

ROBERT RODRIGUEZ'S
MACHETE

Production Notes

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Rating: TBC

Running Time: TBC

He looked like just another day laborer from the streets, and the perfect fall guy for a crooked political assassination. But he turned out to be MACHETE, a legendary ex-*Federale* with a deadly attitude and the skills to match.

Left for dead after clashing with notorious Mexican drug kingpin Torrez, Machete has escaped to Texas, looking to disappear and forget his tragic past. But what he finds is a web of corruption and deceit that leaves a bullet in a senator and Machete a wanted man.

Machete sets out to clear his name and expose a deep conspiracy. But standing in his way are Booth, a ruthless businessman with an endless payroll of killers; Von, a twisted border vigilante leading a small army; and Sartana, a beautiful immigrations officer torn between enforcing the law and doing what is right.

Helping Machete even the odds are Luz, a sexy taco-truck lady with a rebellious spirit and revolutionary heart, and Padre, a priest who's good with blessings, but better with guns. Carving a path of bullets, blood, and broken hearts, Machete's quest ultimately leads him back to Torrez for an epic battle of revenge and redemption.

Or as Machete puts it: "They just f****d with the wrong Mexican."

While most movie fans believe MACHETE was born in a now-legendary "fake" trailer conceived by Robert Rodriguez as part of his and Quentin Tarantino's tribute to B-movies, "Grindhouse," MACHETE's inception dates back years before that film's 2007 release. In the early-1990s, when Rodriguez was prepping his second motion picture "Desperado," he thought the time was right for a Latin movie hero, which he codenamed "Machete." "There weren't any action movies that with a Latin flavor that could play to a broad audience," Rodriguez explains. "When I watched [director] John Woo's movies, they made me want to be Asian. Woo and [actor] Chow Yun-Fat's 'Hard Boiled' and 'The Killer' really inspired me to make films that would create that feeling in the Latin arena."

The nascent idea for MACHETE began to crystallize when actor Danny Trejo reported to the set of "Desperado," which was shooting in a small Mexican town. "Nobody really knew about 'Desperado,' yet the local townspeople would flock to see Danny, thinking he was the star of the movie, even though his part was very small," Rodriguez remembers. "He has incredible presence, and I knew I had found MACHETE. So, I handed him a knife, and told him to start practicing."

Since that fateful meeting, Trejo has acted in several of Rodriguez's movies, including "From Dusk Till Dawn" and "Spy Kids." "I continue to work with Danny because he pops and has one of the most amazing faces in cinema history."

When the fake MACHETE trailer was unveiled in "Grindhouse," the response was impressive. "People [who had seen the trailer on "Grindhouse" or, later, online] would come up to me and ask, 'Are you going to make that movie?'" Rodriguez notes. "And I would respond, 'Yeah, of course we're going to make it' – although I really had no firm plans to do so, because I didn't want to let them down. They were genuinely excited to see the entire film be made."

Trejo's ongoing passion for a MACHETE feature film also had a significant impact on the filmmaker. "Danny would talk about doing a MACHETE movie for years," says Rodriguez. "So when we made the trailer for 'Grindhouse,' I figured that would maybe be enough to satisfy our need to make the full film." But the trailer triggered even more enthusiasm for a feature. "Danny continued to call me, saying, 'Well, now we *really* have to make the movie because everyone wants it.' So my phone would not stop ringing for two years until I finally broke down and said, 'Okay, we're going to give the fans what they want, and Danny what he wants. And I knew of course that I more than anyone wanted to see this movie finally get made. MACHETE's time had finally come."

Like Rodriguez, Trejo was inspired by people's enthusiasm for a MACHETE movie. "The fans were everywhere," Trejo says. "When I was in England a few years ago, I was stopped by two guys who had tattoos of the character Machete on their backs. When I signed my name [above their tattoos], they had my signature tattooed, as well."

Machete is driven by vengeance, and that says Trejo, "makes him one bad m*****r." Indeed, Trejo's sharp-edged instincts and passion for the film and character – his first starring role in a career that spans a quarter of a century – has him sometimes even sounding like his onscreen persona: "Machete is a man of very few words but when he does say something, someone's gonna die!"

As a youngster, Machete lived a hard life on the mean streets of Mexico. He was accepted at the police academy, where he excelled, and as a *Federale*, Machete was, as one character in the film describes, "CIA, FBI, and DEA all rolled into one mean burrito." And what about that foreboding street name? Well, when a man spends his life fighting, he tends to be

nicknamed after his weapon of choice. (Machete carries no fewer than 44 blades in his custom-made leather vest.)

Machete's affinity for knives comes in handy when he makes an incredible escape from a hospital – and his looming execution. In what promises to become one of the film's most talked-about sequences, Machete slices open an opponent's belly and rappels down a wall with the goon's intestine. Is the sequence over-the-top? Sure. But as Rodriguez reminds us, "The intestine is ten times longer than the human body. True fact."

Portraying an inventive, knife-wielding character in a Robert Rodriguez film is nothing new for Trejo. "Every character I play has some kind of knife or sharp object," says the actor. Adds Rodriguez: "In 'Desperado,' Danny was called 'Navajas,' which means knives; in 'From Dusk Till Dawn' he was 'Razor Charlie' and in 'Predators' he was 'Cuchillo' [another Spanish word for "knife"]. So, Danny's like a whole set of cutlery in and of himself."

Finally committing to MACHETE feature film, Rodriguez honed the screenplay with co-writer Alvaro Rodriguez, brought in Ethan Maniquis as co-director, and began casting. In short order, Robert came up with one of the most eclectic line-ups in recent motion picture history. Joining Trejo is action icon Steven Seagal, "Avatar" and "Fast and Furious" heroine Michelle Rodriguez, "Lost's" Jeff Fahey (who also had a role in "Grindhouse" – and in the original MACHETE trailer), comedy legend and Rodriguez film stalwart Cheech Marin ("From Dusk Till Dawn"), actor/singer/tabloid headliner Lindsay Lohan, "Miami Vice" topline Don Johnson (the veteran film and television actor gets an "introducing" credit), popular leading lady Jessica Alba ("Sin City") – and the renowned Robert De Niro.

Rodriguez admits this is an unexpected ensemble: "The cast may have sounded bizarre to some people when first announced. But when you watch MACHETE, you see that the actors fit their roles very well. The eclectic mix really works." The casting also reflected a kind of "Six Degrees of Danny Trejo" situation. "Danny's worked in hundreds of movies and probably worked with everyone in MACHETE at some point," Rodriguez laughs. "Everyone just loves Danny and appreciated the fact he was finally getting to be the star of his own film. I remember Robert De Niro, who worked with Danny in 'Heat,' telling him that, "[MACHETE] is going to be really good for you."

Rodriguez also credits De Niro's participation as a key draw for the other cast members. "From the point you get Robert De Niro in your movie, all the other actors come running." De

Niro and Rodriguez had mutual friends and collaborators – including Quentin Tarantino and George Clooney – and the Oscar®-winning actor, who co-heads Tribeca Films, was interested in checking out Rodriguez’s operations at his Austin-based Troublemaker Studios.

De Niro found much to enjoy in his MACHETE role, as Texas State Senator McLaughlin, an immigration hardliner who forms an unholy alliance with a brutal minuteman and a shady corporate opportunist. “What I liked about McLaughlin is that you can’t take him seriously,” De Niro explains. “McLaughlin lives in the real world, but he’s kind of a mythical figure way out on the fringe. I really appreciated Robert [Rodriguez]’s sense of humor and irony with the character.”

Don Johnson is Von – he has no last name – a take-no-prisoners minuteman who serves as a tour guide to McLaughlin during a horrific border hunt. “Von is basically the devil,” says Johnson, who, several years ago had cast Rodriguez as a commercials director in an episode of Johnson’s popular “Nash Bridges” series. “Von wants to stop – with extreme prejudice – anyone crossing the border. Yet we find that he’s actually driven by greed.”

A villainous figure that Machete crosses swords – literally – is Torrez, a drug cartel chief who’s even more powerful than the politicians ostensibly manipulating the events that trigger Machete’s unstoppable vengeance. Action hero icon Steven Seagal portrays Torrez, the actor’s first villainous role. As a master of the martial art Aikido, Seagal knows his way around a sword, and he worked closely with the film’s fight choreographers to get maximum impact of Torrez’s epic showdown with Machete.

Like De Niro, Seagal appreciated MACHETE’s bigger-than-life approach to the characters, story, and filmmaking process. “Torrez is not realistic but he’s not ridiculous, either,” Seagal points out. “He reflects Robert’s ‘super-reality’ vision – his special way of looking at images, textures and color.”

Of course, Machete also has some allies, chief among them being Michelle Rodriguez’s taco-slinging Luz and Jessica Alba’s Sartana, an agent in the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Rodriguez hints there’s a lot more than meets the eye with her role. “Luz’s blood boils when she sees injustice, and things start to change when she gets outraged. People get organized. S**t happens.”

I.C.E. Agent Sartana is initially hot on the trail of Machete, whose path of destruction grabs her attention. But as she learns more about the man – and the myth – Sartana realizes he

represents more than mayhem and a trail of dead bodies. “Sartana is no pencil-pushing bureaucrat,” says Jessica Alba. “She’s tough, street-savvy and smart, and soon understands there’s a *lot* going on with this guy. When Sartana and Machete finally meet, all kinds of sparks are ignited.”

Machete also gets help from his brother, known simply as Padre, a priest who has much more than absolution in store for the assassins gunning for Machete. “God has mercy; I don’t,” Padre informs them before dispensing some un-holy justice. Cheech Marin, another member of Rodriguez’s informal repertory company, is the Padre.

When Machete meets Lindsay Lohan’s April, the privileged daughter of a manipulative businessman named Booth, the consequences are unexpected – not the least of which has April donning a nun’s habit and wielding some powerful firearms. “April was born into a life of privilege and takes everything she has for granted,” says Lohan. “But she undergoes a big change. As an actress, I like pushing the envelope.”

April’s father, Booth, has set up Machete as part of an elaborate assassination plot. Booth is a master puppeteer who thinks he’s pulling all the strings, especially those of his would-be patsy, Machete. “But maybe Booth is in deeper than he can really handle,” offers Jeff Fahey, with more than a little understatement.

MACHETE isn’t Fahey’s first encounter with his on-screen alter ego Booth. A few years ago, Fahey had just wrapped a role in Rodriguez’s “Planet Terror” segment of “Grindhouse,” when he got the call to suit up for the MACHETE trailer. At the time, the “Lost” star had no idea the two-minute piece would evolve into a much-anticipated motion picture event. But he wasn’t *too* surprised. “Robert has an incredible vision and is very precise, and [working on his films] you feel like you’re in the middle of something both big and experiential. And that anything is possible,” states Fahey.

Those intriguing possibilities include Rodriguez combining an epic action movie feel with the run-and-gun indie filmmaking brio that characterized his feature directorial debut, “El Marichi.” Rodriguez explains: “MACHETE looks huge, but we shot it very quickly. I knew it would create a lot of the energy that we wanted to be a part of the film. We never throttled down.”

The anything-goes spirit of the production is mirrored in the film itself, which will take moviegoers – those long-awaiting a MACHETE feature, as well as those new to the character

and his world – on a wild ride. “People haven’t seen this type of movie before, featuring a Latin hero,” says Rodriguez. And it confirmed for the filmmaker that a storyteller should “never throw away ideas, because if they’re really good, they’ll stick around and come back.”

ABOUT THE CAST

DANNY TREJO (Machete) has developed a prolific career in the movie business, yet his road to success has been hard earned and everything but typical. From imprisonment to helping young people battle drug addiction, and from acting to producing – the name, face, and achievements of Danny Trejo are well recognized in Hollywood.

Despite growing up on the streets of Los Angeles and spending the latter part of his youth and early adulthood incarcerated, Trejo rose to great accomplishment. Upon his release from San Quentin prison, he became involved in programs aimed at helping those who, like him, battle drug and alcohol addictions.

Years later, Trejo went to the set of the motion picture production “Runaway Train” to offer support to a man he’d been counseling. Upon his arrival on set, Trejo was offered a role in the film, as a convict. Trejo has since gone on to star in dozens of films, including: “Desperado,” the “From Dusk ‘Till Dawn” film series, “Heat” starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino, “Con Air” starring Nicolas Cage, “Once Upon A Time In Mexico” starring Johnny Depp, and the “Spy Kids” movie series. In Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino’s “Grindhouse,” Trejo appeared in a “trailer,” which led to a spin-off feature film MACHETE. He also recently had a key role in the box-office hit “Predators.”

Trejo’s other recent credits include the independent films “Sherry Baby” starring Maggie Gyllenhaal, “Delta Farce” starring Larry the Cable Guy, and Rob Zombie’s films “The Devil’s Rejects” and “Halloween.” Trejo’s other recent work includes: “La Linea” starring Ray Liotta, Esai Morales and Andy Garcia, and “St. John Of Las Vegas” starring Steve Buscemi.

His numerous television credits include a recurring voice role on the animated series “King of the Hill,” and appearances on “Monk,” “Desperate Housewives,” “Stargate: Atlantis,” and most recently, “Breaking Bad.”

