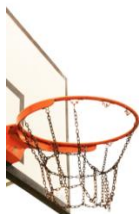


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JUNE 29

POSTBUCKET'S UNCLE DREW FILM

PRODUCTION NOTES

For additional publicity materials and artwork, please visit:

<http://www.lionsgatepublicity.com/theatrical/uncledrew/>

Rating: PG-13 for suggestive material, language and brief nudity

Run time: 103 minutes

U.S. Release Date: June 29, 2018

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SYNOPSIS

After draining his life savings to enter a team in the Rucker Classic street ball tournament in Harlem, Dax (Lil Rel Howery) is dealt a series of unfortunate setbacks, including losing his team to his longtime rival (Nick Kroll). Desperate to win the tournament and the cash prize, Dax stumbles upon the man, the myth, the legend Uncle Drew (NBA All-Star Kyrie Irving) and convinces him to return to the court one more time. The two men embark on a road trip to round up Drew's old basketball squad (Shaquille O'Neal, Chris Webber, Reggie Miller, Nate Robinson, and Lisa Leslie) and prove that a group of seniors can still win the big one.

After a successful five years as a fan-favorite digital episodic series, originally conceived by Pepsi, UNCLE DREW, will hit theaters June 29, 2018.

Summit Entertainment presents, a Temple Hill production, in association with Pepsi Productions, UNCLE DREW.

ABOUT THE FILM

***"You don't stop playing because you get old.
You get old because you stop playing."***

In the spring of 2012 audiences first met the unforgettable Uncle Drew—a rickety-looking, white-haired, older gentleman who rose gingerly from a park bench to school a bunch of “youngblood” ballers in a fiercely competitive pick-up game. “I get buckets,” he told the dumbstruck witnesses. Uncle Drew was the real deal, a lost legend from another time whose love of the game and courage to keep driving the ball against the odds had apparently never faded over the decades. On the contrary—his skill had only been sharpened with a cantankerous wisdom. His appeal was palpable. The documentary style Pepsi campaign quickly went viral.

As it turned out, Uncle Drew was an old legend being played by a vibrant, young legend. Under a layer of clever prosthetic makeup was quicksilver point guard and NBA All-Star Kyrie Irving taking on the character who would become a run-away phenomenon. Uncle Drew’s YouTube videos have been viewed over 100 million times. After four webisodes people still wanted to see and to know more. Who was this trash-talking, proud old baller with so much game? What had happened to him? What drove him to keep playing in the park? And what would he do with one last shot at greatness?

The persistent excitement buzzing around Uncle Drew led Irving, a group of dedicated filmmakers and a handful of sterling NBA icons to dedicate themselves to a feature-length production of UNCLE DREW. The idea was to take the character on a larger journey that, like the webisodes, would be as enjoyable and moving for audiences who are passionate about basketball as for audiences who wouldn’t know a foul from an alley-oop. The film would not only explore Drew’s fascinating life history and supernatural skills but take him on a comedic adventure to reunite his old teammates into a true family, even if they all appear more likely to compete for the early bird special than New York’s most illustrious streetball tournament.

The movie stars a slew of basketball’s biggest celebrities, including Irving, Shaquille O’Neal, Chris Webber, Reggie Miller, Reggie Miller and Lisa Leslie and some of today’s hottest comic stars, from Tiffany Haddish to Nick Kroll. Irving says: “I think what makes this movie so special is that it maintains the authenticity of how sports can bring people together around something they love. The basketball’s great, the comedy’s hilarious, but the message of family behind the story is even more awesome.”

In the film, Uncle Drew is called back into action by Dax (played by *Get Out*’s Lil Rel Howery), a young man who has been on a life-long losing streak and at first doesn’t believe Uncle Drew is any more than an urban legend. But once he finds Uncle Drew—and joins forces with him to assemble a last-minute squad for The Rucker Classic, the Harlem tournament where countless basketball legends made their names—Dax learns that Uncle Drew has much more to give than just buckets.

“For Uncle Drew, this journey is about reconciling the mistakes he’s made in his life and with his teammates,” sums up Irving. “Uncle Drew may have lost his way but now it’s time for him to put the team back together and find his purpose again. It’s a wild journey, but in the end, he and Dax and his long-lost friends become a true family, and it’s a beautiful thing.”

UNCLE DREW HISTORY 101

It might be uncommon for a viral short to become a feature film released by global content provider Lionsgate, but Uncle Drew, the man, the myth and the meme, was never any ordinary character. Uncle Drew originated when Pepsi Productions identified then Cleveland Cavaliers (now Boston Celtics) point guard Kyrie Irving as having charisma and talent beyond his athleticism. Pepsi saw an opportunity to do something outside the box with Irving. But no one could have foreseen the phenomenon Uncle Drew would become or that the character would reflect a world where old and new school converge both on and off the courts.

While still just a teenage rookie, Irving demonstrated a presence that popped off the screen. Recalls Louis Arbetter, General Manager of Pepsi Productions, "As the NBA's #1 draft pick, Kyrie first appeared in small Pepsi for Life digital short. His willingness to jump into the role and try something new, combined with his natural charisma was amazing. We said, 'Let's sign him for a couple of years and create something fun together.'"

That fun kicked off when Pepsi, and their agency Davie Brown Entertainment, dreamed up an immediately appealing idea: the vigorously youthful Irving would fully disguise himself as a mysterious senior citizen talking up the good old glory days of the sport and bemoaning the state of things today—only to unleash raw skills that would take hot-handed young park players by shock.

The idea sparked something in Irving. "The first time we talked about the character with Kyrie we envisioned this old baller who hangs out on the courts with all the youngbloods talking trash and reminiscing about the good old days. Kyrie immediately understood this archetype because he had spent so much time playing basketball in parks growing up," says Marc Gilbar, who was Group Creative Director at Davie Brown Entertainment at the time.

Since Irving's middle name is Andrew, they dubbed his character Uncle Drew. The idea could have just been a one-off prank but it became something far more. It was when Irving rose from the makeup chair for the first time, having transformed not only visually but seemingly from within, that it became clear Uncle Drew had truly come to life.

For Irving, the channeling of Uncle Drew felt seamless in part because it was a chance to step into the shoes of his own idols. "Uncle Drew was a way for me to pay homage to some of the basketball greats that have come before me like Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Oscar Robinson and others who made their mark on the sport," he says. "These guys were unbelievable talents. When they left the game their legacy continued, so I felt a responsibility to honor them with Uncle Drew."

"Once Kyrie was in full makeup, he was transformed," remembers Gilbar. "Kyrie started doing the voice, practicing different expressions and lines, and the character was born. He was completely in character. We threw him in a van and started interviewing him, asking 'What do you think about these young kids today?' He would just go off about how their shoes are flashy, and their music is too loud. He just had it all ready to go."

Chris Webber explains why he thinks Uncle Drew hit such a nerve: "Uncle Drew is a guardian of the great tenets of the game but those tenets also transfer to life: being a good teammate, selflessness, working with others. He's about the idea that you can still be great, no matter your age or who you are, if you pay attention to the fundamentals and stand by your family." As Uncle Drew became an overnight sensation, everyone saw the chance to keep pushing the story into fresh creative territory. "It was a hit, but we wanted to do more," says Arbetter. "So we decided to expand the story to Uncle Drew trying to get his old team together again. Each subsequent episode became a really fun guessing game for fans as to who the next player on Uncle Drew's team would be and they just absolutely loved it." When Uncle Drew blew up on the internet, it caught the eye of executive producer

John Fischer of Temple Hill Entertainment. "I noticed that you can't help but have a smile on your face when you see Uncle Drew," says Fischer. "People were responding to the spirit of it, to that sense of optimism and fun."

Impressed that Irving wrote and directed one of the webisodes, Fischer sent a clip fourth webisode to his boss, Marty Bowen (the *Maze Runner* series, *Power Rangers*). He attached a note suggesting that Irving could perhaps direct and star in a movie based on the character. "Marty promptly responded, 'There's no way that a professional basketball player in the prime of his career is going to leave the NBA to direct a movie' – which was a good point," laughs Fischer.

But Bowen was intrigued: "I teased John about it, but then I ended up watching the rest of the shorts ...then I watched them again...and again. I found myself really enjoying the tone that had been so beautifully created in them."

Bowen and Fischer reached out to Kyrie's management team of Jeff Wechsler, Perry Rogers and Colin Smeeton for Kyrie to star in a different basketball movie by screenwriter Jay Longino. When they collectively decided it was not the right fit for Kyrie, Smeeton and Temple Hill talked about the idea of turning Uncle Drew into a movie. Smeeton then made the invaluable connection between Bowen and Pepsi. Smeeton met with Adam Harter and Lou Arbetter from Pepsi to discuss taking Uncle Drew to the big screen. "The Uncle Drew digital series was already the most successful sports marketing campaign in the history of YouTube. On one hand it proved we had a built in audience, but it also meant we had a responsibility to stay true to the Uncle Drew character and its loyal fanbase." Smeeton said.

Longino, a former college basketball player, pumped his passion for the game into his first draft, also bringing hilarity and humanity to it. He envisioned a tale that went beyond the fun of an elderly man who can fly on the court to make it about a group of old friends going after a dream everyone thought was gone from their grasp. "I've always loved stories where people realize they're capable of more than they expect of themselves—and that's where we took UNCLE DREW," says Longino.

In early meetings, Bowen came up with the mantra that defines Uncle Drew. "It was Marty who first cited the George Bernard Shaw quote 'you don't stop playing because you get old, you get old because you stop playing,'" Longino recalls. "That became our foundation: that Uncle Drew reminds us that age, circumstance or even past failures should not limit what you can accomplish today."

As he delved deeper into drafts of the script, Longino also honed Uncle Drew's devotion to what Drew calls "the fundamentals" of basketball, the core values and work ethic that made the sport an American passion from the start. "This is my love letter to basketball," says Longino. "I was able to say what I've always wanted to say about how much the game means to me. And knowing Kyrie Irving feels the same way about the game was a constant inspiration."

With a screenplay that paid reverence to basketball's role in American life, but had an appeal that transcended sports, all parties were moved by the fact that the script accomplished the one thing that mattered most: it embodied the original Uncle Drew vibe that proved so fun and alluring in the Pepsi shorts. The script had kept alive that raw street spirit and sense of joy, but also told a bigger, funnier story that could only be done on the big screen. With Pepsi and Irving on board, Bowen approached Lionsgate's EVP of Production Jim Miller, and subsequently Lionsgate's Summit Entertainment, to come on board. "Marty was producing *Saban's Power Rangers* for us and mentioned the project to me. Once I read the script I knew it was something that would fit perfectly at Lionsgate since the studio is always looking to find quality stories to tell and Uncle Drew was just that."

CHARLES STONE III MEETS UNCLE DREW

As the development of UNCLE DREW progressed, Bowen knew the project needed someone with an unusual hybrid of talents at the helm. It had to be a director with some serious experience in sports and comedy who has the creative ability to take on an already established persona but with a fresh take.

Bowen believed he already knew just the right person: Charles Stone III. Stone, a former agency client of Bowen, had directed the meme-making “Whassup” commercials for Budweiser, and had also directed the rousing college marching-band movie *Drumline* and the baseball comedy *Mr. 3000*. Stone’s passion for basketball sealed the deal. Says Bowen: “I’ve believed in Charles for decades, so the chance to make this movie with someone whose work I so greatly respect was something I can never replace.”

Although he had been drawn in by the Uncle Drew webisodes, Stone knew it would be no slam-dunk to expand them into a movie with a heart all its own. “The shorts, they have a lot of character to them, but they rely on the hook of unsuspecting people watching as Uncle Drew and his teammates reveal their magical moves. I had to ask: how do we create a richer emotional tone? That was the challenge,” says Stone. “It’s easy to get caught up in the humor of Uncle Drew as Kyrie’s alter-ego, but I also wanted to give audiences a true emotional spine. I took the approach that beneath the comedy and basketball, this is a heart-felt story about the search for family and how we all work better together as opposed to solo.”

Working with Irving was a highlight. “Kyrie is a renaissance man,” observes Stone. “The thing about Kyrie that I find to be so outstanding is his built-in stillness and wise energy. As young as he is [...] his demeanor feels very rooted in patience. At the same time, he’s got instinctive comic timing and of course he’s an amazing ball player.”

Irving had never taken so much as an acting class when he first portrayed Uncle Drew, who came to him organically. But to prepare for the film he worked with both acting coach Adam Lazarre-White and Stone, who he credits with keeping him focused. “As a 25 year old at the time we filmed the movie, I just want to get out there and play. Charles kept reminding me that as Uncle Drew, my knee hurts, my back hurts and nothing comes easy,” laughs Irving.

It was vital to Stone to keep the comic roots of the character alive. Viewers were particularly fond of the sly joke of an old man dunking on young kids at the park. The film puts its own twist on a classic comic form: the road-trip comedy—but this road trip crosses generational lines as well as state lines. “Some of the funniest moments in the film happen with the battling that goes on during this epic road trip,” notes Stone. “There’s a big generation gap between Dax and Drew, so you have them in the van arguing over which era’s music is better, which is a lot of fun.”

Stone loves that Uncle Drew breaks the mold, constantly upending people’s expectations, showing that he has much more to give than his appearance suggests. His wisecracks might come easy, but his wisdom is hard-won and all the more valuable for it. “Uncle Drew is the Yoda of basketball,” laughs Stone. “He can be curmudgeonly, but he’s gained depth and insight in his years. He understands what it means to put your heart into something and that’s why he can still do Jedi tricks on court to this day. ‘It’s all about the love’ is something he says a lot and to me that’s key to his character.”

Perhaps most fun for Stone was exploring Uncle Drew’s roots as Harlem folk hero—a legend of the freewheeling 60s and 70s who suddenly, mysteriously disappeared from the scene after controversy began to dog him. Stone and the crew had a blast exploring how the man’s myth was made, with a lovingly hand-made mockumentary that opens UNCLE DREW.

"The documentary was a way to immediately show you Uncle Drew's mystique," Stone explains, "There are so many rumors about him, like that he won a game playing with a ham sandwich in one hand. We felt there would definitely be a doc about him. Also, once you watch that documentary, no one expects to find Uncle Drew living in a tricked-out 70s van."

UNCLE DREW capitalizes on the chance to blend things that don't often get blended: mixing NBA stars with actors, mixing barbershop banter with coming-of-age poignancy, mixing an homage to tradition with the fun of the new. "From all the combinations in this film you get fireworks, you get things happening you don't expect," Stone says. "You'll see Nate Robinson dunking on Shaquille O'Neal, one of the smallest guys slamming on one of the tallest. You'll see Lil Rel coming off of *Get Out* and Kyrie coming off an incredible season on the court. You get a heartwarming story that's also funny with lots of sports action. It's a heck of a mix."

