

# POWER

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

### COURTNEY A. KEMP

(Creator, Showrunner, Executive Producer, Writer Episode 301, Co-Writer Episode 310)

Courtney A. Kemp is a highly regarded creator, showrunner and producer in the television industry. Kemp is the mind behind Starz' critically acclaimed gritty New York drama, "Power." The hit series marks her debut as a creator and showrunner and follows the complex character James 'Ghost' St. Patrick and his empire. Under Kemp's leadership, the series doubled viewership from its premiere episode to its finale in the first season and generated the largest concentration of African American viewership of any scripted premium series in almost a decade. As the second season wrapped, "Power" drew a record 6.3 million viewers each week, making it the network's most highly watched original series on record. For her work on the show, Marie Claire Magazine named Kemp one of "The 50 Most Influential Women in America," she was included as one of the female powerhouses on Elle Magazine's "The Agenda" and named one of Ebony Magazine's "Power 100" honorees.

Previously, Kemp was a writer and supervising producer on the celebrated television show "The Good Wife," which went on to garner nominations for a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Drama Series and a Writers Guild Award for Dramatic Series. She also worked on ABC's "Eli Stone" and Fox's "Justice" and "The Bernie Mac Show," among others. Prior to her work in television, Kemp wrote for many prestigious magazines, including GQ, Vibe, and Marie Claire.

Kemp holds a B.A. from Brown University in English Literature and received her M.A. in English literature from Columbia University.

### CURTIS '50 CENT' JACKSON

(Kanan)

50 Cent, born Curtis James Jackson III, is an American rapper, entrepreneur, investor and actor from Queens, New York. He rose to fame with the release of his 2003 album "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," which has sold more than 8 million copies. The Grammy Award winner has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide and has been awarded numerous accolades including: 13 Billboard Music Awards, 6 World Music Awards, 3 American Music Awards and 4 BET Awards. He was ranked as the #1 rap artist and most successful Hot 100 Artist of the 2000s by Billboard Magazine, as well as that decade's 6<sup>th</sup>-best artist and 4<sup>th</sup> top male artist. 50 Cent

STARZ<sup>®</sup>

surprised fans in 2014 reuniting G-Unit and releasing new music. In June 2014, 50 Cent debuted his fifth studio album, “Animal Ambition” and currently is gearing up for his next studio album, “Street King Immortal,” which includes several featured guests such as: Eminem and Chris Brown. On December 9<sup>th</sup> he released “The Kanan Tape” mixtape, named after his character on his hit Starz show “Power.”

What began as music chart dominance for the rap music phenomenon quickly transformed to success in corporate America as a multi-tiered business mogul to be reckoned with. 50 Cent has also carved out a successful and acclaimed career as an actor and producer. He filmed *Spy* with Melissa McCarthy and Jude Law and also co-stars in the Antoine Fuqua directed boxing drama, *Southpaw*, along with Jake Gyllenhaal, Forest Whitaker and Rachel McAdams. Both films were released in summer 2015. In 2005, 50 Cent founded the production company, G Unit Film & Television Inc., producing a wide variety of content across various platforms. Additionally, 50 Cent serves as Executive Producer and has a reoccurring role on the hit series “Power” on Starz. The 2nd season premiere of “Power” garnered 1.43 million viewers, the highest rating ever for a Starz Original series premiere – after which the show received an immediate 3rd season renewal. In September 2015 it was announced that Starz signed 50 Cent and G Unit Film & Television, Inc. to an exclusive two-year overall premium television deal, where he will develop new projects for the network and continue as executive producer on “Power.” He was also featured on Billboard Magazine’s First Annual TV’s Top Music Power Players List for his work on “Power.” In December 2015, it was announced Jackson teamed up with Will Packer to produce and appear in the upcoming Fox comedy “My Friend 50.”

Recognized as one of the most talented and prolific music artists of his time, 50 Cent has managed to leverage his star power into record-breaking brand extensions encompassing a broad spectrum of businesses.

## **MARK CANTON** (Executive Producer)

Mark Canton has been a preeminent force in the entertainment industry helping to bring hundreds of 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.

In 2014 his film *300: Rise of an Empire*, the companion to the mega-hit, *300*, opened to new box office records around the world. It was written by Zack Snyder and Kurt Johnstad and directed by Noam Murro for Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures and is based on Frank Miller’s latest graphic novel. Last December, Twentieth Century Fox released *The Pyramid*, a horror film set against the intersection of ancient Egyptology and modern Archeology, which was directed by Gregory Levasseur.

*Cake*, a dark comedy written by Patrick Tobin, directed by Daniel Barnz and starring Jennifer Aniston as an acerbic woman who becomes fascinated by the suicide of a person in her chronic pain group, was released in late 2014 to critical and audience acclaim. Aniston’s performance garnered nominations for major awards including a Golden Globe®. It was the first project made under a new venture between Cinelou Films and China’s Shenghua Entertainment. Courtney Solomon, Cinelou CEO and Co-Chairman, produced with Canton.

Currently shooting in New York City for Cinelou is *The Comedian*, a dark comedy starring Robert DeNiro, Danny DeVito and Leslie Mann with Taylor Hackford directing from a screenplay by Art Linson, Jeffrey Ross, and Richard Lagravenese (Academy Award-winning writer of *The Fisher King*).

Canton also has four motion pictures presently in post-production:

- *Mr. Church*, an emotional drama starring Eddie Murphy and directed by Bruce Beresford is the second film on the Cinelou slate. It filmed in Los Angeles and will be released later this year. Lee Nelson and David Buelow produced alongside Canton and Solomon.
- *Burn Your Maps*, also from Cinelou was written and directed by Jordan Roberts (*Big Hero Six*), the film stars Vera Farmiga, Marton Csokas, Virginia Madson, Jacob Tremblay and Suraj Sharma (*Life of Pi*). The story focuses on an 8-year-old American boy (Tremblay), who declares to his parents that he is actually a Mongolian goat herder born in the wrong place. When he meets a similarly displaced Indian filmmaker, they journey east, seeking what they believe to be their true place in the world.
- *The Yellow Birds* directed by Alexander Moors (*Blue Caprice*, *Clash of Gods*). Screenplay was written by David Lowry from a book by Kevin Powers. Jennifer Aniston, Alden Ehrenreich (*Blue Jasmine*, *Hail Caesar*, *Beautiful Creatures*), Tye Sheridan (*X-Men*) and Jack Huston (*American Hustle*, *The Longest Ride*) are starring in the drama set against the Iraq war.
- *Phoenix Lights*, with Justin Barber directing is a mystery about three teens that go missing following the appearance of mysterious lights in the skies above Phoenix, AZ. TS Nowlin (*Maze Runner*) wrote the screenplay.

Films in advanced stages of development to be produced by Canton are:

- *Robotech* with James Wan (*Fast 7*, *The Conjuring*) directing off a script by Michael Gordon (300) for Sony Pictures Entertainment. Robotech is the classic anime that started in the 1980s and has fervent fans all over the world.
- *Emperor* which follows the adventures and intrigues of 'Gaius Julius Caesar' and 'Marcus Brutus' as they mature from boys into young men in the powerful, sexy and dangerous world of ancient Rome. The original script is by Oscar® nominee William Broyles Jr. and Stephen Harrigan based on Conn Iggulden's historical fiction novel. Nigel Sinclair, Guy East, Gianni Nunnari and Matt Jackson are producing alongside Canton for Lionsgate.
- *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.

In the television arena, Canton is currently Executive Producer on "Power," which recently finished airing its ratings-winning second season and has completed production in New York City on it's third outing. The series was developed with Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson and CBS Studios for the Starz Network, with Courtney A. Kemp (*The Good Wife*) as the writer/show runner. 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.

Also in television, Canton and CBS Studios have set up "Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>" at The CW with writers Steve Mitchel and Craig Van Sickle ("The Pretender"). This series reimagines the iconic 'Jason' and the creepy town of Crystal Lake. And at Fox is 'Poison,' which Atmosphere

developed from the hit Spanish series “Gran Reserve.”

Amongst his notable films are *300*, *300: Rise of an Empire*, *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. The *300* DVD has set sales records around the world. *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, based on the best selling children books by Tony DiTerlizzi & Holly Black with Mark Waters (*Mean Girls*) directing, was released in February 2008 by Paramount Pictures and was the highest-grossing family film of early 2008. *Immortals*, an epic mythological tale set in war torn ancient Greece, was released on 11/11/11 and has since amassed a worldwide gross of almost \$250 million.

He had two movies released in 2010: *Letters to Juliet*, a romantic drama for Summit Entertainment, which was directed by the late Gary Winick on location in Verona and Tuscany, Italy, and New York City, and Dimension Films’ *Piranha 3D* directed by Alexandre Aja, which Canton describes as “Jaws for a new generation.” Its sequel, *Piranha 3DD*, was also released by Dimension.

Canton initially joined Warner Bros. as Vice President of Production, rising to Senior Vice President and President of Worldwide Theatrical Production. During his tenure at the studio, Canton was instrumental in creating the notable *Batman*, *Lethal Weapon* and *National Lampoon’s Vacation* film franchises. His creative influence brought some of today’s most powerful filmmakers to the fore and some of the studio’s most successful films to the screen. The latter included Tim Burton’s *Pee Wee’s Big Adventure*, *Batman*, *Beetlejuice*, the Academy award-winning *Driving Miss Daisy* and Martin Scorsese’s *Goodfellas*. Canton also put into production such popular hits as *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, *Purple Rain*, *Above the Law*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *The Mission*, and *Presumed Innocent*, among others.

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

Soon after joining SPE Canton revitalized motion picture production operations, restructured the marketing and distribution companies and released a wide range of critically acclaimed action and comedy hits, among them: *A Few Good Men*, *Groundhog Day*, *In the Line of Fire*, *Bram Stoker’s Dracula*, *Bad Boys*, *The Net*, *The Professional*, *The Fifth Element*, and *Jumanji*. Canton also championed a distinctive slate of dramas and romantic comedies, such as the Oscar-winning *Sense and Sensibility*, *Legends of the Fall*, *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, *A League of Their Own*, *Fly Away Home*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, *Poetic Justice*, *The Age of Innocence*, *Little Women*, *The Remains of the Day* and *The People vs. Larry Flynt*.

Also produced under Canton’s aegis at Sony were the Academy Award-winning *As Good As It Gets*, starring Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt; Oscar-winner *Jerry Maguire*, starring Tom Cruise and Cuba Gooding Jr.; *Men in Black*, starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones; the Julia Roberts romantic comedy *My Best Friend’s Wedding*; the thriller *Anaconda*; and the Wolfgang Peterson film *Air Force One* starring Harrison Ford. In addition Canton initiated /

*Know What You Did Last Summer*, *Starship Troopers*, *Zorro*, *Godzilla*, and *Stepmom*, starring Julia Roberts and Susan Sarandon.

Following Sony, Canton returned to Warner Bros. to create his own production entity, The Canton Company. His first picture was the Warner Bros. Christmas classic *Jack Frost*, starring Michael Keaton (*Batman*) and Kelly Preston (*Jerry Maguire*). The next film came the following year, as Canton produced the much anticipated remake of the British cult classic *Get Carter*, directed by Stephen Kay (*Last Time I Committed Suicide*) starring Academy award-winners Sylvester Stallone (*Rocky*) and Michael Caine (*Cider House Rules*) along side Rachel Leigh Cook (*She's All That*) and Miranda Richardson (*Sleepy Hollow*). Shortly thereafter, Warner Bros released the dramatic Mars thriller *Red Planet* directed by Antony Hoffman, and starring Val Kilmer (*Heat*), Carrie-Anne Moss (*The Matrix*), Tom Sizemore (*Saving Private Ryan*) and Oscar-nominee, Terrance Stamp.

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.

Two films produced under The Canton Company and Artists Production Group banners -- Warner Bros. Pictures *Taking Lives*, a Village Roadshow Pictures and Canton Company Production starring Angelina Jolie, Ethan Hawke, Kiefer Sutherland and Oliver Martinez, and Lionsgate Films' *Godsend* starring Robert De Niro, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos and Greg Kinnear, were released in early 2004.

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 Founder and is Chairman Emeritus of AFI's Third Decade Council. In recent years he has co-chaired the prestigious Ischia Global Film & Music Festival and the Los Angeles, Italia Film Festival.

## **RANDALL EMMETT** **(Executive Producer)**

Randall Emmett is one of the entertainment industry's most prolific film producers, having produced over 80 feature films since his start as Mark Wahlberg's assistant. Emmett co-founded Emmett/Furla Films, a production company specializing in financing and producing top tier entertainment for the theatrical marketplace. By combining financial acumen with an incisive creative sensibility, he has produced and financed a wide array of films and television.