In 2000, Trejo formed his production company, Starburst, where he produced the award winning short “An Eye For Talent,” followed by “The Animal Factory” directed by Steve Buscemi. “My Father’s Flag” is the next feature in development under that banner. The film is

about a young soldier's conflict between his father and his country as the soldier evolves into a patriot.

Trejo 4.0 Productions is Trejo's newest venture. The company's most recent film, "High Hopes," has been acquired by Maple Pictures/Lionsgate Canada. It is a story about a group of Hollywood hopefuls who decide to steal marijuana from the FBI with the plan of returning it and using the reward money to finance their movie. The film stars Jason Mewes, David Faustino, Corin Nemec, Jason Marsden, Edward Furlong, Robert Rodriguez, Andy Dick and Michael DeLorenzo.

Despite his impressive list of credits, it is Trejo's ongoing role as a devoted husband, father of three and as an intervention counselor that bring him the most satisfaction.

STEVEN SEAGAL (Torrez) is a movie star, action hero, seventh degree black belt Aikido master – and international icon.

As a youngster, Seagal had a passion for music and an obsession for martial arts, and he commenced martial arts training at the age of seven. He dedicated himself to the study of martial arts with various instructors, eventually focusing on the study of Aikido, known as the art of divine harmony. Along the way, Seagal discovered Asian religion, philosophy and ancient healing practices. At 17, he left Detroit for Japan, to fulfill his dreams. Seagal studied acupuncture, herbology and martial arts. He became an ushi-deshi, a student who lives and works in a dojo – a school for martial arts. After years of study, Seagal earned a seventh degree black belt and was given masters' credentials in Aikido. In 1975 he became the first westerner to open his own dojo in Japan. Seagal is a man who found his spiritual path early in life and has never lost the trail.

In 1985 Seagal felt it was time to broaden his horizons and left Japan to return to the United States, believing he would do healing, martial arts and writing. He opened a dojo in Los Angeles, attracting Hollywood heavyweights like Sean Connery, James Coburn and agent Michael Ovitz. With the high-octane action movie genre in full swing in the late 80s, Ovitz introduced Seagal to the then head of Warner Bros. Pictures, Terry Semel, who had the foresight to put Seagal on the big screen. Warner Bros.' "Above the Law" was Seagal's debut film in 1988. He played Niko, a Chicago vice officer who uncovered ties between the CIA and drug dealers. His partner was played by Pam Grier and his wife was played by Sharon Stone. With a

background in martial arts and CIA connections in Vietnam, the character was an explosive hero like no one had seen before. This unknown martial artist not only starred in, but co-wrote and co-produced “Above the Law.” It went on to become a blockbuster and launched Seagal’s career as an actor, writer, star and force to be reckoned with in Hollywood.

Seagal followed up that surprise hit with another action-packed success, “Hard to Kill,” with Kelly LeBrock, in which Seagal played a police officer up against the mob. He produced and starred in his third film, “Marked for Death,” which continued his winning streak. He played an officer for the drug-enforcement agency who comes out of retirement and goes up against drug lords. This was followed by “Out for Justice,” co-starring William Forsythe, as a psychotic mob gangster, and the late Jerry Orbach. Seagal knew how to keep the action and the story hot when he produced “Under Siege.” Disguised as a cook, his Navy Seal character battled psychotic specialists threatening an all-out military war, playing opposite Tommy Lee Jones, who had just been nominated for an Academy Award® for “JFK.” Using his box-office clout, Seagal began to influence his films to reflect his personal and spiritual beliefs, especially regarding the abuse of the environment. Seagal went on to direct, produce and star in “On Deadly Ground,” a story about a threat to the Alaskan environment from an oil company and its ruthless and unscrupulous head, played by Michael Caine.

As actor and producer, Seagal filmed “Under Siege 2: Dark Territory” with Eric Bogosian and Morris Chestnut; the buddy-cop film “The Glimmer Man” with Keenan Ivory Wayans; “Fire Down Below” with Marg Helgenberger, Kris Kristofferson and Harry Dean Stanton; “The Patriot” with Camilla Belle; “Half Past Dead,” “The Foreigner,” “Out for a Kill” and “Belly of the Beast.”

Seagal’s actor/executive producer credits include “Out of Reach” and “The Path Beyond Thought.” He starred in “Exit Wounds” with DMX, Isaiah Washington and Anthony Anderson, “Ticker” with Tom Sizemore and Dennis Hopper; and appeared as a Navy Seal alongside CIA analyst Kurt Russell in “Executive Decision.”

In 2004, Seagal finally had the opportunity to make a film in his spiritual home of Japan, adding an element of his Buddhist faith when he wrote and starred in “Into the Sun.” Seagal has been the martial arts choreographer or coordinator on many of his films.

Music adds a new cord to the actor’s arc. Seagal got his first guitar at the age of 12 and has been playing the blues since. He has honed his craft over the years, sharing his love for the

blues and jamming with the most prolific blues legends in the industry. But it was not until Seagal's mother influenced him to "let the world hear his music," that he released his first album, "Songs from The Crystal Cave," in 2004. The CD contains titles for the American ultra consonances of blues and folk music, as well as the song world of Reggae and Middle Eastern music. Included on the CD are B.B. King and Stevie Wonder, among other music greats. Like "Songs From the Crystal Cave," his latest release, "Mojo Priest," celebrates the power of many of the musical influences that have compelled Seagal to write and bring the art of storytelling to his songs. Critically acclaimed, "Mojo Priest" captures the essence of not only Seagal's smooth yet gritty guitar style, but also the essence of blues greats such as Muddy Waters, Bo Diddley, Robert Lockwood Jr, Ko Ko Taylor, James Cotton, Willie "Pine Top" Perkins and Hubert Sumlin. Seagal is an accomplished guitar player and his natural talent and commitment to capture blues in a traditional and meaningful manner is evident in the music he writes and plays.

MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ (Luz) is a versatile actress known for the ability to combine her "tough girl" physicality with a natural beauty and unforced sex appeal.

Having last been seen in James Cameron's sci-fi epic, "Avatar," and the highly successful film, "Fast & Furious," Rodriguez recently wrapped production on the film "Trópico de Sangre," in which she both stars and co-produces in association with her production company Cheshire Kat. Additionally, she has completed filming "Battle: Los Angeles" opposite Aaron Eckhart for producer Neal Moritz.

Born Mayte Michelle Rodriguez in Bexar County, Texas, she worked as an extra for two years, satisfying her curiosity about movie making. Rodriguez decided to pursue acting and landed her first audition from an ad she spotted in *Backstage West* and soon she was acting in the hit indie film "Girlfight." The role garnered Rodriguez numerous awards and much critical acclaim.

