



IN THE POCKET

a lisa arrindell film

Proof of Concept Film Deck

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY lisa arrindell

The stories we see on screen dictate what society believes to be TRUE. As adults who are arguably addicted to visual media and consequently less literary, we unwittingly raise and educate children to read history and biography less. As our nation's Kindergarten through 12th-grade history textbooks continue to dole out partial truths or completely omit entire periods of United States history for our country's developing minds, it is fitting that what was formerly thought of as mere entertainment has become the primary tool to reshape the collective consciousness of our nation and the globe.

What is seen is believed, even when it is not the truth. As a storyteller, I desire to show what is true in a manner that will capture hearts and, thereby, minds. A captured mind is how the practice of buying and selling humans, and all the enduring fruit of that vice, flourished in our country. Conversely, our minds, captured by true history, will transform how we see ourselves. We have already lived the stories, and I am determined to tell as many of them as possible as a writer/director.

The Isaac Simmons Legacy, which is a seed of inspiration for my feature-length script, *In The Pocket*, is just one exemplar of Black fortitude, perseverance, and excellence that thrived unequivocally before America's characteristic wickedness and greed violently annihilated it.'

IMDb



PRODUCTION TEAM

IMDb

George Anthony Richardson, Producer

The roots of George Anthony Richardson are grounded in Merced, CA. His upbringing as the son of a minister and a social worker ignited a desire to reach through to people's hearts through storytelling. In 2014, he attended Santa Monica College to further hone his craft as an actor until moving to New York City in 2017. He is a 2021 graduate of The Juilliard School's Drama Division and has worked on numerous productions including Tanya Barfield's *Blue Door* and *Cardboard Piano* by Hansol Jung. In 2022, he made his Off-Broadway Directing Debut at 59e59 Theatres. His most recent acting credit marks his Broadway debut: 2022's Tony Award winning revival of Suzan Lori-Parks' *Topdog/Underdog*. Developing a keen lens for the human condition through storytelling as an actor has propelled him to step into the role of not only a writer, but director as well.

IMDb

Terri Montrel, Creative Producer

Terri Montrel is a dedicated creative producer with a fervent commitment to bringing captivating stories to life on film. She excels at managing all aspects of production, ensuring smooth execution and cost efficiency. Terri is skilled in brainstorming, concept development, and most importantly, timeline management, which she uses in close collaboration with writers and directors to realize their creative visions. Currently, Terri is heading the post-production of the proof of concept film for "An Extraordinary Life," written and directed by Lisa Arrindell. Terri is gearing up to pitch this historical drama for a full length feature production to investors this Fall. Originally from Greensboro, North Carolina and a proud mother of two, Terri now calls Brooklyn, New York her home.





STORY IN THE POCKET

LOGLINE

After an expecting couple faces an incendiary horror, a sacrifice must be made in order to move forward.

SYNOPSIS

On a cold Georgia morning just before sunrise, a couple awakens to love each other to warmth. Asa is a craftsman in woodwork, Sky a midwife, and they are pregnant with their first child. They own several acres of land, debt-free, that has a generous supply of wood for his highly sought after carpentry work. There is a group of white males on horses who have been lately “surveying” their homestead...

On March 26, 1944, Reverend Isaac Simmons the debt-free owner of 270 acres of land in Amite County, Mississippi, was dragged out of his home and kidnapped by six white males. They shot Rev. Simmons three times and cut out his tongue, telling his family they had ten days to evacuate their property. After burying their murdered father/ husband, the Simmons family fled the land, and the murderers divided the 270 acres among them. They were found “not guilty,” by an all white jury.

The film I am crafting is inspired by true events over many decades from various families, quilted together, from our country’s wicked history; countless stories of lives choked out and small empires stolen.

In the Pocket stands as a monument of the culmination of these tragic crimes, showing the agency and future hope that remaining family members create for themselves. They are not destroyed. This is what African Americans do again and again: make a way out of no way, to not only survive but thrive.

Fire licks what's behind
Freedom is dancing ahead
Breathing -- when we're dead.

— SKY, *In The Pocket*

SKY, late 20's

played by Lark White

Sky Freehold, twenty-nine and gifted as a midwife. She herself now carries a child, her first. She is a womb of dreams deeply loved by, and in love with, Asa, her husband of three years. She and her sister were orphaned as children and moved from family member to family member for years. This house Asa built is her first 'home-place', and she holds to it like a starving child clutching the first morsel of food they are given. Though she never learned to read, Sky is a formidable partner to her husband; smart, steadfast, and loving. She longs to bring him the same joy that he brings her with his writing and songs. Her heart wants to build a steady and unchanging foundation for her young family. After losing him, the memory of her husband and his child within her keeps her alive in the midst of tragedy, transforming Sky's original plan to deepen their roots into a sacrificial act of destroying all she has left to build a new life.

IMDb



JOEL, 9

played by Aaron Kingsley Adetola

Joel Nobel, nine years old. He is one of those children we believe 'must have been here before'. "Joel-ly", as his family calls him, is Sky's nephew from her only sister. He looks up to Asa and wants to be just like him when he grows up. Joel bravely goes to inspect the place his aunt sends him to, looking for evidence of Asa's supposed lynching. The boy enters the defiled grounds, which would scare most adults, with a tender reverence, collecting the remnants of his uncle's life for Sky. He is a protector, even at nine years old, and in appreciation for his courage, Sky gifts him Asa's guitar.

IMDb



ASA, early 30's

played by Chaundre Hall-Broomfield

Asa Freehold is thirty-three years old and the descendant of a Negro family who was able to amass 37 acres of land, debt-free, over three generations. This young Black man, a carpenter by trade, was always raised hearing the stories of how his great great great grandmother was captured on the West coast of Africa as a little girl, arriving on the shores of what would later be called Georgia, in 1702- – the only survivor of her native tribe. Asa is the holder of his family's stories and dreams. His father, Luke Freehold, was a Pullman porter traveling up and down the Eastern seaboard. His intoxicating charm as a servant and man-made him several "friends" of the passengers he served. One such friend was a Japanese ambassador who gifted him a book of haikus. Luke passes the book along to his son, and it becomes a talisman of love, hope, and possibility for Asa and then for his bride, Sky. Like Joseph's brothers in the Old Testament, it is Asa's dream the four white murderers aim to lynch. His body is all they are able to kill.

IMDb





TREATMENT IN THE POCKET

COLOR PALETTE

The subtle hints of reds, greens, browns, blues, and deep shadows will dominate the scenes, exploring the beauty of their world, the brutality that took place, and Sky's decision to pick up the pieces.



MOODBOARD

circa 1940's

inspiring
adjective, in-spir-ing

having the effect of inspiring someone; giving someone positive or creative feelings.



chin lips nose brow bronze
sun shine gleams over my Sky
her eyes open – – me .

— *ASA, In The Pocket*



PRODUCTION

SHORT FILM

PRODUCTION

Script

9 pages

Shoot

2 days

Cast

3 people

Locations

2

****Click [here](#) to read the Script.**

SCHEDULE

Today	October–November 2024	December 2024	January–February 2025
Development	Pre-production	Production	Post-production
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize funding• Scouting filming location• Finalize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Casting• Crew hiring• Rehearsals, blocking, camera testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-day shoot• Two 13-hour days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rough cut• Trailer cut• ADR, Foley, music, titles, DCP, dialogue script• Picture lock• Test screenings



COMPS

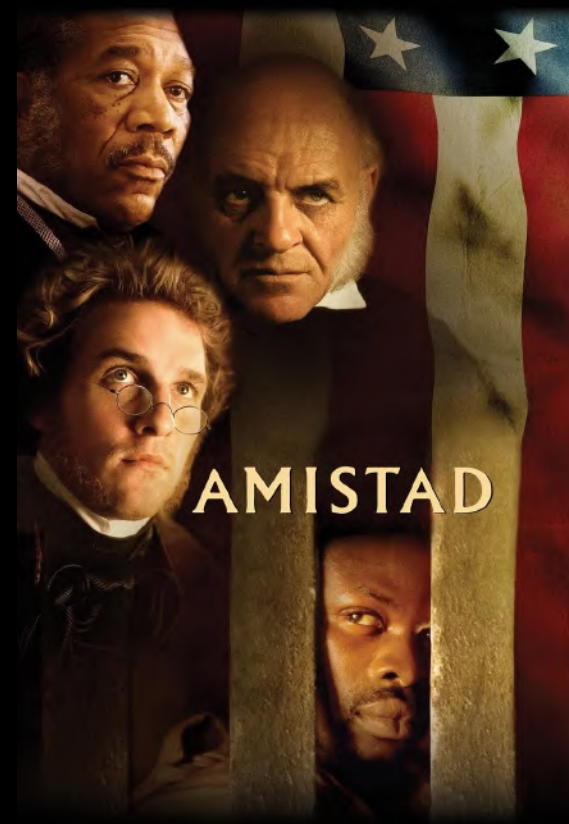
HISTORICAL DRAMAS

COMPARABLES

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL DRAMAS



Rosewood 1997
 Budget \$17M
 Box Office \$13.1M



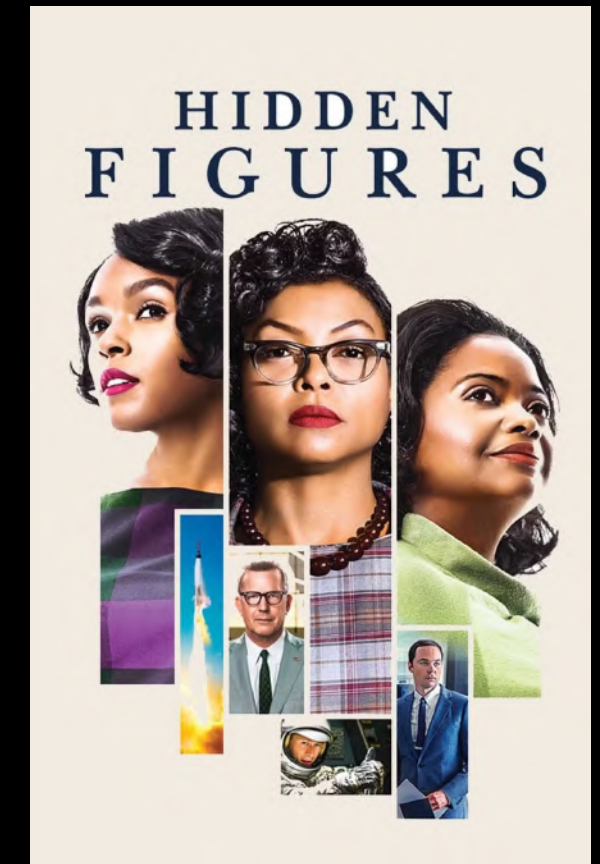
Amistad 1997
 Budget \$36M
 Box Office \$44.2M



Mudbound 2007
 Budget \$12.5M
 Box Office \$117,344



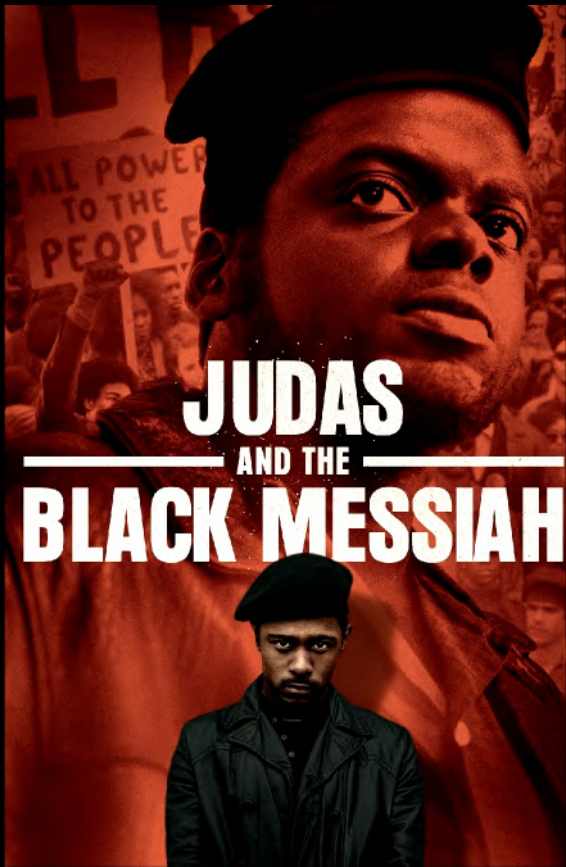
The Butler 2013
 Budget \$30M
 Box Office \$177M



