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PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS

A JOHN HUGHES PRODUCTION

A HOWARD DEUTCH FILM

SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL

ERIC STOLTZ

MARY STUART MASTERSON

CRAIG SHEFFER

and LEA THOMPSON

Film Editor BUD SMITH

Executive Producers MICHAEL CHINICH and RONALD COLBY

Written by JOHN HUGHES

Produced by JOHN HUGHES

Directed by HOWARD DEUTCH

A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

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"SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL"

PRODUCTION NOTES

Before They Could Stand Together They Had To Stand Alone

A contemporary drama, "SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL" stars Eric Stoltz, Mary Stuart Masterson, Craig Sheffer and Lea Thompson. Howard Deutch directs from a screenplay by John Hughes, who also serves as producer. Michael Chinich and Ronald Colby are the executive producers.

Continuing to explore themes that have been addressed in such earlier John Hughes' films as "Pretty in Pink" and "The Breakfast Club," "SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL" focuses on one young man's struggle to be his own person, to withstand the pressures placed upon him by family and friends, however well-intentioned they may be, to conform to their set of expectations rather than his own.

"'SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL' is about standing alone," notes Howard Deutch, "relying upon yourself and proving that who you are as an individual is more important than who you are within a group. Ultimately, we must all learn to stand alone.

"Keith, the protagonist, is in his last year of high school and under enormous pressure from his father to go to college and get a degree in business. Keith would rather do what he does well - paint. He's an artist and a good student who works as a garage mechanic after school. He does not fit in with the other kids and is not really concerned about their acceptance. He's more concerned about being his own person, doing what's intrinsically right for him."

"SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL" reteams John Hughes and Howard Deutch who collaborated so successfully on "Pretty in Pink" which grossed over \$40,000,000 domestically. "Howie understands what it's like to be young," says Hughes. "He remembers and respects his own experiences. Furthermore, he knows how to tell the story from the point of view of the people who are going through these problems."

"Youth is complicated," notes Deutch. "John's scripts about youth recognize that and attempt to explore the myriad solutions to these universal problems.

There are a limitless number of stories and variations. John has a tremendous feel for the territory. He treats kids seriously and they know it and appreciate it."

Principle photography began August 11, 1986, in the Los Angeles area. Shooting locations included San Pedro High School, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery in Barnsdall Park, the Hollywood Bowl and soundstages at Paramount Studios.

When it came to casting, the filmmakers had very strong ideas. "I feel lucky that we've been able to assemble such a talented group of performers," says

Deutch. "In a short period of time they have amassed a rather varied and impressive film background."

For the role of Keith, the filmmakers needed someone to convey an integrity of spirit. "What sets Keith apart is that he's not a conventional teen," says Deutch. "He is aware of what he needs and wants to make his world complete. He wants to be an artist which is a difficult thing. Other kids have more conventional goals, such as being an athlete. Thus, we chose Eric Stoltz for this challenging role."

As for Drummer Girl, the filmmakers were unanimous about Mary Stuart

Masterson. "It was one of the quickest casting roles we've ever done," says

Deutch. "When we saw her on tape, we knew she was Drummer Girl."

Concerning Lea Thompson, Executive Producer Michael Chinich says, "Howie already had a friendship with her and we had been wanting to work with Lea for years. She's probably one of the most experienced of the young actresses around and has proven herself in quite a range of roles."

In turn, each of the actors had their own reasons for becoming involved with "SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL" and faced challenges in tackling the material.

"I was drawn to the script because it's a piece about characters, which is pretty rare for Hollywood material," notes Lea Thompson, "especially for material about kids. My character is not flashy. Unlike 'Back to the Future,' it's more internal, more subconscious, which is much harder for an actor to do. That was frightening but ultimately challenging."

Eric Stoltz was also drawn to the material because of the character. "I was interested in exploring aspects of the role that were unfamiliar but interesting to me. In preparing for the part, I attended painting classes and also got to learn something about auto mechanics. The film deals with emotions that everyone goes through...alienation, love, rejection, obsession and pain...emotions I can relate to."

