



**UPLIFTING
ENTERTAINMENT**

THE UP PREMIERE MOVIE

COMEBACK DAD

PREMIERES EXCLUSIVELY ON UP

SATURDAY, JULY 12

SYNOPSIS

In *Comeback Dad*, Nima Babineaux (Tatyana Ali) looks like a woman who has it all – she is an accomplished pianist who runs her own music school and is engaged to Spence (Brad James), a successful engineer who adores her. But, in truth, she has never recovered from her alcoholic father, Othell (Charles Dutton), walking out on their family and it has made it hard for her to truly trust anyone. When Othell decides it is time to make amends and tries to reenter her life, Nima begins an emotional and eye-opening journey she could have never expected. Loretta Devine stars as Malinda, Othell's sister. The ensemble cast also includes Donna Brisco, Elizabeth Omilami, Ja'El Robertson, Takara Clark, E. Roger Mitchell, Todd Anthony and Palmer Williams, Jr.

Filmed in Atlanta, *Comeback Dad* is directed and executive produced by nationally-syndicated radio host/writer/producer/director Russ Parr (*The Undershepherd, 35 and Ticking*) and produced by Swirl Films. The script is by newcomer Kimberly Walker, the Honorable Mention Winner in last year's UP Faith & Family Screenplay Competition at ABFF. Last year's Competition Grand Prize screenplay winner *Mary Jo's Candy* (working title), is scheduled to go into production in June and premiere later this year on UP.

ABOUT THE CAST

CHARLES S. DUTTON (“OTHELL”)

A graduate of The Yale School of Drama, Charles S. Dutton has a career spanning theater, television and film, and is one of the few actors to earn Tony, Emmy® and Golden Globe nominations for the same role. He created the lead roles in three of August Wilson’s early plays: “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” “Jo Turners’ Come and Gone,” and “The Piano Lesson.” He received multiple award nominations, including the Tony for Best Actor for “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” and “The Piano Lesson.” He was also nominated for an Emmy® Award and a Golden Globe for The Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation of *The Piano Lesson*.

Coming up, Charles will be seen opposite Kevin Bacon in the FOX show “The Following” as FBI Director Franklin. His current film *Must Be the Music* in which he stars in, directed and produced explores the hip-hop music scene and business of Philadelphia. He was also recently seen opposite Common, Dennis Haysbert and Danny Glover in the Sundance film *Luv* as Cofield, friend and old crime partner of Vincent (Common) and in the action film *Bad Add* as Panther.

Charles starred in and executive produced the Fox comedy/drama “Roc,” produced by HBO, for which he received several NAACP Image Award nominations. He has numerous television credits, including the miniseries “The Murder of Mary Phagan,” “The 60’s,” “Deadlock,” and “Aftershock.” His episodic appearances include “House,” “The Sopranos,” HBO’s “Oz,” “Criminal Minds,” and “American Horror Story,” among others. He won Emmy’s® for his guest starring roles in “Without a Trace” and “The Practice.” He was seen in a recurring role on A&E’s “Longmire” as well as a heavily recurring role in the first season of ABC’s “Zero Hour.”

He is a veteran of numerous feature films such as *Aliens³*, *Menace II Society*, *Rudy*, *A Low Down Dirty Shame*, *Cry*, *Beloved Country*, *Nick of Time*, *A Time to Kill*, *Get on the Bus*, *Cookie’s Fortune* (for which he received an Independent Spirit Award nomination), *Gothika*, *Secret Window* and the 2008 John Sayles feature *Honeydripper*. In just the past year, Charles starred in two features, Universal’s *The Express*, Lakeshore’s *Fame* and, Screen Gems feature *Legion* with Paul Bettany and Denis Quaid. He also stars in the recent Sundance selection *LUV*.

He made his directorial debut in 1997 with the HBO movie *First Time Felon*. He also directed the award winning HBO miniseries “The Corner,” for which he received a 2001 Best Director Emmy. His feature film directorial debut was the 2004 Paramount film *Against the Ropes*. In 2006, he directed multiple episodes of the Showtime series “Sleeper Cell”, for which he received a DGA Award nomination. Recently, he directed the Lifetime movie *Racing For Time*, and the pilot “Under” for A&E.

TATYANA ALI ("NIMA BABINEAUX")

Tatyana Ali is a Broadway-trained actress, singer- songwriter, producer, activist and graduate of Harvard University. Born in Brooklyn, NY, she is known to millions worldwide from her role as "Ashley Banks" on the iconic television series "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air." Ali was most recently seen as sharp-witted assistant "Maya" in the hit BET comedy "Second Generation Wayans" about the young members of the famous Wayans family. She is currently filming Flavor Unit's romantic comedy *November Rule*, starring opposite *The Butler's* Mo'Nique in Los Angeles.

She and sister Anastasia Ali helm HazraH Entertainment, a production company dedicated to creating quality content for underserved communities. The company was a production partner on the Martin Lawrence executive-produced sitcom "Love That Girl!," the first original scripted program on the TV One Network, and it recently produced the acclaimed web series "Buppies" for BET.com.

The four-time NAACP Image Award winner, named one of most beautiful women in the world by *People Magazine* in 2011, has appeared in numerous films in her long career including *Raw*, *Kiss the Girls*, *Jawbreaker*, Takeshi Kitano's *The Brothers*, Jerry Bruckheimer's *Glory Road*, Rodrigo Garcia's *Mother and Child*, and the independent film *Home Again*, which premiered at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival.

Ali is a fierce advocate for youth and education. During the 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns, she acted as a surrogate for President Obama, traveling to locations across the United States and speaking to communities about the importance of voting. She has been a spokesperson for the Millennium Momentum Foundation and is actively involved in the Step Up Women's Network, two organizations dedicated to educating and professionally developing young people for leadership roles that will impact their communities. As the host of the United Negro College Fund's "Empower Me" Tour, she has traveled the country inspiring students to take control of their academic, personal and professional destinies. Ali sits on the Teach For America Ambassadors Board and is the National Co-Chair of the SAG-AFTRA Young Performers Committee. In fall of 2011, BET and the Black Girls Rock organization honored Ali as their "Young, Gifted and Black" woman of the year for her longstanding record of youth advocacy work. Ali is currently a spokesperson for Procter & Gamble's "My Black is Beautiful" campaign, which seeks to celebrate the things that make women of color beautiful, inside and out and Toyota's Green Initiative, which seeks to activate minority youth in the area of sustainable living.

As a recording artist, she holds a gold record from her 1998 debut album "Kiss the Sky," which included the hit singles "Daydreamin'" and "Boy You Knock Me Out." The success of the album allowed her the opportunity to join both *NSYNC and The Backstreet Boys on their world tours. In 1999, her recording of "Precious Wings" for *The Adventures of Elmo in Grouchland* soundtrack won a Grammy Award for "Best

Musical Album for Children.” In late January 2014, Ali independently released a five-song EP, “Hello” to great reviews.

BRAD JAMES (“SPENCE”)

Brad James is a man of many roles, ruggedly handsome and a talented actor on the rise. After his tour of duty in the Marine Corps, James started out as a leading man in indie films. He landed his first movie role as the lead action hero in the indie cult movie "Champion Road." Brad performed all of his own stunts in this action film, which has gone on to gross millions. As luck would have it, this breakout performance was the vehicle that catapulted Brad into his first television role on Tyler Perry's "Meet the Browns." He began landing roles on shows such as The CW's "Vampire Diaries" and "One Tree Hill", BET's "Let's Stay Together" and "Reed Between the Lines," MTV's "Teen Wolf" and VH1's "Single Ladies." Brad has also starred in several web-based programs, including "Osiris: The Series" and "Templeton Pride".

Currently, Brad can be seen as Todd in Tyler Perry's hit series "For Better or Worse," now in its fourth season on Oprah Winfrey's OWN network. His big screen credits consist of a wide range of characters, from action hero to diabolical villain, illustrating his skilled adaptability as an actor. Some of the films include the family comedy "Parental Guidance," with Billy Crystal and Bette Midler, "Haunting in Connecticut", starring Ms. Cicely Tyson, the highly-acclaimed "Prisoners," with Jake Gyllenhaal and Hugh Jackman, and most recently, UP's *Marry Me For Christmas*, with Malinda Williams.

In addition to his acting, Brad is a writer, producer and director for projects that he feels have stories that will entertain and enlighten. He shares his creative abilities by speaking to youth about the different paths to success in business, and constantly promotes that belief in one's self will allow you to accomplish anything that you put your mind and heart to do.

LORETTA DEVINE (“MALINDA”)

Equally at home on stage or on screen, Emmy® award-winning actress Loretta Devine has created some of the most memorable roles in theatre, film and television. Devine first captured national attention in the role of “Lorrell,” one of the three original “Dreamgirls” in Michael Bennett’s classic award-winning Broadway musical of the same name. She followed that performance with a fiery portrayal of “Lillian” in Bob Fosse’s critically-acclaimed stage production “Big Deal.” Subsequent work in George C. Wolfe’s “Colored Museum” and “Lady Day at Emerson Bar and Grill,” cemented Devine’s status as one of the most talented and versatile stage actresses.

Film roles soon followed including a poignant turn as a single mother opposite Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett and Gregory Hines in *Waiting to Exhale*, which earned her a NAACP Image Award for Best Supporting Actress. Devine also won an NAACP Image Award for Best Supporting Actress for her work in Penny Marshall’s *The Preacher’s Wife*. She received an IFP Spirit Award nomination for Best Actress for

her work in *Women Thou Art Loosed*. In addition, Devine was featured in the Academy Award-winning film *Crash* and the hit movie of *Dreamgirls*.

