From the acclaimed novel by Jay Bell...

Best Young Adult Characters
- goodreads Members’ Choice Awards

One of Amazon’s Best Books of 2011

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
4.6 out of 5 stars
Amazon.com

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
4.2 out of 5 stars
goodreads.com

Finalist, Best Romance
Lambda Literary Awards

“Lots of passion, humor, angst, twists and turns ... a look at how the choices we make affect everyone around us.”
- Queer Magazine

“One of the most heartfelt and sincere romances ever.”
- Alpha Reader

“Lots of passion, humor, angst, twists and turns ... a look at how the choices we make affect everyone around us.”
- Huffington Post

Models stand in for the main characters of the film adaptation of Jay Bell’s novel, SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER — Benjamin Bentley, right, and Tim Wyman. Casting for the lead roles begins in 2013.
**OVERVIEW**

A new film from the creators of *JUDAS KISS*, the acclaimed fantasy-drama. *SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER* traces the tumultuous relationship of Ben, a singer, and Tim, an artist – secret high school sweethearts who grow over the years into both adulthood enemies and complicated friends.

**SYNOPSIS**

**BENJAMIN BENTLEY** is the only guy at his Texas high school with the courage to come out of the closet, dooming him, he believes, to a life of loneliness. Putting up with the bullies and his classmates’ whispered condemnations keeps him from pursuing his dream of being a singer, despite the encouragement of his best friend, Allison. Instead, Ben spends his summer vacation stalking the handsome athlete who just moved to town, Tim Wyman.

Everything changes when Ben’s clumsiness causes an accident that brings him and Tim together, beginning a secret romance threatened at every turn by discovery. Like Ben, Tim also harbors a secret artistic life: He is a talented painter. And when their relationship crosses paths with a vengeful neighborhood arsonist, Tim’s fear of exposure tears the couple apart.

**YEARS PASS**, and Ben finds himself in Chicago attending college, still no closer to the true love he thought he’d found with Tim. On a trip home, he takes up with charming flight attendant Jace — possibly the world’s perfect boyfriend — and transfers to Texas University, where he’s reunited with Allison. But his happiness is upended when he runs into Tim, now out of the closet, and thrilled at the prospect of winning back his lost love. But first Tim has to deal with Jace, who appears to harbor his own secrets. Once exposed, a distraught Ben turns to an all-too-willing Tim for comfort. With Tim and Jace in open war to win his affection, Ben has to face up to the realities of adulthood, his continued fear to fight for his own happiness, and the challenge of surviving his most heart-breaking loss.

*SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER* follows the course of true love over the span of a dozen years, from awkward adolescence through challenging adulthood, featuring seven original musical numbers and the artwork of a talented young artist.
FROM BOOK TO BOX OFFICE...

BLUE SERAPH Productions’ third feature film is also our first adaptation. Something Like Summer, the novel by Jay Bell, is itself something of a phenomenon. Self-published, the book resonated with readers all over the world, who spread the word to others, turning it into a full-fledged social media sensation.

The book garnered widespread praise from readers on Amazon.com (rated 4.6 stars out of 5) and the online literary community of Goodreads (rated 4.2 stars). Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr – all have proven themselves as platforms for readers of all ages to share their heartbreak, joy, nostalgia and inspiration from Jay Bell’s story of true love discovered, sundered, rediscovered, torn and delicately re-knit.

AMAZON NAMED the novel to its list of Best Books of 2011. In 2012, the Lambda Literary Foundation named it as one of its finalists for Best Romance Novel. In 2013, the book’s author, Jay Bell, won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Romance for his follow-up novel, Kamikaze Boys. His recently released prequels/side-quals, Something Like Winter and Something Like Autumn have gone on to win their own acclaim and bring new fans to the stories of Ben, Tim and Jace. The fourth book in the series, Something Like Spring, is due for release soon.

Those same readers have welcomed the news that the creators of the acclaimed fantasy-drama, JUDAS KISS, are bringing SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER to the screen. Author Jay Bell himself said, “I was blown away after seeing JUDAS KISS. My heart was pounding when I left the theater and I knew that this was the right creative team for a Something Like Summer movie. Ben, Tim and Jace are in very safe hands, and I can’t wait to see them on the big screen.”

AS FILMMAKERS, we’re thrilled by the opportunity to capture and bring to life the essence of Jay Bell’s novel, as well as to explore its sights and sounds in ways at which a book can only hint.

The notion that an independent author and independent filmmakers could rally support for their projects without the backing of traditional publishers or studios even caught the attention of the Huffington Post in an article about SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER titled, “A Book and Its Film Version – Made Possible by Readers and Viewers.”