Emmett's ability to package films with well-known actors and filmmakers has resulted in major box office success, netting more than one billion dollars in box office sales. He has also forged strong partnerships with major Hollywood studios to finance and distribute commercial films. These films and others have played at world acclaimed film festivals such as Sundance,

Toronto, Berlin, Venice, Telluride, and many have been nominated for Independent Spirit and Golden Globe Awards.

Some Emmett produced features include: *Lone Survivor*, directed by Peter Berg, starring Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch and Emile Hirsh; *2 Guns*, starring Mark Wahlberg and Denzel Washington; *Broken City*, starring Mark Wahlberg, Russell Crowe and Catherine Zeta Jones; *End of Watch*, written and directed by David Ayer, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Peña. Other past films include: *Narc*, *Amityville Horror*, *Bad Lieutenant*, *Righteous Kill*, *88 Minutes*, *King of California*, and *16 Blocks*. Emmett/Furla recently launched a TV division with hit show "Power" on Starz with Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson, now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> season. Emmett/Furla is also currently developing a "Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>" series for CBS/CW and has a first look deal with Pilgrim entertainment.

Emmett recently wrapped production on *478* starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Scoot McNairy. The highly anticipated drama, *Silence*, from Award-winning director Martin Scorsese, starring Liam Neeson, Adam Driver, and Andrew Garfield is in post production.

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 School of Visual Arts in New York, where he found his calling as a producer. 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.

#### **BART WENRICH** (Co-Executive Producer)

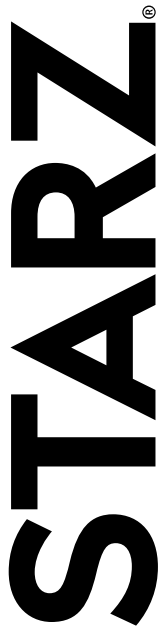
Bart Wenrich began his television career working in the locations department and served as the location manager on a number of films set in New York City including *Swimming to Cambodia* (1987), *Rooftops* (1989), *A Shock to the System* (1990), *A Rage in Harlem* (1991), and *Malcolm X* (1992).

Wenrich segued into television on the hit series "New York Undercover," and was promoted to unit production manager until the series ended in 1998. His other television credits as a unit production manager include "The Sopranos," "Hack," "Johnny Zero," "Love Monkey," and "Gossip Girl." In 2009, Wenrich made his directorial debut with the "Gossip Girl" webisode spin-off series, "Chasing Dorota." He went on to direct three "Gossip Girl" episodes: "It-Girl Happened One Night," "Raiders of the Lost Art," and "Dirty Rotten Scandals" in 2011 and 2012. He became producer in the final season of "Gossip Girl."

Wenrich resides in New York with his wife and is currently co-executive producing the one-hour hit drama series "Power" for the Starz network, after also producing the first two seasons.

#### **SHANA STEIN** (Co-Executive Producer)

Shana Stein is a 20-year veteran of the film and television industry, having produced independent films, hit television shows and blockbuster music videos. In independent films, Stein produced *Hell Ride*, which was executive produced and Presented by Quentin Tarantino. *Hell Ride* premiered at Sundance and stars Vinnie Jones, Dennis Hopper, Michael Madsen



and David Carradine and was distributed by the Weinsteins' Dimension Films. Stein earlier produced *Restaurant* starring Oscar-winner Adrien Brody and Lauryn Hill. *Restaurant* premiered at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival and was distributed globally.

In television, Stein currently co-executive produces the hit series "Power" for Starz. Prior to "Power," she co-executive produced three seasons of the CBS drama "Unforgettable" and four seasons of the CW drama "90210." She served as co-producer on the USA Network original series "Monk," which she worked on for seven seasons.

Stein began her career in the iconic agent-training program at the William Morris Agency. After producing music videos, she served as director of development for Steve Golin's Anonymous Content.

Most recently, Stein developed Anthony Maranville's screenplay for television star Poppy Montgomery which is currently in development with Little Engine and ITV. For the pilot teaser, she produced a new-media cell phone project with Microsoft, with new technology they created just for the venture.

Stein earned her BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and her MFA from The American Film Institute and currently teaches a course on film and television producing at UCLA.

**GARY LENNON**  
**(Executive Producer, Writer Episodes 302 and 308)**

Gary Lennon is an award-winning writer and producer who has worked in all aspects of the entertainment industry. He began his career in theater, writing the plays, "Blackout," "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. Lennon made his directorial debut with the film .45, starring Mila Jovovich, 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 Sheild," and "Black Box."

He's recently gained great success for producing "Justified" on FX, earning him a 2011 Peabody Award, 2011 Critic's Choice Award Nomination, a 2011 WGA Award and an AFI Award Honoree for Television Program of the Year. Also, he was a supervising producer on the Netflix hit "Orange is the New Black," which earned him a Producers Guild Award, a 2014 Peabody Award, a 2013 WGA Nomination and a 2014 Emmy Nomination for Outstanding Comedy Series.

**RANDY HUGGINS**  
**(Co-Executive Producer, Writer Episode 303)**

Randy Huggins returns to the third season of the hit Starz Original Series, "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 by credit for an episode entitled "Cut Throat." That same year, he went with Ryan to work with David Mamet on "The Unit," where Huggins was hired as a staff writer. He worked on the show for four years, wrote five episodes and assisted on countless of others while he was there. Huggins went on to become the Executive Story Editor on Starz's first scripted drama, "Crash," where he reunited with Glen Mazzara, his 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, Huggins 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 and fifth grade in the Detroit public school system prior to relocating to Los Angeles, where he currently lives.

**HEATHER ZUHLKE**  
**(Supervising Producer, Writer, Episode 304)**

Previous to her work on Starz's top-rated program, "Power," Heather Zuhlke wrote on all five seasons of TNT's critically acclaimed "Southland," sharing in the cop drama's 2012 Peabody Award and winning a 2012 Prism Award for her writing on the show. Zuhlke's other television credits include "Stalker," "Killer Women," "Kaya," "Smith," and "The Evidence." She is a 2005 alumni of the Warner Bros. Writer's Workshop and started her career as the Executive Assistant to Emmy-winning producer, John Wells. Zuhlke graduated with a BA in Communications from California State University, Fullerton.

