

# Indie film director snags Hollywood star

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this kind of exhilaration of that period is over — and then it comes back. So, the last six years have been a bit of roller coaster where the dips get longer and shallower as you go. I haven't really talked about that much. But, this was necessary to think about and release some stuff about both of them.

**You went from working with unknown indie actors and bohemian gender-benders to Nicole Kidman. Strange?**

Well, Nicole's about to play a tranny in a film [called "The Danish Girl"]. And, of all the A-list female stars, I think of her as the most adventurous. It was surprising that I found myself on this job, but she really heard how passionate

I was when I spoke about it with her. And, it was this instinctive thing. She's like, "I have a feeling — I want to work with Lars Von Trier." Kate Winslet doesn't do that. Even Meryl Streep. These are brilliant actors, but when was the last time they threw themselves a little bit in the gutter the way Tilda Swinton or Nicole does? "I'm going to work with Apichatpong Weerasethaku from Thailand [who just won the Palme D'or at Cannes] because I like his work." Not because as a career move, what do I do next. I was surprised but it felt comfortable."

**What difference was there between directing "Rabbit Hole," which was a work for hire, and your previous films, which were auteur**

**projects you curated and controlled from beginning to end? Was there any specific instance where this version of the filmmaking process worked out for the better?**

It was the first time I didn't have final say, but it was great because it was three people, [myself and two producers], making the decisions. If there are only two people, there's no tie-breaker and sometimes trouble. And, we all had different taste. Somewhere in between we knew this was an audience-friendly film. We're not necessarily going for...the same treatment of the material, death of a child, the same set-up, could be [Lars Von Trier's] "Antichrist." And, it's not "In the Bedroom" where there's more

schematic of going to get revenge.

**I liked Miles as the teenager who accidentally ran over the child. So sullen and restrained, yet I read that he plays the goofy, outgoing Chris Penn character in the upcoming remake of "Footloose."**

He's actually quite different from that ["Rabbit Hole"] character. He's quite happy-go-lucky. At the wrap party he was dancing like Michael Jackson. He's like a really brilliant dancer.

**Are those scars on his face real? I was wondering if they were there to suggest he had been hurt in the accident that killed the child.**

Yeah, those scars are from a real accident that he almost died in. I let the question [remain]...we all have these scars.

**After tons of false starts a la "Milk," a film of Larry Kramer's seminal play about the AIDS crisis, "The Normal Heart," is finally getting made with "GLEE"'s Ryan Murphy at the helm. In the early 1990s, you appeared in Kramer's stage sequel to "The Normal Heart," "The Destiny of Me." Although you're semi-retired from acting, would you seek any involvement with "The Normal Heart?"**

I am semi-retired and periodically a part makes me want to step out, but it has to be something I have to do emotionally and there are very few of those. Oddly, one of them was playing Laura Bush in a reading of Tony Kushner's play about her in 2004, a brilliant one-act play. Tony makes me want to act. I'm gonna act again. It's just timing. ::

— For more on the film, including limited and extended release dates, visit [rabbitholefilm.com](http://rabbitholefilm.com)

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