

Dedicated to discovering up and coming actors and rising stars from all over the world

July 2020

# FILM CENTRAL

MAKE WAY FOR  
**MAHDI  
COCCI**  
FIND OUT MORE  
ABOUT THE 'BRUH' STAR

TEN ADDICTIVE NEW  
**NETFLIX TREATS**  
TO BINGE THIS WEEKEND





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# FILM CENTRAL

## CONTENTS

- 6 Feature Story: One on one interview with rising star - Evie Thedorou
- 12 Spotlight: Meet the co-founder of Dawn Light's Media - the incredible Jason Cherubin
- 16 Cover story: Find out more about "Bruh" star Mahdi Cocci
- 22 Feature Story: One on one interview with Narcos: Mexico star, Alberto Zeni
- 26 Movie Review: Bad Boys for life
- 28 Movie Review: The Invisible Man
- 30 Movie Review: 10 awesome new Netflix treats to binge on this weekend

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# FILM CENTRAL

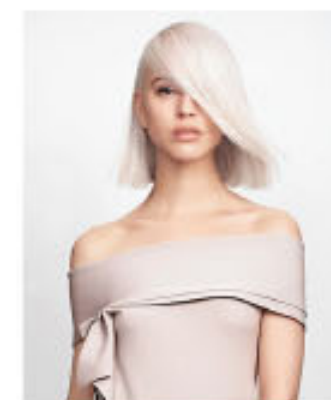


We are so pleased and excited to bring you the very first comeback issue of Film Central Magazine. We are all about promoting promising and upcoming actors from all over the world. In the broader picture, Film Central is for anyone who is passionate about the acting and entertainment industry and would like to be kept informed about those issues that are most pertinent to continued success.

Here at Film Central we like to have fun for sure. But, there's a consciousness and an ethical slant that drives the stories we wish to present. In this edition you will find a splash of industry tips amongst our profile pieces. There are also some great advice pages and career tips. It's a must-read for any aspiring actor or entertainer.

So, if you like movies and TV shows you will certainly love Film Central Magazine.

Alex A  
Editor-in-chief



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## ONE ON ONE WITH RISING YOUNG ACTRESS EVIE THEODOROU

Evanthia "Evie" Jessica Theodorou is an actress on the rise. Evie's given name Evanthis actually means "beautiful flower" in the Greek language. Evie still remembers her first professional photo shoot at a mere five years of age when she told her parents that her future ambition was to be on camera. Now at 16, you will find her in her very first web series called *Nancy Mindy*, where Evie is captivating in this production (release date to be confirmed). In addition to her acting career, Evie is working hard refining her vocals as she just recorded her first EP. Her song "Somewhere" from her EP has been released with BRAT Records on October 25. Being a songwriter has also been something she has a passion for as she co-wrote her new EP. In her free time, she keeps herself busy playing guitar and piano and continuing to work hard at her crafts. You will also catch her modeling year-round for several designers on the runway in New York for the New York Fashion Week Style week. In addition to this, Evie also happens to be a massive TikTok star as well. Best known for her *evie\_t04* account, her popularity on the platform led to her amassing more than 250,000 followers. *FilmCentral* Magazine recently caught up with Evie and here's what went down:

### Can you tell us more about yourself?

My full name is Evanthis. I'm a singer, songwriter, actress, dancer, and model. I'm from the Midwest. I love boating, painting, and baking in my spare time. I also love to travel. My favorite two places that I have been so far are Hawaii and Greece.

### How did you get started in the entertainment industry?

I was just five years old and told my parents that I wanted to be on TV. Fast forward to 16 and now I'm living in LA working on my dreams!

### What do you like most about acting?

Being able to portray that character, making them come to life. That's when all the magic begins.

### Can you tell us about your role in *Nancy Mindy*?

She is a witty, smart, and ambitious teen trying to make something of herself. She is very relatable and fun.

### What sort of person is going to love this character?

It's honestly for all ages or personalities. But if I had to put a person it would be a teen girl. A teen that might be searching to make a change in her life but might be afraid to do it. Or even a teen that is looking for someone to inspire them to take that step.

### How is this character like you? Different?

She is like me in that she has a super real fun side to her. I love comedy and making people laugh. She is different from me in that we have a different family life, she also has different dreams than I do.





**What's the biggest challenge to taking on this role?**

I would say the biggest challenge would be how Nancy articulates her speech and is a very fast talker. I actually went to articulation training to help me with this. It was so much fun.

**Besides yourself, what celebrity would you like to see tackle this character?**

Ooh... that's hard. There are so many talented actresses out there. If Reese Witherspoon was a teen, she would be fun to see transform into this character.

**Besides yourself, which actor/s in this series is going to blow people away?**

I know everyone will love Moreen Moore. She is the CEO of her company. She is smart, strong, and very ambitious! She carries herself in a way that everyone respects her. I love that about her.

**If you could play any other character in this series, who would it be?**

Moreen Moore for sure. She really portrays what

it's like to be respected as a woman and as a CEO. She is incredible.

**What has been the most memorable experience of your career so far?**

Writing and recording my own music. I just released a song with BRAT TV and you can catch it on their new series called "Crazy Fast."

**Who have been the most interesting people you've met so far?**

I have met so many amazing people. From people on the set to mentors to new friends. I love what I do and look forward to new things every day. I think for me the most interesting people have been my mentors and coaches.

**What are your future plans? Inside your career or out of it.**

I still have two years of high school left and then college. I will continue to work on my music and I would love to go on tour! Hopefully, my EP will be out later this year. My EP will show more about me and who I am as an artist.





## MEET THE CO-FOUNDER OF DAWN'S LIGHT MEDIA JASON CHERUBINI

Jason Cherubini is a business professor, an advisor to emerging technology startups, and the co-founder of a film and media production company called Dawn's Light Media. He spent most of his career as a management consultant working with startups and small businesses trying to raise capital to begin operations, eventually starting his firm, Seraphim Associates International. During his time as a consultant, he also began lecturing in graduate business programs in the United States and Europe, publishing academic papers on the methodologies he developed for the teaching of accounting.

In 2014, Cherubini decided to take his startup experience, knowledge, and skills, and start his own media company, Dawn's Light Media, with partners Richard Switzer and Alexander Ferguson. Since its inception in 2015, Dawn's Light has produced and distributed over twenty feature films including *Black Water* starring action stars Jean-Claude Van Damme and Dolph Lundgren, and *Money Plane* starring Adam "Edge" Copeland, Kelsey Grammer, and Thomas Jane.

FilmCentral Magazine recently caught up with Jason to discuss his journey as an entrepreneur and here's what went down:

### **What are you currently doing to maintain/grow your business?**

With three months of lockdowns, we have focused on conceptualizing and developing a slate of new projects to carry us through the rest of the year and into 2021. Early in the lockdowns, we decided that we could either sit static or take action to come out of this stronger than before. Like a bowstring drawn back to launch the arrow, we took this downtime to build up a backlog of projects and expand our presence with others in the industry.

Now that restrictions are being lifted, we are ready to hit the ground running. We have more projects to finish in the remaining six months of 2020 than we had initially planned to complete in the entire year. We will have a more productive (and profitable) year than if the lockdowns didn't happen.



**'Don't Plan. Do. I think this is the key piece of advice that separates an Entrepreneur from a Wantrepreneur. The Entrepreneur will put together enough of a plan to get started, and then she or he will get started and adjust or modify as they go. The Wantrepreneur will sit and plan, and worry and re-plan. Never actually getting started.'**

**What social media platforms do you usually use to increase your brand's awareness?**

We take a two-pronged approach to our social media and web presence strategies.

The first prong is very end-user/viewer facing where we engage with the individuals who will end up consuming the media we produce. For this, we focus heavily on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, posting exciting visual content of our projects to drum up excitement and product knowledge.

The second prong takes a more thought-leader approach to extend our brand reputation within the industry. To accomplish this, we work primarily with LinkedIn, IMDb, and Slated. This brand awareness isn't about driving sales as much as it is developing brand recognition and a pipeline of new deals.

**What is your experience with paid advertising, like PPC or sponsored content campaigns?**

At the corporate level, we do not engage in paid advertising as most of our products are not direct-to-consumer sales. Instead, we handle all advertising at the product level, especially around the new media's initial release. We have seen some increases in traffic through these campaigns, but we have found better luck following marketing campaigns closer to Seth Godin's "Sneezer" strategy.

For this, we identify and target key individuals to engage with our products and then discuss it with their audiences. For our most recent film, "Money Plane," instead of blanket advertising, we targeted key pop culture websites and podcasts to talk about the product to their audience and create a buzz. Tracking the results is not as linear as an advertising-to-sales approach, but we find that the overall results work better.

**What is your main tactic when it comes to making more people aware of your brand and engaging your customers? How did your business stand out?**

There are very few entertainment programs that draw in engagement from wide strips of the population, especially in the modern era of niche entertainment availability. Instead of attempting to beat the odds and create the exception to this rule, we focus our products on select audiences with predetermined tastes. This focus limits our overall potential customer base, but that smaller base is easier to convert into viewers.

