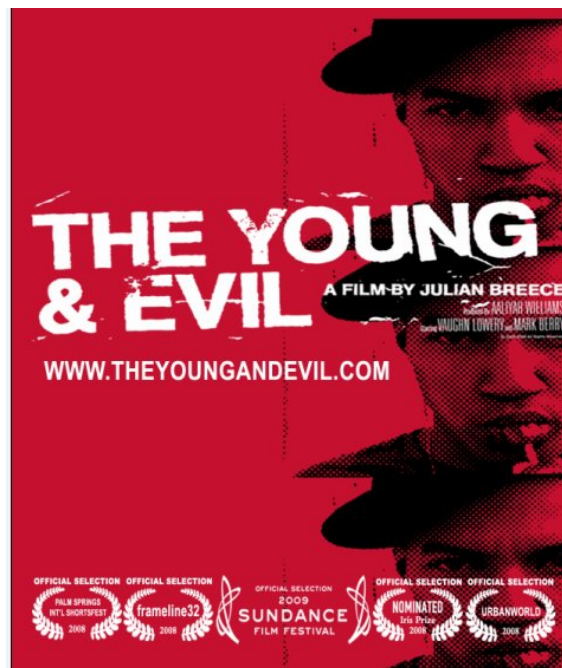




SUNDANCE DRAMATIC SHORTS COMPETITION

# THE YOUNG AND EVIL



## SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS:

Friday, January 16	11:15 AM	Racquet Club
Saturday, January 17	11:30 PM	Prospector Square Theater
Tuesday, January 20	12:15 PM	Holiday Village Cinema IV
Wednesday, January 21	6:30 PM	Redstone Cinemas
Saturday, January 24	12:45 PM	Holiday Village Cinema I

15 MINUTES – COLOR – DOLBY SRD – USA

PRESS CONTACT: Jim Dobson / Indie PR (323) 896-6006

## SYNOPSIS

### Logline

A sexually defiant teen sets out to seduce an HIV prevention advocate into giving him the virus.

### Short Synopsis

THE YOUNG & EVIL, a dramatic short about a defiantly promiscuous young man who finds eros in self-destruction. Referencing the controversial 1930s novel of the same title, THE YOUNG & EVIL provides a chilling lens into how homophobia, faithlessness and longing miscolor the need for human connection.

Shot in South Central Los Angeles by veteran cinematographer Carl Bartels, THE YOUNG & EVIL presents a unique and stylish vision. Pulsing with atmosphere, the film undulates between urban grit and haunting metaphor. With Breece's protagonist as our guide, we're ushered into a labyrinthine world of shadows, where touch equals salvation.

### Long Synopsis

Karel Andrews is nervous. So nervous he's smoking a cigarette. In the hospital.

Black, attractive and incredibly disaffected for eighteen, Karel is finally called into the HIV Counselor's office. He braces for the news, until she finally says those three dreaded words....

"Congratulations. You're negative."

Karel's face plummets. While most would celebrate this news, sexually promiscuous Karel is ticked. Ticked and tired. Tired of getting tested. Tired of being asked. Tired of caring. So, tonight Karel's decided to find someone to infect him with HIV -- the disease he believes he's bound to contract anyway.

His desire leads him to a seedy "anything goes" sex party, where shadow-masked black male bodies, seek, in darkness, for the one thing they're ashamed to need.

There, Karel spots his prey: NAAMAN ROBERTS, a reclusive HIV positive dress tailor who Karel recognizes from an AIDS Prevention Video. But, instead of falling for Karel's seduction, Naaman decides to rehabilitate the young man -- to rescue him from his reckless ways.

However, later that night, in Naaman's bedroom, things take a dark turn as each man's decided mission breaks down, and true desires tremor forth. Desires that prove far too difficult to deny.

THE YOUNG AND EVIL takes a haunting and visually sumptuous gaze into the tormented psyches of those for whom desire is immediately equated with danger. The visual power of this film derives from it's confrontation with popular images of black male bodies, presenting the criminalized, hyper-masculine form and refiguring it as, indeed, beautiful, vulnerable, human.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Before I'd put pen to page on *THE YOUNG AND EVIL*, I felt their voices. At the time, I'd begun writing my feature screenplay, *BALL*, a coming-of-age drama set in New York City's gay ballroom scene. While researching, I was not only completely inspired by the talent I encountered in the Ball community, but also built many unexpected bonds. The truth is, we were more alike than not. Young. Gay. Black. We shared a keen understanding of what it means to be mocked and degraded for significant pieces of ourselves - pieces that, if valued, might just as immediately save the world. But, while these friendships were nurtured on common ground, our differences remained. Largely born into lower-income homes, some (certainly not all) of these young people had been cast out by their families, others might have fled abuse. But what they all shared were personal accounts of loss and a crippling sense of dread brought on by living in the shadow of AIDS - a condition that continues to devastate America's black gay population.

