



POWER

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

COURTNEY KEMP AGBOH

(Creator, Showrunner, Executive Producer)

Courtney Kemp Agboh started her career in the magazine world, publishing articles in GQ, Vibe, and Marie Claire. She then left New York to pursue television writing, starting out in comedy on "The Bernie Mac Show" (Fox), and transitioning into one-hour drama, with stints on "Eli Stone" (ABC) and "The Good Wife" (CBS), among others.

She is the creator and show runner of "Power," which in its first season doubled viewership from its premiere episode to its finale and generated the largest concentration of African American viewership of any scripted premium series since 2006.

Kemp Agboh holds a B.A. from Brown University in English Literature and received her M.A. in English literature from Columbia University. She lives in Los Angeles.

DAVID KNOLLER

(Executive Producer, Director Episodes 203, 205)

Working first as an actor in theater, television and film, David Knoller segued into live television producing, while still directing theater and teaching acting in the Los Angeles area. He produced Specials for CBS and HBO, and was soon asked to join Home Box Office as an executive.

While at HBO, David produced the concert feature film *Martin Lawrence: You So Crazy* and the award winning mini-series "America's Dream" with Danny Glover and Wesley Snipes. David also oversaw the productions of HBO's "Comic Relief," "One Night Stand," "Women of the Night," "Dream On" and "Larry Sanders," along with pilots and series for its upstart HBO Independent Productions, which included FOX's "Roc," "Down The Shore" and "Martin".

Jumping at the opportunity to jump start Original Programming at AMC, Knoller commuted to New York, developing projects like the Emmy® award-winning period drama series, "Remember WENN" and the documentary "Blacklist: Hollywood on Trial," which garnered the Television Academy's prestigious President's Award Emmy. Knoller soon accepted an offer from Dreamworks Television to give up the long commute and return home to Los Angeles.

With Dreamworks, Knoller formed Knollwood Productions and produced many network pilots, including Judd Apatow's "Freaks and Geeks" for NBC, which led to Knoller being asked to come aboard as the Director/Producer of the Christina Applegate NBC comedy series "Jesse" and the single camera comedy series "Grosse Pointe" with Darren Star.



It was producing the HBO drama series "Carnivàle" and the development of a series "Kitchen Confidential" with Darren Star, that brought him back again into the HBO fold, cementing his love for working on quality dramas and quickly hitching himself to the HBO polygamy drama "Big Love," where he lovingly spent the next six years on the award-winning series as both a director and producer.

Fully focused on writing, directing, and development, his love for storytelling continues with his development of the biblical drama "King David" and the drama series "Blackbirds" for Starz which he is producing with John Shibani, based on the Miriam Black "Blackbirds" novels of Chuck Wendig.

In his personal life, Knoller is involved with the Center Theater Group in Los Angeles, The Roundabout Theater in New York, The Jewish Federation, AIPAC, The UCLA Epilepsy Foundation, and The Scleroderma Foundation.

David Knoller is husband to "Friends" producer Wendy Knoller and the proud father of Joshua and Garrett, who are all his rock and foundation, reminding him every day of the true meaning of gratitude.

MARK CANTON **(Executive Producer)**

Mark Canton has been a preeminent force in the entertainment industry helping to bring more than 300 pictures to the screen in his capacity as a senior studio executive and producer. Canton controls a large number of high profile projects in various stages of development, pre-production, production and post-production.

Most recently, Canton released *300: Rise of an Empire*, the companion to the 2006 mega-hit, *300*. It is written by Zack Snyder and Kurt Johnstad and is directed by Noam Murro for Legendary Pictures and Warner Bros., based on Frank Miller's latest graphic novel. In post-production is *SITE 146*, a horror film set against the intersection of ancient Egyptology and modern Archeology, which Gregory Levasseur directed for Fox International Productions. Also in post-production is *Outcast*, an adventure-drama directed by Nick Powell and starring Nicolas Cage and Hayden Christiansen, which was filmed in China on which Canton is Executive Producer.

Shooting in July 2014 is *Last Witch Hunter*, a classic tale about an immortal witch hunter and a powerful warlock starring Vin Diesel. It is written by Corey Goodman with Breck Eisner set to direct for Summit/Lionsgate and Emmett/Furla Films.

In advanced development are *Den of Thieves*, a crime thriller about a gang of outlaws who try to rob the Federal Reserve in Los Angeles and a gang of renegade cops who try to stop them. It is written and will be directed by Christian Gudegast with Gerard Butler in a starring role for Relativity Media. Next, *Crash Bandits*, an adventure film with Rob Cohen directing for Millennium. Written by Michael Stokes, it will film in China. *Tunnels*, also for Relativity Media, is expected to be the next sensation to replace the Harry Potter franchise. Based on the first in a series of novels by Roderick Gordon and Brian Williams, it will be directed by Mikael Håfström. Scheduled to go into production this October is *All Access*, a romantic comedy written by Robert L. Fienoy that will be directed by Stuart Renfrew on location in South Africa.

In the television arena, Canton is currently in preparation for "Vanguard," written by Christian Gudegast for FX, in the tone of "Sons of Anarchy," but in the world of Navy Seals. Additionally, Canton has entered into a first look arrangement with Starz for the development and production of cutting edge, high-concept original programming for the network. Amongst his notable films are *300*, *The Spiderwick Chronicles* and *Immortals*. *300*, based on the Frank Miller graphic novel and directed by Zack Snyder for Warner Bros Pictures, opened to record-setting box office numbers, having grossed more than \$460 million worldwide and is the highest-grossing March release in the history of the motion picture business.



Canton initially joined Warner Bros. as Vice President of Production, rising to Senior Vice President and President of Worldwide Theatrical Production. He departed Warner Bros. to join Sony Pictures Entertainment's Columbia Pictures as Chairman. In the ensuing years he rose to Chairman of the Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Companies, with all creative, operational and management responsibility for Columbia Pictures, Triumph Films, Sony Pictures Classics SPE's international theatrical operations and Columbia TriStar's strategic motion picture alliances.

Following Sony, Canton returned to Warner Bros. to create his own production entity, The Canton Company. In early 2002 he joined Artists Production Group as a partner, Chairman and CEO and in December 2003, he launched Atmosphere Entertainment MM – an entrepreneurial venture to develop, produce and finance theatrical motion pictures and television programming. Canton executive produced the "Jack and Jill" TV series for Warner Bros. Television, and is presently developing new television projects at HBO, ABC, CBS, TNT and Lifetime.

A native of New York, Canton is a UCLA graduate (magna cum laude) and a member of UCLA's National Honor Society for American Studies. He delivered the 2011 commencement address at UCLA's School of History. In addition to serving on the UCLA Board of Councilors and the Deans Advisory Board for the School of Theatre, Film, and Television, Canton was Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Film Institute and is Chairman Emeritus of AFI's Third Decade Council.

RANDALL EMMETT **(Executive Producer)**

One of the entertainment industry's most prolific film producers, Randall Emmett has produced over 50 feature films since his start as Mark Wahlberg's assistant in the 1990's. Combining financial acumen with an incisive creative sensibility, Emmett is partner and co-founder alongside George Furla of Emmett / Furla Films, a production company dedicated to the development, financing and production of top tier filmed entertainment for the theatrical marketplace with its own equity fund. Also, he is founder and partner of Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson's production company, Cheetah Vision Films.

In the last decade, Emmett's ability to package films with well-known actors and filmmakers resulted in major box office success, netting more than a quarter of a billion dollars in the US box office alone. Additionally, he forged strong partnerships with major Hollywood studios to finance and distribute commercial films to audiences both domestically and internationally. Aside from high concept films, Emmett also produced smaller, critically acclaimed indie fare such as *Narc* and *Wonderland*. These films and others played at world acclaimed film festivals such as Sundance, Toronto, Berlin, Venice, Telluride, and many have been nominated for Independent Spirit Awards and Golden Globe Awards.

