

# 12 Rounds

## Production Notes

- Provided by 20th Century Fox. -

*When New Orleans cop Danny Baxter (John Cena) prevents a brilliant thief from successfully carrying out his latest heist, the thief's girlfriend is accidentally killed. Hungry for revenge, the criminal mastermind breaks out of prison and kidnaps Danny's fiancée. To save her, Danny must successfully navigate his way through an elaborate series of tasks and puzzles, or else watch the love of his life die.*

From the director of "Die Hard 2" and the producer of "Speed" comes 12 ROUNDS, starring John Cena as New Orleans Police Detective Danny Fisher. When Fisher stops a brilliant thief, Miles, from getting away with a multi-million-dollar heist, the thief's girlfriend is accidentally killed. After escaping from prison, the criminal mastermind enacts his revenge, taunting Danny with a series of near-impossible puzzles and tasks ...12 rounds...that Danny must somehow complete to save the life of his fiancée.

Ranging from tests of intelligence to Sisyphean tasks of endurance, Miles keeps Danny guessing at every treacherous turn. Each new round sends Danny hurtling through the city at a breakneck pace. As Miles toys with Danny, innocent citizens are threatened. Automobiles, streetcars and ferryboats are transformed into potential weapons of mass destruction. With the violent rounds mounting, one wrong move may take the match closer to a deadly conclusion.

For John Cena, 12 ROUNDS is more than another role; it's his initiation into the rarified air of action movie star. Moreover, the film's Danny Fisher is the type of action hero that Cena enjoyed watching, as a fan of the genre. "The '80s was the era of the 'everyman' hero," Cena explains. "And there hasn't been that style of hero since then. Guys like Bruce Willis in 'Die Hard' proved that an everyday person can be an action hero. If I'm even considered in that club, I'm definitely off to a great start."

For his legions of fans, bigger-than-life wrestling superstar Cena might be an unusual choice to play a "regular" guy, in this case a New Orleans cop struggling to save his kidnapped girlfriend from a revenge-seeking criminal. But 12 ROUNDS' Danny Fisher's relatability was a key attraction to Cena. "The whole everyman thing is easy, I'm just trying to be me," he says. "I like the fact that Danny struggles. He doesn't come out of a phone booth and stop bullets. When audiences see 12 ROUNDS and see Danny in action, I think every man, woman and child in the theater can go, 'You know what, that's possible, and under the right circumstances, I can pull that off.'"

"Danny likes being a cop, but he's not a super-cop," says producer Josh McLaughlin of The Mark Gordon Company. "When he's confronted by someone who threatens someone Danny loves, he will not stop until he solves the problem."

WWE Films president, Michael Lake notes that 12 ROUNDS "plays to Cena's physical gifts, as well as, his natural acting ability. He's a throwback to a different era of action films, when guys

like McQueen and Stallone muscled their way through scenes. It made movies more believable, and more thrilling for the audience." Echoes director Renny Harlin: "The best action heroes are the ones the audience can relate to and cheer for, but still feel like these guys experience pain, have a sense of humor, and are real. There's a hunger now for this kind reality-based, high-octane action movie."

Cena's involvement with 12 ROUNDS began when the script was still very much a work in progress. McLaughlin got a call from Cena's agent for a meet-and-greet. After a few minutes, they were chatting like old friends. "I thought, 'Boy, this guy's got something,'" McLaughlin recalls. "On top of being really charismatic, he was Danny."

Producer Mark Gordon was similarly impressed. "We saw in John the potential to become the next big action star. 12 ROUNDS can really change his career and take him to the next level of international movie stardom."

Earlier, McLaughlin and first-time screenwriter Daniel Kunka began the task of trying to reinvent the action film genre for today's audiences. "We wondered how to make a movie that is that sort of contained, high-concept, idea," says McLaughlin. "The answer, we thought, was to make it as plausible as possible. Then, Daniel came up with the idea about a guy who has to keep doing these tasks that were both Herculean and real."

