buddhism from The University of Virginia, Kevin earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Indiana University, as well as certification as a master firefighter/EMT, while also taking acting classes in NYC and Chicago. As an actor, he has been seen or heard in more than 100 films and commercials. Recent acting projects include Blue Bloods, White Collar, One Life to Live, Law & Order:SVU, and the award-winning festival darlings "Little Indiana Jones", "Mutant Aliens" and "H.R. Pukenshette." Producer and 1st AD projects include "Retire for the Evening," the satirical comedy "KFT" and the music video "I Wanna Be a Porn Star." He is married to the Rev. Diane Kolack and lives in NYC.

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### **MICHAEL PATRICK O'LEARY (Director of Photography)**

Michael Patrick O'Leary has worked in the image making business for over a decade. Having started his career in the lighting department has given Michael a unique path as a still photographer and director of photography. The understanding of lighting is essential to creating beautiful images. Being behind the camera, shaping light, moving from still to motion and motion to stills has propelled his ability to produce efficiently, and make amazing images. Michael loves helping an idea find its visual outlet.

### **CHARLIE KANEV (Puppet Designer / Creative Consultant)**

Charlie Kanev is a New York based puppet builder and puppeteer. Charlie has been working with puppets for nearly his entire life. He is currently a puppeteer in the hit off Broadway show *The Adventures of Maya the Bee*, some of his past credits include; creating custom puppets for the films, *Retire for the Evening*, *Leat Klingman's Wolfy's Journey*, Erin Orr and Rima Fand's *Don Cristobal-Billy Clubman*, and many more. Charlie has recently created his own version of Hans Christian Andersen's, *The Little Mermaid*.

### **GABRIELE CASSIA (Editor)**

Gabriele Cassia was born and raised in Italy and trained in London. He moved to New York four years ago and has since edited feature films, short films, documentaries and several TV shows. He has worked with a wide variety of talents, ranging from an Academy nominated director to college graduate students.

### **ANDREW STACK (Composer)**

Andrew B. Stack is a multi-instrumental musician, composer, and producer. He has spent the bulk of the last 6 years as one half of the Baltimore-based duo *Wye Oak*, performing across the United States and in 22 countries throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. *Wye Oak's* album *Civilian* was named the best record of 2011 by the *Onion AV Club*. The band's music has been featured in major TV shows and motion pictures, including AMC's *The Walking Dead* and *Safety Not Guaranteed*. Andrew currently lives in Portland, Oregon.

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## DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Retire for the Evening explores what happens to our creations – be they human or artistic – once we are gone. The idea for the screenplay came to me when I was applying to grad school. I got to thinking about the steps one takes on the path to adulthood, and how strange it felt to not have my parents prodding me along during the application process.

This time around, I was pretty much on my own. Having recently married and turned 30, I find it harder and harder to include the word “young” before “adult” when referring to myself. I decided to use my thesis project to explore the inevitable leap a child must take into manhood.

The puppeteer in the film is a product of his mother, while the puppet is a product of its creator. Both are reflections of someone’s hopes and desires, and both, at some point, are left to stand on their own.

For all the artists out there who dream of having their creations live on after they die, this movie is for you.



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**WRITER/DIRECTOR ED HELLMAN**

For more information, check us out at  
[www.retirefortheevening.com](http://www.retirefortheevening.com)

and

<https://www.facebook.com/RetireForTheEvening>

For a **TRAILER**, go to:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWiEMUuM5Uw>