Walk Me Out

Feature Film Screenplay by

Howard Sadel hsadel@gmail.com 919-357-6511

Logline:

Following a NYC mugging, an older Cuban photographer and a young Black gang leader form a tense relationship around photography, challenged further as a murder charge tests them both.

Synopsis:

Walk Me Out takes place in the summer of 1977 in the Lower East Side of New York City, where Hector Alvarez, a 65-year-old Cuban refugee and photographer, navigates the lively streets. The city's energy reflects Hector's own—displaced by a revolution that haunts him; he vigorously seeks purpose through his photography. Hector owns a small photo store and gallery with his wife, Maria.

One night, after photographing at a private party uptown, Hector is confronted by a local Black gang led by 26-year-old Maurice Johnson. Maurice discovers a small album of Hector's photos in his camera bag during the encounter and is strangely captivated by them, triggering a connection from his past. This ignites an unlikely and tense relationship between the two.

Maurice coerces Hector into a mentorship he does not want. Despite warnings from his wife and uncle, Hector "lends" Maurice a camera and begins teaching him the art of photography on the streets of New York. Through their encounters, Hector shares his painful past as a boy in revolutionary Cuba, while Maurice captures his struggles through the camera's lens. Eventually, Maurice's criminal life pulls him back into trouble, and he is accused of murder. He claims he is innocent.

The murder trial tests Hector's trust and Maurice's resolve to go on. In the end, the picture becomes clear to both.

The film captures the unexpected bond between the two men, presenting a powerful story of redemption, mentorship, and the hope of discovering a new life through the lens of a camera. It also bridges the realities of race relations and the immigrant experience, including flashbacks to Hector's childhood in revolutionary Cuba.