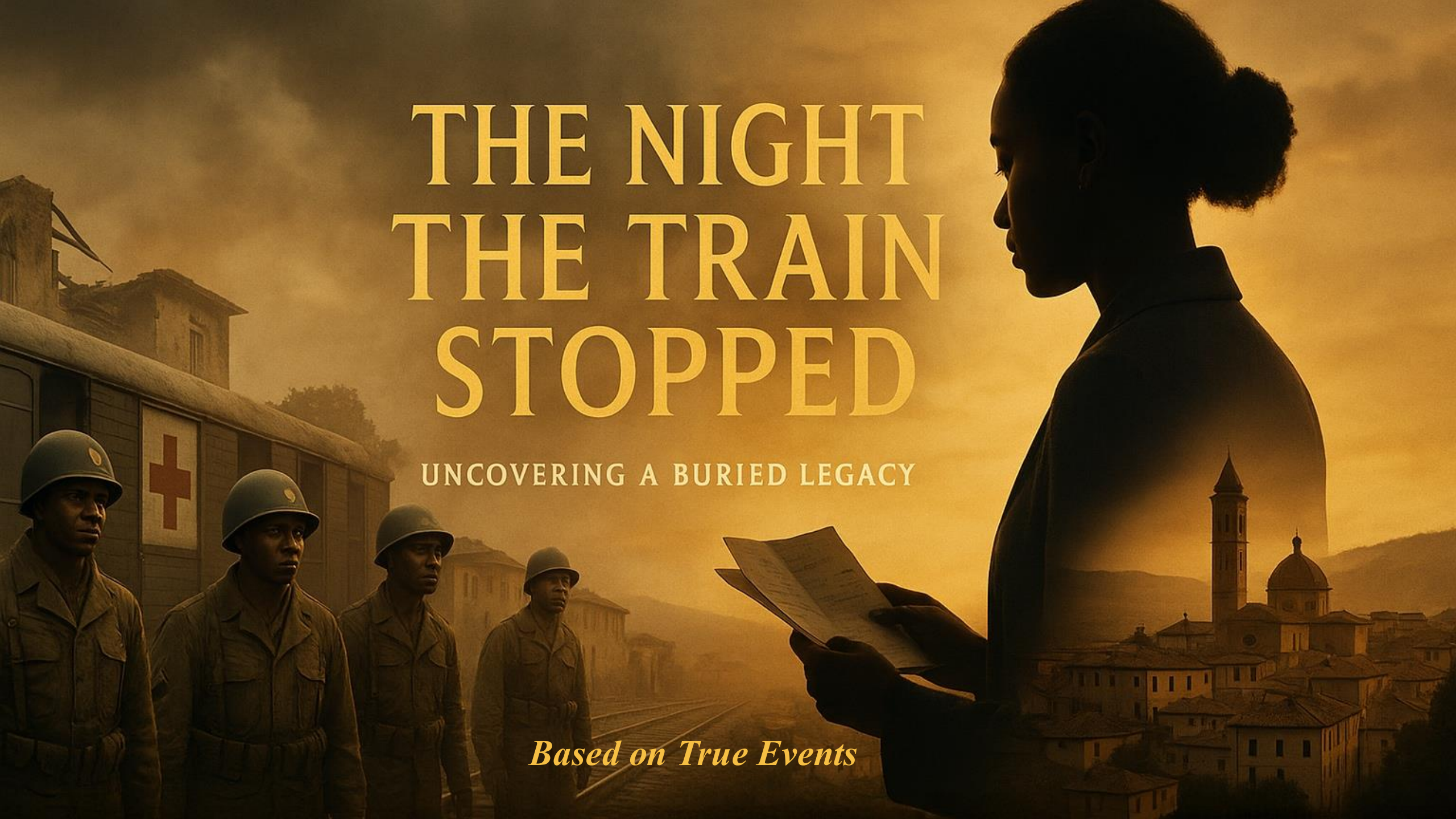


THE NIGHT THE TRAIN STOPPED

UNCOVERING A BURIED LEGACY

Based on True Events



Based on True Events

THE NIGHT THE TRAIN STOPPED



A past uncovered. A legacy restored.

TITLE: *The Night the Train Stopped*

Based on True Events

GENRE: Historical Drama / Mystery / Dual Timeline

TOPE: Reflective, emotional, sweeping, rooted in truth

BUDGET: \$5-7M cast dependent

LOGLINE

When a modern-day teacher arrives in a quiet Italian village, she uncovers the buried legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers—an African American WWII unit whose courage and compassion once saved the town—sparking a journey that binds past and present and transforms her understanding of who she is.



SYNOPSIS

The Night the Train Stopped is a sweeping historical drama that connects modern-day America with wartime Italy through a forgotten story of sacrifice.

When Maya Thompson, a Black American teacher seeking renewal, moves to a quiet Italian village, she uncovers the hidden legacy of the 92nd Quartermaster Company (**Buffalo Soldiers**)—an African American unit sent to Foligno during the final days of WWII. Expecting routine burial duty, the soldiers instead found themselves tending to abandoned survivors of Nazi retreat routes, forging deep bonds with the townspeople as they struggled to preserve humanity in the face of atrocity.

As Maya pieces together their story through artifacts, letters, and memories of an aging villager, she discovers her own connection to the Buffalo Soldiers who changed the village's fate, reigniting a light history nearly extinguished.



MODERN TIMELINE (FRAME STORY)

Maya Thompson, a gifted but emotionally drained Black American teacher, accepts a short-term appointment in a small Italian village, hoping distance will provide clarity in her life. Upon arrival, she is fascinated by a local legend: a mysterious train that stopped during the final days of WWII, changing the course of the village forever.

Drawn into the mystery, Maya meets **Giuseppe**, an elderly resident who still remembers that night as he reveals fragments of a story involving **Buffalo Soldiers**—Black American soldiers—whose presence saved the village from being completely lost to the final wave of Nazi brutality.

Maya discovers letters, military tags, and personal effects hidden in an old chest—clues that ignite her search for truth.



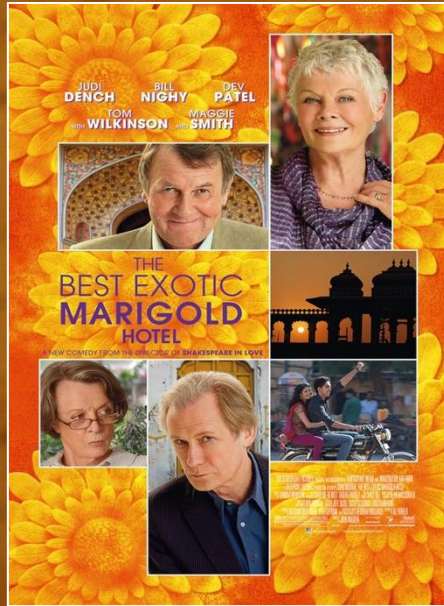
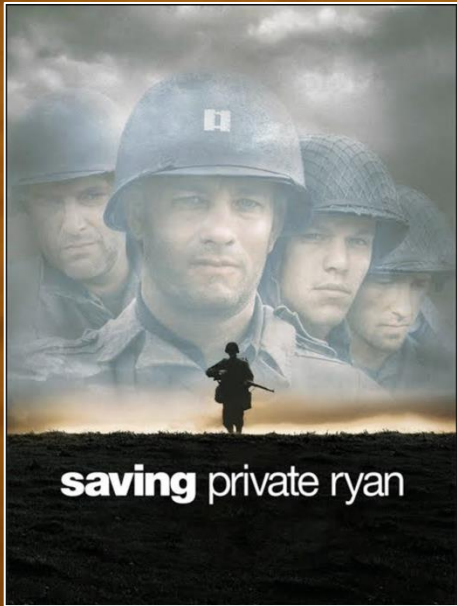
WARTIME TIMELINE

In 1944, the **92nd Quartermaster Company**, a segregated African American military unit nicknamed the **Buffalo Soldiers**, is dispatched to **Foligno**, a town shattered by the retreating German army. Tasked with burial detail, the soldiers are prepared for grim work—yet nothing in their training anticipates what they find.

Led by a steady, soft-spoken sergeant, the unit discovers survivors—starving, emaciated, abandoned by fleeing Nazis. Against protocol, the soldiers intervene. They care for the sick, rescue the wounded, bury the dead with dignity, and stand guard over the vulnerable.

Working side by side with the villagers, the men forge bonds that transcend language and expectation. They witness the worst of humanity but choose, again and again, to act with compassion. Their presence becomes the thin line between total devastation and survival.





GENRE, TONE & STYLE

Sweeping and intimate, *The Night the Train Stopped*, blends the historical scope of *Saving Private Ryan* with the emotional discovery of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and the reflective soul of *The Notebook*. With rich Italian backdrops and a haunting score, the film bridges past and present—exploring race, legacy, and the timeless search for truth buried in history's shadows.



THE NIGHT THE TRAIN STOPPED

is a prestige historical drama told in dual timelines, blending the emotional pull of *The English Patient*, the mystery structure of *The Dig*, and the historical reclamation energy of *Hidden Figures*.

COMPS:

Last Black Man In San Francisco
Minari
The Farewell

Budget **Box office (worldwide)**
3.0M **4.6M**
2.0M **15M**
3.0M **23M**



Black protagonist, memory, place, and identity



Semi-autobiographical immigrant-family drama



Intimate, emotionally rich family drama about secrets, legacy and cultural memory

MAYA THOMPSON



Regina Hall

*Cast
Wish List*

YOUNG MAYA



Leah Sava Jeffries

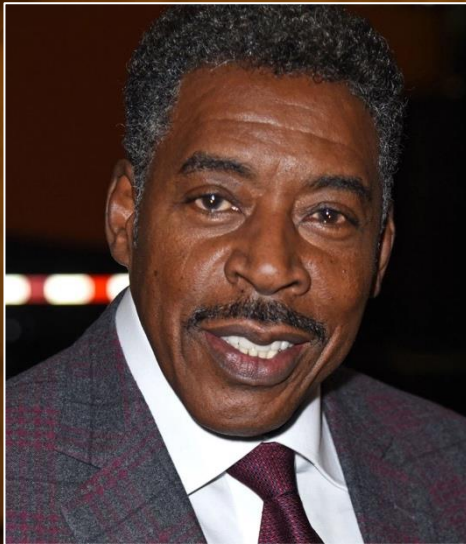
MARCO



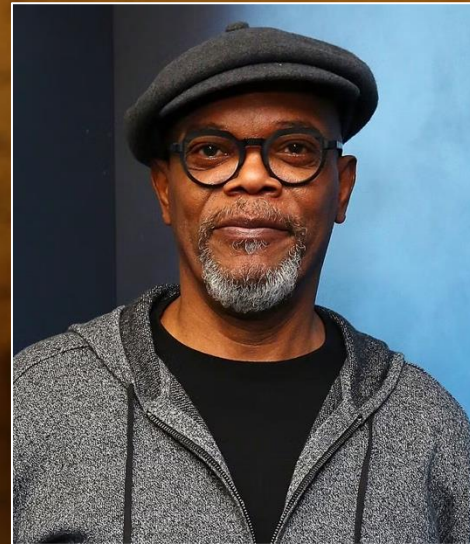
Justin Baldoni

MAYA'S DAD

GIUSEPPE



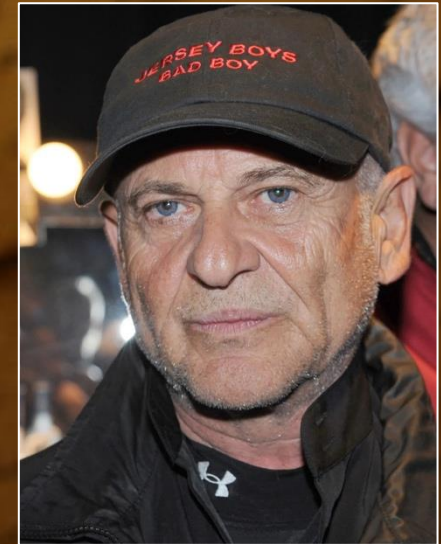
Ernie Hudson



Samuel L. Jackson



Chazz Palminteri



Joe Pesci



HERE'S OUR RECIPE:

“Show business” is a sophisticated business. At Valkary Media we follow straight forward, tried and true business practices based on years of experience.

It all starts with a brilliant script, excellent IP, and a top-notch production. After that, we add in what we call “soft money”, which is a combination of state or regional tax credits, minimum guarantees, foreign pre-sales and sponsor money. Those items will protect 40 - 70% of our proposed budget.

Now sprinkle in the magic of an underused IRS tax code called Section 181 tax deductions, and you have a significantly risk reduced investment vehicle poised for success.



The Tax Shelter Details

Our financial partner has used IRC 181 on almost 100 films in the last decade and a half and has engineered a process to increase an individual investor's write off to 5x the investment. Example: \$250,000 investment can receive a \$1,250,000 write off.

We realize that this tax shelter is not widely known, so of course we do have additional info you can share with your tax professionals to discuss your specific benefit. We are available to meet on a video call or in person in the Las Vegas area.



ROI STRUCTURE & RISK MITIGATION

- Investors will recoup 110% of their investment in first position
- Then share in 50% of producers equity pari passu.
- Investors will also receive 181 tax deductions
- As well as coverage from all soft monies
Including:
 - State tax incentives
 - Presales



**Producer
Deanna Shapiro**



**Producer
Marc Gold**



**Producer
Jill Wichert**

TEAM



**Executive Producer
Dale Davidson**



**Executive Producer
Warren Robold**



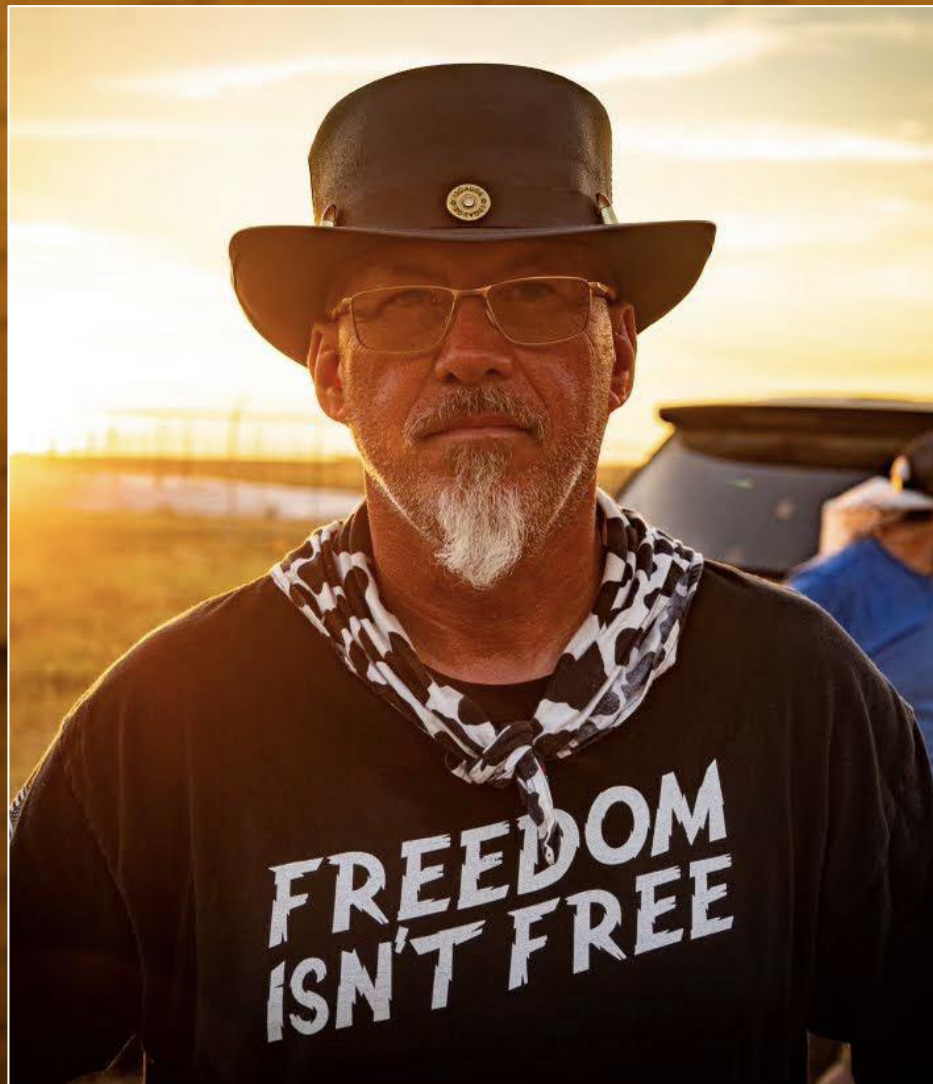
**Storyteller
Jana Jackson**



STATEMENT OF RISK

Financing feature films is a highly risky endeavor with no guarantees of recoupment or profit. However, no other industry offers the profit potential that this type of financing opportunity offers.

All information, documents and contracts affiliated with this proposal are encouraged to be reviewed by external counsel and accounting professionals.



**Thank you for your
consideration and we
look forward to
discussing this amazing
film further with you.**

**Contact:
Marc Gold
Producer
949-279-4488
gold@freshcats.com**