

# IMTA ALUM JOSH DUHAMEL TAKES THE *SCENIC ROUTE*



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*Scenic Route* opens in select cities Friday, August 23 and is currently available on VOD

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*“It’s a great movie to sort of start off my producing career. I feel like it’s the kind of movie I’ve always wanted to do, the kind of movie that I got into this business for. This sort of sets the precedence to do something like this.” – Josh Duhamel*

Since winning Male Model of the Year at IMTA NY97, Josh Duhamel has been fighting an uphill battle in his bid to be taken as a serious actor. His successes have come from romantic comedies such as *When in Rome* and *Win a Date with Tad Hamilton*, television roles such as Danny McCoy in “*Las Vegas*,” and as the action-hero Lennox in the *Transformers* movie franchise. “I come from a soap opera and I’ve got some romantic comedies, and it’s hard to convince people that you can do things other than that,” said Duhamel. “That’s what I’ve always wanted and am still looking to do that. I’m always looking to change it up and prove people wrong, that I can do more than they think I can.”



That chance came a couple of years ago when Duhamel made a life-changing decision. “There came a point about two years ago I said, ‘I’m not going to let anybody dictate my career to me anymore. I’m going to dictate to the community what my career is going to be.’ I said no to so many different things because I don’t want to continue to do [the same thing]. Even though I’m proud of the stuff that I’ve done — and I like most of the movies that I’ve done — it’s up to me to determine what my career will be. It took me a while to figure that out.” Duhamel’s decision coincided with reading the script for the drama *Scenic Route*. “I’ve read scripts that I’ve liked before but this one was the first time something said, ‘You know what? We think you can pull it off.’ That’s all I needed, somebody to believe in me that I can be more than what they’ve seen.”

*Scenic Route* is the intense story of two friends — played by Duhamel and Dan Fogler — who’ve drifted apart and are on a road trip to try and reconnect. Their truck breaks down in the desert and pent-up feelings surface, escalating in a dramatic style and prompting a life-changing turn of events. “We literally treated it like a play and we rehearsed it like a play,” said Duhamel, who also served as a producer on the movie. “I think any time you have this much heavy- lifting, this many reps, this much rehearsal you can’t help but to be the stronger actor, a more confident actor — and that’s what it did for me. I think it terrified me in the beginning. You know, anytime you do something that you’re scared of I think you feel a little bit stronger, and that’s pretty much what this experience was.”



Duhamel’s upcoming projects will continue to stretch his dramatic acting chops with roles in two highly anticipated dramas. In *Strings*, he plays an Army veteran-turned-counselor who begins to treat a talented but troubled DJ. The pair slowly builds a friendship, until the patient makes a shocking discovery which changes his life. *Strings* is scheduled for a February 2014 release. Duhamel also stars alongside Hilary Swank, Emmy Rossum, Ali Larter and Marcia Gaye Hardin in *You’re Not You*, a drama centered on a terminally ill woman and the aimless young woman who becomes her caregiver. Currently in post-production, no release date has been announced.