



# **SLEEPER CELL**

## **SHOWTIME LIFTS THE VEIL ON ITS NEW ‘SLEEPER CELL’ DRAMA TO HOOK AUDIENCES OVER TWO WEEKS BEGINNING DECEMBER 4**

***Original Drama Takes Viewers On A Clandestine Journey Into The World Of  
A Sleeper Terrorist Cell And Follows The Harrowing Challenges Faced By  
An FBI Agent Determined To Uncover Its Secrets***

LOS ANGELES, CA (October 24, 2005) – The suspenseful new SHOWTIME drama **SLEEPER CELL**, delving into terrorism forming at its root levels, is set for a 10-part run — in a viewer-accessible SHOWTIME Original Television Event “multiplay” format — beginning Sunday, December 4, announced Robert Greenblatt, President of Entertainment, Showtime Networks Inc.

As part of the network’s progressive effort to address subscribers’ time-shifting viewing habits, SHOWTIME will air the first 8 original parts of **SLEEPER CELL** in the 10:00-11:00 PM (ET/PT) Sunday through Wednesday time periods for two weeks beginning December 4.

On each of those Sunday-Wednesday evenings, encore telecasts of the same installments will repeat in the 11 PM –12 AM time slots for added flexibility. Other encore telecasts of the drama will air in back-to-back two-hour blocks on Thursday and Friday evenings (in the 8 PM –10 PM time slots), capped by four-part “**SLEEPER CELL** Mini-Marathon” event evenings on Saturday, December 10 and Saturday, December 17.

**SLEEPER CELL**’s climatic 9th and 10th first-run installments will air back-to-back as a two-hour grand finale event Sunday, December 18, with the 8 PM – 10 PM first-run airings immediately followed by a two-hour encore telecast that evening.

The strategy behind the two-week, multicast scheduling for **SLEEPER CELL** is intended to allow viewers greater flexibility and time to savor this topical and suspense-filled drama night after night—allowing them to better absorb its authenticity, intricate storylines and involving character arcs.

“We felt that **SLEEPER CELL** is a special television event whose themes have never been more relevant than they are today,” Greenblatt said. “We knew that once our subscribers started watching this compelling drama they would be hooked and wouldn’t want to wait over two months for its powerful conclusion. The condensed scheduling of this incredible story underscores the momentum of the initial storyline yet does not preclude it continuing as a weekly series.”

**SLEEPER CELL**, starring Michael Ealy and Oded Fehr, dramatizes the inner workings of a Los Angeles-based Islamic terrorist cell and an undercover FBI agent who infiltrates it.

Created by Executive Producers Ethan Reiff & Cyrus Voris, **SLEEPER CELL** lifts the veil of secrecy to reveal a riveting and authentic look at the war on terrorism. It explores and illuminates the many facets of Islam and the repercussions of its extremism when it clashes with Western society. The drama will fold current events and pertinent political developments into its contemporary storylines as it explores the personal and professional side of committed agents combating one of the most concealed dangers in our nation’s history.

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Showtime Networks Inc. (SNI), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Viacom Inc., owns the premium television networks SHOWTIME®, THE MOVIE CHANNEL™ and FLIX®, as well as the multiplex channels SHOWTIME® TOO™, SHOWTIME® SHOWCASE, SHOWTIME EXTREME®, SHOWTIME BEYOND®, SHOWTIME NEXT®, SHOWTIME WOMEN®, SHOWTIME FAMILYZONE® and TMC xtra. SNI also offers SHOWTIME HD®, THE MOVIE CHANNEL HD®, SHOWTIME ON DEMAND® and THE MOVIE CHANNEL ON DEMAND™. SNI also is an owner of the premium television network SUNDANCE CHANNEL®, which is a venture between NBC Universal, Robert Redford, and Showtime Networks Inc. All SNI feeds provide enhanced sound using Dolby Digital 5.1. SNI markets and distributes sports and entertainment events for exhibition to subscribers on a pay-per-view basis through SHOWTIME® PPV. Additionally, the advertiser-supported television network SHOWTIME is available in Turkey through a joint venture with UK-based Zone Vision.

