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LEFT BEHIND MOVIE

Press Conference Transcript

(Held via Gotham Conference Teleconference: 09/16/2014 at 3PM ET for 80 minutes)

Moderator: (fade in, first few seconds cut-off) ... I know there's a lot of you who've been at many of these calls with us and we're always grateful to have you take this time. I know an hour in your day is precious time and so we are really grateful that you're here to help us learn more about and to support this upcoming release of the *LEFT BEHIND* Movie. I know that you all have a list of who's going to be on the call today and so I'll go through real quick of who we have available to answer your email questions and also just for you to hear from on this call. We wanted to let you know that Nicolas Cage is definitely joining us. He's shooting a film right now and (interrupted by strange noise). Sorry I don't know what that was, but Nicolas' schedule got a little bit behind in this hour and so he will be coming on. He's not on with us yet but as soon as he's ready from his shooting he will be dialing in and we'll obviously let you guys know, you know, the minute he joins, you, you will know and then you know, we'll be able to start asking him his questions. I know you have details that we have all sent you. We want to let you know that during this call, not only will we be asking certain questions that you know that you can write down the responses to, but a couple details just to get us started here. As usual, you all will get a written transcript and an audio transcript of this as soon as the call is wrapped. It might actually be 24-48 hours before it's all completed. We'll let you know when you'll be receiving that. But you can use that and then if you email in questions during this call, we can get those answered for you. I know sometimes we don't always have enough time to get to all the questions so we will get those questions answered by the right people for you and we can email those back to you if we don't ask your question on this call. If you'd like to email in a question, he's the email address that you could email while we're talking here. It's LeftBehindMovie@GothamConference.com. So that's the email address for this call, LeftBehindMovie@GothamConference.com. So at any time during the call, please email your questions and we will get to as many as we can. Like I said, if we don't get to yours we will send it back in writing for you as much as we can. So through this time, in this hour we're going to be talking as you know, you have lots of press materials and I know you all have received our production notes, the press releases. If there's anything you need that you don't have, please send us an email and ask for the materials. But I also wanted to let you know that you can get any press materials you need at LeftBehindMovie.OnlineMediaSpot.com. There's the trailers there. There's press releases. There is bios,

and pictures, and production notes, and so we would just ask all of you on this call to please do everything you can between now and the release date of October 3rd when the film goes nationwide in theatres to just help us and we really appreciate you being willing to always work so closely with us and help to promote this great film coming up. So LeftBehindMovie.OnlineMediaSpot.com. And I'm going to give you guys a brief little overview of the details that you could take away from this call and then I will let you know who's on and we'll get started on the questions. The *LEFT BEHIND* film is coming up. I know a lot of people are really looking forward to it, and we've had so many inquires and I know there's a lot of anticipation. October 3rd, just in a few weeks here through Stoney Lake Entertainment and Freestyle Releasing, *LEFT BEHIND* will finally hit theatres nationwide. The film which many of you know. If you don't know, it's based on the incredibly popular book series of same name, *LEFT BEHIND*, which was co-authored by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins. *LEFT BEHIND* books have sold more than 65 million copies and it's a really cool statistic that you might want to take away from this is estimated that one in eight Americans has read at least one of the 16 books in the series. So it's been loved, well-received, and well-regarded by people for so many years. The film *LEFT BEHIND* follows the story of a small group of survivors after millions of people suddenly vanished and the world was plunged into chaos and destruction. Filming for much of the anticipated *LEFT BEHIND* movie began in August 2013 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. And it will release as I mentioned in theatres on October 3rd. So as this film is being launched, and there's a lot of different press events taking place, junkets, a lot of things that are happening. We would love to have you be a part of this. There has been a lot of thought and a lot has gone into this film for many, many years. And we're actually really honored to have the producer and co-writer of this film, Paul LaLonde on the call with us. And Paul is going to give us a great synopsis and a really great overview of his work behind it, where he came from, what his role has been for many, many years on this, and then also just the, the goals, and the vision behind this movie and what they really hope to see happen with it. We also have Vic Armstrong, the director with us. We also have Cassi Thomson, she plays the role of "Chloe Steele" in *LEFT BEHIND*. Jordin Sparks, plays the role of Shasta Carvell in *LEFT BEHIND*. And then Nicky Whelan plays the role of Hattie Durham in *LEFT BEHIND*. So we have this great cast here with us. As I said, Nicolas Cage who play "Rayford Steele" will also be joining us soon. Hopefully he's wrapping his shooting quickly here. But he's definitely going to be joining shortly. So we're going to start off the call with Paul LaLonde and Vic Armstrong. Just kind of giving us a good overview and kind of a synopsis of the film from their eyes, from their perspective, from you know, the past, just connections they've had to it. And so what has taken place can make this film a reality. So Paul, do you want to just start out for us here and kind of just give us your thoughts and then maybe you could even do a quick intro for Vic and let him go on and share his thoughts as well following yours?

00:06:18 **Paul LaLonde:** Sure. The first, the first thing I'll say is that, that, that *LEFT BEHIND* has been a dream of mine to make this movie for probably, probably 20 years. It's something I've always wanted to do which is the big theatrical release of the story of the day of the rapture. I've had the pleasure of making eight movies so far in my, in my producing career. All of them have been based on, on, on various elements of bible prophecy. We did do the *LEFT BEHIND*, we did do three *LEFT BEHIND* movies back, you know, about 10 years ago now that we did the first one but those were you know, very limited budget straight-to-DVD movies. And what had happened was we had the first book in the *LEFT BEHIND*

series which, which is really quite an enormous book and we tried to do the whole book in one movie. And it really didn't do justice to, especially to the rapture but also to the whole book because there was no time to get to know the characters. And there was no time to really appreciate the enormity of the event. And so that's why I've always wanted to make this movie where we could just focus on that, on that one day. Basically the movie is based on, you know, 25 pages of the first *LEFT BEHIND* book. So it's really, really a remake of about three minutes of the first *LEFT BEHIND* movie. So it's, it's a whole different thing but we wanted to keep it focused, we wanted to spend time getting to know the characters, and of course we wanted to bring, to bring A-list talent to the project which, which we have done and, and so the first step in all of it was going out and finding, finding a director and finding the right director who we thought could, could really bring this thing to life and that's what led us to Vic Armstrong. And obviously we were extremely excited when Vic read the script and liked it, and agreed to direct the movie. So that was a very big deal to me. I've been aware of Vic and his work for many years. And, you know if you go on IMDB and look up Vic Armstrong (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0002184/>) you'll, you'll think he's faking his resume. He's been part of some of the biggest movies that there are. And it's just unbelievable, it's just, you know, movie after movie after movie and you're thinking, Wow, I was actually a little intimidated when I met him the first time, but anyway he's a great guy and a great addition to the movie. He's exactly what the movie needed and he didn't disappoint me. So that's my intro to Vic.

