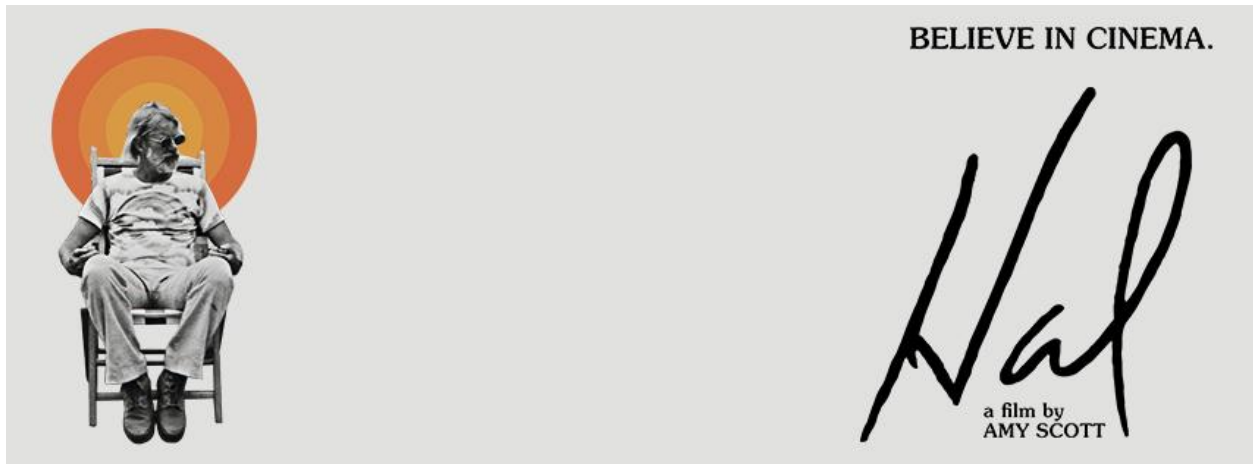


# “Hal”



**Shark Pig presents in Association with Saboteur a film by Amy Scott**

**RUNNING TIME:** 90 minutes

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:** [www.halashbymovie.com](http://www.halashbymovie.com)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/halashbymovie](http://www.facebook.com/halashbymovie)

**TWITTER:** [www.twitter.com/halashbymovie](http://www.twitter.com/halashbymovie)

**TO DOWNLOAD ASSETS:** <ftp://ftp.mprm.com/hal>

<b>FILM CONTACT:</b>	<b>NORTH AMERICA SALES CONTACT:</b>
Amy Scott, Director	Cinetic Media
normalpictures@gmail.com	Eric Sloss, <a href="mailto:eric@cineticmedia.com">eric@cineticmedia.com</a>
Brian Morrow, Producer	Steven Farneth, <a href="mailto:steven@Cineticmedia.com">steven@Cineticmedia.com</a>
<a href="mailto:brian@sharkpig.comc">brian@sharkpig.comc</a>	<b>INTERNATIONAL SALES CONTACT:</b>
Christine Beebe, Producer	Saboteur
<a href="mailto:christine.beebe@gmail.com">christine.beebe@gmail.com</a>	David Kennedy, <a href="mailto:DKennedy@goldcresrfilms.com">DKennedy@goldcresrfilms.com</a>
	Mark Lindsay, <a href="mailto:mlindsay@saboteurmedia.com">mlindsay@saboteurmedia.com</a>

## SYNOPSIS

### SHORT

*Hal* is a long-overdue feature length documentary film celebrating the life and work of director Hal Ashby, set against a backdrop of a rapidly changing America, and an even more dramatic shift in filmmaking. While Ashby was once the toast of “New Hollywood” his rise and fall became an archetypal story of art versus industry.

### LONG

Director Hal Ashby’s singular genius led to an unprecedented string of Oscar®-winning films in the 1970s. His legacy is undeniable—*Harold and Maude*, *The Last Detail*, *Shampoo*, *Bound for Glory*, *Coming Home*, and *Being There* and yet the obsessive and uncompromising nature that brought us these films became his downfall.