DAX: FROM HUSTLER TO UNITER

Dax Winslow is the man who unexpectedly brings Uncle Drew back to the court. He proves to be both Drew's comic foil and true friend. Though always a diehard basketball fanatic, Dax has never had the chance to really feel a part of the game. Ever since missing his one chance to hit a winning shot as a kid, he's been hustling to prove his worth, nearly forgetting why he wanted that success in the first place. He thought he was on the hunt for the next young hotshot, only to find himself trying to wrangle a limping, —if also swaggering—team of guys who haven't rebounded since the 70s.

"Dax is a young man searching for family. He doesn't see it coming, but in the course of putting together this team of old guys to play at the Rucker tournament, he finds that. They teach him some things about what matters," says Stone.

Up-and-coming Lil Rel Howery—the stand-up and actor who recently broke out for his role in the runaway Oscar®-winning hit *Get Out*—made the most of the role. It's Dax who shows how everybody ends up gaining something from the mix of new and old school.

"Lil Rel is hilarious and he's got that firecracker energy that was so important for Dax, because it creates such a great contrast with Uncle Drew," Stone adds. "He brings a fast talking wit and that sort of egotistical vibrancy that Dax uses to compensate for not being a success. I love that Dax defies stereotypes as a protagonist. As Lil Rel plays him, Dax is this guy who isn't that cool, who's a little nerdy, who is kind of sweet and doesn't have all the answers."

The fun for Howery was taking Dax through a transformation—from a hustler trying any which way to keep himself afloat to the uniter of a life-changing team. "Dax was an orphan," Howery points out, "so from the start, basketball was his way of finding friends and family. He just forgets how important that is until he meets Uncle Drew. He's felt unappreciated, betrayed and unable to trust anybody. He's made his life about the hustle and being in it for himself."

It's only out of sheer desperation that Dax sets out to find Uncle Drew, not foreseeing how it might change him. At first, he's skeptical Uncle Drew is even *real*, let alone even the longest shot contender all these years later. "When guys in the barbershop talk about Uncle Drew, Dax doesn't believe any of it," notes Howery. "He says, 'you mean to tell me this dude is 75 and still playing that caliber of basketball?' It sounds crazy. So when he finally meets Uncle Drew it's like seeing Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny in person."

But as Dax and Uncle Drew set out on a trek to locate his old team, their cross-generational friction leads to a deeper connection and Dax comes to feel needed as he never has before. "At first, Dax and Drew are just two strangers in a van," describes Howery. "They're having all this back-and-forth about music and basketball and not agreeing on anything. But by the time they get to Harlem, Dax realizes

he is experiencing a feeling he always wanted, the feeling of family. He's now surrounded by people who actually love him for being himself."

Once the competition starts at the Rucker tournament, Dax realizes something different is on the line than what he imagined. More than a win or the cash, what matters now is that he can't let down his friends. "It's become about so much more than money for him. He has the chance to gain the respect and affection he always wanted," says Howery.

Perhaps the most unusual perk of playing Dax for Howery was getting to witness up-close Irving's daily transformation from nimble, explosive NBA star in his prime to hobbling but lion-hearted senior citizen. "What amazed me most is how Kyrie shows you the spirit of Uncle Drew behind the makeup," says Howery. "It awed me to see that happen every day."

Irving's immersion into Uncle Drew also inspired Howery as an actor. "One of my favorite moments with Kyrie was during the Rucker finals," Howery recalls. "Dax is unsure of himself and Uncle Drew matter-of-factly tells him, 'Don't need you to be great all the time, youngblood, just need you to be great one time.' In this scene, like many others, I forgot he was Kyrie. He was channeling Uncle Drew so much, I truly thought I was on set with this wise old man."

Confronting an entire roster of NBA greats remade into septuagenarians blew Howery's mind at times. "It was weird and dope at the same time," he says. "I almost forgot what everybody looked until they took the makeup off and then it was like, 'Oh, yeah, you are Chris Webber, you are Lisa Leslie, you are Nate.'"

Howery also reveled in the trash-talking rat-a-tat that athletes and comics share in common. "The thing about basketball players and comedians is that we both enjoy roasting everyone," says Howery. "And some of the funny stuff we said to each other wound up in the movie."

For all the repartee, the NBA stars were also ready to share their expertise. Howery remembers each giving him advice for his big game scene. "Lisa Leslie was like 'No, you wouldn't stand like that. If somebody's taking a ball out this way, you guard it this way.' It was great. I don't know if there's ever been this many basketball legends in one movie where they're actually playing before. That alone makes UNCLE DREW stand out."

But nothing for Howery could beat swapping stories with his NBA cast mates. "They answered a lot of questions I've always had about certain plays and moments," he shares. "And they were really honest. I could probably do a documentary based on what I learned from everybody on this set!"

UNCLE DREW'S AMAZING, INVINCIBLE, GERIATRIC TEAM

Much as Uncle Drew sets out to find his old teammates, so too did the filmmakers of UNCLE DREW; they searched for real life players who could portray them authentically. The search brought thrilling results. Says Fischer: "We were fortunate to get either current or future Hall of Famers across the board which is incredible, and on top of that to find players with real acting chops. To see these NBA legends find their ways into such fun characters and truly bring them to life was a joy all its own."

The first NBA player to sign onto Uncle Drew's hoops crew was himself an outsized legend: 7' 1", four-time NBA champion and Basketball Hall of Famer, Shaquille O'Neal. O'Neal had a blast playing the aptly named Big Fella, a former great famed for his defense but *not* his shot, and now a Kung Fu instructor harboring a grudge against Uncle Drew.

Says Stone: "Big Fella is the giant who brings power to the team, he's the anchor and that connects so well to who Shaquille is, since he is himself this great former player but also a whimsical giant and a very charming ham. In the beginning Big Fella seems full of anger but then he shows us a guy who he can break dance and has a heart as gigantic as he is."

The fact that O'Neal is also an experienced screen and television actor with extensive experience made him even more unbeatable as a cast member for UNCLE DREW. "They called me right away," recalls O'Neal. "They needed a big guy and there's nobody bigger than the Shaqster. So for me, it's movie number 20."

O'Neal has taken on a diverse range of roles, but he understood Big Fella on a personal level. "Big Fella is a very conscious, focused individual—but also one with a grudge. Uncle Drew did something to upset him long ago, and Big Fella has not forgotten. Yet, he's also understanding and caring, and he's a team player who will do whatever is necessary for the team to win," he describes.

In fact, O'Neal was so close to the character that "a large part of Big Fella's humor was dictated by Shaq," says Longino. "Shaq has been into Kung-Fu all his life, and he even used to do karate poses after he made baskets. So, Shaq influenced who Big Fella is as a person. The idea to put him in a yellow gi like *Kill Bill* came from Charles. It's such a funny look and Shaq is so big, we thought it would be even funnier to see a guy that size teaching little kids."

Despite having to spend 3 hours daily in the makeup chair, O'Neal got a big kick out of his altered look. "I'm just glad they gave me hair," he quips. "I don't really have hair. But as Big Fella, I have a nice little afro with the gray. If I had hair, I'd probably have it just like that."

Perhaps most of all what O'Neal loved about UNCLE DREW was the camaraderie on set with his fellow players, echoing the story on screen. "We've all known each other for a long time and just appreciated the opportunity to be involved in a film like this," he says.

"With Kyrie at the point, Nate at the off-guard, Reggie at the small forward, Chris as the power forward and me at the center, that's a helluva team right there. And there were no egos involved. We all just came to work every day wanting to be part of something that was going to bring joy to people."

Next to be recruited was five-time NBA All-Star, Basketball Hall of Famer and Olympic Gold medalist Reggie Miller. Miller portrays Wilbur "Lights" Wallace, who in his prime could hit the basket from anywhere at any time—and he still believes he can even though he's currently so sight-impaired he couldn't hit the ocean from a boat. "Lights, in his heyday, was one of the greatest gunslinger shooters of his time," describes Miller. "As father time caught up to him, his eyesight went, but he refuses to admit it. Everyone around him knows that he's legally blind, but in his mind he thinks he's making every shot."

As a fierce competitor in real life, Miller identified with Lights' unwavering self-belief. "People know I'm a very competitive person," points out Miller. "I like to win just about at anything from ping pong to dominoes, whatever it is. I still feel that I have the best hand-eye coordination of anyone, even at 52 years old. So it was not hard for me to understand this character!"

Lights may be a little hazy, but he is not out of touch. He's still the cool guy in this geriatric crowd, dressing to be noticed. "I see him as the cool old uncle everyone probably has in their family, the one who tries to dress like he's young, but comes off just a tad off. He wears Capri shorts, pastel colors, Kangol fedora hats, high white socks and fresh white Reeboks. Lights is good to go all the time. He even has a gold tooth rocking."

For Miller, the rigors of the makeup and prosthetic application were not a challenge but a bonus. "I think while you're sitting in that chair, getting made up, you start to evolve and become your character," says Miller. "After putting on the prosthetics and clothes, I was Lights, and the old man grunt and scruffy voice just came out of me. I would arch my back and start walking differently. As Lights, I walk a lot like my dad, who's 76, echoing how he keeps his arms back and looks around real slow. I enjoyed the transformation process."

One thing that didn't change with the makeup was Miller's savvy with put-downs. "With this film, the trash-talking has been ramped up to a whole new level," he says.

Claiming the fourth spot on Uncle Drew's roster is three-time NBA slam-dunk champion Nate Robinson as Boots, the team's silent scorer with a sneaker superstition. Uncle Drew might find his old friend sitting wordlessly in a retirement home, but Drew knows the brilliant old Boots is still in there and it's just a matter of reigniting his spirit.

Robinson had previously appeared in the 3rd webisode, but this was an entirely new character for him, one who goes through a dramatic change in the course of the film. "Having given up basketball, Boots thought he was done with life. Then, Uncle Drew and Dax arrive to change his fate. Finally, his gang is back together and life has meaning and purpose again," explains Robinson. "Boots still doesn't say much, but he's the guy you want on your team. Boots keeps everybody going. When he's playing, it's always a show of dunks and high-flying stuff. I want to be him when I get older."

"Having seen Nate in one of the Uncle Drew shorts, we knew he could be great as Boots," says Fischer. "He's charismatic, funny and despite very little dialogue in the movie, Nate was able to communicate things we didn't even think were possible through his performance. And then of course Nate's athletic ability on the court is insane."

Stone loved how Robinson embodied the character. "Boots is like this beautiful tree that's grown over centuries, with his massive hair, the beard and just the age in his face. But you also feel his wisdom, and the way Nate plays him, you really believe him as Boots comes more alive and becomes indispensable."

For Robinson, it was a bit surreal to play a character obsessed with his hoop shoes—because it was so on the nose. "That's how I am in real life," he admits. "When I find a pair of shoes I love, I only wear those shoes until I have to glue them back together. I want to keep the magic and all of the buckets that I get in that one pair of shoes. So I understood Boots."

Though Robinson was surprised by how grueling the makeup could be, he was thrilled with Boots' final look. "People told me I look like Frederick Douglass, which is a great compliment," says Robinson.

Making it a fab five is five-time NBA All-Star Chris Webber portraying Preacher, who after retiring replaced his basketball with the Good Book of the Lord. Webber blew the filmmakers away with his audition. Recalls Fischer: "We needed a big personality to play this Southern preacher. We were fans of Chris and knew that he does a lot of broadcasting---but when he read, he had our jaws on the floor. His father was a minister, and Chris knew exactly how to inhabit this character's cadence and rhythm. He was one of the biggest surprises in the cast."

Stone adds: "In my mind I always saw Preacher as a cross between Al Sharpton and James Brown, with that kind of power of oration, but I had no idea that Chris could bring that. He was able to take the character to a whole other level."

Webber's father is a church deacon, so he was no stranger to church life. Webber describes Preacher as "a guy who wears his emotions on his sleeve. He is the leader of the crew spiritually, but he was

also the wildest member at one time so everyone respects how he has learned to stick to discipline. Reading the script, I always felt Preacher is the heartbeat of the crew and it was exciting to play that. And I love that at first it's hard to tell if he is chasing his dream or running from his wife!"

To prepare to play Preacher, Webber spent time closely watching a variety of pastors, reflecting on their styles. He also drew on his past. "A lot of it came naturally to me because it because Preacher's world is so similar to the one I grew up in," he explains.

Webber also credits Stone with guiding this unusual cast to hone their potential. "Charles gave me so much confidence because he's really a great communicator. In many ways, he's like a great basketball coach," Webber muses. "The best coaches are the ones who figure out how to let the team know exactly what they need to do but also how to let them feel involved. And that's how Charles was with us."

Taking on the role of Preacher's no-nonsense wife Betty Lou—who is in hot pursuit of him all the way to the Rucker—is two-time WNBA champion, three-time WNBA MVP, four-time Olympic Gold Medal winner and Basketball Hall of Famer Lisa Leslie. From the start, the filmmakers had hoped to be able to cast her, but she too went beyond their expectations. "Lisa really found that fieriness that's in Betty Lou, who wears the pants in Preacher's household," says Stone. "She connected to the competitor she was on the court, that warrior spirit, and at the same time she made Betty Lou one of the funniest characters."

Adds Fischer: "Lisa is the most iconic WNBA star of all time, but we didn't know at first if she could embody this nagging older woman who by the end of the movie is anything but. Then she blew us out of the water. She came into her audition hunched over and hobbling and we never saw Lisa Leslie on that day. We saw Betty Lou and we could not be happier to have her in this film."

Leslie, who first started acting even while playing basketball in high school, was drawn to the idea of breaking down ageist stereotypes with Betty Lou. "I thought, 'Wow, what an opportunity to play a character who is an amazing and talented 80-year-old woman,'" she says. "One thing I always say is that we never age in our mind. No matter what age you are, I believe you should still look at a thing you enjoy and say 'Oh, yeah. I could totally do that.'"

Then there was Betty Lou's fierce, take-no-prisoners persona—and her skepticism about letting Preacher return to basketball with all its temptations. "Betty Lou is feisty, independent and she doesn't take any mess," Leslie describes. "She's bossy and she likes to be in control but...she is also very in love with her husband and she wants what is best for him. She just wants to make sure Preacher stays on a positive path."

As for Betty Lou's own rarely-seen but raging court skills, Leslie says: "Betty Lou does what she does, you know. She gets buckets. And I love that."

It is clear Chris Webber relished the chance to work with Leslie in their performance of couple's bickering, razzing, but ultimately adoring dynamic. "Right from the start, Lisa and I had a great chemistry," Webber says. "I was a fan of hers already and Lisa really brought out Betty Lou's personality. I really like Betty Lou and Preacher's relationship—it has a lot of heart, a lot of sensitivity and a lot of humor, too."

Leslie adds: "Chris and I pow-wowed a lot about our characters, looking for all kinds of ways to make them seem authentically like husband and wife. We had a great time together."

For Irving, sharing the screen with so many of his own idols was something special. "I literally grew up watching all of my cast-mates play. They know how I feel about them in terms of the homage I wanted

to pay to them as individuals and what they've given to the game. They made a lot of sacrifices dedicating themselves to a craft that they love. And now that's coming full circle in this movie as we get the chance to appreciate them in a new way," he sums up.

SUPPORTING PLAYERS

Also making his film debut in UNCLE DREW is Orlando Magic forward Aaron Gordon, who brings his stellar athletic skills to the role of Casper, Dax's surefire weapon to a Rucker victory, or so he thinks. When Casper switches teams, Dax is left in the lurch, which ultimately leads to his fateful search for Uncle Drew.

"Casper is the cocky, arrogant, young up-and-comer who doesn't respect those who paved the way before him," explains Gordon. "He doesn't understand what it means to be a team player; he just wants to win."

Gordon was a revelation to Stone. "He was another great surprise," says the director. "We just wanted somebody who could play like a young super machine, who was clearly going to be the golden ticket for Dax. But Aaron brought more than just skill. He brought in an easy-going comedy and attitude that makes the character feel real."

Playing opposite of Lil Rel Howery, Gordon frequently found it difficult to keep a straight face. "Lil Rel is absolutely hysterical," says Gordon. "The first scene that we did, they had to do multiple takes because I couldn't stop smiling. Lil Rel was just killing me."

Howery was impressed by Gordon's screen presence and his dunks. "I'm a big Aaron Gordon fan," he says. "Right away, we had chemistry. And when you watch the movie, those dunks are real. They didn't ask him to do half the stuff he did—he just couldn't help himself."

The man who steals Casper away from Dax is none other than Dax's life-long rival and eternally underhanded adversary, Mookie Bass. For the scene-stealing villain, the filmmakers cast Nick Kroll, who is renowned for his ability to play motor-mouths, the clueless jerks with inexplicable charm. Says Kroll, channeling Mookie: "Some people would call Mookie the villain of the movie, but I call him a hero because he's won seven of the last nine Rucker titles."

Kroll had a unique take on Mookie, believing he actually needs Dax in order to fuel his ambitions. Ever since Mookie blocked Dax's shot in a tournament final as kids, Mookie has viewed Dax as the secret source of his power. "In Mookie's mind, he sees the two of them as being like Bird and Magic, two iconic rivals, who feed off each other," continues Kroll.

Howery appreciated the approach. "Nick made Mookie into this slick-talking, hilarious mirror to Dax," he observes.

For Stone, Kroll upended what could have just been a cardboard cutout. "Nick creates all these really trippy characters, so I knew he would do something fun. He really wanted to make Mookie unique and different. He created him as someone who is obsessed with Dax because it makes him feel big, whose whole agenda is to constantly get energy from defeating this person. With Nick's amazing talent, he took the villain archetype somewhere all his own."

If Mookie always has an agenda, the purest character in UNCLE DREW is Maya, Boots' loving, levelheaded granddaughter who joins the road trip to keep tabs on her grandfather, but starts to have feelings for Dax in spite of herself. Taking the role is Erica Ash, who recently starred in the basketball-themed TV series "Survivor's Remorse." Says Ash: "Maya is the voice of reason in this band of merry men. She becomes just one of the guys on this cross-country road trip, but with her own voice."

"We wanted Maya to be this beacon of someone who loves family, which is everything that Dax's character is looking for," adds Stone. "Erica has that compassionate heart but she also has some real comic chops. As Maya, she has no filter, and that's part of her humor."

Ash especially loved the chance to create a rapport with Howery. "Lil Rel is a laugh a minute whether the camera is rolling or not," says Ash. "He kept me laughing and that was important because Dax makes Maya laugh. That's what draws him to her and then she starts to see he's not just stealing her grandfather but is actually a really decent guy who cares about his team no matter if they play or not."

Being the only girl in a van full of guys, Ash developed a sibling-style relationship with her co-stars. "They were all like my big brothers," says Ash. "They gave me a good ribbing but I dished it back, too. In reality, they were always looking out for me. I've really enjoyed hanging out with this crew. It's been the most fun I've had on any movie set."

Maya comes into Dax's life after his former girlfriend, the social climber Jess, throws him out of her apartment. Bringing raucous energy to Jess is rocketing stand-up star and actress Tiffany Haddish of *Girls Trip*, who has previously paired with Howery in a number of projects. "Jess does not like men who do not have their act together," says Haddish of her character. "She has a good heart, but when things don't go the way she wants them to, she's through."

Notes Howery: "This is the third time Tiffany and I have played a couple, and the second time she's broken up with me which is insane. But I love Tiffany, man. She's honestly one of my best friends. She's so talented and funny and I'm so happy she was able to do this movie."

Rounding out the supporting cast are two more beloved comics—JB Smoove and Mike Epps—the fast-talking, tell-it-like-it-is barbershop owner, Angelo and his razor-tongued fellow barber. They are the first to share the legend of Uncle Drew with Dax, setting him off on his unlikely quest to bring the prodigal basketball legend back to the heat of the game.

Smoove had previously appeared in both the Uncle Drew commercials and online series and was thrilled to be part of the character's evolution to the screen. "I'm so passionate about Uncle Drew," says Smoove. "People love Uncle Drew and I think the transition to this incredible movie is perfect timing. These characters have so much life, you want to see where they came from and see all the possibilities for them."

He says of his character: "When Dax finds himself in a difficult spot, he naturally comes to the barbershop for advice. Angelo sees Dax needs some motivation so Angelo decides it's time to pass on the torch—the Uncle Drew torch. He wants everyone to be inspired by Uncle Drew, this streetball legend, the way he has been. Everyone thinks Uncle Drew is a fairy tale but Angelo knows he's real and wants everyone to pay homage."

For Epps, the draw was simple and clear. "Anytime you get a chance to work with a group of talents like this in a comedy that is so funny and heartfelt, you get on board," he summarizes.

THE RUCKER

Long before the movie of UNCLE DREW was even a glimmer of an idea, the plan was always to take Uncle Drew's story all the way to a very specific location: Harlem's celebrated Rucker Classic, the ultimate streetball competition that has for 7 decades been a thrilling spectacle of showmanship where ballers' names and reputations are made.

The Rucker dates back to the 1940s when a playground director and teacher named Holcombe Rucker (who was also a 6' 3" former guard in high school) set out to uplift kids in Harlem by combining sports with education. Rucker created a series of summer youth leagues that gave local kids a chance to shine. His motto—"each one, teach one"—became as famous as he did, reflecting his belief that by passing on the fundamentals of what you learn to others, you grow a stronger community. Through his tournaments, Rucker helped hundreds to attain college scholarships that changed their lives.

In 1956, the tournament gained steam when it began hosting pro and semi-pro players in the off-season. The park would soon become the sacred mecca of a faster, wilder street version of the game, a liberating place where ballplayers could create, experiment and display their best. "If you ask anyone who knows anything about street basketball, they'll tell you that the Rucker is the most iconic stage in the sport, where legends such as Dr. J [Julius Erving] and Richard 'Pee Wee' Kirkland came up," notes Marc Gilbar.

The Rucker generated one legend after another. It was said Wilt Chamberlain once dunked so hard at the Rucker that the ball exploded off the concrete and flew over a 15-foot fence. Lew Alcindor, before he became Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, perfected his nearly unblockable skyhook there. More recently, Kevin Durant dropped an incredible 66 points at the Rucker and LeBron James played for Jay-Z's team, considered one of the best to ever hit the playground.

"The Rucker is very powerful," says Nate Robinson, one of many Rucker veterans to appear in UNCLE DREW. "It has a magical energy. When you play in front of the Rucker crowd you earn a nickname. They called me Nate The Great—and it stayed with me ever since."

Screenwriter Longino notes that the Rucker was and still is a rite of passage for the best players. "If you consider yourself a baller in New York, you go to Rucker to see if you can hang," sums up Longino. "The Rucker is the great equalizer because it doesn't matter what color you are, how old you are, male, female ...if you can play, you're respected. And that's why it's the perfect place to showcase what Uncle Drew is all about."

Irving has his own strong connections to the Rucker. "I'm from Jersey, but I grew up playing in New York's concrete parks," he points out. "Rucker Park was a place of refuge for me, a place of community. The spirit of competition there was special. My dad [Drederick Irving, who played pro ball in Australia] was actually MVP at Rucker. So, the appreciation I have for Rucker is deep in my heart because that's what I grew up on."

Part the fun of it for the filmmakers was capturing how flashy and mesmerizing the game played at Rucker Park can be for audiences. The feeling of streetball stands apart. "What makes streetball unique is there's less rigidity and when you lose some of that formality you get more fun, you get more theatre," says Stone. "Everyone essentially has courtside seats in a place like Rucker, so the crowd is interacting in real time with these amazing plays they're seeing. It's much more communal you also get a lot of vibrant showmanship."

To capture that inimitable spirit of Rucker Park, the team brought in such real Rucker legends Dr. J, Pee Wee Kirkland, Joe Hammond and Earl the Pearl to share their tales.

Says Hammond: "The greatest players in the world have played on the Rucker court. If they hadn't played there, they would feel like they don't belong in the basketball world, that's how it was. In my era, everybody that played in the NBA knew they had to come here and play or they'd be called out—'man, you afraid to come play.'"

"Things were invented at the Rucker that had never been seen before. The crossover was invented. The spin move to the basket was invented. The 360 jump shot was invented... Rucker seemed to create a

phenomenology that no other playground in any basketball era has been able to create since,” adds Kirkland.

Production designer Douglas J. Meerdink built the production’s very own meticulously detailed replica of the Rucker court, accurate down to the narrow bleachers, in Atlanta. “Finding the right outdoor court in Atlanta was more challenging than we anticipated,” says Meerdink. “So we decided instead to find an optimal urban setting that resembled Harlem where we could recreate the court ourselves from scratch. I measured and surveyed the real Rucker court, and then we laid down our own court surface, put in a fence and added basketball hoops that could withstand the extreme play that our characters are capable of.”

For the color scheme, Meerdink went retro. “Every year, they repaint the color scheme for the Rucker, so it changes frequently. But Charles and I decided we wanted to go back to a classic feel. Rucker court is a homecoming for our team in the film, so we wanted it to have some of that feeling of when they played there in the 70s.”

For the final authentic touch to the Rucker set, the filmmakers invited iconic street ball emcee Duke Tango to announce the film’s games. One of the most electrifying elements at the Rucker has long been the fast-talking emcees who call the action, often playfully ridiculing bad plays, inventing hilarious slang and handing out life-long nicknames.

“Duke Tango was Rucker’s original play-by-play man, rousing the crowd and anointing players with catchy and unique monikers,” says Stone. “After Doug did such an incredible job to replicate the Rucker court, having Duke Tango there was like the stamp of approval. He grounds UNCLE DREW in the real Rucker culture. When I first walked on set, I thought, ‘Wow! This is amazing.’ Then when I heard Duke’s voice fill the air, I knew it was complete.”

THE BASKETBALL

While high humor, family, friendship and the dream of returning to the Rucker drive UNCLE DREW, it was equally important to Stone to capture some visceral basketball action with his unprecedented cast of hoop legends. To get to the heart of the beauty, the flow and the flying spirit of the game—from simple hand-offs to 3-point miracle shots-- Stone worked with a team including cinematographer Karsten Gopinath (*Step Up Revolution*) and renowned Basketball Coordinator Mark Ellis of Game Changing Films (*The Rookie, Miracle, Semi-Pro*).

Ellis was in 7th heaven with the team he had to work with on the film. “When I first heard about the cast with every name I was like, ‘you’ve got to be kidding me.’ But then you start wondering what the chemistry is going to be like when you have Kyrie, Shaq, Reggie Miller, Chris Webber, Nate Robinson and Lisa Leslie all playing together. As it turned out, these are all just really great people and we had a lot of fun creating original plays.”

It was never less than staggering to Ellis how much each member of the main cast, several in their 40s and 50s, could still do. But part of the fun of the choreography was taking into consideration how septuagenarians—albeit some rarified elders with savage skills—would play. Ellis wanted to show each character evolving as they rediscover their inner fire for the game. “Early on in the tournament, they can’t quite do all the plays,” Ellis explains. “Their mind is telling them one thing, but their body can’t catch-up. But, each guy has his spinach; for example, Lights has his goggles and Boots has his favorite pair of sneakers which gives them the confidence to play as they did in years past once they’re in Harlem.”

Ellis got plenty of help from the NBA stars themselves. Notes Stone, "This was such an exciting cast because they would bring their own two cents to the choreography, saying, 'hey, maybe it would look cooler if I came from this angle.'"

Irving notes that the passion of dribbling past a defender or delivering in the clutch can't easily be faked. "The hardest thing to act out is live sports," he says. "You're trying to mimic movements that happen in an instant. Basketball players make split-second decisions to pass, shoot or charge so it's a challenge to recreate what we'd do in a real game for cameras. As we mapped out the moves, we tried to factor in how the camera could best capture our unique individual talents and then we tried to let it happen naturally. It's an exciting process."

At times, Ellis and Stone decided to just let the group go at it, and that also paid off. "Sometimes I felt you have to take the ropes off of these guys and just let them do what they do with a camera in there with them. A lot of magic happens that way," says Ellis.

Leslie loved those moments. "Lots of creativity came just from us playing. We couldn't reshoot it because if someone asked 'can you do that again?' the answer was 'no!'" she quips. "It was a chance to capture some of the beauty of true pick up street basketball, that creative flow that happens with everybody going for different shots."

Because several of the athletes in the film are current ballplayers, great care had to be taken so as not to in any way risk injury or overuse. That meant adhering to very strict training schedules and routines. "The schedules were a challenge but that just meant really maximizing every moment that we had to work with the athletes," says Stone.

Ellis also recruited some 75 players to fill out the Rucker teams, training and designing plays for all. "There was a lot of training because there's a lot of basketball in this film," says Ellis. "We would draw the plays, then go on the court, walk through it, go half speed, go three quarter speed—all so that in the film nothing looks rehearsed or artificial."

But when it came to the main cast, Ellis says he hopes he captured one hoops fundamental above all: "I hope you see the pure love for what these guys do because you'll never be able to take that out of them. They might pull pranks and give each other a hard time out there but these guys also have so much humility and so much respect for the game and for each other. That's a combination that is so powerful that you just cannot duplicate it."

