

DEMISE
HARP

AMBASSADOR
ANDREW
YOUNG

WARRICK
DUNN

TRUE FREEDOM

TODAY IS A GIFT, IT'S CALLED THE PRESENT.

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY ISSAC INGRAM WRITTEN BY ISSAC INGRAM & NAZ PANKEY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NICK LAUNGER
EDITED BY TOREY HAAS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TOREY HAAS PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER HARPER W. HARRIS GRIP & ASSISTANT CAMERA SAM CHO
COSTUME DESIGNER ASHLEY SKELLY ASSISTANT WARDROBE STYLIST MERRY WALDROUP MAKE-UP & HAIR ASHLEY SKELLY
PRODUCTION DESIGNER CHRISTY GRABLE PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS MARY INGRAM & DONTA' MULWEE
SOUND EDITOR HARPER W. HARRIS ASSISTANT EDITOR JAMES JORDAN

FILM INFORMATION

FILM TITLE

True Freedom

TAG LINE

Today is a gift, that's why its called the present.

CONTACT INFO

Team Freedom Outreach

5305 Haverford Mill Cove

Lilburn, GA 30047

truefreedomfilm.com

Issac Ingram - Producer Writer & Director

(770) 376-0585

TECHNICAL INFO

Running Time: 28:39

Exhibition Format: DCP

Aspect Ratio: 2.40

Shooting Format: Digital HD RAW

CREDITS

CAST

Andrew Young: Mr. Moore

Warrick Dunn: Counselor

Demise Harp: Freeman

Jason Francisco Blue: Truett

Nicole M. Williams: Grace

Andrew R. McCallister: Master Jeff

Naima Carter Russell: Gloria

Nick Peruto: Van

Jared Warren: Doctor

Jay Michael Isbell: Clyde

Hailey Swartwout: Receptionist

Lonell Holliday: TV Commercial Actor

Elijah Joiner: Tre

Christopher Daniel: Young Freeman

William J. Simmons: Peter

Ky'zen Mitchell: Daniel

Kamrin Roberts: Young Tre

Presley Ingram Brooks: Granddaughter

CREW

Issac Ingram: Producer Director & Writer

Nadira "Naz" Pankey: Writer

Torey Haas: Assistant Director & Editor

Ashley Skelly: Costume Designer, Make-up & Hair

Harper W. Harris: Supervising Sound Editor & Production Sound Mixer

Sam Cho: Grip and Assistant Camera

Merry Waldroup: Assistant Wardrobe Stylist

Christy Grable: Production Designer

James Jordan: Assistant Editor

Mary Ingram: Production Assistant

Donta' Mulwee: Production Assistant

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Short Film TRUE FREEDOM seeks to bring awareness about the effects of Abandonment

Atlanta, GA-May 2, 2022

After his father leave the family, a black kid “Freeman” grows up to build a time machine to save his mom, but when he ends up in the year 1860, the real insight begins when he brings “Truett” a slave to the year 2014. The new narrative short film follows “Freeman” a brilliant engineer who has built a time machine and is attempting to travel back to the night his mother died. The irony is that now “Freeman” learns that his estranged father who abandoned the family 12 years earlier with addiction issues is now clean and wants to see “Freeman” and his brother. “Freeman” refuses to see him.

The film explores the internal emotional journey “Freeman” undertakes when he mistakenly ends up in 1860 but brings back a slave, husband, and father “Truett” to the year 2014. “True Freedom” is a story about abandonment, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Most of “True Freedom” was filmed at The Atlanta History Center which features a farmhouse and slave quarters built in the 1800’s.

Metro Atlanta based Issac Ingram wrote, directed, and produced the film to bring awareness to abandonment issues and stop the stigma of mental health counseling in underserved communities. Ingram is the founder of Team Freedom Outreach, an all-volunteer group of Christian men who visit and mentor kids in Juvenile Detention Centers.

When asked what motivated him, Ingram replied, “One of the biggest problems “At Risk” youth face is abandonment especially by their fathers that they don’t talk about. My hope is mentoring programs across the county will view the film and spark engaging conversations about abandonment issues so that healing can begin.”