Our key target markets focus on specific genre fans, such as action movie fans and made-for-TV movie thriller fans. A number of our made-for-TV movies air on Lifetime and Lifetime Movie Network. These films are not for everyone, but the fans of those movies are hungry for content and consume new films at a high rate.







**What form of marketing has worked well for your business throughout the years?**

The best form of marketing for our projects has not been direct marketing at all, but rather structuring projects with built-in angles for the press to latch onto and bring awareness to our products. Our first successful implementation of this strategy was in our film "Black Water," starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Dolph Lundgren. Despite having been in numerous films together over their careers, these two action movie stars had never been allies in a film, mostly enemies. Then teaming up on the same side in a film then gave the film and media publications an angle to focus on when writing stories. We followed a similar strategy when announcing "Payline" with Wesley Snipes. The role was going to be the first time that Wesley Snipes played a villain in over twenty years. This angle, coupled with the film's environmentally-conscious production, drew press in the film industry and the general business community (Forbes did a piece on it).

**What is the toughest decision you had to make in the last few months?**

We were fortunate enough not to be actively filming any projects, so no active projects shut down. We had to delay a film planned to enter production in May, but with that, we had no option, so while it wasn't fun, it wasn't a hard decision.

The hardest decision for us in the last few months was deciding how to position ourselves for when the Coronavirus based lockdowns ended. We had to choose whether to move forward with developing new projects or stay at a complete standstill.

We ended up deciding to move forward and invest in the development of new projects, and I

feel we made the right call. With so many of our co-creators under lockdowns, we were able to bring together top-notch talent to get more conceptualizing and development done in three months than we normally would expect to get done in a year. This strategy also allowed us to keep most of our team working through these difficulties and put us in a strong position to get back into active production.

**What advice would you give to a newble Entrepreneur setting up their first business?**

"Don't Plan. Do."

I think this is the key piece of advice that separates an Entrepreneur from a Wantrepreneur. The Entrepreneur will put together enough of a plan to get started, and then she or he will get started and adjust or modify as they go. The Wantrepreneur will sit and plan, and worry and re-plan. Never actually getting started.

Having a well thought out strategy and plan is great. Still, you can never account for everything that's going to happen, and it is better to get started and adjust to the realities of your business than to attempt to predict all possible future outcomes. When discussing this, I often refer to a great quote from Mike Tyson, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." Being in business can be rough, and you will get 'punched in the mouth.' Having a plan doesn't necessarily help you, then, it's better to be agile and able to deal with situations that arise. contracts. And given the drastic increases in app-based gig services, such as Uber and AirB&B, I feel that many consumers would be comfortable subscribing to this type of service. (If someone wants to run with this idea, it's all theirs. I'd be excited to see what they can accomplish).



## RISING STAR SPOTLIGHT: GET TO KNOW MAHDI COCCI

Atlanta-based actor and model Mahdi Cocci currently stars in the new BET+ series "Bruh," a 30-min comedy series from powerhouse producer Tyler Perry which celebrates black male brotherhood. Cocci is also co-starring in the Netflix romantic comedy feature The Lovebirds opposite Issa Rae and Kumail Nanjiani.

His BET+ series "Bruh" examines the contemporary world of dating, career, and friendship through the lens of four African American men with a brother-like bond. 'Tom' (Cocci), 'John', 'Mike' and 'Bill' are four college friends now in their thirties. Tom is a doctor with lady problems, but he is also the glue that holds the group together. As they navigate life, they are learning to stand on their own two feet, while relying on each other for support. Sometimes the love is tough, and the honesty brutal, but no matter the situation they see each other through with levity and laughter. In a society where companionship between men of color is often misjudged and misrepresented, the show depicts a healthy image of black brotherhood, embracing vulnerability without playing on stereotypical hyper-masculinity.

The Lovebirds is a new rom-com from Paramount/Netflix that tells the story of couple 'Jibran' (Kumail) and 'Leilani' (Issa), who on the brink of breaking up, get unintentionally embroiled in a bizarre murder mystery. As they get closer to clearing their names and solving the case, they need to figure out how they, and their relationship, can survive the night. Cocci portrays 'Keith,' a potential love interest to Leilani who gets in the way of her relationship with Jibran.

