



**AMERICAN  
BUBBLE**

INSPIRED BY THE NOVEL

*That White Girl*



**Desperate to save her mother from medical debt, 19-yr-old Amber enters the illicit world of high-grade hashish trafficking, only to discover the brutal truth of the American Dream.**

**Inspired by true events.**

## SYNOPSIS

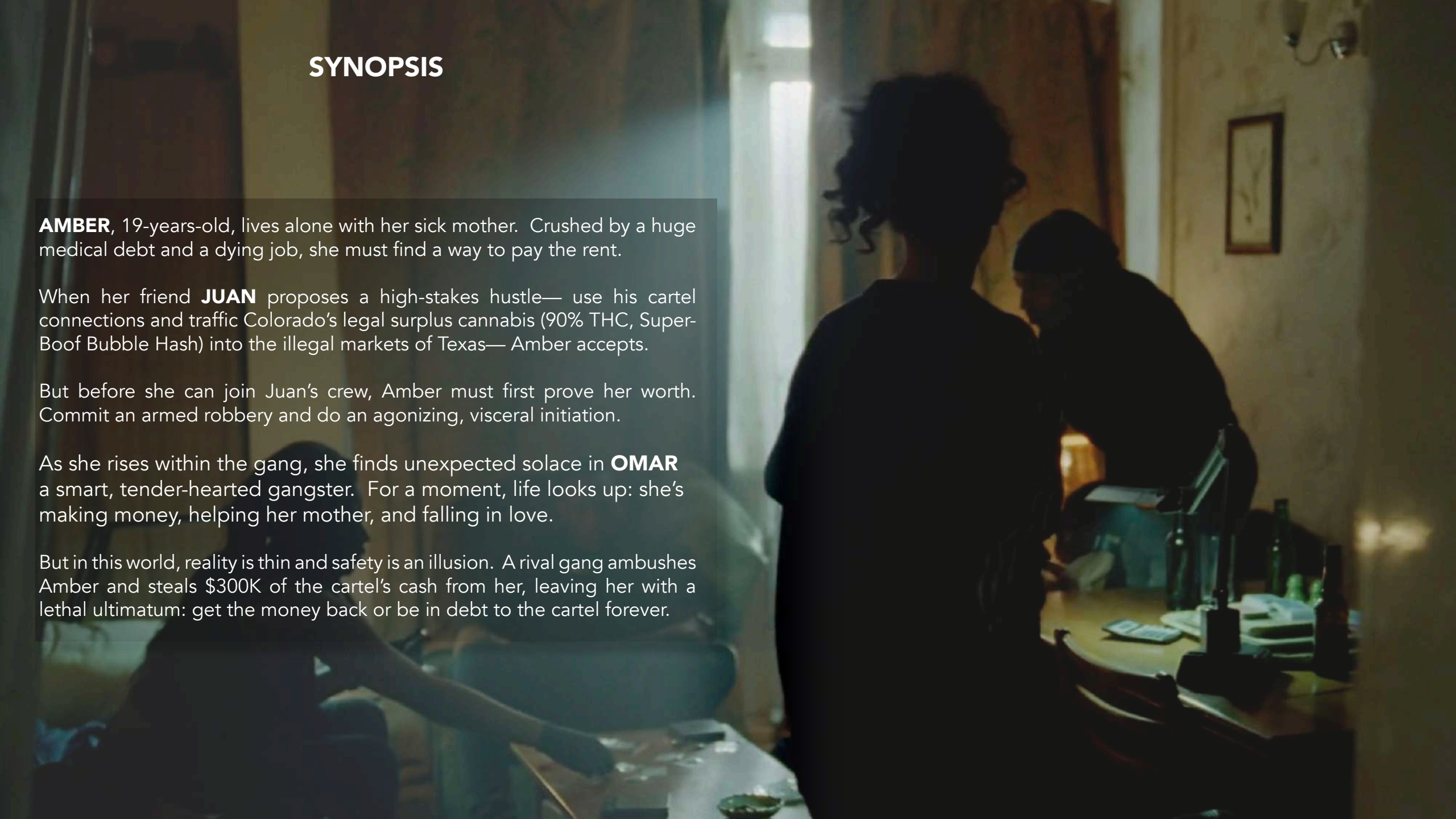
**AMBER**, 19-years-old, lives alone with her sick mother. Crushed by a huge medical debt and a dying job, she must find a way to pay the rent.

When her friend **JUAN** proposes a high-stakes hustle— use his cartel connections and traffic Colorado’s legal surplus cannabis (90% THC, Super-Boof Bubble Hash) into the illegal markets of Texas— Amber accepts.

But before she can join Juan’s crew, Amber must first prove her worth. Commit an armed robbery and do an agonizing, visceral initiation.

As she rises within the gang, she finds unexpected solace in **OMAR** a smart, tender-hearted gangster. For a moment, life looks up: she’s making money, helping her mother, and falling in love.

But in this world, reality is thin and safety is an illusion. A rival gang ambushes Amber and steals \$300K of the cartel’s cash from her, leaving her with a lethal ultimatum: get the money back or be in debt to the cartel forever.



## CAST ATTACHED



**Role / Amber** **JADE PETTYJOHN**

Starred in David E. Kelley's *BIG SKY*, and in *LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE* opposite Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington. Highlights include: *RIGHTEOUS GEMSTONES* with Danny McBride, John Goodman and *DESTROYER* with Nicole Kidman, *TRIAL BY FIRE* with Laura Dern, and Netflix's hit show *MONSTER*.



**Role / Beth:** **JULIANNE NICHOLSON**

EMMY WINNER (HBO's *MARE OF EAST-TOWN*), stars in the hit show *PARADISE*. Highlights: *THE AMATEUR* (20th Century), *DOPE GIRLS* (HULU), *TOGO* (Disney), *BLACK MASS*, *I, TONYA* (Academy Award), *JANET PLANET* (A24), *AUGUST OSAGE COUNTY* (Academy Award Nominee), *HACKS* (HBO), etc.. Julianne is known for her grounded, emotionally nuanced performances.

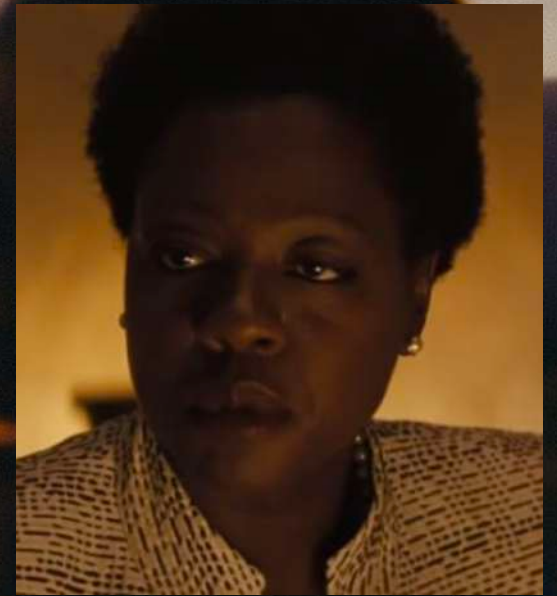
## CAST IDEAS

### ROLE: MADAME BOVARY

The definition of hidden depths. Ageless, maybe forty or sixty - we'll never know, and it doesn't matter. A wisdom in her eyes that both stops you and reassures. Highly discerning, tempered soul, measured. She can see past the illusion everyone's caught up in.



**HALLE BERRY**



**VIOLA DAVIS**



**KERRY WASHINGTON**



**REGINA HALL**



**LAKEITH STANFIELD**



**JOEY BADA\$\$**



**A\$AP ROCKY**  
(aka: Rakim Mayers)



**DONALD GLOVER**

## CAST IDEAS

### ROLE: T

Leader of The Sevens, earned his street-cred, lives by the code. But he's not unfair. Won't start a fight, but won't back down from one either. Big fish in a small pond. A real G, doesn't flex, not a show off. Formidable, man-in-charge. Quiet danger, commands respect.

## CAST IDEAS

### ROLE: CIENFUEGOS

Serious. Business-savvy. Real pro at making money. But what he does isn't just crime, it's *organized* crime. Heavily connected to cartels. Earner, not a soldier. But not afraid to lay down the law either. Seasoned, smart, high volume, mid-level. Not bottom of the food-chain.



