

First Look: Matthew McConaughey as Civil War Soldier in 'The Free State of Jones'



by Etan Vlessing

3/9/2015 2:07pm PDT

The first photo of **Matthew McConaughey** portraying defiant farmer Newton Knight in writer/director **Gary Ross'** upcoming Civil War drama *The Free State of Jones* was released Monday.

The image captures Knight in battle as McConaughey plays a soldier for the Confederacy during the Civil War who became disillusioned with the South's cause, flees the battlefield and defiantly declares a safe haven in Jones County, Mississippi.

Keri Russell, **Gugu Mbatha-Raw** and **Mahershala Ali** (*House of Cards*) also star in the film from **Robert Simond's** **STX Entertainment** that has started principal photography in and around New Orleans.

The Free State of Jones is produced by **Scott Stuber**, **Jon Kilik** (*The Hunger Games*) and Ross. STX, which co-financed the film with IM Global, will release the film in the U.S. market on March 11, 2016.

IM Global will release internationally, with Route One Entertainment and Union Investment Partners also on board as co-financiers.

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/first-look-matthew-mcconaughey-as-780163>