

# ***THE SCORPION KING***

***“Live free...die well!”***

Five thousand years ago, a ruthlessly ambitious warlord named Memnon believed he was destined to rule the scattered peoples of the desert. With an army of crude barbarians at his command, he swept across the mountains and plains, enslaving those he did not slaughter. He struck with a merciless precision that filled those who opposed him with dread because as his enemies were acutely aware, Memnon’s strategies were plotted by a seer who advised him on when, where and how to attack. He never lost a battle.

Only a few tribes, never natural allies, stand between Memnon and the throne. Knowing his final strike is inevitable, they grudgingly unite against their common foe by enlisting the services of Mathayus, a man descended from generations of Akkadian assassins skilled in the deadly arts, to eliminate the sorcerer and deprive Memnon of his most dangerous asset.

Thus, Mathayus enters a battle that demands all the cunning, courage and strength he can rouse from his powerful core. Slipping into Memnon’s palace in the notorious city of Gomorrah, Mathayus discovers that the evil leader’s visionary is a woman, the beautiful

Cassandra. Rather than kill her, he takes Cassandra hostage, deep into the desolate Valley of the Dead. Although he and his scrappy band of allies would be severely out-numbered, Mathayus is convinced any hope for survival will require direct confrontation with Memnon.

Cassandra's visions have predicted that Mathayus would die in such a fight. But Mathayus has always lived by the simple but profound creed of his people - live free, die well. He also believes that he can create his own destiny, and with that conviction, transcends his heritage, evolving from assassin to legend ... to *The Scorpion King*.

Universal Pictures presents, in association with WWF Entertainment, *The Scorpion King*, an Alphaville/Stephen Sommers/Misher production, starring The Rock as Mathayus, Kelly Hu as the sorceress Cassandra, Steven Brand as the evil Memnon and Michael Clarke Duncan, Oscar®-nominated for his performance in *The Green Mile*, as Mathayus's reluctant ally, Balthazar. Bernard Hill, Grant Heslov, Ralf Moeller, Peter Facinelli and Sherri Howard also star.

Chuck Russell (*The Mask*, *Eraser*) directs the action-adventure film, a spin-off of *The Mummy* series. *The Scorpion King* is produced by Stephen Sommers, Sean Daniel, James Jacks and Kevin Misher. The screenplay is by Sommers and William Osborne and David Hayter from a story by Sommers and Jonathan Hales. Russell's behind-the-

camera team includes director of photography John Leonetti (*The Mask*), production designer Ed Verreaux (*Jurassic Park III*), editors Michael Tronick (*Eraser*) and Greg Parsons, composer John Debney (*Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius*) and costume designer John Bloomfield (*The Mummy Returns*).

### **Origins of the King ...**

Inspired by tales of a legendary Egyptian ruler, *The Scorpion King* unfolds in a time of hardship and brutality, centuries before the raising of the Great Pyramid. As the story begins, the cruel Memnon, portrayed by Steven Brand, will stop at nothing to become king of the known world. He faces minimal resistance from the few desperate survivors of his scourge-like attacks. Still, a small band of Akkadians, a once-proud clan of assassins, now nearly extinct, has been hired to kill the sorcerer who guides Memnon's deadly hand. However, after accepting this mission, the Akkadians' numbers are quickly reduced to just one - Mathayus (The Rock).

The Scorpion King character, portrayed by wrestling superstar The Rock, was first introduced in *The Mummy Returns*, a film which is set 2000 years after the events depicted in this new action adventure saga. The Rock had just finished his first days of shooting *The Mummy Returns* - the film in which he made his big-screen debut - when Universal Pictures approached him about starring in his own film, which would chronicle the Scorpion King's rise to power.

“I was really excited,” recalled The Rock. “My long-term goal has always been to break into the film industry and I was waiting for the right opportunity. It felt like this was definitely it. It was a phenomenal chance for Universal to take and I wasn’t about to let them down.”

For the studio executives and filmmakers, seeing the first footage of The Rock in action was like catching lightning in a bottle. They were witnessing the birth of a new screen action star, in a role perfectly suited to his immense physical talents.

“We were blown away by his charisma and presence in those first dailies for *The Mummy Returns*,” recalled producer Kevin Misher, who was then Universal Pictures’ president of production. “Even though he was speaking his lines in Egyptian, he was incredibly compelling. We started coming up with a project for him right then and there.”

James Jacks and Sean Daniel, producers of *The Mummy* and *The Mummy Returns*, were just as excited. Eager to work with The Rock again, they segued from the rigors of producing *The Mummy Returns* straight into producing *The Scorpion King*. “Not only is The Rock a riveting presence on screen, but he is incredibly professional on set,” said Jacks. “Sean and I are both huge fans.”

“The Rock is the heir apparent in a long line of action adventure heroes,” added Daniel. “He has it all: a natural rapport with the

camera, an imposing physicality and a devilish humor which makes for a potent combination. He's the real deal."

