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PERSMAP



THE
BURNT ORANGE HERESY

THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY

EEN FILM VAN GIUSEPPE CAPOTONDI



Thriller - 2019 - VK - 99 minuten

Premium VOD release: 07-01-2021 (Picl & Vitamine Cineville)

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SYNOPSIS

THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY is een stijlvolle crime thriller waarin de wegen van de kunst- en onderwereld elkaar kruisen. Met een sterrencast die bestaat uit Claes Bang (THE SQUARE), Elizabeth Debicki (WIDOWS, TENET), Donald Sutherland en Mick Jagger. Over een kunstcriticus die tegen elke prijs een werk van een legendarische kunstenaar probeert te bemachtigen.

Nadat de charmante kunstcriticus James Figueras (Claes Bang) de extroverte Berenice Hollis (Elizabeth Debicki) ontmoet, reizen de nieuwe geliefden af naar het landgoed van kunstverzamelaar Cassidy (Mick Jagger). Hun gastheer onthult dat hij Jerome Debney (Donald Sutherland), een van de meest raadselachtige schilders aller tijden, onderdak verleent. Debney leidt een teruggetrokken bestaan op het landgoed. Cassidy stelt de ambitieuze James in de gelegenheid Debney te interviewen. Een unieke kans. Maar Cassidy stelt wel een voorwaarde... om daaraan te voldoen raakt James verstrikt in een web van leugens en hebzucht.

THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY ging in première op het Filmfestival van Venetië, waar de film bekroond werd met de Mimmo Rotella Award. Deze prestigieuze prijs wordt ieder jaar uitgereikt aan een filmmaker die een uitzonderlijke verbintenis laat zien met de kunsten. De film is gebaseerd op de spannende, gelijknamige roman van Charles Willeford.



GIUSEPPE CAOPOTONDI

Director

After studying philosophy at the Statale University in Milan, Giuseppe began directing music videos and TV commercials at the age of 23 and has been doing so relentlessly ever since.

He has directed more than 250 TV ads and music videos to date, winning several international awards including the D&AD and Cannes Lion. In 2009 Giuseppe's first feature film LA DOPPIA ORA premiered in competition at the 66th Venice film festival to rave reviews and won its protagonist Kseniya Rappoport the Coppa Volpi award for Best Actress.

Giuseppe went on to direct two documentaries and several TV episodes for shows such as Epix's Berlin Station, Netflix's Suburra and ITV's Endeavour.

THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY is his second feature.

FILMOGRAPHY

- 2019 THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY
- 2017 BERLIN STATION (TV SERIES)
- 2017 SUBURRA: BLOOD ON ROME (TV SERIES)
- 2009 THE DOUBLE HOUR
- 2006 KEANE: CRYSTAL BALL (VIDEO SHORT)
- 2006 SOLOMON ISLAND (DOCUMENTARY)
- 1999 MELANIE C: GOIN' DOWN (VIDEO SHORT)
- 1999 SKUNK ANANSIE: CHARLIE BIG POTATO (SHORT)



PRODUCTION STORY

Director Giuseppe Capotondi's film adaptation of *THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY* is the product of a labour of love for producers David Zander and William Horberg and executive producer Dante Ariola. With the rights to the novel in hand, they reached out to Oscar-nominated screenwriter Scott B. Smith, who wrote and adapted *A SIMPLE PLAN*.

The first task with the script was honing in on what were the most important and compelling aspects of the novel – the themes that the story explores and the dynamic interplay between and among the four characters. Next came where the story should be told. Although Charles Willeford originally set the story in 1970s Florida, it just made sense to transport it to a cradle of Western art throughout the ages – Italy.

Once the script was written, the trio embarked on a journey to bring the story to life. Years later and to aid in this effort, Zander brought on fellow producer David Lancaster. Together, the foursome thought that Giuseppe Capotondi would provide the right fit to breathe authenticity to this now-Italian story.

