

DIMENSION
F I L M S



PRESENT

THE LONGSHOTS

OPENING EVERYWHERE AUGUST 22

Running Time: 94 minutes

Rated PG by the MPAA for some thematic elements, mild language and brief rude humor.

Publicity Website: www.twcpublicity.com

Username: Weinstein

Password: TWCDIM

<p>Liz Biber EVP Publicity O: 323-207-3180 Liz.Biber@weinsteinco.com</p>	<p>Jill DiRaffaele Internatonal Publicity O: 323-207-3092 Jill.DiRaffaele@weinsteinco.com</p>
<p>Pantea Ghaderi Publicity LA O: 323-208-3094 Pantea.Ghaderi@weinsteinco.com</p>	<p>Erin Orr Regional Publicity O: 646-862-3810 Erin.Orr@weinsteinco.com</p>

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

From Ice Cube, the star of such hits as “Barbershop,” “Are We There Yet?” and “First Sunday,” comes a family-fun film, THE LONGSHOTS. When Curtis Plummer (Ice Cube), a down on his luck former high school football star, takes the only job he can find – babysitting his misfit niece Jasmine (Keke Palmer), he discovers that she has the skills that once made him a great quarterback. The only place these two opposites get along is on the field, so Curtis is determined to turn Jasmine into the star of the local team, The Minden Browns, and get his own stride back by becoming the coach. The boys on the team don’t want her but when this girl quarterback shows them she’s got the skills, she’ll turn their whole world upside down.

Tasha Smith (“Why Did I Get Married?,” “The Whole Ten Yards”), Jill Marie Jones (“The Perfect Holiday,” “Girlfriends”), Dash Mihok (“Kiss Kiss Bang Bang”), Matt Craven (“Crimson Tide”), Garrett Morris (“Jackpot,” “Saturday Night Live”) and comedians Earthquake (“Clerks II”) and Michael Colyar (“Norbit”) star alongside Cube and Palmer. The film is directed by Fred Durst and written by Nick Santora, who is a producer alongside Ice Cube and Matt Alvarez (“Are We There Yet?”) of Cube Vision. Executive producer is Andy La Marca.

The creative team includes director of photography Conrad W. Hall, production designer Charles Breen, costume designer Mary McLeod and editor Jeffrey Wolf.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

It was clear that no one was going to keep Jasmine Plummer from playing football.

If she couldn’t play on the field, which her mother forbade, the petite 11-year-old would play on the streets of her hometown of Harvey, Ill., with neighborhood kids.

“One day, there was a knock on her mom’s door, and a guy about as tall as me was holding Jasmine in his arms. Her knee was bleeding all over the place,” recalls Fred Johnson, Jasmine’s uncle, who is portrayed by Ice Cube in “Longshots.” “When Jasmine’s mom asked what happened, he told her she cut her knee playing football. She said, ‘With who?’ And he said, ‘With us.’ She was playing with guys my size.”

Jasmine would receive a total of 19 stitches on her knee. Days later, “She was back out there, hopping, playing again,” says Johnson.

It was time for Jasmine to get a chance to take the field... and not as a cheerleader. Her uncle was coaching a local Pop Warner team at the time. She played several positions to start, including linebacker and tackle.

“She needed an outlet,” says Fred Johnson. “I told her, ‘Just because you hit this field doesn’t mean you’re not a girl anymore. You’re an athlete like anyone else. As long as you don’t forget that, I have no problem with you getting out there and playing this game with these guys.’”

Surprisingly, the strongest opposition to Jasmine playing football was voiced not by her teammates, but by their mothers. The boys, however, had their moments.

“At first they were kind of mean,” says Plummer of her fellow teammates. “They said I couldn’t play and told me to go home. But I showed them. When we played against other teams, I showed them I could play, and that I could make us win. So they started accepting me and respecting me.”

“Actually, Jasmine and some of them are now best friends,” says Johnson of Jasmine’s former teammates.

Johnson then needed a quarterback for his team, and he gave his niece a shot at the job. With a powerful arm that could throw the ball 65 yards, Jasmine’s status on the team and in town quickly turned from endearing oddity to bona fide playmaker. “When Jasmine first started to play football, everybody thought it was cute,” says Johnson. “And she played for a couple of years, and it was still cute—until she advanced to the national level, and then it was no longer cute. It was this girl can play football.”