**DANNY RAMÍREZ**



**DIEGO LUNA**



**ANTHONY RAMOS**



**ÉDGAR RAMÍREZ**

# CHARACTERS LOOK & FEEL





## THE SCRIPT

**"An excellent script."**  
– The BlackList

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

**"American Bubble is an impressive piece of work."**  
– Scriptapalooza

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

# COMPS



## FUITVALE STATION

Rating: RATED R  
Themes: Coming-Of-Age, Race, Poverty, American Dream



## AMERICAN HONEY

Rating: RATED R  
Themes: Coming-of-Age, Drugs, Poverty, American Dream



## MOONLIGHT

Rating: RATED R  
Themes: Coming-of-Age, Drugs, Poverty, Identity, LGBT



## EMILY THE CRIMINAL

Rating: RATED R  
Themes: Crime, Poverty, American Dream, Identity

## THEMES

**Our story takes place just outside America's Heartland Expressway .**

**A film inspired about a white girl who joins a Black and Latino street gang in America's Centennial Mountain West—and inspired by true events—is a story not seen on film before.**





**DIRECTOR: Heidi Miami Marshall** is a director and actor coach. Recognized for her ability to elicit outstanding, powerful actor performances, she directed Fantasia onto Broadway's THE COLOR PURPLE to critical acclaim. She was on-set actor coach for the film IN THE SUMMERS (Sundance Grand Jury Prize Winner), FRANK & LOUIS (Sundance 2026), LITTLE AMERICA (APPLE TV+), and the film TOX. She's coached top actors on many major screentests, including: Ruth Madeley on APPLE's upcoming film BEING HEUMANN, directed by Sian Header (Academy Award), Halle Bailey's LITTLE MERMAID (DISNEY), Jack Harlow's WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP, Michael Cimmino's LOVE, VICTOR (HULU), and many more. Heidi directed the multi-award-winning shorts MUSCLE, S.P.I.C., A through M, and most recently completed UNDERNEATH IT ALL, a short film on grief & hope. 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."*

