

COACH CARTER

Production Information

Tension mounted as the Richmond High Oilers faced the upcoming basketball championship. The town was wild with excitement over their undefeated team and the bleachers were filled with cheering fans for every game. No one could imagine that on January 4, 1999 the community would erupt in dissention and so many lives would change forever when Coach Ken Carter padlocked the gym, refusing the players access for failing to keep up their grades.

Inspired by a true story, “Coach Carter” is an inspirational account of controversial high school basketball coach Ken Carter (Samuel L. Jackson), who received both high praise and staunch criticism when he made national news for benching his *entire* undefeated team for poor academic performance. Set in Richmond, California, this rousing, heartfelt portrayal of human courage and conviction is about overcoming the obstacles of your environment and showing young men a future that stretches beyond gangs, drugs, prison, and yes...even basketball.

Paramount Pictures presents an MTV Films Tollin/Robbins production of a Thomas Carter Film, “Coach Carter,” starring Samuel L. Jackson. Directed by Thomas Carter, written by Mark Schwahn and John Gatins, the film is inspired by the life of Ken Carter. Produced by Brian Robbins, Mike Tollin and David Gale, and executive-produced by Van Toffler, Thomas Carter, Sharla Sumpter and Caitlin Scanlon, the film also stars Robert Ri’chard, Rob Brown, Ashanti and Debbi Morgan.

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This film has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for violence, sexual content, language, teen partying & some drug material.

ABOUT THE STORY

Playing high school basketball takes more than skill, perseverance, discipline and teamwork – especially when you play for Coach Ken Carter (Samuel L. Jackson). Just to step on Carter’s court takes a signed contract that assures him you’ll be performing at your best on the court *and* in the classroom. On Coach Carter’s watch, it’s not just about winning a basketball game...it’s about his team’s future.

That’s why, when some of Carter’s players let their grades slip, he chooses to padlock the gym, keeping the undefeated team from practicing *and* from playing. Standing up to school officials who oppose him, not to mention a town full of angry parents, many of whom see basketball as the only way for their sons to get out of Richmond, Carter refuses to back down. Having attended Richmond High himself, he has literally been in those boys’ shoes. Like them, he loved playing the game. And even though he was a very accomplished player, and *still* held many of the school’s records, it is education – *not* basketball – that Carter feels led him to be the man he is today.

Encouraging others to put education before recreation, Carter wants to leave a legacy. He wants players to see beyond their hoop dreams and see a future with endless options and possibilities.

“This is definitely not your typical story and Ken Carter is not your typical guy,” says Academy Award® nominee Samuel L. Jackson about the controversial coach he portrays. “Both

the story *and* Ken are about teaching young people to expect more from themselves and to see beyond their present.”

Three-time Emmy-winning director Thomas Carter (“Save the Last Dance,” “Hill Street Blues”) totally agrees, adding that Jackson was the perfect choice to bring the no-nonsense Ken Carter (no relation) to life.

“It’s rare to find such a compelling story with such a driven, yet truly likeable lead character,” says Carter. “Ken’s unwavering dedication and his enthusiasm for what he believes in is extraordinary. We needed someone who could translate his passion for both the kids *and* basketball to the screen, and Sam Jackson fit the role beautifully.”

Ken Carter couldn’t agree more. “I had a very short list of actors who I’d like to see portray me,” laughs Carter. “Samuel L. Jackson was the only name on it.”

Bringing the story of the man behind the remarkable event, which happened on January 4, 1999, all began when producers Brian Robbins and Mike Tollin read an article in the *Los Angeles Times* about the lockout. They immediately contacted Ken Carter.

“We knew that this was a particularly refreshing story because it wasn’t only about basketball, but also about human relationships,” says Tollin. “Coach Carter’s fervent passion for bettering the lives of the young men on his team is nothing short of amazing.”

“What’s also extraordinary is how this one act affected the entire Richmond community,” adds Robbins. “Not only did it pull the community apart...but it also pulled it together.”

Executive Vice President of MTV Films David Gale says that the story is riveting and important at the same time. “This film is not only a great coming-of-age story, but it also has a message that will resonate with audiences.”

Director Carter, whose hugely successful film “Save the Last Dance” spoke to the importance of following your dreams no matter the challenges or what people may think, says that one of his main goals in directing “Coach Carter” was to stay away from stereotyping.

“I wanted to deal with the good and bad of high school sports, how playing ball can focus a kid toward a dream, but how that dream can also be unrealistic and narrow,” says Carter. “Equally important to telling the story of the lockout are all the individual stories of the players and the particular obstacles each faces.”

One huge impediment that stands in the way of one of Coach Carter’s star players, Kenyon Stone, portrayed by Rob Brown, is his devotion to his girlfriend Kyra, portrayed by singing sensation Ashanti. Faced with Kyra’s pregnancy, Kenyon is torn when he has to decide whether or not to remain in Richmond to help raise the child, knowing that if he does stay, it could derail his future.

Best known for his breakout role in “Finding Forrester,” Brown says that the multi-faceted role was something he simply couldn’t pass up. “I read a lot of scripts and choose my projects very carefully, and when ‘Coach Carter’ came along, I could instantly see what an important story it is,” recalls Brown. “My character, like a lot of the guys on the team, has his own problems, but he’s a smart guy and doesn’t want to make the mistakes he’s seen other guys in the same situation make. But he really loves Kyra, so he’s torn. It’s a very real-life dilemma that a lot of young people face before they’re ready to handle it.”

