

PRESS NOTES



presents

ARMED



Written, Directed by and Starring Mario Van Peebles

Also Starring Ryan Guzman,
Columbus Short, Jemma Dallender, Laz Alonso and William Fichtner

In Theaters, on Digital & VOD September 14th

Running Time: 120 minutes

MPAA Rating: R

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnM8DFBKKC4>

To Download Materials: <ftp://ftp.mprm.com/Armed>

Press Contacts:

MPRM Communications: Alex Klenert, Katie Jo Ash, Michael Gonzalez, Grace Cartwright
armed@mprm.com: 202 622 2200

SYNOPSIS

Chief (Mario Van Peebles) is a former U.S. Marshall who has fallen on hard times after he led his team of under-cover agents on a raid that went horribly wrong. As Chief struggles to get his life back on track, a former colleague reappears in his life and explains that all of the survivors from his unit are suffering the same symptoms he is and that there may be a larger conspiracy at hand.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

ARMED AND READY

ARMED is a true independent film self-financed with family dough. If you take Macdonald's money you can't make SUPERSIZE ME, if you use a studio's super pack financing machine you are beholden to that studio's vision. As my dad Melvin says "The golden rule is he who has the gold makes the rule". The other rule is he who uses his own gold to finance a film is a knuckle head or has the last name Van Peebles.

When I wrote ARMED I was interested in the notion of perception and how it shapes our reality. Our experiences tend to confirm what we already believe. "In life and in death perception is key," remarks one of the characters in the film. Even the news we choose to watch has a point of view that makes us perceive and crave a specific reality.

The NRA says "Nothing stops a bad guy with a gun like a good guy with a gun". In ARMED I play "Chief" a self-proclaimed "good guy" armed with multiple guns and a skewed sense of reality. Chief who is on the "No fly" list is considered too dangerous to board a plane and yet in America he's able to buy weapons easily and legally, like many of our mass shooters are. Whether people believe easy access to weapons is good or bad may depend on their individual perception but most agree easy access to weapons and a history of mental illness is a deadly mix. In spite of that the government recently made it easier for people with mental illness to purchase fire arms.

Like the Chancy Gardner character in BEING THERE or Travis Bickle in TAXI DRIVER Chief is politically naive, with no strong party affiliation. He doesn't understand why both the Left and the Right seem to embrace him as the poster boy for their cause. The Left sees his history of mental illness and his weapons of war as an accident waiting to happen. The film's tag line reads "What could go wrong?" The answer for the left is everything! The Right however puts Chief on the cover of a gun magazine looking Ram-bro-esque and brandishing an automatic weapon. The same log line with a different perception applies. "What could go wrong?" for the Right Everything, if we stop good guys like Chief from being ARMED and ready to shoot evil doers.

THEMES

Continuing to play with this notion of dual perspectives I wanted ARMED to work as two narratives simultaneously. The first film is the one we experience through our protagonist's perspective the second is the one we understand when we play it back knowing his perspective. ARMED was inspired by real events that were often stranger than any fiction I could fabricate. Everything from the bazaar tinfoil cap (to reduce micro wave attacks) to the battle in Big Bear, to the bungled attempted rescue of one girl from a samurai sword wielding porn addict and the accidental rescue of another that leads to our protagonist becoming a social media hero is based in reality.

They say that above all else the ego craves recognition. What the ego can't handle is being invisible. If we can't gain recognition for doing something positive, we will try a different tact. Social media is rife

unemployed and fighting personal demons is so broken down he admits he “has no ego left to bruise”. I liked the Vedantic notion of surrender, that a person had to empty their cup of convictions and beliefs in order to receive new ones. Later in the film Chief remarks “We all look for love but I’ll settle for attention.”

CASTING AND MAKING A TRUE INDEPENDENT

They say Hollywood is not just black or white its green, the color of money. That may be the main reason people get involved with main stream films but with true independents its about passion and the chance to bring an alternative perspective to life. Over the years I have tried to balance studio projects that I feel excited about with Independents I feel compelled to make. love them or hate them from NEW JACK City to BAADASSSSS! I’m drawn to stories that have a specific point of view and hopefully have some nutritional value. My mandate is Don’t bore folks and make them think a little.

Whenever I start to assemble an independent I’m always surprised at the couple people you thought would be down who bail and the new ones that you didn’t expect who jump in and turn out to be terrific. With ARMED we had cast wanting to be involved from all walks of life with very differing views on everything from politics to the second amendment. ARMED has a multi-racial cast in a film that is not race centric. From political pundits like Van Jones (CNN) and Roland Martin (TV one) to comedians like Paul Rodriguez Earth Quake and DC Young Fly to seasoned pros like Bill Fichner and new comers like Ryan Guzman and Jemma Dalenger the cast came from across the spectrum. they were not there for the money, they were there to lend their voices to a vision. A friend of mine whose usually broke once remarked that he “loved poor people because they have nothing to give but themselves” when your directing an independent you need to utilise your people skills, because you’ve got nothing to give but the story, the role and creating an environment where everyone can do their best work. Yeah, sometimes that means listening to a few crappy ideas and being open to the good ones. Some of the better ideas on this collaborative effort were OUR ideas not just mine.

