

## **GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN'**

### **Production Information**

Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, one of the biggest and most popular stars in hip-hop, is the charismatic driving force behind "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," a hard-hitting drama directed by six-time Oscar® nominee Jim Sheridan about an orphaned street kid who makes his mark in the drug trade but finally dares to leave the violence behind and become the rap artist he was meant to be.

In this drama enriched by parallels to Jackson's own life, Marcus (Jackson) has always known he was going to be a rapper, but when his mother is murdered, he turns to dealing – hustling drugs pays the rent. Only his grandmother (Viola Davis), girlfriend Charlene (Joy Bryant), and violent-but-loyal friend Bama (Terrence Howard) keep him grounded as his world spirals out of control. As Marcus applies the same manic intensity to his writing as he does to dealing, he finds that writing down his words helps him to stay sane. For years, he endures this living hell until a tragedy that nearly kills him forces Marcus to change his life.

Paramount Pictures presents an Interscope/Shady/Aftermath and MTV Films production of a Jim Sheridan film starring Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson. Directed by Jim Sheridan from a screenplay written by Terence Winter, the film is produced by Jimmy Iovine, Paul Rosenberg, Chris Lighty, and Jim Sheridan. The executive producers are Gene Kirkwood, Stuart Parr, Van Toffler, David Gale, Arthur Lappin and Daniel Lupi. The film is rated R by the MPAA for strong violence, pervasive language, drug content, sexuality and nudity.

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in the production, promotion and distribution of entertainment, news, sports and music.

## **ABOUT THE STORY**

“I guess you could say that ‘Get Rich or Die Tryin’ is a collage of my life,” offers Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson, the hip-hop star who makes his motion picture debut in the new film from Paramount Pictures. “It’s not so much my life story, as it is a story that has incidents similar to some that happened in my life.”

One of the biggest stars in hip-hop, 50 Cent burst on the scene with his debut album, “Get Rich or Die Tryin’,” which set the mark for the all-time best debut with 900,000 units sold in its first week. The album went on to be certified six times platinum. With his 2005 follow up, “The Massacre,” 50 Cent became the first artist to have four songs in the top ten of Billboard’s Hot 100 since the Beatles in 1964. The album debuted at No. 1 and has sold more than 4 million units to date.

Director Jim Sheridan has long been a fan of rap and the culture surrounding it. “I thought that a story that mirrors elements of 50’s life had enormous dramatic potential,” says the six-time Academy Award® nominee. “It’s pretty powerful and interesting material to put on film. I’d seen 50 in videos and thought he had a great presence, but when we met, I knew after half an hour with him that I wanted to make a film with him. He’s tremendously talented, focused, and disciplined, but he’s also a very funny, charming person. And, because he knows he’s lucky to be alive, he’s a joy to be around. He’s totally committed to the story we’re trying to tell.”

Since his meteoric rise to music super-stardom, Jackson has entertained numerous film pitches but none of them felt right until now. “It wasn’t so much

that I was waiting for a starring vehicle as I was waiting for the right project with the right people," he explains. The opportunity to make his motion picture debut under a director the stature of Jim Sheridan sealed his decision to star in "Get Rich or Die Tryin'." "I couldn't pick a better director to work with for the very first time," says Jackson. "Jim is a real actor's director and absolutely the best person for me to begin a new endeavor with. I try to stay as close as possible to the best – Eminem and Dr. Dre for music production, and now, Jim Sheridan for the film. You know me," he laughs, "I try to start at the top and stay there. The fight is fixed and I'm gonna win."

"When we have a new, young actor like 50, who better to have than Jim Sheridan to work with him?" asks producer Jimmy Iovine, who also serves as chairman of Interscope Geffen A&M Records. "We knew Jim would be able to hone in on the rawness of 50's acting and his abilities."

As for Sheridan, he was very enthusiastic about doing a film about rap culture. Aside from his longtime interest in rap music, he "suspected that the rap world was closer in structure to film than any other form of music because of its narrative underpinning."

Iovine says that Sheridan's skill as a director of films in which characters face enormous challenges – including illness, poverty, and racial bigotry – make him the perfect choice. "This movie is more about the 'why,'" says Iovine. "Why there are more single mothers in the African-American community than any other in America? Why is rap music the way it is? Why was Marcus forced to do what he had to do?"

"Jim gets it," says Lighty. "He understands that community. The struggle in Jamaica, Queens or the Bronx is not much different than Jim's own struggle as a youth in some of the tougher districts of Dublin. We're just different colors; it's the same struggle of trouble, despair, and violence."

The film started coming together when Iovine and Shady Records' Paul Rosenberg signed 50 Cent to their label. As producers of some of the most successful music acts in the business, as well as the very successful Eminem vehicle "8 Mile," they were instantly struck by Jackson's "charisma and vibe" (in Iovine's words) and decided they should try to make a movie with him. With Jackson's manager, Chris Lighty, the producers hired Terence Winter to begin writing a screenplay.

The choice of Winter, a two-time Emmy winner for "The Sopranos," was obvious. "We felt there were many similar parallels between the Italian gangster world and the urban gangsta culture," says Iovine. "They share a language."

Winter traveled with Jackson on his Rock the Mic Tour, and talked to him every day for two months. The result was a gritty dramatic screenplay about a young black man's survival in a world of violence and despair, with parallels to Jackson's life.

Since "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" is Jackson's entrée into Hollywood, "we wanted him to work with the best," says Lighty. With that in mind, the producers looked to director Jim Sheridan, whose friend Bono had earlier maneuvered a meeting between Sheridan and producer Jimmy Iovine.

Sheridan responded immediately to themes of Jackson's life story. "I've been telling family stories; what fascinated me about this story was the search for the father," says Sheridan, whose other stories about families include "In America," "In the Name of the Father" and "My Left Foot." "I thought that was a great starting off point for a film."

"The film's title says it all: It's about trying to excel and getting out of the hood by any means necessary without getting killed or ending up in jail," says Lighty. "I think every stock broker on Wall Street is living that life. Every

American is trying to buy a Mercedes; we're all trying to get rich, or die tryin'. This is just 50's version of it."

## **ABOUT CURTIS "50 CENT" JACKSON**

At the center of "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" is Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, the charismatic and groundbreaking hip-hop artist.

Born and raised in Queens and coming of age in the drug scene of the late 1970s, the young, fatherless Curtis was forced into manhood at an early age when his mother became a casualty of the drug game. The rest of the story has become modern folklore: the quick and deliberate ascension as a dealer, the lengthy rap sheet, the long hours perfecting his rhyming craft, the recording deal, and the nine gunshot wounds that nearly took his life. Dropped by his label, Jackson was determined not to let his dream of being a rapper fade away. With the help of his friend Sha Money XL, Jackson released an independent bootleg. The CD caught the ear of Eminem and Dr. Dre, who signed the rapper to a million-dollar record deal in 2002. Hip-hop history was made.

Since then, Jackson has earned widespread acclaim and achieved fantastic success. Earlier this year, he became the first recording artist since the Beatles to have four songs in the top 10 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart.

Indeed, Jackson's plunge into the drug trade started after his mother's death. He went to stay with his grandparents, who did what they could "to keep me in a great space," says Jackson. "But I didn't feel like I was where I should be at, so I turned to the people that appeared to have it all with no problem. They were people from my mother's life – from when she used to hustle. And they would look out for me, and do things for me," explains Jackson. "So that's how I got started. They were helping me to provide for myself."

The birth of Jackson's son probably saved his life. "I had him and my priorities changed," says Jackson. I had to think about how I would be able to provide for him. He's the reason I went towards music; I couldn't have helped him if I was locked up."

"He represents something fundamental coming out of black culture," observes Sheridan, who initially gained the star's confidence with his knowledge of rap music. "Historically in America," adds Sheridan, "we had two ways of coming out. One was the Martin Luther King method and one was the Malcolm X method. Both of those doors closed in the late '60s, and so the black culture kind of had nowhere to go until it found expression in the least likely place – commercial music."

"It allowed the kid that lived in Beverly Hills or Burbank to see what was going on in Crenshaw; the kid that lived on 125<sup>th</sup> Street to see what was going on with the kid that lived in Livingston, New Jersey," adds Lighty. "It was a safe way to see what was going on in the inner cities. It allowed minorities to express themselves – it was their form of expression."

"People buy my music for the same reason they buy the newspaper," says Jackson. "You know there isn't a lot of good in it, but it's the facts. And they want to know what happened."

In making his acting debut, Jackson handles the challenge with his characteristic confidence.