Grammy winner Ashanti, who makes her major motion picture debut, says that she was proud to be entering the film world with such a meaningful project. “The script was great. It really delved into the lives of these people and made you care about each and every one of them,” says Ashanti. “I think this movie is going to touch a lot of people because it’s based on

the real story of Ken Carter who is genuinely a good soul and truly cared about the futures of these boys.”

As to how she felt about making the transition from music to film, Ashanti says “it was a beautiful thing,” adding that she was lucky to be working with such industry professionals. “Thomas Carter is such a giving director and so were all the actors. And Sam Jackson, I mean, Sam is the man! It was a wonderful experience all around.”

Dealing with issues beyond education, “Coach Carter” also touches upon the negative influence of peer pressure and drugs along with how a lack of parental guidance can allow a young person to steer off course. For example, Rick Gonzalez (“Biker Boyz,” “Laurel Canyon”) portrays Timo Cruz, a troubled young man who struggles with making the right choice.

“Timo is used to fighting to protect everything he has, and he’s real big on the tough guy attitude,” observes Gonzalez. “He’s definitely a victim of peer pressure and the drug culture, so he’s grown kind of hard on the outside. Inside, though he has a real tender heart. He just needs someone to believe in him, and Coach Carter is all that and more.”

One young man who knew the coach better than anyone was his son Damien Carter, portrayed in the film by Emmy winner Robert Ri’chard (“In His Father’s Shoes”). The younger Carter says that his father was definitely a strong role model on and off the court.

“My dad was a coach on the basketball court and a father at home,” remembers Damien. “He treated me just like everyone else – I even had to sign a contract, except because I wanted to leave the private school I was going to and play for him at Richmond, I had to maintain a 3.7 grade point average!”

Now pursuing a major in biology and a minor in engineering at Cal State Hayward, Damien Carter intends to be a cardiologist one day. “There are no doctors in the family, so I

want to be the first,” says Carter, sounding a lot like his very driven father. “I guess a little of my dad rubbed off on me.”

As for portraying the younger Carter, Ri’chard says it was an honor. “Damien has a lot to contend with and he’s really got to prove himself to his teammates, so his character has a lot of dimensions,” observes Ri’chard. “The movie also has a lot of sides to it. It’s really high-impact. It’s like 2,000 volts of energy!”

THE MAN BEHIND IT ALL

Describing himself as “a little guy from Macomb, Mississippi, Ken Carter grew up with seven sisters and a brother. When his family moved to Richmond, California, Carter played basketball from 1973-77 for the same high school, which on January 4, 1999, would not only put Richmond on the national news, but also put Ken Carter into the headlines.

“We were 13 and 0 – undefeated on the freshmen, junior varsity and varsity levels – and the city was going crazy with excitement,” remembers Carter. “So when I locked the kids out for not keeping up their grades, the community really got up in arms. Several of the kids had broken the contract, which they and their parents had signed, so because they were a team, everyone was accountable.”

The contract, which required regular class attendance, sitting in the front row and wearing a shirt and tie on game days, also made it mandatory that all the players maintain at least a 2.3 grade point average.

“My idea was to substitute books for balls, simple as that,” says Carter, who chose the 2.3 figure because with a 2.0, SAT scores had to be at least 1010 to earn an athletic scholarship.

“With a 2.3, the SAT could be 900, and let me tell you, it’s much easier to raise your grade point average than it is to score higher on the SAT.”

Carter claims that the contract made it less probable that the kids in Richmond would fall through the cracks. He also feels that it made his players directly responsible for their future as well as teach them respect for themselves and their teammates.

“Richmond is a working man’s town with a very high rate of unemployment, so there’s a lot of poverty and stress,” observes Carter. “Also, a great number of kids in the area are from single parent homes, and in fact, out of the 45 kids in my basketball program, only *four* had dads living in the home. So as their coach, I had to be something of a psychologist and even a substitute father figure at times.”

Believing that all troubled kids need is someone who cares, Carter is a firm believer that underdogs can prevail when they have someone who believes in them. “All you need is guidance and a road map,” says Carter. “That’s all my contract was – a roadmap to help these kids change their lives.”

Carter also believes that things don’t happen overnight, that change comes gradually with steadfast perseverance. “If you improve one percent a day, then in 100 days, guess what? You’re 100 percent better!” exclaims Carter. “I mean, it doesn’t take a genius to figure that out. You see, it’s all about momentum. Once you start making one good decision, then you make another and another, and before you know it, you can see a difference in your life.”

Teaching his players to shoot straight on and off the court, Carter also wants all kids to shoot for the top. “You don’t want to simply see the big picture, you want to see the *whole* picture,” says Carter. “So when kids come to me and say they want fame and lots of money like Kobe and Shaq, I tell them dessert doesn’t come first in a four course meal. Besides, there’s only

one Kobe and one Shaq. Think beyond that and believe that someday you can be the guy who *signs* Kobe and Shaq's paycheck!"

