

KMM VENTURES
PRESENTS

In This Moment

A FILM BY MIKE TALPLACIDO

Filmed in NC
2025 Grant Recipient



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The film has received funding from “**Filmed in NC**,” made available through the **North Carolina Film Office** and the **Cucalorus Foundation**.
- We are also a 2026 **AAPI Renaissance Rally Finalist**, a program sponsored by Gold House and Seed & Spark.
- The script for “In This Moment” was workshopped at the **2025 Lambda Literary Writers’ Retreat**, where Writer/Director Mike Talplacido participated as a Fellow.
- This is Mike Talplacido’s *feature directorial debut*.
- He previously directed two short films: *To Ken with Love* (2023), which premiered at **NewFilmmakers LA**, and *The Manalos* (2025), which premiered at the Los Angeles Children’s Film Festival held at **WONDERCON**.
- The cast is led by John Wilkins III (**The Menu**) and Zeus Oira (**Talk to Me**), with supporting cast: Sue Pratt (**The Summer I Turned Pretty**) and Alan Richards (**House of Cards**).
- Mike is also the creator of #DONT, a stage play that premiered at **Hollywood Fringe** in 2023, where it received an Honorable Mention award for Best New Play.



RECENT PRESS RELEASES

6 WECT Live News Weather

Cucalorus awards \$12,000 to filmmakers across N.C.

Cucalorus has awarded \$12,000 to filmmakers in North Carolina to support indie film projects.

By WECT Staff
Updated: Nov. 20, 2025 at 5:52 AM PST

NEW HANOVER COUNTY, N.C. (WECT) - Cucalorus has awarded \$12,000 to filmmakers in North Carolina to support independent film projects through the Filmed in NC Fund.

- **Mike Talplacido** for "In This Moment"
- **Pooja Lakshmi** for "Recipes from Home"
- **Priya Sircar** for "Fall into Night"
- **Robert Cummins** for "PETAL"
- **Rodrigo Dorfman** for "The Dream of the Bear"
- **Shannon Silva** for "I Am A Burning Planet: Disability, Climate Crisis and Migration"

CUCALORUS AWARDS \$12,000 TO 15 NORTH CAROLINA FILMMAKERS

The 2025 recipients are:

- **Mike Talplacido** for *In This Moment*, a narrative feature about a Filipino American writer confronting guilt, grief, and the slow, deliberate work of rebuilding a relationship after a betrayal

Mike Talplacido on diversity in Hollywood and making his debut film 'In This Moment'

By JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES
Published August 12, 2025 2:21pm

The Market Monitor

MINDING THE NATION'S BUSINESS

Fintech giants urged to cut ties with online gambling

Home / Entertainment / Limelight / Cameras roll for Fil-Am director on interracial LGBTQIA+ in North Carolina

The Art of Pork

From the Heart of Europe
By the Belgian meat suppliers

Mike Talplacido, John Wilkins III and Zeus Oira (Photo Credit: Mike Talplacido)

WECT NEWS

CUCALORUS

GMA NEWS

MARKET MONITOR

A cinematic still showing two men in profile, facing each other and holding hands. The man on the left is wearing a dark, textured hoodie. The man on the right is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red tie. They are standing outdoors with a blurred background of green trees and foliage. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day.

LOGLINE

AFTER A BETRAYAL SHATTERS THEIR MARRIAGE, A FILIPINO AMERICAN WRITER AND HIS HUSBAND MUST NAVIGATE GUILT, GRIEF, AND THE QUIET LABOR OF CARE AS THEY FACE THE LONG ROAD BACK TO ONE ANOTHER.

THEMES

Set in North Carolina



A loving LGBTQ marriage in shambles



Journey towards forgiveness & redemption



In a nutshell: OUR ELEVATOR PITCH

- Think of 'In This Moment' as **MARRIAGE STORY** meets **PAST LIVES**, but it's set in **THE SOUTH** and featuring an **interracial LGBTQ couple**.



- Tonally, it has hints of **CALL ME BY YOUR NAME** and **GOD'S OWN COUNTRY**

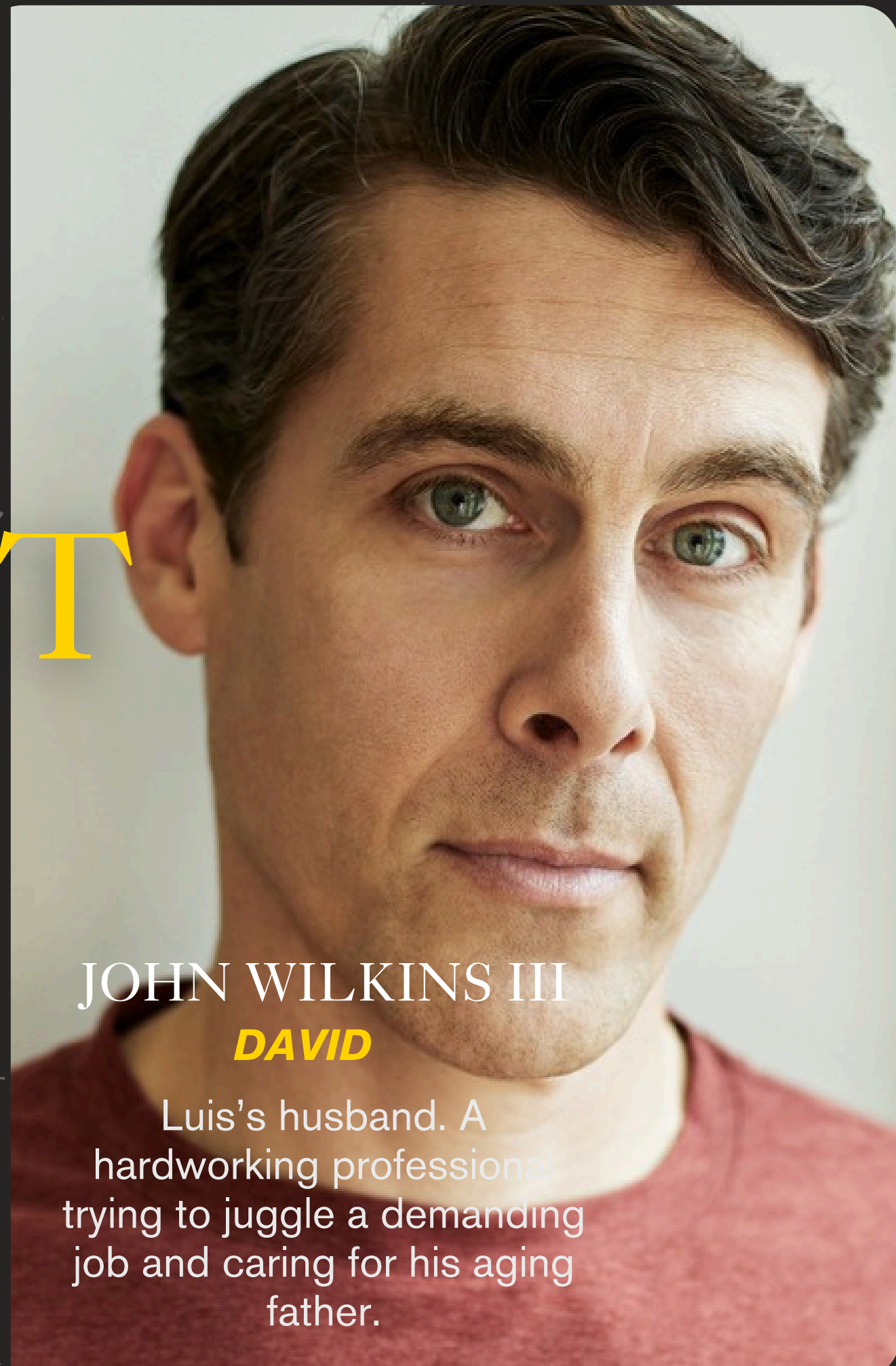
CAST



ZEUS OIRA

LUIS

A quiet, caring writer overwhelmed by caregiving, his marriage, and unresolved family issues.



JOHN WILKINS III

DAVID

Luis's husband. A hardworking professional trying to juggle a demanding job and caring for his aging father.

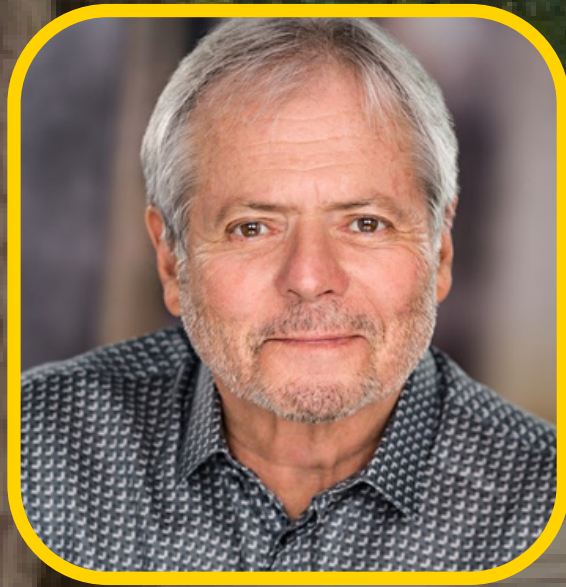
SUPPORTING CAST



ELLEN B.
WILLIAMS

EMILY

David's sister. Sharp, sarcastic, and emotionally avoidant.



ALAN
RICHMOND

GEORGE

David's father. Frail, stubborn, and old-fashioned.



SUE
PRATT

SHARI

Emily's wife. Grounded, warm, and observant. Offers quiet stability and support to Emily.



JENNIFER
FRANCES

LORENA

Eldest sister of Luis. Emotionally complicated.



ALYSSA
OLSON

MICHELLE

David's boss. Polished, and can command a room with confidence & authority.



WALKER
BLACKSTON

PAUL

David's confident, charming coworker and former hookup.

SUPPORTING CAST



AUSTIN
BUSBIN

HOT GUY

The guy LUIS hooked up with.



LISA
MERRITT

DEBBIE

Emily and Shari's friend; friendly, social, casually competitive.



ERIN ANN
ELLIOTT

DR. VICKIE

Emily and Shari's friend; a doctor.



HIRO
ORTIZ

JO

Friend of Emily and Shari.



BRICE
THOMAS

MARCO

Luis's older gay friend. Wise, direct, and deeply supportive.



LILY
PATEL

GILLIAN

Luis's book editor; supportive and friendly.

11A ▶

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OFFICIAL TRAILER

[LINK TO TRAILER](#)

11A ▶

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WRITER/DIRECTOR

Mike Taplacido

Background:

- Born in the Philippines, now based in WA state
- Host of “Kiss My Mike” podcast
- Author of “Kiss My Mike” memoir
- Writer/Director: To Ken With Love (short), The Manalos (short), In This Moment (feature)
- CEO & Founder of KMM Ventures

Accolades:

- 2025 Fellow, Lambda Literary Retreat for Emerging LGBTQ Writers
- 2025 “Filmed in NC” grant recipient
- 2025 Screenwriting Finalist, Asian American International Film Festival, #DONT
- 2023 NewFilmmakers LA alum, “To Ken With Love” short film; Best Narrative Short winner, Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival
- 2023 Hollywood Fringe, Best New Play Honorable Mention, #DONT

https://www.instagram.com/kissmymike_official/



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In This Moment is the most personal story I've written to date.

As a queer Filipino immigrant living in the American South, I've spent much of my life navigating the intersections of identity, authenticity, and belongingness.

This film reflects those experiences.

So often, queer love stories are either romanticized or tragic, but rarely do we see the quiet and complicated aftermath of caregiving, betrayal, and long-term partnership strains, especially among queer People of Color.

This film gives space to that emotional complexity while reflecting underrepresented narratives.

I also wrote this story because I am tired of not seeing Filipino American characters centered in dramatic cinema. Representation still matters, not just in celebratory or joyful portrayals, but also in stories that acknowledge our flaws, grief, desires, and resilience. By placing these characters in a Southern suburban setting, I'm also reclaiming a space where many of us live but are seldom seen onscreen.

With this debut feature, I'm ready to take a bold step forward.

IN THIS MOMENT

Written by

MIKE TALPLACIDO

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TEAM: MAJORITY AAPI



Mike Talplacido
Writer/Director
Executive Producer



Miralee Menzies
Producer



Lily Patel
Producer



Jeremy Ong
Producer



Presley Paras
Cinematographer



George Pham
1st AC



Fred Laguerder
Grip



Seth Dacio
Editor



Rasec Marc
Composer



Randal Kamradt Jr.
VFX Artist

LOOKBOOK



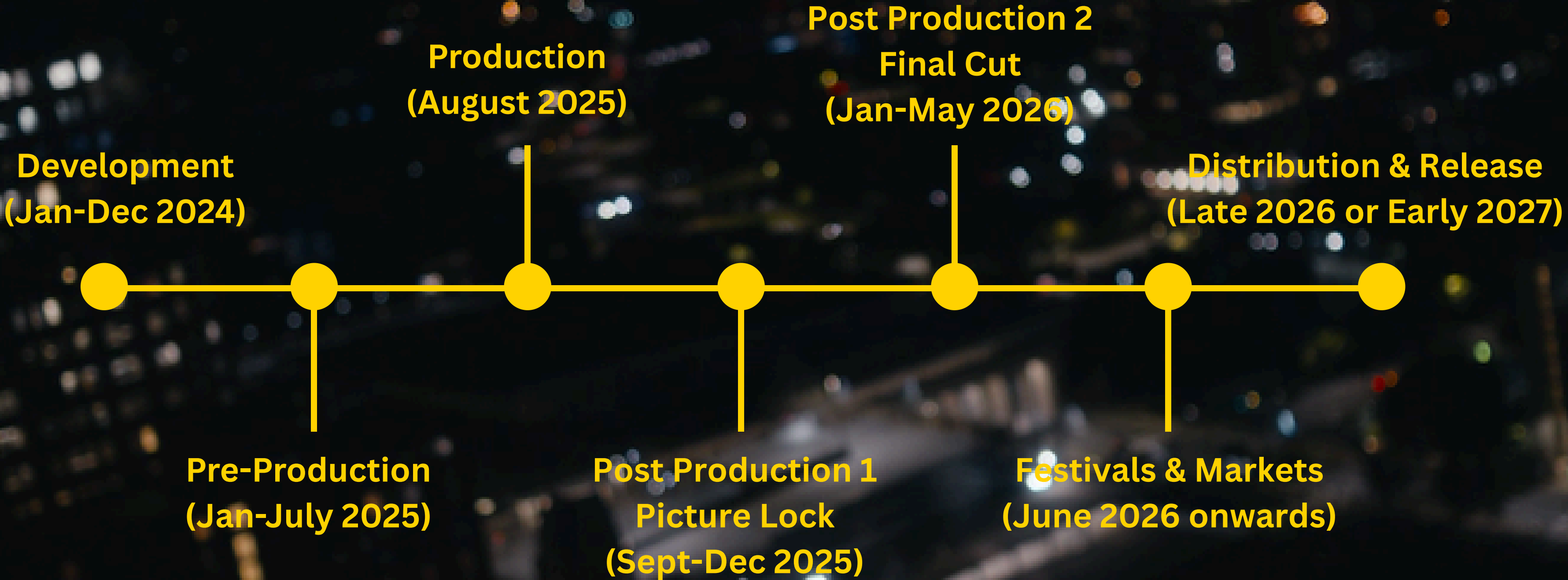








SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS



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