

Scents and Sensibility

PRODUCTION NOTES

Production Company: SunWorld Pictures (in association with Silver Peak Productions)

Running Time: 89 minutes

Cast List:

Ashley Williams	Elinor Dashwood
Marla Sokoloff	Marianne Dashwood
Nick Zano	Brandon Hurst
Brad Johnson	Edward Farris
Jason Celaya	John Willoughby
JJ Neward	Fran Farris
Jaclyn Hales	Lucy Steele
Danielle Chuchran	Margaret Dashwood

Crew List:

Brian Brough	Director/Producer
Brittany Wiscombe	Screenwriter/Producer
Jennifer Jan	Screenwriter
Anthony Straga	Production Designer/Producer
Lindsay Chag	Casting Director
Ephraim Daetwyler	Director of Photography
Alex Bryant / Tony Stevens	Editors
Robert Allen Elliott	Composer – Original Music
Sonja Nelson	Costume Designer
Eric S. Johnston	Co-Producer
Ed Matsu	Key Makeup
Maika Taylor	Key Hair
Rob Field / Anthony Straga	Visual Effects
Carlos Sanches	Sound Design

Short Synopsis: A modern-day adaptation of the Jane Austen novel, *Sense and Sensibility*.

Elinor and Marianne find themselves penniless after their father's fortune is taken away. As they look for ways to pay the bills, they encounter people who judge them and try to keep them down in the dumps. Can the sisters find a balance between relying on their hearts and using good sense without losing everything they hold dear?

Long Synopsis: A modern-day adaptation of the Jane Austen novel, *Sense and Sensibility*.

After their father is charged with swindling investors, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood must make their own way in the world. Having always been given everything they needed, they struggle to find jobs where being a Dashwood isn't a strike against them. While Elinor finds work as a janitor at a spa, Marianne finds a position at a marketing firm.

Their struggle to make ends meet—especially so they can help their mother pay for critical medicine for their younger sister—is complicated by the risks of love. Their burdens are only lightened by Marianne's hobby of making scented lotions. One lotion soothes aches and pains, which they sell to supplement their resources. But others learn of the miracle lotion, and want the scented lotion formula which could be worth a fortune. As the sisters strive to succeed, who can they trust to help along the way? Can they strike a balance between relying on their hearts and using good sense without losing it all?

About The Production:

Scents and Sensibility is a modern adaptation of the classic novel *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen. Developed by a team of siblings, Brian Brough, Jennifer Jan and Brittany Wiscombe, they brought together a team of dedicated and creative film makers to tell this delightful modern-day story of Jane Austen's classic. Beautiful locations and scenery add vibrant colors and charm to the telling of the story. Ashley Williams and Marla Sokoloff are paired as the loveable sisters, Elinor and Marianne, with Nick Zano featured in the role of Brandon Hurst.

The arrest and conviction of the girls' father for financial fraud takes the family from extreme wealth to immediate poverty as all assets are confiscated. Concern over the expensive medical treatment for family's youngest daughter, who is being treated for leukemia, brings additional pressures on the sisters, as they now have to earn their way and provide extra for their sister's medicine.

After a discouraging search for jobs, they learn the Dashwood name is anathema. Marianne finally secures a job as a copy room technician, while Elinor (who refuses to change her name) consigns herself to work in a spa as a janitor. We see them struggle with the prejudice of others, as well as adapt to jobs that are less than ideal. Along the way, the sisters seek elements of romance – Marianne who can't stand to be without a boyfriend, and Elinor, who attracts the attention of the dashing Edward Farris, brother of the spa's hateful owner.

The interaction of the characters in this adventure is fun and endearing. The blossoming romances of Elinor and Edward take us to a bowling-fun center. We see Marianne and Brandon amidst flowers and beautiful gardens. In the end, the sisters' determination and hard work (with a little bit of luck) lead them to a financial solution to their troubles. In the process the sisters fall in love with men we trust will provide a better life for them than was provided by their father.

A beautiful wedding scene at the end provides the pinnacle of this Jane Austen story. A delightful epilogue reveals that in the end one gets what one deserves.

About the Cast:

Ashley Williams (*Elinor Dashwood*) is a talented actress, perhaps best known for her performance in the recent *Something Borrowed* and the Nora Roberts classic *Montana Sky*. She has also been in numerous TV productions, including making several appearances in *How I Met Your Mother* and *Saving Grace*. She enjoys writing, doing yoga, running and hiking and appears at many celebrity charity fund-raisers (especially for AIDS). In addition to her acting, Ashley also performs extensive volunteer work abroad promoting women's health and maternal care.

Marla Sokoloff (*Marianne Dashwood*) has been acting since 1993 when she played in TV's *Full House*. She starred in features *Dude*, *Where's My Car?*, *Sugar & Spice*, and *Whatever It Takes*. She has also played leading roles in several TV movies and has appeared as a guest in many TV series including *CSI: NY*, *Drop Dead Diva*, *Party of Five*, *The Practice* and *Desperate Housewives*. She was the singer/guitarist for the band Smittin and now plays shows under her own name in LA. Married to Alec Puro, she is expecting her first baby – a girl.

