

Casting Call

By

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Cast of Characters

<u>Judd Apatow:</u>	Greg Hicks
<u>Kristen Bell:</u>	Grace Hawkins
<u>Paul Rudd:</u>	Ryan Krasnoo
<u>Robert De Niro:</u>	Mike Perles
<u>Will Ferrell:</u>	Sean FitzGerald
<u>Christian Bale:</u>	Peter Leonard
<u>Al Pacino:</u>	Kendall Russ
<u>Katie Holmes:</u>	Alexandria Strother
<u>John Belushi:</u>	David Brownman
<u>Penelope Cruz:</u>	Gabriela Granados
<u>Molly Ringwald:</u>	Sarah Goslin
<u>Lindsay Lohan:</u>	Paige Pflieger
<u>Meryl Streep:</u>	Skye Payne

Lights up.

JUDD APATOW sits between KRISTEN BELL and PAUL RUDD at a table.

JUDD APATOW

Thank you so much, Kristen Bell and Paul Rudd, for coming here on such short notice. I'm directing a new romantic comedy and I need people I can trust to read scenes with the actors I have coming in to audition.

KRISTEN BELL

No problem, Mr. Apatow.

PAUL RUDD

Judd, I owe my life to you, so really, it's a pleasure. I'm sorry I couldn't star in this film myself, actually.

JUDD APATOW

Well, I have many of the greatest actors of our time coming in to read for the two leads. First up, the legendary Robert De Niro.

ROBERT DE NIRO enters, dressed as a gangster. He has a disgusted look on his face

JUDD APATOW

Mr. De Niro, thank you so much. It's an honor to even be in your presence. I am such a fan and admirer of your work.

Silence.

JUDD APATOW

Oh that's right, you don't do interviews. Let's continue then. You ready, sir?

Silence.

JUDD APATOW

Mr. De Niro? Mr. De Niro?
(louder)
MR. DE NIRO!!!

ROBERT DE NIRO

You talkin' to me? Are you talking to ME?

JUDD APATOW

(nervous)
Umm, yes, I was hoping we could start the audition.

ROBERT DE NIRO

Sorry, kid. My apologies. I was rear-ended on my way in. Really shook me up.

JUDD APATOW

I'm sorry to hear that.

ROBERT DE NIRO

It's fine. Let's go. Let's do this.

Kristen Bell walks up to De Niro and hands him a script.

JUDD APATOW

Alright, you're going to read with Kristen, here. Whenever you're ready.

KRISTEN BELL

(from the script)

Hi, I'm Anne.

ROBERT DE NIRO

(reading the script perfectly)

Anne, it's Chuck. I was thinking that maybe you'd like to get a cup of coffee with me. You...

He stops and looks down, then up with fury in his eyes.

JUDD APATOW

What's wrong?

ROBERT DE NIRO

(yelling)

This little fuck who hit my Mercedes. I'm gonna get him where he breathes! I wanna find him. I want him DEAD! I want his family DEAD! I want his house burned to the GROUND! I wanna go there in the middle of the night and I wanna PISS ON HIS ASHES!

Robert De Niro storms off. Kristen and Judd look at each other confused.

JUDD APATOW

(awkwardly)

Okay, moving on. It is a comedy, so maybe we need a more comedic actor. Will Ferrell is here!

Enter WILL FERRELL, who shakes Judd's hand and grabs a script from Kristen.

WILL FERRELL
Judd, always a pleasure.

Will kisses Kristen on the lips.

WILL FERRELL
You're hot. Let's go!

JUDD APATOW
Alright, the scene you'll be reading is when the main characters first meet.

WILL FERRELL
(reading the script, seductively)
Hello. I didn't see you there. Wait a second, have we met?

KRISTEN BELL
(from the script)
No, I'm Anne.

Will undresses to his underwear as he reads to the opening of Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On."

WILL FERRELL
Well hello, Anne. I'm Charlie. What brings you here this fine evening? Can I buy you a drink? I find you very attractive...

JUDD APATOW
Stop! Will, why are you in your underwear?

WILL FERRELL
(yelling)
I thought this was a sex scene!

JUDD APATOW
No. This is ridiculous.

WILL FERRELL
No, YOU'RE ridiculous.

Will exits dramatically, carrying his pants.

JUDD APATOW
Next!

CHRISTIAN BALE enters.

JUDD APATOW
Welcome, Christian Bale. Whenever you're ready.

CHRISTIAN BALE

(reads the script in his Batman voice)

I work at the deli around the corner - Rocko's - have you eaten there? Our roast beef is supposedly the fourth best in the county.

KRISTEN BELL

(breaks character)

I'm sorry, I don't know what you're doing.

JUDD APATOW

Excuse me, Christian, is there something wrong with your voice? You sound ill.

CHRISTIAN BALE

(normal voice)

I'm just getting into character.

JUDD APATOW

(sarcastically)

Well, can you try it more...uh...normal?

CHRISTIAN BALE

Absolutely.