Stephen Sommers, director and writer of *The Mummy* and *The Mummy Returns*, had also become a fan of the actor - and the character. Having introduced the Scorpion King to the world in *The Mummy Returns*, he was primed to explore the heroic origins of the character as a writer and producer of the new film.

The team was complete when Chuck Russell, known for his ease with guiding top action stars (Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Eraser*) as well as emerging talents (Jim Carrey and Cameron Diaz in *The Mask*), was chosen as director. Russell's love for films such as *The Adventures of Robin Hood* and *The Crimson Pirate*, which capture a special combination of wit, action, romance and high adventure, also helped him land the assignment.

"I had always wanted to direct a period sword-fighting adventure," said Russell. "Those classic films had a great sense of fun about them. They swept you away with high adventure, great heart and an uplifting spirit that I wanted to re-create for this film. Having The Rock in that kind of setting with that kind of action seemed like an amazing match to me."

Russell had become aware of The Rock early on and was impressed by the skills he'd displayed as an actor and comedian when he hosted *Saturday Night Live*. "He held the screen, he was good-

looking, charismatic and had an edge of danger about him,” the director recalled. “I knew he was going places.”

Academy Award® nominee Michael Clarke Duncan (*The Green Mile*) was cast in the pivotal role of the Nubian Balthazar, a giant of a man who opposes Mathayus until their hand-to-hand battle for dominance forges a strong bond. Good friends for several years, Duncan and The Rock relished the opportunity to clash onscreen.

“Mathayus and Balthazar start out disliking one another,” explained Duncan of his and The Rock’s characters. “We have this huge fight after which respect is born between us. It was fun to play that evolution with Rock, who’s been a friend for many years.”

Duncan trained alongside The Rock for months in preparation for their climactic fight, which utilized swords, lances and fisticuffs. The scene was Duncan’s first choreographed onscreen fight, though his character in Tim Burton’s remake of *Planet of the Apes* was involved in several mass attacks.

“Michael and I are the best of friends and I’ve known him for years,” said The Rock. “When the producers mentioned Michael, I knew we would have fantastic chemistry onscreen.”

With all the joking and horseplay, Duncan came away with a very positive impression of The Rock as an actor. “He is a truly fine actor already and I think he is the next big action hero,” said Duncan. “I feel fortunate to be working with him at this point in his career.”

## **The Action ...**

The Rock's ease at taking on the rigors of filmmaking impressed director Chuck Russell, who put the star through a daily set of physical challenges that ranged from fighting in a fierce sandstorm to dodging mountain-sized flames. Through it all, according to Russell, The Rock never gave a hint that any of it was difficult to master.

"The Rock has a grace about him," said the director. "He moves well for his size, like a great heavyweight boxer. You cannot take your eyes off him in the action sequences, whether he is handling a sword or a bow and arrow, or is in hand-to-hand combat. He puts his heart into the performance and has a wonderful attitude. He will surprise a lot of people, not only with his naturalness in front of the camera, but with his range of emotion."

Veteran makeup designer Jeff Dawn, who has worked with action superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger for nearly 20 years, drew comparisons between the two athletes turned actors. "Many people on set were comparing The Rock at this point to Arnold when he started," said Dawn. "I've done 19 films with Arnold and he and The Rock are very similar in many respects. They both come from professional sports backgrounds with huge fan bases, and they are both hard-working men who have created characters the world wants to see more of. I see in The Rock a bit of Arnold when he started

acting. I am told Arnold is very supportive and excited about The Rock as well.”

Dawn also admired the grace and work ethic displayed by Michael Clarke Duncan, who volunteered to undergo an innovative makeup design in *The Scorpion King* despite having just finished a grueling daily three-hour makeup regimen for his simian character in *Planet of the Apes*. Duncan’s character, Balthazar, was a Nubian king, and Dawn’s research indicated that ancient Nubians decorated themselves with scarring, which Dawn integrated into Balthazar’s look.

“Nubians had long used scarification to accent their look - as some do today,” said Dawn. “They take blades, cut the skin and introduce an impurity like ash or dirt into the wound. The resulting scars leave a bumpy pattern on the face and head. We added a wild topknot hair piece that really gave his character a menacing visage.”

Many of the battles designed for *The Scorpion King* are long and involved, with very few cutaways from the main actors. The Rock, Michael Clarke Duncan, Steven Brand, Ralf Moeller, Sherri Howard and Kelly Hu - a black belt in karate - all did the majority of their own stunt work, allowing the camera to stay close to them throughout the fight scenes instead of taking wider shots to mask the use of stunt doubles.



The dedication to precision found within the rehearsals and shooting of the battles reminded The Rock of the wrestling arena, where seemingly impromptu violence is carefully paced and charted before the warriors step into the ring.

