

# THE CARRIER PIGEON

AUGUST 18, 2007

## WELCOME TO THE CARRIER PIGEON

### Upcoming Army Wives Appearance

Be sure to catch Shawn as Captain Bright on the August 19th episode of "Army Wives" entitled "The Rules Of Engagement."

Army Wives airs Sundays at 10 pm on Lifetime Television.



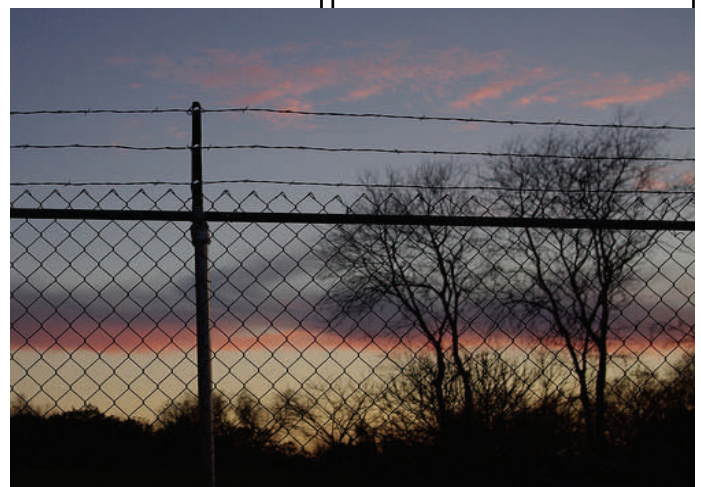
Hello everyone. It's been a while since you last heard from us. SES Productions has been on the move and I'm proud to inform you that the original screenplay entitled *Techwood* has been completed. We are now in the process of shopping it around to various studios and production companies.

The idea for *Techwood* initially came to mind in 2000, with the first draft being completed in 2002. Aside from being entered into

a few screenwriting festivals, it sat on the shelf for four years. It was revisited in 2006 and extensively rewritten with the 2nd draft completed in August of 2007.

Techwood is the

story of a hard nosed police officer who struggles to stop the violence at a housing project that is being guarded by a mysterious and deadly presence.



## Harry Potter and the Order of The Phoenix – A REVIEW

By: BGS



You are a young man of 15, you were famous before

you could talk, only you didn't know it. You have no parents, guardians who treat you like the plague, and a connection to the most evil wizard of all time, Lord Voldemort. The same most evil wizard of all time who killed said parents, and tried to kill you, but somehow managed instead, to be defeated by the baby you.

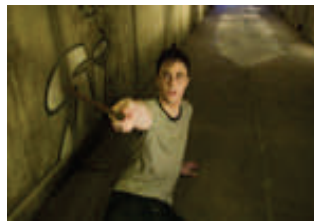
Sound confusing? Well welcome to the life and times of Harry James Potter, "The Boy Who Lived." You've had a life shrouded in loneliness and now, in your fifth year of school, believed to be, as the British say, a complete "nutter" – that's crazy to you and me – and an attention starved lunatic by some, and the only one who can save your world from Voldemort's destruction by others.



Uh, can we say stressed?

In *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, directed by David Yates, the fifth installment of J.K. Rowlings series of seven finds a darker, more troubled Harry. He's angrier and more determined than ever to

prove to the naysayers Lord Voldemort is back. And after witnessing the death of fellow Gryffindor Cedric Diggory (Ben Macleod) at Voldemort's hand at the end of the fourth movie, *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire*, and after rescuing his muggle – non-magic – cousin from Voldemort's Dementors, (miserable creatures that can kill you by literally sucking the life and happiness out of you) he's got a lot to prove.



As a result of the en-

counter with the dementors, Harry is taken into hiding by the Order of the Phoenix, a group of witches and wizards who fought against Voldemort at the height of his power and before his encounter with Baby Harry.

Now, with Harry and his two best friends, Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) ever ready for the fight, Harry finds himself with the additional stress of being the new – though unofficial – Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher. In his new position, Harry teaches a small group of friends and followers how to defend themselves against Voldemort in battle. Dumbledore's Army (DA) as they call themselves are a younger version of the Order of the Phoe-



nix, and together with the remaining members of the original Order, DA finds itself well positioned for the battle of a lifetime. And so the stage is set...

As for the film itself, I found that *Harry Potter and The Order of the Phoenix* was not as true to the written version as the prior four, but to the movie's defense, considering the amount of activity in the book compared to what they chose to put in the movie, it was a good film. I also love these characters and the actors who play them. And it is for this reason alone that even if I hated this movie, which I didn't, I would love it and so would you.

I don't know if all of you who read this have followed Harry's adventures as I have, but I guarantee you would enjoy it.

*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, as well as the prior four before it, is a true clas-



J.K Rowling

sic for generations to come and I thank J.K. Rowling for introducing me to "The Boy Who Lived" and for inviting me into his world.

PIGEON'S POINT...BY SHAWN SHEPARD



Many of you have heard of Tyler Perry from his plays, his books, his films and his recent television show. And I'm sure many of you have read about his story of growing up impoverished, the victim of abuse and how he channeled the negative aspects of his life by writing his first stage play, "I Know I've Been Changed." You probably know about how his unsuccessful staging of that play in 1992 would financially ruin him and lead to several personal setbacks along with a period of homelessness. It would not be until six years later that he would remount his show, this time with great success, and go on to produce several plays and their subsequent DVD recordings that would garner him millions of dollars.

His plays are targeted primarily toward the African-American community and usually possess

storylines with pronounced Christian themes. Audiences have come to love the recurring character of Mabel "Madea" Simmons (played by Tyler) as she spouts Old Folks didactic while in the same breath threatening to shoot someone. She makes for an interesting depiction of that consecrated relative who realizes that living on



this harsh, earthly plane may constitute a slight "bending of the rules"

every now and then.

Through a lucrative deal with Lionsgate Entertainment and a fruitful partnership with producer Reuben Cannon, Tyler Perry has built a 60,000 square foot production facility in downtown Atlanta called Tyler Perry Studios (TPS). I recently had the opportunity to work on two separate projects for TPS. One was the television show "House of Payne" and the other was the upcoming film "Meet the Browns."

I was thoroughly impressed with the quality of his operation. What I saw at TPS was comparable to any studio in Hollywood. The staff is pro-

fessional and courteous, the technicians are top notch and the equipment is state of the art. Many people, myself included, have found fault with some of his past productions. However, it is imperative that TPS and Ty-



ler Perry himself succeed in this massive venture. Why? Because what Tyler has done is create a paradigm through his work. He has successfully created an entertainment conglomerate outside of the traditional Hollywood system. Turner Broadcasting Systems (TBS) ordered 100 episodes of House of Payne before the series even premiered. That's unheard of. He originally took his idea to Hollywood, but due to creative differences, Perry brought it back to Atlanta and produced his vision using his own finances. The June 6<sup>th</sup> premiere set a record for the largest viewership for an individual program in cable history. Not to mention his productions employ a plethora of mi-

nority artists, artisans, and people in executive positions and pours millions of dollars into the Atlanta economy.

Most everything improves over time. Let's give Tyler a chance. I know I for one, am guilty of being overly critical about the "quality" of a particular program, but I tend to forget that everyone has to start somewhere. Like the grandma that was able to take a piece of sausage, a bis-



cuit, some vegetables and some fruit and come up with the most luxurious lunches you could ever have, she did the best with what she had.

I don't care if Tyler Perry makes a film about an asthmatic preacher who can fly and runs a soul food rib shack, go out and support his work.

Visit us on the Web at  
[www.shawnshepard.com](http://www.shawnshepard.com)

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**SES Productions**



Upcoming Army Wives appearance on:  
Sunday, August 19th – “The Rules Of Engagement.”

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