Ambassador Andrew Young, UN Ambassador under Jimmy Carter, as well as former NFL running back Warrick Dunn donated to the film by playing the roles of a mentor and a counselor, respectively. Ingram’s goal is to distribute the film to mentor mentee programs across the country so that they can bring awareness to abandonment issues. He is currently in the process of entering the film in film festivals around the world.

“True Freedom” was produced with support from Aetna / CVS Health, H. J. Russell & Company, and John Dough LLC. [True Freedom Short Film Trailer](#)

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Director's Statement

“True Freedom” is my directorial debut. I must admit at first I never wanted to direct “True Freedom”. I heard Michelle Obama tell a story back in 2008 that inspired me. She explained that she never wanted her husband to run for office or to be the first lady. She had never planned for that type of life. Mrs. Obama told the story that she began to see things differently when she visited a beauty shop in South Carolina. A young black girl that could not have been more than 5 or 6 years old asked her “If your husband becomes president, you will be the first lady?” Mrs. Obama told her yes and immediately the young black girl began to cry. She then realized that just young black girls seeing her as the first lady, could bring about hope and inspiration to so many.

I thought about that story and realized that “True Freedom” could also be an inspiration. “To whom much is given, much is required.” I now understand that statement better than ever before. The amazing cast, crew and financial supporters for “True Freedom” are living proof that God answers prayer.

In 2007, I saw Lovie Smith and Tony Dungy (the first two African American coaches to coach a Superbowl) appear in a 15 second commercial about becoming a mentor with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Hearing them stress the importance of mentoring encouraged me to become a mentor. I started volunteering at a local youth detention center shortly after.

In 2011, I started a non-profit organization called Team Freedom Outreach. We are an all-volunteer group of Christian men who mentor “At Risk” youth in youth detention centers the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month. In an effort to get more volunteers, I wrote a short film. When former NFL Star Michael Vick volunteered to make a public service announcement at the end of the video, I learned the powerful impact of short films.

Approximately 85% of boys in youth detention centers do not have a man living in their household. One of the biggest problems “At Risk” youth face are abandonment issues that they do not talk about. I was inspired to produce a short film that can help to bring awareness to abandonment issues, encourage professional mental health counseling and eliminate stigma related to therapy.

At the end of this film, I want mentoring programs to discuss the 5 Phases of Abandonment called S.W.I.R.L which stands for Shattering, Withdrawal, Internalizing, Rage and Lifting. Susan Anderson, a psychotherapist who has studied abandonment for over 30 years, discovered a pattern of S.W.I.R.L in those who had been abandoned.

In Ms. Maya Angelou’s poem “Still I Rise” she says “I am the hope and the dream of the slave”. After years of visiting many African American kids in youth detention centers, I began to grasp that many of them do not realize how much their slave ancestors went through, with the hopes that future generations could experience true freedom.

In 1860, slaves may have been hearing rumors about a civil war but did not know what would happen. For a slave to wake up in the year 2014 to see an African American family at the highest position in the land would truly be their wildest dream come true.

A 15 second commercial motivated me to volunteer for over a decade. I have hope “True Freedom” will inspire conversation about abandonment while it encourages forgiveness and reconciliation so that healing can begin.



Overview



SHORT FILM TITLE: *True Freedom*

TAGLINE: *Today is a gift, that is why it's called the present.*

AUTHOR: Issac Ingram & Naz Pankey (Short Film Screenplay)

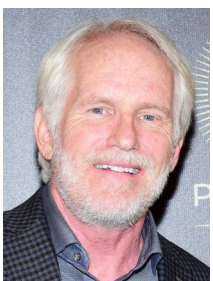
LOGLINE: *After his father leaves the family, a black kid grows up to build a time machine to save his mom but when he ends up in the year 1860, the real insight begins when he brings a slave to the year 2014.*

LONG SYNOPSIS: On the same night Freeman, a brilliant 22 year-old black engineer, is about to test a time machine he has built, receives a call from his mentor Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore informs Freeman that his father has been clean and sober working as a janitor for 1 year and wants to see Freeman and his brother. Freeman refuses to see his father because he abandoned the family 12 years earlier. Freeman has built the time machine to go back to the night his mom died 4 years ago to try and save her life.

