

Electronic Press Kit



9-BALL



A Film By Justin Graham



Logline

A disgraced pool junkie acquires and ends up dueling a younger protégé, yearning to recapture glory from his beloved game.

Synopsis

A notorious pool shark, Earl, plays multiple games against a string of opponents, raking up cash. Upon goading the hall for another opponent, a young man, Max, steps up and places a bet. Earl accepts and they begin to play.

Through flashbacks spanning months and culminating just hours before the match, we discover Earl's banishment from the sport, his taking Max on as an apprentice, the pupil's improvement, the mentor's growing jealousy, and the incident that drove them apart.

Back in the present, Max baits Earl into a dangerous bet involving the now numerous onlookers. As the game reaches its climax, the hustler faces an impossible choice: let his protégé suffer the wrath of the fully invested crowd or pass the torch and accept losing his beloved sport.

g-Ball is a highly stylized exploration on the addictive pull of a passion, mentorship, and the sacrifices required to help others surpass us.

Title: g-Ball

Genre: Sports, Drama, Thriller

Country: United States

Production Year: 2025

Completion Date: May 31, 2026

Language: English

(English .srt available)

Duration: 14:13

Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

Frame Rate: 24 fps

Shooting Format: Sony FX9/FX3, Digital, 4k, MXF

Exhibition Format: 4k DCP, 4k H.264

Sound: 5.1, stereo

Student Project: Yes - Columbia College Chicago

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The project began the way many of my films do: with a video assignment and the search for a visual gimmick. Thinking back to subjects I had enjoyed, I remembered watching pool and snooker highlights in high school. Players such as Ronnie O'Sullivan, Efen Reyes, and Earl Strickland consistently captured my attention and showed up on my age-restricted school YouTube feed. Combined with the final Russian roulette scene from Michael Cimino's *The Deer Hunter*, I found my visual device: a high-stakes duel over billiards.

My initial pitch focused on two apprentices facing off years after their teacher's death. My instructor automatically retorted with, "You're pitching a feature." Back to the drawing board. A few weeks later, my grandfather passed away. One of the hardest-working people I've ever known, he continued volunteering and tending a 400-plant rose garden long after retirement. This made me think to explore a question from the perspective of old age: when is it time to let go of the ambitions and passions that have defined your life?

To tell that story, I reunited with Jerome R. Marzullo, whose performance, along with those of Channing Scott and Georges Tawil, both brought depth and nuance that elevated the film as well as provided me with one of the most educational experiences as a director. The project ultimately spanned roughly eighteen months, with 5000 Years Carom Billiards and Studio 63 serving as key locations. Their owners, employees, and players generously helped us capture the world of the game authentically.

While it was by far the most difficult project I've ever completed, with hurdles at nearly every single point of the process, I'm proud of the end product. I literally could not have done it without my surrounding crew, actors, and support system. Their tenacity and willingness to approach whatever constant random challenges popped up were what the film was built on.



PRODUCER BIOS



Justin Graham (Writer, Director, Producer)

Justin is a filmmaker from Wisconsin and a recent 2026 graduate of Columbia College Chicago's Directing BFA program. His passion for film and directing was sparked by assignments given out in high school. This quickly transformed into an avid hobby he shared with friends during their breaks and holidays. He most recently completed work on his senior thesis film, *g-Ball*. Their ultimate goal is to have his stories seen by people of any background and to find a place within the larger industry, particularly in development around the Los Angeles metropolitan area.



Jonah Maxwell (Producer)

Jonah is a passionate and dedicated film producer and videographer from Ireland currently working in Los Angeles. A recent graduate from Columbia College Chicago, he always enjoys learning new skills to add to his repertoire and continues to elevate his abilities in the world of film. Having made short films for his school, local politicians and lawmakers, and a short public service film about bullying that has over 1 million views online, he has much experience in both the worlds of film and commercial video. Along with his film and video production experience, he has work experience in the concert touring industry, assisting productions with administrative tasks, guiding load-ins and load-outs, aiding artists and talent to and from the stage or dressing room, and a multitude of other experiences. Ultimately, Jonah wants to work as a bidding producer in the commercial space.

CAST BIOS



Jerome R. Marzullo (Earl)

Jerry is a native Chicagoan who'd worked in Minnesota's Twin Cities for years, where some favorite roles include Pops Nunzio (Tony n' Tina's Wedding), Santiago (Anna in the Tropics), Duke Mantee (The Petrified Forest), MacDuff (Macbeth), Claudius (Hamlet), Sandor Turai (The Play's the Thing), and Ricky Roma (Glengarry Glen Ross).

Some favorite roles in Chicago include The Wolf (Bard Fiction), Don Vito Corleone (Corleone), Cromwell (A Man for All Seasons), George (Of Mice and Men), Stage Manager (Our Town), Mr. Dussel (Diary of Anne Frank), Willy Clark (The Sunshine Boys), Selsdon (Noises Off), and Leonato (Much Ado About Nothing).

Film roles include Harry Sawyer (Spirits of St. Paul -The Gangster Era), Charles Murphy (Jada), Jimmy Ddazzio (Where Sweet Dreams Die), and Paul "The Waiter" Ricca (Before Dallas).