"That was a hook that we thought audiences hadn't seen before," adds Kunka. During this fateful meeting with McLaughlin, Kunka remembers "scribbling the words 12 ROUNDS on a piece of paper," and the script took on a life of its own. "The script was so tight - it was all action," says Harlin. "Even the dialogue is spoken on the run. There's never a moment's rest."

Working with talented new screenwriters was nothing new for producer Mark Gordon, who memorably collaborated with then unknown scripter Graham Yost on "Speed," which became a touchstone for contemporary action films. "I'm very comfortable with that process to get the best possible work from talented writers," says Gordon, whose many other credits include "The Day After Tomorrow" and "Saving Private Ryan."

In true Hollywood storybook fashion, Kunka's fortunes turned around overnight. "I was getting a sandwich and had about eight hundred dollars in my bank account, and was contemplating quitting the business," he remembers. "And then one day I got a call [from the producers], telling me, 'John Cena and WWE Films want to make your movie.'"

With Cena onboard and a green light from WWE Films, all that was needed was a director who could capture the frenetic nature of the script - a contemporary action auteur with an appetite for harrowing realism. Enter, veteran action director Renny Harlin, whose work on "Die Hard 2" and "Cliffhanger" has made him the avatar of adrenaline fueled films. Harlin's deft sense of tempo, pace, and narrative momentum made him "the perfect director for the job" explains Lake. But it was a lively pitch meeting with Gordon, Lake and McLaughlin that sealed the deal. "Renny brought this energy to the script and to the movie. He wanted it to be just nonstop, have the pace continue," adds Lake.

To Harlin, the film was an opportunity to reinvent the genre. "I'd like to think of 12 ROUNDS as a movie that started a new style of action movies, the sort of 'Docu-Realism' commando style shooting of action movies, instead of super-polished, glossy, Hollywood-fantasy fare. We gave the film a real down and dirty feel, which better reflects the tenor of pop culture."

For 12 ROUNDS' thrilling action sequences, Harlin wanted to break with the traditional style of filmmaking associated with his earlier films. "I wanted this film to have a visual style that complemented John's athleticism. Instead of portraying him as a superhero, we've made him an everyman," Harlin explains. "I've thrown out all the usual tools - fancy dolly shots, cranes and CGI effects - that people expect from a contemporary action movie. Think of 12 ROUNDS as a real story that's really happening, and what we've just done is taken three documentary crews and thrown them out there and let them start chasing these actors and get the story on film."

"I told the actors, starting with John Cena, that this is not like the usual Hollywood way of making films, where you rehearse a scene, and then you mark with tape everybody's steps on the ground, and where they deliver their lines, and how they turn this way and that way," Harlin continues. "I said, 'We might rehearse it, but we're going to basically just shoot it, and you guys have freedom to do whatever you want to do. Just go, just live it, just make it real. And don't worry about the camera, don't worry about the light hitting you, or the microphone being in the right place. We're going to get the shots as if we were in a combat zone.'"

The guerilla-style filmmaking included mixing different media and cameras, including mini-DV cameras and even camera-phones. "We employed different ways of telling the story visually, including video surveillance footage and aerial footage," says director of photography David Boyd. "We packed it all in to make 12 ROUNDS relentless and gritty, from beginning to end."

Harlin's quest for authenticity was infectious on the set. Throughout production, Cena volunteered to do many of his own stunts, including racing cars, running the equivalent of several 10K races, crashing a fire truck, and simulating a gunfight; that latter had him training with the New Orleans Police Department. "The training officer literally put him through the entire course that qualifies you for SWAT," stunt coordinator Steve Ritzi says, marveling at Cena's gun handling ability. "John scored such high marks that he could've joined the Force if he wanted to."

But when stunt work meant confronting his phobias, Cena had second thoughts. "I have a fear of heights - an undying, palm-sweaty fear," he sheepishly admits. Asked to rappel 100 feet down the side of building - wearing a harness and tethered only by a thin wire, Cena told Harlin, "This is an historic moment. It may not make front pages of anywhere, but you're the last director, the last person for that matter, that will ever get me to do something like that again. I was that scared."

