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## TYLER PERRY'S A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL PRODUCTION NOTES

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Rating: PG-13 for crude sexual content, language and drug references throughout

Running Time: 109min

U.S. Release Date: March 1, 2019

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## TYLER PERRY'S A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL

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Hashtag: #MadeaFamilyFuneral

Genre: Comedy  
Rating: PG-13 for crude sexual content, language, and drug references throughout

U.S. Release Date: March 1, 2019  
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Cast: Cassi Davis, Patrice Lovely, and Tyler Perry  
Directed by: Tyler Perry  
Written by: Tyler Perry  
Produced by: Tyler Perry, Ozzie Areu, Will Areu, Mark E. Swinton

**SYNOPSIS:** A joyous family reunion turns into a hilarious nightmare as MADEA and the crew travel to backwoods Georgia and unexpectedly plan a funeral, which threatens to reveal sordid family secrets.

Lionsgate and Tyler Perry Studios present, a Tyler Perry Studios / Lionsgate production.

## **TYLER PERRY'S A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL**

***Respect the dead.  
Pray for the living.***

Over the course of ten movies, Tyler Perry's equally raucous and righteous matriarch Madea has gone to jail, hid out in the witness protection program, battled zombies, confronted the KKK, decked the halls and dealt with every conceivable size and stripe of disorderly and dysfunctional family member in her own outsized, inimitable style. But now, as tragedy strikes, Madea must plan a funeral and things are about to turn *deadly* funny.

In *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral*—Perry's 11<sup>th</sup> comic tale centered on the meddlesome mama with millions of worldwide fans—Madea and family are called to bury their loved one, only to *unbury* a whole madcap tangle of personal secrets that threaten to unravel the family peace just when they all need to pull together. It's all a fresh chance for Perry to stir together his trademark, high-energy mix of irreverent humor, riotous characters and uplifting themes of real-life family love, loyalty, conflict and forgiveness. Because no matter what Madea's family faces—even death itself—the only way through it is to laugh about it.

As soon as Perry had a first flash of the idea of unleashing Madea into the solemn atmosphere of a family funeral, he could not keep the comedic thoughts from flowing. Though mortality can be a taboo topic for even the boldest of comedians, Perry has never shied away from any untouchable subject that real-life families face. More than that, he had an inkling that if Madea was put in charge of a full-scale funeral service, it would be destined to live on.

"I've been to a lot of funerals myself and though they are always sad and moving occasions, there are also a lot of hilarious things that happen at funerals," Perry observes. "In some ways, there's nothing funnier than some of the things I've seen go on at a black funeral. So I thought there was no better way to poke some fun at those rituals than to imagine Madea planning a big funeral. I mean, who would let Madea plan a funeral?"

As it turns out, the funeral Madea must suddenly step in to coordinate arises rather suddenly, so to speak. The big event everyone's expecting is a surprise party—with Madea, brother Joe, Aunt Bam and dear friend Hattie, all arriving in their Sunday best to honor the 40th wedding anniversary of cousin Vianne and her husband Anthony. But when Madea and crew arrive at their hotel, they get a whole other kind of surprise. To their panic and dismay, they discover Anthony in a shockingly compromising position, kicking off a series of events that not only lead to a demise, but the discovery of scandals and skeletons long locked in the family closet. Even as comic chaos erupts, the story touches on motifs of owning up to your mistakes and becoming your own person.

"Once all these crazy secrets come out, the family has to find a way to heal and come together," explains Perry. "There are themes about learning to take responsibility for how you've treated other people. But at heart, I just wanted to make a movie that will keep people laughing."

To that end, *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral* brings together the biggest, most multi-generational cast of familiar faces and exciting newcomers Perry has yet assembled. Cassi Davis and Patrice Lovely return as Aunt Bam and Hattie, as Courtney Burrell, Jen Harper, Rome Flynn, Ary Katz (Aryeh-Or), Ciera Payton, Aeriél Miranda, Derek Morgan, David Otunga, KJ Smith and Quin Walters join the fun.

Also returning as producer is Mark E. Swinton, who, as Vice President of the Atlanta-based Tyler Perry Studios, has partnered with Perry in building an entertainment empire that spans every medium, from theatrical plays and television series to a range of feature films. Swinton expected Perry's 11<sup>th</sup> Madea movie would take her antics to the next level. But reading the script, he was struck by how Perry found just the

right tone for mixing sheer mayhem into a time of family mourning. "Leave it to Tyler to write a story about a sad occasion but find the comic jewels," says Swinton. "In the middle of this funeral, Tyler invites us to laugh at ourselves—the good, the bad, the ugly and the ridiculous—and to watch a family coming together under crazy circumstances to support one another."

Swinton sees *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral* as Perry as peak Madea. "People who love how crazy Madea is, how real she is, and all the funny things she says are going to see her in rare form here," he says. "If you're a Madea fan you'll want to see how she deals with a family funeral."

While outrageousness reigns, Swinton notes that Perry has also woven into the film a story about a family coming to terms with a legacy of adultery, secrecy and unacknowledged selflessness. It's part of what has, from the very start, set the Madea films apart—that blend of no-holds-barred banter and madcap slapstick with comical candor and a dash of reflection on the wonders and challenges of modern family life.

"Non-stop funny as this film is, it also speaks to the challenges of marriage and of family and to putting aside your own needs out of love and for the greater good," Swinton says. "Any marriage involves two imperfect people doing their imperfect things and Tyler is very honest about that. So, even as you're sitting there laughing uncontrollably, you're also getting involved with a family whose problems and love for each other feels real."

### **The Madea Mystique**

Ever since debuting in Tyler Perry's first movie, *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, the character known as Mabel "Madea" Simmons has taken on a life of her own. Sure, it was hilarious to see a man of Perry's extreme height throw on a grandmother's housedress and a silver wig to begin with, but there has come to be much more to Madea than the absurdity of her appearance. Her mix of sassy attitude, sage advice, penchant for trouble, love of family and willingness to say any and every crazy thing that comes into her mind has made her the centerpiece of what just might be the most successful independent franchise in cinematic history.

Perry's alter-ego creation—who he has said was originally inspired both by his own beloved mother and watching Eddie Murphy transform into the Klump family's grandmother—would come to star not only in the wildly successful film series, but also a series of popular stage plays. Madea's mass appeal would in turn lend Perry the resources to build what has become the largest African American-owned motion picture studio in history. At the same time, the Madea family—the Madea-verse as some call it—has kept expanding, bringing in stories of family members from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, while boosting numerous acting careers along the way.

As rising star Rome Flynn, who plays Jesse in *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral* and who grew up on Madea movies, observes of Madea's enduring appeal: "People relate to the films because there's a Madea somewhere in everybody's family. Tyler gives his characters human characteristics that are funny, but that are also all too recognizable from real life, and you see a lot of that in this film."

Adds Aryeh-Or, who plays the preternaturally eerie undertaker in the film: "Everyone can see reflections of Tyler's characters in our own family members. We're able to instantly attach to them and they feel personal to us, which is what has made them a part of our hearts and culture now."

With *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral*, Perry once again dons a full assortment of hats: writing, directing, producing and starring as not only Madea, but also her razor-tongued brother Joe and her nephew Brian, a straight-laced, successful lawyer.

Perry also introduces an all-new character into the mix: Madea's unrepentantly reckless Uncle Heathrow, who proudly proclaims himself to be a wounded war hero, although he's actually just a hot mess

of his own making. Heathrow might be without legs and a voice, but he remains determined to be hell on wheels, gleefully indulging in every vice and vitriolic opinion he can let fly.

"I just love this new character," says Perry. "Heathrow says he lost his legs in the war, but the truth is he was messing around with somebody's woman and paid for it. I wanted to bring in a different look to him with the Jheri curl and just have him be out of control and a lot of fun. Of course, the truth is he never spent a day as a soldier in his life. He bought all his medals at Wal-Mart."

Says Swinton: "Heathrow is a character with no filter and no shame, who says exactly what he feels, and of course Tyler has enormous fun with that. You can tell he's definitely a part of Madea and Joe's family because they are three peas in a pod. And once again, Tyler has created a character we all recognize. There's an Uncle Heathrow in a lot of families, someone who came from the streets and is unapologetic about it. They might have gotten old, but they still have it in them."

KJ Smith, who plays Madea's cousin Carol, adds: "I'm telling you, no one's ready for Uncle Heathrow. When I was in a scene with Uncle Heathrow it was a challenge just to stay in character because of the things that he would say. It's nearly impossible to hold back your laughter."

For Perry, part of the pleasure of constantly crafting his own new characters is having the chance to put them smack in the middle of his talented ensemble casts and seeing what results. As a director, he has always invited free-wheeling improvisation on set—both to keep things loose and to capture those unscripted comedy moments that no one can see erupting until they do. "Improv helps to keep these movies fresh and exciting. I like to have fun with so many great actors on the set and I also like that it gives me lots of different options when I get into the edit room," Perry explains.

On this film, he was gratified to be able to recruit a cast full of rising stars he is certain will go on to do bigger things. Perry says of the ensemble: "I love working with people who bring their own funny ideas and a strong sense of their characters to the set. I look for that and when you have a cast like that, and we all come together, it's just one wonderful melting pot. This cast was especially great to work with. You'll see a lot of new faces, and it's been exciting to give so many talented people a chance."

