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Presents

John Carpenter's

ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK

A DEBRA HILL Production

Starring

KURT RUSSELL

LEE VAN CLEEF
ERNEST BORGNINE
DONALD PLEASANCE

ISAAC HAYES
SEASON HUBLEY
TOM ATKINS
CHARLES CYPHERS

HARRY DEAN STANTON as "Brain"
ADRIENNE BARBEAU as "Maggie"

Director

JOHN CARPENTER

Producer

LARRY FRANCO
DEBRA HILL

Screenplay

JOHN CARPENTER
NICK CASTLE

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"ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK"

Cast

Snake Plissken.....KURT RUSSELL
Bob Hauk.....LEE VAN CLEEF
Cabbie.....ERNEST BORGNINE
President of the United States.....DONALD PLEASENCE
The Duke of New York.....ISAAC HAYES
Girl in Chock Full O'Nuts.....SEASON HUBLEY
Brain.....HARRY DEAN STANTON
MaggieADRIENNE BARBEAU
RehmeTOM ATKINS
Secretary of StateCHARLES CYPHERS
TaylorJOE UNGER
RomeroFRANK DOUBLEDAY
Dr. CronenbergJOHN STROBEL
Gypsy #1JOHN COTHRAN JR.
Gypsy #2GARRETT BERGFELD
Gypsy GuardRICHARD COSENTINO
GypsyROBERT JOHN METCALF
GypsyJOEL BENNETT
1ST IndianVIC BULLOCK

2ND Indian.....CLEM FOX
3RD Indian.....TOBAR MAYO
Dancer #1JOSEPH A. PERROTTI
Dancer #2ALAN SHEARMAN
Dancer #3RON VERNAN
Dancer #4RONALD E. HOUSE
Dancer #5RODGER BUMPASS
Stewardess.....NANCY STEPHENS
Secret Service #1.....STEVEN GAGON
Secret Service #2.....STEVEN FORD
Secret Service #3.....MICHAEL A. TAYLOR
Red Bandana Gypsy.....LONNIE WUN
Helicopter Pilot.....DALE HOUSE
Helicopter Pilot.....DAVID R. PATRICK
Duty Sargeant.....BOB MINOR
Controller.....WALLY TAYLOR
Computer Operator.....JAMES O'HAGEN
Trooper.....JAMES EMERY
Police Sargeant.....TOM LILLARD
Theatre Manager.....BORAH SILVER
Boyle.....TONY PAPENFUS
Punk.....JOHN DIEHL
Bum.....CARMEN FILIPI
Drunk.....BUCK FLOWER

Helicopter Pilot.....CLAY WRIGHT

Helicopter Pilot.....AL CERULLO

Slag.....OX BAKER

"ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK"

Credits

Directed by.....JOHN CARPENTER

Produced by.....LARRY FRANCO

Produced by.....DEBRA HILL

Written by.....JOHN CARPENTER
and
NICK CASTLE

Associate Producer.....BARRY BERNARDI

Music by.....JOHN CARPENTER
in association with
ALAN HOWARTH

Film Editor.....TODD RAMSAY

Production Designer.....JOE ALVES

Director of Photography.....DEAN CUNDEY

Production Manager.....ALAN LEVINE

First Assistant Director.....LARRY FRANCO

Second Assistant Director.....JEFFREY CHERNOV

Assistant to the Producers and Casting.....PEGI BROTMAN

Production Office Coordinator.....CHIP FOWLER

Script Supervisor.....LOUISE JAFFE

Camera Operator.....RAY STELLA

"ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK"

Synopsis

It is 1997. A nearly-destroyed New York City has become a walled-in prison for over 3 million convicted criminals who have lost, but survived, a brutal Civil War against the United States Police Force. In this maximum security prison-city, escape has been made impossible - every bridge is mined and walled, and the Statue of Liberty has become just another guard tower from which officers in infra-red goggles blast, on sight, any prisoners desperate enough to attempt escape. Radar scanners revolve and helicopters circle the island of Manhattan endlessly. Other than the monthly food drops made by air into Central Park, these outcasts are left completely on their own to prey on one another.

