

**SARAH POLLEY**  
**“AWAY FROM HER”**

**SARAH POLLEY (Writer/Director)**

Sarah Polley has been writing and directing in Canada for the last several years. She directed the short films *THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE*, *DON'T THINK TWICE* (also wrote and produced) and *I SHOUT LOVE* (also wrote and co-produced) starring Kristen Thomson, who won an ACTRA Award for her performance. *I SHOUT LOVE* also won a 2003 Genie Award for Best Live Action Short Drama.

In 2002, Sarah wrote and directed *THE HARP*, one of the episodes of “The Shield Stories” for television, based on the writings of Carol Shields. *AWAY FROM HER* is her first full-length feature, based on the short story *The Bear Came Over The Mountain* by Alice Munro, and starring Julie Christie, Gordon Pinsent, and Olympia Dukakis.

Polley began acting at the age of four, but it was her portrayal of Nicole in Atom Egoyan’s *THE SWEET HEREAFTER* that marked her breakthrough into adult roles. This was her second film with Egoyan, after *EXOTICA*, and he had written the part with Sarah in mind when he adapted Russell Banks' novel. For this, she received her first Best Actress Genie nomination from Canada's Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, and the Best Supporting Actress award from the Boston and Chicago Societies of Film Critics. Subsequent films include Doug Liman’s *GO*, Kathryn Bigelow’s *THE WEIGHT OF WATER*, David Cronenberg’s *EXISTENZ*, Hal Hartley’s *NO SUCH THING*, Thom Fitzgerald’s *THE EVENT*, and Isabel Coixet’s *MY LIFE WITHOUT ME* (Genie Award, Best Actress) and *THE SECRET LIFE OF WORDS*, opposite Tim Robbins, Audrey Wells’ *GUINEVERE*, Wim Wenders’ *DON'T COME KNOCKING*, Michael Winterbottom’s *THE CLAIM*, Terry Gilliam’s *THE ADVENTURES OF BARON MUNCHAUSEN*, Zack Snyder’s *DAWN OF THE DEAD*, based on George A Romero’s original script.

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