

FOUR BROTHERS

Production Information

After their adoptive mother is murdered during a grocery store holdup, the Mercer brothers – hotheaded Bobby (Mark Wahlberg), ladies’ man Angel (Tyrese Gibson), family man and businessman Jeremiah (André Benjamin), and hard rocking Jack (Garrett Hedlund) – reunite to take the matter of her death into their own hands. As they track down her killer, they quickly realize that their old ways of doing business have new consequences. In this character-driven action-drama from acclaimed director John Singleton (“Boyz N the Hood,” “2 Fast 2 Furious”) and producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura (“Constantine”), four brothers come together to discover that they are bound by ties thicker than blood.

Paramount Pictures presents “Four Brothers,” a di Bonaventura Pictures Production of a John Singleton Film starring Mark Wahlberg, Tyrese Gibson, André Benjamin and Garrett Hedlund. Directed by John Singleton from a screenplay written by David Elliot & Paul Lovett, the film is produced by Lorenzo di Bonaventura and executive produced by Ric Kidney and Erik Howsam. Also starring in the film are Terrence Howard, Josh Charles, Sofia Vergara, and Chiwetel Ejiofor. The film is rated R by the MPAA for strong violence, pervasive language and some sexual content.

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ABOUT THE STORY

“The Mercer brothers are tough, street-smart guys,” says Mark Wahlberg, the star of the new film from director John Singleton, “Four Brothers,” the story of four adoptive brothers who come together to avenge their mother’s murder. “They would probably be dead or in jail if it wasn’t for their foster mom. They may have gone their separate ways as adults, but they all realize the positive impact she had on their lives. And my character, Bobby, feels like he owes it to her to reunite his brothers and avenge her death.”

Academy Award®-nominated director John Singleton directs the film. “Even in lawless societies, there’s a code – a set of rules that people live by. Wrongs still have to be made right,” says Singleton. “In our film, each of the Mercer brothers has gone his own way, but they all come back together to make right the wrong of their mother’s death. What unites the brothers is the code instilled in them by their mother.”

Lorenzo di Bonaventura produces the film. “The Mercer brothers – two black, two white – are linked by their adoptive mother. When these guys lose her – a woman who was only trying to do good in her life and the only person who ever believed in them – they set out to avenge her murder,” he says. “To me, that’s the critical element – this uncompromising action picture has a deeply emotional core.

“Evelyn Mercer was the glue that held these four boys together,” di Bonaventura continues. “They are brothers because of her. They have a family because of her. Now they must make a conscious decision to exact revenge for her murder.”

“I’ve never had something horrific like this happen to my family,” says Wahlberg. “I’ve thought about it a lot; how I would respond, how I would

handle it. I think it's a lot easier to say you would be able to forgive and forget when it hasn't happened to you."

Singleton adds that as the brothers avenge her death, they grow closer as brothers. "I've always believed that none of these guys entirely embraced the idea that they were brothers. But when they're stripped of their emotional guard by the death of their mother, they're able to discover how much they really care about each other."

According to André Benjamin, the cast also became closer as filming progressed. "After hanging out with each other, feeling each other out, we fell into the characters that we play in the movie," says Benjamin, who takes on his first starring role with "Four Brothers." "It wasn't anything we were trying to make happen – we just found those roles naturally. I'm an only child in real life, so I don't know what it's really like, but I can tell you that Mark was just like an older brother to us."

"When people see the billboard for this movie," says Tyrese Gibson, who plays Angel Mercer, "they'll say, 'How are they four brothers, when you got two white boys and two black guys?' But a brother is not always somebody that's the same race or even the same blood. We are brothers; you'll see it in the chemistry and in the energy between us. No one will ever be able to take that away from us."

Singleton says that he was immediately struck by how the script worked on so many different levels. "What really appealed to me was the fact that this wasn't a straight genre piece, but a character-driven film with action *and* drama," says the director. "Its different elements combine to lift it into a higher realm of storytelling that makes for one really action-packed ride."

Previously the director of the acclaimed film "Boyz N the Hood" and the international hits "Shaft" and "2 Fast 2 Furious," Singleton is also a filmmaker

with his finger on the pulse of today's audiences and rising filmmaker talents. He recently put on the hat of producer to bring the independent film "Hustle & Flow" to the screen. In "Four Brothers," Singleton brings this story sense and stylish vision to a film that cuts across genres.

Wahlberg believes that Singleton's vision for "Four Brothers" will bring the story home to audiences. "I think John's the right guy to balance out the edge, the emotion, the humor, and the action in this material. He knows this world; it's right in his wheelhouse," says the actor.

di Bonaventura agrees. "John brings a sense of reality and humanity to his films," says the producer. "I've always been motivated by pictures from the '70s— it was a time when many movies seemed to reflect society back on the audience and had something to say about who we were and where we were going. I think that's valuable and I've always tried to make movies that echo that sensibility. John has the ability to make movies on a contemporary level that speak to the audience in the way that I feel the '70s movies did. There's a truth to them; you can really feel the experience of his stories and characters. John brings that to the table in a big way."

In addition to the tautly written script, Singleton says that the opportunity to work with Mark Wahlberg sealed his decision to direct the film. "When you find a good script, the next choice comes down to casting. I was really excited to be able to work with Mark. We've known each other for a number of years and have always talked about doing a movie together," says Singleton.

Joining Mark Wahlberg – who portrays Bobby Mercer, the eldest of the four brothers in the film – are Tyrese Gibson as Angel Mercer, André Benjamin as Jeremiah Mercer, and Garrett Hedlund as Jack Mercer. Together, the four actors have a very commanding presence; however, the filmmakers emphasize that each actor also brings something unique and special to the table. "Mark is

an incredibly smart and versatile actor who brings a lot of heart and soul to the roles he takes on. Bobby Mercer is a tough, no-nonsense guy, skilled in the ways of the streets. He's a guy who doesn't listen to reason all that well, but he has that internal moral compass which I think all heroes need to have – which is, a sense of justice. Mark breathes life into the character, playing him with passion, honesty, and strength," comments di Bonaventura. "André has a quiet, sensitive intelligence that is perfect for the role of Jeremiah, the most grounded of the brothers. Garrett brings a whole lot of edge and sex appeal as well as a playfulness to the role of Jack."

As for the role of the charismatic rogue Angel, Singleton says that Tyrese Gibson embodies the role. "I couldn't think of anyone better than Tyrese to play Angel," he says. "Tyrese has a really cool demeanor about him; he can do a lot of wild things in a movie and people will still follow his character. He's a very funny guy, on-screen and off-screen; whenever we do a movie together it's an adventure."

ABOUT THE BROTHERS

The filmmakers took their time to find the four actors who were right for the ensemble. "We went into this with a very open mind about who was right and who wasn't," says di Bonaventura. "It was always essential to think about it as a foursome and not as individual characters; as a result, there were some actors we loved individually, but who didn't feel right to the ensemble. The great thing about these guys is that, in addition to being talented and creative actors, when you see them together, they really look like they belong together. We were incredibly lucky to find the right group of guys who had the right chemistry."

For Mark Wahlberg, the character of Bobby Mercer is, in many ways, very close to his heart. “I grew up in a very poor neighborhood, the youngest of nine kids and was constantly surrounded by family, mostly brothers,” says Wahlberg. “This feels very much like home to me; it feels like going back in time, except that now I’m the oldest, which I *love* – now I’m the boss, I’m making all the rules, I’m the one beating everyone else up!”

Comments Singleton, “The thing about Mark as an actor is that he’s from the streets. He reminds me of the actors from the early days of Hollywood that were boxers or wrestlers before they came into the film business. Mark had a really hard past before he came into acting and this is a role that really lets him access his background.”

“Bobby and I are the craziest ones,” says Tyrese Gibson, who plays Angel Mercer. “Angel’s got more of a conscience than Bobby; Bobby is just crazy. He really doesn’t think about the outcome of his actions.”

André Benjamin read the script and loved it, but admits he was initially undecided about accepting the role of Jeremiah – his biggest role to date. While surfing the Internet for some music, a CD popped up for a group called The Brothers Four. He’d never heard of the country band, but was convinced it was sign that he should come on board.

“The thing I like about Jeremiah is that he isn’t a one-beat character; he has different layers,” explains Benjamin. “He grew up with his crazy brothers, and they all ran the streets. But Jeremiah got older, settled down, and had a family. He’s the responsible one of the four brothers. But at the same time, he had to be able to snap. I think that was the challenge.”

“André and I have known each other for over ten years and he’s always been interested in acting,” adds Singleton, “and the camera loves his face; it’s cool because he’s really learning the craft, and he’s taken it to heart.”

Garrett Hedlund plays Jack Mercer, the baby brother of the pack. “He’s a great young actor,” says Singleton. “This kid, he can do no wrong.”

“As the youngest brother; Jack gets hassled and teased a lot by his older brothers, so he moved out to New York to pursue his rock career,” explains Hedlund. “But these are brothers by choice, not by blood. And he’s dedicated to them and he’s loyal to them, which keeps him attached.”

“I like the fact that Jack is the outcast among his brothers – as the youngest sibling in my family, I think that’s the way it is sometimes,” Hedlund adds. “It doesn’t mean that your siblings don’t love you – in fact, when you get down to it, it’s probably a sign of an even greater love. But there’s a lot of teasing that goes on – like Bobby teasing Jack – and it can be merciless.”

ABOUT THE SUPPORTING CAST

“Four Brothers” features a supporting cast of award-winning actors and rising stars that complement the performances of the four leads.

Terrence Howard, whose star-making turn in the Sundance smash produced by John Singleton, “Hustle & Flow,” takes on the role of Lt. Green, a childhood friend of the brothers who has made good on the police force. “Green used to spend a lot of time inside the Mercer house,” Howard notes. “He played hockey with them – their lives just went in different directions.”

Despite the brothers’ willingness to take the law into their own hands, Green still has an affinity for them that runs deep. “I think Green realizes that they’re fighting for this woman who was completely innocent – that they’re determined to stand and fight for the righteous,” says Howard. “This is the one person in the world that showed them a spirit of love and someone took away

that light. He sees them thrust back into this dark place, huddled together to find some emotional warmth, but they don't know how to show it."

Actress Sofia Vergara plays Sofi, Angel's on-again, off-again girlfriend. When his mother's death brings him back to town, their relationship changes in ways that neither of them could predict. "Angel's always been in control in his relationships with women, and Sofi's no different," says Vergara. "But he does love her and he realizes that she's the woman he wants for the rest of his life.

"Sofi's a very passionate woman – full of life and crazy," Vergara says. "She's madly in love with Angel and she's not afraid of trying to get what she wants – she's not scared of these four boys. She won't let them take over."

Taraji P. Henson, who also worked with Singleton on "Hustle & Flow," plays the part of Camille, Jeremiah's wife, who is trying to keep her husband on the straight-and-narrow path abandoned by his brothers. Nervous about their visit but unwilling to break the bonds of brotherhood, Camille finds herself in the middle of Jeremiah's crisis of character.

Taking on the role of Victor Sweet, the gangster who rules Detroit's underworld, is Chiwetel Ejiofor, a British actor best known for his roles in "Love Actually" and Woody Allen's "Melinda and Melinda."

"Chiwetel's a British actor playing a Detroit gangster from the Midwest, and he really tears into the role," enthuses Singleton. "Sweet is the villain of the movie; he and the Mercer boys are all from the same place. They've known each other for a long time. And now they're all embroiled again over the death of Evelyn Mercer."

THE BOND OF BROTHERS

In preparation for shooting, Singleton didn't want to over-rehearse the brothers. "He wanted the dynamic among them to be natural," says di Bonaventura. "So rather than rehearse a lot beforehand, he just wanted them to hang out. As a result of that, their personalities found a sort of balance. He was really right to do that. You can see the natural ease in the combativeness, the acceptance, and the love among the four guys."

Wahlberg agrees. "The more we got to know each other, the more comfortable we felt, the more we pushed each others buttons. It was always good energy. As odd as it seems for all of us to be brothers, if you were around us you could actually almost believe that we were."

Adds Benjamin, who in real life is an only child, "We fell into that whole brotherly thing: we joked and tripped on each other really easily. Mark really became the older brother and we all looked up to him. Me and Tyrese fooled around all the time just like he was my younger brother, and we all picked on Garrett just like you would on a baby brother – especially about his hairstyle."

One way the group bonded was over hockey. Bobby is an ex-hockey player who never made it to the pros, but the sport is still his love. In the film, the brothers use hockey to blow off a little steam after Thanksgiving dinner in a ritual they call the Turkey Cup.

"Mark was the first one committed to the project," says di Bonaventura. "And so he had the most time to get ready. He's an incredibly dedicated actor, so he was skating an hour and a half or two hours a day. He worked hard for several months before he got out there. Garrett grew up playing hockey, so it was easy for him. Tyrese is a good athlete, and he ramped up pretty fast. Andre, also a gifted athlete, had never played hockey, or even ice-skated, so I think he found it a little daunting at first."

“When I found out we’d be playing hockey,” recalls Benjamin, “I figured they’d just use a stunt double. But a week before the scene was set to shoot, daily hockey lessons showed up on the schedule. The first couple of days, I hated it. But by day three or four, I’m sliding and shaving ice. I’m no Wayne Gretzky, but I will ice skate again.”

While the idea of doing a picture set in the cold in the dead of winter appealed to Singleton, it was a real departure for the director whose films are usually set in much warmer climes such as Miami and L.A. “It’s a different look from any other pictures I’ve ever done,” he adds. “For me, making movies is all about the adventure of it. I’m actually using the winter as a kind of a surrogate character in different scenes.”

“We were on Lake Simcoe to shoot the scene in which Jeremiah and Bobby face off against Detroit mob boss, Victor Sweet,” says Singleton, whose biggest challenge in that scene was maintaining a pristine frozen lake. “The first day was perfect; the lake was evenly frozen and there was a layer of snow over the lake.”

