

MARK JEAN

Mark Jean's passion for filmmaking began as an undergraduate at Western Michigan University. Packing junk furniture and a Bolex into a U-Haul, Mark traveled cross-country to California where he attended San Diego State University, working as a teacher's assistant for the acclaimed screenwriting guru, Robert Mckee, and supervising the film department's directing workshops for two years. He received a Bachelor's degree in Telecommunications & Film, then studied at The American Film Institute on full scholarship, receiving a Masters Degree in Directing.

Jean has directed independent features, multiple MOW's, television pilots, and episodic dramas and comedies. He has also written and co-written numerous screenplays including the historical drama **BEAST OF BATAAN** for producers Mel Brooks and Jonathan Sanger.

His eclectic accomplishments include the **George Foster Peabody Award** for writing and directing a series of interstitials for Fox Children's Network; **WHO OWNS THE SUN**, a Disney short, winner of numerous Film Festival awards including *1ST PLACE New York Film Festival*; *GOLD AWARD Houston International Film Festival*; and *THE GOLD AWARD Chicago International Film Festival*; and his novel, **PUDDLEJUMPERS**, published by Hyperion Books in 2008 and awarded *Voya's Top Shelf Fiction* award.

For Showtime Jean directed and co-wrote **MEET THE FOSTERS**, starring Anne Bancroft and Bonnie Bedelia, garnering a **WGA nomination** for **Best Longform Adaptation** and winning **The Gold Award** at the Houston International Film Festival.

His first independent feature was the darkly comedic **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**, starring Ray Walston and Anita Gillette, followed by the family comedy **FINN ON THE FLY**, winner of **Best Feature Film** at the **Sprockets Toronto Film Festival**. Jean's latest MOW's include the romantic comedies **COME DANCE AT MY WEDDING** and **THREE WEEKS, THREE KIDS**, and most recently **FINDING A FAMILY**, a true-life drama starring Kim Delaney.

A dual citizen, Jean is a member of the Director's Guild of America, The Director's Guild of Canada, The Writer's Guild of America and The Writer's Guild of Canada.