Cocci was born in Minneapolis, MN, and was raised by his mother, Stephanie. Education was always emphasized growing up, and Mahdi earned a full Navy ROTC scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh. He put his burgeoning modeling career on hold to serve as an officer in the Navy upon graduation. After serving honorably, Mahdi shifted gears and pursued a career in acting. His first professional credit was earned on the TV series, Dynasty, in 2018, and soon followed by roles on other network shows, including The Gifted, The Resident, MacGyver, and more! He currently resides in Atlanta, GA, where he works tirelessly to build his career.

StarCentral Magazine recently caught up with Mahdi Cocci to discuss his journey in the entertainment industry and here's what went down:

### Can you tell us more about yourself?

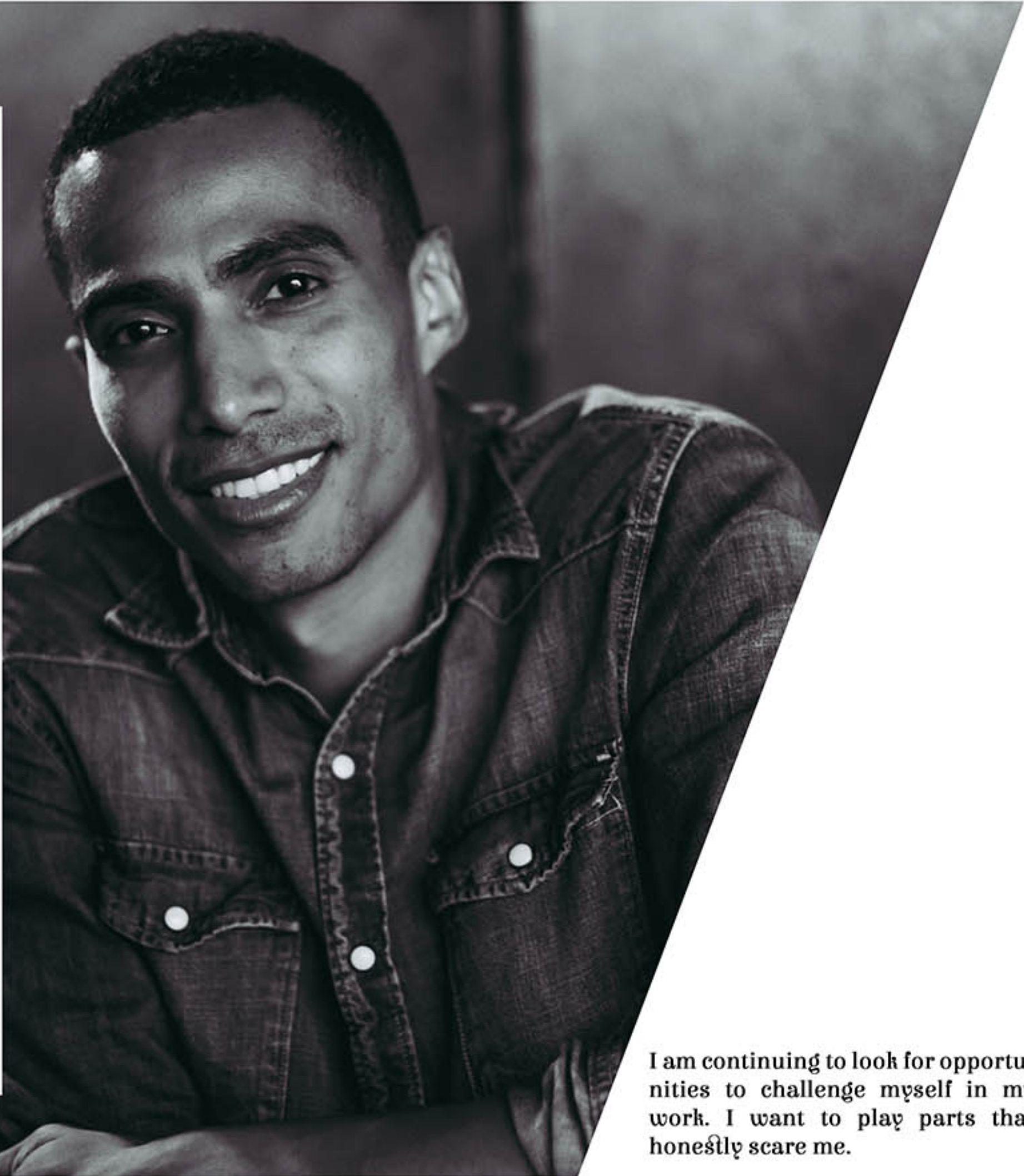
I grew up in Minnesota and went to the University of Pittsburgh on a Navy ROTC scholarship. I graduated with a B.S. in Economics, then I was commissioned as an officer into the Navy upon graduation. I served honorably for 10 years but walked away from the military to pursue my dream of acting. I'm a guy who really believes in human beings, and our ability to connect and relate to one another. We are more similar than different, and I believe the differences we do have can bring us together through curiosity instead of dividing us.