The cast was even more excited to have the opportunity to work with Perry, who is renowned for his rapid-fire form of filmmaking that keeps things flowing and creative. Still, performing in a Madea movie comes with its own set of challenges. First of all, everyone has to find a way to separate Perry the director and natural-born leader from Perry's completely zany characters, from whom no one in their right mind would take direction on a film.

Says Cassi Davis, returning as the much-loved motor-mouth Aunt Bam: "I think some of my favorite moments working with Tyler come when he is dressed in character but then suddenly he has to switch into being the director. You look at him and you're just like, 'Do you really expect me to take you seriously here?' It's hilarious to hear him say cut, and then you look at him and he's in his Madea dress, his legs wide out!"

But the actors are also appreciative for Perry giving them such authentic characters to explore within the hilarity. Sums up Jen Harper, who plays the suddenly widowed Vianne: "As funny as Tyler's scripts are, I think the thing that everybody relates to most is the humanity that comes out in even his craziest characters."

### **The Return of Bam and Hattie**

Wherever Madea goes, her two sidekicks, confidantes and equally trouble-prone partners-in-crime—Aunt Bam and best-friend Hattie—are never far behind. So naturally they are there with her now, commiserating with her, praying with her, "advising" her as only they can do and making sure every single minute of her never-ending funeral service adds some madcap into the mournful.

“Bam and Hattie are definitely those close family members that you would want around you at a funeral, but they are also those family members at the funeral who would probably drive you crazy!” laughs Mark Swinton. “Because, even though it's a sad occasion, Bam and Hattie still can't change from doing all the ridiculous things that they do all the time, on any occasion.”

Returning in the fan-favorite roles are Cassi Davis, who has also long starred as Ella Payne on Tyler Perry's hit TV series *House of Payne* and Patrice Lovely, a multi-talent who is also a gospel recording artist and made her feature film debut as Hattie in *Boo! A Madea Halloween*. Says Perry: “I just love working with Cassi and Patrice because first of all, they are such funny and gifted women. They bring so many jokes and ideas of their own that there's a lot left on the table that doesn't even make it to the film.”

For Davis, the best part of being a long-time member of the Madea family has been having so many people approach her on the street just to thank her for the good times. “People will come up to you and tell you line-by-line something from a Madea movie that you said that made their day easier or made them laugh or was healing for their grandmother. It's been wonderful to be a part of that,” Davis says.

As soon as Perry told Davis he was thinking of taking the Madea family of characters to a funeral, she was already in hysterics at the mere concept. “When Tyler and I first spoke about this movie, I was just cracking up on the telephone,” Davis recalls. “There was so much funny material to think of. It was obvious that the difference between a Madea funeral and a normal funeral is that a Madea funeral is not going to be normal. Period. End of quote.”

While Davis always looks forward to going to town as Aunt Bam, this film was something new again, especially with its dynamic young cast, who inspired even more hijinks. “I've done many Tyler Perry movies—thank you, God! But this particular cast was so much fun,” Davis says. “These young people, they came from all over the country, yet when we got on set it was like we all already knew each other. It felt like a real family and we just had the best time.”

Davis sees the film as one of Perry's comically wildest, yet also anchored to an especially poignant story about making amends. She offers this nugget of wisdom: “In the midst of any family, you have to have that element of forgiveness. We all make mistakes. And, some of them hurt more deeply than others. But you always need to mend those fences, because at the end of the day, family really is all you have. Even if they're a little crazy, Madea and Bam truly appreciate family.”

Like Davis, Lovely says that when the call came from Perry that there would be a new Madea film, she could not have been more overjoyed. “I was thrilled to have another chance to work with Tyler and I'm excited that audiences get to see more of Hattie,” she says.

When the script arrived, Lovely's excitement notched up even higher, seeing Madea, Hattie and Bam run rampant through such unusually solemn territory. “I laughed till I cried at this script,” she remembers. “I texted Tyler immediately and I told him: ‘you knocked this out of the ballpark and your mind is stupid, stupid funny. You have outdone yourself again.’”

On set, Lovely says the urge to burst out laughing was at times agonizing to resist, especially in two key scenes: at the hotel when Madea, Hattie, Bam, Joe and Brian find their cousin in a literally heart-stopping scene of hanky-panky; and at the nearly-eternal funeral service, which goes on and on and on ...and on...only to devolve into technical difficulties with the casket. “During that scene, I laughed so hard they had to redo my makeup because I just lost it,” Lovely reveals.

Equally joyous for Lovely was reuniting with Davis. “I can't say enough about Cassi. I love her heart, I love her spirit and as Bam and Hattie we just match,” she describes.

Most of all, Lovely continues to adore the laugh-filled friendship between Madea and Hattie, who each fully understands the other's outspoken ways. "The way I think of it, Hattie and Bam have been through the thick of things together for 50 years," observes Lovely. "So their chemistry is just bananas. Madea knows what Hattie is going to do and Hattie knows what Madea is going to do and they're both Old School. They've been there, done that, no matter what it is. So when the events around this sudden death threaten to split the family, they know they just have to bring this family back together, whatever it takes and the way only they can."

For the rest of the cast, watching Perry, Davis and Lovely transform daily into their characters felt like a master class at times. Says Quin Walters, who plays Renee in the film: "When Cassi and Patrice came on set in costume, I often wondered is this even the same person I met earlier? They had transformed not only their bodies, but also their mannerisms and their being. Then you'd watch them adlib, and the way they banter so naturally with each other was just amazing. These are some serious comedians. Tyler, Cassi and Patrice truly gel as a team and it makes for some funny, funny stuff."

### **Cousins and Calamity: The New Cast**

Joining Perry, Davis and Lovely in the cast of *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral* is a sprawling ensemble hand-picked by Perry and Swinton to bring to life all the complicated relationships and clashing agendas among Madea's Georgia cousins.

The film's biggest journey is taken by cousin Vianne, who on the occasion of her 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary goes from a long-suffering if loyal wife to a woman ready to take on the world her own way. Vianne may have stood by her husband Anthony for better and for a whole lot of worse, but now she's ready to speak her own truth.

Taking the key role is Jen Harper, a classically trained dancer and actor who, after graduating medical school and becoming a doctor, resumed her acting training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA) in London. In addition to her theatre work, Harper is known for a number of starring television roles including in *In the Heat of the Night*, *I'll Fly Away* and most recently *Greenleaf*.

Says Mark Swinton: "The word I think of for Jen is regal. She has such grace, style and virtue and she brings all that to Vianne. Vianne is a strong character—she's been a caring, virtuous mother, and that's why her family unit is still intact. Even when all these family secrets start pouring out, Vianne is the one who remains able to put it all into perspective. She does it in a way that's not expected, but is also very human."

For Harper, the initial draw was her first chance to work with Perry. "He's a homeboy to us here in Atlanta, so any opportunity to work with him is a dream," she says. But she soon also fell in love with Vianne's steadfastness and inner strength as a proud matriarch. "Vianne is in a fascinating place," she observes. "She has been very patient with her husband and her family. But now she is ready to burst. I really liked that she is a woman finding and asserting her independence."

Harper found inspiration in working with the film's large cast drawn from multiple generations and myriad backgrounds. "What was great to me was being part of a mix of actors and comedians, getting the chance to see how each approaches their work so differently," she says. "I found it an amazing learning experience."

As for whether humor and tragedy can happily co-exist in one story, Harper is convinced there's really no other way. "It's humor that makes life work," she concludes.

Playing the ill-fated Anthony, who perishes with a smile on his face even as he upends his entire loving family, is award-winning theatre and television actor Derek Morgan (Joan of Arcadia). I worked with

Derek years ago on a play I directed so I already knew he was a great actor," says Swinton. "When he came in to audition, we felt he was perfect for the role."

While it's not the "liveliest" role Morgan has ever played, he greatly appreciated his character's resonating impact on the family. Describes Morgan: "As Anthony, I play the guy who unintentionally brings everyone in the family together. He's the guy who reminds everyone of something important: that the choices we make don't just affect you, they affect everyone around you—and also that you shouldn't ever take more than one Viagra."

Morgan especially enjoyed his first outing with Perry. "As a director, Tyler's very calm, very cool, with an energy that keeps that creative flow going," he observes. "He doesn't touch your process and when he gives you direction he's very clear about his reasons. Then he goes from directing to acting and you see the full extent of what his talent looks like—and it is huge."

Anthony's son A.J. is the apple who did not fall from his father's philandering tree. Taking the role is Courtney Burrell, who came to the fore in the BET series *Chef Julian* and worked with Perry previously on the series *Too Close to Home*. "I believe Courtney is a big star in the making," says Swinton. "It was fun to cast him as our bad guy, because even as a bad guy he's incredibly likeable."

Burrell had never played a character quite as badly behaved as A.J. before, though he also sees him as someone who has been dodging his demons by playing around. "I've played a variety of characters but this dude right here, A.J. is a trip," he muses. "He's not a good husband and he has a lot of issues surrounding whether he is following in his father's footsteps. He's a complicated guy, but at the same time, I knew I was stepping into Madea's world, where you are going to have mad fun and laugh the whole time, so I was excited about that combination."

For Burrell, making it through scenes with Perry in them without losing it was a personal challenge. "I would say to myself, 'I can't crack. I won't crack. You will not make me crack.' But then I would start twitching and I was like 'don't do it to me, man, don't do it.' Then I'd be laughing anyway. He's just too hilarious."