ARMED was made with love and people power. We filmed everywhere we could and then some, including my house, the neighbors houses the beach and Big Bear. No contact was spared, we called up my exes ex-husband’s mom Dion Warwick, we called up my dad who kept blowing his lines and coming up with better ad lib’s, it was all hands on deck. In one scene we needed Chief to have a full head of hair and the wig options looked like doll hair, lucky my two daughters were working on the film. They each trimmed some of their lovely locks (which as their dad I genetically helped provide anyway). Our makeup and hair team literally glued their hair to my head, trimmed it and as queen Dion says in the film “The world will never know.” That’s Indie film Van Peebles style get in where you fit in and make it happen.

MUSIC AND THE MAN

A lot of the music in this film works as Chiefs internal score and plays through his ear buds. Chief like many people these days is convinced that he has a hot new APP. He calls it “Sole music.” He believes the device on his wrist tracks his body rhythm and mood and automatically plays the corresponding music as if its mood music from his sole. In the films opening Chief puts himself in a difficult position and has to flee from his attackers, it is a self-inflicted passive aggressive way of getting back that old familiar adrenaline rush he got addicted to when he was a U.S. Marshall. As dangerous and nonsensical as it is, flirting with death seems to make him feel alive again. Just like this self-engineered situation, I wanted the music to come from within Chief. The score is partly his inner voice while the percussions are the sound of gun shots played at various pitches. We hear Chief in his internal rap chanting “come on feet cruise for me trouble ain’t no place to be” That is a quote from Melvin Van Peebles’ broad way play “Ain’t Suppose to die a Natural Death”. Mandela and Makaylo Van Peebles do the hype shout out vocals

Sometimes I wanted the same piece of music to play from different perspectives, the first time as lyrical and the second time the same song could be filled with irony and tragedy depending on the imagery played against it. A good example of this is the original song that V-Bozeman performs during the wild party scene.

GUNS AND RESOLUTION

Although, this film could be pitched as an action thriller chief who is heavily armed does not have the ability to use his weapons of war at all in the finale. In fact, he must sacrifice his prized cache of weapons to gain his freedom. In many situations he sees himself as the voice of reason convincing his amped up crew to put down their weapons so they “don’t end up on TV shooting things up like a bunch of crazies”. Both Chief’s problems and their solutions are more about what’s in his head.

MIND GAME

A few people have pointed out that we rarely see leading men of color trying to cope with mental illness depicted on screen. In the end of the film Chief is more “functional” than before, just like some alcoholics can drink and still go through their work day but Chief is by no means cured. His sickness is perhaps more managed but still a clear and present danger.

Like one of the real characters this incident was based on Chief inadvertently gets his five minutes of fame. He is asked by some of his new social media fans if he would consider running for office. In such a strange political landscape as the current one flawed characters can win elections with a little help from social media, low information voters and Russian bots.

GRACE

Grace is The naively spiritual erotic film maker who sees the beauty in Chief and not the beast. Her perspective helps bring out his gentle protective side. When he emotionally bottoms out and feels he has nothing to live for its Grace’s jeopardy that pulls him out of himself. Seeing her in need finally gives Chief a real mission and reason to act. She allows him to be the hero he needs to be beyond his own personal reality.

THE GREAT EXPERIMENT

America is often referred to as the melting pot. If you take immigrants from all over the world with different beliefs and bring them together you get conflict and sparks but from that cultural masala you also get great music and art. If you leave a pot on a stove to boil while keeping the lid pressed down tight the pot will eventually explode, unless you let some steam out of it. Artistic expression and a free press are ways of giving vent to that steam. In spite of recent attacks on our democracy America still has an awesome free press and our entertainment travels world wide. Our independent films in particular reflect an independent vision. ARMED is a piece of entertainment, a cautionary tale that hopefully encourages us to continue the much needed conversation we Americans are having with our selves. I hope that whatever the viewers personal perspectives are they can agree that there are real life characters like Chief out there. Characters who are struggling with mental illness and because of our system can easily be armed. If we continue to do nothing a lot more can and will go wrong.

ABOUT MARIO VAN PEEBLES (WRITER/DIRECTOR/STAR)

MARIO VAN PEEBLES (“Chief”, Director, Writer)

Mario Van Peebles believes there are three loves in your career: Love what you do, enjoy whom you do it with, and be passionate about what you say with it. Throughout his career, Van Peebles has often managed to do just that. From his first breakout hit NEW JACK CITY, to his most recent retelling of the historical ROOTS series, and his upcoming thriller ARMED Van Peebles has brought challenging, compelling material to the screen.

A graduate of Columbia University with a B.A. in Economics and recipient of an honorary doctorate from Hofstra University, Van Peebles worked for two years for New York’s Department of Environmental Protection before moving to Hollywood to act, write, and direct.

His theatrical directing debut was the urban gangster hit NEW JACK CITY, which became Warner Brothers’ most profitable movie of 1991. Van Peebles followed up by starring and directing his multi-cultural western, POSSE.

Mario then directed and produced PANTHER, while his father Melvin wrote and co-produced. PANTHER is the explosive story of the Black Panther Party’s rise to power. The film became a political classic, earning both controversy and awards, including the Locarno Film Festival’s Silver Leopard award.

Van Peebles received critical acclaim for his portrayal of political icon Malcolm X alongside Will Smith in Michael Mann’s ALI. Mario followed up with BAADASSSSSS! The odyssey about the making of his father’s groundbreaking film SWEET SWEETBACK’S BAADASSSSSS SONG. Mario produced, wrote, directed and starred as his filmmaker father doing the very same thing in 1971. “It was psychotherapy on celluloid” remarks Van Peebles. The film garnered strong critical acclaim including being one of Ebert and Roper’s ten best movies of the year for 2004.

For three generations filmmaking has been a Van Peebles family affair. Mario got to team up with his kids to create the edgy coming of age film, WE THE PARTY.

In addition to directing and acting in features, Van Peebles is passionate about supporting education and eco-consciousness through media. His reality show, MARIO’S GREEN HOUSE, chronicled the Van Peebles family’s often-humorous attempts to raise their eco-consciousness as they tried to go green in Hollywood. “We never got to the full green, more like Olive green,” jokes Van Peebles.

With his edu-tainment short BRING YOUR “A” GAME, Van Peebles encourages young brothers to resist the pop culture of anti-intellectualism and educate themselves beyond conventional academics. His documentary FAIR GAME?, explores such topics as the prison industrial complex as a form of modern day slavery, and eco-apartheid.

In 2017 Mario co-created, wrote, directed, and starred in the ‘Netflix’ Syfy series SUPERSTITION. He next completed production on his upcoming feature film ARMED which he also wrote, directed, and starred opposite Ryan Guzman, William Fichtner, Jemma Dallender, Dionne Warwick, Melvin Van Peebles, and Van Jones.

When not doing features, Van Peebles directs and sometimes acts in award-winning shows such as BLOODLINE, BOSS, DAMAGES, LOST, HAND OF GOD, and EMPIRE.

ABOUT THE CREW

Justin Nesbitt (Producer)

A rising star both in front of the camera and behind the scenes, Actor/Producer, Justin Nesbitt is becoming one of the most versatile talents in Hollywood. Growing up in Maryland as the son of a minister, some of Justin's fondest memories are of family trips to the movies and subsequent quality time spent analyzing the films with his father. These experiences ignited Justin's love for the magic of movies at an early age.

Determined to follow his dreams of becoming a filmmaker, Justin moved to Los Angeles. He got his first introduction to film production at Alliance Group Entertainment where he cut his teeth supervising movie soundtracks, overseeing casting, and eventually becoming the go to producer for the company. The first feature film Nesbitt cast and produced was the "Hotel California" starring supermodel Tyson Beckford, Tatyana Ali, Simon Rex, and Erik Palladino. Next he supervised the soundtrack for "Confessions of a Pit Fighter" starring Armand Assante and Flavor Flav. Nesbitt then cast and produced the psychological thriller "Farmhouse" starring Steven Webber and Kelly Hu, Jamie Allman, and William Lee Scott.

With an ever-growing desire to experience all aspects of the Entertainment Industry, Justin decided to try acting. Justin scored his first feature role as Dale, a sloppy DEA informant in Mexico in the 2014 action-thriller, "Misfire" starring Gary Daniels and Vanessa Vasquez. He went on to take the role of Lindy the scene stealing nervous mechanic of the Indianapolis in the feature film, "USS Indianapolis" starring Nicolas Cage, and Tom Sizemore. USS Indianapolis is set to premiere in the Spring of 2016.

Basking in the glow of a growing number of acting opportunities, Justin recently wrapped shooting for the MMA action film, "Rumble" where he co-stars as Marty-the comedic sidekick alongside Gary Daniels and model Sissi Fleitas. Nesbitt will star as Detective Nicholson-a loyal yet sensitive Detective who always look out for his boss in the action-thriller, "Cops and Robbers" starring Tom Berenger, Michael Jai White, Randy Wayne, and Quinton 'Rampage' Jackson. Currently he just finished producing the Psychological Thriller "Armed" along the side of veteran Director Mario Van Peebles.

He also spends his time networking and learning from Hollywood Heavyweights. Nesbitt's passion, natural talent and charisma make him one to watch in Hollywood.

ABOUT THE CAST

Ryan Guzman ("Jonesie")

Ryan Guzman (Gooz-MAHN) is a former MMA fighter who caught the notice of Hollywood. After starring as a series regular on the ABC series, Notorious, Ryan will soon be making his return to the small screen fighting fires as a new addition to Season 2 of Fox's '9-1-1'.

Created by Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk and Tim Minear, 9-1-1 became Fox's top series after its early 2018 launch and is set to return for its sophomore season September 23rd. The show draws from real-life, high-pressure experiences of emergency response providers who regularly face heart-stopping situations that are often unpredictable, intense and uplifting at the same time.

Born in Texas and raised in his hometown of Sacramento, Ryan Guzman never thought of becoming an actor, much less a professional dancer. At the age of seven, he developed an interest in martial arts and earned his first black belt in Tae Kwon Do by the age of ten. This led him into the octagon as a MMA

after left-handed pitcher with a fastball clocked between 87-90 miles per hour. A shoulder injury ended this career dream while Guzman was still a teenager, which transitioned later into a career in print modeling and soon after, acting.

Guzman worked successfully in San Francisco starting with LOOK Modeling Agency at the age of 18 and later in Los Angeles, he joined the esteemed Wilhelmina Agency at 22. Guzman has since starred in television commercials for Old Navy, Gillette, Candies and Oprah Winfrey Network. He has modeled for Abercrombie & Fitch, Affliction and Reebok among others.

After success in modeling, Guzman signed on with a talent manager, and went into the audition process as a professional actor. Just a few short months later, he booked the male lead for Step Up Revolution (Lionsgate).

He followed the success of the film with another lead in the indie film Beyond Paradise and supporting roles in the indie films There's Always Woodstock directed by Rita Merson and April Rain directed by Luciano Saber. After the international success of Step Up Revolution, Ryan reprised his role as Sean in Step Up: All In alongside fan favorite female from the past films, Briana Evigan.

Ryan's career elevated once more when he starred as the male lead opposite Jennifer Lopez in the Universal Studios thriller The Boy Next Door. Helmed by Paranormal producer, Jason Blum, and director Rob Cohen, the film centered on Ryan's character, a teenage boy who lived next to Lopez's character. He went on to star as the male lead in the iconic 80's live-action remake of Jem And The Holograms, playing Rio Racheo, the road manager and love interest for Jem.

Next, Ryan joined as the main cast in Everybody Wants Some, the sequel to Dazed And Confused, from writer and director Richard Linklater, that centers around a group of guys on a baseball team in the 80s. The film released to great reviews in April 2016. Most recently Ryan wrapped a couple more films, including playing opposite Edward James Olmos in the indie Windows On The World and landed the lead role in the indie thriller The Cleansing Hour. Guzman most recently wrapped production on Backtrace alongside Sylvester Stallone.

Jemma Dallender (“Grace”)

**Information forthcoming*

William Fichtner (“Richard”)

Having appeared in a wide range of films along with television and theater roles over the course of his career, William Fichtner continues to carve out a distinctive reputation as one of our most versatile and talented actors, whether in comedy or drama, action or character study. He is one of Hollywood's most distinct and familiar faces.

Most recently Fichtner can be seen in Jerry Bruckheimer's feature film 12 Strong. Upcoming for Fichtner is All The Devils Men with Matthew Hope directing. He also co-starred in Finding Steve McQueen with Forest Whitaker, directed by Mark Steven Johnson, then opposite Jeffery Wright in the Indie feature O.G. directed by Madeleine Sackler, Armed starring and directed by Mario Van Peebles and Hot Summer Nights directed by Elijah Bynam. Fichtner starred in the ensemble Indie feature Krystal directed by William H. Macy, as well as the indie feature American Wrestler: The Wizard starring alongside Jon Voight. He also starred and produced the indie feature The Neighbor. Prior to that he can be seen in Independence Day: Resurgence directed by Roland Emmerich, Paramount's Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle, in director Gore Verbinski's The Lone Ranger and Neil Blomkamp's Elysium.

Pivoting to the other side of the camera, Fichtner just wrapped his film *Cold Brook*, that he directed, produced, co-wrote, and starred in, that filmed in his hometown of Buffalo, New York.

Segueing between television and feature films, Fichtner led an ensemble cast in the original first 2 seasons of the international crime series *Crossing Lines*. He recurred on HBO's *Entourage* from 2009-2011 and played 'FBI Agent Alexander Mahone' for three seasons on Fox's hit drama series, *Prison Break*. Most recently recurred on the TV show *Empire* and currently a regular on *Mom* from creator Chuck Lorre.