### How did you get started in the entertainment industry?

A local model agency scouted me while I was in high school. They placed me with a New York agency, which started my introduction to entertainment.

### What do you like most about acting?

I am most moved by human connection, interaction, and the stories we can bring to life. I get to experience so much through different scripts and characters, which makes being an actor so rewarding.



I am continuing to look for opportunities to challenge myself in my work. I want to play parts that honestly scare me.





**Can you tell us about your role in Bruh?**

I play Dr. Tom Brooks. I am the level-headed voice of reason for this close-knit group of 4 men. We are all friends from college, now in our 30s, navigating different aspects of our lives from professional, dating, and friendship issues.

**What sort of person is going to love this character?**

Anyone who values strong friendships, and appreciates the person who is the glue that holds them together.

**How is this character like you? Different?**

In many ways, Tom is very similar to who I am in my personal life. I am often the voice of reason within my friend group and look at most situations from a logical standpoint versus being overly driven by emotion. Unlike Tom, after one semester of being a pre-med student, I decided not to pursue the path of becoming a doctor (laughs). I realized it was not for me, but playing a doctor on TV still made my mom proud!

**What's the biggest challenge to taking on this role?**

Two challenges come to mind immediately. It was my first opportunity to play a lead character. In my previous work, I had gotten comfortable in my anonymity playing less integral roles. The demand and workload that came with playing Tom caused me to learn and adjust on set. In addition, there were topics that are covered in the story that hit close to home for me personally. Having to show my vulnerability stretched me as an actor and was something I had to work hard on throughout the show.

**Besides yourself, what celebrity would you like to see tackle this character?**

Mahershala Ali is who comes to my watch.

**Besides yourself, which actor in this series is going to blow people away?**

I'm truly such a huge fan of my castmates, that I think they all will in different ways. If I had to single one out, I would say watch closely for Alyssa Goss, who plays Pamela. She is phenomenal and bound to do great things in her career. There is a real rawness and truth in all her work that I admire, and think others will as well.







I have always appreciated the small wins on my journey. Booking my first professional acting job, playing a cop on the TV series Dynasty, and hearing that “Yes, we want you for this” was huge for me. It validated that I wasn’t completely crazy to even believe I could make this into a career.

**If you could play any other character in this series, who would it be?**

It would be Bill because I relate to his storyline. As men, we have all experienced the “one that got away”. It would be interesting to have a chance to explore that experience and rollercoaster of emotion of trying to get her back.

**What has been the most memorable experience of your career so far?**

I have always appreciated the small wins on my journey. Booking my first professional acting job, playing a cop on the TV series Dynasty, and hearing that “Yes, we want you for this” was huge for me. It validated that I wasn’t completely crazy to even believe I could make this into a career. Before that booking, it was still a pipe dream, and that moment made it real and tangible.

**Who have been the most interesting people you’ve met so far?**

Tyler Perry is someone I can’t speak highly enough about. His tireless work ethic and commitment to servant leadership put him in a league of his own. If only a small percentage of that rubs off on me I’ll be set for life. Also, Jimmy Gonzales, who is a fantastic actor, and has been a true mentor and friend to me on my journey. He constantly challenges me to be better and inspires me to be generous in my work and life.

**How active are you on social media?**

A lot more than I used to be. I am learning how rewarding it is to have a place to connect with people who connect with the stories I get to tell. Some folks get really into it, and so do I, so I love to hear from them!

**What is your favorite social media platform?**

Instagram, because it’s the easiest to navigate and it’s visual.

**What are your future plans? Inside your career or out of it.**

Career-wise, I am continuing to look for opportunities to challenge myself in my work. I want to play parts that honestly scare me. Beyond my career, I strive to travel more, experience new things, and meet more people. Life has so much to offer and I want to make the most of it.





ONE ON ONE WITH NARCOS: MEXICO STAR

## ALBERTO ZENI

Mexican-born actor Alberto Zeni has just made his way to the small screen in the second season of Netflix's crime drama "Narcos: Mexico." He's starring alongside Diego Luna (Gallardo), Scoot McNairy (the narrator) and Teresa Ruiz (Bautista).