A.J.'s brother Jesse is his polar opposite, an upright man who takes pride in his solid commitment to his fiancée, no matter what his siblings might think of her reputation. Taking the role is another rapidly rising star, Rome Flynn, known for portraying Gabriel Maddox in *How to Get Away with Murder*.

Flynn notes that working with Tyler Perry has been a top item on his "bucket list" since the start of his career, so getting the role meant the world to him. Even with that pressure, Perry lived up to his expectations. "Tyler's dedication and devotion is something I marveled at daily and something I'll take with me long past this role. He treats everyone with respect ... and at the same time he makes you laugh so hard it hurts," says Flynn.

He also liked playing one of the movie's most standup characters, a guy trying to bust out of the cycles that break up marriages. "I like that Jesse's a nice guy, a loyal guy and also a helpless romantic," Flynn describes. "He's been trying to come to terms with his father his whole life, so I think he wants to show his family that he's serious about marrying Gia and about being a really good husband to her, because he wants to set his own path."

"Rome does an incredible job playing the young brother who has been searching for real love and has finally found it, or so he thinks," says Swinton. "He's a really strong actor."

KJ Smith, who came to the forefront in Ava Duvernay and Oprah Winfrey's TV series *Queen Sugar* takes on A.J.'s wife Carol, who senses their marriage is on the brink, but hopes this party might spark some changes. "Carol and A.J. have a tumultuous relationship, but she's really excited about the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary



party because she thinks it's going to be beautiful to see how a love can survive that long," says Smith. "What she doesn't see coming is this huge explosion of private information, where what everyone has been doing in the dark, including her husband, comes to light. At the end of the day, this crazy family has to confront their dysfunctions just like every family ... ever."

Smith loved creating that married couple push-and-pull with Burrell. "I'd worked with Courtney once before, so I knew he was an incredible actor, but he brought such great energy. Also, Courtney is nothing at all like A.J., so it was impressive to see him portray somebody so different."

As for working with Perry for the first time, Smith was awestruck by his hat-switching skills. "It's fascinating to see him go from 'I'm MA to the damn DEA' to 'Yeah, okay, cut—and sound, did you get what you needed.' It's actually mind-blowing," she muses.

Jesse's finagling fiancée Gia, who sparks a high-stakes sibling rivalry, is played by Aerial Miranda, known for her role as role as Shana Fring in *Pretty Little Liars*. While Gia may not be ready for a serious relationship, Miranda honed in on her confident joie de vivre. "Gia's a spunky, free-spirited kind of chick," Miranda describes. "She likes to enjoy herself but now she's gotten into a sticky situation by coming between her fiancé and his brother at the worst possible time."

Having Rome Flynn play her prospective husband only helped Miranda reveal a chemistry that is sizzling, if not quite the end-all-be-all to Gia that Jesse hopes. "Rome is so sweet and so cute. That's always a plus, when someone is your love interest," she laughs. "He's so charming that we instantly had a very organic connection."

A steadier coupling is found in Sylvia and Will, played by Ciera Payton, whose films include *The Runner* with Nicholas Cage and Spike Lee's *Oldboy*, and David Otunga, who is not only an actor (*The Call*) but also a lawyer and WWE professional wrestler.

Like others in the cast, Payton has long been a Madea fan. "Madea never disappoints," she says. "You always know you'll be in for some big laughs and some food for thought. But with *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral*, I think audiences will be in for even bigger laughs than they've had before."

Payton has also had plenty of experiences with funerals that go afoul of the norms. "No funeral can really surprise me, because I'm from New Orleans and we have funerals that are like nothing else. I've seen some pretty festive funerals so this funeral is right up my alley," she laughs.

For Otunga, the challenge was being one of the only sane voices in a chorus of crazy. "Will and Sylvia are by far the most normal people in this movie," he muses. "We're upstanding, moral, drama-free people—which means we're very busy trying to keep the rest of the family in order!"

Otunga says making a Madea film is an experience unto itself, unlike any he's had in the entertainment industry previously. "Every day you are sore from laughter," he says. He also thinks this film marks Perry's ultimate Madea adventure. "This story has everything die-hard Madea fans love, but then it takes all of that stuff to the next degree."

The film's screwball events are first set into motion by family friend Renee, who tries to carefully hide a humdinger secret of her own throughout the funeral. Taking the role is Quin Walters, who also stars in Perry's television series *The Haves and Have Nots*. "Quin is another really talented actor who is now coming to the fore," says Swinton. "I think people are really going to enjoy her performance as Renee."

Walters found the catalytic character whose impact reverberates through the whole family intriguing. "Renee's a little bit conniving, and a bit of a dominatrix, but I think she's also someone with a big heart," she describes. "She goes on a real roller-coaster ride in the course of this story."

Rounding out the main cast is Aryeh-Or, seen in Clint Eastwood's *J. Edgar* and television's *Mistresses*, as the undertaker who must wrangle with a randy corpse as well as with Madea in preparing for the service. "He is just a creepy, creepy dude," Aryeh-Or summarizes succinctly of his character. "He speaks slowly, with a combination of casual Southern drawl and a guy who talks all day to dead people. I just tried to bring a grounded combination of humor and humanity to this guy."

For Aryeh-Or, that mix is at the heart of the film. "In *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral*, you get at least two heaping scoops of Tyler Perry's slapstick comedy and banter," he notes, "but no matter how weird it gets, and no matter how grievous the trespasses, family is still family. At the end of the day, this family has to find a way to defuse all these big conflicts so they can come together and triumph despite the circumstance of tragedy."

### **Going Out With a Bang**

Tyler Perry gathered the cast and crew of *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral* at his historic Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta, where the team transformed the soundstages into Vianne and Anthony's warm family home, the hotel room where sordid secrets erupt and the church where Madea carries out her everlasting ceremony. Per usual, Perry worked at a rapid-fire pace, immersing the cast immediately into the havoc of Madea's family and keeping them in that zone for an intense, all-out 2-week shoot.

"When you work with Tyler, you've got to be ready," notes Patrice Lovely of his distinctive approach, "because he'll come in on the first day and just say 'let's shoot.' No rehearsals, no nothing. And then on the second take, he'll see where we all are and then he'll start honing our roles. It's really something to experience and I think actors love it because it sharpens your skills and keeps you on your toes. It inspires you to polish your craft."

Perry may have perfected how to conjure that special Madea atmosphere, but he is now hinting that this funereal film might, in fact, be Madea's own swan song. "I'm so, so grateful for everything Madea has brought to my life, but, you know, I'm turning 50 and I certainly don't want to be her age playing her," he quips. "I feel she's had a great run and I'm full of gratitude for it."

He realizes that Madea has etched out a place in cinematic history that, much like the character, might not be entirely expected but has meant a lot to audiences. "I think lots of people found a voice through Madea and the thing that makes me happiest is that Madea has given people some really good, fun times and given entire families a way to laugh together," he sums up.

That all said, Perry does not entirely expect the ever-defiant and stubborn Madea to go off gently into that good night. "I think she will be really upset about me putting her out to pasture," he says. "I just want her to go quietly, but I really think she's gonna be a problem...."

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## About The Filmmakers

**TYLER PERRY'S** inspirational journey from the hard streets of New Orleans to the heights of Hollywood's A-list is the stuff of American legend. Born into poverty and raised in a household scarred by abuse, Perry fought from a young age to find the strength, faith and perseverance that would later form the foundations of his much-acclaimed plays, films, books and shows.

It was a simple piece of advice from Oprah Winfrey that set Perry's career in motion. Encouraged to keep a diary of his daily thoughts and experiences, he began writing a series of soul-searching letters to himself. The letters, full of pain and in time, forgiveness, became a healing catharsis. His writing inspired a musical, *I Know I've Been Changed*, and in 1992, Perry gathered his life's savings in hopes of staging it for sold out crowds. He spent all the money but the people never came, and Perry once again came face to face with the poverty that had plagued his youth. He spent months sleeping in seedy motels and his car but his faith - in God and, in turn, himself - only got stronger. He forged a powerful relationship with the church, and kept writing. In 1998 his perseverance paid off and a promoter booked *I Know I've Been Changed* for a limited run at a local church-turned-theatre. This time, the community came out in droves, and soon the musical moved to Atlanta's prestigious Fox Theatre. Tyler Perry never looked back.

And so began an incredible run of 13 plays in as many years, including *Woman Thou Art Loosed!*, a celebrated collaboration with the prominent Dallas pastor T.D. Jakes. In the year 2000, *I Can Do Bad All By Myself* marked the first appearance of the now-legendary Madea. The God-fearing, gun-toting, pot-smoking, loud-mouthed grandmother, Madea, was played by Perry himself. Madea was such a resounding success, she soon spawned a series of plays - *Madea's Family Reunion* (2002), *Madea's Class Reunion* (2003), *Madea Goes To Jail* (2005) - and set the stage for Perry's jump to the big screen. In 2015 Perry returned to the stage, performing his new original play, *Madea on the Run*, to sold out audiences across the United States.

