

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
20-CVS- 6417

STUART STOUT, an individual; SHELBY STOUT, an individual; JONAH HIRSCH, an individual; and MFWH PRODUCTIONS, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ALCON ENTERTAINMENT, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; ALCON MEDIA GROUP, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; ANDREW KOSOVE, an individual; BRODERICK JOHNSON, an individual; WALDEN MEDIA, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and STEVEN WEGNER, an individual,

Defendants.

2020 APR 24 A 10:20  
MECKLENBURG CO., C.S.C.  
BY \_\_\_\_\_

FILED

**COMPLAINT**

NOW COME Plaintiffs Stuart Stout ("Mr. Stout"), Jonah Hirsch ("Mr. Hirsch"), Shelby Stout ("Ms. Stout") and MFWH Productions, LLC ("MFWH Prods.") (collectively, "Plaintiffs") hereby complaining of Defendants Alcon Entertainment, LLC, Alcon Media Group, LLC (together known as "Alcon"), Andrew Kosove ("Mr. Kosove"), Broderick Johnson ("Mr. Johnson"), Walden Media, LLC ("Walden") and Steven Wegner ("Mr. Wegner"), (collectively, "Defendants") as follows:

1. Mr. Stout is a citizen and resident of Union County, North Carolina.
2. Ms. Stout is a citizen and resident of Union County, North Carolina.
3. Mr. Hirsch is a citizen of the State of California.
4. MFWH Productions, LLC is a limited liability company, organized and existing under the laws of North Carolina, with its principal place of business in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

5. Upon information and belief, Alcon Entertainment, LLC is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Los Angeles County, California.
6. Upon information and belief, Alcon Media Group, LLC is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Los Angeles County, California.
7. Upon information and belief, Mr. Kosove is a citizen of the state of California.
8. Upon information and belief, Mr. Johnson is a citizen of the State of California.
9. Upon information and belief, Walden is a limited liability company, organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Los Angeles County, California.
10. Upon information and belief, Mr. Wegner is citizen of the State of California.
11. Upon information and belief, Mr. Wegner is a producer who worked at Alcon for eighteen years as a mid-level executive responsible for developing new film projects.
12. Upon information and belief, Mr. Kosove and Mr. Johnson are the co-founders and co-CEO's of Alcon Entertainment, LLC.
13. Mr. and Ms. Stout are the parents of Hope Stout, a minor child who died on January 4, 2004, at age twelve from a rare form of cancer.
14. While she was being treated with chemotherapy, Hope Stout devoted herself to raising the sum of \$750,000.00 to donate to the Make A Wish Foundation, a non-profit organization that services critically ill children.
15. In furtherance of her money-raising efforts, Hope Stout (among other things) was interviewed on the radio, was made an unofficial mascot of the Charlotte Panthers football team and initiated a fundraising event called The Celebration Of Hope.
16. Although Hope Stout passed away prior to The Celebration Of Hope, over one-thousand people attended and over \$1.1MM was raised on behalf of the Make A Wish Foundation.
17. After Hope Stout died, Mr. and Ms. Stout committed their lives to honoring her memory and legacy by, among other things, writing and publishing a book about her life called: How One Girl's Dream Made Others Come True (the "Book") and establishing the March Forth With Hope Foundation (the "Foundation") to provide financial assistance to families battling cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

18. In or about the fall of 2017, Alcon contacted Mr. and Ms. Stout about making the Book into a feature film entitled "Hope's Wish" (the "Film") that would be released to theaters by Christmas of 2018.
19. In reliance upon Alcon's past success producing major motion pictures such as The Blind Side, Mr. and Ms. Stout entered into negotiations with Alcon to produce the Film.
20. On or about February 26, 2018, prior to the completion of negotiations and without the knowledge of Mr. and Ms. Stout, Alcon issued a press release (the "Press Release") announcing that it would be producing the Film.
21. The Press Release also stated that the Film would star Queen Latifah and be released by Warner Brothers.
22. Based upon Defendants' representations, Mr. Stout and Ms. Stout quit their jobs because the Film would require their full-time commitment.
23. Mr. Stout and Ms. Stout hired a PR firm to help them and the Foundation navigate the forthcoming exposure. They also engaged a speakers' bureau to arrange for appearances at corporate and charity events. Harper Collins, the publisher of Hope's Wish, prepared to republish the Book.
24. In March 2018, at the urging of an Alcon executive, the Foundation pushed back its annual Celebration of Hope gala to allow the Film's director and an Alcon executive to attend. Based upon Alcon's promises, two sets of attendees at the gala donated \$20,000 to visit the Hope's Wish film set and have lunch with the cast.
25. On April 6, 2018, Defendants shut down production on the Film, citing a lack of funding. Crewmembers were sent home and the sets torn down. The Foundation had to return the \$20,000 in donations that were made at the gala two weeks before.
26. Jurisdiction and Venue are proper in the Mecklenburg County, North Carolina Superior Court.

### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

27. The preceding allegations are incorporated herein by reference.

#### **Hope Elizabeth Stout**

28. On June 27, 2003, at the age of 12, Hope was diagnosed with stage-4 osteosarcoma, an aggressive form of bone cancer. Faced with a terminal diagnosis and punishing rounds of radiation therapy and chemotherapy, Hope focused her attention on other children in the cancer ward.

29. In November 2003, the Make-A-Wish Foundation visited Hope and told her she could have anything she wanted. Hope thought for a few minutes and then answered: "You know, I am lucky. . . I have been to Disney World, swam with the dolphins in Cancun and go to the beach all the time. You say there are 155 kids on the waiting list? Well, my wish is TO GRANT ALL THEIR WISHES, ALL 155 OF THEM. And to do it just as soon as possible."
30. Hope's wish would cost nearly \$750,000.00.
31. While Hope was still able to walk, she went onto the field before a Carolina Panthers football game and became the unofficial mascot of the team.
32. After Hope's death, donations poured into the Make-A-Wish office so fast that volunteers had to be brought in to count money and answer phones.
33. On Friday, January 16, 2004, less than two weeks after Hope's death, over 1,000 people attended the Celebration of Hope gala, at which it was announced that \$1,116,000 had been raised and every one of the 155 kids on the Make-A-Wish waiting list would have their wish granted.
34. Devastated but undeterred, Mr. Stout and Ms. Stout did everything in their power to honor Hope's legacy. They wrote and published the Book and established the Foundation, which hosts the annual Celebration of Hope gala to raise money to provide grants for mortgages, rent, transportation, utilities and other needs of families of terminally ill children.
35. Since 2004, the Foundation has raised and donated more than \$1.1 million to help over 400 families with children facing cancer or other life threatening conditions.
36. Mr. Stout and Ms. Stout established Plaintiff MFWH Prods. as a vehicle to make the Book into a film.
37. In 2011, MFWH Prods. hired Academy Award winning screenwriters Diana Ossana and Larry McMurtry to write the screenplay for the Film.
38. On March 16, 2015, the President and CEO of Make-A-Wish America wrote to Mr. Stout and Mr. Hirsch, saying: "As you know we have received hundreds of requests over the years for permission to use the Make-A-Wish name and likeness in movie and television projects. With the very rare exception, these requests are almost universally turned down. In fact, we have never allowed the use of our name in a feature film." Despite its track record of shooting down requests, Make-A-Wish stated its willingness to let its name and likeness be used in the motion picture Hope's Wish based upon Mr. Stout and Mr. Hirsch's "commitment to making a film of outstanding quality that reflects the values and integrity that Make-A-Wish stands for."

#### **Representations Regarding the Making of the Film**

39. In 2011 Oscar winning writers Diana Ossana and Larry McMurtry were hired by MFWH to write the screenplay for the Film.
40. In 2015, Charlie Stratton (“Stratton”) was hired to direct the Film.
41. In 2016 Stratton arranged a meeting with Wegner who expressed a strong interest in producing the film.
42. Subsequently, Stratton was fired by Wegner and Charles Martin Smith (“Mr. Smith”) was hired by Alcon to perform a rewrite and to direct the Film.
43. In early 2017, Wegner, an Executive Vice President at Alcon, began working on the Film with the Hope Parties.
44. In May of 2017, Wegner, Hill, and others flew to Charlotte to meet with Mr. Stout and Mr. Hirsch to discuss the Film.
45. Among other things, Mr. Stout arranged for the group to meet with the Carolina Panthers' Director of Community Relations, Riley Fields, tour Levine Children's Hospital, confer with a local attorney regarding potential North Carolina film production tax credits, visit the local high school, and have lunch at Mario's Pizza, where Hope oftentimes ordered food.
46. In or around February 2017 Wegner and Val Hill traveled to Charlotte to conduct due diligence on the Film.
47. In or around April 2017 Wegner, Mr. Stout and Mr. Hirsch traveled to New York City to meet with the NFL head of marketing to discuss the film project because of Hope's amazing real life involvement with the Carolina Panthers and the NFL. This meeting was arranged by former Carolina Panther Leonard Wheeler a friend of the Stout family.
48. On or around May 15, 2017 Wegner indicated to plaintiffs that the “film is a green light” and “fully financed.”
49. To further bolster this representation, Wegner sent a letter backed by Alcon's approval (the “Oprah Letter”) to Oprah Winfrey on August 12, 2017.
50. A true and accurate copy of the Oprah Letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.
51. The Oprah Letter specified that the film was an “Alcon financed” film.
52. On Monday, May 15, 2017, after Wegner returned to Los Angeles, he called Mr. Hirsch and informed him that Alcon had committed to making the Film. According to Wegner, Warner Bros. would release the Film in 2018 as part of Alcon's output deal with the studio.