On camera interviews with Oscar®-winning actors Lee Grant, Jane Fonda, Jon Voight, Louis Gossett Jr, Jeff Bridges and more recall how they were empowered by Ashby and granted collaborative freedom. Contemporary directors including Alexander Payne, Judd Apatow, Lisa Cholodenko, and David O. Russell attest to the quiet but powerful influence Ashby has had on their own filmmaking. Behind the camera colleagues Norman Jewison, Robert Towne, Haskell Wexler, and Pablo Ferro stand witness to Ashby’s brilliance as a filmmaker and the forces that led to his undoing.

While on the outside Ashby embodied a quintessential peaceful vibe, internally he was dealing with deeper issues that he then transformed into the main themes of his work. Out of his anti-authoritarian inclinations leftover from a troubled childhood emerged a filmmaker dedicated to making prescient films that challenged racial stereotypes and gentrification; examined military authority; celebrated love that knows no color, age or race; explored sexual politics during a time of national crisis; championed a socialist folk singer; illuminated the plight of veterans and the cost of war; and revealed the dark underbelly of corporate control of American politics.

In the 1980s, with the advent of the film franchise came a major shift in the Hollywood business model. While contemporaries Coppola, Scorsese and Spielberg rose to stardom riding the blockbuster wave, Ashby released a perplexing series of flops and disasters. The industry began to dismiss his brilliance amid rumors of drug addiction and cost overruns. His profound humanity, ability with actors, and genius in the editing room went from an Oscar®-winning formula to a perceived liability. The latitude that directors were given in the 1970s was dissolved to make way for a different era in filmmaking, one that did not entertain Ashby’s process-oriented methods.

*Hal* explores the complex balance of art and commerce, the passions that drive an artist to create, and what this one artist was willing to sacrifice for his work. *Hal* compels us to re-examine why we make films, reminds us of what film can be, that it has a power to move and transform us.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

*"I hope we can use all of our talents and creativity for peace, and for love."  
- Hal Ashby, 1967 Academy Award Acceptance Speech*

This is my directorial debut, and over the last five years every ounce of my heart and soul has gone into the making of this film. Like Hal Ashby, I am an editor; and like "Hal", directing my first film at 40. I have assembled the most dynamic, innovative, and dedicated team of producers and artists; and with the help of the Hal Ashby estate, we have worked tirelessly to bring this film to life.

Over and above all the moments of love and human compassion in Hal's films, what still strikes me is his unwillingness to compromise his vision and his sense of responsibility to advancing social justice. He made extremely prescient films that challenged racial stereotypes and gentrification; examined military authority; celebrated love that knows no color, age or race; explored sexual politics during a time of national crisis; championed a socialist folk singer; illuminated the plight of veterans and the cost of war; and revealed the dark underbelly of corporate control of American politics.

His films are invaluable works of art that celebrate the human condition, while leaving a thoughtful space for examining hard issues. If art imitates life, Ashby most certainly mirrored his time. As we see so much of history repeat itself, we should all look to his work as meaningful inspiration in how to make art during shifting times of cultural unrest. For this reason and this reason alone, I have made this film.