(laughing)

00:09:10 **Vic Armstrong:** Thank you very much. The check's in the Post, Paul. Thank you. (laughing) Now I was absolutely thrilled when, when I read this script. I read three or four scripts a week when I'm not working and I guess as you know my background is pretty heavily action-orientated. And I have to tell stories with, with visual action. And to read this script and see how character-driven it was and what a fabulous story-line it had was a thrill to me. And when I did first meet Paul LaLonde he came around the house and the first thing I said to him was, well I'll tell you what, I love the script so much I can't see a word in it I'd like to change. And normally on a script, you take them, you'd break them down, you'd take this out, you'd throw this away and put this in to it. But this had every, everything you see on the screen was written in that original script. And I was blown away by this fact. You know, funny-enough during the process, we thought well maybe we won't have enough time to shoot it all in what could we lose if we lose anything and we'd take some little object out, some little part out, immediately putting it back in because it just upset the flow of the whole movie. So, I was thrilled to have such a great script to start with and to be able to show my, my talents if you'd like as a director with having a story-telling. And then the next step was of course getting the great cast together and a crew. And we did, as Paul said we've got an A-list cast. Every single one of them did a sterling performance and I'm so excited for all of them and every time I look at it I'm so ecstatic about they translated their parts into the story telling. And it's not only the cast, you need a good crew to make a movie and I got Jack Green, one of the greatest cinematographers there's been in the last few years, he's done all the Clint Eastwood stuff, he was nominated for "Unforgiven," and we talked about it and I, I, I only see things big in film worlds, in film visions and I wanted to shoot this wide-screen and Jack was my man and he was on-board with

that. And we covered everything so easily, it just seemed no problem, wherever we put the camera down was a wonderful frame and we didn't go in for all the crazy tight close-ups and things. We shot it to give the characters breathing-space and we shot it with enough time for them to establish their characters and tell their stories. We had a wonderful production designer, in Stephen Altman, Robert Altman's son who did fabulous work on it, so for me it was a labor of love. It's been absolutely phenomenal. And even when we got to the location, everywhere we turned. The house we found, for, for "Chloe's" house, "Rayford Steele's" house, was absolutely brilliant how it didn't need changing inside, and everything, it was serendipity, everything just fell into place. So I feel blessed, and all the stars aligned, figuratively-speaking and reality-speaking. (laughing) And I could not be happier with it, I must say.

00:12:09 **Moderator:** That's great. Oh sorry, did you want to say something more Vic?

00:12:13 **Vic Armstrong:** No. No no, I just, that's it, that's fine.

00:12:17 **Moderator:** Yeah. You know I wanted to add in here, there's a quote in the production notes that is really great that kind of explains a little bit about things, I don't know most of the people on this call probably aren't really involved in directing films too much but when Vic mentioned Jack Green, there was really great quote from Jack, and it says, when he describes his initial conversations he had with Vic about the overall style of the film he said, "Vic brought up the idea of film noir, the high contrast, negative lighting scenarios of thrillers. He wanted the film to be realistic and a little foreboding. He wanted the images to reflect the nature of the world in peril." And I think it's so interesting for this film even though most people here haven't seen it yet. So much of it, you know, did lie in the cinematography and the great people that Vic, you did bring around you for this and you know even things that we had gotten from them, and quotes from, you know, different people on your team kind of reflect your vision that you had for it and that's, you know obviously reflected in the film. And one other thing I wanted to add in before we move on to everybody else. Paul I know you're on the call so I hate speaking for you, but I'm going to speak for you for a second because there's another really great quote that I think will be really interesting for everybody on the call and if you guys need a copy of the production notes, please request that from us. I know you have our email contact info. We'd love to pass this off to you, but also in the notes Paul has a really brilliant quote. It says, "The balancing for us lies in the fact that our villain in *LEFT BEHIND* is really the chaos caused by an act of God. It's as much a disaster film as it is a prophecy film. And for me, the key to effective drama is that even while depicting trying circumstances we're keeping the focus on people who are managing those circumstances. Our heroes can't defeat a monster or a comic book villain. Our heroes have to defeat their own fears, their own weaknesses, and ultimately their own deeply-held beliefs and convictions. That idea will be carried throughout the films of this franchise." And I think that's just a really interesting and exciting way to talk about this movie, to help people understand it and kind of what it brings in just through the thought process and through the whole concept of you know, the vision behind this movie. Paul or Vic do you guys want to talk about either of those things that I had just mentioned and add anything to that? Or refute what I've said (laughing) or anything?

00:14:45 (multiple people talking at once) **Paul LaLonde:** Well I think, I think the quote in and of itself is brilliant and pretty much, pretty much sums it up. I think the, the, the thing about this movie is that for,

for people who are, who are bible believing Christians and who, who truly believe this event could happen any day, it's a wonderful story in that sense. In that they're seeing it's a true story. And they're getting to see it in advance and that's a great thing but for the people who don't necessarily either believe in the rapture or even believe the bible is true at all, it's still a wonderful movie because it allows you to ask yourself, Ok what if it did happen? I mean, I mean half the people in the United States believe it's going to happen so, what if it did? And I think that's the opportunity that, that you have in this movie is to sort of experience the world of the people who are *LEFT BEHIND*, the people who didn't believe any of it. And just to get a sense of what it would be like on that day. And that's really what the focus of the movie is, is what if it did happen? What would it be like that day? And I think, I think Vic did a great job and the cast obviously did a fantastic job because it's not a, it's not an easy movie to do, it's, it's certainly not an easy movie to act and these are, these are difficult circumstances, and difficult roles, and everyone was just wonderful.

00:16:23 **Moderator:** Great. Vic any other comments you want to make, er?

00:16:26 **Vic Armstrong:** Yeah, for me I felt I was walking a tight-rope and a fine line between telling a great story because you just read it as a, as a, adventure story full of wonderful characters, fabulous performances, great look. You still have the other side of it, you have the rapture. You have the believers, you have the followers of *LEFT BEHIND* and I felt very, very, very conscience of the fact that they were trusting me to deliver what they wanted to see as well. So, to me it was a fine line to, to, not upset those people or, or do it wrongly for them, so I was just so pleased to have Paul LaLonde on the set all the time because any time I had any questions, Paul was a fountain of knowledge in that respect. That fact helped me a little bit, but I was very nervous in that respect. If anything I worried about the movie, it was upsetting the people that were trusting me to tell their story. But as I say, I still wanted to tell a great, a great yarn, a great character piece and you can't do that without great actors. And everybody was just so wonderful and we took a long time casting everybody and we ended up with the absolute dream team, I'm so thrilled it's fabulous.

00:17:43 **Moderator:** Great. Well speaking of the cast, we're going to carry-on a little bit here but we'll get back to you guys, so don't worry. The first actress that we're going to speak with here is Cassi Thomson. Cassi has a really pivotal role in this movie, she can tell you more about it. You've, you've probably seen Cassi in shows like *Without a Trace*, *House*, *E.R.*, even *CSI* most recently from HBO's *Big Love* and then from ABC Family's *Switched at Birth*. Cassi has a really great, rapidly growing resume and she plays such an important role in this movie and there's so many different questions we want to ask of her. Things, just with Cassi that she could kind of bring to this for us just playing such a strong role with Nicolas Cage's character. And I think the first thing Cassi we'd love to hear from you is just your just basic thoughts on the film and you know what really attracted you to this script? And what's something just specific about it that made you want to be involved in *LEFT BEHIND*?

