

URBAN DEFENDER

THE STRUGGLE IS REAL

The series ‘Urban Defender’ is designed to dramatize the struggle of African-American entrepreneur Donte Phillips, as he faces this the real-life obstacles in his way of establishing his dream nightclub and restaurant.

Blending science fantasy elements, within the genre of graphic novel style superhero origin story, ‘Urban Defender’ hopes to provoke genuine dialogue about race, culture, and passion while providing the dramatic, comedic, and romantic story of what it is to live and survive in 21st Century America today.

The Characters



Donte

A hand opens a worn curtain, letting in the sun. DONTÉ PHILLIPS, African-American, 30, shoulders rugged and wide from a lifetime of work, rolls his neck



Eliza

A STRIKING YOUNG WOMAN in a robe stands in the middle of the quad. ELIZA WOLFE-BRIAR, 24, a natural beauty, accepts congratulations from passersby.



Alicia

Above him, the striking face of ALICIA (29), an African-American woman. She kneels over him, holding a bloodied rag.



Lance

Donte looks again at the mirror, his WHITE FACE AND BODY staring back, then realizes... Donte scans his now White body, clean of scars. He takes a peek below his waistband – lets out a sigh of relief.

The Pilot

TEASER

EXT. CAPE COAST PIER – SOUTH GHANA, AFRICA – 1791

An empty SLAVE SHIP (the WHITE LION) drifts listlessly in the water, lines tied to shore. Waves from a far off storm LURCH against the ship violently.

INT. THE HULL OF THE WHITE LION – DUSK

Rows of metal restraints CLANK against wooden benches. Slashes of light reveal dried blood and feces.

A SCREAM

As a FLASH of light exposes naked bodies stacked on top of each other. An open wound bleeds on worn skin, vomit mixed with pieces of bone. Unholy CRIES OF AGONY as a BULLWHIP tears through human flesh.

A BODY RISES and there is a STRUGGLE. A MATE lashes it fiercely, then steps back, aghast at what he sees –

MATE
NO! It can't be!!

He SCREAMS as he is overtaken.

CUT BACK TO

An EMPTY metal restraint, twisted open to an unnatural shape, blood pooling near it.

INT. CAPE COAST CASTLE – NIGHT

An elegant state room, pillars laced with gold. An older Danish MAN (CLEMENT SMITH), face weathered, sits at a French oak table, decorated with ivory, a sextant and heavy pistol next to a nautical chart showing bodies of water.

He runs his hand over a worn LEDGER, revealing a manifest. A single line notes the destination and time:

Point Comfort, Virginia May 22, 1791

Beneath it amounts of supplies: Rum, spices, slaves...



Producers

John Kim, Co-creator



Writer and Director John W. Kim is a first generation Korean-American storyteller and filmmaker. Born in Seoul, South Korea, he grew up in Northern California and the San Francisco Bay Area, where he learned the rich culture of America through literature and the second golden era of film in the 1970's. He went on to study international literature and creative writing at the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he graduated with honors, and received his Master of Fine Arts at the University of Southern California school of Cinema-Television (Cinematic Arts). In college, he wrote for all three local papers, including the award-winning college publication City on a Hill. He graduated with honors in Literature with a minor in Creative Writing, studying under novelist James D. Houston, playwright George Hitchcock, and poet Lynn Luria-Sukenick.

His films have screened at festivals in New York, San Francisco, Edinburgh, Los Angeles, and Haw

John has also achieved Stage 32 Television Drama Writing Quarterfinalist again for "Urban Defender" and "Dreamworld. " Two placements is rare!

Nevertheless, his screenplay for his first feature film Blur, was a semifinalist in the AMPAS Nicholl Fellowship competition, and he has also placed in the second round of the Sundance Filmmaker's Lab and the Austin Screenplay competition. "The Request-Dark Road," will be his second feature film shot in California. Take a look here: [HTTP://WWW.Therequestmovie.com](http://www.therequestmovie.com)

John is also a talented writer. Currently he is co-writing a gothic novel entitled "Urban Defender," about a modern-day superman, which will become a TV series. "Urban Defender" placed in the Stage 32 industry writing competition! John Kim and Will Griffin are 2021 Diversity Finalists!

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WILL "ROC" GRIFFIN - Co Creator



Will "Roc" Griffin has a BA in Liberal Studies, with an emphasis in music. He is a keyboardist, music producer, music director, composer, actor, and screenplay writer. One of Will's first major accomplishments as a recording artist, was keyboardist with Dr. Dre and the World Class Wrecking Cru, on various recordings in the late 1980s.

Will later went on to produce and perform keyboards on the certified-gold recording from the 1993 movie, "Judgment Night" with Emilio Estevez and Cuba Gooding Jr., featuring various bands including, Faith No More and Boo Yaa Tribe.

His next big project involved jazz piano legend, Herbie Hancock. Will co-produced Hancock's album, "Dis Is Da Drum," which was nominated for a Grammy in 1996. He also toured globally with Hancock as a keyboardist and programmer in support of the record.

Continuing his musical journey, Will produced and played keyboard with blues giant, John Lee Hooker Jr. Out of the three projects directed and produced by Will, for Hooker, two were nominated for Grammys in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

Since late 2018, Will has performed as an actor and music director for the dynamic, nationally touring theatrical production, "Remembering James." The musical depicts the life and music of "The Godfather of Soul," James Brown. Will's performance and musical production prompted Broadway World to include him in its 2019 awards. Will was nominated for, "Person to Watch" and "Best Supporting Actor."

Will is also co-writer of "Urban Defender." The pilot has placed in various screenplay writing competitions including, a Semi-Finalist in Screen Craft's TV Pilot Fellowship, and as of this writing a Finalist in Stage 32's Diversity Springboard Screenwriting Competition.

Paul Clatworthy, Tech Support



“PC” is the tech-brains for this group of creative professionals. Since winning the city yo-yo championship of Houston at age 12, Paul traveled the world as a journalist, television producer and software developer. Paul’s award-winning work as a television news producer and editor spanned both NBC and ABC networks. Bored with television news, he went to USC Cinema as a grad student then professor.

As an entertainment consultant, he created the first digital storyboarding software for the industry, he worked directly with all major studios including Fox, Sony, Dreamworks, Paramount, Warner Bros and Universal. Currently, Paul lends his expertise in both narrative and corporate videos to change to world for the better.

Betty J. Butler, Creative Supervisor/Producer



Betty is a seasoned entertainment professional, having represented both local musicians, as well as accomplished bands/musicians including: Kool & The Gang, and Stevie Wonder among others. She has booked artists internationally for nearly 16 years for: festivals and City Productions from California to Johannesburg, conventions such as Midem in France, museum performances throughout the SF Bay area and more, under the banner of her own agency, Bookmark Productions & Publications, Inc. of Los Altos, which she was CEO/Founder. Betty also has been a partner/President of a Los Angeles based indie film/music label Opinionated Music & Film LLC, represented in LA by Loeb & Loeb as well as Citron & Deutsch.

Betty is currently producing international indie film projects under her own banner Bodacious Pictures, and is one of the Producers and Creative Supervisor for the Urban Defender Project.

Ms. Butler completed her B.A. Degree with honors in foreign language (Sigma Delta Pi) and Fine Art from California State University, Sacramento, where she has been the recipient of numerous awards including: The Luella M Goff Fellowship (Watercolors), The Bank of America Rising Star Award (Fine Art), The Lamp Lighter Award, The Governor's Scholar Award, Selena Ottum Nomination (Life dedicated to the Arts) and Palo Alto Entrepreneur of the Month (Publisher, Bookmark Publications, Inc).

Ms. Butler is currently CEO/Partner of Bjb-LEO Presents, and Representative for The Urban Defender Project.

CONTACT- For more information about investing in Urban Defender, buying comic book ad space or sponsorship, email us at bjbpresents@gmail.com or message Ms. Butler on Instagram Pro, Bettybutler582. Thanks for your interest in Urban Defender!