

DRAFT NIGHT



PRESS KIT



LOGLINE

**A BLACK BASKETBALL
PRODIGY STRUGGLES
WITH THE BURDEN
OF SINGLE-HANDEDLY
SAVING HIS FAMILY
FROM HARDSHIP ON
THE NIGHT OF THE
NBA DRAFT.**




OVERVIEW

WEBSITE

www.draftnightfilm.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

 @draftnightfilm

 [imdb.com/title/tt20237152](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt20237152)

DOWNLOAD PHOTOS

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CONTACT

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SPECS

Genre	Drama
Date of completion	8/28/2023
Runtime	18:58
Anticipated rating	PG-13
Aspect ratio	2.39:1
Shooting format	Digital
Audio format	Stereo
Frame rate	24 fps
Language	English



SYNOPSIS

Draft Night follows the intense internal journey of a basketball prodigy, known to us only as Number One (Joseph David-Jones of *4400*, *Detroit*, and *Arrow*), as he's passed over by NBA teams again and again on the night of the NBA draft. His sports agent, Caldwell (Justin Prentice of *13 Reasons Why*), urges him to trust in the system. However, ill-equipped to deal with the perceived failure and the weight of his own ambition, Number One's frustration builds and boils over into an anxiety attack. Both his Pops (Shawn Williams) and his Mama (Gloria Stingily) attempt to intervene in their own ways, but it's ultimately up to Number One to figure out if he has the capacity to hold multiple truths as he fights against external forces he cannot control.

CHARACTERS



“NUMBER ONE”

Portrayed by **Joseph David-Jones**

Number One is a young basketball prodigy expecting to be picked #1 overall in the NBA draft.



“POPS”

Portrayed by **Shawn Williams**

Pops is a pragmatic father who wants his son to have what he did not.



“CALDWELL”

Portrayed by **Justin Prentice**

Caldwell is a charismatic agent with dreams of catapulting to the A-list alongside Number One.



“MAMA”

Portrayed by **Gloria Stingily**

Mama is an empowering mother who encourages her son to make his own choices.



“COUSIN”

Portrayed by **Destiny Ekwueme**

Cousin is a fun-loving individual with an unapologetic lack of filter.



“SUPERFAN”

Portrayed by **Corey Giffit**

Superfan is a young, enthusiastic fan of Number One.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Draft Night is a character-driven narrative that delves deep into the hopes, dreams, and challenges that come with the pursuit of success; it takes a hard look at the complexities of identity, ambition, and the impact of societal and familial expectations.

I first came across *Draft Night* at a monologue competition in Manhattan. On the surface, both the monologue and the film are very much about the commodification of Black athletes. But what really resonated for me—as someone who has spent a significant portion of my career dissecting how we send young adults into the world via producing *13 Reasons Why* and curating a development slate of similarly themed shows—was the story of a young man ill-equipped to deal with what he perceives as failure. So I reached out to the writer/performer, Shawn Williams, and we began collaborating on an adaptation about a juvenile athlete burdened by the weight of the expectations he places on himself to “save” his family through basketball.

One of the major challenges of this film is generating empathy for a protagonist on the brink of immense financial success. We made it even harder for ourselves by choosing to introduce him as self-assured, brash, and boisterous. By portraying his emotional immaturity and exposing his internal conflicts and vulnerabilities behind the masks he wears to cope with his anxieties, however, we hope to invite the audience to feel the turmoil boiling beneath the exterior.

We collaborated with mental health experts to help us authentically navigate the paradoxical complexities of the journey—how the pursuit of one’s dreams can simultaneously uplift and challenge, empower and confine. Their insights led us to a portrayal of Generalized Anxiety stemming from the Yerkes-Dodson model of high achieving performance. We experience the positive self-talk that propels our protagonist forward as well as the mounting pressure of excessive worry and negative thought patterns that builds into an anxiety attack.

As the director, my vision for *Draft Night* is to present an intimate and thought-provoking exploration of the human experience of a high performing individual. It’s a story about basketball without any basketball. It is a call for empathy, understanding, and change, urging us to reevaluate how we nurture and shape the young men and women we send into the world.

Tom Glinkowski
Director, *Draft Night*

OUR TEAM

Director Tom Glinkowski

Tom Glinkowski's career began at Marvel Studios during the first three phases of the MCU. Working on that iconic franchise gave him the opportunity to learn storytelling, production, and creative direction from some of the most talented professionals in the business. In Phase 2 of his own career, he worked directly with a number of accomplished filmmakers including writers Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, Oscar-winning director Tom McCarthy, and Pulitzer Prize and Tony-winning writer Brian Yorkey. Tom most recently creatively produced Netflix's limited series *Echoes* and all four seasons of Netflix's *13 Reasons Why*.



Writer / "Pops" Shawn Williams

Shawn Williams is an actor, writer, and director. His appreciation for versatility is what encourages him to play a variety of roles, ranging from Paul in *Six Degrees of Separation*, to Aaron in *Titus Andronicus*. Shawn is an eight-time champion of the Manhattan Monologue Slam Competition, which he credits for giving him a platform to develop his solo show, *Shape Shifter*. Shawn also teaches Shakespeare and scene study for the world-renowned Stella Adler Conservatory, where he recently directed a production of Edward Albee's *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* His arts education experience extends through his work with Bank Street College of Education and ArtsConnection, and as a proud member of Family Life Theatre (FLT).



Director of Photography Kenzen Takahashi

Kenzen Takahashi is a cinematographer based out of Los Angeles. He got his start as a union grip, learning to light from renowned professionals on productions such as Netflix's *13 Reasons Why*, *The Matrix Resurrections*, and *All the Old Knives*. From there, Kenzen went on to shoot short films, music videos, commercials, and most recently, a feature film starring Shiloh Fernandez and John Farley. Kenzen's work has been featured in articles by Sony and DoPchoice.



OUR TEAM

Producers Jillian Nordby, Sierra Oleson, Avery Chung-Melino

Jillian, Sierra, and Avery are a producing team based in Los Angeles and the Bay Area with a passion for bringing indie shorts to life and helping them find their audience in the festival circuit. Their recent projects include *Cabin for Two* (produced by Jill and Sierra; sold to distributor DUST), *For the Safety of Theo* (produced by Jillian and Sierra, with marketing by Avery; premiered at Dances with Films 2023), and *Wesley* (produced by Sierra and Avery; in post-production).



Production Designer Erin E. Riegel

Erin E. Riegel is an LA-based art director and designer. She most recently art directed Netflix's upcoming series *A Man In Full*. Her previous credits include art director on Paramount's *Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Amongst Thieves*, Marvel Studios' *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier*, assistant art director on *Ford V Ferrari*, DC's *Birds of Prey*, Marvel Studios' *Captain Marvel*, FOX's *The Last Man on Earth* (season 4), ABC's *How to Get Away With Murder* (seasons 2 & 3), CBS's *Hunted*, and ABC's *Scandal* (season 6).



Costume Designer Amanda Ramirez

Amanda was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and currently resides in Los Angeles. She holds a B.A. in Cinema from San Francisco State University. Her costume design credits include *The Last Black Man in San Francisco*, *Discreet*, and short films *Customer Service*, *Thirteen*, *Mime Games*, *Vessel*, and *The Break Up Message*. Amanda also is an experienced costumer with credits on a vast number of features and TV shows. She loves to ride motorcycles, hit the waves, read comics, cook and create fun and unique garments with her 1960s Singer sewing machine. And she has a very unhealthy obsession with *Star Wars*.



OUR TEAM

Composer Greg Smith

A Grammy-nominated composer, Greg's music has appeared in numerous films and hundreds of TV shows across all the major networks. Additionally, he has composed the musical themes for many entertainment brands including Fuse TV and several networks in the Disney and Universal families of channels.



Re-Recording Mixer Scott R. Lewis

Scott R. Lewis, an Emmy award-winning sound engineer at Skywalker Sound, has won Outstanding Sound Mixing once and received a total of six nominations for his work on *House of Cards*, *Cinema Verite* and *Moon Knight*. His recent credits include *Loki*, *The Mandalorian*, *Obi-Wan Kenobi*, *The Book of Boba Fett*, *Top Gun: Maverick*, *A Teacher*, *Mindhunter*, and many others.



Camera Operator / Steadicam James Baldanza

James Baldanza began his "behind-the-scenes" career in motion pictures in 1996 as a student at the University of Miami, where he majored in Motion Pictures and Photography. James now works as an operator on various shows and features like *Moonlight*, *Rock of Ages*, *Charles Angels*, and *Shameless*, and has worked on commercials for Apple, Ralph Lauren, FedEx, Telefonica, and Chase Bank. James is a member of the Steadicam Operators Association (SOA), Society of Camera Operators (SOC), and International Cinematographers Guild of the IATSE, Local 600.



Key Grip Marcus Champion

Marcus Champion is a Bay Area-based grip. He got his start on *13 Reasons Why*, and has gripped on a variety of productions, including *A California Christmas: City Lights*, *Cabin for Two*, and *He Won't Belong*. Marcus' credits also include a number of features shot in the Bay, including *Venom*, *Always Be My Maybe*, and *Blindspotting*.



OUR TEAM

Editor Tuan Quoc Le

Born and raised in the 'burbs of Philadelphia, Tuan Quoc Le got his film education by working at his local movie theater, attending film school at Syracuse University and working on dozens of films with fellow filmmakers over the years. After starting his professional editing career working on all five seasons of The CW's *iZombie*, Tuan went on to edit television shows such as *Love Victor*, *The Wilds*, *Echoes*, *AZNBBGRL* and *Goosebumps*. Tuan has also edited a feature documentary, a feature film and several television pilots.



1st Assistant Director Grace Gaither

Grace Gaither was born in Glendale and raised in various parts of the North America and Europe, landing as an LA-based AD. Starting her film industry journey in October of 2020, she has AD'd for several shorts and proof-of-concepts, including *Lucid* and *Safety for Theo*. Before the film industry she was intertwined with theatre, working as a Stage Manager for a while and then a Master Electrician.



Makeup Artist Annette Chaisson

Annette is a Los Angeles-based makeup artist and groomer. After graduating from the Westmore Academy of Cosmetics she worked under legendary makeup artist Stephane Marais honing skills that would help her develop a fresh and clean makeup style of her own. Annette's professionalism combined with her easy-going manner keeps her busy with personal clients for interviews, photo shoots and red carpet events but also allows her to flow seamlessly into the world of film & television as a member of the IATSE Local 706 makeup union.



1st Assistant Camera Alex Cameron

Alex Cameron is a Local 600 1st Assistant Cameraman / Focus Puller and Timelapse Operator based out of Los Angeles, CA with 5 years of professional experience in documentary, commercial and scripted narrative projects. His clients include HBO, Netflix, CBS, Youtube RED, History Channel, Discovery Channel, Adult Swim and many more.



OUR CAST

“Number One” Joseph David-Jones

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Kentucky, Joseph David-Jones is a dynamic film and television actor and up-and-coming musician. He most recently starred as Jharrel in The CW's *4400*. On the film side, Joseph's credits include *Detroit*, *Roman J. Israel, Esq.*, and *Allegiant*. And on television, David-Jones starred in The CW's *Arrow* and DC's *Legends of Tomorrow* as well as CMT's *Nashville*. David-Jones finds joy filling his downtime with various musical endeavors and by sponsoring the Save the Children Foundation, which brings support and necessities to children living in underprivileged environments.

“Caldwell” Justin Prentice

Justin Prentice is an actor with over 15 years of experience in Hollywood. He is best known for his work as a series regular on Netflix's *13 Reasons Why*, where he showcased his ability to embody a complex and morally ambiguous character. Justin's first big break came when he was hired as a series regular on ABC comedy *Malibu Country*. His credits also include recurring roles on *Preacher* (AMC), *Glee* (Fox), MTV comedy *Awkward* and TruTV comedy *Those Who Can't*, as well as many others. Among the many special skills on his resume, he particularly excels at yo-yoing.

“Mama” Gloria Stingily

Gloria Stingily hails from Pittsburg California where she began her Theatre Arts education. She has a BA in Dramatic Arts from Mills College in Oakland, California and an MFA in Acting from the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, California. Gloria has worked as an actor and theatre arts instructor in and around the Bay Area for the past 30 years.

“Cousin” Destiny Ekwueme

Born and raised in Atlanta and classically trained at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, Destiny Ekwueme's breakout role was being cast in the Ryan Coogler film, *Fruitvale Station*, playing opposite Michael B. Jordan. More recently she's been cast in multiple Lifetime productions and co-starred alongside Joseph Gordon-Levitt in the Showtime series *Super Pumped*. Destiny has also worked as a stunt performer in *Jexi*, *All Day and All Night*, *The Underground Railroad*, *Clickbait*, *The Sky is Everywhere*, *Stranger Things*, and *I'm a Virgo*.

“Superfan” Corey Giffit

Corey Giffit is a senior at USC majoring in Theatre with an emphasis in acting and minoring in Screenwriting. He made his first television debut the age of 12 years old as a contestant on FOX's *MasterChef Junior*. He is a multi-hyphenate artist as an actor, writer, model, and director. He has several plays to note from his resume, notably *The Seagull* by Chekhov, and *Wedlock of The Gods* by Zulu Sofola, and he has recently completed classical training at the British American Drama Academy in London. His first love is for his family and he is grateful for all their support in his artistic and academic endeavors. Corey is represented by Haydn Jones, at Luxe Talent Agency.

WORDS FROM EXPERTS

We've been fortunate to collaborate with several incredible experts on *Draft Night*, and their insights have played a pivotal role in the crafting of authentic and nuanced narratives.

“*Draft Night* not only highlights the story of a young Black Man’s dream, but also allows the audience a peek into the world of mental health through the Black family lens. The rollercoaster of excitement, pressure, anxiety, disappointment, and relief are highlighted through an experience that is all too familiar with the Black community.”

KATIE OHENE-GAMBILL, PSY.D.

“As a psychologist serving high school and college ‘elite’ competitive athletes, artists, and scholars, I really appreciate the themes portrayed in *Draft Night*. I often see the emotional downside of raising young adults who feel like commodities. They often struggle to develop a sense of identity and value beyond the desires and pressures of others.”

HELEN H. HSU, PSY.D.

“I’m a former college basketball player and overall lover of the sport of basketball. So hearing Shawn talk about the parallels with slavery and sports hit home as I, too, had dreams of using basketball to help change my family’s well-being. Just so happened God had other plans for me. Excited to see what you guys are creating.”

JARROD AUSBORNE



CREDITS

Director/Producer

Tom Glinkowski

Writer

Shawn Williams

Producers

Jillian Nordby

Sierra Oleson

Avery Chung-Melino

Co-Producer

Lily Oehm

Director of Photography

Kenzen Takahashi

1st AC

Alex Cameron

2nd AC

Sam Hoiland

Victoria Betancourt

Loader

Alex Bierwagen

Camera Utility

Emily Doe

Camera Operator/Steadicam

James Baldanza

1st Assistant Director

Grace Gaither

2nd Assistant Director

Tiffany Wong

2nd 2nd Assistant Director

Andis Solomon

Additional Assistant Director

Sullivan Rutherford

Production Assistant

Clarissa Jorgensen

Script Supervisor

Justin Jorgensen

Casting Directors

Ryan Glorioso

Justin Coulter

Locations Manager

Rashod Edwards

Layout Board

Luis Miranda

Key Assistant Locations

Roland Greedy

Video Assist/Playback

Austin Peck

Production Designer

Erin E. Riegel

Set Decorator/Buyer

Kim Brucal

Property Master

Chris Ubick

Costume Designer

Amanda Ramirez

Costumer

Briana Lisette

Makeup Artist

Annette Chaisson

Hair Artist

Vanessa Colombo

Hair Stylist/Barber

Dane Cristian Diego

BTS Photographer

Dominic Bowker

Key Grip

Marcus Champion

Gaffer

Nick Dias

Best Boy Grip

Patrick Walsh

Best Boy Electric

Spencer Lemmon

Dolly Grips

Chris McCracken

Davide Fabrizio

Grips

Angelo Arcamo

Peter Dendrinios

Davide Fabrizio

Bryce Myrah

Production Sound Mixer

Scott Kinzey

Editor

Tuan Quoc Le

Assistant Editor

Darren C. Bui

Colorist

Nicholas Lareau

Composer

Greg Smith

Sound Re-Recording Mixer

Scott R. Lewis

PHOTOS

Download stills and BTS here:







DRAFT NIGHT



A Black basketball prodigy struggles with the burden of single-handedly saving his family from hardship on the night of the NBA draft.

WWW.DRAFTNIGHTFILM.COM

DIRECTOR **THOMAS GLINKOWSKI** WRITER **SHAWN WILLIAMS**
PRODUCERS **THOMAS GLINKOWSKI JILLIAN NORDBY SIERRA OLESON AVERY CHUNG-MELINO**
CINEMATOGRAPHER **KENZEN TAKAHASHI** PRODUCTION DESIGNER **ERIN E. RIEGEL** COSTUME DESIGNER **AMANDA RAMIREZ** EDITOR **TUAN QUOC LE**