In early 2005, Perry's first feature film, *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, debuted at number one nationwide. His ensuing films, *Madea's Family Reunion*, *Daddy's Little Girls*, *Why Did I Get Married?*, *Meet The Browns*, *The Family That Preys*, *I Can Do Bad All by Myself*, *Why Did I Get Married Too?*, *For Colored Girls*, *Madea's Big, Happy Family*, *Good Deeds* and *Madea's Witness Protection* have all been met with massive commercial success, delighting audiences across America and around the world. He also starred in the Rob Cohen directed *Alex Cross* and helped release Academy Award-nominated *Precious*, a movie based on the novel *Push* by Sapphire, in conjunction with his 34th Street Films banner, Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Films and Lionsgate.

2006 saw the publication of Perry's first book, *Don't Make A Black Woman Take Off Her Earrings: Madea's Uninhibited Commentaries On Life And Love*, which shot to the top of the New York Times nonfiction bestseller list and remained there for eight weeks. It went on to claim Quill Book Awards for both "Humor" and "Book of the Year" (an unheard-of feat for a first-time author), and spread Tyler Perry's unique brand of inspirational entertainment to a devoted new audience. It is a brand that quickly became an empire. In 2007, Perry expanded his reach to television with the TBS series *House of Payne*, the highest-rated first-run syndicated cable show of all time, which went into syndication after only a year. His follow up effort, *Meet the Browns*, was the second highest debut ever on cable - after *House of Payne*. In late 2012, Perry teamed up with Oprah Winfrey in an exclusive deal to bring scripted programming to her cable network, OWN, and launched with the half hour sitcom, *Love Thy Neighbor*, and the hour-long drama, *The Haves and The Have Nots*, which made its debut in 2013 and has continued to break ratings on the network. This past summer, Perry debuted a new drama series called *Too Close to Home* on TLC, the network's first scripted series. OWN recently premiered a *House of Payne* spinoff series, *The Paynes*, on the network in 2018. It was announced in July 2017 that Perry signed a multi-year content partnership with Viacom, in which he will produce original drama and comedy series across the Viacom networks, in addition to having a first-look feature film deal with Paramount Pictures group.

In the fall of 2008, Perry opened his 200,000 square foot Studio in Atlanta, situated on the former Delta Airlines campus in the Greenbriar area of southwest Atlanta. During the course of its operation, the space was home to production of over 15 films and over 800 episodes of Perry's five television series. In 2015, TPS announced plans to expand operations with the acquisition of Fort McPherson, which sits on over 330 acres. Perry and the studio's Atlanta-based employees will remain in production of Perry's five current television series, in addition to major feature films and television shows filming in Atlanta. Production is already underway at the new studio, which will contain twelve soundstages ranging in size between 10,000 and 60,000 square feet.

Not one to rest on success, Tyler Perry and his Atlanta-based employees have been hard at work. His films include *Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor*, released in March 2013 and his 34<sup>th</sup> Street Films banner, *Peebles*, released in May 2013. In late 2013, Perry starred in *A Madea Christmas*, adapted from his stage play by the same name. In 2014 he was seen in 34<sup>th</sup> Street Film's production that he also directed, *Single Mom's Club*. A show for OWN entitled *If Loving You Is Wrong*, based on the film, premiered in 2014. That year, Perry also garnered rave reviews for his role opposite Ben Affleck in David Fincher's critically acclaimed box office hit, *Gone Girl*. He was also seen on the big screen in 2016 for Paramount's *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of The Shadows* as the villain "Baxter Stockman." In 2016, Perry reprised the role of "Madea" in Lionsgate's smash-hit *Boo! A Madea Halloween*, which spent two weeks at number one on the US box office. The sequel to the film was released in October 2017 and took top spot at the box office on opening weekend. Never one to rest, in 2018 Perry also released *Acrimony* starring Taraji P. Henson with Lionsgate, and *Nobody's Fool* starring Tiffany Haddish, Tika Sumpter and Whoopi Goldberg with Paramount. Up next, Perry can be seen on Adam McKay's feature film, *VICE*, about Dick Cheney, in which he will play "Colin Powell", set to open in theaters on Christmas Day 2018.

But listen to Tyler Perry and you'll hear a man who hasn't forgotten about the people that have helped him reach the top of a mountain he could once only dream of climbing. He has been intimately involved and donated generously to civil rights causes through work with the NAACP and NAN. He also strongly supports charities that focus on helping the homeless, such as Global Medical Relief Fund, Charity Water, Feeding America, Covenant House, Hosea Feed the Hungry, Project Adventure and Perry Place - a 20-home community that Perry built for survivors of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. In January 2010, Perry pledged \$1,000,000 via The Tyler Perry Foundation to help rebuild the lives of those affected by the earthquakes in Haiti.

Tyler Perry practices what he preaches, and what he preaches has endeared him to millions of fans drawn by that unique blend of spiritual hope and down-home humor that continues to shape his inspiring life story and extraordinary body of work.

**MARK E. SWINTON (Producer)** is an acclaimed film and television producer, Mark E. Swinton first burst onto the scene in 2002 when he won the NAACP Award for Best Director and Best Playwright. A graduate of Syracuse University, Swinton directed renditions of *West Side Story* and *Dreamgirls* along with original works entitled *Ephraim's Song* and *Keep Movin' On*. Throughout an extensive career in entertainment he has become known as an accomplished playwright, television writer and director for both theatre and television. Mr. Swinton is the Vice President of Tyler Perry Studios, and as such, executive produces all of Perry's plays, television shows and feature films. Among the plethora of powerhouse performers he's collaborated with are Tiffany Haddish, Taraji P. Henson and Whoopi Goldberg.

Besides producing two hit television dramas for the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), his work has been featured on TLC and TBS. His work for the latter network even garnered him an NAACP Image Award, which far extended his audience base. Theatre has and will always be Swinton's first love, thus his collaboration with Stan Lathan on the Tony Award winning show *Def Poetry Jam*. His admiration for the stage has also inspired his philanthropic pursuits, among them the founding of the Stephen and Carrie

Odell Theatre Arts Academy in Los Angeles as well as The Youth Arts Initiative for at-risk youth. For his work, Swinton won the Teach For America Educator of the Year Award, the LAUSD Gold Star Award, and nominations for the National Disney Teacher Award.

**OZZIE AREU (Producer)**, prior to assuming duties for Tyler Perry in 2006, Ozzie Areu began his career in 1995 with Warner Bros. in Burbank, California. He worked for Bright Kauffman Crane Productions on the sets of NBC's *Veronica's Closet* and *Jessie* along with one of the most popular sitcoms of all time, the Emmy Award winning, *Friends*.

From 1999 to 2005, Areu worked professionally for two of the most successful entertainers from Hollywood's A-list, Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston. Next, Areu worked with Daytime Emmy® Award winner Ellen DeGeneres.

As the recent former President of Tyler Perry Studios, Ozzie Areu had overseen all facets of the studio including feature films, television shows, and stage play productions. In this role, Areu had managed the Tyler Perry Studios vision "A Place Where Even Dreams Believe," intertwining worlds through story-telling and family friendly entertainment, while inspiring audiences with real-life and thought-provoking issues.

In addition to Areu's previous duties as President of Tyler Perry Studios, he has produced numerous films and hit television shows for Perry including *House of Payne*, *Meet the Browns*, *For Better or Worse* and *The Tyler Perry Show*, and the popular, *The Haves and the Have Nots* and *If Loving You is Wrong*, as well as the situational comedy, *Love Thy Neighbor*.

Films credits include *For Colored Girls*, *Madea's Big Happy Family*, *Good Deeds*, *Madea's Witness Protection*, *Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor*, *Single Moms Club*, *A Madea Christmas*, *Boo! A Madea Halloween*, *BOO2!*, *Acrimony*, and now *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral*.

Tyler Perry's production arm, 34<sup>th</sup> Street Films, was also overseen by Ozzie, which discovered the film, *Precious*, at the Sundance Film Festival.

Other notable highlights of mention include:

2015 Georgia Highlight Award given by the Georgia Entertainment Gala.

Recognized as one of Who's Who Top 100 Presidents.

2016 Hispanicize Latinovator Award.

2016 CEO Executive for Excellence in Entertainment Award by the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Recognized by Fox News Latino for Hispanic Heritage Month.

2017 Selection for the Untold Stories Award by the Black Women Film Network.

**WILL AREU (Producer)** was born and raised in California. At a very young age, he knew that he wanted to somehow be involved in movies and television.

Areu began his journey lighting sets on productions such as *ER*, *Batman and Robin*, *The Jamie Foxx Show*, and *Ally McBeal*, to mention a few. As Areu began working closely with different crews, he quickly learned how a successful production should be put together, whether shooting on stage or on location.

In 1998, Will began working at Modern VideoFilm, Inc., a Post Production company located in Burbank, California, across from the Warner Bros lot. Having worked in Production and wanting to expand his knowledge of the production process, he felt it was very important to gain an understanding in how the two come together, and that having experience in post-production was the best way to achieve this goal.

During his 11 years at Modern VideoFilm, Inc., Areu excelled quickly in many areas and gained hands-on experience with tape operations, editing, Telecine, DVD re-mastering, audio prelay, audio mix, graphics, visual effects, international, domestic and home episodic television/theatrical distribution and operations.

Areu is currently Senior Vice President at Tyler Perry Studios, located in Atlanta, Georgia, where he oversees all aspects of the day-to-day television, film and stage play productions, and post-productions.

Areu has produced many of Tyler Perry's sitcoms, including TBS' highest rated comedy, *House of Payne*, the popular *Meet the Browns* and *For Better or Worse*. In May 2013, two new Tyler Perry television shows began airing on the OWN Network, *The Haves and the Have Nots* and *Love Thy Neighbor*, which Areu has also Produced. These shows set records for OWN, with *The Haves* scoring the highest ratings ever for a series premiere and the highest overall ratings in the Network's history. *Love Thy Neighbor* acquired the second highest-rated series program on the OWN Network, after the *The Haves and the Have Nots*. In 2014, another scripted drama, *If Loving You Is Wrong*, also launched on the OWN Network.

TLC Network started production with Tyler Perry Studios on its first scripted series *Too Close To Home*. Production began in Atlanta at Tyler Perry Studios new studio lot located on the former Fort McPherson army base. With its return premiering in 2017, it was by far the highest rated telecast of the series giving TLC a #1 ranking.

Under Perry, Areu has also been the Supervising Producer on many of his stage plays such as *Laugh To Keep From Crying*, *Madea's Big Happy Family*, *A Madea Christmas*, *Aunt Bam's Place*, *I Don't Want To Do Wrong*, *Hell Hath No Fury Like A Woman Scorned*, *Madea's Neighbors From Hell* and *Madea On The Run*.

Will Areu has also been a Producer on many of Tyler Perry's feature films, including BOO! *A Madea Halloween*, which was number one at the box office two weekends in a row with a \$74 million-dollar worldwide box office. *A Madea Family Funeral* is the latest feature in which Areu also serves as Producer.

## About the Cast

**CASSI DAVIS (Aunt Bam)** has done extensive work with director and writer Tyler Perry, becoming best known for her role as Ella Payne on *Perry's House of Payne*. The series aired more episodes (a total of 254) than any other television series (of any genre) with a predominantly African-American cast, surpassing *The Jeffersons* (253 episodes), *Family Matters* (215 episodes) and *The Cosby Show* (202 episodes). She also starred in the title role in Perry's Aunt Bam's Place. Davis has also been seen in *Madea's Family Reunion*, *Madea Goes to Jail*, *Daddy's Little Girls* and *A Madea Christmas*.

In 2010 Davis won the Best Supporting Actress Award of the NAACP Theatre Award Committee. The following year she was presented with the City of Holly Springs Proclamation, bestowed by Mayor André DeBerry. More recently, Davis again won the NAACP Theatre Award Committee's Best Supporting Actress honors, this time for her role on House of Payne.

Born in Holly Springs, Mississippi, Davis attended Spelman College in Atlanta, where she majored in music. She left the college one credit short of graduation to pursue an acting opportunity, returning to Spelman in 2008 to complete her degree. Davis' acting career began in 1988 with her role in the Spike Lee film *School Daze*. She was also seen in the films *He Say... She Say...*, *But What Does GOD Say?*, *Love on Layaway* and *Silent Bomb*. Davis' small-screen credits include appearances on *Living Single*, *Married with Children*, *Kenan & Kel*, *The Parkers* and *The PJs*.

**PATRICE LOVELY (Hattie)** began her career in 1996. She has starred in numerous stage productions including *A Good Man is Hard to Find*, *When a Woman's Fed Up*, *The Blacker the Berry*, *The Sweeter the Juice*, *Where Have all the Good Men Gone?*, *Lord*, *Why Do I Keep Choosing the Wrong Man*, *Stranger in My House*, *Confessions*, *Marriage Material*, *Tyler Perry's The Haves + The Have Nots*, and *Madea Gets a Job*. Tyler Perry-produced *Madea's Christmas*, *I Don't Want to Do Wrong* and *Madea Gets a Job* are out on DVD.

She can currently be seen in Tyler's *Love Thy Neighbor* on OWN. Lovely is also a highly acclaimed vocalist. Her stunning voice is so powerful, critics declare it an incomparable timeless instrument that baffles the mind. She has shared the stage with world renowned artists including Gerald Levert, Carl Payne, Terri J. Vaughn, Lisa Raye, D.C.Curry, T-Boz, Kirk Franklin, Lenny Williams, TANK, Genuine and many more. She was also a yearly featured performer on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Lovely has recorded two gospel albums: *Glory Road* and *Seven Days*.

In 2004 Lovely became the first African-American female ringmaster in the world for the Universal Soul Circus. She dedicated herself to making people laugh all over the world as the hilarious character known as Mabelle which is the first and only character of its kind to hit the stage.

She believes in keeping God first in everything she does. She lives by this famous quote from the Bible: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Lovely has stood behind thousands of curtains that were opened to showcase her never-ending talents. However, it is yet to be unveiled the impact she will have on the world.

**JEN HARPER's (Vianne)** career in the performing arts began at age 4, as a classically trained dancer and persisted through her study at Spelman College where she was a featured Dancer with the Spelman College Dance Theater and Barbara Sullivan's Atlanta Dance Theater and continued as she trained at Morehouse School of Medicine. After completing Medical School and Residency, she continued her study as an actor in The Shakespearean Tradition at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London. While at RADA, Jen was blessed to be tutored by Ian McKellen, Alan Rickman, Judi Dench and Fiona Shaw as she prepared for what she still feels was the leading role of a lifetime: Titania/Hippolyta in A

*Midsummer Nights Dream* at The Van Brugh Theater in London and remounted here in the states for The Southern Shakespeare Festival in Florida.

Other stage credits include: multiple roles for Jomandi Theater, Horizon, Seven Stages the Alliance Theater, Theater in the Square, The Springer Opera House and Theatrical Outfit over the past 30 years. Her Television and Film work began as a featured extra in *Driving Miss Daisy* and led to a recurring co-star role, Dr. Winona Day on *In the Heat of the Night* (14 episodes) along with recurring roles in the television series *I'll Fly Away* and *Savannah*.

Encouraged by then director and friend, the late Carole Mitchell-Leon, she served as Assistant Director of "The New Jomandi Theater Co." and taught "On-Camera Acting" in the Jomandi Academy of Dramatic Arts (JADA). Currently, she and her life partner teach "Acting for the Camera" workshops in Atlanta and Fort Valley, GA.

Current TV/Film credits include: *The Vampire Diaries*, *Kill The Messenger*, *Drop Dead Diva*, *Survivors Remorse*, *Bound 2014* and most recently is recurring as: Kelly's Mom, Linda, in *Born Again Virgins*, Deacon Connie Sykes in The new HARPO Studios Production, *Greenleaf*, Loretta's friend, Pat, in *Here We Go Again*. Mother in *Dating in Atlanta*; Aunt Yvette in *Nappily Ever After*, Judge Delores Mitchell in *Saints and Sinners*. etc. Her pet project is *The Practice* where she and two co-founders present monthly on-camera acting workshops to help working actors continue to hone their "On-Camera" audition skills. Yes, she still practices Medicine; Dr. Harper, serves as a Medical Director in Correctional and Occupational Medicine in the Atlanta area.

**DEREK MORGAN (Anthony)** grew up in New York City on the east side in Spanish Harlem. Derek spent his summers in stock theatre. While attending high school, he was cast in a WBAI radio show *Compositions Live*. Derek made his professional debut in the Broadway musical *Hair* in the role of HUD. While performing in Chicago, Derek met an agent and that meeting set him on his way to Los Angeles where Derek began to book regular recurring roles on several television series: *For The People* on Lifetime, *Thief* on the FX Network, *Joan Of Arcadia* on CBS, and so on. Derek can be seen in *Gun Hill* opposite Larenz Tate currently running on Netflix, as well as other film and television projects. Derek is signed to co-star in the upcoming basketball feature *Asphalt*.

**KJ SMITH (Carol)** is an actress that can currently be seen as Sasha Duncan, the newest member of the Duncan clan, in BET's *The Family Business*. Smith was born in Tallahassee, Florida and currently resides in Los Angeles.

Smith has earned popular acclaim for her roles as the antagonist in both Ava Duvernay and Oprah's Queen Sugar on OWN and on CW's *Dynasty*. Her role as Angela on *The Fosters*, a mother in rehab, was her opportunity to prove she can disappear into a role and mesmerize audiences.

Additional credits include ABC's *The Fix*, FOX's *Lethal Weapon*, CBS's *NCIS: Los Angeles*, Netflix's *Fuller House* and ABC's *Black-ish*.

Smith is an enthusiastic supporter of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation as a nod to her father, Ernest J. Smith, who was stricken with Cerebral Palsy his entire life. He passed last year. She attended Florida State University and Florida A&M University.

**ROME FLYNN (Jessie)** is currently making his mark in the industry on both the small and big screen.

In 2018, Flynn guest starred alongside Viola Davis in the hit ABC drama *How to Get Away with Murder*. as the mysterious Gabriel Maddox. Making such a strong impression, he joined as a cast regular this season—in the Winter finale we discover he is the illegitimate son of Annalise Keating's (Davis) late husband Sam.



Other TV credits include: *CBS's NCIS: New Orleans*, *MacGyver* and VH1's *Drumline: A New Beat*. He made his TV debut as Zende Forrester Dominguez on the CBS daytime drama *The Bold and the Beautiful*, for which he won a Daytime Emmy Award for *Outstanding Younger Actor in a Drama Series*.

Additionally, he will be seen in North Air Entertainment's *1/2 Year*, a film inspired by ensemble films from the 1980's. Additional film credits include YouTube's *The Thinning: New World Order*, Lifetime's *Ten* and Lionsgate's *The Haves and the Have Nots*.