It has been over a year since the Season 1 release of "Narcos: Mexico", which effectively shifted the long-running drug cartel drama into new territory. The first season of "Narcos: Mexico", was the fourth season of "Narcos" overall and it reset the Netflix series when it traveled back to 1980s Mexico to show the birth of the Guadalajara cartel and trace the origins of the Mexican drug war, beginning at the time when Mexican traffickers were a loose and disorganized confederation of small-time independent cannabis growers and dealers.

Born in Monterrey, Mexico, Alberto first caught the acting bug when he was 14 years old while working for Parque Plaza Sesamo in his hometown of Monterrey, Mexico; a family-friendly destination with a Sesame Street theme featuring rides, games and a water park. Singing, dancing and playing characters at the park wasn't his only direction as he had goals of becoming an inventor and even received a degree in Engineering.

After completing his studies, Alberto continued working in the entertainment industry starring in telenovelas such as "Hoy Soy Nadie," "Tréizas de Colores," "Bajo el Alma," "XY, La Revista" and the web series "Vidas Cruzadas" starring Kate del Castillo.

It wasn't until his mid-twenties, where he decided to make a drastic change, pack up his bags and move to Los Angeles, CA to continue his acting journey. While in LA, Alberto immersed himself in the craft – training in the Meisner Technique and teaching himself English.

StarCentral Magazine recently caught up with Alberto courtesy of the Anderson Group to talk about her journey in the entertainment industry so far and here's what went down:

**How were you actually 'discovered'? A chance encounter on the street? Audition?**

To be honest, I don't know anyone that has been discovered, ever. It's a very romantic idea, though. For me, it's been a process of a couple of decades now of hard work, training, preparation,

travel, moving, leaving people and places behind, going back to them, leaving them again and a constant belief that what I love to do will transform into something bigger and more diverse. I can say the hard work, dedication and discipline have paid off many times fold.

**What do you like most about acting?**

I get to have different experiences. Through the eyes of different personalities, characters and stories, I get to be a doctor one week, a policeman the next, a bounty hunter, an astronaut, the owner of a conglomerate and so many others. The possibilities are endless, and I get a taste of what existence is in a more personal way, as well as a broader, way.

**Can you tell us about your role in Narcos: Mexico?**

I play a former Mexican Judicial, which is like a federal agent, that gets integrated into the DEA team that infiltrates Mexico's territory to find out who killed Kiki Camarena (Michael Pena's character) and destabilize the criminal organization involved in that. Amat Palacios, which is my name on the show, is a very cunning, very charming man who is savvy about how things run on both sides of the border and that makes him an invaluable asset to the team.

**What sort of person is going to love your character?**

Anybody that has a light heart and anybody who loves their family. This is a character that does things because he wants to do them and because they bring a benefit to his own. That said, he is always looking out for his team and himself.

**How do you relate to your character? How are you different from Amat?**

I believe every character I portray has some of my essences, to a degree. In the end, I am the one feeling what he is going through and thinking his thoughts. For Amat, the idea of being present with his team, joking around and protecting them, is where I can say we are very much alike. The part where he may look the other way or get involved in unsavory things is where we are very different. Nevertheless, it was a lot of fun playing him.



*"I believe every character I portray has some of my essences, to a degree. In the end, I am the one feeling what he is going through and thinking his thoughts."*

**What's the biggest challenge to taking on this role?**

Fortunately, Amat was not based on any historical figure so I had the freedom to create a new persona, which in itself is a challenge. I thought to myself, 'how am I going to create a man that has qualities I don't necessarily have myself.' So, I began to think of the qualities I DO have and from then on, I built upon the idea of Amat until the entire persona was created – I got to live through him. Added to that, other small traits and nuances were incorporated by reading on history from that era and watching documentaries. It was a lot of information that went into creating him. I hope you get to see a human being on screen.

**Besides yourself, which actor on this show is going to blow people away?**

Why thank you for that compliment! To be honest, this season is packed with extraordinary and ultra-talented actors, just the ones on my team – Scoot McNairy, Jesse Garcia, Matt Beidel, Miguel Rodarte, Jero Medina, and Alex Knight are something to behold. We created a very solid and interesting way to watch the DEA team which like to make it easy for viewers to fall in love with. We are as excited about the so-called criminals on this season. Things are going to get wild!

**If you could play any other character on this show, who would it be?**

Well, obviously Miguel Angel Gallardo Felix, the super boss. That is a very complex character and I would love to get into developing and getting in his psyche. Also, he is the lead of the show and why not aspire to be the point of the spear, right?

**What has been the most memorable experience of your career so far?**

Working with Sylvester Stallone has been the most memorable. Especially because my dad loved his work and followed his career. Now, I don't have my dad with me but I know he would've been very happy to have seen me work alongside Mr. Stallone.