Into this living hell, a master criminal, Snake Plissken, is sent alone on a mission as dangerous as the inmates within its walls: he must rescue the President of the United States, whose plane has crashed inside New York City on its way to a world summit conference. The President is carrying papers that are crucial to the survival of world peace, and it is up to Snake to safely return both the President and the tape cassette within 24 hours. As

a deadly incentive, to prevent Snake from abandoning his rescue mission, two microscopic explosives are implanted in Snake's main arteries which could kill the famous crook in an instant if allowed to detonate.

Once inside New York, Snake is pitted against roving street gangs of violent criminals and the "crazies," the criminally insane, who live in the subway systems and at night pour out of manholes like sewer rats to attack and kill whomever they can. It is the most powerful street gang in New York, the "gypsies," and their leader "The Duke," who hold the President hostage, demanding immediate amnesty for all inhabitants of New York City in exchange for his safe release.

When Snake manages to track down "The Duke" he is immediately stripped of the guns given him for the mission, shot with an arrow in the leg and savagely beaten. In spite of his weakened condition, Duke's gang sends Snake into a blood-stained boxing ring (instantly recognizable as a debased Madison Square Garden) to fight a Roman gladiator type of contest using nail filled baseball bats as weapons. Although his opponent is Slag, a sadistic mountain of a man, Snake manages to kill him after a terrible battle, much to the delight of the thousands of blood thirsty spectators.

Snake then manages to slip away from Duke and his gypsies and proceeds to carry out a spectacular rescue attempt of the President on the 69th St. Bridge, amid exploding mines and bloody

fight. But just as the President and Snake are hauled over the edge of the wall, Snake is pulled back down by the Duke, who is intent on retrieving the President and killing Snake. The two powerful criminals fight a fierce hand-to-hand battle to the death, that, even if Snake wins, he could lose if he can't get to the doctor in time to have the detonating devices neutralized.

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"ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK"

Production Notes

A chilling vision of the not-so-distant future is presented in Avco Embassy's futuristic action adventure film, "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK." Esteemed writer-director John Carpenter and co-producer Debra Hill are responsible for our frightening journey into the terrifying nightmare world of New York City as it appears in the year 1997. The production marks the 3rd collaboration between the team of Carpenter and Hill, which began with the most successful independent film ever made, "Halloween," and "The Fog," Avco Embassy's haunting ghost story.

An extensive and superlative cast appears in "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK," headed by Kurt Russell. The film also stars Lee Van Cleef, Ernest Borgnine, Donald Pleasence, Isaac Hayes, Season Hubley, Harry Dean Stanton as Brain, and Adrienne Barbeau as Maggie. Written by John Carpenter and Nick Castle, it is produced by Debra Hill and Larry Franco, and directed by Carpenter.

Carpenter and co-screenwriter Nick Castle paint a vivid picture of Manhattan Island in the year 1997, now a maximum security

prison operated by the newly formed United States Police Force. Completely walled-in and virtually escape-proof, the city is now a corrupt and devastated place inhabited by over 3,000,000 gypsy criminals, crazies, and bums.

Air Force One, enroute to a summit meeting with the President on board, is sabotaged, crash-landing in New York City. The President survives, only to be taken prisoner by the King of the Gypsies, Duke, and his gang of cut-throats, including the unsavory Brain, and his "main squeeze," Maggie.

The savage inmates make their demands perfectly clear: their immediate release in exchange for the President's freedom. Bob Hauk, police commissioner for the United States Police Force, send master criminal Snake Plissken, to enter Manhattan and rescue the President within a 24-hour time period. With assistance from such felonious characters as Cabbie, the Yellow Cab-driving inmate, and Maureen, the seductively sinister prisoner, Snake strives to save the President within the terrifyingly short time limit set by Hauk.

The genesis of "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" began with Carpenter's first visit to New York City. "I'd heard all the show biz cliches about the place: the white lights of Broadway, the city of cities. In actuality, parts of the city were pretty bad," said Carpenter. Taking the basic idea of a completely ruined New York, and expanding it to its limit, Carpenter wrote the first draft for the film in 1974. He then banked the resulting script until early 1980,

when Avco Embassy gave him the go-ahead for the project. Bringing in Nick Castle to help re-write and finalize the script in the spring of 1980, the picture finally went into production late that summer. As he had done on "The Fog," Carpenter wrote certain characters for specific actors. Snake Plissken was written with talented actor Kurt Russell in mind, while veteran Ernest Borgnine had the character Cabbie written for him. Maggie was written to utilize the talents of the lovely Adrienne Barbeau, and Maureen was created specifically for a special appearance by young actress Season Hubley.

