

The background of the poster is a close-up, low-angle shot of a chain-link fence. The fence is in the foreground, with its diamond-shaped mesh pattern clearly visible. Behind the fence, the ocean is visible, with dark, choppy waves under a dim, overcast sky. The lighting is moody, with a color gradient from dark blue on the left to a warm, orange-brown glow on the right, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

SOUTH

ON THE BORDER OF LEAVING AND BELONGING

SHORE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

DEXTER STRONG BUELL

PRODUCED BY KEVIN LOPEZ

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue baseball cap and a blue hoodie, is sitting on a ship's deck. He is looking down and to his left. The background shows the ship's structure and a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a strong shadow on his face and the hoodie. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

A FEATURE MOTION PICTURE

"I WAS ALMOST AS MUCH OF A STRANGER ON BOARD AS HIMSELF."

JOSEPH CONRAD - *THE SECRET SHARER*



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A person is floating in the ocean at night. The sky is dark and filled with many small, bright stars. The person's head and one arm are visible above the water, while the rest of their body is submerged. The water is dark and reflects the light from the stars.

LOG LINE

**A RECLUSIVE LIVE-ABOARD SAILOR COMES FACE TO FACE WITH
THE YOUNG MAN WHO MAY HAVE KILLED HIS SON.**



“COMING OR GOING, THERE’S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO BELONG...”



STORY

Russell wants nothing more than to fix the motor on his boat and escape the haunting memory of his murdered son. His isolation is unexpectedly shattered when the young immigrant man he suspects may have killed his boy appears alongside his immobilized craft. Adapted from “The Secret Sharer,” by Joseph Conrad, and real events on the South Shore of Long Island, New York.

SYNOPSIS

Shay is coming of age in a foster home in south-central Long Island-the heart of the expanding Central American community there. He is preoccupied with the uncertain status of **his DACA application**, and still grieves the death of his father in a construction accident.

Shay also struggles with his emerging homosexuality; **his father's homophobia** looms in his mind and complicates his grief, and his attraction to a colorful gay boy named Chass remains suppressed.

When his friend Dylan is killed in a chaotic drug deal involving some of his friends, Shay assumes the worst, panics and flees, fearing deportation and the unimaginable admission that he was with Chass at the time of the killing. **He becomes the prime suspect** in the murder.

Dylan's family disintegrates in the aftermath of the devastating loss. His father Russell abandons his wife Michelle and daughter Izzy, retreating to an old sailing vessel to nurse his grief and repair the broken engine in preparation to sail south to the Caribbean charter market.

After hiding out through the winter at the construction warehouse where his father once worked, Shay returns, resolving to go to the police. He is waylaid by Omar, the boy responsible for the killing, and in the chase that follows, **Shay slips from the waterfront pier** and disappears into the dark water of the harbor at night.

Nearly drowned, Shay comes alongside Russell's boat and is pulled on board. Russell inexplicably conceals the boy and enlists him in repairing the boat with the aim of extracting information about his son's death.

Threatening to kill Shay by sending him up the mast for a "quick repair," Russell instead begins to recognize the cost of his obsessive grieving. Shay is interrogated and finally cleared by the police, and all that remains is for him to confront Joey, the friend who set him up and is hiding the truth about Omar.

Forces converge when Russell arrives at Izzy's violin recital just as Shay and Joey meet in the town park. A sudden illness in the audience and the violent outcome of Shay's final stand against Omar put **Russell and Shay in the trauma unit** of the same local hospital.

Triggered by the memory of his own son's death, Russell visits Shay in the ICU. He gently bathes the young man's face and for a moment sees his own son in the young immigrant's eyes.

With the boat repaired and ready to leave, Russell circles back and instead makes a place on board for his daughter Izzy and the healing Shay.



