

THE SAXOPHONIST

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As the screenwriter, producer, and director, *The Saxophonist* is more to me than a short film project. Ever since I wrote the screenplay as a student at Emerson College twelve years ago, it has been my love letter to jazz music. The story revolves around a talented young saxophonist who is conflicted between moving to Los Angeles to take his career further or to stay in New York where he falls in love with a beautiful jazz-influenced ballet dancer. At the time, I was inspired by a history of jazz course that I was enrolled in and my professor was the sole basis for the title character. He is someone who respects music's history and he wants to preserve it while aspiring to break new ground as legends like Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, and John Coltrane had done previously.

I am currently raising \$10,000 in order to start production in August 2017 with a seven day shooting schedule in locations around New York City. We will then have the film edited, scored, and completed for release in December 2017. The project budget will go towards production necessities including location fees, liability insurance, crew payments, and post-production costs. Additional fundraising will be handled through an Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign this spring, private donations, and an event fundraiser that will also serve as a live jazz show. Among the steps I have taken to bring the project to life include hiring Bill Mack of the New York production company Cinomadic to produce it with me, having the screenplay registered with the WGA and the Library of Congress, receiving fiscal sponsorship with the New York Foundation of the Arts late last year, and most recently casting Brooklyn-based saxophone player Beavin Lawrence to play the title role as well as compose the original score. With my experiences working with actors over ten years, I will spend extensive months of rehearsal time with Beavin to create a breakout performance as I had done previously in my films with musician-turned-actors such as the world renowned drummer Bernard "Pretty" Purdie and the Russian pianist Konstantin Soukhovetski. Between now and early summer, I will assemble my production team and arrange preparation for the main actors to rehearse the musical performances in the film.

My ideal target audience for *The Saxophonist* will range from young adults in their twenties to late thirties who have an appreciation for live music as well as independent film. I believe that the recent Oscar-nominated films *Whiplash* and *La La Land* were examples of jazz-oriented dramas that successfully attracted both young and older demographics. As a love story, *The Saxophonist* is a timely tale because it is told from the point of view of a struggling artist who conflicts between opportunity and romance. For me as a struggling artist who has sacrificed so much of my social life to dedicate myself to the craft of storytelling through film, my vision is the most appropriate to bring this project to life. With your support, *The Saxophonist* can earn the momentum it needs to have a successful and professionally made film production. Thank you.

- Andre' Joseph
Writer/Director *The Saxophonist*