



# SWEET SANTA BARBARA BROWN

INSPIRED BY A SERIES OF UNIQUELY  
AMERICAN EVENTS





# SYNOPSIS

Set against the backdrop of the Reagan era, under the Californian sunshine, *Sweet Santa Barbara Brown* is a compelling short film that skillfully weaves elements of celebrity, racial tension, and life-or-death decisions.

Inspired by actual events, this narrative unfolds in the 80's when members of the Globetrotters find themselves at the mercy of the Santa Barbara Police Department. The players were wrongfully suspected of a jewelry store robbery earlier in the day, resulting in a harrowing standoff.

Intriguing and thought-provoking, *Sweet Santa Barbara Brown* offers a fictionalized retelling of an all-too-familiar American narrative – one that delves into the repercussions of law enforcement mistakes that can have fatal consequences. This gripping short film explores the complexities of justice, prejudice, and the high-stakes decisions that define a critical moment in history.

# KEY CHARACTERS

01



## **HIGHLIGHT | SOLOMON HUGHES**

A veteran with revolutionary leanings, questioning his role as an athlete entertainer in America.

02



## **CLASSIC | OMARI JOHNSON**

A veteran and friend of Highlights whose political ideas offered highlight. He came from meager beginnings to rise to the level of stature and compensation he currently enjoys. Maybe money has changed him?

03



## **COSMO | REY REYNOLDS**

The comic relief. Cosmo is an easy going veteran whose sense of humor has suited him well.

04



## **ROOK | JAY DAVIS**

The youngest of the crew. Worships at the church of basketball, life is complicated so he finds refuge in loving the game of basketball.



# WHY NOW ?

Years ago, after a family dinner in Detroit, my uncle, renowned for his humor, shared about an incident that happened when he was 15. While walking home from the movies with friends, he was surrounded by police cars, guns drawn on him, falsely accused of stealing the new outfit he wore. His harrowing tale, like many others, is often overlooked, dismissed with a "could have been worse" attitude.

This is not just my uncle's story, in the 80's when members of the beloved Globetrotters faced this they were told it could have been worse and should move on.

In 2016 When Philando Castile reached for his ID and Daniel Shaver was killed by police while attempting to pull up his falling shorts, these incidents underscored a shared American understanding that misinterpreting bodily movements can result in immediate lethal consequences that require us to look deeper at our culture.

**- Solomon Hughes, writer**





# OUR TEAM



## DIRECTOR

### ERIC DYSON

With over 25 years in TV and film, Eric has always been passionate about telling stories rooted in the human spirit.

Eric has produced and directed several award-winning short films and has recently directed his first feature film.

The son of a payroll entrepreneur mother and a jazz musician father, Eric developed a keen sense of managing the business and artistic side of the arts.

After graduating from Brooks Institute of Photography, Eric was fortunate enough to land a job at Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. Eric is a member of The Cinematographers Guild Local 600.



# OUR TEAM

WRITER  
PRODUCER  
ACTOR



**Solomon Hughes** - Solomon Hughes Phd, is an actor, writer and producer who has appeared in HBO's Winning Time, as Kareem Abdul Jabbar. He recently was cast in the action-comedy film Guns Up, and wrote and produced the short film Sweet Santa Barbara Brown. Prior to acting he was the associate director of Stanford University's EDGE Doctoral Program. He is currently a faculty affiliate at Duke University in the Samuel Dubois Cook Center. He served as the team captain of the UC Berkeley men's basketball team during the 2001-2002 season.

DIRECTOR  
OF  
PHOTOGRAPHY



**Dominic Bartolone** - Born and raised in Southern California, Dominic Bartolone got his start in the motion picture industry at the world's largest camera rental and manufacturing house Panavision International in Los Angeles. Dominic worked as a camera assistant on projects such as Collateral, Open Range, Flicka, Rush Hour 3, You Don't Mess with the Zohan and many more. Dominic is now working as an SOC Steadicam operator, recently finishing season 2 of the Emmy and ASC nominated show Winning Time on HBO, CBS' Seal Team and Disney Plus' National Treasure "Edge of History".

UPM  
PRODUCER



**Oliver Mack Calhoun** - Oliver Mack Calhoun is a writer, director, and producer. He was born and raised in Lynwood and Compton, CA. He attended Lynwood High School where he discovered his love for writing. He also played football and ice hockey. Those sports led him to attending the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. He finished his undergraduate journey at California State University, Los Angeles, majoring in Film & Theatre. He is a versatile well-balanced writer with a zealous work ethic. He's developed both feature films and television pilots. Since 2016, he's worked as a Directors Guild of America 2nd Assistant Director. Some of the shows that he has worked on include: How To Get Away With Murder (ABC), Birds of Prey (WB), Snowfall (FX), Insecure (HBO), and Winning Time (HBO). Whether on paper or on camera, storytelling is his true passion.



# OUR TEAM

PRODUCER



**Tony Gapastione** - Tony Gapastione is the founder and executive director of BraveMaker, a nonprofit 501c3 film organization in the SF Bay Area. He is a SAG-AFTRA actor and filmmaker writing, directing and producing film and TV. His first feature film, Last Chance Charlene can be found on all the VOD platforms.

PRODUCER



**Matthew Barnes** - Matthew Barnes is an actor, writer, and producer best known for his work on FX's 'Atlanta,' HBO's 'Winning Time,' Clint Eastwood's 'The 15:17 to Paris,' Ang Lee's 'Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk,' and more. Born & raised in Rhode Island, Matt studied TV/Film production and Theatre at Auburn University where his creative interests were born. His true passion lies in collaboration between creatives, working together to tell stories reflective of the wonder and chaos of real life.



# OUR TEAM

EXECUTIVE  
PRODUCER



**Eric Casher** - Eric Casher is a Principal at Meyers Nave and former Chair of the firm's Public Law Practice Group and Diversity Committee. Eric currently serves as City Attorney for the City of Pinole, and General Counsel for the East Bay Dischargers Authority. In 2014, Eric was California Attorney General Kamala Harris' appointee to the Fair Political Practices Commission where he served a four-year term as Commissioner. Eric is currently a Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the California Minority Counsel Program, and former President of the Charles Houston Bar Association and California ChangeLawyers. Eric is a recipient of the National Bar Association's 40 Under 40 Award, the Minority Bar Coalition's Unity Award, UC Hastings' Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Bar Association of San Francisco's Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service Award.

EXECUTIVE  
PRODUCER



**Prakash Janakiraman** - Prakash Janakiraman is the Advisor of Nextdoor. He previously worked as a Co-Founder and Vice President of Engineering at Nextdoor, the free and private social network for neighborhoods. Janakiraman began his career as a software engineer at Excite@Home in 1996 before moving into engineering management at Shopping.com and Epinions. Prior to Nextdoor, Janakiraman spent nearly three years at Google, where he managed engineering teams for Google Maps, Google Base, and Froogle. At Nextdoor, Janakiraman has built a team of over 20 engineers who are dedicated to building the fastest and safest social network for neighborhoods on the web. Janakiraman is from Hayward, California, and attended the University of California, Berkeley.



# SCHEDULE



FEB 23'

APR 23'

SEP 23'

DEC 23'

JAN '24

Script completed

Partnered with  
BraveMaker & started  
Fundraising

Filmed in Gillette ranch  
&  
Post Production started

Picture lock

Scoring and Sound  
design with  
Skywalker Sound

***Sweet Santa Barbara Brown*** has been crafted in full compliance with the **approved SAG-AFTRA** low budget, short film contract and maintains no affiliations with any struck companies.



# FINANCIALS



.As we currently progress through the post-production stage, there remains a funding requirement of about **\$14,000** to fully realize the film's creative vision at **\$40,000**.

This includes an amazing partnership with **Skywalker sound!**



# THE OFFER

To become a part of the short film's success, we extend an invitation to contribute through our [BraveMaker](#) platform. Visit our film page to explore various donation options and their corresponding rewards.

For those investing **\$5,000** or more, you'll earn an **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER** credit and gain **top priority** for involvement in our upcoming feature film.

Our ambition is to craft a timeless cinematic masterpiece that leaves an indelible impact on the world. We're enthusiastic about the prospect of sharing our journey with you. Join us in transforming this vision into a reality.





# DONATION REWARDS

## UP TO 100\$

- Signed poster or script
- Exclusive Content: Access to behind-the-scenes footage, bloopers, or interviews with the cast and crew.

## UP TO 250\$

- all of the above
- Custom Message: A personalized thank-you message from the director or lead actor
- Access to a VIRTUAL screening

## UP TO 500\$

- all of the above
- Private LIVE screening + Q&A session with director and cast

## UP TO 5,000\$

- all of the above
- a SPECIAL THANKS credit

## 5,000\$ +

- all of the above
- an EXECUTIVE PRODUCER credit
- top priority for involvement in our upcoming feature film







# THANK YOU

**Follow us**

@sweetsantabarbarabrown