MAKING IT REAL

When the filmmakers involved with "Coach Carter" got together to make a film inspired by Ken Carter's life, one thing was eminently clear – the man wasn't just an advocate for education; he also really *knew* basketball. To that end, it was very important that each and every basketball scene looked authentic, and to make that happen, Mark Ellis of Reel Sports was brought on to serve as the basketball coordinator for the film.

Recruiting players and the selection process were long and hard ordeals, according to Ellis. Players had to have played high school basketball and been All Conference and/or All Star Players.

"It was really grueling," remembers Ellis. "We selected 85 players from 500 applicants over a four day period, having to eliminate up to 10 players each hour. Then, once a player was chosen, he began an intensive training program. I'm telling you these kids worked nonstop for months to ensure the believability of the game sequences and I believe all their hard work and practice really paid off. Those on-court sequences are really full-throttle."

Shooting with three or four cameras and thousands of extras, the big dunks, block shots, and all the intensity of a real game truly come to life. "You can no longer cheat this stuff because today's audiences can't be fooled," says Ellis. This film is all about teamwork and determination and sweat, and so it was very important to see the true physicality of the players individually and as a whole."

Besides infusing the basketball scenes with authenticity, director Thomas Carter wanted to make sure that the environment the players went home to was also depicted with the same kind of visual reality. Responsible for making audiences feel like they were in the run-down, low funded, urban public school that Richmond High was in 1999, was Emmy-nominated production designer Carlos Barbosa, known for his work on such popular series as “Lost,” “24” and “CSI: Miami.”

According to Coach Ken Carter, Barbosa gave each gym its own particular look so that audiences felt that they were traveling along with the team on away games. “When I first took the job at Richmond High, conditions were less than perfect, and I felt that, basically, these kids had been written off,” recalls Carter. “I think the production designer did a great job of showing the differences between Richmond and some of the schools that had more funding behind them.”

Carter also felt that location manager Kokayi Ampah (“Mystic River,” “Blood Work”) did an excellent job finding the right area to film the Carter family home. Set in the West Adams District of Los Angeles, where some of the most beautiful craftsman styled homes exist, the house chosen for the film was so convincing that Carter himself was almost fooled.

“When Ken Carter walked into the house we’d selected, he sat on the couch and told us it looked just like his place in Richmond,” remembers Kokayi. “We really wanted to get it right, and he’s the kind of guy who would let us know if we didn’t. He’s definitely the real deal.”

ABOUT THE MUSIC

With 14 new songs, including the lead single “Hope” by rapid-fire rhythm hip-hop artist Twista featuring contemporary R & B singer Faith Evans, as well as tracks from Ciara, Fabolous, The Game, Chingy, Kanye West, Red Café and more, the music on the “Coach Carter” soundtrack is as energetic as the hard-driving basketball sequences in the film. In addition,

renowned music video director Chris Robinson lensed the video for the lead single “Hope,” which features Samuel L. Jackson, who portrays Coach Carter in the film, and Rick Gonzales, who portrays the feisty Timo Cruz, who eventually looks to Carter as a father figure.

Released by Capitol Records, the soundtrack, which highlights some of R&B and rap’s hottest stars as well as numerous up-and-coming artists, also includes the second single “All Night Long” from Brooklyn’s Red Café; “Roll Wit You” from Crunk & B star Ciara; “No Need for Conversation” from Fabolous featuring Mike Shorey; “Southside” by The Game featuring Lil Scrappy; “Professional” from triple-platinum rapper Chingy featuring GIB; and “Wouldn’t You Like to Ride” by Kanye West, Malik Usef & Common.

“In putting together this project, we screened the film for a broad group of artists who we felt would connect with the themes and heart of the movie,” says Andrew Slater, President and CEO of Capitol Records. “The result is a soundtrack that truly reflects and supports, and has become emotionally inseparable from the film. It is a tribute to how inspired the artists were by the movie’s power and honesty.”

The track listing for *Coach Carter, Music from the Motion Picture* is as follows:

1. “All Night Long” - Red Café
2. “No Need for Conversation” – Fabolous featuring Mike Shorey
3. “Professional” – Chingy featuring GIB
4. “Southside” – The Game featuring Lil Scrappy
5. “Roll Wit You” – Ciara
6. “Wouldn’t You Like to Ride” – Kanye West, Malik Usef & Common
7. “Hope” – Twista featuring Faith Evans
8. “Your Love” – Van Hunt
9. “This One” – Ak’sent
10. “Beauty Queen” – Czarnok
11. “Balla” – Mack 10 Featuring Da Hood
12. “Time” – St. Lunatics
13. “What Love Can Do” – Letoya
14. “About the Game” – Trey Songz

ABOUT THE CAST

Respectfully labeled as one of the hardest working actors in Hollywood, **SAMUEL L. JACKSON** (Coach Ken Carter) is an undisputed star. He made an indelible mark on American cinema with his portrayal of Jules, the philosophizing hit man, in Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction." In addition to unanimous critical acclaim for his performance, he received Academy Award® and Golden Globe nominations, as well as a BAFTA for Best Supporting Actor.

Jackson recently appeared as the character Frozone in the hugely popular animated action-adventure film "The Incredibles." Directed and written by Brad Bird, "The Incredibles" is the story of a superhero family who come out of retirement to fight against their evil nemesis, who forced them into the Witness Protection Program.

In addition to "Coach Carter," Jackson will appear in Les Mayfield's "The Man," opposite Eugene Levy (April 2005) and "Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith" (May 2005).

Also in 2005, he will star in the independent film "In My Country," based on the best-selling novel by South African writer Antjie Krog. Jackson portrays an American reporter who must cope with the aftermath of apartheid as his newspaper assigns him to cover the Truth and Reconciliation Trials established by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, which expose the worst cases of torture, abuse and violence. "In My Country" was directed by John Boorman and produced by Robert Chartoff and Mike Medavoy. Juliette Binoche co-stars.

In 2003, Jackson starred in "S.W.A.T." Directed by Clark Johnson, the film also starred Colin Farrell and Michelle Rodriguez, and in 2002, he starred with Ben Affleck in the box office and critical success, Paramount's "Changing Lanes." Also in 2002, Jackson starred in and executive-produced "Formula 51," with Robert Carlyle; co-starred in the sci-fi thriller, "XXX"

and reprised his role as Mace Windu in the second installment of George Lucas' "Stars Wars Episode II - Attack of the Clones."

In 2001, Jackson starred in "The Caveman's Valentine," directed by Kasi Lemmons. Jackson also served as an executive producer on the project, which was the most successful independent film of this year. This was Jackson's second project with Kasi Lemmons; the first was the applauded "Eve's Bayou," which he also produced.

Jackson's additional credits include M. Night Shyamalan's "Unbreakable," co-starring Bruce Willis; the starring role in John Singleton's "Shaft," opposite Christian Bale and Vanessa Williams; and William Friedkin's "Rules of Engagement," opposite Tommy Lee Jones. Both "Shaft" and "Rules of Engagement" were screened at the 2000 Deauville Film Festival, where Jackson was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jackson also starred in Renny Harlin's "Deep Blue Sea," in Francois Girard's "The Red Violin," "The Negotiator" and Quentin Tarantino's "Jackie Brown," for which he received a Golden Globe nomination and the Silver Bear Award for Best Actor in a Comedy at the Berlin Film Festival. In addition, he made a cameo appearance in George Lucas' highly successful and popular "Star Wars: Episode One – The Phantom Menace."

In 1996, Jackson starred opposite Sandra Bullock, Matthew McConaughey and Kevin Spacey in Joel Schumacher's film of the John Grisham novel "A Time to Kill." For his performance Jackson received a Golden Globe nomination and an NAACP Image Award. He also starred opposite Bruce Willis in "Die Hard: With a Vengeance," the top-grossing movie internationally in 1995.

Jackson made movie history with his portrayal of a crack addict in Spike Lee's "Jungle Fever" when he was awarded the first and only Best Supporting Performance Award ever given

by the judges at the Cannes Film Festival. He also won the New York Film Critics Award for Best Supporting Actor for that performance.

His other film credits include “Twisted,” “187,” “Sphere,” “The Long Kiss Goodnight,” “Hard Eight,” “Kiss of Death,” “Losing Isaiah” and “Amos & Andrew.” Additional film credits include “Ragtime,” “Sea of Love,” “Coming to America,” “Eddie Murphy Raw,” “Do the Right Thing,” “School Daze,” “Mo’ Better Blues,” “Goodfellas,” “Strictly Business,” “White Sands,” “Patriot Games,” “Jumpin’ at the Boneyard,” “Fathers & Sons,” “Juice,” “Fresh” and “True Romance.”

On television, Jackson starred in John Frankenheimer’s Emmy Award-winning “Against the Wall,” for HBO. His performance earned him a Cable Ace nomination as Best Supporting Actor in a Movie or Miniseries, as well as a Golden Globe nomination.

Jackson holds a degree in dramatic arts from Morehouse College in Atlanta. While still a student at Morehouse, Jackson made his film debut in “Together for Days.” He went on to perform in numerous stage plays, including “Home,” “A Soldier’s Play,” “Sally/Prince” and “The District Line.” He also originated roles in two of August Wilson’s plays at Yale Repertory Theatre. For the New York Shakespeare Festival, Jackson appeared in “Mother Courage and Her Children,” “Spell # 7” and “The Mighty Gents.”

ROBERT RI’CHARD (Damien Carter) is currently shooting the fourth season of the UPN comedy “One on One,” in which he portrays “Arnaz Ballard.”

Ri’chard recently filmed Warner Brothers and Village Roadshow’s remake of the 1953 classic horror film “House of Wax,” produced by Joel Silver, Robert Zemeckis and Susan Levin and starring Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michael Murray and Paris Hilton.

In 1998, Richard won a Daytime Emmy Award for his performance in the made-for-television movie “In His Father’s Shoes,” which starred Lou Gossett, Jr. Additional film and television credits include “Light It Up,” with Vanessa Williams and Usher Raymond, Nickelodeon’s “Cousin Skeeter” and Lifetime’s “Once and Again,” as well as “Boston Public,” “Touched by an Angel,” “My Wife and Kids,” “Nash Bridges,” “The Jamie Foxx Show” and the made-for-television movie “Feast of All Saints,” written by Anne Rice.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Richard is completing coursework at Loyola Marymount University.

