

STEPHEN
THOMAS

RICHARD
NEVELS

BRUCE
LEMON

MARIAH
PHARMS

DAMON
RUTLEDGE

MAELINA
GIBSON

HALLELUJAH

A TRAUMEDY BY VICTOR GABRIEL



BLK MGC Content Presents

A Traumedy by Victor Gabriel "Hallelujah"

Richard Nevels Bruce Lemon Stephen Thomas Mariah Pharms Damon Rutledge and Maelina Gibson

Casting by: Ari Brown Music by: Keith Phelps Editor: Camilla Bartoli

Production Design: Esmé Jackson Director of Photography: Robert L. Hunter Producer: Duran Jones

Written & Directed by Victor Gabriel



LOGLINE

"After being stuck with the guardianship of their annoying, bookworm nephew, two brothers in Compton CA have to decide if they are willing to take on the responsibility of being caretakers."



SYNOPSIS

CHETTY and PAPER (30s) are two brothers who refuse to grow up. But due to unforeseen circumstances, they are now in charge of their nephew HALLELUJAH(13), a strange book quoting black boy and their quiet niece LILA(7). Sitting in the backyard, supposedly watching their niece and nephew, the two brothers become so distracted they don't notice when Hallelujah attempts suicide. What follows is a funny moving story about family, the people we have left behind, and the people who are still with us.

Several years ago my little brother was shot and killed in an act of gang violence. Death is the ultimate hindsight. An ever present cacophony of what I wish I could have said...what I wish I hadn't. Such finality. It is clear to me that death in some ways, has always followed me, and it is only through the love of my community, and those who have taken care of me that I was able to heal, and to go through. This movie is for them. And in memory of Oscar. I'm still here trying to make you proud lil bro.

- Victor Gabriel



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

I call this story a "traumedy". It is a mix between dark and light. The humor of death and violence. Some of the most hilarious situations I have been in was after a gun was pulled on me, or remembering how bad Uncle Dale used to smell because he would forget to take baths, before he died of alcohol poisoning. But the tone and mood is also one of hope and expectation. A reminder that "trouble won't last always".

COMPTON, CA.

A place thriving with culture,
history and pride and
community.



KELLY PARK
City of Compton



CAST



BRUCE LEMON | PAPER

Bruce Lemon is a storyteller born and raised in Watts, CA. As a child, his father made him write stories and read them aloud in the hallway as punishment for lies and mischief. He's still in trouble.

Associate Artistic Director/Ensemble with Cornerstone Theater Company, Co-Artistic Director of Watts Village, Company member of Illyrian Players and Collaborative Artists Bloc. Host of UnheardLA, a live storytelling series from 89.3 KPCC In Person. Actor, Director, Educator, Collaborator.



RICHARD NEVELS | CHETTY

Richard Nevels (born October 9, 1986, Los Angeles, California) is an American actor and social influencer. After successfully serving 4 years in the United States Navy Nevels set out on his lifelong dream of becoming an actor. Being equipped with tons of talent but a lack of knowledge on how to break into the industry, he then turned to the internet where he became a beloved cast member on the award nominated, multi-platform media company **All Def**. Best known for curating comedic content around pop culture, Nevels amassed a following over 400k in just 2 years. His big personality along with his viral skits eventually caught the eye of Hollywood where he has since done film and television which includes his most notable role as **Curtis Carter** on **HBO's Insecure**. Nevels' transition from social media to television and film is a journey of absolute resilience.



STEPHEN LAROY THOMAS | HALLELUJAH

Stephen LaRoy Thomas was born on July 18, 2007 and is currently a 14-year-old freshman at Burbank High School. He has loved acting, dancing, and singing since he was a toddler and has never been shy to perform in public. He lost his mother when he was 9 years old. He is passionate about playing sports like basketball and football. Stephen. Even with his young age, has already performed multiple times on stage and screen. His mother and father are both actors, so the fruit doesn't fall too far from the tree. Stephen has to wear sunglasses all the time because the future looks so bright. In GOD he trusts.



