

Barbershop: The Next Cut (2016)

- Malcolm D. Lee
- Ice Cube produced
- New Line Cinema / MGM & Distributed by Warner Bros.
- Released April 15th, 2016
- 112 Minutes
- 20 million budget
- Rated PG-13 for sexual material and language

Questions for Michael Rainey Jr. (Jalen):

- How did you get involved?
- Were you aware of Chicago's violence? What's your stance on it? Have you seen Chi-raq?
- What was the set like especially with so many amazing actors?
- What knowledge/insights did you learn from any of those actors?
- How did you prepare for such a gritty role especially since most of the movie is comedic but your parts were always the hard hitting/real moments?
- This is your second time working with Common. First time was in *LUV*. How was this experience different?
- Have you seen the other movies? If so what do you like about them?
- What did you feel was the difference between this one and the last?
- Did you have any input or suggestions for your character? Which were utilized?
- What can you tell us about the coming Starz's season of *Power*?
- You just booked the lead role in Mandalay Bay's *AMATEUR* for Netflix which is to be directed by Sundance Screenwriting Lab alum Ryan Koo and follows a 14-year-old basketball phenom who struggles to fit in with his new team and new coach. Any updates on the film? What can fans expect and when does it come out? (Link: <http://variety.com/2016/film/news/netflix-movies-amateur-clinical-1201684577/>)
- FUN QUESTION: What are qualities you look for in a good barber?
- Although this hasn't anything to do with movie, it feels timely and related - any thoughts you'd like to share regarding Prince?

Quick Thoughts

- Courtney Stewart (Actress/BHL's This Week)
- Nick Perdue (Comedian/BHL's Stand Up, Sit Down)
- Phil Svitek (Executive Producer of Popcorn Talk & Film Editor)

Development

- It's been more than a decade since the last BarberShop film
- On March 26, 2014, Deadline.com reported that MGM was in negotiations with Ice Cube to produce a third *Barbershop* film
- On February 19, 2015, Malcolm D. Lee was set to direct the third film, while Ice Cube and Cedric the Entertainer were in talks to join the film

- On March 25, 2015, New Line Cinema signed on with MGM to release the film, while MGM would handle the production

Writing (Kenya Barris & Tracy Oliver)

- Newcomer screenwriters Kenya Barris (creator of ABC's *Black-ish*) and Tracy Oliver introduce a weightier tone by having much of the plot revolve around the horrific violence of the setting
- Characters based on Mark Brown's
- Kenya used to do *Girlfriends* & *The Game*
- Tracy is also known for *Survivor's Remorse*

Story/Cast

- POINT OF DISCUSSION: Favorite banter moment (ex: side chicks "Hillary has a side chick")
- POINT OF DISCUSSION: Themes (Chicago, gang violence, gentrification, family life, males vs females)
- POINT OF DISCUSSION: Homages and nods to past films
- *The Next Cut* is less about plot than about communication and conversation, offering a sense of promise that the air can be cleared if we just talk to each other
- A strained marriage might open the door to an affair. A good kid might be unduly influenced by a "bad" one. A single woman is having a devil of a time finding a good man. *The Next Cut* wrangles with all of it, not so much looking for the answers as opening cracks of light from which answers might emerge.
- Though they co-star in this film, Ice Cube and Common were the center of a long and brutal feud in their Rap careers during the 1990's. It was rumored that Louis Farrakhan was consulted to bring about peace between the two men
- Ice Cube as Calvin Palmer, Jr.
 - "If you think about stuff that happened when you were young, it stays with you forever. South Central is just who I am. Even though I have a nice house, nice family, the rest of my generation is still in South Central L.A. My cousins, my brothers, my sisters, they don't wanna move out. They don't want to and they don't have the means to sustain it. That's where my heart is and that's what I think about all the time."
 - Known for writing the *Friday* series
 - Known for *Ride Along*, *Jump Street*, *Friday*, *Are We There Yet?*
 - Ice Cube, who was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
 - Hall said it was important to Ice Cube for the movie to have a purpose and meaning
- Cedric the Entertainer as Eddie
 - "We as comics do want an immediate response from the audience. It's really quiet on the set, and there are only the producers, and the director, so a comic is looking for someone to give a reaction, even if it is the camera guy."
 - "Politics move, as fast as Twitter, and for everyone to think that in four years America was going to be perfect is ridiculous."
 - Known for *Ice Age*, *Steve Harvey Show*, *Madagascar*, *Original Kings of Comedy*
- Regina Hall as Angie

