

## QUICK QUESTION

## MICHAEL PITT

Rhapsody's one-question interview with the star of the new gangster flick *Rob the Mob*



**A**CTOR MICHAEL Pitt is known for playing violent, brooding characters—most notably, handsome hoodlum enforcer Jimmy Darmody in HBO's "Boardwalk Empire." In the new film *Rob the Mob*, just out, Pitt adds another gangster character to his résumé with Tommy, a not-so-bright ex-con who, along with his girlfriend (played by Broadway luminary Nina Arianda), decides to start holding up Italian social clubs frequented by the Mafia.

As the film is based on a real-life Bonnie and Clyde who robbed mob hangouts in the early '90s, we asked the actor about playing a role in the era

of acid-washed jeans, grunge and the first President Bush. —DAN CRANE

**I READ THAT YOU IMMERSSED YOURSELF IN THE HISTORY OF WORLD WAR I AND THE PROHIBITION ERA TO PREPARE FOR "BOARDWALK EMPIRE." HOW DID YOU GET READY FOR THE WORLD OF *ROB THE MOB*?**

“I’m a big fan of researching a project. For *Rob the Mob*, I read a lot of newspaper clippings, police files and other background material that the writer [Jonathan Fernandez] provided us with. It also happens that I was living in NYC as a teenager in the '90s, so I have a vivid memory of the spirit of that time and place.”



## SEATBACK FILM FEST

United Airlines and the Tribeca Film Festival team up to bring great movies to cruising altitude

Film buffs flying the friendly skies are in for a treat. Beginning this month United and the Tribeca Film Festival (TFF) are partnering to bring exclusive content from prior TFFs and other festivals to the airline's inflight entertainment systems. This will include feature-length narrative movies, documentaries and short films, according to TFF Executive Vice President of Content Matt Spangler.

The first two feature-length films will be a documentary called *Climate of Change*, narrated by Tilda Swinton, which Spangler describes as “a beautiful documentary with gorgeous filmmaking and cinematography that gives you a sense of traveling the world and seeing the activity of humans and how it's affecting the earth”; and a high-school comedy called *The Trotsky*, starring Jay Baruchel, whose character believes he is the reincarnation of Communist firebrand Leon Trotsky, leading him to start an “underdog revolution” at school.

“In future months we'll be having ‘great conversations’ that show an inside, more in-depth look into the film industry,” Spangler tells *Rhapsody*. “We will feature and focus on a lot of the big names that come through Tribeca, maybe our Directors Series, where legendary directors sit down with other big-name directors or actors to talk about those things you just don't hear in a clip from the red carpet.” The first of these, in May, will be Clint Eastwood talking with *Noah* director Darren Aronofsky.

—HUNTER R. SLATON

United Airlines is a sponsor of the Tribeca Film Festival, which runs April 16–27 in New York City.

MANAGEMENT+ARTISTS (PITT); BRIAN PALMER (TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL)