

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,

On behalf of the Reno Sheriff's Department, we would like to address the film entitled *Reno 911!: Miami*. THIS FILM IS NOT ENDORSED IN ANY WAY BY THE RENO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

We were told by the good people (*pronounced: dirty liars*) at Twentieth Century Fox that the documentary film about our trip to the National Police Convention in Miami Beach would be called: *American Heroes: South Beach Edition*.

Turns out this was classic Hollywood bull****. The film that has been made from the footage of us is an outrageous web of lies. The brave men and women of the Reno Sheriff's Department have been edited together in a way that makes us look like we're brain damaged. (We, aren't!)

YES, there were some unfortunate events that took place during our time in Miami. Yes, people got hurt. Yes, property got destroyed. And yes, one nude person and some passers-by got parts of an exploded narwhale on them.

But... the truth is: we also did a lot of good. And, none of us is sure it was really a narwhale. It might have been a sperm whale, or some other kind of whale.

We would also like to address the title of the film.

Reno 911!: Miami

WTF? That must be the stupidest title in the history of cinema. That's like calling something *Las Vegas Justice Minneapolis*. Or *Philadelphia Emergency St. Louis*. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

If you understand the title, please call us, because we do not.

We urge you to tell the Fox and Twentieth Century Fox people to STOP THE LIES.

Your servant,

Lt. Jim Dangle, Reno Sheriff's Department. Reno NV.



RENO 911!...BEGINNINGS

“Reno 911!” co-stars-writers-executive producers Robert Ben Garant, Thomas Lennon, and Kerri Kenney-Silver first met in college, where they created a comedy troupe they called The State. According to Garant, who also directs RENO 911! MIAMI, it was not an obvious match. “Kerri was very Westport, Tom wore suits, cowboy boots and an eye patch – and I was scared of both of them. Somehow, we all ended up in a comedy troupe, and for some reason we all took it really seriously.”

In the mid-1990s, the trio created a popular sketch comedy series, named for their troupe, on MTV. Following that came the Comedy Central series “Viva Variety,” which ran for three seasons.

After wrapping up work on “Viva Variety,” development began on what would become “Reno 911!” Initially, Lennon and Garant had envisioned the series as another sketch comedy. But the first part of the process in bringing a series to air – a network table reading – didn’t go well. “We were canceled at the table read,” Lennon recalls. “I’m not sure that’s happened before.”

Picking up the pieces, Garant, Lennon and Kenney-Silver came up with another idea: a parody of the popular reality series “Cops.” ““Cops’ was a huge hit for the network, so we thought it would be a fun thing to parody,” says Kenney-Silver. The result was a hilarious take on the traditional cop drama, with soap opera-like twists and turns.

Garant, Lennon and Kenney-Silver decided to set the show in Reno, which Lennon describes as a “small town with a big-city vibe.”

“It’s the place where dreams fade and hope diminishes,” he continues. “It has a sense of grayness and a sense of desperation. It’s Vegas’ ugly step-child.” But Kenney-Silver insists that the locale was chosen for more practical considerations. “The word ‘Reno’ is nice and short and it looks good on a hat. And it’s easy to read for people who can’t read well.”

It was an inspired idea, and Lennon, Garant and Silver went to work, shooting and editing the pilot in only a few weeks.

It then sat on the shelf for two years.

Finally, in 2003, Comedy Central picked up the series, which will soon begin production on its fifth season – and which, of course, has now been turned into a full-length motion picture produced by not one, but two major studios.

RENO 911! BECOMES A MOVIE

RENO 911!: MIAMI, with its confluence of dueling cities and weird punctuation, may be the stupidest title in movie history. Not surprisingly, it wasn’t the product of market research, filmmaker/corporate brainstorming – or any kind of creative thinking. Robert Ben Garant explains: “I’m not positive, but I think I came up with the title. I thought it was the dumbest title I’ve ever heard. In fact, we all thought it was so dumb, that we had to get it up on a billboard.

“One day,” Lennon recalls, “Ben said, ‘We should call the movie ‘RENO 911!: MIAMI,’ and we [the rest of the cast] said, ‘Ha, ha, funny.’ And that’s the most we ever talked about it.”

“We almost used ‘Reno 911!: Las Vegas’, but that was overthinking it a bit,” Garant adds.