Still, Jackson notes that Jim Sheridan's advice and guiding hand eased the process: "Jim made sure I was exactly the way I needed to be in the scenes. It was great having someone there that you knew was in your corner." \_

## ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

The film's cast is rounded out with a collection of veteran actors and rising stars including Terrence Howard, Joy Bryant, Bill Duke, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, Omar Benson Miller, Tory Kettles, Viola Davis, Marc John Jefferies, and Ashley Walters. All admit the project was intense, but, says Sheridan, "it was about trying to create an environment of trust, a family environment."

Joy Bryant plays Charlene, Marcus's childhood friend who returns to the city after being exiled by her parents to the suburbs.

"Even though Charlene's not a party girl, the fact that she comes from the 'hood means she's fully aware of what goes on. But she's not judgmental; to her, the situation is what it is," says Bryant.

"Charlene and Marcus share a bond," she says. "They were connected when they were young by a love for hip-hop – when they reconnect 10 years later, sparks fly."

Bryant agrees that it was the chance to work with Sheridan that attracted her to the film. "He has this amazing ability to bring truth to what he does, and emotion without being melodramatic or false."

"Joy's got a great class to her," says Sheridan. "We play her in the movie as a dancer. She has a classy, Audrey-Hepburn flair, but the fact is, she's as hood as anybody."

Terrence Howard calls Sheridan a "true genius" and jumped at the chance to work with him. Sheridan cast Howard as Bama, Marcus' friend, manager, and protector, after Sheridan saw the actor shine in last summer's critical and audience hit, "Hustle & Flow."

Howard says that Sheridan created an atmosphere of trust on the set – so much so that Howard made commitments that he'd never made before. "I've

never even taken my shirt off in a movie before,” he says. “For this movie, we were trying to do a scene with five guys in a prison shower. I said, ‘Let’s just do it naked.’ I took off my pants and 50 says, ‘Come on, come on, quick, call “Action” before he changes his mind!’

“Bama doesn’t have any family,” says Howard of his character, “and Marcus’s only family is the street. That’s what they find in each other; sometimes, your soul mate isn’t of the opposite sex – it’s a kindred spirit.”

Like the rest of the cast, Howard was lured to the film by the chance to work with six-time Academy Award® nominee Jim Sheridan. “It’s like watching Harry Houdini, a sorcerer at work,” says the actor. “Working with him is an enlightening, enchanting experience.”

“He has this exquisite talent for extracting the essence of relationships,” says Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, who plays Marcus’ drug-dealing mentor, Majestic. Best known for his role as the gangsta Simon Adebisi on HBO’s “Oz,” Akinnuoye-Agbaje creates a menacing character who could be more than simply a father figure – he could be Marcus’s biological father.

“Jim’s an artist,” adds Akinnuoye-Agbaje, “and 50’s an entrepreneur of some magnitude. And they both have this quest to win. I think that unites them and makes them a formidable force.”

Tory Kittles, Omar Benson Miller, and Ashley Walters co-star as Marcus’s crew: Justice, Keryl, and Antwan, respectively. Veteran actor Bill Duke takes on the role of drug kingpin Levar and Tony Award-winning actress Viola Davis plays Marcus’s Grandmother. Newcomer Serena Reeder plays Marcus’ mother, Katrina.

“Young Marcus,” says Sheridan, “is stunningly played” by Marc John Jefferies.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

When it comes to the film's soundtrack, Jackson makes clear that the film's plot drove the music and not the other way around. "This is a film first; then, we have music in it," he says. "I didn't want to make a movie that interrupted the plot for a music video. The music supports the plot."

When he was not in front of the camera, Jackson was out in the mobile recording studio, writing the songs for the film's soundtracks. "I had everything I needed in there," he enthuses, admitting that the studio had more bells and whistles than the one he uses at home. "I work with the bare necessities, so the mobile studio was great! I liked it better than my hotel room; in fact, I was probably there more than my hotel room," he says, only half-jokingly.

Jackson made the music as he moved through the film. "Once I had my direction, I knew where I wanted to go," he says, referring to his creative collaboration with Sheridan; "it just came together."

Jackson admits he's drew on the vulnerability of his character Marcus for his writing in this case and that it made him more willing to say things he wouldn't normally say. "I wrote the songs in character," he says. "I'm definitely more vulnerable as Marcus than I am as 50 Cent."

Jackson notes that the storytelling in these songs is markedly different from that in his other music. "It's a totally different process from making my other records," he says. "I had to make the music to complement the scenes in the film, but I couldn't write lyrics that will tip off the audience about what's to come."

Despite the difference in style, Jackson approached it as he would any new album. "And you know," he says with characteristic confidence, "I expect the soundtrack to debut at number one, just like my albums do."

“‘Get Rich or Die Tryin’ is about the evolution of a kid who thinks he has no alternative but to go and stand on the corner and be an entrepreneur,” says Sheridan. “And it’s the change from that into being a rapper. Probably what you get on-screen, first impression, is what 50 is deep down: a hard, tough survivor. But I think that having survived what he’s been through, he’s also capable of playing with life, being playful, and living each moment as if it’s his last.”

“Even if you’re not a hip-hop fan,” says Iovine, “ you should come see this movie because it’s about a culture – it’s about the drive of a child, the drive of a man, the drive of a community, of a nation.”

## **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

To make the leap from rap star to movie star, Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson had to relive and re-enact some of the most painful events of his life – the death of his mother, the danger and brutality of the drug trade, and the day he was shot nine times in front of his grandparents’ house.

As Jackson re-enacted that traumatic event, his director was amazed by the first-time actor’s ability to separate his own emotions from the character’s actions. “He was lying on the ground in the rain for 2 hours while we set up the shot, made up with nine bullet wounds,” says Sheridan, describing the scene, “and he doesn’t move. I thought, ‘This is an exceptional person.’ Shooting the scene was probably, in a way, like therapy for him.”

“It was freezing cold out the night that we shot the scene,” recalls Jackson. “And they wet the streets down, so I was soaking wet, and laying in the middle of the street. It was crazy.” Therapy or not, the actor calls it one of the most physically challenging scenes in the film.

While Jackson could easily play the tough guy, his biggest challenge was having to cry in front of the camera. “On screen, 50 can come across as the tough bad boy, but when he needs to show that sensitive streak he’s just as believable. I think you’ll see the struggle in his eyes, says Sheridan. “It’s all in his eyes – the pain and the suffering that he’s conjuring up from the past.”

“I had to work on that long before I started filming,” he admits, “because I hadn’t cried in so long. In my neighborhood, crying in front of the wrong person could bring you all kinds of trouble because they’d think you were weak. So I spent a lifetime not crying over situations, but just pushing, moving forward.”

What finally did bring the tears was “thinking about failing,” he confesses. “I don’t want to fail. I’m afraid of failure; that’s why I work so hard.”

“I’d say the danger for 50 Cent is that he works too hard,” acknowledges Sheridan. “He never stops; he’s a machine.”

Production designer Mark Geraghty was charged with creating a world he never had before: the Bronx, circa 1970s. He found he could rely on his director for inspiration. “Jim is probably one of the best storytellers in the world,” says Geraghty. “For him, it’s all about the story. He’s able to draw you into the era, the meaning of the film, the emotion of the film. And once you understand the story, and how Jim sees it, you understand the world he’s in. When you finally sit down to design a set, you know the world and the characters inside out, because Jim has explained it all so well. He’s absolutely inspirational.”

Geraghty’s intense research included movies, Internet, documentaries, and books. “Then, we created a world that suited our movie,” says Geraghty. “It’s a world based loosely on the South Bronx in New York. But it could be anywhere. It’s the poverty, and the hardship, and the lawlessness that we wanted to create,” he explains.

“A lot of the world of our film is decaying splendor,” explains Geraghty. “At one time it would have been a beautiful world; but it’s been neglected. So we’re using decaying colors, and rust, and things that are falling apart, just like the society is, to show that things have been left untended.”

The talented creative team also includes director of photography Declan Quinn, ASC, who previously collaborated with Jim Sheridan on “In America,” editors Conrad Buff, A.C.E., and Roger Barton, and costume designer Francine Jamison-Tanchuck.

“Get Rich or Die Tryin’” was filmed on location in New York – where the majority of the exterior scenes were shot amidst the constant noise of the El Train on the streets of High Bridge in the Bronx, giving the scenes their gritty edge. The film’s interiors were built and shot on a soundstage in Toronto.

