

BBA Studios presents  
in association with Valencia Motion Pictures and DMPI

# FRANK vs. GOD

After his house is destroyed by a tornado (what his insurance company deems an "act of God"), former hotshot lawyer David Frank is determined that someone must pay. He decides to serve God... with a lawsuit.

Written and Directed by  
**Stewart Schill**

Starring

**Henry Ian Cusick**

**Ever Carradine**

with

**Natalya Oliver  
Bern Cohen  
Terry Loughlin  
Ted Sod**

**Brian Brightman  
Michael Houston King  
Matt Riedy**

Producers **Alan Pruzan  
Scott Schill  
Jeff Merriman-Cohen  
Jillian Stein**

Director of Photography **Stephen F. Campbell**  
Costume Designer **Beverly Safer**  
Casting by **Mark Mullen, CSA**

Produced by **Daniel E. Springen**  
Executive Producers **Ralph Clemente  
Brennen Bounds  
David C. Liu**

Music by **Jonathan Beard**  
Associate Producers **Mark Mullen**

Production Designers **Matthew S. Naumann  
Holley Morgan**

**Davin Michaels  
Travis Bell  
Wilmore Fowler**

Genres:

**Comedy, Romance**

Niches:

**Spirituality,  
Philosophical, Legal**

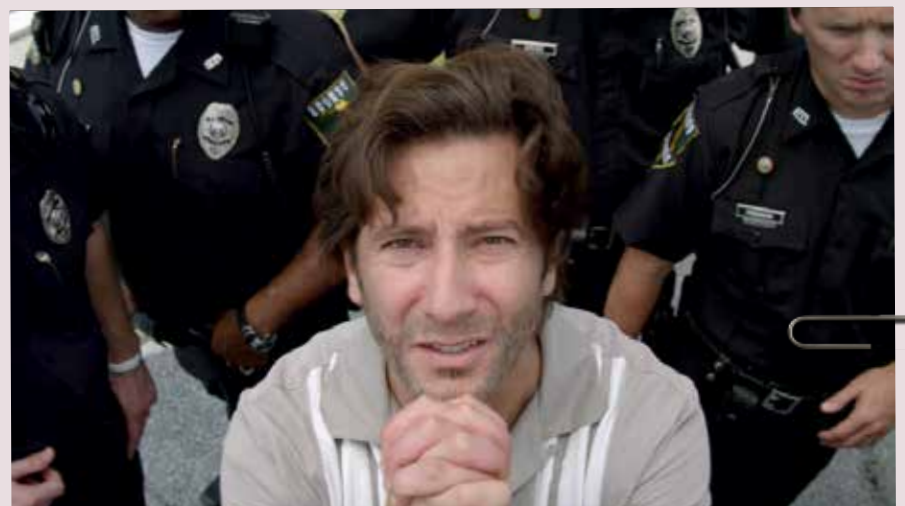
Running Time:

**100 min.**

Formats:

**DCP, BluRay**

**www.frankvsgod.com  
facebook.com/frankvsgod  
twitter: @FrankVsGod**





# FRANK vs. GOD

## SYNOPSIS

### Logline:

Former hotshot lawyer David Frank decides to sue the almighty after his insurance company says his house was destroyed by an “act of God.”

### Short synopsis:

All rise... for the best spiritual comedy in years! After his house is destroyed by a tornado (what his insurance company deems

an “act of God”), former hotshot lawyer David Frank is determined that someone must pay. He decides to serve God...with a lawsuit. Clever and thought-provoking, *Frank vs. God* raises questions about faith and religion with a light-hearted tone and an open mind.

### Long synopsis:

David Frank (Henry Ian Cusick) thinks he’s lost everything. Unable to move past the grief of losing his wife, this former lawyer has all but given up. That is, until a tornado not only destroys his house, but takes from him the last real connection to the world, his beloved dog Brutus. When the insurance company deems the loss an “act of God,” David is desperate, and is convinced someone has to pay. He decides to serve God... with a lawsuit.

David’s provocative and clever legal antics turn the courtroom into a riveting spectacle as he cross-examines representatives of the world’s religions. But when he meets his match—charming and intelligent defense lawyer Rachel (Ever Carradine)—sparks fly and his assumptions are challenged. David’s act of desperation just might be his salvation.