Fichtner co-starred in writer-director Paul Haggis' Academy Award-winning *Crash*. For his performance in that film, he shared a Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Ensemble Cast in a Feature Film. His other film credits include the Tommy Lee Jones' feature *The Homesmen*, the John Stockwell directed *Seal Team Six: The Raid on Osama Bin Laden*; *Drive Angry* for director Patrick Lussier and *The Big Bang* for director Tony Krantz. He also was seen in director Shawn Levy's *Date Night*; *Blades of Glory* with Will Ferrell; Chris Nolan's *The Dark Knight*; the remake of *The Longest Yard*; the comedy *The Amateurs* with Jeff Bridges; Rodrigo Garcia's *Nine Lives*; Arie Posin's *The Chumscrubber*; Ridley Scott's *Black Hawk Down*; *What's The Worst Thing That Could Happen*; Wolfgang Peterson's *The Perfect Storm*; *Drowning Mona*; *Ultraviolet and Equilibrium*, both for writer-director Kurt Wimmer, *Armageddon* directed by Michael Bay; Michael Mann's *Heat*; Robert Zemeckis' *Contact*; Doug Liman's *Go*; *Strange Days* directed by Katherine Bigelow; *Passion of Mind*; Steven Soderbergh's *The Underneath*; *Switchback*; Agnieszka Holland's *Julie Walking Home*; *The Settlement* with John C. Reilly; *Albino Alligator* and *First Snow* with Guy Pearce.

As a member of the Circle Repertory Theatre, Fichtner won critical acclaim for his role in *The Fiery Furnace*, directed by Norman Rene. Other stage credits include *Raft of the Medusa* at the Minetta Lane Theatre, *The Years* at the Manhattan Theatre Club, *Clothes for a Summer Hotel* at the Williamstown Theatre festival and *Machinal* at The Public Theatre.

Columbus Short (“Turrell”)

Columbus Short, a film and television actor, producer and singer/songwriter is best known for his role in ABC's *Scandal* (Kerry Washington, Tony Goldwyn), *Stomp the Yard* (Chris Brown, Ne-Yo, Meagan Good), *Cadillac Records* (Adrien Brody, Jeffrey Wright, Beyonce), *Armored* (Matt Dillon, Jean Reno, Laurence Fishburne), and *The Losers* (Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Zoe Saldana, Chris Evans, Idris Elba).

Short was born in Kansas City, Missouri and relocated to Los Angeles when he was five years old to immediately begin work in a youth theater. Short got his big break during high school when he was offered to join the Broadway tour of *Stomp*.

Short choreographed Britney Spears's *Onyx Hotel Tour* at the age of 20. His acting debut came as a dancer in *You Got Served*. He then embarked on a career in television, appearing twice in the Disney Channel Original Series, *That's So Raven*, as well as *ER* and *Judging Amy*.

In 2005, Short founded a film and television production company, *Great Picture Show Productions*, developed from his passion for writing and producing. The company executive-produced *Stomp the Yard 2: Homecoming*, *Strange Fruit* and TVOne Original Movie *Mr. Right*.

In 2008, Short won Best Ensemble for *Cadillac Records* at the Black Reel Awards and was nominated for Best Breakthrough Performance. In 2009, he won the Image Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture for *Cadillac Records*.

Short starred in and produced the film *Stomp the Yard*. The film based on New York Times Best Seller

Casting Director, Leah Daniels-Butler (FOX's Empire, Precious, The Paperboy) and will star Vivica Fox, and Nelsan Ellis.

With choreographing and acting under his belt, Short is now embarking on a career in music as a singer/songwriter, as well as a feature film producer and director. Turning to music as an outlet for continued inspiration and longevity by tapping into and immersing his other talents into the music industry. He is currently in the studio working on his next album titled, Unbroken, as well as developing TV & film projects under his production company, Great Picture Show.

Short is also in collaborations with Artistry Films in developing and bringing professional baseball player Dock Ellis' life story to the big screen. Ellis, who played for the Pittsburgh Pirates, threw a no-hitter against the San Diego Padres 2-0 in 1970 under the influence of LSD. Short will write, produce and star in the film entitled Ellis D.

Awards and Nominations

Black Reel Awards:

2008, Best Ensemble: Cadillac Records (winner)

2008, Best Breakthrough Performance: Cadillac Records (nominated)

Image Awards:

2009, Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture: Cadillac Records (winner)

2008, Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture: Stomp the Yard (nominated)

MTV Movie Awards:

2007, Breakthrough Performance: Stomp the Yard (nominated)

2007, Best Movie Kiss: Stomp the Yard (nominated)

Teen Choice Awards:

2007, Best Dance: Stomp the Yard (nominated)

Laz Alonso ("Jessie")

Laz Alonso was most recently seen in Kathryn Bigelow's much anticipated DETROIT opposite John Boyega, Will Poulter, and John Krasinski. He recently starred in NBC's MYSTERIES OF LAURA alongside Debra Messing and Josh Lucas. Laz also starred in A & E's BREAKOUT KINGS.

Prior to this, he starred as the heroic, "Tsu'Tey" in the highest grossing film of all time, James Cameron's AVATAR, and the lead villain, "Fenix," in Universal's FAST AND FURIOUS. Prior to this, Laz was cast in the Sam Mendes film, JARHEAD.

