

The Night the Train Stopped

Feature Film Pitch Deck

A True WWII Mystery Drama

Presented by FRESH CATS PRODUCTIONS | Marc Gold, Executive Producer

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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.

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THE PROMISE

A SWEEPING, EMOTIONAL
TRUE STORY

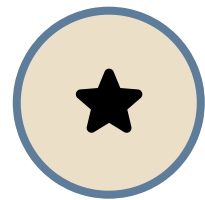
A TRUTH THAT
WAITED EIGHTY
YEARS TO BE FOUND

A CHOICE MADE IN THE
FINAL DAYS OF THE WAR

A FORGOTTEN CHAPTER
IN WWII HISTORY

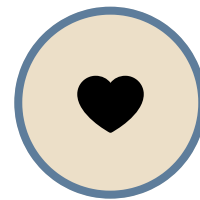
THE PROJECT

A prestige historical drama, feature film, following Maya Thompson, a modern-day teacher who travels to a quiet Italian village and uncovers the buried legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers, whose courage and compassion saved the town during the final days of WWII. A dual-timeline story that is mysterious, sweeping, emotional, and reflective.



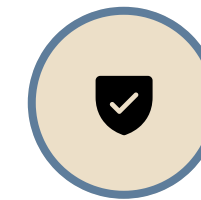
Why Now

Audiences and streamers are hungry for faith-rooted, historically grounded, resonant stories. The Buffalo Soldiers' Italian chapter is an untold story of American heroism – buried for 80 years, ready to be restored to the record.



Why it Works

Emotional scope of The English Patient and the reclamation energy of Hidden Figures. Coupled with a dual-timeline mystery, this genre blend performs well historically.



Built-In Safety

Soft money architecture, state tax credits, IRC 181 protections, a completion bond – a formidable cocktail of investment protection.

The History

1944, FOLIGNO, ITALY

The 92nd Quartermaster Company (Buffalo Soldiers) arrives expecting burial detail after the Nazi retreat. Instead, they find starving survivors, abandoned by the retreating army.

The unit goes off-protocol: they tend the sick, bury the dead with dignity, and guard the vulnerable.

Their presence becomes the thin line between total devastation and survival - a story buried in history for 80 years, until now.



The Story

SYNOPSIS & DUAL TIMELINE

Modern - The Story Frame



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. She becomes fascinated by a local legend: a mysterious train that stopped during the final days of WWII, changing the village forever.

She meets Giuseppe, an elderly resident who still remembers that night. Maya discovers letters, military tags, and personal effects hidden in an old chest – clues that ignite her search for truth, and ultimately reveal her own connection to the soldiers who changed the village's fate.

1944 - The Mystery Unfolds



As Maya pieces together fragments, letters, tags, an old man's memory, she uncovers what really happened: soldiers sent for burial duty who instead chose to save the living, and a village that never forgot them.

Positioning

GENRE, TONE, MARKET POSITION & THEMES



Genre Prestige WWII drama
with dual-timeline
mystery



Tone Emotional, reflective, and
sweeping



Market
Position Hidden Figures meets
The English Patient



Themes Legacy, identity and
compassion in war

Comps

MARKET VALIDATION

Budget Tier Proofs:



"The Last Black Man in San Francisco"

Budget: \$3.5M

Revenue: \$4.6M



"MINARI"

Budget: \$2M

Revenue: \$15M



"The Farewell"

Budget: \$3M

Revenue: \$23M

Genre Potential Proofs:



"Hidden Figures"

Budget: \$25M

Revenue: \$228M

9x



"The English Patient"

Budget: \$35M

Revenue: \$197M

5.6x



"The Farewell"

Budget: \$3M

Revenue: \$23M

8x

Multiples reflect these films' actual historical performance, not a projection for this film

AUDIENCE & FIT



Black American Audiences

48 - 52 million



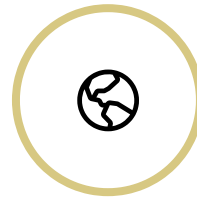
Military & Veteran Families

17 - 18 million, +Service connected homes



Faith and History Audiences

Resonant, values-driven storytelling



Intl. | Italian & EU Markets

WWII and Italian settings

220 Million

Total US Streaming
Audience
(TAM)

50 - 70 Million

Black American,
military, history, faith,
WWII
(SAM)

3 - 8 Million

Realistic cumulative audience across
impact windows.
(SOM)

Traction



The Night the Train Stopped is a base on a **true story**, adapted from the book by Jana Jackson. This has existing source material, not a screenplay built from nothing.



CAST WISH LIST

Wish list for Illustration



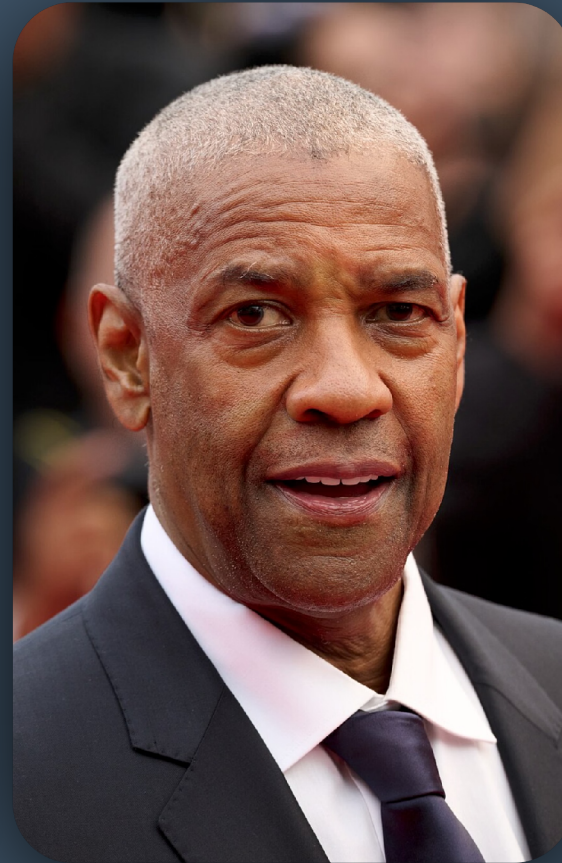
Maya Thompson

Regina Hall



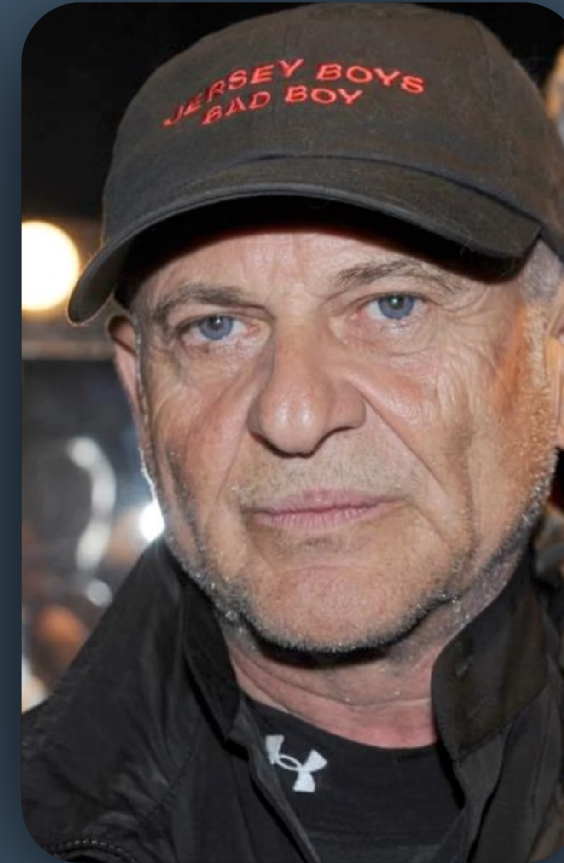
Young Maya

Leah Sava Jeffries



Maya's Dad

Denzel Washington



Guiseppe

Joe Pesci



Marco

Justin Baldoni

WRITER / DIRECTOR

Wish list for Illustration



Dee Rees

MUDBOUND



Kasi Lemmons

HARRIET, EVE'S BAYOU



Chinonye Chukwu

TILL, CLEMENCY

PRODUCTION TEAM



Marc Gold

Executive Producer -
Fresh Cats Entertainment
&
Valkary Media Group



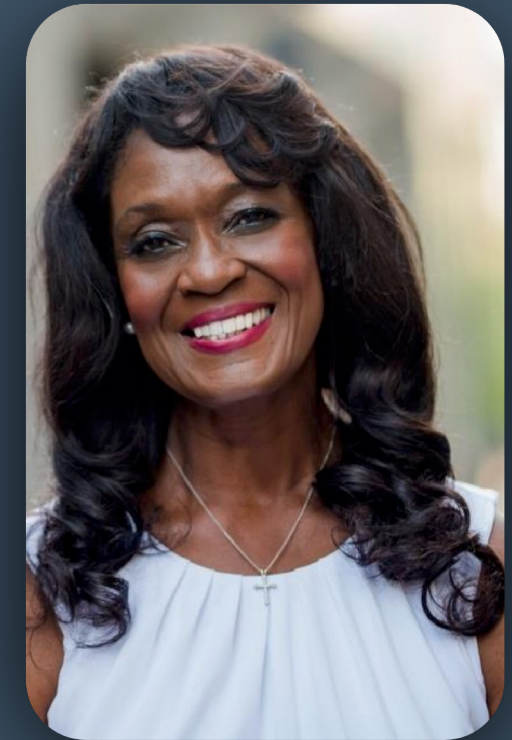
Asher
Goldenberg

COO -
Valkary Media Group



Warren Robold

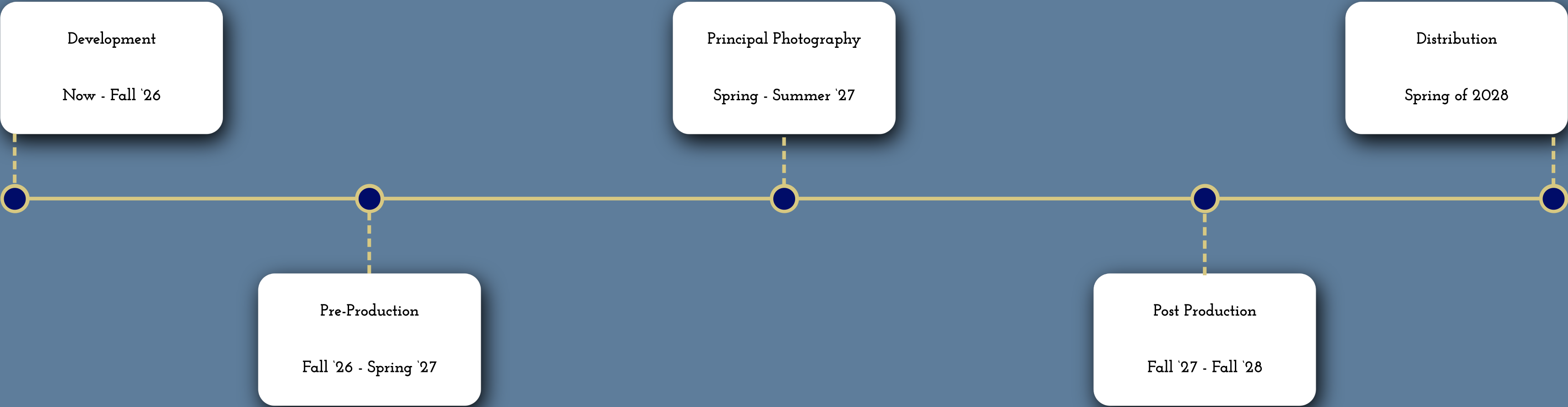
Executive Producer,
Cunsultant, Media &
Growth Funding Expert



Jana Jackson

Multi-Book Author, and
Film Consultant. PHD in
Educational Leadership.

FROM PAGE TO SCREEN



DISTRIBUTION TIMELINE

Months 1 - 12	Festival Circuit: Sundance, SXSW, Cannes
Months 6 - 18	Domestic Theatrical Release
Months 18 - 24	International Theatrical Release
Months 12 - 24	Streaming, Int'l TV and In-Flight
Months 25 - 36+	Educational / AVOD Tail

*Actual timelines may vary

The Investment

FINANCIAL ASK

\$3.5 million Equity Raise out of a \$7 million total production capital

\$3.5M

Equity Raise

- Development
- Pre-production
- Attachments

\$3.5M

Gap Financing

- Principal Photography
- Post-production
- Attachments

Protected by:



Soft Money Target - \$5.8M



Completion Bond



IRS Section 181

INVESTOR INCENTIVES

First Position	110% capital recoupment, first position
Profit Participation	50/50 profit split, pari passu
Tax Advantage	IRS Section 181: 100% tax deduction in year one.
Co-Executive Producer Credit	On-screen name placement and branding on a premium feature film
Access	To celebrity events, screenings, and premiers

Thank you.