"For an actor, the hardest part is making the words truthful," explains Mary Stuart Masterson, "and John Hughes has this way with words. Nobody really talks the way he writes. He invents language. That presents a big challenge for a performer. It's like Shakespeare, in a way. With Shakespeare, first you have to learn the language and then understand what the scene is about and then you have to say it in iambic pentameter. That's tricky but very rewarding when you get it right."

To orchestrate and meet those challenges, the actors relied on director Howard Deutch.

"Howie is very inquisitive," say Lea Thompson. "He is always searching, always trying to discover with you what the material is about. It's a very creative process for him and he always gave us a chance to have a lot of input, which is very exciting. It takes a certain kind of person to allow you to participate in their vision, and Howie did just that.

"For example, early in the filming, I was talking to Eric about my character. I felt too many things were dependent on her physical beauty and I didn't feel I was beautiful enough to carry that off. Thus, I felt my character should have more inner beauty. Howie overheard us talking and the next day he came in with an additional scene that he and John had worked on which I think made Amanda far more sympathetic. That was very accommodating. John and Howie are both open to those kinds of things. They're not threatened by it at all."

Mary Stuart Masterson concurs. "Howie works very hard to bring things together. He always tries to speak your language. He is very willing to try things. Sometimes we would try something one way and then he would ask if we wanted to try it another way or we could suggest another way and he would tell us if it worked. He knows about acting. He understands the process. He trusted me as much as I trusted him."

Adds Eric Stoltz, "Mary Stuart, Lea and I have very different approaches to acting and Howie worked very hard at understanding the way that each of us worked and helped us create dialogue."

THE CAST

Eric Stoltz portrays Keith Nelson, a high school senior and gifted painter, who is more concerned with being his own person than fitting in, even if the price means being an outsider.

"Keith is beginning to assert himself in his own world and beginning to create his own world," says Eric Stoltz. "He's also chosen to be a painter, which is one of the most solitary things you can do."

Best known for his portrayal of Rocky Dennis, the congenitally deformed but courageous adolescent in "Mask," Stoltz garnered critical plaudits. Since then he has filmed "Lionheart" in which he plays the lead character, the young knight Robert who leads the homeless children of the Crusades. Directed by Franklin J. Schaffner, the film is scheduled to be released this spring. He has also starred in "Emerald," directed by Jonathan Sanger, in which he played a young lieutenant caught up in the intrigue of World War II.

Upon completing "SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL," Stoltz immediately flew to Louisiana to star in "Sister, Sister." A suspense thriller directed by William Condon, the film also stars Jennifer Jason Leigh and Judith Ivey. In March, he will portray the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley in Ivan Passer's adaptation of Anne Edwards' novel "Haunted Summer." The film explores the creative and erotically charged relationship between Shelley, his wife Mary and Lord Byron, during a summer they shared in the Swiss Alps.

Raised in American Samoa, by musically gifted parents who are both educators, Eric moved with the family to Santa Barbara, California, when he was eight. The youngest of three children and the only son, he began studying trumpet and piano at an early age and proved to be a talented musician.

When he was ten, during a vacation, he stumbled into a summer theatre group and discovered his love for acting. During his two years at the University of Southern California in the Theatre Arts Department, he began accepting guest-starring roles on episodic television. Deciding he needed a less academic approach to acting, he left to study with Stella Adler and later with William Traylor and Peggy Feury. Soon after, he made his motion picture debut in "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" as Sean Penn's surfing buddy and followed with "Lucky 13," "Next of Kin" and "The Wild Life." He also filmed such television movies as "A Killer in the Family," "Paper Dolls," "Thursday's Child," "The Violation of Sara McDavid" and "The Seekers." On stage he has performed in production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Our Town," "The Seagull," "Runaways," "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown," "Hello, Dolly!," Album" and "Working."

"Acting is what I do best," asserts Stoltz. "I love performing. It's what moves me. I'm hard pressed to pinpoint the moment when I knew I was hooked.

Every part you do affects you and changes you. When I'm working I'm obsessed.

It's a love/hate relationship. There are so many elements involved...taste, sense, how it makes you feel...trying to describe it leaves me feeling inadequate.