*Frank vs. God* raises questions about faith and religion with a light-hearted tone and an open mind. The film is an uplifting story of one man’s search for answers, by taking them to a higher court.





# FRANK vs. GOD

WRITER/DIRECTOR STEWART SCHILL



A Seattle native, Stewart attended the California Institute of the Arts where he was mentored by the great Alexander MacKendrick, director of *The Sweet Smell of Success*, starring Burt Lancaster and Tony Curtis. Stewart later directed Tony Curtis in his debut feature, ***Brittle Glory***, which he wrote and directed, and which garnered a domestic theatrical release and great reviews for one of Curtis' final performances. His award winning short ***I Hate Musicals*** was enormously popular with festival audiences around the world, and was one of the most downloaded films on iTunes.

Stewart has worked professionally as a writer, director, and editor in film and television. He has written and re-written movies at major studios, as well as editing and directing episodic TV for major networks.

He has directed ***Charmed*** on WB, was 2nd unit director on ***Jericho*** at CBS, produced and directed specials for Discovery Channel, and most recently directed episodes of Nickelodeon's hit show ***Big Time Rush***. As an editor he has cut feature films, episodic shows, and pilots, most recently editing ***American Horror Story*** on FX, ***Battlestar Galactica*** at SciFi, and ***Dexter*** for Showtime, and has been nominated three times for an ACE Award.

In addition to directing and editing Stewart has written and sold a number of award-winning screenplays, including ***The Continued Adventures of Reptile Man (and His Faithful Sidekick Tadpole)*** and ***Splashdown***. His screenplay for ***Frank vs. God*** was a finalist at the prestigious Austin Screenwriting Conference competition, and was 1 of 5 out of over 5,000 entries given that distinction. *Tranquility*, a television series he co-created, is currently in development with showrunner Mark Verheiden (*Battlestar Galactica*, *Heroes*).



# FRANK vs. GOD

HENRY IAN CUSICK

EVER CARRADINE



**Henry Ian Cusick** began his career at the Glasgow Citizens Theatre playing his first leading roles in *Hamlet* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

He received a special commendation in the Ian Charleson award for the title role in *Torquato Tasso* at the Edinburgh International Festival and as Creon in *Oedipus* at the Citizen's theatre.

On stage, Cusick has worked with the Royal National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company and Almeida, London to name a few.

He is best known for playing Desmond Hume from 2005-2010 in the hit TV show *Lost* where he was nominated for an Emmy. He was a series regular in ABC's *Scandal* and had recurring roles on *24*, *Fringe*, *The Mentalist* and *Body of Proof*.

On the big screen Cusick starred in *Hitman*, *Gospel of John*, *9/Tenths* and *Half-Light*. He can currently be seen as one of the leads in The CW series *The 100*.



**Ever Carradine** is the third generation in a long line of actors. Since graduating from Lewis and Clark College, she has worked steadily on both the small and big screens. Her big break came in playing the earnest airhead, Pepper, alongside Kirsty Alley on NBC's *Veronica's Closet*. She then played a memorable arc on Fox's *Party of Five*. Balancing comedy and drama has always come easily to her.

Carradine went from ABC's critically acclaimed *Once and Again* to FX's *Lucky*, in which she starred opposite John Corbett. Other notable television appearances include *Will and Grace*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Bones*, *Men in Trees*, *Private Practice*, *Supernatural* and *House*, to name a few.

In 2005, she was lucky enough to find herself sharing the small screen with Geena Davis and Donald Sutherland on ABC's *Commander in Chief*. From there she went on to recurring roles on Fox's *24* and the SyFy darling, *Eureka*.

She's currently shooting an arc on TNT's *Major Crimes*. Her film work includes Kevin Smith's *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, *Dead and Breakfast* and *Constellation*. In addition to *Frank vs. God*, she's just completed two independent features; *Truck Stop* opposite Juno Temple, and *The Adventures of Beatle*, with Jeffery Dean Morgan. She lives in Los Angeles, California with her husband and daughter.



