

NEWS

'CITIZEN JANE' **PRODUCTION BIOS**

SONNY GROSSO (Executive Producer) – Sonny Grosso began his career as an NYC Police officer. After being on the force for only three and a half years, he was promoted to the Narcotics Bureau, reaching the rank of first grade detective faster than any one in the history of the New York Police Department.

Unbeknown to Grosso at the time, this unusual career move established him firmly in the entertainment business, for it was Grosso, along with his partner, Eddie Egan, who broke the famous French Connection narcotics case, catapulting him into the national spotlight.

Once the case broke, he worked with renowned author Robin Moore on the book, The French Connection and later collaborated with director William Friedkin and producer Phil D'Antoni writing and producing the theatrical screenplay for the film adaptation.

Following the enormous international success of "The French Connection," Grosso became part of the production and writing of such projects as "The Godfather," "Cruising," "The Brinks Job," "Report to the Commissioner" and "the Seven Ups," along with several classic television series including "Kojak," "Baretta" and "The Rockford Files."

In 1977, he authored two books, Murder at the Harlem Morgue and Point Blank, the latter of which was produced as the highly acclaimed CBS mini-series, "A Question of Honor."

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LARRY JACOBSON (Executive Producer) – Larry Jacobson's career as a television executive and producer spans more than 30 successful years. Since starting at NBC, Jacobson has been involved in producing every form of television programming from the world famous Emmy Awards® ceremony to the well-known "NBC Children's Theater."

In the mid 1970s, he created and was executive producer of the multi-award winning Emmy nominated series "Water World," starring Lloyd Bridges. After "Water World's" five season US run, it was successfully distributed throughout the world.

Jacobson followed his success with a four-season run of the television series, "The Racers."

From 1974 to 1977, Jacobson continued his prolific producing career, which included "The Year of the Gentle Tiger," "Comeback," "The Miss National Teenager" pageants and "A Whole New Season Called...Winter," starring Michael Landon.

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In 1977 he joined American International Pictures, one of the industry's leading independent production/distribution companies, as executive producer in charge of television development and production. In 1980 he partnered with Sonny Grosso to form Grosso Jacobson Production.

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ERIC MITCHELL (Executive Producer) – Eric Mitchell has more than 19 years of film industry experience, most recently at Baldwin Entertainment Group, where since 2005 he was chief operating officer. While at Baldwin, he set up the financing and distribution of such projects as "Death Sentence" with Kevin Bacon, and the upcoming films "Atlas Shrugged" with Angelina Jolie, "Relentless 3D", and "Luna." Mitchell managed a staff of 12, located in Los Angeles and Connecticut. His responsibilities included developing projects, structuring the financing and distribution of the produced projects, and approval of all advertising expenditures, marketing materials, and publicity.

Mitchell started his career as an executive with Sony Pictures' Tri-Star Pictures division. He was responsible for overseeing strategic and financial planning within the motion picture group. His acquisition, business affairs, and financial talents helped Sony acquire certain distribution rights to such hits as "Cliffhanger," "Sniper," "Threesome," and "Weekend at Bernie's 2." He also secured the theatrical and video rights to "The Swan Princess" for Columbia TriStar Home Video (CTHV). This title became the highest grossing family title for CTHV and spawned two video sequels. Mitchell also assisted Tri-Star's vice chairman in acquiring multi-picture distribution rights with Carolco Pictures. This single distribution deal generated \$250 million in profit, the most ever in Tri-Star history, and ultimately spawned such hits as "Universal Soldier," "The Doors," "Total Recall," "Basic Instinct," and "Terminator 2."

Following his studio experience, Mitchell formed his own company, which provided advice for independent film financing and distribution strategies, and has advised more than 15 of the top producers and production companies. Through his advisory service with Ascendant Pictures and VIP Media Fund, one of the largest German tax funds, Mitchell participated in placing more than \$500 million in development and production financing into 21 feature films. He has taught a film finance class for "Producing the Independent Film" at the UCLA Extension Center.

Mitchell is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and received his M.S. in Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School

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JASON PIETTE (Executive Producer) – Jason Piette left Cambridge University in the 1980s and worked as an account director in a number of topflight ad agencies in London, looking after clients as diverse as Bergasol, Grundig and Poggenpohl (both franchise operations) and the Army. He was in charge of some \$10 million billings annually across all media.