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

**CURTIS “50 CENT” JACKSON** (Marcus) makes his motion picture debut in “Get Rich or Die Tryin’.” 50 Cent is a multi-platinum recording artist whose controversial lyrics and life have sparked debate ever since he burst on the scene in 2003 with his landmark “Get Rich or Die Tryin’.” The album soared to the top of the Billboard album charts, was the largest debut in Soundscan history, and has since gone on to sell more than 12 million copies worldwide. “Get Rich or Die Tryin’” garnered 50 Cent numerous awards and accolades, including Best Artist at the World Music Awards, Best Male Rap Artist at the American Music Awards, and an ASCAP Award for Rhythm and Soul Songwriter of the year, among many others. That same year, he also received three Grammy nominations including Best New Artist, Best male Rap Solo Performance and

Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group. With his 2005 follow up, "The Massacre," 50 Cent became the first artist to have four songs in the top ten of Billboard's Hot 100 since The Beatles in 1964. The album became the largest album seller in a short week selling 1.1 million albums in 4 days, held the No. 1 spot on the Billboard charts for 9 weeks and is already one of the top-selling albums of the year with over 4 million sold to date.

Born and raised in Queens, New York, 50 Cent lost those closest to him at an early age. Raised without a father, his mother died before he hit his teens. The orphaned youth was taken in by his grandparents, but his desire for things took him to the street where he amassed a small fortune and a lengthy rap sheet. The birth of a son put things in perspective, and 50 began to pursue rap seriously. He signed with JMJ, the label of Run DMC's late great Jam Master Jay and began learning his craft.

In 1999, the platinum hitmakers Trackmasters took notice of 50 and signed him to Columbia Records. In just two weeks he turned out 36 songs, which resulted in "Power of A Dollar," an unreleased masterpiece that hip-hop critics judged a classic. In April, 2000, 50 Cent was shot 9 times, including a 9mm bullet to his face, in front of his Grandmother's house in Queens. He spent the next few months in recovery while Columbia dropped him from the label. With the help of his business partner and friend, Sha Money XL, 50 landed on his feet and released a series of G-Unit mix tapes that created a buzz on the street. The CD got the attention of bitter rival MCs and more importantly, Eminem, who along with Dr. Dre, signed the rapper to a \$1 million record deal under their Shady/Aftermath imprint.

Ever the businessman, 50 Cent set up his own label with longtime partner Sha Money XL and presented his infamous G-Unit clique with the 2004 quadruple platinum "Beg For Mercy." 50 oversaw the solo endeavors of Lloyd

Banks ("The Hunger For More") and Young Buck ("Straight Outta Cashville") further expanding G-Unit's agenda. More recently, he teamed with Dr. Dre for the Aftermath/G-Unit joint release of West Coast rapper The Game.

**TERRENCE HOWARD** (Bama) was recently crowned the new "Indie Film King" by *Entertainment Weekly*, after his strong lead performance in the John Singleton production "Hustle & Flow." This film went on to break Sundance history with a \$16 million acquisition by Paramount/MTV. It went on to become Paramount Classics' biggest hit.

Howard was recently seen as part of the ensemble cast along Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, and Thandie Newton in "Crash," directed by Paul Haggis, and in the Paramount film, "Four Brothers," which re-united Howard with director John Singleton. He recently completed work on the HBO/OutKast project currently titled "My Life in Idlewild."

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

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 street by a casting director.

Howard then quickly broke onto the big screen with his riveting performance in "Mr. Holland's Opus." His 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 and a promising songwriter, Howard plays both the piano and the guitar; his musical talents are displayed opposite Jamie Foxx in 2004’s breakout film, “Ray,” for which he received a SAG nomination.

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

**JOY BRYANT** (Charlene) made her onscreen debut in the MTV original production of “Carmen: A Hip Hopera” opposite Beyoncé Knowles and Mekhi Phifer, followed by a small role in the comedy, “Showtime,” which starred Eddie Murphy and Robert DeNiro. In 2002, she achieved her breakthrough performance in Denzel Washington’s “Antwone Fisher,” which garnered praise from critics and the attention of the public. Bryant portrayed the love interest of the film’s title character, played by Derek Luke, who helps Fisher confront his painful, troubled past.

Bryant was most recently seen in the upcoming thriller, “The Skeleton Key” starring with Kate Hudson, Stellan Skaarsgard and John Hurt. She recently wrapped the independent film “London,” directed by Hunter Richards. The ensemble cast includes Jessica Biel, Jason Statham, and Chris Evans.

In 2004, Bryant appeared in the adventure/drama “Haven,” which co-starred Bill Paxton and Orlando Bloom. In the same year, Bryant appeared in “Three Way Split.” Directed by Scott Ziehl, the film is a sexy-noir-thriller based on Gil Brewer’s 1963 pulp novel Wild to Possess, about murder, kidnapping, blackmail and sexual deception. Bryant co-starred in the independent feature alongside Gina Gershon, Dwight Yoakam, Ali Larter and Desmond Harrington.

She also appeared with Nia Long and David Alan Grier in director Mario Van Peebles' "Baadasssss!" which received rave reviews at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival.

In December 2003, Bryant co-starred with Jessica Alba and Mekhi Phifer in director Bille Woodruff's music-driven coming-of-age drama, "Honey."

While enrolled as a full-time student at Yale University, Bryant was discovered by a modeling scout from Next Models Management. For several years, Bryant pursued a career as a fashion model in Paris and subsequently signed an exclusive contract with Tommy Hilfiger. Bryant continues to model between films as a cover subject for Victoria Secret, and in a number of prestigious print campaigns such as this Fall 2003 GAP ads.

Born and raised in the South Bronx, Bryant attended Westminster High School in Connecticut on a full scholarship. She is an avid supporter of the Fieldston Enrichment Program under the umbrella of "A Better Chance Public School Program," an organization that reaches out to minority talent to enrich their academic opportunities.

Bryant spends her time between Los Angeles and New York with her beloved pit bull named Nana.

**BILL DUKE** (Levar) has a wide range of credits to his name in almost every film discipline, including acting, directing, producing and writing.

Duke has had co-starring roles in such films as "Never Again" with Jill Clayburgh, "Exit Wounds" with DMX and Steven Segal, "Foolish" with Master P and Eddie Griffin, "The Limey" with Peter Fonda, "Fever" with Henry Thomas, Walter Mosley's "Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned" with Laurence Fishburne, "Payback" with Mel Gibson, "Blackjaq" with Nia Long, and John Landis' "Susan's Plan" with Dan Aykroyd, Natassja Kinski and Billy Zane.

Earlier credits include "American Gigolo" with Richard Gere, "Predator" and "Commando" with Arnold Schwarzenegger, and "Bird on a Wire" with Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn.

Also in the film world, Duke made an auspicious directorial debut with "The Killing Floor," starring Damian Leak and the late Moses Gunn. The film garnered a total of 10 awards at film festivals across the globe and was chosen for Director's Fortnight at the 1985 Cannes Film Festival. He followed with "A Rage in Harlem," based on Chester Himes celebrated novel, starring Forrest Whitaker, Gregory Hines, Danny Glover and Robin Givens. He went on to direct the emotionally harrowing drama "Deep Cover" starring Laurence Fishburne and Jeff Goldblum; the romantic comedy "The Cemetery Club," starring Ellen Burstyn, Olympia Dukakis and Diane Ladd; the hit sequel, "Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit," starring Whoopi Goldberg and Lauryn Hill; and the powerful Prohibition era drama "Hoodlum" starring Lawrence Fishburne, Andy Garcia, Tim Roth, Cicely Tyson, and Vanessa Williams.

Duke has been especially successful in television. He has taken on socially conscious, educational and mind-stimulating projects such as "Deacons for the Defence," a telefilm about a group of World War II veterans, directed by Duke and starring Forrest Whitaker, Jonathan Silverman and Ossie Davis; and "Partners of the Heart," a documentary about a young black man named Vivien Thomas who, with only a high school education, was responsible for the first successful infantile heart surgeries at Johns Hopkins University. In addition, Duke recently directed an episode of Michael Mann's episodic drama "Robbery Homicide," directed and acted episodes of the TV show "Fastlane."

Duke received a Cable ACE Award for his direction of "American Dream: The Boy Who Painted Christ Black." He directed award-winning segments of "Cagney and Lacey," "Hill Street Blues," as well as episodes of "Knot's

Landing," "Falcon Crest," "Dallas," as "Miami Vice." Duke has also directed several award-winning high profile dramas and two teleplays for PBS, which received a NAACP Image Award nomination: "The Meeting" and "A Raisin in the Sun," the latter of which earned Duke an Emmy nomination.

Duke's talents and credit also extend into publishing. In 1994, he completed Black Light: The African American Hero, an inspiring photo essay celebrating 90 of the greatest black heroes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Journey, a book for people of all ages, was published in 1997.

