

GFT Entertainment and Nu Image present

DETENTION

For teacher Sam Decker and his students ... today's lesson is survival

A GFT Entertainment Production

Written by John Sheppard

Directed by Sidney J Furie

Produced by Gary Howsam

Starring DOLPH LUNDGREN

**Director of Photography CURTIS PETERSEN Editor SAUL PINCUS
Production Designer RAYLORENZ Executive Producer AVI LERNER**

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MAIN CAST & PRODUCTION

Cast:

Sam Decker
Chester Lamb
Mick Ashton
Hogie Hogarth
Alicia Roberts
Jay Tee Barrow
Willy Lopez
Gloria Waylon
Viktor
Aleks
Earl Hendorf
Margo Conway

DOLPH LUNDGREN
ALEX KARZIS
COREY SEVIER
CHRIS COLLINS
DANIELLE HAMPTON
MPHO KOAHO
DOV TIEFENBACH
KATA DOBO
JOSEPH SCOREN
MIFF
LARRY DAY
JENNIFER BAXTER

Production:

Director
Producer
Co-producer
Executive Producer
Writer
Director of Photography
Editor
Production Manager
Art Director
Casting Director
Costume Designer
Key Hair
Key Make-Up
Locations Manager
Stunt Coordinator
Sound Mixer
Key Grip
Post Supervisor
SPFX Coordinator
Weapons Specialist

SIDNEY J FURIE
GARY HOWSAM
LEWIN WEBB
AVI LERNER
JOHN SHEPPARD
CURTIS PETERSEN C.S.C.
SAUL PINCUS
DEAN PERLMUTTER
RAY LORENZ
MARJORIE LECKER
KIM HARKNESS
JOSIE STEWART
TRACI LOADER
MAUREEN DOCHERTY
SHANE CARDWELL
VALENTIN PRINCOP
MARTIN NICHOLS
OLIVER GROOM
MAX MACDONALD
NICK VEZIRIS

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Synopsis

Teacher Sam Decker (**DOLPH LUNDGREN**) has had enough. Following a successful military career in the Special Forces, Decker returned to his inner city neighbourhood to teach in the toughest school in town. He thought he could make a difference in a school where drugs and guns are part of the unofficial curriculum. But angered and frustrated by a system that doesn't seem to work, Decker decides to give headmaster Lyle Neeson (**ROY LEWIS**) notice to quit. Undeterred by Neeson's attempts to dissuade him from 'selling out', Decker reluctantly agrees to supervise one final detention class with the school's most troublesome kids.

But little does Decker or his motley crew of would-be dropouts realize is that Lincoln High is the designated after-hours launch pad for a major criminal plan - tonight. Masterminded by the brilliant Chester Lamb (**ALEX KARZIS**) and his sadistic sidekick Gloria Waylon (**KATA DOBO**), the plot to use the school's auto shop to prep two police cars and hide a drugs stash worth \$250K is already underway. As the school is systematically alarmed and locked up tight for the night, Tee Jay (**MPHO KOAHO**), Alicia (**DANIELLE HAMPTON**), Hogie (**CHRIS COLLINS**), Willie (**DOV TIEFENBACH**) and Mick (**COREY SEVIER**) are sitting targets.

On discovering that the school is not empty as pre-arranged, Chester Lamb (**ALEX KARZIS**) and his mercenary companions Gloria (**KATA DOBO**), Victor (**JOSEPH SCOREN**) and Alek (**MIF**) are determined to let nothing stand in their way. The hunt is on as Lamb turns the school's surveillance equipment against Decker and the kids, stalking his prey from classroom to classroom, and turning the corridors into a battleground. As they band together to regain control of their school, Decker and the kids uncover a sinister conspiracy which leads back to the higher echelons of the police establishment and beyond. For both teacher and students, today's lesson is survival.