In a very "Danny-esque" moment, Cena overcame his concerns, literally swinging into action for the rappelling stunt, completing all the shots in one day. Ritzi remembers the big event. "After the first day, I told John [Cena], 'You're done in the harness, you don't have to hang on the side of the building anymore. I mean, he was out there a lot. He was very relieved."

"Well, the first thing next day, Renny hands me the shot list. He wants to get John [for more shots] on the side of the building, and I said, 'I've already told John he doesn't have to go back on the harness,' and we just kind laughed about it. I said, 'I'm not going to be the one who has to tell him he has to get back on the harness.' So, Renny says, 'That's fine, I'll tell him.'"

To play the villainous Miles, the filmmakers cast Aiden Gillen. Trained on the stage, Gillen had recently received acclaim for his work in HBO's "The Wire," as the duplicitous Mayor Thomas Carcetti. "Aidan feels smarter than us. When he plays Miles, he feels like someone who simply could sit in a room with you and tell you everything that's wrong with you in five minutes," says McLaughlin. "And I think that's what makes for a good villain, a guy who seems like he's in control of the situation - even if a gun is pointed at his head."

The fact that Cena is significantly taller and bigger than Gillen didn't diminish Gillen's/Miles' power and sense of control. "I didn't think about the disparity in size," says Gillen. "Miles has his own kind of slick and lethal moves that challenge Danny in the film's climax." Adds Renny Harlin: "Aiden plays Miles with a delicious attention to detail and with colorful nuances. He makes it a very powerful character. You could put John and Aiden next to each other and think John could kill him with one punch. But it's not always about that in real life, and I think that difference [in height and size] between them really plays well in the film."

Matching Gillen's intensity is Danny's strong willed girlfriend, Molly, portrayed by Ashley Scott. A native of Charleston, S.C., but actually born in New Orleans, Scott had a starring role in the cult series "Jericho" and featured roles in the action films "Into the Blue" and "Walking Tall." 12 ROUNDS' Molly is a hospital Medevac helicopter pilot, a job that figures prominently in the film's explosive climax. Scott, who learned how to fly a helicopter for the film, notes that she also gave Molly a backstory. "I imagined she was trained in the Air Force. She had been on her own for a while, until she met Danny."

Rounding out the starring cast are Emmy®nominated actor Steve Harris as Aiken, an FBI agent who has been trailing Miles for years and has a personal score to settle with him. Aiken is the mirror image of Danny - both will stop at nothing to get Miles. "They start out as enemies," says Harris, "then they begin to work together and understand each other. It's a nice dynamic. Brian White ("Stomp the Yard," TV's "The Shield") portrays Danny's partner, Hank. "Hank is more than Danny's partner," notes White. "He's his best friend and right arm. He's there for Danny, no matter what the challenge or danger."

## **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

Daniel Kunka's early script drafts were set in Chicago, but producer Michael Lake had another city in mind - New Orleans - for both creative and economic reasons. Consequently, Lake and Kunka flew to The Big Easy to scout locations, and Kunka rewrote the script to reflect the new locale. "You'll see more of New Orleans in the picture than in any other movie that was shot here," says Lake. "The city is part of the fabric of the film. We see the Ninth Ward, the French Quarter, the Central Business District, and Algiers." Adds Harlin: "New Orleans has an exotic tropical feel that no other city in America has."

But fresh in everyone's mind was the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Evidence of the cataclysmic storm was still very much apparent. "It was obvious to us that something of biblical proportions happened here, but everybody here has been rebuilding and trying to get their lives back together," says Ashley Scott. "We have met some really special people and heard some really special stories."

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

**JOHN CENA (Danny)** is far from an overnight sensation. Whether he knew it or not at the time, Cena started grooming himself for a career in sports and entertainment at an early age. At age 4, Cena held mock wrestling tournaments at his West Newbury, Mass., home. He and his friends would rip three sheets of computer paper off his dot-matrix printer and draw wrestling belts.