The outstanding success of Carpenter and Hill's two previous low-budget features enabled their independent production company to proceed with what became a \$7,000,000 picture, by far the team's highest budgeted film yet. The enormous scope of the movie also resulted in Carpenter's longest shooting schedule to date, a demanding, logistically complex, 3 month shoot. Quite a difference from "Halloween," which was shot in just 20 days, and came in costing under \$400,000.

A multi-talented individual, Carpenter's versatility shows by just glimpsing at his credits. It was while attending USC's film school that Carpenter became involved in the film short, "The Resurrection of Bronco Billy," which won the Academy Award as Best Live Action Short Subject of 1970. It was also while at USC that Carpenter began directing what ultimately became the feature film "Dark Star," which has since gone on to become a science fiction

cult classic.

Next came the suspense film "Assault on Precinct 13," followed a few years later by the most successful independent film ever made, "Halloween." Writing "Assault" and co-writing "Halloween" (with producer Debra Hill) and directing both films, Carpenter also wrote the original music for them, as he did for "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK," and edited "Assault." Soon after "Halloween" came the box-office smash, "The Fog," with Carpenter once again directing, co-writing and scoring the film.

He also found time to direct two TV movies - "Someone is Watching Me," a scary teleplay which he also wrote (and where he met his future wife, Adrienne Barbeau), and the critically acclaimed ratings blockbuster, "Elvis" (which starred "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" star Kurt Russell). Carpenter also wrote the original screenplay for "Eyes," which after extensive rewrites by other screenwriters became the film "The Eyes of Laura Mars."

"ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" is a true "family affair" style production, reuniting some of the most talented people working in the film industry today. Carpenter and Hill are veteran co-workers, having now joined forces on four films. Their initial meeting was on "Assault on Precinct 13," with Hill then acting as script supervisor. They soon began screenwriting together, and that led to the script for "Halloween," which Hill also produced. They did the same on "The Fog," co-writing together, Carpenter directing, Hill

producing. An extremely talented duo, their future plans together include writing and producing the sequel to "Halloween," and directing and producing the gothic western, "El Diablo."

Director of Cinematography Dean Cundey is also a long-time member of the Carpenter family, having photographed both "Halloween" and "The Fog." In addition, Cundey has over 30 feature films to his credit, including "Rock and Roll High School" and "Where the Red Fern Grows."

Co-producer and first assistant director, Larry Franco, worked with Carpenter as first assistant director on the TV bio-picture "Elvis," and again in the same capacity on "The Fog." Franco also happens to be Kurt Russell's brother-in-law, having married Jill Russell 11 years ago.

Co-screenwriter Nick Castle is a long time friend of Carpenter's, and portrayed the killer in "Halloween," in addition to operating the "beachball" monster in "Dark Star." He also handled cinematography chores on "The Resurrection of Bronco Billy," and is a member of Carpenter's rock group, the "Coup De Villes."

Star Kurt Russell first worked with Carpenter when he played the lead in "Elvis." The film also introduced Russell to actress Season Hubley, who was portraying Priscilla Presley. They fell in love, and were later married. Hubley makes a special appearance in "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK."

Adrienne Barbeau, the female lead in the film, first met Carpenter when starring in "Someone is Watching Me." A romance blossomed, which led to marriage in January, 1979.

Donald Pleasence, portraying the President, appeared as the psychologist in "Halloween," and appeared with "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" co-star Ernest Borgnine in the highly praised TV movie, "All Quiet on the Western Front."

The picture was co-financed by AEPC, International Film Investors, Inc. and Goldcrest Films International.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Finding locations to simulate a ravaged and devastated New York city, circa 1997, was no mean feat. Location co-ordinator Barry Bernardi had his hands full attempting to find suitable stand-ins for such New York sights as Madison Square Garden, the 69th St. Bridge, and the World Trade Center, because the actual locations could not realistically have been used for the purposes required.

