

When **Charles King** left his perch as one of WME's top talent agents in early 2015, it seemed like a big gamble. The first African-American partner at the agency, King, 48, put together scores of deals for such big names as **Tyler Perry, Tim Story, Terrence Howard, Janelle Monae** and **Oprah Winfrey**. Three years later, as head of his own production company and media brand Macro, with a mission of reaching multicultural audiences, his gamble is paying off in

Add 'Personality' to Your Oscar Tux

Producer Charles King, whose films are up for five awards, plans to take a few risks on the red carpet: 'Why shouldn't I dress in a way that reflects exactly who I am?'

By Vincent Boucher • Photographed by Amy Dickerson

the form of five reasons to attend the Oscars this year.

Macro is behind two films that have nabbed nominations: *Roman J. Israel, Esq.* (a best actor nom for **Denzel Washington**) and **Dee Rees'** *Mudbound*, up for four awards after being picked up by Netflix at Sundance for \$12.5 million.

King's goal is to focus on underserved marketplaces while taking risks, and he has projects in development with **Ryan Coogler**, **Ava DuVernay**, **Eva Longoria** and *Dope* director **Rick Famuyiwa**.

Charles King, wearing his Oscar night attire, was photographed Feb. 12 in the Penthouse Inspired by Vivienne Westwood at The London West Hollywood. His look includes an Ermenegildo Zegna peak-lapel dark blue tuxedo with grosgrain on the lapels (\$3,795, at Zegna, Beverly Hills), matching Zegna bow tie (\$155), Brioni shirt (\$675 at Brioni, Beverly Hills), Tom Ford velvet loafers (\$1,490, at Neiman Marcus Beverly Hills) and Patek Philippe Calatrava watch (from Steven Rostovsky Watches, Beverly Hills).

Styling by Andrew Weitz of The Weitz Effect





→ King (left) and style consultant Weitz, who worked with the producer to choose his look for this year's Academy Awards.

designer **Alessandro Sartori** in his first evening capsule collection for the current spring/summer season. The tux's wool-mohair fabric was chosen by Sartori because it has a structure that photographs well. This awards season, **Kumail Nanjiani** and **Milo Ventimiglia** have worn Zegna on the red carpet.

King's choice of accessories for the big night are a mix of tradition and brio with a silk jacquard, hand-tied bow tie from Zegna that matches the tuxedo's stellar navy hue and a white formal shirt from legendary Italian fashion house Brioni in a faint stripe with a clean, flat front thanks to a hidden placket. He'll eschew traditional shirt studs or a pocket square to keep things sleek. Tom Ford's velvet Valois loafers with signature chain detail finish King's take on formality, worn bare-ankled (though with no-show socks) for extra panache.

A former WME colleague, agent turned style consultant **Andrew Weitz** of The Weitz Effect, who works with King, says expressing personality in black-tie dressing is increasingly important. "When people ask me about tuxedos, of late, I've always stepped away from the penguin suit," he says. "If your personal style or branding calls for something other than the basic black tux, then adding extra 'pop' to your look takes you out of the mold everybody else is in."

King says he's "still in start-up mode, [working] around the clock," but on Oscar night, the father of two sons with Macro executive **Stacey King** is excited to "high-five Denzel" on "one of his most vulnerable performances" and see **Mudbound** double nominee **Mary J. Blige**, "who made history this year." He adds that "it will be good to have the night to enjoy ourselves and have a moment — just a brief moment — to celebrate the positive momentum in Hollywood. It's just beautiful to see progress and feel like we're a part of it." [VIBE](#)



Where to Nab a Last-Minute Tux

Even if you wait right up until Oscar weekend, you still can put your best look forward with the latest in black-tie finery. Barneys New York in Beverly Hills is offering appointments with one of its fashion experts all the way through Oscar Sunday. Brands include Gucci, Giorgio Armani, Prada, Isaia and Ralph Lauren. (Contact **Traci Klein** at 310-777-5772 or TKlein@Barneys.com.) ... Men's stylists at Neiman Marcus can assist in head-to-toe looks the week before the Oscars, plus it offers an in-house team of tailors and a courier service for delivery. Brioni, Isaia, Kition, Zegna and Brunello Cucinelli are among the tuxedos offered. (424-333-5579 for an appointment.) ... On Rodeo Drive, Burberry (310-550-4500) is the go-to for men's stylist **Ilaria Urbinati**, who works with **Armie Hammer**. "It's a good cut for almost everybody and they have a tailor on hand who's fast" she says. ... Suitsupply, with a new store at Westfield Century City (424-201-0885), offers a wide selection of great tuxedos at an accessible price. ... Online retailer Mr. Porter offers next-day delivery to California on business days. There's a deep selection, from a killer blue velvet Hugo Boss dinner jacket (\$695) to Prada's slim wool-and-mohair tux (\$3,830). ... For alterations, 7th Bone Tailoring (clients include **Ryan Seacrest** and **Jake Gyllenhaal**) is stylist **Michael Fisher**'s choice tailor. "They're fast, their skills are impeccable and they have tailors who come to you," he says. Extra tailors from its New York operation will be in L.A. pre-Oscars. (info@7thbonetailoring.com; 646-820-7412) — v.b.



