Some actors bring something special no matter the movie in which they're appearing, regardless of the size or nature of their role. To say that **Willem Dafoe** is such an actor would be a dramatic understatement. The Oscar-caliber actor has officially signed on to Relativity Media's ***Out of Furnace***, an homage to gritty 1970s crime thrillers that follows a recently released convict as he sets out to avenge his brother.

Dafoe's long list of hugely-acclaimed performances include his turns in ***Platoon, The English Patient, To Live and Die in LA, Shadow of the Vampire, The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou, Spider-Man,*** and ***Antichrist***. The two-time Oscar-nominee joins an ensemble cast that was already intimidatingly impressive.

Earlier this month, Relativity announced that **Christian Bale, Zoe Saldana, Casey Affleck,** and **Sam Shepard** would star in the film, which also includes fellow two-time Oscar nominee **Woody Harrelson** and Oscar winner **Forest Whitaker**.

All these talented thespians are lining up to appear in the second feature from writer-director **Scott Cooper**, who made his directorial debut with 2009's ***Crazy Heart***. That film won **Jeff Bridges** his first richly-deserved Academy Award. Last year, he committed to making the tentatively-titled ***Out of the Furnace*** his follow-up, and production is currently underway in Pennsylvania.

Here's Relativity Media's official announcement, which includes some detail on Dafoe's role and the story:

(Beverly Hills, Calif.) April 26, 2012 – Relativity Media has closed a deal with two-time Oscar®-nominee Willem Dafoe (Platoon, Shadow of the Vampire) to join the cast of its gritty dramatic thriller currently titled Out of the Furnace.

Dafoe, playing the role of John Petty, joins the previously announced award-winning cast including Oscar®-winner Christian Bale (The Fighter), Oscar®-nominated Casey Affleck (The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford), Zoe Saldana (Avatar), Oscar®-nominated Sam Shepard (The Right Stuff), Oscar®-nominated Woody Harrelson (The Messenger) and Oscar®-winner Forest Whitaker (The Last King of Scotland). The film, which started shooting on April 13th on location in Braddock, Pennsylvania, is written and directed by critically-acclaimed Scott Cooper (Crazy Heart).
The film is a gripping and gritty dramatic thriller about fate, circumstance, and justice. Russell (Bale) and his younger brother Rodney (Affleck) live in the economically-depressed Rust Belt, and have always dreamed of escaping and finding better lives. But when a cruel twist of fate lands Russell in prison, his brother is lured into one of the most violent and ruthless crime rings in the Northeast - a mistake that will almost cost him everything. Once released, Russell must choose between his own freedom, or risk it all to seek justice for his brother.

Dafoe can currently be seen in the acclaimed Australian film The Hunter, as well as John Carter and will soon be seen opposite Anton Yelchin in Odd Thomas directed by Stephen Sommers, as well as opposite Michelle Monaghan and Stephen Dorff in Tomorrow You're Gone, directed by David Jacobson.

Producing are Appian Way's Leonardo DiCaprio (J. Edgar) and Jennifer Killoran (The Ides of March) alongside Scott Free's Ridley Scott (The Grey), Tony Scott (Man on Fire) and Michael Costigan (American Gangster) as well as Relativity's CEO Ryan Kavanaugh (The Fighter).

Relativity Media will release the film theatrically in the U.S. Red Granite, the Los Angeles based film production, finance and international sales company has acquired foreign rights outside of the U.S. and will handle international sales. Red Granite International President Danny Dimbort and Co-President Christian Mercuri will begin shopping the film to buyers in Cannes next month.

So basically, start getting excited for ***Out of the Furnace***. In the meantime, check out **IAR** 's exclusive video interview with **Willem Dafoe**

promoting last month's
John Carter
.

Full Disclosure: ***Out of the Furnace*** *is produced by Relativity Media, iamRogue's parent company* .

Source: IamRogue

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