The moment word got out that this “cute” female quarterback was taking her team to the championship game, the town was bombarded by local and national media.

“People wanted to see if this girl could really throw a football. And that got the ball rolling,” says Johnson.

Soon, various suitors from all directions were coming to the family with movie offers. “Some of them wanted to change what it was; they wanted to make it more of a fictional story,” says Johnson. “Others wanted to make it seem like she had these miraculous powers, which was not the story. She was just a natural athlete.”

A few of the Hollywood pitches wanted to build up Jasmine's tomboy image. "She's not a tomboy at all," Johnson emphasizes. "She's a little princess when she doesn't have the football equipment on!"

Then Nick Santora gave them a call. An L.A.-based screenwriter, he had read a small newspaper article about this young girl from a small town in Illinois who played quarterback for her Pop Warner team.

Santora and Johnson immediately clicked. "We were getting bombarded by different people with different ideas, spouting promises," says Johnson. "Nick was the only one that was sincere about telling the story. He has daughters of his own, and he made it very clear that this was an inspirational story for his daughters and daughters everywhere."

Santora optioned the rights to Jasmine's story and embarked on some serious legwork with Fred Johnson. "We were on the phone a lot," says Johnson. "I told him a lot of the stories that ended up going into the movie. He was very interested in what I had to say in order to keep the script true to the story."

As for Jasmine, she was characteristically humble. "When I found out they were going to make a movie about my life, I was shocked," she says. "How could that happen? It's just me! I guess they thought it was a good story and an inspiration for other girl athletes."

Currently 15 and in the 9th grade, playing basketball, wrestling, and running track, Jasmine's dreams are as big as ever.

"I love football, even now," she says. "But right now I'm playing varsity basketball. I'm starting point guard, and I hope to be in the WNBA when I grow up."

Nick Santora spent years trying to convince a studio to buy his pitch based on Jasmine's story. Eventually, he decided to just write the script. When he was done, he presented it to Ice Cube through Matt Alvarez, Cube's partner at Cube Vision.

"Matt told me about the story. He said that it was about this little girl who not only could play football but took her team to the Super Bowl," says Cube. "It's incredible that a girl really wanted to play tackle football, but then to take on the toughest position,

quarterback, and lead the team to the Super Bowl? That's the stuff that movies are made of.

"It sounds like a story that's too good to be true," he adds. "But it is true. In Hollywood you have to take a couple of liberties, but for the most part this is her story. I hope it inspires other girls."

After doing a series of comedies and kid's movies, Cube was happy to sink his teeth into the more dramatic role of down-and-out ex-quarterback Curtis Plummer, whose life gets a much-needed spark thanks to his talented niece. "This movie is not Disney or Hollywood make-believe—this is a true story. I was intrigued by the idea of shooting it in a serious way, like a drama, and having football as a backdrop."

Soon after Cube signed on, the script for "Longshots" was sold to Dimension/Weinstein Co. and Santora was brought on as a producer alongside Cube and Alvarez.

The next step was to find the right actress to play Jasmine. Keke Palmer, a rising star on the Hollywood landscape as a singer and an actress, had just come off an acclaimed performance in the title role of "Akeelah and the Bee."

"I knew that her acting would be perfect," says Ice Cube. "What I didn't know is what kind of athlete she was. She looks like a quarterback. She doesn't look like an actor trying to be a quarterback."

Palmer's first acting job was playing Queen Latifah's niece in the 2004 sequel "Barbershop 2," which Cube starred in and executive produced.

"It's so cool working with Cube. He gave me my first movie!" gushes Palmer. "It was great to be able to do another movie with him where we could work closer together. He's a great person."

In addition to the lure of working with Ice Cube again, Palmer couldn't resist Jasmine's inspiring story. "It's a really amazing story. Who would think that an 11-year-old little girl would even want to play football, much less bring her team to the top?"

"It's not just a cute little kid's movie, it's a very uplifting story," she says. "It lets people know that they can achieve anything if they just put their minds to it."

Fred Johnson was on cloud nine when he learned of the casting decisions. “When I found out Ice Cube was playing me, that was exciting. I’m an Ice Cube fan—I have every CD he’s ever made and seen every movie he’s ever been in.

“To find out that Keke Palmer was going to play Jasmine, that was a joy!” he continues. “Some things were just meant to be, like the people in this movie.”

The script also attracted Fred Durst, frontman for the rap-rock group Limp Bizkit who made his feature film directorial debut in 2007 with the critically well-received drama “The Education of Charlie Banks,” starring Jesse Eisenberg and Jason Ritter.

Ice Cube had known Durst for years, from their days headlining the “Family Values Tour” together with rock group Korn in the 1990s. “Fred and I both definitely have a lot to prove on the movie front because of our backgrounds,” says Cube. “People pay extra attention because of that. I haven’t done a lot of dramas in my career, and to be able to do one with a guy like Fred who’s come out of the music industry like me is great.

“Fred is actually one of the best directors that I’ve worked with,” continues Cube. “He knows what he wants, and he understands drama. Seeing how serious he is as a director really inspired me to do better work.”

“Like Cube, Fred has shown that you can be versatile and take your career in different directions,” says Fred Johnson. “He has two daughters; I knew he’d make sure that this movie sent the right message.”

Durst may seem like an unorthodox choice to direct the movie, but Dash Mihok, who plays Cyrus in “Longshots,” disagrees.

“Fred loves heartfelt sports movies, and he loves Ice Cube,” says the actor. “Like-minded individuals gel together to make good art, whether it’s music or movies.”

The caliber of filmmakers involved combined with the strength of Santora’s script, lured quality talent to the project.

Tasha Smith joined the cast as Claire, Jasmine’s mother. “I felt like the script had a lot of heart, and I love seeing the redemption of the town,” she says. “I thought it was really sweet how Curtis stepped in and became a father figure to Jasmine. That relationship touched my heart.

“Bringing Curtis into Jasmine’s life changes the town,” says Smith. “So if it wasn’t for Claire making Curtis get off of his lazy behind and babysit, none of this would have happened!”

Dash Mihok signed on to play Cyrus, Curtis’ assistant coach. He had met Fred Durst a number of years ago. “I love his music, and we have always kept in contact,” says Mihok. “I jumped at the chance to work with him.”

Mihok wasn’t familiar with the original story of Jasmine, “but I love sports stories, and I love kids, and I thought it was a great project to be a part of,” he says. “This is such a heartfelt story of a family coming together, and of two people that really find a connection both with football and each other.”

Rounding out the cast are Matt Craven as Coach Fisher, Jill Marie Jones as Curtis’ love interest, Ronnie, Garrett Morris as town leader Reverend Pratt, and Earthquake and Michael Colyar as local fixtures Carl and Ennis. The cast also includes several talented young people.

Fourteen-year-old Miles Chandler, who hails from New York City, had worked with Fred Durst on “Charlie Banks.” The director wanted Chandler to try out for the role of Jasmine’s crush and fellow teammate, Damon.

“Fred’s great at getting down to a kid’s level, and he doesn’t dumb things down in any way,” says Chandler of his director. “He always gets the actor doing the scene in the right mood.”

Chandler showers equally generous praise on his co-star. “Keke’s a great person. She’s really nice. She always had a big smile on her face in the morning and hugged everybody,” he says. “You can tell when she’s around because everyone’s happy.”

Kofi Siroboe, who auditioned in L.A. for the part of Jasmine’s rival quarterback, Javy, was confident he had won the role. “I just slammed the audition!” he says. “When I walked out I actually told my mom I thought I got the job because it was a really good audition.”

On set, Siroboe bonded with his fellow Minden Browns. “We hung out off-set. We went to the movies, hung out in each other’s rooms, went shopping,” he says. “They became my new brothers.”

Casting directors had to go on a nationwide search to find 15-year-old Alan Aisenberg, who plays Feather. “We enlisted the help of the media,” says Shreveport casting director Brinkley Maginnis. “It took us forever to find our perfect Feather.”

Filming on “Longshots” began on December 17 at Minden High School in Minden, LA. Filming took place almost exclusively in and around Minden, a town of about 15,000 roughly 30 miles east of Shreveport. Only the Pop Warner Super Bowl scenes were shot in Shreveport, at Calvary Baptist Academy.

For some of the actors, small-town Louisiana was a culture shock. “I’ve been to New Orleans, but I can’t say that’s quite the same as being in Shreveport,” says New York native Dash Mihok. “But I grew to love the vibe. The people are really warm and friendly here in Louisiana, and you just get used to their pace. Shooting here in Minden opened my eyes to a piece of small-town America that I’ve never really been a part of. It’s exciting.”

Tasha Smith took the idea of experiencing the local culture to a whole new level. Since her character waits tables for a living, Smith took a job at Minden’s Golden Biscuit Diner.

“My friends thought I was crazy. I just figured I’d go work there for a couple of days because I hadn’t had that kind of experience,” Smith says with a laugh, pointing out that she didn’t accept any tips. “The people that worked there didn’t know I was an actor researching a part. When they found out, people started coming in, trying to take my picture and asking me to sign autographs. I was like, hey people! I’m here to learn how to serve coffee and clean the counter!”

The connection the cast and crew felt with their location was fitting; the movie, after all, is as much about the resurgence of a small town and its people as football. The filmmakers wanted it that way.

“We wanted to reflect a city or a town that was a little down and out, a place that industry had forgotten, a place where the only people still there are the ones who couldn’t afford to get out,” says Cube. “Then we wanted to give them something to feel good about.”

“This is more than a sports movie, it’s a movie about a whole town coming back from the brink,” he continues. “Jasmine Plummer gives the town something to care about.”

“The town comes to life again,” says Keke Palmer, “because they have something to believe in.”

“Through this football team and this little girl, everything grows and changes,” echoes Tasha Smith. “The diner starts to make money, the reverend is preaching a different message, and the people are excited and hopeful again.”

Shooting a movie about a small, economically struggling town in such a town meant a lot to the cast and crew. “It definitely helped shooting in a small town like Minden, Louisiana, because you get that feel. We could have pulled it off in Los Angeles, but you don’t capture the magic,” says Cube. “That’s what we wanted, and Minden gave it to us.”

Capturing authentic football action was essential to the movie’s success. The real Minden Tide football team from Minden High played many of the Minden Browns. Other local teams portrayed opposing squads. Real local coaches played roles on the sidelines and served as consultants about the rules of Pop Warner.

Ice Cube was no stranger to the gridiron. Before getting into music, he played Pop Warner and eventually played fullback and outside linebacker for the Hawthorne Rams in his California hometown.

Keke Palmer, on the other hand, was “never really into football,” she admits. When she got to Louisiana, she met up with Denny Duran, a beloved local pastor and football maven, who worked with Palmer on the mechanics of the game over a few weeks. “I started throwing the ball, and I got into this rhythm,” she says. “After a while, I really got into the whole groove of it. It was fun.”

Her fellow co-stars were supportive of her fledgling attempts at football greatness. “They were all really nice to me. They didn’t say, ‘You can’t do that,’” says Palmer. “As a matter of fact, they were pretty impressed when I started throwing the ball!”

The physical side of the film was often challenging for the young actress—especially when it involved cold and mud. But she ultimately triumphed over the often unpleasant conditions.

“I remember one day it was really cold and I got mud all over me, even on the inside of my uniform. I was so dirty. It was the most uncomfortable day of my life! I thought, how do real players do this?” says Palmer. “But then my competitive side came out. I was like, I can do this! I was so proud of myself!”

Ice Cube knew it was vital that Palmer develop an understanding of what it feels like to be a real quarterback. “It was important for Keke to take a couple of tackles, to feel people trying to get to her, to try to stay calm in the pocket. These are all qualities you have to develop to become a real quarterback in any league,” he says. “So it was important for us not to use a stunt woman all the time, but have Keke get some of that experience. Because there’s nothing like actually being on the field.”

It wasn’t just Palmer who found the rigors of the gridiron exhausting. “Everyone thinks it’s really easy in front of the camera,” says Miles Chandler, “but being in that stance for thirty seconds on the field is hard!”

A visit from the real Jasmine Plummer and “Uncle Curtis” Fred Johnson about halfway through principal photography put a smile on everyone’s face. Neither Cube nor Palmer had ever met their real-life counterparts.

“It was really cool when I finally got a chance to meet Jasmine and talk to her about everything,” says Palmer, who peppered Plummer with “millions of questions.” The actress was pleased to discover that the movie mirrored very closely what actually happened in Plummer’s life.

Palmer was also surprised to find that Jasmine “looks like a regular girl, just like me. She’s a girly girl! She’s a little bitty tiny thing, but she has huge muscles!

“Meeting her helped me see how she talks and acts—it helped me play her better,” says Palmer, who grew up in Robbins, Ill., just five miles away from Plummer’s hometown. “She was so close to the written Jasmine.”