One incident that rattled the crew happened when they were out on the lake working out a shot. “Suddenly, the ice cracked,” recalls di Bonaventura. “It was just resettling, but it was like a shotgun had gone off. Nobody wanted to admit that it scared the hell out of them.”

“The ice on the lake was about 18 inches,” recalls Keith Brian Burns, the production designer, who counts “Four Brothers” as his sixth film with John Singleton. “During pre-production, we looked at a number of different locations, but Lake Simcoe, which is north of Toronto, was in an area that freezes faster than others. We also wanted something that provided a sense of vastness, and Lake Simcoe worked well – it’s over 28 miles wide and with its enormous vista of

winter white. It gives the movie a real sense of scale during a very critical scene.”

“The hardest day of shooting was the day we shot three funeral scenes,” recalls di Bonaventura. “It was cold and windy and we were at the top of a hill in a cemetery in Toronto. It was just sort of a mad dash of desperation to get out of there. It gave that scene the sense of distress and pain that everyone was truly feeling. You can see their breath and the constriction of their bodies; the cold gives a barrenness to the environment that defines a certain balance between urban and nature.”

They may play tough guys in the film, but the cast agreed that working outdoors in during the dead of winter was a formidable task. “I knew this was a winter movie,” says André Benjamin, “but I had no idea what we were getting into. I mean, it was so cold, there were certain scenes where I couldn’t move my mouth. I would have been okay if I had on the right gear. But I was in Jeremiah’s clothes, so I was just wearing cheap slacks, bad gloves and shoes, and a thin little coat.”

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Tyrese Gibson is used to good weather, so filming in the cold was a big challenge for him. “We went through a lot of Chapstick on this film,” he jokes.

Despite the ice and snow and frigid temperatures, “it’s a hot movie,” says Singleton. “It’s funny, dramatic, suspenseful... and we got four cool dudes in it that everybody’s going to want to see.”

ABOUT THE CAST

MARK WAHLBERG (Bobby Mercer) most recently starred in the critically acclaimed existential comedy “I ♥ Huckabees.” In 2003, he led a stellar

cast in Paramount's heist movie "The Italian Job." He has enjoyed playing diverse characters for visionary filmmakers in both mainstream box-office hits and eclectic independent films. He's worked with such prestigious directors as David O. Russell, Wolfgang Peterson, Tim Burton, Paul Thomas Anderson, and Jonathan Demme.

Wahlberg's remarkable film career began with Penny Marshall's "Renaissance Man" and "The Basketball Diaries," followed by a star turn opposite Reese Witherspoon in "Fear." His breakout performance in "Boogie Nights" launched him into the public consciousness and he headlined "Three Kings" and "The Perfect Storm" with George Clooney. He then starred in "Rock Star," "Planet of the Apes," and "The Truth About Charlie."

Wahlberg is currently filming "The Departed" for director Martin Scorsese. Following that, he'll begin production on Disney's "Invincible," playing real-life football hero Vince Papale.

TYRESE GIBSON (Angel Mercer) was born and raised in Watts, California, a section of South Central Los Angeles. Gibson discovered a love of music at an early age and released his self-titled debut album at 19. In January 2000, he received an American Music Award for Favorite New R&B Artist. In addition to his musical talents, Gibson has found success in the acting and modeling worlds, having appeared in several television series and commercials, including an exclusive contract with Guess?

Gibson took his career to the next level when he made his feature film debut as the star of "Baby Boy," directed by John Singleton. He has also starred in "Flight of the Phoenix" and Singleton's "2 Fast 2 Furious." He will next be seen in "Annapolis."

Gibson released his third album, J Records' "I Wanna Go There," in December of 2002. His dynamic, upbeat hits have appeared on the "Blue Streak" and "Best Man" soundtracks, and his debut album reached platinum status. His sophomore album, RCA's "2000 Watts," was released in May 2001.

On television, Gibson has made guest starring appearances on the series "Moesha" and "Martin."

Tyrese launched the 2000 Watts Foundation, which is building a community center in Watts, the L.A. neighborhood where he grew up.

ANDRÉ BENJAMIN (Jeremiah Mercer) is best known for his work as half of the world-renowned, pioneering, Grammy Award-winning duo, OutKast. Their album "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" sold over ten million copies, propelled by Benjamin's number one single, "Hey Ya!" For their distinguished body of work spanning over a decade, OutKast has received multiple Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year for "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" in 2004.