The city of St. Louis, Missouri proved to be of invaluable help by providing some of the needed "doubles." Because the city's architecture was similar to that of a major east coast city, and was within close proximity to a big, accessible, yet closed bridge (the

Chain of Rocks Bridge, which doubled for the 69th St. Bridge) and especially because of the fine co-operation and assistance from the city itself, St. Louis really fit the bill. It was the city's old Union Train Station that stood-in for Madison Square Garden. The downtown section of St. Louis, once strewn with dozens of junked cars and littered with hundreds of pounds of trash, became the city streets of the corrupted futuristic Manhattan.

Four different locations in Los Angeles alone helped to visualize the site of the World Trade Center, while in Atlanta, Georgia, the MARTA system (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) became a futuristic trans-continental train used in an early sequence in the film. Location shooting was done in the city of New York, too, the most stunning segment being shot on Liberty Island, at the base of the Statue Of Liberty.

Responsible for the extraordinary sets and various designs used in the film was gifted production designer Joe Alves. Alves, whose previous credits include "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "Jaws," and "Jaws II", (he also served as associate producer and 2nd unit director on "Jaws II"), had his work cut out for him in creating the complex yet vital designs needed throughout the film. The demands of the script called for a series of dichotomous sets: the austere, stark United States Police Force world, with its clean lines, and colorless backgrounds, versus the inside of Manhattan, and its medieval, reverted landscape. Each has its own

special "look," textured and consistent throughout, which lends a distinctive tone to the film.

Some designs were decidedly more demanding than others, particularly the crash site of Air Force One, the central control center for the United States Police Force (a dazzling display of flashing computers, video monitors, and light-emitting diodes), the exterior portion of the United State Police Force offices (leading to the underground headquarters), and a portion of the very wall that surrounds and contains New York City. This section of the wall plays a vital role in the end of the film, and it was Alves who designed the 33-feet-high, 200-feet-long monolith, which took over one month to build. Alves also had a hand in the creation of a small robot used in one sequence, as well as the design for the Presidential escape pod, with which the President makes good his safe fall to earth from the crashing Air Force One.

"ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" brings to the screen a number of technical firsts, particularly in the area of cinematography. Director of Cinematography Dean Cundey utilizes new special lenses called Ultra Speed Panatars, from Panavision, which are being used for the first time throughout an entire feature film on "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK." Because of different kinds of glass and better coatings, these lenses are extremely fast, meaning the film could be shot at the necessary low light levels, with the resulting footage

exceptionally sharp.

Another first is the use of a "computerized light modulator," invented and built by Cundey and Joy Brown. Among its many functions is controlling a number of lights and blinking them on and off, either in unison or at random rates. But perhaps the most amazing of its abilities is its "talent" for flickering lights to simulate firelight. In simple explanatory layman's terms, an electronic eye photo cell is aimed at a real fire, and the cell registers back to the light modulator, which in turn flickers all lights plugged into it, precisely like the firelight flickers. The end result is a totally realistic and extremely dramatic lighting effect. And, as Cundey says, "There is simply nothing else like it around today."

While not a first, it is interesting to note that approximately 25% of the film was shot using Panaglide, a version of the special Academy Award-winning camera termed the Steadicam. The Panaglide allows the freedom of movement that comes with using a hand-held camera, yet is extraordinarily smoother. The resulting coverage lends an almost dream-like quality to the film, quite apropos for the nightmare situation inside New York City.

The special effects people will have their hands in the proceedings of the film, too. The special effects division at New World Pictures is responsible for all the visual effects, models, and miniatures. According to Mary Ann Fisher, who is head of production

at New World, a number of different optical effects are utilized throughout the picture. Included are matte paintings, glass paintings, 3-D models, time-lapse photography, and model animation.

One of the special models built for the film was a 10 foot by 10 foot scale miniature of New York City where $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the model equals 10 feet of Manhattan. The miniature includes the water surrounding New York, and even the sight of Brooklyn in the distance.

The responsibility for all the "live" special effects in the film, from explosions to mechanical devices such as the Presidential escape pod, fell into the very capable hands of special effects pro, Roy Arbogast.

The credit for editing "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" goes to capable Todd Ramsay, who came to the film equipped with an impressive background. Among his editing credits is the science fiction feature film, "Star Trek-The Motion Picture." He also handled associate editor duties on the movie, "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

Steve Loomis, costume designer for "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK," found his work on the film to be one of his most challenging jobs yet. With along list of noteworthy credits, from the features "The Fog," "Valentine," and "Family Dream," to designing clothes for such rock stars as Elton John, The Jacksons, and Stevie Wonder, he still found his imagination taxed trying to design clothes for

a 1997 Manhattan. It was up to Loomis to design futuristic "trash" clothes for the inmates inside New York, whose only clothes are the ones left on their backs, or ones they salvage from the waste of the city. In fact, Loomis actually ended up doing some of his costume shopping at city dumps, for a truly "authentic" look.

One of the more difficult aspects of the job was designing the stars' outfits, which had to be special yet at the same time blend in and be plausible. The resulting costumes have extraordinary detail and design, making them decidedly individualistic, yet not too attention-grabbing. Kurt Russell's outfit was designed to be 1997 camouflage fatigues, meaning instead of blending with tropical terrain they blend in with a burnt-out, decaying prison/city.

The final look of the film, down to each individual gypsy and "crazy" extra, is proof of Loomis' skill and versatility.

* * *

JOHN CARPENTER

Biography

John Carpenter is the versatile director and co-author of "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK," hot off the back-to-back successes of his films "Halloween" and "The Fog."

A native of Bowling Green, Kentucky, Carpenter initially moved to California to attend film school at the University of Southern California. It was while at USC that he became involved with the short film "The Resurrection of Bronco Billy," which went on to win the Academy Award as Best Live Action Short Subject of 1970. It was also while at USC that Carpenter began directing his first feature film, "Dark Star," which he finished on a Hollywood sound stage 4 years later. "Dark Star" has since gone on to become a science fiction cult classic.

Carpenter's next feature, "Assault on Precinct 13," is another "genre" classic, and netted tremendous critical acclaim in its European release. Carpenter not only directed the film, but wrote, edited, and scored it, too.

Carpenter also wrote the original screenplay entitled "Eyes," which after extensive rewrites by other screenwriters became the film "The Eyes of Laura Mars."

Then came the phenomenon known as "Halloween." Directed, scored, and co-written by Carpenter (along with partner writer-producer Debra Hill), the film has ultimately become the most successful independent movie ever made, and firmly established the team of Carpenter and Hill.

Moving to television, Carpenter wrote and directed the scary television movie, "Someone is Watching Me." The film introduced him to actress Adrienne Barbeau, perhaps most recognizable for her role as Carol in the hit TV series, "Maude." A relationship developed that led to marriage in January of 1979.

Carpenter next undertook the critically acclaimed television biographical picture, "Elvis." The 3-hour ratings block-buster also enabled Carpenter to work with actor Kurt Russell, who now stars in "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK."

Returning to feature work, and because of the success of "Halloween," Carpenter and Hill were free to make the haunting ghost story, "The Fog." Carpenter and Hill co-wrote the film, with Hill producing, and Carpenter directing and scoring. "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" now marks the 3rd collaboration between the dynamic team of Carpenter and Hill.

Following "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK," Carpenter will co-write (with

Hill) and executive -produce the sequel to "Halloween," "Halloween II."
He will also direct a gothic western entitled "El Diablo."

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Biography

A native of Haddonfield, New Jersey, Debra Hill, working in tandem with her partner, John Carpenter, took the film industry by storm with the smashing success of their first film, "Halloween." Ms. Hill and Carpenter followed their initial success with a haunting ghost story, "The Fog." Once again, Hill and Carpenter have joined forces to bring "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" to the screen.

Ms. Hill credits her father as one of the sources of her life-long interest in making movies, for he had worked in the 1940's as the art director on several of the Bing Crosby/Bob Hope "Road" movies. Equally influential was Ms. Hill's childhood hours spent watching--and loving--films.

To satisfy her interest, Ms. Hill took a job involved with the making of documentaries for Adventure Films. This took her to such worldwide locales as Africa and the Carribean.

After a brief involvement promoting Evel Knievel's famous Snake River Canyon jump, Ms. Hill turned to script supervision and began work on the feature "Goodbye, Norma Jean," on which she also served as assistant director.

After several other films, Ms. Hill found herself working for John Carpenter as script supervisor and assistant editor on his feature "Assault on Precinct Thirteen."

Carpenter and Ms. Hill developed a mutual respect for one another and soon were writing together. With Carpenter serving as director and Hill debuting as producer, together they co-authored the critical and box-office hit "Halloween."