Still going strong off the success of her acting debut, she went on to co-star opposite Danny Glover in the Showtime drama "3 A.M." and the adrenaline-charged mega-hit "The Fast and the Furious," opposite Vin Diesel and Paul Walker. An avid video game fan who has since lent her voice to various popular games including "True Crime: Streets of LA," "Driver3," and "Halo 2," Rodriguez jumped at the opportunity to take a role in "Resident Evil," an adaptation of the hit game series.

Her other feature film credits include “Battle in Seattle” opposite Charlize Theron, “Blue Crush,” the summer blockbuster “S.W.A.T.” opposite Samuel L. Jackson and Colin Farrell, and “Control,” with Ray Liotta.

In 2005, a new chapter of her career would begin when she took a starring role in the popular television series “Lost,” playing haunted and hardened ex-cop Ana Lucia. Rodriguez returned to the series to wrap up her storyline with an appearance on one of the final episodes.

JEFF FAHEY (Booth) studied at the Gratowski experimental theatre and the Studio Arena in Buffalo, New York. He starred in the Broadway revivals of “Brigadoon,” “Oklahoma,” and “West Side Story,” before moving on to a successful career in film and television. Fahey received his feature film break when he was offered the role of Tyree in Lawrence Kasdan’s “Silverado” starring opposite Kevin Costner, Brian Dennehey, Kevin Klein, and Danny Glover. Fahey then appeared in a string of successful films, including an acclaimed performance in Clint Eastwood’s “White Hunter, Black Heart,” followed by a successful run on the stage in London in the Steppenwolf Theatre Companies production of “Orphans” starring opposite Albert Finney and Kevin Anderson.

In 1994, Fahey was offered the opportunity to star in the television series, “The Marshal,” produced by his close friend and acting colleague, Don Johnson. Fahey has brought his passion for film to the other side of the camera as a producer on the films “Close Call,” “Choosing Matthais,” “Extra Marital,” “The Underground” and “The Sweeper.”

Fahey has been involved in world causes for a number of years with a focus on issues in conflict and post-conflict regions. He commuted back and forth from Afghanistan to Hawaii where he became a series regular on “Lost,” as the intrepid pilot Frank Lapidus. Fahey has recently been named Global Ambassador for the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. This appointment by USCRI comes after years of service in the conflict and post conflict regions of the world and is recognition for all of Fahey’s efforts and successes on behalf of the oppressed in these regions.

CHEECH MARIN (Padre) is an actor, director, writer, musician, art collector and humanitarian. He is best known as one half of the hilariously irreverent, satirical, counter-

culture, no-holds-barred duo Cheech and Chong. To this day, Cheech and Chong films remain popular video rentals, and Cheech is widely acknowledged as a cultural icon.

Cheech (real name Richard) Marin was born July 13, 1946 in South Central Los Angeles and raised in Granada Hills, a suburb in the San Fernando Valley. After attending California State University, Northridge to study English, he left school – eight credits short of a degree. However, in 2004, he received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the university.

Moving to Vancouver, British Columbia as a political refugee, Cheech met Tommy Chong, who owned a topless club. Cheech worked there for nine months, combining music and improvisational comedy in a troupe called City Works. Eventually, Cheech and Chong teamed up and moved back to Los Angeles. They performed their stand-up/music act at clubs all over Los Angeles until they were discovered at the Troubadour by music industry magnate Lou Adler. Between 1972 and 1985, they released nine albums: *Cheech and Chong*, *Big Bambú*, *Los Cochinos* (1973), *Cheech and Chong Wedding Album* (1974), *Sleeping Beauty*, *Up In Smoke* (soundtrack), *Let's Make a New Dope Deal*, *Cheech and Chong's Greatest Hits*, *Get Out of My Room*. *Big Bambú* became the largest-selling comedy recording of all time, retaining that distinction for many years. Six of the albums went gold, four were nominated for Grammys®, and *Los Cochinos* won the 1973 Grammy for Best Comedy Recording.

The critically acclaimed duo made a fluid transition to films, starring in eight features together. The first, “*Up In Smoke*,” was the highest grossing comedy of 1978, topping \$100 million at the box office. Others were “*Cheech and Chong's Next Movie*” (1980), “*Nice Dreams*” (1981), “*Things Are Tough All Over*,” “*Cheech and Chong: Still Smoking*,” and “*The Corsican Brothers*.” They co-wrote all of the films, with Chong receiving sole directing credit for several, while Marin did some uncredited co-direction. The duo also made guest appearances in “*Yellowbeard*” and Martin Scorsese's “*After Hours*.”

In 2005, Cheech and Chong reunited for the first time in more than a decade when they were honored at the Aspen Comedy Festival. On April 20, 2008, they appeared together at a commemorative screening of “*Up in Smoke*” at the Arclight Cinemas in Sherman Oaks.

After splitting with Chong, Cheech wrote, directed, and starred in Universal's hit comedy “*Born In East L.A.*,” which in 1987 won the Glauber Rocha International Critics Award and Grand Coral Prize for Best Picture, as well as Best Screenplay at the Havana Film Festival. Marin's individual acting career has also been very fruitful. He has appeared in over 20 films,

including his scene-stealing role in *"Tin Cup"* (1996), and six of Robert Rodriguez's movies, including *"Desperado"* (1995), *"From Dusk Till Dawn"* (1996), *"Once Upon A Time In Mexico"* (2003).

Cheech made his television debut as a sitcom regular on the *"The Golden Palace"* before joining Don Johnson on the highly successful CBS drama *"Nash Bridges."* Cheech later appeared on *"Judging Amy," "Lost,"* and *"Grey's Anatomy."*

Recent film credits include *"The Perfect Game," "Beverly Hills Chihuahua"* and *"Race to Witch Mountain,"* and the television movie *"The Miracle of Dommatina."* In 2005, Marin directed the Broadway production of *"Latinologues,"* a collection of comedic, poignant monologues revealing the Latino life in America.

Cheech is a favorite with children around the world through his many roles in animated movies and music projects. He began lending his distinctive vocal talents to cartoon characters with his winning portrayal of a peppy Chihuahua in Disney's animated *"Oliver & Company"* (1988). He then teamed with Whoopi Goldberg and Jim Cummings to play hyenas in Disney's animated blockbuster *"The Lion King,"* and played Ramon in Pixar's *"Cars."*

Cheech has also maintained his popularity with the children's audience through his role as Uncle Feliz Gumm in Robert Rodriguez's "Spy Kids" film trilogy and through his phenomenally successful bilingual children's albums *"My Name Is Cheech," "The School Bus Driver"* and *"My Name Is Cheech, The School Bus Driver: Coast To Coast."* The Los Angeles Unified School District uses one of the songs featured in the albums to teach kids about how to mix and use colors. In 2007, HarperCollins Children's Books released Spanish and English versions of his *"Cheech, The School Bus Driver,"* based on the album's character. His second children's book, *"Captain Cheech,"* was released in July 2008, and a third, *"Cheech and the Spooky Ghost Bus,"* in 2009.

