

## Audio: Interview With John Cusack on 'Grace is Gone'

Submitted by [HollywoodChicago.com](http://www.hollywoodchicago.com) [1] on December 20, 2007 - 11:34pm

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✂ On Oct. 12, 2007, I interviewed Chicago native John Cusack along with first-time Chicago actresses Gracie Bednarczyk and Shélan O'Keefe on "Grace is Gone," which opened in theaters on Dec. 14.



John Cusack in Chicago on Oct. 12, 2007 at the Chicago International Film Festival for "Grace is Gone".

*Photo credit: Joe Arce*

In our interview, Cusack speaks on the film as a whole, cell phones, sister Joan Cusack and his views on the war. Cusack opines his views loudly in a soft-spoken voice. Here's just one quotable:

I knew I wanted to do the film when the Bush administration banned photos of the dead coming from the coffins. That's the most disgraceful, political, cowardly act I've seen in my lifetime.

These soldiers are making the ultimate sacrifice and we're censoring it. There's no draft, yet you're willing to pay mercenaries more than our soldiers and not give them body armor.

You want to send them over there and deny this is happening or let FOX News tell us how we should view the war? I said: 'All right. I'm going to do a story about one of these coffins coming home.'

My full, 23-minute audio interview with John Cusack is below.

[\(alternate link for full download\)](#) [9]

My full, 14-minute audio interview with first-time Chicago actresses Gracie Bednarczyk and Shélan O'Keefe is below.

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John Cusack and Shélan O'Keefe in Chicago on Oct. 12, 2007 at the Chicago International Film Festival for "Grace is Gone".

*Photo credit: Adam Fendelman, HollywoodChicago.com*





First-time Chicago stars Gracie Bednarczyk (second from the left) and Shélan O'Keefe (second from the right) in Chicago on Oct. 12, 2007 at the Chicago International Film Festival for “Grace is Gone”.

*Photo credit: Adam Fendelman, HollywoodChicago.com*



John Cusack in “Grace is Gone”.

*Photo credit: IMDb*

Here’s the plotline for “Grace is Gone”:

There was a time when Stanley Phillips (John Cusack) could see his entire life clearly. He dreamed of patriotic service and was destined for a military career.

He came close to that dream until it was cut short simply because of his poor eyesight. Now he's serving customers at a home-supply store while his sergeant wife is fighting in Iraq.

Equally as awkward at home as he is at work, he’s raising Heidi (their 12-year-old daughter) and her 8-year-old sister (Dawn). Though a loving father, Stanley is unable to conform to a more affectionate role and the girls miss their mother deeply.

While tolerating his job and stumbling through parenting, he is abruptly awakened when tragedy strikes. Ill-prepared to deal with it himself, he is at a complete loss about how to tell his children.

Desperate to delay telling the children, they embark on a spontaneous road trip. Grasping to give them their last moments of innocence, Stanley reveals a softer side as they travel to Dawn’s chosen destination: Enchanted Gardens theme park.

The further they drive, the closer they become. Still, Stanley knows he must face the inevitable task of changing their lives forever.

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