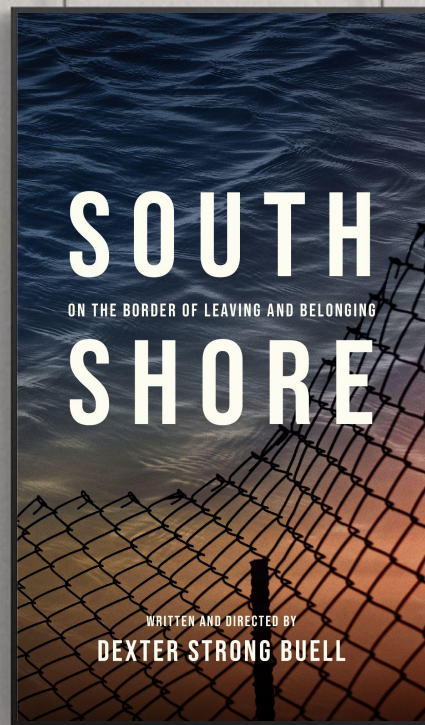
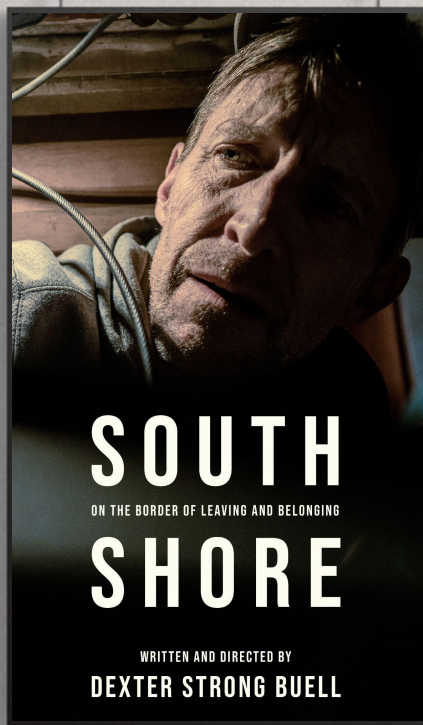
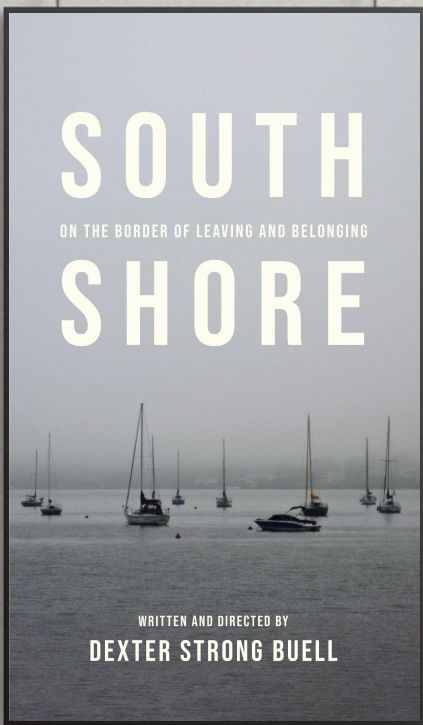
CHARACTER: RUSSELL, [40'S]

A professional sailor and former boat captain on a cruise line in NY harbor. Stoic and out of touch with his feelings, he raised a family in Long Island before the death of his son Dylan drives him from his family and stokes a plan to repair his sailboat and depart for the Caribbean, leaving his pain behind.

CHARACTER: SHAY, [16]

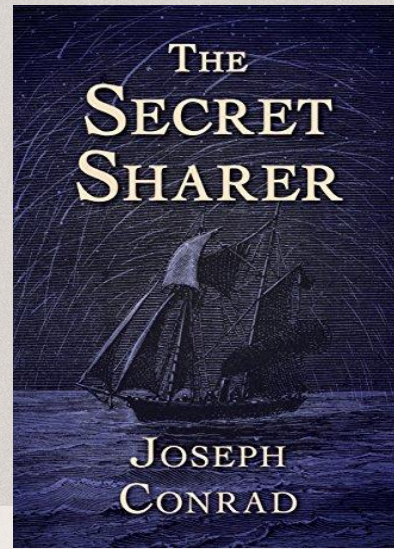
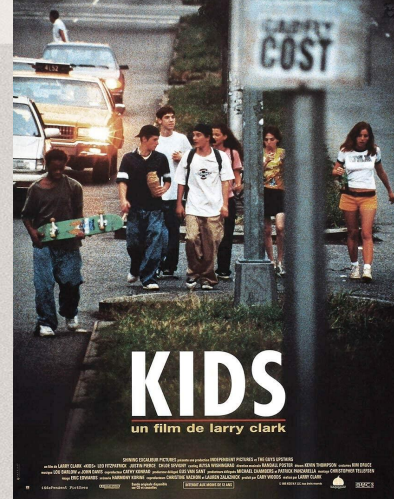
A smart kid and a good student. Shay arrived in this country from El Salvador at the age of 14 along with hundreds of other undocumented teenagers who were scattered across Long Island. He now lives with a foster family and struggles with his sense of belonging, caught in between a racist system and violence from gangs. This fear propels him into hiding when his friend Dylan is murdered, and he suddenly becomes the prime suspect.





BIG PICTURE INSPIRATIONS

Initially inspired by Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Sharer*, this is the story of irreconcilable loss and the difficult road back to love across the chasm of grief and cultural division. Think Kenneth Lonergan's 'Manchester by the Sea' meets Larry Clark's 'Kids'.



VISUAL STYLE

South Shore's visual style emphasizes the character's desire to belong on the one hand and to flee on the other. Constrained settings: fences, dock lines, cramped boat cabins and crowded suburbs will linger against the long view of sky and water.

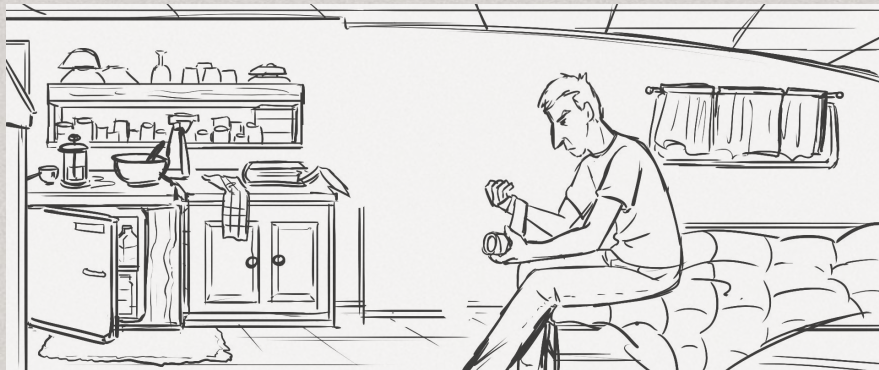
Shay's is the plight of an outsider with a compelling urge to belong to a family, and he is pitted against the self-imposed exile of Russell's grief. A physical and social disconnect is framed with a visual language of leaving and belonging.





EXT. BOAT - NIGHT

A gasping sound emerges from the quiet night. Russell looks around. Another splash, then another... It is SHAY, mid-teens.



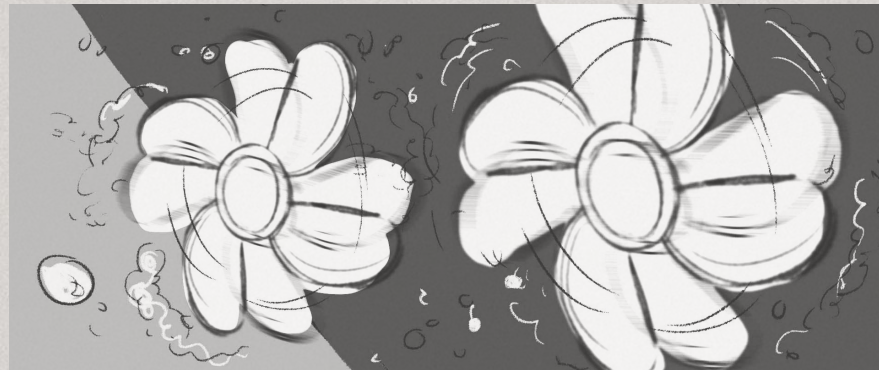
INT. SAILBOAT - INTERCUT

RUSSELL, 50's runs water over the cut at the galley sink and gropes for a roll of paper towel.



INT. BOATYARD OFFICE - MORNING

ANTHONY, late 60's wearing work clothes, startles him. Russell slides the drawer shut quickly...



EXT. SAILBOAT (WATER SHOT) - SAME

Russell reaches down and cranks the key. The engine sparks and coughs, but fails to start.

SOUTH SHORE WORK SAMPLE ANIMATIC



Educators explore immigrant experience thru film

BY BRIAN NIEMIETZ
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

When New York City filmmakers Dexter Strong and Kevin Lopez were running the Film and Media program at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Queens, they knew that one day they'd collaborate on a movie of their own.

A decade after starting their collaboration as educators, it's showtime.

"South Shore" tells the story of an undocumented immigrant on Long Island and his encounter with the father of a boy he's accused of killing.

Strong, a retired public school teacher, penned "the semi-autobiographical story" that Lopez is directing. In writing the adult

character, he drew from his own experiences as a father who raised two kids in New York City. The teen character, he said, is "a hybrid of kids I worked with in the city schools."

They're still trying to cast that role with "someone who can capture the dislocated experience of the hundreds of unaccompanied minors who find themselves searching for roots in the towns along the South Shore of Long Island," he added.

Strong and Lopez, 42, will begin working on a short version of "South Shore" in

October that they plan to shop around to raise funding for a feature-length movie. While shooting will begin in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, Strong says the story is set on Long Island, where relationships between immigrants and "the boating community" tend to be disparate.

"The takeaway might be that people who live right next door have lives and their lives impact our lives," Strong said.

Strong started the film program where he and Lopez met in 2009 and stayed with it

until 2015. Not only did the pair's students inspire a central "South Shore" character — they also motivated Strong to make movies for a living.

"I was teaching kids how to make them and it seemed like so much fun," he said.

Lopez — who lives on Long Island's South Shore — still has a day job as the assistant principal of Art & CTE (Career and Technical Education) at the High School of Art & Design in Midtown.

"I try to gracefully blur the lines between film making and education," Lopez said. "There's a lot of synergy and overlap in both worlds. I live in that realm where my students inspire the work that I create, and I in turn hope to empower them to really explore their voices."





FROM THE FILMMAKERS

South Shore captures a pivotal moment in the story arc of a reclusive, live-aboard sailor who comes face to face with the young immigrant man whom he suspects may have killed his son. The script is adapted from “The Secret Sharer,” by Joseph Conrad, and influenced by real events on the South Shore of Long Island, New York. Themes of leaving and belonging, suspicion and mutual aid are captured in a gripping face-to-face confrontation with an unexpected outcome. This "proof of concept" introduces characters and circumstances that animate the feature-length script, which the producers have been developing since their collaboration began in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic.



THE
NEW YORKER

OUR LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS JANUARY 1, 2018 ISSUE

THE TEENS TRAPPED BETWEEN A GANG AND THE LAW

On Long Island, unaccompanied minors are caught between the violence of MS-13 and the fear of deportation.



By Jonathan Blitzer
December 25, 2017



Illustration by R. Kikuo Johnson

[Read Full Article](#)

CARDOZO LAW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

SOUTH SHORE was selected to partner with The Filmmakers Legal Clinic ([@filmlegalclinic](#)) at Cardozo Law School ([@cardozo_law](#)), who provides free transactional, intellectual property, and First Amendment legal services to visual advocates, filmmakers and video journalists working to move the social justice needle and diversify the stories that are told through media.

[Filmmakers Legal Clinic \(Formerly Indie Film Clinic\)](#)



SOUTH SHORE



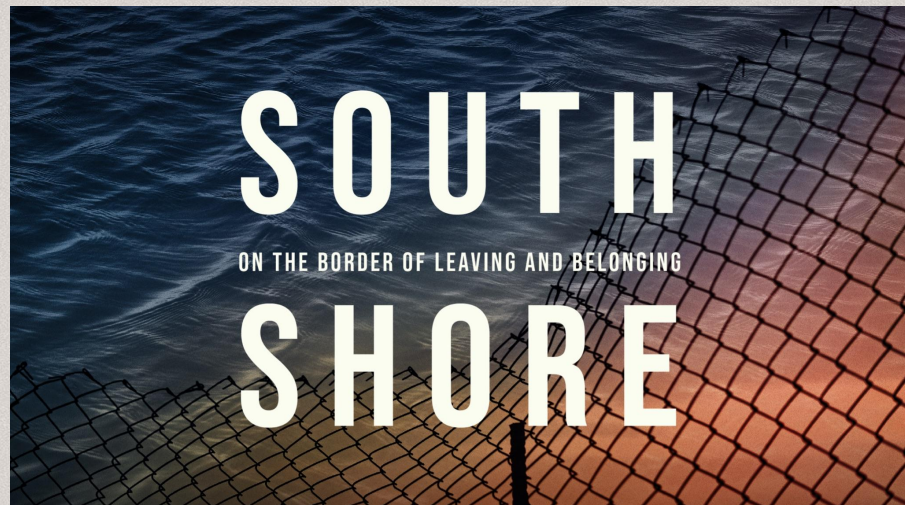
FILMMAKERS LEGAL CLINIC
AT THE CENTER FOR VISUAL ADVOCACY

2022 Annual Report



CARDOZO
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

PARTLY FUNDED BY THE HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL



**"THIS SHORT FILM IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH FUNDS FROM THE
STATEWIDE COMMUNITY REGRANT PROGRAM, A REGRANT PROGRAM
OF THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS WITH THE SUPPORT
OF GOVERNOR AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE, AND
ADMINISTERED BY THE HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL."**

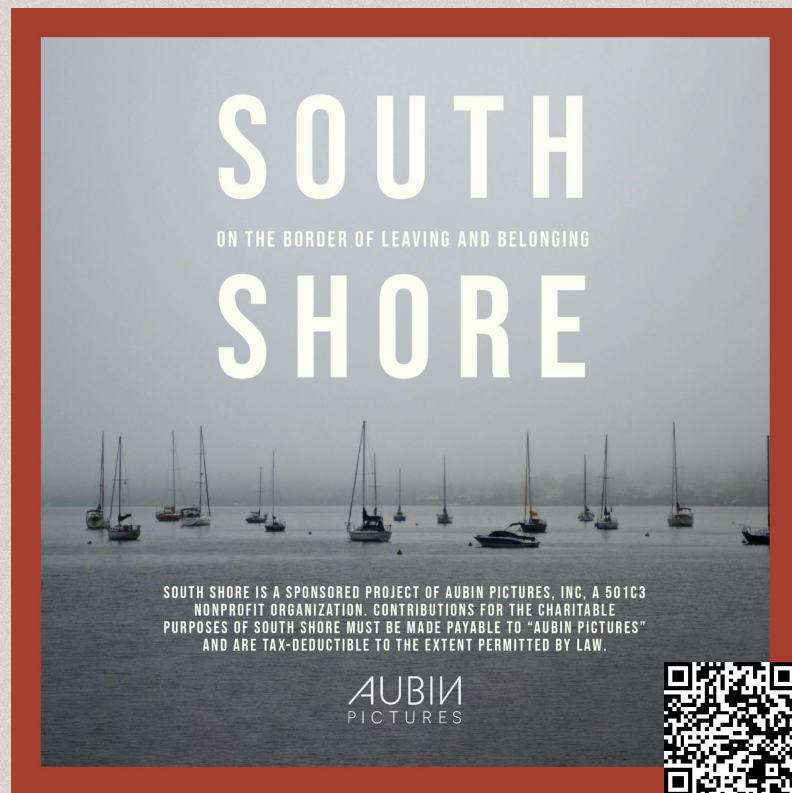


FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

South Shore is a sponsored project of Aubin Pictures, Inc, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Contributions for the charitable purposes of South Shore must be made payable to “Aubin Pictures” and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

WWW.AUBINPICTURES.COM

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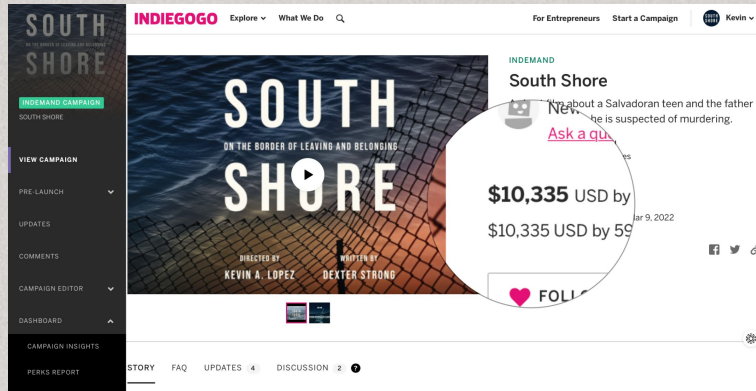
SOUTH SHORE IS A SPONSORED PROJECT OF AUBIN PICTURES, INC, A 501C3
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION. CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE CHARITABLE
PURPOSES OF SOUTH SHORE MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO "AUBIN PICTURES"
AND ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

AUBIN
PICTURES

WE REACHED OUR #INDIEGOGO GOAL!

Extracted from a feature-length script this 'proof-of-concept' short film is partially funded by our initial IndieGoGo campaign in 2022.

[South Shore Indiego](#)



THE 'PROOF-OF-CONCEPT' PITCH VIDEO



PRODUCERS



DEXTER STRONG BUELL - WRITER / DIRECTOR

Dexter is known for his work in the feature films *The Hudson Tribes* and *Paradise City* as well as numerous award winning shorts. On *zas* appeared as Monkey Man in *Great Falls* by Lee Blessing, and recently performed the role of Claudius in *Ophelia's Ocean*, a work for film and stage by Maya Milenovic Workman, funded by the Guggenheim Foundation. Dexter also holds a Certificate in Arts Education from Pratt Institute and was the founding teacher of the Film and Media Studio at the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts where he and Kevin began their creative collaboration.



KEVIN A. LOPEZ - PRODUCER

Kevin A. Lopez has made his mark in independent cinema, producing powerful social dramas like “The Inquisition of Camilo Sanz” (2014), “The Hudson Tribes” (2016), “Paradise City” (2019), as well as the HBO acquired documentary, “Primera” (2021). He’s also the creative force behind award-winning short documentaries such as “Mind Up” (2014), “Sharing The Stoke” (2016), and “The Mortician Magician” (2018). Beyond his cinematic endeavors, Kevin passionately advances film and media arts education. As a New York City Public High School Principal, Kevin is uniquely positioned to create enduring pathways between CTE Classrooms and the expansive world of Film & Television



JUSTINE LUCAS - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Meet Justine Lucas, a dedicated New York City principal who has spent her life serving the youth of this great city. With a passion for special education and multilingual education, Justine has streamlined her efforts to ensure that every child has access to the education they need to succeed. As an executive producer of the short feature film “South Shore”, Justine is excited to amplify the voices that promote equitable spaces. Her commitment to creating opportunities for everyone to have a voice and a seat at the table is unparalleled.



CALENDAR

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

January 2022 - December 2022

PROJECT FUNDRAISE

January 2023 - December 2023

'PROOF OF CONCEPT' PRODUCTION

Fall 2023

FEATURE FILM PROJECT PRE-PRODUCTION

January 2024 - September 2024

FEATURE FILM PRODUCTION & POST-PRODUCTION

October 2024 - November 2024

FILM FESTIVAL SUBMISSION

April 2025

BUDGET: **999 K USD**

Above-The-Line / Creative: 285K

Production: 401K

Post Production: 210k

Marketing / Distribution / Misc: 103k



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

ABOVE THE LINE

STORY & SCREENPLAY	\$50,750
PRODUCERS	\$70,000
DIRECTION	\$20,000
CAST	\$100,000
TRAVEL & LIVING	\$15,000
A-T-L FRINGES	\$31,000
ABOVE-THE-LINE TOTAL	\$284,750

POST-PRODUCTION

EDITING & POST	\$74,700
MUSIC	\$34,000
POST-PRODUCTION SOUND	\$25,000
VISUAL FX	\$20,000
TITLES	\$10,000
QC & ACCESSIBILITY	\$19,000
POST-PRODUCTION FRINGES	\$27,744
POST-PRODUCTION TOTAL	\$210,444

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION STAFF	\$40,100
EXTRA TALENT	\$31,200
SET DESIGN	\$24,390
SET CONSTRUCTION	\$0
SET OPERATIONS	\$22,755
SPECIAL EFFECTS	\$20,880
SET DRESSING	\$0
PROPERTY	\$0
WARDROBE	\$20,470
HAIR & MAKEUP	\$10,400
ELECTRICAL	\$25,800
CAMERA	\$50,700
PRODUCTION SOUND	\$21,000
TRANSPORTATION	\$24,300
LOCATIONS	\$33,050
PICTURE VEHICLES/ANIMALS	\$20,000
FILM & LAB	\$15,350
SECOND UNIT	\$0
PRODUCTION FRINGES	\$41,098
PRODUCTION TOTAL	\$401,493

OTHER

PUBLICITY	\$32,500
INSURANCE	\$15,000
GENERAL EXPENSES	\$10,750
OTHER TOTAL	\$58,250
ABOVE-THE-LINE TOTAL	\$284,750
BELOW-THE-LINE TOTAL	\$611,937
ABOVE & BELOW-THE-LINE TOTAL	\$896,687
OTHER TOTAL	\$58,250
TOTAL FRINGES	\$99,841
CONTINGENCY	\$44,834
GRAND TOTAL	\$999,771

SOUTH SHORE MOVIE - WHY INVEST / DONATE?

Invest in a feature film produced by diverse filmmakers and cast about commercially viable, socially relevant topics and themes dealing with immigration, gang violence, and the traditional American family dynamic.

Work with talented filmmakers and story-tellers who have a solid track record of producing high quality and impactful feature films that have been picked up for distribution from networks such as Warner Bros. Discovery and HBO Max, and who have screened at major film markets such as the Tribeca Film Festival and Berlinale.

Invest in a project that is NYS approved as part of the Tax Rebate program, allowing for up to 40% in tax rebates once the project is complete.

Collaborate on a project with known leading talent who will help drive the film's marketability and distribution & licensing opportunities once completed.

Invest in a project to secure equity in a feature film project that has a high probability of obtaining critical acclaim, press coverage, and subsequent distribution deals, with strong return on investment from licensing or distribution sales.

Tax Deduction on donations for the project





THANK YOU

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