“My athletic background made my transition to fighting onscreen a little easier,” said The Rock. “All the stunt performers were very gracious and informative, always willing to help me get the little things right. Andy Cheng, Al Leong, Billy Burton and Tom Lupo helped me visualize the fight scenes and map them out. Because, let’s face it – one wrong move and I’m headed for the hospital.”

The care given to staging the battle scenes was a top priority on the set. “I told my cast and crew that this would be a very physical movie, with fire, smoke, dust and sweat in every shot,” said Russell. “However, in our fight scenes, I am always more concerned about someone breaking an arm or being cut than getting all the shots accomplished. None of it matters if someone gets hurt on set.”

### **Challenges of the Ancient World ...**

In a very physical film such as *The Scorpion King*, much of the detail work is handled during the design phase by the art department so that special effects such as fire and smoke can be integrated into the sets seamlessly. In the climactic throne room battle between Mathayus and Memnon, for example, gas flames, live snakes, breakaway vases, smoke machines and stuntwork must combine so

that the final shot is a success. Lighting is also a key, and cinematographer John Leonetti found that shooting a film based 5,000 years before electricity had its challenges.

“I loved getting a chance to shoot a film that is set so long ago,” said Leonetti. “The only lighting sources then would have been the sun, moon and fire, so my gaffer (Derrick Kolus) and I came up with a fairly innovative approach to firelight in Derrick’s garage. Derrick and key grip Dan Reilly made what we called ‘fire wheels’ – two rings of individual light bulbs on a computerized dimmer system that could range from candlelight to a hot brazier effect. We combined them with a selection of gels that yielded a light identical to flame light. It gave us an organic look, with deep textures and warm colors.”

For actor Steven Brand, the most daunting aspect of a production set in this time and place was probably his work with the film’s scorpions and cobras. “Those are real scorpions, I want everyone to know!” Brand laughed. “I had to put my hand in a bowl of them for what seemed an eternity, then place them on my arm. Not to mention that the barrels full of snakes in my final fight scene with The Rock were actually cobras, which are not fun animals to be around. They do not make cuddly pets, I assure you.”

The filmmakers decided to shoot *The Scorpion King* entirely in California and Arizona. “We didn’t need to go to Morocco or anywhere else, because it was all right here,” said Russell. Extensive

location scouting yielded several sites that stood in beautifully for the ancient Middle East, some right in the studio's backyard. The famed 'Spartacus Square' built in 1953 for director Stanley Kubrick's *Spartacus* still stood on the Universal Studios backlot and was converted into a swarming Gomorrah marketplace by production designer Ed Verreaux and his team. The sprawling desert oasis where Balthazar challenges Mathayus was created in Hollywood's Bronson Canyon, less than three miles from the film's Universal Studios production base.

Other locations standing in for the wind-swept deserts of the ancient Middle East were found in such areas as Lancaster, Borrego Springs, Buttercup Dunes, Simi Valley and Canyon Country, with most interiors filmed on Stages 3, 44 and 28 at Universal Studios.

Some sets, such as the Gomorrah Main Gate, were constructed 20 miles north of Los Angeles on a unique mesa near Canyon Country. This site was chosen for its grand vistas and hard-to-find 360 degree unobstructed views of the countryside. Scores of horses, oxen, chickens, camels, exotic birds and monkeys worked in many of these outdoor scenes, lending a sense of bizarre reality to the 'ancient world' created so close to civilization. The weathered costumes designed by John Bloomfield and the keen detail of Kate Sullivan's set decoration made it easy for the cast and crew to believe they were

indeed in a world that predated Rome, Carthage...even the Pharaohs themselves.

“This was a very demanding film to make,” said Russell. “But that’s part of why I love making movies. Where else can you wake up in the morning and create a giant sandstorm, or a burning fortress, or a comedy scene in a harem?”

The Rock was also satisfied. “This movie has all the classic elements of a great film – kickass action, comedy, romance, special effects, you name it,” he said. “At the end of the day, I realize how lucky I am to have worked with such a great cast and crew and to be part of a film that I am very proud of.”

## **ABOUT THE CAST ...**

**THE ROCK (Mathayus)** conquered the world of professional wrestling as a record-setting, six-time champion of the World Wrestling Federation before he entered the demanding realm of film acting. His striking debut as the Scorpion King in *The Mummy Returns* led to his starring role as the same character in *The Scorpion King*, a film designed to showcase his prowess as an athlete as well as his natural ease as an actor.

Dwayne Douglas Johnson was born in San Francisco, California, in 1972, the son of successful professional wrestler Rocky Johnson and

the grandson of Samoan wrestling legend Peter Maivia. As a child, he grew up with wrestling greats as family friends and learned the fine points of the sport before leaving home to play college football at the University of Miami. At 6'5" and 250 pounds, he was a gifted defensive tackle who was kept from the starting lineup only because All-American Warren Sapp already had the job. He was a member of the university's NCAA National Championship team in 1991 and graduated in 1995 with a degree in Criminology. He then went on to play professional football, but injuries soon forced him to leave the game.