- “All the ladies bring a really amazing female point of view that they didn’t have as much of in the other one.”
- Anthony Anderson as J.D.
 - Known for *Blackish*, *The Departed*, *Transformers*, *Barbershop*
- Eve as Terri
 - Third *Barbershop* movie for her
 - Known for *Eve*, *Blade II*, *Fantastic 4 II*
 - Was signed to Dr. Dre's Aftermath label. Released a few singles and collaborations, but no full album was further released
- Margot Bingham as Keyana
 - Known for *Burning Love*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *The Family*
 - The Pittsburgh native began her career in front of the cameras at the age of nine, modeling for local and national talent agencies
 - At 13, she wrote a tribute to the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called In My Dreams, which continues to be featured at MLK events nationwide
 - Her father is Jamaican and her mother is Ashkenazi Jewish (from a family from Germany and Russia)
- Nicki Minaj as Draya
 - Nicki Minaj's third movie debut since *The Other Woman* (2014) & *Ice Age: Continental Drift* (2012)
 - Known for *The Other Woman*
 - Onika Tanya Maraj, better known as Nicki Minaj was born in Saint James, Trinidad and Tobago and raised in Jamaica, Queens, New York
 - She was first spotted by the CEO of Young Money, and was later recruited for The Carter Edition of Young Money's own "The Come Up" DVD series. Her rapping skills caught the eyes of Lil Wayne who later worked with her for many collaborations with his mixtapes
 - To date, Nicki has released 3 platinum selling studio albums, *Pink Friday*, *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*, and the most recent *The Pinkprint*
 - “When you're a girl, you have to be everything, You have to be dope at what you do, but you have to be super sweet, and you have to be sexy, and you have to be this and you have to be that and you have to be nice, and you have to-- it's like, i can't be all of those things at once. I'm a human being.”
- J.B. Smoove as One Stop
 - Known for *Date Night*, *The Sitter*, *We Bought A Zoo*
- Lamorne Morris as Jerrod
 - Known for *New Girl*
 - He is originally from Chicago
- Sean Patrick Thomas as Jimmy James
 - Known for *The Fountain*, *Cruel Intentions*
 - “I did study the art of being a barber because I wanted to figure out what my routine would be. Do you start in the front or back? Top or bottom? Swivel the chair or walk around? What I did discover is there's no such thing as the perfect haircut!”
- Tyga as Yummy
 - Also acted in *Dope*
 - Musician associated with the Kardashians/Jenners
- Deon Cole as Dante

- Known for *Conan* and *Barbershop*
- Common as Rashad
 - “When we were doing it, I felt like I was having a lot of fun, but I was thinking, “How is all this going to mix and come together?” It was so many different styles of comedy. The weight that it had with it. The heart. I turned out to be what I love from movies. I like movies that I’m entertained by, but also ones that make me feel inspired to do something. For me, that was one of the major reasons I wanted to be a part of it, because it has such a powerful message. I’m from Chicago and I think that Chicago is a representation of many cities in America that are dealing with the problems of violence and lack of fatherhood and some of the inner-city struggles”
 - “I think that, without even trying, this movie shows what we can accomplish when it comes to filmmaking in Hollywood as far as being diverse. It just happened and we kept moving on. We didn’t say, “Now, we’re bringing females into this play” or “now we’ve got a brother of Indian descent in this play.” No. It just felt natural. I think it’s great to see that equality. Women are part of this film and it’s not a forced issue or a big deal”
- Michael Rainey Jr. as Jalen Palmer
 - Barber from Philly quote: "Barbershops back in the day, 1980s and 1990s, were great places to be a part of especially if you came from a broken home and had no father figure; you definitely could find someone that you could admire and grow to be whatever your heart desires. Those days were great. I learned how to tie my shoe to meeting my first girlfriend. The barbershop taught me how to be a man and learn the true definition of brotherhood and responsibility,"
- Troy Garity as Isaac
- Auntie Fee as Madea
- Anthony Davis as Himself
- Reggie Brown as President Obama
- Jwaundace Candece as Boy's Mother

