

JOHN MICHAELS

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Producer ZenHQ

John Michaels has been a producer, a financier, and an executive in the film industry for over two decades. He has successfully delivered, and continues to deliver, high quality independent productions and studio feature films.

John signed on with Magnet Media Group as President of Production in November 2008, where he took on an ambitious production slate. Serving as Executive Producer, John recently completed the film entitled *Dark Tide* in 2011, a Co-UK-South African Co-Production starring Academy Award Winner Halle Berry. Michaels served as an Executive Producer on *The Experiment*, starring Academy Award winner Adrien Brody and Academy Award winner Forrest Whitaker, and co-starring Cam Gigandet. Prior to that, John completed *13* as Co-Executive Producer with an ensemble cast including Jason Statham, Mickey Rourke, Sam Riley, Michael Shannon, Ray

Winstone, and Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson. At present John is in preproduction with two new features and is in active development of four more.

From 2001 until signing with Magnet Media, Michaels served as an advisory board member, evaluating, approving and supervising 58 projects for the German Media Fund, VIP Medienfonds GmbH. During his tenure with VIP, the company amassed investment funds over One Billion Dollars making it a leading financier of motion pictures throughout the world. VIP was a partner in the production of such films as *Monster* (Academy Award winner Charlize Theron), *Alpha Dog*, (Emile Hirsch, Bruce Willis, Justin Timberlake), and *The Punisher* (John Travolta), to name a few.

Michaels also produced *Quiet Days in Hollywood* (Academy Award winner Hilary Swank), *The November Conspiracy* (Paige Turco, George Segal and

Elliot Gould), and *Sunset Heat* (starring Dennis Hopper).

He has served as a Line Producer, a Unit Production Manager and Production Executive on numerous feature films, television projects, documentaries, and commercials.

John recently teamed up with ZenHQ Films, a leading production company in Cape Town, and runs ZenHQ's Los Angeles office, serving US clients and partners shooting in South Africa. ZenHQ has been involved in such projects as *Darfur* (Billy Zane, Kristanna Loken), *Hotel Rwanda* (Don Cheadle), and *Stander* (Thomas Jane).

Michaels is a member of the Director's Guild of America and serves as a frequent guest lecturer on international production and financing for the UCLA Film School, CSUN and Chapman University.