



S H A D O W P L A Y E R S

NO LABEL



A LEGEND WHO NEVER WAS
TEAMS UP WITH A LEGEND WHO MIGHT NEVER BE

THEY COMPETE IN A HIGH-STAKES UNDERGROUND STREET SOCCER
TOURNAMENT HELD IN THE RUINS OF DETROIT

THEY ARE THE GLADIATORS OF THE NEAR FUTURE



SYNOPSIS

Joe Royal could have been a legend in English soccer. He had it all—the speed, the skill, and the passion. But he also had an older brother, Kevin, who betrayed him, a betrayal that sent Joe’s life into a downward spiral, until he wound up in prison, banging a ball against his cell wall day and night.

On the day of his release, he learns of a professional team holding an open tryout to fill out their roster for the last couple of games in their season. Joe rushes to the tryout, and even in his street clothes outclasses everyone there except for a ghost from his past, a Russian named Hristo, who caves in Joe’s ribs with an elbow and ends his chances of making the team.

Joe gets a call from his brother Kevin, who is anxious to make amends for past sins. Joe comes to Detroit, a post-apocalyptic wasteland where shining casinos tower over crumbling ruins and tumbleweeds roll down the streets. Joe is introduced to Eddie, a young soccer phenom with one foot in the game, and another foot in the world of gangs and drugs.

The best street soccer players in the world are descending on Detroit for a high-stakes, underground tournament, and this includes Joe’s nemesis—Hristo. Wealthy and powerful gamblers from around the globe are also arriving. If Kevin can get Joe and Eddie to play together as a two-man team, he can make himself a fortune. The tournament is staged in an abandoned factory within The Pit, an arena the size of an Olympic swimming pool, ringed with tiers reminiscent of the Roman Colosseum, and every game is played to driving music played live by DJs pushing out their craziest beats. Just as in the days of the gladiators, the greed and bloodlust of the spectators is tempered only by the dazzling skill and athleticism of the competitors.

No one walks away unchanged or unscathed from these games or this world. There is more than one way to win, and there is more than one way to lose. But first, you have to survive.

THE FILM

Genre - Urban, Action, and Sci-Fi.

Tone - Futuristic, Dark, and Subterranean. The cavernous post-industrial wastelands of urban America in some not too distant future.

Premise - Street soccer is both a game and an art form, something like inner-city playground basketball. It's all about self-expression for the underclass and people cut off from mainstream society. It's like graffiti, using your own body as spray-paint to create something beautiful in the middle of an ugly, trashed-out environment. But it's also a vicious, cut-throat competition, where the goal isn't merely to win, but to humiliate your opponent in doing so.

It's a game that reflects the world around it—brutal, primal, and survival of the fittest.





In terms of the look and feel of SHADOWPLAYERS, it will combine elements of BLADE RUNNER, THE MAZE RUNNER and MAD MAX.

It's a bleak, dystopian world where fantastic wealth looms over bitter poverty. Crumbling factories share rain-slicked streets with neon-lit clubs, and the next drug, the next fortune, or the next betrayal is always lurking in the shadows.

Given the look and subject matter of the film, it will have both US and International appeal, and will utilize a multicultural cast and crew.

PERSONAL STATEMENT - DIRECTOR - JEFFREY ELMONT

Football (as we call it outside the US) has been a major part of my life ever since I started playing at the age of six. Everything I did was for the game, and I dedicated fourteen years of my life to it, but then I suffered a serious injury and the dream of playing in front of 40,000 spectators was gone.

My ultimate challenge will be capturing the raw physicality and visual poetry of gifted athletes, set against the dark landscape of a crumbling, post-industrial metropolis. This isn't a futuristic drama where the underdog wins in the end, but a story where the winners are the ones who survive until the end.

PERSONAL STATEMENT - SCREENWRITER - DAVID MACGREGOR

I learned most of what I know about human nature and world history playing soccer in Detroit's ethnic leagues. This film is my attempt to convey the level of passion the sport inspires and the way in which people from different ethnicities and backgrounds can connect with one another through a game that pushes the mind, body, and soul to the limit.