MAKEUP & DESIGN

From the very first time he astounded audiences as Uncle Drew, there was one big key to Kyrie Irving morphing into his elderly alter-ego: hand-designed prosthetic makeup. For the movie, prosthetics would take center stage, with multiple basketball legends taking their turns in the makeup chair for up to 4 hours each, as they were transformed into drastically aged and entertaining versions of their highly recognizable selves.

To pull it off, the filmmakers turned to Atlanta-based prosthetic makeup effects designers Matthew Silva and Jonah Levy and their experienced team at Blue Whale Studios (*Black Panther*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, *Rampage*, *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, *The Walking Dead*).

"The prosthetic makeup was so important because that's the first step to believing in these characters," says Stone. "The Blue Whale team are not only great technicians, they are also true artisans, and we worked closely together to define what each character would look like and to create distinct personal styles that are funny and relatable for the audience."

With no time to spare, Silva and Levy dove into the creative end of things immediately. Silva notes that while zombies and monsters can be the bread-and-butter for prosthetic designers, “the pinnacle of what excites us is old-age makeup.” Despite the fact that age is inevitable, putting decades on an actor’s face is one of the hardest forms of makeup to do well.

Blue Whale’s focus was on enhancing the actors’ innate personalities. “Even though UNCLE DREW is comedy, we wanted the makeup to be mostly serious. Each character had to have his or her own style and personality, but we didn’t want it to draw attention away from the story or the action,” explains Silva. “With all that is going on in this movie, you want the focus to be on the relationships, the funny dialogue between characters and the basketball, so the makeup had to just be part of who the characters.”

They dove into all kinds of details, from Reggie Miller’s gold tooth to Nate Robison’s disheveled beard. “It was always about creating character,” adds Levy. “It was not just about taking Chris Webber or Lisa Leslie and imagining how they might look in a few decades, instead, it was more about asking how we could do something fun and memorable with each person. Luckily, the character-driven script really lent itself to that which was exciting.”

Once the designs were ready, each actor had to come in for what’s known as a life cast, during which a complete mold was made of their entire head. “Once we have a duplicate of the shape of their head, that’s when we begin sculpting,” Silva explains. “We then break each sculpture down into little pieces. For example, Chris Webber’s make-up is eleven different pieces. It’s a forehead, two upper eyes, two cheeks, two eye bags, two ears, a chin, a throat and then we also add a moustache, a pip, a goatee and two eyebrows. It’s a lot of work.”

“All of these pieces fit together like a jigsaw puzzle,” adds Levy. “A lot of people think this kind of makeup is a single mask you put on, but it’s not at all. All these different little pieces have to be applied separately and they have to fit into each other or else they don’t move correctly.”

Shaq’s makeup as Big Fella was a particular favorite for Stone. “When I saw that handlebar mustache and white, Wolverine hair, I knew people were going to love it,” muses Stone. Adds Silva: “Shaq is probably one of our most outrageous looking characters—but it plays so well with Shaq’s dry sense of humor. When some early pictures were released and everybody kept calling him black Wolverine, I just died laughing.”

They also took Uncle Drew’s look to the next level with prosthetics that could stand up to anything. “Kyrie had such an established look as Uncle Drew, we were really careful to pay homage to that. But we also wanted to see where we could take it on the big screen,” says Levy. “We used Bill Russell as our main inspiration and that was really exciting, to meld some of Bill’s facial characteristics with Kyrie’s. We really wanted to push the limit of Kyrie’s makeup as far as it could go within the extremely tight prep timeline, to add more believability and expressiveness, while keeping true to the original design.”

Thrilling as the designs were, the team knew it was going to challenge pro athletes to sit still for grueling hours, day after day. They each found their own way of handling it. Irving says he approached it as a chance to catch up on shut-eye. “I would lie down in the chair, go to sleep and wake up as Uncle Drew,” he laughs. “I believe in a patient approach because it’s all worth it when it comes to the makeup. Whenever I started to think ‘oh, I have to be in the makeup chair for so long,’ I would remember that I’m part of a bigger team that’s making a beautiful movie. So that motivated me to want my makeup to be as good as it could be for the cameras, for my character and for my teammates.”

For Chris Webber, new to prosthetics, it was a bit of a shock. “The process is a beast,” he admits. “At times it’s uncomfortable and burning hot but I laughed through it. Once it was done, it was fun hiding behind the face of Preacher and it really helped me get into character.”

Lisa Leslie found her own way of making the hours in the chair useful. “I found it almost therapeutic,” she says. “It’s like getting a facial—well, the guys didn’t think so but I thought so. I watched a whole lot of *Game of Thrones* and *This is Us* and I enjoyed my time in the chair.”

Stone notes that the real proof of the makeup came as the actors started to perform on camera. “No matter how good the makeup, if the actor doesn’t know what to do with it, it’s just dead weight on their face,” he observes. “But we saw each of these guys start to embody their characters from the inside out. They took what Blue Whale created and made it alive.”

Beyond the makeup, other design touches helped to carve out Uncle Drew’s world—especially his beloved van, a souped-up, tricked out, sunset orange groove machine that becomes a traveling second home to the entire reunited team. “The best times of Uncle Drew’s life have been spent in and around that van and he’s proud of it,” says production designer Meerdink. “So we needed a special van, with a kitchen, living room, and all the quaint notions of home. We wound up building three vans that could be used to photograph in different ways.”

Meanwhile costume designer Johnetta Boone was adding more colorful touches to the mix, collaborating closely with the cast to reflect each persona down to the seams. “I spent a lot of time with each actor discussing their inspirations and then I drew on those to come up with their look. For example, Lisa Leslie drew on an aunt to play Betty Lou,” Boone explains.

One of Boone’s biggest challenges was just the sheer physical scale of the cast, including 7’ 1” Shaquille O’Neal. “We had to do more than the usual amount of altering and tailoring on this movie,” Boone laughs.

While Uncle Drew’ and his teammate illuminate retro, Dax brings a younger, more contemporary air to the brigade. “I would describe Dax’s look as hip, and in line with today’s culture,” says Boone. “It’s clean, crisp, and well fitted without it being too tight. Since, Dax is a sneaker collector; we made sure he had a great selection that is parallel with his basketball influence.”

Dax and Uncle Drew’s generational gap might be obvious in their contrasting clothes, style, music and banter, but it’s beneath the skin that they ultimately connect. That, says Lou Arbetter is what makes the story of UNCLE DREW resonate. “Uncle Drew shows you that no matter your age, the prime of your life is right now. Uncle Drew reminds us that wherever you are at, you can still deliver. He encourages us to never quit doing what we love.”

Irving takes that message to heart, even though he’s *decades* from catching up to Uncle Drew’s stage of life. In many ways, Uncle Drew has taken him on a personal journey of maturation—one that started out as a prank but has become something meaningful and enduring to him. “I think what makes Uncle Drew timeless is that he devotes himself to what he loves,” Irving concludes. “And that’s also why I think his movie will be relatable to everyone. It pays homage to Uncle Drew’s love of basketball, but at heart it’s a story about staying true to the things and the people you love most.”

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ABOUT THE CAST

KYRIE IRVING (Uncle Drew) is currently the Point Guard for the Boston Celtics. Born in Melbourne, Australia on March 23, 1992 to Drederick Irving and the late Elizabeth Irving. Irving and his two sisters, Asia and London, grew up in New Jersey. As a high school basketball player, Irving was a national standout. A graduate of St. Patrick high School, his accomplishments include a New Jersey State Championship, McDonald's All-American honors, Co-MVP of the Jordan Brand Classic All-Star game honors and the New Jersey Gatorade Player of the Year award as a senior.

Irving would commit to play college basketball at Duke University under the guidance of legendary head coach Mike Krzyzewski. During his single season at Duke, Irving recorded 31 points and 14 assists and went on to win the prestigious All-Star game MVP award. Irving finished the season averaging 20.8 points, 6.1 assists, 3.6 rebounds, and 1.5 steals.

Shortly after the end of the 2010-2011 season, Irving announced that he would enter the 2011 NBA Draft. On June 23rd, Irving's lifelong dream of becoming a professional basketball player came true when the Cleveland Cavaliers selected him with the #1 overall selection in the 2011 NBA draft. Irving's impact in the league was immediately felt as he was named to the 2012 Rising Stars Challenge where he scored 34 points and earned MVP honors.

Irving would go on to win the 2012 NBA Rookie of the Year Award and was the only unanimous selection to the NBA All-Rookie First Team. In his rookie season, Irving averaged 18.5 points, 5.4 assists and shot 46.9 percent from the field. Irving built on his early success in the league and in the following season was selected by the coaches to play in his first All-Star game. He also participated in the Rising Stars challenge for the second straight year and competed and won the NBA 3-point shootout. He ended the season with averages of 22.5 points, 5.9 assists, 3.7 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game.

Irving saw continued success in the NBA in his third season, as he was voted by the fans to be the starting point guard in the 2014 NBA All-Star game. Irving's fourth year in the league came with a major contract extension and the addition of teammates LeBron James and Kevin Love. After a subpar start to the season, Irving helped the Cavaliers win 34 of their final 43 games to finish the regular season as the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference. The Cavaliers went on to reach the NBA finals for just the second time in franchise history.

After a knee injury, Irving picked up right where he left off and led the Cavaliers to the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference. The Cavaliers reached the NBA finals and for the second straight year faced the Golden State Warriors. The Warriors built up a commanding 3 games to 1 series lead, but the Cavaliers stormed back and eventually beat the Warriors in seven games. In Game 7, Irving would make a three-pointer with 53 seconds left on the clock that would ultimately turn out to be the series winner. The Wall Street Journal would later dub Irving's 3-pointer "The Biggest Shot in NBA History".

The following season, 2016-2017, Irving would finish the year with career high numbers in points per game and field goal percentage and was named to the Eastern Conference All-Star team for the fourth time in his career. The Cavaliers would go on to face the Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals for the third consecutive year.

Irving has also seen great success on the National team level. He was a member of the USA Basketball Under-18 team that won the 2010 FIBA Americas U18 Championship in San Antonio. Irving was also a member of the USA national team that competed in the 2014 FIBA Basketball World Cup. He helped lead Team USA to a gold medal and was subsequently named the tournament MVP. In 2016, Irving helped team USA win gold medal at the 2016 Summer Olympics. With the win, he became just the

fourth member of Team USA to capture the NBA championship and an Olympic gold medal in the same year, joining LeBron James, Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen.

Irving's accomplishments on the court are now being matched off the court as his brand is blossoming into one of the brightest of his generation. His signature Nike shoe, Kyrie 1, was released December 2014. At the time, he joined LeBron James, Kevin Durant, and Kobe Bryant as the only players with a Nike signature basketball shoe. He is the first point guard to have a Nike signature shoe since Penny Hardaway and every colorway of the Kyrie 1 currently sold through a rate of over 100%, except one (98%). His shoe was the fastest growing worldwide brand in the history of Nike, ever.

His portrayal of Uncle Drew in the Pepsi web series has garnered over 75 million views on YouTube and is the most viewed basketball-related video of all time on the Internet.

Irving has graced the cover of NBA 2K18, as well as other video games. He currently has partnerships with Nike, Foot Locker, Mountain Dew, PSD Underwear and Skullcandy.

Outside of Irving's core business partners, he has developed a relationship with the nonprofit organization, Best Buddies. Best Buddies is an organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

At just 25-years-old, looks forward to continuing to add to his list of accolades. Outside of basketball, Irving enjoys reading and keeping a journal and is a talented singer.

LIL REL HOWERY (Dax) is comedian, actor, writer, producer, and star on the rise.

His recent role as TSA agent Rod Williams in the mega-hit *Get Out* written & directed by Jordan Peele ushered Howery into becoming an international fan-favorite. His keen ability to mesh humor and honor resonated so deeply with audiences that Howery became not only the breakout star but a cultural champion. Winner of the Best Comedic Performance in a Movie at the MTV Movie & Television Awards and crowned Bernie Mac Comedy King of the Year, Howery is experiencing success at a rate bestowed upon few in Hollywood's history.

Next year, he will guest-star alongside Issa Rae in the fearlessly funny HBO smash comedy series "Insecure" as Quentin.

Howery starred in the critically-acclaimed weekly primetime NBC comedy series "The Carmichael Show," appearing alongside fellow cast members Loretta Devine and David Alan Grier as star Jerrod Carmichael's brother Bobby. Howery also was an executive produced, wrote and starred in the "Gleefully Absurd" (Chicago Sun Times) weekly sketch comedy show Friends of the People on TruTV.

Howery's first hour standup special "RELevent" premiered two years ago on Comedy Central. The hour was executive produced by superstar comedian and actor Kevin Hart and was named one of "The 10 Best Stand-Up Specials of 2015" by Vulture. Once making the leap to Netflix, "RELevent" rapidly became a must watch on Netflix. There audiences paired the power of his pen with the might of their cultural icon. Howery comedy was rediscovered by millions, marrying the might of who he is with what he does. "RELevent" is untimely and showcases Howery's captivating story-telling style, his uncanny ability to transport audiences into his hilarious world of loveable and outrageously fleshed-out characters. Howery, is the one to watch.

SHAQUILLE O'NEAL (Big Fella) nicknamed "Shaq", is a retired American professional basketball player, rapper, actor, businessman, reserve police officer, doctorate recipient and TNT NBA Analyst. He is widely perceived as one of the most dominant players in the history of the NBA. Standing 7'1", he is one of the largest players to ever play in the NBA. Throughout his 19 year career, O'Neal has used his size, strength and skill to overpower opponents.

Shaq was first drafted into the NBA by the Orlando Magic in 1992. As one of the best centers in the history of the league, he also played for the Lakers, Heat, Suns, Cavaliers, and Celtics during his professional career. Throughout his career, he amassed a long list of awards and titles. In 2000, he became one of only three players to win the NBA MVP, All-Star game MVP, and Finals MVP awards all in the same year.

Other individual accolades include the 1999-00 MVP award, the 1992-93 NBA Rookie of the Year award, 15 All-Star game selections, three All-Star Game MVPs, three Finals MVPs, two scoring titles, 14 All-NBA team selections and three NBA All-Defensive Team selections. He currently ranks fifth all-time in points scored, sixth in field goals, 15th in rebounds and seventh in blocks.

In addition to his basketball career, O'Neal has released four rap albums, with his first, "Shaq Diesel," going platinum. He has also appeared in numerous films and has starred in his own reality shows, "Shaq's Big Challenge" and "Shaq Vs."

After his retirement, O'Neal was hired by Turner to serve as an NBA analyst on their five-time Emmy-winning show, "Inside the NBA," joining the cast of Ernie Johnson, Charles Barkley and Kenny Smith. O'Neal also has a development deal with Turner to star or executive produce various shows across their family of networks. He starred in the show "Upload with Shaquille O'Neal", which aired on TruTV, and also served as the two-time, 2012 and 2013, host of the Hall of Game Awards, airing on Cartoon Network.

