

**'Tiger King' star Carole Baskin sues Netflix over sequel**

**Miramax sues Tarantino over planned 'Pulp Fiction' NFTs**

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 17, (AP) — Miramax filed a lawsuit Tuesday against director Quentin Tarantino over the director's plans to create and auction off a series of NFTs based on his work on "Pulp Fiction."

The entertainment company alleges that Tarantino's planned offerings violate the copyrights it holds to the director's 1994 film, according to the lawsuit filed in federal court in Los Angeles.

Tarantino recently announced plans to sell seven NFTs, or non-fungible tokens, which are digital works rendered unique and attached to a specific owner through cryptocurrency technology.

The NFTs to go on sale next month include scanned digital copies of handwritten script pages for uncut versions of scenes from the film, with audio commentary and other elements. Each will also include "secret" aspects accessible only to the owner.

"Tarantino's conduct has forced Miramax to bring this lawsuit against a valued collaborator in order to enforce, preserve, and protect its contractual and intellectual property rights relating to one of Miramax's most iconic and valuable film properties," the company said in the lawsuit. "Left unchecked, Tarantino's conduct could mislead others into believing Miramax is involved in his venture. And it could also mislead others into believing they have the rights to pursue similar deals."

An email seeking comment sent to a representative for Tarantino was not immediately returned.

According to the lawsuit, Tarantino's attorneys responded to cease-

and-desist letters from Miramax by saying the sales fall under the partial rights Tarantino held from the production, including the rights to screenplay publication.

The lawsuit asks a judge to forbid sale of the NFTs and any similar violation of Miramax copyrights, and asks for Tarantino to pay its legal fees and any related costs.

"Pulp Fiction," the 1994 film starring Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman and John Travolta, took Tarantino from touted indie director to major filmmaking star.

It was one of several films he made with Miramax, which was then helmed by brothers Harvey and Bob Weinstein.

The founder of a Florida big cat sanctuary featured in the popular "Tiger King" series is suing Netflix and a production company to prevent the use of interviews and footage involving her in an upcoming sequel.

Netflix counters that nonprofit Big Cat Rescue founder **Carole Baskin** and her husband agreed in writing that the material could be used in the future and that she is trying to block the company's First Amendment right to free speech.

The lawsuit, pending in Tampa federal court, is the latest twist in the saga involving Baskin and **Joe Exotic** — real name **Joseph Maldonado-Passage** — who were at the center of the documentary series "Tiger

King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness."

The sequel was set to air beginning Nov. 17, Netflix said in a court filing last week.

The first series was immensely popular, airing in March 2020 just as coronavirus pandemic restrictions forced people to stay home. It drew some 64 million household viewers in its first month and was nominated for six prime-time Emmy awards, according to the company.

Much of the series has focused on a dispute between Baskin and Maldonado-Passage over treatment of tigers, lions and other big cats at an Oklahoma zoo he formerly operated. Maldonado-Passage is imprisoned after he was convicted of attempting to hire someone to kill Baskin, a tale told in the initial series.

In her lawsuit, Baskin contends that Royal Goode Productions Inc., which produced "Tiger King" for Netflix, led her and husband Howard Baskin to believe their footage would only be used in a single documentary. Baskin also objects to her portrayal in the first series, especially the insinuation she had something to do with the mysterious 1997 disappearance of her previous husband, Don Lewis, who was declared dead in 2002 but whose remains have never been found.

"The Baskins believed that any sequel, though odious, would not include any of their footage," the lawsuit says. "Tiger King I was particularly harsh and unfair in its depictions of the Baskins and Big Cat Rescue."

Film

Variety



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Will Smith in a scene from 'King Richard.' (AP)

Film

A sensitive, soulful portrait of a father-coach

**Smith re-emerges as actor in 'King Richard'**

By Jake Coyle

Will Smith wouldn't seem an obvious candidate for a midlife crisis. Hugely successful, immensely popular, indefatigably sunny.

But Smith, who stars in the upcoming drama "King Richard," as Richard Williams, father and coach to Venus and Serena Williams, is reemerging after an extensive period of introspection. The 53-year-old, as he writes in a new memoir, has been meditating, participating in ayahuasca ceremonies and generally asking himself a lot of questions — about his own childhood and his choices as a father, husband and movie star.

What prompted Smith's self-inquiry?

"My family was starting to hate me," he says, chuckling. "Everything was going so well and everybody was so miserable. I thought, 'Maybe I should take a look at this.'"

"From a spiritual standpoint, I started bumping up against the ceiling of what material pursuits can deliver. I climbed a whole lot of mountains and started to realize the carrot on the stick of material success," Smith continues. "I guess I started hoping that there was something else because if hit movies was all there was, I was going to be in a mess."

With more than \$4 billion in box office, Smith is one of the movies' biggest draws and most natural showmen. But in Smith's blockbuster life, he's no longer interested in pretending to be superhuman. "King Richard," which Warner Bros. will release Friday in theaters and on HBO Max, is part of a new direction for the actor. His performance is a sensitive and soulful portrait of a father who channels all his pain into love for his family. And it's led to the best reviews of Smith's career. A two-time Oscar nominee ("Ali," "The Pursuit of Happyness"), Smith is widely considered the favorite to win his first Academy Award.

"Ten years ago, I wouldn't have had the maturity and the life experience to find the subtle colors and textures," Smith said in a recent interview. "Richard Williams is a hard man to love. But he's a hard man to love because of how hard he loves. He has been so brutalized and he has been so disrespected and disregarded. When you bump into that trigger, there's a volcano of hurt in there. His family became his oasis."

"King Richard," directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green, is an intimate view of the Williams tennis juggernaut and a nuanced depiction of their father-coach, often rendered as more of a self-promoting megalomaniac.

It's an authorized view of the Williams family; Isha Price, one of Venus and Serena's three half-sisters, is a producer. It captures them as a tightly knit family whose accomplishments, from Compton to Centre Court, came from their determination and unity.

Aunjanue Ellis plays Oracene Price, their mother. (Price and Williams divorced in 2002.) "King Richard" may be foremost about Richard, but Ellis' performance, too, has been singled out for the way Ellis honors the less-known but no less formative parent of Serena and Venus.

**Autobiography**

"She is one of a long line of Black women that I know personally that hold the weight of the world with a smile, or not a smile, on their shoulders," says Ellis. "Mothers like her, in general, can't compartmentalize what they do in their children's lives. They are their children's coach, but at the same time they have to cook and clean, they have to do their hair, they have to sew tennis outfits for them. She was so much to this family."

For Smith, the role of Richard Williams has many echoes to his own father. In Smith's new autobiography, "Will," penned with personal-growth author Mark Manson, Smith describes his father lovingly but also as a hard-drinking, militaristic man with a temper. He recalls, as a 9-year-old, seeing his dad strike his mother, an incident that left Smith feeling, he writes, like "a coward" for not defending her. A sense of fear, Smith describes, propelled him into show business. Much later, when his father was elderly and confined to a wheelchair, Smith remembers feeling the impulse to push him down a staircase.

Such confessions are far removed from the uber-joyful persona Smith has long embodied. As he's showed on a star-studded book tour, with Oprah Winfrey, Ava DuVernay and others, Smith is still a superlative entertainer. But he's now expressing more vulnerability in a therapeutic journey he's presented for all the world to witness.

"As I am mining myself and being vulnerable in the exposure of myself, I'm seeing my ability to understand others, and my ability as an actor is increasing," says Smith. "My personal journey into the depths of the joys and traumas of my past are definitely helping me to expand and build out a greater emotional toolbox that will allow me to portray more complex characters in the coming years."

Smith this year has been shooting "Emancipation,"

with director Antoine Fuqua, a true story about a heavily tortured enslaved man who emancipated himself from a Southern plantation and joined the Union Army in the 1860s. The film, which Apple will distribute, pulled its production from Georgia after the state passed restricted voting laws.

In Smith, Green, the director of "Monsters and Men" and "Joe Bell," found a "locked-in" actor.

"I was meeting a supercharged Will at a time in his career that he has something to prove to himself," says Green. "He's looking for somebody to not just tell him yes. He's probably surrounded by people who tell him that a lot."

That included talking Smith out of using prosthetics on his face to appear more like Williams. Williams, himself, was never on set. The filmmakers instead relied on Isha Price as their contact to the Williams family. Serena and Venus are executive producers on the film and attended its recent premiere at Los Angeles' AFI Film Fest.

Smith's own family has been in the spotlight for years. Jada Pinkett Smith's Facebook series "Red Table Talk" has provided an extremely candid view of their relationship and family life, with children Jaden, 23, Willow, 21, and Trey, 29, who's Smith's son from his first marriage with Sheree Zampino. Much of their young lives have been on camera — Jaden first costarred with his father in "The Pursuit of Happyness," and Willow appeared in "I Am Legend."

In an emotional episode of Smith's YouTube series "The Best Shape in My Life" — in which he chronicles his efforts to get into better shape physically and mentally — Smith read his children chapters from his memoir, sharing joys and regrets about how he's raised them.

"If there's one thing I'm proud of it's that I got my children to take control and take the reins of their lives early," Smith says. "I didn't cultivate a dependency on me — perhaps arguably too young and too much freedom. But at a very young age they were free-standing in terms of their thoughts and their opinions."

Smith's personal evolution is ongoing, but his turn toward candor may be permanent. In his YouTube series, he says, "At this point in my life, authenticity is much more powerful to me than mystery."

"It's becoming the central focus of my life to be able to use what I've gathered in the first 50 years," says Smith, "and start handing it out in the next 50." (AP)

**Features**

ARABIC TIMES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

**NEW YORK:** Adele attracted 10.3 million viewers to a busy Sunday night special where she debuted new music, facilitated a marriage proposal and dished with **Oprah Winfrey** about her divorce and workout routine.

The Nielsen company said the CBS show nearly had a bigger audience than April's Oscars ceremony and, when delayed viewers are eventually figured in, will likely exceed it.

Probably the two most popular musicians of the day both had weekend television spotlights to hawk new material. **Taylor Swift's** 10-minute performance of her song "All of Me" on "Saturday Night Live" reached 5.8 million viewers, and the clip has already been seen more than 2.5 million times on YouTube.

The Academy Awards reached 10.4 million viewers on the night it was televised in April, the audience increasing to 10.7 million adding people who saw it on tape within seven days.

Live events generally do poorly in delayed viewing, leading to CBS' confidence that Adele will eventually pass Oscar. CBS is likely to rerun the musician's special, too.

Sunday was strong for CBS. The late afternoon Green Bay-Seattle football game, with 22.7 million viewers, was the most-watched event on television all week. That helped "60 Minutes," which directly followed the football game, to its biggest audience since January.

CBS led all of the networks with an average of 6.1 million viewers in prime time. NBC had 5.7 million, Fox had 3.83 million, ABC had 3.75 million, Univision had 1.5 million, Ion Television had 920,000 and Telemundo had 850,000.

ESPN led the cable networks with a prime-time average of 2.91 million viewers last week. Fox News Channel had 2.37 million, Hallmark had 1.44 million, MSNBC had 1.12 million and Paramount had 897,000.

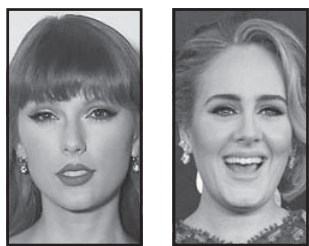
ABC's "World News Tonight" led the evening news ratings race with an average of 8.3 million viewers. NBC's "Nightly News" had 7.1 million and the "CBS Evening News" had 5.2 million. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Crowds will once again fill New York's Times Square this New Year's Eve, with proof of COVID-19 vaccination required for revelers who want to watch the ball drop in person. Mayor **Bill de Blasio** announced Tuesday.

"Yes, we are proud to announce

that Times Square, wonderful celebration in Times Square, the ball drop, everything, coming back full strength the way we love it," de Blasio said at a virtual news briefing. "Hundreds of thousands of people there to celebrate. We can finally get back together again. It's going to be amazing."

**Tom Harris**, the president of



Swift

Adele

the Times Square Alliance, said all spectators aged 5 and over will be asked to show proof of full vaccination. People who can't be vaccinated because of a disability will have to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test, he said.

The New Year's Eve celebration, perhaps the city's most iconic public gathering, was a socially

distant affair during the height of the pandemic last year.

There were no packed crowds of giddy revelers, jammed together cheek-by-jowl. Instead there were mostly empty streets as officials told people to stay home and watch the ball drop on television. Entertainers including Jennifer Lopez performed behind police

barricades to small groups made up of essential workers.

With the advent of vaccines, the city's public celebrations have been on the upswing in 2021. The Macy's Fourth of July fireworks once again welcomed crowds to gather and watch as fireworks lit up the sky, and some parades have returned to city streets. (AP)