

EVAN JOELLE

ALAND BRIFKANI

KEREN SOUTHALL

THE SMOCKS

THE NIGHT IT RAINED

A FILM BY LAMONT LAMAR

PRESS KIT



LOG LINE

After losing his scholarship, a queer college student makes a life-altering decision in his hopes to stay enrolled.

SYNOPSIS

Set in San Francisco, *The Night It Rained* depicts the experiences of a queer, college student named Malachi. He is determined to stay enrolled in his college's program and turns to sex work as a way to make money while having greater control over his daily schedule. Unfortunately, the demands of college prove more difficult than he expects and Malachi loses his scholarship due to sustained poor academic performance. The stress of losing his scholarship pushes him further into sex work, and in riskier entanglements. After reaching his breaking point, Malachi finally makes a vulnerable call home.



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Growing up in Philadelphia, my friends and I were not expected to attend college. We grew up in a city where we had to hustle in order to make ends meet. We were part of families that gave us everything they could and we had to pray for the rest. Despite the obstacles, some of us were privileged to graduate high school and go off to college.

Every year in higher education, tuition increases causing hundreds of thousands of students to struggle financially. Because of this, students across the country are turning to dangerous or underpaying jobs in hopes of securing a better future. This film is dedicated to this largely unseen struggle. It is at that length in which Malachi crosses in order to survive and keep his own education going.

The film may shock, perhaps even repulse some viewers, but I felt an obligation to tell the story as it happens. During the development of the film, I consulted with other college students and listened to their stories. Sometimes I shared my own. Their vulnerability and feedback helped preserve the film's authenticity. It is my honor to share this story and raise awareness of the nightmare that often follows the American dream.

APPROACH

The story of *The Night It Rained* invites audiences to follow the life of a character who's young, Black, Queer who feels so hopeless from college's financial burden that he turns to prostitution. The rawness of Malachi's life is honestly revealed by cinematographer Evan Weidenkeller who portrays him using handheld shots as a visceral movement and evocative visual palettes.

Bringing Malachi's story to life involved considerable research when handling the subject matter. Aside from countless interviews with college students across the Bay Area and traveling to Los Vegas to meet with sex workers on the ground, writer/director Lamont Lamar rehearsed with lead actor Evan Joelle where opened dropping out of college due to similar circumstances.

LAMONT LAMAR

WRITER & DIRECTOR

Born in Philadelphia, in 1998 and now based in Los Angeles, Lamar is a recent undergraduate film student at California College of the Arts. In his graduating year, he was a Production Coordinator at award-winning VFX production house NTROPIC. He soon after caught the attention of Founder/President Rhea Scott, of Little Minx, where he now works as her personal assistant.

With East Coast roots and cultivating West Coast stories, Lamar has pulled from inspiration from his mentor Cheryl Dwyne, the work of Lee Daniels and Marlon Riggs. Sharing an array of Queer experiences, Lamar has dedicated his work thus far to understand the collective experience of Black people within the LGBTQIA+ community.

With his distinctive voice, his work extends from short films, commercials, and documentaries. In 2017, as high school student Lamar screened at the Black Star Film Festival with his provocative film, “*Black Men Don’t Cry*”, which went on to win an award at the PBS Youth Media Awards.

Lamar already has a new project in development, a reimagining of an iconic James Baldwin interview played by Netflix's *The Get Down* star Tory Devon Smith. When he looks back someday on his career, Lamar hopes he will have helped create generational growth for the next young creatives to fearlessly tell their own stories.

CONTACT:

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CREW CREDITS

1st Assistant Director
PARKER GAYAN

Director of Photography
EVAN WEIDENKELLER

1st Assistant Camera
GARET JATSEK

2nd Assistant Camera
ANDES GIMENEZ

Gaffer
RYAN NELSON

Key Grip
RYAN MOORE

Electric Swing
AARON WARE

Production Designer
ISABELLA RIVERA

Set Dresser
KIHUUT

Hair & Make-Up
JIMMI DUFFEL

Editor
RICHARD VALENCIA

Color
AYUMI ASHLEY

Composer
BEN STANBRIDGE

Sound Mixer
CHRIS CAMACHO

Production Assistant
JULIE-MARIE SAUS

Production Advisor
HELEN DE MICHIEL

CAST CREDITS

EVAN JOELLE
as Malachi

ALAND BRIFKANI
as Andrew

KEREN SOUTHALL
as Financial Aid Officer

LEVI SMOCKS
as Young Malachi

BRI SMOCKS
as MA

PRODUCTION SERVICES

Camera Dept.
ELEMENT CAMERA

G&E Dept.
BOLT LIGHTING

Color
NTROPIC N.Y

Editorial
BURNED NEGATIVE

PRODUCTION DETAILS

Country
UNITED STATES

Date of Completion
2021

Format
DIGITAL

Ratio
1:85:1

Duration
12 mins 47 secs

Genre
DRAMA