Easter Eggs/Symbols/Comparisons

- When Jennifer (Calvins Wife and Jalens Mom) walks into her sons room and finds the gang affiliated items in the clothing dresser. You can see a poster of the Oscar nominated documentary *Hoop Dreams* (1994) hanging from the wall, top left from the dresser

Directing (Malcolm D. Lee)

- Director Lee is, incidentally, the cousin of Spike, who late last year released his own movie about (among other things) violence in modern Chicago, the glorious *Chi-Raq*
- He’s also the director of the 1999 *Best Man* and the 2013 *Best Man Holiday* pictures that might be considered by marketing types to be “for” audiences of color
- Also did *Undercover Brother*
- Graduated from Georgetown University
- “I’m driven more by my heart more than anything else, and my head, and sometimes those things are counterintuitive”

- “I love soundtracks that really play well into the movie and work in a symbolic way. You watch the movie, you hear this great music. You hear the music, it reminds you of the movie and it makes you want to watch the movie again. It all works in that way and it evokes memories of the first time you saw the movie. That's how the best soundtracks work.”

Production

- Principal photography began in Atlanta, Georgia on May 11, 2015
- Took 2 months to film

Cinematography (Greg Gardiner)

- Known for *Men In Black II*, *Elf*, *She's the Man*, *Orange County*

Editing/VFX (Paul Millspaugh)

- Known for *Walking Tall*, *Best Man Holiday*

Sound/Music (Stanley Clarke)

- He is known for his work on *The Transporter* (2002), *Boyz n the Hood*(1991) and *Romeo Must Die* (2000)
- Jazz musician
- He is a brilliant player on both acoustic and electric basses
- The m.o. of slapping together the most recognizable chart toppers together of the present day is eschewed in favor of focusing on more original content
- “Real People” features Ice Cube and Common - the two rap legends swap back and forth bars about peace and positivity over a funky boom bap beat. Cube’s first two lines confirm that their beef from back in '96 is officially buried. “We used to fight and fuss, we used to yell and cuss/We used to cock and bust now look at us”
- Lizzo’s “Good As Hell” is snappy, cheerful and the chorus belts out “I do my hair toss/Check my nails/Baby how you feelin'?! Feeling good as hell” making it very barbershop specific
- The “good times” vibe of the movie matches seamlessly with golden gems such as Curtis Mayfield's “Move On Up” and “September” by Earth, Wind & Fire, which are all perfect examples of background music for the Palmer family barbershop

Promotion

- On November 14, 2015, director Malcolm D. Lee said in an interview at the 7th Annual Governors Award ceremony that the title of the film has been changed from *Barbershop 3* to *Barbershop: The Next Cut*
- The film was originally scheduled for release on February 19, 2016, but was pushed back to April 15, 2016

Box Office

- In the United States and Canada, pre-release tracking suggested the film would gross \$26–30 million from 2,661 theaters in its opening weekend, trailing fellow newcomer *The Jungle Book* (\$67–75 million projection) but besting *Criminal* (\$9–12 million projection)
- It made \$735,000 from Thursday night previews and \$7 million on its first day
- It went on to gross \$20.2 million in its opening weekend, finishing below expectations and second at the box office behind *The Jungle Book* (\$103.6 million)

Reception

- *Barbershop: The Next Cut* has received positive reviews from critics
- On Rotten Tomatoes, the film has a rating of 93%, based on 69 reviews, with an average rating of 6.8/10
- The site's critical consensus reads, "Heartfelt, thought-provoking, and above all funny, *Barbershop: The Next Cut* is the rare belated sequel that more than lives up to the standard set by its predecessors."
- On Metacritic, the film has a score of 67 out of 100, based on 29 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews"
- On CinemaScore, audiences gave the film an average grade of "A–" on an A+ to F scale

Sequel/Legacy

Final Thoughts