During his attempt to go back in time, the time machine mistakenly takes him back to the year 1860. Freeman hides the time machine but is captured as a slave. Freeman is forced to live with a slave family Truett, his wife Grace and their two boys aged 8 and 6. On the day Freeman finally figures out how to repair the time machine to return home, Truett is beaten unconscious and may die without medical attention. Freeman reveals to Truett's wife Grace that he is from the future and tells her she must decide if Freeman can go with him to the future to live even though she may never see him again. Grace decides to allow Truett to go to the future with Freeman.

Truett wakes up 154 years in the future at Freeman's house. Freeman explains his true-identity to Truett and how they arrived in the future. Truett immediately wants to know what happened to his family but Freeman does not know. Although Truett is joyful about the thought of no more slavery, he explains to Freeman that if he cannot be with his family, it's not true freedom. Truett wants to return to his family no matter the circumstances. Freeman shows Truett the Obama family currently in the White House. At the sight of a black first family leading the nation, Truett weeps.

Freeman takes Truett back to the year 1860. Truett reunites with his wife and kids. Upon seeing Truett's love for his family, Freeman returns to 2014 and reconciles with his father.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: BOB HERCULES is a Peabody Award-winning filmmaker whose work has been seen widely on PBS, the Discovery Channel, IFC, The Learning Channel and through television syndication worldwide. His 2016 film, "Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise", is the first film made about the remarkable writer/activist/performer.

In 2007, Mr. Hercules also produced the documentary "Senator Obama Goes To Africa" which follows then Senator Barrack Obama as he makes an emotional journey to his father's homeland of Kenya in Africa.

Philanthropists/Actors



Ambassador Andrew Young is nothing less than a living legend. He worked as Executive Director of the Southern Leadership Council (SCLC) where he became a top strategist and trusted friend of Dr. Martin Luther King in the 1960's.

In 1972, Young became a United States Congressman and in 1977 President Jimmy Carter appointed him United States Ambassador to the United Nations. As Ambassador he became a champion for human rights around the world.

Young became Mayor of Atlanta in 1982 serving two remarkable terms and is credited with transforming the city into an international metropolis. It was largely because of his international influence that Atlanta was chosen to host the Centennial Olympic Games in 1996, which Ambassador Young served as co-chair.

Ambassador Andrew Young's voice over donation playing the role of "Mr. Moore", the main character's mentor, is an incredible example of his commitment to positively impact lives.



Warrick Dunn has one of the best comeback kid stories you will ever hear. Raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Warrick Dunn was the oldest of six to his single mother, Betty Smothers. Betty worked tirelessly as a police officer until January 7th, 1993, when she was ambushed and killed while escorting a businesswoman to make a night deposit. Warrick was only 18 years old.

Thrust into the role of head of the household, Warrick used his mother's life insurance to purchase a home for his younger siblings. In the midst of the tragedy, Warrick was also being heavily recruited as a senior out of Catholic High School to play football. He would ultimately choose to fulfill his mother's dream and play at Florida State University.

Dunn, with the help of his grandmother, managed to both parent and be a brother to his siblings from afar, while becoming one of the best backs the Seminoles have ever seen. In 1997, Dunn was drafted 12th overall to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

As a rookie for Tampa Bay, Warrick founded the Warrick Dunn Foundation Homes for the Holidays program to fulfill his mother's dream of home ownership for single parent families. The program partners with local organizations to turn houses into homes for single parent families through home furnishings and down-payment assistance. Since its inception, Homes for the Holidays has furnished 169 homes, provided over \$800,000 in down-payment assistance, and served over 457 single parents and children.

Dunn joined the Atlanta Falcons in 2002. During his tenure, he began going to therapy and became an advocate for mental health awareness. Upon being unanimously approved by NFL owners, in 2010 Dunn achieved his life long dream of becoming a limited partner and minority owner of the Atlanta Falcons.

Dunn donated by playing the role of the main character's mental health therapist. An advocate of counseling himself, Dunn's contribution can help stop the stigma concerning mental health counseling.



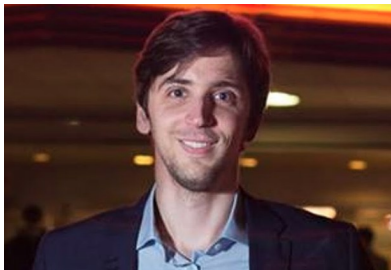
Issac Ingram is a native-born Metro Atlanta Georgia-based screenwriter, producer, father, husband and first time director. He founded Team Freedom Outreach, an all volunteer group of Christian men that mentors kids at youth detention centers. He wrote and produced an infomercial about Team Freedom Outreach which inspired an appearance and public service announcement endorsement from NFL quarterback Michael Vick. Inspired by black creative directors and talents like Robert Townsend, Spike Lee, Tyler Perry, Ryan Cooglar and Ava Duvernay, Ingram found the courage to write and direct the short film “True Freedom”.

Ingram is currently promoting the short film “True Freedom” with the hopes mentor/mentee programs will use it to bring awareness to the negative effects of abandonment. He also hopes the short film will be made into a feature one day.



Nadira “Naz” Pankey is an Atlanta, Georgia-based author, screenwriter, producer, mother, daughter, sister, and woman. She holds a degree in Media Studies and Television Production. Pankey worked on several syndicated television shows such as The Steve Wilkos Show, Jerry Springer, Maury, and Divorce Court. Her accomplishments range from publishing her first book, “Evergreen Uprooted” to writing, producing, directing, and editing short films.

Some of her films and screenplays have been selected and placed in notable film festivals such as the Austin Film Festival. Pankey has a slate of content that ranges from gritty drama to Afro-futurism. Pankey embodies the type of person that is gifted, driven, and dedicated to creating content that will touch and inspire the world.



Torey Haas He is the co-director of the anthology films *Dead By Midnight* and *Dead By Midnight 2: Y2Kill* and the producer of the web series *#PrettyFunny*. His first film *The Neon Dead* is currently available from Wild Eye Releasing, and he has also worked as an editor and visual effects artist on films such as *The Elf on the Shelf Presents: An Elf’s Story*, *V/H/S: Viral*, *The Angry Video Game Nerd Movie*, and *Frankenstein Created Bikers*.



Ashley Skelly is an Atlanta based Creative Director using her skills and experience in hair, makeup, costuming, and set design. Ashley moved to Atlanta in 2011 after graduating Paul Mitchell School for hair and makeup. Since her move to Atlanta, Ashley has been working in photography, film, theater, and entertainment. Her background and experience have helped her incorporate different skill sets and perspectives into her work. Utilizing her skills in communication to oversee creative direction, Ashley collaborates closely with her clients to help bring their vision and Art to Life. Ashley has also helped put together and manage creative teams on many productions. She is always utilizing her resources and experience to bring the most to any project she is working on.



Nick Lauinger is Director of Photography from Atlanta, GA. He has passionately worked on many films for over 10 years. An alumnus of Georgia State University, Nick has gone on to work on a wide variety of projects such as feature films, live events, and commercials.



Harper W. Harris is an award-winning sound designer and production sound mixer based in Atlanta, Georgia. His clients include Lifetime, Home Depot, iHeart Radio, and You42. You can hear his work as a foley artist and sound effects editor on recent releases like *Creepshow*, *The Waltons: Homecoming*, and *The Stranger She Brought Home*.



Merry Waldroup is a professional photographer with 50 years of experience working in fashion, portraits, corporate events and architecture. This has fueled her passion for set design and wardrobe styling in both still photography and film. Her work has been featured across national and regional publications, digital media, art installations, events and film. an award-winning sound designer and production sound mixer based in Atlanta, Georgia.



