



For the Future of Film  
**Locarno 2020**  
**Pardi di domani**  
Official Selection

# GRAMERCY

A SHORT FILM BY JAMIL MCGINNIS AND PAT HEYWOOD





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SENECA VILLAGE PICTURES PRESENTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH REFRAME THE WORLD AND PUTSHKI

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## SYNOPSIS

Shaq, a young man grappling with depression, returns to his New Jersey hometown, where his exploration of grief and brotherhood transforms into the imagining of an inner life.

**TYPE** Short Film, Drama

**COUNTRY** United States

**ASPECT RATIO** 1.85:1

**SHOOTING FORMAT** Digital, Color and Black & White

**SCREENING FORMAT** DCP

**SOUND** 5.1

**RUNNING TIME** 22 minutes, 43 seconds

**COMPLETION** December 2019

## JAMIL MCGINNIS AND PAT HEYWOOD

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## **DIRECTORS STATEMENT**

Gramercy is a character study of a young man grappling with depression and exploring its impact by way of brotherhood and death in a present sense, not just through a lens of nostalgia. With this, we enter into an uncanny world where material reality and the metaphysical fold into one another to imagine the relationship between outer and inner life.

As a place and identity, Gramercy existed well before we brought cameras to New Jersey. While the story told in our film is fictional, the actors, the locations, the culture, and the relationships are not. Blurring these lines between fiction and non-fiction created layers of depth that the paradigm of classical filmmaking cannot—reexamining not only the kinds of stories we see in the world, but more importantly how they are told.

We get caught up in rationalizing art, but our inner lives do not operate in the way we are conditioned to think cinema must. As we began to observe our own inner lives cinematically, the human condition became a guide into the mysticism between life and mortality. We aimed to escape imposed societal narratives to discover a deeper reckoning with the self, in hopes of internal freedom. By painting black bodies against the backdrop of the natural world, the promise and potential of spiritual liberation began manifesting itself on and off screen.

Gramercy was three years in the making, but the film is really a lifetime of questions. Why do we feel the way we do? What are our emotional limits? Where do they come from? How do we grow when we are constantly answering for our past? When is human contradiction acceptable? What is real and what isn't? What is true and what isn't? There is more to wax poetic, but instead, we invite you to experience Gramercy on your screens, through your hearts and minds, and the spaces in between.



## KEY CREW

### Jamil McGinnis and Pat Heywood (WRITERS/DIRECTORS/PRODUCERS)

Jamil McGinnis and Pat Heywood are writing, directing, and producing partners based in Brooklyn, New York, collaborating under the moniker Seneca Village Pictures. Their work has been featured on PBS, NOWNESS, TIDAL, NPR, NoBudge, and screened at the New Orleans Film Festival, Rhode Island International Festival, Film at Lincoln Center, and the Walker Arts Center. Gramercy is their fourth short film together, as well as their debut narrative.

Jamil spent a majority of his childhood in various parts of Germany and the US, growing up in 13 different homes. After graduating from Florida A&M University, Jamil started in advertising, working at Saatchi & Saatchi and Droga5 as a producer. His work as a photographer has appeared in group shows in Los Angeles and New York. He is currently editing a 2-year-old body of work titled Things You Know, his debut monograph to be published later this year.

Pat grew up in Fall River, Massachusetts. After attending Emerson College, where he was nominated to the Writers Guild of America East Mentorship Program, he began working at the production company SMUGGLER. During his four years at the company, he worked on projects for a roster of world-class directors, including Kathryn Bigelow, Barry Jenkins, Bennett Miller, and Susanne Bier. He currently works with Cannes and Emmy-winning director Miles Jay developing stories for feature films.

### Gabija Blake (PRODUCER)

Gabija Blake is a native New Yorker without the accent to back it up. She is a content producer with experience in commercial, film, interactive, and experiential production. After graduating with an English degree from the University of Chicago, Gabija moved back home and started dreaming of ways to turn her written stories into films. She's found a home at Droga5 and has produced TV campaigns for clients such as the New York Times, New Museum and the YMCA. Her previous projects include the Webby-winning "Tree VR," which premiered at Sundance New Frontier and screened at the Tribeca Film Festival, as well as a production stint with NYC-based comedy group Local Empire. Their short film, "The Refrigerator," premiered at the Brooklyn Film Festival, and their feature-length "Trivia Night" won Best Feature at the Omaha Film Festival. She currently works at Spotify on the brand team.

### Claire McGirr (PRODUCER)

Claire McGirr is a creative producer with extensive experience in production, post-production and development, based between Los Angeles and New York.