In 2011, Alonso showed off his leading man skills in the hit romantic comedy for Columbia Pictures entitled JUMPING THE BROOM for which he received a 2012 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor In A Motion Picture. Laz chosen as one of Variety's "Top Ten Actors to Watch" in 2009.

Laz can next be seen in the upcoming Amazon Series THE BOYS portraying the role of 'Mother's Milk.'

GVN RELEASING presents

in association with MVP FILMS

ARMED

Written and Directed by
MARIO VAN PEEBLES

Produced by
MARIO VAN PEEBLES

Produced by
JUSTIN NESBITT

Producer
MAYA VAN PEEBLES

Executive Producers
MATT LUBER
MANDELA VAN PEEBLES

Executive Producer
MARIO VAN PEEBLES

Executive Producers
RICHARD RIONDA DEL CASTRO
PATRICIA EBERLE

Director of Photography
AJ RICKERT-EPSTEIN

Production Designer
FERNANDO VALDES

Editor

STEPHEN J. MURRAY

Starring

MARIO VAN PEEBLES

RYAN GUZMAN

COLUMBUS SHORT

JEMMA DALLENDER

LAZ ALONSO

BRAD CARTER

with

WILLIAM FICHTNER

and

PAUL RODRIGUEZ

Also Starring

LANE GARRISON

SHAKIRA BARRERA

ROSCI DIAZ

MELVIN VAN

PEEBLES DIONNE

WARWICK

EARTHQUAKE

ROLAND MARTIN

VAN JONES

MICHAEL S. GARCIA

SAM LITTLEFIELD

FOLAKE OLOWOFOYEKU
MORGANA VAN PEEBLES

Casting by
ANISSA WILLIAMS
ZORA DEHORTER

Costume Designer
AMBER MCAFEE

Original Score by
LARRY GROUPE
STEVE THOMAS

Music Supervisor
JOEL C. HIGH, GMS

Supervising Producer
DWJUAN FOX

Co-Producers
TONY HUA
EDWARD BECKFORD
MORGANA VAN PEEBLES

GVN RELEASING presents

in association with MVP FILMS

ARMED

Unit Production Manager

KIMBERL Y OGLETREE

First Assistant Director

EDWARD BECKFORD

CAST

Jason “Chief” Pratt

MARIO VAN PEEBLES

Jonesie

RYAN GUZMAN

Grace

JEMMA DALLENDER

Richard

WILLIAM FICHTNER

Turrell

COLUMBUS SHORT

Merc

LANE GARRISON

KC

SHAKIRA BARRERA

Jessie

LAZ ALONSO

Jessica

MORGANA VAN PEEBLES

Maria

ROSCI DIAZ

Hector

PAUL RODRIGUEZ

Grandpa V

MELVIN VAN PEEBLES

Shirley

DIONNE WARWICK

Van Jones

AS HIMSELF

Shep/Stew

BRAD CARTER

Meth

CHARLES HALFORD

Melvin

ROLAND MARTIN

Max

SAM LITTLEFIELD

Stacy Bastion	CAMERON MACKENZIE
Frida	FOLAKE OLOWOFOYEKU
News Anchor	CHERYL DENT
Little V	VINCENT BRANTLEY
Nadia	ALENA SAVOSTIKOVA
Anchor	CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL
Little Girl	Gable Swanlund
US Marshall	TONY HUA
Shitface	JAMES FREY
Cat	KIAMI NICHOLS
Two Samiches	EARTHQUAKE
Sundari	CHITRA SUKHU
Kashi	ANNA TALAKKOTTUR
G Money	DC YOUNG FLY
Kid	RONIN REEVES
Sonja	MELANY CENTENO
Homeless Man	MAXIE SANTILLAN JR.
“V”	VERONIKA BOZEMAN
Desiigner	AS HIMSELF
Eugene	EUGENE CORDERO
Eddie	MICHAEL S. GARCIA
Eddie’s Homie	CJ RAMIREZ
Day Reporter	GEORGE KETSIOS

Press Reporter	MAYA VAN PEEBLES
News Reporter	MAKAYLO VAN PEEBLES
News Cameraman	JUSTIN NESBITT
Chief's Double	EDWARD BECKFORD
Stacy's Double	MANDY NEWTON
Barbershop Owner	Nakia Burk
Amputee	Zachary James Rukavina
Mama Earth	Jaime Bayot
Young Chief	Xavier Adams
Production Supervisor	RYAN P. SHRIME
Set Dresser	KEITH BROOKS
Art Assistant	STAR LI
First Assistant Camera	SAM WILKERSON
DIT	JASON MANDEL
Script Supervisor	ELIZABETH LINELL
Production Sound Mixer	MIKE COLTON
Boom Operator	CHRIS TRUEMAN

Gaffer	ARMAN ZAJIC
Best Boy Electric	LOUIS BATRES
Swing	RAPHA BOLA
Key Grip	NERMIN ZAJIC

