

Film: **STUD**

Logline: A 14-year-old boy's life is challenged by the expectations of others and the illusory chance of becoming an athletic star as he is swallowed by the pressures of competitive travel baseball.

Genre: Drama

Synopsis: Aaron, a 14 year-old boy from the "inner city" is a valuable asset to his local travel baseball team. He is meticulously trained by his father, a once successful athlete, by means of religious faith, mental and physical endurance.

As a member of the team, he stands out with his inherited grace and speed but is pushed to his limits when his resilience is challenged. His best friend from the grade below him is closing in on his spot on the team and is unapologetic about it. While his coach holds contempt for his abilities and quietly awaits the moment of his self-destruction.

During the harsh course of spring training, Aaron is constantly battling himself to become an efficient baseball machine. At every corner he is seduced by the ephemeral dream of success and manhood. As he prepares for the first game of the season he is faced with that realization which consumes him in the moments before the game.

STUD will show the moments of Aaron's consumption. The film follows a series of his training, both with his team and his father and will conclude at a private moment of introspection in a public bathroom before his game. It provides an introspective scope into the realm of male dominance and America's obsession with sports. It examines the connection between sentimentality and aggression in masculinity and the constant battle between the two. It examines the uncompromising demands of sports, even in adolescence, and the effects of its demands on a

boy's relationship with his father. STUD gives a voice to those who are misunderstood or were never given a chance to be understood in the first place. It reveals the consequences of letting the world around you define who you are.

# STUD

Directed by Casiano R. Hamer

## Director's Statement

Thirteen years. From the age of five to the age of eighteen I played baseball at almost every level someone in their adolescence could play. It started as organized playtime, where coaches held your hand and gave out bags of chips after games. Then it became ruthless, where a player's acumen was measured by local news coverage and radar guns. The majority of my childhood seemed to revolve around it, where time was measured as periods of space between practices, games and tournaments. It consumed the majority of my reality in which I learned many life lessons as well as the intricacies of who I am.

When I left home to attend college, I turned my back on it. I let my high school senior year season falter with the expectation that I would no longer need it. It became a relic of bitter memories, of the hometown I grew to hate and the people I no longer wished to associate with.

However, like a wave of dreams and apparitions, my experience with the sport has come back to me uninvited and with great force. It has helped me realize the difference between who I think I am and who I actually am and, at a very cathartic level, it has revealed to me the essence of my relationship with my father.

*STUD*, in its creation, has become a meditative form of expression for me. It has allowed me to manifest the emotions I repressed in my childhood while making sense of the love my father expressed to me as a child. On a universal scale, it will unveil the vulnerabilities in the sport of baseball as well as the effects of hyper-masculinity in American sports culture. Through the tale of a teenager's preparation for the first game of his travel baseball season, *STUD* will be an impressionistic narrative that reveals the realities of a world of expectations decided for a person too young and too passive to make those decisions for himself.

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## Director's Biography

I am Casiano Roman Hamer, an aspiring narrative filmmaker. I am currently attending Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY as a film major with a minor in creative writing. As to where I am from, the answer is more complicated. I was originally born in Chicago, Illinois and lived in many different homes in Bridgeport, CT before moving back to Chicago right after high school. My racial identity is similar as I identify as both African- American and Cuban-American with ancestry that reaches as far as the thick rainforest in Africa to the plains of Spain.

This amalgamation of identity and culture lives through my everyday experience and transcends through my creativity. Throughout my career at Pratt Institute I have delved into different expressions of film, from short narratives to documentaries to multimedia experimental films.

Outside of Pratt I have worked with companies in creating their visual brand. In New York I have worked with a TechRow, a technological start that is giving students in underprivileged communities tools to succeed in technological careers. In Chicago I have worked with a fashion boutique, Anastasia Chatzka, in the trendy neighborhood of Wicker Park. I have balanced the ethics in a social realm in which my inspirations come from as well as explore my creative spirit.

With my next project **STUD** I wish to grow closer to my aspiration as a director and a writer and create films that bend reality and display the visual impressions of the stories in my life. This project will literally retrace my past as it will be filmed in Bridgeport, CT and even include, the team I played for in my hometown. The characters will re-enact and manifest the pressure that I felt as a player and how the sport influenced my relationship with my father.

As I continue my progression as a writer and filmmaker I wish to continue telling stories like **STUD** and reach to my audience at an emotional level. I also wish to be a voice for those who have had similar experiences growing up in a city, with many conflicts, and without much control of their own life.

## Cast Biography

**Aaron:** Aaron is played by Jasper Andrianarivo, a 13 year old student athlete out of the Bayside neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY. His parents are Annalee and Harilala. Annalee, a former LIU Brooklyn volleyball player from the Philippines, and Harilala, a former St. John's University soccer player from Madagascar. A diverse ethnic lineage of athleticism has provided Jasper with a unique perspective on life and innate ability which was perfect for the role of Aaron. He currently is an infielder and pitcher for the 13U Bonnie Youth team in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn.

**Father:** The role of the father is played by Adrian Washington. A professional actor and a member of the SAG-AFTRA union. He has acted in anything and everything between student films and Hollywood productions such as *American Gangster*. He hails from New Jersey and is a father himself who has taken his life experiences and has manifested them through the role.

**Deron:** Deron is played by Divine Valle. He is originally from Puerto Rico but has traveled and lived in Florida and now lives in the the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn, NY. He has played for multiple travel baseball teams and currently plays with the 13U Bonnie Youth team as a pitcher. He has brought his experience and poise to the execution of his role.

# Media:

Trailer 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Db2qu3ozyDs&feature=youtu.be>

Trailer 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUQBi76cmUg&feature=youtu.be>

Anatomy of a Scene: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORYFxHk-PvI>