MARIAH PHARMS | LILA

Born in Atlanta, GA on December 10th, 2013, Mariah Pharms is a true Georgia Peach. A self proclaimed "Tom Boy," she has always enjoyed sports such as gymnastics, soccer, boxing, and skateboarding. At only 2 years old, she signed with J Pervis Talent Agency in Television/Film, Commercial, and Print. After moving to Los Angeles in 2019, she booked her first commercial, and the ALLBLK series, "Double Cross." Now at 7, Mariah wants to be a rapper, and enjoys playing with her big sister Leiloni. She is also represented by Evolve Talent Management in Los Angles.



MAELINA GIBSON | SHERAY

Native of Houston, TX Maelina has been doing comedy for 20+ years. She has shared the stage with comedians such as Mark Curry, Fiya, Norman Mitchell, Olivia Arrington, just to name a few. From costarring in an award winning webseries called "Don't Judge Me" to her leading film roles in Hallelujah, and most recently Persuasion, Maelina has shown a range from comedy and drama. Studying with Phaedra Harris, Kevin Scott Allen, Wendy Alane Wright she has learned to sharpen her craft and fine tune her instrument.

DAMON RUTLEDGE | LEROY

A Los Angeles native and 6-year Navy veteran. Damon left the military to be with his family and pursue his dreams of acting. Since returning to California he has captivated audiences with his portrayals of Walter Lee Younger in A Raisin in the Sun Troy Maxson in Fences (Long Beach Playhouse) and a U/S role alongside Philicia Rashad in Head of Passes at the Mark Taper Forum. In addition to acting he has also earned his Masters Degree from Pepperdine University and is currently finishing up his Doctorate from USC. Forever humbled by any opportunity to step onstage Damon wishes to thank his family , friends and especially his wife for their continued support on this fantastic journey

FILMMAKERS



10/10/2000

ALL OF US
LOVE YOU
AND MISS YOU
VERY MUCH
LOVE
[Name]



VICTOR GABRIEL | WRITER / DIRECTOR

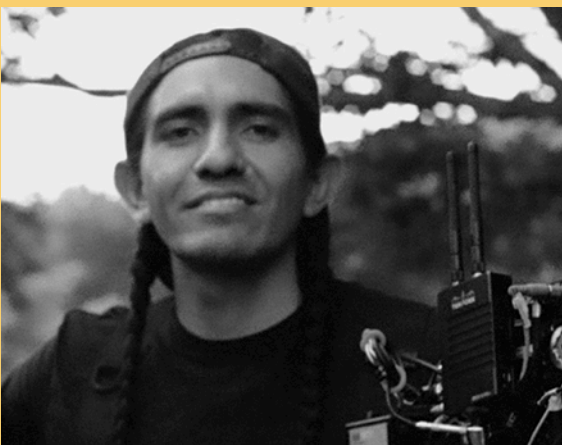
Growing up in poverty, Victor Gabriel realized that water in cornflakes doesn't taste as bad as you think it would. He wandered without a home before eventually ending up in Compton CA. Now as a black male writer/director and recent MFA graduate of AFI Conservatory, he has turned to filmmaking as way for him to wrestle with his own suffering as well as the suffering of others. He holds an MA in Clinical Psychology and has been working as a Marriage and Family Therapist with survivors of trauma in Compton/Watts/South Central for the past several years. His short film "Black Boys Can't Cry", won the Social Impact Award at the Hollyshorts Film Festival and is currently being shown in others. His favorite movie is Richard Donner's Superman. He likes Red Vines and thinks Twizzlers are trash. BIG FACTS.



DURAN JONES | PRODUCER

Duran Jones is a 2007 graduate of Hampton University, with a BA in Broadcast Journalism. He is an accomplished independent rapper and songwriter with a keen sense of storytelling. In 2017, he completed his first short film titled BLKMGC, an urban musical based on the shooting death of Tamir Rice at the hands of police. Duran is also known for his 2011 tribute to Trayvon Martin and his subsequent interview on CNN.

Now a Producing Fellow at the American Film Institute Conservatory, his goal is to tell stories for people of color that are truthful and impact the global community. While studying at AFI he graduated from the 2020 PGA Power of Diversity workshop, where his pilot "Daywalker" received interest from Mary Parent, Gary Lucchesi and Prentice Penny. Duran was also selected as a 2021 Sundance Feature Film Producers Lab Fellow with the script "The Incredible Heist of Hallelujah Jones" written by Victor Gabriel.



