



# Capote

## Bennett Miller

USA, 2005  
English

110 minutes ■ Colour/35mm

Production Company:

**A-Line Pictures/Cooper's Town Productions/Infinity Media Canada Inc.**

Executive Producer: **Dan Futterman, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Kerry Rock, Danny Rosett**

Producer: **Caroline Baron, Michael Ohoven, William Vince**

Screenplay: **Dan Futterman, based on the novel by Gerald Clarke**

Cinematographer: **Adam Kimmel**

Editor: **Christopher Tellefsen**

Production Designer: **Jess Gonchor**

Sound: **Ron Bochar**

Music: **Mychael Danna**

Principal Cast: **Philip Seymour Hoffman, Catherine Keener, Clifton Collins Jr., Mark Pellegrino, Bruce Greenwood, Chris Cooper**

Print Source: **Mongrel Media, 1028 Queen Street West, Toronto ON M6J 1H6 Canada. T (416) 516-9775 F (416) 516-0651 info@mongrelmedia.com**

Production: **A-Line Pictures, 9 Desbrosses Street, 2nd Floor, New York NY 10013 USA. T (212) 609-0939 F (212) 609-0938**

Immensely gifted actor Philip Seymour Hoffman channels the spirit of Truman Capote in this deeply engaging portrait of a great American writer. Director Bennett Miller's film focuses on Capote's research and writing of "In Cold Blood," the pioneering non-fiction novel that skyrocketed him to unheralded acclaim – but not without a price. *Capote's* terrific supporting cast includes Catherine Keener as the thoughtful young writer Nelle Harper Lee and a nuanced Chris Cooper as sheriff Alvin Dewey.

It is 1959 and Capote is stunned into silence by a newspaper article detailing the brutal murder of the entire Clutter family in rural Kansas. Perry Smith (Clifton Collins Jr.) and Richard Hickock (Mark Pellegrino) are arrested for the savage crime; strangers to the family, they killed them all for a few dollars. Capote decides he must write about the case and convinces his close friend Lee (Keener) – who will soon have "To Kill a Mockingbird" published – to be his "researcher and bodyguard." They immediately travel from the literary salons of libertine New York to the dusty farmlands of the culturally backward Midwest.

Capote sincerely sympathizes with the convicted killers: just as he does, they stand out like freakish weeds in the wholesome town of Holcomb. He identifies strongly with Perry, who is soft, sensitive and creative like himself and is dominated by the calculating Richard. But the book that will cement Capote's reputation, it turns out, is more important than his blooming relationship with a poor, weak young man in a death-row cell.

Hoffman is an intriguing, complex presence as Capote. Decked in baby-blue bathrobes in his boudoir and tailored suits in public, he is preened and prim, his blond hair slicked into an austere comb-over. Hoffman also superbly captures Capote's pinched high voice, animated face and ego-decimating wit with fascinating authenticity.

Uncovering the fierce inner demons that lie behind his coiffed, carefully-orchestrated persona, Miller and Hoffman vividly evoke a delicate literary legend whose ambitions threaten to transform him into a treacherous scoundrel.

### ■ Noah Cowan



**Bennett Miller** dropped out of New York University when he became disenchanted by filmmaking but was lured back into directing when invited to make a documentary for the American Foundation for AIDS Research. He has also directed several television commercials and the cult hit documentary *The Cruise* (98), an award-winning portrait of New York tour guide Timothy "Speed" Levitch. *Capote* (05) is his first feature film.

Sponsored by