So, Cena's WWE debut in June 2002 was an accomplishment that he had dreamed about for more than 20 years. Although Cena grew up "dangerously close" to a wrestling school run by the legendary grappler Killer Kowalski (the school that trained the wrestling superstar Triple H), Cena never imagined he would have a career in sports entertainment. He jokes that he "thought there was a secret code" he needed to know to get into the business.

The 6-foot-1, 240-pound Cena attended Springfield (Mass.) College, obtaining a degree in exercise physiology. He was an offensive lineman for the school's Division III football team, earning All-American honors as a senior. After graduating, he moved to Venice, Calif., "just for the good weather," and took a job moving exercise equipment. One of his co-workers was training at Ultimate Pro Wrestling, a Southern California-based academy. When Cena visited the school, he was hooked on the sport. He continued working 75-80 hours a week at his job, while training in the ring in his "spare time," a work ethic that has been a key to his success. All the hard work paid off: Cena was quickly signed to Ohio Valley Wrestling, the WWE's developmental territory. Today, Cena is one of the brightest young stars in World Wrestling Entertainment, and a star of its hit cable program, "Monday Night RAW," on the USA Network.

In 2006, Cena starred in his first theatrical film, "The Marine," in which he portrayed a Marine who after being discharged from service, is forced to use his military training to rescue his wife from kidnappers.

Cena has been featured in People magazine, Flex, USA Today, USA Weekend, and Stuff magazine. He has appeared on "Live with Regis and Kelly," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," "Jimmy Kimmel Live," "MADtv," Nickelodeon's "Teen Choice Awards," "Today" and "Best Damn Sports Show Period."

**AIDAN GILLEN (Miles)** has worked extensively in film, television and theatre since the late eighties - in Dublin, London and, now, the U.S. He starred in the independent feature "Buddy Boy" (2000), and appeared on Broadway in Harold Pinter's "The Caretaker," which earned him a 2004 Tony® award nomination. Most notably, he played politician, Tommy Carcetti for three seasons on HBO's highly acclaimed series "The Wire."

Gillen's credits include lead roles in the award winning BBC film "Safe," two episodes of the original "Queer as Folk" (receiving a BAFTA nomination for best actor), Terry George's debut film "Some Mother's Son," the motion picture and theater productions of Jez Butterworth's "Mojo"(1999), the film "Shanghai Knights" with Jackie Chan (2004), "The Final Curtain" with Peter O'Toole, and "Circle of Friends."

His many other theater credits include a lengthy engagement as Ricky Roma in "Glengarry Glen Ross" in London's West End, "American Buffalo" at Gate Theatre in Dublin, "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" also in West End, "The Tempest," "Platonov" and "Playboy of the Western World.". In 2000, Gillen was awarded the most promising newcomer award at the Edinburgh International Film Festival for his work in "The Low Down." He also appeared in the six-part Canadian miniseries "Dice."

**ASHLEY SCOTT (Molly)** was last seen on the big screen in "The Kingdom" from director Peter Berg, in the comedy "Strange Wilderness," and in "The American Standard." Her other film credits include "Into the Blue," "Walking Tall," "S.W.A.T." and Steven Spielberg's "A.I.: Artificial Intelligence."

Scottt appeared on the series "Dark Angel," "Birds of Prey" and the cult show "Jericho."

Born in Metairie, Louisiana and raised in Charleston, South Carolina, Scott made her debut as a model. By the time she was a teenager she was modeling internationally, gracing the runway at some of the most prestigious fashion shows in Miami, Paris and London.

**STEVE HARRIS (Aiken)** starred in NBC's "Heist," as James Johnson. The hour-long serialized comedic drama centered on a group of professional thieves plotting to simultaneously rob three prominent Beverly Hills jewelry stores during the week leading to the Academy Award®.

Harris, who was nominated for an Emmy Award twice for his role on "The Practice," won the Viewers for Quality Television Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama in 1998 and 1999 and was again nominated for that award in 2000. Additionally, he was nominated for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series in 1998, 1999 and 2000. Harris' other television credits include "Eli Stone," "Law & Order," "Murder One," "New York Undercover" and "Chicago Hope."

