

OSCAR'S OPTIONS



DECK

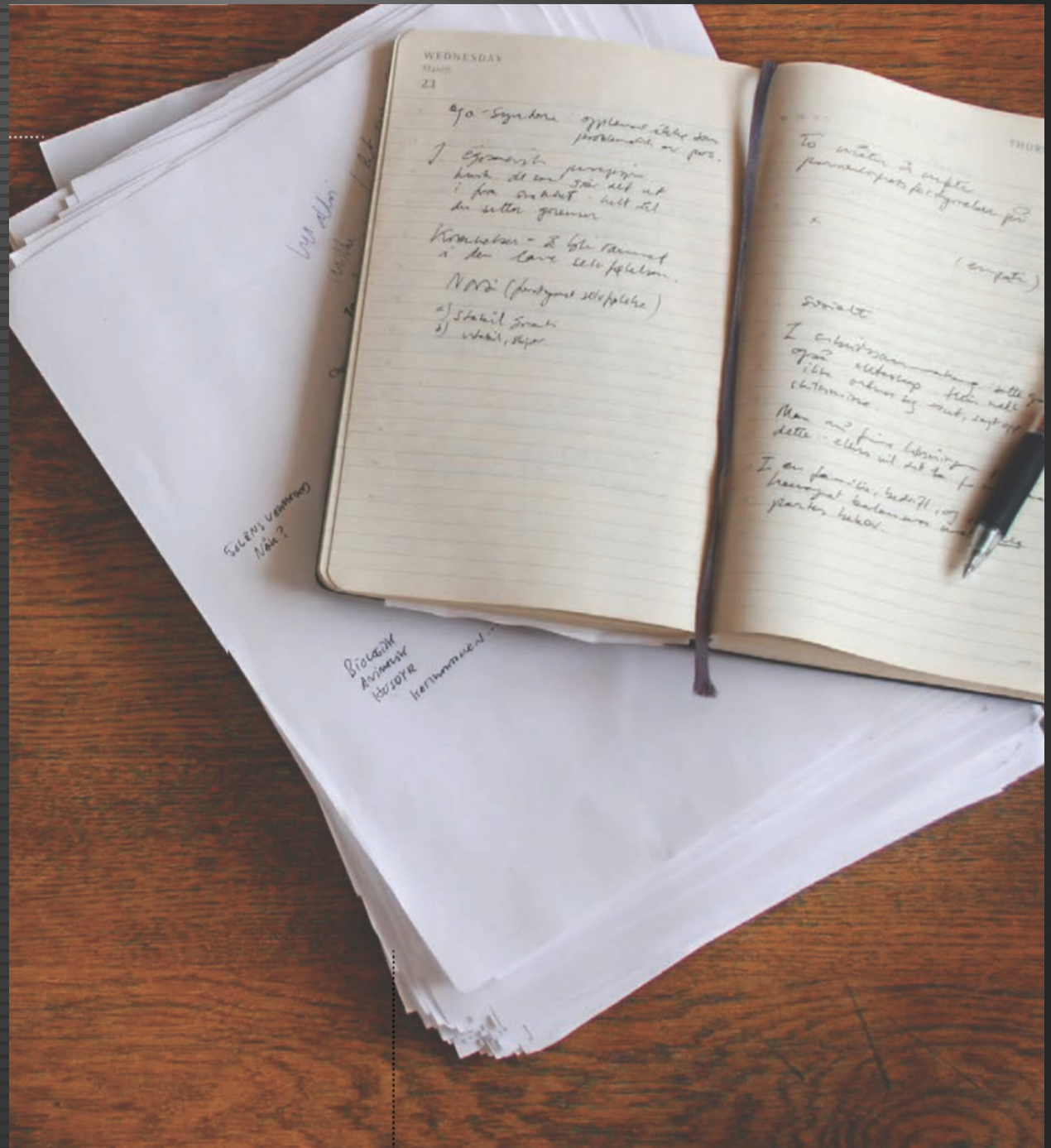
LOGLINE

A series of midlife mishaps force an aspiring writer to abandon his dreams and return home, only to discover a success that he could not have expected.

SYNOPSIS

Oscar's Options is a comedy that introduces us to a man in midlife turmoil. Oscar (the titular "O"), is a passionate yet struggling screenwriter. Young success fished him out of his home in Hamilton, Ohio and lured him to the big pond of L.A., where we meet him now a decade later: dissolute in a moribund marriage, an uninspiring culinary job, and a brittle screenwriting career.