Makeup by	NATALIE STOWE
Makeup Assistant	HELEN GEZACHEW
Costume Designer	AMBER MCAFEE

Special Effects Coordinator	JEFFERSON WAGNER
Special Effects Assistant	BRIONNE COX
Arms Specialist	JEFFERSON WAGNER

Location Manager	MARCO RODRIGUEZ
Property Master	JEFFREY CHANEY

Production Coordinator	LANIE ALBIN
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Accountant	NPI PAYROLL
Equipment Rentals	NEW YORK FILM ACADEMY
In Association With	DECIPHER ENTERTAINMENT
Assistant to the Mr. Van Peebles	MORGANA VAN PEEBLES
Behind the Scenes / EPK	MANDY NEWTON
Key PA	PHOENIX WILLIAMSON
Talent Production Assistant	UZMA ZAKARIA
Production Assistants	MANDY NEWTON COURTNE DOTSON TIFFANY BEACHAM DIONTRE GILBERT EMMA JACKS ZURI SMITH CAMRYN HOWARD JULIEN WEBB GAURANG DEEPAK BHAT DAVID KEITH SOMMERVILLE DEVIN REDMOND VANNESS HUGHES JOSEPH SERVOLIO COLOUR MIAO OLEG LARKIN FURAHA BAYIBSA MOHIT SONI CHAO LI

New York Film Academy Supervising
Instructors

EDWARD BECKFORD
KIMBERLY OGLETREE

Post Production Supervisor

STEPHEN J. MURRAY

Post Production Assistants
Assistant Editor

JASON MANDEL
MANDY NEWTON

Audio Post Services Provided by

JUNIPER POST, INC.

Sound Supervisor

DAVID KITCHENS M.P.S.E.

Supervising Sound Editors

DAVID KITCHENS M.P.S.E.
BEN ZARAI

Dialogue Editor

RYAN COTA

ADR Supervisors

GONZALO "BINO" ESPINOZA
MICHAEL KREPLE

Sound Effects / Design

DAVID BARBEE
BEN ZARAI

Additional Sound Design

STEVE THOMAS

Foley

GONZALO "BINO" ESPINOZA
DAVID KITCHENS, M.P.S.E.

Assistant Sound Editor

MICHAEL LANOUE

Sound Coordinator

JAS PENNINGTON

Audio Post Accountant

STACY KITCHENS

Re-recording Mixer

BEN ZARAI

Visual Effects Supervisor

A.J. RICKERT-EPSTEIN

Digital Intermediate Provided by

Colorist

D.I. Assistant

D.I. Conform and Mastering

Additional Color by

Michael C. Potter

Music Supervision by

CREATIVE CONTROL

Music Supervisor

JOEL C. HIGH, GMS

Music Coordinator

ADELE HO

General Manager

STEPHANIE KREMER

Original Score by

LARRY GROUPÉ
STEVE THOMAS

Additional Music Provided by

SIGNATURE TRACKS
COURTESY OF
ADAM MALKA
DAVE LASMAN
RUSSELL HOWARD

Additional Music Supervision

ADAM MALKA
JAIME VILLALVAZO
RUSSELL HOWARD

HANNIBAL PICTURES

Head of Business and Legal Affairs
Director of Development
Head of Sales
Sales Executive
Project Manager

LINDSEY ROTH
CAM CANNON
ARIEL VENEZIANO
FAROUK HADEF
DANTE FRONTANI

MUSIC

“Desire”

Performed by Cassidy Hilgers & Zack Burke for Signature Tracks

Written by Cassidy R. Hilgers & Zack Burke (ASCAP)

Produced by Zack Burke for Signature Tracks

“Dive”

Performed by Cassidy Hilgers & Zack Burke for Signature Tracks

Written by Cassidy R. Hilgers & Zack Burke (ASCAP)

Produced by Zack Burke for Signature Tracks

“One in the chamber”

Performed by Kyle Schafer & Zack Burke for Signature Tracks

Written by Kyle Schafer & Zack Burke for Signature Tracks

Produced by Zack Burke for Signature Tracks

“Attention”

Performed by Cassidy Hilgers, Shane Lily & Zack Burke for Signature Tracks

Written by Cassidy R. Hilgers, Shane Lily & Zack Burke (ASCAP)

Produced by Zack Burke for Signature Tracks

“Anti-Everything”

Performed by DED

Written by DED

“Fire Cracker”

Performed by Brian Hampton, Dirty Rice & Russell Howard for Signature Tracks

Written by Brian Hampton & Dirty Rice (ASCAP)

Produced by Dirty Rice & Russell Howard

“Latin Seduction”

Performed by Felix G. Betancourt Mejias & Michael Bizar for Signature Tracks
Written by Felix G. Betancourt Mejias & Michael Bizar for (ASCAP)
Produced by Felix G. Betancourt Mejias, Michael Bizar, Russell William Howard, Jaime Villalvazo &
Nathan Foreman