It's also a story about the direction the world is headed in, a war of all against all and the stark and bitter contrast between the haves and the have-nots. Set against the crumbling infrastructure of Detroit, a city once called the "Paris of the West," the film will capture the decay and beauty of post-industrial America's mean streets and broken dreams.

STYLE OF THE FILM

The film will combine two different visual styles, much along the lines of RAGING BULL. The dialogue scenes will be shot in a subtle way, which will allow the actors to give realistic and powerful performances. By contrast, the action scenes will be shot in a more stylized way and will be combined with the sound design to effectively put the audience right in the middle of the action.

The film will be shot in a dark, edgy, and noirish style that will enhance the inner conflicts of Joe and the other characters.

The locations will also add to the feel of the scenes. First, we have the desaturated and cold feel of a city in Northern England.

Then the story takes us to the dark, gritty, and industrial locations of Detroit.



THE SOCCER SCENES



The camerawork will be stylized and dynamic. The camera movements will be smooth and show the game from multiple angles. The audience will not merely see the game, but feel it as well.

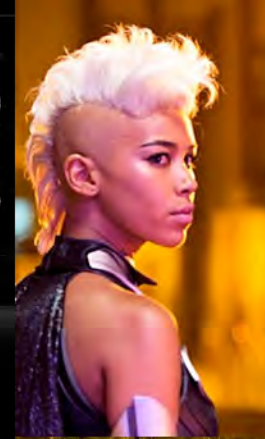
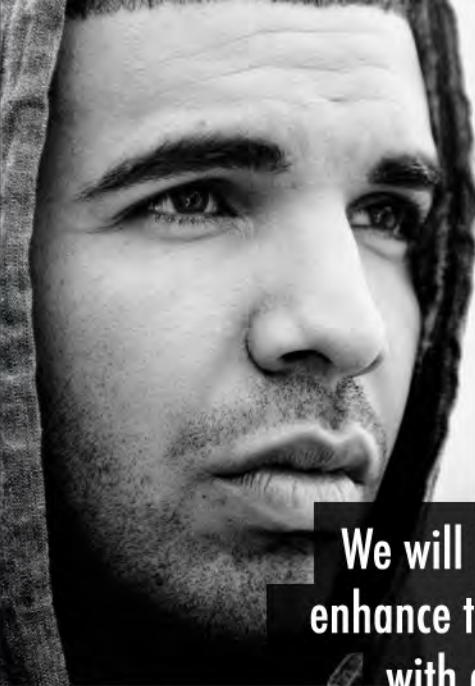
When the audience enters the underground world of "The Pit" we will introduce a dark and colorful hyper-reality full of energy. We will create a new kind of arena reminiscent of an empty Olympic swimming pool, with the players walled in on all sides.

THE SOCCER SCENES

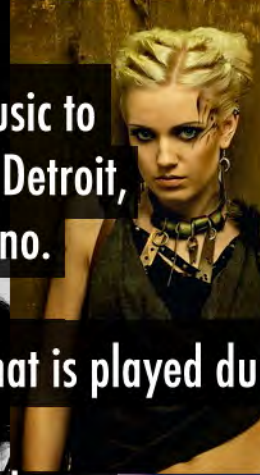
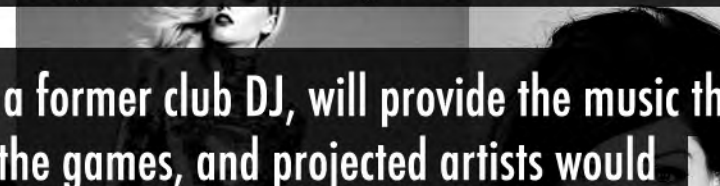


The players will play on a stone surface to add the element of danger. Tiered seats for the gamblers and spectators will rise all around The Pit, giving it the feel of the Roman Colosseum in which these players, like the gladiators, are fighting for their lives.