Instantly, my question was, "why?" Why in a country in which HIV/AIDS is deemed a disease in decline do rates of infection and AIDS related death among black gay men continue to skyrocket? Why are prevention and testing programs failing to reach those who need them most? That's when the voices started, and they came with urgency. They spoke out from under a mainstream silence that, as a filmmaker, I aim to counteract.

A 2005 CDC study found that almost one in three (32%) African American MSM (men who have sex with men) ages 23–29 were already infected with HIV, compared to 7% of white MSM. The same study estimated that 46% of African American MSM ages 24-44 were infected, positing that many of these men became infected in their teens and twenties. Such disturbing numbers immediately lead to questions of blame: "Who failed who?" and "Who needs to pay?" Surely, the rise in HIV infection among young black gay men can be pinned, in part, to a lack of accessible prevention programming. But in my opinion, the acute culprit is a failure of perception. The fact is that this particular epidemic springs from underlying cultural and social factors that defy clinical measure (no matter how well-funded). As Dr. Robert Fullilove of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University puts plainly: "Black gay men continue to be the population hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, and with churches and other community institutions fostering homophobia, many approach their sexual lives with a certain level of fatalism."

The fact is, many black gay men, knowing the risks, continue to participate in high-risk behavior. But why? This intersection of desire, isolation and self-nihilism as it relates to black gay men -- the soul of the matter -- has been largely ignored in prevention dialogue, but I believe it's exactly where the conversation needs to begin.

—Julian Breece

## MAKING THE FILM

### Casting

Casting for THE YOUNG AND EVIL was easy and hard all at once. We knew our lead role, KAREL, would require an actor who could really go there. Karel would need to be hauntingly beautiful and powerful on screen. As we started forming our list of potential actors for this role, we happened upon the site for Vaughn Lowery. We immediately recognized him as that "Joe Boxer guy" but upon reading his bio and checking out his photos we felt a real connection to him. This is what Karel looked like. So we went through the process of posting our breakdowns on the standard sites and he submitted! We were ecstatic and that feeling only grew once we met him for his first read. Vaughn brought Karel to life in a way that we could have never imagined. He really understood Karel and understood the film and wanted to do whatever was necessary to make the role real. We cast Vaughn on the spot and began the exciting journey from Vaughn to Karel.

The search for NAAMAN, on the other hand, was not as easy. It was an incredibly taxing task to find older black actors who would play a gay role. We never thought these prejudices would impede an actor from connecting to a story and acting, but it became a real problem. We enlisted the help of casting directors and industry friends and had many an uncomfortable conversation with actors and managers and agents. One week before the shoot we had a breakthrough. We found Mark Berry on a casting site and brought him in for a read. He read the role with both the authority and vulnerability we were looking for. And we ended the session with a long conversation about his empathy for the film's subject matter. Finally, an actor who could perform and see the potential of this project! To our good fortune, Vaughn and Mark worked well together. With Julian's direction, the two imbued our story with energy, intelligence and of course, desire.

### The Money

The Brotherhood Crusade was our fiscal sponsor allowing us to raise tax deductible donations from friends and family to realize our total budget and receive grants that would not have been possible without non profit status. The Brotherhood Crusade is such an important organization in the Los Angeles community and has become very important to Aaliyah and I personally. They believed in us and our vision for this project when other organizations were quite frankly afraid of it. Charisse Bremond, the BC's President, is a part of the new breed of black leaders that place the needs and realities of the community above the immediate discomfort it might cause those outside of that community (which is why hers has been so quietly effective). The Brotherhood Crusade provides necessary health, educational and economic resources to traditionally underserved communities in the city and it's surrounding areas.

Charisse's brother, Duane Bremond, was a very prominent leader/activist in the black gay community and he died of complications from AIDS in 2003. Because of this, issues of black health and sexuality are of very intimate concern to her. Recognizing the power that young artists can have in affecting social change, Charisse listened to our vision and made it an official program of the Brotherhood Crusade. Her support has been a true blessing and we're deeply indebted to that organization.

## CREW BIOGRAPHIES

### JULIAN BREECE – Writer, Director

Julian Breece is a graduate of Harvard University (AB '03) and USC's Graduate School or Cinema-Television (MFA '05). His debut short, *THE YOUNG & EVIL*, received grants from Panavision, The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation and the Frameline Completion Fund. The short has screened at major festivals around the world and is an Official Selection of the 2009 Sundance Film Festival.