Following the success of "Halloween," there was considerable interest from the studios to reunite the team that had been responsible for what is already considered a horror classic. Ms. Hill and Carpenter subsequently co-authored the original screenplay for "The Fog," resulting in yet another sensational success. "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" marks the team's third collaboration, and there are promises of many more.

Ms. Hill has a number of projects in the works for herself after "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK." She is currently in production on "Halloween II", the sequel to "Halloween", and is developing a film entitled "Clue", based on the popular Parker Brothers board game, with director John Landis, from a screenplay by Alan Ackbourn for Polygram/Universal.

KURT RUSSELL

Biography

Kurt Russell has been acting in films since the age of 9, but made his mark as an actor of serious consideration with his stunning portrayal of the King of Rock 'n' Roll in the biographical made-for-television movie, "Elvis." First seen on television and then in regular theatrical release, "Elvis" met with critical acclaim for its brilliant script that showed the inner conflicts and bitter loneliness that accompanied the ultimate rock 'n' roll singer and for Russell's remarkable characterization of the private and public Elvis Presley.

The turning point in Russell's career, "Elvis" also teamed him with directed John Carpenter for the first time, leaving them to join forces again on the adventure thriller, "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK."

Ironically, Russell's first feature film appearance was in the 1963 Elvis Presley vehicle, "It Happened at the World's Fair." In it he played a spirited youngster whose big scene was kicking Presley in the shins. After his motion picture debut with the King, Russell began working with the Walt Disney Studios, making numerous films. He also frequently appeared on the Wonderful World of Disney.

More recently, Russell has starred in the television series "The Quest" and "The New Land." He starred in the TV movie "Miracle In Caulfield, U.S.A." and guest starred several times on the popular "Police Story."

Russell also portrayed Texas murderer Charles Whitman in the made-for-television movie "The Deadly Tower," and starred with Dennis Weaver in "Amber Waves," an acclaimed television tale of modern day American wheat harvesters.

Russell recently displayed his comic abilities in the comedy film "Used Cars," in which he played a very slick used-car salesman.

A natural athlete, Russell's main sports passion is for baseball. In fact, Russell played pro-ball for the minor league Bend (Oregon) Rainbows, and the El Paso Sun Kings, until severe shoulder injury during his fourth baseball season forced him to abandon his professional sports ambitions and return to acting as a full-time career. Not a man easily discouraged, Russell still plays the game-- backyard variety -- along with his other loves, horseback riding and skiing.

Russell is married to actress Season Hubley, who starred with him in "Elvis" as Priscilla Presley. Season makes a special appearance in "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK." The couple live in Los Angeles and are the proud parents of a young son, Boston Oliver Grant Russell.

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LEE VAN CLEEF

Biography

Lee Van Cleef plays the part of Hawk, the menacing police commissioner of the United States Police Force, in the futuristic adventure, "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK."

A native of New Jersey, Van Cleef began his acting career as a member of the touring cast of "Mr. Roberts." A time-and-motion engineer, Van Cleef regarded the try-out for the role in "Mr. Roberts" as a lark, but after an 18 month stint with the cast, he gave up his previous profession to devote himself entirely to acting.

Van Cleef's first feature film appearance was an important role in the classic film "High Noon," in which he played the sardonic killer who loses the showdown gunfight with Gary Cooper. Thereafter, he began a round of arch-villain roles in films including "Gunfight At the OK Corral," "The Bravados," and "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance."

He followed with now famous roles in the enormously popular "spaghetti" westerns "For A Few Dollars More," "A Fistful of Dollars" and "The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly."

To date, Van Cleef has appeared in over 70 feature films. His most recent release is "The Octagon."

Additionally, he has starred in numerous television shows, including "Gunsmoke," "Bonanza," "Maverick," "Have Gun, Will Travel," "The Twilight Zone" and "77 Sunset Strip."

A physically impressive man, Lee Van Cleef stands 6'2" and weighs 200 pounds. He stays in top physical condition with calisthenics and daily swimming sessions.

Van Cleef spends his free time with his hobby of portrait and figure painting, which he describes as being "modern-impressionistic" in style.

