



Production Information

PARAMOUNT PICTURES and METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURES present
A ROCKET PICTURES Production, “SHERLOCK GNOMES”.

Executive produced by Sir Elton John. Produced by Steve Hamilton Shaw, David Furnish, and Carolyn Soper. Based on characters by Rob Sprackling & John Smith, Andy Riley & Kevin Cecil, Keely Asbury, and Steve Hamilton Shaw. Story by Andy Riley & Kevin Cecil and Emily Dee Cook & Kathy Greenburg. Screenplay by Ben Zazove. Directed by John Stevenson.

The beloved garden gnomes from GNOMEO AND JULIET are back for a whole new adventure in London. When Gnomeo and Juliet first arrive in the city with their friends and family, their biggest concern is getting their new garden ready for spring. However, they soon discover that someone is kidnapping garden gnomes all over London. When Gnomeo and Juliet return home to find that everyone in their garden is missing – there’s only one gnome to call... SHERLOCK GNOMES. The famous detective and sworn protector of London’s garden gnomes arrives with his sidekick Watson to investigate the case. The mystery will lead our gnomes on a rollicking adventure where they will meet all new ornaments and explore an undiscovered side of the city. This action-packed sequel features the voices of returning cast, James McAvoy, Emily Blunt, Michael Caine, Maggie Smith, Stephen Merchant and Ozzy Osbourne, plus Johnny Depp as Sherlock Gnomes, Chiwetel Ejiofor as Watson and Mary J. Blige as Irene.

GNOMES AWAY FROM HOME

Someone is stealing London's yard ornaments, and there's only one detective small enough for a mystery this big: Sherlock Gnomes.

"From the beginning, it was integral to a sequel that we embrace a different classic story and 'gnomify' it," says producer STEVE HAMILTON SHAW. "We had a long list of ideas, but no other character matched Sherlock Holmes in terms of international awareness and offered an opportunity to push Gnomeo and Juliet into an action detective story."

"We've changed genres with *Sherlock Gnomes*," explains director JOHN STEVENSON. "Our first film was a musical romantic comedy about a feud between two gardens, with a few locations and very low stakes, but Sherlock Gnomes is a comedy action adventure. Screenwriter BEN ZAZOVE moved the setting to London as a more fitting location for a Sherlock story. London also provided us a much larger canvas, letting us take our heroes out of their familiar garden setting into a city full of hard surfaces, fast moving vehicles and millions of human beings, all things that can easily smash a fragile pottery gnome."

"The sheer scale of London makes it an incredible backdrop for this story," says producer CAROLYN SOPER. "All the iconic locations of London seem all the more enormous next to the gnomes, who are very, very small. The design team has done an incredible job creating a modern London that looks so much like the real thing, it makes this whole adventure feel almost plausible, as if we might see the gnomes running around if we weren't so involved in our phones."

"It's a love letter to London, really," offers producer SIR ELTON JOHN, who returns with two original songs, and whose songbook serves as the inspiration for the musical score.

“There’s so many great scenarios and so many different locations, it’d be incredibly boring to leave them in the garden for the whole film.

After the cataclysmic destruction of the Montague and Capulet gardens in *Gnomeo and Juliet*, the once volatile neighbors put aside their differences and uproot their newly integrated lawn families from the quiet life in Stratford-upon-Avon to settle in London. Once settled, Lord Redbrick (Michael Caine) and Lady Bluebury (Maggie Smith) retire, leaving Gnomeo and Juliet to struggle with their new responsibilities as garden leaders.

“They’ve got to be a bit more grown up, which rankles them a bit,” says McAvoy. “Juliet dives right into the new job, Gnomeo misses the fun they used to have, and there’s a real disconnect.”

“Juliet is dealing with the changes better than Gnomeo,” says Blunt. “They’re now responsible for the whole Gnome community and cleaning up the garden. It’s not exactly what they had in mind at the beginning of their relationship.”

In the midst of one of their disagreements, an unseen fiend slips into the garden and kidnaps their family and friends. Among the abductees are fan favorites Benny (Matt Lucas), Nanette (Ashley Jensen), Paris (Stephen Merchant) and Fawn (Ozzy Osbourne), returning for more family friendly fun.

“Matt Lucas and Ashley Jensen are consummate professional comic actors,” says Soper. “The hardest thing with both of them is landing on just one version of the line, because they’ve riffed and given us so many options to choose from.”

“Our cast brings so much because they all improvise,” says Shaw. “Stephen Merchant always cracks himself up in the most endearing way. He’s really in the moment, embracing the absurdity of it all.”

The busy schedules of the cast made joint recording sessions a challenge, but resulted in some of the best takes. “We were able to record Michael Caine and Maggie Smith together, which was incredible,” Stevenson recalls. “Dexter Fletcher and Javone Prince, who play the gargoyle brothers Ronnie and Reggie, recorded together, which was hilarious, but they kept breaking each other up and the recording session took twice as long.”

Without any leads to their friends whereabouts, Gnomeo and Juliet turn to the world’s finest ceramic detective duo, Sherlock and Watson.

“Sherlock brings a fresh element of mystery and adventure,” says Soper. “He’s such a well-drawn literary character: extremely clever, but emotionally closed off. Despite his brilliant deductive mind, he’s often oblivious to those around him, which lends itself to a lot of humor.”

“There’s a certain gravitas and nostalgia to these characters,” says EMILY BLUNT, who returns as Juliet. “So there’s something really fun about reimagining them in this world.”

Reimagining the look of the iconic literary heroes as gnomes proved tricky. Says Stevenson: “Traditionally, Sherlock has been depicted as tall and rangy, whereas gnomes are more short and squat. Trying to meet in the middle made him look like a dumpy Victorian farmer, so we elected to go the more recognizable route, with subtle gnome motifs – points on Sherlock’s deerstalker hat and Watson’s bowler, and Sherlock’s ‘white croissant’ beard on his chin. They’re meant to look like the garden gnome factory idea of Sherlock and Watson, sillier,

kitschier interpretations based on hundreds of film and television adaptations, but instantly recognizable.”

Animator NEIL BOYLE was recruited to bring the kinetic workings of Sherlock’s mind to life in a series of black and white 2-D animated sequences. Says Soper: “Neil is an extremely talented animator, and being able to cut to his hand drawn animation helped us show Sherlock’s thought process in a way that added variety and humor.”

“In London, Gnomeo and Juliet find themselves venturing into the unknown, and relying on the help of Sherlock and Watson,” says Stevenson. “They’re out of their element and vulnerable, which puts a strain on their relationship. Where the first film was overcoming outside pressure to be together, this film is about the challenge of staying together.”

“The arrival of Sherlock and Watson complicates their relationship,” says Blunt. “They’re helping them find their friends, but also pushing them apart. They learn a lot about themselves on this journey.”

“Gnomeo isn’t that impressed with Sherlock,” says JAMES MCAVOY, back as Gnomeo. “He’s annoyed that Juliet is impressed by this arrogant, bigheaded showoff. He finds himself relating more to Watson, who is living in Sherlock’s shadow.”

“Gnomeo and Watson both feel isolated in their relationships,” says Ejiofor. “They both have a lot of work to do in learning to communicate better with their respective partners.”

“Sherlock and Watson have always been an interesting odd couple,” says McAvoy. “Sherlock is perplexing, obtuse and seemingly silly at times, but ultimately clever, and Watson is

the patient, devoted friend. Our Sherlock and Watson retain that classic dynamic while taking them in some unexpected directions.”

“When they sent me the script, I didn’t expect it to make me laugh out loud,” says JOHNNY DEPP, who plays Sherlock. “There’s a brilliance to this character that kind of comes from his clumsiness. He’s a bloodhound, so sure of himself, and incredibly fun to play with.”

CHIWETEL EJIOFOR, who plays Sherlock’s long suffering partner, Watson, was also drawn to the humor of the script. “There’s an irreverence to the characters that’s a lot of fun, but being pottery, they’re quite fragile as well, which makes it tense in its own way.”

Stevenson praises Depp and Ejiofor the complexity of their performances: “Johnny can move effortlessly between comedy and drama, arrogant, then vulnerable a moment later. Chiwetel may have the hardest role in the film, playing what appears to be a conventional reading of Watson at first and negotiating the deliberate ambiguities of the role.”

DELICIOUSLY EVIL

One step ahead of our heroes is Sherlock’s oldest foe, Moriarty, a maniacal pie mascot obsessed with Sherlock and the gnomes he’s sworn to protect. Says Shaw: “Moriarty is a classic agent of chaos who finds Sherlock a worthy opponent.”

“Developing Moriarty was a process,” Stevenson admits. “Since he couldn’t be a gnome, we considered making him an evil Hummel figurine: innocent on the outside, evil on the inside. Logistically, he needed a way to get around the city. We decided to make him the wide-eyed mascot of ‘Goobarb Pies’ a nutrition-less junk food filled with an artificial substance made from industrial waste and sugar and have him ride around on top of a delivery truck. In contrast to the

most of the other characters, who are pottery, he's made of Goobarb. He can warp and stretch and be unapologetically cartoony."

Moriarty's voice came from an unexpected source. During production, actor JAMIE DEMETRIOU had recorded a temp track for Moriarty, an offbeat performance the filmmakers immediately fell in love with.

"Jamie deserves a lot of credit for discovering the voice of Moriarty," praises Shaw. "We gave him some crazy dialogue and he just ran with it."

"Moriarty's the most extreme character in film. We struck gold with Jamie," says Stevenson. "We couldn't imagine Moriarty speaking any other way."

TINY DANCERS

As in *Gnomeo and Juliet*, the presence of Elton John is felt throughout *Sherlock Gnomes*, providing some legendary music support to the proceedings.

"Elton's involvement in anything brings a whole other dimension," says Depp. "He and Bernie Taupin have written a billion classic, brilliant songs. They give so much of themselves, and put it out there for the world to hear."

John and Taupin collaborated on two new songs for the film, "Better Together" performed by **Jessie Ware** and "Stronger Than I Ever Was," sung by multiple Grammy Award winner and Academy Award nominee, Mary J. Blige. Blige performs the song in character as Irene, a Victorian doll with some less than warm feelings for Sherlock.

"Irene is the chief at the Doll Museum," John explains. "She was involved with Sherlock years ago, and he treated her very badly, because he's so self-obsessed. When he turns up

needing her help, she isn't exactly pleased to see him, so she and the other dolls do a huge musical number and dance routine to say 'you hurt me, but I'm stronger now than I've ever been', and of course Mary does it beautifully."

"Irene is a smart, empowered lady," says Blige. "But Sherlock really hurt her with his carelessness, so she lets him know how badly he messed up."

"I'd been listening to Elton's demo of the song he and Bernie wrote for Irene and really loved it," recalls Soper. "Then I heard Mary J. perform it and was blown away by what she'd brought to the song. She'd really made it her own."

John admits he and Taupin had Blige in mind while writing the song. "Mary has been a friend of mine for years, and the perfect person for this song. She such a good actress and I'm so pleased she's in our film."

For Elton John fans, the film is packed with Easter eggs, musical and visual. "Our musical score by CHRIS BACON contains many references to classic Elton John melodies weaved throughout the film," Stevenson teases. "There's also a brief appearance by a familiar looking gnome tucked away in the film, so keep a look out!"

"Elton's music is another character in this film," says McAvoy. "There's such a positive energy about it, and a great sense of not only nostalgia for adults who grew up listening to it, but also for the kids whose parents have played it for them. It's appealing across generations."

The soundtrack also includes new versions of "Don't Go Breaking My Heart," "Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting," "Philadelphia Freedom," and "The One" remixed and produced by Pnau.

John has nothing but praise for the artists adapting his work: “Chris and Pnau do a wonderful job. I gave them carte blanche to do whatever they want, so I’m very pleasantly surprised when I see the film and hear how it’s been used. When you do an animated film, you always first see it in lumps and bits, and when you see it finished, it’s so much better than you ever dreamed it would to be.”

ABOUT THE CAST

Johnny Depp (SHERLOCK) is an award-winning actor who is also producing projects under the banner of his company, infinitum nihil.

A three-time Academy Award nominee in the category of Best Actor, Depp was honored with his first Oscar nod for his work in Gore Verbinski's 2003 blockbuster 'PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL', which launched the hugely successful film franchise. He also won a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award and an Empire Award and garnered Golden Globe and BAFTA Award nominations for his creation of Captain Jack Sparrow, who became an instant screen classic. Depp went on to reprise the role in 'PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST', earning another Golden Globe nomination; 'PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END', and 'PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES'. He recently starred in 'PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES'.

His next Oscar nomination came for his performance in Marc Forster's acclaimed 2004 drama 'FINDING NEVERLAND'. For his portrayal of Peter Pan author James Barrie in that film, he also received Golden Globe, BAFTA Award and SAG Award nominations. He earned his third Oscar nomination for his work in 'SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET', director Tim Burton's 2007 screen adaptation of the Stephen Sondheim musical. Depp also won a Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Motion Picture – Comedy or Musical for his performance in the film's title role.

He has collaborated with Burton on eight features to date, starting with the title role in 'EDWARD SCISSORHANDS', for which he received a Golden Globe nomination. He also earned Golden Globe nominations for his work under Burton's direction in 'ED WOOD', winning a London Film Critics Circle Award for the title role; 'CHARLIE AND THE

CHOCOLATE FACTORY', as Willy Wonka; and 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND', playing the Mad Hatter. Additionally, he starred in 'DARK SHADOWS' and lent his voice to Burton's animated hit 'CORPSE BRIDE'.

Depp gained critical acclaim in Scott Cooper's 'BLACK MASS' as Boston's notorious crime boss James 'Whitey' Bulger. The leading role earned him a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) nomination and Critic's Choice nomination for Best Actor.

Depp began his performing career as a musician, before segueing to acting. He made his feature film debut in the horror hit 'A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET', followed by Oliver Stone's Oscar[®]-winning war drama 'PLATOON'. In 1987, he landed his breakout role on the hit television show '21 JUMP STREET'.

After starring in the series for four seasons, Depp returned to the big screen in John Waters' 'CRY-BABY'. His early film work also includes 'BENNY & JOON', gaining a Golden Globe nomination; Lasse Hallström's 'WHAT'S EATING GILBERT GRAPE'; 'DON JUAN DEMARCO', with Marlon Brando; Mike Newell's 'DONNIE BRASCO'; and Terry Gilliam's 'FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS'. In 1997, Depp made his writing and directing debut with 'THE BRAVE', in which he also starred with Brando.

Depp has also starred in such diverse films as Lasse Hallström's 'CHOCOLAT', for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe; the Hughes brothers' 'FROM HELL'; Robert Rodriguez's 'ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO'; Michael Mann's 'PUBLIC ENEMIES'; 'THE TOURIST', earning another Golden Globe nomination; 'THE RUM DIARY', which he also produced; Verbinski's 'THE LONE RANGER'; Rob Marshall's screen adaptation of the hit musical 'INTO THE WOODS', and recently reprised the role of the Mad Hatter in the adventure 'ALICE: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS'. In addition, he voiced the title character in

Verbinski's Oscar-winning animated feature 'RANGO', and was a producer on Martin Scorsese's Oscar-nominated fantasy 'HUGO'.

He next stars in the crime thriller, 'LABYRINTH', for Open Road, as a detective who investigates the Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G. murders, as well as IM Global's 'RICHARD SAYS GOODBYE.' He is currently filming J.K. Rowling's 'FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM 2,' directed by David Yates.

Golden Globe nominated actor **JAMES MCAVOY (Gnomeo)** won over audiences with his breakthrough performances in THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND and ATONEMENT. The critically acclaimed and award winning actor, who has been referred to as “the best young British actor of our times” by Empire Magazine, continues to test himself with a wide variety of work on stage, television and film and is regarded as one of the industry's most exciting acting talents.

McAvoy was most recently seen in Universal's ATOMIC BLONDE opposite Charlize Theron with David Leitch at the helm. Also in 2017, McAvoy starred in M. Night Shyamalan's critically acclaimed thriller SPLIT, which has since surpassed \$270 million worldwide at the box office. Following this success, Shyamalan and Universal Pictures announced a sequel to the movie, GLASS, with Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson set to join the cast. The movie wrapped production at the end of 2017 and is slated for a January 18, 2019 release.

This Spring, McAvoy will be seen lending his vocal talents to Paramount's SHERLOCK GNOMES, the sequel to 2011's GNOMEO & JULIET, where he will reprise the role of “Gnomeo”. The movie includes the voices of Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp, Maggie Smith and Michael Caine and will be released on March 23, 2018.

Later this year, McAvoy will once again return as “Professor Charles Xavier” in X-MEN: DARK PHOENIX with Simon Kinberg directing. Jennifer Lawrence, Jessica Chastain and Michael Fassbender will also star. The movie will be in theaters on November 2, 2018. McAvoy starred in the role in both X-MEN: APOCALYPSE and in X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST, with the latter earning over \$90 million in the domestic box office on its opening weekend and going on to become the highest grossing film of the franchise thus far. He first starred as the young telepathist in the 2011 X-MEN: FIRST CLASS where he reimagined the Professor whose older self is played by Patrick Stewart.

In 2014, McAvoy was seen as corrupt cop Bruce Robertson in the UK highly acclaimed sensation FILTH, for which he received a BIFA Best Actor award, London Critics Circle Best British Actor award and an Empire Award for Best Actor. The film, which McAvoy also served as producer on, was released in the US in the spring of 2014 by Magnolia Pictures.

Additionally, McAvoy starred in the Golden Globe award winning drama ATONEMENT in 2007, which was directed by Joe Wright and co-starred Keira Knightly and Saoirse Ronan. His performance received a Golden Globe and BAFTA nomination for Best Actor and he was awarded both Film Critics Circle and UK Regional Critics’ Awards for Best Actor in addition to receiving the Virtuoso Award from the Santa Barbara Film Festival.

In 2005, McAvoy starred in the title role of Damion O’Donnell’s INSIDE I’M DANCING (US Title: RORY O’SHEA WAS HERE). McAvoy earned a Best British Actor nomination from the London Film Critics Circle for his performance. That Summer, he traveled to Uganda to take on the lead role of Dr. Nicholas Garrigan in THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND, directed by Oscar and BAFTA winner Kevin Macdonald. The actor later earned nominations from BAFTA, BIFA, London Film Critics and European Film Academy for his

performance. In December of 2005, McAvoy was seen in *THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE*. He received a nomination for British Actor in a Supporting Role from the London Film Critics Circle for the role.

McAvoy's other film credits include the upcoming *SUBMERGENCE* with Alicia Vikander, which first premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in 2017; *VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN* opposite Daniel Radcliffe, *THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ELEANOR RIGBY* starring Jessica Chastain, the Danny Boyle directed *TRANSE* with Rosario Dawson, *WELCOME TO THE PUNCH* alongside Mark Strong, Sony Pictures' animated movie *ARTHUR CHRISTMAS*, *THE CONSPIRATOR* opposite Robin Wright with Robert Redford at the helm, *WANTED* starring Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman, *BECOMING JANE* with Anne Hathaway and *PENELOPE* opposite Christina Ricci and Reese Witherspoon.

Prior to making his name on the silver screen, the actor first came to popular attention on the small screen with the role of Josh in the 2002 Channel Four adaptation of Zadie Smith's popular novel "White Teeth." In the fall of 2003, McAvoy played Dan Foster in the BAFTA-winning BBC political drama series "State of Play." The series ran in the UK and on BBC America and went on to become one of the most successful UK exports of the last decade. He also left a lasting mark on high-profile TV projects such as the World War I drama "Regeneration" and HBO's "Band of Brothers." The actor's popularity really started to grow when he appeared in the BAFTA-winning Channel 4 series "Shameless" as car thief, Steve. He earned a nomination from the British Comedy Awards for Best Comedy Newcomer in 2004 for his performance.

McAvoy has also played a large role in the London theater scene. In 2015, McAvoy starred in *The Ruling Class*, which earned him a London Evening Standard Award, an Olivier

award nomination, and a WhatsonStage nomination for Best Actor. In 2013, the actor appeared in *Macbeth* at Trafalgar Studios. The play was nominated for Best Revival and McAvoy received an Olivier award nomination for Best Actor for his performance. In 2009, McAvoy took to the stage at the Apollo Theater in London's West End playing the two roles of Walker and his father Ned in Richard Greenberg's *Three Days of Rain* for which he received an Olivier Award nomination for Best Actor for his performances. The actor was previously seen in *Breathing Corpses* at the Royal Court, *Privates on Parade* at the Donmar Warehouse and *Out in the Open* at Hampstead Theatre (2001).

McAvoy was born in the Scotstoun area of Glasgow, Scotland in 1979 and is a graduate of the prestigious Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Golden Globe winning actress **EMILY BLUNT'S (Juliet)** transformative ability and versatile performances make her one of the most in demand actresses of today.

Blunt will next star in the Paramount/Platinum Dunes supernatural thriller, *A QUIET PLACE*, opposite John Krasinski, who also wrote and directed the film. The film will be released on April 6. Later this year, Blunt stars in *MARY POPPINS RETURNS*, the sequel to the 1964 classic film *MARY POPPINS*. Blunt plays the titular character opposite Lin-Manuel Miranda. The film, which is directed by Rob Marshall, will be released by Disney on December 25.

Blunt recently lent her voice to two animated films: *MY LITTLE PONY: THE MOVIE*, which was released by Lionsgate and Hasbro last year and Paramount's *SHERLOCK GNOMES*, the sequel to the 2011 hit, *GNOMEO & JULIET*, set for a March 23 release.

Blunt will soon begin production on Disney's JUNGLE CRUISE opposite Dwayne Johnson. The film, based on the classic theme park attraction, will be directed by Jaume Collet-Serra.

In 2016, Blunt received critical acclaim for her portrayal of Rachel Watson, an alcoholic caught in the middle of a murder mystery, in the film adaptation of Paula Hawkins' bestselling novel, THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN. The film, which was released by Amblin and Universal Pictures, opened at #1 at the US box office and made over \$170 million worldwide. Her performance earned her a nomination for a SAG[®] and BAFTA[®] award.

Blunt previously received rave reviews as FBI agent Kate Macer in Denis Villeneuve's SICARIO, which centers around the escalating war against drugs, and premiered at the Cannes Film Festival to great acclaim. Blunt earned a Golden Globe nomination and critical praise as "The Baker's Wife" in Rob Marshall's film adaptation of the musical, INTO THE WOODS, which was released by Disney in December 2014.

Other notable films include THE HUNTSMAN, EDGE OF TOMORROW, SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN, LOOPER, MY SISTER'S SISTER, ARTHUR NEWMAN, THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU, THE WOLFMAN, THE YOUNG VICTORIA, for which she received a BAFTA[®] and Golden Globe[®] nomination, CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR, SUNSHINE CLEANING, THE DEVIL WEAR PRADA, for which she received a BAFTA[®] and Golden Globe[®] nomination, and MY SUMMER OF LOVE.

Blunt started her career at the 2002 Chichester Festival, where she played Juliet in a production of "Romeo and Juliet." Her London stage debut was a production of "The Royal Family," opposite Dame Judi Dench. In addition to her Golden Globe Award win for the BBC

television movie GIDEON'S DAUGHTER, Blunt was nominated for three additional Golden Globe® Awards as well two BAFTA® Awards, and two British Independent Film® Awards.

BAFTA Award winning actor, **CHIWETEL EJIOFOR (Watson)** has a breadth of critically acclaimed work across stage and screen.

2018 will see Chiwetel in MARY MAGDALENE alongside Rooney Mara and Joaquin Phoenix. The film is directed by Garth Davis and explores the life of Mary and how she came to be a pinnacle figure of Christianity. Chiwetel can also be seen in Netflix's COME SUNDAY alongside Lakeith Stanfield, Jason Segel and Martin Sheen. Directed by Joshua Marston, the story concerns Evangelist Carlton Pearson (played by Chiwetel), ostracized by his church for preaching that there is no Hell. March will see Chiwetel lend his voice in SHERLOCK GNOMES, alongside Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp, James McAvoy, Maggie Smith and Sir Michael Caine. The story centres upon Garden gnomes, Gnomeo & Juliet, recruit renowned detective Sherlock Gnomes to investigate the mysterious disappearance of other garden ornaments.

It has recently been announced that Chiwetel will voice the infamous character of 'Scar' in THE LION KING – a CG animated re-imagining of the 1994 Walt Disney classic. Directed by Jon Faveau (The Jungle Book), Chiwetel will star alongside Seth Rogen, Donald Glover, Alfre Woodard and Beyonce Knowles.

Chiwetel has also begun work on his untitled directorial debut, which he has adapted from the book 'The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind', written by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. Chiwetel will also star in the film, which follows 13-year-old William Kamkwamba (Maxwell Simba) who is thrown out of the school he loves when his family can no longer afford

the fees. Sneaking back into the school library, he finds a way, using the bones of the bicycle belonging to his father Trywell (Chiwetel), to build a windmill which then saves his village from famine. Joseph Marcell, Aïssa Maïga, Noma Dumezweni, Lemogang Tsipa also star.

In 2016, Chiwetel was seen in the much anticipated Marvel film DOCTOR STRANGE. The film saw Chiwetel take on the role of Baron Mordo opposite Benedict Cumberbatch, Tilda Swinton, Mads Mikkelsen and Rachel McAdams and was directed by Scott Derickson. Prior to this, Chiwetel was seen in Jon Hillcoat's crime thriller TRIPLE 9. He was supported by a stellar cast including Kate Winslet, Casey Affleck, Gal Gadot, Aaron Paul and Norman Reedus.

Chiwetel was awarded a CBE for services to drama and also starred in a number of films and returned to the stage in EVERYMAN; Rufus Norris' inaugural play as Artistic Director of The National Theatre. 2015 saw Chiwetel in the award winning sci-fi drama THE MARTIAN alongside Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, and Kate Mara. The film was hugely successful at the box office, taking over \$300m worldwide and receiving 7 Oscar nominations. Chiwetel was also seen in Craig Zobel's thriller Z FOR ZACHARIAH alongside Chris Pine and Margot Robbie, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival. The story centered on the last three remaining survivors of a nuclear holocaust. Chiwetel starred in another thriller - SECRET IN THEIR EYES - directed by Billy Ray and co-starring Julia Roberts and Nicole Kidman. The film is adapted from Juan Jose Campanella's Oscar winning Argentinean film, El Secreto De Sus Ojos.

2014 was another memorable year for Chiwetel and saw him star in Steve McQueen's Oscar winning TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE. Chiwetel played the role of 'Soloman Northup' which gained him Oscar, Golden Globe and SAG nominations and won him a Best Actor BAFTA. Later in the year Chiwetel also starred in HALF OF A YELLOW SUN based on the

highly acclaimed novel of the same title, the film also starred Thandie Newton and Joseph Mawle.

2013 saw Chiwetel star in Stephen Poliakoff's BBC series DANCING ON THE EDGE which gained him a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actor in a Mini Series and an Emmy Award nomination. Chiwetel also returned to the stage in the Young Vic's adaptation of A Season in the Congo, directed by Joe Wright. His performance, as Patrice Lumumba, received critical acclaim.

In 2011 television audiences saw him in the award winning THE SHADOW LINE, a thrilling drama for the BBC in which he played lead character 'Jonah Gabriel' alongside a superb cast including Christopher Eccleston, Lesley Sharp and Rafe Spall.

Chiwetel has also appeared in a number of films including SALT, alongside Angelina Jolie and Liev Schreiber and in 2009 he starred in Roland Emmerich's action feature, 12 opposite John Cusack, Danny Glover and Thandie Newton. The same year his performance in ENDGAME, Channel 4's moving drama set in South Africa, earned him a Golden Globe nomination for the 'best performance by an actor in a mini-series or a motion picture made for television'.

Chiwetel balances his film and television commitments with his theatre work. In 2008 he was seen in three very different roles; his performance in the title role of Michael Grandage's OTHELLO at the Donmar Warehouse alongside Kelly Reilly and Ewan McGregor was unanimously commended, and won him the 2008 Olivier Award for 'Best Actor', the Evening Standard Theatre Award for 'Best Actor', as well as nominations for the South Bank Show Awards 2009 and the What's On Stage Theatregoers' Choice Awards. His other stage credits include Roger Michell's BLUE/ORANGE in 2000 which received an Olivier Award for Best

Play, and the same year Tim Supple's ROMEO AND JULIET in which Chiwetel took the title role.

In 1996, Chiwetel caught the attention of Stephen Spielberg who cast him in the critically acclaimed AMISTAD, starring alongside Morgan Freeman and Anthony Hopkins. He returned to the big screen in Stephen Frears' 2001 thriller DIRTY PRETTY THINGS for which his performance as '*Okwe*' won him the Best Actor Award at the British Independent Film Awards, the Evening Standard Film Awards, and the San Diego Film Critics Society Awards. In 2003, he co-starred in three films: Richard Curtis' LOVE ACTUALLY, SLOW BURN and Woody Allen's MELINDA AND MELINDA. 2008 saw Chiwetel star in Ridley Scott's AMERICAN GANGSTER, opposite Don Cheadle in TALK TO ME, and in David Mamet's REDBELT. Chiwetel's other film credits include KINKY BOOTS (2005) in which he played the loveable drag queen 'Lola', the urban drama FOUR BROTHERS alongside Mark Wahlberg, Spike Lee's heist film INSIDE MAN alongside Clive Owen, Jodie Foster and Denzel Washington, and the Oscar nominated CHILDREN OF MEN, again alongside Clive Owen.

In addition to his acting career, Chiwetel has also directed two short films including the recent COLUMBITE TANTALITE which he also wrote, which starred Tom Hughes. The short screened at a number of short film festivals including the Palm Springs Short Film Festival, and also the short film SLAPPER which was screened at the 2008 Edinburgh Film Festival.

Iconic Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, actress and philanthropist, **MARY J. BLIGE (Irene)** is a figure of inspiration, transformation and empowerment making her one of the defining voices of the contemporary music era. With a track record of eight multi-platinum

albums, nine Grammy Awards (plus a staggering 32 nominations), two Academy Award nominations, two Golden Globe nominations, and a SAG nomination, among many other accolades, Blige has cemented herself as a global superstar. And in the ensuing years, the singer/songwriter has attracted an intensely loyal fan base—responsible for propelling worldwide sales of more than 50 million albums.

Born in the Bronx, New York, Blige began moving people with her soulful voice when at 18 she signed with Andre Harrell's Uptown Records in 1989, becoming the MCA-distributed label's youngest and first female artist. Influenced at an early age by the music of Aretha Franklin, Chaka Khan and Gladys Knight, Blige brought her own gritty, urban-rooted style—fusing hip-hop, soul and honest, frank lyrics—to the forefront on her 1992 debut album *What's the 411?* The multi-platinum set, executive produced by Sean “Diddy” Combs, quickly spun off several hits, including two No. R&B No. 1s: *You Remind Me* and *Real Love*.

Blige helped redefine R&B and began forging a unique niche for herself on the more personal second album, 1994's *My Life*. Blige is an artist that uses her gift of song to lift spirits and touch lives while bringing her heart, soul and truth to those who are willing to listen. She is loved for her passionate, chart-topping hits like *Be Without You*, *No More Drama* and *Family Affair* all of which have made her a force in music.

And thus began the Blige movement: connecting legions of fans that identify with and have accompanied her throughout her personal travails and growth—all fearlessly related through her music. Each subsequent album reads like a chapter from an autobiography: *Share My World* (1997), *Mary* (1999), *No More Drama* (2001), *Love & Life* (2003), the multiple Grammy-winning and hit-spewing *The Breakthrough* (2005), *Growing Pains* (2007) and *Stronger with Each Tear* (2009). Along the way, she's lined up a string of hit singles, including

Not Gon' Cry, Love Is All We Need, Seven Days, All That I Can Say, Family Affair and Just Fine.

In October 2013, Blige for Matriarch Records/Verve Records/Interscope Records released her first-ever holiday album titled, *A Mary Christmas* in collaboration with legendary producer, David Foster. Blige's holiday album features her soulful interpretation of classic holiday tunes including *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas*, and *The Christmas Song*. Blige is joined by a number of A-list guests, such as Barbra Streisand, and duets with Jessie J, The Clark Sisters and Spanish collaboration with Mark Anthony.

Blige, who co-penned *I Can See in Color* for 2009's PRECIOUS soundtrack, has branched out into acting. She appeared in Tyler Perry's dramatic comedy, *I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF* in 2009 and starred in *ROCK OF AGES*, alongside Tom Cruise, Alec Baldwin and Russel Brand in 2012. Taking on a more dramatic role, in 2013, she starred as Betty Shabazz in the TV movie *BETTY & CORETTA*, a biographical story about the widows of Malcom X and Martin Luther King Jr. Then in November 2013, Mary J. Blige starred as the mysterious guardian angel "Platinum Fro," in the holiday musical film drama *BLACK NATIVITY*. Ramping up her acting career, Blige played Evillene, the Wicked Witch of the West, on the NBC musical, *THE WIZ LIVE!*

In 2014, Blige released her 13th studio album, *The London Sessions*, which reached the No.1 position on the Top R&B Albums chart and included a behind-the-scene documentary of her recording sessions that premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival 2015.

Blige toured with Maxwell on The King and Queen of Hearts World Tour in 2016 and released her 14th album titled *Strength of a Woman* on April 28, 2017. Her single, "Thick of It,"

held the number 1 spot on the Urban AC Chart for 16 consecutive weeks after its release in November. Blige also scored her latest #1 single off this album with “U + Me (Love Lesson).”

Last May, VH1 premiered a documentary from Blige titled **STRENGTH OF A WOMAN: AN ALBUM DOCUMENTARY**. The film gives fans a close and intimate look at the making of her album, with studio footage and exclusive interviews with Blige, as well as the inspiration behind the writing and direction.

Most recently, Blige starred as Florence Jackson in the 2017 Netflix breakout film **MUDBOUND**, to which she has received critical acclaim.

Next up, Blige will star in the upcoming Netflix series **THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY**, which begins production later this month in Toronto. This will mark Blige’s first regular role on a TV series, having previously appeared in guest roles on numerous shows such as ABC’s **HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER** and **BLACK-ISH** as well as the FOX musical drama **EMPIRE**.

MICHAEL CAINE (Redbrick) is a two-time Academy Award® winning film legend whose career has spanned six decades. Caine won his first Oscar® for Best Supporting Actor for his work in Woody Allen’s **HANNAH AND HER SISTERS** for which he also received Golden Globe® and BAFTA Award nominations. He took home his second Best Supporting Actor Oscar® for his role in Lasse Hallström’s **THE CIDER HOUSE RULES**, also winning a Screen Actors Guild Award® and earning Golden Globe and BAFTA Award nominations.

Caine has garnered four Oscar® nominations for Best Actor, the first coming in 1966 for the title role in **ALFIE**, for which he also received a Golden Globe® nomination and a New York Film Critics Award. He earned his second Oscar nod, as well as a Golden Globe® nomination

and an Evening Standard Award, for the part of Milo Tindle in 1972's SLEUTH, opposite Laurence Olivier. His role in EDUCATING RITA brought him his third Oscar® nomination, as well as Golden Globe® and BAFTA Awards. He gained his latest Oscar®, Golden Globe® and BAFTA Award nominations for his work in 2002's THE QUIET AMERICAN, for which he also won a London Film Critics Circle Award.

Caine previously won Golden Globe® and London Film Critics Circle Awards and received a BAFTA Award nomination, all for Best Supporting Actor, for LITTLE VOICE. He won his latest London Film Critics Circle Award for his performance in Christopher Nolan's period drama THE PRESTIGE. It was his second film for the director following their collaboration on the 2005 hit BATMAN BEGINS, in which Caine played Bruce Wayne's butler and confidant, Alfred. In 2008 and 2012, he reprised the role of Alfred in Nolan's blockbusters THE DARK KNIGHT and THE DARK KNIGHT RISES. In 2012, he also completed working with director Sandra Nettleback ON MR. MORGAN'S LAST LOVE, based on the novel "La Douceur Assassine" by Francoise Dorner, as well as on Louis Leterrier's NOW YOU SEE ME, with Morgan Freeman, Mark Ruffalo, Jesse Eisenberg, and Woody Harrelson.

Caine was born Maurice Micklewhite in South London in 1933 and developed an interest in acting at an early age. Upon his discharge from the Queen's Royal Regiment and Royal Fusiliers in 1953, he began pursuing his career. Taking his stage name from the title THE CAINE MUTINY, he toured Britain in a variety of plays and began appearing in British films and television shows.

In 1964, Caine landed his first major film role as Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead in ZULU. The following year, he starred in the hit thriller THE IPCRESS FILE, earning his first of 37 BAFTA Award nominations for his portrayal of secret agent Harry Palmer. However, it was

his Oscar®-nominated performance in the seminal sixties film ALFIE that catapulted Caine to international stardom. During the late 1960s, he went on to star in 11 films, including THE IPCRESS FILE sequels, FUNERAL IN BERLIN and BILLION DOLLAR BRAIN; GAMBIT, earning a Golden Globe® nomination; HURRY SUNDOWN; WOMAN TIMES SEVEN; DEADFALL; THE MAGUS; THE ITALIAN JOB; and BATTLE OF BRITAIN.

Over the next two decades, Caine starred in more than 40 films, including Robert Aldrich's TOO LATE THE HERO; X, Y AND ZEE, opposite Elizabeth Taylor; John Huston's THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING; HARRY AND WALTER GO TO NEW YORK; Richard Attenborough's A BRIDGE TOO FAR; the Neil Simon comedy CALIFORNIA SUITE; Brian De Palma's DRESSED TO KILL; John Huston's VICTORY; Sidney Lumet's DEATHTRAP; Stanley Donen's BLAME IT ON RIO; John Frankenheimer's THE HOLCROFT COVENANT; Neil Jordan's MONA LISA; and DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS, for which he received a Golden Globe® nomination.

Since then, Caine has starred in such films as BLOOD AND WINE, QUILLS, MISS CONGENIALITY, and AUSTIN POWERS: GOLDMEMBER, Gore Verbinski's THE WEATHER MAN, Alfonso Cuarón's CHILDREN OF MEN, the title role in the independent film HARRY BROWN, and reuniting with Christopher Nolan in smash hits INCEPTION and INTERSTELLAR. He lent his voice to Lord Redbrick in GNOMEO & JULIET and also appears in JOURNEY 2: MYSTERIOUS ISLAND for New Line/Warner Bros. Caine has also starred in Matthew Vaughn's KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE; Oscar-winning filmmaker Paolo Sorrentino's YOUTH; and Zach Braff's GOING IN STYLE, alongside Morgan Freeman and Alan Arkin.

Also an author, Caine wrote an autobiography entitled “What’s It All About?” as well as “Acting on Film,” a book based on a series of lectures he gave on BBC Television. His latest memoir, “The Elephant to Hollywood,” was published to much acclaim in 2010 by Henry Holt and Co. in the United States.

In the 1992 Queen’s Birthday Honours, Caine was awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.), and eight years later he received a knighthood.

Caine will next be seen starring in NIGHT IN HATTON GARDEN, directed by James Marsh, alongside Jim Broadbent, Ray Winstone, and Paul Whitehouse. Caine is also producing and narrating MY GENERATION, a bold, musically driven documentary about Britain in the sixties, which features Paul McCartney, Keith Richards, and other icons of the decade.

ASHLEY JENSEN (Nanette) is an Emmy-nominated, BAFTA award-winning Scottish actress who has appeared in numerous television and film productions.

Ashley is perhaps best known for her roles as Maggie Jacobs in Ricky Gervais’ award winning comedy EXTRAS, and as Christina McKinney in ABC’s popular series UGLY BETTY starring America Ferrera.

Last year saw Ashley return to the BBC in the much anticipated drama LOVE LIES & RECORDS written by Kay Mellor in which she played the lead role Kate Dickenson. She also starred in CATASTROPHE on Channel4, the hit comedy series created by Sharon Horgan and Rob Delaney which has received much acclaim both in the UK and in the USA. In the series, Ashley plays Fran, Sharon’s best frenemy.

Following the success of 2014’s one-off Christmas special, in 2016 Ashley reprised her role as AGATHA RAISIN in the eponymous 8-part series for SKY 1.

In 2015, Ashley starred alongside Colin Farrell, Rachel Weisz and Olivia Colman in THE LOBSTER, the critically acclaimed and BAFTA nominated film directed by Yorgos Lanthimos; and in Robert Carlyle's directorial debut BARNEY THOMSON.

MATT LUCAS (Benny) first came to prominence in SHOOTING STARS with Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer. Together with David Walliams, he reaped massive success with the smash hit series LITTLE BRITAIN. The three BBC series and 2 Christmas specials won nearly every award for which they were nominated including 3 BAFTA's. LITTLE BRITAIN LIVE was one of the world's largest comedy tours ever and ran for over 2 years in the UK and Australia. This was followed by LITTLE BRITAIN USA for HBO in the U.S. and BBC1 in the UK, and COME FLY WITH ME for BBC1 which was the most viewed TV comedy that year. Matt also completed two series of THE MATT LUCAS AWARDS for BBC1, and POMPIDOU for BBC2. Matt has played Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum in both Disney ALICE IN WONDERLAND films. He also played Gil in BRIDESMAIDS and appeared in the hit adaptation PADDINGTON. His latest film roles include the sci-fi comedy HOW TO TALK TO GIRLS AT PARTIES and A FUTILE AND STUPID GESTURE. He has appeared on a number of US comedies including COMMUNITY, PORTLANDIA and FRESH OFF THE BOAT. Back in the UK, Matt recently starred as the series regular Nardole in DOCTOR WHO series 10. He fulfilled a lifetime ambition to appear in LES MISERABLES playing Thenardier in both the 25th Anniversary Concert at the O2 Arena, and for a run in the West End. His memoir LITTLE ME was published by Cannongate this Autumn. Matt can soon be seen in Jonas Åkerlund's new feature film POLAR, and will open as the lead in ME AND MY GIRL at Chichester in the summer.

STEPHEN MERCHANT (Paris) is an Emmy, BAFTA and Golden Globe winning actor, comedian, writer, director and producer and one of the most versatile talents in TV and film.

He has just written and directed MGM/Film 4's **FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY**, a movie he co-produced with Dwayne Johnson, based on the true story of WWE Superstar Paige and her family of professional wrestlers. He has also just reprised his role as "Paris" in Paramount Pictures' animated kids film **SHERLOCK GNOMES**, set for release on March 23rd. Merchant is currently in production on the crime thriller **THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB**, appearing opposite Claire Foy. He continues to serve as executive producer on Paramount Network's Emmy-nominated hit series **LIP SYNC BATTLE** and Adult Swim's surreal comedy **DREAM CORP, LLC**.

In 2017 Merchant was widely lauded for his role as the mutant "Caliban" in the international blockbuster movie **LOGAN**, alongside Hugh Jackman as "Wolverine". Prior to that he was star, co-creator, co-writer and director of HBO's **HELLO LADIES**, a sitcom based on his live stand-up comedy show of the same name. The series ended with a one-hour HBO special and received two nominations at the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards.

Merchant first shot to prominence as co-creator (alongside Ricky Gervais) of BBC's **THE OFFICE** and **EXTRAS**, both of which were critically acclaimed, earning multiple comedy series awards, including three BAFTA Awards, two British Comedy Awards, two Golden Globe Awards, a Primetime Emmy Award, and a Peabody Award. Additionally, Merchant received a British Comedy Award for "Best TV Comedy Actor" for his role in **EXTRAS** and, in 2004, accepted their "Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award" alongside Gervais.

Merchant also served as an executive producer on the long-running US adaptation of THE OFFICE, which received five Primetime Emmy Awards and 42 nominations during its run on NBC.

He and Gervais appeared alongside Karl Pilkington in AN IDIOT ABROAD, a highly successful live-action travelogue series which Merchant also co-produced. Merchant and Gervais both appeared in LIFE'S TOO SHORT, a pseudo-documentary on BBC/HBO which they jointly wrote and directed, and in 2010, the two directed their first feature film, a 1970s-set comedy-drama titled CEMETERY JUNCTION. Merchant's additional film credits and cameos include TABLE 19, I GIVE IT A YEAR, HALL PASS, TOOTH FAIRY and HOT FUZZ.

Merchant began his career as a stand-up comedian in the UK in 1997 and shortly thereafter became co-host of XFM London's THE RICKY GERVAIS SHOW. In 2005, the program was reformatted as a weekly podcast that went on to be consistently ranked as number one in the world, and was certified as the most downloaded podcast of all time by the *Guinness Book of World Records*. The program was later adapted into an animated version of the same name for HBO and Channel 4.

Aside from his on-screen work, Merchant has also travelled the globe as a stand-up comedian. He most recently toured the US, UK, Australia, and New Zealand with his stand-up show, STEPHEN MERCHANT LIVE: HELLO LADIES.

He currently splits his time between Los Angeles and London.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JOHN STEVENSON (Director) has over four decades of experience in film development and production. Most recently Stevenson directed SHERLOCK GNOMES for Paramount and MGM, a sequel to the 2011 hit GNOMEO AND JULIET, and an animated twist on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous detective.

Starting off in Jim Henson's puppet studios in London at age 19, Stevenson's passion for story telling has been at the core of every project he has worked on since.

Stevenson directed KUNG FU PANDA with Mark Osborne, which starred Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman and Angelina Jolie. Released in the summer of 2008, KUNG FU PANDA has grossed over \$600 million worldwide and spawned two sequels. In 2009 Stevenson was nominated for an Academy Award with Mark Osborne, and both won the Annie for best direction of an animated feature.

Stevenson has lectured on the creative process of story development in China, Malaysia, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand and at schools such as USC, UCLA, Oklahoma Arts Institute, Ulster University of the Arts, Ireland, the University of Andong, Korea, and for companies such as Sony PlayStation, Lego, and Valve.

Prior to the release of KUNG FU PANDA, Stevenson directed four episodes of the DreamWorks prime time television series FATHER OF THE PRIDE and held the post of Head of Story at PDI/DreamWorks serving as story artist for the DreamWorks worldwide blockbusters SHREK, SHREK 2 and MADAGASCAR. While there, he also created storyboards for the animated features SPIRIT: STALLION OF THE CIMARRON, and SINBAD: LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS. A core member of PDI/DreamWorks' creative review committee,

Stevenson had input on a variety of projects and also taught classes on the story process to artists at PDI and the San Francisco-based Wild Brain Productions.

The mid-to-late '90s saw Stevenson working on multiple feature and television animation projects. He provided the lead voice for the pilot of the series MR. BABY; designed characters for DreamWorks Television's TOONSYLVANIA; and worked as a storyboard artist and character designer for DreamWorks/PDI's ANTZ, Pixar's TOY STORY 2, and Nickelodeon's pilot FATHEAD. During this period, he also acted as an independent creative consultant to CBS, NBC, Walt Disney Productions, Colossal Pictures and Protozoa Pictures. He worked with Henry Selick as head of story/creative development for Twitching Image, Inc., as puppeteer for the animatronic rhinoceros in Disney's JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (also drawing storyboards) and directed an episode of Film Roman/CBS's THE TWISTED TALES OF FELIX THE CAT.

As a staff Designer/Director for Colossal Pictures from '91 to '95, Stevenson worked in multiple capacities on the animated series BACK TO THE FUTURE and MOXY—PIRATE TV SHOW; created advertising spots for Cheerios, Little Caesars and Parker Bros. and developed show formats and concepts for Nickelodeon/CBS. He served as art director, character designer and storyboard artist on the Central Television series THE DREAMSTONE.

His previous freelance career as an artist, illustrator, character designer and art director exposed him to projects in nearly every medium, working on theme parks, museums, album covers, commercials, and various feature films and television shows. Films included LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, LABYRINTH, THE DARK CRYSTAL and THE GREAT MUPPET CAPER. His career began in 1977 working with Jim Henson on THE MUPPET SHOW.

A multiple Grammy-winning legend and flamboyant superstar, **SIR ELTON JOHN (Executive Producer)** is the most enduringly successful singer/songwriter of his generation.

Sir Elton Hercules John, CBE, is one of the most highly acclaimed and successful solo artists of all time.

Elton has achieved 38 gold and 31 platinum or multi-platinum albums, has sold more than 300 million records worldwide, and holds the record for the biggest selling single of all time, *Candle In The Wind 1997*. Since launching his first tour in 1970, Elton has over 4,000 performances in more than 80 countries to his credit.

Elton is the third most successful artist in the history of the American charts, behind only Elvis Presley and the Beatles. He has had 57 top 40 singles in the United States, a total second only to Elvis Presley. He achieved seven #1 albums in the three-and-a-half-year period from 1972 to 1975 — a period of concentrated success surpassed only by the Beatles.

Elton was born on March 25, 1947, in Pinner, Middlesex, England, and given the name Reginald Kenneth Dwight. At the age of three he astonished his family by sitting at the piano and playing *The Skater's Waltz* by ear. At the age of 11 he was awarded a scholarship as a Junior Exhibitor at the Royal Academy of Music and he attended the Academy on Saturday mornings for the next four years.

Besides his knighthood, Elton's landmark awards include Best British Male Artist BRIT Award, 1991; Songwriters Hall of Fame (with Bernie Taupin), 1992; Officer of Arts & Letters (France) 1993; induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, 1994; Polar Music Prize, 1995; MusiCares Person of the Year, 2000; Kennedy Center Honor, 2004; Billboard Magazine Legend of Live Award, 2006; Songwriters Hall of Fame Johnny Mercer Award (with Bernie Taupin), 2013; BRITs Icon Award, 2013; Rockefeller Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, 2013 and the

Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative Leadership Award, 2013. In 2002, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Royal Academy of Music and in 2004 he became a Fellow of the British Academy of Songwriters and Composers.

Elton has won 12 Ivor Novello Awards between 1973 and 2000, been nominated for a Grammy Award 11 times (winning in 1986, 1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000), and received the Grammy Legend Award in 2001. Three of his albums have been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame, including his 1970 eponymous album. Elton has 3 Oscar Award nominations (winning in 1995), and a Tony Award (with 4 nominations) for Best Original Score for *Elton John and Tim Rice's Aida* in 2000.

Musical Theatre

Elton has composed songs, in collaboration with lyricists Sir Tim Rice, Lee Hall, and Bernie Taupin, for:

★ *The Lion King* (1998) – Six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and named the highest-grossing stage show or film release in the world.

★ *Elton John & Tim Rice's Aida* (2000) – Tony Award for Best Original Score; Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album.

★ *Billy Elliot the Musical* (2005) – Olivier Award for Best Musical; 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

★ *Lestat* (2006)

Sports

Music may be Elton John's first passion, but another abiding interest runs it a close second: sport.

In some ways, it's an unsurprising second love, as the parallels are numerous. A devotion to high-level performance, the adrenaline rush of playing in front of big crowds — and the ever-present knowledge that you're only as good as your last performance. To rise to — and stay — at the top in both disciplines also requires similar qualities: stamina, endless practice and an unstinting professional approach. Oh yes, and a rich seam of natural talent.

Elton's most publicized involvement with the sporting world is his enduring connection with Watford Football Club. It was the club he supported as a boy and of which he later became Chairman, guiding it to the highest echelon of the professional game in England.

In 2012, he founded Rocket Sports Management, with the aim of guiding emergent sporting stars through their careers, whatever the highs and lows.

Charities

When Elton is not recording or touring he devotes his efforts to a variety of charities, including his own Elton John AIDS Foundation, which has raised over \$300 million and funded programs across four continents in the 24 years it has existed. He has also been a regular performer at fundraisers for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, the Rainforest Foundation, and the Robin Hood Foundation. Elton is Patron or Ambassador to 23 charities and is a Member of Executive Advisory Board to four charities and endows scholarship funds at The Royal Academy of Music and the Julliard School of Music.

Rocket Entertainment

Rocket Entertainment Group incorporates Rocket Music, Rocket Pictures, Rocket Stage and Rocket Sports. Each has been co-founded by Elton John and focuses on the development and management of artists, athletes and projects across the entertainment industry as a whole.

DAVID FURNISH (Producer) is the Chief Executive Officer of Rocket Entertainment & Chairman of the Elton John Aids Foundation. David Furnish was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. He began his career in advertising and became a filmmaker in 1995, directing the BAFTA nominated documentary ELTON JOHN: TANTRUMS & TIARAS.

David Furnish is an entrepreneur with a global and strategic outlook occupying a unique intersection of philanthropy, film, music and theatre. He is also a huge advocate for fashion and is an ambassador to the Men's London Fashion Council.

In 2015 David assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer of Rocket Entertainment, which comprises Rocket Pictures (creator of the hugely successful GNOMEO & JULIET, which will soon be followed up with SHERLOCK GNOMES), Rocket Stage, Rocket Music (managing a number of artists, including Sir Elton John and until recently, Ed Sheeran) and Rocket Sports Management (manages international athletes including cyclists Laura Trott and Geraint Thomas). David is extremely proud of his work surrounding the creation of BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL. As Executive Producer, he has been involved in productions as they have rolled out across the world.

David is also Chairman of the Elton John AIDS Foundation. A tireless campaigner, David is a leading voice in the worldwide fight against HIV and AIDS. To date, the Elton John Aids Foundation has raised in excess of \$385 million to fund prevention and treatment.

STEVE HAMILTON SHAW (Producer) is Producer of SHERLOCK GNOMES and Writer-Producer of GNOMEO & JULIET. He first joined Rocket Pictures as Head of Development before producing his first movie for the company IT'S A BOY GIRL THING in 2005 at the age of 30.

From 2008 onwards Steve has run the company overseeing its transition into one of the few independent production companies delivering large budget animation features. Steve also established Rocket Stage, a stage entertainment company for Rocket and has exec-produced tv series SPECTACLE: ELVIS COSTELLO WITH... for the Sundance Channel, and HBO pilot VIRTUOSO with Alan Ball.

Prior to joining Rocket, Steve had stints in creative executive positions with New Line Cinema, LionsGate UK and PolyGram.

Steve is now focusing exclusively on CG and animation-based entertainment, with his next project being an animated adaptation of Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber and Sir Tim Rice's global stage phenomena JOSEPH & HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT.

CAROLYN SOPER (Producer) is the Producer of SHERLOCK GNOMES. She first joined Rocket Pictures in 2012 as Head of Production, with a major goal of getting Sherlock into production. During her first two years in the UK, Rocket Pictures launched Stage, Live Action, Animation and Digital Divisions. In 2015, upon Greenlight of the film, she moved to producing SHERLOCK.

Prior to working for Rocket Pictures, Carolyn spent many years at the Walt Disney Company, starting out at Buena Vista Visual Effects as a Visual Effects Producer and finishing out her 20 odd years there as Head of Production at Walt Disney Animation Studios.

Some of the visual effects movies she was involved with are DICK TRACY, HONEY, I BLEW UP THE KID, DIE HARD WITH A VENGEANCE, THE MANGLER and in animation: DINOSAUR, CHICKEN LITTLE, BOLT, MEET THE ROBINSONS, PRINCESS AND THE FROG and TANGLED.

Between Disney and Rocket, she took a 2 year sojourn into designing and creating clothing. This culminated in a Soper Silhouette gown being worn on the Emmy Awards red carpet...and up to the podium for a win! Then Animation and Rocket Pictures called and back into the fray she went.

KEVIN CECIL and ANDY RILEY (Writers) are an Emmy-winning writing team who have written on many of the best loved comedy series of the last twenty years, including **LITTLE BRITAIN**, **TRACEY ULLMAN'S SHOW**, **THE ARMANDO IANNUCCI SHOWS** and **SMACK THE PONY**. They were supervising producers and writers on seasons 3 and 4 of HBO's acclaimed **VEEP**.

They were the lead writers on the BAFTA winning comedy **BLACK BOOKS**, created and wrote the BBC2 comedies **HYPERDRIVE** and **THE GREAT OUTDOORS**, and their adaptations of David Walliams' bestselling books **GANGSTA GRANNY**, **THE BOY IN THE DRESS** and most recently Kevin's adaptations of **GRANDPA'S GREAT ESCAPE** and **RATBURGER** have become a loved and hugely successful part of the annual Christmas schedule. In 2011 they co-wrote the critically acclaimed box-office success, **GNOMEO AND JULIET**.

Andy and Kevin have created, and are currently developing, a period scripted comedy series starring Matt Berry for Objective and Channel 4.

Andy is also an author who has been published in more than twenty countries. His books include the **BUNNY SUICIDES** and **KING FLASHYPANTS** series.

EMILY COOK (Writer) began her film career as a runner for Working Title Films in London (Four Weddings and a Funeral). After 9 years and a move to LA, she became VP (FARGO, THE BIG LEBOWSKI, HIGH FIDELITY), before leaving to write. Cook and Kathy Greenberg wrote on Pixar's RATATOUILLE, Disney's GNOMEO AND JULIET and the TV series IMPOSTERS. Together they have written for every major studio and are currently adapting the BBC TV series, Thirteen.

KATHY GREENBERG (Writer) began her film career as an executive at IndieProd/Tristar (THE QUICK AND THE DEAD, MARY REILLY) then as VP at Jim Henson films (BUDDY, GOOD BOY, MUPPETS IN SPACE) and SVP Working Title (ELIZABETH, HI-LO COUNTRY) before leaving to write. Greenberg is the Co-creator of the Showtime series THE L WORD and was a writer with Emily Cook on Pixar's RATATOUILLE, Disney's GNOMEO AND JULIET and the TV series IMPOSTERS.

RICHARD SWEREN (Writer) is currently a writer and a Co-Executive Producer of the NBC series LAW & ORDER: SVU. Other TV credits include CHICAGO JUSTICE, LAW & ORDER (14 seasons), LAW & ORDER: LOS ANGELES and TAXI: BROOKLYN. He has also written on the soon-to-be-released animated Paramount feature film SHERLOCK GNOMES. Richard has also developed drama pilots for ABC, CBS, E! and Legendary TV. He was a co-winner of the Writers Guild of America Award for Best Episodic Drama in 1998, a two-time co-winner of the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Award, and a multiple Emmy Award nominee.

Chicago native **BEN ZAZOVE (Writer)** quit his job as a litigator to pursue his dream of writing movies. Since then, Zazove has written projects for Fox, Dreamworks, Paramount, and Sony as well as independent financiers and mini-majors. **SHERLOCK GNOMES** marks his first foray into the world of animation. He just finished adapting **THE LAST CHRISTMAS**, a hard-R animated Christmas movie, for Sony Animation and is currently writing **THE GHOST GHOSTBUSTERS**, an animated Ghostbusters movie as told from the perspective of the ghosts. He has one wife, one dog, and zero garden gnomes.

PRAKASH PATEL (Editor) got his start in animation simply by being older than his contemporaries.

Looking for his first industry job after leaving the Northern Film School, any job would do and he was hired as a runner by prestigious Bristol based animation company Aardman (**WALLACE AND GROMIT: CURSE OF THE WERERABBIT, CHICKEN RUN, EARLY MAN**) solely because he met the company mandated age requirement to drive a van that all the other fellow candidates were too young to meet. Hewas promptly dispatched to drive all over the South West of England to pick up miniature props and sets in the days before Sat Nav. As a runner on **CURSE OF THE WERERABBIT**, he observed the meticulous attention to detail and oceans of sweat and love poured into every single frame of animation that eventually ended up on screen, but it still wasn't enough to persuade him a career in animation was for him.

However, a junior position in Aardman's commercial editorial department opened up and, again, good fortune and age played their part, because at that time the editorial department was shifting from **AVID** (the then de facto edit programme of all editors) to **Final Cut Pro** (the new young upstart in the editing world) and word got out that Prakash was young enough to have

used the programme a couple of times. He didn't fully understand FCP, but that didn't matter - it was still more than most of the others in the editorial department knew. Pulled into editorial for his "expertise", Prakash taught the editors which buttons to press in FCP that used to do the same thing in AVID and, in turn, they taught him about animation editing, a craft that at the time looked like black magic to Prakash (imagine editing a film with footage and performances that don't yet exist). Over the course of a few years he rose through the ranks to become Commercials editor for Aardman, and by the time he left the company to cut TV animation for series such as PLANET SKETCH (Dir. Alexs Steaderman) and CHUGGINGTON (Dir. Sarah Ball), he was a true animation convert.

Taking a sideways to move into features, Prakash rejoined Aardman as Assistant Editor on ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (Dir. Sarah Smith; Editors: James Cooper & John Carnochan) and then moved to Paris to join the team on MINIONS (Drs. Pierre Coffin & Kyle Balda; Editor Claire Dodgson).

SHERLOCK GNOMES is his first feature film as editor.

MARK SOLOMON (Editor) is an American film editor with a memorable body of work in animated features. He cut his teeth on SPACE JAM in 1996 and went on to edit some of the most highly regarded films of the past three decades.

Before SHERLOCK GNOMES, Mark edited FRANKENWEENIE, Oscar and BAFTA nominated as Best Animated Feature, 2013 and was nominated by A.C.E. for Best Editing of an Animated Feature. Prior work includes ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH, THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX, SHARK TALE, and CHICKEN RUN, (Golden Globe nominee for Best Picture). Currently, Mark is finishing SGT. STUBBY: AN AMERICAN HERO for Fun Academy where he additionally serves as Vice President of Development.

With an eye to supporting future filmmakers, Mark has lectured and taught at film schools in the USA and throughout the UK. He lives in London where he continues to enjoy creative collaborations on projects large and small.

CHRIS BACON (Composer) burst onto the film scoring scene with his full throttled score for Duncan Jones's hit thriller SOURCE CODE. "From the point that I could start thinking about what I wanted to do when I grew up," says Chris Bacon, "it was always to write movie music." Having cut his teeth as a protégé—orchestrating, co-composing, and writing additional music—of James Newton Howard (on films like GNOMEO AND JULIET and KING KONG), Bacon made his solo debut with the score for ANGELS FALL and hasn't looked back. He gave animated accompaniments to SPACE CHIMPS and ALPHA AND OMEGA, and composed the dramatic score for the war documentary HIGH GROUND produced by Don Hahn. Chris also wrote the underscore for the second half of NBC's SMASH season one, which earned him his first Emmy Award Nomination. Chris recently received his second Emmy Award Nomination on BATES MOTEL for best Original Dramatic Score for a Series. He has also contributed additional music to David O. Russell's Academy Award nominated AMERICAN HUSTLE, Marvel Studios' AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON, PADDINGTON produced by David Heyman, and Sony Picture's GOOSEBUMPS. His most recent work includes Rob Reiner's BEING CHARLIE and ABC's TV drama WHEN WE RISE starring Guy Pearce and Mary-Louise Parker, the Amazon reboot THE TICK directed by Wally Pfister, starring Jackie Earle Haley, and the Fox feature SNATCHED directed by Jonathan Levine. Upcoming for Chris is the Paramount animation-adventure feature, SHERLOCK GNOMES.

Bacon grew up in Utah, learning playing piano and saxophone before studying music composition in college. He moved to L.A. to attend USC's film scoring program, which resulted in his apprenticeship with Howard. "It comes back to instinct," he says of his process, "and for better or worse, following my ears."