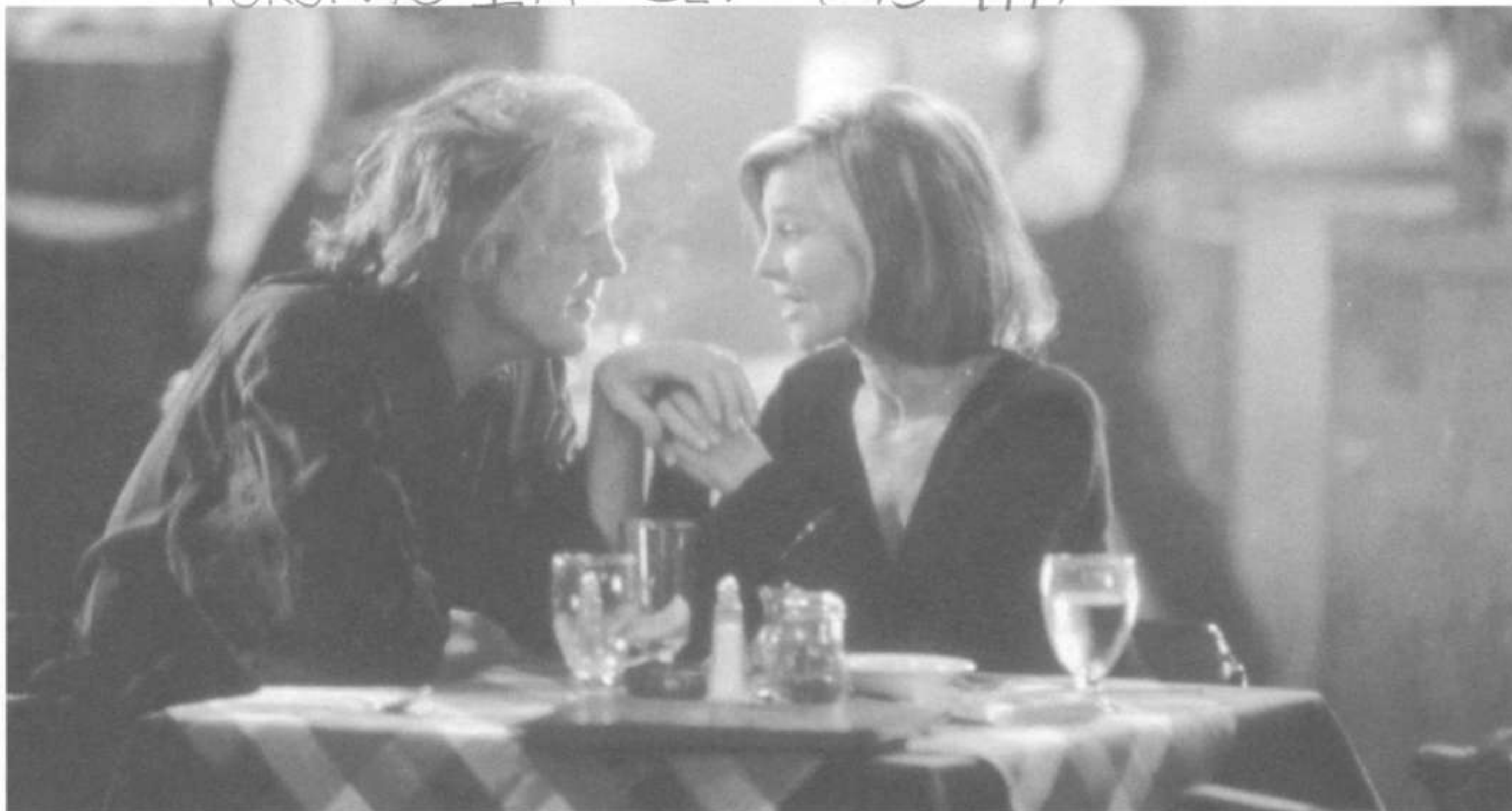


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Afterglow

Alan Rudolph

USA, 1997

114 minutes ■ Colour/35mm

Production Company: **Sandcastle 5/
Elysian Dreams**

Executive Producer: **Ernst Stroh,
Willi Baer**

Producer: **Robert Altman**

Screenplay: **Alan Rudolph**

Cinematographer: **Toyomichi Kurita**

Editor: **Suzy Elmiger**

Production Designer: **François Seguin**

Music: **Mark Isham**

Principal Cast: **Nick Nolte, Julie Christie,
Lara Flynn Boyle, Jonny Lee Miller**

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T (212) 826-6641 F (212) 758-4182**

After delving into the world of writer Dorothy Parker in *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle*, Alan Rudolph returns to the foibles of modern relationships in *Afterglow*. Featuring Nick Nolte, Julie Christie, Lara Flynn Boyle and Jonny Lee Miller, and produced by Robert Altman, *Afterglow* is a romantic comedy that recalls the wit and sophistication of Rudolph's classic *Choose Me*.

Jeffrey Byron (Miller) is a self-satisfied corporate executive in his twenties. "Everything's working quite well on many levels," he muses. But he is too self-absorbed to notice that his wife is desperately unhappy. Marianne (Flynn Boyle) is sexually frustrated, and harbours a burning desire to have a child, but Jeffrey is too busy monitoring the stock market to pay any attention.

Across town, Lucky "Fix-It" Mann (Nolte) is also having marital problems. His wife Phyllis (Christie), a former B-movie actress, spends most of her time watching her old movies and dreamily reminiscing about happier times. Like the Byrons, the Manns' marriage is sexually barren, but for a different reason; the couple has yet to come to terms with their daughter leaving home after she overheard a nasty argument between them.

When Lucky, a repair contractor, is hired to do some minor work at the Byrons' apartment, Marianne is instantly and hopelessly infatuated with the handyman. Meanwhile, Jeffrey meets and falls for the older and more sophisticated Phyllis. Rudolph adroitly crosscuts between the two affairs until things

come to a head one night at the Ritz Hotel.

Rudolph is at the top of his form with this material, and he directs with a fluid, inventive style. The cast is equally fine: Jonny Lee Miller (the unforgettable Sick Boy in *Trainspotting*) is convincing as the twenty-something married to his job, and Lara Flynn Boyle is both comic and touching as the love-starved Marianne. Nolte is excellent as the amorous Lucky, and Julie Christie, in her best role since *Shampoo*, is wickedly funny as the has-been actress. A lyrical comedy full of substance, *Afterglow* is Alan Rudolph at his best.

■ Piers Handling



Alan Rudolph was born in Los Angeles, California in 1943. He trained at the Directors Guild of America in 1967 and worked as an assistant to several directors, including Robert Altman on *Nashville*. His feature films include: *Welcome to L.A.* (77), *Remember My Name* (79), *Choose Me* (84), *The Moderns* (88), *Mortal Thoughts* (91), *Equinox* (93), *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle* (94) and *Afterglow* (97).

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