

## Xzibit Rap Artist TV Host Actor

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West coast rap artist Xzibit is in final negotiations to join Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson in the Columbia Pictures drama "Gridiron Gang." The hip-hop rap artist-turned-actor will play Malcolm, the assistant coach of the team in the film, which is formed by a probation officer portrayed by Johnson.

The players overcome huge obstacles, gain self-esteem and discipline and, in one season, go from brawling beginners to contenders for a division title. Jeff Maguire wrote the screenplay for the film, inspired by a 1993 documentary.

Phil Joanou, who directed the 1988 U2 documentary "Rattle and Hum," will direct. Filming is scheduled to begin at the end of May at Camp Kilpatrick, a juvenile detention facility in the Santa Monica (Calif.) Mountains.

Rap artist / TV host / actor Xzibit will next be seen in "XXX: State of the Union" with another west coast rap artist turned actor Ice Cube, and Samuel L. Jackson and Willem Defoe, and "Derailed" with Clive Owen, Jennifer Aniston and hip-hop rapper and producer RZA, famous for being a co-founder of the Wu-Tang Clan. His past credits include "8 Mile" and "The Chronicles of Riddick." He also hosts the MTV series "Pimp My Ride."

Xzibit collaborated with rock act Korn on a cover of Public Enemy's "Fight the Power" for the "XXX" soundtrack, due April 19 via Jive. The set also features the new Ice Cube cut "Anybody Seen the Po-Po."