**RAPHEAL JACKSON JR.**  
**(Producer/Co-Writer, 305, 309)**

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 shws ranging from "Criminal Minds," to "All of Us." In addition to writing on the hit Starz Original Series, "Power" for seasons one, two and three, Jackson also 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**  
(Producer/Co-Writer, 305, 309)

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 amassed over the years. Macedon graduated from California State University of Northridge with a degree in History. Prior to joining "Power," he wrote for AMC's "Low Winter Sun," the NBC drama "Crossbones," and the STARZ comedy, "Survivors Remorse." Macedon has been a member of the "Power" writing staff for all three seasons.

**VLADIMIR CVETKO**  
(Executive Story Editor; Writer Episode 306)

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). He currently writes for the hit Starz Original Series "Power" and "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 M. DIRIE**  
(Story Editor, Writer Episode 307)

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 before landing on the hit Starz Original Series, "Power." Season three marks her second season on the show.

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.

**JEFF DIX**  
(Staff Writer, Co-Writer 310)

A native South Dakotan, Jeff Dix studied writing for film and television at Minnesota State University Moorhead, in addition to UCLA. Early in his television career, Dix worked on such hit shows as "The Big Bang Theory" (CBS), "Mike & Molly" (CBS), and "Beauty And The Beast" (The CW). He has been with the Starz Original Series sensation, "Power" since its inception: first, as an assistant, before becoming a member of the writing staff.

**TIM CHRISTENSON**  
(Co-Producer, Co-Writer Episode 305, 309)

Tim Christenson was raised in Northern Iowa, the youngest of four children. He graduated from the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in Theatre Production and Communications and took a slight detour into property leasing and development during his last two years of college. It was landing a job as a production assistant on the feature *Miles from Home* just after college

that set Christenson on a successful path in to entertainment. The film, which shot near his hometown, starred Richard Gere and Helen Hunt and was directed by Gary Sinise.

Christenson recently served as a co-producer on the HBO/Duplass Brothers comedy “Togetherness,” as well as on the highly praised HBO series “How to Make It in America” alongside Stephen Levinson, Mark Wahlberg, Julian Farino and Ian Edelman. He also teamed with Wahlberg and Levinson on the multi-award-winning HBO drama series, “In Treatment,” which ran for three incredible and critically acclaimed seasons.

Christenson’s early work includes a co-producer role on the 2008 Sony Television and ABC multi-nominated adaptation of *A Raisin in the Sun*, starring Phylicia Rashad, Sean Combs, Sanaa Lathan, John Stamos, and Audra McDonald. This made for TV movie marks his third collaboration with Craig Zadan and Neil Meron. His sophomore collaboration with Zadan and Meron was as a co-producer on the 2006 Sony Television and A&E made for TV comedy *Wedding Wars* starring John Stamos and Eric Dane. He also co-produced the 2006 NBC comedy series “The Book of Daniel,” starring Aidan Quinn, Garret Dillahunt and Ellen Burstyn.

Christenson served as an associate producer alongside executive producers Tom Selleck and Michael Brandman on the made for TV movies *Jesse Stone: Death in Paradise* and *Jesse Stone: Stone Cold*, a series in which Tom Selleck also starred. He also associate produced A&E’s Emmy-nominated *Ike: Countdown to D-Day*, starring Tom Selleck, CBS’s *Martin and Lewis*, starring award-winning actors Sean Hayes and Jeremy Northam and allowing him to work with Craig Zadan and Neil Meron for the first time, FOX’s “The Tick,” starring Patrick Warburton and Nestor Carbonell and executive produced by Barry Sonnenfeld, The WB’s “Young Americans,” starring Kate Bosworth and Ian Somerhalder, and the feature films *Who Do You Love*, *Looking for an Echo* and *The Gingerbread Man*, where he had the opportunity to work with remarkable talent such as director Robert Altman, Kenneth Branagh, Robert Downey Jr., Daryl Hannah, Tom Berenger, Famke Janssen, Mae Whitman and Robert Duvall.

Christenson’s first big job was as a production associate on the 1992 MGM production of *Of Mice and Men*, starring John Malkovich and Gary Sinise, who also directed the film, earning a nomination for the Palme d’Or at Cannes. Christenson had the opportunity to learn from some of the best in the business during his five-year tenure with HBO, and his work during a 12-year relationship with Sony Television provided him with vast knowledge of post production.

Christenson makes his home in Kansas City, MO with his wife Kathy while working out of New York and Los Angeles throughout the year.

## **HERNAN OTAÑO**

**(Director of Photography, Episodes 301, 303, 305, 307, 309)**

Hernan Michael Otaño is a Director of Photography based out of New York City. The first American-born son of Argentine parents, he has worked his way up through the camera ranks. He started off as a film loader and then graduated to focus, pulling for cinematographers such as Harris Savides, Darius Khondji, Russell Carpenter and Dariusz Wolski. These years were priceless experiences to him; working alongside some of the most innovative cinematographers of the time.

He got his first big break in 2001 shooting a narrative short film directed by Dave Silver called *Gasoline*. This short film went on to win the Jury selection prize for Best Short Film at Sundance 2002. In 2004, the two collaborated again on the feature-length film *Corn*. Otaño's next career highlight came in 2007 as Director of Photography for the feature film *Turn the River*, written and directed by Chris Eigemann. This film was well received and was nominated for an IFC SPIRIT award in 2007. Independent film continued to shape his career nurturing both a collaborative nature and applied visual style.

Otaño made the transition to larger scale projects and studio films with a spate of camera operator duties on films such as *Limitless*, *Man on a Ledge* and others films, all the while taking on 2nd unit and additional Director of Photography work on movies such as Greg Araki's *Mysterious Skin*, stunt work on *The Stepfather* and recently shooting the dream sequences for James Grey's film *The Immigrant*. He also found a place behind the lens as a camera operator on multiple award-winning television shows such as "30 Rock" and "Girls." Otaño shot episode five on season one of *Girls* and was the Tandem DP on season one of the FX show "*The Americans*."

Recently Otaño finished Season 3 of Starz' "Power," his second season as DP for the hit series. Over his hiatus from "Power," he worked on two episodes (including the season finale) of WGN's new hit series, "Underground."

## **MAURICIO RUBINSTEIN**

**(Director of Photography, Episodes 302, 304, 306, 308, 310)**

Mauricio Rubinstein was born and raised in Mexico City. He studied film at West Surrey College of Art in Farnham, England. After graduation he went to live and work in Amsterdam, Netherlands; where he was an acclaimed still photographer and began his career in cinema. Rubinstein worked for many years in Holland and Argentina with director Alejandro Agresti, including on the films *The Cross* (Cannes International Film Festival-Un Certain Regard, 1996) and *Wind with the Gone* (winner San Sebastian International Film Festival, 1998). Following his collaboration with John Sayles on *Casa De Los Babys* (2002), Rubinstein moved to New York, where he still resides.

Rubinstein received an Emmy-nominated for Best Cinematography for HBO Film's *Bernard and Doris* (2006) from director Bob Balaban, starring Susan Sarandon and Ralph Fiennes. Other television credits include, HBO's "In Treatment," CW's "Gossip Girl," Sony's "Us and Them," and "Elementary" on CBS.

Rubinstein's film credits include: *Sorry, Haters* (2 Spirit Award nominations), written and directed by Jeff Stanzler, starring Robin Wright, *Puccini for Beginners* from director Maria Maggenti, *New York, I Love You*, segment directed by Fatih Akin, *The Last Film Festival* from director Linda Yellen with Catherine Bisset and Dennis Hopper (his last film).

Rubinstein was Adjunct Professor of Cinematography Columbia University School of the Arts' MFA film program from 2010 to 2013.

**STEPHEN BEATRICE**  
(Production Designer)

Stephen Beatrice is a celebrated production designer, whose unique designs and creations re-imagine and expound on the natural architecture around him. Among the roster of films he has contributed to over the years are award-winning movies *Roger Dodger*, starring Campbell Scott and Isabella Rossoellini (2002), *Love Liza* with Philip Seymour Hoffman (2002), *The Woodsman*, starring Kevin Bacon (2005), and *Sherrybaby*, starring Maggie Gyllenhaal (2006).

Recent projects include, the critically acclaimed Iraq War film, *The Messenger*, starring Woody Harrelson and Ben Foster (2009), *Then She Found Me*, starring and directed by Helen Hunt (2007), and *Adventureland*, directed by Greg Mottola (2009).

**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 Marc Forster's *All I See Is You*, starring Jason Clarke and Blake Lively, *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 notable directors including Marc Forster, Steven Spielberg, Ridley Scott, Michael Apted, Jodie Foster, Spike Lee and Anthony Hemingway. In particular, early in his career, he participated 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)

Emmy and Grammy-nominated musician, Jeff Russo has become a prominent composer, songwriter and arranger in the film and television industry. Russo composed the music for FX's Emmy and Golden Globe-winning series, "Fargo," for which he received an Emmy-nomination. He has since scored the second season of the series and is currently working on the third season. In addition to creating the music for Starz's Original hit drama "Power," from executive producer Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson and Courtney A. Kemp, Russo recently composed the music for Spike's "Tut," starring Ben Kingsley and also collaborated with Zoe Keating on both WGN's "Manhattan" and A&E Network's "The Returned." Russo created the original score for USA Network's "Necessary Roughness," starring Callie Thorne, Marc Blucas and John Stamos. Jeff's work can be heard in various other television shows such as ABC's "Charlie's Angels," "Castle" and "What about Brian," Showtime's "Shameless" and "Weeds," NBC's "Smash," "Crossing Jordan" and "The Bionic Woman."

In 2013, he 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 Mateo.

In addition to composing music for film and television, Russo is still active as 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."

Russo is slated to begin work on the upcoming HBO mini-series, "The Night Of," starring John Turturro, ABC's "Time After Time," from creator Kevin Williamson, CBS's newest Steven Spielberg series, "American Gothic," and SyFy's anthology series, "Channel Zero."

Russo has also composed music for the New York Ballet Company Cedarlake Ensemble.

## **ANITA GIBSON** (Department Head Make-Up)

Anita Gibson is raising the bar in the world of beauty as an accomplished makeup artist and the head of the makeup department for the #1 Starz Original Series, "Power" for two seasons.

A respected makeup artist in film and television, Gibson has worked with Denzel Washington, Kerry Washington, Kate Winslett, Angela Bassett, Jennifer Hudson, Alfre Woodard, Halle Berry, Naomi Campbell, Mariah Carey, Robert DiNero, Whoopi Goldberg, Selma Hayak, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Nate Parker, Ron Howard, Samuel L. Jackson, Michael Jordan, Tommy Lee Jones, Chaka Khan, Boris Kodjoe, Sanaa Lathan, Spike Lee, Delroy Lindo, Anthony Mackie, Garry Marshall, Debbie Morgan, Paul Newman, Thandie Newton, Nicole Ari Parker, Ving Rhames, John Ritter, Chris Rock, Martin Scorsese and Russell Simmons to name a few.

Gibson's work has been seen on HBO, ABC, CBS and in several Spike Lee movies (Forty Acres & a Mule). In addition, she boasts an impressive list of film and television credits including, *Beyond the Lights*, *Top Five*, *Black Nativity*, *Mr. & Pete*, *Good Deeds*, *We The Peebles*, *Madea's Big Happy Family*, *For Colored Girls*, *Why Did I Get Married 2*, *Madea Goes to Jail*, *Notorious*, *Miracle at St. Anna*, *Inside Man*, *She Hate Me*, *Brooklyn*, *Maid in Manhattan*, *Brown Sugar*, *Love & Basketball*, *Out of Sight*, *He Got Game*, *Only in America*, *Space Jam*, *Girl 6*, *Clockers*, *Bringing Out the Dead*.

Gibson is currently working on a new cosmetics line and her work can be seen on Kerry Washington in the HBO film, *Confirmation* in Spring 2016.

## **DAVID HOPWOOD** (Producer)

David Hopwood is a Los Angeles native who graduated from The University of Southern California with degrees in Creative Writing and Cinema/Television. He began his career in entertainment in the training program of Michael Ovitz' Artist Management Group. There he worked for esteemed talent manager and producer, Ellen Goldsmith-Vein (CEO of The Gotham Group).

In 2002, he joined former studio chief, Mark Canton (*300*, *Immortals*) at the foundation of Atmosphere Entertainment. For 13 years, he oversaw the slate at Atmosphere Entertainment as Senior VP of Film & Television Production and Development. In this post, he shepherded the films *Piranha 3D*, *Letters to Juliet*, *Immortals*, *Escape Plan* and *300: Rise of an Empire* and the hit television series “Power” for Starz. In addition to Starz, he has developed projects with AMC, FOX, E1, and CW Network. He currently holds the post of Executive Vice President of Production and Development at Atmosphere and Cinelou Films.