Certainly, the story’s themes of bullying, betrayal and “it gets better” tap into the memories and current experiences of a broad and diverse audience, and are a large part of the reason we want to turn it into a film. Ben, Tim, Jace, Allison, Bryce, Aaron, the Bentleys are all people we know — our friends, our enemies, our neighbors, our families, our lovers. This movie offers us all a chance to make peace with our pasts and possibly find our own true loves.

Carlos Pedraza, Writer & Producer  
J.T. Tepnapa, Director  
Jody Wheeler, Producer  
Tom Ly, Producer
THE MAIN CHARACTERS

BENJAMIN BENTLEY | Ben came out of the closet when he was 14, and it was a less-than-liberating experience. Now 17, he’s a pariah in his suburban Texas high school, the subject of furtive whispers and outright bullying. But everything changes that summer, the summer of the arson fires and the summer he first sets eyes on Tim Wyman. A gifted singer, Ben keeps his talent as hidden as the feelings that start to stir between him and a reluctant Tim.

TIM WYMAN | The son of a rich and conservative white father and regal Mexican mother, Tim is charming, athletic, handsome and secretly artistic. A not-so-accident brings him together with Ben, sparking a 12-year relationship that forces him to come to terms with all his secrets.

JACE HOLDEN | A flight attendant whose happenstance meeting with Ben profoundly changes both their lives. Ben considers Jace the perfect boyfriend. But what happens when “perfect” doesn’t seem to be enough, and Jace is forced to confront Tim as his rival?

ALLISON CROSS | Allison is Ben’s most loyal friend. A talented singer in her own right, she tries to help Ben get past his fear of performing in public, and supports him through the years as he struggles to find love, and then to choose between the two great loves of his life.

BRYCE HUNTER | Handsome and seemingly self-assured, Bryce welcomes new guy Tim to The Woodlands High School’s most popular clique. But Bryce harbors his own secrets, and his own demons, and he doesn’t like the way Ben follows Tim around.

THE BENTLEYS | Ben couldn’t have asked for a more supportive family when he came out. Well, maybe a little too supportive. His mom is a little over-the-top, his dad does whatever his mom says, and his sister, Karen? Well, who cares what she thinks?
THE ART

TIM WYMAN’s secret paintings play an important part in the story of SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER. The film serves as a showcase for an up-and-coming young visual artist, whose work illuminates Tim’s development as an artist and a man.

KYLE JOHNSON is a St. Louis-bred artist, now living in the Bay Area. He is also the production designer for SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER. Kyle is one of the principals in the creative agency, Andar Creative.

“Hòuhui” – Oil, liquin, acrylic on canvas, by Kyle Johnson.
"The Last Tree" – Oil, liquin, acrylic on canvas, by Kyle Johnson.

"Transforming Us As We Transfixed" – oil, alkyd, liquin, acrylic on canvas, by Kyle Johnson.
“Ben Bentley”
J.T. TEPNAPA | J.T. Tepnapa is an international award-winning filmmaker who has also appeared in many plays, features, shorts, and commercials.

His first feature, JUDAS KISS, has won acclaim in film festivals across the globe, and was honored in 2012 as Best Drama in TLA Video’s Gaybie Awards, and was named among the Top 100 Gay Films of all time by AfterElton.com. His second feature, THE DARK PLACE, is in post-production.

J.T. began his film career in 2001 when he directed, wrote, and starred in his first short, SUNFLOWERS. In 2002, he wrote and directed the award-winning MASTURBATION: PUTTING THE FUN INTO SELF-LOVING, a parody of 1950s health education films. MASTURBATION went on to become a smash hit, still screened in film festivals around the world, and broadcast on Channel 5 in the United Kingdom. The short has even been featured in college sex education classrooms and documentaries.

J.T. went on to write, direct, and produce two more short films, DRAG QUEEN HEIST (2004) and BEGGING FOR CHANGE (2006). Both films received Best Short honors at the QCinema Film Festival.

Skilled in writing and directing both comedy and drama, J.T. was described by festival director Barbara Lee as “more than just the director of comedy films. He has become an artist of film, able to reflect to us reality, whether it is absurd and laughable or serious and important.”

J.T.’s screenplay, OUTING JOEY, received top honors in Rhode Island’s Barren Branches Screenplay Competition. Contest coordinator Adam Short described the script as a “twist on contemporary gay and straight stereotypes bringing perspective to the tension between these two groups.”

For eight years, J.T. appeared on the Web’s longest-running series, STAR TREK: HIDDEN FRONTIER, and also played Mr. Sulu in the Hugo-nominated Web series, STAR TREK: PHASE II.
CARLOS PEDRAZA | Carlos Pedraza is a Seattle-based screenwriter and producer for Blue Seraph Productions. His first feature, JUDAS KISS, has won acclaim at film festivals across the globe, honored as Best Drama in TLA Video’s Gaybie Awards, and named among the Top 100 Gay Films of all time by AfterElton.com. His screenplay won awards at San Diego’s FilmOut festival and Long Beach’s QFilm Festival.

Carlos was a writer and producer of the Hugo- and Nebula-nominated STAR TREK: PHASE II, also named one of the best series on the Web by TV Guide and Rolling Stone. He was also the staff writer and a producer of the long-running STAR TREK: HIDDEN FRONTIER.


Carlos was also a writer-producer for Runic Films’ Web series eSCAPE and ZERKS’ LOG (co-productions with MovieQuest Productions and Storyforge Labs, respectively). His work has been featured in Variety, NBC’s Today Show, COUNTDOWN on MSNBC, ABC News, the Columbia News Service, the BBC and the New York Times.

Carlos is a former Associated Press writer, deputy press secretary for the Governor of Washington, teacher, technologist, consultant and organizational development trainer for nonprofit organizations throughout the United States.

He appears as a guest each year at such sci-fi conventions as Boston’s Arisia, RadCon, Gaylaxicon, England’s SF Ball, San Francisco’s BayCon, Bent-Con and Dragon*Con.

Carlos has a B.A. in journalism and history from the University of Montana, and did his graduate work in education at the University of Southern Maine.
JODY WHEELER | Jody Wheeler is an award-winning writer-producer based in Los Angeles. His work has been seen worldwide, on the Web, in theaters and on television. He was a writer and producer on the groundbreaking gay soap-opera INSIDE/OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY (1992-1996). Before QUEER AS FOLK and ELLEN, the series depicted the lives of LGBT characters with honesty, humor, drama and flair. The series won numerous awards, including recognition from GLAAD.

Jody is a graduate of the University of California Los Angeles' Master of Fine Arts program in screenwriting. His scripts won the Carl David Screenwriting Award two years in a row; his script, PARIS, about an ass-kicking private detective who's also gay, was a semi-finalist in the 2003 Scriptapalooza screenplay competition and was a Top 100 finalist in the Project Greenlight contest.

His first produced screenplay was 2009’s HEAT WAVE for Regent Entertainment. A sci-fi action flick about the end of the world, the movie has been screened in theaters and on television worldwide.

Jody has written and directed several short films, including IN THE CLOSET, which was a finalist for the prestigious Iris Prize short film award, and was included on Peccadillo Pictures’ BOYS SHORTS DVD and online on Blue Vision Theater. He was also an associate producer on the popular kids scifi series, ESCAPE.

TOM LY | Tom began his work in entertainment in Bangkok, Thailand, where he was cast as Tommy Lee Jones’ son in Oliver Stone's HEAVEN & EARTH. In Houston, Tom worked in commercial modeling and other talent work. He earned his B.A. in business at the University of Houston, and went on to work as a banker. He later became an elementary teacher and drama program co-director, and earned his M.A. in Education at the University of Houston. Tom is now a National Board Certified Teacher pursuing his administration certification at City University of Seattle. Inspired by Jay Bell's novel, SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER, his company, Jade Knight Productions, optioned the book for its film adaptation.
Tellier Killaby, Production Manager | Tellier produced and Unit Production Managed the award-winning JUDAS KISS and fan favorite STAR TREK: PHOENIX. She won Best Film and the Audience Award for THE BELGIAN PRETZEL in 2009's 48-Hour Film Festival. She has worked with Stana Katic & Jon Huertas (ABC's CASTLE), on the Web series gem, FLETCHER DRIVE. Tellier recently relocated her production company, Glass Forest Entertainment to Los Angeles. She holds a degree in Theater Education from Bridgewater State University.

David Berry, Director of Photography | Los Angeles-based cinematographer with experience shooting narrative short form and long form projects. He shot four episodes of the award-winning Web series STAR TREK: PHASE II, as well as multiple short films. David is pursuing his Masters in Cinematography at UCLA, training with such notable cinematographers as John Simmons, Tom DeNove, Victor J. Kemper, and Vilmos Zsigmond. A native Texan, he moved to L.A. in 2007 to pursue cinematography in the film capital of the world. In Texas, he was active in the crew pool working on commercials, music videos and narrative projects in the Austin and San Antonio areas.

