**INTO THE NIGHT Part 1**

**Cast & Themes**

In Part 1, nine men and women search for narratives of comfort in the face of death. Their stories are described below in the order of their appearance:

**# Gabriel Byrne**, renowned actor of stage and screen, who opens the film with the famous Dylan Thomas poem, “Do not go gentle into that good night.” This poem poses the central questions of both films that each person will answer differently: How will we go into the night? What is the narrative that will sustain us – or not?

# **Adam Frank**, the astrophysicist and NPR commentator, who finds comfort in the stars after the death of his brother.

**# Caitlin Doughty**, the young mortician and bestselling author with a huge online following, who worked in a crematorium to face her fears of death and is now a spokesperson for the alternative burial and Death Salon movement.

**# Phyllis Tickle**, the religious historian whose near-death experience shaped her life and her fearless attitude towards her impending death.

**# Max More**, the cryonicist and futurist who places his hopes in advanced technology as a way to defeat death.

**#** **Maajid Nawaz**, a former radical Islamist from the UK, who believed that martyrdom guaranteed an afterlife in paradise until he began doubting the rigidity of his dogma, and has since become an international authority on anti-extremists.

**# Rev. Vernal Harris**, the Baptist minister who, along with his wife **Narseary,** loses his faith after the death of his sons and struggles to find it again.

**# Jim Crace**, the award-winning British novelist and dedicated environmentalist, who locates his narrative of comfort in the natural world.

**#** **Jeffrey Piehler**, the Mayo Clinic surgeon who, at the end of his twelve-year battle with prostate cancer, discovers love and friendship, not legacy and accomplishment, is what sustains him in his final days.