Samuel Cho is an award winning artists and content creator based out of Atlanta, GA. In 2018, he co-founded a company called Polly Visuals, a creative agency that produces strategic content for corporations, brands, artists, and local businesses. He has worked in a variety of roles, such as a Camera Op, Producer, AD, Editor, AC, and Grip for brands like Delta Airlines, Equifax, AT&T, Mailchimp, Visible Mobile, Kinetic Sand, CoComelon, and more. His background as a dancer, musician, and martial artist has played a huge influence on his creative style and life. Currently, he is co-producing a documentary series highlighting his breakdance crew, Lost In The Gym.

Actors



Demise Harp is a Film and Television actor based in Atlanta, GA. He first appeared in a Foot Locker commercial with Tracy Morgan before landing his first television credit in Donald Glover's 'Atlanta'. He was most recently seen in Showtime's 'Your Honor' opposite Carmen Ejogo. Harp has had an affinity for entertaining people from a very young age, initially through comedy, though that affinity has evolved into a full-blown passion for storytelling. This passion has pushed him to continue developing his tools and exploring his gamut of emotions so he's better able to truthfully deliver any director's vision.



Jason Francisco Blue is an actor born and raised in Atlanta, Ga. He got his first taste of acting in high school when he joined up with the drama club in 10th grade. After high school, he went to college at Georgia State University and took Theatre as a minor and Speech as a major. During his tenure at GSU, he joined the Airforce Reserves for a bit and worked as a hydraulics mechanic. However, it wasn't his true calling. Eventually he got representation with People Store Talent Agency in November of 2017. Since then he has been in a few commercials, short films and he is looking to do more TV/film related work. In addition to his passion for film, he also has a desire to write for TV/film and start his own band.



Nicole M. Williams began her career as an actor in Augusta, Ga at the Augusta Mini Theatre. After graduating high school she went on to earn my B.F.A. of Musical Theatre at Brenau University. Since then she had the amazing experience of working as a Jedi at Walt Disney World Theme Park, a Wizard at Universal Studios Orlando, and a Host at Nickelodeon Suites Resort. She has also worked internationally at Universal Studios Japan.



Andrew R McCallister is a Multi-Award Winning American Film and Television actor based out of Atlanta, GA. He first began acting in Voice Over, voicing over a dozen characters and commercial ads. He has since gone on to produce "Cameras Rolling", the series "Finding Mister Right Now" and "Gerald's Hands". He stars in films such as "For Charlene", the hit show "30331" and the upcoming feature films "Gerald's Hands" and "Out On A Lim".



Naima Carter Russell is an Atlanta resident, FSU Alumnus and a *Suzi Bass Award* winner for her role as Felicia Farrell in *Memphis* (Aurora Theater / Theatrical Outfit). Other regional credits include: *The Nacirema Society...* and *Christmas Carol* (Alliance Theatre); *Big Fish* and *Godspell* (Theatrical Outfit); *Tranced* and *Lark Eden* (Aurora Theatre); *Antigone* (Georgia Shakespeare), *Caroline, or Change* (St. Louis Black Rep), *Rejoice* (True Colors Theatre Company). Film/TV credits include: *House of Payne*, *Let's Stay Together*, and *Banshee*. She is a passionate children's book reviewer and shares the drama of mothering 2 girls @DramaMamaReads on Instagram.

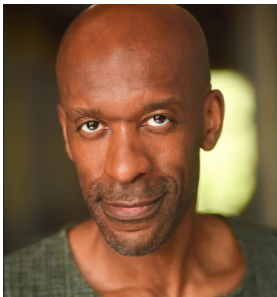
Actors



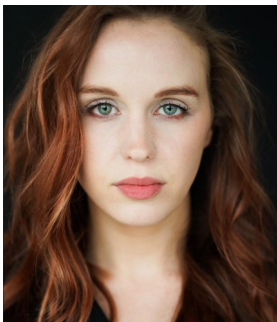
Shea Jenee first began her passion for entertainment in musical theater as a child. She loved all things entertainment, music, dance and acting. Somewhere along the way she fell off and took a break from it all. Soon to return back to her love and passion her senior year of college when she was asked by a friend to be in school play. She found herself wanting to drop out of school and to pursue acting even more. Instead, she completed her degree and began training everywhere she could. Settling down in Atlanta, Georgia she is now learning her way around the industry taking on some new titles as producer, director, editor, and writer on two new tv series that will be released late 2022 early 2023. This is only the beginning for Shea Jenee so be on the lookout for her upcoming projects.