* * *

The beautiful object of Keith's desire is Amanda Jones, played by **Lea**Thompson. She's not only every boy's idealized notion of the girl-next-door but she's also the girlfriend of handsome and wealthy Hardy Jenns. Under enormous pressure from her friends to stay with Hardy or be ostracized, she accepts a date with Keith when Hardy's flirtations with other girls becomes humiliating.

"Amanda doesn't have a lot of respect for her talents," says Thompson of the character she portrays. "She tries to fit in with the wrong people. A lot of

people are like that. Eventually, she learns that she's really good and beautiful and that she doesn't have to pretend to be anybody or anything else to be accepted. She's just who she is. I'm twenty-five and I'm still learning that. She's pretty extraordinary if she learns it at seventeen."

Born and raised in Rochester, Minnesota, in a tight-knit family of five children, Thompson's mother was an actress/singer/artist and her eldest brother was a modern ballet dancer. While very young, she accompanied her mother to night club rehearsals where she sang to support the family. Enamored with performing, Lea began studying dance seriously at the age of nine and joined a professional dance company when she was fourteen. At the age of seventeen she won a dance scholarship to the Pennsylvania Ballet Company and was soon noticed by the American Ballet Theatre's second company, Ballet Repertory. A scholarship with that organization took her to New York. At the age of twenty, she received a scholarship with the San Francisco Ballet.

Realizing she would never attain a certain level of stardom as a dancer due to physical limitations, she decided to return to New York and acting. Within a few months, she landed a commercial contract with Burger King and soon made her film debut in "Jaws 3-D." With her next role in "All The Right Moves," she captured many a heart and critical attention. As Tom Cruise's girlfriend, Lisa Lietske, she played a girl from a small Pennsylvania town who longs to get out but is tied by feelings for her boyfriend. She followed with "Red Dawn," in the part of a gun-toting teen, and "The Wild Life," as an atypical teen who works in a doughnut shop. She hit her stride in the complex dual role of Michael J. Fox's mother/girlfriend in 1985's summer hit "Back To The Future."

Last summer Thompson was seen in "Space Camp" as Kathryn Fairley, a snooty aspiring astronaut who accidentally blasts off in a space shuttle, and in "Howard The Duck" as Beverly Switzler, the lead singer in an all-girl rock band who falls in love with a duck from another planet.

In the role of Drummer Girl is **Mary Stuart Masterson**. A seemingly boyish, tough and independent rocker, she has been Keith's best friend since third grade but now has feelings that are something more than platonic: she's fallen deeply in love with him.

"Drummer Girl is a very self-reliant and strong individual," says Mary
Stuart, "who has dealt with a lot of blows and confronts her daily life as though
it's a major battle. Yet, she's an extremely optimistic person. It would have
been easy for her to be bitter and resentful because she has had such a terrible
family life, but she's not. She has a great deal of dignity."

The twenty-year-old daughter of writer/director/actor Peter Masterson and Tony Award-winning Carlin Glynn (who played Molly Ringwald's mother in "Sixteen Candles"), Mary Stuart was raised in New York, where she attended Dalton School, and at age eight, she made her film debut in "The Stepford Wives."

Summer camp at the Stage Door Manor in the Catskills, drama lessons with Estelle Parsons and a stint as an understudy for Kate Burton in Eva Le Gallienne's production of "Alice in Wonderland" were followed by two summers at Robert Redford's Sundance Institute. While at Sundance she made a performance tape which led to her first teenage role as a tough but soft Brooklyn girl who helps her father run a soda fountain in "Heaven Help Us."

Interrupting her studies at New York University where she was majoring in anthropology and film, she appeared in "At Close Range," as Terry, a courageous farmgirl whose love affair with Brad Whitewood Jr., portrayed by Sean Penn, leads to her brutal death. This was followed by the television movie "Love Lives On," in which she plays a teen whose battle against cancer led to drug addiction.

Masterson then filmed James Ivory's "My Little Girl," in which she plays a rich girl who wakes up one day at a detention center for homeless children, and Francis Coppola's "Gardens of Stone," as the girlfriend of a young soldier who wants to fight in Vietnam.