In the past year, Emmett finished shooting *Lone Survivor* directed by Peter Berg, starring Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch and Emile Hirsh as well as *2 Guns*, written by Steven Grant/Blake Master and directed by Baltasar Kormákur, starring Mark Wahlberg and Denzel Washington; *Empire State*, written by Adam Mazer and directed by Dito Montiel, starring Liam Hemsworth, Dwayne Johnson, and Emma Roberts; *The Tomb*, written by Miles Chapman and directed by Mikael Häfström, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone. Additionally, he produced *The Frozen Ground*, written and directed by Scott Walker, starring Nicolas Cage, John Cusack, Vanessa Hudgens, and Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson.

Most recently, he signed on to finance and produce Martin Scorsese's highly anticipated Silence and the Bruce Willis film: *Expiration*. Other projects he will also finance and produce: Everest with Working Title and Universal Pictures and Vin Diesel's *With Hunter* with Summit and Lionsgate.



Films that were recently released include: *End of Watch*, written and directed by David Ayer, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Peña; *Lay The Favorite*, with two-time Oscar® nominated director Stephen Frears, starring Bruce Willis, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Rebecca Hall, and Vince Vaughn; and *Freelancers*, starring Robert De Niro, Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson, and Forest Whitaker. Past films include: *Bad Lieutenant*, *Righteous Kill*, *88 Minutes*, *King of California*, *16 Blocks* and *The Contract*.

Born and raised in Miami, Emmett graduated from the respected performing arts high school, New World School Of The Arts. As an undergrad, he attended the prestigious The School Of Visual Arts in NYC. Presently, he speaks at various industry conferences and mentors up and coming filmmakers at UCLA's School of Continuing Education. He lives in Los Angeles with his family.

RANDY HUGGINS
(Co-Executive Producer, Writer Episodes 203, 208)

Randy Huggins returns to the second season of the Starz hit drama "Power" as the show's Co-Executive Producer. He began his writing career on FX's groundbreaking police drama "The Shield," as the show's writers' assistant for four seasons. In 2006, Shawn Ryan, the series show runner, bought an idea from Huggins and gave him a story credit for an episode entitled "Cut Throat." That same year, he followed Ryan to "The Unit" to work with David Mamet, who hired him as a staff writer. Huggins wrote five episodes and assisted on countless others the four seasons he was there. He went on to become the Executive Story Editor on Starz's first scripted drama "Crash," where he reunited with Glen Mazzara, his boss and colleague from "The Shield," who served as the series show runner. When that show ended, Huggins became a Co-Producer on NBC's medical drama "Trauma." In 2010, he served as a Producer on "Criminal Minds" and wrote three episodes before returning to NBC as the Supervising Producer on their cop drama "Prime Suspect."

Born and raised in Detroit, Huggins graduated from St. Martin DePorres High School and later received his B.A. in History from Grambling State University. He taught third grade and fifth grade in the Detroit public school system prior to relocating to Los Angeles, where he currently lives with his wife, Korin.

JOE LAZAROV
(Supervising Producer)

Joe Lazarov is well-known as the producer and director of the popular "Gossip Girl" TV series in New York. He was fortunate to begin his career in television working on Emmy award winning series "A Year in the Life", "China Beach," and "Northern Exposure." Joe continues to be a sought after producer having recently finished the spinoff "Once Upon A Time In Wonderland" for ABC, 5 seasons of "Gossip Girl," "Touching Evil," "Psych," "Invasion," "NCIS," and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

In 2008, Joe began a new phase of his career with his directorial debut of "Gossip Girl" with the emotional episode where Chuck Bass buries his father and subsequently directed eight more episodes.

Upon Joe's return to Los Angeles from the "Gossip Girl" set, he directed several episodes of the stunt filled series "The Nine Lives of Chloe King." Joe followed up that effort with a fun romp in "Hart of Dixie" and thriller episodes of "The Lying Game" and "Twisted."



Joe currently commutes between Brooklyn and Los Angeles where he lives with his wife of 20 years, 13 year old daughter, and two standard poodles.