He currently splits his time between Los Angeles and Chicago.

**ARYEH-OR (Undertaker)** is a multidisciplinary artist from Los Angeles, CA. His primary focuses lie in theatrical/cinematic arts, music and poetry. Aryeh received a degree in dramatic arts from AADA and has worked consistently in film and television with industry greats such as Clint Eastwood, Antoine Fuqua, Tyler Perry and Leonardo DiCaprio to name a few. Aryeh has also played music all his life and is currently working on his first studio album with his band *Warrior Medicine*.

Somewhere between the lyrical elements of his musical career and the theatrical narratives of acting/screenwriting and directing, Aryeh developed a deep passion for poetry, specifically spoken word. In both his personal life and his work in Hollywood, Aryeh finds purpose in being a hands-on agent for change and social justice. From building a school in Malawi to the front lines at Standing Rock and back to the ravaged streets of Skid Row in his own backyard, Aryeh is always looking for outlets to harness his energy and influence to fight for the common good.

**COURTNEY BURRELL (A.J.)** got his start in the digital realm when he landed a lead role on the series *Sexless* created by Black and Sexy TV, a progressive digital network with a slate of programming created for and about young black adults. The series quickly gained popularity, which led to a licensing deal with BET and a spinoff series for Burrell called *Chef Julian* who played the titular role. Courtney went on to join the cast of Tyler Perry's *Too Close to Home* for its sophomore season on TLC, in the recurring role of Nelson.

**QUIN WALTERS (Renee)** born and raised in Chicago, was blessed with a vivacious and outgoing personality, naturally leading her to an interest in acting and performing at the early age of eight. After being cast in a host of local and regional stage plays, the acting bug cemented itself in Quin's life, which led to her graduating with a Theater Arts Degree from the University of Illinois.

Not long after graduation, and with the continued love and support of her family, Quin found her way to Los Angeles to pursue her deep passion for film and television. Once there, she quickly landed a lead role in *America's Most Wanted* on FOX, followed by a sterling performance alongside Maria Bello on NBC's *Prime Suspect*.

Walters' big break arrived when she landed a wonderful supporting role playing "Renee" in Tyler Perry's feature film, *Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral*. Her eye-catching performance impressed Perry, one of Hollywood's most prolific icons, who quickly cast Walters in the recurring role of Gia on OWN Network's popular drama series, *The Haves and The Have Nots*.

**DAVID OTUNGA (Will)** was born and raised in Elgin, IL, David Otunga had huge dreams for an introverted child who was the victim of bullying. He wanted to be a movie star and a professional wrestler, but his mother persuaded him to have a fallback career. David's mother's advice led him to the University of Illinois and Harvard Law School. After graduating from Harvard Law School, David went on to join the General Litigation group at Sidley Austin, LLP in Chicago.

In 2007, David made the biggest decision of his life and resigned from the firm in order to pursue his passion of becoming a film/tv performer. David was the breakout star of VH1's massive hit, *I Love New York 2*, which broke Nielsen's tv ratings records for reality television at that time. In October of 2008, David signed with World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) and debuted on the inaugural season of NXT. After finishing in second place on NXT, David went on to win Pro Wrestling Illustrated's Rookie Of The Year in 2010. David is a two-time WWE Tag-Team Champion, a Slammy Award winner, and one of the original members of WWE's most notorious faction, *The Nexus*. After achieving great success in the ring in WWE, David set his sights on conquering Hollywood and took on a role as an announcer with WWE in order to allow him more free time to pursue acting. David can be seen live on the USA network every Monday night on WWE' *Monday Night RAW*.

In his first feature film role, David starred alongside Academy Award winner, Halle Berry in *The Call*. David has appeared in various tv shows including *Criminal Minds*, *General Hospital* and *The Haves And The Have Nots*. David also serves as Steve Harvey's Personal Fitness Guru on *Steve Harvey* daytime television show. David has been a frequent guest on *Oprah* and was recently featured on Oprah Winfrey's *Where Are They Now?*

The bullying David endured when he was younger led him to discover his passion for fitness. David achieved another childhood dream by gracing the cover of coveted fitness magazine "Muscle & Fitness." In November of 2018 David competed in his first bodybuilding contest and became an NPC Classic Physique Division Champion.

David spends a great deal of time traveling the world giving speeches to students on topics ranging from bullying, goal-setting and motivation.

When David finds rare free-time he enjoys spending time raising his son, David Otunga Jr. David was quoted as saying, "Of all my various jobs and business ventures, my most important job is being the Best Dad in the World to my son."

**CIERA PAYTON (Sylvia)** is an accomplished actor, writer, social activist and entrepreneur hailing from the city of New Orleans. After Hurricane Katrina, Ciera and her family relocated to North Carolina where she graduated with a B.F.A. from the University of the North Carolina School of the Arts. While still enrolled in school, Ciera landed the female lead role opposite Steven Seagal in *Flight of Fury*.

Since her breakout role, she has shared screen time with many talented artists including Nicholas Cage, Kevin Hart and Josh Brolin. Past credits include USA Network's *Graceland*, *Bad Teacher* on CBS, and Spike Lee's *Oldboy*. As a writer and solo performer, Ciera created and performed her one-woman show, *Michael's Daughter*, a piece detailing her compelling journey of growing up in New Orleans to her present success in Los Angeles through a series of letters with her incarcerated father, Michael.

While dedicated to her acting career, Ciera also manages to find time to contribute to her local community. Her dedication to arts education in underserved communities led her to create the non-profit organization The Michael's Daughter Foundation, which provides an annual theater and media arts summer camp for youth impacted by incarceration. Her contribution was recognized by the City of Los Angeles' Mayor Garcetti and Councilwoman Nuy Martinez, as she was rewarded the 2016 Los Angeles Pioneer Woman Award.

A free-spirit, Ciera enjoys boxing, painting, cooking and most importantly, dancing! She continues to have an unwavering commitment to always be her best, challenge the limits of everything she does, while always remaining true to herself. You can see her next in Spike Lee's *She's Gotta Have It* season two on Netflix.

**CREDITS**

Lionsgate  
and  
Tyler Perry Studios  
Present

A  
Tyler Perry Studios / Lionsgate  
Production

A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL

Cassi Davis

Patrice Lovely

and Tyler Perry

Casting by  
Kim Taylor-Coleman, CSA

Music Supervisor  
Joel C. High, GMS

Music by  
Philip White

Themes by  
Christopher Lennertz

Costume Designer  
Crystal Hayslett

Editor  
Larry Sexton

Production Designer  
Paul Wonsek

Director of Photography  
Richard Vialet

Producer  
Mark E. Swinton

Producer  
Will Areu

Producer  
Ozzie Areu

Produced, Written and Directed by  
Tyler Perry

A Madea Family Funeral  
(End Credits)

Unit Production Manager  
First Assistant Director

Tom Munroe  
Derrick Doose

Second Assistant Directors

Alicia Hailey Daniels  
Jasmine K. White

Cast

MADEA / JOE / BRIAN / HEATHROW  
AUNT BAM  
HATTIE  
ROY  
SYLVIA  
CAROL  
RENEE  
GIA  
VIANNE  
A.J.  
JESSIE  
WILL  
ANTHONY  
UNDERTAKER  
SOLOIST  
REVEREND  
OFFICER  
DOCTOR  
JOANNE THE SCAMMER  
ANTHONY'S MISTRESS  
MAN AT FUNERAL

Tyler Perry  
Cassi Davis  
Patrice Lovely  
Mike Tyson  
Ciera Payton  
KJ Smith  
Quin Walters  
Aeriél Miranda  
Jen Harper  
Courtney Burrell  
Rome Flynn  
David Otunga  
Derek Morgan  
Ary Katz  
Christanee G. Porter  
Darryl Handy  
Joel Rush  
Selena Anduze  
as Herself  
Tiffany Black  
Nicholas Smoot

SEEIT CHOIR Conducted by  
Gregory Kirkland, Jr.

