

Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood

USA 2002

Director
Callie Khouri

Producers
Bonnie Bruckheimer
Hunt Lowry

Screenplay
Callie Khouri

Adaptation
Mark Andrus

Based on the novels
Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood and *Little Affairs Everywhere* by Rebecca Wells

Director of Photography
John Bailey

Editor
Andrew Marcus

Production Designer
David J. Bomba

Music
T Bone Burnett

Original Score
David Mansfield
T Bone Burnett

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Production Companies
Warner Bros. Pictures
presents in association with Gaylord Films
an All Girl production

Executive Producers
Bette Midler
Mary McLaglen
E.K. Gaylord II
Lisa Stewart

Associate Producers
Scott Elias
Tom Proper

Production Office Co-ordinator
Ingrid Johanson

Unit Production Manager
Mary McLaglen

Location Manager
E. Michael Hewett

Assistant Directors
Matthew Rowland
Jennifer Giancola
Jonathan Capra

Script Supervisor
Michael Leone

Casting
Avy Kaufman

Associate:
Maureen Whalen

North Carolina:
Marty Cherrix

Camera Operators
Anette Haellmigk
Malcolm MacIntosh

Visual Effects
Ceo

Special Effects Co-ordinator
Walter Kiesling

Associate Editor
Ann Trulove

Art Director
John Jensen

Set Designer
Rob Simons

Set Decorator
James Ferrell

Storyboard Artist
Ray Prado

Costume Designer
Gary Jones

Costume Supervisor
Bruce Ericksen

Make-up Department Head
Felicity Bowring

Make-up
Wendy Bell

Hair stylist Department Heads
Jeri Baker-Sadler
Rita Parillo

Main/End Titles Design
Kaleidoscope Films

Group
Titles/Opticals

Pacific Title
Additional Music/Arrangements
Darell Leonard

Supervising Music Editor
Allan K. Rosen

Music Editor
Nick Viterelli

Music Score Recorders/Mixers
Mike Piersante
Frank Wolf

Music Consultants
Debra A. Baum
Allan Kaufman

Soundtrack
"Assi dans la fenêtre de ma chambre" – Blind Uncle Gaspard; "Drug State" – Vincent, Mr. Green; "Found Love", "Little Rain", "Ain't That Lovin' You Baby?" – Jimmy Reed; "C'est si triste", "Lulu's Back in Town", "It's a Sin to Tell a Lie" – Ann Savoy; "Mood Indigo" – Duke Ellington; "I Want to Be Your Mother's Son-in-Law" – Macy Gray; "Keepin' Out of Mischief Now" – Taj Mahal; "Hair's on Fire"; "Dimming of the Day" – Richard Thompson; Linda Thompson; "Selah" – Lauryn Hill; "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" – The Jones Sisters; "You You Darlin'"; "I Got Love If You Want It" – Slim Harpo; "Lonely Avenue" – Ray Charles; "Sitting in the Window of My Room" – Alison Krauss; "Black Nights" – Lowell Fulson; "Walk in Jerusalem" – Mahalia Jackson; "If Yesterday Could Only Be Tomorrow" – Tony Bennett; "Ya-Ya"; "Waitin' for You" – Bob Dylan; "The World Exploded into Love" – Bob Schneider

Production Mixer
Petur Hliddal

Re-recording Mixers
Gregory H. Watkins
Kevin E. Carpenter

Supervising Sound Editor
David Giammarco

Dialogue Editors
David V. Butler
Kim Drummond

Sound Effects Editors
Scott A. Jennings
Richard Burton

ADR Mixer:
Troy Porter

Supervising Editor:
Kerry Dean Williams

Foley Artists:
John Rush
Alyson Moore

Mixer:
Mary Jo Lang

Supervising Editor:
Jonathan Klein

Stunt Co-ordinator
M. James Arnett

Stunt Pilot
John Mark Martin

Cast
Sandra Bullock
Sidda Lee Walker
Ellen Burstyn
Vivi
Fionnula Flanagan
Teensy
James Garner
Shep Walker
Ashley Judd
younger Vivi
Shirley Knight
Necie
Angus MacFadyen
Connor McGill

Maggie Smith
Caro
Cherry Jones
Buggy
Jacqueline McKenzie
younger Teensy
Katy Selverstone
younger Caro
Kiersten Warren
younger Necie
David Lee Smith
younger Shep Walker
Gina McKee
Genevieve
Matthew Settle
Jack, Teensy's brother
David Rasche
Taylor Abbott
Leslie Silva
Willetta
Ron Dortch
Chaney
Fred Koehler
Pete Abbott
Allison Bertolino
little Sidda
Austin R. Cooper
little Shep Jr
Sarah Huck
Lulu
Alex Cooper
Baylor
Caitlin Wachs
little Vivi
Alyssa May Gold
little Teensy
Mary Katherine Weiss
little Caro
Nicki Tschudi
little Necie
Deborah Hobart
Aunt Louise
Clint Lienau
James Jr
David Bridgewater
Doctor Beau Poche
Sarallen
older Willetta