As would be expected from a man in such tumult, O finally snaps, taking wife's Beemer and the joint



savings account, and heads back to rural Ohio, hoping to find solace and bearings in old friends and family.

But running away is not a simple fix, because O's problem is on the inside. Absent his own problems, much has changed in his little hometown. Trying to reconnect with everyone he left behind years ago is tricky business. Some are cordial or downright distant, and others unabashedly hostile at O's unwelcome re-appearance.

For example, O's sister Tammy, has become an obese, hoarding agoraphobic, sneaking the guilty pleasure of the Fedex guy's daily delivery stops as her sole token of a social life. Still holding onto O's abandonment and wounds too many and deep, she refuses to let him back into her life, much less their family house!

O's lifelong friend, Bobby J., owns the town's watering hole. Bobby's loyalty is only exceeded by his willingness to dust it up, calling O out with insightful critical nuggets, offered from his perch behind the bar. In any case, they have each other's backs without boundary, as our story soon bears out.

Sonya, ER nurse and sister of O's first conquest, is shocked that he was so out of touch during all those years, that he was oblivious to her sister's passing. Awkward feelings create obstacles, yet they somehow move toward each other. Sonya's choice to be sober offers a forgiving mirror for O to maybe start to take it easy on himself, and it gives her the power to raise and be a super-present mom for...

Camera, a sixteen year-old *film savant* energyball! He is awestruck and inspired by O's accomplishments and his cool L.A. life. Around Hamilton, O is practically a legend – an adjective O has long abandoned to describe himself – but O sees something special in Camera – idealism, youthful caprice? Or a shadow of a former self that somehow got off track, & *which shall present itself as O's final test*.

It is ultimately their friendship, and O's willingness to face his own truths with the loving support of the people of home, that bring him back to the kingdom of himself. O's bounty of his vast life experience can finally be harvested for the benefit and wealth of friends and family around him, and most importantly, for O.

When going home is just the beginning...

HOLLYWOOD vs. HAMILTON

The visual aesthetics of this film will place into counterpoint the garish, over-lit, sun drenched, color palette of Los Angeles against the muted and gritty look and real feel of the Ohio lightscape. Interiors shall be lit to match the similar aesthetic of each local respectively.

This divide basically reflects our main character's struggle. The dream, the allure, which drew him to L.A., is now illusory and translucent, fake. What is real is the reality of Ohio.

As the story progresses and O's power increases, we may choose to sweeten the Ohio color palette ever so gradually, so that in the closing scenes where there is a cut back to L.A., it is the latter that looks drab and miserable.



HAMILTON



Ultimately this film is about its characters. Although most of Hamilton is populated by small town eccentrics, they are true to themselves, have huge hearts, and are willing to help when called upon. It's their approach to life and sense of belief in community that finally reaches Oscar and turns his life around.

All actors referenced here are not formally attached to the project, but are used to illustrate Filmmaker's vision of the level of cast, which will be attracted to this story and realistic to contract, and appearance.

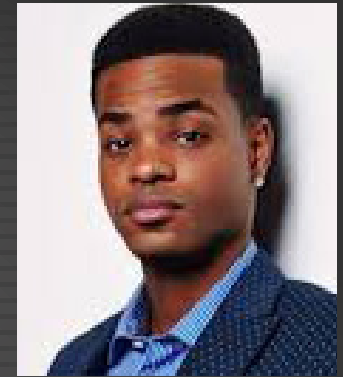
Some of the higher value named talent obviously is listed as examples yet may agree to play small or cameo roles in the film for personal reasons or connections with the filmmakers. These are subject to professional availability and other terms.



Sheriff Jackson
Tom Wright



Mrs. Winstead
Ashley Crow



Bobby J.
Andrew Bachelor



Mandy
Britney Young



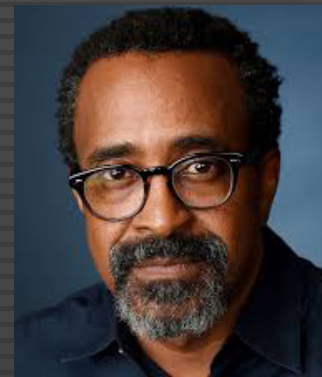
Ray
Joe Basile



Thad
Steven Weber



Dr. Howard
Royale Watkins



Lenny
Tim Meadows



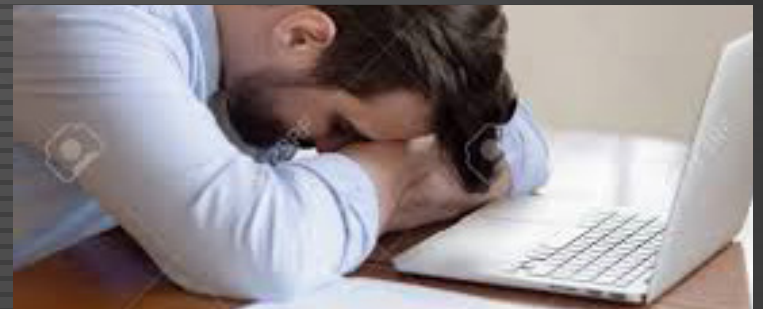
Claire
Hannah Stocking

OSCAR

is a struggling screenwriter with a troubled soul. His self-righteous and entitled past has finally caught up with him. He has become what he despises, a man-child without a promised land. The crossroads that he finds himself facing are psychological, spiritual, as well as existential. His saving grace is that he is a decent man who recognizes and accepts his truth. Unfortunately that only happens when it's shoved in his face.



Trevor Donovan



CAMERA

Sonya's 16yr-old son. He is THE authority on movies. His knowledge is extensive, impressive, and covers the entire history of American film. Socially awkward but highly intelligent, Camera hopes to make an actual impact upon the current state of Hollywood cinema. Although neither successful nor encouraging, it is Oscar that he idolizes.



Kyle Breitkopf



TAMMY

Mid 30's, is Oscar's older sister and only sibling. She's basically surrendered to life, ballooned to 300 lbs in recent years, and has become agoraphobic. She makes her living buying and selling things on Ebay so her only interaction with humans are the delivery drivers that come to her house and Camera, who helps with chores.



Jolene Purdy



SONYA

Early 30's, is that small town gal who probably could have been a big city success if she had ever left the comforts of home. Although she works at the local hospital as a nurse, Sonya's "cut to the chase" wit keeps her vibrancy relevant and her dreams contemporary. A working single mom, her primary focus is raising her son, Camera. She lives with her mother and father in the house she grew up in. The sudden death of her older sister still haunts the entire household.



Alexis Knapp



Michael Milillo - WRITER/PRODUCER

Michael Milillo began his entertainment career as an actor in New York City, where he performed in the long running Off-Broadway production (**Tony And Tina's Wedding**) before moving to Los Angeles in 1992.

Honing his skills through a myriad of production and acting jobs, Michael began writing, knocking out screenplays and landing top-tier representation with The Gersh & ICM Agencies and optioning projects to Academy Award winning Producers Tony Bill (**The Sting**), Chuck Gordon (**Field of Dreams, Die Hard**), and Mel Gibson's Icon Productions (**Braveheart**).

In 2004, Michael employed his broad industry experience by writing and producing under his own shingle, In The Garage Entertainment. He wrote and produced his first short film, **Gratuity**, and in 2012 he wrote, produced, and directed his second short, **Bad Boy**.

In 2016, Michael Executive-Produced the widely anticipated **Churchill** (Brian Cox, Miranda Richardson), which has grossed over \$7.2M.

Michael also wrote and Produced, **Walkaway Joe**, starring Academy Award Nominee, David Strathairn, (**Good Night & Good Luck**) and Jeffrey Dean Morgan, (**Walking Dead**), which premieres on VOD, May 2020.

Michael also wrote and is producing his second feature, **Oscar's Options**, currently slated for a spring 2024 start.

Between auditions and meetings Michael married Lisa Rodriguez, the love of his life, and in 2001 they added a son, Nicholas, to the picture. They currently reside in Los Angeles, California.



Jon D. Wagner - DIRECTOR

Jon D. Wagner has Line Produced several of the most successful & exciting Indie hits of the last decade including Cheap Thrills (2013), Starry Eyes (2014), Bone Tomahawk (2015), The Strangers: Prey at Night (2018) Haunt (2019), and Wrong Turn: The Foundation (2020). He was recently the UPM on M. Night Shyamalan's summer hit OLD (2021), and the 1st season of Apple TV's The Shining Girls (2022).

He has a reputation for making every penny count on modestly budgeted Indie features, and for delivering films that impress with their scope and production value.

He has directed numerous web series and commercial projects, several well received short films, music videos, and most recently the upcoming indie thriller feature CABIN GIRL for Tubi. He's excited to use his years of experience to bring O's OPTIONS to life, finding the humor and heart in a story that he connects personally with, and that he knows will strike a chord with audiences all over the world.