About the production

DETENTION, a tense action thriller shot in Hamilton, Ontario, stars DOLPH LUNDGREN as teacher Sam Decker. The feature film reunites the successful partnership of director Sidney J Furie and producer Gary Howsam, marking their eighth project together. Other recent GFT Entertainment collaborations include feature films GLOBAL HERESY, PARTNERS IN ACTION and THE CIRCUIT. "Sidney and I have become close friends and built up real trust over this body of work. DETENTION was no exception," says Howsam.

Furie's close friend and director Paul Lynch developed the script for DETENTION. Both Furie and Howsam have worked with DETENTION writer John Sheppard before. Director Furie recalls, "I read DETENTION and thought 'this is a great story' and to cut a long story short, a deal with GFT Entertainment and Nu Image was set up."

At this point the director met up with DETENTION star Dolph Lundgren in Los Angeles. "Normally you would expect two or three weeks to go by for an actor to consider a script but Dolph read it that night and called me the next morning to say he loved it. We organized a reading and it went from there." Furie says.

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With a distribution deal finalized with Alliance Atlantis, the director then embarked on the hardest task of making any movie - the casting.

"Obviously the most important thing is the script, that kind of goes without saying, but once you have a great script, what's got to be right is the casting. Casting will move the script up a few notches or down." he says.

Right from their very first meeting, Furie and actor Dolph Lundgren established a close connection. "Working with Dolph was one of the best experiences I have ever, ever had. He's the age of my elder son and it was sort of a father son relationship during the shoot. We would finish maybe one or two in the morning, the hotel would put aside some drinks and we'd come back, sit on the patio, review the day's work and what was ahead for the next." says Furie.

"Dolph's extremely hard working. He comes to work very prepared, knows his lines and where that scene fits in the whole picture. He's a good critic of his own acting too. I remember once we'd finished a scene and we were onto something else and he came to me and said he could do that scene better. We moved the cameras back and shot it again. And he was right." says Furie.

Furie cast **Alex Karzis** in the role of criminal mastermind Chester Lamb, a larger-than-life character who will stop at nothing, including tracking down and killing teenagers, to pull off his plan. "In these kind of movies you walk a fine line with the bad guys. The villain has to be theatrical. When I cast Alex I knew he was a brilliant actor, but I had no idea of the character he would create as Lamb. I found out on set in the first take and was blown away by it." he says.

For both producer Howsam and director Furie DETENTION proved yet another fruitful and enjoyable experience. "I think the film has turned out really well and once again we had a good time working together to climb the various hills involved in production. It's my intention to work with Sidney as long as we are both making films." says Howsam.

Gary Howsam has been producing filmed entertainment for over 20 years. GFT Entertainment, founded by Howsam in 1997, is a Toronto based entertainment company that has independently produced over thirty features since its inception. Recent feature film projects include ABSOLON (2002), CRIME SPREE (2002), PARTNERS IN ACTION (2002) and THE LIMIT (2002).

Sidney J Furie has been working and directing in the feature film industry for over 40 years. Among Furie's early credits are THE IPCRESS FILE (1965), LADY SINGS THE BLUES (1972) and IRON EAGLE. His more recent feature film work includes: GOING BACK (2001), THE CIRCLE (2001), GLOBAL HERESY (2002) and PARTNERS IN ACTION (2002).

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Dolph Lundgren plays teacher SAM DECKER

For Dolph Lundgren, a major star of the action film genre, DETENTION offered the opportunity to play a teacher, a role he has had in real life but not on the big screen before. "I'd done a little bit of teaching when I was studying for my Masters degree but much more in Martial Arts, particularly coaching beginners and kids. Obviously the conditions at this high school are a little different from this – they don't want to listen so it's much harder work." he says.

"I remember one scene in particular. I'm in front of 25 kids and Sidney, the director, tells these actors to do anything they can to ensure I can't get my lesson across. Of course, after one take the kids really get going, there's paper flying around the room, they're yelling and fighting. Trying to get them interested was so tough, it made me think that if teaching was like that I wouldn't ever want to go back to it again." he recalls.

Lundgren particularly enjoyed the director's interactive relationship with the actors. "Sidney gives you space to explore things and to try things perhaps not exactly as they are in the script. He will set a scene in such a way that it's open for improvisation from any side. Everyone on set was ready to respond to that. Sidney's gave me the chance to try things in acting I've not done for a long time." he says.

Having taken time out of the movie industry to be with his family (Lundgren has two daughters aged six and two years), DETENTION marks the first feature film project for Lundgren in two years but he's in peak physical shape. "I was very athletic when I got into this business. When the whole 80s bodybuilding thing was going on, I got into that too. I think I was trying to be confident through being bigger and more muscular. Retracing my steps to get back to a more athletic shape now wasn't as easy as I thought it would be, particularly as I'm now in my 40s as opposed to my 20s." he says.

"During this break from making films I've had the chance to train, to change my workout routine and to slim down a lot. I wanted to get back to my old fighting weight at the Tokyo World Championships when I was 21 and weighed in at 93 kilos. I'm now around 94 so I'm getting pretty close. If you are an action star you are expected to look a certain way or the audience won't buy it." Lundgren says.

For the first time in a number of years, there was the opportunity for Lundgren to do all of his own stunts while under the watchful eye of DETENTION stunt coordinator Shane Cardwell. But size does matter when it comes to stunt-work as the 6'5" star explains. "Being a big guy, when I do a high dive and my body drops into a fall there's more stress than with a smaller person. You don't see many circus acrobats at my height. Normally he's the guy at the bottom of the pyramid! In one scene I drop down over the balcony of the school auditorium. It was important that it looked convincing but also that I didn't get injured or the movie would have suffered. I've worked with Shane on a couple of movies and I trust him. If he says its safe, its safe." he says.

Lundgren's original career direction was far removed from the world of making movies. His father is a Chemical engineer and Lundgren obtained a full scholarship to MIT in Boston to study this too. "I was there for a few weeks when I decided I wasn't going to finish but was going to New York to study acting. I didn't know how to tell my parents - so I didn't. When they called and asked me how the studies were going I replied 'great'. I figured as I was still studying something I didn't have to lie. Eventually they did find out but they took it really well. They reckoned acting was a phase and I'd go back to engineering one day." he says.

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With around 18 years experience in the film business under his belt, Lundgren attests his determination and discipline as qualities he developed through his training in Martial Arts. "I was incredibly shy when I first got into the business, I still am to some extent. I've overcome that shyness through contact sports, but I wanted to find that same confidence interacting with people through acting instead of in the ring," he says.

Having been immersed in the world of action movies for most of his career, Lundgren attributes the universal appeal of these films to ancient roots. "Action films are an extension of Greek myths which have been around since Homer's *The Iliad*. Everybody's life has some mythical quality. You struggle against obstacles, you fight to get to a higher level and there are great loves. With an action film its just more apparent. That's why people will always love action movies."

Having first burst into international stardom with his role in ROCKY IV, Lundgren has had leading roles in over 20 feature films including MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE, THE PUNISHER, SHOWDOWN IN LITTLE TOKYO, RED SCORPION, UNIVERSAL SOLDIER, JOHNNY MNEMONIC and BLACK JACK.

ALEX KARZIS plays arch villain Chester Lamb

Toronto based actor Alex Karzis cuts a striking figure playing the role of Chester Lamb, a villain who will let nothing and nobody – certainly not a group of trapped and terrified teenagers - threaten the success of his master plan. Swathed in black from head to toe and with bleached blonde hair, Chester sports eye-catching tattoos and painted fingernails.

"Chester is kind of a rock star meets gangster. He's almost a super-villain without going into comic book territory." Says Karzis of his character. "Chester's corporate and employs the same principles that some of the big corporate firms employ today. He loves what he does – it's not about right or wrong." he continues.

At Chester's side is the chillingly beautiful Gloria Waylon, played by Hungarian actress Kata Dobo. "Chester's relationship with Gloria is a very particular kind – they are a Bonnie and Clyde on a more uninhibited level. It's an addiction with Gloria – he's addicted to her but she's more addicted to herself." he says.

