



## Shot in Mississippi by Prep alum, “Get On Up” premieres

BY JOHN WILLIAM CREEL

James Brown was a soul/funk/R&B singer and songwriter born in the 1930s. A couple of his most popular songs include “Get Up Offa That Thing” and “I Got You (I Feel Good).” Throughout his career he has been called “The Hardest Working Man in Show Business” as well as “The Godfather of Soul.”

One of the most notable things about James Brown isn’t necessarily related to his musical talent, but his humble be-

ginning. James Brown grew up in the rural south, and that was not a fun place to be in the 30s. His struggle to fame inspired a biographical film called *Get On Up*, and it has strong ties to his home state, as well as some ties to Jackson Prep.

*Get On Up* was directed by Tate Taylor, a native of Mississippi as well as a Prep alum. He also directed “The Help”, a movie based on a novel also written by a prep alum.

Chadwick Boseman portrays

James Brown in the film, along with other actors like Nelsan Ellis, playing Bobby Byrd, and Viola Davis playing Susie Brown. Craig Robinson, famous for his role of Darryl in *The Office* also makes an appearance. Mick Jagger, the lead singer for the Rolling Stones, produced the movie.

The shooting of the movie was done mostly in Mississippi.

In Natchez, the film crew built a replica of the Apollo Theater in Harlem, where James Brown performed an excellent live record back in 62. The stage was actually built inside of a high school auditorium. That would have made for a great forum if it weren’t summer.

To celebrate the fact that *Get On Up* was filmed in Mississippi, before the movie hit

theaters, there was a premiere, which a few Prep staff members were invited to. Among them was one Mr. Jason Walton, the new Head of School. Dr. Walton highly praises the movie, saying “As far as biographical films go, I think this is as fine a cinematic effort as I have seen. Chadwick Boseman positively transforms into James Brown on screen.”

Dr. Walton also expresses how deeply rooted the film is in Mississippi. He said “I did recognize many familiar settings from both Jackson and Natchez. Spectators from our area will certainly recognize locations (and some people) familiar to them which brings a special level of enjoyment to the moviegoing experience.”

Left: Chadwick Boseman “gets funky.”

Right: Premiere pass, provided by Dr. Walton.