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Piette moved to commercials production before becoming a film and television producer in the 1990s, forming the Spice Factory in 1994. This has become one of the most successful and prolific film production companies in Europe, producing films such as "The Merchant Of Venice" ("Al Pacino"), "Head In The Clouds" (Charlize Theron), "Undertaking Betty" (Naomi Watts, Christopher Walken) and one of the largest scale TV series of all time, "Napoleon," for A&E in the US. Along the way, Piette has formed and managed equity funds such as Movision, which raised \$100 million for film production, and has set up film sales companies Velvet Octopus and Arclight Films, as well as distribution companies such as La Fabrique in France. Since moving to Los Angeles in 2008, Piette has created a UK distribution and international sales company, Stealth Media, and a series of joint ventures in film and television production.

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ARMAND MASTROIANNI (Director) – With a career spanning more than three decades, directing the action drama miniseries "Final Approach" was Armand Mastroianni's latest collaboration with RHI Entertainment and their producing team. He most recently completed the dramatic movie event "Pandemic," also involving an airliner for the same producing team. Other RHI projects helmed by Mastroianni include such diverse projects as the television movies as "Though None Go With Me," "Falling In Love With The Girl Next Door," the miniseries "Gone But Not Forgotten" and three titles in the "Jane Doe" franchise, starring Lea Thompson.

In series television, Mastroianni served as a director and producer of the revival of the TV cult classic "Dark Shadows." He also directed episodes of such series as "The Dead Zone," "Touched By An Angel," "Tales From The Darkside," "Friday The 13th," "War Of The Worlds," "Reasonable Doubts," "Wes Craven's Nightmare Café," "Freshman Dorm" and "Against The Law."

Mastroianni's other miniseries credits include Robin Cook's "Invasion" and "Danielle Steel's The Ring." His television movie credits also include "Robin Cook's Virus," "Dare To Love," "Final Run," "A Mother's Revenge," "One of Her Own," "Deep Trouble," "Fatal Error," "First Target" and "First Shot." His television movie "First Daughter" remains one the highest rated movies for cable to date. He also directed the biopic "The Linda McCartney Story."

Mastroianni's first feature was also his directorial debut, the thriller "He Knows You're Alone." This film also marked the feature debut of Tom Hanks. He directed and wrote the dramatic thriller "The Clairvoyant." He also directed such features as "The Killing Hour," "The Supernaturals," "Distortions," "Cameron's Closet" and "Double Revenge." Most recently, Mastroianni directed a feature adaptation of the best-selling book written by James Redfield, "The Celestine Prophecy." The film was released in 2006.

In addition to his producing credits in series television, Mastroianni also produced the television movie "Caracara." Working on the other side of the camera, he played the role of a cop in the feature "Relentless."

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JAMES DALESSANDRO (Writer) – Author James Dalessandro has had a remarkably successful career. His 2004 novel, *1906*, which blended fact and fiction in an account of the great San Francisco earthquake and fire, appeared on Northern California Best Seller Lists for more than a year and reached the top 100 on Amazon.com. On January 25, 2005, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to set aside the city's official death count of 478 from the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, based on a resolution that he wrote and presented. The current list of casualties is 4,000. A film adaptation of *1906* is in development, being co-produced by Warner Bros and Pixar Animation in association with Walt Disney Pictures.

His previous novel, *Bohemian Heart*, a hard-boiled thriller about corruption and political assassination also set in San Francisco, introduced the descendants of the main characters in *1906*, the Fallon/Fagen clan, a group of opera-loving, motorcycle riding young cops bent on ending the rampant graft in their beloved city.

Dalessandro co-founded the Santa Cruz Poetry Festival with Ken Kesey, Allen Ginsberg and Charles Bukowski, which for four year was the nation's largest literary event, drawing praise from Lawrence Ferlinghetti for "giving a new birth to American poetry." He published his first work, *Canary In A Coal Mine*, that same year.

He is co-writer and producer of "The Italian Girl," the true story of two lovers who flee Fascist Italy during WWII, only to be incarcerated as 'Enemy Aliens' in the U.S., at an internment camp in Missoula, Montana. During their detention, the Italians won over their captors and townspeople by performing an opera, adapting Rossini's comic masterpiece, *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, into *The Italian Girl in Missoula*. The film is set to begin production in September 2009.

Dalessandro is also the writer/director of the documentary "The Damndest, Finest Ruins," which has won four film festival awards, including the Gold Medal at the Aurora Film Competition out of 6,000 entries.

Dalessandro was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and attended Valley Forge High School. He was educated at Ohio University, in Athens, Ohio, and studied film and screenwriting at UCLA. He worked as a writer in the trailer/marketing department at Columbia Pictures, working on dozens of films. Dalessandro has been a member of the Writer's Guild of America, west, since 1983 and has worked or been hired on more than 30 films and television movies.

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