On the big screen, Harris starred in the successful thriller "Quarantine" and in the independent film "Ball Don't Lie" with Nick Cannon and Rosanna Arquette. Harris starred in Adam Shankman's comedy "Bringing Down the House" alongside Steve Martin and Queen Latifah. This film was #1 in the box office for three consecutive weeks and grossed over \$132 million domestically. He also co-starred in Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller "Minority Report" with Tom Cruise, Collin Farrell and Samantha Morton. The film was another box office success, grossing \$35 million opening weekend and \$132 million domestically.

Harris' other film credits include Leon Ichaso's "Sugar Hill," Michael Bay's "The Rock" with Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage and Ed Harris, and Rob Cohen's "The Skulls." He appears in the remake of the thriller "Rec" with Johnathon Schaech and Jennifer Carpenter.

On stage, Harris had leading roles in "Heliotrope Bouquet," "Macbeth," "Henry IV, Part I," "Julius Ceasar" and "Richard III."

A native of Chicago, Illinois Harris earned a graduate degree in theater from the University of Delaware before moving to Hollywood to pursue an acting career.

**BRIAN WHITE (Hank)** stars opposite Channing Tatum and Terrence Howard in the Dito Montiel film "Fighting." He starred in the hit Disney comedy, "The Game Plan," starring opposite Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, and in the action-adventure film, "In the Name of the King," also starring Jason Statham, John Rhys-Davies and Ray Liotta.

Previous film credits include "Stomp the Yard," "The Family Stone," the Independent Spirit Award-nominated film "Brick," "DOA: Dead or Alive," "Daddy's Little Girls," "Dirty," "Mr. 3000," "The Movie Hero," "Redemption" and "Mr. and Mrs. Jones."

White guest-starred in the television series "The Ghost Whisperer," "Moesha," "Spyder Games," "Second Time Around," and most notably, as Detective Tavon Garris on the award-winning FX drama, "The Shield." Last year, he starred in the series "Moonlight."

White, a graduate of Dartmouth College, played both professional football (NFL) and lacrosse (NLL), earned his certifications as a licensed stock broker (series 7, 63 and 65), and co-founded the professional dance company/community youth outreach organization Phunk Phenomenon Urban Dance Theater. He is also the president of celebrity relations for Warm2Kids (We're All Role Models), an online membership community dedicated to inspiring teens and young adults to make positive life decisions and to ensure that no young person or family suffers in silence. Additionally, White is a founding partner with director Sylvain White of WHITE, LCC., a full service production and finance company based in Hollywood.

The eldest and only boy of six siblings, White was born in Boston to a professional basketball player father (JoJo White of the Boston Celtics) and a financial advisor mother, whom he credits as his hero. Visit [www.brianwhiteonline.com](http://www.brianwhiteonline.com) for more information.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

**RENNY HARLIN (Director)** is a filmmaker with the ability to identify and develop a wide range of projects. His credits span multiple genres and include both action-oriented blockbusters and critically acclaimed dramas.

Harlin's recent work in the thriller genre - "The Covenant" for Sony Screen Gems and "Mindhunters" for Dimension Films, starring Val Kilmer, Christian Slater, LL Cool J and Clifton Collins Jr. - attracted critical and audience attention. In 2004, Harlin joined forces with Warner Bros. to create the domestic and international box office hit, "Exorcist: The Beginning," the prequel to the legendary film.

Harlin initially distinguished himself by directing "A Nightmare on Elm Street IV." Released in 1988, the film became the highest grossing independent film of all time. He followed up with the

dark comedy "The Adventures of Ford Fairlane" before helming his breakthrough hit, "Die Hard 2." In 1993, Harlin produced and directed "Cliffhanger." The high-wire blockbuster, which starred Sylvester Stallone, John Lithgow and Janine Turner, established Harlin as one of Hollywood's premiere action directors.

