

# Sabrina joins 'The Hate U Give'

**A**ctor-singer Sabrina Carpenter has come on board the film based on Angela Thomas' debut novel 'The Hate U Give'.

The 'On Purpose' hitmaker has joined Amandla Stenberg, Russell Hornsby and Regina Hall in the film, to be directed by George Tillman Jr, according to the sources.

Stenberg will play Starr, a 16-year-old girl who grows up in a slum, while Sabrina Carpenter will be seen in the role of Hailey, one of Starr's friend.

Hall and Hornsby will play Starr's parents. Lamar Johnson has previously been cast to play Seven, Starr's older brother. Algee Smith, Common and Issa Rae are also attached to the project. (TOI)



# Yes, I sought more money

Los Angeles

**A**ctress Amy Schumer has said she sought more money from Netflix after learning what fellow comedians Chris Rock and Dave Chappelle were being paid by the streaming service for their stand-up specials but she didn't ask the makers to match her fee to theirs.

In an *Instagram* post on Thursday, Schumer confirmed a report that Netflix agreed to increase her fee for "The Leather Special" after a deal had already been set, reports *variety.com*.

Schumer also said she never sought pay equal to what Rock and Chappelle were making.

"I believe women deserve equal pay. However I don't believe I deserve equal pay to Chris and Dave. They are legends and (two) of the greatest comics of all time," she said.

She continued: "I would like to say that I have been selling out arenas these last couple years. Something a female comic has never done. (IANS)



# MIDDLE EAST MOVIE BUZZ

## The Salesman

**A**sghar Farhadi is not a director who hides his symbolic subtext. The imagery in this engrossing drama, about a couple of actors whose marriage is tested when she is violently assaulted in their new home, is so overt, Farhadi might as well be sounding a klaxon. There's the choice of the play within the film - a Persian translation of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.

Willy Loman's impotence and frustration permeate the film like cheap aftershave. And there's the reason that Rana (Taraneh Alidoosti) and Emad (Shahab Hosseini) have to move house in the first place - their original apartment building is collapsing. The cracks in their home life are literal as well as figurative.

With a writer-director less skilled than Farhadi, this occasional lack of subtlety might be a problem. But Farhadi, who won his second foreign language Oscar with this film, the first being for *A Separation*, has an unparalleled gift for pacing, snaring us with well-timed reveals that subtly shift the story on its axis.

While there may have been a political aspect to this second win - Farhadi chose to boycott the ceremony in response to the Trump administration's travel ban - there is no question that this film deserved it.

There is perhaps no director more adept at capturing the unfolding stories of ordinary people when the drama of their lives runs away with them. (*theguardian*)



# Francisco was incapable of settling down

**A**ctor James Franco said there was a time when he was incapable of settling down with anyone.

In an interview to a magazine, the actor added that he was so "self consumed" that he became incapable of sharing his heart with anyone else.

"I was a person that was incapable of settling down with anyone because I was so self-consumed before," Franco said.

He added, "I was incapable of sharing my heart with anyone. I was so scared to be vulnerable that I made myself busy every minute of the day, so I had an excuse. But I didn't realise until it started to hurt enough."

Francisco's last serious relationship was with 'The Help' star Ahna O'Reilly. They split in 2011, after being in a relationship for five years. (TOI)