Fueled by his artistic passion, Benjamin now has turned his attention to other creative outlets and is making an indelible mark on the film and television world. He has lent his voice to the anime feature "Whasango" and will soon do the same for Paramount's upcoming live-action/CG feature, "Charlotte's Web." Benjamin was most recently seen co-starring with John Travolta, Uma Thurman, Vince Vaughn, and Cedric the Entertainer in "Be Cool," the sequel to the smash hit comedy, "Get Shorty." He has wrapped "Revolver," a Guy Ritchie film in which he stars with Jason Statham, Vincent Pastore, and Harvey Keitel. This film follows on the heels of shooting "My Life in Idlewild," a musical set in the prohibition-era South in which Benjamin stars and for which he co-created the story and co-wrote the soundtrack with his OutKast partner, Big Boi. He also

appeared on an episode of the critically acclaimed F/X dramatic series, “The Shield.”

Benjamin is also an accomplished painter and clothing designer, further solidifying his role as a true multi-media artist and entrepreneur. Among his many accolades, Benjamin has been named the World’s Best Dressed Man by *Esquire Magazine*.

GARRETT HEDLUND (Jack Mercer) made an auspicious motion picture debut as part of the all-star cast of Wolfgang Peterson’s “Troy.” Hedlund, who portrayed Patroclus, Achilles’ teenage cousin who aspires to become a warrior, co-starred opposite Brad Pitt. His next feature was Peter Berg’s “Friday Night Lights,” which chronicled the 1988 season of the Permian High School Panthers of Odessa, Texas, as the team fights for a state championship. Hedlund starred as tailback Don Billingsley, co-starring with Billy Bob Thornton.

Just 18 when he debuted in Peterson’s epic film, Hedlund was born in Northern Minnesota and spent his high school years in Scottsdale, Arizona. He began taking private acting classes while in high school and took a unique approach to his pursuit of the craft by reading screenplays on older films, watching those films on video, then pretending he was auditioning for one of the roles in the film. He also spent countless hours reading the Hollywood trade papers at his local bookstore, and calling agents in Hollywood. He graduated from high school a semester early and immediately packed his bags and headed to Hollywood.

TERRENCE HOWARD (Lt. Green) was recently crowned the new “Indie Film King” by Entertainment Weekly, after his strong lead performance in the

John Singleton production "Hustle & Flow," scheduled to be released summer 2005.

Recently he was seen delivering a stellar performance alongside Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, and Thandie Newton in the Lions Gate film "Crash."

Keeping a powerful presence on the small screen as well, Howard was seen in early 2005 delivering a stellar performance in the critically acclaimed HBO film "Lackawanna Blues" based on Tony Award winning Ruben Santiago-Hudson's autobiographical play, directed by George C. Wolfe.

Recently, Howard completed work on the HBO/Outkast project currently titled "My Life in Idlewild." Currently, he is filming Jim Sheridan's new film, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," starring rap artist 50 Cent.

Howard's love for acting came naturally, through summers spent with his grandmother, New York stage actress Minnie Gentry. He later began his acting career on "The Cosby Show" after being discovered on a New York City street by a casting director.

Howard then quickly broke onto the big screen with his riveting performance in "Mr. Holland's Opus." Howard's most memorable performances to date are of scene-stealing characters such as Cowboy in the Hughes Brothers film "Dead Presidents" and as Quentin in Malcolm D. Lee's film "The Best Man." The latter earning him a NAACP Image Award, Independent Spirit Award nomination and a Chicago Film Critics Award nomination.

A self-taught musician Howard plays both the piano and the guitar. He displayed his musical talents opposite Academy Award®-winner Jamie Foxx in 2004's breakout film "Ray," for which both actors received SAG nominations. A promising songwriter, Howard's lyrics are soon to be acquired by some of today's biggest artists.

His filmography also includes "Biker Boyz," alongside Lawrence Fishburne, "Hart's War," opposite Bruce Willis and Collin Farrell, "Big Momma's House," "Glitter," and "Angel Eyes," with Jennifer Lopez.

JOSH CHARLES (Detective Fowler) was most recently seen on the big screen in "S.W.A.T.," co-starring with Samuel L. Jackson and Colin Farrell, as well as the independent feature "Seeing Other People," with Jay Mohr and Lauren Graham. On stage, he was most recently seen in New York for the U.S. premiere of Neil LaBute's "The Distance from Here," for which he and his fellow cast members received the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble Performance.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Charles made his feature debut in John Waters' satirical cult favorite, "Hairspray." He went on to land the coveted role of Knox Overstreet in Peter Weir's "Dead Poets Society" opposite Robin Williams and Ethan Hawke. Next came Mike Binder's "Crossing the Bridge," as well as a starring role opposite Lara Flynn Boyle and Stephen Baldwin in Andy Fleming's "Threesome." In Bryan Gordon's romantic comedy "Pie in the Sky," a favorite at the Telluride and Sundance Film Festivals, he co-starred with Anne Heche and John Goodman. Some other film credits include "Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead," "The Grave," and "Little City."

