



# Brokeback Mountain

**Ang Lee**

USA, 2005  
English

130 minutes ■ Colour/35mm  
Production Company: **Focus Features/River Road Entertainment**  
Executive Producer: **William Pohlad, Larry McMurtry, Michael Costigan, Michael Hausman**  
Producer: **Diana Ossana, James Schamus**  
Screenplay: **Larry McMurtry, Diana Ossana, based on the short story by Annie Proulx**  
Cinematographer: **Rodrigo Prieto**  
Editor: **Geraldine Peroni, Dylan Tichenor**  
Production Designer: **Judy Becker**  
Sound: **Drew Kunin**  
Music: **Gustavo Santaolalla**  
Principal Cast: **Jake Gyllenhaal, Heath Ledger, Anne Hathaway, Randy Quaid, Michelle Williams**  
Print Source: **Odeon Films, 121 Bloor Street East, Suite 1500, Toronto ON M4W 3M5 Canada. T (416) 967-1174 F (416) 934-6999 info@allianceatlantis.com**  
Foreign Sales Agent: **Focus Features, 65 Bleecker Street, 3rd Floor, New York NY 10012 USA. T (212) 539-4000 F (212) 539-4099**  
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Destined to be recognized as one of the greatest love stories ever put to film, *Brokeback Mountain* represents a new and lofty level of achievement for acclaimed director Ang Lee, talented young actors Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal and a powerhouse trio of writers.

*Brokeback Mountain* is based on Annie Proulx's much-lauded short story, originally published in "The New Yorker" in 1997 and adapted by acclaimed novelists Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana. This literary pedigree gives the film a rare precision and economy of gesture that make its devastating emotional moments rich and resonant.

In 1963, two young, poor-as-dirt cowboys, Jack Twist (Gyllenhaal) and Ennis Del Mar (Ledger), are hired to tend cattle on top of Brokeback Mountain, Wyoming's most picturesque grazing slope. Suspicious of one another at first, they become fast friends. Increasingly rebellious in their isolated universe, their friendship takes on a dangerous, revolutionary tone. Soon comes a frank and powerful sexual encounter that blossoms into a dreamlike, heart-pounding romance.

But the summer ends and their inevitable parting leaves them pained and yearning. Ennis marries his long-time sweetheart and settles down to a life of poverty and screaming kids in Wyoming, while Jack joins the rodeo and eventually makes his fortune with the burgeoning Sun Belt business of his Texan father-in-law. When Jack finally contacts Ennis, sending a postcard to say that he is coming through Wyoming for business, they

embark on a painful lifelong relationship fraught with forbidden desire.

*Brokeback Mountain* can be read many ways: as a chronicle of shifting attitudes towards sexuality, as the representative moment when the Old West became the New West or even as a complex marriage between Douglas Sirk and *Red River*. But it is ultimately and fundamentally a film about love of the most evocative kind – impossible, lustful, all-consuming, passionate love, born in a place of overwhelming beauty at a time of great innocence and hope. I challenge anyone to remain unmoved as society's mores and the inexorable vagaries of the world slowly undermine this love.

■ **Noah Cowan**



Ang Lee was born and raised in Taiwan. He studied theatre at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and film production at New York University. His first feature, *Pushing Hands* (92), screened internationally. Two of his films, *The Wedding Banquet* (93) and *Sense and Sensibility* (95) won the Golden Bear at the 1993 and 1996 Berlin International Film Festivals, respectively. His other films include *Eat Drink Man Woman* (94), *The Ice Storm* (97), *Ride with the Devil* (99), *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (00) which was nominated for ten Academy Awards® and won four, including best foreign language film; *Hulk* (03) and *Brokeback Mountain* (05).

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