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**SCHEDULED DECEMBER 2005 RUN**

**FOR**

**“SLEEPER CELL” ON SHOWTIME**

(all times ET/PT)

**Sunday, Dec. 4:** Premiere, Part 1 (10 – 11 PM); Encore Telecast (11 PM – 12 AM)

**Monday, Dec. 5:** Premiere, Part 2 (10 – 11 PM); Encore (11 PM – 12 AM)

**Tuesday, Dec. 6:** Premiere, Part 3 (10 – 11 PM); Encore (11 PM – 12 AM)

**Wednesday, Dec. 7:** Premiere, Part 4 (10 – 11 PM); Encore (11 PM – 12 AM)

**Thursday, Dec. 8:** Encore Telecasts, Parts 1 & 2 (8 – 10 PM)

**Friday, Dec. 9:** Encore Telecasts, Parts 3 & 4 (8 – 10 PM)

**Saturday, Dec. 10:** “SLEEPER CELL Marathon,” Encore Telecasts, Parts 1-to-4 (8 PM – 12 AM)

**Sunday, Dec. 11:** Premiere, Part 5 (10 – 11 PM); Encore (11 PM – 12 AM)

**Monday, Dec. 12:** Premiere, Part 6 (10 – 11 PM); Encore (11 PM – 12 AM)

**Tuesday, Dec. 13:** Premiere, Part 7 (10 – 11 PM); Encore (11 PM – 12 AM)

**Wednesday, Dec. 14:** Premiere, Part 8 (10 – 11 PM); Encore (11 PM – 12 AM)

**Thursday, Dec. 15:** Encore Telecasts, Parts 1 & 2 (8 – 10 PM)

**Friday, Dec. 16:** Encore Telecasts, Parts 3 & 4 (8 – 10 PM)

**Saturday, Dec. 17:** “SLEEPER CELL Marathon,” Encore Telecasts, Parts 5-to-8 (8 PM – 12 AM)

**Sunday, Dec. 18:** “SLEEPER CELL Grand Finale Two-Hour Event,” Premiere Telecasts, Parts 9 & 10 (8 – 10 PM); Encore Telecast (10 PM – 12 AM)

**UNDERCOVER AGENT INFILTRATES TERRORIST ORGANIZATION IN  
SHOWTIME NETWORKS' "SLEEPER CELL"**

***Chilling Look At Growing Domestic Threats Underscore  
Explosive Original Television Event Featuring  
Emerging Stars Michael Ealy And Oded Fehr***

LOS ANGELES (October 24, 2005) — Shadowy, unseen terrorist threats readying to unleash “dirty” radioactive bombs ... chemical weapons ... germ warfare agents ... fertilizer-fueled explosives ... all are scenarios evolving as fast as what an amateur chemist can concoct in a home-garage. Color-coded warnings and emergency response drills are things our governments are doing to prepare us, but even veteran anti-terrorism government officials know the most effective weapon — against home-grown terrorist “cells” — is getting an “operative” on the inside.

Starring Michael Ealy (“Barbershop”) and Oded Fehr (“Resident Evil: Apocalypse,” “The Mummy”), the explosive SHOWTIME Original Television Event **SLEEPER CELL** takes viewers underneath the veil of a sleeper terrorist cell and follows the harrowing challenges faced by an agent determined to uncover its dark, twisted intentions.

**SLEEPER CELL**, from creators and executive producers Ethan Reiff & Cyrus Voris (“Bulletproof Monk”), is produced by Ann Kindberg (“Grey’s Anatomy,” “The Shield”) and Clark Johnson (“S.W.A.T.”) directs the pilot. Nick Gomez (“The Shield,” “The Sopranos”) directs three installments and five other notable directors contribute to the 10-part drama. Filmmakers include two-time Emmy® Award-winning director of photography Bob Primes (“Felicity,” “My Antonia”), production designer Mayne Berke (“Taxi,” “S.W.A.T.”) and costume designer Jolie Andreatta (“Red Shoe Diaries”).

The drama melds current events and pertinent political developments into its contemporary storylines as it explores the personal and professional side of committed agents combating the greatest and most concealed threat in our nation’s history.

Having posed as a prisoner inside a federal penitentiary, a young agent (Michael Ealy) makes contacts enabling him to infiltrate an Islamic terrorist cell in Los Angeles. The cell is led by an intimidating, charismatic extremist (Fehr), who considers all acts of violence moral when serving the greater good of his cause. But early in the investigation something goes wrong, placing lives and the integrity of a three-year mission in jeopardy.

In the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, and the heightened awareness and fear of terrorism that previously had festered just below the national consciousness, writers Ethan Reiff and Cyrus Voris responded by writing "SLEEPER CELL." It is an attempt to, in their words, "know your enemy."

"The ongoing multi-front war pitting the forces of radical Islam against the developed world — and the cultural civil war between moderates and extremists *within* the Islamic world — is the most pressing geo-political and existential challenge facing Western civilization," comments Reiff. "Depictions of this conflict in popular culture have mostly been done in an escapist comic-book fashion, with exaggerated Euro-trash thugs or stereotype rogue CIA agents. No one seemed to have interest in telling a complex story dealing realistically with the people who seek to rain death and destruction on us. So we decided to try."

Reiff and Voris center their story on an agent who goes through the federal penal system to develop the credibility to make critical and viable contacts that will earn him access into the most enigmatic and lethal criminal conspiracy of our age. Once inside, agent Darwyn al-Sayeed learns the complexities and confusing contradictions of the religious teachings that drive these maniacally obsessed and destructive warriors.

Says Cyrus Voris, "We also looked at this project as a way to examine the two faces of Islam -- a spiritual peace-loving religion, the Islam of the mainstream -- and the brutal jihad-driven Islam of the radical fundamentalists."

###

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## **MULTI-PART SYNOPSIS**

### **Part 1: “Al-Fatiha”**

#### **Logline Summary:**

DARWYN AL-SAYEED is a Muslim ex-con who has just been released from prison and finds his way to an Islamic extremist named FARIK, who recruits him to join a terrorist sleeper cell planning an attack in Los Angeles.

#### **Synopsis:**

DARWYN AL-SAYEED is a practicing MUSLIM and an ex-con who is introduced to FARIK, an Islamic extremist who is the leader of a LOS ANGELES SLEEPER CELL. Farik tests his new recruit and has him surreptitiously stakeout, with fellow Cell member BOBBY HABIB, a home where a young Middle-Eastern girl is dating an American-born white man. Ironically, an attractive Caucasian woman named GAYLE becomes drawn to Darwyn at Bobby’s family picnic. Later on we are introduced to FBI AGENT RAY FULLER and learn that Darwyn is an UNDERCOVER FBI AGENT investigating the sleeper cell — operating under the alias DARWYN AL-HAKIM. Farik becomes suspicious and drives Darwyn, Bobby and the other Cell members, CHRISTIAN, ILIJA and TOMMY to the middle of the desert. Farik then starts to question the group and proclaims there is a “traitor” among them — very much placing Darwyn’s mission and life in danger.

### **Part 2: “Target”**

#### **Logline Summary:**

FARIK and ILIJA receive a deadly biological ANTHRAX shipment and prepare for an attack inside a Los Angeles shopping mall.

**Synopsis:**

FARIK recruits another Cell member, bio-chemical student EDDY PANGETSU, to test the ANTHRAX that he and ILIJA have received. Darwyn learns that the Cell is planning an anthrax attack inside a mall and tries to inform the FBI of where and when but it turns out the anthrax was fake and just A REHEARSAL. The FBI pulls back just before they blow Darwyn's cover.

**Part 3: "Money"****Logline Summary:**

FARIK learns that the money supply filtering in from MEXICO to finance Youmud Din ("Judgment Day") has come to a halt. FARIK, DARWYN and CHRISTIAN cross the border to Tijuana, Mexico, and attempt to straighten out their financial problems.

**Synopsis:**

The Cell's primary source of funding has suddenly dried up because their enforcer in MEXICO has been killed in a car accident. FARIK, DARWYN and CHRISTIAN take a trip down to Tijuana to investigate the interruption in the money supply. After visiting with the Cell's designated "accountant," ZIAD, it becomes apparent to Farik that his group needs to raise funds from more than just selling thoroughbred racing horses and instead concentrate more on their illicit drug trafficking businesses. Farik and the others meet with Mexican mob boss FELIX ORTIZ to discuss payments that are owed to them but Felix wants to re-negotiate their agreement to his favor. Farik anticipates this from Felix and draws hidden weapons. Farik kills Felix and shoots a bodyguard who then tries to kill Farik. But Darwyn shoots the bodyguard and saves Farik's life.



#### **Part 4: “Scholar”**

##### **Logline Summary:**

FARIK sends biochemical student EDDY PANGETSU (from episode 2) on a flight to Vancouver, Canada, to drive a shipment of real ANTHRAX across the Canadian border and down to Los Angeles.

