

**“Stephen Tobolowsky’s Birthday Party”
PRESS MATERIALS**

DIRECTOR’S BIO

Director of Photography ROBERT BRINKMANN makes his directorial debut with the self-financed feature *STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY’S BIRTHDAY PARTY*.

Robert is a native of Braunschweig, West Germany. He was a film buff from the beginning and moved to Berlin at a young age, because it had better cinemas and it allowed him to avoid the draft. Immediately after finishing high school, he left Germany for the plentiful revival houses and even better cinemas of New York. After a year of watching an average of two films per day, he continued his formal education at the film school of the University of Southern California, where he eventually specialized in cinematography. Robert was the Director of Photography on Phil Joanou’s student film, “The Last Chance Dance,” which earned a number of awards, including the Focus Award for Best Cinematography, and made Phil the envy of every film student by landing him a job at Stephen Spielberg’s Amblin Entertainment.

Upon his graduation in 1985, Robert formed a film production company and started to produce and shoot music videos. In 1987 he teamed up with Phil Joanou again, on the Rock ‘n Roll documentary *U2: Rattle and Hum*. Also in 1987, Robert met Stephen Tobolowsky, who was directing a film called *Two Idiots in Hollywood* and hired him as the cinematographer. Though Stephen did not direct another film, the two men started a friendship, which has endured to this day and is the basis of *Stephen Tobolowsky’s Birthday Party*.

Over the years, Robert has worked with many young and first time directors, including Les Mayfield (“Encino Man” – starring Brendan Fraser), Jeffrey Hornaday (“Shout” – starring John Travolta, Heather Graham and Gwyneth Paltrow), Francine McDougall (“Sugar and Spice” – starring Marley Shelton and Mena Suvari), and recently Matt Weiss (“Standing Still” – starring James Van Der Beek and Mena Suvari). He has also worked with Michael Lehmann (“The Truth About Cats and Dogs” – starring Uma Thurman and Janeane Garofalo), Ben Stiller (“The Cable Guy” – starring Jim Carrey and Matthew Broderick), Reggie Hudlin (“Serving Sara” – starring Matthew Perry and Elizabeth Hurley), and Roger Avary (“The Rules of Attraction” – Starring James Van Der Beek and Shannon Sossamon). He worked in television with directors Peter Bogdanovich (“Dime a Dance” – starring Eric Stolz and Jennifer Grey) and Agnieszka Holland (“Red Wind” starring Danny Glover).

In 2004, Robert decided to make his directorial debut. Rather than wait, however, until a studio or production company gave him permission to make a film, he decided to take matters into his own hands. Determined to make a feature length film, but unable to finance a long or complicated shoot, he teamed up with Stephen Tobolowsky on a project he had long thought about. With 2 HDCAM cameras and 3 days of shooting, as well as the help of many friends, they produced a film, which, though it has no script, no action and no budget, is nonetheless highly entertaining. More by necessity than by design, Robert ended up financing, producing, directing, shooting, and editing a film which offers the performance of his most interesting friend: STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY.