

Begin the Beguine

“Dancing Through Time: A Story of Unwritten Histories and Unheard Voices”

by R. A. Modro

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BEGIN THE BEGUINE tells the heartfelt love story of Patrick and Albert, whose deep and enduring connection challenges societal norms and personal struggles. Set against a backdrop of cultural and historical shifts, their romance highlights themes of love and identity, celebrating the transformative power of their relationship.

R.A. Modro brings a unique perspective to "Begin the Beguine." Having lived through many of the challenges and triumphs of the LGBTQ+ community, he understands the importance of giving voice to our untold stories. His background in independent journalism, documentary filmmaking, and cultural research has equipped him to sensitively explore the themes of discrimination, love, and resilience. He sees film as a powerful medium to evoke empathy, spark conversations, and foster positive change.



Begin the Beguine

Two families from two eras – 1940s and present day – one White, one Black – are linked by a violent family legacy and a historic home where an expectant couple uncovers a history of racism and homophobia and must learn to embrace love to save their children from a doomed future mired in hate.

In *Begin the Beguine*, two families—one Black, one White—are linked across time by a shared legacy of love and prejudice within a historic home. In the 1940s, a forbidden romance blossoms between Patrick Henderson, a defiant African-American man, and Albert Newman, a white soldier, amidst the racial and homophobic tensions of their era. Decades later, Amy and Brad Sullivan, an expectant white couple, move into the same house and uncover the buried history of this love, while grappling with Amy's racist great-grandfather, George. As they delve into the past, they find unexpected support from Candace Turner, Patrick's granddaughter, and come to embrace a legacy of acceptance and love, bridging the gap between their divided histories to create a more hopeful future.





THEMES

Love and Commitment: The story centers on Patrick and Albert's deep, enduring love and their commitment to overcoming obstacles together.

Identity and Self-Discovery: The narrative explores the personal and societal aspects of identity through Patrick and Albert's relationship, as well as Amy's journey to understand and reconcile her own identity.

Resilience and Overcoming Adversity: Both Patrick and Albert, as well as Amy, face significant challenges that test their strength and resilience, illustrating their ability to confront and overcome adversity.

Societal Norms and Expectations: The story examines how societal norms influence personal relationships and identities, particularly through Amy's struggle with her family's racist and homophobic legacy.

Reconciliation with the Past: Amy's growth involves confronting her family's prejudiced history and her desire to make amends, reflecting a broader theme of reconciling with the past to build a more inclusive future.

Transformation and Growth: The characters experience profound personal and relational growth, driven by their journeys of love, self-discovery, and reconciling with their pasts.

Main Characters – in order of appearance



- **Albert Newman:** Amy's great uncle, a brave soldier who died during WWII. In life, he was Patrick's lover. His spirit now haunts the home Amy and Brad live in, desperate to keep the memory of their forbidden love alive.
- **Patrick Henderson:** An African-American man who, in his youth, was defiant and vibrant, challenging the racial norms of his time. In his 20s during the 1940s, Patrick had a secret love affair with Albert Newman. Now, at 100 years old, Patrick grapples with regrets over his past.
- **Amy and Brad Sullivan:** A young, expectant Caucasian couple, Amy and Brad are professional and middle-class. They have recently moved into an inherited family home, gifted to them by her elderly great-grandfather. As they prepare for their first child, they are confronted with the ghosts of the past, both literally and figuratively.
- **George Newman:** Amy's great grandfather, a racist and homophobic man, now in his 90s. His younger self was notorious for his harsh views, and even in old age, he continues to spout offensive remarks. He represents the family's darker legacy.
- **Candace Turner:** George's nurse and Patrick's granddaughter, Candace is a strong-willed woman in her 40s. She has a sharp wit and refuses to tolerate George's bigotry, embodying strength and compassion.

Visual Approach and Tone

In *BEGIN THE BEGUINE*, the visual approach distinguishes time periods through color, lighting, and sound. The 1940s are depicted with warm, slightly desaturated tones, soft lighting, and subtle film grain, evoking nostalgia and a historical feel, with steady camera work reflecting the era's style. The present/future scenes use cool, high-contrast tones, natural lighting, and dynamic camera work to create a modern, introspective atmosphere. Transitions between periods are marked by shifts in color grading, changes in lighting from warm to cool, and complementary sound cues, ensuring the audience can seamlessly navigate the timeline.





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Target Audience

- **Supernatural Romance Fans:** Viewers who enjoy romantic tales with supernatural twists will be drawn to Patrick and Albert's mystical love story.
- **Socially Conscious Individuals:** Those interested in narratives about personal growth and confronting societal issues will resonate with Amy's journey to address her family's past.
- **Historical Drama Enthusiasts:** The project engages fans of historical settings, enhanced by a distinctive visual style that separates past and present.
- **Character-Driven Story Seekers:** Audiences who value deep, emotional storytelling and complex character arcs will find the development of Patrick, Albert, and Amy compelling.

Appeal

BEGIN THE BEGUINE offers broad appeal across various demographics, including adults aged 18-50, who are interested in romance, social issues, and historical drama. Its innovative visual style and relevant themes ensure it attracts both mainstream and niche audiences, making it a versatile and engaging project for a wide range of viewers.

Market Positioning

Unique Selling Points:

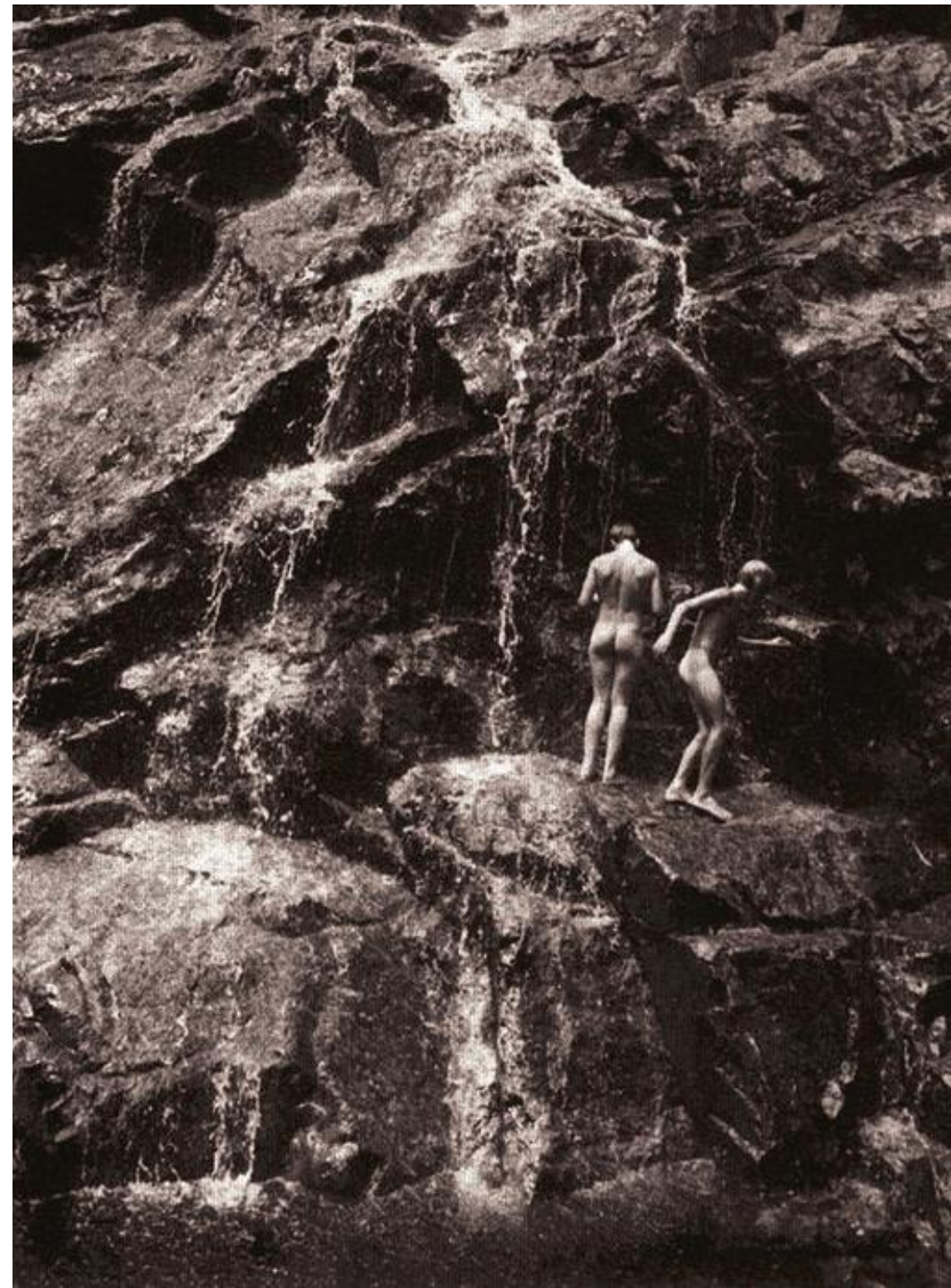
- **Blending Genres:** Combines supernatural romance with historical drama, creating a fresh narrative fusion.
- **Innovative Visual Style:** Distinct lighting and design differentiate past and present, enhancing storytelling.
- **Socially Relevant Themes:** Tackles personal growth and societal issues, offering a thought-provoking experience.

Standout Factors:

- **Original Narrative:** Unique love story between Patrick and Albert with a supernatural twist, unlike typical romance or historical dramas.
- **Emotional Depth:** Explores complex characters and themes of reconciliation and identity, providing both escapism and substance.

Potential Market and Audience Reach:

- **Broad Appeal:** Attracts fans of supernatural romance, historical drama, and character-driven stories.
- **Demographic Reach:** Engages adults aged 18-50, offering cross-demographic interest with its innovative storytelling and relevant themes.





Development Status

BEGIN THE BEGUINE is a completed script that has already achieved significant recognition, including numerous awards in a short span. It has been showcased with a recorded scene reading and review by the LGBTQ+ Los Angeles Film Festival and the WILDsound Screenplay Competition. Key milestones include these prestigious showcases, and the positive feedback received. The next steps involve securing production partners and funding to advance the project to the screen, leveraging its proven appeal and critical acclaim.



Biography of R.A. Modro – Screenwriter/Playwright

R.A. Modro (Ron) is an accomplished artist based in Los Angeles, California. With a rich background in film and television production, as well as human rights education, Ron brings a unique perspective to his storytelling, infusing his work with deep empathy, historical awareness, and a commitment to exploring complex social issues. Born in the small mill town of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, Ron has lived across the globe, including stints in Paris, Marrakech, Luxembourg, and Helsinki. This diverse life experience has enriched his creative voice, allowing him to craft narratives that resonate across cultures and time periods.

His latest work, *Begin the Beguine*, delves into the intergenerational impacts of racism and homophobia, highlighting the power of love and acceptance. With a passion for creating thought-provoking and meaningful content, Ron continues to push the boundaries of traditional storytelling, aiming to foster understanding and unity through his unique works.

Begin the Beguine

Call to Action

It is Ron's hope to bring *BEGIN THE BEGUINE* to life, seeking powerful partnerships and visionary support to elevate this project from page to screen. With the right resources and connections, this story has the potential to captivate audiences and make a lasting impact.

Join us in transforming this compelling narrative into a cinematic experience that resonates far and wide. Your collaboration could be the key to unlocking the full potential of *BEGIN THE BEGUINE*.

Thank you for considering this opportunity and for championing bold, innovative storytelling.