Harlin went on to direct and produce 1995's "Cutthroat Island" and 1997's critically acclaimed "The Long Kiss Goodnight," the latter starring Geena Davis and Samuel L. Jackson.

In 1999, Harlin thrilled audiences with the summer hit "Deep Blue Sea." Starring Samuel L. Jackson, Thomas Jane, Saffron Burrows, and L.L. Cool J, the film grossed over \$160 million worldwide. In 2001, Harlin directed "Driven," starring Sylvester Stallone, Burt Reynolds and Estella Warren. The thriller revolved around a veteran racer who is lured back to the tracks to help a fast-rising rookie.

In 1991, Harlin made his producing debut with the critically lauded "Rambling Rose." The film starred Robert Duvall, Lukas Haas, Laura Dern, and Diane Ladd. Harlin received an Independent Spirit Award for best independent movie of the year and Oscar nominations for best actress (Dern) and best supporting actress (Ladd). Additional producer credits include "Speechless," a romantic comedy starring Geena Davis, Michael Keaton and Christopher Reeve, and "Blast From the Past," which starred Alicia Silverstone, Brendan Fraser, Sissy Spacek, and Christopher Walken.

Harlin's most recent film "Cleaner" debuted as the Gala screening at The 32nd Annual Toronto International Film Festival, the 55th Annual San Sebastian Film Festival and the 18th Annual Stockholm International Film Festival. "Cleaner" is a dramatic thriller starring Samuel L. Jackson, Ed Harris, Eva Mendes and Keke Palmer. Jackson plays a former cop turned crime scene "cleaner" who unwittingly cleans up a murder scene and disposes of all evidence.

Harlin's production company Midnight Sun Pictures is based in Los Angeles, where Harlin resides.

**DANIEL KUNKA (Screenwriter)**, with 12 ROUNDS, his first produced screenplay, reinvents the classic action-thriller genre of 80s and 90s, as a heart-pounding, pulse-racing, non-stop rollercoaster ride.

Starting with the two-word title scribbled on a piece of paper, Kunka took 12 ROUNDS through every step of the development process, from outline to first draft to finished shooting script. At the age of 29, Kunka worked closely with director Renny Harlin to help bring the story of everyman New Orleans police officer Danny Fischer and his arch nemesis, criminal mastermind Miles Jackson, to the big screen.

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Kunka attended the University of Southern California in the prestigious undergraduate Filmic Writing program. After graduation, Kunka worked myriad odd jobs while writing and rewriting scripts, including a stint as assistant story editor at Universal Pictures, before finally finding screenwriting success in his partnership with 12 ROUNDS, from WWE Studios and the Mark Gordon Company.

Kunka currently lives in West Los Angeles with his soon-to-be-bride and cat, and is working on several follow-up projects. He enjoys long walks on the beach, wearing ironic T-shirts, and has probably been to more Pearl Jam concerts than anyone you know.

**MARK GORDON (Producer)** is an award-winning producer with more than 60 motion picture and television projects to his credit.

Gordon is currently producing "2012" directed by Roland Emmerich. Other recent projects include "The Messenger" starring Ben Foster and Woody Harrelson, the epic adventure "10,000 BC," directed by Roland Emmerich, Kasi Lemmons' "Talk to Me," starring Don Cheadle, "The Hoax," directed by Lasse Hallstrom, starring Richard Gere, and John Curran's "The Painted Veil," starring Edward Norton and Naomi Watts.

For television, Gordon is an executive producer on the smash hit ABC series "Grey's Anatomy" and its spin-off series "Private Practice," as well as on the hit CBS drama "Criminal Minds," Lifetime's "Army Wives," and the CW's "Reaper."

Gordon was nominated for an Oscar and BAFTA Award -and won a Golden Globe for best picture - as a producer of Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan." The film also won best picture honors from film critics groups in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and London, as well as the Broadcast Film Critics Association. He won the Producer of the Year Award from the Producers Guild of America.