A critical piece of punctuation – an exclamation point – has followed the word “Reno” in the title since the show’s inception, and Garant, Lennon and Kenney-Silver made sure it took its rightful place in the expanded film moniker. “That punctuation also really looks good on a hat,” Garant points out, reinforcing the filmmakers’ obsession with head coverings.

Looking beyond the title’s stupidity factor, the choice of Miami as the film’s principal location serves an important creative purpose. In Miami, the Reno officers are

completely out of their element. This “fish-out-of-water” theme ramps up the comic opportunities while providing a narrative through-line not present in the series. “In Reno, they’re kind of cool; they’re rock stars,” says Kenney-Silver. “But in Miami, they look really small; they’re totally out of place.”

“The Reno officers are overwhelmed by Miami’s wholesomeness,” adds Carlos Alazraqui, who portrays Officer James Garcia. “They’re surrounded by healthy-looking people, an ocean, clean air – none of which are found in Reno.”

The new locale certainly sets RENO 911!: MIAMI apart from the series, as does the movie’s scale, production values, and un-pixelated nudity. (“We have a lot of naked boobs in the film,” says Garant. “A lot of boobs.”)

“The film is ‘Reno:911!’ on steroids!” exclaims Alazraqui. “It has more beautiful women, more physical stuff, nicer uniforms, bigger guest stars, better trailers, and more discos.

But the filmmakers insist that the “bigger/better/more!” (note the exclamation point) aspects of the production are secondary to their intention of sticking close to what audiences love about the show. Says Kenney-Silver: “We wanted the movie to be just like the series because we figured people love these characters as they are. We didn’t want to do a ‘movie version’ of them.”

Equally important, says Lennon, is the fact that a familiarity with the series isn’t necessary to enjoy the movie. “Anything that needs to be established about these characters can be figured out within a minute into the film. I mean, look at my character, Lt. Dangle: He wears a ridiculous uniform, he has highlights in his hair, and he’s armed. We go from there.”

No cast member was more surprised to see the series become a major motion picture, than was Niecy Nash, who portrays Officer Raineesha Williams. “The show was popular, but in an underground kind of way,” she says. “We were having a great time doing the series; it didn’t feel like work. And then came the idea of a studio feature based on the show. My reaction was, ‘What????’

Nash, like all the actors, came to relish the opportunity of bringing “Reno: 911!” to the big-screen. And she, like the others, had created her character from scratch at the series’ onset. “Raineesha Williams is an amalgamation of many women I’ve known,” she

explains. “You know – the ones who wear too much makeup, and who have extra attitude on the side. She’s no-nonsense, in your face, a little bit spicy, and supremely well-coiffed. And in the movie, you get to see a lot more of Williams, courtesy of a ‘booty’ prosthetic.” (More later on that very “special effect.”)

Wendi McLendon-Covey, who plays Deputy Clementine Johnson, a former showgirl, magician’s assistant, girl-about-town and party-lady, calls the Reno gang “the worst hall monitors or crossing-guards in the world.” Moreover, her character is, in Miami, even more out-there with her unique brand of sexiness. But there’s more to Clemmie than a big pair...of guns. “In a way, Clemmie is like everybody’s weird aunt, who just breezes into town and breezes back out,” says McLendon-Covey.

Another over-sexed member of the Reno law-enforcement team is Deputy S. Jones, played by Cedric Yarbrough. “Jones is there for one thing – and one thing only – and it rhymes with ‘spoon-tang,” says the poetic-waxing actor.

Mary Birdsong, who portrays Deputy Cherisa Kimball, is the newest member of the “Reno 911!” troupe, having joined the cast for the series’ third season. She says her work on the show provided, among other things, great groundwork for the movie. “I’ve been rehearsing for this film for two seasons,” she notes. “That’s a rare opportunity for preparation.” And how did she find the character? “I found Kimball in a ditch with five dollars in her pocket and a lot of dreams,” she explains.

PRODUCTION: HIGH-DEF MUSTACHES, BOOTY – AND ‘DANGLING’ IN SHORT-SHORTS

Before shooting began on RENO 911!: MIAMI, the filmmakers met with fourteen Miami law enforcement agencies – including Miami Police, Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue, the Coast Guard, Harbor Patrol, Homeland Security and the Environmental Protection Agency – to obtain the necessary permits and access to various locations. “These guys were all in one room at the same time when we met with them,” Garant remembers. “We had to pitch our jokes to about twenty heavily-armed men. Luckily most of them were fans.”

Director Garant and the rest of the team were delighted to shoot the film in high-definition video – an upgrade from the series’ standard definition video. But with HD

came significant challenges, including dealing with Lt. Dangle's facial hair. For the show, the usually-clean-shaven Lennon uses a stick-on mustache, but for the movie, it's all him. Putting aside the aesthetic realism of using his own whiskers, Lennon notes their cost-savings benefits. "We saved a fortune in not using fake mustaches," he notes. "Those things cost \$100 apiece." (For the record, Garant says he's always used his own mustache.)

The film's most impressive effect – surpassing even a 30-foot-long beached whale made of wood and neoprene – is Raineesha Williams' enormous posterior, a specially created prosthetic that impressed all those who experienced its glory. "It was the most expensive prop, by far," says Garant. "When Niecy modeled it for us, a group of people who were just standing around started poking it and turning it in the light. They had no idea it was a fake butt. And when we told one of our real-life police escorts the booty was fake, it was like telling a child there was no Santa Claus. It just crushed him. We all felt very proud of that butt."

Adds Thomas Lennon: "If even a snapshot of that booty were to make it into a prison, there would be a situation that would...well, let's just say you'd have to go way beyond lockdown."

During beach patrol duty with the booty-licious Williams, Kerri Kenney-Silver's Trudy Wiegel sports some all-too-revealing "granny" panties and a scoliosis bra. "Trudy has some posture problems, and that's where her special bra comes in," says Kenney-Silver. "And the granny panties protect her from other people's body parts that could have touched the suit before she purchased it."

Then there's Lennon's Dangle, who lets it all hang out with his short-shorts, which he's worn since the show's pilot episode. In high-definition, it was difficult to keep Dangle from, well, dangling. "The image is so clear," says Lennon, that I might as well not be wearing any pants. Every minute I'm in the shorts, it's a struggle. The shorts seemed like a funny idea in 1999, but now I'm stuck with them."

Lennon insists that, possibly due to the shorts, Dangle is the most popular character with the legions of "Reno 911!" fans. "You can authenticate that anywhere, including the Internet," he insists. "The rest of the cast is very talented, popular and

wonderful. I won't rank them in order of popularity, but I definitely am in the number-one position. Really – it's on the Internet.”

RENO 911!: MIAMI opens everywhere February 23.



ABOUT THE CAST

CARLOS ALAZRAQUI (Deputy James Garcia) has worked hard to establish himself as one of the funniest men on television today. He is a voice we hear almost on a daily basis; we just don't know it. And now, we get to meet the man behind the voice.

Currently, Carlos can be seen playing Officer James Garcia, a cop who takes his job a bit too seriously on the Comedy Central series "Reno 911!", soon to begin production on its fifth season.

Carlos is probably best known as the voice of a very famous Chihuahua, popularizing the slogan "Yo quiero Taco Bell." In addition, he can be heard as Monroe in "The Life & Times of Juniper Lee and Laszlo" and on "Camp Laszlo," both airing on the Cartoon Network.

Carlos can also be heard as Mr. Crocker, the schoolteacher on the Nickelodeon hit series "Fairly Odd Parents," Rocko on "Rocko's Modern Life," as Rikochet on "Mucha Lucha," and in the PBS series "Handy Mandy, Maya, and Miguel." Carlos has made guest appearances on "Even Stevens," "Lizzie McGuire," "The Brothers Garcia," "Men Behaving Badly," and "That 70s Show." He also starred in his own half-hour comedy special for Comedy Central.

Carlos played one of the wacky penguins alongside Robin Williams in George Miller's animated hit film "Happy Feet" (Warner Bros.). Carlos's past film credits include "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius," "Osmosis Jones" and "A Bug's Life."

Carlos performs his stand-up comedy routine on a regular basis. He also is in development on several of his own series. His one-man show, “I Want to be Liked and Make Money,” prompted Paula Warfield from *Backstage West-Drama-log* to write, “Carlos is anyone or anything he wants to be. He belongs to that rare category of chameleon-esque actors – an extraordinary talent.”

In his free time, Carlos is an avid tennis player and skydiver – he has participated in over 525 jumps.

MARY BIRDSONG (Deputy Cherisa Kimball) was named one of the “Top 10 Talents on the Rise” by *The Hollywood Reporter*. Birdsong joined the cast of Comedy Central’s hit series “Reno 911!” for the third season. Birdsong has a lot more in common with the “Reno” cast than her deputy’s badge, having graduated from the same college as Kerri Kenney-Silver, Thomas Lennon and Robert Ben Garant. She earned her BFA in Acting from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts and was also awarded the Stella Adler Award for Outstanding Achievement in Acting. Previously, she appeared on Comedy Central as a regular on the faux-debate show “Crossballs,” in Denis Leary’s “Contest Searchlight” and on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. Hardcore fans of the channel may even recall her appearing in a sketch of the series “Viva Variety,” created by Garant, Kenney-Silver, and Lennon. Other television credits include a co-starring role in the CBS sitcom “Welcome to New York,” starring Christine Baranski, as well as guest spots on MTV’s “Apt. 2F,” NBC’s “Ed” and “Late Night with Conan O’Brien,” ABC’s “Talk to Me,” and E! television’s “The Howard Stern Show.”

More recently Mary starred in the Broadway play “Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me” at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theater. It is a one man show with a cast of six. Mary played many roles including Joan Rivers, Judy Garland, and Jodie Foster. Other stage credits include the role of Vixen Fox in Elaine May’s off-Broadway comedy “Adult Entertainment” with Danny Aiello and Jeannie Berlin at the Variety Arts Theatre in New York City. She also wrote and starred as Judy Garland in the one-woman off-Broadway show “Judy Speaks” at the Ars Nova Theatre in New York City, where she debuted her new one-woman rock musical “The 99 Cent Whore.”

Film credits include “Pizza,” “Le Chase,” “Above Freezing,” “Let it Snow,” “In God’s Hands” and “The Last Request.” In addition, she has done voiceover work on numerous commercials.

ROBERT BEN GARANT (Deputy Travis Junior, Co-Screenwriter, Director, Executive Producer) was born in Cookeville, Tennessee. He spent the early nineties appearing in off-off Broadway theaters (bars) in New York City with the comedy group The State. The State then had a three season run on MTV, which led to a forty-four minute run on CBS. He then created, wrote, produced, and occasionally appeared in three seasons of “Viva Variety” on Comedy Central.

Since relocating to Los Angeles, he and his partner, Thomas Lennon, have written feature films for Disney, Spyglass, Imagine, Twentieth Century Fox (including the recent box-office hit “Night at the Museum”), Warner Bros., Columbia, Paramount, New Line, Dimension, and Universal Pictures. He recently directed his second feature film, “Balls of Fury,” for Universal and Spyglass.

In his spare time, he writes, executive produces and stars in “Reno 911!” – Comedy Central’s second or third biggest show. He lives in Glendale.

KERRI KENNEY-SILVER (Deputy Trudy Wiegel, Co-Screenwriter, Executive Producer) was the only female member of the sketch comedy group, "The State," on MTV. She then starred in "Viva Variety" on Comedy Central.

Kerri starred in "The Ellen Show" and “Still Standing” on CBS, and has appeared in numerous guest star roles. She has been the voice of many cartoon characters in such productions as Disney's "Buzz Lightyear," "Kim Possible" and "The Weekenders," among others. Currently she stars in “Reno 911!,” which she created with Thomas Lennon and Robert Ben Garant.

Kerri is the lead singer and bass player in the all-female rock group Cake Like, which has had much success touring Europe and America, and has put out three albums.

THOMAS LENNON (Lieutenant Jim Dangle, Co-Screenwriter, Executive Producer), originally from Chicago, began his career as a graduate of NYU's Tisch

School of the Arts' experimental theater wing. It was here that he co-founded the sketch comedy troupe "The State." The group went on to critical success with their self-titled hit series on MTV, where he was one of its stars, producers and writers. "The State" was nominated for a 1995 CableACE award for Best Comedy Series and ran for three seasons.

Lennon then created, produced and starred in Comedy Central's "Viva Variety," which was an instant critical smash for the new network. The show garnered a CableACE nomination for Best Comedy Series in 1997 and enjoyed three successful seasons. Lennon has appeared in the films "Memento," "Le Divorce," "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days," "A Guy Thing," "The Godfather of Green Bay," "Conversations with Other Women" and "Heights."

Lennon and Robert Ben Garant have written the scripts for seven films, including "The Pacifier," "Night at the Museum," and "Balls of Fury."

Lennon currently resides in Los Angeles and is the co-creator, executive producer, and star of Comedy Central's hit series "Reno 911!"

WENDI McLENDON-COVEY(Deputy Clementine Johnson), in between bubble baths, has been known to do a little bit of acting. In addition to her role as Deputy Clementine Johnson on "Reno 911!," she is also a main company member of the famed Groundling Theater in Los Angeles. You can find her on E! Television and on VH1, providing smarmy commentary about pop culture. She has also appeared in the film "Bewitched" starring Will Ferrell and Nicole Kidman. Wendi was the co-writer of the critically acclaimed sketch shows "We're Blond and Pretty...What Happened to You?" and "Girls Who Say Yes."

She lives in Long Beach with Greg Covey (the world's only perfect man) and two cats.

NIECY NASH (Deputy Raineesha Williams) was sitting in her grandmother's living room at the tender age of five when she first witnessed an elegant black actress grace her television screen. From the sight of the luminous Lola Falana, Niecy decided, "That's what I'm gonna do – be fabulous and be on TV!" And that is what she has

successfully done. Niecy stars as Deputy Raineesha Williams in the Comedy Central hit series “Reno 911!” She also hosts Style Network’s home-makeover series “Clean House,” which premiered in September 2003.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Niecy spent an influential period during her childhood with her grandmother and mother in St. Louis. Niecy attended Cal State Dominguez Hills, where she majored in theater and graduated with a BA, a husband, a baby, and a mission. Soon after graduation, Niecy made a fateful decision to call a casting director she had auditioned for months earlier. When he answered the phone she said, “I don’t know if you remember me. I’m Niecy Nash, I’m broke, I’ve got a baby, and I need a job.” He told her to come down to his office and audition for his new movie and Niecy landed her first paid gig in a scene opposite Whoopi Goldberg in “Boys on the Side.”

Niecy’s film credits include “Guess Who,” starring Bernie Mac and Ashton Kutcher, and the comedy “Hairshow,” starring Mo’Nique. Niecy also co-starred in Robert Altman’s “Cookie’s Fortune,” and in “The Bachelor,” “Em & Me,” and “Malibu’s Most Wanted.”

Her television credits include a recurring role on “The Bernie Mac Show,” in which Niecy portrayed Bernie’s sister, Auntie Benita. She also had recurring roles on “That’s Life,” “Popular” and “City of Angels.” Niecy had guest-starring roles on “Monk,” “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,” “Girlfriends,” “NYPD Blue,” “That’s So Raven,” “One on One,” “Judging Amy” and “Reba.” She made her animated series debut on the Comedy Central series “Kid Notorious,” which was based on the infamous life of producer Robert Evans.

Niecy’s style, humor, and quick wit have garnered her opportunities for hosting pre-shows and viewing parties for both the Emmys® and the Oscars®. She has also made notable appearances on “The Sharon Osbourne Show,” “Celebrity Justice” and VH1’s “Big in ’04 Awards.”

Recently, Niecy started the production company Next in Line, which will focus on producing television and feature film projects. She is also the front person for M.A.V.I.S. (Mothers Against Violence in Schools), which was founded by Niecy’s mother in 1993, following the tragic death of her younger brother, Michael Ensley, who

was shot and killed on his high school campus. M.A.V.I.S. aims to inform the public about the violence children encounter on school campuses. Niecy works tirelessly as the front person for this organization, performing in and organizing fund-raising events.

CEDRIC YARBROUGH (Deputy S. Jones) is a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he graduated from Minnesota State University. He cultivated his improv/sketch-comedy background from Dudley Riggs' Brave New Workshop. His past credits include "Andy Richter Controls the Universe," "Cedric the Entertainer Presents" and "The Parkers."

Yarbrough guest-starred in the comedy series "Arrested Development," "The Bernie Mac Show," and "Bad Girls Guide," and he appeared in the blockbuster films "Meet the Fockers" and "The 40 Year Old Virgin." He lends his voice talents to the animated series, "Boondocks."

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