00:18:49 **Cassi Thomson:** Well when I read the script it was just, you know, as Vic said it was very much character-driven which is something you don't really see that often in a movie that does have so much action involved. And it also is a very strong female character which there unfortunately aren't that many of, nowadays. So, when I read it, I mean I honestly thought I would never, I would never book it. Just because I, I you know, I'm not a big A-Lister name. I'm, I'm, I have been working for a long time but I,

you know I just assumed I would never get this opportunity. But still, I, you know I put a lot of work in, and I sent in tapes, and then I auditioned. And, luckily they, you know, they gave me a chance to be a part of something that was one of, really the most memorable times of my life. And, you know, I had always wanted to do a film like this. And it just, it was great. I mean Vic was great. Nic, Nic, Nicolas Cage was great. All the producers were amazing. It really was, when they say it was a dream team it really was on all, on all ends. It's very rare that you get to work for producers that you love so much and a director that allows you to be so free, and, and Vic and I have become really close. I just did another film with him. And he, he's just one of those directors that you want, that you want. You want them on set because they do allow you to be free. And they allow you to experience your character. And let you really be the actor that, that you want to be but they're also there with all the support, and trust, and he was just amazing. Everybody was really amazing to work with.

00:20:28 **Moderator:** So when you mentioned that it was one of the most memorable experiences of your life, what's something that sticks out and what was one of the most memorable parts of it, or what, what was just compelling to you about this movie?

00:20:40 **Cassi Thomson:** Well I probably one of the most, well I mean I took away a lot of friendships from this film and I, you know I, I feel like I grew a lot as an actor working with someone like Nicolas Cage. That's something that so many young actors don't get a chance to do. And his professionalism and his talent really kind of changes you. Experiences like that I think change you always for the better. And I also luckily got to do all of my own, pretty much all of my own stunts on the film. And at one point (laughing) Vic had me climb like this 400' bridge. So I free-climbed the 400' bridge and was on top of the bridge with a helicopter kind of circling me with a camera and that was amazing. That's something that I probably will never get to do again. So that was, that was very memorable.

00:21:31 **Vic Armstrong:** That was stunning.

(laughing)

00:21:33 **Cassi Thomson:** That was good, it was just awesome.

(laughing)

00:21:36 **Moderator:** Cassi what do think are the main issues and struggles for your character in the film? I know she goes back and forth from a lot of different emotional places throughout this movie. What do you think just as a character. Help some of the people on this call who have not seen this movie and don't really even, maybe know much about the story. What will they get from your character and what is it that you feel like she really went through in this movie?

00:21:59 **Cassi Thomson:** Well in the beginning of this film, you, you quickly learn that "Chloe" doesn't really have any kind of spiritual beliefs at all and she doesn't, her family growing up didn't have any kind of faith, didn't go to church, didn't, wasn't really involved with the Christian faith whatsoever. And then her mom found her faith and kind of it, it, it threw a wedge into the family and it kind of pushed "Chloe" away. Because any, any conversations she did have with her mom was always centered around faith and her believe in God and "Chloe" needs to really, you know, get in tune with that and kind of was warning of, warning her of what is coming. And "Chloe" just saw it as more nagging and felt like she kind of lost her mom in a way I think. And that pushed her to separate from not only her mom but her whole family. So in the beginning of the film, I think that's kind of her main struggle is she's coming home for her

dad's, you know, her dad's prized birthday party and then learns that he's been called off to work. And so then she's stuck on a, you know, she's stuck with a one on one interaction with her mom which is uncomfortable. And then very shortly in to the film, the rapture hits and obviously when that happens "Chloe's" struggles shift dramatically and become a lot more real, and become a lot more intense. But I think the thing that's so beautiful about "Chloe" and so beautiful about the way she's written is that she, no matter if it is the beginning, you know, the middle or the end, her struggles do always, kind of circle around her family. And you can tell how much she does love her family. And I think that that was my favorite thing about her is that she's, you can really, you watch her struggle through this film so much with losing her mom and then, you know feeling like she's just lost her whole world. And, it's pretty, it's pretty great to watch her, you know, watch her struggle through the film, I guess (laughing).

00:23:59 **Moderator:** Yeah. For sure. Is there one part of the filming or something just from your experience in the movie that stands out above the rest that you want people to hear or that you want to kind of just share, talk about regarding this movie here?

00:24:14 **Cassi Thomson:** I think one of the most interesting things for me is, they did, really our, our team did such an amazing job of creating these sets and situations of, of the world being in ruins. And for me, you know as a human being, Cassi Thomson, I know the world's fine, and I know that everything's ok but you're really kind of sucked into these sets that you're put on and there's this, there's this specific scene in a hospital and in the nursery section where all of the babies are kept. And, you know all of children, when the rapture hit, they're all taken off the Earth. And so when "Chloe" finds herself in this nursery all the babies have been gone and you can just see, you know the remnants of these children and for me that was such a, such a crazy experience and such an eye-opening experience and it really was bone-chilling in a sense. To be put in these situations where you did, it did feel real for that instant. And that was just very, it was very interesting to, to be a part of something, like that. If that makes any sense.

00:25:30 **Moderator:** Yeah. No that's great, great. We really appreciate. We'll be back and ask most of you guys more questions. But thank you so much Cassi for your participation in this call with us. And if anyone has another question for Cassi or anything else you want to ask her please feel free to just email us that question. Again, just a quick little reminder for anyone who might just be dialing in or joining this call. We're talking about the *LEFT BEHIND* film that's coming out October 3rd 2014 through Stoney Lake Entertainment and Freestyle Releasing. It will be opening nationwide on October 3rd and we have the cast, and director and producers on the call with us here that will be with us here for the next at least, 30-40 minutes or so and just want to make sure that everybody has this info:

LeftBehindMovie@GothamConference.com is an email address where you can send us questions. And then the other place you can get materials is LeftBehindMovie.OnlineMediaSpot.com where you can get all of the materials that we're referring to on this call and that you can use to help promote the film.

Now we have Jordin Sparks with us. We're really honored to have you Jordin with us. Some of you guys have probably heard (inaudible) speaks for herself. Remember her I'm sure as the youngest ever winner of *American Idol* and she's gone on to a really amazing recording and film career through so many top records, and number one songs, and awards, and Jordin you've just been a real inspiration for your career to so many people I'm sure who are even on this call with us and you know, Jordin plays a role in the *LEFT BEHIND* film which she can obviously tell you about and also we just released the information that she's actually recording a song also to go along with the movie so, Jordin, anything that you want to talk about, regarding your role as "Shasta Carvell", is the name of Jordin's character and Jordin my first question I want to ask you is regarding the book series if you had been familiar with the books or you

knew of them before you were part of this movie or kind of what your main motivation for being in this film was and kind of where your heart behind this is?