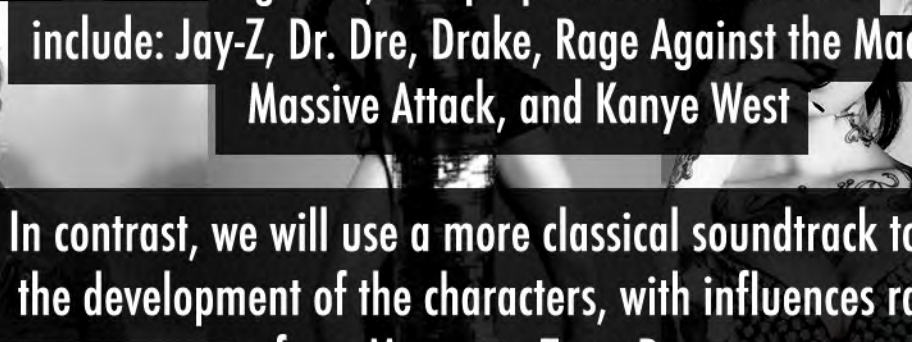
This setting will be the canvas upon which the beauty, art, and athleticism of the game are displayed. Some of the action will be shot in high-speed slow-motion to emphasize the physicality of the game and the beauty of the human form.



We will have a wide variety of different styles of music to enhance the dark, gritty, post-industrial wasteland of Detroit, with an emphasis on Hip Hop and Industrial Techno.



The character of Carla, a former club DJ, will provide the music that is played during the games, and projected artists would include: Jay-Z, Dr. Dre, Drake, Rage Against the Machine, Massive Attack, and Kanye West



In contrast, we will use a more classical soundtrack to guide the development of the characters, with influences ranging from Mozart to Trent Reznor.



WHY THIS FILM?

Sometimes there is a perfect time and perfect place for a film. This is the time and place for this film.

Millions of people play soccer around the world and what makes it the world's game is passion. Away from the bright lights of the World Cup and the pampered world of suburban soccer are street kids trying to claw their way out of the ghetto and paunchy middle-aged men long past their prime who still play because it's in their blood. There has never been a movie that has come remotely close to capturing the raw passion the game inspires in both players and spectators.

This film is also about the increasing gulf between rich and poor in a world where an extra dollar here or there justifies any action and crumbling cities serve as the tombstones of the American Dream. But it's also about hope, about redemption, and about people connecting with one another across cultures. Finally, it's about the best and worst in humanity in a high-stakes, crucible-like world where faith, friendship, and love are the only commodities you can't buy. In this world of shadows people are literally playing for their lives, and these are the SHADOWPLAYERS.