KRISTEN BELL

(from script)

Yeah, I've been to Rocko's. I eat there every Tuesday. I never see you. What do you do?

CHRISTIAN BALE

(still in the Batman voice)

I work nights as a janitor. You'd be surprised what a good roast beef sandwich makes people do in the bathroom.

JUDD APATOW

Cut! You sound like you're choking on testacles. Next!

Christian Bale exits. Enter AL PACINO.

JUDD APATOW

Thank God Al Pacino is here. I'm through with these amateurs.

AL PACINO

Greetings all. Wait a second, is that Paul Rudd over there?

He points to Paul Rudd.

JUDD APATOW

Why, yes, it is.

Al walks up to Paul, who stands up and sticks out his hand to greet Al.

Al puts his hands on each side of Paul's face and kisses his forehead.

AL PACINO

I knew it was you, Paulie!

PAUL RUDD

Great to see you, Al.

Al turns back to Judd and Kristen.

AL PACINO

Let's get started. But first, I'd like you to say hello to my little friend!

Everyone in the room ducks and hides. Kristen Bell unleashes a high-pitched scream.

Pacino pulls a baby doll out of his coat.

JUDD APATOW

Tom Cruise? Tom Cruise is your little friend?

Enter KATIE HOLMES

KATIE HOLMES

Hi, I'm looking for my husband. Has anyone seen him?

AL PACINO

Sorry Katie, Tom insisted on tagging along in my coat pocket.

KRISTEN BELL

Katie Holmes! I haven't seen you in years!

She gives Katie a hug.

KATIE HOLMES

Kristen, so good to see you, even under such awkward circumstances. I'd like to say this is the first time I've caught Tom hanging out in another man's coat, but I think you and I both know that'd be a lie.

AL PACINO

Can we do the Goddamn scene now?

JUDD APATOW

No, we need to get going Al.

Al Pacino pulls a gun out of his coat pocket and points it at Kristen Bell. This time, Paul Rudd unleashes a high-pitched scream.

AL PACINO

Let me do the scene or the bitch gets one between the eyes.

Kristen Bell hands him a script.

KRISTEN BELL

(scared)

Here, go ahead!

Al Pacino reads the script, with Tom Cruise as his puppet.

AL PACINO

So I went to the supermarket for some cabbages. And some guy in front of me bought all the cabbages. So I shot up the whole supermarket.

AL PACINO (AS TOM CRUISE)

(sounds like Kermit the Frog)

It's a damn shame, too. I liked that supermarket. They had the freshest produce in town.

AL PACINO

(as himself)

That is all now. Thank you. Ms. Cruise, your husband. Everyone else, arrivederici!

He returns Tom to Katie and walks out.

KATIE HOLMES

(to Kristen)

That's the most aroused I've been in years. I love it when Tom does his Kermit the Frog voice.

The Cruises leave.

JUDD APATOW

Okayy.....Next, John Belushi.

Enter JOHN BELUSHI dressed in a Toga.

JUDD APATOW

John, what the hell are you wearing?

JOHN BELUSHI
A toga.

JUDD APATOW
A what?

JOHN BELUSHI
Toga. Toga! Toga! Toga!

Paul Rudd gets up and ushers Belushi out of the room.

PAUL RUDD
We're going nowhere, Judd. Why don't we try the actresses for the female lead?

JUDD APATOW
Good idea. Bring in the actresses!

Penelope Cruz struts in.

PAUL RUDD
Oh my God, you got Penelope Cruz to audition? She is so hot.
(to Penelope)
Miss Cruz, what an honor!

PENELOPE CRUZ
It is nice to meet you. Shall I begin?

PAUL RUDD
Yes.

PENELOPE CRUZ
(in a thick Spanish accent, getting close to Paul Rudd)
I thought that was you standing there, Charlie. I did not recognize you without your glasses. I had no idea you were such a good looking man. You clean up very nice.

PAUL RUDD
(pauses, forgetting where he is, then:)
Oh, yes, thank you.

PENELOPE CRUZ
The other night I was thinking about you, and I said...

JUDD APATOW
(interrupting)
That's enough!

PAUL RUDD

(mesmerized by her looks still)
No, keep going.

JUDD APATOW

No!

(to Penelope Cruz)
I...CAN...NOT...UNDERSTAND...YOU

PENELOPE CRUZ

Hey Apatow, do you understand this?

Penelope Cruz gives Apatow the finger and struts off stage.

PAUL RUDD

Hey Judd, I don't know what she was saying, but guess who just went from six to midnight?

Enter a red-haired actress.

JUDD APATOW

Begin whenever you're ready.

RED HAIRED ACTRESS

(from script)

I believe in true love, in walking down the street and bumping into someone, in making eye contact and knowing right then and there that he is the one you were meant to fall in love with and spend the rest of your life with.

PAUL RUDD

(from script)

That's fascinating. I sometimes doubt if people still believe in that sort of thing.

