

five



ARI CONSERVATORY PRESENTS FIVE STARRING JACOB GIBSON HILARY WARD J.D. HALL SYDNEY THOMAS AND CHARLES LAMONT SMITH
CASTING BY ARI BROWN COMPOSED BY ALEXANDRA KALINOWSKI & PRATEEK RAJAGOPAL EDITED BY ERIC OSMAN PRODUCTION DESIGNER RASHI JAIN CINEMATOGRAPHY BY DAWIT ADERA PRODUCED AND WRITTEN BY DURAN JONES STORY BY KEENAN SCOTT II DIRECTED BY DAVID ORANTES





LOGLINE

After spending 7 years in prison, Malcolm seeks to mend his relationship with his mother while devoting himself as a consistent and faithful new convert to Islam.



SUMMARY

At the age of 16, Malcolm was convicted of reckless homicide, a class 2 felony that carries a 3-14 year sentence. While inside he converted to Islam, and after 7 years he is released. Now 23 years old, with no diploma, no work history, and no place to go, he returns to his childhood home seeking the forgiveness of his Mother. His crime has hurt her more than you can imagine.



Muslims are committed to Salat (praying) FIVE times a day to maintain devotion to Allah. Salat is one of the FIVE pillars that form the foundation of this faith along with Shahada (profession of faith), Zakat (charity), Sawm (Fasting), and Hajj (pilgrimage). In the environment where Malcolm grew up, this will become increasingly difficult. The streets of Compton have their challenges and distractions, but Malcolm knows his faith is the only way he can be strong enough to confront his darkest mistake and heal the pain he caused his family.





JACOB GIBSON

Jacob Romero Gibson is Malcolm. Malcolm is out of prison today and hasn't seen or heard from his mother, Jeanine, in 7 years. The situation that landed him in prison is also at the center of the rift between he and his mother. Malcolm wasn't necessarily a bad person, he was just a lost 16-year-old unable to get a firm footing to life without his father. Now 23, Malcolm has committed his life to Islam, to being a better version of himself, and to serving a higher power. He wants to see his mother again and to show her that he has changed.

Gibson is an Actor, Musician, and Writer whose credits include; "AJ" in GreenLeaf, appearances in All Rise, Grey's Anatomy, and The Resident. Stage performances include "Emmet Till" in The Carolyn Bryant Project (REDCAT), and "Scotch" in Is God Is (Mixed Blood). His debut solo project "Water for Plants" is a sultry mix of melodies and earthly human wisdom available on all streaming platforms.

Jacob is honored and humbled to give voice and breath to this character in this potent story about what it means to continue forward.



HILARY WARD

Hilary Ward is Jeanine Harris, mother to Malcolm. Jeanine has lived the last 7 years of her life numbing her pain into a state of indifference. It is pain caused by the loss of her daughter and Malcolm's incarceration. Today, she is challenged by Malcolm's return from prison.

Ward received her MFA from the University of California- San Diego and currently serves on the Organizing Committee for SAG-AFTRA, of which she is a proud member. A working actress and champion of the arts, she is best known for her television roles on Sharp Objects, Grey's Anatomy, Station 19 and NCIS. Hilary's image and voice have been featured in over two dozen national commercials and on stage at the Ashland New Play Festival (Those Days are Over), South Coast Rep (Sense and Sensibility), Ojai Playwrights Conference (Ripe Frenzy), La Jolla Playhouse (Mother Courage), and the Classical Theatre of Harlem (Macbeth, King Lear, Madea).

Also a member of the Television Academy and Actors Equity Association and serves as Co-Artistic Producing Director of the award-winning Chalk Rep, which she co-founded in 2008.