SEEIT CHOIR

Karlon Humes  
Alisha "AJ" Blanding  
Andrea Pelican-Ray  
Ayana Maceida McDonald  
Calvin Bernard Brown  
Derek Lamont Wideman  
Donald E. Grissom, Jr.  
Ericka Smith  
Erik W. Coleman  
Freshun Wilson  
Glennie Y. Williams

Jada Howard  
Kelvin D. Armstrong  
Lanita C. Brinson  
Latrice Pace  
Marissa Patrice Rouse  
Monique Carol Baisden  
Patricia Rochelle Allen  
Raechelle Lauren Gamer  
Sheena Alexandria Evans  
Tiffany Boone  
Zaviel Janae

[GeorgiaPeach LOGO]

Crew

Production Supervisor /  
Post Production Supervisor

Patrick Sheedy

Set Decorator

Dennis Donegan

Camera Operator  
Steadicam Operators

Marco Naylor  
Brian Hall  
Aaron King  
Tadesse Bantiweson  
Brian Decroce  
Roberto Delgado  
Yuri Karjane

Camera Technician  
First Assistant Camera

Chad Brock  
Jeffery Farley  
Nubia Rahim  
Rodell Francis  
Cory Ball

Second Assistant Camera

Camera Utility  
Digital Utility

DIT	Elliot Charles
Jib Operator	Andrew Dawson
	Chilé Manuel
	Jonny Revolt
	John Kelly
Still Photographers	Chip Bergmann
	Calvin Ashford
Assistant Editor	Barry Murphy
Post Production Assistant	Vincent Davis
Script Supervisor	Jennifer Carriere
Sound Mixer	Aaron "Cujo" Cooley
Boom Operators	Freddy Chancellor
	Steven Young
Sound Utility	Keith Cooley
	Pamela Cooley
	Joe Elfanbaum
	Abin Shim
	Jeffery Alex Thomas
Additional Sound Utility	Aaron Thompson
	Damian Irving
	Marcus Petruska
Video Assist	Fred Duffer
Key Grip	Kevin Hamm
Best Boy Grip	Louis "Bolaji" Bailey
Dolly Grip	Irie Bailey
Steadicam Grips	Andre Hardin
	Steven Kennebrew-Turner
Grips	Jafari Barnard
	Chris Bennett
	Ryan Brown
	Terry Donald
	Elijah Everett
	Damond Griffin
	Christopher Hines-McFall
	Santrez Howard
	Chris Kelley
	Corey Royster
	Aaron Smith
	Leemark Swain
	Roderick Warren
	Winston Yarde
	Vincent Ryan Watkins
Key Rigging Grips	Patrick Warren
Best Boy Rigging Grip	Danny Malone
Rigging Grips	Bill Bennett
	Will Bennett
	Dujuan Free
	Mike Green
	John Harris
	Chuck Malone
	Tommy McKissic
	Vanessa Smithen
Gaffers	Donyelle Manigo
Best Boy Electric	Don Powell
Dimmer Operator	Kira Potter
Electricians	Ronnie Brock
	Justin Byrd
	Jordan Davis
	Seth Gerrish
	Davion Harris
	Fitzpatrick Herring
	Phil Hogan
	Vincent Jordan
	Amaefula Manuel
	John Pratt
	Amin Sharife
	Cris Toebben
Rigging Gaffer	Stroke T. Renigade
Best Boy Rigging Electric	Dwayne Thomas
Dimmer Operator	Yusif Hughes
Rigging Electricians	Robert Brown
	Deshawn Bulloch
	Andre Collins
	Jeffrey Grayer
	DeAngelo Houston
	Brandon Jackson
	Quinten Lindsey
	Marcus McClellan
	Terence Medina
	Zimulus Nixon
	Deitric Scott
	Eric Thomas
	Marsenio Williams

	Daniel Wyatt
Art Department Coordinator	Jeff Kujan
Digital Asset Manager	Calvin Ashford
Leadman	Jack Segars
Set Decoration Buyers	Kyle Bridwell
	Kelly Richardson
	Tanya Webb
Set Dressers	Lizbeth Aguilar
	Chris Burkhart
	Gary Grayson
	Wesley Nicholas
	Eric Reeve
	Allison Stephenson
	Allisa Lillian Stilwell
	Remington Veteto
	Thomas Reagan Veteto, Jr.
On-Set Dressers	Scott Dunn
	Alicia Marchand
	Philip McSwain, Sr.
Property Master	Rick Kyker
Assistant Property Master	Mike Germon
Props Persons	Taran Alderman
	Leia Verner
	Jonathan Nellis
Special Effects Coordinator	Bruce E. Merlin
Special Effects Shop Foreman	Joshua Harvey
Special Effects Set Foreman	Brandon Merlin
Construction Coordinators	Greg Mills
	Jeff Maughon
General Foreman	Kenneth Anthony
Foreman	Joseph Maughon
Shop Foreman	Henry Cofer
Construction Auditor	Alexa-Michelle D. Tarver
Gang Boss	Jason Barnes
Propmakers	Clint Bragg
	Dwayne Klepal
	Cody Maughon
	G. Scott Mills
On-Set Propmaker	Colin Woode
Additional Propmaker	Jacob Maughon
Utility	Lindsey Davenport
Scenic Charge	Steve McKean
Scenic Foreman	Brett McGinnis
Scenics	Tiffany Smith
	Wray Turner
Set Painters	Brandon Brown
	David Cianciolo
	Katrina McKean
	Quillian Woodall
Paint Utility	
Lead Greens	Kyler West
Greensmen	Blake Shelton
	Madison Stojanowski
Assistant Costume Designer	Raiyonda Vereen
Costume Supervisor	Crystal Brown
Key Costumers	Shavon Gihan
Shoppers	Sherrie Simmons
	Kenyatta Williams
Costumers	Michael Brooks
	Alphonzo Capers
	Jesus Diaz
	LaTonya Faulkenberry
	Isaiah Klepper
	Christopher Opopo
	Kristin Topps
	Erika Williams
Tailors	Derron Cherry
	Diane Harriday
Costumer to Mr. Perry	Makaila Borgerson
Department Head Make-Up	Syretta Bell
Key Make-Up Artist	Shantel Jordan
Make-Up Artists	Roosevelt Cartwright
	Char Coats-Crump
	Jeremy Dell
	Julie Hill
	Michele Lewis
	Janeen Loria
	Para Malden
	Donna Martin
	Jamilah Simmons
	Tashina Turner
	Carla Van Nessa Wallace
Special Effects Make-Up	Gaby Macias
Additional Special Effects Make-Up	Hailey Trifiro

Make-Up Artists to Mr. Perry	Benjamin Dove
Prosthetics Design and Application	Wanda Patterson
	Wesley Wofford
Department Head Hairstylist	Carol "Coco" White
Key Hairstylist	Stephanie Pohl
Hairstylists	Nikki Bell
	Andrea C. Brotherton
	Brian Butler
	LeVura B. Emmons
	Shornell McNeal
	Iasia Merriweather
	Stephanie Pohl
	Cathy Ray
	Alfred Scott
	Jacquelyn Taylor
	Bria Wallace
	Crystal Woodford
	Kasi York
	Dewayne Lane
Barber	Byron Johnson
Barber to Mr. Perry	
Location Manager	DeVonte Wallace
Location Assistant	Jarvis Griffin
Location Consultant	Michael Colford
Production Coordinators	Sue Smith
Travel Coordinator	Shalondra E. Henry
Assistant Production Coordinators	Claudia Cole
	Ashlee Simmons Meridy
	Kacie Baxter
	Michelle Barlow
	Valarie McNeil
	Walter Hendrix III
	Alan Brooks
	Darius Burkhalter
	LaCourtney Garrett
	Jennifer Hammond
	Erin Gloster
	William Graham
	Shaniece Harvey
	Jennifer Hatcher
	Leland Jones
	Felix Jordan
	Fabian McIntosh
	David Moore
	LaTanya "Mocha" Murchison
	Jared Render
	Amanda Robinson
	Michael Smith
	Shaunda Brunston
	Caressa Gilliam
	Matthew Hendren
	Christina Marrow
	Aisha Westbrook
	Debbie Bailey
	Porsha Barringer
	Tory Bryant
	Yvette Carmen
	Kashif Cook
	Tranisha Herrington
	Isha Hillmon
	Joey Huff
	Kiara Jones
	Quazilaon Lewis
	Alicia Miller
	Nohemi Rojas
	Ed Rogers
	Juliette Sicard
	Justin Thomas
	Monique Walke
	Tinkina Walker
	Haley Wetherington
	Jonathan Wymer
	Sofia Yankelevitch
	Blaire M. White
	Bahiyiyih C. Steen
	Cason Searan
Document Assistants	
Operations Assistant	
Production Key Accountant	Andrew Paulson
First Assistant Accountant	Leah Stricker
Second Assistant Accountants	Malcolm Campbell
	Dexter Fugerson
	Samantha Miller
	Stefany Corral
Payroll Accountant	
Payroll Clerk	
Atlanta Casting by	Rhavynn Drummer
Atlanta Casting Associate	Michael Gillespie
Atlanta Casting Assistant	Morgan Landers
Assistants to Kim Taylor-Coleman	Michelle Adams
	Ryan Maharaj
Extras Casting by	Jessica Yoshimura



Extras Casting Assistants	Matthew Sparks Jenny Hurlburt
Second Second Assistant Directors	Toya Madyun Brian S. Tinch
Executive Assistant to Mr. Perry Executive Assistants to Mr. Ozzie Areu	Dominique Robertson Lori Lauth Nicole Hicks Carole Wurst Rona Dana Deance' Wyatt Irwin Caldwell Quentin Murray
Executive Assistant to Mr. Will Areu Executive Assistants to Mr. Swinton	
Transportation Captain Transportation Co-Captains	Charles Pickard Scott Morlan Byron Riggins Ken Goldwasser Ernesto Gonzalez John Roy Ray Adams Seth Armstrong Gregory T. Barr Nicara Calloway Tinika Carrington Quincy Cason Lauretta Conde Julio Cruz Kevin Day Lucious Delegal Rob Dickerson, Jr. David Foster Mike Gardner Stephanie Gillespie Leslie Max Hendren Michael F. Hicks Robert Holland, Jr. Danny Huckabee Lloyd Hyde Lance Ivey June Johnson Melissa Marie LaFon Arless "Rich" Lewis Charlie Ogletree James Patterson Garrick Riley JR Robison Scott Sargeant Jeremy Stokes James Turman Sean Wallace Sharon Williams Debra Wilson Ron Young Robert Smith
Picture Car Captain Picture Car Mechanic Picture Car Hauler Drivers	
Genny Operator	
Bus Drivers for Mr. Perry	William Bruce & Barbara Crawford
Caterer Chef	Ibiza Bites Chef Raf Morales
Craft Service Craft Service Assistants	Sonya Jones Stephen Gilchrist Windsor Jones
Key Set Medic Medics	Paul Lowe, RN, EMT-P Chasity Lowe Luther Phillips Alma Quijada-Martinez Dakota Willerson
Security	Captain Richard Wheat Gavin de Becker
Clearances by	Marshall/Plumb Research Amy Goodfriend, Clearance by Goodnuss
	<u>2nd Unit Crew</u>
2nd Unit Consultant DP Production Coordinator First Assistant Director First Assistant Camera Second Assistant Camera Key Grips	Armani Ortiz Bruce Lane Sherita Bolden Asante White Norman Andrews Nubia Rahim Kevin Hamm Jafari Barnard Dajuan Free David Dodd
Best Boy Grip Grips	

