

# PRETTY BIRD INSPIRES A HEAVEN ON EARTH

**An uplifting romantic comedy  
in development seeking  
production and investment  
partners, distribution and  
domestic and foreign sales**



By JD Freedman

As a kid there was one movie I really loved. I would hunt for it every year on TV around Christmas time because it would always "pop up." I just loved the fact that I got so "wrapped up" in that movie. No matter how many times I saw it I would feel the emotions welling up inside and always be in tears by the time it ended. "Man!" I thought. "That's what I want to do, I want to make feel good films like IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE and make people feel so good that they cry." So at sixteen that was among the list of things I wrote down that led me to film school and beyond.

It's been many years since then. I've worked on a couple dozen films and countless other productions but never realized my dream... until now. I think at this point it's safe to say I'm beyond the "dreaming stage". I found a fantastic script by a very talented and funny writer. She is so clever that the miracles that played across the "screen in my head" as I raced through her script seemed totally plausible. Best of all it's a great, feel good film that I've "pitched" as a mashup of IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE and HEAVEN CAN WAIT.

It's a heartwarming fable of Love, Family and the Hereafter. Our hero - Michael is a workaholic hiding from the pain of childhood when his prayers for The Lord to cure his father of cancer went unanswered. But when he and Emily meet there's a magical connection. Hope rises - only to be dashed when Michael dies rushing in to save the life of a young boy. At Heaven's Gate, Angels tell him "heroes get one wish." So Michael gets to visit Emily, but only in her dreams. Their dreamtime visits are really worth sleeping for, but when she awakes

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after a steamy dream to find him beside her- the real fun starts. The Angels "messed up" and now Heaven has a hero lost in life. In the end Michael returns to the hereafter but we realize that this love was one that was "meant to be". His daughter Michele grows up to marry the boy that Michael saved and together they answer Michael's childhood prayer by curing cancer.

But I'm not the only one who "feels good" about it. Though still in development the magic of that script has already helped me to line up a team of very talented and experienced collaborators. Our Director, Tom Burstyn, is a multi-award winning, Oscar and Emmy nominated filmmaker who has shot over one hundred movies and TV dramas. Tom has won over thirty international awards and has worked with such notables as Paul Newman, Ben Kingsley, Martin Sheen, Ridley Scott, Matt Dillon and Oprah Winfrey to name just a few. He's also directed and shot a number of award-winning documentaries across the globe.

Our Production Designer, J. Mark Harrington has worked on dozens of feature films and TV shows with a long list of stars including Rene Russo, Jason Stratham, John Malkovich and top producers and directors including Luc Besson, Tim Burton, Michael Bay and Sydney Pollack. He draws upon his expertise as a licensed and practicing architect in designing unique and innovative work. His versatility has given him a reputation of being able to come up with superior, cost-saving solutions to creative challenges.

I don't have room to list the whole team but having pros like these onboard should help investors feel more confident and insure the finished product is something we'll all be proud of.

It's been great working with, our business manager Craig Thurmond (he's managed construction projects up to \$2 Billion), to clearly discern a path to profitability in the form of a

business plan that will help us raise the money to produce this film. Luckily given the script driven nature of this comedy all it really needs is great actors. There are no car chases and only a few scenes with stunts or special effects. So as movies go we don't have to raise much. It's still in the millions but the low millions. There are lots of other advantages. It's a family film and evidently there aren't a lot of choices in that category right now. There's an overabundance of horror movies but not a lot of uplifting, empowering movies that parents would feel good about viewing with their kids. It's also a "Latin Film" which should be able to find an audience.

This project just radiates good karma and I have been the lucky recipient of a lot of positive energy ever since I embarked on this journey. That might sound a little "cosmic" but it's true. I have no other way of explaining all the good fortune that I've encountered. I wouldn't even have the space in this article to list all the "pieces of luck" I've run into "along the path I've tread."

But, when you hear how this project came about maybe you'll believe that "heaven has a hand" in this one. As Rossalind J Luna (the writer) tells it:

After my sister passed she would visit me every night in my dreams...it was devastating.

I would cry and cry. Then it stopped for a while. When she re-appeared I asked her why she had stopped...she said, because it made me so sad. I promised her I wouldn't be sad anymore if she came to visit me again. She did for a little while then...on mother's day my mother was inconsolable. All of us really felt the loss of not having Roxana there with us to celebrate. The way we always had. We are a very close Latin family. That morning a Peacock landed in our front yard and stayed all day. We were all so amazed by the beautiful bird that we were able to smile a little that day. Our priest called us to see how my mother was doing and we told him about the Peacock. He couldn't believe it. He said that the Peacock represents Resurrection. But that wasn't the only time. It seems like whenever there is a real challenge in my life a Peacock shows up in some form or fashion. We were very close and with the experiences I've had I feel we still are. She was the reason for this script. I just felt compelled to write it as a tribute to her.

That's her story. If I could tell you mine...it would convince you why I feel this project is getting "help from above." Suffice to say it's led me to believe: "The power of positive thought is the birthplace of miracles". I might frame that someday and put it up on the wall.

Maybe I will. After the wrap party. I can just tell you that as long as I keep believing... it keeps coming true. So "I ain't gonna stop now."

*JD Freedman is a Producer with decades of experience. He's worked in over twenty countries and is in development of a positive, inspirational film about Love, Family and the Hereafter. More information is available at [www.ofthepeopleproductions.com](http://www.ofthepeopleproductions.com). OTP productions is seeking production and investment partners, domestic and foreign sales. You can contact JD at [jd@jdfreedman.net](mailto:jd@jdfreedman.net).*

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