# FRANK vs. GOD

## FULL CAST

David Frank **Henry Ian Cusick**  
Rachel Levin **Ever Carradine**  
Gina **Natalya Oliver**  
Rabbi Grossman **Bern Cohen**  
Bishop Rossini **Terry Loughlin**  
Imam Bakri **Ted Sod**  
Karl **Brian Brightman**  
Bennet **Michael Houston King**  
Medicine Man **Gerald Wolf Heart Christopher**  
Judge Randall **Matt Riedy**  
Lucy **Rachel DuRose**  
Candy **Lauren O'Quinn**  
Billy **Ricky Wayne**  
Process Server **Tim Goodwin**  
Buddhist Monk **Eric Esteban**  
Luis **Carlos Navarro**  
David's Wife **Heather Dodson**  
Insurance Executive **Jim Miranda**  
Claims Manager **Karl Anthony**  
Priest **Joe Reed**  
Jehovah's Witness #1 **Daryn Kahn**  
Jehovah's Witness #2 **Tyler Colfer**  
Intense Believer **Travis Herndon**  
Evangelical Preacher **Tim Bass**  
Cop **Cameron Francis**  
Neighbor Kid **Christian Zimmardo**  
Priest #2 **Stephen Maddocks**  
Newscaster **Bob Opsahl**  
Guard **Lucius Baston Jr.**  
Bailiff **Wendell Kinney**  
Court Clerk **Joe Coffey**  
Private Detective **Mark Paskell**  
Radio Announcer **Roy Samuelson**  
Reporter **Tracy Wiu**  
The Magnificent Seven  
**Jeanie Donohue Eduardo Gonzalez**  
**Erik Gray Jeff Hamann**  
**Karl Lundstedt Shail Ramcharan**  
**Valensky Sylvain**  
Tribal Dancers  
**Roger James Terrell Anquoe**  
**Juanita Zermينو Thomas Zermينو**





# FRANK vs. GOD

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

### **Why do bad things happen to good people? And if God does exist, why does he allow innocent people to suffer?**

These are questions many of us struggle with, and hunger for answers to. For many the answers lay in their faith, but for me, I've never really had the experience of true faith--and I'm envious of people who do. Having been raised as a secular Jew, who celebrated Christmas, my relationship to religion was tenuous at best, and God was an abstract concept on par with the Tooth Fairy.

But then I became a dad. As my son was growing up some sort of tribal instinct kicked in, and it became important to me that he know that he's Jewish. It caught me by surprise, as I found myself joining a temple and sending him to Hebrew school, that I was confronted by the big questions: What does religion really mean to me? What does God mean to me? What do I believe in? And as I ruminated on these queries, I knew that I wanted to write something that would allow me to explore my own beliefs and spirituality—but in an entertaining and open-hearted way. Then on a trip to Italy, after a steady diet of cathedrals and icons, the idea of suing God in a court of law occurred to me, and I knew I had the way in.

When we meet David Frank he is a broken man, not able to let go of the grief or anger over losing his wife. It's a feeling I found easy to relate to, and one that made him very alive for me when I was writing him. Following Frank's journey was a cathartic experience for me, and I knew that this was a movie that I had to make.

Religious comedy is a pretty slim genre, and with good reason. It's an incredibly tricky and treacherous arena, and not an easy sell. Despite getting a lot of love for the script, no studio was going to touch it. But armed with determination and conviction, and with the support of an incredible group of collaborators who believed in the story, we took our own leap of faith to make this ambitious film on a shoestring. And shooting with a young crew in Central Florida, in the summer, our faith was sorely tested. Not only was it a tough production, but shooting a movie about challenging God in Orlando (which our producer would remind me is not only the Bible Belt, but the big brass buckle on the Bible Belt) was tricky. We needed to get the cooperation and support of churches, synagogues and mosques, which led to some interesting meetings with ministers, rabbis, and an appearance before the Islamic Council of Central Florida.

But ultimately it was gratifying to discover that across the board people of all different faiths and orientations loved and wanted to help us tell this story. And that kind of transcending of barriers is one of the things I'm most proud of.

*Frank vs. God* has definitely been a labor of love, and a personal journey for me on many levels, maybe most importantly as a spiritual one. Making this movie has given me the opportunity to explore some of the questions I was pondering when I began thinking of this story, and the odyssey of making the film has certainly been a pilgrimage. And if there is a God, I hope that He's amused, and that the movie becomes a big hit!