Capotondi saw *THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY* as a Faustian drama wrapped in a neo-noir. "It's about how far we are willing to go in order to fulfil our ambition and the lies we fabricate to pursue our goals, lies that eventually begin to corrode the very sense of our reality," he says. "This film is about deception and power that mirrors the 'Post-Truth' times we live in – or, at this stage, should we say 'Post-Shame'?- but most of all, it's a psychological thriller that plays with the tropes of the genre to try to tell a little truth. Or, maybe, a little lie." Capotondi was thrilled to be working with such a varied ensemble of great actors, and while noting their different approaches, he was appreciative of the "passion and commitment," that they brought to the film. For Capotondi Smith's script was, "sharp, sexy, and intriguing," a large part of the attraction to the project was how well drawn the characters were. He added, "The characters were so well written that it made my job much easier, so I could draw out the film's core themes – the dialectic between truth and lies, made it extremely pertinent to the post-truth times we live in".

THE CASTING

With the director in place, next came casting. Based on Claes Bang's award-winning performance as art gallery curator Christian in the Palme D'Or-winning *THE SQUARE*, everyone agreed that he was perfect for the nuanced role of the ambitious art critic, James Figueras.

Bang was interested in James' backstory. "There's a disappointment that he never became an artist," says Bang. "He wanted to be a painter but was told by his teacher that he's better at talking about art than doing it." Now James is stuck in exile, lecturing on art history to tourists and getting his kicks from rehearsed performances that fool gullible audiences. However, James is always looking to re-establish himself and climb up the ladder of the art world, whatever the price.

James is a morally dubious character, but he's not a villain in Bang's view. "I think it's easy to sympathise with James' situation," explains Bang. "We all want to make something of ourselves, but he's made a few mistakes and he's just trying to get back on track." Bang felt the trick was to get the audience to sympathise with James, "I wanted the audience to be screaming at the screen, 'Don't do it James!'"

Bang also wanted the audience to envy the love and passion shared between Berenice and James. "If the audience doesn't feel that James and Berenice have something to lose, then there's no peril," he says. "You want James to realise that all his energy should be directed to Berenice and not the art world." He goes on to say, "Missed opportunities are great dramatic tools, that's what makes an audience gasp for breath."

While preparing for the role, Bang couldn't help but notice similarities with characters that he

had played in the past, helping to inform the character of James. "I almost saw James as a continuation of a character that I play in *THE SQUARE*," he says. Bang saw *THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY* as an opportunity to throw himself back into the art world, but here he would be exploring very different thematic material. "At the film's core, we are dealing with authenticity – authenticity of self, authenticity of art, and whether we are who we say we are." Having seen her performance in the adaptation of John le Carré's *THE NIGHT MANAGER*, the producers thought Elizabeth Debicki bring the right dimension to play Berenice.

Debicki was drawn to the Hitchcockian quality of the plot. "You don't often get something that looks like it's going to be a love story, and that turns into something dramatically opposite in an organic way," says Debicki. "It's a cerebral adventure into the art world, but it takes a dark and visceral turn, and I love that."

Debicki was fascinated by her character, Berenice. "She's someone who sees the truth of people," says the actress. Unlike the men in the film who are more duplicitous, Debicki sees Berenice as a 'wise soul'. "She has an uncanny ability to pinpoint what someone is trying to hide, or what someone is trying to say to her, which becomes potentially dangerous with someone like James Figueras or Joseph Cassidy."

Debicki was also attracted to the themes developed in Smith's script. "The film explores ideas through the lens of these four central characters, examining the duality of identity." For Debicki, *THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY* is a potent tale of truth, trauma, and the hazards of misguided ambition. "This is a story that makes you really question ambition, and what it is you are striving for in life," she says.

Last to be cast are two icons - one in cinema and the other in music. Donald Sutherland was cast to play the mysterious artist Jerome Debney and Mick Jagger was cast art collector and dealer Joseph Cassidy.

"It was Scott's script that grabbed me," says Sutherland. "Scott wrote my character with such delicacy, lacing the script with references to Matthew Arnold or W.B. Yeats - it's just beautiful." Sutherland was also a fan of Giuseppe Capotondi's approach to directing. "Giuseppe is so involved in the process, he's not a director who is miles off sitting in a room staring at little screens, he cares about the performance and can tell if it's truthful or not, which is an appropriate gift for a film with this plot."

Jagger felt he was well suited to the character of Cassidy. "He's a rather charming, malignant person, and even though I probably have the least screen time, I felt within that window I could encapsulate who Cassidy is," he says. "Jagger has experience in the art world, but decided to go to more openings and exhibitions in order to reacquaint himself with the scene. It was also Capotondi who drew the musician towards the role. "He came to London and we had this long chat, and he was open to my ideas about the character and some changes. I realised from that conversation that he would be a great director to work with."



CLAES BANG

James Figueras

Claes Bang is a Danish actor, based in Copenhagen. Trained at Denmark's National Theatre School, he was a familiar face on stage and screen in Northern Europe before his breakout role as Christian in Ruben Östlund's *THE SQUARE*, winner of the 2017 Cannes Palme d'Or. The film was also nominated for an Oscar and Claes himself won Best Actor in the European Film Awards.

In 2018, Claes starred alongside Claire Foy in *THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB* (dir Fede Alvarez) and Carice van Houten in *The Glass Room* (dir Julius Sevcík). 2019 will see the release of *LYREBIRD* (dir Dan Friedkin) in which Claes stars alongside Guy Pearce and *THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY* (dir Giuseppe Capotondi) with Elizabeth Debicki, Donald Sutherland and Mick Jagger.

THE BAY OF SILENCE, directed by Paula van der Oest will be released in 2020, with Claes starring opposite Olga Kurylenko and Brian Cox, in a script written by Caroline Goodall. In November 2019, Claes shoots *ERNEST*, directed by Patrick Pearse.

Television credits include *BORGEN* and *THE BRIDGE* and the German series *SIBEL & MAX*. He plays Sasha in Season 5 of the Showtime series *THE AFFAIR*. His portrayal of the title role in the BBC Netflix series *DRACULA* will air worldwide in early 2020, in three feature length episodes written by Sherlock creators Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss.

Claes has appeared on stage throughout Northern Europe and in London at The St. James's Theatre and the Riverside Studios. Fluent in five languages, he is also a talented singer, songwriter and pianist.



ELIZABETH DEBICKI

Berenice Hollis

Australian stage and film actress Elizabeth Debicki has quickly gained attention the world over. She first made her mark in 2013 when she appeared in Baz Luhrmann's critically-acclaimed film adaptation of "The Great Gatsby" alongside Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire and Carey Mulligan. Debicki was awarded an Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Award (AACTA) for her role as Jordan Baker in the film. She was also nominated for an Empire Award for "Best Newcomer." Debicki is the current recipient of Women in Film and Max Mara's "Face of the Future" Award, which honors one actress per year who has demonstrated an exceptional level of skill, style, grace, and a commitment to film and television.

Most recently in film, Debicki was seen alongside Viola Davis, Michelle Rodriguez, and Cynthia Erivo in the 2018 critically-acclaimed film, *WIDOWS*, directed by Steve McQueen and written by McQueen and Gillian Flynn. Debicki's brilliant performance in *WIDOWS* landed her on the cover of *Vanity Fair's* Hollywood issue and extensive global praise, including the 2018 Hawaii Film Critics Society Award, the Dorian Award, and the National Society of Film Critics Runner-Up Award, as well as nominations from the London Critics Circle, the North Texas Film Critics Association, and the LA Online Film Critics Society. Debicki also recently starred alongside Claes Bang, Mick Jagger, and Donald Sutherland in Giuseppe Capotondi's Italian-American drama thriller, *THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY*, which was selected as the closing-night film of the 2019 Venice Film Festival and one of the film's to play at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival. Debicki will next be seen alongside Robert Pattinson and John David Washington in Christopher Nolan's 2020 action thriller, *TENET*.

In 2018, Debicki starred alongside Laura Dern and Ellen Burstyn in the film, *THE TALE* written and directed by Jennifer Fox. *THE TALE* premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and later aired on HBO. Debicki also starred in *VITA AND VIRGINIA* which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and is the premiere film at the 2019 BFI Flare Festival.

In 2017, Debicki completed production on Marvel and Walt Disney Studios' *GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY, VOL. 2*, where she starred as the villain Ayesha alongside Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana and Kurt Russell. The same year, she also completed production on the JJ Abrams'-produced *THE CLOVERFIELD PARADOX* alongside David Oyelowo and Daniel Bruhl. The movie, directed by Julius Onah, was released by Paramount Pictures.



The following year in 2016, Debicki starred in David Hare's production of *THE RED BARN*, based on the novel *La Main* by Georges Simenon. Debicki starred in this production at the National Theatre alongside Mark Strong and Hope Davis. Previous film credits for Debicki include Guy Ritchie's *THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.* alongside Henry Cavill, Armie Hammer and Alicia Vikander; *MACBETH* with Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard; and *EVEREST* with Jake Gyllenhaal, Robin Wright and Keira Knightly.

Debicki also starred as Jed in the Emmy-nominated miniseries, *THE NIGHT MANAGER*, an adaptation of John le Carre's novel-of-the-same-name. The miniseries, which also featured Tom Hiddleston, Hugh Laurie and Olivia Colman, followed the story of a night manager of a European hotel who was recruited by intelligence agents to infiltrate an international arms dealer's network. Also on the small screen, Debicki played the leading role in the Australian Foxtel drama, *THE KETTERING INCIDENT*.

On stage, Debicki starred in the Sydney Theatre Company's production of *THE MAIDS* alongside Cate Blanchett and Isabelle Huppert. The show, based on a notorious murder case in which two homicidal sisters killed their mistress and her daughter, played as a part of the 2014 Lincoln Center Festival in New York. Speaking about Debicki's performance, Frank Scheck of *The Hollywood Reporter* said "...the talented young actress is fearlessly vulgar and funny in her depiction of the mistress' utter self-absorption."

Debicki currently resides in London, UK.

DONALD SUTHERLAND

Jerome Debney

Donald Sutherland is one of the most respected, prolific and versatile of motion picture actors, with an astonishing resume of well over one hundred and fifty films, including such classics as Robert Aldrich's *THE DIRTY DOZEN*; Robert Altman's *M*A*S*H*; John Schlesinger's *THE DAY OF THE LOCUST*; Robert Redford's *ORDINARY PEOPLE*; Bernardo Bertolucci's *1900*; Philip Kaufman's *INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS*; Nicolas Roeg's *DON'T LOOK NOW* with Julie Christie; Alan Pakula's *KLUTE* with Jane Fonda; Federico Fellini's *Fellini's CASANOVA* and Brian Hutton's *Kelly's HEROES* with Clint Eastwood (who later directed him in *SPACE COWBOYS*).

For the distinguished body of his work, Sutherland received a 2017 Honorary Oscar from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences.

Sutherland is currently filming opposite Nicole Kidman, again as her father, in *THE UNDOING*, HBO's high-profile six-episode limited series written by David E. Kelley and directed by Susanne Bier. He will next be seen on film in *AD ASTRA* co-starring with Brad Pitt for director James Gray when the film premieres at the Venice Film Festival, as well as the thriller *THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY*, directed by Giuseppe Capotondi, which will close the same edition of the Venice Film Festival.

Sutherland most recently starred as J. Paul Getty in director Danny Boyle's FX anthology series *Trust* and in the Sony Classics film *THE LEISURE SEEKER*, opposite Helen Mirren. He was 'President Snow' in all four enormously popular film adaptations of *THE HUNGER GAMES* series. He has appeared as Nicole Kidman's father in Anthony Minghella's *COLD MOUNTAIN*; as Charlize Theron's father in F. Gary Gray's *THE ITALIAN JOB* and as Mr. Bennett, Keira Knightley's father, in *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*. For the latter he received a Chicago Film Critics nomination. He starred opposite his son Kiefer in *FORSAKEN*, a period Canadian Western, which premiered at the 2015 Toronto Film Festival.

Sutherland's film credits include Paul Mazursky's *ALEX IN WONDERLAND*; Dalton Trumbo's *JOHNNY GOT HIS GUN*; Bud Yorkin's *START THE REVOLUTION WITHOUT ME*; John Sturges' *THE EAGLE HAS LANDED*; Herbert Ross' *MAX DUGAN RETURNS*; Louis Malle's *CRACKERS*; Phillip Borsos' *BETHUNE*; Oliver Stone's *JFK*; Ron Howard's *BACKDRAFT*; Richard Marquand's *EYE OF THE NEEDLE*; Euzhan Palcy's *A DRY WHITE SEASON*; Richard Pearce's *THRESHOLD* (1983 Genie Award as Best Actor); Fred Schepisi's film adaptation of John Guare's *SIX DEGREES*

OF SEPARATION; Robert Towne's WITHOUT LIMITS; John Landis' NATIONAL LAMPOON'S ANIMAL HOUSE; Andy Tennant's FOOL'S GOLD; Griffin Dunne's FIERCE PEOPLE; in Robert Towne's ASK THE DUST; in AMERICAN GUN with Forrest Whitaker; in AN AMERICAN HAUNTING with Sissy Spacek; in LAND OF THE BLIND with Ralph Fiennes; in AURORA BOREALIS with Louise Fletcher and Juliette Lewis; in THE EAGLE, opposite Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell for director Kevin Macdonald; in Simon West's THE MECHANIC with Jason Statham and Ben Foster; in Seth Gordon's HORRIBLE BOSSES as Colin Farrell's father; in Mary McGuckian's MAN ON THE TRAIN with U2's Larry Mullen, Jr.; Milton's SECRET, a feature adaptation of Eckhart Tolle's beloved children's book; and MEASURE OF A MAN, based on Robert Lipsyte's young adult novel, ONE FAT SUMMER. He voiced 'General Stone' in the animated feature of the manga classic, ASTRO BOY.

He was producer, screenwriter and star (voicing the lead character, 'Captain Johnson') of PIRATE'S PASSAGE, an animated movie based on William Gilkerson's acclaimed novel, which won the Governor General's Award of Canada for Children's Literature in 2006. The film won the 2016 international Kidscreen Award for "Best Special or TV Movie".

In television, Sutherland won both Emmy and Golden Globe awards as Best Supporting Actor for his performance in the HBO film CITIZEN X and he won a Golden Globe for his portrayal of Clark Clifford, advisor to President Lyndon B. Johnson, in the HBO historical drama PATH TO WAR, directed by the late John Frankenheimer.

Additional television credited include Tandem's international action crime series, CROSSING LINES; the longform adaptation of Ken Follett's best-seller, THE PILLARS OF THE EARTH; with Peter Krause in the ABC-TV series DIRTY SEXY MONEY. For his performance in the latter as the family patriarch, Tripp Darling, he was nominated for a 2007 Golden Globe as Best Supporting Actor. Prior to that, he co-starred with Geena Davis in the ABC drama series COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, and was nominated for a Golden Globe as Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of House Speaker, Nathan Templeton. At the same time, he was nominated for a Golden Globe as Best Actor for his performance opposite Mira Sorvino in Lifetime Television's much-lauded miniseries, HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

On stage, he starred with Justin Kirk and Julianna Margulies in a critically acclaimed, Lincoln Center engagement of Jon Robin Baitz's TEN UNKNOWNNS, for which he received an Outer Critics Circle Award nomination for Best Actor. He also starred in the London, Toronto and Los Angeles productions of ENIGMATIC VARIATIONS, an English language translation (by his son Roeg Sutherland) of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt's French play.

Donald Sutherland was awarded the highest Canadian Honor, Companion of the Order of Canada, this year, was appointed an officer of the Order of Canada in 1978 and a Chevalier des Arts et Lettres in France in 1983. In 2012, he was awarded the highest French honor, the Officier des Arts et Lettres.



MICK JAGGER

Joseph Cassidy

Mick Jagger is rock's premier frontman and one of the most popular British musicians and songwriters of all time. Instantly recognisable as the iconic lead singer of The Rolling Stones, he has paved the way for performance and creativity throughout his unrivalled career. Mick has set and maintained the gold standard for both popular performance and unparalleled creativity for nearly five decades.

With co-songwriter Keith Richards, he is responsible for an extraordinary series of multi-million selling hit singles and albums. Mick was the prime mover behind the band's move towards independence in the music industry, turning The Rolling Stones into the world's top live concert attraction. This led to a series of record-breaking tours, including their most recent 'No Filter' world tour.

He has brought a similar range and intensity to his film work. Starring in *PERFORMANCE*, directed by Donald Cammell and Nicolas Roeg, and the title role of Tony Richardson's *NED KELLY*, as well as Geoff Murphy's sci-fi film *FREEJACK*.

Jagger's filmography also includes cameos in 'Bent' - Sean Mathias' 1997 film adaptation of the Martin Sherman play, and 'The Man From Elysian Fields', directed by George Hickenlooper in 2002, as well as the World War II drama *Enigma*, directed by Michael Apted, which he co-produced in 2001. His Jagged Films company produced the 'Being Mick' documentary, the Stones 'Shine A Light' with Martin Scorsese and also the James Brown biopic 'Get On Up' and the Peabody Award winning documentary, 'Mr. Dynamite' directed by Oscar winner Alex Gibney.

Mick co-wrote the original 'Long Play' film which ultimately became HBO's 'Vinyl', which he executed produced alongside Martin Scorsese. He is currently developing projects at Warner Bros and Paramount including 'The Man Who Invented Rock and Roll', the story of Sam Phillips.

Mick has also formed a documentary company and is producing a film about Jerry Lee Lewis, as well as a documentary about Kent State shooting to coincide with the 50th anniversary.

Mick Jagger was knighted in 2003 for Services to Music.



CAST

James Figueras
Berenice Hollis
Joseph Cassidy
Jerome Debney
Evelina Macri
Rodolfo

CLAES BANG
ELIZABETH DEBICKI
MICK JAGGER
DONALD SUTHERLAND
ROSALIND HALSTEAD
ALESSANDRO FABRIZI

CREW

Directed by GIUSEPPE CAPOTONDI
Based on the novel by CHARLES WILLEFORD
Screenplay by SCOTT B. SMITH

Costume designer GABRIELLA PESCUCCI
Music By CRAIG ARMSTRONG
Edited by GUIDO NOTARI
Production designer TOTOI SNTORO
Director of photography DAVID UNGARO AFC
Executive Producers SIENNA AQUILINI
AYESHA WALSH
STEPHANIE WILCOX
DANTE ARIOLA
AUGUST ZANDER
JON SHIFFMAN
JONATHAN LOUGHRAN
ALASTAIR BURLINGHAM
CHARLIE DOMBEK
MARCO COHEN
BENEDETTO HABIB
FABRIZIO DONVITO
DANIEL CAMPOS PAVONCELLI
ALESSANDRO MASCHERONI
PETER TOUCHE
VAISHALI MISTRY
MARIE-GABRIELLE STEWART
PETER WATSON
ARIS BOLETSSIS
Produced by DAVID ZANDER
WILLIAM HORBERG
DAVID LANCASTER



SCOTT B. SMITH

Writer

Scott Smith is the author of two novels, *A Simple Plan* and *The Ruins*, both of which he adapted for the screen. His script for *A Simple Plan* was nominated for an Academy Award.

DAVID ZANDER

Producer

David Zander is a film, television, commercial, and music video producer. His filmography includes *THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY*, starring Claes Bang, Elizabeth Debicki, Mick Jagger, and Donald Sutherland, Neil LaBute's *SOME VELVET MORNING*, and Harmony Korine's *SPRING BREAKERS*. Other projects in development include *THE THINGS THEY CARRIED* (with Rupert Sanders directing) based on the acclaimed classic by Tim O'Brien, *A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND* based on Flannery O'Connor's award winning short story by the same name, and Stanley Kubrick's long-lost project *LUNATIC AT LARGE*.

David is also President and Co-Founder of MJZ, a global commercial, music video, feature film, and television production company that has consistently been recognized as an industry leader that has made a significant impact in the commercial production industry and in the world of pop culture. MJZ's director roster includes Nicolai Fuglsig, Craig Gillespie, Spike Jonze, Harmony Korine, Mike Mills, Rupert Sanders, and Matthijs van Heijningen.

MJZ has earned more awards than any other production company in the history of commercial production. At the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity, MJZ is the only company ever to have won the Palme d'Or an unprecedented 9 times. Representing the majority of the top and most awarded directorial talent in the commercial production industry, MJZ's directors have garnered awards and nominations from the Directors Guild of America, the Emmy Awards, the Association of Independent Commercial Producers, the Hugo Television Awards, the Clio Awards, the One Show, and the British Arrows (formerly the British Television Advertising Awards).

MJZ has regularly been named Production Company of the Year by industry publications and is the most acclaimed production company according to The GunnReport.

WILLIAM HORBERG

Producer

William Horberg is an independent film and television producer who is currently producing the Sean Penn directed and starring *FLAG DAY* as well as *THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT* adapted by Scott Frank from the novel by Walter Tevis for Netflix. His recent production *THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY* starring Claes Bang, Elizabeth Debicki, Mick Jagger and Donald Sutherland, based on the novel by Charles Willeford is the closing night film at the 2019 Venice Film Festival. Other recent films include Terry George's Armenian genocide drama *THE PROMISE* starring Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac and *CRASH PAD* a romantic comedy starring Thomas Haden Church and Domhnall Gleeson and directed by Kevin Tent for Sony.

He is currently the Chair of the Producers Guild of America, East.

He is the founder of Wonderful Films, and produced the Gospel-themed musical *BLACK NATIVITY* for Fox Searchlight and *DISCONNECT* and *THERESE RAQUIN* for Liddell Entertainment. Horberg was also a producer on *THE NECESSARY DEATH OF CHARLIE COUNTRYMAN* starring Shia

LaBeouf for Voltage Pictures, and DEATH AT A FUNERAL” starring Chris Rock, Martin Lawrence and Tracy Morgan for Columbia Screen Gems.

Previously, Horberg was the President of Production at Sidney Kimmel Entertainment. During Horberg’s tenure there, SKE, in association with Universal Pictures, financed Academy Award nominee Paul Greengrass’ critically acclaimed UNITED 93, as well as executive-produced Billy Ray’s BREACH. The company’s other productions, which Horberg executive-produced, include Kasi Lemmons’ TALK TO ME, starring Don Cheadle and Independent Spirit Award winner Chiwetel Ejiofor; Frank Oz’ HBO Comedy Arts Festival Audience Award-winning DEATH AT A FUNERAL; Jon Poll’s CHARLIE BARTLETT, starring Anton Yeltsin and Robert Downey, Jr.; Ira Sachs’ MARRIED LIFE, starring Pierce Brosnan, Chris Cooper, Patricia Clarkson, and Rachel McAdams; Craig Gillespie’s LARS AND THE REAL GIRL, starring Ryan Gosling, and written by Academy Award nominee Nancy Oliver; and Charlie Kaufman’s SYNECDOCHE, New York, starring Academy Award winner Philip Seymour Hoffman, Catherine Keener, Michelle Williams and Samantha Morton.

Additionally, Horberg served as an executive producer on Greg Mottola’s ADVENTURELAND (a Miramax co-production), starring Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart, and Ryan Reynolds; and Stephen Belber’s MANAGEMENT, starring Jennifer Aniston, Steve Zahn, and Woody Harrelson. Horberg was also an executive producer on Focus Features’ MILK, starring Academy Award winner Sean Penn and directed by Gus Van Sant. He was also the producer of Marc Forster’s THE KITE RUNNER based on the international best-selling novel by Khaled Hosseini, for Dreamworks and Paramount Vantage. Prior to forming Wonderful, he was partnered for 11 years with Academy Award-winning filmmakers Sydney Pollack and Anthony Minghella in their film and television production company, Mirage Enterprises. During Horberg’s tenure at Mirage, he produced such films as Mr. Minghella’s A, for which Renée Zellweger won an Academy Award and THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY, starring Matt Damon and Academy Award nominee Jude Law; Phillip Noyce’s THE QUIET AMERICAN, starring Academy Award nominee Michael Caine; Tom Tykwer’s HEAVEN, starring Cate Blanchett; Peter Howitt’s SLIDING DOORS, starring Gwyneth Paltrow; and Steven Zaillian’s SEARCHING FOR BOBBY FISCHER.

Horberg was formerly a Senior Vice President of Production at Paramount Pictures. He is also a musician and artist, currently living in Woodstock, NY.

DAVID LANCASTER

Producer

Academy Award-nominated producer David Lancaster has been involved in the development, finance, production and distribution of over 45 motion pictures, several major stage plays and television series since his start in the entertainment business in the mid-1980s.

David launched Rumble Films in June of 2014 after serving as co-president of Bold Films from 2006 through March 2014. David recently produced DONNYBROOK starring Frank Grillo, Margaret Qualley, James Badge Dale and Jamie Bell, based on the Frank Bill novel of the same name. Directed by Brooklyn-based filmmaker Tim Sutton (DARK NIGHT, MEMPHIS), it was released by IFC Films in 2019. He also produced the feature film SEMPER FI, which shot in New Orleans in February 2018, and is scheduled for release by Lionsgate on October 4th. The feature is directed by Henry-Alex Rubin (MURDERBALL), and stars Jai Courtney, Nat Wolff, Finn Wittrock, Arturo Castro and Leighton Meester. David is also a Producer on the upcoming noir thriller THE BURNT ORANGE HERESY, directed by Giuseppe Capotondi, which will debut at the 2019 Venice Film Festival as the closing night film. The film stars Claes Bang, Elizabeth Debicki, Donald Sutherland and Mick Jagger.

In 2017, David produced MESSAGE FROM THE KING, starring Chadwick Boseman, Teresa Palmer, Luke Evans and Alfred Molina. The film, produced alongside The Ink Factory and eOne, is directed by Fabrice du Welz and premiered at Toronto International Film Festival in September 2016. David also produced Rumble Films’ SMALL CRIMES in 2017, alongside Rumble SVP Stephanie

Wilcox, which stars Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Molly Parker, Gary Cole, Jacki Weaver and Robert Forster and premiered at SXSW in March 2017. Both MESSAGE FROM THE KING and SMALL CRIMES recently debuted on Netflix. Also released in 2016, to worldwide critical and commercial success, was drone warfare pic EYE IN THE SKY, which David produced alongside Colin Firth and Ged Doherty from Raindog Films. The film, directed by Gavin Hood, stars Helen Mirren, Aaron Paul, Alan Rickman and Barkhad Abdi, and features the enigmatic Rickman in what became his final film performance.

In 2015, David produced the box office success NO ESCAPE, written and directed by the Dowdle Brothers and starring Owen Wilson, Lake Bell, and Pierce Brosnan which premiered in August 2015 from The Weinstein Company. Lancaster's 2014 slate of feature films included the highly acclaimed three-time Academy Award winning WHIPLASH, directed by Damien Chazelle and starring Miles Teller and J.K. Simmons and the critically acclaimed box office hit NIGHTCRAWLER, written and directed by Dan Gilroy and starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Rene Russo, which also earned Best First Feature at the Independent Spirit Awards. In the world of television, he recently acted as executive producer for both Syfy's DOMINION, which is based on his feature film LEGION, and ABC's BLACK BOX starring Kelly Reilly.

While at Bold Films, Lancaster also oversaw production of the cult sensation DRIVE, starring Ryan Gosling and directed by Nicolas Winding Refn, who was awarded Best Director at Cannes when the film debuted there in 2011. DRIVE was released by FilmDistrict and grossed over \$76 million worldwide. Other films that David produced while at Bold Films include Refn's ONLY GOD FORGIVES and Gosling's directorial debut LOST RIVER. David's earlier films include Universal's Golden Globe nominated 'NIGHT, MOTHER, starring Sissy Spacek and Anne Bancroft, Sony's A LOVE SONG FOR BOBBY LONG, starring John Travolta and Scarlett Johansson, and PERSONS UNKNOWN, directed by George Hickenlooper and starring Naomi Watts, Kelly Lynch and Joe Mantegna, as well as the Golden Globe Best Picture nominated Robert F. Kennedy drama BOBBY, directed by Emilio Estevez. Additionally, David produced the Joe Dante directed suspense thriller THE HOLE 3D; the Toronto Film Festival Selection MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, starring Susan Sarandon and Anton Yelchin; and the 2010 apocalyptic thriller LEGION, starring Paul Bettany and Dennis Quaid, which scored a \$40 million domestic gross from Sony's Screen Gems.

Lancaster also returned to Broadway in 2014 with the Tony award winning musical production of The Bridges of Madison County, after previously producing the Pulitzer Prize winning play 'night, Mother, both with long-time colleague Marsha Norman.