With a background in commercial production, Claire served as Associate Producer for 5 years at renowned production company SMUGGLER, working with some of the industry's top directors. More recent clients include Anomaly, Biscuit Filmworks, Epoch Films, Genero, Naked Gallery, Sanctuary Content and Where It's Greater. Claire ideated and executive produced "Dear Mr. President", the multi-award-winning eighth season of Motionpoems. For the project, she sourced and curated 12 international directors, whose films have been screened variously at Aesthetica Film Festival, BFI London Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, Galway Film Fleadh, the Hammer Museum LA, Hollywood Shorts, Raindance, Sydney Design Festival, Vancouver Film Festival, the V&A in London, and have featured on Afro Punk, Boooooom, Booth, Director's Notes, Free the Bid, Girls in Film, Little Black Book, Nowness, and Vimeo's Staff Pick.

### Myriam Schroeter (PRODUCER)

Myriam Schroeter is an award-winning producer whose "worked with" includes Revlon, IFC Films, LG, Nordstrom, IMG, Estee Lauder and the Sundance Institute. She co-produced the acclaimed film The Light of the Moon, which went on to win the Narrative Feature Audience Award at the 2017 SXSW Film Festival. Additionally, she's produced a number of independent shorts, as well as scripted music-related content for Warner Bros and DefJam. Prior to producing, she worked as a content editor and marketer for Amazon.

In the past year, she's worked closely with Peter Saraf and Leah Holzer as a producer at Beachside Films, pitching and managing features and television pilots for platforms like Netflix and Hulu. She's currently working in creative development with producer Youree Henley, as well as co-producing the feature film Before the Spring, written and directed by Lotfy Nathan. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and resides in Brooklyn.

### Maceo Bishop (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

Maceo Bishop has maintained a reputation as one of the most sought-after camera operators in the film industry. Maceo has shot projects around the world with directors like Martin Scorsese, Steven Spielberg, Spike Lee, Gus Van Sant, The Coen Brothers, Bong Joon-ho, Sam Mendes, Steve McQueen, the Safdie Brothers, and Cary Fukunaga, to name a few. He's worked under some of the greatest Directors of Photography of this era, including Roger Deakins, Rodrigo Prieto, Bradford Young, Darius Khondji, Ellen Kuras, Bruno Delbonnel, and Jody Lee Lipes.

Now, as a cinematographer himself, Maceo continues to build relationships with visionary new directors to create a unique body of work. Recent work includes: As Told to G/D Thysself (Sundance 2019), Black America Again, The Flatbush Zombies, The Goldfinch (2nd Unit), Y: The Last Man (2nd Unit), Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (2nd Unit), Thank You For Your Service (2nd Unit), Molly's Game (2nd Unit), AfroPunk and Chanel Coco Crush.

### Cheyenne Ford (PRODUCTION DESIGNER)

Raised in New Orleans, Cheyenne has an appreciation for improvisation and a fascination with the ways cultures mix and meet to form new celebrations. As an Art Director, she's worked on projects including JAY-Z's "Smile" (Prod. Designer Akin McKenzie; Grand Prix winner at Cannes Lions Festival), To Dust (a feature film that premiered at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival). She worked as the Prop Master on After the Wedding (a feature film that was a Day One World Premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival), as well as the Assistant Set Decorator on The Wolf Hour (feature film; Sundance 2019 NEXT World Premiere). Her most recent works include Shiva Baby, which premiered at 2020 SXSW, Milkwater (2020 Atlanta Film Festival), and a short titled A Portrait of Frances, Enclosed (2020 Palm Springs International Shorts Fest).

### Zachary "Shigeto" Saginaw (COMPOSER)

Zach was brought up on a steady diet of Michigan-bred music, as his father spoon-fed him old Motown and jazz records by the crate load. Zach picked up the drums at an early age, spending much of his childhood playing in the Detroit/Ann Arbor music scene. After nearly flunking out of high school—save for his music studies—Zach spent three years studying jazz at the New School in NYC and three more in London, where he began woodshedding, obsessed with learning electronic production. Soon enough, beats materialized, Zach moved to Brooklyn and took up the name Shigeto, and his peers began to take notice.

His releases are nominally indebted to instrumental hip-hop but, like Zach, straddling many worlds at once. Cool shades of ambient music, stuttering early IDM, dubstep sub-bass, and jazz melodicism color Shigeto's palette, which he wields with a painterly attention to detail. He continues to be prolific with a complex constellation of sounds and ideas that we have come to expect from the producer/drummer. His compositional focus and restraint grounds songs that are otherwise cosmically inclined.

### Reframe The World (PRODUCTION COMPANY)

Reframe The World is a production company founded on the belief that stories can change the world. Following that ethos, they believe that authentic storytelling in film can spark global conversations, transform perspectives, and change lives. Reframe's founders and producers Michael Peay and Chelsea Franklin have produced projects in 24 countries for BBC Films, Vice, the Red Cross, Gates Foundation, and more, including the award-winning short film "Waad," and the feature narrative "Mughal Mowgli," that premiered at the 70th Berlinale.

