

HOW THE BOOK FOUND ME

When Joan Anderson's *"A Year by the Sea"* first landed on my kitchen counter, it was pure magic. Like the proverbial teacher seeking a student, her mysterious memoir appeared at the very moment I needed to read it. Disenchanted with my studio film composing career, I'd pulled the rip cord on Hollywood and was at a crossroads. Like many facing midlife, my *raison d'être* was eluding me.

Gratefully, curiosity took hold and I cracked open the dusty hardback. Joan's opening line—*the decision to separate seemed to happen overnight*—hit me like a lightning bolt.

A few hours later, I put down the book and picked up the phone. Joan's literary agent happened to own a weekend house 15 minutes from where I was standing. We met for coffee, and I made my pitch: no studio, no money, 100% passion. I found myself on a befuddled Joan's doorstep: *What does a 40-something-year-old man want with my book?* A 45-minute meeting turned into 12 hours, and my destiny to make a movie was cemented in friendship.

Joan's quest to find herself anew is so honest it was impossible to not ask myself the questions she poses. One of them—*who are we beyond the roles we play?*—inspired me to dig deep. In doing so, I discovered Joan's mission for authenticity is universal. Her willingness to risk a journey of self discovery became the story I needed to share with the world.

THREE WOMEN OVER 60

Two things I knew: I wanted seasoned thespians in command of their craft, and women who personify genuine beauty—the glow that radiates from within sans external enhancements. Joan's story is about accepting one's true self, no matter your age or stage.

Casting was a dream: Karen Allen, S. Epatha Merkerson and Celia Imrie were perfect for their roles, as well as wonderful role models. Each actress brings life's wisdom and sensibility to their characters that translates into strong "older" women.

Adding Michael Cristofer and Yannick Bisson rounded out our Golden Globe, Emmy, Tony, and Pulitzer Prize award-winning cast. They help bring sensitivity to the male's perspective, too.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE...

Our film's message—*it's never too late to reclaim your life*—counters the agism prevalent in today's film industry...and nation. No one should ever feel they've outlived their usefulness.

No matter how "old" you are, you still have the power to celebrate life, change in meaningful ways, experience new adventures and find happiness.

If audiences are inspired by this message, I've done service to Joan's story. If *YEAR BY THE SEA* entertains, stirs emotions and provokes a dialogue, then I've accomplished my goal as a "truly indie" filmmaker.