Channing Scott (Max)

Channing Scott is an actor based in Los Angeles and a recent graduate of Columbia College Chicago Acting program. He recently starred in the independent short films *Twilight of the Plastic Menagerie* and *Leave A Message After*. He's also led multiple short films including *Raunchy Round Up*, *9-Ball*, *Num De Guerre*, and *Right Cowboy, Wrong Time*. You can also see Channing appear in, *And After All*, and *The Color Eating Witch*.

On stage, Channing has performed in *Minutes and Seconds* and as part of **Columbia College Chicago's Sketchfest**. In addition to screen and theatre work, he has experience in voiceover performance, including *Tales From N-W-3-R* and campaigns for *Handheld Legend*.

Channing is currently filming his independent short film *The Troubled Fisherman*, that he wrote, directed, and acted in.



Georges Tawil (Opponent)

Georges A. Tawil Sukar is a Venezuelan actor with family roots across Europe and reaching into the Middle East. In 2024 he started his acting career with multiple core acting classes at Acting Studio Chicago, developing the craft with modern-day plays, Shakespeare Code, films, and television. Just weeks after his first training, he got cast in a stand-in role in the Chicago-based show "Power Book: Force." Throughout the year many opportunities came by, such as a Land O' Lakes commercial and the indie film "Beyond Belief."

In 2025, he was cast for a second commercial for "Principal Financial Group" and booked the supporting role of "Gus" in the theater play "It's Only a Play" by Terrence McNally, performed at the Riverfront Playhouse in Aurora, IL. Later on, Georges got the lead role in the Griffin Theater Company's "IN TO AMERICA" a nationwide tour play directed by Bill Massolia.

HOD BIOS



Henry Golden (Director of Photography)

Henry Golden is a young filmmaker recently graduated from Columbia College Chicago, where he has worked on over seventy productions. He mostly specializes in cinematography and production design.



Melaina Laurent (Casting Director, 1st Assistant Director)

Melaina Laurent is a film and television professional working across casting, acting, and production. Graduating from Columbia College Chicago in spring with a degree in Cinema and Television Production, she brings hands-on experience both in front of the camera and behind the scenes, with a focus on casting and creative development.

She will continue building her industry experience as a Talent Agent Assistant at Babes N Beaus through summer 2026, and will be based in New York beginning fall 2026.



Amelia LaRocca (Production Designer)

Amelia LaRocca is a filmmaker, writer, and designer from St. Louis, Missouri, currently studying Film and Television Production at Columbia College Chicago. She has worked across multiple areas of production, including production design, art direction, costume design, and screenwriting, with a focus on creating immersive worlds that support story and character.

In addition to her film work, Amelia serves as Director of Communications for Columbia College Chicago's Student Programming Board. Outside of filmmaking, she enjoys antiques, collecting vintage treasures, and searching for unique pieces that inspire her creative work.

CREDITS

HODs

Written and Directed by Justin Graham

Produced by Justin Graham & Jonah Maxwell

Director of Photography Henry Golden

Editor Aidan Tack

Production Designer Amelia Larocca

Original Music by Nick Berg

Casting by Melaina Laurent

Starring

Jerome R. Marzullo

Channing Scott

Georges Tawil

Additional Cast

Jose A. Perez

Eren Serpen

James Finley

Luke Lenz

Yasmin Castrejon

Joey Martinez

Deagan Stoner

Luke Rogaski

Ben Schmitt

Aidan Tack

Jacob Solis

Samuel Hernandez-Garcia

Frannie Golden

Audrey Bell

Luis Solis

Crew

1st Assistant Director Melaina Laurent

2nd Assistant Director Toby Bresnahan

Line Producer Dylan Kaufmann

Script Supervisor Jacob Solis

Art Director Delilah Luna Del Castillo

Makeup Artist Abigahil Loreda

Stunt Coordinator Shelby Fish

Prop Weapon Wrangler Yasmin Castrejon

1st Assistant Camera Annie Kleven

2nd Assistant Camera Greta Cavotta

Camera Utility Ben Schmitt

Digital Imaging Technician Aidan Tack

BTS Photographer Eren Serpen

Gaffer Isaac Barnett, Louis Mellinand

Key Grip Mahdi Tiry-Garcia

Grip Joey Martinez, Deagan Stoner, Jose A. Perez

Location Sound Mixer Cooper Ross

Boom Operator Ralph Darski

Production Assistant James Finley,
Samuel Hernandez-Garcia, Luke Lenz

Post Production Supervisor Justin Graham

Colorist Cuyler Poblador

VFX Artist Aidan Tack

Additional Masks Justin Graham

Sound Designer & Re-Recording Mixer Ben Kammer

PPA3 Editor Luke Rogaski

Post Conformist Cuyler Poblador

Promotional Graphics Artist Jose A. Perez

Pickups Day 1

Director of Photography Brett Stoffels

1st Assistant Camera Nicholas Ancheta

Gaffer Jose A. Perez

Grip Jacob Solis

Location Sound Mixer Ben Schmitt

Pickups Day 2

Director of Photography Jacob Solis

1st Assistant Camera Nicholas Ancheta

Gaffer Jose A. Perez

Grip/Location Sound Mixer Ben Schmitt

Production Assistant James Finley,
Samuel Hernandez-Garcia, Luke Lenz

Makeup Artist Yupu Luo





Links

[Trailer](#)

[Official Posters](#)

[Production Stills](#)

[BTS Photos](#)

[Production Notes](#)

