

LITTLE TRUMPET

A young girl with dark hair is shown in profile, looking down intently at a trumpet she is holding. The lighting is soft and focused on her face and hands, with the background being a blurred, warm-toned interior. She is wearing a dark-colored top and a gold chain necklace.

A FILM BY MEGAN TRUFANT TILLMAN WRITTEN BY MEGAN TRUFANT TILLMAN DIRECTED BY MEGAN TRUFANT TILLMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY
MEGAN TRUFANT TILLMAN AND KIMIKO MATSUDA-LAWRENCE CINEMATOGRAPHY BY RAY HUANG EDITED BY LAURENT DUPÉPÉ MUSIC DIRECTED
BY MAGNA CARDA ORIGINAL SCORE BY BLK ODYSSEY AND MAGNA CARDA SOL THOUGHT STUDIO IN ASSOCIATION WITH MIKO MADE PRODUCTIONS



Dedicated to 1737 Abundance

SYNOPSIS

A nine-year-old loner wants his brother to teach him how to play the trumpet. In the 7th Ward of New Orleans, that's not so simple.

Javon is a 9-year-old kid growing up in the 7th Ward of New Orleans, dreaming of playing the trumpet in the marching band like his older brother while navigating the precarious social terrain of his neighborhood. Over the course of 24 pivotal hours, Javon starts to uncover a hard truth – in this neighborhood, some kids don't just get to be kids. And if he wants to learn how to play the trumpet, he's going to have to teach himself.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The day I started to write *little trumpet*, there was just a single image in my mind: a little Black boy huffing and blowing an invisible trumpet on the sidewalk of his 7th Ward street. Pretending and dreaming. I didn't know what the story was – until I started to recognize it as my own, these re-imagined fragments of my childhood. I grew up in the 7th Ward of New Orleans – on a street called Abundance, just two blocks from where we shot *little trumpet*, and just one street over from where my own parents grew up. This story mirrored my time as a child there, losing childhood friends and close family to gun violence – perceiving it to be normal, becoming numb to it. This was and still is the reality of so many kids I grew up with in New Orleans, stomaching and wrestling with loss and violence, hopes and aspirations. Balancing dreams and survival on their two hands.

For me, this story was an outlet – a way to not just recall the past, but go back in time and interrogate what I was feeling as a child, and what the kids I knew must have been feeling, as survivors of this trauma too. *little trumpet* is my way of unspooling that trauma, of seeing through a child's eyes how much this cycle of violence shaped us. But this is not just a story of darkness and grief. There is a beauty in remembering the past, understanding it, and healing. In Javon's story, I see hope. I see myself, and how far I've come from the circumstances I grew up in. I wrote and shot this film to acknowledge that we are survivors. A city of survivors. And we are gifted with the resilience, power, and vision to break these cycles – and write our own story.

- Megan 'Megz' Trufant Tillman



MEGAN TRUFANT TILLMAN
WRITER | DIRECTOR | CO-COMPOSER

Megan “Megz” Trufant Tillman is a multi-hyphenate creative with Southern roots – hailing from New Orleans, Louisiana. Her works include episodic pilot script ALL FRONTS (runner-up in the 2019 New Orleans Film Festival Screenplay Competition), and her directorial debut, short film *little trumpet*. Megan is also co-founder and one half of jazz/neo-soul/hip hop outfit Magna Carda, and founder and editor of WATER, a Black literary and arts magazine. Her creative work centers Black life and culture as well as the Black South.



KIMIKO MATSUDA-LAWRENCE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Kimiko Matsuda-Lawrence is a writer-director-producer hailing from Washington, DC and Honolulu, Hawai'i. Raised in a family of activists, critical race theorists, and freedom fighters, she has always been drawn to storytelling as a means to building a new world. After working in theater in New York alongside Anna Deveare Smith, Diane Paulus, and Kerry Washington, Kimiko transitioned to television and film, writing for TV shows TWENTIES and BOOMERANG. Her past work includes the plays *Holding: A Queer Black Love Story*; *Black Magic*; and *I, Too, Am Harvard* (also a viral photo campaign). Her essay "On Being Black and Asian in America" was published in *TIME* Magazine and featured in the collection *My Life: Growing Up Asian in America*. She is excited to join the *little trumpet* team in her first producorial role under her Miko Made production banner.



RAY HUANG

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Ray Huang is a Los Angeles based cinematographer who emerged from the Lower East Side of New York City. Steeped in street culture & the fine arts from an early age, he frequently draws inspiration by juxtaposing the two in the attempt to find truth in his work. His narrative work has been featured in film festivals around the world, including Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Tribeca & Slamdance. His commercial work includes clients: Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Hyundai, Burger King, Toyota, Peloton, AT&T, SAP, & NFL films. He has worked with star musical talents: U2, Metallica, 2Chainz, Wiz Khalifa, The Killers, & Maluma amongst others. Recently, he photographed the indie feature film *Snakehead*, sci-fi action films *The 716th* & *The Suppression*, as well as work on the HBO Doc *Welcome to Chechnya* & BET Doc *Smoke*. He also enjoys driving with the windows down.

PRODUCTION

little trumpet was shot over four days in the summer of 2021 in the 7th Ward of New Orleans. The film was made with a majority BIPOC/women cast and crew.





CREDITS

Written and Directed by
Megan Trufant Tillman

Executive Producers
Megan Trufant Tillman
Kimiko Matsuda-Lawrence

Starring
Kemetrick Thomas II
K. Steele
John Charles II
Lloyd Dillon

Director of Photography
Ray Huang

Editor
Laurent Dupépe

Co-Producer
Katharine Heim

Costume Design by
Eulyn Colette Hufkie

Music Directed by
Megan Trufant Tillman
Christopher Beale
as
Magna Carda

Original Score Composed by
BLK ODYSSEY
Magna Carda

Production Design by
Alixandra Petrovich

[See Full List of Cast & Crew](#)

MUSIC

A southern soundtrack. A love letter to New Orleans. An ode to the Black South and Black culture. This is the music our characters hear on the streets, in the corner store, bumping from people's cars. This is the sonic landscape of this world, the musical textures of Javon's New Orleans.

In this film, music is a character. The city of New Orleans is inseparable from its sound: from jazz, to bounce, to hip hop – the streets pulse with it. And young Javon is a child whose world is shaped by music – by a longing to make it, by the silence it leaves behind. So music is essential to the telling of this story. The Southern jazz/neosoul/hip hop duo Magna Carda serve as Music Directors of *little trumpet*, bringing together a gifted group of musicians to build the soundtrack of Javon's world. Co-composers of the original score, award-winning, genre-defying artists BLK ODYSSEY and Magna Carda, craft an emotional journey through music, a distinctly Black, Southern soundscape for *little trumpet*.





ORIGINAL SCORE

CO-COMPOSED & CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY

BLK ODYSSEY
Magna Carda

ORIGINAL SCORE MUSICIANS

Saxophone
Marcus Cardwell

Piano
Dayne Reliford

Violin
Christabel Lin

Trumpet
Wyatt Corder

Lead Vocalist
Grace Sorensen

Guitar
Matt Muehling

Drums/Percussion
Adam Jackson

Electric/Key Bass
Darryl Weatherly

Upright Bass
Barri Pearson

SOUNDTRACK FEATURES

CORTEX
The Teeta
James Robinson

Stone Cold Jzzle
LG
Spike Chester

MoZIAH
Jay Wile
And More...

STILLS













CONTACT

littletrumpetfilm.com
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[IMDB](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [FilmFreeway](#)

Available Upon Request:
Score & Soundtrack, Screener and Additional Stills

Megan Trufant Tillman
megz@solthought.com

Kimiko Matsuda-Lawrence
kimikomatsudalawrence@gmail.com

Deck designed by Megan Trufant Tillman

FILM SPECS

7th Ward, New Orleans, LA Year: 2022
Duration: 30 Min. Genre: Drama
Aspect Ratio: 2:39:1 Format Size: Super35
Available Format: DCP and/or 3.2k Prores 4444 XQ
Sound: Surround 5.1 Color

SOL THOUGHT STUDIO