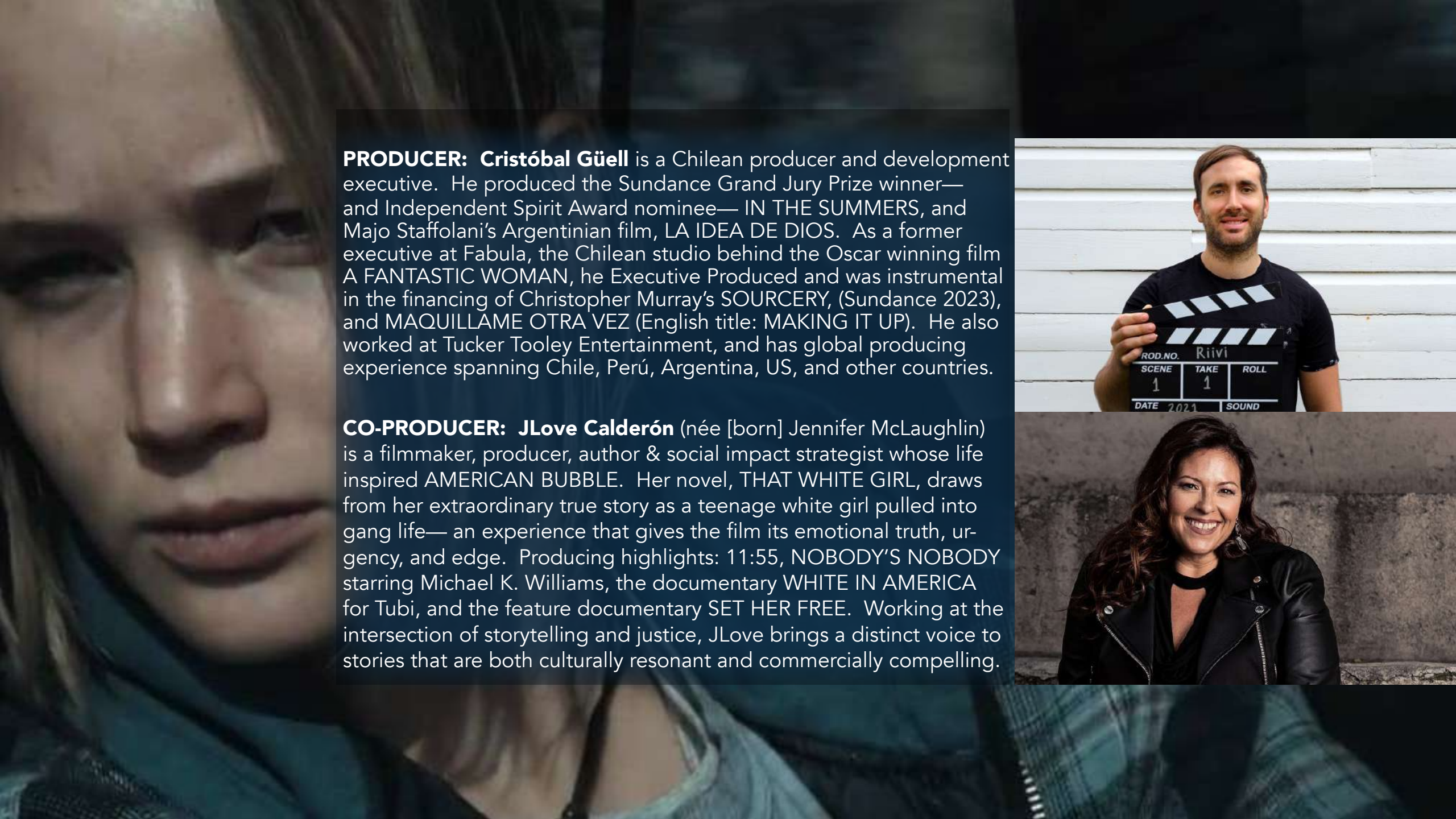


**WRITER: Johnny Sánchez** is known for his eye to artistic detail. He co-produced the highly critically acclaimed film FIND ME GUILTY directed by Sidney Lumet (Five Time Academy Award Nominee), starring Vin Diesel & Peter Dinklage, and EVEN MONEY starring Academy Award Winners Kim Basinger & Forest Whitaker. He wrote S.P.I.C. (inspired by true events from his youth), winner of best Cinema Writing Award at Blackbird Film Festival. He co-wrote & produced the upcoming short UNDERNEATH IT ALL (directed by Heidi). Johnny & Heidi are a husband-wife filmmaking team.



**WRITER: Khalil Kain** is an actor, writer, producer. His place in cinema history was solidified when he brought to life the indelible role of "Raheem", opposite Tupac Shakur, in the quintessential urban, hip-hop film JUICE. Khalil Associate Produced the film MISGUIDED BEHAVIOR, Exec Produced THE BRICKS and THE MILLENNIAL (that he also wrote & directed). He wrote LAMBS TO SLAUGHTER that was hailed by BroadwayWorld for its *"compelling, realistic dialogue"*. Other highlights include his work in Tyler Perry's for COLORED GIRLS, LOVE JONES, RENAISSANCE MAN, LIVING SINGLE and GIRLFRIENDS.





**PRODUCER: Cristóbal Güell** is a Chilean producer and development executive. He produced the Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner—and Independent Spirit Award nominee— *IN THE SUMMERS*, and Majo Staffolani’s Argentinian film, *LA IDEA DE DIOS*. As a former executive at Fabula, the Chilean studio behind the Oscar winning film *A FANTASTIC WOMAN*, he Executive Produced and was instrumental in the financing of Christopher Murray’s *SOURCERY*, (Sundance 2023), and *MAQUILLAME OTRA VEZ* (English title: *MAKING IT UP*). He also worked at Tucker Tooley Entertainment, and has global producing experience spanning Chile, Perú, Argentina, US, and other countries.

**CO-PRODUCER: JLove Calderón** (née [born] Jennifer McLaughlin) is a filmmaker, producer, author & social impact strategist whose life inspired *AMERICAN BUBBLE*. Her novel, *THAT WHITE GIRL*, draws from her extraordinary true story as a teenage white girl pulled into gang life— an experience that gives the film its emotional truth, urgency, and edge. Producing highlights: *11:55*, *NOBODY’S NOBODY* starring Michael K. Williams, the documentary *WHITE IN AMERICA* for Tubi, and the feature documentary *SET HER FREE*. Working at the intersection of storytelling and justice, JLove brings a distinct voice to stories that are both culturally resonant and commercially compelling.



**DIRECTOR SAMPLES**



**S.P.I.C.**

<https://vimeo.com/723853198>

**PASSWORD: arepas**



**MUSCLE**

<https://vimeo.com/211719206>



**UNDERNEATH IT ALL**

<https://vimeo.com/1053629523>

**PASSWORD: mushrooms**



**PROOF OF CONCEPT**  
**AMERICAN BUBBLE**

<https://vimeo.com/370258864>

## ART AND FACT



### From Heidi (director), Khalil and Johnny (writers):

The journey began with a single, profound life story about a teenage girl from Colorado who joins a street gang. But this isn't a reenactment.

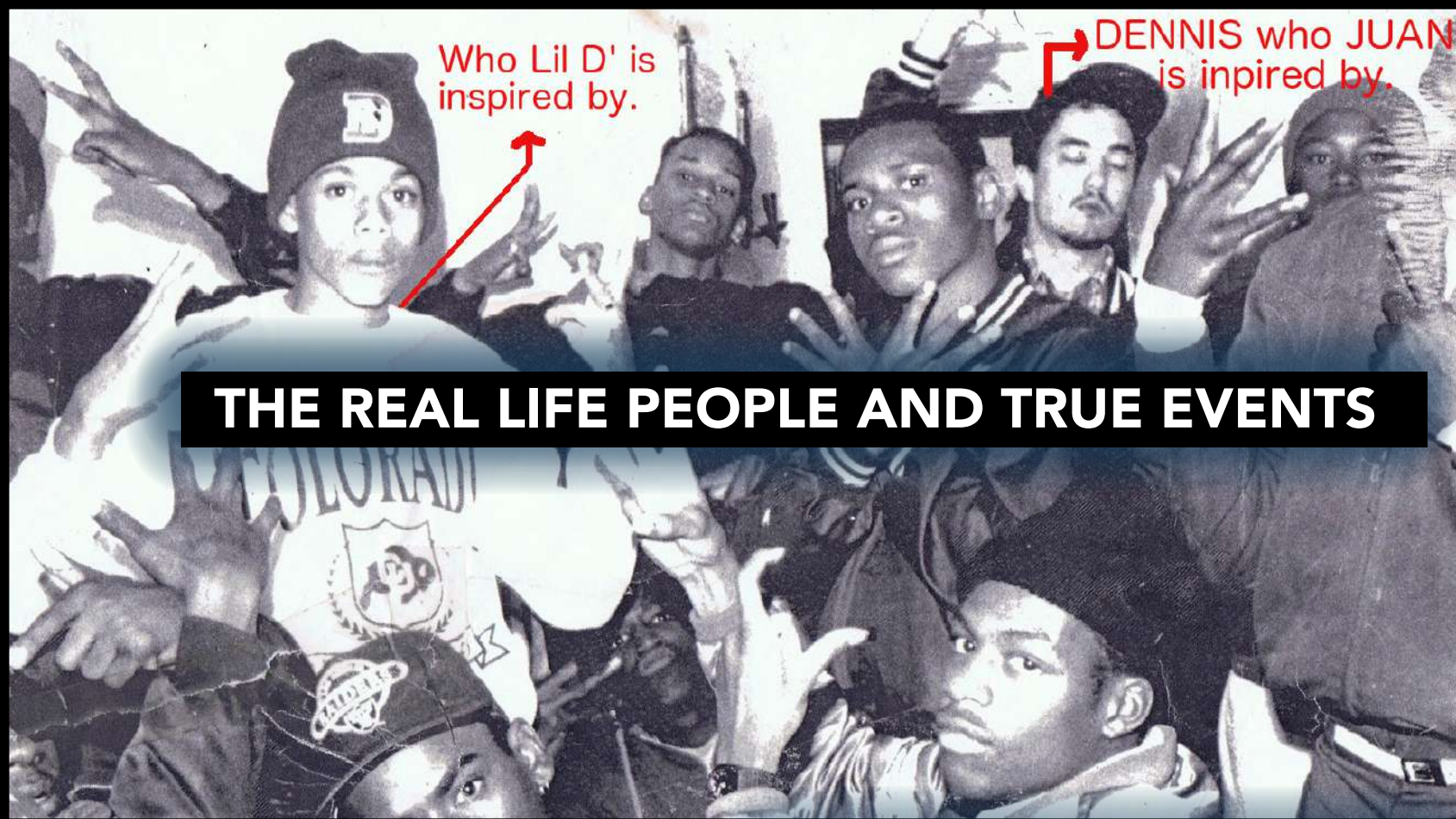
We're capturing the moral heart and spirit of the community from which this story grew.

Our responsibility is to the emotional depth and truth of the narrative. We've utilized license to condense timelines, dramatize events and update the issues for today's audience, and each creative choice is made with a deep reverence for the soul of the original experience. We aim to tell a story that feels just as real as the people.