Joël Bellucci, Visual Effects Supervisor | 3-D artist and video compositor whose work on STAR TREK: PHASE II led to the series’ Hugo Award nomination and TV Guide’s award for Best Online Video SciFi Series. He is also a marine scientist and Web designer. His marine experiences range from photo ID studies of bottle-nosed dolphins to diving under the Antarctic ice sheet. He’s been a contributor to 3-D Artist magazine and numerous newspapers and magazines. Joël also worked for three years in film trafficking at the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. He currently spends every free moment finding new and cooler ways to blow up starships.

Anthony Tran, Costume Designer | A rising talent in costume design, having worked for both stage and screen, Anthony returns for his third feature film with Blue Seraph Productions (JUDAS KISS, THE DARK PLACE). He has been mentored by Deborah Landis (Michael Jackson’s Thriller, THE BLUES BROTHERS; an Oscar nominee for COMING TO AMERICA), Julie Weiss (FRIDA, AMERICAN BEAUTY, BLADES OF GLORY; two Emmys, two Oscar nominations, one Tony nomination), and Caroline Marx (HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3, GILMORE GIRLS).
SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER is Blue Seraph Productions’ third feature project, following our second film, THE DARK PLACE (now in post-production), and our critically acclaimed and successful commercial debut, JUDAS KISS, which has:

- Screened at dozens of film festivals worldwide, including San Francisco’s Frameline, New York’s NewFest, festivals in Phoenix, Vancouver, B.C., Louisville, North Carolina, Boston, Belgium, Atlanta, Sweden, Tampa, Seattle, Palm Springs, Germany, Fresno, Miami, Minnesota and opening Philadelphia’s QFest.
- Continued to win awards from festivals and media throughout the world, including Best Screenplay (San Diego, Long Beach); Best Debut Feature (Fort Worth); Rising Star (for co-star Sean Lockhart in Philadelphia); First Place Alternative Spirit and Youth Jury Honorable Mention (Rhode Island); Gaybie Best Drama, Best Actor (Charlie David), Best Supporting Actor (Sean Lockhart); Top 100 Gay Films (AfterElton.com).
- Garnered positive reviews from viewers around the world on iTunes, Amazon, Netflix, Hulu, Google Play, Twitter, Tumblr, YouTube, Facebook and other social media sites.

DISTRIBUTION & SOCIAL MARKETING | The JUDAS KISS DVD launch in October 2011 was met with successful sales and reviews from news and media sites like AfterElton, the Bilerico Report, Metrosource Weekly, and The Advocate. We followed with digital release in 2011 and 2012 on multiple worldwide platforms, including cable and satellite video on demand. Our film has pioneered a worldwide distributing and social marketing campaign that has won us recognition across the globe. Our trailer on YouTube has been viewed half a million times, and our Facebook page has more than 10,000 Likes. Thousands more follow us on Twitter and Tumblr. JUDAS KISS is available in virtually every country in the world, translated into Spanish, Portuguese, German, French, Dutch, Swedish and Arabic.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT | The revenue streams for JUDAS KISS’ first year has been encouraging. Our next two features, THE DARK PLACE and SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER, quickly attracted development funding, and we have a broad-ranging plan for both films to maximize traditional distribution platforms and to take advantage of the expanding worldwide digital marketplace.
THE MARKET

WITH JUDAS KISS, we focused our efforts on a key and reliable market, but offered a story that also appealed to more mainstream demographics. Positive reviews and consumer word-of-mouth, bolstered by social media, has created sustained international revenue streams.

TARGET MARKETS Our first target demographic is LGBT consumers, perhaps the most influential of all market segments. They are indispensable to advertisers, representing $610 billion in discretionary income. They are trend-setting, affluent, highly educated and brand-loyal consumers with high disposable incomes representing the highest per-capita buying power of any market segment in the United States; the estimated population is 15 million.

The first-ever Gay and Lesbian Market Study conducted by the Simmons Market Research Bureau charted these findings on the affluence and psychographics of the LGBT market:

• They are twice as likely to have an annual household income of $250,000
• They are ad-aware: 94 percent purchase products marketed directly to them.
• 79 percent are willing to pay a premium for quality products and services.
• 58 percent of the gay and lesbian community hold management positions.
• 61 percent have taken a foreign trip and 91 percent a domestic trip in the past 12 months.
• 50 percent of gays and lesbians drink vodka (total U.S. population: 26%).
• More gays and lesbians drink beer — imported 46 percent, and domestic 51 percent (compared to U.S. population: 21 percent and 30 percent, respectively).
• 72 percent bought clothing and other goods through catalogs and online in the past 12 months.
• 72 percent attended live theatre or concerts in the past 12 months (compared to U.S. population: 37 percent).
• 20 percent had seen at least two feature films in the previous month (compared to U.S. population: 6 percent).
• 75 percent had purchased a paperback book in the last year (total U.S. population: 44 percent).

