

WRITTEN BY BRANDYN JOHNSON

DIRECTED BY SYLVIA RAY

SEAWEED SNACKS



FILM INDEPENDENT
PROJECT INVOLVE

A photograph of two Black men sitting outdoors at a birthday party. The man on the left is wearing a white button-down shirt over a grey t-shirt and is smiling while looking at the other man. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and brown pants, looking back at the first man with a more serious expression. They are sitting on a yellow tablecloth. In the background, there are green bushes and colorful triangular bunting flags.

LOGLINE

A hard-edged dad just wants to survive another birthday party, but when a try-hard super dad won't take "no" for an answer, things get real awkward ... real fast.

SEAWEED SNACKS

In collaboration with

Film Independent: Project Involve

Themes:

A modern day look at masculinity
through the lens of fatherhood.

SYNOPSIS

SEAWEED SNACKS is a grounded comedy with surrealist elements that unfolds during a single afternoon at a kid's birthday party. Ellis, a tired, artsy single dad, just wants to get through the day with minimal interaction. But when he meets Rick, a hyper-charismatic "perfect dad" with a hidden agenda, Ellis is dragged into an awkward spiral of an unsolicited life insurance pitch. As their sons become fast friends, Ellis must navigate playground politics, parental guilt, and a surreal descent into crypto-fueled madness.

WATCH THE TRAILER



DIRECTOR: Sylvia Ray

Sylvia Ray is a Chicana/Korean-American director based in Los Angeles and a 2025 Film Independent Project Involve Fellow. She is also a 2024 Latino Film Institute Inclusion Fellow, where she wrote and directed the award-winning short **The Vote**.

Her feature script **The Middle** was selected for the 2024 FICMonterrey Pro-Meetings Program and for the 2025 BendFilm: Basecamp Fellowship. The short version premiered at Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, won Best in Festival at Sundial, and was nominated for Best LatinX Short at HollyShorts. **The Middle** marks her feature debut, set for production in 2026.





WRITER: Brandyn Johnson

Brandyn Johnson is a father, filmmaker, and educator from Brooklyn, NY. During his time at USC, he developed a proficiency in screenwriting, directing, creative producing, and film sound through mentorship from award-winning professionals like Brenda Goodman, David Balkan, Barnet Kellman, Steve Flick and Midge Costin. Johnson currently serves as the Program Manager for Ghetto Film School LA.

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Every parent can relate to Ellis' plight. So many of us feel like we're just pretending to be adults while trying to raise kids who are supposed to be ready for a world we barely understand ourselves. Parenthood comes with endless challenges, and **Seaweed Snacks** taps into the awkward, hilarious, and unexpectedly deep moments that happen when you're just trying to do your best. Sometimes, that means showing up even when you're tired and sometimes, it means keeping the crazies away.

This year began with the devastating Eaton Fire, which took my home. Being part of Film Independent's Project Involve and having the opportunity to direct **Seaweed Snacks** became a source of much-needed joy and renewal.

We are all bombarded with surreal and often tragic news every day. My hope is that **Seaweed Snacks** offers a few minutes of escapism and connection, something funny, relatable, and honest for anyone who has ever felt like Ellis - overwhelmed but still showing up, trying to hold it all together.

- Sylvia Ray

PRODUCER: Andrés L. Correa

Andrés L. Correa is a Mexican-American filmmaker, visual artist and educator based in Los Angeles, and a 2025 Film Independent Project Involve Fellow. Leveraging his experience in education, political campaigns, and archival research, Correa excels in storytelling and collaborations across diverse platforms. As a USC graduate, he is dedicated to amplifying Latinx representation and examining complex social realities. His previous work includes producing **The Dope Years: The Story of Latasha Harlins, For Rosa**, and an Alfred P. Sloan science grant funded short **Launch Fever**, earning a Student Academy Award, a DGA Student Award, and three Golden Telly Awards.



CREATIVE EXECUTIVE: Tyrin Bell-Sinkfield

Tyrin Bell-Sinkfield fell in love with the entertainment industry at a young age. The NYC native graduated from The Pennsylvania State University began his career in the mailroom at Creative Artists Agency. He quickly landed a desk in the TV Scripted department before working on the Hulu series, **How to Die Alone**.

Bell-Sinkfield is currently the TV Coordinator at FilmNation Entertainment developing, packaging and producing series for premium cable and streaming platforms. His passion is to bring underrepresented stories to the forefront.



CINEMATOGRAPHER: Sadé Ndya

Sadé Ndya is a Caribbean-American cinematographer whose work crafts bold, emotionally resonant imagery that transports audiences beyond reality, capturing the beauty, rhythm, and essence of the culture. Named an ASC Rising Star by American Cinematographer, her films include **Soñadora** (Tribeca premiere, streaming on Amazon Prime), the NAACP-nominated **My Brother & Me** (ABFF premiere, streaming on American Airlines), and **Them That's Not** (NewFest premiere, Gold Hugo winner at the Chicago Film Festival).

Represented by The Gersh Agency, Sadé's work has been featured in **Netflix's Strong Black Lens**, with collaborations spanning **BET, Disney, NBC, Hillman Grad, Hoorae**, and commercial campaigns for **Nike, Google, Delta, and Ford**. Beyond her film work, she uplifts the next generation of filmmakers through Made In Her Image, a nonprofit empowering women and nonbinary youth of color in film and media.

EDITOR:

Avo John Kambourian

Avo John Kambourian is an editor who blends creativity with process. He shapes stories across genres while keeping productions moving forward and is committed to shepherding a director's vision while staying open to discovery. He most recently edited **Spilled Milk**, a horror short produced by Jordan Peele's Monkeypaw Productions "No Drama" Initiative, **Neither Donkey, Nor Horse**, which premiered at the Telluride Film Festival and won a Student Academy Award, and **Chikaboom**, from Academy Nicholl Award winning Writer-Director C. Craig Patterson.

Avo is known for his patience, optimism, and resourcefulness. He values collaboration, mentorship and community, as he approaches every project.



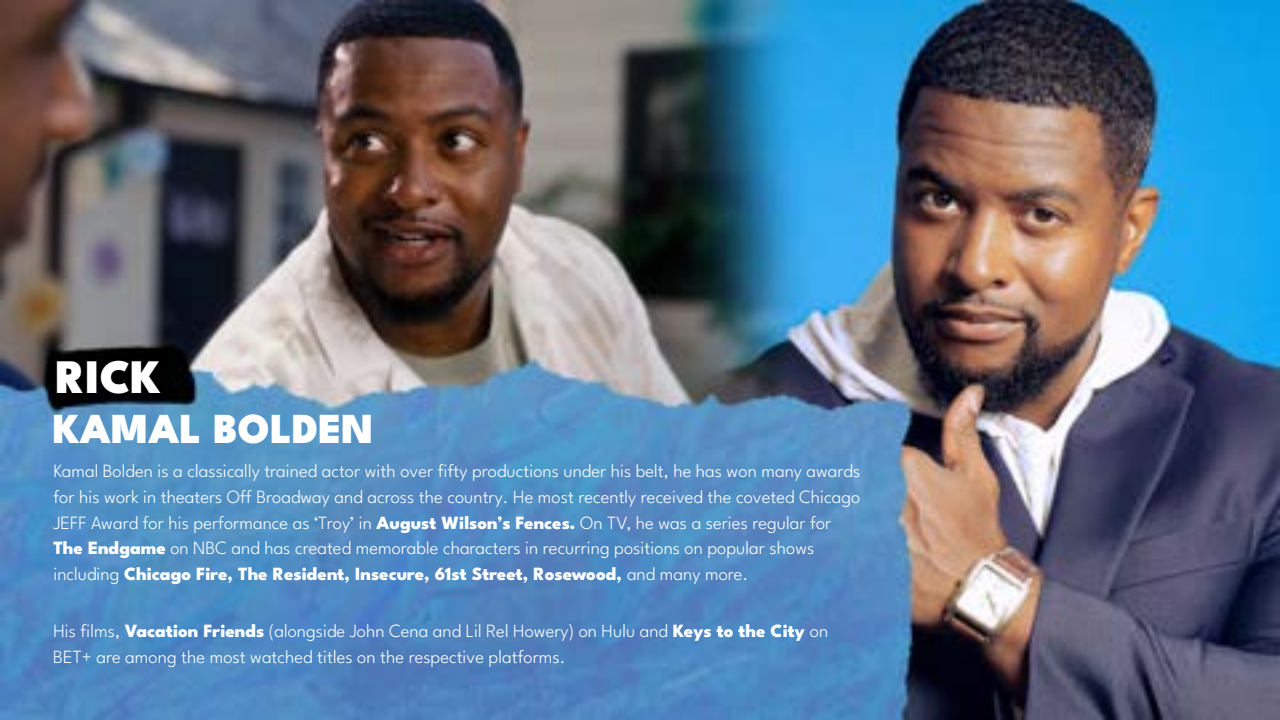


ELLIS

PATRICK CAGE II

Patrick Cage most recently starred as the romantic lead opposite Keke Palmer and SZA in **One of Them Days** produced by Issa Rae for TriStar/Sony Pictures, now streaming. Currently, Patrick is filming Season 4 of Taylor Sheridan's **Mayor of Kingstown** for Paramount+.

On television, Patrick most recently portrayed Gat in Season 2 of Issa Rae's acclaimed HBO Max series **Rap Sh!t**. He also recurred on Chuck Lorre's **How to Be a Bookie** (Max), the Emmy-winning sci-fi drama **Westworld** (HBO), and Hulu's **Welcome to Chippendales**. Other guest appearances on major network series, include **The Equalizer** (CBS), **New Amsterdam** (NBC), **Station 19** (ABC), **The Rookie** (ABC), **Lucifer** (Netflix), **All American** (CW), and the Netflix limited series **Manhunt: Lone Wolf**.



RICK KAMAL BOLDEN

Kamal Bolden is a classically trained actor with over fifty productions under his belt, he has won many awards for his work in theaters Off Broadway and across the country. He most recently received the coveted Chicago JEFF Award for his performance as 'Troy' in **August Wilson's Fences**. On TV, he was a series regular for **The Endgame** on NBC and has created memorable characters in recurring positions on popular shows including **Chicago Fire, The Resident, Insecure, 61st Street, Rosewood**, and many more.

His films, **Vacation Friends** (alongside John Cena and Lil Rel Howery) on Hulu and **Keys to the City** on BET+ are among the most watched titles on the respective platforms.



JUNIOR

JAXON ANTHONY COMPAS

Jaxon Compas is a talented actor and model recognized for his diverse roles in film, television, and theater. Most recently, he captured audiences as Fletcher in the musical **The Bodyguard**, showcasing his impressive stage presence. Jaxon gained further recognition as Winston in season 7 of **Station 19** and co-starred in Chuck Lorre's **Bookie** on HBO Max, demonstrating his ability to tackle a variety of characters.

His film credits include appearances in **Bad Boys 4** and **Secret Society**, reflecting his versatility in both dramatic and action-packed roles. In addition to his acting career, Jaxon has been involved in multiple modeling and commercial projects, enhancing his portfolio. He is also dedicated to fitness and trains in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, emphasizing his commitment to discipline and personal development. With his growing body of work, Jaxon Compas is an exciting talent on the rise in the entertainment industry.

EXTENDED CAST



ANDI

Cambridge David Compton



GRACE

Taehee Kim



TAI-CHI MAN

Kenneth Edwards



**BEHIND
THE SCENES**





ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Executive Producers - Film Independent:

Joénique C Rose & Francisco Velazquez

Casting By:

Natalie Ballesteros & Alan Luna CSA

Production Designer:

Adele Biraghi Maschi

Art Director:

Luica Lopez

Costume Designer:

Brooklin Phelps

First Assistant Director:

Nicholas Ybarra

Makeup Artist /Hair Stylist:

Christopher 'Draco' Dixon

Composer:

Nehemiah Robertson

SONGS

"FREE"

Written by Armani Jackson, Faraji Wright and Jay Anthony Fort, performed by Mani Draper, Rexx Life and Jay Anthony.

Courtesy of UPLFTRS, Grand Nationxl and Create Music Group

"GROUND FLOOR"

Written by Jimmy LaVelle courtesy of
Nettwerk Music Group and Warner Chappell
Music Publishing.



FACTS:

Camera: Panavision DXL2

Shooting Format: Digital

Aspect Ratio: 16.9

Runtime: 12m 19s

Sound: 5.1

Language: English

Production Year: 2025

Country of Origin: USA

Shot in Eagle Rock / Los Angeles, CA

CONTACT:

Producer: andres.lcorrea.inbox@gmail.com

Executive Producer: tyrinabell@gmail.com

Director: sylvialinray@gmail.com

FILM
INDEPENDENT
PROJECT
INVOLVE