

Q & A: Ice Cube and Son

O'Shea Jackson, Jr. plays his dad in 'Straight Outta Compton'

Sandy Cohen
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—O'Shea Jackson Jr. was determined to play his father, Ice Cube, in *Straight Outta Compton*. Not only does the 24-year-old look uncannily like his dad, but he's also got the rapper-turned-movie star's mannerisms and expressions down — something he used to his advantage during the two-year audition process.

Jackson Jr. makes his acting debut in "Straight Outta Compton," opening Aug. 14. The film captures the rise and rupture of N.W.A., the group credited with starting gangster rap and inspiring warning labels on album covers for its provocative, incendiary lyrics. Founding members Ice Cube and Dr. Dre are among the film's producers.

Father and son sat side by side to talk with The Associated Press about bringing Ice Cube to life on-screen. The remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

Associated Press: What's it like seeing your story told by your son?

Ice Cube: I'm proud on a thousand different levels. You always want your kids to step up at the

moment of truth, and he did more than step up. He just owned it. I'm just proud of the production. I'm proud of the movie. I'm proud of the group. I have never been this happy for any project that I've ever done.

AP: Kids often think their parents are dorky in some way. Did you discover anything like that in portraying your dad as a teenager?

O'Shea Jackson Jr.: The only thing that would be remote to that would be the lingo of the '80s, just the things that they said that were 'in'. ... No pun intended: Ice Cube's the coolest dad.

AP: Was there anything you didn't want your son to know about you?

Ice Cube: Seeing my son getting roughed up by the police is not fun. It brings back memories of when I got roughed up by them. He grew up totally different than how I grew up, and to me, he shouldn't have to go through that. But in a movie like this, and to understand really what we all went through, I'm glad that he did feel the tone of what we went through so he could understand it a lot more. He was able to do it in a controlled environment, and not really have these police put their

hands on him, because that would hurt me if they did that for real.

AP: How was it rapping your dad's words, and Ice Cube, how was it watching him do it?

Jackson: I've been seeing him rap these words forever, you know? So it's cool to finally be on the other side of that. To have been looking at his movements and then getting them down. I had the time of my life.

Ice Cube: We first took him on tour, me and my wife, when he was 1½. ... So he's been around movies and music his whole life. ... Then at 18, he started to really perform with me. So he has a knack for the stage. I've seen him rap my songs before on stage, with me. So to see him do this on the big screen, it was great. I wasn't surprised that he was so good, because I knew how good he was.

AP: Ice Cube, would you ever write an autobiography?

Ice Cube: I

don't know. I think I have so much to do. I don't want to have like volume one, volume two. I just feel like I got a whole lot of living to do before I think about summing it up in a book.

AP: What's next for you?

Jackson: I'm working on my autobiography (laughs). I'm definitely ready to get my foot in as far as the cinema, definitely trying to get



Ice Cube with his son, O'Shea Jackson, Jr.

my acting career off the ground. I want to wait until 'Straight Outta Compton' is well in everyone's minds and see where we go from there.

Film Review: 'Fantastic Four'

A Character-Driven Origins Adventure

By Kam Williams
For The Skanner News

Marvel Comics' first brought the Fantastic Four to the big screen a decade ago, and followed it up with a sequel a couple years later. Since neither generated much in the way of audience enthusiasm, 20th Century Fox has now seen fit to relaunch the flagging franchise rather than release a third installment.

The reboot was directed by Josh Trank, whose services were ostensibly retained on the strength of his impressive debut offering, the sci-fi thriller *Chronicle*. This picture stars Michael B. Jordan and Kate Mara as siblings Johnny and Sue Storm, and Jamie Bell and Miles Teller as childhood friends Ben Grimm and Reed Richards, respectively.

Fantastic Four unfolds like a typical origins tale, developing a humanizing back story about each member of the tight-knit, title quartet, before the movie makes its inexorable march to an exciting finale. The point of departure is Oyster Bay, New York in 2007, which is where we find precocious Reed informing his very skeptical, 5th grade teacher of his plans to teleport himself someday.

Not to worry. By the time he's a senior in high school, Reed's built a prototype with the help of his BFF Ben. And despite his Cymatic Matter Shuttle's being disqualified from the science fair, the gifted egghead is recruited by Dr. Franklin Storm (Reg E. Cathey), the director of the Baxter Foundation, a research institute for science and technology



The Fantastic Four

prodigies.

There, he's befriended by Johnny and Sue. Along with Ben, the kids eventually attempt an unsanctioned trip to another

powerful than any of the Fantastic Four individually, but not collectively.

That leaves them little choice but to join forces in defense of the planet.

Something goes horribly wrong, and they inadvertently rip a hole in the fabric of the time/space continuum

dimension via the Quantum Gate, a contraption invented by Dr. Storm's protegee, Victor (Toby Kebbell). However, something goes horribly wrong, and they inadvertently rip a hole in the fabric of the time/space continuum.

The calamity suddenly enables Reed (aka Mr. Fantastic) to stretch and contort his body, Johnny to fly and shoot fireballs, Sue to be invisible and create force fields, and badly disfigured Ben (aka The Thing) to exhibit invincibility and extraordinary strength. Meanwhile, Victor has developed telekinetic abilities and morphed into the diabolical Dr. Doom, a villain more

The anticlimactic show-down that takes forever to arrive proves to be riveting, although it's almost an afterthought, since it basically serves as a perfunctory setup for the obligatory sequel.

A decent enough overhaul to recommend heartily as a pleasant escape from the hazy, hot, humid dog days of August.

Very Good ★★★
Rated PG-13 for action, violence and profanity
In English and Spanish with subtitles
Running time: 106 minutes
Distributor: 20th Century Fox