A third-generation Mexican American, Cheech has been recognized for his work on behalf of Latinos by the Imagen Foundation with its 2000 Creative Achievement Award and by the National Council of La Raza and Kraft Foods with the 1999 ALMA Community Service Award. In 2007, he received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts for his contributions to the creative arts from Otis College of Art and Design, and received the inaugural Legacy Award for Arts Advocacy from the Smithsonian Latino Center. He currently serves on the boards of the Smithsonian Latino Center and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

Cheech contributes a lot of time and energy to promoting Chicano art. Since the mid-1980s, he has amassed a renowned private collection of Chicano art. Much of it formed the core of his national exhibition *Chicano Visions: American Painters on the Verge*, which broke attendance records during its groundbreaking 12-city tour during 2001-2007 to major U.S. art museums.

Cheech is a nationally ranked golfer active in the charity golf circuit. His line of [gourmet hot sauces](#) is sold nationwide. Cheech is married to Russian-born classical pianist Natasha Marin (formerly Natasha Rubin).

Actress, musician, producer, designer, and entrepreneur **LINDSAY LOHAN** (April) burst onto the scene playing identical twins in director Nancy Meyers's "The Parent Trap," followed up by starring roles in "Freaky Friday" and "Mean Girls."

More recently, Lohan starred in Robert Altman's "Prairie Home Companion," Gary Marshall's "Georgia Rule" and Emilio Estevez's "Bobby"; for the latter, Lohan won the Breakthrough Actress Award at the Hollywood Film Festival. In 2009, Lohan was seen in the feature film "Labor Pains," and as a special guest star on the series "Ugly Betty."

In music, Lohan follows up her platinum album "Speak" and Gold album "Raw: A Little More Personal," with a third album due to drop later this year. Known for her iconic fashion sense and countless fashion magazine covers, including *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle*, *Allure*, *InStyle*, *Nylon*, *W*, as well as British publications *Tatler*, *UK Elle* and *UK Glamour*, Lohan has decided to venture into the licensing and branding world. She is co-founder and head designer of "6126," a lifestyle brand that features a full ready to wear collection and handbag collection. It is currently being sold in Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdales, Nordstrom and over 400 specialty stores around the world. She is also the founder of Sevin Nyne, a tanning spray that is distributed worldwide at Sephora stores.

DON JOHNSON (Von) breathed life into the character of Sonny Crockett during the amazing five year run of "Miami Vice," in which Johnson presented a look, style, and attitude that made him one of the most influential actors in the business.

He launched his career in his last year of high school in Wichita, Kansas. Needing one more class to graduate, he chose drama and landed the lead role in "West Side Story." Shortly

thereafter, Johnson was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Kansas, where he studied for two years before joining The American Conservatory Theater. A string of feature films followed, including “Return to Macon County,” “Zachariah,” “The Harrad Experiment” and “A Boy and His Dog.”

In 1991, Johnson starred opposite Mickey Rourke in “Harley Davidson and the Marlboro Man.” Johnson starred with Melanie Griffith in Disney's “Paradise,” based on the French film “Le Grand Chemin.” The following year, Johnson and Griffith teamed up to do “Born Yesterday,” also for Disney. Johnson starred in the thriller, “Guilty as Sin” with Rebecca De Mornay. In 1996, he starred with Kevin Costner and Cheech Marin in the box-office hit “Tin Cup.”

The Don Johnson Company produced the highly acclaimed television film “In the Company of Darkness,” starring Helen Hunt, in her first movie. In 1995, for the third year in a row, The Don Johnson Company produced the prestigious Washington D.C.-based “Horatio Alger Awards” special for CBS, and also produced a successful ABC dramatic TV series called “The Marshal.”

In March 2001, Johnson completed a successful stint as executive producer and star of the CBS series “Nash Bridges,” which ran for six years atop the ratings charts.

Recent film credits include “When in Rome” and the Adam Sandler and Jack Giarraputo-produced “Born to be a Star.”

JESSICA ALBA (Sartana) fell in love with acting at an early age. She began studying with acting coaches in Los Angeles and, shortly thereafter, landed at the Atlantic Theatre Company, where she studied with founders William H. Macy and David Mamet.

Alba first achieved worldwide recognition as the lead character in James Cameron’s “Dark Angel,” Cameron’s first project after the history-making “Titanic” and his first television venture. In the series, Alba portrayed Max, a genetically-enhanced human prototype who escapes from her government captors only to live out her life on the run in the underground of 21st century Seattle. In the series’ first season, Alba was nominated for a Golden Globe® and a People’s Choice Award®. She was voted the TV Guide Award as Breakout Star of the Year by readers, and won Favorite TV Actress at the 2001 Teen Choice Awards. “Dark Angel” has been a success around the world, helping establish Alba as an international star.

Her early feature film credits include “Never Been Kissed,” starring and produced by Drew Barrymore, as well as the thriller, “Idle Hands.” Alba starred as the title character in the romance “The Sleeping Dictionary,” a period drama that co-starred Brenda Blethyn, Bob Hoskins, Emily Mortimer, Noah Taylor and Hugh Dancy. Her first starring role in a major studio film was the 2003 release, “Honey.”

In 2005, Alba’s film career began to catch fire. She starred opposite Bruce Willis and an all-star cast in the provocative and critically acclaimed “Sin City,” directed by Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller. She next starred as Sue Storm in the Twentieth Century Fox hit “Fantastic Four.” Alba then starred in the action-adventure, “Into the Blue.”

In 2005, the combined worldwide box office for “Fantastic Four,” “Sin City” and “Into the Blue” totaled over half a billion dollars. The second installment of the popular comic book adaptation, “Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer,” opened to worldwide success in June 2007.

Alba starred in the psychological thriller, “Awake,” with Terrence Howard, Hayden Christiansen and Lena Olin, and the hit comedy “Good Luck Chuck” opposite Dane Cook. She next starred in the remake of Hong Kong’s psychological horror hit, “The Eye,” and starred with Mike Myers and Justin Timberlake in the comedy “The Love Guru.” She was part of Garry Marshall’s all-star ensemble romantic comedy, “Valentine’s Day,” which broke box office records with the largest opening on a four-day President’s Day weekend in history. Currently in theaters is the screen adaptation of Jim Thompson’s “The Killer Inside Me” for director Michael Winterbottom opposite Casey Affleck, and the third installment of the hit “Meet the Fockers” franchise, in theaters this December.