THR's Tux Clinic: 3 Looks, 1 Big Night



THE LOOK: PEAK STYLE VELVET DINNER JACKET
A velvet peaked-lapel jacket, like the one Sterling K. Brown wore to the Golden Globes, tends to read as very bold. Weitz loves this Tom Ford version, the Shelton dinner jacket, in a rich-looking green (\$3,650, mrporter.com) with assertively wide lapels. "I love to infuse color," says Weitz. "The green is dark enough that it gives you that standout effect without being in your face." **1** For the bow tie, Weitz also went with Tom Ford (\$250, at Tom Ford, Beverly Hills), choosing a grosgrain that matches the jacket's lapels and proportions that complement the lapel width. **2** Weitz likes this cotton formal shirt with soft pleats from heritage shirtmaker Charvet (\$700, at Saks Fifth Avenue, Beverly Hills). "It's a beautiful French brand that's very chic." **3** Weitz added white mother-of-pearl and sterling silver studs (\$1,400, at Barneys New York) for a tone-on-tone look. "I didn't want anything too flashy that would take away from the jacket," he says.

THE LOOK: DEBONAIR PATTERNED SHAWL-COLLAR TUX
A shawl-collar tuxedo (like the Valentino that Justin Hartley wore to the 2017 Emmys) works for most men — though it's not recommended if a guy has a round face or body, as its rounded shape tends to accentuate those features. Weitz chose this Salvatore Ferragamo silk-and-wool tuxedo (\$2,700, at Salvatore Ferragamo, Beverly Hills) for its subtle pattern. "It's a shade lighter than dark navy. It's very elegant and comes with a rich navy wool trouser with a satin stripe." **1** "I paired it with a navy velvet bow tie from Lanvin because it contrasts with the sophisticated sheen of the jacket," says Weitz. (\$160, at Lanvin, Beverly Hills) **2** Weitz selected a plain-front formal shirt with a hidden placket by Zegna (\$545, at Ermenegildo Zegna, Beverly Hills) so there weren't any buttons or studs to detract from the fabric pattern. **3** The final touch is a navy silk pocket square from British house Turnbull & Asser (\$98, at Bloomingdale's, Westfield Century City).

THE LOOK: MODERN CLASSIC DOUBLE-BREASTED BLACK TUX
Double-breasted tuxes, which tend to look best on guys who have slim body types as well as men who are tall, have seen a resurgence in recent seasons. At the 2018 Golden Globes, Alexander Skarsgard wore an example by Boss. "They're very elegant, very regal," says Weitz. This style from Italian brand Isaia is handmade in a wool fabric called Aquaspider that's stain resistant. "I love its soft tailored shoulder, and the jacket length is just right," says Weitz of Isaia's Gregorio tux (\$3,800, at Isaia Beverly Hills), which comes with slim grosgrain-side-stripe trousers. **1** Weitz selected a velvet bow tie (\$145) in an offbeat burgundy from Etro. "A colored bow tie worn with a black suit should be a dark rich color," cautions Weitz. "A shiny satin bow tie would make it look too '80s bar mitzvah." **2** Formal shirt from English maker Drake's (\$350, at Barneys New York, Beverly Hills). **3** A tonal silk pocket square with a signature pattern by Ferragamo (\$140) has a subdued effect.

So perhaps it's no surprise that King, who was born in Harlem, New York, and raised in Decatur, Georgia, also takes risks in his wardrobe choices, calling his sense of style "complementary" to his brand. In his business life, his attire ranges from a suit jacket for meetings with corporate types and investors (who include Emerson

Collective's **Laurene Powell Jobs**) to an Adidas warm-up jacket, indigo jeans and a pair of designer sneakers for more casual creative meetings. The power of style has been something he's been well aware of since he started in the mailroom at William Morris in 1997, pulling together enough money to buy an Armani suit like the ones the

agents were wearing, a suit that he practically wore out. For this year's Oscars, his choice reflects a sense of propriety and his own take on current trends. "Ninety percent of the people will be there with a black tux and a black tie. I could still be elegant and classy but add a little color to it," says King of the "rich blue" Ermenegildo Zegna



Weitz's formal favorites include: **1** Bally lace-ups; \$595, bally.com. **2** Woven loafers; \$895, at Christian Louboutin Men, West Hollywood. **3** Jimmy Choo velvet tasseled slippers; \$750, jimmychoo.com.

peak-lapel tuxedo he has selected. "I'm unique and different, so why shouldn't I dress in a way that reflects exactly who I am? It shows personality while still being classic." (He also owns a more traditional Saint Laurent black tux.) The Zegna jacket's sleek, single-button tailoring is matched by another departure from traditional tux style, engineered by