O.G.

Directed by
Madeleine Sackler

Written by
Stephen Belber

Produced by
Madeleine Sackler, Boyd Holbrook

Executive Produced by
Sharon Chang, Mark Steele, Kareem “Biggs” Burke

Starring
Jeffrey Wright, William Fichtner, Theothus Carter, Mare Winningham, Boyd Holbrook, David Patrick Kelly

Running Time: 113 minutes

Festival Screenings:
Public Screening 1 – Friday, April 20, 2018 at 7:00PM – SVA Theater – 02 Beatrice
Press & Industry Screening 1 – Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 9:15AM - Cinépolis Chelsea – 01
Public Screening 2 – Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 4:30PM - Cinépolis Chelsea – 03
Public Screening 3 – Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 10:00PM – Cinépolis Chelsea – 09
Press & Industry Screening 2 – Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 10:45AM – Cinépolis Chelsea – 01
Public Screening 4 – Friday, April 27, 2018 at 5:45PM – Regal Battery Park Stadium – 03

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SYNOPSIS

Madeleine Sackler’s debut narrative feature, O.G., is a starkly honest look at life in a maximum-security prison. It is a depiction unlike anything that’s been seen before in the prison film genre.

Sackler deftly blurs the lines between fact and fiction by using both professional actors and men who are incarcerated.

Set in an active maximum-security prison in Indiana, O.G. follows Louis (Jeffrey Wright) as he waits out the final weeks of his 24-year long sentence. Once the head of a prominent prison gang, Louis has retired from gang activity. However, his careful distancing from prison politics is upended when he takes a new arrival, Dante Beecher (Theothus Carter), under his wing.

As Louis’s protectiveness for Beecher grows, he is drawn back into the conflict of prison society. Throughout the film, Louis is called upon by Investigator Danvers (William Fichtner), who hopes that he will help to uncover the conspiracy that is unfolding in the prison. Pulled by self-preservation, a sense of old-school honor and code, as well as a desire to prevent harm, Louis finds himself in an agonizing dilemma that could threaten his own future and the safety of many.

Louis’s outward struggle to contain the simmering violence is matched by his inner fears of reuniting with his family and creating a new life on the now unfamiliar outside. He must also come to grips with the indelibility of his crime, regardless of whether he lives out the rest of his life inside or outside the prison walls.

ABOUT THE CAST

JEFFREY WRIGHT

Tony, Emmy, AFI and Golden Globe Award-winning actor Jeffrey Wright has enjoyed an illustrious career that has spanned the worlds of theatre, film and television.

Wright can be seen in his Emmy-nominated role as Bernard Lowe in HBO’s WESTWORLD. The drama series explores the infamous futuristic theme park where the rich flock to fulfill their wildest fantasies and the perils that ensue when illusions become realities. Wright recently played Harvard Law professor Charles Ogletree in HBO’s CONFIRMATION; a film that chronicled Anita Hill’s sexual harassment testimony in Clarence Thomas’ 1991 Supreme Court hearings. Wright’s recent television appearances also include his portrayal of Dr. Valentin Narcisse in HBO’s critically acclaimed series BOARDWALK EMPIRE. Wright was nominated for Critics Choice Television Award in the category of "Best Supporting Actor" for his portrayal of Narcisse, as well as a Screen Actors Guild Award in the category of "Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series" on behalf of the show.

On the big screen, Wright was recently cast as Hobie in the upcoming film, THE GOLDFINCH, adapted from Donna Tartt’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Other recent feature credits include: Pixar’s animated film THE GOOD DINOSAUR, where he voiced the role of Poppa Henry; and THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2, where he reprised his role as Beetee, the electronics and wiring expert from District 3. Wright previously starred in THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2, and THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE.
A gifted theater actor, Wright was most recently on stage as the lead in John Guare's "A Free Man of Color" at Lincoln Center, directed by George C. Wolfe, a frequent collaborator. In 2001 and 2002 respectively, he earned an Obie award and a Tony nomination for his work in the play "Topdog/Underdog." Wright garnered a Tony® Award in 1994 for his portrayal in Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic "Angels in America," also directed by George C. Wolfe. Wright reprised his Angels role in HBO's 2003 mini-series adaption of the play, earning both a Golden Globe and an Emmy for his groundbreaking performance.

On film, Wright has portrayed a stunning array of icons and iconoclasts. His brilliant portrayal of the renowned and controversial graffiti artist, Jean Michel Basquiat, in the 1996 film BASQUIAT, received widespread praise from critics and earned him an Independent Spirit Award® nomination. On the other end of the spectrum, Wright has taken on roles in the 2006 and 2008 James Bond films, CASINO ROYALE and QUANTUM OF SOLACE and also in 2008, starred as Muddy Waters in CADILLAC RECORDS and as Colin Powell in Oliver Stone's W. In 2005, he co-starred in the award-winning film SYRIANA, and his other credits include Stephen Daldry's EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDBLY CLOSE; Jonathan Demme's remake of THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE; Jim Jarmusch's ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE and BROKEN FLOWERS, earning him another Independent Spirit Award® nomination; Ang Lee's RIDE WITH THE DEVIL; Allen Hughes' political thriller BROKEN CITY; George Clooney's THE IDES OF MARCH; and SHAFT.

In addition to acting, Wright is founded and Vice Chairman of Taia Lion Resources and co-founder and Chairman of Taia Peace Foundation. He is the co-founder of the Ebola Survival Fund and is on the advisory board of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). He also serves on the boards of directors of the Tribeca Film Institute and Resolve. Wright was named by the Government of Sierra Leone as the “Peace by Piece” Ambassador for that country's 2011 50th Anniversary Independence Celebration, and in 2011, Wright was named honorary Paramount Chief of Penguia Chiefdom, Sierra Leone.

Born in Washington, D.C., Wright graduated from Amherst College, receiving a B.A. in political science in 1987 and earned a doctorate of humane letters from his alma mater in 2004. Wright resides in Brooklyn, NY with his family.

WILLIAM FICHTNER

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

Most recently Fichtner can be seen in Jerry Bruckheimer’s feature film 12 STRONG. Upcoming for Fichtner is ALL THE DEVILS MEN with Matthew Hope directing. He also co-starred in FINDING STEVE MCQUEEN with Forest Whitaker, directed by Mark Steven Johnson, then opposite Jeffery Wright in the Indie feature O.G. directed by Madeleine Sackler, ARMED starring and directed by Mario Van Peebles and HOT SUMMER NIGHTS directed by Elijah Bynam. Fichtner starred in the ensemble Indie feature KRYSALA directed by William H. Macy, as well as the indie feature AMERICAN WRESTLER: THE WIZARD starring alongside Jon Voight. He also starred and produced the indie feature THE NEIGHBOR. Prior to that he can be seen in INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURRGENCE directed by Roland Emmerich, Paramount’s TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLE, in director Gore Verbinski’s THE LONE RANGER and Neil Blomkamp’s ELYSIUM.

Pivoting to the other side of the camera, Fichtner just wrapped his film COLD BROOK, that he directed, produced, co-wrote, and starred in, that filmed in his hometown of Buffalo, New York.
Segueing between television and feature films, Fichtner led an ensemble cast in the original first 2 seasons of the international crime series CROSSING LINES. He recurred on HBO’s ENTOURAGE from 2009-2011 and played ‘FBI Agent Alexander Mahone’ for three seasons on Fox’s hit drama series, PRISON BREAK. Most recently recurred on the TV show EMPIRE and currently a regular on MOM from creator Chuck Lorre.

Fichtner co-starred in writer-director Paul Haggis’ Academy Award-winning CRASH. For his performance in that film, he shared a Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Ensemble Cast in a Feature Film. His other film credits include the Tommy Lee Jones’ feature THE HOMESMEN, the John Stockwell-directed SEAL TEAM SIX: THE RAID ON OSAMA BIN LADEN; DRIVE ANGRY for director Patrick Lussier and THE BIG BANG for director Tony Krantz. He also was seen in director Shawn Levy’s DATE NIGHT; BLADES OF GLORY with Will Ferrell; Chris Nolan’s THE DARK KNIGHT; the remake of THE LONGEST YARD; the comedy THE AMATEURS with Jeff Bridges; Rodrigo Garcia’s NINE LIVES; Arie Posin’s THE CHUMSCRUBBER; Ridley Scott’s BLACK HAWK DOWN; WHAT’S THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN; Wolfgang Peterson’s THE PERFECT STORM; DROWNING MONA; ULTRAVIOLET and EQUILIBRIUM, both for writer-director Kurt Wimmer, ARMAGEDDON directed by Michael Bay; Michael Mann’s HEAT; Robert Zemeckis’ CONTACT; Doug Liman’s GO; STRANGE DAYS directed by Katherine Bigelow; PASSION OF MIND; Steven Soderbergh’s THE UNDERNEATH; SWITCHBACK; Agnieszka Holland’s JULIE WALKING HOME; THE SETTLEMENT with John C. Reilly; ALBINO ALLIGATOR and FIRST SNOW with Guy Pearce.

As a member of the Circle Repertory Theatre, Fichtner won critical acclaim for his role in THE FIERY FURNACE, directed by Norman Rene. Other stage credits include RAFT OF THE MEDUSA at the Minetta Lane Theatre, THE YEARS at the Manhattan Theatre Club, CLOTHES FOR A SUMMER HOTEL at the Williamstown Theatre festival and Machinal at The Public Theatre.

MARE WINNINGHAM
MARE WINNINGHAM won her first Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Limited Series or Movie for her role in the critically acclaimed AMBER WAVES. Her other high profile television movie and series credits range from THE THORN BIRDS to ER, THE AFFAIR and multiple seasons of AMERICAN HORROR STORY. She received her second Emmy Award for her role in GEORGE WALLACE (as well as Golden Globe and SAG Award nominations) and an additional five Emmy nominations, including for her performances in MILDRED PIERCE, THE BOYS NEXT DOOR, and HATFIELDS & MCCOYS.

Her range of film credits include her breakthrough performance in ST. ELMO'S FIRE, WYATT EARP, THE WAR, TURNER AND HOOCH, MIRACLE MILE for which she was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award, and GEORGIA for which she received an Independent Spirit Award and an Academy Award nomination.

For her work on stage, she received a Lucille Lortel Award, Drama Desk Award nomination, and Drama League Award nomination for her performance in 10 MILLION MILES and a Lucille Lortel nomination for her work in TRIBES. She made her Broadway debut in a revival of PICNIC and was nominated for a Tony Award for CASA VALENTINA.

Mare will be appearing in the films O.G. and THE SEAGULL at this years TriBeCa Film Festival.

BOYD HOLBROOK
Boyd Holbrook has amassed an impressive resume of diverse roles, starring among some of Hollywood's most well-respected actors and proving to be one of the industry's most engaging and thoughtful talents, both in front and behind the camera. Boyd will next be seen as the lead in Shane Black’s PREDATOR remake which is
set to release this Fall. He recently starred in James Mangold’s Oscar-nominated LOGAN opposite Hugh Jackman.

In past years, Holbrook has starred in an array of films including Jason Lew’s drama THE FREE WORLD, opposite Elisabeth Moss and Octavia Spencer, which premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival, and Fox’s sci-fi thriller MORGAN, opposite Kate Mara and Paul Giamatti. Other credits include Terrence Malick's WEIGHTLESS, opposite Ryan Gosling, Natalie Portman, Christian Bale, Michael Fassbender and Rooney Mara, Gavin O’Connor's JANE GOT A GUN, alongside Natalie Portman and Ewan McGregor, Sabyn Mayfield’s BOOMTOWN opposite Rachel Brosnahan and Dwight Yoakam, Warner Bros.’ RUN ALL NIGHT opposite Liam Neeson and Ed Harris, Sara Colangelo’s LITTLE ACCIDENTS opposite Elizabeth Banks, David Fincher's adaptation of Gillian Flynn’s novel GONE GIRL opposite Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike, Scott Frank’s crime drama from Universal A WALK AMONG THE TOMBSTONES opposite Liam Neeson and Craig Johnson’s character-driven indie SKELETON TWINS opposite Kristen Wiig and Bill Hader, which made its debut at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival, VERY GOOD GIRLS alongside Elizabeth Olsen, Dakota Fanning and Peter Sarsgaard, which premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, Scott Cooper’s OUT OF THE FURNACE alongside Christian Bale and Zoe Saldana, and Andrew Niccol’s film adaptation of Stephenie Meyer’s novel THE HOST. Preceding this success, he garnered prolific roles in numerous films including Vera Farmiga’s HIGHER GROUND and Van Sant’s Academy Award nominated drama MILK.

In television, Holbrook starred on the first two seasons of the critically-acclaimed Netflix original series NARCOS, which received a 2016 Golden Globe nomination for Best TV Series, Drama. The drug-fueled period drama follows Colombia’s cocaine kingpin Pablo Escobar and is based on true events that depict his life. Holbrook’s other TV credits include HBO’s Liberace biopic directed by Steven Soderbergh, BEHIND THE CANDELABRA, opposite Michael Douglas and Matt Damon, which opened to rave reviews at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival, the Emmy nominated television mini-series HATFIELDS & MCCOYS and the Golden Globe nominated Showtime series THE BIG C.

In addition to acting, Holbrook made his directorial debut PEACOCK KILLER, a short film based on a short story of the same name by Sam Shepard. He is currently in development with Fox to write, star and executive produce THE THIRST, an epic, world-building action-thriller that will be produced by John Davis (Predator). It is based on an original idea of Holbrook's and explores a near future where water is a scarce commodity. He also pursues other creative endeavors as an avid sculptor. His work has been exhibited at various locations, including the Rare Gallery in New York.

DAVID PATRICK KELLY

David Patrick Kelly has an expansive body of work that includes iconic roles in Water Hill cult-classic THE WARRIORS and the David Lynch series TWIN PEAKS, which was recently rebooted on Showtime. Highlights of Kelly’s feature career which spans over 3 decades include: JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2; Spike Lee’s film CHI-RAQ, opposite Samuel L. Jackson and Jennifer Hudson; JOHN WICK; FLAG OF OUR FATHERS; CAFÉ SOCIETY; MALCOM X; JUSTICE; IN TOO DEEP; LAST MAN STANDING; THE CROW; COMMANDO.

On television, DP appeared in recurring roles on FEED THE BEAST, THE BLACKLIST, BLUE BLOODS, BORED TO DEATH, GOSSIP GIRL LAW & ORDER: SVU, LOUIE, LAW & ORDER: CRIMINAL INTENT, THIRD WATCH.

A veteran of the stage, DP is currently starring Off-Broadway in Lear deBessonet’s Miss You Like Hell at The Public Theater. On Broadway, DP was last seen co-starring with Keira Knightley in Therese Raquin for the Roundabout Theater Company. His other Broadway credits include in Once (originated Off-Broadway), Festen, Uncle Vanya, Twelfth Night, The Government Inspector, The Suicide, Knockout, Working and the original
company of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Off-Broadway credits includes Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’ newest play Everybody at Signature Theater; When I Come to Die (Duke Theater), The Glorious Ones (Lincoln Center Theater), Ghosts (Classic Stage Company), Kit Marlowe (Public Theater) and many more.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

MADELEINE SACKLER | DIRECTOR
Madeleine Sackler is an Emmy®-winning director and producer based in New York City and Los Angeles. Sackler’s films include 2010’s The Lottery, 2013’s Dangerous Acts Starring the Unstable Elements of Belarus, and the upcoming Tribeca premieres O.G. and It's a Hard Truth, Ain’t It.

STEPHEN BELBER | SCREEN WRITER
Stephen Belber’s plays have been produced on Broadway and in over 25 countries. He was an Associate Writer on THE LARAMIE PROJECT, a docudrama about the death of Matthew Shepard, (subsequently made into an HBO movie), and co-writer on THE LARAMIE PROJECT: TEN YEARS LATER. He has written and directed two feature films, (MANAGEMENT, starring Jennifer Aniston and Woody Harrelson, and MATCH, starring Patrick Stewart), and written the movies TAPE (directed by Richard Linklater), and DRIFTING ELEGANT. Television credits include RESCUE ME, LAW & ORDER SVU, and pilots for HBO, F/X, The History Channel, ABC, USA, and Fox. He’s currently writing a film about the Kent State shootings, to be directed by Jay Roach.

MARK STEELE | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Mark is an industry executive with an amazing range of experience in domestic & international business affairs, development, and post production. He was a Co-Producer on Lawrence Kasdan’s DARLING COMPANION (Sony Pictures Classics), Jill Sprecher’s THIN ICE (Sundance, ATO Pictures), Rob Epstein & Jeffrey Freidman's HOWL (Sundance, Oscilloscope), and Todd Solondz's LIFE DURING WARTIME (Telluride, IFC Films). Other producer/post producer credits include THEO WHO LIVED, SEMBENE! (Sundance, Cannes, Telluride), CUTIE & THE BOXER (Sundance, RADiUS-TWC), and Producer on Michael Sladek’s CON ARTIST (Tribeca, New Yorker Films). Mark is proud to be a member of the Producers Guild of America, and was a Trans-Atlantic Partners Producing Fellow in 2013. Prior to working in the entertainment industry, Mark was an accomplished technology and operations leader.

SHARON CHANG | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Sharon Chang is globally recognized as a visionary who, throughout her career, has been a catalyst of social innovation, a creator of groundbreaking entertainment, an advocate for generative lifestyle, a leader in creative education, a philanthropist, entrepreneur and investor in transformational ideas and technologies.

Sharon is a Future Architect. With a diverse range of building blocks, she envisions a blueprint for how we can all experience and manifest positive change in the world. Boldly questioning narratives that shape our culture, she reimagines systems that power our everyday activities - the way we eat, shop, travel, learn, work, think, dream - today and tomorrow. From a film that inspires gender equality to a fashion brand that drives conscious consumption; a smart city community operating system to a fair-trade apparel factory in West
Africa, all her projects challenge the status quo and delve into life-changing subjects with a gentle touch of optimism.

A significant part of Sharon's work focuses on observing and reframing the relationships between capital, creativity and impact. Her approach to funding is artistic - supporting questions rather than answers, intention rather than outcome, imagination rather than reality. She is one of the very few people deeply committed to investing in creativity that might have latent yet profound effects on humanity. Her own creative pursuits span the spectrum from established to emerging media, physical to virtual environments, all of which follow a consistent theme of using the power of story to unleash human potential.

KAREEM “BIGGS” BURKE | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Kareem “Biggs” Burke is a Harlem native entrepreneur best known as the former Chief Executive Consultant at Roc-A-Fella Record- launching it alongside Jay Z and Damon Dash in 1995. Biggs transformed the lucrative start-up into an empire; launching Roc-a-wear clothing line and starting careers for some of the biggest music artists. Throughout the years he has expanded his enterprise in spirits, fashion, film content, and multimedia space. He proves that determination, faith, and confidence are valuable tools that propel one’s destiny to greatness.

WOLFGANG HELD | DIRECTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Emmy Award Winning Director of Photography Wolfgang Held has worked in New York City since the late 1990s. During his career, he has assembled an extensive filmography in both documentary and narrative genres. He has photographed feature films for directors Larry Charles and Sacha Baron Cohen, Maggie Greenwald, Rob Morrow, Mitchell Lichtenstein, and the late Gary Winick, as well as feature documentaries for filmmakers Nanette Burstein, Susan Froemke, Joe Berlinger, Marilyn Agrelo, Dan Klores and Madeleine Sackler and many others. Most recently Held has put his emphasis on photographing socially minded films and TV shows such as THE LOTTERY, ESCAPE FIRE, HALF THE SKY, A PATH APPEARS, YEARS OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY AND FAR FROM THE TREE.

MARC FISHMAN | RE-RECORDING MIXER
Marc Fishman is a re-recording mixer with over 27 years’ experience working in the sound for film industry. A 1990 graduate of Full Sail University, he has mixed on a wide variety of over 200 film and television projects, including films such as SUPERBAD. BRIDESMAIDS, CRASH, AND FURY. He has been nominated for various industry awards, including a BAFTA, CAS and Emmy Awards, and received an Emmy for his work on the Playtone/HBO mini-series JOHN ADAMS. He is a proud member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. O.G marks his first collaboration with director Madeline Sackler and producer Mark Steele.
Credit highlights: TRAINWRECK, THE DARK TOWER, TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT, BRIDESMAIDS, FURY, CRIMINAL MINDS, DAREDEVIL, CRASH, SUPERBAD, MEAN GIRLS, LEGALLY BLONDE, EMMY AWARD WINNER, OUTSTANDING SOUND MIXING, JOHN ADAMS 2009

NATHANIEL MÉCHALY | COMPOSER
Nathaniel began his career as a composer for television shows and commercials by French media conglomerates. He has served as an assistant to French-Lebanese composer Gabriel Yared. He wrote his first score for French-Israeli writer and director Raphaël Nadjari's 2004 film AVANIM. He went on to score two more Israeli feature films: USHPIZIN (2004), and TEHILIM (2007) also directed by Nadjari. Eventually, the French production company EuropaCorp's music department director became aware of Méchaly's earlier
works and referred him to compose French actor Richard Berry's 2005 directorial feature film The Black Box. Afterward, French screenwriter and director Luc Besson, co-founder of EuropaCorp became pleased with Méchaly's work in The Black Box and decided to hire him for future projects. Méchaly's composing credits include REVOLVER (2005), THE SECRET and ROOM OF DEATH (2007), DOROTHY MILLS (2008), COLOMBIANA (2011), and ANGÉLIQUE (2014). He is best known as the film composer of the TAKEN trilogy. Méchaly, with Japanese composer Shigeru Umebayashi, won Best Original Film Score at the 33rd Hong Kong Film Awards and Best Composer at the 8th Asian Film Awards for The Grandmaster (2013).

FILMOGRAPH | TITLES DESIGNERS
Aaron Becker is the Co-Founder and Creative Director of the LA-based production studio Filmograph, which specializes in feature film main title design, entertainment branding, live action direction, animation and visual effects. He has a BFA in Visual Communication from Washington University in St. Louis. Aaron’s film and television credits include MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE – ROGUE NATION, THE CONJURING, and 10 CLOVERFIELD LANE, among others.

LA native Seth Kleinberg, Co-Founder and Executive Producer of the LA-based production studio Filmograph, has been producing feature film titles, visual effects, broadcast design packages, commercials, and video games for over 10 years. In his position with Filmograph, Seth oversees the studio’s in-house team of digital artists and editors, along with the day to day duties of running a busy company. As a hands on Producer with creative insight, he’s not afraid to lend a hand wherever he can. His encyclopedic technical knowledge helps Filmograph stay cutting-edge and competitive.

Troy James Miller has been in the creative industry since 2001. Since then he has steadily climbed the production ladder, helming countless projects at studios including Imaginary Forces, Prologue, Troika, Roger LA and many more. In 2014, Troy stepped away from the visual aspect of the industry to act as Executive Producer at the prolific music studio, Musikvergnuegen, where he oversaw the creation and production of many high-end commercial and film scores. In 2017, Troy re-entered the visual side of production by joining his longtime friends and collaborators, Seth Kleinberg and Aaron Becker at Filmograph.

MADELEINE SACKLER, DIRECTOR STATEMENT
When I set out to make O.G., a lot of people told me it would be impossible. That I’d never find a prison that would let me do it. That it would be dangerous. That the non-actors wouldn’t be able to act as well as professional actors. So, I stopped talking about the film and decided to see if it could happen, and five years later, we’ve finished two films: O.G., a fiction film, and IT’S A HARD TRUTH AIN’T IT, a non-fiction film. Both films take place in the same prison – some of the men who act in O.G. are co-directors of HARD TRUTH – and, aside from being an incredible experience for a first-time fiction filmmaker, I had an experience that changed my perspective on the world and how we treat each other forever.

The goal was always to shoot a fiction film entirely within the walls of a maximum-security prison. It would be a film about a man who had spent decades behind bars and was now six weeks away from getting out of prison. During those six weeks, he would encounter a young man, new to the prison, who he would take under his wing and try to help avoid some of the mistakes he had made himself. This friendship would potentially cost him his release, and he would ultimately have to choose between helping the young man or leaving prison and beginning the rest of his life. Those characters would become Louis, played by Jeffrey Wright, and Beecher, played by Theothus Carter.
Because I needed to listen in order to know how to make a film like this, the largest influence on the film were the people we met along the way, people who shared their experiences with us, allowing us to infuse the work with their point of view. About a hundred hours of interviews with men who had been in the prison for decades – men who had just arrived, men in gangs, men retired from gangs, C.O.’s, social workers, internal affairs officers, and staff – helped the screenwriter, Stephen Belber, and I craft the screenplay. The DP, Wolfgang Held, came on that first research trip, and we were able to scout all of the locations that we would shoot in nearly three years later. And finally, after many more trips to the prison, the administration allowed us to have an open casting call with about 150 men. We would be permitted to pay the men cast with speaking roles, and to film for five weeks within the prison walls.

As a documentary filmmaker where control is not often possible, having the ability to shotlist and plan out the visual style of the film from an early stage was a dream, as was working with dozens of first-time actors alongside Jeffrey Wright, William Fichtner, and so many brilliant professional actors. The goal was to make a prison film unlike other prison films, one that shares the feeling of having lived in a cage for twenty-four years, of imagining being outside those walls. It seems like an experience so distant from those of us who have never been to prison, but I think we can all relate to being in situations where we are not able to express ourselves or our vulnerability, where we have to keep it locked inside, and what that does to us. I think all of us have had times where we have been stunted by our environment, unable to explore or grow at will.

Looking back, all of those things that people said would be impossible about O.G. are the things that I realize I derived the most energy from. The promise of the unexpected fueled my creative energy and ensured that I would be over-prepared and adaptable at all times. The need to have mutual trust with all of the different partnerships on the film – the prison, the men there – required deep relationships with men and women I never would have met otherwise, one of the honors of my life. Working with that combination of non-actors and actors created such a dynamic, fun environment on set, where everyone had something to learn from everyone else. And that assumption that so many people had made at first, that this would be a dangerous endeavor, strengthened my resolve to make a film as real and true as possible to the feelings and experiences that were entrusted to me by dozens of men in the prison.

**OPENING CREDITS**

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Maven Pictures LOGO
Great Curve Films LOGO

**CREDITS**

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Maven Pictures Presents
in association with Brookstreet Pictures
a Great Curve Films Production
a Madeleine Sackler film

Louis  JEFFREY WRIGHT
Lenny the C.O.  KYLE MCKINNEY
JJ-Beans  CHALLIE A. GRAY
Rocca  STEVEN FOSTER SR.
Mo  KEVIN JACKSON
Pete RUSHAWN TANKSLEY
Younger Prisoner #1 MILO WALKER
Younger Prisoner #2 DAVID BURNETT
Larry DAVID PATRICK KELLY
Jerry Piner RYAN CUTRONA
Ben EARL HOGAN
Todd CHRISTOPHER HELSLEY
Beecher THEOTHUS CARTER
Strip Search C.O. KIRK SHUPPERT
Molly LISA ASH
Administrative C.O. ROBIN WISE
Bauer ALAN STACY
Caspar FRANKLIN COX
Patrick CHARLES LAWRENCE SR.
Foster TERRELL CASON
Sonia AMANDA CHRISTINE
Marcus CANDIDO CARTER
C.O. Escort JONATHAN JACKSON
Mike Danvers WILLIAM FICHTNER
Macon Diggs MILAN BLAKELY
Ted HOWARD SMALLWOOD
Nellis DEWANGE DOTSON
Dansey LARRY WELCH
Samantha DANESSA PEAK
Quincy Ludlow BAHNI TURPIN
Beecher's Visitor YOLONDA ROSS
Charles MARVIN WASHINGTON
Davey Pinkins BOYD HOLBROOK
C.O. Escort BROOKE EDWARDS
Syndicate Negotiator KENNETH RICHARDS
United Negotiator CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON
Butter ANDREW CONLEY
Courtyard C.O. ZACHARY GRAHAM
Felix Baxter YUL VASQUEZ
Janice Spahn MARE WINNINGHAM
Sean Black ATO ESSANDOH
United Lieutenant #1 TONY PERRY
United Lieutenant #2 JOSEPH HENDERSON
Terry Caskins JAMES DURHAM
Nurse ALISON BURTON
Karen James STEPHANIE BERRY
Rodney the C.O. JEFFREY KING
Autobody C.O. GARRY KELLEY
Autobody C.O. #2 CHRISTOPHER SANFORD
Discharge C.O. MOREY STROZIER
Theothus Carter dedicates his performance to the memory of his son, Theothus Carter, Jr. 1999-2016.

The United States has less than 5% of the world’s population, but nearly 25% of the world’s incarcerated population.

2.2 million people are in prison today. 95% of them will be released, but two-thirds of them will be re-incarcerated.

And yet, innovative alternatives to prison now exist. By providing healing for all, we can begin to build true justice systems, rather than penal ones.

Assistant Superintendent of Pendleton Correctional Facility
Pendleton Supervisors
DUANE ALSIP
BROOKE EDWARDS
LORI CHAMBERS

Co-Producer: David Newhouse
Co-Producer: Daniel Lugo

Background Performers
Spiros Alatorre
Kenneth L. Alexander
Deborah Asante
Mark Atherton
Michael Bailey
Robert Baker
Jason Baxter
WM Dion Baxter
William Beeler
Isaac Jones Bey
Barbara Bolin
Nicholas Bolin
John Brightwell
Kenneth Brittain
Dennis Brown
Zakeya Brown
David Burnett
Reeshemah Burns
Randy Burris
Alison Burton
Aaron Cameron
Michael Carrico
Emmanuel Carter
Yolanda Chambers
Al Jonon Coleman
Alton Neville
Ann Noulin
Eugene Nowak
Seanna Nowlin
Anna Ousley
Harold Owen
Danny Quick
Christian Ragan
Julius Rhodes
David Richardson
Luther Riddell
Jennifer Rinehart
Archie Robertson
Herbert Robertson
Armand Robinson Jr.
Steven Rogers
Larry Rowe
William Russell
Bradley Ryan
Damien Sanders
Kenny Sanquenetti
Donald B. Scaife Sr.
Bruce Schaadt
Martize Sevion-EL
Mark Shepard
William Sides
Kerry Silvers
Devon Smith
Robert Smith
Marcus Snell
Steven Spears
George A. Staten
Linda S. Stewart
Corwin Stoehr
Sydney Strickland
Sean Strong
Laura Stroup
Terry Taylor
Michael Thomas
Terrance Thomas
Jonathan Tipton
Leonard Townsend
John E. Turner
Sadat Aaron Wade
Milo Walker
Scott Wallace
Willie Ward
Roman Warner
Harold Warren
Stacia Weather Ford
Walker Whatley
Domanck Wilkens
Cleve Williams
Robert Williams
Ann Marie Wilson
Allan Winn
Christopher G. Woods

Unit Production Manager Ivan Lafayette
First Assistant Director Sara Lou Hartman
Second Assistant Director Christopher "Buck" Staiger

Art Director ANTHONY LAVADERA
Production Coordinator DEMETRIUS GRIFFIN
Production Coordinators KASI DAVIS
CORY KING BROWN
Production Consultant RACHEL MURPHY

Camera Operator THORSTEN THIELOW
1st Assistant Camera ALAN NEWCOMB
Digital Image Technician PETER LUTZ
Script Supervisor ANNA LOMAKINA
Sound Mixer NIKOLAS ZASIMCZUK
Boom Operator CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

Gaffer STEFAN LAN
Key Grip RICHARD AUTH
Best Boy~†Grip EVAN CHILDS

Associate Costume Designer ELIZABETH CRUM
Costumes Shopper RACHEL DAINER-BEST
Hair and Make-Up Department Head KIMBERLY CONOLLY
Assistant Make-Up Artist JULIE POWERS
On Set Dresser MICHAEL RUNGE
Buyer NATHAN RANDALL
Sketchbook Artist ANDREA TOWNSEND
Graphic Designer BRANDON AArrington
Casting Assistant SCOTTY ANDERSON

Stunt Coordinator JEREMY SAMPLE
Set Production Assistants
- JANEL CORNEY
- ERIC GABINET
- BOBBY JOHNSEN
- HARRISON WAGNER

Additional Production Assistants
- THOMAS JAEGAR
- KIEL PEREZ

Key Craft Service
- CINDA DIOR

Catering by
- MBP Distinctive Catering

Head Chef
- MARY BETH POE

UPM
- JOEL HENRY

Production Manager
- AMI WERGES

Set Costumer
- SANDRA LOPEZ PAVESI

Make-up
- CHARLOTTE SCOVILL

Assistant Costume Designer
- ANGELA VARELA

Set Decorator
- ALEXANDRIA ANAYA

Studio Teachers
- ALMARIE CLIFFORD
- JACK STERN

1st Assistant Camera
- JARROD OSWALD
- JOE SOLARI

Sound Mixer
- CLINT ALLDAY

D.I.T.
- SCOTT RESNICK

L.A.P.D.
- SCOTT ALDRICH

Production Assistants
- ALEJANDRA ANAYA
- SHERWIN KIM

Art Production Assistant
- VANESSA GONZALES

California Casting
- Doyle/Fiorilli Casting

Post Production Supervisor
- MARK STEELE

First Assistant Editor
- ANNE GUIDICE

Assistant Editors
- REBEKA PINON CASSIDY
- LUDMIL KAZAKOV
- JULIANA KREINIK

Supervising Sound Editors
- DROR MOHAR
- FREDERIC DUBOIS

Sound Editors
- BRYAN PARKER
- MIKE HERTLEIN
- XANDER LOTT
- VICKIE SAMPSON

Foley
- KAAMOSS SOUND
- TAPIO LIUKKONEN
Re-Recording Mixer Marc Fishman
Recordist Trevor Cress
Post Production Sound Facility IMN CREATIVE

Music Composed, Arranged and Produced by NATHANIEL MECHALY
Music Supervision and executive Production by MEZZANINE
Production Coordination by MEHDI SAYAH
Music Transcription by LIONEL PRIVAT
Pianos NATHANIEL MECHALY
Violin 1 FLORENT BRANNENS
Violin 2 AMANDINE LEY
Alto JEREMY PASQUIER
Cello NICOLAS CARPENTIER
Bass ODILE SIMON
Guitare TROY VON BALTHAZAR
Contractor PHILIPPE NADAL
Music Recorded by GUILLAUME DUJARDIN
Music Recorded at Studio FERBER
Recording Assistant MATTIEH LEFEVRE
Music Mixed by JEROME DEVOISE
Music Mix facility Studio NX MUSIQUE
Music Mix Assistant SEBASTIEN BARRET

Editorial Offices FANCY FILM
Editorial Equipment SIXTEEN19

Digital Intermediate by SHED
DI Supervising Colorist YVAN LUCAS
DI Colorist ELODIE ICHTER
DI Colorist KATIE
DI Conform LISA TUTUNJIAN
DI Image Scientist MATTHEW TOMLINSON
DI Producer SADIE JOHNSON
DI Coordinator AMY REDFERN
DI Account Executive JULIE CURRIN

Visual Effects by DIGITAL DISTRICT
VFX Producer Sonia Marques
VFX Supervisor Marc Massicotte
Associate VFX Supervisor William Tayssier
VFX Production Manager Irene Armit
VFX Coordinator Alexia Levieuze-Palancade
VFX I/O Guillaume Chiavassa
Generalist/FX Artist Gabriel St-Aubin
Main Titles Designed and Produced by FILMOGRAPH
Title Designers AARON BECKER & ALPHONSE SWINEHART
Title Executive Producer SETH KLEINBERG
Title Producer TROY JAMES MILLER
Production Legal BRUNS, BRENNA & BERRY PC
EMERSON BRUNS
EUGENE PIKULIN
GRAY KRAUSS STRATFORD SANDLER DES ROCHERS LLP
IAN STRATFORD, ESQ.
AMY STEIN, ESQ.

Script Clearance Research IndieClear, Carol Compton
Payroll Services Provided by Indiepay, LLC/Greenslate
Paymaster Cindy Dee
Insurance Provided by Reiff & Associates, LLC

Co-Producers Bruce Bendell
Jamie Bendell
Skye Bendell
Rajal Pitroda

MUSIC

“Time To Kill”
Written by James Hockstaff and Robert Hoyle
Performed by Harbinger Complex
Courtesy of Mainstream Records

“Love Or Confusion”
Written and performed by Jimi Hendrix
Courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment
By arrangement with Sony Music Licensing

“Bankrolls”
Written and performed by Melik
Courtesy of ReverbNation CONNECT
Under License by Hitcher Music

“Love Revelation”
Written by Dana Robert Rasch, Mark Alan Yandle
Performed by Marquis de Sade
Courtesy of Fervor Records

“Come On And See About Me”
Written and performed by John Lee Hooker
Courtesy of Concord Music

“Wave (feat. Moncelas Boston Sophia Eris)”
Written by BJ Burton, Stefon Leron Alexander,
Lauren Elizabeth Alford
Courtesy of Doomtree Records

“We Like Ourselves”
Written by Maksim Lemberskiy, Curtis Eugene Cross,
Patrick Garland Morales
Performed by Wiki x Your Old Droog
Courtesy of Letter Racer/ Gogul Mogul

“Hey Joe”
Written by Bill Roberts
Performed by the Pendleton Praise Team
"In The Pines"
Written by M. Asher
Performed by Faye Tucker
Courtesy of Mainstream Records

Special Thanks
Augusto Aguilera
Abhita Austin
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MARK BINDER
WENDY BLACKSTONE
SCOTT BUDNICK
JOANNA CANTOR & MENDY Piekarski
CONTROL TOWER OFFICERS
CORSON/SACKLER FAMILY
Tom Corson
Helen Estabrook
LUCAS GARDNER
MARK GILL
Greg Gunn
JENNY HALPER
DREAM HAMPTON
JONNY HIRSCHBEIN
DAVID HOLBROOKE
STEVE JORDAN
SUZANNE JOSKOW
SAUNDER JURRIAANS
Judd Katz
TERRY KNICKERBOCKER
Keegan-Michael Key

TAMMY KRAUSE
DAVID KRINTZMAN
FRANKLIN LATT
JAMES LAWLER
HUGO LINDGREN
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Filmed Entirely on location at Pendleton Correctional Facility, Pendleton, Indiana

sag-aftra-r-2016
finished-at-shed-color
endcrawl-mono
digital-district

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