ROB BROWN (Kenyan) attended an extras casting for Gus Van Sant’s “Finding Forrester” and landed the lead role opposite Sean Connery, Anna Paquin and F. Murray Abraham. Brown, who celebrated his sixteenth birthday just a week before filming, was awarded the 2000 Las Vegas Critics Award for Best Male Newcomer as well as the Golden Satellite Award for Outstanding New Talent for his portrayal of Jamal Wallace.

Brown recently wrapped Ardustry Entertainment’s indie feature “The Orphan King,” directed by Andrew Wilder and starring Alexis Bledel and Chris Evans. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Brown is currently attending college in New England.

DEBBI MORGAN (Tonya Carter) earned critical acclaim for her portrayal of Alex Haley’s great aunt Elizabeth in the mini-series “Roots: The Next Generations.” Morgan made her film debut in Kasi Lemmons’ “Eve’s Bayou,” alongside her “Coach Carter” co-star Samuel L. Jackson, and garnered Independent Film Project Spirit and Chicago Film Critics Association Awards for Best Supporting Actress, as well as nominations for NAACP Image and Golden Satellite Awards. Her film resume also includes New Line Cinema’s “Love & Basketball,”

opposite Omar Epps and Dennis Haysbert, as well as Norman Jewison's "The Hurricane," with Denzel Washington, for which she earned an NAACP Image Award nomination for Best Actress. Most recently, she appeared in "Woman Thou Art Loosed" and "Back in the Day," with Ving Rhames and Ja Rule.

Morgan was the first and, thus far, the only African-American actress to win an Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress for her role as Angie on the daytime drama "All My Children." Her extensive credits in primetime include a co-starring role in the CBS movie-of-the-week "The Runaway," Lifetime's drama series "For the People" and a recurring role on the WB supernatural drama "Charmed." Other notable primetime appearances include a recurring role on NBC's "Providence," Lifetime's "Strong Medicine" and "Any Day Now," David E. Kelley's "Boston Public" and "The Practice" and Showtime's "Soul Food," for which she won an NAACP Image Award. Morgan also worked with directors Albert and Allen Hughes on the USA pilot "Touching Evil."

Born in Dunn, North Carolina and raised in the South Bronx, New York, Morgan was a member of the New Federal Theatre Company and starred in "What the Wine Sellers Buy," "Does the Tiger Wear a Necktie?" "My Sister, My Sister" and "Once in a Wifetime."

In 2002, **ASHANTI** (Kyra) and her knack for writing hit records helped the singer/songwriter alter Soundscan history when her self-titled debut album sold more copies in its first week of release than any first-time female solo artist in the chart's history outselling debuts by Beyoncé, Tweet, Alicia Keys and Lauren Hill. Simultaneously, Ashanti also secured the top spot on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart and the R&B/Hip Hop Singles & Tracks chart in Spring 2002 with the hit single "Foolish."

Also in 2002, the then 21-year-old rocked the Billboard charts by having her first three chart entries all land in the top 10 of The Billboard Hot 100 at the same time. (Ashanti is the first female to accomplish this feat and only second to the Beatles to do so.) Her string of top ten singles include, “Rock Wit U (Aww Baby),” “Foolish,” “Happy,” “Mesmerized” featuring Ja Rule, “What’s Love” with rapper Fat Joe and “Always on Time” with Ja Rule. Also, Ashanti is co-writer of the Jennifer Lopez featuring Ja Rule hit single “Ain’t it Funny” (remix), which also reached the Top 10.

Ashanti, now 25, won a Grammy in 2003 for Best Contemporary R&B album, seven Billboard Awards, two American Music Awards, The Lady of Soul Aretha Franklin Entertainer of the Year Award and a 2002 BET Award for Best New Artist. Ashanti published her first book of poetry and essays Foolish/Unfoolish: Reflections On Love through Hyperion. Ashanti will have a second book published by Hyperion in Spring ’05. Also in Spring ’05, Ashanti stars as Dorothy in “The Muppets Wonderful World of Oz” on ABC. Ashanti’s third album *Concrete Rose* hits stores on Dec. 14th.

RICK GONZALEZ (Timo Cruz) is best known for his roles in Disney’s “The Rookie,” opposite Dennis Quaid; and DreamWorks’ action film “Biker Boyz,” with Laurence Fishburne and Derek Luke. He will next be featured in Twentieth Century Fox’s “Roll Bounce.”

Gonzalez’s film resume also includes “Old School,” with Will Ferrell, Luke Wilson and Vince Vaughn; and the indie feature “Laurel Canyon,” with Frances McDormand and Kate Beckinsale. On television, he’s been featured in a recurring role on David E. Kelly’s “Boston Public” and has enjoyed guest appearances on “The Shield,” “ER,” “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit,” “Touched by an Angel” and “Buffy the Vampire Slayer.”

A native of New York, Gonzalez received his training at the High School of the Performing Arts and has appeared in numerous off-Broadway productions.

ANTWON TANNER (Worm) starred in Ernest Dickerson's "Never Die Alone," alongside DMX and Michael Ealy. His resume includes MTV Film's "The Wood," with Taye Diggs and Omar Epps; the indie feature "Brother" and "Sunset Park"; as well as "187," in which he appeared opposite his "Coach Carter" co-star Samuel L. Jackson.

Along with his film credits, Tanner has appeared in recurring roles on "One Tree Hill," "Boston Public," "The Parkers" and "Moesha." He's also made guest appearances on "NYPD Blue," "The District," "Touched By an Angel" and "Nash Bridges," among others.

NANA GBEWONYO (Junior Battle) was recruited for his debut film role in "Coach Carter" while shooting hoops with the LA Stars, an exhibition team. Born in West Africa and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Gbewonyo, who has been featured in local commercial spots, is currently completing coursework at Henderson State University where he studies sociology and plays basketball.

CHANNING TATUM (Jason Lyle) has appeared in Fox's "Fast Boys," the independent feature "Havoc" and recently completed filming "Supercross." Prior to his guest appearance on CBS's "CSI: Miami," Tatum was featured in commercial spots for both Pepsi and Mountain Dew as well as advertising campaigns for Abercrombie & Fitch, Dolce & Gabbana and Aéropostale.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

THOMAS CARTER (Director) is a three-time winner of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Emmy Award. In 1998, he received the Emmy Award for Outstanding Television Movie for producing “Don King: Only in America,” for HBO, which also earned him the George Foster Peabody Award. He received the Emmy twice for Best Director of a Dramatic Series for episodes of “Equal Justice,” a series he co-created and executive produced. He has also been the recipient of the prestigious Director’s Guild of America Award.

Mr. Carter is well known for setting the directorial and visual styles for many distinguished television pilots, including “Miami Vice,” “St. Elsewhere” and “Equal Justice.”

In 1993, Mr. Carter directed his first feature film “Swing Kids,” for Hollywood Pictures, and in 1997, he directed the action/suspense film “Metro,” starring Eddie Murphy, for Touchstone Pictures. In 2001, Mr. Carter directed the hugely successful “Save the Last Dance,” for Paramount Pictures.

MARK SCHWAHN (Screenwriter) made his cinematic debut at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival with “35 Miles From Normal,” which he wrote and directed. Schwahn then wrote and co-produced the film “Whatever It Takes,” a modern day retelling of the Cyrano de Bergerac tale, starring Golden Globe winner James Franco.

In addition to “Coach Carter,” Schwahn’s other film credit is “The Perfect Score,” which starred Scarlett Johansson and Erika Christensen. Schwahn is currently the creator and executive producer of “One Tree Hill,” on the WB Network.

JOHN GATINS (Screenwriter) is one of an elite group of actors who have been able to parlay acting credentials into a successful career as a writer. Gatins made the transition to writing screenplays, which include “Hardball” and “Summer Catch,” and recently directed his first film, “Dreamer,” which he also wrote, starring Kurt Russell and Dakota Fanning.

KEN CARTER coached the Richmond High School basketball team from 1997 to 2002. He made national news when he locked out his undefeated Varsity basketball team in order to push them to improve their grades. Carter not only closed the Richmond High School gym, but he banned all basketball-related activities and was prepared to cancel the entire season program because several players had not lived up to the classroom achievements they had agreed upon in signed contracts.

Coach Carter continues to be an advocate for Richmond’s youth and is active in his community. Through the Ken Carter Foundation, he sponsors basketball camps, book grants and after school tutoring and mentoring programs. The foundation also helps young entrepreneurs by giving them a head start in their business endeavors.

Providing young people with opportunities to build meaningful relationships with their peers and with adults, and recognizing the advantages inherent in a sound sports program, Coach Carter found a way to bring something positive to the lives of Richmond High students, where heroes and positive role models are few and far between. In addition to coaching, Carter is owner/operator of Prime Time Publications, Prime Time Sports, and is the author of several books, including 101 Ways to Earn a Higher G.P.A.

Carter attended George Fox University, Oregon and has to his credit numerous awards, including Harvard Club’s Distinguished Secondary Educator Award, NAACP’s Impact Citizen

of the Year Award, California State Lottery/Governor Gray Davis' Heroes in Education Award, San Francisco Mayor, Willie Brown's Leadership Award, California's Unsung Heroes Award, the A.N.G. California Boy's Coach of the Year Award, and has been presented with a Proclamation from the City of Richmond. He was also honored as a recipient of CityFlight Newsmagazine's the "Ten Most Influential African Americans in the Bay Area" for 2000 in the Sports category.

The producing/directing team of **BRIAN ROBBINS** (Producer) and **MIKE TOLLIN** (Producer) has developed a highly successful model for the company by remaining true to both their passion for compelling narrative and their grow-with-the-flow philosophy. In its first decade, Tollin/Robbins Productions (TRP) has been responsible for ten feature film releases, more than a dozen successful TV series and several highly acclaimed documentary films. Tollin and Robbins are a unique partnership in Hollywood, prolific producers who also both direct feature films.

Brian Robbins, who recently directed the Paramount Pictures/MTV Films release "The Perfect Score," is currently directing Disney's highly anticipated remake of "The Shaggy Dog." Previously, Mike Tollin directed the critically-acclaimed box-office success "Radio," starring Ed Harris, Cuba Gooding Jr., Debra Winger and Alfre Woodard. Based on a true story about the friendship between a mentally challenged young man and a high school football coach, the film won two NAACP Image Awards. TRP also just wrapped production on "Dreamer," starring Kurt Russell, Dakota Fanning and Kris Kristofferson, for DreamWorks.

