IT'S THE HAPPIEST TIME OF THE YEAR

A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS FEATURE FILM

Base on an original musical stage play by Charles Douglass and Jimmy Justice



Story by Charles Douglass
Screenplay by Charlia Boyer

THE OPPORTUNITY

A commercial holiday movie with heart, music, community, and a built-in emotional engine

THE HOOK • A hard-edged community leader races to save a beloved neighborhood center while a mysterious woman searches for the mother she believes she has lost.

THE ENGINE • Christmas countdown + threatened community landmark + family mystery + musical production + personal transformation.

THE PAYOFF • A story about what happens when people stop looking past one another and choose to preserve what matters.

"The miracle is not what appears. It's what people choose to save."

LOGLINE

"As Christmas approaches, a successful former football star and community arts director must confront his own blind spots when a mysterious woman's search for her missing mother collides with a developer's plan to destroy the neighborhood community center and a young performer's struggle forces him to rediscover compassion."

MYSTERY



COMMUNITY



MIRACLE



SYNOPSIS

As Christmas approaches in Los Angeles, successful former Heisman Trophy winner and community arts director Jerimiah Johnson appears to have everything…wealth, a successful career, a loving wife, and a passion for producing the biggest Christmas production the Watts community center has ever seen. But beneath his polished exterior is a man who believes everything can be solved with hard work, determination, and control.

That begins to change when Kenya Benjamin, a successful television producer, walks into Jerimiah's office searching for a woman from an old photograph; a woman she believes is her mother. The woman is Marie, a homeless stranger who has been quietly living on the streets near the community center. To everyone else, Marie appears eccentric, broken, and forgotten. But Marie carries a secret past. Once a celebrated singer who performed on some of the world's greatest stages, she lost everything after a violent betrayal that left her physically and emotionally scarred and separated her from the daughter whom she never stopped loving.

While Kenya desperately tries to reconnect with the mother who refuses to acknowledge her, another threat emerges. Developers are moving to acquire the community center, a beloved gathering place that has served generations of people in Watts. Jerimiah discovers that the center is far more than an aging building, it is a piece of his community's history, tied to the Lancaster family and potentially protected as a historical monument. Suddenly, the man who once saw development as an investment opportunity is forced to decide what is actually worth preserving.

With only days remaining before the Christmas production and with a major television network preparing to stream the show, Jerimiah pushes the community to deliver a performance worthy of the spotlight. But his relentless pursuit of perfection causes him to overlook the very people he is trying to uplift. His impatience with Jason, a gifted twelve-year-old struggling with dyslexia and crippling performance anxiety, becomes a mirror for Jerimiah's own inability to see beyond appearances.

Then tragedy strikes…

SYNOPSIS

On the eve of the community's greatest opportunity, Jerimiah's motorcycle crashes, leaving him in a coma and threatening to bring everything to a halt. But instead of giving up, the people he has spent years trying to lead come together. The older men, the outspoken women, the young performers, the choir, and the children take responsibility for the production and for one another. Even Marilie, the formidable former choir director who has battled Jerimiah throughout the rehearsals, realizes that the show must go on.

On Christmas night, the community center becomes a stage of transformation. Marie arrives dressed for the occasion, places her humble offering in the donation box, and steps into the spotlight. The forgotten woman everyone thought they knew reveals the extraordinary voice and spirit buried beneath years of hardship. As Kenya watches, mother and daughter are finally brought together; not through a grand explanation, but through recognition, forgiveness, and love.

Then comes the moment everyone has been waiting for. Twelve-year-old Jason, once too frightened to say a single line correctly, steps onto the stage as the Little Drummer Boy. Surrounded by the people who believed in him, he finally delivers his line perfectly and receives a standing ovation.

At that very moment, in a hospital room, Jerimiah awakens from his coma and watches the Christmas production streaming on television. He hears Jason deliver the words he had struggled so hard to say and realizes that the greatest production was never about perfection, fame, or recognition. It was about people.

As the entire community celebrates, Jerimiah embraces Cynthia, Marie and Kenya embrace, and the Christmas celebration erupts into a joyful declaration that something extraordinary has happened in the place they fought to save.

A miracle happened here.

And for the first time, Jerimiah understands that the greatest things in life are not the things we acquire—but the people, memories, dreams, and communities we choose to preserve.

TONE & AUDIENCE

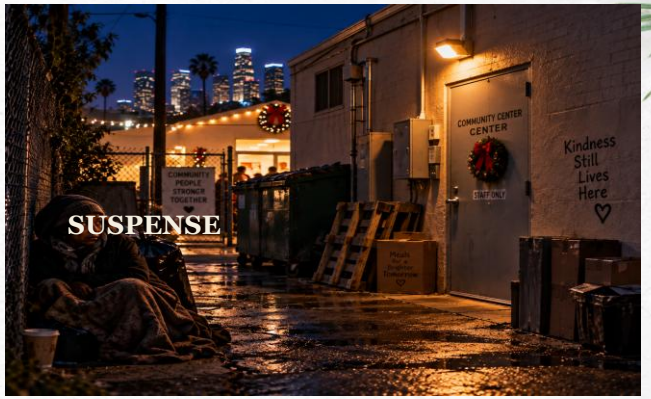
Warm holiday spectacle with grounded drama, comedy, soul, and mystery



Family • belonging • second chances



Character comedy • ensemble energy



Mystery • real stakes • ticking clock

TARGET AUDIENCE • Adult holiday audiences • multigenerational families • Black audiences • musical-film audiences • community-centered storytellers

THE WORLD

Los Angeles at Christmas: two worlds separated by money, but connected by memory





“The community center is more than a building. It is a memory made physical.”

JERIMIAH JOHNSON

The man who believes leadership means control, until the people he serves teach him what leadership costs



30s • Former Heisman Trophy winner • successful investor • husband • community arts director.

EXTERNAL GOAL • Produce a Christmas show big enough to put the center and its people on the map.

INTERNAL NEED • Learn to listen, especially to the people he thinks he already understands.

ARC • From image and control → vulnerability → responsibility → service.

MARIE

The mystery at the center of the movie



Late 60s • homeless, dignified, funny, observant, and carrying a past nobody around her fully understands.

She finds meaning in small miracles—two dollars, fifty cents, a song, a familiar face.

She has a history connected to music, performance, and the people searching for her.

SCREEN PRESENCE • Mystery + warmth + comic relief + emotional truth.

THE ENSEMBLE

A community that feels like a character

CYNTHIA



Jerimiah's wife • surgeon • compassionate observer

KENYA



Determined woman searching for Marie

JASON



12-year-old performer • vulnerable • gifted • misunderstood

MARILIE



Former choir director • formidable • funny • proud

THE DOMINO MEN



Old friends • comic rhythm • living history

THE GOSSIP LADIES



Comic chorus • social radar • community glue

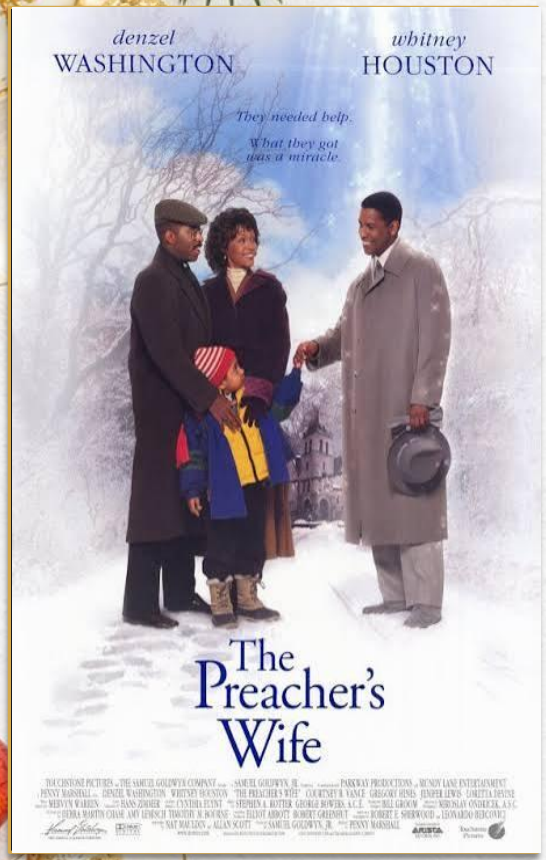
MUSIC AS STORY

The songs are not decoration…they reveal character and move the emotional plot

“I’VE BEEN SEARCHING”	Kenya • longing • unresolved history
“GIVE AND TAKE”	Jerimiah + Cynthia • marriage • negotiation
“ONLY DO THE BEST THAT YOU CAN”	Jerimiah • coaching • vulnerability
“CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST HERE”	Cynthia / ensemble • holiday spectacle
“SOMETHING WORTH PRESERVING”	Jerimiah • awakening • stakes

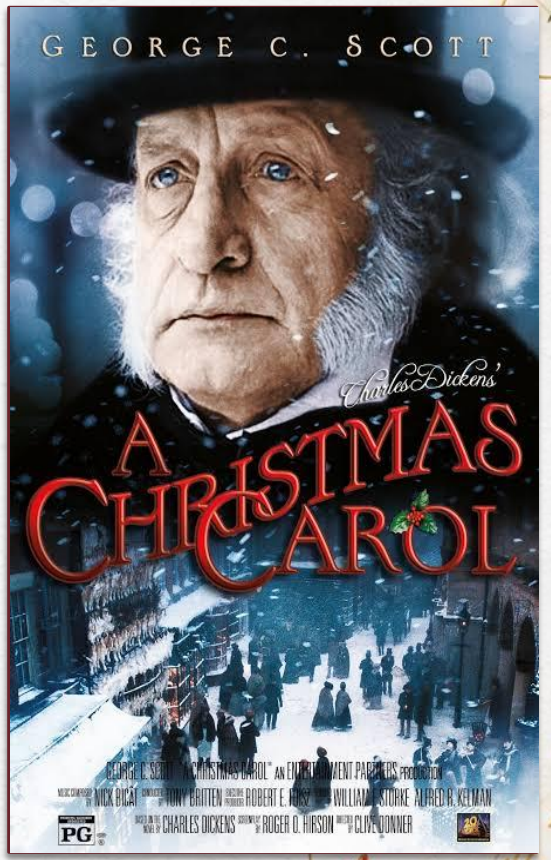
REFERENCE SHELF

Tone references—not direct comps









THEMES

SEE THE PERSON	People are more than the version of them we see today.
PRESERVE MEMORY	Community spaces hold stories that cannot be replaced by development.
SECOND CHANCES	Alife can be interrupted without being finished.
BELONGING	The center creates a place where people who feel invisible become essential.
FAITH & MIRACLES	Miracles are both spiritual events and human acts of love.



Creative/Production Team

Charles Douglass, Director

Mr. H.B. Barnum, Musical Director

Charlia Boyer, Writer-Producer

Christopher Richards, Producer

Chester Whitmore, Choreographer

Dante Mitchell, Production Assistant

Toni Sparks, Public Relations



NAACP Theater Award Winner

INVESTOR / PRODUCER PROPOSITION

A scalable holiday property with multiple exploitation paths

FEATURE FILM • Primary screen property

SOUNDTRACK • Original songs and holiday playlist potential

LIVE / STAGE • The in-story Christmas production creates theatrical/event potential

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS • Holiday screenings, arts organizations, cultural institutions

FUTURE IP • Characters and musical world can support additional holiday stories



*Budget Available Upon Request

CONTACT



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