Gaffer  
Best Boy Electric  
Best Boy Rigging Electric  
Electricians

Costumers

Location Consultants

Production Assistants

Terry Donald  
Leemark Swain  
Patrick Warren  
Ryan Watkins  
Donyelle Manigo  
Don Powell  
Stroke T. Renigade  
Robert Brown  
Andre Collins  
Seth Gerrish  
Marcus McClellan  
Eric Thomas  
Daniel Wyatt  
Kaylyn Fields  
Porsha Barringer  
Wesley Johnson  
Aaron Porter  
Richard Anderson  
Joshua Bero  
Derrick Brown  
Brandon Daniels  
David Dodd  
Jarrett Dunbar  
Keith Fitchpatric  
Courtney Houston  
Shane Humphries  
Dani Maxwell  
Daniel Morgonelli  
Greg Simpson  
David Surles  
Esi Yamoah

For TYLER PERRY STUDIOS

TPS President  
TPS Senior Vice President  
TPS Vice President, Film & Television  
TPS Vice President Studio Facilities Operations  
TPS General Counsel  
TPS CFO  
TPS Vice President, Tax & Finance  
TPS Corporate Controller  
TPS Production Controller

Ozzie Areu  
Will Areu  
Mark E. Swinton  
Andy Norman  
Brannon Anthony  
Jeff Armstrong  
Hiten Patel  
Steve Davis  
Stephen D'Agata

Post Production Sound Facility Services Provided by

Post Production

Supervising Sound Editor  
Sound Re-Recording Mixers

Dialogue Editor  
Fx Editor  
Assistant Sound Editor  
Foley Artists

Foley Mixer  
ADR Mixer  
Loop Group Coordinator  
Loop Group

DI Services Provided by

Colorist  
Senior Digital Intermediate Producer  
Associate DI Producer  
DI Account Executive  
Dailies Colorists

Dailies Producer  
Dailies Operations

Visual Effects by

Senior Visual Effects Supervisor  
Visual Effects Producer  
On-Set Visual Effects Supervisor/Compositor  
Supervising Compositor  
Lead Nuke Compositor  
Compositors

**Technicolor at Paramount (LOGO)**

Mike Wilhoit  
Stephen Fitzmaurice, C.A.S.  
David S. Di Pietro, C.A.S.  
Kimberly Ellis  
Dino Dimuro, MPSE  
Charley Stauber  
Dawn Lunsford  
Alicia Stevenson  
David Jobe  
Brian Magrum  
Denice Kumagai-Hoy  
Keith Anthony  
Kimberly Bailey  
June Christopher  
Donna Leavy  
Patrick Malo  
Dennis Singletary  
Lisa Wilhoit

**Technicolor (LOGO)**

Nicholas Hasson  
Ryan R. Helsley  
Kevin M. Schneider  
Laura Borowsky  
Chris Piper  
Diane LeDesma  
Denise Woodgerd  
Chris Van Duyn

**4 Max Post Entertainment (LOGO)**

David Carriker  
Taryn Spates  
Serge Eustache  
Shelly Dutcher  
Keith Pullman  
Marla Barrett  
Colleen Brattesani

	Wally Chin
	Harry Eisenstein
	George Gervan
	Richard Gervan
	Chris Howard
	Carlos Morales
	Miguel Muralles
	Lauren Nishikawa
	Cesar Romero
	Trent Shumway
	Ben Stommes
	Derek Smith
	Rafi Pogosyan
	Mkrich Hmbartsumyan
	Tommy Watt
	Vanessa Watt
	Ileen Chen
VFX Data I/O	
Motion Graphics Artist	
Titles	
President	
Vice President	
Executive Assistant to Tommy Watt	

Insurance Services Provided by	USI Insurance Services LLC.
Payroll Services by	Entertainment Partners Services, LLC
Extras Payroll Services by	PES
Production Legal Services provided by	Mark S. Temple
	Michael E. Morales

Music Supervision by	<b>Creative Control (Logo)</b>
General Manager	Stephanie Kremer
Music Consultant	Adele Ho
Music Assistants	Ricky Holman
	Madison Hoover
Additional Music	Dara Taylor
Music Editor	Johnny Caruso
Music Preparation	Steven Juliani Music
Score Mixed by	Damon Tedesco
Score Mix Assistant	Keith Ukrisna
Score Recording Assistant	Joshua Margolis
Music Conducted by	Allan Wilson
Recording Manager	Paul Talkington
Orchestra Contractor	Marian Tumer
Orchestra	Slovak National Symphony Orchestra
Orchestra Recordist	Peter Fuchs
Pro Tools Operator	Martin Roller
Score Recorded at	Slovak Radion Concert Hall, Bratislava, Slovakia
Music Mixed at	Sonic Fuel Studios, El Segundo, CA

"Free"  
 Written By: Brandon N. Caddell, Darion Ja'Von Dean  
 Performed By: Darion Ja'Von  
 Additional Vocals By: Eboni Gentry  
 Courtesy of BNCEG

"Since I Laid My Burdens Down"  
 Written and Performed by Patti Drennan  
 Published by Muy Bambinos Music  
 Courtesy of Songtradr

"Guilty As Charged"  
 Written by Archie Thompson  
 Performed by Archie Thompson featuring Whitney Shay  
 Published by Eddie C Life Music  
 Courtesy of Music Of The Sea

"Beautiful Liar"  
 Written by Jeremic Jamerson & Victor Wilson  
 Performed by Jay Jamerson, Tricia Reed & Victoria Gulley  
 Published by: A Grimpire State and Business Over BS Music  
 Courtesy of G.R.I.M. Muzik Inc

"Pachelbel's Canon in D Minor"  
 Written by Johann Pachelbel  
 Arranged and Performed by Jay Weigel  
 Published by Music of Melpomene  
 Courtesy of Carondelet Music Group

"Down By The Riverside"  
 Traditional  
 Performed by Choir and Ronald Markham  
 Published by MY TY PE

"I'll Fly Away"  
 Written by Albert E. Brumley  
 Performed by Choir  
 Published by Albert E. Brumley & Sons (SESAC)  
 Courtesy of ClearBox Rights, LLC

"Lord I Just Wanna Thank You"

Written by Jeffery Dean Moore and David Taylor  
Performed by Darryl W. Handy  
Published by Love Peace and Happiness

"I Won't Complain"  
Written by Rev. Paul Jones  
Performed by Choir  
Published by One Pure Publishing  
By arrangement with Nooday Entertainment

"When He Sees Me"  
Written by J.L. Wallace  
Performed by Cassi Davis  
Published by Universal Songs Of Polygram International, Inc.

"He's Got His Robes"  
Written and performed by Christianee Porter  
Published by MY TY PE

"Superfreak"  
Written by Rick James and Alonzo Miller  
Performed by Tyler Perry  
Published by Jobete Music Co. Inc & Sone Diamond Music Corp.

"The Organist"  
Written by Jay Weigel and Ronald Markham  
Performed by Ronald Markham

"Keep Going On"  
Written by Horace Thompson  
Performed by The Sensational Nightengales  
Published by Peermusic III. LTD OBO Itself and Malaco Music Co  
Courtesy of Malaco records

"Seeing You Again"  
Written by George Jackson and Thomas Earl Jones III  
Performed by Ruby Wilson  
Published by Peermusic III. LTD OBO Itself and Muscle Shoals Sound Publishing  
Courtesy of Malaco records

*Producers Wish To Thank*

AHI Corporate Housing	MBS Equipment Company
Artlite Office Supply, Atlanta	Mobile Mini Atlanta
Barbizon	Pro-Cam Georgia
Bexel	Rosing Paint Atlanta
Chapman-Leonard Studio Equipment	Rowland Auto Services
Cofer Brothers, Atlanta GA	SIM Video Atlanta
Enterprise Car Rental, Atlanta Entertainment Division	The Rag Place
Georgian Terrace Hotel, Atlanta	Topper Worldwide Limousine
Gotham Sound, Atlanta	Travel Leaders
Hertz Entertainment Services	Shutterstock
Intercontinental Buckhead, Atlanta Hotel	

*Special Thanks To*

Jason Hamer  
Mark Nieman  
Hiroshi Yada  
Eric Harris  
Ryan Ward  
Willy Thornton

This project was completed with assistance from the Georgia Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Office, a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development

TEAMSTERS LOGO (2)

IATSE LOGO

DOLBY DIGITAL LOGO

MPAA LOGO WITH CERT #

SAG-AFTRA LOGO

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