

Greg Kinnear in Talks to Star in 'Heaven Is for Real' Movie

Actor Greg Kinnear is in negotiations to star in the movie adaptation of Todd Burpo's runaway best-selling book, *Heaven Is for Real*, *The Hollywood Reporter* reported.

Published in November 2010, Burpo's account of his young son Colton's near-death experience of heaven has sold more than 8 million copies in the past two years. Translated into more than 30 languages, *Heaven Is for Real* has spent more than two years on the *New York Times* Paperback Nonfiction best-seller list, including 17 consecutive weeks ranked at No. 1.

Kinnear would play Todd Burpo, a small-town pastor in Nebraska. Kinnear's acting credits include *The Last Song* and *As Good As It Gets*, which garnered him an Oscar nomination for his supporting role. His brother Steve Kinnear is a business manager with the Billy Graham Training Center.

Randall Wallace—who wrote the Academy Award-winning film *Braveheart* and directed *Secretariat*—is directing *Heaven Is for Real*, which will be produced by Joe Roth (*Oz the Great and Powerful*) and T.D. Jakes—pastor at The Potter's House in Dallas, best-selling author and co-producer of the movie *Jumping the Broom*, *The Hollywood Reporter* reported.

Wallace also wrote the novel *The Touch*. *Heaven Is for Real's* "true story and message of hope through the eyes of a child has already brought comfort and inspiration to millions," said Matt Baugher, senior vice president and publisher of Thomas Nelson's recently resurrected imprint W Publishing Group. "The film will do the same."

Heaven Is for Real is being overseen at Sony Pictures' TriStar division, led by DeVon Franklin, author of *Produced by Faith: Enjoy Real Success Without Losing Your True Self*. No

production or release date has been announced for the movie.