Breece's first feature screenplay *BALL* won a Slamdance Feature Screenplay Award and went on to become a 2007 Finalist for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting. Currently, Breece is the creator, executive producer and director of *BUPPIES*, the first web drama to present an African-American cast. A Film Independent Project:Involve Fellow, Breece will direct his first feature film, *HEARTLAND*, in Spring 2009.

### AALIYAH WILLIAMS – Producer

Aaliyah Williams's first short film, *THE YOUNG AND EVIL*, is an official selection of the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. Aaliyah began her entertainment career working and nurturing relationships at companies such as the Endeavor Agency, producer Effie Brown's Duly Noted, Inc. and Forward Pass, Inc., where she worked directly with award-winning director Michael Mann. Her producing and line producing talent has been recognized as a 2008 Fellow of the Sundance Independent Producer's Conference.

Aaliyah's current projects include a mixture of film and online content. She is producing the ground breaking web series *BUPPIES*, created by Julian Breece and starring Tatyana Ali, as well as the comedy web series *WHY ARE WE FRIENDS?* created by Nate Stutz. Aaliyah goes into production on her first feature film, *HEARTLAND*, written and to be directed by Julian Breece this spring on location in Newport, Arkansas. A graduate of Harvard University (AB '02) where she was a producer and stage manager at the American Repertory Theater, Aaliyah currently resides in Los Angeles.

### CARL BARTLES – Cinematographer

Carl began his career as a still photographer. For more than a decade, he did a variety of assignments ranging from fine arts and sports to editorial and commercial work. In 1993, after graduating as a Fellow from the American Film Institute in Cinematography, Bartels began shooting film and video working as a cinematographer on features films, documentaries, music videos and short films.

His feature credits include "Blue Hill Avenue", "The Funk Parlor", "The Newcomers", "Radical Jack", "Blink of an Eye" (1999 winner, Best Feature, New York Film Festival), "Implicated", and "October 3" (Worldfest Houston Award winner), among others. Bartels' documentary work includes "Heroes of the Earth" and "New England: Roads Less Traveled". Bartels has degrees from AFI, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Siena College in Albany, New York.

### GARY GUNN – Composer

Gary Gunn is a producer and composer who has scored and created original music for award-winning film and television projects, including 2009 Sundance Official Selection, "The Young and Evil," and Showtime's Emmy-nominated "Sleeper Cell" series.

Raised in Washington, D.C., Gunn's musical roots stem from his participation in the golden era of the city's Go-Go music scene. A self-taught prodigy, Gunn began his professional career as a teenager, producing and arranging under Grammy-winning music producer Mahogany who pioneered sounds for top urban artists such as Jay Z, M.O.P. and Dr Dre.

After graduating from Howard University in 2003, Gunn moved to New York City where he was approached to build an alternative record label alongside industry mavericks Nona Hendryx (Labelle) & Vicki Wickham (Dusty Springfield). During this process he continued to make a name for himself as a rising producing talent, creating original music for Rick Yune's action feature "The Fifth Commandment," and Divinci Code documentary, "Secrets of the Code."

In 2008, Gunn received the Amie Street/Wrigley's Visionary Grant, which funded his concept-driven album project, "Destroying Beauty" set to debut in early 2009.

#### AVI YOUABIAN – Editor

An award-winning editor whose editorial credits include Television dramas such as Cold Case, Big Shots, October Road, and the 2007 Academy Award Winning short film, West Bank Story.

Avi began editing music videos at the age of 22. Several keystrokes later he made his first big transition when asked to join Lucas Film in helping shape the documentary, WITHIN A MINUTE: THE MAKING OF EPISODE III, highlighting the production and post production phases of the final Star Wars chapter.

Avi's roster of work also includes the highly acclaimed TV series SMITH, starring Ray Liotta, and THE EVIDENCE—both series produced by John Wells and Christopher Schulack. He recently finished the 2 hour pilot teen drama, 90210.

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

### VAUGHN LOWERY (Karel Andrews)



Vaughn Lowery embarked on an acting and modeling career during a trip to New York City when renowned make-up artist Sam Fine, set him up with a fashion photographer, Fadil Berisha. Before his appearance as "Joe Boxer" Vaughn worked as a successful print model for such companies as Gap, Target, Skechers, Old Navy and Mark Ecko, while also working as a runway model for Tommy Hilfiger, Phat Farm and Karl Kani. He has also graced the pages of FHM (SA), URB Magazine, and Glamour.

Recently, Vaughn has filmed a Super Bowl commercial, completed a high-profile Dasani billboard ad campaign, appeared on "America's Next Top Model," and guest-starred on the comedy series, "Scrubs".

Vaughn was also named one of "17 Hot Guys" by Seventeen Magazine.

Despite his humble beginnings in a Detroit, Michigan housing project, with his mother, father and five siblings, he completed his degree from Cornell University's School of Industrial & Labor Relations in just 3 years.

### MARK BERRY (Naaman Roberts)



Mark Berry has appeared in numerous feature films including BLADE TRINITY, THE WEDDING, LIGHT YEARS and TRIPLE MINORITY. On television he has guest starred on such shows as ELEVENTH HOUR, NUMB3RS and has a recurring role on THRESHOLD.

### ERIC PUMPHREY (Julio)



Born in Houston, Texas, Eric Pumphrey has been acting for several years. In addition to THE YOUNG AND EVIL, Eric has starred in several films including Douglas Horn's ENTRY LEVEL and Jameel Saleem's LET GO. Eric also writes, produces, and directs his own projects, making him an all around filmmaker. His true enjoyment in life is his work and his relentless drive to communicate.

### HEATHER HALLEY (Doctor)



Heather Halley is a prolific voice over actress with countless productions including ARMORED CORE, ACE COMBAT, TALES OF THE WORLD, METAL GEAR and others. She has appeared in such films as THE PEOPLE I'VE SLEPT WITH, THE RED DRESS and THE VIOLIN.

## CAST

Karel.....VAUGHN LOWERY  
Karel's Mother.....DIANA JORDAN  
The One/Main Thug.....REGGIE WATKINS  
Thug #1.....MICHAEL OLIVER PERRY  
Thug #2.....ANTONIO RAMIREZ  
Thug #3.....CARLOS TAYLOR  
Doctor.....HEATHER HALLEY  
Doorman.....LES 'ELJAY' JENKINS  
Maxie.....RAJA  
Julio.....ERIC PUMPHREY  
Naaman.....MARK BERRY  
Tableaux Models.....CEDRIC HAGLER  
RYAN GILL  
TREY RICHARDSON  
KC CARDWELL  
JOVAN GARETT  
MICHAEL CARTER  
CHARLIE BUTLER  
DEVAUGHN RATTERY  
SHELDON BAILY  
MICHAEL FOSTER

## CREW

Writer / Director.....JULIAN BREECE  
Producer.....AALIYAH WILLIAMS  
Director of Photography.....CARL BARTELS  
Original Music by.....GARY GUNN  
Production Designer.....JENNA SANDERS  
Costume Designer.....EARL MOORE  
Editing.....AVI YOUABIAN  
First Assistant Director.....NEIL KISELLA  
First Assistant Camera.....LEAH DEMO  
Second Assistant Camera.....ANN KIM  
Loader.....KIM CULOTTA  
ED CHEN  
STEPHANIE SCHMIDT  
Still Photographer.....LISA FAIMAN  
Gaffer.....CHARLIE COOPER  
Key Grip.....RASHAAD LEWIS  
Swing.....MICHAEL ARMSTEAD  
Sound Mixer.....OLIVER MOSS  
Boom Operator.....SHIRA INGRAM  
Production Designer.....JENNA SANDERS  
Leadman.....LUIS RAMIREZ  
Property Master.....BRIAN RODRIGUEZ  
Set Dresser.....VICTORIA ORTEGA  
Swing.....CARLEY POBLETE  
Costume Designer.....EARL MOORE  
Costumer.....GABE DEDIOS  
Key Makeup.....RACHEL WHITEHURST  
Makeup.....SUZY THOMPSON  
UPM.....CHERYL BEDFORD  
Assistant to Mr. Breece.....FANSHEN COX  
Assistant to Ms. Williams.....SARAH LABRIE  
Production Assistant.....CAMILLO CIBULKA  
CHRIS STARR  
Catering.....INDEPENDENT KITCHEN FIESTA/NORA  
Additional Photography.....SEAN CONATY  
ADAM HABIB  
2nd Unit Sound Mixer.....ANTON HAUGABOOK  
Sound Designer.....KENNETH L. JOHNSON  
Title Art.....ANTHONY HARRISON

"I Am" performed by Gregg Evisu, arranged by DJ Mike Q

Filmed on location in Los Angeles

Shot with Panavision cameras on 35mm Kodak film

An Official Program of The Brotherhood Crusade of Los Angeles