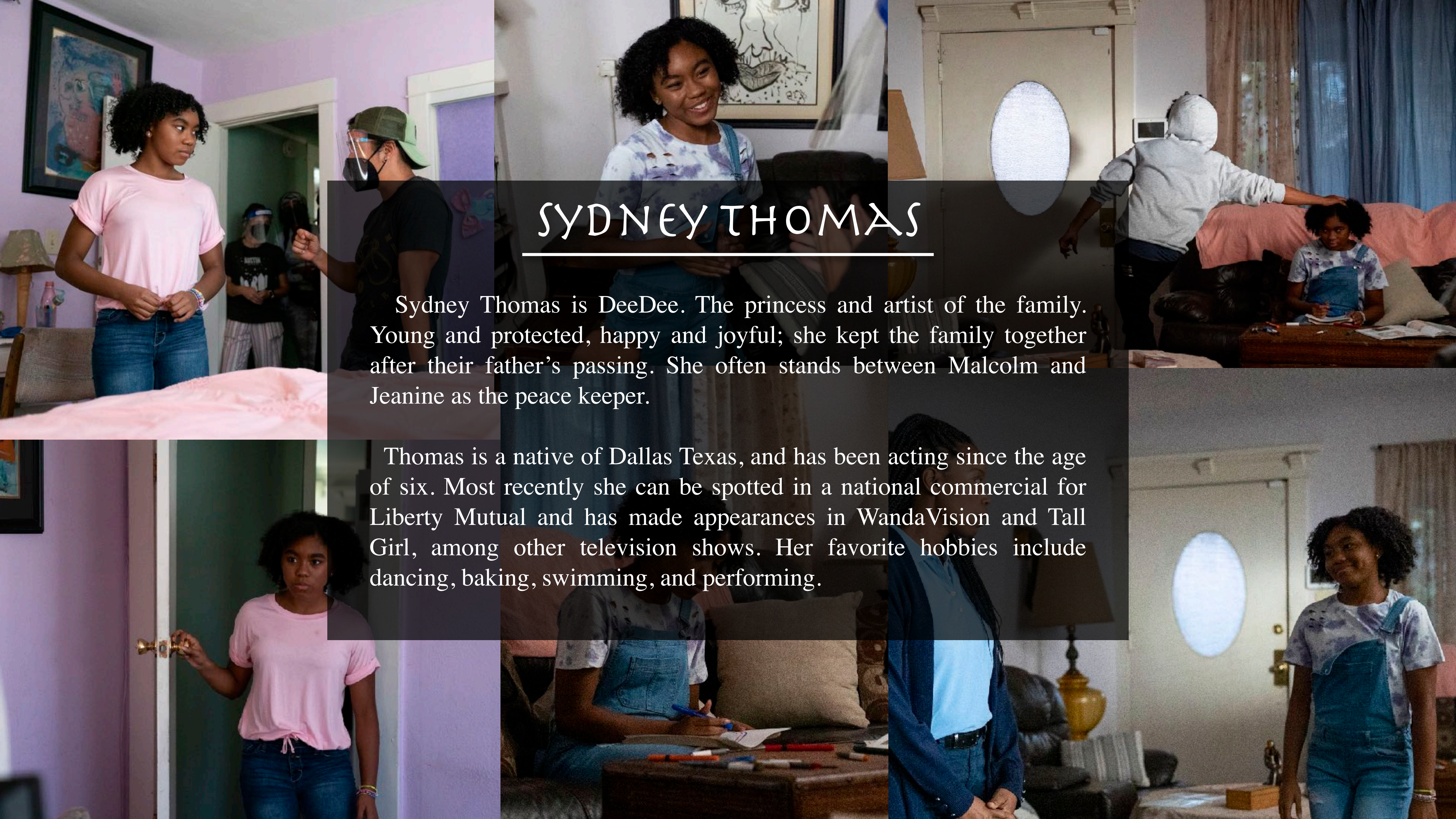


J.D. HALL

J.D. Hall is Waleed. He serves as a mentor and patriarchal figure to many young men in the neighborhood, by opening the doors of his home as a barbershop and a space for community. An ex-con himself, Wally understands Malcolm's journey and wrote to him regularly while the young man was in prison. When Malcolm was ready, Wally introduced Malcolm to a few Muslim brothers on the inside.