Gordon's wide ranging film credits as a producer also include "Casanova," starring Heath Ledger, directed by Lasse Hallstrom, "Hostage," starring Bruce Willis, the Roland Emmerich-directed films "The Day After Tomorrow" and "The Patriot," "Paulie," which won a BAFTA Award for Best Children's Film, "Broken Arrow," starring John Travolta, and Jan de Bont's action hit "Speed," which catapulted Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock to international stardom.

As an executive producer, Gordon's film credits include "Prime," starring Meryl Streep and Uma Thurman, "The Matador," starring Pierce Brosnan, Sam Raimi's "A Simple Plan," and "The Jackal," starring Richard Gere, Bruce Willis and Sidney Poitier. Gordon has also been involved in the financing and production of such films as "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," starring Angelina Jolie, "Wonder Boys," directed by Curtis Hanson, starring Michael Douglas, "Man on the Moon," starring Jim Carrey under the direction of Milos Forman, and Mike Nichols' "Primary Colors," starring John Travolta. In addition, Gordon has produced more than a dozen long-form television projects. He served as an executive producer on the HBO movie "Warm Springs," starring Kenneth Branagh, which received 16 Emmy nominations, winning five, including outstanding made for television movie. He also executive produced HBO's "And Starring Pancho Villa As Himself," directed by Bruce Beresford, starring Antonio Banderas, which garnered nine Emmy Award nominations. Gordon produced "The War Between the Classes," for which he won an Emmy for Best children's program. He directed and produced the Emmy nominated "Children Remember the Holocaust."

Gordon's first producing effort was the off-Broadway production of "The Buddy System" at Circle in the Square downtown. Gordon serves on the boards of the Producers Guild of America and the Virginia Film Festival. He is a graduate of New York University Film School.

**JOSH McLAUGHLIN (Producer)** is executive vice president and co-head of the motion picture division of The Mark Gordon Company. McLaughlin produced the critically acclaimed film "Talk to Me," starring Don Cheadle, written and directed by Kasi Lemmons.

McLaughlin is developing a modern reworking of the classic tale "Robin Hood," written by Cormac and Marianne Wibberley, and a remake of "Don't Look Now," a thriller focusing on a couple who travel to Venice, Italy to recuperate after their daughter's death, only to find themselves confronted with visual premonitions that may reveal their daughter's presence. Also in development is "Finn at the Blue Line," an offbeat romantic comedy about a female sportscaster resigned to being single, who sets out to artificially conceive a child when Mr. Right suddenly comes around, written by Dan Futterman and Anya Epstein, to be directed by Lasse Hallstrom with Sarah Jessica Parker attached to star; "Killing Pablo," the true story of how the Colombian gangster and terrorist Pablo Escobar was assassinated and his cocaine cartel dismantled, written and to be directed by Joe Carnahan; and Sony Pictures' "Horton Bliss," the story of two young children who, through the care of their charming and newly-arrived British male nanny, cope with their father's death by escaping into a magical fantasy world from a book they shared with their father; the project is written by Anastasia Traina, and Ashton Kutcher is attached to star.

McLaughlin began his career as an assistant at The Gersh Agency and later worked as a creative executive at The Mutual Film Company. He graduated in 1994 from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications.

**MICHAEL LAKE (Producer)**, president of WWE Studios, joined World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. in October 2007. As president of WWE Studios, Lake oversees a variety of entertainment projects. Specifically, he develops theatrical and direct-to-video opportunities for WWE Studios that provide unmatched on-screen action as vehicles for WWE Superstars. Lake also works to develop new television projects that will benefit from an affiliation with WWE or its Superstars.

A 36-year production and management veteran of the movie and television industries, Lake was executive producer of WWE Studios' "The Condemned," starring Stone Cold Steve Austin™. Prior to this, Lake served as executive vice president, worldwide feature production for Village Roadshow Pictures Entertainment Inc.,

overseeing production of 45 films, including the hits "The Matrix Trilogy," "Three Kings," "Miss Congeniality," "Ocean's Eleven," "Ocean's Twelve" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

Lake sits on the Advisory Board of the Association of Film Commissioners International.