GARY LENNON
(Co-Executive Producer)

Writer, Episodes 202, 206

Gary Lennon is an award winning writer and producer who has worked in all aspects of the entertainment industry. He began his career in the theater, writing for the productions "Blackou," "Dates and Nuts," "The Interlopers," and "A Family Thing." "The Interlopers" earned massive praise, received 3 Ovation and 2 NAACP nominations and was a LA Times Critics Pick. His other play, "A Family Thing" was also a Los Angeles Critics Pick, earning 6 LA Weekly and 2 Los Angeles Critic's Circle Nominations. Shortly after, he made his directorial debut with Drunks and .45, both of which he wrote as well.

He then transitioned to television where he has worked on many critically acclaimed shows including "The Black Donnellys," "The Unusuals," "The Shield," "Tripple Threat," "Free Roll," "Chief," "Black Box," and "Queenpin."

He's recently gained massive success for producing "Justified" on FX earning a 2011 Critic's Choice Award Nomination, a 2011 WGA Award and an AFI Award Honoree for Television Program of the Year. Also, he is a supervising producer on the Netflix hit "Orange is the New Black", which just earned him a Producers Guild Award, a 2014 Peabody Award, a 2013 WGA Nomination and a 2014 Emmy Nomination for Outstanding Comedy Series. In 2016, his play "A Family Thing" will open on Broadway.

LAUREN SCHMIDT HISSRICH
(Writer, Episode 204)

Lauren Hissrich began her television career as a summer intern on the first season of NBC's "The West Wing." After graduating from college, Lauren left her home state of Ohio and moved to Los Angeles full time. She worked for "The West Wing" for the next six years, climbing the ladder from production assistant to story editor.

Since then, she's written and produced shows such as "Private Practice" (ABC) and "Parenthood" (NBC), and has most recently developed scripted material for CBS and Bravo. Lauren joined "Power" as a co-executive producer this past summer.

Hissrich graduated with a B.A. in English Literature and Creative Writing from Wittenberg University. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two sons.

RAPHAEL JACKSON
(Co-Producer, Writer, Episodes 205, 209)

The second oldest in a family of seven, Raphael Jackson Jr. was born and raised in metro Detroit. Jackson is a University of Michigan graduate who studied extensively in film production. After graduating, he decided to move to Los Angeles where he gained valuable experience working on shows ranging from "Criminal Minds," "Cory in the House," to "All of Us." In addition to writing on "Power" for seasons one and two, Jackson also has served as a writer on the critically acclaimed Starz comedy "Survivor's Remorse", the AMC drama "Low Winter Sun" and the NBC drama "Crossbones" created by Neil Cross, the Emmy nominated creator of "Luther."



DAMIONE MACEDON
(Co-Producer, Writer, Episodes 205, 209)

Damione Macedon was born in San Francisco and has lived in Phoenix, AZ as well as Reno, NV. While in Reno, his father introduced him to writing through an extensive film collection he had collected over the years. Damione graduated from California State University of Northridge with a degree in History. Prior to joining "Power," he wrote for AMC's "Low Winter Sun," NBC drama "Crossbones," as well as Starz comedy "Survivors Remorse." Damione has been a member of the "Power" writing staff for both season one and two.

VLADIMIR CVETKO
(Writer, Episode 207)

Vladimir Cvetko immigrated to California from the former Yugoslavia. He started his career in television, working on shows such as "My Own Worst Enemy" (NBC) and "Outlaw," (NBC) before landing his first writing assignment for "Once Upon A Time" (ABC). In addition to "Power" he writes for "Kingdom" (DirecTV). He holds a B.A. in English Literature from CSU Chico and received his M.F.A. in Screenwriting from the University of Southern California.

SAFIA DIRIE
(Writer, Episode 210)

Safia M. Dirie moved to Los Angeles directly after finishing her education to pursue television writing. She received countless hours of experience working for various film and television production companies preparing her for season one of "Power". Season two marks her first staffing position on a television series of which she is co-writer of the finale (episode 210).

Dirie holds a B.A. from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville in English Literature and received her M.F.A. in Film Production from Florida State University. She lives in Los Angeles.