To prepare for her role in "SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL," Masterson studied drums with Billy Moore, a seasoned session man in Los Angeles.

"One of the best things about my part," notes Masterson, "is that I got to learn to play the drums. On one hand it requires terrific concentration and yet you have to be totally loose. A lot of people think that playing the drums is getting out your aggressions, but it is more than that. It's really about getting in touch with your inner rhythm."

* * *

Handsome and wealthy Hardy Jenns, portrayed by **Craig Sheffer**, has a few flaws...he's exceedingly arrogant and has a roving eye. Still, he's a lucky man. He's Amanda Jones' boyfriend and heads the most popular clique at school.

"Hardy is a very unaware, spoiled rich kid," comments Craig Sheffer. "He really believes that the rules of the world don't apply to him, morally or otherwise. He truly doesn't understand that he is doing anything wrong. I had never played a bad guy before which made it interesting. I took the role because it was the best written part that I had ever been offered."

Sheffer made his motion picture debut in the complex role of Bryon Douglas in "That Was Then...This Is Now." He and Emilio Estevez played best friends who are hell raisers until Sheffer meets a girl and falls in love. In "Fire With Fire," Sheffer was seen as the street-smart Joe Fisk, who gets caught up in a turbulent love affair when confined to an honor probation camp for a minor offense.

Prior to his film debut, Sheffer appeared on Broadway as Alan in the Tony
Award-winning "Torch Song Trilogy." He played the role for six months, left to
make "That Was Then...This Is Now" and then, at playwright/star Harvey
Fierstein's urging, went back to the play.

A native of York, Pennsylvania, he started acting at an early age when he and

his brother would put on plays for their parents. When the family purchased a super-8 camera he progressed to amateur filmmaking. At fifteen, at the urging of a teacher, he began to compete in regional and state high school drama competitions, while maintaining an involvement with athletics.

Sheffer attended East Strousberg College in Pennsylvania majoring in drama, but left to hitchhike around the country eventually making his way to New York. Once there, like most struggling young actors he supported himself as a waiter, busboy, and even served as a valet to Count Basie and his wife. Finally, he signed with an agent and began filming commercials, then moved into television, appearing on daytime soap operas. He had a year's run on "One Life to Live" as Ian, and appeared in the short-lived show "The Hamptons" as Brian Chadway. Earlier last year, he starred off-Broadway at the WPA in a limited run engagement of "Fresh Horses." His earlier stage work includes "Death of A Salesman," "The Tempest," "The American Dream," and "The Glass Menagerie."

Sheffer recently formed his own production company. He has written two screenplays which he plans to produce and direct.

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John Ashton portrays Keith's father, Cliff, a man who fervently wants his son to be the first male in the family to go to college but ultimately realizes his son must choose his own path. Ashton is best known for his role as Officer Taggart, the tough career officer who is Judge Reinhold's harassed partner, in "Beverly Hills Cop," a role he reprises in "Beverly Hills Cop II." He made his film debut as Dennis Quaid's brother, the campus cop, in "Breaking Away" and again played a law enforcer in "Borderline." His third feature was "Honky Tonk Freeway" followed by "The Falcon and the Snowman" in which he appeared as a

policeman in pursuit of Sean Penn. In "King Kong Lives" he portrays Col. Nevins who tracks King Kong. Upon completing "SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL," he segued into John Hughes' "She's Having A Baby," in which he plays Ken, the rowdy neighbor of Elizabeth McGovern and Kevin Bacon.

Born in California and raised in Connecticut, he began performing professionally at fourteen. He studied theatre at Defiance College in Ohio and the University of Southern California, where he received his degree. In 1970 Ashton toured Europe with the Festival Theatre Group, which ended its tour at the Edinburgh Arts Festival. He has remained active in theatre, receiving the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award in 1973 for his work in "A Flea in Her Ear" and in 1982 was honored with a Dramalogue Award for his portrayal of Lee in "True West."