Tom Wright - PRODUCER

Tom Wright has spent 40 years as a professional actor. He has appeared in over 90 feature films and performed on more than 70 television shows. In addition to film and television, he has been in over 40 stage productions, including Broadway and Off Broadway.

In 2020 Tom made his directorial debut with the indie film, ***Walkaway Joe***, starring David Strathairn and Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

Tom's recent T.V. show, ***Daisy Jones & The Six***, garnered 9 Emmy Awards & Nominations, where he played record producer, Teddy Price.

Tom has co-starred in feature films such as ***Barbershop*** and ***Barbershop 2***, with Ice Cube. He also co-starred with Angela Bassett as her ex-lover in ***Sunshine State***, his sixth film with writer/director John Sayles. The other five Sayles films include: ***Passion Fish***, ***City of Hope***, ***Matewan***, ***Brother from Another Planet***, and ***Honeydripper***. He recently completed filming ***Stockholm, Pennsylvania***, ***A Beautiful Soul***, ***The Diabolical***, and ***Message from the King*** opposite Chadwick Boseman.

In 2000 Tom won the Best Actor Award at the Santa Monica Film Festival for his portrayal of John Shed in the indie hit ***Dumbarton Bridge***.

Other notable films are Oliver Stone's ***World Trade Center***, ***Murder at 1600*** with Wesley Snipes, ***White Man's Burden*** starring John Travolta, ***Forget Paris*** directed by Billy Crystal, ***Palmetto*** with Woody Harrelson, ***Pentagon Wars***, starring Kelsey Grammer, ***Weapons of Mass Distraction*** with Ben Kingsley and Gabriel Byrne, ***Gridlock'd*** with Tupac Shakur and Tim Roth, and ***Funny Valentines*** as the romantic love interest opposite Alfre Woodard. Also: ***Tales from the Hood***, ***Marked for Death***, ***Forget Paris***, ***Reversal of Fortune***, and ***Cotton Club*** directed by Francis Ford Coppola.

Currently a series regular on ***Granite Flats***, his recent television credits include ***Grimm***, ***Castle***, ***The Mentalist***, ***Rizzoli & Isles***, ***Modern Family***, ***Southland***, ***Crash***, ***Nip/Tuck***, ***House M.D.***, ***Cold Case***, ***Pentagon Wars***, ***CSI*** and sixty one other television productions.



Robert Kaplan - PRODUCTION LAWYER/EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

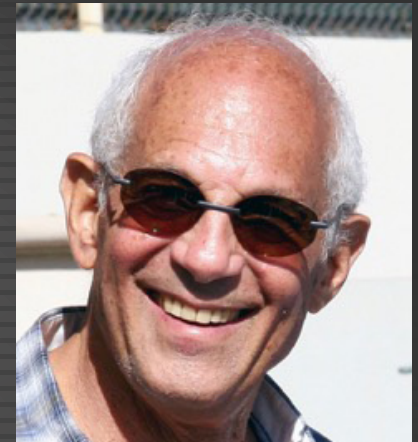
Bob Kaplan started his career as an entertainment attorney in 1966 and has practiced for over 50 years, first with the preeminent entertainment firm of Kaplan, Livingston, Goodwin, Berkowitz & Selvin and then with his own firm, Stein, Kahan & Kaplan (with Larry Stein and Robert Kahan). Mr. Kaplan was also of counsel to the firm of Kenoff & Machtinger and has practiced on his own for a number of years. Mr. Kaplan's practice has been focused primarily in the area feature film and television production and distribution, film financing, music and intellectual property matters, having represented major studios (Warner Bros.), talent agencies (William Morris), foreign sales agents and numerous production companies and a host of independent producers, directors, writers, actors, rock groups and others.

He also served as a senior business affairs executive at Warner Bros. Pictures in London, handling all European motion picture business affairs activities. During his tenure and supervision, Warner Bros. produced such films as "Clockwork Orange" (Stanley Kubrick), "O! Lucky Man" (Lindsey Anderson), and "Day for Night" (Francois Truffaut).