## **Brian Badie** **(Department Head Hair)**

One of today’s most innovative celebrity hairstylist, Brian Benedict Badie is a driving force in film and television. Born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, Badie has always considered himself an artist in every realm - music, art, fashion and dance. His innovation comes to life in a host of critically acclaimed television series and blockbuster films.

In 1984, Badie began attending Louisiana State University where he pursued a bachelor’s degree in Fashion Merchandise. Going into his junior year, he decided to transition from pursuing a college degree to seeking a full time career as an artist.

In 1991, at the age of 26, Badie began his love for the art of hair design after graduating from Moler Beauty College in New Orleans. After catching the eyes of the legendary hairstylist, Robert Louis Stevenson, Badie earned the position of Key Hairstylist on the feature film, *Eve’s Bayou*. This opportunity awarded him with the mentorship of Stevenson, then continuing his career as a hairstylist on film projects such as CBS’s *Having our Say: The Delany Sisters’ First 100 Years* and HBO’s *A Lesson Before Dying*, as well as the multi-award-winning HBO mini-series, “The Corner.”

In 2001, Badie relocated to New York City, where he debuted as a Department Head Hairstylist with the critically acclaimed, Oscar-winning film *Monster’s Ball* and indie films, *Shadowboxer* and *The Cookout*. He gained experience and opportunities, working on many blockbuster films, including *I am Legend*, *Miracle at St. Anna*, and *American Gangster*.

Brain has created hair designs on NBC’s “Law and Order: SVU” for seven seasons, Starz’s hit show “Power” for three seasons, and WGN’s compelling new series, “Underground.”

It is no surprise that Badie’s unrivaled body of work has caught the eye of some of Hollywood’s biggest stars, directors and producers, including Hellen Mirren, Mariska Hargitay, Heath Ledger, Cuba Gooding Jr., Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Viola Davis, Bobby Cannavale, Debi Mazar, Kathy Griffin, Anthony Hemingway, Nina Jacobson, Brad Simpson, Marc Forster, Lee Daniels and Akiva Goldsman.

From season to season the excitement for Brian’s art ends where another begins.

**GEORGE TILLMAN JR.**  
(Director, Episode 301)

After seeing the films, *Cooley High* and *Taxi Driver*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin native George Tillman, Jr. became inspired to make films of his own. In 1994, Tillman wrote and directed his first feature film, *Scenes for the Soul*. It was shot entirely in Chicago, using local talent and resources. The film, which cost \$150,000 to make, caught the attention of Doug McHenry and George Jackson who acquired it for Savoy Pictures for \$1 million. Following the momentum of this success, George began to write a script, loosely based on his own life—*Soul Food*, which began production on November 6th, 1996 on a hectic 30-day schedule with a cast that included Vanessa Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long, Mekhi Phifer, Michael Beach, Irma P. Hall, and Brandon Hammond. Modestly budgeted at \$7 million, *Soul Food* opened to critical and financial success, grossing over \$43 million domestically. As a result, Tillman and his producing partner, Bob Teitel, landed a two-year, first look deal at Fox 2000. State Street Pictures became their company's new name—a reference to their earlier years as a filmmaking team in Chicago.

Tillman's next directorial effort was *Men of Honor*, an epic story inspired by the life of Carl Brashear, a man who battled the obstacles of racism, a lack of education, and the loss of his leg to become the United States Navy's first African-American Master deep sea diver. The film starred Oscar-winning actors Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Robert De Niro with an ensemble cast that included Charlize Theron, Michael Rapaport, Lonette McKee, Glynn Turman, and Hal Holbrook. After the success of *Men of Honor*, Tillman ventured into producing. In addition to his role as Executive Producer of the beloved "Soul Food: The Series" for Showtime Networks, Tillman co-produced with partner, Teitel the MGM film *Barbershop* and *Roll Bounce*.

Tillman stepped back into the director's chair in 2007 to direct the biopic *Notorious* at Fox Searchlight. This edgy telling of slain rapper Notorious Big's life proved to be the perfect vehicle for Tillman's directorial style and finesse. Starring the unknown Jamal Woolard as Christopher 'Notorious Big' Wallace, the film also boasts strong talent such as Derek Luke as Sean 'Puffy' Combs, Oscar nominated Angela Bassett as Voletta Wallace and Anthony Mackie as Tupac Shakur. Next, he completed *Faster* in 2011.

In 2009, Tillman fell in love with *Inevitable Defeat of Mister and Pete*, written by Michael Starrbury and he spent 3 three years trying to get it made. The film debuted at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival and was released in 2013 by Lionsgate with a cast that included Jennifer Hudson, Anthony Mackie, Jeffery Wright and introduced Skylan Brooks and Ethan Dizon.

Tillman's most recent film was *The Longest Ride*, an American romantic drama based on a novel by Nicholas Sparks. Tillman takes us into the world of Bull riders; Luke Collins (Scott Eastwood), a bull rider who is seriously injured one night while riding. One year later, he gets back on a horse and meets Sophia Danko (Britt Robertson) by chance. On their first date, they rescue Ira Levinson (Alan Alda), an older gentleman, in a car wreck. From this encounter, they learn how the man met his late wife, Ruth (Oona Chaplin). Young Ira is played by (Jack Huston).

**SANFORD BOOKSTAVER**  
(Director, Episodes 302, 305)

At 42 years old, Sanford Bookstaver has rapidly become one of the most sought out director/producers in the television business. Born in New York City, Bookstaver is the son of two Wall Street professionals, but handling investments for a living never interested him. In fact, Bookstaver realized

that he wanted to direct at the age of 4.

Bookstaver decided to leave the confines of New York to pursue his lifelong dream of working for Steven Spielberg. He enrolled into the University of Southern California film school. Upon graduation, Bookstaver continuously sent resumes to Spielberg's new DreamWorks SKG movie studio. After 8 months he was finally awarded a production assistant job at DreamWorks. Due to his extreme diligence and perseverance, Jeffrey Katzenberg offered Bookstaver a position as one of his assistants.

