

Ballbuster

Distributed by Indican

Starring
Jerry O'Connell, ELISABETH RÖHM, LUENELL

in



COMING TO THEATRES SOON

Story By
Howard Burd

Producers
Howard Burd p.g.a., Mark S. Allen p.g.a.

Writers
Howard Burd, Mark S. Allen

Director
Tom Hines

Director of Photography
Dante Yore

Music
Ben Worley

Production Designer/Art Director
Julia Chiesa

Casting
Sally Forcier

Costume Designer
Lisa Burd

Executive Producer
Howard Gilden

Co-Producers
Kellee Benedict, Sally Forcier
Running Time: 85 min

Ballbuster

BALLBUSTER

Ballbuster is about an entitled pro-basketball player who faces making the biggest comeback of his life with both his career, and his relationship with his daughter. He must endure one week of ridiculous over-the-top comical challenges to complete his journey to redemption (and lift his suspension). Based on the true story of a former Washington General, the team that gets beat nightly by the Harlem Globetrotters.

TECH SPECS:

BALLBUSTER

Rating: R (pending)

Country: USA

Language: English

Genre: Comedy

Runtime: 87 minutes

Production began on Ballbuster in May 2018 with all principal photography being completed in the Sacramento, Calif. region. Much of the *Ballbuster* story is based on a collection of true events in the Executive Producer/Chief Writer's life, Howard Burd, during his early basketball career facing the Harlem Globetrotters as a Washington General.

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT – Howard Burd

"BALLBUSTER was born long before I began making movies. I was on the road with the Harlem Globetrotters, playing as a Washington General. Yes, the team that loses to the Globetrotters each and every night, all over the world. I thought, what if we combined things that we've seen lately in some professional athletes' behavior with real road trip stories, and the movie practically wrote itself. Friends and colleagues from those days would visit the set during production and say "I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PUT THAT IN THE MOVIE!," much to the shock and awe of the cast and crew who only at that moment realized: some of the larger-than-life moments of the movie really happened! What I'm most proud of is that the movie finishes with big heart and meaning. I'm really looking forward to people laughing 'til their ribs are sore and enjoying this crazy movie for years to come, and yes, a large percentage of the moments in this movie really happened!"

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT – Mark S. Allen

"*Ballbuster* is an extraordinary throwback to comedy where no care or concern about political correctness lands anywhere near production. Throughout the shoot, I'd look at the cast, crew and extras after each take; and during the bolder moments there'd be an explosion of laughter- they'd be holding in to not blow the take!"

"My favorite moments of the film are born from Howard Burd's actual travel with the Harlem Globetrotters as a Washington General, which is pretty much the type of team our lead ends up on, and many of most absurd moments on screen also happened in real life. Full transparency, I didn't believe Howard when he was describing these scenes in pre-production, and then during the shoot people who were in fact on the road with him would be in video village saying, "I remember that!"

"Jerry O' Connell is one of the nicest guys in the industry, the guy you'd hope he would be in real life which is why it's so fun to see him fully immersed in playing a jerk, and equally in helping him be the jerk we like and are fighting for in the end."

"The ensemble cast assembled to be Jerry's 'Bad News Bears-esque' road warriors is a comedy gift from the

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Universe. From Luenell Carter as the team mom (who had to jump set one day to shoot a pickup shot for *A Star Is Born*) to newcomer Mike E. Winfield. I always loved him in that last season of *The Office* and knew this would be perfect for him. No movie before or since has gotten under my skin to tickle like this one. From the 'baby game', to the fact that the broken-down production vehicle bus in the movie was breaking down in real time with the entire cast in literally every freeway scene, the movie made its own comedy even surpassing the script along the way."

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – Tom Hines

"Any day I was on set with that basketball team - Jerry O'Connell, Flex Alexander, Mike E Winfield, Chris Holley, Tyler Dash White, Mitchell Mack and Luenell (the bus driver) - there was a real sense of camaraderie that kept them loose. I thought Jerry and Flex developed a great bond that carried over to the entire team. They provided plenty of laughs."

Favorite Moment

"Anytime Mike E Winfield or Luenell opened their mouths. Or that time I was told an adult film actress was visiting the set and when I met her it turned out to be our producer, Mark S. Allen, in drag. I eventually got to meet and work with the adult film actress, as well, but I'm still not sure who walked better in heels."

"Jerry O'Connell was up for anything. The ultimate pro. I certainly learned more from him than he could have from me, but he never complained, never flinched and approached every scene (no matter how absurd) with a wink and a smile and a 'Whatever you need'."