Additional film credits include appearances in the successful *Urban Legend* franchise; *I Am Sam* opposite Michelle Pfeiffer and Sean Penn; *Kingdom Come*; *What Women Want*; *Punks*; *Hoodlum*; *Down in the Delta*; and *Stanley and Iris*. Devine also appeared in *Sticky Fingers*, *Amos and Andrew*, *The Breaks*, *The Price of Kissing*, *Lover Girl*, *Class Act*, *Living Large*, *Caged Fear*, *Little Nikita* and *Dirty Laundry*.

In 2009, Devine co-starred in *This Christmas* and *First Sunday*, both of which opened number one at the box office. She voiced the character of "Delta," the chocolate brown toy poodle in *Beverly Hills Chihuahua* for Disney, starring Drew Barrymore.

Devine appeared onscreen in several films in 2010 including the Sony Screen Gems remake of *Death At A Funeral* with Chris Rock, Martin Lawrence and Danny Glover and *Lottery Ticket* for Alcon/Warner Brothers. Most recently, Devine was seen onscreen in the Lionsgate film *For Colored Girls* directed by Tyler Perry and in 2011 she can be seen in *Jumping the Broom* with Paula Patton, Laz Alonso and Angela Bassett and in another Tyler Perry directed film *Madea's Big Happy Family*.

On television, Devine can currently be seen in her Emmy®-winning role as "Adele," the chief's wife on ABC's hit medical drama "Grey's Anatomy." Devine has recurred on numerous series, with the most recent being ABC's "Eli Stone," which had a two season run, and David E. Kelly's Fox series "Boston Public," for which she received three NAACP Image Awards.

Additional credits include series roles in "A Different World" and Lifetime Television's "Wild Card." Devine also provided the voice of Muriel Stubbs on the beloved animated series, "The PJ's."

Devine graduated from the University of Houston and later received a Master of Fine Arts in Theater Arts from Brandeis University. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

RUSS PARR (DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

A true Renaissance man...Russ Parr's career has evolved from a stand-up comedian to recording artist to a top-rated, nationally-syndicated radio host, heard weekdays by 3.2 million listeners in 25 cities across America and now to independent filmmaker.

He's opened for the legendary comedienne Joan Rivers and avoided bombing on stage, thanks to the laughter of friends and family. Russ credits his work as a comedian for developing his comedic timing as well as the many character voices – such as “Magic Man,” “Burner,” “Mickey Mouse,” “Ali” and “Bobby Jimmy” – that have led to his success in radio.

Russ landed his own morning show on 1580 KDAY, the first 24-hour, all hip hop station in the country. He used his platform on the airwaves to address gang violence and used the station studios and airwaves to provide gang intervention. He realized that urban radio not only needed to be funny and uplifting, but it also had a responsibility to the black community to be informative.

While at KDAY, Russ launched his own independent record label, Rapsur Records, Russ Parr spelled backwards. He recorded a parody song, called “We Like Ugly Women,” as one of his popular characters, Bobby Jimmy. The record was a hit.

Other hit parodies followed and he later signed with rapper Eazy-E's label, Ruthless Records. He recorded several EPs produced by Dr. Dre and DJ Pooh. Russ recorded the hit singles “Big Butt,” “Roaches” and “Hair or Weave.” He performed his hit parodies in live shows alongside his label-mates Ice Cube, DJ Yella, MC Ren, World Class Wreckin' Cru, Michel'le and Yo-Yo.

Eventually, Russ left Los Angeles for Dallas – taking over the morning show slot on 100.3 Jamz/ KJMZ-FM. While in Dallas, Russ created, wrote, and produced FLAVA TV, and starred in the show alongside his morning show sidekick, Afredas. He later sold the show FLAVA TV, which still airs and is hosted by Skip Cheatum. Other forays into television include commercials for major clients like McDonald's, where he was the original “Big Mac Man” and later, the dating/game show “Get The Hook Up,” which aired on TV One.

Russ was later offered the position as morning show host at 93.9 WKYS in Washington, DC, two years later, the nationally-syndicated Russ Parr Morning Show was born and has been syndicated for over 14 years.

With Uptoparr Productions, Inc. in conjunction with Swirl Films, Parr has written, produced and directed four other films including: *The Last Stand (2006)*; *Something Like a Business (2010)*; *Love For Sale (2008)* and *35 and Ticking (2011)*, currently airing on cable and available on DVD.

CREDITS

**UP presents a
Swirl Films Production**

Charles S. Dutton

Tatyana Ali

Brad James

Donna Brisco

Elizabeth Omilami

Ja'El Robertson

Takara Clark

E. Roger Mitchell

Todd Anthony

Palmer Williams, Jr.

with

Loretta Devine

Executive Produced by

Russ Parr

Produced by

Eric Tomosunas

David Eubanks

Keith Neal

Script by

Kimberly Williams

Directed by

Russ Parr

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