

WALK ME OUT





LOCLINE

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.

Executive Summary

TITLE: WALK ME OUT

Location: 1977 LOWER EAST SIDE

LENGTH: FEATURE FILM

GENRE: CHARACTER-DRIVEN DRAMA

THEME: REDEMPTION

SCREENPLAY: 118 PAGES

BUDGET: \$TBD



STORY & SCREENPLAY BY: Howard Sadel

The writer grew up in the 1960s and '70s with his three brothers in a small apartment just outside New York's Lincoln Tunnel. His parents were German immigrants who fled post-war Berlin in 1950 to build a new life in America.

His father, a former AP and UPI photographer during WWII, continued working in New York—shooting everything from newspaper assignments to weddings and private events to support the family.

During that time, he befriended a young Cuban-born photographer trying to start his own business. He loaned him the money to begin, forging a lifelong friendship.

This story is inspired by that bond. Though cultures and immigrant waves shift over time, the struggle for a better life endures—and sometimes, opportunity begins with a single act of kindness.



WRITER'S STATEMENT

After over two decades as a creative director and marketing executive, I've transitioned from crafting brand narratives to telling human stories. My experience writing, producing, and directing regional TV commercials and leading creative campaigns has honed my ability to convey compelling messages succinctly and impactfully.

My debut feature screenplay is a culmination of years spent understanding audience engagement and storytelling dynamics. It delves into themes of identity, resilience, and the complexities of human relationships, reflecting my passion for narratives that resonate on a personal level.

This project represents a new chapter in my creative journey, where I aim to merge my strategic communication skills with authentic storytelling to create meaningful cinematic experiences.



Screenwriter, Director, Producer
Marketing Executive, Creative Director



STORY



Summary



Walk Me Out is set in the summer of 1977 in New York City, where Hector Alvarez, a 65-year-old Cuban refugee and photographer, navigates the vibrant streets of the Lower East Side. The city's energy mirrors Hector's life—a man displaced by revolution, now trying to find purpose through his camera lens. Hector owns a small photo store with his wife, Maria, and a gallery upstairs. One night, after shooting a private party in uptown, Hector is held up by a local black gang led by 24-year-old Maurice Johnson. During the assault, he finds a small album of Hector's street photography. Maurice is drawn to Hector's photos, sparking an intense connection that unfolds between the two.

Despite warnings from his wife and uncle, Hector "lends" Maurice a camera and over time, begins teaching him the art of photography. Through a series of flashbacks, Hector relives his painful past as a young boy in revolutionary Cuba as Maurice starts to express his life's struggles through the lens of the camera. Eventually, Maurice's criminal ties pull him back into trouble as he is accused of murder.

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 art of photography.

The screenplay blends elements of crime drama, character study, and social commentary while focusing strongly on the central relationship between Hector and Maurice. The resolution suggests that while their worlds may differ, art and human connection can transcend social barriers.

CHARACTERS



Protagonist

HECTOR ALVAREZ

Hector Alvarez is a 65-year-old professional photographer and photo store owner, originally a refugee from communist Cuba. He runs a small photography shop with his wife, Maria. Having experienced the hardships of the Cuban revolution as a child and now facing the challenges of life as a refugee in America, Hector is driven by a deep sense of resilience. His past motivates him to focus on the good in people and push back against the struggles that have followed him throughout his life. This outlook gives him profound empathy, allowing him to capture the raw emotions of those enduring hardships around him in his photography. However, many of those around him mistake his kindness for weakness.



Antagonist

MAURICE JOHNSON

Maurice Johnson is a sharp, street-savvy 26-year-old Black man from Manhattan's Lower East Side. Growing up in a broken home, he's been forced to mature beyond his years. After dropping out of school, he takes to the streets to support his single mother and younger siblings. Maurice runs a small crew under a threatening street boss, dealing drugs and committing petty crimes, yet deep down, he longs for a way out of the life he feels trapped in. Despite his tough exterior, Maurice struggles with his inner conflict, while Latoya, his fiery southern girlfriend, continually urges him to seek a better path in life.



Cast Suggestions

HECTOR



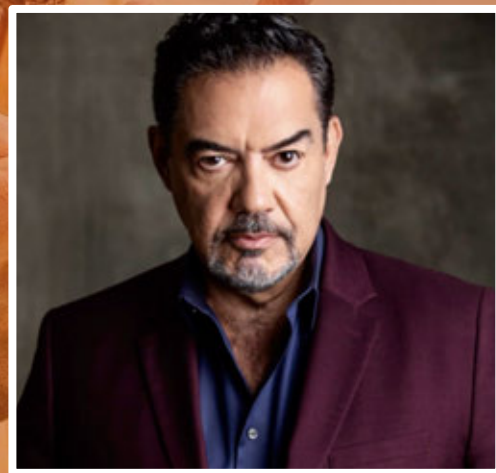
JAVIER BARDEM

DUNE, LOVING PABLO, NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN



DEMIAN BICHIR

CHE, A BETTER LIFE, WITHOUT BLOOD



CARLOS GOMEZ

NOT DEAD YET, BIG SKY

Cast Suggestions

MAURICE



**JONATHAN
MAJORS**

THE LAST BLACK MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO
THE HARDER THEY FALL, ANT-MAN



KELVIN HARRISON JR

CHEALIER, ELVIS, WAVES



JHARREL JEROME

UNSTOPPABLE, CONCRETE COWBOY

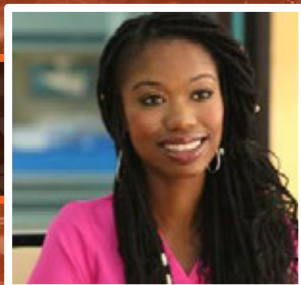
Additional Cast Ideas

MARIA ALVAREZ (58)

Hector's Wife



GLORIA ESTEFAN



XOSHA ROQUEMORE

FEDORA (70, Russian)

Gallery Manager



CAROL KANE

LUIS (Cuban, 75)

Hector's Uncle

TELMA (Cuban, 73)

Hector's Aunt

JAMO (Black, 22)

Primary Gang Member

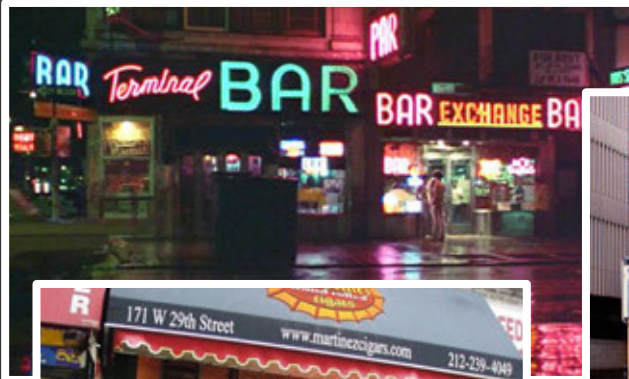
OFFICER MORGAN (White, 35)

Primary Police Officer

DETECTIVE BRENNAN (White, 45)

Primary Detective

Mood Board



Highlight Famous New York Street Photographs and Their Photographers

Street Photography





Audience Targets - Interests

- **REDEMPTIVE DRAMA**
- **IMMIGRANT STORIES**
- **RACIAL PREJUDICE**
- **GENERATIONAL TRAUMA**
- **CUBAN REVOLUTION**
- **ARTISTIC DISCOVERY**
- **STREET PHOTOGRAPHY**
- **NEW YORK NOSTALGIA**
- **CIGAR CULTURE**
- **MUSIC: LATIN, DISCO, SOUL**

Keywords

New York City • 1970's • African American • Cuban • Urban • Gritty Realism • Social Tension • Racial Conflict
• Street Life • Youth Culture • Crime • Gang • Murder Trial • Court Case • Legal System • Period Drama •
Friendship • Personal Struggle • Photography • Street Photography • Camera • Photographer

Target Markets

- **NORTH AMERICA**
 - **US & CANADA**

- **LATIN AMERICA**
 - **MEXICO**
 - **ARGENTINA**
 - **BRAZIL**

- **Europe**
- **Asia-Pacific**

LATAM's box office gross totaled about 1.6 billion U.S. dollars in 2022, with Mexico alone holding over 37 percent of that pie. Mexico generated more than the combined revenue of the markets ranked second and third: Brazil and Argentina. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Mexico also had by far the highest number of movie tickets sold per capita in Latin America.

- STATISTA

COMPS - Visual Style



The Deuce - HBO
(2019)



American Gangster
(2007)



Taxi Driver
(1976)



Roma
(2018)
(For Flashback Style)

Comps - Storyline



The Green Book (2018)
Budget: \$23m
Box Office: \$321m



Banshees of Inisherin (2022)
Budget: \$20m
Box Office: \$52m



Gran Torino (2008)
Budget: \$33m
Box Office: \$270m

Contact

Howard Sadel
Venice, Florida

919-357-6511

hsadel@gmail.com

