



## MATTHEW CHAPMAN

**Agent:** Conrad Williams

**Biography:** Matthew Chapman is an American and British citizen but was raised in England. He is the great-great-grandson of Charles Darwin.

He is the writer and director of six feature films – most recently THE LEDGE, which starred Terrence Howard, Patrick Wilson, Liv Tyler, and Charlie Hunnam and played in competition at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival – as well as having several solo writing credits including REACHING FOR THE MOON, selected for both the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival and the 2013 Berlinale, and THE AMERICAN GUEST, a Brazilian-set historical drama series for HBO Max.

Apart from producing credits on many of his films, he also produced the Chris Gerolmo film CITIZEN X for HBO, through his company, Asylum Films, and co-produced the Brazilian Academy Award winning documentary, THE MAN WHO BOTTLED CLOUDS, directed by Lirio Ferreira.

He has written for Harpers Magazine, famous for its literary journalism, and the longest continuously published magazine in America, the Huffington Post, National Geographic, and other publications. Chapman has also written two non-fiction books: TRIALS OF THE MONKEY – AN ACCIDENTAL MEMOIR (Picador, 2002) and 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS – DARWIN, INTELLIGENT DESIGN, GOD, OXYCONTIN, AND OTHER ODDITIES (HarperCollins, 2007).

Chapman is the originator, co-founder and president of ScienceDebate.org – a website created to persuade presidential candidates to hold debates on science. His thinking was that although science will determine our national and global future the presidential candidates rarely discuss it. ScienceDebate's members and signatories include more than 20 Nobel laureates, most of Obama's science cabinet, and more or less every university and university president in America.

### AWARD NOMINATIONS

2014 Cinema Brazil Grand Prize for Best Adapted Screenplay – REACHING FOR THE MOON

2014 Prêmio Guarani for Best Adapted Screenplay – REACHING FOR THE MOON

2011 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize – THE LEDGE

2004 Edgar Allen Poe Award for Best Motion Picture Screenplay – RUNAWAY JURY

1995 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Made for Television Movie – CITIZEN X

## In Development

BUNNY LAKE IS MISSING	Writer, Feature Film Screen Gems	<i>When her young daughter goes missing, a woman reaches out to the police for help. However, the detective in charge finds no evidence that the little girl ever existed.</i> Remake of Otto Preminger's 1965 crime thriller, based on the 1957 novel by Merriam Modell.
IMPASSE	Writer, Feature Film Fields Entertainment	<i>When a woman is attacked while on vacation in France, her boyfriend impulsively kills an innocent bystander whom she wrongly implicates.</i>
PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY	Writer/Director, Feature Film Maven Pictures	
ROCK BOTTOM	Writer, TV series	<i>A once-famous British rock star and his American daughter must turn his last asset, a London pub, into a success. Unfortunately, she grew up in a highly religious house in PA and is uptight and moralistic, while he - is very much not.</i>
SEXUAL HABITS OF THE HUMAN SPECIES	Writer, TV series Fields Entertainment	
SILENCE OF THE RAIN	Writer/Director, Feature Film	<i>An investigation of a killing during the rainy season in New Orleans.</i>
THE BULL	Writer, Feature Film Fields Entertainment	<i>An emotionally and physically damaged gypsy bullfighter seeks redemption in saving the life of a young prostitute.</i>

THE WEIGHT	Writer, Feature Film Fields Entertainment	<i>Desperate to save what is left of his family, during the height of the Great Depression a battle-scarred veteran is hired to help smuggle a fortune in gold across 100 miles of impenetrable wilderness.</i>
PAUL WATSON BIOPIC	Writer, Feature Film Transfilm / See Pictures	<i>Original co-founder of Greenpeace, Paul Watson, breaks from the organization and takes to the high seas in an attempt to sink the notorious whaling ship, the Sierra, by any means necessary.</i>

## Credits

THE AMERICAN GUEST	2021	Writer, TV miniseries: 4*1hr HBO Max	<i>Follows the journey of former U.S. president Teddy Roosevelt, alongside Brazilian army officer Cândido Rondon, in a quest to explore unknown regions of the Brazilian Amazon.</i>
REACHING FOR THE MOON	2013	Writer, Feature Film: 118 minutes. LC Barreto Productions / Imagem Filmes / Globo Filmes / Globosat / Telecine / Teleimage	<i>A chronicle of the tragic love affair between American poet Elizabeth Bishop and Brazilian architect Lota de Macedo Soares.</i>  Selected for both the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival and the 2013 Berlinale; nominated for Best Screenplay by the Brazilian Academy of Film.
THE LEDGE	2011	Writer/Director, Feature Film: 101 minutes	<i>A police officer looks to talk down a young man lured by his lover's husband to the ledge of a high rise, where he has one hour to contemplate a fateful decision.</i>

		Foresight Unlimited / VIP Media Group / Michael Mailer Films / Rising Star	Selected in competition for Best US Drama at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival; starring Charlie Hunnam, Terrence Howard, Liv Tyler and Patrick Wilson.
BLACK WATER TRANSIT	2009	Writer, Feature Film: 100 minutes Capitol Films	<i>Story follows the divergent agendas of criminals, cops and lawyers as they collide over a shipment of illegal firearms and a double homicide. Earl Pike, a criminal, tries to get his family's illegal gun collection to a safe haven.</i>  Directed by Tony Kaye (AMERICAN HISTORY X) and starring Karl Urban and Laurence Fishburn; unreleased due to dispute between director and producers.
RUNAWAY JURY	2003	Writer, Feature Film: 127 minutes New Regency Productions / Epsilon Motion / Mojo Films	<i>A juror on the inside and a woman on the outside manipulate a court trial involving a major gun manufacturer.</i>  Based on the novel by John Grisham, starring John Cusack, Gene Hackman, Dustin Hoffman and Rachel Weisz.
WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?	2001	Writer, Feature Film: 94 minutes MGM / Turman/Morrissey Company / Hyde Park Entertainment	<i>A rich man catches a thief burglarizing his home and steals the thief's lucky ring, who then tries to get it back.</i>  Based on the novel by Donald E. Westlake, starring Martin Lawrence and Danny DeVito.
CITIZEN X	1995	Producer: TV movie	<i>During the 1980s, Soviet authorities hunt for a serial killer who picks his victims in railway stations and commuter trains and lures them into the woods.</i>

		HBO Films / Citadel Entertainment	Written and directed by Chris Gerolomo (MISSISSIPPI BURNING) from a novel by Robert Cullen; starring Donald Sutherland and Stephen Rea.
COLOR OF NIGHT	1994	Writer, Feature Film: 121 minutes Cinergi Pictures Entertainment / Hollywood Pictures [US]	<i>A color-blind psychoanalyst is stalked by an unknown killer after taking over his murdered friend's therapy group, all of whom have a connection to a mysterious young woman that he begins having intense sexual encounters with.</i>  Starring Bruce Willis and Jane March.
CONSENTING ADULTS	1992	Writer, Feature Film: 99 minutes. Hollywood Pictures / Touchwood Pacific Partners / Permut Presentations	<i>During a joint dinner at the restaurant, the neighbors offer to exchange wives for one night. It was a joke, but only at first.</i>  Directed by Alan J. Pakula (TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN), and starring Kevin Kline, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Kevin Spacey.
THE KNIFE	1991	Writer, Feature Film: 104 minutes. Alpha Filmes / J&M Entertainment	<i>An American photographer in Rio de Janeiro becomes involved in the world of "knife culture" when he sets out to find the killer of one of his models.</i>  Brazilian production, based on the book by Rubem Fonseca; directed by Walter Salles (THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES).
HEART OF MIDNIGHT	1988	Writer/Director, Feature Film: 93 minutes. Virgin Vision / AG Productions	<i>Carol inherits a night club from her weird uncle. She moves into the place, only to find out just how weird her uncle really was. She begins to remember more about her very special relationship with her uncle as she battles her memories and her surroundings in her new home.</i>  Starring Jennifer Jason Leigh and Steve Buscemi.

SLOW BURN	1986	Writer/Director, TV Film: 92 minutes. Castles Burning Productions Inc. / MCA Pay Television / Universal Television	<i>Jacob Asch is hired by Gerald McMurty to find his ex-wife Laine and their son in Palm Springs. Jacob finds Laine and a teenager named Donnie who may or may not be Gerald's son. He also finds an intricate web of deceit and betrayal that lead to death. He takes it upon himself to unravel the mystery and find out who is killing people and why.</i>
STRANGER'S KISS	1983	Writer/Director, Feature Film: 84 minutes. Kill Productions	<i>To help his actress girlfriend regain her confidence a Hollywood bigshot bankrolls a small budget film being made by a first-time producer and director pair. Despite the hand-to-mouth way it has to be made the film starts to come good, as does the off-set relationship between the actress and her unknown male lead.</i>  Inspired by the behind-the-scenes events of Stanley Kubrick's <i>Killer's Kiss</i> (1955).
HUSSY	1980	Writer/Director, Feature Film: 95 minutes Berwick Street Productions / Boyd's Company / No. 5 Films / Watchgrove Films	<i>A cabaret hostess and a mysterious American gradually fall in love until their pasts catch up with them.</i>  Starring Helen Mirren.

## Books

TRIALS OF THE MONKEY – AN ACCIDENTAL MEMOIR	2002	Picador	<p>“As funny and revealing as either Bill Bryson or Paul Theroux, but the autobiographical element plumbs greater depths” - <i>The Spectator</i></p> <p>“An account that stands in favorable comparison to the best examples of eccentric English autobiography such as the work of Robert Graves and Anthony Burgess.” – <i>Publisher’s Weekly</i></p>
40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS – DARWIN, INTELLIGENT DESIGN, GOD, OXYCONTIN, AND OTHER ODDITIES	2007	HarperCollins	<p>“A book that restores faith – but faith in culture and free inquiry.” – Christopher Hitchens</p> <p>“[An] easy-to-understand narration of this modern Scopes Monkey Trial, accompanied by his brilliant (and often hilarious) analysis of quite complex testimony.” – <i>The Library Journal</i></p>