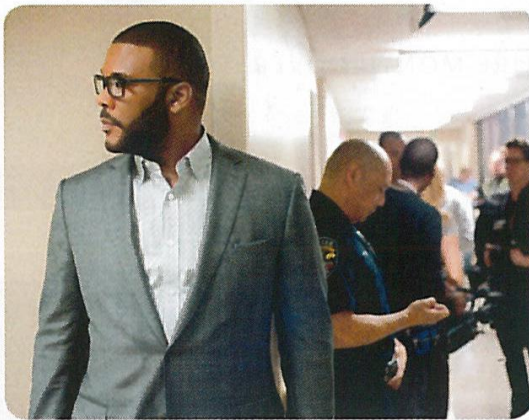


2



## And Speaking of *Gone Girl*...

Watch Tyler Perry (!)  
Steal a Movie Without a Fat Suit



► Maybe you've already heard that *Gone Girl* has a surfeit of mind-rupturing twists. The best one? Tyler Perry. Yes, *the* Tyler Perry—director, writer, and cross-dressing star of the *Madea* franchise—was handpicked by director David Fincher for a role in this month's film adaptation of Gillian Flynn's thriller. Perry plays sleazy attorney Tanner Bolt, who swoops in to vindicate potential wife-killer Nick Dunne (Ben Affleck). Tyler Perry! Opposite Ben Affleck! Obviously we had to ask him about it.  
—LAUREN BANS

### So David Fincher just calls you and says...?

I got a phone call from him saying, "You know, I got this role, and I think you'd be great for it." The first thing I said back to him was: "Are you sure?"

### Fincher's known for doing a bajillion takes. Was that your experience?

Yeah, as opposed to me—I do two takes and move on. That was really different for me. But I tell you, his eyes and brain should be donated to science. The man sees more than the average person in his vision. He's looking for something, and

until he sees it, he doesn't move on. I respect that.

### How else is his style different from yours?

Are you kidding me? David Fincher is a film director. Okay? I'm just a storyteller who picked up the camera and said, "Point it in that direction."

### In the book, Tanner is dubbed the Dickhead Defender. How dickheaded are you in the movie?

I think he was toned down quite a bit. I think it was his expertise and his slickness that was on display, rather than the dickhead stuff.

### Did you base him on attorneys you know?

With lawyers, the really, really good ones are always at ease. They're confident. I tried to play him like that. I didn't need to go far for research—I have quite a few myself.

### How many?

You can fill up a nice little classroom.

### Can you list all your current projects in twenty seconds?

*[laughs]* No. It would take me twenty seconds to think of all of them.

### Jesus, how many hours of sleep do you get?

You know what I've found out? I haven't said this to anybody—I've had sleep apnea. Now I sleep with a CPAP machine—but I'm getting the best sleep of my life! Somehow I've managed to do all that I've done in the last fifteen years on two or three hours of sleep. Now my whole world is different.

### So did you ever suggest changing the title of *Gone Girl* to *Tyler Perry's Gone Girl*?

*[laughs]* No, absolutely not. I'm pretty sure that between David Fincher and the history of the book itself, that movie's gonna be fine. It doesn't need any help from Tyler Perry.