##### **Synopsis:**

FARIK sends bio-chemical student EDDY PANGETSU (from episode 2) to VANCOUVER, CANADA, to bring back ANTHRAX that he has acquired with ILIJA as his escort on the flight. When Farik is at LAX, he also observes a moderate religious scholar from Yemen, ABDAL MALIK arriving inside the terminal. Eddy drives the anthrax back in an RV with a mother and children who pose as his family across the Canadian/U.S. border. Back in Los Angeles, Farik sends DARWYN and TOMMY to assassinate Abdal Malik, whose peaceful teachings are turning extremists away from terrorism, but FULLER sends in an FBI decoy to foil the plan. Eddy drives the RV to a deserted canyon but when Farik goes to retrieve the hidden anthrax it is not there. Convinced he has been betrayed, Farik executes Eddy and dumps the RV off the side of the cliff. In the meantime, CHRISTIAN was sent as a back up assassin and kills Abdal Malik.

#### **Part 5: “Hero”**

##### **Logline Summary:**

The Cell members pose as Iraqi insurgents-in-training in order to infiltrate and take over a secure warehouse as a new base of operations for Youmud Din.

##### **Synopsis:**

After the anthrax plot has been spoiled on FARIK'S watch, he now has to prove that he is still the right leader for Youmud Din. DARWYN tells FULLER that Farik

could be planning a suicide attack or car bombing, but he's not sure. ILIJA, meanwhile introduces himself to KEN BIN AL-WALEED, a white, American-Muslim, who trains insurgents to fight in Iraq at a converted warehouse downtown. Farik and the Cell members take over the facility and kill Ken after he refuses to join their cause.

## **Part 6: "Family"**

### **Logline Summary:**

DARWYN befriends a pesticide plant worker in order to buy some of his company's product under the table for the Cell while each of the jihadis cope with personal troubles of their own.

### **Synopsis:**

DARWYN befriends ERNEST JEFFERSON, a pesticide plant worker, in order to acquire some of the company's product under the table for the Cell. TOMMY'S estranged mother LYNNE is in town, but she gets along much better with CHRISTIAN than her son. Visiting home for the first time in awhile, Darwyn becomes concerned about his own mother's financial situation. Meanwhile, ILIJA'S burgeoning relationship hits the wall when he learns the girl is an orthodox Serb like those who wiped out his family. Darwyn catches a lead on FARIK'S true identity.

## **Part 7: "Immigrant"**

### **Logline Summary:**

When an Afghan boy arrives at the warehouse looking for training as a jihadi, DAWRYN introduces him to a more moderate brand of Islam in hopes of steering him away from terrorism.

**Synopsis:**

While the Cell members prepare for the final attack, FARIK heads to Las Vegas to discuss the date for Youmud Din with REGIONAL CELL LEADERS from New York and Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, an Afghan boy, KHASHUL, shows up at the warehouse hoping to be trained as a jihadi. DARWYN introduces the boy to a more moderate brand of Islam in hopes of steering him away from extremist elements, while GAYLE is suspicious after a visit from BOBBY HABIB'S cousin, who tells the LAPD she thinks her ex-boyfriend may be a terrorist.

**Part 8: “Intramural”****Logline Summary:**

The Cell buys explosives from a white supremacist militia while DARWYN's new handler, PATRICE SERXNER, tries to prevent the LAPD from blowing his cover in a conflicting investigation.

**Synopsis:**

ZIAD, the Cell's money man/accountant, introduces the Cell to a white supremacist militia that can supply them with demolition explosives, while the LAPD begins surveillance on DARWYN off GAYLE'S tip. The LAPD investigation later collides with the FBI, nearly blowing Darwyn's cover. But SERXNER, Darwyn's new handler, intercedes to save the investigation and prove herself to Darwyn.

**Parts 9 & 10 (Two-Hour Grand Finale): “Youmud Din”****Logline Summary:**

The Cell hijacks a chemical truck in preparation for Youmud Din (“Judgment Day”) as the FBI prepares to stop them, not knowing that, due to a

misunderstanding of the Arabic calendar, the attack will proceed ONE DAY EARLIER than they think it will.

**Synopsis:**

The Cell kidnaps a chemical truck driver and his rig in preparation for Youmud Din. Meanwhile, SERXNER and the FBI prepare to stop the attack in all three cities. FARIK gives the jihadis one last night to themselves as he meets and bids farewell to his own wife. After Farik gruesomely murders the truck driver of the phosgene-laden truck (by forcibly making him inhale the toxic fumes), he finally tells the anxious Cell when and what they'll be attacking: The target is Dodger Stadium the next morning, ONE DAY EARLIER than the FBI previously believed. FARIK sets the attack in motion by triggering a DECOY explosion down the street from the warehouse. In the midst of several fire trucks arriving on the scene, THE CELL'S own emergency response vehicle escapes the warehouse and slips by the FBI with the deadly containers of toxic chemicals inside. Before leaving the warehouse DARWYN snags ILIJA'S ticket to the ballgame and places it inside his Quran as a clue for the FBI. SERXNER realizes that the explosion was a decoy and raids the empty warehouse finding the baseball ticket. The FBI is now racing against the clock to intercept the Cell's attack on the stadium.

## CAST BIOS

**MICHAEL EALY** (Darwyn) earned attention for his breakout role in the hit MGM comedy “Barbershop,” as well as for supporting roles in such films as “Kissing Jessica Stein” and “Bad Company,” starring Anthony Hopkins and Chris Rock. He reprised his role as Ricky Nash in “Barbershop 2: Back in Business” and was seen opposite DMX and David Arquette in the film noir “Never Die Alone.” His other noted roles include a dramatic arc on the Emmy®-winning series “ER” and a supporting role in “2 Fast 2 Furious.” He also starred on television opposite Halle Berry in the critically-acclaimed ABC and Harpo Films telepic “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” based on Zora Neale Hurston’s 1937 novel. Ealy will next be seen on the big screen in “November,” an indie film for director Gregory Harrison in which he stars opposite Courteney Cox Arquette, Anne Archer and James LeGros. A native of Silver Spring, Maryland, Ealy graduated college with a degree in English. Shortly after he headed to New York, performing in several stage productions, including the Off-Broadway hits “Joe Fearless” and “Whoa Jack,” for which he earned an Adelco Award nomination. He then nabbed guest-starring roles on NBC’s “Law & Order” and the SHOWTIME hit series **SOUL FOOD®**. While visiting friends in Los Angeles, Ealy heard about auditions for “Barbershop.” After placing a call to his manager and a few rounds of auditions, he landed the role of Ricky Nash, a two-strike offender working at the local barbershop under the supervision of Calvin (Ice Cube). The film earned an NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Motion Picture as well as a People’s Choice Award nomination for Favorite Comedy Motion Picture. It also propelled Ealy to one of *People’s* “On the Verge” actors in the magazine’s “Sexiest Man Alive” 2002 issue.

**ODED FEHR** (Farik) burst on the scene as the mysterious Ardeth Bay in the hugely popular “The Mummy” and “The Mummy Returns,” and he co-starred in the hit film “Resident Evil: Apocalypse.” Fehr’s other noted credits include

“Texas Rangers,” “Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo” and, for television, the series “UC: Undercover” and the 1999 telefilm “Cleopatra.” He recently reprised his role in an upcoming “Deuce Bigalow” sequel, and appears in the DreamWorks and Tollin/Robbins feature “Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story” with Kurt Russell and Dakota Fanning. Fehr was born in Israel, and while working in Germany he enrolled in a drama class in Frankfurt, prompting him to continue his studies at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in London. He then pursued his acting career in Los Angeles (where he met his future wife) and began landing film roles.

**GRANT HESLOV** (Bobby) is known for his supporting roles in such hit films as “The Scorpion King” (in the role of Arpid), “Enemy of the State,” “The Birdcage” and “True Lies.” He can be seen in the Hank Azaria written and directed short film “Nobody’s Perfect,” which premiered at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, as well as such other films as “Dante’s Peak,” “Black Sheep” and “Congo.” His numerous television credits include guest roles in “Yes, Dear,” “The X Files,” “Seinfeld” and “CSI.” Heslov, a Pittsburgh native, is also accomplished on the other side of the camera, having written and directed the 1998 award-winning short film “Waiting for Woody.” He teamed with Steven Soderbergh and George Clooney’s production company, Section 8 to co-produce the Coen brothers’ “Intolerable Cruelty,” and he co-executive produced the Washington insider series “K Street.”

**ALEX NESIC** (Christian) has been featured in the major motion picture “High Crimes,” starring Ashley Judd and Jim Caviezel and starred in the comedy “What Boys Like.” His guest starring roles on television series include “CSI: Miami,” “JAG,” “As If,” “Angel,” “Felicity” and “Unhappily Ever After.” Born in Santa Barbara, California and raised in Antibes, France and Hawaii, Nesic has French and American citizenship, speaks four languages fluently and holds a BA in European History and Spanish Literature from Santa Clara University.

**HENRI LUBATTI** (Ilija) is known for his recurring role on the hit series “24” and his continuing role as ‘Danny’ in the popular daytime serial “General Hospital.” A University of Washington Drama School grad, with a strong background in Seattle theatre, Lubatti found his way to Los Angeles via Vancouver, Canada, where he landed roles in series such as “The X Files,” “Felicity,” “E.R.,” “The Practice,” “Dark Angel” and “Strong Medicine.” Additionally, he played Frank Shorter in the feature film “Prefontaine.” While recognized for his grasp of accents and the ability to play Russian and European roles, Lubatti also has comedic skills which were seen in a guest appearance as a French chef on “Spin City,” and as a bellman in the highly acclaimed two-person stage production of “The Comic” with Larry Miller. He continues to make time for other stage productions in Southern California, including his most recent performance in the U.S. premiere of “The Talking Cure” at the Mark Taper Forum.

**BLAKE SHIELDS** (Tommy) appeared in “The Hollow,” His other feature credits include “New Port South,” “Boys and Girls” and “Crime and Punishment in Suburbia.” Shields played a recurring role as ‘Osgood’ in the series “Carnivale,” and has guest starred on such shows as “Navy NCIS,” “CSI,” “JAG,” “Freaks & Geeks” and “Boy Meets World.”

**MELISSA SAGEMILLER** (Gayle) has been seen in such films as “The Clearing,” “Love Object,” “Sorority Boys,” “Soul Survivors,” and “Get Over It.” Her television credits include a guest starring role in “Law and Order: SVU.” Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Sagemiller began studying dance at age three, and made her stage debut at age nine in “To Kill A Mockingbird.” At 14 she began modeling for Eileen Ford in New York and Paris. After studying art history at the University of Virginia, she took acting classes at the Stella Adler Conservatory and the Stonestreet Studio, leading to her first television role on “Law and Order: SVU.”

**Executive Producers** and creators **ETHAN REIFF & CYRUS VORIS** previously penned “Bulletproof Monk,” produced by John Woo. The scriptwriting partners have penned the upcoming animated film “Master P: Kung Fu Panda” for DreamWorks, the MGM feature “Fireflies,” and created/executive produced the series “Brimstone” for Fox Broadcasting. Reiff & Voris have been writing together since 1987. Reiff was born in New York City, though he and Voris never met there until they were introduced at a graduation party thrown by a mutual friend, where they learned each was completing feature-length screenplays. They agreed to meet again and swap finished scripts, which they did at a Mets-Reds game, leading to their long-term collaboration from their base in Los Angeles.

**Producer ANN KINDBERG** has been involved in a number of noted TV series and telefilms over the past 30-plus years — both in the U.S. and Europe. Most recently, Kindberg has served as Co-Producer of the hit ABC drama “Grey’s Anatomy.” She also served as Co-Producer of **SUCKER FREE CITY**, a Spike Lee-directed SHOWTIME telefilm. Kindberg has also been involved behind-the-scenes with two critically-acclaimed, Emmy®-nominated series “American Family” (for PBS) and “The Shield” (FX), where she served as Line Producer and Unit Production Manager on the respective shows. She also worked as Unit Production Manager for the Lifetime Television drama, “The Division.” Kindberg counts close to two-dozen telefilms to her credits, producing such memorable films as “Stranger in My House,” “Anya’s Bell,” “Payback,” “Miracle in the Woods,” “The Patron Saint of Liars,” “The Betty Broderick Story” and “The Gambler Returns: The Luck of the Draw,” among others. She produced or co-produced several of the popular “Line of Duty” reality-based movies for NBC, including the controversial “Ambush in Waco” and also “Smoke Jumpers,” for which she was Supervising Producer. Her other credits as Supervising Producer include “Dean Koontz’s Mr. Murder” and “Texas Justice.”



## PRODUCTION NOTES

It's what most every government homeland/defense and municipal officials fear and dread the most: A shadowy, undetected home-grown terrorist sleeper cell unleashes an incomprehensible, ghastly weapon of devastation on an unsuspecting U.S. populace. **SLEEPER CELL**, the new SHOWTIME Original Television Event, hits close to home as it dramatizes the inner workings of a Los Angeles-based Islamic terrorist cell and an undercover FBI agent who infiltrates it.