O'Neal's latest venture is a partial ownership in the Sacramento Kings. O'Neal joined the ownership group of Vivek Ranadive and Mark Mastrov and the deal was announced on Sept. 23, 2013.

O'Neal has served as a partner/endorser/spokesperson for several companies over the past 22 years. He currently has partnerships with American Express, The General Insurance, IcyHot, Krispy Kreme, Peerless Suits, Gold Bond, Zales, Reebok, Ring, and NBA 2K. Past partners include companies such as EA Sports, Oreo, Dove, Comcast, Kraft, Pepsi, Anheuser-Busch China, Vitamin Water, Burger King, Verizon, Microsoft, Arizona Iced Tea, Monster Headphones, and Buick.

O'Neal has also been a first-mover on the technology front and has one of the most robust social media followings of any athlete in the world. He was an early adopter of Twitter and was also the first verified account. O'Neal currently has over 14.6 million followers on Twitter, over 6 million likes on Facebook, and 6 million followers on Instagram.

O'Neal has appeared as himself on an episode of "Curb Your Enthusiasm," and in two episodes each of "My Wife and Kids" and the "The Parkers." O'Neal appeared in the 311 music video for the hit single "You Wouldn't Believe" in 2001, in P. Diddy's video for "Bad Boys 4 Life," and the video for Aaron Carter's "That's How I Beat Shaq." O'Neal appeared in the movie *CB4*, played the title superhero in *Steel* and starred in *Blue Chips* with Nick Nolte.

He has voiced animated versions of himself on several occasions, including on the Static Shaq episode of "Static Shock;" in the "Johnny Bravo" episode Back on Shaq, in the "Ultimate Showdown of Ultimate Destiny," as well as in *The Smurfs 2* and *The Lego Movie*. He has also made appearances on the TV series' "Highston," and "Fresh Off the Boat" and had a role as a police officer in the Adam Sandler's 2013 blockbuster, *Grown Ups 2*. O'Neal and his mother Lucille Harrison were featured in the documentary *Apple Pie*, which aired on ESPN. O'Neal also had a 2005 reality series on ESPN, "Shaquille," and hosted a reality television show called "Shaq's Big Challenge" on ABC appearing with Tyler Florence and Carlon Colker among others. Other credits include "NBA Ballers" and "NBA Ballers: Phenom," "Motorcycle Mania 2" an episode of "Fear Factor," and an episode of MTV's "Jackass."

O'Neal is featured on the covers of video games NBA Live 96, NBA 2K6, NBA 2K7, NBA Showtime: NBA on NBC, NBA Hoopz, NBA Inside Drive 2004, and most recently, NBA 2K18 Legend Edition. O'Neal appeared in the arcade version of NBA Jam, NBA Jam (2003) and NBA Live 2004 as a current player and as a 90's All-Star. O'Neal starred in Shaq Fu, a fighting game for the Super Nintendo Entertainment System and Sega Genesis. O'Neal has also appeared in Backyard Basketball 2004, Ready 2 Rumble Boxing: Round 2 as a playable boxer, and as an unlockable character in Delta Force: Black Hawk Down.

O'Neal is a fan of wrestling and has made appearances at many WWE events. O'Neal also starred in a reality show called "Shaq Vs." which premiered on August 18, 2009 on ABC. The show featured O'Neal competing against other athletes at their own sports. On the July 27 episode of "WWE Raw," O'Neal was the special guest host and put himself as the special ringside enforcer in a match involving Cryme Tyme and the Unified WWE Tag Team Champions Chris Jericho and The Big Show.

O'Neal first teamed up with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America when he was drafted in 1992, and he has put on several long-standing events in conjunction with Boys & Girls Clubs including Shaq-A-Claus, Shaqs-giving and Toys for Tots.

CHRIS WEBBER (Preacher) is best known for his outstanding athletic ability on the basketball Court, but C-Webb, as he is affectionately known, leads the pack in more than just sports. Businessman, broadcaster and philanthropist are also a part of his impressive repertoire.

Demonstrating impressive leadership abilities at a young age, Webber's "win-win" attitude, along with his ability to inspire others, propelled his Detroit Country Day High School basketball team to an unprecedented three Michigan state high school basketball titles. At the University of Michigan, Webber excelled at an even higher level. As one-fifth of the Wolverines' all-freshmen line-up, dubbed the "Fab Five," Webber helped give college basketball a facelift as well as set fashion trends. Reflecting the grittiness of hip-hop, which was then becoming a dominating force globally, Michigan's Fab Five, which also counts fellow NBA players Juwan Howard and Jalen Rose among its alums, hit the basketball court wearing their signature baggy shorts and black socks, along with a swagger that fully matched their exciting "above the rim" style of play.

Millions fell in love with the Fab Five as they made consecutive NCAA Finals appearances in 1992 and 1993. Along the way, they set some of the highest television ratings, merchandise sales marks and attendance records in NCAA history. Not only was Webber the first player in history to make the NCAA All-Tournament team as both a freshmen and a sophomore but, when he entered the NBA Draft in 1993, he became the first college sophomore since fellow Michigan native and NBA legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson (who came out in 1979) to garner the #1 overall pick.

The NBA only added more spark to Webber's fire. As a member of the Golden State Warriors, he became the first NBA rookie to score more than 1,000 points, 500 rebounds, 250 assists, 150 blocks and 75 steals on his way to sealing the NBA Rookie of the Year crown. A five-time NBA All Star, as well as five-time All NBA first and second team member, Webber, as a leader of the Sacramento Kings, spurred his team onto unprecedented playoff appearances as well as the Western Conference Finals against the Los Angeles Lakers in 2002. In 2007, Webber helped his hometown team, the Detroit Pistons, win the Central Division Championship and reach the Eastern Conference Finals. In 2008, after a short return to the Golden State Warriors, Webber retired after an accomplished fifteen year NBA career. He finished his career having averaged 20.7 points, 9.8 rebounds, 4.2 assists, 1.44 steals, 1.44 blocks and 37.1 minutes per contest in 831 regular-season games. Webber is only the sixth player in NBA history to average over 20 points (20.7), nine rebounds (9.8) and four assists (4.2) per game in his career, joining Basketball Hall of Famers Wilt Chamberlain, Larry Bird, Elgin Baylor and Billy Cunningham, and future Hall of Famer Kevin Garnett.

The Sacramento Kings retired Chris Webber's #4 jersey in February 2009 with a two-minute standing ovation.

Far from one-dimensional, especially when it comes to the business of basketball, the Detroit native has made the most of his athletic ability off the court. In 2001, when he re-signed a multiyear deal with the Sacramento Kings, his contract made him the second highest paid player in NBA history. Capitalizing on his popularity further, Webber has enjoyed endorsement opportunities with brands such as Coca-Cola, EA Sports, Sony Playstation, ESPN the Magazine, Fila, Nike, Pepsi, Carl's Jr., THQ Wireless and New Era. The NBA has tapped Webber to participate in numerous NBA promotions including being named to the NBA All- Interview team three times. His broad appeal has also resulted in innumerable television appearances and guest-starring spots. The long list includes NYPD Blue, The Late Show with David Letterman, The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Jimmy Kimmel Live, FoxSports Beyond the Glory, ESPN's Sexiest Athletes and Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, as well as various shows on MTV, BET, TNT, VHI, the History Channel, Discovery Channel and Nickelodeon. In the world of print media, he's graced the cover of Sports Illustrated twice and has been featured in various publications from The New York Times Magazine to Essence.

An active businessman, Webber has created, organized and led companies in various industries including the music, sports apparel, real estate and sports marketing industries. Currently, he co-owns a real estate development company, Maktub LLC, which focuses on redevelopment efforts in Chicago, IL. Webber opened his sports inspired and family-themed restaurant appropriately named "Center Court with C-Webb" in Sacramento, CA in November 2006 to great acclaim. Webber's talents as a music producer manifested in the track "Blunt Ashes" on hip-hop artist Nas's acclaimed album, Hip Hop Is Dead and "Surviving the Times" on Nas's Greatest Hits. He is also an investor in the documentary "On the Shoulders of Giants," a film project led by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar involving Spike Lee, Herbie Hancock, Magic Johnson and Grant Hill, scheduled to kick off in the Spring of 2009. In 2008 Webber embarked on his most recent career as a Sports Broadcaster by joining the Emmy Award Winning "NBA On TNT" broadcasting team, along with duties on NBATV. In 2017, Webber began co-hosting "Players Only" on NBATV and TNT. Webber is also an in-game commentator for the massively popular video game franchise, NBA 2K.

A humanitarian at heart, Webber's passion to give back inspires him every day. He grew up in a modest house not far from 6 Mile in Detroit, MI with his three brothers, sister and parents, Webber's mother, a schoolteacher, inspired his love for reading and music, and his father, a longtime employee at the local General Motors plant, taught him the importance of loyalty, hard work and discipline. Those lessons were not forgotten when Webber reached the fame and fortune of the NBA. In 1993, he and his family quickly established The Chris Webber Foundation to spread those lessons to underprivileged youth and their families. In over a decade of service, The Chris Webber Foundation has provided toys, books, scholarships, school incentives, holiday presents and financial support to thousands of youth in the Detroit, Washington DC, Oakland, Atlanta, Sacramento and Philadelphia areas. Webber and his foundation also teamed up to deliver four truckloads of books, uniforms and other relief supplies to Gulf Coast cities affected by Hurricane Katrina. Webber's tremendous generosity hasn't gone unnoticed. In 2003, the Sacramento Kings presented him with the inaugural Oscar Robertson "Triple-Double" Award for his leadership and community service. That same year, Webber, who serves on the National Advisory Council for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, received the Make-A-Wish "Wishmaker of the Year" Award. In addition, he has received the NBA Community Assist Award twice (2003, 2006). The California Black Caucus recognized his efforts in 2005 and awarded him a resolution by the California Legislature and in 2007. The States of Michigan and Nevada have also recognized Webber for his devotion to the community.

Webber's growing collection of African American artifacts and documents, a direct result of his personal interest in his heritage and culture, has also become a beacon of light for others. The collection, which features documents and letters from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, renowned scientist George

Washington Carver, Haitian revolutionary Toussaint L'Overture as well as a treasured, rare first edition book of poems by Phillis Wheatley and a carte-de-viste and letter from Frederick Douglass, has exhibited in several locations to expose youth to African American history and culture.

REGGIE MILLER (Lights) serves as a game analyst alongside play-by-play announcer Kevin Harlan for the network's exclusive Thursday night NBA doubleheader coverage. Miller is also a game analyst for the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship as part of the Turner Sports and CBS Sports partnership. Miller spent his first two seasons with the network splitting duty between calling games and making guest analyst appearances on TNT's Emmy® award-winning "Inside the NBA," featuring host Ernie Johnson and analysts Charles Barkley and Kenny Smith. In addition, he served as a studio analyst during the 2010 Western Conference Finals. Miller was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2012. (His older sister Cheryl is also a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2008.)

Born in Riverside, Calif, Miller attended Riverside Polytechnic High School and UCLA, where he received a degree in history. While at UCLA, he was selected by the Indiana Pacers with the 11th pick of the 1st round in the 1987 NBA Draft. He played his entire career with the Pacers (1987-2005). He ranks 2nd all-time on the NBA 3-point field goal list with 2,560 career three-pointers as of the beginning of the 2016-17 season. He was also member of the gold medal-winning Olympic men's basketball team in 1996 and Team USA for the 1994 and 2002 World Championships.

Miller was the first Indiana Pacer to start in an NBA All-Star Game (1995). He also was selected to the All-Star team in 1990, 1996, 1998 and 2000. On May 7, 1995, Miller scored eight points in the last 8.9 seconds of Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Semifinals against the Knicks, leading the Pacers to a 107-105 victory. He buried a three-point shot, stole the inbounds pass, walked back behind the arc and buried another three-point shot. Two free throws later, Miller had pulled off a legendary feat.

On April 11, 2005 in a game versus the Toronto Raptors, Miller passed Jerry West to move into 12th place on the NBA's all-time scoring list. Miller played more games with the same team than all but two players in NBA history (John Stockton and Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz).

In 2006 Miller launched the film production company, Boom Baby Productions, in which he serves as executive producer for feature films.

NATE ROBINSON (Boots) was chosen with the 21st pick in the 2005 NBA Draft by the Phoenix Suns and traded to the New York Knicks. He recorded a career-high 34 points vs. the Sixers on March 31, 2006, marking the highest-scoring game for a Knicks rookie in 20 years.

Robinson is the first three-time Slam Dunk champion in the NBA. He electrified a worldwide audience by winning the 2006 Slam Dunk Contest. His signature dunk came in the second round, when he leapt over the 1986 Slam Dunk winner, Spud Webb for a one-handed slam off a Webb bounce pass. He went on to win his second Slam Dunk title with 52% of the fans votes after jumping over "Superman" Dwight Howard, as he donned his green jersey and green Nikes representing Kryptonite (KryptoNATE).

Days after winning the Slam Dunk contest for a third time, Robinson was traded to the Boston Celtics on February 18, 2010. Robinson was a key contributor to the Celtics run to the 2010 NBA Finals as he scored all of his 13 points in the second quarter clinching game 6 of the Eastern Conference Finals. Robinson was traded to the Oklahoma City Thunder on February 24, 2011. He went on to play for the Golden State Warriors (2012), Chicago Bulls (2012-13) and Denver Nuggets (2013-2015). Robinson was named Eastern Conference Player of the Week the first week of February 2013 as a member of the Bulls. He was instrumental in the Bulls playoff run that year, joining Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Derrick Rose as the only Bulls to score at least 25 points and nine assists in a playoff game.

Robinson led the Washington Huskies to two straight NCAA basketball tournament appearances, including a trip to the sweet sixteen his junior year. Robinson was named Third Team All-American by AP and NABC as a junior. He earned First Team All-Pac-10 honors his sophomore and junior seasons. Robinson finished his collegiate career as Washington's 18th all-time leading scorer with 1,283 points. He also ranks fourth all-time in three-point field goals made with 127 and third in steals with 140. Robinson originally signed with Washington to play football before deciding to concentrate on basketball prior to his sophomore year. His college football career is most remembered for his interception in the final minutes of regulation of the 2002 Apple Cup against the then 3rd ranked Washington State Cougars.

Robinson was born in Seattle, WA, and is the oldest of seven siblings. Robinson played all 13-football games of the 2002 season at the University of Washington and started the final six games as a cornerback on the Husky football squad, including the Sun Bowl. His father Jacque Robinson played running back at Washington and in the NFL. Robinson attended Rainier Beach High School in Seattle, where he led the Vikings to a state title with 28-1 record, notching 17.9 points per game. His vertical leap is 43.5 inches.

