

Brutal Season

A Film by Gavin Fields





2022 | Drama | 101:14

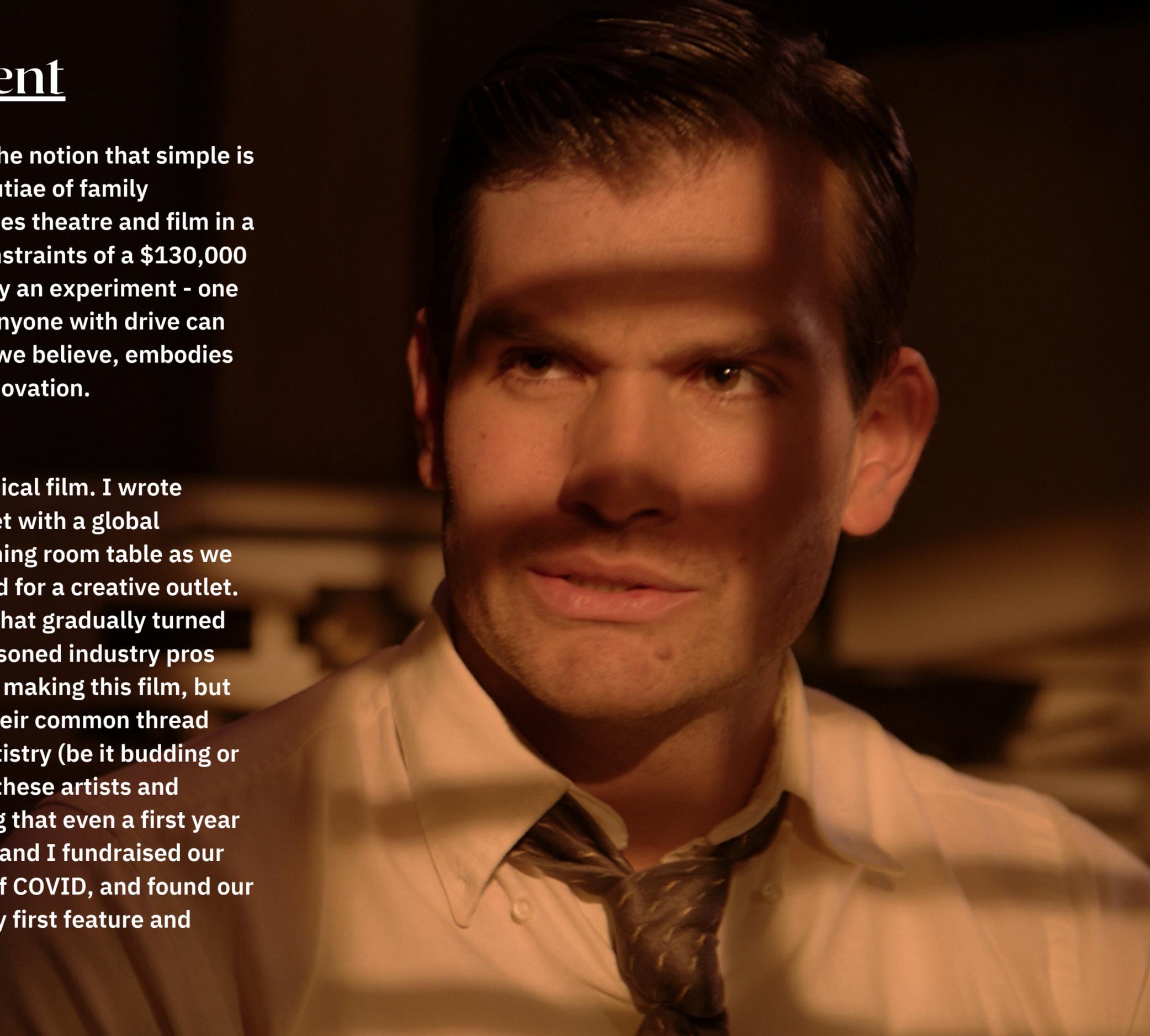
Logline: In 1948, the Truths are facing no income and the hottest summer on record. When their estranged son inexplicably returns, the apartment is full again - but is it big enough for the gambling, trauma, and substantial life insurance policy that comes in his wake?

Synopsis: It's the summer of 1948 in Red Hook, Brooklyn. The crime rate is rising as quickly as the temperature, and both hang oppressively in the air. The Truths, a family with no source of income, have little more entertainment than to look out the window of their kitchen towards the harbour. That is, until their estranged oldest son inexplicably returns home after a 12 year disappearance. The apartment is full again, but is it big enough for the gambling debts, alcohol abuse, and rather substantial life insurance policy that comes in their son's wake? Alfred Hitchcock's Rope meets Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman in the study of a family's boiling dynamic.

