PETEY GREENE WASN’T NO SAINT.

He was a drug addict, a conman (excuse me, co-conspirator) and self-styled friend of the pimp and prostitute. He was a fast talker, small-time thief and a real huck. He was also the voice of a cry in a sea of ephemeral and confused.

Don Chidelle (Hollywood) takes on the role of Petey Greene in Focus Features’ new movie Talk to Me. In theaters July 13, it’s a piece that takes us back to the days of methamphetamine and illegal guns to meet an unlikely cultural icon born out of the mid to late ’60s.

Greene was a Washington, D.C. native, born and bred on the streets of the “Chocolate City” to which he would eventually play guidance counselor. His father was incarcerated, and it was his grand- mother, whom he affectionately called “Aunt Pig,” that cared for the young man through his childhood.

In later interviews with the Washington Post, he would lament his mother, whom he affectionately called “Aunt Pig,” that cared for the young man through his childhood. But Greene could not be held. He achieved an early parole after a violent confrontation with a fellow inmate. He had the man safely on the ground when some of the key figures in America – both black and white – were being killed by assassins’ bullets. He was there for Ossian and the draft, the moon landing and Woodstock. Momentous times called for a momentous speaker, and this oddball fit the bill.

But his little scheme worked, and Greene was paroled for his substance abuse and verbosity. But Greene could not be held. He spoke during times of crisis, when race riots were rising up all over the country, when some of the key figures in America – both black and white – were being killed by assassins’ bullets. He was there for Ossian and the draft, the moon landing and Woodstock. Momentous times called for a momentous speaker, and this oddball fit the bill.

Greene's hijinks extended far past talk radio. He used his platform to call for the next Petey Greene's Washington.
MAJOR EVENTS OF 1965

Jan. 4: President Lyndon B. Johnson announces the “Great Society” reform package. The central goals were to eliminate poverty, and racial injustice and improve education for all Americans. The Great Society would eventually lead to Medicare and Medicaid.

Feb. 21: Malcolm X (born Malcolm Little), a Muslim minister and Black Nationalist leader is assassinated. He spent his career pointing out the legal and religious contradictions in white mistrustments of blacks.

March 7: On one of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s marches from Selma to Montgomery, civil rights marchers were gassed and beaten by law enforcement in what was widely condemned as “Bloody Sunday.”

April 6: The Voting Rights Act is passed, a measure to make it easier for black Americans to vote.

May 14: The Watts riots begin in Los Angeles when a police officer stopped Marquette Frye because he suspected him of driving drunk. Frye’s family attempted to intervene and was arrested, and over $50 to 100 million in damages had been incurred.

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June 14: The Monterey Pop Festival, a three-day musical marathon, takes place in Monterey, Calif. The festival was run entirely non-profit, and all proceeds were donated to various charities. It’s considered to be the precursor to Woodstock.

June 26: Dr. Moses Kanyinga of the California State University at Long Beach created Koranta, a Pan-African celebration meant to create a shared socio-historical consciousness for Africans-American.

July 13: The Stonewall riots, a precursor to Woodstock, was considered to be the turning point for the gay rights movement.

Aug. 6: Martin Luther King, Jr., the most respected black voice in the civil rights movement was killed by James Earl Ray. King, whose teachings had included methods of non-violent protest, was condemned as “Bloody Sunday.”

Aug. 15: The Vietnam War was a turning point for the American government, which was feared particularly by the white population. They were widely considered to be extremists and were feared particularly by the white majority.

Oct. 6: At the Mexico Summer Olympics, two Americans participated in the 200-meter race.

Between 1965 and 1970, America was shaken by wars between peoples, wars between races and good old-fashioned rock ‘n’ roll – and Petey Greene was making his own waves on the air.

MAJOR EVENTS OF 1968

In general, 1968 was a heartbreaking year for America. The Vietnam War took a turn for the worse, and some of the brightest leaders of the age were gunned down. It was a demoralizing year.

Jan. 30: The Tet Offensive, an unexpected attack on the part of the Viet Cong fighters rocked American forces. Though they were eventually beaten back, the VC managed to recapture much of the surrounding countryside.

It achieved its goal of inflicting a major blow to the confidence of the American government, which almost immediately began scaling back its troop commitments. Consider this to be the turning point toward Vietnam in the Vietnam War.

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MAJOR EVENTS OF 1969

Jan. 28: Richard Nixon becomes president after beating out Hubert Humphrey by only 12,000 popular votes. Nixon was a Cold War conservative, a Cold War warrior. Scandal-wracked and less polite, eventually resulting in a 1974 conviction for Watergate scandal.

May 26: The Stonewall riots, sparked by police raids on gay bars, showed New York was one of the first moments that homosexuals across the country would realize they could fight back.

July 20: Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.

July 28: The Apollo 11 astronauts, guided by Petey Greene’s rival DJ “Nighthawk” Bob Terry, made it to the moon.

Oct. 6: At the Mexico Summer Olympics, two Americans participated in the 200-meter race.

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MAJOR EVENTS OF 1970

April 4: The breakthrough song “Stop! In the Name of Love” by Peter, Paul and Mary.

April 22: The first Earth Day is celebrated. Founded by Gaylord Nelson, 20 million Americans rallied to save the environment. Congress established the Environmental Protection Agency in response to public outcry against air and water quality. Earth Day organizers claim this protest was instrumental in that turning point.

May 4: Four students are shot at Kent State University when the National Guard opened fire on protesters of the Vietnam War. The scene is forever immortalized by the picture of the girl with the white flag over her body.

Sept. 16: Guitar great Jimi Hendrix died of a drug overdose, less than a year after he was voted()[
Hey America, Talk to Me About rave Reviews!

“A Vibrant, funny, moving, highly entertaining and richly rewarding movie experience!
Don Cheadle soars into the highest rank of film actors with this role. Will have you talking long after leaving the theatre. Unforgettable. Chiwetel Ejiofor and Taraji P. Henson are magnificent.”

Pete Hammond, Maxim

★★★★! The summer’s best Surprise!
As irreverent and outrageously funny as its shock jock hero. Don Cheadle’s brilliant performance is Oscar®-worthy.

Pat Collins, My 9 / WWOR TV

“Funny, powerful and poignant!
Don Cheadle and Chiwetel Ejiofor are two of the finest actors in films.”

Jeffrey Lyons, NBC’s Reel Talk

Never underestimate a man with something to say.

Talk to Me
Inspired by a true story

Focus Features and Sidney Kimmel Entertainment present a Mark Gordon Company / Pellicole Films production in association with Kasie LeMmons and Don Cheadle and Chiwetel Ejiofor “Talk to Me” Cedric the Entertainer, Taraji P. Henson, Mike Epps, and Martin Sheen Co-producers Victoria Thomas, Barry Cole, Terence Blanchard, Gersha Phillips
Starring: Cedric the Entertainer, Warren Alan Young, Stephanie Fontaine, Erika Alexander, William Redberg, Miles Dale, Joey Rappa, Bruce Toll, don Cheadle, Tamara Tunie, Taraji P. Henson, Mike Epps, Martin Sheen, and many more

www.focusfeatures.com/talkto me

Soundtrack available on Atlantic records

Featuring classic hits by the Dramatics Otis Redding James Brown and new music by Meshell Ndegeocello

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS START FRIDAY, JULY 13TH

The legendary Petey Greene told it like it was. Now we want to hear from you. Go to focusfeatures.com/talkto me to talk to us about the topics of the day and whatever else is on your mind.