RED HAIRED ACTRESS

Maybe I'm in the minority, I don't know.

JUDD APATOW

Brilliant! Perfect! I love it! Miss, what is your name?

RED HAIRED ACTRESS

Are you kidding me?

JUDD APATOW

No?

RED HAIRED ACTRESS

(her voice growing louder as she speaks)

(MORE)

RED HAIREED ACTRESS (cont'd)

This is so typical. I am Molly Fucking Ringwald. I was one of the biggest movie stars of the 1980s. Jack-ass.

She storms off.

KRISTEN BELL

(to Judd)

I thought you said you had famous people coming in. She's not famous anymore.

Enter Lindsay Lohan, half-naked and with a cigarette in one hand and a beer in the other.

LINDSAY LOHAN

Sorry I'm late. Am I even in the right place?

JUDD APATOW

Yes, miss Lohan, you are.

LINDSAY LOHAN

Good. I need this gig.

JUDD APATOW

Whenever you're ready, read.

LINDSAY LOHAN

(reading from the script, slurring her words and messing up her sentences)

So I was sitting on a bench in the park downtown. And this bitch walks up to me and asks me for a dollar. And I'm like, 'I don't think so' and kick her in the groin. Bitch falls over and calls the fucking cops and I had to run and hide.

(out of character)

Hey! This reminds me of last weekend!

PAUL RUDD

(from script)

So then what? Are you a wanted criminal?

LINDSAY LOHAN

(from script)

No, the dipshit cops found me and I told them I saw the girl who did it run away.

JUDD APATOW

(sarcastically)

Cut! Good work, Lindsay.

LINDSAY LOHAN

Have your people call my people.

Lindsay Lohan takes her cell phone out of her bra. A bag of cocaine falls out, too. She looks around the room, embarrassed.

PAUL RUDD

Lindsay, is that what I think it is?

Al Pacino runs in from backstage. He grabs the cocaine and darts off into the audience. Lindsay chases after him.

Judd, Paul, and Kristen all sit down at the table where they started.

KRISTEN BELL

Well, what do you think about her?

JUDD APATOW

I've seen some of her work, and she's a pretty good actress when she wants to be. But how am I supposed to cast her when she comes in looking like a fucking assault victim every day?

KRISTEN BELL

Yeah, what ever happened to her? Ooh! Maybe we could get her twin sister from The Parent Trap.

PAUL RUDD

No, you're thinking of the other anorexic Olsen twin.

KRISTEN BELL

Oh, yeah, you're right.

PAUL RUDD

What about the actors, Judd?

JUDD APATOW

Worse! I can go with schizophrenic Robert De Niro, or the crackhead who hides Tom Cruise in his pants. Not very encouraging.

They sit looking hopeless.

KRISTEN BELL

(seductively)

You know, Judd, I'm not busy right now. You remember how I got the part in Forgetting Sarah Marshall?

JUDD APATOW

That already worked once. Don't push your luck.

Paul Rudd gets up and stands behind Judd, and starts rubbing his shoulders.

PAUL RUDD

Oh, c'mon Judd. Isn't it better to work with people you can trust? Like your friends?

Judd Apatow isn't buying any of it.

JUDD APATOW

(yelling)

Stop it! This is ridiculous! Let's try one more actress and call it a day.

He looks at the list he has and his eyes widen.

JUDD APATOW

Sweet tits! Meryl Streep is here!

Enter Meryl Streep.

MERYL STREEP

Hello, how are you?

Paul Rudd gets up to read with Meryl.

JUDD APATOW

Excellent, Miss Streep. It's a pleasure to see you.

MERYL STREEP

Where am I reading from today?

PAUL RUDD

This scene right here...

(pointing at script)

The female lead's closing monologue.

MERYL STREEP

Very good.

She puts on her glasses and starts reading.

MERYL STREEP

In the end, all we have is each other. I love the fact that I can get up in the morning singing like a bird and go to sleep each night in the arms of a man who loves me for who I am.

Judd Apatow is crying.

JUDD APATOW

You are a lifesaver, Meryl Streep. That was beautiful.

MERYL STREEP

Oh, nonsense. You're too kind.

Her phone rings.

MERYL STREEP

Oh, do excuse me, it's my agent.

(on phone)

Hello? Yes, I'm there now. What do you mean you're here. 245B, right?

(to Judd)

What room is this?

JUDD APATOW

345B

MERYL STREEP

(on phone)

Oh, dear.

She hangs up.

MERYL STREEP

I do apologize. It turns out I have the wrong room.

JUDD APATOW

(yelling)

ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?

MERYL STREEP

I'll show myself out, then.

She shuffles out.

JUDD APATOW

(yelling)

THIS IS BULLSHIT!

Judd Apatow throws his papers in frustration and storms off toward the back of the audience. He kicks open the theater doors on his way out.

PAUL RUDD

(to Kristen)

You wanna get lunch?

KRISTEN BELL

Yeah, let's get out of here.

They walk out.

Lights down.