For over 40 years J. D. Hall has earned his living as a professional actor, writer, director and voiceover artist. He has appeared in numerous TV shows including "Fresh Prince of Bel Air," "iCarly," "Lincoln Heights," and most recently "911." J.D. has performed voices for more than 500 movies, TV shows and video games collectively for Disney, Marvel, The Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Sony, McDonald's and many others. As a writer he was a member of the original cohort of Disney's Minority Writers Program in the early 90's.

Well known to the Los Angeles and international Muslim community, he has served as an Imam & Khateeb (Preacher) in various Mosques in for over 25 years. He has also made the pilgrimage to Mecca 6 times, Alhamdulillah!



SYDNEY THOMAS

Sydney Thomas is DeeDee. The princess and artist of the family. Young and protected, happy and joyful; she kept the family together after their father's passing. She often stands between Malcolm and Jeanine as the peace keeper.

Thomas is a native of Dallas Texas, and has been acting since the age of six. Most recently she can be spotted in a national commercial for Liberty Mutual and has made appearances in WandaVision and Tall Girl, among other television shows. Her favorite hobbies include dancing, baking, swimming, and performing.



CHARLES LAMONT SMITH

Charles Lamont Smith is Jason, one of Malcolm's closest friend before he went to prison. Jason looked up to Malcolm as a leader, someone to admire for his stoic demeanor and silent aggression. He looked to Malcolm for approval and followed his lead. The two friends were beginning to get wrapped up in the streets when Malcolm went to prison. Jason continued forward.

Charles was born in Denver Colorado to Janice and Lamont Smith. Before moving to Hollywood he studied film and tv at Howard University, where he played basketball and graduated with a degree in Media Journalism and Film. He moved to LA in 2017 and since then he has appeared on OWN Network's "Cherish The Day," "Snowfall" on FX and a new pilot for an upcoming CW series.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



History doesn't dictate who we are today, but we must choose how we respond to it. At the core of my being, there is a wound from childhood that I contend with daily. This wound says that I'm worth nothing. Nothing because my father drank himself to death and failed to let my four half-siblings know that their lonely brother exists. Because, I was left alone by my single, immigrant mother trying to keep the roof over her sons. Because, a school therapist couldn't see that I was screaming for help inside my self-imposed stoicism.

Today, I know that wound is an illusion. Although it feels real because for a long period of time I behaved as if it were real. I didn't care about my education nor did I care about having ambitions. Like Malcolm, I was caught up in short-term satisfactions— whatever could keep me from facing the worthlessness I felt at my core. I ate poorly, fed my mind junk, and numbed myself with pot. Eventually, I understood something was wrong, and it turned out that I had completely abandoned myself, the way I felt the world had abandoned me.

With this understanding, I sought help to build myself back up and to challenge this false notion of worthlessness. This challenge meant changing what I ate. It meant showing up for myself and understanding what I desire as a person and accepting that I deserve it. It meant designing a higher power that I could believe in to restore me to sanity. Most importantly, it meant waking every morning—no matter how silly it felt—to get on my knees and speak to that higher power. I am Malcolm; a child forced to grow up quickly seeking to cope with trauma through faith and consistency.

WRITER/ PRODUCER

Duran 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 graduate of 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.



DURAN JONES

PERSONAL CONNECTION

(From Writer Duran Jones)

In 2012 my brother was sentenced to 36 years in prison for the killing of a woman in Capitol Heights Maryland. She reportedly died of asphyxia and her body was found floating in a creek inside of a gym bag. This woman was a daughter, and a mother to a 6 year old girl.

There was a time in my life where I idolized my brother, but his actions have crippled my family. My father still has not forgiven himself for this incident even though he did nothing to cause it. When your family member does something this irreparable, they don't pay for it alone. The guilt of their actions follows you and sticks with you forever. You hear the whispers from other people, and even when you don't hear them you know they're there.

I didn't speak with my brother until 2015, three years after his incarceration. I could never bring myself too. I had so many questions that to this day I still haven't asked. When I did finally speak to him he was different, more conscious, more present and humble. It was during this conversation that he told me he had converted to Islam and given his life to Allah. Inside I laughed, but outside I said "O...that's what's up."



PERSONAL CONNECTION

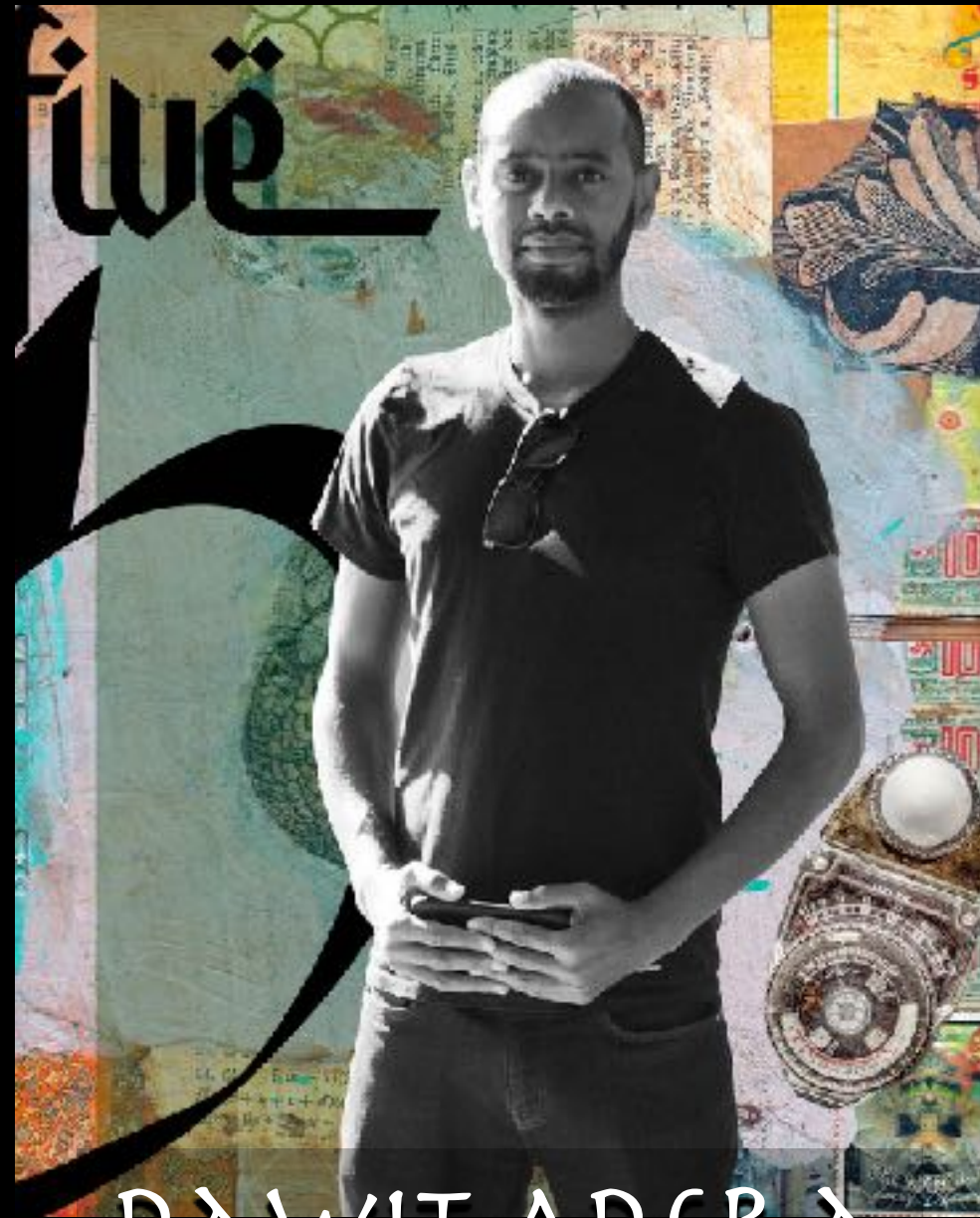
(From Writer Duran Jones)

My brother was always scheming, so if you knew him you would know why I laughed. I thought maybe he just got a hold of someone's book and learned a few buzz words; that's more in line with the person I knew. I couldn't have been more wrong. In the past 8 years my brother has gone from someone who sold and experimented with drugs, like "Dippers" (cigarettes laced with PCP) and Heroin, to a prayer leader and the head of the prison photography committee.

