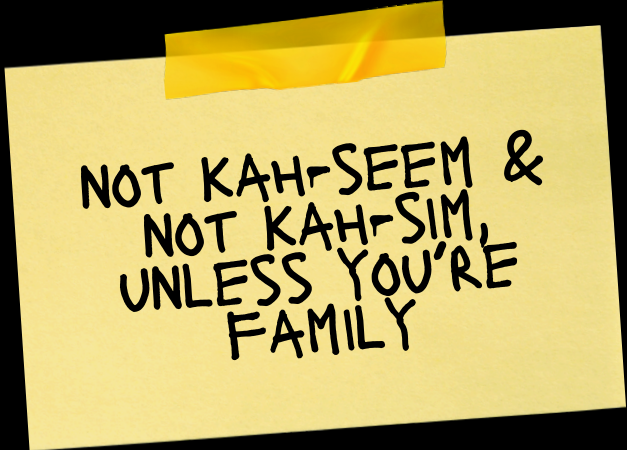


# KASIM

pronounced like awesome but with a k



NOT KAH-SEEM &  
NOT KAH-SIM,  
UNLESS YOU'RE  
FAMILY

# this is kasim

## and some necessary context

He didn't always plan to end up here, but in hindsight it makes a lot of sense. He's always been someone who commits fully, notices when it's no longer working, and changes course.

He's lived a few lives already: cartographic engineering, digital marketing, a brief stint as a bar doorman, and even microbiology. At one point, he was mapping utility lines for Google Fiber by day and answering Craigslist emails by night, trying to teach himself a new career in social media marketing before he knew if it would work. It did. *Eventually*. The path wasn't linear or especially forgiving, but he kept landing on his feet and picking up useful instincts along the way.

What ties it all together is an ability to notice what others skim past and stay with it a little longer. The work comes from lived experience, but it's never just about him. It's about recognition.

If you're here, chances are you're already a little curious too. That's probably enough context. I'll let him take it from here.



# HI, I'M KASIM.

I make films, installations, and prose tied to the human condition, rooted in mental health, and often highlighting the things we pretend we're "fine" about.

## ARTIST STATEMENT (ABREVIATED)

My work draws from lived experience and aims to create moments of recognition, reflection, and quiet connection. At its core, the work is about feeling less alone in what we carry.

ONE PAGE BIOS ARE HARD!  
I HAVE ADHD. THERE'S A FULLER VERSION OF THIS.  
PROCEED TO SLIDE 2, IF INTERESTED.  
— MANAGEMENT



## BACKGROUND

I built a career around storytelling before realizing I had lost touch with myself.

Burnout and depression made that impossible to ignore. Stepping back changed not just my work, but my relationship to it. Everything I make now comes from that reckoning.

Film, writing, and installation became ways to slow down and make sense of what I was carrying.

## GET IN TOUCH

email / [hello@kasimhardaway.com](mailto:hello@kasimhardaway.com)  
carrier pidgeon, **A PERSONAL FAVE**  
smoke signal

## RECENT WORK

click the still images below to explore the work

\*CURRENTLY  
IN THE FILM  
FEST. CIRCUIT



A short film\* about identity and transformation. 10 minutes of pure intensity.



A public installation of letters. No prompts. No pressure. Just take one.



# KASIM

IS A FILMMAKER, STORYTELLER, AND ALCHEMIST  
TRANSFORMING LIVED EXPERIENCE INTO SPACES THAT HEAL\*

For nearly a decade, my identity was tied to my work.

I built a career in digital marketing, creating stories for brands and helping national companies sell connections through food and storytelling.

From the outside, it looked like I had it all together. Inside, I was unraveling. The constant pressure to perform, to stay relevant, to always be on, started to wear me down. Eventually, I realized it wasn't just the work. It was what the work was magnifying: the parts of me that tied my worth to output and the need to be seen even when I didn't feel whole. Burnout and depression set in, and the version of me I'd built to survive could no longer hold.

When everything finally went quiet, one question remained: Who am I when the performance ends?

Losing myself in the work is what led me back to who I really was. Therapy became my first act of creation, a process of unlearning, remembering, and rebuilding. That journey shaped how I create today, with intention, empathy, and a focus on the mental and emotional well-being of the communities I serve. My creative practice lives at the intersection of storytelling, mental health, and collective healing, exploring how art can be both expression and restoration.

At the heart of everything I do is the belief that art is alchemy. When shared, it turns pain into connection and reflection into healing.

\* THAT WASN'T ALWAYS THE CASE.

FOR A LONG TIME, MY CREATIVITY CAME FROM PRESSURE,  
NOT PURPOSE.





## what's next

some of the most important work happens out of sight

After completing *The UNBecoming*, creating several micro-films in the same vein, and introducing *Take What You Need* to my local community, I've reached a moment of recalibration. The work so far has clarified my voice, my values, and the kinds of experiences I want my practice to create.

Rather than rushing into more output, my focus now is on evolving the work with greater intention and depth.

One part of that evolution is expanding *Take What You Need* into a touring installation with sensory and immersive elements, creating a more holistic, embodied experience. At the same time, I'm beginning the early writing and development of my first feature film. This chapter is intentionally quieter on the surface and more active behind the scenes. Less visible action, more planning, experimentation, and long-form thinking.

While much of this work requires focus and solitude, I remain open to conversations and collaborations that feel aligned, thoughtful, and true.

TO CONNECT, COLLABORATE, OR  
EXPLORE MORE OF MY WORK;



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