THE RISE OF STREETSOCCER



19,750,480 HITS

The BEST Street Football/Futsal/Freestyle Skills EVER!! ★ HD

SkillTwins - Tutorials - Gameskills - Freestyle

19,750,480



21,852,104 HITS

Cristiano Ronaldo AMAZING Freestyle Football Skills | #5 Silks

Rio Ferdinand Presents #5 Magazine

21,852,104



23,865,145 HITS

Insane STREET Football Skills - Panna London Pt2 Séan Garnier

STRakillSchool

23,865,145



17,628,412 HITS

Cristiano Ronaldo Freestyle Skills | #5 Players Lounge

Rio Ferdinand Presents #5 Magazine

17,628,412



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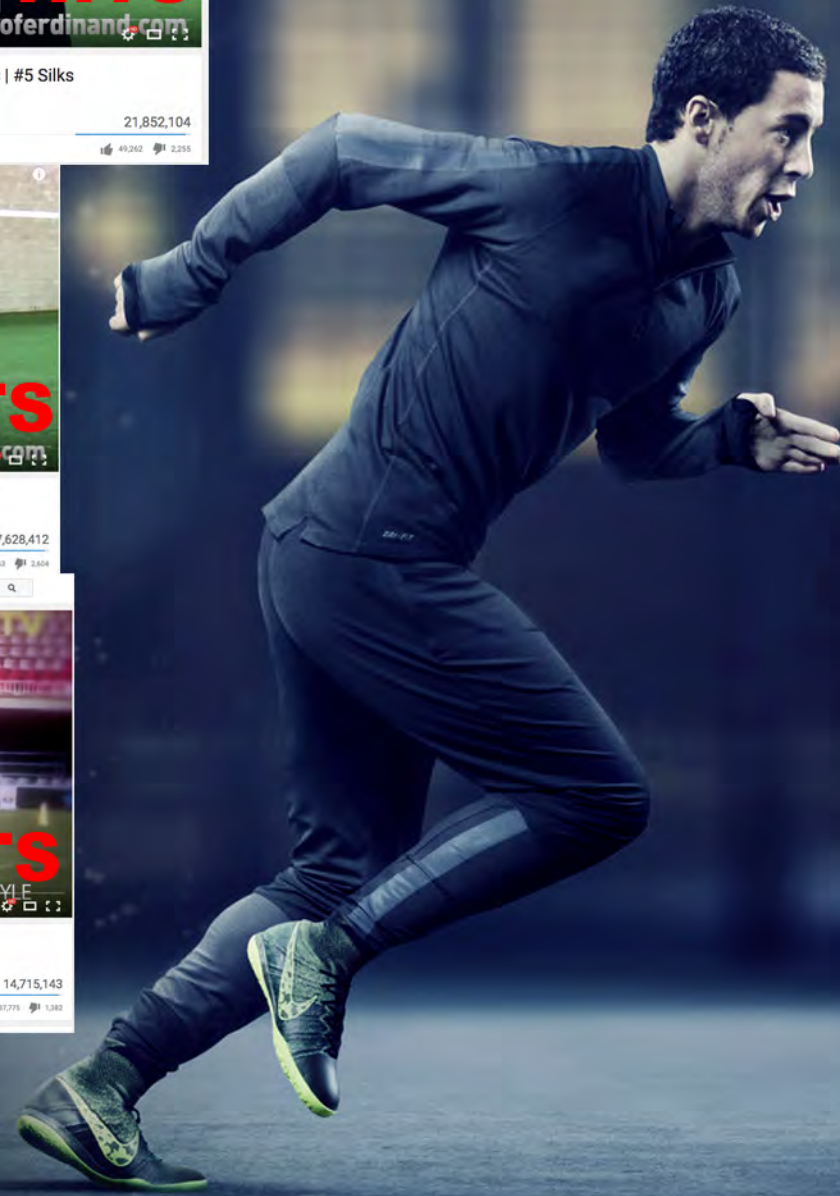


14,715,143 HITS

aldinho • Freestyle • Crazy Tricks

FEEL MY STYLE

14,715,143



THE GAME - EA FIFASTREET

There has never been a streetsoccer movie, but in the gamer world it is a franchise that makes millions.

Thanks to video games, there is a massive built-in audience for this film.

POSTED BY DAVID BRYANT ON OCTOBER 31, 2012

FIFA 13 Sells 7.4 Million Copies In 4 Weeks

FIFA Street continues dominance of UK sales charts

UK All-Platforms Top 10

1. FIFA Street (EA)
2. Resident Evil: Operation Raccoon City (Capcom)
3. Mass Effect 3 (EA)
4. FIFA 12 (EA)
5. SSX (EA)
6. Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 (Activision)
7. Kid Icarus: Uprising (Nintendo)
8. Battlefield 3 (EA)
9. F1 2011 (Sega)
10. Mario & Sonic London 2012 Olympic Games (Sega)

FIFA Street Continues Dominance Of UK Sales Charts

All, Console 2012, UK



Both version of *FIFA Street* once again took the top of Chart-Track's individual formats top 10 chart, while only the Xbox 360 version of *Mass Effect 3* managed to stop *Resident Evil: Operation Raccoon City* taking the next two positions.

At the bottom, Sega's *Shogun 2: Total War Fall of the Samurai* entered at number 10 in its opening weekend.

1. FIFA Street (EA, Xbox 360)
2. FIFA Street (EA, PS3)
3. Resident Evil: Operation Raccoon City (Capcom, Xbox 360)
4. Mass Effect 3 (EA, Xbox 360)
5. Resident Evil: Operation Raccoon City (Capcom, PS3)
6. Kid Icarus: Uprising (Nintendo, 3DS)
7. Mass Effect 3 (EA, PS3)
8. Mario Party 9 (Nintendo, Wii)
9. FIFA 12 (EA, Xbox 360)
10. Shogun 2: Total War Fall of the Samurai (Sega)

EA's *FIFA Street* held on to the top spot for a second week in the UK sales charts.