In no way does this excuse, correct, or forgive what he's done in his life, but he's trying. This path that he travels takes a level of courage and discipline that I don't believe I would have. A level of courage and discipline that he attributes to his belief in Islam. If my brother is released we will both be in our 60s, my mother will be in her 80s and my father his 90s. It will be up to me to shoulder his burden. He will have no job history, no money and a felony on his record. Much like Malcolm's mother I will have to forgive in ways I'm not sure I'll be able to.



CINEMATOGRAPHER



DAWIT ADERA

His drive comes from a passion to tell meaningful human stories, which he has been pursuing since childhood. He is a graduate of Columbia College Hollywood with a BFA in Cinematography and has worked on different international and local documentary and narrative films, both in the US and in Africa. He plans to use his knowledge of documentary to illustrate the poetic nature of FIVE.

PRODUCTION DESIGNER



RASHI JAIN

Carries an MFA in Applied Design from CalArts. She currently works as a Production Designer, Scenic Artist and a Visual Developer in Los Angeles and seeking opportunities to collaborate with artists from all over the world. She aspires to create visual excellence and redefine the way we look at cinema.

EDITOR



ERIC OSMAN

Graduated with a BA in Journalism and Mass Communications from GW's School of Media and Public Affairs. He has worked out of NYC in a variety of production companies, developing documentaries, short films, docu-dramas, and reality series. As a graduate of the American Film Institute Conservatory, his passion is to apply the latest in storytelling and editing techniques to bring creativity and authenticity to inspirational stories of our time.

AFI CONSERVATORY PRESENTS



DIRECTED BY: **David Orantes**
WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY: **Duran Jones**
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY: **Dawit Adera**
PRODUCTION DESIGN BY: **Rashi Jain**
EDITED BY: **Eric Osman**
COMPOSED BY: **Alexandra Kalinowski &
Prateek Rajagopal**

MALCOLM **Jacob Gibson**
JEANINE **Hilary Ward**
WALEED **J.D. Hall**
DEEDEE **Sydney Thomas**
JASON **Charles Lamont Smith**

VIC **Bryce C. Lewis**
PHIL **Peter John Minto**
ANT **Kennedy Porter**
LEON **Antony Gordon**
JASON **Charles Lamont Smith**
STUNT COORDINATOR **Eric VanArsdale**
CASHIER **Marcus Owens**
HOMELESS WOMAN **Lynne Burnett**
PRISON GUARD **Zeke Alton**



CASTING BY: **Ari Brown**



UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER **Alex Oger**
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **Ashley Beuhler**
2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **Bretta Lichtenwalner**

CAMERA OPERATOR **Dawit Adera**
1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA **Bryce Souriall**
2ND ASSISTANT(S) CAMERA **Leeann Leonard,
Shawn Thompson, Lena Lee**

STEADICAM OPERATOR **Casey Oberhansli**
DIT(S) **Bryce Souriall, Lena Lee**

STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS **Sheldon Botler,
Julian Park**

CAMERA PA **Lena Lee**

LINE PRODUCER **Patrick Estberg**
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR **Desiry Hall**
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR **Magdiel Carranza**



RELIGIOUS CONSULTANTS **Muhammad Ali,
Umar Hakim-Dey, Sadiq Davis,
Justin Mashouf, Sue Obeidi**

GAFFER **Tim Karau**
KEY GRIP **Steven Mangurten**
DOLLY GRIP **Jeongwoo Noh**
GRIPS **Robert L. Hunter, Harry Lipnick,
Razzaaq Boykin**

SWING **Joseph Lopez, Tari Wariebi**

LOCATION MANAGER(S) **Lorne Littlejohn,
Tony Ware**

ASSISTANT EDITOR **Chris Hong**
GRAPHIC DESIGNER(S) **Tierra Farmer, Xiaojie Wu**

PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER & BOOM OPERATOR
Chris Cole