Prior to these most recent projects, TRP produced the huge success "Big Fat Liar" in 2002. In 2001, Tollin made his feature directorial debut with Warner Bros.' "Summer Catch,"

and Robbins directed Paramount's "Hardball," starring Keanu Reeves. In 2000, TRP produced Warner Bros.' "Ready to Rumble," starring David Arquette, Oliver Platt and Rose McGowan, and in 1999, Paramount/MTV's "Varsity Blues." Starring James Van Der Beek, John Voight and Paul Walker, the Robbins-directed film topped the box-office charts for two consecutive weeks.

TRP's first major feature film was "Good Burger," starring Nickelodeon teen sensations Kenan Thompson and Kel Mitchell. It was one of the highest-grossing family films of 1997.

Also currently one of the hottest production companies in prime-time television, TRP has four series in production for the 2004-2005 season, along with the critically-acclaimed and successful ABC summer series "The Days," which recently completed its initial run. TRP also produces the breakout WB series "One Tree Hill," "Smallville," "What I Like About You" and "All That."

These current programs complement TRP's long-running TV successes, which include the HBO series, "ARLI\$\$," "The Nick Cannon Show," "Kenan & Kel" and "The Amanda Show." Previously, TRP produced "The Nightmare Room," based on R.L. Stein Goosebumps, "Cousin Skeeter," "Hype," "Birds of Prey" and "Sports Theatre With Shaquille O'Neal."

TRP has also launched an exciting new action team sport "Slamball," combining elements from basketball, football, hockey and gymnastics. After a successful two-season run on Spike TV, "Slamball" is poised to begin play as a national league in 2005.

The foundation for TRP's swift ascent was built with a series of documentaries produced after the company's launch in 1993. The first was "Hardwood Dreams," a gripping look at inner-city sports, narrated by Wesley Snipes, which won the prestigious Crystal Heart Award, a CINE Golden Eagle and NBPC's Priced Pieces Award. Snipes then returned to narrate the just-completed sequel, "Hardwood Dreams: Ten Years Later." TRP's second documentary project,

“Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream,” was honored with a Peabody Award, as well as both Oscar® and Emmy nominations. Finally, TRP’s third documentary, “The Show,” looked inside the lives of popular hip-hop/rap artists such as Run DMC, Snoop Dogg and Notorious B.I.G. It was one of the highest-grossing documentaries of its year and spawned a platinum album.

DAVID GALE (Producer) is executive vice president of MTV Films, overseeing the activities of the feature film division since its inception in 1995 and serving as producer or executive producer on all the movies that MTV develops and produces. During his tenure, MTV Films established itself as a unique movie label with a slate of diverse and successful films that have grossed more than a half-billion dollars at the box office. Under Gale’s creative leadership and in partnership with Paramount Pictures, MTV Films has released 14 films, including “Beavis and Butt-Head Do America,” “Varsity Blues” and “Save the Last Dance,” each of which broke box office records on its opening weekend.

Some other highlights of Gale’s successful tenure at MTV Films include “Jackass: The Movie”; “Orange County”; “Crossroads,” starring Britney Spears; the comedy concert films “The Original Kings of Comedy” and “Martin Lawrence Live: Runteldat”; and the Academy Award®-nominated “Election.” Other projects include the critically lauded and groundbreaking, “Better Luck Tomorrow”; “The Fighting Temptations,” starring Cuba Gooding Jr. and Beyoncé Knowles (winner NAACP Image Award for Best Picture); “The Perfect Score,” directed by Brian Robbins (“Varsity Blues”); and the feature documentary, “Tupac: Resurrection.”

In 2004, MTV Films released with Fox Searchlight the indie comedy, “Napoleon Dynamite,” which proved to be another huge success for the company as it earned critical raves, over \$40 million at the box office, and three Independent Spirit Award nominations.

In addition to the release of “Coach Carter” in 2005, MTV Films will be releasing three other films with a diverse and exciting complement of talent, including “The Longest Yard,” produced with Happy Madison and starring Adam Sandler and Chris Rock; “Aeon Flux,” produced with Gale Anne Hurd’s Valhalla Pictures, starring Academy Award®-winner Charlize Theron as the title character and a feature starring rapper 50 Cent and directed by Academy Award®-nominee Jim Sheridan (“My Left Foot,” “In the Name of the Father,” “In America”).

VAN TOFFLER (Executive Producer) is MTV Networks Group president, responsible for all of the MTV Networks music services, including MTV, MTV2, VH1, CMT and all their affiliated digital services, as well as Logo, MTV Networks’ soon-to-be-launched network for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender audience. Additionally, he is president of MTV Films, the feature film division he helped create in 1995. As MTVN Group President, Toffler also provides leadership for all other ancillary businesses related to these brands. He works with the dedicated team of executives at each channel to set overall creative and business strategy, and long-term planning for all the brands.

In his previous position as president of MTV & MTV2, Toffler’s strong business acumen, creative thinking and passion for music helped propel MTV into the number-one rated cable television destination for 12 to 24 year-olds, a position it has maintained for more than 12 years. Over the years, Toffler assembled a talented team of creative executives who developed and produced some of television’s best entertainment and biggest moments including the animated hit “Beavis and Butthead,” the maverick reality series “The Osbournes,” the hilarious prank show “Punk’d” and two of the biggest annual cable entertainment events: “The MTV Video Music Awards” and the “MTV Movie Awards.”