FIFA 14 Hits Number 1. Again

By Tom May 19, 2014

And sets a record in doing so.

FIFA 15 Is Selling Like Crazy

By Tom Sep 29, 2014

UK All-Platforms Top 10

1. FIFA Street (EA)
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5. SSX (EA)
6. Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 (Activision)
7. Kid Icarus: Uprising (Nintendo)
8. Battlefield 3 (EA)
9. F1 2011 (Sega)
10. Mario & Sonic London 2012 Olympic Games (Sega)

FIFA Ultimate Team Sales Up 80%

By Dave Jul 23, 2014

EA have today released some mighty fine financial performance figures, with console games driving their growth.



BOX OFFICE - FILM REFERENCES



Looper

Domestic Total Gross: **\$66,486,205**

Distributor: TriStar	Release Date: September 28, 2012
Genre: Sci-Fi Action	Runtime: 1 hrs. 58 min.
MPAA Rating: R	Production Budget: \$30 million

Total Lifetime Grosses

Domestic:	\$66,486,205	37.7%
+ Foreign:	\$110,020,614	62.3%
= Worldwide: \$176,506,819		



The Fast and the Furious

Domestic Total Gross: **\$144,533,925**

Distributor: Universal	Release Date: June 22, 2001
Genre: Action	Runtime: 1 hrs. 46 min.
MPAA Rating: PG-13	Production Budget: \$38 million

Total Lifetime Grosses

Domestic:	\$144,533,925	69.7%
+ Foreign:	\$62,750,000	30.3%
= Worldwide: \$207,283,925		



The Maze Runner

Domestic Total Gross: **\$102,427,862**

Distributor: Fox	Release Date: September 19, 2014
Genre: Sci-Fi Thriller	Runtime: 1 hrs. 53 min.
MPAA Rating: PG-13	Production Budget: \$34 million

Total Lifetime Grosses

Domestic:	\$102,427,862	30.1%
+ Foreign:	\$238,322,778	69.9%
= Worldwide: \$340,750,640		



Furious 7

Domestic Total as of Jun. 18, 2015:
\$351,032,910

Distributor: Universal	Release Date: April 3, 2015
Genre: Action	Runtime: 2 hrs. 17 min.
MPAA Rating: PG-13	Production Budget: \$190 million

Total Lifetime Grosses

Domestic:	\$351,032,910	23.2%
+ Foreign:	\$1,160,693,295	76.8%
= Worldwide: \$1,511,726,205		

Date	Title (click to view)	Studio	Lifetime Gross / Theaters		Opening / Theaters	
6/22/01	The Fast and the Furious	Uni.	\$144,533,925	2,899	\$40,089,015	2,628
4/3/09	Fast and Furious	Uni.	\$155,064,265	3,674	\$70,950,500	3,461
4/29/11	Fast Five	Uni.	\$209,837,675	3,793	\$86,198,765	3,644
5/24/13	Fast & Furious 6	Uni.	\$238,679,850	3,771	\$97,375,245	3,658
4/3/15	Furious 7	Uni.	\$351,032,910	4,022	\$147,187,040	4,004

THE FILMMAKERS

Jeffrey Elmont - Director

Jeffrey directed the short films, MY PEOPLE and DUISTER & LICHT, which were both awarded Best Short Film by the Netherlands Film Festival.

He then directed the first-ever narrative film about street soccer, entitled LEAGUE OF LEGENDS, starring soccer legend Edgar Davids.

The film successfully raised the profile of street soccer all over Europe and was selected for the 2004 Berlin Film Festival, AFI Fest in 2005, and the European Film Festival in 2007. In 2011, LEAGUE OF LEGENDS was distributed worldwide by Shorts International. He then got his MFA in Directing at the American Film Institute (AFI) Conservatory in Los Angeles. His AFI thesis film, THE SECOND HALF, won the Best Student Film award at the Hollywood Black Film Festival (2009). He also directed the award-winning short film, JUNIOR, starring Larry Gilliard Jr.

(GANGS OF NEW YORK, THE MACHINIST, THE WALKING DEAD). His first narrative feature was BODY LANGUAGE, which was released in 2012.

