

IMTA ALUM ELIJAH WOOD'S *GRAND PIANO*

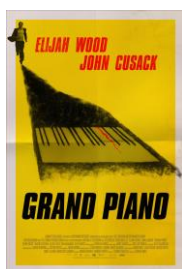
IMTA Press Release
March 6, 2014



Grand Piano opens in limited release Friday, March 7

"Because I started working as an actor from the age of 8, initially on commercials, and quickly small roles on films that then developed into larger roles on film, it all happened relatively quickly. And I loved it immediately." – Elijah Wood

In spite of having starred in epic studio blockbuster movies such as *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy and *Deep Impact*, Disney features such as *Huck Finn*, and the animated *Happy Feet* hits, IMTA alum Elijah Wood (LA89) is currently very content forging a new chapter in his career working on smaller, independent films that challenge and stretch him as an actor, while also often allowing him control as a producer. As one reviewer put it, now when Wood makes a film, "It's because that is material that he loves, and there are no half-measures in the way he attacks a role, and he's made the transition from being a famous kid to being an adult whose body of work reflects the eclectic tastes he has."



Grand Piano is a taut, psychological thriller in which Wood plays talented concert pianist Tom Selznick who had stopped performing because of his stage fright. After several years he is convinced to make a comeback, only to discover as he sits down at the piano in a packed theatre a note warning "Play one wrong note and you die." With an anonymous sniper threatening not only Tom but his wife as well, without leaving the piano Tom must discover the gunman's motives and look for help

without anyone realizing.

"It was the most technical experience I have ever had," said Wood. "I loved the craftsmanship involved. 80% of the film, most of it is in real time as I'm playing." And yes, Wood did actually play the piano in the film. "I took lessons when I was younger but like most kids I got bored with practicing and stopped playing. The music in the film was so dense and so fast, I was absolutely petrified. It was incredibly stressful, but really fun. It was easy to play a guy who has stage fright, far easier than playing someone who can play the piano that well."



Grand Piano, in a move becoming common for independent films seeking to gain an audience without the advertising budget of a studio-backed film, was first made available on VOD before its theatrical release. The film was directed by Eugenio Mira and also stars John Cusack, Kerry Bishé, Tamsin Egerton, Alex Winter, Dee Wallace and Don McManus.

Wood is set to premiere another film in which he stars—and Executive Produced through his SprectreVision label—at the SXSW Film Festival next week. *Open Windows* follows Nick, a fan who won a date with a hot actress. Then a guy named Chord calls: dinner's been canceled. And it's Jill's fault. But Chord's got something better... Described as a 21st Century *Rear Window*, in which all of the action takes place on Nick's computer screen, *Open Windows* also stars Sasha Grey, Neil Maskell, Adam Quintero and Ivan Gonzalez.

In October, Wood stars in (and again produced) the comedy horror feature *Cooties*, in which a mysterious virus hits an isolated elementary school, transforming the kids into a feral swarm of mass savages. Wood's unlikely hero character must lead a motley band of teachers in the fight of their lives. *Cooties* also stars Rainn Wilson, Alison Pill and Jorge Garcia.

The very busy Wood, who has over a dozen feature films in production or in development—either as an actor or producer—is also set to begin filming the fourth season of his popular comedy "*Wilfred*." The series, in which Wood plays the lead role of a manic-depressive young man who bizarrely sees his neighbor's dog as a full grown man, will make the move from FX to FXX for what will be its final season.