LISA LESLIE (Betty Lou) is a Three Time WNBA MVP, Four-Time Olympic Gold Medalist and Hall of Famer—and one of the most-recognized and dominant players in the history of the WNBA. While at Morningside High School in Inglewood, CA, Leslie led her team to two state championships and scored a record setting 101 points in one game. In college at the University of Southern California, she was the all-time Pac-10 leader in points, rebounds and blocked shots. After college, Leslie launched her modeling career, signing with the prestigious Wilhelmina Agency in 1996. She was a member of the gold medal winning U.S. Olympic teams in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008. She is the first team sport athlete to win four consecutive Olympic Gold Medals.

In 2001, Leslie was the first WNBA player to win the regular season MVP, the All-Star Game MVP and the playoff MVP in the same season. That year, she also led the Los Angeles Sparks to their first WNBA Championship. In 2002, she became the WNBA all-time leading scorer and was named MVP of the regular season for the second year in a row. She led the Los Angeles Sparks to back-to-back championships.

In Leslie's off-season she became an author and released her first book, Don't Let the Lipstick Fool You. In her own words, she points the spotlight onto her remarkable life off the court, where being a confident champion was not always simple. Check out her second book called From The Court to the Boardroom which hit the stands in 2017.

She became a commentator for ESPN in 2004, covering the NCAA Women's Tournament. Leslie retired from the WNBA in 2009 and is now an in-studio sports analyst for Fox Sports Florida, Turner, and CBS Sports Network Co-Host of "We Need to Talk." In 2012, she covered the Summer Olympics for NBC.

Leslie began her acting career taking drama classes in both high school and college. She made several cameo appearances on top television shows such as "Martin," "Sister Sister," "Moesha," and "One on One." She previously hit the big screen in *Love & Basketball* and *Think like a Man!*

ERICA ASH (Maya) is an NAACP Award-winning stage, film, and television actress. She was a pre-med student at Emory University with the goal of becoming a doctor. However, she wasn't satisfied that was the path for her. To give herself time to determine what she truly wanted to do in life, she took a year off after undergrad accepting a job in Japan as an English teacher. It was in this year of living in Japan that she was serendipitously introduced to the entertainment world, and by the time she returned to America she knew it was her calling. Believing that laughter is medicine Ash has come to realize that her work in the entertainment industry is the happy medium between her initial goal and ultimate calling.

Her entertainment path has taken her to the Broadway level, where among other shows she starred in "Lion King" as Nala, "Spamalot" as Lady of the Lake and as the Original Addie "Micki" Harris and Dionne Warwick in "Baby, It's You!"

Her TV career started with LOGO's "The Big Gay Sketch Show," from which she was recruited with a direct offer to join the cast of FOX's "MADtv" (season 14), where she also contributed as a writer.

Ash's television credits include the hit series, "The Real Husbands of Hollywood" in which she played Kevin Hart's crazy ex-wife Brigitte Hart; the STARZ series "Survivor's Remorse" wherein she played Mary Charles "M-Chuck" Calloway the outspoken lesbian sister. And her newest venture starring as the feisty public defender Gwen Sullivan in BET's original 1-hour legal drama series "In Contempt" which debuts April 19, 2018.

As giving back is an integral part of her life Ash is a Luminary Circle Member of Step Up and volunteers with Beyond the Label a program for the development of Autistic children. Ash has contributed to various charitable organizations such as the Rape Foundation, the Make a Wish Foundation, Broadway Sings for Pride, the Helping Hands Campaign, Living Beyond Breast Cancer and Faithful Spouses Ministries. She has hosted and participated in benefits for various theaters, including the Rubicon Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse and Celebration Theater and cherishes the idea of collaboration and community building.

Ash is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA, WGA and AEA. Stay connected with her on social media @theericaash

AARON GORDON (Casper) is the starting forward for the Orlando Magic. His on the court accomplishments include: Two 40+ point games in 2017-2018 season, the current active Magic PPG leader, runner up in the 2016 NBA Slam Dunk Contest, Pac-12 Freshman of the Year (2014), AP Honorable Mention (2014), All-Pac-12 First Team (2014), NCAA Tournament's West Regional All-Tournament Team (2014), USA Basketball Male Athlete of the Year ('13), FIBA U19 World Championship MVP (2013), McDonald's All-American (2013), McDonald's All-American Game MVP (2013), 2x California Mr. Basketball (2012, 2013) and 2x CIF State champion (2011, 2012).

Gordon launched a national campaign with MENTOR which focuses on the importance of mentoring youth in the community. He, also, hosted the first annual Aaron Gordon Dunk Fest at Venice Beach, featuring the world's top dunkers.

Gordon comes from a basketball family. His father played at San Diego State, and his older brother Drew plays professionally, and sister Elise played at Harvard.

When Gordon is not on the court, he spends his time being community focused. His philanthropic endeavors include the NBA Fit Team, focusing on highlighting the importance of healthy living; New Red Shoes, a program that donates a new pair of shoes to impoverished children in need; the Silicon Valley Hack-a-thon, that provides opportunities to inner city youth and minorities interested in technology and computer engineering; and Love Your Melon, an organization that supports the fight against pediatric cancer.

JB SMOOVE (Angelo) was born in Plymouth, North Carolina and raised in Mount Vernon, New York. Smoove is a gifted writer, comedian and actor, who continues to entertain audiences all over the world with his unique brand of comedic funk. His breakout role on "Curb Your Enthusiasm" as Leon Black has firmly planted him as one of the best comedic actors today.

He began his career in 1999, when he moved to Los Angeles and landed a recurring role on MTV's "The Lyricist Lounge Show," as well as featured guest spots on "The Chris Rock Show" and "Premium Blend." This led to his first big feature film, where he narrated and starred in the cult classic *Pootie Tang*, reuniting

with Rock. Smoove subsequently followed this up with a co-starring role opposite Adam Sandler in *Mr. Deeds*.

After a season as a cast member on the sketch comedy program "Cedric the Entertainer Presents," Smoove moved back to New York City where he landed a writing position on NBC's "Saturday Night Live." He later was a recipient of the 2007 Writers Guild award for "Best Comedy/Variety Series" for his work on the show.

In the stand-up and acting worlds, Smoove has been featured on "Tough Crowd," "Jamie Foxx Presents: Laffapalooza," "Saturday Night Live" sketches and recurring spots on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," "Everybody Hates Chris," "Til Death," "Bent," "The Real Husbands of Hollywood," "The Millers," "Fresh Off the Boat," and "Life in Pieces." He was seen as the host of NBC's "Last Comic Standing," the Comedy Central stand-up series, "Russell Simmons Presents: The Ruckus," and shot his own one-hour stand-up special, "How I Dooz It" for the cable channel. Smoove's show "Four Courses with JB Smoove" is in its fourth season on the MSG Network.

On the big screen, he appeared in *Date Night* with Steve Carell and Tina Fey, the Farrelly Brothers directed comedy, *Hall Pass* as well as *The Sitter* with Jonah Hill, *We Bought a Zoo* featuring Matt Damon, *The Dictator* opposite Sacha Baron Cohen, Chris Rock's movie, *Top Five*, and most recently *Barbershop 3*, *Almost Christmas*, and *The Polka King*.

Smoove's unique comedic voice has also been put to good use in animation where he had voiceover roles in both "Ice Age 4" and "The Smurfs 2" on the big screen, and in TV shows such as "American Dad" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

Smoove is a car enthusiast, loves pool, and is an avid sports fan and a proud supporter of the Mt. Vernon Boys and Girls Club.

MIKE EPPS (Louis) is generating an extraordinary amount of buzz among his peers for being not only one of the funniest comic actors in town, but also for his burgeoning dramatic talent.

Epps was recently seen in three seasons of the Starz series "Survivor's Remorse" produced LeBron James and Mike O'Malley. He won a 2016 NAACP Image award for "Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series" for his portrayal as Uncle Julius. He's also seen opposite Queen Latifah in Fox's "Star" and collaborated on the first BET Social media Awards.

Epps recently wrapped two indie comedies: *The Trap*, directed by Chris Robinson, executively produced by Jesse Collins and co-starring Tip "T.I." Harris. Mike will produce the film under his NapTown productions along with Queen Latifah, Shakim Compere. *The Trap* is based on a story that Epps created with Nile Evans, with Evans writing the script. *The Trap* tells of a man (T.I.) who returns home to Atlanta after an extended absence to help save his brother (Epps) and mother's run-down restaurant. An unexpected change to the chicken recipe breathes new life into the restaurant but also brings unexpected problems. He also wrapped *The House Next Door* the sequel to the 2016 film *Meet the Blacks* which he stars in and produces.

He was seen in the HBO-Emmy Winning bio-pic "Bessie" based on Bessie Smith, played by Queen Latifah. Epps plays Richard Morgan, a bootlegger and romantic interest to Bessie Smith. The film also won a Critics Choice Award for "best mini-series/ movie" as well as a Primetime Emmy for "Television Movie or Limited Series." He is also currently developing the script *Any Means Necessary* for Sony pictures with Neal Moritz attached to produce. He will star opposite Marlon Wayans about a two brothers- one a cop and one a criminal.

In 2011, he was awarded an NAACP Image Award for "Best Supporting Actor" for his role in *Jumping the Broom*. He continued to receive critical praise for his dramatic turn in 2012 with *Sparkle*, opposite Whitney

Houston and Jordan Sparks. In 2016 he further pursued his dramatic side with two important roles: starring opposite Forest Whitaker and Anthony Mackie in the thriller, *Repentance*, followed by the independent Nina Simone biopic, *Nina*, starring Zoe Saldana. In *Nina*, he plays the legendary Richard Pryor, who opened for the singer in the early 60's.

He has recently entered the tech space with the first interactive game 'button' made by Amazon for the Alexa called "Sounds Fun with Mike Epps," featuring Epps making hilarious sound effects with his voice. Epps will also serve as the game's judge, providing a comedic mix of friendly encouragement and snarky banter.

He is also currently on a national stand up tour and in 2015 his tour "Mike Epps; Don't Take it Personal" was seen on Netflix. In 2009, Epps headlined his hugely successful stand-up special, "Mike Epps: Underrated and Never Faded," and in 2011 introduced the world to new comedic talent with, "Mike Epps Presents...," both which aired on Showtime. He also released his first comedy rap album called "Funny Bidness: Da Album." That year also marked the release of his comedy DVD "Funny Bidness." With his undying love for hip-hop, Mike hosted the BET Hip-Hop Awards from 2009-2012.

Since 2000, Epps steadily climbed his way up the stand-up comedy ranks when he was recognized by a national audience in 1995 for appearing on HBO's "Def Comedy Jam" (which, years later, he would go on to host). During a performance at LA's Comedy Store, Epps caught the attention of Ice Cube. This led to the first of three feature films they would do together: the cult hits *Next Friday*, *Friday after Next*, and *All About the Benjamins*.

Other features include the Hangover franchise, *Girls Trip*, *Faster*, *Hancock*, *Lottery Ticket*, *Next Day Air*, *Roll Bounce*, *The Fighting Temptations*, the *Resident Evil* franchise, *Bait*, *How High*, *Dr. Dolittle 2*, *Talk to Me*, and *Guess Who?*

Epps can be seen in over 40 cities and 3 continents live doing standup.

TIFFANY HADDISH (Jess) is quickly establishing herself as one of the most sought-after comedic talents in television and film. Haddish was recently seen starring in Universal's *Girls Trip* alongside Jada Pinkett Smith, Queen Latifah and Regina Hall. *Girls Trip* had the highest opening for an R rated comedy in the past two years and VanityFair.com called Haddish "the funniest woman alive."

Haddish will next be seen starring alongside Tracy Morgan in the new TBS show, "The Last O.G." and recently wrapped production alongside Kevin Hart for Universal's *Night School*. She most recently released her memoir *The Last Black Unicorn*, which made the NY Times bestseller list. Additionally, Haddish is breaking barriers and became the first black female stand-up comedian to host "SNL," which she did this November, coming off the success of 2017 and *Girls Trip*. Upcoming projects she is currently developing include *Limited Partners* for Paramount which she will executive produce and star in and *The Temp* for Universal which she will star and serve as executive producer on as well.

Previously, in August she made her comedy special debut for Showtime titled "Tiffany Haddish: SHE READY! From the Hood to Hollywood" and she was a series regular on NBC's "The Carmichael Show." Other past credits include co-starring alongside Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele in the film, *Keanu*, a role in *Meet the Spartans* and the Lifetime drama "Racing for Time," where she played a lead role opposite Charles S. Dutton and opposite Ice Cube in *The Janky Promoters*. Her television credits include a recurring role on the Tyler Perry's OWN soap opera series, "If Loving You Is Wrong," Kevin Hart's BET show "Real Husbands of Hollywood" and Fox's "New Girl."

Haddish currently tours all over the world bringing her edge, unusual take on life & love and laughter, on her "She Ready" tour. She was an early stand out since first appearing on HBO's "Def Comedy Jam," Bill Bellamy's "Who's Got Jokes?" for TV One and on Comedy Central's "Reality Bites." Haddish's journey

in life has inspired her comedy and sense of humor on and off stage. Growing up in foster care in South Central Los Angeles, it was her excessive talking and imaginary friends that prompted her increasingly flustered social worker to steer her into standup comedy by enrolling her into the Laugh Factory Comedy Camp for children where she got her start in the comedy world. Haddish currently resides in Los Angeles.

NICK KROLL (Mookie) is an actor, writer and producer. He most recently co-created and voices numerous roles on the Netflix animated series "Big Mouth," which has been heralded by the Hollywood Reporter as "sweet, progressive and breathtakingly filthy," and was nominated for an Annie Award for "Best General Audience Animated Television/Broadcast Production."

Kroll recently wrapped productions on MGM's *Operation Finale* opposite Oscar Isaac and Ben Kingsley. In January 2017, he wrapped his Broadway debut with the critical and financial hit "Oh, Hello on Broadway." Recent film credits include Jeff Nichols' critically acclaimed film *Loving*, Seth Rogen's *Sausage Party* and Illumination's *Sing*. Nick had his own Comedy Central sketch show "Kroll Show" and starred as Ruin the hit FX shows "The League."

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

CHARLES STONE III (Director) graduated in 1988 with a degree in fine arts, specializing in illustration/animation from the Rhode Island School of Design. Post-grad, Stone worked as an animator for a commercial design company, Woo Art International, in New York.

Hungry to express his ideas, Stone quickly moved into directing music videos throughout the 90's, winning awards for the likes of Tribe Called Quest, The Roots, Public Enemy and more.

