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JANUARY 25, 2017

9:34am PT by Borys Kit

## 'Moonlight' Star Naomie Harris Joins Dwayne Johnson in 'Rampage' (Exclusive)



Getty Images

Naomie Harris; Dwayne Johnson



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The actress is going from fighting substance abuse to fighting giant monsters in New Line's video game movie.

Fresh off her Oscar nomination for *Moonlight*, Naomie Harris has

signed a deal to join Dwayne Johnson in *Rampage*, New Line's adventure project based on the 1980s video game.

The project is reuniting Johnson, whose latest movie, *Moana*, nabbed an Oscar nomination, with New Line, producer Beau Flynn and director Brad Peyton. The team previously proved to be a combustible combination with *San Andreas* and *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island*.

New Line, which is looking to shake up the monster movie formula with *Rampage*, is keeping plot details in a cage. Like the video game, the film will feature three creatures – a monstrously transformed gorilla, crocodile and wolf – who wreak havoc on North American cities and landmarks. Johnson is, naturally, an animal-loving hero who is the world's only hope.

Harris, who sparked to the fun tone of the script, will star opposite him as a geneticist with a moral streak.

Ryan Engle wrote the original draft, with work done by Carlton Cuse and Ryan Condal. Adam Szykiel did the most current revisions.

Flynn is producing with John Rickard via his Wrigley Pictures banner and Hiram Garcia, Johnson's partner who is producing via Seven Bucks Productions. Peyton is also producing through his ASAP Entertainment banner.

Marcus Viscidi, Jeff Fierston and Dany Garcia are executive producing the adventure thriller, while Wendy Jacobson of Flynn Picture Co is overseeing.

*Rampage* is set to release April 20, 2018.

The British-born Harris has been riding high on the beams cast by *Moonlight*, nabbing a slew of nominations, Golden Globe, BAFTA Awards, SAG Awards, among many others, for her performance as an abusive mother of a gay son.

Harris has also played Money Penny in the Daniel Craig *James Bond* movies and starred in the zombie movie *28 Days Later*. She is repped by WME and Untitled Entertainment, Ziffren Brittenham and Tavistock Wood in the U.K.

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## FILM

# Cohen Media Group Acquires YA Pitch 'Girl At Sea'; Teen Sails Around The World

by Mike Fleming Jr

• February 10, 2017 10:04am



**EXCLUSIVE:** [Cohen Media Group](#) has purchased the young-adult pitch *Girl at Sea* from screenwriter [Joel Silverman](#). The pitch is an adaptation of the YA bestseller *Maiden Voyage*, the memoir written by [Tania Aebi](#) about a history-making event. As a troubled New York City teen in the mid-1980s, Aebi channeled her struggle to find herself into an impulsive decision to sail around the world with only her

cat. The result was a harrowing and exhilarating journey, with an enduring tropical love story, all of which she vicariously shares with the gravely ill mother she had never been able to understand or embrace until this journey.

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Silverman, repped by Original Artists' Jordan Bayer and Chris Sablan, previously sold YA adaptation scripts *Anatomy of a Misfit* to Paramount and *Liberty* to Fox 2000.

The deal was made by Cohen Media Group chairman/CEO Charles Cohen, after senior production veep Erica Steinberg brought in the project. They will produce the film. Aebi, who authored the 1989 Simon and Schuster book along with Bernadette Brennan, was represented by ICM Partners.

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## Pharrell Williams-Inspired Movie Musical ‘Atlantis’ in the Works at Fox

*Dave McNary*

Film Reporter

[@Variety DMcNary](#)



MARCH 27, 2017 | 09:47AM PT

ROB LATOUR/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Fox is developing a movie musical inspired by Pharrell Williams' childhood.

Broadway director Michael Mayer is attached to helm “Atlantis” with Gil Netter, Williams, and Mimi Valdes producing.

The film is inspired by Williams' \_\_\_\_\_  
childhood in Virginia Beach.

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Williams and Valdes will  
produce through their I Am

Other production company while Netter produces for Netter films. Martin Hynes, whose credits include “Toy Story 4” and “Curious George,” is writing the screenplay.



### Pharrell Williams Makes His Mark in Film Producing With ‘Hidden Figures’

Williams has won 10 Grammy Awards. He was one of the producers on Fox’s hit “Hidden Figures,” and also wrote several songs for the film in addition to supervising the soundtrack.

Williams also produced “Roxanne Roxanne,” which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. He’s also known for his musical contributions to the “Despicable Me” films, as well as his judging stint on NBC’s “The Voice.”

Mayer won a Tony for directing “Spring Awakening.” His feature credits include the 2006 film “Flicka” and the upcoming Saoirse Ronan drama “The Seagull.”

WME represents Williams, Mayer, and the package for “Atlantis.” Hynes is repped by Original Artists.

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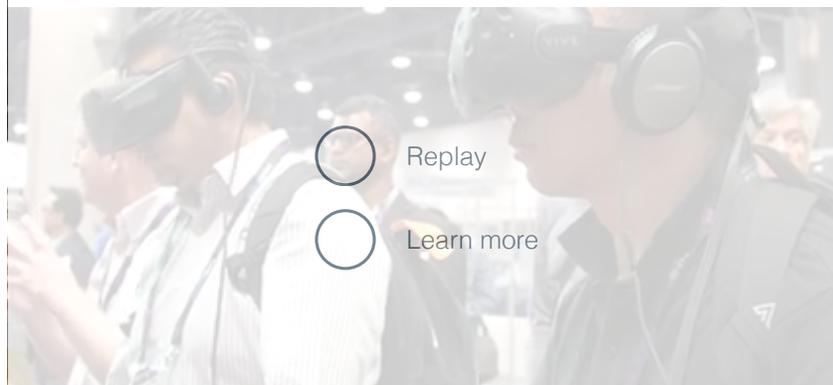


## The project, which will be helmed by Broadway director Michael Mayer, reunites the studio with Williams, who produced the hit 'Hidden Figures.'

Fox has won a hot pitch for a musical inspired by Pharrell Williams.

The project, called *Atlantis*, is a musical that is being described as a *Romeo and Juliet* style story (with a music element) inspired by Williams' childhood in Virginia Beach.

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Producer Gil Netter and Williams took the pitch out to the studios a few weeks ago, engendering simmering interest as studios watched Lionsgate enjoy massive success with *La La Land* and coveted their own musical number. Fox finally nabbed it last week.

Michael Mayer, known for his Broadway work on *Spring Awakening*, for which he won a Tony Award, and *American Idiot*, is attached to direct. Martin Hynes, who is currently writing *Toy Story 4*, is attached to write *Atlantis*.

Williams and Mimi Valdes will produce via their I Am Other banner and Gil Netter is producing for Netter Productions.

### READ MORE

[Berlin: After 'La La Land,' EFM Turns Up the Volume on Movie Musicals](#)

Williams was born in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He's had a notable career as a singer-songwriter and music producer, and has won 10 Grammy Awards. He produced soul, hop-hop and R&B music with Chad Hugo under the name The Neptunes for many of the industry's top recording artists, and performed as the lead vocalist in the band N\*E\*R\*D. He also released the solo albums *In My Mind* (2006) and *Girl* (2014).

Lately, however, the WME-repped Williams has been making in-roads into movies, and was a producer on Fox's acclaimed hit *Hidden Figures*, which was nominated for three Oscars including best picture. He also wrote songs for the film that starred Octavia Spencer, Taraji P. Henson and Janelle Monae. Williams produced *Roxanne Roxanne*, which recently debuted at Sundance, and has written music

for a slew of films over the years, including the hit "Happy" from *Despicable Me 2* for which he received an Oscar nomination. He's repped by WME.

Mayer's film credits include directing the 2006 film *Flicka* and the upcoming film *The Seagull* starring Saoirse Ronan. He is repped by WME, which also repped the *Atlantis* package.

Hynes, who also wrote a *Curious George* project for Imagine and Universal, is repped by Original Artists.

## READ MORE

[Oscars: Why Hans Zimmer, Pharrell Felt 'Hidden Figures' Score and Songs Needed "That Extra Nuance"](#)

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# MipTV: Secuoya, Focus, Dramedy Team to Develop ‘The Survivors’ (EXCLUSIVE)

*Emilio Mayorga*



MARCH 30, 2017 10:06:41 AM PT

COURTESY: FOCUS GROUP

**VARIETY**

**Noah Evslin boards the project as showrunner**

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BARCELONA — Spain's Secuoya Group, Focus Group and Scenic Rights are developing historic thriller "The Survivors" a TV series inspired by the true story of the survivors from Che Guevara's guerrilla fighting force in Bolivia, and their perilous escape from the CIA and the Bolivian army after Che Guevara's arrest and execution on Oct. 8, 1967.