On television, Charles starred for two seasons as anchor Dan Rydell, opposite Peter Krause, on the critically acclaimed series "Sports Night." He also co-starred with Alan Arkin in the telefilm "Cooperstown," and as slain civil rights worker Andrew Goodman in the Emmy Award-winning "Murder in Mississippi," with Tom Hulce. He co-starred opposite Ashley Judd and Mira Sorvino in the HBO biopic "Norma Jean and Marilyn" and most recently was seen in Ernest Dickerson's "Our America" for Showtime.

SOFIA VERGARA (Sofi) was last seen starring in the comedy “Soul Plane,” alongside Tom Arnold and Snoop Dogg, and in “Lords of Dogtown.” She also starred in the comedy feature “Chasing Papi.” Vergara made her Hollywood feature debut in Barry Sonnenfeld’s comedy, “Big Trouble,” starring Tim Allen and Rene Russo, a role she landed after the director saw her captivating and humorous appearance at the American Comedy Awards. She went on to appear opposite Scott Speedman and James Marsden in Anthony Piccirillo’s independent film, “The 24th Day.” On the small screen, she was recently seen starring on an episode of the hit series, “My Wife & Kids.”

One of the most loved personalities of the Latino world and a star on Hispanic television, Vergara has graced the covers of over 100 international magazines and hosted dozens of top Hispanic events. Her Hispanic television credits include “Fuera de Serie” (“Out of This World”) on Univision, and her own top-rated primetime one-hour weekly show “A que no te atreves” (“I Dare You”). When she became host of “La Bomba,” a syndicated music and interview TV show, she caused a ratings explosion.

In 1999, Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú awarded Vergara with the Hispanic Woman of the Year Award, commending her leadership skills and her representing the qualities Latina women have to offer to the world. In 2001, she created Peace and Hope for the Children of Columbia, a charity foundation that has helped thousands of children in her country, and has donated a new cancer pavilion for children in her native Barranquilla. In 2002, she was awarded the Woman of Hope Award by the City of Hope as one of the outstanding role models for future generations.

Born in the Forest Gate section of London to Nigerian parents, **CHIWETEL EJIOFOR** (Victor Sweet) started acting in school plays at the age of 13. He earned a scholarship to the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Arts before making his feature film debut in 1997 in Steven Spielberg's "Amistad." Ejiofor would follow this performance with roles in Stephen Frears' critically acclaimed "Dirty Pretty Things" (for which he was many critics' pick for Best Actor), "Love Actually," and Spike Lee's "She Hate Me."

His upcoming films include the sci-fi movie "Serenity" from Joss Whedon, "Red Dust" with Hilary Swank, and "Slow Burn" with Ray Liotta, and the independent film "The Kinky Boot Factory" with director Julian Jarrold.

Ejiofor was voted Outstanding Newcomer at the London Evening Standard Awards in 2000 for his performance in "Blue/Orange," a play about a mental patient who claims to be the son of an exiled African dictator. He was also awarded the Jack Tinker Award for Most Promising Newcomer at the 2000 London Critics Circle Theatre Awards (Drama) for the performance. In 2001, he was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Theatre Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in "Blue/Orange" at the Royal National Theatre. In 2003, he was nominated for Best Actor by the Washington Area Film Critics Association and won a British Independent Film Award for Best Performance by an Actor for "Dirty Pretty Things."

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JOHN SINGLETON (director) exploded onto the scene with his first film, "Boyz N the Hood," a tough, intelligent, plain-speaking look at friends in gang-ridden South Central L. A. that earned him two Oscar® nominations, for Best

Original Screenplay and Best Director. Singleton became the first African-American (and the youngest filmmaker ever) to achieve both honors.

Singleton recently directed the successful "2 Fast 2 Furious" and wrote, produced, and directed "Baby Boy," starring R&B singer (and "Four Brothers" star) Tyrese Gibson, Ving Rhames, Snoop Dogg, and newcomer Taraji P. Henson. "Baby Boy" received four NAACP nominations. He also wrote, produced, and directed "Shaft," starring Samuel L. Jackson, for Paramount Pictures. Before that, he directed "Rosewood," starring Jon Voight and Ving Rhames. Prior to that, he wrote, produced and directed "Higher Learning" starring Ice Cube and Laurence Fishburne, and wrote, produced, and directed "Poetic Justice" starring Janet Jackson and Tupac Shakur. Most recently, Singleton produced the 2005 Sundance Film Festival hit "Hustle & Flow."

While Singleton was attending the Filmic Writing Program at USC, he won three writing awards from the university, which led to representation with Creative Artists Agency during his senior year. He was also a two-time recipient of the John Nicholson Screenwriting Award and won the Robert Riskin Award in 1989.