**BECKI CROSS TRUJILLO (Executive Producer)** was executive producer of the critically acclaimed Spyglass feature "The Lookout," written and directed by Scott Frank, starring Joseph

Gordon-Levitt and Jeff Daniels. She was executive producer of "Stay Alive" (directed and co-written by William Brent Bell) and co-produced "Because of Winn Dixie" (directed by Wayne Wang) and "Daredevil" (directed by Mark Steven Johnson, starring Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner and Colin Farrell). Trujillo was a production executive at Orion Pictures, Tri-Star Pictures and Twentieth Century Fox.

**DAVID BOYD, ASC (Cinematographer)** was nominated for an ASC Award for outstanding achievement in cinematography in episodic TV series for his work on the acclaimed series "Deadwood." He was cinematographer on the feature films "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl," "Lenaxa, 1 Mile" and "Get Low." Before that, he worked in various behind-the-camera capacities on films such as "Cast Away," "Bubble Boy," "The Good Girl," "What Lies Beneath," and "Galaxy Quest."

Besides "Deadwood," his extensive TV work as cinematographer includes "Friday Night Lights," of which he directed several episodes, "Without a Trace" and "Firefly."

**NICHOLAS LUNDY (Production Designer)**, has thrice been nominated for an Art Directors Guild award (shared) - for "American Gangster," "The Departed" and "Amistad." He was also art director on "Revolutionary Road," "Ghost Town," "Meet Dave," "El Cantante," "Two for the Money," "Dark Water" and "Kinsey," among other films. His credits as assistant art director include "Cop Land," "The Ice Storm," "Donnie Brasco," "Sleepers" and "I.Q."

**BRIAN BERDAN, A.C.E. (Editor)** was editor on "Cleaner," "Crank," "Outsourced," "The Cave," "The Big Bounce," "The Mothman Prophecies," "Grosse Pointe Blank" and "Nixon," among other titles. His credits as additional editor include "Domino," "U-Turn," "Night and the City" and "The Basketball Diaries."

**TREVOR RABIN (Music)**, having scored the blockbuster hits "Armageddon" and "Enemy of the State," "Deep Blue Sea," "Gone In 60 Seconds," "Remember the Titans," "National Treasure" and "National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets," has secured his position in the first rank of popular film composers.

Rabin is part of a new group of film composers who hail from the world of rock music. A member of the group YES since 1983, he played guitar and wrote most of the material on their best-selling album "90125," including the number-one single "Owner of a Lonely Heart." He also penned the majority of the songs and served as co-producer on the YES album "Big Generator," which sold over 2 million copies worldwide. Additionally, he has written or co-written the songs, played every instrument but drums, produced, and engineered almost all of his solo work.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Rabin studied classical piano and trained as a conductor and arranger. His first professional band performed original anti-apartheid songs and his family was heavily involved in anti-apartheid activities-Sidney Kentridge, his father's first cousin, is the lawyer who pressed charges against the South African government on behalf of Steven Biko's family after his death. Rabin later founded the band Rabbit, which became the most popular South African rock band in history.

Rabin's diversity shows in his work, from the soulful score to "Glory Road," for which he collaborated with Alicia Keys, to the comedic "Kangaroo Jack" and "The Banger Sisters"; the spectacularly epic score for "Armageddon," the intricate, unnerving electronic score for the techno-thriller "Enemy of the State" and a lyrical orchestral sound for the family film "Jack Frost." For the documentary "Whispers," he returned to his roots, drawing on traditional African instrumentation, rhythms and vocal performances.

Rabin's additional film scores include "Bad Boy 2," "The Great Raid," "Coach Carter," "Snakes on a Plane" and "The Guardian."

**JILL NEWELL (Costume Designer)** is the costume designer on the upcoming "Bade Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans," starring Nicolas Cage. Her other motion picture credits include "Hamlet 2," "The Year of Getting to Know Us," "One Last Thing," "Undertow," "All the Real Girls" and "Raising Victor Vargas." She was costume designer on the hit series "Everwood."

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