As luck would have it, he turned to wrestling and adopted the name of 'Rocky Maivia,' which he eventually shortened to 'The Rock.' He became the youngest WWF World Champion at the age of 26. Moving swiftly up the WWF ladder, The Rock came to be known as the 'People's Champion,' a monumentally popular and innovative wrestler who is now recognized the world over as a modern athletic icon.

Having always wanted to act, The Rock made a few television appearances in small roles on *Star Trek: Voyager*, *That 70's Show*, and, most notably, an eye-catching hosting stint on *Saturday Night Live* that displayed his talent for acting and singing. Film offers soon came, with The Rock choosing his role in *The Mummy Returns* as his cinematic launching pad.

Although still seriously dedicated to professional wrestling and his growing acting career, The Rock is also looking forward to more adventures onscreen as well as in his private life: his wife, Dany, gave birth to their first child shortly after the filming of *The Scorpion King* ended.

**MICHAEL CLARKE DUNCAN (Balthazar)** just completed production on the fantasy film *George and the Dragon* with Patrick Swayze, and next joins Ben Affleck, Colin Farrell and Jennifer Garner in the big-screen adaptation of the Marvel Comic *Daredevil*.

Duncan was nominated for an Academy Award® for his performance opposite Tom Hanks in *The Green Mile*. He most recently starred with Mark Wahlberg in Tim Burton's *Planet of the Apes*, and received critical accolades for his performance in the Showtime original drama *They Call Me Sirr*. Duncan re-teamed with his *Armageddon* co-star Bruce Willis for the comedy *The Whole Nine Yards*.

Born and raised in Chicago, Duncan studied communications at Alcorn State University in Mississippi. After a stint in security, Duncan worked in commercials before making his feature debut in F. Gary Gray's comedy *Friday*.

Duncan's other feature credits include *See Spot Run*, *Bulworth*, *The Player's Club* and *Night At The Roxbury*. On television, he

appeared on *The Jamie Foxx Show*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, *Weird Science*, *Married With Children* and *The Wayans Brothers*.

**STEVEN BRAND (Memnon)** makes his feature film debut as the evil warlord and arch nemesis of Mathayus. Immediately after securing the role, he began working with martial arts trainers to master sword fighting and also began intensive horseback riding lessons.

Although native to Dundee, Scotland, Brand and his family moved to East Africa when he was young, where they lived for nine years in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. He experienced film for the first time in a drive-in cinema in Kenya.

He eventually moved back to the UK and upon graduating college, set off to explore Europe. Acting in short plays and mime shows, he performed short excerpts from Pinter and Osborne plays on the streets of Paris, and later graduated to fringe theaters in London. He also began working freelance for a large magazine publisher and within a year was publishing *Mobile Communication International*, a monthly trade magazine in the communications industry.

After appearing in a French play called *The Lie*, Brand secured a role on the popular British series, *Darling Buds Of May*, starring opposite Catherine Zeta-Jones as her business advisor and secret love interest. He spent the next few years working consistently in British television, until meeting with the casting agent for a Fox-TV pilot – who also happened to be casting for *The Scorpion King*. After

wrapping up his last days on the BBC television series, *Doctors*, Brand moved to LA to begin his first movie.

**KELLY HU (Cassandra)** has become a familiar face to American television viewers as a star of such series as *Martial Law*, *Sunset Beach* and *Nash Bridges*, often displaying her formidable martial arts abilities. Although she has appeared in several feature films, her role in *The Scorpion King* is her first as the leading lady of a major Hollywood production.

The Honolulu, Hawaii native is a fourth generation American with Chinese, Hawaiian and English ancestry. Athletic and active as a child, she was named Miss Teen USA in 1985, and later represented Hawaii in the Miss USA Pageant.

After moving to Los Angeles, Hu soon landed guest roles in the television series *Growing Pains*, *Night Court*, *Tour of Duty*, *21 Jump Street*, *Melrose Place* and *Pacific Blue* among others. She has appeared in films including *The Doors* and *No Way Back*. She is a black belt in karate.

**BERNARD HILL (Philos)** has enjoyed a multifaceted acting career on both sides of the Atlantic, starring in top British (*Mountains of the Moon*, *Shirley Valentine*) and American (*Titanic*, *True Crime*, *The Ghost and the Darkness*) feature films as well as scores of television and stage productions.



Born in Manchester, England, he made his English television debut in 1973 in Mike Leigh's first film, *Hard Labour*. Balancing stage, film and television work, Hill starred in films such as *Gandhi*, *The Bounty*, *No Surrender*, *Blessed Art Thou*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Going Off Big Time* and *The Criminal*. He was also seen in the award-winning television productions of *I, Claudius*, *Henry VI* trilogy and *Richard III*; *Antigone*, *Boys from the Black Stuff*, *The Mill on the Floss* and *Great Expectations*.