“Esta Loco”

Performed by Jose Arellano & Russell William Howard for Signature Tracks
Written by Jose Arellano & Russell William Howard (ASCAP)
Produced by Russell William Howard, Michael James Getches & Calvin Ross Pfeffer

“Everybody Knows”

Performed by Shae Wilbur & Brian David Watson for Signature Tracks
Written by Shae Wilbur & Brian David Watson (ASCAP)
Produced by Shae Wilbur, Brian David Watson, Russell William Howard, Michael James
Getches & Calvin Ross Pfeffer

“Bizzos”

Performed by Zachery James Burke & Michael Bizar for Signature Tracks
Written by Zachery James Burke & Michael Bizar (ASCAP)
Produced by Michael Bizar

“Weekend”

Performed by Makaylo Van Peebles, Mandela Van Peebles & Mark Kragen for Signature Tracks
Written by Makaylo Van Peebles, Mandela Van Peebles & Mark Kragen (ASCAP)
Produced by Makaylo Van Peebles, Mandela Van Peebles, Mark Kragen, Russell William
Howard, Michael James Getches & Calvin Ross Pfeffer

“Twerk Song”

Performed by Makaylo Van Peebles, Mandela Van Peebles & Russell William Howard for
Signature Tracks
Written by Makaylo Van Peebles, Mandela Van Peebles & Russell William Howard (ASCAP)
Produced by Makaylo Van Peebles, Mandela Van Peebles, Russell William Howard, Michael
James Getches & Calvin Ross Pfeffer

“Night Comes”

Performed by Shae Wilbur & Michael Bizar for Signature Tracks
Written by Shae Wilbur & Michael Bizar (ASCAP)
Produced by Shae Wilbur, Michael Bizar, Russell William Howard, Michael James Getches &
Calvin Ross Pfeffer

“90s G Funk”

Performed by Mark Kragen for Signature Tracks
Written by Mark Kragen (ASCAP)
Produced by Mark Kragen & Russell William Howard

“Email”

Performed by Mark Kragen for Signature Tracks
Written by Mark Kragen (ASCAP)
Produced by Mark Kragen & Russell William Howard

“Costanza Tango”

Performed by Adonis Tsilimparis for Signature Tracks
Written by Adonis Tsilimparis (ASCAP)
Produced by Adonis Tsilimparis

“Celestial Track”

Performed by Russell William Howard for Signature Tracks
Written by Russell William Howard (ASCAP)
Produced by Russell William Howard

“Kill”

Performed by Michael Alan Raphael for Signature Tracks
Written by Michael Alan Raphael (ASCAP)
Produced by Michael Alan Raphael

“Bridges”

Performed by Michael Alan Raphael & Phoenix Raphael for Signature Tracks
Written by Michael Alan Raphael & Phoenix Raphael (ASCAP)
Produced by Michael Alan Raphael & Phoenix Raphael

"CHASE" (Pop Pop Pop in the USA)

Produced by Todd Mushaw
Written by Todd Mushaw (BMI) & Mario Van Peebles (ASCAP),
Performed by Mario Van Peebles, Makaylo Van Peebles & Mandela Van Peebles

"PACHELBEL" Remix

Produced by Todd Mushaw (BMI)
Written by Johann Pachelbel

KILLING BAD GUYS "ALL I CAN TELL YA" Viral Remix
Produced by Todd Mushaw
Written by Todd Mushaw (BMI) & Mario Van Peebles (ASCAP)
Performed by Mario Van Peebles & Mandela Van Peebles

"If"

Written by: Aaron Sledge, Ayaamii Sledge and Demario Bridges
Performed by V. Bozeman
Published by Food 4 Yo Soul S.H.E/HARDCOVER, I Got It From My Daddy Music and Savant
Soundz
Courtesy of Mosley Music/Epic Records

"Lakme: Flower Duet"

Written by Leo Delibes
Arranged by Jim Long
Performed by Studio Musicians
Courtesy of Crucial Music Corporation and Point Classics

"Il Trovatore: Condotta ell'era inceppi"

Written by Giuseppe Verdi
Arranged by Jim Long
Performed by Studio Musicians
Courtesy of Crucial Music Corporation and Point Classics



SPECIAL THANKS

Loop Group ADR

Gisele Joves
Tra-keila Hamilton
Kristian Favors
Monece Starling
Leticia Perez

Capoeira Group

Oba Vita
Osei Vita
Akin Vita
Sean Moran
Julio Chaves
Oliver Hanlon

Monica Payne
Ben Press
Mama Earth
Rosanna “Zana Ray” Rhaburn New
York Film Academy
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Joe Guerrero and Abe Guerrero
Mario Ponce
Geoffrey Ross
R. Ellis Frazier
Jacov Bresler
Nesbitt Family

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put up with us on the daily...

and to our SUPER HEROES at Juniper Post

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