Hidden Figures 2016
 Budget \$25M
 Box Office \$235.9M

COMPARABLES

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL DRAMAS

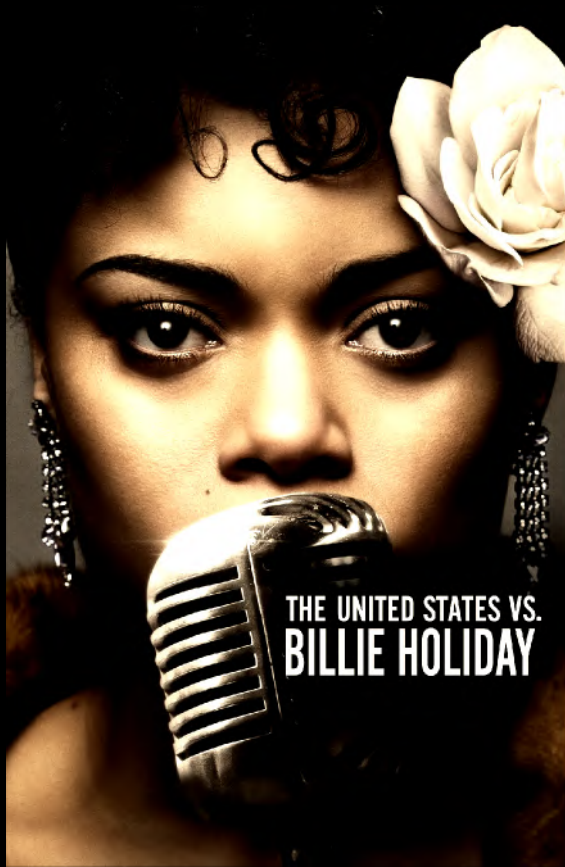


Judas and the Black Messiah

2021

Budget \$26M

Box Office \$7.4M

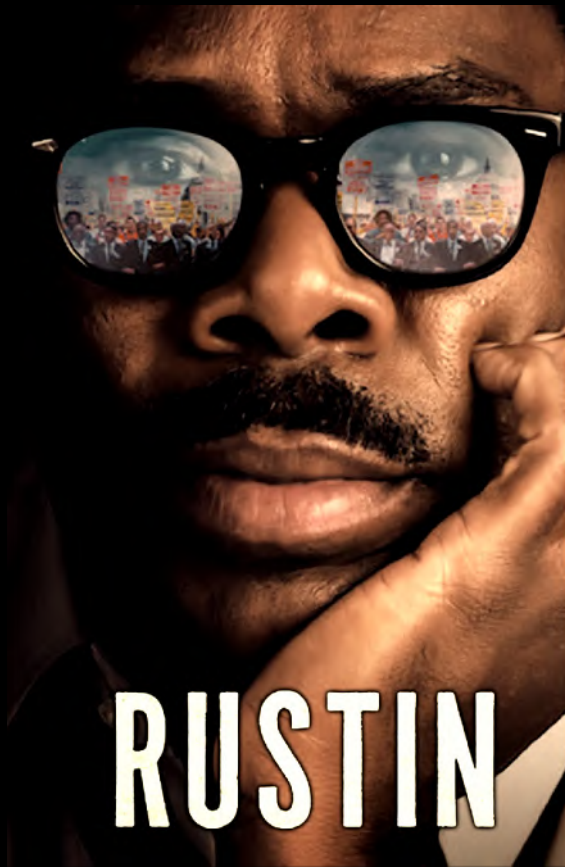


The United States vs Billie Holiday

2021

Budget \$

Box Office \$1.3M



Rustin

2023

Budget \$

Box Office \$



Shirley

2024

Budget \$

Box Office \$



SUMMARY

FULL FEATURE

Title

In The Pocket

Length

Feature Film

Script

85 pages

Running Time

90 minutes

Genre

Historical Drama

Budget

\$7M

Location

**Savannah, Georgia
Brooklyn, New York**



Try Pitch

CONTACT

Phone
(336) 935-5651

Email
laa324@gmail.com
terrimentrel@gmail.com

Website
www.lisaarrindell.com

