

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

SECTION: 15
DATE: December 10, 2013

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve Wesley Collier, Film Producer, as Commencement Speaker at the Saturday, December 21, 2013 commencement ceremony. In addition, it is recommended that the Board award an honorary Doctor of Arts to Mr. Collier.

SUMMARY

Mr. Collier's biography follows on the next page.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and it is recommended for Board approval.

University Executive Officer

Date

Wesley Collier
Producer

Wesley Collier is a Producer at Cruel and Unusual Films, where he works in collaboration with Zack Snyder and Deborah Snyder to create entertaining and groundbreaking feature films.

Collier most recently co-produced the new Superman movie *Man of Steel*. He is currently executive producing the sequel to *Man of Steel*, which is in pre-production and will be released by Warner Bros. in June of 2015. Additionally, he is co-producing *300: Rise of an Empire*, directed by Noam Murro from a script co-written by Zack Snyder and Kurt Johnstad, and scheduled for a March 2014 release. The film is the sequel to the 2007 blockbuster *300*, which Collier associate-produced and was written and directed by Zack Snyder.

Collier previously executive produced Warner Bros.' *Sucker Punch*; the film, written and directed by Zack Snyder, opened in March 2011. Collier co-produced *Watchmen*, which opened in March 2009, and is based on the classic graphic novel of the same name, co-created and illustrated by Dave Gibbons, which TIME placed in their "100 Greatest English Language Novels from 1923". Collier also associate-produced the smash hit feature film, *300*, inspired by the Frank Miller graphic novel. *300* was a breakout success, grossing over \$70 million at the box office opening weekend -taking the all-time record for any film opening in March- and later grossing over \$450 million worldwide.

Collier is presently developing a wide range of projects alongside the Snyders under the Cruel & Unusual banner, including: *The Last Photograph*, with a story by Zack Snyder and screenplay by Kurt Johnstad; *Army of the Dead*, an action-thriller written by Joby Harold, from an original story by Zack Snyder; and *Illusions*, based on the novel by Richard Bach. He has also consulted for Cruel and Unusual with Insight Books during the creation of books published in conjunction with the release of several of his films.

In 1999, Collier graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Telecommunication & Film and a minor in graphic design. Immediately following graduation, Collier moved to Los Angeles and joined Zack Snyder's production team, working with Snyder on countless commercial projects, and the development of several feature films including the critically acclaimed remake of *Dawn of the Dead*.

The development process allows Collier to play a key creative role in the production of feature films on a variety of levels, including the opportunity to continue to hone his graphic design and web design skills. With an emphasis on unique design, and progressive digital workflow, Collier brings a modern approach to the development and production processes. Working with creative minds such as the Snyders' has fostered that approach, and allows for design-intensive project development. Collier's design background also gives him the ability to work collaboratively with the various studio departments to develop fresh and exciting visual materials for the marketing and release of Cruel's projects.

Collier currently resides in Pasadena with his wife Celeste and daughter.