00:27:45 **Jordin Sparks:** Ok, yeah, Hi Everyone. It's been really exciting to be a part of this because like you said about the books, when I was younger, all the *LEFT BEHIND* books came out and then they released a teen series of the books for the younger kids that you know couldn't read 500 page books, fast enough. So I read this teen series growing up and I just remember being, you know, so affected by the thought of Wow, what if, what if my closest friends just disappeared one day. What if they just weren't here. Or my closest family members or you know, anything like that and it was just really interesting and as a kid that's definitely very scary. It's something that's like, "Ah well," Ok that's very scary it's just in a book but you know, when you read the bible and you, you take those things to be truth, you know it is definitely something that you can think of and go Wow, that, that could actually happen. My motivation for being in the movie was definitely, I was so excited because I had read the books. And, I was like, you know it would be really fun to be a part of this film because they had described it as something more action and it was definitely, in the beginning of the books, you know the plane is where the book starts. And there's a whole other story after that, so it's really fun to be able to see these characters that you might not have been introduced to in the actual books because you're exploring the people that are on the plane. You're figuring out their fears, how scared they are, what they're going through. You look at them sort of like, Ok well I was just on a plane the other day. What would happen if that happened to me on the plane that I was just on. You know, you kind of start to put yourself in those situations. And, so I was very excited to be a part of it, to be like OK this is a character that might not be in the book but you know, she's got a valid part, so "Shasta" is a mother and her back-story is, is, you know kind of came up with that she's getting on the plane with her daughter, trying to take her daughter to a safer place in her head that's what she thinks she's doing. She's trying to take her away because of what she's going through with her husband, her ex-husband, we haven't really decided that. Is that, you know they're not going through great things at the moment so she's taking her daughter and she's just very weary of everybody on the plane. She's very, I don't know, she's very, I feel like she kind of thinks everything is a conspiracy, that everyone's out to get her, so she, you know, has her daughter on the plane and she wakes up after taking a nap and her daughter's gone. And it was really interesting for me because, I was like, I've never played a mother before. I don't have kids myself, what would I do if somebody that I could equate to the little, the little girl who was absolutely incredible, she's so cute. Her name is Kam, Hi Kam! Hopefully she'll see this. She was so adorable and I, I just was trying to equate like who would I just be completely devastated, shocked, to see isn't there anymore. Not because they left of their own accord but because they were taken. And it was very interesting to have to reach deep-down. I remember at one point we were shooting my scene and I was so, I was so overwhelmed and nervous because I kept forgetting my lines when we were practicing and rehearsing and everybody was so great trying to calm me down but I was so nervous because my character was literally in hysterics. She's sobbing, she thinks that, you know, everybody has been a part of it and aren't telling her and I remember standing there we got the lines out but I remember being so deep into that scene that I literally could not stop myself and bring myself out of that base for about 20 minutes after the scene was shot. And it was just really interesting. I grew so much as a person in how I was relating to her, how I wasn't like her, you know and just being in the situation with all the amazing actors on the plane in the first class cabin, I will say. It was just very, it was a very interesting and amazing experience to be able to dive that deep into a character.

00:31:58 **Moderator:** Wow, that's, that's great. Thank you. And so you've been in a number of great movies and is this role being an action-thriller style movie, kind of a lot of depth from a, you know, a lot

of different perspectives and then having so much action happening and you, even talking about how deep you got into this character. How was this different for you, or how did you have to either prepare or, just share with us a little bit about this experience as a opposed to maybe some of the other films and roles you've played in those.

00:32:31 **Jordin Sparks:** Well it was different because like I said I play a mother and I'm, I'm not a mom, I don't have kids, one day I would love to have kids. But I, and I know there's nothing like a mother's love from what my mom has told me and my brother's wife who just had my niece she just is like, it changes your entire world. And I know how much I love my niece now and I can't imagine the type of love that I'll have when I have my own kids. So it was hard because I wanted to be able to express that but I had to find something relatable to me, you know in the space that I'm in now to get myself to that point. And also being able to be in something action-thriller, you know scary, end of your seat is so exciting for me because I have been in a couple films. It's been so amazing to be able to, you know, work on this side of my artistry, and on this craft of being an actor and getting into this world. And with my other characters I was definitely a lot more like them with *Sparkle*, it was literally like we were the same person just put in different time eras and you know, go with different things. Family, in terms of family but I really felt like I related to her a lot on all levels. So, I don't want to say it was easy but it was definitely simpler to be able to walk in to her shoes than it was to walk in to "Shasta's" shoes. So it was very interesting, it was fun. And I felt very supported by everyone who was in this scene with me. Because it was all of us who were in the first-class cabin. I think besides Nicolas and Cassi because she's on the ground kicking butt down there on the ground (laughing) making sure everybody's safe, looking for her brother. So it was, it was nice to feel supported in that way when I was just so unsure if I could project what I was trying to project.

00:34:30 **Moderator:** That's great. Yeah. Thank you.

00:34:32 **Jordin Sparks:** Um hmm. No problem.

00:34:33 **Moderator:** Yeah. I think one other thing that we just want to hear from you and actually we just got an email question for you specifically about this. Just about, we know a lot of your fans are a broad section of ages but we know that a lot of young people really respect you and look up to you. Do you think that young people can relate to this movie? What do you think they'll get from it? Will they enjoy it? Is it something they should also go out and see?

00:35:00 **Jordin Sparks:** I think the great thing about this movie in that this movie has the opportunity to do, is because of the people that they have brought into the film, they have the ability to have people from all over come in and see the movie whether they are believers, whether they're non-believers. Whether they are agnostic, whether they you know, don't believe in anything, or you know it doesn't even matter. They have the opportunity to have so many different people come in and watch this. And I'm, I'm excited for my fans to come in and see it as well because whether they know of the story of the rapture from the bible, or they've watched, what is that show, the show *The Leftovers* is kind of similar where people just disappear you know. Everybody's kind of, I think everybody can relate to imagining, like what if somebody that I loved wasn't around anymore, in an instant? And it can definitely happen, whether it is through, you know being taken up in the rapture or, you know, a tragic accident you know, life isn't promised to us here, you know, tomorrow is not promised and I think everybody can relate to that so I think it's going to be really cool to see all the different types of people that come in to see this film and for everybody to just be able to start a conversation afterwards. Go Wow, that was really interesting, I wonder what A, B, C, and D is. So I'm excited for my fans to come see it. I'm excited for,

you know maybe to gain some fans from other people that come and see the movie as well. So you know, it's going to be great for all of us I think.

00:36:29 **Moderator:** Yeah, for sure. Well that's great. And it's just great how involved you've been in this movie. I know you've really spent lots of time and have been very connected. So it's, it's great and you know we actually have a press release and some information that we are sending out to the media just, you know, including that information so you guys will all get that if you haven't yet from us. Thank you so much Jordin.

00:36:51 **Jordin Sparks:** (inaudible)

00:36:51 **Moderator:** We also have on the call, Nicky Whelan. And Nicky has been involved in so many great movies, and different things, even some things she has set for release in 2015. I know Nicky you could even talk a little bit more about that. I know you just wrapped *The Wedding Ringer* with Kevin Hart, Vince Vaughn. I know that you have some things coming up and a lot of things that you have done. From *Neighbors*, to *Scrubs*, *Workaholics*, *Hall Pass* and I know that there's a lot of, you know, things on the horizon where we're seeing you kind of popping up all over the place. And even in Crackle's *Chosen*, and *Matador*. So, you know there's places that you can see all these actors and all these actresses and you know, they have so much happening and we're honored as Paul and Vic even said to just have this cast involved here. Nicky, thank you so much also for joining us today. And we just wanted to start out asking you about some of the unique parts you've played. You play a very pivotal and very important role in this movie. Maybe just start out just diving right in and telling us about your character (laughing). I know we haven't shared a lot with everybody on this call about the different characters and the different people that everybody plays in this film. But can you just share with us about your role? Who Hattie is, and kind of what she brings to this movie.

00:38:18 **Nicky Whelan:** Absolutely. Hello everybody. Yea, usually you know, as Cassi has mentioned when I read the script it is a very character-driving script as well as extremely action-packed. But the particular thing you don't really know a lot about Hattie when she sort of comes in, and she's quite (laughing) promiscuous. Like we had this fabulous opening scene which we loved to shoot, Vic if you remember with the lipstick and the car and the whole setup and immediately off the bat from seeing Hattie, you say that there's something going on with her and "Ray". I think Hattie seems to be at the beginning a very basic character that's quite immersed in the world of being an air hostess. She loves her job, that's all she knows, you know. She sort of dresses up for work, it's a whole production and obviously she's got something going on, or hopes to have something going on with the captain, played by Nicolas Cage. And I think the beautiful thing about this character is, you know, you want to hate her. She's a little bit promiscuous. She's sort of going against the all the rules. It's clearly obvious why she doesn't get taken, (laughing) in the rapture. However, me and Vic did discuss, you know, about making this character as human as possible in the sense that you know, throughout the movie these, the rapture occurs and we're on a plane and you know, you don't think much of her. She seems to be this quiet, you know, naughty air hostess, mincing about, flirting with the captain. And she becomes quite real and quite human and, and, and I think hopefully quite like likeable by the end of the movie, when you see how she decides to deal with things that happen on the plane. You know, she finds out, I don't know if I'm aloud to say this. She finds out that Nicolas is married and so she's been, not only has she been betrayed by someone that she's, you know planning on spending some time with and hopefully developing a relationship with. The world's half-ending in a sense. (laughing) And she's in a plane so there's a lot taking place and she's got to keep that as human as possible, and it was a journey that me and Vic discussed and we went on together and as Cassi also mentioned that Vic gave us a great deal of

freedom on set to sort of play it how we would. And I remember the very first thing I had to shoot was me coming in hysterical and losing my mind. It was quite a challenge I've got to be honest because, there was nothing to sort of build from or anywhere to go from and we really had to be careful with Hattie. I don't know, I hadn't read the books before I had started filming. I wasn't familiar with this story. I just read this cool action-packed movie with great cast in it, and then sort of learned more about it as I got more involved. But, you know it's, it's hard playing, as Vic said, and what I think the (inaudible) done a really good job of in this movie is, not only telling a story that rings true to a lot of people but also making a great action film. And I think we've managed to balance both out and I, if we go on to make, you know two and three of this movie my character gets (laughing) really interesting, so I find her, I find her a lot of fun to play and I was really embraced in this, Cassi and the girls had mentioned, it was a journey down there in Baton Rouge and we had an incredible team of people working together under strange circumstances, and really trying to make it come to life and as, as real as possible in such a crazy scenario, so.

00:41:34 **Moderator:** Yeah. It was intense as everybody obviously experienced on the set. What, regarding, you know the other roles that you've played or different things that you've done, what was different? Like that was unique about this? Er, what kind of things did you even, as an actress have to, I know you kind of touched on a little bit of it but is there anything that really stands-out that you really felt you had to learn or do differently this time?

00:42:00 **Nicky Whelan:** I think, you know, I've always been so grateful for the roles I've booked over the years. I've predominately done comedy always and only over the last year, obviously doing a part of *Chosen*, and now being in *Matador*, I'm starting to do sort of more of those dramatic roles. And I still think even though it's quite a serious story and it's very dramatic, I liked being able to bring, "Hattie's" a little bit comical, I don't know does anyone agree, I don't know like she kind of (laughing), I think we need a little bit of lightheartedness and there's a, there's sort of (inaudible) back and forth between her and "Ray." It's a little bit comical at the start. It sort of makes you smile. I think we need a few comic reliefs, a few smiles throughout the movie. And a lot of the characters actually on the plane bring that to the movie. But in particular, you know, I love to be a part of anything action and when you've got Vic Armstrong on board you know that, you know things are going to blow up, it's going to be hot, it's going to be rad (laughing). Let's be honest. So, you know, as an actress to be a part and work with these particular people. And obviously of course getting to work alongside Nicolas Cage, he was someone you grow up watching your whole life so, you know, when you're picking characters and things like that, a lot of the time, it's not until you get to the set do you really realize how you're going to handle and understand this character and until you get around the energy of other people, and actors, and the director, and really feel out this process. It's something I'd never done before, I'd, you know and the circumstances are so extreme it's interesting to see what you come up with as an actor on the spot. I remember we had to shoot my coverage of the plane crashing and coming down. And, I'm just sitting in a chair and they've got the hydraulics on the plane set throwing it round and it's cra, you know it's, it's a challenge, as Jordin said as well, like you're trying to bring to life, an extreme situation and it's, for a human, as a person, as me, Nicky, like it's interesting to see what I come up with and sort of what rattles me and I feel like we all got so immersed in our characters. And I really think that we brought it to life, and so I hope that everyone sees that, and enjoys it.

00:44:07 **Moderator:** That's great. Alright, then can you also just tell us, quickly here, just what is the main thing that, apart from what you've told us about your character, that you feel like by the end of this movie, that she, you know without obviously giving away things that you can't, but what did she struggle with the most, and what do you think she learned or was there anything you even, on a

personal level kind of took away from what, this character is someone who, I think a lot of people won't expect because, you know, they just expect to see stories of, oh who was the last, who was it? What's their life like? But you, and Nicolas Cage's character had a really important, just relationship and kind of what you dealt with and struggled through most of the movie. Is there something you could just share that just kind of stands out as what she really went through? As a woman?

00:45:03 **Nicky Whelan:** Well, I, she's very, she, Hattie in particular is really immersed in her world. She's living as an air hostess. She's not awake so to speak. And it's interesting because how you view life in real life. I feel, a lot of people are sleeping through life. Sort of just getting on with it, getting it done, being sort of caught up in their own world, in their own dramas and their own everything. And she really, she seems like a character that's really like that. She's very, all her life is about is looking fabulous, getting on the plane and having an affair with the captain. Well not (inaudible), but you know. She's so caught up in her world and you know I think with any sort of world catastrophe like this is what happens and all of a sudden everybody wakes up. Or do they? You know, and I think that's what happens to her on this plane. I think she's all of a sudden for the first time in her entire life. Not only is half the world left, she also is being hit on a lot of personal levels. She goes through a lot and what I love is what Vic helped me choose and what we discussed was making her, at the end you see some really redeeming qualities in Hattie and at the start you're not so sure about her. And it's hard to play the character that's, you, you know I could have played this quite hard and quite, you know ruthless, and not bitchy but just very self-driven but I think throughout the movie you see her break down and what people really go through as humans when they're faced with these problems and in Hattie's case, she, she really redeems herself on a lot of levels. Personal levels, and you see that, and I think you can go away from the film with a bit of love for her and I'm so grateful that Vic and I chose that as a way to let the movie end. Let me tell you if we come back and make two, I think she turns again. I mean, she might have bipolar (laughing). But, she's so funny. Like, I don't know, anyways, just towards the end of the film I think you, from starting out sort of being this quiet, you'll see. As toward the end, I think we grow a bit of love for her and I hope that comes through and that's one of the really important things is, Hattie's journey, who she was, and who she becomes after she gets hit with some pretty heavy things and I think that it's a good testament to everyone in their life, what is your wakeup call? Do you know what I mean?

00:47:22 **Moderator:** Hmm. No that's really good. Yep, and I think everyone who has kind of touched on the fact that there's a lot of questions, a lot of things that anybody seeing this movie and kind of just grapple with throughout life and I think it's, it's really appropriate in this time, even in our world right now and, and you know, we've had some questions come in that are kind of even along these lines and everyone has, you know already touched on this so well. Paul, there's a question that's actually come in for you which I think falls right in line with this. Just in regard to, you know, there are shows, that I think Jordin mentioned, *The Leftovers* and a lot of things in popular culture right now. There's a lot of rapture-like stories out there. Paul, how do you see and how can you explain to everybody here, what this film speaks to and how it is different from some of the things or maybe how it's alike, how it's like a lot of the things that are out right now. Can you just share with us a little bit about, kind of the whole concept of what you hope that people take away. Or what people will find in this movie, again without giving away too much?