-Stewart Schill

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# FRANK vs. GOD

## DIRECTOR Q & A

**Q: What is the inspiration for *Frank vs. God*? Is it based on any personal experiences?**

A: I was not raised with religion. My family were pretty secular Jews, who celebrated holidays, but never belonged to a temple. I was never bar mitzvahed, and never really identified with my faith at all. But when my son was growing up and approaching bar mitzvah age, some sort of tribal instinct came up in me, and I was determined that he should know that he's Jewish. We joined a temple and I put him in Hebrew School, and I was forced to really examine what this meant to me. What is God, and religion, and faith? It was something that was mysterious and powerful and that I didn't really have a relationship with. And I really wanted to find my relationship with it. I looked around the and saw that God and faith were really the driving force behind so much of what happens in the world. I was fascinated and sort of envious of people that were able to really have faith. It's such a different orientation in the world, and such a different way to live. And I wanted to explore these themes, but in an entertaining, and honest way. And the idea of suing God, seemed like the perfect way in to those questions that seem to be universal. Writing this movie was a real journey for me, and one that resonated personally more than anything I've written.

**Q: What would you like people to take away from the film?**

A: This is not a "message" movie. I very scrupulously avoided endorsing any particular belief. It's a movie that asks questions, and literally and figuratively struggles with God. I like that audiences come away thinking about big questions; why do bad things happen to good people? Why does God allow suffering? How can we find meaning in these events? And hopefully that they've laughed and had an enjoyable journey with David Frank. What has been particularly gratifying to me is that this movie seems to resonate with people all across the spectrum of faith, religion, and age. The questions that it raises and the challenges that Frank wrestles with seem to be universal for believers and non-believers alike. I tried to make the kind of movie that I would love to see, which is one that is funny and entertaining, but that stays with you long after the lights come up, and that will inspire discussion and reflection.

**Q: You have a broad background that includes science fiction, satire, even musicals. How does *Frank vs. God* fit in?**

A: I have worked in a lot of different genres, especially in my career in television. But as a writer and filmmaker, despite the slight departure into musicals, my sensibilities seem to be much less genre oriented, and more sort of soulful, if I had to characterize it. *Frank vs. God* is kind of a natural extension of my personal work. I like high concept premises, and I like exploring characters on the edge. I have on occasion written somewhat within a genre, but always twist them beyond recognition and don't seem to follow the genre conventions. But my most satisfying scripts are the ones that come from a theme that is personal to me, and that was definitely the case with *Frank vs. God*.



# FRANK vs. GOD

## DIRECTOR Q & A

### **Q: What was it like to work with Henry Ian Cusick? How did you cast him?**

A: Working with Ian was wonderful. Ian is an actor who really loves what he does and puts his heart and soul into it. He wasn't an obvious choice for the role of David Frank, but his passion and commitment to the role was impressive, and ultimately was the strongest element of the film. I was a fan and well aware of him from his role as Desmond on *Lost*, but knew him as a long haired Scotsman. I considered having him play it with his natural accent, but Ian was eager to play American, and convinced me that he could pull it off. And he did, remarkably. He also had an incredibly wonderful attitude about shooting a low budget movie in Florida in the summer. Having directed mostly television, it was a great pleasure to work with an actor like Ian who was really eager to explore the character in depth, and was very open to and hungry for direction - unlike TV where there is no time and actors know their characters so well that a director really can't tell them much. A big problem we had in pre-production was planning David's beard: in some scenes he had one, in some scenes he didn't. It was a nightmare to schedule, until Ian told us about how they applied his beard on *Lost* with a process known as "flocking". We found the best make-up artist in the region and the beard application was incredible, which allowed us to film out of sequence.

### **Q: Why was it important to you to shoot on location in Florida?**

A: There's essentially two reasons why *Frank vs. God* was set in Florida. Firstly, all the craziest stuff happens in Florida, and it's almost believable that this lawsuit, if it could happen anywhere, would be in Florida. But more practically, we had tremendous resources at our disposal. In 2007 I made a short film in Orlando called *I Hate Musicals*, which was done under the auspices of the Valencia College Film Program. Ralph Clemente runs this unique program, in which film students get the experience of working on professional productions, by having established filmmakers come and make movies that the students crew. That experience was great all around, so Ralph offered it again, and I was given an entire production package including trucks, lights, generators, equipment, offices, etc, and a crew of eager young filmmakers who knocked themselves out for the film. It was an offer I couldn't refuse.



# FRANK vs. GOD

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# FRANK vs. GOD

## SELECTED STILLS





# FRANK vs. GOD

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# FRANK vs. GOD

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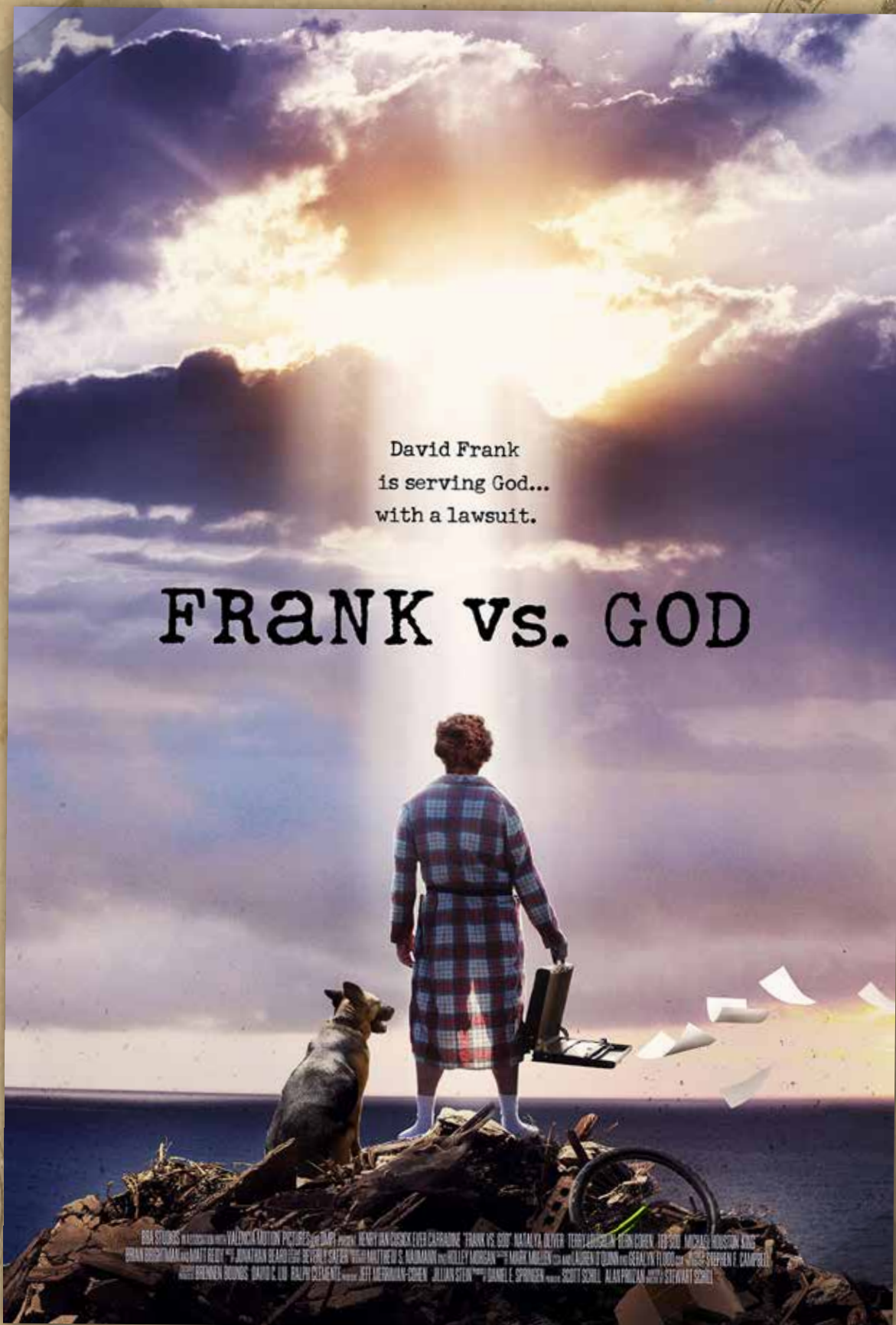
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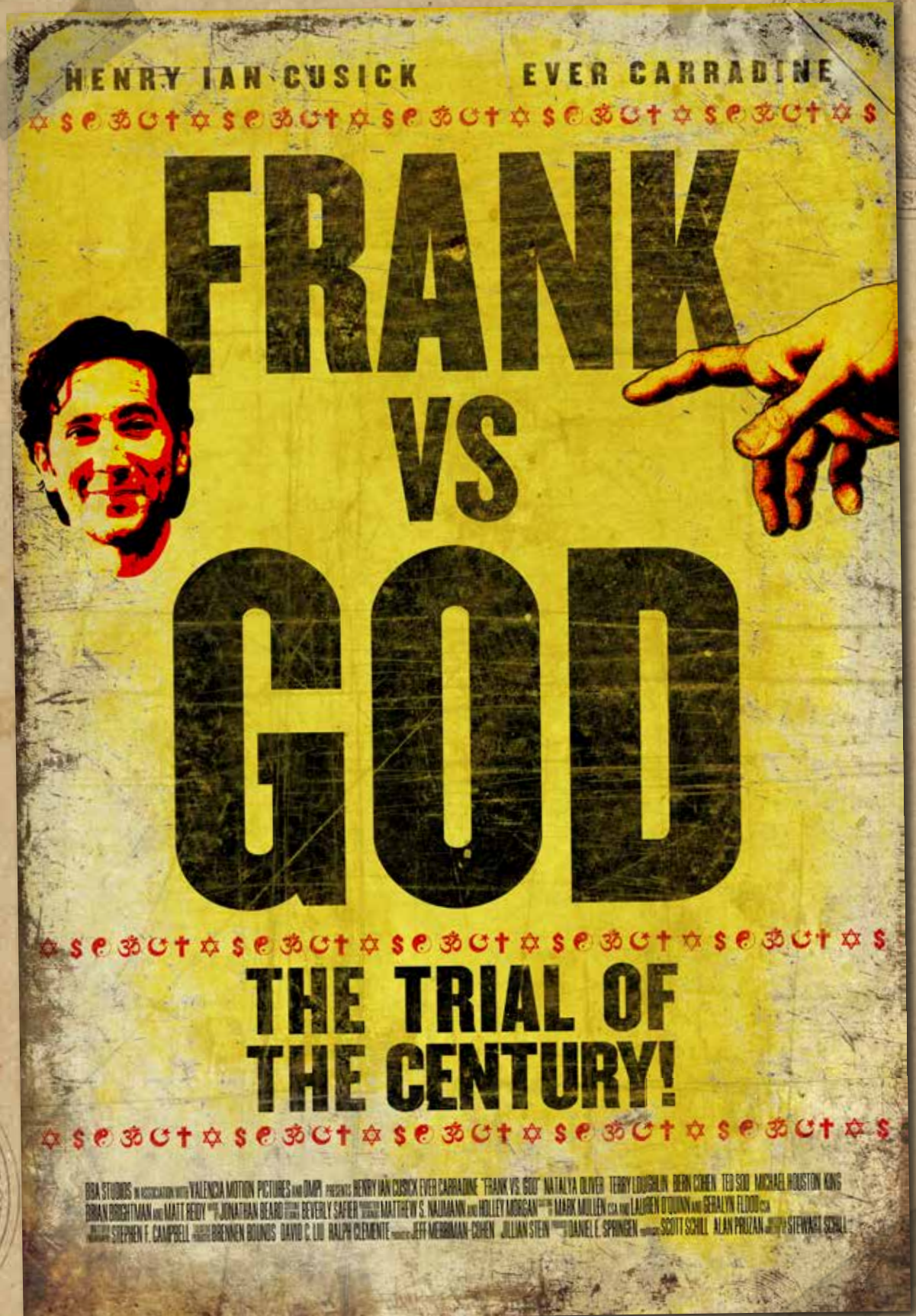
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ALTERNATE POSTER





# FRANK vs. GOD

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Press Contact (LA):

**Amy Grey**

Dish Communications Inc  
818-508-1000 (office)  
818-216-7880 (mobile)  
amy@dishcommunications.com

Press Contact (Seattle):

**Ryan Davis**

Independent Arts  
206-491-3738  
ryan@independentartspr.com

Sales and Legal:

**Shelley Surpin**

Surpin & Mayersohn, LLP  
1880 Century Park East, Suite 618  
Los Angeles, CA 90067  
310-553-9135 (phone)  
310-553-6286 (fax)  
sallyspud@surpmaylaw.com

Producers:

**BBA Studios, LLC**

4146 44th Ave SW  
Seattle, WA 98144

**Alan Pruzan**

206-409-8645  
alan@forrest-pruzan.com

**Scott Schill**

206-981-0100  
schill.scottj@gmail.com