

Lights, Camera, *Busted!*



The FBI takedown of notorious West Coast pimps using the lure of movie stardom—a true story.

The Hughes brothers' 1999 documentary *American Pimp* had exploded across the pimp community, glorifying the pimping lifestyle and bringing fame to many of the featured pimps. It also sent shockwaves through the FBI's human trafficking division, outraging agents up and down the chain of command. A division dedicated to helping the vulnerable escape while bringing their traffickers to justice felt it was a slap in the face—the glorification of the very people committing the heinous crimes they fight every day. While most thought there was little they could do other than publicly denounce the movie, a new agent at the bureau had a different take. She saw the movie as an opportunity to fight fire with fire: *American Pimp II* would have open casting calls soon. However, this time around the production would be secretly directed by Special Agent Masayo Halpin, along with the full support of her new executive producer: the Federal Bureau of Investigation.