00:48:33 **Paul LaLonde:** Well you know the, the main thing about this movie that in terms of its, its source material which is the bible and it's obviously a Christian story. It's based on bible prophecy. It's, it's an event that is, is predicted in the bible. So in that sense, it's something for everybody to think about and everybody to ponder. And that's what's wonderful about this movie is that you, you do get to have a look into the, the most, to me, the most fascinating world that there is, which is the world of

bible prophecy. Bible prophecy fascinating. Bible prophecy is incredible, and bible prophecy is so immersive when you get in there because it has so many, so many wonderful elements in it which, which we'll explore throughout the *LEFT BEHIND* series. But, the way we've packaged it in this movie is it's accessible to everybody. You're not going to get in there and get a thinly disguised sermon. I know a lot of people have concerns as soon as you hear, oh it's based on bible prophecy, I'm going to go in there and get preached at. And that's simply not the case and we worked very hard to, to make sure that this movie was accessible to everybody because everybody can be fascinated by bible prophecy even if they don't know it yet. It is fascinating and in and of itself there's some wonderful stories and I don't like to see those great stories not being told simply because they're, they're, they seem to always to be packaged with so much in-your-face preaching and finger-shaking that, that really doesn't need to take place and doesn't really need to be part of it when you're trying to, trying to tell these great stories. And so I think that's what, what *LEFT BEHIND* achieves and allows everybody to enjoy this story.

00:50:38 **Moderator:** Yeah, that's a good way to put it. You know we've had a few similar questions come in. We've kind of grouped them all here together. Hopefully we're answering lots of people's questions all at the same time here. So, one of the questions that seems to be quite popular is, and I think Paul you're the guy to answer this one. Why the new version? I know earlier we talked about how, you know there was a *LEFT BEHIND* film previously, and it, you know, only covered only so much. I know there's so much in these books to cover and you know, the first movie didn't try to do everything all in one. But a lot of people are curious. Is there any aspects that you could share about the original film, and this new one, if there's anything pivotal that was left out, or kept in? Was there anything in the process of making this. I know I've actually I've even heard you tell your vision for why you wanted to make this next movie. Maybe there's something like that you could share as to kind of the catalyst for why this now?

00:51:41 **Paul LaLonde:** Well I think, I think I had said earlier that part of it was that I had always wanted to, to turn this particular story into a big movie because it just, it cries out to be a movie. It's so fascinating. It's like a *Twilight Zone* episode. That it, it just, it is a wonderful event to build a movie around. But the primary reason to reboot this franchise, you know 10 years later is to try, as I had just said, to take the movie out to a wider audience, to open this up beyond the choir outside of the, outside of the Christian world. And the first time we made "*LEFT BEHIND*" it was a Christian movie, it was made for Christians. People showed it in their churches. That, that's what this whole thing was about, was a, was a Christian movie made for Christians which almost all faith-based movies are. But they don't reach out beyond the choir. And so people get very excited when they see that, you know, there's Christian movies coming out, and there's Christian movies in the theatres. It's still Christians watching them. And, and so the fact is, I wanted to, to create a movie to, to write and produce a movie that could go out to a much broader audience and nobody's going to walk out of there thinking, Wow, I, I just got preached at for two hours. It's not going to be like that, and so that's, that was the main reason for wanting to do this, was wanting to tell this really cool story but to tell it outside of, you know, just the walls of the church. To, to reach out to everybody and share this really cool story.

00:53:33 **Moderator:** Yeah that's great, thank you.

00:53:34 **Paul LaLonde:** Now obviously I, I should add, part of that also is that I wanted to make a better movie. I wanted to make a really good movie and that, that meant we had to go spend a lot more money. We had to spend a lot more time. And I can't emphasize lot, enough writing the script for this movie, compared to when we wrote the first one. But also just in the production value, in going out and getting Vic and going out and getting the cast we did, we worked very hard to make sure that every

single role was, was filled by somebody who can really be compelling and really be wonderful because we, we really wanted this to be a big Hollywood movie even though, we, we're not a Hollywood studio, and we don't have a Hollywood budget. We really wanted to make it look like we did. And so that was part of this too, was to go out and make this thing as, as good as we could possibly make it and I think as, as all Christian filmmakers, or faith-based filmmakers, everybody needs to raise the bar. For, for so long the Christian movies have all been, you know, low-budget, church-basement movies, with a, with you know, you might have one or two decent actors in them and then a lot of people who really weren't up to, up to the task. And so that's something else too is to just raise the bar and say there's no, there's no reason movies based on the bible have to be all of them be, you know super low-budget with nobody in them you've ever heard of and relegated either to a few theatrical screens, or straight to video. And it's good to see that the, the bar is being raised and I'm excited to be part of that process.

00:55:32 **Moderator:** That's great. I think, you know, Paul just one more for you here too because I think you can answer this best. We've had people want to know, it's a good question, are Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins on board with the authors of the book series. Is there support from them? How, how are they connected or where do they fit in this one?

00:55:51 **Paul LaLonde:** Absolutely, well I, we had the, I mean Jerry Jenkins who actually wrote the *LEFT BEHIND* books, he visited the set, he met Nic Cage, and he was on the set I think for only one or two days. But he came down, he enjoyed it very much and then once we had an early cut of the movie put together, I invited both of the authors to come to a screening in Los Angeles and, and to come and watch the movie and that was, that was probably the longest two hours of my life. Sitting there waiting to see what they would say because it's always hard to take, to take an author's work and then adapt it, and you know, what are you changing and what are you doing differently and what are they going to think of this but, they both came out of this extremely excited as did their families and we've had full support, from, from both Tim and Jerry ever since then. And they've been on board and they've spoken about it publically and Jerry's even, Tim's a little older now so he doesn't travel as much but Jerry has been going around and actually doing screenings, doing speeches, doing TV appearances, promoting the movie. And so that's been wonderful and Tim LaHaye's grandson, Randy LaHaye has also been doing that on, on Tim's behalf. So we actually, we actually have the authors out there supporting the movie. And so that's, that's been wonderful.

00:57:24 **Moderator:** That's great. Ok, so we have another question for Vic here. How did your extensive work in the stunt field over the years help inform your directing and how did it affect this film specifically.

00:57:36 **Vic Armstrong:** Well as, as a stunt director you're still telling stories, in some ways I think it's even harder because you're trying to tell stories with mime language if you'd like. You still, the only reason stunts are in a movie are to progress the storyline and the movie itself so you do have to adhere to storylines. So I learned very, very early on that it's, it is a case of storytelling and putting things together and just, I do like literally storytelling, you know, and I've been directing for a long time and I did *Joshua Tree* 20-odd years ago. And *Young Indiana Jones* with George Lucas and such like, and if you get a good script it's very, very easy. Good script and good actors and a good DP, it is just an absolute joy

and a pleasure to come on the set and to tell the story. And as I say I do like telling stories and it, it's wonderful seeing the character arc through a movie like everybody in *LEFT BEHIND* has given me. And the other thing that you learn I guess from the background stunts is literally the background of working in movies is the politics, the trying to think ahead, allowing for things that could go wrong and things that don't turn up. It's just learning the basic art of directing, art of working in movies, the art of actually making movies that you learn over the years that I think I've been very blessed to have also worked under some fantastic directors, from Spielberg to Scorsese to David Lee, I did (inaudible) many moons ago. And Paul Verhoeven and some wonderful directors and you, you can't help but watch them shooting and get ideas and little things stick in the back of your mind so it's, it's been a learning curve all my life really.