- Amy Scott



## INTERVIEWS



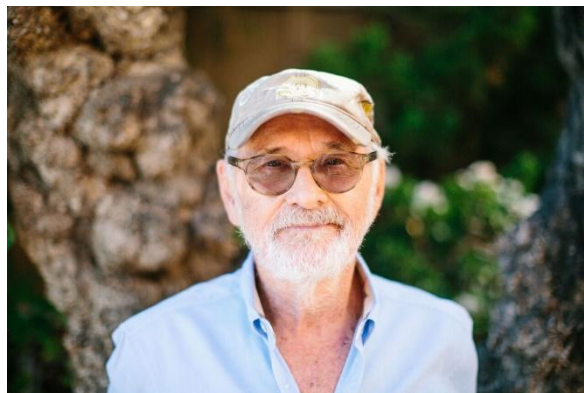
**JON VOIGHT**



**JEFF BRIDGES**



**YUSUF CAT STEVENS**



**NORMAN JEWISON**



**ALLISON ANDERS**



**CHUCK MULVEHILL**



**ALEXANDER PAYNE**





**JUDD APATOW**



**LOUIS GOSSETT JR.**



**LEE GRANT**



**DAVID O. RUSSELL**



**HASKELL WEXLER**



**PABLO FERRO**



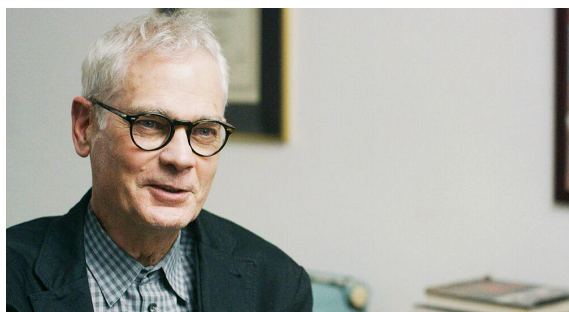
**NICK DAWSON**



**ROBERT TOWNE**



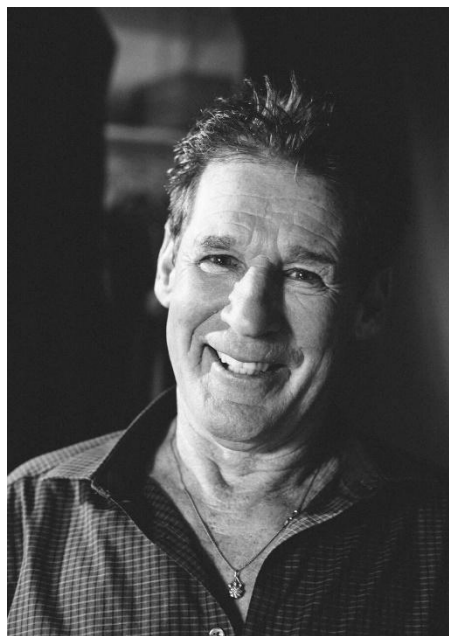
**DIANNE SCHROEDER**



**CALEB DESCHANEL**



**BEAU BRIDGES**



**BUDDY JOE HOOKER**



**ROBERT C. JONES**





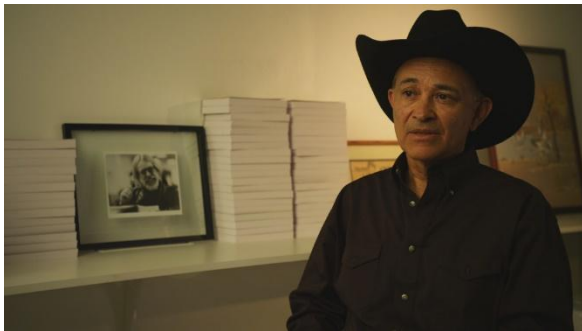
**JANE FONDA**



**LISA CHOLODENKO**



**ADAM MCKAY**



**RICK PADILLA**



**GRIF GRIFFIS**



**TONY BILL**



**BRUCE GILBERT**



**AL SCHWARTZ**



**JEFF WEXLER**



**ROSANNA ARQUETTE**



## **FILMMAKER BIOS**

### **AMY SCOTT (Director and Editor)**

Amy Scott is a director and editor living in Los Angeles. A former media producer for the University of Chicago, she has been editing social issue documentaries for over 15 years. Amy began to recognize the impact of the interview while working for Studs Terkel cataloging his radio interview archive at the Chicago History Museum. “Hal” is her feature length directorial debut.

### **CHRISTINE BEEBE (Producer)**

Christine Beebe is an independent producer whose current projects include the documentary features “Hal,” “Pigeon Kings,” and “Tony Conrad: Completely in the Present” which has screened at the Viennale, International Film Festival Rotterdam, Tate Modern, and The Broad. Her Emmy-nominated documentary series “We’ve Been Around” won an Outfest Audience Award and a GLAAD Special Recognition Award in 2016. Her directorial debut, “Felix Austria!” premiered at HotDocs in 2015 and is available on Kanopy.