Hill will next be seen as King Theoden in the continuing saga of J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Ring* trilogy, *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*.

**GRANT HESLOV (Arpid)** adds *The Scorpion King* to an array of starring roles in films such as *True Lies*, *Congo*, *The Birdcage* and *Dante's Peak*. He has also created memorable characters in *Enemy of the State*, *Black Sheep* and *Catch Me If You Can* (directed by Stephen Sommers). On television, Heslov was last seen being devoured by rats on *The X-Files*, and in recent guest roles on *CSI*, *Outer Limits* and *Yes, Dear*. He was also part of the cast of the live television production of *Fail Safe*, produced by George Clooney and directed by Stephen Frears.

Heslov starred in and directed the critically acclaimed short film *Waiting for Woody*, and also directed the recently completed feature

film *Par 6*. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, film producer Lysa Hayland-Heslov, and daughter.

**PETER FACINELLI (Prince Takmet)** most recently starred alongside Kevin Spacey and Danny DeVito in *The Big Kahuna*, and with Drew Barrymore in *Riding in Cars with Boys*. The New York native attended the New York University Tisch School of the Arts, studying acting until his first role in the television film *After Jimmy* brought him to Los Angeles.

Roles in television films such as *Calm at Sunset*, *An Unfinished Affair* and *The Price of Love* preceded his work in the films *Angela*, *Foxfire*, *Touch Me*, *Telling You*, *Dancer*, *Texas Pop. 81*, *Can't Hardly Wait*, *Blue Ridge Falls*, *Honest*, *Supernova*, *Rennie's Landing* and *Tempted*.

**RALF MOELLER (Thorak)**, born in Recklinghausen, Germany, was a professional swimmer for seven years, a champion boxer and winner of the IFBB German Bodybuilding Championship. A former Mr. Universe, he was the first ever to win the competition drug-free.

Moeller recently gained international acclaim for his portrayal of 'Hagen' in the Oscar®-winning epic, *Gladiator*, directed by Ridley Scott and starring Russell Crowe. He made his English-speaking debut in *Cyborg* in 1989. He then earned roles in such films as *Universal Soldier*, *Best of the Best II*, *Batman and Robin*, and the

family film *Ozzie*. He portrayed the lead in *The Viking Sagas*.

Moeller's television starring roles include *Conan: The Adventurer*. He has been a guest-star on series including *Relic Hunter*, *Mutant X* and *Andromeda*. He now lives in Los Angeles with his family.

**SHERRI HOWARD (Queen Isis)** is a world-renowned American athlete who won a gold and a silver medal in the 4 x 400 meter relay in the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games respectively. She also won the 400 meters in the 1985 NCAA Division I Track and Field Championships while attending California State University at Los Angeles. Her athletic achievements paved the way for a busy career in commercials, sports commentating, modeling and motivational speaking.

In addition, her interest in acting landed her roles in projects for stage, screen and television. She appeared in the film *The Fabulous Baker Boys*, and among her television credits are roles in *Martial Law*, *Diagnosis: Murder*, *Profiler*, *Beverly Hills 90210* and *The X Files*.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES ...

**CHUCK RUSSELL (Director)** has found success not only as a director of major feature films in many genres, but also as a producer and writer. Known for delivering groundbreaking thrills, he

previously directed Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Eraser* and made Jim Carrey an international star in *The Mask*.

The Chicago native entered film production in 1975 as a production assistant on Roger Corman's *Death Race 2000* and as second assistant director on *Bobbie Jo and the Outlaw*. He learned his craft in several production capacities until breaking through as a writer on the 1986 science fiction adventure *Dreamscape*, starring Dennis Quaid and Kate Capshaw. He made his feature directing debut in 1987 on *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors*, which he co-wrote with friend and collaborator Frank Darabont. He most recently directed Kim Basinger in the supernatural thriller *Bless the Child*.

His career as a producer began with executive producing *Hell Night*, starring Linda Blair, in 1981. He was producer of *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*, starring Sarah Jessica Parker and Helen Hunt, and *Back to School*, starring Rodney Dangerfield. He also executive produced *The Mask* and *Eraser*, and co-produced the HBO film *Black Cat Run*.

**STEPHEN SOMMERS (Screenplay, Story, Producer)** attended St. Johns University and The University of Seville in Spain. Following that, he spent four years performing in theater groups and managing rock bands throughout Europe. Relocating to Los Angeles, he attended the USC School of Cinema-Television, earning a Masters

Degree. During this time, he wrote and directed an award-winning short film entitled *Perfect Alibi*.

Sommers wrote and directed *The Mummy* as well as *The Mummy Returns*. He wrote and directed *The Adventures of Huck Finn*, starring Elijah Wood and Jason Robards, *The Jungle Book* with Jason Scott Lee, Cary Elwes, Sam Neill and John Cleese, and *Deep Rising*, starring Treat Williams and Famke Janssen. Sommers wrote and executive produced Disney's *Tom and Huck* with Jonathan Taylor Thomas and Brad Renfro. His next film is the action adventure project, *Van Helsing*.

Sommers resides in Los Angeles with his wife Jana and their two daughters.

**WILLIAM OSBORNE (Screenplay)** lives in London where he is currently at work on a film adaptation of the British TV series *Thunderbirds*, as well as a comedy called *The Fat Slags* from cult English comic Viz. Osborne's writing credits also include the films *Kevin of the North*, *What Rats Won't Do*, *Dr. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde*, *Ghost in the Machine*, *The Real McCoy*, *Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot* and *Twins*. He was co-producer of *Ghost in the Machine* and executive producer of *The Real McCoy*.

**DAVID HAYTER (Screenplay)**, a native Canadian from Toronto, spent the first 20 years of his life traveling the world with his family while picking up the Japanese and French languages. Before moving

to Los Angeles, he attended the prestigious Ryerson Theatre School in Toronto. His acting credits, numerous and varied, range from television (*Major Dad*) to producing and starring in the art house film *Burn*. He has also done extensive voice-over work, most recently voicing Snake in the hugely popular video game *Metal Gear Solid 2*.

Hayter's writing credits include the smash hit *X-Men* as well as *Pitch Black 2*, *Lost In Oz* and *X-Men 2*. A very important work currently in progress is the screen adaptation of Alan Moore's graphic novel *The Watchmen*.

**JONATHAN HALES (Story)** is the co-writer with George Lucas of *Star Wars II: Attack of the Clones*. He wrote the opening episode, *Egypt & Mexico*, of *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* and several more including *Tales of Innocence*, *New York 1920*, *Hollywood Follies* and *The Price of Peace*.

**SEAN DANIEL (Producer)** is a partner with Jim Jacks in Alphaville Productions. In addition to *The Scorpion King*, the company is also producing *The Hunted*, directed by William Friedkin and starring Tommy Lee Jones and Benicio Del Toro, and *Dark Blue*, directed by Ron Shelton and starring Kurt Russell and Ving Rhames.

Daniel also produced last summer's smash hit *The Mummy Returns*, and 1999's *The Mummy*, which together have grossed more than \$800 million so far in worldwide release. Both were directed by Stephen Sommers and star Brendan Fraiser and Rachel Weisz. Daniel

has also produced *Down to Earth*, directed by Paul Weitz and Chris Weitz and starring Chris Rock; *A Simple Plan*, directed by Sam Raimi and starring Billy Bob Thornton and Bill Paxton; the hit comedy *Michael*, written and directed by Nora Ephron and starring John Travolta; *Rat Race*, directed by Jerry Zucker; *Tombstone*, starring Kurt Russell and Val Kilmer; the critically acclaimed *Dazed and Confused*, directed by Richard Linklater; *Hard Target*, which starred Jean-Claude Van Damme and marked famed action director John Woo's first American film; Chris Rock's original comedy *CB4*; *American Me*, the searing portrayal of gang life directed by and starring Edward James Olmos; the TNT Original Film *Freedom Song* directed by Phil Alden Robinson and starring Danny Glover, and the USA Network four-hour mini-series *Atilla*.

Daniel received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Film School of the California Institute of the Arts and began his career with Universal Pictures in 1976 as an assistant. Two years later he was promoted to vice president of production. Daniel served as president of production of Universal Pictures from 1984 through mid-1989. At Universal, he supervised such films as *National Lampoon's Animal House*, *Coal Miner's Daughter*, *Missing*, *Blues Brothers*, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club*, *Fletch*, *Brazil*, *Field of Dreams* and *Do the Right Thing*.

Daniel has been a participant in the debate about media and culture, appearing in *The New York Times* and as a guest on *The McLaughlin Group* and on NPR's "Which Way LA". Recently he was on a panel with Aaron Sorkin and Sydney Pollack discussing "Post Terror America: Hollywood Reacts". This was part of the Occidental Policy Forum broadcast locally on KPCC.

**JAMES JACKS (Producer)** was the executive producer of *Raising Arizona*, and then became vice president of acquisitions for Universal Pictures. During his five years in this capacity (ultimately becoming senior vice president of production), he was involved in such films as *Field of Dreams*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Darkman*, *Tremors*, *Jungle Fever*, *American Me* and *People Under the Stairs*. In 1992, Jacks left Universal to go into partnership with Sean Daniel and formed Alphaville Productions. Together they have produced: *Dazed and Confused*, directed by Richard Linklater; *Hard Target*, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and directed by acclaimed Hong Kong director John Woo; *Tombstone*, starring Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer and an all-star cast, directed by George Cosmatos; *Mallrats*, directed by Kevin Smith; *The Gulf*, written by Billy Bob Thornton and Tom Epperson; *Michael*, starring John Travolta and directed by Nora Ephron; *The Jackal*, starring Richard Gere and Bruce Willis; *A Simple Plan*, starring Billy Bob Thornton, Bill Paxton and Bridget Fonda, and directed by Sam Raimi; *Down to Earth*, starring Chris Rock and directed by the



Weitz brothers; *The Gift*, starring Cate Blanchett and directed by Sam Raimi; *Rat Race*, directed by Jerry Zucker; *The Mummy*, starring Brendan Fraser and directed by Stephen Sommers, and *The Mummy Returns*, with the creative team of *The Mummy*.

In post-production are *The Hunted*, directed by William Friedkin and starring Tommy Lee Jones and Benecio Del Toro, and *Dark Blue*, directed by Ron Shelton starring Kurt Russell. Upcoming projects include *Dogs of Winter*, written by Scott Rosenberg and Ken Nunn from Nunn's critically acclaimed novel; *Hot Springs*, directed by Stephen Frears and *The Hundred Fires*, directed by John Woo.

KEVIN MISHER (Producer) recently bought the rights to the name Rucker Park because he sees a provocative film in its legendary, freewheeling basketball tournament. The ability to suss out the creative potential in even the rawest material, and to then shape the elements into a successful movie, is what catapulted Misher through the studio ranks, landing him atop Universal Picture's production division at just 33. Now Misher brings his expansive vision and assiduous, hands-on approach to his newly launched production company.

In a testament to Misher's deep connections within Hollywood's community of directors, writers and actors, the Universal-based company has quickly assembled a diverse slate of high profile projects. Ranging in scope from summer blockbuster to father-son

drama to international thriller, they are driven by a passion for heroic themes and characters.

Misher first joined Universal Pictures in 1996 as executive vice president of production, rising to president of production in just three years. During his tenure, Universal enjoyed an unprecedented record of success, culminating in 2000 with a billion dollar year, which included five consecutive number one releases. Among the projects that Misher ushered from conception through release - often beginning with a dormant script or the mere suggestion of a larger story - were this summer's surprise hit *The Fast and The Furious*, starring Vin Diesel; Jay Roach's comedy hit *Meet The Parents*, starring Robert DeNiro and Ben Stiller; Tom Shadyac's heartwarming blockbuster *Patch Adams*, starring Robin Williams; *The Bone Collector*, with Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie; and Jonathan Mostow's World War II drama *U-571*, starring Matthew McConaughey.

As president, Misher also supervised production on some of Universal's most successful franchises and features, including Stephen Sommers' *The Mummy* and *The Mummy Returns*; Ridley Scott's *Hannibal*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Julianne Moore; Stephen Soderbergh's *Erin Brockovich*, starring Academy Award®-winner Julia Roberts; *Bring It On*, starring Kristen Dunst; and *The Family Man*, starring Nicolas Cage and Tea Leoni.

Misher got his start in entertainment as a financial analyst with HBO after gaining a B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in 1987. After brief stints at ICM and Intertalent (a boutique agency later folded into ICM and UTA), he spent five years at Tristar Pictures, where his passion for good ideas and tenacious commitment helped him rise quickly from executive assistant to senior vice president. Among the films he oversaw while there were David Anspaugh's *Rudy*, Andrew Bergman's *It Could Happen To You* and Mike Newell's *Donnie Brasco*.

**VINCENT K. McMAHON (Executive Producer)**, Chairman of the Board of World Wrestling Federation Entertainment, Inc. (WWFE), is a third-generation promoter who has made the World Wrestling Federation the global phenomenon it is today. As a pioneer in the television syndication business, a recognized television personality throughout the world, a visionary promoter and a fearless marketer, he continues to make his presence known as a leader within the broadcast and entertainment industries.

In 1972, McMahon joined his father's company, Capitol Wrestling Corporation, on a full-time basis and continued to assist in the growth of the company. By 1979, the company had syndicated to 30 stations. In 1982, he purchased the Capitol Wrestling Corporation from his father and decided to take what had always been a regional operation and turn it into a national venture.

In 1985, McMahon became a pioneer in the cable television industry by leveraging the new technologies of pay-per-view and closed-circuit for the first WrestleMania. Not only did he build a brand that people would watch in syndication, but he also built the World Wrestling Federation into a brand that people would pay to watch. In April 2001, more than a million fans purchased the World Wrestling Federation's premier event, WrestleMania X-Seven, the most watched non-boxing event in pay-per-view history. This year, nearly seven million households will purchase World Wrestling Federation pay-per-view events.

As television audiences grew exponentially, so did the live audience. In 1987, WrestleMania III attracted 93,173 fans to the Pontiac Silverdome, an indoor attendance record that still stands. In 2002, the World Wrestling Federation will perform nearly 350 live events in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia and Australia.

For nearly 1,000 consecutive weeks, World Wrestling Federation programming has aired in the United States without a rerun. Today, as many as 20 million Americans tune in to watch World Wrestling Federation branded programming every week. In addition to *WWF Raw* and *WWF SmackDown!*, WWFE produces a total of nine hours of new television programming 52 weeks a year. World Wrestling Federation programming can also be seen in 130 countries and 13 languages.

Under McMahon's leadership and the popularity of superstars including The Rock and Stone Cold Steve Austin, the company continues to grow. Today, it is a publicly traded company on the NYSE under the symbol WWF. McMahon is also focusing on new ventures including film production, with *The Scorpion King* his first executive producer credit.

**JOHN R. LEONETTI (Director of Photography)** previously worked with director Chuck Russell on the hit action comedy *The Mask*. He learned his craft in both television and films, making his film debut as a camera assistant on the film *One From the Heart* in 1982.

He went on to be first assistant camera operator on the films *Poltergeist*, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Commando*, *Weird Science*, *Extreme Prejudice* and *Hard to Kill* among others before becoming the cinematographer on the films *Child's Play 3*, *Hot Shots! Part Deux*, *Spy Hard* and *Detroit Rock City*. He teamed up with director John Frankenheimer on two highly-acclaimed HBO films, *Against the Wall* and *The Burning Season*. He was cinematographer on *Mortal Kombat* and directed its sequel, *Mortal Kombat 2*. He has also directed episodes of the television series *Providence* and *Sons of Thunder*. Most recently, he was director of photography on the film comedy *The Adventures of Joe Dirt*.

**ED VERREAUX (Production Designer)**, a multi-talented artist, is in his third decade of designing and art-directing influential and

successful feature films. He began his career as a layout artist on *The White Seal* and was an illustrator on Steven Spielberg's blockbuster hits *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, *The Color Purple*, *Empire of the Sun* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

He served as assistant art director on *Back to the Future II* before becoming art director on such films as *The Rookie*, *Honey, I Blew Up the Kid*, *The Distinguished Gentleman*, *Blue Chips*, *Casper* and *How to Make an American Quilt*. He became a production designer on the science fiction adventure *Contact* in 1997, and was also the production designer on *Mission to Mars* and *Jurassic Park III*.

**MICHAEL TRONICK (Editor)** most recently worked on the surprise box office hit *Remember the Titans*. He first worked with director Chuck Russell on the successful action thriller *Eraser*, which starred Arnold Schwarzenegger and Vanessa Williams.

Beginning his career as a music editor on such films as *Movie Movie*, *All That Jazz*, *Star 80*, *Reds*, *48HRS.*, *A Chorus Line*, *Ruthless People* and *Predator*, he moved into film editing with the blockbuster comedy *Beverly Hills Cop II* in 1987. Among his other film credits are *Less Than Zero*, *Midnight Run*, *The Adventures of Ford Fairlane*, *Days of Thunder*, *The Last Boy Scout*, *True Romance*, *Straight Talk*, *Scent of a Woman*, *The Cowboy Way*, *Under Siege 2: Dark Territory*,

*Volcano, Meet Joe Black* and *Blue Streak*. He most recently completed work on *American Outlaws*.

**GREG PARSONS (Editor)** was an additional editor on *Blue Streak*, *Remember the Titans* and *American Outlaws*. He has worked as first assistant editor on films including *Meet Joe Black*. *The Scorpion King* is his first feature film credit as editor.

**JOHN DEBNEY (Composer)** combines extensive classical training with a strong knowledge of contemporary sounds to create a wide range of musical styles. Among his feature credits are the scores for *The Princess Diaries*, *Cats & Dogs*, *Spy Kids*, *The Emperor's New Groove*, *Heartbreakers*, *See Spot Run*, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, *Liar Liar*, *End of Days*, *Inspector Gadget*, *Paulie*, *Relic*, *My Favorite Martian*, *Dick*, *Sudden Death*, *Cutthroat Island*, *Hocus Pocus*, *The Replacements* and *Michael Jordan to the Max*. Debney most recently composed the music for the Oscar®-nominated animated feature *Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius* for director John A. Davis, the comedy *Snow Dogs* for director Brian Levant and the supernatural drama *Dragonfly* for director Tom Shadyac. A three-time Emmy Award® winner for *The Young Riders*, *SeaQuest* and *The Cape*, his television credits also include *Sisters* and *Cagney & Lacey*.

**JOHN BLOOMFIELD (Costume Designer)** worked in television, opera and theater before concentrating on feature films. His film credits include *Eye of the Needle*, *Conan the Barbarian*, *The Bounty*,

*Conan the Destroyer, Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, Rapa Nui, Waterworld, Space Truckers, The Postman* and, most recently, the worldwide blockbusters, *The Mummy* and *The Mummy Returns*.