In 1997, Charles wrote and directed a short film, "true," an absurd comedy about the friendship between young men talking on the phone. This was to be his "calling card" into the feature film world of Hollywood. This two minute short would go on to become the Budweiser "*Wassup!*" commercial campaign and garner practically every prestigious advertising award in the industry, as well as guest appearances on Oprah Winfrey, the Tonight's Show with Jay Leno, and the Today Show to name a few.

Mr. Stone's taste-making ability didn't stop at the nation's most popular commercial campaign but instead, continued in his feature film director career with the cult hit "*Paid in Full*" (Dimension Films,) which got him a "First Time Director" nomination from the Independent Spirit Awards, as well as his sophomore effort for 20th Century Fox's, "*Drumline*," (2003) starring Zoe Saldana and Nick Canon.

Stone's talent as a storyteller shows no bounds with his narrative hand reaching into the world of television. He has recently directed VH-1's "*Crazy Sexy Cool: The TLC story*," as well as episodes from NBC's cult hit "*Friday Night Lights*,"

In 2015 the Sundance film festival premiered Charles "*Lila and Eve*," starring Viola Davis and Jennifer Lopez. Described as an "Urban Thelma & Louise", it was nominated for best direction in the NAACP Image awards.

Stone's Netflix Original feature "Stepsisters" is #3 of 17 films the content juggernaut brought the table for 2018: Producers Matt Alvarez ("Straight out of Compton"), and Lena Waithe ("Dear White People," co-star of "Masters of None") have put Charles in the exclusive club of director's like David Ayer, Maya Forbes, Cary Fukunaga, chosen by Netflix to represent the kind of movies that are cutting edge, commercial and appeal to the biggest audiences ever.

Currently, Charles is in final post for the Lionsgate feature film "Uncle Drew", starring Kyrie Irving, L'il Rey Howery, Tiffany Haddish, Nick Kroll and Schaquille O'neal. Based on the viral sensation of the four short films and character of UNCLE DREW that Kyrie Irving created and directed, (141 million views and counting), the film is already looking to be the most highly anticipated films of the year.

JAY LONGINO (Writer) has been a proud member of the Writers Guild of America since 2006, having written and developed numerous feature film and television projects for stars such as Vin Diesel, Sylvester Stallone, Adam Sandler, and box office busting, tent-pole producers Marty Bowen and Wyck Godfrey, who was recently named Paramount's President of Motion Picture Group.

In summer of 2016, *Skiptrace*, starring the legendary Jackie Chan and Johnny Knoxville, based on Longino's original story and co-scripted by Longino, grossed over \$135 million in China alone.

Son of Shaolin, Longino's first foray into the comic space, sold preemptively to Sony over a year prior to its release with Longino both writing and executive producing alongside Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and his Seven Bucks Entertainment. In July of 2017, after Longino turned his draft into the studio, acclaimed director Rick Famiwuya (*Dope*) came on board to direct the project.

In addition, Longino has recently partnered with ROAR to form Size 13 Comics, an offshoot of Longino's Size 13 Productions that will focus on bringing more of Longino's intellectual property, as well as other IP from other creators, into comic form.

Longino's momentum and buzz as a "writer-to-watch" among studio executives was fueled again last week with the sale of his feature pitch *Grumpy Old Gangsters* to Paramount Players who pre-emptively purchased the property before any other studio could hear it.

Next up, Longino will be expanding his resume and will be making his debut as a showrunner, creator and writer on the series "Sneakerheads" for Complex.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Longino first moved to Los Angeles to play in the NBA Summer League in Long Beach before playing basketball professionally in Mexico and the now defunct USBL.

MARTY BOWEN (Producer) is a partner at Temple Hill Entertainment, a Los Angeles based film and television production company established in February 2006, with cofounder, Wyck Godfrey. Over its first decade in business, the company triumphed with a number of successful film franchises, notably the *Twilight Saga* quinary (based on Stephenie Meyer's popular novels) and *The Maze Runner* trilogy, with the third installment, *Maze Runner: The Death Cure*, set to be released in January 2018.

A Texas native, Bowen began his career in the UTA trainee program and worked his way up to Agent and ultimately Partner. In the spring of 2006, Bowen left his post at UTA and partnered with veteran producer Wyck Godfrey to create the production company Temple Hill Entertainment.

Their first project was *The Nativity Story*, directed by Catherine Hardwicke, a modestly budgeted, Christmas-themed movie that would lead to the company's big break two years later, when Hardwicke would direct the first feature in the *Twilight Saga* franchise. *Twilight* claimed an opening weekend box-office record of \$69.6 million on its way to a \$400 million global take. The pair continued in the same role on the franchise's four sequels (*New Moon*, *Eclipse*, *Breaking Dawn - Part 1*, *Breaking Dawn - Part 2*), with the series having now surpassed \$3 billion in worldwide theatrical ticket sales.

The Twilight franchise established Bowen and Godfrey in the key young-adult movie going demographic, where they continued as producers of hit romantic dramas adapted from the novels of John Green and Nicholas Sparks — *The Fault In Our Stars* and *Paper Towns* from Green's books, *Dear John* and *Safe Haven* from director Lasse Hallström, and *The Longest Ride* directed by George Tillman Jr., from Sparks' work.

Following *The Fault in Our Stars*, which grossed over \$300 million worldwide, Bowen and Godfrey launched another popular film franchise in the big screen adaptation of Utopian sci-fi thriller, *The Maze Runner*, which earned \$350 million dollars worldwide. Directed by Wes Ball, the original film's success spawned two sequels – *Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials* and the upcoming *Maze Runner: The Death Cure*.

Currently, the company is in production on The Neil Armstrong biopic *First Man*, based on Jim Hansen's biography about the historic 1969 mission on Apollo 11, with Academy Award winning director Damien Chazelle and Golden Globe winning star Ryan Gosling.

The company's upcoming films include *Love, Simon* directed by Greg Berlanti and starring Nick Robinson as the titular role; *Life Itself*, written and directed by Dan Fogelman (This is Us), and starring Oscar Isaac, Olivia Wilde, Annette Bening and Samuel L. Jackson; *The Hate U Give*, based on the critically acclaimed bestselling young adult novel by Angie Thomas, with Amandla Stenberg starring in

the lead role of Starr; *Uncle Drew*, a feature adaptation of the online Pepsi spots that have become a viral phenomenon yielding over 100 million views, with Kyrie Irving reprising his role of Uncle Drew; and *The Kill Team*, a tense character driven thriller about modern warfare, directed by Dan Krauss and based on his award winning documentary, with a cast including Alexander Skarsgard and Nat Wolff.

Apart from the pair's successful film franchises, Temple Hill has also ventured into television, with Bowen and Godfrey executive producing the recent Fox-TV crime drama, "Rosewood," the long-running ABC drama, "Revenge," and David E. Kelly's adaptation of "Mr. Mercedes," the first novel in Stephen King's trilogy, with Brendan Gleeson playing the lead role of Detective Bill Hodges. "Mr. Mercedes" has been renewed for a second season, which will go into production in Spring 2018.

Bowen resides in Los Angeles with his wife and three children.

WYCK GODFREY (Producer) is a veteran Movie and Television producer, whose films have grossed over \$6 billion dollars worldwide. He is a partner with Marty Bowen at Temple Hill Entertainment, a film and television production company established in February 2006. Over the last decade, the company has triumphed with a number of successful film franchises, notably the Twilight Saga (based on Stephenie Meyer's popular novels) and The Maze Runner trilogy.

Godfrey began his career as a creative executive at New Line Cinema after graduating from Princeton University in 1990 with a B.A. in English Literature. While at NLC, he worked on such hit films as *The Mask*, *Dumb and Dumber* and assorted films in the popular *House Party* and *Nightmare on Elm Street* franchises. In 1995 he joined Horizon Pictures, fronted by producers Paul Schiff and Michael London, as SVP/Production, overseeing their slate of projects at 20th Century Fox.

He next joined John Davis Entertainment as EVP, developing John Moore's action hit, *Behind Enemy Lines*. After his promotion to president of the company, Godfrey developed and produced the comedy *Daddy Day Care* with Eddie Murphy. He reunited with director Moore on the 2004 remake of *Flight of the Phoenix* while also producing Alex Proyas' futuristic thriller, *I, Robot*, with Will Smith. Other projects at the time included producing (or executive producing) eight features between 2002 and 2006. Those titles included the Screen Gems remake of the acclaimed 1979 horror hit, *When A Stranger Calls*. He developed and executive produced Fox's franchise hit, *AVP: Alien vs. Predator*, directed by Paul W.S. Anderson, and then produced Fox's 2006 fantasy, *Eragon*, based on Christopher Paolini's bestselling novel.

In 2006 he partnered with friend and former UTA agent Bowen to form their own production company, Temple Hill Entertainment. Their first project was Catherine Hardwicke's *The Nativity Story*, a modestly budgeted, Christmas-themed movie that would lead to the company's big break two years later, when Hardwicke would direct the first feature in the Twilight Saga franchise. *Twilight* claimed an opening weekend box-office record of \$69.6 million on its way to a \$400 million global take. The movie spawned the franchise's four sequels (*New Moon*, *Eclipse*, *Breaking Dawn - Part 1*, *Breaking Dawn - Part 2*), with the series having now surpassed \$3 billion in worldwide theatrical ticket sales.

The Twilight series established Bowen and Godfrey in the key young-adult movie-going demographic, where they continued as producers of hit romantic dramas adapted from the novels of John Green and Nicholas Sparks — *The Fault In Our Stars* and *Paper Towns* from Green's books, and Lasse Hallström's *Dear John* and *Safe Haven* and George Tillman Jr.'s *The Longest Ride* from Sparks' work.

Following the hit *The Fault In Our Stars*, which grossed over \$300 million worldwide, Bowen and Godfrey hit pay dirt again when they launched yet another popular film franchise in the big screen adaptation of James Dashner's sci-fi thriller, *The Maze Runner*, which earned \$350 million dollars worldwide. Directed by Wes Ball, the original film's success led to two sequels -- *Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials* and *The Maze Runner: The Death Cure*.

This past March their film *LOVE, SIMON* based on the award winning book *Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli, was release to critical acclaim; directed by Greg Berlanti and starring Nick Robinson, Katherine Langford, Jennifer Garner, Josh Duhamel, Alexandra Shipp, and Jorge Lendeborg.

At present, Godfrey and Bowen are in post-production on a handful of feature films: *The Neil Armstrong* biopic *First Man*, based on Jim Hansen's biography about the historic 1969 mission on Apollo 11, with Academy Award winning director Damien Chazelle and Golden Globe winning star Ryan Gosling; *Life Itself*, written and directed by Dan Fogelman (*This is Us*), with a cast that includes Oscar Isaac, Olivia Wilde, and Annette Benning; *The Hate U Give*, based on the critically acclaimed bestselling young adult novel by Angie Thomas, with Amandla Stenberg attached to play the lead; *Uncle Drew*, a feature adaptation of the online Pepsi spots that have become a viral phenomenon yielding over 100 million views, with Kyrie Irving reprising his role of Uncle Drew; and *The Kill Team*, a tense character driven thriller about modern warfare, to be directed by Dan Krauss and based on his award winning documentary, with a cast including Alexander Skarsgard and Nat Wolff. They are also finishing up an adaptation of Lois Duncan's novel *Down A Dark Hall*, a supernatural thriller directed by Rodrigo Cortes, starring Uma Thurman and AnnaSophia Robb.

Apart from the pair's successful film franchises, Temple Hill has also ventured into television, executive-producing the recent Fox-TV crime drama, "Rosewood," and the long-running ABC drama, "Revenge." Currently they are in production on David E. Kelly's adaptation of "Mr. Mercedes", the first novel in Stephen King's trilogy, with Brendan Gleeson playing the lead role of Detective Bill Hodges.

LOUIS ARBETTER (Executive Producer) leads PepsiCo's in-house Content Studio. The Studio serves as a global creative and production resource for all branded content, including brand-inspired long and short-form films and series, virtual reality, music and social content. The Studio's work has been recognized at over 15 film festivals including Sundance and Tribeca, and has appeared in the last two Super Bowls.

Previously, Lou led the communications for the Pepsi Trademark in the United States, including all national advertising and consumer engagement. Lou's teams have developed breakthrough branded entertainment including multiple Super Bowl halftime show campaigns, the ground-breaking Pepsi integration into Fox's television show *Empire*, and the video sensations "Uncle Drew," the digital series starring Kyrie Irving, and "Test Drive" starring Jeff Gordon. This work has won numerous awards including Cannes Lions, Addys, Clios and One Show Pencils. Lou is also an Executive Producer on the upcoming *Uncle Drew* film, starring Kyrie Irving, Shaquille O'Neal, Lil Rel Howery, Tiffany Haddish and Nick Kroll. *Uncle Drew* will be distributed by Lionsgate's Summit Entertainment and will hit theaters June 29, 2018.

In 2016, Lou helped lead a PepsiCo partnership with the White House to raise awareness for the *United State of Women Summit*. The team produced a film for the Summit starring the First Lady, Oprah Winfrey, Meryl Streep, Tina Fey and many others to highlight key issues that impact women today. Lou also consults on messaging for various political campaigns. He lives in New York with his wife Yonat and their three children.

AZIEL RIVERS (Executive Producer) joined PepsiCo in 2011 and currently drives marketing efforts across sports, music, and culture for the Pepsi trademark business. On brand Pepsi, he has led TV and social/digital content development.

Pepsi projects Aziel has lead include, The Pepsi Super Bowl LI and LII Halftime Shows featuring Lady Gaga and Justin Timberlake; *Uncle Drew* movie partnership with Lionsgate, starring Kyrie Irving, Shaquille O'Neal, Lil Rel Howery, Tiffany Haddish and Nick Kroll. *Uncle Drew* will hit theaters June 29,

2018. TV and social/digital integration with the FOX hit TV show "Empire." Pepsi Summer Generations retail program and Pepsi Stuff consumer promotion.

Aziel's previous roles at PepsiCo include leading marketing efforts for the energy drink portfolio and developing the global growth strategy for our international beverage portfolio. Prior to PepsiCo, Aziel spent the majority of his career as a management consultant leading teams at Bain & Company and Monitor-Deloitte to drive client growth. A Bronx native, Aziel earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from Harvard University and a MBA from Harvard Business School. He resides in New York City with his wife Mahira and daughter.

MARC GILBAR (Executive Producer) is Executive Creative Director at Farm League, a branded content agency and production company based in Venice, CA. Having spent over 15 years in advertising and entertainment, Marc has found a way to combine the best of both worlds and create some of the most iconic branded entertainment campaigns in recent memory.