## CAST

**shaq**  
SHAQ BYNES

**karon**  
KARON TRACEY

**wave**  
JIHAD MARSHALL

**mook**  
DUANE DENT, JR.

**chad**  
CHIDI NWALA GABRIEL AJARI VI

**dad**  
ROBERT BYNES

**alana**  
ALANA MARSHALL

**tony**  
KASHAWN TRACEY

## CREW

**writers, directors**  
JAMIL McGINNIS AND PAT HEYWOOD

**producers**  
GABIJA BLAKE, CLAIRE McGIRR  
MYRIAM SCHROETER

**director of photography**  
MACEO BISHOP

**production designer**  
CHEYENNE FORD

**editors**  
MATT CARTER, BEN JORDAN

**composer**  
ZACHARY "SHIGETO" SAGINAW

**EPs and producers**  
JAMIL McGINNIS, PAT HEYWOOD

**reframe EPs**  
MICHAEL PEAY, CHELSEA FRANKLIN

**putshki EP**  
MYRIAM SCHROETER

**first assistant director**  
DAVID WILSON

**unit production manager**  
CLAIRE McGIRR

**script supervisor**  
LIZI LATIMER

**locations manager**  
CLAIRE McGIRR

**first assistant camera**  
GRÉGOIRE ALBERTINI

**second assistant camera**  
MARINO SANNUTI

**steadicam operator**  
MICHAEL FUCHS

**gaffer**  
ROMMEL GENCIANA

**key grip**  
GARLAND BERENZY

**best boy grip**  
DINO DAVAROS

**best boy electric**  
CHRIS BAUER

**set decorator**  
JAY HAMME

**prop master**  
BILLY O'BRIEN

**styling consultant**  
RONALD BURTON III

**wardrobe supervisor**  
GABIJA BLAKE

**wardrobe assistant**  
LIZI LATIMER

**production sound mixer**  
DAN SHEPPARD, JOE CANTOR

**boom operator**  
BRIAN NERIS, EJ MARKLAND

**production assistant**  
GABE BRACY, SARA DEVENISH  
DANIEL ORDER, INDIA SEBASTIAN  
CAMILA ARIAS SILVA

**stills photographer**  
MAX FRIEDMAN

**storyboard artist**  
TIFFANIE YOUNG

**title design**  
JAMIL McGINNIS

**post producer**  
GABIJA BLAKE

**FINAL CUT EDIT**  
**executive producer**  
SARAH ROEBUCK

**head of production**  
PENNY ENSLEY

**WORK EDITORIAL**  
**assistant editor**  
THEO MERCADO, AUDREY WEINER

**editorial producer**  
ERICA THOMPSON

**COLOR COLLECTIVE**  
**supervising colorist**  
ALEX BICKEL

**colorist**  
ALEX JIMENEZ

**color producer**  
CLAUDIA GUEVARA

**SONIC UNION**  
**sound designer and mixer**  
OWEN SHEARER

**assistant mixer**  
MICHELLE MADIAS

**producer**  
PAT SULLIVAN

**BLACKSMITH**  
**vfx supervisor**  
DANIEL MORRIS

**MUSIC**  
**music supervisor**  
MIDORI McSWAIN

**saxophone**  
MARCUS ELLIOT

**piano**  
IAN FINK

**vocals**  
KESSWA

**filmed on location in**  
PISCATAWAY, NJ  
GLADSTONE, NJ  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NJ  
BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP, NJ  
GREEN BROOK TOWNSHIP, NJ



WORK



FINAL CUT



color collective



SONIC•UNION



# GRAMERCY

SENECA VILLAGE PICTURES, LLC.



BFI LONDON FILM  
FESTIVAL 2020



For the Future of Films

Locarno 2020  
**Pardi di domani**  
Official Selection

Telluride  
Film Festival

**OFFICIAL SELECTIONS**

2020 Locarno Festival (World Premiere, *Pardi di domani*)  
2020 Telluride Film Festival (Official Selection, *Great Expectations*)  
2020 BFI London Film Festival (UK Premiere)  
2020 Valladolid International Film Festival (Spanish Premiere)  
2020 La Roche-sur-Yon International Film Festival (French Premiere)  
2020 Montclair Film Festival (New Jersey Premiere)  
2020 Maryland Film Festival (Official Selection)  
2020 Athens International Film and Video Festival (Official Selection)  
2020 San Francisco Black Film Festival (Official Selection)  
2020 Bentonville Film Festival (Official Selection)