00:59:24 **Moderator:** I know that's great. Cassi, or Nicky, or anybody who wants to kind of join in and, if anybody wants to just quickly answer this question, just is there something anybody would just put out here that you would hope people take away from this movie? It seems something people have asked many, many times. I have a handload, a handful of emails asking that question. Is there something that you think would be important for someone who watches this to get out of it?

00:59:51 **Nicolas Cage:** Well Hi, this is Nicolas Cage and I was just listening and I, I'd like to answer that question. I was very taken by the family dynamic that plays out in this script. And that's what drew me to the project. That and an opportunity to work again with Vic Armstrong. I had a good rapport with him on another movie. So I felt that I could get to where I wanted to go with *Captain Steele*. Because this is, this is a person who is in an extraordinary situation and realizes really what his values are through the, he reaches a catharsis through the experience of this extraordinary flight that he's on. And, gets back to the heart which is his relationship with his family, which is his relationship with "Chloe" his daughter which is so powerfully, she's so powerful Cassi Thomson in the movie. And I think that that's what I want, if there's anything for me, I want that to come across that people realize, yeah we all make mistakes but in a moment of crisis what we really want, what we really go to, go back to is, the love we have for our families. And that's what, that's what pulled me in, into this, into this project. That, and also how you make such an extraordinary set of circumstances authentic and how do you make that real and that was a tremendous challenge for, for all the actors to, to play it almost Cinéma vérité that this is really happening and we're really believing in this situation and it's to, to convey that to the audience is the challenge. I've always been attracted to movies that aren't afraid to venture into the unknown. *City of Angels*, movies that were knowing, movies that aren't afraid to face the possibility of these extraordinary circumstances and, and the challenge of making that real.

01:02:01 **Moderator:** That's great. Thank you so much Nicolas we knew you were going to get on and we really appreciate you joining us so, thank you so much. Everyone has anxiously been awaiting your arrival here. So we're going to ask you a few questions here. And then, you know I had said at the beginning of the call if there's anything that, you know, you want at anytime or anybody from the cast just wants to interject or add in that maybe we're not asking specifically. One of the things we're getting a lot of questions about that people are writing in is, you know, we're all fans of your interviews, we know you've worked on many different types of roles, you've probably already been asked this but people here would really like to know, what about this script or what regarding the movie in general, you know, I know you've mentioned things about, you know, your brother before, you've mentioned things about just, you know, we've all talked, I don't know if you heard us, a little earlier in the call

about, you know *The Leftovers*, and other, like, shows that are out right now, kind of speaking to end-times. Is there anything regarding just culture today or anything that you could share about you know, why you would say yes to a movie like this?

01:03:13 **Nicolas Cage:** Well again, I, I really said yes on the merits of the screenplay. And also to work with, to work with Vic again, the director. I think all artists, if you're tapped in, if you're tuned in, to the zeitgeist, you know when they're open to that, they're going to pick up on, on that. And things happen I think, I really believe things happen collectively around the world that, people get thoughts and they start, you know, I didn't know about *The Leftovers*. I didn't know that was a television show that was already happening but you can pick up on these things. I mean, at one time I think someone invented a steam train in one part of the world and another person was inventing the same thing and they had never talked. So I mean, there are times when you can, you can, you can tap into something subconsciously. But that wasn't on my mind, I wasn't aware of any of it. I just felt that the script was a challenge and it gave me a chance to really try to make the extraordinary, believable. And, and to do something authentic within performance so that everything around me was, was going into chaos. People were just appearing on the airplane and how did I make that organic? How did I make that authentic? And again, all the actors, Chad Michael Murray, Cassi Thomson, Nicky Whelan, they were all on-point. And I find that exciting. To me, it was, it was an exercise and I'm very happy with the results.

01:04:57 **Moderator:** That's great. So the story centers on "Rayford Steele" and his daughter "Chloe". How do you describe their relationship? How does it relate even maybe to your own thoughts as a father? What makes them relatable characters and for most of the people on the call here, they haven't seen the film. Explain a little bit about your relationship there and why this matters in this movie.

01:05:19 **Nicolas Cage:** Well I mean "Ray Steele" is a, he's a captain of a jumbo jet, a transatlantic jumbo jet going, you know to London, England. And, you know, he's, he's, he's an important guy on that airplane and he has a flirtation and this, there's, there's a chemistry that's happening with the flight attendant, so marvelously played by Nicky Whelan and he loses track, you know, he loses sight of what's really valuable to him in terms of you know, his treasures within which is his love for his family. He's kind of, not that he's a bad guy but he's making a mistake that many people make that are in powerful positions where they, you know lose track of the importance of family. They're drawn away, or they're seduced or they're taken from their true inner-values by, by, by something attractive, or something flirtatious, or something that, that has the call of the wild. And they lose their place, and what I like about that is that many people do it. But that "Ray Steele" gets back to his true need for family through this experience, through this extraordinary experience and understands the value of family and just wants to get back to that no matter what happens. Just to be able to get back on the phone with his daughter. Say I'm sorry. And say "I love you." And I think that's, it's as simple as that. I think that is heart-wrenching. And if you have a heart, I don't think it's possible to see the movie and not get a little verklempt. I mean it, there's some very poignant, emotional moments.

01:07:05 **Moderator:** I know. Yeah. That's great. Was there, is this the first time you've really heard about this story? Like when you heard about the potential (inaudible) people being taken away from the earth or disappearing. Is this the first time like, the rapture was kind of a new concept...(cut off).

01:07:21 **Nicolas Cage:** No, no. I'm familiar with the rapture of course. I mean, I'm not familiar with it in any aspect outside of what the bible says, but you know, I was not familiar with the *LEFT BEHIND* series. My brother, Mark, is a Christian pastor, and he was very excited about this. And he said, you know, Nicky, you've really got to do this. I mean this is a, and so I, I, you know I'd already wanted to make the movie because I thought it was such a great script and an opportunity again to do something challenging. But when I saw how passionate he was, I thought, well yeah I want to make this movie for my brother too.

01:08:03 **Moderator:** That's great. Well I think that you're making this movie for lots of people because people are very excited about it coming out and it's got a lot of anticipation around it so people are excited to hear from you. We're getting lots of questions. And, you know one of the questions too that has come in is, you know, with a lot of the roles that you take that are very heartfelt, there's a lot of things that you are drawn to, or that you play where you tell a human story with a larger than life narrative. Is that something you, you love to play just because it really has the potential to affect people in their lives deeply? Or is it usually just like you said with this one where it's the script or is there something about that, that is just meaningful to you because you probably see it affect people in a positive way.

01:08:49 **Nicolas Cage:** Well there's, I mean if you look at my filmography, there's no secret to the fact that I, I am drawn to movies that aren't afraid to take on spiritual themes. And you know, without going into my own personal, you know, spirituality which is very sacred to me and not something that I think is, you know for public consumption or to be put on the, or in the media but, but I like to let my work speak for me. I like to find movies that allow me to explore these inner or outer worlds through the work without having to really talk too much about it.