Director's Statement

Brutal Season is a film that returns to basics but rejects the notion that simple is boring. Taking place in one room with a focus on the minutiae of family dynamics and thoughtful character development, it marries theatre and film in a way that aims to celebrate both. It set out to take the constraints of a \$130,000 budget and make them strengths. Brutal Season was truly an experiment - one that sought to test the seemingly long-dead notion that anyone with drive can bring a film to life. It was an experiment that ultimately, we believe, embodies an examination of the human spirit and celebration of innovation.

This is not your typical filmmaking team, nor is it your typical film. I wrote Brutal Season and, upon finishing it, was immediately met with a global pandemic. Pre-production started with my wife at our dining room table as we lamented the state of the world and desperately searched for a creative outlet. It began not with a bang but with the whisper of an idea that gradually turned into a call. We called upon friends, friends of friends, seasoned industry pros and students alike - anyone who could help not only with making this film, but ensuring each element was as compelling as possible. Their common thread was the drive to see this story brought to life and their artistry (be it budding or in bloom). We pressed forward with a desire to highlight these artists and elevate their talents, with the humility and understanding that even a first year film student may have ideas better than our own. Shelby and I fundraised our budget ourselves, navigated safely filming in the height of COVID, and found our voice as a creative team. We took an enormous risk on my first feature and never looked back.



Bios

Gavin Fields

Writer / Director / Producer

Gavin Fields is a writer and director currently based in Atlanta, GA. While *Brutal Season* is feature film debut, prior feature scripts received accolades from noted screenwriting competitions, including BlueCat, CineQuest, Fresh Voices, Screencraft Drama, and Nashville Film Festival. Gavin is a true lover of cinema and enjoys drawing inspiration from unexpected filmmakers of all time periods, genres, and backgrounds.



Shelby Grady

Producer / Actor

Shelby Grady is an actor and producer based in Atlanta, GA. Although she has acted professionally throughout the last 15 years in film, television, and onstage, *Brutal Season* is her first stab at producing. She has since founded Lil Cowboy, a production studio aimed at developing films as well as creating branded content.



Bios (Cont.)

Roger Mayer

Producer

Roger Mayer is a film producer, Head of Production for Traverse Media, and is currently based in Los Angeles, California. He has worked in all phases of production, and was a Print Traffic Coordinator and Associate Programmer for Sundance Film Festival from 1999 - 2012. He was also the Festival Director and Head of Programming for the Silver Lake Film Festival in Los Angeles from 2003 - 2007 and the Festival Director and Head of Programming for the Downtown Film Festival Los Angeles from 2009 to 2012.

Roger started Brooklyn Reptyle Films, produced with KNR Productions and eventually brought himself and his producing partner Veronica Radaelli to Traverse Media.



Steven Carmona

Director of Photography

Steven Carmona is a Puerto Rican, New York City born and raised Director of Photography. Steven has photographed a wide range of projects from feature films to documentaries and web content. Working his way up in the New York indie scene, Steve has worked as a gaffer, grip and camera operator on all types of projects. Through the journey Steven has come to value the true heart and soul of indie filmmaking; the hard working, many times underpaid down and dirty crews that bring both brutally real and magical fantasy films to life.



Bios (Cont.)

Shuler Hensley

Actor, Randy Hawkes

Shuler Hensley is a Tony, Olivier, and Obie award winning actor and singer. He is currently performing in The Music Man on Broadway alongside Hugh Jackman, with whom he also starred in the 1998 revival of Oklahoma! He has acted in films such as The Greatest Showman and Van Helsing, as well as starring in the Tony Award winning play, The Ferryman.



Colleen Madden

Actor, Gayle Trough

Colleen Madden has been a Core Company member with American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin for 20 years. She has also appeared in Chicago PD, Revenge of the Nerds, and the Madison Shakespeare Festival.



A cinematic photograph of two men sitting at a round table in a kitchen, playing cards. The man on the left is wearing a white tank top and is gesturing with his hands. The man on the right is wearing a white t-shirt and is looking towards the other man. The table is covered with a patterned tablecloth and has several cards, a glass of beer, and salt and pepper shakers on it. A large, ornate stained glass lamp hangs above the table, casting a warm glow. The background shows kitchen cabinets and a sink area.

Contact
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