

Tyranny always wears designer.

JOYCE  
**CHEN**

JACK  
**POWERS**



# NEBUCHADNEZZAR

A Film by SAMUEL OGUNREMI

Produced by VANESSA LAVOIE & FIONA BRENNAN Director of Photography SHAHAN RAO  
Screenplay by SAMUEL OGUNREMI Music by CARLOS GARCIA Production Design by DANIELA GONZALEZ  
Costume Design by MARA KNIGHT Edited by KEVIN FIGUEROA & SAMUEL OGUNREMI Art Direction by JULIA MAIA  
PARABOLIC PICTURES in Association with INSCAPE PICTURES

## LOGLINE

Following a shocking, on-air disturbance, a curious Stage Manager begins to suspect that something is deeply off about the talk show she works for, and its eccentric host.

## SYNOPSIS

Ruth Chen, a competent, semi-experienced Stage Manager is only a few days into her latest gig at an up and coming talk show. After the Special Guest for the night, who also happens to be an old friend goes missing, Ruth begins to question her environment. With no answers from the show's big-time Producer or stealthy Security, Ruth is left to come face to face with the peculiar host of the show, Dane Hallaway...



## WRITER/DIRECTOR



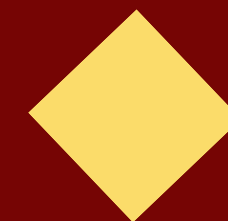
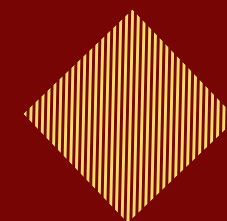
### SAMUEL OGUNREMI

Samuel is a Canadian writer & director. His cinematic endeavours range mainly within the genres of thriller, sci-fi and existential, with his thematic interests residing in different moral, philosophical and spiritual conflicts inbedded in the foundations of Western society and folklore. He graduated Cum Laude with his BFA in Filmmaking from New York Film Academy in Los Angeles, California.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

**King Nebuchadnezzar II was Babylon's ruler around 600 BC. He is famous for being labeled "history's most ruthless emperor". But a title like this doesn't just come about one day. Totalitarianism doesn't just come about one day...**

As a storyteller, I'm extremely interested in exploring topics that cover not only the problems of today, but of tomorrow too. I love daydreaming ahead into the future and predicting how the adverse philosophies & ideologies that we hold today could affect us tomorrow; and I've found writing and directing moral fables to be the perfect outlet to explore such issues. *Nebuchadnezzar* is a thriller/satire that uses that historic titular name to follow Ruth as she uncovers dark secrets at an up and coming talk show. The story delves into how an Orwellian-like tyranny can inconspicuously grow under ones nose , and how, just like Ruth, we as "crew members" within this system have the choice to either stand up for the truth or look up to the ceiling and pretend not to see anything, regardless of the consequence...



# FAQ

**What's up with that title?**

Nebuchadnezzar is the name of Ancient Babylon's most famous emperor. His ruthless, totalitarian ways are central to the themes our protagonist Ruth comes face to face with.

**Why a talk show?**

Funny enough, it is my (SLIGHT) disdain for talk shows which inspired the idea to satirize an imaginary one.

**What films inspired this?**

*Joker* (2019), *King of Comedy* and *The Truman Show* are films that directly inspire many of the visual and narrative beats of this short.

**What's your next project?**

My debut feature is in active development. It is a grounded Neo-Noir Action/Thriller about a regretful revolutionary. 7 years in the making...

# THE CAST





## JOYCE CHEN

(Ruth Chen)

Joyce is an actress from Orange County, California. Her curious and layered portrayal of Ruth is indicative of the types of roles and performances she does on a regular basis. Ogunremi wrote the role of Ruth for Joyce specifically, and funny enough, without even knowing they share a last name.



## JACK POWERS

(Dane Hallaway)

Jack is an actor deserving of his last name. Standing at 6'6, the California native played college football before venturing fully into the dramatic arts. His towering showcasing as Dane takes both literal and figurative form, mimicking his tendency to play characters that have a point to prove and demonstrate it powerfully.



## MICHAEL SULLIVAN

(Teddy Bernstein)

Michael is an actor, writer, producer and comedian from Seymour, Indiana. With over 100 credits to his name, and appearances in classic series such as *Grey's Anatomy* & *Abbot Elementary*, his charismatic cameo in *Nebuchadnezzar* leaves us with unsettling hints regarding just how warped the TV show that Teddy helps run is.



## MARCEL D. WILLIAMS

(Frank Hedge)

Marcel is an actor, voice-actor, air-force veteran, and Tik Tok star famous for his deep voice. With over 2.5 millions followers and 60 million likes across his social media accounts, Williams' unusually deep voice and powerful persona can be seen in a similar light in *Nebuchadnezzar*



## DANTRELL McCLAIN

(Lucas Hedge)

Dantrell is an LA based film and theatre actor and air-force veteran originally from Chicago, IL. He received his BFA in Acting from the New York Film Academy. He's appeared in multiple short films plays. When he's not acting, he's either dancing, hiking, writing or figuring out a way to get a lifetime supply of cookie dough ice-cream.



## ISABELLA GARCIA

(El Brooks)

Isabella is an actress and dancer from Arizona, USA. Her immense performative range serves her well as she continues to quickly rise up the ranks of both art forms. This is Garcia's 3rd actor-director collaboration with Ogunremi, and it certainly won't be her last.

# THE CREW





## VANESSA LAVOIE

(Producer)

Vanessa is a Canadian-American Writer, Director, Producer and Assistant Director based in Burbank, CA. Before moving to LA, she spent 13 years working as an Air Traffic Controller, mostly in Iraq and Afghanistan, all while being obsessed with the craft of filmmaking. Lavoie made a career switch back in 2021 and hasn't looked back, making a slew of her own short films, pending their festival runs. Lavoie's mastery of logistical interconnectivity attracted Ogunremi to have her on as the project's first crew member.



## FIONA BRENNAN

(Producer)

Fiona is a detail-oriented indie producer based in Los Angeles, specializing in short films and music videos. Brennan seamlessly blends artistic insight with technical expertise. Driven by a genuine passion for her craft, Brennan's diverse portfolio speaks to her ability to capture the essence of storytelling across various visual mediums. With acute specialization in scheduling, casting and logistics, she delivers excellence with each project she undertakes. Brennan and Ogunremi have collaborated twice.



## SHAHAN RAO

(Director of Photography)

Shahan is a cinematographer recognized for his ability to create compelling, evocative and intimate visual narratives that resonate deeply with audiences. Rao was shortlisted as an Emerging Cinematographer by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He has worked under significant cinematographers, directors and VFX artists such as Douglas Smith (*Star Wars*) and Tiffany Wu (*Star Trek: Beyond*). Past his work behind the camera, Shahan is an avid explorer, drawing inspiration from different cultures, landscapes and experiences.



## DANIELA GONAZLEZ

(Production Designer)

Daniela "Danny" is a Mexican Producer and Assistant Director. Her combined passion for the logistical and artistic sides of filmmaking set her apart as an irreplaceable member of any crew. Ogunremi first took notice of her production design talents whilst acting for a project she was working on. The two have collaborated twice.



## CARLOS GARCIA

(Composer)

Carlos is an American composer of music for film, concert stage, and other multimedia. With Additional Music credits on *Ant-Man & The Wasp: Quantumania*, *Agatha All Along* and *Shazam: Fury of the Gods*, Garcia has proved a versatile sound colorist with an ability to fluently weave elements of classical harmony, modern techniques, ambient soundscapes, and a variety of styles and influences into the fabric of his compositions.



## MARA KNIGHT

(Costume Designer)

Mara is an Academy Gold Rising alumni Costume Designer based in Burbank, California. Her recent work includes costumer for “Estelle”, starring Ellen Greene, as well as costume designer for Ed Sheeran’s music video, “That’s On Me”.



## JULIA MAIA

(Art Director)

Julia is a writer/director/producer and production designer born and raised in Goiânia-GO, Brazil. Now in Los Angeles, Maia has an associate degree in Cinematography & Editing and a BFA in Filmmaking. She has produced, directed and written short films such as “Daddy Issues” and “Between Two Cliffs”. She has also taken up Production Designer and Art Director roles in shorts such as “Before Everything Changes”, “Room Service”, “The Crit” and “Where the Flowers Grow”.



## KEVIN FIGUEROA

(Editor)

Kevin is a unique, passionate video editor with a keen eye for storytelling and visual aesthetics. His portfolio includes a diverse range of work from engaging short films, commercials projects and documentaries. Alongside Ogunremi, Figueroa edited *Nebuchadnezzar* with precision and innovation.



## STILLS





# STILLS



BEHIND  
THE  
SCENES



BEHIND  
THE  
SCENES



# CONTACT INFO

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**LinkedIn: Samuel Ogunremi**

# SPECS

**RUNTIME: 15 mins 29 sec**

**ASPECT RATIO: 2:39:1**

**CAMERA: Red V Raptor**

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Canada**

**Stills**



**BTS Photos**



**Official Trailer**

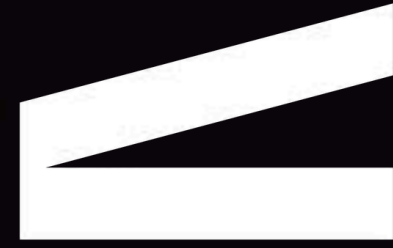


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SPOTLIGHT  
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SELECTION  
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2025



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**Bleeding Tree  
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2026



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