Prior to joining Farm League, Marc was SVP, Group Creative Director at Davie Brown Entertainment. During that time, he created and produced Pepsi's "Uncle Drew" film series, featuring NBA All-Star Kyrie Irving in disguise as a 75 year-old street baller, which has collected every major advertising award, has been viewed over 150MM times on YouTube and will become the first branded campaign to be adapted into a major motion picture (Lionsgate // June 29, 2018). He also created Pepsi's "Test Drive 2" with Jeff Gordon, another viral hit viewed over 40MM times and winner of multiple awards at the One Show and Clios. Marc has also worked in more traditional advertising mediums, creating and producing a wide variety of TV campaigns for the NBA, WNBA and AT&T as well as multimillion dollar Super Bowl spots for Dove Men ("Calls for Dad" 2014) and Pepsi ("Joy of Dance w/ Janelle Monae" 2015).

COLIN SMEETON (Executive Producer) is the president of PRP and has been in the sports management business for the past 12 years. Smeeton began his sports management career working alongside industry legend Donald Dell at Pro Serv. Over the years and through a series of acquisitions, Pro Serv was acquired by SFX, and SFX was then acquired by Best (Blue Equity Sports Television).

As vice president at SFX, Smeeton personally represented over 50 professional athletes, including former world #1 tennis players Andy Roddick and Justine Henin. During the course of his career at Pro Serv and SFX, Smeeton negotiated hundreds of contracts for his clients. In August of 2006, Smeeton left SFX (BEST) and began working at Agassi Enterprises and PRISM (Premier Integrated Sports Management) in Las Vegas. In 2009, Smeeton and Perry Rogers formed their own agency, PRP.

Smeeton now works with NBA Hall-of-Famer, Shaquille O'Neal, NBA All-Star Kyrie Irving, Boston Celtic Jayson Tatum and Jonathan Isaac of the Orlando Magic. Recently, Smeeton has negotiated deals for his clients with American Express, Pepsi, Oreo, and Ring. Smeeton's latest project is the full-feature movie, Uncle Drew, where he will serve as an executive producer. The UD movie is in conjunction with Lionsgate and will debut in theaters nationwide June 29, 2018. The cast includes Irving, O'Neal, Tiffany Haddish, Nick Kroll and Lil Rel Howery.

Smeeton was also a creator and executive producer on the ABC television show 'Shaq Vs.' Smeeton holds a Bachelor's degree in communications from Penn State University and now resides in Las Vegas with his wife and three daughters.

PERRY ROGERS (Executive Producer) is the CEO and founder of PRP, a sports management and corporate consulting company with a client roster including NBA Hall-of-Famer Shaquille O'Neal, NBA All-Star Kyrie Irving, Boston Celtic Jayson Tatum and Jonathan Isaac of the Orlando Magic. He is also an investor and part owner of HEXX Kitchen + Bar and BEER PARK, located at the Paris Casino in Las Vegas.

Rogers has aligned O'Neal with brands such as American Express, Icy Hot, Gold Bond, Zales, Krispy Kreme and Turner Sports. Rogers has overseen O'Neal's entire business since 2001.

Rogers graduated from Georgetown University, where he received his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1991, and the University of Arizona, where he earned his law degree in 1994.

Prior to the launch of PRP, Rogers was President of Agassi Enterprises, Inc. and the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation in Las Vegas, where he managed the careers of tennis players Andre Agassi and Stefanie Graf, actress Brooke Shields and golfer Adam Scott.

Rogers has previously bought and sold the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino. He also founded and sold Nevada First Bank in 2005.

Today, Rogers is a member of the Board of Trustees for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation, and sits on the Chancellor's Business Roundtable for the Nevada System of Higher Education. He previously sat on the boards for the ATP Tour, Six Flags Inc., Nevada First Bank, Meadows Bank and Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas. Rogers will also serve as an executive producer on Uncle Drew, the upcoming Lionsgate feature film.

A native of Las Vegas, NV, Rogers resides there with his wife, Nicole, and three children, Hannah, Grant and Ryan.

JEFF WECHSLER (Executive Producer) founded 24••7 Sports Management, LLC in November of 2005. An exclusive full-service management and marketing company, 24••7 Sports Management will provide its clients with a standard of excellence unparalleled in the sports industry.

In 2011, Wechsler signed Kyrie Irving (NBA Draft 1st overall pick). Thus far in his NBA career, Kyrie has won Rookie of the Year and is a 5-time NBA All-Star. He is also a FIBA World Champion and Olympic Gold Medalist. Additionally, in summer 2011, Wechsler teamed up with PR Partners, Perry Rogers and Colin Smeeton solidifying their presence as the strongest boutique sports agency in the business.

In 2017, the team had a successful NBA Draft class signing two new clients to the roster, Jayson Tatum (NBA Draft 3rd Pick) and Jonathan Isaac (NBA Draft 6th Pick).

Other Career Highlights:

In the summer of 2014, Wechsler negotiated a 5 year, \$95 million Maximum contract for Kyrie Irving with the Cleveland Cavaliers. Over his 14-year tenure with SFX Basketball, Wechsler was instrumental in recruiting and expanding the firm's roster of basketball clients. A certified player agent, Wechsler represented and managed the careers of some of the NBA's top players, including All-Stars Kenny Anderson, Alonzo Mourning, and Glen Rice, as well as Larry Hughes, Darius Miles and Quentin Richardson. In addition to his duties as a basketball agent, Wechsler managed the company's Miami office.

In the summer of 2005, Wechsler negotiated a 5 year, \$70 million contract for unrestricted free agent Larry Hughes with the Cleveland Cavaliers. In the summer of 2004, Wechsler negotiated a 6 year, \$48 million contract for restricted free agent Darius Miles with the Portland Trail Blazers. For Quentin Richardson, another restricted free agent, Wechsler negotiated a contract with the Phoenix Suns worth \$47 million over 6 years.

Jeffrey Wechsler joined Falk Associates Management Enterprises (FAME) in 1992 as Director of the firm's Southeast region and was promoted to Vice President in 1996. In May 1998, FAME was acquired

by SFX Entertainment, which formed the SFX Sports Group. Wechsler was promoted to Senior Vice President of SFX Basketball in June 2001.

55-year old Florida native graduated from the University of Florida in 1986 with a B.S.B.A. degree in Finance. He received an M.B.A. with academic excellence in 1991 from the University of Miami. Prior to joining FAME, Wechsler worked in the investment banking field and was an Adjunct Professor in the Management Department at the University of Miami.

Wechsler resides in the Coral Gables area with his wife, Debi. He has four children, Oliver, Dana, Brian and Alex.

JOHN FISCHER (Executive Producer) is a Vice President of Feature Development and Production at Temple Hill Entertainment, a Los Angeles-based film and television production company best known for the *Twilight Saga*, *The Fault in Our Stars*, and *The Maze Runner* trilogy.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Fischer studied Film and Political Science at Yale University before he began his entertainment career interning at Creative Artists Agency, where subsequently he would become an assistant to an agent working with writers, directors, and actors. Fischer then spent five years working as an assistant and then as a development executive in the Los Angeles offices of David Heyman's UK-based Heyday Films, which is best known for the Harry Potter film franchise. At Heyday, Fischer had the opportunity to help develop *Paddington Bear*, based on the beloved series of books by Michael Bond. Directed by newcomer Paul King, *Paddington* would go on to make nearly \$268 million globally and spawn a sequel due out in 2018. Also at Heyday, Fischer helped develop Derek Cianfrance's film, *The Light Between Oceans*, which was based on the beloved and bestselling book by M.L. Steadman and would star Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander.

Fischer joined Temple Hill Entertainment in 2016, where he has worked on the upcoming *The Hate U Give*, based on the critically acclaimed bestselling young adult novel by Angie Thomas, with Amandla Stenberg playing the lead role of Starr; *Uncle Drew*, a feature adaptation of the online Pepsi spots that have become a viral phenomenon yielding over 100 million views, with Kyrie Irving reprising his role of Uncle Drew; as well as many other projects currently in development.

Fischer lives in Los Angeles with his girlfriend and dog, Barley.

CRASH (Director of Photography) was raised in the New York area. He became interested in photography at a young age, inspired from his mother, a ceramic artist, and his father an inventor and engineer. Photography captured both his passion for creative expression and technical problem solving. Karsten began working in the film business, as a grip, at the age of 19. After working his way up to gaffer, he attended the American Film Institute, graduating in 1993. An award-winning cinematographer, he has shot hundreds of music videos for the music industry's top artists and scores of commercials for national clients. His earlier feature film credits include *Step Up Revolution*, *Grown Ups 2* (second unit), *The River Why*, *ATL*, *New Edition*, and *Midnight Sun*.

DOUGLAS J. MEERDINK (Production Designer) studied architecture at Miami University (Ohio) and Virginia Polytech Institute (Washington DC), and began his career in film as a production designer on a couple of Roger Corman films. He quickly transitioned to larger projects—*Titanic*, *Contact*, *Armageddon*, *Jurassic Park III*— as an illustrator, set designer and art director.

Doug's first production design opportunity on a feature film was for director Steven Soderbergh on "The Informant." Other design credits include "Cedar Rapids" with director Miguel Arteta and "The Watch" with director Akiva Schaffer. Doug has collaborated on several projects produced by JJ Abrams—most recently as the production designer of "Cloverfield Paradox." In Fall of 2017, Doug was commissioned by the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures to create and oversee the Core Exhibition

Design Team (CEDT)—a team tasked with the design of the 60,000 square foot museum scheduled to open in the Fall of 2019.

Collaborating with director Charles Stone and the entire crew "Uncle Drew" was a tremendous pleasure for Doug.

JEFF FREEMAN (Editor) has worked as film editor on such films as "Ted 2", with Mark Wahlberg and Seth MacFarlane, "A Million Ways to Die in the West", with Seth MacFarlane, Charlize Theron, Liam Neeson, Sarah Silverman and Giovanni Ribisi, and "Ted", with Seth MacFarlane, Mark Wahlberg, and Mila Kunis, and was nominated for the ACE Eddie Award for best editing for a Comedy or Musical for that film in 2013. He also edited "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" with Kevin James, "Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay", with John Cho and Kal Penn, "Nancy Drew", with Emma Roberts, "Just Friends", with Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart and Anna Ferris, "Cruel Intentions", with Sarah Michelle Gellar, Ryan Phillippe, and Reese Witherspoon.

He also edited Columbia Pictures' "The Craft" starring Neve Campbell, Robin Tunney, and Faruza Balk, and "The Waterdance", with Eric Stoltz, Wesley Snipes, William Forsythe and Helen Hunt, which won the 1992 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award and The Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award.

He also served as editor on "Mad Love" for Touchstone Pictures, with Drew Barrymore and Chris O'Donnell, and "Frankie and Johnny Are Married", with Michael and Lisa Pressman and Alan Rosenberg. In addition, he worked on, "The Crow 2-City of Angels", "Highlander 2-The Quickening", "Bad Dreams" and "Bulletproof".

His television credits include "Reefer Madness, the Movie Musical" for Showtime, with Neve Campbell, Christian Campbell, Kirsten Bell, Alan Cumming, Steven Weber and Anna Gasteyer, and was nominated for the ACE Eddie Award for "Reefer Madness" in the category of Best Movie for Non-Commercial Television in 2006.

He also edited the pilot for the Showtime series, "The "L" Word", the pilot and series for David E. Kelley's "The Brotherhood of Poland, New Hampshire", Disney's "Angels in the End Zone", USA Cable Movies "Deconstructing Sarah" and "Deep Red", NBC's Telefilms "A Family Torn Apart", "The Revenge of Al Capone", and Disney Channel's "The Ernest Green Story", winner of the 1994 Peabody Award. His education includes UCLA Film School, with a BA in film with Magna Cum Laude honors. He is represented by the Jay Gilbert at the Agency for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills, and currently lives in Santa Monica, California.

JOHNETTA BOONE (Costume Designer) has served as stylist and designer for the still photography, television, commercial and feature film arenas for more than three decades. Her fashion imprint is brought to bear on designs running the gamut – everything from turn-of-the-century, classic, contemporary, and retro to various uniforms, including sports attire. Her career began working with such notable photographers as Ruven Afanador and George Holtz, while creating spreads for German Vogue, Entertainment Weekly and Us Magazine. She spent many years developing her craft while studying in New York at FIT. Her dream of someday designing images for the motion picture industry soon after became her reality.

The nation's capital served as backdrop for her expert skills when she costume designed HBO's original television series "K Street," directed by Steven Soderbergh, and executive produced by George Clooney where she infused flair into the bland Washington, D.C. political arena.

Boone's design mastery is displayed in the all-time classic film *Cadillac Records*, *The Lost Valentine*, *The Notebook*. Her most recent designs may be seen in OWN's most celebrated drama series, "Greenleaf."

Boone is a person wrapped in the film culture who is now poised to enjoy game-changing success in a variety of fields.

MATTHEW SILVA (Prosthetic Makeup Department Head) is a professional makeup artist for film and television and the co-owner of Blue Whale Studios Inc. As an artist, Silva's range of work includes beauty, prosthetics, and specialty costuming. With ten years in his field, Silva's credits include *Black Panther*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, *Rampage*, *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, *The Walking Dead*, and many others. While proud of his work, Silva is ultimately driven to work with others, share what he has learned, and to help inspire more artist to embrace their creative nature.

JONAH LEVY (Prosthetic Makeup Co-Department Head) is the founder of Blue Whale Studios Inc. He has been passionate about makeup and special makeup fx for most of his life. He has been working as a professional in the industry for over 24 years and has been part of makeup teams on such films as *Rampage*, *Avengers Infinity Wars*, *Guardians of the Galaxy 2*, *Get On Up*, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *The Butler*, *OZ: The Great and Powerful*, *Green Lantern*, and *Zombieland* as well as hit television shows such as "The Walking Dead," "Sleepy Hollow," "Homeland," and "Banshee" to name a few.

CREDITS

Summit Entertainment Presents

A Temple Hill Production

In Association with Pepsi Productions

UNCLE DREW

Directed by Charles Stone III

Written by Jay Longino

Produced by
Marty Bowen, p.g.a.
Wyck Godfrey, p.g.a.

Executive Producers
Louis Arbetter
Azil Rivers
Marc Gilbar

Executive Producers
Colin Smeeton
Perry Rogers
Jeff Wechsler

Executive Producers
Erik Feig
John Fischer

Executive Producers
Michael Flynn
Mike Upton

Director of Photography Crash

Production Designer Douglas J. Meerdink

Edited by
Jeff Freeman, ACE
Sean Valla

Costume Designer Johnetta Boone

Music by Christopher Lennertz

Music Supervisor Stephanie Diaz-Matos

Co-Producers
Jason Brown
Adam Harter

Jay Longino

Kyrie Irving
Lil Rel Howery
Shaquille O'Neal
Chris Webber
Reggie Miller
Nate Robinson
Lisa Leslie
Erica Ash
with Tiffany Haddish
and Nick Kroll

Casting by Victoria Thomas, CSA