### From JLove (co-producer):

I've been a bridge between production and the world of gangs I lived in. Throughout the process, I've shared my 'compass' so that even when the film takes its imaginative, creative leaps, it remains anchored in the values, atmosphere, and dignity of the community I come from. I am proud to stand behind this film as a legitimate, heartfelt reflection of the spirit. I am further excited to bring my work in **social impact strategy**.

Together, our team has collaborated to ensure that AMERICAN BUBBLE is not just a movie about one person, but a movie that honors all the people this story came from. We invite you to experience this story not as a biography, but as a cinematic tribute to a very real journey.



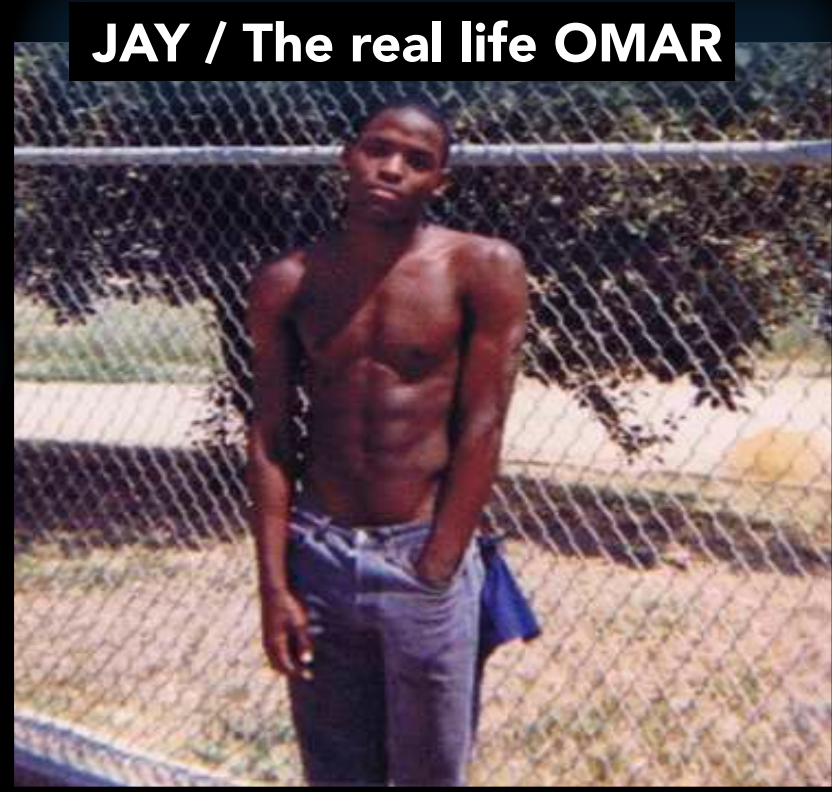
Who Lil D' is inspired by.

DENNIS who JUAN is inspired by.

**THE REAL LIFE PEOPLE AND TRUE EVENTS**



**DENNIS / The real life JUAN**



**JAY / The real life OMAR**



**JENNY / The real life AMBER**

**Colorado's Rocky Mountain News**

**COURT WATCH**

6-27-90  
**Man sentenced in slaying**

Jay Mason pleaded guilty yesterday to reckless manslaughter and first-degree assault in the stabbing death of reputed rival gang member Melvin McFalls during a fight at the Beck Recreation Center in Aurora on Nov. 10. The prosecution and defense stipulated Mason would receive a 16-year prison term. First-degree murder.

charges were dropped as part of the plea bargain. Sorl Shead Jr. stands trial later this year on murder charges stemming from the incident. Both Shead and Mason are alleged members of the Crips street gang.

Jay Mason, who Omar is based on.

## STATEMENT

When asked why we're making this film, the answer is as complex as America itself.

Beyond its premise, this intimate story mirrors the nation itself, weaving together the intersectional layers of class, race, and gender — and their ultimate unraveling.

We are driven by the truth of the America we know: a daily, multi-ethnic class struggle.

From the streets of Colorado, to meeting the real Omar, and the actual rival gang, we've witnessed the rawness of those the American Dream leaves behind.

**AMERICAN BUBBLE** isn't just a story; it's a challenge to look deeper at a culture that fosters a constant, painful cycle of survival.

This film reflects that **verity** — a story that demands to be told — and that's why we're **unwavering** in our mission to share it.

## CONTACT

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