Veda Wilson
Shirley
Mark Joy
Mr Whitman
Michael Mattison
Officer Roscoe Jenkins
Gil Johnson
younger Chick
Boyd Kestner
adult Shep Jr
Barbara Weetman
female interviewer
Suellen Yates
stage manager
Don Baker
confessional priest
E. Michael Hewett
airplane man
Robert Longstreet
pilot
Mark Jeffrey Miller
Lyle Johnson
Nina Repeta
lady at gas station
Michael Moyer
pawn broker
Taj Mahal
swing band singer
Ann Savoy
chanteuse

Certificate
12A
Distributor
Warner Bros
Distributors (UK)
10,478 feet
116 minutes 26 seconds

Dolby Digital/DTS/SDDS
Colour by
CFI
Prints by
Technicolor
[2.35:1]

Louisiana, 1937. Four little girls – Vivi, Teensy, Necie and Caro – enter into a lifelong blood pact of friendship, the Ya-Ya Sisterhood.

New York, the present. Vivi's daughter, successful playwright Sidda Lee, is misrepresented in an article about her life. Vivi, who comes off very badly in the article, is infuriated, and refuses to speak to her. Sidda Lee announces that she is going to marry her longtime boyfriend Connor.

In an effort to help her come to terms with her mother, the Ya-Ya Sisterhood kidnap Sidda Lee, drag her South and, with the help of a scrapbook, slowly reveal the story of Vivi's unhappy life. In flashbacks we learn that Vivi, unloved by her jealous mother and having lost her one true love, resigns herself to marrying modest cotton farmer Shep (Sidda Lee's father). She relinquishes her dreams of becoming a reporter and is miserable raising their four children. Pushed by alcohol and heavy doses of tranquilisers, Vivi runs away, then violently breaks down altogether.

Back in the present, Sidda Lee fears she will repeat her mother's errors and cancels the wedding. Connor rushes south to win her back, and befriends his future in-laws. Inspired by Connor's love for her daughter, Vivi unexpectedly discovers her own love for her husband, the ever-patient Shep. Sidda Lee and Connor get back together. At a final birthday bash for Vivi, mother and daughter are reconciled; Vivi understands that Siddalee has in fact fulfilled all her thwarted dreams. In a repeat of the opening ceremony, Sidda Lee is initiated as the fifth member of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood.

There's a generation of white middle-class women born in the 1930s to whom history has dealt a relatively unfair hand. Primed almost exclusively for motherhood and marriage, in later life they were left by the husbands they'd helped get rich, ignored by the job market and unflatteringly judged by their liberated daughters. They never benefitted from the sexual revolution, the Pill or disposable nappies, and had a lot less fun than the generation either just before or just after them. What could these unlucky women do, if not band together and take solace in each other (and alcohol)?

At its best, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* – a film directed by Callie Khouri (who wrote *Thelma & Louise*) based on Rebecca Wells' best-selling novel – gives voice to this invisible generation of females, proving them tougher, funnier and less prudish than most people assumed. The movie lacks the book's psychological layerings, but that's not to say it fails altogether. For a mainstream Hollywood movie – the only terms on which it can be assessed – it is occasionally daring, for instance in presenting prescribed-drug use among the middle classes.

Vivi, the frustrated and stormy central character, is neither a 'good' or a 'bad' mother. She is more realistically a mass of conflict: at times violent and spiteful towards her children, at others heroically loving. The only contradiction in Vivi is the split between her youthful portrayal as a young woman by Ashley Judd, who plays her as a smouldering blank at whom life lashes out, and Ellen Burstyn's elderly version, who radiates energy and even a sense of humour which seems to surface out of nowhere. As always a flashback structure leaves the viewer preferring one period to the other. Here the scenes from the past are more eventful, leaving you to languish in the tiresome present until another flashback returns you to the unravelling of Vivi's life and the more interesting parts of the story.

Another good thing about the flashbacks is that they exclude Sandra Bullock, who marches through her role as Vivi's grown-up daughter Sidda Lee without any sensitivity to the unresolved damage her character feels. The 11-year-old Sidda Lee, played by the unknown Allison Bertolino, who gives the most touching performance in the film, evokes far more empathy. At least Bullock resists a fake Southern accent; as in *Steel Magnolias* and so many other films set in the American South, most of the actors (even the veteran Maggie Smith) waste a lot of energy tripping over their Southern drawls, at times so thick as to sound foreign, then casually dropped altogether. Still, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* almost works as a sprawling yarn about the American South – like Tennessee Williams, only without the pathos, the atmosphere or the suspense. Just the melodrama.