**Who has been the most interesting people you've met so far?**

When I was living and working in Mexico, I met Brad Dourif, who gave me the idea to move to the States and pursue training in acting. He doesn't know the impact he had on my life when we met, he gave me his advice. I hope to meet him again one day and be able to thank him in person for the incredible impact he had on my life. He is one of the most incredible actors in Hollywood!

**Which artists would you like to work with in the future?**

Well, of course, Joaquin Phoenix is someone I would love to learn from, as well as Meryl Streep. Also, Alfonso Cuarón, Guillermo del Toro, Iñárritu, JJ Abrams, Christopher Nolan, The Wachowskis, Ava DuVernay, Shonda Rhimes, George Tillman Jr., Reese Witherspoon, and many others who are creating incredible projects today.

**Where can we follow you on social media?**

You can find me on Instagram @albertozeni and Twitter @AlbertoZeniOF

**What is your favourite social media platform?**

I use Instagram the most but soon, we will be launching a new social media platform that will empower people to make their dreams a reality.

**What are your future plans? Within your career or aside from it.**

There are many projects in motion as we speak, with both my US and Mexico agencies. We are talking to different people about different projects and soon we will have more news on the acting side of my career. I own a production company in Mexico City that offers services to international productions and we are also developing content for the international market. We are also developing a crowdfunding social media platform that will enable people to capitalize on their ideas, projects, content and funding campaigns. The name of this platform is MeThere.





## BAD BOYS FOR LIFE



Editorial credit: Silvia Elizabeth Pangaro / Shutterstock.com

## MOVIE REVIEW

A continuation of one of the greatest franchises in recent years, 'Bad Boys for Life' features Will Smith and Martin Lawrence as they return in this action-packed sequel full of action and premise. After taking a gap of over 16 years, we finally witnessed two of our favourite detectives working together again to pursue evil whilst occasionally making us burst out in laughter with their unique catchphrases and unwarranted comedic activities.

'Bad Boys for Life' portrays a creative new storyline which partially follows the legacy that had been left behind by the previous two films. All the old major characters are back, with some exciting new additions to the overall cast. The mix of old and new characters manages to create a unique combination that bridges the gap between the previous and current generations. The new characters also play an important role in carrying the storyline forward as detective Mike revisits some of his old memories which leads him towards an unwarranted encounter with an old foe, thereby revealing a secret that had been kept for years.

What makes 'Bad Boys for Life' so satisfying is because of its perfect execution carried out by the likes of Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. While the film essentially focuses on fighting crime and pursuing criminals, we cannot help but truly laugh at the creative genius of Lawrence's facial expression at the toughest of moments. Truly one of his most iconic lines "Oh sh\*t!" makes it impossible to keep a serious face. Lawrence's uncanny face illustration can define an entire situation without him having to say a word. On the other end, we have Will Smith continues to impress and make a name for himself with his performance as detective Mike Lowry. Relatively more serious compared to his counterpart, detective Mike persists on remaining to be a bad boy by having to chase new villains and managing to survive an assassination attempt. His aggressive persona makes him a fearful character who's on the hunt against those who are trying to conspire against his life.

The biggest highlight of the film is the major revelation that is unveiled in the second half of the film. As things begin to become more intense for our two protagonists, a sudden twist of tale sees them stuck in a situation where detective Mike's biggest enemy turns out to be a ghost from his past mistakes.

In an overall sense, 'Bad Boys for Life' is an emotional rollercoaster ride that manages to keep all its viewers glued to the screen until the very end. The film brilliantly manages to integrate elements of the current era and mixing them with events from the past. It is masterfully written and is sure to reignite feelings of nostalgia.

WHERE TO WATCH: AMAZON | RATING: 4/5 STARS



## THE INVISIBLE MAN



Editorial credit: Featureflash Photo Agency / Shutterstock.com

## MOVIE REVIEW

At one point, sharing cinematic universes were all the rage thanks to the successful formula perfected by Marvel studios. Universal Studios wished to have their own "Dark Universe" with remaking classic Universal monsters and bringing them together in an "Avengers" like story. After the colossal failure of Tom Cruises' "The Mummy," the "Dark Universe" concept was scrapped and all other Universal monster films were either killed on the spot or morphed/re-worked into something completely different/original, like with what Guillermo Del Toro did with his award-winning masterful piece of work, "The Shape of Water."