Jeffrey also directed the drama/thriller DISCARDED for Tigertail Films, starring John Savage (THE DEER HUNTER) and Michelle Lombardo (ENTOURAGE, MADMEN, and CALIFORNICATION). Currently, Jeffrey is directing commercials for Human Element Productions in Los Angeles.

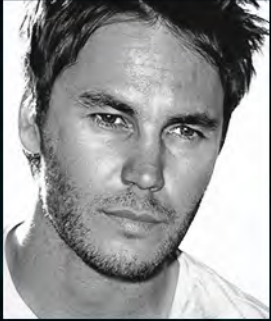
David MacGregor - Screenwriter

David is a playwright and screenwriter. He is resident artist at Jeff Daniels' Purple Rose Theatre, has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, and his plays have been performed around the world, from New York to Hobart, Tasmania. His work has been published by Dramatic Publishing, Playscripts, and Heuer Publishing.

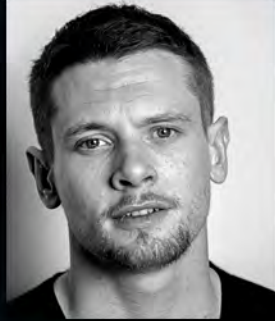
He wrote the screenplay for the dark comedy, VINO VERITAS, which stars Carrie Preston (Emmy-winner for THE GOOD WIFE), just completed a script commissioned for Oscar-nominee Shohreh Aghdashloo, and is currently working on a TV series set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula with Timothy Busfield and Melissa Gilbert.

TALENT AND CHARACTERS

Joey: Taylor Kitsch



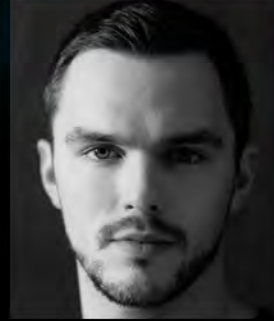
Jack O'Connell



Channing Tatum



Nicholas Hoult



Dylan O'Brien



Liam Hemsworth



Kevin:

Sullivan Stapleton



Joel Edgerton



Jason Statham



Tom Hardy



Chris Hemsworth



Charlie Hunnam



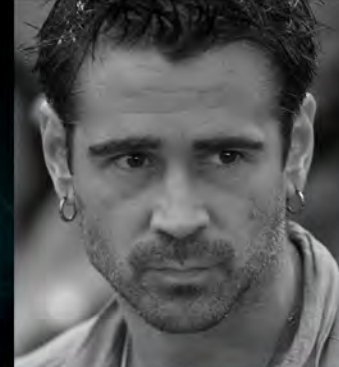
Norman Reedus



Jamie Dornan



Colin Farrell



Alexander Skarsgard



TALENT AND CHARACTERS

Carla:

Paula Patton



Zoe Kravitz



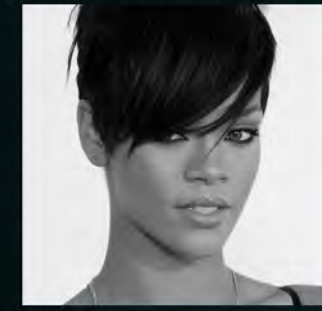
Gugu Mbatha-Raw



Rosario Dawson



Rihanna

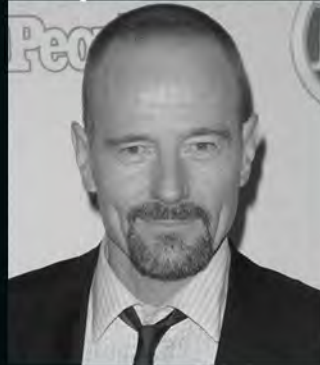


Nathalie Emmanuel



Duke:

Bryan Cranston



Vinnie Jones



Sam Rockwell



Matuma:

Lebron James



Idris Elba



Djimon Hounsou



Russians:

Peter Stormare



Nikolaj Coster-Waldau



Oleg Taktarov



TALENT AND CHARACTERS

THE STREETPLAYERS

Eddie and the players:

The best streetsoccer players in the world will be screen tested for Eddie's character, and also for the other players in the film.



Ronaldinho will play in the final battle.