Gilda Williams

The Eye

Hong Kong/ Singapore 2002

Directors
Pang Brothers
[i.e. Danny Pang
Oxide Pang]

Producers
Lawrence Cheng
Peter Chan Ho-sun

Screenplay
Jojo Hui
Pang Brothers

Director of Photography
Decha Srimantra

Editors
Pang Brothers

Art Directors
Simon So
Kritapas Suttiniet

Music
Orange Music

Production Companies
Applause Pictures/
Raintree Pictures present
an Applause Pictures
production

Executive Producers
Eric Tsang
Allan Fung
Daniel Yun

Co-producer
Udom Piboonlapudom

Associate Producer
Jojo Hui

Production Managers
Chin Wing-Wai
Thai Unit:
Ekarat Hiranshaoen
Jittima Leelahawan

Location Managers
Ken Lui
Thai Unit:
Panomkrit
Udomsangpetch
Anuway Sanaraadhan

Assistant Director
Cub Chin

Continuity
Sandy Ng
Nutchka Meansaiyad

Thai Unit Casting Director
Samart Tunsadee

2nd Unit Cameraman
Thai Unit:
Wichean
Reungwitchayakul

3rd Unit Cameraman
Thai Unit:
Sermpong
Nimcharoenbong

Steadicam Operators
Jimmy Wong
Thai Unit:
Somsak Srisawat

Digital Visual Effects Supervisor
Frankie Chung

3D Computer Animation
Rubens Chiu
Leung Wai-Kit
Jack Ho
Angie Chan
Dennis Fong
Josephine Leung

Digital Compositors
Jaco Wong
Tommy Cheung

Film Scanning
Alex Yip

Digital Visual Effects Producer
Vivian Cheuk

Digital Special Effects
Centro Digital Pictures Ltd

Pyrotechnics
Thai Unit:
Wanchai EFX

Model Builders
Thai Unit:
Ahigsha Boonyuun
Vallop Sudaysh
Thanin Wrong

Storyboard Artist
Thai Unit:
Thongyong Boonpalitpol

Costume Designers
Jittima Kongsi
Stephanie Wong

Costume
Tang Yu-Ho

Wardrobe
Thai Unit:
Napat Sanggiang
Manaporn Thiparkasate
Panomkrit
Udomsangpetch
Anud Sanardhan

Make-up Artist
Cheng Yin-Fung

Key Make-up Artist
Thai Unit:
Sontaya Chuminjong

Hairstylist
Rachael Kwong

Opening/Main Titles Sequences
Ronald To
Tse King-Ho
Mokana Wong

Optical Effects/Subtitles
Sannucha Dhisayabutr
Suchart Hongsmut
Pravrit Jaivijit
Uthit Netwong
Sornrop Chankeewong

Violinists
Bangkok Symphony
Violin Instructor
Bai Min

Sound Design
Oxide Pang
Sansab Team

Sound Recording
Suwit Suparangsamakul

Sound Engineers
Sitchai Srichaiyan
Payon Permsit

Mixing Engineer
Wachira Wongsaraj

Sound Effects
Sooksun Klinkhajohn
Somsak Pimpalai

Foley Artists:
Surawan Sricharoen
Nipa Wichusupaksirikul
Thanasak Julakate
Chart Mahapichayakul

Recordists:
Narong Krajogium
Petpong Keavkoon

Cast
Lee Sinje
Wong Ka-man
Lawrence Chou
Lo Wah
Chutcha Rujinanon
Chiu Wai-Ling
Candy Lo
Mun's sister
Pierre Png
Dr Eak
Edmund Chen
Dr Lo
So Yut-Lai
Ying Ying
Ko Yin-Ping
Mun's grandmother
Wang Sue-Yuen
Ling's mother
Ben Yuen
Mr Ching
Florence Wu
nurse
Miyuki Lau
Wah's secretary
Poon Ming
boy with cap
Cub Chin
boy's father
Winson Yip
Taoist
Wu Tian-Nan
calligraphy teacher
Ho Si-Won
ghost in the restaurant
Lau Yuk-Ha
waitress
Jim Pui-Ho
boy in the car accident
Sungwien Cumnee
ghost in the elevator
Tassanana Nuntasaree
Ling, aged 4
Damrongwiceatpanich
Ling, aged 8

Certificate
15
Distributor
Metro Tartan Distributors
8,936 feet
99 minutes 17 seconds

Dolby Digital Surround EX
In Colour
Subtitles

Chinese theatrical title
Gin Gwai