Duke is the founder of Duke Media, formerly Yagya Productions, which has been in existence for approximately 20 years. For three years, Duke served as the Time Warner Endowed Chair in the Department of Radio Television and Film at Howard University in Washington, DC. He was then appointed to the national endowment of the Humanities by former president Bill Clinton. He now serves on the Board of Trustees at the American Film Institute, and was recently appointed to the California State Film Commission by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**ADEWALE AKINNUOYE-AGBAJE** (Majestic) was born in London, England. After earning a Masters in Law from London's prestigious Kings college, a career in acting came his way when acclaimed producer and director Frank Marshall cast him in the Paramount blockbuster "Congo." This led to appearances in the films, "Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls" and "Legionnaire," as well as the HBO movie "Deadly Voyage," the television series' "Cracker" and "New York Undercover" and the mini-series "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

His dramatic portrayal of the murderous drug addicted prisoner Adebisi in HBO's hit television series "Oz" led to critical and audience acclaim, as well as two NAACP Award nominations; in 2000 for Outstanding Lead Actor in a

Drama Series and again in 2001 for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series. Adewale subsequently went on to focus on his film career, starring in blockbusters opposite Brendan Frasier in "The Mummy Returns," and Matt Damon in "The Bourne Identity." He has recently completed work on the romantic comedy "Mistress of Spices" starring opposite Aishwarya Rai, written and directed by Gurinder Chada & Paul Mayeda Berges, the creative team behind "Bend It Like Beckham." The film premieres in September at this year's Toronto Film Festival.

Akinnuoye-Agbaje is currently working with J.J. Abrams on one of ABC's top-rated and Emmy-winning series "Lost," now in its second season. He plays Mr. Eko, a mysterious man whose presence on the island – and intentions – will be revealed in one of the season's early upcoming episodes.

Akinnuoye-Agbaje makes his directorial debut in 2006 with an autobiographical project. He will also produce, write, and star in the project.

**OMAR BENSON MILLER** (Keryl) started his Hollywood acting career as Big Johnson in the college cross-dressing comedy "Sorority Boys." The film was shot while he was still enrolled in film school in San Jose State University. Immediately following graduation, Miller landed a lead role in Curtis Hanson's hit "8 Mile" opposite Eminem, Mekhi Phifer, Kim Basinger and Brittany Murphy. An international success, Miller credits "8 Mile" with launching his career.

Miller's next portrayed Mac in the HBO's gritty urban drama about the shady underworkings of the boxing world, "Undeclared," which starred and was directed by John Leguizamo. After a successful dramatic role, Miller returned to his bread and butter, comedy. In the American remake of the Japanese hit "Shall We Dance," Miller shined as Vern, who, along with film legend Richard Gere

and Bobby Cannavale learned the art of ballroom dancing under the tutelage of Jennifer Lopez.

Miller will next appear in the upcoming films “Lucky You” with Drew Barrymore, Robert Duvall and Eric Bana, as well as the independent feature “Man of God.” This fall, Miller can be seen in the UPN series “Sex, Secrets and Lies” with Denise Richards.

Through it all, Omar proclaims it all as blessing from above and insists it wouldn’t be possible without the support of his family.

**TORY KITTLES** (Justice) made his big screen debut in Joel Schumacher’s “Tigerland.” He was a local hire in Florida, personally picked by Schumacher for the film, which centers on soldiers being trained for the Vietnam War. The film showcased Kittles’ talent alongside Colin Farrell, Matt Davis and Cole Hauser. In addition to his amazing on-screen performance, Kittles wrote the only original song for the film, which he sings in the final scene.

Kittles’ work on “Tigerland” inspired Joel Schumacher to bring him to Hollywood to meet with some of the town’s major players. One such meeting with ICM’s Ed Limato, the famous agent who developed top talents including Denzel Washington and Mel Gibson, led to Kittles signing with the agency.

Kittles has since appeared in several film and television projects that demonstrate his versatility as an actor, including “Phone Booth” and “Malibu’s Most Wanted.”

When not on location, Tory Kittles now resides in Los Angeles.

**VIOLA DAVIS** (Grandma) can next be seen in the film “Syriana,” opposite George Clooney, directed by Stephen Gaghan and produced by Steven

Soderbergh. This marks her fourth collaboration with the Oscar®-winning Soderbergh, who previously cast her in "Out of Sight," "Solaris," and "Traffic."

In 2002, Davis scored the equivalent of a hat trick on a film appearing in Todd Haynes's "Far From Heaven," opposite Julianne Moore, the aforementioned "Solaris," and in Denzel Washington's "Antwone Fisher," the last of which garnered her an Independent Spirit Award nomination.

In 2004, Davis lit up the Roundabout Theater Company production of Lynn Nottage's play "Intimate Apparel," directed by Tony Award-winning director, Daniel Sullivan, for which she won Off Broadway's highest honors taking home both the Drama Desk and Obie Award for Best Actress. She later reprised her role at the Mark Taper Forum and was given the Ovation, the Audelco, Drama Desk and Drama League Awards in Los Angeles for Best Actress. This year, Davis received the Lucille Lortel Award nomination for Best Actress for the same play.

Davis' theatre credits are extensive. In 2001 she received the Tony Award for Best Featured Actress for her performance in August Wilson's "King Headly II," directed by Marion McClinton, as well as the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards. She had previously been nominated for Tony and Drama Desk Awards for her performance in August Wilson's "Seven Guitars," directed by Lloyd Richards, which brought her an Outer Critics Circle Award as well as a Theatre World Award for Outstanding Broadway Debut. Her other theatre credits include the title role in "Everybody's Ruby" at the New York Public Theatre, for which she received Obie and Drama Desk Award nominations. She has worked in the New York Shakespeare Festival productions of "Pericles" and "As You Like It," and at the Lincoln Center in "God's Heart," as well as performed around the country with such prestigious theatre companies as The

American Conservatory Theatre, Sundance Theatre Institute, Trinity Repertory Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, the Guthrie and the Huntington.

Davis has also made an indelible mark on the small screen, including starring in three series for CBS: "Century City," "Lefty," and the Steven Bochco produced series, "City of Angels." She recently completed filming the lead in the pilot "Laws of Chance" for ABC. Earlier in the year, she garnered rave reviews for the CBS movie of the week, "Stone Cold" opposite Tom Selleck. She is a recurring character on "Law & Order: SVU," and season was had a recurring role on "Hack." She appeared in Oprah Winfrey's "Amy and Isabelle," Hallmark Hall of Fame's "Gracie and Glorie," "The Pentagon Wars," among many others.

Davis is a graduate of the Juilliard School and recently received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts degree from her alma mater, Rhode Island College. She is happily married to actor Julius Tennon and resides in Los Angeles.

**MARC JOHN JEFFERIES** (Young Marcus) made his feature film debut at the age of four in "Losing Isaiah," in which he portrayed the young child whom Halle Berry and Jessica Lange both claim as their son. He most recently was seen in "The Haunted Mansion" with Eddie Murphy, and "Brown Sugar," with Taye Diggs and Mos Def.

Jefferies co-starred in "Stuart Little 2," with Michael J. Fox and Geena Davis, and also appeared in the features "Spiderman 2" and "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle." He voiced roles in "Finding Nemo" and "Monsters, Inc." He will next be seen in the features "Lucky 13" and "Slow Mo."

Born in Manhattan and raised in the Bronx, Jefferies had his first on-camera job at just three weeks of age in a print ad for which his father was the photographer. After his early television debut, he worked as a fit model for

various designers (Calvin Klein, Fubu, Polo, Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger and Aires Industry) and appeared in numerous commercials. After receiving rave reviews for his performance in "Losing Isaiah," Marc went on to earn guest-starring and recurring roles in "Homicide: Life on the Street," "Trinity," "NBC's "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," and "Third Watch," along with "Cosby," "Guiding Light," "New York Undercover," "The Practice," and "Family Law."

Jefferies starred on NBC's "The Tracy Morgan Show," as well as in Bill Cosby's new animated children's series "Fatherhood."

For theater, Jefferies has played a supporting role to Matthew Broderick in "Taller Than A Dwarf" on Broadway. He also joined the cast of "Naked TV" (Fox on Stage Production) to play a character in the play "The Lamb," which ran for a short time in Los Angeles, California.

Jefferies just added to his resume as creator of a new Chapter Book series for boys and girls titled, "Secret Agent MJJ." There are 10 books to the series; the theme being "to do for boys what the Olsen twins has done for girls." The books are being sold in all of the major bookstores in the United States.

In addition to his acting career, Jefferies enjoys doing stand-up comedy, most recently becoming the youngest performer to appear at Hollywood's "The Laugh Factory" and "The Comedy Store." He is also a spokesperson for the organization "Kids With A Cause" in both the US and Canada.