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Seventeen-year-old Maddie Corman portrays Laura, Keith's sister, a motor-mouthed freshman who tries to cash in on Keith's new found social status. Corman, who lives with her family in Irvington, N.Y., is finishing her senior year of high school and will attend an East Coast university where she plans to study literature and pursue acting. Having studied at the Circle Repertory as well as with private coaches, she made her professional debut at the age of thirteen in "Twelve Dreams" at Joseph Papp's Public Theatre, then shot a series of commercials before landing her first television role in HBO's "A Wilder Summer." In her next project, she played the lead in NBC's Young People's Special, "My Mother The Witch." Then returned to off-Broadway to perform in John Guare's "Landscape Of The Body," directed by Gary Sinese and starring Christine Lahti at the Second Stage. This was followed by an After School Special with Lindsay Crouse, "I Want To Go Home."

Maddie made her feature film debut in "Seven Minutes to Heaven," directed by Linda Fefferman, as Polly, the bubble-headed, insecure, boy-crazy teen. Since then, she has appeared in the last two parts of Israel Horowitz's newest trilogy at the American Jewish Theatre in New York.

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As the Skinhead who initially menaces Keith but ultimately befriends him is Elias Koteas. Koteas made his feature debut in "One Magic Christmas" and most recently completed Francis Coppola's "Gardens of Stone," Peter Masterson's "Blood Red" and the television movie "Private Sessions." On stage he has appeared in the Actors Studio's production of "Rainbow Dancing," directed by Peter Masterson, and the Ensemble Studio Theatre's "Terry Neal's Future," directed by Billy Hopkins. His other theatre credits include "Holy Ghosts," "Life Class," "The Changing Room," "The Rear Column," "Lower Depths," "Does The Tiger Wear A Necktie," "The Lady's Not For Burning," "The Lady From Dubuque," "Death of A Salesman," "Bent" and "The Cherry Orchard." Born in Montreal of Greek parentage, he moved to New York when he was twenty to study acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Art.

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Chynna Phillips, the daughter of Michelle and John Phillips, makes her film debut as Mia, whose flagrant flirtation with Hardy propels Amanda into accepting a date with Keith. Raised in Los Angeles, she attended the Newbridge School, which has a strong drama department, and is seriously pursuing a career in acting. Eighteen-years-old, she has studied dance, paints abstract watercolors and has inherited her family's gift for music: she plays by ear and has been known to sing on occasion with the Mamas and the Papas. After wrapping "SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL" and between call-backs for film roles and modeling assignments,

she shot several commercials and spent time in a recording studio cutting a demo with an unusual group of first-time female singers...the daughters of Cass Elliott and the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson.

* * *

Molly Hagan portrays Shayne, Amanda's confidente who encourages her to stay with Hardy and break the date with Keith or risk being rejected by their group. A graduate of Northwestern University's Drama School, Hagan made her film debut in "Code Of Silence" as Diane Luna. She has appeared in such television movies as "Dallas: The Early Years" and "First Steps." Her television series credits include "Mr. Sunshine," "Scarecrow and Mrs. King" and "Knots Landing." On stage she has appeared in San Diego's Globe Theatre production of "As You Like It" and Chicago's Victory Garden's "Butler County."

* * *

As Keith's sympathetic and supportive mother is **Jane Elliot**. Soap fans know her for her portrayal of Cynthia in "All My Children" in which she is currently a regular. She was also a series regular on "The Guiding Light" and "General Hospital," winning an Emmy as Best Supporting Actress/Daytime. Other television credits are numerous and most recently include "New Day In Eden" and "The Zertigo Diamond Caper." Her feature film credits include "Rollercoaster," "Change of Habit" and "One Is A Lonely Number."

* * *

In the role of Cindy, Keith's ten-year-old sister, is **Candace Cameron**, making her feature debut. Her television credits include the movies "Little Spies" with Mickey Rooney and "Big Foot," four episodes of "St. Elsewhere," "Punky Brewster," "T.J. Hooker" and "Alice." A native of Southern California, the ten-year-old actress has also appeared in commercials for MacDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Mattel Toys and Cabbage Patch Kids dolls. She is the sister of Kirk Cameron, who stars in "Growing Pains."

THE FILMMAKERS

John Hughes (Producer/Writer), is one of Hollywood's most successful and prolific filmmakers. His most recent film "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," on which he served as director/writer/producer, has earned in excess of \$70,000,000 domestically since its release last June.