Singleton has won numerous awards, including the LAFCA New Generation Award in 1991, the MTV Movie Award for Best New Filmmaker 1992, the New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best New Director ("Boyz N the Hood") 1991, and finally the ShoWest Award for Screenwriter of the Year, and the Special Award for Directorial Debut of the Year, 1992.

He has also directed television commercials for Coca-Cola and AT&T.

DAVID ELLIOT & PAUL LOVETT (writers) met at the University of Texas. Inspired by the indie film success of fellow Austinites Richard Linklater

and Robert Rodriguez, Elliot & Lovett loaded up their truck and moved to Beverly Hills (actually West LA – it was all they could afford).

“Four Brothers” is their tenth collaboration. They are currently under contract to write two more films for Paramount Pictures and di Bonaventura Pictures.

LORENZO DI BONAVENTURA (producer) was born in New York. His father Mario is an internationally known symphonic conductor.

di Bonaventura received his undergraduate degree in intellectual history at Harvard College and earned a Master of Business Administration at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business. He began his professional life operating a river-rafting company and later joined Columbia Pictures, where he worked in distribution, marketing and the office of the president.

In February 1989, di Bonaventura joined Warner Bros. While at Warner Bros., di Bonaventura was involved in over 130 productions. Among his biggest commercial and critical successes were “Falling Down” (1993), “A Time to Kill” (1996), “The Matrix” (1999), “Analyze This” (2000), “The Perfect Storm” (2000), “Ocean’s Eleven” (2001), “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” (2001), “Training Day” (2001), “Scooby Doo” (2002), and “The Last Samurai” (2003).

In January 2003, di Bonaventura formed a production company based at Paramount Pictures. In addition to “Four Brothers,” di Bonaventura Pictures is currently in production on “Doom,” starring The Rock and Karl Urban, and in post-production on “Derailed,” starring Clive Owen and Jennifer Aniston. di Bonaventura Pictures’ first feature, “Constantine,” starring Keanu Reeves and Rachel Weisz, was directed by Francis Lawrence and opened worldwide in February.

RIC KIDNEY (executive producer) has previously served as producer or executive producer on such films as “Flight of the Phoenix,” “The Rundown,” “The Recruit,” “Life or Something Like It,” “D-Tox,” “Legally Blonde,” “Mercury Rising,” “Fear,” “The Chamber,” “A Simple Twist of Fate,” “Six Degrees of Separation,” “Other People’s Money,” and “After Dark, My Sweet.”

ERIK HOWSAM (executive producer) was raised in Scottsdale, Arizona, where as a young boy his father sparked his interest in cinema by taking him to such classic films as “The Seven Samurai.” He later attended Steven Spielberg’s alma mater, Ingleside Middle School, which further fueled his passion for film.

After studying film and graduating from the University of Arizona, Howsam joined CAA as an assistant in the Motion Picture Department and then became assistant to Mike Stenson at Touchstone Pictures. Following Stenson to Jerry Bruckheimer Films, Howsam stayed for five years, being promoted to creative executive and then director of development. In that role, Howsam was intimately involved with the development and production of “Black Hawk Down,” which was nominated for four Academy Awards® and won two. Howsam also worked on such box-office hits as “National Treasure,” “Pirates of the Caribbean,” “Gone in 60 Seconds,” and “Remember the Titans.”

Since May, 2003, Howsam has been Vice President of Production for di Bonaventura Pictures, for which he helps oversee all aspects of film development and production. He is currently overseeing several projects in development including “GI Joe” and “Transformers.”

PETER MENZIES, JR., ACS (director of photography) served as cinematographer on such action-dramas as “Lara Croft: Tomb Raider” and “The

General's Daughter," both for director Simon West, as well as "Die Hard: With a Vengeance" and "The Thirteenth Warrior" for director John McTiernan. Other action thrillers include "Hard Rain," "A Time to Kill," "The Getaway," and "White Sands."

Menzies recently filmed two action-comedies due for release in 2005: "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous," starring Sandra Bullock and directed by John Pasquin, and "Man of the House," starring Tommy Lee Jones and directed by Stephen Herek. Other comedies to Menzies' credit are "Disney's The Kid," directed by Jon Turteltaub, and Jerry Bruckheimer's "Kangaroo Jack," directed by David McNally. Currently in postproduction is the historically based WWII drama, "The Great Raid," which Menzies filmed for director John Dahl.

A native of Sydney, Australia, Menzies was introduced to the film business by another Australian cinematographer, his father, Peter Menzies. Menzies gave his son his first film industry job as a camera loader when the younger Menzies was seventeen years old. He worked his way through the ranks of the camera department in both commercials and features as a camera assistant and later as an operator before establishing himself as a commercial director of photography in the 1980s.