### **JONATHAN LYNCH (Producer)**

Jonathan Lynch is the Executive Producer and owner of Shark Pig, the LA based production company behind “Hal.” He cut his teeth as location manager on films like “Pineapple Express,” “Faster,” and “Hesher” before working as Associate Producer on “The Driftless Area.” He has over a decade of experience in film, commercials, and television and more than 100 productions under his belt. He has the will of an ox and makes great cocktails.

### **BRIAN MORROW (Producer)**

Brian Morrow is the Creative Director and owner of Shark Pig, the LA based production company behind “Hal.” He is also a producer, writer, director, editor, public speaker, and occasional rapper. He and Shark Pig co-owner Jonathan Lynch develop all manner of films and branded content. His insistence on having fun at work has left him with a slightly balding head of grey hair and bigger filmmaking ambitions. You should meet him. He's funny. Sort of.

### **JONATHON NARDUCCI (Cinematographer)**

Jonathon Narducci is an award-winning commercial and music video director and cinematographer. Jonathon’s feature-length directorial debut, “Love Me,” was an official selection at HotDocs Film Festival in Toronto and currently streaming on Netflix. His sophomore feature documentary, Ghosts of the Republique, is currently in post-production. Jonathon has also worked as the Director of Photography on the critically acclaimed international film, “Out of the Village,” which has premiered at more than 70 film festivals around the world.

### **LISA JANSSEN (Producer)**

Lisa Janssen is an archivist and documentary researcher living in Los Angeles. Her most recent film work includes “Tony Conrad: Completely in the Present” and the acclaimed documentary series “We’ve Been Around.” She also edited and oversaw the publication of filmmaker Curtis Harrington’s memoir Nice Guys Don’t Work in Hollywood as well as the reissue of Rudy Wurlitzer’s Slow Fade.

**HEATHER McINTOSH (Composer)**

Heather McIntosh started her musical career playing cello with the bands of The Elephant 6 Collective and bass with Gnarls Barkley and Lil Wayne. She was one of four women who made the Academy Awards shortlist of composers for Best Original Score in 2013 for her score to Craig Zobel's "Compliance," and again in 2015 with Craig's film, "Z for Zachariah." Heather is an alumna of The Sundance Institute Music & Sound Design Labs at Skywalker Sound, a 2014 Sundance Institute Time Warner Foundation Fellow, and a member of the Academy class of 2016.

**SEAN JARRETT (Editor)**

Sean Jarrett is a film editor who works primarily in the documentary genre. He has been the editor of two feature films that have premiered in the U.S. Documentary Competition at the Sundance Film Festival, "Holy Hell" (2016) and now "Hal" (2018). Previous work includes collaborations with Academy Award-winning director Davis Guggenheim. Currently, Sean is working with director Brian Knappenberger ("Nobody Speak: Trials of the Free Press," "The Internet's Own Boy: The Story of Aaron Swartz") on multiple projects including a documentary television series set to premiere in 2018.

**CREDITS**

Director	Amy Scott
Creative Producers	Christine Beebe Jonathan Lynch Brian Morrow
Producer	Lisa Janssen
Readings of Hal Ashby's Letters by	Ben Foster
Directors of Photography	Jonathon Narducci Adam Michael Becker Alexandre Naufel
Editors	Amy Scott Sean Jarrett Brian Morrow
Composer	Heather McIntosh
Music Supervisor	Thomas Golubić
Graphics and Animation by	Arthur Jones
Production Design by	Sarah Pott
Additional Editor	Spence Nicholson
Executive Producers	Lenny Beckerman Fred Beebe Brian A. Miller Nick Quested
Associate Producers	David Armillei Nick Dawson
Sound Recordist	Charles Lee Mudd, Jr. Chris Jon Scott