When not working in Los Angeles, Jefferies resides with his family in New York City, where his mother is a teacher. He is a proud big brother of one sister and one brother. He enjoys traveling with his family and collecting cars.

**ASHLEY WALTERS** (Antwan) made his feature film debut in "Bullet Boy," a role which garnered him the Most Promising Newcomer Award at the

2004 British Independent Film Awards. He will next be seen in the upcoming "Goal."

For television, his credits include the MTV Europe series "Top Buzzer," the BBC's "Storm Damage" and "Last Rights," and ITV's "The Murder of Steven Lawrence," directed by Paul Greengrass.

For the past five years, Walters has been a member of the English rap group So Solid. One of the biggest and most popular bands in the UK, So Solid's has two triple platinum albums to their credit, "They Don't Know" and "Second Verse." He recently recorded his debut solo album "Independiente" for Sony.

Walters was born and raised in London, England, where he continues to reside.

**SERENA REEDER** (Katrina) makes her feature film debut with "Get Rich or Die Tryin'." A recent graduate of the renowned performing arts program at Juilliard, Reeder landed the role of Marcus's young mother prior to her graduation.

On stage, she has performed in productions of "As You Like It," "Three Sisters," and "Raisin in the Sun."

Reeder recently wrapped the independent drama "All Fall Down" starring opposite Anthony LaPaglia and Isabella Rossellini.

A native of Washington, DC, Reeder currently calls New York home.

Known as a character and leading actor, **WALTER ALZA** (Raoul) was born in South America. Alza can speak four different languages – English, French, Italian, and Spanish – and incorporate numerous accents; he has been formally educated in two different countries.

Alza has had extensive theatre training and experience. Star of the successful TV Series "Metropia" – rated 4 stars by The Globe and Mail (the only show besides "CSI" in the fall lineup with 4 stars) Walter plays the role of charming Andreas Maradona. In September, 2005, Walter began to shoot the new CBC series "Metropolitan Hotel," playing Slavic, an Eastern European man.

Having starred, co-starred, guest-starred, and played principal roles in over 40 films, MOWs and high acclaimed TV series such as "Due South," "Doc," "FX," and "RoboCop," among others, Walter co-starred as well in acclaimed feature films such as "Direct Action," directed by Sidney Furie, and "The Uncles." He received rave reviews for playing two lead roles in the feature film "Three and a Half"; his chameleon looks and ability to pick up accents gave him the opportunity to play both a Serb named Igor and an Italian workman.

Alza will direct, produce, and star in the upcoming feature "Dead All My Life," written by award-winning writer Julio Ponce Palmiere and photographed by award-winning Director of Photography Levko Mossosky. Alza is also attached to the American production of "The Saint and the Devil," where he will portray the life of the French Saint John Vianney, written by Alex LaPerchia. Alza is also set to play the lead role of a crazy man who thinks God has sent him to kill in a Canadian production titled "Medium Raw."

Alza was trained in the Meisner technique and by Sergey Donbroski from Moscow Art Theater on the Chekov Method, biomechanics, and the PG System. He also studied theatre at George Brown College Theatre, and attended master class with the renowned teacher, David Rotenberg. Alza also trained his voice with David Smuckler.

Among Alza's many awards and nominations is the 2005 ReelWorld Trailblazer Award. The ReelWorld Trailblazer is presented to up-and-coming voices contributing to the cultural diversity making Canada such a vibrant

country; an individual in the film and video industry finding new ways to approach the craft; a professional making great strides. Alza is also the recipient of the Award of Merit, Multi Mansions Association (2004) and earlier this year was nominated for the Latin American Achievement Award for 2005.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

Director/Producer **JIM SHERIDAN'S** films have achieved popular and critical acclaim throughout the world and have garnered two Academy Awards®, 16 Academy Award® nominations, and numerous prestigious international awards.

Most recently, Sheridan wrote, produced and directed "In America," a magical and personal tale of a family finding its soul, which he co-wrote with his daughters, Naomi Sheridan and Kirsten Sheridan. Based on his own experiences coming to New York as a flat-broke immigrant, as well as remembrances of a devastating family tragedy, "In America" starred Samantha Morton, Paddy Considine, Djimon Hounsou and sisters Sarah Bolger and Emma Bolger. The film garnered three 2004 Academy Award® nominations including Best Writing, Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen, and nominations for both Morton (Best Actress) and Hounsou (Best Supporting Actor). The film also received two Golden Globe nominations for Best Screenplay and Best Original Song, as well as a host of other awards and accolades.

Embraced by international audiences, Sheridan has nevertheless remained quintessentially Irish. He first drew worldwide attention in 1989 for his debut feature film, "My Left Foot," which was based on the surprisingly uplifting life of the Irish writer/painter Christy Brown, a man with such severe cerebral palsy he could only move his left foot. The film's critical and box-office success kick-

started a renaissance of Irish filmmaking and earned an amazing five Academy Award® nominations including Best Picture. Daniel Day Lewis was propelled to stardom and the film marked the beginning of a fruitful collaboration between Lewis and Sheridan. "My Left Foot" went on to earn both Lewis and Brenda Fricker Academy Awards® (for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor) and received multiple Oscar® nominations for Sheridan, including those for Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay. The film also won the Donatello (Italian Oscar equivalent) for Best Foreign Film, among many other international awards and earned Sheridan a Writer's Guild of America nomination.

Despite numerous offers from Hollywood, Sheridan decided to remain in Ireland to direct his next feature, "The Field," featuring an Oscar®-nominated performance from Richard Harris as a farmer who vigilantly defends his land from real-estate developers. Sheridan also wrote the screenplay for the critically-acclaimed modern day fairy tale "Into The West," directed by Mike Newell, which introduced the world to his more magical side with a story of the Irish traveling community (gypsies) and their enchanted white horse that seamlessly merged reality with fantasy.

In 1993, Sheridan wrote, produced and directed "In the Name of the Father," a powerful drama that recounts the struggle of Gerry Conlon, a man wrongly prosecuted and imprisoned for an IRA bombing, starring Daniel Day Lewis and Emma Thompson. Drawing both controversy and praise for its searing realism, the film went on to receive numerous Academy Award® nominations, including those for Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Picture. "In the Name of the Father" also brought Sheridan a second Donatello for Best Foreign Film, the Berlin Film Festival's Golden Bear, and another WGA nomination. His next film, which Sheridan wrote, produced and directed, "The Boxer," reunited the director with actor Daniel Day Lewis in a

love story set against the explosive atmosphere of Northern Ireland. "The Boxer" received the Best Foreign Film at Spain's Goya Awards and earned Sheridan a Golden Globe nomination as Best Director.

Sheridan also wrote and produced "Some Mother's Son," directed by Terry George, and produced "Agnes Browne," which starred and was directed by Angelica Huston.

Under his Hell's Kitchen banner, Sheridan has produced three distinctive Irish films: "Borstal Boy," about Irish writer Brendan Behan and directed by Sheridan's brother Peter Sheridan; John Carney's teen drama "On The Edge"; and the award-winning docu-drama "Bloody Sunday," directed by Paul Greengrass, which garnered the coveted Audience Award at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival, the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival, and two British Independent Film Awards, among other accolades.

The son of a theater director, Sheridan grew up in Ireland, where his brother Frankie died of a brain tumor, one of the real-life events woven into "In America." Later, he began his career on stage, co-founding Dublin's Project Art Centre. He had numerous plays produced in Ireland, including the highly regarded "Spike in the First World War," based on Jaroslav Hasek's novel *The Good Soldier Schweik*. He was awarded the Macauley Fellowship for writers, and was at that time only the second playwright ever to receive the honor.

In 1981, Sheridan journeyed across the ocean to America, via Canada, to attempt to make it on the stage, with his wife and two daughters in tow (a third daughter was born in New York) – events which inspired the story of "In America." While in New York, Sheridan received his only formal training in film, enrolling in NYU Film School for six weeks. He ended up serving as artistic director of the Irish Arts Center, where his creative leadership helped to win the theatre a 1987 Obie Award for "sustained excellence." Two decades after he first

came to America, Sheridan came full circle, returning to New York to shoot "In America."

**TERENCE WINTER** (written by), a Brooklyn native, received his B.A. from New York University and a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law. He is a member of the bars for both New York and Connecticut. After practicing law for two years in New York City, Winter gave up the courtroom practice to try his hand at the writer's room. In 1991, he moved to Los Angeles, where he began teaching himself screenwriting.

In a few short years, his TV spec scripts earned him a coveted slot in the Warner Brothers' Sitcom Writer's Workshop, from which he was chosen to join the writing staff of Fox's "The Great Defender" starring Michael Rispoli. Other jobs quickly followed, with stints on an eclectic group of shows including "The Cosby Mysteries," "Xena: Warrior Princess," "Sister, Sister," "Soldier of Fortune," "Diresta" and "Eddie Murphy's The PJs." Winter joined the writing staff of "The Sopranos" during the show's second season.

In 2001, together with Tim Van Patten (shared story), Winter won both the Writer's Guild Award and The Edgar Award for his episode entitled "Pine Barrens," directed by Steve Buscemi. In 2004, he won his first Emmy for Best Writing in a Drama Series for the episode "Long Term Parking." He took home a second statue that night when "The Sopranos" was honored for Best Drama, and award he shares with his fellow writers and producers on the show.

In addition to his television work, Winter has written and/or rewritten a number of feature films, including "Brooklyn Rules," starring Alec Baldwin and Freddie Prinze, Jr.

**JIMMY IOVINE** (producer), acclaimed music executive and record producer, is Chairman of Interscope Geffen A&M Records, a unit of Universal Music Group, the global music leader.

Iovine co-founded Interscope Records in 1990, championing cutting edge music in a wide range of genres and helping to build the company into one of the most prominent and creative labels in the music business. Interscope achieved multi-platinum-selling success with artists including No Doubt, Dr. Dre, nine inch nails, Eminem, Limp Bizkit, 2Pac, The Black Eyed Peas, and Eve.

Universal's acquisition of Polygram in 1999 resulted in the newly comprised Interscope Geffen A&M Records, among whose artists (in addition to those mentioned above) are U2, Sting, Beck, 50 Cent, Mary J. Blige and Sheryl Crow. Iovine was named Co-Chairman and, in 2001, Chairman.

Named one of the five hottest producers of the 1980's by *Billboard*, Iovine was also twice voted Producer of the Year by *Rolling Stone*. An engineer in the mid-1970's for John Lennon and Bruce Springsteen ("Born To Run," "Darkness On The Edge Of Town"), he then produced hit albums for U2 ("Rattle And Hum," "Under A Blood Red Sky"), Dire Straits, the Eurythmics, Stevie Nicks, Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, the Pretenders, Bob Seger, and Patti Smith.

In 1987, he initiated with his wife Vicki, "A Very Special Christmas" album benefiting the Special Olympics. Releasing its fifth edition in 2001, it is the most successful series of benefit albums ever launched, having raised \$75 million. Iovine was co-executive producer of 2001's September 11 benefit album "America: A Tribute To Heroes" and in 2002, he co-produced the hit movie "8 Mile." Iovine co-produced two consecutive Super Bowl Halftime Shows: XXXVI featuring U2 in 2002 and XXXVII in 2003, featuring Shania Twain, No Doubt and Sting. In 2004, Iovine and Paul Rosenberg signed a three-year first-look feature deal with Paramount Pictures and MTV Films to develop and

produce motion pictures. The first film under the deal is “Get Rich or Die Tryin’.”

**PAUL ROSENBERG** (producer) is founder and CEO of Goliath Artists, Inc., the powerhouse artist management firm that handles the careers of multi-platinum heavyweights Eminem and Cypress Hill. Over the past five years, Rosenberg has quickly risen to become one of the music industry’s most prominent artist managers and record label executives.

After successfully orchestrating Eminem’s deal with Dr. Dre’s Aftermath Entertainment, Rosenberg postponed a promising career in entertainment law to start Goliath Artists, Inc. where he focused on guiding the career of an artist that has become one of the most controversial and innovative acts in music today. Eminem’s first album, “The Slim Shady LP” sold over 7 million albums while his sophomore release, “The Marshall Mathers LP,” went on to sell over 17 million copies worldwide and has become a staple on music critics’ lists. Albums “The Eminem Show” in 2002 and “Encore” in 2004 have continued Eminem’s record breaking sales performance and secured his place in music history. A year after establishing Goliath Artists, Rosenberg added the multi-platinum rap/rock ensemble, Cypress Hill to his management roster. The group, already having sold 14 million records worldwide at the time, rose back to prominence with their million-selling comeback album in 2000, “Skull & Bones.”

Rosenberg is President of Shady Records, the record label he partnered with Eminem to establish in 1999. The label’s first release was the debut album from D12 entitled “Devils Night,” which went on to sell 4 million copies worldwide. The group’s second album, “D12 World,” was released to similar acclaim in 2004. Shady Records’ second release was the “8 Mile” soundtrack accompanying Eminem’s film debut in 2002; the album went 9 times platinum

worldwide. The debut album from 50 Cent, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," was released in 2003 and has become the highest selling solo debut album ever with over 10 million albums sold worldwide. 50 Cent's sophomore release in March 2005, entitled "The Massacre," also broke first week sales records for the year. Detroit rapper Obie Trice had a platinum debut with "Cheers" in 2003. Shady Records' current roster includes D12, 50 Cent, Obie Trice and Stat Quo. Record sales for the boutique label exceed 40 million albums worldwide.

Rosenberg made the addition of film producer to his resume in 2002 as Executive Producer on Eminem's feature film debut, "8 Mile," in conjunction with Oscar®-winning director Curtis Hanson ("LA Confidential," "Wonder Boys") and Oscar®-winning producer, Brian Grazer ("A Beautiful Mind"). This film earned an estimated \$54.5 million during its weekend debut, the second-highest level of debut earnings taken in by an R-rated film in the United States ever. Rosenberg also served as Executive Producer on Showtime's critically acclaimed 2004 series "The Next Episode."

Violator Records/Management CEO **CHRIS LIGHTY** (producer) has, with his respect for the streets and a belief that its culture deserves worldwide attention, been an integral part of the success of rap superstars Busta Rhymes, De La Soul, Foxy Brown, LL Cool J, the Jungle Brothers, A Tribe Called Quest, Q-Tip, Missy Elliot and most recently, 50 Cent.

Along with his partners Mona Scott and Todd Moscovitz, Lighty has elevated to unprecedented heights. Violator has sold between 8 and 10 million records for the last 6 years, and Lighty has seen the last 7 CDs by Violator-related artists enter the Billboard Top 200 Pop Album Charts in Top 10. With its vast resources, Lighty and Violator are extending their clients into films, television, advertising and wireless businesses and, with Violator Management Group

(VMG), are pushing their artists to even more mainstream success. With Violator Record's distribution deal with Jive Records, Lighty is now positioned to raise the ante for his company and artists in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Violator Management represents 50 Cent, Busta Rhymes Missy Elliot, Mobb Deep, Capone and Noreaga, Tweet, The Clipse and Governor. Client Busta Rhymes has already co-starred in the films "Shaft," "Finding Forrester," "N.A.R.C.," and "Blood Money." This, on top of the rapper's Mountain Dew and Miller Beer TV commercials and print advertising, as well as his Bushi clothing and shoe line. Effectively, because of Lighty and Violator, has crossed over all the lines but remains entrenched in the hip hop community. It is a community Lighty has been part of since he hung with his Violator posse back in the day, when he passed on both a basketball and a football scholarship to study electrical engineering by day and clubhop at night. He became a road manager for the Jungle Brothers, and learned his first industry lesson when the band signed for a \$1.7 million deal and ended up with only \$35,000 apiece. It was then that he realized that he had to get into management. Lighty was asked by Russell Simmons and Lyor Cohen (still two of his biggest influences and mentors) to join their fledgling RUSH Management team and shortly afterward, he started the indie Violator Records Label at Relativity with Latin hip hop artists Fat Joe and Beatnuts. After moving the company to Def Jam, he broke Warren G's four-million-selling "Regulate" album wide open, then inked Cru, Foxy Brown, The Firm's Cormega and Mysonne to the label and found time to executive produce for LL Cool J's double-platinum "Mr. Smith" album.

While maintaining his management position, Lighty sold off the Violator Records roster to Def Jam in 1999 and has embarked on a new career at Jive Records where he has relaunched the new Violator Records and also serves as Senior Vice President at Jive Records.

To that end, Lighty has inked veteran platinum act Mobb Deep as well as highly sought after newcomer Dirtbag to Violator Records, where he will release "V3: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly," the sequel to the first two platinum selling Violator albums. He has also grown Violator Marketing Group to the point where it now positions everything from sneakers to movies to soft drinks to the new urban culture, which, according to Lighty, is anything but monochromatic. Record labels such as Elektra, Interscope, and J regularly hire VMG to supplement their own urban staffs on high priority projects due to VMG's expertise in this arena and New Line Films hired VMG to promote their film "Blow." VMG is currently gearing up the launch of their highly anticipated G-Unit Sneaker on Reebok, as well as working the Missy Elliott and G-Unit album releases.

**GENE KIRKWOOD** (executive producer) has distinguished himself for nearly three decades as a motion picture producer. Early on in his career he executive produced the hugely successful "Rocky." The film, which collected three Academy Awards® including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Editing, launched the career of Sylvester Stallone and created one of the highest-grossing franchises of all times.

Kirkwood went on to produce Martin Scorsese's "New York, New York" which starred Robert De Niro and Liza Minelli, and Alan J. Pakula's "Comes A Horseman," starring Jane Fonda. He produced Taylor Hackford's feature directorial debut, "The Idolmaker," Michael Apted's "Gorky Park," and Hector Babenco's "Ironweed." The latter, based on based on William Kennedy's Pulitzer prize-winning novel, earned Academy Award® nominations for its stars, Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep.

His numerous other credits include Michael Mann's "The Keep, " and "The Pope of Greenwich Village," which starred Mickey Rourke and garnered Geraldine Page an Academy Award® nomination.

For the small screen, Kirkwood produced Orson Welles original screenplay of "The Magnificent Ambersons" for A&E.

In 2000, Kirkwood joined Jimmy Iovine's Interscope, with a focus on the feature film and television division of the company. Along with Iovine, Paul Rosenberg and Stuart Parr, he is currently developing movies for Interscope artists Mary J. Blige and Gwen Stefani.

**STUART PARR** (executive producer) developed and co-produced the 2002 critically acclaimed hit "8 Mile." Starring Eminem, directed by Oscar®-winning director Curtis Hanson ("LA Confidential," "Wonder Boys") and Oscar®-winning producer, Brian Grazer ("A Beautiful Mind"), "8 Mile" earned \$51.2 million during its opening weekend, which was at the time the second-highest debut weekend gross for an R-rated film. He served as executive producer on Eminem's animation series "The Slim Shady Show," and associate producer on Showtime's acclaimed series "The Next Episode." In addition to co-managing Eminem for film and entertainment, Parr is currently developing movies with Mary J. Blige and Gwen Stefani for Paramount Pictures.

Parr is co-president of Cousins Entertainment, a merchandising company which handle acts such as Eminem, 50 Cent, D-12, Cyprus Hill and Obie Trice. He is co-president of Shady Limited, Eminem's apparel line.

Parr is also active in the field of design and architecture. He manages world-renowned industrial designer Marc Newson, who in May of 2005 was cited by *Time* magazine as one of the top one hundred most influential people of the year. Included among Newson's design accomplishments is the new A380

Airbus for Qantas, Lever House Restaurant in New York, a 2004 solo exhibition at the British Design Museum and, slated for 2006, a solo exhibition at the Larry Gagosian Gallery in New York. When Parr was 24, his design for his loft in Tribeca was featured on the cover of New York Magazine's Design Issue. His next loft, also in Tribeca, donned the cover of Elle Décor and 20 other magazines throughout the world. His most recent creation, a glass house on Shelter Island, was photographed for the current TSE Cashmere campaign, alongside his family. Also in the decorative arts world, Parr owns the registered trademark for one of the great design legends of the '30s, Jean Michel Frank, as well as the Warren MacArthur trademark. As the world expert on Warren MacArthur Parr has been featured in over 200 magazines and curated vintage furniture exhibitions in Paris at the Karsten Greve Gallery and the Rico and Marresca Gallery in New York City.

**VAN TOFFLER** (executive producer) is President, MTV Networks Music/Films/Logo Group, 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' network for the gay, lesbian, bi and transgender audience. Since his appointment to this position, he has spearheaded the company's strategic efforts in extending each brand into multiple platforms and new media, including wireless, broadband, VOD, digital and high-definition TV. Additionally, he is President of MTV Films, the feature film division he helped establish in 1995. As MTVN Group President, Toffler provides leadership for all other ancillary businesses related to these brands. At each network, there is a dedicated team of executives who oversee day-to-day operations, with Mr. Toffler overseeing strategy and long-term planning.

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 13 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 viewers, Toffler and his teams at each of the networks continue to create pro-social initiatives that speak to the audiences' beliefs and desires and was instrumental in the recent cross network production "ReAct Now: Music and Relief" effort benefiting the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

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 58 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 early 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. He took the "MTV Unplugged" franchise platinum with a line of "Unplugged" releases, brought MTV to the worldwide web where today, MTV.com is one of the top entertainment music sites and spearheaded the creation of MTV Films where he has executive produced a diverse slate of feature films, including "Save the Last Dance," "Jackass: the movie," "The Original Kings of Comedy," "Varsity Blues," "Beavis & Butt-head Do America," the critically-acclaimed "Better Luck Tomorrow" and "Hustle & Flow," the Academy Award® nominated "Election," and the box office hit "Napolean Dynamite." In May 2005, MTV Films released the Adam Sandler hit "The Longest Yard," and coming up next for the banner is "Aeon Flux," a sci-fi thriller starring Charlize Theron based on the animated series that debuted on MTV's "Liquid Television."

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 & MTV2 since 2000.

He holds a JD from The University of Pennsylvania, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from George Washington University. He is based at the MTV Networks Headquarters in New York City.

**DAVID GALE** (executive producer) is Executive Vice President of MTV Films, overseeing the activities of the feature film division since its inception in 1995. During his tenure, MTV Films has established itself as a unique movie label with a slate of diverse and successful films that have grossed more than 800 million dollars in domestic box office. Under Gale's creative leadership and in partnership with Paramount Pictures, MTV Films has released 21 films including

“Beavis and Butt-head Do America,” “Varsity Blues” and “Save The Last Dance,” which each broke box-office records on their opening weekends.

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.

To date in 2005, Gale has already produced a string of hits beginning in January with the MTV box-office smash “Coach Carter,” and the summer blockbuster “The Longest Yard” which took in the division’s largest opening weekend ever with more than 58 million dollars domestically. MTV Films has also enjoyed success with the critically acclaimed acquisition “Hustle & Flow,” winner of the Audience Award at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, and also released the documentary “Murderball,” winner of the Documentary Competition Audience Award at the same festival. Slated for later this year is the highly anticipated feature “Aeon Flux,” produced with Gale Anne Hurd’s Valhalla Pictures and starring Academy Award®-winner Charlize Theron as the title character.

Some other highlights of Gale’s successful tenure at MTV Films include the Academy Award®-nominated “Election” (Best Adapted Screenplay) and “Tupac: Resurrection” (Best Documentary), as well as “Jackass: The Movie,” “Orange County,” and the Spike Lee directed comedy concert film “The Original Kings of Comedy.”

David Gale came to MTV Films from his position as President of Gale Anne Hurd’s Pacific Western Productions. Prior to Pacific Western, Gale was Senior Vice President of Ridley Scott’s Percy Main Productions, creators of the Academy Award® winning “Thelma and Louise.” Previously, Mr. Gale served

as Vice President of Business Affairs at International Creative Management, where he worked as an entertainment attorney.

Gale started his career as an attorney in New York, first at Shearman and Sterling and then as an entertainment attorney at Beldock, Levine and Hoffman.

Gale graduated with a B.A. from Stanford University and received a law degree from NYU.

Gale is very proud of his philanthropic activities. Currently he is chairman of Hollywood HEART, which he founded in 1994. Hollywood HEART runs a camp for children affected by AIDS and film workshop programs for at risk children in Southern California. He is also on the Board of Writers Inside Out, which sponsors writing programs for incarcerated youth. Gale also served for 8 years as one of the organizers of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple Food Pantry.

**ARTHUR LAPPIN** (executive producer) has been a leading film and stage producer in Ireland for 20 years, following a career as Drama and Dance Director of the Irish Arts Council. He has produced 15 feature films, two television drama series and several documentaries in this time, as well as over 20 stage productions.

In addition to "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," his collaborations with Jim Sheridan include: "In America" and "The Boxer" (as producer); "In The Name Of The Father" (as co-producer); and "My Left Foot" and "The Field" (as line producer). Lappin also produced "Some Mother's Son", "Agnes Brown," Borstal Boy," and "On the Edge." He served as executive producer on "Laws of Attraction" and "Omagh," as well as the international award-winner "Bloody Sunday."

Lappin is managing director of Hell's Kitchen, the production company he established in 1992 with Jim Sheridan. He was founding chairman of Ireland's National Training Committee for Film and Television (now called Screen Training Ireland).

Lappin has served on the Boards of many Arts organizations and on the Government's working party for the Irish Film and Television Industry.

**DANIEL LUPI** (executive producer) has served in various producing capacities on a wide range of motion pictures.

He produced Paul Thomas Anderson's "Punch Drunk Love," and co-produced "Magnolia," "Boogie Nights," and "Hard Eight." Most recently, Lupi executive produced Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me If You Can," Peter Segal's "50 First Dates," and the Will Ferrell comedy "Kicking & Screaming."

**DECLAN QUINN, ASC** (director of photography) previously collaborated with Jim Sheridan on "In America," for which he earned one of his three Independent Spirit Awards; the others came for his cinematography on Mike Figgis' "Leaving Las Vegas" and Mira Nair's "Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love."

Quinn's other credits as director of photography include Mira Nair's "Vanity Fair," "Hysterical Blindness" (for which he received an Emmy nomination), and "Monsoon Wedding;" Mike Figgis' "Cold Creek Manor" and "One Night Stand"; Betty Thomas' "28 Days"; Joel Schumacher's "Flawless"; Carl Franklin's "One True Thing"; Jimmy Smallhorne's "2by4" (for which he received the Cinematography Award at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival); Louis Malle's "Vanya on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street"; Maggie Greenwald's "The Battle of Little Jo" and "The Kill Off"; Fergus Tighe's "Clash of the Ash"; and Jonathan Demme's

documentary feature "Cousin Bobby." Most recently, he was cinematographer on Neil Jordan's upcoming feature "Breakfast on Pluto."

He was both executive producer (with his brothers Paul and Aiden Quinn) and cinematographer on "This is My Father," written and directed by his brother Paul on location in Ireland. Quinn's parent's hail from Ireland and emigrated to Chicago shortly before he was born.

Quinn began his career studying photography, first working for local newspapers and then as a news cameraman. He then focused on documentary work as well as music videos and commercials, all mediums that he continues to explore.

**MARK GERAGHTY** (production designer) first worked with Jim Sheridan as art director on the Oscar®-winning "My Left Foot." He went on to production design with directors such as Kevin Reynolds, Stephen Frears, Mike Newell, Peter Yates, and Michael Winterbottom before reuniting with Sheridan as production designer on the critically acclaimed "In America."

Geraghty has designed the look of such films as "The Count of Monte Cristo," "Welcome to Sarajevo," "Dancing at Lughnasa," "The Snapper," and "An Awfully Big Adventure," "The Actors," "The Van," and "The Run of the Country." His work can currently be seen in "Everything is Illuminated" and will soon be seen in the upcoming feature "Tristan & Isolde."

A native of Ireland, Geraghty currently resides in the Czech Republic.

**CONRAD BUFF, A.C.E.** (editor) won the 1997 Academy Award® and the American Cinema Editors (Eddie) Award for his work on James Cameron's epic "Titanic," sharing the honor with co-editors Cameron and Richard A Harris. He

was previously nominated, along with Mark Goldblatt and Harris, for "Terminator 2: Judgement Day."

Buff's work has also been recognized with "Eddie" nominations for "True Lies" and "Terminator 2: Judgement Day," and a BAFTA nomination for "Titanic." Additionally, he won Golden Satellite Awards for "Titanic" and "Thirteen Days."

In addition to his ongoing collaboration with filmmaker Cameron (which also includes his 1988 sci-fi film "The Abyss"), Buff is a favorite of filmmaker Roger Donaldson, for whom he edited "Thirteen Days," "Species," "The Getaway," and "Dante's Peak," and filmmaker Antoine Fuqua, for whom he edited "King Arthur," "Tears of the Sun," and "Training Day." Other credits include "Mystery Men," "Arlington Road," "Short Circuit 2," "Solarbabies," "Switchback," and "Jagged Edge." More recently, Duff edited Denzel Washington's directorial debut "Antwone Fisher," and writer/director David Ayer's "Harsh Times."

After dabbling in stop motion as a youngster, Buff attended Pasadena City College for a couple of years before his draft notice brought him to the attention of the Navy's Motion Picture Office in Hollywood. Early assignments won him a transfer to Washington, D.C. to work on their eight-man documentary unit. Following his discharge, Buff worked as an apprentice at Universal, and worked on opticals for the TV series "Battlestar Galactic" at ILM. At the suggestion of Oscar®-winning visual effects wizard Richard Edlund, Buff relocated to ILM's headquarters in northern California.

Over the next five years, Buff worked as a visual effects supervisor on such films as "2010," "Ghostbusters," "Poltergeist," "E.T.: The Extraterrestrial," and "Raiders of the Lost Ark." He also worked on two of the first three "Star

Wars” films, “The Empire Strikes Back” (as visual effects editorial supervisor) and “Return of the Jedi” (as assistant film editor).

**ROGER BARTON** (editor) began his career editing television features such as “Love, Honor & Obey” for CBS, “Not Without My Children” for ABC and “Indictment – The McMartin Trial” for HBO, which won an Emmy for Best Achievement in Editing.

He soon went on to work on features as editor for such films as “That Darn Cat” and later on as an additional editor for “Detroit Rock City.”

Most recently, Barton served as editor on “Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith,” “Bad Boys II,” “Ghost Ship,” “Pearl Harbor” and “Gone in 60 Seconds,” and as an associate editor on “Armageddon.”

Barton’s additional credits include working with James Cameron as associate editor on “Titanic,” which won an Oscar® for Best Editing.

He currently lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Andrea Wagner-Barton, and their chocolate lab, Buddy.

With a career that spans over 25 years, **FRANCINE JAMISON-TANCHUCK** (costume designer) has designed the costumes for such films as “Fat Albert,” “First Daughter,” “Serving Sara,” “Under Suspicion,” “Kingdom Come,” “Hardball,” “Virtuosity,” “Boomerang,” “Corrina, Corrina,” “The Distinguished Gentleman,” “The Temptations,” “White Men Can’t Jump,” “The Negotiator,” “Sister Act II,” “Courage Under Fire,” and the Academy Award®-winning film, “Glory.”

Born in St. Louis, Missouri and raised in Birmingham, Alabama and West Covina, Jamison-Tanchuck studied Fashion Merchandising and Design at Mt. San Antonio College and UCLA.

**QUINCY JONES's** (music score by) career has encompassed the roles of composer, record producer, artist, film producer, arranger, conductor, instrumentalist, television producer, record company executive, magazine founder and multi-media entrepreneur. As a master inventor of musical hybrids, he has shuffled pop, soul, hip-hop, jazz, classical, African, and Brazilian music into many dazzling fusions in virtually every medium, including records, live performance, movies and television. The composer of more than 35 film scores, Jones has been nominated for seven Academy Awards® and was honored by the Academy with the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. He also served the Academy as executive producer of the telecast of the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy Awards®.

Celebrating more than 50 years in music, Jones's creative magic has spanned over seven decades. He co-produced "The Color Purple," helped launch the hit series "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air," and, with his historic production of "We Are The World," became one of the most successful and admired creative artist/executives in the entertainment world.

As the first black composer to be embraced by Hollywood in the 1960s, he refreshed movie music by infusing jazz and soul. His countless laurels include an Emmy Award, 27 Grammy Awards, and an unprecedented 79 Grammy Award nominations. Most recently, he was saluted by the Kennedy Center as one of the 2001 Kennedy Center Honorees.

In 2001, Quincy Jones added the title bestselling author to his list of accomplishments when his autobiography *Q: The Autobiography of Quincy Jones* entered the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Wall Street Journal* Bestsellers lists. Released by Doubleday Publishing, the critically acclaimed biography retells Jones' life story from his days as an impoverished youth on the Southside

of Chicago through a massively impressive career in music, film, and television, where he worked beside legends such as Billie Holiday, Ray Charles, Dizzy Gillespie, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, and Michael Jackson, among many others. In conjunction with the autobiography, Rhino Records released a 4-CD boxed set of Jones' music, spanning his more-than-five-decade career in the music business, entitled "Q: The Musical Biography of Quincy Jones."

The audio recording of "Q: The Autobiography of Quincy Jones," (Simon & Schuster) recently earned Jones his 27th Grammy Award, in the Best Spoken Word Category, while "Q: The Musical Biography of Quincy Jones" garnered him a 15th NAACP Image Award, in the category of Outstanding Jazz Artist.

**GAVIN FRIDAY and MAURICE SEEZER** (music score by) have composed and performed music together since 1985. Their albums include "Each Man Kills the Thing He Loves," "Adam 'n' Eve," and "Shag Tobacco." Longtime collaborators with director Jim Sheridan, Friday and Seezer provided music for the film scores to "In America," "In the Name of the Father," "The Boxer," "Disco Pigs," and "Short Cuts." They also contributed to the Kurt Weill tribute, "Ich Liebe Dich." They have been nominated for two Golden Globes for songs they wrote with U2's Bono.

Friday is a painter and a founding member of the legendary avant-garde punk group, the Virgin Prunes.