

AMERICAN BUBBLE

THAT WHITE GIRL FILM, LLC

AMERICAN BUBBLE

INSPIRED BY THE NOVEL

That White Girl

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ORIGIN STORY

AMERICAN BUBBLE is inspired by real people and events.

The character of Amber is inspired by the real experiences that Jennifer McLaughlin (aka JLove) went through as a teenager when she joined a gang in Colorado and started dealing drugs.

Description/LogLine:

Needing to support her sick mother, a teenager starts dealing drugs, but discovers that her pursuit of the American Dream may cost the ultimate price.

Inspired by true events.

SYNOPSIS

AMBER, 19-yrs-old, lives alone with her mom who has dementia. Since her dad left the family, Amber works at a restaurant to make ends meet. But her mom's medical bills have piled up. To recover the past-due bills, a collection agency has threatened to garner her mom's Social Security wages, their only other source of income. Therefore, Amber asks her friend **JUAN** for a loan. But Juan proposes that she, instead, sell drugs with his gang, the **SEVENS**. Amber declines his offer.

But the next day at work, the restaurant cuts Amber's shifts in half. Therefore, she has to look for a new job. But no one hires her. Therefore, with time running out, she takes Juan up on his drug offer. After all, this is Colorado and legal weed is everywhere, creating new underground markets -- with limitless opportunities.

But **JADA**, a hard-core gangster, makes it clear she doesn't want a "white bitch" in their gang. Therefore, Amber must prove herself. She does an armed robbery at the restaurant she worked at, and an initiation where she's "jumped in".

The Sevens officially welcome Amber into the gang. She is now part of their family, making real money with the gang. As Amber dives deeper into street-life she gets to know **OMAR**, another member of the Sevens. Omar is gentle, smart, caring. Things are finally looking up for Amber. She's making real money, able pay for all of her mom's medical needs. Best of all, Amber and Omar are in love.

But a rival street gang, the **THREES**, show up to steal Amber's drug money, \$300K in cash. Therefore, a deadly shootout ensues and people are left dead.

With the police moving in, searching for the killers, Amber must now choose between her own survival, or her family's.

Inspired by true events.

DIRECTOR: Heidi Miami Marshall is a director & actor coach. She directed Fantasia on Broadway's THE COLOR PURPLE, to critical acclaim. Heidi directed the multi-award-winning short films MUSCLE, S.P.I.C. and A through M., and recently completed UNDERNEATH IT ALL, a film on grief & hope. Recognized for her ability to elicit powerful performances, Heidi's a highly-sought-after actor coach. She was on-set actor coach for IN THE SUMMERS (Sundance Grand Jury Prize), and on LITTLE AMERICA (APPLE+). Other on-set actor coaching, FRANK & LOUIS (Sundance, 2026) and the film TOX. Heidi coached Ruth Madeley's screen-test for APPLE's upcoming film BEING HEUMANN, directed by Sian Header (Academy Award). Other notable screen-test coachings: Halle Bailey's LITTLE MERMAID (DISNEY), Jack Harlow's WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP, Michael Cimmino's LOVE, VICTOR (HULU). As a former Casting Director at Telsey Casting, Heidi cast over one-hundred B'dway, TV/Film projects. Baz Luhrmann has said *"All of Heidi Marshall's work has led me to see she's a director of first rate talent and ability."*

WRITER: Johnny Sánchez wrote S.P.I.C. (inspired by events from his youth), for which he won the Cinema Writing Award at Blackbird Film Festival. He also co-wrote & produced the upcoming short UNDERNEATH IT ALL (directed by Heidi). Johnny co-produced the film FIND ME GUILTY starring Vin Diesel & Peter Dinklage, and EVEN MONEY starring Academy Award Winners Kim Basinger & Forest Whitaker. Johnny & Heidi are a husband-wife filmmaking team.