According to Price-Waterhouse-Coopers International, the combined U.S. film market is worth $726 billion; the Asia Pacific sphere is $425 billion; central and eastern Europe are forecast to continue expanding. Our marketing efforts will reach out to these wider markets, pushing awareness for SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER into diverse markets and potential revenue sources.
“Tim Wyman”
BLUE SERAPH PRODUCTIONS

BLUE SERAPH PRODUCTIONS is a production company committed to strong progressive values that shed light on the human experience. Blue Seraph Productions doesn’t focus on a lifestyle; we tell stories built on the universal principles that make us human. Laughter or tears, we’re all the same.

Blue Seraph was founded by J.T. Tepnapa in 2000 as SkyAngel Films with its first short film, SUNFLOWERS. In 2002, J.T. followed up with the hit MASTURBATION: PUTTING THE FUN INTO SELF-LOVING, one of the festival circuit’s best-received short comedies in years. MASTURBATION went on to smash screenings at film festivals around the world, winning many awards and distribution through CFMDC, TLA, and Canal+.

J.T.’s next effort was another festival gem, DRAG QUEEN HEIST. In 2006, his edgy, dramatic short, BEGGING FOR CHANGE, won Best Dramatic Short at the QCinema festival in Fort Worth.

In 2007, writer and producer Carlos Pedraza joined Blue Seraph to write and produce JUDAS KISS, Blue Seraph’s first feature film. Its website attracted worldwide investors, production partners, cast and crew.

In 2012, writer and producer Jody Wheeler joined the team. Jody played a key role in the successful realization of JUDAS KISS. His skills as an entrepreneur, writer, producer and director have been instrumental in shaping Blue Seraph’s long-term business strategy.

As a visionary film, production, writing and technology company, we provide expertise and networking to help other artists become sustainable contributors to their creative communities. Blue Seraph continues to explore the themes of tolerance and self-discovery through comedy and drama. Sitting contentedly on Hollywood’s fringe, we turn small budgets into what the Philadelphia Inquirer called “brilliant production values.” We have accomplished this by attracting talent whose creativity is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars on screen.

More talented people have joined Blue Seraph’s team, and we have built strategic partnerships with other like-minded production companies. Together we’ve built a network of creative professionals dedicated to producing provocative and enjoyable entertainment free from Hollywood’s typical strictures and constraints.

JADE KNIGHT PRODUCTIONS

Producer Tom Ly created JADE KNIGHT PRODUCTIONS in 2011 to option and produce Jay Bell’s novel, Something Like Summer. The two production companies created a co-production agreement to bring the book to the screen.
GETTING INVOLVED

IN ORDER to greenlight SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER, we are seeking up to six Executive Producers to come aboard at $50,000 each. Bonus percentages will be offered for single investments of $100,000 or more.

Minimum Investment | Membership in SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER, LLC, is based on investment consisting of at least one unit (at $1,000 per unit). Minimum investment of $1,000 (one unit) plus negotiable bonus units.

Federal Tax Incentive | In January 2013, Congress renewed the Section 181 rebate provision of the tax code. Under its terms, an investor may deduct any money invested in a film from his or her passive income earned in the same year. For example, for an investor in the 35 percent tax bracket who invests $1,000 dollars in a feature film may deduct 35 percent of that investment from their passive income taxes in that same year. More information is available from http://besttaxbreak.net or the Internal Revenue Service..

Expected Earnings | The four primary revenue streams forecast for SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER are digital distribution broadcast rights, DVD and Blu-ray sales, and VOD (Video on Demand). As with JUDAS KISS, Blue Seraph will offer film licensing rights to the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia & New Zealand, France & French-speaking Europe, Germany, Spain & Spanish-speaking Europe, as well as Asia. Oregon Film Commission incentives are projected to offer cash rebates to in-state production costs.

Post-Production | Preliminary footage for SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER is scheduled to be shot in December 2013, with further principal photography in Spring 2014. Editing will begin during shooting, with an expected picture-lock by the end of the summer. Music and final sound mix will be complete by Fall 2014, with the film set to premiere at film festivals in Winter 2015.

Recoupment & Profit-Sharing Potential | Investors are entitled to recoup their investment plus 20 percent, prior to any profit-sharing.

Summary | SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER is an artful, insightful romance whose appeal crosses genres and demographics, reaching into both the gay marketplace and the larger, mainstream market. Cast and crew attachments are now underway. The creative team behind the award-winning JUDAS KISS and the upcoming THE DARK PLACE will produce SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER.