

# NETFLIX

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A Skydance, Denver & Delilah Films, and Marc Evans Production

A Gina Prince-Bythewood Film



**Directed by** Gina Prince-Bythewood

**Screenplay by** Greg Rucka

**Based on the Graphic Novel Series by** Greg Rucka and Illustrated by Leandro Fernández  
**Produced by** David Ellison, Dana Goldberg, Don Granger, Charlize Theron, A.J. Dix, Beth Kono, Marc Evans

**Executive Producers:** Stan Wlodkowski, Greg Rucka

**Directors of Photography:** Tami Reiker, ASC; Barry Ackroyd, BSC

**Production Designer:** Paul Kirby

**Edited by** Terilyn A. Shropshire, ACE

**Costume Designer:** Mary Vogt

**Visual Effects Supervisor:** Sara Bennett

**Music by** Volker Bertelmann & Dustin O'Halloran

**Music Supervisor:** Julia Michels

**Casting by** Lucy Bevan, Aisha Coley, CSA

**Starring:** Charlize Theron, KiKi Layne, Marwan Kenzari, Luca Marinelli, Harry Melling, Van Veronica Ngo, with Matthias Schoenaerts, and Chiwetel Ejiofor

**THE OLD GUARD RELEASES GLOBALLY ON NETFLIX July 10, 2020**

## **SYNOPSIS**

Led by a warrior named Andy (Charlize Theron), a covert group of tight-knit mercenaries with a mysterious inability to die have fought to protect the mortal world for centuries. But when the team is recruited to take on an emergency mission and their extraordinary abilities are suddenly exposed, it's up to Andy and Nile (Kiki Layne), the newest soldier to join their ranks, to help the group eliminate the threat of those who seek to replicate and monetize their power by any means necessary. Based on the acclaimed graphic novel by Greg Rucka and directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood (*Love & Basketball*, *Beyond the Lights*), *The Old Guard* is a gritty, grounded, action-packed story that shows living forever is harder than it looks.

## ABOUT THE STORY

Set in the modern day, but spanning centuries, *The Old Guard* centers on a group of mercenaries who possess a mysterious inability to die. Academy Award winner Charlize Theron produces and stars as Andy — or Andromache the Scythian — a warrior born in an age that predates almost all historical records whose experience in combat rivals no other. Together with Booker (Matthias Schoenaerts), Joe (Marwan Kenzari), Nicky (Luca Marinelli), and the newest immortal, Nile (KiKi Layne), Andy uses her gift to protect mankind — leading the team on a covert, darkly altruistic path through the ages, balancing harm with good, and taking a life when necessary in order to save thousands of others. But their secret is exposed when an operation brought to them by an ex-CIA operative (Chiwetel Ejiofor) backfires, threatening their existence.

Twenty years after Sundance darling *Love & Basketball* marked the trailblazing arrival of Gina Prince-Bythewood, the award-winning director takes the helm of her first big-budget action film. In keeping with the tradition established by her influential debut and films such as 2014's *Beyond the Lights*, Prince-Bythewood once again upends genre expectations by delivering a story infused with purpose, compassion, and a love for family in all its forms. From a script written by Eisner-winning comic book writer Greg Rucka — which was adapted from his own acclaimed 2017 graphic novel series — *The Old Guard* flips the conceit of immortality as being something desirable on its head: It instead focuses on the inherent tragedy of living forever.

It's also a superhero story that places the work of saving mankind firmly in the hands of two female warriors. "This is a story with mythological elements and themes of relationships, family, and love that were very appealing to me," says Prince-Bythewood. "But at its core, the fact that I got to put two badass women on screen was everything. The script came to me at a time when I had been looking to move into a bigger sandbox and it ended up presenting me with the opportunity to do exactly what I wanted: To put female heroes into the world, one of whom is a young black woman."

By stepping into the role of Nile, a tenderfoot immortal who comes under the reluctant tutelage of Andy, KiKi Layne (*If Beale Street Could Talk*, *Native Son*) becomes the face of an all-new kind of hero. One whose powers may be unique, but whose grief over her former life and resistance to her newfound responsibilities are universally relatable.

Prince-Bythewood recalls getting the call from Skydance to read the script for *The Old Guard* and feeling excited about working with the company responsible for bringing recently revitalized franchises such as *Star Trek* and *Mission: Impossible*, and elevated sci-fi such as 2018's *Annihilation*, to global audiences. "Skydance makes really good films in this space. It cannot be stressed enough how determined they were to find a female director for this film. They developed this project — one of their favorites — with Greg Rucka for a year, and I'm grateful they trusted me to bring these characters and this story to life. They're a smart, dope group of people who truly love movies."

Says Don Granger, President of Feature Film Production at Skydance Media: "Once we had Greg Rucka's amazing adaptation of his graphic novel, we knew we wanted to find a filmmaker who would bring a fresh and original perspective to the material. Someone who would not only capture the soulful nature of our main characters, but would also be able to tackle the action and scope of the movie with intensity and passion. Gina was all that and more. Her eagerness to move into this genre was infectious, and her experience launching careers through her films is unparalleled. We couldn't say yes fast enough."

When Skydance brought the project to Theron and her production company Denver & Delilah Films, it was the story's realness that spoke to her the most. "As a company, we'd been looking for a project like this for a while," says Theron. She and Prince-Bythewood connected and found they were immediately on the same page. "We wanted this to be a fast-paced action film that felt fresh and original; one that doesn't sacrifice the heart and drama of the story at the core. We set out to make a really grounded, dynamic film with characters and predicaments that we haven't seen before in the genre."

"When we started to discuss who would be the perfect Andy, we all said that Charlize Theron is the sort of actress we should use as our north star," says Granger. "No one actually thought we would be able to get Charlize because how often do you get your perfect dream casting? This sort of thing happens once in a lifetime. We threw caution to the wind and took the shot—the rest is history, as they say. Charlize is Andy, and Andy is Charlize. The movie works so perfectly because it sits squarely on her shoulders."

According to Producer Marc Evans: "What's genuinely great about *The Old Guard* is that lives in the world we live in. Most of the movie was shot handheld, and it has that genuinely modern aesthetic to it. The idea of presenting immortality in the real world, as opposed to a fantasy

version of it, lends a genuine believability to it. It seems like it should be impossible, but I think fits perfectly for the actors who have been cast.”

“I love that the Old Guard struggle to find their purpose,” says Prince-Bythewood. “It’s such a universal story and it’s certainly been a theme in my work. But also inherent in my work is the normalcy of women being warriors. I love to reframe what it means to be a female, and I feel that movies can absolutely change the narrative and the conversation. Courage has no gender. Badass has no gender. It just is.”

“What resonates for me is our need for heroes,” Prince-Bythewood continues. “I love that so many people who aren’t thought of as often as they should be are now considered heroes, and I think people are craving ones who come in every package.”

### **ADAPTING AND UPDATING THE COMICS**

Published in 2017 by Image Comics, *The Old Guard* was written by prolific comic book author and screenwriter Greg Rucka (*Wonder Woman*, *Lazarus*, *Stumptown*), whose award-winning work has also straddled both the DC and Marvel universes. All of the volumes in the series are illustrated by acclaimed Argentinian artist Leandro Fernández (*Punisher*, *American Carnage*, *The Discipline*).

When the story was initially conceived, Rucka had set out to write a rollicking story that enabled him to have a little fun with the characters in a manner that only comics can provide. But he soon realized the story was also helping him work through his own thoughts on deeper issues. “In a way, *The Old Guard* is like a Looney Tunes cartoon because you can blow the characters up, you can hit them with a truck, you can drop them off a cliff, and they get up and keep going,” he says. “But halfway through, I realized that the real reason I was writing it was because I had lost my father recently and was trying to rationalize the necessity of death. Why do people have to go? Why do they have to leave and what happens if you can’t? The story delves into and explores the flip side of immortality. What it truly means to live forever, how that impacts the character’s sense of family, and how they live without the knowledge that they will die someday.”

According to Fernández, “these people see everyone they love die. It must be so hard to continue, but the characters move forward and they affect change in generations in the process. But there has to be a deep feeling of loneliness within each of them.”

“The story continued to surprise me,” says Prince-Bythewood. “I knew within five minutes that I had to do it. It moved me. I don't know that you always get that in this genre, and I felt it was a way to disrupt the genre, elevate it, and do something different and special.”

When it came time to polish the screenplay, Prince-Bythewood collaborated with Rucka on enhancing a few storylines in order to better serve the medium of film. “The graphic novel was always specifically Andy's story,” says Rucka. “But when it came time to adapt the novel as a screenplay, one of the first notes I got was that Nile, in particular, was not well served. And the second I got that note, I knew they were right. It's been remarkably beneficial in writing further comics, just because it forced me to do a lot of character work.”

Prince-Bythewood pushed hard to have Nile's character integral to the third act to give her more agency. “One of the things that was important to add to Nile and Andy's characters was the fact that killing was not an easy thing for them,” says Prince-Bythewood. “It's not something that you do and forget, which I think you see often in this genre, where you kill somebody, make a funny quip, forget about it and move on to the next set piece. It was important to me to show the reality of soldiers and what the toll of taking lives does to you.” This decision influenced in particular a scene in the final act of the film where the camera stays on Nile in real time as she ascends 15 floors in an elevator, knowing what she's about to do in order to save her new family. “Knowing the importance, having seen the good that the Old Guard does, she understands now that they take a life to save a life.”

Prince-Bythewood additionally paid homage to Fernández's original illustrations by incorporating some notable shot-for-shot images in the film. “The use of silhouette was something that I absolutely took from the novel,” says Prince-Bythewood. “When the Old Guard are walking along a ridge, or approaching the bunker leading up to the kill room scene, and you see the four of them in silhouette, that's all Leandro.”

“The work that I do as a comic artist isn't only about the drawings,” says Fernández. “The way I see it, it's more about how to tell the story. The artist is the one who decides how to show the script that's been given to him. Every single detail on the visuals of the comic book is there

because it's meant to be there. It's not only about showing what's happening, but showing the right emotion."

"In comics, it's not enough to know how to draw," says Rucka. "You have to know how to tell a story visually. Leo loves to play within his art, and his choices on how to compose and move from one panel to another are vital to the fluidity of the story."

## WHO ARE THE OLD GUARD?

The Old Guard consists of elite fighters who almost universally came out of a military or a martial arts background and were all given the gift — or curse — of immortality. "They've moved through the centuries and, in some cases, the millennia, making every mistake you could make and learning from it to become the most dangerous soldiers you can ever imagine," says Rucka.

"What sets the Old Guard apart from other portrayals of immortals in film is that they aren't gods," notes Theron, "They never flaunt or showcase their immortality — they have real personalities with humor and emotion."

The cast needed to be able to handle the demanding physicality required of their roles and possess natural chemistry, both on- and off-screen, in order to portray a family unit derived from a melting pot of cultures. Casting Directors Lucy Bevan and Aisha Coley, who has worked with Prince-Bythewood on every one of her films, sought actors who could carry the weight of living for thousands of years behind their eyes. "Each of the actors we cast has a soulfulness that makes you believe they've been alive for centuries." says Prince-Bythewood. "We've also created an incredible ensemble that's organically diverse and reflects the world I see every day."

## ANDROMACHE THE SCYTHIAN

Charlize Theron returns to Iconic Badass Hero form in a genre that's given the world characters such as *Mad Max: Fury Road's* Imperator Furiosa and *Atomic Blonde's* Lorraine Broughton. As Andromache the Scythian, she's the eldest of the Old Guard by several millennia and their natural leader. "The thing Andy values most in life is her team. They're her only family and the reason she continues to carry on with life," says Theron. "They fight for what they believe to be the greater good — the betterment of society and the world — and look out for those who need help the most. But she's become tired and frustrated with her

immortality, and when we meet her she is reluctant to continue fighting as it doesn't seem to have made a difference after all this time.”

According to Rucka, “Andy’s tired. She’s done everything, seen everything, and experienced everything more times than she can count. There’s not a language that she can’t speak and not a weapon she can’t use. But she’s not impressed with what the world has become, and the story is, in many ways, about her finding the will to live.”

“There are very few women in our industry who can play and act a hero like Andy and be believable in that role,” says Prince-Bythewood. “Charlize is at the top of her game. She wants each scene to be great, and she won't stop until it is. That spilled over to the rest of the cast. I’m very excited for people to see what she has created.”

#### NILE FREEMAN

KiKi Layne plays the newest member of the Old Guard — a American Marine at the time of her “rebirth” and a baby in the eyes of her teammates. “Andy teaches Nile what life as an immortal is going to be like, how to navigate it, how to use this power, and what it means, both the positives and the negatives,” explains Prince-Bythewood. “But Nile comes in with this innate goodness and a belief that we're here for a reason — things Andy needs to be reminded of.”

"Once I read the comic and got to know more about Nile, I thought it would be interesting to explore the type of young strength that she has," says Layne. "Accepting that this is her new family, being committed to them, and learning to accept that commitment is a big part of her journey in the film. Nile is very strong-minded, but she is also dealing with being young and, in this case, extremely young compared to all these new people that she’s met. I also loved that the story is centered on women. It brought a lot more heart and depth to it.”

"I love that we have these two women leading this group and that we got to play with the trope of a veteran/rookie, but do it in an interesting and cool way. The fact that one's an old immortal and another is a baby immortal — I love that dynamic. I know there's a huge audience that's craving women of color to be able to be up on screen as heroes and not sidekicks. KiKi was an amazing find. So beautiful, and talented and badass." says Prince-Bythewood.

## BOOKER

Award-winning Belgian actor Matthias Schoenaerts (*Rust and Bone*, *A Hidden Life*) plays Booker, a French soldier from the Napoleonic era whose jadedness is rivaled only by Andy's, someone who views his immortality as a curse more than a gift.

"Booker is someone who'd love to remember what it's like to have a life that's structured with a beginning and middle and end, to experience real feelings of connection and interaction," says Schoenaerts of his character. "He's walking this planet all by himself and he's lost everything that he has ever cared about; he's on a lonely journey through eternity."

"Matthias has made the depth of Booker's pain so palpable," says Prince-Bythewood. "We shot a scene between Booker and Nile in the mine where he's telling her the story about his son. When I first met with Matthias, he talked about that scene as one of the reasons why he wanted to do this film, because he doesn't typically do films like this. But that story, the relationship with Booker and his son really struck him. And to see it play out, to see Matthias embody it so beautifully and have me feel everything his character was feeling while I was sitting at the monitors...As a director, you're always chasing that perfect take, and I feel that I got to witness a perfect take."

## JOE AND NICKY

Dutch actor Marwan Kenzari (*Aladdin*, *Murder on the Orient Express*) plays Joe, a soldier from the Middle East who met his immortal lover Nicky, played by Italian actor Luca Marinelli (*Trust*, *Rainbow: A Private Affair*), as they fought on opposing sides during the Crusades. They are two soulmates who, as they came into their immortality, also fell in love — a deep love that's lasted over a thousand years — despite the time in which they met.

"Joe and Nicky were born into a time of fervent religious hatred. They're supposed to be eternal enemies, but what they discover instead is that they're one another's true love; that together, they are better than they ever could have been apart. That's the reason they're the most well-adjusted of any of the immortals we meet," says Rucka.

Kenzari was the first of the pair to be cast according to Prince-Bythewood. "I cast Marwan off of our Skype meeting. His passion for the character was so pure. It was an inspiring meeting. One of the best I've ever had." Prince-Bythewood first saw Luca on a taped audition and was immediately drawn to him. "He gave such a great reading. He has this innate warmth to him,

but there was also a strength. We then had him do a chemistry read with Marwan, and it was insane. Chemistry is a tricky thing. I feel as long as there is a crackle, I can build it into a fire, but the fire was already there. They were so free to give themselves over to the characters.”

Says Marinelli: "Nicky is a calm soul and very wise, but he also has a fire inside. The thing I love about his story is that he was taking part in one of the most horrible events of our history, the Crusades, and yet he found one of the most beautiful things in his life — his love, his man — Joe. That, for me, was breathtaking.”

“I was immediately attracted to the fact that Joe and Nicky behave as one would do in a modern world even though they are centuries old,” says Kenzari. “I thought that was mysterious and original. Joe has this symbiotic relationship with Nicky, and there's a specific scene where he tries to explain their relationship that really did it for me.”

Halfway through the film, the actors share a moving scene together where Joe expresses what Nicky means to him. Filming it moved some of the crew to tears. “It’s a speech that any person would want their loved one to say to them,” says Prince-Bythewood.

#### COPLEY

Award-winning British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years a Slave*, *The Lion King*) plays Copley, a former CIA-agent who enlists the Old Guard on a mission that turns out to be more dangerous than he lets on.

“The best villains are those who are complicated, who aren't so easily dismissed because they are only evil,” says Prince-Bythewood. “We wanted to give Copley complication and nuance. His intentions are absolutely noble. The problem is his means are terrible. Also, when you cast Chiwetel, you want to give him as much great stuff as possible.”

“I feel there's a real soul to what Copley is doing,” says Ejiofor. “He's a very layered character, so his reasoning for coming into this and the fine line of ethics and morality that he plays with, I thought, was very intriguing and extremely interesting to play. It’s also rare to find characters that are morally ambiguous and surrounded by several characters who are also morally ambiguous. It plays with those expectations about what heroism is, and it feels like Copley fits into that pretty well.”

Says Theron: “Chiwetel is a master of his craft, and a total gentleman and professional on set. He brought exactly what was needed to this character and elevated it in a way we never saw coming.”

#### MERRICK

Merrick, a pharmaceutical executive who seeks to replicate and monetize the Old Guard’s incredible gift for his own gain is played by British actor Harry Melling (The *Harry Potter* films, *His Dark Materials*). According to Rucka, Merrick’s philosophy is, “My end justifies the means.”

“When I first read the script, I thought playing Merrick could be so much fun,” says Melling. “He thinks he’s the cleverest person in the room at all times, which is always a fun proposition for an actor. It would be very easy to start with Merrick being an out-and-out villain, for want of a better word. I think he truly does want to find these cures and produce revolutionary medical advances for the world. The problem is, he goes too far.”

“Harry is so nice in person it was crazy seeing him transform into this completely hate-worthy character! Just goes to show how great he is at what he does,” says Theron.

Prince-Bythewood echoes Theron’s sentiments: “Harry is such a good guy it’s so interesting to see him embody this character who is so narcissistic and evil. He’s able to really touch on what is happening in a timely way with some business and world leaders who are damaging the world.”

#### QUYNH

Played by Vietnamese actress Van Veronica Ngo (*Star Wars: Episode VIII - The Last Jedi, Bright*) plays Quynh, an immortal second only to Andy in age and skill. She and Andy had fought alongside one another for centuries until they were wrenched apart in a manner that still haunts Andy and the rest of the Old Guard in profound ways. Though Quynh is one of the oldest members of the Old Guard, one could say that, in a sense, she’s gone fishing.

“I love this character so much,” says Prince-Bythewood. “When you think about a woman who has suffered the way she has for over 500 years — what that would do to your psyche — what becomes of her is so fascinating and so epic.”

## TRAINING THE CAST IN IMMORTAL COMBAT

The cast worked with Stunt Coordinators Brycen Counts and Adam Kirley (*Black Panther*, *Spider-Man: Homecoming*) and Fight Coordinator Danny Hernandez (*John Wick*, *Avengers: Endgame*) in order to believably portray soldiers who are proficient in multiple styles of hand-to-hand combat and can move fluidly between both modern and ancient weapons. Tactical and combat training began nine weeks ahead of shooting for the cast with regimens that included everything from boxing to martial arts to horseback riding.

Even for Theron, who has trained extensively for several stunt-heavy action films, *The Old Guard* demanded an entirely new level of A-game. “I trained five days a week for about four months leading up to the start of shooting. I did a mixture of strength conditioning and combat training,” says Theron. “The training process for this was different because a lot of the combat involved an ax-like weapon I use in the film. I’ve never done any weapons training quite like this. It also involved a lot of techniques drawing from various different styles of combat, and I’m not going to lie, it was really tough.”

“Andy’s style is a combination of everything,” explains Hernandez. “We went all over the spectrum. She uses all the martial arts she has learned over 6,000 years, which included Iaido and Kendo, Japanese arts of the sword; Silat, which is an Indonesian martial art with knife work and close-quarter handwork; Kali, a Filipino martial art which focuses on stick and knife work that we translated to the ax; Hungar, which uses an open hand and closed fist; a little bit of Wushu; definitely some Korean Tae Kwon Do; Greco-Roman wrestling; Judo; and Jiu Jitsu. We put elements from all those together and gave it a little twist.”

Theron and Layne also underwent additional weapons training with Taran Butler, a multiple three-gun national champion and owner of Taran Tactical Innovations, and Jade Struck, a competitive shooter and instructor at Butler’s ranch. “We worked with them for about 4 weeks and they’re awesome. I’ve never seen a progression like we had with these women on any kind of project I’ve worked on,” says Struck.

“For most movies nowadays, the audience is smarter than ever,” says Butler. “They want to see the actors do the grunt work, the hard stuff: manipulating the guns, doing the reloads, and being behind the gun the right way. Otherwise it just takes you out of the movie. KiKi is a total natural, just like Charlize.”

“Whenever I do a film with stunts or combat, I always want it to be as authentic as possible. Our incredible second unit led by Jeff Habberstad and our stunts teams shared my exact concerns, and not only did they make everything seem real, they elevated it in ways I truly didn’t think would be possible in a film. We have some wild stunt and combat sequences that really showcase our cast in the best way possible,” says Theron, who additionally underwent training on horseback with Van Veronica Ngo for a flashback sequence. She also learned to wield a labrys, the traditional double-headed ax of the Amazons, that’s been modified for optimal efficiency.

“An ax is a very versatile weapon,” says Count. “We decided we wanted her to be ambidextrous so she would be able to use both sides and manipulate people into going in the direction she wants. She’s a savage killer.”

Theron’s dedication to training and stunt work paid off in spectacular ways, but not before exacting a physical toll on the actress, who fought through the pain of an injury to her left arm in the final three weeks of filming. “Charlize is as tough as they come,” says Marc Evans. “In another career, she could’ve been an A-level stunt performer. There is no substitute for those actors who are able to perform these stunts at such an exceptional level. It makes a difference in every frame.”

For Nile, who’s a few thousand years younger than Andy, the team went with a more contemporary approach. “Nile is in the military, so we went for a grittier MMA style,” explains Hernandez. “She’s someone who’d be an expert with modern weapons, but also very hands-on with a knife.” According to Layne, “I had never trained before a day in my life. It was a lot of fun. The base of Nile’s style is mixed martial arts and boxing — which I enjoyed and plan to keep it up after the movie. We started back in March 2019 and our main focus was on the fight between Andy and Nile on the airplane.”

The knock-em-down fight sequence on the plane was the first scene shot on the entire film. Theron and Layne had trained separately, then came together about two weeks before filming began to fine-tune the choreography. Together, the pair performed 90% of the fight themselves, with doubles subbing in for the parts that might actually hurt.

Says Prince-Bythewood: “I’ve shot fights before, but the plane fight basically actualized everything that was in my head in terms of a great action scene between two women. How do

we tell a story within that fight? It's not just about the action, but it's about what's happening within that fight. But also, walking on the set the very first day...I mean, my last film cost \$7 million. The first day I walk onto this set, there's an airplane, and it's up against these sky murals that are like 100 feet high. I literally said to myself, 'Oh, my God, I'm not in Kansas anymore.'”

“I don't exactly win this fight,” says Layne. “But I win Andy over just a little bit just because I show her my heart and my passion and that I don't give up easily. She knocks me down quite a few times, and I keep getting up, even when she's literally breaking my body. I'm getting back up, and I think that's a powerful moment between us.”

To equip an Italian who was fighting in the First Crusade at the time of his rebirth, Armorer Tim Lewis gave Nicky a longsword and Hernandez deliberately choreographed his movements as if he were cutting through armor. “We made Nicky's movements very direct and strong — like he was making a true 45 degree angle cut. We felt it was in line with his character. But for Joe, we went the opposite way. Like Yin and Yang.”

For Joe, who uses an updated scimitar that's similar in shape to a much older incarnation called a kilij, “his movements are more fluid and circular, swirling in figure eights. It was exciting and made a wonderful dance when Joe and Nicky fought together,” says Hernandez.

As the youngest of the Old Guard before Nile's arrival, a roughly 200-year-old Booker would naturally feel more comfortable with a musket. “We made him a lot more tactical than any of the other characters,” says Hernandez. “He's elusive. He would roll out for a split second to be in the line of sight and then surprise them from a different angle. He also has an open-handed fighting style, much like Savate, a French style of martial arts that uses hands and feet.”

## **DESIGNING A GLOBAL STORY**

### **HEROES WHO COME IN EVERY PACKAGE**

At the outset of production, Prince-Bythewood planned to hire as many female heads of department as possible to bring this global story to life. For a film starring two female heroes who operate behind the scenes, it was fitting to have just as many behind the camera, their work impactful beyond measure, but not always apparent to all. From department heads like

Editor Terilyn Shropshire, who has worked with Prince-Bythewood on every one of her films in addition to series such as Netflix's *When They See Us*, to veteran Music Supervisor Julia Michels (*A Star Is Born*, *The Greatest Showman*) — it's clear there are more heroes of *The Old Guard* than meets the eye.

"The women who came to the table were all so talented and passionate and dedicated. It is a sad truth in our business that women are rarely given the opportunity to work on big action films. But every one of these women proved how wrong our world is. I'm lucky to have worked with them. They helped elevate the film."

#### BLOOD, BOMBS, AND BomBER JACKETS

Among those women are Special Effects Supervisor Hayley Williams (*Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, *Annihilation*) and Oscar-winning Visual Effects Supervisor Sara Bennett (*Ex-Machina*, *The Alienist*), who were primarily responsible for creating the regeneration effects seen whenever one of the Old Guard begins healing from the many injuries they sustain throughout the film. A complicated regeneration effect such as the one created for Booker when his stomach is destroyed in a blast, required three teams — make-up, prosthetics, and finally VFX — to blend the sequence into one.

"We wanted to show that as a progress, but it needed to happen very quickly because obviously you don't want to be looking at it for a very long time," says Bennett. "We needed to keep it interesting, and show all the different layers, and how everything heals in stages. With SFX, it's always nice to have a bit of reality when you're shooting, to have a physical thing in the shot that gives us lighting and tracking and acts as kind of a base."

Dressing the Old Guard is veteran Costume Designer Mary Vogt (*Crazy Rich Asians*, *Long Shot*), "Although it's an ensemble piece, Andy is the main character," says Vogt. "We take her through different periods in time. One of the earliest looks is from 600 A.D., then we go to the Middle Ages, then we were in 1820, and finally, we're in the present day. One of the challenges was to keep her consistent through the different periods. We tried to find something that would correlate so that you can relate to her each time she appears. Her style doesn't change that much, even though she has lived for 6,000 years. It's just a variation on the jean and T-shirt themes."

As for Nile, Vogt wanted to keep her looking younger and more hip. “Andy's look is quite serious. Nile is a little more fun and more sporty. In the last few scenes, you can see more of her personality. She is looser and more relaxed.”

#### A PEOPLE’S HISTORY OF THE OLD GUARD

Piecing together the rich tapestry of visual images in the film are Production Designer Paul Kirby and Set Decorator Jille Azis. “There’s a theme throughout the film that history is all around us,” says Kirby. “The Old Guard have lived for a long time, and although the story is set in the present day, you want to portray that sense of their past. It was important to us to impart a respect of culture, belief systems and civilization. I wanted to impart a feeling of wonder into the movie so that the audience could take a journey into the history of the world.”

No set captures the essence of this more than the sociogram seen in Copley’s home that takes up multiple walls, top-to-bottom, but only scratches the surface of documenting the Old Guard’s history of the people they’ve saved over the centuries.

“Greg created that and put that in the script,” says Prince-Bythewood. “Then it became a group effort between Greg, Paul Kirby and his team, and myself in terms of what things we wanted to pull. We wanted things that really happened in history. Things that weren't always well-known and cultures that aren't always showcased. And so some things are personal. Others are just events that we felt were important and wanted to talk about. Greg was so detailed in his research, so he was such a wealth of information, but the whole team embraced the sociogram. Everyone across the board loved creating something really fascinating.”

#### LOCATIONS, LOCATIONS, LOCATIONS

Production for The Old Guard began on May 20, 2019 and was shot on location in Marrakech, Morocco and at various locations in the UK, including Shirburn Castle, London, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire, and Shepperton Studios.

“When you’re on location, you’re immersed in the culture of that place and it adds a level of authenticity that you don’t get when you’re just on a stage,” says Theron. “You’re working with a local crew who can attest to how certain things should be according to the culture, and any questions or concerns can usually be addressed on the spot instead of through research.”

Scenes filmed at the historic Shepperton Studios featured the incredible interior sets that Kirby and Azis created for the Rectory in Goussainville, the Abandoned Mine, and the Kill

Room. The castle and grounds at Shirburn Castle in Watlington, Oxfordshire were used to depict the village of Goussainville in France in the Middle Ages. “I absolutely love shooting in the UK. I’ve had amazing experiences with the crews there, and this experience was no different,” says Theron.

The locations around Marrakech included the El Fenn hotel, the Berber village of Obaki on the Plateau du Kik (a region in the Atlas Mountains that doubled as an Afghan village), as well as the Jemaa el-Fnaa marketplace, Tamansourt, Harbil, Tayzelt, the Agafay Desert, Boukhriss, and Kettara.

“I had never shot in Morocco before and I have nothing but great things to say about our experience there. The people there were beyond accommodating and so willing to help in any way, and they were invaluable in ensuring that we were showcasing Moroccan culture in the best way possible,” says Theron.

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

### **CHARLIZE THERON (Producer, Andromache the Scythian/Andy)**

South African born and Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron is one of the most celebrated actresses of our time, captivating audiences with her ability to embody a range of characters. Most recently, she portrayed Megyn Kelly in Lionsgate’s *Bombshell*, which her production company, Denver & Delilah, produced. She received nominations for a Golden Globe, a SAG Award and an Academy Award for her remarkable performance.

Over the years, Charlize has appeared in numerous films including *The Devil’s Advocate*; *The Cider House Rules*; the critically acclaimed *Monster*, for which she earned an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, a Screen Actors Guild Award, and an Independent Spirit Award; *North Country*, for which she was nominated for an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, a Screen Actors Guild Award, and a Critics Choice Award; *Hancock*; *Young Adult*, for which she garnered a Golden Globe nomination; HBO’s *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers*, for which she received a Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, and Emmy nominations; *Snow White and the Huntsman*; *A Million Ways to Die in the West*; *Mad Max: Fury Road*; *Prometheus*; *Kubo and the Two Strings*; and *The Fate of the Furious*.

In 2017, Theron produced (under her production company Denver & Delilah) and starred in the Universal film *Atomic Blonde*, alongside James McAvoy. Denver & Delilah also produced *Mindhunter*, the hit Netflix crime drama that same year. Theron also produced Netflix’s *Hyperdrive*, which launched last August.

In 2018, Theron produced and starred in Amazon's *Gringo* alongside Joel Edgerton and Amanda Seyfried. Theron reunited with Diablo Cody on the comedy *Tully* as both an actor and producer. She received a 2019 Golden Globe nomination for her work in the title role. In 2018, she also produced *A Private War*, a film based on the Vanity Fair article "Marie Colvin's Private War."

In 2019, Theron produced and starred opposite Seth Rogen in the Lionsgate comedy *Long Shot* and voiced Morticia Addams in the animated revival of *The Addams Family*.

This summer, Theron can be seen in Netflix's *The Old Guard*, based on the comic book series by Greg Rucka and illustrator Leandro Fernández which her production company also produced. Theron will also reprise her role as Cipher in the 9th installment of the *Fast and Furious* franchise set to hit theaters in 2021.

In addition to Theron's acting success and principal involvement with her production company Denver and Delilah, Charlize serves as a United Nations Messenger of Peace and founder of the Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project (CTAOP). CTAOP's mission is to help keep African youth safe from HIV through its support of on the ground, community-engaged organizations. CTAOP serves as a vehicle for communities to empower themselves and their youth in order to prevent the spread of HIV. With the help of CARE and Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF), Charlize and CTAOP launched "Together for Her," a campaign to help fight gender-based violence during COVID-19. Learn more about CTAOP at [www.charlizeafricaoutreach.org](http://www.charlizeafricaoutreach.org).

### **KiKi LAYNE (Nile)**

Breakout star KiKi Layne made her debut on the big screen as the female lead in Barry Jenkins' film *If Beale Street Could Talk* for Annapurna and Plan B Entertainment. The film premiered to rave reviews at both the Toronto International Film Festival and the New York Film Festival and went on to win Best Feature at the Independent Spirit Awards in 2019. The film was also nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture, and a Critics' Choice Award for Best Picture.

Layne was seen in HBO's *Native Son*, starring opposite Ashton Sanders, Margaret Qualley, and Nick Robinson. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2019 as the Opening Night Feature. Layne and Sanders co-starred again in 2019 for Rupert Wyatt's *Captive State*.

Layne can also be seen starring opposite Julianne Moore in Luca Guadagnino's short film *The Staggering Girl* that premiered in Cannes in May 2019. Following completion of her work on *The Old Guard* Layne went straight on to shoot *Coming to America 2* beside Eddie Murphy and James Earl Jones. The film is slated for a 2020 release.

Layne's stage credits include the US premiere of *Octagon* (2016) at the Jackalope Theatre in Chicago which garnered her a Black Theater Alliance Award (BTAA) nomination for Best Featured Actress in a Play. Other stage credits include *Genesis* (2014), *Good People* (2015), and Definition Theatre and The New Colony's co-production of *Byhalia, Mississippi* (2016) which earned her another BTAA nomination for Best Featured Actress in a Play and Most

Promising Actress. She graduated with a BFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University in 2014.

She currently resides in Los Angeles.

### **MATTHIAS SCHOENAERTS (Booker)**

Matthias Schoenaerts is one of the most dynamic talents of his generation. Schoenaerts began his journey into acting when he was a child, playing opposite his father Julien Schoenaerts on stage in *The Little Prince*. At 15, he made his screen debut in the Oscar-nominated film, *Daens*. After graduating from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in Antwerp in 2002, Schoenaerts performed in a number of stage productions and starred in multiple award-winning shorts and feature films, such as Erik Van Looy's successful Belgian thriller *Loft*, Tom Barman's *Any Way the Wind Blows* and Dorothee Van Den Berghe's *My Queen Karo*. He was honored as one of the European Film Promotion's Shooting Stars at the 2003 Berlin International Film Festival.

Most recently, Schoenaerts starred in the haunting and stunning *The Mustang* directed by Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre. The film premiered at Sundance in 2019 and Focus Features released it in March 2019. Schoenaerts' performance was highly and critically acclaimed, being hailed as one of the best performances of the year. Other recent projects include *Red Sparrow*, *Racer and the Jailbird*, and *Our Souls At Night*. In 2016, Schoenaerts was seen starring in the film *Disorder* opposite Diane Kruger, and in Luca Guadagnino's *A Bigger Splash*, opposite Tilda Swinton, Ralph Fiennes and Dakota Johnson, which was released by Fox Searchlight in the US.

In 2015, Schoenaerts was seen co-starring opposite Carey Mulligan in *Far From The Madding Crowd*, directed by Thomas Vinterberg and based on Thomas Hardy's literary classic. Schoenaerts was also seen in the American remake of Erik Van Looy's *The Loft*, which was released by Open Road Films in January 2015. He also contributed leading performances to several other films, including *A Little Chaos*, opposite Kate Winslet and directed by Alan Rickman; *Suite Francaise*, opposite Michelle Williams and directed by Saul Dibb; and Tom Hooper's *The Danish Girl* opposite Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander, whose role won her an Academy Award.

In 2013, Schoenaerts re-appeared opposite Marion Cotillard in Guillaume Canet's organized crime drama, *Blood Ties*. One year later, Schoenaerts teamed up with Michaël Roskam again in Fox Searchlight's *The Drop*, written by Dennis Lehane. The 2014 film, which co-starred Tom Hardy and Noomi Rapace, was nominated for Best Film at the San Sebastian International Film Festival.

In 2012, Schoenaerts starred in the Golden Globe and BAFTA-nominated romantic drama *Rust and Bone*, directed by Jacques Audiard and based on Craig Davidson's short story collection of the same name. Schoenaerts starred as Alain van Versch opposite Marion Cotillard's Stéphanie. The film received rave reviews and a 10-minute standing ovation at the end of its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. The film was released by Sony Pictures

Classics that November, and Schoenaerts received a 2013 César Award for Most Promising Actor on behalf of his performance in the film.

In 2006, a supporting role in director Paul Verhoeven's BAFTA-nominated film *Black Book* introduced Schoenaerts to a wider European audience. In 2011, Schoenaerts received international recognition and appreciation for his critically acclaimed lead performance in director Michaël Roskam's Academy Award nominated film, *Bullhead*. In addition to winning a multitude of international prizes for his performance, Schoenaerts won the FIPRESCI Award for Best Actor at the Palm Springs International Film Festival, as well as the Best Actor Award at the AFI Fest.

Schoenaerts resides in Antwerp, Belgium.

### **MARWAN KENZARI (Joe)**

Marwan Kenzari is an award-winning Dutch actor, who could be seen most recently as Jafar in the hugely successful live-action musical version of the Disney feature *Aladdin* (2019). Earlier in his career, he received critical acclaim for his powerful and brooding performance in the Dutch crime drama *Wolf* (2013), for which he won a Golden Calf for Best Actor at the Netherlands Film Festival. The International Film Festival Berlin selected Marwan as a Shooting Star 2014, while *Variety* introduced him as "International Talent to Watch" in February 2014. In December 2016, *The Hollywood Reporter* acknowledged him as one of 15 "International Break Out Talents of 2016."

That year, he made his international debut in *Collide*, with Anthony Hopkins, Nicholas Hoult, Felicity Jones and Ben Kingsley, followed by a turn in *Ben-Hur* (2016) by director Timur Bekmambetov. He can be seen with Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac in Terry George's *The Promise* (2016), which premiered in Toronto 2016, and stars opposite Noomi Rapace and Glenn Close in *What Happened to Monday* (2017). Prior to that, he wrapped *The Mummy* (2017), opposite Tom Cruise and Russell Crowe, and *Murder On the Orient Express* (2017), opposite Johnny Depp and Michelle Pfeiffer.

In 2018, Marwan played the lead role in the Netflix spy drama, *The Angel*, directed by Ariel Vromen. Last year, Marwan starred opposite Carice van Houten (*Game of Thrones*) in Halina Reijn's directorial debut *Instinct*, which won the *Variety* Piazza Grande Award at Locarno International Film Festival 2019, was the opening film of The Netherlands Film Festival 2019, and won selections for film festivals in Toronto, London, Chicago, and Gent. Upcoming projects include *The East*, marking the third collaboration between Marwan and director Jim Taihuttu. Marwan is also at home on stage, having worked for many years with Tony-winning director Ivo van Hove (*A View from the Bridge*, *Lazarus*) at the International Theatre Amsterdam and toured the world with their plays.

### **LUCA MARINELLI (Nicky)**

After graduating from the renowned Accademia Nazionale d'Arte Drammatica Silvio D'Amico in Rome and the first theatre engagement with Carlo Cecchi, Luca Marinelli played a leading screen role for the first time in Saverio Costanzo's *The Solitude of Prime Numbers*, which premiered at the Venice International Film Festival in 2010. For *Every Blessed Day* by Paolo

Virzi, he was nominated for many important Italian film prizes in 2013. Earlier that same year he had been honoured as a European Shooting Star at the Berlinale. Marinelli's other standout roles were in films such as Claudio Caligari's *Don't Be Bad*, which represented Italy at the Oscars in 2016; *They Call Me Jeeg* by Gabriele Mainetti, for which he received the David di Donatello Award for Best Supporting Actor in 2016 and *A Private Affair*, directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, premiered at Toronto International Film Festival in 2017. Most recently, he excelled under the direction of Pietro Marcello in *Martin Eden*, for which he won the best actor award at the Venice International Film Festival in 2019.

### **CHIWETEL EJIOFOR (Copley)**

BAFTA Award winning actor, Chiwetel Ejiofor has a breadth of critically acclaimed work across stage and screen.

Chiwetel has an exciting selection of forthcoming projects coming up. 2020 will see him star in the Netflix film *The Old Guard*, which also stars Charlize Theron and Matthias Schoenaerts. The story centres on old soldiers who never die, finding themselves inexplicably trapped in immortality. Greg Rucka adapted the novel for the screen with Gina Prince-Bythewood at the helm as director. Chiwetel will also join Mark Wahlberg in Paramount's action sci-fi thriller *Infinite* in 2021, with Antoine Fuqua directing. The film is based on D. Eric Maikranz's novel *The Reincarnationist Papers* which concerns the Cognomina, a secret society of people who possess total recall of their past lives. John Lee Hancock and Ian Shorr are adapting the novel for the screen. He will also adapt and direct *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League*, based on the bestselling book by Jeff Hobbs.

The beginning of March 2019 saw Chiwetel's directorial debut *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* on Netflix, which he has adapted from the book of the same name, written by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. Chiwetel also stars 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.

The same year also saw Chiwetel voice the infamous character of Scar in Disney's *The Lion King* – a CG animated re-imagining of the 1994 Walt Disney classic. Directed by Jon Favreau (*The Jungle Book*), Chiwetel starred alongside Seth Rogen, Donald Glover, Alfre Woodard and Beyoncé Knowles. Ejiofor also reteamed with Angelina Jolie in *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, the sequel to the 2014 film *Maleficent*. Elle Fanning and Michelle Pfeiffer also star. He can also be heard narrating the Apple TV+ documentary *The Elephant Queen*, which takes audiences across the African savannah, and into the heart of an elephant family.

The start of 2018 saw Chiwetel in *Mary Magdalene* alongside Rooney Mara and Joaquin Phoenix, directed by Garth Davis. The film explores the life of Mary and how she came to be a pinnacle figure of Christianity. Chiwetel was also seen in Netflix's *Come Sunday* alongside Lakeith Stanfield, Jason Segel and Martin Sheen. Directed by Joshua Marston, the story

concerns Evangelist Carlton Pearson (Chiwetel), ostracized by his church for preaching that there is no Hell. March of the same year saw Chiwetel lend his voice in *Sherlock Gnomes*, alongside Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp, James McAvoy, Dame Maggie Smith and Sir Michael Caine. The story centres upon Garden gnomes, Gnomeo & Juliet, recruiting renowned detective Sherlock Gnomes to investigate the mysterious disappearance of other garden ornaments.

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 John 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.

In 2015, 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 Argentinian 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 Solomon Northup, which gained him Academy Award, 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 Miniseries' 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 also appeared in *Salt*, alongside Angelina Jolie and Liev Schreiber and in 2009 he starred in Roland Emmerich's action feature, 2012 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 Steven 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 several 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.

### **HARRY MELLING (Merrick)**

Harry Melling is most well-known for his starring role in the Coen Brothers multi-award-winning feature *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*.

Earlier this year he was cast in Joel Coen's *MACBETH* opposite Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand and will next be seen in Antonio Campos' thriller *The Devil All the Time*. He recently wrapped the Netflix limited series *The Queen's Gambit* opposite Anya Taylor-Joy directed by Scott Frank.

His theatre credits include *Mother Courage and Her Children* at The National Theatre, Harold Pinter's *The Hothouse* at Trafalgar Studios, *King Lear* opposite Glenda Jackson at the Old Vic and the lead in the West End transfer of *Hand to God*.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

### **GINA PRINCE-BYTHEWOOD (Director)**

Award-winning director/writer/producer Gina Prince-Bythewood is one of the most versatile storytellers working in film and television. Known for her authentic character-driven work, Prince-Bythewood has directed and written such influential feature films as *Love & Basketball*, *The Secret Life of Bees*, and *Beyond the Lights*.

Other recent credits for Prince-Bythewood include the special event series, *Shots Fired* which she and her husband Reggie Rock Bythewood served as series creators and executive producers. The 10-hour series for Fox, examined the dangerous aftermath of two racially charged shootings in a small Southern town. In addition, Prince-Bythewood directed the pilot for Marvel's *Cloak & Dagger*, which launched to strong reviews and viewers, starring breakout actors Olivia Holt and Aubrey Joseph as two teenagers with newly acquired superpowers who are mysteriously linked to one another.

An advocate for equal representation in film, Prince-Bythewood funds a scholarship for African American students in the film program at UCLA, her alma mater.

### **GREG RUCKA (Screenwriter, Author, Executive Producer)**

Rucka is a *New York Times* bestselling author of novels and comics, and has won accolades and awards for both his prose and graphic novel works, including multiple Eisner awards and a GLAAD award for his critically acclaimed reinvention of DC Comics' Batwoman. His first graphic novel series was adapted into the motion picture *Whiteout*, starring Kate Beckinsale. His series *Stumptown*, published by Oni Press, is now on ABC, starring Cobie Smulders and Jake Johnson. His Image comics series *Lazarus* is in development at Amazon Studios, with Rucka attached to write and produce.

*The Old Guard* is not the first collaboration between Rucka and Leandro Fernandez, having worked together previously on Rucka's creator-owned series *Queen & Country*, currently in development at Netflix, and on Marvel Comics' *Wolverine*. Their collaboration has continued through a second *Old Guard* series (*The Old Guard: Force Multiplied*) and they intend to complete the trilogy with *The Old Guard: Fade Away*, to be released in 2021.

He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife, author Jennifer Van Meter, and their two children, Elliot and Dashiell.

### **LEANDRO FERNANDEZ (Illustrator)**

Leandro Fernández is a comic book artist and creator, born in Argentina in 1973. He has illustrated books such as *The Old Guard* (with Greg Rucka, Image Comics), *American Carnage* (with Bryan Hill, DC Vertigo), and *The Discipline* and *The Names* (with Peter Milligan, Image Comics and DC Vertigo). An adaptation of *The Old Guard*, directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, and starring Charlize Theron and KiKi Layne, will be released on Netflix in July 2020.

Previously, Leandro has drawn comics for Marvel Comics, DC Comics, Dark Horse, Oni Press, and others. He's drawn *Wolverine: Coyote Crossing* with Greg Rucka; several books from the *Punisher MAX* run from Garth Ennis; *The Slavers*; *Kitchen Irish*; *Up is Down*, *Black is White*; *Man of Stone*; and many popular characters like The Hulk, Conan, Deadpool, Avengers,

Daredevil, and the New Mutants. He also collaborated on a series of *Mad Max* (DC Vertigo) comic books when *Mad Max: Fury Road* was released.

*Queen & Country: Crystal Ball* with Greg Rucka was nominated for an Eisner Award in 2004.

Leandro has also illustrated the technical book *Lights and Shadows*, a tutorial for students and artists that's part of the Master Drawing Course collection from Editorial Dicese (Argentina), and now published in several other countries in different languages.

### **MARC EVANS (Producer)**

Marc Evans is the principal of Marc Evans Productions, with a deal at Skydance Media. In addition to various projects in development, Marc produced *The Old Guard*, starring Charlize Theron and KiKi Layne, and *Limited Partners*, starring Tiffany Haddish, Rose Byrne, and Salma Hayek. In 2018, he produced *Instant Family*, starring Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne.

Prior to 2018, Marc Evans was the President of the Motion Picture Group at Paramount, where he was responsible for the studio's film operations from development to release. In addition to managing the creative/development group, he also oversaw animation, casting, business affairs, and physical production, including film & development finance, post production, and music.

At Paramount, Evans supervised many of the studio's most critically and commercially successful films and repeatedly worked with the film industry's top filmmakers. Under his leadership, Paramount released such films as *A Quiet Place*, *Annihilation*, *Fences*, *Arrival*, *The Big Short*, *10 Cloverfield Lane*, *Interstellar*, *Selma*, *Noah*, *The Wolf Of Wall Street*, *Nebraska*, *World War Z*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, and *Zodiac*.

Franchises Evans shepherded include the series *Mission Impossible*, *Jack Reacher*, *Transformers*, *Star Trek*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *G.I. Joe*, *Paranormal Activity*, and *The Spongebob Movie*.

Prior to joining Paramount, Evans served as Executive Vice President of Laura Ziskin Productions and Vice President of Industry Entertainment.

Before moving to Los Angeles, Evans served as Program Director of the Chicago International Film Festival for five years. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago where he was Chairman of the Documentary Film Group (DOC Films), the nation's oldest student-run film group.

Evans is married to Kirsten Albrecht. They have two children, Gideon and Harper.

### **DAVID ELLISON (Producer)**

David Ellison is Chief Executive Officer of Skydance Media, the diversified media company he founded in 2010 to create elevated, event-level entertainment for global audiences. As CEO,

he sets and executes the strategic vision for the company across all of its divisions: feature film, television, interactive, animation, and new media.

David currently oversees Skydance's upcoming film slate including *Top Gun: Maverick*, *The Old Guard*, *Without Remorse*, *Snake Eyes*, *The Tomorrow War* and the upcoming seventh and eighth installments of the *Mission: Impossible* series. Under his leadership, Skydance has produced a number of blockbuster and critically acclaimed films, including *6 Underground*, *Mission: Impossible – Fallout*, *Annihilation*, *Star Trek Into Darkness* and *Star Trek Beyond*, the *Jack Reacher* and *G.I. Joe* films, *Terminator: Dark Fate*, *Gemini Man*, and the Academy Award-nominated *True Grit*.

David launched Skydance Television in 2013, which boasts a diverse slate of series, including three Emmy-nominated series: *Grace and Frankie* and *Altered Carbon* on Netflix and *Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan* on Amazon. The slate also includes *Condor* on AT&T Audience Network, *Foundation* on Apple TV+ and *Jack Reacher* on Amazon.

In 2016, David formed Skydance Interactive, a dedicated subsidiary that creates and owns original virtual reality games and licensing. The studio's library includes the critically acclaimed VR survival-horror game *The Walking Dead: Saints and Sinners* and the mech-shooter *Archangel: Hellfire*.

David created Skydance Animation in 2017, with the purpose of producing a bold and original slate of high-end animated feature films and television series. The division's animated feature film slate includes *Luck*, *Spellbound* (working title), and *Pookoo* (working title). In 2020, Skydance Animation expanded globally with the formation of Skydance Animation Madrid.

In 2018, David announced that Skydance had entered into a partnership with Tencent Holdings Limited, a leading provider of Internet value added services in China. In 2020, David announced the formation of strategic partnerships with Redbird Capital and CJ E&M, culminating in a \$275 million equity capital expansion that saw Skydance's valuation increasing to \$2.3 billion. This partnership with CJ E&M expanded Skydance's global television business, providing the company a strong foothold in South Korea's entertainment market and access to CJ E&M's expansive library of wildly popular entertainment.

David is an accomplished pilot and a lifelong film enthusiast. He attended the School of Cinematic Arts at USC and is a member of the Producers Guild of America as well as the Television Academy. He resides in Southern California with his wife, musician Sandra Lynn.

### **DON GRANGER (Producer)**

As President of Feature Film Production at Skydance, Don Granger is responsible for overseeing the development and production of the Company's robust feature film slate, including *Top Gun: Maverick*, *The Old Guard*, *Without Remorse*, *Snake Eyes*, *The Tomorrow War* and the upcoming seventh and eighth installments of the critically acclaimed *Mission: Impossible* series.

Don has over 30 years of experience of shepherding tentpole films, serving as producer on past Skydance releases, including *6 Underground*, *Mission: Impossible – Fallout*, *Annihilation*, *Terminator: Dark Fate*, *Gemini Man*, *Jack Reacher: Never Go Back* and *Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation*.

Prior to joining Skydance, Don served as President in Motion Picture Production at United Artists, where he ran the day-to-day development and production operations for five years. Before that, he oversaw production, development and operations at C/W Productions as a senior executive, where he helped bring *War of the Worlds*, *Mission: Impossible III*, and  *Elizabethtown* to the big screen. He also served as Producer on *Ask the Dust* and *The Eye*, and as Executive Producer on *Death Race*. Prior to C/W, he served as Executive Vice President of Motion Picture Production at Paramount Pictures, where he was responsible for supervising such blockbuster franchises as *Mission: Impossible*, *Star Trek*, *Tomb Raider* and the *Jack Ryan* films, as well as *Patriot Games*, *Clear and Present Danger*, *Sum of All Fears*, *Varsity Blues*, *The Saint*, *Kiss the Girls*, *Along Came a Spider*, and the Academy Award-winning *Saving Private Ryan*, among others. Before his time at Paramount, Don served as a creative executive and producer at the Mutual Film Company, The Weintraub Entertainment Group, and Touchstone Pictures.

Don is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Producers Guild. He holds a B.A. from Yale University and resides in Southern California with his family.

#### **DANA GOLDBERG (Producer)**

As Chief Creative Officer of Skydance, Dana Goldberg helps to set and execute the Company's overall creative vision across its feature film, television, and animation units. She oversees Skydance's feature film slate which includes *Top: Gun Maverick*, *The Old Guard*, *Without Remorse*, *Snake Eyes*, *The Tomorrow War*, and the upcoming seventh and eighth installments of the critically acclaimed *Mission: Impossible* series. Dana also helps to oversee Skydance's animated slate including the films *Luck*, *Spellbound* (working title), and *Powerless* (working title).

In addition to feature films, Dana has creative oversight of Skydance Television's slate of original series which includes three Emmy-nominated series: *Grace and Frankie* and *Altered Carbon* on Netflix and *Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan* on Amazon. The slate also includes *Condor* on AT&T Audience Network, *Foundation* on Apple TV+ and *Jack Reacher* on Amazon.

Dana joined Skydance in 2010 as President of Production, and was responsible for the entire film slate, which has included *6 Underground*; *Mission: Impossible – Fallout*, *Rogue Nation* and *Ghost Protocol*; *Star Trek Into Darkness* and *Star Trek Beyond*; the *Jack Reacher* films, *Terminator: Dark Fate*; *Gemini Man*; *World War Z*; *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*; and *True Grit*.

Prior to joining Skydance, Dana served as President of Production at Village Roadshow Pictures where she oversaw and served as executive producer on many of the studio's blockbuster and award-winning films including, *I Am Legend* and *Happy Feet*. Before Village Roadshow, Dana served as Vice President of Production at Baltimore/Spring Creek Pictures. She has been a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences since 2007 and

is a member of the Producers Guild of America and the Television Academy. Dana holds a B.A. degree from the University of Missouri.

## **DENVER & DELILAH**

Under the Denver & Delilah banner, Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron, alongside partners Beth Kono and AJ Dix, has built a prolific production company with a diverse film and television slate. Denver & Delilah's past feature credits include the critically acclaimed feature film, *Monster*, for which Theron received an Academy Award for Best Actress, the Jason Reitman-directed films *Young Adult* and *Tully*, both of which garnered Theron a Golden Globe nomination, Amazon's *Gringo*, a darkly comedic action film directed by Nash Edgerton, the drama *A Private War* starring Rosamund Pike and Universal and Focus Features' *Atomic Blonde*, directed by David Leitch. In 2019, they released the critically praised comedy *Long Shot* starring Charlize Theron and Seth Rogen, which Jonathan Levine directed for Lionsgate. Their most recent release, Lionsgate's *Bombshell*, tackled the emotionally complex issue of sexual harassment at Fox News, and was directed by Jay Roach. Theron expertly portrayed Megyn Kelly, a performance which afforded her a vast swath of award nominations including a Golden Globe nomination and an Academy nomination for Best Actress.

Denver & Delilah has produced multiple series with Netflix including *Mindhunter* with David Fincher, based on the book by the same name by John Douglas and Mark Olshaker, and *Girlboss*, a comedy series with showrunner Kay Cannon, based on the book *#Girlboss* by Sophia Amoruso. Denver & Delilah also teamed up with Netflix to produce the exhilarating high-stakes car series *Hyperdrive*. Additionally, Netflix released the feature film *Brain on Fire*, written and directed by Gerard Barrett (*Glassland*), based on the New York Times bestseller by Susannah Cahalan, starring Chloë Grace Moretz. They also worked with Netflix on the hilarious comedy *Murder Mystery*, starring Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston

Denver & Delilah is currently under a feature deal with Universal Pictures and a pact with Universal Cable Productions.

## **TAMI REIKER (Director of Photography)**

Award-winning cinematographer Tami Reiker, ASC, made history by becoming the first woman to win an American Society of Cinematographers award. She took home the ASC Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography Award for her work on the HBO pilot, *Carnivàle*.

Reiker recently completed director Regina King's drama *One Night In Miami*, chronicling a fictional account of a real night when the lives of Cassius Clay, Sam Cooke, Jim Brown and Malcolm X are forever changed. Previously, she lensed the action epic *The Old Guard* for Netflix and frequent collaborator director Gina Prince-Bythewood, premiering July 10. Based on the graphic novel series of the same name, the film follows a group of immortal soldiers who must defeat a corrupt man trying to expose their secret.

She shot the pilots for: HBO Max's *Delilah* for director James Griffiths, Marvel's *Cloak and Dagger*, CBS's *Charmed*, with director Brad Silberling; and Fox's *Shots Fired*, the critically praised 10-part series chronicling the investigation of a police shooting and the subsequent

racial tensions that plague the town. Before her recent string of pilots, Reiker lensed the drama *Beyond the Lights* with director Gina Prince-Bythewood, starring Minnie Driver, Danny Glover, and Gugu Mbatha-Raw.

Other feature credits include: *Mr. Woodcock*, directed by Craig Gillespie and starring Billy Bob

Thornton and Susan Sarandon; the critically praised *Pieces of April* for director Peter Hedges, starring Katie Holmes and Patricia Clarkson; DreamWorks' *The Love Letter* starring Ellen DeGeneres, directed by Peter Ho-Sun Chan; and *High Art*, a visual collaboration with director Lisa Cholodenko, which earned Reiker a Best Cinematography nomination at the Independent Spirit Awards.

Reiker also lensed the HBO pilot *Getting On* for director Miguel Arteta, *For One More Day*, a TV movie executive produced by Oprah Winfrey and Harpo Films, and HBO's *Disappearing Acts* starring Sanaa Lathan with director Gina Prince-Bythewood.

After beginning her career and making a name for herself in the New York film community, Reiker moved to Los Angeles where she still lives now, with her son. She is represented worldwide by DDA.

### **BARRY ACKROYD (Director of Photography)**

Barry Ackroyd is an Oscar-nominated, BAFTA and European Film Award-winning Director of Photography who has built a reputation for shooting some of the most provocative and dynamic films with high profile directors, including Paul Greengrass, Kathryn Bigelow, and Baltasar Kormákur. He is also known for his long, collaborative filmmaking relationship with British auteur director Ken Loach.

Ackroyd's background in documentary films is evident in his fictional work, which is enhanced by the sensibilities he gleaned from years of documentary shooting, including on Nick Broomfield's searing South African exposé *The Leader, His Driver, and the Driver's Wife*, and the Academy Award-winning *Anne Frank Remembered*. With director Dominic Savage, Ackroyd lensed *Out of Control*, and *Love + Hate*, as well as *Gideon's Daughter*, *Friends & Crocodiles*, and *The Lost Prince* for Stephen Poliakoff.

Ackroyd shot no fewer than 12 films for Ken Loach, culminating in the Cannes Film Festival Golden Palm-winning *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*. He began working with director Paul Greengrass on *United 93*, and followed that with *Green Zone*, starring Matt Damon, as well as the Tom Hanks starrer, *Captain Phillips*, which earned him ASC and BAFTA award nominations. Other credits include Kathryn Bigelow's *The Hurt Locker*, for which he received an Academy Award nomination and a BAFTA win. The film earned six Academy Awards and six BAFTAs as well as other numerous accolades.

Ackroyd lensed the Ralph Fiennes directed Shakespearean adaptation, *Coriolanus* as well as *Parkland*, directed by Peter Landesman, and *Dark Places*, the Gillian Flynn novel adaptation starring Charlize Theron and directed by Gilles Paquet-Brenner. He worked with actor-director Sean Penn on *The Last Face*, and shot the Academy Award winning *The Big*

*Short* for director Adam McKay. Ackroyd reteamed with Greengrass for *Jason Bourne*, and with Kathryn Bigelow for *Detroit*. He recently shot the Robert the Bruce epic *Outlaw King*, with director David Mackenzie, which opened the Toronto Film Festival in 2018, and Jay Roach on *Bombshell*, about Roger Ailes and starring Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman, Margot Robbie and John Lithgow.

### **TERILYN SHROPSHIRE (Editor)**

Emmy-nominated Terilyn A. Shropshire is well-known for her innovative style, collaborating with some of the industry's most talented feature filmmakers and television creators. Most recently, Shropshire edited the feature film, *The Old Guard*, directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood and starring Charlize Theron and KiKi Layne.

Shropshire has also cut Part 1 of Netflix's 4-part mini-series *When They See Us*, directed and written by Oscar-nominee, Ava DuVernay. Shropshire's creativity and adept skills leads the audience through this true story saga of the five black teenagers who were wrongly convicted of the rape of a Central Park jogger in 1989.

In addition to her recent work on *When They See Us*, Shropshire's diverse roster also includes feature films, such as *Miss Bala*, directed by Catherine Hardwicke and starring Gina Rodriguez, *Beyond the Lights*, *The Secret Life of Bees*, and *Love And Basketball*, directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, as well as Kasi Lemmons' films, *Eve's Bayou*, *The Caveman's Valentine*, *Talk to Me*, and *Black Nativity*.

Shropshire has been recognized throughout her career for her stellar work, most notably earning an Emmy nomination for the Lifetime Achievement Award tribute to Sidney Poitier for the 74th Annual Academy Awards and an ACE Eddie Award for *Redemption: The Stan Tookie Williams Story*, directed by Vondie Curtis Hall.

Beyond her work in features, Shropshire maintains a successful career in television, cutting fan-favorite series such as Marvel's *Cloak & Dagger*, Fox's *Shots Fired*, and ABC's *Quantico*, starring Priyanka Chopra.

Shropshire began honing her craft at the University of Southern California, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism and Cinema. There, she learned deft skills in creating balance, which developed Shropshire's unrivalled eye in crafting scenes that emotionally intertwine the audience with the story.

Shropshire is an active member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, American Cinema Editors, and the Diversity Committee of the Motion Picture Editors Guild. She currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

### **PAUL KIRBY (Production Designer)**

Paul Kirby graduated in Production Design from The National Film and Television School in the UK. He started his film career on Sir Richard Attenborough's *Chaplin*, starring Robert Downey Jr. Working on over thirty film projects, Paul has progressed through the art department, on such films as *Shadowlands*, *The Fifth Element*, *Munich* and three *Bond*

movies. Kirby was Art Director on *Batman Begins*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Four Feathers*, *Captain America*, and *Wrath of the Titans*.

Paul's Production Design credits include Matthew Vaughn's *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, Paul Greengrass' *Green Zone*, *Captain Phillips*, and Jason Bourne, Eli Roth's *Death Wish*, and Neil Marshall's *Hellboy*.

Paul has earned four nominations with The Art Directors Guild of America in Excellence in Production Design for his work on *Batman Begins*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Captain America* and *Captain Phillips*. He was awarded Best Production Design at the British Film Designers Guild awards in 2013, for his work on *Captain Phillips* and was recently nominated again for a BFDG Best Production Design award for his work on *Death Wish*.

### **JILLE AZIS (Set Decorator)**

Jille Azis is known for her work on a wide variety of international projects both period and contemporary. After art school she trained on *Bond* working on both *A View to a Kill*, and *The Living Daylights*. Whilst raising three children she went on to work for seven years as an Art Director on major TV commercials. Following her work on *Gladiator* with Ridley Scott she continued to collaborate with film directors globally such as Tony Scott, Roman Polanski, Tarsem Singh, Terry Gillingham, Robert De Niro, and Woody Allen. More recent projects include *Mission: Impossible – Fallout* with Chris McQuarrie and *6 Underground* with Michael Bay. Her latest completed feature is *The Old Guard* for director Gina Prince-Bythewood. Sets included creating rural France in a location in the UK, an ancient mine containing historic artifacts as well as hi-tech lab facilities.

### **MARY VOGT (Costume Designer)**

Mary Vogt famously put the *Men In Black* in black when she designed the now-iconic costumes for all three *Men In Black* films, starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones for director Barry Sonnenfeld. Most recently, she was the costume designer on Jon M. Chu's smash hit romantic comedy *Crazy Rich Asians*, for which she won a Costume Designers Guild Award. Her other recent credits include Jordan Vogt-Roberts' blockbuster action adventure *Kong: Skull Island*; *Broken Horses*, for director Vinod Chopra; and *Grudge Match*, starring Sylvester Stallone, Robert De Niro, and Kim Basinger.

Earlier, Vogt served as costume designer on *A Thousand Words*, starring Eddie Murphy, and *Dinner for Schmucks* for director Jay Roach, after working with Roach on the HBO telefilm *Recount* in 2008. That same year she worked on *Fantastic Four: The Rise Of The Silver Surfer*. Her other film credits include *RV*, *Son of the Mask*, *Unconditional Love*, and *Inspector Gadget*.

Vogt's upcoming projects include the sci-fi feature *2.0*, for director S. Shankar. This marks their second feature collaboration, following the Indian release *Robot*, for which Vogt received an award from William and Mary College for Global Cinema for her work. Also upcoming is director Jonathan Levine's comedy *Flarsky* with a cast led by Andy Serkis, Charlize Theron, Alexander Skarsgård and Seth Rogen.

The Science Fiction Academy presented Vogt with a Saturn Award for her costume design on *Hocus Pocus* and nominated her for a Saturn Award for her work as co-designer on *Batman Returns* for director Tim Burton.

Vogt has designed several projects for television, most recently the costumes for the F/X series *Wayward Pines*, HBO's *The Brink*, and NBC's ambitious event program *Hairspray Live!*, for which she earned a 2017 Emmy Award nomination. Among her other television credits are the ABC series *Pushing Daisies*, for which she received her first Emmy nomination in 2008, and *Night Stalker*.

Vogt also enjoys working in the theater. In 2005, she designed costumes for *Private Lives* at the Pasadena Playhouse and received a nomination for an LA Theatre Critics Award.

A native of Long Beach, Long Island, she graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. Her first professional job was as a fashion illustrator at Lord & Taylor, one of Manhattan's leading department stores. She made the move to California to study at The Pasadena Art Centre College of Design and got her start in Hollywood as a sketch artist. In pursuit of her lifelong goal of becoming a motion picture costume designer, she worked in a number of craft positions and eventually assisted several leading designers.

### **SARA BENNETT (VFX Supervisor)**

Sara Bennett is one of the five founding owners of Milk, a multi-award winning, independent visual effects company.

Bennett became the second ever-female VFX Oscar winner when she received a 2016 Academy Award for Best Visual Effects in Alex Garland's feature *Ex Machina*, for which she also received a 2016 BAFTA Film Award nomination.

Since Milk's launch in 2013, the team has created an impressive range of innovative and complex sequences for high-end TV and feature films, winning an Emmy for the BBC/Hartwood's *Sherlock*; three consecutive BAFTA Craft awards for the BBC's *Doctor Who* (2014 and 2015) and *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* (2016), and receiving seven BAFTA Craft Award nominations.

Bennett's VFX and 2D Supervisor credits at Milk include the feature films Baltasar Kormákur's *Adrift*, Alex Garland's *Annihilation*, *The Alienist*, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*; *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*, Ben Wheatley's *High Rise*, *The Martian*, *Poltergeist*, *The Divergent Series: Insurgent*; Brett Ratner's *Hercules*, *Dracula Untold*, *47 Ronin* and on television *Sherlock*, *Thunderbirds are Go* (ITV), and *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*.

Prior to the launch of Milk, Sara was Head of 2D at Mill TV & Film for seven years. During this time Bennett worked as VFX Supervisor on feature films including *Les Misérables*, *Dredd 3D*, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, *28 Weeks Later*, and Jordan Scott's directorial debut, *Cracks*.

Bennett was Compositing Supervisor on *The Odd Life of Timothy Green*, and on *Snow White and the Huntsman* for Universal. Sara also worked at The Mill on a number of high-profile feature films including *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Black Hawk Down*, and *Hannibal*, as well as HBO's *Band of Brothers*.

Bennett's TV credits include supervising on *Merlin*, which won the 2011 BAFTA Craft Award for visual effects, as well as the BAFTA Craft, VES and RTS Craft Award winning *Doctor Who* and *Primeval*.

Bennett is a member of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, BAFTA and the Visual Effects Society.

### **Hayley J. Williams (SFX Producer)**

Hayley J. Williams has over 15 years of experience in special effects and is the founder of her own special effects company located at Longcross Studios in the UK. She has served as special effects supervisor on numerous films, including, most recently: *The Old Guard*, *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, *Dumbo*, *Holmes & Watson*, *Annihilation*, and *Miss Peregrine's Home for Wayward Children*, among others.

### **VOLKER BERTELMANN & DUSTIN O'HALLORAN (Composers)**

**Volker Bertelmann** is an internationally-acclaimed pianist, composer and experimental musician. His score for Garth Davis' Oscar-nominated film *Lion*, which he composed in collaboration with Dustin O'Halloran, was nominated for multiple awards, including the 2016 Oscar for Best Original Score, the 2016 Golden Globes for Best Original Score, and Best Film Music at the 2016 British Academy Film Awards. He has provided music for several leading films and television series, including the score for *Patrick Melrose*, Showtime's Emmy- and BAFTA-nominated miniseries, and for *Gunpowder*, the HBO mini-series starring Kit Harington. A uniquely innovative pianist, who in his solo work goes by the name Hauschka, Bertelmann has worked with, among others, the MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra, where he was the artist in residence, and the Grammy-winning violinist Hilary Hahn. In 2018, he accepted an invitation to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

**Dustin O'Halloran** is an American pianist and composer with four acclaimed solo albums under his own name, and member of the band A Winged Victory for the Sullen. Winner of a 2015 Emmy Award for his main title theme to Amazon's comedy drama *Transparent*, he was also nominated for an Oscar, a Golden Globe, a BAFTA, and a Critics Choice Award for his score to 2016's *Lion*, written in collaboration with Volker Bertelmann (aka Hauschka). O'Halloran's film career began when Sofia Coppola invited him to contribute to 2006's *Marie Antoinette* and since then he's worked on multiple films and TV shows, including Drake Doremus' Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner, *Like Crazy* (2011), and Marc Turtletaub's *Puzzle* (2018), for whose closing song he collaborated with veteran Scandinavian chart-topper Ane Brun. In 2018, he scored George Tillman Jr.'s *The Hate U Give* and joined forces with Bryan Senti for Nick Murphy's six-part Sky TV series, *Save Me*, while he and Bertelmann also reconvened that year for Netflix's *The Old Guard*, starring Charlize Theron. He and Bertelmann continue to collaborate, scoring the BBC's 2019 adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and Francis Lee's *Ammonite*, due for release in 2020.

O'Halloran released his first EP for renowned classical musical label Deutsche Grammophon in 2019, with a new album currently in the works, and *A Winged Victory for the Sullen*, his ambient orchestral project with Adam Wiltzie, released their latest album, *The Undivided Five*, on Ninja Tune the same year. In addition, O'Halloran worked as a producer for Katy Perry's "Into Me You See," from her 2017 album, *Witness*, and appears on Leonard Cohen's 2019 posthumous album, *Thanks for the Dance*. O'Halloran lives in Los Angeles and Reykjavik, Iceland.

### **BRYCEN COUNTS (Stunt Coordinator)**

Brycen Counts was raised in the town of Brooks, Georgia, which has a population of 300. After graduating high school from McIntosh in Peachtree City, Brycen accepted an athletic scholarship to UC Berkeley for Gymnastics. After graduating with a degree in Economics, Brycen moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career as a Stuntman. Having performed for over 16 years, Brycen moved on to Stunt Coordinating. He has worked on films and series, including *The Old Guard*, *Black Panther*, *What We Do In the Shadows*, *Spiderman: Far From Home*, *Kong: Skull Island*, among numerous others.

### **DANNY HERNANDEZ (Fight Coordinator)**

Danny Hernandez has 34 years of martial arts experience, including weaponry and hand-to-hand combat in numerous martial arts. His work in features and television over the past 16 years includes complex stunt performances, fight choreography, fight coordination, and actor-training. He has contributed to box office hits such as *Avengers: Endgame*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, and the *John Wick* series, having received two Taurus awards for *John Wick* and *300*. He is also the recipient of three SAG nominations for *Jurassic World*, *300*, and *The Unit* (TV Series), and two Taurus nominations for *Safe* and *The Expendables*. Danny has worked collaboratively with such director's as David Leitch, Chad Stahelski, and The Russo Brothers. He has trained Charlize Theron, Jason Statham, Keanu Reeves, and Jeremy Renner, to name a few.

Hernandez's knowledge from extensive training in various martial arts, has enabled him to successfully coordinate major features around the world. As a coordinator, he has worked closely with the directors, actors, and actresses, bringing to life the vision of the film and characters within it. From script to creative choreography, he then immerses the actors/actresses into the sequences to produce the unique and entertaining experience for audiences.

### **TIM LEWIS (Master Armorer)**

Tim Lewis' work can often be seen on screen in the hands of the world's best-known actors and featured on their blockbuster movie posters. After studying model-making Lewis found an ideal home for his design & manufacturing skills, love of film and interest in the world of weaponry as a movie armorer. He began his career working alongside Simon Atherton one of the most highly regarded film armorers on a range of movie projects, spanning many different genres and periods. From Ridley Scott's *Kingdom of Heaven* and *Robin Hood*, Steven Spielberg's *War Horse*, Mel Gibson's *Apocalypto*, and David Ayers' *Fury*, to present day films such as J.A. Bayona's *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*, *Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*,

and *The Mummy*. Tim has more recently helmed the armory departments of critically acclaimed productions like David MacKenzie's *Outlaw King*, Justin Kurzel's *Macbeth*, and Rupert Sanders' *Snow White and the Huntsman*. Lewis' most recent film is Gina Prince-Bythewood's *The Old Guard*. He is currently working for Ridley Scott on his latest project. To date he has worked on three of the films in the *Excalibur* franchise.

### **David Malinowski (Prosthetic Makeup Designer)**

David Malinowski is an award-winning prosthetic makeup artist with almost 25 years experience working in the film and TV industry.

From a young age David had a keen interest in prosthetic makeup and was particularly passionate about life-like work and copying from reference. This passion led him after college to pursue a career at Madame Tussauds, where he was exposed to years of rigorous training and learned how to deliver work with an extraordinary level of detail.

David travelled the world extensively doing celebrity sittings – something that has been instrumental in guiding his approach to working closely with actors.

Having built a strong foundation and discipline, David became a freelance prosthetic makeup artist and worked his way up through increasingly challenging and complex projects. Over the years David has worked on many fantastic projects including *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Ready Player One*, *Breathe*, *Fury*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, and *World War Z* to name but a few.

More recently, David was the Prosthetics Supervisor to Gary Oldman for his transformation into Winston Churchill for the film *Darkest Hour*, for which David won an Oscar and a BAFTA.

His most recent credit is as Prosthetics Designer for the Netflix film *The Old Guard*.

### **ALESSANDRO BERTOLAZZI (Hair & Makeup Designer)**

Alessandro Bertolazzi was born in Vercelli, Italy, where he spent his childhood. At the age of 14 he moved with his family to Reggio Emilia, where he attended art school. Shortly after graduating he began his career as a stage/set designer. His passion for the theater would take him to Rome, where he also began to dedicate himself to film productions and painting.

Alessandro moved to Florence to collaborate with the best Italian directors. His career took on an international dimension when his work with Monica Bellucci took him towards bigger movie productions, first in London and then in the United States. In 2007, he moved to London where he now lives, but Florence remains the place where he always returns. His work on films such as *Babel* (2006), *Beautiful* (2010), *J. Edgar* (2011), *Wonder* (2012), *Skyfall* (2012), *The Impossible* (2012), *Fury* (2014), and *Suicide Squad* (2016) has earned him numerous awards and nominations. For *Suicide Squad*, he won the Academy Award for Best Makeup and Hairstyling at the 89th Academy Awards.