Alba has appeared in several iconic and lucrative endorsement campaigns including the famous Got Milk? “milk mustache” campaign and was featured in a star-studded 30th anniversary campaign for The Gap, as well as other prestigious campaigns in the U.S. and internationally. She recently signed a global endorsement contract representing Revlon, joining an elite group of beauties representing the brand, including Halle Berry and Sheryl Crow.

Alba showcased her comedic talents as host of the 2006 MTV Movie Awards and she has appeared on countless prestigious magazine covers in the United States and throughout the world.

ROBERT DE NIRO (Senator McLaughlin) launched his prolific motion picture career in Brian De Palma's "The Wedding Party" in 1969. By 1973 De Niro had twice won the New York Film Critics Award for Best Supporting Actor in recognition of his critically acclaimed performances in "Bang the Drum Slowly" and Martin Scorsese's "Mean Streets."

In 1974 De Niro won the Academy Award® for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of the young Vito Corleone in "The Godfather, Part II." In 1980 he won his second Oscar®, as Best Actor, for his extraordinary portrayal of Jake La Motta in Scorsese's "Raging Bull."

De Niro has earned Academy Award nominations for his work in four additional films: as Travis Bickle in Scorsese's acclaimed "Taxi Driver," as a Vietnam vet in Michael Cimino's "The Deer Hunter," as a catatonic patient brought to life in Penny Marshall's "Awakenings," and in 1992 as Max Cady, an ex-con looking for revenge, in Scorsese's remake of the 1962 classic "Cape Fear."

In 2009, De Niro received the coveted Kennedy Center Honor for his distinguished acting. He also received the Hollywood Actor Award from the Hollywood Film Festival and the Stanley Kubrick Award from the BAFTA Britannia Awards. In addition, AARP the magazine gave De Niro the 2010 Movies for Grownups Lifetime Achievement Award.

De Niro's upcoming projects include Nu Image Films' psychological thriller "Stone," Universal Pictures' "Little Fockers," the third installment of Tribeca Productions' "Meet the Parents" franchise, and Universal Pictures' "The Dark Fields." His recent film credits include Miramax's comedy "Everybody's Fine."

De Niro's distinguished body of work also includes performances in Elia Kazan's "The Last Tycoon"; Bernardo Bertolucci's "1900"; Ulu Grosbard's "True Confessions" and "Falling in Love"; Sergio Leone's "Once Upon a Time in America"; Scorsese's "King of Comedy," "New York, New York," "Goodfellas," and "Casino"; Terry Gilliam's "Brazil"; Roland Joffe's "The Mission"; Brian De Palma's "The Untouchables"; Alan Parker's "Angel Heart"; Martin Brest's "Midnight Run"; David Jones' "Jackknife"; Martin Ritt's "Stanley and Iris"; Neil Jordan's "We're No Angels"; Penny Marshall's "Awakenings"; Ron Howard's "Backdraft"; Michael Caton-Jones' "This Boy's Life"; John McNaughton's "Mad Dog and Glory"; Kenneth Branagh's "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein"; Michael Mann's "Heat"; Barry Levinson's "Sleepers" and "Wag the Dog"; Jerry Zaks' "Marvin's Room"; Tony Scott's "The Fan"; James Mangold's "Copland"; Alfonso Cuarón's "Great Expectations"; Quentin Tarantino's "Jackie Brown"; John

Frankenheimer's "Ronin"; Harold Ramis' "Analyze This" and "Analyze That"; Joel Schumacher's "Flawless"; Des McNuff's "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle"; George Tillman's "Men of Honor"; John Herzfeld's "Fifteen Minutes"; Frank Oz's "The Score"; Tom Dey's "Showtime"; Michael Caton-Jones' "City By The Sea;" Nick Hamm's, "Godsend;" John Polson's "Hide and Seek"; Mary McGuckian's "The Bridge of San Luis Rey"; DreamWorks's "Shark Tale" Jay Roach's "Meet The Parents," and "Meet the Fockers," Barry Levinson's "What Just Happened" and John Avnet's "Righteous Kill."

De Niro takes pride in the development of his production company, Tribeca Productions, the Tribeca Film Center, which he founded with Jane Rosenthal in 1988, and in the Tribeca Film Festival, which he founded with Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff in 2001 as a response to the attacks on the World Trade Center. The festival was conceived to foster the economic and cultural revitalization of Lower Manhattan through an annual celebration of film, music, and culture, the festival's mission is to promote New York City as a major filmmaking center and help filmmakers reach the broadest possible audiences.

Through Tribeca Productions, De Niro develops projects on which he serves in a combination of capacities, including producer, director and actor. Tribeca's "A Bronx Tale" in 1993 marked De Niro's directorial debut. He later directed and co-starred in "The Good Shepherd" with Matt Damon and Angelina Jolie. Other Tribeca features include "Thunderheart," "Cape Fear," "Mistress," "Night and the City," "The Night We Never Met," "Faithful," "Panther," "Marvin's Room," "Wag the Dog," "Analyze This," "Flawless," "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle," "Meet the Parents," "Fifteen Minutes," "Showtime," "Analyze That" and "Meet the Fockers."

In 1992, Tribeca TV was launched with the acclaimed series "Tribeca." De Niro was one of the executive producers. In 1998, Tribeca produced a miniseries for NBC, based on the life of "Sammy 'The Bull' Gravano."

Tribeca Productions is headquartered at De Niro's Tribeca Film Center in the TriBeCa district of New York. The Film Center is a state-of-the-art office building designed for the film and television industry. The facility features office space, a screening room, banquet hall and restaurant. The center offers a full range of services for entertainment professionals.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

ROBERT RODRIGUEZ (Director, Writer, Producer, Editor), while a student at the University of Texas at Austin in 1991, wrote the script to his first feature film while sequestered at a drug research facility as a paid subject in a clinical experiment. That paycheck covered the cost of shooting his film. Rodriguez planned to make the money back by selling the film to the Mexican home video market. The film, “El Mariachi,” went on to win the coveted Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival, and became the lowest budget movie ever released by a major studio. Rodriguez wrote about these experiences in *Rebel Without a Crew*, published by Dutton Press.

Rodriguez went on to write, produce, direct and edit a series of successful films, including “Desperado,” “From Dusk Till Dawn,” “The Faculty,” the “Spy Kids” series, “Once Upon a Time in Mexico,” “Frank Miller’s Sin City,” “The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3D,” “Grindhouse” and “Shorts.”

In 2000, Rodriguez and Elizabeth Avellán founded Troublemaker Studios, their Austin, Texas-based production company of which he is co-owner and president. The studio includes a world-renowned visual effects house, and music and publishing arms, and has played a primary role in making Austin a filmmaking hub.

Rodriguez recently produced a new installment in the Predator series, “Predators.” He resides in Austin, Texas.

ETHAN MANIQUIS (Director), prior making his feature film directorial debut on *MACHETE*, worked in various editorial capacities on several films helmed by Robert Rodriguez. Maniquis first collaborated with Rodriguez on “Desperado,” on which Maniquis was an assistant film editor. He served in that same capacity on Rodriguez’s “From Dusk Till Dawn,” and was visual effects editor on “Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams” and “Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over” and “Once Upon a Time in Mexico,” also serving as associate editor on the latter. Maniquis was associate editor on Rodriguez’s “Sin City,” and editor on Rodriguez’s segment of “Grindhouse,” entitled “Planet Terror.” Last year, he edited Rodriguez’s family film, “Shorts.”

ALVARO RODRIGUEZ (Writer) fell in love with the silver screen at a young age and tried to replicate at home what he saw in the dark of the matinee, using a still camera to make storyboards for movies he hoped to realize one day.

Alvaro has collaborated on and contributed to several of Robert Rodriguez's films beginning with "Roadracers," and including "Four Rooms" and "Planet Terror." A Texas native, Alvaro is the co-writer of "Shorts," and wrote the genre-bending vampire western "From Dusk Till Dawn: The Hangman's Daughter" for executive producer Quentin Tarantino.

ELIZABETH AVELLÁN (Producer) has not only produced numerous films as co-owner and vice president of Troublemaker Studios, she has played a primary role in developing Austin, Texas as a thriving film community.

In 1991, Avellán co-founded Los Hooligans Productions with Robert Rodriguez when the two began their first feature film project, "El Mariachi." Winner of the Audience Awards at the 1993 Sundance and Deauville Film Festivals, the film launched her producing career.

Following the success of "El Mariachi," Avellán co-produced the hit 1995 sequel "Desperado," written and directed by Robert Rodriguez, starring Antonio Banderas and Salma Hayek. She co-produced "From Dusk Till Dawn," written by Quentin Tarantino, directed by Rodriguez and starring George Clooney and Harvey Keitel.

In 1998, Avellán produced "The Faculty," written by Kevin Williamson and directed by Rodriguez, starring Elijah Wood and Josh Hartnett. She produced the successful home entertainment sequels: "From Dusk to Dawn 2: Texas Blood Money" and "From Dusk to Dawn 3: The Hangman's Daughter." In addition, Avellán served as an executive producer on "In and Out of Focus," a documentary about balancing motherhood and a career in the film business.

In 2000, Avellán and Rodriguez founded Troublemaker Studios, their Austin, Texas-based production company. Troublemaker includes a world renowned visual effects studio as well as music and publishing arms. The 2001 smash hit "Spy Kids," the first feature produced at Troublemaker, grossed more than \$112 million domestically. Directed by Rodriguez, the family film starred Antonio Banderas, Carla Gugino, Alexa Vega, and Daryl Sabara.

Avellán next produced "Once Upon a Time in Mexico," the third film in the "El Mariachi" trilogy, directed by Rodriguez, starring Banderas, Salma Hayek and Johnny Depp. Shortly after, she produced "Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams," followed by the third and final

installment, “Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over,” which introduced young moviegoers to a new dimension of moviemaking with its innovative 3-D technology.

In 2005, Avellán produced “Sin City,” the critically acclaimed adaptation of three of Frank Miller’s *Sin City* series of graphic novels. Directed by Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller, the film featured an all-star ensemble cast, including Bruce Willis, Clive Owen, Jessica Alba, and Benicio Del Toro. That same year, she produced “The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3-D,” based on a story idea by her then-seven-year-old son, Racer Rodriguez. Directed by Robert Rodriguez, the film starred George Lopez. Avellán executive produced “Secuestro Express,” a topical Venezuelan narrative about the dangerous trend of “express” kidnappings in her home country, starring Mia Maestro and Rubén Blades.

In 2007, Avellán produced “Grindhouse,” an ode to exploitation double features of the 1970s, directed by Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino. That same year, she executive produced the documentary “The Truth in Terms of Beauty,” an intimate look at the life of photographer Herman Leonard.

Her most recent productions were the action-thriller “Predators,” and the family film “Shorts.”

Avellán was born in Caracas, Venezuela, where her grandfather, Gonzalo Veloz, was the pioneer of commercial television. At the age of thirteen, she moved to Houston, Texas with her family and later graduated from Rice University. She is on the board of several organizations, including the University Of Texas College Of Communication Advisory Board; Capital Area Statues, which commissions unique statues for the capital city; the Texas Book Festival; and the Austin Film Society. The mother of six children, Avellán resides in Austin, Texas.

RICK SCHWARTZ (Producer) is the principal and founder of Overnight Productions, a fully integrated New York based independent film development, production and financing company that generates smart and commercially viable projects across various genres, within the studio system and independently.

Since its inception in 2007, Overnight Productions has completed production on a number of films including: the Lionsgate feature “The Lucky Ones,” directed by Neil Burger, starring Rachel McAdams, Tim Robbins and Michael Pena; the ABC Family comedy “Labor Pains,” starring Lindsay Lohan, Cheryl Hines and Chris Parnell; a remake of the French thriller

“13 Tzameti,” starring Jason Statham, Mickey Rourke, Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson and Sam Riley; and “Black Swan,” a supernatural thriller directed by Darren Aronofsky, starring Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis, to be distributed by Fox Searchlight Pictures.

Upcoming projects include: “Monte Carlo,” a romantic adventure, starring Selena Gomez and Leighton Meester, for Fox 2000 Pictures; “Southbound,” a thriller set on the Mexican border, starring Matthew McConaughey and Eva Mendes; and “Goree Girls,” a musical drama starring and co-produced by Jennifer Aniston.

Projects in development include: the supernatural horror film “Espectre,” starring Nicole Kidman, for Universal, and an adaptation of the Korean thriller “Die Bad,” written by Brad Ingelsby, to be directed by Marc Forster, also for Universal; Warner Bros.’ “Benighted,” a fantasy adventure, to be directed by Andrew Adamson (“Shrek”); “Tatua,” an action packed story, based on a graphic novel, about a man driven by revenge, starring Sam Worthington; and “La Banda,” a Spanish language musical comedy, co-produced with Salma Hayek, about a once-wealthy divorcee who is forced to sing in a cheesy wedding band to make ends meet.

Prior to founding Overnight, Schwartz joined forces with Initial Entertainment Group’s Graham King and Colin Cotter to form the independent production company, Blueprint Films, and helped produce Martin Scorsese’s Oscar-winning films “The Aviator” and “The Departed.” From 1996 to 2004, Schwartz worked at Miramax Films, eventually rising to senior vice president of production. At Miramax, Schwartz developed numerous projects, discovered and nurtured relationships with emerging actors, writers and directors, and identified and exploited potential new revenue streams. Schwartz was entrusted with the company’s most important relationships, and was responsible for the largest budgeted film in the company’s 25-year history --Martin Scorsese’s “Gangs of New York.” Other films made at Miramax under his supervision included Alejandro Amenabar’s international success “The Others,” starring Nicole Kidman; Giuseppe Tornatore’s “Malena,” starring Monica Bellucci; Jerry Seinfeld’s documentary “Comedian”; and Robert Benton’s “The Human Stain,” starring Anthony Hopkins, Nicole Kidman and Ed Harris.

Films in which Schwartz has been involved have received 24 Academy Awards, and have amassed a collective worldwide box office of approximately \$1 billion.

JIMMY LINDSEY (Director of Photography), a native of Austin, Texas, has been making films for over twenty years. As an operator and assistant, he studied the art of visual storytelling under many respected cinematographers including Caleb Deschanel, ASC, Roman Osin BSC, Bob Yoeman ASC, and Academy Award winner Guillermo Navarro, ASC.

Serving as the principal or second unit director of photography, Lindsey has lensed a wide range of projects for film and television, including the features “Whip It” and “Alabama Moon,” and the HBO series “Eastbound & Down.”

Lindsey is a member of The International Cinematographers Guild and The Society of Camera Operators.

REBECCA RODRIGUEZ (Editor) is a writer and filmmaker. Prior to her work on *MACHETE*, Rebecca wrote, directed and edited the short film, “The Better Half,” which was featured as an Official Selection of the 2009 SXSW Film Festival, the L.A. Shorts Fest and in the 2009 Cannes Short Film Corner. She was a contributing film writer for pop culture magazine, *Nylon*, and the producer and video editor for NYLON TV, producing weekly original content of celebrity interviews, fashion videos, music videos and short films. Rebecca has collaborated off and on with Robert Rodriguez since his early home videos and short films including the award-winning “Bedhead.”

CHINGON (Music) is Spanish for Bad Ass. Chingón is also the name of the new band started by maverick film director Robert Rodriguez. From Santana to El Santo, from “The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly” to “Once Upon A Time In Mexico,” Rodriguez has sought to fuse the iconic imagery of Mexican culture and music with the visceral tone and vision of the Spaghetti Western. Throw in a big dose of electric mariachis and rock n’ roll and you’ve got Chingón’s Mexican Spaghetti Western.

Rewind: Robert grew up in the American melting pot of San Antonio, Texas, the third of 10 children – a village unto itself. While cutting his teeth making short-form films in the Eighties, Rodriguez was immersed in the Latin- influenced rock-n-roll of Los Lobos, Jimmie and Stevie Ray Vaughan, The Cruzados, and Carlos Santana. While that era came and went, the music left an indelible mark on the young director.

Fast forward: During the early Ninties, Robert had just made a huge splash with the indie-film benchmark “El Mariachi,” and was on the hot list of everyone in the industry. Instead of going straight for the standard biggest names as he was making his first major studio film *Desperado*- he went back to his roots and drew up a wish list of his biggest influences. Like a kid in a candy store he brought in Los Lobos, Carlos Santana, and Tito Larriva of *The Cruzados*/Tito & Tarantula fame to juxtapose incendiary music with his cinematic vision. The music from *Desperado*, “From Dusk Till Dawn,” and “Once Upon A Time In Mexico” (in which Chingón made it’s debut) became critically and commercially acclaimed. Given his all encompassing talents: directing, writing, producing, editing, and even composing his own orchestral scores - it was natural for Robert to also start making his own music influenced by the very artists he listened to AND employed. This was readily apparent not only with “Once Upon A Time In Mexico,” but with Quentin Tarantino asking Rodriguez to score “*Kill Bill, Vol. 2*,” as well as have Chingón contribute songs to the soundtrack. The band also did music for Robert and Quentin's “*Grindhouse*” film in 2007, as well as Robert's latest film, *MACHETE*.

Record: With the DVD release of “*Kill Bill Vol. 2*,” Tarantino has included a 12-minute live performance by Chingón, which has already captured critical accolades: “Tarantino has made a wise decision in letting Robert Rodriguez, his best friend, do the music for *Vol. 2*. ... It adds significantly to the tone and atmosphere of the movie. One of the most delightful DVD bonus features is Chingón, Rodriguez’s musical group playing selections from *Vol. 2* at the premiere party.” (REEL TALK Movie Reviews).

Play: Chingón is comprised of some of Rodriguez’s closest Austin musical compadres. Rafael Gayol (Charlie Sexton Sextet, Bob Schneider) on drums, the Del Castillo Brothers from buzz band Del Castillo on guitars, Alex Ruiz on gitano vocals, and songs by John Debney and Carl Theil. He utilizes the dramatic gritas of Texas Chanteuse Patricia Vonne on “*Severina*,” enlists cult rock icon Tito Larriva on “*Alacran Y Pistolero*,” and presents the lush vocals of actress Salma Hayek on “*Siente Mi Amor*.” Robert Rodriguez provides compositions, guitarista machine gun fire (much like his character “*El Mariachi*”), vocal stylings and everything else. “*Malagueña Salerosa*” and “*Cucka Rocka*” brandish a blistering guitar attack colored with Gypsy-tinged vocals. These songs alongside other chingónes “*Fideo del Oeste*” (“*Mexican Spaghetti Western*”), “*El Rey de Los Chingones*” (King of the Bad Asses”) melds a musical

concoction that is both cinematic and primal in its attack, while the infectious “Se Me Paro” kicks the album off to a ferocious start.

CHRIS STULL (Production Designer) began his career in 1994 with the hit feature “Reality Bites.” He went on to work on “Rushmore,” “Miss Congeniality,” the “Spy Kids” series, “American Outlaws,” and “Grindhouse.” He worked on the independent features “Skateland,” which premiered at Sundance, “The Legend of Hell’s Gate,” a low-budget western shot throughout Texas, and “Puncture,” a drama starring Chris Evans, Vinessa Shaw and Michael Biehn.

NINA PROCTOR (Costume Designer) previously collaborated with Robert Rodriguez on the films “Planet Terror,” “Grindhouse,” “The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl 3-D,” “Frank Miller’s Sin City,” the “Spy Kids” trilogy, and “Shorts.” Most recently, Proctor was costume designer on “Predators” directed by Nimrod Antal, produced by Robert Rodriguez. Earlier in her career, she worked on “The Return,” “Secondhand Lions,” “American Outlaws,” Robert Altman’s “Dr. T and the Women,” and “All the Pretty Horses.”

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