* * *

ERNEST BORGNINE

Biography

Ernest Borgnine plays Cabbie, the Yellow Cab-driving inmate whose help is vital to the rescue of the President of the United States in John Carpenter's "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK."

Borgnine has one of the most distinct and recognizable faces in the entertainment industry. Considered an "actor's actor" and a genuine professional, his far-reaching abilities have allowed him to play everything from the lightest comedy, such as his role as the hospital attendant in Broadway's "Harvey," to the frightening portrayal of the evil "Fatso Judson" in "From Here To Eternity." Of course, Borgnine's career is epitomized by his sensitive portrayal of the simple, soft-spoken "Marty." The role won Borgnine an Academy Award and the admiration and respect that has lasted more than three decades.

But Ernest was not always interested in acting. At an early age he fell in love with the sea and after graduation from high school joined the U.S. Navy. When his tenure with the Navy was up he started taking acting classes at the suggestion of family and friends.

Going from stock playhouses and neighborhood theatres to Broadway (where he appeared first in "Harvey"), Borgnine was finally spotted by a talent scout from Columbia Pictures and was soon cast in his first film, "Whistle at Eaton Falls."

He began to split his time between Hollywood and Broadway, managing to squeeze in a significant number of radio dramas and performing in over 200 shows during television's "live" era.

Borgnine has starred in such notable films as "Bad Day At Black Rock," "Ice Station Zebra," "The Dirty Dozen" and "The Poseidon Adventure."

More recently, Borgnine has been seen in "Crossed Swords," "Convoy," and "The Black Hole." He has appeared in more than 40 feature films and has starred in many made-for-television movies including "Billy And The Kid" and "Legend in Granite," in which he gave a remarkable performance as Vince Lombardi. He netted an Emmy nomination for his role in the TV-movie, "All Quiet On The Western Front."

Ernest Borgnine is perhaps most recognizable for his starring role in the popular TV series, "McHale's Navy." As a result of this long-running series, Borgnine was made an Honorary Skipper of the Blue Angels, a title of which he is extremely proud.

Borgnine still finds time for his favorite aspect of acting, live theatre. And despite his busy schedule, he also makes time to

indulge in his favorite hobby, stamp collecting.

Borgnine lives in Beverly Hills with his beautiful Norwegian wife Tove. Tove is famous in her own right for her line of healthful cosmetics.

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DONALD PLEASANCE

Biography

British character actor Donald Pleasence is a master of the villainous or off-beat roles and is known for giving the most demanding parts the attention and verve needed to make them memorable. He has thus established himself as one of the most sought after performers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Pleasence has excelled in such diverse roles as that of the Nazi Reichsfuhrer S.S. chief, Heinrich Himmler, in "The Eagle Has Landed," to his slapstick role in the comedy-western "The Hallelujah Trail," to the psychiatrist in the now classic horror film "Halloween." It was during the filming of "Halloween" that Pleasence met director John Carpenter, who has now re-cast Pleasence in "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK."

Pleasence background reads like a movie script itself. Born in England, he studied acting with a repertory group in New Jersey and then went on to join repertory groups in Plymouth, Birmingham and Bristol.

When World War II broke out, Pleasence put his acting career on hold while serving as a radio operator. His plane was shot down during a mission over Germany and he was captured. He spent the remainder of the

war in a P.O.W. camp.

Pleasence resumed his acting career when invited by Laurence Olivier to join his American touring company. The actor, known for his broad style and adaptability to any role, has been working steadily since.

His films to date include "Look Back in Anger," "Hell Is A City," "The Great Escape," "The Caretaker," "The Greatest Story Ever Told," "You Only Live Twice," "Will Penny," "Soldier Blue," "Outback," "Cul De Sac," "Fantastic Voyage," "Hearts of The West," "The Last Tycoon," "Telefon," "Oh God," "Escape to Witch Mountain," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and "Halloween."

Pleasence has also done a great deal of stage work, both in London and New York. He has received four Tony nominations, for "Poor Bitos," "Wise Child," "The Caretaker" (which also netted him the London Critics Award), and "The Man in the Glass Booth," for which he won the Variety Award for Best Stage Performance.

