

TIME IS MONEY

BLK MGC CONTENT PRESENTS TIME IS MONEY STARRING BRUCE A. LEMON & JESUS SEPULVEDA
POSTER ARTWORK BY ADRIEL MEKA EDITED BY ERIC OSMAN PRODUCTION DESIGN BY CODY ZUMBRD CINEMATOGRAPHY BY EYTHAN MAIDHOF
PRODUCED BY CLAIRE HOLL, DENELLE "DENI" JOHNSON, AND DURAN JONES
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY DURAN JONES

Zen



STARRING BRUCE A LEMON

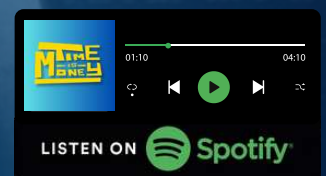
Logline



Jace, a financially challenged writer/director and self-proclaimed graduate of the school of Mark Duplass, delivers packages to survive while struggling to secure funds for his first indie feature. A bonus for the top-ranked delivery driver could solve his problems.

Genre: **Black Comedy**

Format: **Short Film**



Synopsis



Jace (late 30s) wants to be a writer/director, but the barrier of entry for a **black man from Los Angeles** is typically money and access. So, following in the footsteps of Robert Townsend, Melvin Van Peebles, and Mark Duplass (SXSW 2015), Jace has been saving money to make his first indie feature. Even with two degrees under his belt, the only job that will give him the freedom and flexibility a filmmaker needs is delivering packages for the online conglomerate AmaZen. A **grueling, monotonous job** where he must trade his time for \$20 an hour. However, a **\$2000 bonus** for **Associate of the Month** may be the key to securing the budget for his first indie feature. Racing against the clock and the other delivery associates, Jace fights to attain his **lifelong dream**.



Bruce A. Lemon

Lead

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. Bruce is the Associate Artistic Director/Ensemble with Cornerstone Theater Company, and previously served as the Co-Artistic Director of Watts Village Theater Company. He also hosts 89.3 KPCC In-Persons UnheardLA., serves on the Advisory Board of Collaborative Artists Bloc, and is an Illyrian Player. His recent credits include the role of Uncle Chetty in the OSCAR®-qualifying Holly Shorts Grand Prix Best Short "HALLELUJAH" (an Official Selection of the 2022 Sundance Film Festival), Actor in The Great Jheri Curl Debate at East West Players, and Director of The Anonymous Lover from the LA Opera.



Jesus Sepulveda

Supporting

Comedian Jesus Sepulveda is fresh off the release of his half-hour HBO special, "Mr. Tough Life" and has been performing at notable locations in LA, including The Laugh Factory, Comedy Store, and The Improv. He recently partnered with Warner Bros. Studios on their first-ever "Vamos Comedy Event" and was invited to host Hollywood's "Action Icon Awards". He continues to do standup for Mitu, Netflix, NBC, HBO, and was recently announced as the voice behind Senor Tomas on the animated series "House of Chico" by Toonstar. Most recently he signed on as a co-host for a new comedy podcast alongside comedian, Erik Rivera being sponsored by Aqua Media.



Duran Jones

Writer/Director/Producer

Duran Jones is a graduate of The American Film Institute Conservatory, class of 2021. During his AFI tenure, he also graduated from the 2020 PGA Power of Diversity workshop, where his pilot “Daywalker,” was a standout. In 2021 he was selected as a Sundance Feature Film Producers Lab Fellow with the script “The Incredible Heist of Hallelujah Jones, which is currently in development with Netflix and 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks (Spike Lee). “Hallelujah” the short film proof of concept for that feature, produced by Jones, won the Grand Prix for Best Short and the Best Producer Award at the Holly Shorts Film Festival; qualifying for the Oscars. Jones is currently building his independent film slate under his company BLK MGC Content and completed a residency at the Mara Brock Akil “Writer’s Colony.”

Claire Holl

Producer

Claire is a 5th generation San Franciscan, gregarious storyteller, and ardent hype woman. She worked as a production assistant in New York on over 30 productions within a year and a half including Orange is the New Black, Pose, and When They See Us. Eager to get more experience on the creative side of filmmaking, she moved to LA to work as a development assistant at Lakeshore Entertainment, before beginning a two-year Producing fellowship at the American Film Institute. She produced 5 short films, including the award-winning Daddy, and held internships with Ari Aster and Sam Esmail's production companies.



Claire

Deni Johnson

Producer

Denielle 'Deni' Johnson is a Post Supervisor and Voiceover Producer specializing in Interactive, commercials, television, and short films. She began producing in 2020 at Formosa Group as a Voiceover Producer for their Interactive Department. She honed her skills by producing games, including League of Legends, Gears of War, Casper, Wild Rift, and Callisto Protocol. In that same year, she partnered with Arcane Productions as the Voiceover Producer for the Emmy-award-winning series Arcane. In 2022, she forayed into AV Producing with a slate of Netflix marketing campaigns, including ONI, Queer Eye S7, The Watcher, The Ultimatum: Queer Love, Miraculous Ladybug, and Our Universe S1. In 2023, she post-produced two shorts, Julia by Duran Jones and Saturday by Razzaaq Boykin.

An Amazon logo is positioned above a square photograph of Deni Johnson. She is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and has a neutral expression.

AmaZen



Deni

Eythan Maidhof

Cinematography

Eythan Maidhof, a graduate of the American Film Institute, began their career as a colorist and editor for the advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather. Their work includes the AICP award-winning spec commercial “Saran Wrap - Murder” (archived in MoMA’s permanent collection), the short narrative, “Allen Anders: Live at the Comedy Castle” (SXSW, 2018), and the feature documentary, “Invisible Gay Women in Southern Music”, which won the audience award at New Fest and Frameline 45 in 2021. Their Feature narrative, “A New York Christmas Wedding” was listed by the New York Times as a must-see for the 2020 holiday season on Netflix. Eythan is an associate member of the Society of Camera Operators and an active member of IATSE Local 600.



Eric Osman

Editor

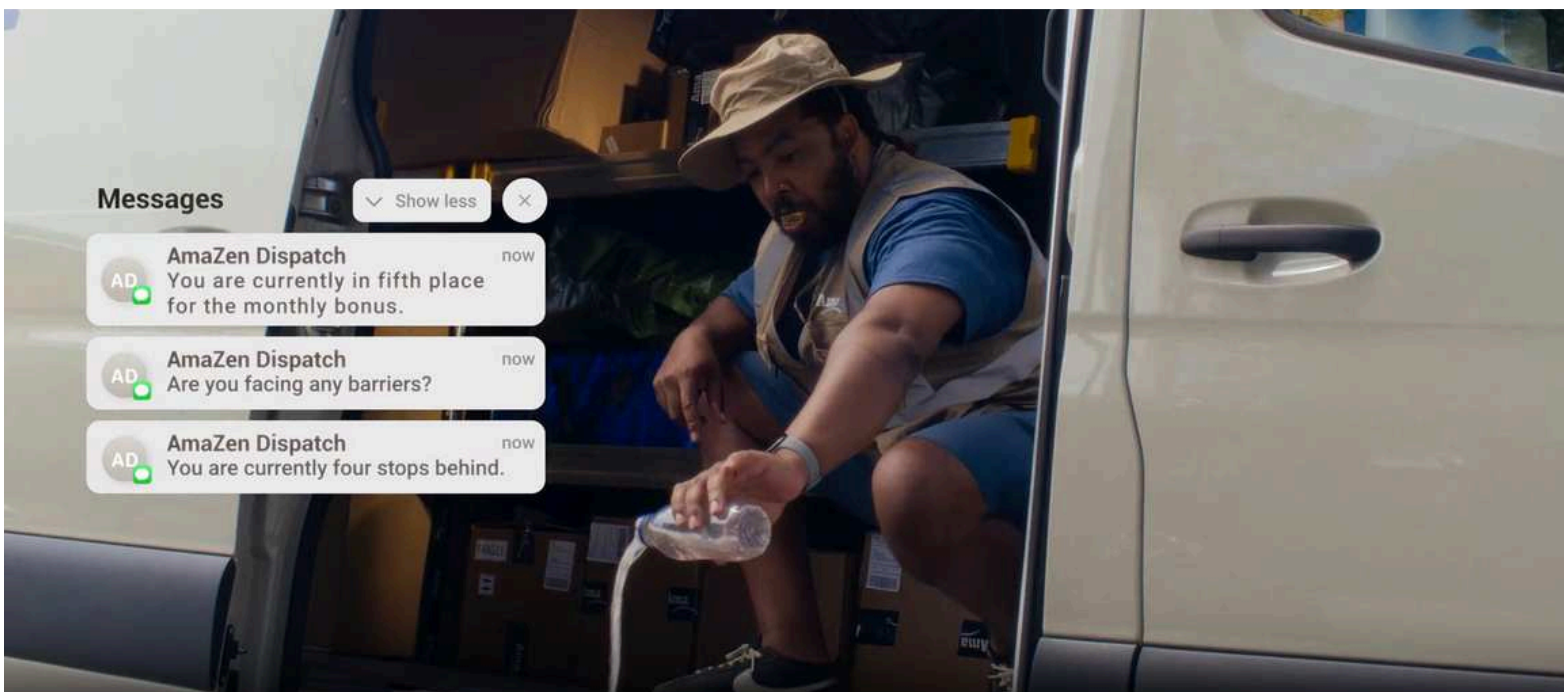
Eric Osman’s journey as a storyteller began at George Washington University’s School of Media and Public Affairs, where he earned a BA in Journalism and Mass Communications. He then sharpened his technical skills in NYC as an Assistant Editor on high-profile docu-series and reality shows, including Roman Empire: Reign of Blood (Netflix), Men Who Built America: Frontiersmen (History), and Moonshiners (Discovery). Driven by his passion for narrative editing, Eric pursued an MFA in Editing at the American Film Institute Conservatory in Los Angeles. Since graduating, he has edited short films that have screened in noteworthy festivals, and his latest feature film, Winters Garden, is anticipating an upcoming release.

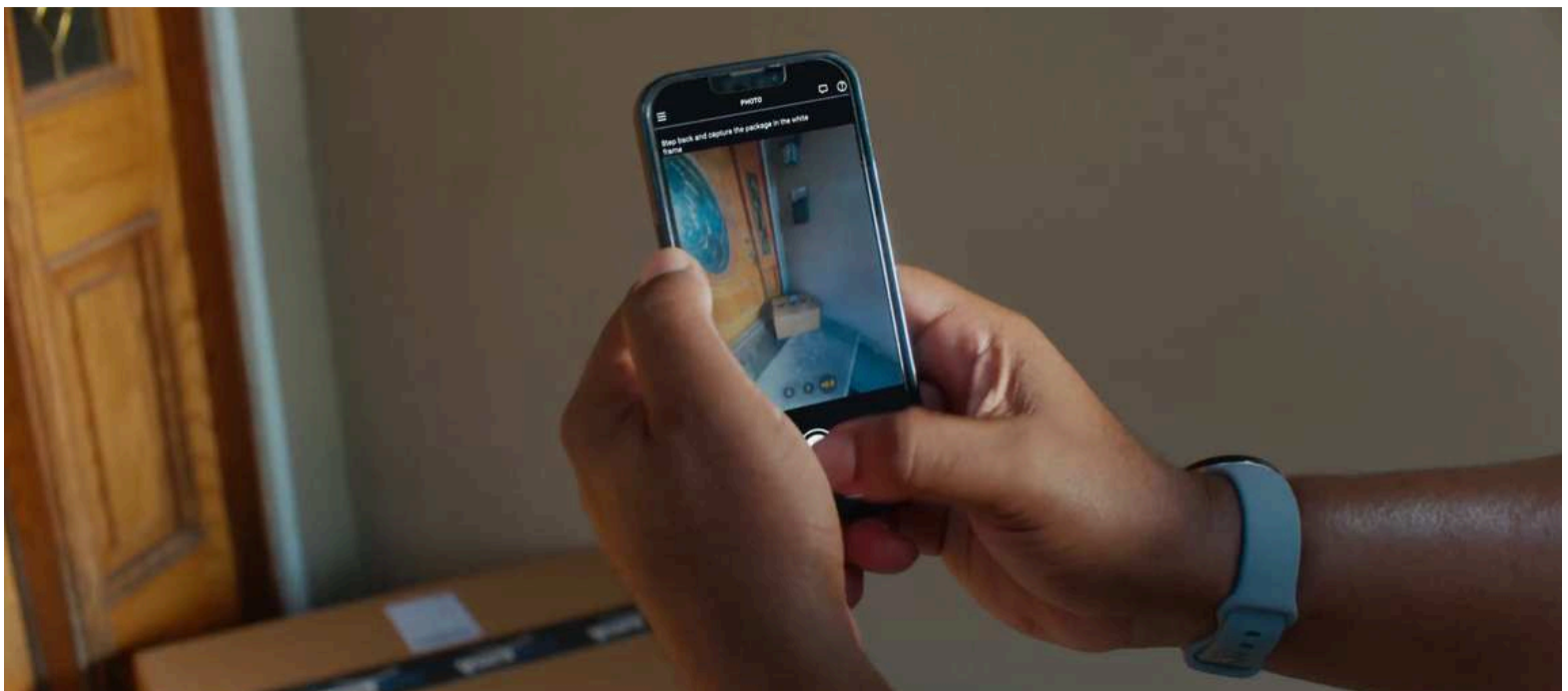
Cody Zumbro

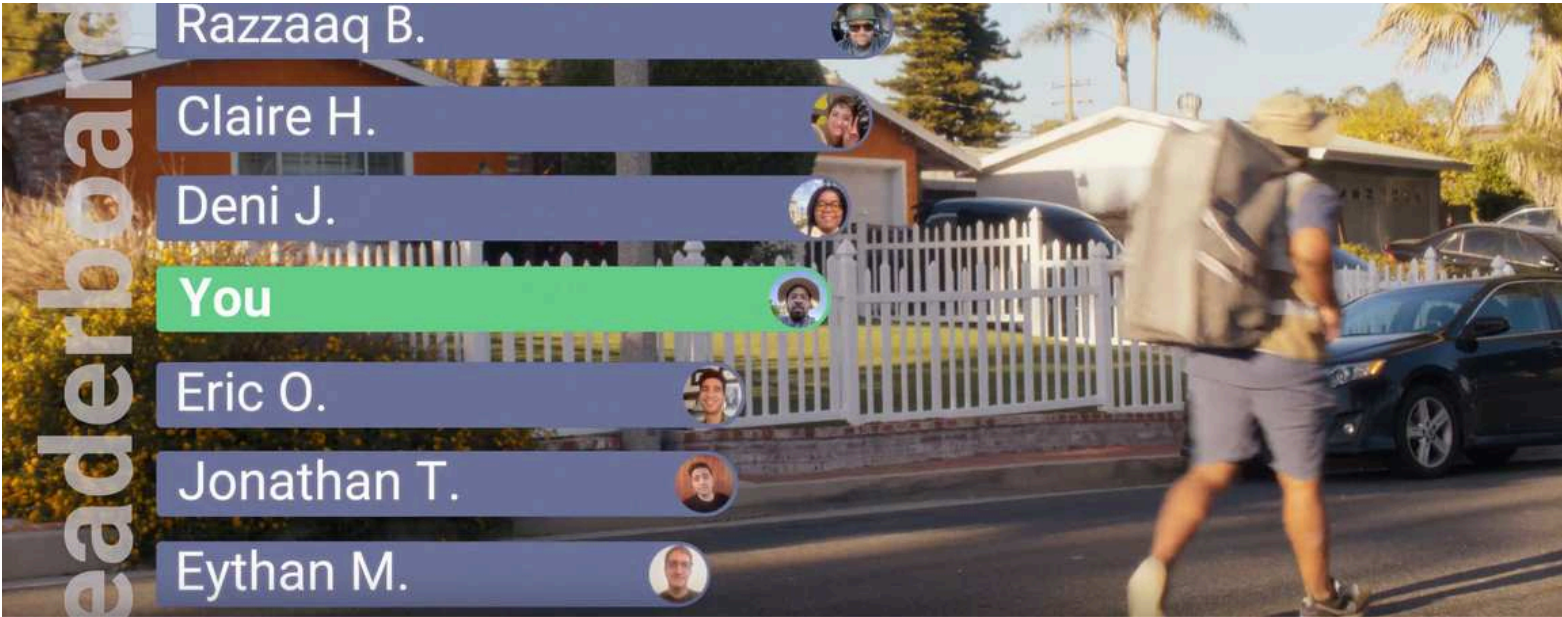
Production Designer

Cody Zumbro is a producer and production designer with a background in creating digital content for several major brands and properties, from Disney to Miss Universe. After graduating with a degree in Integrated Media from Ohio University’s Media Arts School, he worked on a wide variety of projects including low-budget short films, music videos, and interactive social media content seen by millions across the globe. Currently, Cody works as an in-house Creative Producer for PrettyLitter; producing video, photo, and commercial shoots. When he isn’t on set, you can find Cody running around LA with his collection of film cameras and a coffee in hand.







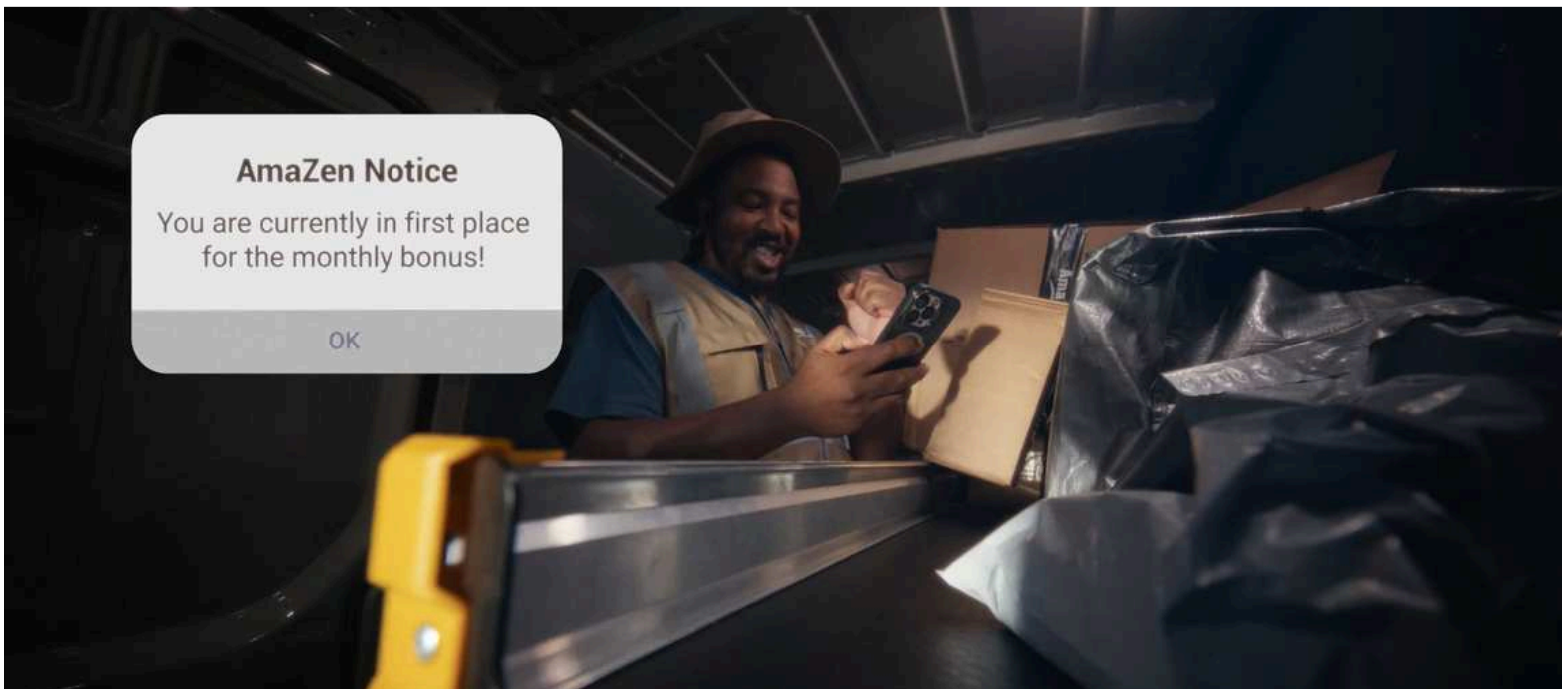


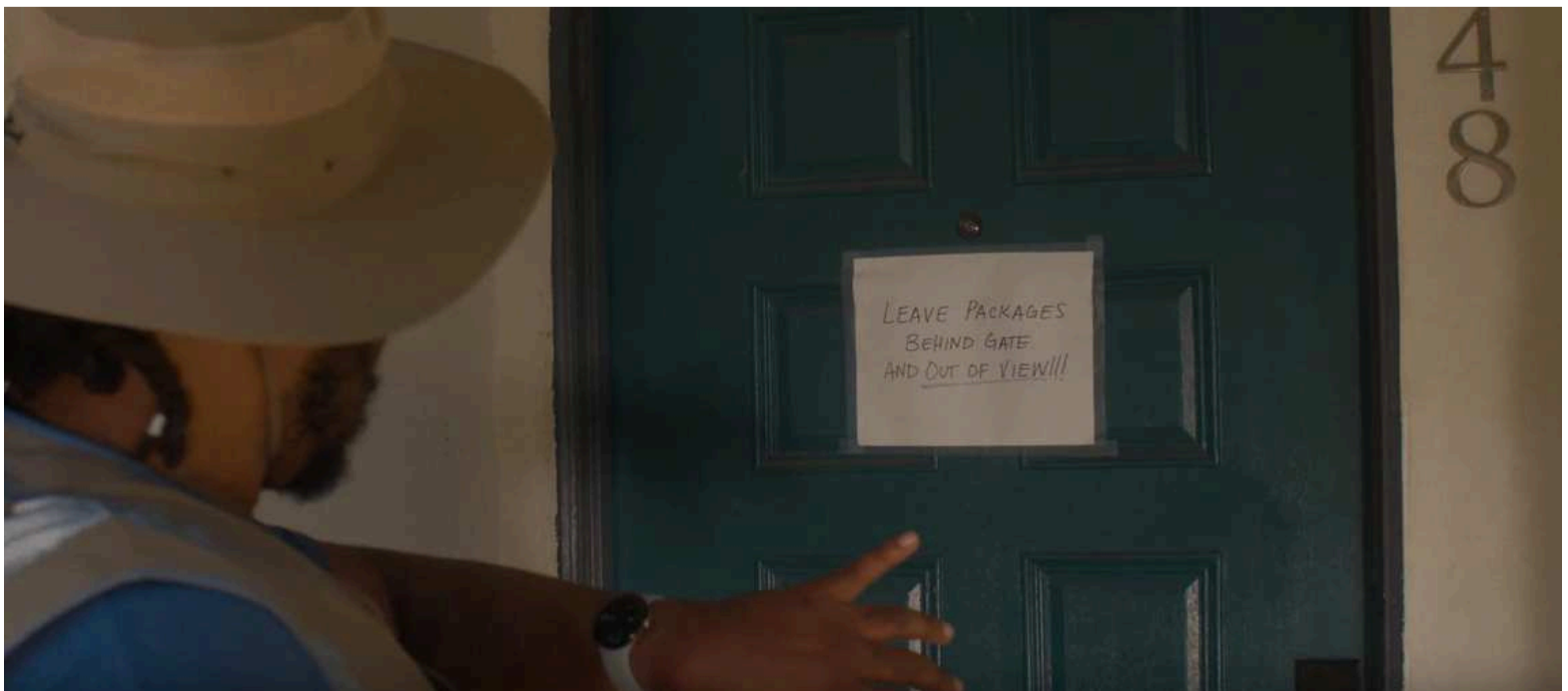


AmaZen Notice

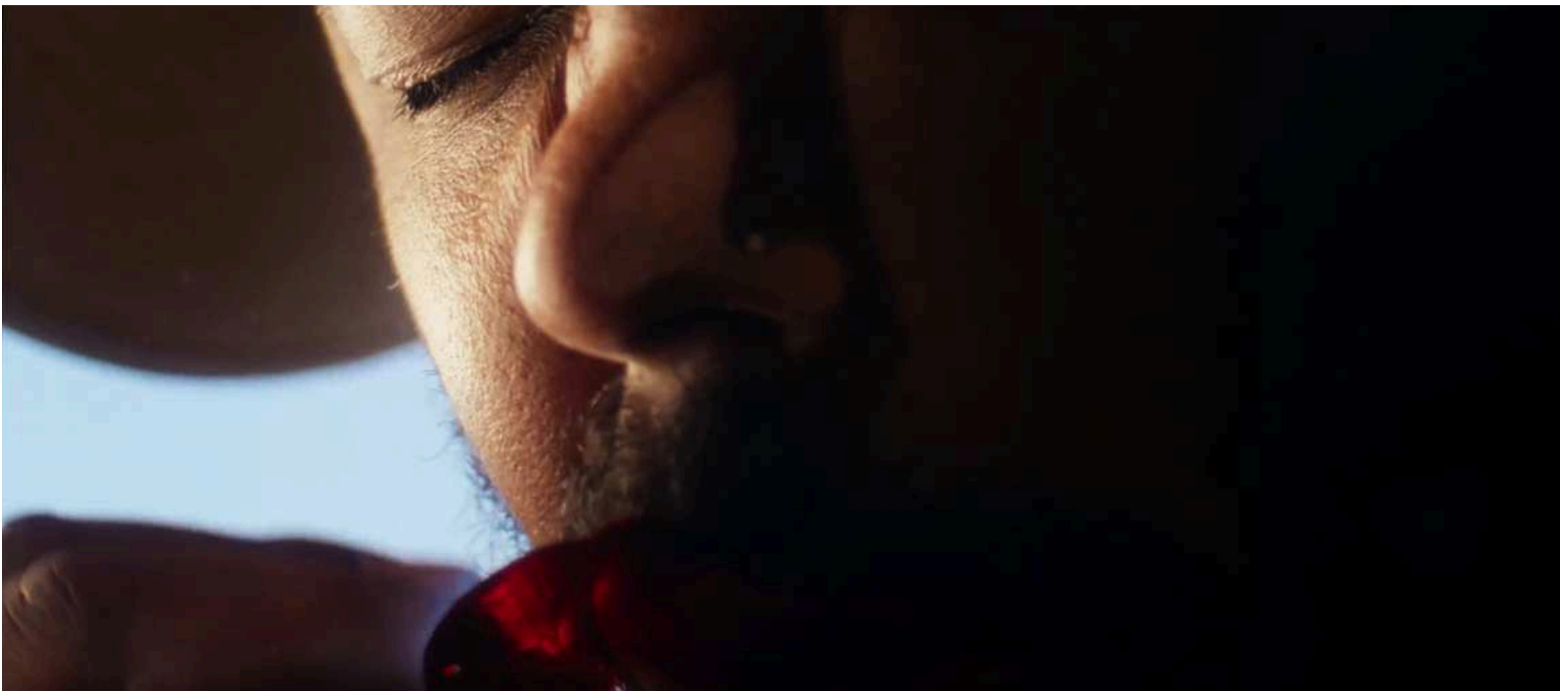
You are currently in first place
for the monthly bonus!

OK













Director's Statement



This is the story of my life. A college graduate with a BA in Broadcast Journalism (a dying industry) and an MFA in Film (another dying industry), still clinging to the dream of “making it” on my terms. I’ve carried many odd jobs throughout my life but the job I had making deliveries for a large corporation, which we will refer to as **AmaZen**, takes the cake. Ten-hour days, spent driving and delivering over **250 packages** to over **150 stops**, for a measly **\$200 per day**.

I tried the Executive Assistant and PA routes, but both took up an extreme amount of time leaving little room for my extracurricular creative pursuits. So, I followed the advice of **Mark Duplass** with the spirit of **Robert Townsend** and **Melvin Van Peebles** (maxing out credit cards). I wrote and produced multiple shorts with my film school friends, but now it’s my turn to sit in the director’s chair. It’s time to cash in on the goodwill and favors I’ve collected to give myself an opportunity. What better way to do that than to make a “self-indulgent” comedic short film about a ridiculous accident I had working at AmaZen? **Yes, this is based on a true story.**

The goal is to capture the absurdity of what we’re willing to put ourselves through as artists, while simultaneously telling a **shamelessly self-deprecating** story that lets every other filmmaker know “**I see you, I’m one of you.**” This is a hard journey; it only gets harder the longer you do it. The one thing we can all count on in this industry are the insane and insanely talented people in our community to foolishly tell us to keep going. This film is an homage to those people.



AmaZen



Have an AmaZen Day!