STEPHEN BEATRICE
(Production Designer)

Stephen Beatrice is a celebrated production designer. His unique designs and creations re-imagine and expound on the natural architecture around him. Among the roster of films he has contributed to in the last ten years are such award-winning movies as Roger Dodger starring Campbell Scott and Isabella Rossellini (2002), Love Liza with Philip Seymour Hoffman (2002), The Woodsman starring Kevin Bacon (2005) and Sherrybaby (2006) starring Maggie Gyllenhaal. Recent projects include the Iraq war film The Messenger (2009) starring Woody Harrelson and Ben Foster, Then She Found Me (2007) starring and directed by Helen Hunt, and Adventureland (2009) directed by Greg Mottola.

FRANK L. FLEMING
(Costume Designer)

New York City-based costume designer and stylist Frank L. Fleming has designed extensively for film and television. Most recently his work can be seen in Ivan Reitman's Draft Day starring Kevin Costner and Jennifer Garner, Machine Gun Preacher starring Gerard Butler, Morning Glory starring Rachel McAdams and Harrison Ford as well as several other feature film and television projects including the Oscar® nominated The Kite Runner.



Fleming has designed several features with Marc Forster as well as worked with many other notable directors including Steven Spielberg, Ridley Scott, Michael Apted, Jodie Foster, Spike Lee and Anthony Hemingway. In particular, he participated early in his career in the design of *Malcolm X* and *Amistad* both of which earned Academy Award nominations for Ruth E. Carter. Fleming's experience extends to celebrity styling and has landed Keri Russell on several best dressed lists.

JEFF RUSSO **(Composer)**

Two-time GRAMMY® and Emmy-nominated musician Jeff Russo has become a prominent composer, songwriter and arranger in the film and television industry. Russo recently received an Emmy nomination for his music on FX's hit series "Fargo", one of the most Emmy-nominated shows of the year, and has already started writing for "Fargo's" second season. Jeff just completed work on the CBS drama "CSI: Cyber" starring Patricia Arquette. Later this year, he is slated to begin work on the upcoming mini-series, "Tut," starring Ben Kingsley.

In addition to composing music for film and television, Russo still plays music with his rock band. He is a founding member, lead guitarist and co-songwriter of two-time GRAMMY® nominated, multi-platinum selling rock band, TONIC. Their debut album, "Lemon Parade," posted three singles in the U.S. Mainstream rock Charts' Top 10, with "If You Could Only See," rocketing to number one. In 2003, the band received two GRAMMY®-nominations, one for "Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal" for "Take Me As I Am," and one for "Best Rock Album."

Recently, Russo co-composed the score for CBS's television mini-series drama, "Hostages" starring Dylan McDermott and Toni Collette, and wrote the original score for USA Network's "Complications" starring Jason O'Mara. In 2013, he also worked on several feature films, including Shoreline Entertainment's *Watercolor Postcards*, starring Laura Bell Bundy, and the independent feature, *Free Ride*, starring Anna Paquin, Cam Gigandet and Drea de Matteo.

Russo's work can also be heard in films and television shows such as Marvista Entertainment's film *Bad Behavior*; the independent feature *About Cherry*; Lifetime's "Meet Jane," the pilot for ABC's "Charlie's Angels," Showtime's "Shameless" episode "It's Time to Kill the Turtle," ABC's "My Generation," and "The Unusuals," a documentary featuring interviews of the original students and teachers of the 1967 Third Wave Experiment, "Lesson Plan," and created ABC/Bad Robot's main title song for "What About Brian" with Low Stars. Russo has also contributed to the score for Showtime's "Weeds," a rap song for ABC's hit-series "Castle," score for NBC's "Smash," NBC's final season of "Crossing Jordan" and debut season of "The Bionic Woman," both under renowned composers, Wendy & Lisa. Tonic's music has also been featured in films such as, Universal Pictures' *American Pie* and Dimension Films' *Scream 2*.

In addition to scoring film and television, Russo has composed music for the New York Ballet Company Cedarlake Ensemble.