Donald Pleasence is also an important contributor to American and British television. On American television, he's starred in segments of "The Twilight Zone," "Columbo," and "Orson Welles' Great Mysteries." He has received two Emmy nominations, one for "The Defection of Simas Kudurkes," the other for "All Quiet On The Western Front." In Britain he scored a major coup with the television version of George Orwell's famous play, "1984," and in 1958 he won the Guild of TV Producer's Award as

Actor of the Year for a comedic performance in "Fate and Mr. Brown."

Pleasence is married to young Israeli folksinger Miera Shore, and has five daughters (four of them from previous marriages). They reside in West London.

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ISAAC HAYES

Biography

When director John Carpenter cast Isaac Hayes in the part of Duke, the evil and menacing king gypsy of Manhattan in the film "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK," he was casting a king of another sort.

Isaac Hayes has been the reigning king of soul music and soundtracks for years.

Hayes began his career in Memphis as the hit songwriter of "Soul Man," "Hold On," "I'm Comin'" and others for Sam & Dave, and the musical innovations that he introduced in 1968 on his classic Hot Buttered Soul album have influenced the works of dozens of other artists, laying the foundation for disco's recent popularity.

Over the past 11 years, Hayes has cut a total of 21 albums for 3 different labels -- Stax, ABC, and, since 1977, Polydor.

A total of 10 of his albums have gone gold (selling over 500,000 copies) and five have reached the heights of the recording industry and gone platinum (selling over 1 million copies). Perhaps best known for his soundtrack album from the hit movie "Shaft," Isaac Hayes has given us such hits as "I Ain't Never," "It's All In

The Game," and "Don't Let Go." His composition for Dionne Warwick, "Deja Vu," helped Ms. Warwick in her own return to the charts after a long absence, and earned both of them Grammy nominations.

Perhaps not quite as recognizable for his acting work, Hayes is no beginner in that field. He has made three feature films, starting with "Three Tough Guys" in 1973 and in the same year had the title role in "Truck Turner." In 1974, he made a comedy film with Anthony Newley titled "It Seemed Like A Good Idea At The Time."

Since then, he has limited his acting to performing on the TV series "The Rockford Files." He first appeared on a special episode of "Rockford" as a character known as Gandy. Hayes' appearance proved so successful that he was called back to appear on two subsequent episodes as the same character.

Isaac Hayes resides in Atlanta, Georgia, and when not working on his music or a film he enjoys impromptu jam sessions with friends and colleagues.

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ADRIENNE BARBEAU

Biography

Adrienne Barbeau portrays the earthy and sensual Maggie, who assists in the attempted rescue of the President of the United States in "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK."

A vivacious and talented actress, Barbeau is perhaps best-known to audiences as the wisecracking daughter Carol on the long-running TV series "Maude." Barbeau's role as Carol lasted for five seasons after which she left the series returning only for an occasional guest spot in the series' sixth and final year.

Adrienne's success on "Maude" led to her status as one of the most sought after actresses in television, and she has completed major starring roles in such made-for-TV films as "The Darker Side of Terror," "Crash: The True Story of Flight 401," "Sweepstakes," "Charlie and the Great Balloon Chase," "Houdini," "Having Babies," "Red Alert," and, most importantly, "Someone Is Watching Me."

It was this latter TV film that introduced her to writer-director John Carpenter, who was directing his first television film. Ms. Barbeau and Carpenter got along so well that they fell in love, and were

married in January of 1979.

In addition to her work in television, Ms. Barbeau is also a noted Broadway star. She portrayed "Hodel" on Broadway in "Fiddler On The Roof," and also won a Tony nomination and a Theatre World Award for creating the character of "Rizzo" in the original New York production of "Grease."

A dynamic singer, she has performed on countless television shows as well as co-headlining with Roy Clark at Harrah's Club in Reno.

Ms. Barbeau made her feature film debut in the John Carpenter directed ghost story "The Fog." She will be seen in the up-coming feature, "Cannonball Run," along with Burt Reynolds and Roger Moore.

In addition to her busy career, Ms. Barbeau is also one of the top poster pin-up girls in the country. Her best-selling poster photo ranks right behind Farrah Fawcett and Cheryl Tiegs.

She and Carpenter reside in the Hollywood Hills, where they spend their off-screen time. A noted supporter of ERA, a top-flight racquetball player, and bio-energetics enthusiast, Adrienne also manages to find time to write original poetry and knit sweaters for Mr. Carpenter.

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