01:09:34 **Moderator:** Yeah that's, that's great and you do a fabulous job doing it. So, you may know that we have most of the cast on the call and then we have Paul LaLonde, we have Vic Armstrong on with us. Paul, Vic is there anything, since we have Nicolas on the line with us now that you want to make sure is said, or that is just communicated on this call? I know people have been hearing a lot of really great things. I want to remind people on this call too that you can view the trailer and you can get a lot of information at LeftBehindMovie.com. And, you know I've been telling you throughout this call where you can get a lot of the press materials, LeftBehindMovie.OnlineMediaSpot.com. So, you know, we would encourage you guys if you have more questions, feel free to keep emailing them in. And if you, you know need more information again, again I know I've said it before, but you can get the production notes at these websites. And so, Paul or Vic is there anything that you want to still bring up here, or even Nicolas, Cassi, Nicky, anybody that's on the call, is there anything that you want to also add in that maybe has, you know sparked a thought from you that you want to include here before we wrap up this call?

01:10:51 **Vic Armstrong:** Hi this is Vic. Hi Nic. Welcome. (chuckling).

01:10:52 **Nicolas Cage:** Hi.

01:10:54 **Vic Armstrong:** So what was, what was interesting with what you're saying there, I go back to when we sat down to discuss this script at Great Fosters at Egham in London before you flew out and I flew out here. We actually sat down and we, we both agreed we loved the script which was, you know the basis for any movie and we both loved the script but what was fascinating when I think back to it, all we discussed was our families and how this would affect our families. And how people aren't 100% pure. They do wave a slightly left or right on their journey through life. And it's what you said there, it's when "Ray Steele" does see the light. And he goes back to, to his family, and his love for his daughter and everything else. To me it's fascinating, it brought it all back, hearing you say that. Because we didn't discuss the nuances of the characters. We've discussed in general how much your family does lead you through life and how much they mean to all of us. So that was wonderful to re-live that again.

01:11:56 **Nicolas Cage:** Yes. And also I, the only other thing that I would mention is that I, I want this movie to work for people, for me, of all faiths. It's about when you have those moments there really are no atheists in fox holes. And so when you're in a crisis, in a crisis like that, I want people from all faiths be able to say, you know, we're, we're all invited to the table. I mean we're all going to get something from this movie.

01:12:27 **Vic Armstrong:** Exactly. Yeah.

01:12:29 **Moderator:** Yeah. That's great. So since Vic just spoke up, Nicolas you may be kind of, we'll all wrap this up here momentarily. It would just be great to hear you speak to what it was like to work with Vic Armstrong as your director. Right in front of him (laughing).

01:12:45 **Nicolas Cage:** Well actually I'm very comfortable working with Vic. I got to spend quite a bit of time with him on another movie that we made, called *Season of the Witch*. And it was a good experience and I thought that he directed me to a good performance and something that I was very proud of and wanted to work with him again. I, I knew that I would be able to relax with him and that I would be able to go within and just sort of exhale and be in the moment, be in the scene. That he would allow his actors to breathe and to be relaxed and to find the truth of their performances. And it really shows in the movie. I mean, across the board, of Chad Michael Murray, and Nicky, and Cassi again just, just powerfully real performances. And I knew that that would happen working again with Vic.

01:13:41 **Moderator:** Mmm hmmm. Great. And one last thing, you touched on a little bit but I know you have spoken to how just the importance of family and just how you really want people to take away from this too just how important that is. Is there anything more that you could just share with people about how this movie, does, kind of draw people to want to, I mean I know you mentioned that you know, the, the entire concept of the movie is about making sure, you know where your family is and thinking about them but is there something just about family to this movie that meant something personally to you as well?

01:14:23 **Nicolas Cage:** Well, anytime I make a movie, no matter how, how extraordinary the circumstances of the movie I try to come at it from a place of truth even if it's truth in my imagination. I don't want to act. I don't want, because in that, in some way that implies lying. For me acting is trying to get the truth of an experience in my past or with in my memory almost like an impression and try to

make it, you know, real within a performance. Recall it, and then bring it to the situation that my character finds himself in. And, it was, without thinking too much about it or breaking it down too much it was more about recalling emotions that I may have experienced in my own life, and applying them to the relationship between “Ray Steele” and “Chloe”, his daughter. And having a chance to say what I wanted to say through that character. And that, I think I’ve already probably said too much. But, but in other words, I don’t want to fake it, I want it to be authentic. And this character, in this movie, you know, within the context of the extraordinary circumstance gave me the chance to do that.

01:15:56 **Moderator:** That’s great. Well I know everybody on this call’s very excited to see it if they haven’t (inaudible) see it yet. Thank you so much for being a part of this. Paul is there anything else that you want to make sure we cover? I know we’ve talked about, you know for all of the press people that are on the call, LeftBehindMovie.com is really your best resource. And you know, Paul I kind of just wanted to give you one other opportunity if there’s something else you want to say before we wrap this or do you think we covered it all here. Are you good on everything?

01:16:23 **Paul LaLonde:** I think, I think you’ve done a great job of covering it and everybody’s, everybody’s words to it were wonderful. And, and I think other than thanking the cast for their time today and for their work and Vic as well on this project I would, I would like to give a separate hats-off to Nicolas Cage because it took a tremendous amount of courage for anybody of Nicolas Cage’s stature and his level to come in and do this movie. We faced problems right, right from Day 1 of people not even wanting to talk to us because of what this movie was. Because of what the books were about. Because they were, you know about bible prophecy, because it was being seen as a faith-based movie. That’s hard to, that’s hard to open doors when you’re starting out on that foot and to, to have somebody like Nicolas Cage come along and agree to do this movie, I just want to say that, that took courage and that was a wonderful thing and I’m sure in the end he will see that it was the right decision. Because we’re going to have a great movie. We do have a great movie and I think it’s going to be a big success. But I just want people to recognize that it did take something special for him to step up and say, Yes I’m, I’m actually going to do this. So, thank you Nic.

01:17:54 **Moderator:** Great.

01:17:54 **Nicolas Cage:** Thank you. Thanks Paul.

01:17:57 **Moderator:** Thank you guys so much and again just to remind you guys, it’s coming right up here in a couple of weeks on October 3rd, *LEFT BEHIND* is going to be nationwide in theatres. With all the press materials we’ve provided for everybody that participating in this call, we would love it if you would work together with us. I know a lot of you have already, you know, agreed to this and have requested this from us to just post the *LEFT BEHIND* trailer on your website. You could air clips on your TV or your radio shows. Feature interviews with a lot of the executives, we have, you know, a lot of the talent, and directors, producers from the movie available to you. We’ll, you know, just make sure that you guys just keep posting it out there about the October 3rd release date. And you know we’re really grateful like I said at the beginning of the call for all of you guys who got on, we know that there’s many of you on this call today and it’s really overwhelming and we’re really grateful that you have taken this

time out of your day which we know you all have incredibly busy schedules. So, you will be getting like we mentioned the transcript, audio, and written transcript following this. So, continue to send your questions in to us. We will get as many answers as we possibly can by writing. So, we just, we'll let you guys go, we thank you for your time, and just are really grateful again, for everybody who was a part of this call today. So thank you everyone very much.

(everyone saying thank you and goodbye at once).