While working for Katzenberg for over 4 years, Bookstaver co-wrote and directed *Scriptfellas*, a short parody of Martin Scorsese's *Goodfellas*. He solicited the help of every department from production to casting at DreamWorks to help give rise to his film. Money was raised independently from the owners of the Latin American network Televisa whom Bookstaver met through contacts at DreamWorks. The final cherry on top was Paul Sorvino's commitment to reprise his infamous *Goodfellas* role as Paulie. This time he was the head of a movie studio, not a mafia boss.

Upon completion of the film, Jeffrey Katzenberg insisted that Bookstaver show it to him first before the rest of the town. Katzenberg took the film home, while the anxious Bookstaver waited by the phone for 3 days. The response was overwhelming; so much that Katzenberg handed it to Steven Spielberg. One week later Bookstaver's lifelong dream would become a reality. Spielberg loved the film so much that he personally offered him a shot at directing his new television show "The Others" for NBC.

Bookstaver quickly became one of the most sought out television directors working on hit shows like "House," "Prison Break," "Power," "Chicago PD," and "Chicago Fire." He has also produced the series "Revenge," "Cane," and "Fastlane". Bookstaver has been nominated for several awards for his directing talents and, when he can, has lent his time to teaching other aspiring young filmmakers.

#### **LUKAS ETTLIN** (Director, Episode 303)

Lukas Ettlin studied at the prestigious NYU Tisch School of the Arts film program, where he lensed *Genesis and Catastrophe*, which won top awards, including the ASC's Arthur Miller Heritage Award for Best Cinematography in 2000.

In the following years he served as the director of photography on commercials and music videos for a wide range of artists, including David Bowie, Taylor Swift, 50 Cent and Usher. In 2005, he was nominated by the MVPA for Best Cinematography on Marilyn Manson's "Personal Jesus" video.

In 2005 Lukas shot New Line's *Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning*, followed by the Weinstein Company's *Fanboys* and *The Take*, an Official Selection at the 2007 Toronto Film Festival starring John Leguizamo. Continuing his work for Michael Bay, Ettlin filled in as an additional director of photography on mega blockbuster *Transformers*. In 2006 Variety magazine nominated Ettlin as one of their '10 Cinematographers to Watch.'

After several more feature films in various genres, Ettlin teamed up with Liebesman for a third time for Sony's big budget alien invasion drama *Battle: Los Angeles* and worked again with longtime collaborator Brad Furman on Lakeshore's *Lincoln Lawyer*, starring Matthew McConaughey, followed by Arnold Schwarzenegger's indie drama, *Maggie*.



In 2012, tapped yet again by Michael Bay, he embarked on the epic Starz's Original Series, "Black Sails," transitioning to directing in season 2. Ettlin has been a producer/director on two seasons of "Black Sails," as well as directing episodes of Starz's hit series, "Power" and NBC's "Aquarius."

**LARYSA KONDRACKI**  
(Director, Episode 304)

Larysa Kondracki is a Canadian film director and screenwriter. Her debut feature film, *The Whistleblower* was released in 2011 and received nominations for six Genies at the 32nd Genie Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. Originally from Toronto, Kondracki studied English literature and theatre at McGill University, and later completed an MFA in film directing at Columbia University.

Currently, Kondracki has an overall deal at Starz network. She was the co-executive producer on BBCA's "Copper," and in addition to "Power," has worked as a director on acclaimed shows such as "Better Call Saul," "The Americans," "The Walking Dead," "Halt & Catch Fire" and "Gotham."

**MICHAEL BASSETT**  
(Director, Episodes 306, 310)

Michael J. Bassett is an English screenwriter and film director who has made a variety of films, both for television and cinema.

His first feature as writer and director was the 2002 horror film *Deathwatch*, starring Jamie Bell and Andy Serkis. Bassett's most recent film projects include the horror sequel *Silent Hill: Revelation* and the heroic fantasy adventure, *Solomon Kane*. From 2013-15, he was lead director, co-writer and co-exec producer of the Sky/Cinemax action series "Strike Back," as well as having directed episodes of the Starz shows "DaVinci's Demons" and "Power."

Bassett grew up in the rural county of Shropshire on the Welsh borders of the United Kingdom. With his rural upbringing he developed a deep love of nature and wildlife and from an early age decided he wanted to be a vet. He spent his teenage years as a vet's assistant as well as running his own wildlife hospital (at the time, the youngest person to be licensed to do this in the UK), working for gamekeepers, farmers and a summer job at a zoo, as well as giving talks about his experiences working with wildlife. His less than ideal grades in school meant that a veterinary career soon became out of the question.

At the age of 16, he left school and became a wildlife filmmaker's assistant, where he was taught photography - winning several awards - and the basics of filmmaking. After his time as an assistant, he decided to go back to school to study for A-Levels and then on to university in the hopes of getting a zoology degree. Whilst studying he wrote to a variety of TV producers, looking for work as a natural history presenter. Eventually, he was contacted by famed UK TV producer, Janet Street-Porter and shortly after, he began working on the live Saturday morning children's show "Get Fresh." Just turning 18 he was known as 'The Boy Bassett' and presented all the science and nature segments. With his money working on "Get Fresh" and several other TV programs, he bought a VHS video camera and began making short films. People expected

films about wildlife and nature, but instead he followed his other great passion and made thrillers, horrors and comedy films.

Still in his early 20's, Bassett gave up on-air hosting, and after spending a year working as a puppeteer on children's television, began focusing on writing and film making. Initially just making short films because he was unable to get his own feature projects off the ground, he earned a living making EPK 'Behind the Scenes' documentaries for feature films. These documentaries included interviews with numerous actors and directors. At the same time he wrote several feature scripts, which he used to try to catch producers' attention. He sold his first script to Working Title Films, which though never produced, led to further work. Eventually he got some notice with a horror script set in the trenches of World War One, titled *No Man's Land*. He fielded several offers for the script, but was determined to direct the film himself. Eventually, Pathe Films chose to support the project which became the feature *Deathwatch*. The film was shot in 2001 in the Czech Republic, starring Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis and Matthew Rhys.

His next feature was the low budget, hard-edged survival horror *Wilderness* for Ecosse Films, starring Toby Kebbell and Sean Pertwee. This was followed by the bigger budget dark-fantasy adventure *Solomon Kane*, starring James Purefoy, Pete Postlethwaite, Jason Flemyng and Max Von Sydow. Then returning to the horror genre for the sequel, *Silent Hill: Revelation* shot in 3D and starring Sean Bean, Adelaide Clemens and Malcolm McDowell.