ART DIRECTOR(S) **Savannah Ryan,
Sofia Ribeiro**
SET DECORATOR(S) **Ulyana Chava,
John Lanternier**

WEAPONS WRANGLER **Tavarus Weems**

COSTUME DESIGNER **Ashley Mingo**
COSTUMER(S) **Jeresa Featherstone,
Jynequa Drummond**

HAIR & MAKEUP **Lauren Verret,
Renaë Dyson, Andrea Valdez**
BARBER **Gina Grogan**

AUDIO POST PRODUCTION BY
MelodyGun Sound Studios

SOUND SUPERVISOR
Hamed Hokamzadeh

SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR **Thomas Ouziel**

RE-RECORDING MIXER **Thomas Ouziel**

DIALOG EDITOR **Sean Oakley**

SOUND EDITOR **Xiaodan Li**

SOUND EFX EDITOR **Xiaodan Li**

ASSISTANT SOUND EDITOR **Kristopher Breckon**



COLORIST **Katie Morgan**
VFX **Ryan Hopkinson**

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR

Patrick Estberg

DRIVERS

Alex Oger

Magdiel Carranza

John Lanternier

KEY SET PA **Kali Veach**

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Marcus Owens

Yaa Asantewaa Faraji

Amira Buckly

Leah Kirksey

STUDIO TEACHER **Pamela Walls**

CATERING **Impeccable Taste**

HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGER(S)

Greg Urich

Robin Green

SECURITY **Opportunity Baptist Church,**

Pacific Production Services





BENEFACTORS

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Linda Corradina
Erika Ghaffari
Byron Jones
Phoebe Jones
Shionta Jones
Robert Kelman
Timur Khanachet
Quinton Lewis
Terran Lewis
Betty Osman
Gary Osman
Sherrod Seward
Michael Tafelski



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Caleb Kephart
Pamela King
Carolanne Lachenauer
Robert Lachenauer

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Letitia Love
Kaitlin Martindale
Daniel Martinez
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Brian McLaughlin
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Iva Micheau
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LaToya Mitchell
Adonias Monterroso
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Moise Morancy
Janice Mozee
Aminah Muhammad
Roma Murphy
Sabreen Mutawally
Tonia Natesan
Themba Nelson
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Stacey Pettice
Ronald Pickens
Kevin Polowy

Samuel Pumphrey Jr.
Justin Quimpo
Rohan Rao
Jennifer Reed
Teddy Reeves
Rex X. Reyes II
Shawniece Russell
Aries S. Sanders
Grace Santos
Russell Schwartz
Michelle Shaay
Patty Shama
Cornelius Small
Sonyia Smallwood
Matthew Smith
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Amanda Trevelino
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David Urbina
Nick Valencia
Charlotte Van Horn
Anna S. Vecellio
Karina Vera
Lavanna Weems
Michael Whittley
Brienne Wilhelmi
Michael Wortham
Teresa Wright

THE FILMMAKERS WISH TO THANK:

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Muhammad Ali
Kokayi Ampah
Dubois Ashong
Andrea Austin
Dick Bottnberg
Khalid Brickhouse
Elena Carias
Jared Cowan
Susannah D'Arcy
Dime Davis
Sadiq Davis
Gabe Dell
Terel Gibson

Asher Goldstein
Umar Dey Hakim
Joel & Phoebe Jones
Joseph Jones
Shionta Jones
Justin Mashouf
Shaun Mathis
Sue Obeidi
Steve and Sara Osman
Messi Reta
Ruth Reta
Chris Schwartz
Tari Wariebi
Steve Warner



LIGHT  IRON
A PANAVISION COMPANY


FILM PRODUCTION

inkerij


Old Fast Glass
VINTAGE CINEMA LENS RENTALS


MelodyGun
Music // Sound



EDITED ON AVID MEDIA COMPOSER

CAMERA EQUIPMENT COURTESY OF K49 FILM PRODUCTION

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DURAN JONES, AFI PRODUCING FELLOW
DAWIT ADERA, AFI CINEMATOGRAPHY FELLOW
ERIC OSMAN, AFI EDITING FELLOW

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