Nick Peruto is a 2018 film school graduate. Originally from Philadelphia, he now lives in Atlanta, emerging himself in the well-known film industry. Nick has worked on many video projects in Philadelphia, consisting of client work and short films. Now in Atlanta, Nick has been networking and getting involved with others on projects being filmed here in Atlanta. Nick's specialties include Videography, Sound Editing, Camera Work, Editing and Color Grading. In addition to working behind the camera, Nick has had some opportunities in front of the camera as well, acting.



Jay Michael Isbell is a local son born and raised in the Atlanta, GA area. He enjoys and has been cast in a variety of projects on stage, film, television, and immersion theatre. Jay has a huge love for music and dancing, remains actively fit through body sculpting & officiating basketball, and takes pride in maintaining a healthy lawn.



Hailey Swartwout is an actor, director and writer based in Atlanta, GA. As a kid, whenever somebody would ask, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" She would reply with my best Martin Short voice, "I want to be an actor!" quoting one of his lines from Saturday Night Live. Following that same dream she had as a little girl, Hailey works seasonally with Vernal and Sere Theatre Company. She was discovered on the film festival circuit with a film she produced, wrote and starred in (TRAFFIC). She is consistently training to grow her craft."



Elijah Joiner was born in Metro Atlanta. He has been volunteer acting since 2011. He played a kid in a Youth Detention Center visited by members of the non-profit organization Team Freedom Outreach. In 2017, Joiner displayed his acting ability by playing the lead role in an all-volunteer community music video called "Volunteer Somewhere". Joiner was recruited by Team Freedom Outreach again to bring life to the character "Tre" in the final scene of the "True Freedom"

Child/Actors



Christopher Daniel is an actor based out of Atlanta. Christopher first began acting at the age of 5 doing commercials and short films. His film credits include DMZ (2022), Respect (2021), March (2020) and a NBC TV pilot Dangerous Moms. While still young in his career, he has worked with A-List directors such as Ava DuVernay, Liesl Tommy, Janine Sherman Barrios as well as actors Rosario Dawson, Jennifer Hudson, Telma Hopkins and many others.



William J. Simmons is a native of Atlanta, GA. He is an elementary school student with a passion for acting, dancing, basketball & football. William has been trained in modeling & acting by coaches in NYC, Nashville & Atlanta. He stars in box office films such as "Respect", "Last Looks", national commercials like "The General Insurance", TV series "Tales of the Walking Dead" and has been featured in several music videos.



Ky'zen Mitchell is a 7 year old American Film and Television Actor based out of Atlanta, Georgia. Ky'zen is an alumni of XXI Century Entertainment which he attended when he was 4 years of age. Since then he has appeared in "End Of The Night", as well as music videos such as Mac Powell's "Meet The River" and Almighty Jays "Battlin My Spirit". Ky'zen has also appeared in the short film "Kim" and numerous voice overs including "Paw Patrol".



Kamrin Roberts is a middle schooler in his free time he enjoys playing video games such as Fortnite he also enjoys playing outdoors with his friends. Kamrin landed his first T.V. role in the hit show *Homicide Hunters*. Kamrin has been blessed to be apart of many top student short films background work such as *Thunder Force* and *Lovecraft Country*. Kamrin hopes to become a film director sometime in the future.



Presley Ingram Brooks is starring in her debut role as the "Granddaughter" in True Freedom short film. The now 3-year-old Metro Atlanta born actress loves roller skating, singing, dancing and of course her make up. She will be starring in an upcoming spec-commercial due out in late 2022.