



PARAMOUNT PICTURES ANNOUNCES ENSEMBLE CAST OF CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE, BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING NEW YORK TIMES YA NOVEL

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson



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HOLLYWOOD, CA (January 22, 2024) _Paramount Pictures today announced the principal cast of the feature film, *Children of Blood and Bone*. Leading the action fantasy film are Thuso Mbedu (*The Woman King*) as Zelig; [Amandia Stenberg](#) (*The Hate U Give*) as Amari; Damson Idris (??Snowfall?) as Inan; and Tosin Cole (??Supacell?) as Tzain. The movie, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Gina Prince-Bythewood (*The Woman King*), is based on the #1 *New York Times* bestselling novel of the same name by Tomi Adeyemi. The movie releases January 15th, 2027 in IMAX.

Also confirmed are Academy Award® winner Viola Davis (*The Woman King*, *G20*) as Mama Agba; Cynthia Erivo (*Wicked*) as Admiral Kaea; Idris Elba (*Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw*) as Lekan; Lashana Lynch (*Bob Marley: One Love*) as Jumoke; and Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years a Slave*) as

King Saran.



Regina King (Photo cr. Tym Shutchai Buacharern)

In negotiations are Academy Award® winner Regina King (*Shirley*) as Queen Nehanda; Diaana Babnicova (*Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot*) as Folake; and Bukky Bakray (*Rocks*) as Binta.

Forthcoming will be additional castings from an open casting call for actors living in Nigeria.

Production is set to begin filming in South Africa in the coming weeks.

Wyck Godfrey and Marty Bowen of Temple Hill Entertainment, together with Karen Rosenfelt of Sunswept Entertainment – the filmmaking team behind the *Twilight* series – will produce, alongside Matt Jackson of Jackson Pictures. Adeyemi and Reggie Rock Bythewood will executive produce. Adeyemi and Prince-Bythewood co-wrote the script.

Paramount Pictures President & CEO Brian Robbins, along with Motion Picture Group Presidents Daria Cercek and Mike Ireland, acquired the rights to the trilogy in a highly competitive bidding war.

Said Prince-Bythewood, “I am so honored and excited to bring Tomi’s *Children of Blood and Bone* and the vibrant world of Orisha to life. Our incredible ensemble reflects the whole of the diaspora. This is where our magic lies.”

In *Children of Blood and Bone*, in an African fantasy kingdom, a young woman goes on a quest to reclaim the magic that was violently stolen from her people. She and her brother ally with the daughter and son of the king to fight back against his brutal rule.

The book series has become an instant classic, with the *Legacy of Orisha* trilogy spending a combined 175 weeks on the New York Times Best Seller list, including four weeks at #1 on the Young Adult Hardcover list for *Children of Blood and Bone*; five weeks at #1 on the Young Adult Hardcover list for *Children of Virtue and Vengeance*; and one week at #1 on the Children’s & Young Adult Series list for *Children of Anguish and Anarchy*. In total, the series has sold almost three million copies worldwide and garnered critical acclaim, with *Children of Blood and Bone* being featured as a Top 100 Fantasy Books of All Time; a New York Times Notable Children’s Book; and a Kirkus Prize Finalist, among other distinctions.

About Paramount Pictures

Paramount Pictures Corporation (PPC), a global producer and distributor of filmed entertainment, is a unit of Paramount Global (NASDAQ: PARA, PARAA), a leading global media and entertainment company that creates premium content and experiences for audiences worldwide. Paramount Pictures has some of the most powerful brands in filmed entertainment, including Paramount Pictures, Paramount Animation, and Paramount Players. PPC operations also include Paramount Home Entertainment, Paramount Pictures International, Paramount Licensing Inc., and Paramount Studio Group.

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