Written and executive produced by Ethan Reiff and Cyrus Voris, **SLEEPER CELL** reveals a riveting and authentic look at the war on terrorism. It illuminates the complexities of Islamic extremism and its clash with modern Western society. "Depictions of this conflict in popular culture have mostly been done in an escapist, comic-book fashion, with stereotyped, one-dimensional versions of these characters," says Reiff. Voris continues, "No one seemed to have interest in telling a complex story, dealing realistically with the people who seek to rain death and destruction on us. So we decided to try."

Unapologetically, Reiff and Voris admit they wrote **SLEEPER CELL** as an attempt to "know your enemy."

Darwyn, the protagonist portrayed by Michael Ealy, is doing just that, knowing his enemy. A Muslim-American undercover agent, Darwyn poses as a prisoner inside a federal penitentiary, where he makes contacts which enable him to infiltrate an Islamic terrorist cell in Los Angeles. "The core of Darwyn's conflict stems from trying to preserve his faith in Islam while gaining the trust and approval of those attempting to destroy it," Ealy says.

The cell is led by an intimidating, charismatic extremist, Farik, played by Oded Fehr. Farik considers all acts of violence moral when serving the greater good of his cause. Personally, Fehr believes, "As far as terrorism, what I found most fascinating was the cause for the hatred. Looking back at our own actions and trying to understand what it is that we are being blamed for by these fundamentalists."

**SLEEPER CELL** finds a way of humanizing a horrific aspect of humanity by creating dynamic characters that are neither all good nor all evil. “I think that terrorists are humans who act inhumane. I wish they were monsters, maybe that way they would be easier to find,” says Fehr. “The topics of each episode will not only sustain a compelling storyline but will individually deal, confront, and possibly challenge the ideologies that we as Americans have of Islam and ourselves,” Ealy adds.

Voris and Reiff have exposed a shade of gray that has managed to portray a three-dimensional look at Islam through Darwyn and Farik. “We also looked at this project as a way to examine the two faces of Islam — a spiritual peace-loving religion, the Islam of the mainstream — and the brutal jihad-driven Islam of the radical fundamentalists” says Voris.

Actor Fehr agrees that creators were successful in their attempts. “What I love about this drama is that it shows viewers both sides of Islam in a way that has never been done before,” Fehr says. “It shows the beautiful peaceful side as well as the fundamentalist extreme side.” Ealy adds that “this drama will transcend the stereotypes of previous shows by conveying a human element that undoubtedly will open the minds of those less tolerant and those not willing to try and understand the issues and problems at hand. All in an effort to confront and salvage what Islam really means.”

The production has assembled an impressive and diverse collection of writers, consultants and technical advisors to provide accurate depictions of both undercover law enforcement and counter-terrorism techniques as well as the vast dynamics of the Muslim religion. Kamran Pasha, a Pakistani Muslim, brings his experience as a journalist and international businessman as well his creative writing talents to **SLEEPER CELL** scripts. Additionally, technical advisors such as Warren Flagg, a retired 22-year veteran of the FBI, offer the drama an authentic and accurate portrayal of deep undercover work and the world of counter-terrorism.

September 11, 2001 is a date that changed our world forever. Political and foreign policy issues concerning how Americans are perceived by others cultures suddenly became a harsh — and tragic-reality. Fehr recounts, “Like

most people, after the initial shock of 9/11, when things calmed down a bit, I tried to forget, or at least not to think about the constant threat. Of course the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq stood as a constant reminder, but I was busy with other things, I thought of other things. Now, I think and talk of nothing else...”

Reiff adds that, “the ongoing multi-front war pitting the forces of radical Islam against the developed world — and the cultural civil war between moderates and extremists *within* the Islamic world — is the most pressing geopolitical and existential challenge facing Western civilization.”

**SLEEPER CELL** tackles the pertinent issues that have not only touched our hearts and minds in very profound ways in the recent past but also raises the question of how certain choices we make as Americans will affect our lives in the future. Says Fehr: “This drama has taken a subject matter that is very close to everyone’s hearts, and tells a story that is both entertaining and exciting, yet remains so true to life that it’s also frightening.”

## **CAST AND PRODUCTION CREDITS**

### **Cast**

*(Pilot)*

Darwyn al-Sayeed (alias al-Hakim).....	MICHAEL EALY
Farik .....	ODED FEHR
Bobby Habib.....	GRANT HESLOV
Ilija .....	HENRI LUBATTI
Christian .....	ALEX NESIC
Tommy .....	BLAKE SHIELDS
Gayle.....	MELISSA SAGEMILLER
Special Agent Ray Fuller.....	JAMES LeGROS
Librarian .....	ALBERT HALL

Nadia .....LALA KHANIAN  
Marcus ..... JAKE SOLDERA  
Teenage Girl .....SAHRA SILANNE  
Frat Boy.....JOHN WESLEY CHATHAM  
Crying Mother in News..... ZSA ZSA MODJALLAL  
Rabbi..... STEPHEN MENDEL  
Cantor ..... GARY LEVINE  
Elderly Sikh ..... PRITAM SINGH  
Farsi Men .....PEJ VAHDAT, GHASSAN MASHINI  
News Reporter ..... KRISTEN HUFF  
Female Administrator .....KIM TAYLOR COLEMAN  
Hooker.....POOKIE BRYANT  
Inmates .....MALIK BARNHARDT, MARTIN DORSLA  
Reza ..... ARYANA HAJATI  
Teens ..... AARON PAUL, MAX GREENFIELD, SCOTT 'JESIC' CAUDILL  
Arabic Voiceover ..... MICHAEL DESANTE  
Stunt Coordinator .....JAY LYNCH  
Stunt Players.....TOM FICKE, HENRY KINGI, SR., DUSTIN MEIER  
..... STEVEN PICERNI, GARRETT WARREN, SCOTT WAUGH

**Production Credits**

*(Pilot)*

Executive Producers .....ETHAN REIFF & CYRUS VORIS  
Written by .....ETHAN REIFF & CYRUS VORIS  
Directed by .....CLARK JOHNSON

Produced by .....ANN KINDBERG  
Director of Photography ..... ROBERT PRIMES, ASC  
Production Designer..... MAYNE BERKE  
Edited by ..... CINDY MOLLO, A.C.E.  
Music by ..... PAUL HASLINGER  
Casting by ..... KIM COLEMAN  
Unit Production Manager ..... CHRISTINE LARSON-NITZSCHE  
First Assistant Director ..... ALBERT CHO  
Key Second Assistant Director..... REBECCA STRICKLAND  
Costume Designer .....JOLIE ANDREATTA  
Set Decorator ..... CASEY HALLENBECK  
Construction Coordinator .....J. R. RUTCHLAND  
Property Master..... MIKE BLAZE  
Sound Mixers ..... CHARLES KELLY, TED PHILLIPS  
Assistant Art Director ..... JOE WALSER  
“A” Camera Operator ..... IAN DODD  
“B” Camera Operator ..... DAN KNEECE  
“A” Camera First Assistant ..... STUART LILLAS  
“B” Camera First Assistant .....STEVE “MANNY” MANN  
Chief Lighting Technician..... ANDREW SMITH  
Key Grip .....PETER CHRIMES  
Key Make-up Artist.....NORMAN LEAVITT  
Key Hairstylist .....KENNETH WALKER  
Production Coordinator ..... SCOTT FORT

Special Effects Coordinator..... JON BELYEU  
Script Supervisor..... LILIANA MOLINA  
Video Playback ..... MARK MARCUM  
Islamic & Arabic Advisor ..... MICHAEL DESANTE  
Technical Advisor.....DET. ROBERT CALLUS, NYPD (RETIRED)  
FBI Advisor.....WARREN M. FLAGG (RETIRED)  
Biological  
& Chemical Warfare Advisor ..... CHRISTOPHER J. DAVIS, OBE, MD, PHD  
Location Manager ..... GARY KESSELL  
Assistant Location Manager..... MARK FREID  
Transportation Coordinator ..... BUSTER KOHLHOFF  
Transportation Captain.....TOMMY ROBERTS  
Production Accountant..... CAREN ROBUCK  
Special Effects Foreman ..... FRED TESSARO  
Assistant Chief Lighting Technician ..... STEVE COOK  
Best Boy Grip ..... HIRO KAKUHARI  
Wardrobe Supervisor ..... JON BOYDEN  
Lead Man .....MARK SAKAMOTO  
Extras Casting.....JEFF OLAN CASTING, INC.  
Associate Producers .....BRUCE DUNN, CHAD TOMASOSKI  
Post Production Coordinators ..... LUIS PATINO, PATRICK CLARK  
Assistant Editors ..... CHRISTINE KIM, SANDY GRUBB  
Music Supervisor..... GREG SILL  
Music Editor ..... MATT FAUSAK

Sound Supervisors..... RICHARD TAYLOR, MARK CAMPS

Re-recording Mixers..... ELMO PONSDOMENECH, JOE EARLE

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