



PRESENTS

# IGNITION

A DEREK TOOMBS FILM

1.78:1, 9:23, STEREO



DEREK TOOMBS  
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## LOGLINE

Determined to save his girlfriend's garden from the death of the sun, an apathetic man crafts a rocket from backyard junk and wins the support of an eclectic neighborhood crew.

## SYNOPSIS

When a lackadaisical young man finds himself out of pizza and learns that the sun – and his girlfriend's cherished garden – is at risk, he's unexpectedly spurred into action. Skimming a fusion textbook, he crafts a hopelessly homemade rocket to launch himself to the sun's rescue. As his absurd mission unfolds, a band of quirky neighbors rally behind him, making for a heartfelt comedic celestial adventure.



# ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

## DEREK TOOMBS (WRITER/DIRECTOR/ACTOR)

Derek Toombs, hailing from the University of Central Florida's BFA Film program, also boasts an impressive career in the US Coast Guard and added a certification from the Connecticut Public Broadcasting's veterans program to his collection of accolades. Not just content behind the camera, Derek's multifaceted talents have earned him nominations for both best actor and best director for his gripping short film, "Ignition" which itself has won multiple audience choice awards. When he isn't crafting cinematic masterpieces, he passionately imparts his knowledge to the next generation of creators at the Los Angeles Film School.

## JOHN MARCANO (PRODUCER)

John Marcano: Central Florida's go-to indie maestro and the brilliant co-producer behind the cult-favorite 'Egghead and Twinkie'. From helping to transform proof-of-concepts into festival darlings at TIFF, to mastering the nitty-gritty as a production office assistant on biggies like 'Secret Headquarters' and 'Megalopolis,' John is as hard working as they come.

## KEVIN GARCIA (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

Kevin Garcia, with his uniquely captivating aesthetic, is the go-to Director of Photography for Central Florida's top indie projects. Having served as the camera operator for the sensation 'Egghead and Twinkie', which clinched a nomination for the grand jury award at the Florida Film Festival, Kevin's lens continues to define the visual pulse of the Sunshine State's cinema scene.



# ABOUT THE CAST

## JULIA COLLAZO (MONICA)

Julia Collazo, an alumna of UCF's theater program, has showcased her talent in student films like 'video8 dreams.' Beyond the silver screen, she's graced the stage in various theater productions, displaying her versatile acting prowess as well as her vocal ability on her own youtube channel.



## DINO DE ROSA (KEN)

Dino De Rosa, once a dedicated State Department Foreign Service Specialist and a honored veteran from the Global War on Terrorism, took a dramatic turn by launching his acting journey in June 2019. Since his debut, he's been a familiar face in professional films and series, notably "The Right Stuff", while also shining in commercials and various student films.



# FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

"Ignition" is an apocalyptic sci-fi told through whimsical comedy, placing the earth's salvation on the shoulders of her least likely hero. This tale captures the essence of heroism in the simplest form, amid the backdrop of potential world's end. The narrative emphasizes the transformative message of "start anywhere." Pete's tale underscores the profound act of rising from despair, even if just to honor a single loved one. While Pete is driven not by a grand ambition to save the world but an intimate desire to protect one garden, it's this very personal mission that unexpectedly positions him as Earth's ultimate savior amidst an overwhelming crisis.

Throughout the making of this film, 'Magical Realism' became our mantra – a realm where the improbable seems achievable with sheer determination, where skeptics transform into enthusiastic supporters, cheering for a homemade rocket's ascent. I genuinely hope viewers find themselves immersed in this enchanting reality, taking away a slice of the film's heartfelt sincerity as they return to earth when the lights come up.

-Derek Toombs