Toffler also worked hard to ensure that pro-social programming is an integral part of MTV with campaigns like the Peabody and Emmy Award-winning “Choose or Lose” political awareness and voter registration & mobilization campaign. The Emmy Award-winning “Fight For Your Rights” campaigns have also helped empower young people to take a stand against violence and discrimination, as well as help them get information and take charge of their sexual health with “Fight For Your Rights: Protect Yourself.” Taking the lead from the audience, Toffler and his team continue to create pro-social programming that speaks to young people’s beliefs and desires.

In 1999, Toffler also oversaw the re-launch of MTV2, which is on pace to deliver its highest year ever, and can now be seen in more than 53 million homes. Additionally, he helped guide the acquisition of CTN (College Television Network) in 2002, re-launched as mtvU, the ultimate network for college students.

One of Toffler’s goals has been to build the MTV brand and expand its businesses to touch the teen and young adult audiences on new and different platforms, including film, online, wireless and VOD. He took the “MTV Unplugged” franchise platinum with a line of “Unplugged” releases, brought MTV to the World Wide Web where today, MTV.com is one of the top entertainment music sites. Toffler spearheaded the creation of MTV Films, having executive produced a diverse slate of feature films including “Save the Last Dance,” “Jackass: The Movie,” “The Original Kings of Comedy,” “Varsity Blues,” “Beavis and Butt-Head Do America,” the critically acclaimed “Better Luck Tomorrow,” the Academy Award®-nominated “Election” and most recently, the box office hit “Napoleon Dynamite.”

Toffler has held a succession of positions at MTV, culminating in his appointment as MTVN Group president in 2004. Prior to that, he had served as president of MTV and MTV2 since 2000.

Toffler holds a JD from the University of Pennsylvania, and a bachelor of arts degree in economics from The George Washington University. He is based at the MTV Networks headquarters in New York City.

CAITLIN SCANLON (Executive Producer) executive produced “Radio,” starring Cuba Gooding Jr.; produced the teen comedy “Trippin’”; and executive produced “Bring It On,” a film she developed from a pitch by a first time writer. “Bring It On” was made for \$11 million dollars and grossed \$69 million in the U.S. The film won critical raves in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. In addition, *The Los Angeles Times* business section classified the film as a “mega moneymaker” (a film that will earn more than \$50 million dollars in profit). Scanlon is the executive producer of the upcoming DreamWorks release “Dreamer.” She is currently president of Pounce Pictures in Hollywood.

SHARLA SUMPTER (Executive Producer) is President of Production at Tollin/Robbins Pictures. She most recently co-produced Paramount’s “The Perfect Score.” A Los Angeles native, Sumpter’s television credits include Nickelodeon’s “Taina” and “Nick Concert Series,” for which she served as executive in charge of production, as well as “The Nick Cannon Show”

and “All That,” on which she acted as segment producer and talent executive/segment producer, respectively.

PETER BERGER (Editor) worked with director Thomas Carter previously on “Save the Last Dance” and “Metro.” Berger’s other credits include “Like Mike,” “Star Trek: Insurrection,” “Red Corner,” “The Good Mother,” “Dead Again,” “Fatal Attraction” and numerous others.

CARLOS BARBOSA (Production Designer) has contributed to the look of such television series as “Lost,” “CSI: Miami,” “Fastlane,” “24,” and “My Wife and Kids,” along with the feature films “Meet the Mosaics” and “Presence of Mind,” which was filmed in Spain.

Upon graduating from Tulane University with a degree in architecture, he traveled the U.S. working for various architectural firms where he acquired the knowledge and tools to pursue his true passion.

Educated at the University of Washington, **DEBRAE K. LITTLE** (Costume Designer) earned a degree in business administration and began a career with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). While it instilled a sense of fiscal responsibility that is strictly adhered to on projects, Little soon found it creatively unsatisfying.

Looking to new opportunities, Little enrolled in the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) costume design program. Shortly thereafter, she applied the learned techniques on an AFI short film. Set in a world of 1960s ballroom dancing, the experience was trial by fire. Through this effort, her artistic style became quickly recognized and she was soon hired by the Los Angeles Music Center’s opera company, where she worked on productions including

“Othello,” “Salome,” “Tosca” and “Mahogany”. This was followed by a series of music styling projects for album and CD covers, artist tours and music videos for musical genres ranging from R&B to country.

The transition from the music industry was natural and Little soon began embarking on television projects such as “Smart Guy,” “Lincs,” “Ned and Stacey” and “In the House.” She continues to work on television series, with her most recent being “Cracking Up.”

As her costume designing career in television exploded, she became sought after for big screen endeavors such as “Rosewood,” “When Willows Touch” and “Smart House.” Working with a wide range of producers and directors, she also served as the lead costume designer for the back-to-back box office hits “Down to Earth,” “The Brothers,” “Two Can Play That Game” and “Deliver Us from Eva.”

Little seeks to continually expand her range of television and movie genres to further enhance the film industry with “The Debrae Difference.”