ROBERT L HUNTER | CINEMATOGRAPHER

Robert L Hunter – Blackfeet, Shoshone-Paiute and Washoe – is a storyteller currently based in Los Angeles, CA. He firmly believes our optics have the power to inform our culture and the societal narrative. His commitment is to use that power in service to community. Hunter's 35mm short film supported by Panavision, Kodak and Fotokem "BLACK BOYS CAN'T CRY" recently won the Social Impact Award at the Oscar Qualifying Hollyshorts Film Festival. He is a recent Cinematography graduate at the American Film Institute.



ESMÉ CRUZ JACKSON | PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Esmé Cruz Jackson received her bachelor's in Industrial Design from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago. She fulfilled her liberal arts credits at Columbia University in New York, where she studied film and anthropology. Post graduation Esmé worked as a project manager for a set shop specializing in televised events. She worked on everything from TEEN MOM to the VMA's. Eventually getting the narrative bug she started designing her own shorts; FELL and CASUALTIES are currently touring the east coast festival circuit. Prior to AFI Esmé spent a season on the Art Department for ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK. She now works on FOR ALL MANKIND for Apple TV+.



CAMILLA BARTOLI | EDITOR

Camilla was born in Italy and grew up between France, China, the USA and the UK. She is a recent graduate of Royal Holloway University of London, with an honorary BA in Film, Television and Digital Production. She has edited numerous short films, travel videos, documentaries and event videos. She now studies Editing at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles.