ABOUT THE CAST

JERRY O'CONNELL "Rich" Jerry O'Connell has appeared in more than 40 films and dozens of TV appearances since his debut as a child actor as Vern Tessio in the film *Stand by Me* (1986). He's known primarily his roles as Quinn Mallory in the television series *Sliders*, Andrew Clements in *My Secret Identity*, Frank Cushman opposite Tom Cruise in *Jerry Maguire* (1996), Derek in several of the *Scream* films, Charlie Carbone in *Kangaroo Jack* (2003), Detective Woody Hoyt on the drama *Crossing Jordan* and Steven Birch on the Showtime hit *Billions*.

ELISABETH RÖHM "Liz Johnson" Röhm is best known for playing Kate Lockley in the television series *Angel* from 1999 to 2001 and Serena Southerlyn in the television series *Law & Order* from 2001 to 2005. She has also appeared as Dolly Polito in *American Hustle* (2014), Peggy Mangano in *Joy* (2015) and as Martha McCallum in *Bombshell* (2019).

LUENELL "Cari" Luenell has appeared in 25 films since 1993. She is best known for her roles in films such as *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*, *Think Like A Man*; the 3D animated hit *Hotel Transylvania*, with Adam Sandler; and *Taken 2*, with Liam Neeson. She also co-starred in the comedy *That's My Boy* with Adam Sandler and Leighton Meester. She will be featured in the upcoming *Coming to America 2* with Eddie Murphy.

FLEX ALEXANDER "Luther" Nominated for several BET Comedy awards and NAACP Image Awards for both his acting and comedy chops, "Flex" has been featured in dozens of film and TV roles since 1993. He is best known for portraying Michael Jackson in the VH1 television biopic *Man In The Mirror: The Michael Jackson Story*.

MARK DECARLO "Earl" is a comedian, author, travel & foodie expert and TV host. Mark won three consecutive Emmy Awards (2011, 2012, 2013) for his comedy segments on ABC's *Windy City LIVE* program

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which took over *The Oprah Show's* time slot on the Chicago station in 2011. Best known as the host of the hit dating show STUDS (1991-1994), Mark also hosted The X Show (FX) BIG Deal (Fox), Goodnight America, Sunday Dinner (Hallmark).

BOBBY SLAYTON “Smegman” is an actor and writer, known for Bandits (2001), Loser (2000) and Dreamgirls (2006) and as a frequent guest on *The Adam Carolla Show*.

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL HOLLEY “Mobile” is an actor and producer since 1995, known for Smokin' Aces (2006), 21 (2008) and Pride and Glory (2008).

MIKE E. WINFIELD “Mike” is an actor and writer, known for Conversations in L.A. (2017), The Bobby Lee Project (2008) and Pimp (2018) and *The Office*.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Tom Hines (Director) has been an actor and director since 1994, known for Raising Helen (2004), The Princess Diaries (2001) and Chronic Town (2008).

Dante Yore (Director of Photography) has to his credit the most viewed movie in the history of SyFy Network, the 2018 shark film THE MEGALADON. He's the co-author and director of the soon to be released FearPharm and was director of photography SUPERSTATA, THROUPLE, and BALLBUSTER.

Howard Burd (Producer, story by, written by) p.g.a., began his career touring with the Harlem Globetrotters (as a Washington General) which in fact inspired his critically acclaimed Jerry O' Connell basketball comedy BALLBUSTER. Howard quickly amassed a catalogue of successful films of almost every genre, including the Gary Marshall family comedy MOTHER'S DAY (Julia Roberts, Jennifer Aniston), CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES (John Travolta, Dan Stevens), the inspirational track feature 4 MINUTE MILE (Richard Jenkins, Kim Basinger,) FEAR PHARM, a high concept classic horror suspense tale, and NOTORIOUS NICK (Cody Christian, Elisabeth Rohm), based on the true story of Nick Newell who won an MMA World Championship despite being born with a congenital amputation of one arm. Howard and company are currently in production on the suspense thriller 616.

Mark S. Allen (producer, co-writer) p.g.a., is a 5-time Emmy Award winning television producer, and former host of Short Attention Span Theater on Comedy Central. He currently is the executive producer and host of EXTRA BUTTER TV, (AFN) the most widely distributed movie review show in the World and co-founder of the Critics' Choice Awards. In 2016 he transitioned from television about movies, to also making movies! Ballbuster is his feature film debut and has since co-written FEAR PHARM, and produced BALLBUSTER, NOTORIOUS NICK, and is in production with Howard Burd on 616. The suspense horror APParition, Burd and Allen's first film distributed, despite opening only one week after Star Wars- was an audience hit and still in the “most popular” sections in VOD and streaming services....

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