"Saw" director Leigh Whannell also made a significant turnaround with his new take on "The Invisible Man." This time, the focus is not on the titular monster but rather on one of his victims: Cecilia Kass (Elizabeth Moss) barely manages to escape her barbaric ex-boyfriend Adrian (Oliver-Jackson Cohen) and go into hiding. Two weeks later, she received word he's committed suicide and left his entire billion-dollar estate to her provided she remains mentally competent. Things seem to be going better for her until she starts noticing odd events, strange instances leading her to one disturbing and horrifying conclusion: Adrian isn't dead, and worst of all, he's found a way to disappear completely and is back in her life with no one believing her.

While clearly being fueled and influenced by the "MeToo" movement in the narrative and structure of the film, "The Invisible Man" rarely skews off into implausible territory and keeps everything from the emotions, the relationships, and even the science to a fairly intense lens of reality. Cecilia's story is entirely relatable and cleverly uses that victim perspective to make the story connect on levels no other take on the "Invisible Man" story has ever managed to accomplish. This is very much her story and that paranoid sense of being followed manages to be amplified brilliantly by simple camera shots of basic landscapes and environment. Every hallway, front lawn or parking lot becomes a potential death trap with a faceless enemy looming out there.

This is a fresh take on an old classic that anyone can sit down and understand through its excellent filmmaking and simple but effective story cues surrounding the concept. Elizabeth Moss truly exemplifies the longing for power sensation after feeling so powerless for so long and striving to conquer her fears and her enemy. You feel every shiver across her spine, every disturbing sound possibly signaling his presence, so much is said in the most silent of scenes. The family that takes Cecilia in contributes to the dangers and risks this unseen threat is presenting. Even when the titular character is making a move, it's carefully planned and calculated and feels very natural and dangerously realistic to how someone with this power would act.

I think the best thing to commend this film is its unpredictability. While some of the supporting cast fall into predictable roles and lack any real growth in comparison to Cecilia, the movie has some "blink and you'll miss it" shocker moments that will leave your jaws firmly planted on the floor; all without the use of jump scares I might add. The secret behind the "Invisible Man" is quite a clever one (no spoilers obviously) and is actually something I could see being a real possibility with today's technological advancements. It seems the collapse of the "Dark Universe" project has ultimately been for the best. It's given directors creative opportunities to recreate these monsters in new and exciting ways through top quality films.

Overall, "The Invisible Man" is a masterfully sculpted horror-thriller that invokes the essence of a supernatural threat but modernizes it for today's day and age with relatable subtext, moral messaging and empathic motivations. The simplest pan shot creates incredible tension every time and Elizabeth Moss embodies everything flawlessly from start to finish. This is how you update a Universal monster character and THIS is how you make a great film.

WHERE TO WATCH: AMAZON | RATING: 4/5 STARS





## TEN NEW NETFLIX TREATS TO BINGE THIS WEEKEND

With every month, new content comes and new content goes but let's not focus on the bad news shall we? We have plenty of that going around these days. It's always a fun surprise to see what new content is shuffling on each month and with everyone being indoors longer and watching even more streaming content, here are the top 10 best new cinematic and television treats that have been recently added to Netflix: just waiting for you to binge them:

### 1. A Whisker Away

A new anime film that features everything the world loves: colorful animation, whimsical fantasy for audiences of all ages and cute cats.

### 2. Batman

Mask of the Phantasm: this animated cult classic film depicts Kevin Conroy and Mark Hamill in a feature length film based off the highly popular "Batman the animated series."

### 3. Spaceballs

A Mel Brooks classic comedy parodying Star Wars is back to bring back some golden perfect comedy for your viewing pleasure.

### 4. Unsolved Mysteries

A new NETFLIX documentary series based on the classic TV series to uncover new mysteries for a modern age.

### 5. Warrior Nun

A new NETFLIX original movie that is as ridiculous and wildly bizarre as the title sounds. It's exactly what it sounds like.

### 6. JU-ON Origins

This new NETFLIX series is based off the original Japanese horror film/American remake film: detailing the origins of this iconic haunted house/figure.

### 7. The Twelve

This NETFLIX series follows Twelve ordinary people called for jury duty for a murder case in which a woman stands trial for killing her own blood.

### 8. The Old Guard

A NETFLIX film starring Charlize Theron and Chiwetel Ejiofor, two warriors in a team of immortals who discover a new immortal threatens their existence.

### 9. The Business of Drugs

A NETFLIX documentary series detailing the business, operations and overall functional impact of drugs in society.

### 10. Down to Earth with Zac Efron

A new NETFLIX travel show where actor Zac Efron journeys around the world with wellness expert Darin Olien in search of healthy, sustainable ways to live.





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