U.S. producer and writer Noah Evslin has boarded the project as the series' showrunner. Evslin has served as co-producer on ABC shows like "Grey's Anatomy," "Scandal" and "How to Get Away with Murder." He penned episodes of "Colony" and "Private Practice" and also worked as a history professor at the University of Hawaii.

Series recreates the escape of the six survivors (three from Cuba, the rest from Bolivia) who formed part of the guerrilla force that revolutionary hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara formed in Bolivia.

Cubans Dariel Alarcón, Leonardo Tamayo and Harry Villegas and Bolivia's David Adriazola, Inti Peredo and Julio Méndez Korne embarked upon an epic flight which lasted months, from Bolivia's jungle, cities and hamlets to Chile, Easter Island, Tahiti, Singapore, Paris, Prague and Mosco Five of them eventually reached Fidel Castro's Havana.

A large TV production, services and broadcast group, Secuoya Group has operations in Spain, Colombia, Chile, Peru. It launched a new free-to-air channel –Ten– in Spain a year ago. Secuoya's two main subsidiary are Secuoya Contenidos and docu-focused New Atlantis.

In its highest-profile international venture, Secuoya has teamed with Pablo and Juan de Dios Larraín's Fábula to launch Chile-based Fabula TV.

The screenplay for "Survivors" will be based on research and several books whose rights have been acquired by Spain's Scenic Rights, according to Sydney Borjas, Scenic Rights Managing Director, who added its producers intended to make three seasons of ten episodes each.

Prague-based TV production outfit Dramey Productions ("The First Republic") is also involved as co-producer.

Scenic Rights is a talent agency company also handles IPs, which forms a subsidiary of the Focus Group, a leading Barcelona and Madrid-based sectoral leader producing works for the stage and also films and TV formats based on prestigious dramatic and literary pieces.

Cuban lawyer and producer Lía Rodríguez (Pavel Giroud's "The Companion") will be acting as associate producer of "Survivors" project. L.A.-based Pilar de Posadas will be another associate producer.

Evslin is represented by Chris Sablan at literary agency Original Artists and Dave Brown at Echo Lake Entertainment.

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## FILM

# Universal & Will Packer Acquire '3-1-2' Script From Chicago Screenwriter

by Anita Busch

• December 15, 2016 1:16pm



**EXCLUSIVE:** [Universal Pictures](#) and [Will Packer Productions](#) have acquired rights to [3-1-2](#), a script from writer [Ike Smith](#) about the diverse journeys of hopeful millennials as they seek their true potential while surviving the extreme violence of inner-city Chicago, the 3-1-2. The acquisition was made via the filmmaker's [Will Packer Productions](#), which has a deal at the studio. The project will

be produced by Packer and his head of motion pictures James F. Lopez.

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Smith is native of Chicago's West Side and a recent Academy Nicholl Fellowship semifinalist. He was born and raised in the 15th district neighborhood of South Austin near "L-Block," the area with the highest homicide-related incidents in Chicago. He currently serves as an unofficial gang intervention liaison on Chicago's West and South Sides. The title of his screenplay comes from the area code of Chicago proper.

Packer, of course is one of Hollywood's biggest filmmakers who has seen eight of his films open to No. 1 at the box office. Those include *Ride Along* and *Ride Along 2*, *No Good Deed*, *Think Like A Man* and *Think Like A Man Too*, and *Stomp The Yard*. He also was an executive producer of the critically acclaimed (and No. 1 again) *Straight Outta Compton*.

His upcoming comedy *Girl's Trip*, directed by Malcolm D. Lee and starring Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett Smith and Regina Hall, will be released July 21.

Packer is repped by CAA and Ziffren Brittenham. Smith is repped by Original Artists.

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Anonymous • on Dec 15, 2016 4:48 pm

Yawn

Bogus boy 79th • on Dec 15, 2016 5:25 pm

I Wanna see June from Brotherly love in 312 he's the Coldest actor from Chicago, that boy RAW!!

**iron headed** • on Dec 15, 2016 9:32 pm

Well hollywood is remaking everything anyways... unfortunately all black cinema has to offer in terms of remakes are slave movies and 90s hood flick. packer has already remade. roots. this sounds like boyz in the hood for the new millennials.

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**Anonymous** • on Dec 16, 2016 7:58 am

Yay, another Will Packer movie!

Said no one.

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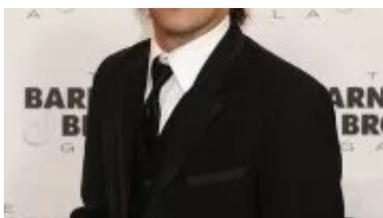
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