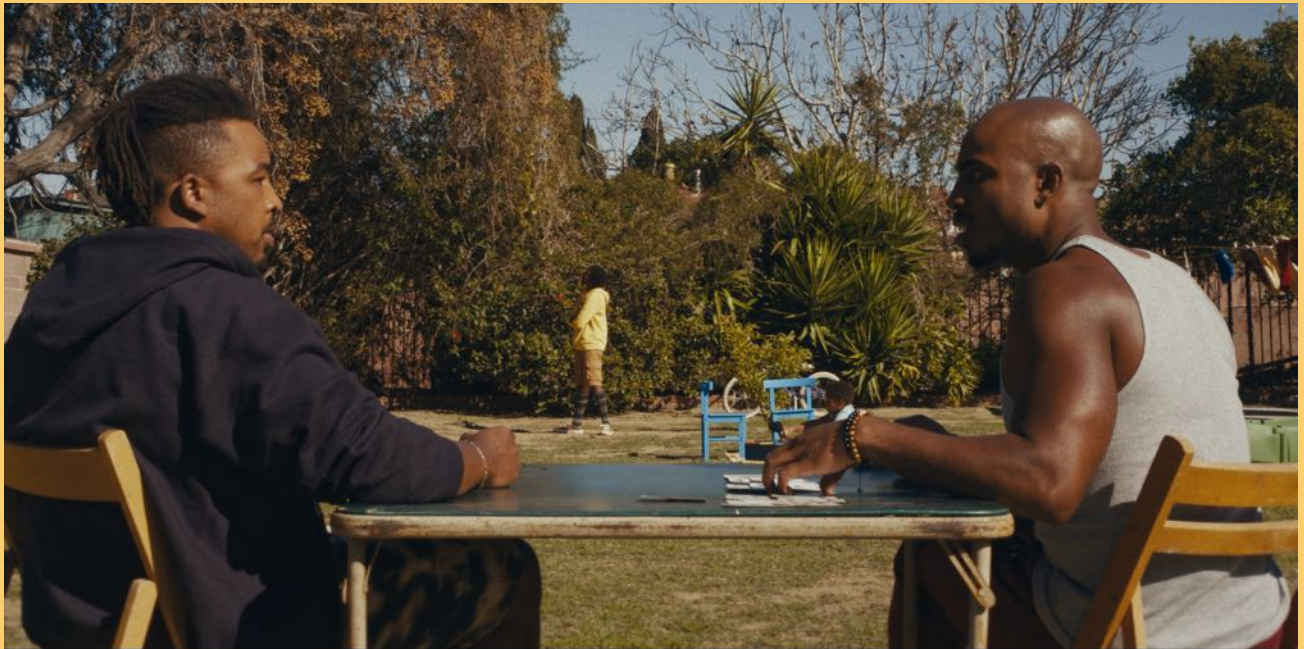


KEITH PHELPS | MUSIC COMPOSER

Keith Phelps is a visionary who uses his vast creative ability to create powerful content with necessary messages. The music producer, songwriter, composer, and musician is a proud native of Indianapolis, IN. In 2017 he scored his first film "A Fatherless Generation" directed by Nathan Cheney and starring Cheney, George Lopez, Terry Crews, and Aisha Tyler. Phelps also scored a producing placement for the song "Don't Trust Banks" performed by Anderson Paak and T.I., in the feature film "Cut Throat City" directed by RZA. Keith's most recent accolades have been for his song, "Harlins Renaissance" featured in "The Dope Years: The Untold Story of Latasha Harlins," which became a Silver Medal Winner at the Student Academy Awards. These days you can find Keith Phelps on tour playing the keyboard alongside R&B legend Patti LaBelle, or in some obscure homemade studio cooking up something for the masses. His genuine respect and love for making good music are well reflected within all of his art and he's only just begun.

A still image showing the interior of a car, likely the driver's side. The foreground is dominated by the dark, textured surface of the car's seat or door panel. In the background, a blurred outdoor scene is visible, featuring a house with a light-colored roof and some trees under a pale sky. The overall lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an overcast day.

STILLS









CREDITS

BLK MGC CONTENT PRESENTS

A TRAUMEDY BY VICTOR GABRIEL "HALLELUJAH"

STARRING RICHARD NEVELS, BRUCE LEMON, STEPHEN THOMAS AND MARIAH PHARMS FEATURING DAMON RUTLEDGE, MAELINA GIBSON, STEVEN SPICER AND BLANCHARD BURRELL

CASTING BY ARI BROWN MUSIC BY KEITH PHELPS EDITOR CAMILA BARTOLI PRODUCTION DESIGN ESMÉ JACKSON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT L HUNTER PRODUCER DURAN JONES WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY VICTOR GABRIEL

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER TARI WARIEBI UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER GABY CORDERO LINE PRODUCER TIMUR KHANACHET 1AD TARI WARIEBI ART DIRECTOR MARQUIS WILLIS CAMERA OPERATOR NICK VERA 1AC LEEANN LEONARD 2AC BELLA RODRIGUEZ STEADICAM OPERATOR CHRISTIAN EVANS SCRIPT SUPERVISOR DESIRY HALL KEY GRIP DAWIT ADERA BEST BOY AZARIAH BJORVIG PRODUCTION COORDINATORS GEM LITTLE, NAGEE BROWN PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER CHRISTIAN LAINEZ BOOM OPERATOR ALEX GILROY SOUND DESIGN SEAN OAKLEY COLORIST ANDREW FRANCIS VISUAL EFFECTS MARY MA COSTUME DESIGNER JERESA FEATHERSTONE COSTUME ASSISTANT ASHLEY MINGO MAKE-UP ARTIST LAUREN VERRETT STUDIO TEACHER ALBERT BARRIENTOS COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICER AMY SCHUMACHER CATERING BY IMPECCABLE TASTE CATERING

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

MAMA DEBBIE	AMANDA BAIÃO
SHIONTA JONES	MIKEY RIVA
ERIC KOCHMER	CHRIS SCHWARTZ
HAMED HOKAMZADEH	ZACHARY SCHAFFER
SEAN & YOLANDA PHARMS	JASON AND NICOLE BERESFORD
LEONARD THOMAS	THE NEWMAN FAMILY
JORGE CAMARENA	MISS LOUISE
TARYN PROCSCAL	WILANDREA BLAIR
ANDREW WAGNER	SIDNEY RIBOT
ANTHONY SNEED	JALMER CACERES
CHRISTINA HOLMES	OMAR KAMARA
PORTLYNN TAGAVI	ALLISON JACKSON
BP MENDOZA	LAUREN DAVIS
SUHANA CHANDER	KELLY PARK AND THE CITY OF COMPTON

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COTTY CHUBB
ALEXAUNDREA NICOLE SMITH

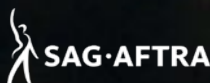
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CASTING SUPPORT SERVICES BREAKDOWN SERVICES

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