In addition, he has acted as a producer, executive producer or legal counsel on over 25 films, with particular emphasis on financing arrangements in all forms (studio financing, private equity financing, bank lending, etc.) including "Papillon," starring Steve McQueen and Dustin Hoffman, "Krush Groove," (Warner Bros.) starring Run-DMC, LL Cool J, The Beastie Boys and other rap artists, and a number of independent films such as "Night of the Comet," "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead" (Paramount Classics) starring Clive Owen, "The Pyramid" for Fox, "Chronos Device," directed by Guillermo Del Toro, "Night Moves," directed by Kelly Reichardt and starring Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning and Peter Saarsgard and "One More Time," with Christopher Walken and Amber Heard, among others.

Mr. Kaplan continues to practice law, representing clients currently in development or production of several television mini-series and series as well as feature films. At the same time, he is also engaged in developing and producing several specific motion picture and television series properties of his own, including an intended television mini-series to be produced based on the book and script "Forty Lashes Less One" written by Elmore Leonard, which Mr. Kaplan owns.

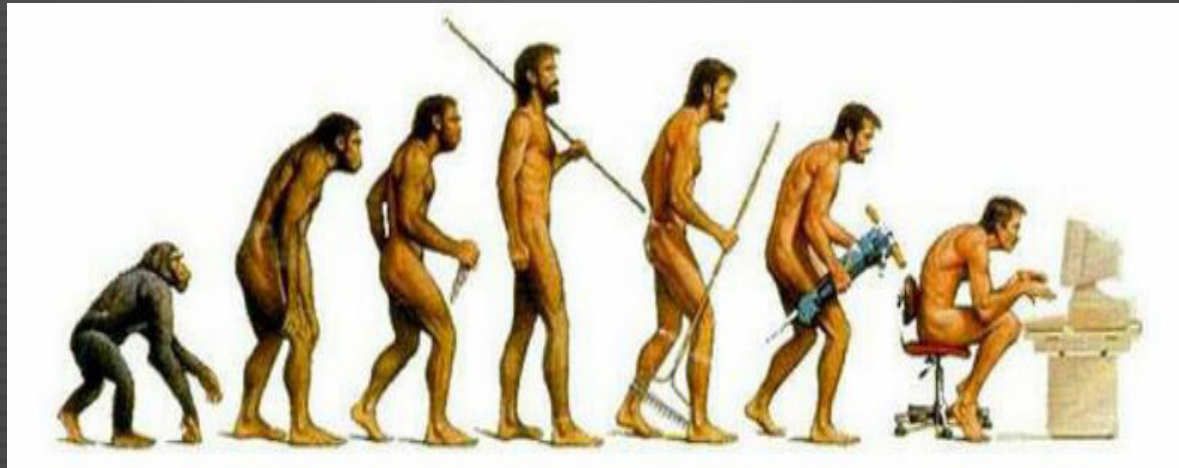
Mr. Kaplan is a graduate of Dartmouth College (1963) and the University of California Berkeley Law School (formerly Boalt Hall)(1966). He is admitted to the Bar of the State of California. He created and taught (for over 42 years) the course on the business aspects of film production at the prestigious American Film Institute Conservatory. He is also on the Board of Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, a group of 8 charter schools serving 3,600 students (K – 12) in central Los Angeles.



WHY OSCAR'S OPTIONS?

- Oscar's Options is a high quality, well-received script with appeal to a broad worldwide audience, which is the most important factor of investing in film.
- The Producing team has over 25 years of combined experience in producing film and television.
- The producing team has attracted top Key Crew members who will work below their usual rates, adding even more value to the film.
- Oscar's Options will be shot in either Ohio or Kentucky to utilize the state's 30% tax incentive, estimated at nearly \$300K, reducing investors risk.
- Oscar's Options will feature music from Grammy nominated artist, Leven Kali, Georgia Music Hall of Fame Artist, Jerry "Wyzard" Seay, and songwriter-producer, Vida Simon.
- As stated in the Finance Proposal, investments will be reimbursed pari passu. Investors will receive a 20% return on their investment (ROI) above the amount of their initial investment, and a pro rata share of 50% of the film's net profits in perpetuity.
- Depending on talent, the film will be made for a cost conscious price between \$500k to \$750k. Producers will use a low overhead production model by minimizing fees and utilizing guild and union low-budget contracts.

OSCAR'S OPTIONS is a classic "coming of middle-age" comedy in the vein of LADY BIRD and DOPE with elements similar in tone to GARDEN STATE. Self vs Community. Past vs Present. Entitlement vs. Earned Success. Distrust vs Empathy. It is the interplay and rectification of these thematic issues that will be explored using comedy as the conduit.



The Producers

Michael Milillo
michael@itge.net
310.890.9077



In The Garage Entertainment, Inc.