Moving into television, Bassett was invited to guest direct an episode of the hit Cinemax/HBO action series, "Strike Back." He loved the experience of shooting on location in South Africa and the challenge of delivering some of the most ambitious action scenes ever made for TV. He returned for two more seasons, becoming a writer and co-executive producer of the show as well as lead director, shooting 13 episodes in Africa, Eastern Europe and Thailand. In addition to directing "Strike Back," he has worked with David Goyer, directing the first season finale of Starz' "DaVinci's Demons" and the second season finale of the Starz crime drama "Power." Recently he has returned to his horror roots, working with Sam Raimi to bring the legendary *Evil Dead* franchise to television in "Ash vs. Evil Dead," also for the Starz network. For the hit series' first season, he wrote 1 episode and directed 2, and is now a co-executive producer on season 2 for which he will direct 4 episodes.

When he's not traveling, Bassett stills lives in rural Shropshire and follows his passion for natural history and wildlife. He has three dogs, a ferret called 'Gus' and a pet raven called 'Harry.'

#### **ROB HARDY** (Director, Episode 307)

Rob Hardy is preparing to direct and Executive Produce the pilot of his new 1-hour dramatic BET series called, "The Yard." Hardy, a 2014 NAACP Image Award nominee, broke into network television with his January 2007 directorial debut of the Emmy Award-winning show "ER." Soon after, Black Enterprise Magazine listed him among the "Top 40 Entertainers Under 40" for the year 2008. He recently launched his company Rainforest Entertainment, and continues to direct some of TV's hottest shows including: "Power," "Black'ish," "How to Get

Away with Murder,” “Blindspot,” “Empire,” “The Flash,” “Criminal Minds,” “Being Mary Jane,” “Arrow,” “Castle,” “Grey’s Anatomy,” “The Vampire Diaries,” “Bones,” “The Originals,” “Finding Carter,” and “Satisfaction.”

Hardy began his career as a high school Senior, with the camcorder-shot movie *G-Man*. While pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Florida A & M University, he made the leap to film with the low-budget motion picture *Chocolate City*. This experience earned him the institution's highest honor, the Bernard Hendricks Student Leadership Award, and launched his company Rainforest Films. The underground buzz on the project soon led to his controversial film *Trois*. Hardy not only directed and co-wrote the thriller, he was also instrumental in self-distributing the project to be the fastest Independent African American film to pass the \$1million dollar mark. In 2003, after directing the critically acclaimed thriller *Pandora's Box*, he added the role of Executive Producer to his credits by collaborating with his former business partner Will Packer, to produce several movies including: *No Good Deed*, *Think like a Man Too*, *Think like a Man*, *Stomp the Yard*, *Three Can Play that Game*, and *Motives*. Hardy also wrote and directed the spiritually themed drama entitled *The Gospel*, and later directed the sequel *Stomp the Yard: Homecoming*. Later, he created the “Sprite Step Off “ series for MTV 2 that placed a fraternity step competition into the reality TV space. A documentary about Martin Luther King, Jr’s life as a fraternity member called *AlphaMan: The Brotherhood of MLK* soon followed.

The Hollywood Reporter (December 2002) listed him amongst the New Establishment of Black Power Brokers. Florida A&M University awarded him with the Meritorious Achievement Award, which is the highest honor bestowed on an alumnus. After which he received the inaugural Woody Strode/Paul Robeson Award of Excellence from his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. His company Rainforest Films was listed as one of the “Top 25 Money Makers in Entertainment (2007)” by Black Enterprise Magazine.

Additionally, Hardy graduated from the New York Film Academy, has directed commercial projects for clients, including: CNN, TBS (Turner Broadcasting), American Honda, Coca-Cola, Georgia Lottery and The National Cancer Institute. He serves on the Advisory Board for the International Feature Project (IFP) Film Lab series and is a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is also a public speaker who recently launched a one-man live stage show series, called “Amazing Stories.” Hardy resides in Atlanta, GA with his wife and two sons.

### **JIM MCKAY** (Director, Episode 308)

Jim McKay is a filmmaker (producer, director, writer) and co-founder with Michael Stipe, of C-Hundred Film Corp.

McKay co-wrote, directed, and co-produced *Girls Town*, which received the Filmmakers Trophy and a Special Jury Prize for Collaboration at the 1996 Sundance Film Festival. The film was released in the U.S. by October Films. His second feature as a director was *Our Song* (1999), which premiered at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival, played at New Directors/New Films in 2000, and was distributed theatrically in the U.S. by IFC Films. McKay's third feature, *Everyday People* (2004), was selected as the Opening Night Film of New Directors/New Films

2004 and premiered on HBO. His fourth feature, *Angel Rodriguez* premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in September 2005, had its U.S. premiere at MoMA, and was broadcast on HBO in 2006. McKay was a co-writer of Nelson George's Golden Globe Award-winning HBO Film, *Life Support*, starring Queen Latifah.

McKay has directed numerous TV shows, including "The Wire," "Big Love," "Treme," "In Treatment," "The Good Wife," "Boss," "Power," "Breaking Bad," "Rectify," "Mr. Robot," "BrainDead," and "Law and Order."

McKay served as a producer on the films *American Movie*, *Spring Forward*, *Stranger Inside*, *Backward Looks*, *Far Corners*, *La Boda*, *Escuela*, *Brother to Brother*, *Memorial Day*, *Mosquita Y Mari*, and *Fourplay*.

McKay was a Rockefeller Fellow in 2003 and a Guggenheim Fellow in 2004. In 2005, he was a recipient of the Lincoln Center Martin E. Segal Award.

**MAGNUS MARTENS**  
(Director, Episode 309)

Magnus Martens is an award-winning Norwegian writer and director for film and TV, who was recognized as one of Variety's "Top 10 European Directors to Watch" in 2012.

His feature films include *United* (2003), *Jackpot* (2011), *Most People Live in China* (2005), and the forthcoming action film, *DNA* (EuropaCorp). *Jackpot* is being remade in the US by Focus Features.

Martens, who has written and directed TV comedy and drama in Europe for 20 years, including more than 150 commercials, started directing in the US in 2015. Quickly making his mark in America, he has directed episodes for the hit Starz Original Series, "Power," *Banshee* (Cinemax/HBO), *12 Monkeys* (Syfy), *Luke Cage* (Marvel/Netflix), and *Good Behavior* (TNT). Martens TV scripts in development include, *Kirbyland* for ABC and *Caper* for F/X.