WRITER: Khalil Kain is a writer, actor and producer. He was Associate Producer on the film MISGUIDED BEHAVIOR. He Executive Produced the film THE BRICKS, and also Executive Produced, wrote and directed THE MILLENIAL. Khalil's place in cinema history was cemented when he brought to life the role of "Raheem" in the classic film JUICE. Other highlight acting credits include Tyler Perry's for COLORED GIRLS, LOVE JONES and GIRLFRIENDS.

CO-PRODUCER: JLove authored THAT WHITE GIRL, a novel detailing her experiences as a teenage white girl who joins the Crips. Her life story is the basis for AMERICAN BUBBLE. JLove Co-Produced the film "11:55" (Aspen Film Fest Audience Award, River Run Film Fest Audience Award), she also Associate Produced NOBODY's NOBODY - starring Michael K. Williams. Most recently, JLove directed and produced the upcoming documentary WHITE IN AMERICA (distributor TUBI FILMS), that aims to examine *"whiteness as the unspoken force at the core of racial injustice in America"*. As a member of SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), and Co-Founder/Co-CEO of INSPIRE JUSTICE, JLove is dedicated to highlighting social justice issues.





LEAD ROLE / AMBER: Jade Pettyjohn

Audiences fell in love with her as Grace in David E. Kelley's *BIG SKY*, and in *LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE* opposite Reese Witherspoon, Kerry Washington. Credits include *RIGHTEOUS GEMSTONES* with Danny McBride, John Goodman and *DESTROYER* with Nicole Kidman, *TRIAL BY FIRE* with Laura Dern. Jade will be in the upcoming season of Netflix's hit show *MONSTER*.



EDITOR: Franck Méndez: is an alum of the AFI. He was Assistant First Editor on *FERRARI* (Michael Mann). He also assisted edited on *NOPE* (Jordan Peele), *AMBULANCE* (Michael Bay), *SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY* (Ron Howard), *AMERICAN HORROR STORY*, *MORBIUS*, *EXTRACTION 2*, *SWEET GIRL* and *DOLITTLE*. Franck edited the short *S.P.I.C.* -- directed by Heidi Miami Marshall, written by Johnny Sánchez



CINEMATOGRAPHER: Jamal Solomon

received high praise for his lensing work on *ANGELFISH* and on the Duplass Brothers Productions' *AS OF YET*. The Hollywood Reporter said his work is "gorgeous". And Variety wrote: "*Solomon's fluid, velvet-textured camerawork*". Jamal lensed the short *S.P.I.C.*, BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY Award Winner Chain NYC Film Festival. Jamal is a recipient of the Zeiss Precision Award.

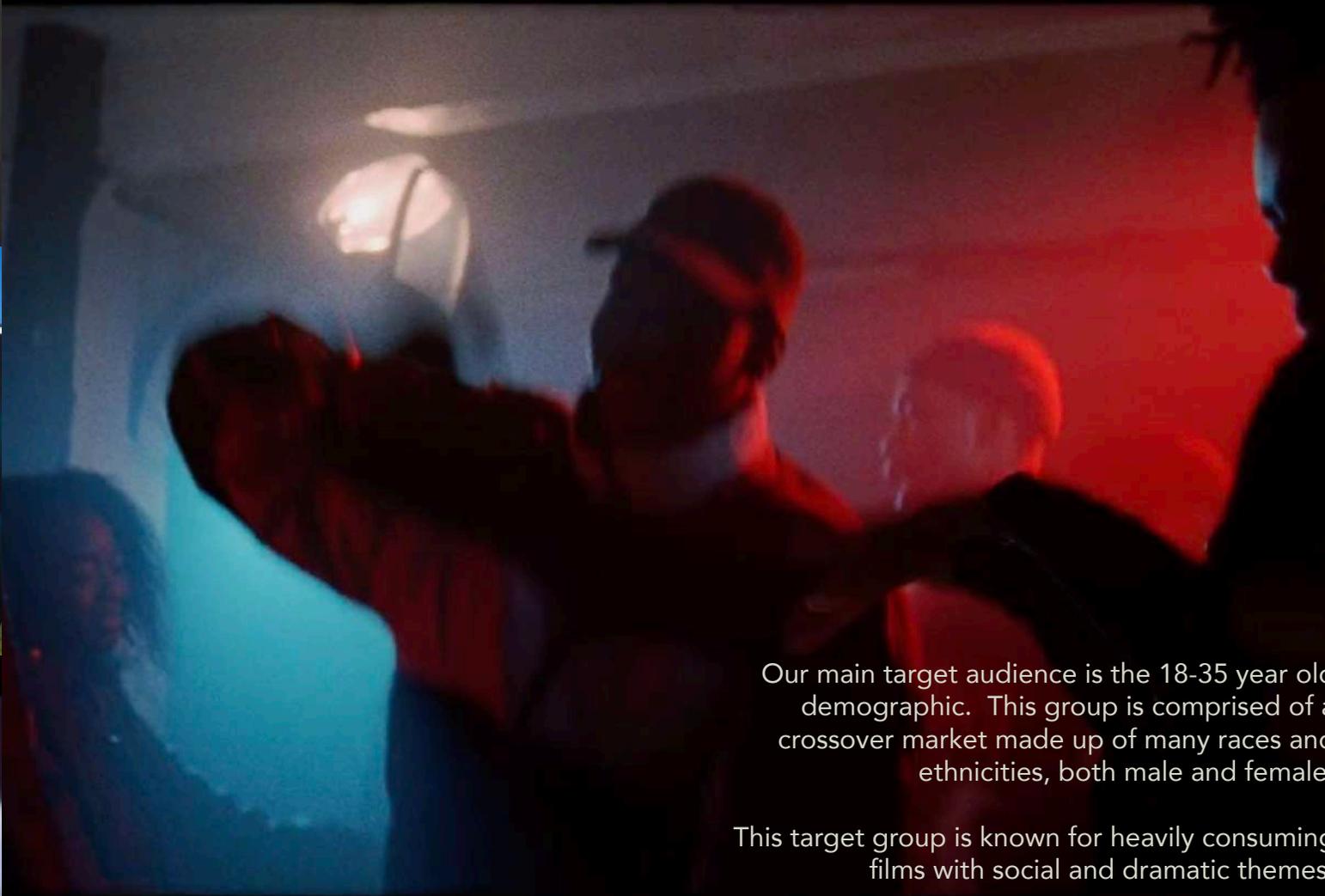
FUN FACT

The script for American Bubble passes both the Bechdel and DuVernay tests.

The Bechdel & DuVernay tests are a litmus for a film's representation of female and BIPOC characters, respectively.



THE MARKET



THAT WHITE GIRL FILM, LLC

Our main target audience is the 18-35 year old demographic. This group is comprised of a crossover market made up of many races and ethnicities, both male and female.

This target group is known for heavily consuming films with social and dramatic themes.

COMPS



WINTER'S BONE

Year of Release 2010

Rating: RATED R

Themes: Coming-of-Age,
Poverty, Drugs



FRUITVALE STATION

Year of Release: 2013

Rating: RATED R

Themes: Coming-Of-Age,
Poverty, Race



MOONLIGHT

Year of Release 2016

Rating: RATED R

Themes: Coming-of-Age,
Poverty, Identity, LGBT



THIRTEEN

Year of Release: 2003

Rating: RATED R

Themes: Coming-Of-Age,
Drugs, Rebellion

LOCATION

Our story takes place in a small Colorado town with big problems.

This is not a big city. This is small town, U.S.A. – where we least expect these stories to happen. In the streets where this true story occurred, a thick air filled with danger and abandonment is present everywhere.

Our film depicts smaller communities ultimately abandoned by the larger society.

The people living here will do anything to survive. Including trafficking cocaine, molly and bubble. The tensions in this town are ready to burst, a microcosm of larger America. A true story about a teenage white girl joining a black gang in America's heartland is a topic that has yet to be explored in narrative film.





CHARACTERS LOOK & FEEL



AMERICAN BUBBLE



THAT WHITE GIRL FILM, LLC



THE FILM

There's a palpable thirst for stories reflecting real people.

Diverse Films Make More Money at the Box Office

A report titled "*Beyond Checking A Box: Lack of Authentically Inclusive Representation Has Costs at the Box Office*", found that AUTHENTIC DIVERSITY in film improves financial performance at the box office, while a lack of diversity can result in losses.

Deadline: [Movies Lacking Diversity Could Lose Money](#)

G.Good Magazine: [Diverse Representation and Box Office](#)

NewsRoom: [Lack of Diversity, Box Office Blues for Hollywood](#)

The same study also found that small-budgeted films are leading the charge when it comes to diversity, both in front of and behind the camera.

AMERICAN BUBBLE's team of writers, producers, director and actors represent diverse communities.

THE FILM

An in-depth study shows that when women star in movies audiences show up. The BBC, The Guardian and The Washington Post report that films with female leads do better than male-led equivalents, at every budget level.

The Guardian: [Women-led films dominate at box office, study finds](#)

The BBC: [Films with female stars earn more at the box office](#)

The Washington Post: [Films starring women, not men, do better at the box office, study finds](#)

THE FILM

Our story is both hard-hitting and also completely human and fragile.

It moves fast because the events move fast, but the camera will take its time in key scenes to peel back the layers of the group dynamics and character vulnerabilities.

We don't follow a girl trying to be cool and joining a gang, instead we follow a girl overcoming her insecurities, proving herself in the company of boys and men, falling in love, supporting her mom through dementia, and risking it all with a series of flawed choices. It's both action-driven and quietly intimate.

THE FILM

THE BLACK LIST EVALUATION

Overall
8

Premise
8

Plot
8

Character
8

Dialogue
8

Setting
8

Budget: Low / Medium
Genre: Drama, Coming-of-Age

To put it simply, AMERICAN BUBBLE is an excellent script.

It's specific, detailed... thought-provoking, and difficult to put down. In addition to the complexities of the themes and messages, the structure of the script is incredibly sound. The tension builds steadily as the stakes of Amber's actions rise, but it always takes the time to allow the emotions of the moment to hold their own weight.

Overall, this is an incredibly strong script... AMERICAN BUBBLE has sound commercial prospects, particularly in the indie market space.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The American Dream is something many strive for, eluding them.

We've all faced moments when our backs are up against the wall, and we had to get up and fight back just to survive.

But what if the world we live in has created a constant need for this struggle?

Look around, people are constantly fighting just to survive.

So much so, we're all now fighting each other. Fighting against someone, or against something, just to survive.

In AMERICAN BUBBLE, Amber is a teenage white-girl who struggles to make ends meet. She is desperate. All the characters in this story face a struggle. But the more they fight to survive, the more their problems are exacerbated.

AMERICAN BUBBLE challenges us to question the need to constantly fight to survive, and to consider a different path in the midst of all the struggle.

AMERICAN BUBBLE is a deep look into what the American Dream proposes.

- Heidi Miami Marshall / Director

"An excellent script." – The BlackList

"It packs a punch. A firecracker worth attention." – BlueCat

"Strong, smarth, with universal appeal." – Int'l Screenwriters Association

"The script has the potential to become an award-winning film." – Write Movies

TO VIEW PROOF OF CONCEPT:

<https://vimeo.com/370258864>

TO VIEW HEIDI'S ADDITIONAL DIRECTING WORK:

- Short Film S.P.I.C. / **<https://vimeo.com/723853198>** / **PASSWORD: arepas**
- Short Film MUSCLE / **<https://www.shortoftheweek.com/2017/11/23/muscle/>**
- MORE THAN (digital web series, episode 4) / **<https://vimeo.com/568432679>**

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