Having made a remarkable entry into filmmaking as the writer of two of 1983's biggest hits, "National Lampoon's Vacation" and "Mr. Mom," Hughes made his directorial debut in 1984 with "Sixteen Candles" and in phenomenally rapid succession completed the widely acclaimed "The Breakfast Club" and "Weird Science," serving as director/writer/producer on all three projects. He also wrote and produced "Pretty in Pink," which Howard Deutch directed.

Three weeks into principle photography of "SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL," Hughes began directing "She's Having A Baby," which he is also producing from his original screenplay, starring Kevin Bacon, Elizabeth McGovern and Alec Baldwin.

In March, Hughes will direct and produce yet another of his original screenplays, "Planes, Trains and Automobiles." Steve Martin and John Candy are set to star in this comedy about two archrivals who must join forces to get home in time to celebrate Thanksqiving.

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Prior to making his feature directional debut with "Pretty in Pink," Howard

Deutch (Director) spent nearly a decade working in various film mediums,

including music videos and movie trailer advertising.

As a partner in Kanew-Manger-Deutch, one of Hollywood's most successful movie trailer companies, he collaborated with innumerable filmmakers in creating a number of award-winning trailers.

With the explosive growth of music videos, Deutch made the leap from advertising to directing. His music video credits include Stewart Copeland's "Don't Box Me In," from the film "Rumble Fish"; Billy Joel's "Keeping The Faith"; Billy Idol's "Flesh For Fantasy"; and Annie Golden's "Hang Up The Phone," from the film "Sixteen Candles." Deutch also developed his directional skills under the tutelage of Kurt Dempster at New York's Ensemble Studio Theatre, where he directed several plays, including "Landscape With Waitress" and "Surprise."

Born in New York City, Deutch attended Ohio State University. The only son of music publishing wiz Murray Deutch (who gave rock and roll star Buddy Holly his first recording contract and whose company today remains a leader in top-selling motion picture soundtrack albums), Deutch spent many a summer vacation at United Artists' New York offices where his father served as president of United Artists Records. Deutch, in turn, worked in United Artists' advertising department before setting up his own business.

* * *

Michael Chinich (Executive Producer) has had a long association with John Hughes. Most recently he has served as executive producer on "Pretty in Pink" (with John Hughes) and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

A native of New York, he graduated from Boston University and began his career in New York as a casting agent. Moving to Los Angeles, he soon joined MCA/Universal Pictures where he started as an executive in casting, became head of feature film casting and eventually a production vice president who maintained a hands-on role in casting.

His association with John Hughes began while he was working on such Universal projects as "Sixteen Candles," "The Breakfast Club" and "Weird Science." Among the films on which Chinich served as casting director were "Animal House," "The

Blues Brothers," "Coal Miner's Daughter" and "Dog Day Afternoon." As a production vice president at Universal, he supervised the production of "Mask" and "Repo Man."

* * *

A native New Yorker, Ronald Colby (Executive Producer) did his undergraduate work at Hofstra University and his graduate work at New York University. He began his career as a playwright writing for various New York avant-garde venues such as Caffe Chino and Café La Mama and performed in a variety of off-Broadway productions including Peter Ustinov's "Photo Finish." He also spent a year as an actor/playwright in residence at the Pittsburgh Playhouse.

In 1966 he began his long association with his old Hofstra classmate Francis Coppola when he served as dialogue coach and assistant to Coppola on "You're A Big Boy Now," Coppola's first major film and Colby's first job in film. Over the years he worked with Coppola in a variety of capacities on such films as George Lucas' "THX-1138," "The Godfather, Part II" and "The Outsiders." He also served as Zoetrope's vice president and as producer on Coppola's "Rain People" and Wim Wender's "Hammett" (with Fred Roos).

Through the years, Colby has continued to direct, write plays and screenplays. As a screenwriter, he has written for Universal Studios and Kingdom Productions. As a director, he has made a number of documentaries and short films, including "The Longest Lens," for which he won a Cine Golden Eagle Award.

Colby also serves as executive producer on John Hughes' next film, "She's Having A Baby."