Ice Cube was happy that Jasmine and Fred felt safe in the hands of the film’s cast and crew. “I’m glad they were comfortable with us jumping in there and portraying

them,” he says. “With a story this good, I hope they’re comfortable with the final outcome.”

If the ‘final outcome’ inspires just one person to reach for their dream when they might not have otherwise, the cast and crew of “Longshots” will have succeeded. “One person can make a difference,” says Ice Cube.

“I hope this movie inspires people to keep dreaming,” says Tasha Smith. “If it wasn’t too late for Curtis, it’s not too late for anyone.”

“‘Longshots’ is about finding out what your dream is, what your passion is,” says Keke Palmer. “It’s not about who you are, it’s about what you believe in. If you love something, you should do it with all your heart. Don’t give up.”

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

FRED DURST (director) is an accomplished musician, filmmaker, actor, and music executive. As front man of the rock-rap band Limp Bizkit, he has sold more than 60 million albums worldwide. Durst also chairs his own record label, Flawless Records, which has supported such bands as Staind and Puddle of Mudd. In addition to his success in the music world, Durst has expanded his talents into the film arena. He garnered praise for his 2007 directorial debut, “The Education of Charlie Banks,” starring Jesse Eisenberg and Jason Ritter. The film went on to win the ‘Made in New York’ Narrative Feature Award at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2007. In addition to his work behind the camera, he also acted in the Emmy-nominated TV miniseries “Revelations” alongside Bill Pullman.

MATT ALVAREZ (producer) has been partnered at Cube Vision with actor/producer/writer Ice Cube since 1998. The company produced the highly successful “Barbershop” franchise (“Barbershop,” “Barbershop 2”), “Beauty Shop” for MGM, the “Friday” franchise (“Friday,” “Next Friday,” “Friday After Next”) and “All About The Benjamins” for New Line. The company has also ventured into television with the

series "Black.White." for FX. Their latest projects are the recently released "First Sunday" and the recently announced feature version of "Welcome Back, Kotter." The latter is part of a two-year production deal that Cube Vision now has with Dimension Films.

Cube Vision signed a three-picture production deal with Revolution Studios in 2003, where they are currently developing the features "Willie," "Clash," and "Neighborhood Watch." Other projects they are developing include "Defense," "Going on Tilt," and "The Courtship of Eddie's Father."

Television projects currently in development are an untitled Cohn/Miller one-hour drama for Fox, an animated series for MTV based on the popular "Friday" franchise, and a series based on the "Barbershop" franchise for Showtime. Additionally, they are developing a half-hour drama for HBO about a young hip-hop artist and the music industry entitled "Be Careful What You Wish For."

In addition to his producing responsibilities and overseeing day-to-day operations of Cube Vision, Alvarez is responsible for nurturing new writers and directors, acquiring and developing new music projects, as well as overseeing the company's expansion into other areas of entertainment.

Alvarez got his start as acquisitions and co-productions manager at Fine Line Features, where he oversaw the production of such films as "Mother Night," starring Nick Nolte, and "Roseanna's Grave." Born in Fresno, California and raised in Foster City, Alvarez graduated from the University of California, Davis, where he earned a B.A. in English and Art History.

After the first screenplay he ever wrote won "Best Screenplay of The Competition" at the New York International Independent Film Festival, former attorney **NICK SANTORA (producer, screenwriter)** was hired to write an episode for "The Sopranos." After that incredible experience, he decided to leave New York and move to Los Angeles to try his hand at screenwriting full time. Soon thereafter he was hired as a staff writer for the CBS drama "The Guardian" where he was promoted to co-producer in less than a year. From there he went on to write and produce "Law & Order" and write and co-executive produce "Prison Break." Santora also created and executive

produces the hit reality show "Beauty & The Geek." Additionally, Santora is a credited writer on the Lionsgate/Marvel feature "The Punisher: War Zone."

At around the same time that the "Longshots" script sold, Santora's incredibly versatile career took an even more interesting turn when his first novel, "Slip & Fall" was published and became a national bestseller within its first week.

CONRAD W. HALL (director of photography) most recently served as director of photography on "Elvis and Annabelle," which premiered at the 2007 South by Southwest Film Festival. He also served as cinematographer on "Two For the Money," starring Al Pacino and Matthew McConaughey; "The Punisher," starring Thomas Jane; and "Panic Room," starring Jodie Foster.

He is the son of the late Oscar-winning director of photography Conrad L. Hall.

MARY MCLEOD (costume designer) made her feature film debut as costume designer on "Porky's." She went on to work again with director Bob Clark on the classic, "A Christmas Story."

McLeod received Genie Award nominations for Best Costume Design for both pictures.

McLeod's illustrious career has taken her through a wide range of motion picture genres. From "Look Who's Talking Now," "The Boondock Saints," "Driven," "3000 Miles to Graceland," "Resident Evil: Apocalypse" to "Fido," she has shown the unlimited scope of her talent.

Among all her work in television, McLeod's costume design for the musical "Bye Bye Birdie," "Catch A Falling Star" and "Spoils of War" are most notable.

McLeod's current work can be seen in the recently released "88 Minutes" with Al Pacino and Rob Zombie's "Halloween." She resides in Los Angeles

CHARLES BREEN (production designer) trained as an architect and studied at Cranbrook, the renowned art and design school in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

He began his career in the motion picture industry as a set designer and assistant art director working with such directors as Ridley Scott, Mike Nichols and

James Cameron. As an art director, he worked with directors Clint Eastwood, Barry Levinson and William Friedkin. As a production designer, he worked with Neil LaBute on “Your Friends & Neighbors” (1998) and “Nurse Betty” (2000). Most recently, he worked with director Dan Pritzker on “Bolden!” (2008) and “The Great Observer” (2008).

Nominated for an Emmy for “Weapons of Mass Distraction” (1997), he is also a member of the Art Directors Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and sits on its Executive Committee.

A world recognized feature film editor, **JEFFREY WOLF (editor)** recently edited the Ice Cube comedy “First Sunday” and the independent film “Lake City,” starring Sissy Spacek, Rebecca Romijn, Drea de Matteo, Troy Garity and Dave Matthews. In 2006, he consulted on “Hoot,” based on the 2002 Newbury Award winner for Children’s fiction by author Carl Hiaasen. His resume also includes the film “Holes” (2003), based on the 1998 Newbury Award winning novel by Louis Sachar.

The versatile Wolf has also collaborated with iconoclastic film director/artist John Waters on “A Dirty Shame” (2004) and “Cecil B. DeMented” (2000).

During much of his career, Wolf collaborated as editor and second unit director on the innovative films of the late director Ted Demme, including the smart, dark comedy “The Ref” (1994), and the dramatic, character driven comedy “Beautiful Girls” (1996). Other Demme films include “Snitch” (1998), “Who’s the Man?” (1993) and “Life” (1999). Demme and Wolf collaborated with Jonathan Demme on “Subway Stories” (1997) for HBO. Wolf also edited twice for legendary filmmaker Arthur Penn on “Four Friends” (1981) and “Penn & Teller Get Killed” (1989).

Wolf enjoys working in multiple film genres, from the slapstick antics of “Billy Madison” (1995), to the fun and adventure of the cherished childhood favorite “Madeline” (1998), to the serious “Andre’s Mother” (1990).

ABOUT THE CAST

As head of the production company Cube Vision, **ICE CUBE (Curtis/producer)** has written, produced, and starred in the cult hit “Friday” and its successful sequels,

“Next Friday” and “Friday After Next.” Cube Vision was also responsible for “The Players Club,” in which Cube made his directorial debut. He also starred in and executive produced the back-to-back box office hits “Barbershop” and “Barbershop 2: Back in Business.” In “Are We Done Yet?,” Cube again stars as Santora Persons, a role he created in Revolution Studios' sleeper-hit family comedy “Are We There Yet?,” which he also produced through Cube Vision. Cube most recently starred in the comedy “First Sunday.”

Other film credits include the critically acclaimed “Three Kings,” opposite George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg; “Trespass,” and “Higher Learning.” Cube made his feature film debut in John Singleton’s classic “Boyz N the Hood.”

Cube continues to be one of the most recognized hip-hop artists in the recording industry. His thriving music career includes the double-platinum success of Volumes 1 and 2 of his double album, “War and Peace.” As a solo artist, Cube has recorded such hit albums as “Lethal Injection,” “Bootlegs & B-Sides,” “The Predator,” and “Amerikkka’s Most Wanted.” His collaborative effort with Mack-10 and WC formed the group Westside Connection whose second album, “Terrorist Threats,” was released in December 2003 and marks the follow-up effort to their 1996 double-platinum seller, “Bow Down.” A collection of his greatest hits, featuring two new songs, was released by Priority Records in December 2001.

At the age of 14, **KEKE PALMER (Jasmine)** has already established herself as one of the fastest rising young stars of her generation. Her talents span film, television, and music alike.

Palmer was last seen as the title character in the Lions Gate Films/Starbucks Entertainment sleeper hit “Akeelah and the Bee,” opposite actor Laurence Fishburne and Angela Bassett. In the movie, Palmer plays Akeelah Anderson, an 11-year-old girl who participates in the National Spelling Bee. Her breakthrough performance received praise from many film critics and organizations. Among the list of nominations received, “Akeelah and the Bee” was listed as one of NBR’s 2006 Top Independent Films of the Year as well as four nominations from the NAACP Image Awards. Palmer alone won an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Motion Picture as well as

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Motion Picture by the Black Movie Awards. She has also received nominations for Most Promising Newcomer by the Chicago Film Critics, Best Actress by the Black Reel Awards, and Best Young Actress by the Broadcast Film Critics Association.

On the small screen, Palmer recently starred in the Disney Channel Original Movie "Jump In!" The premiere broke the network records for an original television movie premiere with 8.2 million viewers and stood as basic cable's most-watched program for the entire day. Palmer is also featured on the movie's soundtrack and is the only artist with two songs on the album. The soundtrack landed at the top of the charts as the third best selling album in its first week of release and is continuing to climb the charts.

Palmer is recently wrapped up a twelve-city tour with the WNBA where she performed songs from her debut album "So Uncool" as the half-time special entertainment. Her album officially dropped last September 18th for Atlantic Records.

Palmer's upcoming feature "The Cleaner" in which she starred opposite Samuel L. Jackson and Eva Mendes for Millennium Films was screened as a Gala Screening at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival where it received great reviews. The film is due out in 2008.

Palmer began her career with a small role in the feature film "Barbershop 2: Back In Business" at the age of nine, opposite Queen Latifah. That role led to a series of guest-starring roles on television shows like "Strong Medicine," "Cold Case," "ER," and "Law & Order." Palmer later went on to star in the Emmy-nominated made for TV movie, "The Wool Cap," opposite William H. Macy. Her performance in "The Wool Cap" earned her a NAACP Image Award as well as a coveted Screen Actors Guild Nomination in the Best Leading Actress category, alongside Charlize Theron, Hilary Swank, Glenn Close and Patricia Heaton. This nomination put Palmer in the record books as the youngest actor to ever be nominated by the Guild in a Lead Actor Category.

Her other film & TV credits include co-starring in the made for television movie, "Knights of the South Bronx" with Ted Danson, a pilot for her own show on Disney Channel, "Keke & Jamal;" and the Lionsgate film "Madea's Family Reunion" starring Tyler Perry, Cicely Tyson, and Dr. Maya Angelou.

As a dedicated and consummate performer, **TASHA SMITH (Claire)** brings style and intense character portrayals to the screen. Her outstanding performances have garnered widespread reactions from audiences and critics alike. Tyler Perry was so impressed with her stellar work that he cast her to star in two of his films, including the #1 box office hit, “Why Did I Get Married?” (Lionsgate), alongside Janet Jackson and Jill Scott. Her accolades are still resonating from her role in Perry’s “Daddy’s Little Girls” (Lionsgate), opposite Gabrielle Union and Idris Elba, portraying Jennifer, the corrupt, vindictive ex-wife of Elba’s character, Monty. On and off the screen she seems to naturally command attention. Smith recently completed work in Russ Parr’s independent comedy, “Something Like a Business,” with David Alan Grier and Kevin Hart.

Smith has played a wide range of roles in such feature films as “ATL” (Warner Brothers) with T.I. and Mykelti Williamson, “The Good Mother” (Sony/Screen Gems) with Angie Harmon and Joel Gretsch, and “The Whole Ten Yards” (Warner Brothers) with Bruce Willis and Matthew Perry. She has also starred in the independent films “Miles From Home” with Meagan Good and Ty Hodges, and “Playa’s Ball,” with Allen Payne and Elise Neal.

Smith is also well-known for her critically-acclaimed portrayal of the drug-addicted Ronnie Boyce in HBO’s Emmy Award-winning miniseries, “The Corner,” directed by Charles S. Dutton. She has guest starred on such popular television shows as “Nip/Tuck,” “America’s Next Top Model,” “Girlfriends,” “Without a Trace,” and “Strong Medicine,” among others. Smith has also served as the executive producer and host of her own talk show for the Oxygen Network, “Tasha Vision,” guest hosted the late night show, “Later With Greg Kinnear,” and recently appeared as a field correspondent on “The Tyra Banks Show.”

Smith takes the time to share her inspirational life story through motivational speaking, as well as mentors emerging actors through the Tasha Smith Actors Workshop (TSAW). A native of Camden, New Jersey, Smith was raised by a single mother and has an identical twin sister and a younger sister. She resides in Los Angeles, California.

JILL MARIE JONES (Ronnie) exudes flawless beauty, embodies talent and possesses versatility that sets her apart in each and every performance.

Jones wrapped production in Louisiana on "Major Movie Star" the Steve Miner-helmed comedy in which she stars alongside Jessica Simpson as an actress who joins the Marine Corps. Jones plays a fellow recruit of Simpson, who becomes her close friend. Jones most recently appeared in "The Perfect Holiday" opposite Queen Latifah, Terrence Howard, Gabrielle Union, and Morris Chestnut.

Jones may be best known for starring as Toni Childs, the somewhat self-involved, materialistic friend in UPN's comedy "Girlfriends." This role allowed Jones to transform from her soft-spoken, caring ways to a loud-mouthed and witty new mother trying to navigate her relationships. This balance allowed for a dimensional character that people loved to hate, who always drew a laugh.

Jones's talent has caught the eye of many and earned her a nomination for Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series for the 2006 NAACP Image Awards. In addition, Jones and her co-stars from "Girlfriends" were among the first women to be honored and invited to co-host the 2004 NAACP Image Awards. Her successes were also recognized in the form of a 2004 BET Nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a series for her role as Toni Childs.

Formerly, Jones was featured as the celebrity face of the Baileys campaign "Serve Chilled" which airs worldwide and spans across both print and television. The television ads consist of seven separate vignettes, directed by the renowned Paul Hunter, in which Jones stars as Kelly. Storylines revolve around Kelly, her boyfriend Lewis and a group of their friends "mixing it up," and can additionally be viewed on the Baileys official Web site.

This Texas native currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

Named after the mystery writer Dashiell Hammett and raised in New York City, **DASH MIHOK (Cyrus)** came up through the New York theater world and was affiliated with the esteemed City Kids Repertory. His big break came in 1996, when he was cast as Benvolio in "William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet," director Baz Luhrmann's

adaptation of the classic romantic tragedy. Still more success came as Dash won the part of Lieutenant Doll in Terrence Malick's critically lauded World War II epic "The Thin Red Line."

He's worked steadily ever since, appearing in films as varied as "The Perfect Storm," opposite George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg; "Dark Blue," opposite Kurt Russell and Ving Rhames; "Basic," opposite John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson; "Connie and Carla," opposite Nia Vardalos and Toni Collette; and "The Day After Tomorrow," opposite Dennis Quaid and Jake Gyllenhaal. More recently, Dash was seen in "Hollywoodland" opposite Adrian Brody and Ben Affleck, and the independent feature "10th and Wolf" opposite James Marsden.

On television, Dash recently played the true life character 'Paul Janszen' in the Pete Rose biopic "Hustle" for ESPN. Other television work includes "Pushing Daisies," "Ghost Whisperer," "Law & Order," "CSI," and the CBS telefilm "Murderous Intent." He also had a recurring role on the WB series "Felicity."

MILES CHANDLER (Damon), a native of New York City, was thrilled to reteam with director Fred Durst. He was last seen at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival as Young Mick Leary in "The Education of Charlie Banks," Durst's directorial debut.

Chandler began acting at the age of 10, when he starred opposite Robin Wright and Philip Seymour Hoffman as young Miles Roby in HBO's "Empire Falls." Chandler played Young Taylor in the feature film "Slingshot," which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2006. Chad Lowe directed Chandler in "Beautiful Ohio," which was an official selection at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007. On the small screen, Chandler recurred on the ABC series "Six Degrees," playing Campbell Scott's son, Max, and was recently seen on the episode "Driven" of NBC's "Law & Order." When he's not acting, Chandler occupies his time with yo-yoing and hopes to compete in regional and national tournaments in the future.

#