Nick Zano (*Brandon Hurst*) dreamed of being a Navy Seal as a child, but was "discovered" in Florida while working as a shoe salesman. He moved to LA and has starred in *The Final Destination*, *Joy Ride 2: Dead Ahead*, and *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*. He was a regular opposite Amanda Bynes in the TV series *What I Like About You*, and has appeared as a guest in numerous TV series, including *2 Broke Girls*, *Melrose Place*, *Cougar Town* and *7th Heaven*.

Brad Johnson (*Edward Farris*) has been acting for seven years. He starred in *Dragon Hunter* and *Orcs*, and has appeared in several other features. Brad competed on the US Ski Team while living in Park City, Utah and surfs all over the world, most recently in Costa Rica and Australia.

About the Filmmakers:

SunWorld Pictures is a distribution arm of Candlelight Media Group, Inc., which was formed in 2000. SunWorld was established to distribute motion pictures to the broad markets. It or its affiliates currently have over 25 motion pictures in distribution.

Silver Peak Productions, LLC is a production company based in Utah, where it has produced six feature length motion pictures in the past four years, in addition to some documentary productions.

Brian Brough, 35, has been working in the film production industry for 14 years. As a child, he and his siblings made movies at home. He has directed eight feature films and produced 13 feature films. He and his wife Tera have two young sons.

Brittany B. Wiscombe, 29, joined her brother and sister in making movies as children in their home. She has worked on many film productions in various roles, and has produced five motion pictures with Brian. Her love of writing and film led her to take the concepts she and her brother developed and make them into screenplays which the team jointly produced. Brittany and her husband Scott have a two year old son.

Anthony Straga was a classmate of Brian Brough as they studied filmmaking at the university level. Very artistic, Anthony has worked in many different productions in the art and production design functions. Since joining Candlelight Media Group full time in 2010, he has helped produce five motion pictures. Anthony's wife, Hillary, works as a casting assistant, and they have three children.

Insights from one of the Screenwriters:

(Jennifer Jan introduced *Scents and Sensibility* to the Jane Austen Society of North America Annual General Meeting – October 14, 2011)

We are excited to be attending our first JASNA Annual General Meeting. It is an honor to be invited to share our film with you. Like all of you I have always been a huge Jane Austen fan. My love affair with all things Jane began in high school when we were assigned to read *Pride and Prejudice* in English class. It was the first book we had to read that I really loved. In being part of a film production and distribution company, we are constantly brainstorming about developing new film projects. We talked about doing an Austen adaptation for years and chose *Sense and Sensibility* because we found few modern versions of that story that had been done. *Sense and Sensibility* is a heavier and more dramatic story than Austen's other works such as, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*.

But for our version, we wanted to give the story a lighter, more comedic as well as modern feel.

In adapting the book for the modern day we faced a few challenges. First, today's woman doesn't sit around waiting for marriage and the laws of inheritance are quite different than they were in Regency England. So, my sister and I had to come up with a script that worked around these differences and yet still made sense in a modern setting. We wanted to bring the characters into today's world while still staying true to Jane Austen's original characters and story. Likewise we also changed a few names to fit our modern vision. For example, as you will see, Fanny was changed to Fran and made into more of a villain. 'Ferrars' is unusual to say, at least for us, and so it became the easier to pronounce 'Farris.'

The book also has a lot of characters that simply don't fit or serve enough of a purpose for the situations we chose to focus on in our film. So, it becomes a process to sort through who makes the cut and who doesn't. Also, you have to be sure that the characters that you are supposed to like are likeable. For example, although Marianne's approach to love is different than Elinor's, you are still supposed to like and care about her. When I wrote my first draft of the script, my sister was so annoyed with Marianne she wanted to slap her! So we rewrote her and softened her a bit so that the viewer would still care about her and want to cheer for her, despite her flaws.

We were extremely fortunate in our casting. We have a group of actors who really came together and jelled well. Ashley Williams, our Elinor, was not afraid to get her hands dirty, which as you will see, she had to do several times. Marla Sokoloff was able to portray Marianne in a likeable way and brought a cuteness to the role. She and Ashley were already acquainted and anxious to work together, and I think that chemistry comes through in their portrayal of the Dashwood sisters.

The men of the film were delightful too. We had worked with Nick Zano, who plays Brandon, on another project before, and we found a wonderful Edward, too, played by Brad Johnson. Willoughby is played with dastardly accuracy by Jason Celaya. His character I did want to slap and in his case, that's okay!

I hope you find the film fun and entertaining. If you have any questions after the film, I'm happy to answer whatever I can. Once again, thank you for inviting and including us tonight. And now please enjoy [this first public screening] of *Scents and Sensibility*.