A classically trained actor, Karzis particularly enjoys the craft of making films. "Unlike theatre or books, films are very much a collaborative process. Everyone who worked on DETENTION has left a unique imprint on the film. Filming DETENTION was never predictable, every day we pushed the characters on and developed the scenes." he says.

Karzis has worked recently with director Furie on three other GFT Entertainment feature films, GLOBAL HERESY (2002), PARTNERS IN ACTION (2002) and THE CIRCLE (2001). Other film work includes: YOU BELONG TO ME, JANE JOE, CHASING CAIN and THE CAVEMAN'S VALENTINE.

COREY SEVIER plays Mick Ashton

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Corey Sevier plays Mick, an edgy skateboarder who has little respect for authority figure, and in particular teacher Sam Decker (DOLPH LUNDGREN). "I enjoyed playing Mick but it's was a pretty big stretch to become him. I'd like to think I'm a serious student, I always did my homework and looked up to my teachers!" he says.

"I can more relate to the more mature character which come through towards the end of DETENTION. We see Mick as a bit of a coward but he goes through a transition and by the end turns out to be something of a hero." Sevier says.

The 17-year-old actor particularly enjoyed the physicality of playing a skateboarder and doing his own stunts. "I had to master looking comfortable on a board even though I'd never really even tried it before. In the film I drive a van through walls, get shot at in every other scene and fire off a 9mm gun. I take a punch, climb through the ceiling and run from classroom to classroom – I loved it!" he says.

Working alongside action movie star Dolph Lundgren proved a talking point for Sevier's friends. "All my guy friends are jealous – they are huge fans of Dolph's films. I didn't know what to expect on the first day of shooting but Dolph's very generous as an actor – he will work with you to prepare for a scene, offering up suggestions and working on different scenarios." Sevier says.

Sevier landed his first acting job at the tender age of seven, playing alongside Angelica Houston and Sam Neill on the television mini series FAMILY PICTURES. As a young actor Sevier played the lead Timmie in the television series LASSIE for two years. More recent television work includes: 2030 (YTV), BLACK SASH (WB). Recent film work includes: BETWEEN STRANGERS (2002), THE MONKEYS and EDGE OF MADNESS (2002).

CHRIS COLLINS plays Hogie

Actor Chris Collins knows he will wince when he views the finished fight scenes in DETENTION for the first time. "In one of them I got punched in the face! It was an accident, but I suppose it shows the kind of intensity we had on set. We tried to make it as real as possible ... but this too real for me." he says.

"Cassius Hogarth is an inner city kid, he knows more than he ever shows. He withholds a lot, but by the end of the film we see Hogie has a good heart. Like Hogie I got detention quite a few times – I had problems with other kids. For DETENTION I took bits of my life and put them into the character of Hogie." he says.

The physical demands of the action film weren't a problem for the 23 year-old actor. "I'm quite athletic. All my life I've played ice hockey and basketball at a competitive level. And baseball – I got a scholarship with baseball. I even golf. But I'm allergic to weights!" he says.

Collins previous film work includes: BULLETPROOF MUNK and CRIME SPREE (2002). Collins has just finished filming CROWN HEIGHTS (2003). Television work includes: ODYSSEY 5 (Showtime), BLUE MURDER (Global) and SINS OF THE FATHER (Fox).

DANIELLE HAMPTON plays Alicia

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In taking on the role of Alicia, a seven-months pregnant teenager, Danielle Hampton found she could tap into first hand experience close at home. "Luckily my best friend had just had a baby so I was able to ask her exactly what she was going through." she says.

"DETENTION is my first action film. I was intrigued to find out how we would do the various stunts, particularly where I slash one of the terrorists with a machete. Doing our own stunts helped us as actors to keep in character. Even the bumps and bruises, nicks and cuts have been great experience." she says.

"I found getting into the pregnant thing completely natural. We did have to modify Alicia's outfit with pregnancy pads. We even made a pocket for the mike in the pillow so it's was a bit like a kangaroo pouch with the various other technical bits I had to store in there!" Hampton recalls.

"I loved seeing myself pregnant, even as a little girl I would stick my stomach out in front of a mirror to see what it would look like. My parents and all my friends will vouch for this! Its great to play this role and enjoy the feeling without having to go through the whole process – I'm not ready to having children quite yet." she says.

Twenty-four-year-old Hampton made her feature film debut in John Fawcett's award-winning GINGER SNAPS (2001). Other work includes IF WISHES WERE HORSES (2001) and the television sci-fi action series *Mutant X*. Hampton wrote, directed and produced her one-woman show at the Fringe Festival in 2001.

MPHO KOAHO plays Jay Tee

Nineteen-year-old Koaho plays the role of Jay Tee, one of the most unruly and opinionated students at Lincoln High who is also we discover, the reluctant father of Alicia's unborn child.

"Jay Tee is one of those guys isn't as cool as he appears. He's the loudmouth guy who isn't living up to his responsibilities. School is just a stage for him as it was for me! I was never the biggest fan of school." says Koaho.

"You definitely know when I am in the room and that's the same for Jay Tee. Party life was the thing – I was getting late slips all the time. I never did detention at my school but I was always very, very late for everything!" he says.

Koaho first worked with DETENTION's director Sidney J Furie on the feature film PARTNERS IN ACTION. "I love action film. I think it tests your acting and touches every aspect of your being. Dodging bullets and saving the girl is best fun you can fun in making movies." he says.

Koaho's previous film work includes: PARTNERS IN ACTION (2002), THE SALTON SEA (2002) and SNIPES (2001).

DOV TIEFENBACH plays Willy

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Twenty-three-year-old actor Dov Tiefenbach plays Willy, a wheelchair bound kid who finds himself caught up in events when he stays behind in the school library. For Tiefenbach, going 'back to school' was an interesting experience, particularly playing the role of studious and serious Willy.

"It's been a long time since I've been back - I dropped out. In a way I'm very similar to my character Willy but our goals were different. I wanted to be a musician, but Willy wants to be an academic and to go to university. He's an outcast, doesn't feel like he fits in, and certainly isn't popular. I was definitely like that in high school, I had my own ambitions, my own thing I wanted to do. Willy wishes he could hang out with the other guys, but they make fun of him and vice versa. But adversary pulls them together in the end." says Tiefenbach.

Working with veteran director Sidney Furie was one of the highlights for Tiefenbach. "Usually when you work on feature film there's a specific slot you fit into. Directors usually want you to come up, hit your mark and say the line. It can be stifling. With Sidney, you show up and he lets you and your fellow actors create a scene. All of a sudden it becomes a creative process rather than just a job." he says.

"During filming DETENTION I would wheel around in the chair all day on set, even when not in a scene. It's a totally different way of life, if there's a big gang of guys talking in a circle, how do you get into the circle? Being in the wheelchair took a while to get used to, I really wanted to get up and stretch my legs. I found Willy's attitude through my frustration with being in this chair." Tiefenbach explains.

Playing a character with a disability proved an enlightening experience for the thoughtful actor as he explains, "In one scene I am taken out of my wheelchair and I have to remember to rely entirely on my arms alone. It has made me look at disabled people in a totally different way and to appreciate the challenges they face."

Currently dividing his time between acting and his passion for music, Toronto based Tiefenbach plays in a number of bands. Recent film work has included: KNOCKAROUND GUYS (2002), IN BETWEEN STRANGERS (2002) and FLOWER AND GARNET (2002).

KATA DOBO plays Gloria Waylon

Actress Kata Dobo plays the chillingly cold and calculating Gloria Waylon, Chester Lamb's evil sidekick and partner in crime. "In the beginning it was a bit scary for me as I'd never played a bad girl before. But by playing Gloria I can do things I can't do in real life - without going to jail or course!" she says.

To play the role of Gloria, Dobo had to become familiar with holding and shooting guns, a task which came relatively easily, much to the surprise of the actor. "I had played an undercover cop in a movie in Hungary and had used the gun in the last scene - but nothing like this. I am practically living with this gun. It's funny, whenever I am getting ready for my scenes, the first thing I look for is the gun." she says.

"My role in DETENTION is a very physical one. You have to be safe with these firearms but also utterly convincing. So if I'm firing off rounds I have to work really hard to stay safe, to stay in character and to make it seem real." Dobo says.

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The actor moved to L.A. only three years ago but in her native Hungary, Kata Dobo has had an established acting and modeling career. Dobo's transition from model to actor was one of chance rather than design. "I was modeling for years - it was great money. A friend called me up to let me know there was an audition and that they wanted to see me. I turned up with my portfolio expecting a modeling job but when I saw some of the big actors from TV shows, I didn't know what I was doing there. To my surprise the producers suggested I try out for the part in their television drama. With no experience I really didn't think I could be picked but they cast me – probably because I was very relaxed and natural as I didn't think I had a chance." she says.

This successful audition marked a major change in Dobo's career direction. "I was introduced to an amazing drama coach. For one year she argued with me that I should try for drama school. In Hungary there is only one drama school and with around 4,000 applications for just 18 places it's a very tough selection process. But it was unbelievable – I was accepted! Just a couple of days before I got this news I had discovered that I had been cast in the comedy OUT OF ORDER. It was an amazing year - unrepeatable."

Now based in Los Angeles, Dobo is acutely aware of the pressures put upon an actor. "My accent has made it difficult to get the attention of producers. But I don't want to lose it – it's who I am." she says.

Kata Dobo's previous film work includes: ROLLERBALL, AMERICAN RAPSODY, 15 MINUTES OUT OF ORDER, EUROPE EXPRESS.

LARRY DAY plays police-officer Hendorf

Larry Day is one of Canada's most hard working actors and he clearly loves every minute of being on set. "I act for free, they pay me for waiting." he quips. The actor has played police officers before, but not one who turns out to be as dangerous as the double-dealing Earl Hendorf in DETENTION.

The interesting relationship between teacher Decker (DOLPH LUNDGREN) and police officer Hendorf evolved some weeks into the shoot as actor Day explains. "We were discussing the way in which it becomes clear Hendorf is a bad cop and how he reacts to Decker. By introducing the idea that they have a history of fighting on the same side, this adds an edge to the scenes. Hendorf served with Decker in the Special Forces, Decker then becomes a teacher and Hendorf a cop. When Hendorf first started off in the service he wanted to do well, to protect and serve. Somewhere along the lines he became discontented. Decker and Hendorf just ended up on opposite sides of the fence." he says.

The actor's in-depth analysis is intended to ensure his portrayal of Hendorf is intense and convincing. "Hendorf made a bit of a mistake and got involved in a drugs deal. He wants just one hit and to make a lot of money. My character's secret is that he likes Decker. Hendorf may be trying to kill Decker but he still has a lot of respect for him. No character is cut and dried. It makes it as interesting as possible to watch." he says.

Larry Day's major foray into acting came at the height of a hugely successful international career as a DJ and nightclub owner. "I've been lucky. I basically did a few things when I was younger then got into clubbing in the very early days. I travelled all over the world - Chicago, Miami, Acapulco and Milan." he says.

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"My girlfriend at the time landed a lead role in a television series and her agent encouraged me to audition. I got the part on SIRENS and on the first day of the shoot I couldn't understand why I had given acting up. So I was acting part-time and still running a club. Crunch time came one weekend when I literally didn't sleep for four days. I made this big decision that I was going to be an award-winning actor - but then didn't get any work for four months!" he says.

Despite this brief disappointment, Day's acting career has gone from strength to strength and he has appeared in over 30 films and television series. But juggling the demands of two careers seems to be second nature to Day as he is also one of the creators and hosts of the hugely successful radio show *Backspin* on Montreal's CFRQ, with plans to syndicate it across Canada and the US.

Larry Day's recent film work includes: OUT OF CONTROL (1998), DEAD SILENT (1999), CHANGE (2000), ONE WAY OUT (2002), SAVAGE MESSIAH (2002), THE HOUSE ON TURK STREET (2002) and PARTNERS IN ACTION (2002, also directed by DETENTION's Sidney J Furie).

JENNIFER BAXTER plays teacher Decker's girlfriend Margo

The 27-year-old actor clearly remembers her first excitement on reading the script for DETENTION. "I thought great! I get slapped, hit with a gun and thrown around a lot." she laughs. "I come from doing a lot of comedy so its fun to do action - especially with Dolph Lundgren!" she says. Born in British Columbia, Baxter has lived in Montreal but is now based in Toronto.

Baxter's casting as Decker's girlfriend was finalized some time before the first day of production. "I had to meet Dolph Lundgren before I got the job! It was one of those 'chemistry tests' I suppose" she says. "I was a bit scared when I went to meet up with him but we both joked around. Humour's the first thing I use to see what the person is about. It was funny - I met up with him at the hotel and the bar waiter had just given him a bottle of champagne, two glasses with strawberries on the edge. So my first thought was 'what's going on here?' " she says.

The Canadian actor is gaining a impressive profile through her comedy work. As part of the a comedy group 'The Barber Room', she has just completed filming a series for CTV, due to air in early 2003. "Its so fun, I'm working with a bunch of friends. We perform a lot live, so television seems much lazier." she says.

Baxter's television and film work includes: KNOCKAROUND GUYS (2001), DROP THE BEAT (TV) FREQUENCY (2000) and WASHED UP (2000).

Behind the scenes

Location, location, location:

Finding a high school, the main location for DETENTION, completely free of summer schools and classes for a six-week production shoot was Locations Manager Maureen Doherty's most important task. "The

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Hamilton Board of Education and Economic Development Board were great. I was sent to four different schools but Glendale Secondary School proved ideal with its auto shop. Once we found the school we could find the other locations as near to the school as possible." she says.

Despite a thorough knowledge of Hamilton locations through her work on three previous GFT Entertainment features, GLOBAL HERESY, ROAD RAGE and PARTNERS IN ACTION, Doherty discovered DETENTION required some new research – into manholes. "We had one scene which involved the terrorists coming up from a manhole underneath a police van. I discovered that most of the manholes in Hamilton were too deep for us to use - health and safety would have prevented an actor to go down one unless they wore a harness and tripod to lower them down and the scene wouldn't allow for this. However we did pinpoint some shallower ones at only three to four feet deep which were ideal. So now I am an expert in Hamilton's manholes all of things!" she says.

Creating the illusion:

Ray Lorenz as Art Director for DETENTION had the task of melding all of the elements of lighting, special effects and stunts to help create the film director's vision. "On every page of the script there was something for me to get my teeth into in terms of the design aspect - vans crashing into walls, motorbikes screaming down school corridors, explosions, helicopter crash and shoots up constantly." he says. "At the start it was overwhelming but we broke it down into individual components and worked hand in hand with special affects and the stunt coordinator." he says.

Two of the design challenges DETENTION presented to Lorenz included building a security station to look as if it belonged to the school and crashing a van through a locker wall without destroying school property. "On a smaller budget, everyone is forced to be more creative." he says.

"For the scene in which one of the kids crashes into a wall of lockers, we created a thin wall with breakaway parts and then filled it with all the things which you would normally find in a school locker - clothes, bags and some paper. When the whole thing exploded, the screen was filled with these objects flying across. It's all about creating an illusion." he says.

Exploding helicopters and giant fireballs, the wonderful world of Special Effects:

"You could have heated your house for a month with the amount of power we generated in less than three seconds for our biggest explosion in DETENTION." says Ron Craig, Special Effects Coordinator. "The challenge is always to make it look dangerous and get a great visual, but to make it safe." he says.

In one of DETENTION's final dramatic scenes, a helicopter is shot at, fills with smoke and then explodes. Craig and his team took a couple of days to deliberate over the possibilities but with the pressure of production schedules, they had to quickly arrive at a safe solution. "We couldn't have anything which was pyrotechnic that burns inside the aircraft. Nor could we have any kind of smoke machine as it would have to draw power off the 24 volt system inside the helicopter - that too would have been dangerous. We also couldn't use anything that had an internal combustion." he says.

"The final solution was actually to use two dry chemical fire extinguishers, taking the yellow powder which was inside and substituting it with very fine white powder. We ran a tube underneath the aircraft and into the side door of the helicopter and then discharged the extinguisher. It hung in the air like smoke and achieved our visual effect brilliantly." he says.

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Capturing it all on film:

Curtis Petersen is one of Canada's most established cameramen with over 100 movies under his belt. "I've worked with the director Sidney many, many times. We started using multiple cameras on IRON EAGLE, our first movie together and we've just gone from there. We don't have to talk too much on set, we seem to know what the other is thinking." says Petersen, Director of Photography for DETENTION.

"Action scenes like the motorcycle driving recklessly through school corridors are always fun to do. No matter what you do though, the story has to come first - it drives the movie. You don't want any of the physical or technical difficulties to get in the way of what the actors have to do. Most of the stunts we covered with multiple cameras, using anything from three to eleven cameras in some instances."

"As we were filming mostly in the one location, the school, our main goal was to keep it interesting, using lighting design and camera moves." he says.

Petersen has worked across all film genres in his career to date and is resistant to any suggestions he has a distinctive style. "My goal is getting what the director and the producer want and getting that faster than anyone else - if that's a style that's mine." says Petersen.

Physical transformations, the wizards of hair, makeup and costume:

DETENTION makeup designer Tracy Loader and hair designer Josie Steward would spend up to three hours before the start of each daily shoot transforming the actors physically into their characters. They created a distinctive, punk rock appearance for terrorists Chester Lamb, Gloria Waylon, Victor and Alek who sport tattoos, nail polish and piercings.

"The director Sidney wanted a more stylized look for this action film, in particular with the 'bad guys'. When Alek (MIFF) first arrived on set with a shaved head we decided to put a tattoo of a vertebrae down the back of his skull. With Chester (ALEX KARZIS) we researched some old tattoos from the 50s." says Loader.

But shooting DETENTION in summer with temperatures around 30 degrees, dealing with the humidity was the biggest battle for the makeup designer. "Chester's tattoos would take a couple of hours, first putting on a couple of stencils to ensure the detail is there, then airbrushing and finally powder on top. With the amount of moisture in the air we would have to retouch them every couple of hours." says Loader.

"DETENTION was a fantastic film to work on - we could be very creative. I needed to make an acid burn for the scene in which Chester's arm goes on fire. Using a plastic to mould the burns, I then added a material called Colodian to pucker the skin and give it the authentic shiny appearance." says Loader.

Actor Kata Dobo donned a bright pink wig as the final component of her transformation into villainess Gloria. "I gave Kata a choice of eight coloured wigs but she loved the bright pink one. So much so that at the end of the shoot she went back home to LA with it" says Steward.

The Stunts:

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With 26 years as a stuntman and coordinator to his credit, Shane Cardwell has worked with DETENTION director Sidney J Furie on 10 feature films and Director of Photography Curtis Petersen on over 20. Cardwell will usually begin working on the film even before the first scene has been rehearsed. "When I first read a script I break it down into the stunts, then again into the ones in which we want to use stunt doubles and ones where we feel we can use the actors. We then go out on location, sometimes even redesign the stunts to fit the location." he says.

"Sidney the director wanted the actors to pretty much do their own stunts in DETENTION. There were a lot of fight scenes but Sidney has chosen a great young cast who are eager to try them out." he says.

"To make the stunts believable you have to be flexibility and work with the actors to ensure they are comfortable. If an actor is trying to throw a punch with his left hand but is finding it easier doing it with his right, if it looks good we will go with that." he says.

The veteran of the adrenaline end of the film business has two governing principles he lives by. "Firstly, I want to retire from this business without anyone ever getting hurt on my film set. By this I mean seriously hurt. Of course you are going to get cut or bruised, just as you would if went out to play soccer. Secondly, I never let anyone do anything I've never done myself. And after 26 years I've pretty much done it all." Cardwell says.

"I consider my job safer than a police or fireman's. Nine times out of ten, they have no idea what is behind that door." he finishes.