53. As for actual funding for the Film, on May 18, 2017, Hill sent Mr. Stout and Mr. Hirsch an email stating, "I have decided to finance the film."
54. Based on Alcon's statements, the Hope Parties provided Alcon with chain of title documents and began negotiating their agreements related to the Film.
55. In June of 2017 MFWH provided the chain of title documents (the "COT Documents") to Alcon which led to Alcon's offers to cast members.
56. On or about August 2017 a letter backed by Alcon was sent to John Cena the professional wrestler and actor. On August 8, 2017 Val Hill confirmed the correspondence with John Cena's agent (the "John Cena Agent Email").
57. A true and correct copy of the John Cena Agent Email is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** and is incorporated herein by reference.
58. David Williams, the CEO of the Make a Wish Foundation ("MAW") helped open the lines of communication with Mr. Cena as Mr. Cena was the number one wish granter for MAW in August of 2017.
59. In or around October 2017, the movie remake "Bladerunner" was released by Alcon and performed poorly.
60. After the release of Bladerunner Alcon representatives were quiet until January of 2018.
61. Upon request by the plaintiffs for a status in January of 2018, Alcon representatives Wegner and Hill represented that the film was "fully green lit", pre-production would start soon and that Walden Media is onboard to finance the film.
62. It was also represented that Walden Media would bring distribution through their deal with 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox.
63. In January 2018, Wegner again reached out to the Mr. Stout and Mr. Hirsch with "great news." According to Wegner pre-production would begin shortly.
64. On January 25, 2018, the MAW national board of directors met in Charlotte and asked Mr. Stout and Ms. Stout to speak about how they managed to finally get the Book produced as a motion picture.
65. Before Mr. Stout and Ms. Stout committed to the engagement, Mr. Stout asked Wegner if Alcon was really making the Film. Wegner assured Mr. Stout that Alcon was committed to the Film and pre-production would start shortly.
66. In February 2018, pre-production began on the Film in and around Charlotte.

67. Consistent with Wegner's representations, on or about February 26, 2018, Defendants issued a Press Release in which each Defendant represented that they were making the Film. According to The Hollywood Reporter:

**Queen Latifah to Star in Alcon Drama 'Hope's Wish' (Exclusive)**

Queen Latifah has signed on to star in Hope's Wish, an inspirational true-life drama from Alcon Entertainment. Alcon is reuniting with Los Angeles-based finance and production company Torridon/16:14, with which it worked on Blade Runner 2049, to finance and produce the movie, which is scheduled to go before cameras April 9 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

A true and correct copy of The Hollywood Reporter story is attached hereto as **Exhibit 3**, and is incorporated herein by reference.

According to Variety:

**Queen Latifah will star in the inspirational true-life drama 'Hope's Wish.'**

Production will start on April 9 in North Carolina. Alcon Entertainment co-founders and co-CEOs Andrew Kosove and Broderick Johnson made the announcement on Monday. Los Angeles-based finance and production company Torridon/16:14 will finance and produce with Alcon Entertainment, continuing the companies' collaboration that began with "Blade Runner 2049." Walden Media is set to produce alongside Steven P. Wegner, and Val Hill and Yale Badik of Torridon/16:14. Alcon's Kosove and Johnson will executive produce. The film will be released by Warner Bros. via Alcon's output deal with the studio.

A true and correct copy of the Variety story is attached hereto as **Exhibit 4**, and incorporated herein by reference.

Deadline reported:

**Queen Latifa to Star In Inspirational Drama 'Hope's Wish'**

Queen Latifah has been set to topline Hope's Wish, an inspirational drama based on a true story from the Blade Runner 2049 team of Alcon Entertainment and Torridon/16:14, along with Walden Media. Laurie Collyer will direct the film, which begins production April 9 in Charlotte, NC. Walden Media is set to produce alongside Steven P. Wegner, Val Hill and Yale Badik of Torridon/16:14, which will finance. Alcon's Andrew Kosove and Broderick Johnson will executive produce. Also on board is producer Jonah Hirsch and executive producer Stuart Stout. The film will be released by Warner Bros via Alcon's output deal.

A true and correct copy of the Deadline story is attached hereto as **Exhibit 5**, and incorporated herein by reference.

68. Upon information and belief, on the same day the film's budget ("Hope's Wish Budget") was created by Billy Badalato, the then executive producer of the Film.
69. A true and accurate copy of the Hope's Wish Budget is attached hereto as **Exhibit 6** and is incorporated herein by reference.
70. When Mr. Stout and Mr. Hirsch asked Wegner who was actually funding the Film, Wegner motioned to other movie sets that were already being built and said, "Look around. Does this look like we don't have money to make this movie?"
71. In reliance on Defendants' representations that the Film was funded and starting production:
  - a. Mr. Stout, Ms. Stout, and Mr. Hirsch worked around the clock, traveling and meeting with representatives at the MAW Foundation, the NFL, and the Carolina Panthers to obtain their support for the Film.
  - b. Plaintiffs racked up tens of thousands of dollars in attorneys' fees, reviewing chain of title documents, obtaining legal opinions, and negotiating rights and deal memos.
  - c. Mr. Stout stepped away from his day-to-day duties as a financial consultant to focus on maximizing the impact the Film's release would have on Hope's legacy and the March Forth for Hope Foundation.
  - d. Mr. Stout hired a PR expert to help manage the inevitable exposure the Stout family and the Foundation would face upon the Film's release.
  - e. Ms. Stout retired as a preschool teacher, because Wegner told her she would be too busy with the movie.
72. On instruction from Wegner, MFWH Prods. terminated the director it previously retained because Alcon supposedly would not work with him.
73. As late as January, 2018 Wegner again represented that the Film was "fully financed".
74. On March 13, 2018 a letter titled "Resuming Work" (the "Resuming Work Letter") was issued to the Film's crew through the direction of Wegner.
75. A true and accurate copy of the Resuming Work letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit 7** and is incorporated herein by reference.
76. The film seemed to be moving along, however on April 6, 2018, Defendants shut down the production due to lack of funding, contrary to the representations made to Plaintiffs.



**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
(Fraud-All Plaintiffs against all Defendants)

77. The preceding allegations are incorporated herein by reference.
78. On or about May 15, 2017, Wegner orally stated to Mr. Hirsch that Alcon had green lit and would produce the Film. According to Wegner, Warner Bros. would release the Film in 2018 as part of Alcon 's output deal with the studio.
79. On or about May 18, 2017, Hill stated in writing to Mr. Stout and Mr. Hirsch that he would finance the Film.
80. On or about November 3, 2017, Hill stated in writing to Mr. Stout and Mr. Hirsch that Taraji P. Henson had committed to make the Film, that he, his company 16:14 Entertainment, and Defendants would make the Film at Fox 2000, and that he and his (unnamed) partners would finance the Film.
81. In or about January 2018, Wegner orally stated on more than one occasion to Mr. Stout and Mr. Hirsch that Alcon would produce the Film and production would start soon.
82. On or about February 26, 2018, Defendants issued a Press Release publicly stating that each of them was making the Film with Laurie Collyer directing and Queen Latifah starring. According to the Press Release:
  - a. Alcon would "finance and produce" the Film with Torridon/16:14;
  - b. Walden Media would produce the Film with Wegner, Hill, and Badik;
  - c. Kosove and Johnson would executive produce the Film;
  - d. Production on the Film would begin on April 9, 2018;
  - e. The Film would be "released by Warner Bros. via Alcon's output deal with the studio";
83. The foregoing representations by Defendants were false.
84. Defendants knew that the foregoing representations were false when they made them, as demonstrated by the fact that production on the Film stopped on or about April 6, 2018.
85. Defendants intended for Plaintiffs to rely on the foregoing misrepresentations.
86. At the time Defendants made the foregoing misrepresentations to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs were unaware of the false nature of such misrepresentations and could not, in the exercise of

reasonable diligence, have discovered the falsity of such representations. Plaintiffs reasonably relied on Defendants' false statements, because Defendants alone knew that their statements were false.

87. On March 15, 2018, Mr. Stout, Mr. Hirsch and Yale Badik were on an extended phone call that at the time seemed very productive and affirmed that the movie was still going forward and fully funded.
88. On May 30, 2018, Kosove emailed and stated that Alcon had nothing to do with the production and would only be distribution.
89. The May 30, 2018 statement by Kosove was false and conflicted with prior representations.
90. Upon information and belief, Wish to Give Production, LLC was formed as a limited liability company to aid in the production of the movie.
91. The formation of the Wish to Give Production, LLC directly conflicts with the representations of Alcon that it would merely be the distributor and not the producer of the film.
92. Wish to Give Production was formed in January 2018 shortly before the Press Release went public.
93. Defendants made the foregoing representations without reasonable grounds for believing them to be true.
94. Defendants intended for Plaintiffs to rely on the foregoing misrepresentations.
95. At the time Defendants made the foregoing misrepresentations to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs were unaware of the false nature of such misrepresentations and could not, in the exercise of reasonable diligence, have discovered the falsity of such representations.
96. Plaintiffs reasonably relied on Defendants' statements.
97. As a proximate result of the false representations by Defendants, Plaintiffs have suffered damages in excess of \$25,000.00.

### **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Negligent Misrepresentation-All Plaintiffs and All Defendants)

98. The previous allegations are incorporated herein by reference.
99. The Press Release contained false information that was released by Defendants without reasonable care.
100. Defendants owed a duty of care to relay truthful information to Plaintiffs.

101. Plaintiffs were entitled to and did rely on the false information.
102. Plaintiffs had no way of discerning the falsity of the information and reasonably relied on the negligent misrepresentations of Defendants.
103. Plaintiffs relied on the misrepresentations to their detriment.
104. As a proximate result of Defendants' negligent misrepresentations Plaintiffs have been damaged in excess of \$25,000.00.

**THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Unfair & Deceptive Trade Practices-All Plaintiffs against all Defendants)

105. The preceding allegations are incorporated herein by reference.
106. Defendant's conduct as outlined above was unfair and deceptive.
107. Defendant's conduct as outlined above was in or affecting commerce in the State of North Carolina.
108. The foregoing actions by defendants were unfair and deceptive.
109. Defendant's conduct constitutes substantial aggravating factors including, but not limited to:
  - a. Falsely representing that ALCON would finance and produce the film;
  - b. Falsely representing that Walden Media would produce the Film with Wegner, Hill and Badik;
  - c. Falsely representing that Kosove and Johnson would executive produce the Film.;
  - d. Starting production of the film without funding in place as represented; and
  - e. Falsely representing the Film would be "released by Warner Bros. via Alcon's output deal with the studio".
110. Defendant's conduct described above was a proximate cause of the harm to Plaintiffs.
111. As a proximate result of Defendants' unfair and deceptive business practices, Plaintiffs have suffered damages in excess of \$25,000.00.

**FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

Unjust Enrichment-Hirsch and Alcon

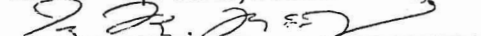
112. The preceding allegations are incorporated herein by reference.
113. To the extent that Alcon refuses to recognize its duties under contract, Mr. Hirsch has provided valuable services to Alcon and has not been paid for those services.
114. The services were not provided gratuitously and Mr. Hirsch expected to be paid for his services.
115. Mr. Hirsch has demanded payment for his services, however Alcon has refused to pay him for his services.
116. The services Mr. Hirsch provided to Alcon to which he has not been paid exceed \$25,000.00.
117. Mr. Hirsch is entitled to a judgment against Alcon for unjust enrichment.

**WHEREFORE** Plaintiffs respectfully pray the Court:

- 1) For judgment against the Defendants, jointly and severally, for fraud, negligent misrepresentation and unfair or deceptive trade practices in a sum exceeding \$25,000.00;
- 2) For judgment in favor of Mr. Hirsch against Alcon for Unjust Enrichment in a sum exceeding \$25,000.00;
- 3) For pre-judgment interest and post-judgment interest as provided by law;
- 4) For treble damages under Chapter 75 against all defendants;
- 5) For all costs and attorneys' fees;
- 6) For punitive damages against all defendants in an amount appropriate to punish and to deter such conduct in the future;
- 7) That this matter be tried by a jury; and
- 8) For such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper.

This the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

**REDDING | JONES, PLLC**



Ty K. McTier

David G. Redding

2907 Providence Road, Suite 303

Charlotte, North Carolina 28211

Telephone & Fax | 704.900.2215

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

MOVIES

# Queen Latifah to Star in Alcon Drama 'Hope's Wish' (Exclusive)

2:34 PM PST 2/26/2018 by Borys Kit



Getty Images  
Queen Latifah





## Laurie Collyer, who directed the Maggie Gyllenhaal drama 'Sherrybaby,' is helming the movie that will shoot in the area where much of the real-life events took place.

Queen Latifah has signed on to star in *Hope's Wish*, an inspirational true-life drama from Alcon Entertainment.

Alcon is reuniting with Los Angeles-based finance and production company Torridon/16:14, with which it worked on *Blade Runner 2049*, to finance and produce the movie, which is scheduled to go before cameras April 9 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Laurie Collyer, who directed the Maggie Gyllenhaal drama *Sherrybaby*, will helm *Wish*, which has a script by Diana Ossana, who won an Oscar for writing *Brokeback Mountain*. The project adapts the non-fiction book *Hope's Wish: How One Girl's Dream Made Others Come True* by Stuart and Shelby Stout.

*Hope's Wish* is based on the true story of Hope Stout, a 12-year-old girl who, when diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, set out on a mission to fund the wishes of all the other health-challenged children in her part of North Carolina.

Latifah will play Make-A-Wish Foundation executive Toni Dubois, who worked with Stout to help raise the money.

Walden Media is set to produce the pic alongside Steven P. Wegner and Val Hill and Yale Badik of Torridon/16:14. Alcon's Andrew Kosove and Broderick Johnson will executive produce.

*Hope's Wish* will be released by Warner Bros. via Alcon's output deal with the studio.

Latifah last appeared on the big screen in the surprise hit comedy *Girls Trip*, which also featured Tiffany Haddish. The Oscar-nominated actress and rapper in recent years has made a name for herself as a producer of TV shows and movies, including HBO's multiple award-winning *Bessie*. Latifah is repped by CAA, Shakim Compere and Randi Michel.

Collyer is repped by Gersh and Principato-Young Entertainment.

# Queen Latifah to Star in Inspirational True-Life Drama ‘Hope’s Wish’

By [DAVE MCNARY](#)



CREDIT: INVISION/AP/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

[Queen Latifah](#) will star in the inspirational true-life drama “Hope’s Wish.”

Production will start on April 9 in North Carolina.

Alcon Entertainment co-founders and co-CEOs Andrew Kosove and Broderick Johnson made the announcement on Monday. Los Angeles-based finance and production company Torridon/16:14 will finance and produce with Alcon Entertainment, continuing the companies’ collaboration that began with “Blade Runner 2049.”

Walden Media is set to produce alongside Steven P. Wegner, and Val Hill and Yale Badik of Torridon/16:14. Alcon’s Kosove and Johnson will executive produce. The film will be released by Warner Bros. via Alcon’s output deal with the studio.

Laurie Collyer, whose credits include “Sherrybaby” and “Furlough,” will direct the film from screenwriter Diana Ossana (“Brokeback Mountain”), adapted from Stuart & Shelby Stout’s non-fiction “Hope’s Wish: How One Girl’s Dream Made Others Come True.”

tabbles

**EXHIBIT**

2

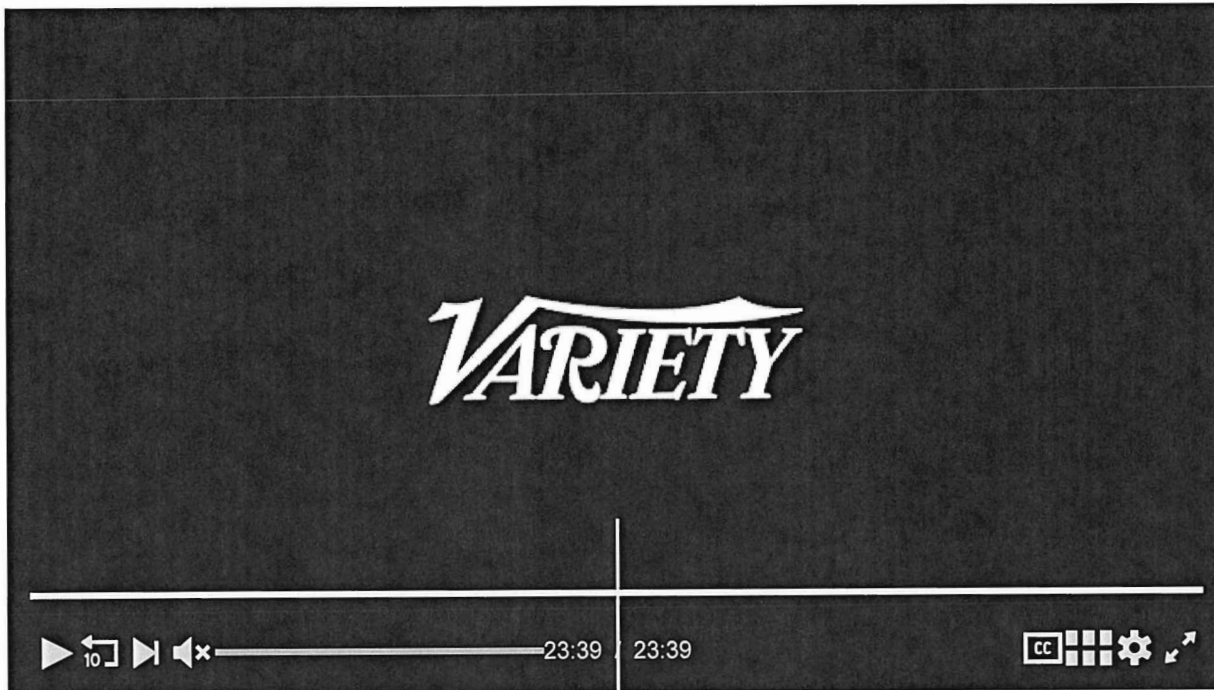
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Latifah's recent acting credits include the Universal comedy "Girls Trip," co-starring Tiffany Haddish and Jada Pinkett Smith, and the Emmy-winning HBO film "Bessie." She is repped by CAA, Shakim Compere, and Randi Michel.

Alcon's recent credits include "12 Strong," "Father Figures," and "Blade Runner 2049," which received five Oscar nominations.

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## Queen Latifah to Star In Inspirational Drama 'Hope's Wish'



By Patrick Hipes

February 26, 2018 3:07pm



REX/Shutterstock

tabbles	<b>EXHIBIT</b>
	3

Queen Latifah has been set to topline *Hope's Wish*, an inspirational drama based on a true story from the *Blade Runner 2049* team of Alcon Entertainment and Torridon/16:14, along with Walden Media. Laurie Collyer will direct the film, which begins production April 9 in Charlotte, NC.

Adapted by *Brokeback Mountain* co-scribe Diana Ossana based on Stuart Stout and Shelby Stout's book *Hope's Wish: How One Girl's Dream Made Others Come True*, the true story centers on Hope



# DEADLINE

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Toni Dubois (Latifah) and the Charlotte community.

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Walden Media is set to produce alongside Steven P. Wegner, Val Hill and Yale Badik of Torridon/16:14, which will finance. Alcon's Andrew Kosove and Broderick Johnson will executive produce. Also on board is producer Jonah Hirsch and executive producer Stuart Stout. The film will be released by Warner Bros via Alcon's output deal.

Los Angeles-based finance and production company Torridon/16:14 and Alcon first teamed on *Blade Runner 2049*, which grossed \$259.2M at the global box office after bowing in October. It has five Oscar nominations.

Queen Latifah, who most recently starred in the hit comedy *Girls Trip*, is repped by CAA, Shakim Compere and Randi Michel.

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1 Comments

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## More From Deadline

From: "Wegner, Steve" <SWegner@alconent.com>  
Subject: Fwd: Hope's Wish/Oprah Winfrey  
Date: August 12, 2017 at 4:25:28 PM PDT  
To: Jonah Hirsch <jmhirsch@mac.com>, Stuart Stout  
<stuart@mfwhproductions.com>

Oprah draft for your reference. Offer went out Thurs.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wegner, Steve" <SWegner@alconent.com>  
Date: August 10, 2017 at 5:34:18 PM PDT  
To: "Warren Zavala ([wzavala@wmeentertainment.com](mailto:wzavala@wmeentertainment.com))"  
<[wzavala@wmeentertainment.com](mailto:wzavala@wmeentertainment.com)>  
Cc: 'Val Hill' <[vhill@1614ent.com](mailto:vhill@1614ent.com)>  
Subject: Hope's Wish/Oprah Winfrey

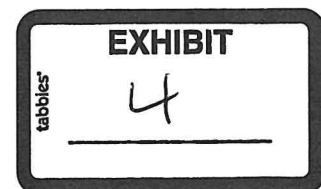
Dear Warren,

Per our conversation, I've attached the most recent draft of the screenplay **HOPE'S WISH** written by Diana Ossana (academy award winner) with revisions by Charlie Stratton and Charles Martin Smith. It is adapted from the non-fiction book of the same name by Stuart and Shelby Stout.

*When Hope Stout, a precocious 12 year-old girl dealing with a life-threatening disease, makes the big request to fund the wishes of 155 other health challenged children, a dedicated Make-A-Wish Foundation executive and the community of Charlotte unite to make her amazing and audacious wish a reality. Based on the inspirational true story.*

Oprah Winfrey would play the part of "Toni Du Bois".

Our director is Laurie Collyer. We are planning to shoot the film this October on location in Charlotte for a Fall/Winter 2018 release.



This is an Alcon financed/Warner Brothers distributing wide release studio film. Alcon has had huge success with films based on inspirational true stories, such as THE BLIND SIDE and DOLPHIN TALE. HOPE'S WISH falls directly into this sweet spot.

How HOPE'S WISH stands apart in the marketplace is the substantial corporate support and marketing tie-in's that are organically linked to the project. The NFL, the Carolina Panthers and NASCAR are prominently featured in the storyline. The NFL and the Carolina Panthers franchise have already granted us the use of the stadium locations, NFL footage and use of the team and league logos. The NFL is eager to integrate a massive marketing push for the film, including bringing in their sponsor relationships such as Visa, McDonalds and Pepsi, as well as all the other NFL teams for one national push.

Lastly, we have met with Joe Gibbs Racing of NASCAR who fully endorse and will grant us the use of race cars and professional drivers for the project. We are also in discussions with Michael Jordan, who has a cameo in the film, to obtain his sponsorship and support.

HOPE'S WISH is not a film about a girl's passing. It's a film about TIME and how we use it. Hope Stout was a real life hero. She existed for only a short period, but made an enormous impact on the world. Much like Anne Frank, her legacy continues to grow and live on and will increase substantially after the release of this film.

We look forward to your thoughts.

Warm regards,  
Steve

From: Val Hill <vhill@1614ent.com>  
Subject: John Cena and Oprah schedule  
Date: August 8, 2017 at 1:28:15 PM PDT  
To: "SParish@alconent" <SParish@alconent.com>  
Cc: "Wegner, Steve" <SWegner@alconent.com>  
Bcc: jmhirsch@mac.com

Hey Scott,

We spoke to Billy (LP) about JOHN CENA and the dates in the email below that Jeannette sent out.

1) If the dates stick for John, we think from the boards we can make OPRAH having a 4 week block work with John's dates. However we won't be able to nail any of this down until we get an idea of OPRAH'S window.

We spoke with John's agent, Dan, again today and John doesn't jump directly from Bumble Bee to HOPE. He has a buffer of WWF promotions. Dan reiterated that the dates do work right now. If there is a delay or push on BUMBLE BEE this could obviously change. .... but as of now they work.

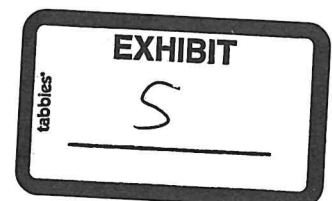
We also informed Agent (Dan) about Laurie Collyer as our top candidate and our thinking around OPRAH. The agent liked the potential of it all and said he is going to have John start reading.

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We connected with John's agent (Dan Baime at ICM Partners) and offered the following for John to read the screenplay:

1. Role: Kevin Donnalley
2. Schedule: Tentatively 9 shooting days over an approximate 3 week period (including hold days)
3. Fixed Compensation: \$300K
4. Box Office Bonus(es): \$100K @ DBO 1.5x Negative Cost + P&A  
\$100K @ DBO 1.75x Negative Cost + P&A



5. Conditions Precedent: Chain-of-title, engagement of a director, budget

**Notes:**

- While the producers want to film with John starting in mid-October, he is not available until November 6<sup>th</sup> through November 24<sup>th</sup>. He is currently filming "Bumblebee" (Paramount) and involved with his professional wrestling activities until November 6<sup>th</sup>. From November 25<sup>th</sup> through the end of the year, he is doing press for "Ferdinand" (Fox Animation) in Australia, Dubai, London, NY and LA.
- The agent wants to know who the director is before he sends the offer to John, especially since John has turned down this project at least twice already.

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Val T. Hill  
CEO/President  
16:14 Entertainment, Inc.  
[vhill@1614ent.com](mailto:vhill@1614ent.com)  
Main: [626.344.9406](tel:626.344.9406)  
Direct: [626.627.3253](tel:626.627.3253)  
fax: [626.389.5466](tel:626.389.5466)  
[www.1614ent.com](http://www.1614ent.com)

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HOPE'S WISH  
Feb 28, 2018

Director: Laurie Collyer  
 Producer: Yale Badik  
 Producer: Val Hill  
 Producer: Steve Wegner  
 Executive Producer: Billy Badalato  
 Total Deferment:\$1,069,403  
 Prepared by: B.Badalato &.Pamela Williams  
 Corresponding Production Calendar: Ver 22

Location: Charlotte, NC USA  
 Start Date: April 9th  
 Finish Date: May 30th  
 Total Days/Weeks - 37 Days (7.4wks) 13hr Shooting Day  
 Post: TBD - 20 Weeks  
 Script Draft: Production Numbered Draft #1  
 Budget File:USE THIS ONE - HW BUDGET Feb 2\_22 MASTER for VAL.mbd  
 Unions: WGA / SAG / DGA / IA / Teamsters

Acct#	Description	Amt	Units	X	Rate	Sub T	Total
<b>1200 PRODUCER</b>							
1202	EXEC PRODUCERS						
	01 - EXEC PRODUCER #1						
	JONAH HIRSCH						
	LA HIRE						
	Assumes NU Loanout						
	Total fee \$250,000						
	Prep NC - 20%	1	Allow	1	50,000	50,000	
	Shoot NC - 60%	1	Allow	1	150,000	150,000	
	Director's Cut - 10%	1	Allow	1	25,000	25,000	
	Delivery - 10%	1	Allow	1	25,000	25,000	
	Subtotal					\$250,000	
	02- EXEC PRODUCER #2						
	STUART STOUT						
	NC HIRE						
	Assumes NU Loanout						
	Total fee \$100,000						
	Prep NC - 20%	1	Allow	1	20,000	20,000	
	Shoot NC - 60%	1	Allow	1	60,000	60,000	
	Director's Cut - 10%	1	Allow	1	10,000	10,000	
	Delivery - 10%	1	Allow	1	10,000	10,000	
	Subtotal					\$100,000	
	01 - EXEC PRODUCER #3						
	Donna Ossana						
	LA HIRE						
	Assumes NU Loanout						
	Total fee \$200,000						
	Prep NC - 20%	1	Allow	1	40,000	40,000	
	Shoot NC - 60%	1	Allow	1	120,000	120,000	
	Director's Cut - 10%	1	Allow	1	20,000	20,000	
	Delivery - 10%	1	Allow	1	20,000	20,000	
	Subtotal					\$200,000	
	Alcon Entertainment	1	Allow	1	100,000	100,000	
	Subtotal					\$100,000	
	EXEC PRODUCER/ UPM						
	BILLY BADALATO						
	FEE: 350,000						
	Broken out for rebate calculation						
	Paid DGA weekly						



Continuation of Account 1202

Acct#	Description	Amt	Units	X	Rate	Sub T	Total
	Rate: 12,500 Week +10% agency fee	13,750	\$/Week	1	0	0	
	Development Payment (1 week)	1	Week	1	12,500	12,500	
	Soft Prep LA (w/e 1/28)	1	Week	1	12,500	12,500	
	Trvl / Prep LA -Charlotte	10	Weeks	1	13,750	137,500	
	Shoot Charlotte	7	Weeks	1	13,750	96,250	
	Trvl / Prep Beach	0.2	Weeks	1	13,750	2,750	
	Shoot Beach	0.4	Weeks	1	13,750	5,500	
	Shoot Charlotte 6th Day	1	Day	0.3	13,750	-- Excluded --	
	Holidays - accrued	0	Weeks	1	13,750	0	
	Wrap Charlotte / Trvl LA	4	Weeks	1	13,750	55,000	
	Final Rebate Audit in LA	1	Week	1	13,750	13,750	
	DGA COA FEE	1	Allow	1	13,750	13,750	
	Subtotal					\$349,500	
	Total						\$999,500
	<b>Account Total for 1200</b>						<b>\$3,073,434</b>
	<b>Range Total</b>						<b>\$999,500</b>



# Hope's Wish

TO: All Crew  
FROM: Production  
DATE: 3/13/18  
RE: Resuming Work

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To all crew:

We have been notified by the IA that crew is welcome to return to work starting immediately. The office and building will be opened at 7:30am for all departments.

If you have any questions, you may contact Steve Wegner at 310-999-1141.

Wish to Give Production, LLC  
20310 Chartwell Center Drive  
Cornelius, NC 28031  
704.438.9342