Menzies' commercial cinematography work has earned him several awards, including the Australian Television Award, the New York One Show Prize, the London International Advertising Award, and the Cannes Advertising Film Festival Award. Menzies continues to enjoy filming commercials between his feature film commitments. He is a member of the Australian Cinematographers Society and has been a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences since 1996.

Menzies is married with three daughters and divides his time between his native Australia and his U.S. residence in Nevada.

KEITH BRIAN BURNS (production designer) most recently designed the feature film "Hustle & Flow," which premiered at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, and reunited Burns with director John Singleton, who produced the project.

Singleton and Burns have collaborated on several films over the last fifteen years, including "2 Fast 2 Furious," "Baby Boy," "Higher Learning," and "Poetic Justice." Other notable directors Burns has worked with include Michael Apted ("Always Outnumbered"), Phil Alden Robinson ("Sneakers"), and Robert M. Young ("Talent for the Game").

Burns has also served as production designer on such films as "Johnson Family Vacation," "Stark Raving Mad," "Liberty Stands Still," "B*A*P*S," and "Black & White." Burns started out as an architect before crossing over into film. He met Singleton in his senior year at USC.

BRUCE CANNON, A.C.E. (editor) is a long-time collaborator with John Singleton, having previously worked with Singleton on such films as "2 Fast 2 Furious," "Baby Boy," "Rosewood," "Higher Learning," "Poetic Justice," and "Boyz N The Hood." His additional editing credits on films with other filmmakers include "One Night At McCool's," "Sunset Strip," "Paulie," "Crazy People," "The End of Innocence," "Carried Away," "Time Out," "One Fine Night," "The Wind," and "Rose and Katz." He served in additional editing capacities on such titles as "Silverado," "The Big Chill," "Rocky III," "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," and "Body Heat." For television, Cannon's credits include the telefilms "Meltdown" and "The Heart of Justice."

BILLY FOX, A.C.E. (editor) is an award-winning editor and producer with a wide variety of work ranging from television drama to mini-series to feature films.

From 1990 to 2000, he produced and edited the NBC drama "Law & Order" for Universal Television and Wolf Films. In 2000, he co-produced and edited the critically acclaimed HBO miniseries "Band of Brothers." In 2003, he edited the feature "Woman Thou Art Loosed," which subsequently was selected Best Film in the Santa Barbara Film Festival. Most recently, Fox edited the hit of the 2005 Sundance Film Festival and winner of its American Dramatic Audience Award, "Hustle & Flow."

Fox has been the recipient of Emmy Awards, Golden Globes, BDA Awards, a Monitor Award, a Peabody Award, a Golden Laurel, and The Humanitas Award. In 1994, he received an Emmy nomination for editing "Law & Order" and in 1998 he received an Emmy Award for Best Drama for his editing and producing on "Law & Order." In 2001, he received an Emmy and Golden Globe for his editing and producing on "Band of Brothers."

RUTH CARTER (costume designer) is a two-time Academy Award® nominee, for her work on Spike Lee's "Malcolm X" and Steven Spielberg's "Amistad."

Carter's previously collaborated with director John Singleton on the features "Baby Boy," "Shaft," and "Rosewood." She is also a long-time collaborator of Spike Lee, having worked with the director on "School Daze," "Do the Right Thing," "Mo' Better Blues," "Jungle Fever," "Crooklyn," "Clockers," "Summer of Sam," and "Bamboozled." Carter's numerous other credits also include Joss Whedon's upcoming feature "Serenity."

DAVID ARNOLD (composer) has scored the music for many major motion pictures. "Four Brothers" is his fourth collaboration with director John Singleton, following "Baby Boy," "2 Fast 2 Furious" and "Shaft." Also a frequent collaborator with directors Michael Apted and Roland Emmerich, Arnold scored Apted's "Enough" and "The World is Not Enough" and Emmerich's "Godzilla," "Stargate," and "Independence Day." In addition, he was the composer for director Frank Oz's "The Stepford Wives," Lee Tamahori's "Die Another Day," Roger Michell's "Changing Lanes" and Ben Stiller's "Zoolander."

Arnold won the Ivor Novello Award for the Best Film Score in 2000 for "The World is Not Enough," and the talented composer won the 1997 Grammy Award for the Best Instrumental Composition Written for a Motion Picture or for Television, for "Independence Day."

His other credits as composer include "Tomorrow Never Dies," for director Roger Spottiswoode and "The Musketeer," for director Peter Hyams.

In addition to his film score work, Arnold has written and produced records for many contemporary artists, including Bjork, Iggy Pop, Damien Rice, Aimee Mann, The Propellerheads, Leftfield, Chrissie Hynde, Garbage, kd lang, Scott Walker and Pulp, to name a few.